

CZECHOUT

Whole No. 40

Volume 3

(c) Czechoslovak PS of GB 1985

Quarterly

Edition 3:85

ISSN 0142-3525

EDITORIAL

In this issue we have a continuation of a study by Alec Page on the Czech Army Field Post Office, a new discovery by Colin Smith of a Slovakia issue; and the response by members to the Editor's remarks concerning "Query Corner". The contributions by A Jack Stoyel and George Connelly will be published in Czechout 4:85. A further 'Story behind the Stamps' by Alan Knight completes this issue.

This is the penultimate number of Czechout under the pen of your present Editor, and we are delighted to announce that a new Editor has been found, all will be revealed at the Annual General Meeting in November, and in Czechout 4:85.

Colin W Spong
Chairman & Editor

SOCIETY MEETING ON SATURDAY 15 JUNE 1985

The Chairman, Mr Spong welcomed 9 members and one visitor to the meeting at Leeds and apologies were received from the President, Treasurer, and 10 other members.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 16 March 1985, having been circulated in Czechout, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman presented Certificates to those successful winners of the Society Competitions who were present.

Membership

The following nominations for membership of the Society were approved by the meeting:-

Mr James Negus (London), Mr Peter Valentine (Leeds), Mr A. Wheatcroft (Sheffield), Mr James Howell (Southend), and Mr Harry Punter (Merseyside).

Display

There being no further business to discuss the following members were invited to display their material:-

Mr John Whiteside showed Thimble Postmarks 1867-73

Mrs Yvonne Wheatley - Forerunners of Czechoslovakia

Mr Brian Day - Pre-stamp Entires

Mr Alec Page - 50 years from 1822 - Decorative and Thimble Cancellations

Mr John Whiteside then gave members a further delightful display of Czech Postal History with the town cancellations arranged in alphabetical order, followed by a selection of covers and stamps bearing varying GABLONZ cancellations.

The Chairman thanked the members for providing such an interesting afternoon, and Mrs Yvonne Wheatley for making the room arrangements (also the Dinner which followed), and the Leeds Philatelic Society for loan of display frames. The meeting then closed at 5.0 pm.

LIBRARY

Through the kindness of members D Keith Jones and Colin Spong, a selection of press cuttings of articles on Czech philately by various authors; are now available for loan.

A copy of 'Guidelines to Successful Exhibiting' by Franceska Rapkin FRPSL has been donated by the British Philatelic Federation.

D Yvonne Gren
Honorary Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

At a recent meeting of the France & Colonies Southern Group in Worthing, a display was given by Derek Richardson on 'French Internment Camps 1939-43' amongst those used was a camp at Agde. Derek mentioned a book entitled "With the help of Thomas" by Ingrid Wolf, published by Robert Hale, London 1980. It is an account by an Austrian woman who married a Czech army officer in France, who was posted to Agde (was this the same camp as used for Spanish militiamen interned during the Spanish Civil War?). This could be discovered via the Public Library system for any information on Czech Forces.

Member Jeffrey Kalp is looking for Cinderella material ie., Fiscals, Revenue, Exhibition and other labels.... any offers - address via the Hon. Secretary. Also member Harry Punter who collects Perfins would be happy to receive details of where he could update supplement's to Maxa's Catalogue of Czech Perfins, any material, and information on an elaborate 'R' discovered on SG 374 not in the catalogue.

We are sorry to hear of the serious illness of Jane Sterba's husband, and send our sincere good wishes to them both. Member Lindy Knight was prevented from attending the Leeds meeting by illness and we hope that she has recovered now.

Lindy Knight recently won the Civil Service award for First Entrant Display, and husband Alan came second in the Postal History class at the Yorkshire Federation Convention Annual Competitions. This was on behalf of the Scunthorpe & District PS. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to Brian and Betty Day on the birth of their third grandchild, to Dr Garth Taylor who has been elected President of Loughborough PS; to Yvonne Gren on second term as Chairman of Shoreham by Sea PS, and becoming the Hon. Secretary of the Worthing PS; and to Colin Spong on election to the Society of Postal Historians as an Associate.

Alan & Lindy Knight hope to visit Czechoslovakia later this 'Summer' and will make some inquiries re stamp auctions organised by the Postal Philatelic Service (POFIS) in Prague. Any results will be arranged via the Honorary Secretary as regarding Catalogues.

WHAT THE PAPERS' SAY

Bob Black recently published an article in 'STAMPS & FOREIGN STAMPS' entitled "The Slovak National Uprising" pp. 47-48. ? February or March. He also had a similar article with more detail in the 'MILITARY MODELLING' of January 1985. Copies of these will be passed on to our Society Library.

'STAMP NEWS' of June 19, 1985 contained an article by Otto Hornung in his column "On my rounds" on Czechs in Siberia, whilst Peter Ibbotson's EUROPAGE mentions 'Liberation 40 years after.' on Czech philately.

CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

STAMPS OF HUNGARY Vol 4 No 10 June 1985

The Ghetto Postcards-Simády Nos 164/5 1944: M.Benford; The Hungarian Parcel Forms: Dr Bela Simády; The New Currency-was it 1926 or 1927?: J.Dixon-Nuttall; Interned Poles of WW2-The Hungarian Experience:T.J.Gobby; Perfin 82 issue:J.Off; The KuK Detachment in Peking:N.Gabor. Book Review of CPSGB Monograph on Carpatho-Ukraine:D.M.Williams.

AUSTRIA Summer 1985 No 72

The 1985 issues:J.F.Giblin; The First Issue of Austria According to H.Kropf:J.F.Giblin; Illustrating your collection:K.Iranmer; Newspaper Stamp Issues of 1851-1867:trnl by J.F.Giblin; Stamps of the 2nd Republic-Pt 13 (1966 issues part 2); Centenary: Registration Labels 15.3.1885; The 7th World Scout Jamboree Bad Ischl 1951:H.Aichinger; trnl by JG.

We are sorry to hear of the difficulties our sister society in the United States is having in publishing 'The Czechoslovak Specialist' and send our best wishes for a speedy solution to the problem, and look forward to seeing a future number.

CWS

SPECIAL NOTICE Due to forthcoming exams for professional studies and a part-time degree course at Kent University, Colin Smith will be unable to offer himself for re-election as Honorary Packet Secretary at the AGM. We urgently need a volunteer to take this over from Colin, and if you value all the hard work and dedication that Colin has put into this 'most useful service to the Society' please do not let this appeal fall on deaf ears! We are extremely lucky to have had an excellent packet Secretary.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY - The return to Europe - some unanswered questions
by W Alec Page FRPSL

Having had the opportunity of examining further examples of mail originating from the Czechoslovak Army Units serving with the Allied Forces in Europe, through correspondence with other collectors; one in particular in Italy, there poses a number of so far unanswered questions surrounding the mails from the time of the 'D' Day landings in 1944 through to the latter part of 1945.

Although an integral part of the Allied Forces (British Land Army) the Czechoslovaks were provided with their own Field Post Office cancellers (see Monograph No.1 Page 33 Fig. 45.)

Mail was censored in a similar manner to that of other units of the BLA and standard shield type censor stamps were allocated to the various units of the Czechoslovak army (see Czechout No.4/83 Pages 43/44.)

Seventeen individual units are identified by the censor stamps so allocated, but it is unlikely that all these units were together or that they departed for France at the same time. It has not been definitely established whether or not Czechoslovak Units were actually in the 'D' Day landings. However from subsequent souvenir folders seen bearing French stamps it is more likely that the Czechoslovaks followed later. (This is borne out by the souvenir dated 3rd September 1944 and illustrated on Page 71 of the supplement to Monograph No 1)

Similarly it is not known which units remained in the United Kingdom, or when these units eventually embarked for Europe.

Censoring of the Czechoslovak Army mails commenced in England on 22nd May 1944, from which time the letters were stamped with the shield type censor stamps, also signed or initialled. Mails cannot therefore be readily identified as originating from the United Kingdom or Europe, without some more detailed knowledge of the movements and dates of the individual units.

It appears that once the Czechoslovak units had arrived back in Czechoslovakia the security of location was no longer important and the mails are identified with the senders name, unit and address. Nevertheless they still carry the Field Post Office cancellation and the shield type censor stamp.

The latest date of use of the Field Post Office cancellor seen by the writer is 29th September 1945, but this item of mail does not bear any censor stamp. Censoring of mails ended officially on 1st June 1945 throughout the European theatre of war. The Czechoslovaks however, continued to use censor stamps after this date as a "unit identification." As such they were no longer signed or initialled.

Mail from the Czechoslovak units back in Czechoslovakia is therefore found with the shield type censor stamp, the British type Field Post Office cancellation or a Czechoslovak civilian cancellation. It is interesting to note that this mail is inscribed "Polni Postou", instead of the "Active Service" on the earlier mail.

Another twist to the overall lack of information is that some of the Czechoslovak units were with the American Army, and the mail whilst still being cancelled with the British type Field Post Office cancellor, shows an origin address linked to United States APO's. Two items of mail dated July 1945 give an origin of APO 655 U.S.Army. (Both are from different senders.)

To summarise therefore the following information is sought before a more detailed appraisal can be made of the mails of the period.

1. Original dates of departure from the United Kingdom of each identifiable Unit of the Czechoslovak Army. The locations of the Units remaining.
2. Dates and locations in Europe.
3. Dates and locations of Units with the Americans.
4. Dates of arrival of individual units back in Czechoslovakia.
5. Dates of the discontinuation of use of:-
 - a) British Field Post Office type cancellors.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY c'td

b) British Shield type censor stamps.

Any reader that can help with such details or can put the writer in touch with a source of information is asked to communicate direct with the writer and not the Editor. (138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 3LG.)

Illustrations on pages 113/114 are from the collection of Signor Gipinni Caceci, Verona, Italy.

NEW DISCOVERY by Colin D Smith

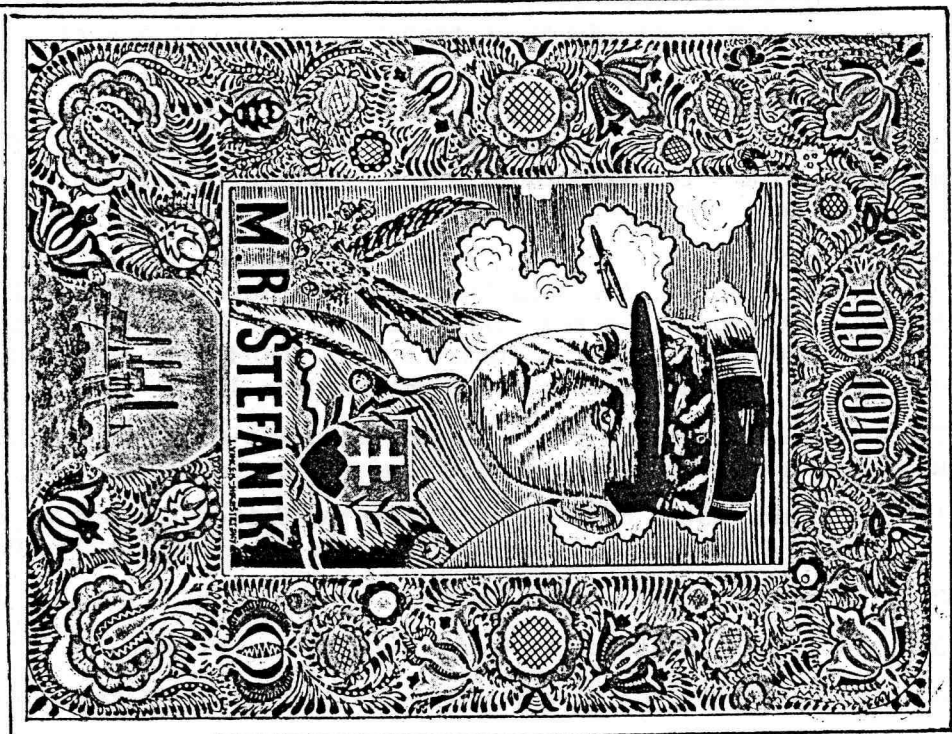
I have recently acquired the following postcard bearing the SLOVAKIA issue of May 1939 commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the death of General Milan Stefanik. All major catalogues only note this issue as prepared but not issued to post office.



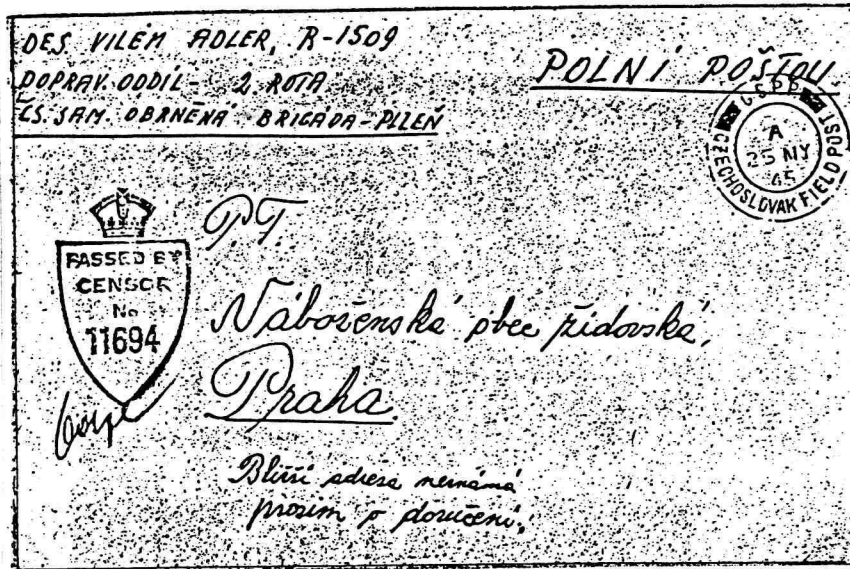
Two of the four values that were issued are shown on the card (40h,60h,1k,2k.) plus one of the values of (2 x 60h) issued to commemorate the Rev. Josef Murgas 10th anniversary of death. (1.20k the second value.) This is tied by a Slogan cancel, and the two Stefanik values by a auto-posta cancel.

Slovak censor marks and the German censor mark used in Bohemia & Moravia are seen. The reverse of the card has an engraved portrait of the late General Stefanik.

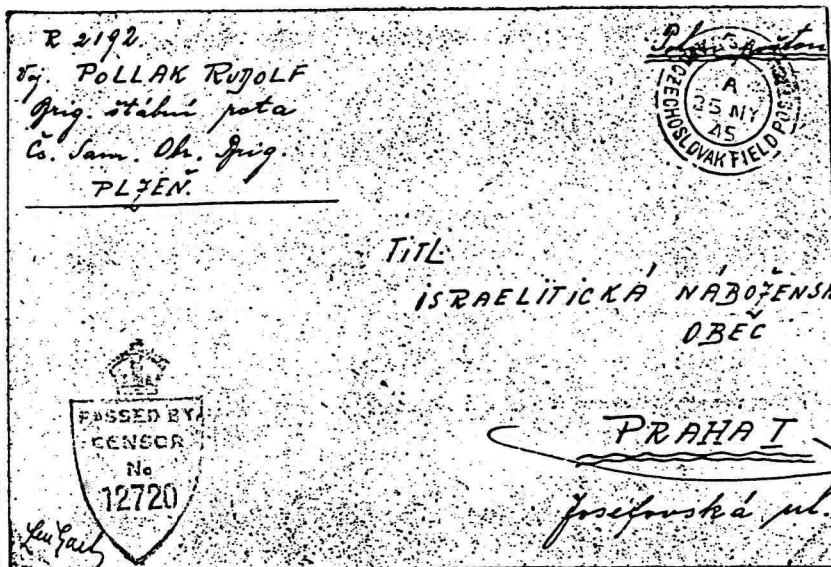
As any member seen other examples?



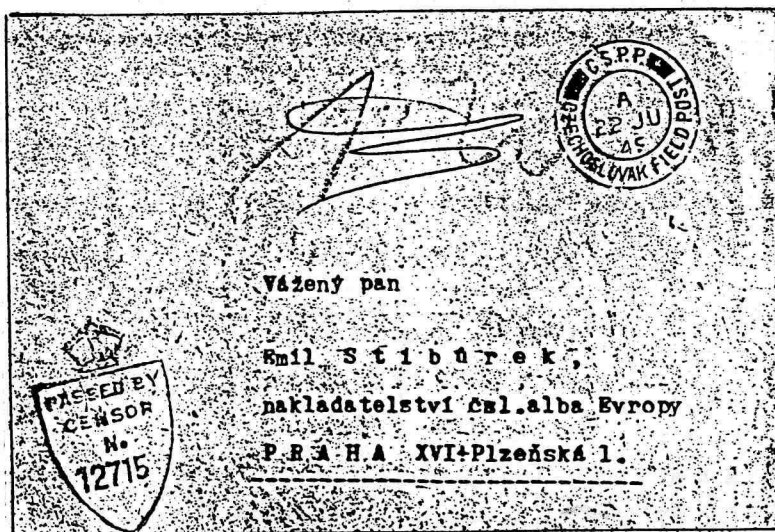
CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY illustrations of FPO Cancellations



25th May 1945
 C.S.P.P. Cancel
 Origin: No 2 Squadron
 Armoured Brigade
 Pilsen.
 Censor No 11694 allocated to
 Transport Unit - Czechoslovak
 Independent Armoured Brigade
 (C.I.A.B.)
 Censor stamp signed.

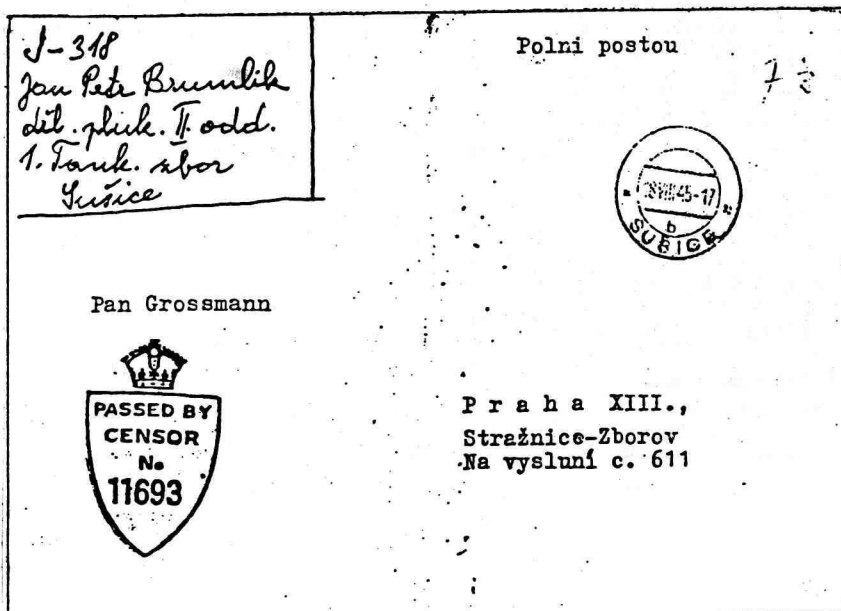
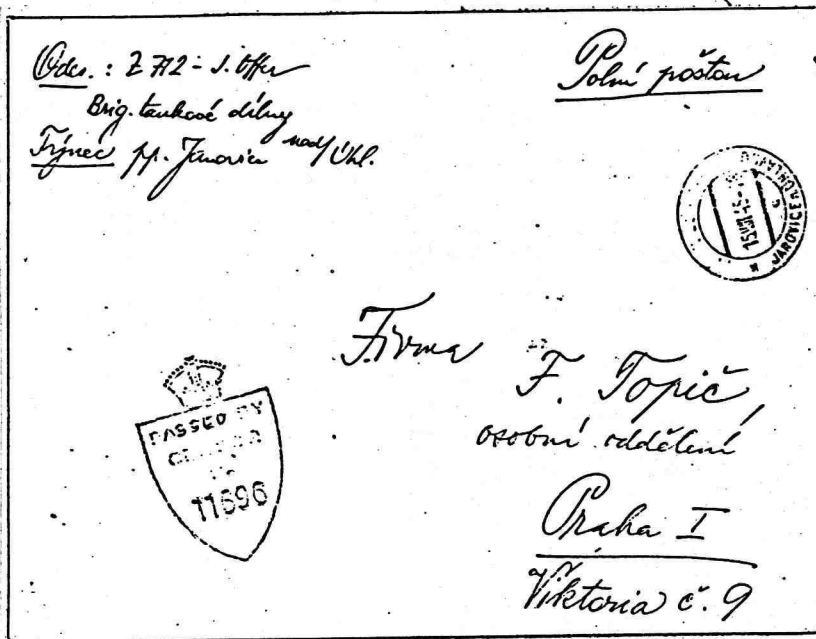
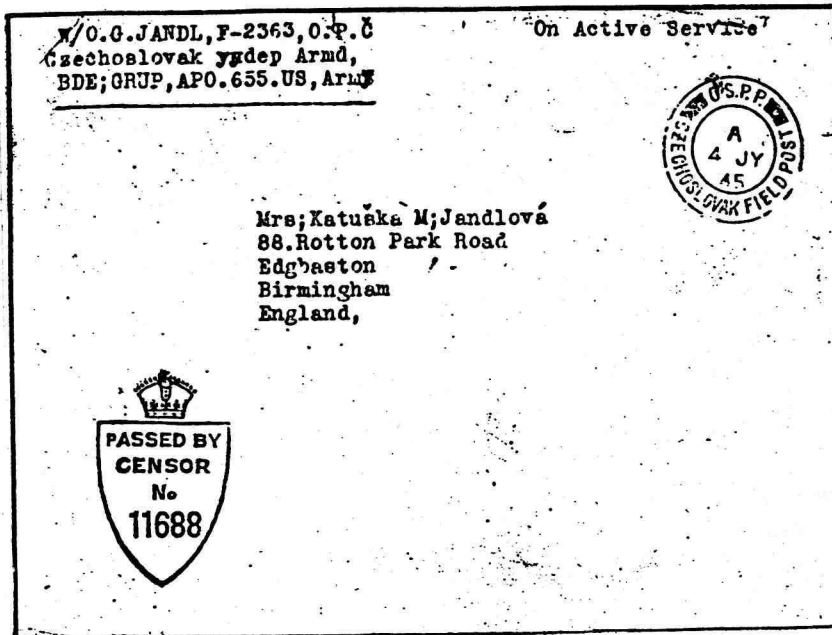


25th May 1945
 C.S.P.P. Cancel
 Origin: Brigade Staff
 Squadron Pilsen
 Censor No 12720 allocated to
 Brigade Staff Squadron
 (C.I.A.B.)
 Censor stamp signed.



22nd June 1945
 C.S.P.P. Cancel
 Origin: Not shown
 Censor No 12715 allocated to
 Motorised Scouting Unit
 (C.I.A.B.)
 Censor stamp unsigned.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY: illustrations of FPO Cancellations



JAN ÁMOS KOMENSKÝ (1592-1620)

My story this time is related to the set of stamps issued on 28 March, 1957 commemorating the 300th anniversary of the publication of Komenský's great work "Opera Didactica Omnia" (The Great Didactic of 1657) - Pofis 928-931 / SG 967-970.

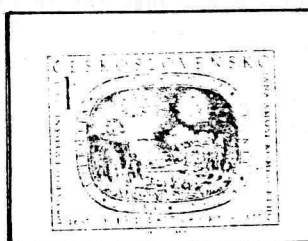
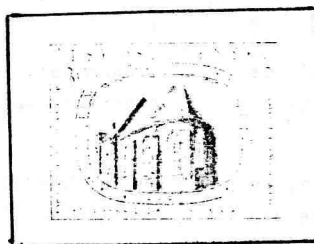
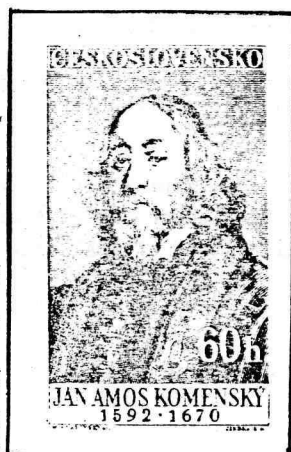
Better known by the English names of John Amos Comenius, Komenský was born of poor parents who were members of a Protestant group then known as the Bohemian Brethren. They both died when Komenský was only 12 years of age and after four miserable years he was sent to school in Přešov (central Moravia). Recognising a gifted lad, a certain headmaster befriended him and encouraged Komenský to train for the ministry. Later, after much travelling, he came to Heidelberg, Germany where he was taught by Protestant millennialists that (so they said) mankind could achieve salvation on earth. The outbreak of the Thirty Years' War however, forced Komenský and other protestants to flee the country. With a band of fellow Brethren he eventually reached Leszno, Poland and it was here that he took on the mantle of an educational reformer. He deeply believed that teachers should always 'follow in nature's footsteps' meaning that they should always pay attention to the minds of children and the way children learned. This was the theme running through his 'THE GREAT DIDACTIC' and also a further work - 'THE SCHOOL OF INFANCY', a book for mothers dealing with childhood's early years. Another work of Komenský's was his 'THE VISIBLE WORLD IN PICTURES' (Orbis Sensualium Pictus) which became the forerunner of the illustrated schoolbooks of later times.

Among some other reforms which he advocated were milder discipline; the use of the vernacular instead of Latin in the first schools (primary) and free, universal but compulsory education for the children of all social classes.

Komenský remained a deeply religious person however and following his election as a bishop of his church in 1632 he turned his attention to Christian unity and became well-known at home and abroad for his ecumenical beliefs. His development of a universal system of human knowledge among all men and nations referred to above, led to his visiting England where he read with enthusiasm the works of Francis Bacon which helped to convince him that the mellenium could be attained with the assistance of science. From England, Komenský went to Sweden in 1642, being employed there in helping to reform the nation's school system.

In 1650 he founded a pansophic school in Hungary, intending it to be a model for other nations to follow but conflicts compelled him to return to Poland in 1655. Following the destruction of Leszno in 1656 he fled to Amsterdam, Holland and remained there until his death on 4 November 1670.

The stamps issued by Czechoslovakia in 1957 showed Komensky at work (40h), and the man (60h). The 1Kcs carries an illuminated page from his "Opera Didactica Omnia" and his Mausoleum in Holland is the subject of the 30h stamp.



QUERY CORNER:

The Editor's comments have had an amazing result! at least 8 members wrote in with answers to the Q.4; and one with answer to Q1,2 & 3 of Czechout 2:85. Plus an answer to Query in Czechout 4:84. Please keep up the good work!

Member George Connelly writes - the answer to Eric D Colpitts (Isle of Man Philatelic Federation) is most interestingThis consists of one of the rarest of Czechoslovak cancellations which was issued on the occasion of a visit by General B.L. Montgomery to Prague on 22 September 1945. The boxed DOSLO DNA means arrival day and is normally followed by a date. It is in the Slovak language. The cancellation was issued at Prague 10 Hrad (Prague 10 Castle); on the visit of Marshall Sir B.L. Montgomery 22.IX.1945. The stamps are the 1k red of the Moscow issue of July 5, 1945, and the 5h stamp of the London issue of August 18, 1945 with a picture of Staff Captain Vasatko (one of the De La Rue printings of the War Heroes set.)

Member M. Mirtl writes re Q1,2 and 3 of Czechout 2:85 - the initials N.T. - P.R. stand for 'Czech Censor Field Post Office' Nahradne Teleso Pomocna Rota, Headquarters Company.

I thank- members M.Mirtl, G.Connolly, J.L.Whiteside, J.J.Verner, S.Asklund, E.Skovbo Jensen, A. Jack Stoyel, and R.H. McGavin for their contributions to Q.4 of Czechout 2:85; two of whom wrote complete articles. A summary of these is contained in the following -

"Due to the shortage of newspaper stamps, primarily Austrian Newspapers and publications were given permission to pay the fee in cash and to mark papers "Franko Hotove Zaplaceno" (fee paid). Some papers used printed labels with this inscription, some used rubber stamps. The use of the labels was permitted until the new republic's newspaper stamps were issued. The provisional newspaper stamps are sought after especially used on newspaper wrappers. They were cancelled at destination post office, not the place the newspaper was issued. The Olomouc label refers to the paper 'Nasinec' S.A.; JJV; MM and RHMcG."

E. Skovbo Jensen writes - "The Dennik Našinec Olomouc stamps are a private emergency newspaper issue from 1918. Due to lack of newspaper stamps the posting of newspapers was paid in cash at the post offices. The publishers were allowed (but it was no duty) to frank the newspapers with their own 'homemade' stamps, and if they did so, the stamps were postmarked. Wrappers with postmarked stamps are fairly rare, whilst unused stamps are fairly common. As far as I know Dennik is the name of the publisher. Nasinec means "One of Ours". The text in the middle says 'Postage paid in cash.' The Czechoslovak specialised catalogues mention 33 different stamps from as many publishers."

John Whiteside writes - "The stamps illustrated are an example of the provisional newspaper stamps produced in the very early months of the Czechoslovak Republic, November and December 1918.

Stocks of Austrian Newspaper stamps were low and new Czech ones did not appear until 18th December 1918. These did not get into full circulation for some weeks.

Order Number 121/g-18 of the Ministry of Posts, dated 19th November 1918, gave permission for the proprietors of newspapers and journals to prepay copies to subscribers in bulk, in cash, each item to be marked with a handstamp or label to indicate that this had been done. The wording recommended being 'Franko. Hotove zaplaceno.' Prepaid in cash.

In all, 21 journals produced adhesive labels for this purpose and others produced handstamps, of which 19 have so far been recorded.

The item shown in the question is the label produced by the journal 'Našinec' in the city of Olomouc. It was a daily newspaper (Dennik). It seems likely that the item shown may be a complete sheet.

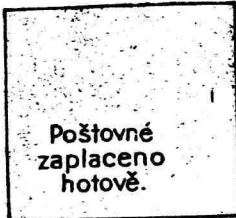
When the labels were used, they did not receive the cancellation of the office of posting, but that of destination. This carried on the practice of the Austrian Empire in the treatment of bulk posted printed matter.

The exact date when the practice of using these labels or handstamps was suppressed is not known to me, but I believe it was probably during the early part of January 1919. The total period of use is thus only about 6 to 8 weeks. They are a most interesting facet of the early Postal History of the Czech Republic.

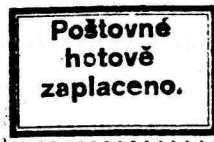
For further information on the items, the following references are useful:-

- 1) Specializovaný katalog - Praga 1978, p.303 (a simple listing of the journals using labels and handstamps.)
- 2) Monografie Československých Známek - Vol.1, pp.36-38 (more detail, with brief descriptions and some illustrations).
- 3) Speciální Průsůčka pro Sběratele Československých Známek - Ladislav Novotný, pp.420-426 (a very much more detailed and helpful listing.)

It is interesting to note that references 1 and 3 list 12 different handstamps, whereas reference 2 lists 19. Some examples of other issues of the labels illustrated, with two used ones.



"LLOYD" of Prague, the second of two types.



"ČESKÉ MERKUR of Prague" the first of ten different types.



"NÁRODNÍ POLITIKA" of Prague. Text 'GRATIS' for sending free copies to Army Hospitals.

PRÁCE of Prague. Reprint made after the service was suppressed. Complete sheet of four.



"NÁRODNÍ POLITIKA" of Prague

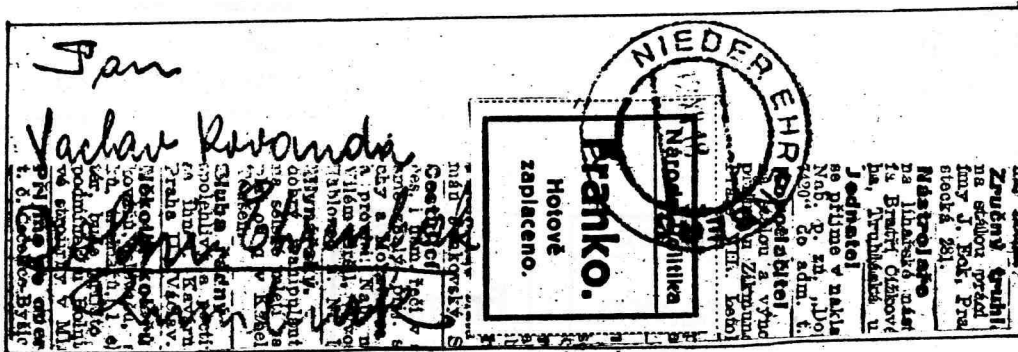


"ČESKÉ SLOVO" of Prague. Second type. Complete sheet of 8.

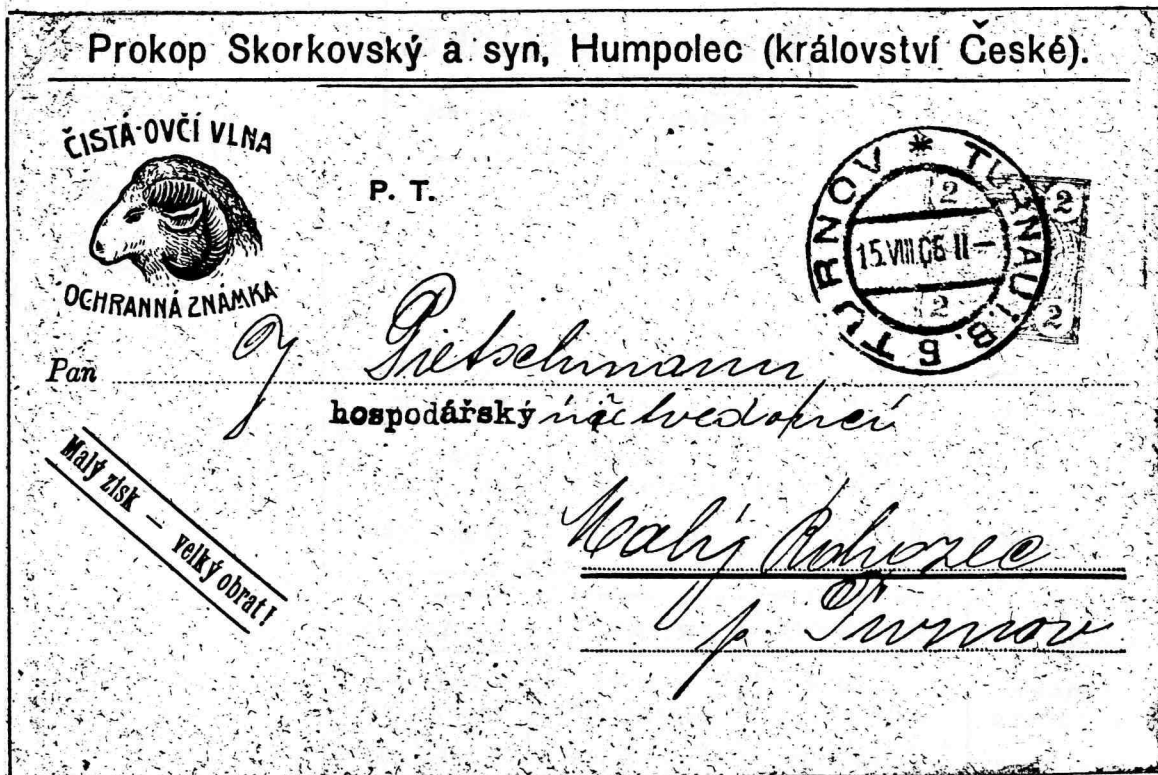




"NAŠINEC" of Olomouc. On part wrapper to ZNOJMO, showing cancellation on arrival of 21st December 1918.



"NÁRODNÍ POLITIKA" of Prague. On newspaper to DOLNI EHRENBORK, near RUMBURK, 12th December 1918. Cancelled on arrival.



1906: Printed Matter envelope from HUMPOLEC to TURNOV. Illustrating the practice of cancellation on arrival of bulk mailings.