

CZECHOUT

Whole No. 44

Volume 4

(c) Czechoslovak PS of GB

Quarterly

Edition 3:86

ISSN 0142-3525

EDITORIAL:

Due to production difficulties and the impending resignation of your Editor on the grounds of other commitments; Alec Page and I have combined to produce this and the next issue, until a new Editor is appointed at the Annual General Meeting. We are sorry that Bob has only been able to produce two issues, but wish him well in his new venture.

Colin W Spong FRPSL
Acting Editor

SOCIETY MEETING ON SATURDAY 15 MARCH 1986

A joint meeting was held at Leeds comprising members of the Czechoslovak, Polish, Austrian, Hungarian and Yugoslav Philatelic Societies; hosted by the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain, the meeting took the form of a mass display of some of the Societies better philatelic material and was well attended.

Each Society exhibited 120 sheets and those from our Society were:-

Alec Page - Czech covers, stamped and pre-stamped forerunners
Alan Knight - Austrian Fieldpost cards from WW1 Czech territories
John Whiteside - Postage dues of Austrian Empire and Czechoslovakia
Lindy Knight - First Czech stationery and the National Theatre
Brian Day - Czech provisional practices 1918-20

With excellent displays to enjoy and the services of two dealers including a number of books of interest to philatelists, the members present thoroughly had a good 'philatelic' day out!

SOCIETY MEETING ON SATURDAY 14 JUNE 1986

The Chairman Reginald Hounsell welcomed 24 members and one visitor to the meeting held in the Czechoslovak National Club, and after the business part had been dealt with, the members were entertained by Mr Arthur H Godden, Librarian of the Austrian Stamp Club. Mr Godden gave a beautifully presented display of Pneumatic Mail, after explaining the Pneumatic Postal System from its inception at Vienna in 1875, and later at Prague in 1899, members saw a variety of postal stationery, cancellations and postal markings, telegraph stamps and photographs of the equipment used.

The second part of the display covered mail from other European cities.

SOCIETY MEETING ON SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 1986

The Chairman Reginald Hounsell welcomed 23 members and two visitors, with apologies from four members. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 June were read confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Alan Knight had two spare copies of *Mongrafie Československých Známeč* No 4, these were available for sale. The Secretary gave notice of the special Society Display being held in conjunction with the British Philatelic Exhibition in October.

Membership: The applications from Mr N.Hudson (Ellesmere Port), and Mr R.Pizer (Churchdown), were approved by the members present.

MEETINGS C'td

The Chairman presented a competition certificate to W Alec Page. The Honorary Life President, Mrs Kay Goodman FRPSL, then took the chair, and introduced the Display which was to be given by the Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

Mr Brian Day in his introduction of the SOKOL MOVEMENT, explained how the origins of this movement came from the search for independence by the Czechs and Slovaks, and how it evolved from a special Congress held in Vienna in 1848. Both Messrs Hounsell and Day then showed through a series of pictorial postcards, stamps, and special cachets. However, the movement grew and survived through the teachings of Miroslav Tyrš, his friends and followers. Mr Reginald Hounsell introduced a visitor, Mr D. Turton who proceeded to give a graphic account of his recent visit to Prague and the last Spartakiade held there in 1985.

Mr Robert McLeod thanked, Mr Day, Mr Hounsell and Mr Turton for a really lovely display which had provided a most interesting afternoon for all those present.

The meeting closed at 5.0 pm.

CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

AUSTRIA Spring 1986 No 75 : Collecting Pre-stamp covers; Stamps of the 2nd Republic-pt 15 (1968); First issue of Austria accord-to Kropf (4); Austrian Airmail; Russian FPSs During 1849 Austrian Campaign in Hungary; The Post in Austrian Netherlands;
AUSTRIA Summer 1986 No 76 : New Issues in 1986; Mauthausen Camp: New Discovery; Stamps of the 2nd Republic -pt 15 1968 (2); Notes on the Translation of Austrian Philatelic Terms; The 1858 Postage Stamp Issue.

STAMPS OF HUNGARY June 1986 No 85 : Czechoslovak Stamps used in Hungary; The KUK Detachment in Peking; Why no clear postmark; Inflation and Permit Stamps; Meghatazmazá's - Érvényes Overprints;

CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Apr 86: Expertising; New Issues; Price Rupert (1596-?); Graphicist discovered as Forger.
May 86: Kleine Post Prag (Prague City Post); The Hussite Issue-Some recent observations; TG Masaryk Issue 1920-125h Variety; Rocking the boat;
June 86: Ameripex Awards; Ameripex in the Afterglow; New Issues; Monografie Vol.4 Makes long awaited debut.

These publications may be borrowed from the Library

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Member Leroy Brown of Italy (address from Hon. Secretary) has a collection for sale covering 1945-46. Covers, cards, early postal stationery, registered etc on Linden leaf, Masaryk and early comm's. Post Dues and Bohemia & Moravia issues overprinted.

A number of Czech correspondents have written in for exchange partners -

Jiri Mišun, PO Box 79, 75701 VALAŠSKÉ MEZIRŘÍČÍ, ČSSR : interests British Antarctic Territory incl FDC for ČSSR incl. FDC. Can write in English or Polish.

Horský Miloš, Hradni 5, 270 23 KRIVOKLÁT, ČSSR. Interests GB for ČSSR, Poland, Hungary, USSR, E.Germany
Mirek Reznik, 2D Fibicha 1205, 75701 Valašské Meziříčí, ČSSR. Interests Stamps of N. Europe for ČSSR, including 1918-39.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Novotny Catalogue 1970; Teach Yourself Czech; Billig's Catalogue Vol.10 'The Hradcany'; Perfins from Czechoslovakia; The Town that Changed its Name; Austro-Hungarian Infantry 1914-18; and Monografie Československých Známeč Vol.4.

President Masaryk by Street; donated by member B. Goodwin (L'ton).

Fred Gren

Honorary Librarian

THE RUSSIAN FIELD POST OFFICES during the Austro/Russian Campaign in Hungary 1849
by I.W. Roberts, with Historical introduction by Mervyn Benford MA.

(This article has appeared in 'Rossica', 'Stamps of Hungary', and 'Austria', and we are grateful to the author for supplying copy to appear in Czechout.)

Historical introduction:

The first half of the 19th Century witnessed an almost universal rise in Nationalism. This tendency was particularly marked in Hungary. Already in the 1830's pressure grew in the Diet for Constitutional Rights based on Magyar nationalism. In 1835 Magyar was permitted as an alternative to Latin in the Courts. In 1840, Magyar became the official language of the Diet and in 1844, the sole language of administration and commerce in all the Hungarian Crown Lands. This measure, of course, ensured the antagonism of the Slovak, Romanian, Transylvanian Saxon and, especially, the Croat minorities.

Just as Paris was the European centre of Liberalism, Vienna was the bastion of Conservatism. When workers and Students rioting in Vienna in 1848 (one of 20 cities from Seville to Poznan to see the revolutionary barricades in that year) led to the dismissal of Metternich and the summoning by the Emperor Ferdinand of a Constituent Assembly in March, this quickly encouraged a nationalistic ferment in several of the Crown Provinces. Sardinia-Piedmont declared war in an attempt to liberate Lombardy & Venetia; the Emperor was forced to recognise the "Rights of the Bohemian Crown", and the Hungarians under Kossuth, Szechenyi and Deak had by the 'March Laws' obtained an independant administration.

By the middle of May, the Court was sheltering in Innsbruck from the riots in Vienna. Deputations of Slovaks, Romanians, Vojvodina Serbs and Croats protesting at the "March Laws" were received, but as it was hoped to obtain Hungarian reinforcements for Radetzky's hard pressed troops in Italy, no concessions could be made.

However, by August, the tide had turned. In July, Radetzky had decisively defeated the Italians at Custozza. Risings in Cracow and Prague had already been put down. The middle class and peasants, aghast at the revolutionary spectre, had thrown their weight behind the established Order. At this point the coalition forming the Hungarian Diet fell apart. The Liberals and Kossuth proposed to repudiate the Hungarian share of the National Debt whilst retaining all other advantages of Union with the other Crown Provinces, a suggestion unlikely to appeal to Vienna. Resignation followed recrimination, and at the beginning of September, the Imperial Court authorised the Croats under Ban Jellacic to march on Budapest.

Thus commenced the eleven month Hungarian War. On 2nd December Ferdinand abdicated in favour of his 18 year old nephew, Franz Joseph, who was not pledged to uphold the "March Laws". Windischgraetz and Jellacic captured Pest, but Kossuth, aided by the Polish exiles Bem and Dembinsky retreated into Transylvania. On 14th April 1849 the Hungarians at Debrecen, proclaimed the deposition of the Habsburgs and the establishment of an independant state. This was too much for the Great Powers, and the Tsar who had already been asked for assistance and who was eager to act against the two Polish generals, quickly intervened.

By 11th August, Kossuth's position was hopeless, and he escaped to Turkey. Two days later, at Vilagos, the Hungarians capitulated to the Russians, and after a year of military occupation, courts martial and executions, had to wait until 1867 before they could successfully assert their nationalistic ambitions.

The Campaign:

In March 1849 the Austrian government was concerned that its own forces would not be able to defeat the Hungarian rebel armies without outside assistance. After

The Russian FPO's c'td:

considerable discussion and hesitation, Felix Schwarzenberg, the Austrian Prime Minister, appealed to Nicholas I, the Russian Tsar, for aid which was granted without delay. The final details were worked out at a meeting in Warsaw between Franz Joseph, the Austrian Emperor, Nicholas I and their advisers in May.

While these negotiations were taking place, an urgent request for aid to relieve the Austrian forces near Vienna was made in April. Prince Paskevich, the Russian Governor General of Poland and Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army, authorized the despatch of a composite infantry division commanded by General Panyutin by rail from Cracow to Austria (via Prussia). This division was initially quartered at Ungarisch Hradisch (Uherské Hradiště) in Moravia. After the threat to Vienna had passed, Panyutin's division remained with the Austrian army commanded by Haynau and fought with it throughout the campaign. It eventually linked up with the main Russian force in August in Southern Hungary.

The main Russian force entered Austria (Galicia) in May and crossed the Carpathians into Northern Hungary (Slovakia) in early June. This army was divided into two columns. Two other small groups remained in Moravia and Galacia to protect the rear and lines of communication. Another force divided into two columns entered Transylvania to assist the Austrian forces fighting there from the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia which had been occupied by the Russians in the summer of 1848. (An earlier Russian intervention made at the beginning of 1849 had been unsuccessful and the Russian forces had been compelled to withdraw.) The total strength of the combined Russian forces was about 192,000 men with about 60,000 horses. The campaign lasted about eight weeks and ended in a complete victory for the Austro-Russian forces, although the main part of the Hungarian Army under General Görgey surrendered to the Russians on 1st/13th August.

One of Paskevich's main concerns before the campaign began was to ensure that his troops had adequate supplies and transport. The Austrians had agreed to be responsible for supplies but, in the event, proved unable to do so and Paskevich was left to make his own arrangements. One of his expedients was to authorize the purchase of large numbers of oxen which could be used for haulage before being slaughtered to provide meat.

Paskevich could rely on the newly constructed railway from Warsaw to Cracow. This single track line connected at Cracow with the Austrian/Prussian railway from Vienna which had been opened in October 1847. (It was not until 1856 that it was possible to travel from Cracow to Vienna without passing through Prussia.) The despatch of mail and newspapers had begun in February 1848. From Cracow onwards transport was by horse and cart and Paskevich began to build up a large transport corps.

To assist him in his task, Prince Golitsyn, the Chief Post Master in Poland, agreed to release 200 vehicles and 400 horses from the normal postal service in Poland. In addition he was authorised to purchase 150 other vehicles and horses. Paskevich also agreed to the use of conscript soldiers as drivers. The vehicles were modified by being provided with tarpaulins mounted on posts, so that they could be used for carrying supplies, such as oats for the horses. In all, four so-called postal transport companies were formed.

In the convention drawn up in Warsaw on 29 May/10 June 1849 by the Austrian and Russian governments, the following articles dealt with postal matters:-

(a) Article XI

In the Headquarters there will be sufficient numbers of carriages with harnesses and postilions for the military post intended to link Headquarters with the ordinary post stations. If the Russian army advances in a direction where there is no regular postal service, Austria will supply gratis relay horses for the military post as far as the nearest postal route.

The Russian FPO's c'td(b) Article: XII

In addition, Austria will supply gratis:-

- (a) (Lists other services).
- (b) Regular postal services for the free transmission of letters and official packets.

Thus the onus for supplying postal services to the Russian forces while they were operating inside Austrian territory rested with the Austrian authorities. They themselves had set up their own field post office for their forces (First Army Corps) operating in Hungary as early as December 1848. In May 1849 they opened further offices for the Second & Third Army Corps, as well as the Southern Army which was operating in Southern Hungary (Croatia/Slavonia). These offices were closed at the end of 1849.

A number of the Russian officers who took part in the campaign wrote their memoirs and some of these contain references to the field post. After the campaign was over, an artillery officer wrote from Warsaw in a letter dated 25 September/7 - October 1849:-

"It was not possible to write from Hungary, because of the bad organisation of the Field Post Office which most naively requested us not to burden it with correspondence".

Another officer noted in his diary on 14/26 August 1849:-

"Arrived at Grosswardein (Oradea, now in Rumania) one day before the arrival of the division. Call in at the Field Post Office and find a huge room, filled to a depth of half an *arshin* (about 14 inches) with letters in disorder, not sorted into divisions and corps. In addition, there are also special packages which have not been opened. Stayed in this chaos for several hours and tracked down seven letters to Semyakin (a Russian general) from his wife." (Paskevich had established his Headquarters at Grosswardein at the end of the campaign).

Finally, in a lengthy account of the campaign published in a book entitled "*Four Wars*" by P.V. Alabin (Samara 1888) the author who was adjutant of the Kamchatka Jaeger Regiment stationed in the rear area of Kaschau (Košice, now in Slovakia) related the following incident from July 1849:-

"On orders of the General Staff all our communications with Headquarters were cut. Henceforth, until a special order was received, it was forbidden to send out not only convoys of convalescents, supply & artillery transports, but it was ordered to stop the posts travelling to Headquarters, even the couriers. The result was that our society was enlarged by interesting persons travelling from Saint Petersburg and Warsaw, from whom we heard a lot of news. Then, making use of the ban on further movement, the officials and postmen who were despatching the post from Russia in several transports, handed them over to our safe-keeping in the quantity of several tens of carts. For about three days we were busy sorting the post, trying to decide what should be sent to Headquarters at the first opportunity and what should be sent back on the route to Dukla (in Galicia) to the troops stationed in that area, and finally to determine what was ours, the troops in the Kaschau garrison. Happily our labours were not in vain: we had the pleasure of finding both letters and newspapers addressed to us. It is understandable with what joy we threw ourselves on them, not having received any news about our nearest since we had left Russia."

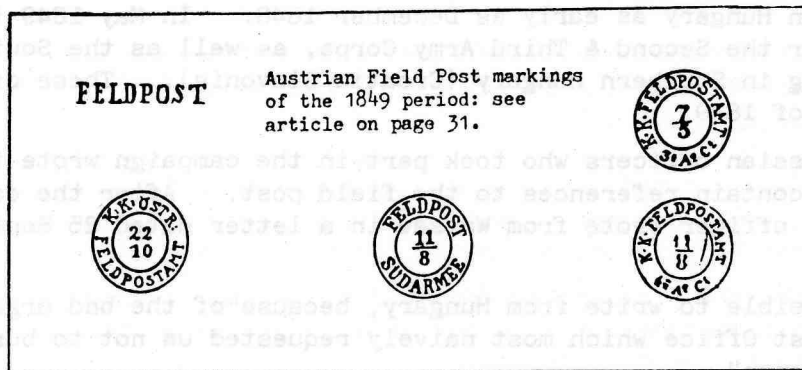
The above extracts show all too clearly that the postal service to the Russian forces did not function satisfactorily during the campaign. In his well known

The Russian TPO's c'td

handbook on the Russian Post, S.V. Prigara records no information about Russian mail during the campaign, apart from stating that the Russian forces had to make use of the Austrian Field Post Offices.

It is the author's hope that this short article will help to clarify the background to the functioning of the Russian Field Post Office during the campaign.

(The Editor acknowledges the use of the illustration of the Austrian Field Post Offices taken from the Spring 1986 issue of "AUSTRIA" journal of the Austrian SC.)

Conclusion

The author's own efforts to find a specimen letter sent to a Russian officer or despatched to Russia have so far proved unsuccessful. He would be very interested to hear more from any reader who can provide any further information on this little known episode in the history of the Russian Field Post Office.

Earlier this year an article was published in "FILATELIE", the title of which when translated is - "THE DEFEAT OF FRANCE". This related to the activities and the fate of the many exiles from Czechoslovakia in 1939 and beyond. Through the kindness of the author, my good friend Dr Miroslav Vostatek of Pardubice, and equally the help from Robert Kingsley, in providing a translation we are able to have the benefit of Dr Vostatek's research and personal contact with one member of such a family who did not 'escape' from France in 1940.

Below is an edited and shortened version of the article, supported by the illustrative material which accompanied it, and supplemented by additional material from my own collection.

W.A. Page FRPSL.

"THOSE THAT STAYED BEHIND" : FRANCE 1940 : Dr Miroslav Vostatek

The formation of a Czechoslovak Army had already started in France in 1939, the personnel being drawn from soldiers and civilians who had reached France from their homeland, often by long and arduous journeys. Volunteers also came from Spain, but the majority of the 12,000 or so men, making up the units were Czechoslovaks living in France, and some other Countries, at the time, including United Kingdom. It is interesting to record also that some refugees arriving in Poland, signed a five year commitment to enter the French Foreign Legion, there being little alternative to secure their freedom. However, there was invariably a condition attached to their signatures; in this case that in the event of war it should be made possible for Czechoslovak citizens to leave the Foreign Legion to join Czechoslovak Army units.

The birth of this fighting force eventually developed into the 1st Czechoslovak Infantry Division, comprising 3 Regiments and an Artillery Unit.

Those that Stayed Behind c'td

Although the Czechoslovak Army in France had its own Army Post, it was largely in the hands of the French. Firstly with a French Postal Sector handstamp S.P.2197 (Sector Postale), (Fig.1), then a normal French Army handstamp 'Postes aux Armees' (Fig.2), and finally a camp cancellation - Camp d'Agde, Herault. (Fig.3). Coincidentally with these cancellations further handstamps with a Czechoslovak motif were in use from February 1940. (See Monograph 1 & Supplement, pages 7 & 45).

When the Germans tore into France on 11th May 1940, several Czechoslovak Infantry and Artillery Units participated in the rearguard actions. However, in a short time France had been defeated and capitulated, to become part occupied and part a puppet state under Marshal Petain's Government at Vichy.

Out of the Czechoslovak Units involved, less than 5000 succeeded in reaching Great Britain, thus the question arises as to what became of the remaining 7000 out of the original 12,000. Historians claim that about 1600 men fell or were reported missing in the final battle, with the Artillery Units alone reporting losses of 30%. Others joined the underground and some managed to return to occupied Czechoslovakia. However, a large proportion of the soldiers remained in France, which was their home, and where their families lived.

(What follows is the story of one soldier who stayed behind, as graphically related to Dr Vostatek, together with the details of the postal communication facilities applicable to such persons.)

It was in 1926, when the family of our soldier (then aged 8 years) moved from Slovakia to France. He in common with many other Czechoslovaks obeyed the mobilisation order issued by the Czechoslovak National Council in Paris, and on 13th January 1940 he was attached to the Army. He served in the 7th Battalion of the 1st Infantry Regiment and trained at Agde.

Finally on 5th June 1940 he left for the front from Montignac in the Department of Herault. His family letters were given the customary free postage privilege and endorsed F.M. (Franchise Militaire). On such letters can be found a typical cancellation of the Czechoslovak Army Post Office, censor labels marked 'Controle' and an oval cachet* of the Army Censor with a number 3018. (Fig.4).

After the capitulation of France his Unit returned to Agde, (then in Vichy France) from where he wrote to his parents, on 31st July 1940 using an address "3rd Battalion, 1st Division, Camp d'Agde. At the time postal services between Vichy France and Occupied France was interrupted and on some letters, there appeared a well used cachet - "N'a pu être acheminée - Retour a l'envoyeur" (unable to deliver - return to sender.) (Fig.5).

He was soon demobbed and on 10th August 1940 he was, in common with other demobbed Czechoslovak Army personnel interned. He was forced to swear allegiance to the Petain Government and became a "prestataire" - a worker who had taken the oath. The former soldiers worked in units still with military discipline, doing such things as road building, and agricultural work.

Mail from these workers units is found bearing cachets - "Group of Foreign Workers, under oath 1^e 352 Chief of Group" (Fig.6).

Postal services between the two areas of France gradually resumed and the workers were permitted to write on officially authorised postal stationery, sold at 90 centimes. The format was in keeping with the times with a series of printed words e.g. "well, ill, injured" etc; and allowed for, according to the cachet "The prescribed instructions must be obeyed only two lines are permitted. Return to sender." (Fig.7.)

From September 1940 to February 1941 our internee was building roads and was housed in a camp at Premel. Recognition of the privilege of the use of F.M. (Franchise Militaire) ceased at the end of 1940 and mail was thereafter stamped. The

* sometimes described as elliptical.

Those that Stayed Behind c'td

official postal stationery also charged 90c. with the reverse of the card allowing for seven lines of written message. The card contained specific instructions viz: "This card is exclusively reserved for family correspondence." "It is permitted to write news of a family nature on 7 lines. It is strictly forbidden to write between the lines or communicate in any other way. It is recommended that you write legibly so as to facilitate censoring of letters by the German authorities. Any letters that do not conform to these instructions will not be forwarded and the price of the letter (card) will not be refunded." (Fig.8).

From February until April 1941, another group of former soldiers of the Infantry Division was in the South of France, ironically in a camp originally established for refugees from the Spanish civil war in 1939. This camp, at the same time also housed some 300 Czechoslovak volunteers. A card from this camp shows the inscription "Camp with a view of Argeles Sur Mer (Eastern Pyrennees) Postmaster". (Fig.9).

During the same period our internee worked on a farm, but still as a 'prestataire' but now using standard letter forms issued by the Vichy Postal Authorities. By August 1941 postal restrictions were lifted and letters passed freely, but were still censored.

Our internee was eventually freed in September 1942, and endeavoured to get to Occupied France, where his family were. The family had however, scattered and it was some years until they met up again.

(The story has a happy ending, for the two brothers that provided the details of the difficult communications of the time, now live quietly in their homeland, now able to recount their war-time 'adventures' thus adding another chapter in the 2nd World War Postal History of the Czechoslovak nationals.)

CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS USED IN HUNGARY by Gabor Voloncs

(The Editor thanks David Williams, President Magyar PSGB & Editor of 'Stamps of Hungary' for kindly allowing him to use this article by Gabor Valoncs, translated by Past President Lazlos L. Grof, which appears in the current issue of their journal.)

It is unique in the history of the Hungarian Post Office that stamps of a foreign country were officially authorised to be used on Hungarian mail.

The period when the Northern Territory was returned to Hungary in 1938, has more than its fair share of philatelic material, so collectors did not pay too much attention to the mail posted with Czechoslovak postage stamps.

In my study I intend to give due consideration to the postal history of these unique items, that they may be separated from all other philatelic 'products' of this period.

The Start of the Hungarian Administration:

After the Vienna Accord of November 2, 1938, an area of 11,927 square kilometres was awarded to Hungary to the North of the River Danube and at the same time 869,299 people returned on ethnographic grounds. However, prior to this date two places along the border were already handed over to Hungary; Sátoraljauhely-Gyártelep on the 11th, and Ipolyság on the 11th October.

The Hungarian post offices were opened within hours of the military occupation on 5th November, as both the personnel and the material of the Hungarian post office arrived with the Hungarian Army. The returned territory was placed under military administration, and the postal affairs were administered by four regional offices. On 13th October, 1938, the Hungarian Minister for Transport and Commerce ordered that a central office under the name of HUNGARIAN ROYAL POST DIRECTORATE OF THE LIBERATED DISTRICTS, BUDAPEST should be established. No separate postal tariff was constituted for these regions, and the Hungarian postal



Fig.1.



Fig.2.



Fig.3.



Fig.4.

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR

Fig.5.

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR
1716



Fig.6.

*Se tenir aux prescriptions réglementaires
Deux lignes seulement tolérées*

Fig.7.

ATTENTION

Carte exclusivement réservée à la correspondance familiale

Il est permis d'écrire ci-dessous une correspondance de caractère familial de sept lignes mais il est strictement interdit d'écrire entre les lignes ou de donner des nouvelles qui n'auraient pas ce caractère. Il est indispensable d'écrire très lisiblement pour faciliter le contrôle des autorités allemandes

Toute carte irrégulière dans la forme ou dans le fond ne sera pas acheminée ; sa valeur d'achat ne sera pas remboursée.

Fig.8. - Inscription at top, on reverse of Card.



Fig.9.

FRANCE

PRIX DE VENTE
0,90

CARTE POSTALE

EXPÉDITEUR

DESTINATAIRES



Note.

Figures, 1,
2, 3 & 8,
actual size.

Fig. 8. - Front of Card.

Czechoslovak Stamps used in Hungary c'td.

rates were valid here too. The newly established Hungarian post offices only sold Hungarian postage stamps and postal stationery, and they were not allowed to exchange Czechoslovak stamps for Hungarian, nor could they make refunds for them.

Soon after the opening of the Sátoraljaujhely-Gyártelep and Ipolyság post offices, it became apparent that a certain number of Czechoslovak postage stamps were in the possession of the local population. As the Hungarian authorities tried to prevent any inconvenience to the local people, the Hungarian Royal Post in conjunction with the Hungarian Military Command gave permission for the use of Czechoslovak stamps on letter and postcard mail.

The Ministerial order regarding the usage of Czechoslovak postage stamps on Hungarian mail appeared in the journal Postai Rendeleték Tára (P.R.T. 1938.121.

Czechoslovak stamps used in Hungary c'td

146/4), in which the date the order came into force was given to coincide with the opening of the Hungarian post offices in the returned territory. As the take-over of the area took about ten days to complete, the opening of the 227 Hungarian post offices also took place during this period.

According to the order, if letters or postcards from the returned Northern Territory to any other part of the country were franked with Czechoslovak stamps the tariff of the Czechoslovak Post Office should be used:

		<u>Local</u>	<u>Other Parts</u>
<u>Postcard</u>		50 haleru	50 haleru
	<u>Up to</u>		
<u>Letter</u>	20 grs	60 "	100 "
	100 "	110 "	160 "
	250 "	200 "	250 "
	500 "	250 "	300 "
	1000 "	300 "	400 "
<u>Printed Matter</u>	50 "		20 "
	150 "		50 "
	250 "		80 "
	500 "		150 "
	1000 "		200 "
	2000 "		300 "
<u>Small packets</u>			
	100 "		40 "
	250 "		80 "
	500 "		150 "
	1000 "		200 "

The order did not mention the fee payable for registered or express mail. For both of these the fee by the Czechoslovak Post Office was 200 haleru, and occasionally such items which went through the normal posting system do turn up. The Hungarian Post Office tolerated the use of mixed frankings, when besides the Hungarian stamp, Czech stamps were used to make up the postage rate. On these occasions the Hungarian postal tariff was used, and the rate of conversion was given as 100 haleru = 14 filler.

The postal history of this rather forgotten subject is all the more interesting because the preferential treatment of mail with Czech stamps lasted only between 5 and 13 days, with the exception of Ipolyság, where it lasted for more than one month.

Mail with the correct postage, and which was genuinely sent through the post is generally rare, while letters and postcards with special cancellations of larger towns are more frequent.

Unfranked or insufficiently franked mail from the Northern Territory was handled without any extra charge for postage due, and only the normal fee payable was collected during this period. On 15th October the Hungarian Post Office reminds all the post offices that no postage due is payable on mail franked with the Czechoslovak postage stamps.

Prior to 15th October, the Ipolyság post office did not cancel the Czech stamps on the mail, but placed its cancellor besides them.

The posting of parcels also commenced soon after the Hungarian post offices was opened, and the upper weight limit was 5 kg. (about 11 lbs). regardless of

Czechoslovak stamps used in Hungary c'td.

distances, until the tariff bands were established. The rate for parcels up to 1 kg was 30 filler, and up to 5 kg 40 filler. Because the newly opened Hungarian post offices did not sell other than Hungarian stamps, the parcel forms used in the Northern Territory only appear with Hungarian stamps.

The preferential treatment of mail with Czechoslovak stamps was discontinued on 19th November, 1938 with the ministerial order of P.R.T. 128.140/A Fo.sz/, after which date such mail had to be treated as postage due.

The rarest items are genuine letters or postcards from the small villages, which used only the circular datestamp cancellations or the temporary rubber handstamps. A good indication as to which letters did go through the post - as opposed to the philatelic mail is the arrival cancellation on them. Postcards were not, as a rule, date stamped on arrival, therefore cards with correct postage can be treated as genuine, the fact of which may be borne out by the message on them.

The following Czechoslovak stamps were valid for postage on Hungarian mails:

(S.G. numbers) : 287, 287b, 288, 289, 290, 345, 347, 348, 354, 355, 355a, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 373, 374, 378, 379, 380, 381, Ms 381a, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, MS 388a, 389, 390.

Sheets of the S.G. 389 stamps were overprinted in Budapest in Szerb Utca with "KASSA - Ismet - Ismet magyarok vagyunk ! 1938 No. 11. - KASSA" text by a stamp dealer and his financial backer, for purely private purposes. To avoid possible legal actions, the overprint was applied only to the 'gutter' part and to the perforations of the vertical pair of stamps. These were then used in combination with Hungarian stamps, and cancelled at Kassa on 11th. November without being sent through the post.



LETTER with Czech stamps and Hungarian "KASSA VISSZATERT" cancellations

LETTER with bogus overprint, cancelled at KASSA.



Muller
Hannemann Albert
Budapest
Stelby his 11. 11. 38

SUPPLEMENT TO POFIS CATALOGUE 1982.

Alan Knight

Stamps issued 1st and 2nd Quarters of 1986 (priced in Kčs)

DATE	POFIS No.	DESCRIPTION	FACE	MINT	USED
2 Jan	2730	United Nations (Int. Year of Peace)	1.00	1.00	.40
	FDC				1.50
23 "	2731	Czech Philharmonic Orch. (90th Ann)	1.00	1.00	.30
	FDC				1.50
10 Feb	2732	Expo 86 Canada (Transport & Commun)	4.00	4.00	1.20
	FDC				4.50
20 Mar	2733	Czechoslovak Town Arms (Vodňany)	.50	.50	.20
	2734	" " " (Žamberk)	.50	.50	.20
	2735	" " " (Myava)	.50	.50	.20
	FDC	2733/35 (3)			4.50
28 "	2736	KSČ (Communist Party) 17th Congress	.50	.50	.20
	2737		1.00	1.00	.30
	FDC	2736/37 (1)			2.00
	2738	KSČ (65th Ann of foundation)	.50	.50	.30
	2739		1.00	1.00	.40
3 Apr	FDC	2738/39 (1)			2.00
	2740	National Front Election Programmes	.50	.50	.30
4 "	2741	Karlovy Vary Film Festival (25th)	1.00	1.00	.30
	FDC				1.50
25 "	2742	"Prague Spring" Music Festival	1.00	1.00	.30
	FDC				1.50
12 May	2743	Prague-Moscow Air-link (50 Years)	.50	.50	.20
	FDC				1.50
15 "	2744	Olympics: 90th Ann - Cz Committee	2.00	2.00	1.00
	FDC				2.50
19 "	2745	Football: World Cup Mexico 1986	4.00	4.00	2.00
	FDC				4.50
3 Jun	2746	Volleyball: Women's World Champs.	1.00	1.00	.50
	A2747	FIP (60th Ann) m/s perf (Praga 88)	20.00	40.00	40.00
	A2747a	" " " imperf " "	20.00	100.00	100.00
	A2747b	" " " part-perf " "	20.00	160.00	160.00
6 "	FDC	(2747) (1)			20.50
	2748	Prague Castle (ann series)	2.00	2.00	2.00
	2749		3.00	3.00	3.00
	FDC	2748/49 (1)			5.50
	TL2748	(Printing Sheet x 4 stamps)	12.00	12.00	12.00
TL2749	-ditto-	18.00	18.00	18.00	

(Acknowledgement 'FILATELIE' 10-14/86)

(..... I am advised that 2747a/b are already volatile market prices despite these 'official' prices!)

NOTE: The PRO (Alan Knight) has been advised that ARTIA of Prague have delegated total responsibility for the distribution of CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S postage stamps in this country (G.B.) to the wholesalers James Davis & Son Ltd., Rickmansworth, WD3 1DG. Members may like to advise their personal dealer of this matter.