

CZECHOUT

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Production: W. Alec Page

FROM THE EDITOR

It is always our constant endeavour to produce and deliver CZECHOUT on or around the end of each calendar Quarter and we shall continue to do this. Occasionally however, our efforts are thwarted by circumstances unforeseen and unexpected. The recent G.B. postal dispute is one of these! It had been our intention to include commentaries and reviews of PRAGA '88 in this edition but as the exhibition did not close until early in September, this has been further frustrated by non-delivery of any mail to us. It has been decided therefore that these items will appear in our next issue and trust members will bear with us and understand our problems. Pressure of space in this issue has also prevented us from publishing our usual comments on new issues but albeit, this feature will appear again as usual in December's issue. We hope this issue will not be too long delayed in reaching you but the long-term effects of the postal dispute are expected to last for some weeks yet.

Once again you have before you a CZECHOUT of some thickness! How long we can continue to keep this up depends on YOUR contributions, of course. However, we do have a very thoroughly good reason this time. We are proud to publish for the Society's records, a very fine article on the Parcel Posts in the Czech Lands by our member John Whiteside, FRPS,L. This is a revised copy of John's article recently published in the United States of America where it appeared in the journal of the Postal History Society over there. We feel that important articles of some length should not be published over two or more editions and it will be our policy for the foreseeable future to publish them intact in one edition of CZECHOUT. The authors usually prefer it and we feel sure that readers will, too.

May I draw members' attention to our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING being held at our home venue in the Czechoslovak Club, London on SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER commencing at 11.30am. sharp. All who are able are especially asked to attend and contribute your thoughts perhaps on the future activities of our Society. This is, of course, also the occasion for the election of the Society's officers and committee - and your vote counts! Following a break for lunch, our annual auction follows the AGM at 2.30pm. Why not come along and join in the spending spree? Maybe you could possibly find just what you are looking for.

Well! our 'summer' has now passed us by (in more ways than one) and the longer evenings are closing in upon us as we approach what has become generally known as 'The Philatelic Season'. Albums out, magnifiers polished and tweezers at the ready! But that is not all there is to philately. Your presence at our regular Quarterly meetings could result in your picking up that odd tit-bit of information you have been seeking for so long or the chance to ask questions or discuss a certain philatelic problem on your mind. If you have never before attended one of our meetings, please come along and make yourself known to us. Our meetings are noted for their friendly informality and you will be assured of a warm welcome. See You!

AJK

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CZECHOUT



COUNTRY MEETING AT ROYSTON - June 18 1988

The Vice-Chairman, Mr. Alan Knight welcomed around twenty members and guests to this pleasant meeting in a pleasant rural atmosphere. We had been invited here by Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Hounsell who ensured an absolutely first-class luncheon prior to the meeting proper. Our thanks also must be recorded to Mrs. Jean Parker and friends whose hard work with Kathy and Reginald did so much to enable us to 'sit back comfortably' to enjoy the following displays and relevant talks:

- Alec Page: A comprehensive collection of postal stationery bearing HRADČANY imprints.
- Bill Dawson: Postal stationery used in the Prague Pneumatic Post.
- Dr. Garth Taylor: Czechoslovak PS 1919-1940.
- Reg. Hounsell: A selection of postcards from the 1st Republic.

Mr. Robert Kingsley proposed a very warm Vote of Thanks to everyone who had contributed to this very happy and informative occasion; this was heartily endorsed by the Meeting.

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SPECIAL NOTICE - National Philatelic Society

We have been asked to draw members' attention to a new scheme organised by the NPS by which potential entrants to a competition at National level and who have never participated in any National competition previously, can submit for expert appraisal their proposed exhibit prior to the occasion. The appraisal will be by a panel of qualified National Judges who will recommend to prospective entrants exactly how, in their expert opinion, to enter the major National event in the Autumn.

In order to achieve this aim the exhibits that have been presented will be appraised by the judges during the morning of the first day of SPRING 'STAMPEX' which is being held in both Halls of the Royal Horticultural Society, London from Tuesday 28 February until Sunday 5 March 1989. The judges will then be present on that afternoon to discuss the exhibits with their owners. There will be no prizes or awards as such but the owners will receive a written Statement of Achievement.

The rules that will be applied to this appraisal are those set out in the Prospectus called 'Britain's National Stamp Exhibition'. This Prospectus and entry forms are available from STAMPEX LIMITED, 27 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HZ and the National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6PT. Each exhibitor may only submit ONE entry.

The closing date for entries is 25 November 1988. The completed forms should be returned to the Exhibitions Officer, National Philatelic Society, c/o: 27 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HZ together with the entry fee of £5. Cheques are to be made payable to Stampex Limited.

It is recommended that insurance cover should be obtained for the period between date of posting (or delivery) until Friday, 10 March, 1989.

The final paragraph on page 9 of 'Britain's National Stamp Exhibitions' - A Guide to Exhibitors - should read:- It is not normally advisable to include unused adhesives or postal stationery in a Postal History Class exhibit.

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OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we report that Robert and Bernice Kingsley have suffered the sad loss of Bernice's father following a very short illness. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Bob and Bernice at this sad time for them both.

NEW MEMBER

The Society warmly welcomes to its ranks MR. MARKUS ASHTON of Knutsford, Cheshire. We sincerely hope his stay with us will be long and happy.

CZECH AIRMAILS PUBLICATION

Mr. Roy Dehn informs us that he has been advised of a 1983 publication which he feels some members may like to obtain and which should be in our library. Limited enquiries in Prague have failed to trace this book and members are requested to pass any information they may have on this publication to the Editor, please, especially from whence to obtain it and at what cost.

Ed. Zrubec-Kucierz-Vlach "Zbornik clankov o aerofilatelii" (164pp) was published by Zvaz slovenskych filatelistov, Bratislava and it contains a comprehensive study of Czechoslovak Airmail flights and airmail stationery (1923-1983).

MICHEL STAMP CATALOGUE

We know that some members use this catalogue and therefore pass them the following information: Chris. Carter of Safe Albums (UK) Ltd., Britwood House, 180 Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berks., RG11 6DS, informs us that he can supply last years EAST EUROPE CATALOGUE to members within the U.K. at the reduced price of £13.50 inc. p&p. Normal cost is £18.

EDITORIAL APPEAL

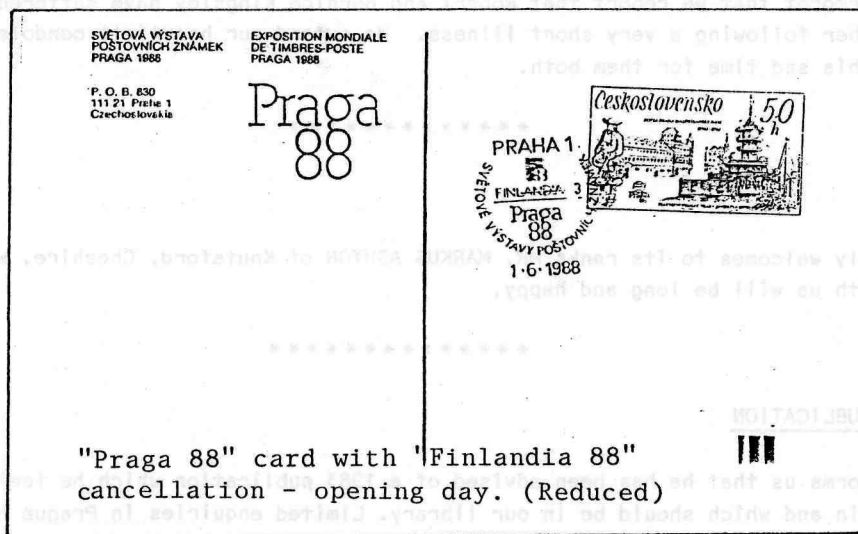
The support given to CZECHOUT over the past years by our philatelic writers has been excellent and members' recent reaction has been most favourable. As we near the end of yet another volume of our journal, we are looking for some more of those excellent articles for the coming year.

We feel sure our regular contributors will always continue to assist us but we are also looking to even more contributions from amongst our rank and file members. You do not have to be a journalist to help in this way. If you have something of interest concerning Czechoslovak and related philately (including forerunner information), do please write it down and send it to the editor. Every item received will be carefully considered for publication. We ask only two things, please: your contribution should be factual and relative. It is always important that original authors' permission is applied for before publication so if you can do this for us, or supply authors' names and addresses, it will be of great assistance. Correspondence to the Editor, please.

CORRIGENDA: Issue 2/88 p44:- SCHÖENBRUNN should read SCHÖNBRUNN or SCHOENBRUNN (without **). Our thanks to "J.W" for pointing this out to us.

"FINLANDIA 88" - A Review

W. A. Page



The famous composer Sibelius and Finland are synonymous and, appropriately, his tone-poem "Finlandia" will be well-known to music lovers. Thus was set the opening scene for the international stamp exhibition "FINLANDIA 88" on 1 June 1988, with the various addresses being interspersed with a programme of Sibelius' music played by the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Set in the spacious Helsinki Fairs Centre a few miles to the north of the 1956 venue, thereby making it the most northerly philatelic exhibition ever held, the occasion also marked the 350th anniversary of the Finnish Posts with supporting displays and exhibits. The staging and facilities were first class; a great credit to the organisers for all the work that had been put in over a three year period.

To view all 5000 frames from 53 countries would have been a virtual impossibility but perhaps, the highlight of this great exhibition was the 22 frame exhibit of Russian Zemstvo Posts (Local or Rural Posts). This collection in the Court of Honour was that of Mr. Oleg Farbergé of Finland, whose name is directly connected to the suppliers of jewellery to the Imperial Russian Court.

CPSGB MEMBERS WIN AWARDS

During the course of the exhibition it was very pleasant to meet again with some of our overseas members; Paul Jensen (Norway), a member of the International Jury and Gosta Hedbom (Sweden) to whom we offer our warm congratulations on his being awarded a Gold Medal for his Czechoslovakia exhibit. Our young Norwegian member, Kjetil Kvist repeated his Copenhagen success of 1987 with another Silver Medal in the Youth Class for his Czechoslovakia display. We also offer our sincere congratulations to other members who gained awards for their non-Czechoslovak collections: Michael Birks: a Silver Medal for his Waterlow issues of Nicaragua and to Otto Hornung, a Gold Medal for his Classical Turkey.

EXHIBITS OF CZECHOSLOVAK INTEREST

There were four exhibits in the Traditional Philately class: two in Postal History and one in each of the Aerophilately, Thematic and Youth sections. Gosta Hedbom's exhibit contained a small pre-stamp collection including entires from the Royal Castle, Prague (1571) and a letter (1580) to the Burgomaster of Nový Kolin, signed by the Emperor Rudolf II. >>

EXAMPLES OF FINNISH AND CZECHOSLOVAK CO-OPERATION

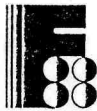


FILATELIAN MAAILMANNÄYTTELY FINLANDIA 88

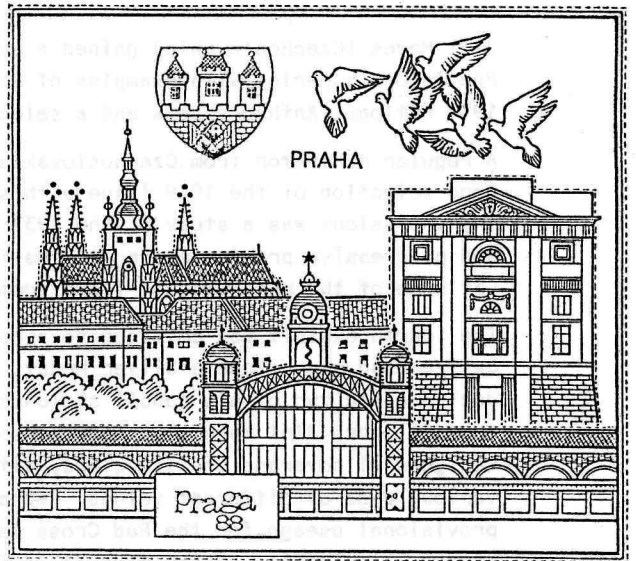
SVĚTOVÁ VÝSTAVA POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK

FINLANDIA 88

HELSINKI 1-12.6.1988



ČESKOSLOVENSKO-ARTIA TSEKKOSLOVAKIA-ARTIA



SVĚTOVÁ VÝSTAVA POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK PRAHA 88

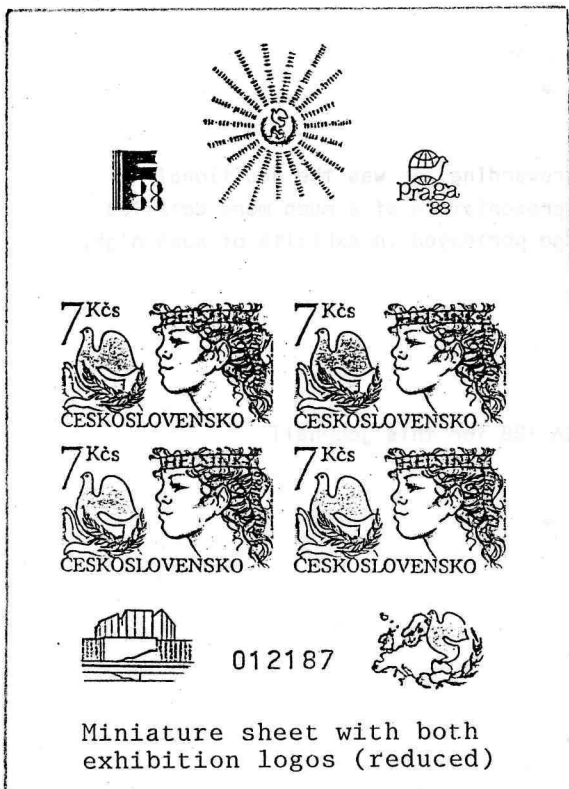
WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION PRAGA 88

PRAHA 26.8-4.9.1988



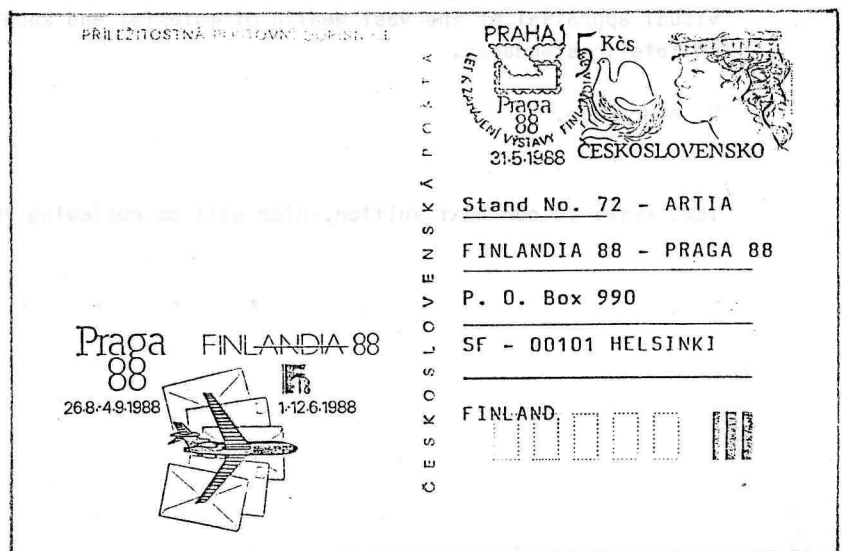
ČESKOSLOVENSKO-ARTIA CZECHOSLOVAKIA-ARTIA

Two part folder for "Finlandia 88" (reduced)



Miniature sheet with both exhibition logos (reduced)

Below: Commemorative postcard from Prague to Helsinki



[Finlandia 88 ...]

Jiří Mares (Czechoslovakia) gained a Large Silver Medal with a good coverage of the 1918 Provisionals period with examples of the Revolutionary o/prints. His exhibit also included the 1934 National Anthem sheets and a selection of 1920-1922 airmails.

A regular exhibitor from Czechoslovakia, Svatopluk Sablatura (Large Silver Medal), included a good selection of the 1919 issue with some fine covers showing their use. A particularly interesting inclusion was a study of the 1937 Bratislava Exhibition sheet, including artist's drawings and progressive proofs leading to the final sheet as issued. All three displays included a wealth of some of the more unusual items from the various issues of the period.

The fourth exhibit was confined to a complete display of the Hradčany issues by Miloš Miltner of Switzerland who gained a Silver Medal. The introduction included a write-up on Mucha, the issue's designer and two of his pencil sketches of the proposed design, duly authenticated by the son of the designer, Jiří Mucha. Large black prints of the original designs were also included. There was general coverage of all values, with plate identifications, perforation varieties and the various uses of different values. Emphasis was made of the spiral variations and the later, provisional useage for the Red Cross issue, the Airmails and East Silesia issues. The final frame covered a selection of the many plate flaws found in the basic issue.

AIRMAIL AND THEMATIC EXHIBITS

Czechoslovakia's air mail system was the subject of the exhibit from Bedřich Helm (Czechoslovakia) which gained him a Large Silver Medal. This covered a period of ten years from 1920 with examples of mail showing the gradual development and expansion of air routes. The display also covered the use of the various provisional and definitive airmail stamps of the period and the special airmail route etiquettes.

In the Thematic class one particular exhibit entitled "Troubled Times in Bohemia 1620-1918" demonstrated the use of philatelic material to cover what, in this case, was a very comprehensive review of the defeat of the Czechs in 1620 and their struggle, both politically and culturally, for recognition and independence. The exhibit included forerunner material, postal stationery, stamps, mainly Czechoslovak but with a few from other countries. This very brief resumé does not really do justice to the historical knowledge portrayed in these six frames, provided by Lumír Brendl (Czechoslovakia) for which a Vermeil award was given.

* * * * *

The amount of time spent in studying the exhibits was most rewarding, as was the additional knowledge gained. Regrettably, space limitations preclude presentation of a much more detailed visual appraisal of the vast wealth of material and knowledge portrayed in exhibits of such high, philatelic standards.

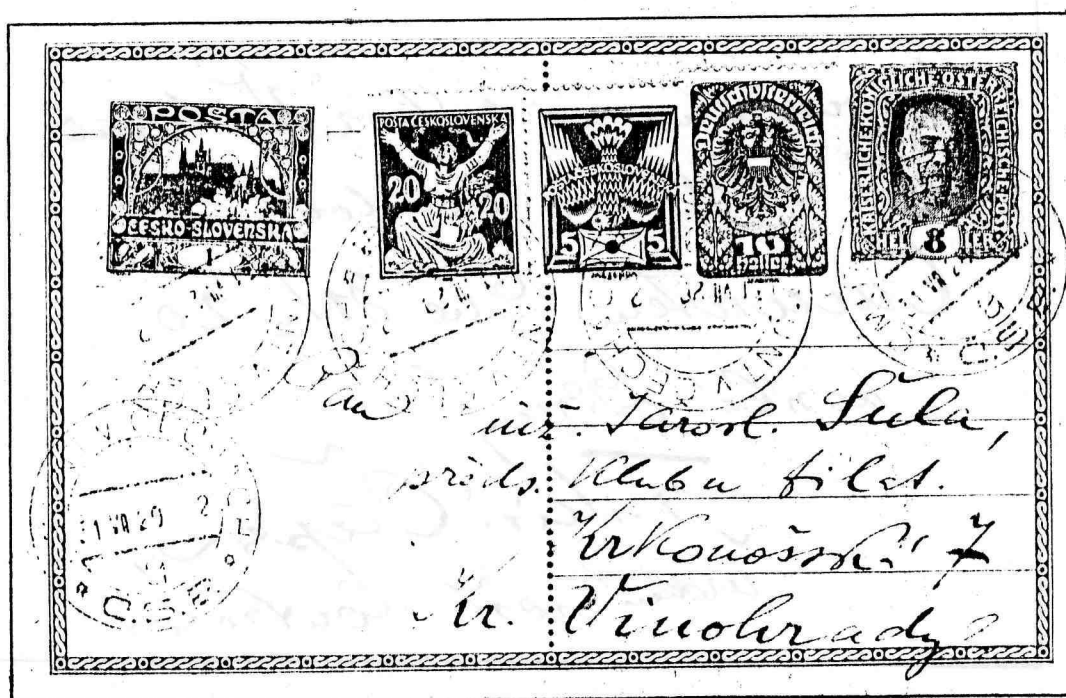
W. Alec Page.

[Ed. note: In our next edition, Alec will be reviewing PRAGA '88 for this journal]

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AN INTERESTING "FIND"?

A.J.K

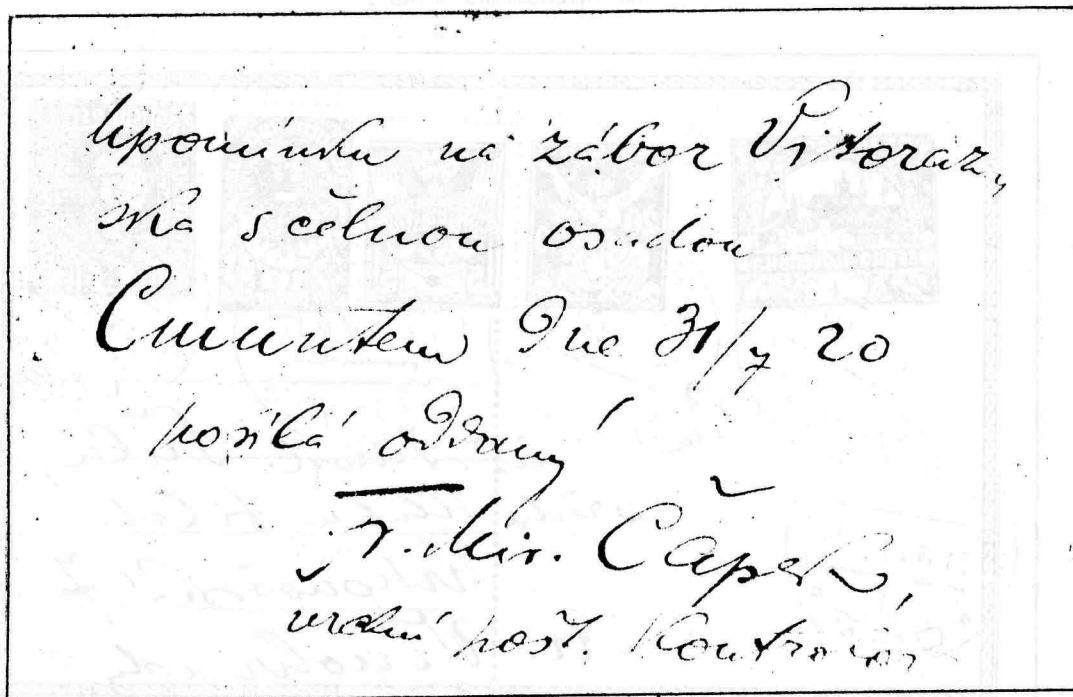


Rummaging through some of my older 'forerunner' material a little while back (I never neatly SORT through these things) I came upon this old postcard of Austrian origin bearing a mixture of Austrian and Czechoslovak postage stamps - including the 1919 AUSTRIAN (National Arms) 10h value. That is the stamp that started me on my 'search for the truth' in this instance. Why an Austrian stamp of 1919 on a postcard apparently posted in Czechoslovakia? Then I met up with my second big stumbling-block - the red-ink cds of CMUNT v ČECHÁCH (presumably translatable into CMUNT-in-BOHEMIA). I tried some of my member-friends to no avail; they had never heard of the place and none of my usual reference books (including the Čz. Monographs) showed any such postmark or even the slightest reference. Finally my up-to-date Cs. Auto Atlas also let me down - a complete mystery! Then I tried dear old VLADIMIR KRÁLÍČEK in New Zealand and, true-to-form, he had a partial answer on my desk within two weeks.

It appears that CMUNT v ČECHÁCH was one of the disputed settlements following the disintegration of AUSTRIA-HUNGARY at the end of The Great War in 1918. In 1919 the small region of VITORAZSKO was incorporated into the Czech Lands on the basis of peace conference decisions. C v Č later changed its name to what it is today - ČESKÉ VELENICE. All was now beginning to come a little more clear to me and I lost no time in locating same at about 35km south-east of TŘEBOŇ in the South Bohemian Basin (48.47N/14.58E) right on the border with Austria and almost touching the Austrian town of GMÜND (note the nearness of this name to CMUNT!).

By sheer coincidence, it seemed that my correspondent-member Vladimír also owned a similar card from the same writer but self-addressed to Č. Budějovice. I was told that mention of another item of mail by the same writer appears on page 58 of Čz. Monograph No.1. and a reference to the Č.V. postmark appears on page 121 of Čz. Monograph No. 16(pt.1.).

It appears that following its transfer from Austria to Czechoslovakia, the post office at CMUNT v ČECHÁCH was officially permitted to accept the stamps of Austria on incoming mail for a limited period of only four days - and they were to be cancelled in RED! >>



By now, I was naturally beginning to believe that, maybe, I was holding a possibly rather scarce item - the postmarks were genuine and printed in red. Then I read on Officially CMUNT v ČECHÁCH was ceded to Czechoslovakia on 31 July 1920 and this card's postmarks are all dated for that day! So it appears that this card then is really, in a peculiar sort of way a 'First Day of Issue' item insofar as the postmark is concerned and, furthermore, it had appeared thus for only four days. By now I was quietly pleased with my 'find'.

But what of the address and the message on the card? To whom was it addressed and FROM whom; what did the message say? All was soon revealed by Vladimír:

The card is addressed as follows: Inž. Jaroslav Šula, Chairman, Philatelic Club, Král. Vinohrady, (a Prague suburb). The face carries the imprinted postage stamp with the old Emperor Franz Josef's portrait plus another Austrian stamp already mentioned and three Czechoslovak stamps and totalling 41h. Why so high a rate? The true answer is unknown. At the time of its posting, the card should have attracted postage of only 20h but this was to be increased the following day (1.8.1920) to 40h. Was this in the mind of the sender at the time? We will never know but, now knowing who the sender was, it could have been a distinct possibility.

Now we come to the historical and most important facet of this card - the message which reads:

"Reminder of the annexation of VITORAZ with the leading settlement CMUNT, 31.7.20"

With Greetings:

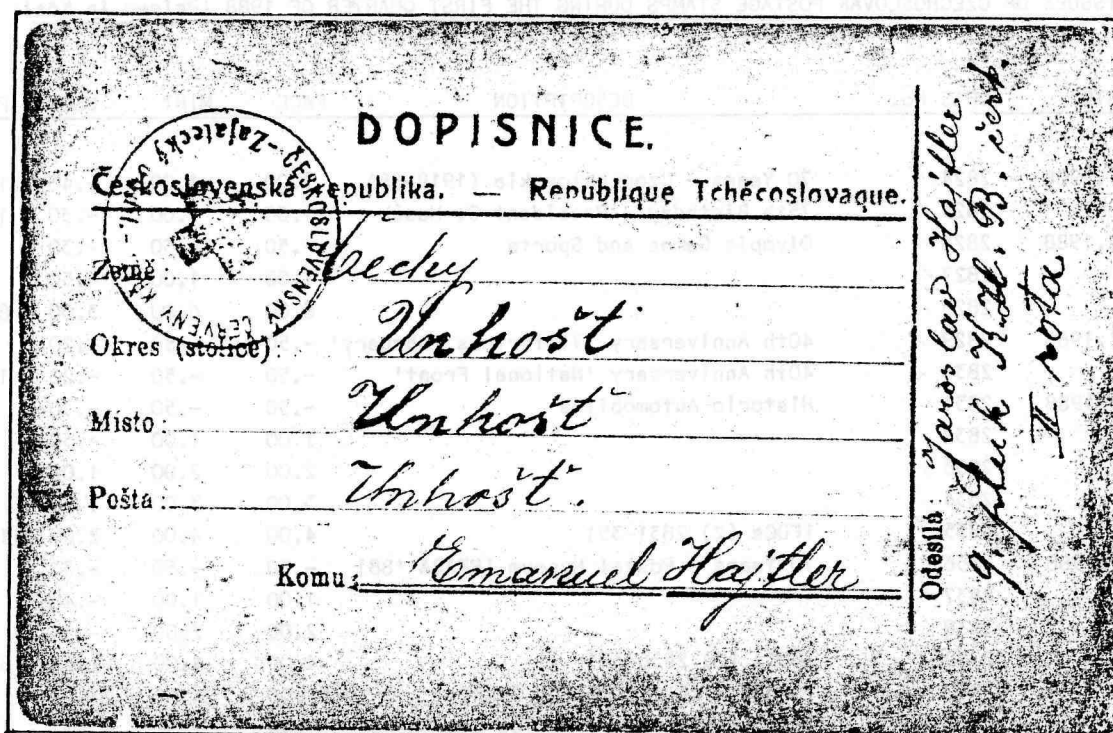
F.M. Čapek
CHIEF POST CONTROLLER.

So there it all is; another little philatelic problem solved. It simply shows that whatever we may think of all those countless pieces of old pre-1918 philatelic items, it does occasionally pay rewards to take a closer look sometimes and thoroughly research some of it.

[Ed. Note: Now being in possession of the new (1988) Czechoslovak Monograph No.17 (in two parts), I note that references to this particular annexation appear on page 8!]

QUERY CORNER

FROM: Vladimír Králíček



Here we have a most interesting - indeed, informative - postcard from a Czech prisoner of war in Russia at the end of the Great War of 1914-1918, addressed to his family at Unhošť, lying between Praha and Kladno in Bohemia. The message, dated 1.1.1919 at SUMICHA-by-KURGAN reads:

"Dears (II),

.... with my strength. I did not want to contribute with my strength to 'rotten Austria'. I wished to join our forces, support our struggle - but it was not easy. I had to go from KERČ across the AZOVSKAJE SEA to ROSTOV and walk 250 verst across the DON plains before I could reach our people. I have applied to join our ranks as a volunteer. After about three weeks, the 'Bolsheviks' wanted to disarm us - that was at PENZA. I have been through several battles at PENZA - SAMARA etc. We are now resting. I am healthy and hopeful that we shall soon meet - if only it was so already. [written at side]: I am continuing on card III. With hearty greetings, JARDA". [Ed. note: "Verst" = an old Russian linear measurement of approximately 1166 $\frac{2}{3}$ yards]

So, as you can see now, this was the second card in a set of three and Vladimír would very much like to know - or better, see - where the other two cards are today, if they have survived.

The sender was: Jaroslav Hajtler, 9th Regiment K.H.B. Czech., II Company. The addressee could possibly have been the writer's father but this is not recorded on this card. It may interest members to know that KURGAN is an important junction of the Trans-Siberian Railway (55.30N 65.20E) between OMSK and SVERDLOVSK. The circular cachet is that of the CZECHOSLOVAK RED CROSS - PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION.

If you can assist Vladimír Králíček with ANY information relating to this card/sender, please let us hear from you It could begin to unfold a long, interesting account relating to some of those Czech troops taken prisoner in war by the Russians and later volunteering to join them in their fight against the Bolsheviks.

SUPPLEMENT TO POFIS CATALOGUE

Alan Knight

NEW ISSUES OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 [Priced in Kčs]

DATE	POFIS No.	DESCRIPTION	FACE	MINT	USED	FDC
1.01.1988	2824 ✓	70 Years - Czechoslovakia (1918-88)	1.00	1.00	-.40	1.50
	2825 ✓	75th Birthday - President G. Husák	1.00	1.00	-.30	1.50
1.02.1988	2826 ✓	Olympic Games and Sports	-.50	-.50	-.30	
	2827 ✓		1.00	1.00	-.50	
25.02.1988	2828 ✓		6.00	6.00	3.00	8.00
	2829 ✓	40th Anniversary 'Victorious February'	-.50	-.50	-.20	
	2830 ✓	40th Anniversary 'National Front'	-.50	-.50	-.20	1.50
1.03.1988	2831 ✓	Historic Automobiles	-.50	-.50	-.30	
	2832 ✓		1.00	1.00	-.50	
10.03.1988	2833 ✓		2.00	2.00	1.00	
	2834 ✓		3.00	3.00	1.50	
	2835 ✓	[FDCs (2) 2831-35]	4.00	4.00	2.00	11.50
	2836 ✓	70 Years - Postal Museum [PRAGA '88]	-.50	-.50	-.30	
	2837 ✓		1.00	1.00	-.40	
	2838 ✓		2.00	2.00	-.80	
29.03.1988	2839 ✓	[FDCs (2) 2836-39]	4.00	4.00	1.60	8.50
	A2840	[Sheet with 2x2Kčs and 2x4Kčs]	12.00	24.00	24.00	
	2841 ✓	125th Anniversary-'Matice Slovenska'	-.50	-.50	-.20	1.50

apostol

NOTES:

1. Pofis NOs 2829-30, together with No 770 (1954) are expected to appear on a special PRAGA '88 sheet to be sold against purchase of Exhibition entrance ticket.
2. The Olympic Games and Sports set (Pofis 2826-27) have been issued in sheet forms and, according to an ARTIA information sheet, exclusively through the German wholesalers H.E. Siegar & Co. However it is known that some (expensive) supplies have arrived in Great Britain.
3. Commencing with the 1989 issues, we intend to discontinue showing Czechoslovak catalogue prices in these lists. The lists themselves will be enlarged to give much more information on designs and some technical details as these become available to us. Your early comments are welcome, especially if you disagree with this.

The above information is compiled from information supplied by ARTIA and FILATELIE whose kind co-operation with us is greatly appreciated.

PARCEL POSTS IN THE CZECH LANDS

- by -

JOHN WHITESIDE

INTRODUCTION

On 11 June 1924, the British Post Office sought information from the Czech Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Prague about the operation of Cash-on-Delivery services. Over a year later, in September 1925, a detailed reply, written in French, was received from Prague. This contained an example of the card used for sending parcels with explanatory annotations, together with a digest of regulations governing the operation of the service. A translation of this material forms the final part of this article.

The accompanying letter mentioned the fact that such a service had operated in Czechoslovakia for several decades. This is true because, although the Czech Republic did not come into being until 28 October 1918, COD parcels could be sent in the Austro-Hungarian Empire since at least the mid-1850s.

The first section of this article outlines the methods of dealing with parcels, both ordinary and COD, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire up to 1918, with special reference to the documentation used. The second part deals similarly with the Czech Republic from 1918 onward.

PARCEL POST IN THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE

Until 1830, the parcel and money-letter service (the Fahrpost) was operated by the Mail Coach Administration rather than the Post Office but a reform in that year combined the two bodies to form the General Postal Administration.

The first items one finds connected with the parcel service are the "Paketbegleitbriefe" or letters accompanying parcels. These contained a brief description of the parcel, such as "Herewith a box wrapped in oilcloth, marked HB", this latter mark being usually the initials of the addressee. The letter also noted the parcel weight and any charges prepaid or payable. This letter was delivered to the addressee, who then went to the post office (or, in a large town, a special parcel office), presented it and collected his parcel. Early in the 1860s, following a practice adopted in several of the German states, a label bearing the office name and a number began to appear on these letters. A duplicate of this was affixed to the parcel and this assisted in identifying the item on collection. Letters bearing these labels are often erroneously described as registered letters.

A major new development occurred on 1 January 1863. The Imperial Government imposed a stamp duty (fiscal tax) on all documentation concerned with the shipment of goods. This tax applied also to parcels carried by the Post Office. Thus the package letters now had to bear a 5-kreuzer fiscal stamp to pay the tax imposed on post office parcels. Parcel traffic was increasing and many regular senders of parcels found the letter system cumbersome. They began to produce forms to accompany their parcels.

On 15 December 1871, the postal administration first put parcel forms into service. These large [about 230 x 180 mm.] "Frachtbriefe" bore an imprinted 5-kreuzer fiscal stamp and provided space for details of the parcel, its sender, its address, weight, contents, insured value, charges, etc. The forms were sold for 6 kreuzer: the 5-kreuzer stamp duty plus 1 kreuzer for the cost of the form. Their use did not become compulsory immediately, the use of privately produced forms being permitted until 1880.

On the same date, a second type of form was used. This was for parcels sent with cash payable on delivery ("Nachnahme"). These were larger [approximately 375 x 250 mm.] and were in two parts. The first, headed "Frachtbrief für Postnachnahmesendungen", was the parcel form and bore the 5-kreuzer fiscal impression, while the second part, headed "Nachnahmeschein", was a money-order form for the transmission of the amount collected back to the sender. >>

[Parcel Posts in the Czech Lands ...]

Used examples normally consist of the parcel form only, unless the item was undeliverable or was refused.

Between 1871 and 1878, four different issues of both types were produced. All issues appear in seven different versions: one with text in German, the others with bilingual or trilingual texts in German and the various languages of the Empire.

Two issues appeared in rapid succession in 1875. This was because of a change to the metric system, officially introduced for the parcels service on 1 April 1875. Prior to this, weights were expressed in Pfund and Loth [30 loth = 1 Pfund, 1 Loth = approximately 16.6g.] From then on, weights were shown only in kilogrammes or grammes. [See footnote 1].

The next major change occurred late in 1878. For ordinary parcels the paper forms were replaced by smaller cards [approx. 180 x 110 mm] headed "Post-Begleitadresse". This was the birth of the parcel card, which has lasted substantially unchanged to the present day. The first issue bore a 5-kreuzer fiscal impression dated 1875 and was quickly followed by a second issue with the fiscal impression dated 1879.

COD parcels continued to be accompanied by the larger parcel forms until 1881, when, at the same time as a third issue of the ordinary parcel cards, a new card was issued for COD. This was a parcel card joined to a money-order card for transmission of the cash collected, the two parts being separated by a line of perforations.

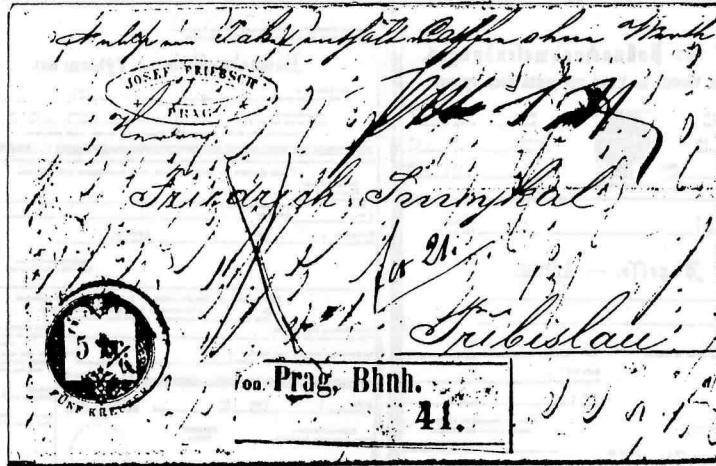
In 1883, a new type of card for parcels to foreign countries was issued with the text in German and French and from 1885, double cards for COD parcels to foreign destinations with similar text were issued. All domestic parcel cards appeared in a variety of language texts, usually in eight different versions. The fiscal stamp impressions on all cards bore a year date but these were not changed annually. Up to 1899, the year dates used were 1875, 1879, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1888 and 1893.

In 1890 a major change took place. Before then the charges were entered on the forms in manuscript: "Franko" if the charge was prepaid, "Porto" if the charge was to be paid by the addressee. From 1890 charges had to be prepaid and accounted for in postage stamps affixed to the cards. Some exceptions do seem to have been made for certain foreign parcels.

On 1 January 1900, the currency of the Austrian Empire was changed from Gulden (or Florin) of 100 Kreuzer to the Krone of 100 heller. Two Kronen were equal to 1 old Gulden. New parcel cards of all four types, ordinary and COD, both domestic and foreign, were issued bearing a 10-heller fiscal impression dated 1899. Between 1900 and 1918, only two further issues were made, one in 1905 with a new style of fiscal impression and a further one in 1916. This latter issue was different in that the fiscal impression was now placed on the left side of the card, on the coupon portion that could be detached and retained by the sender. Used examples where this has been detached thus seem to have no fiscal impression. From 1871 to 1918, both the fiscal duty of 5 kreuzer or 10 heller and the total form or card price of 6 kreuzer or 12 heller remained unchanged.

With regard to the Czech Lands, the material described was used in Bohemia and Moravia, which were part of the Austrian Empire and administered from Vienna. The eastern provinces of Slovakia and Ruthenia were part of the Kingdom of Hungary and administered from Budapest. From 1871, Hungary produced its own material for the parcel service. The development was along parallel lines to that of the Austrian part of the Empire, paper forms being used at first to be replaced by cards at about the same time. The fiscal tax likewise remained the same from 1871 to 1918 at 5 krajcar or 10 filler. Both ordinary and COD stationery was produced throughout that period. >>

- [1. From 1861, the Austro-German Postal Union adopted the Zollpfund (= to 500g.) divided into 30 loth. The Austrian pfund of 32 loth, equal to 560g. or 17.5g. per loth, may still have been employed for parcels sent within the Empire]



"Paketbegleitbrief" (3.4.1866) - 'With a packet containing coffee without value'. 5Kr. fiscal stamp for parcel tax. Weight 1pf = 1 pfund. fco 21 = Postage paid 21 Kr. To PRIBISLAU (PRIBYSLAV).

N^o 526 Wertb. fl. 28 40
 Nachnahme: fl. 28 kr. 40
 Gulden 28 40
Frachtbrief.
 Das k. k. Specialitäten-Commissionslager in Wien sendet
 durch die k. k. Fahrpost an: *Herrn Dr. J. Haaschild*
Lands. Wuppelkalar
 ein *Prag*
 mit Gefälls-Tabakfabrikaten. in *Prag*
 Letzte Post:
 Kronland:
 Nr. 911. Wien Prag. Stadt.

8 DEC. 6
 WIEN, am 7/12 1870

5 kr.
 1870

Privately produced form for a COD parcel of tobacco from VIENNA to PRAGUE, with a 5-kreuzer fiscal adhesive cancelled 8 December 1870.

Frachtbrief für Postnachsendungen.
Nákladní list k věcem, za které má pošta něco vybrati.

Nachnahmechein. — Vyběrní list.

Adressat: M. J. J. J.

Adressa: M. J. J. J.

Wien

1871

First issue COD parcel form [much reduced] of 15 December 1871 with the text printed in German and Czech.

Frachtbrief. — Nákladní list.

Franko } fl. } fr.
Franko } zl. } kr.

Porto } fl. } fr.
Porto } zl. } kr.

Gewicht } fl. } Lot
Váží } lb. } lot.

5 Kreuzer

Adressat: M. J. J. J.

Adressa: M. J. J. J.

Wien

in } Wien
v }

Gattung und Zeichen der Sendung
Jakého druhu jest věc zaslaná a jaké má znamení
M. J. J. J.

Inhalt
Co obsahuje
M. J. J. J.

Wert
Cena její } 18 fl. } fr. österr. Währ.
} zl. } kr. rak. Eisla.

Stempel.
Počet.

76

First issue of ORDINARY parcel form, used for sending a box of hats. Weight 2 kg. valued at 18 gulden. From FALKENAU (Czech FALKNOV) to VIENNA. Note despatch and arrival marks, 1876.

[Parcel Posts in the Czech Lands ...]

PARCEL POST IN THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN REPUBLIC UP TO 1939

In Czechoslovakia, as in the other successor states of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, postal services were continued along substantially the same lines as those of the Empire. The first parcel cards of the new nation appeared in 1919, probably in April or May. Both ordinary and COD parcel cards were issued. In the upper right corner, they bore a 10-heller stamp impression in the same design as that of the recently issued postage stamps, the Hradčany design. In the upper left corner was a monogram ČSR., plus the card price of 12 heller. The cards come in four different languages, Czech, Czech and German, Slovak, Czech and French, the last for foreign parcels. All issues of cards up to 1939 were in similar language texts.

The first was printed in Vienna and was quickly followed by a further issue in an altered type-face printed in Prague, as all subsequent issues were to be. Six further issues were produced up to the end of 1921. The selling price of the cards was successively changed from 12 heller to 15 heller, then to 30 heller and finally down again to 20 heller, which were shown at the upper left, at first below the ČSR. monogram, later below an armorial device. The fifth and later issues had A, B, C or D in the lower left corner, indicating one of the four texts referred to above. Later, the year was also shown here. The price of the COD cards was raised by an extra 10 heller for the last two groups of issues, becoming 40 and 30 heller respectively.

The stamp design was changed to a revised version of the Hradčany Castle in 1920 and then to the Dove and Letter design of contemporary postage stamps in 1921. All were of the 10-heller denomination. It must be emphasized that, while they were postage stamp designs, they paid no postal charge but accounted solely for the fiscal stamp duty. Why postage stamp designs were chosen for this is a mystery, since the republic had issued fiscal stamps since early 1919. It was not until 1925 that the parcel cards were more correctly imprinted with a fiscal design. This has led to the anomalous situation that postal stationery catalogues list these early cards with impressions of postage stamp designs but do not list the issues with the more correct fiscal designs issued from 1925 onward.

During 1921, probably during the second quarter of that year, The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs decreed that in the future stamps were not to be used on parcel cards and that the charges paid should be shown in manuscript only. This procedure lasted until 1939, but when the republic was reformed after the war in 1945, postage stamps were once again used for parcel charges.

On 8 May 1925, a major development occurred in that the fiscal stamp on a parcel card was increased to 50 heller. New parcel cards were issued on which the stamp impression was now that of a 50-heller fiscal stamp incised "Kolek", the same design as was used for the contemporary documentary fiscal stamps. Both ordinary and COD double cards were issued and again, the same four different language versions of each appeared. The selling price of the ordinary parcel card was 60 heller and that of the double card was 70 heller.

Following the increase of duty to 50 heller, some of the old 10-heller cards continued to be used. Adhesive postage stamps to the value of 40 hellers were applied to make up the new fiscal duty and these may be considered therefore to be postage stamps used as fiscals.

Various different issues of this type of card were made through to the beginning of the Second World War in 1939. In 1930, the cards with text in Czech and French for foreign parcels were made much larger and the two cards for COD parcels were joined at the left instead of at the top.

> >

BILIN 13 2 78

Post-Nr. **Bilina** **2** Expeditions-Zeichen.

Begleitadresse.

An **Herrn B. Prosch in Prag**
Frauentanzmeister
Leipziger Straße 10

Name, Wohnort und Wohnung des Absenders: **B. Prosch Prag**

Vom Absender auszufüllen.
 Gattung und Zeichen: **Wäsche** in **Prag**
 Inhalt: **Wäsche** Letzte Post:
 Werth: **10 fl.** Land:

Stempel des Absenders: **PRAG 13 2 78**

Expeditions-Zeichen: **5 kr.**

Stempel des Aufgabebüros: **PRAG 13 2 78**

Francos: **2** fr. ober 1/20-Gebühr

Gewicht: **2 5/8** kg. G.

First issue parcel card of 1878 used 12 February 1879 from BILIN (BÍLINA) to PRAGUE. Concerning a parcel of laundry; 2.5 kg. Postage paid shown as 18 Kr.

Nachnahme-Postanweisung

auf fl. fr. d. B., in Worten:

Umgerechnet auf: von:

(Adresse des Absenders, eventuell seines Cessionärs.)

An in
 Wohnung: letzte Post:
 Land:

Post-Zeichen.

Nr. des Anfuhrbuchs über eingelangte Nachnahme-Endungen
 Nr. des Annahmebuchs
 Tag der Einzahlung
 Postdirectionsbezirk

Nachnahme-Betrag fl. fr.

Post-Ausgabe-Zignette. Expeditions-Zeichen.

Post-Begleitadresse.

Nachnahme fl. tr.

An

Gattung und Zeichen: in
 Inhalt: letzte Post:
 Werth: Land:

Stempel des Aufgabebüros: **PRAG 13 2 78**

Expeditions-Zeichen: **5 kr.**

Francos: fl. fr. Porto: fl. tr.
 Provision: Nachnahme:
 Zusammen: fl. tr. Provision:
 Gewicht: kg. G. Zusammen: fl. tr.

Card for COD parcel (fourth issue) bearing 1885 5-kreuzer fiscal impression

[Parcel Posts in the Czech Lands ...]

MATERIAL RECEIVED BY THE BRITISH POST OFFICE
FROM PRAGUE IN 1925

Republic of Czechoslovakia
Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

Prague,
26 Sept. 1925

Cash-on-Delivery Parcel Service within the Czech Republic

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of 11 June 1924, I have the honour to send you herewith an example of a parcel card designed for COD service within Czechoslovakia, as well as a summary of the regulations governing such parcel service in my country.

As you will observe from this summary, the COD parcel service inside Czechoslovakia is regulated, in general, by the same principles that form the basis of the arrangement concerning parcel post concluded at Stockholm in 1924.

The regulations shown in the summary differ, especially in regards to the charges, from those which have governed the service up to now. The new regulations have been in preparation during the past year and will come into effect on 1 October 1925, which is why I have had to defer my reply to you.

The number of COD parcels dealt with by our internal service in 1924 was 3,386,459. Return money-orders were only cashed for 3,130,136 parcels and the sum involved was 612,935,424 Czech crowns (approximately £3,750,000).

The financial results of the service are not the subject of a special account in my country. As you may note from the summary, the revenue from the service is composed in part by the fees levied on the sender of the parcel at the time of despatch, namely, the charge for the postage according to the weight of the parcel (and, if applicable, insurance for declared value), the basic money-order fee of 1 crown and the money-order fee of 50 hellers per 200 crowns to be collected. The other part is the charge paid by the sender of the parcel at the time of the return of the money collected. It is thus clear that an assessment of the level of financial results of the service is not possible.

With regard to what kind of goods are sent and what percentage of agricultural produce is sent in COD parcels, no special note has been kept by my administration.

The COD parcel service was introduced in my country several decades ago, without any detailed complaints having been made against the system by traders.

On the contrary, traders employ the system frequently, regarding it as their best guarantee in commercial relationships with persons unknown or little known.

For the Minister.

>>

Ústřížek - Coupon. (Může být přijímáno oddělen.) (Peut être détaché par le destinataire.)
 Razítka poštovního úřadu podacího
 Timbre du bureau d'origine

Adminis Jablonec nad Nisou 2 316
 GABLONZ a. N. NISOU 2
POLSKA
BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

20 h
 Počet celních prohlášení
 Nombre des déclarations en douane

Franko.
 47 H. 45

Č. 1311 24-6
 2c
 JABLONEC nad NISOU 2

Iméno, bydliska a byt odesílatele
 Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur

Zimmer & Schmidt
Gablonz a. N.
Böhmen.

Misto určení
 Lieu de destination
 Ulice a číslo
 Rue et numéro
 Země a kraj
 Pays

BANCO NACIONAL DE MEXICO
Chihuahua Chih,
Mexico

Váha
 Poids

Celní poplatky
 Droits de douane

Spřer dopravy
 Acheminement

Deutschland

Vypíši vstupní poštovní úřad výměnný nebo celní úřad země určení.
 Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination.

CELKEM
 Total

Czechoslovakian parcel card bearing 10-heller (Hradčany) stamp of second design. Card price was 20 heller and used from GABLONZ a. N. (Jablonec nad Nisou) to CHIHUAHUA, Mexico. Postage paid in cash: 44.45 crowns. Used on 13 February 1924 for glassware; weight 9.3 kg.

Ústřížek - Coupon. (Může být přijímáno oddělen.) (Peut être détaché par le destinataire.)
 Razítka poštovního úřadu podacího
 Timbre du bureau d'origine

Československá poštovní správa.
 Administration des Postes de la République tchécoslovaque.

POŠT. BUL. 2026
 ON
 Československo

20 h
 Počet celních prohlášení
 Nombre des déclarations en douane

Franko.
 9.80

Č. 14V25-9
 3m
 2c
 ČESKÉ BUDEJOVICE

Iméno, bydliska a byt odesílatele
 Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur

Č. Budějovice
L.&C. Hardtmuth
Budweis
1 Paket No.
2026

Misto určení
 Lieu de destination
 Ulice a číslo domu
 Rue et numéro

Herrn S. Binz,
Papierhandlung,
B. Sätering 104.
Basel.
Schweiz

Váha
 Poids

Celní poplatky
 Droits de douane

Spřer dopravy
 Acheminement

Österreich
 Gosternich

Vypíši vstupní poštovní úřad výměnný nebo celní úřad země určení.
 Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination.

CELKEM
 Total

Card of 1920 bearing 10-heller impression, used 14 May 1925, after duty raised to 50 heller; with 40-heller stamp added to pay for revenue. The postage of 9.80 crowns paid in cash. From ČESKÉ BUDEJOVICE to BASEL (Switz.)

Parcel Posts in the Czech Lands ...]

REGULATIONS FOR COD PARCELS

1) - General Provisions

1) - The sender of a parcel may burden the shipment with a payment on delivery - up to the sum of 3,000 Czech crowns, the maximum transferable by a money order - with a view that the said sum should be collected from the addressee and can demand that the amount collected should be sent directly to him, or be put to his credit in a current account held at the Post Office Giro, at a bank, or at any other establishment concerned with holding funds for clients.

2) - COD parcels must conform in all respects with the regulations applicable to parcel post in general, as regards their contents, their weight (maximum 25 Kg.), their size, their wrapping, etc.

II) - Special Conditions for COD Parcels

1) - Below the address of a COD parcel there must be distinctly marked "Dobirka - Remboursement" and the amount to be collected in Czech currency, of which the crowns must be expressed in words and figures and the hellers in figures only. Directly below this the sender must show his address, or, if the amount to be collected is to be credited to his account at the Post Office Giro or a bank, his order of transfer, worded, for example, in these terms "To be placed to the credit of current account number of Mr. of held at the Post Office Giro at Prague". To avoid errors it is advisable to space out the address and these notations.

2) - COD parcels may also be insured to a declared value, but the amount to be collected is independent of this and cannot be considered to be an insured declared value if this has not been expressly indicated.

III) - Parcel Cards for COD Items

1) - All COD parcels must be accompanied by a card appropriate to the COD service. The parcel card is attached to a money-order card for transmission to the sender of the amount collected. Cards are issued by the postal administration at a cost of 70 hellers each. It is forbidden to use privately produced cards.

2) - Both parts of the card should be filled in by the sender in the areas heavily outlined on the front of each, with the exception of the spaces reserved for use of the postal service, in accordance with the regulations concerning ordinary parcel cards and money-orders on the coupon of the money-order card, other than the printed indications; it is only permitted to write annotations concerning the recording or disposal of the money collected. The name and address of the beneficiary of the money-order must be the same as that which appears on the parcel itself.

3) - The parcel card and the money-order must be presented for inspection and still be joined together at the time of posting a COD parcel >>

Ústřížek Coupon Podací razítko mark of origin	DOBÍRKOVÁ POŠTOVNÍ POUKÁZKA Money Order for the c.o.d. amount			Podací razítko mark of origin
	for the sum of _____ Kč _____ h			
Dobírka c.o.d. amount Kč _____ h				The heavily outlined portion to be filled in by the sender is it or by typewriter
Odesílatel (příjemce balíku) Sender (the recipient of the parcel)	v to			
	Ulice, číslo domu street and house number			
	Pošta (země) post office			
	Oddíl, ohraničený silnou čarou, vyplní odesílatel zámkový inkoustem, tužkou nebo psacím strojem.			
	Přijímací číslo number of the issue	Podací den date of the issue	Okresní razítko District mark	Podpis poštovního úředníka Signature of the postal agent.

> < perf.)

Ústřížek Coupon Podací razítko mark of origin	Pro poštovní nálepky for postal labels			50	Podací den Date	Charges on sending Poplatky při podání: postage výplata Kč h
	POŠTOVNÍ PRŮVODKA parcel card					
Přeje 10 h. Cmo 70 h.	c.o.d. amount Dobírka Kč h				místní příplatek Kč h local fee Kč h	
Odesílatel Sender Kč h				fees to be deducted on return	
	Obal packing	Obsah contents	Cena value Kč h		Vybraní při dodání: c.o.d. fee	
	v to			 Kč h Kč h Kč h Kč h Kč h Kč h Kč h Kč h Kč h Kč h	
	Ulice, domovní číslo street and house no.			Příchodní razítko (průvodky) mark of arrival (of the card)	jiné ostatní poplatky fees Kč h	
C.o.d. amount Dobírka Kč h	Pošta (země) post office (country)			 Kč h	
	(Oddíl se silnou čarou, ohraničený silnou čarou, vyplní odesílatel.) Weight Váha kg g					

A 1923
 The heavily outlined part to be filled in by the sender.

Czechoslovakian COD parcel card (front) with the text translated to English

Dodací záznam note of sending out	Dodací čís. no. of sending out	Příchozí razítko (balíku) mark of arrival (of the parcel)
Zásilku přijal receipt by the addressee		
V at. dne 19...		
(podpis příjemců) signature of addressee		
<p>Nelze-li zásilku doručiti, žádám*, aby In case of non-delivery, I request that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> byla vrácena. the parcel should be returned byla poslána původnímu příjemci do the parcel should be re-delivered to the addressee nebyla dosílána. the parcel should not be re-delivered byla vydána v místě svého určení p. the parcel should be sent to Mr. ... in the same town nebo zaslána p. or sent to Mr. ... at byla prodána na můj účet. the parcel should be sold at my own risk 		
*) Škrtněte, co se nebudí. cross out those not required		(podpis odesílatelů) sender's signature

Výpltní razítko mark of payment	Číslo denního účtu no. in the register	Zápis v doručovací kartě Entry on the delivery form
<p>Poukázanou částku přijal: receipt of the receiver</p> <p>V at. dne 19...</p> <p>Podpis inkoustem neb inkoustovou tužkou. signature in ink or indelible pencil</p>		
	Příchozí razítko mark of arrival	Příchozí číslo no. of arrival

(reverse of money order card)

Reverse of COD parcel card shown in preceding illustration (translated)

[Parcel Posts in the Czech Lands]

IV) - Fees Payable By Sender When Mailing

The sender must pay at the time of despatch:-

- a) - The postage for a parcel of the same type and destination without COD.
- b) - The basic money order charge of 1 crown.
- c) - A charge of 50 hellers per 200 crowns of the amount to be collected.

V) Collection of COD Amount

- 1) - Each COD parcel is delivered only on payment of the entire sum specified to be collected; nevertheless, the recipient may, at the time of the first attempt to deliver the item, elect provisionally to query the price of the item and demand that it should be held at his disposal up to the expiry of the normal holding period, that is to say for 8 days, after which the parcel is transferred to the local head office for a further 15 days, reckoned from the Monday following its arrival there.
- 2) - When, for any reason, a COD parcel has been delivered to the recipient without collection of the amount, or against the collection of a sum lower than this amount, the recipient is bound, on a subsequent request by the post office, to pay the full amount or the balance outstanding.

VI) - Payment of COD Amount Collected

The sum collected is transmitted to the sender of the parcel, without deduction of any charges whatsoever, by means of the money-order card detached from the parcel card. For delivery to the address of the sender of the amount, he must pay a special fixed fee at:-

- 50 hellers for a sum of up to 100 crowns.
- 100 hellers for a sum from 100 to 1,000 crowns.
- 200 hellers for a sum from 1,000 to 3,000 crowns.

VII) - Reduction or Cancellation of COD Charge at Request of Either Sender or Recipient

1) - The sender of the parcel may request that the COD amount be cancelled or reduced. The fees payable by the sender in this case are:-

a) - If the sender has made his request at the despatching office before the parcel has actually left - 1 crown per parcel.

b) - If the sender's request has been made after the parcel has been sent and it has therefore been transmitted to the receiving office:-

i) - In the case of informing the receiving office by post - the cost of a registered letter of the first weight step to that office.

ii) - In the case of notification by telegram - the cost of the telegram plus the charge incurred in i) above.

2) - The recipient may declare at the time the parcel is presented, that he will accept the item only if the sender reduces or cancels the charge and may request that the sender be so informed. Within 3 days, the recipient must deposit this declaration in writing at the post office responsible for ascertaining the wishes of the sender. At the time of deposit of this declaration he must pay the fee for a registered letter of the first weight step to and from the sender's address. The sender's wishes may also be obtained by telegram if the recipient so desires and pays the appropriate telegram charges. >>

[Parcel Posts in the Czech Lands ... conc.]

The parcel will be held at the post office of receipt until the arrival of the sender's reply for a maximum of 8 days in excess of the normal holding period (8 days, see rule V),1).

3) - The sender may either order the reduction or cancellation of the COD amount or refuse the request of the recipient.

Any charges payable by the recipient are to be obtained by the post office even if the request to the sender does not meet with success.

* * * * *

The method of collecting and accounting for the delivery fees described in rule VI is worthy of explanation. This was done using postage due stamps. If only one money-order was to be delivered, postage due stamps of the appropriate value as stated in rule VI were applied in the box on the reverse of the money-order card headed "Zápis v doručovací karte". However, if more than one order was to be delivered, details of each were entered onto a separate form, the total of the charges calculated and postage due stamps to this value affixed to the form. The box on the reverse of each order was then entered in manuscript with the clerk's initials or a serial no. to show that this had been done.

Conclusions and Acknowledgments

It is hoped that this outline of a system that is somewhat unfamiliar to people in English-speaking countries will be of interest. Further information or corrections of any errors made will be most welcome.

I am indebted to Mr. Robert I. Johnson for providing copies of the correspondence from Prague.

The following works were consulted:-

Ganzsachen Oesterreich - Ing. Schneiderbauer.
 Higgins and Gage Postal Stationery Catalogue.
 Monografie Československých Známeč, vols. 1 and 2.
 Specialanĭ PŘiručka pro Sbĕratele Československých Známeč - Ing. L. Novotný.

* * * * *

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* * * * *

Please note that because of the great variation in sizes of original examples, the illustrations to this article are reproduced here in sizes to fit the pages. They are in no way proportionate.

Roy A. Dehn

HRADČANY ISSUE - TYPE IV

[Open]



UNRETOUCHED SPIRALS



[closed]

In the top corners of the S.G. Type 4 design of the Prague Castle (Hradčany) issue there are ornaments composed of two spirals joined by an oblique line. Originally, in the left-hand top corner there was a gap between the outer ring and the oblique line. Apparently this was not intentional and the plates were retouched stamp-by-stamp to close this gap. However, as will happen, one or two stamps escaped the retoucher's burin and, since stamp collectors are a curious lot, these untouched spirals are sought after, particularly if they can be found in pairs or blocks so that a stamp with an untouched spiral is alongside one without! The fact that some of these pairs have a high catalogue quotation, combined with the relative ease with which an untouched spiral can be faked, is an encouragement for the collector to seek information. This explains my interest in pages 28-30 of the splendid coffee-table catalogue-handbook, the *SPECIALIZOVANÁ PŘÍRUČKA*, which has recently arrived from Prague and which prompted this article.

I think the only recent discussion of these spirals in our Society's publications is contained in the September 1976 'Bulletin' at page 2. Older members will also recall a very helpful, detailed two-page information sheet produced earlier by George Pearson and circulated to members entitled 'The Spiral Variety of the Hradčany Issue Type IV'. This must have been sent out shortly before an article by F.J. Kosik appeared at page 77 of the 1960 issue of the American 'Czech Specialist'. More recent is the extensive treatment in Novotný's 'Specialni Příručka.....'. All these studies, whilst full of valuable information, contain mistakes in identifying the position of the sheet at which the varieties occur. The new 'Spec. PŘ.' does not, nor does the 'Monografie Československých Známek' Vol.1, pp.144-48, so these two sources can be relied upon for information on position.

I call the open spiral type 1 and the closed spiral type 2.

5 Heller value

Six plates were used for this value. Type 1 occurs once in plate II at (Pos.91), [+ -] and once in plate III (Pos.22)[- -]. Stamps from these plates are found perforated and imperforated. Stamps printed from the last two plates, V and VI, are all type 1, so a single, isolated perforated 5 heller is of no special interest unless it can be identified as from plate II or plate III. A single imperforate type 1 must be identifiable as either position 91 (p.II) or position 22 (pl.III) to be of interest.

15 Heller value

This is the value most often found with the variety. Six plates were used for the printing. The variety occurs nine times in Plate I at positions 2,21,22,23,49,83,91,92 and 94. It occurs once in Plate II at position 15 [+ -]. Plates III-VI were only issued perforated and were entirely type 1, so here again, isolated perforated type 1 stamps are not significant varieties unless they can be identified as being from Plates I or II.

Because the variety occurs more often on 15 Heller stamps than on any other, it is not so difficult to find. So it is always worthwhile looking through Prague Castle (Hradčany) kiloware, particularly multiples taken from parcel cards.

20 Heller value

This is the scarcest variety. It occurs only at positions 9 and 35 in Plate 1.

Both are [+ -]. >>

[Unretouched spirals....]

25 Heller value

Four plates were used for printing this value. The variety occurs on Plates I and II, which were used for both imperforate and perforated stamps. On Plate I the positions of interest are 3,12 and 13. On Plate II they are 10,27,31 and 59. On the later plates III and IV, all the stamps were type 1. These plates were used for imperforate as well as perforated stamps, so, unlike the 5 Heller and the 15 Heller, imperforate stamps with open spirals may not belong to this interesting group.

75 Heller value

Two plates were used for printing this stamp. The open spiral is only found on one stamp, at position 82 on Plate II. This stamp was neatly printed, so the open spiral can be easily observed. Even singles will be of interest.

500 Heller value

Two plates were also used for this value. Here again, the open spiral occurs only on Plate II, at positions 32 and 35. NOTE that all the spirals on Plate I are type 1, so isolated stamps are unlikely to be of interest.

The Dove's Fan

The symbols in square brackets refer to the right-hand (SE) dove and to the design at the point where the fan (or tail) of the dove cuts the line immediately below ...SKA and the ornament on its right. If the top of the tail is complete, then the symbol + is used; if it is broken -. The same rules apply to the back (or right-hand) part of the fan. So ++ means no breaks, - + means a break in the top and no break in the side and so on; see Monografie 1, table 30. This information can sometimes help distinguish good from bad and identify a plate. It must, however, be used with discretion since bad printing may cause abnormal breaks.



Identifying the plate

It will be obvious that identifying the likely presence of the variety when examining multiples will be easier, if the plate number can be discovered. Pages 114-116 in Monografie 1 provide a table of the indicators of the different plates. Since these are usually in the lower margin, they will only be helpful when examining large blocks. In the first draft of these notes I listed these indicators but, on reflection, I have decided that they are unlikely to be helpful (they are not often easy to observe!). Identification is better obtained by referring to pages 192-235 in Monografie 1 in the hope that one of the positional flaws listed and illustrated there can be found in the multiple being studied.

Neighbouring Stamps

The spiral variety is normally collected in a horizontal or vertical pairs, one stamp with open spiral and the other with a closed spiral. Because of the possibility that the spiral has been artificially opened and the stamp is a fake, it is useful for the less common varieties to know the characteristics of the neighbouring stamps in the sheet. The following notes concern the 5h, 20h, 75h and 500h:-

5h. Plate II: This stamp is 91. so at the lower-left corner of the sheet. In the -.50 below, the top (or flag) of the 5 is slightly longer than normal and comes to an upward point at the end. The fan is + -. The 5 in the value oval is said to be high; I find this scarcely noticeable. However, the 5s in positions 81 and 92 are clearly lower. The 1 in 1.- below 92 is wider at the base than at the top. >>

[Unretouched spirals...conc.]

5h. Plate III: The stamp is No. 22. The fan is --, as it is on the neighbouring stamps. The Monografie says that the flag of the 5 is characteristic; I do not see this.

20h. Plate I: Stamp 9: The fourth tower is damaged. In neighbouring stamp 8, the curve of the arch is damaged at the right below the left leaf. Stamp 10 has a thinned or damaged right frame. Stamp 19 has a shortened fourth tower. Stamp 34: There is a dot to the left of 2 in 20 and to the left of the third tower. In neighbouring stamp 24, the 2 has a raised serif; in 33 it has a white spot; in 35 there is a nick in the line above ...SL.....; in 44 there is a line under the 0 of 20 from the oval to the frame.

75h. Plate I: The stamp is No. 82. The bar of the figure 7 is longer than in the neighbouring stamps. The fan is + -. The figure 7 in neighbouring stamps has a much shorter bar, which is more nearly perpendicular to the stem of the 7. The figure 15.- in the margin below 92 has a small dot to the left of the top serif of 1. The fan in 81 is + --, in 91 + - and in 92 it is --.

500h. Plate II: The stamp, No. 32, has the 5 set high in the oval (there is a break in the oval where where the 5 touches the oval line), a long L in ...SLOV... and a white nick above the A of MUCHA. MUCHA is undamaged and clearly printed. In No. 35 the 5 just touches the oval. The vertical line of the figure is slightly concave. The two Os each have a little dot on top. There is a ray to the left of the third tower. In neighbouring stamp 34 there is a white dot in the line above ..SL... . Generally speaking MUCHA is clearly printed in Plate II and usually damaged in Plate I and cut on the curve. All the stamps in Plate I have the open spiral.

I have not seen blocks of the 20h nor of the 500h, so my information is from the literature.

In order to provide greater certainty in identifying stamps with the spiral variety, pages 28-29 of the new Spec. Příručka provide a number of illustrations of parts of the stamp. Most of these are of the name MUCHA. I do not have the same confidence in the consistency of MUCHA as the handbook editors appear to have. Collectors who have stamps which otherwise seem to be of the significant variety should not be depressed if the printing of the name MUCHA on their example does not agree exactly with the new catalogue. There are also misprints in the list. 11 I ZP 59 appears twice. Presumably the first should read 27 and not 59. At 7 I ZP 11 there is an illustration of the top corner of a stamp with a nick above the second spiral. This is not position 11 which is normal. The illustration applies to stamp 49 of Plate I. The new catalogue lists the perforated stamps on which the open spiral variety occurs on page 30. In this list also, there is a misprint. SPOJENÉ TYPY - ZOUBKOVANI F should read RZ $13\frac{3}{4}:11\frac{1}{2}$ and NOT RZ $11\frac{3}{4}:11\frac{1}{2}$.

WINTER EDITION DECEMBER

Will contributors kindly note that we will be endeavouring to produce No. 4/1988 during the first week in December. Correspondence for inclusion in this edition should, therefore, be in the hands of the Editor no later than November 12th., unless with special agreement.
