



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

With this issue we enclose the list for the Society Auction to be held after the Annual General Meeting. Bob Hill informs me there will also be a postal Auction list with the December *Czechout*, including Postal Stationery never offered before.

We have learnt with regret of the death of our Life Member Vincent Jourdan; he died on 16.02.1995 in Arncliffe Court Nursing home where he had lived for some years. We thank Rex Dixon and Bob Hill for their perseverance in obtaining this information, and discovering Vincent's daughter now in Eire. We hope to publish an obituary in the next issue.

The next Society meeting will be on Saturday 7 November: *Annual General Meeting and Society Auction*, and the Regional Meeting in Leeds on Saturday 28 November: *Member's Displays*.

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

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting of Saturday 20 June 1998

The acting Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 17 members and one visitor to the meeting held in the Czech & Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30pm. Apologies had been received from two members.

Brian Day reported on the arrangements for the Society's visit in September to Praga 98. There will be twenty in the main group, with others making independent arrangements. Brian noted that George Firmage had been particularly helpful.

The Hon Secretary gave details of two prospective new members:

Gary Eden, from Whitley Bay

Jason Cartwright, from Sutton Coldfield

whose applications was readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Robert then welcomed **Mr J L Klein** and his good lady to England. He described Hans as the "Number One" collector of Czechoslovakia with a collection which was quite unparalleled. Robert congratulated Hans on his Large Gold Medal at Tel Aviv, for his Czechoslovakia 1918-1939.

Display by Johan (Hans) L Klein: "Czechoslovakia 1918-1938."

Hans recounted that it had been pure chance that he had started to collect Czechoslovakia at quite a late stage of his collecting career. In the late 70's he had obtained a seven-volume award-winning collection. He accepted the challenge to flesh it out into something very special, and since then he had acquired material from various other eminent collectors. He modestly said that it was not the Number One collection, but that it was indeed "good".

The vote of thanks was given by Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, who said that it was a remarkable gold medal display and to list all the exceptional items would exceed the space allocated for meeting reports. The items on view comprised stamp rarities from the Scouts' issue for 1918, numerous pages of the Hradčany issue followed by seldom seen examples of the 1919 overprints on granite paper. Artist's proofs of the 1930 airmail issue received admiring scrutiny.

The display concluded with three sheets of exceptionally early Bohemian postal history from the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which he had been warned were not acceptable in international competition; because they preceded postal markings. The oldest, from 1335, was a charter from King John of Luxembourg to the town of Eger (*Cheb*). For something completely different he had brought along the original contract with Waterlow's for the 1943 sheet, and also the sheet signed by Churchill.

It was a breathtaking display and no superlatives can be too extravagant. It had been like opening the *Monografie*, but now it had "come to life" before our eyes. With so many varieties on view it did not seem possible that one collector could present so much scarce material. Indeed it was, and it was a privilege to see it.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at about 4.45 pm.

Meeting of Saturday 15 August 1998

The acting Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 17 members and one visitor to the meeting. Apologies had been received from three members. Robert apologised for the delay in starting the meeting, but as the kitchens of the National Club were closed for August members had had to find food as and where in the locality.

Yvonne Gren encouraged Robert to wear the new Chairman's jewel. He explained that this had been fashioned from the medal which the late George Pearson had received at Bratislava 1960 and which had recently been kindly donated to the Society by George's niece. It was adorned by a ribbon in the Czechoslovak national colours of white, red and blue. He thanked Yvonne for realising this project.

The Hon Secretary gave details of four prospective new members:

- John Schaff, from Sawbridgeworth
- Gerald Pye, from Sidcup
- John Austin, from Derry
- Michael Fairhead, from Hounslow

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Brian Day reported on the final arrangements for the Society's visit in September to Praga 98, and took advance orders for catalogues, new books and other souvenirs. Robert said that the excellent support from members for the exhibition was very encouraging.

Robert then welcomed long-standing member **Mr G McAuley** for coming over from Dublin to give a thematic display entitled *Where is my Home?* We had seen a glimpse of it at the Society's 1993 exhibition at the Slovak Embassy, and it gained a Large Vermeil at CAPEX '96. This afternoon's display included Geoff's eight-frame entry for Praga 98.

Geoff said that his real interest is history and how it is reflected in stamps and postal history. Why Czechoslovakia? Initially it was the beauty of the stamps, but he was also inspired by an article on "The Romance and Drama in the Stamps of Czechoslovakia." Its position at the heart of Europe ensured it has played a central role throughout the ages. Bismarck said, "Whoever controls Bohemia controls Europe."

The red hymn sheet "Kde domov můj?" served as the title sheet. The exposition of this theme was divided into six sections:

1. The Awakening
2. World War I
3. A Doomed Democracy
4. A Broken Nation
5. The Rough Road to Nationhood
6. Marks of Czech and Slovak Identity

This plan allowed for an orderly development of the history of the Czech and Slovak lands over the last thousand years. The exhibit was an object lesson in how to present a theme succinctly and to illustrate it with philatelically important material, and at the same time adhering to strict regulations. The most recent acquisition was Švabinský's original drawing of Masaryk, purchased as recently as the Society's July auction.

The vote of thanks was given by Colin Spong FRPSL. He thanked Geoff for allowing us to have a preview of his entry into Praga 98, for his enthusiasm and knowledge when talking to it, and on the Society's behalf he wished him every success there.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at about 5.15 pm.

RD

Regional Meeting

This will take place as usual at the annual fair of the Leeds Philatelic Society on Saturday 28 November 1998 from 2.15 to 4.15pm. Regulars will know that the meeting is informal and members are invited to bring short displays. The fair will have more than 40 dealers in attendance, and other specialist societies will be holding meetings during the day. Snacks and drinks will be available. Please see *Czechout* 3/94: p.55 or 3/95: p.57 for a map. For further information phone Yvonne Wheatley on 0113.2601978.

Letters to the Editor

Frederik Backeljauw writes "I have received the latest information about Monografie No 5 which will include S.O. 1920 and Revolutionary Issues: Printing of this volume has started and will be available at Praha 98 exhibition." Freddy also inquires whether we could publish the e-mail addresses of members, if they agreed to this. It could spare time and mailing costs if we wish to communicate? What do members feel about this?

Rex Dixon received an e-mail from Keith C. Miller, 100 Treetops Drive, Lancaster, Pa 17601-1740, USA. "I am an avid collector of World Wide Christmas Seals seeking to purchase small or large collections. Mr Miller has very little from Czechoslovakia, or any information. He would welcome any details of publications or seals. Mr Miller is a member of the APS and the Christmas Seal and Charity Seal Society."

Robert Hill writes "I was asked by Madam Commissioner Wheatley to investigate the position of taking stamps out of the country to Praha, selling them and returning with new acquisitions which exceeded the current allowances. The results of this enquiry, which have been forwarded to Yvonne, follow:

- You must complete form C88, Merchandise in Baggage, and visit the Custom Point before leaving the UK
- It is advisable to declare the Merchandise on entry
- You must issue a receipt for your sales
- You must obtain an invoice for your purchases
- You must complete form C88, Merchandise in Baggage, and visit the Red Channel on your return

For import the Commodity Code is 97 04 00 00 00 - Collectors items, these are free of Duty. However, VAT is payable at 2½% if the items are over 100 years old and at 17½% if less than 100 years old.

The HMC&E "query line" is 0161 912 7000."

Dr Michele Pallini writes "Thank you for sending the Society's Monograph about Czech Military Post. I just wonder why it doesn't deal with Czech military post outside GB and France; for instance, I would like to see some tips on Czech units fighting in North Africa. In fact I think some of these units fought against Italian troops of divisions Brescia and Trieste during Tobruk's siege in 1942, and the subject is of great interest to me." Michele also adds - I should be pleased to hear from members who specialise in the Hradčany stamps or Czech Perfins. (via E de Amicis 21 - 34143 TRIESTE, Italy.)

The 2nd Quarter 1998 of 'Philatelic Literature Review' contains a review of 'ITALY 1945, dalla guerra, alla pace, cronaca filatelica' [1945, Italy Between War and Peace]. Published 1995 by Edizioni Studio Filatelico Nico, Trapani, Perfect bound, 6¼" x 9½", card cover, 400 pages, 253 black and white illustrations and 24 maps. Available for Italian Lire 40,000 plus postage and packing from Giuseppe Marchese, via Nino Bixio 85, 91100 Trapani, Italy. Two chapters by Piero Santangelo discuss the little-known presence of Czech and Slovak troops in Italy. Editor

Michael D Mueller, Regent House, Suite 401, 3201 Wisconsin Ave, NW. Washington DC 20016, USA. Michael who is the former Secretary and President of the St Helena, Ascension & Tristan Da Cunha Philatelic Society, offers a service as a Bookfinder.

Heinz Vogel writes "If anyone is looking for accommodation in Prague at any time, he can highly recommend Helena Pánková and her husband who have an end of terrace town house, on three floors, and can offer two double rooms with en suite at £23.00 per room per night including breakfast. The address is Na krčské stráni 38, 140 00 Praha 4, which is about three minutes walk from BUĎEJOVICKÁ station, five stops south from MUZEUM on Metro line C. For Kč 500, they can also arrange to have you picked up from the plane at the airport. Helena speaks fluent English and can be contacted by 'phone or fax on 004202 472 1929. I have stayed there on numerous occasions." [We send our best wishes to Heinz who had a successful heart by-pass operation in May. Editor.] >

Congratulations

Johan (Hans) L Klein on obtaining a Large Gold Medal at Tel Aviv, for his exhibit *Czechoslovakia 1918-1939*.

Richard Beith on his article "The Commemorative postmarks of the Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain, 1940-44," published in the *British Philatelic Bulletin* Volume 35 Number 12, August 1998, price 85p. Obtainable from Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL.

Publications

We have received the following journals which will be available from the Society Library.

- The July/August issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* Vol.60, No.4, Whole No. 550, by courtesy of Lindy Knight. The contents include:-
 - ▶ Czech Official Envelopes (Horvath); More Postal Card Forgeries (Vostatek); Czech Posts other Products (Horvath); The Contract Post Office [update] (Holoubek); The Tower of the Prague Loretto (van Zanten); A New Souvenir Sheet Variety (Garancovsky).
- The June 1998 [No 116] issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the contents for us.
 - ▶ Czech Postal Stationery; a double printed stationery card; Czech and Slovak postal tariffs from 01.04.97; Automated letter handling in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic (Langhammer and Putz).
- The 3/98 issue of *Merkur Revue* the contents include:-
 - ▶ The Special cancellations of Brno from 1892 (Žampach); 1930 Czech airmail stamps on mail to Ecuador via France or Germany (Tekel); Anniversary of famous battles 1918-38 (Ustohal); 50h value of Liberated Republic issue (Kašpar).

BOOK REVIEW

Fiscal material from the Territories of Czechoslovakia / Fiskální Cerniny na území Československa by Jiří Kořínek. Volume I - Fiscal stamps, soft cover, 126 pages, published 1997, ISBN 80 900346-6-7. Volume II - Fiscal Stationery, soft cover, 231 pages, published 1998, ISBN 80 900346-7-5. Obtainable from the author at Římská 42, 120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic.

This review is also being published in the Journal of the Revenue Society of Great Britain.

These two catalogues are beautifully produced as is to be expected from the Czech Republic, where the standard of printing is perhaps as high as anywhere in the world. The text is in Czech, but there is in each volume, a glossary of terms and colours in German and English and most of the issues have brief introductions in these languages. The first volume on stamps covers, in addition to the general Revenue stamps, all special purpose stamps issued by the state. It thus complements the long out-of-print Erler/Gottsmich catalogue, but does not cover the stamps of the Czech State Railways.

The second volume deals with items with imprinted stamps issued by the state, so it does not deal with such things as invoices printed to private order at the Stamp Offices. It does deal comprehensively with Bill of Exchange forms, Railway Goods Consignment forms, Parcel Post Cards, Hunting and Fishing licences, and, for Slovakia, Animal Movement Passes on the Hungarian pattern. I do not think that anything on these has been published before in anything like this detail.

Both books should be essential to anyone with any interest at all in Czech material and should be useful to collectors of Austria and Hungary. Revenue collectors forming a general library might also find them useful for their clarity of layout, especially the second volume which is concerned with more unusual revenue items.

John L. Whiteside

RECENT AIRMAIL ACQUISITION

Airmails

Richard Beith

A cover dated 5 May 1941 Prague to Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. Not registered and Rate 8.00K. A boxed cachet "mit Luftpost nach Nordamerika/und ab New York" and manuscript "Par Avion by Atlantic Clipper." At this date there still seems to be a 5.50K air mail surcharge. Casts doubt on my thoughts about the 26 April '41 14.00K cover.

THE LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Liberation Overprints

Robert J. Hill

On one of my recent visits to the Czech Republic I called in to see Karel Holoubek of Hradec Králové with yet another set of questions concerning the use and validity of the 1945 liberation overprints.

This patient and learned man dealt with the queries and in response to my problems about the dates certain towns were liberated he produced an A1 size map (printed in 1975), which showed military details of the liberation of Czechoslovakia from the east.

At my request he let me borrow the map overnight and next morning; at a T-shirt printing shop on Smilova, Pardubice, I managed to obtain a colour photocopy on four A3 sheets.

On return from the United Kingdom the map was reconstructed and the following detail has been derived. *(Unfortunately the photograph would not reproduce but the Editor thanks Brian Baldock for drawing an outline map.*



Liberation was achieved on three fronts:

- 4th Ukrainian Front attacking Slovakia from the east and through the Dukla Pass under the control of General A.I.Jeremenko. Attached to this front was the first Czech Army under the control of General Svoboda.
- 2nd Ukrainian Front attacking Slovakia from the south through Hungary under the control of Marshal R.J.Malinuskij. Attached to this Front was the Admiral of the Danube, G.N.Cholost'akov.
- 1st Ukrainian Front attacking Sudetenland and Bohemia from the north under the control of Marshal I.S.Konev.

>

Location		Date Liberation Complete	Liberating Army
Kalinov	Slovakia	21.IX.1944	4th Ukrainian Front
Humenné	Slovakia	26.XI.1944	4th Ukrainian Front
Michalovce	Slovakia	26.XI.1944	4th Ukrainian Front
Svidnik	Slovakia	27.XI.1944	1st Czech Army
Trebišovo	Slovakia	1.XII.1944	4th Ukrainian Front
Rimavská Sobota	Slovakia	21.XII.1944	2nd Ukrainian Front
Levice	Slovakia	21.XII.1944	2nd Ukrainian Front
Veľký Krtíš	Slovakia	31.XII.1944	2nd Ukrainian Front
Lučenec	Slovakia	14.1.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Vranov nad Topľou	Slovakia	18.1.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Prešov	Slovakia	19.1.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Košice	Slovakia	20.1.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Bardejov	Slovakia	20.1.1945	1st Czech Army
Stará Lubovňa	Slovakia	21.1.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Rožňava	Slovakia	23.1.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Spišská Nová Ves	Slovakia	27.1.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Poprad	Slovakia	28.1.1945	1st Czech Army
Zvolen	Slovakia	14.III.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Banská Bystrica	Slovakia	26.III.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
River Hron	Slovakia	Late March	2nd Ukrainian Front
Nové Zámky	Slovakia	30.III.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Komárno	Slovakia	30.III.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Galanta	Slovakia	31.III.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Nitra	Slovakia	31.III.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Dunajská Streda	Slovakia	1.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Trnava	Slovakia	1.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Žiar nad Hronom	Slovakia	1.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Topoľčany	Slovakia	2.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Bratislava	Slovakia	4.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Prievidza	Slovakia	5.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Liptovský Mikuláš	Slovakia	5.IV.1945	1st Czech Army
Dolný Kubin	Slovakia	5.IV.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Senica	Slovakia	7.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Trenčín	Slovakia	10.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Martin	Slovakia	11.IV.1945	1st Czech Army
Hodonin	Bohemia & Moravia	13.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Břeclav	Sudetenland	16.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Opava	Sudentenland	22.IV.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Brno	Bohemia & Moravia	26.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Žilina	Slovakia	30.IV.1945	1st Czech Army
Považská Bystrica	Slovakia	30.IV.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Čadca	Slovakia	1.V.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Vyškov	Bohemia & Moravia	2.V.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Uherské Hradiště	Bohemia & Moravia	3.V.1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Karviná	Bohemia & Moravia	3.V.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Zlín	Bohemia & Moravia	4.V.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Vsetín	Bohemia & Moravia	4.V.1945	1st Czech Army
Ostrava	Bohemia & Moravia	5.V.1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Frydek Mistek	Bohemia & Moravia	5.V.1945	4th Ukrainian Front

Kroměříž	Bohemia & Moravia	6.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Nový Jičín	Sudetenland	6.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Bruntál	Sudetenland	7.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Znojmo	Sudetenland	8.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Přerov	Bohemia & Moravia	8.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Olomouc	Bohemia & Moravia	8.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Most	Sudetenland	8.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Teplice	Sudetenland	8.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Liberec	Sudetenland	8.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Blanko	Bohemia & Moravia	9.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Prostějov	Bohemia & Moravia	9.V. 1945	1st Czech Army
Šumperk	Sudetenland	9.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Trutnov	Sudetenland	9.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Česká Lipa	Sudetenland	9.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Děčín	Sudetenland	9.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Ústí nad Labem	Sudetenland	9.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Chomutov	Sudetenland	9.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Louny	Bohemia & Moravia	9.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Třebíč	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Jindřichův Hradec	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Jihlava	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Havlíčkův Brod	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Žďár nad Sazavou	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Benešov	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Svitavy	Sudetenland	10.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Ústí nad Orlicí	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Chrudim	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Pardubice	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Rychnov nad Kněžnou	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Hradec Králové	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Nachod	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Jablonec nad Nisou	Sudetenland	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Semily	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Mladá Boleslav	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Mělník	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Litoměřice	Sudetenland	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Kladno	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Rakovník	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Beroun	Bohemia & Moravia	10.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Česká Budějovice	Bohemia & Moravia	11.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Písek	Bohemia & Moravia	11.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Kutná Hora	Bohemia & Moravia	11.V. 1945	4th Ukrainian Front
Kolín	Bohemia & Moravia	11.V. 1945	1st/4th Ukrainian Front
Nymburk	Bohemia & Moravia	11.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Příbram	Bohemia & Moravia	11.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Karlovy Vary	Sudetenland	11.V. 1945	1st Ukrainian Front
Praha	Bohemia & Moravia	11.V. 1945	1st/2nd/4th Ukrainian Front
Pelhřimov	Bohemia & Moravia	12.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front
Tábor	Bohemia & Moravia	12.V. 1945	2nd Ukrainian Front

Please would members check their records and supply additions and corrections to the above list.

Acknowledgements:

1. Map ČSL Armády Oslobodzovanie Československa Sovietskou Armádou
2. Karel Holoubek, Hradec Králové
3. W.A.Dawson

THE BRATISLAVA EXHIBITION

Czech Exhibitions

Roy A. Dehn, FRPSL

This article originally appeared in the Philatelic Magazine in November 1980.

Few nations in Europe, if any, could rival the Czech enthusiasm for stamp collecting. Collectors were to be found in all sections of the community and since many of them occupied positions in the government and the Post Office they were able to influence stamp-issuing policy considerably. This is why Czechoslovakia was a pioneer in using stamps to publicise places of attraction for tourists and to build up national self-consciousness by illustrating present and past leaders. When improvement in resources allowed they were quick to develop novelties such as decorative se-tenant tabs. They must therefore have looked forward with enthusiasm to the first international exhibition to be held in the new country, in Prague in 1938.

When German speaking collectors instituted the series of annual Stamp Days (*Philatelistentage*) Prague had been, in 1892, the fourth centre to be chosen; the earlier stamp-days had been in Mainz, Frankfurt and Dresden. So there was a tradition of many decades to refer back to.

The first major exhibition in Czechoslovakia preceded Prague by a little under a year. It was held in Bratislava (Pressburg) and ran from 24th October to 2nd November. The authorities were probably encouraged to promote an exhibition at this time in order to get some experience before the national one in Prague, but also to give prestige to Bratislava, which was the capital of Slovakia and was developing rapidly in economic importance. There was jealousy between the Slovak and Czech sections of the new country, so care had to be taken to distribute favours and opportunities equally.

Bratislava lies on the north bank of the Danube at the point where the river, after leaving the area of the Alps and then the Carpathian Mountains, enters the Pannonian Plain. It had for a period been the capital of Hungary and was in 1918 the second city of Hungary, but the majority of the population were German catholics. At the end of 1918 it became part of Czechoslovakia. When, following the Munich Agreement, the Germans marched into the Sudetenland, Germany and Italy agreed at Vienna that Hungary should again have Bratislava and a strip of Southern Slovakia. This was on 2nd November 1938, just a year after the exhibition.



The Postmaster General at the time was Alois Tučný. He was himself a collector and was among the exhibitors at Bratislava. An advocate of 'saner philately' he opposed the excessively specialised pursuit of minor varieties. Perhaps he was against all varieties. However that may be, he ensured the closest co-operation of the Post Office and the organisation of the exhibition, which was to be financed by the first Czech miniature sheet.

The preliminary announcement was made at the beginning of the year. There were to be two stamps on the sheet, one 50h and 1Kč. The sheet was to be sold for 5Kč which included the issue of an entry ticket. In the hope of preventing speculation, sheets not bought singly at the entry to the exhibition had to be ordered in advance in the period from 1st to 15th April. Since they were only to be issued on the opening day, 24th October, this allowed time for the printing run to be adjusted to meet bulk orders. Foreigners were not allowed to buy the sheets direct from the authorities but had to order them through local people. Although the conditions of sale had been made quite clear orders were still coming in when the subscription list finally closed at the end of June, after which date the trade raised the price of advance orders to around 14Kčs.

There was much wild talk about the issue. A stenographer employed at the parliament in Prague was said to have shot himself after a speculation involving the purchase of 500,000 Kčs worth of sheets, but the rumour is unlikely to have been true, since it is known that the largest order was one placed by a Prague wholesaler for foreign customers and this was only for 80,000 units. No-one ordered as many as 100,000. Later the Post Office were blamed for printing too many sheets, but in fact they only printed enough to meet advance orders plus the necessary stock to provide each individual attending the exhibition with one. The issue was not, as some came to believe at the time, of several million, but nearer 850,000.

Although the exhibition was being held in Slovakia the organisers were careful to emphasise that it was 'all-state' or nation-wide in the title. Further the frames were largely limited to nationals. There were seven classes (1) CSR (2) Austria, Hungary, Bosnia (3) Europe (4) Overseas (5) Special Collections (6) Literature (7) Philatelic Equipment. Foreigners were allowed to exhibit in the first Czechoslovakian Republic (CSR) class, but not in the other classes unless specially invited.

It was claimed that the cost of participation was the lowest ever. It was fixed for the first square metre at Kč 20 and for further square metres at only Kč 5 each. The Czech crown was worth at that time about 1d, but with the changing value of money this has now little meaning. It is, perhaps, more helpful to remind readers that in 1937 the cost of a letter sent abroad from Czechoslovakia was Kč 2 and that the current cost of a foreign letter posted in Britain is 13½p (as at November 1980) which makes the current equivalent cost of the first square metre of frame space £1.35 and of further space about 33p per square metre. Adopting the same conversion factor the equivalent cost of the miniature sheet also works out at 33p.

On 23rd October wholesale purchasers of the miniature sheet were allowed into the exhibition hall a day early to prepare their covers. On 24th October Alois Tučný declared the exhibition open. On 26th October (the day on which the jury finished their deliberations at 11 a.m.) there was a surprise. A miniature sheet of 25 newspaper stamps was put on sale. In theory these were all printed at the exhibition in public view, though in practice, to ensure stocks for immediate sale, some had been printed before in Prague. The surprise sheet was not generally popular among collectors, who considered that one exhibition sheet was enough. As a result under 200,000 were sold. When the exhibition closed on 2nd November stamps to the value of Kč 75,000 had been sold (the exhibition miniature sheet was not included), and 16,000 registered letters and 100,000 ordinary letters had been sent. Some 130,000 of the sheet of 25 newspaper stamps had also been sold.

The main miniature sheet was designed by Karel Vik and engraved by Karel Seizinger. Both these artists had been responsible for other Czech stamps, particularly the landscape series of 1936 in which they had co-operated. The method of producing the sheet was curious. The paper was first cut to size and gummed. The central portion was then perforated. It was therefore subsequently necessary to print the stamps within the two perforated "frames" rather than follow the more usual method of printing the stamps and then making the perforation fit.

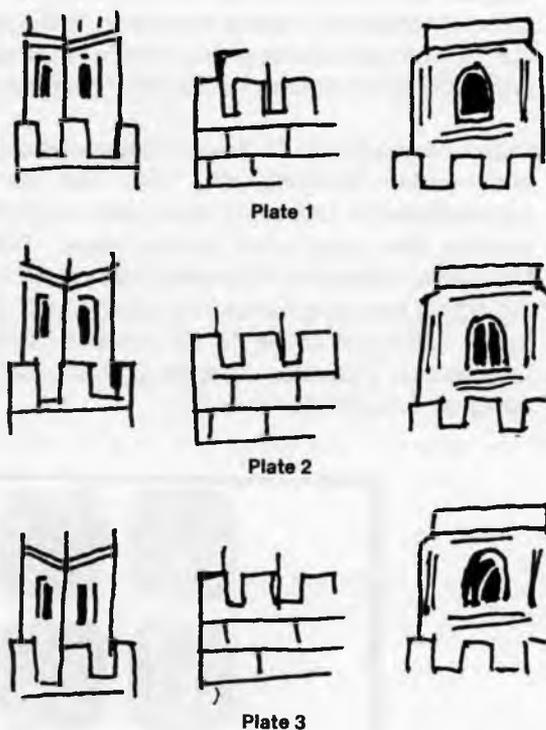
The two stamps were printed recess and since this method depends on the paper being forced into the ink-filled grooves in the plate, it was usual to damp the paper to help this process. Since the paper was gummed and perforated before printing we must assume that either the sheet was printed dry, as is increasingly the practice nowadays, or care was taken to inter-leave the sheets after printing to prevent the moisture applied to the printing surface causing the gum to stick to the sheet below.

Another technical difficulty was occasioned by the preliminary perforation. The small circles cut out by the perforator sometimes remained on the surface of the sheet and, by preventing the print reaching the paper, left small colourless circles on the design.

Seizinger engraved two master dies for the stamps, one for each value. Each of these dies was separately conveyed to a steel plate. On the plate containing the blue 50h stamp craftsmen at the press also engraved the legend CELOŠTÁTNA VYSTAVA POŠTOVÝCH ZNÁMOK (Nationwide exhibition of postage stamps) and BRATISLAVA/1937. On the other, red, plate, carrying the 1 Kč stamp, there were also engraved the small shield of the state and the emblem of the town of Bratislava. For the first time on a Czech stamp the name of the printer appeared, UNIE PRAHA (Unie, Prague).

The paper used was "Granite", that is with fine threads in the pulp as a measure of security to prevent forgery. Ekstein's contemporary catalogue distinguishes vertical and horizontal gumming, but modern references do not mention this, and it does not seem to be so.

For some reasons the *blue* plate deteriorated in printing and had to be renewed at least seven and possibly ten times. Differences in the impression are, however not easily visible. Three different versions of the *red* plate can be easily and interestingly identified. The points of identification are to be found in the tower emblem of Bratislava and on the right-hand (east) margin of the 1 Kč stamp, halfway up. Just outside the frame line of the 1 Kč stamp level with the point at which the right-hand horizon cuts the frame there is in two versions a tiny red dot; the position or absence of this dot helps indicate the plate used. Supporting evidence is provided by the circular emblem of the town of Bratislava in which the drawing of the right-hand window of the right-hand tower (*Novotný and the Monografie both wrongly say left-hand tower*) is significant as is the ogival window in the centre tower and the drawing of the stone blocks at the left (see table A). It is also interesting to observe the little tree in the 1 Kč stamp at the point where the left-hand horizon cuts the frame. In plate 1 the S initial of the engraver Seizinger can clearly be seen.



The emblem of Bratislava and diagrams distinguishing plates (see text).

The sheet measures a fraction over 150mm x 110mm. When the unprinted sheets were originally perforated, the perforated frames were set lower in the sheet than subsequently. If measurements are made from the centre of a perforated circle to the bottom of the sheet the distance should be either 33mm, 36.5mm or 38mm. Modern Czech references give these distances as 32, 35 and 39 respectively, which does not accord with my own measurements, but there are probably slight differences in the cutting of the sheets. Since there is a difference of about 3mm between each of the readings, slightly different figures should not prevent the three types being identified. The sheet with a distance of only 33mm is only found in association with the Type 1 red plate.

Because of the method of printing, the expected varieties have been reported, such as perforated sheet without printing, with printing misplaced, with blue printing only, with red printing only, and imperforate sheets with printing, and with blue printing only. The last two should not have occurred, since the sheets should have been perforated and gummed before printing. However, the pressure for supplies was such that it is known that at times perforated sheets were not available, so work was continued on imperforate sheets which were later perforated (or should have been). The engraver had trials made of each stamp in both the issued colours and also in black.

The scenes illustrated were Lake Poprad in the Tatra Mountains (50h) and the Štefánik memorial on Mt. Bradlo in the Carpathians, not far from Bratislava. Milan Štefánik was a young astronomer from Slovakia who had joined the French air force early in the war and had won fame for his courage and skill. He later became a general in the Czech forces and assisted Masaryk persuade the allies to support the independence of Czechoslovakia. He died in an accident in 1919. His death was commemorated in a stamp issued on 18th May 1935 (SG 341). Since at the time most countries in the U.P.U. were still following the practice of using green for the international printed matter rate, red for the post card rate and blue for the letter rate, the 50h stamp should have been green and not blue.

Preliminary publicity for the exhibition was obtained with a perforated sticker showing a view of the city and headed BRATISLAVA. The date 24 X -2 XI 1937 appeared in the left-hand corner. A commemorative postmark was used round the country in various post offices, moving from one to another after a period of fourteen days. This showed in the left section the Agricultural Museum in Bratislava, a building in classical style given exaggerated emphasis by the perspective chosen, and on the right a mail coach drawn by four horses. The commemorative postmark was used at the exhibition. In the half circle is the 10 Kč stamp (SG No.362) which shows Bratislava with the Danube in the foreground. This does not appear at all clearly in the postmark and it is difficult to understand how any designer thought that it would!



The stamp on the surprise miniature sheet was one of a series designed by J.Benda. The series comprised nine values for franking newspapers. The 10h value was chosen for the sheet. The stamps were arranged 5 x 5 and the sheet carried at the bottom the legend TIŠTĚNO NA CELOSTÁTNÍ VÝSTAVĚ POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK, BRATISLAVA 1937 (printed at the nationwide exhibition of postage stamps/Bratislava 1937). Seven different versions of the sheet have been identified. Identification rests on the place at which perpendiculars dropped from the left-hand side of stamps in the first column and the right-hand side of stamps in the fifth column cut the legend at the base. The legend also varies slightly in length. In some of the variations there are identifiable flaws in the stamps at given positions. An additional check is provided by dropping a perpendicular from the left-hand side of stamps in the third column.

There are a few constant plate flaws in the newspaper sheet. They are:

1. Dot inside top of "1", Pos.21 Plate II and VI.
2. White swelling inside oval of "o" in ... slov ..., Pos.18 Plates I, II & VI.
3. Dot in "k" of cesk . . . , extra stalk at 8 o'clock below flowers in bird's beak, Pos.6 Plate VI.
4. White dashes above "e" and "s" in . . . ensk. Pos.4 Plate IV.
5. White spot in edge above BENDA, Pos.5 Plate IV.
6. Coloured dent in middle white line of 0 in 10 at the left, Pos.2 Plate V.
7. Coloured comma in "l" of . . . slov . . . , Pos.8 Plate II.
8. Oblique white line below the white hyphen at the top of inside of 0 in 10. Pos.19 Plate I
9. Break in leaf held in bird's mouth at 5 o'clock, Pos.3 Plate I.



Composite diagram of the plate faults

BRATISLAVA MINIATURE SHEET - Table of Types - A				
	Right Window	Bratislava Coat of Arms	Window in Centre Tower	1 Kč Right Margin
	Frame	Left-hand of wall		
	Right-hand Tower			
I	Break between vertical and horizontal line	Closed stone	Colour solid	No dot in margin
II	Vertical joined to horizontal	Stone open	Perpendicular white line in centre	Dot just above level of horizon
III	Only perpendicular line	Closed stone	Curved white line in centre	Dot above level of horizon

BRATISLAVA NEWSPAPER STAMPS - Table of Types - B				
	Length of Legend	Distance from top of T in VÝSTAVĚ to stamp above	Left side of column 1 Position of line relative to T	Right side of column 5 Position of line relative to K
I	108.7 (108mm)	12.4mm	To the right	Touches at right (centre)
II	110 (109.2mm)	12.3 (12)mm	Only just to right	Line through upright
III	109.9 (109.7mm)	11.4(11.2)mm	Touches right side of horizontal (Centre)	Well to left, touches right side of E
IV	105.6(105mm)	11.4(11.8)mm	Just left of vertical	Well to right. To right of comma
V	106.7(106.5)mm	11.3(11.2)mm	More to left	Just right of vertical
VI	105.5(105.6)mm	11(12.8)	Still more to left	Between K and comma
VII	(107)	(12.8 at left 12.2 at right)	Central	To the left

NOTES: Plate IV: In part of printing C in CELO ... is high. Plate V: In part of printing comma after známek is missing, Plate VI: T and l of TIŠTĚNO are closer than usual. The measurements given in the 1970 Novotný catalogue differ from earlier measurements given by Hirsch. The Novotný measurements are in brackets. Usually differences are small, but not always (e.g. Plate VI distance of stamps from legend). The line referred to in the last two columns is the perpendicular dropped respectively from the left-hand side of the first column of stamps and the right-hand side of the last column. Hirsch does not give a Plate VII.

In Plate IV all the stamps on the right-hand side of the sheet have slightly smeared edges.

In February 1938 forgeries of the Bratislava sheet were already reported and, although clearly philatelic and not postal, were selling at Kč 20. A second and improved counterfeit appeared early in 1939. Both forgeries were printed letter-press as was the original.

In the sheet the first forgery is readily identified by the coloured smudge on the bird's wing tip at position no. 1, and by the accents on TIŠTĚNO which touch the letters. At positions 10 and 24 there is no coloured hollow in the "e" of Česko . . . In the individual stamps the flowers appear like stars, i.e. the points widen towards the centre; in the original the petals are lines of equal width. The small dot above "h" is missing.

The second forgery is a more accurate facsimile. In the sheet there is no accent above . . . STÁT . . . and the 7 of 1937 is set a little high. As in the first forgery the accents above TIŠTĚNO are joined to the letters. At Position 20 a little white line falls perpendicularly from a position near the wing tip. In the individual stamp the flowers have been corrected, but there is still no small dot above the "h".

Both the Bratislava miniature sheets are still modestly priced (in 1980), so it is possible to build up a small specialised collection without great expense.

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THE STAMP BOURSE OF PARDUBICE

Philatelic

Robert J Hill

Saturday 18 May 1996 found me waking to a wrist watch alarm at 0700 in the flat of Dr Jan Dobrovolný in Pardubice. After ablutions and a superb breakfast Jan and I left the house at 0745 for the short drive to the location of the stamp bourse which is held in the "House of Culture" on the Dukla Housing Estate.

This was my second visit to this bourse, the previous being in the autumn of the previous year. As before there were many cars parked in the surrounding area and it was noticeable that the majority of the many people attending had a briefcase under their arm. The entrance fee is a nominal amount and the first vendors are on the landing area as you climb to the first floor. The main hall was not as busy as my last visit, with only 32 vendors present; the side hall had a further eight vendors and the total must have been around 50.

The average age of the customers was mid thirties although the younger and older collectors were also in evidence. All of the vendors, except those working on the Trojan stall were male. There is a cafe at the House of Culture and this was doing a roaring trade selling breakfasts to the vendors, some of whom had travelled from as far away as Brno.

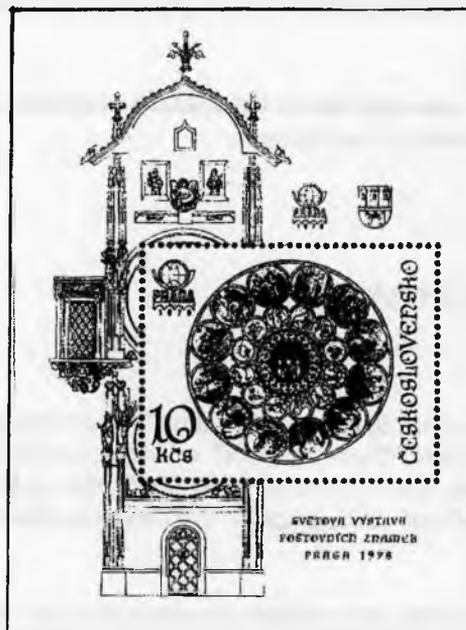
A leisurely stroll around the halls provided many items of interest and all aspects of local, national, European and world philately were covered. It was a splendid way to spend two hours on a hot and sunny Saturday morning; it is just a pity that they start so early, although I understand it finishes before noon.

PRAGUE OLD TOWN HALL ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

Background Information

Bob McLeod

Of all the many attractions which Prague offers the tourist, the astronomical clock on the Old Town Hall (or horologe as it is known) is arguably one of the most popular. The clock was shown on a set of stamps and a miniature sheet publicising Praga 78, the sheet being issued both perforate and imperforate. Since 1338, the Old Town Hall has been the administrative seat of the oldest borough in Prague, and it was thought until as recently as the 1960s that the clock dated from 1490 and was built by the Prague clockmaker Hanuš.



Towards the close of World War 2, the old building was severely damaged by the defeated Nazi army, two neo-gothic annexes being burned down, as well as the city archives. The clock was also damaged. Once hostilities had ceased, it was decided that work should start immediately on repairing the clock. For the benefit of those who have not had the pleasure of seeing the clock, I give here a description of it. At the top there are wooden statuettes of the twelve apostles. Below is a sphere, which is the central part of the clock, and at the bottom is a large copper disc. Every hour a human skeleton rings a bell next to the sphere and the twelve apostles appear one after the other at two windows. A cock then crows and

flaps its wings just as the clock strikes the hour. The sphere shows the time, daylight hours and night time, and the movement of the sun and stars along the signs of the zodiac. Time zones were added in 1890. The disc at the bottom shows the signs of the zodiac and the twelve months of the year. It takes one year to complete a rotation. The disc was decorated by Josef Měněš in the 1860s and has the Prague coat of arms in the centre. The statuettes were repaired at the same time as Měněš painted the calendar.

As you can imagine, to repair such a complex and historic piece of machinery was a daunting task. It was during this repair work that the experts looked more carefully at what records there were of work done on the clock over the centuries, as well as at the machinery itself. In a copy of a "Report on the Horologe of Prague" written by a Jan Táborský in 1570, the clockwork mechanism is described accurately. Research showed that the writer was a scribe from Klokotská Hora, and that he did indeed repair the clock and improve the workings of it between 1552 and 1572. His report goes on to say that the clock was built in 1410 – not 1490 as previously believed. The sphere, which shows the sun, stars and signs of the zodiac, was designed astronomically according to a North Pole projection, a system used only up to the middle of the 15th century. Literature has been found from the 15th and 16th century describing the clock with the sphere already in place by the 1450s.

A letter was also found, sent by the burgomaster of Prague and dated October 1410, thanking clockmaker Mikuláš of Kadaň for his work on the clock (building it) and in payment he was being given a house worth 3000 groschen. He also would be paid 600 groschen a year as caretaker of the clock. Hanuš, it appears, only overhauled the clock in 1490 and improved the working of its mechanism.

When the metal framework of the clock was examined closely, it was discovered that the method of metalworking used was the same as that used for making gothic nails, and that the stone dressing was done in a manner similar to the work of a Prague workshop which shut down in 1419.

Mikuláš of Kadaň was born in 1350 and was court clockmaker to the Bohemian King. He had the skill to build the clock, but not the knowledge of the astronomical (zodiacal) calculations involved. The available historical evidence points to these being done by Jan Šindel, a teacher of astronomy at Prague University. Born around 1375, Šindel wrote several treatises on astronomy, three of which dealt with the construction of astronomical instruments.

The building of the Town Hall tower was finished in the 1360s, complete with a chapel. The astronomical clock was built in an alcove in the chapel in 1410, replacing a clock which was on the chapel's outside wall.

So it appears that the builder of the clock was not Hanuš, but Mikuláš of Kadaň, and that the clock is 80 years older than has been assumed for centuries!

CZeCHoslovakia

Language

Rex Dixon

Have you ever wondered about the curious English spelling of the name "Czechoslovakia", or rather of the first half "Czecho-"? Why don't we spell it "Chekoslovakia" or some variation on that? *The Concise Oxford English Dictionary* states that "Czech" comes from the Polish spelling of Bohemian *Čech*. But why should English have adopted Polish orthography? Can anyone offer an explanation or history?

Other European languages have all adopted their own native conventions when rendering the two consonantal phonemes involved, [tʃ] and [x], often approximating the latter to [k]. [tʃ] in particular is a difficult phoneme not readily representable in the Latin alphabet, so each language has adopted its own convention, virtually all different one from another. In English the digraph chosen for [tʃ] at the start of the word is "ch", although at the end of a syllable the trigraph "tch" is often used instead (as in "catch", but not in "church"). In each of the following cases, included for interest, the language's normal convention has been followed.

Croatian	ČeHo-	slovačka
Danish	TJeKKo-	slovakiet
Dutch	TSJeCHo-	slowakije
French	TCHéCo--	slovaquie
German	TSCHeCHo-	slowakei
Hungarian	CSeH-	szlovákia
Italian	CeCo-	slovacchia
Norwegian	TSJeKKo-	slovakia
Polish	CZeCHo-	słowacja
Romanian	CeHo-	slovacia
Spanish	CHeCo-	slovaquia
Swedish	TJeCKo-	slovakien

65th ANNIVERSARY OF "STAMPS" OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Stamps

-Sv. Šablátúra-

Translated by Robert Kingsley

This abridged article originally appeared in Merkur Revue 1/1997, and Slovak Philately 7-8/1993, page 38; and we thank Bob Kingsley for translating this for us.



About 30 years ago I was shown a stamp by a collector which I had heard of but never seen, a stamp of the Slovak Republic issued in Poland in 1931. Some time later I obtained a photograph of the same stamp, which had been produced in Ostrava, together with the full story.

The first reference to this stamp I discovered in *Filatelie* (No. 12/1971, page 378), in which a well-known collector K.F. Pěšák writes that about 15 years earlier he had found this item in amongst some picture postcards that he had purchased. It was on a postcard of Łódź sent to České Budějovice, and cancelled "Łódź - 28.5.1921." Prior to this he had bought in the Prague Bourse "U Nováků" a block of four of this stamp. However, finding no mention of this stamp in any philatelic publication he assumed it was the work of Slovak separatists, based in Poland, hostile to Czechoslovakia.

Dr B. Indra of Opava replied to Mr Pěšák in *Filatelie* 23/1971 with the following information: "These stamps were issued in the second half of 1921 by the so-called "Provisional Government of Slovakia" in Warsaw and this is the date of their "proclamation of the Slovak Republic." The man leading this group was a Slovak irredentist, a former professor of theology at Budapest University and priest, Dr František Jehlička who was born in Kútoch on 24.1.1879 and died 3.1.1939 in Vienna. He was a highly intelligent, educated man whose political views were extremely complicated, leading from Czech nationalism to fascism."

Dr Jehlička read theology at Vienna University, obtaining a doctorate in 1905, becoming a docent in 1910, and a university professor in 1915. He taught religion in Modra, becoming priest in Bratislava, lecturing in theological faculties in Budapest, Warsaw and Washington, devoting himself to politics in Vienna from 1926. In 1906 he was elected to Czech Parliament, appointed by Vavro Šrobár, minister with responsibility for Slovakia, to head the Alžbetinska University in Bratislava. He collaborated closely with Andrej Hlinka, participating in the establishment of the HSLS and the publication "Slovak." The author of a memorandum submitted to the Paris Peace Conference, he did not return home from Paris, but stayed in Budapest as an agent of Hungarian irredentists, demanding autonomy for Slovakia associated with Hungary. This was unsuccessful so he departed for Warsaw where he founded the Slovak National Council, issuing Slovak newspapers, and the above mentioned "stamps" in a value of five crowns. These were printed in sheets of 25, in red, and 20.4 x 26mm, and were circulated chiefly for propaganda purposes.

Dr Indra in his article adds the following: "In October 1922 three of these stamps were seen by the Political Commission in Český Těšín and sent to the Ministry of the Interior in Prague. The state prosecutor in Ostrava began legal proceedings against an unknown defendant and confiscated the stamps, since they formed a criminal offence against Paragraph 58 of the criminal code relating to postage stamps of the Czechoslovak Republic. The County Court in Ostrava confirmed the judgement on 30th October 1922, prohibiting the circulation of these "stamps" and ordered their destruction. The findings were published in the official publication of the republic in 1922, No 247, page 4828. In Slovakia this was publicised in the Directorate of Posts in Košice, official report of 22nd May 1922, and No 16 of 20.4.1922, page 69, where it was issued under the number 33.849-IV-a-22 "To all post offices with the exception of Carpatho-Ukraine." It states "The Ministry on behalf of the government prohibits in the entire Slovak territory the circulation of postage stamps issued by the Slovak National Council in Poland." Any postal employees contravening these instructions will be severely punished. Košice, 22.5.1922."

"WHAT?. WHEN?. WHERE?"

- Members' Queries -

Regretfully there are no answers to publish this quarter - please look back in previous *Czechout's* and see if you can answer any outstanding query from 1994.

Three new queries:

From Bob Hill: "The more I see, the less I know" - I bought the illustrated Postal Order from the December 1997 Felzmann auction mainly because the date was so near the liberation (Bruntál was liberated on Monday 7 May.) However, I am at a loss to fully understand it.



The sender is shown as the Postamt (Post Office) at Jägerndorf (*Krnov.*) However it was validated at Zwittau (*Svitavy*) on Thursday 3 May 1945 as is shown by the two cancellations. It was presented at Römerstadt Altavater (*Rymřov*) on Saturday 5 May 1945 as per the cancellation on the reverse.

Why was this Postal Order raised at Jägerndorf (which Monograph 6: *German Occupation of Sudetenland* shows to be in the Oppeln area,) then sent 80 kilometres to be issued at Zwittau before being sent to Römerstadt Altavater (both in the Breslau area?)

Endorsements include:

Rentenstelle - Employment Pension

Eigenhändig - one's own hand

From Richard Beith: Monograph 1: *Czechoslovak Army and Air Force in Exile 1939-1945* illustrates a patriotic label as Fig 55b (page 52, consolidated edition.) No clue is given as to its origin. I note the word CANADA on a slant below the helmeted soldier's head and have seen an American reference (a letter) in which this label is described as of Czech-Canadian origin. Can any member comment further? The illustration shows this used by favour in Evanston, Illinois, in 1944.



Alec Page wrote a paper on the US Czech relief labels for the World War II Study Group Cinderella Stamp Club, which we hope to publish in a future issue of Czechout. However, it does not include this Czech-Canadian label. Editor.

From Graham Slater: I was intrigued by a sentence in the "New Issues" section of the June *Czechout* page 54, which read "The pilot was Cpt. Jan Prchal who was (the) personal pilot of Winston Churchill in (the) 2nd World War."

I have no reason to doubt the good faith in which that statement was given, but it is not wholly correct in its inference that there was one pilot and one only. To my certain knowledge Churchill's pilot in the last years of the war was Air Commodore "Taffy" Powell whom I met on more than one occasion in 1944/5. He captained Churchill's personal aircraft, a four-engined Consolidated Liberator of Transport Command; an unusual and distinctive aircraft as unlike all other Liberators it had a single, central, tailfin and rudder.

At that time I was studying aviation insurance, prior to my call-up, with British Aviation, and Taffy Powell was a personal friend of my boss, Captain A.G. Lamplugh. When in London, the crew, which included another old boy of my school, were billeted at the Park Lane Hotel, and I would occasionally take them urgent confidential papers for transmission to America etc.

The fact that Captain Prchal was still flying a DC3 after the war, suggests he may never have converted to four-engine aircraft, and that his period of flying Churchill may have been limited to the early days of the war. Can any of our members throw any more light on this gentleman?

NEW ISSUES

Lindy Knight

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

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

1. Czech Republic

17.6.98 WORKS OF ART ON STAMPS (1) (PRAGA 98 ISSUE)



Designer: From the art works of František Kupka and Paul Gauguin

Engraving: Václav Fajt (22Kčs) and Miloš Ondráček (23Kčs)

Printing: D.S. in black, yellow, brown, blue and red in sheets of 4 stamps. Picture size 50x40mm. The printing sheets have marginal gutters with the logo of the International Exhibition Praga 1998 and the logo of the National Gallery, which is one of the exhibition areas of Praga 1998.

Design: 22Kč from the work of Kupka (1871-1957) entitled Amorpha - Two-coloured Fugue - 1912 which is in the National Gallery, Prague. Kupka was a Czech painter, graphic artist and illustrator who became a pioneer of abstract art and lived in France from 1906.

FDC: Printed in dark red with a commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet is from an original charcoal and white chalk drawing on grey paper by Kupka.

23Kč from the work of Gauguin (1848-1903) entitled Flight-1902 which is in the National Gallery, Prague. The work is from the artist's second stay in Tahiti. The stamp commemorates the 150th birth anniversary of Gauguin.

FDC: Printed in black with a commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet is from a woodcut by Gauguin for the title page of the magazine "Le Sourire".

POSTAL STATIONERY

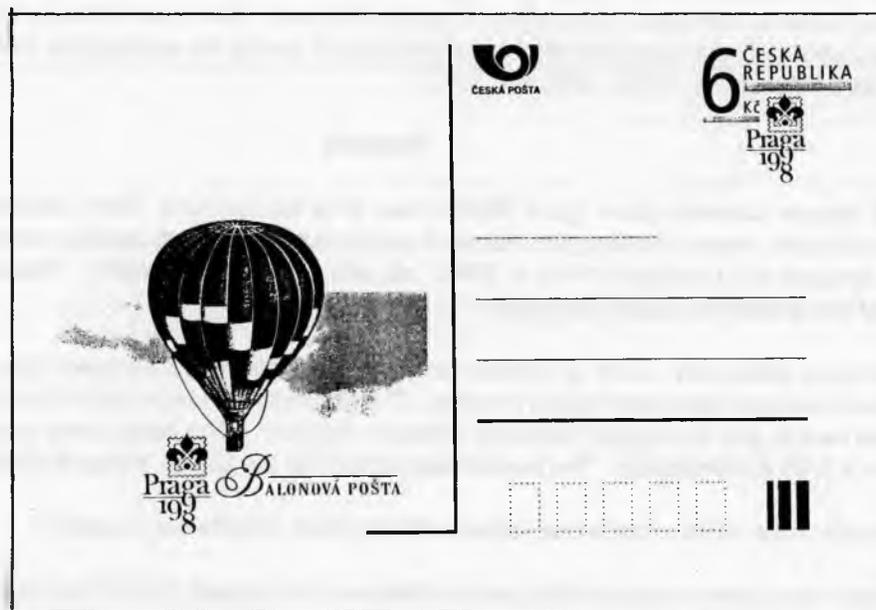
27.5.98 Postcard for Commercial and Promotional Use

Designer: Jan Solpero. The card has imprinted 6Kč stamp printed offset in blue. The left half of the card is blank for commercial additional printing. Selling price 6.40Kč.

1.7.98 Commemorative Postcards for PRAGA 98.

Each card printed multicoloured offset. Selling price 6.40Kč. Designer of imprinted 6Kč stamp is Jan Solpero. Design printed in pink has face value and logo of PRAGA 98 Exhibition, Designer of cachets Karel Dvofak.

- a) **Stagecoach Post** Design in brown from a contemporary engraving has a post coach pulled by four horses with a postillion. The text in Czech language is "Stage Coach Post" and "250 Years of the Mail Coach".



- b) **Balloon Post** Design in yellow and blue has a hot air balloon hovering in the clouds with the PRAGA 98 logo in pink below and the text in Czech "Balloon Post".
- c) **Clapper Post** Imprinted 4Kč stamp design in green with cachet in brown. The design is a drawing of a postman from the end of the 18th century with the text in Czech language "Postman of Prague 'Clapper' Post - 1787". The selling price 4.40Kč.
- d) **Day of Czechoslovak and Czech Philately** The design in blue is a composition of stylised postage stamps and the logos of the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF), International Philatelic Federation (FIP), Czech Post and Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). Above the design in Czech is the text "International Congress of Collectors of Czechoslovak and Czech Postage Stamps".

Commercial Postcards

The following three cards have an imprinted 4Kč stamp design as shown in the June 97 edition of Czechout. The Postfila logo appears in the lower left corner.

- a) **12 March 1998** Promoting the "Internationale Münchner Briefmarkentage" from 12-14 March 1998. Design has a mounted postman galloping away.
- b) **7 May 1998** In memory of the 125th birth anniversary of Max Švabinský and the 150th anniversary of the Constituent Assembly of the peoples of Austria held in the Diet Hall of Kroměříž. The design includes the town arms and detail from one of Švabinský's works.
- c) **7 May 1998** Promoting the 12th International Stamp Fair (with telephone cards) at Essen 7-9 May 1998. The design shows a stagecoach and various marginal inscriptions.

Postcards Czech Historical Buildings (date of issue not known)

This is the 5th issue in the series and numbered from A65/98 to A80/98. 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 Studios Skala and printed by Victoria Security Printing. The second line for recipient's address is a continuous micro printing of Česká Pošta.

This series shows buildings at Bečov nad Teplou, Bruntál, Častolovice, Dačice, Kámen, Krásný Dvůr, Plumov, Poděbrady, Praha: Zbraslav, Rájec nad Svitavou, Roudnice nad Labem, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Sázava, Velhartice, Vimperk and Vysoký Chlumec. Each card is issued in two formats (a) as described above (b) with commemorative cachet in black below the explanatory text. (Previous sets in this series printed 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997).

Booklets

23.4.98 Nature Conservation Rare Wildlife (see New Issues June 1998 Czechout). Two booklets issued with front covers showing illustration of stamp subjects. Each booklet contains five se-tenant stamps ('grouse with partridge' selling at 23Kč; 'elk with deer' selling at 40Kč.) The reverse cover gives details of the animals in Czech language.

Date of Issue unknown Love A booklet containing five 4Kč stamps issued 12.6.96 in the definitive series (architecture) has been issued recently. The front cover in blue script has a stamp outline with three red hearts and the legend "Znamky Sbirame Srdcem". The back cover advertises a philatelic event on 1.7.98 at Neratovice. The booklet was issued by the Czech Postal Authorities.

Maxi Cards A set of four cards was issued with the Rare Wildlife set of stamps.

N.B. There have been reports that forgeries of the postcard issued 14.5.97 have been found. The 4Kč postcard was issued to promote awareness of the visually impaired. Details of the forgeries can be found in the Mar/April 1998 and July/Aug. 1998 issues of the American publication "The Czechoslovak Specialist" copies of which are held in our library.

2. Slovak Republic

June 1998

THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE RUŽOMBEROK

Designer: From the original artwork of Lívia Mereničová (11 years)

Engraver: Martin Činovský

Printing: R.D. in sheets of 50 at 3Sk each. Picture size 23x30mm.



Design: a butterfly and rainbow with the logo of the Children's Centre in the background. A competition was held to design a stamp for this issue and the various designs were chosen from the entries. The Children's Centre, Ružomberok is a society for the support of children in Slovakia who are being brought up outside their natural family and was established in 1990.

FDC: printed four colour offset by Knihtlač Gerthoffer, Zohor. The cancellation from Ružomberok is a drawing of a girl by Zuzka Taščicová (4 years). The multicolour cachet is from a painting of a fairy tale tree by Ivana Arbetová (9 years).

Booklet A booklet containing 10 stamps with selling price 30Sk was issued. The cover design is a castle with soldiers and is from the original artwork of Katka Filova (11 years).

1.6.98

KRAGUJEVAC 1918**Designer and Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik**Printing:** R.D. in sheets of 50 at 3Sk each. Size 23x40mm.

Design: Portrait of Viktor Kolibrík surrounded by a wire-work design. During the Spring months of 1918 the Serbian garrison town of Kragujevac received around 2400 Slovak soldiers returning from internment in Russia. Many were members of a regiment traditionally known as the "Wireworkers Regiment". The trade of tinker and wireworker was common among Slovaks then. In June 1918 an order to leave for fighting on the Italian front was received. A revolt against the order broke out involving all troops due to go to Italy. The mutiny, the biggest in the Austria-Hungarian Army was put down with many mutineers sentenced to long imprisonment and the execution of 44 Slovaks including the leader Viktor Kolibrík.

FDC printed in brown-black has a commemorative Trenčín cancellation (home of the ill-fated regiment). The cachet is a seated marionette figure saluting.

1.6.98 THE SLOVAK UPRISING OF 1848/9 AND 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL
**Designer:** Ivan Schurman **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček**Printing:** RD in sheets of 30 stamps and 40 tablets. Stamp size 23x40mm. Tablet size 19x23mm.

Design: A group of Slovak rebel fighters. The Slovaks were fighting for national liberation and self-determination from Hungary. In September 1848 a Slovak National Council was formed which declared independence and an armed uprising followed. The revolt was short lived and quashed from Budapest. The tablet depicts the historic seal of the Slovak National Council.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet illustrates a ceremonial assembly of the Slovak Volunteer Corps in November 1849 in Námestie Slobody (Freedom Square) Bratislava.

**POSTAL STATIONERY
Promotional Postcards**

Each of the following cards has an imprinted 3Sk stamp in red, silver and blue, the design of which is the State Emblem. The address portion has the Slovak Post logo. Each retails at 3.50Sk.

- a) **25.4.98** European Cup in Walking, Dudince 1998. The design is a walking bird dressed in blue shorts with a red vest with inscription in Slovak above and Dudince 1998 below. There was a first day commemorative cancellation from Dudince.

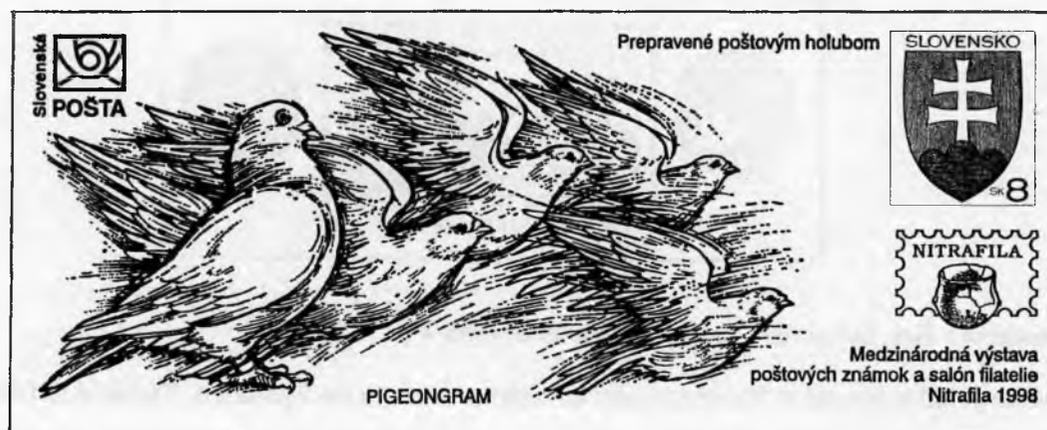
- b) **6.6.98** The most beautiful Slovak Stamp of 1997. The design is a reproduction of the 4Sk stamp of the river mill at Jelka issued 5.8.97. There was a commemorative first day cancellation from Nitra.
- c) **date of issue unknown (?6.98)** Cachet design is a photo view of the modern Post Building at Banska Bystrica. The text below commemorates the 5th anniversary of the building.

Envelopes

Each of the following envelopes has an imprinted 8Sk stamp in olive black the design of which is the State Emblem.

- a) **date of issue unknown (?5.98)** Cachet is a gold-leaved plant growing from a green rectangle bearing the inscription "Dohovor o biologickej diverzite".
- b) **date of issue unknown (?6.98)** The cachet is a view of the town museum Bratislava. The legend "Mestske muzeum v Bratislava 1868-1998" is above the cachet.
- c) **date of issue unknown (?6.98)** Cachet shows a slumped figure sitting in the middle of a green maze. Below is a text in Slovak advertising the UN Congress in New York 8-10 June 1998 to discuss the world problem of narcotic drugs.

Pigeongramme



date of issue unknown (?6.98) The imprinted 8Sk stamp in olive black is the State Emblem design. Below is the outline of a stamp with Nitrafila on it. Below this is a text in Slovak advertising the stamp exhibition Nitrafila 1998. The main design is a group of pigeons taking off in flight. Text, design and logos printed in bright blue. Size of the pigeongramme 139x54mm.

Maxi Cards

It has been noted that maxi cards have appeared for the following stamp issues. There may be others which have not come to my notice.

12.6.97	Splendours of our Homeland Caves	2 cards
3.11.97	Christmas 97	1 card