



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 44/2

JUNE 2026

WHOLE NUMBER 203



**Members consider *The Masaryk and Beneš Years*
at the Dean Swift pub in February
(London meeting – page 5)**



Book Review by Terry Hancock

The Postal History of the Post-Revolutionary Period 1918–1920 in the Czech Lands by Josef Weissenstein et al.

This magnum opus, which was two decades in the making, has no less than thirteen different authors and experts, and was published in 2024. It aims to be the single most comprehensive guide to the philatelic history of this turbulent period, and incorporates the latest research material. Lavishly presented in two large volumes, with over 1800 pages and a multitude of maps, tables and illustrations, it covers not just the linear progress of postal services and stamp issues but delves into the politics, economics, and international contexts of the time. The book also provides information on current market values, and discusses quality issues as well as fakes and forgeries. The book is written in Czech. The list of chapters below highlights the range and depth of the material:

Volume 1

1. Historical context of the creation of Czechoslovakia – the Czech land, the border of the western part of the Czechoslovak state.
2. Restoring international postal traffic.
3. Preliminary postal values and paid forms.
4. Preliminary postage labels.
5. Emergency provision of post-revolutionary postal service.

Volume 2

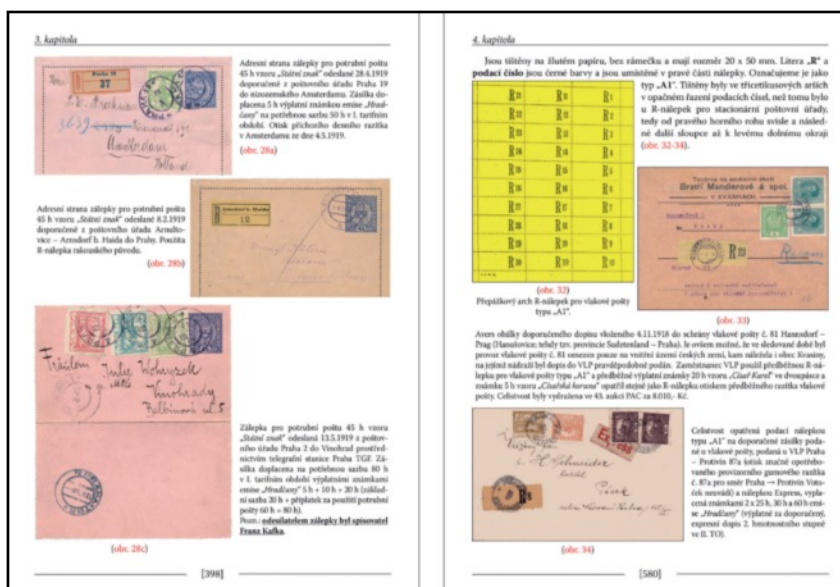
6. Czech scouts 1918.
7. Private overprints on Austrian stamps.
8. Post offices in the ‘German’ provinces.
9. Censorship of letter items.
10. Post office in Těšín 1918–1920.
11. The takeover of Hlučínsko in 1920.
12. The takeover of Vitorazsko in 1920.
13. The takeover of Valtická in 1920.

The editor and head of the author team, Josef Weissenstein, also worked closely with the Postal Museum in Prague and the Military Archives of the Czech Armed Forces. The book cannot really be considered a catalogue, or even a monograph in the traditional sense, but much more a work of academic research and investigation. The editor pulled no punches when he stated in *Merkur Revue* that

... the monograph is therefore intended for all those who have the ambition to elevate collecting to a professional activity, and not just to aimlessly depositing meaningless items into bins in the style of ‘playing philately’ or ‘playing post office’ and believing that it is a so-called ‘specialization’. So, fellow members, I hope that makes it clear!

I am not sure now if I am a professional, a collector, or just playing; no matter, the book has much to offer whatever your level of engagement. Chapter 5, for example, which covers immediate emergency postal provision (a personal interest of mine), has terrific detail on Porto and T type overprints by location, style and usage and a 400-page visual tabulation of multiple postal items and usage showing various overprints and philatelic material, be it Austrian, Czechoslovak, postal stationery, labels or some mixture of all or some of these, but sorted by individual post office. Despite being both monolingual and a non-specialist I found it fascinating, accessible and practically useful.

As an ex-publisher myself I cannot but admire the excellent production values of the book, both in printing and binding as well as page layout and illustration – the image accompanying this article barely does justice to the enormous range of photos, graphics, tables, and maps contained within. The book has a limited print run of only 150 copies. The library has a single copy that is available to members (though bear in mind the total weight of the two volumes is over 4 kg). If members would like more information on contents or areas of interest please feel free to contact me: librarian@cpsgb.org.



The book can be purchased at www.noze-brousky.cz/detail/monografie-postovni-historie-poprevratoveho-obdobi-1918-1920-1924/

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News & Notices

New members

The Society extends a very warm welcome to a new member, **Jan Bisschops** from Ede in the Netherlands.

Congratulations

Hans van Dooremalen received a Gold award at the recent Dutch National Exhibition Filafair in Den Bosch for his exhibit: *Brünn the next 25 years; postmarks and postal history 1875–1899* (see the report on the Society's March Zoom meeting on page 6).

György Lövei received a Gold Medal at TimFileX 2025 in Timișoara, Romania with *Postal Documents, the International Airmail Service*.

At Nordia 2025, the major Nordic Stamp Exhibition, **Jon Klemetsen** had two entries: *CŠR 1918 to 1928 – from improvising to high achievement*, which received a Vermeil medal, and *Italy – The reign of Vittorio Emanuele III Stamp with his Effigy*, which was awarded a Large Silver medal.

The Czech Republic took several Federation of European Philatelic Association (FEPA) awards:

Jiří Střecha was awarded the Medal for Exceptional Support to Organized Philately 2025. In his capacity as Director of the Postal Museum in the Czech Republic since 2016 he has strengthened the museum's role in promoting philately nationally and internationally.

Liberec 2025 received a Certificate of Appreciation 2025, and another Certificate was awarded to Vladimír Munzberger.

Dates for your diary

Three important stamp exhibitions are taking place over the next few years. The first, between 29 August and 6 September this year, is for this year's Biennale of the Prestige Philately Club in Prague: entitled *Treasures of World Philately 3* it will be held in the magnificent Art Nouveau halls of the Municipal House in Prague, and has been organized by the Prestige Philately Club Prague in cooperation with the Austrian *Vindobona*, the world's oldest philatelic club, and the Club de Monte-Carlo, the world's most prestigious philatelic club. The exhibition presents some sixty philatelic rarities of exceptional importance from private collections across Europe. At this event, the world's most valuable stamp, the 1 cent magenta of British Guiana, will also be on display. Further information can be found at www.ppcp.cz.

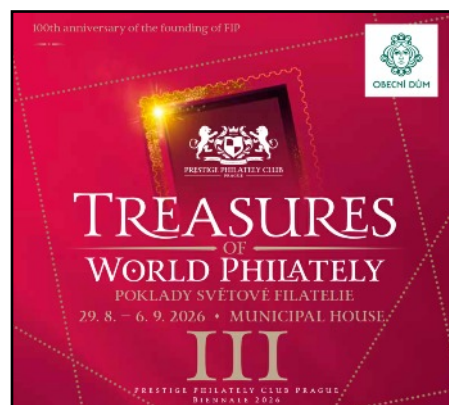
Next year, on 30 June to 4 July, **Slovphilex 2027** is taking place at the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava. This is the first-ever world stamp exhibition to be held in Slovakia, and has FIP patronage and recognition by FEPA. Organized by the Union of Slovak Philatelists, in cooperation



with the Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic and Slovenská pošta, it is planned to have 1500 frames covering traditional philately, postal history, thematic philately, philatelic literature, revenues, and picture postcards. Three Society members have key positions on the Organizing Committee: **Pavol Lazar** is the Chairman, the Commissioner General is **Pavol Bojnansky**, and **Michal Zika** is also a member of the Committee. The UK Commissioner is Simon Richards (simon@sidebell.co.uk) and applications for entering are available on the Exhibition website. The closing date is 31 July 2026. Further information can be found at www.slovphilex2027.sk.

The following year, **Praga 2028** will be held from 22 to 26 March in Prague's Industrial Palace. Once again, with full accreditation from FIP and FEPA, there will be a wide range of exhibition classes: world stamp championship, traditional philately, postal history, postal stationery, revenue, aerophilately, astrophilately, thematic philately, open philately, picture postcards, youth philately, and philatelic literature. Following a disastrous fire in 2008, the iconic Industrial Palace (*Průmyslový palác*) is scheduled for reopening in September this year. Further information on the event can be found at www.praga2028.cz/en.

Both Slovphilex 2027 and Praga 2028 are highlighted in issue 48 of *FEPA News*: 'Slovphilex 2027 from the Beginning' and 'Praga, a tradition that Continues (Part I)', which covers 1938 exhibition, runs up to 1978, and will be continued in Part II in the next issue, bringing the story up to Praga 2018 (www.feapanews.com).



Letters to the Editor

At the end of April the following letter was sent by email to the Editor from **James Buckner**, one of our members who is also President of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately in the US:

I have just now had the time to finish reading the March 2026 *Czechout*. Thank you for another awesome issue. I want to make a comment on Terry Harrison's article 'Czechoslovak Military Field Post in East Anglia'. On page 15, there appears a wrapper (fig. 5) sent from the Public Relations Officer, Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain to Bronx, USA. Members of the CPSGB who are also members of the SCP in North America might be interested to know that this wrapper is addressed to Joseph Lowey, one of the two founders (along with Joe Stein) of the SCP in May 1939. Mr Lowey had immigrated to the US after serving in the Austrian army in WWI. Just a brief note that might add some historical context to a wonderful article.

Thank you once again for producing a wonderful journal!

Another email to the Editor was from Yang, a member of Conflans Philatelic Club in France:

As I'm collecting and learning about Czechoslovakian postal history, and I master neither German nor Czech, I've been a visitor to your website and *Czechout* for years. Your association has done an impressive work that I appreciate a lot. ... Since the beginning of 2026, I've created my channel on social media to promote philately to a younger generation. I've just prepared a video to be published within ten days, on Czechoslovak/France postal history, and I've added your society as resources at the end of it.

If you'd like to see what Yang has been doing, it's on Instagram – www.instagram.com/post.by.yang/. It made the Editor think – perhaps we should also have a presence on social media?

London Meeting, February 2026

An excellent turnout of sixteen members and guests came along to the Dean Swift on 28 February to see a display on *The Masaryk and Beneš Years* by **David Luckhurst**. David made no apologies for the 'general' nature of the collection, which he has accumulated over the past 20–25 years. And indeed, the variety on show was a testament to the broad nature of his acquisitions.



Starting in 1918, with the setting up of the Czechoslovak Republic and Masaryk's arrival at *Wilsonovo nádraží* in Prague, the material took us right through to the death of Beneš in 1948 and the communist takeover. The first part of this three-part presentation went up to Masaryk's retirement in 1935 and the appointment of Beneš as President. Material included covers, postcards, and commemorative sheets. The latter demonstrated the new nation's love of commemorative cancels to mark notable occasions, but there were plenty of commercial items amongst the philatelic memorabilia. One cover, for examples, had a cancel applied at the Baťa postal agency in Zlín, while another curious card issued for the PVV

(Prague Sample Fair) in 1924 (above) had been sent in January 1925 from the Catholic Church office in Nusle to the one in Chýnov. The handstamps and the lack of any postage stamps indicate that it was exempt from postal charges.

Part two began with the death of Masaryk – photographic postcards showed scenes from his funeral and his burial at Lány, near the castle that had been his summer residence, and that continues to serve in that capacity for current Presidents of the Czech Republic. (David pointed out that the date of Masaryk's death – 14 September – matched his own birthday.) The election of Beneš, the new President, was marked with plenty of attractive philatelic sheets. There were several examples of the famous two- and three-colour cancels on display, together with commemorative items from stamp exhibitions.

Part three recorded the final years of democratic government before the communist coup in 1948. Material marked the visit of Beneš to the Old Town Square in Prague in May 1945, and the Soviet Marshals Konev and Malinovsky a month later. Similarly, there were items commemorating the visit of General Patton to Strakonice, and of General Eisenhower to Prague, later the same year. As the liberating forces made their way slowly but steadily across the country, changes to postal arrangements followed them – one cover showed where someone had tried to use a stamp issued by Bohemia & Moravia: the stamp was boxed in blue crayon and 1 K 20 postage due applied! The presentation finished with the last-gasp Sokol Slet of June and July 1948 and the death of Beneš that September.

One member asked David what had started this interest in Czechoslovak philately. He replied that he had always had a keen interest in history and had been directed towards this part of the world when researching the development of the Protestant faith in Bohemia, starting with the Hussites and Jan Žižka. Rewarded with a warm round of applause, and a Society certificate, David thanked us for our interest and attention. **Tony Holdsworth**

March Zoom

The second of our varied programme of Zoom meetings for 2026, on 25 March, was presented by **Hans van Dooremalen**, the Society's Membership Secretary and European Representative. Entitled *Brünn, the next 25 years – postmarks and postal history 1875 to 1899*, this was the sequel to the Large Gold award-winning exhibit displayed by Hans at PRAGA 2018. (For those who missed it, *Postal History of Brünn – 1638 to 1875* can still be seen on EXPONET, at www.japhila.cz/hof/0003/index0003a.htm.) An excellent attendance of eighteen members followed the second part of the story, which took us up to the currency change from the kreuzer to the heller.

In his introduction, Hans outlined the challenges that he faced when researching this subject. Postal history up to 1875 is well documented, though there are errors, and postmarks are also well documented. The errors arose because authors copied each other's mistakes over the years – the only solution was to go back to original sources. For this, Hans' hero is Václav Dragoun, the founder of the Prague Postal Museum, who copied every postal history source for every place in the present-day Czech Republic – provided you find the right person to ask, it's all still available there for study. After 1899, both postal history and the postmarks are very well covered in the literature, though the latter needed some detective work to find the missing section on Brünn from the Austrian postal administration's *Stempelbücher*, which was lost and found twice before Hans was able to get hold of copies covering 1895 to 1918.

For the period in between, however, the situation is the same as the preceding period for postal history, but the postmarks are very poorly documented. In Votoček's *Monografie*, there is information, but no clear indication as to where it came from. If it came from Müller's book, published in 1930, it may have been based on entries in the *Stempelbücher*, which had not been lost at that stage. However, the *Monografie* indicated how many varieties existed for each handstamp, but *not* the nature of the differences. The only way to identify them was to collect as many clear impressions as possible of different versions – and Hans has been collecting them for over thirty-five years.

Moving on to each of the Brünn post offices during this period, starting with the main Brünn Stadt office, Hans took us through his examples of the many different handstamps, including serif and sans-serif lettering, monolingual and bilingual text, and different sizes. One curiosity was one of the first bilingual postmarks, introduced in the early 1870s, which had an error: BRÜNN STATD instead of BRÜNN STADT. This was sent back for re-engraving in 1876, and Hans also had an example of the corrected version. A total of seven

versions exist for this bilingual postmark without an indication of the time of posting, and this was followed by eight versions which did include the time of posting.

In 1896, it was decided that any town with more than one post office would in future designate them with numbers rather than names – so Brünn Stadt, for example, became Brünn 1. Some postmarks now included letter suffixes, to indicate different uses. This section on Brünn 1 finished with some more unusual handstamps: the letter 'B' in three circles, used for mail that arrived uncanceled; an old rectangular arrival mark, used to cancel postage dues; and cachets used as a sender's mark on internal mail or, with suffix letters, as a receipt on a telegram.

The next part of the presentation covered the



A registered postcard from Brünn Neugasse/Brno Nova Ulice to Hungary, with a bilingual postmark that was replaced with Brünn 6/Brno 6 in 1897.

other nine Brünn post offices: Brünn Bahnhof, based in the railway station; Alt Brünn, near the abbey where Gregor Mendel developed his theory of genetics; Brünn Zeile, in the 'Manchester of Moravia' district, full of textile factories; Brünn Landhaus, only open when the Moravian provincial parliament was in session; Brünn Neugasse, north of the city centre; Brünn Ratwitgasse, just behind the Landhaus and next to a deaf and blind home; Brünn Kröna, on a long shopping street; Brünn Franz-Josef-Strasse, by the city walls and incorporating the post office stables; and finally, Brünn 10 (which opened after 1896 so only used the numbered designation), located in Bakery Street.

Hans completed this comprehensive study with a section on further postal services coming from the postal administration, including a cachet relating to a 'supplies' department, forms relating to the telegraph office, the accounts department, transport of large quantities of newspapers, and even an employment contract for the postmaster of Habrowan/Habrovany.

Asked whether he felt this material might earn another Large Gold, Hans thought not – but he revealed that he has already been awarded Gold at a national level and was looking forward to taking it to Bratislava in 2027, and Prague in 2028.

Tony Holdsworth

London Meeting, April 2026

A change of the programme due to unforeseen circumstances meant that members attending the London meeting on 25 April were treated to **Bill Hedley's** display on *How Postal Communications Helped Build Hungary* – he kindly agreed to swap with Ken Burr, who will now be presenting to us on 12 September.

Unlike many of his other displays, which focused on a single aspect of postal history, Bill had decided to look at the broader issue of how the postal system was impacted by, and contributed to, socio-economic outcomes from the creation of Hungary. Using A3 sheets, Bill presented his material to its best advantage, making it easy for members to browse and capturing the broad scope of the subject.

It was displayed under four headings, each divided into two sections:

- Political Development: Effective Government; Rebellion, Revolution, Compromise.
- International Relations: War and Peace; International Cooperation.
- Social Development: Improving Public Services; Public Health and Information.
- Economic Development: Providing Commercial Services; Promoting Trade and Commerce.



Letter dated 18 November 1741 from Maria Theresa in Pressburg to local authorities in Austria lamenting the burdens imposed by the War of the Austrian Succession and calling a meeting of the Diet in Vienna for 27 November to consider her need for additional funds to pay for the war.

From the start, Bill pointed out that postal services were originally developed because of the need by governments for effective communication, rather than just allowing people to send each other postcards! The oldest item demonstrated this – an imperial letter from a castle in Bratislava outlining a decree from 1563. Similarly, a *beautiful* letter from the Empress Maria Theresa in 1741, together with letters from the Royal Council in 1754, 1769 and 1789, were examples of the postal system being used in the exercise of government authority. The condition of these letters was remarkable – the use of rag paper, without any chemicals, has helped them survive undamaged.

The next section began with the Rákóczi's rebellion of 1703, followed by the Hungarian revolution of 1848/9. The compromise of 1867, which led to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, had considerable impact on the postal system, with the increasing use of Magyar place names in postmarks and forms.

Introducing the section on international relations, Bill pointed out that this served to underline the truly multinational nature of Hungary, and not just in the different ethnic groups within the Empire. Two letters were presented from soldiers serving with the Imperial Army who had

originally come from the British Isles – Count Henry O'Donnell from Donegal, and a Scot from Kilmarnock. War, of course, has significant impact on the economy; during the Napoleonic wars disastrous inflation drove the postage rate up from 8 to 24 kreuzer between 1789 and 1806. After the wars the postal service in Europe remained chaotic, with different postal authorities using different systems of weights and a huge range of different currencies. A turning point for international cooperation came with the 1850 Austro-German Postal Union. Postage stamps were introduced in Austria specifically to meet the requirements of the treaty, and Bill was able to display covers that showed the transition to a common, metric system of weights.

On the domestic front, the postal system became increasingly accessible to a wider range of people. Changes such as the widespread use of the Hungarian language, reducing postage costs, the introduction of postcards, and the carriage of mail by railway, all served to make the system more open to the general population. Public health concerns were demonstrated by items of disinfected mail, including letters affected by the cholera outbreak in Prague in 1831.

As the nineteenth century progressed, more services were added to what the postal system provided: newspaper stamps, 'coach mail', value/money letters, parcel cards, and telegrams were all included as part of the display. The final section underlined the importance of the postal system to the growth of trade, with advertising, reduced rates for sending samples, and promotional postcards such as those issued to mark the 1896 millennium celebrations.

Once again, members had enjoyed a broad and varied display that painted a detailed picture of a complex subject.

Tony Holdsworth

Liberated Republic 40 Haler – Part 1

Josef Chudoba

Translated by Mark Wilson FRPSL and published here with the author's permission.

This article first appeared as part of a series in Filatelie 4/5/6 2020

The 40 haler of the *Osvobozená Republika* (Liberated Republic) 1920 issue was issued on 16 August of that year and was valid until 15 January 1926. It was probably printed from 11 plates, with additional plates made for the stamps in the booklet issue and for postal stationery. The total run was 165.86 million stamps. The stamp is interesting because of the appearance of two types that differ in the number of linden leaves, as well as three types of perforations and some retouches.



Types



Type I

Type II

Type I stamps have nine leaves, Type II ten. Type I stamps all appear on Plates 5 and 6; all other plates have Type II stamps. Position 96 on Plate 5 was mistakenly left as a Type II – with any other stamp, it constitutes a joined type.

Origin of types

The original 30 haler template was used to create all stamps of higher value than 20 haler. For the 40 haler, pasting its digits over the 30 was not properly done. The lower tip of the digit 3 remained exposed and forms the so-called tenth leaf. These malformed auxiliary prints were mounted on a paste-up, photographed, and a negative was created where each stamp on the plate had ten leaves. The first four 40 haler plates, as well as the two booklet plates, were made using this negative, and so every stamp had ten leaves.

Prior to the production of Plates 5 and 6, someone probably noticed that the leaves differed from other Liberated Republic values and decided to modify it. According to the *Chainbreaker* (CPSGB POD 146) the correction was carried out as follows. During the production of the next two plates (5 and 6), after transferring the image from the negative to the sensitive layer on the metal plate, the tenth leaf was painted over with an acid-resistant varnish before etching began. This prevented etching of the plate at that point, thus the stamps from those two plates have only nine leaves. On the other plates the leaves were not corrected, so the stamps from Plates 7 to 11 and the booklet plates always have ten leaves. We do not understand why this correction was made directly on the plate rather than on the negative as doing the latter would have been much easier and would have transferred the correction to all the other plates.

For Position 96 on Plate 5 the correction was mistakenly skipped, so that the stamp has ten leaves. The stamp is identical to that of regular stamps with ten leaves, but can be identified using its unique plate flaws.

Identifying position 96 on plate 5

This stamp in conjunction with another stamp forms a composite type. It is therefore important to describe its identifying features in order to make it distinguishable. Unfortunately, these identifiers are somewhat minuscule:

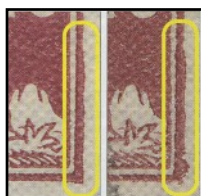
Mark or just a line in the horizontal shading of the right digit 4.

Mark on the lower arch of the letter B in VHB.

Sometimes a protrusion from the lower right corner (not always the same).



Position 86.
Dot on the shoulder.



Position 95.
Irregularly thickened lower half of the right frame (this flaw developed during the printing process).



Position 97.
Narrowed right linden leaf, mark under the lower frame to the left of VHB, another at the lower right corner of the stamp.

Collector's favourites are the conjoined types with this position. These can be formed with positions 86, 95, or 97. Here again the identifying marks are important – small plate flaws.

Plate identifiers

The stamps were probably printed from eleven plates, with two others made for printing the booklet issue, and for printing postal stationery (I will discuss these in the next section). Research into plate identifiers is not yet over; further discoveries can be expected. Plate 11 is without any identifiers.

Types and Perforations of the 40 Haler

Plate	Type	Stress Bars	Perforations
1	II	no	comb, imperforate
2		no	comb, imperforate
3		no	comb, imperforate.
4		no	comb, imperforate
5	I	yes	comb, horizontal comb, line, imperforate
6			comb horizontal comb, line, imperforate
7	II		comb, line
8			comb, line
9			comb
10			
11			

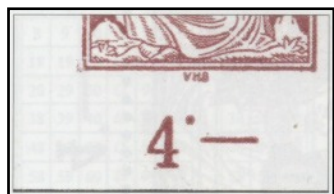


Plate 1 or 2



Plate 3.



Plate 4.

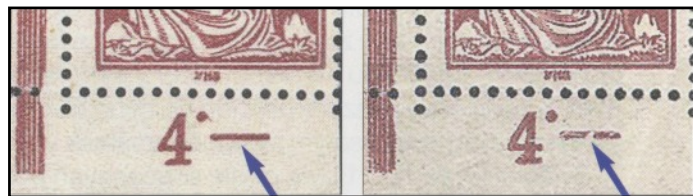


Plate 5. Variant 1.

Plate 5. Variant 2



Plate 6.



Plate 7.



Plate 8.



Plate 9



Plate 10.

Note: the left-hand version of Plate 7 has not been confirmed with a real stamp.

Plates 1 to 4 were produced in 1920, Plates 5 and 6 in February 1921, Plates 7 and 8 in the first half of 1921. The booklet plates can be dated to September or October 1921. From 1 January 1922 postage was increased, so stamp usage was significantly lower. Plates 9 and 10 have their earliest use in January 1924.

The production of Plate 11 can be placed at the beginning of 1924. The plate was created at the same time as the first electroplated derived plates of the 50 and 60 haler Liberated Republic which are also without stress bars. According to philatelist E. Hroch, two comb perforation machines were used to perforate Plate 11 panes, differing in that one lacks the second hole from the top of the stamps in the ninth and tenth columns, the other does not. (This same perforation variation is known for the 60 haler Liberated Republic stamp produced by the electroplating method.)

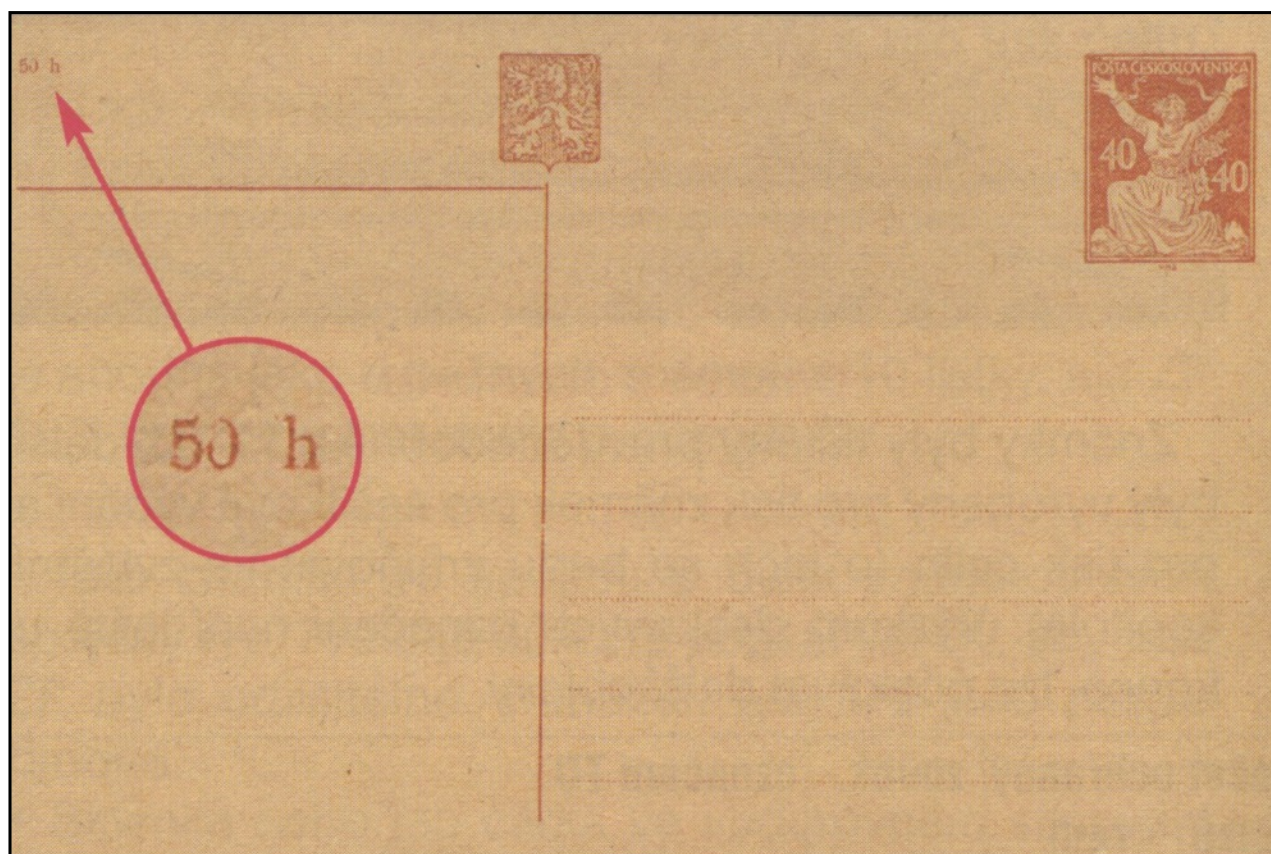
The odd thing is that Plate 11 was, according to current knowledge, produced by itself, although all other plates were produced in pairs. There is a hypothesis as to whether Plate 12 also existed. If so, since it was made using electroplating technology it would be difficult to distinguish it from Plate 11, as the effect of that method of manufacture would make their flaws very similar. Indirect evidence for the existence of two plates may be the use of variations in comb perforation mentioned above.

Postal stationery

The 40 haler appeared on postcards and telegrams. After an increase in the postcard rate to 40 haler on 1 August 1920, it was necessary to issue new postcards; these were released almost simultaneously with the stamps.

To produce the postcards another plate (or more plates) were produced, which were not used for printing stamps, but were immediately cut into individual clichés and then inserted into a postcard format. This is evidenced by the discovery of a retouch on Position 60 (see below), which occurs in some variations on postcards but not on stamps.

Later on, Plates 1 and 3 were also cut into individual clichés and used for the printing of postal stationery. The same flaws can be found on the stationery imprint. The stationery imprints always have ten leaves. Also, the research is not complete with regard to its plate flaws. The postcards have a sale price of 50 h marked in the upper left corner, with a plate flaw on a small part of the print run where the letter h is missing.



The postcards could be used with just the imprinted stamp until the end of 1921, but from 1 January 1922 the postal rates were further increased, and so after that they required upfranking.

A telegram on account was issued in two forms. The first is from 1921, and is marked CTÚ 2 in the catalogue (it has the slanted inscription 'telegram on account' in the header of the postal stationery). The printing forme contained eight postcard plates, four with Czech text and four with Czech-German text. Although an uncut sheet has been preserved in the Postal Museum, the reconstruction of the printing sheet according to the forme has not yet been carried out.

Číslo patřnosti		Druh: Telegram na účet		Země
Směr dopravy, podle přání odesílatele		Místo určení	Místo podání	
Číslo evid.		účet. slověch	sl.	Říj. podaný dne 1 19
Služební údaje				
 		Telegram CTÚ 2 Modified		

Poplatky	Kč	h	Druh: TELEGRAM NA ÚČET	Země určení:	Dopravit na	
odesílatel za zálohu			Číslo evid.		vedení čís.	pracovišti čís.
přijal:			Podací úřad:	Záznam směrovací:	dne	mésice
			Čís.	počet slov	den	mésice
				192	rok	hodiny
Telegramy na účet lze podat pouze o telegrafního úřadu, kde byla služba zřízena. D = telegram pilný, sráž PU = telegrafní pilný (do Severní Ameriky) RPS = odpověď zaplacená RPD = pilná odpověď zaplacená TC = převzatí PC = telegrafní oznámka přijetí PCP = poštovní oznámka přijetí PZ = doručení telegraficky PR = poštovní doporučená APT = posel zaplacen, poselství označeno telegraficky APP = posel zaplacen, poselství označeno poštou MP = k vlastním rukám TR = uložení v telegrafu GP = uložení v pušty GPR = uložení a pošta doporučená TMs = z adres CTA = oznámení vlastního adresy LCO, LCD, LCP = nespolečný telegram námořní			Pište číselně! (místo určení, telegrafní stanice, příp. země)			
Adresa odesílatele:			CTÚ 3 Telegram			
Odesílatel:	STVRZENKA na			Kč	h	
	za telegram na účet čís.			do		
	ze dne			19	o	slověch.
Služební údaje			Podpis úředníka:		Úřední razítko:	
A 1924			p. 2			

In 1924, another issue was released (CTÚ 3 – it does not have the inscription ‘telegram on account’ in italics), which appears only in the Czech version. A retouching of leaves from Position 60 occurs on one cliché in the sheet, which will be discussed in the relevant chapter. Here, too, the sheet has not been reconstructed. All postal stationery with a Liberated Republic 40 haler stamps were valid until 15 August 1928.

Stamps for booklet issue

At the end of 1921 the Post Office wanted to sell stamp booklets based on the German model, which would contain 5 and 10 haler Dove stamps and 40 and 60 haler Liberated Republic stamps. The issue of the booklets did not take place in the end because rates were raised from 1 January 1922. Entire panes with tête-bêche pairs were therefore delivered to major post offices. As early as 15 December 1921 it was reported in the ‘Czech Philatelist’ (1921/243) that the Club of Czech Philatelists was purchasing whole panes or two rows of stamps at a nominal price.

It is not known what values the booklets were supposed to contain. *Monografie 2* states on page 194 that the booklet was to contain twelve 5, twelve 40 and six 60 halér. The problem is that no source was given for the information, this list has never been seen before (even in the *Ministry Bulletin*), and the report does not address the issue of the 10 halér.

Thanks to the study of the members of the Knihotisk Society, it was discovered which part of a plate was used to make the plates for the booklet stamps. Interestingly, four 30-cliché blocks from columns 8–10 and one 30-cliché block each from columns 1–3 and 5–7 were used. Why four blocks from identical columns were used, (i.e. why four plates had to be produced for the booklet issue) has not been satisfactorily explained. Logical reasoning says that it would have been sufficient to produce only two 100-cliché plates and then cut them into 30-cliché blocks.

1.TD						2.TD					
I.			II.			III.			I.		
8	9	10	16	96	56	8	9	10	8	9	10
18	19	20	18	98	58	18	19	20	18	19	20
28	29	30	17	97	57	28	29	30	18	17	11
38	39	40	19	99	59	38	39	40	19	16	19
48	49	50	15	95	55	48	49	50	15	15	15
58	59	60	14	94	45	58	59	60	14	14	14
68	69	70	13	93	35	68	69	70	13	13	13
78	79	80	12	92	25	78	79	80	12	12	12
88	89	90	11	91	15	88	89	90	11	11	11
98	99	100	7	97	6	98	99	100	7	7	7



Philatelic cover franked by the entire top row of tête-bêche pairs from Plate 2.

The pair of stamps (at the lower left) are from positions 8, 9; the strip continues at the top (positions 10, 93, 92, 91, 8, 9 and 10).

A Moravian Sauerkraut Factory

Roger Morrell

Skulking in one of my folders for some years has been the postcard illustrated below. It is a printed postcard with perforations top and bottom (so printed in a roll suitable for a typewriter) with a fine illustration of a factory with smoking chimneys, and the company name 'Ant. Neoral'. The card was used with handwritten text and sent on 17 May 1910 from Olmütz/Olomouc to a businessman customer in Sázava, Kral. Čerké (I cannot locate this town/region – it could be Kral. České rather than Čerké).



Searching around the internet for some more information, I came across just a single entry concerning this company, and I repeat the translated text from the description, which dates originally from 1924 [1].

The first Olomouc and Hanáčky sauerkraut factory Ant. Neoral in Olomouc

The owner and founder of the company, which is one of the oldest in this field and at that time the largest in Moravia, is Mr Ant. Neoral.

In 1888, a small factory for the production of Olomouc cheeses was founded, which prospered quite well, so that in 1895 it was moved to a new exhibition factory, which was enlarged again after a few years and finally in 1900 its activities were mainly transferred to the production of sauerkraut. At that time, this enterprise was the only one in the whole of northern and central Moravia. At the beginning, this product encountered minor obstacles in sales, since at that time only Brno (Modřice) cabbage was known, which dominated almost the entire region. However, due to the advantageous location of the factory and mainly due to the excellent quality of the product, land was acquired very quickly and within a few years 'Neoral's cabbage' was sought after throughout the former Austria and even beyond the borders. In the meantime, however, the production of cheeses was also diligently taken care of, which were exported to almost the whole of Europe and very often also overseas. Around 1907, another department was opened, namely for the production of mustard. This production, although it was quite prosperous, had to be stopped at the beginning of the war. At that time, competition began to appear in the field of sauerkraut, and so competing factories were established in Kroměříž and in Olomouc. However, all these enterprises, although of the same type, got along quite well, because the consumption of sauerkraut was then considerable and the sales were large. With the war that broke out in 1914, a plague came to the sauerkraut industry. Since sauerkraut was in great demand, sauerkraut factories began to grow, if you can call them that, like mushrooms after the rain. Everywhere, every feedlot and barn bore the sign of a sauerkraut factory. And so the good quality of this well-known Moravian product suffered a lot, of course, due to the actions of the new sauerkraut manufacturers, who had no idea about

Doplatit 30 haler 1919 plates III and IV – new discoveries

Johan Sevenhuijsen

In spring 2025, Walter Last's large collection was sold at auction in Germany. The results show that Czechoslovak philately is still very much alive: everything was sold for prices well above the reserve. I was delighted to be able to purchase the postage due stamps section. At the beginning of June, a 23 kg parcel was delivered containing tens of thousands of postage due stamps from all periods. Among them was a large number of stamps from the 1919 postage due series. As I had hoped, this allowed me to continue my research into the mysterious plates III and IV with a value of 30 haler.

Background information

Almost all the postage due stamps in this series were printed from one or two printing plates. These have all been described by Zdeněk Ryvola (250, 400 and 500 haler) and Jaroslav Moravec (other values), making plate reconstructions possible. Moravec described plates I and II for the 30 haler.

The existence of two additional plates for the 30 haler value has already been published in the *Monografie*, Volume 4 (1986). The fact that these plates had vertical lines in the margins was also known, but that was about all that was published. No complete sheets or even larger units have ever surfaced to date.

Emil Kolesár's groundbreaking work has provided the philatelic community with a description and detailed scans of all the stamps from these plates that he was able to locate. He was able to link stamps to specific positions based on the negative errors, which are also present in plates I and II. In many cases, he found two stamps with different characteristics in the same position, one from each of the plates. However, due to the absence of pairs, strips and blocks of these stamps, it was impossible for him to determine which of the described stamps belonged to each of the two plates. This important work was published in 2021.

Mr Kolesár also rightly pointed out that the lines in the margins of these postage stamps were the first use of stress bars to protect the printing plates from rapid wear and tear. Such wear had been a problem with plates I and II of the 30 haler and probably led to the production of the two new plates. Later, such stress bars were widely used in the production of typographic postage stamps in Czechoslovakia. Sadly, Mr Kolesár passed away in January 2025.

New discoveries



The stock of postage due stamps from the Last collection contained a considerable number of pairs, strips and blocks from plates III and IV, such as the strip shown here on the right, on which the 72 mm line can be seen alongside positions 20–40 on the right-hand side of one of the plates. Compare this strip (composed of two pieces) with position 10–30 of the other plate with a 45 mm line (left).

Using these two strips as a starting point, I was able to link a large part of the stamps I now own to one of these two plates. I have allocated the plate numbers at random: III for the plate with the 45 mm line starting next to position 10, and IV for the plate with the 72 mm line starting next to position 20.

To attribute a stamp to a specific plate, I was able first of all to use pairs, strips and blocks linking stamps that must have come from the same plate. In addition, my collection contained quite a few cases of stamps from different parts of the plate, but with a cancellation from the same post office on (approximately) the same date. In those cases, I assumed that the stamps also came from the same plate.

I have since received cooperation from Josef Chudoba, who has taken over Kolesár's collection, and from Helmut Lahr, who also has a large collection of these stamps. They made their collections available for further study, which enabled me to make even more connections.

In the diagrams below (overleaf), I have indicated which positions are currently filled for each plate (and for which there are scans and descriptions), and which positions have stamps that can be linked to them, but not in relation to a specific plate. In the third diagram, the red fields indicate positions for which two different stamps are available (one from each plate). In addition, I am still studying 110 stamps that I suspect come from plates III and IV, but which I cannot (yet) place.



Positions found for the 30 haler

Plate III	Plate IV	Unknown – III or IV

In the following table all available data on these lines are brought together (positions along which the lines run, the length of the lines, and their distance from the edges of the stamps). To be consulted in combination with the scans to see the exact positions. In three cases, two versions of the lines are known for the same plate and position. This is work in progress!

Plate	Top left (position, length, distance)	Top right (position, length, distance)	Bottom left (position, length, distance)	Bottom right (position, length, distance)
III a	11–21, 34?, 6 mm	10–30, 45, 5 mm	71–91, 64.5, 5.5 mm	90–100, 45, 5 mm
III b	1–21, 46+?, 6 mm		71–91, ??, 6.5 mm	
IV a	1–21, 45, 6.5 mm	20–40, 72, 4 mm	??–91, ??, 6.5 mm	??–100, ??, 4 mm
IV b			??–91, ??, 6.5 mm	



First date: 19.IV.21.



Plate III, positions 11–22
(compilation).



Plate IV, positions 1–11.



Plate III, positions
90–100.

More pairs, blocks and strips are needed to complete the picture for both plates. The earliest known date of use for stamps from these plates is now April 1921. Any scans (1200 dpi) of pairs or multiples from that date onwards are welcome for this research – and all my scans and descriptions are available to interested collectors!

[This article previously appeared in POŠTA ČESKO-SLOVENSKÁ, Autumn 2025, the journal of the Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-filatelie in the Netherlands, and appears here by kind permission of the author.]

Marshal Foch in Čáslav

Johan Sevenhuijsen



Among the large number of 30 haler postage due stamps that I examined for the above article, there was one with a commemorative postmark that I had not seen before. The postmark, which was applied in Čáslav on 16 August 1925, reads *Fochovy oslavy 1925*.

What does that mean? The translation programme gives 'Celebration of Foch 1925', which is still not very clear. Google provides the answer: on 16 August 1925 a monument to the French general Marshal Ferdinand Foch was unveiled in the Czech town of Čáslav (in the district of Kutná Hora). Postcards of this can be found on the internet. The French-language Canadian newspaper *Le Droit* of 3 September 1925 printed Marshal Foch's reaction:

THE MONUMENT TO MARSHAL FOCH IN ČÁSLAV

Prague newspapers report that Marshal F. Foch has sent a letter to the 21st Infantry Regiment about the unveiling of the monument recently dedicated to him in Čáslav. In this letter, he states, among other things:

'I hope that this act, which revives the memory of our joint struggle for justice, will contribute to a closer and more visible friendship between our two armies and that this monument, erected in the historic town of Čáslav, which is rightly proud of the Czech hero Žižka, will help to stimulate national sentiment, guarantee the survival of a country and consolidate it to the extent that the Czechoslovak spirit is committed to the defence of the Czechoslovak land and the entire nation is preparing for this defence. Officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 21st Infantry Regiment, I greet you gratefully and bow before your flag.'



Marshal Foch was considered one of the most important military leaders of the Allies during WWI: why he was honoured in Čáslav remains unclear, but Foch refers to the connection between Čáslav and Jan Žižka (whose remains were found in the town). Žižka was a famous 15th-century Hussite general and is considered a national hero by the Czechs. There is a huge equestrian statue of him in Prague.

A Professor's Letter

Lubor Kunc

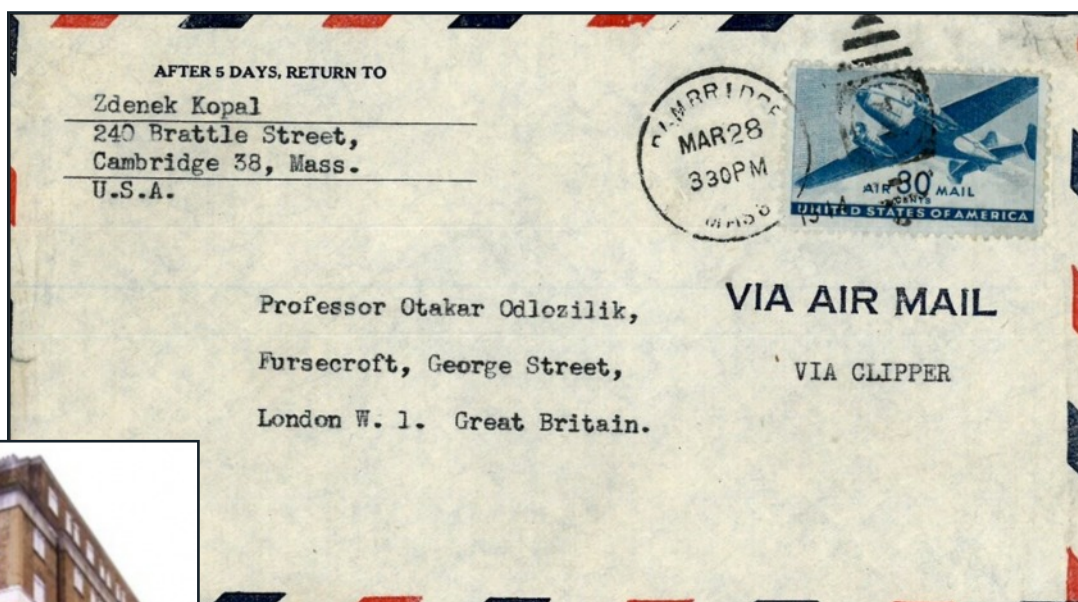
I have found a nice airmail letter sent from the USA to Great Britain in 1944. What makes the envelope interesting is not the stamp or postmarks, but the sender and the recipient of the message.

The sender was **Professor Zdeněk Kopal** (1914–1993), the world-famous mathematician and astronomer. He came from a highly educated family: his father, Josef Kopal (1883–1966), was a Charles University professor. Zdeněk enrolled at the same university in Prague in 1933. After graduating in 1937, by which time he had already been a member of the International Astronomical Union in Paris since 1935, Zdeněk Kopal received proposals to move to either Cambridge University or Harvard University. He decided to accept the latter proposal and left for the USA in 1938. On the outbreak of WWII, he remained in the USA moving to Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1942. His research at MIT was not just for science, but was also applicable to the army and navy. He intended to return to Czechoslovakia in 1945, but before work finished on his ongoing projects, the Communists took over the Czechoslovak government (in 1948) and Kopal decided to stay abroad. He moved to England in 1951, chairing the Astronomical Department at Manchester University. From 1958 Kopal cooperated with NASA including participation in the Apollo Project. He retired in 1981.

The letter's recipient was **Professor Otakar Odložilík** (1899–1973). Odložilík was a Czech historian mainly researching religious topics. He became a professor at Charles University in 1934. Odložilík escaped from the newly declared Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia in 1939 and moved to the USA. He worked for universities in Washington DC, New York, and Colorado.



POFIS 803 issued on 26 March 2014 to mark Kopal's birth centenary.



Odložilík lived in Prague from 1945 to 1948, but emigrated to the USA after the Communist takeover, and was re-employed by the University of Colorado. Later Odložilík moved to Columbia University in New York, and the University of Pennsylvania. He retired in 1969.

The address of the letter shows that during the war Odložilík was working for the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile in London, as well as for the American universities listed above. The main offices of the Government-in-Exile were in the building known as Fursecroft located on George Street, Marylebone, London W1.

Fursecroft (left) is now home to multi-million pound luxury apartments.

Reconstruction of the Trial Print Sheet for the 1920 2000 haler Masaryk Stamp

Miroslav Češelka

Several years ago, I became interested in a trial print of the 1920 Czechoslovak Masaryk commemorative stamps. This is a relatively unknown proof with a high face value of 2000 haler. Although this denomination was published in issue 38 of *Věstník Ministerstva pošt a telegrafů* (the Bulletin of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs), it was never officially issued due to a change in postal rates. Fortunately for collectors, strips and blocks have survived, as proof of the trial print's existence (Fig. 1). It is one of the rarest and thus most valuable items in this series of commemorative stamps. Catalogues [1, 2] classify it as a brown copper-plate print with a wide setting of the 2000 haler denomination. Whether it was actually a copper-plate engraving (intaglio printing) or relief printing from a copper plate has not been proved conclusively. The portrait of President T. G. Masaryk is not very distinct, and brown ink spots appear in many places. The thin, uncoated paper has turned brown, which may be due to the need to moisten the paper when using the copper-plate printing technology of the time. The colour on the sheet ranges from a darker brown to a lighter shade of yellow-brown. The cause of the colour change is unknown to me.

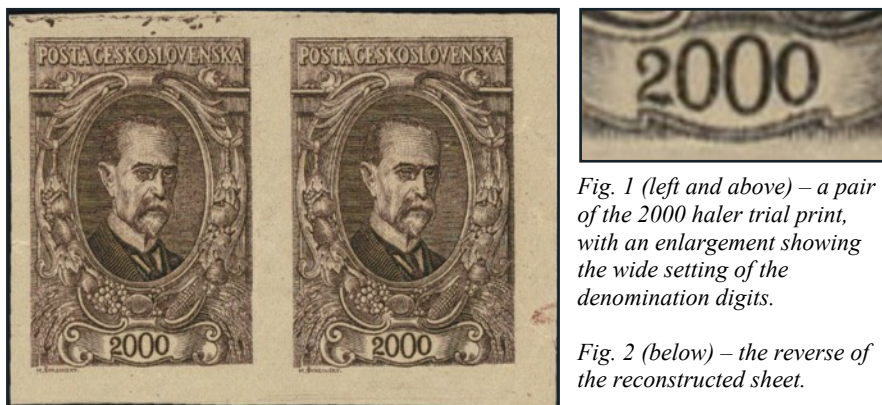


Fig. 1 (left and above) – a pair of the 2000 haler trial print, with an enlargement showing the wide setting of the denomination digits.

Fig. 2 (below) – the reverse of the reconstructed sheet.

I considered it unrealistic to acquire all the trial prints. Instead, I gradually collected digital scans of them as they appeared in philatelic auctions and in displays. Since many of the photos were taken in the past and under varying lighting conditions, their colours in the following images may not be accurate. I noticed a peculiarity: some items have a blue impression on the reverse side. This slanting impression led me to plan a complete reconstruction of the original sheet. Since these are extremely rare and unique pieces, it took me about twelve years to gather enough photographs and scans of them. From the acquired blocks and strips, I assembled a partial reverse side of the sheet, thus gradually creating a partial reconstruction of the original sheet. On its reverse side, as well as the blue sheet impression, there is a diagonal blue line running across half of it and a blue imprint of the 'nail' from the printing plate. Another aid in this puzzle was the method of cutting the individual stamp blocks. In this way, I have so far managed to create a two-thirds reconstruction of the original sheet (Fig. 2), which contains 65 individual trial prints located on the strips and blocks.



There is also a story behind the sheet that explains why it was divided in the past. The following quote was given to me by Zdeněk Filípek about a meeting with Ján Karásek, who had the original sheet in his possession: Years ago, stamp expert Mr Karásek told me at a *Merkur Revue* editorial board meeting that in the 1970s, an incomplete sheet was found, some of whose stamps were severely damaged and could not be saved. At that time, the remainder of the sheet was divided into larger blocks. However, some of these blocks were gradually cut into smaller pieces, as we know them today.

An article published in 1985 in an American journal [4] titled 'Recent Discovery of Trial Printing of the T. G. Masaryk Issue of 1920' documented the knowledge available at the time regarding the 2000 haler denomination. In it, Henry Hahn translated into English the information he had obtained from Ján Karásek. He writes that it is highly likely that the first trials of this denomination were carried out using a steel engraving plate with larger and wider '2' and '0' numerals. At the same time, the engraving was transferred to a copper plate containing 100 impressions. It was probably only determined then that the wide numerals were unsuitable, as they occupied too much space within the denomination oval. The numerals were modified to meet aesthetic requirements. Several additional colour tests were conducted at this stage. Only subsequently, using the remade printing plate, were a larger number of test



Fig. 3 – the image from the article in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.

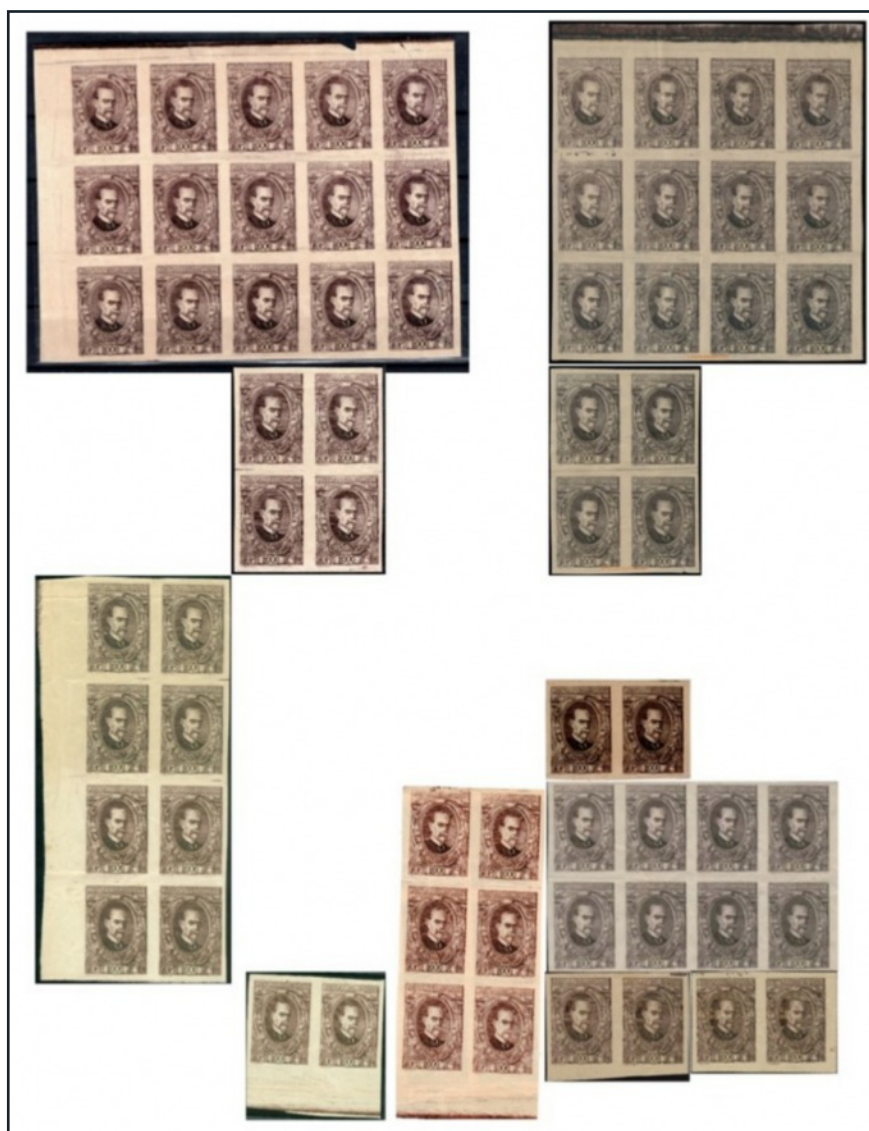


Fig. 4 – the front of the reconstructed sheet.

prints made. The article also includes an image of a section of a sheet of 2000 haler stamps (Fig. 3) with a wide right margin. In the conclusion of this article it states that the discovered test print is known only in dark brown and belongs to an interesting variety of test prints documenting stamp production technology from the 1920s.

To date, I have managed to compile an electronic reconstruction of the sheet to the extent shown in Fig. 4. According to Ján Karásek, some pieces were so severely damaged that they could not be salvaged. Therefore, it is highly likely that a complete reconstruction of the sheet will never be possible.

Work on the reconstruction of the sheet confirmed and revealed the following facts:

1. A test print in brown ink with large numerals reading '2000' was made on only one test sheet.
2. The original printed sheet consisted of 100 pieces, arranged in ten rows of ten pieces each.
3. Based on this reconstruction, it is possible to assign a stamp position to each individual item, which pinpoints its location on the printing sheet.

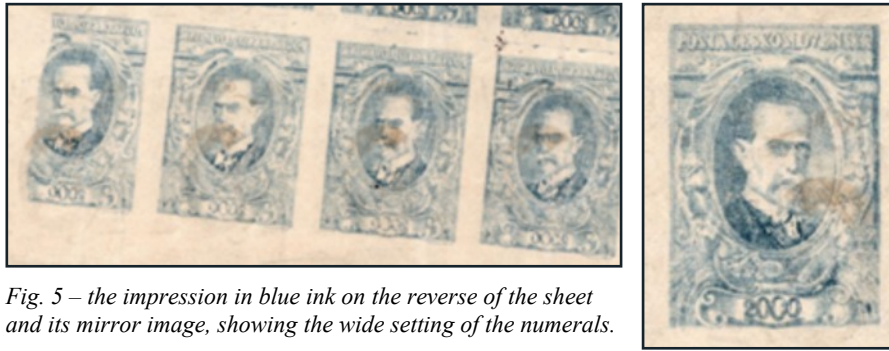


Fig. 5 – the impression in blue ink on the reverse of the sheet and its mirror image, showing the wide setting of the numerals.

Another interesting detail—which also helped me determine the position of individual parts of the sheet—is the blue impression on the reverse side of some of the stamps.

A closer look at the sheet impression (Fig. 5) reveals the mirror-image, wide numerals 2000. This impression indicates that test prints of the 2000 haler denomination were also produced in blue. How and why a positive mirror image in blue ended up on the reverse side of the sheet remains a mystery. Is it possible that this blue print has not survived to the present day, or will it one day turn up, just like the brown one from Mr Karásek?

The brown test print described in the article is undoubtedly one of the icons of Czechoslovak philately. It has been preserved for philatelists as evidence of a very meticulously prepared, yet unissued, Czechoslovak postage stamp. Perhaps one day an exceptional collector will be found who can assemble the individual parts into the original sheet, not just digitally but also physically .

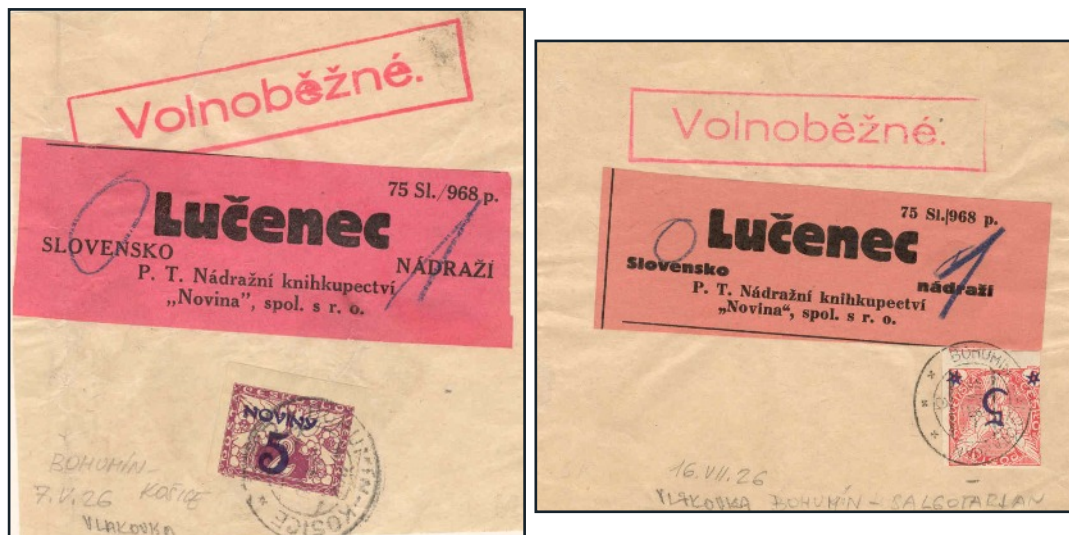
In conclusion, I would like to thank Zdeněk Filípek and Marek Vrba for the philatelic material that helped me compile the reconstructed sheet. If you have the test print described in this article in your collection, I would ask you to send me a scan of both sides, which would help me complete the reconstruction of this interesting sheet. [This can be done via the Editor: editor@cpsgb.org.]

Literature:

- [1] Klim, Štolfa, Filípek *et al*, *Československo 1918–1939*, Merkur Revue 2016.
- [2] Klim, Schodelbauer *et al*, *Československo 1918–1939*, Merkur Revue 2002.
- [3] Karásek, Michele, Svoboda, *Monografie československých známek - Díl II*, Praha 1971.
- [4] Karásek J, Translated by Hahn H., *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Society for Czechoslovak Philately 2/1985.

Free-circulation Newspapers Jan Kypast and Miroslav Štefek

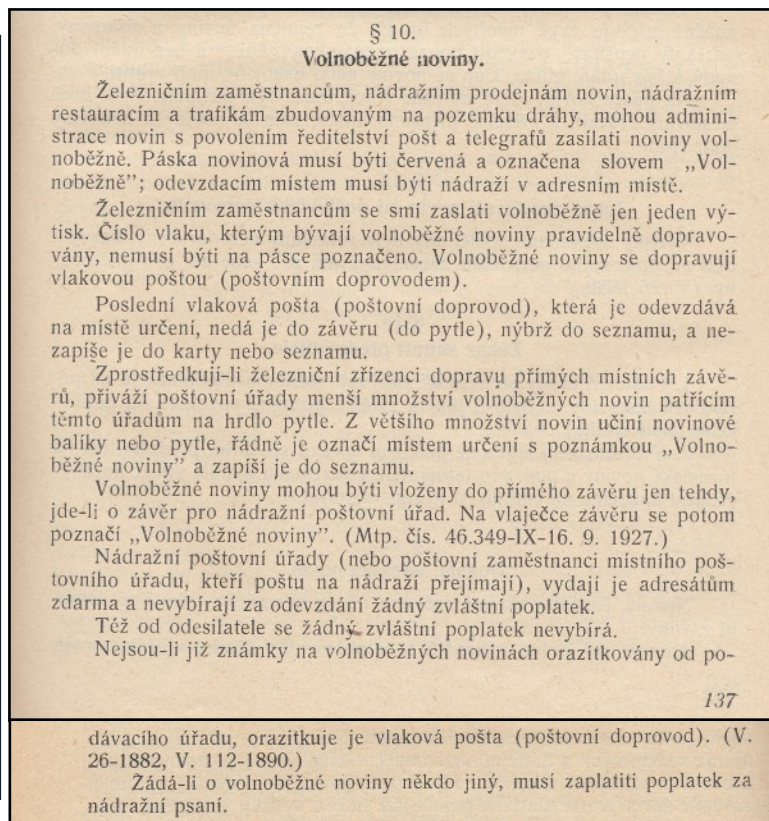
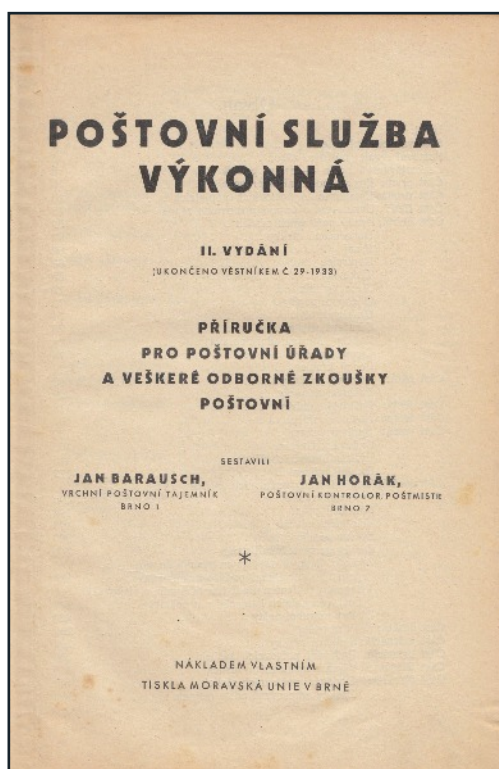
James Buckner, President of the American Society for Czechoslovak Philately, whose exhibit ‘Czechoslovakia’s Newspaper Stamps 1918–1939’ won a gold medal at this year’s international philatelic exhibition in Liberec, contacted us to ask if we knew what the rectangular red handstamp *Volnoběžné* meant, that was used on newspaper strips from the First Republic.



Newspaper strip for one newspaper carried by railway post on the Bohumín–Košice route on 7 May 1926 to Lučenec. Franked with a 5 haler Czechoslovak surcharged express newspaper stamp (1926 issue), cancelled with a railway post handstamp.

Newspaper strip for one newspaper carried by railway post on the Bohumín–Salgótarján route on 16 July 1926 to Lučenec. Franked with a 5 haler Czechoslovak newspaper (1925 issue), cancelled with a railway post handstamp.

We managed to find the answer in *Postal Service Executive – 2nd edition 1933 – a handbook for postal offices and all postal professional exams* by Jan Barausch and Jan Horák (below left), pages 137 and 138, paragraph 10 (below right – see the translation below) published by the Moravian Union in Brno. Because we think that this issue is not generally known and may be of interest to more collectors, we can summarize as follows: the red ‘Volnoběžné’ handstamp was used to mark newspaper strips of shipments transported by train mail and intended for railway employees, station newspaper shops, station restaurants and newsagents established on railway property.



Details can be gleaned from the relevant paragraph of the manual, which translates as follows:

Free-circulation newspapers

With the permission of the Post and Telegraph Directorate, newspaper administrations may send newspapers free of charge to railway employees, station newspaper rental companies, station restaurants and shops built on the railway line. The newspaper strip must be red and marked with the word *Volnoběžné* ('Free of charge'); the delivery point must be the addressee's local station.

Only one copy may be sent to railway employees by express mail. The number of the train on which the express mail is regularly delivered does not have to be marked on the tape. Express mail is delivered by train mail (by postal escort).

The last train mail (mail escort) does not place the items in a bag upon delivery to their destination, but rather lists them and records them on a card or in a list.

If railway officials arrange for the transport of local mail, they shall attach a small quantity of unsold newspapers belonging to these offices to the top of the bags. For larger quantities of newspapers, they will be made into newspaper bundles or bags, properly marked with the destination and the note 'free-circulation newspapers', and recorded in a list.

Free-circulation newspapers may be placed in a direct mailbag only if the mailbag is intended for a post office located at a railway station. The words 'Free-circulation newspapers' must then be noted on the mailbag label. (Mtp. No. 46.349-IX-16. 9. 1927.)

Railway station post offices (or postal employees at the local post office who accept mail at the station) will deliver them to the addressees free of charge and will not charge any special fee for delivery.

No special fee is charged to the sender either.

If the stamps on free-circulation newspapers have not already been cancelled by the office of origin, they are cancelled by the train mail service (postal escort). (V. 26-1882, V. 112-1890.)

If someone else requests a free newspaper, they must pay the fee for station mail.

Articles Elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Czechoslovak Specialist (Society for Czechoslovak Philately, USA). *Note that flipbook viewing of issues up to Autumn 2024 are available at: www.index.csphilately.org/index.html.*

2026-1, Vol. 878, No. 1, Whole Number 683

Sevenhuijsen, J., Hradčany plates – the complete picture.

Podalská, M., Vančo, M., *et al*, Postal history in Slovakia Part 3: postal services of the Cyrillo-Methodian mission and correspondence with the Papal Curia, and Part 4: medieval delivery and information systems, 13th–15th centuries.

Tschechoslowakei-Philatelie (ArGe Tschechoslowakei, Germany – *in German*)

No. 227, March 2026

Kunc, L., Urgent letter from the Protectorate to Slovakia at the beginning of World War II.

Kobelbauer, H., Book review: Benito González Bugallo: *Post and Scout Services in Prague 1914–1918 – in the Revolutionary Period*. (Some interesting images contained in this article.)

Bauer, K., The ‘Sudetenland Corner’ Part 26: Emergency and Liberation handstamps: Palhanetz – Podersam. (1938.)

Röhn, D., *et al*, Czechoslovak Airmail 1920–1938 – philately in dialogue (Part 9). (More airmail covers into and from Czechoslovakia 1928–1938.)

Pošta Česko-Slovenská, (Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-filatelie, Netherlands – *in Dutch*)

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Sevenhuijsen, J., Hradčany plates – the complete picture.

van Dooremalen, H., Post offices in the Bohemian Lands – 8. (Aussig – *Postscheckamt*.)

Sevenhuijsen, J., 30 h *Doplatit* 1919 plates 3–4 – new discoveries. (See page 15 above.)

Sevenhuijsen, J., Marshal Foch in Čáslav. (Postmark for the unveiling of a statue to the Frenchman on 16 August 1925. See page 17 above.)

Sevenhuijsen, J., Express stamps – some new discoveries. (See *Czechout*, March 2026.)

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Wilson, M., An analysis of the design of ‘Agriculture and Science’ in 1923.

Sevenhuijsen, J., New discoveries regarding overprinted postage due stamps.

van Dooremalen, Post offices in the Bohemian lands – 9. (Gross Raigern – Rajhrad.)

Voloncs, G., Use of Czechoslovak stamps in Hungary. (1938 *Visszatért* period.)

Anon., Three battles. (Concerning the 20th anniversary of the Czech Legions issue of 1938.)

Austria (Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 234, Spring 2026

Taylor, A., Newspaper tax – Last day cancels.

Brooks, A., Austro-Hungarian semi-illustrated *Feldpostkarte* in WWI.

Breitwieser, F., The Red Cross *Auskunftsbulletins* 1914–1918 and their communication with the public. (The enquiry service for the fallen and POWs.)

Stamps of Hungary (Journal of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 244, March 2026

van Weenen, P. de L., The illustrated postcards of 1931 – a typology.

Weise, M., The story of the ‘lucky number’ stamps, Part 6: Dörge Frigyes Bank.

Morrell, R., Sending money through the Austro-Hungarian Post, Part 2.

Editor, Before the internet and ‘AI’.... (Reviews 1952 speculations about the purpose of the 1921–1924 three-hole punching of stamps.)

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

Vol. 56, No. 4, Oct–Dec 2025

Dan, J., The latest discoveries about the start of airmail traffic in 1946. (Includes the Palestine–Athens–Prague route.)

Collectors Club Philatelist (Collectors Club, New York)

March–April 2026

Kunc, L., Czechoslovakia, 1938–1939: A period of political and postal turbulence.

Rundbrief (ARGE *Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn*, Austria – in German)**No. 157, 2026/1**

- Kalis, K., 'Peniche Agile' of the k.u.k. navy, 1833. (Story of a fast schooner in an early Adriatic shipwreck retrieval.)
- Laux, F., A letter from Austrian troops in the federal fortress of Ulm. (Probably during 1859 with its reinforcement for the Franco-Prussian war.)
- Kalis, K., Items from the Austrian volunteer corps in Mexico. (The three-year period of Emperor Maximilian's perilous reign in Mexico with associated letters and later viewcards of memorials.)
- Laux F., On the fieldpost of the Austro-Hungarian troops in Bulgaria. (WWI mail from the Austro-Hungarian plenipotentiary, and from support troops, for example, stationed along the Danube ports. Also, from units in the Bulgarian-occupied parts of Serbia.)
- Sifferlinger, N.A., *Linienschiffsleutnant* Alfons, Graf Montecuccoli degli Erri. (The interesting naval history of this gentleman in WWI, starting with escape from Tsingtau to commanding a torpedo boat and a submarine.)
- Kalis, K., Women in the k.u.k. army in WWI. (Photos and fieldpost mail from enlisted women, particularly in medical roles.)
- Kalis, K., The blue fieldpost cards of the k.u.k. navy 'I am healthy and am doing well'. (Nine-language standard 'I am well' text on the back of cards.)
- Kalis, K., A k.u.k. item from Gallipoli, 1916. (From a battery unit on the peninsular after the Allied withdrawal.)
- Bruckner, W.A., Burgenland service – fieldpost in the First Republic? (A historical assessment of the role of Austrian gendarmerie and troops with illustration of mail from them and from the Hungarian irregulars.)

Filatelie (POFIS, Czechoslovakia – in Czech). Note that viewing of issues up to March 2015 is available at: www.filaso.cz/knihovna-digitalizace.php.

No. 1, January 2026

- Jeník, M., Stamp designs of the Slovak region 1939. (Unissued revenue stamps prepared for the autonomous Slovak region from 23 November 1938 to 14 March 1939.)
- POFIS 2026, Czech Republic 2025 catalogue. (Pull-out 16-page supplement.)

No. 2, February 2026

- Anon., 107 years since the founding of the Postal Museum – and a big change. (Now that the museum has been transferred to the National Technical Museum, a look back at its history with extracts from the *Monografie* Volume 25.)
- Beneš, F., Some plans will be fulfilled, even after 100 years. (Potential developments following from the transfer of the Postal Museum.)
- Bachratý, M., Unknown type of franking machine – an unexpected discovery after 78 years. (A parcel card from 1948 that provides evidence of experimentation with a completely new type of franking machine, in which the elements are arranged vertically rather than horizontally.)
- Anon., Newly documented design of the first Czechoslovak revenue stamps.
- POFIS 2026, Czech Republic personalized stamps. (Pull-out 12-page supplement.)

No. 3, March 2026

- van Loo, F., Analysis of bilingual postmarks in the German-Czech territories of Austria-Hungary in the period 1867–1919 (Part 1). See *Czechout*, March 2023.
- Gebauer, P., Sudeten train mail 1938–45: problems with numbers. (Changes brought about by the takeover of the postal system by Germany in the occupied Sudeten territories.)
- Zika, M., Who was Professor Oskar Fischer? (Biography of a pioneer in the study of Alzheimer's, who was born 150 years ago and died in Terezín in 1942.)
- Beneš, F., POFIS 2026 Catalogue – Slovakia 1939–1945. (Pull-out 16-page supplement.)

No. 4, April 2026

- Anon., Bratislava printing and Linden branch stamps (extracts from the updated POFIS 1945 catalogue currently being prepared).
- Nebeský, V., Legal Counsel for Philatelic Matters – JUDr. Karel Rix. (The story of a philatelist who became a leading expert in the field of postal stationery, and who died seventy years ago.)
- van Loo, F., Analysis of bilingual postmarks in the German-Czech territories of Austria-Hungary in the period 1867–1919 (Part 2). See *Czechout*, June 2023.
- Beneš, F., POFIS 2026 Catalogue – Czechoslovakia postal money order sheets. (Pull-out 20-page supplement.)



New Issues – Slovak Republic Tony Holdsworth

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

3 March 2026

Easter 2026: Traditional Sheep Farming and Mountain Sheep Farming – NVI ‘S’ (POFIS 857)



Sheep have long been a vital part of the agricultural production of Slovakia. Sheep farming became the main livelihood in many regions, and influenced both the lifestyle and traditional culture of the inhabitants.

Mountain sheep farming was a special system of sheep farming typical of the Carpathian Region. It spread from the Balkan Peninsula and was adapted to the available local pastures and economic conditions. The sheep grazed on higher, previously unused pasture. Breeding mainly focused on the processing of sheep's milk and the production of *bryndza* (a special sheep's milk cheese), *oštiepok* (a traditional smoked cheese), *parenica* (a steamed, smoked cheese) and *žinčica* (a drink made of sheep's milk whey). The sheep would remain on the pasture from late April to autumn which required the construction of mountain farms and buildings for shepherds.

Mountain sheep farming had a permanent effect on the traditional folk culture which is reflected in the songs, customs, and woodcarvings depicting shepherding. The stamp design depicts the work of a folk woodcarver, Eduard Gregor (1896–1954). Having lost an arm in WWI, he devoted himself to woodcarving,

with the work of shepherding as his inspiration. His works are preserved in the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak National Museum in Martin, and in the Central Slovak Museum in Banská Bystrica.

10 April 2026

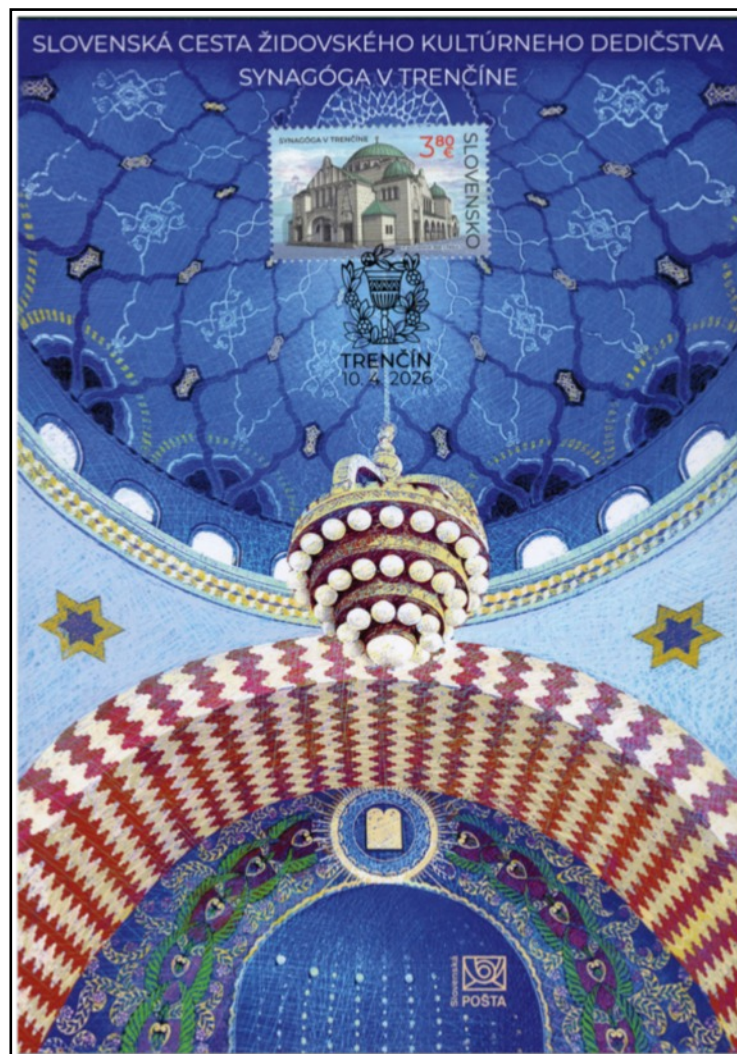
The Slovak Journey of Jewish Cultural Heritage: The Synagogue in Trenčín (POFIS 858)

The Synagogue in Trenčín is one of the most architecturally significant synagogues in Slovakia. It is at the centre of the city's cultural life. After a successful renovation of the interior, it was re-consecrated on 9 November 2025, thus returning to its original purpose as a house of Jewish worship. At the same time, it also serves as a 'Space for Dialogue and Understanding' and is open to visitors.

The origins of the Trenčín community date back to the 17th century. It is believed that the first synagogue was a wooden building which was destroyed by fire in 1790. It was replaced by a new structure constructed from masonry, but by the early 20th century it was no longer able to meet the needs of the growing community.

In 1912, the Berlin based architect, Richard Scheibner, a native of Piešťany, designed a new synagogue in cooperation with Hugo Pál. The synagogue, finished in 1913, is a masterful combination of Art Nouveau and Oriental inspirations. Architecturally, it is dominated by a reinforced concrete dome, and the modern approach to its construction made it possible to create a spacious interior. The original interior was richly decorated with murals, a chandelier, and stained-glass windows.





The commemorative sheet – product code 156 NL 858/26.

The history of the building reflects the tragedies of the past century. After the Holocaust and the restoration of the damaged building, it was re-consecrated in 1948 with memorial plaques to the victims. During the Communist regime, it was expropriated by the state and served as a fabric warehouse. In the 1970s and 1980s, the building underwent restoration as a monument: the interior was whitewashed, religious symbols were removed from the façade, and it was used as an exhibition hall. After 1989 the process of restitution, the restoration of buildings, and the revival of the Jewish community began. The building is a part of the Slovak Jewish Heritage Route.

5 May 2026

EUROPA 2026: The 70th Anniversary of the First Issue of EUROPA Stamps (POFIS 859)

This year marks the 70th anniversary of EUROPA Stamps, a philatelic initiative launched to foster stronger relationships between European countries, and to promote lasting peace and unity. First issued in 1956 by six nations – Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, the founding members of the



European Union – this has grown to include 53 participating postal authorities. Over the decades, the EUROPA stamps have marked common milestones, and designs have celebrated Europe's rich cultural heritage.

Last year, PostEurop Stamps and the Philately Working Group organized an internal competition to select a design for this anniversary year. The winning design was an entry created by Klaus Welp for Posti Ltd, Finland. The seven diagonally ascending dots represent both the perforation of a stamp and the progressive work of PostEurop.



New Issues – Czech Republic Tony Holdsworth

Images and text adapted from

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

4 February 2026

Jiří Raška (POFIS 1341, 1342 & A1341 – miniature sheet)

Jiří Raška (1940–2012) was a legendary Czech ski jumper. At Grenoble in 1968 he ended Czechoslovakia's long wait for a Winter Olympic gold medal with a famous victory in the normal hill event – he added a silver medal in the large hill competition at the same Olympics. Raška began ski jumping in his hometown of Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, in the Nový Jičín District of the Moravian-Silesian Region. He earned a place in the national team in 1958 and remained part of it for sixteen years. As well as his two Olympic medals, he won silver in the 1970 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Vysoké Tatry, and bronze with a personal best of 164 metres in the first FIS Ski Flying World Championships in 1972 at Planica, Yugoslavia. The miniature sheet depicts a stylized winter landscape with ski jumps reflecting Jiří Raška's sporting career.



The First Postal Route in the Czech Lands (POFIS A1343)

In 1526 King Louis Jagiellon – who was King of Bohemia, Hungary and Croatia – died fighting the Ottomans at the battle of Mohács. The Ottoman victory led to their annexation of much of Hungary, and the Habsburg monarchy, in the person of Ferdinand I, the brother-in-law of King Louis, moved swiftly to consolidate control of Bohemia. A condition for this was recognition by the Estates of the Crown of Bohemia. Ferdinand therefore had the Prague–Vienna postal route established in order to strengthen his influence at Prague Castle among the nobility and the officials of the Crown of Bohemia. The Taxis family, part of the House of Thurn and Taxis, was entrusted with establishing the Prague–Vienna postal route.

The stamp shows a postal courier in period dress on horseback, set against the background of the

Slavonice post office as it survives today – Slavonice is the midpoint of the postal route, on the border between Czechia and Austria. The composition is complemented by the coat of arms of the Taxis family.



The miniature sheet shows Ferdinand holding a letter, with the Habsburg coat of arms behind him. In the opposite corner, the Bohemian lion is set within the portal of the Vladislav Hall. The postal route is set out at the base of the sheet, showing the main towns it passed through, together with the date 1526.

18 March 2026

World Figure Skating Championships Prague 2026 – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1344, 1345 & CZS1344 – se-tenant pair)

The 2026 World Figure Skating Championships were held in Prague from 24 to 29 March, at the Prague O2 Arena in the Libeň district of the city. The venue is home to Sparta Prague Hockey Club and, as a multi-purpose arena, has hosted tennis, athletics, and large-scale music concerts (such as Madonna in 2006, Elton John in 2019, and Iron Maiden in 2023).

The stamps feature images of the men’s and women’s competitions – negative silhouettes of stylized figure skaters are set against dominant features of the Prague skyline: Prague Castle behind the male skater and the Church of Our Lady before Týn behind the female skater. They are printed in sheets of twenty-five se-tenant pairs.



Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Josef Sudek (POFIS 1346 & TL1346 – miniature sheet)



Josef Sudek (1896–1976) was one of the most important figures in Czech and world art photography, best known for his haunting nightscapes and panoramas of Prague. Born in Kolín in central Bohemia, he trained as a bookbinder before WWI, pursuing photography as an amateur. During the war he was drafted into the Austro-Hungarian army and lost his right arm in 1916. Afterwards, he took up photography more seriously and was a founder member of the Czech Photographic Society in 1924. In 1984 he was posthumously inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum, and the house in Prague where he lived from 1959 until his death is now open to the public as the Josef Sudek Gallery.

The photograph used for the stamp is a work from Sudek’s mature period: a still life entitled *Composition*, created between 1950 and 1954, a simple but striking image of an egg within a spiralling film strip.

Architecture: Loreta Prague (POFIS A1347)

The Prague Loreta is a site of pilgrimage in the Hradčany district. Work began on the complex in 1626, so this is its 400th anniversary. Found in many countries of the world, the Loreta is named after the Italian *Santa Casa di Loreto*, which has been a popular pilgrimage destination since at least the 14th century. The ‘Holy House’ is claimed to be the dwelling of the Virgin Mary in Nazareth, miraculously transported to Italy by angels after the crusaders left Palestine in 1291. The Prague version was created following the victory of the Catholic Habsburg monarchy at the Battle of Bílá Hora in 1620.

The stamp features a painting of Our Lady of Loreto set against a depiction of the southern side of the ‘Holy House’.

The miniature sheet (overleaf) has the stamp against a background of the Prague Loreta, with the tower containing the famous Loreta carillon in the centre, and the two towers of the Church of the Nativity of Our Lord on either side. At the top of the design there are two images taken from the stucco decoration on the western side of the ‘Holy House’, which depict the Annunciation, and the complete design is brought together with a laurel wreath, another reference to the Italian town of Loreto (which is named after the laurel grove in which the angels are said to have deposited the *Casa Santa*).





*The Loreta
Prague
miniature sheet.*

1 April 2026

100th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak National Bank – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1348)



The stamp features the acronym NBC (*Národní banka Československé*) placed between the digits ‘100’ at the top and bottom of the stamp. A detail from the first 20 koruna banknote, issued by the NBC in 1926, appears through the lettering. The number ‘100’ itself is split across the perforations of each stamp, so only appears clearly in vertical se-tenant strips or in the sheet of fifty stamps itself. During WWII the bank was replaced by the National Bank for Bohemia & Moravia in Prague, and under the communists by the Czechoslovak State Bank. Its present-day equivalent is the Czech National Bank.

Czech Footprints in the World: Vojta Náprstek – NVI ‘Z’ (POFIS 1351)

Vojta Náprstek (1826–1894) was a philanthropist, Czech nationalist, and politician. His surname translates as ‘thimble’, and his first name is actually Vojtěch, but when he was born he was named Adalbert Fingerhut, the German versions of his names. His father died when he was six years old, but he was brought up by his mother, a nationalist who ran *U Halánků*, a brewery/distillery with an adjoining inn.

Deeply involved in the nationalist movement, Vojta fled to the US after the disastrous Prague uprising of 1848. He completed his law studies in Milwaukee, before returning home in 1857 to continue his political activities. He became an alderman and town councillor of Prague, and promoted progressive ideas on education and welfare, as well as supporting women’s rights. His ethnographic collections, assembled during his trip to the US, became the core of the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American cultures, housed in his mother’s premises on Betlémské náměstí, *U Halánků*.

The stamp design by Petr Sís, an American-Czech illustrator, is a cartoon of Náprstek flying over a silhouette of the Prague skyline. His flight and the severed ropes hanging from his wrists (perhaps recalling the 1920 Liberated Republic stamps?) express his persistent search for freedom. In 2012 Sís received the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for his ‘lasting contribution’ as an illustrator of children’s literature.

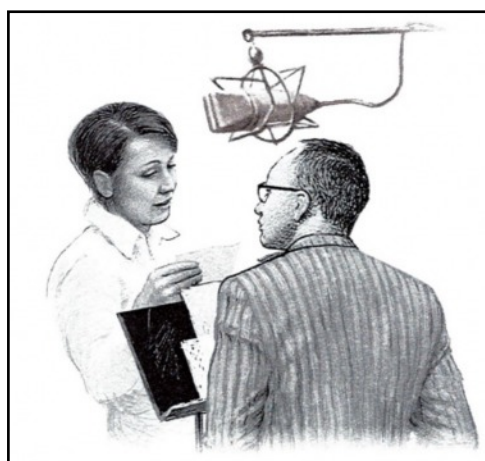


1 April 2026

Actors and Actresses: Jiří Adamíra and Hana Maciuchová (POFIS 1349, Adamíra; 1350, Maciuchová; & A1349, miniature sheet)



Jiří Adamíra (1926–1993) and Hana Maciuchová (1945–2021) were two Czech actors, with notable performances on film, TV and stage, who were not only stage partners but also life partners. In the miniature sheet background, the designer has depicted a silhouette of the National Theatre on the left, the home stage of Jiří Adamíra. The statue of the angel with a sword at the Vinohrady Theatre on the right of the sheet recalls the venue where Hana Maciuchová performed for many years. The centre of the sheet is filled with figures from a joint performance by the two actors in the play *The Spaniards in Prague*. A film strip running through the centre of the sheet, together with an imaginative interpretation of the two actors in one of their joint film appearances, complete the design. The



First Day Cover is illustrated with a cachet showing them working together at the microphone on a radio play (above).



Aquatic kingdom: brown trout – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1352)

This stamp features a form of the brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) typical of clean Czech streams and small rivers. The background shows a neutral sandy riverbed, characteristic of mid-altitude and foothill sections of streams where brown trout usually occur. In such habitats, they develop a lighter, yellowish colouration that provides effective camouflage against the pale substrate and the play of light on the water. The plant in the illustration, shown in a slightly stylized form, represents the river water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus fluitans*), a characteristic species of trout streams in the Czech Republic.

Membership Benefits

Meetings	Four London meetings in 2026, two joint meetings in Yorkshire, and five Zoom meetings.
Newsletters	Members receive regular newsletters with updates on Society business.
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.
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Front and back of one of the beautiful postal history items
shared with members at the March Zoom meeting
(Page 6)

