



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 41/3

SEPTEMBER 2023

WHOLE NUMBER 192



Czechoslovak airmail takes off – the 1930s (*page 14*).

New Print-On-Demand Title

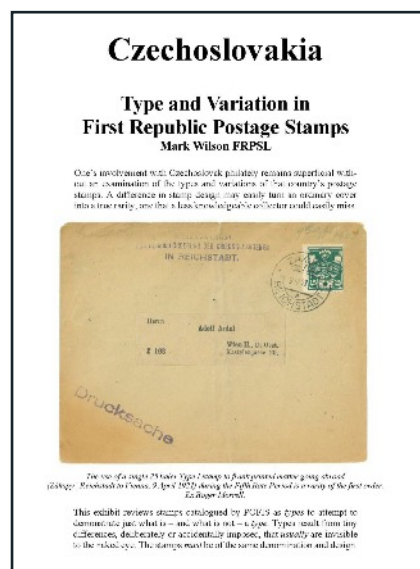
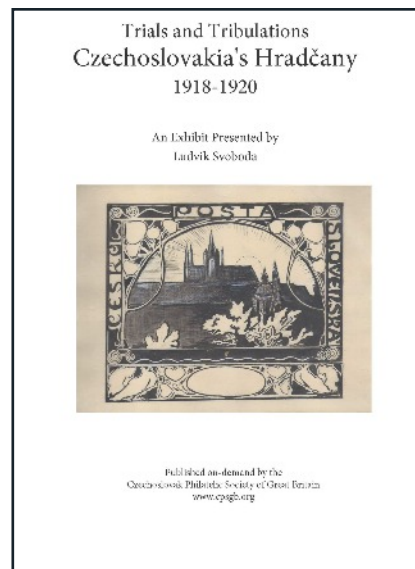
Member **Ludvik (Lou) Svoboda**, well-known US collector and Associate Editor of *The Specialist*, has generously offered to share with the Society his huge 113-sheet Hradčany Exhibit as a print-on-demand book. Lou also mentions that the exhibit is for sale.

The book duplicates the pages of an exhibit which deals with the production problems and subsequent errors and varieties in the printing of the Hradčany stamps. It is set out in chronological order of the five design types and stamps, focusing on their production errors. Examples of colour variations, perforation varieties, production errors, die flaws, die flaw retouches and some usages are all demonstrated.

The cost for this new print-on-demand title will be as follows (*plus* postage and packing): UK – £32; Europe – €38, and; USA – \$41. The date for the initial orders will be 1 October 2023.

Contact Yvonne Wheatley (treasurer@cpsgb.org) to purchase the print-on-demand book; contact Lou (lousvoboda@comcast.net) to arrange purchase of the original exhibit; and to take a look at it, go to <https://www.cpsgb.org/pubs-store/hradcany.html>.

Mark Wilson



Also available is Mark Wilson's *Type and Variation in First Republic Postage Stamps*. This publication (*see left*) 'does exactly what it says on the cover' – helps the collector to understand what is meant by a *type*, and thus deepen their knowledge of First Republic stamps, with the additional benefit of helping them identify potential rarities used on cover.

This slim volume is fully illustrated in colour and, depending on the print run, will not cost more than: UK – £11; Europe – €13; and USA – \$15 (*plus* postage and packing). Again, the date for the initial orders is 1 October 2023. To preview the book go to <https://www.cpsgb.org/pubs-store/types.html>.

As usual, the books are sold at cost, which depends both on their page count and the number of books ordered from the printer. All the usual methods of payment, including US dollars and euros, are available and invoices will be sent at the time of despatch. Orders should be sent to the treasurer at treasurer@cpsgb.org.

Makeover for the Society's website

During the past months Mark Wilson has been working on a new society website. It is ready now and was launched a few weeks ago.

The website is packed with useful information, and is constantly updated (a note at the bottom of the home page tells you when it was last revised). The *Society* tab includes a list of upcoming meetings, and links to the society Handbook and a list of titles that can be borrowed by UK members from the society Library. The *Publications* tab lists both Monographs and print-on-demand titles, and has links to our Diamond Jubilee presentations, as well as material presented at recent Zoom meetings.

The old index website for *Czechout*, from which you could view and download all issues of the journal that have been published since 1979 (plus its predecessor, the *Bulletin*, back to 1975), has been fully incorporated into the new website. Take a look at www.cpsgb.org or www.cpsgb.org.uk.



CZECHOUT

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‘Not at this address’

If you change your address, please let the membership secretary know (membership@cpsgb.org), especially if you receive a printed copy of *Czechout*.

We appear to have lost contact with **Mr N. Power**, a member in Liverpool, as his June issue was returned to sender. If you are able to help with a new address or contact details for him, please let us know.

Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Check out our sister organization, the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, at their website: www.csphilately.net and through their Treasurer, Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.com. Their publication the *Specialist* and our *Czechout* have little duplication in content. In addition, under an agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your SCP subscription to our CPSGB Treasurer without your having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the US. So why not have more fun? Become a member of both societies!

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News & Notices

New Members

The *CPSGB* extends a very warm welcome to our newest member, **Dwayne Bagley**, from Portage, Michigan.

Congratulations

A number of *CPSGB* members exhibited at IBRA 2023, the International Stamp World Exhibition in Essen, Germany in late May.

Jon Klemetson *Czechoslovakia, Československa Republika, from Improvising to High Achievement – Vermeil*

Helmut Kobelbauer *Nach dem großen Krieg/After the Great War/ Nachfolgestaaten de Habsburger monarchie 1918–1923 – Vermeil*

Pavol Lazar *Austrian & Hungarian Postal Administration in Slovakia 1.6.1850–15.6.1867 – Gold and Special Prize; and*

Minisheet Bratislava 1937, Single Frame – 90 marks
Juan E Page *Carpatho-Ukraine 1944–46 – Vermeil*

Literature Awards:

Rex Dixon *Germania, The Journal of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society – Vermeil*

Steven Friedenthal *Czechoslovak Machine Advertising Cancels, The First Republic Period – Large Vermeil*

(For anyone interested in collecting this material, the 10th edition of the book is on the website of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately <https://www.csphilately.net> under Publications. It is very comprehensive and the latest edition has 495 pages. The material also featured in a presentation by Peter Williams at the *CPSGB* meeting in London on 22 April – see page 5 of the June edition of *Czechout*.)

Alfons Zulueta *Bosnia-Herzegovina: Double Eagle Definitive Issues, 1879–1905 – Large Vermeil*

Bratislavafila 2023, the National Exhibition with International Participation held in Bratislava in early June, also had exhibits from *CPSGB* members. **Pavol Lazar** was the President of the exhibition and **Michal Zika** was on the organizing committee.



Pavol Lazar (left), Vojtech Jankovič (centre) and Bill Hedley, receiving his prize for best in the show at Bratislavafila 2023

Bill Hedley *Postal Service Development in Pozsony and its Environs During the Habsburg to the 1900 Currency Change – Gold and Best in the Show*

Lubor Kunc *K.u.K. Kriegsmarine 1914–1918 – Gold*

György Lővei *Interim Use of the Czechoslovakian Air Mail Stamps during Monetary Reform Period – Large Silver; and*

Slovakian Air Mail service in the Independent Slovak State, One Frame – 78 marks

The following members of *CPSGB* took part in the display by The Prestige Philately Club of Prague; **Pavol Lazar** and **Lubor Kunc**. There was also an Exposition of the History of Slovakia with contributions by **Helmut Kobelbauer**, **Pavol Lazar** and **Michal Zika**.

Finally, **Ken Dyke** has taken on the role of Membership and Subscription Secretary for The Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain as well as continuing as Exchange Packet Secretary for that Society.

Vladimír Králíček – in memoriam

It is with great sadness that we record the death of one of our Honorary Life Members. Shona, one of Vladimír's daughters, sent the following email to Yvonne Wheatley on 14 July:

I am writing to you on behalf of Vladimír Králíček's family to let you know that our father, and husband to Ruth, sadly passed away peacefully on Sunday 18 June 2023. Dad was 92 years of age and had been in long-term hospital care for nearly three years. We will miss Vladimír very much and will hold special memories of Dad and his life with us. It is a blessing that he no longer has to deal with the effects of dementia. Please can you let the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain know. I know that during the time Dad was involved with them he very much enjoyed being part of the society, helping with translating, and the friendships gained. It was an important part of his life and also a connection for his passion about the history of Czechoslovakia, where Dad was born, on 30 August 1930, in Hodonin, Moravia, Czechoslovakia. Thank you for your friendship with Vladimír over the years.

Shona Králíček



Left to right: Alec Page, Fred Gren and Vladimír Králíček relaxing at Shoreham in 1992.

I first met Vladimír at Auckland Airport in December 1989. (I was waiting for my return flight home after visiting family in New Zealand.) Vladimír had unearthed a few copies of original Czech Society newsletters dated around 1942 and asked if I would pass them to Colin Spong, which I gladly did. At that time, the late Alec Page and Vladimír were great friends. They both shared an interest in the activities of the Czech forces in France during WWII. In the early 1990s

Vladimír came over to the UK as often as circumstances allowed, and on each of his trips he and Alec visited our home here in Shoreham, and if possible one of our CPSGB meetings. On one occasion, Shona accompanied him and we so enjoyed her company! Vladimír and Fred shared similar experiences during WWII, so had much in common. I treasure the memories of the kind and generous support he offered us as an expert philatelist over our elementary stamp collections! In 1996 he and Alec published the society's Monograph No. 10, *The 25th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence: The 1943 London Exhibitions*, followed in 1999 by Monograph No. 12, *Military Cards of the Exiled Czechoslovak Forces in France and Great Britain, 1939–1945*, which are both still available (www.cpsgb.org/pages/monographs.htm). Vladimír was one of those rare, special people one seldom meets during one's lifetime. It was such a privilege to have known him as a friend for so many years. I send my deepest sympathy to Ruth, Shona and all his family. And Vladimír, may you rest in peace.

Yvonne Gren

It was a pleasure to finally meet Vladimír on several occasions during the 1990s when he visited Europe. He was a quiet, thoughtful, private man content to listen and absorb information, but a staunch friend, willing to share his knowledge with other people. This was evident from the amount of correspondence he had with collectors of Czech philately, giving advice, help and translations over many years. He and Ruth also gave hospitality to several members of CPSGB who visited New Zealand. Vladimír was eager to share his love of Czech philately and show his collections. He and Ruth enjoyed having visitors and showing them the beauties of the New Zealand countryside near their home. Life goes on but memories are treasured and never die.

Lindy Bosworth

New Monument to Crew of Wellington Bomber T2990

A commemoration was held on 4 May 2023 to honour the crew of Czechoslovak 311 Bomber Squadron with a new monument erected at Nieuwe Niedorp in the Netherlands. Together with another sixty-nine aircraft, Vickers Wellington T2990 participated in an air raid over Bremen on 22 June 1941. After completing their mission, the crew set out to return to Great Britain on 23 June, but while flying over the Netherlands the aircraft was attacked by a German night-fighter and crashed near Nieuwe Niedorp. The pilot, Vilém Buřka, was the only crew member to survive: the other crew members – Alois Rozum, Vilém Konštáček, Leonard Smrček, Jan Hejna and Karel Valach – were all killed.



Above: the new monument to the crew of Wellington bomber T2990 who died at Nieuwe Niedorp in the Netherlands. Right: excavated remains of the aircraft, which have now been put on display at Medemblik Military Museum.



Lubor Kunc

Further information about this event can be found at <https://fcfa.com/2023/05/19/nieuwe-niedorp-t2990/> (the site of the Free Czechoslovak Air Force) – Editor.

May Zoom Meeting

Our May presentation was given by **Lubor Kunc**, on the subject of *Czechoslovak Postal History: 1918—1919*. Twenty-four members from the US, France, the Czech Republic, and the UK were given a detailed display of philatelic material from the crucial early years of the Czechoslovak Republic.

From the beginning, Lubor warned us about the prevalence of forgeries in amongst the genuine material. His first items were an Austrian postcard posted on 28 October 1918, the birthday of the fledgling state, and a faked Hungarian postcard, with a cancellation from a Field Post which would not have been operational on that date.

The next items showed the use of Austrian and Hungarian forerunner stamps, including a bisected 20 heller Austrian stamp. The Scout Post was illustrated by two covers, one for each value, with appropriate cancellation marks, and one signed by Josef Rössler-Ořovský. Lubor explained that Ořovský was a well-known athlete and sports-organizer, who was Chairman of the Junák Scouting organization, and the man responsible for setting up the Scout Post. The stamps were only valid from 7 November to 25 November 1918, but even if covers are genuine they may well be philatelic items – Ořovský was in the habit of distributing them as souvenirs!

The very first postal issues by the new republic were overprinted Austrian postcards, carrying the cypher ČSR and 10 as the value. Without the face value they are counterfeit. Next, of course, came the Hradčany issues, the first appearing on 18 December 1918. Lubor displayed several first day cancellations of these early issues, together with a useful table listing the issue dates for each of the different values.

Austrian and Hungarian stamps were still in use alongside the Hradčany stamps, however, often evident in covers with mixed frankings, including some with postage due and special delivery stamps replacing regular stamps that were in short supply.

As part of the new republic's efforts to set up its own systems of government and finance, a programme of monetary reform was established from 25 February to 9 March 1919. During this time the country's borders were closed for all foreign mail. The government was worried about currency smuggling while the Austrian and Hungarian currencies were replaced by the new koruna. To strengthen the new currency, banks were only providing half the value of any exchange in the new currency, with the remainder issued as government bonds, which did not mature until 1949. While the German mark fell so dramatically in value in the 1920s, the new Czechoslovak currency remained strong. One of Lubor's covers, posted on 25 February 1919, was marked *Zurück – Verkehr Eingestellt* (Returned – traffic stopped).

From 1 March 1919 only Czechoslovak stamps were valid – but there are many examples of this rule being broken. This included a money order form from 11 March 1919 with Hungarian stamps, Hradčany stamps and Postage Due stamps. Foreign stamps were also in use: this included stamps issued by Austria and Hungary *after* the new republic had been set up. Examples were shown from areas that were reluctant to be part of Czechoslovakia – one used in the *Provinz Deutschböhmen*, and another in an area of Slovak territory that was controlled by Hungary during tussles over the final definition of borders. This latter item is a money order, which carries a note explaining that the money transfer has been delayed because of the military situation in the area.

Another curiosity was a cover sent from Paris to Prague in 1919. This was from the premises of the Czechoslovak National Council attending the Paris Peace Conference – they were able to use the new Czechoslovak stamps, with a special cancel to indicate their origin.



Above: the delayed money order.

Left: Parcel cards from 1919 showing mixed frankings using Austrian and Hungarian stamps alongside the new Hradčany issues.

Three items were displayed from the Czechoslovak Legions in Siberia. Lubor admitted that it is often difficult to tell whether these are genuine mail rather than philatelic souvenirs, but these were definitely delivered at the relevant time. One was a postcard sent by General Stanislav Čechek (1886–1930), who was Commander of the Allies' far-eastern troops (*see back cover*).

A fitting conclusion to the presentation featured two souvenir postcards from Paris – one marking the Versailles Treaty with Germany signed on 28 June 1919, and the other marking the St Germain Treaty with Austria, signed on 10 September 1919.

Tony Holdsworth

The society's stand at MIDPEX



Once again, CPSGB had a table at this biennial event at the Warwickshire Event Centre in Royal Leamington Spa. **Yvonne Wheatley**, **Peter Williams** and **Tony Holdsworth** (aided and abetted by **Roger Morrell** – though he was manning the Hungarian society's stand directly behind us!), chatted with potential members and other interested parties.

Although the event still didn't seem back to pre-covid levels, our new banner attracted some attention and at least one person took a photo of it – so we *might* get a new member out of that!

Tony Holdsworth and Yvonne Wheatley behind the society's stand, with the new banner alongside.

Articles Elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Tschechoslowakei Philatelie (ArGe Tschechoslowakei, Germany)

No. 216, June 2023 (in German)

Anon, An interesting cover, no. 10: An interesting cover from Brno to Trutnov, 27 October 1938 (mixed B & M postage and two different official stamp issues).

Anon, An interesting cover, no. 11: Newspaper stamps to Valažské Meziříčí, 27 October 1929 (mixed Czech and B & M).

Bauer, K., The 'Sudetenland-corner', part 24: Emergency and liberation datestamps; Nieder Busele–Nürschan (1938).

Austria, (Journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 223, Summer 2023

Taylor, A., Essen (IBRA2023) visit report.

Corrias, E., The military post in the Kingdom of Poland, 1916–1918 (plus prelude maps).

Morrell, R., Never count your chickens (cachets for the Austrian occupation of Venice in WWI).

Anon, A POW card (written in Czech and sent to Russia).

Anon, Question – and answer (postal rates for the 1854 Austro-Sardinian Postal Convention).

Berrisford, A., The 'Tarnstempel' control handstamps used in the crown land of Galizien (with extensive listing).

Taylor, A, Far too good to be true ... (A red newspaper Mercury with a fake cancel).

Stamps of Hungary, (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 233, June 2023

Morrell, R., The humble receipt, part 2 – Central coordination.

Burlingame, M., Presenting a revenue stamp collection.

News of Hungarian Philately (Society for Hungarian Philately, USA)

Vol. 54, No. 1, January–March 2023

Van Weenen, P. de L., Letter to the editor: The first envelope design postal stationery cards issued in 1874.

Szücs, K., The first Hungarian fiscal stamps.

Rundbrief (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn, Austria)

No. 148, 2023/2 (in German)

Sütheö, S., 'The train travels, the train travels to Galicia' (fieldpost cards from a soldier going to the Russian front in August 1914).

Von Arx, A., The flier and balloon post of Przemyśl 1914–1915 (reprint of the 1929 *Donau-Post* article on the subject).

Robisch, H., Letters tell stories (a 1919 US POW card to a brother in Vienna, and the story of the brother born in Olmütz).

Radovanović, M., The Serbian Red Cross organization under occupation (1915–1918).

Filatelie (POFIS, Czechoslovakia)

No. 4 /23, April 2023

Beneš, F., Prices in the Michel catalogue and how to re-calculate them.

Kvéton, R., 2023 catalogue: Austrian Merkurs 1851 (pages 17 to 24, pull-out supplement).

Anon, Results of the Best Cancellation and FDC for 2022: a) 100 years of the Order of the White Lion; b) Mochův Kraj (27 K).

Kunc, L., Czechoslovak Soldiers in 1939–1945 (part 14).

Anon, Exhibition at the Post Museum: Advertising and Designs of the Czechoslovak Post (held April to October 2023).

Beneš, F. An unusual forgery to deceive the Post Office and collector: a) 26 K issued 12 February; b) 17 K issued 15 November 2000.

No. 5 /23, May 2023

Beneš, F. The new Pofis catalogue on ČSR 1 postage stamps.

Sorejs, R., Faked overprints 'Slovenský Štát' (part 2).

Kunc, L., Czechoslovak Soldiers in 1939–1945 (part 15).

Ježek, J., Philately and Picture Postcards (part 6).

Anon, 100 years since the Vejprty forgeries appeared.

Kvéton, R., Austrian Merkurs 1851 (pages 25 to 36, pull-out supplement).

No. 6/23, June 2023

Lazar, P., The first Czechoslovak miniature sheet.

Ježek, J., Philately and Picture Postcards (part 7).

Beneš, F., Unexpected background to the origin of the forgery to defraud the Post – 'Fifinka' 2010 (the cartoon character NVI booklet pane).

Sorejs, R., Faked overprints 'Slovenský Štát' (part 3).

Kunc, L., Czechoslovak Soldiers in 1939–1945 (part 16).

Kvéton, R., Austrian Merkurs 1851 (pages 37–48, pull-out supplement).

FEPA News, the Journal of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (available on-line at <https://fepanews.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/FN43.pdf>)

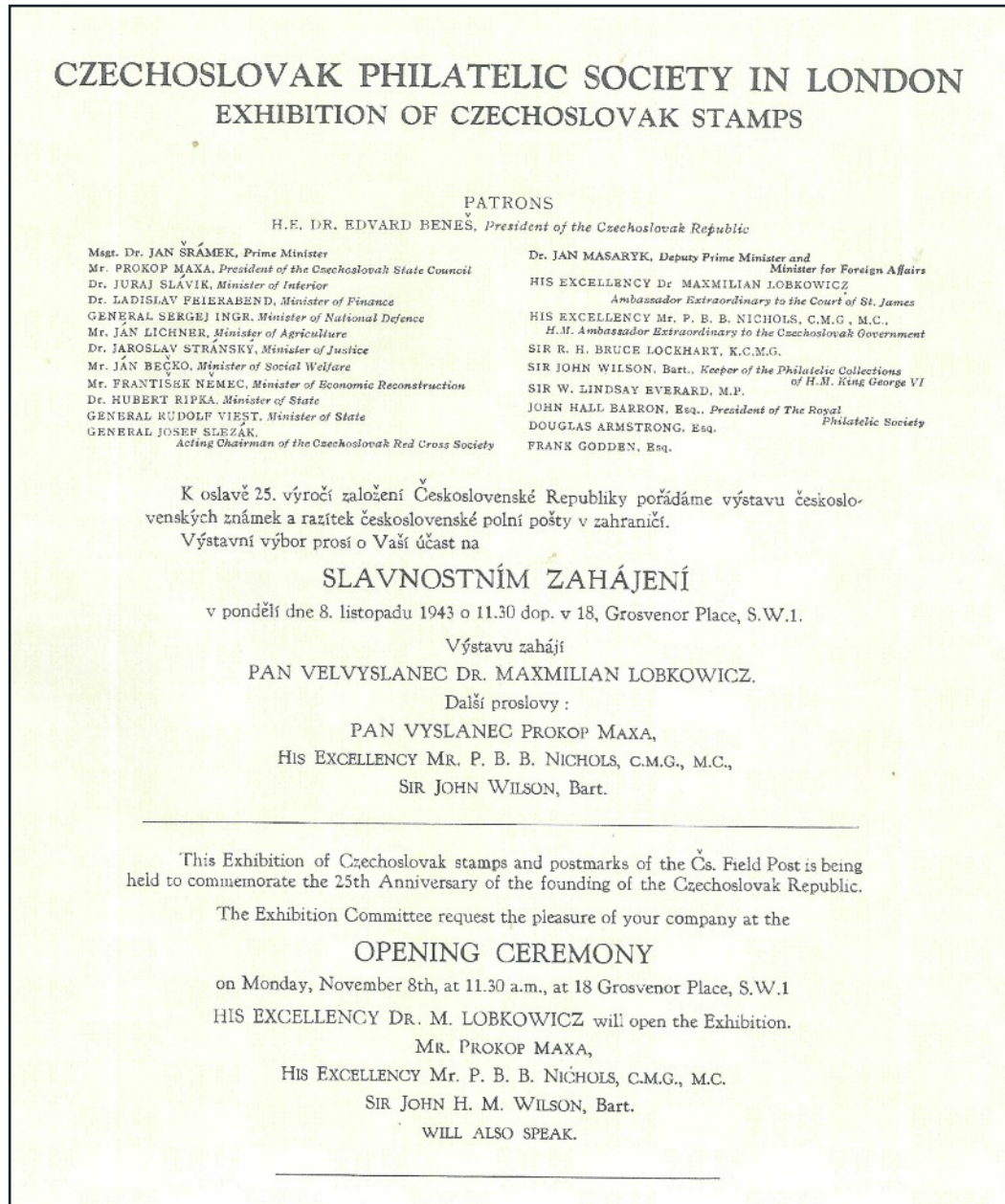
Issue 43, July 2023

Jankovic, V., BRATISLAVAFILA 2023 (exhibition report).

The 1943 Exhibition of Czechoslovak Stamps in London

Yvonne Wheatley

Our long-standing member Derek Walker sent me a scan of the invitation to the Opening Ceremony of the London Exhibition, which prompted me to write this article realising that this year is the 80th anniversary of the event.



The official invitation to the Open Ceremony of the London Exhibition.

The event was held at the British Council Czechoslovak Institute Hall, 18 Grosvenor Place, London SW1, from 8 to 20 November 1943. It commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of Czechoslovakia and at the time the government was in exile in Great Britain. It was held under the patronage of President Eduard Beneš. The exiled Government fully supported the exhibition, as can be seen from the fact that all the members of the Government are listed at patrons. There were a number of notable British collectors as well, including Sir John Wilson, The Keeper of the Philatelic Collections of H.M. King George VI, who was one of the speakers at the opening ceremony. You will probably recognize the names of John Hall Barron, The President of the Royal Philatelic Society London; Douglas Armstrong, the Editor of the *London Philatelist*, the journal of the RPSL; and Frank Godden of album fame.

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, formed largely from members of the exiled Czechoslovak forces and the Czechoslovak Army Field Post Office, were responsible for obtaining the material for display and setting up the exhibition. That Society was the forerunner of our current Society.

The Government in exile gave permission for a commemorative five-stamp miniature sheet to be issued as a souvenir but without any postal validity. The four pictorial designs of the miniature sheet were based on previously issued stamps. They represented the four regions of the Republic: Bohemia and Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia, and Carpatho-Ukraine. The designs were modified to incorporate the dates 1918–1943, and the denominations were also altered. A 10 K stamp was added showing the three founders of Czechoslovakia – the first President, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk; President, Dr Eduard Beneš; and General Milan R. Štefánik. The miniature sheet was sold for five shillings, with the proceeds going to the Red Cross Fund.



The order for the miniature sheet was placed with Waterlow & Sons Ltd, London, by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. A total of 46,400 sheets were printed in two separate printings. Of these, the first printing produced 24,000 perforated sheets, 150 imperforate sheets – 6,230 were spoilt, thirteen were retained by Waterlow for their records, six were cancelled, and one was used for the sketch work of the exhibition diploma. The second printing produced 12,850 perforated sheets – seven were retained by Waterlow for their records and 3,143 were spoilt.

A specially printed large exhibition diploma was presented to each of the exhibitors and certain prominent people involved with the exhibition. It includes a print of the miniature sheet, without the Waterlow imprint, above a drawing by E. Weiss of London, depicting a view of Hradčany Castle between the two towers of London's Tower Bridge. At the top corners are the heraldic arms of Prague and London and at the foot of the diploma are the national flags of Czechoslovakia and Great Britain, joined together with a shield bearing a post horn. It is signed by the Chairman and senior officers of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, as well as President Beneš. The diploma awarded to George Pearson, our first Honorary Life President, was given to the Society and is in the custody of the current Chairman. The certificate presented to Waterlow & Sons is in the collection of the author and will be on display as part of the presentation *The History of Czechoslovakia* to be shown to the Society on 4 November 2023.

Reference:

V.J. Králíček & W.A. Page, The 25th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence: The 1943 London Exhibitions (CPSGB Monograph 10).



The Exhibition Diploma awarded by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society to Waterlow & Sons, the printers of the miniature sheet.

The Muses of Max Švabinský

Part two – Eliška

Miroslav Češelka

A modest, quiet girl entered Max Švabinský's life at the age of seventeen. They met for the first time at the National Literature Exhibition in Prague in 1895. Eliška (or Ela) Vejrychová was impressed by the young painter and stated in her memoirs:

I catch my breath. There's a painter close to me, although unfortunately a famous one. I'm sure he won't even notice me, he'll sit next to Vaňáč and have fun, and not talk to me, stupid girl. But he's already giving me his hand. Against my will, I stare at his eyes with a look full of shyness, enthusiasm and hopeless desire [1].

It was also love at first sight for Max. Eliška came from a family that had a close relationship with art. She devoted herself to literature and playing the piano, which she also later taught. She became his artistic inspiration from the first moment and remained so for the next twenty years. Ela was the artist's muse, whom he immortalized in a number of paintings and graphics. She appeared on postage stamps of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic only after his death, and on reproductions of subsequent works of art.



Fig. 1 – Above: The Fusion of Souls on one stamp (POFIS 2050) from the set issued to mark the 100th anniversary of Max Švabinský's birth. Right: the printing sheet featuring two copies each of The Fusion of Souls and Paradise Sonata.

One of Švabinský's most famous early works is *The Fusion of Souls*. The artist created it as an oil painting and line drawing in 1896 [2]. The work combines a receding allegory with the symbolic image of a seated poet embraced by a muse. The main character of this painting is a young man, dressed in a pilgrim's brown robe (romantic Max personified!) with a Christ-like gaze [2]. A young woman in a white dress (Eliška) stands next to the man and hugs his head. The depiction of the female figure is disturbingly innocent. Ela states in her memoirs that the theme of this painting was the issue with their love. It was Max's inner turmoil and the conflict between his beloved woman and his art. It is also symbolized by the neglected building in the background, the so-called 'love in ruins' fading with the passage of time. Max referred to this period as the 'Soul Fusion' period. This painting featured on a sheet of two pairs of stamps (Fig. 1) and shows, in addition to *The Fusion of Souls*, the work *Paradise Sonata – Apparition*. Max's adopted daughter Zuzana Švabinská, in her memories of the *Paradise Sonata* and her mother Anna Procházková, wrote:

I tried to find some explanation for them – as a painter he can create scenes like this, he has the right to do so ... but why is my mother in them? Or is it just an approximation, perhaps by chance? But in the end the pages from the *Paradise Sonata* convinced me that it really was my mother. It was a shock. Not only in the *Paradise Sonata*, but everywhere. [3]

In the series of stamps issued for Švabinský's birth centenary, Jindřich Schmidt also designed and engraved the stamps *John the Baptist*, *August Noon* and *The Last Judgment*. The first two of these were printed by rotary recess printing combined with photogravure printing, and the other three stamps were recess printed *se tenant*, from flat plates.

Fig. 2 – a stamp issued in 2013 in the Works of art on stamps series, featuring the 'Round Portrait' of Ela (POFIS 794).

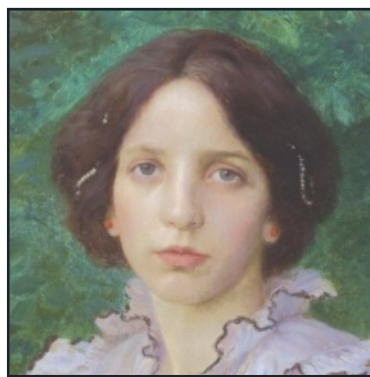


Fig. 3 – a detail from Švabinský's original oil painting.

A year after painting *The Fusion of Souls*, in 1897, Max painted a portrait of a seated Ela Vejrycha, the so-called Round Portrait (fig. 2), in her hometown of Kozlov. The sensitive and fragile woman sits on a bench in nature with her arms crossed, holding a Japanese fan. The young beauty Eliška (fig. 3.) was dressed in a period dress and with a hairstyle interwoven with pearls.

Influenced by his travels abroad, the artist came to a new ideal of beauty, and in 1899 [5] his iconic oil painting *Chudý kraj* (The Poor Region) was created (Fig. 4). Ela, sitting in the middle of the Kozlov countryside, completes the symbiosis of man and nature. This work became a model of the modern concept of painting in the 1890s. The impressionistically conceived appearance of a thin and ethereally fragile female figure (Fig. 5) surrounded by a 'poor' Czech landscape is considered one of the most significant works of his oeuvre. [5]

Fig. 4 – another stamp from the Works of art on stamps series, issued in 2003 and featuring The Poor Region (POFIS 383).

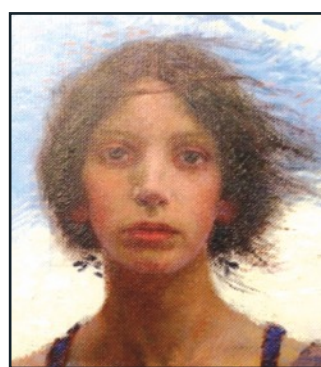


Fig. 5 – a detail from *Chudý kraj*, Švabinský's original oil painting.

The portrait of Max's muse was shown on the three Czechoslovak and Czech postage stamps mentioned above. Max and Ela's relationship was sealed by marriage in 1900, but in 1904 he had already had a brief relationship with Baroness Sidónia Nádherna, and after that his fateful attraction to his sister-in-law Anna began. In 1919, Max and Ela were separated. Nevertheless, he kept in touch with her and wrote her regular letters describing his daily life. The divorce did not take place until 1931. Ela subsequently filled the gap in her heart with political activism. As a young communist, she was arrested by the Gestapo. After returning from a concentration camp, she later focused on writing her memoirs (*Vzpomínky z mládí* – Memories of Youth). This became the focus of her life until the onset of sclerosis in later life. Ela died on 10 September 1967 at the age of eighty-eight, outliving the love of her life by five years. Through his work, Max made a simple and unknown girl, later his wife, his life's muse and a modern symbol of female beauty.

References:

- [1] Švabinská Ela, *Memories of Youth*, 2nd edition, Prague, SNKLU 1962
- [2] Žákavec František, *Max Švabinský I.*, Štenc Prague, 1933
- [3] Vlachová Magdaléna, *Max Švabinský II.*, 2011 – Quotations from the work *Bright memories* by Zuzana Švabinská
- [4] Catalogue – Works of art on stamps (filaso.cz)
- [5] Císařovský Josef, *Portrait Art of Max Švabinský*, Prague, 1954
- [6] Jana Frankenstein, *Max Švabinský III.*, Prague, 1949

This article is the second in a series published by Merkur-Revue (merkur-revue.eu) and appears in this English translation by Tony Holdsworth with kind permission of the author.

First Republic Airmails – The 1930s

Lindy Bosworth

This is the second of two articles – The Pioneering Years appeared in the December 2022 issue of Czechout.

On 16 December 1930, Czechoslovakia issued its first set of stamps specifically for airmail use. A variety of different denominations was required, as mail could now be sent by air to more distant destinations.



Fokker F VIII in flight over a rural landscape (built in Czechoslovakia under licence from Holland).



Smolik S 19 in flight over a mountainous landscape (built by Letov in Prague).



Smolik S 19 in flight over a different landscape.



Fokker F VIII in flight over the city of Prague.

The designer and engraver of the eight stamps was Karl Seizinger. They were printed by a combination of recess and photogravure. Reprints were issued in 1936 with different perforations. An additional 30 haler value was issued on 23 April 1939, which was valid in Bohemia & Moravia to 15 December 1939, and in Slovakia to 1 July 1940.



The supplementary issue of 1939, in response to a decrease in the internal air fee from 1 K to 30 haler. Note the inscription 'Česko – Slovensko': Slovakia gained autonomy within Czechoslovakia on 6 October 1938.



Original artwork, signed by Karl Seizinger, for the two aircraft depicted on the third airmail issue.

Internal Airmail 1930 – 1939

Both the covers below were flown by ČSA, on a regular, scheduled service, which had been established in 1923 (Prague to Bratislava) and 1926 (Brno to Bratislava).



Left: Mariánské Lázně to Bratislava. Departed 6 August 1932 at 8 a.m.: arrived Bratislava 7 August at 10 a.m. Postage: internal letter to 20g – 1 K; registered fee – 2 K; express fee – 1 K; air fee – 1 K; total – 5 K, as franked. By rail to Prague, and then by air.

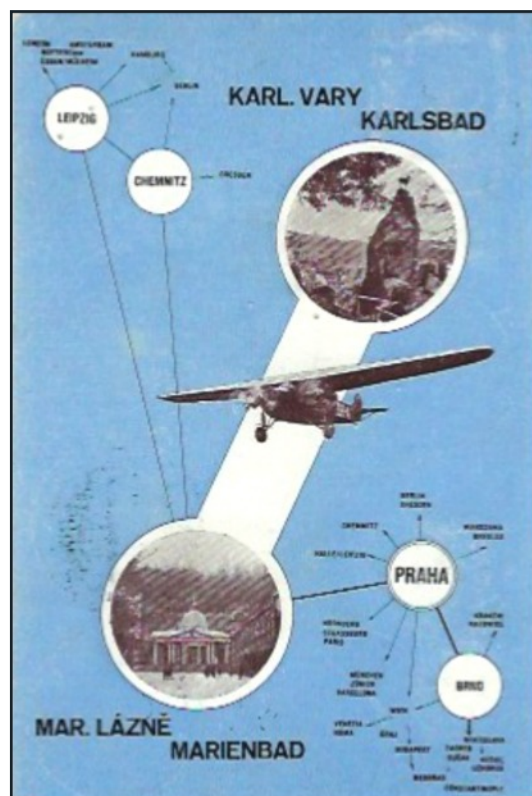


Right: Brno to Bratislava. Cancelled Brno 2 on 27 April 1934 at 24.00, Bratislava Telegraph Office on 28 April 1934 at 4 a.m. (on reverse). Postage: internal letter to 20g – 1 K; air fee – 1 K; total 2 K, as franked.

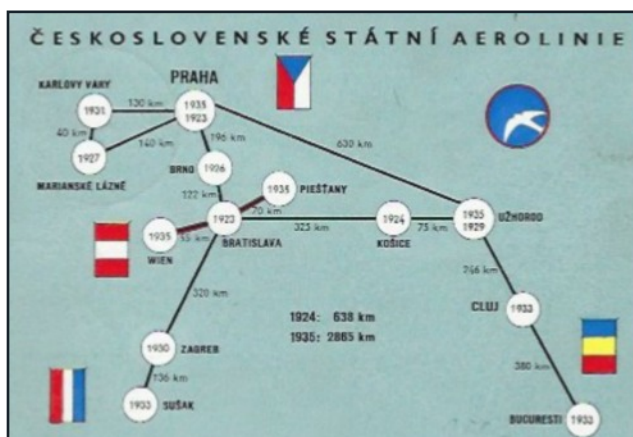
On 15 May 1931 the first flight from Prague to Mariánské Lázně and Karlovy Vary, and return, by ČSA took place. A postcard advertising the service was issued and four commemorative cancels were used (below right and bottom).



Above: postcard to Užhorod 15 May 1931 with a standard Karlovy Vary 1 cancel, commemorative cancels 2 and 3 (as below) and a Užhorod receiving cancel dated 16 May 1931 (correct postage). Right: the advertising postcard for the service, sent from Karlovy Vary to Prague with cancels 2, 3 and 4 on reverse. The service ran from 15 May to 15 September, and from 1931 to 1938. Below: the four commemorative cancels.



On 1 June 1935 the first flight from Piešťany to Bratislava took place. This linked with a variety of other Czechoslovak and foreign destinations, all with services operated by ČSA.



ČSA advertising postcard sent 1 June 1935 to the Moravskoslezský Aeroklub, Brno, with first day cancel for the Piešťany – Bratislava flight.

The card shows air links to various destinations with dates of inaugural services. Note the ČSA logo (the white bird on the blue circle).



Postcard from Piešťany to Zagreb dated 1 June 1935. First flight Piešťany to Bratislava, then the Bratislava – Zagreb flight also flown by ČSA. Postage: foreign postcard (reduced rate to Yugoslavia) – 1 K 20; air fee (from 1 June 1935) – 1 K; total – 2 K 20, but franked 2Kčs. No postage due appears to have been applied – perhaps it was treated as printed matter?

A commemorative flight is made every year to honour the first flight from Pardubice to Prague by the pioneer aviator Jan Kaspar in 1911. This cover from 12 September 1937 carries a cancel for Prague airport, along with two-colour blue and magenta Pardubice cancels.



By now, links were being made with other airlines, as shown by the two promotional postcards below.



Above: Sabena (the Belgian airline) and ČSA, posted on 5 April 1937. Postage: foreign postcard as printed matter – 5 haler; air fee – 1 K 50. Right: Aeroflot (the Soviet airline) and ČSA, posted on 2 September 1936. Postage: foreign postcard – 1 K 50s; air fee to Russia (Moscow) – 2 K, as franked.

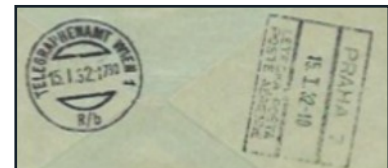
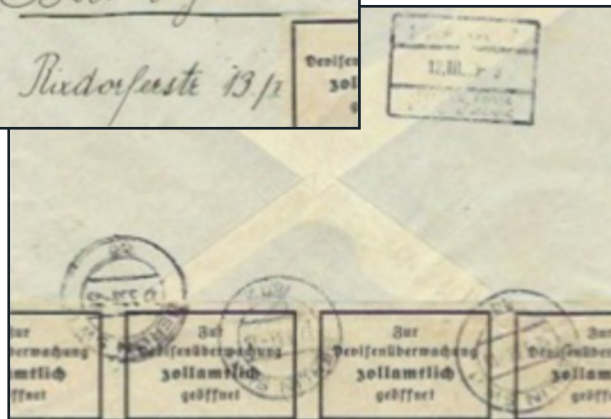


Commercial Airmails to 1939 – European Destinations

Below: Brno to Prague by rail, then flown by ČLS to Berlin on 11 March 1938. Postage: reduced letter – 2 K; air mail – 1 K; total 3 K (as franked). Posted at Brno 2 at 6 p.m. on 11 March, arrived at Prague Airport at 3 a.m. on 12 March and received at Berlin SW 11 at 3 p.m. on 12 March.



Right: the reverse, showing the Brno Airport strike and the fact that it was examined by Foreign Exchange Control, Berlin, and resealed with tape.



Top and above: Prague to Vienna 15 January 1932, flown by ČLS. Postage: reduced letter – 2 K; registered fee – 2 K 50; express fee – 5 K; airmail fee – 1 K; total 10 K 50 (as franked). Posted Praha 1 at 10 a.m. and received in Vienna at 5.30 p.m.



Left: Karlovy Vary to Riga, 5 August 1932. Flown ČSL from Karlovy Vary to Berlin, and DLH (Deutsche Luft Hansa) to Riga via Kaliningrad (Königsberg). Right: detail of circular red Berlin 62 'Mit Luftpost Befordert'. Postage: foreign postcard – 1 K 50; air fee – 1 K 50 (as franked).



Right: Vimperk to Warsaw, Poland, 24 June 1934. Flown by LOT (Polskie Linje Lotnicze). Postage: reduced rate letter – 2 K; air fee to Poland – 1 K; total 3 K (as franked). Praha 7 boxed airport postmark dated 25 June 1934, at 8 a.m. Marked on reverse with an arrival stamp for Warsaw Airport at 5 p.m. the same day, and Warsaw 1 PO at 7 p.m. Note the boxed purple Nadeszia poczta lotnicza endorsement ('sent by air'). The commemorative cancel in green – Vimperk Sokol Slet/50th Anniv. Matice dated 24 June 1934 was only in use on that date and the preceding day.





Above: a double-weight item sent from Jablonec nad Nisou to Merano in Italy on 18 September 1934. It is marked in French (top left) 'Arrived after the flight had left. Sent by ordinary mail'.

Postage: foreign letter to 40g – 20g at 2 K 50 plus 20g at 1 K 50; air fee – 3 K (2 × 20g at 1 K 50); total – 7 K (as franked). The green label on the right shows that a 25c Poste Restante fee has been applied in Merano.



Postmarks on the front of the cover are for Jablonec nad Nisou 1/Gablonez A.D. Neisse 1, dated 18 September 1934, at 5 p.m. Those on the reverse (above) are: boxed Praha 7 dated 19 September 1934 at 3 a.m.; Brener – Bologna, dated 19 September 1934 (TPO); and Merano / Ass. ?racc?, dated 20 September 1934 at 10 a.m.

Jablonec is the centre of a costume jewellery trade: semi-precious stones are mined in the region.



Above: Letter from Hodonin to Oaby, Sweden. Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2 K 50; registered fee – 2 K 50; air fee – 1 K 50; total – 6 K 50 (as franked). Surface mail from Hodonin to Prague on 8 December 1932; Prague to Berlin by ČLS, 9 December 1932; Berlin to Stockholm by air and then land transport. Lozenge-shaped Prague airport mark on reverse.



Above: letter from Prague (30 June 1937) to Romania (2 July 1937). Postage: foreign reduced rate (Petite Entente) – 2 K; registered fee – 2 K 50K; air fee – 1 K 50; total – 6 K but franked 5 K 50. Postage due not noted. Prague to Cluj by ČSA, then rail to Timisoara. Circular Timisoara receiving mark and lozenge-shaped Prague airport on reverse.



Above: double-weight item sent to London 18 May 1935. Postage: foreign letter to 40g – 2 K 50 plus 1 K 50; air fee – 3 K (1 K 50 per 20g); total 7 K (as franked). Flown Prague to Rotterdam/Amsterdam by ČLS, and Rotterdam/Amsterdam to London by KLM.



Above: cover sent from Prague to Northern Ireland on 9 August 1939, showing use of the supplementary 30 haler stamp. Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2 K 50; air fee – 50 haler (though this was not charged after 16 May 1938); total – 3 K (as franked). It carries the censor mark DK Praha 7, so perhaps the item was sent by rail? Prague had been in the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia since 15 March 1939.

Commercial Airmails to 1939 – Beyond Europe

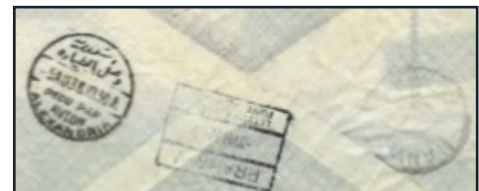
The 1930s air route to British Colonies in East and South Africa was from Prague to Budapest by rail; Budapest to Amsterdam by air; Amsterdam to Athens by air; and Athens to South Africa by Imperial Airways. The route followed the Nile to Lake Victoria, then East Africa to Cape Town.



Sent on 14 March 1936 from Piešťany to Prague (by rail or ČLS) – then on to Athens (via various possible air routes) – and finally to Cape Town via Imperial Airways (there is no receiving mark). The circular mark on the reverse (below) is the receiving mark for Athens. Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2 K 50; airmail fee per 5g – 3 K 50 ($2 \times 5g = 7 K$); total 9 K 50 (as franked).



Above right: from Hluboká nad Vltavou on 2 August 1938 to Nanyuki, British East Africa, arriving 9 August 1938. Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2 K 50; air fee – 2 K 50 per 5g ($4 \times 5g = 10 K$); total – 12 K 50 (as franked). From Hluboká to Prague by rail; then to Alexandria (via various possible carriers); and finally to Nanyuki via Imperial Airways. The circular receiving marks on the back (below right) are for Alexandria (left) and Nanyuki (right).



Left: from Röhrsdorf near Zwickau (now Svor) on 23 August 1937 to Tanger, Morocco, arrived 28 August 1937. From Zwickau to Prague by rail; then to Paris and Tanger via Air France. Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2 K 50K; air fee to 10g – 2 K; total – 3 K 50 (as franked).



Below: from Prague 23 July 1938 to Malakal, Sudan – arrived 29 July 1938. From Prague to Alexandria via Air France, and then on to Malakal. Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2 K 50; registered fee – 2 K 50; air fee (1 K 50 per 10g) – 3 K; total – 8K (as franked).

The writer has used an Air France envelope (see the blue logo on the reverse). These were very thin – as the air fee was calculated in 5g or 10g steps they were lighter than normal envelopes.

Above: boxed Praha 7 (airport) mark, dated 24 August 1937; Paris R P Avion on the same date, with boxed cachet 'save time reply by airmail'; circular Tanger-Cherifien Maroc dated 26 – 8.37; and an incomplete boxed Tanger Son...



Left: postmarks on the back of the envelope (left to right): Boxed Praha 7 (airport) dated 23 July 1938; Alexandria (R) Par Avion dated 27 July 1938; Sudan Air Mail – Malakal dated 29 July 1938.

To South America via *Graf Zeppelin*

This postcard carries a portrait of Dr. Hugo Eckener (1868–1954) sitting at the controls of a Zeppelin. Originally a journalist, he made his first airship flight in 1911, gaining a pilot's licence that year. He was commander of LZ 127 *Graf Zeppelin*'s first round the world flight in 1929.

The card was sent from Karlovy Vary on 13 March 1932 to Rio Grande do Sol in Brazil, and arrived on 26 March 1932. It travelled from Karlovy Vary to Prague (by rail); flew to Friedrichshafen (via ČLS); and then via the *Graf Zeppelin* to Rio Grande do Sol.

Postage: foreign postcard – 1 K 50; registered fee – 2 K 50; air fee to Brazil – 12 K; total – 16 K (as franked).



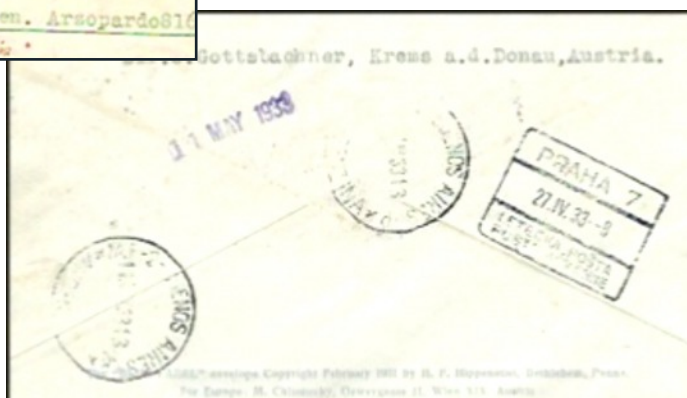
Cancels: Karlovy Vary1/Karlsbad 1 dated 13 March 1932 (on front and reverse); boxed Praha 7 (airport) 13 March 1932; circular red Deutsche Luftpost * Berlin-Friedrichshafen * Anschlussflug zum 1. Südamerikaflug 1932 des Luftschiffes Graf Zeppelin (German airmail * Berlin-Friedrichshafen * Connection flight to the 1st South America flight 1932 of the airship Graf Zeppelin); violet Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin 1. Südamerikafahrt 1932; (on front) Rio Grande do Sol 26 March 1932.

In 1933 LZ 127 made 9 South American flights. One flight could carry 52,000 postcards and 50,000 letters. Delivery of mail was about 1 week faster than by sea. By the time LZ 127 retired in 1937 she had conveyed some 53 tonnes of mail.



Left: airmail letter sent from Bruntál/Freudenthal on 26 April 1933 to Buenos Aires, arriving on 11 May 1933. Carried from Bruntál to Prague by rail; flown from Prague to Berlin via ČLS; and then flown from Friedrichshafen to Buenos Aires by airship. Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2 K 50; registered fee – 2 K 50; air fee to Argentina – 14 K; total – 19 K (as franked).

Cancels (above and right): circular strikes (× 2) Bruntál 1/Freudenthal 1 dated 26 April 1933; boxed Praha 7 (airport) dated 27 April 1933 (on reverse); circular light blue Graf Zeppelin (faint, top right on front); hexagonal (red) special cachet for 1st South American Flight 1932; double circle black 133 Certificados Central (arrival mark Buenos Aires); arrival Buenos Aires 11 May 1933 (two strikes, on reverse); and single line date 11 May 1933, also on the reverse.



To South America via Catapult Mail

Catapult mail was designed to combat the range limitations of aircraft when attempting to cross the Atlantic. Mail was flown to Bathurst (now Banjul), the capital of Gambia, put on board the 'catapult ship', sailed out to sea for thirty-six hours, and then catapulted from the ship to fly on to Natal, in Brazil. Trials took place from June 1933 to January 1934. The first service was on 25 September 1934, with the first night service on 23 October 1934. Catapult mail did not operate in winter. From July 1935 co-operation between DLH and Air France provided a twice-weekly airmail service to South America. With technological advances, however, aircraft developed greater range and speed, and the service ceased at the end of 1935 as unnecessary. By 1936 zeppelins had been integrated into the DLH mail carrying system, but faster, longer-range aircraft meant that mail arrived before that flown by airship. Catapult mail was also used on the North American route from 1929, but using a different system.

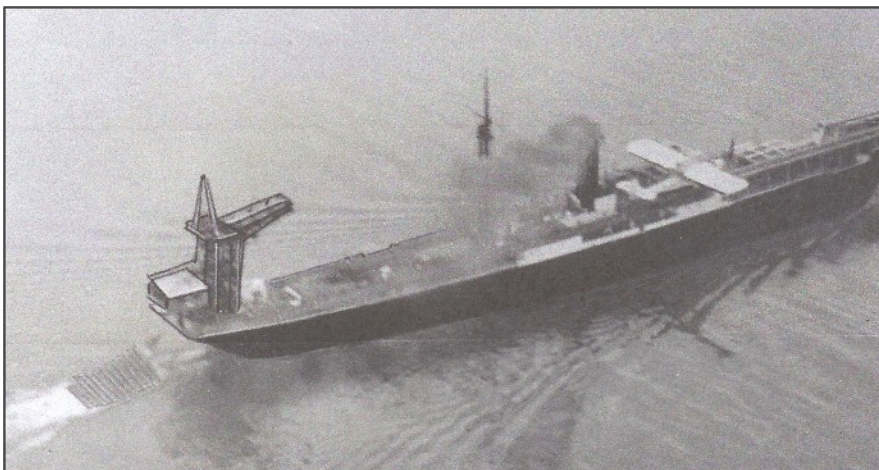


From Rossbach (Hranice) to Berlin by rail; Berlin to Marseille by air (DLH); Marseille to Bathurst, Gambia (DLH or Air France); catapult mail to Natal, Brazil; and Natal to Rio de Janeiro via the Condor airline.

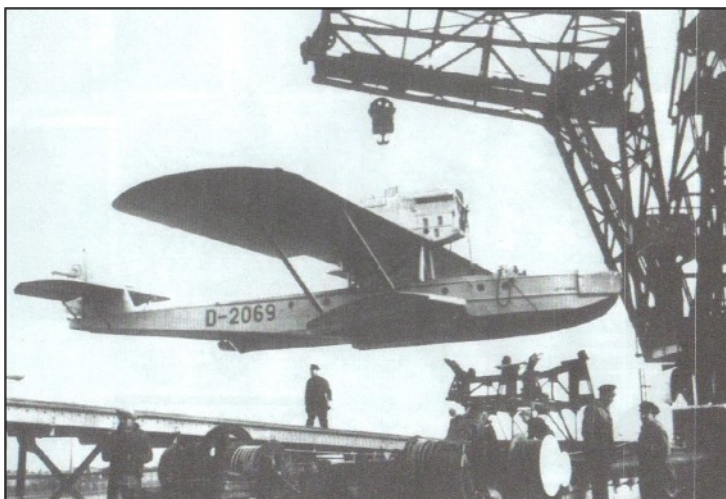
Right: the German standard staging cachet for airmail to South America, whether flown by DLH or zeppelin, which appears in the centre of the above cover.



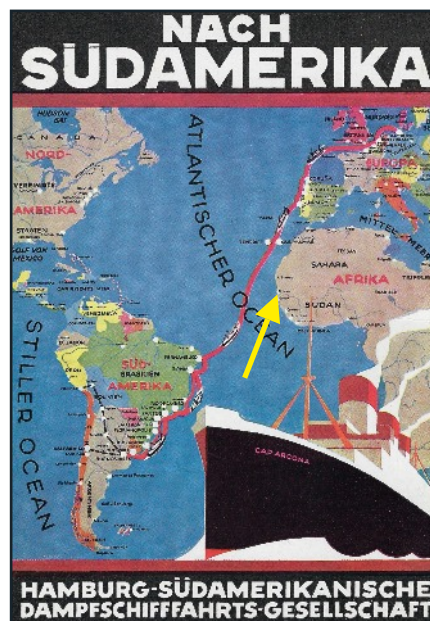
Right and above: in addition to the staging cancel, the cover carries three strikes of the Rossbach cancel dated 26 August 1935 (two on the front and one on the back) and two Rio de Janeiro receiving marks, also on the back, dated 1 September 1935.



The Westfalen (left) was operating a weekly service for speeding the mail in 1934. At the stern of the ship, the Schleppsegel or 'sail mat' is visible. The seaplane manoeuvred on to this to be winched aboard.



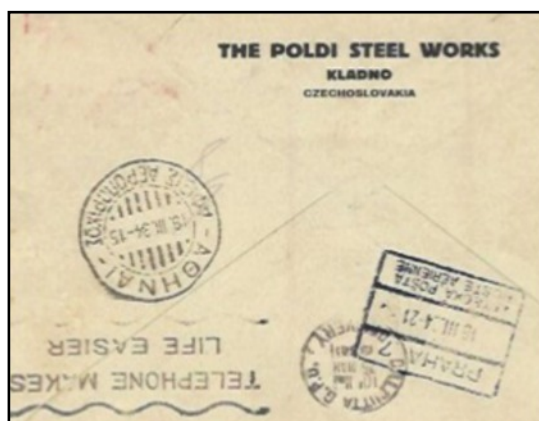
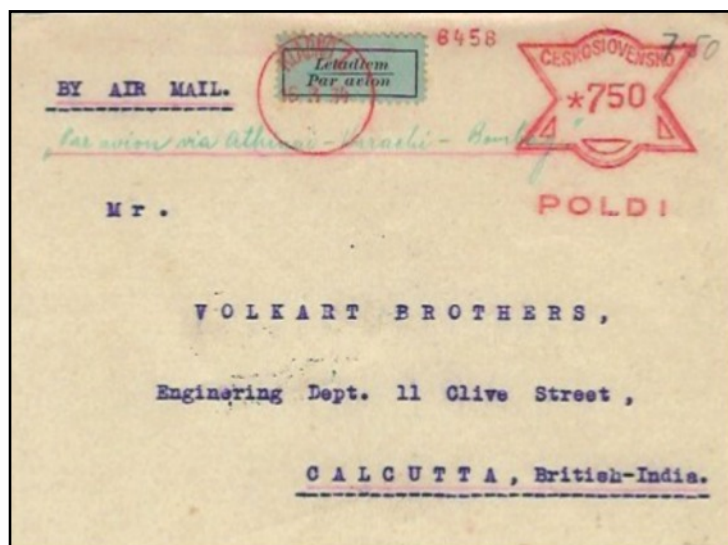
Above: a Dornier Wal ('Whale') twin-engine flying boat being winched on board the Westfalen. Right: a poster advertising the Hamburg-South America Steamboat Company and showing the route across the Atlantic. The yellow arrow shows the location of Bathurst, Gambia.



Other Destinations Beyond Europe



To New York City by sea and air: Jablonec nad Nisou/ Gablonz a. N. 15 February 1937; Prague Airport 16 February 1937 via ČSA to Paris; rail to Le Havre; by ship to New York. Note the sender's instructions in red typescript. A company label on the back (above) seals the contents. Jablonec was the centre of semi-precious stone mining and the jewellery trade. Postage: foreign letter to 40g – 2 K 50 for the first 20g plus 1 K 50; air fee to Paris – 1 K per 20g; total 6 K (as franked). The air fee to North America would have been 7 K per 5g – a total of 56 K plus 4 K.



An item sent from Poldi Steel Works, Kladno, with their meter mark franking. Kladno to Prague by rail (15 March 1934); Prague to Athens, Karachi, Bombay and Calcutta (25 March 1934) via various air carriers. Routing instructions have been given in green manuscript underlined in red. Postage: foreign letter to 20g – 2 K 50; air fee to British India – 5 K 50 per 5g; total 8 K but franked 7 K 50. Air mail rate for 1933 was 5 K per 5g but the new 1934 rate had not been charged. Strikes on the back are (left to right): circular Athens transit mark dated 19 March 1934; circular Calcutta receiving mark dated 25 March 1934; and lozenge-shaped Prague airport mark dated 16 March 1934.

Czechoslovak Perfin Pattern W19: Waldes & Ko. Joe Coulbourn



The obverse of the card, showing the receiving marks.

An Austrian parcel card from 24 May 1917, from a package sent by Jindřich Waldes & Ko.



The story begins with an Austrian Postal Stationery parcel card. As shown above, the parcel card was sent from Wrschowitz (German) or Vršovice (Czech) as shown by the dual language cancellation. Between 1939 and 1945 it was again called *Werschowitz* (the German spelling). Vršovice is a village and municipality in the Vysočina Region of the Czech Republic, located at the southwestern foot of the Bohemian Central Uplands in a river loop on the left side of the River Ohře (Eger in German). There are five Austrian stamps (four on the front and another on the back) – all perfined with perfin pattern W19 (see below).

W19 WK	MxR: W61	Sa: @WK-35	(1908) 1911-1920 (21)	PČ, Hr
	+ Jindřich (Heinrich) Waldes & Ko. Zal.: 1902			
	+ Továrna na galanterní kovové zboží (kovové knoflíky, spínací knoflíky „KOH-I-NOOR“ aj.); muzeum knoflíků			R 3 P
	Wrschowitz / Vršovice; Königl. Weinberge / Král. Vinohrady; {Praha}			Č 2
	Stejná firma: viz W20. Pozor na záměnu s W20.			

This parcel card accompanied an 800-gram package that was mailed to Jacques Treves in Constantinople, Turkey (a rather unusual destination). On the reverse are *Stamboul (Colis) Turquie* receiving marks dated 18 July 1917, as well as the Treves receiver handstamp.

A discussion of the Waldes company needs to start with the founder, Jindřich Waldes. He was born on 2 July 1876, in Nemyšl near Tábor and died in May 1941 at Havana, Cuba. He was a Czech businessman of Jewish origin, a patriot, and a patron of the arts. Jindřich's father was a merchant, Karel Waldes, who ran a pub and a small haberdashery shop in Nemyšl; his mother Anna, née Hoffeová, came from a South Bohemian textile family. Jindřich was supposed to train in the feather trade, but he did not finish his apprenticeship because he got a job as a clerk at Eduard Lokesch and Son in Prague, which produced buttons and cufflinks. Due to his knowledge of foreign languages, he became a sales representative for the company and was entrusted with business trips throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa.



In 1902, together with the mechanic Hynek Puc (1856–1938), he left Lokesch and founded his own company, Waldes & Ko. A year later Hynek Puc built a revolutionary invention – the ‘stacker’ was a device for loading springs into pushbuttons (snaps), which replaced the work of up to ten skilled workers. Production grew rapidly and Puc produced more machines. Waldes' brand, Miss KIN, originated on an ocean liner in 1912 where Waldes met Miss Elizabeth Coyne, who put one of his snaps in her eye. František Kupka painted Miss KIN in oil paints and Vojtěch Preissig made the graphics for the company logo. (František Kupka, 1871–1957, was considered one of the co-founders of abstract painting and Orphic Cubism). Other brands used were Otello and KOH-I-NOOR.

Left: Jindřich Waldes, founder of the Waldes company.



Kupka's painting of Miss KIN (left); the company logo developed by Preissig (above); and the logo in use on the company's product for the German market in the 1920s.



Waldes KOH-I-NOOR moved its main production to Prague-Vršovice in 1907. In thirty years, it had developed into a large concern, producing all kinds of metal haberdashery with subsidiary plants in Warsaw (1908), Dresden, Paris (1911), Vienna (1920), Barcelona (1928) and New York. Waldes bought his domestic competitor, Lokesch, in 1909.

Waldes was also a passionate art collector of contemporary Czech art. In 1918, in Prague, he founded the Waldes Museum for his collection of buttons, which had over 70 thousand items. The collection was transferred after World War II to the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague. Apart from buttons he collected the works of Czech painters, especially František Kupka. They became friends in 1919 and remained so until 1938. Waldes supported Kupka throughout his career by buying his canvases. Part of Jindřich Waldes' collection held by the National Gallery in Prague has been returned to his descendants living in the United States.

On 1 September 1939, Waldes was imprisoned by the Gestapo after the Third Reich occupation of Czechoslovakia and kept in the concentration camps at Dachau and Buchenwald, arriving in Dachau on 10 September 1939, and transferring to Buchenwald on 26 September of the same year. In 1941, his family, who were sent to the USA by Waldes before the war (he decided to remain in Prague as a Czech patriot), paid the Nazi authorities 8 million Czech crowns (about 1 million Reichsmarks or US\$250,000) ransom. In Buchenwald, he suffered a diabetic attack, and was in the prison hospital from 11 April 1940 until his release on 2 June 1941. The Gestapo then transported Waldes by plane to Lisbon, Portugal, where he boarded a USA-bound ship. However, he did not survive the journey and died under suspicious circumstances on the ship, which stopped at Havana, Cuba in May 1941. According to an obituary in a German-language magazine published in New York, 'He arrived on a Portuguese ship in Cuba. In the moment that he stepped onto solid ground, he broke down and died'. According to witness testimony during a case in the US in the late 1950s, Waldes died in a hospital in Havana. He was cremated at a memorial attended by several hundred people on 15 July 1941 at Fresh Pond, Maspeth, in New York. His remains were later buried in the family tomb at the New Jewish Cemetery in Prague.



The Waldes family tomb in Prague.

Waldes & Company lives on! In 1928, the WALDES & CÍA factory was launched in El Poblenou, Barcelona, dedicated to manufacturing products and metal fittings for clothing: buttons, fittings, square brackets, and others, under a range of brands, including KOH-I-NOOR, Olimpia, Rayo brands. Now known as Industrias WALDES SCCL, it has a large online presence and can be found at: <https://waldes.es/>.



A selection of Hradcany stamps carrying the W19 KW perfin. The stamp on the far right has been cancelled in Vršovice.



New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

Images and text adapted from
www.postaonline.cz/eshopfilatelie/listProducts.html?request_locale=en

9 May 2023

Europa 2023: Peace – The Supreme Human Value – NVI ‘E’ (POFIS 1202)

This stamp design is common for all participating European postal administrations. It was selected from entries submitted for the design competition. The winning motif represents a new Peace symbol inspired by the Celtic love knot, with interlocking hearts denoting a peaceful integrated society, hands with intertwined fingers for mutual respect for all cultures, and in colours to embody all nations (see parallel issue for Slovakia, below).



100 years of Radio Broadcasting (POFIS 1203)



Regular radio broadcasting within Czechoslovakia began from a scout tent in the Kbely district of Prague, launched by the private company *Radiojournal*. Since the early days of 1923 much has changed with improvements in facilities, technology, variety of programmes, and availability of services. Many events were held to mark the anniversary, including: an exhibition at the National Technical Museum, Prague; the opening of Czech Radio studios in Prague and the regions to the public; various concerts; and a festive ball. The stamp design depicts microphones and headphones through the years.

17 May 2023

Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Baroque Murals (POFIS A1204 – stamps POFIS 1204 and 1205)

The souvenir sheet of two stamps follows the sheet from 2022 that depicted Czech Gothic Murals.

Baroque describes an exuberant and extravagant style in all art forms developed in the 17th and early 18th centuries in Europe.

The sheet depicts a detail of the work of Vaclav Reiner (1689–1743), one of the most prominent Baroque artists who lived, worked, and died in Prague. His work (mainly landscape paintings, frescoes and murals) included those for the garden pavilion (*sala terrina*) of the beautiful Baroque Vrtba Gardens in Prague. The 38 K stamp shows part of a mural painted by the Swiss-Italian artist Carpofoforo Tencalla (1623–1685), who introduced the Italian style with mythological figures to central Europe. Although he decorated part of the interior of Kroměříž Castle, this did not survive a major fire in 1752. A detail from the work of the Flemish painter Abraham Godijn (1655/6–1724) is represented on the 44 K stamp. He worked for some years in Italy as a court painter to the Pope, but moved to Prague in 1690. Later, he worked with his brother on a commission for frescoes to adorn the Troja Palace (Trojský zámek). Little of his work survives but the most well-known is the fresco in the Grand Hall of the Troja Palace depicting the story of the first Hapsburg Emperor, Rudolph I, and the victories of (Hapsburg) Leopold I over the Ottoman Empire, painted between 1691 and 1697.



ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA



ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA

Czech Design: Jaroslav Ježek – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1206)

Jaroslav Ježek (1923–2002) was a leading Czech porcelain designer. A selection of his distinctive designs for tableware and animal figurines is shown on the stamp, and in the booklet of eight stamps with four labels. After the war he began studying at Charles University to become an art teacher but he was awarded a 6-month scholarship to work at the Thun porcelain factory, remaining there until 1955 when the enterprise closed. He never returned to formal studies as he then began working in Lesov, near Karlovy Vary, where new porcelain designs were being developed, remaining there until retirement. At Expo 58 in Brussels he was awarded a gold medal for a collection of porcelain figurines – *Mare and Stallions* – plus the Grand Prix for his *Elka* design coffee service. During the late 1950s he was a co-founder of the ‘Brussels style’, which was reflected in some of his popular designs. Some of his figurine designs are still in production at the Lesov factory.



7 June 2023

Definitive: President of the Republic – Petr Pavel – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS A1207 – stamps POFIS 1207–1216)

The souvenir sheet of ten self-adhesive stamps has a portrait of the President, each with a different colour background to represent the society and culture of the Republic. The ten representative colours are listed by POFIS as: lime flower (a reference to the Linden, the national tree of Czechia); low fermentation (a reference to brewing using bottom-fermenting yeast, as in the production of lager-style beers); Czech motorbikes (a maroon-red popular with Jawa and CZ motorbikes); Blue Onion – *Zwiebelmuster* (the colour for a type of Bohemian porcelain decoration); Grandma’s raspberry lemonade (pink, in other words!); Whimsical summer storm (a grey-blue shade); Porcini mushrooms; Yellow pin of the Vonts organization (a reference to a popular series of children’s comics, novels and subsequently a film, written by Jaroslav Foglar, featuring *Rychlé šípy* – The Rapid Arrows – and the High Vont); Mountains (presumably the Tatra?); and Rustling pine forests. Petr Pavel (born in 1961) was inaugurated on 9 March



2023, the 12th President since 1918. He had an army career, becoming Chief of the General Staff of Czech Armed Forces from 2012 to 2015, and was elected Chair of the NATO Military Committee, serving from 2015 to 2018 before retiring from the army in 2022.

14 June 2023

Actresses and Actors: Libuše Šafránková and Josef Abrhám (POFIS 1217 & 1218)

A commemorative stamp for the 70th birth anniversary of this popular actress was planned but delayed with the death of her husband, Josef Abrhám, in 2022. The stamp issue honours them both with portraits from their early careers. Libuše Šafránková (1953–2021) appeared in more than 100 films taking leading roles in fairy tale films during the 1970s and 80s, and a starring role in the 1996 Oscar-winning film *Kolya*. In her early career she performed in the theatre alongside her husband. Her career was curtailed for several years before her death from lung cancer. Josef Abrhám (1939–2022) began acting in the theatre in the 1960s but also appeared on TV shows; he was a leading actor for the Drama Club, Prague, and on stage at the National Theatre, Prague. He appeared in Czech and European films and was also known for his voice-acting work, winning a number of prestigious awards.



Personalities: Josef Jungmann – NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1219)



Illustration from First Day Cover.

Josef Jungmann (1773–1847) is considered to be the founder of the modern Czech language along with Jan Dobrovský (1753–1829). Jungmann studied philosophy and law at Charles University, Prague, then taught at the grammar school at Litoměřice before moving back to Prague as headmaster of the Academic Grammar School in the Old Town. He also taught Czech language at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, was appointed Dean of the Faculty (1827–1838), and rector of the University in 1840. An advocate of the rebirth of a Czech written language, he wrote all his texts in Czech. Among his many published works are translations of Goethe, Schiller and Milton, but his outstanding contribution was a five-volume Czech–German dictionary for which the Austrian Emperor, Ferdinand I, bestowed on him the rank of hereditary knight.



Personalities: Blaise Pascal (POFIS 1220)

‘Man is only a reed, the weakest in nature, but he is a thinking reed’ – quote number 200 from *Pensées* by Blaise Pascal (1623–1662). Published after his death, the book is his most influential theological work and has been translated into many languages. Blaise Pascal, a child prodigy, was taught by his father, a French tax collector. From an early age he was interested in mathematics but he also studied physics, philosophy and theology, corresponding with and meeting eminent thinkers of the day. In 1642 he began pioneering work on a calculating machine (known as Pascal’s calculator or *Pascaline*). Over the years he refined the machine but it was not a commercial success as it was cumbersome to use and expensive to purchase. It is thought some fifty machines were produced of which only eight are known to have survived, four of which are in Paris museums. He is one of the earliest inventors of a working mechanical calculator but also made valuable contributions to the knowledge and understanding in his other fields of interest. Throughout his life he was frail, suffering ill health as an adult only to die at an early age, before he found definitive answers to his questions and theories.



Sport: Jan Veselý (POFIS 1221)

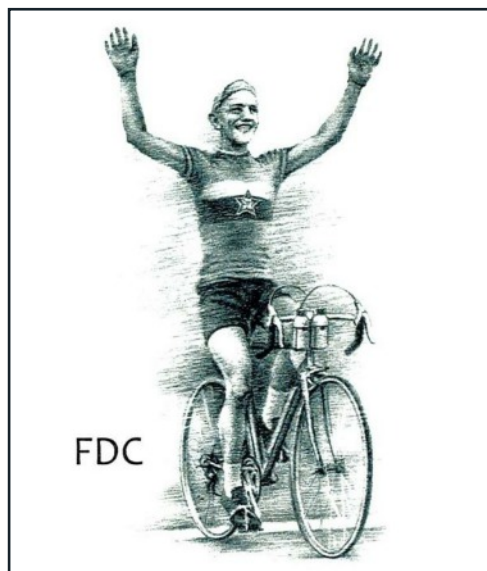


Illustration from First Day Cover.

Jan Veselý (1923–2003) was a cyclist who was the champion of Czechoslovakia twenty-six times. In post-war Europe cycling was one of the most popular sports. Within the Eastern Bloc countries, the annual Peace Race between Prague and Warsaw was a prestigious event for both individual riders and national teams. Jan won the individual race in 1949 from Prague to Warsaw, a distance of 1259 km in eight stages. He was a team member for Czechoslovakia in 1950 and 1951, coming second in the individual event in 1952 and again in 1955. For the 1952 Helsinki Summer Olympic Games Jan was an individual and team competitor for his homeland. A documentary film of his career, *Za císaře*, has been released.





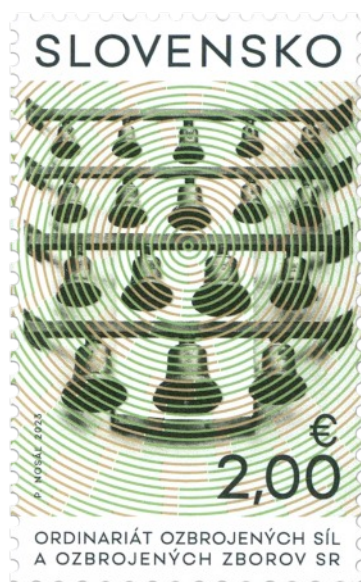
New Issues – Slovak Republic

Lindy Bosworth

Images and text adapted from
www.pofis.sk/en/catalog/products

1 March 2023

The 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Military Ordinariate of Slovakia (POFIS 790)

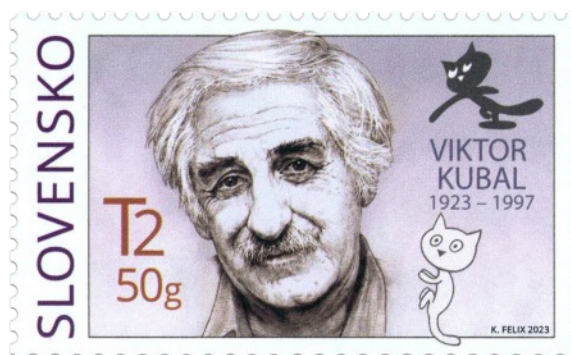


The Slovak Republic concluded a treaty with the Holy See in Rome on 24 November 2000 to protect the rights of its citizens including the right of religious freedom. The document ensured a further four future treaties, one of which related to the pastoral care of Catholic believers in the Armed Forces of the Republic. This 21 August 2002 treaty laid the foundations for an individual diocese (an 'ordinariate' under Canon Law) to be responsible for the task. The following January, Pope John Paul II issued a papal bull establishing the ordinariate and appointing Monsignor František Rábek of Nitra diocese to be its bishop. The Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic was officially established on 1 March 2003. In 2009 the Archbishop of Bratislava designated a new church on Pekná cesta to be the cathedral church of the Ordinariate, with St Sebastian as its patron saint. The building has a carillon rather than the usual classical set of bells, as depicted on the stamp. The carillon was rung for the 20th anniversary ceremonial service. A silver 10 € coin was minted for the occasion.

20 March 2023

Personalities: Viktor Kubal – NVI T2 50g (POFIS 791)

Viktor Kubal (1923–1997), the founder of Slovak animated films, was also a designer, script writer, producer, book illustrator, and author. After leaving high school he worked for *Skolfilm* – The Institute for Education and Edification Films – making his first animated film *Unos (Kidnap)* in 1942. During the 1950s and 1960s he worked as a technical editor for the satirical magazine *Roháč* but in 1965 he was employed by the Animated Film Studio, Bratislava, initially producing short films. Later he produced animated feature



films and numerous works for the small screen including a series of bedtime stories for children. In total he shot 214 animated films, which were screened in some seventy countries, winning awards at home and abroad. He became the first rector of the imaginary University of Humour and Satire in 1981.

27 April 2023

125th Anniversary of the Publishing House Tranoscius (POFIS 792)



This publishing house, with its headquarters in Liptovský Mikuláš, produces and distributes a full range of religious books, calendars, text books, and other printed matter (including magazines) for the Evangelical Church in Slovakia, and for émigré Slovaks. The name Tranoscius was derived from the name of the Lutheran priest of Liptovský Mikuláš, Jiří Třanovský (1592–1637), who was also a teacher, writer and publisher. Initially, authors of fiction and poetry published by Tranoscius were Slovak to maintain national and cultural traditions, but this has changed over the years to reflect current social situations, wider opinions, and to foster inter-church discussion.

9 May 2023

Europa 2023: Peace – The Supreme Human Value (POFIS 793)

The theme chosen by PostEurop for this year's EUROPA stamps is a response to the present situation in Ukraine. A competition between twenty-eight postal operators from more than sixty countries was held to select the most popular design with the theme of 'Peace'. The winning design, a motif of interwoven hearts inspired by a prehistoric Celtic love knot, was submitted by Post Luxembourg. The Slovak entry was placed third and is the motif for the First Day Cover cachet and the issued commemorative sheet. A booklet of six 2 € 10 stamps was issued (104ZZ793/23).

Left: the Europa commemorative sheet, which features the Slovak design.



19 May 2023

**200th Anniversary of Regular Express Stagecoach Mail – Bratislava to Vienna (POFIS 794)**

The beginning of the 19th century saw the rise of economic, cultural and social change as the Industrial Revolution developed, and with it a need for more efficient communication services. In spite of the intensive construction of roads with solid, well-drained surfaces, fixed links were still slow, so inevitably the time had come to speed up personal mail transport.

Within the Hapsburg monarchy, the new director of mail vehicle administration, Max Ottenfeld, brought about reforms to the mail coach service, introducing new express coaches for both mail and passengers, which were operational at night for the first time. These *eilpostwagen* vehicles were very well built, with elliptical springs, drawn by four to six horses, and capable of speeds up to 12 km per hour. The first test run between Vienna and Brno on 3 May 1823 covered nineteen postal miles (about 144 km) in fourteen hours, and was a success. Later in the year these coaches operated on the Vienna–Prague and the Vienna–Bratislava route (six hours). Ottenfeld's reforms eliminated long stops en route by enforcing travel through the night, created a regular, reliable service in a comfortable coach, and offered a reliable mail service. The first Vienna–Bratislava *eilpostwagen* travelled on 1 October 1823.

23 June 2023

Sovereign Military Order of Malta – Joint issue with Malta (POFIS 795)

This issue commemorates the 30th anniversary of the bilateral relationship between the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and Slovakia. The Order, with its roots in the Catholic Church, has a long history dating back to 1099 AD – with papal recognition granted in 1113 – but today is apolitical and neutral, with diplomatic relationships with 112 countries and the European Union. It is now a charitable organization for the protection of human dignity, and for providing assistance and aid to the needy, irrespective of nationality, race or religion.

Malteser Aid Slovakia organizes charitable work in Slovakia on behalf of the Order, and has 120 trained volunteers working with permanent projects for assisting the elderly, handicapped and homeless, including refugees. After the onset of the war in Ukraine, Malteser Aid Slovakia was immediately active at Vyšné Nemecké on the Slovak-Ukraine border with humanitarian aid, and continues to support refugees of the conflict living within Slovakia.



20 June 2023

Nature Protection: Bees (POFIS 796)

Bees are the world's most widespread natural plant pollinator and the third most useful agricultural animal. There are some 12,000 different species of which about 5% are social in habit, including the honey bee. The honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) has existed for 80 million years. Originally native to Africa, the western bee (as depicted on the stamp) is the most common European species, although nurtured by bee-keepers worldwide commercially. There are several varieties of honey bee but all live in colonies with a queen bee (a fertile female or 'mother'), a large number of workers (infertile females) and a smaller number of drones



(males). The queen lives for some four to six years, the workers one to four months, and the drones one to two months. Each has a specialized role or task within the colony – workers act as nurses to developing eggs, nectar processors, cleaners, comb builders, guards, and foragers for gathering pollen and nectar. Bees communicate through touch, smell and movement (bee 'dances') and use the sun for orientation. A colony can produce commercial quantities of honey, propolis, wax, royal jelly and bee venom (melittin, an antibiotic). They have many predators but the main threat is the worldwide bee mite and the Asian hornet. A maximum card was also issued (left).

Membership Benefits

Meetings	Four London meetings in 2023, two joint meetings in Yorkshire, and five Zoom meetings.
Publications	Members receive the quarterly journal <i>Czechout</i> which includes articles of interest on Czech and Slovak philately and helps members to keep in touch with Society affairs. The Society publishes <i>Monographs</i> and Print-On-Demand titles on wide-ranging topics containing original research.
Library	The Society maintains a comprehensive library of books, journals, and reference materials available to UK members only. Postage both ways paid by the borrower.
Auctions	Regular auctions with a varied range of reasonably priced items. Prospective vendors should contact the Auctioneer.
Circulating Packets	Stamp and postal history packets available to members in the UK only. Apply to the Packet Manager.
Free Small Adverts	Members are permitted free small adverts in <i>Czechout</i> . Contact Advertising Manager.
Accessories at Trade prices	Members may order accessories, album leaves, and philatelic books at a substantial saving. Delivered direct. Contact the Treasurer.
Data Protection Act	Members are advised that their details are stored electronically for use on Society business only, e.g. for address label printing.

Payments

Sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank payable to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB); current bank notes in pounds sterling, US dollars, or Euros. Payments may also be made by US dollar cheques or paid to a Euro bank account, or by PayPal. Please contact the Treasurer for details.

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All Officers and Committee members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.

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Postcard from the Czechoslovak Legions in Siberia, signed by General
 Stanislav Čeček KCB (*below*), Commander of the Allies' far-eastern
 Troops from 1918 to 1920.



(One of the items in the May Zoom presentation by Lubor Kunc - see page 6.)