



# CZECHOUT

Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain  
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## NOTES

We enclose with this journal the Annual Index for Volume 18, 2000; the Auction List; and the Library List. The next Society meeting will be the Chester Weekend 27-29 April followed by the Country Meeting at Wombourne on 23 June. Details from Bob Hill.

We are sorry to hear that the following members are unwell or been in hospital recently; on behalf of the Society we send them our best wishes: **Richard Beith, Bill Dawson, George Firmage, John Law, John Whiteside and Paul Wijnants**.

**Richard Beith** has published an article on *Czechoslovak Military Field PO in Britain* in the *British Philatelic Bulletin* Vol.38 No 5 issue of January 2001. **Ian McQueen** has written a most complimentary review of our journal in the March issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. This is encouraging to your Editor and your contributors

**Rex Dixon** is showing German Winter Relief to Addlestone PS on Friday 6 April. **Colin Spong** is showing Madagascar/Slovakia to Brighton & Hove PS on Monday 9 April. **Barry Horne** [01392-273012] is giving a display of Czechoslovakia to Purley PS on Wednesday 18 April. **Tony Bosworth** is showing Croatia to Worthing PS on Tuesday 1 May. Contact the speakers if you would like to see their displays.

The Bishop's Stortford Libraries have put your Editor in touch with the Curator of the Bishop's Stortford & District Local History Society regarding the query "Czechoslovak College." One was situated at Hassobury in Hazel End.

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*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

**Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 13 January 2001 at the Czech and Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm**

The Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 25 members and one visitor to the meeting. He particularly welcomed two who were attending their first meeting. Apologies had been received from five members.

The Hon Secretary gave details of four prospective new members:

<b>Bruce Roush Jr</b>	from Jarrettsville, Maryland
<b>Tony Batkin</b>	from Ruislip, Middlesex
<b>Anthony Bonson</b>	from Congleton
<b>Leslie Robinson</b>	from Fulwood, near Preston

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Robert then called upon **Ron Hollis** to display *Postal Rates of Bohemia and Moravia*. The display was divided into two parts, with domestic rates followed by the foreign rates. The range of material shown was extremely wide. It included many examples of the reduced foreign rates that had featured in recent issues of *Czechout*. Ron pointed out some anomalies with the airmail rates to the USA, which requires further research.

Tony Bosworth gave the vote of thanks. He said that Ron had shown an incredible knowledge of and enthusiasm for the subject, and was always willing to impart that knowledge to others – he had learned much. He highlighted some of the unusual destinations, such as Afghanistan.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to a display entitled *Miscellany* given by **Bill Dawson**. He restricted it to material he had not shown before. He started off with a study of the thimble postmarks of the Austrian period, and followed with sections on TPOs, pneumatic post in Prague, a local post at Leitmeritz, and various aspects of WWII.

Roger Morrell, in giving the vote of thanks, said that Bill had "done it again – he had opened up his magic box and had produced something for everyone."

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

Rex A Dixon

### Letters to the Editor

✉ **Señor Luis Cases**, Av. Ausias March 37-4<sup>o</sup>, 46013 Valencia, Spain read of our Society in the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and writes: "I collect used GB, Czech & Slovak Republics, FDCs and special thematic handstamps." He would be interested in exchange with other collectors for Spanish used stamps, special handstamps and thematics.

✉ **Trevor Pateman**, PO Box 12, Lewes, BN7 1AZ writes: "Asked recently for a reference for an applicant for Society membership, it occurs to me that your readers might like to know that though I advertise myself as a specialist dealer for Russia and related areas, I do keep a small stock of Czech and Slovak material. This currently includes some 1918-23 items; extensive Carpatho-Ukraine, 1920s through the 1940s; World War II German Occupation postal history; and even a 1944 ČSP local for Rimavská Sobotka (signed Blaha). I work mainly as an approval dealer, but always have a stand twice a year at Philatex in the Royal Horticultural Halls in London."

✉ **Bob Hill** writes: "On 21 December Beryl Millar, widow of the late member John Millar of Blagdon, Bristol visited me at my home and left John's extensive collection to be offered in a forthcoming auction."

*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 2001 issue of *Austria* No. 133. The articles include:
  - ▶ Ninety Years of Aviation in Austria (Graf, Kucera & Taylor); By Gum, I'm stuck! [a useful guide to remove anything from the back of Revenue stamps. Editor] (Brumby).
- The September and December 2000 issues of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 32, Whole Nos 125 & 126 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
  - ▶ New Registration labels from Czech Post (-); O(bchodní) T(iskovina) – Commercial printed matter cancellation Chust-XYCT-15.3.39-15 in red (Rauch); Czech Postal tariffs.
  - ▶ New web page for Czech Philately [www.czechia.com/filatelia/index.html](http://www.czechia.com/filatelia/index.html)(-); Society Literature available (-); Letter sorting machines in the post offices Bratislava 022 and Košice 2 (Müller); The first machine-dispensed stamps of Czech Post [APOST] (Langhammer); The latest about machine-dispensed stamps of Czech Post (Langhammer); Changes in APOST of Czech Post (Langhammer).
- The Jan/Feb 2001 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 63, No. 1, Whole No. 565. The articles include:
  - ▶ Who is the Little Girl from the Postage Stamp [50h + 1Kč 150th Birth Anniversary of Masaryk] (Černý); Agriculture & Science Issue of 1923 – Further Retouches (Žampach); Formation of the Borders of Slovakia and Poland [1918-1924] (Tekel); Was there a Fifth Zeppelin Flight to South America in 1932? (Hahn); Czech Scout Post 10h Transitional Masaryk Overprints (Lawrence); Peter Jan Brandl 1668-1735 (van Zenten); Slovenský Štát/1939 Overprint and Airmail to Foreign Lands (Tekel); Philatelic Journals in the Czech Republic (Viček); The Imperial and Royal Heavy Artillery (Vostatek); A Visit to Brno (Nutley); Catastrophic Air Mail (Horka).
- The 5 & 6/2000 issues of *Merkur Revue*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
  - ▶ Guernica c'td (Fischer); 140th Anniversary of Birth of Alfons Mucha (Sládek); Mucha (Šustek); Fish 1966 c'td (Fritz); 195th Anniversary of Battle of Austerlitz (van Dooremalen - Ustohal); Pošta Československá 1919 (Šablatura); Jan Eskymo Welzla (Ustohal).
  - ▶ Guernica conclusion (Fischer); Czechoslovak postmarks in 1945 Part 2 (Holoubek); Czechoslovak frontier fortresses in philately (Vostatek); 100 Kč banknotes in 1953 and 1961 (Šustek).

## PUBLICATIONS NOTICES

- Rex A Dixon -

The Society has obtained a supply of the Second Edition (1999) of the Czech/Slovak – English & English – Czech/Slovak *Glossary of Philatelic Terminology* by Ludvik Z Svoboda and published by our sister society in America, The Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. It comprises 128 pages for the main listings, plus several pages of ancillary listings. The First Edition was reviewed in *Czechout* 3/97 page 59.

Members can obtain it from Rex Dixon for £14.50, inclusive of postage to the UK or Europe. Overseas members are advised to obtain it directly from The Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. by writing to Edwin W Lehecka at 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090, USA – the price is \$20.00 exclusive of postage.

The Society has recently reprinted the *Fundamental Philatelic Terminology: A Vocabulary in Czech/German/English*, which was first distributed as a supplement to *Czechout* Vol.7/1, March 1989. It's a small A5 16-page booklet. The reprint incorporates the one-page Addendum to the original. Rex Dixon can supply this for £1.40 inclusive of postage.

Peter Rickenback of 14 Rossllyn Hill, London NW3 1PF is offering members the *Specialised Catalogue of Postal Stationery of Bohemia & Moravia* published in 1998 by our sister society in Germany. His price is £20.00, inclusive of postage to the UK only. It comprises 100 loose-leaf A4 pages and is supplied in a ring binder. This is Part V of a series reviewed in *Czechout* 4/94 pages 79-80 as a general series for Czechoslovakia [the Part number has been reallocated since the originally stated intention for Parts VA to VC].

## OBITUARY

**Juan Santa Eugénia Grau:** Who would have thought that a collector in Barcelona would write the probably most detailed handbook catalogue\* on the provisional hand and machine overprints of the Liberation period of Czechoslovakia after the collapse of the German and other occupations of that country. The task for a serious collector of these issues to separate the official, semi-official and the speculative and fraudulent outpourings in that turbulent, often frustrating and frequently revengeful political period was enormous. Señor Grau has studied the material from the very start; his handbook will remain for many years to come one of the most detailed studies of a most difficult and complicated area. Is it a coincidence that the same territory brought similar provisional overprints with identical complications, and hectic discussion, until after some years the final results could be published.

Juan Santa Eugénia Grau has left behind his untimely death on 5 December 2000 a monument on Czechoslovak philately. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Teresa. Peter C. Rickenback.

\* *Revoluční Známky a Přetisky* [Revolutionary Stamps and Overprints] 1944-1945 Local Issues, 5th edition 1996, Barcelona, Spain.

## BOOK AND MAGAZINE REVIEWS

**Fakes Forgeries Experts**, published in collaboration with the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) and the AIEP (Association Internationale des Experts en Philatélie). 200pp in colour; written in English and in the language of the author of each article; price 200F; details from FFE-Journal, PO Box 108, CH-6976 Castagnola, Switzerland. [Specialised study of forgeries, fakes and repairs; compiled by experts of international renown; addressed to professionals as well as collectors; includes numerous anecdotes, items of information, methods and illustrations.] *I have seen a copy of the second issue of this publication and now the third issue is reviewed in the December France & Colonies Journal. This well produced magazine will be of interest to those who collect fakes and forgeries or seek information. The Editor.*

**The Trans-Pacific Route 1942-1945** by R M Startup FRPSL FRPSNZ. 1997. Pb + card cover, 28pp. Price £6. ISBN 1 872744 13 3. **The Locally Registered and Foreign Air Services of British Africa**, 1998. Pb + card cover, 24pp. Price £6.50. ISBN 1 872744 16 8. **The Locally Registered and Foreign Air Services of British Asia**, 2001. Pb + Card cover, 24pp. Price £6.50. ISBN 1 872744 19 2. All published by the Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW, Scotland. Handbooks are supplied postage free within the UK. Overseas orders p&p £2. These three handbooks continue the Wartime Airmail series initiated by Charles Entwistle and he is to be congratulated as author of two of these, Robin Startup looking after the Trans-Pacific route, in producing the above volumes as companions to previous titles: **The Horseshoe Route** with assistance from John Daynes and **Great Britain Transatlantic & Beyond** co-authored with de Sousa, Daynes, Dodwell and Wike.

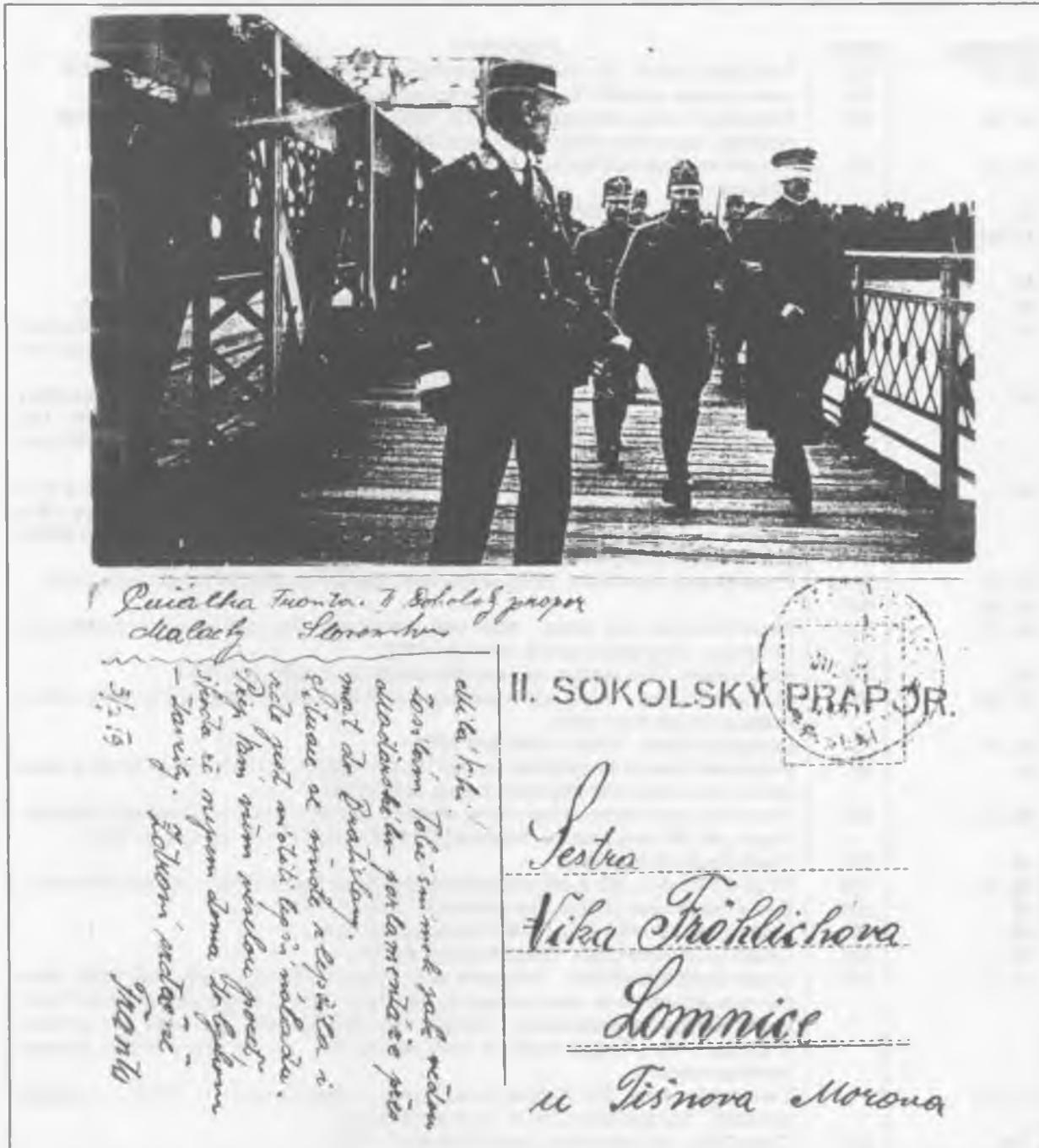
*Initially, at first glance at the titles, Czechout readers may wonder if they are of interest to them. On closer observation one finds that in all these volumes there are cross-links between the various countries which operated airlines in the areas covered in the series. Mail emanating from Allied forces would undoubtedly have been carried on some of these routes, and I recommend these Handbooks. The Editor.*

POSTCARD OF INTEREST

Brian Day has sent us this interesting postcard of the 1918-1920 Slovakian Campaign. This depicts the Hungarian negotiating team, blindfolded, being escorted to Bratislava over the bridge from Hungary to meet with Czech and Slovak representatives at Armistice talks; addressed to Lomnice u Tišnova, Moravia.

Blue single-line cachet of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sokol Battalion, also penned, claimed exemption from postage for the soldier writer. Hungarian type canceller of Malaczka [Malacky, map J.6, north of Bratislava] dated 1919 JUL 3, used prior to the opening of Polní Pošta No.8 on 19.7.19.

The soldier writes "I'm sending you a photo of how they are leading the Hungarians over the bridge of Bratislava. The situation has improved and there is a better mood about."



Quialha Fronta. 7 Sokolůž prapor  
Malaczka Slovensko



II. SOKOLSKY PRAPOR.  
Sestra  
Věra Tröblichová  
Lomnice  
u Tišnova Morava

all the best!  
Zostanem Tobe s'mi milé jačé vešim  
atlasčiončelku parlamenčiče p'is  
p'isat do Bratislavy.  
S'ľavase ac arnože a byp'ičiča v  
něže jačé arnože byp'ičiča v  
Ryby kam, ovšem arnože p'isat  
s'ľavase ac arnože byp'ičiča v  
— Javíš. Z'ľavom arnože ve  
Mantlo

5/2/19

## TRAVELLING POST OFFICE AND MAILGUARD POSTMARKS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- Hassan Max Honisch -

*We thank Max Honisch for permission to reproduce his articles, which appeared originally in The TPO, journal of The TPO & Seapost Society, in their Summer 1994 to Winter 1996/7 issues. We likewise thank Chris Bartlett, Honorary Secretary and Rick Martin, Honorary Editor of TPO for their kind assistance in this matter and finally our member Roy A Dehn who drew our attention to these articles.*

Continued from Czechout 4/2000, page 108.

### Part II: Postmarks between 100 and 665

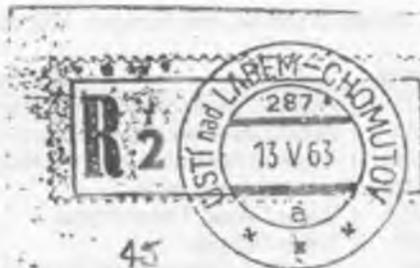
Here I should mention that many TPO route numbers from the 100, 200 and 300 series were given to shorter routes and branch lines, and have subsequently been withdrawn and not re-allocated.

Illustration	Route	Description
36, 37	102, 103	Pardubice-Liberec. [A mailguard cancellation is also used on this line, without the route number and with "úpž" added, illustration 37a]
38, 39	107	Pardubice-Trutnov and return. Used in 1945, German wording from the upper half removed, also some of the letters from Trautenau.
40, 41	121	Kutná Hora-Zruč na Sázavou. Used in 1937 and in 1946 with German wording removed.
42	143	Polička-Skuteč. Used in 1946, German wording removed.
43, 44	154, 155	Turnov-Jičín-Pardubice and return. German wording removed.
45	287	Ústí nad Labem-Chomutov. Postmark on a registered label.
46	289	Liberec-Chomutov. This was Chomutov-Šanov until 1938. 'vlp' stands for TPO.
47	(88)	Pilsen-Dux. A World War I postcard from a Czech soldier in the Austro-Hungarian Army, with a Christmas greeting and a military frank to allow it to pass through the post free. No.88 was the route NUMBER allocated by the Austrian PO.
48		Part of a cancellation from the corner of a postcard used in June 1919, cancelling Czech stamps. Later in 1919 the route was given the numbers 346,347,348. The cancellers were bilingual [German/Czech] until 1923, reading Plzeň-Duchcov/Pilsen-Dux.
49		Plzeň-Duchcov. A postcard written in German from a teacher to a colleague in a sanatorium in 1934. The route number is not 341 as it seems in the photocopy. It is illegible on the original. No.341 was allocated to the Plzeň-Klatovy line during WWII. [It is almost certainly No.347. Editor]
50, 51, 52, 53	341, 342	Plzeň-Klatovy and return. Used in 1945 with German portion removed, and in 1976.
54, 55	346, 347	Plzeň-Chomutov and return. After 1945 the terminal was cut back from Duchcov to Chomutov. Examples used in 1963 and 1977.
56	349	Plzeň-Praha. This number was not allocated to any routes pre-1939.
57, 58	350	Plzeň-Domažlice. Blank upper portion in a mark from a mailguard in 1945, and a mailguard mark from 1976.
59, 60	351	Domažlice-Plzeň. Used in 1946 and 1976.
61	351	Reply-paid postcard registered on the TPO in 1963. [No.351 was used for a short period on a branch line, Kaštice-Doupov, until 1923.]
62, 63	352	Plzeň-Brno and return. Now a long distance run from western Bohemia to Moravia. [Again, No.352 was used on the short [30km] Kaštice-Doupov route until 1924.]
64	353	Plzeň-České Budějovice.
65, 66	355	Plzeň-Cheb. Nos.353 & 355 were allocated to these routes in 1919 and are still in use.
67	361	České Budějovice-Jihlava. Established in 1919 and still in use.
68	365	Praha-České Budějovice. No.365 not used pre-1939.
69	376	České Budějovice-Cheb. Remarks as for No.361.
70, 71	377	České Budějovice-Plzeň. This route was České Budějovice-Cheb until 1938, when the area around Cheb was annexed by Germany. The route was shortened to Plzeň. Under German Administration, "České" was deleted from the name of the town. [70] shows the bilingual mark of 1945 without the "České" but with the German wording removed.
72, 73		Two marks from the Klatovy-Horažďovice mailguard used in 1977. Numbers unknown. The two towns are in Southern Bohemia.
73a	247	Cheb-Děčín, as used in the Czech Republic in 1994.

Turning to the 400 series of marks, the number 400 was never allocated to any line.

Illustration	Route	Description
73b	401	Planá u Mariánských Lázní-Domažlice, used in 1929. Operated until 1938.
74	405	Domažlice-Horaždovice, used in 1946 with German names removed.
75, 76	421, 422	Tábor-Jihlava and Jihlava-Tábor, used in 1946 with the upper segment blank, as usual in those days.
77	425	Praha-Tábor, Tábor-Praha.
78	427	Tábor-Ražice.
79	441	Benešov u Praha-Dolní Kralovice, used in 1946.
80, 81	501	Praha-Brno, Brno-Praha.
82	502	Česká Třebová-Brno, used in 1945.
83	507	Německý Brod-Brno, used in 1945.
84, 85	513	České Budějovice-Brno, used in 1986 and 1993.
86, 87	516	Brno-Oslavany, Oslavany-Brno, used in 1945. This line had been "Brno-Znojmo" until 1938 when Germany annexed Znojmo. From 1938 until 1945, the line crossed the new border at Oslavany. In 1945 traffic ran on the line again to Znojmo. It is assumed that the pre-war cancellers could not be found and for this reason the datestamps of the Protectorate administration were used with the German place names removed, and now wrongly showing Oslavany as the terminus.
88	521	Brno-Uh. Brod.
89, 90	527	Brno-Bratislava, Bratislava-Brno, used in 1986 and 1993.
91, 92	534	Brno-Ostrava, Ostrava-Brno.
93	544	This route is somewhat of a mystery. The number was not allocated during the First Republic. The datestamp is not of the German Protectorate style either [it would have been bilingual]. Yet the mark was used somewhere in 1945. [Perhaps it was a reserve or emergency datestamp ? R. Martin]
94	572	Břeclav-Nový Bohumin. This TPO operates from the border with Austria at Břeclav, to the Polish border at Nový Bohumin.
95, 96	573	Nový Bohumin-Břeclav, used in 1969, and Ostrava-Nový Bohumin, used in 1994. Ostrava is the town nearest the Polish border. Nový Bohumin is the station on the border.
97	576	Zaječí-Hodonín. On a printed stationery card posted into the TPO in 1931. Hodonín is one of the stations served by TPOs 572 and 573.
98		This mark is found on a registered letter posted in 1945, but the mark is faint and the route number illegible. The sender is the Board of Woods & Forests from a small place in Moravia to the Central Association of Czechoslovak Industries. The cover is backstamped in Prague one day later. It is a fine non-philatelic item registered on the TPO.





K.u.k. Brig. Regt. Eugen Prinz v. Savoyen Nr. 13  
Brsatzkader

*prezident*  
*velele vnan*



*Blatna*

*47*



*velele*



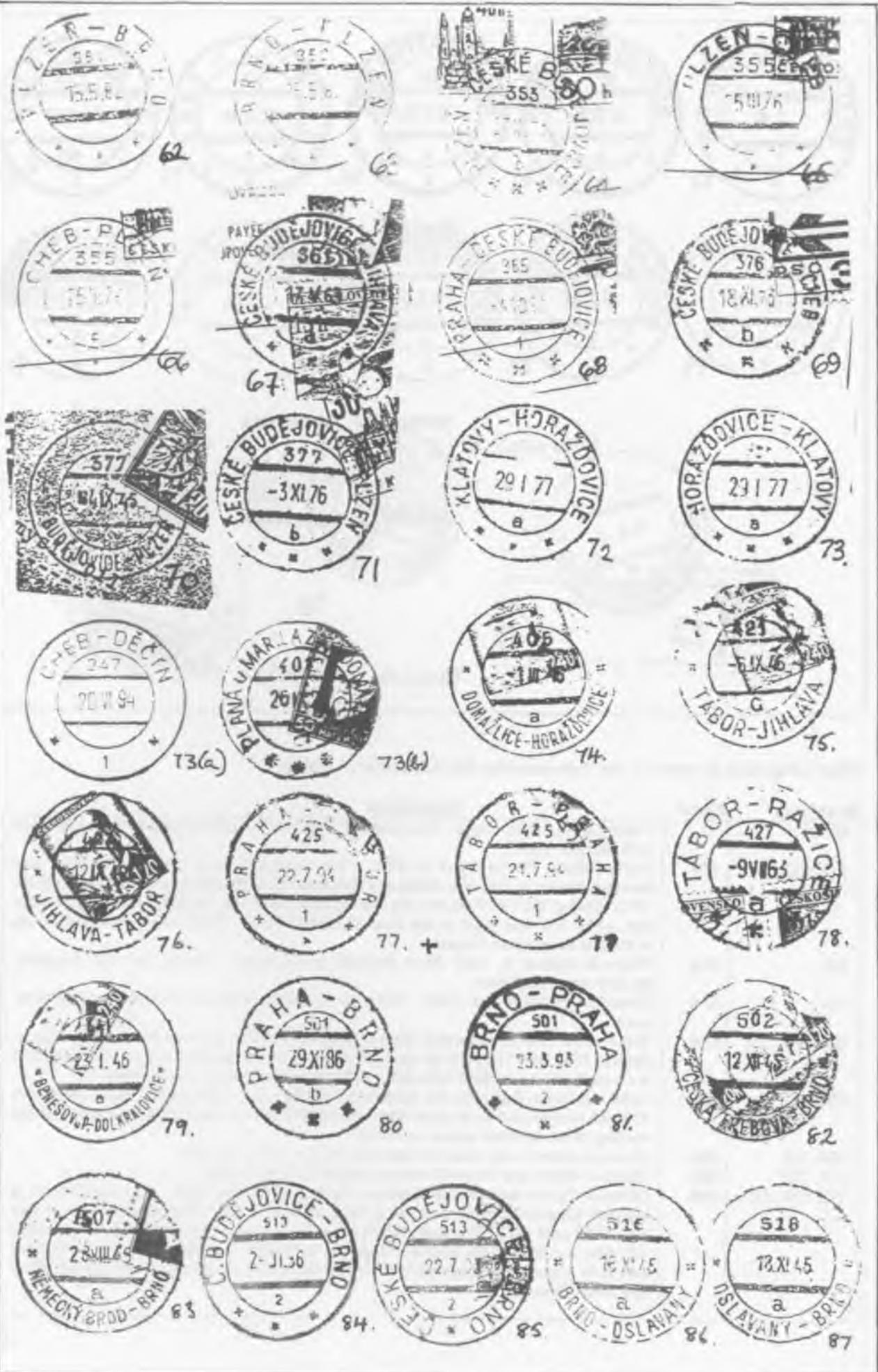
ČESKOSLOVENSKO-TCHECOSLOVABULICE  
CARTE POSTALE AVEC REPONSE PAYEE  
DOPIŠNICE SE ZAPLACENOU ODPOVEVI

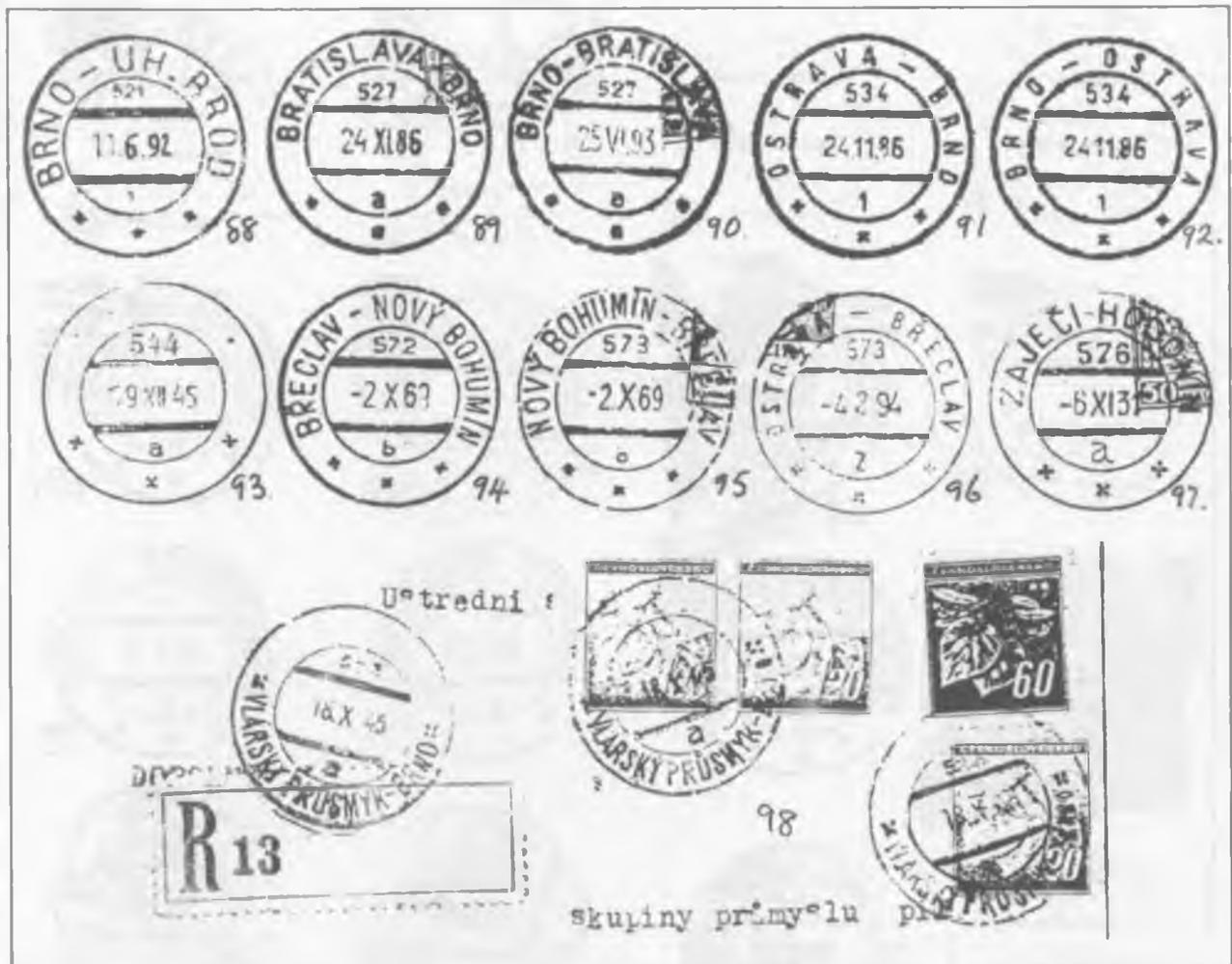


Mr. Hassan Hornsch  
Derb Fokara, rue 34, maison 112  
Casablanca, Maroc



*F. Peisk palikar*





After going back to route 11, we then consider the 600 series of marks.

Illustration	Route	Description
99, 100	11	Praha-Děčín, Děčín-Praha. Two postmarks on cards received from Prague both used in November 1994.
101, 102	607	Praha-Přerov, Přerov-Praha in 1991. The arrangement of the route number and terminal names is that of a Mailguard canceller, but the abbreviation "vlp" stands for TPO. During the First Republic the line Přerov-Praha was allocated the route number 606, whilst 607 was used on the Česká Třebová-Přerov TPO, namely the eastern leg of the line to and from Prague.
103	608	Přerov-Bratislava in 1991 [from Moravia to Slovakia]. During the first Republic, No.608 ran from Přerov.
104	610	Žilina-Bohumín-Přerov in 1969. This is an extension of the pre-1939 Bohumín-Přerov route.
105, 106, 107	614	This number was not allocated during the First Republic, but was used on the Přerov-Bylnice TPO from 1939-45; its use was continued into the post war period. TPO 614 is currently in use on the Praha-Žilina TPO [the latter town is in Slovakia].
108	623	Velké Karlovice-Vsetín, in the eastern tip of Moravia. This route existed during the 1939-45 period [and for a short time afterwards] and is shown here with the German spelling of the terminal names removed.
109, 110	663	Olomouc-Jeseník and Jeseník-Olomouc used in 1972 and 1989.
111, 112	664	Olomouc-Krnov and Krnov-Olomouc used in 1972 and 1993.
113, 114, 115	665	Olomouc-Opava and Opava-Olomouc used in 1970 and 1981. For comparison, a bilingual [Czech/German] mark on a 1926 postcard. The bilingual mark was in use from 1919 until 1927. The route No 731 was used on this line until 1938, concurrently with 664 and 665. The German <i>Troppau</i> is a misspelt <i>Troppau</i> . The 1981 bag label was from a mail sack prepared in TPO 665 for Přerov 2 post office and sealed with a label from Olomouc 2.



111.



112.



113.



114.

POSTA  
OLOMOUC 2



(Otiak denniho razitka  
odeslacijci provozovny)



115



Přerov 2

547 05-1-0002 80-0-10





101.



102.



105.



106



109



110.

## REINHARD HEYDRICH – PROTECTORATE MINIATURE SHEET

- František Beneš -

*We thank František Beneš for permission to publish his paper that appeared originally in the Czech journal Filatelie No 11/1998, and elected by the readers as the article of the year. The author is a well-known Czech philatelic expert, the author of many interesting articles and also of the new "Specialised Catalogue-Czechoslovakia 1918-1939" (Pofis-Filatelie Praha, 1999). We also thank our member Jan Dobrovolný and Miss Snežana Vukčević for translating this paper for us.*

1998 was the 55th year since the first and only occasion a miniature sheet was issued by the Protectorate. This was to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Bohemia and Moravia's Reich Protector, Reinhard Heydrich. He died on 4 June 1942 and his death was a result of assassination, which had been committed eight days before by the Czechoslovak parachutists sent to the Protectorate from London.

Despite the long period since the MS was issued, there are still many things unclear about it and even specialised philatelic literature is often not sure how to approach this matter. Is it an official issue? Did it have postal validity? How to catalogue it?

Recently some new and so far unpublished material has appeared which at least at some point enlarges our philatelic and also general historic knowledge about the miniature sheet. Two owners of this miniature sheet wanted me to judge its value. Original documents explaining the circumstances under which their previous owners obtained them were submitted, together with an invitation to the memorial celebration and a letter of invitation from the office of the Reich Protector. One of the owners was even closely related to the addressee of this letter, and the story that I was told was known in detail. This story together with already mentioned material was later the basis for this little study.

### Assassination

The Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich is one of the most explored and published periods of World War II, encompassing details of the preparation for assassinating Heydrich, his death and the tragic story of our parachutists, their families and their colleagues. This tragedy affected many other people who did not have anything to do with this event (for example, people from the village of Lidice), and was described in dozens of books and hundreds or thousands of newspaper articles in our country and abroad. There were films made about it, the term "Heydrichiad" became a sad moment in our history.

To cut a long story short, on 15 March 1939 the German army occupied a large part of Czechoslovakia, which had been curtailed by the Munich Agreement. In Czech lands there was proclaimed a Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, whilst in Slovakia there arose a pro-German Slovak state. The leading representative of German power in the Protectorate was an experienced diplomat, 66 year old Baron Konstantin von Neurath. A former member of the Czechoslovak parliament for Konrad Henlein's Sudeten-German Party, 31 year old Karl Hermann Frank, was named as his Secretary of State. The German authorities at once started bloody suppression against Czechoslovak people in order to frighten them.

Because even those cruel interventions did not break the resistance of Czechoslovak people against the invaders, on 27 September 1941 37 year old SS-Obergruppenführer and General of the Police Reinhard Heydrich arrived in Prague. He was supposed to replace Reich Protector von Neurath, who according to the press agency went on a long holiday for his health. Acting Protector Heydrich at once proclaimed martial law and on this basis he launched unseen terror. In a short while mass arrests and executions devastated the resistance. With its developed agriculture and industry the restrained Protectorate was supposed to deliver to the Reich mainly arms and food needed for the continued German expansion. The Czech workers' co-operation was supposed to be gained not only by terror but also by hook, i.e. by allocating them extra rations of food and cigarettes, there being a shortage of these items.

The Czechoslovak government in exile, situated in London, was following with anxiety the possibility that enslaved people would work for the German authorities without resistance and also without any obvious signs of possible liberation. In order to show that their resistance was not destroyed some of its representatives started plotting an assassination attempt at the beginning of 1941. The victim was supposed to be the leading representative of German administration in the Protectorate, Karl Frank. After even worse treatment by Heydrich, he became the target.

For our article, it is enough to summarise that the two parachutists Josef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš were sent on the order of the exiled government in London to assassinate Heydrich. The name of the group was Anthropoid. The assassination was carried out on Wednesday 27 May 1942 at 10.30 a.m. In the bend of Kirchmayer Street under the Libeň Vychovatelna in Prague, with assistance of the third parachutist Josef Valčík, Heydrich in his car together with the driver was attacked on the way from his residence in Panenské Břežany. Valčík gave a sign to his friends by using a mirror, letting them know about the approaching car. Gabčík then jumped in front of the car and tried to shoot Heydrich with a machine gun. The Sten-gun failed though, so he threw a bomb which did not kill Heydrich but only wounded him.

### The Death's Head in the Lorry

How the wounded Heydrich got to the Bulovka hospital from the place of assassination was described in literature in detail: "A passing lorry of the firm Holan was stopped by an officer to put the wounded on the boxes of shoe wax and drove to the hospital." Some other details: shortly after the explosion, wounded Heydrich stood leaning against the front door of the damaged Mercedes, holding a gun in his hand. A couple of metres further away his driver Klein and the unsuccessful Gabčík were shooting at each other. Klein fell with his leg shot through, Gabčík ran away and Heydrich was surrounded by a group of people from a nearby passing tram. "The irony of fate is that he, who after dealing with the Jewish question was planning to do the same things to Czech people, now has to rely on the help of the Czechs." There were no Germans or cars around at that time. "The solution is being borne down the street in Holešovičky by a small three-ton lorry belonging to a firm Holan, full of boxes of parquet crème and shoe crème making a goods delivery. This lorry drove off up to the crossroads near Vychovatelna and some time before the assassination it had driven down the street in Holešovičky. It had finished unloading, and was turning back to the bend when the explosion was heard."

And here begins an interesting story for us philatelists. On that sunny Wednesday morning, on 27 May 1942, not only the fates of the main participants in the assassination, Heydrich and the parachutists, but also the destinies of thousands of victims of the following period of terror, were changed. The day had also changed the way of life of [until today] the unknown driver of the lorry. His name was František Šitta and he lived on the other side of Prague, in Nusle, in No.1 Brusova Street. He was 31 years old at that time and as a lorry driver for the firm Holan, he was delivering goods to various private businesses. His presence in Kirchmayerova Street was chance and he could see from the distance "the stationary tram with broken windows, the destroyed car on the left, a bunch of excited people carefully watching a huge SS-soldier leaning against the car with gun in his hands." Some woman ran in front of the lorry and stopped it. She started ordering the driver to take the soldier to the hospital: "This is Herr Protektor!" Heydrich, who did not seem to be seriously wounded, sat next to the driver and all the way to the hospital was pointing his gun at him without speaking. His damaged and immobile car remained in the road. There were more people in the lorry: a deliveryman and a policeman who attended Heydrich from the place of assassination. In a while, they drove through the gate of the hospital and stopped in front of the accident department. Heydrich got down from the lorry by himself and walked into the building. Only after that did Šitta notice a dry blood stain on the co-driver's seat.

What happened next, from that moment over the period of eight days until Heydrich died with blood poisoning, we know precisely. It was described in the doctors' records. However, literature is silent about what happened to Šitta, so we can only speculate. People in the hospital were very busy so nobody kept him there and he was able to leave. At this point, he disappears from history and would probably have disappeared forever if there were not one detail, probably important only for us. But about that later. The guard probably had written down the number of his lorry or witnesses remembered it, or the police called the Holan firm, or simply someone in the hospital recognised him. One way or the other, he did not remain unknown to the German occupation administration.

The German occupation administration offered 10 million crowns as reward for information that would lead to the discovery of the assassins. Another 10 million was offered by the Protectorate government. After the treachery of the parachutist Karel Čurda and the discovery of the parachutists' shelter in the church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Resslova Street in Prague, the money was divided. From the offered reward of 20 million, 5 million was paid to Karel Čurda and Viliam Gerik (another parachutist who betrayed) and 5 million to seven Germans and 53 citizens of the Protectorate. This was on 26 June 1942, only eight days after the last struggle of the parachutists in the crypt of the church. The reward was given, for example, to witnesses from the place of assassination and passengers from the tram no.3 passing by who offered the Gestapo information about the situation at the place of the event. Their reward varied from 20 thousand to 200 thousand crowns. Did František Šitta belong to them? We do not know and he himself cannot tell us about it as he died in 1973. Most probably he did, because

according to one of his relatives he did receive a financial reward for helping Heydrich. We do not know the precise amount but probably it was not low, because he bought his own lorry [confiscated in 1948], he built a cottage and, according to some sources, he donated some money to charity.

And now, finally, we are reaching the point of the subject matter that is the most important for us philatelists. One year later Šitta received a letter written in German with the portentous heading: "The Reich Protector in Bohemia and Moravia, Prague IV, 8 June 1943. Commemorative stamp for Reinhard Heydrich. This letter dated 3.6.1943. In memory of Acting Reich Protector, SS-Obergruppenführer and General of the Police Reinhard Heydrich, whom you looked after when he was wounded, I am enclosing a miniature sheet with one stamp, number 679." A numbered envelope was enclosed with the Heydrich sheet inside.

*Figure 1*

*The letter from the office of the Reich Protector dated 8.6.1943 by which the miniature sheet no. 679 was sent to František Šitta.*



Heydrich's miniature sheet is valuable and precious itself, but a couple of them have already been sold at our auctions. Each of them has its printed number. In spite of this perfect identification we usually do not know anything about the circumstances of the recipient and how he got it. A miniature sheet to which the invitation to the mourning celebration was included rarely appeared, but a miniature sheet with a story, where from anonymity rises a particular person, a participant, though only marginally, of that dramatic time of events is a complete exception. There were probably more miniature sheets spread in the similar way, but naturally the owners and their relatives did not keep them or they even destroyed them to avoid accusation of collaboration with the enemy.

*Figure 2*

*Miniature sheet no. 679 which František Šitta received for his help to the wounded Heydrich*



Šitta was undoubtedly not a traitor. He was a driver who under the threat of a gun drove a wounded prominent German to the hospital. The coincidence that he had been driving around that place at that particular time changed his life too. He was rewarded for his assistance but after the liberation he was put in prison and was accused of collaboration: helping the occupiers. It did not help when he defended himself by stating the fact that it was difficult to refuse. Shortly after that he was released without any

explanation. The most dramatic day of his life was symbolised by the miniature sheet with the Protector's death mask which, for understandable reasons, he did not want to expose for decades to anyone. Šitta probably hid the stamp after the war and he did it so thoroughly that later it got attached by its own gum to its card frame.

The Bulletin

The issue of a commemorative stamp on the first anniversary of Heydrich's death was announced in the Postal Bulletin of the Ministry of Transport and Technology, number 28, dated 24 May 1943. Regulation 95 says:

"Postage stamps. Issue, receipt and sale of commemorative stamps. On 28 May 1943 the Protectorate Post will issue a commemorative stamp in black with value 60 + 440h in memory of the death of the Acting Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia, SS-Obergruppenführer and General of the Police Reinhard Heydrich. The surcharge is dedicated to the benefit of the Reinhard Heydrich Foundation. The stamp shows a reproduction of Heydrich's death mask prepared by Professor F. Rotter. In the top left corner of the stamp there is the name Reinhard Heydrich with his dates of birth and death and under that the SS runes. The postage value and amount of surcharge [in smaller figures] are positioned in the bottom left corner of the stamp. In the top margin of the stamp the legend DEUTSCHES REICH is within a coloured band, and in the bottom margin the legend BÖHMEN UND MÄHREN is in smaller letters. Further details of the stamp are obvious from the illustration. The stamps are in a large upright format, comb perforated and printed by the photogravure process in sheets of 100. A limited edition of stamps was issued on yellowish paper in miniature sheets each containing one stamp. The stamps are valid for inland and international correspondence until the end of September 1943 and will be sold at post offices from 28 May 1943 until 5 June 1943 for the price of their nominal value, plus the surcharge, i.e. 5 crowns, until the supplies are exhausted. Postage value for franking postal items is only their nominal value (60h). Exchange of stamps is not allowed. No provision of these stamps to dealers and postal agencies is being made. Post offices are being supplied with these stamps by the Technical Central Post Office in Prague or the Post Economy Office in Brno. There will be a further Regulation about the return of these stamps. [No. 16801-1/3 of 18 May 1943].



Figure 3. Postal Bulletin from 24.5.1943 in which the issue of the stamp and miniature sheet was announced.

At first sight a short, dry text but a careful reader does not miss several important points of information: The stamp was issued on 28 May, i.e. a year and a day after the assassination. At that time, Heydrich was a patient at the Bulovka hospital and his health condition seemed to be hopeful. The sale of the stamp was limited to only nine days, until 5 June. Heydrich died a day before that and on the 5th his body was still on view at Prague's castle.

The validity of the stamp was set for a period of only four months, which roughly corresponds to the usual validity of the Protectorate's commemorative stamps.

Proceeds from the surcharge were dedicated for the benefit of the Heydrich Foundation. The Trojan catalogue estimates an issue of 1,280,000 of the stamp. With an surcharge of 4.40 crowns per stamp it raised a sum of 5,632,000 crowns.

The most interesting part of the text is the statement that, "*A limited edition of stamps was issued on yellowish paper in miniature sheets each containing one stamp.*" The fact itself that the issue of the miniature sheet was announced in the postal bulletin denotes without any doubt that the miniature sheet was officially issued whether we approve of it or not. Some previous Czech philatelic catalogues state that the miniature sheet was not valid for postage. But the bulletin clearly announces the issue of the stamp printed in "*sheets of 100*" and beside that specifically mentions that the "*limited edition of stamps was issued in miniature sheets each containing one stamp.*" It is obvious that both issues were postally valid, otherwise it would have been indicated in the bulletin. The publisher certainly did not expect the miniature sheet would be used for franking. It resulted from the insignificant numbers and the manner of their distribution.

What is interesting is the formulation announcing the issue. There is written in the introduction: "*the Protectorate Post will issue...*" [future tense] while in the further text there is written: "*A limited edition of the stamps ... was issued in miniature sheets each containing one stamp*" [past tense]. Can we suppose that the bulletin in fact was announcing two different events, i.e. the sheets of stamps will be issued while the stamps in miniature sheets have already been issued? Or was this an unclear formulation of words? If we compare, in order to check, the Czech text of the bulletin with the German text (it was usual that the texts were bilingual and the German language was first), we find out that there is the same formulation in the German text. It was also in the past tense. "*Eine beschränkte Anzahl der Marken wurde auf gelblichen Papier in Blöcken zu je einer Marke herausgegeben*". So it is possible that the miniature sheet was not at all a by-product following the issue of the stamps in sheet form [which is how German catalogues in the main present it up to now], but an issue which preceded the stamps!

Another interesting piece of information concerns the comb perforation. This corresponds only with the issuing of the stamps in sheets. On the miniature sheet harrow perforation was used but it was exactly of the same proportions as for the stamp sheet issue and even the size of the perforation holes was the same.

*To be continued*

#### QUERIES AWAITING ANSWERS

The following queries are still outstanding; perhaps some of 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

Czechout 1/00: R W Allan's Errors Corrected

Czechout 3/00: Lou Svoboda's Dr Beneš' whereabouts in 1932

Czechout 3/00: Lubor Kunc's Czechoslovak College in Bishop's Stortford

Czechout 4/00: Ian Nutley's Concentration Camp hostages

## 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 query in Czechout 3/00 page 78**

From John Whiteside: A previous owner has used it as a notepad!

### Two new queries

From Lindy Bosworth: The Society has been presented with the following photograph showing our founder member George Pearson at Piešťany Spa on 26.9.1960. This Spa is particularly noted for the cure of rheumatic disorders. Can anyone identify any of the other people in this group?



From Ian McQueen: I am writing to ask if any of the members can advise me on this tiny illustration that I saw in an auction catalogue. It is part of a cover from South Africa to Czechoslovakia in 1933. It seems to me that the Brno boxed marking may be an air cancel [of sorts, anyway!], so if anyone can tell me what the inscription says [it looks like DOS-- LETADLEM / BRNO 2 / ARRIVE PAR AVION.] and what its significance may be, I shall be most grateful. I am sorry about the quality of the illustration, but it was so small I could only enlarge it on the copier and try and read it then!



## COMPULSORY TAX STAMPS FOR PICTURE POSTCARDS IN SLOVAKIA 1939-45

- Werner Müller -

We thank Werner Müller for permission to publish his paper that appeared in the 1966-IV issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, and our member Douglas Baxter for kindly translating for us.

The following observations on this topic arise from a question published in issue No.109 of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, about a **SLOVAKOTOUR** stamp on a picture postcard from Slovakia. It was pleasing to note that a number of the Study Group members offered answers to this question. Taken altogether, these answers provide a comprehensive explanation. Therefore, these contributors deserve to be named. They are H H Müller from Stuttgart, E S Jensen from Esbjerg, Dr. Osusky from Bratislava, K Pech from Plzeň, H P Vohsem from Hamminkein and G Schlake from Syke.

With Slovakotour stamps we are talking about a compulsory stamp whose purpose was to improve the tourist facilities of the area and, in the interests of tourism, to produce better picture postcards. From 1 February 1940, all picture postcards and art cards [with the exception of greetings cards] had to display a licence number. The Office for Tourism issued this licence in Schiffsgasse, Bratislava. In addition the cards had to be submitted to the Office before they were printed. Older picture postcards, which dealers already had in stock, also had to be submitted to the Office for Tourism for registration. The licence number was printed on the bottom left of the address side of the cards, and the cards had to carry a compulsory tax stamp. This had to be stuck on by the seller, also at the bottom left on the address side, next to the licence number.

The illustration below, taken from a card in the collection of E S Jensen, shows the address side of such a card with the licence number and the tax stamp.



The Stamps were initially sold in three values, namely 10h, 15h and 20h. It was planned to issue, at a later date, values of 30h and 40h. These, however, were never issued. The selling price of the cards was similarly graded, always dependent on the quality of the card. The value of the tax stamp required depended on the selling price of the card. The rates were as follows: \*\*\* See illustrations on next page

For cards costing up to 50h	Tax stamp 10h
For cards costing up to 80h	Tax stamp 15h
For cards costing up to 1Kč	Tax stamp 20h
For cards costing up to 1.5Kč	Tax stamp 30h [10 + 20]
For cards costing up to 2Kč	Tax stamp 40h [20 + 20]

The stamps were sold in every post office in Slovakia, only in sheets of 100. That gives them their connection with philately. The stamps had to be affixed only in the position shown in the illustration,\* not in the place meant for the postage stamps and also not on the picture side. This was to prevent their being mistaken for postage stamps and also not to mar the appearance of the picture. A few more details about the stamps that were issued:

10h red, perforated 12½; 15h brown, perforated 10½; and 20h blue, usually perforated 10½ more rarely 12½.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 200 without plate numbers, but reached the post office counters in sheets of 100. A red security overprint was put on the back on top of the gum. Therefore, this overprint disappeared if the stamp was detached from the card. This was to prevent re-use of the stamp. However, since the security overprint was not visible from the front of the stamp, there was in fact nothing to stop repeated use of the stamps. The ribbing of the gum on the stamps was vertical.



The tax stamps were not cancelled by the post office or by any other office. In cases where the tax stamps were affixed at the extreme left-hand side, the censor's stamp of the Letter Examination Department is found on the stamp, above all on cards to foreign addresses.

This whole scheme was officially abandoned after about two years. The reason was that the scheme was treated in a very lax way. Cards were sent without stamps or with stamps of too low a value. However, there are examples of the stamps being used in 1943. To all those who have contributed to answering this question, a big thank you.

**Editorial Notes**

With reference to the examples of stamps being used after 1942, I have three examples used on postcards in 1943 and one in 1944 which is illustrated below. \*\*

\* I also have in my collection examples of the following: 10h on bottom middle right, 15h affixed to the middle top and 15h at bottom middle. One 10h and 2 x 20h at the extreme left edge of the address side of the postcard. With only one postcard with 20h showing the registration number.



## THE AUTOMATED POSTAL SYSTEM (APOST) IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

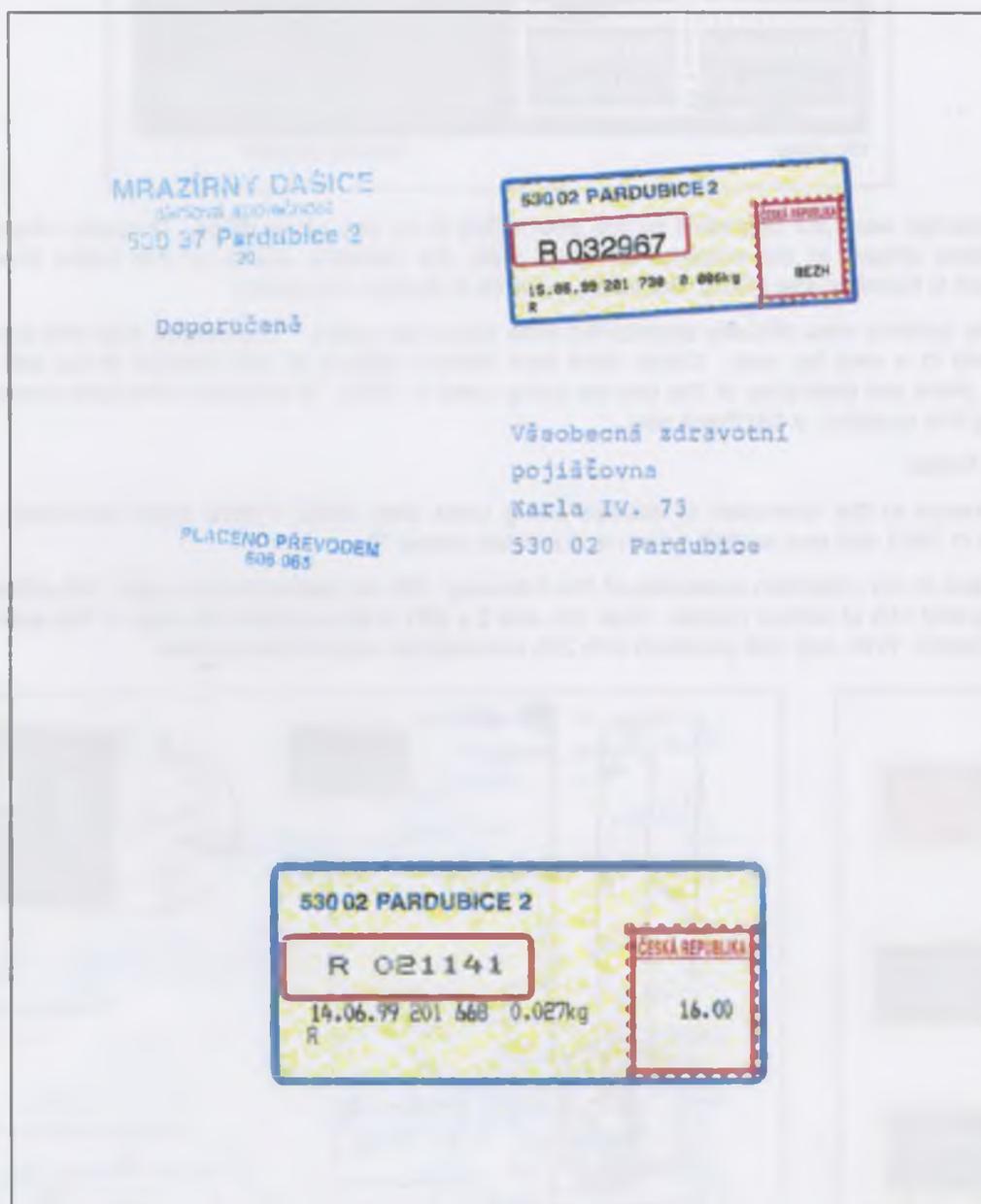
- Dr. Miroslav Vostatek -

Translated by Vladimír J. Králíček

The Czech Post has already been automating and mechanising its operations for a number of years. In such a way was also developed this system, whose basis is the computer. Postal articles are affixed with the, so-called, value labels [self-adhesive] APOST. The illustrated examples are registered articles [R] labels, then there are parcels [B], money letters [V] and other labels.

Some Post Offices are using the APOST labels for despatch of the, nominal, bulk consignments from large businesses and organisations. Their format is slightly different in size [smaller], as can be seen by comparing the two Pardubice 2 labels. It is interesting to note that up to now only four post offices are using the smaller labels. They are in addition to Pardubice 2, Prague 2 and Prague 6, and Kolin 2.

As far as the normal APOST label is concerned, there are already hundreds of them in existence, perhaps even well over a thousand, in the Czech Post.



## 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

2.01.2001.

#### The First Stamp of the Millennium



**Designer:** Adolf Born **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Stamp size 23 x 30mm.

**Design:** A magician conjuring a rabbit with the year 2001 out of a top hat.

**FDC:** Printed DS in brown with commemorative Praha cancellation. Cachet design is a humorous drawing of two birds and a nest with four eggs and the year 2001.

20.01.2001.

#### Definitives: Signs of the Zodiac

14.02.2001.



**Designer:** Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček  
**Printing:** RD in sheets of 100. Stamp size 19 x 23mm.

**Designs:** 40h – issued 20 January – zodiac sign and astrological symbol of Pisces.

12Kč – issued 14 February – zodiac sign and astrological symbol of Leo.

**NB** No official first day covers were issued.

20.01.2001

#### Tradition of Czech Stamp Production



**Designer and Engraver:** Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30. Stamp size 23 x 40mm.

**Design:** Portrait of Alois Jirásek taken from the 1951 issue designed by Karel Svolinský and engraved by Jindra Schmidt for the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Czech author and dramatist. The present stamp commemorates the 150th birth anniversary of A Jirásek, the work of the stamp designer K Svolinský and the engraver J Schmidt.

**FDC:** Printed DS in blue with commemorative Praha cancel. Cachet design is from the work of K Svolinský – A Bunch of Meadow Flowers.

**Booklet:** Of eight stamps and two labels with a drawing of a lime blossom and the text in Czech "150th Anniversary of the Birth of Alois Jirásek."

14.03.2001

## Czechs for Europe – J A Comenius

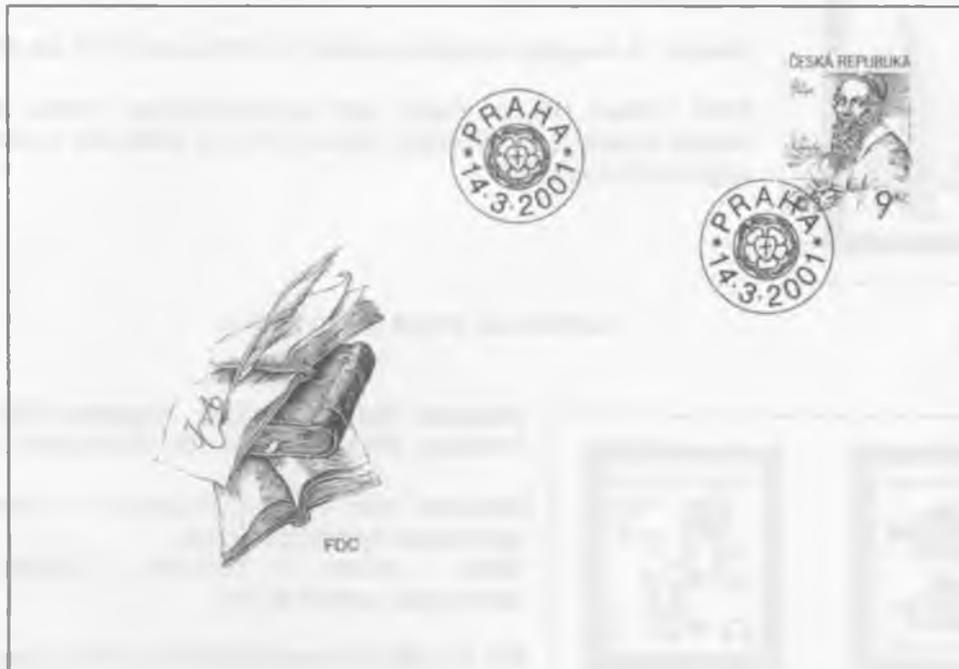


**Designer:** Oldřich Kulhánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Stamp size 23 x 30mm.

**Design:** Portrait of Jan Amos Komenský who was an educationalist, philosopher, social and religious thinker, clergyman and last bishop of the Union of Brethren. He was born 1592 and died 1670. In 1621 he went into hiding because of his religious convictions and into permanent exile in 1628. During his life he wrote a number of significant works on philosophy and education.

**FDC:** Printed DS in green-grey with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet design is three books with a quill pen and the initials J A C.

This is the first stamp in a new series dedicated to outstanding Czech personalities whose life and work contributed to learning beyond their homeland.



## Postal Stationery

## Postcards for Current Postal Use

- 2.01.2001.** **Designer:** Alfred Fuchs **Printing:** Multicoloured offset. **Design:** Imprinted 5.40Kč stamp has a view of Nový Svět (New World) with Prague castle in the background. This design was first used for the postcard issued 8.9.99 with minor colour and text changes. In the left upper part of the card is an area for the sender's details with a security hologram next to the frames for the postcode. The card retails at 6.10Kč.
- 20.01.2001.** **Designer:** Jan Solpera **Printing:** Multicoloured offset. **Design:** Imprinted 5.40Kč stamp based on the face value in two squares in dark mauve. Card produced for commercial and promotional use with left-hand side blank. Right portion has Czech Post logo and beneath this a security hologram. The card retails at 6.10Kč.
- 20.01.2001.** **Designer:** Jan Solpera **Printing:** Multicoloured offset **Design:** Imprinted 9Kč digit in dark green with "Česká Republika" above. Card produced for commercial and promotional use with left portion blank. Right hand side has Czech Post logo and beneath this a security hologram. The card retails at 9.70Kč.

**Commemorative Postcards**

The following three postcards have an imprinted 7Kč stamp – see Czechout 2/99 page 50 for details.

- 1.09.2000**      **Riccione 2000.** 52nd International Stamp Fair, 1-3 September 2000.
- 8.09.2000.**      **Ostropa 2000.** International Stamp Exhibition, Munchberg, 8-10 September 2000.
- 6.10.2000.**      **España 2000.** International Stamp Exhibition, Madrid, 6-14 October 2000. The promotional portion of the card has an image of the engraving by Josef Herčík for the stamp issued in 1966 based on the art work of Pablo Picasso's "Guernica".
- 27.10.2000.**      **Sindelfingen 2000.** International Stamp Fair, Sindelfingen, 27-29 October 2000.
- 2.01.2001.**      **The Czech Republic's Communication Strategy before Accession to the European Union.** **Designer:** Václav Kučera. **Printing:** Multicoloured offset. **Design:** Imprinted 5.40Kč stamp based on the official logo used on publicity material of the Czech Information Service on joining the European Union. It has the Czech flag with a large yellow star and the circle of smaller stars of the EU with text. The Czech Post logo and security hologram are to the left of the stamp design. Left portion has an enlarged portion of the Information logo with text, in Czech, above "Objective Information on the European Union" and below the internet address and information on free literature. The card retails at 6.10Kč.
- 20.01.2001.**      **700 Years of the town of Vítkov.** **Designer:** Karel Toman. **Printing:** Multicoloured offset. **Design:** Right hand side has the Czech Post logo and security hologram. The imprinted 5.40Kč stamp is based on the coat of arms of the town with a late Gothic church in the background and the text "1301 Vítkov 2001." The promotional part of the card has a montage of some of the town's buildings – the late Gothic church, the 1863 Pharmacy, the castle at Radkov-Dubová and the 17th century Cemetery church – with a mare and foal in the foreground representing horse breeding in Klokočov. The card retails at 6.10Kč.

**Slovak Republic**

**NB** Maxi-cards have been produced for the following issues:

- 14.09.2000      Wild Berries (see Czechout 4/2000 page 115)  
5.10.2000      Christmas 2000 (see below)

**5.10.2000.                      Christmas – 2000 Anniversary of Christ's Birth**

**Designer:** Katarína Ševellová-Šuteková **Engraver:** Martin Činovský (stamp), Rudolf Cigánik (FDC cachet) **Printing:** RD **Design:** Head of Mary and the Infant Jesus with text "Jubileum 2000" below. The stamp commemorates the birth of Christ according to customary reckoning 2000 years ago although it is recognised that this is an incorrect calculation.

**FDC:** Printed DS in brown with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design shows Mary with the Infant Jesus on her lap and the three Magi presenting gifts.

**Booklet:** of 10 stamps retailing at 40Sk. The cover design is taken from the FDC cachet. The reverse cover has details of the traditional chronology of Christ's birth date.

**18.12.2000.                      Day of the Postage Stamp – 50 Years of Pofis**

**Designer and Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD se-tenant stamp and label. **Design:** Stamp – news sheet of Pofis publication with an apple Tab – two hands holding a folded piece of paper.

**FDC:** Printed DS in black with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet is a montage of stamp design drawings.

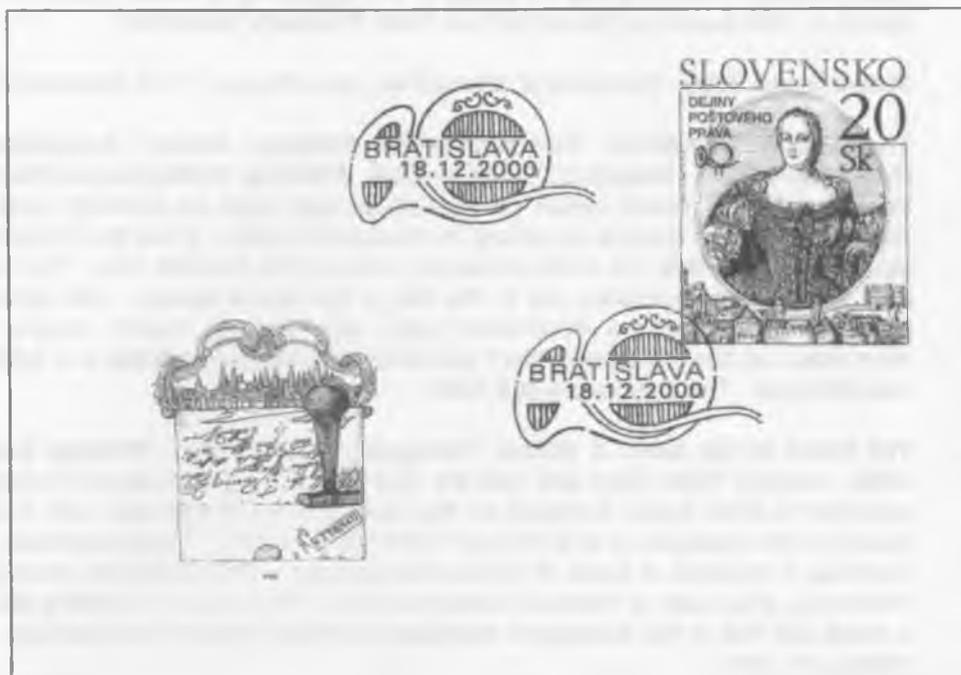
**Booklet:** of 9 stamps retailing at 49.50Sk. The cover design is taken from the tab drawing. The reverse cover has details of the services provided and work of Pofis which was founded in 1950.

18.12.2000.

**The History of Postal Regulations**

**Designer:** Prof. Dušan Kállay **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** DS in sheets of four with central horizontal gutter. **Design:** Portrait of Maria Theresa who introduced various changes and regulations to the postal system during the 1740s. The marginal gutter shows four early postal messengers with copy of one of the postal reform edicts. A museum of the History of the Post was opened on 1 March 2000 in Banska Bystrica.

**FDC:** Printed DS in black with commemorative Bratislava cancel. Cachet design is an early letter with hand cancel and a view of town spires above.

**Postal Stationery****Commemorative Postcards**

The following three cards have an imprinted 4Sk stamp which is a collage of modern and old Slovak buildings. Retail price is 6.50Sk.

- 22.09.2000** **22 September Day of the Slovak Republic's Army.** Left portion has a scene of 19th century foot soldiers advancing in line led by a commander on horseback. Text below refers to the 1848/49 revolution.
- 22.09.2000** **Signing by the Slovak Republic to the OECD Convention.** Promotional part of card shows part of the Chateau de la Muette where the Agreement was signed. Text above in Slovak and English.
- ??** **The best of Art on Stamps 1995-1999.** Left portion of card has a selection of the stamps issued between 1995 and 1999 in the Art series. Above this is a text in Slovak and a yellow and blue diamond logo with "Slovak Gold" on it.

Information on the new issues of the Slovak Republic has been sporadic since my move from Scunthorpe and may therefore not be complete. I hope the next issue of *Czechout* will rectify this.