



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

We enclose with this journal the annual index for volume 17, 1999; the Auction List; and a flyer for Monograph No.13. The next London meeting is on 1 April when The Kay Goodman Competition will be held and Otto Hornung RDP is showing *Carpatho-Ukraine*. The Summer Regional meeting will be held at the Bell Hotel at Chipping Sodbury on Saturday 24 June with *Members' displays*, with an early dinner afterwards.

We are pleased to hear that Tom Morovics' second operation appears to have been successful and that he hopes to be at Brno. We sadly received the news that K B Millar died before Christmas and Miroslav (Mick) Mirtl died on 14 January 2000, an obituary will appear in due course and we send our condolences to his wife Olga.

The Society, represented by Bill Dawson and Rex Dixon, is entertaining The Hale PS on 7 April 2000. Brian Day is giving a display to the Gravesend Society on 28 April. Papersafe mail order catalogue for 2000 is now available from 2 Greenbank, Adderley, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 3TF. Brian Parker, 16 Eastfield Road, Royston, Herts SG8 7ED wishes to beg or borrow a pre-1918 street map of Prague.

The Editor in his capacity of extractor of magazine articles for the France & Colonies PS noted in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, No.1727 February 2000 on p 72, [73 rue des Jacobins, 800036 Amiens Cedex 1 France] the following paper: Les «scouts» de Prague.

☐ News Flash from the Auction Secretary "If you thought last Summer's Auction was big - wait until you see the next one - WATCH this Space!" Also see page 26 in this journal.

Opinions expressed in articles in Czechout are the sole responsibility of the author(s), and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Society

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting of Saturday 15 January 2000

The Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 20 members to the meeting at the Czech & Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm. He extended a particular welcome to Ian Cooling, who was attending his first meeting. Apologies had been received from three members.

Robert called for a minute's silence in memory of Miroslav Mirtl, who had passed away the day before. He had been active to the last, and was due to join the Society visit to Brno in March. Robert recalled that it was through Mr Mirtl's good offices that the Society had been able to meet at the Czech & Slovak National Club since the 1982 AGM.

The Hon Secretary gave details of one prospective new member:

Bjorn Wangen from Oslo

whose application was readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Robert then called upon **Ernst Gorge FRPSL** to present his display on *The Allegory Issues of 1920-1926*. The members were treated to an exceptional display of this International Exhibition standard collection, which had been exhibited most recently at PRAGA 1998. The "Dove", "Chainbreaker", "Hussite" and "Agriculture & Science" issues were all well represented. Included were examples of unadopted essays, black engravers' and coloured printing trials, the various retouches, and the issued stamps with the rarer line and comb perforation varieties. Of special interest were examples of the trials with issued "Ministerial" sheets printed in limited numbers for distribution to Government and UPU Postal Administrations. Also holding members' attention and provoking discussion were examples of use showing under-paid, foreign receipt, parcel and more unusual postal markings.

Reg Hounsell gave the vote of thanks. With the quality and range of material on display, he said it was difficult to know what to say. Reg thought that he had a good collection, but it was "put into total shade" by Ernst's. On behalf of the Society, Reg wished Ernst good luck for success with his exhibit at BRNO 2000.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Rex A Dixon

Regional Meeting of Saturday 20 November 1999

The apologies received for this meeting meant a low attendance. I was joined by a new member Derek Baron. The display was my *Theresienstadt* and *Czech Army in Siberia* material. There are only two meetings in the north each year and it is a disappointment to me that members do not avail themselves of the opportunity to meet with fellow collectors.

However, I am prepared to have another attempt and the meeting will coincide with the Leeds Philatelic Society's stamp Fair at Pudsey, near Bradford. The fair with approximately 40 dealers is worth making the journey to Yorkshire. Please make a note in your diary now for **Saturday 25 November 2000** at 2.15 pm.

Yvonne Wheatley

Joint Meeting with the Austrian, Hungarian and Polish Societies

The date of this year's joint meeting has been altered to avoid a clash with The Stamp Show 2000, the International Philatelic Exhibition in London. The meeting will be on **Saturday 5 August 2000** at 10.00 am for 10.30 am (please note in your diaries). It will take place as usual at the Barn, Heaton Royds near Bradford, West Yorkshire by kind invitation of Judith and Stephen Holder.

In order to ensure that each Society has the opportunity of having five places at the meeting you will need to let me know if you wish to attend. Members of the Societies attending have been informed of the Regional meeting in November and invited to come.

Yvonne Wheatley, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, LEEDS LS15 9BW [☎ 0113-260-1978 evenings.]

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Initial Notification: CsPSGB Residential Weekend 2001

Your committee have agreed that following the great success of the Leamington Spa weekend, a further weekend be organised in Spring 2001. This will take place in Chester at Blossoms Hotel from **Friday 27 to Sunday 29 April 2001**. Blossoms is a well known Forte Heritage Hotel centrally located in this historic city. Chester is a particularly suitable venue for non-philatelic partners, with excellent shopping, Roman remains, complete city walls and its famous cathedral. Chester Zoo, the Albert Dock Complex at Liverpool and the North Wales coast are all within easy access. The agreed room rate is £45 per day per person for dinner, bed and breakfast. If more than seven single rooms are required, there will be a £15 per day surcharge for the extra rooms. Full details and a booking form will be circulated with a future *Czechout*.

Richard Beith

Letters to the Editor

☒ Bob Hill has received the following letter from **Frank Kaplan** of the Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries Cholmondeley Branch, who writes: "Please accept a belated but most sincere thank you for your letter dated 27th November and the enclosed cheque for £94.60.

Would you please thank, on my behalf and of those who are involved in the restoration of the memorial, all the members of your Society who so generously supported our efforts by their bidding and personal gifts. Your Society's name and names of the donors will be included in the list of subscribers to the project when the account is closed, which we anticipate will be, fingers crossed, sometime in the middle of next year.

May I take this opportunity to wish you, your family and members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain a pleasant Christmas Holiday, prosperity, happiness and especially good health in the coming New Year. Once again with many thanks."

☒ **Hans van Dooremalen** writes to the Editor: "A good example, how a society should be run, can be found in the CsPSGB. I would like to compliment all committee members on the excellent job done in the last year. Especially the auctions run by Bob Hill and the contents of *Czechout* are a welcome surprise every quarter. Please keep up the good work!" *On behalf of my colleagues thank you Hans for your kind words. Editor.*

☒ **Ian Taylor**, Tara, Letcombe Regis, Wantage OX12 9LD writes to Richard Beith: "I have been exchanging stamps of Great Britain, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands with a correspondent from Kolin, Czech Republic for more than ten years.

As I am no longer able to continue this exchange, I was wondering if a member of your society would like to take up this opportunity. He only collects used stamps but is quite happy with Cancelled To Order for modern issues, but not First Day Covers. I can supply details of rates of exchange etc to anyone interested."

We suggest members answering any requests should not send any stamps until contact has been confirmed and a satisfactory form of exchange, etc, agreed upon. The Society cannot enter into any correspondence or take responsibility for any transactions entered into.

Publications

We have received the following journals which will be available from the Society Library. Items of interest to members are:

- The Spring 2000 issue of *Austria* No.129. The articles include:
 - Wien Combined Town and Registration Cancellers (White); Railway Official's Datestamps [1916-17] (-).
- The December 1999 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.31, Whole No.122 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:

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- ▶ Czech Railway Post Offices in the 1998/99 Timetable (Tschirner); Airmail route Vienna-Prague-Vienna (Lehrmann); New Airmail Issues from Slovakia (Müller).

Douglas regrets owing to concerts, rehearsals and excursions he was unable to find out any information regarding the "The New Post Offices which offer a limited range of services depending upon local needs in the Czech Republic."

- The Jan/Feb 2000 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 62, No. 1, Whole No. 559. The articles include:
 - ▶ Our National Symbols Part 1 (Vostatek); A moment in Airmail Postal History (Miskevich); An imperfect Colour Se-tenant (Fritz); Telč celebrates its 900th Anniversary (Hahn); Souvenir sheet varieties (Garancovsky); General Eisenhower receives a riotous welcome in Prague (Miskevich); Czech Scout covers from the Presidium of Council of Ministers (Lawrence); Moiré on Czechoslovak stamps (Vostatek); Acknowledged and Delivered by the Post Office (Fritz); Husita stamps used in Eastern Silesia (Kunc).
- *Dylizans* No.16 January 2000
 - ▶ Publishes a review of CsPSGB Monograph 12 and other Society publications.
- The 6/1999 & 1/2000 issues of *Merkur Revue*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ Liberated Republic 50h [Chainbreaker] (Kašpar, Chvosta & Kašpar); Carpatho-Ukraine(-); Unissued banknotes of so-called C II issue [2] (Moravec); ČSR Registered Etiquettes (Holoubek)
 - ▶ Paper Mill of Zbraslav (Kašpar); Guernica (Fischer); Pressnitz and Philately (Bokvaj); Reserve Banknotes from 1962 (Moravec).
- The March 2000 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No.140. The articles include:
 - ▶ More Visszatért interest (Benford).

BOOK AND MAGAZINE REVIEWS

A recent browse through the bookshops of Prague revealed two new books on Czechoslovak aviation history which should be of great interest to any collector of Czechoslovak air mails. Both books are very well illustrated hardbacks and, a considerable bonus, both have bilingual Czech-English texts. The English texts are full translations not just summaries.

The Airports of Prague [Dopravní Letiště Prahy] 1918-1946, by Lubomír Dudáček. MBI Miroslav Bily, Prague 1998. ISBN 80-902238-4-2. [Prague bookshop price Kč 399] This splendid 200-page volume covers the history of both Prague Airports, the first at Kbely and the current Ruzyně, opened originally on 5 April 1937. There are many, many references to the growth of the two Czechoslovak airlines CLS and CSA as well as coverage of the early French airline CFRNA, later CIDNA; later still part of Air France. The photographs of planes are very well reproduced, the coverage includes the impressive DC2s, DC3s and Savoia Marchetti SM 73s seen in the late 30s. The book concludes with the story of Ruzyně under German occupation and the triumphant return of the Czechoslovak Squadrons of the RAF in 1945.

Strongly recommended.

Aero 1919 - 1999, by Pavel Kucera. G T Club, Motormedia, Prague, 1999. ISBN 80-902516-3-3 [Prague bookshop price Kč 650]

This 280-page book has the subtitle *The Illustrated History of an Aircraft Builder* and tells the story of the Aero Company who have manufactured planes (and other forms of transport in Czechoslovakia) since 1919. They are still busy in today's Czech Republic, producing the L-159 light multirole combat jet which, it is stated, is helping the Czech Air Force in adapting to life within NATO.

In the late 20s and early 30s, such biplanes as the Aero A 23 and A 38 were used by CSA on regular mail and passenger carrying flights. There are many illustrations in full colour, photographs for the modern planes and colour drawings for the more historic equipment.

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ICARE, revue de l'aviation française, No. 131, 1939-40/La Bataille de France, Volume XV, Les Tchèques. Large format [24 x 32 cm], 158-page magazine. Current price inc postage to the UK, French Francs 102, from Revue Icare, Tour Essor 93, 14-16 Rue de Scandicci, 93508 Pantin cedex, France. Major credit cards accepted.

This well established French-language aviation magazine has appeared for many years, the latest issue (four per annum) is No.169. This particular issue was published in 1989 but is still available. It covers the contribution of Czech and Slovak aviators flying with the French Air Force during the Battle of France in the late Spring and early Summer of 1940. As such it provides excellent background information for any collector lucky enough to have relevant covers or other philatelic ephemera from this period of aviation history. The bulk of the magazine is devoted to personal memoirs of individual pilots plus a detailed listing of fighter pilots [*Pilotes de chasse*] by Squadron [GC = *Groupe de chasse*], their victories and decorations. There is less information on the Czechoslovak contribution to the French bomber squadrons; perhaps the majority of the Czech and Slovak flyers were posted to fighter units. There is a wealth of historic photographs showing both men and machine. It is noted that many of those listed later served with the RAF from bases in the United Kingdom. Recommended.

Richard Beith

COVERS OF INTEREST

Ernst Gorge sent us an interesting registered/express cover from Frýdek 2 which he discovered some time ago. Ernst sent it to John Whiteside for his comments and with his permission we include his remarks.



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"The postage rate is absolutely correct - 200 heller for postage to Germany up to 20g., 250h. foreign registration fee and 500h. foreign express fee - total 950 heller.

You ask whether the cover is philatelic or genuine. One cannot always be 100% sure, but I get a strong feeling that this cover is a genuine use and is not philatelic at all. The rate is right, the address and sender's details on the back seem to be perfectly normal, and the fact that it is posted at Frýdek 2, which is the railway station office, at 20 hours (8 pm.) indicates a desire to get the item for Express delivery on arrival in Berlin into the mails on that day (23rd May). It did not get to Berlin until the 25th, but the backstamps of Steglitz and then Dahlem are right for distribution from central Berlin. Dahlem is south-west of the city centre and distribution through Steglitz (or Wilmersdorf) is sensible. Unfortunately, I cannot trace the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut in Dahlem in any of my literature on Berlin, but I have a feeling that it may have been a medical research centre.

I expect you are a little worried about the number of stamps used, but I should not be. It would be quite interesting to do a study on mail to foreign countries in 1922. I think you would probably find that most mail was paid by several or many stamps - because I think that only a few stamps of over 100 heller were widely available! The possibilities are:

Masaryk 1920 125h., 500h., 1000h.

Chainbreaker - 100h., 185h., 250h. (and 150h., not issued until 10/4/22)

Sci/Industry - 300h., 400h., 500h., 600h. (the 100h. green and 200h. violet were invalid 30/4/21)

These last four stamps are very seldom seen on letter mail, as are the two high value Masaryks. Their main use was on parcel cards until 15th May 1921, when stamps ceased to be used on them. The quantities printed are not large and I suspect that after May 1921, no more were printed and distribution virtually ceased.

The Chainbreaker 185h. had a specific use throughout 1921, when it paid the registered rate within Czechoslovakia (60h. + 125h.). It seems uncommon used in 1922. The 250h. Chainbreaker is the one that is a bit of a puzzle to me. It should be met with quite often on foreign mail of 1922, but I cannot recall seeing many covers bearing it. The 150h. Chainbreaker was issued for a specific purpose to pay the foreign postcard rate and that seems to have been its main use.

On 1st Jan. 1922, the foreign mail rates rose sharply. Postage was 250h. for 20g., then 150h. for each further 20g., except for Austria, Germany, Hungary and Poland, where the first 20g. was 200h. The registration fee was 250h. and the Express fee was 500h.

Until 1st Feb. 1923, when the redrawn 100, 200 and 300h. Science/Industry appeared, it seems to me that only the 100h. Chainbreaker and the residue of the 125h. Masaryk were available in any quantity to pay the foreign rates. It is an interesting topic to consider - if I am right. I wonder if it would be worth writing a little article in *Czechout* some time?"

VISITING THE VAN GOGH MUSEUM IN AMSTERDAM

-Robert J Hill-

Now isn't it just surprising what you see when you least expect it?

On a recent trip to the Netherlands I had time to spare and decided to visit my Number Four favourite museum in the world, the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. In the very modern annex was an exhibition "Praag 1900" with the sub title "Poetry and Ecstasy". This temporary exhibition will go on to Frankfurt and then back to the railway city of Zwolle.

The artists included Mikoláš Aleš; Jaroslav Benda; Alfons Mucha; Jan Priesler; Vojtěch Preissig; Maximilian Švabinský - and many others.

On display are mainly paintings (some are brilliant), a few posters and some sculptures spread over two floors. I bought the catalogue that has all of the works illustrated and some very short biographies. As admission was included in the entrance price to the Van Gogh collection it was very good value indeed.

POSTAL RATES IN BOHEMIA MORAVIA PROTECTORATE (15.3.1939-8.5.1945)

Part 2: Rates to the German Reich

- Translated by Douglas D. Baxter -
- Additional commentary from Rex A. Dixon -

I thank the Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH the publishers of the Michel Catalogue for permission to reproduce their table and our two members who have supplied translations of these postage rates and some additional commentary. Ed.

Postal rates: From 15 March 1939, the rates for items sent within the Protectorate or to the German Reich were those of Czechoslovakia. They were adjusted stepwise [1.4.39, 17.7.39, 1.6.40, 1.10.40] to match the German inland rates, based on an exchange rate of 10 pf \ddot{u} g = 1 K \ddot{c} .

The following table is for mail from the Protectorate **to the German Reich**. Rates within the Protectorate were covered in *Czechout* 4/99; rates to Slovakia and elsewhere will be the subject of a future article. For mail to the German Reich there are four distinct phases:

1. Up to 31.3.39: Previous Czechoslovak rates to Germany remained in force. Generally these were full foreign rates, but the following received the reduced rate applicable to certain 'neighbouring' countries: ordinary postcards and letters [first 20 g only], mailings in braille, and the premium on insured letters.
2. 1.4.39 – 16.7.39: German rates for ordinary letters and postcards [but see note ⁽⁸⁾ for an exception], Czechoslovak rates for everything else [special services, printed matter, etc].
3. 17.7.39 – 30.9.40: The majority of non-basic rates [e.g. printed matter, express, insured letters] aligned with German rates. But others [e.g. C.O.D., registration] remain unchanged.
4. From 1.10.40: Almost totally aligned with German inland rates and services. The exception [newspaper printed matter] is indicated in the table.

Michel note ⁽¹⁶⁾ states that the rates to the German Reich also applied **to the General Government** from 1.10.40. Note ⁽⁹⁾ to the table of foreign rates states that full foreign rates applied from 7.2.40. So, presumably, Michel is implying that before that the reduced rates to Poland applied. [This timetable is very difficult to believe. Can anyone supply evidence, in the form of covers or otherwise, for rates to the General Government?]

Postal Rates from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to the German Reich					
		15.03.1939	01.04.1939	17.07.1939	01.10.1940 ⁽¹⁶⁾
Letters	up to 20 g	02.00	01.20 ⁽⁸⁾	01.20	01.20
	100 g	Plus 01.50 for	-	-	-
	250 g	each further	02.50 ⁽⁸⁾ ⑦	02.40	02.40
	500 g	20 g	04.00 ⁽⁸⁾	04.00	04.00
	1000 g		06.00 ⁽⁸⁾	06.00	06.00
Postcards [each part of reply cards]		01.20	00.60 ⁽⁸⁾	00.60	00.60
Printed matter	up to 20 g	00.50 per 50 g	00.50 per 50 g	00.30	00.30
	50 g			00.40	00.40
	100 g			00.80	00.80
	150 g			-	-
	250 g			01.50	01.50
	500 g			03.00	03.00
	1000 g			-	-
2000 g	-	-			
Commercial papers [business papers]	up to 100 g	00.50 per 50 g	00.50 per 50 g	00.80	00.80
	250 g	but at least	but at least	01.50	01.50
	500 g	02.50	02.50	03.00	03.00
	1000 g			-	-
Mailings in braille	up to 100 g	00.05	00.05	00.30 up to 5 kg	00.30 up to 5 kg
	1000 g	00.15	00.15		
	2000 g	00.30	00.30		
	5000 g	00.75	00.75		
	7000 g	-	-		

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Postal Rates from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to the German Reich				
	15.03.1939	01.04.1939	17.07.1939	01.10.1940 ⁽¹⁵⁾
Samples up to 100 g 250 g 500 g 1000 g	00.50 per 50 g but at least 01.00	00.50 per 50 g but at least 01.00	00.80 01.50 03.00 -	00.80 01.50 03.00 -
Packets [i.e. small parcels] up to 2000 g	01.00 per 50 g but at least 05.00	01.00 per 50 g but at least 05.00	04.00	04.00
Cash on Delivery [C.O.D.]	As for a letter plus 03.00 ⁽¹⁴⁾ plus 00.50 for each 100 Kč	As for a letter plus 03.00 ⁽¹⁴⁾ plus 00.50 for each 100 Kč	As for a letter plus 03.00 ⁽¹⁴⁾ plus 00.50 for each 100 Kč	As for a letter plus 02.00
Registration fee	02.50	02.50	02.50	03.00
Personal Delivery fee	From the German Reich 00.50	00.50	00.50	01.00
Express Delivery fee	05.00	05.00	04.00 08.00 ⁽¹⁵⁾	04.00 08.00 ⁽¹⁵⁾
Pneumatic Post fee	-	-	-	-
Advice of Receipt fee [AR] a) on delivery b) after delivery	02.50 04.00	02.50 04.00	02.50 04.00	03.00 ⁽¹⁹⁾ 04.00
Poste Restante fee	00.50	00.50	-	-
Insured letters Plus insurance premium Plus handling charge	As for a registered letter 02.80 for each 300 gold francs ③ -	As for a registered letter 02.80 for each 300 gold francs ③ -	As for an ordinary letter 01.00 for each 5000 Kč 04.00 up to 1000 Kč, or 05.00 for over 1000 Kč	As for an ordinary letter 01.00 for each 5000 Kč 04.00 up to 1000 Kč, or 05.00 for over 1000 Kč
Unfranked or under-franked items. Penalty charge [on mail from Germany]	x2 but at least 00.50 For registered letter: x1 but at least 00.50	x2 but at least 00.50 For registered letter: x1 but at least 00.50	x2 ④	x2 ④
Newspaper printed matter each newspaper first 100 g ⑤ each additional 100 g	00.25 per 50 g	④ 00.05 ⁽¹⁸⁾ 00.02	④ 00.05 00.02	④ 00.05 00.02
Delivery receipt [for ordinary packets]	-	-	-	01.00 ⁽¹⁹⁾

④ Rates were not aligned with the German inland service.

⑤ The Michel Catalogue says "each 100 g", but this must be a misprint.

⑥ This is almost certainly a misprint in Michel for 02.40

③ 1 gold franc = 7 Kč, so 300 gold francs = 2100 Kč [source: John Whiteside]

④ RAD, John Whiteside & Ron Hollis all state that this is an error in the Michel Catalogue and that it should be x1.5, certainly from 1.10.40, but possibly from 17.7.39. [Can anyone supply evidence one way or the other?]

Footnotes within the tables taken from the Michel Catalogue:

⁽⁸⁾ For registered letters & postcards, insured letters, & letters over 1 kg, these rates do not apply [the previous ones apply].

⁽¹⁴⁾ Only 01.50 if sent by a postal cheque.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Where the addressee lives in the outer express delivery district of the delivery office [i.e. where delivery is to an address served by a rural suboffice].

⁽¹⁶⁾ Also valid to the General Government. ⁽¹⁸⁾ Valid from 1.6.1939. ⁽¹⁹⁾ Valid from 1.8.1940.

REVOLUTIONARY OVERPRINTS OF PARDUBICE

-Robert J Hill-

Introduction

On the river Labe, the town of Pardubice and its environs was finally liberated by the 4th Ukrainian Front of the Red Army on 10 May 1945.

In common with many other liberated areas, immediate action was taken to:

- postally commemorate the newly won freedom
- eradicate all signs of German influence

To achieve the first objective, at the instigation of various professional and lay bodies:

- i some covers bore the impression PRAVDA VÍTEŽÍ (Truth Prevails)
- ii existing stocks of Bohemia and Moravia stamps were overprinted

The second objective was attained by defacing the bilingual postal cancellers and removing the German legend. The defaced cancellers were later replaced with a Czech language canceller. In general, the smaller post offices in outlying districts continued using the original handstamp with the German legend removed for some considerable time.

Use of local and overprinted stamps ceased, by directive, before the end of May 1945, see Part II of this article. They were replaced with the new postage stamps of Československo.

PART I

The Svoboda Revolutionary Overprints of Pardubice

Overview

The originator of this overprint was Dr Josef Svoboda, who held the post of head physician at the eye department of the main hospital in Pardubice.

Dependent on the catalogue used, the following were overprinted:

Karel Holoubek

Red Overprint

Hitler's Head	10h,	40h,	50h,	60h
---------------	------	------	------	-----

Black Overprint

Hitler's Head	30h,	80h,	1.20k,	3k,	4k
---------------	------	------	--------	-----	----

Juan Santaeugenia Grau

Red Overprint

Hitler's Head	10h,	40h,	50h,	60h
---------------	------	------	------	-----

Black Overprint

Hitler's Head	30h,	60h,	80h,	1k,
	1.20k,	1.50k,	3k,	4k

The discrepancy is discussed at the end of this article. The author has examples of all of the above overprints except the 1k in his collection.

The overprint shows parallel lines, defacing DEUTSCHES REICH, above a lion; underneath is the date 1945.

Sworn Statement of Josef Řehoř

During January 1988 a sworn statement was given to Karel Bláha by Josef Řehoř who was then more than 70 years of age. In his working life he was an employee of the Pardubice printing house of J Otto & Růžička and later became a Director.

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"More than 42 years ago at the end of World War II, I produced overprints on the stamps of Bohemia & Moravia at the printing company of J Otto & Růžička. I was asked to do this work by the son-in-law of the owner of the printing house, his name was Dr Svoboda and he was head physician of the hospital eye department. The Doctor is now dead. I do not remember now which exact day this was but was 2 or 3 days before 9 May or 1 or 2 days afterwards. It could not be later than this because after this date there was a printing commando of Russian soldiers preparing their newspapers during the night and the employees were working on portraits of Josef Stalin, Eduard Beneš, Klement Gottwald and others during the day. As I remember there were three stamp values in violet, orange, and may be green. I do not remember exactly the values [60h, 80h and 50h – RJH]. I printed a lion in red colour in sheets of 100 stamps. I do not remember the exact figure of the sheets but the majority were of the lower value. Dr Svoboda gave me one stamp from each sheet but I gave them to my colleague Karel Škoda, a philatelist. More than 20 years ago some philatelists asked me several times about details of the overprints but I do not remember their names. As for Mr Škoda and other old colleagues from the printing house, they are no longer alive."

Derived Information

The idea to celebrate the longing for freedom by overprinting stamps occurred to Dr Josef Svoboda during 1942. He had discussed the matter with local dentist Eduard Kalmán who was also to be an author of a set of overprints [see Part II of this article].

Only much later, when the developments on the European battlefields seemed to be propitious, did Dr Svoboda decide to go a little further in his quest. He had connections with the printing house of J Otto & Růžička in Smilově ulice, Pardubice. The owner of this factory was his father-in-law - he died before the war was to end. In 1944 Dr Svoboda found a suitable worker he could trust and he decided to confide in this man his intentions. The man was Karel Škoda who was a mechanic at the printing house. The workers of the printing house were skilled and there was sufficient equipment to achieve the aims, the work force had already had experience in producing bank notes.

The drawing of the lion was selected by Karel Škoda; this is evident from the article of 1947, which is probably more accurate than the declaration dated 1975. This drawing was based on the work of one of the printing house employees, František Pleskot, and some trials were covertly started with this drawing. The lion was printed on "lightmounts" into which different stamps were inserted so that it could be seen what the finished article would look like; this method was considered not to be very dangerous as the likelihood of discovery was remote. Two lines were added to the top of the lion to obscure the German legend, additionally it was settled that a year would be placed at the bottom under the lion - all of the conspirators hoped the year would be 1945.

After evaluation of all the circumstances as to the most suitable method of overprinting, lithographic stone was chosen. This was achieved during the fall of 1944. It was also agreed to copy the pattern 100 times and so overprint the whole sheet of stamps together.

After this came the long wait for freedom.

A broadcast by Praha radio for help was the signal for action and the overprinting started on 5 May 1945. It was obvious that it could not be concealed and gradually further employees of the printing house were informed. These were the director of the Printing House, Mr Marek, the accountant Jaroslav Šmerovský and another printer and head of the lithographic department Josef Řehoř, who together with Josef Neuman took up the overprinting.

On that day Dr Svoboda brought the supply of stamps he had accumulated. His report of 1975 translates to "prepared and supplemented". The latter word can be explained by the following comments: "more than one third of the whole amount of stamps were overprinted for Josef Volák, Pardubician stamp dealer", hence the use of the word supplement.

Dr Svoboda first put the overprinted stamps on sale at Pardubice 2 post office. Initially he took 200 sets up to the value 80h. The postal employees kept most of the stamps themselves. Further stamps were handed over to Josef Volák. The overprints were also sold at the hospital shop, although the amounts

are not known. 600 sets were offered to members of the Pardubice Philatelic Club and were rapidly sold at face value. Each of the printing house employees were given four sets with the option to purchase more.

Dr Svoboda stated that "during the last days small amounts of values 1.20k, 3k and 4k were overprinted." Karel Holoubek is of the opinion that the printing house employees also received these stamps.

The stamps are known on cover, postally used from Pardubice 1, Pardubice 2, Pardubice 5, Holice, Nové Město nad Metují and Bohdaneč, all letters being delivered with the normal post. Mixtures of the Svoboda and Kalmán overprints postally used on cover have been seen by the author.

From the printing house records comes the following information on the overprints. They are in accordance with the company sales department records and are based on the entries of accountant Jaroslav Šmerovský.

Value	Overprint colour	Number of stamps	Comments
10h	red	4,200	Later, 4,400 was quoted
30h	black	3,000	
40h	red	3,000	One sheet for trial
50h	red	3,000	
60h	red	3,000	
60h	black	100	
80h	black	3,000	
1.20k	black	800	
1.50k	black	300	
3k	black	300	
4k	black	200	

According to company records, overprinting was done 5 thru 10 May 1945 and the overprint impression was expunged, in the presence of witnesses, on 15 May 1945.

In the museum exists photographs taken during the overprinting.

The overprints quoted by Karel Holoubek can be substantiated by the existing records. His omission of the 60h black overprint can be explained by the fact that only one sheet was overprinted, although the omission of the 1.50k is not so readily explained. This only leaves the problem of the 1k value which is the only stamp missing from my collection!

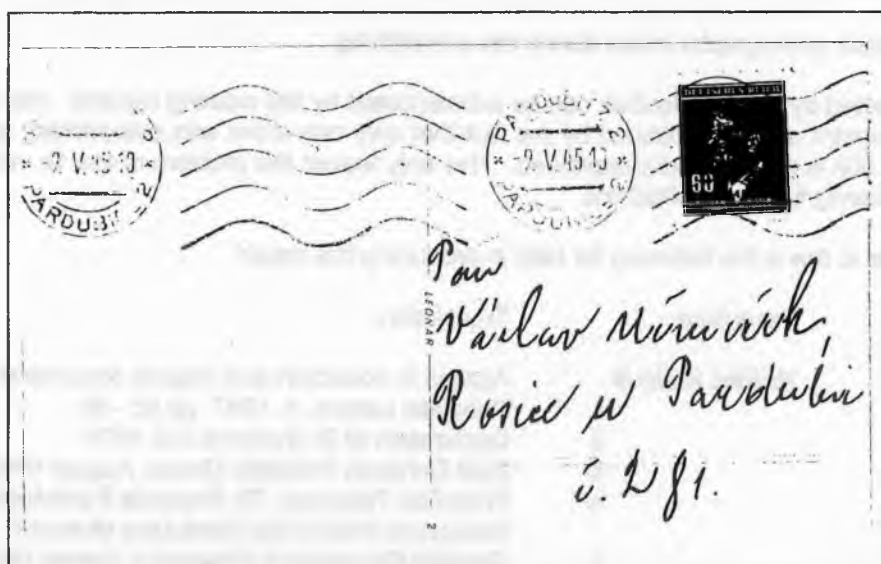
The author wishes to thank the following for help in producing this paper:

Jan Dobrovolný	Pardubice	Translation
Karel Holoubek	Hradec Králové	Access to collection and original documents:
		i Philatelic Letters, II, 1947, pp 55 - 56
		ii Declaration of Dr Svoboda 5.5.1975
		iii East Bohemia Philatelic Group, August 1980, pp 5 - 7
		iv František Táborsky, "Dr Svoboda Pardubician Overprints Filed in the Pardubice Museum"
v <i>Seznam Revolučních Provizorií z května 1945</i> , undated		
Juan Grau	Barcelona	Correspondence <i>Revolutionary Stamps and Overprints 1945</i> , publ.1996

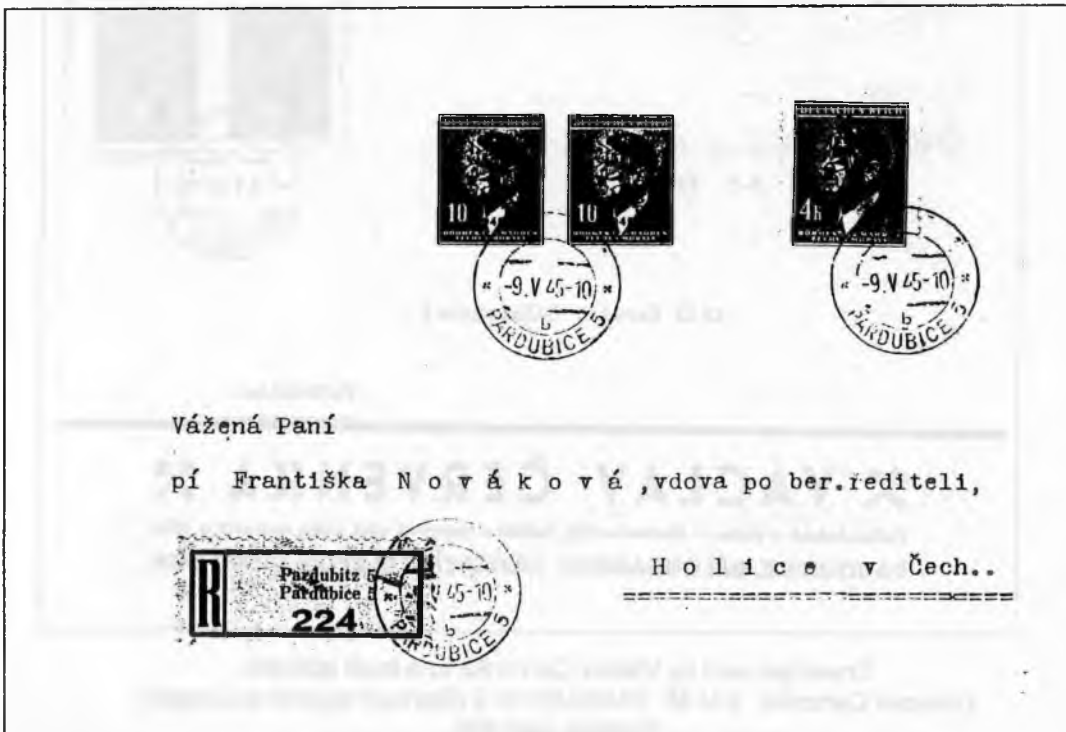
The Svoboda Overprint



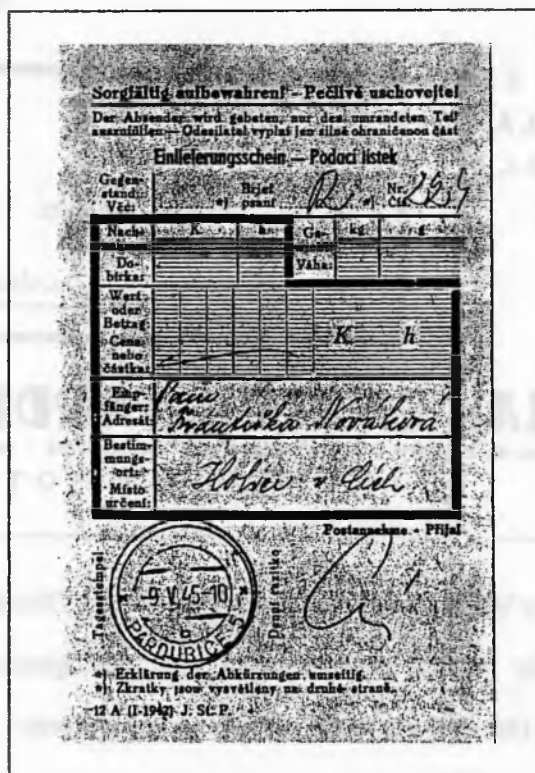
Envelope addressed to Kolin
 Defaced Cancellor 9.V.45 PARDUBICE 5 (German legend expunged)
 Postage paid 4k
 With 2 x 80h and 2 x 1.20k Hitler's head stamps with Svoboda overprints

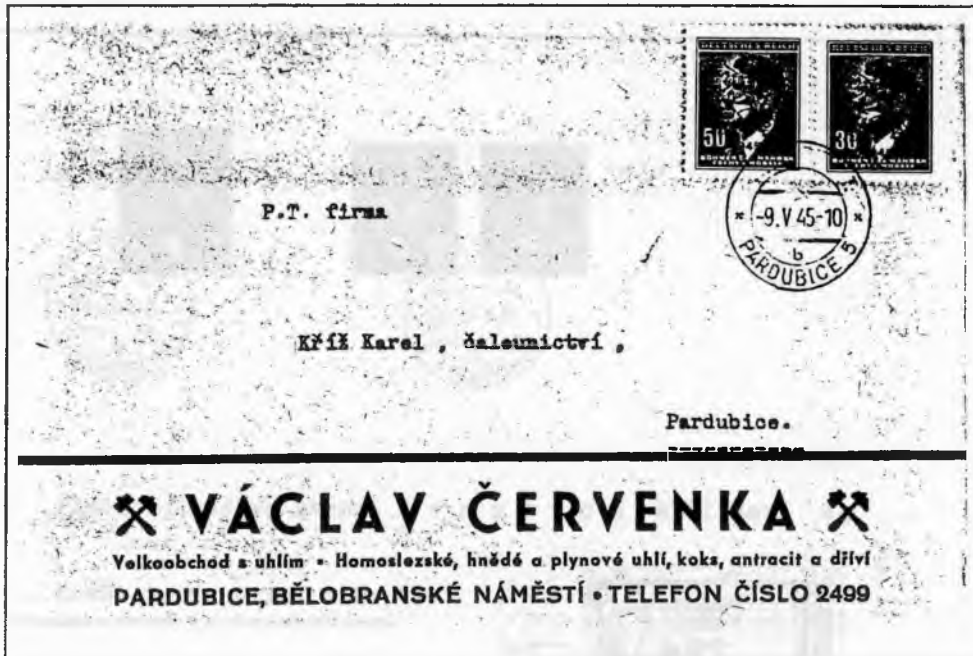


Black and white postcard of Bohemia & Moravia 2k Pardubice stamp (Mi 56)
 Postage paid 60h Hitler's Head stamp with Svoboda overprint
 Dual language machine canceller PARDUBITZ 2 PARDUBICE 2 9.V.45
 Sent to a local address

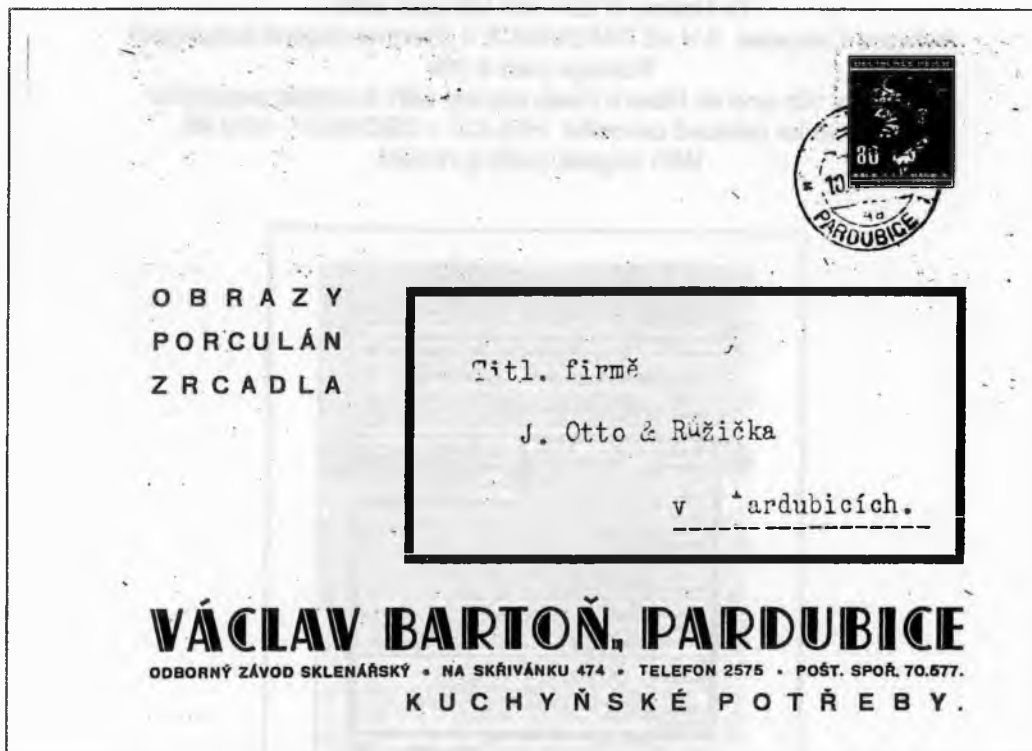


Envelope sent by Ladislav Cibulka, chairman of Pardubice Philatelic Club
 To Holice, R 224 with bilingual label
 Defaced Cancellor 9.V.45 PARDUBICE 5 (German legend expunged)
 Postage paid 4.20k
 With 2 x 10h and 4k Hitler's Head stamps with Svoboda overprints
 Backstrike defaced canceller HOLICE v CECHACH 10.V.45
 With original posting receipt





Envelope sent by Václav Červenka to a local address
 Defaced Cancellor 9.V.45 PARDUBICE 5 (German legend expunged)
 Postage paid 80h
 With 30h and 50h Hitler's Head stamps with Svoboda overprints



Envelope sent by Václav Bartoň to the Printing firm of J Otto & Růžička
 (who produced the overprints)
 Defaced Cancellor 10.V.45 PARDUBICE 1 (German legend expunged)
 Postage paid 80h
 With Hitler's Head stamp with Svoboda overprint

To be continued

EAST SILESIA - 1920

-J. Barry Horne FRPSL-

Rex Dixon writes: Owing to other commitments I've only just got around to reading Barry's article which appeared in *Czechout* 3/99.

The article's title highlights the problem which its author is trying to grapple with, the timing which prevented the "SO 1920" overprints from being used in the Hlučín area. The two events described, the invalidation of German stamps on 12 February 1920 in the Hlučín area and the issue of the Czechoslovak "SO 1920" overprints on 13 February 1920 in Eastern Silesia, are totally independent and unrelated.

The Hlučín area (Hlučínsko or Hultschiner Ländchen) was transferred to Czechoslovakia from **German** Upper Silesia. The transfer of this small area was without plebiscite - the plebiscite was for those large parts of Upper Silesia which were in dispute between Germany and Poland.

On the other hand, the "SO 1920" overprints for "Silésie Ost" were used in those parts of **Austrian** Silesia which were subject to dispute between the young Czechoslovak and Polish nations.

On a slightly different matter, the map printed with the article includes a serious inaccuracy. It shows the town of Troppau (Opava) as being on the German side of the frontier in 1914, and hence included within the Hultschiner Ländchen. It was in fact on the Austrian side of the frontier, which kinked around the town specifically.

Barry replies: I take the point that Rex is making. In trying to keep the article short I regret I seem to have given the impression that the "SO 1920" overprints were in some way involved with the **Hlučín** area. I was trying to indicate that the dates were all seemingly falling into a similar pattern, and that the postal system would operate in both areas as from the one date.

The map, as indicated in the article, is acknowledged to Martin Gilbert, is actually showing the Silesian Coal Basin 1919 - 1939. I suppose that we can forgive him a little "poetic" licence on this detail.

SKALICA, 11 April thru 13 May 1945

- Robert J. Hill -

Seppo Laaksonen writes with reference to Bob's article in *Czechout* 4/99:

This issue (and Slovakia 1939 - 45 in general) is also in my sphere of interest. In my collection are two Skalica covers that might be not quite usual. I am enclosing photocopies for your information.

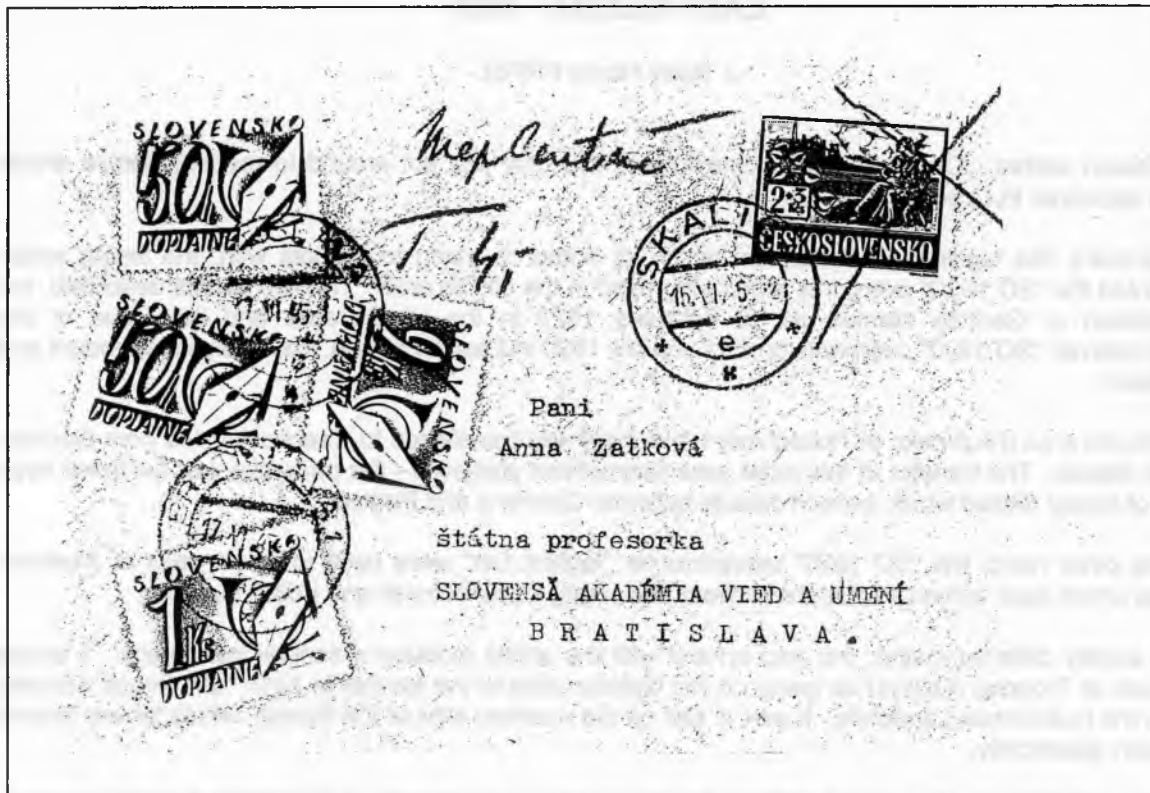
1) Letter with 2 + 3k from Skalica 'e' 15.6.45 to Bratislava. Blue crayon obliteration and 'Neplatné T 4,-' [invalid Czechoslovak stamp, postage due 4k]. Amount due collected with still valid Slovak State postage due stamps in Bratislava 1 17.5.45.

2) Express letter with two Czechoslovak stamps from Kuchyňa 24.6.45 to Malacky. Slovak State S.P. postmark, with removed C, still in use. Although addressed to a local authority, most likely philatelic (as they usually are).

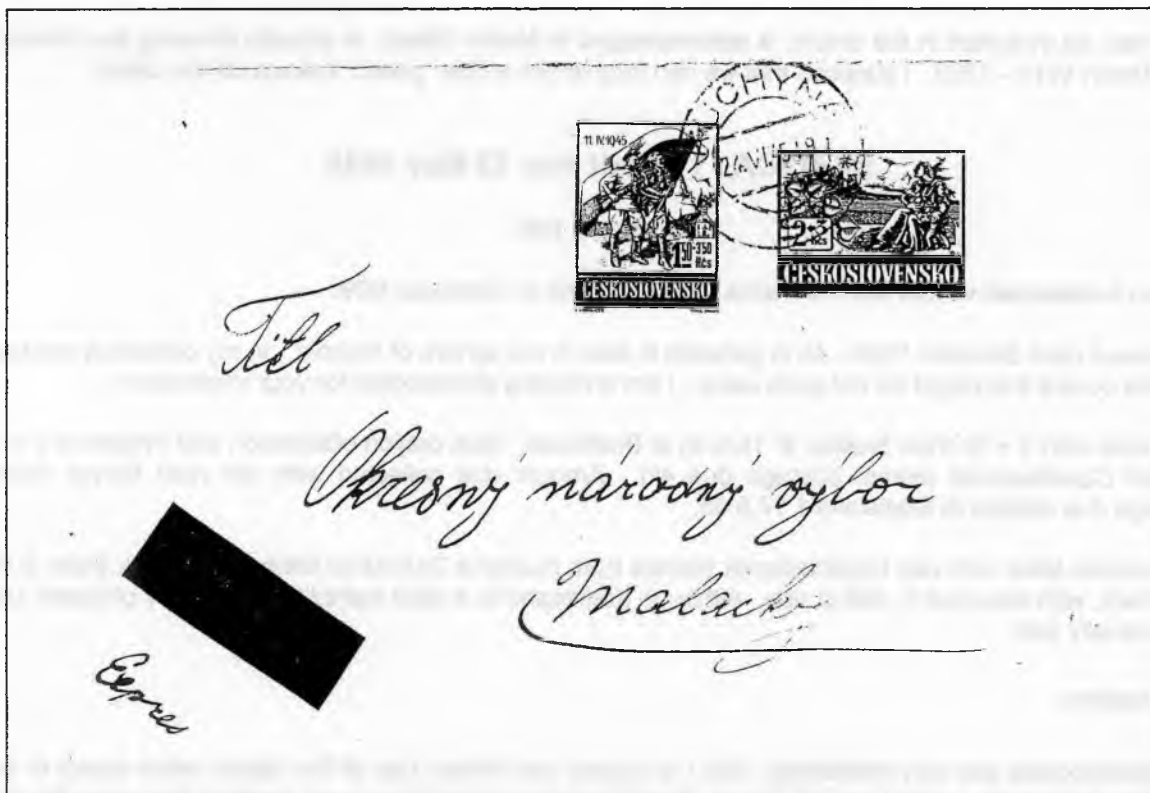
Bob replies:

The photocopies are very interesting: No.1 is superb and shows use of the higher value stamp to an address outside the agreed area of usage. Bratislava have raised the correct postage due using the old Slovakia stamps - as they did not have the new issue, the old ones were still valid - a lovely cover. No.2 shows valid local usage and I agree it is probably philatelic.

>



- 1) Letter with 2 + 3k from Skalica 'e' 15.6.45 to Bratislava.



- 2) Express letter with two Czech stamps from Kuchyňa 24.6.45 to Malacky.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

-Members' Queries-

Another selection, together with some answers, for which we are sure our inquirers will be grateful: the answers first.

Re Brian Day's query in *Czechout* 4/99 page 104.

From John Whiteside: I thought I would write regarding the query by Brian Day in the latest *Czechout*. While I can throw no light whatsoever on the "Colonie Tchecoslovaque", I did think it might be mildly useful to identify the places on his cover.

It is from VIROFLAY, BANLIEU-OUEST, or Viroflay in the western suburbs. Actually, Viroflay is south-west of Paris, on the railway to Versailles, which is now part of the sprawling RER, line C. (It would be interesting to know whether there is a sender's name and address on the back of the envelope.) Now to the much more interesting address. The first point is that the sender has addressed it to Rue Guénégaud in the 5th Arrondissement - Paris V, but that this has been amended (by the Post Office?) to Paris VIe, or 6th Arrondissement, by adding "le" in a different ink.

Rue Guénégaud is indeed in the north part of the 6th Arrondissement. It is quite a short street, starting from the Quai de Conti, on the edge of the river Seine near the Pont Neuf, across the end of the Ile de la Cité. It runs through to the Rue Mazarine, alongside the Hotel des Monnaies. Therefore, it probably has houses only on one side.

I do hope this will at least serve to provide a bit of background. But, alas, it does not answer the real query about the "Colonie".

Another colleague of John's, Bernard Lucas who possesses Baedeker's Paris, has looked in vain to see if the "Colonie Tchecoslovaque" was mentioned therein. Copies of the coloured maps sent by John have been forwarded to Brian. Editor

<p>LES DERNIERS JOURS DE GLOIRE DE LA PREMIÈRE RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÉCOSLOVAQUE</p>	<p>GRANDE SOIREE SOKOL</p>
	<p>organisée sous la Présidence d'honneur ci-contre et sous les auspices de la COLONIE TCHÉCOSLOVAQUE A PARIS par la SOCIÉTÉ DE GYMNASTIQUE SOKOL TCHÉCOSLOVAQUE DE PARIS VENDREDI, LE 7 JUILLET 1938 GRANDE SALLE PLEYEL, 252, FAUB. ST-HONORÉ Métro : TERNES Rideau à 21 h. précises. Fin à 23 h. 45. PRIX DES PLACES: Frs 9.—, 13.75, 17.75, 21.75 et 26.75 Taxe et placement, supprimant tout pourboire, compris.</p>
<p>e'étaient incontestablement les JOUR/ DE/ GRANDIO/E/ FÊTE/ NATIONALE/ à PRAGUE, EN JUIN—JUILLET 1938, dont nous vous invitons à venir revivre l'écho émouvant et intégral à notre . . .</p>	<p>LOCATION : Caisses Pleyel, 252, Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Colonie Tchecoslovaque, 18, Rue Bonaparte, Office du Tourisme Tchecoslovaque, 7, Fg St-Honoré, Bureau de voyages Čedok, 12, Rue des Pyramides, Librairie franco-tchecosl. Mottl, 62, rue Meslay, M. Slaviček, 11 bis, Rue Dumont d'Urville (Consulat de Tchecoslovaquie).</p> <hr/> <p>Pour toute commande de billets par écrit jusqu'au 4 Juillet, veuillez utiliser le mandat ci-joint, en men- tionnant le détail sur le coupon.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Invitez vos amis, vous leurs ferez plaisir !</i></p> <hr/> <p>RETENEZ VOS PLACES A TEMPS ! Toutes les places sont numérotées dès la vente.</p>

Brian Day replies: Reverting to the "Colonie Tchecoslovaque" I came across in one pile of junk a programme that throws some light on the subject and I enclose a photocopy of it. You will see that it was clearly a well-established society among the Czechs living in Paris and maybe further afield and they sponsored a Sokol evening in July 1939 in memory of "The last days of glory of the First Czechoslovak Republic" which I presume was in response to the Munich crisis of 1938 and what they perhaps thought would be the year of the last Sokol Slet held in Prague. You will also note the several high-ranking persons in attendance. They weren't far wrong!

It will be observed from the programme that the Colonie Tchecoslovaque had moved by 1939 from Rue Guénégaud to Rue Bonaparte a short distance away by the Ecole Nationale Superior des beaux Arts in the same Arrondissement. Editor

<p>VELKÝ SOKOLSKÝ VEČER,</p> <p>který za čestného předsednictví zde uvedeného, a pud záštitou ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ KOLONIE pořádá</p> <p>PAŘÍŽSKÝ SOKOL</p> <p>v pátek, dne 7. července 1939,</p> <p>VELKÝ SÁL PLEYEL, 252, FAUB. SAINT-HONORÉ Métro : TERNES</p> <p>Začátek přesně o 21 h. Konec o 23 h. 45.</p> <p>CENY MÍST : Frs 9.—, 13.75, 17.75, 21.75 a 26.75 včetně všech dávek, jimiž se jakékoli zpropitné ruší !</p> <p>PŘEDPRODEJ VSTUPENEK :</p> <p><i>Pokladny Pleyel, 252, Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Československá Kolonie, 18, Rue Bonaparte, Office du Tourisme, 7, Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Cestovní kancelář Čedok, 12, Rue des Pyramides, Knihkupectví J. Mottl, 62, rue Meslay, Paris (2^e), B. Slaviček, 11 bis, 1. et Dumont-d'Urville (Konsulát).</i></p> <hr/> <p>Pro písemné objednávky až do 4. července použijte přiložené poukázky, na jejíž ústřížku vypište počet a druh lístků.</p> <hr/> <p>Všechny vstupenky jsou číslovány předem. Z a j i š t ě t e s i v ě a s m í s t a !</p> <hr/> <p>Kdo můžete, přijďte v národních krojích !</p> <p><i>Tlumočte naše pozvání všem svým přátelům a známým ! Učinite radost jim i nám.</i></p>	<p>ČESTNÉ PŘEDSEDNICTVÍ :</p> <p><i>M. Amy, předseda Francouzské ženské federace tělesné výchovy, Generál Faucher, Šéf bývalé francouzské vojenské misie v Praze, Plukovník Lecoq, předseda Unie francouzských gym- nastů, M. Mège, starosta města Saint-Mandé, Generál Mittelhauser, Šef bývalé francouzské vojenské misie v Praze, Dr. Štefan Osuský, zplnomocněný ministr Republiky Československé v Paříži, M. Wachmar, bývalý předseda Unie francouzských gymnastů.</i></p> <hr/> <p>P O Ř A D :</p> <p>1) Zahájení zpěvem sletového pochodu <i>J. Suka</i> : »V nový život !«</p> <p>2) a) <i>J. V. Sládek</i> : Když o volnost vlast zápolí, b) <i>Victor Hugo</i> : Enfant grecque E. cituje žačka Hloupá.</p> <p>3) Proslov p. Henri de KERILLIS, poslanec Paříže,</p> <p>4) a) vystoupení žen Pařížského Sokola b) vystoupení mužů » »</p> <p>Přestávka</p> <p>5) »Matička PRAHA« — zvukový film, provedený ještě před zářijovými událostmi,</p> <p>6) X. SLET VŠESOKOLSKÝ V PRAZE 1938 úplný, po censuře doplněný zvukový film. »Pohádka ZDRAVÍ — SÍLY — KRÁSY« VÝRAZ oprávněných NADĚJÍ DU BUDOUCNA . . .</p>
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Robert Kingsley has kindly translated the inner pages of the Sokol Evening Programme.

GRAND SOKOL EVENING
Presented by PARIS SOKOL

In the presence of distinguished guests mentioned below and sponsored by the Czechoslovak colony.

On Friday, 7th July 1939 21.00 prompt - 23.45h
at the Pleyel Hall, 252 Faub. Saint-Honoré (Métro: TERNES)

Ticket prices: Frs. 9.00, 13.75, 17.75, 21.75, 26.75 (incl. of tax) (no further gratuity required)

TICKETS OBTAINABLE FROM: Pleyel Box Office, 252 Faubourg Saint-Honoré Czechoslovak Colony,
18 Rue Bonaparte, Tourist Office, 7 Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Travel Agent Čedok, 12 Rue des
Pyramides, Bookshop J.Mottl, 62 Rue Meslay, Paris 2, B.Slaviček, 11 bis Rue Dumont-d'Urville
(Consulate) >

Written application for tickets should be made by 4th July using the enclosed vouchers, stating the number and price of tickets required. All tickets are numbered. Please take your seats promptly.

Where possible, please come in national dress. Please convey this invitation to all your friends. You will be doing them and us a favour.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

M. Amy, Chairman of the French Womens Gymnastic Federation
 General Faucher, Head of former French Military Mission in Prague
 Colonel Lecoq, Chairman of the Union of French Gymnasts
 M. Mège, Mayor of the town of Saint-Mandé
 General Mittelhauser, Head of the former French Military Mission in Prague*
 Dr Štefan Osuský, Plenipotentiary Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic in Paris
 M. Wachmar, former Chairman of the Union of French Gymnasts

*General Mittelhauser in July 1919 was Commander of the Western Army, Bratislava

PROGRAMME

- 1 Singing of the Sokol March by J. Suk "New Life".
- 2 a) J.V.Sládek: "When a country struggles for Freedom".
 b) Victor Hugo: "Greek Child" (Recited by student Hloupá).
- 3 Address by M. Henri de Kerillis, Paris Member of Parliament.
- 4 a) Paris Sokol Womens Display.
 b) Paris Sokol Mens Display.

INTERVAL

- 5 "Matička PRAHA" (Mother Prague). Film produced prior to September's events.
- 6 **10th SOKOL SLET IN PRAGUE 1938.** Film, restored to its original after having been censored.
 "Story of HEALTH – STRENGTH - BEAUTY"
 EXPRESSION OF OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Three new queries

From Mr R W Allan: Mr Allan wrote to Rex Dixon with a number of queries arising from his collection devoted to "Errors Corrected".

- ① **1939 Bohemia and Moravia 50h Karlstein Castle definitive.** This attracted the attention of Nazi officials because the cloud formation depicted the outline of the independent Bohemia prior to the invasion. The story I have is that the engraver, B. Heinz, was sent to a concentration camp for his trouble and the offending stamp replaced by a new 50h design depicting Neuhaus Castle in 1940. The only flaw in this story is that according to the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, the engraver of the new stamp is the same B. Heinz. Does anyone have any information on the subject?

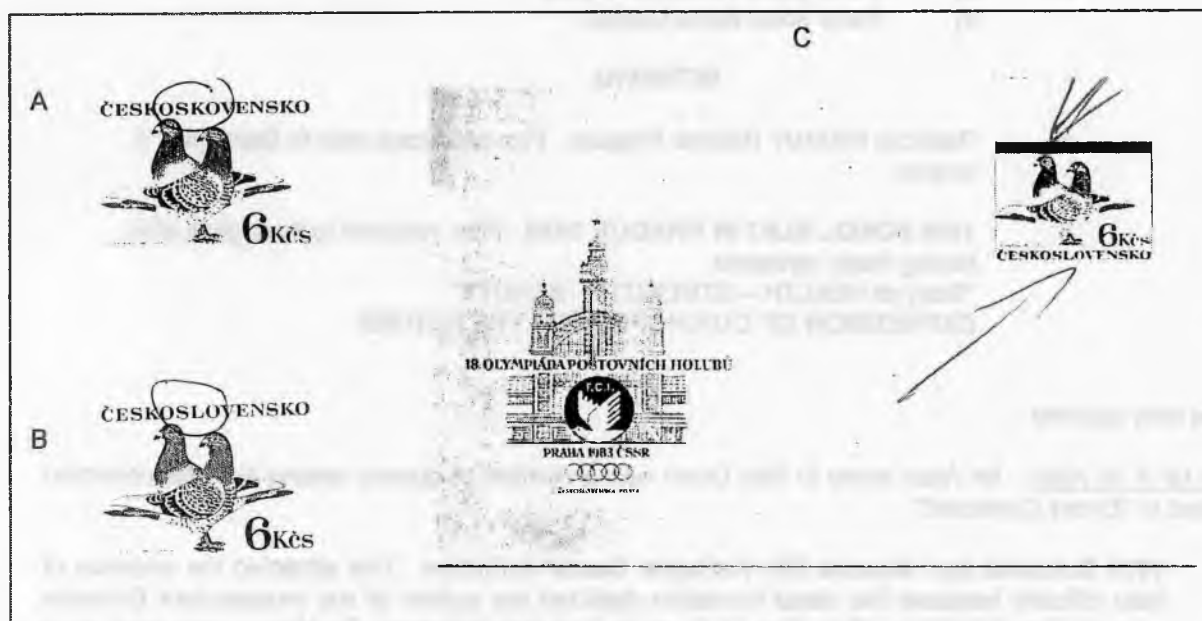
Since writing the above I have come across another variant of the story. In the October 1939 issue of *Stamp Magazine* there is a brief article by J. H. Marton, LLD on the just-issued 50h and 60h values which describes the designs and the history behind their subjects. He concludes, "Owing to the international situation I dare say I should advise all collectors to purchase not only these but all Czechoslovak stamps, which will certainly have a good future."

>

In an issue of the same magazine shortly afterwards (early 1940, I think) he writes "...the 50h stamp, showing Karlstein Castle, is disliked now. It will be remembered that some time ago a story went through the Press telling that the design of the Castle hill contains the features of the President-Liberator, T.G. Masaryk. Although it appeared difficult to trace them, they must have worried much, and a new stamp was ordered and was issued recently." He then goes on to describe the new 50h value depicting Neuhaus Castle. He makes no mention, however, of any sanctions by the Nazi authorities against Heinz.

So it looks as if we have a choice between the cloud formation on the stamp looking like a map of independent Bohemia and a rock formation bearing the features of Masaryk as the reason for the German occupiers' displeasure. Incidentally, the second article also includes a reference to the 40h value of the same issue, whose inscription is to be changed "as the new masters have found that the name of the place has to be germanised and consequently the Czech "Zvikov" has become "Swikow". This change has to be expressed on the stamp of course.

- ② **1971 Czechoslovakia 25th Anniversary of UNICEF.** The 60h value (SG 2004) has the UNICEF emblem in blue whilst in the remainder of the set it is black. The following year the 60h was re-issued (SG 2005) with the UNICEF emblem in black. Can anyone confirm that this was, in fact, an "error corrected"?
- ③ **1983 Czechoslovakia postal stationery issued for the 18th Carrier Pigeon Olympiad.** This had an incorrect inscription "Českoskovensko", which was re-issued the following year with the country name re-engraved to read "Československo" (figures A and B.) I believe, however, that there is another version of the envelope on which the incorrect country name has been obliterated with a solid grey bar and the correct name engraved at the foot of the stamp (figure C.) Can anyone suggest where I may obtain this version (figure C)?



Rex Dixon replied:

- ① As far as the story regarding the engraver B. Heinz, it does seem to be flawed. All the catalogues list him not only engraving the replacement 50h Neuhaus stamp, issued 10.6.40 but also the 5K and 10K stamps issued 10.11.40, some six months later. I have never understood why the designs of the Bohemia and Moravia stamps were changed so many times, and it would be nice to have a coherent story.

>

Further to my previous letter I can now add the following information:

I've found an old article on the designer and engraver Bohumil Heinz in a 1981 issue of the Society journal *Czechout*. It concerns other intriguing aspects of the lengths he went to resist the German occupiers in the dark days of Bohemia and Moravia. I don't think it helps your study *per se*, but it does throw some more light on the gentleman.

- ② I cannot at the moment determine whether the reprint of the 1971 60h UNICEF stamp was an "error corrected" or not. The Czechoslovak specialised catalogue *Specializovaná Příručka* 1988 describes the differences but not the reason, likewise Michel. It is interesting to note that the first catalogue quotes the same price for the two, whereas Michel quotes a higher price for the reprint, the reason being the numbers printed: Mi.2039 I = 900 000, 2039 II = 116 000.
- ③ I can confirm the third variant of the Carrier Pigeon card. It is listed in *Specializovaná Příručka* under the number COB 81, whereas the first two are listed as COB 76a and 76b. (By the way it gives the date of issue of the corrected version COB 76b as 27.1.83, whereas I quoted "early February" in my letter to you in January 1998.) COB 81 seems to have an issue date of January 1984, but there is a footnote that needs translating - I will see if I can get this done soon. COB 81 is catalogued cheaply, much the same as COB 76b.

From Rex's January 1998 reply just quoted:

Czechout 1/84 yields a news article re the CESKOSKOVENSKO misprint, which reproduces information from Otto Hornung's "World Scene" in *Stamp Collecting* of 1.12.93. It says "It is reported that only some 300 of these [erroneous] covers were sold at the Prague post office before the error was discovered and sales were stopped. A reprint of this cover was issued but it came out early in February, that is too late for the commemorative handstamp that was in use from 28 to 31 January."

Rex later replied again:

I've had the footnote against the Carrier Pigeon card listed in *Specializovaná Příručka* under the number COB 81, issued January 1984 by overprinting COB 76a, translated [*thanks to Robert Kingsley*]. It reads: "COB 81 was supplied to collectors by POFIS [a major Czech stamp agency] with a special cancellation with the original [i.e. backdated] date 28.1.1983." I interpret that to mean that the backdated cancellation on the card was only obtainable through POFIS.

We now look forward to further responses from other members. Editor

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

The following queries are still outstanding, perhaps some our overseas members can help as well?

Czechout 2/98: Bob Hill's Cerekev and Glen Morgan's Printers Sample Stamps

Czechout 4/98: Chris Miller's Civil Censorship by Czech Authorities

Czechout 1/99: Richard Beith's WW2 Ships and Newcastle Patriotic Label

Czechout 2-3/99: Chris Cordes' and Jim Ansell's 1919 Essays

NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Knight-

Unless otherwise stated, the stamps and stationery for the Czech and Slovak Republics are printed by Post Printing House Prague.

Printing

R.D. = rotary die stamping combined with multicolour photogravure
 D.S. = die stamping from flat plates
 R.D.+ D.S. = combination of both techniques

Czech Republic

20.01.2000

Tradition of Czech Stamp Production.



Designer and Engraver: Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30 in black-brown, blue and red. Size 23x40mm.

Design: To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of T.G. Masaryk (1850-1937), the first President of the Czech Republic. The design shows Masaryk holding a young girl in a national costume and was first used on the stamp issue of 1938 "For Children" with the text "Respect the Soul of the Child" by Bohumil Heinz. The texts "The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production" and "Bohumil Heinz, For Children 1938" in Czech appear.

FDC: printed DS in blue-grey with commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet is based on the ornamental sculpture by S. Sucharda "Cradle Song" which the engraver Bohumil Heinz used for the 1937 stamp issue "For Children."

Booklet: contains 8 stamps and 4 labels in black-brown. The labels have the initials "TGM", a lime sprig and the dates 1850-1937. The text in Czech "Brno 2000 National Exhibition of Postage Stamps" and the exhibition logo complete the design.

20.01.2000

BRNO 2000



Designer: Antonín Odehnal **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** 5Kč. RD in sheets of 35 stamps in black, ochre, blue and two shades of red with 30 labels in black and red. Stamp size 40x23mm and label 20x23mm. 50Kč. RD in a souvenir sheet size 88x100mm with stamp size 23x40mm in black, yellow, red and two shades of blue.

Designs: 5Kč. Based on the oldest view of Brno from 1593 taken from a later coloured execution of Willenberg's woodcut. The logo of the Exhibition and text Brno 1593 are shown. The label bears the coat of arms of Brno.

FDC: printed DS in brown with commemorative Brno cancellation. The cachet design is a goblet in the form of a face with handles, probably used for a wedding.

50Kč: Stamp has a view of the eastern side of St. James Church with the logo of the Exhibition and the text in Czech "St. James Church." The drawing on the right of the sheet is the little naked man sculpture which can be seen over the window in the southern side of the Church. He became the

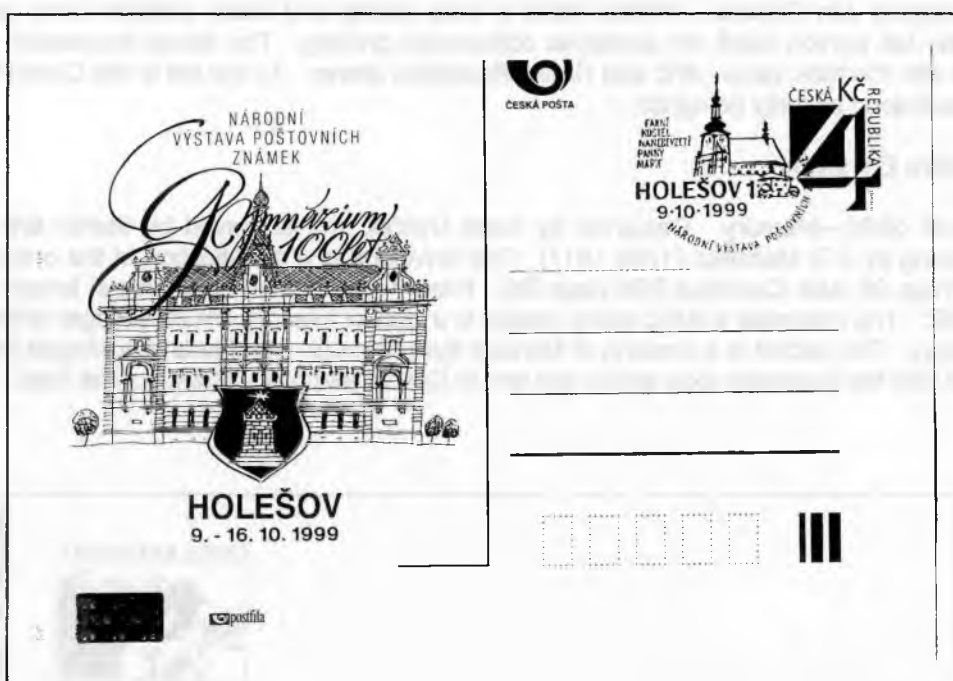
character of many legends. The left sheet margin shows columns and two bosses from the northern side of the Church. The bottom margin has the logo of the Exhibition and the text in Czech "National Exhibition of Postage Stamps."

FDC. printed DS in dark-grey with commemorative Brno cancellation. The cachet depicts ornamental water spouts (gargoyles) from the same Church.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Commemorative Postcards

9.10.99. 100th. Anniversary of the School at Holešov and National Stamp Exhibition. Card has imprinted 4Kč stamp (see *Czechout 2/99* page 50). Left portion has a drawing of the school with the coat of arms of Holešov. Texts in Czech commemorate the events above the drawing with "Holešov" and dates 9-16.10.1999 below. A commemorative cancellation was used on 9.10.99.



22.10.99. Köln 1999. Card with imprinted 7Kč stamp (see *Czechout 2/99* page 50.) Left part has a picture of an early Post Bus with the text "Köln 22-24.10.1999" to the right and "Internationale Messe Philatelia mit T'Card" below.

29.10.99. Sindelfingen '99. Card with imprinted 7Kč stamp (see *Czechout 2/99* page 50) Left portion shows a postman on a tricycle used for bulk/ parcel mail deliveries. Text in red "Sindelfingen '99" and in green "Internationale Briefmarkenbörse 29-31.10.1999."

13.11.99. Kosmos 99. Imprinted 4Kč stamp (see *Czechout 2/99* page 50) Left portion has the text "Národní Oborová Filatelistická Výstava s Mezinárodní Účastí "Kosmos 99" "above a drawing of planetarium machinery and "Planetarium Praha 13-20.11.1999." below. A commemorative cancellation was used on 13.11.99.

20.1.2000. Brno 2000 – The Day of Young Philatelists. Designer of imprinted stamp and drawing is Karel Dvořák and the card was printed by multicoloured offset retailing at 5.70Kč. The stamp design is a composition of the face value—5Kč and the logo of the Exhibition. To the left is the Czech Post logo with a lozenge-shaped security hologram. The left portion of the card has a drawing originally by Josef Čapek to illustrate the Postmen Fairy Tale written by Karel Čapek. A facsimile signature of Josef Čapek and the texts in Czech "The Day of Young Philatelists, Brno 2000, The National Exhibition of Postage Stamps" completes the design.

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20.1.2000. Brno 2000 – Congress Centrum. This card was originally issued on 5.5.99 with imprinted 4Kč stamp but now re-issued with 5Kč stamp impression (as above). See *Czechout 2/99* page 50.

20.1.2000. Brno 2000- The Day of FIP and FEPA. Designed by Karel Dvořák and printed by multi-coloured offset retailing at 7.70Kč. The stamp design is a composition of the face value of 7Kč and the Exhibition logo. To the left is the Czech Post logo with a lozenge-shaped security hologram. The left portion of the card is a design comprising the logos of FIP, FEPA and BRNO 2000 and text in English and Czech "Day of FIP and FEPA" and in Czech "BRNO 2000, National Exhibition of Postage Stamps."

Postcards for Current Postal Use

3.1.2000. This is a re-issue of the 4Kč card of 8.9.99 (see *Czechout 4/99* page 109). The imprinted 5Kč stamp reflects the change of postal rates and retails at 5.70Kč.

Postcards for Commercial and Promotional Use

20.1.2000. Designer Jan Solpera. Printed offset in blue—stamp and black—address lines, retailing at 5.70Kč with the left portion blank for additional commercial printing. The stamp impression is a blue shaded tablet with the face value —5Kč and Česká Republika above. To the left is the Czech Post logo and a lozenge-shaped security hologram.

Commemorative Envelope

20.1.2000. Brno 2000—Mercury. Designed by Karel Dvořák and engraved by Martin Srb from the original engraving by J G Mansfeld (1764-1817). The envelope is a modification of the one issued on 11.3.98 for Praga 98 (see *Czechout 2/98* page 53). Printed recess from flat plates in brown, the retail price is 10.40Kč. The imprinted 5.40Kč stamp design is a bust of Mercury the messenger of the gods in Greek mythology. The cachet is a drawing of Mercury flying through the clouds in a winged helmet and holding a staff with the Exhibition logo above and text in Czech "Mercury – Patron of the Post."



Slovak Republic

18.12.99

Stamp Day -- A. Brunovský



Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský. Tab engraved by Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30 stamps and 40 tabs. Stamp size 40x23mm and tab 19x23mm.

Design: Stamp—a portrait of Albín Brunovský and part of the stamp design from his work for the Czechoslovak issue of 23.9.88. – 125th Anniversary of the Slovak Cultural Society. The two designs are separated by a strip with his name and dates 1935-1997. The tab design is from the FDC cachet (a flower arrangement) from the same issue.

FDC: printed DS in brown-black with commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design shows Brunovský at work.

1.1.2000

Splendours of Our Homeland



Designer: Róbert Jančovič **Engraver:** Arnold Feké **Printing:** RD in printing sheets of 2x4 stamps with central gutter. Stamp size 23x40mm.

Designs: 10Sk—part of the Dunajec Gap which forms a 17km border between Slovakia and Poland. The valley forms part of the Pieniny National Park.

12Sk—part of the Váh Gap where the river cuts deep valleys through the Mala Fatra Hills. There are many natural rock formations in the area.

FDCs: printed DS in blue-grey (10Sk) and grey-green (12Sk) with commemorative cancellations from Červený Kláštor (10Sk) and Strečno (12Sk). The cachets show further views of the natural scenery.

11.1.2000

Personalities



Designers: Igor Benca (4Sk) Karol Felix (5Sk) **Engravers:** Rudolf Cigánik (4Sk) and František Horniak (5Sk) both from original drawings by Martin Činovský. **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Size of stamp 30x23mm.

Designs: 4Sk—portrait of Hana Meličková with her name and dates 1900-1978. She was a member of the Slovak National Theatre from 1926-1939 and 1946-1976 playing many roles from the international and national repertoire. She acted in films and TV >

productions and made regular radio broadcasts from 1926. In 1961 she was awarded the title of National Artist. **FDC:** has commemorative Martin cancellation and cachet design (in dark-green) shows the actress costumed for one of her roles.

5Sk—portrait of Štefan Anián Jedlík with his name, dates 1800-1895 and background drawing of one of his inventions (unipolar dynamo). He was a physicist, inventor and teacher. From 1829 to 1840 he was acting professor of physics at the Royal Academy of Sciences Bratislava and appointed Professor from 1848 to 1878. In 1863 he became Dean of the University of Budapest. His experimental work was mainly in electrophysics with research studies in optics.

FDC: has commemorative Zemné (birthplace) cancellation and cachet design in blue-grey shows an electric motor of 1929 and a homopolar inductor of 1861 with his facsimile signature. Both FDCs were printed DS.

Postal Stationery

? 1.1.2000 Postcard with imprinted 4Sk stamp (see *Czechout* 3/99 page 82). The left portion of the card has a star burst design with an open rose flower at the centre and rosebud below with the text "Šťastné Vykročenie". The card appears to retail at 6.50Sk.



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