



CZECHOUT

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CONTENTS

December 1997

Editorial	79
News and Notices	80
Have you visited the Post Office Archives lately?	83
A Peaceful Parting	84
The Postal War in 1934 between Hungary and Czechoslovakia	86
The 1945 Liberation Overprints of Frýdek (Friedek)	87
Visit to Kbely Aerospace Museum	89
What, When, Where?	91
New Issues (Czech)	92
New Issues (Slovak)	96

EDITORIAL

Members will be sorry to hear that our Chairman, Alec Page is in the Wellcome Ward of Livingstone Hospital, East Hill, Dartford, DA1 1SA. However he sends his best wishes to everyone, and we all hope that he will soon be home again. In the meantime Pat and I have endeavoured to produce this quarter's journal with the kind assistance of Rex, looking after the printing and we apologise for any shortcomings, in the absence of Alec's technical production.

The annual index for this volume will be sent out with the March issue, as usual.

Also enclosed is the annual subscription form 1998, the AGM minutes and annual accounts, programme card for 1998 and the Praga '98 letter from Brian Day.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the Editorial team.

Colin W Spong FRPSL

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting of Saturday 6 September 1997

In light of the timing of the funeral of Diana Princess of Wales following her tragic death, and after discussion with the Chairman and others on the Monday evening, it was decided, as a mark of respect, to cancel the meeting. With the aid of e-mail, Brian Parker & Reg Hounsell swung into action and a mailshot was posted by noon the next day, my thanks to these two gentlemen.

Our intended speaker, Hans Klein of the Netherlands was in full agreement with the decision. Indeed he took the initiative by leaving a message on my answerphone within an hour or so of the initial announcement. Hopefully we will be able to rearrange his display next summer.

Meeting of Saturday 8 November 1997

The Vice Chairman, Robert Kingsley welcomed members; there being no society business he handed the meeting over to the Society Auction. John Whiteside, FRPSL, FSPH the Society Auctioneer, was assisted at the top table by Robert Hill, Hon Auction Secretary, and Robert Kingsley, the Hon Treasurer. They were joined by Roger Morrell and Martin Griggs who acted as 'runners'.

Rex A Dixon

The Society Weekend 17-19 October 1997 at Maidencombe

The Society's first organised residential weekend attracted a high level of support, with 36 guests staying at The Bowden Close Hotel, a family-run hotel near Torquay, and at even a smarter hotel close by. There were 20 members attending, most with their spouses, two of whom were collectors in their own right. We were particularly pleased that our Chairman, Alec Page FRPSL, was well enough to attend despite recovering from a serious bout of treatment.

Barry Horne, our member in Exeter, had first proposed the event and then masterminded it through to its successful conclusion, his advance planning made all run smoothly, with apparently little effort. The Society owes him a large round of applause. Barry laid on a full programme of events, so that the least philatelic person was able to thoroughly enjoy the weekend. The bright autumnal weather certainly helped, and the local cliffs were steep but spectacular, however, nobody was spotted going in for a swim.

The only formal aspect of the weekend was when the Hon Secretary, Rex Dixon, gave details of five prospective members, whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted

L Pearcy of Matlock, Mrs J M Wilkinson of Cheltenham, G. Southcott of Carmarthen,
J W Peters of Rayleigh and Dr C J West of Newbury

The hotel had a pleasant sun-lounge which served admirably as a meeting venue. Barry had provided a display of 80 sheets on the Friday afternoon so that when members arrived they had something to look at. This set the mood for the weekend. It covered the Austrian period of stamps used in Bohemia, mainly Prague post offices to independence in 1918. Scout stamps on cover, Czech Army in Siberia, 1919 Overprints, and the 1925 President Masaryk issues completed a comprehensive tour of the First Republic. Dinner was followed by a series of five-minute displays:

Colin Spong	The Tiso Issues of Slovakia;
Bob Bradford	Balloon Mail, 1968;
Alec Page	Czechoslovaks in the Antarctic;
Brian Day	1914 Czech Company in Siberia, Mucha etc;
Bob Hill	Some cinderellas-what are they?;
Bill Dawson	1953 Currency reform, 1 cvr for each of the 18 days;
Reg Hounsell	Various; Heinz Vogel: Czech volunteers from England serving in France;
Ernst Gorge	Scout stamps, tête-bêche blocks of the Allegory issue;
Bill Dawson	Cross-border TPOs of the Austrian period;
Rex Dixon	The referendum following the Munich crisis; Robert Kingsley: Praga '88;
Barry Horne	Odds and sods - unusual items.

>

Saturday morning was devoted to two study sessions. The first, on airmails, was led by Reg Hounsell with a fine display of 160 sheets covering pre-1918 pioneer flights, 1920 early Aviation companies such as CFRNA, Airmail letter offices & postmarks, 1923-1939 Czechoslovak Airlines [CSA] and 1948 - 1980. In the second, on Sudetenland, Bill Dawson presented a wide range of provisional stamps and provisional postmarks from the months immediately following the takeover. This display was unfortunately curtailed by lunch, there being so much for the audience to peruse and to discuss that time ran out. The advance publicity had asked everyone to bring material related to the themes, but there was even less time for this to be presented - it remained in the briefcases.

After lunch in the garden of a local hostelry, many members visited TORQUEX 97 in Paignton, but in general both the dealers and the displays had little of interest for us. Dinner was preceded by an informal Committee meeting to make up for the one lost in September, to cover matters needing attention for the forthcoming AGM. After a relaxing dinner and coffee, members reassembled for a late evening display by Bob Hill on the 1945 Liberation overprints and provisional postmarks.

On Sunday morning Brian Day showed material from the Slovakian campaigns of 1918-20, divided into three sections: the postcards and stationery relating to the formation of the Czechoslovak Army and its fieldpost offices following Independence, including handstamps of the Italian and French Legions; postcards with Polní Pošta handstamps with YMCA logos or cachets from the American YMCA Army Homes, which exempted them from postage, and national costume postcards used as fieldpost cards. Brian intimated that he is undertaking a survey of the campaigns in conjunction with Alec Page, Bill Dawson and John Whiteside, with a view to publication.

After the coffee break the following displayed an amazing range of essays and proofs, mostly of the First Republic, but other periods were also represented: Rex Dixon, Reg Hounsell, Barry Horne, Bill Dawson, Lindy Knight, Yvonne Wheatley, Bob Bradford, and Alec Page. Finally Martin Griggs displayed pictorial cancels of the 1930s.

The guests dispersed after lunch on Sunday, with just a handful staying on another night. Everyone parted with a strong conviction that the weekend had been so successful that there must soon be a repeat. It is Barry Horne that must be thanked for making it such a success!

Rex A Dixon

[Full reports of displays by Barry Horne, Reg Hounsell, & Bob Hill (a plan of exhibits) are attached to the Society Minutes.]

REGIONAL MEETING 98

A joint meeting has been planned for Saturday 30 May 1998. At the time of going to press the Austrian, Hungarian and Polish Societies will be participating. Members will be invited to bring material which appertains to the interest of one or more of the other societies involved.

It will be an informal meeting commencing at 10.00am and finishing at 5.00pm. There will be a buffet lunch for which a charge of approximately £5 will be made. The meeting will be held at the home of Stephen & Judith Holder at Bradford, West Yorkshire and display frames will be provided.

Guests will be invited but there will be a restriction on the number of people from each society to give a fair distribution. Full details will be in the next Czechout.

Yvonne Wheatley

Congratulations

We congratulate the following members:

John L Whiteside who has acted in his inimitable style as Society auctioneer since 1987, who now feels it is time to hand over the reins, and we welcome **Roger Morrell** who will take over with effect from the November auction 1998. We wish them both well in their future activities. >

At the STAMPSHOW 97 held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, Bronze-Silver's were awarded to **Brian Day** for his Monograph 11: *The Sokols in Philately* and to *Czechout*, our sister society's journal *Czechoslovak Philatelist* received a Silver.

At MOSCOW 97 the following members were awarded medals **Gösta Hedborn** Gold and special prize - Czechoslovakia 1918-25; **Hans Klein** Gold and special prize - Postal History of the Kingdom of Bohemia; and **Ernst Gorge** Silver - Masaryk 1920.

Letters to the Editor

George J Firmage writes "My first comment was one of surprise to read - Czechout 3/97 page 71, that Brian couldn't find a listing of the 1939-40 New York World's Fair overprints in the latest Trojan catalogue. Is his copy missing pages 326-329? I note that there is no reference to the 1940 version of the overprint on the Bratislava 1937 sheet which is pictured. I suspect that it should have been listed as AS 13b and will turn up sooner or later.

My second comment is with reference to Richard Beith's listing of 'Czech & Slovak Stamp Booklets Issued since 1.1.93', Czechout 3/97 pages 60-65. All of the official booklets issued are listed and pictured in the latest Trojan catalogue: Czech, pages 368-380; Slovak, pages 409-411. The four 5Kč booklets issued by Pressfil, together with five 'American Army in Pilsen' booklets-two 5 x 3.60Kč (7500 and 10,000 copies respectively), two 10 x 60h (2,500 copies each), and one 10 x 40h (2,500 copies) are unofficial. There are two more private issues: a 10 x 1Kč (1000 copies) issued by OKSP Brno; and a 4 x 40h + 4 x 60h (700 copies) issued by Setkání Filatelistů Českého Ráje. The number of copies issued of the 5th booklet in Richard's list is 5000. There are also five booklets missing from his list: one 10 x 2Kč (5000 copies), three 5 x 3Kč (200,000, 5000 and 300,000 respectively) and an official 5 x 5Kč (5000 copies).

As for the Slovak booklets, I am certain that the first one in Richard Beith's list is unofficial. There are two additional private booklets of 3 x 3SK each labelled Známkový Zošitok A and B. Re the 'Booklet Contents,' the fourth in the list should read 5 x 5SK = 25SK, the sixth 5 x 3SK = 15SK, and the last 10 x 6SK = 60SK. Just a slip of the pen."

A letter from a Jiří Fiala, 582 63 Žďárec nad Doubravou 12, Czech Republic, who wishes to correspond in Czech, and would like to exchange mint/used USA, GB, Canada, NZ, United Nations & Australia for Czech stamps. He is also interested in letters and FDC covers. However, we would reiterate that members are advised to make contact before setting up any arrangements; the Society cannot accept responsibility in this respect.

Publications

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

- ◆ The September 1997 [No 113] issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of articles for us. [not including New Issues, Postal Stationery Catalogue, Airmail issues etc]
- ▶ National Stamp Exhibition, Benešov 97 (Cermak); Prague Exhibition 'The Post during the time of Rudolph II' (Cermak); More Revolution overprints from Dačice 1945 (Markus); German Censorship in Pressburg? (Bachartý); The five-country issue celebrating the 1000th Anniversary of the death of S.Adalbert (Cermak).
- ◆ The Sep/Oct & Nov/Dec 97 issues of *The Czechoslovak Philatelist* Vol.59, Nos.5/6, Whole No 545/546. by courtesy of Lindy Knight. The articles include:-
- ▶ Czech Postcards Meant to Defraud the Post Office (Vlcek); 46th Apostolic Journey of Pope John Paul II (Walinski); S.Vojtech..S.Adalbert 956-997 (Van Zenten,Horvath et al); 64th Apostolic journey of Pope John Paul II (Walinski); Postal Card Forgery Protections (Vlcek).
- ▶ Sport under Red Flags..Workers Olympiads 1921-34 (Miskevich); The Enclave of Vitorazsko (Vostatek); Levoča (Van Zenten); Have you thought of Exhibiting (Hahn); Field Post of Soviet Army in Czechoslovakia in 1968 (Vostatek). >

- ◆ The 4/97 issue of *Merkur Revue*, amongst the contents are the following articles.
- ▶ Liberated Republic 1920 issue (Pospišil); WW1 & the Railway (Vostatek); Anniversary of a forgotten battle - Zborov (Ustohal); History of a Slovak letter (Šablatúra);
- ◆ The PRAGA 1998 Bulletin & Newsletter No 1, contains the following:
- ▶ Praga 98 on Stamps & Postal Stationery (Francková); Veletržní Palac [Trade Fair Palace] (Rousová); The Postal Museum, (Čtvrtík); Special Regulations & Booking Booth.
- ▶ Introduction; Praga 98 Postage Stamps & Postal Stationery; National Commissioners, Official Hotel, Transport Service, Auction House, Press Conference & Contact Address.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE POST OFFICE ARCHIVES LATELY?

Research

Richard Beith

The Archives of the British Post Office are located in London at Freeling House, Mount Pleasant, EC1A 1BB with entrance via Phoenix Place. The nearest underground stations are Kings Cross and Farringdon. The Archives are open from Monday to Friday, closing to visitors at 4.15pm. No appointment is necessary, but identification is checked and baggage may be inspected. Only pencils may be used for making notes. The staff are very helpful and photocopies can be taken from the files. Just pile them up and pay at the end of your visit. If you are publishing articles or books containing extracts from material in the archives, you must write and ask for permission to publish and make appropriate acknowledgement in your publication.

Back in the 1980's a number of useful catalogues to the files were produced which could be purchased. This is no longer the case but the catalogues and a variety of other indices can be consulted and the staff will point you in the direction of your particular interest. On my last visit I was looking for any references to the routing of air mails between London and Prague during the 1920s and 1930s. In the course of a three hour stay I was able to read through the following:

POST 33/3106: Czechoslovakia: Mail Services 1918-1939:

This covered all forms of mail transport, mainly surface routes, and would be of interest to TPO enthusiasts wanting to know which continental TPOs were involved in handling British mails. It also produced such items as the official UPU publication dated 22 December 1938, listing Czecho-Slovak [with a hyphen] Post Offices transferred to German, Hungarian and Polish administration following the Munich settlement. Also included was an original copy of the Czechoslovak Postal Statistics for 1934 [in French], all 70 pages of it. Note that this file goes back to the formation of the state in 1918.

POST 33/383: France, Czechoslovakia, Poland and beyond: Air Mail Services.

This file goes back to 1920 and has many references to the Franco-Roumaine air company which was the first operator of the Paris-Prague air mail service and the desire of French and Czech officials to interest the British Post Office in this service. Also to be found was an original Czechoslovak Post Office circular (German and Czech language versions) regarding the opening of the Prague-Vienna air mail in 1922.

By now time was running out, but a quick look at:

POST 33/5375: Transfer of territory to Germany, Poland and Hungary: Mail Arrangements 1938-1941

Showed that this would be of great interest to students of the early Protectorate period, again with copies of UPU documentation and also with contemporary British newspaper cuttings.

A PEACEFUL PARTING

Stamps/Thematic

Chad Neighbour

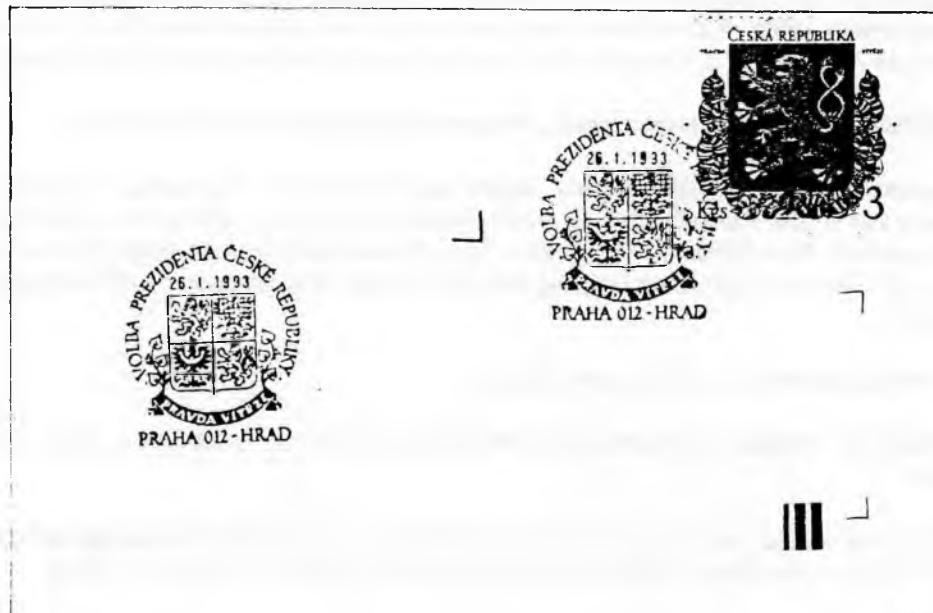
I have long been interested in Eastern Europe philately, but it took a series of coincidences to awaken a special interest in Czechoslovakia. First a long awaited trip to the continent, in January 1993, taking in a new destination for me - Prague, just a few weeks after the break-up of Czechoslovakia. The second, arriving four days after the Czech Republic's first stamp issued on 20 January. The third, during my stay the election of the first President of the Czech Republic on 26 January. This for me was the most noteworthy of the three coincidences! The leading contender, and eventual winner was Vaclav Havel, the dissident playwright-turned politician, whose name had come to my attention some years before.

As a member of Amnesty International, along with others I had written letters on Mr Havel's behalf following his arrest and imprisonment for peaceful opposition to government repression, which as a journalist, I felt angry at this blatant suppression of free speech. So that it was a remarkable feeling to be standing in Wenceslaus Square, before his election; of course I had mixed feelings about the break-up of Czechoslovakia, but at least it was a peaceful process, and both countries faced reasonably promising futures.

And, it also promised to be a fascinating time philatelically, so that I decided to create my own mementoes of these historic days. On my journey to Prague, a Czech-born friend now resident in Switzerland, whose father is a philatelist, briefed me, so that I was quick to begin my philatelic foray! Having the location of the main post office [Jindříšská St] and names of two main stamp shops, my obliging B&B hostess escorted me to the city centre, and I headed for the philatelic counters.

As I discovered, interest in philately was running high: a up-market bakery on Wenceslaus Sq was displaying a cake with a 3-D replica of the new Czech Republic stamp, inscribed "20 Leden, 1 Poštovní, Česka Žnamka", much admired by passers-by, and the cakes were excellent!

At the main Post Office the counter queues had up to 20 people waiting, [the English-language *Prague Post* photograph had a caption "philatelic follies" indicating that they had been much longer earlier in the week]; however, there was plenty of room to examine the extensive stock neatly displayed behind the windows. The Clerk did not speak English or French, but I managed quickly to procure a sheet and a half of the new 3k issue [the only one available], various Czechoslovak stamps and a variety of se-tenant issues, which I collect postally used. Unfortunately, I did not take envelopes [a note to remember in future], but I finally located a stationery department, in a central store, just across from Profil, one of the stamps shops on my list. The other - Pofis had been virtually next door in the main shopping street, Na Prikope, but the windows displayed instructions on how to reach the new location.



This was lucky, having been to the tourist office on Staromestske Namesti, for a good map and stamp shop addresses, tho' they did not know about Profil and Pofis! Other addresses they gave were useless as businesses in Prague seem to move about at the drop of a hat. The shops were disappointing, featuring mainly mint stamps which I don't collect, and hardly any used covers. However I purchased some 1k postal stationery depicting Mr Havel, [they were nine times face value, but still less than a UK 1st class stamp] and some of the two Slovak issues. At the time it seemed a gamble at three times face value of about 25p, but now, of course I wish I had purchased several sheets of the 8k issue. The shop was also doing a brisk trade in the new Czech Republic stamp, charging an extra koruna [2.5p] per stamp for those who couldn't brave the few hundred yards to the post office - or perhaps the queues!

The rest of the day was spent visiting Prague Castle, discovering its sitting room-like post office, a facility which would prove invaluable, and planning for the next day - 26 January - election day. First I posted home an assortment of brochures and stamps, prevailing upon the clerk to use Prague Castle miniature sheets. These received neat Prague Castle hand cancellations. One packet bearing current art mini-sheet apparently came apart on the way to Scotland and was resealed by Royal Mail tape. So my investment in sending the packet by registered post seemed to be a good one, particularly as the total cost for a 200g packet was about 90p. The next day, armed with postal information provided by my ever-obliging landlady, I topped up my supplies of stamps from the philatelic counter, commandeering one of the well-lit work areas in the main post office, I produced a variety of 3, 8 and 9k covers, some using the Havel postal stationery or Havel 50 haleru stamps; 3k being the domestic rate, 8k (about 20p) the rate for the rest of Europe and 9k for elsewhere. I cheated on the domestic cover, adding an unnecessary Havel stamp, so that I would have a portrait of Havel and both Czech and Czechoslovak stamps. I also sent a few mixed franking postcards at 5k for Europe and 8k for the rest of the world.

On the 27 January at Prague Castle's post office I purchased covers marking the 1st day of the Czech Republic, bearing a 20k Prague Castle stamp and a domestic rate cover marking the presidential election. I did have a strange feeling that I was off in my own little world, preparing ultra-modern "postal history" which might not be appreciated for decades. And then something happened to close the gap between Czechoslovakia's history and the Czech Republic's present. As I was handing over the packets a soldier in elaborate uniform, enjoying the warmth before the noon changing of the guard ceremony, peered with undisguised interest over my shoulder to get a good look at the stamps I was using.

Back in Scotland, to be sure, the covers saved by my wife or forwarded to me by long-suffering relatives formed the core of a small display. In the result, which I entitled "A Peaceful Parting", I am attempting to document the postal history of the first nine months of the Czech & Slovak Republics, the period during which Czechoslovak stamps retained postal validity. I even looked up President Havel's address in "Who's Who" and sent off one of the covers to him, asking if he would sign it for me. The exercise seemed a bit of a longshot, so that I was delighted when it came back signed and modestly decorated.



As many of the covers have my name on them, I have been seeking to find less obviously philatelic items, but this has proved difficult. Luckily I have several trading partners in the Czech & Slovak Republics who have uncovered interesting items, and inquiries to stamp firms active in Eastern Europe have unearthed a few more covers. I've not come across a single commercial mixed franking cover and only a few of any description from the period. Even used stamps from the period seem to be elusive - especially the Slovak 8Sk stamp, of course. Should any members have 'spare covers' from the first nine months of 1993 or items bearing President Vaclav Havel's likeness from any period, I would be delighted to hear from them. I can offer elusive items from a small accumulation of surplus material in return. - 28 Relugas Place, Edinburgh EH9 2PY.

THE POSTAL WAR IN 1934 BETWEEN HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Postal History

Emmerich Vamos

The relationship between Hungary and Czechoslovakia in the 1930s could never have been called friendly or harmonious as a result of the Treaty of Trianon, where more than one million ethnic Hungarians were forced to be part of a country with whom they had nothing in common.

The outcome of this tense situation was that in 1934 a Postal War broke out between the two countries because of the 20 and 40 filler stamps of the 1933 Airmail set. (Scott C28 and C29: SG Nos. 556/7).

Soon after Lindberg's transatlantic flight in his "Spirit of St.Louis" in 1927, two Hungarian aviators, Mr. Endresz and Mr. Magyar crossed the Atlantic in their airplane called 'Giustizia per L'Ungheria' (Justice for Hungary). By doing this they called the attention of the whole world to the injustice done against Hungary in Trianon. By 1931 there was already a favourable wind blowing in Italy for Hungary and against the Treaty and this is why the name of the airplane was in Italian.

Whilst in the USA the two Hungarian aviators issued a postcard, which if franked with USA stamps could be transported to Hungary on the return flight. On the front of the postcard, expressing the general mood in Hungary, was printed:

The Hungarian American Oceanflight emphasises the injustice done to
Hungary by the Trianon Peace Treaty.

In Hungary the postcards received a special cachet showing in the centre their airplane with the text:

Justice for Hungary nevű repülögéppel érkezett Amerikából
Pilóták Endresz és Magyar
Oceánrepülés

(Arrived with the airplane "Justice for Hungary" from America
Aviators: Endresz and Magyar
Oceanflight)

All this happened in 1931. Problems started with Czechoslovakia when Hungary issued the airmail set in 1933, where the 20 and 40 filler stamps showing a Hungarian, saluting with raised hands, 'an airplane, the name of which was 'Giustizia per L'Ungheria'. This was too much for Mr. Benes, the Czech President, who apparently felt that Hungary's propaganda was going too far and ordered all those letters which bore any of the two stamps mentioned above, to be returned to Hungary. The letters were marked "Non admis" and returned to Hungary. So far the game was 1:0 for Czechoslovakia.

The Hungarian Postal Administration was not going to accept this kind of treatment of her stamps and quickly singled out the 25 and 30 halerau denominations of the 1929 set of Czechoslovakia and ordered to be returned to Prague (Retour Praha) all the letters bearing any of these stamps. Justification for this step (as questionable as that of Mr.Benes) was that the double cross and the three mountains (Tatra, Matra, Fatra) were part of Hungarian history and that therefore their use on foreign stamps was unacceptable; letters with these stamps should be returned.

This was the end of the game: a well publicised draw 1:1!

THE 1945 LIBERATION OVERPRINTS OF FRÝDEK (FRIEDEK)

Bohemia & Moravia

W.A.Page FRPSL

One of the most prolific issues of the liberation overprinted stamps was that of Frýdek, where over 50 face-different stamps were overprinted. Two different overprints were also used, both in red and/or black.

The overprinting of the existing stocks of Bohemia & Moravia stamps was carried out at the beginning of May at the instigation of the Postmaster, Gustav Hejnou.

The initial overprint comprised a small circle, just big enough to 'deface' the Hitler portrait on the long definitive issue. The circle contained the initials of the Soviet Union (CCCP) together with a hammer and sickle, plus 'OSVOBOZENÍ' (Liberation). (Figure 1). Later a second overprint in similar style was introduced incorporating the Czech lion. (Figure 2).



Overprint Type I
(Figure 1)



Overprint Type II
(Figure 2)

The use of the second overprint was exploited by the overprinting of some stamps with both types in se-tenant style - sometimes in the alternate colours of red and black. Obviously done with the collector in mind! (Figure 3).



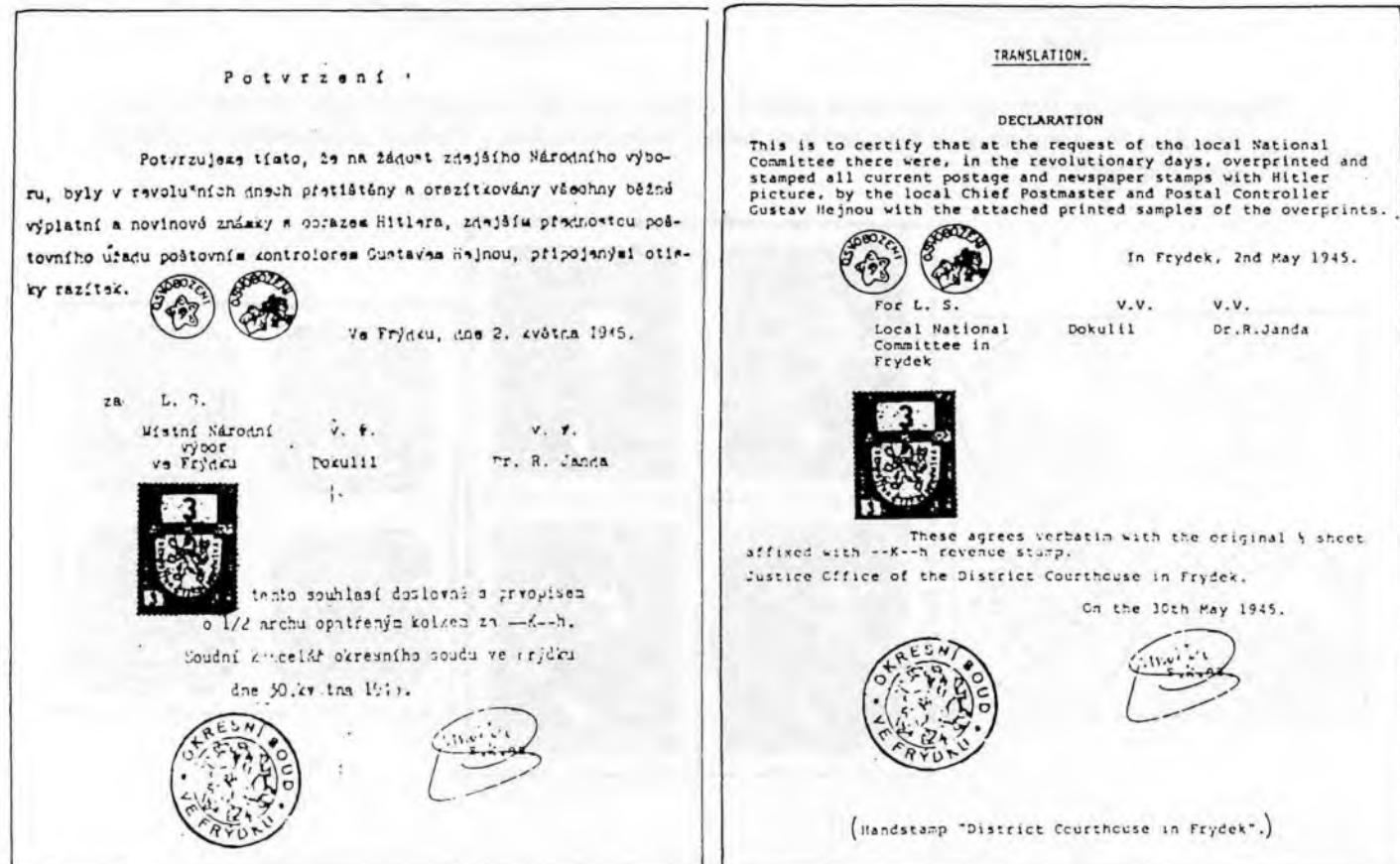
Se-tenant overprints on low value Hitler definitives and Newspaper stamps
(Figure 3)

Although these various examples were prepared it is said that they were not postally used. Nevertheless, envelopes, overprinted postal stationery items were cancelled by favour during the first few days of May 1945. One such item does deserve special comment. Illustrated (Figure 4) is an example of the 1944 letter card with a second type overprint. This has been properly written and addressed to Kojetín and certainly has the appearance of "proper usage". Postmarked Friedek 1 on 4th May 1945.



Used Postal Stationery Letter Card (Figure 4)

It is interesting to record, also that the overprinting was approved by the local National Council and duly registered at the District Courthouse in Frýdek, and supported by a Declaration duly issued with the appropriate revenue levy. (See Figure 5 for the document and translation).



The Court Declaration (Reduced from 25x20cm.)

(Figure 5)

Translation (mock-up)

>

Listed below are the stamps known to have been overprinted including those with se-tenant variations.

All stamps listed are those of Bohemia & Moravia and are identified by Gibbons catalogue No's.

<u>Hitler definitives</u>	SG 78/99 & SG 122	23 values
Overprints Type I and II in black or red.		
Se-tenant overprints have been seen on several low values although it is not recorded if all values were so treated.		
<u>S.Vitus Cathedral issue</u>	SG 120/121	2 values
Overprints Type I and II in black or red		
Exists in se-tenant style in black		
<u>Newspaper stamps</u>	SG 38/46	9 values
Overprints Type I and II in black or red		
<u>Newspaper stamps</u>	SG 106/114	9 values
Overprints Type I and II in black or red		
Se-tenant style in black or red, also in red and black combined		
<u>Official stamps</u>	SG 060/071	12 values*
Overprints Type I and II in black		
<u>Postal Stationery</u>		
50h Postal card (Hitler portrait 1943)	Type I and II in red or black	
60h Postal card (" " ")	Type I and II in red or black	
1.20 Kcs. Letter card (Hitler portrait 1944)	Type II in red (also seen in black)	

* The official stamps, although listed have not been seen by the writer.

Acknowledgements:

Señor Juan Santaeugenia Grau, Barcelona, Spain
 Vladimir Kralicek, Auckland, New Zealand, for translation for Figure 5.
 Illustrations from writer's collection.

VISIT TO KBELY AEROSPACE MUSEUM

- Robert J. Hill -

At the meeting in Shoreham, Reg Hounsell asked if I was travelling to the Czech Republic in the near future as he was trying to get some information about the Aerospace Museum at Kbely, to the north-east of Praha. I knew that Ruzyně was not the original airfield and that there was another location in Praha but did not know where it was. I wrote to my friend in Pardubice, Jan Dobrovolný, asking him if he knew of the airfield and the museum location.

Thus, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, I found myself in Jan's car heading down the E67 from the direction of Poděbrady en route to the museum. We arrived at 1400 (eventually leaving at 1800). It was hard to find, with little parking space available, the entrance could certainly do with signage. The entrance fee was 10 Kč per head with an additional 10 Kč to use a camera.

For the benefit of those travelling to Praha 1998, I noticed that buses 110, 185, 201, 259, 278, 280, 302 and 354 stop outside the museum entrance.

In summary there are three hangars (A, B, C) and three external displays.

External Display I

This is a rather impressive line-up of the various types of redundant MIG aircraft, complimented with some quite large Russian helicopters.

Hangar A (pre World War II)

This well laid out area seemed to utilize every piece of available space, walking around I noticed: AERO AE10, A18C, A12, A10 - first public transport plane L-BALB, AP32; Letov S218, S20; AVIA BH10; Taylor Cub E2; HM14. There is much memorabilia, including trophies, medals, competition details, Presidential commendations and advertising posters. There is also masses of detail on early personalities including Kašpar, Štefánik and many others.

Hangar B World War II

The smallest of the halls included examples of Spitfire; AT-6 Texan; Auster AOP Mk VI; DH82A; PO2; Kukuruznik; AS 82F; La7; IL 2/m 3.

This was complimented with a comprehensive display of material relating to activities undertaken in Poland, France and United Kingdom. Included in this were many photographs and items such as original unit flags and wing insignia.

External Display II

If you are interested in finding and shooting down aircraft then this display is for you, complete with searchlight, various anti aircraft guns and a railway anti aircraft wagon.

Hangar C (post World War II)

The largest hall with some sizable exhibits, including a detailed collection of Czechoslovakian aerobatic planes, details of the pilots and the competitions they entered. There is a history of Czech flight and an area devoted to the development of the state airline. The collection of missiles did little but chill me but the space display was quite interesting with a Russian re-entry module (I never realized how small they are) complete with parachute, burn and char marks from re-entry. There is quite a sizable shop selling model kits at the side of the hall.

External Display III

Comprising a wide range of more modern examples of civil aviation, Tupolev, Illuyshin etc.

The entrance kiosk also sells books and for 47 Kč I purchased three titles related to World War II.

- # Slavná Letecká Bitva O Británii
Sparsely illustrated with black and white photographs, this booklet has a chronological history of the deployment of the Czechoslovakian Air Force up to and including the Battle of Britain.
- # Českoslovenští Letci Ve Velké Británii
75 page booklet crammed with statistics, photographs and copies of insignia relating to the Czechoslovakian Air Force deployment in World War II.
- # Akce Atentát
126 page booklet of photographs highlighting the role of the Special Operations in World War II relating to operations ANTHROPOID CLAY DESTROYER MORTAR SILVER ZINC etc.

These booklets have been sent to Reg Hounsell and I have asked him to forward them to Lindy Knight for inclusion in the Society library.

This museum is outstanding value for money, the language of the displays is predominantly Czech although even I could spot key words.

With my apologies to the aviation enthusiasts for any incorrect recording of aircraft types.

I must thank my guide and translator, Jan Dobrovolný, for his untiring efforts on a day when temperatures were high and the sun was burning hot.

"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 Chris Proctor's query in Czechout 3/97 page 74.

From David Williams: He writes that having purchased a copy of the cover from Chris, he also published this as a query in the Hungarian Society journal and has since received a answer from Emmerich Vamos in America. David has kindly sent us a copy for publication [see page 86], and it will also appear in the December issue of *Stamps of Hungary* of which he is the editor. David inquires - Does anyone have a cover of mail returned by the Czech postal service?

John Whiteside had already commented that it was obvious that the Hungarians had refused to accept the Czech Arms stamps, presumably on political grounds. The 200 heller rate is correct, but because these stamps were not accepted, they have been outlined in crayon and the item returned. Mail must have been regularly checked on transfer into Hungary, so it is likely similar covers may be found at other exchange points, like Satoraujhely, for example. The label reads "against the law, or contrary to regulations".

Re Jim Ansell's two queries in Czechout 3/97 pages 72/3.

From John Whiteside: Firstly, all Thoolen covers of this period are quite monumentally suspect. There is always something wrong about them, stamps, place or postage rates. They are almost all on white envelopes with the identical typewritten address and all I have seen have a Rotterdam backstamp, usually three days after the alleged dispatch date. I used to think they were somehow obtained by favour, and this may be the case, but I am beginning to feel that they are more likely to be total forgeries.

The information on TAKSONYFALVA is correct. It may be summarised as follows. In 1919 it went into Czechoslovakia and was given the Slovak name of TAKŠOŇ. This is a little unusual as it is the pronunciation of the Hungarian Taksony written in Slovak. In November 1938, it was one of the places in Southern Slovakia taken over by Hungary. Its modern name is MATUŠKOVO and it is two miles south of GALANTA, in the Hungarian Pozsony county, but not in greater Bratislava. From 1938 to 1945, the name was TAKSONYFALVA, never TAKSONY.

This can be inferred from the listings on postmarks in the Hungarian Monografija volume VI, the postmark book. For a non-Hungarian speaker, this is not the easiest book to follow, but I have found that postmarks of this type, no bars above and below the bridge and with the crown above are listed for TAKSONY, as codes A and B and known from late 1933 onwards (page 398). The place has to be in Hungary proper and it is in Pest county, about 10 miles south of Budapest; a station on the main railway south to Belgrade, after Dunaharaszti. The aroma of rotten fish gets stronger. It is compounded by the stamps on the covers. A letter from Hungary to Holland would have been 40 filler at this time. 50 heller Czech is less than 10 filler Hungarian. Enough said I think.

Now a brief word about the Russian card, which looks very interesting. It is an example of the so-called "Kerensky" postcard issued after the Tsar was overthrown in 1917, but before the Bolshevik overthrow of Kerensky in November 1917, when the internal postcard rate rose from 3 to 5 kopecks. On 1st March 1918, the internal and foreign postcard rate rose again to 20 kop. This card has 20 kop. in stamps, which I think is right, since the card was only valid for use within Russia. It is I think too early for the Czech Army in Siberia, but it is after the peace between the Bolsheviks and Germany etc. It would be nice to see clearer copies of the postmarks to see if the place can be made out and it would be also nice to see the "Ruckr 21/3" on the back as it could be a place name in Russian. It seems the writer knew this, as the country name in Russian at the top of the card seems to have been written by him "Avstriya" = Austria.

New Queries: These will appear in the March issue.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

Lindy Knight

NB: Unless otherwise stated, the stamps and stationery for Czech and Slovak Republics are printed by Postal Printing House Prague. Stamps issued by both Czech and Slovak Republics are using a new gum which is hygienically dry based on dextrins and starch.

30.4.97

JEWISH MONUMENTS IN PRAGUE

A Pamětní List (Souvenir Leaf) printed on light card was jointly issued by the Israel and Czech Postal Services showing the stamps issued by both countries. The reverse of the card has the text in Hebrew, English and Czech "Jewish Monuments in Prague" on a silvery background.

10.9.97 CZECH GRAPHIC HUMOUR - THE FORTUNES OF THE GOOD SOLDIER ŠVEJK



Designer: Zdeněk Ziegler **Engraver:** Josef Herčík

Printing: Rotary recess with photogravure in black, red, blue, grey and yellow in sheets of 50 stamps. Each stamp (4Kč, 4.60Kč and 6Kč) size 40x23mm. Each stamp also issued in sheetlets of 8 stamps and 4 coupons with character drawings of Švejk.

Design: Taken from Josef Lada's illustrations for the book Fortunes of the Good Soldier Švejk by Jaroslav Hašek. The issue commemorates 110th anniversary of Lada's birth.

4Kč "To Belgrade to Belgrade" Mrs Muller taking Švejk to conscription in a wheelchair.

4.60Kč Scene with a stolen dog and the characters First Lieutenant Lukáš and Colonel Kraus von Zillergut.

6Kč Švejk's Budějovice Anabasis. This story tells the adventures of the soldier as he attempts to rejoin his regiment at České Budějovice.

Each stamp has the facsimile signature of Josef Lada and the text in Czech "Fortunes of the Brave Soldier Švejk".

FDC's: issued for each stamp printed recess from flat plates with commemorative Praha cancellations. Each cachet in black show further scenes from the novel.

24.9.97

PRAGA 98 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

Designer: Alfred Fuchs **Engraver:** Václav Fajt

Printing: Rotary recess with photogravure in black, ochre, red, green and grey in sheets of 25 stamps. Two denominations each 15Kč with stamp size 49x30mm. 2 FDC printed recess from flat plates. A souvenir sheet size 100x120mm with the 2 stamps se-tenant also issued.



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Design: The most beautiful Prague buildings

- a) Panorama of Prague Castle with the Lesser Town (Malá Strana) and logo of Praga 98.

FDC has commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet in brown is a view of the Old Town Bridge Tower, the monastery with dome of the church Knights of the Cross and front of St.Saviour's Church with Praga 98 logo.

- b) Panorama of the Old Town (Staré Město), Vltava river and its bridges with Praga 98 logo.

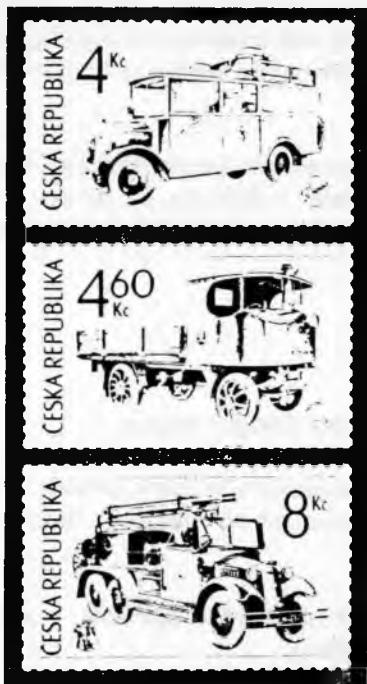
FDC has commemorative Praha cancellation and cachet in green with the Praga 98 logo. The church of St.Nicholas with ancient houses and palaces is the theme of the cachet.

Souvenir sheet of both stamps and two labels above the Praga 98 logo. Next to Prague castle stamp the label is a black drawing of a 12th century brass lion head door knocker with ring from the northern entrance to St.Wenceslas Chapel in St.Vitus Cathedral. The other label is of a paving tile from the basilica of St.Lawrence on Vyšehrad dating from around 1130.

8.10.97

HISTORIC SERVICE VEHICLES

Designer and Engraver: Bedřich Housa



Printing: rotary recess in black with photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. Three denominations (4Kč, 4.60Kč and 8Kč) each stamp size 40x23mm. **FDCs** (3) printed recess from flat plates.

Design:

4Kč printed in black, yellow, blue, green and grey shows a Prague postal bus from 1928 produced by Českomoravská Kolben-Daněk Motor-car Department Praga. Lower left corner has the manufacturers logo. **FDC** with Prague cancellation has a cachet in blue of a postal bus from 1921 from the Laurin and Klement works.

4.60Kč printed in black, brown, green, red and grey shows a Škoda Sentinel van from about 1924 produced at the Škoda Works Plzeň. Lower left corner has the Škoda logo. **FDC** With Prague cancellation has a red cachet of an earlier Praga sentinel van from about 1912.

8Kč printed in black, ochre, red, brown and grey shows a fire-brigade vehicle from 1933 produced by the Tatra Kopřivnice Works. The manufacturers logo is in the lower right corner. **FDC** with Prague cancellation has a cachet in brown of a furniture van from 1909 produced by Reichenberger Automobil Fabrik.

12.11.97

WORKS OF ART



Printing: FDC's and stamps - recess from flat plates. Stamp size (12Kč, 16Kč) 40x50mm (7Kč) 50x40mm. Printed in sheets of 4.

7Kč Engraver Václav Fajt printed in black, yellow, red, green and blue from the work of Antonín Chittussi (1847-1891) titled Landscape with Chateau (c.1883) in the National Gallery, Prague. FDC with Prague cancellation incorporating facsimile signature of Chittussi. The cachet in black brown of a windmill is a detail from a pen and ink drawing of 1880 from a memorial volume leaf.

12Kč Engraved Miloš Ondráček printed in grey-green, grey and brown from the drawing 'The Prophets came out of the Desert' by František Bílek (1872-1941). The drawing was produced to accompany an essay by Otokar Březina. FDC with Prague cancellation has a cachet in grey depicting a detail from a lithograph of 1924.

16Kč Engraved by Martin Srb printed in black, yellow-green, blue, brown and green from a work in the National Gallery Prague entitled "Parisian Second Hand Booksellers" (1909) by T.F. Šimon (1877-1942). FDC with Prague cancellation has a cachet in brown from an etching of 1910 of the Týn Church and the Old Town Hall Clock.

12.11.97

CHRISTMAS

Designer: Karel Franta **Engraver:** Bedřich Housa



Printing: rotary recess with photogravure in black, brown, yellow, green, red and red-brown in sheets of 50 stamps. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: is of traditional Czech Christmas symbols - a carp, a candle and fir twig, an apple and nut.

FDC with Prague cancellation printed recess from flat plates in brown. The cachet depicts the three kings bearing gifts to the Infant Jesus.

POSTAL STATIONERY

27.8.97

Postcards - Czech Historical Buildings

This is the 4th issue in the series and numbered from A49/97 to A64/97. Each card bears a 4Kč imprinted stamp of the modified Great State Arms of the Republic. The left hand side has a coloured picture of the building and explanatory text in Czech. The designs are from Foto Studio Skala and printed by Victoria Security Printing. The second line for recipients address is a continuous micro printing of Česká Pošta.

This series shows buildings at Bechyně, Bílov, Nechanic, Hruba Ropozec, Jindřichův Hradec, Karlova Koruna, Klášterec nad Ohří, Kokořín, Libochovice, Mikulov, Milotice, Praha (2 designs), Úsov, Veltrusy and Znojmo.

Each card is issued in two formats a) as described above b) with commemorative cachet in black below the explanatory text. There was a first day Praha cancellation for each card. Previous sets in this series printed in 1994, 1995 and 1996.

Promotional Postcard Riccione 27-29 August 1997

To promote 36th International 'Europa' Exhibition held Riccione Italy. Cachet design reproduces the two stamps designed by Adolf Born issued 30/4/97 (See Czechout 2/97 p.48). Imprinted 4Kč stamp as illustrated Czechout 2/97 p.50.

10.9.97 Commemorative Postcard for 10th Anniversary of the Signature of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Design: Jaroslav Fišer printed multi-coloured offset retailing at 7.40Kč. The imprinted 7Kč stamp is a symbolized drawing of life on earth, in the air and in the sea. Right hand half of the card has the logo of the Montreal Protocol and the text in Czech "10th Anniversary of Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 1987-1997.

10/9/97 Commemorative postcard for European Women's Volley Ball Championships in Brno and Zlín Sept. 27 - Oct 5 1997 and celebrating 75th Anniversary of Czech volleyball.

Design: Kryštof Krejča printed offset in brown and ochre retailing at 6.40Kč. The imprinted 6Kč stamp includes a drawing of a player. The pictorial cachet shows two competing players with the text in Czech 'European Women's Volleyball Championship 1997'.

Promotional Postcard Temafila Agara '97

Issued to promote the National Exhibition of Thematic Philately held in the castle of Klášterec nad Ohří from 12-21 September 1997. The cachet is from the work of Josef Liesler and commemorates his 85th birth anniversary on 19/9/1912. A commemorative first day cancellation from the castle was used.

Pictorial Postcard

Date of issue unknown. Face of card - coloured photo image of butterfly with wild flowers (and a small inverted Czech flag) with 3.60Kč, 5Kč, 8Kč values of the Protected Flora issue 12/3/97. Reverse of card (unstamped) has Česká Pošta inscription and logo together with list of stamp issues from 27/8 to 12/11/1997.

Pictorial Postcard

Date of issue unknown. Face of card - coloured aerial photo of the Old Town Square (Staromětské náměstí) area of Prague with the 2 stamp images superimposed (at upper right and lower left of card) of the 24th Sept, 1997 Praga 98 issue. Reverse of card (unstamped) carries the Česká Pošta inscription and posthorn logo together with a provisional listing of stamp issues from January to June 1998.

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Booklets

12.3.97 Easter 5 stamps at 3Kč contained in a booklet with Easter greetings and symbols on cover.

8.10.97 Historic Service Vehicles. 3 booklets (one for each stamp denomination) containing 5 stamps. The covers have a drawing of the vehicle depicted on the stamp on the face and details of the vehicle in Czech on the reverse.

PROVISIONAL ISSUES FOR CZECH REPUBLIC 1998

20 January	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production (1 value)	12.60Kč
20 January	ZOH Nagano 1998 (1 value)	7.00Kč
4 February	Love (1 value)	4.00Kč
25 February	Ski Resort Špindlerův Mlýn 98 (1 value)	8.00Kč
25 February	Historic Prague Praga 98 miniature sheet)	30.00Kč
25 March	Easter (1 value)	4.00Kč
25 March	100 Anniversary of Observatory Ondřejov (1 value)	4.60Kč
1 April	Prague of Charles IV (3 values) + miniature sheet se-tenant	15Kč, 22Kč, 23Kč
23 April	World Book and Authorship Rights (1 Value)	10Kč
23 April	Protection of Nature - Wild Animals (4 Values)	2x8Kč, 2x4.60Kč
5 May	Europa - National celebration of festivals (2 values)	11Kč, 15Kč
27 May	Personalities (3 values)	4Kč, 4.60Kč, 6Kč
27 May	150 Anniversary of 1848 Revolution (1 value)	15Kč
27 May	Child Welfare (2 values)	4Kč, 4.60Kč
17 June	Praga 1998 Art on Stamps (miniature sheets) (2 values)	22Kč, 23Kč
7 October	UNESCO Our Beautiful Country (2 values) (also in miniature sheets)	8Kč, 11Kč
28 October	80th Anniversary of Czech Republic (3 values)	4.60Kč, 5Kč, 12.60Kč
18 November	Art on Stamps (2 values)	15Kč, 16Kč
18 November	Christmas (2 values)	4Kč, 6Kč

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

5.8.97 BIENNIAL OF BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS BRATISLAVA 1997

Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský from original work of Jana Kiselová-Siteková (Slovakia) - stamp John A. Rowe (Great Britain) FDC cachet.



Printing: Rotary recess with rotary in sheets of 50 stamps at 3Sk each. Stamp size 30x23mm.

Design: From an illustration for the book 'Adam and Eve' written by O. Silacky first published 1994. The international exhibition and competition of book illustrations for children and young people has been held every other year since 1967.

FDC Printed recess from flat plates in dark brown with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet is from the artwork of John A. Rowe for the book 'Raben Baby' by P. Baumann published in Germany.

5.8.97

TECHNICAL MONUMENTS - RIVER MILL AT JELKA



Designer: Karol Felix Engraver: František Horník

Printing: Rotary recess with recess in sheets of 35 stamps at 4Sk each. Stamp size 33x33mm.

Design: shows the rebuilt water mill on the Little Danube River at Jelka. In 1866 there were four mills at Jelka but they were all disused by 1885. Permission to rebuild the mill was gained in 1899 and it operated commercially from 1906 to 1951. The mill is now a State listed and preserved building open to the public.

FDC printed recess from flat plates in dark brown with a Jelka cancellation. The cachet shows a view of the mill.

1.9.97 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



Designer: Josef Baláž Engraver: Martin Činovský (stamp) František Horník (FDC)

Printing: Rotary recess with recess in sheets of 50 stamps at 4Sk each. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: Incorporating the State Arms and Linden leaves with the dates 1992-1997. FDC with commemorative Bratislava cancellation printed recess from flat plates in blue. The cachet design symbolises the Constitution which acknowledges human rights and democracy.

17.9.97

NATURE CONSERVATION - MUSHROOMS



Designer: Dušan Kálly Engraver: Václav Fajt

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Printing: Recess from flat plates combined with offset in sheetlets of the three issued 9Sk stamps. Stamp size 23x30mm. Sheetlet size 155x103mm. FDC printed recess from flat plates in a single colour with Bratislava cancellation.

Designs:

- a) Boletus aereus grows mainly under oaks favouring well lit and warm locations. Grows from end of May to beginning of October and still abundant in parts of Slovakia. Excellent edible mushroom.

FDC cachet in red-brown of Lactarius deliciosus (Saffron Milk Cap) an edible species growing only among coniferous trees and widely prized for its tangy flavour. Cancellation is a drawing of the edible Gomphidius glutinosus (Slimy Spike Cap) found in Autumn in pine woods.

- b) Morchella esculenta (Morel) an excellent edible variety abundant in Slovakia preferring open deciduous and mixed forests - grows in April and May but only edible when young.

FDC cachet in chocolate brown of Amanita muscaria (Fly Agaric) which grows copiously in deciduous and coniferous forests from June to October. Cancellation is a drawing of another edible Morel - verpa conica which is rare in Europe but common in southern Slovakia in Spring.

- c) Catathelasma imperiale grows in upland coniferous forests and was once common throughout Slovakia but becoming rare. It is edible.

FDC cachet in dark brown of Pleurotus pulmonarius or ostreatus (Oyster mushroom) grows in cold autumn period on dead deciduous tree trunks. It is common, edible and now grown commercially. Cancellation is a drawing of the very common edible Marasmius oreades (Fairy Ring mushroom) found in meadows and pastures.

Printing sheet: has a further five mushrooms with their Latin and Czech names outside retaining border.

Miristoma coliforme grows in light sandy soil, field edges and open grassy places in woods. It is inedible.

Clavariadelphus truncatus found on chalky soil among leaf and needle litter in summer and autumn. It is edible.

Tremiseus helvelloides

Leccinum rufum

Sparassis crispa (Cauliflower fungus) is edible and grows on soil at the base of coniferous trees in summer and autumn.

17.9.97 6TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN HALF-MARATHON KOŠICE 1997

Designer: Igor Piačka Engraver: Bohumeil Šneider



Printing: Rotary recess with recess in sheets of 50 stamps at 9Sk each. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: Three competitors running against a background of Košice buildings with marginal inscription of the event. The event took place on 4 October 1997 under the auspices of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) organised by the Košice Marathon Club and sponsored by VSŽ the Košice based iron works. Slovakia celebrates 100th anniversary of organised athletics in the country in 1997 and Košice is home of the second oldest Marathon in the world - the International Peace Marathon initiated in 1924.

FDC printed recess from flat plates in dark-brown colour has a Košice commemorative cancellation. The cachet and cancellation design show competitors racing. >

15.10.97

ART SERIES : YEAR OF SLOVAK CREATIVE ART



Designer: Martin Činovský (from original artists' works).

Engravers: 9Sk - Miloš Ondráček, 10Sk - Rudolf Cigánik, 12Sk - Josef Herčík

Printing: Multi colour recess from flat plates in sheetlets of 4 stamps and 2 blank fields for each denomination. Stamp size 40x50mm (9Sk and 12Sk) 50x40mm (10Sk).

Designs: 9Sk Jan Kupecký. Self portrait with his wife. Marginal inscriptions include details of artists' name, birth and death dates. Original work now in National Gallery Prague. Kupecký was born in 1667 in Pezinok near Bratislava but worked mainly in Vienna specialising in portraiture. He died in Nuremberg in 1740. FDC printed from flat plates in black. Cachet designed by J.G.Saiter from a detail of a copper engraving of self portrait of 1758 now in Bratislava City Gallery. Cachet engraving Miloš Ondráček and cancellation design (an artist's palette) by Josef Baláž.

10Sk detail from Bojnice Altar of Saints Peter and Lucy painted in tempera on wooden panels in the 1350s by the Italian Nardo di Cione. The Bojnice Altar is the artist's only work to survive intact and is now housed in Bojnice Castle. Marginal inscription includes details of the art work and artist's name. FDC printed recess from flat plates in dark brown was designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. The cachet design is a detail from the Altar of the Virgin and Child. The cancellation from Bojnice includes an outline of the castle.

12Sk Koloman Sokol: Towards the Goal (The Miners) from a wood engraving of 1931. Sokol was born in Liptovský Mikuláš 12 December 1902 studying in Bratislava, Prague (under Max Švabinský) and Paris. He now lives in USA. Marginal inscriptions include details of the artist and the engraving which can be seen in Slovak National Gallery Bratislava. FDC printed recess from flat plates in dark-brown. The cachet engraved by Josef Herčík is from Sokol's original etching of 1939 entitled "Paralytic". The cancellation from Liptovský Mikuláš was designed by Josef Baláž.

24.10.97

ČERNOVÁ 1907



Designer (Stamp, FDC and Cancellation)

Engraver: Martin Činovský (stamp) Arnold Feke (FDC)

Printing: Rotary recess combined with recess in sheets of 50 stamps retailing at 4Sk each. FDC printed recess from flat plates in black and pastel red.

Design: shows a lamenting woman and a church facade with the inscription "27.10.1907 Černová". Černová was the birthplace in 1864 of Andrej Hlinka a catholic priest and campaigner for the rights of Slovaks. >

He became parish priest in Ružomberok in 1905 and became involved in moves to build a church in Černová. This was realised but there was local Slovak opposition to the consecration by a pro-Magyar priest. The Hungarian police opened fire killing 15 people, and wounding many more. The confrontation brought to international notice the Slovak peoples, occurring at a time of deep political and social unrest within the Hungarian Kingdom. The FDC cachet includes three facsimile signatures Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson (Norwegian writer) R.W.Seton-Watson (British historian) and Andrej Hlinka who all contributed to publicising the plight of the Slovaks.

3.11.97

ONDREJ NEPELA**Designer Igor Piačka Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik**

Printing: Rotary recess with recess in sheets of 50 stamps retailing at 5Sk each. Stamp size 30x23mm. FDC printed recess from flat plates in dark-brown.

Design: A jumping figure skater with text Ondrej Nepela below. FDC cachet is a portrait of Nepela with medals. The Bratislava cancellation incorporates a figure skater. Nepela was the first Slovak to gain an Olympic Gold medal at the Winter Olympics. He achieved this at Sapporo in 1972 in figure skating. The Winter Stadium in Bratislava is named after him.

3.11.97

CHRISTMAS 1997**Designer Mikuláš Klimčák Engraver: Martin Činovský**

Printing: Rotary recess combined with recess in sheets of 50 stamps retailing at 3Sk each. FDC printed recess from flat plates in green.

Design: representing the birth in Bethlehem. FDC cachet is a group of angels with the text in Slovak "Christmas 1997". The cancellation including a star and church bells is from Humenné Eastern Slovakia the birthplace of the designer of the stamp.

**BOOKLETS**

26 June 1997. Biennial of book illustrations Bratislava 1997. Front cover incorporates a further book illustration with marginal text of the event. Booklet retails at 30Sk and contains 10x3Sk stamps.

5 August 1997 Triennial of Naive (Popular/Folk)Art. Front cover is from the work of Šterberl from 1971 of a young woman among trees and marginal text of the event. Retail price 30Sk containing 10 stamps at 3Sk each.

5 August 1997 Technical Monuments River Mill at Jelka. Front cover has a black and white drawing of the mills and inscription "Riečne Mlyny". Retail price 40Sk containing 10 stamps at 4Sk each.