



# CZECHOUT

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## NOTES



The **8th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition** will be held **2-3 May 2008** at Harrogate International Centre, Hall Q, Kings Road. For further details contact website <http://www.harrogate2008.org.uk> or Richard and Yvonne Wheatley at [secretary@harrogate2008.org.uk](mailto:secretary@harrogate2008.org.uk). The **2008 Congress** of Great Britain will now take place **24-26 July** at Stratford-on-Avon.

The **Society's Summer Regional meeting** will be held in Hathern on **Saturday 14 June** with Members' displays and the Kay Goodman Trophy award.

To mark the 90th anniversary of the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 and also the 65th anniversary of the first exhibition of Czechoslovak stamps in London in 1943, the Society will be staging an **Exhibition at the Czech Embassy** in London, with support from the Slovak Embassy, from **Wednesday 1 October to Friday 3 October**. A flyer soliciting your participation and support is included with this issue.

The French philatelic magazine L'Écho de la Timbrologie No.1815 February 2008 has an article entitled 'La première mission postale de Hongrie' by Pierre Vattepaine of L'Académie mondiale de Philatélie et de l'Académie de Philatélie de Hongrie on pages 76-79.

We thank Mike Brindle and Derek Walker for their kind remarks on our last issue.

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

## NEWS & NOTICES

### Meeting held Saturday 12 January 2008 at the Czech and Slovak National Club at 2.30 pm

The Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Gren, welcomed 13 members. Apologies had been received from seven members. Yvonne congratulated Bob Bradford for his Vermeil medal at Istanbul for his collection of Cilicia. She thanked Reg Hounsell and Roger Morrell for repairing and refurbishing the display frames, noting that they had originally been made by her husband, Fred, back in 1983 when the Society first started meeting at the Czechoslovak National Club.

The Secretary gave details of one prospective new member, whose application was readily endorsed and formally accepted.

**Malcolm Lacey** from Winchester

The Vice Chairman, Yvonne Wheatley, then invited **Yvonne Gren** to display *East Silesia*, followed in the second half by *Some of my Favourites*.

Fred Gren had been born and brought up in East Silesia, at Stonava, so it seemed natural that this would be the area that Yvonne would collect. She described it as "a simple little collection", but it transpired to be much more than that. She started with a working collection of the SO overprints, and followed this by considering each town in turn, starting alphabetically with Bohumín. The material was drawn from all periods, including the Polish occupations of 1919 and 1938. There was a good range of postcards, many showing the industrial and railway heritage of the area. She supplemented the display with a 1912 Polish map of East Silesia, on the back of which were the populations of every community.

The second half was divided into six mini exhibits each of two frames. She started with the early development of the airmails, including covers with all four airmail labels and a 1921 cover to Paris franked with a pair of the 1000h Masaryk. Then followed a comprehensive display of the Czechoslovak presence at the New York World Fair, including both the gold and silver overprints on cover. A section on the exiled forces was followed by one on Lidice, which had left a strong impression on her when she and Fred visited it in 1975. The last two sections were on black prints, initiated with one accompanying the catalogue for Praga 1962, and the Mlada fronta sheets. The final sheet, which had been included in the Society's exhibit at Brno in 2005, was of an emotional letter written from Wenceslas Square on 17 November 1989.

Yvonne Wheatley gave the vote of thanks. She welcomed Fred's daughter Corinne, who had joined us during the afternoon, and sent the Society's best wishes to Fred. Yvonne said that Yvonne was "too modest" about her collection, there being some gems in her comprehensive display of East Silesia, including Polish material that was so often omitted. As to the Favourites, Yvonne said that we liked them too. All in all, Yvonne had "done us proud."

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.10 pm.

The Chairman, Yvonne Gren



This cover was posted at Tišnov (NW of Brno), but postmarked at Praha 1 in July 1921, sent by air to an address in Paris, 15 avenue Charles Floquet, which is even today the address of the Czech Embassy. The other interesting factor is the pair of Masaryk 1000 heller on the reverse.

### Letters & e-mails to the Editor

☒ **Bob Hill:** re Page 119 of *Czechout* 4/07 "Thank you Lubor, you say this is quite a normal cover - well I've not seen one before and your comments on it has only enhanced it for me. Much appreciated."

☒ **Dr Juan Page:** re Richard Beith's comments in *Czechout* 4/07, page 102 on Monograph 15. The date 24 April 1941 commemorates the 138th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Duchnovič.

☒ **Rex Dixon** mentions that our German sister society, the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei, will be holding their **5th auction** at Bad Kissingen on 3 May. The photos of the lots will in due course be available on their website: [www.argt-tschechoslowakei.de](http://www.argt-tschechoslowakei.de).

☒ **Lubor Kunc** writes that some of our members at the Hradec Králové exhibition last year met his friend Karel Cerny. Karel donated copies of his new book on *The 1945 London Issue* to the Society and its members. If any member who possesses a copy would be kind enough to review this in *Czechout*, Lubor is sure that Karel would be very pleased. *I look forward to receiving a review, Editor.*

☒ **ABPS E- BULLETINS:** Four or five Executive Bulletins annually, are sent, mainly as e-mails, to the secretaries of our member societies, and to Patrons and Friends of Philately. They emanate from Executive Committee meetings and are promptly issued so that recipients are quickly aware of actions taken and decisions made. From the next issue onwards they will also be sent, without charge, to any member of an affiliated society who would like to have a copies and has an e-mail address - which should be sent to [abps.phil@elics.co.uk](mailto:abps.phil@elics.co.uk). Anyone who would like copies but does not have an e-mail address can receive the next five issues by post, at cost, for £2.00 – payable to ABPS and sent to Geoff Longbottom, Publicity and Publications Officer, Mill Close, Hickling, NORWICH, NR12 0YT.

### Congratulations

To the following members who received awards at Chicagopex 07: **Robert J Hill** a Silver Medal for *Monograph 18: Postal Arrangements following the Liberation of Prague*; **Jaroslav J Verner** in the Court of Honour with his *Czechoslovak Siberian Legions*; and **Tønnes Ore** a Vermeil for *Carpatho-Ukraine*.

To **Otto Hornung** RDP FRPSL for his display of *Carpatho Ukraine* to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 15 November 2007, and **Lindy & Tony Bosworth** FRPSL on membership of Volunteers Team for London 2010.

The **Austrian Philatelic Society** celebrates their sixtieth Anniversary this year and we send our congratulations. They have issued a special publication *A Celebration of Austrian Philately*, which was launched at their display at STAMPEX. The contents are: *The world's first regular and first international airmail service* (Kuzych); *The Austro-Hungarian Navy* (Beech); *The Austrian Newspaper Tax* (Taylor); *Postal Use of Austrian Lloyd seals 1832-1914* (Smith); *Pneumatic Post facilities in Wien 25* (Taylor). Price members £36, dealers £36, others £45. + p/p, orders to A.T.Taylor, 10 Eastfields, Stokesley, Middlesborough, TS9 5EJ. New website address: <http://www.austrianphilately.com>.

We send our sincere condolences to the **Hungarian Philatelic Society** on the loss of their patron, Gary Ryan RDP FRPSL. He will be missed in many circles.



**Society visit to Prague during 12–14 September 2008 for the Exhibition PRAGA 2008** [www.praga2008.cz](http://www.praga2008.cz). The UK Commissioner is Mrs Yvonne Wheatley.

Pofis are publishing No.9 of *Monografie Československých a Českých Známeč listing First Day Covers 1947-1992*. If any member would like a copy would they please advise Rex Dixon, as copies will be purchased whilst members are in Prague, for delivery after return from the Exhibition. Pofis have also announced there is a delay in the issue of the volume on Bohemia & Moravia due to corrections to plate numbers.

Following the Prague Exhibition members may like to visit Vienna for the **WIPA 2008 Exhibition to be held 18–21 September 2008**.

## Publications

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

- The Spring 2008 issue of ***Austria*** No. 161.
  - ▶ The Age and Times of Maria Theresia as Reflected in Her Postal Decrees (Shelton/Kuzych); The Postal Decree of 1748 (Shelton/Kuzych); The Postal Decree of 1772 (Shelton/Kuzych); The Beginner's Guide to Decoding Austrian Pre-Philatelic Covers Parts 3/4-Addenda (Brandon).
- The December 2007 issue of ***Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei***, Vol.38, Whole No. 154. Douglas D Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us.
  - ▶ Catalogue of Study Information (Vouhsem); The Political History of Czechoslovakia [Part 6] (Kuch); Distinguishable varieties in the 1Kč definitive stamp "Capricorn" (Ziegeler); Special Cancellations from the Czech Post Office 2006 (Müller).
- The Jan/Feb 2008 issues of ***The Czechoslovak Specialist***, Vol. 70, No. 1, Whole No. 607. The articles include:
  - ▶ My Lidice Adventure (Rhoades); Chicagopex (Cossaboom); Praga 2008 (Org.Ctte); Czechoslovakia at Postex 2007 (van Dooremalen).
- The January 2008 issue of ***Dylizans*** No.48. The articles include:
  - ▶ Introduction to the Philately of the Kingdom of Poland (Bojanowicz); Court Mail Delivery Service [part 4] (Blunt).
- The 12/2007 and 1/2008 issues of ***Filatelie***, Vols. 57/58. The English translation of the contents does not cover all the articles:
  - ▶ Annexation of Ruthenia to Czechoslovakia in 1918-1920 [2] (Mezera); History of Wagons, Carriages, Stage Coaches [7] (Horák).
  - ▶ Trieste and Venezia Giulia 1918-1919: Postal Traffic after WWI (Santangelo); Colourful World of Letter Boxes (Burzan); Philatelic Testimony – Revolutionary Stamps (Baldus).
- The 6/2007 and 1/2008 issues of ***Merkur Revue***: The articles include:
  - ▶ The first copper engraving of Bohumil Heinz (Pittermann); Postmarks of the Plebiscite area [9] (Tovačovský); The definitive postal cards of Bohemia & Moravia (Příkazský); Mute cancels on Austria's first issue (Klim); Unissued Austrian stamp from 1974 (zfp); Retouch of the coat of arms on the Košice sheet (-); 70 years from the Death of T.G.Masaryk (Fritz); Double Molletage of the stamp Tradition 2007 "Josef Slavík" (Fritz).
  - ▶ Postmarks of the Plebiscite area [10] (Tovačovský); Adolf Hoffmeister, collector & stamp author (Fischer); History of the Postal Agency at Harasův kopec [1] (Pelikán).
- The March 2008 issue of ***Stamps of Hungary*** No. 172.
  - ▶ Gary Ryan RDP, FRPSL 1916-2007 (Benford); The flight of the Turul bird, part 1 [The Cluj-Oradea 1919 overprints] (Rupea); Paying for a Newspaper subscription 100 years ago [Money Orders] (Morrell); Hungary's unsung famous Briton (Benford).

Our Sister society in the USA has just moved its Library from former Librarian Mark Wilson's house to its new home in Baltimore. They are giving away excess copies of The Czechoslovak Specialist for postage and bound copies for \$5 each. This special offer is only until 1 May, after then loose copies will be sold for scrap paper and bound copies offered for auction to anyone on e-bay. Any member interested contact E.E.Gibson [the new Librarian] SCP Library, Glen Burnie, MD 21060, USA or e-mail zdbob@erizon.net.

## Czechoslovakia at POSTEX 2007.

In the mid 1970s two collectors, Leo Wijnkamp and Gerrit van der Velden, invited the Dutch members of the German Bundesarge Tschechoslowakei e.V. to their homes for a meeting. This can be seen now as the founding of what now is the Dutch "Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-Filatelie", the society for Czechoslovak philately in the Netherlands.



*At the table (L-R): Harm Sanstra, Treasurer, Jan Verleg and Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer, guest from Austria.*

To celebrate this event our society participated in the 2007 staging of POSTEX. This is an annual stamp fair which is organised in Apeldoorn and which enables Dutch specialist societies to present themselves with a smaller or larger exhibition. The big advantage of this fair is the fact that a lot of the organisation is taken

out of the hands of the societies by experienced people and that the societies can present themselves to an average number of no less than 2,500 visitors. The exhibition also hosts a large number of stamp dealers, a youth corner and several stands of a non-philatelic nature. Apeldoorn is also of interest to non-collectors, because it has a royal palace and lies in the midst of a national park, the "Hoge Veluwe".

The 2007 POSTEX, which was held 19-21 October, gave space to four specialist societies – France, Germany, Eastern Europe and Czechoslovakia – and was opened by the German ambassador to the Netherlands.

Because we are a relatively small society but wanted to give an as complete as possible overview of Czechoslovak philately, we invited our sister societies from Germany (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei e.V.) and Great Britain (Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain) to join us in this celebration. Together we managed to give an overview in 130 frames. To complement this the Czech Philatelic Federation with the cooperation of Czech Post was kind enough to provide us with a propaganda frame for PRAGA 2008.

The show was a big success and the cooperation with our British and German friends enabled us to show beautiful Czechoslovak material to the public. This resulted in obtaining nine new subscriptions for membership. We met with many old and new friends from home and abroad. Of course there were our British and German friends but we were also able to welcome friends from Finland and Austria – it was a truly international happening.



*Tony Bosworth discussing the finer points of the displays (L-R) with Seppo Laaksonen and Hartmut Liebermann.*

On the evening of the Saturday everybody met for an informal meeting and dinner at the Café de Paris in the centre of Apeldoorn. This evening was a highlight in the society's history. Although the main goal of the exhibition was to promote Czechoslovak Philately, some of our participants used the occasion to have their exhibits judged. This was possible in either rank 3 (a regional level) or rank 2 (a pre-national level).

In rank 3 the exhibit "A study of Routes and Rates of the third issue of Czechoslovak airmails" from Garth Taylor (GB) was awarded with a gold. In rank 2 Brian Day (GB) got a large silver for his exhibit "Military Posts in Slovakia 1918-1920"; Heinz Müller (DE) got a vermeil for his exhibit "Tschechoslowakei 1938-1948"; Georg Wilhelms (DE) got a vermeil for his exhibit "Moderne Tschechoslowakei, Besonderheiten zu den Markenausgaben 1943-1983"; Paul Kipp (DE) got a silver-bronze for his exhibit "Sonderstempel der Tschechoslowakei 1918-1939".

The great success of this event quickly answers the question whether we will do this again or not, but raises another: will it be in 5 or in 10 years? This cooperation of three specialist societies to make an event this successful certainly deserves to be repeated, something about which the German Bundesarg is already thinking.

Hans van Dooremalen

### Benefit for Members

Some time ago the Society arranged a discount procedure with **Vera Trinder**, sellers of philatelic literature and accessories. This is a reminder as to how the scheme works and to let you know there has been an amendment to the way discount is calculated.

If you want to take advantage of the scheme you must adhere to the procedure.

- Let me know what you want to order. I will place the order and the goods will be delivered to you. If you want to collect the goods you must order through me and I will contact Trinders before your visit.
- I will receive the invoice which the Society will pay and collect reimbursement from you.

The discount received by the Society will be 25% off the cost of the goods before VAT, if applicable.

The discount will be applied to the postal charges and the balance will be divided as to 50% to the member and 50% to the Society.

It will result in a worthwhile saving as shown by this example.

Goods £100 VAT £17.50 Postage £5. Total £122.50

The invoice will be £75 plus VAT £13.13 and Postage £5. Total £93.13

You pay £103.13 ie the invoice plus half the net discount after postage namely £10.

A saving of £19.37 on the original price. The Society receives £10 to compensate for the additional paperwork.

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Fax 020 7836 0873

Email: [vtrinder@aol.com](mailto:vtrinder@aol.com)

Enquiries only - all orders to be placed by me

**Yvonne Wheatley, Hon Treasurer**

## THE BREAK-UP OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY<sup>1</sup>

- Roger Morrell -

Geographically the new state of Czecho-Slovakia was born in 1918 as a small part of the total land area of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The powerful drive for self-rule within the borders of the former provinces of Bohemia and Moravia, dragging with them parts of Ruthenia south of the Carpathian Mountains, which became Slovakia, meant that of all the changes taking place in 1918/1919 after the capitulation of the Central Powers, the new state was held up as something of a model of self-determination. The Allied Powers used this model to ensure that never again would dominant empires exist in central Europe. The Czechs were well organised, and quickly set the administration (and the postal services) of the new state in motion. Give or take a skirmish or two concerning the border between Hungary and Slovakia, their dreams were confirmed during the negotiations and eventual signing of the Treaties of St. Germain (Austria) and the Trianon (Hungary).

Elsewhere, there was a greater degree of chaos, with the chief culprits being Serbia in the form of the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (abbreviated below as SHS for convenience), and Romania. Driven by an element of revenge, both were trying hard to grab as much territory of the former Hungary as possible, irrespective of the ethnic origins of the local population. The Allies, particularly the French, tried somewhat unsuccessfully to keep these incursions to an appropriate minimum before the Treaty was signed, and then to ensure orderly withdrawal afterwards.

So, I hear you ask, what's all this got to do with philately? Well, the subject I tried to address in my display to the Society was the philately and postal history of this troubled period. The stamps are usually consigned in catalogues to the class of 'back-of-the-book', if listed at all, and ignored by many mainstream collectors as too complicated, too ripe for being fooled by forgeries, and often too difficult to get hold of. The postal history is complicated by censorship, military movements, and who is occupying which town when. However, since the passage of mail is inextricably controlled by the politics of the time, the catalogue is a reflection of the politics, so it's reasonably straightforward to illustrate the politics with a philatelic and postal history display. The new Czechoslovakia is but a small



**Figure 1:** The headers on Austrian money order forms of the Empire, illustrating the principal languages: German, Bohemian, Polish, Illyrian, Italian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovenian. Hungary had its own designs in Hungarian and Croatian.

<sup>1</sup> Presented to the Society on 10 March 2001.

piece of the jigsaw, and one with which the audience was only too familiar, so the display was a phantasmagorical illustration of the rest of the play. Then, of course, our editor says, “please can you write it up for the Journal!” It’s hard to know where to start ... and where to stop. Examples of postal and philatelic turmoil during this period from every region of the Empire were included in the display. There are far too many to reproduce in a short article – each small region is a book in itself, so I have picked out a few examples, most with some relevance to Czechoslovakia, but ignoring mainstream things the Czechoslovak philatelist knows all about anyway.

Austria-Hungary was a huge empire, roughly at its peak in the run-up to WWI. It stretched from the Tyrol in the west to Bukovina in the East, from Polish Galicia in the north to the southernmost tip of Dalmatia on the Adriatic coast. There were 16 distinct provinces, and about as many languages (Figure 1). Military power held this disparate group together, although this was weakest in Hungary to appease the nationalist leaders who were always a destabilising threat, and probably strongest in Bosnia, which was ‘released’ from Turkish suzerainty by the Austrian occupation in 1878. As far as the passage of mail was concerned, Austrian stamps were used everywhere in the ‘kaiserdom’ except within Hungary (over which the Kaiser had only the status of a king), Croatia, which used Hungarian stamps from 1868, and Bosnia, which used military occupation stamps. In addition, the Austrian authorities also ran a series of post offices throughout the Turkish Empire, permitting fast and conveniently organised mail services back to the homeland (Figure 2).



**Figure 2:** Registered express letter from Constantinople to Brunn/Brno with a high-value franking.

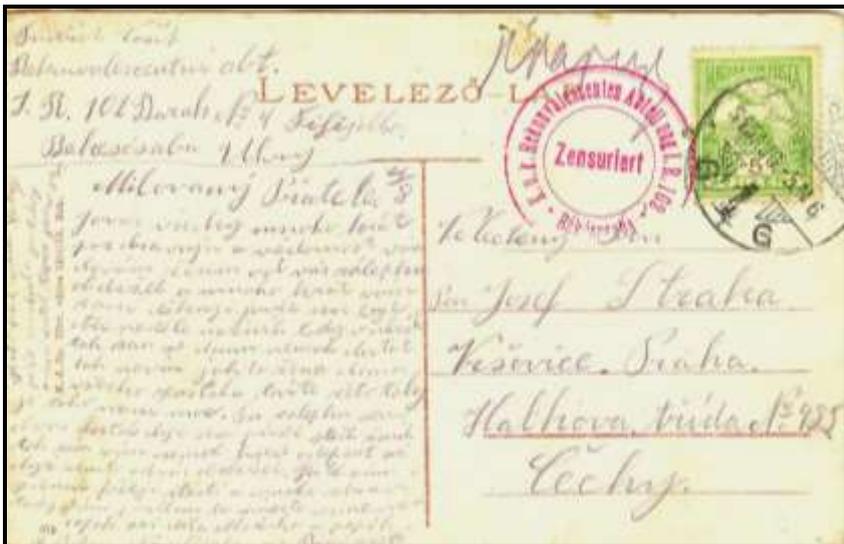
The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 by Serbian dissidents was the excuse that the ageing Kaiser Franz Josef needed to settle disputes with Serbia itself, but the declaration of war on Serbia led to its ally Russia to attack exposed Galicia. To help Austria on this front brought Germany into the conflict, and then France to support the Russians, and the British to support the French against Germany. Turkey also joined in on the Central Powers’ side, followed in 1915 by Bulgaria, a move which was decisive in the defeat of Serbia. Italy saw a chance to eliminate Austrian influence in South Tyrol and to acquire the eastern side of the Adriatic. Thus by the winter of 1915, most of Europe was involved, and a stalemate position was developing through trench warfare.

In terms of Austro-Hungarian stamps, there is little to show that the world was at war, apart from a few war charity issues, particularly in Hungary, and the commemorative Bosnian issue for the Archduke’s memorial church fund. In terms of postal history, a key element of interest is a major expansion of the military postal system with movable field post offices and more-permanent base post-offices, mostly in the frontier zones, which had to cope with huge numbers of postcards sent home by soldiers, sailors and airmen on active service. A related element is the development of censorship, both for civil and military mail (Figures 3 & 4), although it is unclear to the author why some civilian mail moving entirely within Austro-Hungarian territory was censored and some was not. The scope for collecting here is huge; collecting field post office cancellation numbers can be addictive to some (it’s a bit like train-spotting), but the more sought-after aspects are items associated with key events, such as the siege of Przemyśl in Polish Galicia, or with the Navy based in Pola and other Adriatic ports (Figure 5), or the

activities along the Danube and into the Black Sea, or with the flying corps. Austro-Hungarian personnel also served with the armies of other Central Powers in a training or a liaison role, sometimes using their own field post office system (as in occupied Romania), but often the local one or the German one (as in Bulgaria or Turkey).



**Figure 3:** Picture postcard from Brod na Sava in Croatia to Praha-Kralovy Vinohrady, censored in Zagreb as indicated by the boxed bilingual Hungarian/Croatian censor cachet.



**Figure 4:** Picture postcard sent as civilian mail from the convalescent unit of the Infantry Regiment no. 102 in Bekéscsaba in Hungary to Praha- Vršovice on 5 August 1915, but given the unit censorship cachet.



**Figure 5:** Picture postcard of SMS 'Viribus Unitis', the flagship of the navy(illustrated below on a charity stamp), sent as a fieldpost card from SMS 'Custoza', a naval depot ship, to Praha-Smíchov on 22 April 1918.



The history books tell us that the trench warfare stalemate broke first in September 1918 on the Salonica front where the Bulgarians gave way against the Serbs, the French and the British. The weakened Empire began to crumble as the Serbs re-occupied their homeland, and the French pursued the Austro-Hungarian army across the Danube. On the Italian front, the Austrians collapsed in October 1918, and the Turks surrendered to the British driving north through the Holy Land. Germany finally capitulated on the French front in November 1918. In order to reduce further threats to stability in Europe the victorious allies set about implementing the principle of self-determination for the peoples of Europe (plus some elements of self-interest, especially in the former Ottoman Empire) through the Paris Peace Conference, which resulted finally in a number of Treaties:

- **Versailles:** governing the fate of German-held areas of what was to become Poland, the formation of the free city of Danzig, the splitting of East Prussia from the rest of Germany, and the establishment of a number of plebiscites, including Allenstein, Marienwerder and Upper Silesia with mixed German and Polish populations.
- **St. Germain:** governing the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and the definition of the borders of Austria, the granting of South Tyrol to Italy, the creation of the new state of Czecho-Slovakia, the incorporation of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the new state of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Figure 6), and the granting of Galicia and most of Austrian Silesia to Poland (Figures 7 & 8). In addition there was the short-lived break-up of Bukovina into West Ukraine (Figures 9 & 10) and Romania (Figure 11).

(See e.g. [www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/treaties/1920/3.htm](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/treaties/1920/3.htm) for an example of the full text of the treaty detailing the border agreements.)

- **Trianon:** governing the break-up of Hungary, granting areas to Czecho-Slovakia, to Romania (Figure 11), and to Serbia to form the new state of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the forerunner of Yugoslavia.
- **Neuilly:** governing the redefining of the borders of Bulgaria towards those prior to annexations during the First Balkan War in 1912, i.e. returning Western Thrace to Greece, the Dobrudja peninsular to Romania, and parts of Serbia back to Serbia.
- **Sèvres:** governing the complex break-up of Turkey, including the formation of Armenia, of British mandates in Iraq and Palestine, and of French mandates in Syria and Lebanon.

In addition there was a separate Treaty of **Rapallo** between Italy and the new Yugoslavia concerning the disputed city of Fiume (after D'Annunzio's invasion) as well as Italian designs on the Adriatic Balkan coast. This series of settlements took some time, but before final agreement there was continued tension and some fighting within the former Austro-Hungarian Empire as attempts were made to maximise gains or minimise losses.



**Figure 6:** Picture postcard sent from Sarajevo to Obermarschen (now Maršov) in Bohemia in January 1919 with a mixed franking of the KuK Bosnia/Herzegovina issue and the SHS overprint issue.

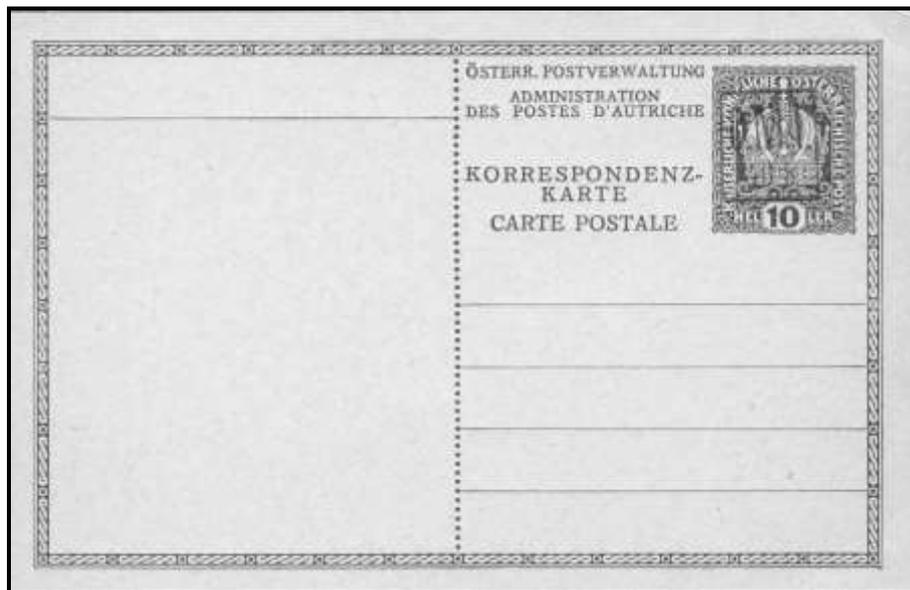
**Figure 7:** Austrian postal stationery card overprinted POCZTA POLSKA 15 h. for use in Southern Poland, formerly Austrian Silesia, sent within Teschen/Cieszyn on 22 April 1920, with additional franking of Polish Eastern Silesia stamps.



**Figure 8:** Provisional Polish postage dues postmarked Teschen/Cieszyn on a stamplless cover sent from Mor. Ostrava to Olomouc on 2 August 1919.

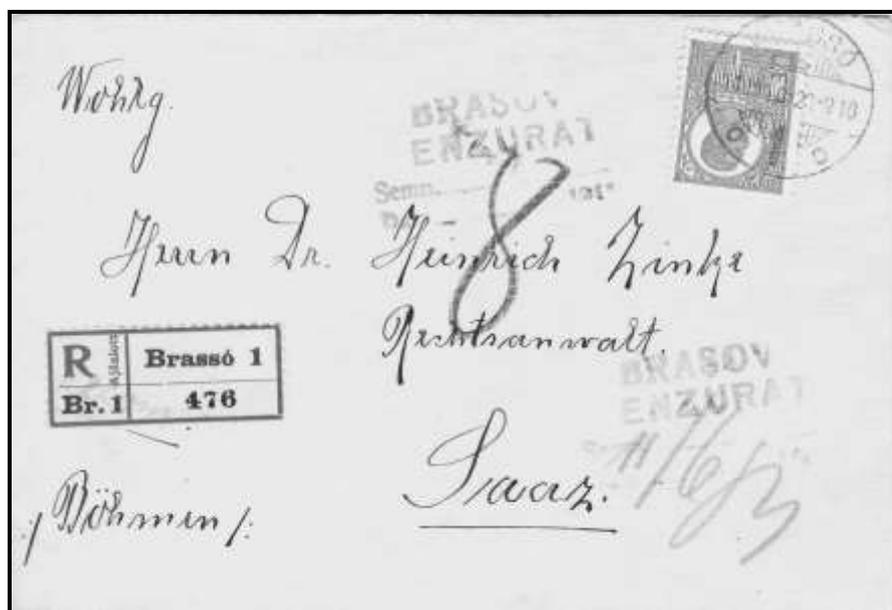
**Figure 9:** Picture postcard franked with Austrian stamps sent from Kolomea in Bukovina to a village near Vienna on 21 December 1918. It has a crude boxed cyrillic censor cachet ЦЕНЗУРА КОЛОМИЯ of the Western Ukraine authorities in Kolomea.





**Figure 10:** Austrian UPU card overprinted 'C.M.T. 40 b' for the Romanian occupation of part of Bukovina, the most far-flung corner of the Empire.

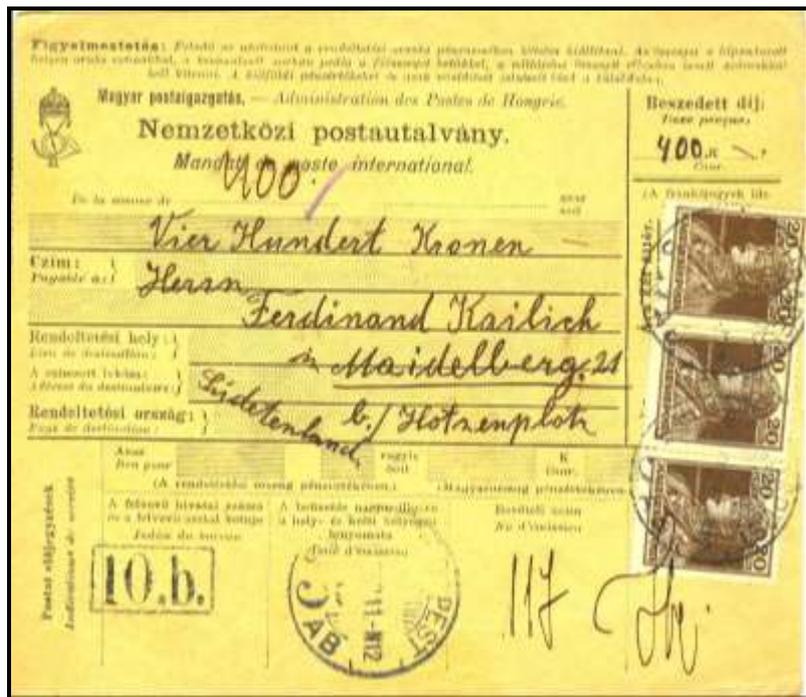
**Figure 11:** Letter from Brassó, now Braşov in the enlarged Romania, to Saaz in Bohemia, postmarked 20 June 1919, with a Romanian censor cachet, but still using a Hungarian registration label and date stamp. The sender's opinion of the new regime may be reflected in the upside down King Ferdinand stamp!



Between Czechoslovakia and Hungary, border disputes continued into 1920 with disruption to cross-border mail services, treating each other as foreign countries (Figure 12) and with continued censorship of mail (Figure 13), no one trusting anyone else for a few years after the war. Hungary itself suffered from a Bolshevik revolution in 1919, with the nationalist government moving to the city of Szeged. Serbian attacks continued in the south, with the provinces of Baranya and the Bánát being occupied, plus a short-term occupation of the city of Temesvár. Croatian nationalism emerged in the form of fighting in the south-west of Hungary, with temporary occupations of the border provinces of Medjmurje and Prekomurje. French troops continued to occupy parts of central Hungary, particularly around the city of Arad. Their principal function was to prevent a Romanian advance westwards beyond their occupation of Transylvania, but this was unsuccessful, the Romanians occupying Debrecen, Temesvár and even Budapest for a short time until the Allies persuaded them to withdraw. Finally, there was a dispute between Hungary and Austria in deciding the fate of the Burgenland/West Hungary near the city of Sopron, which was settled by plebiscite in late 1921.

The population, particularly of Hungary, was very unhappy with this break-up engineered by the Allied Powers, and the Justice for Hungary campaign became vociferous in the 1920s and 1930s (Figure 14), leading to the temporary reversal of some of these border changes during WWII, but to no long-lasting avail.

**Figure 12:** A Hungarian international money order used to send 400 Krone from Budapest to the delightfully named Maidelberg bei Hotzenplotz (now Dívčí Hrad), Sudetenland (Moravia), on 11 February 1919. Before the Empire break-up, a national version of the card would have sufficed. The money was received on 19 February and the collection charge of 20 h is indicated by a still-in-use 20 h Austrian postage due stamp on the reverse.



**Figure 13:** Czech censorship on an incoming Hungarian postal stationery envelope from Budapest, postmarked 19 April 1921, during the early months of the inflation period, total rate 250 fillér.

As far as philately is concerned, the redefining of boundaries and the continued disputes led inevitably to many provisional issues of stamps, some of which were official, some militarily ordered, some clearly local and politically inspired, and others entirely bogus produced by crooks and con-men who tried to satisfy philatelic demand. A study of this period could simply be called 'The Overprint'. To this day, the philatelist must tread with care. Many stamps have been extensively forged, even the cheapest ones, and guarantee marks on the back may in fact merely guarantee a fake. The supporting literature on what the faked overprints actually look like is still weak, partly because the genuine overprints themselves were rather variable. It takes a long time to acquire enough knowledge to distinguish a 'good' one from a 'doubtful' one. Perhaps the ones I find most difficult to distinguish are those of Fiume (Figure 15), the three-line 'Bánát, Bacska 1919.' overprints on Hungarian stamps during the Serbian occupation, and some of the Polish and Western Ukraine overprints on Austrian stamps. Even acquiring enough to study is becoming difficult.

This has been just a brief foray into Austro-Hungarian philately and postal history of the decade 1914 to 1924. The subject is huge and the lines of potential research are numerous. More than 80 years later, details are still being documented, with new findings happening all the time. I find it fascinating – I hope you do too.



**Figure 14:** The well-known mechanical ‘Break-up’ postcard published by the Hungarian Women’s National Association during the 1920s. Turning the wheel at the left moves the ‘Lost Territories’ away from the Danube basin region we know as Hungary today. Many ethnic Hungarians found themselves in non-Hungarian states.



**Figure 15:** A registered express letter from Fiume to Vienna dated 17 January 1919. At this time the Allied Powers were in control with the concept of making it a free city.

## COVERS OF INTEREST

-Derek Walker-

The illustration of the 1943 Airmail letter written in Czech from Persia [Iran] to Ing. V. Gottinger living in Gosforth [Newcastle], with Persian/Iranian stamps, that appeared in the December 2007 issue of *Czechout* on page 100, was sent to Bernard Lucas. Bernard is the Honorary Secretary of the Iran Philatelic Study Circle, and he has made the following comments.

"The Iran cover is nothing out of the ordinary and I set out my reading of it. The Foreign air letter weighs 20 grammes. Letter rate: 2 rials 50 dinars. Air mail supplement: 10 rials. Total: 12 rials 50 dinars. The following adhesives evidence this: 1935 air – 10 chahis = 50 dinars; 1942 definitives 2 x 5 rials and 2 rials [under the censor tape]. They seemed to use an old air stamp as a token for airmail, presumably from stock left over.

"Cancellation (Teheran) No.13 21.IX.43, the normal departure cancel. Anglo-Soviet-Persian censors in Teheran. English on the front, Russian on the back. The sealing tape has Persian [Fasi] script on it. The wavy line cancel is Baghdad, if 19 October it did not fly from Teheran! (X) 10 is a censor in Iraq\*, and I think the PC90 label was applied in Baghdad, but I am not sure. How it travelled I am not sure and there are no transit marks. It may have flown to Cairo and then across North Africa and probably then by sea."

*\*Page 112 of 'British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II – Colonies and Occupied Territories in the Mediterranean Sea and Middle East' by Little, Torrance & Morenweiser 1996 published by the Civil Censorship Study Circle seems to confirm this with Handstamp Types 7 and 8. Editor.*

## MONOGRAPH 15 - ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

-Richard Beith-

### 2. Czechoslovaks in the Royal Air Force (Continued)

Two inward covers from Canada to F/Sgt, later Pilot Officer, Karel Rybníček were shown in *Czechout* 4/2007. It has been known that a number of the Czechoslovaks in the RAF were originally soldiers and only trained as aircrew after they had reached Great Britain. Rybníček was indeed one of those and is still listed as a lance-corporal of infantry (*svob.pěch.*) at Cholmondeley as of 1 August 1940. [Source: [www.geocities.com/czechandslovakthings](http://www.geocities.com/czechandslovakthings)]

Going back in time, the February 1940 cover shown here is addressed to him as Caporal (corporal) Rybníček at the Czechoslovak Camp at Agde [SP 2197]. Karel Rybníček was born in Kozlov near Jihlava on 5 February 1919. From the illustration he was in the second company of the third regiment at Agde, perhaps still in training when Germany invaded France. He arrived in England at Falmouth from Bordeaux so would have been amongst the earliest arrivals. He joined 311 Squadron and was based at Talbenny (Pembroke). Some of his training was at Medicine Hat in Canada and he converted to Liberators as a navigator at 111 Operational Training Unit (OTU) at Nassau, in the Bahamas. As previously noted he survived the war but, sadly, was killed on 5 October 1945 when the 311 Liberator GR Mk VI, KG 867 PP-N, crashed shortly after take-off from RAF Blackbushe on a ferry flight to Prague. An engine exploded. All passengers and crew died. Rybníček is buried at Brookwood.

*Acknowledgement.* Many thanks to Barry Kudlacek of Wombourne for considerable help with the biographical information.



## PLZEŇ 1945

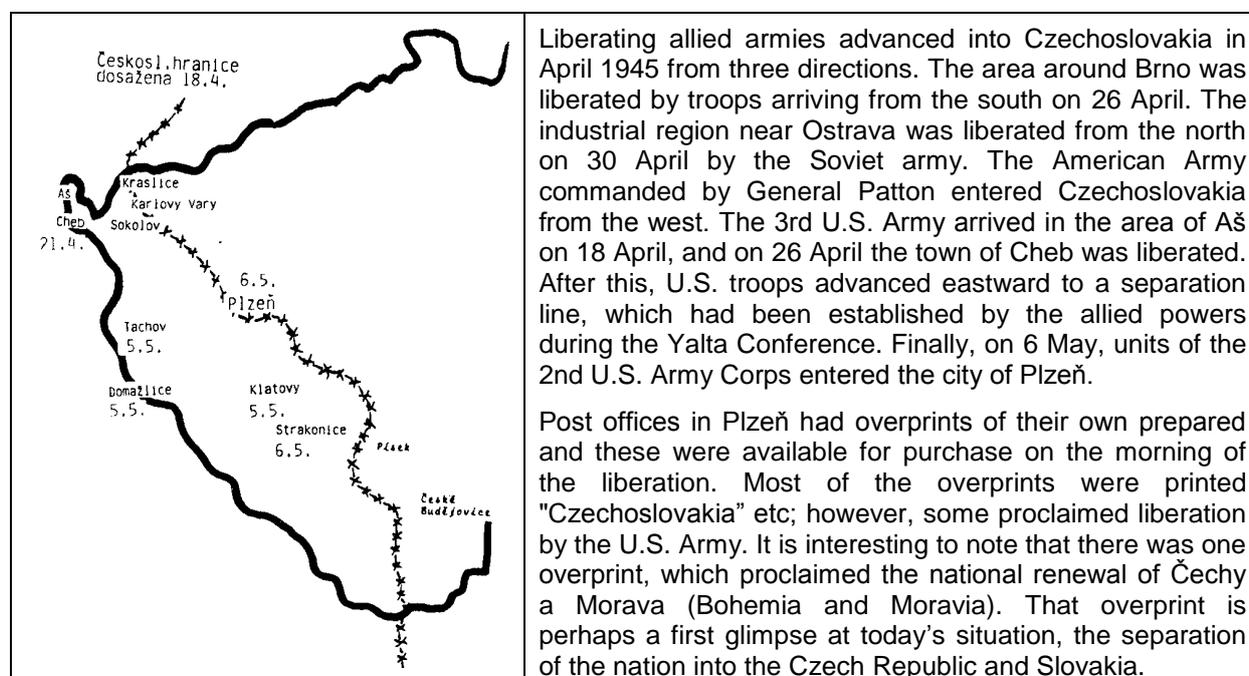
Translated from original work prepared by Karel Holoubek of Hradec Králové

In May 1945, Czechoslovakia was liberated from Nazi occupation. As the Czech postal service resumed many locations overprinted their existing supply of German and Protectorate stamps with Czech inscriptions. These overprints symbolised freedom and were enthusiastically welcomed by the newly freed citizens.

Prior to this time there had been two separate issues of overprints. The first issue was when Czechs overprinted Austrian stamps in 1919 (Scott B1-123). The second example of overprinting occurred in 1938 when Germany celebrated the liberation of the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and its annexation to Germany by overprinting Czech stamps. The overprints announced "Frei" which translates to free (Michel Spec. - Sudetenland) and "Heim ins Reich", meaning returned home (Michel Spec. - Moravá Ostrava).

The memory of these issues was still painful to the Czech people in 1945. Therefore, in an attempt to settle the score, the Czech designers of the revolutionary overprints sought to document that Czechoslovakia had regained its status as a free nation.

It has been widely believed that the use of overprints occurred only during the first two weeks of May 1945. However, prior to the liberating invasions, the very first revolutionary overprints had been created (Kalman at Pardubice for example).



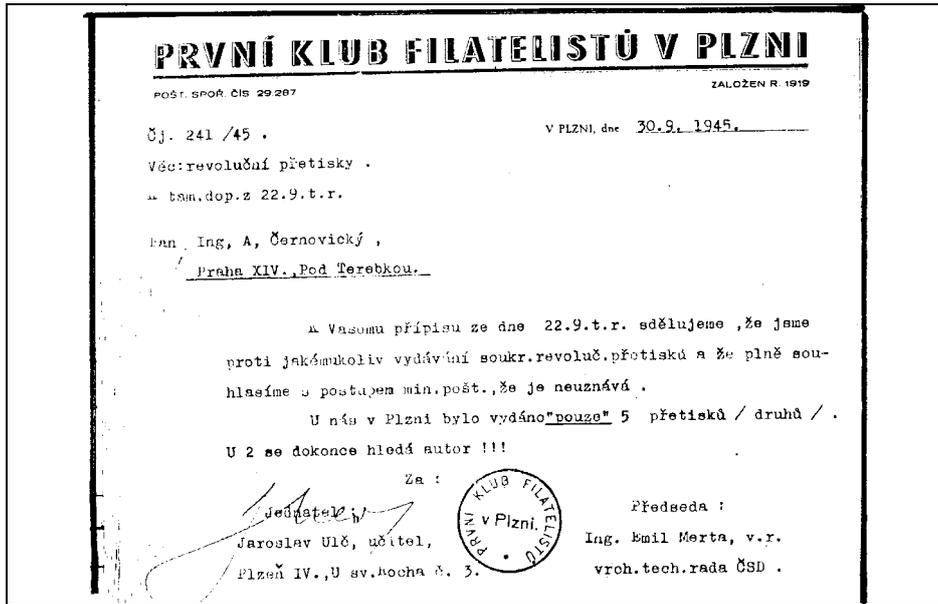
*Map showing liberation by US forces.*

The overprinting of stamps in Plzeň and also in some other Czech localities began on 5 May. This action was prompted by a radio message from Prague, which announced the general uprising against the German occupation. In the first day of liberation, printing blocks were used for the overprinting of all stamps in stock. Along with the overprinting of existing Protectorate stamps, all mail collected from mailboxes was stamped. Postcards and covers posted before the revolution, but not yet delivered, were also overprinted.

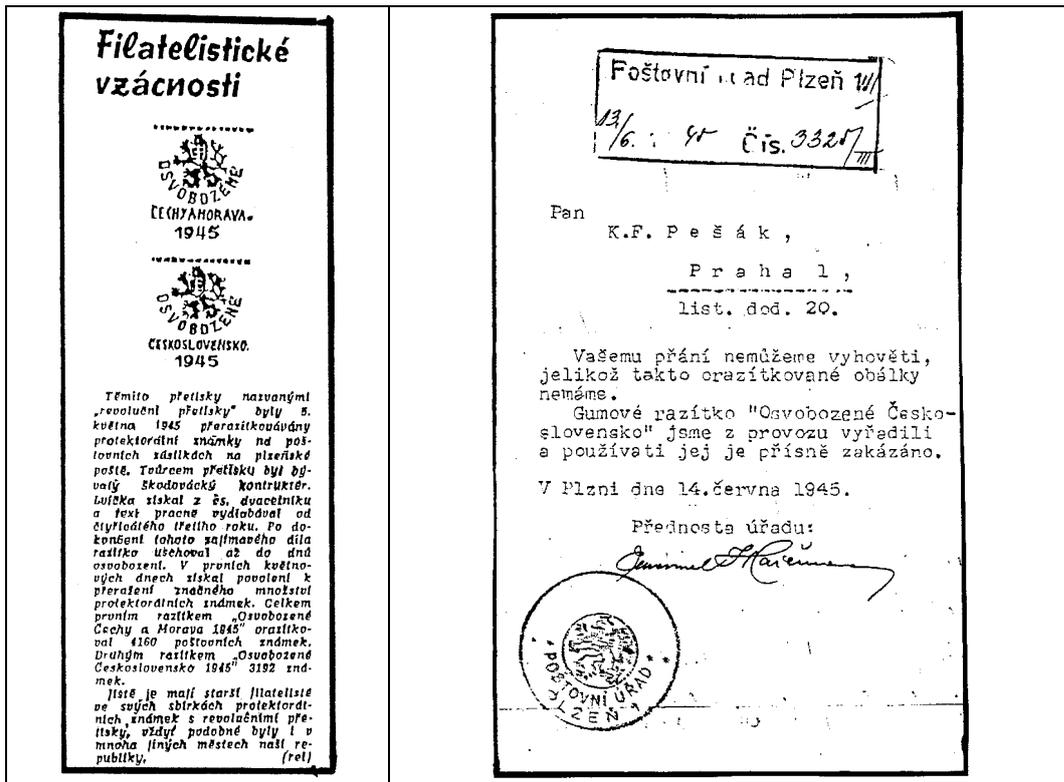
In the years following the Communist takeover in 1948, no reference was allowed to the role of western allies in liberating Czechoslovakia. The existence of all 1945 overprints was officially suppressed. As a result, there was no philatelic record of the hundred-plus different overprints that were a part of Czech postal history. Because there was no official record, speculators created many phantom overprints.

Today there is evidence of 16 different overprints originating in Plzeň and, as this article highlights, the authenticity of some is highly questionable. In order to determine authenticity, the liberation date of the city must be considered. Plzeň was officially liberated on 6 May, 1945 but it took until May 16 for the Czech postal administration in Prague to issue a directive prohibiting the sale and usage of all

Protectorate stamps. However, due to postwar confusion, the directive did not reach all post offices immediately. Some localities were not advised until late in June.



Further evidence comes from a letter from the Plzeň Philatelic Club dated 30 September 1945. The letter states that only five different overprints were issued after the liberation of Plzeň. The letter, however, does not give a description or include an illustration of the overprints.



Additional written evidence comes from the postal chairman of Plzeň. In a letter dated 13 June 1945, he advised a stamp collector that overprints were no longer available because the supply was exhausted. By law new overprints could no longer be issued. As a guarantee the primary blocks, such as those with the text "Osvobozené Československo", were destroyed.

From these documents and dated postal covers, five authentic overprints have been identified. After much collaboration between Czech and foreign stamp collectors there is now general agreement that five Pizeň overprints can be recognised as genuine. All others are categorised as phantom.

### Type I Genuine (Listed by Grau as type I)

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Cancellations on covers are known from 5 May 1945; the cancellers are still bilingual.  |
|  | Stamps and covers were overprinted at the Post Office and these stamps are known used on commercial mail.   |
|  | The overprint in black <b>OSVOBOZENE ČECHY A MORAVA 1945</b> translates to "Liberated Bohemia and Moravia 1945". A few overprints are known inverted. |

Stamps known overprinted:

|                    |          |        |        |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|--------------------|----------|--------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|---|---|---|--|
| <u>Hitler head</u> | h values | 10     | 30     | 40   | 50   | 60   | 80   |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|                    | k values | 1      | 1.20   | 1.50 | 1.60 | 2    | 2.40 | 2.50 | 3   | 4 | 5 | 6 |  |
|                    |          | 8      | 10     | 20   | 30   | 50   | 4.20 |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>St Vitus</u>    |          | 1.50 k | 2.50 k |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>Newspaper</u>   |          | 2 h    | 5 h    | 7 h  | 9 h  | 10 h | 12 h | 50 h | 1 k |   |   |   |  |

### Type II Genuine (Listed by Grau as type II)

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Cancellations on covers are known from 5 May 1945; the cancellers are still bilingual.                      |
|  | Stamps and covers were overprinted at the Post Office and these stamps are known used on commercial mail.   |
|  | The overprint in black <b>OSVOBOZENE ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1945</b> translates to "Liberated Czechoslovakia 1945". |

Stamps known overprinted:

|                    |          |        |        |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|--------------------|----------|--------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|---|---|---|--|
| <u>Hitler head</u> | h values | 10     | 30     | 40   | 50   | 60   | 80   |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|                    | k values | 1      | 1.20   | 1.50 | 1.60 | 2    | 2.40 | 2.50 | 3   | 4 | 5 | 6 |  |
|                    |          | 8      | 10     | 20   | 30   | 50   | 4.20 |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>St Vitus</u>    |          | 1.50 k | 2.50 k |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>Newspaper</u>   |          | 2 h    | 5 h    | 7 h  | 9 h  | 10 h | 12 h | 50 h | 1 k |   |   |   |  |

### Type III Genuine (Listed by Grau as type III)

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | These overprints in black were created with a printing block and applied with a black ink. Stamps and covers were overprinted at the Post Office and these stamps are known used on commercial mail. |
|  | The overprint <b>Osvobozené Československo 1945.</b> translates to "Liberated Czechoslovakia 1945". It depicts the central theme of the national symbol of a two tailed lion.                        |

Stamps known overprinted:

|                    |          |        |        |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|--------------------|----------|--------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|---|---|---|--|
| <u>Hitler head</u> | h values | 10     | 30     | 40   | 50   | 60   | 80   |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|                    | k values | 1      | 1.20   | 1.50 | 1.60 | 2    | 2.40 | 2.50 | 3   | 4 | 5 | 6 |  |
|                    |          | 8      | 10     | 20   | 30   | 50   | 4.20 |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>Smetana</u>     |          | 60 h   | 1.20 k |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>St Vitus</u>    |          | 1.50 k | 2.50 k |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>Newspaper</u>   |          | 2 h    | 5 h    | 7 h  | 9 h  | 10 h | 12 h | 50 h | 1 k |   |   |   |  |

**Type IV Genuine** (Listed by Grau as type IV)



These overprints were officially authorized by the Postmaster and created with a hand-held printing block, thus making a “rubber” stamp. They exist in two sizes, dependant on the size of the stamp. Stamps and covers were overprinted at the Post Office and these stamps are known used on commercial mail. The two-line overprint **Československá Republika**. translates to “Czechoslovak Republic”.

Stamps known overprinted:

|                    |          |        |        |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|--------------------|----------|--------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|---|---|---|--|
| <u>Hitler head</u> | h values | 10     | 30     | 40   | 50   | 60   | 80   |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|                    | k values | 1      | 1.20   | 1.50 | 1.60 | 2    | 2.40 | 2.50 | 3   | 4 | 5 | 6 |  |
|                    |          | 8      | 10     | 20   | 30   | 50   | 4.20 |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>Smetana</u>     |          | 60 h   | 1.20 k |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>St Vitus</u>    |          | 1.50 k | 2.50 k |      |      |      |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
| <u>Newspaper</u>   |          | 2 h    | 5 h    | 7 h  | 9 h  | 10 h | 12 h | 50 h | 1 k |   |   |   |  |
| <u>Official</u>    | h values | 30     | 40     | 50   | 60   | 80   |      |      |     |   |   |   |  |
|                    | k values | 1      | 1.20   | 1.50 | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    |     |   |   |   |  |

**Type V Genuine** (Listed by Grau as type V)

The final genuine overprint contains bordered text in five lines:



The overprint is in two sizes, dependant on the size of the stamp, and exists in black, violet, gold. It is not unusual to find shades of these as the overprint was applied by hand and ink pads could easily be changed Stamps and covers were overprinted at the Post Office and these stamps are known used on commercial mail.

The overprint translates to “USA Liberated Pilsen 6 May 1945”.

Stamps known overprinted:

|                    |          |        |        |      |      |    |      |      |   |   |   |   |  |
|--------------------|----------|--------|--------|------|------|----|------|------|---|---|---|---|--|
| <u>Hitler head</u> | h values | 10     | 30     | 40   | 50   | 60 | 80   |      |   |   |   |   |  |
|                    | k values | 1      | 1.20   | 1.50 | 1.60 | 2  | 2.40 | 2.50 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |  |
|                    |          | 8      | 10     | 20   | 30   | 50 | 4.20 |      |   |   |   |   |  |
| <u>Smetana</u>     |          | 60 h   | 1.20 k |      |      |    |      |      |   |   |   |   |  |
| <u>St Vitus</u>    |          | 1.50 k | 2.50 k |      |      |    |      |      |   |   |   |   |  |

**Postcards**

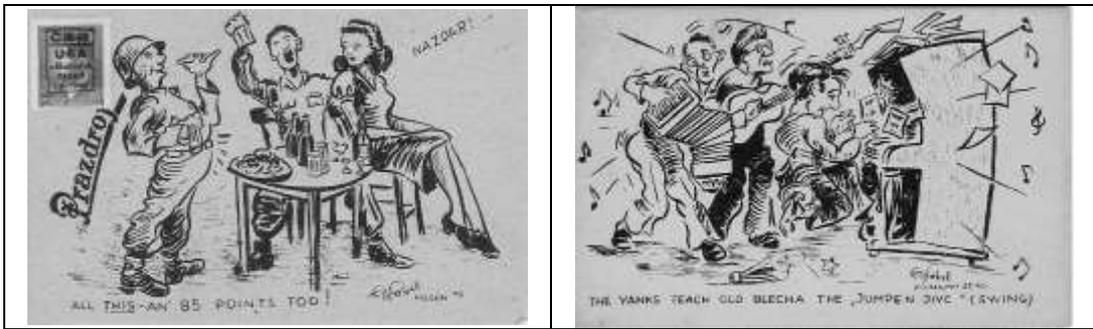
Also included in the May 1945 Plzeň liberation issues are four different types of postcard. These were produced very quickly, mainly by the US Army, and sold at all Plzeň post offices – many along with the type V overprinted stamps.

**Type 1**

There are four different cards signed by Bill Powell. This was probably the first produced as the quality is higher. There was obviously more than one printing as the card thickness varies significantly. The address side of the first printing of the cards shows the insignia of the 2nd US Army.



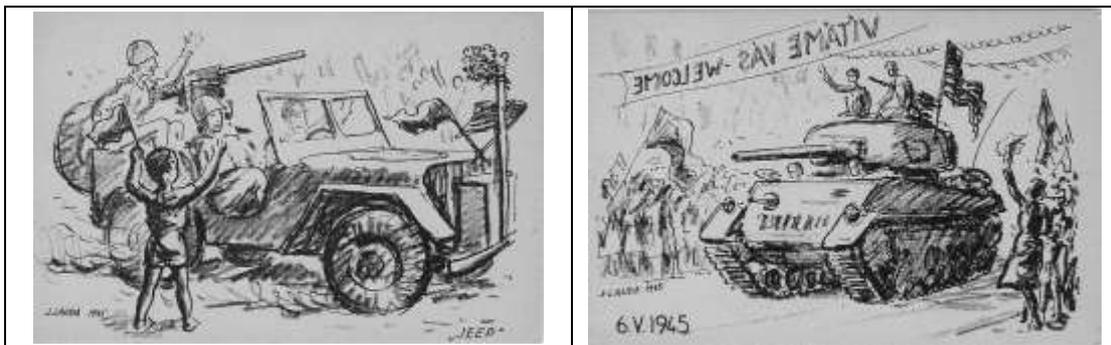
Front and back of the "Yank Soldier's Song".

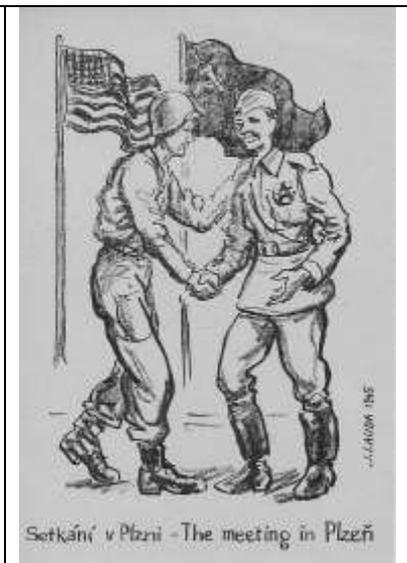
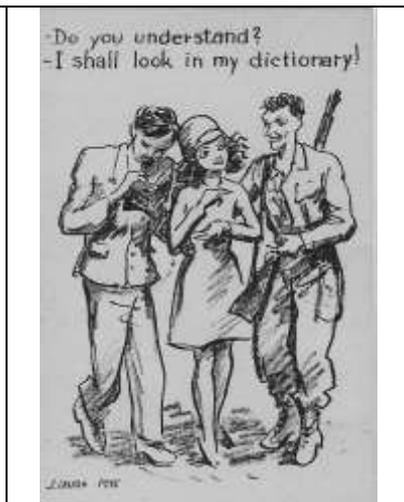
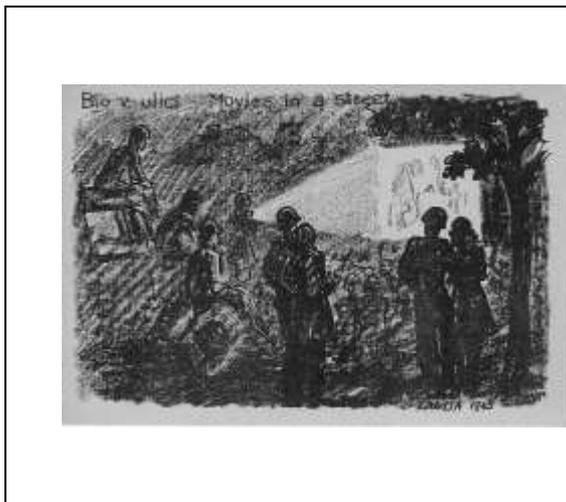


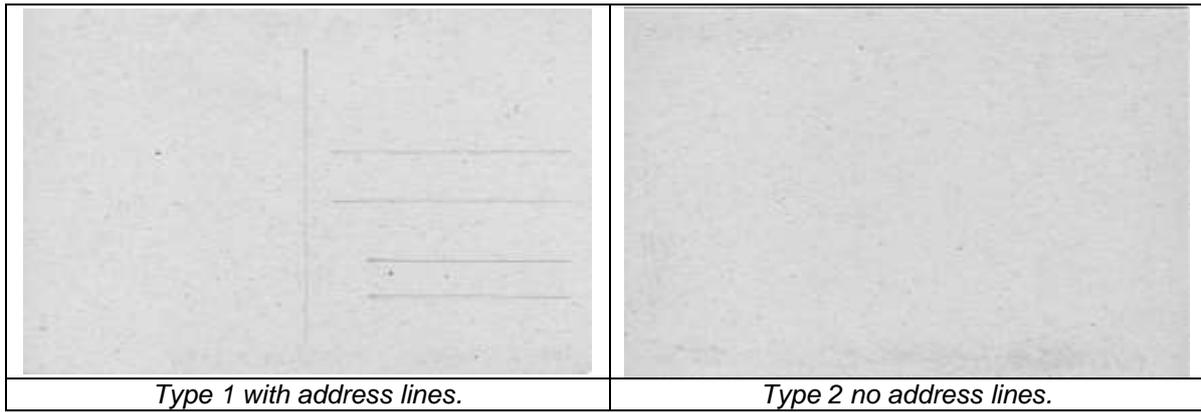
Front and back of "The New Pilsen Polka!"

**Type 2**

There are 10 different cards signed by J Lauda. Of these there are at least two printings of each cards, differentiated by address lines on the reverse side.

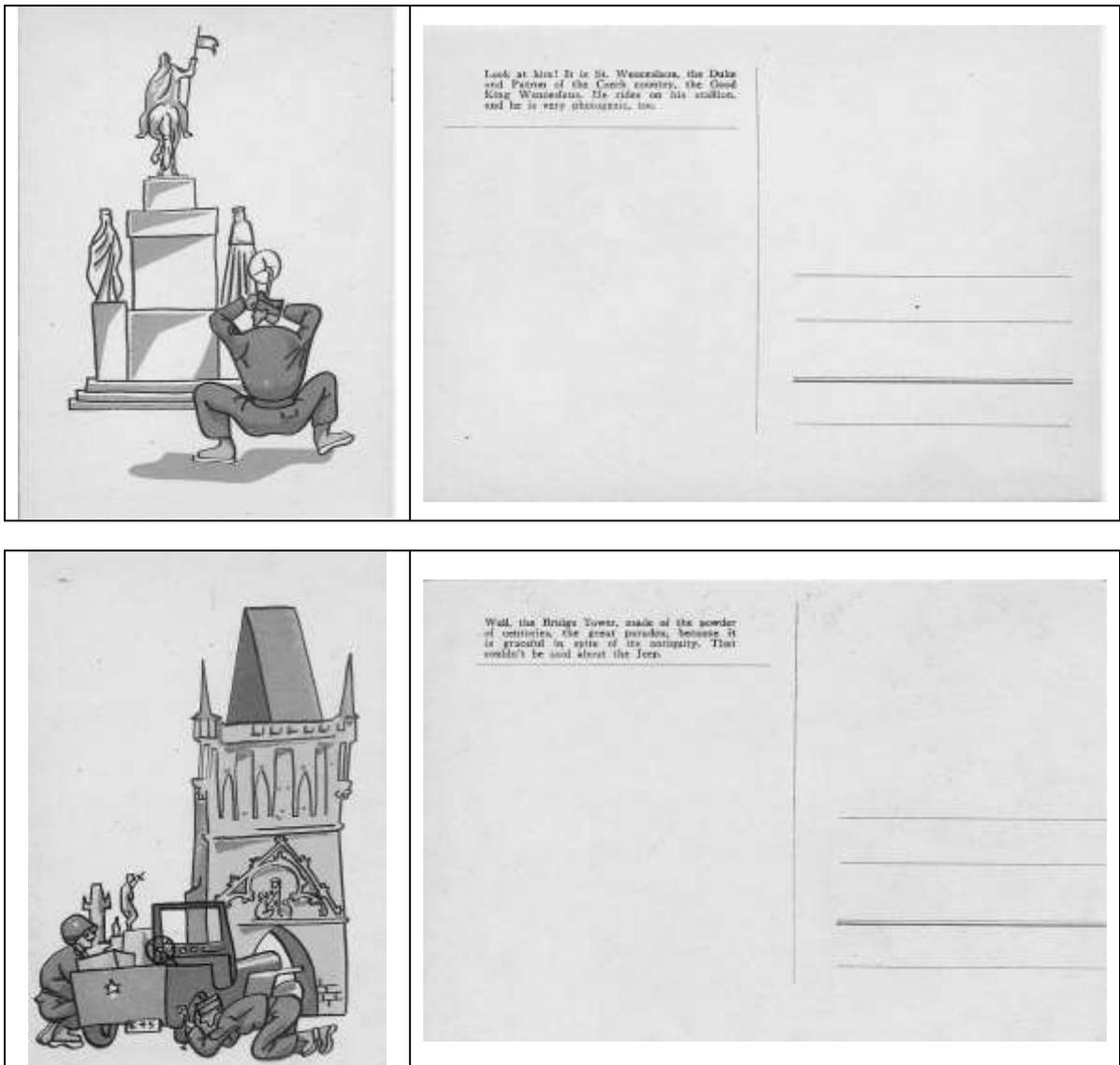






### Type 3

These five cards are in colour and there are two types, the first print containing text and the second with no text. It has been suggested that their use was destined for officers rather than other ranks.





They drive over the frontier of Prague. You wonder at the very behavior of the soldiers. You have the privilege to purchase your baggage from the soldiers and the German. Little by whatever else.



The first Philanthropy of the Captain, with his own charity room. When the soldiers are talking in the street, you are talking to the children of Sarandov.



Concrete can be used by the USA and Canada. However, the soldiers are not. How do you see the world and the world? It is small, but not.

**Type 4**

Other postcards of the liberation.



Heavy Tanks of the 1st Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in the streets of Plzeň.



President Beneš and General Liška at a review of the 1st Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade at Plzeň.



## WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Another selection of Members' Queries; at present we have a fair number outstanding awaiting answers. We would be grateful if members would see if they could reply to some of these queries, as it is a pity to write these off as unknown! It would be helpful if inquirers having covers with further details on the reverse also photocopy that side to assist with any replies. First the Answers:

### Re: Barry Horne's Japanese Philatelic Museum Design by Herčík in Czechout 4/07 page 120

From Derek Walker: I discovered the work of Josef Herčík when we visited the great man's workshop during the last Praga exhibition, and have a fair number of examples of his designs. As amongst these engravings there are some of his Japanese miniature sheets I wrote to the Japanese Philatelic Society to see what he was doing in Japan.

The Secretary of the Japan Philatelic Society, Foundation Mrs Natsumi Sanno, replied as follows: "Mr Josef Herčík used to visit our Shinjuku office and I myself have met him a few times. He was shy but very nice. He hoped to sell great sets of his engraving works to Japanese stamp collectors.

According to the records of the JPS, Mr Josef Herčík engraved JAPEX commemorative souvenir card for '89, '90, '91, '92, '93 and '94, most of which depicted 'ukiyoe' sceneries except for '90 and '91.

There were no Japanese stamps for which Mr Josef Herčík worked. All the engraving for postage stamps and banknotes has been done by the engravers of the Printing Bureau without any exception.

However, Mr Otto Hornung wrote in his article in YUSHU, the monthly magazine of the JPS, that Mr Josef Herčík engraved two of the Czechoslovak postage stamps commemorating EXPO '70, which was held in Japan, and one of the two depicted Hiroshige's "the 36 sceneries of Mt. Fuji."



### New Queries

From Phil Melamed (via Bob Hill): (Query 1) A number of years ago Jiří Stupka(?), an expert on the Czech Allegory issues of the 1920s, lectured in Chicago at a meeting of the Chicago Czech Society chapter. He commented on how rare the 150h chainbreaker imperf stamp was and exhibited a copy. I tried to get him to estimate the value of the block of four of those stamps, but he said he doubted that a block existed. I also asked about the paper colour for such imperfs, since his copy had a slight brownish tint to the paper, but he said they used all sorts of paper, so that didn't necessarily mean that the stamp was printers waste. I mentioned to him I had a corner block of four that I had thought was printers waste but now wasn't so sure. I was never able to send him a photocopy or scan [until now]. However, I don't have an email address for him. If any of your members can provide an email address, I would appreciate it, and will copy you [Bob Hill] in on my email to him.

(Query 2) I purchased last year on eBay two covers from a Hungarian dealer. All I know about these is mentioned on the typed label on my album page. If someone could identify the postmark towns and dates, the cachet/building at the left and/or the significance of the postmarks, I would appreciate it. I suspect the postmarks are from Užhorod, and the cachet shows a liberation monument, but who knows.

Of course the use of the 1945 Carpatho-Ukraine stamps in 1974 is purely philatelic. But these covers show that in 1974 these 1945 stamps were not considered to have any substantial value. I have also seen, at a local Ukrainian exhibit in Chicago, a 1960-1970 cover celebrating the Carpatho-Ukraine anniversary that used a block of at least 10 to 12 of Carpatho-Ukraine No.1 just to decorate a modern



anniversary cover. When I mentioned that to one of the Ukrainian dealers he said, "No, they must have used the cheap facsimiles printed for Ukrainpex 1984 and one other Ukrainpex exhibition."

[Bob, if you haven't seen these facsimiles I can send you scans.]

I told the dealer, "No, just look at the exhibit cover, it used the original stamps." I was right. However, I was able to buy a few of the facsimiles at the show.

[The wording on the bottom of Phil's album page, reads Russian covers, with Russian 1974 stamp and 1945 Carpatho Ukraine stamps, apparently commemorating the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the Carpatho Ukraine territory by Russian troops at the end of World War II. Postmark is October 24, 1974 and Russian stamp on cover was issued June 20, 1974 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Byelorussia by Russian troops in World War II.]

From Derek Baron: I have a postal card from Olomouc to Vienna in 1882. It has three purple handstamps that I haven't seen before. The first CAI BOIE applied in the middle of the address side. The other two are not very clear HAMEG. EI??SB [the H is possibly a stylised N] applied over

both the sending and Vienna receiving cancels. I would appreciate any help in identifying these handstamps.



## NEW ISSUES

-Lindy Bosworth-

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

Stamps and stationery for the Slovak Republic are printed as indicated for each issue.

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

### Czech Republic

**12 December 2007 Definitive: The Beauty of Flowers – Gaillardia**



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

**Printing:** RD in sheets of 100 with iridescent underprint.

**Design:** a fully open and half opened flower of the plant.  
**NB** no official FDC was issued.

**19 December 2007 Czech Republic: Entry to the Schengen Area**



**Designer:** Oldřich Pošmurný **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 35.  
**Design:** the logo for the event. This is a sky blue background with three signal lights at green and the text 'Through Europe by Freeway' and 'The Schengen Area'. The Czech Republic became part of the Area on 21 December 2007 when customs controls on land borders were abolished and at the end of March 2008 at international airports for flights within the area. Travel documents will still be required. Schengen is a village in Luxembourg where the first agreement was signed by France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands on 14 June 1985. **FDC:** printed multicoloured offset with a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet is a map showing the enlarged Schengen area of 24 countries.

**19 December 2007 Definitive: The World Postage Stamp Exhibition Praga 2008**



**Designer:** Jan Solpero **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 100.

**Design:** emblem of the exhibition in dark blue on a green background.

**NB** – no official FDC was issued. (7.50Kč stamp issued 1 December 2006 and 11Kč on 4 April 2007 with similar design.)

**20 January 2008 The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production**



**Designer and Engraver:** Bedřich Housa **Printing:** RD in sheets of 30

**Design:** from the original 10h stamp issued in 1956 showing the steam engine 'Zbraslav' from 1846. The whole set of 6 stamps from 1956 was designed by František Hudeček (1909 – 1990) and engraved by Bohdan Roule (1921 – 1960). This issue commemorates the stamp works of these two men.

**FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Praha postmark. The cachet drawing is of the engine 'Karlštejn' from 1865 taken from the 30h stamp issued in the 'Engines' set of 1966.

**Booklet:** of 8 stamps and 4 labels. The labels are from Hudeček's drawing of an 1841 engine printed in black, ochre and gold.

20 January 2008

## Personalities

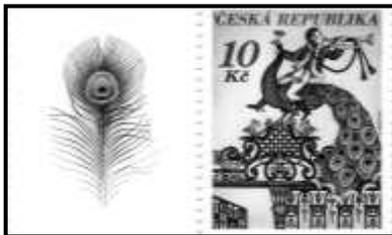


**Designer:** Jan Kavan **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** DS in sheets of 50. **Design:** 11Kč portrait of Karel Klostermann (1848–1923). He was a writer but started his career as a French and German teacher at the Realschule in Plzeň. His stories and novels depict the life, traditions and real events of the people of the Šumava Mountain area. The stamp commemorates his 160th birth anniversary. **FDC:** printed RD in black-green with commemorative Štěkeň cancel. The cachet drawing is an open book with pen and artefacts of the Šumava region.

**14Kč** portrait of Josef Kajetán Tyl (1805–1856). He was a Czech playwright, actor, journalist, writer and critic involved with the National Revival movement of the 19th century. He wrote the play 'Fidlovačka' which includes the words of the national song 'Where is My Homeland?' with music composed by F J Skroup. His works are still performed today. The stamp commemorates 200th anniversary of his birth. **FDC:** printed RD in brown-red with commemorative Kutná Hora cancel. The cachet drawing is a composition of theatre costumes and musical instruments.

30 January 2008

## Definitive: Gate with a Peacock



**Designer:** Karel Zeman **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels by Victoria Security Printing, a.s.

**Design:** a decorative gate with a peacock on top. On the back of the peacock a trumpeter is riding. This design was first issued in different colours on 26 January 2005 (7.50Kč). The 12 stamp size labels show an ornamental detail of the stamp (upper right) and the other labels have small motifs related to the stamp. Some of the sheets have blank labels for customer printing. **NB** no official FDC.

30 January 2008

## Definitive: Still Life with Wine.



**Designer:** Libuše and Jaromír Knotek **Printing:** multicoloured offset in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels by Victoria Security Printing a.s.

**Design:** stamp – still life of grapes, a cup of red wine and flowers. Labels – a) right upper – a twig with three ripe peaches b) remainder – a bunch of grapes. Some sheets have blank labels for customer printing. This design was first issued in different colours and value 12Kč on 22 February 2006. **NB** there was no official FDC.

30 January 2008

## Definitive: The Beauty of Flowers – The Rose



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

**Printing:** RD in sheets of 100 with iridescent underprint.

**Design:** a red rose flower and a bud.

**NB** no official FDC was issued.

## Postal Stationery.

## Postcard for Current Postal Usage

**12 December 2007. Designer:** Josef Saska **Printing:** multicoloured offset **Design:** stamp imprint has a view of Český Krumlov with value tablet 10Kč, the name of the town and the UNESCO logo. A security hologram has been placed beside the boxes for the sender's postal code. The card retails for 11Kč. Cards with similar design were previously issued on 22 November 2003 (6.50Kč) and 26 January 2005 (7.50Kč).

## Postcard for Promotional Usage

**20 January 2008. Designer:** Jan Solpera. **Printing:** multicoloured offset **Design:** the imprinted stamp is a large "11" numeral in white on a light blue background with small "Kč" in front and "Česka Republica" above. The card retails for 18Kč. Similar cards were issued 22 November 2003 (6.50Kč) and 26 January 2005 (7.50Kč).

## Slovak Republic

14 November 2007

### Art on Stamps



**Designers and Engravers:** Rudolf Cigánik (Bouquet of Chrysanthemums) and František Horniak (St Elisabeth) from the original works of art. **Printing:** DS in sheets of four by Post Printing House, Prague (stamps) and TAB Ltd, Bratislava (FDCs).

**Designs:** 33Sk Bouquet of Chrysanthemums (1936) by Ján Želibský (1907–1997). He studied in Bratislava, Prague and Paris. After six years as a professor at the Academy of Visual Arts, Prague he became rector of the

Academy of Arts, Bratislava (1952–1955) and then a professor there. **FDC:** has a commemorative Bratislava cancel and the cachet design is from another of the artist's works.

33Sk St. Elisabeth (c 1750) attributed to František X K Palko (1724–1767). Baroque art is closely associated with the revival of veneration of the saints. St Elisabeth was the daughter of the Hungarian king Andrew II. She married Count Ludwig IV of Thuringia and after his death she became a nun in Marburg caring for the sick. She died in 1231 and was canonised four years later. The painting was acquired by the Slovak National Gallery in 1972, restored but further research continues as to the artist of this mid 18th century alter canvas. **FDC:** has a commemorative Bratislava cancel with the cachet design in black as a facial portrait of the saint.

14 November 2007

### Christmas



**Designer:** Jana Kyselová **Engraver:** Vierošlav Ondrejčíčka – FDC only.

**Printing:** stamp – offset by Post Printing House, Prague; FDC – DS by TAB Ltd, Bratislava. **Design:** a decorated Christmas tree with an angel.

**FDC:** with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet drawing in grey-green is a bunch of mistletoe with a small angel on top. A maximum card was also issued.

28 November 2007

### Postage Stamp Day – Field Post



**Designer:** Marián Čapka **Engraver:** Juraj Vitek – FDC cachet only **Printing:** stamp – offset by Post Printing House, Prague; FDC – DS by TAB Ltd Bratislava. **Design:** on a background of a globe, an open 20th century field post desk with a symbol of a yellow dove and posthorn. The set-tenant label has a series of field post cards being cancelled and dropping into a mail sack.

**FDC:** with a commemorative Bratislava cancel. The cachet drawing has a steam train and a jeep, both means of post transport with various field post cancellations.

1 January 2008

15th Anniversary of the Slovak Republic



**Designer:** Peter Augustovič **Printing:** stamps by Post Printing House Prague; FDC – DS by TAB Ltd Bratislava. **Design:** a map of the Slovak Republic with eight features to symbolise the eight main regional towns, and the national coat of arms. In the background is a stylised emblem of the European Union, which the Republic joined in 2004. **FDC:** has a commemorative Bratislava cancel showing Mount Kriváň,

the highest mountain and unofficial symbol of the country. The cachet design shows the location of the Slovak Republic in Europe.

### Postal Stationery

The following items of postal stationery have an imprinted 10Sk stamp impression of a lime twig with buds and leaves designed by Lucie Bandiková unless otherwise stated.

#### Postal Envelopes

The following envelopes all retail at 15Sk.

**6 September 2007 (086 COB 074/07) 125th anniversary of Gemer-Malohout Museum. Designer:** Alžbeta Nagyová. **Cachet:** the museum building with relevant text and dates.

**10 September 2007 (087 COB 074/07) 100 Years of the Černova Tragedy. Designer:** doc. Pavol Rusko **Cachet:** the church tower and a cross leaning against it with relevant text and dates.

**26 October 2007 (088 COB 074/07) 100th Anniverasary of the Tragedy in Černova. Designer:** Mgr. Art. Štefan Kubovič **Cachet:** the church tower with Mount Kriváň in the background, a cleric in the foreground, the Slovak coat of arms and relevant text.

**9 November 2007 (089 COB 074/07) 15th Anniversary of the State Building Society Bank. Cachet:** a dark blue square with relevant text and logo of the Building Society.

**1 January 2008 (090 COB 074/08) 15th Anniversary of the Slovak Republic. Designer:** Peter Augustovič. **Cachet:** outline map of Slovakia in blue and white with the emblems of NATO and the EU below the flag and coat of arms of the Slovak Republic.

#### Post Cards

##### For Promotional Use

**17 December 2007 (148 CDV 148/07) Designer:** Ľubomír Krátky **Design:** imprinted T2 50g stamp impression in brown and grey shows a ceramic decorated plate from Pozdišovce. The left portion of the card is blank for promotional printing. The card retails at T2 50g + 1Sk.

##### Promotional Card

**18 December 2007 (149 CDV 078/07) Day of the Slovak Postage Stamp. Designer:** Tomáš Krčméry **Cachet:** perforated stamp outline with an open stock book and stamps. The imprinted stamp is the 10Sk Castle Devín design. Card retails for 13Sk.