

CZECHOUT

Whole No. 54
Vol. 7, No.1
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QUARTERLY
SPRING 1989
ISSN 0142-3525

Editor: Alan J. Knight

Production: W.A. Page

JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

EDITORIAL

By now, you will have noticed our new cover design, one of a number of changes contemplated in order to enhance this journal's appearance within the technical capabilities available. We hope it will find favour with you because time does not stand still and all things must change. We have to thank DR. MILAN VENDER of Kyle Bay, New South Wales, Australia for the newly adopted design; one of several supplied by him at the Editor's request. Indeed, we are most grateful to Dr. Vender for this kind gesture. Apart from the type face, the border is an adoption of an early Cz. design border round a post-card of 1925-26 so we shall be certainly be connected to the 'old days' despite what I have just written above! Those cards had an almost identical border. Some of Dr. Vender's unadopted designs may well be utilized in other areas connected with the Society's stationery and publications, so his efforts will not have been in vain.

Once again - the Editor's 'eating humble pie' contribution! Why did you all let me go on for so long with publishing an incorrect ISSN number [see above] which has now been corrected, thanks to Jim Negus and Alec Page who both seem to have noticed almost at the same time. So, if you are a very strict disciplinarian, I suggest you alter your copies starting with the edition 4/1987. Oh, how the mighty are fallen!

With this copy of our journal, you should receive a new Society publication free of charge. For some time, members have been asking me when we could publish a Czech/English philatelic dictionary, possibly in sections as supplements. Then came the same request from a number of you who were kind enough to complete and return the recent Questionnaire connected with CZECHOUT. It was decided to do something - and fast! An approach was made to the copyright owners of the now highly regarded 'Green Catalogue' of the PRAGA '1978 era for permission to use the excellent vocabulary published therein. We received this permission and the end result should now be in your hands. It was a decision to use the pages "CZECH/GERMAN/ENGLISH only. The GERMAN translations will be of particular interest to those of you who collect Austrian forerunner material and from the 1939-45 period. The technical requirement for bringing the booklet into being was passed over to Alec Page who seems to have made a good job of it despite the 'rush order' and his other philatelic printing commitments. Thank You, Alec.

In another page you will find details of our Annual Dinner on Saturday evening, 8 July, when the renowned Czech philatelist and philatelic writer, ING. JAN KARÁSEK will be our Guest of Honour. Earlier, at our general meeting, Jan Karásek will be presenting and speaking about a special display before the Society. It is hoped that you will, if able, make every effort to attend one/both of these functions when having such a guest is a rarity for the Society.

Finally - but by no means least of all - we extend our warmest congratulations and best possible wishes for its future to the SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY, INC., U.S.A. celebrating this year its 50th Anniversary of foundation - in March 1939. That is a fine achievement to be justifiably proud of. We wish the SCP continued long life! AJK.

MEETING OF 14 JANUARY 1989

The unusually mild winter ensured a good attendance of members at the first meeting of the New Year. The Chairman, Mr. Bryan Day extended the Committee's best wishes to ALL members for the coming year.

Minutes of the previous meeting of 5 November were agreed and confirmed as a true record.

The meeting welcomed and confirmed membership of MR. REX A. DIXON of Maidenhead, making a first attendance at our meetings. We hope we shall see him as a regular attender now!

Mr. W.A. ('Bill') Dawson gave a most interesting and informative display of THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF THE SUDETENLAND IN OCTOBER 1938. This consisted of all known aspects of the movement of mail at that time and was, in the words of Mr. Reg Hollis, who gave the Vote of Thanks, the best display of this sort of material he had ever seen.

Chairman presented Bill with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of The Society.

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NEXT MEETING - SATURDAY 11 MARCH at 2.30pm

This is the annual occasion of our COMPETITIONS. If you have not yet prepared YOUR entry, may we suggest you 'burn the midnight oil' as from now? There will be two competitions this time: (a) The George Pearson Trophy and (b) The Francis Pettitt Salver.

ALEC PAGE, FRPS, L. will also be displaying "PROVISIONAL CANCELLATIONS 1945-46".

We look forward to having the pleasure of YOUR company and to welcome you to this meeting.

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SPECIAL NOTICESOCIETY DINNER Saturday 8 July 1989

The Hon. Secretary draws all members' attention to this event when the Guest Speaker will be the well-known CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIST AND WRITER - ING. JAN KARÁSEK who will be giving a display before the Society at the General Meeting in the afternoon.

The Dinner will be at the CZECHOSLOVAK HOUSE (our normal venue), 74, West End Lane, London NW6 at 6.30 pm. Our Secretary, Mrs. Yvonne Gren is anxious to know as early as possible who of you will intend coming to THE DINNER. It is important that she receives this information by - preferably much before - 1 July so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Because of seating capacity, the numbers must be restricted to 75 persons. You can, of course, bring a relative/friend with you. The approximate charge will be £9-£10 payable on the night.

MENU

STARTER: 1) Soup 2) Sausage of various types 3) Chilled Melon

MAIN COURSE: 1) Roast Duck 2) Escalope of Pork 3) Roast Veal

SWEET COURSE: 1) Apfel Strudel 2) Apricot Cake 3) Cheese-cake

COFFEE

FROM THE LIBRARIANLOST VOLUMES!

We have lost volumes 1 and 2 of THE AMERICAN SPECIALIST bound issues.

If you have any knowledge as to their whereabouts, please inform Lindy Knight because these will be VERY difficult to replace. The Loans List has been closely checked and all loans therein have been cleared. It is imperative for Society literature records that these volumes are found as soon as possible.

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It is our intention to produce an updated list of all the Society Library items, giving as much information on each as is reasonable. This List is expected to appear along with our next issue sometime in June. If you would like to donate a book or other philatelic record to the Society, we should be very grateful indeed. Furthermore, can we ask you to watch philatelic journals - particularly society magazines - to see if anything relating to Czechoslovak and related philately is noted therein. If you see such items, we would like to have sight of them or photocopies. Your out-of-pocket expenses would be paid. We want to vastly update the library to something really worthy of a specialist society. With your help it can be done. Our thanks in advance!

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A NEW SERVICE

The Society (via the Editor) now receives complimentary copies of the Czechoslovakian Philatelic journal FILATELIE, published in Prague fortnightly by the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists. We shall be publishing occasional articles from this journal and will also list articles of special interest as we see them. The Librarian is willing to offer members (only) photocopies of such articles on the receipt of an 8½" x 4½" or 9" x 6½" STAMPED/ADDRESSED envelope, plus 10p in stamps per copy on A4 paper. There is just one very important point to make clear though: Translations from Czech into English must be arranged by the purchaser; the Society cannot undertake this task for you at present. We hope you will take advantage of this new Service. Many of you have correspondents in Czechoslovakia and we are sure you should not experience too much difficulty in obtaining translations. The average number of A4 sheets required would be two. [N.B. This page is size A4]

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STAMP WORLD LONDON 90

..... at Alexandra Palace, 3-13 May 1990. This will be the highpoint of Philately for many a year! One way you can contribute to its success is by volunteering to work 'behind the scenes' both/or either before/after the Exhibition. Help is needed by collectors living mainly in the Home Counties but, of course, this not a restriction.

If you feel you would like further information on what is needed of volunteers and any questions you might like answered on the matter, the address to contact is: -

I.D. Crane,
Administration Manager,
STAMP WORLD LONDON 90,
107 Charterhouse Street,
L O N D O N. EC1M 6PT

There will also be a few vacancies for Admin./office help during March to May 1990 at the above offices and, later, at the Exhibition itself. Apply as above.

YOU WRITE

Our recent questionnaire survey of members' views and wishes in regard to this journal prompted a more-than-average number of letters to the Editor this Quarter. The replies are to be carefully analyzed and a summary, with comments, will be published next issue. In the meantime, however, we would like to quote from a few of these letters, with thanks to the writers, because we think other readers will find some points of interest in them.

From M.O.WELCH a pleasant note which included the remark "I am not representative of most members, I suspect; Czechoslovakia is not my main interest but I really enjoy reading about subjects that may be too specialized for my Cz. interests but are useful background information." I am sorry I don't know your first name, Mr. Welch but I liked your letter. It's fine with us we are proving useful and that can't be bad, can it?

A recurring matter is raised by R. ELLIOT who states "Although [members'] names and addresses are not published for obvious reasons, there is no way that I would know if my next-door neighbour was a member were it not for the Packet List. Is this logical?" Point taken! Our reluctance to publish and distribute a detailed Membership List is for a number of, we think, quite valid reasons, not the least of which is trying to protect members from publicity that could be used by thieves against their homes! Never-the-less, we do issue a limited amount of this information within our circulating exchange packet - of necessity - but I will raise the entire matter with Committee for possible further discussion at a convenient date. There are a lot of considerations to be studied - none less than the legal requirements in relation to computerized lists of members..... IF members are really concerned, we invite letters from them on the matter, please.

MICHAEL BIRKS is a well-known philatelist - and a very busy one, too - yet he finds time to heap praise on CZECHOUT, for which, of course, we are modestly grateful. However, Michael dislikes our use of POFIS catalogue numbers instead of GIBBONS'. This is the first complaint I have heard on this point, Mike but I can easily understand your viewpoint. I can only say that as we all concentrate our efforts on CZECHOSLOVAK philately (sorry! MOST of us...), we tend to use the POFIS (Czechoslovak) catalogue(s) for more intimate referencing purposes. Albeit a fine general catalogue, GIBBONS' does not always contain the information to be found in POFIS. Another point - with New Issues - is that the lists we publish come from Cz. and are referenced by POFIS numbering system and, on this latter point, we would have to wait a great deal longer to ascertain GIBBONS' catalogue numbers than is the case with POFIS. This is no reflection on Gibbons at all; it's just a matter of a time factor becoming obvious. We hope this explanation will help alleviate Mike's distress!

ROY A. DEHN, one of our most regular contributors and highly respected member of many years writes that he values our all too infrequent translations from Czech and suggests abbreviated translations from the various Cz. Monographs. We started to do this in our last issue and will continue to do so from time to time, although most will have to be abbreviated a little. This is a long and tedious task for our two members who volunteer to do this for us and we think that there must be other members who could spare a little time for us in this way. We would like ANYONE willing to translate CZECH/ENGLISH to please contact the Editor. Our Thanks!

JIM NEGUS - [a former Gibbons Catalogue editor] welcomes 'the lack of hectoring in our journal' and further states that he is "happy with CZECHOUT continuing its present good mix of informative articles, current news from Cz. and the 'human face' of our Society's life." [Spare our blushes, Jim!]. This is a nice remark and will certainly not be forgotten by the Editor as he mutters 'mixed blessings' on those members who promise things then somehow forget!

CHRIS. CORDES in South Africa tells us that he recently was awarded two 'Silvers' in the S.A. National Stamp Exhibition at Pietermaritzburg for his literary entry "An Essay on the 1905 Victoria Falls" issue and his stamp entry "Post-1940 Victoria Falls". He also drew our attention>

[You Writecontinued]

to a fine entry by a local lady -Mrs. J. Osborne- "Development of Czechoslovakian Airmails to 1930". Our congratulations to them both. This is the exact sort of little news item we are constantly looking for, Chris. Thank You very much.

Another philatelic writer/editor is BRYAN JONES, currently editor of the respected journal of the Pacific Islands Study Circle - PACIFICA. Bryan pays tribute to our journal's balanced and informative content and presentation. Here again, Cz. is not a member's main interest although he does enjoy a long-standing correspondence friendship with a philatelist in Czechoslovakia. Bryan refers to the excellent PRAGA '88 catalogue, suggesting we re-print some of its, apparently, excellent articles. [See reply to Roy Dehn, please]. We really prefer to use ORIGINAL articles, of course, but never exclude excellent material from elsewhere if possible. There are authors' copyrights to be considered though!

Yet another philatelic Editor in our midst: ROY WRIGHT who edits the "JOURNAL OF CHINESE PHILATELY" for the China Philatelic Society of London. Like Bryan Jones, Roy sent a recent copy of his journal for our perusal. Our sincere thanks for these. Mr. Wright is calling for more articles on Cz. TPOs. As we have nothing in our 'Hold' file on this matter, I now have the distinct feeling that something will shortly wing its way to this desk dealing exactly with this subject....

Another member, Ted Davison, has sent me two articles as a result of Question 5 of the recent questionnaire, both of which appear in this edition. Our grateful thanks. We hasten to add that although we were not yet completely dried-up as far as incoming articles are concerned, we felt both these from Ted were immediately relevant, hence their early publication. Ted feels that all members should try to do just a little 'something' for the Society and tendered his offers. We thank him - gratefully; we look forward to more when he can spare the time.

Finally - our thanks for all the 'little' useful notes appended to your answers; all noted!

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are a number of ways in which collector-members can help us publish items of general or specialist interest in our journal. One of these is to look thoroughly through all the items of 'postal history' they may have in their files/drawers/shoeboxes, etc. Take a much closer look at all the postmarks, dates and especially the messages on postcards or letters. These often contain notes of historical and, maybe, philatelic importance. They also do sometimes show routings of mail (note that backstamp on the reverse that you might not have hitherto observed). Just WHY was this surcharged? What was the correct postal rate then?

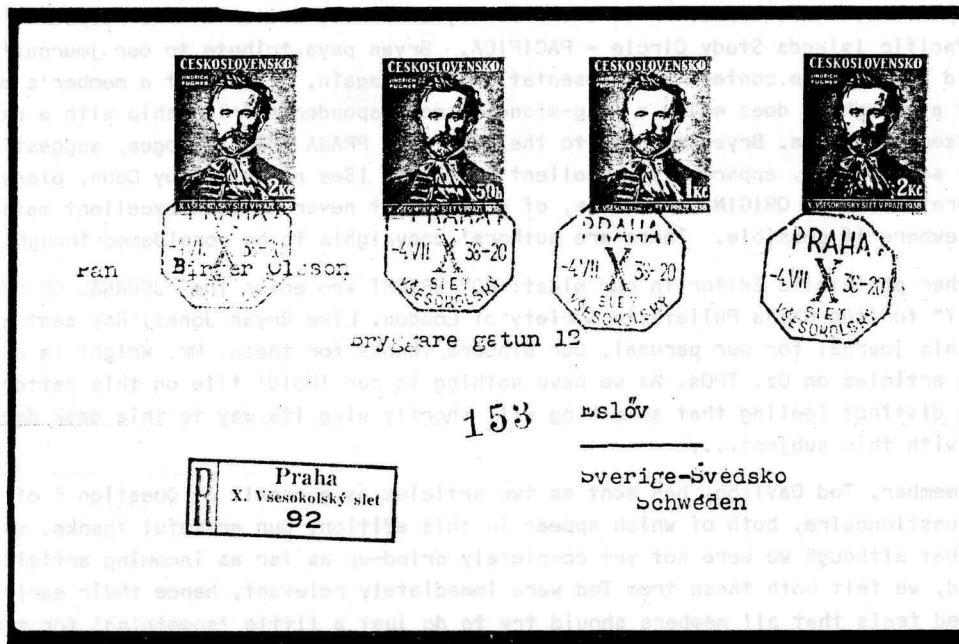
If you do come across the occasional item of interest, do please let us take a look at it or send us a nice photocopy with your notes. It could make interesting reading for members and even become part of recorded philatelic history.

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If sending us a query for which a reply is sought by post, a prepaid envelope for such reply would be a courtesy much appreciated by both the Editor and our Treasurer.

The Sokol Games of Summer 1938

- E. C. Davison -



Alan Knight's article about Dr. Tyrš (CZECHOUT 4/88) provided most interesting and useful background to the SOKOL movement and its significance to Czech nationalism. The movement itself seems to have reached a climax of importance just at the time when Czechoslovak independence was most under threat and the 1938 Summer Rally, commemorated in the stamp issue of 18 June that year, was an event of much more than social or sporting significance at a critical and ominous time for the nation.

The German threat was by then overt: in May Pres. Beneš had ordered a partial mobilization in response to troop movements on the German side of the border; the Sudeten Germans were threatening to secede and, of course, there was to follow the Munich Agreement of September 29-30th which effectively meant the end of Czechoslovakia at that time.

This final period before the catastrophe was marked by an unprecedented display of the SOKOLS at Prague, the tenth grand meeting in all and the fourth since 1919. For a week, thirty thousand athletes; boys, men and women, gave displays of grace and precision to music before great crowds. The meeting ended in a grand march through the streets of Prague of one hundred thousand SOKOLS from all parts of Czechoslovakia, to demonstrate their loyalty to Pres. Beneš. Both Slovaks and Czechs took part, wearing their national costumes, showing that despite surface differences, they were really united. The Sudeten Germans, it is almost needless to say, boycotted the occasion and were notable absentees.

The eleventh (and final?) SOKOL Rally was held ten years later, after the War, in 1948.

[Ed note: The above illustration of one of Lindy Knight's covers from these occasions, shows the stamp set referred to by the writer with the special SOKOL cancellation: PRAHA/-4VII X 38-20/Slet Vsesokolský. This registered cover to Sweden carries the registration label of Prague 92 Post Office which dealt exclusively with mail direct from the 10th SOKOL Rally]

* * * *

Source consulted: "Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries" by A.J. Grant and Harold Temperley, 6th edition, Longman, 1952.

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF CZECHOSLOVAK AIRMAILS

The first part of this article appeared in STAMP COLLECTING (26 February 1970). The editor of CZECHOUT writes that he would like to reprint it. So I have taken the opportunity to make a few modifications to the text and have added to the original article, which was devoted to the stamps, a second part on the early Czech flights. I am not aware of any extensive discussion in English (or otherwise) of these flights or any illustrations of the postal markings. This may be because the history of Czech air mail is less dramatic than that of other countries. It is, nevertheless, of interest. There will be many gaps in Part II and perhaps mistakes. May I suggest that readers who have first flight or other special flight covers and information belonging to the period 1922-1939 send notes on the markings to the editor (if possible with photocopies). This information could be collated and might later be published as one of the Society's monographs.

ROY A. DEHN

PART 1 THE STAMPS

Czechoslovakia was one of the first European countries to inaugurate an international air service, the project for carrying mail being officially announced on 12 August 1920, when the schedule planned was:

8.00 dep. Warsaw	16.00 arr. Strasbourg
12.00 arr. Prague	16.30 dep. Strasbourg
12.30 dep. Prague	19.40 arr. Paris

The return journey left Paris at 8.00 and was scheduled to reach Warsaw at 19.30. Mail arriving in Paris was to be sent on by air to London.

Letters were charged at the regular foreign postage rates and the mail had to carry also a fixed supplementary airmail fee of 14Kč for the section Prague - Strasbourg, 24Kč for the sections Prague - Warsaw or Prague - Paris and 28Kč for Prague to London. Furthermore, the envelopes had to carry an airmail sticker, line perforated $10\frac{3}{4}$ with the legend "Airmail" and "Prague-Paris" (etc.) in Czech and in French. A 20g. air-letter to London cost a total of 29.30Kč at the end of 1920, which was over 20 times the ordinary overland rate. This was a very high price to pay for a service which was not guaranteed (many of the letters were, in fact, forwarded by train) and which was irregular.

For the supplementary airmail franking three values of the Prague Castle issue were overprinted and surcharged in letterpress:

14Kč on 200h. blue:	overprint plum red.
24Kč on 500h. brown:	overprint bronze-blue.
28Kč on 1000h. purple:	overprint green.

The first stamps overprinted were imperforate. The official date of issue was 15 August 1920 but the stamps were on sale at post offices from 11 August, in good time for the first air-mail flight which left on 5 October. On 14 September, the same values were issued either line perf. $13\frac{3}{4}$ or comb perf. $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Both perforated and imperforate series ceased to be valid on 30 April 1921.>

The perforated series is worth at least twice as much as the imperforate one (Novotný) and there is considerable variation in catalogue value between the stamps with line and those with comb perforation. The greatest difference is in the 28Kč/1000h where the line perforated stamp is worth almost ten times the comb perforated. The difference is less dramatic for the other two values. Here, it is the comb perforated versions which are scarcer. These differences justify careful scrutiny of the stamps and their perforations. Those without a perforation scale accurate to a quarter perforation will find that the perforated stamps themselves make a very good scale if two sides are placed alongside and matched. This method can be used to establish whether the perforation on the top is the same as that on the side (line perforation) or different (comb).

The overprint was carefully applied and no positional variations have been recorded on the issued stamps, though there are one or two on the printer's trials. However, the Prague Castle stamps used for overprinting do show variations which have been recorded and illustrated (Monograph 1). Where the overprint does not eclipse the design of the stamp, plate flaws identifying positions on the sheet can be observed and are of interest. Two plates were used for printing the Prague Castle 500h value. In plate 1 all the stamps have the open spiral (illustr.); in plate 2 the spiral was retouched to close it in all positions except 32 and 35 (not 31 and 35 as in Novotný - p51). It would appear from the Novotný valuations that the overprint was not often applied to Plate 1 stamps, since stamps with a closed spiral are quoted under half the value of those with open spirals. (My own limited experience does not confirm that the closed spirals are more than twice as common as the others; it would be interesting to have members' opinions).



Open spiral



The 24k. (on 500k.) of the First Issue.



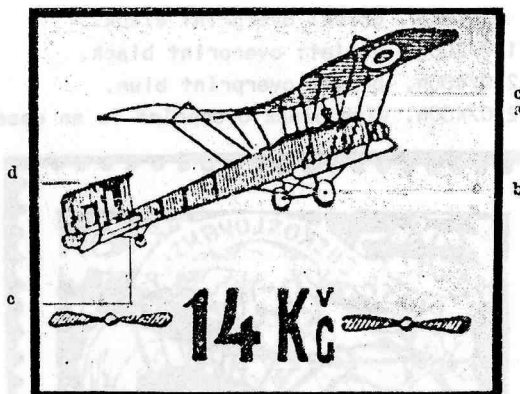
Closed spiral

There are a great many 'varieties' and it is not easy to establish to what category they belong. A long list can be found, being based on the study by the specialist dealer Ing. Jar. Sula in DONAUPOST 1926 p96. The 28Kč overprint was used to prepare various essays so, for example, the 28Kč overprint on the 100h stamp is not an error but an essay or trial. There are proofs of the overprint on white paper which are invaluable in establishing points of detail, since there is no background stamp to confuse the lines. There are also a number of errors which are simply printer's waste. Collectors of Czech stamps will know that security was not very strict in the UNIE printing works and printer's waste was widely distributed. Most collectors will wish to try and make a distinction between printer's waste and legitimate essays, trials or final proofs. They will not be helped by large continental auction houses who offer printer's working proofs as if they were trials or essays and do so at high prices. Clearly, for example, no one would submit a colour trial to the authorities which is printed on coarse brown or pink paper! >

Overprints on stamps line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ are trials. They include the 24Kč overprint applied in black to low values (10h, 20h and 50h) as well as to the values finally used. Also to be found on stamps line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ is an essay for the overprint in which the figure (18Kč) under the aeroplane is framed in an oval. There are no propellers on either side.

Forgeries

Forgeries of this first series are not uncommon, so the collector is wise to consult friends or works of reference when buying from sellers who are not well informed on these particular stamps. Usually the basic stamps are genuine and the overprint counterfeit but the best executed of the forged overprints occur on forged basic stamps, which is perhaps fortunate since both stamp and overprint can be scrutinized for danger signs. Clear, enlarged illustrations of known forged overprints with the genuine for comparison appear in the Czech manual on forgeries (*Padělky Československých Poštovních Známek*) and in the revised translation of this work by Dr. Hans F.W. Hefer. The overprint was prepared by the UNIE Press in Prague and was neatly printed in letterpress. Examples which do not appear to be letterpress and on which the lines are not clearly defined can be condemned at once.



A proof of the genuine overprint

Points to observe in identifying genuine stamps are:

- a. A line joining the pilot's head to the wing. Some forgeries have no line.
- b. The right-hand wheel is 'shaded' or thicker on the left side; in some forgeries it is thick all round. The 'dot' in the centre of the wheel should be a round dot, not a dash.
- c. The support strut on the right of the pilot intersects four shading lines on the wing and at the point at which it touches the fourth line, the shading lines converge slightly on the right; elsewhere they are roughly parallel.
- d. There should be a step in the top line of the rudder.
- e. Three white circles beneath the white rectangle in the rudder.

The blue ink of the overprint on genuine 24Kč stamps is a bronze blue, with a slight metallic sheen. The brown overprint on the 14Kč also appears metallic. The best forgery of the 28Kč on 1000h is a forged overprint on a forged stamp. Possessors of an ultra-violet lamp are here at great advantage because the genuine basic stamp appears a characteristic claret red on >

white paper under ultra-violet light, whilst the forged basic stamp shows violet or red-violet on grey paper when studied under the same light.

However, I recently saw a perforated version of this stamp which seemed to have a faultless overprint, though the basic stamp did not pass the ultra-violet test. There are two shades of the 1000h stamp. The ultra-violet test normally works on both of them. The forged basic stamps of all three values were often used to create varieties, such as 'soi-disant' essays or other oddities.

The identification of genuinely flown covers is discussed in Part 2.

The Second Issue

On 1 April 1921, the surcharge for air mail was greatly reduced. The airmail fee for the Prague-Paris flight fell to 3Kč and that for the Prague-Strasbourg and Prague-Warsaw to 1.50Kč. Further revisions were made on 1 March 1922. New stamps however, were not issued until 15 June 1922, so ordinary stamps had to be used for franking airmail until the three further provisionals with a letterpress surcharge and overprint were issued solely for airmail postage. On this occasion, the basic stamps were taken from the Science and Industry design (S.G. type 13):

50/100h. green: overprint black.

100/200h. violet: overprint black.

250/400h. brown: overprint blue.

The 250/400h. with black overprint is an essay.



The 250/400h. of the Second Issue.

Various plate flaws in the overprint have been recorded including: defective tail wheel, top of figure 5 in 50 damaged at the left (position 30), second 0 in 100 damaged at the bottom, second 0 in 100 smaller than the first, 2 of 250 damaged (position 92). There are two plates of the 400h value used for the 250/400. In both plates the first 0 on the base stamp can be narrow or wide (the difference is slight). In Plate 1 (Mono. 2) the wide 0 appears in horizontal rows 2,3,4,7,8,9 and 10. The specialist may, therefore, like to look out for vertical pairs in which both base stamps have the narrow (or wide) 0 or one has the narrow and one the wide 0. Novotný gives a different arrangement of the rows of wide or narrow zeros and calls the Mono. 2 Plate 1 Plate 2 and vice versa. This series was valid until 1 March 1932 but despite the long period, genuinely flown covers are not common. >

Forged overprints are known in this series, too, but generally only on used stamps. Since the stamps of this series are much less valuable, the collector who acquires one by accident may be glad of it as a curiosity.

The Third Series

The third airmail series and the first non-provisional stamps were issued on 16 Dec. 1930 and a supplementary value, 30h violet, was added on 22 April 1939. (Sanabria dates this last stamp as being 1 February 1931 but this must be wrong). The 1930 issues (S.G. 309-16) were all line-perf. 13 $\frac{3}{4}$. The Gibbons a and b numbers with different perforations all belong to the 1936 re-issue of the same designs.

As is true of most Czechoslovakian stamps from 1922 onwards, the standard of design and quality of printing of this series is high and is a combination of recess and gravure. The engraving was undertaken by Karl Seizinger and based on a photomontage of aircraft in flight over a mountain landscape in the Riesen and Tatra ranges for the lower values and over Prague for the 10Kč and 20Kč.



The 20k. of the Third Series, a photomontage of a Fokker F-VIII over Prague.

The aircraft on the 4Kč and the 5Kč is a Smolik-19; that on the remainder, a Fokker F-VIII. Printer's working plate proofs exist on pink paper.

There are two types of the 50h and 4Kč values. In Type I the white line above and below ČESKOSLOVENSKO extends into the margin. In Type II its end is cut by a thin line. Type II was issued in January 1939. There are two types of the 2Kč. In Type I the thin line which defines the left of the vignette is broken just before it joins the left-hand value panel; in Type II the line has been re-engraved. Two plates were made of Type II numbered 2 and 3 and were issued in January 1939. There are three versions of the 3Kč. In Type I the 3 is plump and leans to the right, the hill on the horizon at the left of the vignette is scarcely engraved and the sky is shaded by horizontal lines. There is a Type Ia, I believe, in which oblique lines running from the top downwards to the right have been added to the sky (as in Type II) but the figure 3 has not been altered. In Type II oblique shading running from the top down to the right has been added to the sky, the hill on the horizon has been re-engraved and the figure 3 has been made upright, neater and thinner. In Type III the hill and figure are improved as in Type II but the sky is now shaded with oblique lines running from the top down to the left.

VALUE	TYPE	WIDE VERSION	NARROW VERSION
50h	I	17.7 x 21.0mm	17.3 x 21.3mm
	II	18.0 x 21.5	- Plate 2
1Kč	I	17.7 x 21.0	17.5 x 21.7
2Kč	I	31.5 x 21.5	-
	II	-	30.5 x 22.0 Plates 2 & 3
4Kč	I	31.5 x 21.5	-
	II	-	30.5 x 22.0 >

The perforation varieties listed by Gibbons with a and b numbers are all line perforated. Line perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ are 50h (Type 1), 1Kč and 2Kč (Type 1), 4Kč (Type 1) and 20Kč. The 1Kč is found line perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, the 2Kč (Type 1) and 20Kč. The 2Kč (Type 1) $13\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ and the 20Kč $13\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. Some of these perforation varieties are scarce. The Czech forgeries handbook illustrates the 20Kč with counterfeit perforations, possibly made from printer's waste.

The Fourth Issue

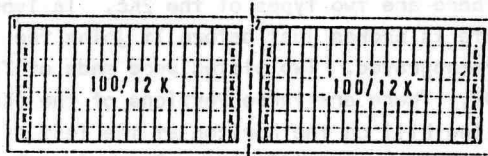


Douglas DC-4 over Charles Bridge.

Decorated Tab with Aeroplane over Globe.



The next series was issued in 1946 (S.G.469-76). The stamps are of two sizes: the smaller shows the Czechoslovakian pilot, Capt. F. Novak and a Westland Lysander; the larger, a Douglas DC-4 over Bratislava or Charles IV Bridge, Prague. Following a practice frequently found in Czechoslovakia since the commemorative issue for President Masaryk's 80th birthday in 1930 (S.G.305-08), the top and bottom rows of the sheet of the larger stamps are largely composed of decorative tabs with size and perfs. the same as the stamps. The decoration in this instance is an aeroplane over the World globe. It is, therefore, possible to obtain these stamps with se-tenant tabs above or below the stamps - or at one side. The sheet comprises 16 rows of seven subjects each. The top and bottom rows contain one stamp and six decorated labels. The diagram below shows the lay-out of the double-plate (the top of the printed sheet is at the side).



Sanabria lists these stamps as perf.12 with the exception of the 9Kčs which they give as $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. All that I have examined are line perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, as recorded in Gibbons and Czech (Pofis) catalogues. Perhaps there are perforation varieties to be discovered.

The 24Kčs stamp (S.G.475) was issued in two colours: claret on white paper and blue-grey on off-white paper. This last stamp was the first of the series to be put on sale, on 17 June 1946 (S.G.468b) and was to be valid only for that one day; solely for franking letters to America on the first Prague-New York transatlantic flight. The special cancellation reads PRAHA 7 LETECKÁ POŠTA/*PRAHA-NEW YORK* in a double circle. The centre shows an aeroplane, the date 17.VI.1946 and 1 LET. [Ed. note: LETECKÁ POŠTA = AIR POST (Mail) and 1 LET = 1st FLIGHT]. Letters should be backstamped for receipt the following day. The postmark of the originating post office appears not over the stamp but on the cover, leaving the stamp for the special flight cancellation. Over 14,000 covers were carried on the first flight. >



The Fifth Issue



The 1946-47 issue was subsequently surcharged in 1949 with new values (S.G.559-66). Both original and surcharged series ceased to be valid on 18 June 1953. The overprint of the 15/24Kčs value can be found in dark blue and medium blue. The surcharging was undertaken in 1949 following a reduction in airmail rates. At the same time, the use of airmail stamps on ordinary correspondence was authorised; the use of ordinary stamps for airmail already being permitted. In June 1953, a new Czech Crown worth one-fiftieth of the old was substituted for the original Crown. The 15/24Kčs stamp therefore sold for 30h. This lasted from 1 June 1953 until the stamps were invalidated 18 June.

When surcharging of the larger-format stamps of this series was undertaken only ten rows were overprinted, each row being of seven stamps. The sheets were then guillotined, cutting off at the top and bottom of the sheet 21 subjects, i.e. 15 stamps and 6 decorated tabs. The cut was made not along the perforation but included part of the stamp above and below the cut. This means that stamps from the bottom surcharged row are found attached to the top section of a stamp without surcharge. This, in fact, also occurs with the top row but since the surcharge affects the top part of the stamp, which was cut off and removed, the fact cannot be observed in stamps from the top row with a section of the bottom of the stamp above still attached to them.



1951. An Ilyushin I-1 1955. Pilot's eye view of Prague, a composite picture

On subsequent issues to date I have little to say, since most of the information is recorded in Gibbons. As a number of ordinary issues depict aeroplanes or record the activities of astronauts, it is difficult to determine which are properly considered as airmail issues and which are not.

Special mention should be made of the 11 December 1967 series (S.G.1706-11) because the six stamps depict Czechoslovakian aircraft and of the two attractive topographical series issued in 1951 and 1955. The first of these (S.G.621-24) shows vignettes of four Czechoslovakian spas with an Ilyushin I-1 flying above and the second (S.G.857-61) shows a bird's eye view of five Czechoslovakian towns. In the latter, the composite view of Prague on the 10Kčs value is an interesting resolution of a complex problem in design and gives a pleasant representation of a large city in a small place.

[To be continued ...]

MEMBERS' DISPLAYS (3)

"Sudetenland"

W.A. Dawson

[Editorial Note: It is fully accepted that to most who lived through the terrible experience of Czechoslovakia's WW2, the very sight of nazi signs and symbols are, in themselves, very repulsive. Nevertheless it remains an historical fact and as far as philately is concerned, is definitely 'postal' history. We hope that our readers will accept this statement in its intended historical sense].

* * * * *

The Society meeting of 16 January 1989, as already noted elsewhere in this issue, afforded members the rare opportunity of viewing many interesting postal items from Czechoslovakia during the German occupation, in this instance from the former areas known as Sudetenland.

This was a fairly comprehensive coverage of special German postal markings contained in no less than 182 sheets, only a fraction of which we can show items from in this issue. Bill's display was presented in two parts, opening with a July 1938 propaganda pc which, although nazi inspired, originated from Austria, then already occupied by Germany. Then we viewed two contemporary Czech censored covers followed by a small section concerned with the Sudeten 'Friedkorps' revolt in the border areas in late September, before the Munich 'Agreement'. Following several items from occupation force members (fieldpost), members saw twenty-two sheets showing so-called 'Official' [i.e. official to the Germans!] overprint issues from Asch (Aš), Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary), Konstantinsbad, Reichenberg (Liberec), and Rumburg (Rumburk). Also included were some examples of forged overprints. Several scarce stamps were shown in this section, notably a blockx4 30h Czechoslovak 'Arms' issue, possibly unique in this state since, it is believed, only 150 were issued and the original issue was in sheets of 200. Then followed sheets from seventeen different locations (all very neatly shown on accompanying tiny maps) bearing unofficial opts. This included examples of "Wir sind frei!" opt in a hitherto unrecorded type of unknown origin. The following fifteen sheets examined provisional useage of then existing Czechoslovak definitive hand-cancellers, railway station post-box cancels and local PO official cachets. Sometimes these bi-lingual h/stamps were also used unaltered; with the Czech name expunged and replaced with a swastika in the upper arc and, sometimes, with upper arc left empty. The railway station PO h/stamps were sometimes similarly used. This first part was concluded with twenty-seven sheets which demonstrated that number of different types of German provisional cancellations provided by various sources; i.e. Regional Head POs (in Germany proper), Main Area POs, District principal POs and simply locally available resources. Accordingly, such temporary arrangements resulted in varieties - from crude to more elaborate, from such basics as steel and cork, through to some quite sophisticated items produced from simple 'John Bull Printing Set' style print-face, from the clear to the illegible.

The Display's Part II opened with a range of twenty-two sheets containing provisional cancels selected for their individual points of interest, e.g. Czech/German frankings, correct commercial use of a 'personal delivery', triangular stamp, Express and Registered items, Cz. ps postcards, the use of h/stamps still existing then from pre-1918 Austrian period, an intaglio cancel of unique style, used only at Hohenelbe (Vrchlabí), original, mainly rubber, h/stamps with differing replacements used after a short period of a few days; the use of Cz. fiscals for postage; covers with a cancel plus two propaganda cachets - or more; an item to the Reichspostministerium (Empire Ministry of Post) in Berlin; Express letter from a High to another Court Office; German TPO cancel and a three-colour boxed railway station cancel. We then saw scarce items from POs returned to Czechoslovakia and some items from travelling railway POs within occupied areas. Finally on display were several items from the so-called 'plebescite' of 4.12.1938, including a Graf Zeppelin propaganda flight cover and the five different types of a leaflet dropped during that flight. A selection of new German >



Pc to Germany bearing overprinted Hindenburg 3pf defin. se-tenant with normal stamp; the only way this overprint could be validly used. This was the only value thus o/ptd "Aussig ist frei/16 Okt. 1938/BEFREIUNGSKUNDGEBUNG". Also carries (left) cds but with "XI" instead of "NOV". Note the separate c and b codes in lwr. arcs of cancellers.

[Aussig is today Ústí nad Labem]

>definitive circular d/stamps with an example from the only PO of Slovakia - Engerau, now Petržalka, on the south bank of the Danube, facing Bratislava; some "Luftfeldpost" (Field Airmail) from Marienbad (Mariánské Lázně); "Deutsche Reichpost" cancels on stampless official covers and, lastly, a selection of black-and-white p.p.cards of the period (Karlsbad).

* * *

This display was, indeed, an extremely well-researched attempt to acquaint members with some of the vast amount of postal history of that sad period that is still available but also included a fair sprinkling of what, possibly, is not!

As is recorded elsewhere in this edition, Bill Dawson thoroughly deserved the praise and thanks of members present for his contribution to our programme, dealing especially with a facet of philately not often, if ever, seen hitherto at our Society meetings. Cont: >

["The German Occupation of Sudetenland" by W.A.Dawson is still available as Society Monograph No.6 from Publications Officer, W.A.Pagel].

Ihr seid 20 Jahre
Eurem Volkstum treu
geblieben und ich bin
20 Jahre meinem
Glauben an mein Volk
treu geblieben.

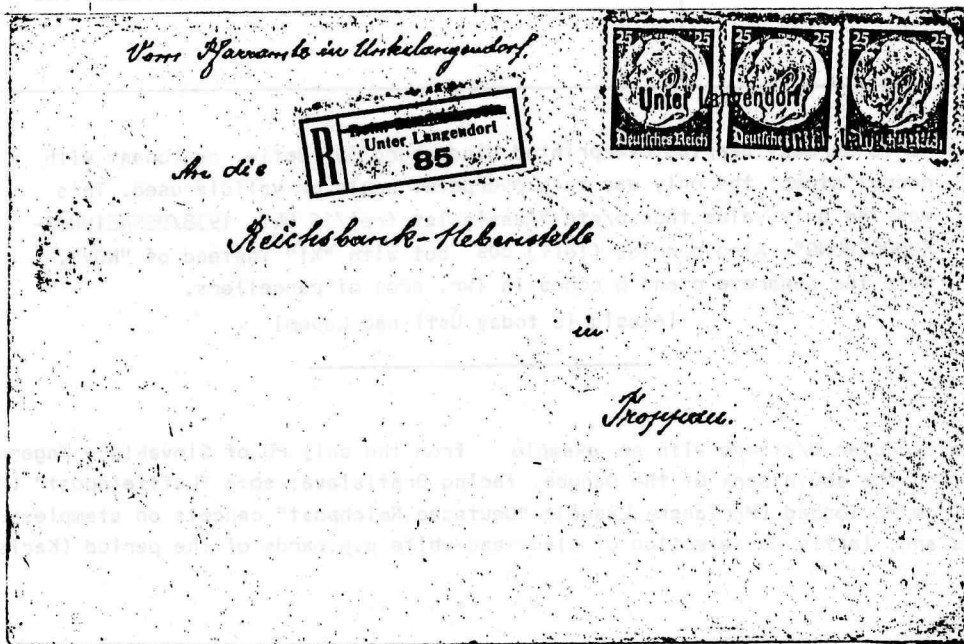
So finden wir uns beide
in unserem Volkstum,
in unserem größeren
Reich, das niemand
wieder zerbrechen
wird.

Adolf Hitler.



Euer Dank
ist Euer **Ja**
am 4. Dezember!

Propaganda card dropped over the Sudetenland by Zeppelin
on 2-3 December 1938 on so-called Freedom Flight.



Registered cover from UNTER LANGENDORF (DOLNÍ DLOUHÁ LOUČKA) carrying
three Hindenburg 25pf defins handcancelled by simple s/line [locally
produced] rubber stamp without date. Registration label has the Czech
language place-name ink-scratched out. Date of sending not known. >

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Stalag VIII B Postkarte
Geprüft:
18/ An

17.12.41-14

Mrs. G. Crouch

Gebührenfrei


<p style="text-align: center;">Absenders:</p> <p>Vor- und Zuname: <i>Sgt. R.E. Gille</i></p> <p>Gefangenennummer: <i>11310</i></p> <p>Lager-Bezeichnung: M - Stammlager VIII B Deutschland (Allemagne) <i>ES</i></p>	<p>Empfangsort: <i>Aylesbury Bucks</i></p> <p>Straße: <i>The Priory, Richards Hill</i></p> <p>Land: <i>England</i> Landesteil (Provinz usw.)</p>
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PRISONER OF WAR POST: Postcard from British N.C.O. then held
At stalag VIII B with dumb d/c postmark dated 17.12.41. Note German Camp Censor 18 mark at left. This
pow camp was situated in Czech Silesia; first occupied by the
Poles in 1938 and later by the Germans.

**Ein Volk · Ein Reich
Ein Führer!**

1. 10. 1938

Verlag: Dr. Stalling, Hamburg — Druck: Grotzer & Grotzmann, Grotzke



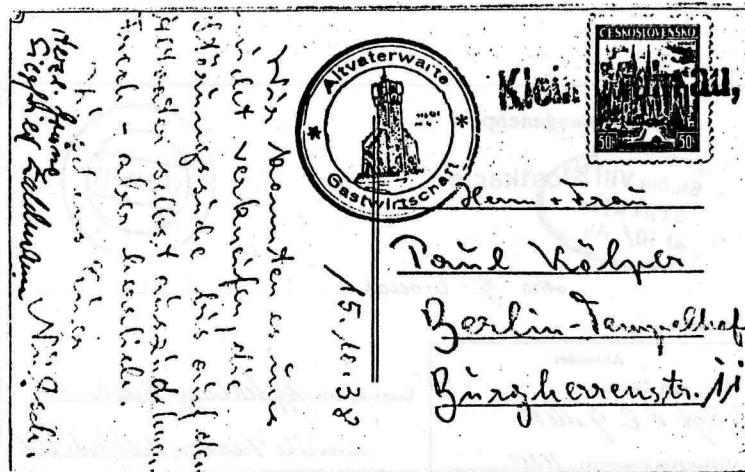


Herrn Cesar Waddingen

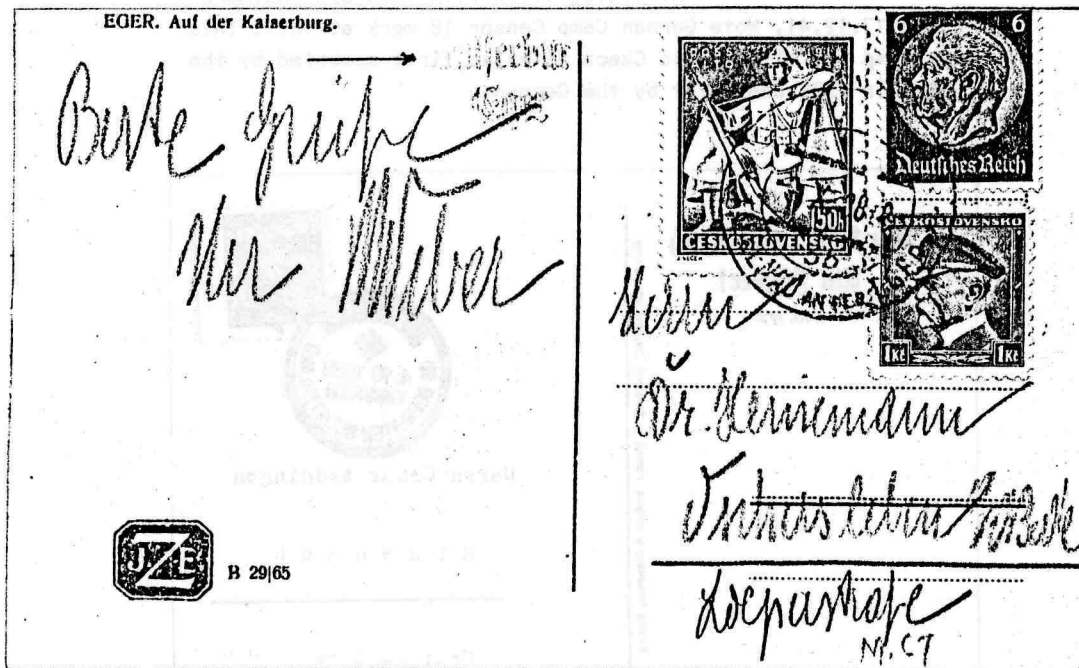
B i s e n a c h

Enclosure 5

Unofficial local overprint applied to Cz. 'Arms' 20h stamp on
German propaganda pc. The o/p on stamp reads ABERTHAM/4.X.38
over a swastika emblem. The fixed-date (4.10.1938) h/s
reads BREITENBACH/IM BEFREITEN SUDETENLAND. This was another
local issue cds in this smaller town nearby to ABERTHAM.
[Since WW2, BREITENBACH has changed its name to POTUČKY]. >



PPC from KLEIN MOHRAU (Mala Moravka) to BERLIN; message dated 15.10.38. Cz. [not defaced] stamp cancelled by a locally produced s/l place-name. Centre-top: Example of a posting box cachet situated 1491m asl. on Mt. Praded.



Czechoslovak/German stamped ppc. from FALKENAU an der EGER [Ed note: see article "Another Interesting Find" elsewhere in this issue] (Sokolov) in the "Egerland" district. Was occupied on 4 October 1938. Note the faint application on message portion of KAISERBURG/EGER rubber stamp cachet. Stamps cancelled by provisional Cz. h/s 9.X.38 with Czech-language FALKNOW nad OHRI struck out and the German name retained. >

SUDETENLAND ADDENDA!

From ALEC STOYEL comes this interesting cover where the tables appear to have been reversed! From Austria (1946) to an inmate (number 3443) at Prisoner of War Camp at ZNAIM/ZNOJMO 3 in Sudetenland. Was prisoner 3443 there awaiting expulsion from liberated Czechoslovakia? Alec would welcome any such information on this or any similar establishment of that time. Cover is printed in Czech and so can be presumed to have originated at the camp.

[N.B.: Zajatecká pošta = P.O.W. mail]

→ Zajatecká pošta.

Vojenská pošta
Zajatec *Heinrich Karl Stejskal*
čís. 3443

REPUBLIK 30
66 NÖSTERRICH

Odesílatel: *Margarete Brubke*

Pošta *Wien IX.*
Místo *Heinrich Albin*
Okres *Wien*
Stát *Österreich*

Československá Zensura
3.9.46
W. ZNOJMO 3
zajatecký tábor
ČESKOSLOVENSKO

Einschränken

R Kornitz
(b Mährisch Trübau)
775

Ewers & Kammermann

Leipzig C. 1.

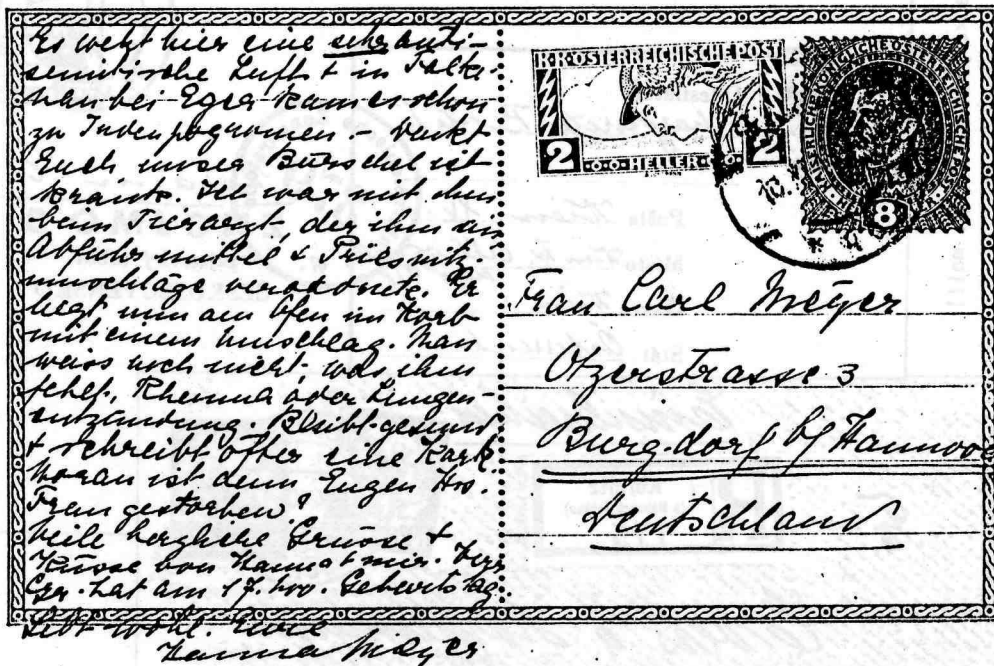
Heinrichsautobahn
Sa. C. Fiedler G. m. b. H. Chemnitz
Kornitz bei Mähr. Trübau
Sudetenland

The lower cover is German, 1940 from KORNITZ BEI MÄH. TRUBAU (Moravská Třebová) and originated at this place. Addressed to LEIPZIG it carries a large cachet in German that reads in a literal translation: Out of Autobahn Camp from the Firm Fiedler of Chemnitz at The Railway Station, Kornitz near Mähr. Trubau, Sudeten District. Alec says this is a useful addition to his List of Nazi Camps in Sudetenland in an earlier edition of CZECHOUT [No.24 3/81 pp66-68].

ANOTHER INTERESTING FIND:

From Ted Davison (Edinburgh) who found it in one our Society's exchange packets! It is particularly relevant to an area that was later to become the SUDETENLAND, discussed in this issue. Our member has translated most of the message on this card from Bohemia to Germany. It should be remembered that at the time of writing (just) the writer lived in Austrian territory. Most of the translated portion of text is actually on the reverse side of this item.

This card was written and posted in SAAZ on 10 November 1918, only four days before a National Council in Prague confirmed the creation of the new Republic of Czechoslovakia. It was only a single day before the Habsburg (Austria-Hungary) Emperor Karl (Charles) abdicated his throne following the complete collapse of his empire at the end of The Great War (1914-1918). SAAZ became later renamed *ŽATEC. The writer, obviously German, makes it vividly clear that those times were becoming times of uncertainty and worry...



Text: "I hope you have escaped the influenza³....Now you have the Revolution [workers' soviets had been set up in Germany bringing widespread belief that it would go the way of Russia] but I hope you see as little evidence of it as we do here in Saaß. Events rush on...I hope everything will sort itself out peacefully and without bloodshed. I read the papers all day long; it is like living above a volcano. I hope that after the armistice there will be a peace that does not completely destroy us. HOW did we lose the war? The deepest pessimist could not have foreseen it would come to this... Everything has remained quiet here but I hope that the popular discontent will not work itself out against the Jews. There is a VERY anti-semitic wind blowing here. In FALKENAU² there has already been a pogrom...." [Pogram = Russian, meaning an organized massacre or attack on a party, e.g. Jews]. The writer then turns domestic and relates a visit to a vet with a sick dog.

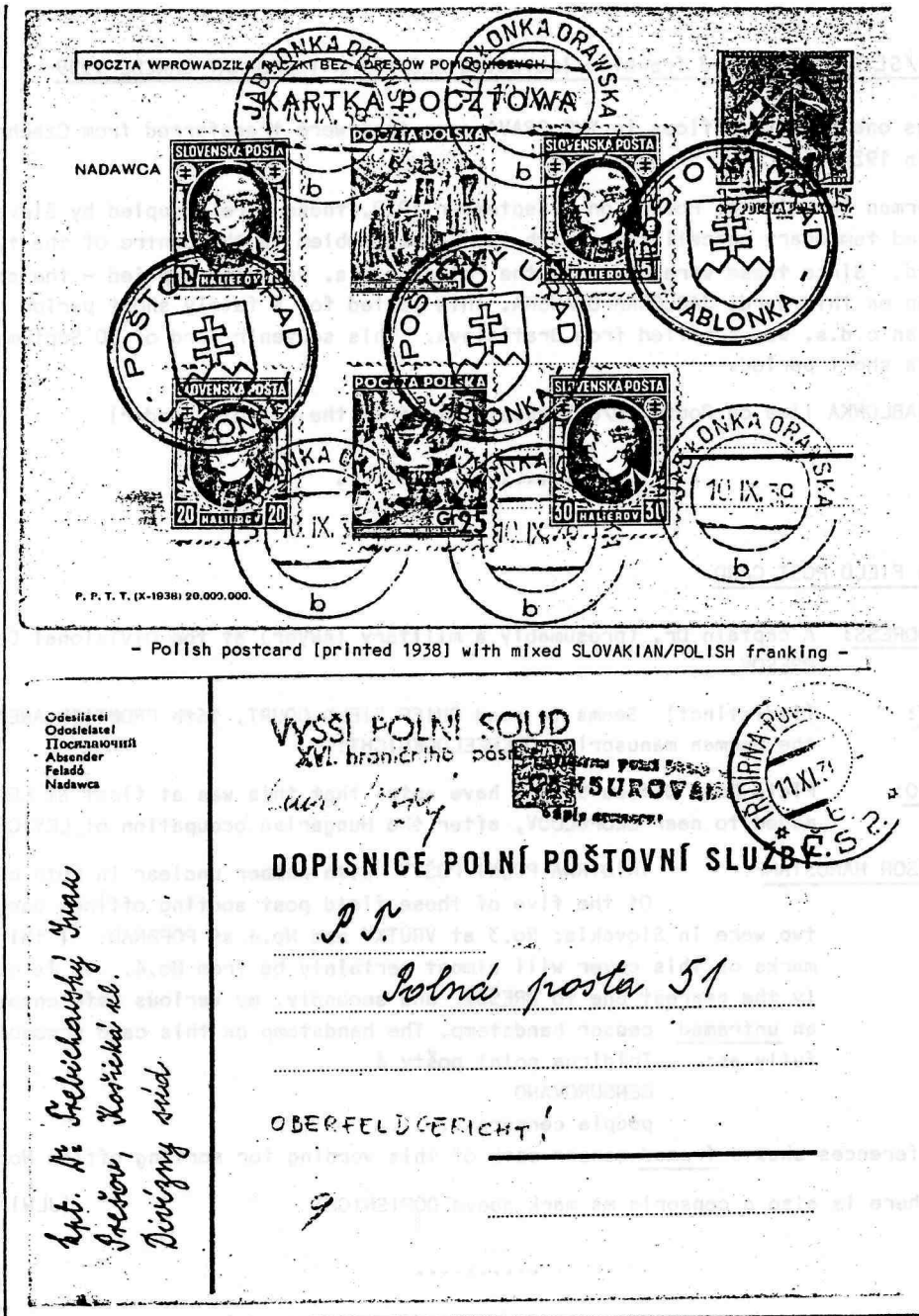
*ŽATEC: Typical Bohemian hops town, famous since 16th century for export of its finest crops to make bitter-beers.

²FALKENAU is now SOKOLOV with lignite coal, glass, kaolin forming part of this important industrial town's output.

³INFLUENZA: During 1918-19 SPANISH 'FLU killed more people than did the war just then finished.

QUERY CORNER

From COLIN SPONG



- Polish postcard [printed 1938] with mixed SLOVAKIAN/POLISH franking -

Colin received these postcards from a Dutch correspondent who seeks further information on them. On the face of it, they do not appear to be very difficult to recognize from the standpoint of our particular aspect of European posts. However, JOHN WHITESIDE has provided Colin [and our readers, of course] with what he believes to be reasonable and interesting facts concerning these two cards. Please turn to the next page to read...>

1. POLAND/SLOVAKIA Mixed franking including SLOVAKIAN TEMPORARY CANCEL 1939

JABLONKA was one of five offices in THE ORAVA area that were transferred from Czechoslovakia to Poland in 1924.

With the German invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939, these were occupied by Slovakia. They received temporary cancellations with the Slovak emblem in the centre of the type struck on this card. Since these were undated, the Polish c.d.s. was also applied - the second cancellation on this card, JABLONKA ORAWSKA. This lasted for a fairly short period until a new Slovakian c.d.s. was supplied from Bratislava. This souvenir card of 10 September 1939 is from this short period.

[Ed note: JABLONKA lies on Route 59/E75 about 10km from the Cz/Pol. border]

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2. THE 1938 FIELD POST CARD

SENDER'S ADDRESS: A captain Dr. (presumably a military lawyer) at the Divisional Court at PREŠOV.

UNIT CACHET: [indistinct] Seems to read CHIEF FIELD COURT, 16th FRONTIER AREA, hence the German manuscript OBERFELDGERICHT!

ADDRESSED TO: Field Post Office 51 - I have notes that this was at first at LEVICE, then moved to near LEOPOLDOV, after the Hungarian occupation of LEVICE.

cds and CENSOR HANDSTAMP: TRÍDIRNA POLNÍ POŠTY with number unclear in both cases. Of the five of these field post sorting offices used in 1938, two were in Slovakia: No.3 at VRÚTKY and No.4 at POPBRAD. I think the marks on this cover will almost certainly be from No.4. It is obviously the nearest one to PREŠOV and secondly, my various references describe an unframed censor handstamp. The handstamp on this card probably reads fully as: Tridírna polní pošty 4
CENSUROVANO
podpis censura

The same references show a framed censor mark of this wording for sorting office No.3.

[Ed note: There is also a censor's ms mark above DOPISNICE]

[JLW]

.....

References:

(For item 1):- 1939 Field Post in Slovakia - Viktor Indra, pub. by Collectors Club Philatelist, New York and reprinted by Czechoslovak Specialist.

(For item 2):- Feldpost der Tschechoslowakischen Armee im Jahre 1938-H.Schrattenbach, pub. die Briefmarke, Vienna, 1973.

Die Tschechoslowakische Feldpost im Jahre 1938 - Vostatek, ed. Danesch, ARGE Tschechlowakei 1985.

NEW ISSUES

A. J. Knight

NEW STAMPS: Issued between July and December 1988 - Priced in Czechoslovak Crowns.

DATE	POFIS No.	DESCRIPTION	FACE	MINT	USED	FDC
July 1	2853	Contemporary Prague (Views)	.50	.50	.30	
	2854		1.00	1.00	.40	
	2855		2.00	2.00	.80	
	2856		4.00	4.00	1.60	8.50
	TL 2857	Sheet: 2x50h and 2x4Kčs	9.00	9.00	9.00	
	TL 2858	Sheet: 2x1Kčs and 2x2Kčs	6.00	6.00	6.00	
Aug. 18	A 2859	Comm. 70 Years: Czechoslovak Stamps	10.00	10.00	10.00	5.50
	19	A 2860 Art at "Vavra House" Postal Museum	10.00	10.00	10.00	5.50
	26	A 2861/62 National Gallery Art Treasures	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.50
		A 2861/62a Ditto: Margin inscr. "FIP DAY"	20.00	40.00	40.00	n/a
	A 2863	King George of Poděbrady's Peace Initiatives (only on production of Entrance Ticket to PRAGA '88).	6.40	6.40	6.40	
	A 2864/65 (perf.)	40th Ann. "Victorious Feb."	2.20	2.20	2.20	
	A 2864/65a (imperf.)	- DITTO -	2.20	2.20	2.20	
		(The above sheets: With Exhibition Ticket only)				
Sept 28	2866	Treasures of Prague Castle	2.00	2.00	2.00	
	2867		3.00	3.00	3.00	
	TL 2866		12.00	12.00	12.00	
	TL 2866		18.00	18.00	18.00	
	TL 2834/35	Re-issued in special sheet format (Only from the Exhibition)	18.00	18.00		
	A 2704	4x7Kčs issued as numbered sheet for PRAGA '88 (With Ex. Catalogue)	28.00	28.00	>	

NEW ISSUES (Cont...)

DATE	POFIS No.	DESCRIPTION	FACE	MINT	USED	FDC
October 19	2868	Bratislava Motifs (Annual)	3.00	3.00	3.00	
	2869		4.00	4.00	4.00	7.50
	TL 2868		12.00	12.00	12.00	
	TL 2869		16.00	16.00	16.00	
November 17	2870	Art on Stamps (Annual)	2.00	2.00	2.00	
	2871		6.00	6.00	6.00	
	2872		7.00	7.00	7.00	16.50
December 18	2873	Day of Czechoslovak Stamps	1.00	1.00	-.40	1.50

* * * *

FINLANDIA 88

The FINLANDIA 88/PRAGA '88 black print described in issue 4/88 was obtainable only at both exhibitions. Its reported POFIS price is 20Kčs.

FILATELIE 3/89 (February) reports the following issues of miniature sheets. We wish to make it clear to members that the prices shown in Czechoslovak Crowns do not translate well to the prices of these issues in the U.K. today. We understand they retail (if one can obtain them now) at around £35 the set mint. Our reliable information is that these sheets were mainly sent to Federal Germany although a very limited supply did reach the U.K. distributors of Cz. stamps:-

A 2826	Olympic Sports (2x50h)	----	1.00	10.00
A 2827	" " (2x1Kčs)	----	2.00	20.00
A 2828	" " (2x6Kčs)	----	12.00	120.00

* * * *

As reported in a footnote to our earlier List of New Issues (edition 3/88), we shall no longer publish the above MINT/USED/FDC POFIS catalogue quotations although the face values will be shown of course. It appears members do not find them very useful, preferring to read GIBBONS catalogue prices. We cannot do this until GIBBONS catalogues appear, of course, hence this decision. Incidentally nobody wrote in regarding our decision, so it is believed you all agree!

* * * *

Commencing with the 1989 issues, we shall continue to publish the above list in reduced form but will also illustrate as many as space will permit. Additional information will be added where known in time and some of the more popular themes will be written about under the present series "A RECENT ISSUE". We gratefully acknowledge the assistance rendered to the Society by ARTIA and the Editor of FILATELIE (Prague) in supplying information to us on all New Issues. AJK.

- RECENT ISSUES -

P.2870

P.2871

P.2872

[Engravers: M. Činovský

B. Housa

M. Ondráček]

ART ON STAMPS

Due to the unusually heavy stamp production programme for the year of PRAGA '88, the annual emission of stamps entitled ART ON STAMPS, the 1988 set, was reduced to three values instead of the usual five (although, we note, the face-values still amounted to the usual 15Kčs).

The set's graphic layout is by the individual engravers and the entire was printed multicolour flat recess in sheets of four stamps each measuring approx. 45x55mm. The designs measure 40x50mm. Perforation is 11 $\frac{3}{4}$. Sheets measure 110x165.5mm vert. The stamps feature two domestic works of art by a Slovak and a Czech artist, plus a third (French) painting.

The first stamp is devoted to the work of the important Slovak painter and National Artist, Martin Benka (1888-1971). He devoted his working life to painting scenes of his native land and its people. Martin Benka also wrote books and illustrated them himself. The scene depicted in the stamp is one of two toiling country women, both almost hidden under their loads; the picture is entitled, quite simply, WITH BUNDLES.

The 6Kčs stamp by the Czech graphic artist and painter, Vojtěch Preissig (1873-1944) was also a lay-out artist for books. For some time he lived in the U.S.A and France. The stamp portrays his work BLUE BIRD dating from 1903.

Finally, the 7Kčs stamp. This is a fine reproduction of a work executed after 1850 by the great French painter, Eugène Delacroix, a leading representative of romanticism and whose works can be seen both at the Bourbon Palace and at the Louvre, where he decorated the walls and ceilings. Delacroix is known to have, at some time, visited Africa and it is from such a background that the artist was inspired to paint the subject of this stamp - A JAGUAR ATTACKING A RIDER. >

RECENT ISSUES.cont.....

P.2873

"Day of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps" is in Slovak

STAMPS DAY

Every December since 1965, Czechoslovakia has issued a special stamp of 1Kčs nominal value to commemorate THE DAY OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS. That day was 18 December 1918 when the newly declared Czechoslovak Republic issued its first postage stamps with the 'Hradčany' design. Each of these commemorative stamps has borne references to the theme of stamp production, including many of the personalities - designers and engravers - connected with that work.

1988 was the 70th anniversary of that first issue and already we have seen the very attractive sheet bearing the image of that first artist, Alfons Mucha. For the annual 1Kčs stamp that year, the name and work of JAROSLAV BENDA (1882-1970) was recalled with the issues of the stamp we illustrate above.

Benda, as well as designing postage stamps was also a book artist and a professor at the Arts and Crafts School in Prague. As well as books and book covers, Benda worked on several designs of banknotes.

Jaroslav Benda however, is probably best remembered by collectors as the designer of the famous 'Dove' stamps between 1920 and 1937. The theme for this design was a postal allegory in the form of a dove bearing firstly a letter and later a sprig in its beak. As members are aware, it is the former design that our Society proudly uses as its own logogram.

The special 1988 stamp illustrates Jaroslav Benda, an anniversary plaque and two of his 'Dove' studies. It was designed and engraved by two Slovak artists, Ivan Schurmann and Martin Činovský respectively. Printed rotary recess in sheets of 50 subjects it is perf. 11½ and measures overall 53x23mm. The top picture is from the FDC design. AJK.

NEW ISSUES 1989

Rather unusually, we have not yet received from Prague the planned programme of issues for this year which puts us rather into a quandary. However, one of our members has come to our aid on this matter, sending us a list as broadcast by Radio Prague. We are grateful to MYLES O'MEARA and his goodly wife who did the typing for him for this list. It must, of course, be treated as a temporary list because alterations are sometimes made prior to issue dates. Nevertheless, Myles' work will, no doubt, be a good guide for members....

- Jan. 1: 70th Anniv. of Cz. Federation
- 2: Paris to Dakar Motor Vehicle Rally
- Mar. 9: Prominent Personalities
- 27: Cz. Maritime Shipping
- Apr. 20: Pioneers Organization - 40th Anniv.
- 21: Treasures of Prague Nat. Gallery (m/s)
- May 9: Prague Castle Art Treasures
- Jul. 14: French Revolution - Bicentenary (m/s)
- 17: Ecological Dangers to Fauna
- 18: Protection of Nature
- Aug. 29: Slovak Uprising - 45th Anniv.
- 29: Slovak Folk Ensemble - 40th Anniv.
- Sep. 4: Bratislav BIB (Children's Illustrations)
- 5: Poisonous Fungi
- Oct. 16: Bratislava Historical Motifs
- Nov. 27: Art on Stamps
- Dec. 18: Day of Cz. Stamps.

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FROM THE PHILATELIC PRESS

- STAMP LOVER (NPS): Vol.81/1/Feb.1989: Slovakia Commemoratives (Negus); Polish Legion FPOs 1914-1918. (Trans. Dr.J. Dudzinski).
- STAMP MAIL (BPF): Vol.1/10/December 1988: Czech Die-Proofs (Hornung).
- CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST (USA): Vol.51/1/January 1989: Art on Czechoslovak Postage Stamps : (Antonin Mánes and Josef Mánes) by G.M. van Zanten.
Postage Due - Provisionals (Morovics/Trans. Vondra).
- FILATELIE (Prague): FISCAL STAMPS AND THEIR PREDECESSORS (A.Novak) 2/89 p.45
PRIVATE PERFS. ON HRADČANY STAMPS (R.Bayer-Austria) 24/88 p.752
24Kčs (1946) AIRMAIL STAMP AND ITS POSTAL USE (P.Horka) 24/88 p.750
FORGERIES OF HUNGARIAN POSTAGE DUE PROVISIONALS(T.Morovics) 3/89 p.82
- STAMPS OF HUNGARY (MPSGB) 95/1988(December): Changes in Northern Frontier of Hungary(Fletcher).

ARE YOU A LONE COLLECTOR?

If you, or anyone you know is a 'lone' or invalid collector, unable to attend stamp club meetings, there is a club specially catering for such collectors. THE INVALID AND LONE COLLECTOR SOCIETY encourages collectors to contact each other through them and issues a six-weekly magazine 'THE PHILATELIC CIRCULAR'. Further information may be obtained from: Mrs. M.I. Hicks, 48 Hazelhurst Road, King's Heath, Birmingham B14 6AB. [Subs: £1.00 p.a.]