



CZECHOUT

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Welcome to my second edition of **Czechout**.

How time flies and already the June issue of **Czechout** is here. In this issue, there are more of Bob Hill's scarce 1945 Liberation overprints, plus reviews on new publications, alongside our regular features. I would particularly like to draw attention, to John Martin's book, "The Mirror Caught The Sun", about Operation Anthropoid. This excellent work, is a great read and has plenty of interesting colour photos.

On a personal note, I am now working full time again, following an enforced break, so cannot be contacted during the daytime, other than by e mail (tonymoseley59@gmail.com)

Tony Moseley (Editor)

NOTES

Don't forget our **Residential Weekend** at the **Knavesmire Manor Hotel, York**, takes place on **15-17 July 2011**. Please **remember** that our **venue for London meetings has changed**, as stated in our March issue. We will **no longer be meeting** at the Czech & Slovak Club in West Hampstead, so please do not travel there. Full details of our new venue, the **Civil Service Club** (near Whitehall) are as advised previously.

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

Hearty congratulations to our Australian member **Ross Wood**, who gained a vermeil at **Indipex 2011** for his entry of Pre – War Czech airmails.

Richard Beith is compiling a new monograph on the Czechoslovak Forces in France, 1939 -1940. He wishes to include good coverage of the Czechoslovak airmen who operated with the French Air Force. If any members have cards or covers to or from these airmen, Richard would appreciate full colour copies please, preferably as jpegs or tiffs at 300dpi. Any material used will, of course, be acknowledged in print. Please contact Richard at 7 Corum Place, Blackford, PH4 1PU or by e-mail: richard@mbeith.demon.co.uk

Peter Williams, our **Auction Secretary**, wishes to remind members, that it is possible to return any auction lots, for a refund, if dissatisfied. It has been brought to Peter's attention, that some members were unaware of this fact and were therefore no longer making bids on auction lots.

Congratulations to **Richard Wheatley**, who has been awarded the **Aerophilatelic Shield**, at the 82 Annual Congress of Scottish Philatelic Societies at Perth in mid April. Richard also won a small silver gilt medal in the National Exhibition for a four frame exhibit of "Transcontinental and Transoceanic air mail acceptances from the Czech and Slovak Lands, 1933 – 1941". Richard also gained a silver bronze for van Altena, at the **APBS Sheffield** awards, where our Chairman **Yvonne Wheatley** also won a Large Vermeil for Czechoslovakia: The Allegory issue.

Garth Taylor also did well at **ABPS Sheffield**, with a Large Vermeil for A Study of Routes of Czechoslovak Airmails 1922-1939. In the Inter-Federation Awards, **Alan Berrisford** got a Vermeil for Poland Paid In Cash Markings 1919-1924 (East Midlands & East Anglia Federations).

Your Editor, also gained a silver placing at the **Midland Philatelic Federation** Postal History competition, held at Wombourne in April. This comprised of a nine sheet exhibit entitled "Cheb, Occupation to Liberation and beyond".

Budapest, 8th October 2011

Dr. György Lóvei of the **Hungarian society for Czechoslovak philately** has invited us to participate. He writes:

I would like to inform that our Slovak-Czech section celebrates its 25th Anniversary of its foundation on **8th October 2011**. We shall organize a festive general meeting with a stamp show in the headquarters of the Hungarian Philatelic Society. (VI. quarter - Vörösmarty street) We invited Mr. Narsik, president of the Slovak Federation who accepted our invitation. We shall invite Mr. Mihály Kissimon, who is the president of Slovak Philatelic Academy. It is nearly sure that some philatelist from Slovakia will be present too from Komarno, Levice.

We organize a stamp-show, no jury, no fee for the frames. I would like to reserve ten 12-page frames for CPSGB members and two pages for CPSGB itself, the later to show your activity from the beginning up to now (and the same for the German and Dutch societies). We kindly ask You to participate at the stamp-show and to visit our postal and stamp museums with special guide.

We shall issue a private souvenir sheet, designed by Mr. László Filep with a 25 h Hradčany stamp. Special post office will be present on Saturday morning too. We shall invite the directors of the local Cultural Institutes of Slovakia and Czech Republic, the local Embassies.

The scheduled program will be the following:

- 9.30 Opening of the special session of the Section
- 11.00 Opening of the stamp show, guided tour at the show
- 12.00 Lunch in a nearby restaurant
- 14.00 Visit of the stamp and postal museums
- 19.00 Cultural program

Sunday:

From 9.30 Guided tour in the Capital (3-4 hours)

Closing of the show at 2 p.m.

About the stamp exhibition: You know the material of Mr. Filep and mine, we shall invite Mr. Csicsay to show the postal history of Komarno, and other exhibitors from Levice, to show the postal history of their native town. I hope that other Slovak collectors will be present too with their pre-postal letters and perfin exhibition. I am sure that it will be good occasion to build your missing connection with the Slovak philatelists.

If you think you come to Budapest I can help You to reserve a hotel near to Vörösmarty utca (street).

If you are in any way interested, please would you contact Tony Hickey in the first instance.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 19 March 2011 at the Czech & Slovak National Club, 74 West End Lane, London NW6

Our Chairman **Mrs. Yvonne Wheatley** opened the meeting at 2.30 pm, welcoming 12 members and 1 guest, apologies having been received from 4 members.

With a hint of sadness Yvonne informed those present that this would be the last meeting to be held at the Czech and Slovak Club, as the room that we have now been allocated is far too small for our needs. This was a sad event, as we had been meeting there for over 30 years ?? Our new venue will be the Civil Service Club in Old Scotland Yard, between Northumberland Avenue and Whitehall, details of which appear elsewhere in this issue of Czechout.

Our second meeting of the year was "Members' Displays", after which Tony Hickey, gave a vote of thanks. Once again, we were entertained to a variety of excellent mainly Czechoslovak material First to display was **Richard Wheatley** who showed us the emotive War Heroes set on airmail covers from 1948 to 1953. Richard also asked for help in identifying the various rate changes during this period. Next, **Ian Burniston** showed us a miscellany of Czech material from the Hradčany set of 1918 through to the Sudetenland crisis, Bohemia & Moravia, the Prague Uprising and to Liberation overprints. A superb overview of Czech philately from 1918 to 1945. **Brian Day** then showed us a selection of airmail covers including the 1927 overprints, first flights and special airmail cancels. Noted amongst this wonderful material was a cover to Ecuador and one sent to Hampstead, London. **Rex Dixon** showed us an intriguing selection of mail going into the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia. We saw mail from Panama, Russia, Argentina and Poland to name just a few. Also Rex showed us covers bearing the wartime UPU rates that were brought in by the Germans from October 1942. **Garth Taylor** was next with the third airmail issue of 1930; Type 1 and Type 2. The 30h violet value was added to the set on 23 April 1939 when the new inscription "Česko-Slovenska" and as the Germans invaded the country on 15 March, this became one of the first stamps of the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia. Last, but not least, was **Roger Morrell** who showed us aspects of the first Postal Stationery card of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, issued in 1879. Roger explained in detail the different printings each bearing either an Austrian or Hungarian Coat of Arms. Also he explained that the card had to be printed in different languages to take into consideration the different ethnic groups of the large Empire.

Yvonne formally closed the meeting at 4.15 pm.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT, PLEASE DON'T FORGET . . .

The Czech & Slovak Club at West Hampstead, which has been the home for the Society meetings for many years, is no longer able to accommodate us in the large room. The alternative room is not suitable for our requirements and therefore the Society intends to move to a new venue. The Society will move to the **Civil Service Club at Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ**, commencing with our meeting on **17 September 2011**.

The date for our November meeting and AGM will not be affected by this move. PLEASE DO NOT SET OUT FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WITHOUT CHECKING THE DETAILS OF THE VENUE.

BOOK REVIEW by **Bob Hill****Seznam revolučních přetisků 1944 – 1945****Karel Holoubek, Hradec Králové 2011**Retailled through: **Filatelie Klim, Brno**

This is the life work of the octogenarian from Hradec Králové, supported by his son Jan. There are over three hundred pages of solid fact, supported by details of the original sources for **all** liberation overprints that can be definitely stated to have existed in the few weeks after liberation. This work is therefore very important and goes some way to negate a lot of the false data provided by the late Spaniard, Juan Santa Eugenia Grau.

I find this information so useful and I have been working for some years now to translate the full contents into English – hopefully one day soon it will be monograph 25.

To overview the contents:

- There is an introduction dealing with types of overprint and “ad hoc” arrangements for one off applications.
- Details from the newspapers and other official publications of May 1945.
- For Carpatho Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech lands and overprints in Bamberg and France, including local special stamps and some forgeries (where it has been discovered how and when they were produced) all of the facts that are known are recorded.

It is nice to see adequate acknowledgement given to the sources of original data. Roy Reader, Richard Beith and myself get suitable mentions amongst many others.

What a good book !!! (Having seen a copy, I would second that, [Ed]).

BOOK REVIEW by the Editor**The Mirror Caught The Sun – Operation Anthropoid 1942 by John Martin**

I only recently discovered this excellent book, which had been published in 2009, but had escaped my attention until now. The author, **John Martin** has spent many years, putting together this important new work, which brings a wealth of new material and previously unpublished details with many full colour photographs

John covers every aspect of “**Operation Anthropoid**” in great detail. He found and interviewed the late Lorna Ellison, who was a close friend of **Jan Kubis** and **Josef Gabčík** (both soldiers stayed with her family and kept personal items at the Ellison’s house) and later took Lorna on an emotional visit to Prague, to see the places where the mission had taken place

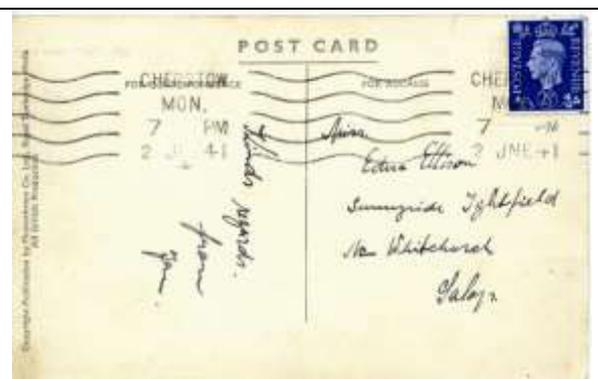
Many members will be familiar with the story told here, but all aspects are covered in great detail and nothing is left out. From a philatelic point of view, several postcards and a special Czech forces Christmas card (sent to the Ellison family by both Jan Kubis and Josef Gabčík) are shown in full colour. These are unique historical items and would not be out of place on display in the Postal Museum or the Military Museum at Prague.

This softcover publication runs to some 102 pages, many fully illustrated. It is available direct from **John Martin**, johnmartintd@gmail.com for **£12.50**, plus **£2.50 postage and packing**. Amazon should also carry stock. My thanks go to John, for giving permission to reproduce photographs from the book.(Ed.)

ISBN 978 0 9561741 09



Postcard to Lorna Ellison from Josef Gabčík



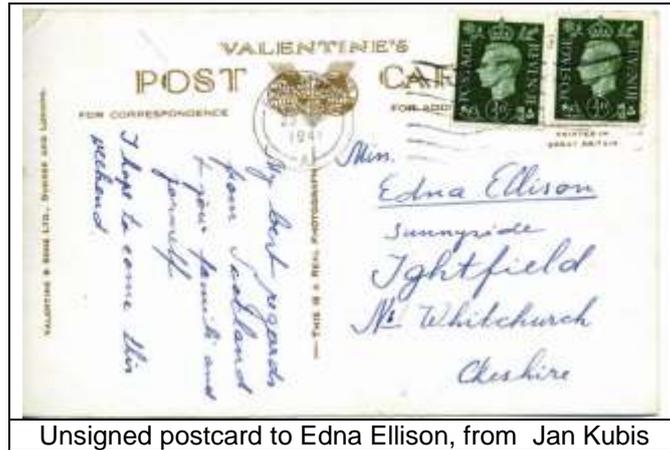
Postcard to Edna Ellison from Jan Kubis



Lorna Ellison in Prague at St Cyril & St Methodius Church



Christmas Greetings to the Ellison family, from Jan Kubis, 1940



Unsigned postcard to Edna Ellison, from Jan Kubis

Abstracts of Publications -Colin W Spong-

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

- The Summer 2011 issue of ***Austria*** No.174.
 - ▶ Vienna to New York City to Dead Letter Office to Vienna (Schweighofer); All Change! [new system of postal rates] (Taylor & Zimmerl); Gustaf Mahler: a thematic Feuilleton and a colour problem (Taylor); Registration Stamps and Labels – Some recent developments (Brandon); The “Recommando-Marke” – an almost-forgotten episode of Austrian philately (Zimmerl); The 1851 Newspaper Stamps of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia (Mueller).
- ***The British Postal Museum & Archive Newsletter*** May 2011
 - ▶ Re the cancellation of the BPMA New Centre Project, Swindon (Ellison); Post Office in Pictures (Norris); Help ensure a future for Britain’s postal heritage (Turton); New BPMA Website Launches (Heath & Bean); POST Modern (McGuffie); Stamp Registration or “Imprimaty” sheets in BPMA Collections (Muir); Cigarette Cards added to the BPMA’s online catalogue (Harper); Uniforms available on our online catalogue (McHugh).
- The March 2011 issue of ***Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei***, Vol.42 Whole No.167. Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us.
 - ▶ Haatsch, Owschütz and Sandau - a “no-man’s-land” in the district of Ratibor during the plebiscite – Upper Silesia [article in German & Polish] (Drobny); Plate faults in the 6.40 Kč Christmas 2002 stamp (Ziegler); The special registration labels from the Czech Post Office (Müller); Supplement No.3 The Society’s Library catalogue, including introduction and technical terms.
- The Winter 2011 & Spring 2011 issues of ***The Czechoslovak Specialist***, Vol 73. Whole Nos.623/624. Nos 1/2.
 - ▶ The Mucha Express Stamps (Wilson); The First Printing Error on stamps of the Czech Republic (Sobotka); For BEGINNERS: The Philately of Czechoslovakia [Part 3] (Freer).
 - ▶ The 25h Chainbreaker – Part 1 Introduction (Wilson); New Czech Stamp Error Discovered (Horvath & Svoboda); The Lost Nachod Gutters recovered (Wilson); Czech Post Change (Horvath); For BEGINNERS: The Philately of Czechoslovakia [Part 4] (Freer); Mucha’s Stars-Engage in Original Philatelic Research (Wilson).

- The April 2011 issue of *Dylizans*, No 61
 - ▶ An interesting variety on 1925 40 gr Wawel Castle (Chirkowski); 1958 Balloon Post (Stockhill); 1946 Censor marks (Stockhill); Easter Greetings from Poland postal stationery (-).
- Nos 3, 4 & 5/2011. issues of *Filatellie*. Vol 61. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
 - ▶ Double perforation from the Rotary WIFAG – genuine or forgery? (Beneš); Integration of Uzhorod district post offices into the starting postal traffic of ČSR 1918-19 [1] (Weissenstein); History of Czech post offices during WWII [1] (Kratochvíl).
 - ▶ Rudolf Gilbert: 115 & 90 [Biography] [1] (Beneš); Sub-type on stamps of Parliament PČ 1919 – a year after (Beneš); Integration of Uzhorod district post offices into the starting postal traffic of ČSR 1918-19 [2] (Weissenstein); History of Czech post offices during WWII [2] (Kratochvíl).
 - ▶ Rudolf Gilbert: 115 & 90 [Biography] [2] (Beneš); Forgery of missing colour on 10 Kč Rose 2008 (Beneš); Almost forgotten retouches – Hradčany (Folprecht); Integration of Uzhorod district post offices into the starting postal traffic of ČSR 1918-19 [3] (Weissenstein); Post in Terezín during WWII (Hauzr).
- The 2/2011 issue of *Merkur Revue*. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles.
 - ▶ 50th Anniversary of the flight of Alexejevič Gagarin (-); Austria-Hungary and Europe after World War I, Part VIII (Štefek et al); Faulty Overprint “SO1920” (Filipek); International Reply Coupons of B & M [Part 1] (Příkazaský); 80 years of Bedřich Housa, Engraver (Fischer); The Luxembourgs on the Czech throne (Brendl); Interesting Items-Czech ČSR 1 Covers (Fritz); Karel Zeman Exhibition in Prague (Fritz); Fortresses and castles on stamps from ČSR territory [15] (Fritz).
- The March 2011 issue of *NIEUWS* No 16
 - ▶ Identification of Hradčany 400 heller type II (Trip); Hradčany Plating of the Hradčany 5 and 10 heller (Jonkergouw).
- The June 2011 issue of *Stamps of Hungary* No.185.
 - ▶ Hungarian Cultural Centre Event (-); Postal Forms in the Croat Language (Czirók); On the 1919 Overprint Trail – Part 8: Homokhárványos (Morrell)

Valašské Meziříčí

Original text & black & white images by:
Translated & colour images by:

Karel Holoubek, Hradec Králové.
Robert J Hill

Following on from the end of the war, the new found freedom in the postal service had a desire to remove all images of the occupation. This meant that amongst many other things not only were the postal cancellers defaced to remove German names (including TPO 633 Meziříčí - Rožnov - Radhoštěm), postage stamps were also overprinted.

1 Pírka overprint

On the initiative of local postal worker Josef Pírka and with the connivance of printers Osvěta of Valašské Meziříčí, two printing blocks were made each with the two line overprint.

Č. S. R. 6. 5. 1945

C. S. R. 6. 5. 1945



These overprints were applied by hand using black ink and were achieved from the 10th May, 1945 onwards on all stocks of stamps (including newspaper stamps) available at the main Post Office. Historical records show the list of the stamps printed by Zumstein catalogue number. These stamps were sold at the post office counter and used for postal services until the regulation prohibiting the use of instruments of the former Protectorate, this proclamation of 18th May had some effect - however these overprinted stamps were used on mail as late as 26th June.

Although Pírka's work included full stops after each letter, these gradually broke off leaving different sub-types.

Pírka's overprint was well documented by philatelists both at the time and at later dates. After his tenure at the Post Office had ceased speculative 'reprints' appeared on the market using different coloured inks and with many varieties. The printing blocks used were not preserved and it is likely that they have been destroyed.

2 Mistecký overprint

The architect Josef Mistecký was a former professor at the National School of Woodworking in Valašské Meziříčí. Using his skills he carved wood blocks to depict the image of the heraldic 'Lion of Bohemia' and strategically placed text to obliterate the signs of the protectorate. These images appear mainly on the lower value stamps and postal stationery cards from the Protectorate era. There are two basic overprints, each with sub types. This came about as the separate elements of the overprint were made up from individual wood blocks.

The first, called 'the Czechoslovak overprint' was made up of three separate elements, which were probably Mistecký's own work:

- #1 The inscription Č. S. R.
- #2 The image of a lion.
- #3 A series of seven lime leaves.



The latter was used to obscure the inscriptions Deutsches Reich and the Protectorate Böhmen und Mähren. The stamps were overprinted by hand, each element separately, always using black ink. The use of these overprints brought about a combination of designs these can be summarised as: Inscription & Lion; Lion; Lime leaves & Lion (Grau lists these three as separate overprints). The combination of all three elements is not known.



Cover sent from a local college to a teaching professor at a local address. Both combinations of Mistecký 'Czechoslovak' overprints used and cancelled at the 'out of town' office on 6th May, the day of liberation. The main post office was closed at this time. Rate paid 90 h, the correct rate was 80 h – they may not have had the correct stamps overprinted at his time.



Cover sent to a local address with overprinted stamps showing just the lion at the correct rate of 80 h (for a letter up to 20 g.). Cancelled at the main office on 14th May.

The second, called 'the Soviet overprint' was again made from wood blocks, used with black ink and compiled from separate elements, this time two were used:

- #1 Text C. C. C. P.
- #2 Hammer and sickle with a five-pointed star.

C. C. C. P.



These blocks were always used in combination with C. C. C. P. known at both the top and bottom of the stamp.



Inverted overprints and colour variations of both Místecký overprints are known.

Extract of letter from Františka Beránka

The overprint of professor Místecký.

It was actually made up of on his personal initiative, to his own design.

Additional information was obtained from his faculty colleague from the State School, Ing. Puchty. He witnessed how the blocks were made using overlays (a ply-wood effect). According to his statement all the overlays were assembled together to form a wooden block. The image created was then applied to postage stamps. The so called 'Soviet overprint' was created in two versions. The first version was made so that the arc of the sickle was to the right, the second later version was correct – (to the left).

How many stamps were overprinted is not known, an estimate is 500 pieces.

Who inspired who? Who was first? This is not known for sure but it is thought Pírka was first and this inspired Místecký. It is interesting to note that the Místecký lion comes in two different heights (14.5 & 17.5 mm). It is also noteworthy that the difference between the two blocks of Pírka is that one has a háček over Č and the other does not.

The letter goes on to describe the appearance of the new postage stamps, including those used on the railway and ends..... I thank Ing. Puchty, Director of State Vocational Schools for wood-working, and former employees of the postal service in Valašské: Pírka; Míčunkovým; Kratochvil; Květoň.

It is signed

František Beránek, Marxova 694, Valašské Meziříčí.

Letters franked with these revolutionary overprints, in some cases have special cancellers made up by local postal employees. There are two types:

- #1 Bears the two line inscription PRAVDA VÍTĚZÍ and appears only on Pírek overprints on cover.
- #2 Single line POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ and appears only on Mistecký overprints on cover.



Part I of a postal stationery card with a Pírka overprint (type II) posted from the main office on 19th May and bearing the two line slogan PRAVDA VÍTĚZÍ



A further letter written in Cyrillic and posted from the main office on 14th May, the Mistecký overprinted stamp pays the correct rate for 20 g normal postage. Straight line slogan POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ.

From the archives of Vladimír Markus in a letter dated 22nd September 1983.

- #1 Krásno nad Bečvou had a post office until it was abolished in 1950, at the end of World War II there were no liberation overprint stamps from here, they used those overprinted in Valašské Meziříčí.
- #2 Catalogue of International Stamp Exhibition Czechoslovakia - Cuba, Gottwaldov '79. Published by František Beránek, entitled **Valašskomeziříčské pošty v květnových dnech roku 1945** - repeats some information but includes new detail.

In May 1945 Valašské Meziříčí had two post offices. The so-called Meziříčí was on the ground floor of the District Court, where the expanded premises and has been modified. The second, called Krásenská was at Šišťotů č.156 (this was abolished on 31st January, 1950).

The post office located at Meziříčí also had the telegraph and telephone exchange, which enabled quick links to places that were still under German administration. The decision of the occupying administration in the early years of the war was that the PABX employed only women of German nationality, this measure to be ensured by the German office, located in the city. With one exception, these women did not cooperate with those of Czech nationality.

The Krásenská post office was for posting mail, processing letters, parcels and remittances, and telegrams, and had a telephone for public use.

During the war the Meziříčí post office, on the first floor of the District Court, was protected by a unit of SA troops. Fighting in the town took place on 6th May, 1945 and postal workers were warned to protect themselves and to stay away. The local head of the Postal Authority, Konstantin Balcarek Mičunkových took workers and spouses into an apartment on Smetana Street together with all the postage stamps; postcards and money they could carry. The fighting did not seriously damage the local postal infrastructure and a semblance of a service was restored after about three days to the centre of town and gradually extended thereafter. By decision of the Soviet commander, whose command was also placed on the 1st floor of the district court, the telephone exchange activity resumed only a few days later.

Krásenská post office was not damaged at all.

The first issue of Pravda published on 18th May, 1945 reported that postal traffic has been restored to places on the railway lines: Valašské Meziříčí – Vsetín; Valašské Meziříčí – Hranice; Valašské Meziříčí - Rožnov pod Radhoštěm. However renewal of other railway services was not as easy as during the fighting both buildings and equipment had been damaged. Postal operations and postal workers gradually returned to normal with little help needed from the Soviet command or local Národní Vybor (Revolutionary People's Committee).

In this atmosphere of renewed freedom the postal services (and everyone else) set out to remove any semblance of the occupation period. Postally, this resulted in the adaptation of postal cancellers (both local and TPO) and the overprinting of postage stamps.

On the initiative of postal worker Josef Pírka and printing firm Osvěta two blocks were made (as described at the start of the article). These blocks were in use prior to 10th of May and were applied by hand using black ink. These stamps were sold at the post office counter and used for postal service under a regulation prohibiting the use of signs and of the former Protectorate.

Pírka's work was held in high esteem by local philatelists and it is true that he later produced 'trial' overprints in different colours and varieties such as inverted. The blocks are not preserved and it is likely that they have been destroyed as Pírka had received instructions not to hand these to anyone.

Beside Pírka's work are the overprints of architect Joseph Mistecký, former professor at the National School of Woodworking in Valasske Mezirici. He carved shapes and inscriptions in wood and this contained the most prolific emblem of the end of the Protectorate era – the Bohemian lion. The Mistecký overprint was destined for use on lower value stamps and postal stationery cards. There were two basic overprints 'Czechoslovak' and 'Soviet'.

The first 'Czechoslovak' overprint consisted of separate elements that the author probably made gradually. These elements were applied by hand various combinations. The first element is the inscription 'Č. S. R.'; the second element is the image of a lion; the third element comprises a series of seven lime leaves, which overlapped inscriptions Deutsches Reich and the Protectorate Böhmen und Mähren on the Protectorate stamps. The stamps were overprinted by hand, each element separately, each with black ink. The inscription "Č. S. R." and the image of the lion appear both individually and collectively, and lime leaves are always with the image of a lion. The combination of all three elements is not known.

The second 'Soviet' overprint comprised two separate elements. The first formed the word "C. C. C. P.," the second an image of the hammer and sickle with a five-pointed star. Both of the overprints were used, the word to obliterate the text at the top or bottom of the stamp, the emblem in the centre. These overprints were also made by hand using black ink.

Both Pírka and Mistecký was renowned local philatelist but none of their correspondence survives. Mistecký overprints are known inverted and with different colours. The stamps were sold at both post offices and were used on all types of mail. Some of the letters bear temporary postal cachets.

The first cachet uses the phrase "PRAVDA VÍTĚZÍ" (Truth prevails) in a reddish blue violet and appears on covers with Pírka overprinted stamps.

The second cachet is "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ" (Czechoslovak Post) in a reddish colour and appears on letters which have Mistecký overprinted stamps.

References:

- 1 Catalogue from the Stamp Exhibition of Young Philatelists, Valašské Meziříčí, 1977.
- 2 Part of an article on page 16 of "Valašskomeziříčské pošty" in May 1945.
- 3 Letters from Františka Beránka of Valašského Meziříčí in 1983.
- 4 INFORMACE – Eastern Group PH: Issue 75, page 68; Issue 102, page 39 – and others.

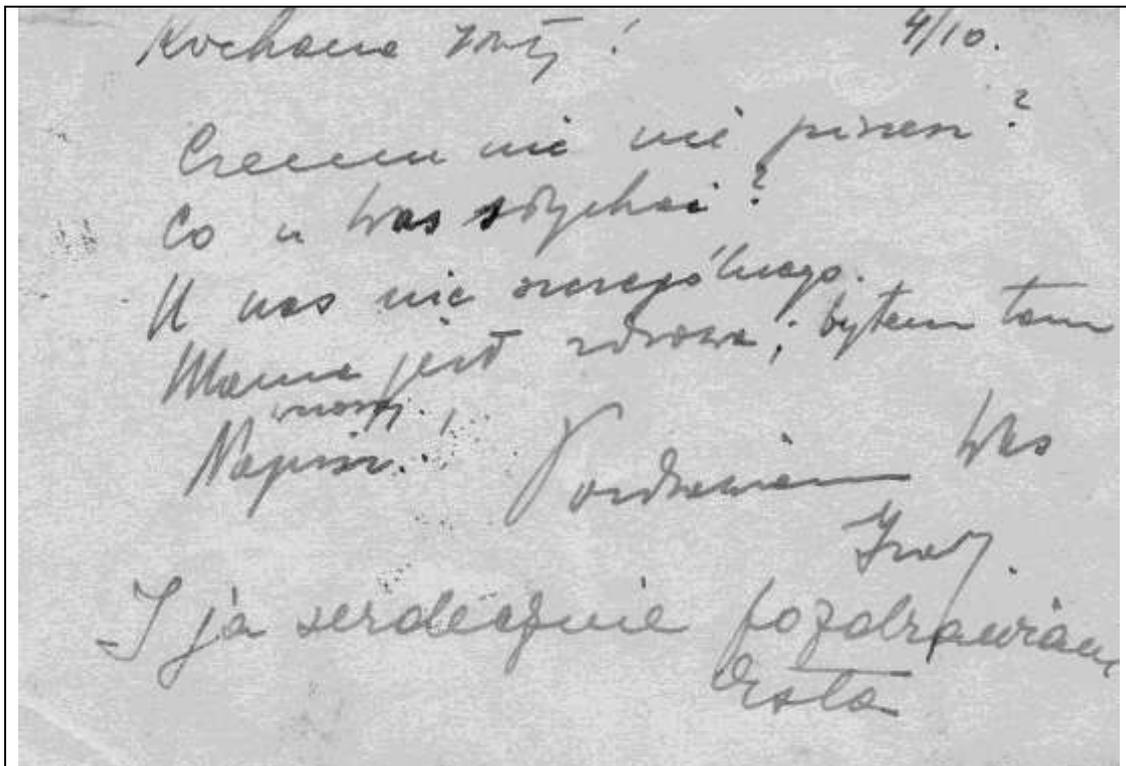
THE EDITOR'S CHOICE – A NEW REGULAR FEATURE

Following on from the Brno letter, which I shared with you all, in our March edition, I will today look at a Postal Stationery card, from the same period (Sudetenland crisis), but this time, with Polish connections.

Here we see an incoming postcard from **Borysław**, Poland. Known in Ukrainian as **Борислав**.

This town was located in **Western Ukraine**, south west of **Lvov** and north east of **Užhorod** in October 1938, this territory was still under Polish control. Located on the **Tsymbenitsa** river, a tributary of the **Dneister**. The ethnic mix of the local population is recorded as follows:- 30% Poles, 30% Ukrainian, 30% Jewish, 10% Czechoslovaks and Hungarians. The town had become Polish, following war with Ukraine in 1918-19. In 1939, it again changed hands, after invasion by Germany, but then handed to **U.S.S.R.** following the Molotov – Ribbentrop pact. In **1941**, retaken by Germany, becoming part of the General Government, until 1944, when liberated by the Red Army and incorporated into the **U.S.S.R.** Once an important oil producing area, known as "**Polish Baku**", supplies have now been almost totally exhausted.

Polish 15 Gr. Postal Stationery card (P.P.T.T,{VI-1938} 20.000.00) uprated with additional 10 Gr. "Gdynia" adhesive, paying the correct rate to **Prosějov**, in Č.S.R. Cancelled **BORYSŁAW. -6.10.38.10** at the height of the Sudeten troubles and as such, censored "**cenzenované**"



Reverse side of the censored Polish card, from **Borystaw**, to **Prosějov**, sent during the period of the Sudetenland crisis - written message is dated 4. X. 1938.

100 year celebrations of the long distance flight by Jan Kašpar, Pardubice – Velká Chuchle near Prague. (By the Editor)

This year, sees the centenary celebration of the first long distance flight in the Czech lands, made by he pioneer Czech aviator **Jan Kašper**. As mentioned in the March issue of **Czechout**, there have been several philatelic souvenirs issued to mark the occasion. At the recent **Pardubice airshow**, a special limited issue (approx 2000 pieces) registered label “**100 let od prvního veřejného letu Janá Kašpara**” from the Post Office **530 02 Pardubice 2**, was on sale, with special souvenir cancel. My example arrived, despite water damage from the weather and the best efforts of the Royal Mail, to ruin the cover.

A further special postmark has been issued at Post Office **PRAHA 59 – Velká Chuchle**, where **Kašpar’s Bleriot** monoplane landed. An example is shown below, with this oval cancel, dated **5.6.2011**. Both covers below utilise a special souvenir envelope, issued for the event.



NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Bosworth-

Unless otherwise stated, Post Printing House, Prague prints the stamps and stationery for the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia.

Slovakia – unless otherwise stated FDCs are printed by TAB. sro, Bratislava.

Printing: **RD** – rotary die stamping with multicolour photogravure
DS – die stamping from flat plates

Czech Republic

NVI stamps:

'A' ordinary internal letter to 50g (currently 10Kč)

'E' ordinary standard letter to 20g to European countries (currently 20Kč)

'Z' ordinary standard letter by air to 20g to non European countries (currently 21Kč)

9 March 2011

Year of the Rožmberks

	<p>Designer: Oldřich Kulhánek Engraver: Miloš Ondráček Printing: DS in souvenir sheet format. Design: portraits of the brothers Petr Vok and Vilém of Rožmberk. Vilém (1535 – 1592) who inherited the Rožmberk estates when he was sixteen, became a leader of the moderate Catholics, a Czech politician and in 1566 the chief commander of the Czech Army against the Turks in Hungary. He was sent by the Habsburgs to Poland as chief negotiator for the Polish throne and was even nominated as a candidate. In the 1580s he commissioned the construction of a Jesuit College in Český Krumlov. He was married four times but had no children so the estates passed to his younger brother Petr Vok who successfully continued the work of boosting the economic development of the estates begun by Vilém. Petr Vok (1539 – 1611) was keenly interested in all learning, building one of the largest libraries in central Europe and acquiring collections of artefacts for the castles at Bechyně and Trěboň. He was a humanitarian landowner. He was the last of the Rožmberk (Rosenberg) dynasty as his marriage was also childless. FDC: printed DS in wine colour with a commemorative Rožmberk cancel. The cachet design has two entwined letters 'R' above the five petalled rose symbol of the dynasty.</p>
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23 March 2011

Easter



Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek.

Engraver: Martin Srb (FDC).

Printing: multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50.

Design: two chicks in a nest, blooming Spring flowers and text 'Veselé Velikonose' (Merry Easter) with NVI 'A'.

FDC: printed DS in grey-brown with commemorative Kyjov cancel. The cachet drawing has an Easter rabbit holding a pussy willow twig beside an egg with a facsimile 10Kč stamp portraying a rabbit. A maximum card was also issued.

6 April 2011

Vlasta Burian



Designer: Pavel Sivko

Engraver: Jaroslav Tvrdoň

Printing: RD in sheets of 50

Design: three portraits of Vlasta Burian. Josef Vlastimil Burian (1891 – 1962) was a stage and film actor, director, singer, sportsman, businessman, author and mimic. Between the two World Wars he was one of the most popular Czech artists. His father was a Czech patriot and amateur actor and a tailor by trade. Vlasta began his career as a comedian initially at private parties but gradually gained access to perform publicly. Throughout his career he suffered from manic depression. In 1944 the Nazi authorities closed his private theatre and after the war he was arrested by the Communists as a Nazi collaborator, imprisoned, fined and forced to do hard manual labour, which broke his health. He began performing again to earn money but died of a pulmonary embolism in 1962.

FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing is a series of annotated moustaches from one of his films.

6 April 2011

200 Years of Teaching at the Prague Conservatory



Designer: Marina Richterová

Engraver: Martin Srb

Printing: RD in sheets of 50.

Design: the figure of a dancer with a fan in her left hand and a trailing ribbon in the other. Three drawings of masks complete the design.

The Society for Improving Music in the Czech Lands was established in 1808 as a school for the professional training of orchestral musicians with funding and management from the public. Later other disciplines were added to the growing curriculum. Antonin Dvorak became the first composition teacher in 1891 and later its Director. The Conservatory was nationalised in 1918 and a new department of drama added with a dancing department formed after World War II. The aim of the Conservatory today is to sustain its high traditions and develop the musical education of the Czech population.

FDC: printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows a seated clarinet player

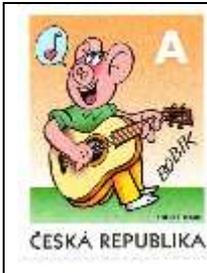
4 May 2011

Europa: – Forests – Alluvial Forests

**Designer:** Adolf Absolon**Engraver:** Martin Srb**Printing:** offset with a black linear drawing replaced by black-green in sheets of six.**Design:** an imaginary landscape with hills and forests on the banks of a river system. The largest alluvial hardwood forest in the Czech Republic is at the confluence of the Morava and Dyje rivers. With the growing number of river realignment projects these alluvial forests, which flood for a part of the growing season, are disappearing.**FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet depicts a stream with typical alluvial forest flora.

4 May 2011

Čtyřlístek – Bobík

**Designer:** Jaroslav Němeček**Printing:** multi-coloured offset in self-adhesive books of 10 stamps – NVI 'A'.**Design:** Bobík, the pig, playing a guitar and singing. This is the fourth and final booklet in the series of the comic characters from the book 'Four Leafed Clover' by Jaroslav Němeček. The front and back covers of the booklet show the four friends delivering parcels by car.**FDC:** printed multi-coloured offset with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet shows Bobík sitting on a log by a campfire playing a guitar, singing to his friends who are toasting titbits in the fire.

27 May 2011

Joint Issue with Slovenia – Johann Gerstner (1851 – 1939)

**Designer:** Karel Zeman**Engraver:** Jaroslav Tvrdoň**Printing:** DS in black with coloured offset of one stamp in a souvenir sheet.**Design:** portrait of the violinist Johann Gerstner with the coats of arms of Žlutice and Ljubljana. Gerstner was born in Žlutice and learned violin, flute, singing and theory from a local teacher before studying at Prague Conservatory from 1864. Whilst still a student, he played in a professional string quartet and an orchestra conducted by Bedřich Smetana. After graduating he took the job of director of the Slovenian Theatre and violin teacher (for 48 years) at the Filharmonic Society's Music School in Ljubljana. For 40 years he played the violin in the main church choir in Ljubljana. He also performed as an orchestral soloist and with chamber groups giving his last public performance in 1929.**FDC:** printed RD in light brown with a commemorative Žlutice cancel. The cachet drawing represents Gerstner as a young boy playing the violin beside the organ of Žlutice Church.

27 May 2011

Definitive – The Beauty of Flowers: Chrysanthemum

**Designer:** Anna Khunová**Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider**Printing:** RD in sheets of 100.**Design:** a flower and bud of the chrysanthemum. This is the last of this definitive series. There was no official FDC.

27 May 2011

Definitive – Folk Architecture

**Designer:** Jan Kavan**Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider**Printing:** RD in sheets of 100.**Design:** in the foreground two timber-framed houses from North Bohemia, a larger West Bohemian wooden house behind and in the background a small Wallachian cottage.**FDC:** printed DS in dark green with as commemorative Sobotka cancel. The cachet drawing depicts timbered houses from North Bohemia.

1 June 2011

For Children: Zdeněk Smetana – The Little Witch

Graphic designer: Otakar Karlas from original work by Zdeněk Smetana

Engraver: Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD in sheets of 30

Design: a portrait of the Little Witch with her familiar – the raven Abraxas. The characters were created by the Czech animator, screenwriter and graphic designer Zdeněk Smetana (born 1925).

FDC: printed DS in brown-black with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing shows the small cottage of the Little Witch.

Booklets: of 8 stamps with 2 stamp -sized labels were issued.

1 June 2011

Execution of 27 Protestant Leaders on the Old Town Square, Prague

Designer: Prof Zdeněk Ziegler

Engraver: Václav Fajt

Printing: DS with offset in red in sheets of four.

Design: the execution of 27 Czech Protestant leaders on Prague's Old Town Square 21 June 1621. The event became the symbolic end to a series of happenings beginning with the second defenestration of Prague 23 May 1618 – the catalyst for the Thirty Years War – and ending with the defeat of the Protestant armies at the Battle of the White Mountain near Prague 8 November 1620.

FDC: printed DS in violet with commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet drawing depicts the executioner Mydlár beheading one of the Protestants.

1 June 2011

100th Anniversary of Jan Kašpar's First Public Flight

Designer: Pavel Sivko

Engraver: Bedřich Housa

Printing: RD in sheets of 50

Design: a portrait of Jan Kašpar and a flying machine. Jan Kašpar (b. Pardubice 20 May 1883 - d. Pardubice 2 March 1927) was an engineer, aviation pioneer and member of the first group of Czech aviation constructors and pilots. He made several historic flights in his own model fitted with a Daimler engine in 1911. This aircraft is on display in the National Technical Museum, Prague. He took his own life in 1927 impoverished and suffering from mental illness.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Pardubice cancel and detailed drawing of part of an aircraft.

Postal Stationery

Commemorative Postcards

23 March 2011: Vaclav Brožík – 160th Birth Anniversary.

Designer: Pavel Sivko

Printing: coloured offset

Design: imprinted 'A' stamp with a portrait of Vaclav Brožík (1851-1901) and an artist's palette with brushes. To the left, the Czech Post logo and a security hologram. The first line of the address is a continuous microprint 'Česká pošta PTC 2011' The left part of the card has a motif of an American stamp from the art work of 1884 by Brožík with the title 'Christopher Columbus at the Spanish Court' Vaclav Brožík was one of the most famous and successful of the Generation of the Czech National Theatre artists dividing his working life between Prague and Paris. (Retail price 15Kč)

23 March 2011: 50th Anniversary of OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development).

Designer: Jan Ungrád

Printing: coloured offset

Design: imprinted 'Z' stamp with a world map and text '50 Years OECD 1961/2011.' To the left, the Czech Post logo and a security hologram. The first address line is a continuous microprint 'Česká pošta PTC, 2011.' The left portion of the card has two symbolic terrestrial hemispheres with the OECD building in Paris in the background and the logo for the anniversary. Below is a text in Czech. (Retail price 26Kč)

1 June 2011: 15th Anniversary of the Parliamentary Senate of the Czech Republic.

Designer: Pavel Sivko

Printing: coloured offset

Design: imprinted 'A' stamp with the logo of the Senate in blue. To the left the Czech Post logo and a security hologram. The first address line is a continuous microprint 'Česká pošta, PTC, 2011.' The left portion is from a photograph of the Wallenstein Palace, one of the three buildings of the Senate in the Lesser Town. (Retail price 15Kč)

Postcards with Promotional Prints

3 March 2011: International Stamp Fair, Munich 3-5 March 2011.

Imprinted 'E' stamp depicting a horse drawn post coach.

5 May 2011: 21st International Stamp Fair, Essen 5 – 7 May 2011.

Imprinted 'E' stamp depicting a horse drawn post coach.

Slovakia

4 March 2011

Easter



Designer: Júlia Piačková

Printing: offset – Heidelberg Speedmaster

Design: a traditional confection topped with meringue in the shape of a lamb to represent The Lamb of God. Different areas of Slovakia vary in religious Easter traditions, many based on pagan festivals heralding the arrival of Spring. **FDC:** printed offset with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design shows traditional Easter chicks made of meringue with chocolate butter cream decorated with marzipan. A maximum card was issued together with a booklet of 10 self-adhesive stamps with a vanilla fragrance! Retail price 4.00 Euros.

25 March 2011

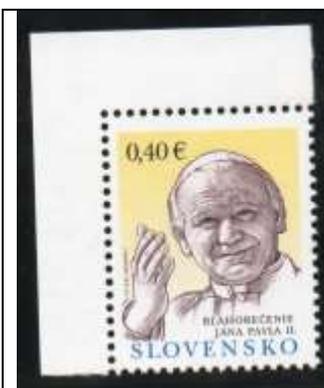
Sports: World Ice Hockey Championship 2011**Designer:** Igor Benca**Printing:** offset – Heidelberg Speedmaster, in se-tenant pairs of 0.40 Euro (red) and 0.50Euro (blue).**Design:** each stamp shows a different hockey team in play.**FDCs:** printed offset with commemorative Bratislava cancel (cachet in blue) or Košice cancel (cachet in red). The same cachet design of a hockey player striking the puck was used for both FDCs.

Slovakia is the host nation for the 2011 Championships. Groups A and D play in Bratislava with Groups B and C competing in Košice.

15 April 2011

Beauties of Our Homeland: Dobšinská Ice Cave**Designer and Engraver:** Martin Činovský**Printing:** DS and offset in sheets of 3 x 2 stamps with central horizontal decorative gutter**Design:** the hollow ice stalagmite formation called Studňa (well) in the Great Hall and symbol of the cave system. The Dobšinská Ice Cave was formed about 400,000 years ago after a massive collapse within a larger cave system. Cold air became trapped forming the ice floor which reaches 27m in thickness with other glacial features. The cave is 1,388m long of which 495m is open to the public. The main feature is the Great Hall with its floor ice used for occasional public skating between 1891 and 1946. Discovered in 1870, opened to the public in 1871 and permanently lit since 1887 it is, since 2000, one of UNESCO's World Cultural and National Heritage Sites. Various species of bat hibernate in the caves.**FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Dobšinská Ladová Jaskyňa cancel. The cachet design shows an ice stalagmite/stalactite formation from the Cave.

29 April 2011

Beatification of John Paul II**Drawing:** Jozef Baláž**Designer:** Martin Činovský**Engraver:** František Horniak**Printing:** DS and offset in souvenir sheets of 4 stamps with central decorative gutter.**Design:** portrait of John Paul II. The central gutter of the sheet has the papal crozier and the lower margin John Paul II's coat of arms.**FDC:** printed DS in brown with commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet design shows the ground plan of the Basilica and St Peter's Square in the Vatican.

6 May 2011

Europa 2011: Forests – The National Park Poloniny**Designer:** Karol Felix**Engraver:** František Horniak**Printing:** DS with offset in sheets of 4 x 2

Design: a typical forest scene with a decaying tree trunk with younger trees behind. The lower margin of the sheet has the logo and text 'World Year of Forests 2011.' The Poloniny National Park lies in east Slovakia bordering Poland and the Ukraine. It is the largest area of primeval forest in Slovakia with little impact from human activity. The main trees are European beech and White fir which support a larger variety of other flora and fauna, including lynx, grey wolf and brown bear

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Stakčín cancel. The cachet drawing depicts a typical deciduous forest canopy.

Postal Stationery**Promotional Postcards**

17 December 2010 (190 CDV 179/10) Day of Slovak Stamp and Philately.

Imprinted 0.40Euro stamp – seal of Trnava

5 May 2011 (191 CDV 179/11) Exhibition of Decorative Telegrams at Post Museum Banská Bystrica 5 May – 3 July 2011.

Imprinted 0.40Euro stamp – seal of Trnava, cachet design by Adrian Ferda Retail price 0.50Euro.

3 June 2011 (193 CDV 179/11) Bratislava Collectors' Fair 3 – 4 June 2011.

Imprinted 0.40 Euro stamp – seal of Trnava. Cachet design Adrian Ferda.

OUR NEW VENUE

13-15 Great Scotland Yard
London SW1A 2HJ
020 7930 4881

The Civil Service Club is situated in Great Scotland Yard, close to:

- Trafalgar Square.
- Charing Cross railway station.
- Charing Cross Underground Station (Northern and Bakerloo lines).
- Embankment Underground Station (Circle and District, Northern and Bakerloo lines).
- Buses that run along Whitehall.

The Club is within easy walking distance from Government Offices on Whitehall and a short journey by bus or underground from the Government Offices along Victoria Street, Lambeth Bridge and near to Victoria Station.



The Civil Service Club is open to our members from 12 noon. It has a small restaurant serving hot food as well as a well-stocked bar serving a selection of freshly made sandwiches. The club has a very small car park exclusively for its members. Car parking in the area is metered and difficult to obtain, so it is recommended that our members use public transport.