



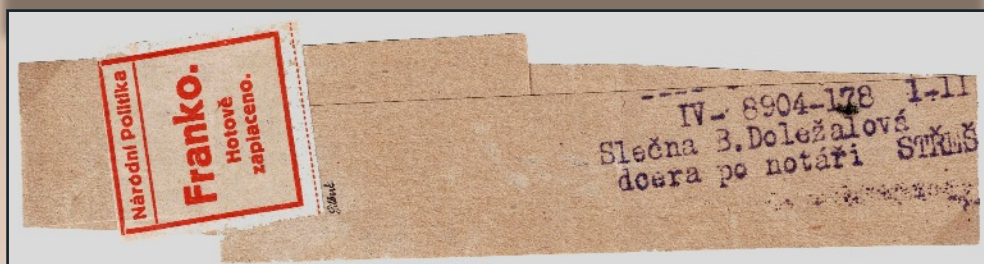
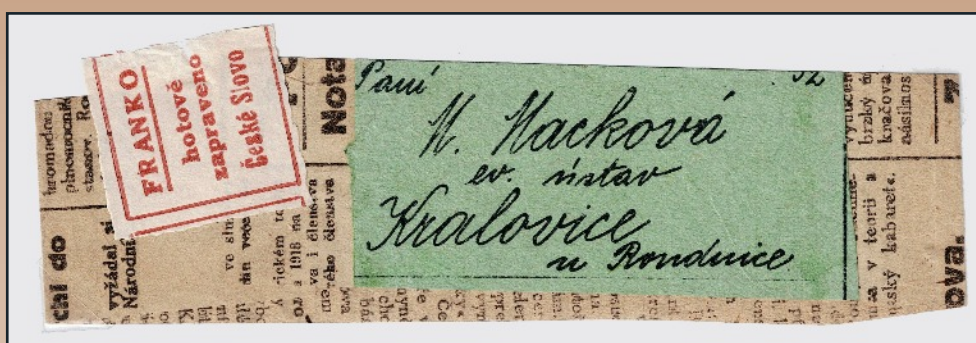
CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 42/4

DECEMBER 2024

WHOLE NUMBER 197



The fascinating world of provisional newspaper stamps
(page 10)

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CZECHOUT

Journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

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From the Editor

It's that time of year again - when snowmen, robins, and nativity scenes start appearing on stamps across the world. As a child, I was always taught to write 'thank you letters' for my gifts – so this is my 'thank you' to everyone who continues to make my work on *Czechout* so much more achievable and rewarding than I feared when I took over from Mark Wilson two years ago.

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. I'm sure you've all been very well behaved, so hopefully Santa will bring you the elusive Hradčany varieties and negative flaws (see page 7) that you need to complete your collection!

Tony Holdsworth**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

Congratulations



The miniature sheet celebrating William Shakespeare and his Works (POFIS A1228 – new issues, December 2023 *Czechout*) won first prize at the 54th Asiago International for Philatelic Art. This was the fourth time that Prague Post has been awarded the Asiago top prize.

Alfonso Zulueta's exhibit *Bosnia-Herzegovina Pictorial Postage Stamps Issue 1906* was awarded a Large Vermeil Medal at Mare Balticum 2024 International Exhibition in Estonia.

György Lövei was awarded a Gold Medal and Grand Prix for *Postal Documents of the International Airmail Service to and from and via the Hungarian Kingdom up to 30.04.1928* at the Enajsto Okno Kranj Slovenia 2024 exhibition, where the exhibits were on a Narrow Theme.

Karl Winkelmann's *The Dublin Censor Office 1939–1945* was the most popular exhibit at the Great American Stamp Show 2024. In addition, he received a Large Gold Medal and the American Philatelic Society Research Medal with the same exhibit.

Reg Hounsell and **Colin Smith** have both completed 50 years of membership of CPSGB.

Joint Central European Societies Meeting, Leeds, 10 August 2024

Once again members of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Yugoslav and the former Polish Societies met at the Brown Cow pub in Whitkirk, Leeds for a day's 'show and tell' on things central European, organized by Yvonne and Richard Wheatley. The usual eclectic mix of material was presented in a total of 22 short displays by 11 of the participants over seven rounds, four before a buffet lunch and three afterwards, closing with tea and cake. As always, a wide range of subjects was presented, as follows:

Cliff Jermyn-Francis	Polish army in France, 1939.
Nick Coverdale	Parcel cards of NDH Croatia – working out the rates.
Roger Morrell	Telegram-sending receipts from Austria and Hungary.
Yvonne Wheatley	Czechoslovak printed matter and newspaper stamps, including provisional labels during early stamp shortages.
Joyce Boyer	Kinderballoon mail of Austria.
Roger Morrell	Sending cash through the Austro-Hungarian post, trying to interpret the Empress Maria Theresia's rule of 1776.
Martin Brumby	Austrian bills-of-exchange, with examples of design and tax rates from 1818 onwards, each with Austrian revenue stamps or imprints.
Alan Berrisford	Czechoslovak TPOs from the 1920s and 1930s.
Richard Jagielski	Stamp issues of twenty years of independent Poland, 1919–1939, including his great-grandfather's <i>Krzyż Walecznych</i> (Cross of Valour) for his role in the Polish-Soviet war of 1918–1920.
Reg Hounsell	Czech and Slovak POW mail from camps in Russia.
Andy Taylor	Curiosities of the Austrian post – playing card stamps and other recent money-raising ploys.
Nick Coverdale	Definitive stamp issues of unified Yugoslavia from 1921 to 1939.

Keith Brandon	Pre-stamp postmarks of Prague – a wide variety of styles from their introduction in the 1780s to the start of postage stamp use.
Richard Jagielski	Polish regional issues 1918–1920 with German and Austrian overprinted stamps.
Andy Taylor	Austrian mixed frankings due to currency changes – mixed stamp issues on covers, up to odd sticky labels for the current era.
Alan Berrisford	Austrian Court Delivery Stamps used on courier-delivered court documents in Galicia and Bukovina provinces to speed delivery of court summons etc.
Joyce Boyer	The 1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics – covers and cards from the development of the facilities as a short-notice replacement for Denver's backing out.
Roger Morrell	Revolutionary overprints of Czechoslovakia 1918 following declaration of independence.
Martin Brumby	Hungarian bills-of-exchange with examples of design and tax rates from 1818 onwards, with Hungarian revenues.
Reg Hounsell	Slovak military mail 1934–1945, including its involvement with the German army in Carpatho-Ukraine.
Andy Taylor	David Bravery's Empire break-up display with cards and maps.
Alan Berrisford	The 1923 Copernicus issue of Poland with variations in sheet printing size and perforation type.

All in all, it was a philatelic mind-broadening experience, as usual, and long may this series continue. Many thanks to Yvonne and Richard for organizing the meeting which all went very smoothly. Looking forward to next year!

Roger Morrell

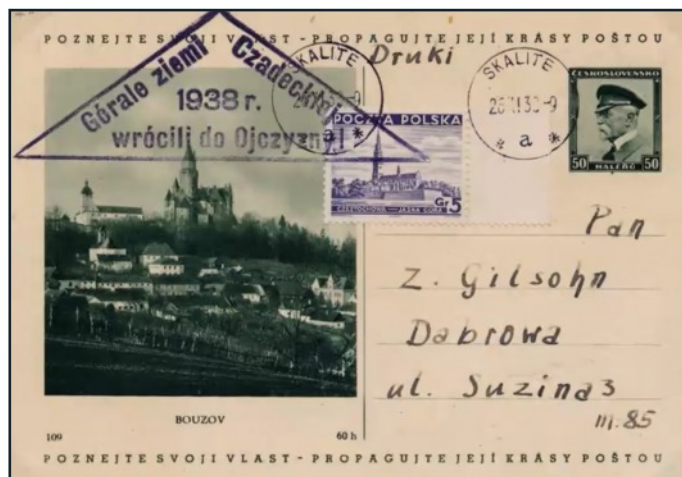
August Zoom

Our best-ever attendance of 33 members logged in on 28 August to enjoy **Rex Dixon's** absorbing presentation on 'The Dismemberment of Czechoslovakia 1938/1939'. He began by explaining that there were two main phases – nibbling at the edges in the autumn of 1938, followed by the whole-scale break up in spring 1939. The first phase concerned the Sudetenland, annexed by Germany; Teschen annexed by Poland; and southern Slovakia and Ruthenia taken by Hungary. In the spring of 1939, the autonomous state of Slovakia was created, Hungary took further lands in the east, and the rump of the Czech lands became a German Protectorate. The background to this was the creation of Czechoslovakia in the first place – Bohemia, Moravia, parts of Silesia, Slovakia, and Ruthenia, all pulled together into a country with a consequent complexity of different ethnic groups. From the beginning this had led to conflict – with Poland over Teschen and Silesia, and with Hungary over southern Slovakia.

The Sudetenland illustrated the problem in relation to German speakers – of whom there were about 3.5 million in a total Czechoslovak population of 15 million. From 1923 Konrad Henlein was the head of a German gymnastics movement in Czechoslovakia, but by 1935 this had been transformed into a political party. In spite of the best efforts of Chamberlain in September, Hitler demanded the withdrawal of the Czechoslovak forces from the Sudetenland by 1 October 1938, claiming that this was his 'last territorial demand'. At this stage

censorship was introduced for mail to and from Germany and the Sudetenland, and mobilization began. In late September the Sudeten *Freikorps* initiated a revolt, which was suppressed in all but the indefensible frontier regions such as Asch, Rumburg and Jauernig. Rex displayed overprints, cachets, and a set of unissued stamps that all illustrated this development.

The Munich Agreement, signed at the end of September, meant that a phased occupation of the Sudetenland by German troops began in earnest. At the beginning of October President Beneš resigned and left for exile in England. Meanwhile, the Sudeten Germans had produced a large array of 'liberation souvenirs', many of which were part of Rex's display, together with liberation cachets, provisional postmarks, and a card that had been included in the flight of *Graf Zeppelin II* over the Sudetenland at the beginning of December.



The complexities of border changes following the signing of the Munich Agreement – a Czechoslovak postal stationery card franked with a Polish stamp and posted on 26 November 1938 in Skalité, a post office in the Čadca area of Slovakia, which had been transferred to Poland on the same day.

Within 12 hours of the signing of the Munich Agreement, Poland had got in on the act, demanding that the Teschen area be handed over, and going on to claim further areas, such as Bohumín, Jablunkov, Moravská, and several small parts of Slovakia. Hungary also claimed parts of southern Slovakia and Ruthenia, and Rex showed a range of patriotic souvenirs related to the 'returned' territories.

New constitutional arrangements between October 1938 and March 1939 gave autonomy to the Slovaks, followed on 14 March 1939 by the 'independent' Slovak state. Elections to an autonomous parliament in Ruthenia – now calling itself Carpatho-Ukraine – took place on 13 February 1939, but Hitler had decided that they should become part of Hungary, and Hungarian troops invaded on 15 March, so that this was perhaps the shortest independence in history.

On 15 March 1939, Bohemia and Moravia were taken under German protection, after President Hácha had been persuaded to sign a request to that effect, and Rex showed a wide range of postal material to illustrate the impact of this new arrangement on the postal authorities.

At the end of the presentation, members asked a variety of questions:

- What did Rex think of the conspiracy theories surrounding the death of Štefánik in a plane crash in 1919?
- Is it correct that Slovakia had very limited recognition from other countries when it gained its independence?
- Is it correct that some of the Štefánik stamps prepared for the 20th anniversary of his death but never issued, still got through the post and were accepted as payment?

Discussions were inconclusive but demonstrated the level of interest in this fascinating subject – and for the detailed and engrossing way in which Rex had shared it with us. A video of the presentation can be viewed and downloaded from the Society website at www.cpsgb.org/pages/zoom.htm. **Tony Holdsworth**

London Meeting in September

There were two parts to the meeting at The George in London on 14 September 2024: the first part was a short, 21-sheet presentation by **Rex Dixon** on postal rates from Bohemia & Moravia to Germany. This was the perfect bridge between Rex's August Zoom (see above) and part two of the day's proceedings. Rex explained that, following the creation of the Protectorate, postal rates were Germanized in phases. Phase 1, from 1 April 1939, saw concessionary rates – letters and postcards only were affected, with a conversion rate of 10 pfennigs to 1 Koruna. On 17 July *all* rates were Germanized (apart from registration – because that would have meant an *increase* from 2 K 50 to 3 K). From 1 October virtually all rates for both internal and external post were aligned with Germany, including registration and cash-on-delivery. Rex included an extract on the postal rates from the Society Monograph *Bohemia & Moravia: A Collector's Notebook* by John Hammond (for which Rex supplied and edited the postal rate data – for further details see www.cpsgb.org/pages/monographs.htm). The presentation was illustrated with exemplar covers showing most of the different rates.

Part two was **Tony Hickey's** presentation on Bohemia & Moravia, telling the story of the Protectorate with a wealth of interesting material. Going back to 1918, Tony emphasized the almost casual way in which Czechoslovakia had been created – focusing on rivers and mountains for borders, rather than taking into account the ethnicity of the people affected. The creation of the Protectorate, of course, began with the Munich Agreement. On display was a copy of Chamberlain's 'piece of paper', signed by himself and Hitler – when other Germans expressed surprise that Hitler had signed it so readily, he is alleged to have said (about Chamberlain): 'He's an old man – he just wants my signature!'



Tony Hickey gets to grips with the detail on Bohemia & Moravia.

A series of postcards with photos taken by Hitler's official photographer, Heinrich Hoffmann, closely followed the story of the takeover of Bohemia & Moravia. One issue, of course, was the exchange rate – when the Anschluss happened the Austrian rate went from 2 S 20 to the Mark to 1 S 50. With the Czechoslovak currency the maths was much simpler – up from 6 K to the Mark to 10 K. Czechoslovak postage stamps could be used until 15 December 1939. As had happened during the Sudeten crisis (but on a smaller scale), postmarks appeared with the slogan 'We are free!' (or equivalent). Theoretically, German stamps were not valid for the post in Czechoslovakia, but some did get through – after all, who was going to object? The first stamps issued



Bohemia & Moravia overprints from the first set of stamps issued for the Protectorate. Here, errors (top) are paired with stamps bearing the correct overprint.

for use in the Protectorate were the overprinted Czechoslovak stamps – again, these ceased to be valid from 15 December 1939. Tony had examples of two important errors – the 20 halero vermilion with the ‘u’ missing between ‘BÖHMEN’ and ‘MÄHREN’, and the 1 K 60 olive-green with ‘MÄHREN’ instead of ‘MÄHREN’. Both were presented in vertical pairs with the correct versions of the overprints.

The postal authorities soon got moving with a range of definitives, special delivery, postage due, official, and charity stamps. It has been pointed out that the Red Cross stamps showing a German soldier being tended by a nurse seem to reflect Germany’s waning fortunes – the first set, in 1940, shows the soldier upright with his arm in a sling; the second, in 1941, shows him being tended lying down in a hospital bed; and you could be excused for thinking that the third set, from 1942, shows him at death’s door! Tony pointed out that all this postal activity was largely a propaganda exercise, and much of the material was shipped to Germany for sale to philatelists rather than being sold for postal use in the Protectorate.



Left – One of many commemorative covers produced in Bohemia & Moravia to celebrate the centenary of the Penny Black.

One feature of the philately of Bohemia & Moravia that frequently puzzles British collectors in particular is the souvenir material produced to celebrate the centenary of the *British Penny Black*! Tony had a range of covers illustrating this and featuring the reproduction Mulready letter sheet and commemorative covers reproducing a Penny Black (with a modified inscription in Czech!). Other material on display were marked with the ‘V for Victory’ cachet – including both the ‘Germany is winning on all fronts!’ and the ‘Germany is winning on all fronts in Europe!’ versions, the latter reflecting an admission that things were not going quite as well as hoped in North Africa.

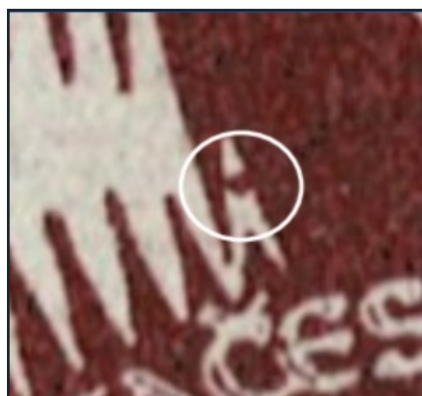
Thanking Tony for his presentation and handing over his certificate, Peter Williams reflected on something Tony had said at the beginning: ‘This is really just a schoolboy collection – you could buy all the material for £100 or so!’ Peter’s conclusion? ‘Hardly!’

Tony Holdsworth

‘Fly fishing’ Zoom

Another well-attended Zoom meeting on 12 October saw 25 members giving rapt attention to *Fly Fishing in a Philatelic Pool* by **Mark Wilson**. ‘Fly-speck philately’, as it is often (perhaps slightly disparagingly?) called, is an aspect of the hobby that many collectors have never explored. In a very clear presentation on a complex topic Mark set out the tools and resources available to support the study of flaws in the early typographic stamps of Czechoslovakia, together with ideas on presenting your findings. The main focus of Mark’s own research (the ‘fish in his pool’) has been on the Dove and Liberated Republic stamps – two highly complex series, offering much scope for investigation, and the subject of detailed monographs published by CPSGB, together with other books available on the Society website.

Rather than using a magnifying glass to pore over your stamps, Mark's approach is to mount quantities of them (he estimates he has around 200,000 stamps in his notebooks!) in numbered stock pages, stored in shelved notebooks. Each page is then scanned so it can be examined on a computer. The pages are then enlarged and the individual stamps studied in search of flaws.



Colour intrusion



'White' intrusion



Displacement

So what is a flaw? Mark explained that it is a noticeable but chance disruption of a stamp's design – it can be an intrusion in colour, a 'white' intrusion, or a partial displacement of the design. The flaws arose from the decision by the new Czechoslovak Republic to use a Prague book publisher to organize their stamp printing using the typographic approach, where five steps are used in the production of the finished stamp. A double-size zinc master die is the first part of the process. This is used to produce 100 auxiliary prints that are pasted up into a 10 by 10 array. A glass negative is taken from this paste up, reduced by 50% to give the final size of the stamps. This is then transferred to a metal plate, which is made ready for printing by hardening those areas that need protection from the etching acid in the final, fifth stage of plate production.

Flaws can happen at any part of the process – it might be on the die itself, one of the auxiliary prints, the negative (the most frequent source of flaws) or the finished plate. Die flaws usually occur on every stamp, while negative flaws occur in the same position on every plate printed from the same negative. Auxiliary print flaws appear in the same position on every pane, even if different negatives were used to make the plate.

Displaying your study of these flaws depends on the stamps you are investigating: with less complex printings plate reconstruction is possible, helped by the large number of plating guides available from the Society website, but when a large number of plates were used (sometimes as many as 50) plate reconstruction is extremely difficult, if not impossible. Instead, displays can focus on distinguishing between the different *types* of flaw (negative flaws, auxiliary print flaws and so on).

Questions after the presentation showed how much members were thinking that this might, indeed, be an area of interest they should pursue – as one person put it 'which issues of Czechoslovakian stamps that have not been looked at would be suitable for fly-specking?' For further information, Mark pointed us in the direction of a website he has created that specializes in these early Czechoslovak typographic stamps – www.knihtisk.org. The Society's website has a link to this site, as well as a wealth of freely-available guides to many of these stamps (www.cpsgb.org/pages/allegories.htm).



An example of the way Mark displays his findings on more complex stamps - Auxiliary Print flaws for the 50 haler Liberated Republic.

Library Additions

Lindy Bosworth

Catalogues

Československo 1918–1939: Specializovaná příručka známek a celistvostí 1. Část (Specialized catalogue of stamps and postally used examples – Part 1) by Jan Klim, Jan Štolfa, Zdeněk Filípek *et al.* Published by Merkur-Revue 2024 (*in Czech*).

Československá Pošta 1918–1919: Poštovní provoz v popřevratové době (Czechoslovak Post 1918–1919: Postal Traffic in the post-Revolution era) by Miroslav Štefek *et al.* Published by Kartis & Co. s.r.o. 2024 (*in Czech*).

On Demand Publications

Type and Variations in First Republic Postage Stamps by Mark Wilson FRPSL.

Trials and Tribulations: Czechoslovakia's Hradčany 1918–1920: An Exhibit presented by Ludvik Svoboda (*in English*).

The Holubice Study Series: *The Blue 5 Haler Dove Revised Edition* by Mark Wilson FRPSL (*in English*).

The Holubice Study Series: *The Blue 5 Haler Dove Revised Edition, Supplement 1: The First Negative – A Guide to Plates 1 and 2* by Mark Wilson FRPSL (*in English*).

The Holubice Study Series: *The Blue 5 Haler Dove Revised Edition, Supplement 2: The Second Negative – A Guide to Plates 3, 11–14* by Mark Wilson FRPSL (*in English*).

The Holubice Study Series: *The Blue 5 Haler Dove Revised Edition, Supplement 3: Visual Indexes for Plates 1–3, 11–14* by Mark Wilson FRPSL (*in English*).

Osvobozená Republika Series: The 30 Haler Liberated Republic Part 1: History and Visual Indexes by Mark Wilson FRPSL *et al.* (*in English*).

Osvobozená Republika Series: The 30 Haler Liberated Republic Part 2: Plating Guide by Mark Wilson FRPSL.

Other Publications

Katalog označení tiskových desek novinových známek emise Sokol v letu (Catalogue of Plate Markings Found in the Falcon in Flight, Newspaper Issue) prepared by Vladimír Malovik CSc and Michal Hauzr, translated by Mark Wilson FRPSL.

Poštovní historie popřevratového období, 1918–1920 (1924), České země (Sběratelské aspekty) Svazek I (Postal history of the post-revolutionary period, 1918–1920 (1924), Czech lands (Collectible items) Volume 1) by Josef Weissenstein and colleagues; Printed by Europrint 2024 (*in Czech*).

Poštovní historie popřevratového období, 1918–1920 (1924), České země (Sběratelské aspekty) Svazek II (Postal history of the post-revolutionary period, 1918–1920 (1924), Czech lands (Collectible items) Volume II) by Josef Weissenstein and colleagues; Printed by Europrint 2024 (*in Czech*).

Book Review

Yvonne Wheatley

Československá Pošta 1918–1919 (Czechoslovak Post Office 1918–1919) by Miroslav Štefek: A4, 261 pages, with almost 900 pictures in colour. In Czech. The publication can be ordered from Miroslav.stefek@seznam.cz

The book deals with the postal service while the postal system was established in 1918 and 1919. It commences with a historical introduction to the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 and related events. All types of correspondence and related services are described. For the first time, postal forms are included describing their function in the operation of the post office. The postal regulations are included for the receipt of parcels, their despatch, transport and delivery, including examples both inland and abroad. There is also a complete tabular overview of postal forms, including preliminary forms of Austrian and Hungarian origin, together with their valuation.

The publication is very thorough in the functioning of the post office in the first tariff period. It includes letters, postcards, printed matter, business papers and samples. The next chapter deals with valuable shipments and describes the rules for cash on delivery. The postal order chapter describes the services related to postal orders and special types of postal orders such as telegraphic, newspaper, express and postal money orders. The delivery of court papers is not forgotten.

Newspaper services details the procedure for ordering newspapers, charges for transport and service and the method of franking newspaper parcels.

Everything is documented in a clear manner with scans of material and an overview of tariffs and surcharges for services. In fact, it would be difficult to think of anything relating to the postal service that is not covered.



Provisional Newspaper Stamps of Czechoslovakia

Les Pearcy

To cope with an acute shortage of newspaper stamps between December 1918 and February 1919 a Ministry of Posts order was issued allowing cash prepayment for newspaper transmission. Emergency provisional labels were produced in a variety of forms, mostly with the inscription 'Franko – Hotově Zapláceno' or 'Zapláceno' (postage prepaid).

The POFIS catalogue lists twenty-four types of labels and, despite collecting them for over twenty years, there are a number that I have never seen. Additionally, many rubber handstamps were used: however, this article only deals with the labels.



Fig. 1

Čech, Prague. There were two types, black print on red paper (type A) and black print on green paper (type B). The labels were printed with the legend 'Poštovné placeno' (postage paid). In the examples that I have (Fig. 1) there appear to be several shades in paper colour (POFIS NN2).



České Slovo, Prague. These were printed in sheets of eight stamps, measuring 28 × 26mm and in a variety of colours – light red (which seems to be the most common) as well as shades of brown, light and dark green, and black. The design featured 'FRANKO' underlined at the top, with 'hotově zapláceno České Slovo' beneath (Fig. 2 – POFIS NN3).



Above, left, and below – Fig. 2.





Fig. 3 – type A, perf. 11.25 (above left), type B, perf. 11 (above – expertized by Gilbert), type G (above right), and type I (above far right). type E (right) and types B and C (far right). The latter is a vertical pair, one with a border and one without.

The two used examples on wrappers at the top are both forgeries.

Český Merkur, Prague. Various size labels with a variety of border designs in blue. These were sold by stationery stores and the second issue had the legend 'Poštovné hotově zapláceno' on three lines, in black (Fig. 3 – POFIS NN4 II). As well as design variations, there were several perforations. There have been a number of forgeries discovered, in particular with forged 'Polni Posta' postmarks on genuine stamps. These were featured in an article by Lubor Kunc in *Czechout* June 2010.

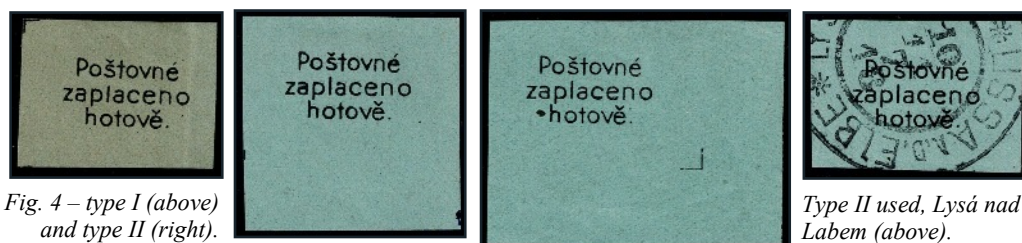


Fig. 4 – type I (above) and type II (right).

Type II used, Lysá nad Labem (above).

Lloyd, Prague. There were two similar types of label, both with 'Poštovné zapláceno hotově' printed on green or white paper. In the first printing type I had lettering measuring 14×8 mm, while type II measured 17×8.3 mm (Fig. 4 – POFIS NN13A & B).

Mährisch – Schlesische Presse, Frývaldov. This reads 'franko bar' in black on green paper (Fig. 5 – POFIS NN14).



Fig. 5 (above) – Fig. 6 (right).

Národné Noviny, Turč. Sv. Martin. This unframed label was printed in black on brown paper. The publication name was underlined and had 'Franko' underneath in a larger font size, with 'zaplatené.' The legend was 35×20 mm (Fig. 6 – POFIS NN16).

Národní Politika, Prague. There are two designs: type A (Fig. 7A.1 and 7A.2) was printed in red on yellow-brown paper in sheets of 32 (4×8).

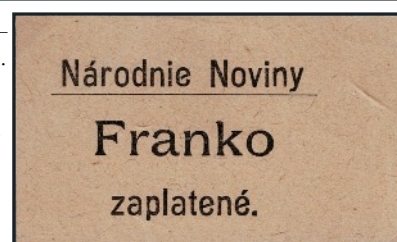


Fig. 7A.1.

There are three areas of text: 'Národní Politika' underlined at the top of the label, with 'Franko' in the centre in a larger font, and 'Hotově zapláceno' in two lines at the bottom. Each stamp was surrounded by a single frame. Guide lines, also in red, are found between the rows and columns (POFIS NN17).



Fig. 7A.2 – a full sheet (above) and examples used on wrappers (left and below).

Fig. 7B.1 – a full sheet of POFIS NN1 7II (below right) and a smaller sheet of reprints on white paper (above).

Type B (Fig. 7B.1 & 7B.2) was produced to send the newspaper to wounded soldiers in hospital, a practice that continued from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. These were printed in sheets of twenty (5×4), again in red, on the same paper. The design was more complex than type A. The top of the stamp had 'NÁRODNÍ POLITIKA' above a framed red cross surrounded by spiral ornamentation, and 'GRATIS' at the bottom. They were surrounded by a double frame. I also have examples printed on a much whiter paper (reprints) as well as an example of a paper fold and a black print (POFIS NN17II – Fig. 7B.2).

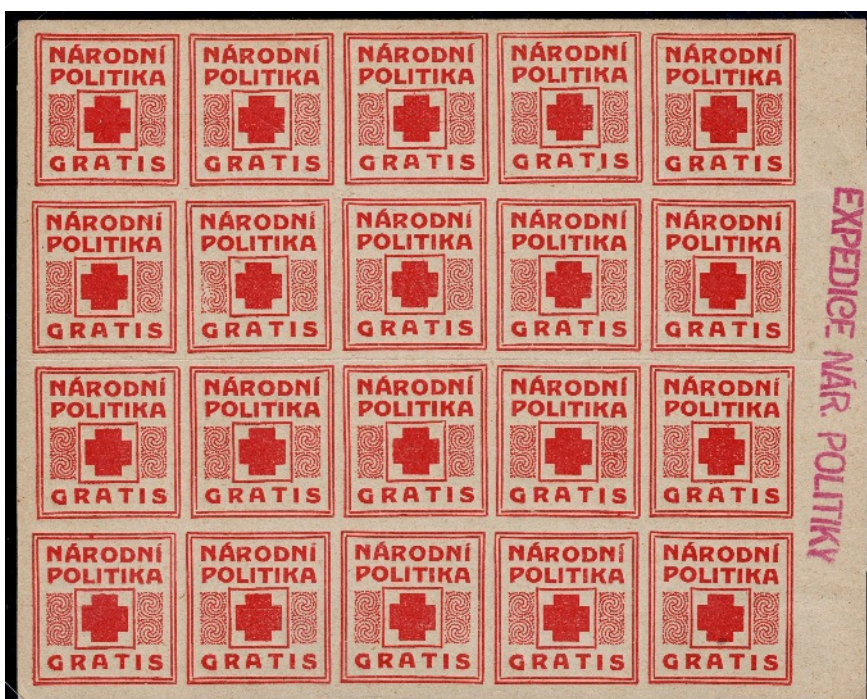


Fig. 7B.2 – a block of three showing a paper fold, and a black print.



Denník Našinec, Olomouc. The label is a red square with white text with 'NAŠINEC' at the top, 'DENNÍK' on the left, and 'OLOMOUC' on the right, with 'Franko hotově zapláceno!' in the centre. The space between the labels is 3mm. Various combinations of stamp positioning occurred, producing tête-bêche pairs. This can be seen on one of the pairs. I also have a sheet with six stamps showing the centre pair upside down, producing tête-bêche pairs. I am unsure about this paler colour printing – the space between these labels is 6mm. I also have a black print, as well as some used examples (Fig. 8 – POFIS NN18).

Fig. 8.





Fig. 9 – Expertized (above left), and expertized by Gilbert (above right).

Used on piece.

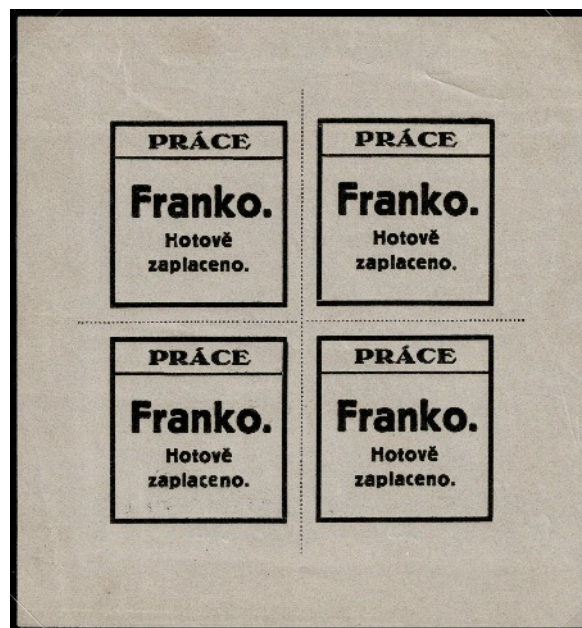
Expertized by Gilbert (above), partial offset of frame (above right), and example on white paper (far right).

Pilsner Tagblatt, Plzeň. These were printed in black on rose- or white-coloured paper. The box measures 20.25×22 mm with 'Franko. Bar bezahlt' at the top and '„Pilsner Tagblatt“' in bold type at the bottom (Fig. 9 – POFIS NN19a/b).

Práce Prague. These were printed in sheets measuring 93.5×87 mm, in blocks of four labels separated by a cross of dotted lines. There were two types: type I printed on grey paper, and type II on a whiter paper. Each label had a black border measuring 27×28.5 mm with 'PRÁCE' at the top with larger font size 'Franko' below and 'Hotově zaplaceno' underneath (Fig. 10 – POFIS NN20).



Fig. 10 (right), and Fig. 11.1 (left).



Rovnost, Brno. The dimensions here are 21mm square, with the printing in black on rose-coloured paper. The wording is all the same size font, with 'Franko' at the top, 'hotově' in the centre, and 'zaplaceno' at the bottom. There was an official reprint done in 1968, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the issue. It consisted of a sheet of eight stamps (2×4), each numbered, together with a souvenir folder. There were 500 sheets printed (Fig. 11 – POFIS NN21).

I would welcome any comments or corrections on my article, which can be sent to pearcy@btinternet.com.

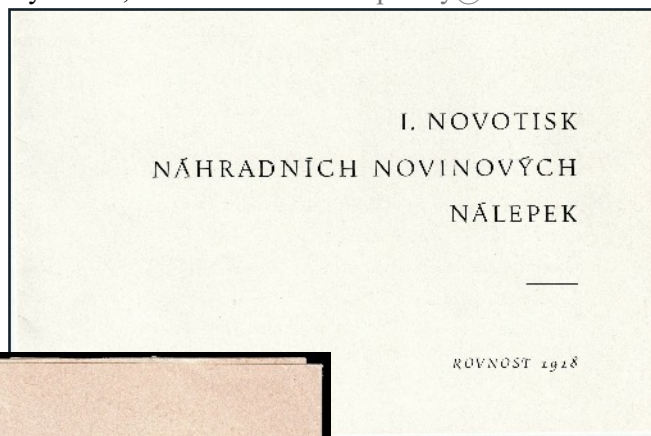
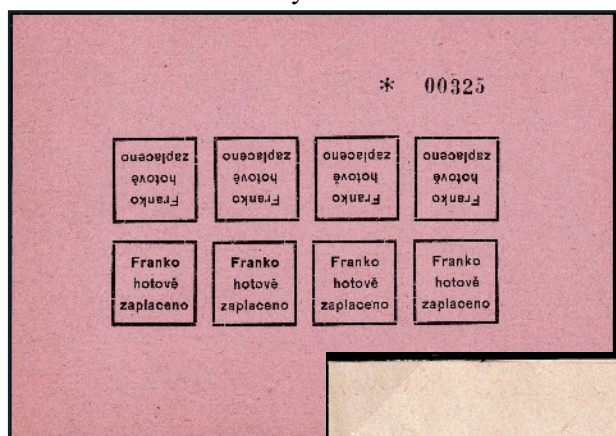


Fig. 11.2 – the official reprint (above) and the accompanying folder (above right), together with a used example of the reprint on cover (right).



Two New Republics

Tony Holdsworth – based on material collected by the late Bill Dawson

[Following our residential weekend in York in July (September *Czechout*, pages 6–10), I was delighted to discover that Lindy Bosworth had an unsorted box of Bill Dawson's material that I could rummage through. An album full of covers documenting the philatelic impact of events on 1 January 1993 caught my eye. The following text and illustrations are all Bill's work – any linking or explanatory text provided by me is in square brackets.]

From 1 January 1993, the late Republic of Czechoslovakia was split into two separate republics: *Česká republika* (Czechia) and *Slovenská republika* (Slovakia).



Fig. 1 (left and below).

From 19 October 1992, all postal rates for Czechoslovakia were substantially increased. The internal postcard rate was increased from 50 haler to 2 Kčs, and thus new postal stationery cards for this rate became a necessity. In view of the impending split, two different cards were produced, one in Czech and the other in Slovak, using appropriate existing designs. Fig. 1 shows the original design from a pictorial stamp issue of 28 August 1991, depicting Mount Říp – designed by J. Saska and engraved by V. Fajt – on FDC, together with the new postal stationery card [the Czech version]. This example has a special overprint for the National Philatelic Exhibition at Roudnice nad Labem, the last such exhibition held in the old republic.

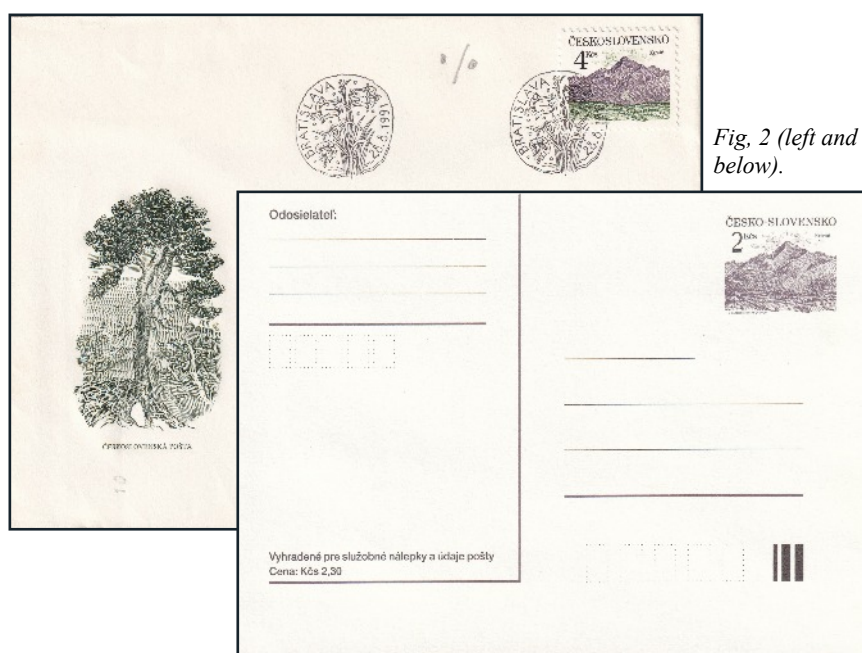


Fig. 2 (left and below).

Fig. 2 shows the new internal postal stationery card with Slovak inscriptions, depicting Mount Kriváň, together with a FDC of the original stamp issue of 28 August 1991 designed by Karel Ondřečka and engraved by Martin Činovský. Note that the main inscription has been re-engraved to read *ČESKO-SLOVENSKO*,

previously only appearing on three stamps issued in 1939. Note that it also shows the purchase price of 2 Kčs 30. Fig. 3 shows examples of the card in Slovak used at Bratislava on the first day of the *Slovenská republika*. They are addressed to England, bearing the additional 3 Kčs franking to make the correct 5 Kčs rate for Europe effective from 19 October 1992, and applicable to both new republics [1].



Fig. 3 (left and below).

For the first day of the existence of the new *Česká republika* a special cancel was used only at the post office at Prague Castle, showing a silhouette of the castle with a spray of linden leaves. The date is shown boldly in the centre and the cancel was struck only in red.

Fig. 4 is an overweight registered letter to England with a total franking, including the reverse, of 34 Kčs, covering the letter rate above 20 g (14 Kčs) and the foreign registration fee (20 Kčs).

Fig. 4 (left and below).



[1] At that time both the Czech Republic and Slovakia still used the Czechoslovak crown (Kčs) as their common currency. As of 8 February 1993, this common currency was replaced by two separate currencies – in the Czech republic the Czech crown (*Koruna česká* = Kč) and in Slovakia the Slovak crown (*Slovenská koruna* = Sk). Langhammer, M., 1993 – Birth of the Czech post and Czech postage stamps, *Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 69.

Česká republika issued its first stamp on 20 January 1993. This 3 Kčs value for the internal letter rate (Fig. 5) shows the state arms, the *Lion of Bohemia*, with a wreath of linden leaves. Printed by combined rotary recess and photogravure in sheets of 50, it was designed and engraved by Josef Herčík. Fig. 6 shows a FDC to England, with an additional 5 Kčs franking on the reverse to cover the correct rate effective from 19 October 1992. The cover cachet shows the arms of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, which together comprise the new republic.

Fig. 5
(right) and
Fig. 6 (far
right).



Mixed frankings were only valid until 30 September 1993. Fig. 7 shows a commercial cover to England used on the first day of the first *Česká republika* stamp issue. The mixed franking of Czechoslovak and Czechia issues makes the correct 8 Kčs letter rate to Europe – cancelled 601 00 BRNO 1/20.1.93-20/26/***. The postcard (Fig. 8) shows a mixed franking with Czechoslovak postal stationery, and the use of a new cancel with a locomotive motif below: PRAHA 07 – MASARYKOVO NÁDRAŽÍ (Masaryk Railway station in Hybernská).



Fig. 7 (left) and
Fig. 8 (below).



Fig. 9 shows a mixed franking of Czechoslovak, Czechian, and Slovakian stamps. Additional Czechoslovak stamps on the reverse gives a total franking of 28 Kčs, the letter rate for Europe (8 Kčs) plus the foreign registration fee of 20 Kčs. Cancelled 602 00 BRNO 2/26.1.93-9/52/***, it also shows use of a new boxed handstruck registration mark that has now replaced adhesive labels.



Fig. 9.

The commemorative postmark in Fig. 10, VOLBA PREZIDENTA ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY/26.1.1993/Czech arms/PRAHA 012 – HRAD (Election of President of Czech Republic), was used only for the one day at Prague Castle post office. The special cover has a vista of Hradčany and is franked with the first issue of the new Czech republic. [The election of the first President of the Czech republic – Václav Havel – took place on 26 January 1993.]



Fig. 10.

Originally it had been the intention to issue a series of three stamps having a sporting theme on 26 January 1993. Designs and printing plates for the late Czechoslovakia were all prepared, but the split changed matters. In the event, just one value of 2 Kč for the internal postcard rate was issued on 17 February 1993, to publicize the World Figure Skating Championships to be held in Prague during March 1993 (Fig. 11). The design by Ivan Strnad was re-engraved by the original engraver, Miloš Ondračák, to amend the main inscription to ČESKA

REPUBLIKA, though the currency unit remained as Kčs [even though the currency had changed to *Koruna česká* on 8 February 1993].



Fig. 11
(right
and far
right).

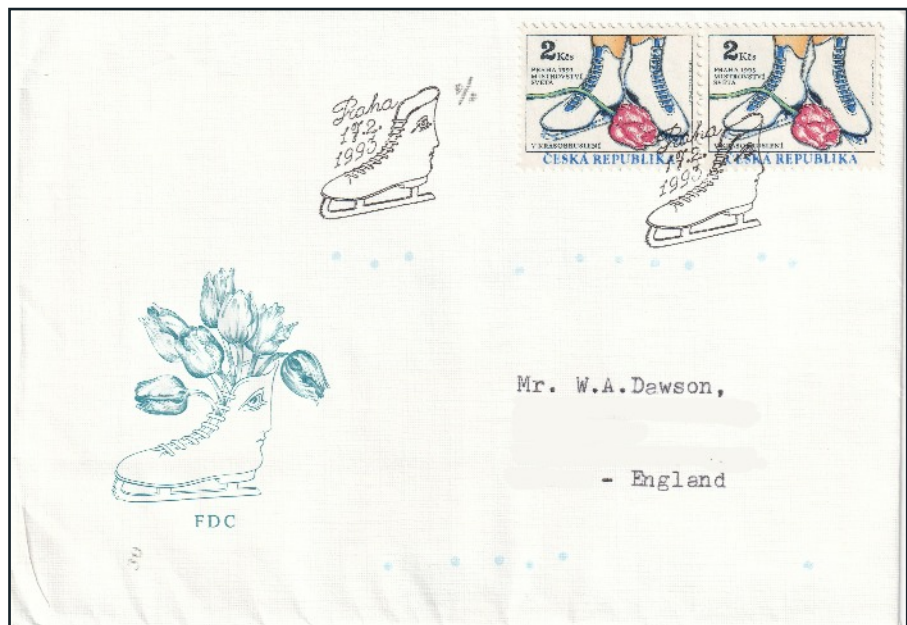


Fig. 12 shows a Czechoslovak internal postal stationery card (the Slovak issue) with additional mixed franking to make the correct 5 Kč rate effective up to 18 October 1993. The special boxed one day cancel reads POSLEDNÍ DEN PLATNOSTI/ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH/POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK/30.9.93/PRAHA 1 (last day of validity for Czechoslovak stamps). This was used only at PRAHA 1 [The use of mixed frankings came to an end on 30 September 1993, when Czechoslovak stamps were invalidated by both the new republics.]



Fig. 12 (above and above right)
and Fig. 13 (right).



[Fig. 13 shows another mixed franking from the last day of validity. Correctly franked 25 Kč for registered airmail to England, it uses two versions of a stamp featuring the portrait of President Václav Havel, one issued by Czechoslovakia in 1990 and the other issued by Czechia in 1993.]

[Sadly, Bill's collection in this album did not contain a great deal of material from Slovakia. But Lindy Bosworth has come up with some intriguing examples of what she calls 'funny covers'. These appear to have mixed frankings that use invalid stamps, do not add up to the correct totals, and have been cancelled regardless by the postal authorities.



Fig. 14.



Fig. 15.

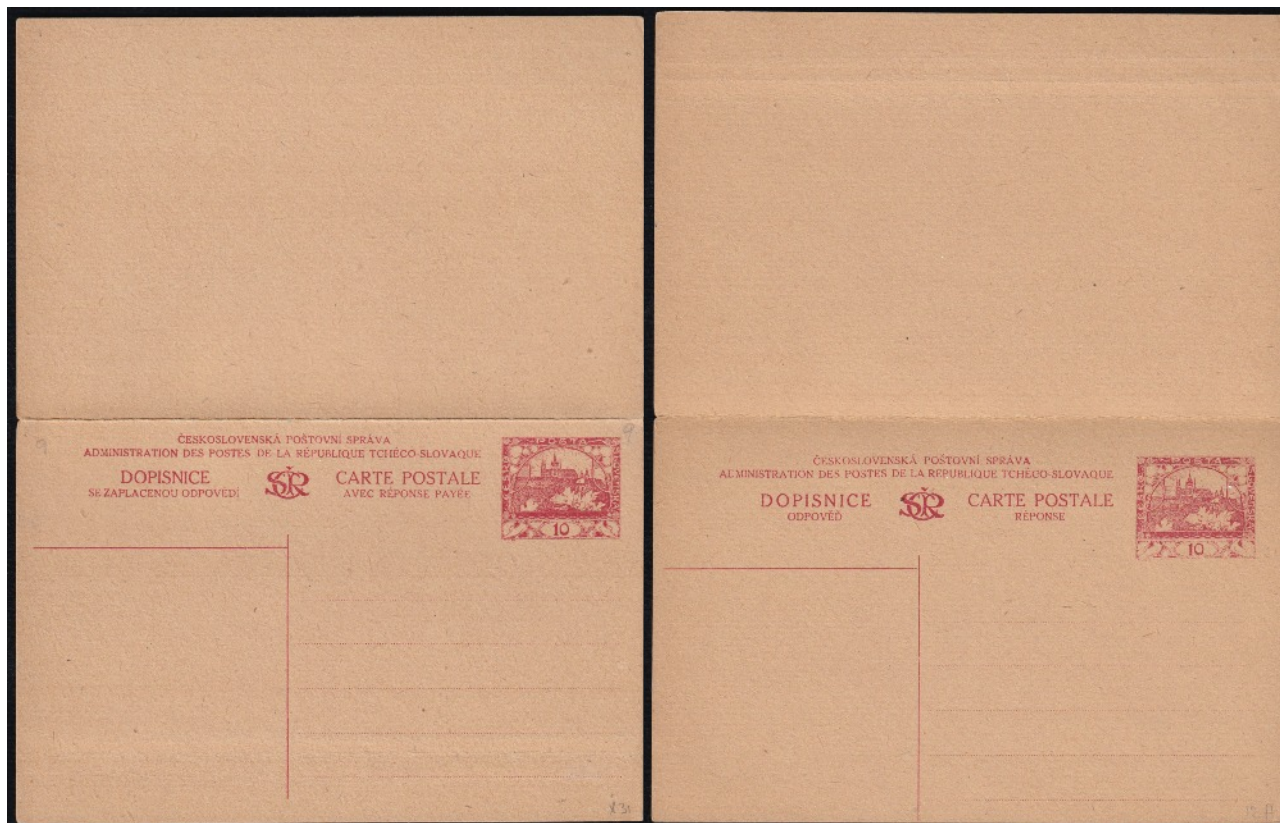
The postage for both covers should be 2 Sk for an internal letter to 20g plus 5 Sk registration fee – a total of 7 Sk. The stamps on Fig. 14 come to a total of 5 Sk 05 – or just 3 Sk if you discount the eight stamps issued by the wartime Slovak state in 1940. Fig. 15 includes a total of 10 Sk postage - but, again, only if you include several invalid stamps: the issue from 1949 for the 9th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and the Jan Hus stamps from 1952, were both invalidated following currency reform in June 1953. Without them, the total franking is 4 Sk.

Both covers were sent from Bratislava – presumably by a philatelist (although Molnoši Milan appears to be a model shop now!) – on 20 June (Fig. 14) and 14 June (Fig. 15) 1993. Fascinating as they are, it would be interesting to know how and why they had registration labels attached, and whether postal officials were in the habit of cancelling contrived covers like this with such disregard for their validity!]

Hradčany Double Postcards

Johan Sevenhuijsen

This article was previously published in Dutch in the Spring 2024 journal of the of the Association for Czechoslovak Philately in the Netherlands, and is published in this translation by Tony Holdsworth by kind permission of the author.



Front and back of a postcard (CDV09), reply paid for international use.

Function and use

Under UPU rules introduced in 1885, there was special provision for reply-paid postcards. In domestic and international postal practice, it was possible to send a postcard (at the normal rate) to which another (stamped) postcard was attached, allowing the recipient to reply to the message without charge. The corresponding UPU measure for letters was the international reply coupon (for domestic use, of course, it was sufficient to enclose a stamp in your letter). Consequently, prepaid reply postcards franked with foreign stamps had to be processed by each postal administration.

Collecting these cards is fascinating but not easy, as they were not widely used. The requirement to issue postcards and treat them as a separate postal category was abolished by the UPU in 1974, and with it the practice of double reply-paid postcards.

Postal administrations, especially in the first half of the twentieth century, issued double postcards with paid reply for domestic and/or international use in accordance with these rules. This included the Czechoslovak Post Office (see the image above). The international cards clearly stated (in both Czech and French) ‘with paid reply’ and ‘reply’, while the domestic cards just show ‘I’ on the first part and ‘II’ on the reply part. Double cards were issued in the different tariff periods:

1. Domestic mail

<i>Tariff period</i>	<i>Tariff</i>	<i>Catalogue number</i>	<i>Date of issue</i>	<i>Design</i>
1 (from 11/1918)	10 haler	CDV 02, CDV 11	01-1919, 04-1919	Hradčany (Vienna)
2 (15/05/1919)	15 haler	CDV 15	10-1919	Hradčany
3 (15/03/1920)	20 haler	CDV 19	03-1920	Hradčany
4 (01/08/1920)	40 haler	<i>(No cards issued for this tariff period)</i>		
5 (01/01/1922)	50 haler	CDV 25	07-1922	Liberated Republic

2. International mail (to UPU countries)

Tariff period	Tariff	Catalogue number	Date of issue	Design
1 (from 11/1918)	10 haler	CDV 09, CDV13	02-1919, 04-1919	Hradčany
2/3 (15/05/1919)	20 haler	CDV 21	03-1920	Hradčany
4 (01/08/1920)	50 haler	(No cards issued for this tariff period)		
5 (01/01/1922)	150 haler	CDV 36	01/06/1926	TGM

Double postcards from earlier tariff periods were used with extra postage when new cards were not (yet) available. From the cards available in the philatelic market and on display in exhibitions, it appears that relatively few of these cards were used and a large percentage of them were not used for their intended purpose. Many of the cards for international use were used domestically, and in some cases domestic cards were used for foreign destinations, the foreign postal authorities accepting the 'reply card' as fully franked. Also, both parts of a double postcard could be used separately as normal postcards. It is often difficult to determine whether a 'reply' postcard was indeed used as such. Below are examples of used cards.



Left – CDV09-I from Kaaden to Amsterdam dated -6.VIII.19, correctly franked for the second tariff period.



Right – CDV15-I, card for domestic use, franked to the 20 haler international rate, sent on -9.VI.20 from Rumburk to Orsova (Romania); arrived there on 21.Jun.1920 (old Hungarian stamp Orsova with changed date sequence).



Left – CDV19-II, reply part of domestic card, uprated to the correct foreign rate of 150 haler for the fifth tariff period, used on -7.4.22 from Bolzano/Bozen (Italy) to Prague, a short year after the official end of validity.



Left – CDV21-I, card for international use, uprated to 50 haler, the correct domestic rate in the fifth tariff period, sent on 27.III.26 (!) from Nusle to Trnava: there the address was crossed out and the card was sent back (Zpět) on 28.III.26 (apparently no penalty postage was levied because these international cards were still in use).

Interestingly, quite a few cards were used after 30 April 1921, the date after which they were officially no longer valid. Among the ‘normal’ postcards, this hardly ever occurs. This must have to do with the fact that new double postcards were only issued in 1922 (inland) and 1926 (foreign), while the ‘normal’ postcard CDV23 (40 haler with Liberated Republic design) was already issued in August 1920. No wonder that this late use of double cards was not sanctioned by charging postage.

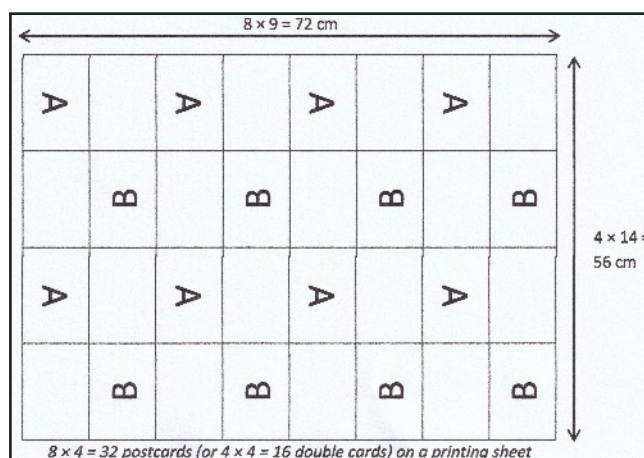
The printing process

As part of a wider study of the Hradčany postcards (printed in Prague by the Czech Graphic Union), I am studying how these cards were printed and how many variants exist for each card. It seems obvious that double cards would be printed with two printing plates (one for each side of the double cards, which had to be printed on both sides) – but there is another possibility. Direct evidence about the printing process is not available, so it has to be reconstructed from the cards themselves.

Each card differs from the others of the same plate by details in the design, both in the indicium image, and in the other text and lines on the cards. The aim is to find out how many variants (with very small differences) there are within each type of card. Large numbers of these double cards are hard to find, so this is a concerted effort by interested collectors sharing their knowledge (mainly by exchanging scans of the cards they have in their possession). The numbers of variants found in this research for the Hradčany double postcards (so far) are shown in the table to the right.

Card	Variants
CDV 09	6
CDV 15	14
CDV 19	8
CDV 21	7

While it is certainly not impossible that new double cards will be found, it is unlikely that there will be many more. This raises the question – is there an explanation for these numbers? The dimensions of the Czech Graphic Union's printing presses were such that printing plates of 72×56 cm could be used, which would account for a maximum number of 32 cards of 9×14 cm (4 columns of 8 cards) – see the diagram below.



Based on this scheme, it would be possible to print either 16 double cards, using two different plates, or 8 different cards with one plate. In the latter case, the printed sheet had to be flipped over and go through the printing press again to print the same plate on the back (as in the diagram: A is card I, B is card II). This neatly produces 8 double cards. The number of variants found indicates the use of the latter procedure, at least for cards CDV 09, 19 and 21. For CDV 15, the method with two plates (one to print 14 or 16 copies of part I, and the other to print part II on the back) seems more likely.

Articles Elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Czechoslovak Specialist (Society for Czechoslovak Philately, USA)

2024-1, Vol. 86, No. 1, Whole Number 675.

Lauer, R., A pošta československá 1919 forgery.

Hart, K., What is a Czechoslovak first cover?

2024-2, Vol. 86, No. 2, Whole Number 676.

Buckner, J., The Business printed matter stamps of 1934.

Wilson, M., www.cpslib.org.

Beneš, F., 40 years as a stamp dealer and expert.

2024-3, Vol. 86, No. 2 (misnumbered, should be 3), Whole Number 677.

Hanzl, A., Partitioning of Czechoslovakia. Part 2.

Buckner, J., An interesting newspaper wrapper mixed franking.

Tschechoslowakei Philatelie (ARGE Tschechoslowakei, Germany)

No. 221, September 2024 (in German)

Osthues, W., The local post issue of Slavkov near Brno from the year 1945.

Džubák, J., The Hradčany edition and Slovakia, or what would be missing from the collections without Slovakia.

Norbjerg, M., The plate errors of Czechoslovakia 1945–1992, part 27, year 1966, POFIS nos. 1497–1579 Part II.

Becker, T., Theresienstadt – a fortress, never fought over, never conquered. Theresienstadt's eventful history in maps and letters.

Austria (Journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 228, Autumn 2024

Anon, WIPA 1933 (Imprinted postal stationery cards for the exhibition).

Kuzych, I., Vienna's 'Liberation from the Turks celebration' of 1933.

Holdsworth, T., Taylor, A., Society Residential in York (Reports of the joint Czech/Austrian meeting in August 2024).

Rogers, N., The Belvedere's first philatelic appearance.

Jungwirth, H., The post, newspapers, and black marketing. (English translation of 2010 article published in *Die Briefmarke*.)

Morrell, R., The money letter and the curious case of 'Laut Angabe'.

Stamps of Hungary (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 238, September 2024

Johnson, M., Mail coach or train? Three nineteenth century army letters.

Morrell, R., The humble receipt, part 6 – telegrams.

Morrell, R., More on sending postcards as 'printed matter'. (Looking more closely at the UPU 'rules'.)

Filatelie (POFIS, Czechia)

No. 7, July 2024

Stajner, J., Plate faults on Košice issue 1945 (Part 2).

Brabec, D., Resurrection of Czechoslovakia stamps with phosphorescence after 40 years.

Krejny, M., Czechoslovak 'Exile' sheets 1939–40.

Kunc, L., Czechoslovak soldiers in 1939–1945 (part 25).

Kopřiva, D., 'Moon Landing Covers', Heavenly significance but also scandal at NASA.

Květon, R. *et al.*, Airmail 1918, Czechoslovakia & Hungary; Specialized catalogue (POFIS 2024 – pull out supplement, pages 32–48).

No. 8, August 2024

Beneš, F., 40 years as a stamp dealer and expert (part 2).

Anon., International success for Czech stamp production.

Krejny, M., Protectorate stationery: new variations.

Marčan, M., District postmarks of post offices in Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine after 1918.

Květon, R., *et al.*, Airmail 1918; Czechoslovakia & Hungary; Specialized catalogue (POFIS 2024 – pull out supplement, pages 49–64)

No. 9 September 2024

Dunovský, K., Recess printing of Czechoslovak stamps from all-steel plates.

Anon., 130th birth anniversary of Bohumil Heinz.

Kunc, L., Legionnaire – or prisoner?

Beneš, F. & Krejny, M., Plate faults on the stamp with the most sinister subject (stamp – B&M 1st anniversary of death of R. Heydrich).

Květon, R. *et al.*, Airmail 1918; Czechoslovakia & Hungary; Specialized catalogue (POFIS 2024 – pull out supplement, pages 65–80).

The American Philatelist (Monthly Journal of the American Philatelic Society)

Vol. 137, no. 12 (December 2023)

Bickner, J.A., Hart, K., Why collect Czechoslovakia?

Postal Parcel to Norway of 1919

Lubor Kunc

World War I interrupted international parcel delivery for years and even the end of the war did not dramatically change the situation. Parcel exchange was usually only allowed between former allies. In the case of Czechoslovakia the countries approved for parcel delivery were mainly succession states of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany, and the neutral countries of Switzerland and Scandinavia. The expansion of the approved countries list first started after 1920, when the post-war situation had become more stable and the domestic economy required the possibility to export goods abroad.

A nice example of early parcel mail is displayed here. It was sent from Jablonec nad Nisou (Gablonz) by the Adolf Šimon Company on 19 April 1919, during the first Czechoslovak tariff period. The sender's company produced the abrasive discs used in the glass industry. The Šimon family was well known in the city – the company founder Adolf Šimon was the father of Karel Šimon (1887–1950), a Czechoslovak Legionnaire in France during WWI, and mayor of Jablonec nad Nisou in 1945, taking over the city administration from the Germans in the first days after the end of WWII.

When mailing the parcel, the sender had to indicate the ID number of an export licence issued by the Export and Import Commission of Prague. This has been done on the back of the postal form.

The parcel was mailed at the Jablonec 1 post office on 19 April 1919, which also cleared the parcel through customs. The mail was transported by train from Jablonec to Ústí nad Labem (Aussig) and continued its journey by another train on the route Prague – Ústí/Labem – Dresden. It arrived in Dresden on 20 April, another customs clearance was made, and the parcel was transported via Berlin up to Hamburg, arriving on 28 April. Here a ship to Norway took over, unloading the parcel in Oslo (then known as Kristiania) on 4 May 1919. The recipient was a wholesale company, B.J. Pettersson, established in Oslo in 1894.

The postal fee for the *colis postal* parcel amounted to 135 halers, paid using Hradčany stamps, the first Czechoslovak issue; the 10 haler stamps show a private perforation.



The parcel card for an early delivery from Czechoslovakia to Norway.

An Unusual Approach to Stamp Collecting?

Tony Holdsworth

Sorting through an accumulation of Czechoslovak covers that have caught my eye, I thought I should take a closer look at this example, with its colourful array of different stamps.

Posted in Bystričany on 15 October 1935, the cover is addressed to Hugo Gerisch in Picton, Ontario. A handwritten endorsement indicates 'By airmail' in Slovak, French and Esperanto.



Additional franking of 20 haler, again cancelled at Bystričany on 15 October 1935, together with a boxed Praha 7 airport postmark and a receiving mark for Picton, Ontario, dated 25 October, just 10 days after posting.

First of all, I decided to check the franking – a grand total of 8 Kčs 20. Advice from Lindy Bosworth suggests that this is probably 30 haler short (foreign letter to 20g – 2 Kčs 50 + airmail fee – 3 Kčs per 10g, 6 Kčs = 8 Kčs 50). But as Lindy says, 'there were quite a lot of wrong postage rates for airmail during 1930s'.

Then there was the curious preamble to the address: 'Al Est S-ro' – so I decided to explore the addressee in more detail. A quick search on the internet uncovered an editorial comment in the *Canadian Esperantist* from 15 September 1932, in which there is a lengthy quotation from a letter by Hugo Gerisch of Picton, Ontario, listing the great work he had done in Germany in the 1920s to promote Esperanto (that preamble, it seems, was an abbreviation for *Al la estima Sinjoro* – to the esteemed Mr . . .). According to the *American Esperantist* of June 1934 Hugo Gerisch spoke at a World Friendship Program in Cleveland, Ohio, on the benefits to their movement of stamp collecting:

The Universale Esperanto-Asocio delegate, S-ro Hugo Gerisch of Picton, Ontario, has successfully used the very great interest in stamp-collecting as a fine instrument of propaganda for Esperanto. He has written, and the Picton papers have published, many fine articles linking Esperanto with stamp-collecting ... Towards the end of his paper S-ro Gerisch recommends joining the Esperanto Association with members in all parts of the world. Corresponding with these members brings you at least the common stamps of every country and builds up valuable friendships.

By December 1934, according to the *American Esperantist*, Gerisch 'has come as a volunteer to take the lead in publicity work in eastern Canada'.

There are many different ways into philately, but this seems quite unusual. Hugo Gerisch was probably wise to move from Auerbach in Saxony to Canada – in June 1936 (according to Wikipedia) all Esperanto organizations were banned in Nazi Germany by Heinrich Himmler.



New Issues – Slovak Republic Lindy Bosworth

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

15 June 2024

President of the Slovak Republic (POFIS 821)

Peter Pellegrini was born on 6 October 1975, in Banská Bystrica. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, and also from the Faculty of Economics at the Technical University of Košice, specializing in finance, banking, and investing. He is fluent in English, German, and Russian. He is the sixth president of the Republic, and is the first to have held all three of the top political posts in the country – President, Prime Minister, and Speaker of Parliament.



28 June 2024



Sport: XXXIII Olympic Games – Paris 2024 (POFIS 822) and Paralympic Games – Paris 2024 (POFIS 823)

The Olympic and Paralympic Games – Paris 2024 were held for the first time as a single event with unified symbols. The two se-tenant Slovak stamps follow this lead, choosing the sport of archery as a common motif. Archery was first included in the Games in 1900 and was one of the first to include women competitors. Since 1972 it has been one of the programmed events. Slovakia sent a team of 28 to compete in 13 of the events in Paris between 26 July and 11 August. Matej Beňuš was the only medal winner, gaining a bronze

in the men's slalom canoeing event. The Paralympic team of 26 athletes took part in 8 different sports during the period 28 August to 8 September, gaining three gold medals (men's individual cycling, table tennis mixed doubles, and shooting) and two silver medals (shooting events). The next Olympic Games are to be held in 2028 in Los Angeles, USA.



19 July 2024

Personalities: Monk Cyprian (POFIS 824)



Franz Ignatz Jäschke was born in 1726 in Lower Silesia, which became part of Prussia in 1741. He studied in Breslau, Tschenstochau and Brünn, speaking German, Polish, Slovak, Latin and Greek. Although he studied many different disciplines, his main interest was botany including herbs, medicine and pharmacology as shown by the background decoration on the stamp sheet (see back cover). A sketch of the Red Monastery, Nitra, where Cyprian was given his monastic name, and where he spent the years 1756 until his death in about 1775, is depicted in the lower part of the sheet. Cyprian was a healer and surgeon for the monks, and people from the surrounding area. He also collected and prepared medicinal herbs. His 97-page herbarium, now preserved in the National History Museum in Bratislava, describes and indexes some 284 plants. The subject of the stamp is a legend associated with Cyprian and flight. In a desire to fly he constructed a machine and on moonlit nights took off from the 'Tri Koruny' (three crowns) Peak. His reflection as he flew over the waters of a lake (Morské oko) was seen by an angel who struck him with lightning and in punishment turned him to stone. The stone, on the Polish side of the Tatra mountains, is still called 'Monk' today.



New Issues – Czech Republic Lindy Bosworth

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

4 September 2024

Animals in Our Nature with Their Young – stamps (POFIS 1282–1285); Miniature sheet (POFIS A1282)



The commemorative souvenir sheet of four stamps portrays four mammals with their young, which are widely found in Czechia. The stoat, hare, squirrel, and fox, although not endangered species, have not previously been used as motifs on stamps of the Republic. The two labels and sheet margins depict several other birds and animals commonly seen in the countryside.

Chapel of the Annunciation in the Klementinum (the Mirror Chapel) – Miniature sheet (POFIS A1286)

The Klementinum, in the Old Town, is the second largest building complex in Prague after Prague Castle. It is named after the former Dominican monastery of St Clement from 1227. Later buildings included a Jesuit College, an Astronomical Tower, and a Baroque Library. The Chapel of the Annunciation was built between 1722 and 1726, and is decorated in the High Baroque style. It remained in continuous use for worship until 1923. The ceiling and interior are adorned with mirrors – hence the name ‘Mirror Chapel.’ Following complete reconstruction, it became a venue for cultural events from 1936. Today exhibitions, concerts and recitals are regularly held, using the two Baroque organs. One of the highly ornate organs is depicted on the stamp.

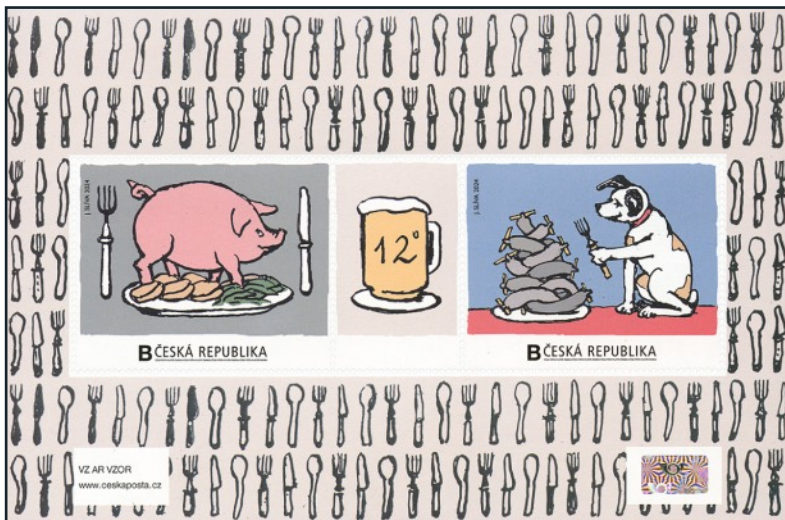


Czech Footprints in the World: Josef Škvorecký – NVI ‘Z’ (POFIS 1287); Miniature sheet (POFIS A1287)

Josef Škvorecký (1924–2012) was born in Náchod but died in Toronto, Canada. After the war he studied philosophy at Charles University, Prague, and after graduating taught at a girls' school, then later became editor of a magazine. Throughout the 1950s he wrote several novels, the first of which (*The Cowards*) and *The End of the Nylon Age* were published in 1958 but banned by the authorities. He also lost his job as an editor, because of his democratic ideals, but continued writing. After the Warsaw Pact Invasion in 1968 he fled to Canada with his wife, settling in Toronto, where he taught in the English Department of the University, retiring in 1990. During these years he continued writing, and



some of his many works are displayed on the books depicted on the souvenir sheet. Most of his books were published in Czech, and he also wrote for radio, television and films, and worked as a translator. In 1971, with his wife, he founded '68 Publishers', which published books banned by the Czechoslovak authorities. It was an important outlet for dissident writers like Havel, Kundera and Vaculík. Škvorecký and his wife were awarded the Order of the White Lion in 1990 by the Czechoslovakia, for their work to restore democracy to their homeland. Škvorecký received many other literary awards – and Asteroid 26314 bears his name, too.

Gastronomy – Definitive NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1288, 1289); Miniature sheet (POFIS A 1288)

The two humorous stamps display typical Czech cuisine – knedlo, vepřo, and zelo (dumplings, pork, and sauerkraut), with the pork depicted as a whole pig, and a heaped plate of sausages (white pudding) ready to be devoured by a dog. The tab separating the stamps shows an indispensable accompaniment to such meals – a tankard of 12° beer. A modification of the sheet is expected to appear later, with tabs for customer use.



The Wikov 35 Kapka – self-adhesive Definitive NVI ‘B’ (POFIS 1290); Booklet (POFIS VZS 36)

The Wikov 35 Kapka ('drop' in English) was the first car designed with an aerodynamic body. The Wikov name appeared in 1924. It was a small company producing solid, reliable, high-quality cars, equipped with the latest amenities for wealthy clients. The Wikov 35 Kapka, a four-seater, two-door sedan, was on display at the 1931 Prague Car Show. It was widely admired for its original design and luxurious, comfortable interior but only about 150 were ever produced. The project was not a success but the design showed the way forward to increase the speed of cars through studying aerodynamic factors as well as engine improvements.

The booklet contains 10 stamps, with the cover giving a rear view of the car standing at a petrol station, with an aero-dynamic view of the car on the inside above the stamps.

9 October 2024

Foundation of the Universal Postal Union – NVI ‘Z’ (POFIS 1291)



The Universal Postal Union was founded on 9 October 1874. Today it is a special agency of the United Nations, co-ordinating postal policies and facilitating a uniform worldwide postal system among member nations. There are now 192 member nations, but any member of the UN can become a member of the UPU. The headquarters of the UPU are in Bern, Switzerland, with four main departments dealing with overall policy, day-to-day running, technical support, and postal operations. The stamp design depicts letters being sent and received around the world.

Works of Art on Stamps: Vladimír Tesař (POFIS 1292)

Vladimír Tesař (1924–2008) graduated from the Academy of Visual Arts, Prague in 1950, and then studied at the Academy of Performing Arts, Prague until 1954. He is most widely known for illustrating books of many genres, including Goethe's *Faust* and Božena Němcová's *Grandmother*, but his work includes paintings, drawings, graphic designs, lino cuts, film posters, and animations. The stamp design is from one of his original works, 'Evening Arrival'. It was executed in his typical technique using gouache on wet paper with a reed pen and Chinese drawing ink, a method inspired by the water colours of ancient Chinese artists.



Construction of the Racecourse and the First Grand Pardubice Steeplechase – stamps (POFIS 1293, 1294, 1295); Miniature sheet (POFIS A1293)



The first race was held in 1874, but the course had existed since 1856.

Pardubice was well known in the racehorse world in these early years, as several English trainers and jockeys were established there.

The steeplechase has been held every year since 1874, except for the war years (1938–1945), and 1968. It is the oldest and one of the most difficult race courses in Europe, taking horses some 9 to 10 minutes to

complete the distance of 6.9 km on grass or ploughed field, and negotiate 31 obstacles, the most difficult being 'Taxis Ditch' (as shown on the 27 Kč stamp). The course has changed several times but its present form dates from after 1945. In 1998 it was modified for the erection of a new grandstand. The commemorative sheet margin shows a view of the racecourse with the 'Irish Bench' obstacle. Also shown is one of the founders of the Great Pardubice Steeplechase, Octavian Kinsky (1813–1896), on his horse, jumping over the cockade awarded to the annual winner of the event.

Membership Benefits

Meetings	Four London meetings in 2024, two joint meetings and a society weekend 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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Monk Cyprian takes off from the Tri Koruny peak, under the disapproving gaze of an angel – POFIS 824 (see page 27).