



CZECHOUT

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

VOLUME 43/3

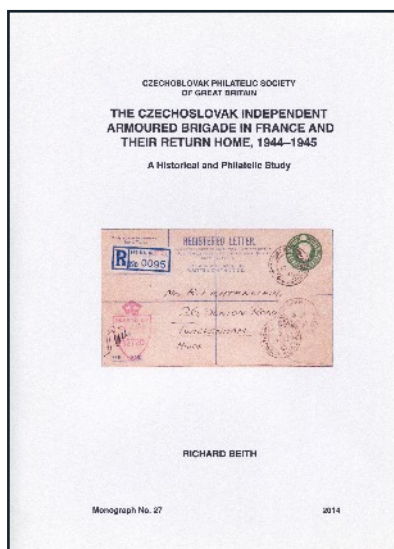
SEPTEMBER 2025

WHOLE NUMBER 200



The Palacký-Rieger Family
Leaders in the early
Czech Nationalist movement
(page 12)

Gold Medal Society Monographs



Monograph 27: The Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in France and their return Home, 1944–1945: A Historical and Philatelic Study.

Richard Beith (2014), 60 pages, A4, soft cover.

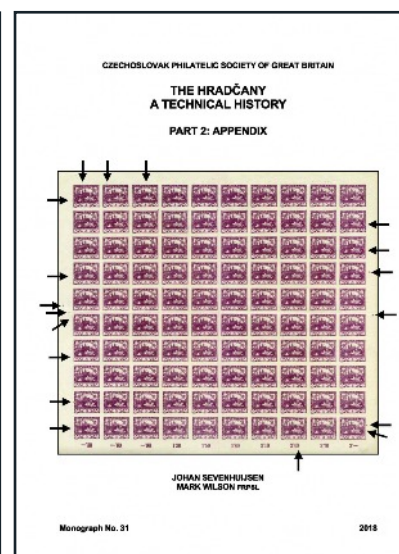
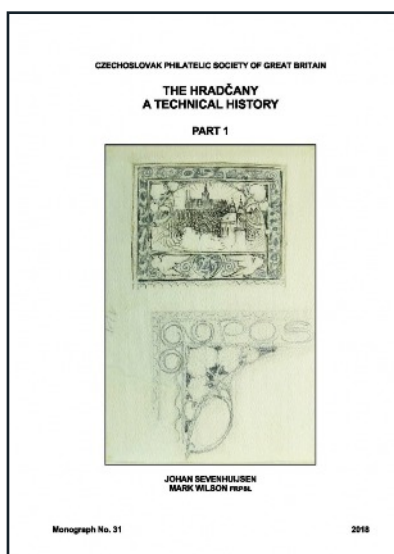
ISBN 978-0-9553682-5-7. £9, €11 + Postage.

Czechoslovak troops saw active service in France after D-Day in 1944 as the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade. They were assigned to besiege the German garrison at Dunkirk. A detachment was sent from the force at Dunkirk to join the American troops on the former republic's western frontier (Bohemia). The book also contains very useful chapters about other mail generated by the complex movements and fate of the Brigade, and there are many good illustrations to support the text. This fascinating story is told better here than in many history books.

Monograph 31: The Hradčany: A Technical History

Johan Sevenhuijsen and Mark Wilson FRPSL (2018), 263 pages (in two parts), A4, soft cover, illustrations in colour. ISBN 978-1-9995892-0-2. £38, €44 + Postage.

Two volumes on the exacting technical details of the manufacture of the first Czechoslovak stamps – the Hradčany. This is a difficult, demanding, but extremely necessary study for anyone truly wishing to appreciate the complexity and ingenuity of their development. But probably the most amazing aspect of the volumes' creation is the extent and thoroughness of the extraordinary research accomplishment behind them, as well as the authors' ability to weave fragments of fact – along with a great deal of intuition and rational guesswork – into a logical description of the production process of the stamps in this issue, stamps that seem to have a never-ending assemblage of varieties.



Library news

The library has now settled into its new home, and we continue gratefully to receive a steady stream of donations. In a few cases where there is duplication, donees have agreed that duplicates may be sold at auction on behalf of the Society – look out for some nice crisp editions from the Monografie series in the forthcoming autumn auction.



We have added various classic Empire-period catalogues to the library as well, including the *Österreich 1850–1918 Handbuch & Spezial-katalog* by Ferchenbauer, the go-to guide for that period covering the Austrian-administered part of pre-independence Czechoslovakia, plus a full set of *Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája* (6 volumes – ‘Hungarian Stamps Monographs’) that covers the Hungarian administered area, as well as subsequent issues.

Our next book recommendation is the long-standing publication *Československé poštovní známky* by Padělky (translated as ‘Czechoslovak postage stamps’). The latest edition has the considerable advantage of being tri-lingual (Czech/English/German) throughout, and is a detailed survey of First Republic issues including those pesky 1919 overprints, airmails, scout issues and many other areas infected by fake stamps, postmarks, perforations and colour changes, and even doubtful expert marks. Well-illustrated, authoritative and documented throughout, it's a terrific reference book.

Terry Hancock

CZECHOUT

Journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

ISSN 0142-3525

VOLUME 43/3

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From the Editor

One of our 'sister societies' has recently written a short piece for their Journal on 'how to contribute an article'. As far as *Czechout* is concerned, the guidelines are fairly straightforward:

- Make sure the subject matter hasn't already been well covered in a previous issue (in, say, the past ten years – use the website to check this);
- Send text (preferably as a Word document) to the Editor (editor@cpsgb.org);
- Send illustrations separately – large jpg files are best;
- Above all, write about something that interests you – if it's different from what you generally see in *Czechout*, so much the better: variety adds spice to our Journal!

Don't worry about style, or editorial conventions – these things can always be adjusted in house. If English isn't your first language, then your article can be translated, too. And I will *always* send you a proof copy so you can see any alterations that have been made prior to publication.

So why not have a go and see your name in print?

Tony Holdsworth

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Founded 1953. Published quarterly. Free to members. Membership enquiries to **Membership Secretary**.

Online membership: UK £12 per year. Overseas £9, €11 or US\$12.

Regular membership: UK £25 per year. Europe and the rest of the world surface mail: £31, €38, or US\$41.

Air mail to the rest of the world excluding Australasia: £35 or US\$46; Australasia air mail £37, US\$48.

Price £3.50 + postage from the Editor.

Advertisers: Contact Advertising Manager for details. **Authors:** Contact Editor for submissions.

Society Website: www.cpsgb.org.uk; **Journal Index:** www.cpsgb.org/pages/issue-list.htm.

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

Czechout is printed by Rapidity, London. 020 7689 8686. www.rapidity.com.

News & Notices

Congratulations

Several members took part at EuroPhilEx, the European Philatelic Exhibition held in Birmingham, 7–11 May 2025:

Czechout, edited by **Tony Holdsworth** won a Vermeil medal, and the Society website, built by **Mark Wilson** and maintained by him and **Tony Holdsworth**, gained a Large Vermeil.

In the Philatelic, Postal History, and Literature classes members received the following awards:

Peter Chadwick was a candidate for the Grand Prix National award with *Early Postal Routes and Post Offices in Scotland* – Large Gold

Wojciech Kierstan: *Perfins of the Czechoslovak Territories* – Large Silver

Lubomír Špaček: *St Petersburg and Moscow Imperial City Post* – Large Vermeil

Garth Taylor: *Study of the Third Issue of Czechoslovakian Airmail Stamps* – Large Vermeil

Richard Wheatley: *Netherlands East Indies: Mail Routes During World War One* – Gold

Yvonne Wheatley: *Czechoslovakia: The Printing Experiments of 1920 to 1923* – Gold

Norman Hudson: *Journal of the Faroe Island Study Circle* – Large Silver

Bill Hedley, Honorary President of the Jury, exhibited *Merchants of Venice: Communication in the Golden Age of La Serenissima* in the Court of Honour.

Alfons Zulueta entered two exhibits but sadly he died in March.

At the joint meeting of the Austrian and Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies at EuroPhilEx on 9 May 2025 (see page 7 below), the ABPS Award of Merit was presented to **Andy Taylor** by Yvonne Wheatley. This special award is for those who have gone the extra mile to keep their societies going. As Editor of the Journal *Austria*, President, Treasurer, Webmaster and Membership Secretary, Andy has certainly done that for the APS.

The annual meeting of the Society of Czechoslovak Philately took place in St. Louis. **Alan Hanzl's** *Eastern Silesia (1920) – a Temporary Solution* (see the Society's March 2025 Zoom presentation: www.cpsgb.org/pages/zoom.htm) garnered a Large Vermeil, while his *Art on Stamps & Castles Art Series of Czechoslovakia* was awarded a Silver Medal as well as the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors' Gold Award of Honor.

James Buckner exhibited *A remarkable Czech Definitive: The Folk Architecture Issues of 1971–72 and its Use* was awarded a Silver Medal and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors' Jean Benninghof Encouragement Award. His other exhibit, *Czechoslovakia's Newspaper Stamps 1918–1939*, was awarded a Gold Medal, and the American Philatelic Societies Award of Excellence in the 1900–1940 era, as well as being awarded the SCP Alfons Mucha Award for the best Czechoslovak-themed exhibit in the show. **Frederick Lawrence** was one of the judges.

Lubor Kunc had a very interesting article, 'Czechoslovakia 1918–1928: Postage Stamps used as Revenues', published in *The London Philatelist*, the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Two of our members have been winning trophies. **Ron Gillard** was a winner in both the nine-page competition and the one-page competition where his *Czechoslovakia early Mucha Stamps* impressed the judges. At the 94th Annual congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies **Alexander Kerr** was the winner in the Picture Postcard class with *Craigendoran*.

At *Liberec 2025* (the National Philatelic Exhibition with International Participation held in Liberec, Czech Republic) CPSGB members achieved impressive results.

James Buckner: *Czechoslovakia's Newspaper Stamps 1918–1939* – Gold Medal and contender for the National Grand Prix

Steven Friedenthal: *Czechoslovak Machine Advertising Cancels: First Republic Period* (Literature) – Gold Medal

Pavol Lazar: *Hungarian Postal Administration in Slovakia 1867–1875* – Gold

Michal Zika: *Post Offices in Slovakia and Subcarpathian Russia* – Large Gold

Other members involved with the exhibition were: **Bill Hedley** as Honorary President of the Jury, **Lubor Kunc** as Commissioner General, and **Milan Černík** as a member of the jury.

In Memoriam

It is with considerable sadness that we record the passing of two stalwart members of the Society.



Robert John Allard ('Bob')

30 October 1935 to 3 January 2025

Bob joined our Society on 4 October 1982 and was appointed Packet Manager at the AGM in November 1985, an important role he continued with for almost 40 years. For this he was awarded Honorary Life Member in November 2006.

The loss of Bob will be felt greatly by our Czechoslovak members, especially those in the UK who used the Society Approvals packet circulation to improve their collections. It is amazing that for almost 40 years, for some UK members, especially those who couldn't attend meetings, Bob was their main regular Society contact. Over many years he raised a lot of revenue for the benefit of our Society.

Bob was a lovely, quietly spoken, unassuming person. He often attended our regular London meetings, sometimes accompanied by his wife, Sue. My wife, Kathy, and I looked forward to meeting them when attending meetings or weekend events. We were made very welcome at their home. In recent times Bob was unable to travel independently to London and local meetings, but maintained contact with our Society by continuing to manage the circulation of stamp packets. Without Bob's enthusiasm and willingness to chase members and seek out material for sale, which benefited all of us in the circulation lists, we probably would have seen a reduction of at least 50% of packets circulated and lost some UK members who joined our Society to be on the packet circulations.

His original interest in Czechoslovakian stamps was with Perfins, of which he already had a collection from several countries. Over the years he widened his interest into Hradčany stamps and the trials and the many unadopted designs produced in the early 1920s. He liked to help others and recently aided the research of some philatelists in America. He was a member of the Pacific Islands Study Group, the Perfin Society, and the Oriental Philatelic Society of London.

Bob was also an active member of local philatelic societies (Evesham, Redditch and Stratford) where he was a committee member taking on roles such as president, chairman and vice chairman. He entered the club competitions showcasing his main passions of Czechoslovakian stamps and the Solomon Islands. In addition, he took some of his collections to many stamp clubs and shared some anecdotes from his trips to Prague and Brno: *This was a high class selection from a serious collector, most impressive. Bob has brought in displays of stamps from a number of European countries not seen by many before!*

Outside the world of philately, Bob had an interesting role in the Alcester Court Leet. This organization originated over 700 years ago in Warwickshire in the UK as the 'Court Baron', a Court authorised by the King and presided over by the Baron or local landowner. It mainly dealt with matters relating to the duties and services owed by the peasants or villeins (not Freeman) to the Lord of the Manor or Baron. Ceremoniously dressed officers, including Bob, could be seen participating in, or re-enacting their ancient roles, such as Bread Weighing, Fish and Flesh checking, or Ale Tasting (plus a number of other civic duties).

Our Society sends sincere condolences to Sue and their children, Julie and David.

Reg Hounsell



Drina Yvonne Gren

19 October 1929 to 2 May 2025

It was with great sadness we learnt of the passing of Yvonne Gren on 2 May at the age of 95. She joined the Society with her husband, Fred, in December 1978. As Fred's family came from East Silesia, they concentrated together on collecting that aspect of Czech philately. Yvonne was also attracted to the *Mladá fronta* cards issued for the competition to choose the best Czechoslovak stamp of the year. She formed an extensive collection of the cards as well as the prints included in philatelic publications. She was always keen to contribute to the organization of CPSGB and she put her skills as a medical secretary to good use as the Society's Honorary Secretary and Membership Secretary, as well as serving as the Society's Chairman from 2007 to 2010. Please see *Czechout* September 2019 – <https://www.cpsgb.org/issue-link/176.html> – for Yvonne's enormous

contribution to the Society and philately in general.

When we saw Yvonne for the last time at the Society's weekend at York in July 2024 she was hoping she could arrange another Summer Meeting for the members, and while in hospital earlier this year she did not want to miss a Zoom presentation but sadly it was the members who missed her.

Yvonne Gren will be forever remembered by her family and many friends who filled the chapel for her funeral and watched the live screening. Her name will remain in the Society archives, but those who remember her as a friend will be thankful for the privilege of having known her. She was a dear friend to me and I will miss her wise council. The Society offers its deepest sympathy to her family:

Yvonne Wheatley

Fred and Yvonne at a summer meeting of the Society at Christchurch in Dorset, at the home of Kay and Ted Goodman.



son Julian and daughter Jenny, daughter-in-law Sue and grandson Dominic.

Below are some of the tributes by members of the Society.

As a youngster I met the late Bill Dawson at PRAGA 1988. When I visited him one year later, he took me to a meeting of CPSGB. I immediately felt very welcome, not least because one of the ladies present gave me a very warm reception. And Yvonne Gren did that with every new member. I always looked upon her as the 'mother of our Society'.

Later, as chairman of the Dutch sister society of CPSGB, and joined by our American and German sister societies, we worked closely together trying to do something about the increasing number of forgeries, mostly initiated by one source, which started to flood the market.

When she decided it was time to stop her committee activities for the Society, I took over her role as Membership Secretary, a job I felt honoured to do.

She was always there, seldom missed a meeting or a Society weekend, even in the years that she had to care for her husband, Fred. Her interest was not just in philately and the Society, but also in the people behind it. She was always interested in how my wife and I were doing. We visited her several times at her home in Shoreham and felt most welcome. With her, one of the 'Last of the Mohicans' has

left us. But what we retain are very warm memories of her friendship. Thank you, Yvonne, for your love and friendship, and simply for being there.

Hans van Dooremalen

Whenever I think of Yvonne Gren, I always think of a very helpful lady who greeted everyone at each event and welcomed newcomers to the Society. Yvonne was highly, but quietly, organized. When I took over the role of Secretary, she had procedures that were of great help.

Yvonne enjoyed organizing regional meetings, often over a weekend on the South Coast. I am sure that the hotels enjoyed her skills as well, as I remember one hotel even provided an extra with the welcoming tea – scones with jam and cream at no extra cost.

She became interested in Czech philately through her husband, Fred. Although I never met Fred, it was clear that Yvonne had enjoyed their marriage and had many happy memories, in particular around Eastern Silesia and collecting philatelic material from that area. I last spent time with Yvonne at a weekend around the York stamp fair. Although she was in a wheelchair, she was as bright as ever and clearly enjoying chatting with everyone. I have so many happy memories of Yvonne over the years with her kindness, friendship and interest in life. She will be greatly missed.

Peter Williams

It was good to see Yvonne enjoying the meetings at York last year.

Lindy Bosworth

Yvonne was a good friend to many, particularly in the philatelic world.

Pat Spong

A truly great supporter of Czech Philately. Everyone will have so many happy memories of this wonderful lady, always ready to share her fantastic knowledge. She will be greatly missed.

Derek Walker

When I joined the Society in 2020 I was struck by the welcoming ethos – a great attraction when philately can sometimes be a rather lonely pastime. Yvonne epitomized this quality for me when I first met her at the summer meeting in Southwick in May 2022. I had just agreed to be trained up for my role as *Czechout* Editor, and Yvonne had a large box full of material for me, to support my education in all things Czechoslovak philately, which I trundled back home on the train in a wheelie suitcase. In spite of her years of experience and her family ties to the Sudeten area, Yvonne was always ready to chat to a beginner, and her smiles and encouragement were very much appreciated.

It was clear from her contributions to our Zoom meetings especially that Yvonne treasured the social aspects of CPSGB, always hanging on at the end to ask after friends she may not have seen for many years. In spite of the passage of time, she continued to contribute as an active member, even mastering the challenges of technology as she battled with sound and video on her computer, and remains, I'm sure, an inspiration for us all.

Tony Holdsworth

'The Empire Strikes Back' – Joint Meeting of the Austrian and Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies EuroPhilEx, 9 May 2025

Fifteen members of the two societies attended this 'return fixture' (it had been promised following the meeting at our residential in York last year) to enjoy displays with relevance to both sides of the central European field of interest. **Andy Taylor** introduced the session, and presented more material from the collection of the late **David Bravery** - propaganda postcards about Kaiser Franz Joseph, with a decidedly derogatory tone. Andy told us that the collection has nearly all been disposed of, some even going to the Austrian National Museum.

Alan Berrisford followed with the postal history from 1850 to 1918 of the Austrian annexation of the crown lands of Galicia. Taken by the Habsburg Empire as part of the First Partition of Poland, the territory was returned to the Second Republic of Poland after WWI.

The intricacies of sending money and valuables by post under a 1774 decree by Maria Theresia was the subject of **Roger Morrell's** presentation. The 'Value Letter' had to have the value written on the front and in 1802 more detailed instructions were set out on where wax seals should be placed. Stamps were introduced in 1850 – but not for *fahrpost*. There were two kinds of receipts – for a closed letter and an open one. The closed letter had an 'alleged' value on the front. Roger suggested that wax post office seals from this period had the potential for a new collecting area. In 1870 it was no longer necessary to put wax seals on the back of uninspected letters, but they still had to be inscribed '*Nach Angabe*', and from 1890 stamps had to be used.

Next, **Nick Coverdale** presented material on the post office at the Austrian Consulate in Belgrade, Serbia, which opened in 1841. This was intended to facilitate postal communication between Austria and Serbia, and to disrupt the latter's postal service! There were three distinct periods in its operation: 1841–1850, 1850–1855, and 1855–1867. At this point control of the post office transferred from Vienna to Timișoara, in Hungary. A Serbian postal convention lasted from 1868 until 1880, and Nick had covers with most of the rates and stamp combinations covered by the convention rates.

Tony Holdsworth

Joint Central European Philatelic Societies Meeting, Leeds, 2 August 2025

Another very successful annual get together of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian and erstwhile Polish and Yugoslav Societies took place this year, at the Brown Cow in Whitkirk, with more participants than before at this venue. Twenty, two- and three-frame exhibits were given by the participants over six rounds, with plenty of time for viewing and discussion, summarized as follows:



Participants viewing the first round of presentations.

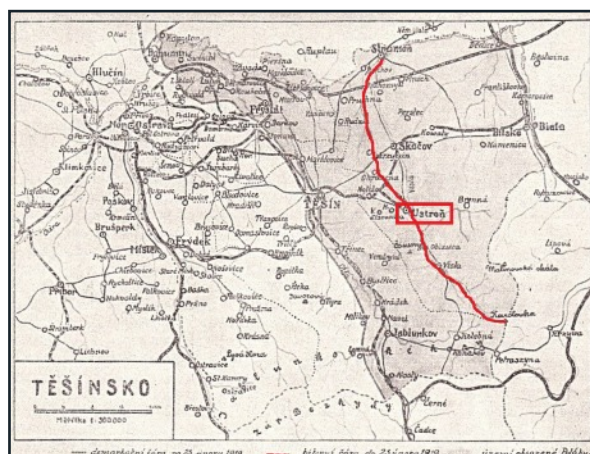
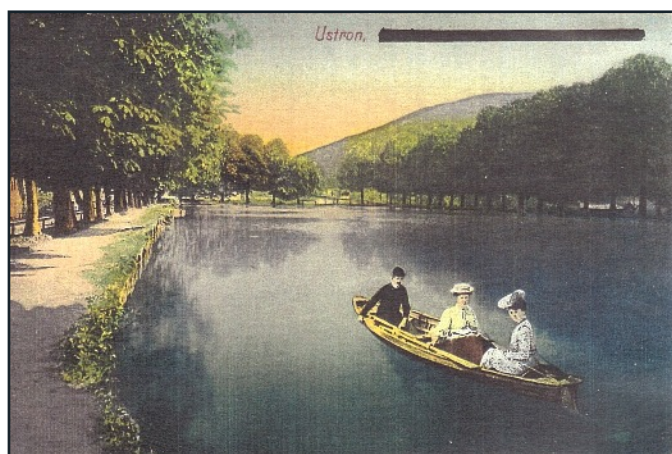
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|--------------------------|--|
| Alan Berrisford | Provisional postmarks of Poland 1944–1948 starting with precursor stationery and continuing with the first pictorial issue of stamps. |
| Nick Coverdale | Serbian pre-stamp mail 1820s to 1840s as the postal service was set up, showing straight-line postmarks and some disinfection cachets of Semlin. |
| Richard Jagielski | Czech forces mail, including forgeries of some of the stamps. |
| Garth Taylor | WWI censorship in the Bohemian and Moravian provinces, mainly on postcards and postal stationery. |
| Joyce Boyer | The Zillertal narrow-gauge railway in Austria connecting Mayrhofen with Jenbach on the Innsbruck-Salzburg line, with TPO postmarks through the ages. |
| Martin Weise | Hungarian passports and consular stamps from the 1930s, including the very rare 100 pengő stamp. |
| Keith Brandon | Pre-stamp mail to Pécs in Hungary using its former name meaning ‘five churches’ in the five official languages of the time, including Latin. |
| Andy Taylor | The institution of newspaper tax in the Austro-Hungarian Empire from the late 1780s. |
| Roger Morrell | Parcel card tax in Hungary during the 1945–1946 record hyperinflation, picking up John Whiteside’s legacy. |
| Peter Williams | Early Polish meter mail with links to its inventor and to a famous recipient in the USA. |
| Lubomir Špaček | The postal stationery for pneumatic mail in Prague, starting in 1887. |
| Alan Berrisford | Use of Austrian stamps in Austrian Galicia (southern Poland) from 1850, with many fine covers. |
| Martin Brumby | Austrian parcel cards from 1945 to 1954 under zonal occupation. |
| Ian Bergel | Charity stamps of Austria from 1922 to 1938. |
| Richard Jagielski | Polish field-post in France and the UK, 1939–1945. |
| Andy Taylor | 2025 Austrian stamp issues for the bicentenary of the birth of Johann Strauss the younger, accompanied by music. |
| Garth Taylor | Czech postal inflation 1918–1922 illustrated via the uprating of postal stationery. |
| Richard Jagielski | Pre-WWI East Prussian TPO cancellations on German letters and cards. |
| Peter Williams | Polish balloon flights and the Poznan International Fair. |
| Richard Wheatley | Czech 1945 War Hero stamps used on mail to the various occupied zones in Germany and Austria, with censorship marks. |

With refreshments on tap, an excellent buffet lunch, and tea and cake to finish off, it made for a mind-broadening, thought-provoking day with like-minded colleagues. As Keith Brandon said in closing the meeting, many thanks to Yvonne and Richard Wheatley for organizing the day, and hoping to see everyone (and more) in August next year.

Roger Morrell

Postage Due Stamps in the Post Office at Ustroń – a New Discovery

Jan Kypast



The spa and recreational town of Ustroń (above) remained in Czechoslovak hands after the Seven Days War (23 to 30 January 1919), right on the battle line – the armistice line is shown in red on the map. The Polish side managed to take away the original old Austrian, German-Polish cancels from the post office (Fig. 1), so after reopening the Czechoslovak authorities had to sort out the equipment. A new, provisional double-circle Czech-Polish stamp was made for the post office (Fig. 2), which was first used on 15 February 1919, which is the earliest known date of use so far (see *Monografie Československých Známek, Volume 5*). Hradčany 5 haler, 10 haler and 20 haler stamps were also sent to the post office.

At an auction of postal history and postal stationery in April, a cut-off section of an international money order (a French-Hungarian language version) appeared – this was used in Žilina, bearing a two-line FRANKO HOTOVNOSTI handstamp (Fig. 3), and sent to Ustroń. On the reverse there are two Austrian postage due stamps – 10 heller, with small numerals – cancelled with the double-circle handstamp (as in Fig. 2), and dated 21 FEB 1919. This means that the Czechoslovak administration

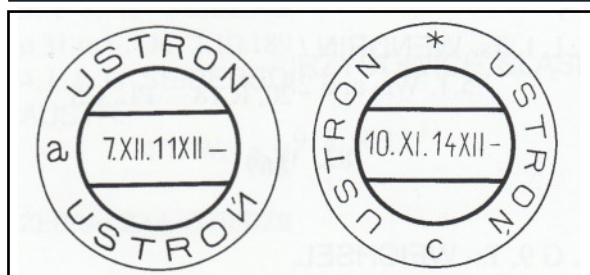
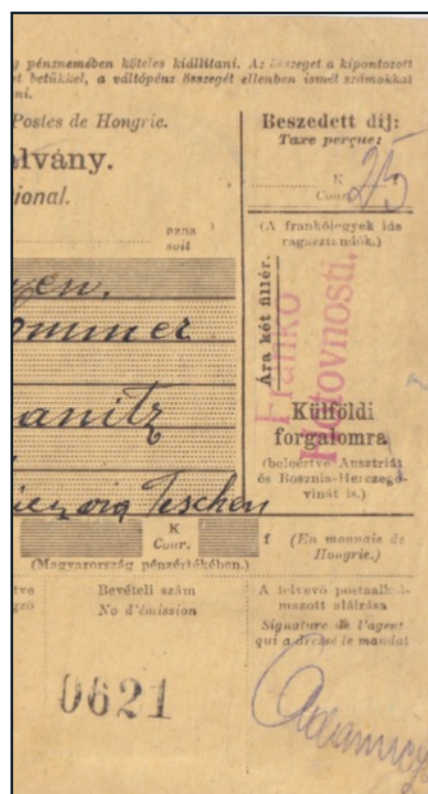


Fig. 1 (above) – Fig. 2 (below)



delivered these Austrian stamps, which were still valid in the Czechoslovak territory at that time, but had previously been invalidated by the original Polish administration on 20 January 1919, to the post office at Ustroń.

This is a new, extraordinary discovery and evidence of postal operations in present-day Polish territory that was briefly occupied by Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak troops left the town on 25 February 1919, taking all of the equipment at the post office with them.

Acknowledgements are due to Milan Černík for identifying the temporary stamp in Žilina, and to Miroslav Štefek for preparing the map.

Fig. 3 (left and far left)

A Cover of Interest – Sent to Lieutenant Adolf Bartošik Garth Taylor

The cover (*below*) was addressed to Lieutenant Adolf Bartošik the Headmaster of the Czechoslovak State Junior School at Maesfern Hall, Malpas in Cheshire. This institution was provided for the children of Czech Forces who were stationed in the United Kingdom during WWII. The school itself was located in the Malt Kiln farmhouse in the Hall's grounds, which was rented until July 1945, initially by the Czechoslovak Government in Exile.



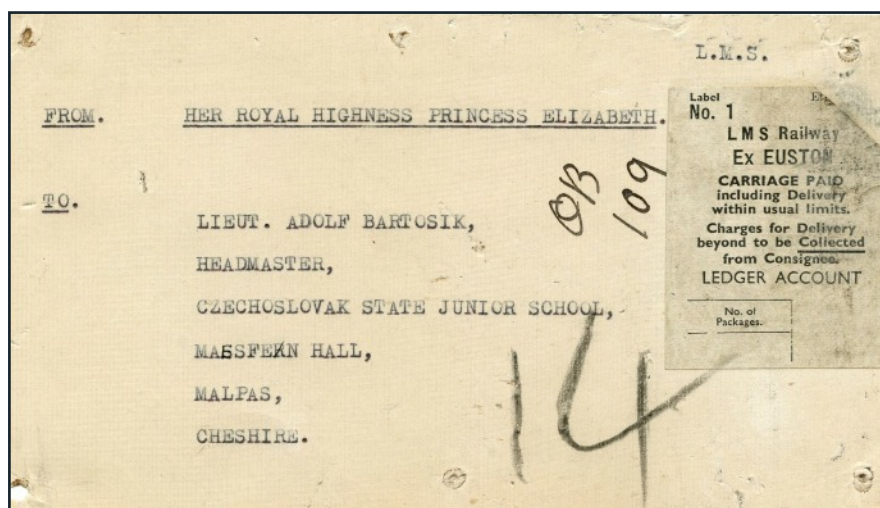
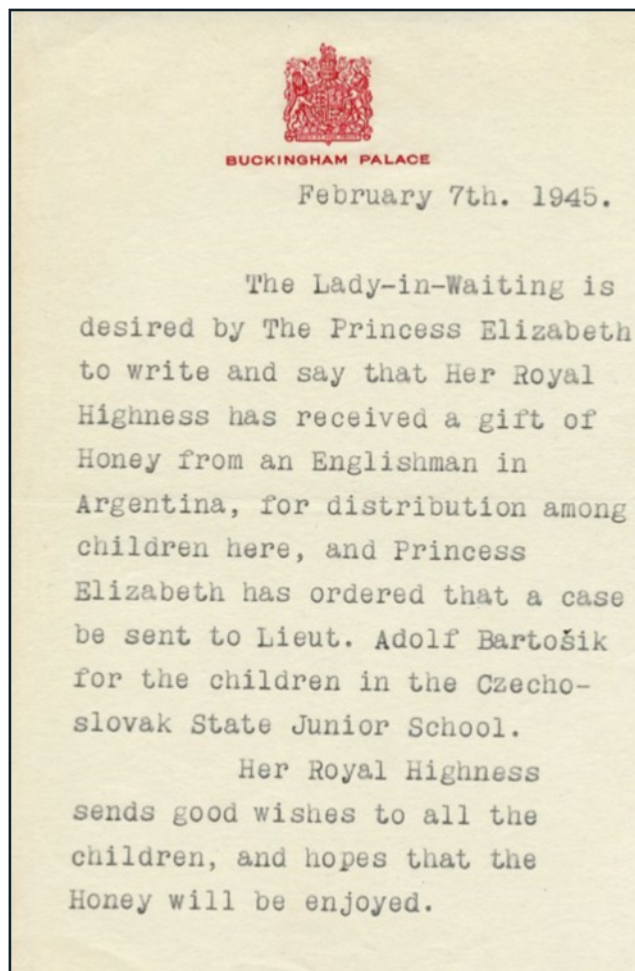
The cover in itself (*above*) is quite ordinary until the content is considered, which is a letter on behalf of the late Queen when she was Princess Elizabeth sending a consignment of honey to the children of the school (*right*). Also available is the parcel card for the shipment (*below*).

According to correspondence with the Royal Archives in Windsor, their records show that between 1942 and 1945 the British Community Council in Argentina was responsible for sending a number of consignments of honey to Princess Elizabeth from donors in Argentina.

The case received by the Czechoslovak State School was part of a large consignment of 132 cases, which was said to weigh 9000 kilos.

The archivist was unable to confirm which lady-in-waiting had sent this particular letter as it is unsigned, but was able to tell me that Lady Adelaide Margaret 'Delia' Peel was the lady-in-waiting who was most involved in the distribution of the honey. Lady Peel was Princess Diana's great-aunt.

Maesfern Hall was demolished after the war and the land it occupied is now a residential area.



This article was previously published in the March 2023 issue of The London Philatelist (the Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society London) and is reproduced here by kind permission of the author).

Merci Mister Hill!

Peter Williams

At one of our London room meetings last year, I overheard some members talking about a stamp fair at the Embankment. I found out that this is the Charing Cross Collectors' Market that meets every Saturday between 7am and 3pm. As our meeting opens at 11am, I decided to have a look one Saturday, with a very early departure from the Midlands on the Chiltern line. Several stamp dealers have packed boxes to look through at very reasonable prices.

The location is clearly shown on their website. Basically, go to the Embankment tube station, leave towards the City, turning away from the Thames, and go through a door under the overhead railway line between two well-known coffee shops and descend into an underground car park. On both of my visits there has been a board advertising the fair outside.



I found this item for only 40 pence. It has one of the labels from the Praga 1968 stamp exhibition on the front. The song inside has the musical score and words in Czech, English and French (see below). It was clear that most of the words were different in the three languages to allow the song to scan all three verses, the second and third of which are on the back of the leaflet. Above the title of the score it says 'Recorded on PANTON gramophone records'. You can hear the Czech and French versions (but curiously not the English!) on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw8lgpYcl0M (in Czech), and www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RMogHxYy1E (in French).

The reverse states that the leaflet was a limited issue of only 5000 items at a cost of just 2 Kčs. Have any other members seen such an item before? Has any other stamp exhibition had a song written for them? Perhaps you could write something for the next Stampex International in October?

I leave you with the first lines from the song. (I wonder who actually posted the first stamp? I suspect that it may not have been Mr Hill.)

In May in eighteen forty over in England, In May in eighteen forty over in England, as all philatelists know Mister Rowland Hill from Albion posted the first stamp. Thanks to him Prague has a show.

2

Nahráno na gramofonových deskách PANTON

MERCI, MR. HILL!
chanson

Český text BOHUSLAV NÁDVORNÍK • Anglický text IVO HAVLŮ
Francouzský text a hudba JAN SEEHÁK

Giacoso

mf Verse

1. O pěkných pár let zpá-ky máj právě tu byl když
1. In May in eighteen for-ty o-ver in Eng-land, en
1. En mille huit cent qua-ran-te, au mois de mai, en

vy-mys-lel si znám-ky paní u-či-tel Hill. A
May in eighteen for-ty o-ver in Eng-land, as
mille huit cent qua-ran-te, au mois de mai, mes

rok co rok v tenhle čas vzpo-mí-nám- je zas a zas
all philatelists know Mister Rowland Hill from Al-bi-on
chers collection neures notre sort a' é-té dé-ci-dé

paní u-či-tel Hill, ten, kte-rý to teh-dy byl,
pos-lel the first stamp... Thanks to him Prague has a show
au mois de mai, au mois des a-mou-reux,

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3

pan u-či-tel Hill, ten, kte-rý si známky vy-mys-lil.
Prague invites you now to a world wide phi-la-te-lic show.
au mois de mai, au mois de tousles a-mou-reux.

Refrain (♩ = ♩)

Mis-ter Hill, dí-ky vám! Mis-ter Hill dí-ky vám
That's why we all thank you. That's why we all thank you.
Et c'est pour-quoi mer-ci, mer-ci mille fois, mer-ci,

za ten ná-pod, kte-rý skvě-lý byl.
Thank you for your stamp Mis-ter Rowland Hill.
mer-ci and thank you, Mis-ter Rowland Hill,

Ne-slou-žil krá-li jen a ně-co dal nám všem.
The stamps are our treasure collecting's our pleasure
car pour nous sans toi il n'y aurait pas de joie!

Tak te-dy di-ky, Mis-ter Hill. 2. Co
so thank you once more dear Sir Hill. 2. That
C'est pour-quoi mer-ci, Mis-ter Hill. 2. En

(parlando)

vrou-ci, Mis-ter Hill!
thank you, Mis-ter Hill!
mer-ci, Mis-ter Hill!

P 618

The Palacký-Rieger Family

Lubor Kunc

I displayed a registered cover of 1919 addressed to Bohuslav Baron of Rieger during my August CPSGB Zoom presentation (see Fig. 19 of this article). So as not to jeopardize the presentation's timing, I promised to write an article about the envelope, and especially about the Palacký-Rieger family.

The founder of this noble family was the Czech historian František Palacký (1798–1876). His family was Protestant, following the Augsburg rite. This was a problem in the Austrian Empire, as the ruling Habsburgs strongly supported the Catholic religion, so the Palacký family settled in Silesia (in Hodslavice near Nový Jičín), where the Augsburg Confession was tolerated. His father was a local teacher, and František studied first at the local school, continuing his education in Bratislava and Trenčín (both in Slovakia). These studies influenced him all his life, because he met the early Slovak/Slavic patriots, Pavel J. Šafařík (1795–1861) and Ľudovít Štúr (1815–1856). He began studying Slavic history, but he needed to pay his bills, so on finishing his studies he worked as a tutor in Hungarian aristocratic families.

In 1819, Palacký started his co-operation with Josef Jungmann (1773–1847), a leading Czech linguist. Together with Josef Dobrovský (1753–1829), Jungmann became one of the fathers of the modern Czech language, using the Central Bohemian dialect to define the written Czech language. At that time, the population of most of the cities in the Czech Lands was German speaking: only isolated communities of the Czech rural population spoke Czech on a daily basis. Unsurprisingly, the scientific works written by Jungmann and Dobrovský were produced in German, because they were afraid that the Czech language would disappear within decades. When Jungmann published his 120,000-word Czech-German Vocabulary (*Slownjk česko-německý*) with Josef Jungmann in 1835–1839, he produced just the Czech-German version, because he expected that the work would be used by people in the future just to discover old Czech books and forgotten cultural artefacts.

There was nothing exceptional about Czech patriots writing all their literature, including scientific works, in German: German was the first language, for example, of the poet and writer Božena Němcová, Sokol-founder Miroslav Tyrš, the composer Bedřich Smetana, and Tomáš Garigue Masaryk, the future political leader. The Czech culture, education, and language was also supported by the leading Czech aristocratic families, which were usually German–French–Czech speaking.

A turning point was the Prague Industrial Exhibition organized in 1791 to celebrate the Coronation of Emperor Leopold II of Habsburg-Lorraine (1747–1792) as King of Bohemia in that year. The Emperor

Table 1: Selected Czech Educational Institutions created in the Czech Lands, 1300s to 1900s

1348	Charles University of Prague	1818	Czech Royal Museum, Prague
1573	Olomouc University	1833	Rakovník grammar school
1595	Jindřichův Hradec grammar school	1835	Matice česká, Prague
1613	Soběslav grammar school	1848	Local schools managed by municipalities
1624	Jičín grammar school founded by Duke Albrecht von Waldstein	1849	Prague grammar school
1631	Mikulov grammar school	1849	Mining Academy, Příbram
1636	Klatovy grammar school	1857	Průmyslová škola v Praze (Technical School)
1640	Náchod grammar school	1857	Kutná Hora grammar school
1679	Institute for Aristocratic Girls, Brno	1862	Tábor grammar school
1706	Benešov grammar school	1863	Girls' grammar school in Prague
1707	Czech Technical Academy (ČVUT) in Prague	1868	České Budějovice grammar school
1712	Kutná Hora grammar school	1870	Přerov grammar school
1717	Mining Academy founded at Jáchymov	1871	Valašské Meziříčí grammar school
1728	Pardubice grammar school	1872	Kolín grammar school
1755	Institute for Aristocratic Girls, Prague	1873	Československá obchodní akademie, Prague (Business School)
1769	Královská česká společnost nauk, Prague	1874	České Budějovice grammar school
1774	Compulsory school education by Empress Maria Theresia	1875	Znojmo grammar school
1775	Mladá Boleslav grammar school	1878	Plzeň, Slaný and Třeboň grammar schools
1777	University Library opened to the public by Empress Maria Theresia	1880	Brno grammar school
1781	National Library for books written in Czech created under the University Library	1884	Sochařsko-kamenická škola, Hořice (Sculpture School)
1799	Academy of Art, Prague	1897	Ostrava grammar school
		1903	Vyšší vojenská reálná škola, Hranice (Military School)

personally visited the exhibition, promoting Czech industry and culture throughout the Empire. This exhibition motivated Czech aristocracy to support Czech interests in political and economic areas. An industrial exhibition organized in 1756/7 in London served as an inspiration for the Prague event.

This development was led by the Czech aristocrats, especially the Sternberg, Kinský, Kounic, Kolowrat-Krakovský, Fürstenberg, Schwarzenberg, Lobkowitz, Thun, Nostic, Chotek, and Waldstein families. These families also started to build industrial factories (machinery, food and beverage, textile, glass, wooden processing) to establish Czech business. Politically, the families were conservative, supporting the Austrian Empire and just looking for the Czech Lands to occupy a suitable place within the Empire. Palacký's activities were financially supported mainly by the Sternberg family, and until 1848 he was known largely for his historical and cultural works.

At that time, two universities already existed in the Czech Lands, but both used the German language for teaching: one in Prague and one in Olomouc. The Czech Technical Academy was founded in Prague in 1707 (currently České vysoké učení technické v Praze – ČVUT University of Prague). The Královská česká společnost nauk (Royal Czech Society of Sciences) was founded in 1769 to support Czech scientific research. In 1799, the Academy of Art was created followed by the Czech Royal Museum in Prague. The Maticе česká was founded to finance the publishing of Czech literature.



Fig. 1 – František Palacký (sitting) and František Ladislav Rieger (photograph taken c.1865).

The period from 1791 to 1848 totally changed the situation: the Czech language started to be widely used in rural areas, and although the economy was still dominated by German-speaking manufacturers, Czech businesses were already in existence. In 1825, the Czech Savings Bank was founded to finance expansion of Czech entrepreneurs. In 1827, the very first Czech insurance company was founded in Prague. Since 1845, Vojtěch Lanna (1805–1866) had become one of the leading developers of the railway network within the Austrian Empire.

In 1827, Palacký married Terezie Měchurová (1807–1860), a daughter of Jan Měchura, the landlord and lawyer. Their daughter Marie Palacká (1833–1891) married František Ladislav Rieger (1818–1903) in 1853, creating the Palacký-Rieger Family. František Ladislav Rieger was born into a Catholic family at Semily (eastern Bohemia). He arrived in Prague in 1833 to study law at the Charles University, quickly joining the local Czech patriotic community. He successfully finished his studies at Vienna University in 1847.

In 1848, revolutionary movements began all across Europe. The unrest was visible not just in the Czech Lands, but also in France, Germany, Hungary and Austria. The reason for that movement in the Austrian Empire was the conservative and non-democratic governments led by Prince Klements Wenzel von Metternich-Winneburg (1773–1859). This politician was globally known as the organizer of the Vienna Conference in 1815, agreeing the basic rules for European international relations after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte. Metternich

was active as Austrian minister of foreign affairs from 1809 to 1821, and Chancellor (effectively Prime Minister) from 1821 to 1848. In his time, full control over political issues had been reserved for the Emperor. The ministers were his personal servants, and could be replaced as he chose. The people were subservient to their landlords, even though the duty to work for them had already been abolished. This system lost legitimacy in 1848, the main opponents being those ordinary people with very little chance to improve their position in society.

In 1848, both Palacký and Rieger entered politics as members of the Austrian Parliament (*Reichstag*). They participated in the Kroměříž parliamentary session, which prepared the first Austrian Constitution in 1848/9. The Kroměříž constitution was never accepted by Emperor Franz Josef I.

There is also a philatelic aspect to this event: the Parliament occupying the Archbishop's Palace in Kroměříž employed a special post office within the building, whose postmark is considered to be the very first commemorative postmark in the world. See *Monografie československých známek, Volume 14: Česká poštovní razítka od nejstarších dob do roku 1918* (Czech Postmarks from the Earliest Times to 1918), by Emil Votoček, page 530.

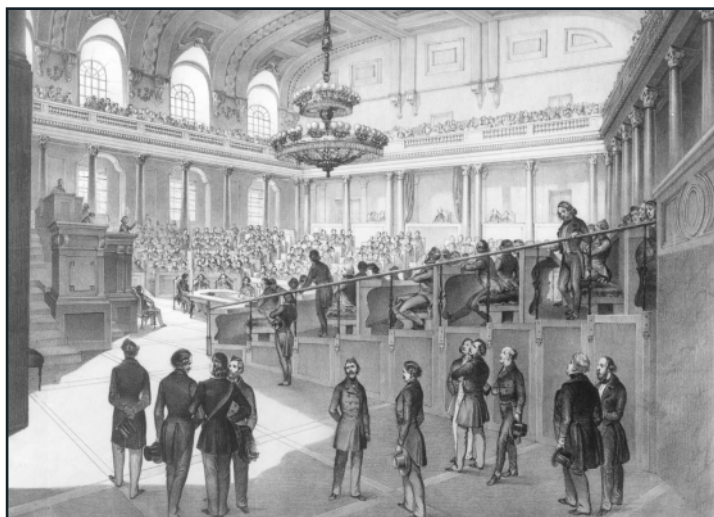


Fig. 2 (above) – the Kroměříž parliamentary session (source: Wikipedia).
Fig. 3 (below) – the Parliamentary chamber in 2019.

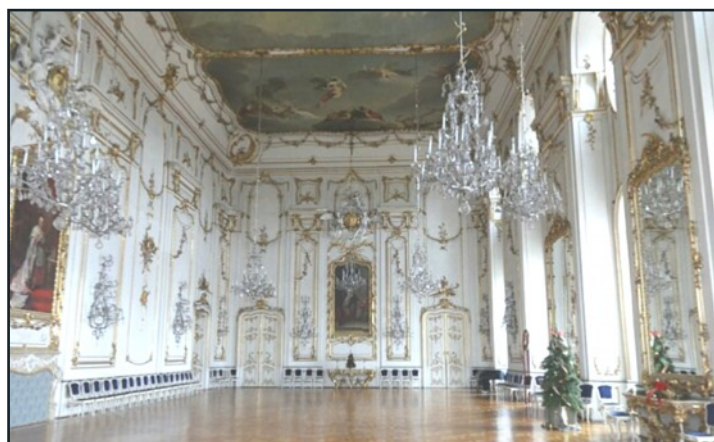


Fig. 4 (above) – Palacký and Rieger on Czechoslovak stamps of 1948 (POFIS 479, 490).

Fig. 5 (right) – postmark of the Kroměříž parliamentary post office 1848/9.

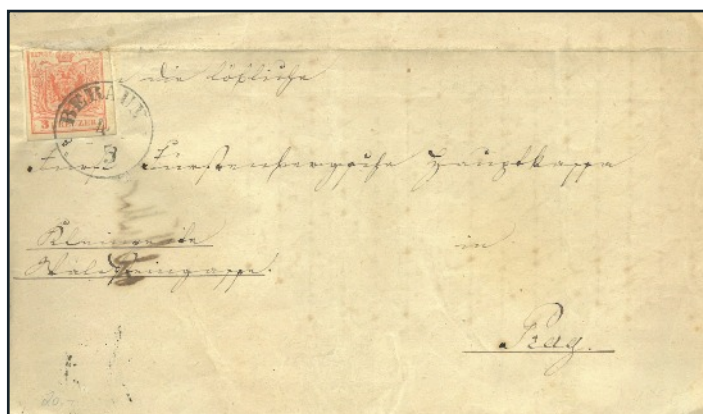
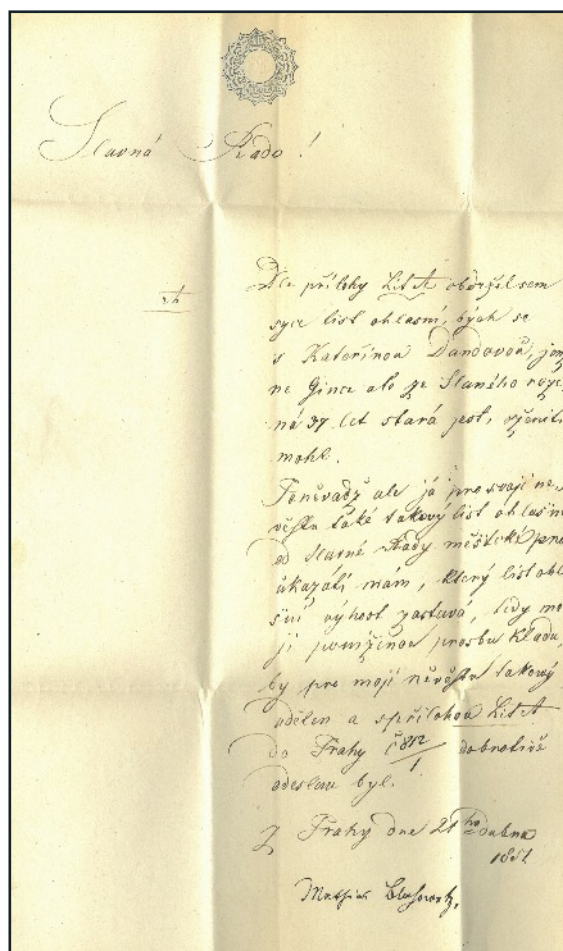
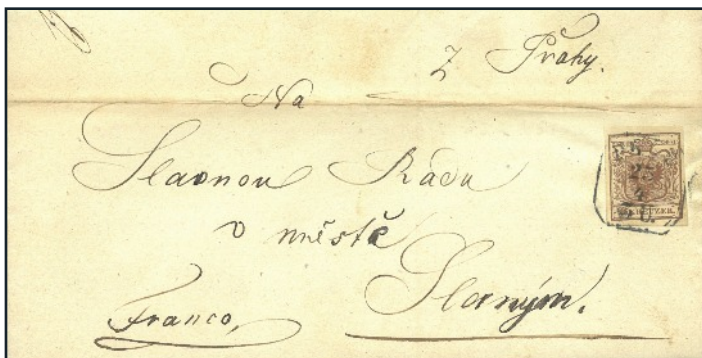


Fig. 6 (above) – letter sent from Beroun to Prague franked with a 3 Kreuzer stamp (1850)

Fig. 7a/b (below and right) – letter sent from Prague to Slaný franked with a 6 Kreuzer stamp (1851); the letter is in the Czech language, asking the Slaný City Hall for a wedding permit for the groom: at the top of the message is a 15 Kreuzer revenue stamp.



Amongst other things, political developments had an impact on the postal system. In 1850, the new Austrian government of Prince Felix von Schwarzenberg (1800–1852) issued the first Austrian stamps valid for the entire Empire. His government also started the operation of railway post offices. In 1851, the first newspaper stamps of the world (the ‘Mercury’ stamps) were issued. The political situation is one of the reasons why it is extremely hard to find a letter using the first Austrian stamp issue written in the Czech language – the majority of the correspondence was written in German.

Prince Schwarzenberg served as a Prime Minister from 1848 to 1852, creating an authoritarian political system. This system was taken over by the former Interior minister, Baron Alexander von Bach (1813–1893), who ran it until 1859. This period has been called ‘neo-absolutism’, noted for the strong police surveillance over any activity which might be considered political. The Austrian Parliament was dissolved between 1849 and 1861.

After the defeat of the 1848 Revolution, Palacký was officially outside any political activity and travelled all around Europe. He continued to write his historical books. His son-in-law, František Ladislav Rieger, also left politics and focused on the commercial and business organizations leading the *Jednota ku povzbuzení průmyslu v Čechách* (The Association for the Encouragement of Industry in Bohemia).

The Palacký-Rieger family lived in the MacNeven Palace, near Wenceslas Square in Prague, from 1853 when the building was inherited through the marriage of František Ladislav Rieger and Marie Palacká (1833–1891). The palace originally belonged to the Měchura family, and it was given to the young couple by Marie’s mother. Nowadays, the building hosts the Palacký-Rieger Museum. František Ladislav Rieger acquired Maleč Castle in 1862, in order to use the complex as a place for summer holiday relaxation.



Fig. 8 (left) – the MacNeven Palace in Prague, photographed in 2025.

Fig. 9 (above) – Maleč Castle in 2024.

In 1860, the political situation in the Austrian Empire changed again. The extremely conservative governments and politicians were forced out, and a new Constitution creating a democratic parliamentary political system was introduced. It reopened Parliament, now renamed the *Reichsrat*. The political change also led to a reform of the postal system. In 1865 it was agreed that, with effect from 1 January 1866, uniform postage came into effect for the whole Austrian Empire, replacing the old system based on postal zones. A first worldwide postcard was introduced in Austria in 1869.

Table 2: Selected Firms created in the Czech Lands 1800s to 1890s

1801	First sugar refinery founded by Count Rudolf of Vrbno	1846	Public telegraphic service in the Czech Lands started
1806	Textile factory in Liberec founded by Count Christian Clam-Gallas	1854	ČKD machinery factory founded
1815	Technician Josef Božek introduced a steam car driving through the Stromovka Park in Prague	1859	Škoda Pilsen machinery factory (originally founded by Count von Waldstein, taken over by Emil Škoda in 1866)
1817	Josef Božek introduced a steam ship on the Vltava River	1864	Petrof piano factory founded
1825	Spořitelna česká Bank	1868	Živnostenská banka (by Old Czech Party members)
1827	První česká vzájemná pojišťovna insurance company founded by Count Josef von Thun	1880	Křižíkovy závody machinery factory
1828	Vítkovice steel works founded by Archbishop Rudolf of Habsburg-Lorraine	1894	Baťa shoe factory founded in Zlín
1832	Joseph Ruston of London founded Rustonka machinery factory in Prague	1895	Laurin & Klement bike factory (later Škoda Mladá Boleslav)
1839	Třinec steel works founded	1897	Tatra Kopřivnice automobile factory founded
1842	Pilsner Urquell brewery founded		

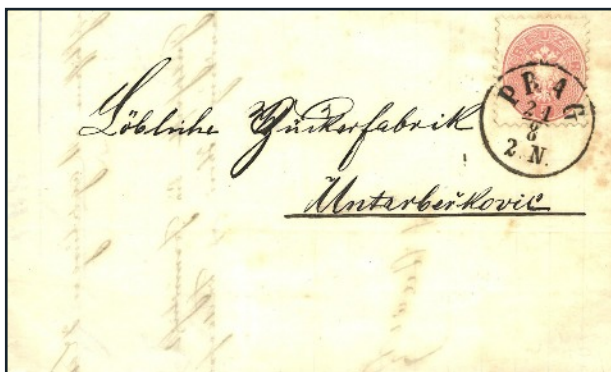


Fig. 10 (above) – business letter sent from Prague to a sugar factory in Dolní Beřkovice (1866). Fig. 11 (right) – Austrian postcard (German-Bohemian version, reproduced by kind permission of Roger Morrell).



Both Palacký and Rieger returned to politics after the 1860 breaking point. When Parliament was re-opened in 1861, Emperor Franz Josef I nominated František Palacký to the House of Lords (the upper parliamentary chamber). František Ladislav Rieger was a member of the *Reichsrat*, the lower chamber, and became leader of the Czech representatives.

Both men represented the Národní strana (National Party, or Old Czech Party), a conservative political party. The party mainly represented aristocratic landlords, strongly believing in Czech autonomy within the Austrian Empire. The party was founded in 1848, but until 1859 all its activities were frozen. The main political influence of the party lasted from 1860 to 1891.



Fig. 12 – Czech patriotic postcard of 1890s showing the seals of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia under the Austrian Imperial Crown; this corresponds to the policy of the Old Czech Party.

In 1863, the liberal members of the National Party left for the newly established Národní strana svobodomyšlná (National Free Thinkers Party, or Young Czech Party). Originally the party also simply supported autonomy within the existing state, but from the 1890s there were some groups within the party also calling for Czech independence, or at least for strong Czech participation in the administration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Members of the party included Miroslav Tyrš, and Karel Kramář and Alois Rašín (members of the first Czechoslovak government of 1918/9). The party influenced Czech political issues until 1919, when Czechoslovak politics was dominated by the Republican Party (established in 1899 to represent farmers and the rural population, and led by Antonín Švehla), and by the Social Democratic Party (established in 1878 and focused mainly on factory workers and miners, and led by Vlastimil Tusar, František Soukup, Ladislav Zápotocký, and Zdeněk Fierlinger, amongst others).

The 1860s was the period when the Czech people started to establish organizations of local citizens which supported patriotic ideas within the local communities. Both Marie Rieger-Palacká and František Ladislav Rieger, her husband, used the free spirit of the 1860s to found institutions that still exist today. In 1863, together with Vojta Náprstek, Marie founded the Vyšší dívčí škola (the Higher Girls' School). The school building was built at Vodičkova Street in Prague, not far from the MacNeven/Palacký-Rieger Palace.

František Ladislav Rieger was one of the founders of Živnostenská banka in 1868, becoming the leading financial institution of Czechoslovakia from 1920 to 1948. The influence of the bank was so big that it made decisions about the survival of the largest Czechoslovak industrial holdings, and arranged the majority of the large mergers and acquisitions during that period. Even the Communist regime decided to use the

Fig. 13 – Czech patriotic postcard of 1910s showing the Czech lion destroying the Austrian flag in front of Bílá hora Chateau and Prague Castle; this corresponds to the policy of the Young Czech Party.



excellent reputation of the bank to secure access to international financial markets. The Živnostenská banka existed as a separate financial institution throughout the Communist period, operating a London office to serve as a bridge between Communist Czechoslovakia and international financial markets. In the 1980s, the London branch of the bank was particularly a place where future Czechoslovak businessmen and politicians worked. One of them was Jiří Kunert (1953–2024), the CEO of Živnostenská banka in 1992–2001 and 2003–2007, who carried out the merger of the bank with the UniCredit Bank of Italy in 2001. Kunert is seen as one of the fathers of the Czech financial market after 1989. Another employee of the London branch office was Josef Tošovský (born in 1950), who acted as governor of the Czechoslovak National Bank (1989–1992), governor of the Czech National Bank (1993–1997 and 1998–2000) and Prime Minister of the Czech government (1997–1998).



Fig. 14 (above) – Grammar school for girls in Prague (2025).

Fig. 15 (above right) – Austria population statistics in 1870.

Fig. 16 (right) – Statistics on Austro-Hungarian religions in 1870 (source for both tables: www.econlib.org/books/chapters/chapter-v-1-entry-100-austria-hungary/)

COUNTRIES OF THE CROWN.	Population in 1870.	Square Kilometres
Lower Austria.....	1,954,251	19,287
Upper Austria.....	731,579	11,998
Salzburg.....	151,410	7,166
Styria.....	1,131,300	22,457
Carinthia.....	336,400	10,375
Carniola.....	463,273	9,989
Maritime Territory ..	582,079	7,9 9
Tyrol.....	8,8,907	29,331
Bohemia.....	5,106,069	59,963
Moravia.....	1,997,897	22,233
Silesia.....	511,581	5,148
Galicia.....	5,418,016	78,508
Bukowina.....	511,964	10,453
Dalmatia.....	442,796	12,795
Total.....	20,217,531	300,232
Comprising the army.....	20,394,980	

SECTS.	Austrian.	Hungarian.
Roman Catholic.....	16,395,675	7,558,558
Greek.....	2,342,168	1,599,928
Armenian.....	3,146	5,138
Protestant Lutherans.....	252,227	1,119,508
Protestant Reformed.....	111,935	2,031,243
Unitarians.....	248	54,822
Other Christians.....	4,112	2,784
Jews.....	822,220	553,641
Non-Christians.....	870	223

The Czech members of these institutions were often inspired by the non-political organizations originally founded by German citizens of their municipalities. This activity was the key for creating a Czech civic society and for keeping the Czech language alive. The first of them were so called *okrašlovací spolky* (literally ‘decorative clubs’). The organizations had no political agenda, they just improved the local public infrastructure with flower decorations, building water reservoirs or statues, creating parks, or building the community houses (*spolkové domy*) accommodating club sessions or theatre performances. The very first of them was founded in 1861 in Kutná Hora.

The second strand consisted of the volunteer firemen (*dobrovolní hasiči*). The first organization was founded by the German citizens of Zákupy in 1850. The first Czech organizations were created in Velvary and Plaňany in 1863/4. Although fire prevention was their major role, the firemen often organized a social and cultural life within their municipality. To this day, the major event in every community is the Firemen’s Ball. The volunteer fire brigades also put on theatre performances and are still widespread: of the 6,254 municipalities in the Czech Republic (as at 2022), 1,384 have a volunteer fire brigade.

The third strand of Czech civic society was created by the sport clubs, notably the Sokol movement. This organization also had German origins, being inspired by the *Turnvereine* organized by Friedrich Jahn since 1811. This German sports movement came to Prague in 1861, where the Prager Männer Turnverein (Prague

Table 3: Selected Sports Organizations created in the Czech Lands in the 1860s to 1900s

1862	Sokol movement founded in Prague	1892	Slavia Prague football club founded
1865	Vltava rowing club created by Miroslav Tyrš	1893	Sparta Prague football club founded
1868	Lední klub skating club founded in Prague	1895	SK Kotva Vršovice founded (predecessor of Bohemians Prague football club)
1880	Český klub velopedistů (cycling club) founded in Prague	1897	Česká atletická unie founded (Czech Athletic Union)
1882	Spartak Roudnice/Labem athletic club founded (first Czech one)	1901	Český svaz fotbalový founded (Czech Football Association)
1888	Klub českých turistů (touristic club) founded by Vojta Náprstek	1908	Český svaz ledního hokeje founded (Czech Ice Hockey Association)

Men's Gymnastics Club) was established. The club attracted the attention of Miroslav Tyrš (1832–1884) and Jindřich Fügner (1822–1865), who founded the Sokol movement in 1862. The Sokol organization promoted not just fitness, but also Czech patriotism. Its sporting halls usually had a room for theatre performances. Many Sokol members later become political and military leaders strongly influencing Czechoslovak history in the 20th century. Nowadays, the Sokol organizations are present in 1,061 municipalities across the Czech Republic.

The democratic regime of the 1860s led to the expansion of Austrian business, sport and hobby clubs, and new works of culture, as well as Austrian participation in international co-operation. Austrian defeat in the war with Prussia in 1866 had strong political repercussions, leading to governmental reform and creating the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1867, a confederation linked solely by the Emperor. This situation caused big problems for the Old Czech Party, who promoted Czech equality with Austrians and Hungarians. Failure of this plan had a really negative impact on the popularity of František Palacký and František Ladislav Rieger amongst the Czech population. Since 1873, members of the *Reichsrat* were directly elected by the voters. In 1907, a general voting law for all men in Austria was introduced. František Ladislav Rieger was promoted to noble status as a Baron in 1897.

Czech political and social progress was celebrated at the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition, marking the centenary of the one held in 1791. The difference between both events was visible: the Czech language was widely spoken, Czech businesses were represented, and the 1891 exhibition was even of interest to foreign companies like Louis Godard and van Houten. Attendance reached 2.5 million visitors, boosted by the Sokol movement organizing its *slet* as an accompanying event.

Social and cultural development was also highlighted by philately. The hobby came to the Czech Lands from two directions: from Saxony via the Dresden philatelic community, and from Prussia via the Breslau/Wrocław stamp collectors. The first impacted the Prague and Czech stamp community, while the second affected stamp collecting in Moravia and Silesia. Gustav Bauschke, a native German, created the very first philatelic magazine *Der Deutsche Briefmarkensammler* (The German Stamp Collector) in Ústí nad Labem in 1869. He produced just three issues in that year, and then the magazine folded, but it is still older than any philatelic magazine anywhere in Germany and Austria. Other philatelic literature has been summarized by Břetislav Janík, and his overview has been published at EXPONET, the virtual philatelic exhibition (see www.exponet.info). The first German philatelic club in the Czech Lands was founded in 1885 in Prague (*Deutscher Verein für Briefmarkenkunde*), followed by Klub českých filatelistů, a Czech philatelic club established in 1887 that still exists, now known as Klub filatelistů 00-01.

František Ladislav Rieger had a son, Bohuslav Rieger (1857–1907), a lawyer who studied law at universities in Vienna, Berlin, Paris and Strasburg, and became Professor of Law at Charles University in Prague. He married Marie Červinková (1855–1895) and the couple had three sons: Ladislav (1890–1958), Václav (1892–1915, killed at Merano in WWI) and Bohuslav (Bohuš or Bobo, 1895–1976).

The addressee of the displayed 1919 cover was the young Baron, Bohuslav (Bohuš) Rieger (fig. 17), the grandson of František Ladislav Rieger. Bohuš studied law as well, and the cover was sent to him when he had nearly finished his university studies, but hadn't yet passed the final examinations to become a Doctor of Law (JUDr.). He was just a Candidate of Law (JUC) at that time. Bohuš served as a Czechoslovak diplomat for the majority of his life. In September 1939, Bohuš Rieger signed the Declaration of the Czech Aristocracy addressed to Emil Hácha, the President of the Protectorate, assuring him of the loyalty of the Czech



Fig. 17 – souvenir folder prepared for PRAGA 1955 as a gift from the minister of posts and telegraphs containing the stamp issues for the exhibition: the front page is signed by Bohuš Rieger (indicated by the arrow), as President of the Jury, and the other signatures belong among others to Lucien Berthelot, the F.I.P. President, jurors Svend Grainlund, Harry Walli and Fabian Bura, the deputy minister of posts and telegraphs Juraj Maňák, as well as Karel Basika, the Secretary of the PRAGA 1955 Organizing Committee and a keen collector of the Penny Black and other early British stamps.

aristocracy to the Czech nation. This led to the confiscation of Maleč Castle by the German administration in 1942. He got the castle back in 1945, but lost it once more to the Communists in 1948.



Fig. 18 – Bohuš Rieger in 1969.

Bohuš was a keen stamp collector of European classic stamps, creating one of the best ever collections of Old German States and early German stamps. He started the hobby under the influence of his brother Václav in 1902. He exhibited his stamps in the late 1920s, and the first larger stamp exhibitions at which he displayed his German stamps were IPOSTA 1930 and WIPA 1933. Bohuš was also an advanced jury member, serving on the jury of the PRAGA 1938, 1955, 1962, and 1968 stamp exhibitions. An extended text on him and his hobby by Jaroslav Ježek was published as a supplement in *Filatelie* magazines Nos. 11–16, 1969, and his obituary was published in *Filatelie* No. 1, 1977 (page 15). Both of these can be seen at www.filaso.cz/knihovna-digitalizace.php.



Fig. 19 – registered letter franked with Legionary stamps addressed to Bohuš Rieger residing at Maleč Castle (1919).



Figs. 20 a & b – registered letter sent by Bohuš Rieger to his wife Vladimíra enjoying the summer of 1926 in Slovenia, near Lake Bled : Rieger used a business envelope from the Law Department of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, inscribing his signature beneath the official name.

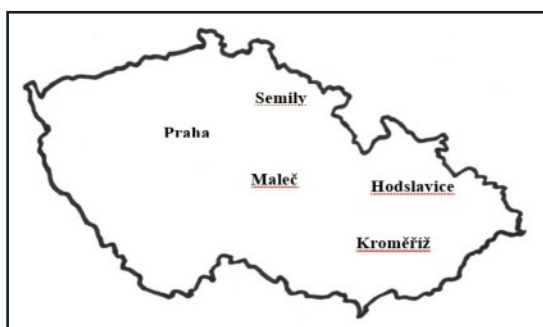
Stamp expertizing was his major activity, and he was founder of the permanent stamp expertizing group within the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists in 1934. Thanks to his prominent background, Bohuš Rieger was friends with notable philatelists: Maurice Burrus (1882–1959), Baron Alphonse Mayer von Rothschild (1878–1942), Théodore Champion (1873–1954), and Sir John Wilson (1898–1975). He met leading stamp collectors not just during official events, but also visiting them at home with their families to look at their stamp collections. When he died in 1976, the family discovered unopened letters containing rare stamps bought by him in the 1920s and 1930s in the top auctions in Paris, London and Berlin. He had so much material that he was unable to sort all his acquisitions and put them into his collection.

Bohuš married Vladimíra (Dula) Vondráčková (1891–1968), but the couple had no children and the family line died out at his death. After Bohuš's death, his entire collection was sold to various stamp dealers in Germany, Austria and other Western countries by the state company Artia to obtain foreign currency for the Czechoslovak Communist regime.

Both Prague Palace and Maleč Castle have been returned in the 1990s to Václav Macháček-Rieger. The family line comes from Ladislav Rieger (1890–1958), the oldest brother of Bohuš Rieger. Ladislav was originally a chemist, but he became a distinguished philosopher teaching as a Charles University Professor from 1945. Ladislav had a daughter Věra Macháčková-Riegerová (1919–2017), a university teacher and German language translator.

Her son Václav Macháček-Rieger played bass guitar in Jiří Brabec and his Country Beat, a music band of the 1960s and 1980s. He was an architect by education, using his professional skills for the present-day reconstruction of the inherited Palacký-Rieger estates.

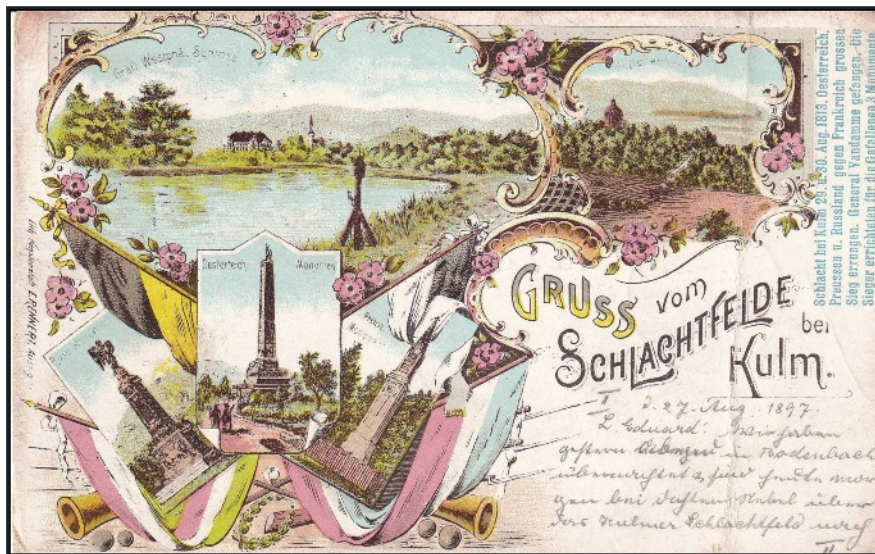
As you can see, the story behind the cover presented in my August Zoom meeting (Fig. 19) takes us a long way from its philatelic roots and was really far too long for my presentation. I hope you have enjoyed this article!



Map showing the main Czech places mentioned in the article.

An Unusual Postcard and Some History You Probably Don't Know Much About Roger Morrell

One of my little Czech collecting themes is chromo-litho *Gruss Aus* postcards from the late 19th century, preferably with the added criterion of being postmarked at the place illustrated – making them a kind of early ‘maximum’ card. Mostly, these cards show several little drawings of villages, churches, town squares and perhaps a famous local castle, designed to give the recipient an idea as to where their friend was staying. My most recent acquisition shows something rather different. It says, in German, *Gruss vom Schlachtfeld bei Kulm* – Greetings from the Battlefield at Kulm. Identified by tiny, weak lettering in the images, it shows: a lake and a house captioned *Graf Westphal. Schloss* [1]; rolling hills and a tower on a tree-covered hillock marked *Kapellen...?* (Chapel) [2]; and three war memorials labelled *Russ. Monument*, *Oesterreich. Monument*, and *Preuss. Monument* (three separate Russian, Austrian and Prussian monuments).



The blue text at the right-hand side reads:

Schlacht bei Kulm 29. u. 30 August 1813. Oesterreich, Preussen u. Russland gegen Frankreich grossen Sieg errungen. General Vandamme gefangen. Die Sieger errichteten für die Gefallenen 3 Monumenten.

Which translates as:

Battle of Kulm, 29 and 30 August, 1813. Austria, Prussia, and Russia won a great victory against France. General Vandamme was captured. The victors erected three monuments to the fallen.



The postmark on the other side is Teplitz-Schönau with an unclear date, and the card was sent to Stolberg in the Rheinland, arriving on 28.08.1897.

Never heard of the Battle of Kulm? Neither had I, so I set to work on the computer. Kulm (now Chlumec) is a small town lying a few kilometres north-east of Teplitz (now Teplice) on the road to Děčín, and just a few kilometres from the current German–Czechia border. The battle, part of the War of the Sixth Coalition between Napoleon's forces and the combined Austrian, Prussian and Russian forces, took place in the fields between Kulm and the next-door village of Přestanov.



The Battle of Kulm by Alexander von Kotzebue.

This battle was part of Napoleon's revitalized adventure into central Europe following his disastrous foray into Russia in 1812. Under newly appointed General Vandamme, the French achieved a victory at Dresden, just to the north, and then started pursuing the retreating allies. Napoleon sent Marshals Gouvion Saint Cyr and Auguste Marmont to support Vandamme's corps. With Vandamme in advance, and the supporting troops in the rear, they caught up with Alexander Ivanovich Ostermann-Tolstoy's forces near the town of Kulm on 29 August 1813. With a total of 34,000 soldiers and 84 guns he attacked the Russian rearguard, which was then bolstered by the other allied forces. The next day, Friedrich von Kleist's Prussian corps hit Vandamme in the rear while Russian and Austrian reinforcements attacked the French front and left. Vandamme found himself hemmed in, and eventually had to capitulate with the loss of between 13,000 and 25,000 men and 82 guns. Vandamme was taken prisoner to Russia and was humiliated in front of the Tsar. By winning this battle, Ostermann-Tolstoy and his troops succeeded in buying much-needed time for the Coalition armies to regroup for the Battle of Wartenburg and subsequently for the Battle of Leipzig. They also kept control of the Bohemian mountain passes which would otherwise have allowed the French unfettered access to Bohemia. It was certainly an important turning point in the conflict. But the village of Kulm was almost completely destroyed.

There was a second battle of Kulm on 17 September between the Army of Bohemia and Napoleon's forces. Napoleon was forced to withdraw to Dresden.



The Russian war memorial with the goddess Nike atop (*above*) can still be seen just off the main road at Přestanov. It was built by the Austrians to honour the lost Russian forces.



The Austrian War memorial depicted on the card is said to be at Varvažov, south-east of Pilsen in Central Bohemia. However, there is a later and smaller Austrian memorial just to the north-east of Chlumec (above) built for the centenary of the battle in 1913 (www.hrady.cz/pomnik-pamatnik-jubilejni-pomnik), but is clearly not the one shown on the postcard. Of the Prussian war memorial I can find no specific reference, and it may have been destroyed in later years.

For those readers who are interested in ancient battles, an extensive exposé is available at [www://battlefieldanomalies.com/napoleonic-wars/the-battle-of-kulm/](http://www.battlefieldanomalies.com/napoleonic-wars/the-battle-of-kulm/), with indications that there are several other monuments in the area of Chlumec related to this battle.

- [1] The old castle of Kulm was replaced by a Baroque palace in about 1780. The Counts of Westphalen in Germany acquired the Kulm estate in 1830, hence the description on the card. It was destroyed by bombing in WWII.
- [2] The chapel on the hill was built by Johann Franz Count Kolowrat-Krakowsky in Italian Baroque style to mark the town's relief from the plague outbreak of 1680. It lies on a hill just to the north-east of the town.

Articles elsewhere

Roger Morrell

Tschechoslowakei Philatelie (ARGE Tschechoslowakei, Germany)

No. 224, June 2025 (in German)

Last, W., Internet site 'Knihtisk' of Mark Wilson – Version 2021 (a review).

Kunc, L., *Postlagernd* (poste restante).

Hanaček, G., Foreign Exchange Control in the Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate 1939–1945.

Becker, D., Theresienstadt – a fort, never contested, never overrun, Theresienstadt's eventful history in cards and letters, continued. The brutal Gestapo years.

Kunc, L., Balloon post during the cold war.

Austria (Journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society of GB)

No. 231, Summer 2025

Moser, H., Postal aspects of the *Ostmark*, especially Jungholz and the *Kleine Walsertal*.

Peters, B., The first postage stamp issue of the Austrian Empire.

Vindobona Vereinsnachrichten (Vindobona Philatelic Club of Austria)

No. 2/2025, July.

Hamilton, W., 175th Anniversary of the first issue: Higher weight steps.

Fukarek, M., Annotations and the handstamp *Botenlohn* (courier fee) in the Vienna Pneumatic Post.

Lind, A., 125th Anniversary of the Kronen/Heller Currency. The first issue of 1899–1907.

Kroiss, P., 100th Anniversary of the 1925 stamp issue.

Aigner, F., 1920, 1936 – Two unusual postage due items.

Stamps of Hungary (Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB)**No. 241, June 2025**

Rhein, M., 150 Years of the 'Envelope' design stamps.

Weise, M., The story of the 'Lucky Number' stamps – Part 3: Suchtár and the Lucky Symbols.

van Weenen, P.d.L., Early use of the 1874 postal stationery card.

Williams, P., What's on your card? (Pictorial stationery demonetised using a large 'X' overprint.)

Rundbrief (ARGE Feldpost, Austria)**Nr. 155, 2025/2**

Matthijssen, G., The first postcard of Bosnia/Herzegovina with a *k.u.k.* fieldpost cancel.

Graf, O., The problem of Albanian placenames with Gomsique as an example.

Sifferlinger, N.A., The *k.u.k.* *Haubitze* battery and the sinking of the British monitor M30 at Izmir.

Egger, M., Interesting and enigmatic text from the correspondence of a *Theresienritter* (Knight of the Order of Empress Maria Theresia).

Kalis, K., Felkel, G., Private records and correspondence at the end of the war, 1918 (southwest front, 4. *Gebirgsartillerieregiment*, 8. *Kanonen batterie*).

Wirtl, W., SHS fieldpost from Radkersburg – the finding of new borders (1919).

Robisch, H., Items from the *k.u.k.* *Such-Flottille* (naval search vessels).

Radovanović, M., Austro-Hungarian prisoners in Serbia – continuation.

Kalis, K., A special card from the *k.u.k.* '*Wüstenkrieg*' (desert war in the Middle East).

Filatelie (POFIS, Czechoslovakia)**No. 2 February 2025**

Beneš, F., 40 years as a stamp dealer and expert (part 4).

Schenk, F., A look back at the post office during the Russian civil war.

POFIS 2024, Czech Republic 2024 postal stationery catalogue (pull-out 12-page supplement).

POFIS 2024, Czech Republic 2024 private stamp issues catalogue (pull-out 8-page supplement).

No. 3 March 2025

Anon, Philacast of the Professional society of philatelic studies – SČF (includes four pages on an 800-page Monograph on the 1945/1946 'emergency stamps' in the Czech lands, by CPSGB's Harmut Liebermann).

Káňa, V., SO 1920 – a few incredible cases . . . (examples of valuable forgeries and varieties of Hradčany stamps, 'improved' with forged SO 1920 overprints).

Kunc, L., A forgotten stamp (CPSGB member Lubor Kunc on an unissued stamp from 1939 featuring politician Antonína Švehly).

POFIS 2024, Czech Republic 2024 postal stationery catalogue continued (pull-out 16-page supplement).

No. 4 April 2025

Beneš, F., One hundred years since the foundation of the state-owned company Czechoslovak Post.

Štajner, V., Plate faults on Košice issue 1945 (part 3).

POFIS 2024, Czech Republic 2024 postal stationery catalogue continued (pull-out 16-page supplement).

No. 5 May 2025

Beneš, F., 80 years since the liberation of the ghetto and the Small Fortress of Terezín.

Říha, M., Biennial of stamp design 2025 in Jilemnice (exhibition in the Arms Hall of the Krkonoše Museum).

Příkazský, M., Mystery Czechoslovak international reply coupon '90 deniers'.

Solc, J., Post office in the south of Prague (in the village of Lipence).

POFIS 2024, Czech Republic 2024 postal stationery catalogue continued (pull-out 16-page supplement).

No. 6 June 2025

Beneš, F., 35 years of the state emblem of the Czech Republic.

Holý, M., The most beautiful stamps of 2024 is Loprais' Tatra (see *Czechout* June 2024, page 26).

Folprecht, P., Newly documented forgeries of old expertizing marks (Franek and Hirsch).

POFIS 2024, Czech Republic 2024 postal stationery catalogue continued (pull-out 20-page supplement).

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!



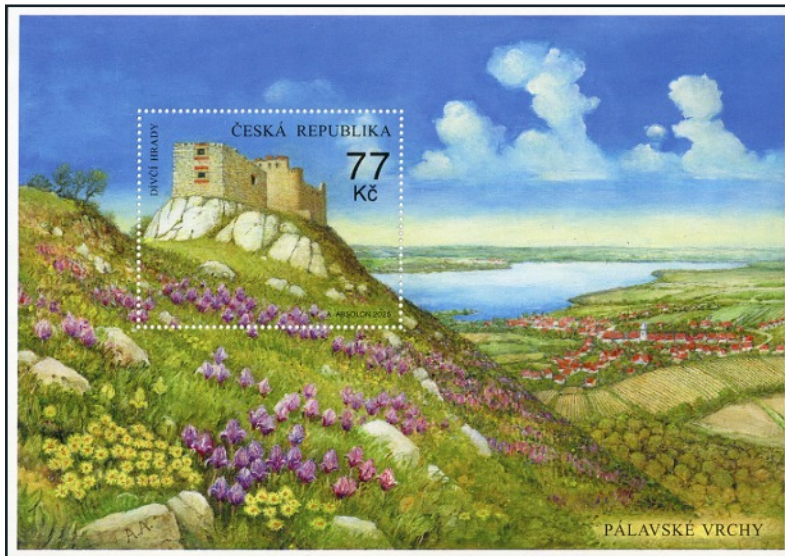
New Issues – Czech Republic Tony Holdsworth

Images and text adapted from

www.postaonline.cz/eshopfilatelie/listProducts.html?request_locale=en

16 April 2025

Beauties of Our Country: Pálava Hills (POFIS 1318)



The stamp features the ruins of the Gothic castle Dívčí hrady, also known as Děvičky, situated on a limestone cliff of the Pálava Hills. The castle was first mentioned in 1222, under the name Dewiczky, as a border feudal castle in royal possession. The first nobleman governing the castle was Štěpán of Medlov (1235), the founder of the noble family of Pernštejn and at the same time the administrator of Veverí Castle.

At first, the building was probably wooden, and it may have been destroyed in 1253. The castle was restored at the end of the 13th century during the reign of King Wenceslas II. During the siege of Vienna by the Turks in 1529, the

fortifications were strengthened. In 1572, Adam of Ditrichštejn bought the entire Mikulov estate; his son Zikmund rebuilt the castle as his residence. During the Thirty Years War, the castle was occupied by Swedish troops, who were marching on Vienna after the victorious Battle of Jankov. When the Swedish garrison left, it was plundered and set on fire. The Dietrichštejns took care of the most urgent repairs and the castle was used as a guard redoubt until a fire in 1744. It was finally abandoned at the beginning of the 19th century and gradually fell into disrepair.

The view is extended on the souvenir sheet from the south, taken from an advanced artillery bastion built in 1529. It is spring, and on the sunny rocky steppes, the dwarf iris and the yellow spring adonis are in bloom. Nestled beneath Pálava is the village of Pavlov, with its adjoining vineyards and the expansive Nové Mlýny reservoir.

7 May 2025

EUROPA: National Archaeological Discoveries – NVQ ‘E’ (POFIS 1319)

The stamp design features one of the most famous archaeological finds in the Czech Republic, the sandstone head of a Celt from Mšecké Žehrovice, a village in the Rakovník District of Central Bohemia. As the only example of monumental Celtic sculpture found in the Czech Republic, it is an unparalleled archaeological discovery. Dated to the third century BC, the sculpture was discovered in 1943 in a sand pit near an important Celtic archaeological site. It was in several pieces, of which the four largest were found. Remains of a hearth, many fragments of ceramic vessels, bones, švartné bracelets and a large animal tooth were found in the same place. The finder, Josef Šlajchrt, informed amateur archaeologist Josef Bauman about his discovery, who recognized the exceptional nature of the find and contacted staff at the National Museum.

The stamp designer has placed it in a stylized display case, symbolizing museum exhibition practices. The design was inspired by collection pieces from the National Museum, where the Celtic head and the bronze ankle ring shown on the First Day Cover will be part of the newly opened exhibition *People* at the museum.



7 May 2025

Czech Design: Hana Podolská – NVQ ‘B’ (POFIS 1320)

Hana Podolská, née Johanna Vošahlíková (1880–1972), was a Czech fashion designer and businesswoman, one of the most important creators of pre-war Czechoslovak fashion and the owner of the most famous domestic fashion salon of the 1930s and 1940s. The business was in the very centre of Prague and its customers included many socially significant women of the First Republic and the Protectorate era, including First Lady Hana Benešová and actress Adina Mandlová. Podolská was the first Czech designer to employ professional mannequins and hold her own fashion shows, and her clothes can be seen in several well-known First Republic films. Due to her entrepreneurial success and significant contribution to Czechoslovak fashion, she is sometimes nicknamed the ‘Czech Coco Chanel’. After February 1948, her company was nationalized and existed as part of the centralized company, Výroba oděvů, until 1991.

The stamp design features a Charleston dress – a model of evening dress in turquoise silk georgette that was created around 1927. The booklet and coupons display details of the dress, showcasing its rich embroidery. Inspiration for the stamp design was drawn primarily from the monograph *Hana Podolská: A Legend of Czech Fashion* by Dr Eva Uchalová.



18 June 2025

Works of Art on Postage Stamps: Václav Špála (POFIS 1321)

Václav Špála (1885–1946) was a prominent Czech painter, graphic artist, and illustrator, whose work forms one of the fundamental pillars of Czech modern art, and is amongst the most sought-after by collectors. He was born in Žlunice near Nový Bydžov and studied at the School of Artistic Metalwork in Hradec Králové and the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. His style was influenced by Expressionism, Fauvism, and Cubism. His early works featured striking colours, shape distortion, and dynamic brushstrokes. In the 1911 painting *Idyll* (also known as *Two Girls Bathing*), he first used the characteristic combination of two colours – balancing warm reds and cold blues. After 1923, he began searching for new themes and focused on landscape painting. This period of Špála's work, known

as the ‘green period’, lasted until 1926. The pinnacle of his painting, however, was the so-called ‘blue period’, during which he used a single colour in many shades. After 1930, he concentrated on floral and still-life works, as well as landscape pieces, and these still stand out today for their vivid colours.

The illustration on the stamp is from a 1934 painting entitled *Apples*, which is in the collection of the West Bohemian Art Gallery in Pilsen.

View of Prague Castle – NVQ ‘Z’ (POFIS 1324)

Arguably the most recognizable view of Prague, showing the Charles Bridge and Prague Castle. The bridge was built during the reign of Charles IV, starting in 1357, and is decorated with 30 statues, mostly in the Baroque style, which were installed in around 1700, but have now all been replaced by replicas. The bridge replaced an earlier structure, the Judith bridge, that had been built in the twelfth century but was badly damaged by flooding in 1342. It is the oldest standing bridge across the Vltava River.

The Prague Castle complex is both a symbol of the city, and a symbol of the Czech nation. Its construction began in the ninth century, and it displays many of the architectural styles of the last millennium, including the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, Romanesque Basilica of St. George, a monastery and several palaces, gardens and defence towers.



18 June 2025

Karlovy Vary – NVQ ‘B’ (POFIS 1323)

Named after Charles IV (1316–1378), King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor, Karlovy Vary is a spa town located at the confluence of the Ohře and Teplá rivers. As a spa resort in the nineteenth century, the town was popular with aristocrats across Europe – this came to an end in 1914 with the outbreak of war, but since 1989 it has developed once more into a major tourist attraction.

The stamp shows the Mill Colonnade, one of the town’s most popular sites. It has 124 Corinthian columns, and there are twelve statues representing the twelve months placed above the portico. A raised orchestra space is provided for the spa orchestra, which plays regular free concerts.

Designed by architect Josef Zíték, who also designed the National Theatre and Rudolfinum in Prague, the structure was built between 1871 and 1881 – and initially reviled by critics, who compared it to a bed of carrots or a bowling alley! It was extended in 1893 to include the Rock Spring, and by 1949 the adjacent portion of the Teplá River was bridged over in front of the Mill Colonnade, creating a plaza. Restored in 1982, stone reliefs portraying historic moments in Karlovy Vary history were added to the orchestra space in 1995–1996.

Also illustrated in the foreground of the stamp is the Vřídlo fountain, the largest thermal spring in Karlovy Vary, and the hottest in the whole of the Czech Republic, with a temperature of 73°C.

**Historic Town Halls and Squares: Liberec (POFIS 1322)**

Located in the historic city centre of Liberec, on Dr E. Beneš Square, the Town Hall was built between 1888 and 1893 in the Neo-Renaissance style, to the design of the Viennese architect Franz Neumann (1844–1905). It replaced an earlier structure, which was built in 1599–1603. The building has three towers; the highest of them is 61 m (200 ft) high. Its silhouette resembles a Gothic cathedral. The building has a richly decorated façade, integrated artwork, and rare stained-glass windows. Above the entrance portal is a sculptural relief by Viennese sculptor Theodor Friedl (1842–1900), showing the establishment of the old and new town hall. The miniature sheet shows a view across the square to the Town Hall on the northern side, with a group of historic buildings on the western side, and the Neoclassical Neptune Fountain rising dramatically from the shadows in the foreground.





New Issues – Slovak Republic Tony Holdsworth

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

30 April 2025

EUROPA 2025: Celtic Finds at Bratislava Castle (POFIS 845)

In the late La Tène Age, in the 1st century BC, the acropolis of a Celtic oppidum was located on Bratislava Castle hill. Between 2008 and 2014, archaeological research brought the discovery of rare Celtic-Roman architecture built for Celtic nobility. A pavement of a late-Republican type, constructed from so-called *opus signinum* with a floral carpet motif, was discovered directly beneath the courtyard of the palace. Similar types of pavements from this period have only previously been found around the Mediterranean. A total of seven Celtic-Roman buildings was found on the northern terrace of the Castle and under the 18th-century Winter Riding Hall, and three of these buildings and the *opus signinum* pavement are preserved.

In 2009, twenty-two Celtic gold staters and silver coins inscribed with the names Biatec and Nonnos were found on the pavement of one of the buildings. The treasure had been lying in a glass Hellenistic jar, the shards of which lay among the coins. Near the coins (one of these is illustrated on the stamp), there was also a Roman bronze seal box, which was used to protect the seals applied to written documents. These original finds may be seen in the exhibition *Celts from Bratislava*, at Bratislava Castle.

These finds tell us that the Celtic social elite was Romanized as early as the 1st century BC. Finds of gold and silver coins, wine amphorae, amber and other objects testify to the luxurious lifestyle on the Celtic Acropolis. The stone architecture discovered at Bratislava Castle was built by Roman builders, but did not exist for very long. The final destruction of the Celtic oppidum might have been a consequence of the invasion of Germans from the north, sometime around the turn of the 1st century AD.



7 May 2025

Women in the Anti-Fascist Resistance Movement (POFIS 846)



This stamp commemorates three women who joined the anti-fascist resistance movement during WWII. Chaviva Reik (1914–1944), on the left, took part in a secret mission into Slovakia during the Slovak Uprising. Providing intelligence information to the Allies upon her arrival in Slovakia in September 1944, she helped organize the evacuation of American pilots and Jewish residents. She trained the local partisan unit and retreated with them to the mountains. After her capture and interrogation, she was executed together with her fellow fighters in Kremnička on 20 November 1944. She was only thirty years old.

Dalma Špitzerová (1925–2021), pictured in the centre of the group, was a Slovak actress and drama teacher, who left the Slovak State in 1942 at her father's insistence. Although she could not speak Hungarian, thanks to a lucky coincidence she met her older sisters in Budapest, who had gone there a little earlier. After her cover was blown, she was interned in a camp in Nováky. After the camp was liberated, she joined the Uprising and worked in the press department of the partisan movement. Just a couple of weeks before liberation, her brother and both parents were killed by the Nazis. She lived to be ninety-five years old.

Marína Paulíniová (1897–1945), a Slovak journalist, diplomat and health worker, had to leave Slovakia at the age of eight due to poverty. Despite this, she never resented her homeland and as a vice-president of the exiled Czechoslovak Red Cross, she helped to provide material aid to the prisoners of war in German camps. She was instrumental in securing post-war aid for Czechoslovakia and the purchase of medicines in Switzerland. She tragically died on her way back to her homeland when her plane crashed on 5 October 1945. The newspapers at that time wrote about her and described her as a modern-day Milan Rastislav Štefánik.

30 May 2025

Beauties of Our Homeland: A Gothic Chapel in Spišský Štvrtok (POFIS 847)

Built in the mid-15th century, this slender chapel is one of the most beautiful Gothic buildings in Slovakia. It was added to the south wall of the Parish Church of St Ladislaus in Spišský Štvrtok. Who built it, and for what purpose, remains a mystery, however. According to myth, it is the funeral chapel of the important Zápolya family who owned Spiš Castle from 1465 onwards. Their final resting place, however, was in a chapel which they had built in 1495, at the cathedral in Spišská Kapitula. The chapel in Spišský Štvrtok has no crypts or tombstones. From the beginning it was dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, and in its interior there is another preserved jewel of Gothic art, a panel painting of the death of the Virgin Mary, painted by the anonymous Medieval Master of the Tucher Altarpiece in Nuremberg.

The chapel stands on a temple hill, enclosed by a wall. It has two floors, referred to as the upper and lower chapels. The south façade of the chapel, evenly divided by eight tall buttresses, is its most interesting and artistically dominating feature. All the pillars include pinnacles richly decorated with a crab motif. The façade was designed in the building workshop of St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. Medieval drawings have been preserved, probably made by Hans Puchspaum, the head builder of the St Stephen's workshop between 1446 and 1452. In the upper chapel above the altar the original keystone is preserved and bears the heraldic figure of a jumping lion with a double tail and a crown on his head.

The Order of Friars Minor Conventual faces the tough challenge of finding the means to restore this jewel of Gothic architecture. Between 1999 and 2002, the main altar of the upper chapel, and from 2020 to 2022 the interior of the lower chapel, were restored. The largest part – the exterior of the building and the interior of the upper chapel – is still waiting for restoration.

**Nature Protection: The Collection of Butterflies in the Museum of Central Slovakia, Banská Bystrica (POFIS 848)**

The Jan Patočka collection of butterflies and chrysalises is the most extensive and scientifically valuable natural history collection in the Museum of Central Slovakia. Dr Patočka (1925–2009) was an ethnologist who devoted his life to research into butterflies that live on forest trees. He disagreed with the use of chemical sprays on forest undergrowth, and developed biological methods of pest control and tree protection. Thanks to his careful study and drawings he developed a key for the identification of the chrysalises of Central European butterfly species and became the world's leading research specialist into the immature stages of butterflies, gradually creating his collection as a result of life-long research. However, in this collection, there are also specimens obtained from 144 experts with whom he worked. The collection includes specimens from Slovakia and the Czech Republic, but also from other countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, America and New Zealand, together with 76 specimens which were used to describe new butterfly species. The Museum of Central Slovakia acquired the collection over an extended period of time.

The butterfly shown on the stamp is an Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*). It is classified as vulnerable globally, suffering from critical damage to its habitat and the threat of air pollution. It is a large butterfly, with a wingspan of 7–8 cm.

24 June 2025

Personalities of the Slovak National Theatre (POFIS 849)

*Top to
bottom –
Zvarík,
Huba,
Záborský.*

*Top to
bottom –
Zachar,
Dibarbora,
Pántik.*

The Slovak National Theatre opened in March 1920, and since then Slovak theatre has achieved major milestones and international successes in a little over a hundred years. A lot of the credit for this goes to the actors: one of the strongest generations was the group of actors and actresses at the turn of the 1930s and 40s, who were graduates of the Academy of Music and Drama for Slovakia (State Conservatory from 1941). František Dibarbora (1916–1987) had a unique comedic talent that encompassed the full range of the genre, from coarse slapstick to conversational salon humour. However, in his later years, he also showcased the tragic face of his acting. Karol L. Zachar (1918–2003) was perceived as a performer who played elderly roles thanks to his dry, raspy voice and mature appearance. From the mid-forties, he was established as a theatre director, stage designer, and teacher. Mikuláš Huba (1919–1986) had a melodic voice and graceful expression which led him to play positive heroic roles in classical verse dramas, those of characters who would not hesitate to lay down their lives for their ideals. Likewise, the voice of Viliam Záborský (1920–1982) was his dominant means of expression. He personified men with powerful gestures, charismatic commentators, intellectuals or aristocrats, but in later years also their opposites. The talent of František Zvarík (1921–2008) provided him with a prominent place both in plays, where directors mainly saw him in the role of a bon vivant, and in opera, where his dramatic bass voice brought roles in major productions of the classical repertoire. The earthy nature of Július Pántik (1922–2002) meant that he tended to play the role of a good-hearted altruist, an authoritarian rebel or a folk wise-man within Slovak and international classics.

26 June 2025

80th Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations (POFIS 850)

The United Nations (UN) was established on 24 October 1945, at the end of WWII, with the aim of ensuring international peace and security, fostering friendly relations among states, and promoting social progress and human rights. The founding document – the UN Charter – was drafted by representatives of 51 countries during the United Nations Conference held in San Francisco from 25 April to 26 June 1945. Slovak diplomat Ján Papánek, as a member of the Czechoslovak delegation, contributed to the final drafting of the Charter. Alongside Štefan Osuský, who served as vice-chairman of the Supervisory Commission of the League of Nations, the predecessor of the UN, he played a significant role in securing Slovakia's place in the development of multilateralism.



Membership Benefits

Meetings	Three London meetings in 2025, two joint meetings in Yorkshire, a meeting at EuroPhilEx in Birmingham, 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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Nature Protection: The Collection of Butterflies in the Museum of Central Slovakia, Banská Bystrica (POFIS 848 – Miniature Sheet)

The Apollo (above left), the Clouded Apollo (above right) and the Garden Tiger Moth (above). See page 29.