

CZECHOUT

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EDITORIAL

We welcome from one of our newer members (Bob Black) an interesting historical paper which adds background to a movement commemorated in Czech philately. Please let us know if you find this helpful and would like to see further items of historical background in the bulletin. Lindy Knight also contributes her first paper on a modern postal history subject which has its own society in the GB field. Whilst Yvonne Wheatley adds some further information to the Anthem Sheets.

Members will find in the Czechout Supplement details concerning the Monograph No.3 on 'The Posta Ceskoslovenska Overprints,' as well as a change in the programme for our Northern Meeting, which we sincerely hope will be well supported, the previous occasion the Society met in Leeds in 1983, was I recall a most enjoyable meeting.

Colin W Spong
Chairman & Editor

SOCIETY MEETING ON SATURDAY 16 MARCH, 1985

The Chairman, Mr Spong welcomed 20 members and apologies were received from Mr E Gorge, Mr C Wackett, Mr & Mrs A Knight, Mrs F Pettitt, Mr J Whiteside and Mr P Titterton. The Chairman particularly welcomed two new members - Messrs B Pearson and R.Wright, and from Saudi Arabia Mr & Mrs Bob Bradford.

Membership

The Chairman reported the recent death of Mr Henry Sewell, a letter of condolence had been sent to his daughter on behalf of the Society.

Applications from Mr B Pearson (Sittingbourne), Mr R Wright (East Twickenham), Mr E Renshaw (Leeds) and Mrs J Davidson (New Zealand) were approved.

The following members were dropped from the Mailing List for non-payment of dues - K. Clark, M E Jelley, B T Penzer, J A Shand and J Wilson.

BOOKS & AUCTION LIST

The members were invited to purchase from Mr A Page the sets of Nine revised Bulletins and Monograph No.4 which were displayed on the table, and the Chairman also invited members to look at the Postal Auction lots which were on view.

Mr Charles Stirton had brought the Bratislava PS Monograph and this was made available for members to view. The Librarian had the 1984 volume of the Czechoslovak Specialist (recently bound) with other items from the Library available for loan.

COMPETITIONS

Although there were unfortunately only three entries for the George Pearson Trophy the meeting agreed to hold the Competition and the winning order was:-

- 1st - Bill Dawson - The Story of a Czech Soldier
- 2nd - Brian Day - Provisionals 1918-1919
- 3rd - Bob Black - Czech Forces in Siberia

COMPETITIONS c'td

There were six entries for the Francis Pettitt Competition and the winners were:-

- 1st - Mrs Lindy Knight - National Theatre, Prague
- 2nd - Alec Page - Altered, Temporary and Replacement Postal Markings
- 3rd - Alan Knight - The Art of Max Svabinsky on Stamps

Congratulations to the winners and all those who entered the Competitions. The meeting closed at 4.14 p.m.

D Yvonne Gren
Honorary Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Life President Kay Goodman recently won the New Forest PS Cup with her Czech Forerunners display, and has been invited to give a display of Czechoslovakia to the Southend PS on 24 July, anyone living in the area is welcome to attend that meeting - contact their Hon. Secretary: A D Stapleton (0702-334293 for details of meeting place.)

Requests for Exchange have been received from Vladimir Rodak, Prostejovska c 97, 08 001 PŘEOV, CSSR; and John Ivan, okr PRESOV, 08216 FINIICE 10, CSSR. GB for CSSR et al.

Member Yvonne Wheatley (Weltevreden, 28 Rockingham Road, Leeds LS15 8UL) advises that her Czech contact can supply miniature sheets. Any member interested please write regarding requirements = the prices will be reasonable subject to any scarcity of some items which will be reflected in their prices.

Members Alan & Lindy Knight have been active in local competitions - Alan has won for the 3rd year the R E Parsons Cup (as Chairman of Scunthorpe & District PS, who passed the cup over?) with Czechoslovakis - The First Postal Stationery, and also invited to submit his 'WW1 - Austrian FPO's with Czech connections' as the Society entry for the Yorkshire Federation Annual Competition to be held in Bridlington on 15 June. Lindy came third with "T G Masaryk Portraits on Stamps" and also succeeded in the 'My Favourite Sheet Competition' with "Map of Czechoslovakia" in stamps, coming second.

Alan at the request of the Committee has become the New Issue advisor to the new "STAMP BULLETIN" which is being published at the end of March. It is only available by postal subscription price £8.50 from 'Stamp Bulletin, PO Box 2, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2TR.' The subscription covers twelve months, for which four issues of the bulletin together with any special supplements will be produced.

Through the kindness of our Danish member E Skovbo Jensen, we have received from a friend of his an excellent publication produced jointly in Danish/English entitled "100 Heller Hradcany II". This contains descriptions and drawings of some 200 positions of plates I and II. The price in English is £4 incl. postage, payment either in cheque or GIRO Account 2 19 19 97 to Evald Larsen, Vermehrensvej 8 DK 4100 RINGSTED, Denmark. A worthy addition to the study of the Hradcany issue.

Details have been received of a new society 'THE PHILATELIC HISTORY SOCIETY' and the publication of its first quarterly journal. Its aim to bring much greater awareness of the history and development of our hobby. It will deal with philatelic magazines, catalogues, and all other forms of publications; philatelic appliances, biographic detail of philatelic worthies, and advertising material relating to the hobby. Details (annual sub is £4 (\$7) and sample magazine 20p) from Victor Short, 3 Bullfinch Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent.

CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

AUSTRIA No 71 Spring 1985

Newspaper Stamps 1858 Type II p.10; The Constantinople Postmark p.19; Stamps of the 2nd Republic. Pt. 13 (1966) p.22; Vienna Post Offices 1938-1945 Slogans p.28; Post in the Austrian Netherlands p.34; The people on Austrian Stamps - addendum 12/13 p.46.

STAMPS OF HUNGARY Vol 4 No 8 March 1985

Unmanned Balloons of WW1. Victor Berecz p.2; Hungary & the DDR in Stamps. I R Lewis p.7; Postal forms - has Dr Simady missed some* J Dixon Nuttall, p.9; First Croation Card, John Off, p.14; Western Hungary a short philatelic history, Dr L S Ettre p.16.

* Dr Simady Postal Stationery Catalogue 1983.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

The 1985 issues are awaited.

POSTAL MECHANISATION IN BRATISLAVA by Lindy Knight

On 26 May, 1984, a year-and-a-half had passed since the official commissioning of the complete sorting line "ATL" from the Japanese firm of Nippon Electric Company (NEC) at BRATISLAVA 022 Post Office. In the autumn of 1982, the assembly was completed by the second stage of the ATL/NEC, which involves the reading of the postcode, the printing of the code on the mails and subsequent automatic sorting and placing. At the same time, postcode stations were installed for manual coding of mails which the reading equipment had failed to read the codes automatically, for various reasons. These stations print their own code to the left of the postcode in order that any one of these stations can be later identified. By now many hundreds of thousands of pieces of mail will have been handled by the line so that also by now, there must be an abundance of philatelically interesting items available by which to document the line's operation. Many different variants can thus be documented about the entry of the mails into the line and of their passage, through a number of stages, through it.

The most common variations are regular postcodings which have entered unsorted at the input end of the line's first section and have been stamped, coded and sorted. Such pieces of mail show both the day-stamp and the orange of the violet code. Other cases are postage pre-paid marks made by the office postmarking machines, which are fed into the input end of the second stage of the line, showing both the prepaid mark and the code. This is common practice.

A less common practice is that BRATISLAVA 022 post office also receives - for automatic sorting - mailings from other offices in both Bratislava City proper (Bratislava-mesto) and the outer areas (Bratislava-vidiek). Such mailings are franked at the respective post offices but can pass through the entire line or simply its second stage only. For example: a piece of mail franked at, say 830 03 BRATISLAVA, 33 post office may have passed by mistake through the entire line, thus showing, apart from the code and the original mark of BRATISLAVA 33 p.o. also the postmark of BRATISLAVA 022. The handling of mails from the outer areas can be documented on mail from the 900 01 MODRA 1 P.O. These show in addition to the MODRA 1 day postmark, the ATL/NEC code also. In other words, they were taken to Bratislava and sorted on the line.

The work of the postcoding stations is by no means negligible, since mail without codes or with unreadable ones is still requent in numbers. In such cases, the postcode operators find and correct these codes, pencil them in on the mailed items and apply the code mark. The principal problems are on 'aperture' envelopes with the addresses printed on the inserted letter showing through the aperture. In the typing of the postcode to precede the place of destination, it can happen that the digits do not show through the aperture and the machine fails to read them. In such cases, these items can be manually coded. Interesting covers arise with letters inserted in these envelopes in reverse positions, i.e. with the aperture being in the upper-right corner instead of bottom-right. Despite this, the machine has managed to identify, read and code the respective postcode although the latter being in an unusual position. Codes applied by the coding stations differ from those applied by the line, in that the line lean to the left - i.e. that the mailings pass through the station in different directions to that on the line.

A special group of letters are those from foreign firms with their own commercial representations in Bratislava. They use Company envelopes with the address of the parent firm (in Austria, West Germany, or elsewhere), which carry the pasted-on and addressographed computer-printed labels giving the country of destination, i.e. Czechoslovakia. These are then cancelled by the mark of a franking machine of a Bratislava post office and then coded by the line. Covers of an exceptional type can then arise, as if mailed from Czechoslovakia to Czechoslovakia!

Naturally the list could be continued and the operation of the line could be analysed from specialised angles. One cannot see things like a missing eighth dot on the line, when a shorter line appears in the code at regular intervals or any changes in the colour in which the code is stamped. For instance, light-violet-to-orange violet was used in 1982 and 1983 but the current vogue (1984) is bright orange, etc.

One more note on mail from Slovakia: Some of it carries the postmark "Postovne pausalizove" (postage prepaid) instead of the usual term "Pausalizovane." Is this an error or are both terms admissible?

POSTAL MECHANISATION IN BRATISLAVA c'td

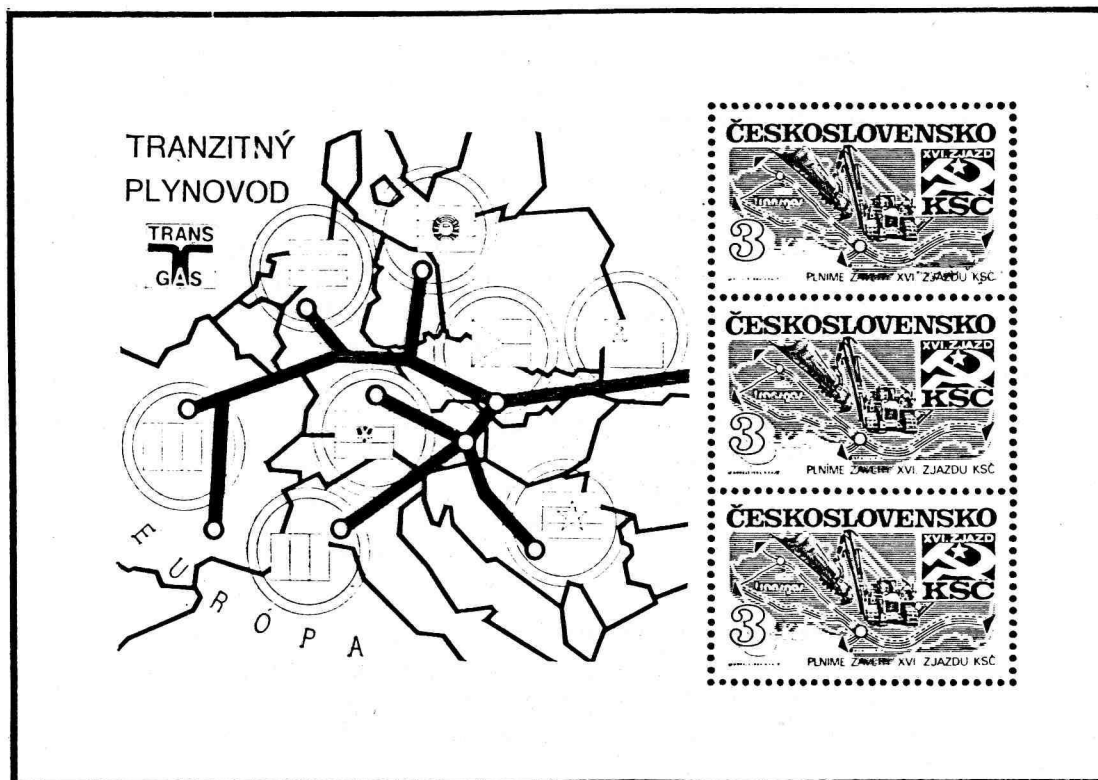
The mailings from the Bratislava line show greater variety than those handled by its Prague counterpart. The operation can best be documented by regular mailings, and from the markings on the envelopes we can logically follow the entire passage of the mails from the sender to the addressee. Specialisation by collectors on the new forms - Automatic Mail - has good prospects and it is hoped that the new ATLs are made operational as soon as possible and that thereby many interesting items can be produced for the collector.

This paper is adapted from a translation by my Czech correspondent in Prague from an article by Tomas Potesil in FILATELIE 14/1984. LK.

CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT No 14 by Alan J Knight

"TRANS-GAS" - Trans-European Gas Pipeline: On 28 October 1984, the Czechoslovak Federal Ministry of Communications announced the issue of a special stamp marking this huge engineering feat which passes through Czechoslovak territory from Siberia and terminating in France. This issue comes under the heading of Socialist Construction in Czechoslovakia although the pipeline commences in USSR, crosses the Urals and Carpathians into Czechoslovakia and thence to East and West Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Italy, and France; the total length so far is 4,000 Km (or nearly 2,500 miles). During 1984 it carried in excess of 36,000 million cubic metres of gas, the largest individual consumers being the FDR (10,000 million metres) and Yugoslavia (1,500 million metres).

The 3Kcs stamp was printed recess in sheets of 50 after designs by Jiri Kodkejs, being engraved by Vaclav Fajt. It also appears in miniature sheet form, each sheet comprising of three x 3Kcs stamps to the right of the sheets, the remaining portion being a stylized 'map' of the pipeline's route from Siberia to Europe. The design on the stamps incorporates pipe-laying machinery and map of Czechoslovakia. It further carries inscribed references to the 16th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.



NATIONAL ANTHEM SHEETS - addendum by Yvonne Wheatley

Since I contributed some notes to the revised Bulletin No.5, I have come across some further references to the position of the guide dots amongst my papers, and these are duly marked upon the copies of the sheets illustrated below: -

211

Kde domov můj?

1834 *Andante con moto.* 1934

Kde do-mov můj, kde do-mov můj? Vo-da
hu - ěi po lu - ěi - nách, bo-ry šu - mi

po - ska - li - nách, v sa - dě skví - se ja - ra
květ, zem-ský ráj - to na po - hled! A to
je ta krá - sná ze - mě, ze - mě če - ská
do-mov můj, ze - mě če - ská do-mov můj!

Aršík 1 Kě (originál)

218

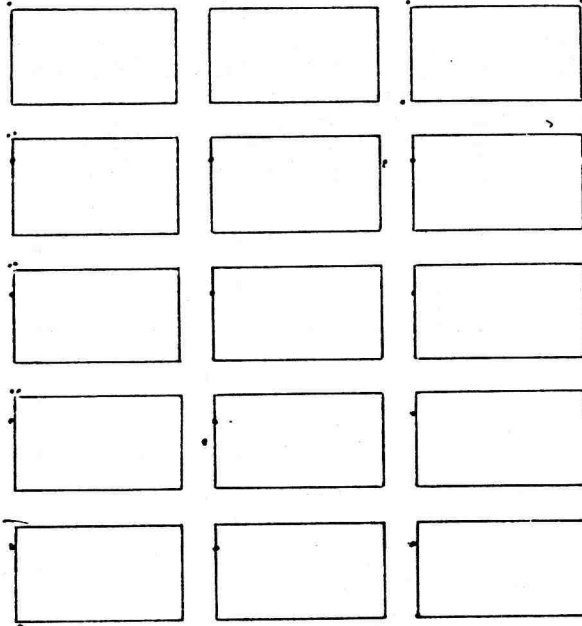
Kde domov můj?

1834

Andante con moto.

1934

Kde do-mov můj, kde do-mov můj? Vo-da
hu - či po lu - či - nách, bo - ry šu - mi



po - ska - li - nách, v sa - dě skví - se ja - ra
květ, zem-ský ráj - to na po - hled! A to
je ta krá - sná ze - mě, ze - mě če - ská -
do-mov můj, ze - mě če - ská - do-mov můj!

Aršík 2 Kč (originál)

References: Padělky Českolovenských postovních znamek 1963
by Ing. Jan Karasek, Zdenek Krasníčka, Brétislav Paulíček

CPSGB-Bulletin No.5 (revised edition) pp. 2-4

THE UNKNOWN HUSSITE by Robert J Black

Historians give two dates as the end of the "Hussite Era" - the defeat of Prokop the Bald in 1434, and the Council of Basel two years later. The Hussites then disappear from history, but the beliefs that fostered a military movement that fought a bloody civil war for over a decade could not disappear because a piece of paper had been signed.



'Jan Žižka and Jan Hus - one the spiritual founder, and the other the military genius that kept the Hussite movement alive despite the Crusades sent against it.'

Many Hussites headed to Hungary to join the private army of the great Hungarian leader Janos Hunyadi. It was upon this core of professional, battle-hardened, disciplined soldiers that Hunyadi was to build his career culminating with him winning "the greatest battle of the age" at Belgrade in 1456.

But not all Hussites went to Hungary with the intention of serving. Jan Jiskra, a Hussite Captain, led his men deep into what is now Slovakia, and set up what amounted to a separate independent state. This period is largely undocumented in the West and extremely difficult to research in Slovakia.

Sometime in the 1440's two Hussite armies met and fought near Levoča. Hunyadi's veterans clashed with their Hussite brothers under Jiskra, and the Hungarians were victorious. However, Jiskra continued with his independent state until the 1460's.

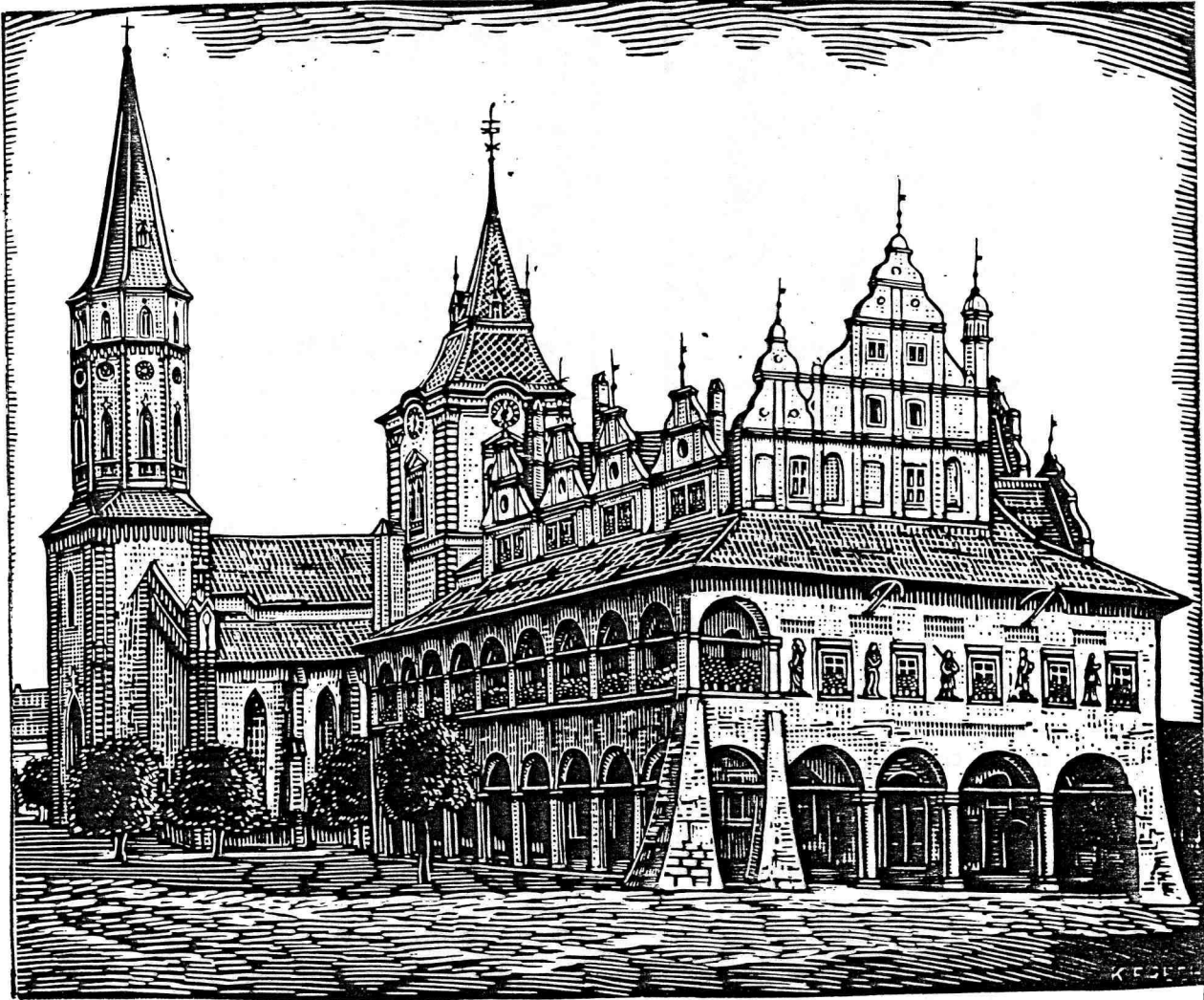
Hungary and Hunyadi had serious problems with the Ottomans in the 1440's and 1450's, and perhaps Jiskra was just a nuisance, compared to the threat of extinction from the Turks. Certainly there are traces of the Hussite occupation in Slovakia, but getting good, solid information on Jiskra is very difficult. I have met only one Slovak, a professional historian, who had even heard of him.

On a trip to the small village of Cmlov near Presov in the Saris Region of Slovakia, I was shown a 13th century church that was occupied by the Hussites. A very attractive church, the Hussites expelled the local congregation and took it over for their own use. A look at the illustrated map will show just how far Jiskra and his men penetrated into Slovakia - nearly to the borders of the (now) Soviet Union.

Whilst Jan Jiskra does not appear to be on a par with that other Jan - Jan Žižka, who was probably the greatest military genius of the century - his story is certainly interesting, and deserves to be told. If any "Czechout" readers have any information on this period I would be very pleased to receive it.

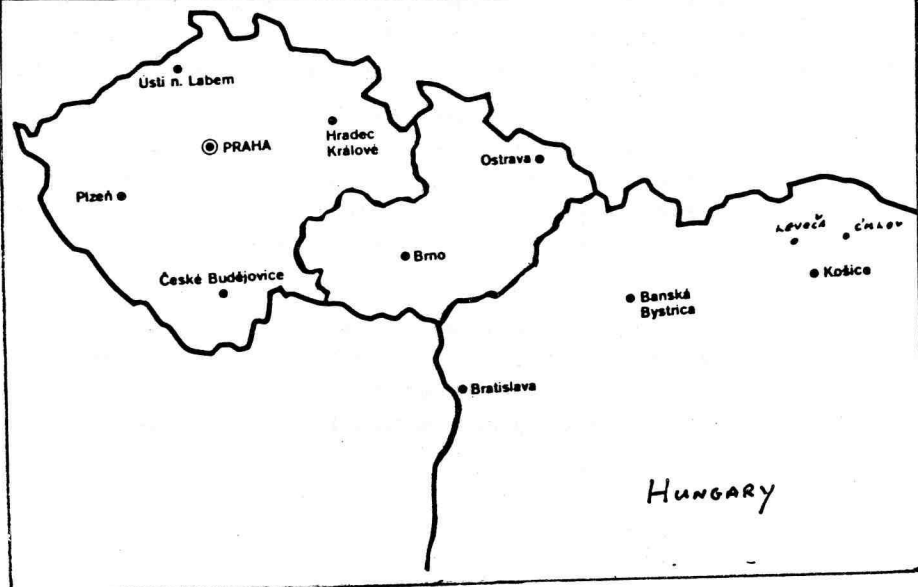
THE UNKNOWN HUSSITE c'td

One final thought occurs to me, Hungary suffered constant incursions by the Turks during the 15th century, and there is documentary evidence that Slovakia suffered raids by the Turbanded soldiers of Islam. In his twenty year reign as an independent Overlord did Jiskra and his Hussites have to fight for their survival against the Ottomans? It seems likely, but I hesitate to mention it without some sort of evidence (historical). But there is a lot of knowledge in our own Society, and perhaps, someone has just the information I am looking for tucked away somewhere. If they have I'd be very pleased to share it with them.



Levoča - the well - known view of the Town Hall.

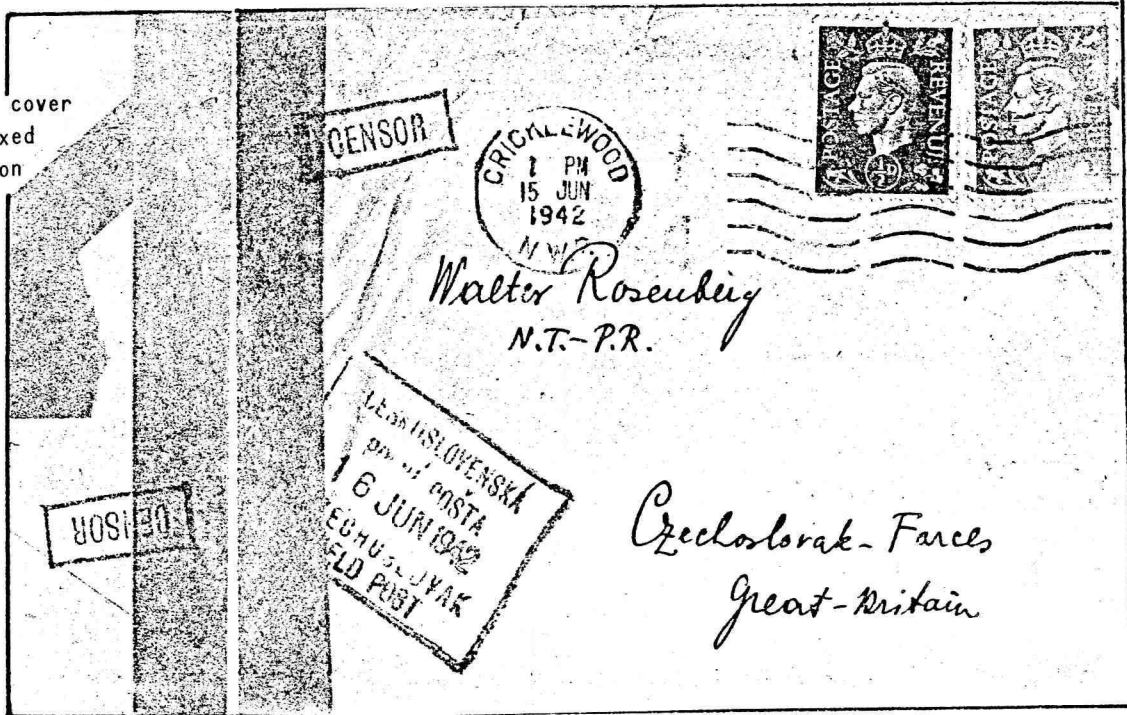
Map showing how far the Hussites penetrated into Slovakia.



QUERY CORNER

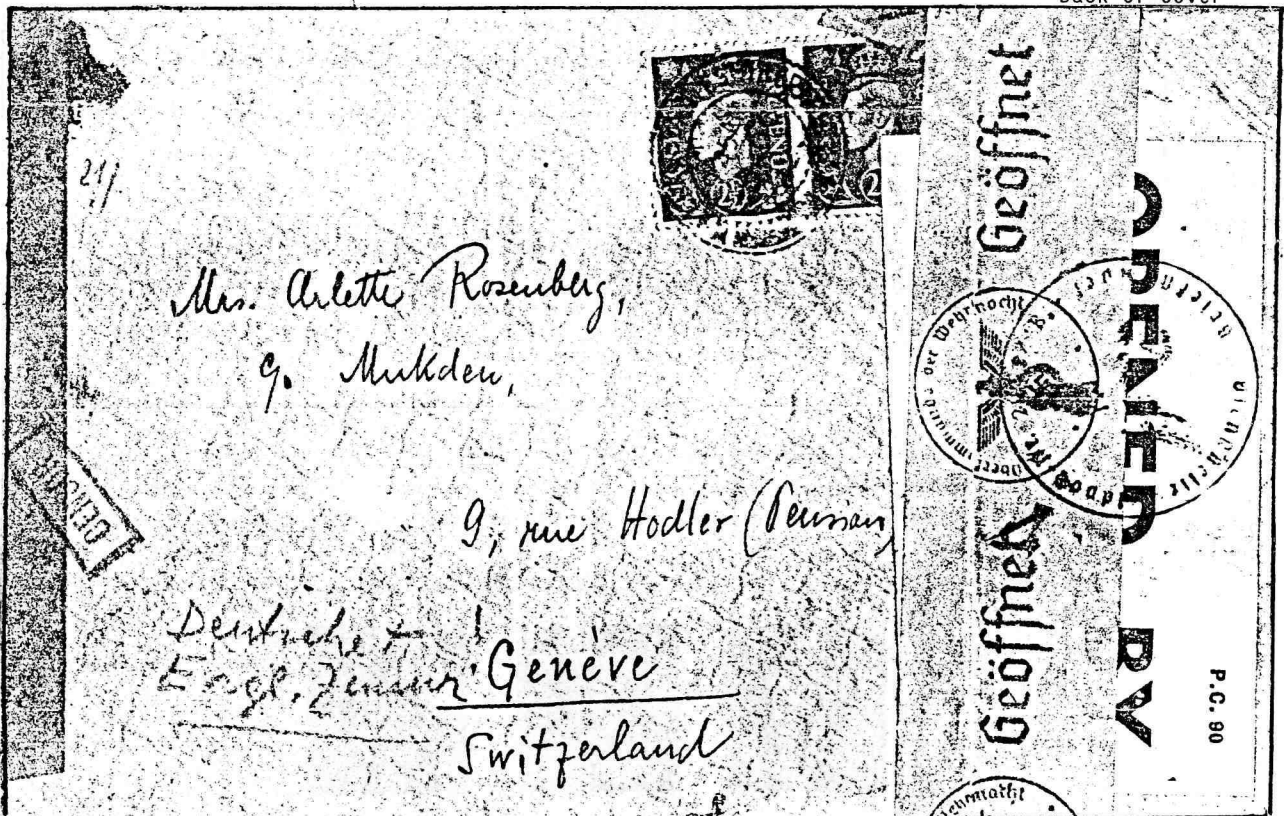
We continue to receive a number of interesting queries from members and non-members of the Society, however, it is noted that the response in answering these has not been as good as the Editor hoped when commencing this column. If we are to help one another (even if the query seems elementary) solve problems we should like to publish an answer albeit 'nothing known' so please do your best to assist the Editor. Occasionally someone submits a query in order to further a study and requests a reply direct - we hope that in due course further information received will result in a paper for publication.

Back of cover with boxed Censor on plain brown label.



Q1: From Alan Brown of the Forces PHS. Cover dated 15.6.1942 with Czech boxed FPO - what does the initials N.T.-P.R. stand for? Is the boxed Censor or Czech origin?

Back of Cover



Q2: From Alan Brown. Cover dated 5.10.1942 to Geneva. Boxed Censor? Czech origin? German Censor en route on top of British PC label.

QUERY CORNER c'td

Q3: From John Daynes of Forces PHS. Registered Envelope with boxed Censor on plain brown label. Letter dated 7.9.1942

<p>This space is reserved</p> <p>R LONDON, W. 13 No 3883</p>	<p>REGISTERED LETTER.</p> <p>THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.</p> <p>THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.</p>	
<p>PTE. WALTER ROSENBERG N.T. - P.R.</p>		
<p>CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES LONDON</p> <p>FEE PAID.</p>		
<p>Name and Address of Sender</p> <p><i>M. Williams</i> <i>37, ...</i> <i>...</i></p>		
<p>Compensation.</p>		
<p>Subject to the limitations and conditions notified in the Post Office Guide, the registration fee for loss or damage of an Inland Registered Letter, and up to £2 for the entire loss of a Registered Letter sent to a place abroad. Full information is given in the Guide about registration and insurance for higher amounts.</p>		<p>and conditions notified in the Post Office Guide, the registration fee of 2d. covers compensation up to £5 Registered Letter, and up to £2 for Letter sent to a place abroad. Full information is given in the Guide about registration and insurance for higher amounts.</p>

Q4: From David Williams of Magyar PSGB. This item found in recent auction lot - relating to Olomouc in Czechoslovakia ? what were these stamps issued for ? If they are of any interest to anyone Mr Williams would be agreeable to dispose of these stamps.

