



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 43/1

MARCH 2025

WHOLE NUMBER 198



Masaryk's triumphant return to Prague
(page 16)



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CZECHOUT

Journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

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Bill Dawson Memorial Award 2023-24

Enclosed with this magazine is a voting slip for the best literature article over the past two years of *Czechout*. Please take some time to look back at the previous eight issues and make your personal choice for first, second and third favourites, and then send the form back as instructed by **30th July 2025**.

Your Society Needs You!

As you will see from pages 4 and 5 of this issue, a committed team of volunteers works hard to keep our Society going - but now several have decided it's time to give someone else a chance. At the moment, we are particularly keen to find an **Auctioneer** and a **Programme Secretary**. Both roles require organizational and administrative skills rather than a high level of expertise in Czechoslovak philately. And there is always plenty of help to be had from other committee members.

So please have a careful think about offering your time in one of these roles - if the answer is 'yes' (or perhaps even 'maybe'), contact Yvonne Wheatley (treasurer@cpsgb.org) or Peter Williams (chairman@cpsgb.org) to discuss it further.

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News & Notices

New Members

CPSGB extends a very warm welcome to the following new members: **Mrs Vesta Power**, from Fleetwood in Lancashire; **Mr Edward Caesley**, from Helston in Cornwall; **Mr Jan Jirmasek**, from Cambridge; **Mr Robert Henak**, from Brown Deer, Wisconsin; **Mr Ken Srail**, from Huron, Ohio; **Mr G. Hejduk**, from Altoona, Florida; and **Dr Frederick Lawrence**, from Gilbert, Arizona.

Slovfilex Bratislava 2027

A FEPA International Exhibition is planned for June 2027 in Bratislava. As yet there are no further details nor a website.

Congratulations

Peter Chadwick has been elevated to a Fellowship of the Society of Postal Historians.

Members who attended the London meetings at the Czech and Slovak Club will remember **Ted and Shirley Kemp** who attended the meetings regularly before they moved to Dorset. It has come to our attention that Ted wrote a book that was published on 25 January 2023 – *Brexit Unmasked: The memoirs and opinions of a nonagenarian*. Ted has decided, at the age of 97, not to renew his membership of the Society as he came to our meetings to support his wife, and will be reading his wife's copy of *Czechout*. He recently gave a display of his Turkish material to his local society.

Three members of the Society won awards at Hafnia 2024 held in Copenhagen in October last year:

Jon Klemetsen: The reign of Vittorio Emanuele III. Stamps with his effigy – Large Silver;

Lubor Kunc: K.u.K Kriegsmarine 1914–1918 – Large Vermeil.

György Lóvei: Postal documents of the international air mail postal service to and from Hungary up to 31 December 1933 – Large Vermeil.

A 'Thank You' to our retiring Committee Members

Yvonne Wheatley

Lindy Bosworth FRPSL joined the Society on 9 November 1964, making her the most senior member of the present membership. Since joining she has been an integral part of the Society. She has served in a number of positions on the Committee and now she wishes to retire.

Lindy's name first appears in the Society's records as a Committee Member in 1974, hosting meetings at her home before taking on the role of the Public Relations Officer. In 1987 she took over as Librarian and she continued in that position until the end of 2024, serving 37 years in that capacity. Lindy expanded the library and in due course it outgrew its allocated shelves and was moved into the loft, entailing climbing up a ladder to reach it. An impressive index was compiled and kept up to date. It can be found on the Society's website under the 'Society' tab (www.cpsgb.org/pages/library.htm).

In 1998 Lindy was elected as Vice Chairman, becoming Chairman in 2001 to 2004, the second lady to hold that position. The 50th Anniversary of the Society was celebrated in 2003, and the members were fortunate to have Lindy as Chairman because under her leadership the Society held three major events. Members were invited to display at the Spring Stampex and were joined by Martin Činovský, the noted Slovak designer and engraver. On Lindy's initiative the Society bought a selection of items produced by Mr Činovský which she marketed on behalf of the Society. In March that year the members mounted a display at the Royal Philatelic Society London, and two months later a very successful three-day 140-frame exhibition of Czech and Slovak material was mounted at the Czech Embassy, London. The exhibition culminated in a dinner attended by the current and former Czech Ambassadors. All three exhibitions entailed a great deal of organization, and Lindy worked tirelessly to make sure each ran smoothly. To organize one exhibition is exhausting, but to organize three in a short space of time was a remarkable achievement. Following the success of the exhibition at the Embassy, the Society was invited back in October the same year to stage a further display and seminar to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic, and again Lindy took the lead in organizing the event. At the 2004 AGM the President, Bill Dawson paid tribute to Lindy who had been a 'true leader', leading from the front during her Chairmanship, and she was granted Honorary Life Membership. Lindy's first contribution to *Czechout* was in December 1978. Her columns for New Issues began in 1996 and continued until December last year.

If ever a request for a display was made, Lindy was the first to volunteer a selection of displays. This was demonstrated at the CPSGB Residential Weekend at York in July 2024. At that event attendees were privileged to see five displays of her material covering diverse subjects.

In responding to the official letter marking her retirement, Lindy summed up her involvement with the Society in these words: 'The CPSGB has been part of my life for so many years.' She went on to thank the Society for all the memories she now has of many friends, people, places, events and meetings over the years. 'Long may the Society continue to be the welcoming, friendly and helpful one I have always known.' Lindy has been part of our lives and given members many happy memories. She will be missed at our meetings, where she has been a regular contributor, and we look forward to seeing her and Tony at our Zoom presentations. We wish Lindy and Tony a peaceful retirement after their time spent in devoted service to Czechoslovak philately.

It is not surprising that **Tony Bosworth FRPSL** wished to retire with Lindy. He became the Accounts Examiner for the Society's accounts so long ago that it was a matter of delving into the archives to ascertain the date. I do not have any balance sheets of former treasurers, but I found an old accounts book and I detected Tony's method of checking the accounts and his initials on the pages for the 1999/2000 transactions. Therefore, Tony has examined the Society's accounts for the past twenty-four years. I am most appreciative of the help he gave me during my past nineteen years as Treasurer. He was most meticulous, raising questions where necessary and finding my errors when I could not balance.

I discovered that Tony had worked at the same head office in London of a major oil company as my father. Not only that, they worked in the same department. I like to think that what Tony learnt from my father, Tony taught me. It is thanks to Lindy that he joined the Society in 1998, as his main collecting interest is Germany. Together they made a great contribution to the Society. The Society is most grateful to you, Tony.

Ken Dyke was elected the Society's Auctioneer in April 2019 and immediately set about revising the Auction Rules to bring them up to date. In order to increase sales, he scanned most of the lots, or a representative selection, so that members could 'see' the material. He inherited a large volume of material so he compiled a lengthy catalogue. He has made sure the Society held at least one auction every year. In particular, he diligently sorted out and described the lots so that deceased members' material could find new homes. The auction is a service for the members and the Society is grateful to him for carrying out all the time-consuming work that auctions involve. Ken is retiring as the Society's auctioneer to spend time on other pursuits, and we wish him well in his endeavours.

Garth Taylor has served on the Committee for two terms, having been elected at the AGM in 2003 and serving until 2012. In 2019 he volunteered to fill a vacancy on the Committee, and the following year he took over the responsibility for arranging the programme for the London meetings. The programme he arranged for the 2024 was his last, but as the programme needs to be arranged a year ahead, Peter Williams, as Secretary stepped in to arrange the programme for this year. Thank you, Garth, for arranging some interesting displays.

Welcome to our new Librarian and Accounts Examiner

Learning at the AGM that a new Accounts Examiner was required, **Graham Bell** volunteered immediately. It was with great pleasure that the Committee accepted his offer and I look forward to working with him. Graham introduces himself below:



I have been an avid stamp collector from childhood, but the habit really took off once I retired. Leaving my role as Head of Human Resource Management with South Yorkshire Police gave time to develop my interest in post-war European philately, and a generalist collection of Czechoslovakian stamps quickly grew. I continue to develop and improve my collection through active trawling of stamp auctions. However, my interest in the Hradčany issues saw the specialist aspect develop, and I find myself drawn to what Mark Wilson calls 'the joy of fly-speck philately'.

As soon as the advert appeared in the Society's newsletter for a new Librarian, we had another volunteer, **Terry Hancock**. He was immediately co-opted to the Committee. The



Lindy and Tony Bosworth photographed by Michael Pitt-Payne at the Society Diamond Jubilee celebrations at the Royal in 2013 (see www.cpsgb.org/pages/jubilee.htm).

Society is very fortunate in having a new, enthusiastic Librarian, as very often societies are forced to sell their libraries when a long-standing Librarian retires.

I have been a stamp collector now for 60 years, currently living in Chichester. At heart I am interested in History, and this informs much of my collecting interest. As a student I studied Modern History, and in particular the inter-war period. The collapse of empires and the emergence of nation states in Europe and the social and economic turbulence that followed has always been my main focus; the philatelic outcomes that highlight and document this are my main area of study. It's fair to say my interests are broad rather than deep.

A lifelong collector of Germany, my Czechoslovakia journey began via the Sudetenland and Bohemia & Moravia. One fateful day I was offered a large collection of Czechoslovakia belonging to an ex-CPSGB member at auction, a very messy but large collection of Hradčany, Dove and Chainbreaker issues. The rest, as they say...is, well, history. I am still trying somewhat unsuccessfully to fully retire, and continue to harbour hopes one day of writing up and displaying my collection properly!



The packet needs your help

The packet rules – A gentle reminder

All new members who wish to join the packet are directed to the packet rules in the Handbook (www.cpsgb.org/pages/handbook.htm). Any existing members who ask to join the packet should look at the packet rules and follow them. Please look at the latest version that is online. Do not look at any paper copies that may have been printed off in the past. The rules are short and only cover two pages. *Following the rules allows the packet to be run effectively and efficiently.* (Only a small number of members do not have access to our website. For these small numbers, I am willing to provide paper copies of the current rules).

The packet's bank account

It was reported in the AGM that the packet's bank announced in November that the bank account was to be converted into a Community Account early in 2025. This account will incur charges. The existing account had no charges. If we do nothing, we will incur a monthly charge of £4.25 and transaction charges. Based on current activity, the packet's annual profit will be exceeded by a fivefold increase in costs.

What you can do to support the packet's finances

1. Put more material into the packet so that the extra costs can be spread over an increased volume of transactions. I have been looking out for material in my own collection and at stamp fairs. I have been very pleased with the resultant income from the items that I have put in the packet.
2. A painless method is to carefully check your calculations when you buy from the packet, as every year's accounts have had to bear losses due to discrepancies. In this case careless accounting costs profit. Be careful and do your bit to help the packet remain profitable.

The future of the packet is in your hands. Many societies have closed their packets. Our packet is clearly valued by our members. However, the packet cannot bear the full costs of such increases from its bank if we do nothing. Every small contribution will have a positive impact. Do nothing and the future of the packet is in doubt.

Peter Williams

Sadly, only a few weeks after this article was agreed with Bob Allard, our longstanding Packet Manager, he passed away. A full obituary will appear in the next Czechout. It is clear that the packet provides a valued service to our UK members. The Committee is now considering an innovative improvement of the service to our members. Watch this space for developments.

London Meeting, November 2024

Eleven members, plus one guest, attended our meeting at The George Inn on 2 November 2024. Proceedings were opened by the Chairman, Peter Williams, and began with displays and voting for two competitions – the George Pearson Trophy (16 sheets on Czechoslovak philately 'from 1918 up to 15 March 1939'), and the Francis Pettitt Salver (12 sheets on 'material issued since May 1945'). Entries were submitted as follows:

George Pearson Trophy

- The Coat of Arms Design Imprinted Postal Stationery (**Roger Morrell**)
- Perfins of the Czechoslovak Territories (**Wojciech Kierstan**)
- The German Occupation of Czechoslovakia (**Tony Moseley**)
- The Hultschin area: Czechoslovakia, 1920-1938 (**Rex Dixon**)



Rex Diwon (left) and Wojciech Kierstan (right) receive their trophies from Peter Williams.

Francis Pettitt Salver

- Prague Castle and its Treasures (**Alexander J. Kerr**)
- Vaclav Hollar – Engraver (**Wojciech Kierstan**)
- Heydrichiada 75 (1942-2017) – (**Tony Moseley**)

The standard of entries was, as usual, very high, and the voting consequently close. Congratulations are due to the winners – **Rex Dixon** for the George Pearson Trophy, and **Wojciech Keirstan** for the Francis Pettitt Salver.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by **Wojciech Kierstan** on *The 'Most Beautiful Stamp' Competition*. In his introduction, Wojciech recalled how much he had benefited, as a 'newbie' Czechoslovak collector, from the 'access to centuries of knowledge' available from existing members. The challenge, though, was to find a subject that had not been covered already. In 2019, he noticed that Stampex had a new category – 'Modern Philately' – which included anything from the previous 25 years. At the time this coincided neatly with the creation of Czechia in 1993, so he decided to focus on the 'Most Beautiful Stamp' competition, with particular interest in two engravers, Václav Fajt and Miloš Ondráček.

Commenting on his entry, one of the judges said he should have 'stuck to the winners', but his display also showed the 2nd and 3rd place entries – he felt this gave better insight into trends in stamp design. The display also featured First Day Covers, and Wojciech wondered whether they should be considered rare – after all, only about 3,000 copies of each are issued, and a stamp with this print run would certainly be a rarity.

The display covered every year from 1993 to 2023, with souvenir sheets, miniature sheets, and First Day Covers as appropriate. Themes in the stamps chosen seem to be ever-changing – paintings, religious topics, scenic views, and flora and fauna. In 2008 the first stamp appeared that was a section of a painting, which appeared in its entirety on the miniature sheet. Not all the designs chosen will be to everyone's taste – in 2021 they were based on cartoons, which didn't appeal very much to Wojciech. For each souvenir sheet and First Day Cover, illustrations, cachets and cancels were designed to reflect something about the design of the stamp – investigating these is of considerable interest. On one occasion, Wojciech heard a judge giving feedback at Stampex and saying 'the most boring display I've ever seen – there were no birds at all!' So now he always tries to include some – and this display was no exception.

In the second half, Wojciech looked at the origins of the competition, going back to the start of the poll in 1963. Categories for the winners tended to change – most beautiful, best series, best cover and so on. From 1965, voters received a souvenir sheet in a folder with an engraving based on the stamp design. One year, they received *two* sheets in their folder!

All were in agreement that the examples of the engraver's art shown on the souvenir sheets and their covers in particular displayed the artistry of Czechoslovak and Czech stamp design at its very best. Peter Williams thanked Wojciech for his display and invited us to give him the generous applause his presentation deserved.

Tony Holdsworth

January Zoom

Our 2025 season of Zoom meetings got off to an enthralling start on 15 January, with **Frederick Lawrence** presenting *1918 Czech Scout Official Mail Delivery Service*. Introducing himself to everyone, Frederick said that his stamp collecting career had begun in 1960, when he took the Scouts' stamp collecting merit badge – and scouts and scouting have been an area of focus for his collecting activities ever since. For further context, he pointed out that the Mafeking Cadet Corps had delivered mail by bicycle in 1900, and this was part of the inspiration behind Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys*. The disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and

the ensuing disruption, lay behind the decision to entrust official post to the Scouts in Prague in 1918. The provisional government set up by the National Committee of Liberation did not trust the existing postal authorities, even though they continued to run the postal service from September to December 1918, because of factionalism among those seeking to take advantage of the creation of the new republic. Following the Mafeking model, they approached Antonín Svojsík, the Chief Scout, and Josef Rössler-Ořovský, President of the Czech Scout Association, to provide a secure, official postal service.



A registered express letter sent by Antonín Černý, a dealer in stamps and paper products, to Josef Rössler-Ořovský at his pharmaceutical company address. He was on National Council business at the time, however, so it was sent on by Scout Mail to the Deymův Palace. A Pittermann category 1 item, with considerable philatelic interest (and perhaps inspiration, too!).

The stamps issued to support the service were printed in an unusual way ('die cut out'): a strip of gummed paper was laid across a female die, and an inked male die was hammered down on top of it. The edges of the male die were filed down in such a way as to simulate a roulette perforation. Different coloured examples were printed – often referred to as 'proofs', these were actually printed in early 1919, specifically for collectors. A wide variety of errors were shown in the presentation, including black proofs of the dies once they had been defaced with a file after use, to prevent further stamps being printed. Even scarcer than the stamps are the 10 haler postal stationery cards produced – only a few dozen remain out of the 1,000 copies printed. Two handstamps were produced – a circular stamp for dating the delivery, and a two-line stamp to record the signature of the recipient, and the scout who delivered the item. There were also two handstamps for the Národní Výbor (National Committee) to indicate the official nature of the item.

In 1930, the Scout Post archive was deposited in the National Committee archives in Prague City Hall – and was destroyed in 1945, when the hall burnt down. This gives a window of about ten years from the end of the Scout Post until 1930 for the handstamps to be used by private individuals to produce facsimiles. In 1992, Pavel Pittermann developed a classification for Scout Post material:

- Category 1 – genuine and authentic
- Category 2 – genuine but not necessarily authentic
- Category 3 – fabricated
- Category 4 – forgery

Of these, categories 2 and 3 were probably made while the handstamps were in private hands, while category 4 used handstamps made to deceive collectors.

The rich array of entires presented by Frederick told the story of the post in detail – with stamps and handstamps used on a variety of documents and for many different purposes, from cards summoning scouts for duty, to certificates shown to schools to excuse pupils taking part in the service. Examples were shown for each of the Pittermann categories, including a great many produced as philatelic favours for keen collectors. Examples were also shown of the 'Masaryk arrival' overprints (see the article by Benito Gonzáles on page 19) used on sealed envelopes, an uprated postal stationery card, and telegrams. In reply to a question from a member about the Pittermann categories, Frederick showed a telegram that had been 'enhanced' using stamps applied after the event, and forged handstamps. He also told us of a meeting with Pavel Pittermann, who visited Frederick and looked through his Scout Post covers – declaring that some of them were clearly fake because the address did not relate to a street or a house number that existed at the time! He also warned members that items are not always sold with an accurate description – their Pittermann category is very much a case of *caveat emptor*!

Joint Meeting of the Austrian and Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies York Stamp and Coin Fair, 18 January 2025

Three members who attend this event regularly were unfortunately unable to be present. Nevertheless, six members enjoyed six varied presentations. **Barry Clark** began with a combined display of his particular interests: mountain huts and postal agencies. It was well illustrated with pictures of the huts in the Tyrol region, and their respective postal agency handstamps. The service usually operated in the summer months to cater for visitors to the area.

Yvonne Wheatley followed with postage dues, in particular covers with Austrian stamps repurposed as postage dues following the independence of Czechoslovakia.

Martin Brumby contributed his latest study, Michael Fischer of Linz, one of the early engravers of postmarks. Drawings of some of the postmarks of Upper Austria and Salzburg were shown to illustrate Fischer's individuality in incorporating decorations, and eccentric date and dispatch details into the design.

Keith Brandon showed a number of examples of Austrian covers with mixed frankings. Starting with mixed-issue frankings, he continued with mixed currency, mixed varnish-bars, mixed shades, etc. He concluded with 'mixed ears'; a commemorative cover with two blocks of the 6 groschen folk-costumes set of 1934, one block showing the ears back-to-front and the other block with the re-engraved correct ears.

Barry Clark followed with 'War Leaders'. A well-researched study illustrated with photographs of commanders of the Austrian Army when Italy entered the war in 1915. The commanders were accompanied by postal cards addressed to them during the conflict.

The meeting concluded with **Ian Bergel** showing the 1933 issues for the International Ski Championship Fund and the International Philatelic Exhibition Vienna.

Yvonne Wheatley

A Query on first flight labels used with the second airmail issue Garth Taylor

Table 1 below is a list of the labels used on the first flight covers in the 1920s in my collection, all during the use of the second airmail issue. Also shown are covers from reference books and a private correspondence (tables 2,3 and 4), and scans of covers of each type in my collection. From these covers, ranging from 1924 to 1927, it appears that the following may be possible answers to the type of labels used:

- Labels on covers to Germany were printed in black on dark grey paper, and all were unperforated.
- Labels to other country destinations were all printed in red on pale grey paper, and were perforated.
- Labels on routes within Czechoslovakia were all printed in red on pale grey paper, and were perforated.

My queries are as follows:

- Do members have covers from destinations other than those shown in Table 1?
- Were these labels officially issued by the Post Office or produced privately?
- Were they issued for all first flights when routes were extended or started again after winter breaks?
- Was the range of dates greater than those shown in the attached tables?
- Were there any charges made for using these labels which would have affected the postage paid?

Garth would welcome any further information members can provide – this can be sent to him direct at garth.tayindcons@btinternet.com, or via the Editor at editor@cpsgb.org.

Table 1: Labels from my collection			
Destination	Date of flight	First flight?	Design
Kosice	13/03/1927	Yes	Two lines, red printing, pale grey paper
Berlin	23/03/1927	Yes	Two lines, black printing, dark grey paper
Dresden	23/03/1927	Yes	Two lines, black printing, dark grey paper
Nuremberg	10/08/1926	Yes	Two lines, black printing, dark grey paper
Munich	19/04/1927	Yes	Two lines, black printing, dark grey paper
Leipzig	02/05/1927	Yes	Two lines, black printing, dark grey paper
Chemnitz	02/05/1927	Yes	Two lines, black printing, dark grey paper
Königsberg Pr	15/10/1926	?	Single line, red printing, pale grey paper
Bucharest	01/06/1925	Yes	Two lines, red printing, pale grey paper
Budapest	01/06/1925	Yes	Two lines, red printing, pale grey paper
Constantinople	01/04/1925	Yes	Two lines, red printing, pale grey paper

Table 2: Labels from Teil 3 Geschichte der Tschechoslowakischen Flugpost Vouthsem/Mahr

Destination	Date of flight	First flight?	Design
Košice	22/03/1926	Yes	Two lines
Bratislava	22/03/1926	Yes	Two lines
Breslau	22/03/1926	Yes	Two lines
Munich	19/04/1927	Yes	Two lines
Vienna	26/04/1926	Yes	Two lines
Budapest	01/06/1925	Yes	Two lines
Belgrade	26/04/1926	Yes	Two lines

All the labels are from black and white printings so printing colour cannot be determined.

Table 3: Labels from Monografie N. 4

Destination	Date of flight	First flight?	Design
Kosice	12/05/1924	Yes	Two lines
Bucharest	26/06/1924	?	Two lines

All the labels are from black and white printings so printing colour cannot be determined.

Table 4: Labels from private correspondence in Slovakia

Destination	Date of flight	First flight?	Design
Chemnitz	02/05/1927	Yes	Two lines, black printing, dark grey paper
Königsberg Pr	15/10/1926	?	Single line, red printing, pale grey paper
Belgrade	26/04/1926	Yes	Two lines, red printing, pale grey paper

Labels printed on pale grey paper are both perforated – black printing is on unperforated paper.



Left – two lines, black printing, dark grey paper.



Above – Two lines, red printing, pale grey perforated paper.



Left – single line, red printing, pale grey perforated paper.

Another new query

Yvonne Wheatley has been approached by **Robin Pizer** with these scans of the front and back of a cover posted at Leipzig on 6.1.17 (he thinks) addressed to Prague. The address is crossed out and 7 strikes of a 3-language cachet are applied in red ink: Retour (French – ‘return’); Ist im Kriege (German – ‘is at war’); and Jest ve válce (Czech – ‘he is at war’).

The surprise is the Prague return postmark of 9 VIII 17, but this is backed up by the rectangular Leipzig 'Return to Sender' cachet dated 1.8.(17?). Was there a special office in Prague which dealt with mail to men away from home or place of work due to the war? Did they normally take 8 months to research the recipient before sending the letter back? The cachet is not listed by Thielk under Prague.



Found for a Pound!

Roger Morrell

I suppose I'm an inveterate grubber in dealers' postal history boxes. Often I find nothing at sensible prices, and end up whistling through my teeth, but sometimes I strike lucky. Patiently grubbing away in the £1 boxes can reveal some bargains that the dealers themselves do not recognise, or don't understand, or simply don't have time to bother with. This is especially the case with 'funny foreign' stuff in which only a select 10% of British collectors have any interest, like Central Europe. Anyway, here are some recent, and somewhat curious, examples of a Czech nature, grubbed out of a pile of £1 boxes with a random mix of worldwide contents:



Item 1: A simple Franz Josef postal stationery card from 1913, posted from Prag/Praha to Reichenberg with an added tied label I had not seen before. It shows the mythical, bare-breasted Germania saying “Der

Sturm bricht los” (The storm breaks out), issued for the *Deutschvölkischen Wehrschutz für Südmähren* (tricky to translate but something like ‘the German peoples’ protection for treasured South Moravia’). It seems to be a rather strong anti-Czech propaganda label, which the then Austrian authorities probably allowed to run freely to counter the separatist Czech movement.



Item 2 (above and right): A PRAGA 1938 postcard with the back completely plastered with green 50 haler stamps of all types (OK, and one black one), cancelled with four strikes of the Exhibition special canceller in blue.



Item 3 (below): A commemorative postal stationery card for the Nazi *Befreiung* (‘Liberation’) of Bodenbach (Podmokly) on 3 October 1938 – uprated with additional stamps to make the 15 pfennig foreign rate, and with a message added later on the back on 13 October. It was posted to Paris on 14 October. It bears a single Bodenbach date-stamp with the Czech name Podmokly ‘blackened out’. This was done by filling the upper arc of the datestamp with wax, solder, or another suitable substance. The return address at the top left is Tetschen a/d Elbe, which is just the other side of the river from Podmokly. It is interesting to see that the previously ‘cancelled’ stamps and indicium were deemed to be still valid as foreign-rate postage 11 days later.





Item 4: Remarkably, this overprinted 1937 miniature sheet used for Czech publicity at the 1939 New York World Fair was also in one of the boxes. Quick! ... Before anyone else notices ...



Item 5: This looked to be a right curiosity. Someone in 1955 apparently posted a letter from Czechoslovakia to Glasgow franked with a GB 2½d Wilding definitive. Deemed by the Czech Post Office at Jesenice as being invalid, the stamp was red-crayoned and the big 'T' handstamp applied, but because there was no sender's return address it was sent onward to the UK where it received '5d' and '½d' I.S. (Inland Section) postage due strikes. How did the British Post Office compute this sum? There was no indication from the Czechs as to the amount to charge, so did it take the 'unused' 2½d stamp into account as valid prepayment (carefully cancelling it with a triangular 'I.S.' inspector's mark), and thus discounting the doubled 4d UK foreign letter rate charge by this amount to give a net 5½d due? Interestingly, there is also no evidence of Czech censorship or other interference visible on the front or back.

I discussed this with the well-known postage due guru Michael Furfie (*presenting at our London meeting on 20 September 2025*), and he confirms that the above conclusion is correct, and according to the GPO postage due rules, adding that the addressee was a Roger Hosking, who wrote books on paquebot mail and is known to have 'tested the system' when travelling abroad. This was, apparently, one of his manipulations.

I enjoy my box-grubbing (the Germans have a nice word for this: *Fundgrube* = 'mining'). With these and numerous other miscellaneous items it was all very worthwhile going to that particular event!

Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately

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

The ‘Liberation’ of Rossbach, September 1938

Robert Lauer

I thoroughly enjoyed Rex Dixon’s Zoom presentation on 28 August 2024 – ‘The Dismemberment of Czechoslovakia 1938/1939’. It was a very well put together display of material relating to the tragic end of the first Czechoslovak Republic. If you missed the presentation, I would highly recommend watching the recording of it to be found on the CPSGB website (www.cpsgb.org/pages/zoom.htm).

One of Rex’s slides, which is illustrated below as Fig. 1, deals with the revolt of the Sudeten German *Freikorps* on 21 September 1938, which precipitated the abandonment by the Czechoslovak armed forces of three German-speaking areas that were surrounded by Germany on three sides, and therefore practically indefensible. As Rex indicated, one of these areas was the finger of territory that juts into Germany around the town of Asch/Aš, which has the town of Rossbach (now Hranice) at its northernmost tip. This slide got me thinking about a lot of six commercial covers sent during the 1920s and 1930s from Rossbach to Markneukirchen in Saxony, just across the German border, that I purchased several years ago from an eBay seller in Finland. Three of these covers are dated 24 September 1938, 30 September 1938, and 1 October 1938, and provide an interesting perspective on the functioning of the postal system during this period of ‘Liberation by the *Freikorps*’.

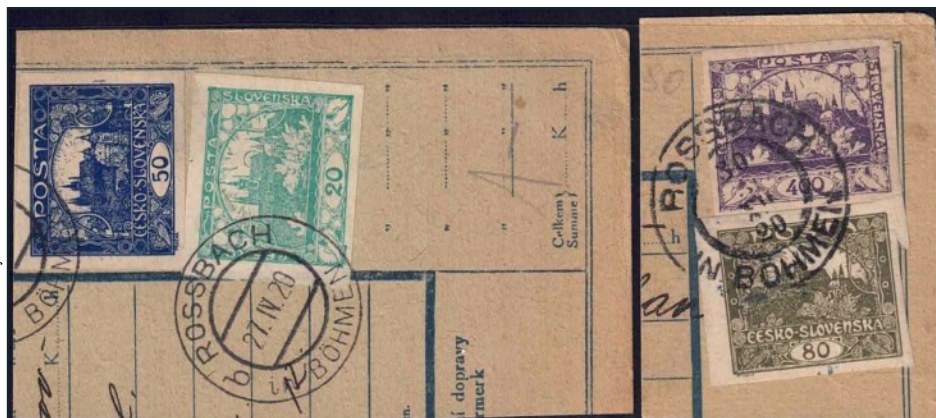


Fig. 1 – slide from Rex Dixon’s presentation on the Dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.

Given the location of Rossbach, it is not surprising that the population of the town was overwhelmingly German-speaking. In the 1920 Census, the town’s population of 3,936 was composed of 3,624 Germans (92.1%), 12 Czechs (0.3%) and 300 foreigners (7.6%), most of whom were probably Germans. In the 1930 Census, the town’s population of 4,283 was composed of 3,866 Germans (90.3%), 106 Czechs (2.5%) and 311 foreigners (7.2%). Again, given the location of the town, most of these foreigners were probably German citizens.

Given the ethnic composition of the town, it is also not surprising that the old Austrian cancellers for the town were monolingual German. The *Monografie* lists four different Austrian cancellers for Rossbach that were in use in 1918, all of which had only the German name for the town (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2 – parcel card cuttings with strikes from the design M.5 and D.5 Austrian cancellers for Rossbach that are listed in Volume 16 of the *Monografie*.



In 1920, the postal authorities of the new Czechoslovak Republic replaced the old Austrian cancellers for the town with three new CDS cancellers, with 'Rossbach' in the top and 'Č.S.P.' in the bottom, and the letter designations of 'a', 'b' and 'c' (design M.41 in the *Monografie*), together with a box-style date canceller (design RM.12 in the *Monografie*). In 1923, CDS cancellers of the same design with the letter designations of 'e' and 'f' were added to the repertoire of cancelling devices at the Rossbach Post Office. A strike from the 'e' canceller, from the second (chronologically) of the six covers referred to above, is illustrated in Fig. 3.

In 1929 and 1937, cancellers with designating letters 'a' and 'g' respectively, but with '***' in the bottom of the design rather than 'Č.S.P.' (design M.45 in the *Monografie*), were added to the Rossbach Post Office's stock of cancellers. A strike from the 'g' device of this design is illustrated in Figure 5. In 1936, the 'Č.S.P.' box canceller was replaced by a similar canceller without 'Č.S.P.' in the design (design RM.18 in the *Monografie*).

When the Czechoslovak postal authorities had replaced all the old Austrian cancellers in the Czech lands of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Rossbach was one of only 54 post offices, out of 2808, that still had monolingual German cancellers. By 1938, the Rossbach Post Office was one of only 33 post offices left that still had monolingual German cancellers. Rossbach was the largest community in Bohemia, and the second largest in the Czech Lands, to still have cancellers with only a German name for the town.

The withdrawal of the Czech armed forces from the three enclaves illustrated on the map in Rex's slide produced a torrent of Nazi philatelic memorabilia of the type illustrated by Rex on the same slide. This stuff is not hard to find. Figs. 4 and 5 illustrate two more of these items from Rossbach offered by sellers on eBay.

Despite the volume of this philatelic material that exists, I have yet to see one of these cards with any convincing evidence that it has actually gone through the mail. Neither of these cards look like they have been subjected to the vagaries of any country's postal system. The 40 haler franking on the card in Figure 5 was not enough to pay even the domestic Czechoslovak postcard rate at the time (which was 50 haler) much less the current 'Convention Country' postcard rate to Germany of 120 haler.

In contrast to all the Nazi philatelic memorabilia out there, the three commercial covers illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 have obviously been through the mail in the conduct of various business transactions. Each envelope

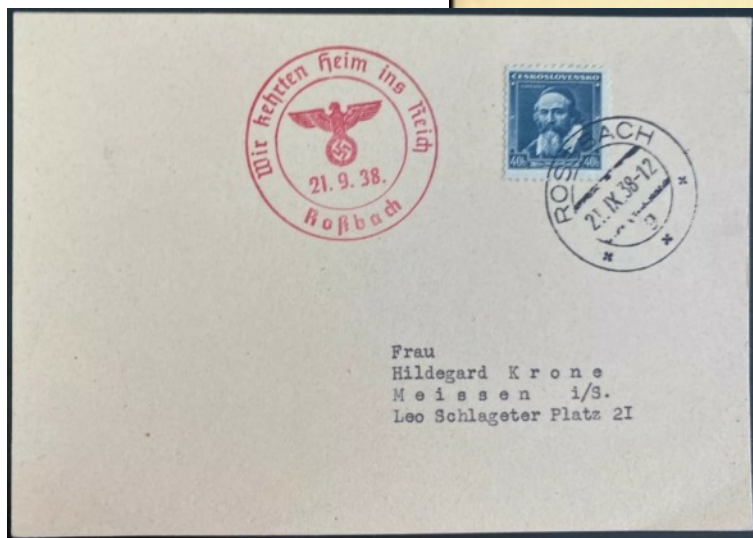


Fig. 3 – a strike from the 'e' device of the 'Č.S.P.' cancellers for Rossbach dated 26 September 1935.

Fig. 4 (right) – a card cancelled 21 September 1938 with the 'e' canceller for Rossbach with the 'Č.S.P.' removed from the bottom arc of the canceller.



Fig. 5 (left) – a card cancelled on 21 September 1938 with the 'g' canceller for Rossbach with '***' in the bottom arc, rather than 'Č.S.P.', which was introduced in 1937.



is franked with 2 Kč, which was the international letter rate to a 'Convention Country' that was in effect from 1 January 1922, and was cancelled with one of the 'Č.S.P.' cancellers used to cancel all six of the commercial covers in the above-mentioned lot. The only indication that anything untoward was occurring is the crossing-out of 'in Böhmen Č.S.R.' on the envelope in Figure 7 and the typing in of 'bei Asch, Sudeten-Deutschland.' underneath it. Otherwise, each of these three envelopes is indistinguishable from other normal commercial mail from the 1920s and 1930s.

The only other indication that anything out of the ordinary was going on here, is what is not on these covers. As Rex mentioned in his presentation, the Czechoslovak authorities instituted censorship of the post on 17 September 1938, especially mail to Germany and from the Sudetenland. None of these three letters shows any sign of censorship, and all three should have been censored given the dates and destination of the mailings.

So while the Czechoslovak military, border guards, censors and police had abandoned this little enclave of Czechoslovak territory on 21 September 1938, it would appear that the Czechoslovak post office in Rossbach continued to function normally, at least with respect to mail to Germany. It continued to use Czechoslovak postage rates and stamps until the area was occupied by the German Army on 3 October 1938, under the terms of the Munich Agreement.

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Monografie československých známek, díl xvi, Praha, 1982.

Monografie československých známek, díl xvii, Praha, 1988.

Rex Dixon, 'The Dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, 1938/1939' – Presentation to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, August 2024.

Statistický lexicon obcí, Sčítání 1921, Praha, 1923.

Statistický lexicon obcí, Sčítání 1930, Praha, 1934.

Fig. 6 (right) – a commercial cover sent from Rossbach on 24 September 1938 to Markneukirchen in Germany cancelled with the 'f' canceller for Rossbach.



Fig. 7 (below) – a commercial cover sent from Rossbach on 30 September 1938 to Markneukirchen in Germany cancelled with the 'b' canceller for Rossbach.

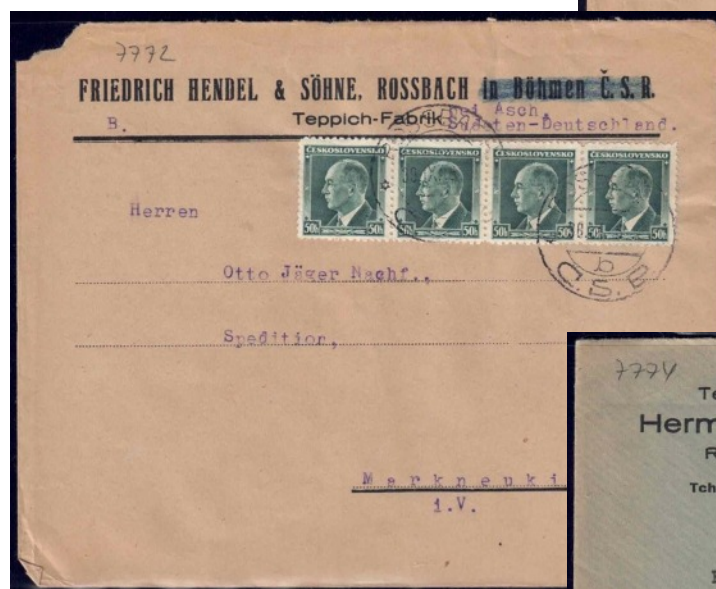
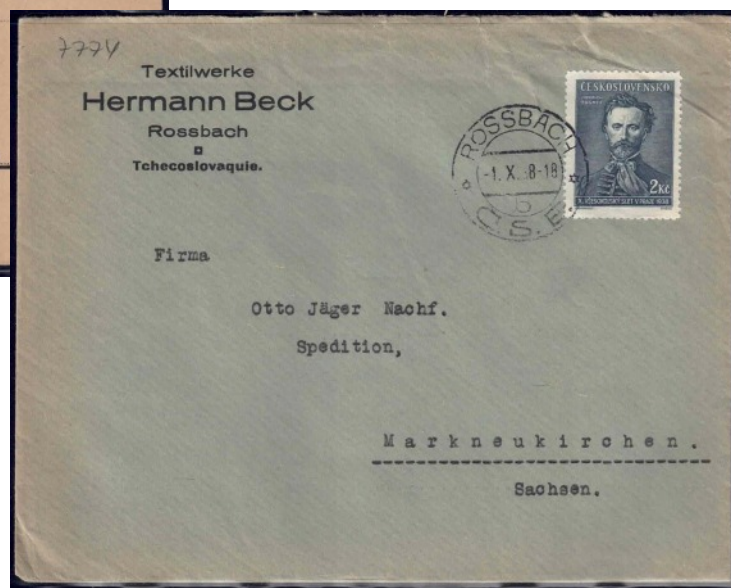


Fig. 8 (right) – a commercial cover sent from Rossbach on 1 October 1938 to Markneukirchen in Germany cancelled with the 'b' canceller for Rossbach.



Another Look at the Agriculture and Science 500 and 600 Haler

Yvonne Wheatley

In putting together my Allegories exhibit for the London 2022 International exhibition, I took a quote from a book written by three well-known Agriculture and Science experts who claimed the Czech Graphics Union used the 1920 600 haler as the model for the 500 haler stamp [1]. Shortly after I exhibited, my attention was drawn to an article titled ‘Was the 500 Haler 1920 A & S produced from the 600 Haler?’ by Miroslav Češelka in the Czech philatelic press, commenting on my assertion [2]. Here is some background.

The 1920 Agriculture and Science set originally consisted of four values, the 100, 200, 300 and 400 haler as announced in the *Bulletin of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs* No 83 on 18 June 1920. It was intended that these new definitives would replace the Hradčany stamps of the same values. Postal rates changed on 1 August 1920, requiring two new values, the 500 and 600 haler. These were soon announced in Order 23 in Postal Ministry *Bulletin* No. 32/1920. There had not been a 600 haler in the Hradčany series but one was now required for the higher rates on mixed franking covers.

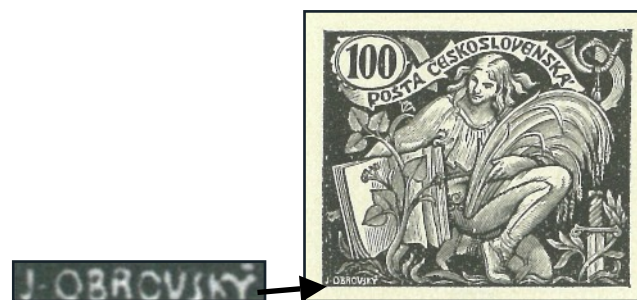


Fig. 1 – third draft with artist's name added.

The design for the original four lower values underwent three drafts. The third and final draft included the artist's name, J. Obrovský (Fig. 1). Imprints were made of the original engraving of the third draft and the value numerals were pasted into the empty oval (Fig 2). The stamps were printed from two plates, taken as electroplated copies from a matrix of 100 dies. The 100 and 200 haler stamps were issued on 17 June 1920, the remaining values on 23 June 1920. The 500 and 600 haler values followed two months later on 24 August 1920.



Fig. 2 – plate proofs of the third draft of the first four values showing identical decoration below the value oval.

The sudden need for these two additional values put pressure on the printers, Czech Graphics Union in Prague, as the stamps were needed urgently. It was decided to use the faster but less effective photographic typographic technique. The Žampach, Karásek, and Pittermann book [1] stated on page 11 that the value 600 was engraved into the empty value oval of an electroplated copy of the original engraving that had the value 100 and was without a signature (Fig. 3). Engraving the stamp produced a cleaner design, as the practice of pasting numerals into the ovals, as was done with the earlier denominations, left traces of the process (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3 – 100 haler colour trial printed from the second draft, without the artist's signature.



Fig. 4 – print from the second draft, showing line under the value where the denomination has been pasted in.

However, comparison of the decoration under the '6' differs from the 100 haler value that was used to manufacture the die for the second draft (Fig. 5). The 500 haler, on the other hand, shows the same pattern as the 100 haler (Fig. 6). This would indicate that the 500 haler value was not produced from the 600 haler die. It is more likely that the 500 value was created first.



Figs. 5 & 6 – plate proofs showing the differences in the decoration below the value tablet.

I am now convinced that there is no relationship between the 500 and 600 haler values and the source of the 600 haler remains a mystery.

References

- [1] František Žampach, Jan Karásek and Pavel Pittermann, *Hospodářství a Věda 1920*, Brno, 1988. English translation (*Agriculture and Science 1920*) by Mark Wilson FRPSL – CPSGB Print-on-Demand Number 159, 2022.
- [2] Zpravodaj – Společnosti sběratelů československých knihtiskových známek (Newsletter of the Society of Collectors of Czechoslovak Typographic Stamps) Number 97, 2022.

Philatelic Census Appeal

Lubor Kunc

If you possess genuine postally used covers with any of the postmarks shown below, please email scans of both sides of the items to lubor.kunc@seznam.cz, **before 31 May 2025**.



The Posta Militare 52 postmark is to be included in the research only on registered mail. The Czechoslovak Field Post postmark of Great Britain should only be reported for items showing partially removed swords (from February 1943), as indicated above right.

I will publish a register of existing covers with these exceptional postmarks in June 2025 on the website of the Czech Postal History Society (www.posthistory.cz).

President Masaryk overprints – 1918

Benito González

Benito González' book Post and Scout Services in Prague 1914–1918 (in the revolutionary period) is due for publication later this year. He has kindly sent this chapter from the book as a preview. Details of the book and how to obtain it will be published in Czechout once the volume is available.

In early May 1918, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was in Chicago, in the United States, leading a Czechoslovak liberation movement after returning from Russia, where he had remained for three long years, helping to organize the Czechoslovak Legion in its struggle to establish an independent state. Chicago was then the Czechoslovak epicentre of immigration to the United States, and Masaryk was enthusiastically received. From Chicago, he continued his journey across the United States, achieving recognition of Czechoslovakia's independence in early September 1918.



Souvenir postcard with photos of the activities in honour of Masaryk on the occasion of his arrival in Chicago. It would later be stamped and postmarked with the 'N.V.' of the National Committee in Prague. The vignette from the reverse (inset) reads 'Third section of the Prague Sea Scouts'.

On 28 October, Czechoslovakia was born as a new, independent, and democratic state, and the Washington Declaration was published in the United States, in which Masaryk announced that independence. He left New York on 20 November 1918, heading for Paris, from where he went to Switzerland, and after three weeks arrived in Prague, being elected the first president of the new state, and presiding over the National Assembly.



The Czech press reports 'President Masaryk's triumphal visit to Prague'.



Above – *Sláva Masarykovi!* (Glory to Masaryk!) overprint.

Left – Masaryk aboard the open-top Laurin & Klement motorcar, surrounded by legionnaires, which will take him through the main streets of Prague to the Castle.

Below – Sokol units parade after the presidential procession. A number of scouts oversee security and (correctly uniformed – see the figure circled in red) accompany the parade to maintain order.



Masaryk's return to Czechoslovakia on 21 December 1918, after his election as president of the new government of the Republic, was a significant historical event. In the streets of Prague, a large and enthusiastic crowd hailed him as a liberator, many swarmed around the passing procession, and around the car (decorated with flowers and the tricolour flag) that was carrying him to Prague Castle. Soldiers of the Czechoslovak Legion, members of the Sokol, men and women in traditional costumes, and the Scouts accompanied him.

Once again (they had already done so on 28 October 1918, the first day of the declaration of the new republic), it was the citizens who wanted to show their joy and enthusiasm for the president's return to his homeland, expressing their feelings through the mail, adding vignettes, expressive phrases and slogans to their letters and postcards: *Hello to the Czech Republic! Glory to Masaryk! Cheers Czech Republic!*

Authorized overprints

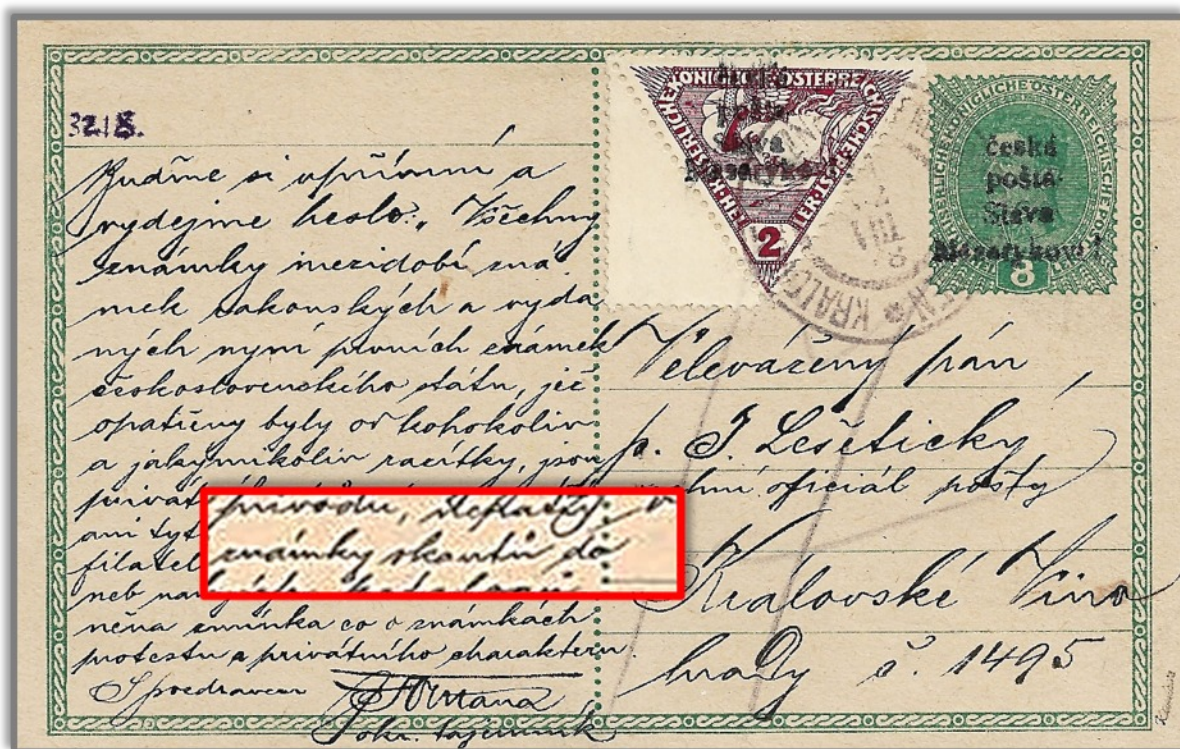
Josef Fontana, secretary of the political administration of the Kralovice district, had previously overprinted some Austrian stamps for his own use on envelopes and postal stationery, with the one- and two-line markings *česká pošta* and *Česká pošta*. On this occasion, to welcome Masaryk, he put into circulation again new overprints that complemented the previous ones: *Sláva Masarykovi* and *česká pošta Sláva Masarykovi* (Glory to Masaryk, and Czech post glory to Masaryk).

Fontana's overprints were not created for speculative or commercial purposes, nor were they sold to the public, being made only for private postage. Therefore, stocks are scarce. They were prepared at the Post Office in the town of Kralovice, near Pilsen. Fontana wrote to the director of the main post office in Prague, Jaroslav Lešetický, in response to the criticism (and enthusiasm) created by the issue of these overprints, and by the fact that this constituted the use of markings unauthorized by the official postal service.



Above – 'česká pošta Sláva Masarykovi' overprint.

Left – one-line 'česká posta' and two-line 'Česká posta' overprints.



Fontana overprint on Austrian 8 heller postal stationery, complemented with 2 heller triangular express stamp with sheet edge coupon, both with the rare black four-line overprint 'česká pošta Sláva Masarykovi'. Postmarked Kralovice u Plzně 21.12.18. An interesting contemporary document on overprints, including Scout stamps, with Fontana's signature – sent to Jaroslav Lešetický (a senior officer in the postal administration). The text outlined in red relates to the Scout stamps.

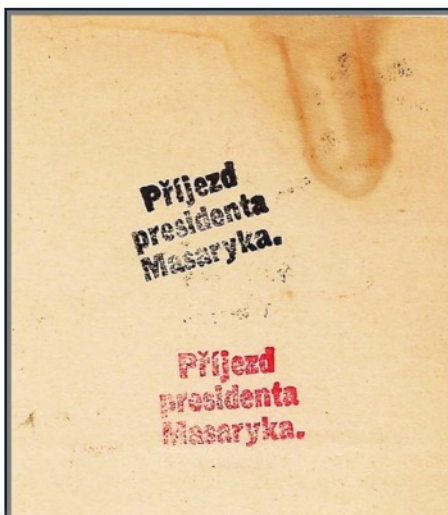
Translated from the postal stationery card illustrated above:

All 'česká pošta' (large and small) overprints, also 'česká pošta Sláva Masarykovi' have been criticized for their use on Austrian stamps by the Czechoslovak post office (Lešetický) ... The stamps are not intended to deceive collectors and were not and will not be sold publicly: they were only used in private correspondence and overprints in Prague and České Budějovice, and Scout stamps are systematically criticized, even though these are just private matters.

We have to be honest and say: all stamps from the period between Austria and the first issue of Czechoslovakia stamps, which were overprinted by any kind of overprints, are only of private origin just like the Scout stamps: therefore, they should be considered as just private issues. Greetings, Fontana.

On the other hand, the Scout postal service – which had operated during the revolutionary period (October and November), and which had been suspended on 25 November once the political situation had normalized, with postal officials already taking up their posts as there was nothing to fear in relation the secrecy and confidentiality of the postal service among members of the government – was resumed on 21 December, by

Test overprint for 10 and 20 haler stamps.



Six hundred copies of the blue 10 haler stamp were overprinted Příjezd presidenta Masaryka (arrival of President Masaryk) in red, and one thousand red 20 haler stamps were overprinted in black by the Knapp printing house in the Karlín district of Prague.



Right – letter addressed to the Sokol chief Dr. Jindřich Vaníček (inset above), hand-delivered by Scout Kalibera.



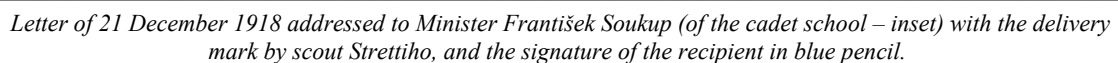
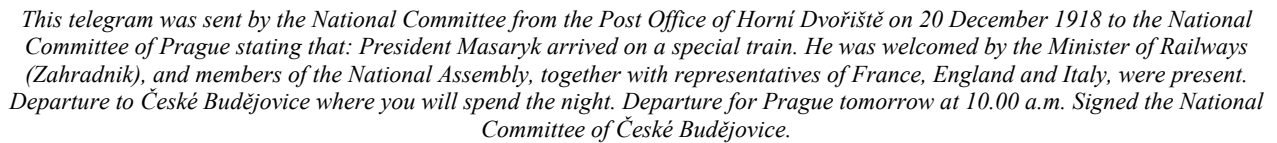
authorization of the National Government Council, for just one day on the occasion of the president's arrival in Czechoslovakia.

Some of the stock of the two Scout stamps previously used was overprinted with the legend *Příjezd presidenta Masaryka* (arrival of President Masaryk). Again, it was the Prague Scouts who were chosen for this postal service mission, and they offered their impartial services quickly and discreetly. They served as messengers, carrying letters, telegrams, news, and reports between Prague Castle, the Parliament building, City Hall, the railway station, the Post and Telegraph Office, members of parliament, and other authorities.

Although the exact figure is unknown, it is believed that 600 copies of the blue 10 haler stamp and 1,000 of the red 20 haler stamp were overprinted. They were printed by the Knapp printing house located in Karlín (a district of Prague) on stamps of the first and second printing. The overprint is made up of three oblique lines, with the words *Příjezd presidenta Masaryka*, in red ink for the 10 haler stamps and matte black for the 20 haler stamps. Under the pressure of the printing cylinders, the colour of the overprint created sharp outlines in the letters. The original plate of the overprint was destroyed after the printing of the stamps, as well as the stamps unused that day.

Since 1918, numerous forgeries have been carried out, both of the overprint on original stamps and on fake stamps. 'Fabrications' were also made by taking advantage of authentic letters posted at the time, endorsing them with the overprint, and applying a postmark afterwards.

Documents delivered on this day, franked with overprinted Scout stamps, were postmarked with the round postmark 'POŠTA SKAUTŮ Praha ★ 1918 ★' as well as the rubber stamp with the legend 'Dopis od Skauta... převzal...' (delivered by the scout... received by...). The letters sent from the presidency were postmarked with an official stamp of the new Government (non-postal) in violet *Presidium Ministerské Rady - Republiky Československé* (Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Czechoslovak Republic).



Articles elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Czechoslovak Specialist (Society for Czechoslovak Philately, USA)

2024-4, Vol. 86, No. 4, Whole Number 678.

Jackson, C., Regular issue newspaper stamps of Slovakia 1929–1942.

Buckner, J., The Lidova Architektura issues of 1971–1972.

Tschechoslowakei Philatelie (ARGE Tschechoslowakei, Germany)

No. 222, December 2024 (in German)

Džubák, J., The Hradčany issue and Slovakia.

Roehn, D., Airmail between Belgium and Czechoslovakia (prewar).

Sevenhuijsen, J., Postal money services in the CSR.

Müller, H.H., Further local post issues (1945).

Norbjerg, M., Plate errors of Czechoslovakia 1945–1992: Year 1967 (POFIS 1580–1654).

Austria (Journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 229, Winter 2024

Rute, I.I., The first Austrian postage stamps: A glimpse into Imperial Austria's postal history.

Anon, The charity stamps of the First Republic of Austria.

Rogers, N., Survival or revival? A Glagolitic text from 1899 (Sts Cyril and Methodius' devised script, largely confined to Croatia).

Taylor, A., Auditors in Austria (part of the military justice system).

Rute, I.I., Exhibition souvenirs.

French, B., The Europa issues of Austria (2018–2024).

Stamps of Hungary (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 239, December 2024

Bijmolt, T., van Weenen, P. d. L., Hungarian perfins on Romanian stamps and Romanian perfins on Hungarian stamps.

Weise, M., The story of the 'lucky number' stamps (Part 2a: Kiss Károly és Társa Bank r.t. – National Lottery 'stamps'.

Morrell, R., Interpreting postal charges on hyperinflation mail – Part 1.

Rundbrief (ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn)

Nr. 153, 2024/3

Egger, M., Letters tell a story (Bohemian-born soldier writes to a friend about the 1915 attack on Serbia).

Bator, J., Airmail to the besieged fortress Przemyśl (airmail into the fortress).

European War 1914–1915, (report) on a visit to POW camps in Italy (transcription/translation of a report to the International Red Cross by Prof. Dr A. D'Espine).

Bliersbach, A., Russian field-post, and the Army in the field as users of the field-post.

Robisch, H., Letters tell stories (1915 letter from Lausanne to a Baron in Vienna, son of actress, Katherina Schratt).

Filatelie (POFIS, Czechoslovakia)

No. 10 October 2024

Beneš, F., 40 years as a stamp dealer and expert (part 3).

Bachratý, M., CDV 69/405: Trhové Sviny.

Kratochvíl, J., V-Labels for insured letters, and their typology.

Lazar, P., Study of the sheet – Bratislava 1937.

Kunc, L., Czechoslovak soldiers in 1939–1945 (part 26).

No. 11 November 2024

Štajner, V., Plate faults on Košice issue 1945 (part 3).

Kunc, L., Czechoslovak Soldiers in 1939–1945 (part 27).

Arbeit, M., Czech Post – sheets with coupons & imprints (POFIS 2024 catalogue – 18-page pull-out supplement).

No. 12 December 2024

Štajner, V., Plate faults on Košice issue 1945 (part 4).

Perl, D., The post box at Kaminitz Hotel, Jerusalem.

Jeník, M., Tax Stamps in Czechoslovakia (1949–1958).

Schenk, F., The Polar Bear Expedition in Northern Russia 1918–1942.

Šorejs, R. *et al.*, Forgeries of Heydrich sheet at Aukra.

Arbeit, M., Czech Post's own stamps (POFIS 2024 catalogue – 8-page pull-out supplement).



New Issues – Czech Republic Tony Holdsworth

Images and text adapted from

www.postaonline.cz/eshopfilatelie/listProducts.html?request_locale=en

30 October 2024

Beauties of Our Country: Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou Chateau – NVI ‘A’ (POFIS 1296, 1297)



All available photographs of the Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou chateau show each part having different colours. The present uniform colour dates back to the latest remodelling of the chateau. The Baroque chateau in Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou is one of the most massive buildings of the first half of the 18th century in the Czech Republic and Europe. The original medieval fortress was rebuilt as a Renaissance chateau, still preserved in the masonry of the present Baroque building, at the end of the 16th century. It was converted into its Baroque form during the reign of the most important owner, the Questenbergs family (whose crest is shown above the castle in POFIS 1297), from 1700 to 1737.

The se-tenant pair show the full width of the chateau, with the castle church of St Margaret on the left. The chateau is owned by the state (administered by the National Heritage Institute) and is open to the public. It is protected as a national cultural monument. In 2020, brothel scenes for the Czech film *Il Boemo* were filmed on the premises of the castle. It has received a number of awards, including the Vysočina Region Award for the cultural achievement of the year 2020, and first place in the Cultural Heritage Care category for the reconstruction of the chateau.

Renaissance ceiling paintings (stamps POFIS 1298, 1299; miniature sheet POFIS A1298)



The miniature sheet with the two stamps dedicated to Renaissance ceiling paintings depicts details of scenes from the story of Phaëthon from Schwarzenberg Palace, the National Gallery in Prague: *The Fall of Phaëthon* and *The Heliades Mourning Phaëthon*. A detail from the scene showing Phaëthon driving Helios' chariot serves as the background to the miniature sheet. Phaëthon was the son of the sun god Helios and Clymene. He asked for the privilege of driving Helios' chariot for a single day to confirm his parentage. Despite Helios' fervent warnings and attempts to talk him out of it, the boy

was not dissuaded and took the chariot's reins. He could not keep a firm grip on the horses and drove the chariot too close to the Earth, burning it, and too far from it, freezing it, until Zeus had to kill Phaëthon with one of his lightning bolts. Phaëthon's dead body fell into the river Eridanus. He was mourned by his sisters, the Heliades, whose tears turned to amber on the banks of the river. The Heliades themselves turned to trees, while Phaëthon became a symbol of people striving for things beyond their abilities.

Christmas – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1300)

The stamp pictures a comet in the shape of a wrapped present against a background of stars in the night sky. The Star of Bethlehem is a biblical concept known from the Gospel of St Matthew, where the story of the Three Kings, or wise men from the East, is described. They used the star to guide them to Bethlehem in Judea, where they worshipped the infant Jesus and presented their gifts to him. Christmas is a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, and along with Easter, it is one of the most significant Christian celebrations.

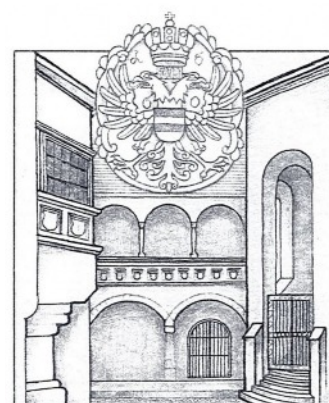


13 November 2024

Historic Town Halls and Squares: Brno – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1301)



The architecture of the Old Brno Town Hall has undergone many transformations since the original magistrate's house from 1304. It was first mentioned as a town hall in 1373, when Brno became a self-governing city. The stamp is designed as a kind of collage, in which the whole of the main town hall facade, including the tower, is inserted into the detail of the lower part of the late Gothic portal. The Renaissance arcades of the town hall courtyard are depicted on the First Day Cover. The early Baroque municipal coat of arms is incorporated into the Pilgram portal above the tower passage (this is the detail forming the frame of the stamp) and is located where the NV ‘B’ letter appears. The municipal coat of arms is an extremely important part of all town hall buildings, affirming the legitimacy of the local council.



First Day Cover illustration.

Technical Monuments: Dolní Vítkovice – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1302)



This stamp from the Technical Monuments series is dedicated to the extensive industrial complex of Vítkovice Ironworks, with its unique set of industrial buildings. The complex is listed as a European Cultural Heritage Site. The monument, sometimes called ‘Ostravian Hradčany’, is a distinctive landmark of the Ostrava region. When iron production ceased in 1998, discussion took place on what to do with the site. At first, they wanted to destroy it, but it was converted into a technical monument for future generations.

In September 2009, the project was awarded a half billion Czech crowns subsidy from the European Union and the Czech Republic, for the recovery and reuse of blast furnaces and other protected buildings. The main objective of the project was to make the site accessible to the public, and use it subsequently for educational, cultural and social activities.

The whole complex is so vast that it was necessary to select and present at least a characteristic part of the complex for the stamp design. As described by the artist, the stamp features ‘something like the appearance of old stocks and shares’. He mimicked it with period frames for the design, and had to filter out new architectural additions that were not part of the original buildings.



New Issues – Slovak Republic Tony Holdsworth

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

28 August 2024

80th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising (POFIS 825) & the Carpatho-Dukla Operation (POFIS 826) – NVI ‘T2 50g’



*Far left – the memorial to the Slovak National Uprising on the skyline, with a German Pz. 4 J tank in the foreground.
Left – a Soviet T-34 tank alongside the memorial to the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps in the Soviet Union.*

The **Slovak National Uprising** (SNU) was a major event in both Slovakia and the history of European resistance against Nazism. News of the first clashes between the Žilina garrison and German units reached Banská Bystrica on 29 August 1944. On the evening of the same day, Lieutenant Colonel J. Golian gave the order to begin the Slovak National Uprising, using the coded message: ‘Start the eviction!’ Despite the disarmament of some Slovak troops, combat operations against the attacking German army that began in central Slovakia were gradually joined by approximately 60,000 soldiers – 15,000 partisans, and participants from 35 nations including various nationalities from all over the world. Ján Golian, now promoted to Brigadier General, was initially in command. In October, Divisional General Rudolf Viest took over. This change in the leadership and structure of the rebel army was not enough to stop the German army, which had launched a general offensive. Banská Bystrica was occupied on 27 October 1944, but combat operations continued in the surrounding mountains and General Viest gave orders that the army should begin partisan operations.

The **Carpatho-Dukla Operation** took place from 8 September to 27 October 1944, and is one of the major mountain battles of WWII. Approximately 21,000 Soviet and 1,500 Czechoslovak soldiers were killed, or died from their injuries, in the battles of Dukla Pass. Their goal was to unite the advancing Soviet and Czechoslovak armies with the rebels of the Slovak National Uprising. Czechoslovak soldiers played the most significant role in the operation. The memorial to the Battle of Dukla Pass is a national cultural monument in Vyšný Komárnik, and partially within Nižný Komárnik. The memorial to the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps in the Soviet Union is probably the most famous symbol of the Dukla conflict. Recent restoration has included its ‘de-ideologization’, most clearly seen through the restoration of a copy of the original sculpture of a Czechoslovak soldier by J. A. Vítek, which had been removed from the monument during the 1950s. The memorial cemetery includes the graves of 565 Czechoslovak soldiers, close to the central memorial to the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps, with the name of each soldier engraved on an individual headstone.

6 September 2024

Beauties of Our Homeland: Hričov Castle – NVI ‘T1 50g’ (POFIS 827)

Known in the past as ‘castrum Hrichou’, the castle was constructed between 1254 and 1265 by Magister Toluš, a son of Farkas, during the reign of King Béla IV of Hungary. At the end of the 13th century, the castle was owned by Matthew III Csák. A major reconstruction took place in the 15th century, when it was owned by Blažej Podmanitzky. In the 16th century, the castle housed an illegal mint, where counterfeit

coins were produced. In the 17th century, the last owners of the castle were the Esterházy family. They neither used it nor maintained it, and it was abandoned as a ruin until 2010. In July 2010 the Association of the Friends of Hričov Castle (AFHC) was established. It is a non-profit voluntary organization with the long-term goal of undertaking comprehensive archaeological research into the castle, the results of which will be displayed in Dolný Hričov tollhouse and an old school building in Hričovské Podhradie.



20 September 2024

Personalities: Jozef Gregor Tajovský (POFIS 828)

Born as Jozef Alojz Gregor in the small village of Tajov near Banská Bystrica on 18 October 1874, Tajovský was the eldest of ten children. He spent his childhood years in the house of his grandparents. He studied at the teacher training institute in Kláštor pod Znievom (1889–1893) and taught in several places, but his nationalist opinions and unconventional methods often brought him into conflict with the Hungarian authorities, and he was forced to leave the education system. Between 1898 and 1900, he worked as a bank clerk, and served in the Austro-Hungarian army on the Eastern Front. He allowed himself to be captured by the Russians, and in 1917 became a member of the Czechoslovak Legion. At the end of WWI, he came back to settle in Bratislava, and served in the Czechoslovak army as the head of the legion office from 1920 to 1925. After retirement, he devoted himself to his literary activities. He married the writer, and fighter for women's rights, Hana Gregorová, née Lilgová, in 1907. Tajovský died on 20 May 1940 in Bratislava, and was buried in the same grave as his grandparents in the local cemetery in Tajov.

His literary works spread across many genres and a vast number of topics, but most of his texts are set in a village environment. He wrote poetry, short prose, but also plays, and is considered to be the founder of Slovak realistic drama. His texts are funny, but they also focus on social issues (poverty, alcoholism, domestic abuse, illiteracy, and so on). His most famous works include *Maco Mlieč*, *Apoliena*, *Mamka Pôstková*, *Statky-zmätky*, and *Ženský zákon*.



4 October 2024

**100th Anniversary of Košice Peace Marathon (POFIS 829)**

Begun in 1924, the annual Košice Peace Marathon is the oldest continuously running marathon in the world, taking place every year since 1941. It is the oldest marathon in Europe and the third-oldest in the world. Inspired by the 1924 Paris Olympics, Košice sports enthusiast Vojtech Bukovský (1894–1963) organized the inaugural race, which began beneath the ruins of Turňa Castle. The marathon quickly gained international prestige, attracting prominent athletes like the 1931 winner Juan Carlos

Zabala, who went on to win the 1932 Olympic marathon. Known for its adherence to the official marathon distance of 42.195 km, even in its early years, the race has hosted numerous world-class runners and witnessed historic performances, including Abebe Bikila's victory in 1961. The Košice Peace Marathon has survived war and political upheaval, adapting its course and expanding to include women in 1980. In 2016, it received IAAF Bronze Label Road Race status, followed by Silver Label status in 2018.

9 October 2024

150th Anniversary of the UPU (POFIS 830)

Signed on 9 October 1874, the Bern Treaty established an agreement between 22 countries to co-ordinate their postal systems. 150 years later, the Universal Postal Union brings together the postal networks of 192 member states, including, since 18 March 1993, the Slovak Republic. It still pursues the original vision of its founders: the creation of a unified postal area which serves people across the world with a truly universal network of modern postal products and services. By setting standards, harmonizing policies, supporting innovation, and extending the capabilities of the member operators, the Union provides an effective and reliable postal exchange system and facilitates the provision of inclusive and accessible communication to communities around the world.



31 October 2024

Christmas 2024: Internal Fixtures of the Basilica Minor of St Giles, Bardejov – NVI ‘T2 50g’ (POFIS 831)



The basilica of St Giles is situated in Bardejov, a former royal city in the northern part of Šariš. The first known mention of the church dates back to 1247. The current appearance of the church comes from the 14th and 15th centuries, the golden era of the city. This period also affected the architecture of the church and its internal fixtures. The church is a three-nave basilica with four chapels. Eleven Gothic winged altarpieces, that have been preserved to this day and were gifted to the church by the local guilds (between 1440 and 1510), makes this place unique. The altar of the Virgin Mary, also known as Nativity of our Lord, was founded and provided by the Guild of Weavers and created by an unknown artist in 1489. As its reliefs show, it was inspired by the works of Dutch masters. It is the only altarpiece in the church whose wings are embellished with reliefs. They depict the Nativity scene (shown on the FDC) and the Adoration of Three Magi (illustrated on the stamp).

The Church of St. Giles was declared a national cultural monument in 1970. It became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000, together with the city of Bardejov, and was declared a basilica minor by Pope John Paul II

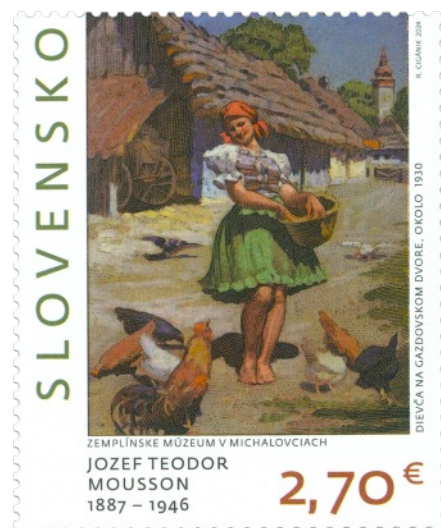
The Christmas Mail 2024 – NVI ‘T2 50g’ (POFIS 832)

Slovak Post has organized the Christmas Mail since 1999. It is a unique and highly popular project that focuses on children and families, togetherness, and tradition. Over the 25 years of the Christmas Mail, more than 2,350,000 wishes have been received from children from all over the world at the address ‘999 99 Ježiško’ (999 99 Jesus) in the municipality of Rajecká Lesná, where the post box is located. Although last year most letters and postcards came from Slovakia, mail was also received from children in Taiwan, the Czech Republic, China, Germany, Great Britain and many other countries. All children who include their own address receive a reply from ‘Baby Jesus’ assistants’ plus a small gift. Replies are sent in Slovak, English and Braille.

Every year, children are invited to take part in a competition to design the following year’s Christmas Mail stamp. This year’s design, entitled ‘Snowman’, was drawn by Hana Neumannová from Komárno. More information on the Christmas Mail is available at www.vianocnaposta.sk.



15 November 2024



Art: Theodor Mousson (POFIS 833)

Like many other artists of the time, Jozef Teodor Mousson (1887–1946) embraced the diverse influences of French art, especially Impressionism. In his family there was a saying that their ancestors had come from France in the 17th century and settled in southern Hungary as millers.

Born in Högyész near Pécs, Teodor trained as a teacher at the Royal Hungarian State Teachers’ Institute in Baj, where it was his piano and violin playing that particularly caught the eye. In 1906, he graduated with teaching qualifications for schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction. His life and works are closely connected to the town of Michalovce, where he worked from 1911, attracted to the colourful diversity of the local fruit and vegetable markets, and the beauty and variety of the Eastern Slovak costumes. One of the strong themes depicted by Mousson was the crowded market, but he also enjoyed capturing other events in the daily life of Zemplín, including workers on the farms wearing

traditional Zemplín costumes. His painting *The Girl in the Farmer’s Yard* is featured on the stamp. He moved to Trenčín in 1942 to live with his son, died on 6 November 1946, and is buried in Trenčín cemetery.



Art: Franz Anton Maulbertsch (POFIS 834)

Works of art by one of the most important Baroque painters of central Europe, Franz Anton Maulbertsch (1724–1796), have been attracting attention for more than a hundred years. He graduated from the Vienna Academy and was a member of the Academy from 1757. Oskar Kokoschka compared his artistic impact, exceptionalism, and eccentricity to the musical legacy of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Hundreds of publications have been devoted to the identification, description and interpretation of his sketches, oil paintings, and murals. Maulbertsch's work was highly original and is characterized by a very individual understanding and dynamic interpretation of colour, light and shape. In Slovakia this is represented by the signed painting of the Immaculata and St Michael the Archangel from 1778 on the main altar of the parish church in Skalica. Beneath the Virgin Mary, with her gloriole of stars and the dove of the Holy Spirit overhead, hovering in dynamic movement, is the Archangel Michael, clad in full armour, striking down the demons.

25 November 2024

Personalities: Janko Jesenský (POFIS 835)

Janko Jesenský (1874–1945) was born in Turčiansky Svätý Martin (now simply Martin). His father was a prominent figure in the Slovak national movement. Trained as a lawyer, who later worked in public office, he is best



known as a poet, prose writer, and translator. He studied at the Academy of Law in Prešov and completed his doctorate at the university in Cluj. As a student he lived as a bohemian, even defending his honour by duelling with sabres. He married Anna Bottová, a daughter of the Slovak solicitor and historian Július Botto, in 1909.

He was sent to the Russian front in 1915. Captured by the Russians, he joined the Czechoslovak Legions and was allowed to spend the rest of the war working as a journalist – he contributed to, and edited, the legionary press. Following his return home, he worked as a public officer; until 1935, he was one of the two Vice-Presidents of the Provincial Authority in Bratislava. He chaired the Slovak Writer's Association from 1930 to 1939. His short prose, inspired by the ambience of a small town, along with his autobiographical love poetry, which belong to poetic modernism, received great acclaim. In 1945, he was the first Slovak to be awarded the title of national artist.

5 December 2024

Postage Stamp Day: Universal Postal Service – NVI 'T2 50g' (POFIS 836)

The story behind this issue is linked to an initiative of the Slovak Postcrossing community, which is part of a private online project created by Portuguese student Paulo Magalhães. The project was launched in 2005 to promote the exchange of postcards and soon became a global phenomenon (www.postcrossing.com). It was not possible to use the Postcrossing logo in the design of the stamp, so instead the issue was named after the Slovak interpretation of the Universal Postal Service, which ensures a minimum level of satisfaction of the postal service requirements of users in the Slovak Republic.



Membership Benefits

Meetings	Three London meetings in 2025, two joint meetings in Yorkshire, a meeting at EuroPhilEx in Birmingham, and five Zoom meetings.
Publications	Members receive the quarterly journal <i>Czechout</i> which includes articles of interest on Czech and Slovak philately and helps members to keep in touch with Society affairs. The Society publishes <i>Monographs</i> and Print-on-demand titles on wide-ranging topics containing original research.
Library	The Society maintains a comprehensive library of books, journals, and reference materials available to UK members only. Postage both ways paid by the borrower.
Auctions	Regular auctions with a varied range of reasonably priced items. Prospective vendors should contact the Auctioneer.
Circulating Packets	Stamp and postal history packets available to members in the UK only. Apply to the Packet Manager.
Free Small Adverts	Members are permitted free small adverts in <i>Czechout</i> . Contact Advertising Manager.
Accessories at Trade prices	Members may order accessories, album leaves, and philatelic books at a substantial saving. Delivered direct. Contact the Treasurer.
Data Protection Act	Members are advised that their details are stored electronically for use on Society business only, e.g. for address label printing.

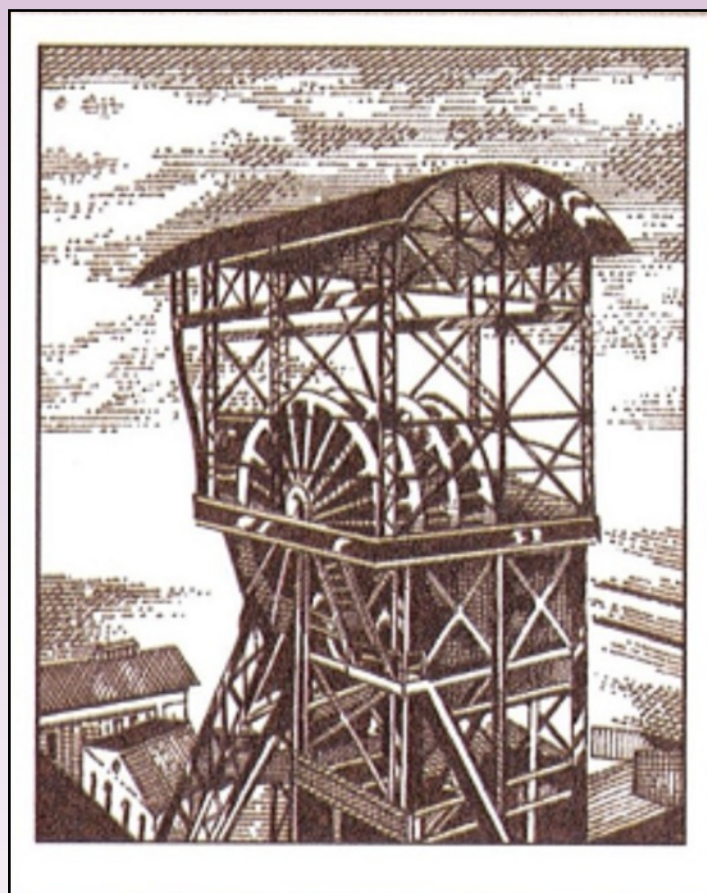
Payments

Sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank payable to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB); current bank notes in pounds sterling, US dollars, or Euros. Payments may also be made by US dollar cheques or paid to a Euro bank account, or by PayPal. Please contact the Treasurer for details.

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

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Technical Monuments – Dolní Vítkovice, where coal and pig iron was produced in blast furnaces from 1828 to 1998. Now an educational and cultural centre.

From the booklet cover, POFIS ZXL76 (*see page 30*)