

CZECHOUT

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EDITORIAL

As mentioned in the Meeting Notice sent out earlier this month we are enclosing a copy of the Supplement to Monograph No. 1 Czechoslovak Army & Airforce in Exile. This is supplied with a paper cover in order to enable those members who wish to incorporate the pages into the Monograph, and the pages are numbered accordingly.

It is supplied to current members free, and then available at a price of £2.50, US\$6.00 to those who join afterwards, or to any outside the Society who wish to purchase a copy. We thank all those who contributed information or who in any way assisted in the production.

Colin Spong
Chairman/Editor

SOCIETY MEETING on SATURDAY JANUARY 29 at the CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL CLUB

The Chairman welcomed 21 members to the CNC and apologies were received from 4 members. The minutes of the meeting held on October 2 were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Membership Approval was given to the applications received from Messrs P. Hardy (Sidcup), R.J. Chadwick (Stockport), E.C. Davison (Edinburgh), R.M. Earl (Alton), J. Wilson (Durham), J. Shand (Kingston on Thames), and received with regret the resignation of M. Bardiger and H.J. Hare.

Exchange Packet Colin Smith reported that todate he had circulated six packets and said that he had received a number of enquiries about Insurance cover on packet material in transit. The Chairman appointed Mr R. Kingsley and Mr C. Smith as a sub-committee to look into the possibility of Insurance.

Birmingham Meeting Full details concerning the joint meeting with the Austrian Stamp Club and the Magyar PS would be circulated with the next notice of our CPS meeting at Bromley. The sub-committee had invited a number of our members to exhibit their material.

PRO In his report Brian Parker (read for him by Reginald Hounsell) stated that he had circulated the philatelic press with details of the AGM. Mr R. Hounsell offered for sale copies of his booklet on 'Communications' at a price of £1.50 each. He also stated following an article in the Czechoslovak Specialist (USA), he might inadvertently distributed some forgeries and asked members who thought they might have some to contact him. (31 Parklands, Royston, Herts SG8 9HL.)

SOCIETY MEETING C'td

Library Mr F. Gren reported that Mr M. Beck had kindly donated a copy of Monographie 14 to the Library; that Mr C. Stirton had also donated a copy of POFIS 82 and that the Society had bought a copy of Monographie 13. All these books were now available for loan.

The George Pearson Competition The Chairman thanked Mr P. Titterton for arranging the donation of a beautiful shield to be known as the George Pearson Trophy, and the token shields given by Mr J. Majstr of Skoda. Nine members submitted entries and the judging was carried out by the non-participating members. The result of the competition was as follows:-

- 1st - Mrs K. Goodman, The Czechoslovak Field Post in Siberia
- 2nd - Mr E. Gorge, The Masaryk Issues of 1925-1927
- 3rd - Mr A. Page, Czechoslovakia 5h Hradcany

The Francis Pettitt Competition - seven members submitted entries and the judging was carried out as before. The result was:-

- 1st - Mr R. Hounsell, Prague Stamp Exhibitions
- 2nd - Mr A. Page, Provisional Cancellations 1945-1946
- 3rd - Mrs Y. Gren, Works of Jiri Svengsbir

The meeting terminated at 5.30 pm and the Chairman thanked Mr M. Mirtl for arranging the rooms at the Czechoslovak National Club to be made available, and the staff for their hospitality.

Yvonne Gren
Hon. Secretary

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

In the December 1982 issue of FOREIGN STAMPS appeared an interesting article by Robert Boyer, entitled "Czechoslovakia & the Nazis - A Postcard Tragedy."

Whilst the December issue of the Czechoslovak Specialist (USA) contained a book review of "HRADCANY - Identification of Stamps of Type 1: representing joined Types when se-tenant with Type 2" by Jan Karasek, Brno. price 14 Kcs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Member Alan Knight entered the Scunthorpe & District PS Annual Competition and came away with their Challenge Silver Cup for an entry 'World War Field Post 1 (to and from Czech soldiers in the Imperial Austrian Army.) Well done Alan as a 'first-timer!'

Hon. Secretary Yvonne Gren won Worthing PS Thematic Cup with her "Works of Jiri Svengsbir." and is in her second year as Vice President of Shoreham PS - congratulations on a well deserved award.

We have received a detailed price list from John Vydra of 3 Medesenge Way, Wolves Lane, Palmers Green, London N.13 6DZ. He can supply a New Issue Service, minimum required quantity is 1 set. Mr Vydra can also obtain older material - any interested member contact the Hon. Secretary for the List.

We thank Yvonne Wheatley for preparing the Index to Czechout - this will appear in due course.

Lindy James joined a team from Scunthorpe PS on a visit to the Mablethorpe & Sutton PS - here is an extract from a news item!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Lindy James began with Czechoslovakian overprints -
Issued perhaps for collectors & dealers aids & hints.
Bi-lingual printing as on South Africa -
Red, Green, Black & Blue - and maybe paprika!
Quickly produced, sunrise & sunset error...</p> | <p>Poetic licence & prophetic for Hunnish terror
2. Sundry dirty great sheets & colour shades
a plenty,
Types one, two, three drove our lady
demently!!</p> |
|--|---|

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS C'td

Jan Masaryk was duly back-stamped on the way to Argentine
And other cancellations celebrated men and events - all very fine!
Covers in plenty & much very fine material
lets hope this is only a part of a much longer serial!

We acknowledge 'CNW' of Mablethorpe PS for a fascinating write-up.....

- PAUSE FOR COFFEE -
Thought we'd done with She!!
But back she comes with glee!

3. Much more modern now, but still Czechoslovakia proud -
A fine display shown in cheerful mood (I mean mood!)
The art issues are really tremendously exciting,
Words almost fail me - (but 'go down fighting')
Thank you so much for being so charming,
You've done us good, only our ego harming!!

We thank Founder member Stuart Clark for a personal write-up on the Chairman which has appeared in the Kingston on Thames PS Newsletter - now we know where it all started - 10.10.52 with B & M!

THE STORIES BEHIND THE STAMPS by Alan J. Knight

No.1: Saint Adalbert, Bishop (SG490)

Saint Adalbert, baptized VOJTECH is believed to have entered this world in Bohemia in the year 956 AD but it is known that he died in Prussia on April 23, 997 at the rather early age of 41, after having been the first bishop of Prague of Czech origin.

Adalbert was descended from the ancient Slavnik princess of Bohemia, later to receive his theological training at Magdeburg (now in the German Democratic Republic) and this conformed to the very strict principles of the Cluny reform. At his confirmation, he received his name from St Adalbert, first Archbishop of Magdeburg.

Adalbert was only 26 years of age when he was elected bishop in 982. He promoted the political aims of Boleslav II, King, Duke or Prince (according to one's own favoured terminology) of Bohemia by extending the influence of the Czech Church far beyond the borders of the Czech kingdom. A person of very lofty ideals, Adalbert attempted gallantly to improve the moral standards of church life but this met with little, if any, understanding among his countrymen.

Very upset by and highly critical of the superficial attitudes to Christianity prevalent in his country, Adalbert departed in 988 with the firm intention of becoming a monk. However, the Papacy of the time ordered him to return in 992 but he found very little change of attitude. Furthermore, Adalbert came into very sharp conflict with some of the nobility and allowed himself to become drawn into some of the many feuds between the Czech kings and the Slavnik princes. Eventually in 994, a thoroughly unhappy and disillusioned Adalbert again left his country to become a missionary in Prussia but this lasted only for three years, before he was martyred in 997.

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Adalbert was canonized two years later, in 999 and his feast-day was to become the 23 April, the date of his death. An account of his life was later to be written by his great friend and disciple, St Bruno of Querfurt.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - Some Notes on the usage of Postage Due Stamps by John Whiteside

Czechoslovakia issued Postage Due stamps very early in its life as an independent republic and it continued to do so until the break-up of the republic in 1939.

The principal function of these stamps was to account for the collection of charges on unpaid or underpaid mail. Like most other countries at this period, the basis on which this was done was that double the deficiency was charged. It should be expected, therefore, that covers bearing postage due stamps should bear them of such a face value that this principle is adhered to, and indeed this is usually the case.

However, a significant number of covers may be met with where the charges levied do not conform with this rule. Other explanations thus have to be found to account for the charges raised.

The notes that follow attempt to detail some of these exceptional uses and to explain their occurrence wherever possible. In addition, I have included a number of comments on various aspects of the normal postage due system. The article is thus a series of sections on various topics. I hope that, in spite of its rather random nature, some sections of it will be of interest, and perhaps of assistance to other collectors.

Provisional Postage Due Stamps, 1918-1920

The first series of Czech Due stamps began to appear late in December 1918 and further values were issued throughout 1919. It would seem that their printing and distribution was irregular, as might be expected when the new republic was hard pressed to ensure adequate supplies of definitive stamps, and thus a number of post offices did not receive sufficient stocks. These offices used Austrian, Hungarian or Czech definitive stamps with handstamped or handwritten overprints, T, P, Porto, Doplacit, etc.

These were frequently used from December 1918 to May 1919, while the first stocks of regular due stamps were slowly appearing. A few are found later in 1919, especially in Slovakia, and then there was a further batch used in March 1920, when postage rates were increased. For a short period, lower values such as the 10 and 20 heller were needed in quantity and several offices ran out of them.

Covers bearing these items are extremely desirable, especially when the use is genuine and not manipulated. Unfortunately, as with many other aspects of Czech postal history, many of these shortages were quickly exploited by philatelists and a number of "manufactured" covers exist. Those where collectors have sent

SOME NOTES ON THE USAGE OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS C'td

unstamped envelopes to contacts in towns using provisionals are at least legitimate uses, but some covers occur that are obviously total fabrications produced with the connivance of local postmasters.

Unofficial Separation methods applied to postage due stamps

Like the Hradcany issue, the first postage due stamps are sometimes found perforated or rouletted. One such usage was at Prague 1, where due stamps may be found with a crude form of roulette. It gauges approximately 6 and was probably done by running a small toothed wheel by hand along the edge of a ruler. I have fifteen cards or covers bearing such examples used between May 21, 1919 and August 27, 1920, and a further example used in October 1925. The roulette is normally applied to the vertical sides of the stamp only, to permit the sheet to be separated into strips, which were then cut up into singles. The stamps are thus Imperf. x Roulette 6. However, I do have one example, used on March 16, 1920, where the horizontal sides are rouletted and the vertical sides are Imperf.

The indication of chargeable mail

The indication on a card or letter that postage due was to be charged seems to have been done on a very hit-and-miss basis, especially before 1922. On internal mail, the general system appears to have been that the office that accepted the item into the posts endorsed it "T", either by handstamp or in red or blue crayon and also endorsed the postage due charge payable. The office delivering the item then applied postage due stamps of the appropriate value and collected the charge. However, many covers may be found without the "T" or the endorsement in manuscript of the charge to be paid, but with due stamps correctly applied. These have obviously been spotted at the delivering office. Such covers are seen much less frequently after about 1922.

Errors of charging may occasionally be found. For example, I have a postcard from Teplice on January 2, 1922 addressed to Zatec and paid at 40 heller. The correct rate was then 50 heller and the due charge should be 20 heller (double deficiency) However, the card has been handstamped "T" and endorsed "50" (the correct rate, not the charge due) by the postal clerk at Teplice. At Zetec a 50 heller postage due stamp was applied and this charge collected from the addressee.

For incoming foreign mail, the situation was even more confusing. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe seem to have had no system for endorsing underpaid mail at source other than occasionally applying a "T" mark. The onus for assessing charges appears to have fallen on the receiving country. These states never adopted the usual U.P.U. system of endorsing deficiencies in the Gold Franc so that the receiving country could convert this into its own currency at the prevailing rate.

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The Czech postal clerks do appear to have done a remarkable job in this respect, especially when it is realised that several neighbouring states experienced severe or extreme inflations between 1920 and 1925, with frequent changes in rates, for example, Germany, Poland, Russia, Austria and Hungary.

The system of levying the charges is still unclear to me, but from the 6 covers of this kind I possess it would appear to have been probably as follows:-

The deficiency was worked out and expressed as a fraction of the appropriate foreign country's postal rate. The Czechs then calculated the same fraction of their own rate for the same service to the country involved and doubled it to obtain the due charge to be levied.

Naturally, this means that Czech postal clerks needed to have knowledge of the current rates of postage from neighbouring countries to Czechoslovakia. That such information was furnished to every post office in the country seems remarkable. However, the lack of explanatory markings on the covers I have would appear to indicate that this may be so.

The rule outlined above explains the charges on four of the six items I have. One of the others is an Express letter from Austria for which I have no details of the exact fee that was due, but the charge levied seems reasonable. The other seems to be an obvious example of overcharging. It is a postcard from Vienna to Karlsbad on August 8, 1921. It is paid at the Austrian internal rate of 2 crowns instead of the Foreign rate of 6 crowns. The Czech foreign postcard rate at this time was 50 heller, yet the postage due charge was 200 heller. The only explanation for this is that the card was treated as a letter, although it is perfectly ordinary postal stationery card with no attachments. The Austrian charge for a letter was 10 crowns and the Czech rate for a letter to Austria was 125 heller. Application of the rule above then exactly accounts for the 200 heller charge.

Assessing the reasons for the charge levied on this type of mail is a very interesting exercise and I should like to find more examples in order to find out whether the rule outlined above always holds good.

Uncollected Postage Due charges

Sometimes items of mail on which postage due had been levied could not be delivered to the addressee or the addressee refused to accept them. The Postage due stamps then had to be cancelled to show that payment had not been received. This was usually done by applying a cross across them in crayon or indelible pencil, but at some larger offices special cachets were employed. I have a boxed "BE PLATNOSTI" used at Prague 1 in 1920, a boxed "Neplatno" used at Prague 1 in 1925 and a large unframed "NEPLATNE" used at Moravska Ostrava in 1937.

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If the item was refused, it was marked "neprijato" and returned to the sender endorsed "zpet". If the item was redirected to a different address, this was done. In each case, a new set of postage due stamps of the same value was applied and the charge collected either from the sender or from the addressee at his new address.

Postal Rate Increases of August 1, 1920

On August 1, 1920, Czech internal postage rates were increased sharply, most rates being doubled. The postcard rate was increased from 20 heller to 40 heller. I have found two cards used at the old 20 heller rate shortly after the change where single deficiency only of 20 heller has been levied. The first of these is from Podmokly to Zhuri on August 2, 1920 and the second is from Bratislava to Prague on August 12, 1920.

These may both simply be errors of charging, but it seems possible that the postal authorities may have allowed a short concessionary period of perhaps two weeks, in which single deficiencies only were levied. I have been unable to find any reference to this in the literature, but the fact that I have two such items from different offices leads me to think the possibility is a real one. If any reader possesses any similar covers, I should be very interested to hear about them.

I have items used on August 20 and 25, 1920 where the normal double deficiency of 40 heller has been charged. The second of these is at Prague 1, the same office that levied only 20 heller on August 12.

Mail addressed Poste Restante

A number of European countries levied a collection charge on mail addressed poste restante. Czechoslovakia was one of these and the charge was accounted for by the use of postage due stamps. These naturally appear on covers that otherwise seem to be correctly franked. The items may be distinguished by the address including the French "poste restante", the German "postlagernd" or "hauptpostlagernd", or the Czech "Poste Restante."

I have six covers with such postage due charges, two of which, dated in May 1922 and April 1923, are rated at 50 heller. The others are rated at 30 heller, the dates being June 1923, August 1925, October 1932, and September 1935. It would seem that the charge was reduced from 50 to 30 heller during May or June 1923.

As mentioned above, other neighbouring countries adopted the same system and I have a cover of 1939 from Prague to Krakow in Poland, where a charge of 10 groszy has been charged and indicated by a Polish due stamp for a poste restante address.

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I am not certain whether the poste restante charge could be prepaid by the sender. No postal tariff I have seen mentions it. This could certainly be done in Germany, for example. I have never seen a Czech cover with any evidence of pre-payment of a poste restante charge and I would be very interested to hear of any such item observed by any reader.

Re-directed mail from Abroad

It would appear that special charges were levied on mail which had been re-directed into Czechoslovakia from another country. This was something that happened fairly often, especially from Germany, from where mail was re-directed to people holidaying at the fashionable Czech spas of Karlsbad, Marienbad, Franzensbad, etc.

From the few covers that I have of this type, it would seem that a fixed charge was levied for the re-direction, irrespective of the type of mail involved. Three such covers, re-directed from Germany to addresses in Czechoslovakia, are briefly described below :-

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| May 28, 1925 | Letter from Berlin to Erfurt, re-directed to Marienbad, correct German rate 10 pfennig. |
| September 23, 1925 - | Registered letter with Acknowledgment of Receipt (A.R.) from Berlin to Cöthen, re-directed to Bohusodov, correct German rate 70 pfennig. |
| August 18, 1926 - | Local letter within Berlin, re-directed to Marienbad, correct German rate 5 pfennig. |

Each of these covers has had a charge of 150 heller levied in Czechoslovakia and collected on delivery. This would seem to indicate that a fixed fee was charged, at least at this particular period, since for such varied types of mail, no other calculation of deficiency payments could yield the same charge each time.

I also have a cover of 1937, re-directed from Berlin to Moravska Ostrava, and then re-directed again to Frystat. This has had a charge of 80 heller levied at both Ostrava and Frystat, the former being cancelled as uncollected. This would seem to be a low charge and probably an error, since it represents only single deficiency of the difference between the German internal rate of 12 pfennig and the rate to Czechoslovakia of 20 pfennig, 1 German pfennig being equal to 10 Czech heller at this period.

The Political Changes of 1938-1939

When the Sudetenland was occupied by Hitler's Germany on October 1, 1938, it was incorporated into the German Reich and German postal rates immediately applied in the occupied areas. Mail within the Sudetenland was charged at 6 pfennig for a postcard and 12 pfennig for a letter. Mail to the remainder of Czechoslovakia was charged at 10 pfennig for a postcard and 20 pfennig for a letter. All these rates had previously been charged at the Czech internal rates of 50

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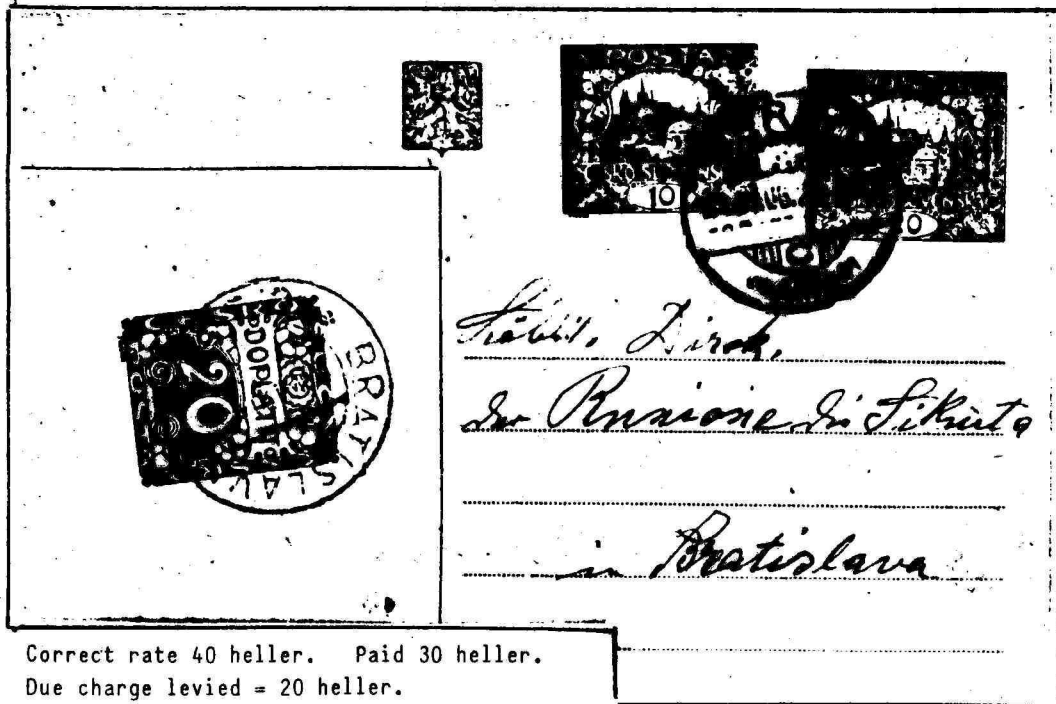
and 100 heller respectively, which at the exchange rate of 1 pfennig equal to 10 heller, were equivalent to 5 and 10 pfennig.

Naturally, this gave rise to a certain amount of confusion at first and covers liable to postage due were bound to result. I have seen a cover from Liberec (Reichenberg) to Prague soon after the occupation, which was paid at the old rate of 100 heller and which was charged quite correctly 200 heller postage due on its arrival in Prague.

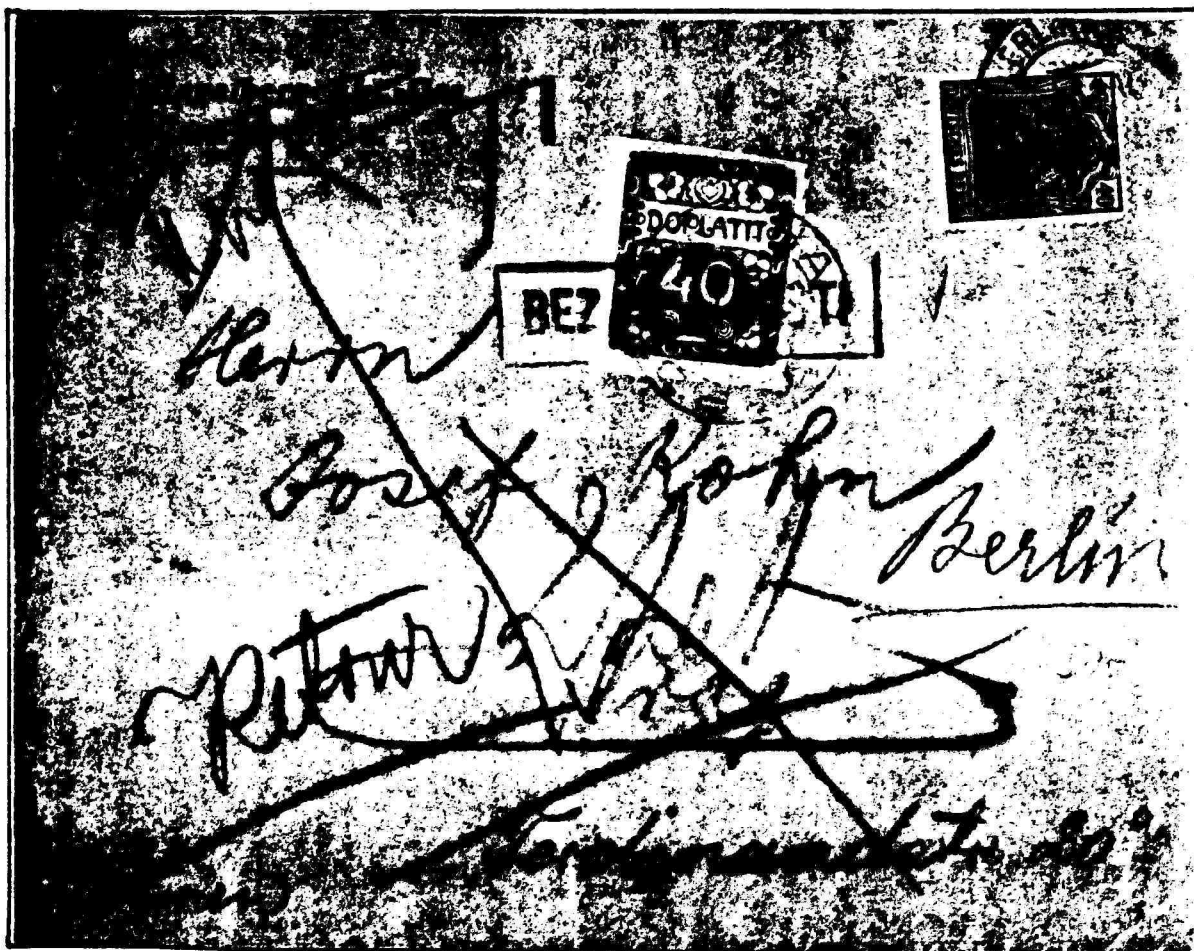
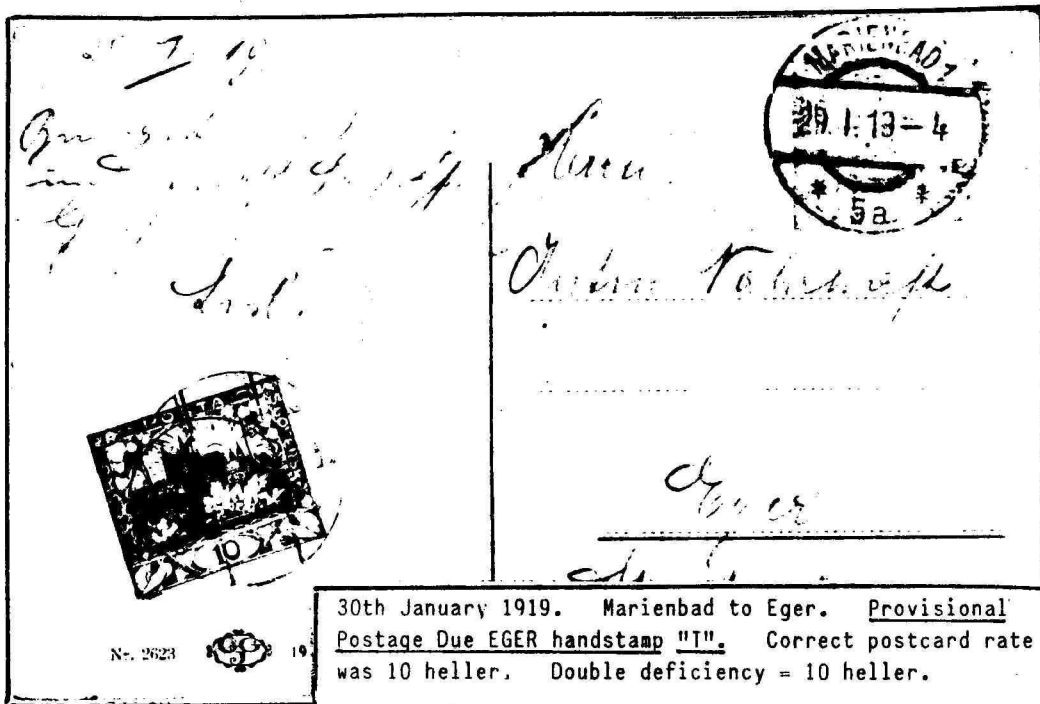
A similar situation arose after Bohemia and Moravia was incorporated into the German Reich as a Protectorate on March 15, 1939. The Czech currency remained unchanged, but postal rates were altered immediately to the equivalent of German rates, the postcard rate becoming 60 heller and the internal letter rate 120 heller. The internal rates also applied to Germany and so mail addressed there was paid at a reduced rate, but mail to the newly established republic of Slovakia was charged at increased rates of 100 heller for a postcard and 200 heller for a letter. Once again, confusion could result. I have a postcard sent from Lysa nad Labem in the Protectorate to Jablonec nad Nisou (Gablonz) in Sudetenland in August 1939, which was paid at the old Czech rate of 50 heller. It was handstamped "T" and endorsed "10", which was the single deficiency and on arrival in Gablonz it was handstamped with a boxed "Nachgebuhr" and correctly endorsed 2 pfennig to collect in blue crayon.

to be continued....

August 1920. Verbo to Bratislava. Normal double-deficiency use of postage dues.



SOME NOTES ON THE USAGE OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS C'td

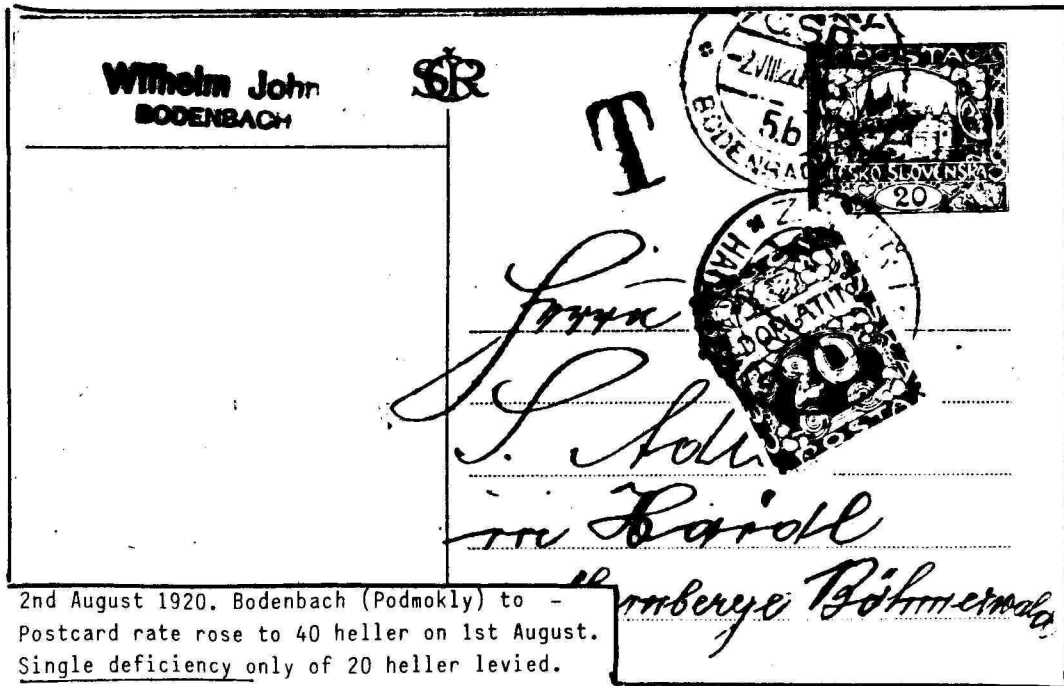


Berlin to Prague (Prag). Unofficial roulette of PRAGUE 1, Due stamp with vertical sides with crude roulette gauging app. 6. Undelivered and returned. Due stamp stamped - BEZ PLATNOSTI

SOME NOTES ON THE USAGE OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS C'td

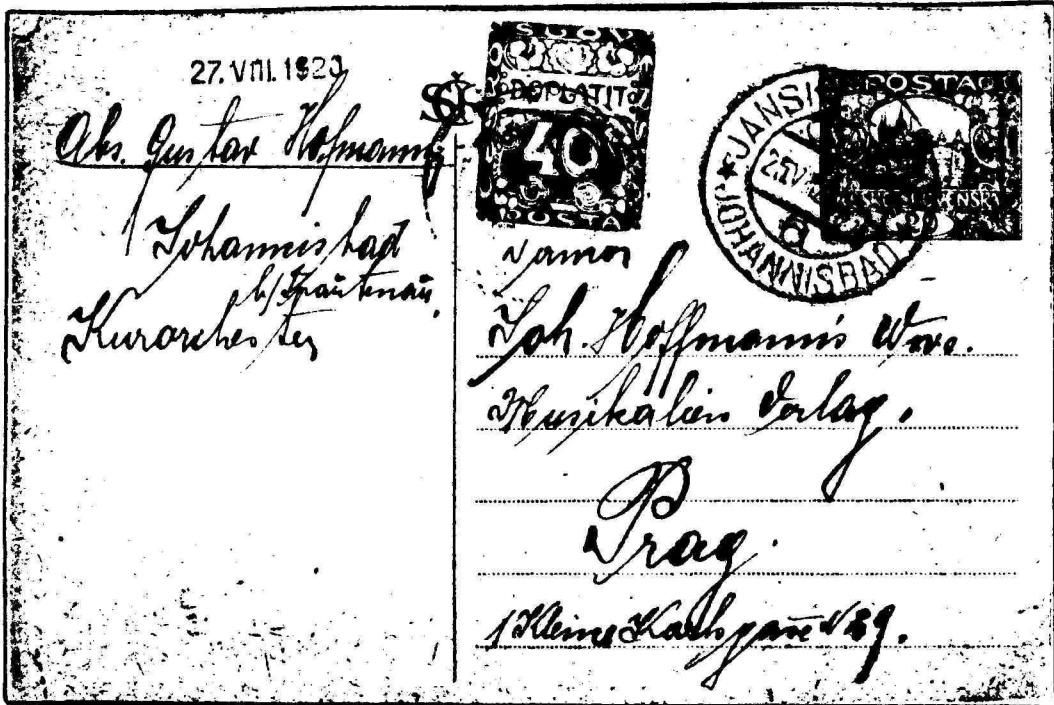


30th October 1923. Zwicka (Sachs) to Aussia a. Elbe.,
 (Usti nad Labem). Charge 250 heller levied, the item
 weighing over 20g. Correct rate for up to 20g. paid.
 24,000,000 marks. Charge for next 20g was 15 million.
 Czech charge 30 x 200 heller (letter to Germany)
 24 = 250 heller.



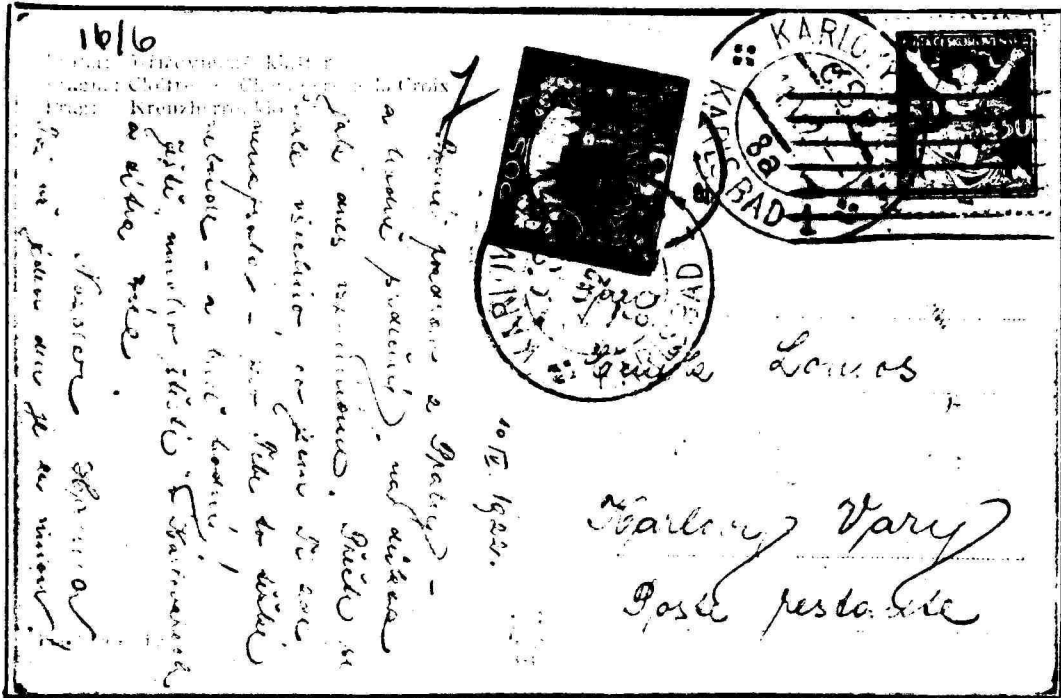
2nd August 1920. Bodenbach (Podmokly) to -
 Postcard rate rose to 40 heller on 1st August.
 Single deficiency only of 20 heller levied.

SOME NOTES ON THE USAGE OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS C'td



25th August 1920. Janske Lazne (Johannisbad) to Prague (Prag). Double deficiency of 40 heller levied.

10th May 1922. Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad). Correct Postcard rate of 50 heller.



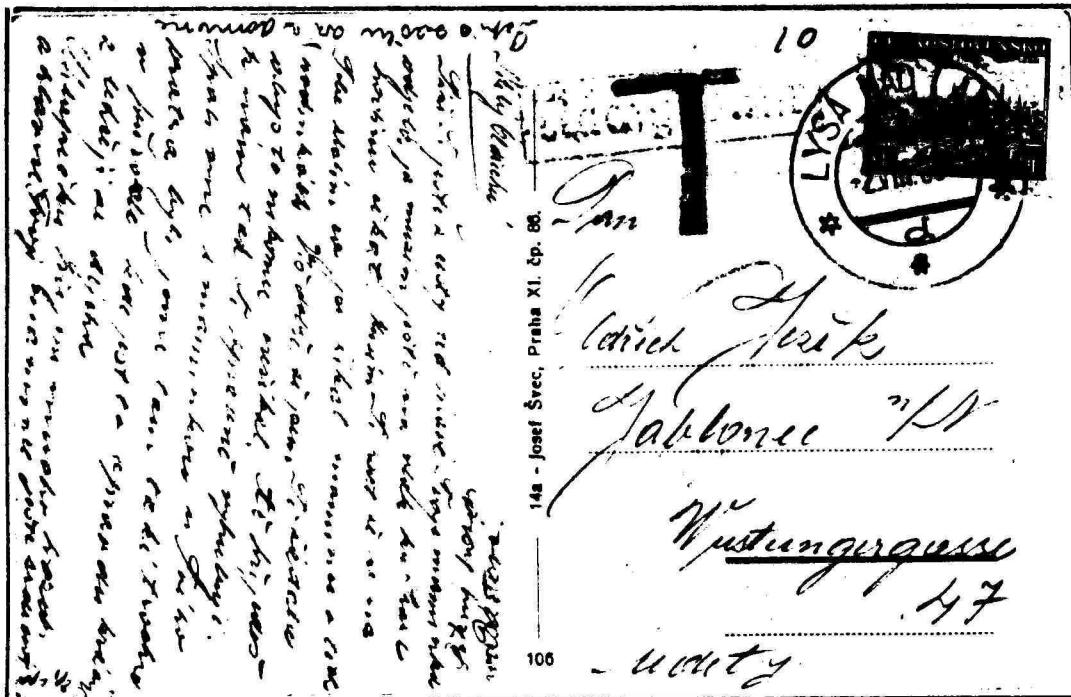
Addressed Poste Restante. Poste Restante charge of 50 heller levied.

SOME NOTES ON THE USAGE OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS C'td

20th June 1923 Hainspach to Brunn (Brno) Correct letter rate 100 heller.



2nd August 1939 Lysa nad Labem to Gablonz (Jablonec nad Nisou) Sudetenland(now in Germany)




SOME NOTES ON THE USAGE OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS C'td

Abfender:

Wohnort:
(auch Zustell- oder Zeitpostamt)

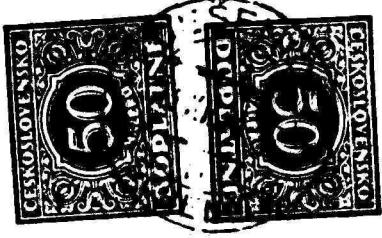
Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil,
Stadtwerk od. Postschließfachnummer

Postkarte



Herrn
Wenzel Fremuth
in Geschenitz 760
Böhmenswald

Straße, Hausnummer,
Gebäudeteil, Stadtwerk



Postcard paid at German internal rate of 6 pfennig. Correct rate 10 pfennig.
Deficiency = 8 pfennig. Czech rate was 120 heller. Czech charge is $8/10 \times 120 = 96$
rounded to a 100 heller.

Konsulat Československé Republiky v Berlíně
Konsulat der tschechoslowakischen Republik in Berlin
Hildebrandstrasse 11

150
T. 280259, Mariaschein
Tschechoslowakei
Kritsch Theodor



EINSCHEIN
Berlin 104
R 165



Registered Letter, with acknowledgment of receipt (Rückschein). Correct German rate 70 pfennig paid to Cöthen, but the letter was re-directed to Czechoslovakia. 150 heller charged by Czechs for delivery.