



# CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 41/1

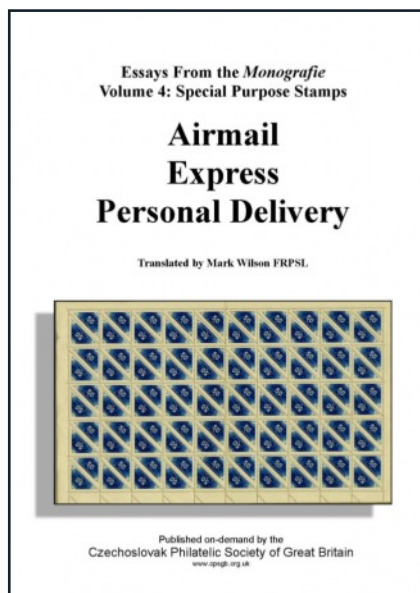
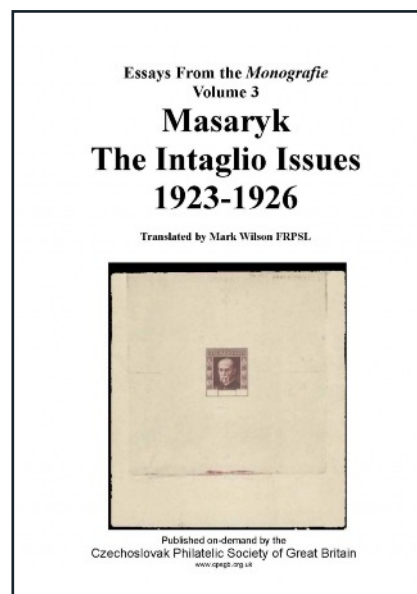
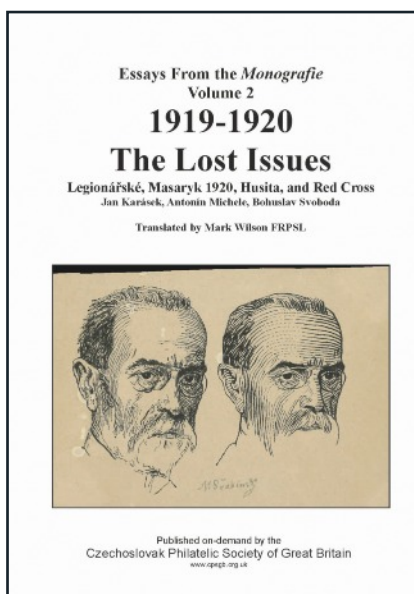
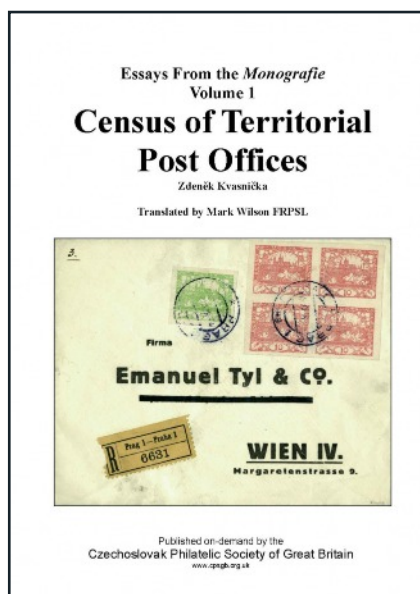
MARCH 2023

WHOLE NUMBER 190



Changes to stamps, labels and parcel cards – the trials and tribulations of setting up a new postal service (page 22).

## Translations from the *Monografie*

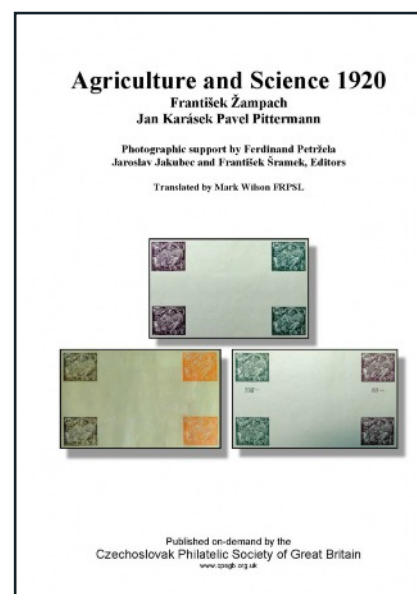
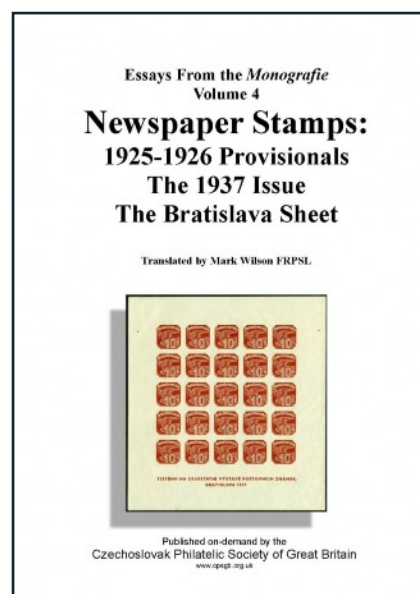
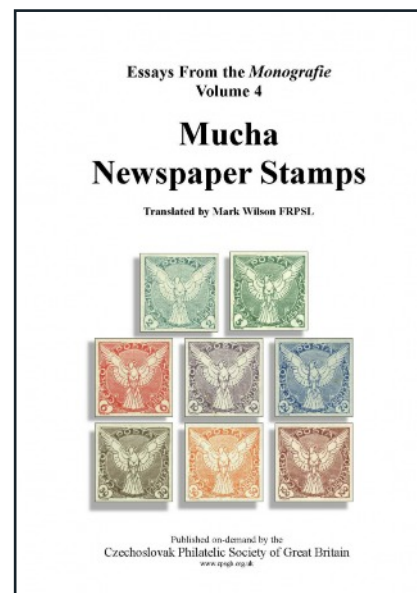


POFIS has granted CPSGB a licence to publish translations from the first four volumes of the *Monografie*. In addition, the publisher of a unique book about the 1920 Agriculture and Science issue has also permitted its publication – see the article by the translator of the books, **Mark Wilson**, on page 6.

The books are Print-on-Demand and will be sold at cost which depends on the book's page count and the number of books ordered from the printer. The *Agriculture & Science 1920* book with 16 pages will cost no more than £11.25 and *1919-1920 The Lost Issues* with 62 pages, many in colour, will be no more than £21.00.

As there is constant fluctuation on currency conversion only an indication of the UK price can be given. All the usual ways of payment, including US dollars and euros, will be available and invoices will be sent at the time of despatch. Example covers are shown here and on page 6.

Send orders to the treasurer at [treasurer@cpsgb.org](mailto:treasurer@cpsgb.org).





# CZECHOUT

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### CPSGB Zoom Programme 2023

Saturday 18 March at 3.00 pm (UK time): **Robert Lauer** – An Overview of the Hradčany Issue 1918 – 1920

Saturday 20 May at 3.00 pm (UK time): **Lubor Kunc** – Interesting Czech Covers 1918 & 1919

Wednesday 30 August at 7.30 pm (UK time): **Hartmut Liebermann** – Postal Agency Postmarks in the Czech Lands 1900–1958

Saturday 14 October at 3.00 pm (UK time): **James Buckner** – Provisional Newspaper Stamps

All meetings will be hosted by **Mark Wilson**, from whom an access code can be obtained by members nearer the time.

### Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Check out our sister organization, the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, at their website: [www.csphilately.net](http://www.csphilately.net) and through their Treasurer, Marisa Galitz at [mmgalitz@gmail.com](mailto: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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**Opinions expressed in articles are the sole responsibility of the author(s)  
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## News and Notes

### New Members

The CPSGB extends a very warm welcome to our newest member, **Darryl Templer** from La Jolla, California.

### Congratulations

Three of our members exhibited at the International Stamp Exhibition in Cape Town, South Africa, in early November 2022:

<b>Peter Chadwick</b>	<i>Early Post Routes and Post Offices in Scotland</i> – Gold Medal
<b>Jon Klemetsen</b>	<i>Italy, the reign of Vittorio Emanuele III: Stamps with his effigy</i> – Large Silver Medal
<b>György Lővei</b>	<i>Interim use of Czechoslovak Stamps during the Monetary Reform period (01.06–18.06.1953)</i> – 1 Frame 78 marks <i>Postal Documents of the International Air Mail Service to and from Hungary till 31.12.1933</i> – Vermeil Medal

**David Venables** has been made a Life Member of the Society of Postal Historians. It is in recognition of many years of membership of the Society together with participation in meetings and service to the Society. This honour is rarely given.

**John Casanova** has become the new auctioneer for the National Philatelic Society.

### MIDPEX 2023

As usual, CPSGB has booked a stand at this event, which will take place on Saturday 1 July from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Held at the Warwickshire Event Centre, near Leamington Spa in Warwickshire, over 40 dealers in stamps, postal history, postcards, albums, catalogues and accessories will be in attendance, together with over 30 specialist society stands. Admission is free, there is ample free parking and refreshments will be available. A free shuttle bus can be used to get to the show from Leamington Spa Railway Station. Car drivers should note that the visitor entrance is on Southam Road (A425), and the postcode for this entrance is CV31 1FE.

### Joint Meeting of the Austrian and Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

The annual meeting of the two Societies took place on 21 January at York Racecourse during the York Stamp and Coin Fair, at the invitation of the Austrian Society. There was a good attendance despite it being a very foggy day.

The following members of CPSGB gave displays:

- **Alan Berrisford** showed Austrian Poland.
- **Keith Brandon** intrigued us with *The Mysterious Case of the Viennese Poste Restante* and Misdirected Mail, where sender error or postal ignorance caused mail to be delivered to the wrong place.
- **Yvonne Wheatley** showed pre-stamp Prague.

The meeting concluded with a display of Czech Airmails 1920–1930 by Austrian member **John Pitts**. Also in attendance were Derek Baron, Peter Chadwick, Nick Coverdale and Richard Wheatley.

### January Zoom Meeting

On 28 January the CPSGB Zoom Meeting welcomed a guest speaker – **Simon Oosterhuis**, a member of the Czechoslovak Society in the Netherlands. His talk was entitled *Hussites – Rough proto-Protestants: Pravda vítězí* ('Truth prevails'). Presenting to an audience of fifteen members, Simon covered the background to the full story of protestant reform in Bohemia and Moravia from the 14th to the 17th centuries, from Wycliffe to Bílá Hora.

He explained that it all started with an Englishman – John Wycliffe (1328–1384) – who lived through challenging times, with the planet rapidly cooling in the lead up to the 'Little Ice Age' and Europe enduring the 100 Years' War. Wycliffe believed that papal authority was illegitimate, he rejected the saints, and he denied transubstantiation (the Church doctrine that the bread and wine was changed into the body and blood of Christ at the consecration). He was an important source of inspiration for Jan Hus.

Jan Hus (c. 1372–1415) was a Church Reformer, Rector of Charles University in Prague, and a fierce enemy of moral decay in the church – simony, nepotism and corruption. He also reached out to the general population by preaching in Czech rather than Latin.



*The beautiful Jan Hus Memorial in the Old Town Square, Prague.*

From 1414 to 1418 the leaders of the Church met at the Council of Konstanz (or Constance) to resolve the Western Schism – at the time there were three popes, Gregory XII in Rome, Benedict XIII in Avignon, and Alexander V in Pisa! In addition, the Council sought to respond to the challenge of Church Reformers, and the German Holy Roman Emperor gave Jan Hus a safe permit to travel to Konstanz and explain his proposed reforms. On his arrival, Hus was arrested, given a show trial, and cruelly burnt at the stake.

In Bohemia and Moravia this led to the Hussite Wars (1419–1434). The Hussites were fearsome warriors – they introduced mobile fire-power to the battlefield, and the German Emperor had to send five campaigns to try and quell the rebellion. Each time the imperial army was defeated, but ultimately factions within the Hussites – ‘Utraquists’ against the extremely conservative ‘Taborites’ – brought the revolt to a close. The Taborites were defeated and the remaining Hussites were reconciled with the Church, gaining religious freedom in the process.

Calls for reform continued, of course, with Martin Luther (1483–1546), whose excommunication in 1521 led to the Lutheran movement. Lutherans and Hussites joined forces in the Bohemian Revolt (1618–1620), when they invited the Protestant Frederick V of the Palatinate to be their king – he only lasted about six months during the winter, and earned the sobriquet ‘the Winter King’. Ferdinand II, the Catholic Holy Roman Emperor, sent 30,000 imperial troops to defeat the 15,000 Bohemian troops at the Battle of Bílá Hora (the White Mountain). Frederick fled to the Netherlands, Bohemia and Moravia became ‘third-class territories’, and Czech became the language of the peasants.

As a footnote, Simon mentioned the great Protestant philosopher and educationalist, Jan Amos Komenský. He was an education reformer rather than a religious figure and Simon believes, as a former teacher, that his ideas are very relevant today.

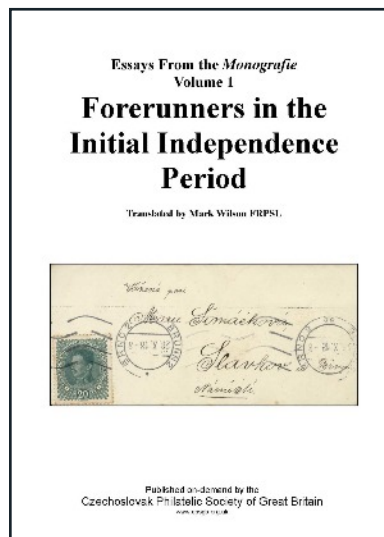
The presentation was illustrated with the many stamps produced by Czechoslovakia to celebrate Jan Hus and his followers, together with some evocative images of Prague, a recommendation for a luxurious restaurant on an island in the Vltava, and a photograph of an amusing delivery van advertising dark lager as an ‘antidepressant’!

After the presentation members thanked Simon for such a complete outline of Protestant reform in Bohemia and Moravia through the centuries. Peter Williams also pointed out that anyone travelling to Prague can take a Number 20 tram out to the site of the Battle of Bílá Hora.

## Translations of the First Four Volumes of the *Monografie*

Mark Wilson

I began translating the *Hradčany* from the first volume of the encyclopedic *Monografie on Czechoslovak Stamps* almost as soon as I began collecting. I did this out of frustration because there was almost no information available in English about the technical details of the early Czechoslovak stamps. I continued this activity for almost twenty years but saw no way to make the information generally available because of copyright restrictions.



For illustrations of other titles in the series, and information on how to order copies, please see the inside front cover.

In mid-2022 member **Jerry Starman** – who happens to live in the same small village as I do on the Olympic Peninsula, Washington State – was planning to visit Prague. We were chatting at my house when he happened to mention he was well acquainted with František Beneš, the owner of the *Monografie* copyright and would, in fact, be talking to him shortly.

I mentioned to him that I deeply regretted being unable to make my translations from the *Monografie* public because of copyright restrictions. Jerry said he had planned to 'phone Mr Beneš the following day and would ask about getting permission to publish my translations. He did exactly that and a day later František asked that I send an email explaining what I wanted to do with my translations. I did – and very quickly thereafter I was granted a licence to publish and sell my translations through the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, so long as the venture was not commercial in nature.

I immediately contacted Yvonne Wheatley to discuss the matter as she had organized the Print-on-Demand programme for my other translations. Yvonne liked the idea and asked that I prepare my items for the printer. The final result is that these translations are available from the Society. They are:

### From Volume 1:

*Forerunners in the Initial Independence Period* by Zdeněk Kvasnička. A4. 39 pages, b&w illustrations. It discusses in great detail the use of Austrian and Hungarian stamps by the young republic.

*The Hradčany* by František Kubát. Letter-size. 224 pages, b&w illustrations. This was the first authoritative description of Czechoslovakia's classic first issue.

*Census of Territorial Post Offices* by Zdeněk Kvasnička. A4. 36 pages. A listing of Czechoslovak post offices active at the foundation of the republic.

### From Volume 2:

*1919–1920: The Lost Issues* by Jan Karásek, Atonín Michele, and Bohuslav Svoboda. A4, 59 pages, b&w illustrations. Describes the Legionářské, Masaryk 1920, Husita, and Red Cross issues.

### From Volume 3:

*Masaryk: The Intaglio Issues 1923–1926* by Jan Karásek and František Žampach. A4, 67 pages, b&w mixed with some colour illustrations. Studies of the issues of the Masaryk stamps produced with intaglio printing.

### From Volume 4:

*Mucha Newspaper Stamps* by František Žampach. A4 28 pages, b&w. A study of the issue that was released with the Hradčany and remained in use until the end of 1939.

*Newspaper Stamps: 1925–1926 Provisionals – The 1937 Issue – The Bratislava Sheet* by František Žampach. A4, 42 pages, b&w. All of the later newspaper stamps.

*Airmail – Express – Personal Delivery* by Jan Frolík, Jan Karásek, Karel Báha, and Svatopluk Žampach. A4, 64 pages, b&w. Describes the airmail issues, express and personal delivery stamps.

Since this agreement had gone so well, I contacted the head of the Knihtisk Society (<https://www.filatelie-liberec.cz/knihtisk/>) and was granted permission, under the same terms as the *Monografie* translations, to publish the only work available about the production of the 1920 Agriculture and Science issue:

*Agriculture and Science 1920* by František Žampach, Jan Karásek, and Pavel Pittermann. A4, 16 pages, b&w.



## Detecting Horizontal Comb Perforations on an Isolated Stamp

Mark Wilson

A few years ago I wanted to better understand how one might determine if an isolated stamp had a normal or a horizontal comb perforation. I first turned to Jan Karásek's 1980 pamphlet on early Czechoslovak stamp perforations, his *Zoubkování čs. poštovních známek (1918–1939)*. He did not describe how one might examine such perforations but instead made reference to an article published ten years earlier in the *Merkur* by František Šrámek that did explain the process.

I found the article (*Merkur*, November 1970, no. 11 [21], Special Study II, pages 161–176), read it, and discovered Šrámek's technique depended upon minuscule differences in the distance between perforation holes that could only be measured in fractions of a millimetre using very precise optical equipment (not to mention some sophisticated mathematics). I felt there was a hint in his system that implied a simpler technique could be found but was unable to articulate just what that technique would look like. So I went on searching the literature.

In a recent *Filatelie* (3/2020, pages 2–7), Josef Chudoba did a nice job explaining how to recognize different sorts of perforations but he did not present an updated version of Šrámek's technique. I continued my search and found – a mere two issues later, in *Filatelie* 5/2020, page 5 – an article by Radomil Květon that elegantly answered the problem with a technique available to almost everyone. Before describing Květon's methods I would like to introduce a few facts about perforations in general – and a bit about comb perforations – that will help in your understanding of how and why his solution works.

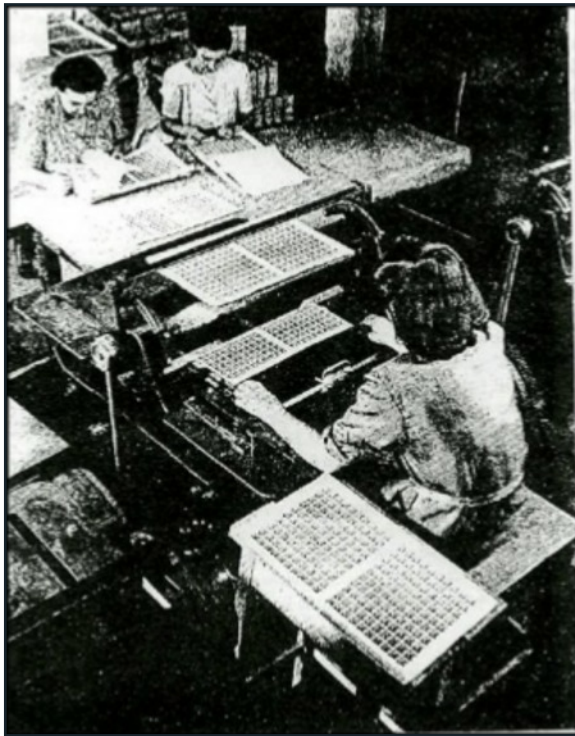


Fig. 1: Worker at a hand-operated perforator.  
Source: CPSGB POD No. 146.

Back in the 1920s, perforation machines in Czechoslovakia were hand operated devices (Fig. 1). Workers loaded sheets of stamps into a machine fitted with a bar decked out with pins. The operator would align the bar to the upper edge of the top row of stamps, then press a mechanism that would cause the machine to strike; that is, to lower the bar and penetrate the paper with its pins, thus producing the perforation holes so familiar to us. The operator would then move the bar to the next row of stamps and repeat the process until the entire sheet had been perforated.

### Line Perforations

For line perforations, where the pins on the bar were arranged in a straight line (Fig. 2), the operator typically started perforating a sheet by punching a line of horizontal holes above the top of the first row of stamps. This process would be repeated for each row of stamps (ten strikes), then a final row of holes punched below the bottom of the last row of stamps (eleven strikes in all). The operator then rotated the half-perforated sheet 90°

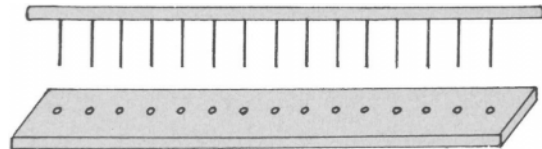


Fig. 2: Line perforator bar and pins – from *Zoubkování čs. poštovních známek*



Fig. 3: Line perforations extend to the edge of the sheet in both the horizontal and vertical directions. Note the misaligned interception of the vertical and horizontal lines of holes.

and performed a similar operation on the sides of the stamps. It took a total of twenty-two strikes to perforate a sheet completely.

A sheet of line perforated stamps displays two characteristics (Fig. 3, above). First, the perforation holes extend to the edges of the sheet in both the horizontal and vertical directions. Second, where the horizontal and vertical lines of holes meet, they are almost always misaligned.

### Comb Perforations

For comb perforations, the pins on the bar were arranged as an upside-down U (Fig. 4). For normal comb perforations, with the first strike of the bar the machine would perforate the top and both sides of the top row of stamps. As with line perforations, this process was repeated for each row of stamps (ten strikes). The operator then moved the bar to perforate the bottom of the last row of stamps for a total of eleven strikes in all. Compared to line perforating, comb perforations cut the workload in half.

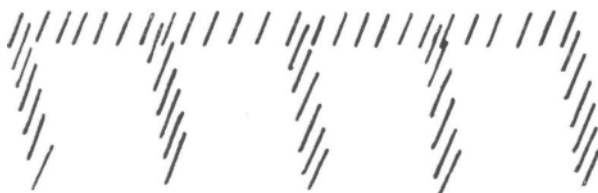


Fig. 4 (above): Schematic arrangement of comb perforation pins – from Zoubkování čs. poštovních známek

Normal comb perforations also display two characteristics (Fig. 5). First, the perforations only extend downward under the last row, with a decorative extra hole at both ends of each horizontal row. Second, the horizontal and vertical rows appear to meet perfectly. This is actually an illusion as can be seen in Fig. 6 where a slight extra space above the top of the stamp is visible. What is perceived as an intersection is really the upper corners of the inverted-U array of pins.

Fig 5 (right): Normal comb perforations extend downward.  
Note the apparent perfect intersection of vertical and horizontal holes.



Fig. 6 (below): The illusion of a perfect intersection exposed.  
The small space above the intersection reveals that the lines of holes never really meet; the intersection is actually the top corner of the array of pins.



Note that the bottom of the upper stamp and the top of the lower stamp in Figs. 5 and 6 share the same set of perforation holes. This fact makes clear that for normal comb perforations the top and bottom of any particular stamp have been perforated by precisely the same set of pins. It is upon this fact that Květon founded his technique.

Czechoslovak philatelists in the 1920s proved that the pins in a perforation bar were like fingerprints: each pin was skewed just a tiny bit, no pin was mounted at a perfect right angle to the bar. Thus, the holes they punched in the paper matched their misalignment. While no two sets of pins were exactly alike, holes punched by the same set of pins always matched.



Consider: if normal comb perforation is the case, then the perforation holes on the top and bottom of the stamp must match. In addition, since the sides of any one stamp were perforated by different sets of pins, their holes should not match. These facts were what Šrámek used in 1970 for his very complex method; Květon did the same. We might ask what did Květon have in 2020 that Šrámek did not have in 1970? A computer! More specifically, Květon had a graphics editor on his computer (such as Adobe Photoshop or the many others on the market – I use Serif's PhotoPlus).

### Květon's Technique

Květon used his graphics editor to move the top row of perforations next to the bottom row. This involved first cutting a slice from the top of the stamp's image with his graphics editor and adding it as a layer. He then did the same to the stamp's sides. If this is beyond your abilities, ask a child or grandchild to show you how to use a graphics editor – it's well worth the effort.

Let us use this technique to first prove a stamp is a normal comb perforation. According to the above explanation, for that to happen the stamp's top and bottom perforation holes must match, but its two sides (the vertical perforations) must not.

Before you begin, remember first to straighten the image aligned on a set of perforation tops. You may select either the horizontal or vertical perforations as they were applied by the same strike and are automatically aligned with one another. First, prove the top and bottom perforations match (Fig. 7), then show that the sides do not match (Fig. 8).



Fig. 7 a (above left): Crop an image of the top of the stamp. Make sure the upper edge of the crop is aligned with the top of the perforation's teeth. Save the cropped image.

Fig. 7 b (above right): Paste the image of the top perforations to the original image as a new layer at the bottom of the stamp.

Fig. 7 c (right): Carefully align the teeth on the new layer to the teeth at the bottom of the stamp. Note the match.



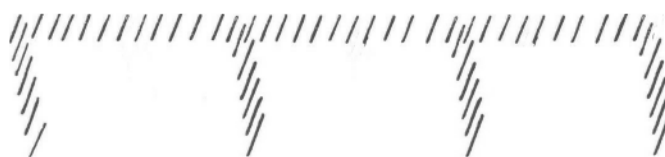
Fig. 8a (above left), 8b (above right) and 8c (left): Repeat the same steps by matching the left side to the right.

Look for differences. These are obvious above and below the arrow. Some holes are misaligned, some develop oval shapes from misalignment. The stamp is normal comb perforated.

### Horizontal Comb Perforations

By now many readers may be wondering why knowing whether a stamp has normal or horizontal comb perforations is important. One word: scarcity. The Czech Graphics Union in 1921 only used horizontal comb perforations in a very limited manner. Stamps so perforated may command as much as three times the price of normally perforated stamps.

*Fig. 9: For horizontal comb perforations, the holes extend into the right or left margins, but not both. The stamps were mounted horizontally.*



*Fig. 10: For horizontal comb perforations there were more pins at the top than on the sides.*

For normal comb perforations the sheet was placed in the machine vertically (Fig. 5) and the pins were arranged such that there were fewer pins at the top and more on its sides (Fig. 4). The machine for horizontal comb perforations was set up just the opposite: the sheet was placed in the machine on its side (Fig. 9) and the pins were arranged such that the top had more pins than its sides (Fig. 10). In either instance, the bar was moved from the far side of the machine toward the operator (Fig. 1).

Thus, instead of extending below the last row of stamps, for horizontal perforations the holes extended toward the pane's left or right. The decorative hole at the end of the horizontal row shown in Figure 5 would appear at the top and bottom of the vertical rows on panes horizontally perforated.

To identify a horizontal comb perforation on a single stamp requires obtaining the opposite results of those found examining normal comb perforations: the top and bottom must not match, while the two sides must match each other (Fig. 11).



*Fig. 11 (left): Proof that the stamp has horizontal comb perforations. The top and bottom holes, because they were made by different sets of pins, are misaligned. The left and right sides, because their holes were made by the same set of pins, match.*



*Fig. 12 (right): This stamp from the failed booklet issue was line perforated. As we expected, the top matches the bottom and the left side matches the right side.*

Recall what was said earlier about line perforated stamps: the top and bottom of the stamp were perforated by the same set of pins; the same is true of the two sides. Thus, for line perforated stamps we would expect the top and bottom to match and for the left and right sides to match. While there is no reason to perform such a test, it is put here for completeness (Fig. 12).

Because line perforating required moving the pane of stamps when the perforating bar was shifted from horizontal to vertical (or vice versa), extreme care must be taken before making the cuts that the perforation holes are parallel. This may mean straightening the top, making the cut, then straightening the side before making the second cut. In this instance, you will likely want to match the top and bottom before going on to the sides.



# An analysis of the bilingual postal cancellations in the German-Czech provinces of Austria-Hungary during the period 1867–1919 – Part one

Frans van Loo

## 1. Introduction

Inspired by a lifelong fascination with the language struggles between neighbouring peoples in Austria-Hungary, I have built up a collection of postal cancellations. An interesting and influential article by Edwin Müller from 1925 [1] drew my attention to the provinces of Bohemia, Moravia, and (Austrian) Silesia, which currently form the Czech Republic. Müller paints a picture of official authorities and local postmasters embroiled in a continuous language struggle between the Czech and German communities that was supposedly reflected in the names and spellings of the places where the post offices were located, and the way they were displayed in postal cancellations. This picture, however, does not correlate with some precise historical census data I uncovered. My findings show that the names on the postal cancellations, and their position therein, say a lot less about the language spoken near the postmaster's office than assumed by Müller.

I do not speak or read the Czech language and have no access to official sources on the relevant postal history, which could very well throw more light on this topic. I hope to receive comments and additional data from readers to enrich – and possibly correct – my knowledge on this subject.

## 2. Historical background

Before 1867, the Austrian or Hapsburg Empire consisted of twenty-four provinces and was inhabited by a number of nationalities: Germans, Italians, Slovenians, Czechs, Poles, Ukrainians, Slovaks, Hungarians, Romanians, Croats, and Serbs, all speaking their own language (Fig.1).



Fig. 1: Ethnic groups of Austria-Hungary in 1910 according to *Distribution of Races in Austria-Hungary* by William R. Shepherd, 1911.

Throughout this empire, German was the only official language, and public officers of all ranks had to read and speak German. Emperor Franz Joseph in Vienna had many problems reigning over all these provinces, which had different and often conflicting ambitions. During the period of Italian unification, he first lost Lombardy in 1859 and then Venice in 1866, after a defeat in the disastrous war against a temporary alliance of Italy and Prussia. The King of Prussia wanted to annexe Bohemia but his Chancellor, Bismarck, opposed the idea [2]. The Bohemians did not like that idea either and hoped to get more freedom by entering into an



agreement with Vienna. The Hungarians, however, had learned lessons from their failed revolution in 1848 and used the opportunity provided by Viennese weakness to make contact with Bismarck. They forced an agreement with Vienna, the so-called *Ausgleich*, that led to the creation of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, in which Austria and Hungary were equal partners. Both countries had their own constitution and their own legislative bodies. Only the emperor and certain common institutions (the ministries of foreign affairs, war, and finance) united them. In June 1867 Franz Joseph was officially crowned King of Hungary and so a permanent solution for the relationship with Hungary was reached. The original Hapsburg Empire was now split up into a Western (Austrian) part called Cisleithenia and an Eastern (Hungarian) part, Transleithenia (Fig.2). The Czech provinces of Bohemia (Böhmen), Moravia (Mähren) and Silesia (Schlesien) in the Austrian part were now separated from the linguistically related neighbouring people of Slovakia in the Hungarian part.



Fig. 2: Division of the Hapsburg Empire into Cisleithenia (coloured brown on the map) and Transleithenia (coloured yellow).



Fig. 3: The three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia – coloured yellow, green and pink – can be seen to the north-west of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

Inspired by Hungary's success in forcing the *Ausgleich*, Bohemia wanted to achieve a similar arrangement with Austria. In 1871 Franz Joseph came to an agreement, but the Germans in Cisleithenia and the Hungarians in Transleithenia were very strongly opposed to this idea and it was cancelled. But on one issue there was a breakthrough: the Cisleithenian government granted all nationalities full equal rights for the use of their own language. Although this concession was withdrawn soon after, the postal officials had acted immediately. Before 1871, the names of the places that had a post office were monolingual – German – regardless of the language of the local people. This was seen as an insult by the Czech population and the post offices acted to address it. For Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, it meant that the local name appeared on the cancellations next to the German name: they became bilingual. In Bohemia and Moravia, the Czech name was used. For Silesia, it was either the Czech or the Polish name.

Hungary, meanwhile, never gave equal language rights to their ethnic minorities (Slovaks, Ukrainians, Romanians, Serbs, and Croats). In 1918 the Czechs and Slovaks were united in the new Republic of Czechoslovakia but fifty years of separate development probably contributed to their troublesome relationship, which ended in the Republic's split into Czechia and Slovakia in 1993.

### 3. The demographic situation in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia in the year 1900

The three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia were situated in the north-west of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Fig. 3). Fig. 4 shows the percentage of the German-speaking population in each district (the only other ethnic group included on Fig. 4 is Czechs). In the most eastern part of Austrian Silesia, however, there were also significant numbers of Poles.

Fig. 4 shows that the German-speaking population is concentrated in the border areas of our region of interest. In the central parts, nearly 100% of the population is Czech-speaking and there was a very sharp demarcation between both groups (for brevity, in the rest of the text I will simply use the terms 'Czech' and 'German' to mean 'Czech-speaking' or 'German-speaking'). There are only a few districts where the average population is truly mixed, as Table 1 below shows. This is especially true for the big cities, as can be seen from the *Gemeindelexikon* [3], which gives the results of the population census taken in 1900 in Cisleithenia.

Since this touches on the main subject of this article, I put a lot of effort into finding the details of the language situation in each place where a post office was present in 1900. Specifically, I combined the data in the *Gemeindelexikon* with the philatelic data in Klein's *Handbuch* [4]. Klein mentions 2,127 post offices being active in 1900 in the three provinces of concern and shows all cancellations found from all these offices over the period 1867 to 1900.

The richness of the data in the *Gemeindelexikon* is astonishing: from the smallest hamlets to the biggest towns, data about ethnicity, religion, number of houses, presence of churches, chapels, windmills, and so on –

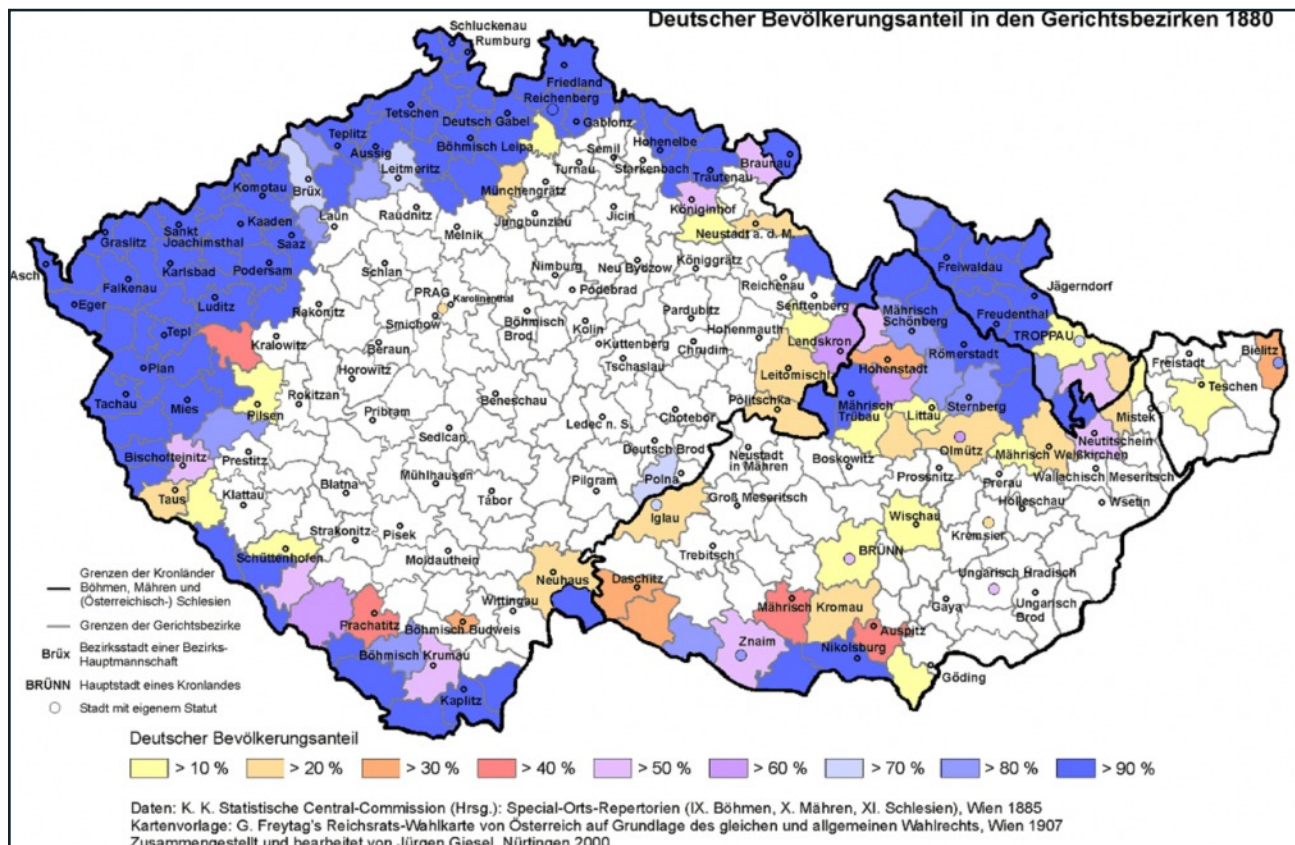


Fig. 4: Percentages of German-speaking people in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

they are all there. All post offices mentioned by Klein are also listed, and I have taken the relevant data from there, summarizing it in this article. (This was a very time-consuming job, but I have plenty of time, being happily retired!)

Table 1: sizes of language minorities in each district			
Percentage minority	Districts of Bohemia	Districts of Moravia	Districts of Silesia
0–1%	1,063 (78%)	397 (66%)	91 (58%)
2–9%	228 (17%)	153 (25%)	38 (24%)
10–19%	36 (3%)	26 (4%)	12 (8%)
20–29%	18 (1%)	12 (2%)	6 (4%)
30–39%	11 (1%)	7 (1%)	6 (4%)
40–49%	9 (1%)	9 (1%)	5 (3%)
Total	1,365	604	158

In Table 1, and in the rest of the text, all places are treated equally: a hamlet with one post office and a town like Prague with twenty-one post offices are both counted as one place. The data in Table 1 confirms the extreme language segregation, especially in Bohemia. We can see that in 1,063 out of 1,365 places with a post office (78%), more than 99% of the population belonged to the same ethnic group: Germans in the border areas and Czechs in the central parts.

Even in the few mixed districts the segregation between the various hamlets or villages was very strong. Take the district of Leitmeritz, for example, in the transition zone between the German and Czech-speaking areas. In that district, there were 35,503 Germans and 8,852 Czechs, meaning 20% were Czech. The district consists of 114 hamlets and villages and 2 cities, Leitmeritz and Theresienstadt. It turns out that 93 out of the 114 hamlets and villages were more than 99% German-speaking, 11 were more than 99% Czech speaking, and only 10 of these hamlets were mixed in the sense that the minority counted for more than 1%. Only the two cities were really mixed (90% and 57% German, respectively) but it might very well be that at a neighbourhood or street level this segregation was still present. In other words, there was clearly profound ethnic segregation at the smallest level of society. This was a recipe for serious problems, because everywhere German was the official language.

Later in history (and beyond the focus of this article) these problems became profound indeed: between 1938 and 1948 the German-speaking region around the borders of the Czechoslovak Republic was both the immediate



cause of the outbreak of World War II and the target for the ethnic cleansing that followed. I want to stay clear from politics in this article but, for the sake of simplification, the *Sudetengebiete* regions marked in yellow, salmon, pink and purple in Fig. 5 correspond very closely to the German-speaking parts shown in Fig. 4. I will refer to this whole area as the Sudetenland, even though this term is mostly used just for the northern part (marked in yellow on the map).



Fig. 5: Political division of Bohemia and Moravia in 1940, showing the Sudetengebiete.

#### 4. The types of postal cancellations in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia according to Müller

My interest in this subject was ignited by Müller's monograph [1], and his main conclusions can also be found in Klein [4], Part 1, page 34. Müller's work is incredibly rich in interesting detail, but below I have given just a brief summary. Much of this is regarded as historical fact (and is presented as such below), but I believe that certain assumptions are not based in fact, and have highlighted this accordingly.

As mentioned above, before 1871 German was the only language used on postal cancellations. For German-speaking places this was, of course, not a problem but for the Czech-speaking places, the Czech name had to be Germanized (except for the relatively few examples which had a specific German name, such as Terezín/Theresienstadt). That was done by transcribing, and the Czech letters which are not present in the German alphabet had to be replaced by equivalent-sounding German letters, as in: Telč/Teltsch; Benešov/Beneschau; Dačice/Datschitz; and Němčice/Niemtschitz. Very often the resulting name was neither German nor Czech: Chotovín (German Chotowin, Czech Chotovín); Hořic (German Hořitz, Czech Hořice); Dymokury (German Dimokur, Czech Dimokury). Note that in the 'German' names Czech letter types were also used! Müller says that for important places, where the Czech name was completely different from the German name, bilingual cancellations had to be introduced in 1871 and newly opened post offices with a bilingual name had to acquire bilingual cancellers\*. The same rule applied to existing post offices, which had to replace their old canceller. Müller goes on to say that for this purpose officially-made *Einkreisstempel* or single-circle cancellers were delivered and the rule was: the German name had to be at the top, and the Czech name at the bottom (as seen in Figs. 6 and 7).



Fig. 6: Adler Kosteletz/Kostelec nad Orlicí, 21-6-1880.



Fig. 7: Mährisch Ostrau Stadt/Moravská Ostrava Město 7-10-1878.

\* I will argue in the next section that this statement does not reflect the postal facts.



Bilingual cancellers were already used in four cities before 1867 [1, 5] but they were designed by the local postmaster. An example is shown in Fig. 8 for Böh(m)isch Brod/Český Brod. The cancellation does not include the year, as was usual before 1867. This specific postage stamp is cancelled somewhere between 1864 and 1867, the cancellation itself being used until about 1885 (as can be seen from the data in Klein [4]). Sometimes the names were put sequentially, separated by a hyphen, but in that case too the German name had to come first, see Fig. 9.

Fig. 8:  
Postmaster  
bilingual  
cancellation of  
Böhmisch Brod/  
Český Brod.



Fig. 9: Göding/  
Hodonin,  
13-3-1881.



In a few cases the postmaster designed his own cancellers, sometimes following the rule that the German name should be on top, but often not as in Figs. 10 and 11, where the Czech name is on top (Mnichovo Hradiště/Münchengrätz and Beroun/Beraun). It wasn't just the local postmasters who (deliberately or otherwise) made irregular cancellers: centrally issued cancellers sometimes had the Czech name on top, as in Fig. 12 (Ždírec/Zdirez) and the left-hand picture in Fig. 25 (Sušice/Schüttenhofen)\*. Fig. 12 is an example of a rather poor cancellation but I have deliberately shown it here because you can also reach sound conclusions from incomplete cancellations.



Fig. 10: Mnichovo Hradiště/Münchengrätz



Fig. 11: Beroun/Beraun



Fig. 12: Ždírec/Zdirez, 11-2-1881

The higher officials were not very happy with this mess and ruled that locally issued postmaster cancellers were not allowed anymore, while bilingual cancellers could only be acquired after approval by the ministry. At this point it is worth remembering that in Cisleithenia all nationalities (except for the Ukrainians in Galicia and Bukovina, see Fig. 1) already had bilingual cancellations of the same type as those shown in Figs. 7 and 8. The rules were different for the various provinces as seen below.

(All these provinces followed the top/bottom rules, unlike the three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.)

\* This illustration appears in part 2 of the article.

<b>Table 2: Order of languages on top/bottom cancellers in other provinces of Cisleithenia</b>		
<i>Location and population mixture</i>	<i>Order of names on cancellers</i>	<i>Number of places</i>
Germans and Slovenians in current Slovenia	German/Slovenian	190
Italians and Slovenians in current Slovenia	Italian/Slovenian	24
Italians and Croats in current Croatia (Istria)	Italian/Croatian	21
Italians and Croats in current Croatia (Dalmatia)	Croatian/Italian	103
Germans and Poles in Galicia	German/Polish	6

At the beginning of the 1890s a new type of top/bottom canceller was introduced for the whole of Cisleithenia, and also for the monolingual provinces: a *Zweikreisstempel* or double-circle cancellation as in Fig. 13. The Czechs were not satisfied with this new version of the old insult: why should the German name be on top and not the Czech? That was the reason for the introduction of a completely new position for the names in the double-circle canceller in about 1895, just for Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, where no language would be privileged: a left/right instead of a top/bottom canceller. Müller states that the place name on the left-hand side had to appear in the language of the majority – see Figs. 14 and 15, which show cancellations for Winterberg\*Vimberk\*, (90% German) and Kolinec\*Kolinetz\*, (100% Czech)\*.

Fig. 13: Klobouk in Böhmen/  
Klobuky v Čechách,  
22-8-1893



Fig. 14: Winterberg\*Vimberk\*,  
14-8-1903



Fig. 15: Kolinec\*Kolinetz\*,  
5-5-1909



The authorities thought that equality of language rights was achieved but they did not realize that it was still up to the postmaster to decide which name appeared on the left-hand side: he only had to turn the date in the inner circle by 180 degrees if he wanted to reverse the left/right position! Müller claims to have seen examples of this action and suggests that the postmasters are making a deliberate political statement. According to Müller, such abuse was impossible to prevent† and the problem disappeared only with the introduction of the *Ringsteg* canceller around 1904 in the whole of Cisleithenia, which made it impossible to cheat since the inner circle with the date could no longer be turned against the outer circle because then the serial number or letter at the bottom would appear upside-down at the top (see Figs. 16 and 17). According to Müller, this move finally achieved equality of language rights. I can imagine that this thrilling story will lead you to investigate your own postage-stamp collection in search of interesting examples of cancellations which fit (or don't fit) with Müller's hypotheses, and that is exactly what I did – what I found is described in the next sections.



Fig. 16: Ringsteg Budweis/Budějovice  
(German/Czech), 2-7-1915



Fig. 17: Ringsteg Nížkov/Nischkau  
(Czech/German), 7-7-1908

\* I have serious doubts about this statement, as will be discussed in Section 5.

† Again, I do not agree with this statement.



## 5. Analysis of the data in Klein's Handbook

Using a combination of all the cancellations given by Klein [4] for the Austro-Hungarian provinces which currently form Czechia, and the demographic data from the *Gemeindelexikon* of 1900 [3], I investigated Müller's monograph [1]. First of all I will analyze the cancellations in their historical sequence in the period between 1867 and 1900 (where Klein's Handbook ends and the population census was held). The developments of the postal cancellations in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia will be discussed after each type of cancellation. The bilingual left/right cancellations are not mentioned in Table 2 for reasons which will be given in section 6 (in part 2 of this article).

<b>Table 3: Type of cancellation</b>	<i>Bohemia – 1,365 places with post offices</i>	<i>Moravia – 604 places with post offices</i>	<i>Silesia – 58 places with post offices</i>
<b>Only Monolingual cancellations</b>	575	148	108
German majority	523	123	91
Czech majority	52	25	6
Polish majority	0	0	11
<b>Bilingual top/bottom German/Czech, Polish</b>	731	418	44
German majority	67	48	3
Czech majority	664	370	21
Polish majority	0	0	20
<b>Bilingual top/bottom Czech/German</b>	63 inc. 32 PM*	4 inc. 3 PM*	0
German majority	0	0	0
Czech majority	63	4	0
Polish majority	0	0	0

\* Postmaster Cancellor

To explain how the table should be read, take Bohemia as an example. In Bohemia, 1,365 places had active post offices in the year 1900. The white horizontal rows represent the nine types of cancellations that existed, five of which were used in Bohemia – the Polish variants did not exist there. Of these 1,365 offices, 575 only used monolingual cancellations during their activity between 1867 and 1900. In 523 places a German majority was present, in 52 a Czech majority. This does not necessarily mean that the place names on the cancellations were German or Czech, respectively. We will see that in two places with a Czech majority the place name was German although a Czech name existed.

For the 731 bilingual top/bottom cancellers with the German name on top, which were introduced after 1871, the table data say that in 67 places a German majority existed, in 664 places a Czech majority and so on. We should also note that a post office could have various types of cancellations during the period between 1867 and 1900, except the ones in the first rows that only used a monolingual type. Before proceeding with the analysis of Klein's data I want to make clear which points I will highlight because this is where I disagree with some of Müller's statements [1].

- Müller states that a place needed to be 'important', with clearly different names in German and Czech, for it to use a bilingual canceller. I want to show that using a bilingual canceller was actually an option for all places, with no conditions applied.
- Müller states that in the top/bottom bilingual cancellation the German name should be on top, which is often not the case and which he attributes (at least partly) to a nationalistic motivation on the part of the postmaster. I want to show that a simpler explanation is possible.
- Müller states that in the left/right cancellers the name of the place in the majority language had to appear on the left-hand side. I want to show that this is not the case.

### 5.1 The monolingual cancellations

Fig. 18 shows the oldest, yearless type of monolingual cancellation; Fig. 19 is an example of a single-circle dated type; Fig. 20 is a *Fingerhut* (thimble) cancellation (see also Fig. 26); and Fig. 21 shows an example of the *Schraffen* (hatched) cancellation.



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



As already said, 575 out of 1,365 places in Bohemia were found with only monolingual cancellations, of which 523 had a German and 52 a Czech majority. Of the 523 German-speaking places, 522 are found in Sudetenland. The only place situated in the central part of Bohemia is Schlappenz near Deutschbrod (in the pale blue coloured area in Fig. 4) at the border between Bohemia and Moravia, which can be considered to be a German-language island in a Czech region.

Of the fifty-two Czech-speaking places, fifty are situated in Central Bohemia. Two places are found in Sudetenland, namely Maltheuern in the district of Leitmeritz (3,093 inhabitants, 64% Czech) and Ploschkowitz in the district of Brüx (457 inhabitants, 61% Czech). These are two out of only twenty Bohemian places (with a post office) which had such a mixed population (see Table 1). Both districts are shown in pale blue in Fig. 4, in the north-west corner of Sudetenland, meaning that these are mixed-language districts. German names appear on the cancellations instead of the Czech names given by the *Gemeindelexikon* (Maltheyr and Ploškovice, respectively).

In Moravia, out of 148 places with a monolingual cancellation, twenty-five places with a Czech majority are located in the Czech-speaking central part of Moravia. The other 123 places with a German majority are in Sudetenland except for Ober-Gerspitz (1,303 inhabitants, 90% German) which is located in the German-language island around Brünn (see Fig. 4).

In Silesia the situation is more complicated because it is a trilingual province (German, Czech and Polish) as can be seen from Fig. 22. The red-encircled areas represent the two parts of Austrian Silesia; in the most easterly part, Polish is the dominant language. Table 1 for Silesia should be read from the viewpoint of the majority, the other two languages together being the minority. For instance, a place like Oderberg (Bohumín in Czech, Bogumin in Polish) has 1,888 inhabitants with 55% German, 6% Czech and 39% Polish-speaking people and is, therefore, to be found in the category 40-49 % minority in Table 1. The eastern part of the town of Teschen is not currently situated in Czechia but (since the end of World War I) in Poland.

An intriguing question for these places with monolingual cancellations is, why didn't they introduce bilingual cancellations after 1871? This will be discussed in section 5.2.

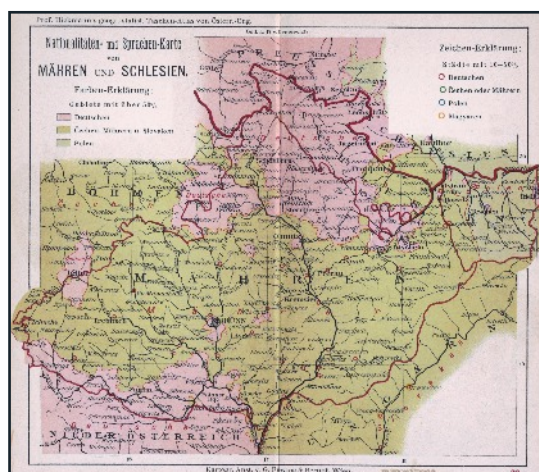


Fig. 22

## 5.2 The bilingual top/bottom cancellations

According to Müller [1], in April 1871 the decision was made that top/bottom bilingual cancellers had to be prepared for the more important places, where the Czech or Polish name is completely different from the German name. I believe that this statement is incorrect on both counts, certainly after November 1871. Perhaps Müller knows this because he goes on to say that in November 1871 newly opened post offices in bilingual places were ordered to use this bilingual canceller; in all places the German name had to come first, be it on top or as the first name in a sequence (see Figs. 7 to 9). He does not repeat the requirement that this rule is limited to important places with clearly different names in both languages.



Fig. 23: Krčín/Krčín, 31-1-1899.

There is a special group of twenty-nine places that use top/bottom cancellations but from Klein's work, you cannot tell whether it is German/Czech or Czech/German! The names only differ by a hacek or acute accent as with ř or í (see Fig. 23 with a German/Czech cancellation – you have to look carefully to see the difference between i and í!), and these differences are omitted in Klein's book. (This is a regrettable shortcoming in this otherwise excellent work.) Luckily, in the *Monografie* [6] these names are written with the correct letters and it turns out that all twenty-nine places are Czech-speaking.

A first glance at Table 3 quickly shows that Czech-speaking places introduced far more bilingual cancellations than the German-speaking places. However, this data is difficult to analyse because it covers the whole time-span from 1867 until 1900. During that time many post offices were opened, others closed, long after the time when the question arose about which offices would introduce bilingual cancellations.

Müller states that most of the confusion was settled around 1884. For that reason, I have made a comparison that is much more consistent by splitting up the data into two periods, before and after 1884. I looked up how many post offices existed before 1867 and checked whether they introduced a bilingual cancellation in the period 1867–1884 or between 1884 and 1900. That can be done because the period 1867–1884 happens to be the validity period for the postage stamp issue with the emperor's head of the type shown in Figs. 18 and 20, and Klein's data gives all cancellations on this issue separately. The results can be found in Table 4.

Table 4: Number of post offices which existed before 1867 and introduced a bilingual cancellation							
in Bohemia: 451				in Moravia: 188			
German majority 189 (42%)		Czech majority 262 (58%)		German majority 64 (34%)		Czech majority 124 (66%)	
Introduction of bilingual cancellation:		Introduction of bilingual cancellation:		Introduction of bilingual cancellation:		Introduction of bilingual cancellation:	
1867–1884 16 (9%)	1884–1900 12 (6%)	1867–1884 147 (56%)	1884–1900 99 (38%)	1867–1884 15 (23%)	1884–1890 8 (12%)	1867–1884 71 (57%)	1884–1890 48 (39%)
Total 28 (15%)		Total 246 (94%)		Total 23 (35%)		Total 119 (96%)	

Focusing first on the situation in Bohemia, we see that 451 post offices which existed already in 1867 introduced the bilingual cancellation. Of these, 189 are in German-speaking places; nearly all are situated in Sudetenland (the coloured border area in Fig. 4) and a few in German-language islands in Central Bohemia. The other 262 are in Czech-speaking places, nearly all situated in Central Bohemia. The table concludes with the number of post offices that have introduced bilingual cancellations during the periods 1867–1884 and 1884–1900. So, sixteen out of 189 places with a German majority (9%) introduced a bilingual cancellation before 1884; another twelve places (6%) did that between 1884 and 1900. Also, for the places with a Czech majority the data is clear: compared to the German-speaking places, far more Czech-speaking places introduced bilingual cancellations. That is logical, because it was the Czechs who asked for this bilingual cancellation in the first place.

We now look in more detail at the post offices in areas with a German majority that changed from monolingual to bilingual cancellations between 1867–1884 and 1884–1900; for Bohemia they are listed in Table 5a and for Moravia in Table 5b, together with a selection of the places which did not change their monolingual cancellation. The number of inhabitants and the percentage of Czech-speaking people are given, together with labels showing whether places are a District Capital or a Judicial Seat.

Table 5a: Places with German majority in Bohemia								
Introduced bilingual cancellations before 1884			Introduced bilingual cancellations after 1884			Did not introduce bilingual cancellations between 1867 and 1900		
Place name	Population	Czech	Place name	Population	Czech	Place name	Population	Czech
Bergreichenstein JS	2,200	6%	Böhm. Aicha JS	2,700	41%	<b>A selection from 161 offices</b>		
Bodenbach	10,800	8%	Dobruška	5,200	42%			
Eger * DC	23,500	1%	Dux DC	12,000	25%			
Freiheit *	1,700	0	Kapltitz DC	2,400	9%	Bilin JS	8,000	6%
Horosedl	655	14%	Neubistritz JS	2,500	1%	Brüx DC	21,500	20%
Jechtnitz * JS	1,342	1%	Oschtitz	775	1%	Hohenelbe DC	4,800	10%
Komotau * DC	15,900	3%	Prachaticz DC	4,300	22%	Kosten	3,900	19%
Krumau DC	8,700	15%	Rokitnitz JS	1,100	10%	Lobositz JS	4,600	13%
Leitmeritz DC	13,000	15%	Stecken JS	1,300	11%	Nieder Georgenthal	3,900	23%
Liebenau	3,200	12%	Wegstädtl JS	1,700	10%			
Marschendorf * JS	1,265	1%	Winterberg JS	4,700	10%			
Reichenberg * DC	34,100	8%	Wscherau	1,200	5%			
Teplitz DC	20,500	7%				+ 25 DC's, all less than 3% Czech		
Theresienstadt	7,000	34%						
Trautenau DC	12,700	10%						
Ullitz	680	16%						

Key:

\* These places withdrew their bilingual canceller and reintroduced a monolingual canceller.

DC – District Capital (92 Districts in Bohemia of which 37 have a German majority and 34 in Moravia of which 13 have a German majority).

JS – Judicial Seat of the District (126 in Bohemia of which 54 have a German majority and 43 in Moravia of which 13 have a German majority).

Table 5b: Places with German majority in Moravia								
Introduced bilingual cancellations before 1884			Introduced bilingual cancellations after 1884			Did not introduce bilingual cancellations between 1867–1900		
Place name	Population	Czech	Place name	Population	Czech	Place name	Population	Czech
Auspitz DC	3,600	10%	Böhm. Rudoletz	519	8%	<b>A selection from 40 Offices</b>		
Brünn DC	94,500	36%	Brüßau	1,700	8%	Bodenstadt	1,500	5%
Fratting	528	1%	Göding DC	10,200	44%	Frain JS	1,100	5%
Grussbach	2,400	8%	Hosterlitz	1,300	2%	Frainersdorf	641	11%
Hohenstadt DC	3000	26%	Mähr. Aussee	1,800	8%	Mähr. Schönberg DC	11,600	3%
Iglau DC	24,400	18%	Nieder Eisenberg	416	21%	Mähr. Trübau DC	7,700	3%
Kromau DC	2,200	40%	Pohrlitz	2,900	21%	Nikolsburg DC	6,000	2%
Mähr. Neustadt JS	5,100	2%	Schildberg JS	1,900	7%	Piesling	799	18%
Misslitz	2,000	26%				Römerstadt DC	4,800	0%
Müglitz JS	4,200	4%				Schattau	2,500	7%
Neutitschein DC	12,000	9%				Stannern	1,400	9%
Olmütz DC	21,700	33%				Sternberg DC	15,200	1%
Privoz	10,900	39%						
Wolframitz	539	6%						
Znaim DC	16,200	12%						

I have used this data as a criterion to recognize a place as being important, because Müller stated that only important places with clearly different names in German and Czech should introduce bilingual cancellations. We see that up to 1884 indeed ten important places switched to bilingual, whereas another nine places did the same after 1884, thirteen years or more after the possibility was offered. That means that twenty-five District Capitals and forty-three Judicial Seats, some of which were actually populated with a considerable Czech minority and sound Czech names (like Brüx/Most, and Hohenelbe/Vrchlabi) never introduced a bilingual canceller. This is in sharp contrast to the situation in the Czech speaking areas in Central Bohemia. The numbers are too large to list them in a table but we can give the most important global results. As can be seen in Table 3, 147 places became bilingual before 1884. Among these, forty out of the fifty-five Czech District Capitals and forty-five out of the seventy-two Czech Judicial Seats became bilingual, most of the rest following in the period 1884–1900. Only three District Capitals – Chotěboř, Kladno and Polička – never used a bilingual canceller for the good reason that they did not have an official German name according to the *Gemeindelexikon*. As for the Judicial Seats, five never used a bilingual cancellation: Jaroměř and Sobotka did not have a German alternative, whereas in Humpolec and Kouřim probably no one asked to add the German names Humpoletz or Kauřim to the cancellation. The Czechs in these four places were completely comfortable with their monolingual cancellations! The case of the fifth place, Liban (1,966 inhabitants, of which 1,964 were Czech), is different. There the German name is on the canceller and not the Czech name (Libáň) and it lasted until it became bilingual with the introduction of the *Ringsteg* canceller.

All this leads us to a logical explanation as to which places introduced bilingual cancellations. The German-speaking places had no reason to add a Czech name on their cancellers, only giving in where the Czech minority insisted on their rights. The other places left everything unchanged. This is underlined by the fact that some places soon regretted their change: they withdrew their bilingual and reintroduced their monolingual canceller. They are marked in Table 5a with an asterisk. Müller was also surprised that ‘nearly purely German cities like Eger (Cheb in Czech) and Reichenberg (Liberec in Czech) got bilingual cancellers’ (it seems that Müller was not aware that Reichenberg had an 8% Czech minority). Note in Table 5b that in Moravia there were no places that regretted their choice. On the other hand, the Czech-speaking places – big or small, with clearly different names or not, 100% Czech or less – took the opportunity to add their Czech name to the canceller. The officials obviously agreed with this because these were official cancellers. This shows that the introduction of bilingual cancellers in Bohemia was more like an option rather than a rule, as Müller believed.

Now we have to verify this conclusion by looking at how Moravia handled the issue of bilingual cancellers. It is clear from Tables 5a and 5b that the data is comparable to Bohemia, which means that the same conclusions we drew above hold. We will only give a little extra data on top of that mentioned in Table 5b. From the twenty-one District Capitals in the Czech-speaking areas sixteen went over to bilingual cancellers before 1884



and four between 1884 and 1900. One District Capital, Mistek, did not get a bilingual canceller because there was no German name for this place. Of the thirty Judicial Seats eighteen became bilingual before 1884 and the other twelve between 1884 and 1900. In Silesia the issue of bilingual cancellers is more complicated because it is a trilingual province. On the other hand, it is simpler because in all cases the German name came on top. It is interesting to see that both Czech and Polish are treated as absolutely equal minorities, so depending on whether the Czech or the Polish population is larger, a German/Czech or a German/Polish cancellation is used.

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## Book Review

### Mark Wilson

*Falcon in Flight Newspaper Stamps: A Catalogue of Plate Identifiers* (Katalog označení tiskových desek novinových známek emise sokol v letu) by Vladimír Malovík and Michal Hauzr. Ability, Prague (2022). ISBN 978-80-908610-0-8.

Cloth bound, A4, illustrations in colour, 238 pages. In Czech.

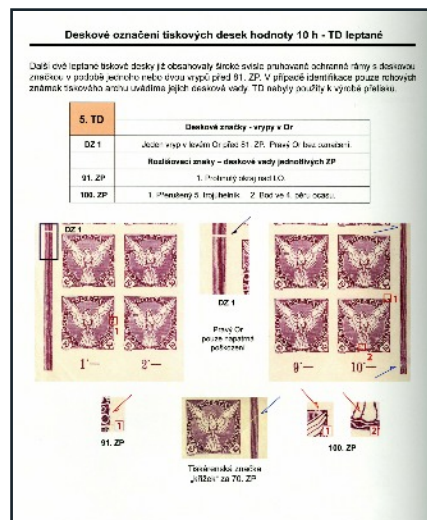


The book binder (Trimen, Třebechovice pod Orebem) deserves special mention. This book, beautifully bound in red cloth with brass corner plates, makes a memorable impression. The glossy pages have well-spaced text and illustrations, perhaps the best I have seen in a philatelic publication. Its presence will absolutely improve the appearance of any bookshelf and delight the most fastidious booklover.

The Falcon in Flight (sometimes called the Sokol) newspaper stamp is perhaps the reigning champion of all Czechoslovak postage stamps in terms of duration and proliferation. It appeared alongside the first Hradčany stamps on 18 December 1918 and passed out of existence long after the creation of the Protectorate – 15 December 1939. Dominating the First Republic's printing statistics is the 5 haler as some 320 plates were used to print more than 3.5 billion copies! For other fun facts about this issue see the June 2013 issue of *Czechout* (page 11) – 'An Extraordinary Issue: The Mucha Newspaper Stamps'.

This new reference book concentrates on describing the markings that identify the various plates used to print the issue's eight denominations. One might ask why plate identifiers are important. To paraphrase the authors: 'Prices for stamps bearing plate identifiers have increased greatly over the past few years. Earlier, interest in these stamps was marginal and much of the published information was difficult to understand, misleading, or downright in error. We wish to give collectors and specialists a well-researched fund of knowledge with respect to this issue'.

The book is arranged in three parts. First the authors briefly introduce the reasons for the creation of the issue followed by a description of just



how its plates were manufactured. They then describe the kinds of plate identifiers one may encounter as well as their locations on a pane. This first section, some twenty-two pages, ends with a description of the terms and abbreviations used and an explanation of how the information will be presented.

The second, far longer and most important, section (almost 200 pages) is devoted to describing the features that identify almost every plate and, if necessary, any overprints applied. Every plate is superbly illustrated with clear indications of the salient features related to its identification. While knowing Czech would enrich the reader's experience, one need not be able to read Czech in order to make use of this section of the book. As a remedy for non-Czech speakers, I would direct readers to the free language translator DeepL. It may be downloaded from <https://www.deepl.com> or used online at <https://www.deepl.com/en/translator>. I use it myself and can recommend it highly.

The final section of the book provides extensive valuations for single stamps and blocks of four bearing plate identifiers. These valuations take into consideration whether the left or right part of the pane (many have different identifiers on either side) is in question, and if the piece is mint with undisturbed gum, mint, or used.

Whether you are looking to expand your collecting repertoire or just grace your bookshelves with a magnificent philatelic publication, this book is for you. I highly recommend it.

## Startup problems for the Czechoslovakian post in 1919

### Part two – postal stationery, labels and postmarks

Johan Sevenhuijsen

#### Shortage of postal stationery

Just as for postage stamps, it took some time before there was sufficient production of new Czechoslovak postcards and other postal stationery (such as parcel cards and money orders forms). In the interim, the Austrian and Hungarian cards and forms remained valid. This lasted a little longer than for the stamps: it was only announced in the Postal Bulletin of 20 September 1919 that the old forms would lose their validity from 14 October 1919. After that date there was a sufficient supply of new Czechoslovak cards and forms.

Furthermore, it was already announced on 10 December 1918 that the stock of Austrian postcards with the value of 8 haler (with picture of Emperor Karl) would be overprinted ČSR 10. In one go they got both the Czechoslovak identity and the franking value for the now valid rate of 10 haler. In fact, this was the first issue by Czechoslovak Post, one week before the introduction of its own postage stamps and newspaper stamps

*Austrian 8 heller postcard overprinted ČSR 10 (top) and postcards revalued with Austrian and Czechoslovak 2 haler newspaper stamps (centre) and express stamps (bottom).*



(although the actual use of these cards is not reported until January 1919)!

Apparently, there were still stocks of these 8 haler postcards at several local post offices. They were uprated to 10 haler, which should have been done with postage stamps, but these were not available with a value of 1 or 2 haler.



That's why 2 haler newspaper and express stamps were used, at first Austrian ones and later their Czechoslovak equivalents. In exceptional cases 'postage paid' franking (*Franco 2 haler*) was used for this purpose, too.

It has already been mentioned above (*in part one of this article*) that when the postcard rate was increased from 10 to 15 haler (on 14 May 1919), the existing stock of cards had to be revalued with an additional 5 haler stamp. Lacking those, printed matter express stamps were also used here. Large numbers of Austrian and Hungarian 10

Hungarian 8 fillér postcard from Liptószentmiklós (23 May 1919) to Prague, uprated with Hungarian 2 fillér stamp (not actually valid any more at that date) and with 5 haler Hradčany to the new rate of 15 haler.



Above: Hungarian 8 fillér postcard from Kosice (21 July 1919) to Prague, uprated with Czechoslovakian 2 haler express stamp and 5 haler Hradčany to new rate of 15 haler.



Above: Hradčany 10 haler postcard from Bergesgrün (21 July 1919), uprated to the going rate of 15 haler with 5 haler express stamp.



Hungarian 10 fillér postcard from Nyitra (9 NOV -9) to Friedek: uprated with 5 haler Hradčany stamp, but postcard was not valid any more after 14 October 1919; no surcharge applied.

haler postcards were revalued with a Hradčany stamp, the largest category of mixed frankings, which remained possible until 14 October 1919.

The old postcards can also be found used after 14 October 1919; in many cases no surcharge was applied (as shown above) and in some other cases the imprinted Austrian or Hungarian stamp was pasted over with a valid Czechoslovak stamp.

A similar story applies to postal stationery other than postcards. Austrian and Hungarian parcel cards, money order forms, and so on, remained in use and were used up, while new forms became available in the course of 1919. It is unclear whether the date of 14 October 1919 meant the end of validity for these forms as well. According to some sources it only applied to postal stationery with an imprinted stamp; on parcel cards, however, a tax stamp was imprinted (*Stempelmarke*). In any case, there is evidence of the use of Hungarian money order forms until December 1919.

### Shortage of labels

Every postal service uses different kinds of slips and labels. Registration labels are probably the best known, but there are many more. In the course of time the Czechoslovak postal service also had to design and produce those. But here too the existing stock of Austrian and Hungarian labels was used up first. There is no instruction in the postal service *Věstník* (Gazette) which prohibits further use. Apparently, it was assumed that each office would use up the existing stock and then switch to the newly developed ones. In some cases, the German text





*Registered express letter from Kuntapolcza (Kunova Teplica) – 920 JAN 28 – to Mährisch Ostrau (Ostrava). Late use of Hungarian registered and express labels (and postmark). Correctly franked: 25 haler + 50 haler (registration fee); 60 haler (express fee); total 135 haler.*

*Kr. Vinohrady 24/4*  
*Campione 9.* 19.  
*Návrh vložení od*  
16. b. m. prosm, aby  
jste si k uvoznímu  
listu č. 1000000 vložili  
metalskou 500K,  
přiloženým obnohem  
z mého Váš se mách.  
B428

KAOLINWERKE  
VORMALS CAMILL SCHWALB & Co.,  
GESELLSCHAFT M. B. H.,  
KARLSBAD.

Karlsbad I  
Pat. Nr. 109

Herrn  
Carl Gunderloch,  
Freiburg im Breisgau.

Express

EINGESCHRIEBEN.  
DURCH EILBOTEN

91

In a number of places the old postal labels ran out before the new ones became available. That was solved by applying the data of the label on the letter itself, for example by drawing a label (with R and registration number, sometimes with the name of the post office). Also, stamps were used with the letter R or 'R N°', where only the number had to be filled in. These were preserved in part from the period before 1886, when the use of registration labels was first introduced.



*Cash on delivery from  
Jindřichův Hradec  
(18 July 1919) to  
Studená with Austrian  
cash-on-delivery label  
and registration label.  
Correct postage for  
2nd weight class: 30  
haler + 50 haler  
(registration fee); 20  
haler (cash-on-  
delivery);  
total 100 haler.*





Above: Used Austrian (Jauernig 11.VIII.19) and Hungarian (Nagybicscse 919 JUL 21) parcel cards and identification labels. Above right: Austrian parcel card (1 September 1919) with place name Unter Kralowitz over-stamped with Dolní Kralovice. Right: Czechoslovak parcel card (23 August 1920) with late use of Austrian identification stub Gablonz a.d. Neisse.



Related to the registration labels are the parcel identification labels, which were also used to represent the place of origin with a serial number to identify the parcel. Again, Austrian and Hungarian versions were in use and continued to be used until Czechoslovak labels of a new design became available. Examples of these can be found until 1923 as well. In some places the German name on the label was over-stamped with the Czech one.

The new express labels differ only slightly from the old ones. The Austrian and Hungarian labels read EXPRESS in red characters; on the new Czechoslovak labels, also in red, it reads EXPRES. Use of the old labels, with double S, is still to be seen until the end of 1920.

The Austrian labels for cash-on-delivery were at that time triangular with the black text *N Remboursement* (N = *Nachname*) on yellow or orange; the Hungarian ones were rectangular or triangular, black on red with the text *Utánvétel/Remboursement*. The Czechoslovak labels are triangular with the text *D Remboursement* in red on lilac (D = *Dobírka*). The Austrian labels were in use until at least July 1920.

Douglas Muir's article on the 'returned' labels shows that Czechoslovak labels probably only came into use from 1921 onwards. Until then, the old Austrian and Hungarian labels remained in use.

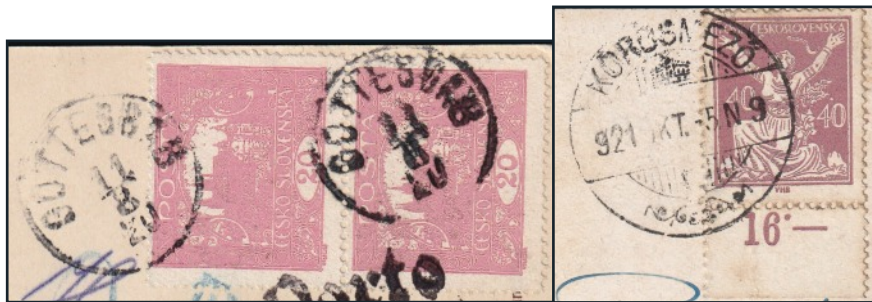
### Shortage of postmarks

The dated canceller is one of the most essential tools of the postal worker and therefore an important part of the image of the postal service. The cancellers used in 1918 stood for the Austrian and Hungarian domination of the country in different ways. For the Czech territories especially the dominant presence of German place names was a thorn in the side; in a large proportion of the Slovakian postmarks the Hungarian crown had a prominent place. In the Czech lands a majority of the postmarks were bilingual (German and Czech): in Slovakia (and in the Carpathian Ukraine) only postmarks with Hungarian place names were in use, as the Slovakian language had no status whatsoever.

It is clear that the Czechoslovak authorities wanted to tackle this as soon as possible. On 9 January 1919 the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued an order to all post offices to send a print of all Austrian or Hungarian postmarks in use there within three days so they could be replaced. This operation was, however, complicated, not only because more than 8,500 post offices (often with more than one canceller) were involved, but also because it still had to be determined what the new postmarks should look like and especially which

place names (in which languages) should be included. For places in Slovakia there was never an official name other than the Hungarian one recorded. Consequently, it took until far into 1921 before all the old cancellers were replaced by new ones. The post offices were supposed to continue using the old cancellers until that moment. There was even an order that explicitly forbade changing them.

Late use of  
unchanged  
Austrian and  
Hungarian date  
cancels:  
Gottesgab 11 8 20  
(left) and  
Körösmező 921  
OKT. -5 (right).



In other articles, the measures taken at local level to ‘nationalize’ the postmarks have been discussed\*. The removal of the German name from the Czech bilingual postmarks is the most frequently applied one. Most of these postmarks have been ‘cut’ by the end of 1918 or the beginning of 1919. In places with monolingual German postmarks (such as Karlsbad) there was little else to do other than waiting for cancellers also carrying the Czech name. On the Slovakian side of the country the unchanged Hungarian postmark was also used in most cases, but sometimes these were nationalized by changing the date order and/or removing the Hungarian crown.



Nationalization of Austrian and Hungarian stamps: left to right – Freiwaldau with ‘Österr.’ removed; Plzeň 3 with replacement of ‘Pilsen’; Leibitz with modified date order and replacement of month with numeral; and Rajec with Z removed from RAJECZ, modification of date order and removal of Hungarian crown.

In the *Monografie* a comprehensive overview can be found of the continued use of the Austrian and Hungarian cancels (with or without modifications) and the introduction of the new cancels.

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*This article was previously published in Dutch in the Winter 2020/21 edition of Notities van de Nederlandse Academie voor Filatelie No. 62, pages 2–26, and also in the Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021 Journal of the Dutch society for Czechoslovak Philately Nos. 34 & 35, pages 5–16, and 4–12.*

\* See the article on page 11 of this edition of Czechout, for example – Editor.





## New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

Images and text adapted from  
[www.postaonline.cz/eshopfilatelie/listProducts.html?request\\_locale=en](http://www.postaonline.cz/eshopfilatelie/listProducts.html?request_locale=en)

26 October 2022

### Christmas – Definitive NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1184)

The self-adhesive stamp has the design of a comet carrying the Infant Jesus through a star-filled night sky. The tail of the comet has a fragment of the musical notation of one of the best known Czech carols – *The Lord Christ was Born*.



9 November 2022

### Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Jaroslav Panuška (POFIS 1185–1186)



Jaroslav Panuška (1872–1958) was a prolific Czech painter and illustrator who showed an interest in art and painting from an early age. From 1889 he studied at the Academy of Painting in Prague where he was influenced by the landscape painter Professor Julius Mařák. His best landscape paintings depict mysterious ponds, swamps and pools in a haze of fog or moonlight. Other works have rocky hills and rolling storm clouds from his travels through the Czech lands and the Balkans. Panuška was interested in history, archaeology and ancient monuments. Many of his works use darker colours

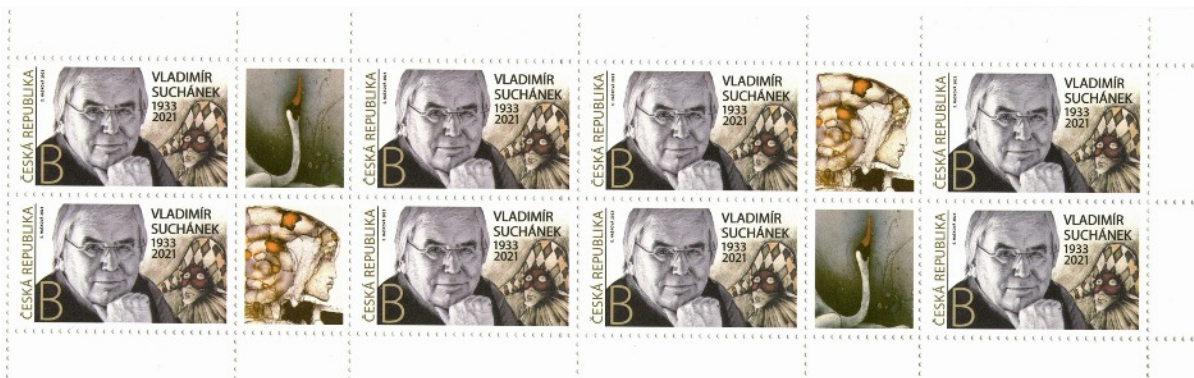


with shades of grey, browns and olive greens as shown on the issued stamps. This can also be seen in his disturbing treatment of themes relating to death, loneliness and the supernatural. Two versions of his art work from 1903 entitled *Plague* are shown on the sheetlet of four – two se-tenant stamps of each value.

20 January 2023

### Tradition of Czech Stamp Design: Vladimír Suchánek (POFIS 1187)

Suchánek (1933–2021) studied at Charles University and Academy of Fine Arts, Prague, specializing in the study of graphic arts, painting, book illustrations, stamp design and bookplates. During the 1960s he played clarinet in the band *Grafičanka*, formed by a group of graphic artists. This part of his life is portrayed on the FDC cachet. The background to his portrait on the stamp design shows a detail from his 1978 lithograph *Harlequin in Love*. Colour lithography was his preferred medium. He was a member, and from 1997 president, of the Hollar Society – the association of Czech graphic artists. His work was exhibited internationally and is represented in many collections. Throughout his career he won many international awards. The stamp was also issued in a booklet of eight stamps with two each of two different coupons.





## New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

Images and text adapted from  
[www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products](http://www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products)

27 October 2022

### The 150th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Eastern Slovak Museum in Košice (POFIS 779)



Dr Imrich Henszlmann (1813–1838) was the driving force behind the establishment of this institution, which was destined to preserve exhibits from the town of Košice and the surrounding area. On 10 August 1846 he presented his proposal to the travelling conference of the Association of Hungarian Physicians and Nature Researchers. His ideas became reality in 1872 when the *Felsőmagyarországi múzeum egylet* (Museum Association of Upper Hungary) was established in Košice, with the active support of the Klimkovics brothers and Viktor Myszkovsky. The museum itself opened in June 1876, the first items on

display including a huge range of artefacts, from gold, silver and copper coins, to porcelain, weapons and watches. Donations to the museum came from eminent figures in society, the culturally conscious people of Košice, and church dignitaries, as well as institutions and associations. Throughout its 150-year history the Eastern Slovak Museum has managed a collection of more than 500,000 items, and held thousands of interesting exhibitions and events.

11 November 2022

### Christmas Mail 2022 (POFIS 780)

*The Christmas Mail to Baby Jesus* has become a traditional project organized by the Slovak Post for children to write their secret wishes and greetings to Baby Jesus using a special address. Letters from all over the world are received and each one receives a reply from Baby Jesus with a small gift in the envelope. A jury appointed by 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. Most Slovak primary schools take part in the competition. The first children's designs were issued in 2013 but 2022 is the twenty-fourth appearance of this special annual stamp issue. This year's stamp, cancel and cachet were created from artwork by children from Komárno Primary School.



### Christmas: Religious Motifs from the works of P. M. Bohún (POFIS 781; Booklet – 102 ZZ 781/22; Pictorial postcard – 034CP781/22)



The issue commemorates the 200th birth anniversary of Peter Michel Bohún (1822–1879) who was one of the personalities of the Ľudovít Štúr generation interested in Slovak identity through language, literature, the arts, and politics. Bohún's work is more widely known from his portraits of Upper Hungarian nobility but he also accepted commissions from the Church. These works include altar decorations and other religious pieces adorning churches. The subject of the stamp is a detail from an altarpiece of 1850 now in the Slovak National Museum, Martin, possibly intended originally for the chapel in Krivá na Orave. The painting depicts the Virgin Mary standing on a globe, holding the Infant Jesus and with three attendant angels. The whole painting from which the detail is taken is shown on the postcard.



24 November 2022

### 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 17 Moon Landing: Eugene Andrew Cernan (POFIS 782)



Eugene Andrew Cernan (1934–2017) was born in Chicago but his paternal grandparents had emigrated to the USA in 1903 from Vysoká nad Kysucou and his mother was of Czech ancestry. Eugene graduated from university with a degree in electrical engineering then later was awarded a postgraduate degree in aeronautical engineering and in 1963 was selected by NASA as an astronaut. He travelled into space three times: in 1966 on the Gemini 9A mission; in 1969 as the lunar module pilot for the Apollo 10 mission; and in 1972 as mission commander of the Apollo 17 mission. The mission was a success as it was the longest stay by man on the moon, and it brought back a large quantity of moon rock and data. Cernan became the last man to leave the moon to return to earth and since 14 December 1972 no other human has stepped on the moon's surface. Cernan retired from NASA and the US Navy in 1976. He died in 2017 and is buried in Houston National Cemetery, Texas.

2 December 2022

### Postage Stamp Day – Historic Mail Carriage (POFIS 783)



The stamp shows a horse-drawn parcel delivery carriage as used by the Czechoslovak Post during the inter-war era. The wagons were finally taken out of service in 1960 when motor vehicles replaced all horse-drawn carriages. The motif on the se-tenant label is based on the emblem used by the Czechoslovak State Post. The use of wheeled vehicles for transport of goods and people goes back to ancient times. By the late 15th century a coach had been developed that was lightweight and therefore faster for transporting goods and people. During the 18th century Empress Maria Theresa reformed the Hapsburg postal system as a state-run enterprise with postal routes and regular staging posts for carriages carrying mail. In 1823 further reforms to improve the mail service included coaches travelling during the night. By the mid-19th century mail was being transported by railways with letters and parcels sorted en route. The sorted mail was offloaded at stations along the way for delivery to individual post offices by horse-drawn carriages. These carriages were usually purpose-built – a wooden boxed framework covered with sheet metal pulled by one or more horses, as depicted on the stamp.



Left: the Maximum Card issued with the historic mail carriage stamp.

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### Roger Morrell

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- Kalis, K. The evacuation of Pola in 1914 and 1915. (Forced removal of the Serbophile population as WWI commenced.)
- Kalis, K. Divers of the K.u.k. Kriegsmarine.
- Wirtl, W. The enemy forces in WWI – Britain and the British Commonwealth. (Interesting summary.)
- Bliersbach, A. The Austrian Red Cross Society and its first handstamps. (Mostly on Russian POW mail.)

#### *Filatelie*

##### **No.10/2022 (October)**

- Bachraty, M. Ministerial Stamp Albums 1946–48 including unique and rare items.
- Ježek, J. Philately and Picture Postcards (part 4).
- Šorejs, R. Beware of Overprints: Slovenský štát 1939.
- Dobrovolný, J. Express message postcards (Dopisnice spěšna) Protectorate B & M.

##### **No. 11/2022 (November)**

- Beneš, F. Ashes & Diamonds – a little encouragement for those who do not want to spend too much! (Including illustrated varieties of 30 haler Airmail stamp issued 24 April 1939.)
- Trnka, H. Did the letter fly or not? (Second Airmail issue covers.)
- Šorejs, R. Heydrich's sheet No. 342 and its history.
- Čechovský, K. Alfons Mucha – Feather and Primula.
- Kunc, L. Czechoslovak soldiers in 1939–45 (part 13).

##### **No. 12/2022 (December)**

- Beneš, F. Ladislav Dvořáček 100 – and what did he actually collect? (Including illustrations of 1934 'Kde domov můj' sheet varieties.)
- Beneš, F. Smichov 1 cancel – genuine or fake?
- Anon. Vaclav Fajt and the world's unique Czech Post.
- Beneš, F. Pofis 2023 – Czechoslovakia Airmail Stamps 1920–1977 (Includes list of First Flights 1920–1950.)



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All Officers and Committee members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.

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**Vladimír Suchánek - President of Hollar, the Association of Czech Graphic Artists, and a celebrated stamp designer – see page 27.**

The front cover illustration of the booklet (below) is taken from *The Midnight Shell*, one of Suchánek's last lithographs.

