

A TREATISE ON THE SUBJECT OF
CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS

PART XIII

**Czech Postmarks from
the Beginnings to the year 1918**

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FOREWORD

The collecting of postmarks is already very old, From the unpretentious beginnings of a few enthusiastic individuals this collecting has grown over time to such an extent that nowadays it is a separate entity practised all over the World. Interest in postmarks raised its head in our country at the end of the last century. It was above all variety and beauty especially of commemorative or unusually shaped postmarks, that attracted the collector so much that he began to collect and arrange them.

Specialist articles dealing with postmarks were first written towards the end of the last century. However, the foundation stone and key to the systematics of this collecting has already been laid by the Prague born Hanus Kropf in the year 1899 with his work entitled 'Die Abstempelungen der Marken von Oesterreich Ungarn und Lombardei-Venetien'. The importance of this pioneer work on the cancellations used on the first postage stamps of 1850 was in no way lessened by the whole series of articles appearing later both in book form and in magazines.

After the First World War the Viennese collector Edwin Muller arrives on the scene with numerous articles collected together and published in his well known books. His unique work on postmarks can be summarized thus: Grosses Handbuch der Abstempelungen von Altosterreich und Lombardei-Venetien published 1925 covering postmarks used between 1850 and 1867 i.e. on the first five issues of stamps; Die Poststempel auf der Freimarkenausgabe 1867 von Osterreich und Ungarn, published 1930 - a sequel to the first book; Handbook of the Pre-stamp Postmarks of Austria published 1960 covering the pre-stamp period. In 1961 a second revised and completed edition of the 1925 book was published.

Muller's books are exceptional works even though they do not contain a coherent survey of postmarks or give a unified classification system. Muller did however, introduce a point system indicating the value of individual postmarks.

With the exception of the work on pre-stamp postmarks, all these publications concentrate on those postmarks used on certain stamps. They end with the year 1884, when the sixth issue of Austrian stamps became obsolete. The next period, no less interesting from the collectors' and historians point of view was wrongfully neglected. It is only recently with the appearance of Wilhelm Klein's book dealing with the postmarks of Austria-Hungary between 1867 and 1900 that this gap was partially filled. (Die postalischen Abstempelungen und andere Entwertungsarten auf der Osterreichischen Postwertzeichen-Ausgaben 1867, 1883 und 1890).

It is obvious that the publications to date have covered the postmarks of a given limited period. For this reason the aim of the present book is to fill the gap to 1918 and at the same time to provide collectors with the first complete survey of the historical development of postmarks from the very beginnings to the year 1918. Another reason for the publication is the number of new findings that have come to light since the last books. This indisputably wide theme has resulted in the enforced narrowing of the geographical field to be covered. For this very reason only postmarks of those post offices which historically fall in Czech territory (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and which became part of the postal network of the new state, the Czechoslovak Republic (28th October, 1918) are dealt with. The postmarks of

the post office in Slovakia have a somewhat different development and are, therefore, worthy of separate attention.

Specialization within the sphere of collecting has grown so much that not only stamps and postmarks are collectable items, but so are any postal documents. Interest is roused on postal stationary, historical, documentary or any other character. Postmarks appear on all of these as an inseparable part and are naturally gaining more meaning and importance. For this reason we deal here not only with postmarks on stamps or on postal stationary, but also those on anything postal.

In this collectors' handbook about 10,000 postmarks are classified. It is quite understandable that in this classification my personal knowledge was not sufficient and had to be supplemented by reference to the literature and information from several institutes and even more collectors. This seems a fitting time to thank all those who were of assistance on the compilation of this work. I express my thanks above all to the Director of the Postal Museum in Prague, M. Janotová and all other workers of the museum who so willingly placed their rich archival and study material at my disposal. For the same reasons my thanks go also to the historians of the Central State Archives and the Library Section of the Military History Institute in Prague.

No less thanks are due to those collectors who joined in with their experience and provided much additional material. I mention here J. Klusoň, Prague, then J.O.Franta, J.Jezek, A. Valšík and K.Votruba also from Prague. P.Zajíček of Tábor, J.Dusík of Polička, F.Skoblík of Karlovy Vary and others. I am also indebted to two foreign collectors, first to W.Klein of Vienna with whom I have had a friendly and philatelically interesting correspondence over the last few years. The other is Dr.Kühn of Perchtoldsdorf who gave me information on the pre stamp period.

For their exceptional support I also thank ing. L.Dvořáček, the Chairman of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists and V.Houšek, Chairman of the Publication Commission of the Czech Union of Philatelists. Without their great assistance this work would never have been realised. My thanks go finally of course to all those at the State Printing House, No.1 Factory, Prague who participated in the production of this book.

Although there are in this work - in two parts because of its great volume - gathered together all the new findings of the last years, it must still be realised that many of these will be in time either corrected or amplified. New discoveries are being made all the time either of completely new postmarks or at least of new uses. This will undoubtedly be the case shortly after the book has reached the reader. I, therefore, welcome any information that could be used in future supplements to this work. This will then be proof of the collectors' interest in this exceptionally interesting world wide sphere.

End of Foreword

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A Summary of the Development of the Post in the Czech Lands

The transmission of written news has a long history, As elsewhere, the letter post has relied in the earliest times in the Czech lands on being able to write. For this reason letter writing was generally concentrated on the Courts and then usually on State or at best very important matters. The Royal household could very easily engage its own scribes and messengers, and thus keep in contact not only with the different parts of their own country but also with the rulers of neighbouring states.

Postal messengers usually conveyed news over short distances on foot and over longer distances they used horses, which were changed at predestined stations. These horse-mounted messengers travelled alone or in groups as the need arose. However, not only rulers had their own messengers, so too did the aristocracy and the Church and its members. Then, of course, towns, rich townsmen and merchants, all had their private messengers whose services were used for private or official business.

In time, with the growth of education and writing and with the growth of trade the importance of the mail also grew. Not a small contribution to this was the geographical siting of Czech lands. These had been for a long time where political cultural and religious circles met. In the very centre of Europe the Czech lands were crossed with important trade routes connecting the surrounding countries with all four points of the compass. The postal service then became an essential part of the life of the country and its continuing growth necessitated some form of organisation. This, however, came when Austrian noblemen were sitting on the Czech throne. This political change had its influence on the postal service which was from that time almost continually controlled from Vienna. Thus for example in the year 1527 Ferdinand I introduced a state courier post between Prague and Vienna for conveying official decrees. This courier service had its routes marked out in advance, but it did not have permanent stations for changing the horses. Such stations were provided under Maximilian II and Rudolf II when private correspondence was accepted for conveyance. It is at this time that the Taxis family come to the fore with their tremendous efforts in the development of the postal system: they came into postal contact with the whole of Western and Southern Europe.

In the year 1637 the Count Paar was appointed by the Emperor as retainer for the Posts in Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and both Upper and Lower Austria. Until 1637 anyone was entitled to have his own messenger as long as he could keep him. In that year, however, an imperial decree was issued by which the public was forbidden to employ private messengers and all post was to be handled as a prerogative by the crown. This ruling severely interfered with existing customs and was never really enforced. For this reason Leopold I felt impelled to issue an imperial patent newly stressing the exclusive right of the crown to handle post. Yet another such patent was issued in 1722 by Charles VI. In the same year the Paar family were relieved of this retainer although they were still left the job of organising all postal matters. At that time Head Post Offices were established in Prague and Brno governing a small number of post offices in the Czech lands. Further rulings came in the year 1748 when main Postal Headquarters were set up in Prague, Brno and Opava and when by a patent of Marie Therese "Regulation for Postal Messengers" were issued. These regulations first mention collection points for letters - from these became in the majority of cases the basis of later Post Offices.

An important step in the development of the post was the introduction of wheeled carriages which were in service from 1749 along certain routes according to timetables. For their time these coaches were very fast. They carried both mail; and passengers. In spite of the high costs involved, this transport developed very quickly and provided for the building of new roads and post houses. In 1756 the "Court Commission for Postal Affairs" was introduced. Joseph II annulled this and handed over the power to provincial authorities.

Maximilian of Ottenfeld born in 1777 in the Czech Opočno contributed immensely to the development of the posts. We meet with his organisational changes and able reforms everywhere where decisive steps were taken to improve the postal service in the first half of the 19th century. It was, for example, on his initiative that the first post boxes and the first postal dispatch riders were introduced. Then in 1834 he extended the postal service by extending the journeys to the side roads off the main postal routes. His greatest triumph was the formulating of the first postal law which after some refinement came into force in 1838. In the same year this was supplemented by the regulations for letter and miscellaneous post. The regulation for the letter post dealt with the use of the postal service for the transmission of letters, documents, newspapers, magazines and other printed matters both by scheduled services and by dispatch riders. The regulations for the miscellaneous post was divided into two separated parts. The first governed the transportation of articles, the second passengers (this constituted basically a timetable).

Ottenfeld also earned recognition for having important rulings on the postal service made public, from 1838 the Bulletin of the Royal Imperial Postal Administration of the highest courts (Verorderungsblatt der k.k. Obersten Hofpostverwaltung). In the first half of the 19th century the highest state office to govern the post office was the Upper Royal Imperial General Court Chamber in Vienna. This was in 1848 abolished and all postal matters were handed over to the Ministry of Finance (established 1816). Later, however, in the same year the responsibility was passed on to the Ministry for Trade, Crafts and Public Construction. The changeover did not end there. In 1859 the Post Office again fell under the Ministry of Finance, three years later in 1862 it was given to the newly established Ministry of Trade and national Economy where it stayed until 1918.

In the mid 19th century the first railway was built in the Czech lands. The Post Office fully realised the advantages to be gained from this new form of transport and post was carried by even the first trains. At that time the existing Upper Postal Administration Offices in Prague, Brno and Opava were replaced by Postal Headquarters. Although the Opava H.Q. was closed down in 1852, when Brno took over responsibility for Silesian postal affairs, it was re-opened in 1911.

Just as the postal organisation went under a whole series of changes, the status of postmasters did not remain static. At the beginning of the 19th century there were three classes of postmasters: 1) Those who had inherited the right and were entitled to pass on the office to their family or offer it for sale. 2) Those with no inherent rights who could sell their office after ten years service. 3) The so called "Contract Postmasters" who were in fact postal employees.

Later on the State did all it could to limit the privileges of the postmasters and to employ only those by contract. In 1818 therefore, it was decided by the Court in Vienna that no more privileged titles be awarded. In spite of this, the hereditary post offices enjoyed a long life. A

prime example of this fact is the post office at Štoky where the hereditary title was maintained until 1916.

Post Offices were of two types - fiscal and non fiscal. The fiscal offices were entirely dependent on the central postal administration offices in Prague, Brno and to some extent Opava. These fiscal Post Offices were governed, paid and supplied with their entire stock, including cancels, free of charge. On the other hand, the non fiscal offices had to obtain all their requirements, but were allowed commission.

The year 1850 is remembered for the issue of postage stamps. In the same year the system of classifying all places of postal business was unified under four headings. POST OFFICES dealt with letter post, POSTAL STATIONS organised postal journeys and thus controlled the transport of passengers and articles including ordinary registered and valuable goods. Sometimes these Post Offices and Postal Stations were housed in one building. POSTAL TRANSMISSION POINTS had by this time taken over the function of the one time collection points, i.e., in those places off the main postal routes where no post office existed and convey any mail to the nearest post office and vice versa. In time with the growth of the railways, postal stations lost their livelihood with the passing of stage coaches. The last express journey in Bohemia linking Plana, Mariánské Lázně and Domazlice took place in 1891. By 1900 stage coaches had disappeared almost entirely.

The postal boom in the Czech lands came in the second half of the 19th century. At that time, the number of post offices and TPO's grew tremendously. A contributory factor to this unprecedented growth was the number of technical discoveries characteristic of this period. The State telegraph System which came into being during the building of the first railway between Vienna and Brno which could transmit messages at a speed almost unbelievable for its time was opened for the general public. Numerous telegraph offices were set up under the title ROYAL IMPERIAL TELEGRAPH STATIONS. Somewhat later, post offices began to take charge of the telegraph services - ROYAL IMPERIAL POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES. As well as the transmission of news, correspondence, goods and people, the post office transmitted money. In 1867, the money order service began and this was complemented in 1884 by the cheque service. Another technical advance was the introduction of the telephone and the appearance of telephone booths in central post offices. In the offset, this communication service was limited to the surrounding districts of larger towns and trunk calls came somewhat later. The first trunk call between Prague and Vienna can be dated about 1899. Ten years later a pneumatic postal service began in Prague to be mirrored by a similar smaller service in Karlovy Vary.

Alongside the post offices set up by decision of the central authorities, further sub offices were allowed from 1913 in factories, hotels and elsewhere where postal service was deemed necessary, but where a normal post office would be uneconomic. Equipment and building had to be supplied by the operator, but the stock was supplied free of charge by the state.

The last important step was the issuing of a new Postal Law on 22nd September, 1916. This Law, introduced during the First World War and applicable at that time to the Czech lands, provided a code of behaviour both inside the postal service and in all contact with the public. At the end of the First World War in 1918, the Austro-Hungarian Empire fell and all postal matters were from then handled by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Prague.

1.2. THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE POSTAL CANCELLATION

The study of the origin and development of the postal cancellation takes us some 200 years back in history to the mid 18th century. From that early date we have come across letters annotated on the face with the place of origin in pen (and in some cases the date). The transitional phase between such annotating and the use of cancellations (handstamps) is something about which we know very little, because of the lack of historical evidence. The most commonly accepted theory is that the sender was required to indicate the place of origin on the letter although no official documentation has yet been found to support this. One possible reason for this was that the fee was calculated both by weight and distance. It is possible that omissions here had to be alleviated by the postmaster who then had to indicate the place of origin himself - this could involve quite some considerable work at busier offices. For this reason, they began to use handstamps to make their work easier and quicker.

It is, however, questionable whether this speculation can be safely applied to those oldest handstamps in the Czech lands found at least in literature, ie., v. EGER (1756), V.ZERHOVITZ (1776), JAROMIERZ (1781). It is surprising that no handstamp has been found for Prague or Brno - from those places where the postal service must have had greater use. To some extent we must reserve some doubt on the authenticity of the above handstamps and the dates given. Possibly, an exception here could be EGER/CHEB. Cheb has for a long time, been an important border post and it was via this town that post arrived from Western Europe and so there the postal workers would have seen foreign handstamps and could have prepared their own for local use.

It is from 1781 that we have to hand some definite evidence of "authorised use of Handstamps". This appears in an official letter from the highest court postmaster Count Paar, sent to the main PO in Prague:-

(Translation)

By highest decree of 23. ult, it is hereby ruled that all main post offices of the Crown lands including that of Prague letters be treated on the address side by a handstamp - Von Prag - and further that all letters arriving at such offices be treated on the reverse with a date stamp indicating the day and the month.

In a further communication from 1782, also addressed to Prague Main PO, Paar reiterates his instruction and gives an example of the stamp to be used. The stamping was to begin from 1st September 1782. Although no copy of such a handstamp has been preserved, it is easy to work out its appearance from other handstamps of later date from other offices.

Chronological study of all known postmarks from the Czech lands after 1782 brings home an important fact. They were almost entirely non existent from the 1790's to the 1820's and cannot be relied on to indicate the natural growth of the Post Offices over that long period. The decline of these handstamps is a natural result of changes in the calculation of postal rates. In 1789 the practice of the hitherto twofold calculations on weight and distance was ended, and weight alone was then the only factor. It was argued that if the distance was no longer important, then handstamps served no useful purpose. It was only when the system was again changed back to the previous system and a further ruling on the use of handstamps from 1817 that we notice an immediate growth in the number of handstamps.

Postmarks then became evidence of the official activity of the Post Office which then accepted full responsibility for transmitting letters to the appropriate address. The postmark also shows that correspondence was handled by the State and not the private sector against which various directives were issued.

In one of Paar's rulings from the year 1782, mention is made of backstamping letters with the office of receipt. At the onset the receipt was shown only by date - the day and month and occasionally the year - and exceptionally evidence of the intermediary transmission point. In 1839 it was ruled that main post offices use "Receipt Stamps", giving details of place and date, the other offices were to use those handstamps for "Sending off" letters. Handstamps indicating receipt were used not only in the office of destination, but also in those offices where mail was transferred from one postal route to another.

Just as the fee for letter post changed from time to time, so also did the method of payment. From the time when private letters were first accepted for transmission until the beginning of the 19th century, it was usual for the fee to be paid half by sender and half by recipient. Such letters were treated on the face by an oblique red line and the fee to be paid by the addressee. When the fee was paid in full by the sender, the face of the letter was treated with crossed lines. If the fee was to be paid by the addressee, then the fee to be paid was shown by a figure on the face of the letter. There were, however, many exceptions to these rules. Some post offices used a FRANCO handstamp to indicate when the sender had paid the fee - examples of this date from the beginning of the 19th century. Such handstamps were in obligatory use from 1839.

It must be added that even from the very beginning there were letters carried free of charge. These services were provided to State Departments, Church Officials, Local Surgeons, Judges and other officials and certain private individuals.

At the end of the 18th century, the registered letter was introduced. The postal authorities guaranteed the delivery of such letters and gave receipts for the letters on the payment of a surcharge. It was at the beginning of the 19th century that special registration handstamps were used on letters. From 1839 these handstamps were in obligatory use in various forms until 1886 when registration labels were first issued.

The general development of the postal system influenced by the issue of postage stamps in 1850, the increase in the number of post offices and the specialisation at all levels of the postal services can be traced by a study of the postal cancellations of the time. The oldest on letters from the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries were of many differing types. Because of the great number of complaints about slowness of the postal deliveries and slack way of working of many postmasters, it was directed by a Postal Law that beginning in 1839 the day and month be inserted in all local handstamps. At the same time, it was decided that fiscal offices receive new such handstamps to comply with the law free of charge upon request from the main post office. All other offices - non fiscal - could apply to the main post office and receive a handstamp on payment of a fee or they could have the stamps made privately by any engraver. It was this latter method that has provided such a wide range of postmaster handstamps that existed side by side with their official counterparts until 1885.

Immediately after the building of the railways and the introduction of train transport, the post office realised the advantages offered by this fast transport system and began to use it

successfully in 1850. Travelling post offices were coupled to trains. Special TPO handstamps had to be issued because of the constant travelling about.

An unprecedented original step forward in the Austrian Post Office was the issue of newspaper stamps in 1851. The majority of PO's cancelled these stamps with their normal handstamps and only a few of the larger por border PO's were issued with a special newspaper cancel with a specially worded text. In 1859, the Express Post was introduced. By this system the express letter had to be delivered to the addressee immediately on arrival at the destination PO. Such letters were treated at the office of origin by a special "Express" cancellation which was later replaced by a mixture of Express labels.

During the first stages of the Prusso-Austrian war, Field Post Office cancels were used on Czech territory from the year 1866. Their text gave details of their specific duty, the FPO number and date without details of which military unit they were used by. They were, however, only temporary cancels entirely dependent on the campaign. In times of peace, ie., after the closure of the FPO's, correspondence was handled by local post offices nearest to the barracks.

In 1871, the first evidence of the population's demands for the equality of Czech with the hitherto official language German can be seen. It was then that the first official bi-lingual cancels were used at certain post offices. In 1867, a new method of sending money by postal order was introduced. In 1870, the fee for such was prepaid by affixing stamps to the "order" and so several important offices were issued with special cancels. Although after the war with the Prussians, the Czech lands lived through a long period of peace, numerous military manoeuvres were carried out from the end of the 1890's. FPO's were used during these and they were issued with special "maneuval" cancels.

In 1892, some of the larger offices began to distinguish between the uses of specific cancels by small letters, alone or in conjunction with arabic numerals. This was considered necessary because of the ever growing activity of the PO's and the resultant specialisation of their department or counters. Primarily, more details were provided on handstamps from the office of origin. The development of the Post office and the growth of the towns brought about the opening of sub post offices distinguished either by the name of the town quarter or by the street they were in. In 1896 this was changed by an official directive and arabic numerals were then used to identify the offices. This step necessitated the issuing of newly prepared ancels. The efforts of the Post Office to speed up delivery within the City of Prague were concentrated in 1899 on the building of a pneumatic tube post. The cancels used on the tube post were not much different from those used generally although they contained the PO number and time information.

From 1900, Sub Post offices were opened in those places where a full post office would have been impractical. The cancels of such sub post offices had limited validity - they were not intended for cancels stamps, but served merely as a mark of control of the sub office activity. This is why such handstamps appear alongside those of the nearest controlling office. It was about this same period that cancels of the railway post boxes were used. A result of the mechanisation of the post office work are machine cancels executed by cancelling machines introduced about 1906 into the larger offices. In the development of cancellations we must also take into consideration those commemorative cancels used by temporary PO's in attendance at various public functions. Their shape and general layout are the same as those

in general use, but the text are differentiated by reference to the event at which they appeared.

1.3. THE LINGUISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF CZECH POSTMARKS

Postmarks and their linguistic development was a very complicated question in pre 1918 Austria, a State with such a colourful and varied mixture of nationalities. At first, the problem was solved by the domination of German over all other national languages. This was the case in the Czech lands, territory that had been settled in the main by slavs - the position of Czech in public life was dependent on many circumstances not least of the political situation at a given time within the framework of the Austrian State.

Place names had and still have today, their origin from forms in the national language. Alongside Czechs lived Germans and a small number of Poles, therefore, the name of settlements depended on the relevant composition of the local population, and where necessary, different forms were used alongside each other according to nationality. As an example, we can quote the name of the Chod region town Domázlice called in German Taus, or Reichenberg which in Czech is called Liberec. At the time when handstamps came into being, Czech was in a very sad state - in all offices including post offices the only language to be used was German. This, of course, resulted in the place and other information on the postmarks of the period being given in German form only. It was not until the latter half of the 19th century that Germany was eventually forced to concede some of its status to Czech - a status that rightly belonged to Czech. With this in mind, it is possible to divide the 150 years of the linguistic development of postmarks into three periods. The first of these runs from the introduction of postmarks until 1871, the second from 1871 until 1898 and the third ends in 1918. In these three stages the linguistic development went thus: German, Czech, German/Czech, Czech/German, and in the Těšín district these were complemented by German/Polish and Polish/German.

The origin of postmarks at the end of the 18th century falls then into the first period, a period marked by the domination of German, a language wrongly raised to the status of official. During this time place names and their postmarks were mainly German or of Czech origin Germanised. Postmarks of this period wholly or partly in Czech are extremely rare.

The transcription of place names from Czech into German is so varied both at postmaster and fiscal office level that it is obvious that no unified method was used. It is, therefore, simpler to give examples of actual postmarks. The Czech name is followed by the transcription and the approximate date. Some transcriptions are merely the Czech place names with German endings - "tz" or "au".

CHLUMEC - CHLUMETZ (1817): HUMPOLEC - HUMPOLETZ (1837): TURNOV - TURNAU (1840): ČÁSLAV - ČASLAU (1850): etc.

Most striking is the lack of uniformity in the transcription of Czech soft consonants: They appear as follows: Č - TSCH or CŽ: Ř - RZ, RŽ or RSCH: Š - SCH: Ě - IE: Ň - NI.

(Examples are given on pages 20 and 21 of the original Czech monograph part 13.)

A prime example of the efforts to remove all traces of Czech spelling is a postmark from 1841 Of Kardasova Recice - Kardaschrzetschitz.

As is clear from the examples quoted, even in this early period some transcribed letters were dropped and replaced by the original Czech consonants. Then on the other hand we have those postmarks where Czech accents are not shown - and this is often the only difference between German and Czech forms: ČIHANÁ - ČIHANA: JIČÍN - JIČIN: TÁBOR - TABOR, etc..

Other place names which in Czech are nouns in the plural were abbreviated for no apparent reason and others were given the TZ ending mentioned above: DNESPEKY - DNESPEK(1836): STRAKONICE - STRAKONITZ (1840): KLADRUBY - KLADRUB (1866), ETC...

Surrounded by all these Germanised transcriptions there are those postmarks that are in Czech or are bi-lingual. Their very existence remarkable for this period, warrants their detailed descriptions here. In the first place, there are those - that over the time may have undergone certain changes - that have retained their Czech character right up to 1918, eg. BLANSKO (1849): CHRUDIM (1818): HLINSKO (1840): KLADNO (1863): KOPIDLNO (1840): LUŽE (1866): NEPOMUK (1840): SOBOTKA (1826): UHERSKO (1854): OPOČNO (1858), where among a series of Czech cancels there appears exceptionally one German/Czech cancel from the year 1887. Then we have JAROMER which although Germanised at the beginning remained exclusively Czech from 1851. The same applies for POLICKA from 1863 or at least 1875.

Others include cancels from the years 1869-71, which although authorised by Vienna had pure Czech inscriptions - with all the accents properly positioned. These were used in the original form until 1918: BĚLOHRAD (1870): KRNSKO (1869): MALEČ (1871): PRAŽMA (1871): PROSEČ (1869): ZÁMRSK (1869): ZHOŘ (1869): ZRUČ (1869). Also belonging to this same group are those cancels which had a purely Czech inscription at a certain period, but which were replaced by cancels transcribed into German or bi-lingual. Among these are BLATNÁ (1863): HOŘICE (1867): JIČÍN (1859): LEDEČ (1868): PŘELOUČ (1862): ROŽMITAL (1865): SUDOMĚŘICE (1851, 1862, etc)

The first bi-lingual cancels appeared in the Czech lands after 1850. The very use of both languages at this time indicates that they were Postmaster cancels. The oldest of them warrants special mention - a two ring Czech/German cancel BENEŠOV/Postamt which was used on the first issue of stamps. Besides this interesting text, it is noteworthy that by removing the word Postamt and other modifications, a Czech cancel BENEŠOV appeared. Other examples of Czech/German cancels are TURNOV/TURNAU (1864): BEROUN/BERAUN (1867): LOMNICE V JIČÍNSKU/LOMNITZ JIČINER KREIS (1871): PLAŇANY/PLANIAN (1867). In this first stage of linguistic development we find other bi-lingual cancels - German/Czech: KUTTENBERG/KUTNÁ HORA (1862): BÖHM BROD/ČESKY BROD (1864): SCHLAN/SLANÉ (1865): STEINDORF/KAMEN (1867): FRAUENBERG/HLUBOKÁ (1870): PLATZ/STRÁŽ (1871).

Other cancels are interesting because of certain distinctive features eg., those with the second text in brackets - ŽITNOVES (JUDENDORF) (1870): KUTTENHAL (CHOTĚTOV) : - those with part of the Czech place name translated into German: ČESKY BROD - BÖHMISCHBROD (1818): NOVA PAKA - NEUPAKA (1853), or those which are a combination of both languages: DUB/b. OLMUTZ (1869): HLUK/b. U.OSTRA (1869): SCHLOSS ROŽINKA (1871): KNĚŽICE/MÄHREN (1871), etc.

The German forms of place names stayed with us until 1918, usually in their original form and only a few of them underwent minor changes. The most common of these changes was the introduction of the diaeresis as is shown from these examples which give some indication of

the spelling reforms over time: AUSSEE/MAEHREN (1848): AUSSEE/MÄHREN (1871):
BAERN (1841): BÄRN (1878): KOENIGGRAZ (1785) : KÖNIGGRATZ (1818): KOENIGGRATZ
(1831): KOENIGGRAETZ (1840): KONIGGRATZ (1850 - 1918).

The second phase of the linguistic development of postmarks began in 1871. This was the year when the use of bi-lingual cancels was permitted at larger or newly established offices serving a mixed population of both nationalities. The postmarks were all to be German/Czech. This first concession on the part of the Austrian authorities was the result of political pressure exerted by those fighting for national and linguistic equality after the Prusso-Austrian war in 1866. Presently, in 1871, the first bi-lingual cancels appeared which were to replace the old monolingual ones everywhere where possible. In many of those prepared by Vienna it is still possible to find evidence of the hitherto "superiority" of German - the lettering used for Czech texts was smaller. Some of the first bi-linguals to be prepared even had the Czech text inserted in brackets similar to the one already mentioned above. Example REICHENBERG - (LIBEREC) and SENFTENBERG - (ŽAMBERK). The first of these was replaced in 1873 and 1883 by German cancels, whereas the brackets in the Žamberk cancel were removed.

With the official authorisation of bi-lingual cancels German/Czech postmarks became an everyday occurrence even though it cannot be denied that they are valuable linguistic evidence of the situation existing then. Somewhat more interesting is the growing number of postmarks in which the main language was Czech. At that time it was still allowed for postmasters to have their own cancels prepared to their own specification without special permission from a governing office. This fact was taken advantage of by some Czech postmasters, who had cancels prepared to their own conscience, ie., Czech or Czech/German. Some of the Czech monolingual cancels were replaced in time by bi-linguals, whereas others remained purely Czech until 1918 - either with or without alterations.

A list of examples appears on page 26 of the original monograph.

A census was held in 1880. This showed that 63% of the population of the Czech lands used Czech as a working language and the remainder German. Not even these results changed the position of the Czech language - quite the opposite. The Austrian authorities showed their dislike of these increasing cancels which either left out German altogether or at best put it in second place. To guard against this, a ruling was issued in May 1882 by which only the fiscal authorities could supply post offices with new cancels - ie. the Viennese Postal Administration.

This stopped postmasters having their own cancels made in which they could express their nationality and their language preference. Further ruling in 1885 enforced this by ordering that all new cancels be sent for approval to the Central Viennese Offices. This was the time when practically all postmasters bi-lingual cancels disappeared (Czech/German).

Examples of these cancels with some illustrations appear on page 27 of the original book.

Pure Czech cancels prepared and used after 1886 were allowed in minor post offices and on occasion in those places with an entirely Czech population. eg. :BŘEZNO (1894 - 1918): ČÁSTROV (1889): ČEKALOVICE (1886): ČESTÍN (1888): KLUK (1886 - 1918): KRČ (1886-1918): KŘETÍN (1889): Further examples are on page 27 of the original book.

For those post offices serving a majority German population the authorities continued to supply German or Germanised cancels - these were however, liable to some changes in the transcription especially with the letters Č and Ž.

Although the above mentioned concessions of the Austrian Authorities were brought about by the justified dissatisfaction of the Czech population, all efforts for the total equality of both languages were met with very little success. This is best shown in those cancels from the years 1894 - 1898, two ring bi-linguals in which the German text is above and the Czech below.

It was not until February 1898 that the use of national languages was authorised - and this gives us the beginning of the third stage in the linguistic development of postal cancels. The choice of "authorised" language was determined by the results of the population census. In those districts of mixed language, both languages were to be used side by side. This ruling necessitated the provision of new cancels. These were supplied by Vienna. They contained the texts in the right and left sides of a semi-circle separated by decorative stars. Researches were carried out to determine whether individual cancels should be exclusively German, German/Czech, Czech/German, German/Polish or Polish/German. It was discovered that Czech/German cancels were most needed and this was to be the case in practise.

With this action the Austrian postal authorities satisfied some of the demands of the Czech population. It was, however, the final stage in the linguistic development of Czech cancels and this was their state until 1918. It must, however, be emphasised that this linguistic development did not affect auxiliary, TPO or military cancels which remained German. Any exceptions to this generalisation are so few that they do not merit mention. The general use of Czech cancels in those places of entire Czech population never came about in the framework of the Austrian State. This is illustrated by the introduction of some late Czech cancels prior to 1918: BEZNO (1903): KOČI (1909): OBORA (1902): ŘEPY (1909): STUPNO (1903): AND ZELČ (1903). After 28th October, 1918 German texts were removed from the cancels. These "nationalised" cancels belong, however to the first years of the Czechoslovak Republic.

1.4. THE PRODUCTION OF CANCELS

The greatest feature of cancels is the exceptional wide variety of their form. Individual post masters caused this highly prized feature - until the second half of the 19th century they were allowed a free hand in the choice of their cancels. So on some of the earliest letters we find cancels from the simplest single-line inscriptions to real works of art. The postmasters could also choose their own engraver. Thus there are cancels produced very primitively and those that are good enough to be used as models of the typographic and engraving arts.

The first evidence of a partially uniform production, witnessing the origin of a greater number of cancellers from a single works can already be traced in the pre stamp period. Unity of design comes clearer to the front in the period just before the issue of postage stamps. These were, however, cancellers ordered by postmasters at their superior offices who obviously had their permanent engravers. Among these are those from the Viennese firm Burk, who from the year 1861 became one of the largest suppliers of cancels and from 1885 - except for a few exceptions - was the sole supplier of cancels used in the Czech lands until 1918. From the time when bridge cancels were introduced in 1904, we can find some samples that preserve many of the features of the Burk cancels, but which differ in some

details - this gives rise to evidence of some other engraving provenance. It seems that they were productions of the firm Schatz, also from Vienna, with whom Burk collaborated.

As in the course of time cancels developed, so too did the production methods. The most common materials used in the production were brass and steel. In the older cancels preference was given to brass and from approximately 1850 steel began to be used more and more. This was more fitting because of its resistance. We cannot today establish whether other metals, a mixture of metals or even hard wood were used. Some impressions of a softer type of cancel suggest that at some time cork was used. Circa 1900 rubber cancels were introduced..... the designs on these were fixed by chemical reaction. Because of their comparatively low resistance against hard wear, such cancels were only used for those that were less frequently used.

Cancels without date or other such information were usually made whole from a single piece of brass or steel. In the older period they even used cancels whose inscription was made up of individual letters, and then placed in a frame of the cancel body by means of screws. As opposed to the system of producing the cancel complete in itself, this method had the advantage that in the event of damage to one character, that single character could easily be replaced. On the other hand, this also did lead, in some instances, to mistakes because the letters had been inserted in the wrong order.

When in the first half of the 19th century the Decree was issued to have the date inserted, there were two alternatives open to the Post Office. Either they printed the date separately or changed the date in the cancel to introduce the date or they had completely new cancels made to comply with the order. In some cancels this had already been taken into consideration and a space had been left in the body of the cancel. Into this space they fixed the day, month and later the year and any service information by the means of screws. This meant however, that the cancels had to be altered daily, several times daily in the case of service information. In spite of this, this impractical system was used for almost 70 years. A basic change came in the year 1904 when the first cancels were produced with rotating date and service information. This technical innovation which allowed the quick and easy change of the date, etc., has stayed with us until today. It consists of a rotating wheel into which individual numbers have been cut. When the correct numbers were aligned they were fixed into position by a pin screw.

A very interesting innovation was the introduction of some of the cancels for use in the TPO's produced by Schatz according to Chytil's designs. TPO's used two similar cancels depending upon the direction of travel. The new design allowed both cancels to be produced on the one handle on a different surface of a three sided prism. By rotating this prism it was thus possible to set up that cancel which was required. With this type the development of individual cancels was practically ended.

The exceptional growth in the number of postal agents and the constantly growing volume of mail in the first years of the 20th century called for the replacement of the slow and tedious hand cancelling by machine cancelling such has been used in many countries. For this reason the post office authorities bought several cancelling machines from the firm Bickerdike and Krag for the larger offices. These machines were introduced in Prague circa 1906 and immediately afterwards in the other large offices. The cancelling machines were of varying design. They had the same principle. They consisted of two roller areas, the first of which gave the normal date stamp and two lines and the other was pressed against this. The

shifting mechanism put the letters into position between the rollers where they were franked on one side. Although these machines were capable of speeds of up to 800 letters a minute, they could not frank letters that were either very thick or very large. These had to be franked by hand.

1.5. COLOURS OF CANCELS

The colours of cancels did not come through any great phase of development because of the considerably limited choice of colours available. They did, however, play an important role in spite of this - especially as far as aesthetism. This is shown by the exceptional popularity of the coloured cancels of the pre-stamp period and those used on the first six stamp issues. The oldest known letters from the second half of the 18th century have black and red cancels and in only a few cases, blue. It would appear that there was some definite system governing the use of these colours, but we cannot establish what it was. It is probably that in the first years the choice of colour was one entirely of chance. The first mention of any definite differentiation of colour comes from the beginnings of the 19th century. It was ordered in 1817 that some of the post offices use red on prepaid - including registered letters - and black ink on all the others. However, in practice the postmasters did not conscientiously observe this regulation. For this reason in 1839, the regulation was repeated and issued to all post offices, this time the post offices were ordered to specifically use black. The desired result was still not achieved. To a greater degree blue and green cancels appeared.

A partial normalisation of colours became possible in 1850 when every letter unless exempt had to be fully prepaid and when therefore, the use of different cancelling colours became unnecessary. At that time all post offices were instructed to use only black for ordinary letters and red for registered letters. Even so, there were still postmasters who would not respect this instruction. So, for example, it is possible, but very rare to find stamps of the first issue with red or blue cancels even though they were used for ordinary letters. The blue was more common and continued for some considerable time. Conversely, registration marks or local cancels for registered letters were in the main black. Until 1875 when the era of the coloured cancels closed, even on express mail and for money orders, it is possible to find violet or green impressions although it is often very difficult to identify the colour because of the numerous shades blending with the neighbouring colours. From then until 1918 the black cancel dominates the scene and any other colour usage was either pure chance or commemorative. The only exception was the violet which was used after 1902, together with the rubber official auxiliary cancels and for agency cancels.

In the first years the postmasters employed ordinary printers ink pads which they requisitioned from the authorities or elsewhere or which they could even produce themselves. For these they used boiled linseed oil mixed with soot or other colouring ingredients. Printers inks, however, dried out fairly quickly and then did not give clear impressions of the cancels. For this reason it was necessary from time to time to moisten the pad with suitable animal fats. It sometimes happened that the stamp pad was so moist that it gave impressions of an untidy appearance with heavy contours which arose from an escape of ink towards the edges of the cancel when applied to paper. An imperfect impression was given by the ink sometimes used by the postmasters at the time of temporary lack of supply of normal inks. These cancels usually browned with time.

With the introduction of postage stamps cancels assumed a new function: to cancel stamps so that they could not be used again. This, of course, demanded that the colour was

sufficiently distinct that it sat well on the stamp and that it could not be removed from the stamp easily without resultant damage. When the chemist Dinkler made an ink in 1854 which fulfilled these requirements, immediate steps were taken to introduce it to those post offices which received official supplies of inks. It was, however, recommended to the others. In 1896 a new black ink was introduced of a new chemical composition in all post offices without exception. At the same time it was forbidden to use cancelling inks produced by other means. Violet colour from 1902 was from an aniline base. Although it was meant specifically for rubber stamps it was used by some post offices in the period of short supply during the war or as a mixture with black for metal cancels. This occurred so frequently that it is not listed separately in the catalogue and the same point value applies as for normal black ink.

CLASSIFICATION OF POSTMARKS

(Page 36)

In previous chapters the basic feature of the historical development of postal cancellations in the Czech lands until 1918 have been outlined. Here it is necessary to explain the principles according to which we will continue. It is in essence a classification of cancels. Every cancel has besides its basic and general purpose to bear evidence to the activities of the postal service - another purpose; a special one and one predetermined as to where, when and in what circumstances it is to be used. For this reason all cancels are primarily divided into the following basic groups:-

- 4.1. Cancels of collection points, town and station PO's, and newspaper despatch points.
- 4.2. Cancels of the TPO's.
- 4.3. Cancels of station letter boxes.
- 4.4. Cancels of the FPO's.
- 4.5. Provisional cancels.
- 4.6. Official cancels.
- 4.7. Various other cancels.

As some of the basic groups have a very wide content, for the sake of easy classification, they are further divided into sub-classifications. Each classification or sub-classification forms a closed unit. The accompanying texts give information of what is important or characteristic for given material and to complete in words the table which illustrates the individual types of cancels. The catalogue provides a list and value guide.

Each cancel is marked by certain features which are characteristic. Contrasting comparison and division of these features enables us to determine the type of cancel. Among the definite features decisive for determining the type of cancel and for the arranging of the tables the following are the most important:- shape of cancel, type of letters used, artistic layout, language, date and despatch information. The shape of the cancel is common feature of the type classification for both main groups and sub-groups. Accordingly cancels are;-

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| A. Single-line. | E. Single ring. |
| B. Arc-shaped. | F. Grid. |
| C. Oval framed | G. Double ring. |
| D. Uncharacteristic: Special types. | |

This classification according to shape issued to indicate individual cancels both in the type tables and in the catalogue no matter which group or sub-group the cancels may belong to. Thus the arc shaped cancel HORŽOWITZ and the arc shaped RECOMMANDIERT are both identified by the letter 'B' although the first of them belongs to sub-group 4.1.1, i.e., the town cancels, and the second to sub group 4.1.4., i.e., among the service cancels. Only the ordinal numbers of the types are different. In the type cancels the HORŽOWITZ cancel is identified as B5 and the RECOMMANDIERT (R) cancel as B24. The same can be likewise said of other cancels contained in both parts of this work.

(Illustration 29 on page 37)

A feature no less important is the typographical make up of the cancel, i.e., the face used for the text. It is well known that printers' type has a rich nomenclature and that names used vary from country to country. For this reason we have chosen that nomenclature usually used in literature of this type and well established in collector circles. For convenience examples are given here.

(Illustration 30 on page 37)

Bržeznitz	Upright Roman
Netolitz	Italic Roman
Rokitzan	Upright
Troppau	Italic
Trautenau	Seriffed script
Strakonitz	Handwritten Style

The majority of cancels have a specific and simple shape with all information essential for their given purpose. There are, however, cancels which have quite unusual forms or ornamental decoration as witnessed by individual postmasters' cancels. Another feature which played an important part in Czech postal history is the language used in the making of the cancel of local or service date. The conclusive features which determine the type of a cancel are date and despatch details. While date details were important in the classification of cancels from the earlier periods, despatch details are a characteristic feature of those used after 1870.

Besides the main features, other minor features are evident, but these will not bear the same importance in each group. If circumstances demand, then such minor features are noted in the type tables and in the accompanying texts. The cancel portrayed in the type tables represents either one example or one series of cancels of the same type. When a cancel is of the same type but of a different size, supplementary information or illustrations are inserted in the relevant place in the catalogue. Each type introduced in a type table has its own mark made up of a large letter corresponding to the basic form of the cancel, i.e., A-G, further from an identifying number. This same method of identification is used in the catalogue. Only in a few cases is additional information or the date given more detailed treatment in the part dealing with serial, local and station PO's.

Cancels can either be evaluated in a given currency as in stamp catalogues or in a system of points which can be transferred into ready currency and whose 'rate of exchange' can be ammended according to the circumstances. The points system from collectors' experience has certain advantages and is therefore used in this catalogue. The fixing of a value of a cancel is dependent on a whole series of criteria to which belong the age of the cancel, length of service, frequency of availability, further its use in unusual ways and last but not least its popularity which is a prime feature with coloured or ornamental cancels or cancels of exceptional design.

The MULLER-KLEIN catalogues were consulted for the evaluation of the cancels. In numerous cases, however, we differ from their opinion. In the main, thhe reasons for the divergence are the forementioned authors only worked on certain limited periods of time, while we had to consider the evaluation of the cancellations over a period as a whole uninterrupted series of 150 years.

Until the present it has been the custom to value only those cancels which were used on correspondence from the pre-stamp days and from 1st June 1850 those used on stamps. This established, practise cannot, however, satisfy today's concept of philately and its exceptionally wide field. Until recently cancels on postal stationery were not valued. Klein then attempted to eradicate this old practice. Taken objectively from the point of view of the cancel, there can be no difference between a stamp stuck on and a printed one. For this reason in the present catalogue the same point value will be used for both cases. In this handbook some cancels are valued although they are not normally found on stamps or the printed stamps of postal stationery, but which are a characteristic example of postal activity. Some of them furthermore, raise the aesthetic or collector value of the letter or postal stationery. Examples of this are some Registration, Free, Late Fee, Express cancels, etc. With regard to this, two types of brackets are used, local and some service cancels on pre-stamp covers, all cancels used on postage stamps or cut-outs from covers, or on the stamps printed on postal stationery have their point value in round brackets e.g. (50). On the other hand, those stamps which were not used in that manner but, however, merit evaluation have their point value in square brackets e.g. [50].

The evaluation of cancellations is carried out in the following manner:-

1. Full point value awarded only for complete cancels and in no circumstances for their parts.
2. The point value for local and service cancels from the pre-stamp period is only awarded to those on entires.
3. Point value valid for cancels either on individual stamps if the impression is whole (e.g. thimble cancels) or on stamps cut out from entires, postal stationery or other types of correspondence.
4. The point value of cancels on printed postal stationery is the same as the value of the same cancel on postage stamps. Cancels on cut-outs from postal stationery are not, however, at present evaluated at all or are valued very lowly. An exception, for

example, is the case where the cancel on a piece of postal stationery covers both a printed and an additional stuck on stamp.

5. The point value of service cancels is valid only if those cancels are on entires or postal stationery. The notable exceptions are listed in the catalogue in the relevant places in the group listing.

6. When two or more impressions of a cancel are found on the stamp, cut-outs, entires or postal stationery, only one of them is valued.

7. An important influence on the real expression of points is the quality of the cancel. Therefore, the point value awarded in the catalogue is only valid for good clear impressions. Incomplete, smudged or otherwise imperfect impressions only achieve in practice a fraction of the catalogue value. Cancels completed by hand may be considered as worthless.

Unless otherwise stated in the catalogue in the individual cancel groups, the point system is divided into pre-stamp period and nine stamp issues and stationery. The following signs are used:-

P.	Pre-stamp period		31.5.1850
1.	Definitives 1, 2, 3, 6, 9kr	1.6.1850	31.12.1858
2.	Definitives 2, 3, 5, 10, 15kr	1.11.1858	31.5.1864
3.	Definitives 2, 3, 5, 10, 15kr	15.1.1861	31.5.1864
	Printed envelopes 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35kr	1.1861	31.5.1864
4.	Definitives 2, 3, 5, 10, 15kr (perf. 14)	1863	31.8.1869
	Printed envelopes 3, 5, 10, 15, 25kr	1.7.1863	31.8.1869
5.	Definitives 2, 3, 5, 10, 15kr (perf. 9½)	1864	31.8.1869
6.	Definitives 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25, 50kr	1867	31.10.1884
	Printed envelopes 3, 5, 10, 15, 25kr	1867	31.10.1884
	Postcard 2kr yellow	1.10.1869	1876
	Postcard 2kr brown	14.1.1876	31.10.1883
	Postcard 2 + 2kr	17.7.1880	31.10.1893
	Newspaper wrapper 2kr	1.10.1872	1883
	Money order 5kr	1.5.1870	31.10.1884
	Money order 10kr	10.1.1875	31.10.1884
	Money order 15kr	1878	31.10.1884
	C.O.D. docket 10kr	15.12.1871	31.10.1884
7.	Definitives 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50kr	8.1883	30.6.1891
	Printed envelopes 5kr	1.9.1883	30.6.1891
	Postcards 2kr, 2 + 2kr	9.1883	30.6.1891
	Letter cards 3kr, 5kr	1.6.1886	30.6.1891
	Newspaper wrapper 2kr	8.1883	1891
	Telegram forms 5kr	1884	1891

8.	Definitives 1, 2, 3, 5,10, 12, 15kr	1.9.1890	30.9.1900
	Definitives 20, 24, 30, 50kr	1.9.1890	30.8.1891
	Definitives 1, 2zł	1.9.1890	31.1.1896
	Definitives 20, 24, 30, 50kr	11.3.1891	30.9.1900
	Definitives 1, 2zł	1.2.1896	30.9.1900
	Dues 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50kr	1.2.1894	30.9.1900
	Dues 2, 6, 7kr	6.4.1895	30.9.1900
	Printed envelopes 5kr	1.9.1890	31.3.1900
	Postcards 2kr, 2+2kr	1.9.1890	31.3.1900
	Letter seals 3, 5kr	1.9.1890	30.9.1900
	Newspaper wrappers 2kr	1.9.1890	30.9.1900
	Envelopes for tube post 15kr	4.3.1899	30.9.1900
	Seals for tube post 15kr ?	4.3.1899	30.9.1900
	Postcards for tube post 10kr, 10+10kr	4.3.1899	30.9.1900
	Tax postcards 2kr	1.9.1890	31.3.1901
	Telegram forms 5kr	1890	19..
9.	Definitives, charity, dues and express stamps and other postal stationery in haleru and krone values valid until 28.10.1918.\		

The point value of cancels on newspaper stamps is detailed in chapter 4.1.2. For this reason only the listing of the individual issues and the length of their validity is given here:

1.	Newspaper stamps 0.6kr blue	1.1.1851	31.5.1864
	Newspaper stamps 6kr yellow	1.1.1851	31.5.1864
	Newspaper stamps 6kr red	3.1856	31.12.1858
	Newspaper stamps 30kr pink	1.1.1851	31.5.1864
2.	Newspaper stamps 1.05kr blue	1.11.1858	31.5.1864
	Newspaper stamps 1.05kr violet	1859	31.5.1864
3.	Newspaper stamps 1.05kr	1.1861	31.5.1864
4.	Newspaper stamps 1.05kr	1863	31.8.1869
5.	Newspaper stamps 1.05kr	6.1867	31.9.1900
	Newspaper delivery stamps 0.5kr	11.12.1880	31.12.1899
6.	All newspaper stamps in heller values valid in the period between December 1899 and 28th October 1918.		

4.1. Canceis of collection points, local and station PO's and newspaper despatch points.

This group, the most numerous of all, records approximately 70% of the cancels contained in both parts of this work. Because some of them have a specific usage, all material is divided into four sub-groups.

- 4.1.1. Basic local cancels which served before the introduction of postage stamps to annotate all despatched correspondence and then after 1st June 1850 furthermore to cancel all types of stamps or postal stationery used in the usual postal business.
- 4.1.2. Special newspaper cancels which served to cancel newspaper stamps in postal newspaper despatch offices or in the newspaper departments of large PO's.
- 4.1.3. Special Money order cancels meant specifically for the cancellation of stamps on forms of this type.
- 4.1.4. Service cancels not specifically designed to cancel stamps, but of a definite or informative purpose. Among these are Free, R, Express, Late fee letters, Insured packets, Dues, etc.

4.1.1 TYPE TABLES AND CATALOGUE OF BASIC LOCAL CANCELS.

The oldest cancels were in essence very simple and usually limited to a single line name of the PO. These single line cancels often had the preposition VON e.g., VON PRAG, VON BRUNN (from Prague, from Brno) or the abbreviation V, i.e. V PILSEN, V EGER, etc. In a few cases the preposition DE was used as witnessed by the cancels 'de CZASLAU' or 'de Klattau'. These had the french preposition combined with the German place name. Although these cancels with the prepositions only served to emphasise where the mail was sent from, because of their similarity to aristocratic family names, they were coined 'aristicratic' cancels. On the other hand, the Prague PO contented itself with the preposition AUS in the twenties of the last century as is evident from the single line a. Prag. With the advance of time, especially after 1848, they stopped using these prepositions or they removed them from the cancels and only in very rare cases were they used until the period of the issue of the first postage stamps.

To some extent the variety of types of letters used offset the simplicity of design of these single line cancels. I.e., large and small, italic or upright, antique, large upright or cursive, grotesque and handwritten style. Some cancels produced in large antique style had their initial letter larger than the remaining letters. From the artistic point of view, these single line cancels are very poor. Exceptions to this are where the engraver used fracture or ornamental lettering or where he added straight or ornamental lines to fill the cancel text in various ways.. Some cancels had a combination of two types of lettering, e.g., the cancel GABLONCZ/N, in which the place name is executed in large antique and further identifying information in handwritten style.

The oldest cancels were nearly without exception without date and are thus listed in the type tables and catalogue merely by series letter, A1, A2, A3, etc. Only after 1837 were cancels

of a metal date stamp. In these cases the feature of the date information is added to the basic type classification of the local cancel according to the various types in the adjoining table. If the date was written in or independently printed the annotation is inserted in brackets. Brackets are omitted in those cancels in which the date already had its own place. This type system is explained by the examples of cancels from STĚKNA, (date handstamp written), NIMES (date printed in separately), and RUMBURG (fixed date in permanent place in the cancel (see page 43 of original book). The same method is used to denote some bordered and oval cancels. At the same time when single line cancels were in use, it was not customary to give despatch details. It seems that the only exception was the cancel of the PO in Políčka in the year 1837, which has after the date the letters F, N or A, which must be considered to be abbreviations of the German FRUH (morning), NACHMITTAG (AFTERNOON), or ABENDS (evening).

The colour of cancels was most often black or blue, more rarely red or green. red sometimes turned to brown and blue to turquoise. Typographical errors in cancels are quite rare. Some of them arose at the engravers as for example in the NYMBURK cancel from the year 1843, in which the inverted N appears in date, R and frame cancels. Errors of other sorts are known in those cancels made up of individual letters. In these, usually after cleaning, the letters were put back in the wrong order, or letters were used which should not have appeared in the text. An example of such a mistake by a postmaster is provided by the pre-stamp cancel of the PO in Dnespeky. Here the final comma was inserted between the last two letters, and thus arose the inscription DNESPE,K. Another almost classic example of wrongly arranged letters are those from the cancels of POTSCHATEK or POTSCHAK, known from 1838 on. In the PRAG cancel a year earlier, the letter A was obviously lost or damaged and replaced by another smaller letter which must have been to hand at the time.

(Illustration 34, 35,36)

Although single line cancels are known on letters even after 1880, the majority of them were gradually replaced by single circle and double circle cancels and this was even in the validity period of the first stamp issue. The discarded cancels usually with date removed, were often used afterwards on the receipt and return forms for registered letters, newspaper stamps, etc.

A design modification of the single line cancels are arc shaped cancels which are known in the Czech lands from a few examples. The oldest of these belongs to the PO in MUCHOVO HRADISTE from the year 1835. It is interesting not only for its text, but moreover for its posthorn, which is not found on any other cancel (if we do not consider some registration cancels or some considerably later TPO cancels of a lower series). Nearly all arc shaped cancels are executed in antique except for the cancel FRIEDEK (Friedky), which was done in handwritten style. With the exception of the Czech cancel BENEŠOV, the information on the linguistic aspect given in chapter 1.3 applies here. The colours of cancels are mainly black, but exceptionally blue. All arc shaped cancels are of postmaster origin and were used until approximately 1860. Only the cancel from ZDITZ is found as late as 6th issue of stamps and is also the only such ornamental cancel.

Frame and oval cancels come historically speaking immediately after the single line cancels, as their first examples date to the 18th and 19th centuries. For this reason they have many common features, the preposition used VON or V, the date information or linguistic side. Frame and oval cancels achieved their widest use in the years 1820 - 1850, when nearly every large post office had one in its stock. Like the single line cancels, these too were gradually

replaced by single or double ring cancels and around 1860 for the most part, had disappeared. In the later years some new cancels appeared, of course, but after 1863 when single line cancels of one type dominated the scene, they had definitely disappeared.

The great majority of these cancels were of postmaster origin. This also explains their unusual variety. In fact examples of like types are a real exception. Frame cancels were either typically oblong or at least approximated an oblong. The frame, sometimes with sharp or blunted corners, was composed usually of one line, less often of two or even three lines. Quite exceptional was a dotted line or the form of small waves. Oval cancels were not only the more numerous, but also from the point of view of make up, more varied and excelled in many cases in artistic and gravure perfection. The frames of oval cancels were either completely straight, coiled or wavy. Among the frame or oval cancels are placed semi-circular ones which form a transition to them or those with a frame of exceptional design.

As has already been stated, the majority of these cancels have special characteristic lay-out. Thus they are nearly all illustrated in the type tables or at a convenient point in the catalogue. As far as possible, all cancels are reproduced in their original form, as it is known that with continual use, some of the details of drawings became worn away or were changed considerably. Examples of these are those originally with dotted or coiled or double line frame which with gradual use or insufficient cleansing changed to a thick continuous line. If it is useful, data about the change of form of some cancels is given in the catalogue by an appropriate note. Practically everything said about lettering in the section on single line cancels applies here. More often than not, large and small upright antique was used, then italic antique handwritten style and finally grotesque. Only the OLOMOUC cancel was made in fracture. Sometimes, with the large antique style the initial letter was somewhat larger.

The oldest frame and oval cancels did not have a date, but this was added by hand or stamp, as was the custom at the beginning of the 19th century. As date stamps were practically identical with those which were used with single line cancels, they are annotated in the catalogue in the same way. Only about 1830 did cancels appear with fixed date contained inside the frame and some of those gave even the year or despatch information.

In the colours, black was prevalent, blue and red were less common.

Typographical errors were almost non-existent with this type. Only in the Prostějov cancel PROSSNITZ a large N was engraved in error in a row of small letters. Some cancels, however, had their designs re-touched from time to time to improve the overall appearance and legibility. An example of such a re-touch is the oval cancel from Jičín described in more detail in the catalogue of cancels.

A whole range of features can distinguish postal cancels, but one feature remains in common; the PO name. Single exceptions from this general rule are no-name cancels, which as a mere geographical symbol tell nothing at all of their origins. It is, however, known that these really exceptional cancels were used by the PO in Bohemia at České Budějovice, Čimelice, Křelovice, Pačova, Počátky and Tábor and in Moravia at Výškov and Znojmo and in Silesia at Krnov and Těšín. The Znojmo cancel does admittedly have the number 1576 in its centre, which alone explains nothing, but it can be imagined that this was the number of the Post Office, according to the official list of PO's. The no-name cancel is added that of the Silesian town Vrbno which does have its name but cannot be arranged anywhere else because of its unusual shape.

These no-name cancels all made to postmaster specifications known only in black and used only during the validity of the first stamp issue rank among the more rare examples ever found anywhere in the Czech lands. Although in their layout they did not conform to the usual laws and regulations, they were tolerated by the governing authorities on condition that the normal local cancel would always be used on letters, but this was not always adhered to by the local postmasters. It seems that finally they were banned, because they are not found on the second issue (1858) at all. According to practice, these no-name cancels served only to cancel those stamps which had gone un-noticed at the PO of despatch. It is necessary to note here that in a much later period other types of blank cancels were used for much the same purpose, their details being listed in chapter 4.7.2.

Practically around 1850, the age of the single ring cancel began almost concurrently at the majority of the then existent Post Offices. These cancels remained in postal use approximately 50 years, and in some cases until 1918 or later. During this time, they underwent some structural development influenced mainly by several official orders, such as for example, on the setting out of the year information, the use of both languages, etc. It is not easy to divide single ring cancels into chronologically clearly defined stages. Individual make-up was not consistent and in many cases did not conform to the set of laws valid at the time. A witness to this can be the Olomouc single ring cancel from the year 1836 which, although it corresponds to layout at that period with its double circle and decoration, it is ahead of its time by virtue to its full date information with year - such cancels were usual after 1867.

Single ring cancels are divided in the type table according to several main criteria. i.e. the date (either only day and month or year as well, sometimes with despatch information), overall layout (simple or ornamental), and language used (texts mono or bi-lingual). With the exception of the Olomouc cancel already mentioned, the older cancels had the date which usually only gave date and month, usually expressed as a fraction of both numbers. Only in a few cases was the month expressed as an abbreviation of the German form. Ornamental cancels had either design quite indifferent, or in the style of variously stylised spray or small stars. The decorations were so varied that with the exception of several types it is difficult to find examples of like design. Cancel rings were sometimes double or ornamental. For the PO names antique type was mainly used, to a lesser extent grotesque or a combination of both types and in a single case fracture.

In 1867 an instruction was issued to introduce the year into all new cancels. soon after this cancels appeared of very small diameter ranging from 16 to 21mm, the so called thimble cancels. Without exception, they came from the Viennese engraver Burk. The reason for such small cancels is not known, their minute inscriptions were certainly very demanding for the engraver. The most acceptable explanation lies in the stamps current at that time which had a small medallion in the centre, which suited the thimble cancels very well. After 1873 the production of thimble cancels began to be limited, diameters were increased again and became stable between 24 - 28mm. The antique used until then was gradually replaced by grotesque type and in 1883 this became the dominant type of cancellation lettering. The majority of these cancels were produced by the Viennese engraver Burk.

(Illustrations 41A and 41b)

Alongside the cancels of Viennese origin which show certain features of graphical unification, many post offices in the Czech lands used cancels produced by local engravers. This is evidenced by their peculiar layout expressed mainly in their ornamental completion and the ordering of date information. Otherwise what was said about single ring cancels without year applies here.

The period which followed the first language instruction of year 1871 on the use of both local languages is marked by the bringing out of new bi-lingual cancels. Extra bi-lingual texts would not fit into the thimble cancels and so the diameter was again increased. A single cancel of very small diameter with both German and czech local name was ordered by the postmaster in Belcice in 1881. The historical development of bi-lingual cancels from the language point of view has been described in chapter 1.3. Here, therefore, it is sufficient to limit ourselves to their origin according to engraving and graphical make-up. Until 1882 cancels produced by various local masters existed side by side with those of the aforementioned engraver Burk. The former exclusively to postmaster specification are at first sight much more varied in their make-up.

With their varied design and origin, cancels made to order by the postmasters, contrast sharply with the Burk cancels, with the latter's almost perfect graphical uniformity and the gradual eradication of the early disproportionate letter size (once heavily weighted against the Czech texts).

The oldest single ring cancels with despatch information date back to the circulation of the first postage stamps. They were used by collection points in Prague: Hradčany, on Charles Square, Karlín, Smichov, and in Nové Aleje - present day National Avenue.

These cancels had the abbreviation B.S. (Briefsammlungs - letter collection), and under the fraction date a roman numeral giving despatch information i.e. the official route of the letters to the appropriate PO. There were 5 or 6 such deliveries a day. Approximately 1870 some larger PO's also began to use cancels with despatch information, and after the 1890's nearly all PO's used these. It appears that the introduction of these cancels was not the result of some general directive, but material available from the archive does not bear this out. This would also explain the initial difference in abbreviations used to annotate the despatch information:

- I.E. II. E (Expedition - Collection)
- F (Fruh - Early morning)
- V (Vormittag - Morning)
- M (Mittag - Noon)
- N (Nachmittag - afternoon)
- A or ABS (Abends - Evening)

Further in connection with the time such as 10F (10am), 6A (6pm), 5-7A (between 5 & 7pm), N7A (Noon & 7pm) and so on. As is obvious, this information was at first exceptionally based on the German names for the time of day. With the passage of time and the use of bi-lingual cancels, the Czech language had to be catered for. For this reason in Prague from 1892 and then other PO's Arabic and Roman numerals were used quite independent of language. Arabic numerals meant AM, Roman numerals PM.

In general for colours of single ring cancels the same information given elsewhere applies. The black was the most common, followed by blue which appeared on the stamps of the 1867 issue and changed sometimes to turquoise or green. Red cancels, of which there were only a few, are very rare. On the other hand, the make-do mixture of black and violet for the rubber cancels of the war years 1914 - 1918 was quite usual.

(Page 71). We first meet thimble cancels with omitted year, although this contravened the directive of 1869. This happened quite often in the case where the postmaster did not order the relevant year inset in time from his main office or PO supply office if the postmaster lost the inset. In cancels without the year inset, the date and month either stayed in place or moved down into the centre of the cancel. Probably for this very reason the term BLOCKADE originated in collector terminology, imprint of a heavy upright, oblong in the space where the year should be. These imprints arose evidently from the use of another year inset inverted and held in position, or by another small metal prism. Some cancels have blocked out date, month and even despatch details. These cases are of course, rarer.

(Illustration 46) Cancels with year omitted. In the Worlik cancel, the date and the month details remain in their original position, in the Domstadt cancel, they have been moved to the centre of the cancel.

(Illustration 48). Cancels with different blockouts. Littenschitz with the blackout of date. Zachtel and Marchendorf with blackout of year and Prossnitz/Prostějov with blackout of despatch details.

As in single line cancels, in single ring cancels too there are cases where the engraver has allowed a textural or grammatical error to remain. The majority of such mistakes arose in bilingual cancels, and then from the ignorance of the Czech language. These are numerous and we give only a few examples;

ČIŽKOVU BLOVIC instead of ČIŽKOV U BLOVIC	1871
HUSTOLEČ U HRANIC instead of HUSTOPEČ	1883
ÍZERODOL instead of JIZERODOL	1885
MNICHOVÉ HRADIŠTĚ instead of MNICHOVO HRADIŠTĚ	1876
NOVÉ MĚSTO NOD METUJÍ instead of NOVÉ MĚSTO NAD METUJÍ	1872
PRAGA MALÁ STRANA instead of PRAHA MALÁ STRANA	1873
ZASTAFKA instead of ZASTÁVKA	1871
etc...	

Of these and other errors a relevant note is included in the catalogue. The greatest difficulty for engravers was caused by the strokes and hooks (diacritic marks) of the Czech alphabet. Some errors were noticed in time and were corrected, others escaped the notice of the corrector or seemed to be irrelevant to the postmaster and continued in use for the life of the cancel. Cancels with inverted dates are also known, but these are not the fault of the engravers, but of the postmaster inserting the inset wrongly in the cancel body.

From the oldest period only, two dotted line cancels are known. The first of these was used by the PO on Moravian Císava in the years 1848 - 1872. The second from Silesian Albrechtice has only the German inscription Olbersdorf and lacked the date. Although this cancel appears very rarely on stamps of the first issue, it gives the impression of a special PM cancel, just like some examples of no-name cancels. After a 20 year break, a lined cancel

appeared in an octagonal form. From archival sources only one example is known. It was made of steel by the engraver Burk before the end of the year 1892, and bore the inscription of P.O.50 Wien 4/1 with date and despatch details. On this model further cancels were made two years later which were used by PO's in the Czech lands in the years 1894 - 1918.

Lined cancels are the only ones which by their unusual shape broke with the tradition of single and double ring local cancels. They were of extremely simple design. Only the cancel of the PO in CZECH Breitenback (now Potucky) had an ornamental 5 point star. A considerably limited space for the name of the PO admitted the use of these only to places with short Czech or German names. They were out of the question for bi-lingual cancels. Some impressions have the year omitted or blocked out despatch details. The colour of the cancels was always black and only during the first world war traces of blue and violet were found.

(Page 74). Double ring cancels, the oldest examples of which come from the pre stamp period, underwent in their development two characteristic periods with a short, approximately 10 year break. Into the first period, which can be accurately assessed as 1840 - 1885, are assigned cancels of the old type. From the time division of the first period only a few examples deviate, these were used by West Bohemian collection points. For example, Slavkov and Karlovy Vary, Loket, Jachymov and Nejedek in the 1820's. These cancels are exceptional not only because of the period of use, but also because of their characteristic text. To the second period are assigned cancels of the new type used by PO's in the years 1894 - 1918.

Double ring cancels from the first period were of many different designs and nearly always with some characteristic of postmaster cancels. They differed either in simple decoration, e.g., different stars or more intricate designs of sprays or ornamentation of neutral layout. The majority of them were also examples of artistic or engraver art form. Only a few cancels had only inscription and date. Just as only several types were used in the same design by more than one PO, (G.1, G.18, and G.28). These standard cancels more likely than not, were made by Burk in Vienna.

Inscriptions on double ring cancels from the first period were mainly German or Germanised, except for one of mixed language: Benešov/Postamt. Antique was the chief form of lettering and in the date the fraction number was used with the exception of four cancels with the abbreviations of their German names of the month. Here also the year was included only in a few examples. The information on colours for single ring cancels applies here. Only the cancel Fransensbad had a typographical error which in time was replaced by a duplicate with the correct inscription Franzensbad. The cancel Boehleipa sometimes had the date in inverted order.

From approximately 1873 a few PO's began to use the first bi-lingual cancels, with Czech/German or German/Czech texts. All these cancels were postmaster cancels and only a few of them had the required full date, that is, with the year after 1867. As the two texts take up nearly the whole area of the circle between the two rings, there was no space left for richer ornamentation. For this reason ornamentation was completely omitted in some and limited to variously styled stars in others.

Circa 1880, the era of the double ring cancels of the older type ended. This coincided with the time when practically all cancels were centrally produced in Vienna, where they were also subjected to linguistic censorship.

The reasons why the Viennese postal authorities decided to replace the dominant single ring cancels with a new type are not clear. However, it is known that they entrusted the engraver Burk in 1893 with the task of preparing new double ring cancels. At the end of that year, Burk submitted two samples for which he had chosen the PO on Královské Vinohrady. One of the designs has the inner ring decorated, the second only plain. (Illustration 53). Burk's samples for the new double ring cancel from the year 1893.

In February 1894 the ornamental cancel was rejected, obviously because it demanded more work and would have increased the already high production costs of the new cancel. Both designs were, however, put to use. They were given to Vinohrady PO where they remained in use for some considerable time. Other PO's took delivery of cancels of the simpler, plainer design. As with the single ring and line date stamps, these new double ring cancels were differentiated by small letters, and after 1897 a new way of differentiating PO's of one town was by Arabic numerals. The only exception is that both branches of the PO in České Budějovice and Karlovy Vary were denoted by Roman numerals from the onset. Mono-lingual, mainly German or germanised cancels had the lower part of the area between the circles filled by a star or a letter when it was necessary to divide a longer inscription into two parts by a text. In such cases the small differentiating letter would be placed in the left segment of the space between the rings, or on both sides as in the case of several Brno cancels. Bi-lingual cancels still bore traits of a preference for German inscriptions and for this reason Czech was always placed at the bottom. Only in cases where some feature of the local name was common to both languages was this rule somewhat broken (G.113 and G.114). Despatch details were without exception indicated by Roman or Arabic numerals. A single case of a cancel prepared for the PO in Hodonin had ornamental stars on both sides. It is not known to exist on stamps or postal stationery.

Beginning with the year 1898, i.e., only four years after the introduction of double ring cancels of the new type, these cancels began to be replaced gradually in the larger PO's in the Czech lands by a new type with inscriptions on the left and right half of the outer circle, divided from one another by stars of which the lower was sometimes replaced by an identifying letter. The reasons for these changes were explained in detail in chapter 1.3, on the linguistic development of cancels. Cancels with this new textual modification were delivered to PO's in a German/Czech version in 1904 and in Czech/German four years later, towards the end of 1908.

Another change, this time in the technical make-up of the cancels came about in 1904 with the introduction of a new rotary system for date and sometimes despatch details. These double ring cancels of the new type are characteristically called 'bridge' - two horizontal lines forming a frame for the date row. Before these cancels were put into production, engraver Burk as usual, made several designs. The first of the OBER ROCHLITZ (Horní Roketnice) with short bridge remained unchanged for general production, save for the change of lettering for the identification letter. The second design, cancel PRAHA 1 * Prag 1 also with a short bridge remained without change except that the black square gave way to an identification letter. The third and final design with inscription MARBURG (present day

Maribor in Yugoslavia), was put into production with the bridge brought into line with the inner circle and here also the square was replaced by an identifying letter.

Monolingual cancels with short bridges (G.115 - G.132) differed from those of 1894 only in the date system and in some cases in the positioning of the stars. Bi-lingual cancels with short bridges which were meant for some PO's in Silesia still had the German text above and Polish below (G.133 - G.135), while Bohemian and Moravian PO's had inscriptions at the left and right side, i.e., in the same position as with former cancels from 1898 (G.136 - G.139). Monolingual with long bridges were only suitable for those PO's with a short name which fitted into the upper half of the outer ring. The lower half was filled by identification letter and two stars which were sometimes positioned on the date bridge. These cancels with long bridges mainly had German inscriptions common to both languages. In some cases the identifying letter is antique or is positioned between the bridge and the lower half of the circle. Cancels of this unusual design bear witness to the fact that they were produced by some engraver other than the Viennese Burk or Schatz. There were very few typographical errors in the double ring cancels of the new type. If we disregard wrongly placed acute accent or hooks, it is sufficient to mention at least these two examples: cancel from 1901 in its Czech text ROUDNICE had the N back to front and a cancel from 1897 has mis-arranged letters in the text SECLEC U KRAL instead of SECLEC U KARL VARU.

The colours of the cancels from 1894 until 1918 were all black if we do not take into consideration the dark violet shades, which cannot be considered exceptional in the period of the first world war.

In 1899 in Prague a pneumatic tube post was put into operation. It linked PO Praha 1, the main post and telegraph office with Prague 2 (Old Town) and with the Prague 10 (Lesser Quarter). Five years later, in 1904, this tube network was extended to Kralovske Vinohrady and finally in 1908 to the temporary PO at Prague castle in Hradčany. The main aim of the tube post was to speed the delivery of incoming and outgoing telegrams which would be sent as written. This did away with the somewhat inconvenient long-winded re-transmission by telegram or telephone.

Besides telegrams it was also possible to convey express letters and packets. A whole series of postal stationery was issued for this. Ordinary letters were only conveyed by the tube if the sender had annotated them accordingly and paid in stamps the appropriate fee.

Post Offices Prague 1, 2 and 10 used cancels with identification letter p for mail sent by tube post and the PO at Kralovske Vinohrady used the letter k. The cancels of the type G.124M differed from ordinary cancels only by their time details, which gave not only the hour but also 20 minute intervals of handing over mail to the PO. When, in 1902, the name of the PO Prague 1 was changed to Central Telegraph Station, Prague (then without further numerical identification) new cancels were issued of the bridge type G.139M with the number 4a or 4b in place of the letter p.

Some Prague PO's which did not have the tube post themselves, accepted express letter packets over the counter and cancelled them with telegraph cancel G.139M. In 1910 the main Prague PO was divided into three sections: PO Prague 1, Central Telegraph Station Prague and Prague Telephone Exchange. In the following year the telegraph station used a new bi-lingual bridge cancel with the abbreviation TGF added to the Czech text. These cancels were used either on telegram forms, receipt for express packets or on letters transmitted via tube.

The Prague Telephone Exchange also had similar cancels from 1911, but with the abbreviation TFN.

In 1906, first in Prague then in other large PO's, the first machine cancels were introduced for mass cancellation of mail. A common and at the same time characteristic feature of all machine cancels were the so-called space bars which filled the area between the two cancels. These space bars were of various forms. In the beginning they were 8 horizontal lines, later 4 to 6 continuous or broken waves in many different layouts. A special form was used for the cancels for machine cancellations of postal money orders. It was composed of one circular date stamp from which radiated on two sides concentric circular segments. Machine cancels are indicated in the catalogue on one hand by the type of cancel and on the other by the type of space bar, e.g. G.139, W.66, etc.

In the catalogue are listed town cancels of those PO's which originated and were in use on the territory of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and from which on 28th October, 1918 originated the postal network of the Czech part of the new Czechoslovak Republic, or was added to it. These PO's are arranged in alphabetical order and numbered consecutively, while the names in italics are for purely historical reasons given in the order German/Czech, and in their grammatical form correct in 1910 according to the then current official postal list. (*Verzeichnisse der Post und Telegrafenaemter in Oesterreich - Ungarn und Bosnien-Herzegowina*). For these offices opened after 1910, the name is valid according to the official bulletin (*post Verordnungsblatt für das Verwaltungsgebiet des K.K. Handelsministeriums*). When the name of some villages and their PO's differed considerably in 1910 from older or even newer names, they are cross-referenced in the alphabetical listings, just as Czech names and the German equivalents, (e.g. Reherov - Regens). With the Czech names of PO's and later the name is added in brackets if it differs considerably.

In respect of the use of German-Czech names for PO's, the following accounts for their alphabetical order:

1. Umlaut ä ö ü belong under plain letter (thus ignoring any diacritical marks)
2. The Czech single CH is treated as being between CG and CI.
3. SCH is between SB and SD.
4. Czech diacritical marks are also ignored.

In brackets the province of the Post Office is given Č is Bohemia, M is Moravia and S Silesia, and also the approximate geographical position which is sufficient for the present task. After the PO name, the symbol * indicates the date of its foundation. This information was taken from the archives of the Prague Postal Museum. Where archival documentation could give no definite information, a ? appears. In numerous cases the date of opening is given as that of the bulletin in which the PO was first listed. As the bulletin appeared only periodically with only a slight delay, there can be no great surprise if one finds a cancel from the PO with a date previous to this. Then follows the basic life story of the PO. When 1918CSR appears in the text this means that the PO was in operation until 28.10.1918 and continued operation in the new Republic. A cross + indicates temporary or permanent closure of a PO, ** its re-opening, ++ its re-closure, etc. Any changes in PO names are given according to archival documents or when such documents were not to be found, according to the date of

appearance of individual cancels. Some signs e.g., (BS), (PA), (SP), (NP), are given in the Czech text for the use of foreign collectors. Explanations for these abbreviations are given at the end of the first part of this work.

Cancels of all PO's are arranged as far as possible in chronological order. Every cancel has a serial number followed by the full inscription and any errors which originated at the engravers. Bi-lingual cancels have their inscriptions given in the order in which they are read (Top to bottom or left to right).

Where inscriptions were separated by ornamental design, a single star appears between them in the catalogue. Cancels which after 1892 had serial letters (so-called counter letters) re written thus: RADNICE * RADNITZ/ a, b, c. A further feature is the type of cancel which corresponds to the respective illustration in the type table. These cancels which are of the same type but differ in some respect are annotated either by the note 'mate rozdíly v provedení' - (slight difference in design) or by the addition of the following aids:

D = length of cancel in mm: In line cancels only the length of the main inscription is given., not taking into account any eventual full stop or comma, as this may be difficult to see in worn impressions or light cancels. O = diameter of cancel in mm. In double ring cancels the diameter is that of the outer circle.

In cases where the cancels are of the same length or diameter but differ in the height of the lettering another sign - V - appears indicating the height in mm. Where the already listed signs would not help accurately to distinguish cancels of the same type, other information or a suitable illustration is added. After type classification, information on the colour of the cancels follows:- c = black; m = blue: cv = red: z = green: f = violet: h = brown.

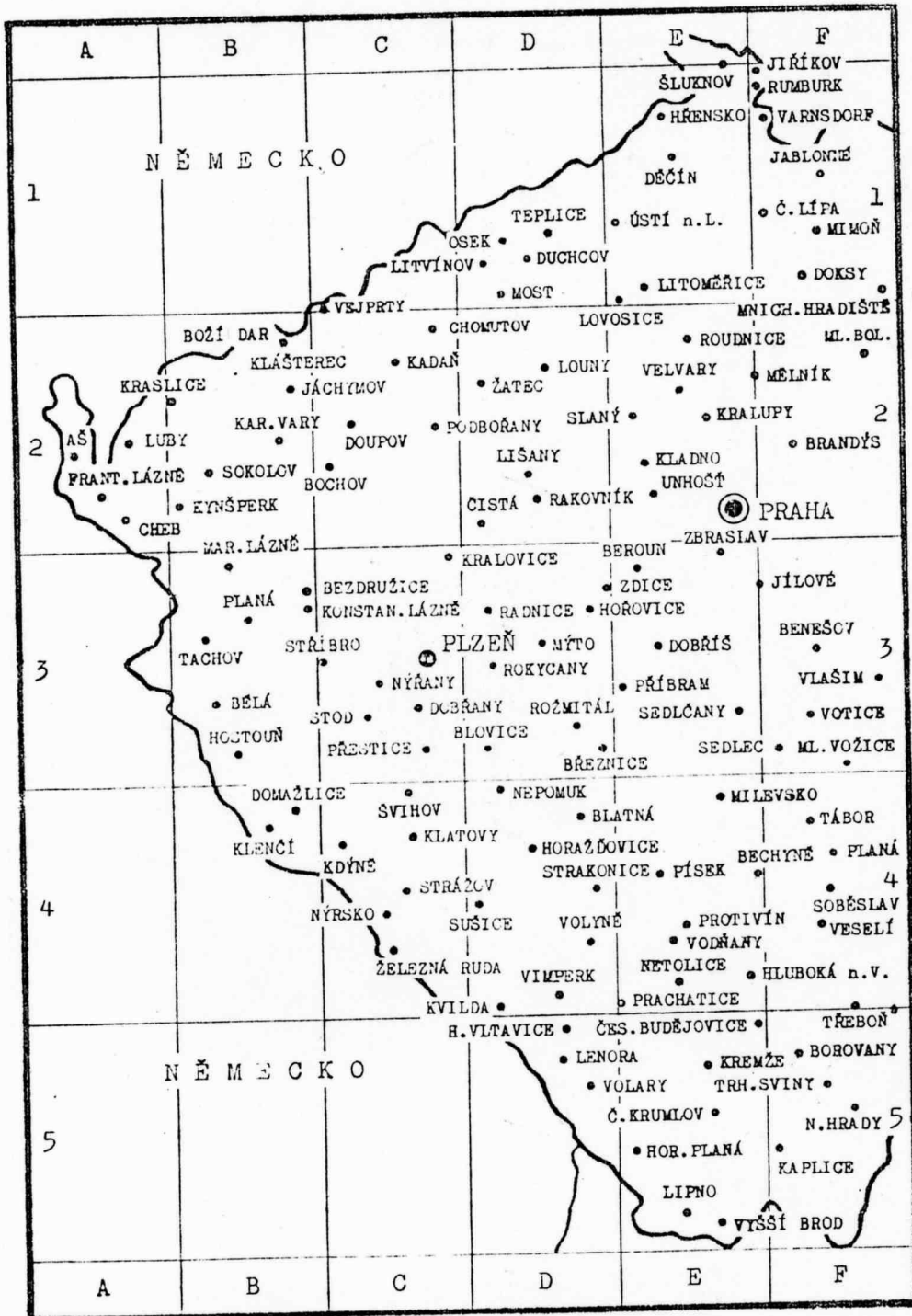
After the colour, the earliest known or possible date usage is given. It is possible that a new find could change the chronological order of the cancels. This is most likely with the cancels from the pre-stamp period. Sometimes a '?' is given after the earliest date of usage when the information was taken from literature and may be inaccurate. In cases where it was not at all possible to identify this information, two dots are given in the year instead of the decade (18..). After these essential details about the cancels, the point value is given. With some cancels, particularly from the pre stamp period, the sign > is used to indicate that the following cancel is a modification of that cancel. This sign is used with, for example, line cancels without date and with those with date added by hand or printed in. Individual types of cancel which continued in use until 1918 were used for some time in the Czechoslovak Republic either without change or with the German inscription removed, are given the annotation CSR. The final data given in brackets indicates the date of origin of the cancel or its delivery to the post office, if this valuable information is found in archival or other returned materials.

In the catalogue even those cancels are listed which were made and delivered to PO's according to documentary evidence, but whose use has not been established on stamps or postal stationery. Such cancels have full inscription and type classification but are, of course, not valued.

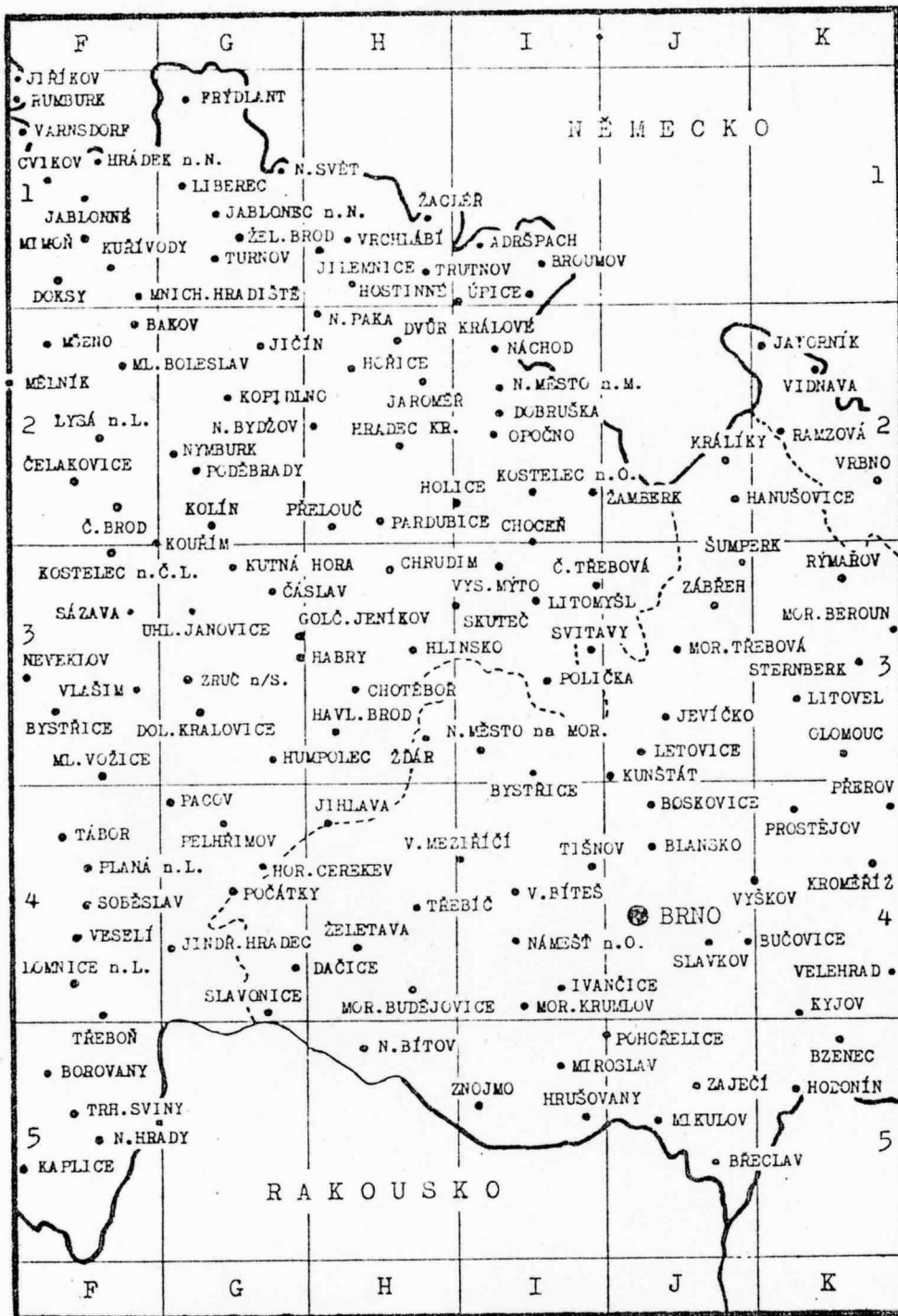
(Illustration 61). West and Central Bohemia - state as after 1918.

(Illustration 62). East Bohemia and West Moravia - after 1918.

(Illustration 63). East Moravia and Silesia - after 1918.



ILL. 61 - WEST AND CENTRAL BOHEMIA
(State as after 1918)



ILL. 62 - EAST BOHEMIA AND WEST MORAVIA
 (State as after 1918)



ILL. 63 - EAST MORAVIA AND SILESIA
(State as after 1918)