



CZECHOUT

Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
[Founded 1953]

DECEMBER 2002

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 109 Vol.20 No.4

Editor: Colin W.Spong FRPSL

© Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 2002

Vol. 20/4	CONTENTS	December 2002
Notes, News and Notices		90
Book Reviews		94 & 118
Boxed "P.I." and Numbered Censor Marks		95
Opening of the Slovak Parliament		96
Railway Post in the Czech Republic at the Present Time		99
TPO Services in Europe		100
Perforation Variations of the 1925 TGM Issue		101
Victory Cancellations of Bohemia & Moravia		105
The Czech Legions in France & Italy		109
What? When? Where?		112
New Issues (Czech)		115
Stop Press		118

NOTES

The next London meetings are on **Saturday 11 January 2003** when the speaker will be **Mervyn Benford** of the Hungarian PSGB whose display is entitled *Hungarian Miscellany*, and **Saturday 8 March** when **Jan Verleg** from the Netherlands will be showing *Carpatho-Ukraine*.

We would draw members' attention to the fact that the year **2003** is the **50th Anniversary of this Society**. As part of the celebrations there will be **three events**: a display at **Stampex** from Wednesday 26 February to Sunday 2 March; the **Royal Philatelic Society, London** has invited us to give a display at 1.00pm on Thursday 20 March; and a full exhibition at the **Czech Embassy with support from the Slovak Embassy** will take place on Thursday 22 May until Saturday 24 May 2003. The Society weekend Conference will be held at Hinsley Hall, Headingley, Leeds from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September 2003. Please make note of these dates in your diaries and support your Society in its anniversary year.

Chester 2002 I understand was a great success with **Richard Beith** as Liaison Officer with the City. The Society had a manned table and received three awards: Vermeil for Monograph 17 [**Brian Day**], and Silver medals for Monograph 15 [**Richard Beith**] and *Czechout* [**Colin Spong**].

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 held Saturday 31 August 2002

The Chairman, Lindy Bosworth, welcomed 23 members and one visitor to the meeting. Apologies had been received from four members.

She read out the names of the six members who had gained awards at SLOVENSKO 2002 in Bratislava, and congratulated them all. She had the pleasant duty of presenting the certificate to Colin Spong, the Editor of *Czechout*, for the journal's Silver medal. She warmly thanked George Firmage for his impeccable arrangements for the Society's trip to the exhibition.

She announced that the Committee had decided that the Society should donate £250 to the Prague Postal Museum, which had suffered badly in the recent floods. Robert Hill, who had just returned from the city, said that that quarter of town was still closed, and that the foundations of the church next door had been undermined.

The Hon Secretary gave details of two prospective new members:

Mrs Pat Oliver	from Piltown, Co. Kilkenny
Christopher Smith	from Didcot

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The Secretary then called upon **Lindy Bosworth** to display to the Society under the title of ***The Chairman Entertains***, which she did so splendidly. The first half of the display was devoted to ***Praga 1978***. Lindy explained that she had quickly written up the material at the time, and had recently rewritten it, filling more than 260 sheets. She displayed a wide range of material, starting with advance publicity, and moving on to the stamp issues, postcards, stationery and postmarks. One abiding memory of her visit was the queuing – queuing for a ticket, queuing to gain entry, queuing to obtain souvenirs, queuing to get a stamp designer to sign the souvenir – one day queuing 7½ hours in all. Another was of the art exhibition at the Riding School, where the original works of art were hung next to the stamps that portrayed them.

After the interval, the theme was ***Austro-Hungarian naval mail during World War I***. Lindy said that it had grown from a small collection formed by her late husband into one of over 500 sheets, and that the day's exhibit would be confined to the smaller vessels. She started with the torpedo boats, the 'workhorses' of the Adriatic fleet. She then covered requisitioned steamers, a nice cover from the *Lagunenflotille*, the Danube flotilla, and some miscellaneous vessels such as a repair ship. She ended with an interesting correspondence from son to father.

The immediate past-Chairman, Robert Kingsley, gave the vote of thanks. Recalling that he and Lindy had both been in the Society for some 35 years, he commented on Lindy's meticulous preparation and presentation, which had become her hallmark. He had himself tried to assemble a collection on Praga 1978, so could vouch for the sheer extent of Lindy's. He then went on to say that he could not remember a previous Society display on the naval mail, was most impressed by it, and asked for more another time. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.10 pm.

84th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain - Exeter 2002

This year it was held at the Langstone Cliff Hotel, Dawlish and the Congress theme was on Forgeries. The Organiser, (our member) Barry Horne from Exeter, besides arranging for many papers to be given to the delegates and detailed in the Congress Handbook he produced, had also arranged a trip on the Friday via the Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway to the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. A full coach of Delegates had a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Saturday saw the Signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, instituted in 1921, King George V being the first signature on the Vellum Roll. This year the three newly elected RDPs came from Belgium, Switzerland and Turkey (the last named being introduced by Otto Hornung). The 120 Delegates, while mainly from the UK, included visitors from Belgium, Switzerland, Turkey, Canada and USA. The Mayor of Dawlish, Councillor Graham Hessé, who also came to listen to two papers and graced us with his presence at both the signing Ceremony and the Banquet which followed, opened Congress on Thursday 12 September.



Sunday began with the Chairman & Vice Chairman entertaining the delegates with over 350 sheets of stamps and forgeries on display. The Chairman, Peter Chantry, showed a wide selection of Uganda, and Barry Horne, the Vice-Chairman, showed Czech Airmail 1920 & 1922 Overprints, both good and bad, together with a display of forgeries from Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Greece.

The final session was devoted to Association of British Philatelic Societies business and included Richard West talking about Youth Philately; and John Jeffery inviting us to next year's Congress at Gateshead. We have to thank all the Speakers for showing us excellent material and also special thanks to Harmers of London, Stamp Insurance Services of Exeter and Stanley Gibbons Limited for hosting Receptions during Congress. The unanimous verdict was a most enjoyable Congress spent in delightful surroundings and looked after by the staff of a superb Hotel.

Congratulations are due all round to both the Organiser and all who contributed in some way to this excellent weekend. *Well done Barry. Editor*

Cyprus-Europhilex '02 - Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, UK Commissioner

This exhibition was held at the International Conference Centre, Nicosia from 22-29 October 2002. Two of our members won awards and congratulations go to **Otto Hornung**, Gold for *Branch Offices of Istanbul* and **Richard Wheatley**, Vermeil for *Netherlands East Indies: 1870/83/92 stamps issues*.



There were only two exhibits of Czech material as follows: Miloslav Mann [Czech Republic], Silver for *Czechoslovakia 1918-1928* and Georg Wilhelms [Germany], Vermeil for *The Hradčany Issue*. The Czech Commissioner was Ludmir Brendl, who members may remember from our visits to Praha '98 and Brno 2000. Pavel Pitterman led the Expert Team, the other member of which was Andrew Cronin, author of *The Manipulation of Czechoslovak Siberian Legion Material* [Czechout 1/2002, page 9.]

Northern Meeting at Leeds

A successful meeting of the Society was held on 16 November 2002 during the annual Stamp Fair organised by the Leeds Philatelic Society. The following displays were given:

Bob Hill	Kostelec nad Orlici 1945 Liberation
Derek Baron	Occupation of Olomouc and TPOs of Olomouc in the Austrian period
Brian Loveday	Queries which the assembled group were able to unravel
Brian Madeley	Carpatho-Ukraine
Yvonne Wheatley	Combination covers from the formation of the Republic 1918-19, airmails and newspaper stamps

Once again the meeting provided a welcome opportunity for members in the northern area to meet, enjoy one another's company and discuss stamps and postal history. A similar meeting is planned for next year on Saturday 22 November 2003. All will be welcome.

Yvonne Wheatley

Meeting held Saturday 2 November 2002

The Chairman, Lindy Bosworth, welcomed 28 members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from four members. There being no Society business she handed over the meeting to the Society Auctioneer, Roger Morrell. Robert Hill, the Hon Auction Secretary, bid on behalf of postal bidders, and Bob Bradford, the Hon Treasurer, recorded successful bids on his laptop computer. David Pearce and Garth Taylor acted as 'runners'.

Three hundred lots were offered in the room, but there was another large tranche of lots up for postal auction only. Although overall sales were satisfactory, the proportion of the room lots sold to bidders in the room was disappointingly low, with Robert Hill having to cart a large proportion of the lots back to his base after the close. Lindy thanked all those who had contributed to the auction's smooth running and success. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.45 pm.

Rex Dixon

Letters to the Editor

☒ **Geoff Fuller** writes: I would love to hear from any member who could help me in any way with the study of the 1h Hradčany grey colour changling that I am trying very hard to put together (exceedingly slowly).

Any information, theories, ideas or even material that I could borrow or purchase that would help me out would be gratefully received and very much appreciated, I can assure you of its safe return. Also if anyone has information on the Hradčany issues that have been issued cancelled to order I would be very interested. Please either write to *Czechout* or e-mail me on GEOFFblm@aol.com, I would love to hear from you.

☒ **Brian Day** writes: I recently gave a display to Medway Towns PS and it was 'reported' in the local *Kentish Independent*; an extract reads *Military material included Czech Filed Post in Siberia in 1918 and mail from the Czech Army in Exile during the Second World War which bears official Naval symbols!* Brian comments: thank goodness no one has been on to me, yet, to show them 200 years' old stamps or Czech Naval symbols during WWII and I don't quite know what Siberia Filed (sic) Post is! I nevertheless enjoyed the meeting and received a nice letter of thanks.

☒ **Will J. Wyber [NZ]** writes: Truly, you should be more careful! If you don't "watch out," you will leave me a little sick...and that is not as I would desire! Three days ago, the latest (Spring) edition of *Czechout* arrived, temptation could not be assuaged. I took to my bed, and read the magazine until well into the morning! It was so interesting [even although it was in that terrible language, English], that I read it from cover to cover at one sitting [lying?]. The birds commenced their singing two hours after I fell asleep - and were out of their beds much before I was! This lack of sleep is not good for one and I had not yet even begun to read the list of items for auction!

Today I enclose two copies of a pamphlet concerning a cinema film, which I recently attended here in Christchurch, the City on the plains. [The film is entitled *Dark Blue World* with Ondrej Vetchy, Krystof Hadek, Tara Fitzgerald and Charles Dance]. Alongside of it is an English language review of the showing, which I enjoyed very much. I had thought that perhaps indigenous people of Great Britain might like to remember the service rendered during the "Battle of Britain" by our Czech/Slav flyers, even others who do not understand spoken Czech or Moravian, for the film script is sub-titled in English. Perhaps there could be a group of members and their partners who would wish to attend, whilst the film is in your area.

My final comment is one of thanks to you for the services during the past year and for allowing your name to go forward again as Editor in 2003. From the "underside" of the planet, we support the rest of the world! Thank you very much and please convey the same to other members of the Executive.

It is nice to include a little humour sometimes as well as to receive congratulations even if the first language was Esperanto with an English translation. It is a pleasure to receive such letters from members who we only know by name - Will - from us all to you a happy and prosperous New Year.
Editor

☒ **Lubor Kunc** writes: I read with interest the contributions from Messrs Whiteside and Jones; relating to censorship done by the Foreign Letter Examining Office in Vienna during WWII. They have asked me to say why I believe that the formerly discussed letters were censored in Bratislava and not Vienna. My belief in the censorship in Bratislava [which I refer as "Slovak"] has been based on several articles published in the *Czechoslovak Specialist* during 1995/6 dealing with the existence/non-existence of German censorship office in Slovakia. I would like to mention only two of them. First an article by Mirko Bachratý in CS No 2/1996 and then John Miskevich's answer to that article in CS No 5/1996.

The second article especially drew my attention to the theme. John Miskevich mentioned in the text his opinion that the Vienna censorship office had branches working e.g. in Serbia [which used similar cancels like the Vienna's head office] and he finishes his article with the statement that during WWII a German censorship office was working in Slovakia. In the article he also collected a couple of arguments for his statement, which show different light on previous opinions of Mirko Bachratý. I do not want to decide who of both men [or if someone else] is right, but I personally accept the arguments presented by John Miskevich.

I had already decided to publish Mirko Bachratý's paper when Lubor's letter arrived, and then discovered that I had John Miskevich's article as well. In order to continue with this interesting subject these items will be included in the March issue together with the translation of Karl-Heinz Riemer's section covering the Vienna censorship office. Editor.

Publications

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

- The Winter 2002 issue of *Austria*, No. 140,
 - ▶ Post between Imperial Austria and Kingdom of Sardinia 1854-1867 (Cedolini); The Last Cruise of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth [Part III] (Pirotte).
- The September/October 2002 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 64, Whole Nos. 575, No. 5. The articles include:
 - ▶ ŠCP. Here Today and Gone Tomorrow? (Wald); A Strange Philatelic Find (Vondra); What Happens to Your collection if Something Happens To You (Klug); Comparison of Catalogue Numbers (Svoboda); A Major Plat Flaw? The Bratislava Sheet (Garancovsky); Same Stamp with a Difference (Ruzicka); Field Post Offices and Czechoslovakia cont. (Kunc).
- The March, June and September 2002 issues of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol.34, Whole Nos. 131/133 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ Postal Stationery forged with the use of post-war cancellations (Liebermann); Jeličkův Přetisk/Jehlička Overprints (Müller); Newspaper rate labels "NOVÉ SLOVO" from Slovakia (Markus); The First Machine dispenser stamps from Slovakian Post Office (Müller); New classification of postal items from the Slovakian Post Office (Müller); New Tariffs from Slovak Post (-); The new Automated post system "APOST" from Czech Post Office (Steinerová); New information about automation in the Czech Post Office (Müller); The new Postal Agencies of the Czech Post Office cont. (-).
 - ▶ Inland Postal Tariffs of the Czech Post Office wef 01.01.02 (-); Taxation [Surcharging] of letter post from Czechoslovakia into the First Austrian Empire (Pfalz); Special cancellations from the Slovak Post Office 2001 (Müller); New Information about automation in the Czech Post Office (Müller).
 - ▶ New inland postal rates in the Czech Republic wef 01.09.2002 (-); Postal Delivery Documents (Rauch); Important people and their connection with Olomouc (Giebel); The Uranium Industry in the Czech Republic (Schulz).
- The 9, 10 & 11/2002 issues of *Filatelie*. Vol 52. The articles include:
 - ▶ Variable Rates stamp: Castle Veveří (Šilhán); Development of the Czech Postal Agencies cont. (Bejesta); Frankings of Czechoslovak Letter Post 1918-1939 [18] (Tovačovský, Kypast, Schödelbauer); 1840's Created Prototypes (Feldmann); Special Prints of the Czech Post [Catalogue].
 - ▶ Czech Post in International Relations (Angelis); Covers with Official Stamps on our Territory (Bláha); 1840's Created Prototypes [2] (Feldmann); Plate errors on Czech Stamps (Zedník).
 - ▶ Arrival of President Masaryk - a new forgery (Beneš); End of Parcel Despatch Forms in Czechia (Švajnar); On Overprinting the Plebiscite Stamps SO 1920 (Tovačovský); New Information about the Block 30 Years of Czechoslovak Stamps (Krätsmár-Šmogrovíč).
- The 4/2002 issue of *Merkur Revue*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ Liberated Republic conclusion (Stupky); Lidice and Ležáky (Vostatek); Czechoslovak mis-valued stamps cont. (Karásek); History of the London issue cont. (Fischer).
- The September and December 2002 issues of *Stamps of Hungary* No 150/151. The articles include:
 - ▶ Hungarian Airmails in 1922-1923 [The Compagnie Franco-Roumaine de Navigation Aérienne - CFRNA] (Szilagyí);
 - ▶ Slovensko 2002 (Morrell); Review of The Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain 1940-45 (-)

OBITUARY

Florence Pettitt, 1915–2002

It was with sadness that the news of the death of one of our longest serving life members was received. Florence had been in poor health for some years and since 1997 had lived in an Old People's Home in Chippenham where she passed away on 4 September this year.

Florence had been a life member of the Society since 1980 and was a regular member at all the London meetings for many years until ill health made it difficult to travel. She enjoyed the friendship of our Society and was also a regular member of her local Chippenham Philatelic Club and events in the Swindon area. In the 1970s she and her late husband Francis were lively contributors to the Society meetings held in members' homes. Francis [who died in 1980 – see obituary in *Czechout* 3/80] was interested in post-1945 issues of Czechoslovakia, particularly the Art and Prague Castle series. In 1981 Florence presented a salver to be awarded to the winner of an annual competition covering post-war issues in his memory.

Although Florence did not collect philatelic material she was interested in all aspects of the hobby. For many years she helped her brother in Canada to acquire a modern British collection, encouraged her two grandchildren to take an interest, and enjoyed the trips to stamp fairs to look for bargains with Francis. She will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

Lindy Bosworth

F Robert Clarke

We are sorry to record the death of Bob Clarke who died on 6 October 2002. He had joined the Society on 8 January 1999 and we send our sincere condolences to his family.



BOOK REVIEW

Stanley Gibbons Catalogue - Part 5 Czechoslovakia & Poland, 6th edition 2002. Published by Stanley Gibbons Publications, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 3SH United Kingdom. ISBN 0-85259-529-8, A5, perfect bound, 314 pages, price £24.95 + postage & packing.

Many collectors will be pleased at the appearance of this book, the first to cover these two countries since 1994, although the price tag of £24.95 will not be as popular. It is quite comprehensive, not only covering the Czech Republic, Slovakia [ancient and modern] and Poland but also such topics as East Silesia, Polish Military Post and Polish Post Offices abroad. Also now listed are the machine labels of the Czech Republic and Slovakia although neither are numbered or priced, and, for the first time, booklet panes of the Czech Republic.

The earlier issues of Czechoslovakia show substantial increases in price, reflecting the increased interest in this technically "dead" country. In the foreword we are told that "considerable research has been undertaken into the current market for [these three countries]". This is just as well as I am reliably informed that Gibbons has virtually no European stocks, which must be a disadvantage when quoting market prices!

The catalogue continues the Gibbons practice of illustrating only one stamp from each set, which is still irritating, but the listings are undertaken in their usual clear and orderly manner. The 122 issues of Bohemia and Moravia remain unmodified, but the continued very low pricing of these stamps should surely encourage more collectors to take this area up as a sideline? The generally excellent designs for the Czech Republic will ensure this area's continued popularity, and my advice is to buy now whilst prices remain low; the highest quoted price for the Czech Republic is still only £7.50, and £12.50 for a booklet. All collectors of these countries will want a copy of this catalogue, if only as a check list [no pun intended!] I still fail to see, however, given Gibbons' own criteria for items excluded from the listing, why they continue to exclude Theresienstadt parcel stamp, unless of course they regard it as a local carriage label?

Ian Nutley

BOXED "P.I." AND NUMBERED CENSOR MARKS

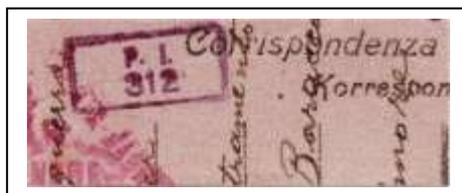
- Brian Day -

I have a number of boxed "P.I." and numbered censor marks, see specimen below and others illustrated in CsPSGB Monograph 17 [*Czechoslovak Field Post 1918–1921*], on Czechoslovak POW mail from and to Italy during the period 1917 to 1919 and I am grateful to my Italian correspondent, Piero Santangelo who has supplied the meaning of and time of application of these cachets. P.I. is short for "Prigionieri" and "Internati" i.e. Prisoners of War and Internees, and the handstamps were used by Italian authorities for such mail in the period 1917–1920.

However, following the formation of the independent Czechoslovak Legion, authorised by the Italian government on 11 April 1918, legionaries' mail was also handled for some months as POW mail to avoid difficulty with the enemy's postal authorities.

Some mail can readily be identified as genuine POW by the prisons' cachets and later dated mail clearly as legionaries' or ordinary "Home Guards" correspondence by their unit cachets and which was handled by courier directly to the home country.

There appear to have been many censors operating in those times and shown below is a schedule of those which member Richard Wheatley and I have in our collections. If other members would like to add to this database, send them to me via the editor and I will update it and circulate it to participants until sources dry up.



Boxed P.I. numbered censor marks used in Italy on mail from/to Czech and Slovak Prisoners of War, Legionaries & Home Guards.

Date	P.I. No.	From/To	POW/Home Guard
10.9.17	039	To	POW, Fort Begato, arrival 24.1.18
17.4.18	133	From	POW, Padula
21.4.18	039	From	POW, Taggia
02.5.18	136	To	POW, Pizzighelone
26.5.18	312	From	POW, Padula
05.6.18	310	From	POW, Fonte d'Amore
14.6.18	310	From	POW, Fonte d'Amore
09.7.18	312	From	POW, Fonte d'Amore
19.7.18	312	From	POW, Fonte d'Amore
06.8.18	035	From	POW, Fonte d'Amore
04.9.18	312	To	POW, Sulmona
1918–19	317	From	POW
1919	275	From	POW, Fonte d'Amore ?
1919	313	From	POW
1919	100	From	POW
21.1.19	157	From	POW, Averno
28.1.19	315	From	POW, Badia di Sulmona
04.2.19	? weak	From	HG, Gallarate
05.2.19	275	From	HG, Golasecco
05.2.19	317	From	HG, Foligno
20.2.19	216	From	HG, Foligno
06.3.19	275	From	HG, Foligno
18.3.19	216	From	HG, Foligno
Jan.-March	275	From	HG, P.M. 52 arrival
Feb.-March	313	From	HG, P.M. 52 arrival
March	317	From	HG, P.M. 52 arrival
March	100	From	HG, P.M. 52 arrival
April	034	From	HG, P.M. 52 arrival

OPENING OF THE SLOVAK PARLIAMENT

-William A Dawson-

The year 1938 brought a crisis threatening imminent war to Europe and in particular to central Europe. The rise of the German militaristic ambitions under the leadership of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party had resulted in the complete take-over of Austria in April 1938. As a result of the Munich Agreement, signed incidentally by Germany, Italy, England and France with the Czechoslovaks not invited, Germany was allowed to occupy the so-called "Sudetenland" areas of Czechoslovak Republic in the first 10 days of October 1938. Thus began the break-up of the Republic of Czechoslovakia that had been created at the end of World War I as a direct result of the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The creation of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 did not have the approbation of German, Hungarian or Poles nor with large sections of the Slovak and Carpatho-Ukrainians. So when Germany occupied "Sudetenland", Hungary took the opportunity to seize disputed areas of southern Slovakia, and Poland marched into the areas of Czech Silesia they thought should be Polish. Meantime, the Slovaks agitated for the right to self-government. Under severe pressure from so many directions, the Czechoslovak Government agreed to the setting up of an autonomous Slovak Republic with a separate Parliament at the Slovak capital city of Bratislava. Opening date was set for 18 January 1939. [Illustration shown above of a block of 15 - Lot 627 April 2002 Auction item for Chris Cordes. This article is in reply to a query raised by Chris. Editor].

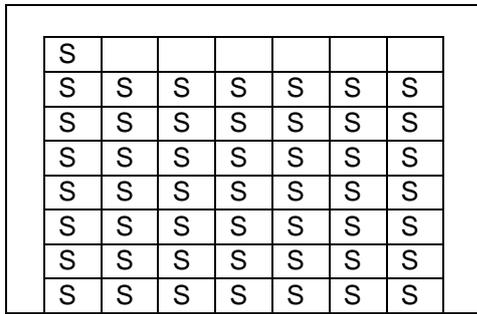


Approval was given for a stamp issue to be made available to mark that opening of the Slovak Parliament. With insufficient time and facilities to design and produce a completely new issue, it was accepted that a single suitably overprinted issue would be satisfactory. The selected face value for the projected overprint was 300h [equal to 3 koruna] which was the current rate for an internal registered letter. The most appropriate existing postage stamp was the 10 Kč. Value of the 1936 pictorial definitive issue depicting Bratislava with the river Danube. First issued on 1 August 1936, it was designed by Karel Vlček and engraved by Karel Seizinger printed by rotary recess process on Stickney press at Unie of Praha.

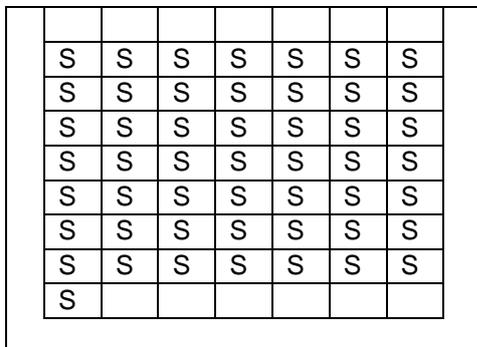
An appropriate overprint, which incorporated the Slovak Cross in a shield, was designed by Miloš Bazovský. The overprint was applied in red-orange by typography in Bratislava on half sheets of the original issue, upper half and lower half. Each consisted of seven vertical rows of eight units to give 50 stamps and six blank fields. Two pairs of plates for the overprints were prepared, each pair consisting of one plate of 50 units for upper half plate, the other also of 50 units for the lower half plate. [see Figure 1].

There were two types of overprint, one pair of plates was in type I, the second pair in type II. [See Figure 2]

Figure 1: There were two types of overprint, one pair of plates was in type I, the second pair in type II.



Upper Plate



Lower Plate

Figure 2↓



See **Figure 2**. As can be readily seen, type I has small nodules on the tops of letters "o" and "n" with a gap of 1.25mm between "snemu" and the shield. Type II has no such defects but the gap is 1.75mm between "snemu" and the shield.

The issue was released on 18 January 1939, the actual date of the opening of the Parliament, for use ONLY in Slovakia and valid only to 31 January 1939. Total issue was 790,000. As far as can be ascertained, numbers issued for each type were approximately the same. Due to the use of half sheets as detailed in the fourth paragraph and the use of two differing pairs of overprint plates, no examples of joined pairs type I and type II can exist.



A first day of issue cancel was produced for use by the Auto-pošta [mobile post office bus] of Bratislava, inscribed with date, code letter, Slovak cross in upper arc and "OTOVRENIE SNEMU/SLOVENSKEJ KRAJINY" in lower arc. Code letters "a" "b" and "c" exist and are known applied in usual Auto-pošta orange ink or in red ink.

←See **Figure 3**
Backstamped 31.1.39

RAILWAY POST IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AT THE PRESENT TIME

- Thomas Tschimer -

We thank Rick Martin, Editor of TPO [TPO & Seapost Society] for sending us this article and Herr Tomas Tschimer for permission to publish his paper which originally appeared in Tschechische Bahnpost 4/97. We also thank Douglas D. Baxter for kindly translating this article.

The fact that there was still Railway Post in our eastern neighbour was well known. But to what extent, not to mention on which trains, remained uncertain, as the available information was mostly the result of chance observations. Alongside the language barrier, there is virtually no possibility of getting hold of a current Railway Post timetable containing complete postal routes and the branch lines together with volume of traffic. For colleagues in the Czech Post who are loyal to the idea of confidentiality in the Postal Service, this fact is reason enough to refuse to give information or insight. It is almost impossible to set foot in a Railway Post wagon and the appearance of a stranger near the loaders on the platform arouses mistrust.

Nevertheless, the following is definite: a friendly approach with a letter of introduction, keeping a proper distance away during loading and, during longer train stops, a beer or two, guarantees prompt agreement to requests for cancellations. But the future of Railway Post looks very bleak for our neighbours as well, the Post Express trains which used to run and the passenger trains with guards which ran on virtually every line are being withdrawn. The routes that still remain can last, at the most, another two years, according to the estimates of the Railway Post drivers. So evidence must be provided quickly. To that end, here are the relevant extracts from the current timetable.

Railway Post

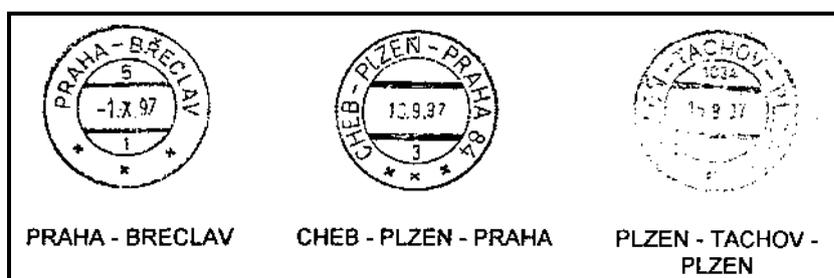
Route No.	Route	Outward Journey				Inward Journey				Information about the Administrative Office
		Operating Days	Train numbers	Depart-ure time	Arrival time	Operating Days	Train numbers	Depart-ure time	Arrival time	
1 5 5 7 14 22 24 51 75 76 84	Praha-Břeclav Praha-Břeclav Brno-Praha Praha-Ostrava Praha-Usti nad Labem Praha-Karlovy Vary Praha-Cheb Praha-České Budějovice Praha-Ostrava Praha-Ostrava Praha-Plzeň-Cheb	Z P Z Z N Z Ms Pt Pt	1303/1335 375 1301 29488/770 29488/836 836/7040 29490/631 421 423 850/1350	1220 2236 2330 2200 2200 2334 2305 2253 0044 0008	2125 0301 0617 0151 0333 0453 0306 0407 0604 0400	Z P Z Z Z Ms P	134/1300 276 1302 1375 /29481 7005/835 /29487 420/29483 233/708 659	23.05 1731 1645 2220 1740 2226 1547 1703	0730 2118 2400 0145 2400 0450 2146 2039	OZ Preprave
341 344 349 350 354 355	Plzeň-Klatovy Plzeň-Praha Plzeň-Praha Plzeň-Domažlice Plzeň-Cheb Plzeň-Cheb	P Pt Z P T	7500 1351 421/29487 7400 7308	0315 0150 2034 0347 1459	0432 0450 2400 0517 1750	Z S Z T Z Z	7533 7503 1350 29480/652 7315 7220/421	1854 1224 2305 0910 2156 1727	2003 1332 0203 1208 2359 2022	Plzeň 02
365	České Budějovice-Praha	Z	638	1912	2159					České Budějovice 02
501 572 573	Břeclav-Praha Břeclav-Petrovice u Karviné Břeclav-Ostrava	P Z	1332/1302 202 4622/1331	1520 2328 2045	2400 0230 0235	P Z	1301/1333 203 1330/375	2300 0135 2152	0840 0432 0301	Břeclav 02
775 776 777	Ostrava-Brno Ostrava-Praha Ostrava-Praha	Z Z Pt	432 1302/244 1300	1755 1645 0001	2034 2314 0730	Z Z Z	667/3321 29486/201 1303	1915 1920 1220	0008 0122 1952	Ostrava 02

Route numbers under 1000 correspond to former German [types of train - I am uncertain of what they are *Translator*]; the 4000 Pt numbers are [as above].

Please do not despair if you look in vain for the 29000 train numbers in the route book. They are transit journeys within Prague. It is important to know that not all trains begin or end in the Main Station in Prague!

Total Postal Network

Route Number	Train Numbers	Route	Operating Days	Departure Time	Arrival Time	Information about the Administrative Office
4101	671	Praha-Břeclav		1422	1900	OZ Přeprava
4102	652	Břeclav-Praha		0538	1001	
4106	4620	Břeclav-Brno		1910	2027	
4181	7307/7815/29485	Cheb-Plzeň-Praha	S	1253	2050	
4200	1350	Plzeň-Cheb	Pt	0240	0400	Plzeň 02
4203	7421	Domažlice-Plzeň	Z	1948	2115	
	7411		S	1133	1257	
4580	21150/374	Bratislava-Břeclav	Z	2340	0159	Břeclav 02
4581	279	Břeclav-Bratislava	Z	1626	1741	
4113	379/21105	Břeclav-Bratislava		0526	0750	(RPF Bratislava)
4113	21126/276	Břeclav-Bratislava		1202	1627	



Key to Operating Days

Z = Monday-Friday P = Monday-Saturday N = Sunday
 MS = Sunday-Friday Pt = Daily, except Sundays and holidays
 T = Tuesday-Sunday S = Saturday
 Where there is no symbol, the train runs every day.



TPO Services in Europe

- Manfred Markus -

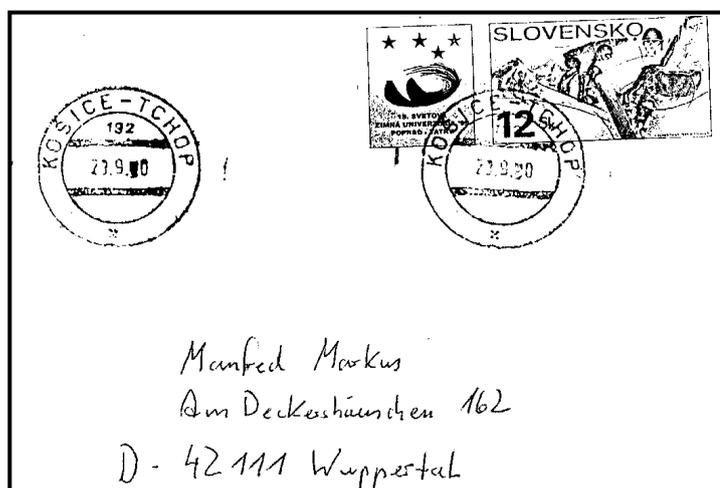
We thank Rick Martin, Editor of TPO [TPO & Seapost Society] for kindly sending us these notes from Herr Manfred Markus.

Czech Republic

Some Travelling Post Offices will be cancelled but a few TPO services will be continued during the next scheduled period.

Slovak Republic

There is only one TPO service left in this country, namely Košice-Tchop [Ukraine]. On this TPO service there is no sorting work done, but the mail bags are transported only. There is a post employee travelling in the TPO coach who still has got a TPO canceller.



PERFORATION VARIATIONS OF THE 1925 TGM ISSUE (GRAVURE)

- RNDr. Ing. Pavel Hirš, CSc. -
Translated by Vladimír J. Králíček

This is one of a number of articles that Pan Tomas Morovics has kindly sent us for publication. Whilst we understand that some of the authors are deceased or such articles are from publications that no longer exist, we apologise if we have inadvertently infringed or trespassed on any copyright. In the original publication photographs were supplied by Eva Vančuvá; however these have not reproduced well and we thank Yvonne Wheatley for selecting items from Monografie Československých Známek, Volume 3 as replacements.

For the 75th anniversary of President Thomas Garrigue Masaryk's birthday, the Czechoslovak Postal Administrations issued three stamps featuring his portrait in the values of 40, 50 and 60h. The date of issue was announced in VMPT No.10 and dated 17.2.1925. The stamp design was created by Max Švabinský and the printing was carried out by the Czech Graphic Union in Prague. The stamps were recess printed (gravure) on watermarked paper.

The basic data on this issue can be found in literature (see references at the end of the article). That is why this article is concerned only with the perforation and its variations. To understand this problem it is necessary to recollect the evolution of this issue. All three values were already being printed in 1924. To start with, two different line perforators were used for basic perforation spacing of $13\frac{3}{4}$. The perforators differed from other in the needles calibre (i.e. in the size of the perforation hole) and with accurate measurements also in the spacing. In the first period of printing (1924) only the single plate format (10x10 stamps) was used for the printing. At the beginning the plates were not marked, later on they were marked with a fraction (e.g. 2/10, etc.).

In 1925, during the second so-called printing period, the stamps were printed in a two plate format (sheets of 100) and the two plate format plates were marked with letters A and B, and additionally with the fraction and the year date (e.g. A 20/11 25). In this period only two values, 50 and 60h were printed and for perforation two comb perforators $13\frac{3}{4}:13\frac{1}{2}$ were used, these were introduced into operation at the end of 1924.

Finally in the third printing period (1926), again only the 50 and 60h values were printed - for the 50h value both the single-plate and two-plate formats was used whilst with the 60h value only the single two-plate format was used. 50h value was altogether printed in 10 two-plate and 9 single-plate formats. Two-plate formats are marked with a sequence number, letter A or B. Roman number (months) and the year (e.g. 1 A I 26). Single-plate formats were marked in the same way, though without the distinguishing letter (e.g. 5 I 26). The 60h two-plate format was marked I.-V.26 and 2.-V.26.

As was already stated, in the first printing period (1924) all three values were printed (40, 50 and 60h) and only two line perforators were used at the beginning, with basic spacing $13\frac{3}{4}$. These two perforators can be distinguished from each other quite easily by the perforation holes dimensions – small and large. With accurate measurements of the 30 holes centres distance, with the small holes the measurement is 43.75mm (thus the accurate perforations spacing is $13.72 = 13\frac{3}{4}$) and with the large holes spacing is 44mm (that is $13.63 = 13\frac{2}{3}$).

All three stamps values were line perforated with small and large holes and depending whether the pertinent perforator was used in vertical or horizontal direction, it is possible to distinguish following variations:

- A] Uniform perforation with large holes (horizontal and vertical).
- B] Uniform perforation with small holes (horizontal and vertical).
- C] "Mixed" perforation (horizontal large, vertical small holes) see Figure 1→
- D] "Mixed" perforation (horizontal small, vertical large holes).



In 1924 (at the year end) two comb perforators with spacing $13\frac{3}{4}:13\frac{1}{2}$ were put into operation. It is possible to distinguish them from the needles horizontal arrangement. In the first case, one perforation hole extends beyond the vertical line (Figure 2), in the second case the perforation holes do not extend beyond the vertical line (Figure 3). Furthermore, with the 60h value where the perforation hole extends beyond the vertical line, occur two different sizes of the perforation holes, that probably happened towards the end of 1924, most likely after replacement of the needles in the perforating machine (the use of another perforator is not assumed). In this case the perforation holes have markedly smaller dimensions (Figure 4). The large number of perforators used during 1924 can be explained by the huge quantities of stamps printed, as there were almost 3 million sheets issued. Figure 2 ↓



Figure 3→

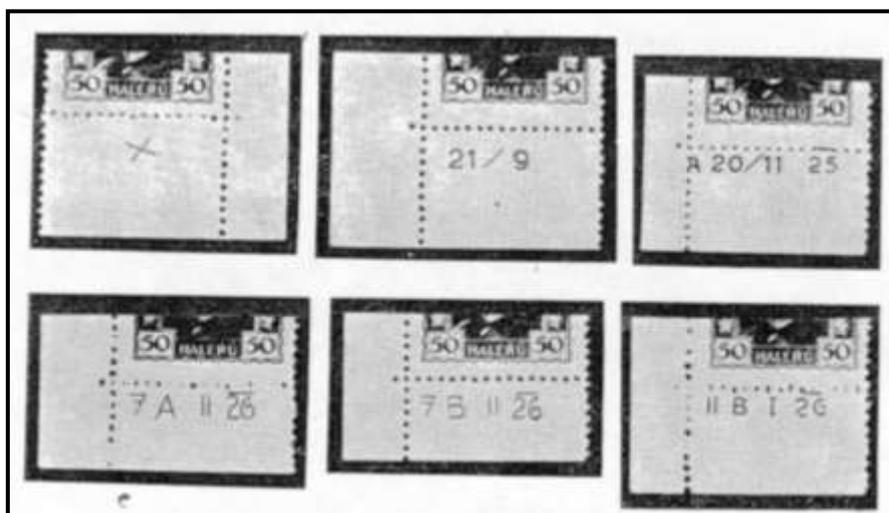
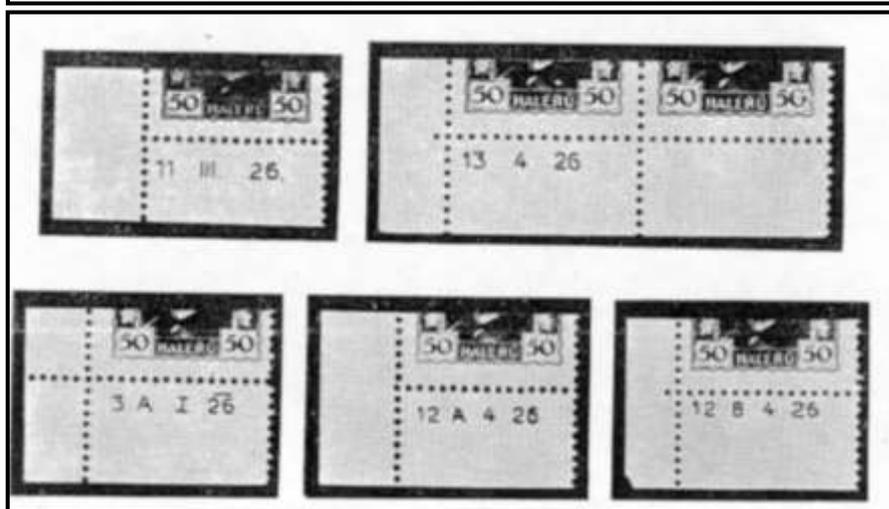


Figure 4→



In the second period of printing (1925) the perforation needles line arrangement was not used and only two comb perforators were in use at the end of 1924. The perforators differ from each other in the different calibre of the needles, henceforth in the large or small perforation holes. Spacing is always uniform ($13\frac{3}{4}:13\frac{1}{2}$). It is interesting that finds from 1925 always have comb perforation extending beyond the vertical line (Figures 5 and 6). These two variations occur only with the 50 and 60h value.



Figure 5 ↑

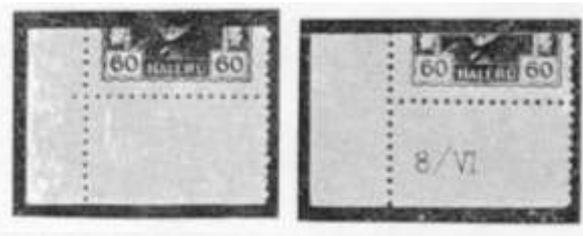
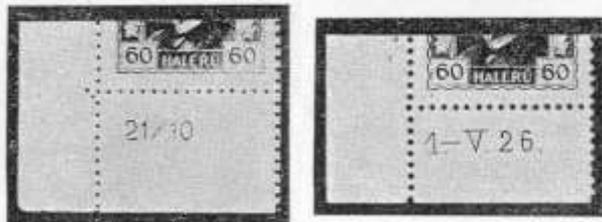


Figure 6 →



Also in the third printing period (1926) only two comb perforators (for the 50 and 60h values) were used for the stamps perforation. Again they differ in the needles arrangement in the horizontal line, similarly as in 1924. The needles size is almost uniform (Figures 7 and 8).

Figure 7 →



Figure 8 ↑



Figure 10 ↑



Figure 9 ↑

A further interesting point of this issue perforations is the markedly shifted comb perforation in the last line (Figure 9 - production fault). This was corrected by the printing works by using a line perforator $13\frac{3}{4}$ to re-perforate the last line and thus producing a compound perforation (Figure 10). This perforation is so far known only with the 40 and 60h values.

To summarise the so far ascertained information on the different perforation variations of the 1925 TGM issue on the basis of submitted or published material, it is possible to state (see also the table):-

- 1] In 1924 (first printing period) four perforators only were used for the perforations.
 - a] Two for line perforations (13¾) - one with small calibre needle, the second with large calibre of needles (exactly 13¾). In accordance with the pertinent perforator usage, it is possible to distinguish four variations in perforations (with reservation, it is possible to describe the last two as compound). They occur with all three stamps values.
 - b) Two for comb perforations (13¾: 13½) in variant of the extended and non extended perforation hole across the vertical line. Variant with the extended hole occurs with all three values, whilst the variant with the non extended hole is known so far only with the 40h value. Finally, with the 60h value the comb perforation with extended hole and small hole variation also occurs.
 - c) For compound perforation (comb and line), which are known only with the 40 and 60h values, one is from those given under a) and the other one from those given under b).
- 2] In 1925 (second printing period) only two comb perforators were used with the perforation hole extending beyond the vertical line in compound spacing 13¾: 13½. The perforators differ in the various calibre of the needles (large and small holes). In this period were printed the 50 and 60h values (so far the arrangement of needles without the extending hole is not known from this period.
- 3] In 1926 (third period of printing) two comb perforators were again used for perforation, this time with the needles calibre equal, and still with the extended or non extended holes. Both variations again occur only with the 50 and 60h values.

In conclusion it may be noted that the study of plates and plates marking may be useful for the review of the various stages of printing, the usage of various printing formats and finally also the various ways of stamp separation. Czechoslovak collectors/specialists, are at the same time invited to search their stock of stamps, so that hopefully they might be able to complement the knowledge about this issue's perforation as summarised in this article.

Perforations								
Year	Line 13¾			Comb 13¾: 13½				Compound Comb:line
	Small hole 13¾	Large holes 13.2/3	Mixed 13¾:13.2/3 13.2/3:13¾	Large holes		Small holes		
				Ext. Hole	Non ext holes	Ext. Hole	Non ext holes	
1924	40, 50h, 60h	40, 50h 60h	40, 50,60h	40,50h 60h	40h	60h	-	40, 60h
1925	-	-	-	50, 60h	-	50, 60h	-	-
1926	-	-	-	50h, 60h	50, 60h	-	-	-

References:

- Karásek, Jan; Žampach, František et al: *Monografie Československých Známek*, Volume 3, pages 35-56. Nadas. Prague 1979.
- Fránek, J. Compound perforations, *Tribuna filatelistů*, 1941. Pages 4-6.
- Hirsch, E. Large and small perforation, *Tribuna filatelistů*, 1941. Pages 53-55.
- Kálal, J. Large and small perforation as a kind of mixed perforation, *Tribuna filatelistů*, 1941. Pages 322-323.

"VICTORY" CANCELLATIONS OF BOHEMIA & MORAVIA

- John N Hammonds FRPSL -

The use of the letter "V" is generally attributed to Winston Churchill, but its real instigator was Victor de Laveleye a Belgian broadcaster from London. He urged the citizens of occupied Belgium to plaster public places with the letter "V" as a gesture of defiance against Germany.

A British broadcaster also urged listeners in German occupied countries in Europe to adopt the "V" as a symbol of defiance. In a short time "V" signs were seen throughout occupied Europe. The German occupiers were not pleased with this development and Dr Goebbels, the Reichsminister of Propaganda, decided to appropriate the "V" to symbolise German victories.

Germany in 1941 was the only victorious nation, having occupied or controlled most of Europe, North Africa and large areas of Russia.

Goebbels went to work to incorporate the "V" sign to his own purposes, as wall decorations, painted on locomotives etc. Special postal cancellations including the "Victory" theme were used in Poland, Norway (including stamps overprinted "V") German Feldpost and Bohemia & Moravia. But strangely not in Germany itself.

It is interesting to note that the German word for victory (Sieg) does not begin with the letter "V".

In Bohemia on 26 July 1941 instructions went out that main Post Offices in towns with District Offices should from the next day be provided with cancellers having the "V" sign in a laurel leaf. These were to be applied in red to all mail during the following weeks.

The main Post Offices provided with the "V" cancellers were:

Prag 1	Budweis 1	Pilsen 1	Kolin 1
Klattau	Tabor 1	Kladno 1	Jungbunzlau 1
Pardubitz 1	Königgratz 1	Brünn 1	Iglau 1
Olmütz 1	Zlin 1	Mährisch-Östrava	

In addition to the 15 main offices six offices used a Krag machine cancel.

Prag 5	Prag 14	Prag 25
Prag 55	Brünn 2	Mährisch-Östrau

These cancels were badly reproduced, mainly due to the letters being too close together and also other faults in design. Other Post Offices received a cachet in German and Czech that was to be applied in red to mail. Initially the Cachet read:

Viktoria!!
Deutschland siegt an allen Fronten!
Vítězství!!
Říše vítězí na všech frontách!
("Victory!! Germany victorious on all fronts!")

After defeats in North Africa the cachet was amended to include the words "**für Europa/pro Evropu**".

Many private cachets were used, particularly by German sympathisers, but these cachets were generally in German only instead of the more usual two languages. Labels with the letter "V" can also be found on mail. The cancels and cachets were withdrawn from use in December 1941.

The illustrations are taken from the author's collection with the exception of one cover. They have been reduced 50%.

References

Gobby T.J. Article in *American Philatelist* May 1982.
Czechout, various issues.



Special and commemorative postmarks 1941 [28 July to 31 December]. Victory cachet [in black] in two languages

Viktoria!! Deutschland siegt an allen fronten für Europa! Vítězství! Říše vítězí na všech frontách pro Evropu!

Krag machine cancel. These machine cancels were not very successful as the lettering was not very clear.

4 August 1941 Brno - Vienna

Inland letter rate 1k20 [also rate to Austria]

Privately produced cachet [in red] only in German language.

13 August 1941 Mährisch-Ostrau - Hannover

Inland letter rate 1k20 [also rate to Germany]

Cover from Government Superintendent for the City of Mähr. Ostrau.



In addition to the special cancellations a variety of cachets were applied to the mail, some official some privately produced.

Cachet [in red] in one language only [German]

23 August 1941 Prague - Berlin by Deutsche Dienstpost.

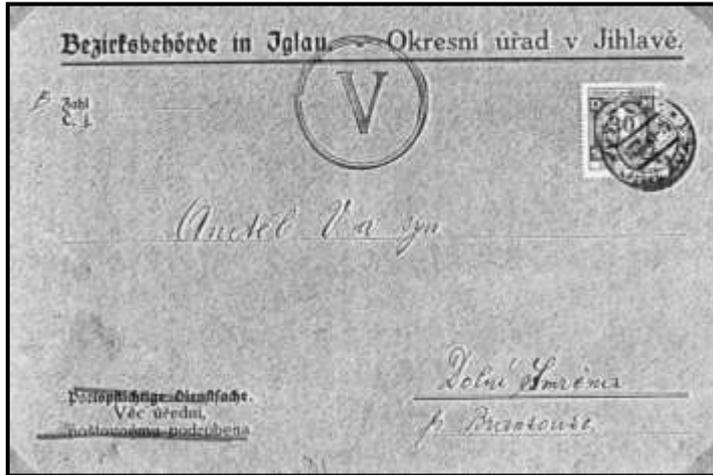
Although sent through the Dienstpost system, postage has been paid for delivery direct to the addressee.

Use of Label in lieu of cachet.

Label in red on white with dotted background

[Reproduced 100%]





The Official Post of Bohemia & Moravia joined in the campaign, the violet "V" in the circle was part of this campaign.

19 September 1941 Official printed cover from the District Authority, Iglau - Dolní Smřena.

Printed Paper rate to 20g. 30h from 1.6.1940

Cover from Ron Hollis collection.

Label with words in German and Czech were produced for sticking on envelopes.

27 September 1941 Prossnitz - Berlin

Postage rate [20g] 1k20

Official letter with postage paid by sender.

Cover also has large "V" in red, applied by rubber stamp. Additionally printed label white on red background.



Boxed red cachet with words in German.

2 October 1941 Mährisch-Ostrau - Mindelheim

Fieldpost cover sent through Dienstpost



Use of Label in lieu of cachet.

Label in red on off-white paper with plain background

[Reproduced 100%]





Use of Label in lieu of cachet.

Label in red on off-white paper with plain background on reverse of cover.

18 November 1941 Brno - Leipzig

Letter rate 1k20.

Special and commemorative postmarks

1941 [28 July - 31 December]
"Victory" cancellations.

Cancellation in red

23 December 1941 Königgrätz



Special and commemorative postmarks

1941 [28 July - 31 December]
"Victory" cancellations.

23 January 1942 Prague 7

Inland letter postage rate 1k20.

Use of red "V" seal on reverse of envelope

This "V" seal was used outside period of the Victory campaign.



THE CZECH LEGIONS IN FRANCE AND ITALY

- Kenny Morrison -
Translated by Robert Kingsley

In 2001 I purchased two books of proof artwork relating to the Czech Legions in France and Italy and feel that these may be of interest to members of the Society.

Part I - The Czech Legions in France [*Československé Legie Ve Franchii, 1914-1918 Maliřské Dokumenty*, Vydal, Památník Odboje V Praze 1923, Tiskla Ceska Graficka Unie A.S. V Praze]



List of Paintings ↑

←Czech Legion in France

The drawings on both front sheets are tracings from the covers.

[Note: Card numbers 4-15 are from the New York Recruiting Office. Smaller in format and without the English language in red and the numbers in blue. Number 39 I have as a post card showing brothers Husák and Šidlik. It is a normal card size, bears the No PO219 on the reverse and is postmarked 1937. I get the impression that possibly along with a number of other cards they were issued for the 20th anniversaries of Company's of the Legions or the Legion itself during 1937/1938. Perhaps someone with a good selection of cards might be able to confirm this. There are slightly more cards in the French book depicting soldiers. KM.]

Translation

The period spent by Czech "Old Timers" in the French Foreign Legion in the first years of World War I has been described by the painter and sculptor, O. Gutfreund (*Czech volunteers in the Bayonne Concentration Camp - Experiences from battles of the Foreign Legion at Prunay, Neuville St. Vaast and in the Champagne region*) and the painter with the pseudonym Dálný (*Neuville St. Vaast, Belloy en Santerre Ouvrages blancs*). Gutfreund's chalk colour drawings were created back home based on memory and also on sketches made at the time. Dálný's watercolours were painted whilst still in the Foreign Legion.

Paintings of the battles and battlefields involving the Czech Army in France are the work of painters Dálný, Kupka, Němeček and Cipra. Their works, which are based on sketches made at the time and on impressions of their experiences were painted in Paris in 1918, where the liberation leadership was concerned that the history of the war should not only be documented with photographs, but also with paintings and where, with this in mind, an art department was established. Its organiser was the painter František Kupka. The illustrator, Elysée Recluse, cartoonist of "Assiette au beurre" volunteered into the Foreign Legion right at the beginning of the war and in the Czech Army; in addition to his military and organisational duties, he served the liberation movement as a painter, designed uniforms, flags, badges, drew and painted themes from military life, was responsible for illustrations for patriotic songs and humorous cartoons depicting characters from his military circle.

From the propaganda paintings created in France the album contains Dálný's illustrations for the songs "Hej, Slované" (Hey, Slavs), "Nad Tatrou sa blyska" (Lightening over the Tatras), "Slovan jsem" (I am a Slav). They first appeared in the *Bulletin of the Czech Colony* in the year 1915. They found favour amongst the army and even spread to Siberia where they were printed in 1918 in *The Czechoslovak Daily* and were to be found in almost every Czech Army train. *The Journals of liberated riflemen* by Kupka were first issued in France in 1918 after the signing of the armistice and were intended to be a souvenir for the soldiers of the victorious struggle for liberation.

To the artistic propaganda material of the Czech Legion in France also belong posters by Preissig. They first appeared in 1917 when America entered the war. This kind of propaganda on posters which made appeals for men to join the American and Czech Army in France was also taken up in America by Czech graphic artists Preissig, Růžička and Vondrouš. It was mainly Preissig's posters which appeared in Europe, and particularly France (manifest of the representatives of the Czech people in USA, appeals for joining the army, celebration of the heroic deeds of the Czech Army in France, allegory of the national struggle). Preissig's posters were issued in 1918 in postcard size (by the military department of O.Č.S.N.R., the Czech press agency in New York, the Central National Association in Chicago, a total of 37,200 items) and were thus spread amongst Czech army personnel in France and Italy.

After the war ended Longen undertook a journey following the traces of the Czech Legion in France and returned from this trip with a whole series of artistic impressions of battlefields devastated by modern war. In 1919, in memory of the struggle, Czech painters V.Beneš, O.Nejedlý and legionnaire Hama were sent to France and they, in accordance with plans drawn up by František.Kupka illustrated memorial places to commemorate the history of the legionnaires.

List of Paintings

C1	V.Preissig	Propaganda Poster
C2	F.Kupta	Journal of Czech Riflemen
C3 - 17	V.Preissig	Propaganda Posters
C18	Gutfreund	Bayonne - In the Camp 1914
C19	- " -	Neuville St.Vaast - after the attack 9/5/1915
C20	- " -	Return from the trenches, October 1915
C21	- " -	Prunay - In hiding, November 1914
C22	- " -	Champagne - after the attack, October 1915
C23	- " -	Champagne - march to the front, September 1915
C24	Dálný	In the front of Belloy en Santerre, 5/7/1916
C25	- " -	Neuville St.Vaast, ouvrages blanc, 9/5/1915
C26	K.Cipra	In front of Terron
C27	- " -	Chestres - point 153
C28	- " -	Crossing over Aisnu
C29	H. Němeček	Over point 153
C30	- " -	With food into the trenches
C31	Dálný	Terron
C32	H. Němeček	Covered up
C33	- " -	The dead volunteer
C34	- " -	The 21-year old
C35	- " -	Terron
C36	- " -	Guard duty by the stove
C37	- " -	By the wheel
C38	F. Kupka	Lt.Col.Phillipe
C39	- " -	Brothers Husák and Šidlik
C40	- " -	Brother Kryštof
C41	- " -	Brother Cipra
C42	- " -	Brother Jelinek
C43	- " -	Brother Dr. Žáček
C44	- " -	On horseback
C45	- " -	With the Czech Brigade
C46	O.Nejedly	Belloy - Cemetery
C47	- " -	Belloy - The valley of death
C48	- " -	Belloy - The gardens on the battlefield
C49	- " -	Belloy - The trees in the Castle gardens
C50	- " -	Souain
C51	- " -	Souain battlefield
C52	- " -	Neuville St.Vaast
C53	- " -	Tahure
C54	- " -	Mort - Home
C55	- " -	Belloy - battlefield
C56	- " -	The camouflaged highway between Suippes and Souain
C57	- " -	Highway between Arrasewm and Souchez
C58	- " -	Prunay - battlefield
C59	- " -	Trenches at Mort-Home

C60	- " -	Battlefield ahead of Terron
C61	- " -	Chestres - view from Vousiers
C62	- " -	Vousiers - road from the town
C63	- " -	Vandy near Vousiers
C64	- " -	Belloy - battlefield
C65	- " -	Souain - graves in the cemetery, Cemetery de l'opera
C66	- " -	Sentheim - graves of Czech volunteers
C67	- " -	Prunay - alley
C68	- " -	Courniers
C69	V. Beneš	Chestres from Vousiers
C70	- " -	Chestres from the town exit
C71	- " -	Chatancourt - in the distance "bois de Cournieres
C72	- " -	Chatancourt - in the distance Mort-Home
C73	- " -	Vousiers - highway from Chestres
C74	- " -	Vousiers - general view
C75	- " -	Les ouvrages blanc (The white works)
C76	- " -	Highway Souain-Tahure
C77	- " -	"Mort-Home"
C78	- " -	Highway Arras-Souchez
C79	- " -	Belloy en Santerre - apple orchard
C80	- " -	Neuville St.Vaast
C81	- " -	Echarson Farm near Terron
C82	- " -	Terron - road to the church
C83	- " -	Hartmannsweilerkopf from Asbach
C84	B.Harna	Michelbac - Farm
C85	- " -	Berthonvalle Farm - in the background St.Eloi
C86	- " -	Chatancourt - outside village
C87	- " -	Prunay - Markýza Farm
C88	A.Longen	Neuville St.Vaast
C89	- " -	Forest
C90	- " -	Pompelle
C91	- " -	Pompelle
C92	- " -	From Reims to Pompelle
C93	- " -	Prunay
C94	- " -	Berthonvalle Farm
C95	- " -	Prunay
C96	- " -	Berthonvalle
C97	Dáiny	Lightening over the Tatra
C98	- " -	I am a Slav and always will be
C99	- " -	Hey, Slavs!

Part II (Czech Legions in Italy) to be printed in March *Czechout*.

QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

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

- Czechout 1/99: Richard Beith's WW2 Ships
 - Czechout 1/00: R W Allan's Errors Corrected *
 - Czechout 3/00: Lou Svoboda's Dr Beneš' whereabouts in 1932
 - Czechout 4/00: Ian Nutley's Concentration Camp hostages
 - Czechout 2/01: Barry Horne's Masaryk Sheet perms
 - Czechout 3/01: Roman Dubyniak's Carpatho-Ukraine cover
 - Czechout 3/01: Richard Beith's Anglo-Czech Friendship Club cover
 - Czechout 1/02: Brian Parker's Austro-Czech Postcard
- * Answers awaiting publication

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 Bob Hill's Palissy Stamp Query in Czechout 3/02 page 83. Two replies received.

From Mick Bister, President France & Colonies PS: The vignette depicting Bernard Palissy is in fact a testing label and was used by the PTT from 1954 to 1975 in booklet and coil trials. Further details about the vignette can be found in the article *'The Testing Labels of the Atelier du Timbre'* by Jean-Luc Traessart published in *France & Colonies Journal* 199 pages 4-7.

There is however a secondary use of these labels, ie the 'franking' of mail used in the demonstration of postal mechanisation equipment (coding desks, facing machines, optical readers etc) at philatelic exhibitions and industrial fairs. The first known covers bearing a Palissy label are those from demonstrations conducted at Philatec in Paris in 1964.

The item illustrated in *FCPS Journal* 223 (page 30) is from the Foire Internationale in Brno which was held from 10 to 19 September 1967. Here the P&T had a stand where they demonstrated a prototype coding desk using the Austerlitz I language: although not visible in the illustration the cover should therefore have the yellow bar code printed in the bottom right hand corner. The label is cancelled by a **SECAP** (Société d'Etudes et de Construction d'Appareils de Précision) cancelling machine.

Such demonstrations continued well into the 1980s but, with a preference for meter frankings, the Palissy label was used only on rare occasions. Illustrated here are two more such covers:



Figure 1 -

Blue Palissy label on Jeu du Code Postal card, 'cancelled' by a SATAS (Société des Appareils à Timbrer & Affranchir système Sanglier) franking machine. The card was available at the Exposition Internationale sur les Systèmes de Communications held in Moscow from 22 May to 5 June 1975 and was used to demonstrate a production

model of a coding desk using the La Source 2 language.

Figure 2 -

Grey Palissy label on P&T envelope No 716, cancelled by a SECAP machine at the Exposition Technique et Scientifique Française at Caracas which was held from 12 to 22 February 1976. The date stamp also includes the acronym SOMEPOST for the Société Mixte pour l'Etude et le Développement des Centres de Tri Mécanisés. The same coding desk (PIS No 3) was used as at Moscow.



Both the above items bear the red bar code of the La Source programme in the bottom right hand corner.

From Graham Slater: I noticed Bob's query in the September *Czechout*; I can tell you nothing about that stamp from a philatelic point of view, but can identify B. Palissy.

In France, Bernard Palissy is perhaps as famous a potter as Josiah Wedgwood is to us here in England. His dates are however much earlier: 1510 to 1590. He was survived by his sons Nicolas and Mathurin who worked well into the 17th century in a similar style. The pottery was highly decorative and often included designs in deep relief such as snakes, fruit and, most famous of all, a design of a reclining woman with children entitled *La Fecondité*. His work was well known in 17th century England as not only had he agents here in London but some of the moulds, including that for *La Fecondité*, were sold to

the English tin-glaze earthenware potters who produced almost identical items in what is now called "delftware". In the nineteenth century, this style of deep relief pottery with classical scenes etc was again reproduced in France etc.

I have myself written a paper for the ECC on the 17th century London copies but alas cannot send you a copy as all my offprints went to museums who had supplied photographs etc. I haven't even got one left for myself. However if interested I can supply some bibliographical details as there are a number of books on Bernard Palissy, mostly in French.

Re Geoff Fuller's Hradčany 1h Grey colour in Czechout 3/2002 page 82

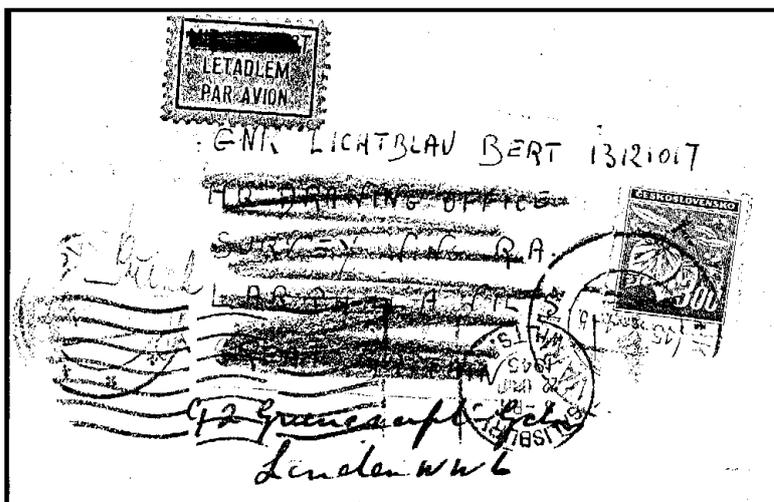
From Mark Wilson: Some further information concerning the 1h changeling. Ladislav Novotný in *Speciální příručka pro sběratele Československých známek* [Prague 1970] page 47, prices four colours for the 1h.

Temně hnědý	- dark brown	The first three have the same value (1h), while the fourth is priced at eight times that (8h).
Šedě hnědý	- grey brown	
Čokolátová hnědý	- chocolate brown	
Černý hnědý	- black brown	

Three new queries, two with answers.

From Jim Ansell: Shortly before last Christmas I was successful in obtaining an early post-war cover sent from Czechoslovakia to England, addressed to 13121017Gnr Bert Lichtblau at Larkhill, Wilts. I was even more pleased to find it still contained the original letter, in English, dated 15.10.1945, apparently offering advice on repatriation back to Czechoslovakia.

Neither of the two relevant Monographs on the Czech Forces have information on repatriation except that relating to those members who were captured or stayed in France in 1940. Mention is made of the MT at Southend and the letter was sent initially to Larkhill, which was probably a military establishment then as now. So, what happened to the Czech Forces that were in France around Dunkirk after the final surrender? Did they return to the UK to yet another location and were demobilised here? To me, the letter appears to be offering advice on do-it-yourself repatriation. Perhaps someone will know.



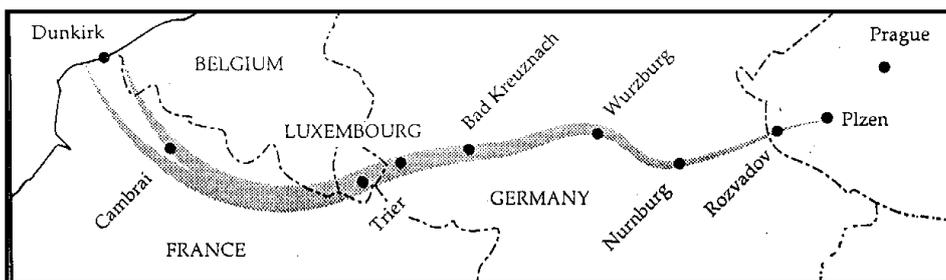
From Colin Spong: I would refer Jim to page 25 of Roy Reader's Monograph No 5, the second paragraph reads, "With the war in the West over, the Czechoslovaks were anxious to leave Dunkirk and within a week they had moved to Saint Omer and from there by lorry through Luxembourg and Germany to reach Plzeň on 18 May 1945. On 30 May 1945, they paraded through Prague that had witnessed the bitterest period of its history since they had last left it."

From Richard Beith: As far as I am aware, all the troops around Dunkirk were home by 18 May, see the enclosed copy write-up from my Czechoslovak Forces collection. The only CZ forces in the UK at this time would be depot staff, those on leave or in hospital, or recent recruits under training.

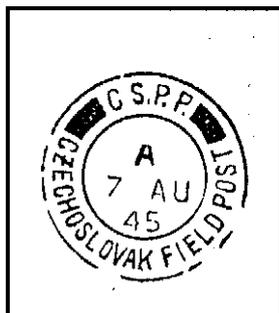
For a detailed account of the return home see Miroslav Saba: "Farewell to the trenches around Dunkirk," in *On All Fronts, Czechoslovaks in World War I, Part II*, ed. Lewis M. White, East European Monographs, Boulder CO, distrib: Columbia University Press, [1995] ISBN 0-88033-319-7. I hope this helps.

The Independent Armoured Brigade returns to Czechoslovakia

The German garrison in Dunkirk did not surrender until 8 May 1945, hence the Czechoslovak Brigade was involved in the fighting war until the last day. However, large groups of United States land forces were making for Western Bohemia, still occupied by the German Army. Hence it was agreed that a small group from the Czechoslovak Brigade, the 'Combined Detachment', consisting of an AA battery and motorized infantry units under Major A. Sitek, would be attached to the 3rd Army of General Patton so that they could make a symbolic crossing of the pre-Munich frontier. This took place near Cheb on 1 May 1945. The Detachment reached Plzeň on 5 May. On this day, the American forces were halted at a demarcation line running south from Karlovy Vary, the Red Army was to have the honour of liberating Prague. The main Brigade did not leave Dunkirk for home until 12 May travelling via Cambrai, Luxembourg, Trier, Bad Kreuznach and Würzburg, crossing the Czechoslovak border near Rozvadov on 18 May.



Two main types of military mail can be found from the period immediately after the liberation of Czechoslovakia and the restoration of the pre-Munich borders.

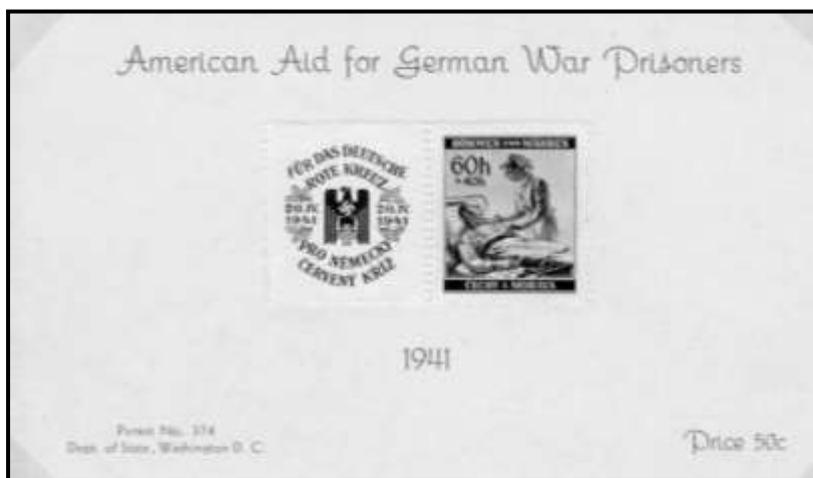


*Surface mail for overseas destinations was still sent free of charge often bearing the British Army style FIELD POST cancellations which can be found in use up to at least September 1945. Some of this mail was handled by the American APOs in Western Bohemia. The return address was often given as APO 655, located in Wiesbaden.

*Internal mail does not have an APO return address, but usually a reference to Plzeň.

*Censorship was discontinued from 1 June, but the censor cachets continued to be used, without signature, as unit identification marks.

From John Hammonds: I recently obtained this card inscribed "1941 American Aid for German War Prisoners". Can anyone tell me its background?



NEW ISSUES

- Lindy Bosworth -

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

01.09.2002 Zvíkov Castle Definitive, self adhesive for sale by vending machines

New inland postage rates apply from 1 September 2002 and the following additional face values will be printed by vending machines to the stamps first issued 26.06.2002:

6.40Kč, 8Kč, 9Kč, 10Kč, 12Kč, 14Kč, 16Kč, 17Kč, 20Kč, 22Kč, 24Kč, 26Kč, 30Kč and 34Kč. There were no official FDCs.

See *Czechout 3/2002* page 85 for design details.

01.09.2002 Definitive Signs of the Zodiac – Gemini



Designer: Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: RD in sheets of 100, picture size 19 x 23mm.

Design: Drawing of two female heads with the sign of Gemini.

01.09.2002 Definitive The Beauty of Flowers



Designer: Anna Khunová **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD in sheets of 100, picture size 19 x 23mm. The drawing is underprinted with iridescent colour.

Design: Drawing of a pansy in flower with a bud and the name of the flower in Czech. This is the first in a new series of definitives – The Beauty of Flowers.

11.09.2002 Beauties of Our Country



Designer: Antonín Odehnal **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS in sheets of 8. Picture size 40 x 26mm (12Kč) and 26 x 40mm (14Kč).

Designs: **12Kč** – The chateau complex Litomyšl. This was built in the Renaissance style from the plans of the Italian architect G.B. Aostallis 1568-87. It has two arcaded courtyards and there are extensive gardens. FDC: printed DS in green with commemorative Litomyšl cancel. The cachet is a knight in armour from part of the decoration of a Renaissance house in the town.

14Kč – The Plague Column, Olomouc, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. This is the work of the Olomouc born sculptor V. Rener dating from 1716-54 and the largest plague monument in the country. The column is 35 metres high and houses a chapel. FDC: printed RD in brown with a commemorative Olomouc cancel. The cachet is the Assumption from part of the sculpture of the column.

Both structures were added to the UNESCO list of World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites in 2000.

11.09.2002 Emil Zátopek – The Best Czech Sportsman of the 20th Century



Designer: Zdeněk Netopil **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD+DS in sheets of 50. Picture size 23 x 40mm.

Design: Zátopek completing the marathon in Helsinki 1952 and the text in Czech "Emil Zátopek the best Czech sportsman of the 20th century."

FDC: printed DS in blue with a commemorative Kopřivnice (his birthplace) cancel. The cachet is a further drawing of him running in the Helsinki marathon and the text in Czech "Emil Zátopek the best Czech sportsman of the 20th century."

06.11.2002

Gifts from St. Nicholas



Designer: Adolf Born **Engraver:** Pavel Kovářík **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30. Picture size 23 x 30mm.

Design: St. Nicholas with a basket of gifts accompanied by an angel and a devil.

FDC: printed DS in brown with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is a humorous drawing of St. Nicholas on skis with an angel and devil.

Booklet: containing 8 stamps and two labels.

06.11.2002.

Definitive – President Václav Havel



Designer: Jiří Rathouský **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: RD in sheets of 100. Picture size 19 x 23mm.

Design: portrait of the President based on the 5.40Kč stamp issued 01.03.2000.

13.11.2002

Christmas



Designer: Jana Sigmundová **Engraver:** Jiří Bouda **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Picture size 23 x 30mm.

Design: stylised Christmas tree with coloured windows.

FDC: printed DS in blue with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is an outline of the Czech Republic tied with a ribbon hanging from a Christmas tree branch and flakes of snow as decoration.

14.11.2002

Summit of NATO in Prague

Designer: Václav Kučera **Engraver:** Pavel Kovářík **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. picture size 23 x 40mm.

Design: logo of the summit – an outline of the Prague skyline with a stylised Czech flag and the Nato logo and the text in Czech – “The Summit of NATO in Prague.”

FDC: printed DS in blue with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is an outline of the towers of Prague Castle and the arches of Charles’ Bridge with the NATO logo and the text in Czech “ The Summit of NATO – The First Time in a New Membership Country.”

Postal Stationery**Postcards for Current Postal Use**

01.09.2002. – to reflect the change in postal rate. **Designer:** Jan Solpera **Printing:** offset **Design:** Imprinted stamp is a blue tablet with two sides plain and two sides toothed with the numerals 6.40Kč. The Czech Post logo and security hologram appear to the left with the left hand part of the card blank for promotional purposes or messages. The card is valid for inland and international postage and retails at 7.10Kč.

01.09.2002. – to reflect the change in postal rate. **Designer:** Alfred Fuchs **Printing:** multi-coloured offset. **Design:** view of the “New World” with Prague Castle in the background. This is a similar design to the postcards issued 08.09.1999 and 02.01.2001 but with minor colour changes. The retail price is 7.10Kč.

Commemorative Postcard

16.10.2002. Ostropa 2003. **Designer:** Marie Svobodová (stamp imprint) and Oldřich Pošmurný **Printing:** multi-coloured offset. **Design:** imprinted 9Kč stamp based on the logo for Ostropa 2003. The cachet of the card is the upper part of Masaryk Square, Jihlava with the Town Hall and the text in Czech “II. Czech-German Postage Stamp Exhibition Ostropa 2003, Jihlava.” The Exhibition is to take place 24 –27 April 2003 and is a reciprocal meeting to the one in Múnchberg, Germany 2000. The card retails for 14Kč.

Czech Postage Stamps for 2003 – Provisional Programme

Date	Issue
1 January	10th anniversary of the Czech Republic
20 January	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production
12 February	Personalities – Jaroslav Vrchlický and Josef Thomayer
26 March	Easter
26 March	Tradition of Folk Manufacturing – Lace making
7 May	Europa – The Art of Posters
7 May	Beauties of Our Country – Český ráj and Moravský kras
28 May	For Children
28 May	100 Years of Electric Railway Tábor – Bechyně
25 June	Sport – European Shooting Championship
25 June	Czech Europeans – J. Dobrovský
10 September	Breeding – Aquarium Fish
10 September	Technical commemorations – Fire Fighting Techniques
1 October	European Exhibition Brno 2005
1 October	Oriental carpets
15 October	Nature Conservation – Birds of Prey
15 November	Art on Stamps Max Švabinský, Antonin Slaviček and Agnolo Bronzino
5 November	Christmas

STOP PRESS



BOOK REVIEW

Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France by Jaroslav J. Verner. Published by the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, 84 pages, size 9 x 6¼, cover [front & back] in colour, printed in the Czech Republic, price \$12, post paid in the USA, outside of USA contact the author at 8602 Ewing Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-3846, USA. E-mail sibpost@starpower.net.

This is the first book published on the subject of the mail of the Czech Legions in France during World War I. It is a very well researched and written study, which will fill the void on this subject for many years.

The author has taken special care to insure that the reader is able to understand this little known subject. From the establishment of the first military unit of Czech expatriates in the French Foreign Legion, Company Nazdar, in August 1914, through the creation of the Czechoslovak 5th Division in France in 1918, to the conclusion of the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919, the author examines all matters relating to the mail generated or handled by the Czech legions in France. This includes postal cancels, unit cancels, censor markings, the Czechoslovak military stamp, labels, and field post cards. Due to the close relationship between the Czech units and the Czech National Council in Paris, the author also discusses the various cancels used by the latter organisation.

To aid the reader in understanding the subject, and philatelists in identifying specific markings, the author has lavishly illustrated the work with excellent drawings and colour photos of all the postal markings discussed in the text. Each is cited in a text reference, which leaves the reader in no doubt about what is being discussed. Included are photos of some extremely rare postal usage's and covers. The author has appended a point valuation system for each postal marking discussed in the text.

Finally Mr. Verner uses his skills as a researcher and writer to do what few philatelic authors do, provide the complete story. His ability to weave history and philately together into a single coherent narrative is exceptional. It allows the reader to understand who the members of the Czech legions were, how they got to France, why they joined, and their importance to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state, placing this little-known philatelic story in context. As if to emphasise the groundbreaking importance of this work, it contains both an English and Czech text. In either language it is very well done.

Tom Cossaboom

Although we have not seen this publication yet, I understand from Lou Svoboda that a copy will be sent for our Library. Lou also tells us that the covers/entires illustrated inside the book are all in colour, the cancels are in black and white, and the paper used is the same as Merkur Revue is printed on.

Notes

Barry Horne is compiling a list of Essays and Labels together with information of each item and would be pleased if members with any holdings would contact him. It is hoped to eventually publish a Monograph on this subject. [16 St. Peter's Mount, EXETER EX4 2SD, barryhorne@freeuk.com]

Chris Cordes writes that he misread an auction description some years ago, and instead of receiving a study of the Dove issue control blocks, he received a massive plating study of the 15h value, with what appears to be two plates in a stock book, and another two on stock pages. Obviously the vendor had gone to a huge amount of trouble in sorting the stamps, but there was no key, so Chris is unable to tell what it is he has. He is unable to test the validity of the sorting and ask if anyone has an English language plating study for this value, so that he can join the "fly speck" brigade. [Box 41953 CRIGHALL 2024 South Africa chrisc@nedcor.co.za]

After publishing in the September journal the revised article on Eastern Silesia 1918-20, we received from Ton Welvaat scans of the illustrations in colour. If any UK member would like copies would they please send four 1st class mint GB postage stamps to cover the cost of printing and postage to the Editor.