

CZECHOUT

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Editor: Alan Knight

Production: W. Alec Page

PAUL H. JENSEN (Norway)

On behalf of the Officers and Committee of this Society, we take the utmost pleasure in making the following announcement:-

At the meeting in London on 3 March 1988 of the International Board of Election, another of our members was invited by the Board to sign the ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS at the CONGRESS OF THE BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION in Liverpool on Sunday, 25 September 1988.

Election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists is regarded throughout the entire philatelic world as the pre-eminent honour in philately. Instituted in 1920, its first signatory was the late King George V followed by no less than 39 other leading world philatelic figures in 1921. Since then a further 221 have been elected of whom, we understand, 58 are still living. One of these is another of our much respected members, Gary Ryan, RDP. FRPS,L. We are very proud to be associated with both these two eminent philatelists of international note.

Paul Jensen's contribution to international philately has been no less than outstanding. Apart from having been President of the Federation of Norwegian Philatelic Societies and of the Postal History Society of Norway, he is currently President of the Postal History Commission of F.I.P. (International Philatelic Federation).

Mr. Jensen's philatelic interests are wide-ranging, amongst which is his great affection for the POSTAL HISTORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. It was in this direction that he won Gold Medals at BRAZILIANA '83 and PHILAKOREA '84 with his outstanding collection of CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAL HISTORY 1499 - 1850.

.....

JOHN L. WHITESIDE, FRPS,L.

A much coveted British philatelic award has been recently gained by another of our members in the person of JOHN WHITESIDE of Leeds. The following Notice is reproduced from the Jan-Feb. 1988 issue of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, the journal of the ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON:-

THE SOCIETY'S MEDALS 1986-87

THE COUNCIL has made the following awards for the Season 1986-87: THE TAPLING MEDAL: To Mr. J.L. Whiteside, FRPSL for his paper "Stampless Mail during the German Inflation 1919-23" published in THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol 95, January-February 1986.

41 Devonshire Place
LONDON W1N 1PE

C. W. GOODWIN
Honorary Secretary

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We offer our heartiest congratulations to both our members mentioned above. We greatly value our association with them and trust that this will continue for many years to come.

AJK.

RECENT SOCIETY MEETINGS:March 26th 1988

This was the occasion for the Society's annual competition, this particular event being devoted to the KAY GOODMAN TROPHY competition which attracted several good entries. Messrs. Wackett and Gorge were judges in the competition that produced the following results:

- 1st Place. Mr. R. Hounsell - "1920 President Masaryk" issue.
 2nd Place. Mr. B.C. Day - "Pre-Stamp Forerunners".
 3rd Place. Mrs.D.Y.Gren - "Czechoslovak Exhibitions".

During the judging period, members showed some items from their collections, amongst which we had the pleasure of viewing the following:

- Posting Box CachetsBill Dawson
 General AssortmentBrian Day
 Recent Acquisitions.....Geo. Connolly
 Early IssuesReg. Hounsell
 SudetenlandRon Hollis

Chairman Brian Day presented the lovely Rose Bowl from our late President to the competition winner, Mr. Reginald Hounsell and thanked the judges very warmly for their work - a no mean task - and all who had contributed to a successful session.

May 8th 1988

A report on this event at the Charterhouse St. premises in London of the British Philatelic Trust, known as The Philatelic Centre, is given elsewhere in this issue by Mr. Colin Smith. The occasion was the joint-meeting of the Austrian, Czechoslovak and Magyar Societies of Great Britain.

FOR YOUR DIARIES

Please mark this NOW for what is promised to be a most entertaining session on Saturday, 17 September 1988. MR.B.JOHNSON of the SOCIETY OF POSTAL HISTORIANS will talk to us and display his material entitled "SUSPENDED SERVICE". We hope this will be to a large gathering of our members.

[Ed. note: In our last edition, we inadvertently referred to The Postal History Society instead of the Society of Postal Historians. As these TWO societies do exist, we apologies to both for this error which is regretted.]

ŠKODA (Great Britain) LTD.

We are all well aware of the usual product marketed under this name ŠKODA, the famous ŠKODA passenger car, many of which are to be seen on British roads. Now this Society has received a valuable gift from the Company, not in the form of a motor car but an electric CZECH TYPE WRITER! We extend to the company and its British Sales manager (a Society member), Mr. Peter L. Titterton, our most grateful thanks for this generous act. Now our various writers will have available all the Czech characters instead of having to ink in the many types of accent marks contained in the Czech and Slovak languages. CZECHOUT however will remain on the same machine as at present for the time being.

JOINT MEETING OF THE AUSTRIAN, CZECHOSLOVAK AND MAGYAR SOCIETIES AT THE BRITISH PHILATELIC CENTRE

- 7 MAY 1988 -

The formal welcome was extended to members and guests by Mr. Brian Day, Chairman of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, hosts to this joint venture by the 'Successor States' philatelic societies in Great Britain. All the societies were well represented throughout the day with the different societies ties being very evident. All the Philatelic Centre's facilities were made available to its visitors, including access to the reference library of the National PS.

The day consisted of continuous displays of excellent material covering numerous facets of inter-society interests. In addition to the three major displays, much appreciation was shown of all the other members who kindly displayed their varied material and shared their expertise with us.

Particular mention of the major displays is essential, commencing with DAVID WILLIAMS (Magyar PS) who showed excellent material and initial research achievements upon all aspects of censored mail from the First World War period through to the run-up to WW2, covering the cross-border activities with endless variations of censor marks and sealing labels.

JOHN WHITESIDE (Czechoslovak PS) never ceases to amaze! This time we had the pleasure of John's "German Occupation of Sudetenland", "Inflation to Hyper-Inflation", "Fiscals" and "Parcel Cards and Forms of The Austrian Empire".

The final display by HENRY WHITE (AUSTRIAN SC), covered Bosnia and Herzegovina issues which included the Sandschak of Novi Pazar, with perforations, forgeries, reprints, overprints and 'dues' in his first half, with Fieldpost Town Cancellations to conclude.

It is fair to say that as I am a 'lick-and-stick' collector, one has to admire the dedication and enthusiasm of these experts, together with the privilege of seeing their -often unique - material. All in all a meeting to remember, with special thanks to Mrs. Betty Day for her devotion to keeping us sustained - Well Done!

A special booklet by MERVYN BENFORD was produced for this occasion dealing with THE VISSZATÉRT PERIOD IN HUNGARIAN PHILATELY, which focuses on territory lost by Hungary to Czechoslovakia after WW1, regained during 1938-39 but then lost once more! Copies of this excellent publication are available from our Publications Officer, Alec Page at £1 per copy (postage/packing 20p).

Colin Smith. PRO.

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WANTED:.....

The first AUSTRIAN adhesives were issued on 1.6.1850. Alec Page wishes to ascertain the earliest recorded date of useage in what is now CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY. If YOU know of useage earlier than JULY 7 1850, Alec would like to hear from you - photocopies would be greatly appreciated. Alec's address is inside the front cover of this edition.

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STAMP NEWS: Colin Spong, 70 Westlake Gardens, Worthing, Sussex BN13 1LF is anxious to obtain copies of the following editions and appeals for your help, please: Vol.3, Numbers 13,14, 15 of 21.12.83 to 7.2.1984; also Vol.4 No.21 of December 1984.

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[Space permitting, members are welcome to advertise their private philatelic requirements or offer items for sale. Although there is no charge for this, the Editor's decision on publication would be final. Should there be sufficient response, consideration will be given for a regular feature]

FROM OUR POSTBAG

We would like to say a very sincere Thank You to the following who penned their appreciation of our journal. We find such kind remarks a source of encouragement: CHARLES STIRTON, ROY DEHN and JAMES NEGUS.

All letters whether in praise of or critical of CZECHOUT are most welcome because these are practical ways of showing us just what you, the members, want to see in your journal.

A very regular correspondent from far away is VLADIMIR KRÁLIČEK, whose wife, we understand, has been very unwell recently. We send Vladimir and his good lady our very best wishes and hope very sincerely that she may soon be restored to better health. Perhaps we should say here that our NEW ZEALAND member has undertaken some heavy commitments of translations from Czech to English for this journal, the results which will gradually become apparent over the coming months. Our thanks again are due for this most kind co-operation.

MR. M.K. LEARY recently wrote thanking us for assistance in a philatelic query he had. "I joined the society (said our writer) to learn more about my hobby and I am very grateful for the lesson I have learned".

That is what this Society is all about, Mr. Leary - sharing members' knowledge, experiences and viewpoints. The more questions and answers, viewpoints and suggestions that we receive from you in the future, the better will be the standard of this journal. Why not use it as YOUR forum at some time. No question can be too small or insignificant. We are not all specialists in our own fields but we do carry specialist members within our ranks and, if past form is anything to go by, they are always only too happy to pass on their knowledge and experiences gained over many years for the benefit of fellow-members. If YOU have any philatelic queries regarding YOUR particular area of philately, let us have them and we will do our utmost to answer them in due course. It may take time but we shall do our best for you.

MRS. YVONNE WHEATLEY, one of our former editors says that she can supply members with the CZECHOSLOVAK MONOGRAPHS numbers 3, 4, 13, 14 and both volumes of 16 at a special charge of £11 each, including registered mail post-paid. Orders to Yvonne, direct please at: "Welttevreden", 7 Manor Croft, LEEDS. LS15 9BW. This, to us, seems a most generous offer, why not take it up?

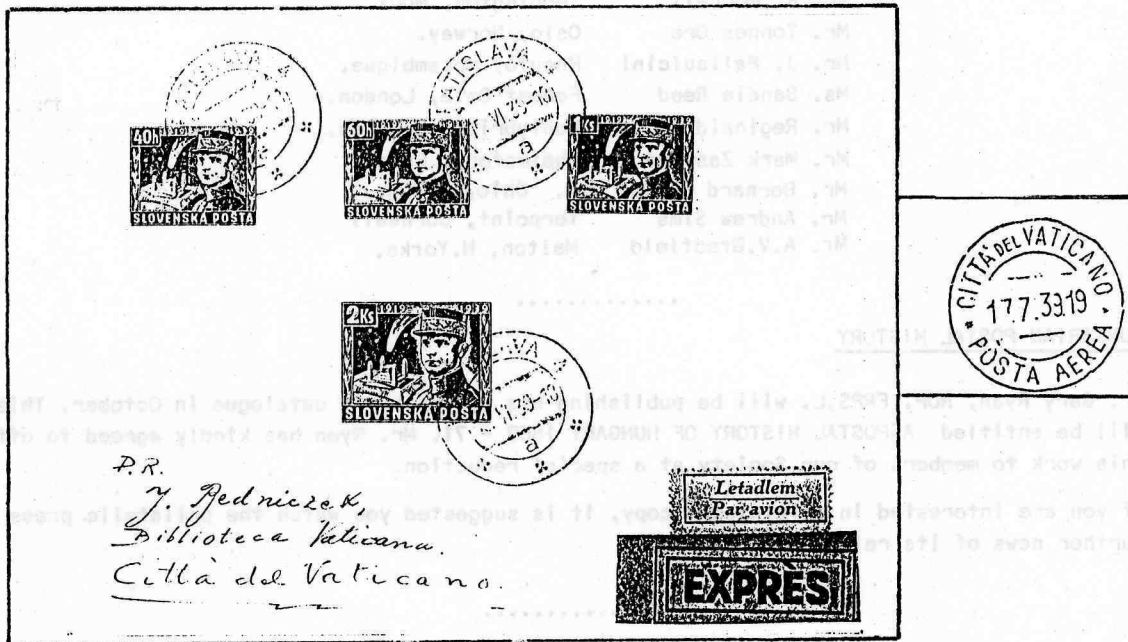
ROY McNAMARA, 19 PRIORY OAK, BRACKLA, BRIDGEND, MID-GLAMORGAN tells us he is engaged in the task of setting up a computerised catalogue of Czechoslovak stamps and asks whether any other members have or are doing the same thing. He invites such members to contact him with a view to possible collaboration in this task. Some task, Roy!

MR. MYLES O'MEARA, 11 St. George's Terrace, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1SQ, is another member in regular contact with the Editor. Myles is completely bed-ridden but when the Editor and Mrs. Knight visited him some time ago, his cheerfulness was beyond belief! He is currently engaged in balancing his collection of Czechoslovak material with the new Specialist Catalogue we were able to obtain for him - and we wish him well in that task!! Myles would always be pleased to exchange friendly correspondence with other members. Apart from philately, Myles is a very keen Radio ham and the space available around his bed resembles more a studio than a home, so, Mrs. O'Meara, our thoughts are with you for we know Myles keeps you oh so busy!

Finally, another newer member is DR. MILAN VENDER of SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA and he, too, keeps in regular touch with us via the Editor. Again, Dr. Vender has offered to translate for us as and when required - in fact, he is currently engaged upon a rather unusual item which will appear in CZECHOUT later this year. We thank him for his recent, amusing article on RUSSIAN STAMPS used by CZECH TROOPS IN RUSSIA following WW1. Again, members must have learned something of this, another fascinating aspect of Czechoslovak philately. Our greeting to Dr. and Mrs. Vender.

ANOTHER 'USED' ŠTEFÁNIK COVER!

The Editor has received the cover shown from MR. M.K. LEARY following our publication of a similar cover with comments by PAUL JENSEN (2/87/p.19). Mr. Leary felt it could be genuinely used. The Editor felt obliged to reply to the effect that, in his opinion, this cover is a purely philatelic contrivance. However, readers' comments are requested and will be welcomed. It is addressed from BRATISLAVA 15.6.1939 to the VATICAN LIBRARY and bears the complete set of four unissued stamps (May 1939) prepared to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Gen. Štefánik.



These are the Editor's views as contained in his letter of thanks to Mr. Leary:-

These 'stamps' were demonitised by the German occupying authorities of that time on the day of issue because of the French uniform worn in the stamp by ŠTEFÁNIK. They were sold at philatelic windows on 15 June for philatelic purposes and WITHOUT POSTAL VALIDITY. Note that date: 15.6.39 which is the date of this cover's cancels!

The general appearance of the cover face is 'philatelic' with an address, written in Italian, squeezed into the bottom left corner. The EXPRESS and PAR AVION labels occupy the opposing side of the cover to that usually employed - and the whole thing took (apparently) one month to get to VATICAN CITY (see b/stamp 17.7.39). Exactly HOW it came into the hands of the person who placed this mark on the reverse is a matter for conjecture but the Editor feels that he was most probably a stamp enthusiast anyway. Then the amount paid in postage was way below that required to pay external postage, Express Fee and Air rate. So, to summarise my feelings on this very interesting cover: Philatelic appearance of stamp lay-out, insufficient postage, one month BY AIRMAIL and impeccable Italian for the address. What PR represented, I do not know - possibly an official Vatican title in abbreviation but 'Philatelic Rogue' did spring to my mind! AJK.

[Ed.note: Members' covers (photocopies preferably) are most welcome for publication. When expert opinions (not the Editor's!) follow, they can be of immense value to other interested members who may have similar pieces which puzzle them. We look forward to more comments on this cover]

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Society warmly welcomes the following new members and hopes that their stay with us will be long, happy and rewarding:

Mr. R. G. Frost	Rugby.
Mr. J. L. Jana	Ontario, Canada.
Mrs. I. Miles	St. Ives, Cambs.
Mr. R. Morrell	Teddington, Mddx.
Mr. Tonnes Ore	Oslo, Norway.
Mr. J. Pallaucini	Maputo, Mozambique.
Ms. Sandie Reed	Forest Gate, London.
Mr. Reginald Stone	Pontypridd. S.Wales.
Mr. Mark Zastava	Chelmsford, Essex.
Mr. Bernard Cross, Jnr.	Ohio, U.S.A.
Mr. Andrew Sims	Torpoint, Cornwall
Mr. A.V. Bradfield	Malton, N.Yorks.

HUNGARIAN POSTAL HISTORY

Mr. Gary Ryan, RDP. FRPS, L. will be publishing his handbook and catalogue in October. This will be entitled A POSTAL HISTORY OF HUNGARY 1867 - 71. Mr. Ryan has kindly agreed to offer this work to members of our Society at a special reduction.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy, it is suggested you watch the philatelic press for further news of its release.

FROM THE PHILATELIC PRESS

STAMP LOVER (N.P.S.) Vol. 80/No.1 Feb. 1988, p.10: John Dixon-Nuttall "Austria-Hungary's Last War".

STAMPS OF HUNGARY (Magyar P.S of GB) No.91/1987 p.4: Mervyn Benford "Tale of a T.P.O" (with Czechoslovak connections).

CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST (U.S.A.) March 1988: J. Weissenstein/trans.P.Sturman "The Altered Designs of TGM 50h".(From FILATELIE 20/1982).

Henry Hahn: "Paper Splices in the Dove issue".

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY: Vol.19, No.1. June '88: Rosemary Adcock - "Scenographer Royal" A study of the art of Wenceslaus (Václav) Hollar as depicted on Czechoslovak and other postage stamps.

FROM THE HON. SECRETARY

BPF 70th Congress - University of Liverpool 22-25 September, 1988: As is customary on these occasions, our Society will be holding an extra meeting on Thursday, 22 September starting at 8.45pm in the University's Garden Room, Dale Hall. It is hoped that some of our members living in the North will make efforts to attend this meeting, taking with them a few of their sheets of interesting material, thus ensuring an interesting, informative session.

At our first meeting of the year on 30 January 1988, the main subject was "THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II" with a display and talk by our Publications Officer. It was one of those meetings when thoughts about the display subject lingered on for quite a while after the gathering had dispersed homewards. This is quite understandable when one recalls the men of the Czechoslovak Army and their deeds on behalf of their brave nation and motherland in their determined fight to rid their land of the occupation and the oppression of the Nazis of that period. Members were able to view postal items and back-up ephemera covering the period from 1939 through to the end of 1945; by which time Czechoslovakia had been liberated from the occupying forces of Germany.

The display opened with a map showing a typical 'escape' route used by some of the Cs. forces that fled the country following the final Nazi occupation during March 1939. Their destination was AGDE, lying some 120 miles west of Marseilles, in southern France, the base from which they were to eventually emerge as an organised fighting force. During this time, they set up their own Field Post Office system and, in keeping with tradition, produced special commemorative cancellers, together with the more conventional-type handstamps provided by the French. Quite a variety of postal stationery items were also produced during this period.

The re-formation of these 'exiles' into fighting units enabled them to go into action alongside the French in June 1940 to stem the Nazi advance through France. These activities, to the south of Paris, were short-lived and the collapse of France soon resulted in the Czechoslovaks being back again at the AGDE camp.

By the end of June a number of these men -and some civilians- had secretly embarked at a small French fishing village SETE; destination: LIVERPOOL, England, where they disembarked on 15 July 1940. Many however, especially those who had lived and had families still in France, stayed behind, only to be subsequently 'demobbed' and forced to join labour units under the Vichy France government.

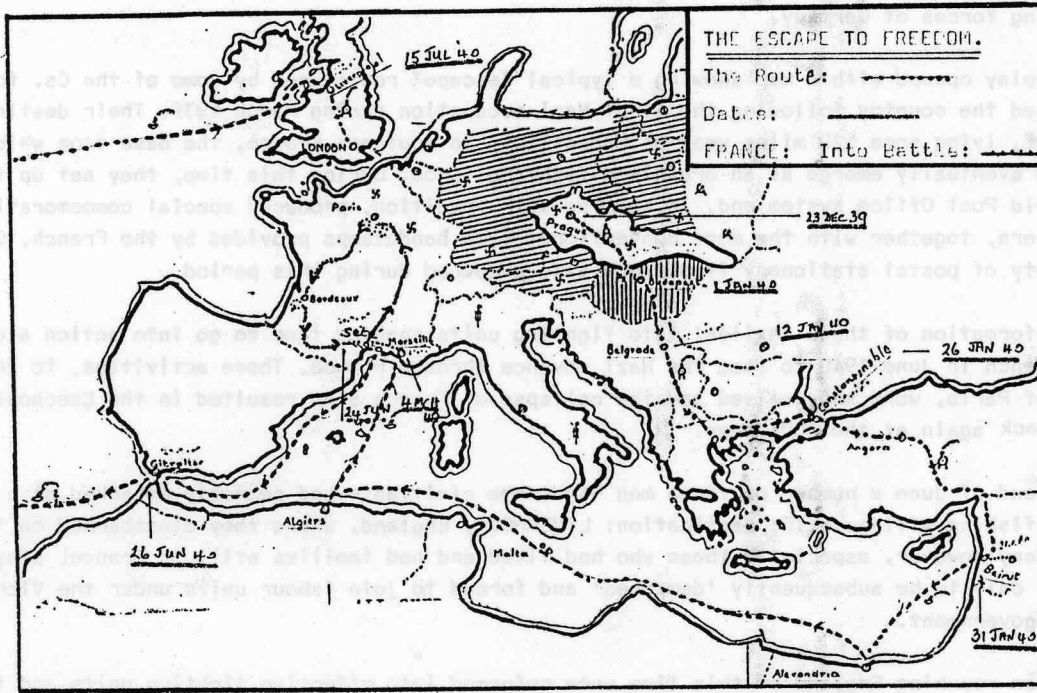
Those men reaching England at this time were reformed into effective fighting units and they lost no time in setting up their own Field Post Office facilities and, simultaneously, a whole series of highly decorative commemorative handstamps. This was at first frowned upon by the British authorities and their use on outgoing mail was not allowed. This however did not prevent their use on many philatelic souvenirs or as receiving marks on incoming mail. Events soon permitted a review of these decisions by the British and the restrictions placed on these cancellers was lifted. Nevertheless the many philatelic souvenirs continued. Many examples of these commemorative cancellations were shown, including several of the earlier items used as receiving marks.

Alongside the commemorative cancellations, regular FPO cancellers were also used. Their introduction was from 28 May 1941, with four different types, up to 1 September 1943, when their postal activity was brought into line with those of the British FPO system. New cancellers were provided in similar style to those employed by the British authorities. Normally used with a black ink, the opportunity was however taken by the use of a red ink-pad to mark some special anniversary dates. With the return to Europe in August 1944, the only cancellers subsequently used were the British types and applied in normal black ink. In keeping with tradition however, whenever the opportunity arose, red cancels were applied on special occasions.

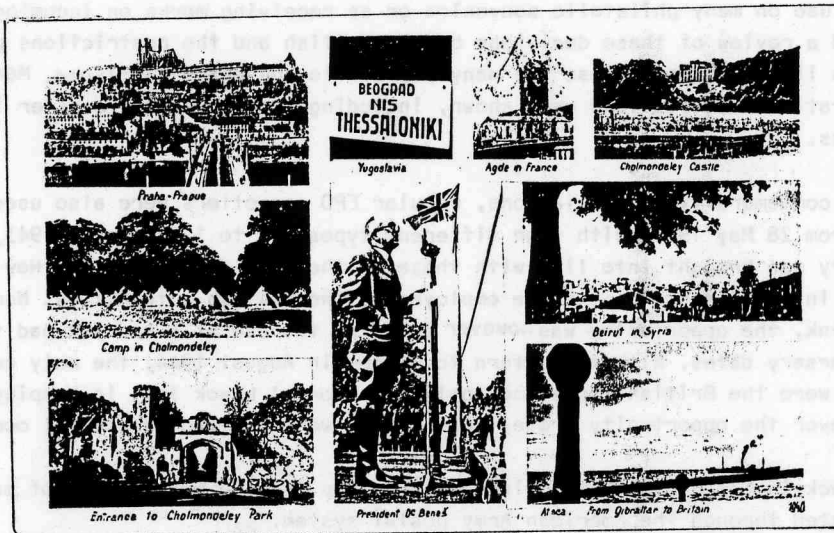
The arrival back in Czechoslovakia during May 1945 was covered by examples of mail, some of which were posted through the American Army postal system. >>

(Members' Displays (3) cont):

>> Amongst the other facets covered in Alec's display were mailed items to a small Light Anti-Aircraft unit attached to the British 8th Army in the Tobruk area of North Africa; mail to/from the Czechoslovak depot that was maintained at Southend-on-Sea until after the war had ended; a series of patriotic 'stickers' and the London Stamp Exhibition staged by the Czechoslovaks in November 1943.



Map showing typical escape route of Czechoslovaks 1939-40 - Destination the U.K.

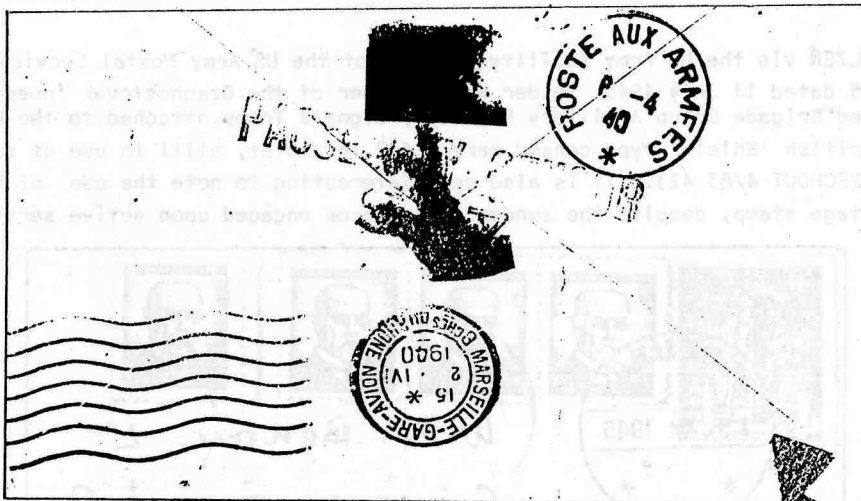


Postcard issued in U.K. showing parts of the escape route and the first Cs Camp in England at CHOLMONDELEY (Cheshire) - July 1940

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(Members' Displays (3) Cont:

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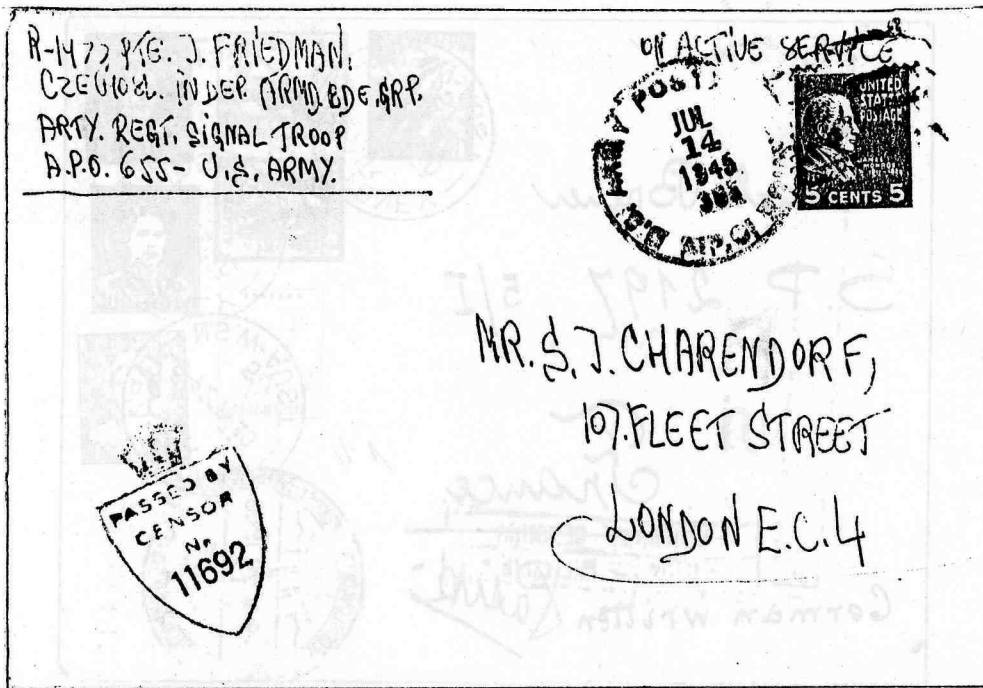
Reverse: Marseille airport machine cancellation - 2nd April 1940
Poste aux Armées handstamp (Camp D'Agde) - 6th April 1940

From AUSTRALIA to FRANCE (Camp D'Agde) 1940. The legend SP2197 was the postal sector number. Note Australian censor S7 mark on both front and reverse of cover; civil and military arrival marks. Boxed Czechoslovak censor cachet (Military Censor) on face.

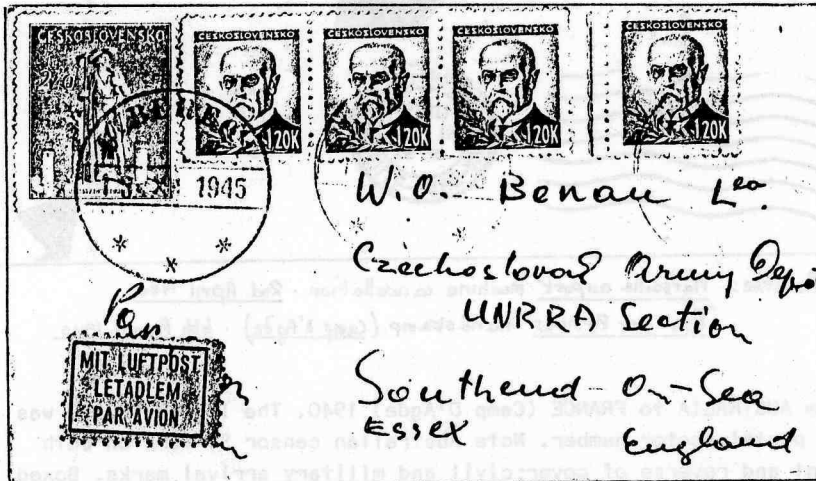
>>

(Members' Displays (3) Cont:

>>




From PLZEŇ via the US Army facility (c.d.s. of the US Army Postal Service AIP.01) no. 305 dated 14 July 1945. Sender was a member of the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade Group Artillery Regiment, Signals Troop, attached to the US Army. Note British 'Shield' type censor mark 11692 in violet, still in use at source. (see CZECHOUT 4/83 42). It is also very interesting to note the use of the 5c. US postage stamp, despite the sender having been engaged upon active service.



LIBEREC 13.X.1945 to the Cs Army Depot at Southend-on-Sea. Note the temporary Liberec rubber canceller mark and the airmail label in German/Czech/French. [UNRRA = United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration]

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(Members' Displays (3) Concl):




La Tchécoslovaquie
indépendante
dans une
Europe libre

Expéditeur :
Cap. Charles Pilát,
V.R. 3^e Régiment d'inf.
Agde
(Hérault).

ADRESSE


 3^e Régiment d'Inf. Tchécoslovaquie
 Le Vaguemestre

Tr. asp. Kozisek * Karel,
 Armée Tchécoslovaque
 1^{ère} Division 1^{er} Bureau
 Buxiers
 / Hérault /



Ed. Journaux Tchécoslovaques, J. Marek, 18, rue Bonaparte, Paris 6^e (Imp. Zamastill) Modèle No 4

Full reproduction of the handstamp on face - that of the 3rd.Cs. Infantry Regiment.

From Camp D'Agde, France - 1940. No. 4 from a series of pictorial cards published by J. Marek, Paris (Lion of Bohemia) with legend in French "An Independent Czechoslovakia in a Free Europe".....

Special cancellation on a propaganda card 7.3.1944 celebrating birth of the first Cs. President Thomas G. Masaryk .

15TH MARCH 1939.
The Huns overrun Czechoslovakia.

15TH MARCH 1944.
Part of Czechoslovakian Army is fighting with the great Russian Army FROM THE EAST



•

The other part in Great Britain is ready to fight FROM THE WEST.

•

The Czechoslovakian Air Force was fighting in the Battle of Britain and now is fighting against Germany FROM THE WEST and also FROM THE EAST.

The day of the Allies' Victory is approaching.

"Masaryk's currency"
(* 7.iii.1950.)

[Alec Page's talk and display was broadly based on his Monograph No.1 and Supplement published by the Society in 1981/1982 and subsequent articles in this journal. Some of the displayed items are reproduced in the monograph and the more recent Monograph 5 by Roy Reader. Although the Monograph and Supplement are now out of print they can be borrowed from our Library]

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POSTCARDS AUTOGRAPHED BY FATHER HLINKAJames Negus

When Slovakia became independent in 1939, the portrait on its first definitive stamps was that of FATHER ANDREJ HLINKA. He also appeared again on a 1.30k of 1943. These well-known images (Figs.1 & 2) show an elderly man but a series of postcards - herein illustrated at Figs. 3-5 - depict him in a younger period.

I thank Mr. Robert Kingsley for his kindness in translating the postcard captions which read:

Fig.3 - The welcome given to the persecuted Slovak priest, Father Hlinka in front of the Old Town Hall in Prague.

Fig.4 - Andrej Hlinka - National Revivalist of Slovakia.

Fig.5 - Andrej Hlinka, Priest in Ružomberok.

The handwritten quotation immediately below the picture is printed on the card and translates "To God: Life; to the nation: Freedom".

The slogan printed at the right-hand side says "In Aid of the Slovak Language".

All the cards are black-and-white and the reverse side of the profile shows the printer as Benedikt, Brno. All three are headed DOPISNICE (Postal Card) on the reverse.

Apart from their value in showing photographic likenesses of Father Hlinka, these cards are particularly interesting since they have been autographed by the man himself. Each bears the pencilled signature "HLINKA"; it is notable that the handwriting reproduced on Fig.5 includes the initial "A." in the signature but it seems this was originally written by him too.

The autographs give a living link with this historical figure. His position has been summarised by Joseph Rothschild in writing of the Slovak People's Party:

"Its founder and leader was Msgr. Andrej Hlinka, who had earned his reputation as a Slovak national hero by his prewar [pre-1914] resistance to the forced magyarization of his people and sustained it in the postwar years by his eloquent, tenacious, suspicious and provincial opposition to all influences emanating from the more secular and cosmopolitan Czech lands. Proud, refractory and naive, Hlinka in his parochialism eventually became the dupe of more modern and more totalitarian elements that used his cassock as a shield." [East Central Europe between the Two World Wars, p.96. London, Univ. of Washington Press, 1974.]

Another writer described Hlinka as "very ambitious and temperamental but also easily influenced". [Y. Jelinek: The Parish Republic, p.8. East European Quarterly, 1976.] >>



Fig.1



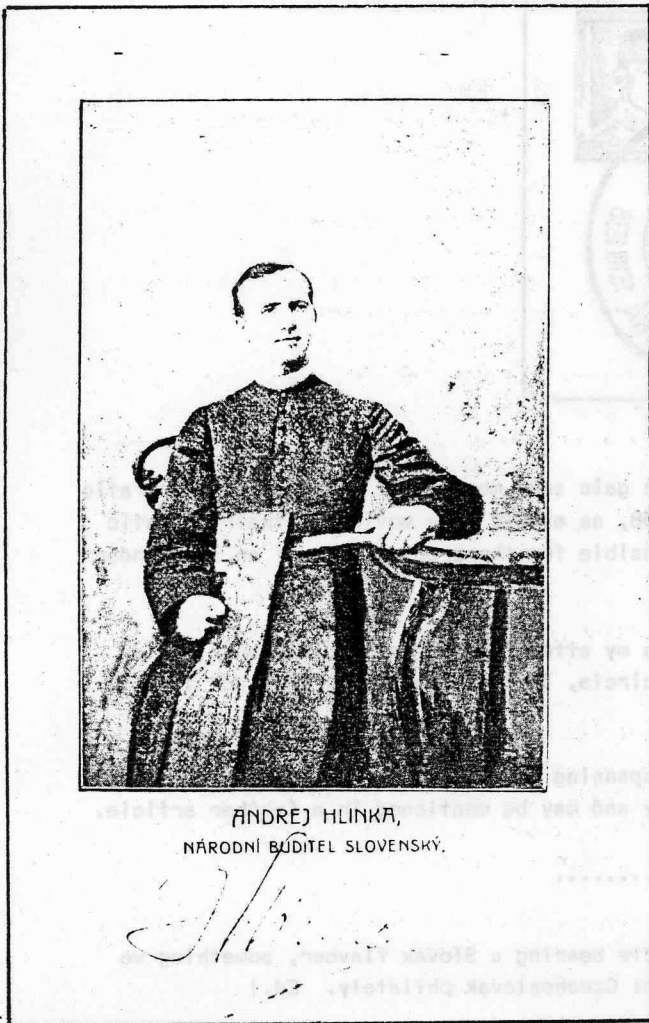
Fig.2

Fig.3 >



Vítání pronásledovaného slovenskeho vlastence faráře P. Hlinky (X) před Staroměstskou radnicí v Praze.

J. Hlinka



ANDREJ HLINKA,
NÁRODNÍ BŮDITEL SLOVENSKÝ.

J. Hlinka

Fig.4



Za tú našu slovensčinu!

*Za Boha živoť, za národ slobodu
(A. Hlinka)*

ANDREJ HLINKA.

Fig.5

>> [Father Hlinka]

Andrej Hlinka, as a young Catholic priest in the northern Slovak village of Černová, was attracted into politics at the end of the last century. He sprang into prominence through a horrifying incident that took place in his village. In 1906 he had been sentenced to prison for two years on a charge of subversion. The following year on 27 October, Hlinka was forbidden to consecrate a new church at Černová and this caused a riot during which the Hungarian gendarmes shot and killed 12 people and injured 90 others. He was henceforth regarded by many as representative of an oppressed people.

I have three more postcards - not illustrated here - showing the location of the Černová incident, the graveyard of the victims and the "New Church". They have likewise been autographed by Hlinka.

The Slovak People's Party, founded at the birth of the new Czechoslovak state in November 1918, was formally renamed Hlinka's Slovak People's Party in 1925, such was his stature. Jelínek remarks at p.10 [op cit.]: "The Party's nationalistic and religious approach appealed to the imagination of the masses and Hlinka was able to attract huge crowds". This suggests to me the possible origin of these postcards. They were likely on sale at meetings addressed by Father Hlinka and autographed by him there. I would put their date at around 1910, though they could have been available for years after that. They have become somewhat grubby with the passage of time.



Fig.6

During his lifetime Andrej Hlinka saw his Slovakia gain some measure of autonomy in democratic Czechoslovakia. However, he died on 16 August 1938, as events were moving to their dramatic climax, and other members of his Party were responsible for the proclamation of an independent state of Slovakia in the following March.

The CZECHOUT editor, Mr. Alan Knight, kindly draws my attention to the special cancellation illustrated at Fig.6. This "In Memoriam" double circle, 37/22mm, is struck in black from Ružomberok only five days after Hlinka's death.

As will be seen, it records the priest's life as spanning 27.IX.1864 - 16.VIII.1938; further special postmarks for Hlinka appeared subsequently and may be mentioned in a further article.

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[We are very grateful to James Negus for his article bearing a Slovak flavour, something we tend to forget sometimes as being a valid facet of Czechoslovak philately. Ed.]

CZECHOSLOVAK MAIL AND GERMAN EXCHANGE CONTROLS 1918-1923

R. Pizer

For some time now I have been collecting covers bearing German exchange control cachets and labels of the period 1918-1923. This collection contains nearly 50 covers originating in Czechoslovakia and all addressed to Germany. One of my intended aims is to catalogue the various postal routes, cachets and labels. This is no easy task as I already have details of scores of different labels of various colours with differing type-faces and texts. There are dozens of office cachets for one purpose or another and some hundreds of inspectors' personal cachets - there were about 150 inspectors at Dresden and 200 at Munich. There are also a few wax seals. Thus it is a large task to establish dates of use and I would very much like to hear from members who possess Czechoslovak (or other) covers which went through the German exchange control system. I would be most grateful for good descriptions and/or photocopies of such items. Below, I briefly review what happened and illustrate some of the things that can be found.

The exchange control was introduced on 15 November 1918 when Ebert and Haase - on behalf of the German Council of the People's Representatives - signed Decree No. 6543 which was published on p.1324 of the Government Gazette. This stated that:

1. Until further notice, the mail and telegram control on communications with foreign countries is being maintained insofar as it is necessary in the interest of taxation or for economic reasons. This control does not extend to military or political matters.
2. For the purpose indicated in paragraph 1, sentence 1, the present control and inspection places are being maintained and are being assigned to the Finance Ministry.

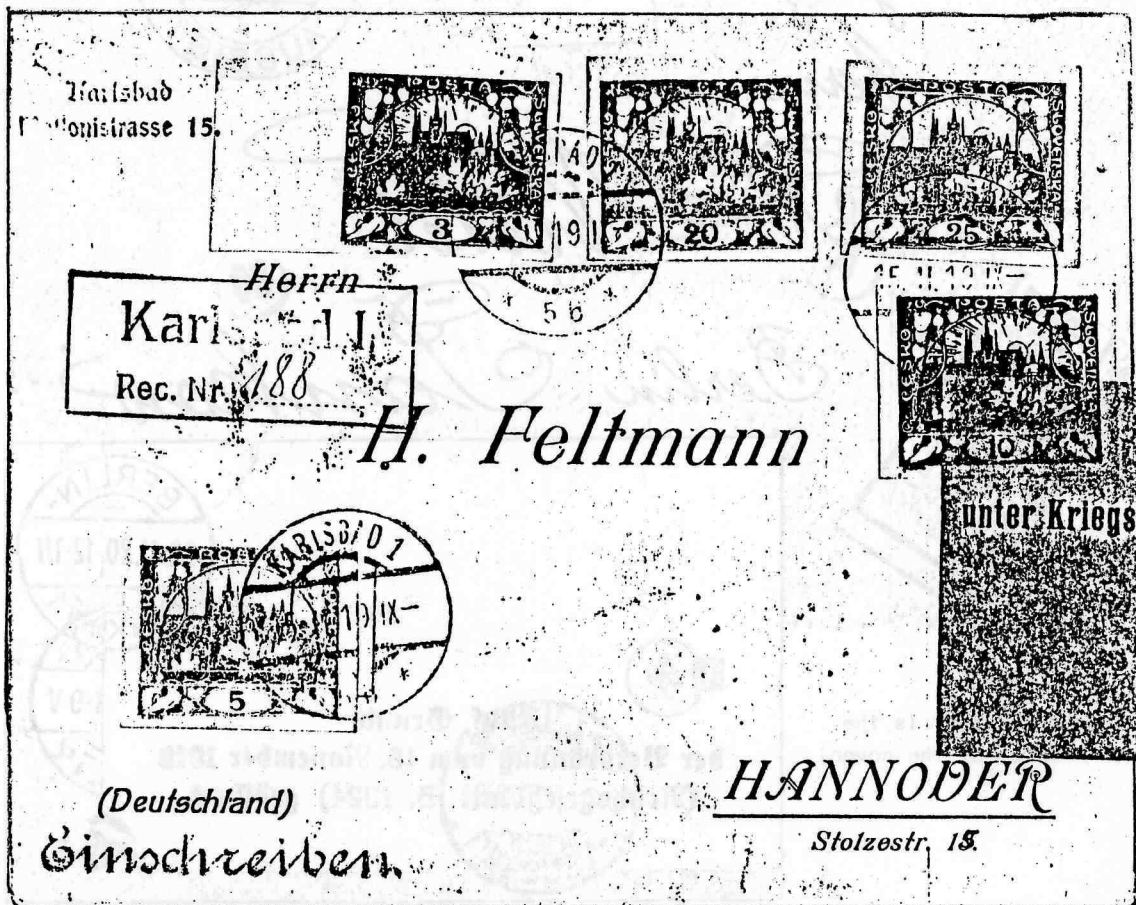


Fig.1

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>> [German Exchange Controls...]

There were over one hundred censorship offices in Germany during the 1914-18 war. Most closed very quickly following the cessation of hostilities and in the first half of 1919 - perhaps during May, the twenty surviving offices were numbered in alphabetical order. This number was later increased to 29. Letters entering Germany ceased to be subject to inspection in February 1923 [the relevant order was signed on 26 January but was not implemented until about the middle of February].

Initially, everything - including postcards - was subject to inspection. From November 1920, inspection was restricted to registered and insured items only but, of course, not everything was opened. Until December 1919, mail in transit through Germany from one country [e.g. Czechoslovakia] to another [e.g. Holland] was sometimes opened.

The table below shows the offices used to inspect mail from Czechoslovakia to various parts of Germany. There we see that Dresden and Munich did the bulk of the work. Typical labels and cachets are illustrated in the Figures.



Fig.2

[superimposed at right is the label on reverse of the cover]

>>

>> [German exchange controls...]

GERMAN INSPECTION OFFICES FOR CZECHOSLOVAK MAIL			
OFFICE	INSPECTION OFFICE	AREA OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA	AREA OF GERMANY
No. 3	Breslau (now Wroclau, Poland)	Austrian Silesia, Moravia	German Silesia
4	Dresden	Czechoslovakia except Austrian Silesia, Moravia	Germany north of Bavaria (except E.Prussia, Silesia)
13	Konigsberg (now Kaliningrad in the USSR)	Czechoslovakia	East Prussia
14	Lindau	Czechoslovakia	Lindau postal area
16	Munich	Czechoslovakia	Baden, Bavaria (not Lindau), Darmstadt
19	Stuttgart	Czechoslovakia	Wurtemberg



Fig.3 showing below the remainder of the label on left-side of illustrated cover >

>>

>> [German exchange controls....]



Fig.4

Cachet applied to reverse of cover >

Fig.1 shows registered cover pmk KARLSBAD (Karlovy Vary) 15.2.19 to HANNOVER. It was opened at DRESDEN and resealed with war-time censor's label. Usage of wartime labels ceased in early 1919.



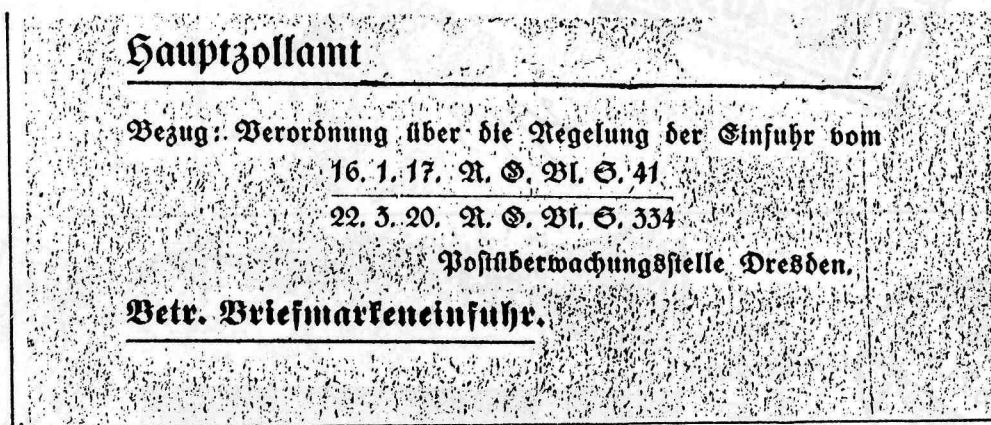
A standard label was introduced (Fig.2) after 1919. Illust. shows Reg. cover ex ÚSTI n. LABEN/AUSSIG 18.11.20 to BERLIN (Pankow). This standard label was originally printed for Office 12 (Konstanz) then o/printed for Office 23 (ELBING-now ELBLAG,POLAND) and then struck with a red numeral 4 in circle to indicate DRESDEN usage. Labels from many other offices can be found used at MUNICH from Sept. 1920 to mid 1921. The letter in Fig.2 also bears a purple cachet with No. 80 in circle, indicating that it was Inspector No.80 who opened the envelope.

During the autumn of 1921, the first labels indicating that the inspection had been carried out by the Ministry of Finance for taxation and economic reasons can be found. Fig.3. shows a reg. cover pmked 22.4.22 at ŽATEC/SAAZ. This went to NÜRNBERG and was inspected at MUNICH as can be seen by No.16 on the label. >>

>> [German Exchange Controls.....]

Letters which infringed the regulations are rather more interesting - one is shown in Fig.4. This is a registered cover ex PRAHA 28.4.20 to WIESBADEN. It was posted unsealed and upon reaching the DRESDEN office a cachet was applied to its reverse side stating "Item received here unsealed. No responsibility accepted for the contents." The cover face was marked with a ZÜRUCK (Return) cachet reading "RETURN - Import of postage stamps forbidden." This was in compliance with a 1917 regulation and it appears the inspector had assumed it to be an item of philatelic mail.

Fig.6 shows another registered cover ex PRAHA 14.6.21 to COBURG, with the reverse bearing a large red advertisement label applied by sender to assist sealing. It also bears two standard type sealing labels -having different typeface to that shown in Fig.2- numbered 4 (DRESDEN). There is also a manuscript note inside the envelope to indicate that "10 stamps" were found by the inspector. This caused him to put a red Redirection Label on the cover telling the Post Office to deliver the letter to the Customs office at COBURG. This office contacted the addressee and required him to produce an import licence. He apparently did this and the red label was torn off, leaving a remaining fragment on the cover face. A complete redirection label from another cover is reproduced hereunder (Fig.5):



Finally - there is a mystery which concerns the inspection office at HINDENBURG (now ZABRZE in Poland). It was probably the last office to be opened - perhaps in June 1922 - after the formal transfer of UPPER SILESIA to Poland. Only one cover has ever been found bearing the HINDENBURG cachet and this was sent to GLEIWITZ (now GLIWICE in Poland) on the Czechoslovak border. Do any members have a cover bearing this HINDENBURG cachet?

Another mystery concerns Office 14 at LINDAU. No covers have been found bearing the labels or cachets of this office, presumably because it inspected mail for only a very small area of Germany.

I cannot finish without acknowledging the help of K.H.Dahnke of Nürnberg who has written on this subject in the Newsletter of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Zensur and has supplied documents from postal archives. I would be most grateful if any interested members would kindly write to me, especially if they have similar material as illustrated in this article. Please address your correspondence to: Mr. R. Pizer, 6 Drews Court, Churchdown, Glos. GL3 2LD.

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Another most interesting and absorbing 'fringe' subject for which we thank the author. Although not 'pure' Czechoslovak philately, it is, nevertheless, directly connected and will surely answer some of the questions in the minds of uninformed members possessing such material. [Ed.]

THE ITALIAN FIELDPOST IN SLOVAKIA - 1919

John Whiteside, FRPS,L.

[With acknowledgments to articles by Bohumil Matejka in "The American Philatelist" in 1967 and 1968]

Early in 1918 an army corp - the CZECH LEGION - was formed in Italy from Czech and Slovak volunteers [mainly prisoners of war] to serve with the Italian Army. After the end of The Great War, this legion was sent home to the new Republic of Czechoslovakia, where it arrived during the last fortnight of 1918.

This legion, consisting of some 19,000 men plus a detachment of cavalry and two artillery batteries, was sent to SLOVAKIA. It was designated as the 6th and 7th Divisions of the new Czechoslovak Army. The 6th Division was based at KOŠICE and the 7th at TRENČIN. Most of this legion's officers and several of its NCOs were Italian - 127 in total - and its commander, General Piccione, was named G.O.C. of all the Czech forces in Slovakia.

A Field Post Office - POSTA MILITARE 52 - had been brought from Italy with the legion. This was located at KROMĚŘÍŽ, together with, eventually, the Army H.Q., though the latter was initially at UHERSKÉ HRADIŠTĚ for a short period.

In January 1919, Gen. Piccione issued an Order decreeing that this FPO was to be used only for mail emanating from Army H.Q. and for mail to and from Italian personnel serving in Czechoslovakia. Despite this however, mail from Czech soldiers bearing the POSTA MILITARE 52 cancellations do appear with some frequency. It is not known whether this was simply in contravention of Gen. Piccione's Army Order or whether that decree was eventually modified. From March 1 1919, the Army H.Q. and the Field Post Office were transferred to BRATISLAVA - the move being completed by March 8.

On June 1 1919, General Piccione was relieved of his command and was replaced by the French Generals Hennocque and Mittelhauser. The following day saw POSTA MILITARE 52 ceasing to function and being returned to Italy.

Two distinct types of date-stamps of POSTA MILITARE 52 are recorded, each of which exists in two sub-types; being chiefly differentiated by the shapes of the figures within them. Type I has the "52" flanked by a pair of dots whilst in Type II they are flanked by stars. The sub-types differ in the shape of the "2".

The following six illustrations show the Italian connection:

Fig.1 - Registered cover to Rome from an Italian sergeant stationed at KROMĚŘÍŽ. As a Registered item, postage was payable - 45c. It comprised 20c. postage plus 25c. Registration Fee, this being the correct Italian internal rates. The cds is Type II, sub-type a, with a long, straight foot.

Fig.2 - Pc written at GOLASECCO, near GALLANTARE, north of MILAN on 5/2/1919 by a corporal in the 2nd Czech Battalion in transit on the unit's return to Czechoslovakia. Pmk P.M. 52 cds, type II, sub-type a, on 22/2/1919 on arrival at KROMĚŘÍŽ. It is not known whether this unit was late returning from Italy or a unit left behind to oversee final transfer of equipment.

Fig.3 - Ppc of KROMĚŘÍŽ from Czech soldier (contrary to regulations ?) to STRAKONICE on 31/1/1919. POSTA MILITARE 52 cds Type II s/type a.

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>> [Italian Fieldpost - 1919 ...]

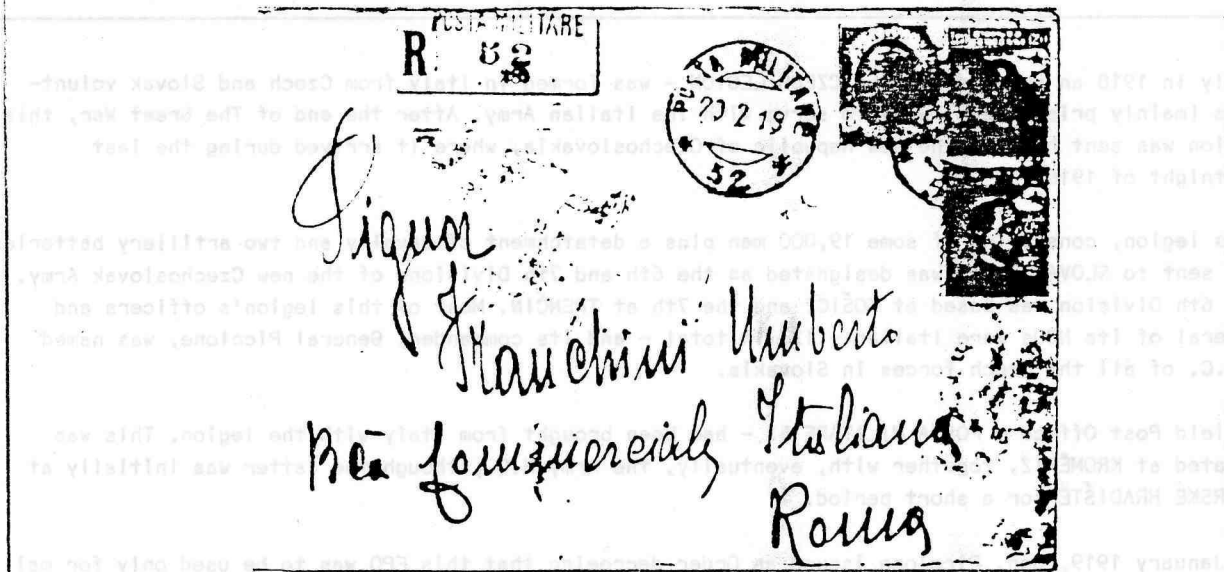


Fig.1



Fig.2

Fig.3

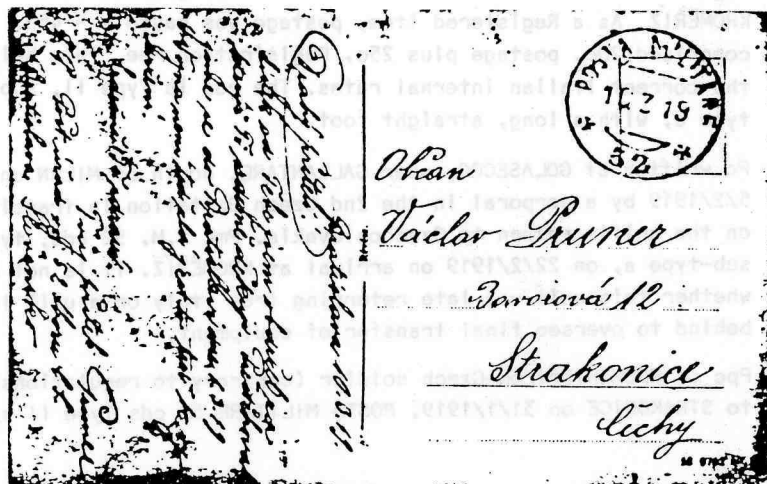


Fig.4

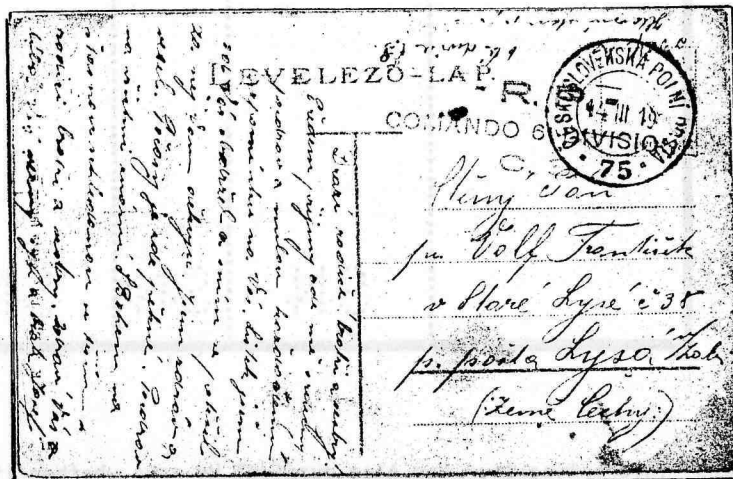
>>

>> [Italian Fieldpost 1919....]

Fig.4 From BRATISLAVA following the transfer there of Army H.Q. and the F.P.O. This is noted in the message on the card, telling of the move and quoting new location.
 Again from a Czech soldier to STRAKONICE: P.M. 52 cds is type II, sub-type b., the 2 being with a rounder top and shorter, upturned foot. Pmk 10.3.19.
 It is noteworthy that neither of these two cards bear unit cachets - again, contrary to regulations. This may indicate clandestine treatment by the staff of the F.P.O.

Figures 5 and 6 show examples of Italian language unit cachets. Several are recorded and one bi-lingual (Czech/Italian) has been noted. Both are from the Czech F.P.O. 75, then at KOŠICE.

Fig. 5 >



< Fig.6

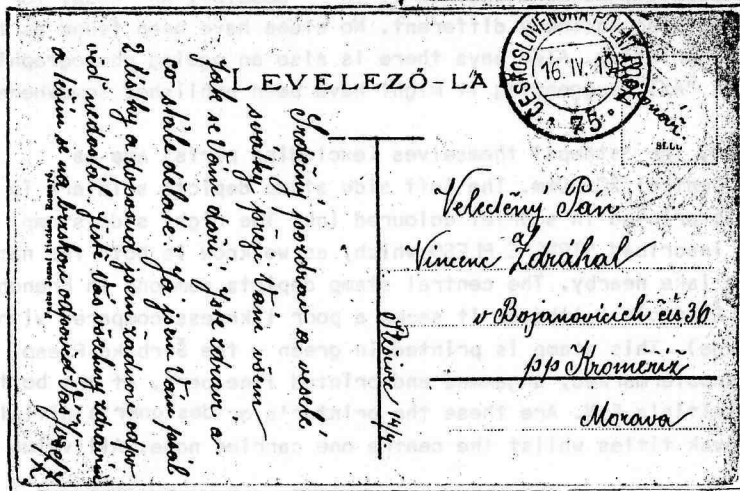


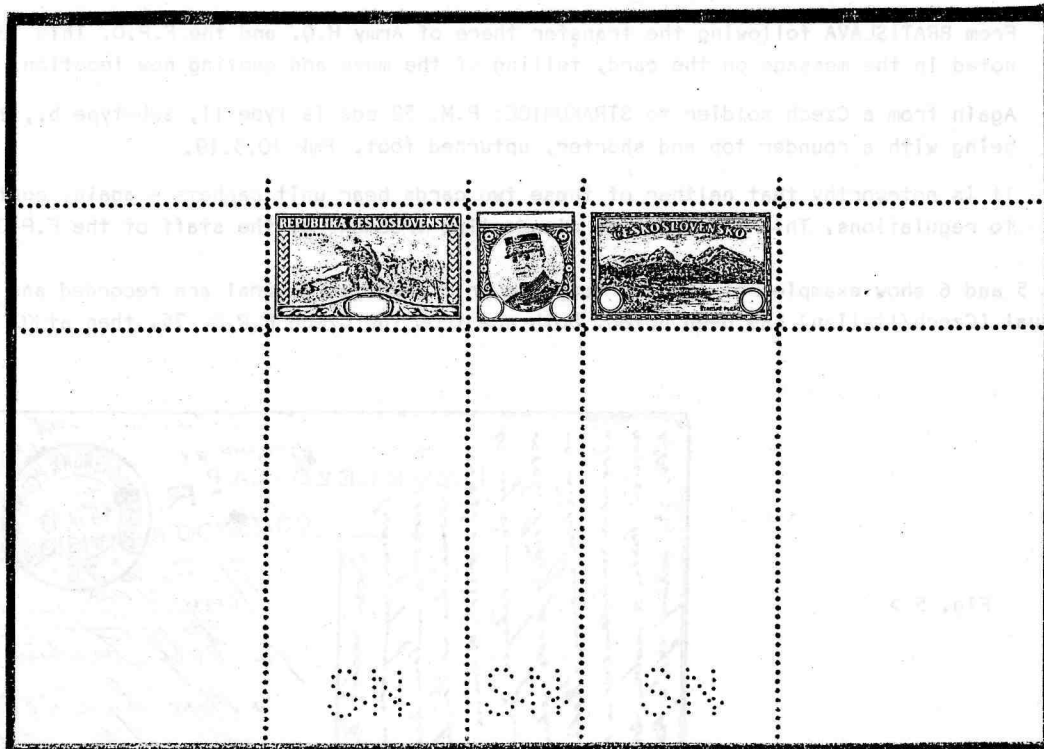
Fig. 5 Cachet:- - R.P. -/COMANDO 6^a DIVISIONE/C.S. sent 14.3.1919 to LYSA nad LABEM.

Fig. 6 Circular cachet: Outer circle: 32^o REGIMENTO CZECO-SLOVACCO COMANDO.
 Inner circle: 2^o BATTAGLIONE D'ASSALTO.

Written at PLEŠÍVEC, postmarked at F.P.O. 75 on 16 April 1919 to KROMĚŘÍŽ.

QUERY CORNER

From W. ALEC PAGE, FRPS, L.



This most interesting item has Alec puzzled! He asks whether it is possibly an essay for a BATTLE OF ZBOROV commemorative or something entirely different. No clues have been found as to its date of origin or reasons for its printing. Alec says there is also an ageing photographic copy - endorsed top-right in biro ink "A/3" suggesting it might have been published somewhere.

The entire sheet measures 218 x 147mm. The 'stamps' themselves (excluding perfs) are as follows: Left and Right: 38 x 22mm; Centre: 20x20mm. The left side stamp depicts soldiers in battle and is inscribed ZBOROV. It is printed in scarlet coloured ink. The right side stamp depicts a mountain surrounded lake, inscribed ŠTRBSKÉ PLESO which, as we know is both the name of a town in The High Tatras and the lake nearby. The central stamp depicts someone in French military uniform - probably Gen. R. Štefánik (although it seems a poor likeness compared with issued stamps bearing this man's image). This stamp is printed in green - the Štrbské Pleso one is in blue. The entire item is unwatermarked, ungummed and printed line perf. At the bottom of each stamp strip are perforated initials S.N. Are these the printer's or designer's initials? Two stamps carry different Czechoslovak titles whilst the centre one carries none. All value tablets are left blank.

If any reader can supply us with some explanations as to the reasons for this production - particularly the printers, designer(s) and those initials S.N., not of course, forgetting the date of printing, Alec (and we, of course) will be happy to pass this on to members in a future edition of this journal. Please address your replies direct to Mr. W.A. Page whose address is inside our cover page.



THE CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAL MUSEUM

Alec Page

The Czechoslovak Postal Museum was founded on 18 December 1918, a matter of only a few weeks after the founding of the Republic. In keeping with the International Stamp Exhibitions held in 1962, 1968 and 1978, Czechoslovakia is organising the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Transport Museums (IATM) of which Czechoslovakia has been a member since 1970.

The "Praga 88" event will also see the opening of a new Postage Stamp Museum at the refurbished and historic building of Vavra House in Prague. The museum's main room will be devoted to a permanent exhibition containing 70 years' stamps and associated material to be displayed in four main sections. These will portray the history of mail delivery within Czechoslovak territory; European stamps from 1840 to 1900; The History of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps and, finally, a selection of material that has been donated to the museum. The new museum will also house a library and reading room for the benefit of visitors.

Obviously visitors to PRAGA '88 should take the opportunity to visit this museum, if possible.



On 10 March 1988, Czechoslovakia issued four commemorative stamps entitled 70 YEARS OF THE POSTAL MUSEUM, illustrated here. A special souvenir sheet was also issued at the same time comprising the 2Kčs and 4Kčs stamps each printed perf. and imperf. All the stamps bear the PRAGA '88 logo. The four designs for these stamps are by Karel Toman with engravings by Miloš Ondráček. All size 40x23mm (frames) the issue was printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague.

50h. Post Office in Prague's Malostranské nám. (1792-1849); TV transmitter in Velká Javorina (1979) and stylized medieval foot messenger. Colours: Black, red, blue, ochre.

1Kčs. Prague Post Office on Karmelitská ul. (1792-1849); Telecom building in Mladá Boleslav (1986) and 1845 engraving of Prague Letter Carrier. Colours: Black, red, blue, green.

2Kčs. Post Office Prague 1 (1873); Post Office Bratislava 56 (1984) and Prague Letter Carrier. Colours: Black, red, green, rose.

4Kčs. Prague Post Office at Maltézská nám; (1622-1722); Prachatice Communications Area (1982) and stylized medieval messenger. Colours: Black, blue-green, red, yellow.

[Sources: "Praga '88" Bulletin No.2. Photo: Courtesy of ARTIA, Praha]



[Photo: ARTIA-Praha]

- MUSEUM OF NATIONAL LITERATURE IN PRAGUE -

Another special issue relating to the WORLD EXHIBITION OF POSTAGE STAMPS- PRAGA '88 to be held in Prague from 26th August to 4th September this year, the subject of which is "The Museum of National Literature in Prague". We illustrate one of the five special sheets issued on 12 May 1988 comprising this set.

Devoted to a highly attractive subject "State Conservation", this set focuses upon the exceptionally rich and full tradition of Czechoslovak national literature. Each stamp bears the title noted above and the exhibition logo. The designs symbolise the institution founded by the State in 1953 - The Museum of National Literature. The exhibits in the museum document and illustrate the development of Czech literature from the beginnings of Slavonic literary creation to the present day.

The oldest part of the museum is the STRAVHOV LIBRARY whose beginnings date back to the 12th century. There is also an extensive literary archive with some 900,000 titles, including about 4,000 rare and ancient manuscripts. The museum is housed in the magnificent buildings of the former monastery on Strahov Hill, near Prague Castle. The original monastery was founded in the first half of the 12th c. and its buildings reflect the Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque periods. Extensive research and costly but sensitively executed work gave the entire complex its present shape which is so much admired by thousands of tourists from all over the world. An inspection of the Museum of National Literature is a remarkable and cultural experience enriching anyone entering its halls.

The four stamps (1, 2, 5 and 7Kčs) depict samples of Strahov architecture with its individual elements, e.g. the magnificent portal, the beautiful decor, the ancient folios and the old astronomical globes. All the stamp designs were by JOSEF LIESLER with engravings by JOSEF HERČIK.

Each value appears quadrupled on a single miniature sheet (4) whilst the fifth sheet (illustrated) bears one stamp of each of the four values.

The central gutter is decorated with a design incorporating an open book with stylized 'wings' that encompass a section of the old monastery building. Two FDCs were issued with designs by J. Liesler.

Technical note:The examples I possess are perforated except the fifth sheet above which is imperf. This is despite the fact that the photograph above shows perforated stamps. AJK.

BACCHUS and ARIADNE
(Sebastiano Ricci)
c.1725



BAKCHUS A ARIADNA (ASI PO R. 1725)
SEBASTIANO RICCI 1659-1734
NÁRODNÍ GALERIE V PRAZE

Des. & Engraver:
Vaclav Fajt
p.11 $\frac{3}{4}$



"PRAGA '88" sheet to be issued in August and following the Mythology theme of PRAGA '78. The subject depicted is the story of BACCHUS AND ARIADNE as executed by the artist SEBASTIANO RICCI. Although his date of birth is given on the stamp as being 1659, other references state it to have been in 1661 - but be that as it may. Space denies me a complete story here and in any case, there are divergencies to be allowed for. Ariadne was the daughter of Pasiphae and the Cretan king Minos. She fell in love with the Athenian hero Theseus and with a thread of glittering jewels, helped him escape the Labrynth after he slew a Minotaur - a beast half bull and half man - that Minos kept in the Labrynth. Here legend diverges: she was abandoned and hanged herself; she was carried away to Naxos OR she married the wine god DIONYUS (BACCHUS), the god of fertility and vegetation. In these offices, Bacchus was worshipped as widely as Apollo. He is recorded as a most handsome, beardless man who always wore a band of vine or ivy leaves in his golden hair. He is invariably described (as in the stamp above) as riding or accompanying a panther or lion and carrying a 'thyrsus' - a rod with a pine cone at the top.

Congratulations are certainly due to VACLAV FAJT for his very fine engraving that has resulted in a most pleasing item for collectors of stamps on the theme 'Mythology' - and, of course, to collectors of Czechoslovak postage stamps. There is just one query in my mind... (apart from RICCI's date of birth) and that is the artist's mark at bottom-left of the picture: It reads SEBASTIA - and not Sebastiano! I wonder why? If YOU know, please tell me. A.J.K.

CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT (15)

SEBASTIANO RICCI (Rizzi) 1662-1734

Alan Knight

It is ten years since the last 'PRAGA' and the same time has elapsed since I first wrote my first Contemporary Spotlight item on "Praga '78 National Costume Head Dresses" (4/78 11) so perhaps it is fitting that I should again address myself to another such event - the special sheet intended for use during this year's PRAGA '88. It will also be issued with margin inscription relating to "F.I.P. DAY" (Journée de la Fédération Internationale de Philatélie). I have described this sheet of two stamps elsewhere within; now I will endeavour to give readers a short introduction to the original artist of the work forming the subject of this particular issue.

If, like me, you look up the name RICCI in any good guide to painters, you will immediately see no less than ten of them listed! However, there was only one SEBASTIANO RICCI and he was born at BELLUNO, in the Venetian state in 1662 and when still quite young, was placed under Federigo Cervelli, at VENICE with whom he studied until he was twenty years of age. On leaving that master he went to BOLOGNA, where he stayed for a short period before coming under the protection of the Duke of Parma, who employed him for some time at PIACENZA before sending him to ROME for a little improvement.

Later in his career, Ricci was noticed by the King of Rome in Vienna who employed him to decorate the imperial palace at SCHÖENBRUNN. Following a brief spell in Germany later, Sebastiano visited LONDON with his nephew MARCO RICCI and met with the most flattering encouragement. He painted the chapel at BULSTRODE for the Duke of Portland and in the altar-piece, representing The Last Supper, Ricci introduced his own portrait in modern dress. The hall of Burlington House and some of the ceilings and the altar-piece in the chapel at CHELSEA HOSPITAL were also painted by him.

During a residence of ten years in this country, Sebastiano Ricci executed several other (and considerable) works of art for the mansions of the nobility but was said to have left England in disgust, on finding that it was determined that Sir James Thornhill should paint the cupola of ST. PAULS CATHEDRAL.

Like Luca Giordano, Ricci had a great facility in imitating the styles of other masters. His picture of the 'Apostles Adoring The Sacrament', in the church of S. Guistina, at PADUA, is painted in imitation of the cupola of S. Giovanni at PARMA by Corregio and his 'St. Gregorio' at BERGAMO, recalls the work of Guercino. His most successful imitations however, were those of Paolo Veronese, many of which he is said to have sold as the works of that master! He is said to have deceived the French painter, La Fosse, who avenged himself with the rebuke: "For the future," said he, "take my advice and paint no more Riccis."

Sebastiano Ricci certainly possessed a fertile invention and a commanding facility. Although his design is often incorrect, his figures are graceful and his colour, though sometimes feeble and cold, is often silvery and very agreeable.....Sebastiano Ricci died at BELLUNO in 1734.

His link with this country remains a very firm one and even today, some his very finest works are to be found at HAMPTON COURT. Others are certainly spread over a very wide area such as at Bordeaux, Dresden, Florence, Medena, Paris and Venice and - in the case of the subject of our PRAGA '88 stamp "BACCHUS AND ARIADNE" - at the Czech National Gallery in PRAGUE.

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[Source: Bryan's Dictionary of Painters and Engravers, Kennikat Press, inc., Port Washington, N.Y.]

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This is our final pre-exhibition item of PRAGA '88. We hope to bring you some reviews and a few members' reminiscences later in the year. To all of you travelling to Czechoslovakia for this World Exhibition of Postage Stamps, we say 'Bon-Voyage' and wish you a very happy experience.

INFORMATION

During the exhibition the following special 'Philatelic Days' will be held. Each will be noted in special 'Day' cancellations and cachets. These have proved very popular with collectors over the years, therefore we list them below for your early reference:

Saturday, 27 August	.....	Day of Czechoslovak Stamps.
Sunday, 28 August	.....	Day of Young Philatelists.
Monday, 29 August	.....	Day of Thematic Philately.
Tuesday, 30 August	.....	Day of Postal History.
Wednesday, 31 August	.....	Day of Aerophilately.
Thursday, 1 September	.....	Day of F.I.P.
Friday, 2 September	.....	Day of the World Postal Union.
Saturday, 3 September	.....	Day of Czechoslovak Nat.Front.
Sunday, 4 September	Day of The United Nations and International Peaceful Co-operation.

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F.I.P. CONGRESS

During the course of the exhibition, the 57th Congress of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) will be held as well as The Assembly of The International Association of Transport and Postal Museums. A number of other specialised and social activities are also planned, details of which will be available at the exhibition.

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LOCATIONS OF EXHIBITION HALLS

PRAGA '88 will be held in four exhibition halls. The exhibition arranged by the Federal Ministry Posts and Telecommunications together with competitive and non-competitive exhibits, including those dealing with philatelic literature, will be seen in the Congress Palace and its neighbouring buildings in the 'Julius Fučík' Park of Culture. The Postal Museum exhibits will be on public display in the reconstructed Vavra's House, Prague. In the exhibition hall called "U Hybernů", the exhibits of postal administrations will be installed. In co-operation with the National Gallery and other Czechoslovak art galleries, an exhibition "Art & Stamps" will be held in the premises of the Riding School of Prague Castle.

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SPONSORSHIP

The World Exhibition of Postage Stamps - PRAGA '88 - will be held under the sponsorship of F.I.P. Its co-ordination will be the responsibility of the FIP Vice-President, Mr. George B. Lindberg of Sweden. The exhibition organisers are the Federal Ministry of Postal Services and Telecommunications of Czechoslovakia and the Association of Czechoslovak Philatelists, one of FIP's founding members in 1926.



THE MOSCOW SUMMIT 1988

STOP PRESS!UNPROGRAMMED ISSUE

We have just received this copy of an unexpected issue so we felt that because of the great importance of the subject we should include it within this edition.

This is a miniature sheet to commemorate the MOSCOW SUMMIT meeting between the President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev of the U.S.S.R during late May and early June 1988.

With face value of 4Kčs the stamp illustrates depictions of the American House of Representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. and buildings of the Kremlin in Moscow, the seats of government of the two states. The central (circular) inscription makes reference to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons. At the bottom of the stamp appears the legend MOSCOW/MAY/JUNE 1988. The frame measures 41 x 23.5mm. Perforations are $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$.

Above the marginal national architectural circular design, the stamp inscription reads the same - in English and Russian. At the bottom of the margin appear the national flags of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The entire sheet measures 11 x 10.5cm. and was designed by A. Fuchs; the engraver was Václav Fajt. — AK.