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JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

*Šťastně a radostně vánoce a vše nejlepší v novém roce přeje!*

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*Akad. mal. L. Kratochvíl*

c. 1920

We are drawing to the end of a year of memories and "50th" anniversaries, mostly connected with the outbreak in 1939 of World War 2. One such anniversary was drawn to my attention by Roy Reader, commenting on the commemoration events at AGDE, southern France. Earlier this year, the good folk of that small town, remembered the many hundreds of Czechs, Slovaks and other nationalities who passed through the now famous gates of Agde Camp in 1939 - all of them en-route to various war zones in support of the Allies fighting the tyranny of the occupiers of their beleaguered homelands. Those of you familiar with the writings of Roy and Alec Page on the Czech Forces in Europe during WW2 will be aware of the significance of this short story.

Another "50th" that passed almost unnoticed this year, certainly by the Czechoslovak Post Office, was the death of Alfons Mucha, designer of the first stamps of Czechoslovakia, in Prague on 24.7.1939, just ten days prior to what would have been his 79th birthday. To the uninformed, the design of that great edifice of Prague Castle at Hradčany, could appear to be rather dull. To Alfons Mucha - and his compatriots of that time - it was a sign of a New Dawn to a New Beginning .... and New Hope!

Finally, we see above, a reproduction of an old Czech Christmas Card with a message that needs no fine words from me to convey its meaning today. To all our members and readers worldwide, we wish every one of you a Joyous and Happy Christmas, followed by a New Year of Hope and Peace. AJK.

- SOCIETY NEWS -

MEETING OF SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Once again we were treated to an afternoon's delightful entertainment and enlightening information when John Whiteside showed us some of his numerous examples of various types of mail from "THE FIRST REPUBLIC - THE EARLY DAY". As always with John, it was a display of immaculate material, some of which was new to many of us. Colin Spong tendered the Society's Vote of Thanks which was warmly applauded. We are showing a few sheets taken from this display on pp. 88-92 herein.

"NORTHERN" MEETING OF SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

We are grateful to Brian Day and Bob McLeod for supplying notes on this successful meeting, arranged for us by our good friend and member, Mr. Pat Rothnie. It was felt at the end of the day that all of Pat's considerable efforts were well worthwhile. Our guest speaker for that occasion was John Whiteside, FRPS,L. who displayed and talked through some of his material of a fiscal nature used in the Austro-Hungarian empire from the 18th to 20th centuries.

Amongst the interesting sheets shown were fiscals used in the Crown Lands of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, including the French occupation period. There were examples of taxes on school reports and a scarce Uzhorod impression. Other items included a superb wax and wafer seal on a weaver's residence permit, a number of court documents, including some from the kingdom of Illyria; a good selection of parcel forms and receipts and, in the newspaper section a copy of 'KURÝR' (Courier) with very early photoprint pictures. The event was rounded off with displays of a wide range of fiscals from 1918-39, followed by the German occupation and Slovak issues between 1939-45.

"A.G.M" AUCTION - SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER

(From Brian Parker, Auction Sec.)

This annual room auction was very well supported and we were also pleased to see members from Ireland and Belgium present for the proceedings. A wide variety of material went under the hammer of John Whiteside, our 'Hon. Auctioneer' for the afternoon who handled the enthusiastic bidding admirably. Our vendors will be pleased, no doubt, to learn of the £1200+ in realisations, so please keep the lots coming in. I believe this sum is a record for Society room auctions and I tender my thanks to all who assisted in its great success. It might be interesting to quote the fact that room buyers were competing with 39 postal bidders from as far away as New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

[Ed. note: The next auction is a 'Postal' - next April, so send in your material to Brian as early as you can, please]

ATTENTION! ANNUAL COMPETITORS!!

Not to allow anyone an excuse of not being informed in time, we hereby give members full notice of our ANNUAL COMPETITION on SATURDAY MARCH 10th. 1990 at our usual venue. This year you will be competing for the KAY GOODMAN TROPHY, so have a look at the rules and start preparing your entries now. Furthermore - There will also be a MEMBERS' DISPLAY event (up to 16 sheets) on any Czechoslovak related philately, so the choice is very wide.

>

A SPECIAL 'THANK YOU!'

To Mr. F. Backeljauw, a member in Schelle, Belgium for making a two-days trip to be with us at our AGM and annual auction. He was warmly greeted by the Chairman and other members and all of us were pleased to note his successes in the auction, too!

DUTCH AUCTION!

Their third postal auction is being organized by the Netherland Czechoslovak Study Group which is now scheduled for February 1990. The lots on offer contain much good material from all periods, including pre-stamp, Carpatho-Ukraine, 1944-45 'liberation' overprints and much more besides. Catalogues will be available in December upon receipt of £1.50/\$3 or 5 International Reply coupons. Please apply to: J.A.M. van Dooremalen, P.O. Box 136, 5120 AC RIJEN, The Netherlands.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

Mr. Wm. A. Dawson ('Bill' to most of us who know him!) on his gaining a SILVER-BRONZE award at BPE/STAMPEX 1989 (Literary section) for his book "The German Occupation of The Sudetenland 1938". This book, which became the Society's Monograph No. 6, has now completed its third printing due to an overwhelming demand for it. We extend to Bill our warmest congratulations.

GREETINGS TO NEW MEMBERS:-

Messrs. John Fosbery, FRPS,L. of Newton Abbot, Devonshire and Robert H. Matthews of Hythe, Kent. We hope your sojourn with us will be a happy one.

NEW OFFICE RAISED FOR SOCIETY

With this issue, members should receive our AGM Reports and Balance Sheets. Upon the recommendation of Committee, the Meeting agreed to extinguish the office of Public Relations Officer, replacing it with a PRESS OFFICER. Committee member Bob McLeod was voted by the Meeting to occupy that office for the ensuing year. His place on the Committee was taken by Mr. George Connolly.

CZECHOUT NOW REQUIRES SOME NEW ARTICLES

If we are to continue with CZECHOUT on its current scale, we do need more philatelic papers, studies and other articles for publishing from the coming new year. No matter the subject, provided it is Czechoslovakia-related, we will always be glad to receive your works for publication. Whilst we always prefer original articles, we will consider others that have already been published, subject to their authors' approval. You may recall in our recent Editorial Survey, we asked the question "Would you write and article for CZECHOUT if asked?" Several members replies in the affirmative and we are now asking you! The Editor looks forward to hearing from you all - when you can. Our thanks in advance.

VIEWPOINT

## PERFORATIONS OF THE 30h VIOLET

By Roy A. Dehn



The HARMER CATALOGUE for their 4 July 1989 sale included three photographs of the rare 30h violet (Hradčany) stamp comb-perforated  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ . This stamp (Gibbons Type 4) is usually found comb-perforated  $11\frac{3}{4}$ . Imperforated or with other perforations (comb  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , line  $13\frac{3}{4}$ , line  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , line  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ ) it is rare.

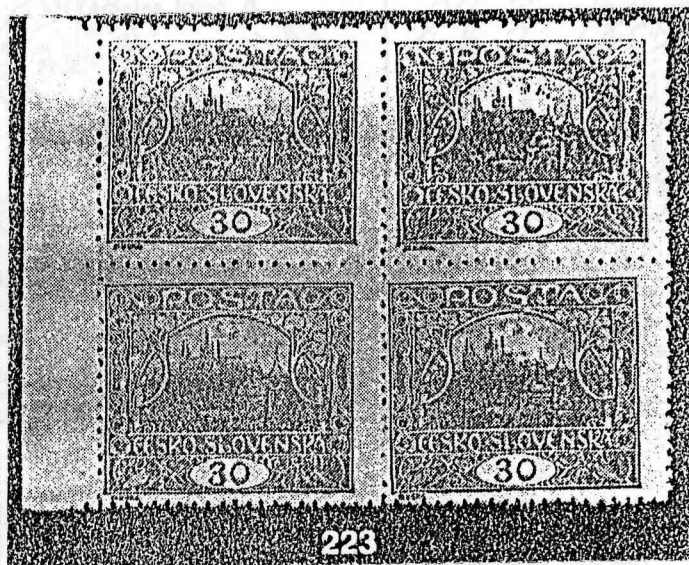
The illustration of the single example [Lot 221] does not look like a comb-perf. stamp. The block x 4 [Lot 222] however, looks much more as we would expect a comb-perforated stamp to appear. The perforations are regular (as this perforation usually is on other values of the series) and, as we would expect with a comb, slight irregularities in the positions of the pins are repeated row by row. This is most clearly seen in the vertical perforations between the stamps.

The perforations of the marginal block [Lot 223] could however, be easily mistaken for line perforation were it not for the fact that the perforation extends only by the typical one hole into the left margin. The pattern of the pins does not seem to be repeated row by row. For example, the marginal hole at the top-left of the first stamp appears to be raised above the line of perforations, that between the stamps seems to be normal, whilst that to lower-left of the lower stamp seems to be below the line of perforations.

Drawing inferences from illustrations is dangerous but the pictures of lots 221 and 223 do, perhaps, suggest that this perforation was not carried out on a machine regularly used for the perforating of these stamps. The possibility of private perforation has probably to be ruled out because comb perforators are seldom used for private perforations. The scarcity of the imperforate version of this stamp discourages the thought that the perforation might be contrived.

Have members other similar examples of this unusual looking perforation - perhaps on commoner stamps? Since the top two stamps of Lot 223 appear to be further apart than normal, it would appear that the block x four comprises stamps 31, 32, 41 and 42. According to the Czech Monograph Vol.1 (p282) this greater distance between stamps occurs between positions 31 and 32 of Plate 1. Stamp 41 would show a white dot in the double circle immediately above the right-hand (east) dove. This does not show up in the photograph. >

HRADČANY 30h VIOLET



The Editor welcomes comments from members on Roy Dehn's remarks.

Illustrations reproduced from the Harmer Catalogue quoted by the kind permission of Harmers of London Stamp Auctioneers Ltd.

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## QUERY CORNER

From John Whiteside

1: The cds ČESKOSLOVENSÁ POLNÍ POŠTA 46 - Struck in colour Blue

For some time I've held a postcard with the Polish Post no. 46 cds struck in bright, slightly greenish, blue and dated 14 July 1919. I recently obtained another example in the same colour but dated 30 July 1919. I should be very interested to hear of any other such examples.

2: CENSORSHIP OF CIVIL MAIL TO HUNGARY

I have three covers from Czechoslovakia to Hungary in 1921, all bearing CENSUROVANO or Censurovano handstamps in violet colour. The dates are 3 June, 11 October and 21 November, all of 1921. I have seen a few others, the earliest being dated November 1920. NONE SHOW EVIDENCE OF HAVING BEEN OPENED AND RE-SEALED. I presume this must be consequential to the strained relationships between Czechoslovakia and Hungary following the state of war that existed between them during May/June 1919. I would be interested to learn anything readers may know about the length of time that the practice continued, especially if any P.O. Notices are known initiating or discontinuing the censorship.

JLW

## MEMBERS' DISPLAYS (4)

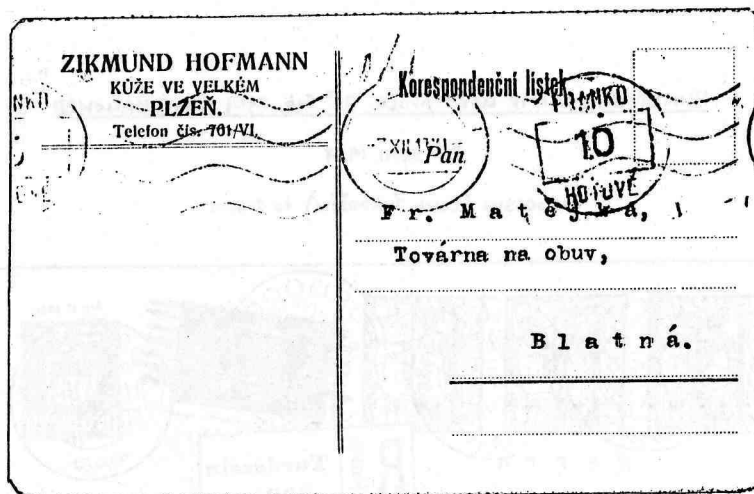
JOHN WHITESIDE, FRPSL

THE FIRST REPUBLIC - THE EARLY DAYS

It must be said that it is the committee's fervent hope that John will not submit any demands for 'overtime payments' this year - albeit he would certainly be entitled to some! As well as entertaining us at our meeting in London on Saturday, September 23rd and following this up with a visit to our special Northern meeting on October 14th when he displayed before us some of his old fiscal goodies at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, John even said 'yes' to an invitation by Committee to be our annual Auctioneer again this year at the AGM! The first display was so well received that we decided to share some of our enjoyment with those of you who were unable to be present. "The First Republic - The Early Days" proved to be the substance of an afternoon's excellent entertainment and learning. Naturally, we can but take a mere glimpse today but we feel that perhaps it may help stimulate others to do likewise at some future dates.

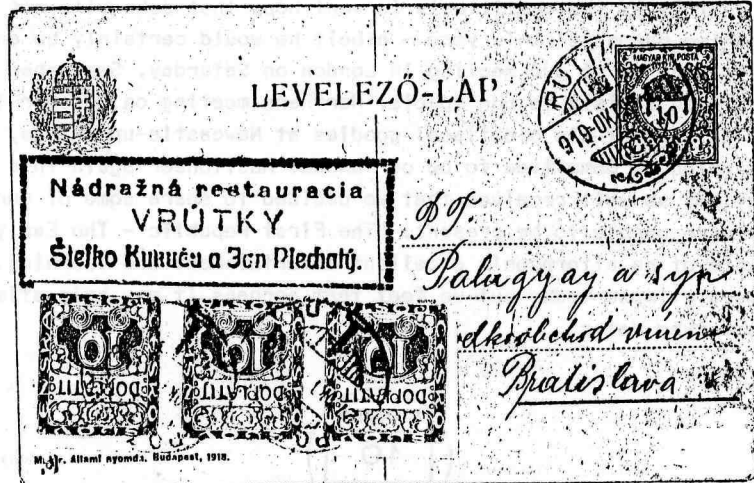


10 heller paid in cash.



Above is an example of prepayment of postage in cash. In late 1918 and January 1919, various devices were employed as alternative to the sometimes hard-to-obtain newly issued adhesives of the new republic. This one is a violet rubber handstamp on a postcard from PRAGUE to BLATNÁ (but written at PLZEŇ) on 7th December 1918. The stamp was applied over the machine cancellation/"FRANKO/10/HOTOVÉ". - 10h paid in cash (Printed matter).

The following item is "Disallowed Hungarian Postal Stationery", a left-over from the former Austro-Hungarian Empire days. The validity of such items expired on 14th October 1919. Therefore, with a cancellation from RUTTKA on 25th October, the entire was disallowed. Thereby it became liable to double the correct postage and DOPLATNÉ (To Pay) stamps - 3x10h - were applied at Bratislava and cancelled with an old Hungarian cds "Pozsony" (Bratislava) on 27th October. >



LEVELEZŐ-LAP

Nádražná restauracia  
VRÚTKY  
Štefko Kukučú a Ján Plecháč.

*P. J.*  
Pala gyay a syp  
alkoholokod vinnu  
Pratislava

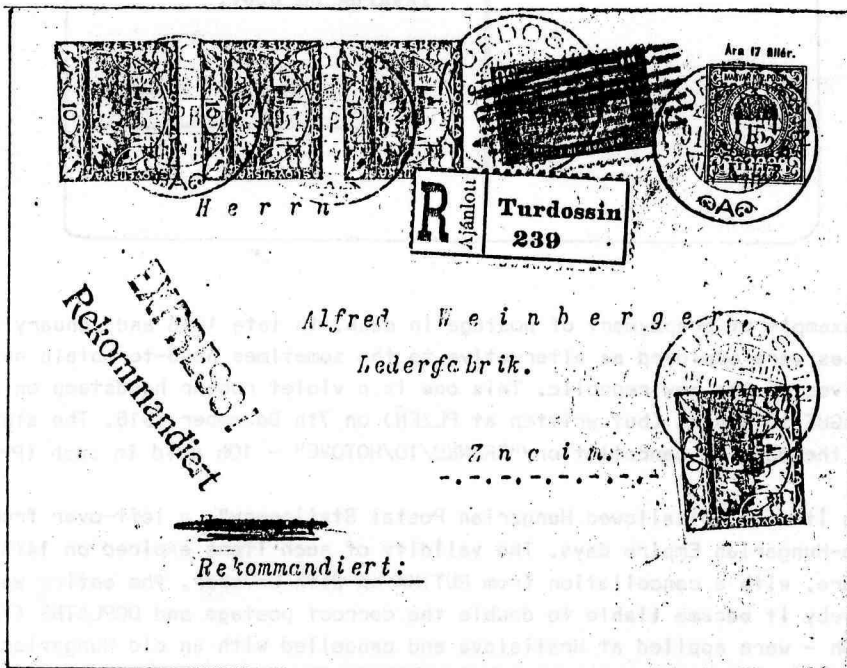


M. J. Állami nyomda. Budapest, 1918.

HUNGARIAN STAMP USED AFTER 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1919 AND DISALLOWED

26<sup>th</sup> April 1919

TURDOSSIN (Czech TVRDOŠIN) to ZNAM



Herrn

**R**  
Ajánlott  
**Turdossin**  
**239**

Alfred Weinberge  
Lederfabrik.

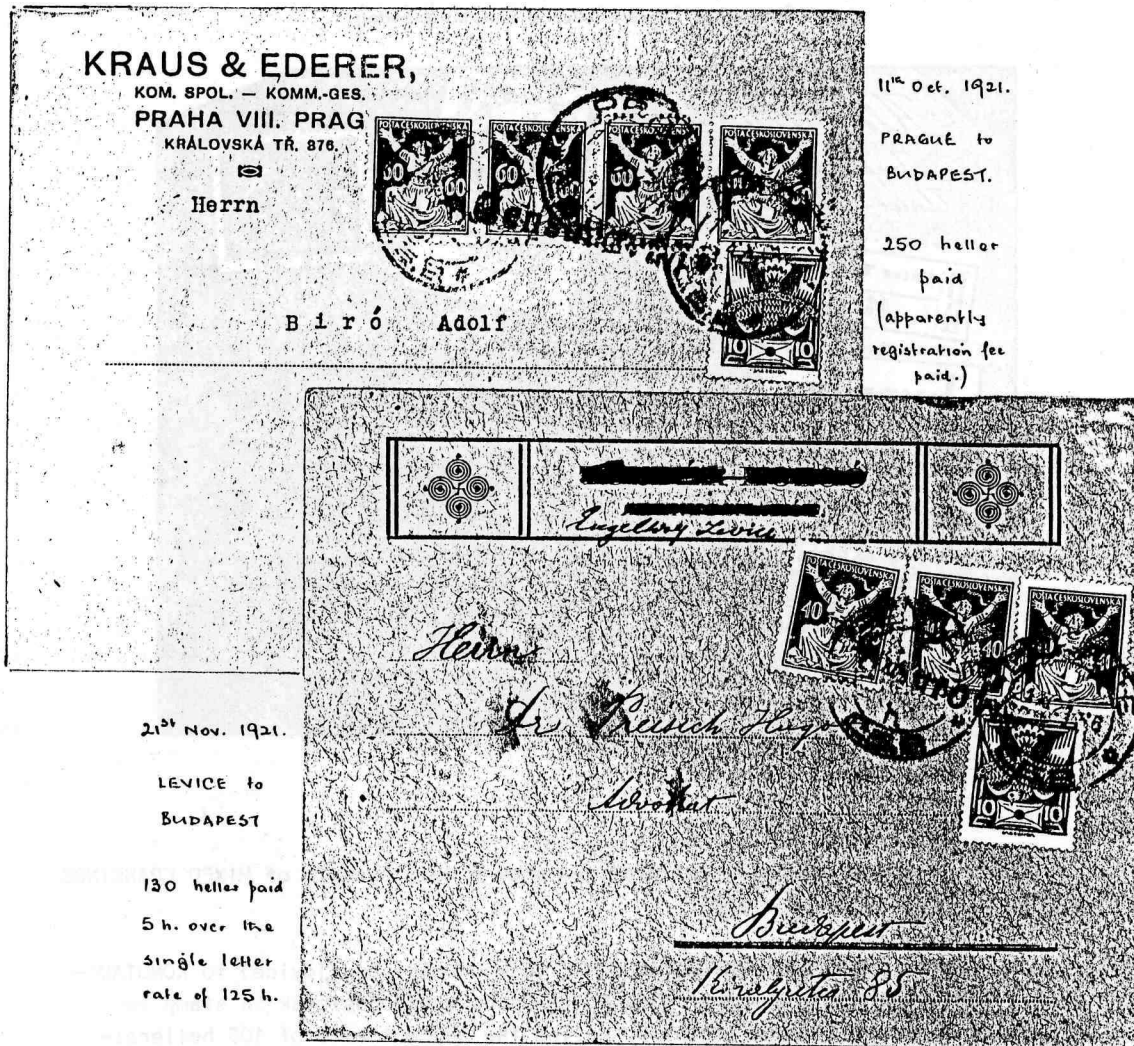
Znam

**REKOMMENDIERT!**  
**REKOMMENDIERT**

Rekommandiert:



The lower illustration on previous page shows an old Hungarian PS item with imprinted stamp, together with an adhesive 50 Hungarian filler stamp. The latter has been very heavily pencilled out. This applied to a letter posted after 28th February 1919 (cds shows it was posted 26th April 1919) and therefore this stamp was disallowed. It was therefore considered that the express fee was unpaid and the item was treated as an ordinary registered letter. Total actual postage applied: 105h, being 20h for postage, 25h for registration and an express fee of 60h. This included the 15f printed stamp. Entire: Express registered letter from TURDOSSIN to ZNAIM (Znojmo) 26.4.19.



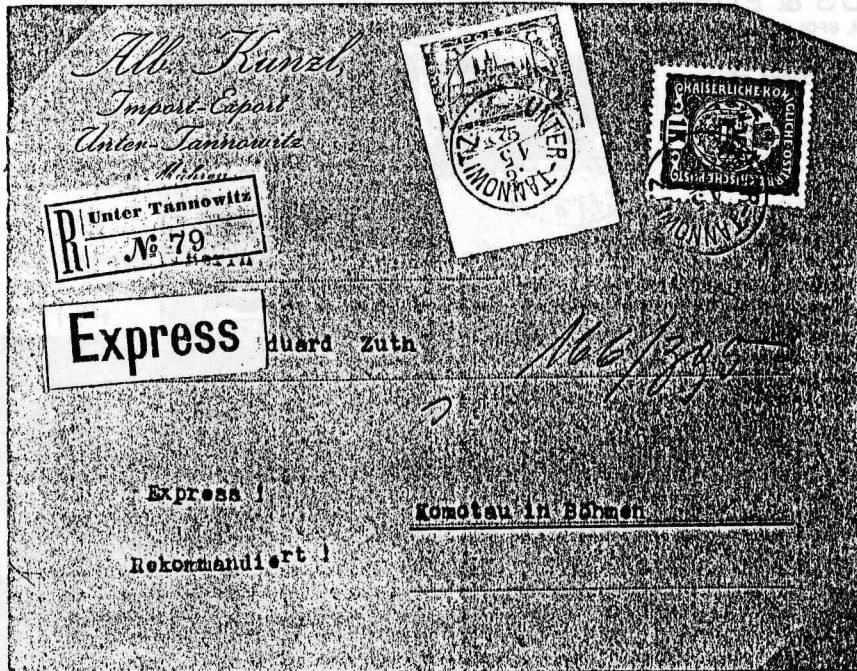
Here are illustrated two covers; examples of Czechoslovak Censorship of Mails to Hungary. This lasted at least until the end of 1921. Top item from PRAHA to BUDAPEST on 11.10.1921 bears adhesives totalling 250h - including registration fee. Across the stamps is a violet rubber stamp imprint "Censurovano".

The bottom cover from LEVICE to BUDAPEST on 21.11.1921 also bears the same censorship mark. This item was apparently overpaid by 5h, the single letter rate being only 125h at the time. It bears 3x40h chainbreaker stamps, plus 1x10h Dove stamp. >

[Please see QUERY CORNER elsewhere in this issue]

MIXED FRANKINGS OF AUSTRIAN AND CZECH STAMPS18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1918 to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1919.Czech stamps issued 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1918. Austrian stamps valid to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1919.15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1919

Registered Express letter to KOMOTAU (Chomutov)



Finally in our selection of John's display, we show a neat example of MIXED FRANKINGS of Austrian and Czechoslovak stamps.

Registered Express letter from UNTER TANNOWITZ (Czech=Dolni Dunajovice) to KOMOTAU - (in Czech = Chomutov) 15th February 1919. Cover bears a Czechoslovak 5h stamp to the left of an Austrian 1 krone adhesive, paying the correct rate of 105 hellers:- Postage 20h, Registration Fee 25h, Express Fee of 60h. Both the cancellations are the old Austrian cds from Unter Tannowitz and the registration label is also of the same vintage. An unusual feature of this cds is that does not carry a 'year' date.

Mixed frankings were permissible only until 28th February 1919 and the Austrian stamp's validity for Czechoslovak postage expired on the same day.

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[Ed. Once again we are indebted to John Whiteside for supplying us with and permitting our use of photocopies of some of his cards and covers]

## CHANGEOVER DATES OF POSTAL RATES

[Translator: Dr. Milan Vender]

ING. VLADIMÍR FELDMANN

Postal services in most countries are state monopolies. For this reason, market forces do not fully play their roll even under capitalist systems. States can determine the rates at will, depending upon their willingness to operate the Post as a self-supporting or profit-making enterprise, or as an enterprise subsidized from other sources of state revenue. There are practical reasons for changes in postal rates in long-term intervals but simultaneously for several categories (easier changes for Postal Rates lists, training of personnel, public information and the supply to the post offices of stamps corresponding to new rates).

Rates change not only for economic but for postal traffic and political reasons. Economic reasons mainly originate from inflation and monetary reforms. Postal traffic reasons are characterized by changes in postal categories such as the kinds of items carried, weight and distance, etc. The political reasons play roles in adjusting the rates in occupied territories and also in the introduction of mutually favourable rates in international postal contacts with friendly countries.

As already mentioned, it is advantageous for postal administrations to change (at a given date) several rates simultaneously. For this reason we denote such dates as Changeover Dates. These are listed in this survey relative to Czechoslovak territories from the introduction of postage stamps up to today (some important dates of change in individual postage rates are included). On the other hand, excluded are the changes in postage rates in marginal regions which were at times under different postal administrations with different rate systems due to historical circumstances (Hlučín region till 1920, regions of Valtice and Vitoraz 1919-1920, territories annexed by Germany 1938-1945, by Hungary in 1918-1919 and 1938-1945, by Poland 1918-1924 and 1938-1939, Rusovce region at Bratislava returned to Czechoslovakia in 1947 and the territory of Ruthenia during the period of temporary administration 1944-1946).

The data are obviously not exhaustive to indicate purely the characteristics of the changeovers; some changes occurred only in Czech territories or in Slovakia and this is explicitly mentioned.

### 1.5.1850

New rates were introduced simultaneously with the postage stamps. The basic rate for a letter (2 kreuzer of the conventional currency) was set not only according to weight (in 'lot') but also according to distance (deviating thus from the British system). Besides the local rate there were three distance zones - up to 10 postal miles, 10-20 miles and over 20 miles.

### 1.11.1858

Rate changes due to monetary reform - gulden of the conventional currency divided into 60 kreuzer - replaced by Austrian gulden (divided into 100 kreuzer). The unusual parity of the old and the new unit (100 conventional gulden = 105 Austrian gulden) facilitated the transformation of the kreuzer values: 1 old kreuzer = 105 divided by 60 =  $1\frac{3}{4}$  new kreuzers. The increase of rates was therefore only imaginary, the real rates being actually slightly lower (e.g. old 2-kreuzers corresponded to 3.5 new kreuzers but the rate was 3 new kreuzers). This unusual ratio explains also the unusual value of the basic newspaper rate 1.05 kreuzer - actually corresponding to the old rate of 0.6 old kreuzer. >

1.1.1866

The modern system of postage rates finally introduced and 'distance' categories abolished (with the exception of the difference between the local and interstate rates). At the same time the value of the weight unit 'lot' was changed from (approx.) 17.5g to (approx.) 16.7g.

1.10.1869

A special new category introduced with reduced rate (2 kreuzer) for postcards.

1.7.1873

Metric system introduced in weight categories - basic letter weight category up to only 15g.

1.1.1883

Weight categories redefined with the basic letter category increased to 20g., the value which has remained fixed since.

1.1.1900

New rates defined in new currency units - in hellers (fillers) and crowns. The basic letter rate was the same in Czech regions and Slovakia - 10h/10 filler but differed for postcards - 5h in Czech regions and 4f in Slovakia. Printed Matter rates were 3h up to 50g in Czech regions and 2f up to 10g and 3f for 10-50g in Slovakia.

In Czech regions postage stamps with values in hellers and crowns were issued from 1.12.99 when the old rates were still valid, the calculation being of the ratio 1k=2h, thus rates for postcards and printed matter up to 50g was the same during December 1899 as in Slovakia. In Slovakia stamps with values in fillers and crowns were issued simultaneously with the introduction of the new rates - 1.1.1900.

1.11.1902

Postcard rate in Slovakia increased to 5 filler.

16.1.1907

Reduced 'local' rates abolished in Czech regions (e.g. 6h for letters up to 20g). No change in Slovakia.

1.10.1916

The first increase in rates due to inflation caused by war was introduced in both the Czech regions and in Slovakia. Letter rate was to be 20h up to 20g (in Slovakia reduced local rate - 10f), postcard rate was 10h (but for P.S. postcards it was only 8h). A surcharge was introduced for faster delivery of Printed Matter items (paid for by express stamps).

15.6.1918

Second increase due to war inflation - in Slovakia. The basic letter rate up to 20g increased to 20f - the local rate remained but was increased to 15f. Reduced rate for PS postcards was abolished, the uniform rate thereafter being 10f. Rate for printed matter up to 50g increased to 5f. >

1.9.1918

Second increase in postage rates in Czech regions due to the war was the same as in Slovakia with the difference that there were no special rates for local mail deliveries and printed matter rates remained unchanged for Austria; printed matter rate to Hungary was increased to 5h.

15.5.1919

First post-war increase of rates due to inflation and the unification of postage rates in the whole of Czechoslovakia (the special reduced local rates in Slovakia being abolished). Postage rate for letter up to 20g was now 25h with 15h for postcards.

15.3.1920

The second post-war increase of rates due to inflation. Postcard rate 20h; letter rate up to 20g - 30h.

1.8.1920

Third post-war increase due to inflation:- Postcard 40h; letter (up to 20g) 60h.

1.1.1922

The fourth post-war inflation increases; they were then stabilized for almost twenty years! The category of local letter rate was re-introduced 60h up to 20g); normal letter rate increased to 1Kč. and postcard rate increased to 50h.

1.3.1937

A simplification of weight categories. There was a surcharge of 30h for each 20g in excess of 20g., representing 50 weight categories up to 1Kg. These were reduced to only four: up to 20g; 20-250g; 250-500g and 500-1000g. (1Kg).

1.4.1939

Introduction of special rates for mail to Germany from the territory of the "Protectorate" (only slightly higher than for internal mail - 1.20K for letters up to 20g., 60h for postcards. Postage rates to Slovakia were the same as for interstate mail to friendly countries (1.20K postcards - 2K for letters up to 20g).

1.6.1940

The basic rates in the Protectorate adjusted to German rates (of ratio - 1RM=10K): Postcard 60h (local rate 50h), letter up to 20g - 1.20K (local rate 80h) being the same as for mail to Germany.

1.10.1940

All Protectorate rates (except newspaper rates) adjusted to German rates (e.g. the registration surcharge was increased from 2K to 3K).

9.12.1940

In Slovakia the differentiation of printed matter items into complete and partial was abolished and a uniform rate of 30h was introduced for items up to 50g (before this the rate was 20h for complete and 30h for partial categories). Newspaper rates increased.

1.1.1942

Due to war inflation, the Slovak rates were increased: 70h for postcard, letter up to 20g local reduced rate to 1Ks; normal rate being 1.30Ks. >

1.9.1942

Adjustment of rates for letters heavier than 20g in Slovakia.

13.12.1944

The second war increase in Slovakia: postcards to 1Ks., letters to 20g - 1.50Ks; local reduced rate unchanged at 1Ks.

8.3.1945

The surcharges for registration, express delivery and post $\acute{e}$  restante in the liberated parts of Slovakia were increased.

26.3.1945

Basic postage rates increased in liberated areas of Slovakia: for a postcard up to 1.50Ks., letters up to 20g up to 2K and reduced local rate to 1.50K.

1.8.1945

Rates in Slovakia reduced to the level pertaining at 13.12.1944 (postcard 1K and letter up to 20g - 1.50K.) Local reduced rate - 1K.

1.12.1945

First post-war increase of postage rates, at the same time being unified for the whole of Czechoslovakia. The relative increase was higher in Czech regions (mostly by 100%) than in Slovakia (x 20% for postcards and printed matter, by 60% for letters up to 20g). The new rates were: 1.20Kčs for postcards, 2.40Kčs for letters up to 20g., (local reduced rate to 1.60Kčs) and 60h for printed matter up to 50g.

1.1.1948

Second post-war inflation increases: postcards to 1.50Kčs; letters up to 20g 3Kčs (reduced local rate 2Kcs), printed matter up to 50g - 80h.

1.4.1952

Printed matter rates rounded upward to whole crowns (for up to 50g - from 80h to 1Kčs).

1.6.1953 (Monetary reform)

New rates consequential to this reform: Adjusted to 1/5th of the previous rates: Postcards 30h; local reduced rate for letter up to 20g - 40h, normal rate 60h; printed matter up to 50g - 20h. Old stamps valid until 18.6.1953 with values reduced to 2% of the face value (tenfold on the old rates).

19.6.1953

Foreign mail rates adjusted (taking into account the newly introduced gold content of the crown) - NOT to 1/5th but approximately 1/7th of the previous rates: Postcard 45h; letters up to 20g - 75h; printed matter up to 50g - 15h.

1.4.1959

Foreign rates increased - 60h postcard, 1Kčs letter up to 20g., printed matter up to 50g - 20h.

1.1.1960

Rates for postcards and basic letter weight categories to member states of OSCE (Organization of Socialist Countries for Co-operation in Communications) were set at the same level as for internal mail; this previously applied only to Hungary and Poland. >

1.1.1970

The special rates for organizations were increased to 50h for postcards, 1Kčs for letters up to 20g (with no local reduced rate) and 40h for printed matter and unsealed items up to 50g.

1.1.1971

Foreign rates increased: postcards to 2Kčs., letters up to 20g to 3.60Kčs.

23.7.1979

The rate for open (unsealed) items up to 50g increased to 50h. Postage rates for the public were increased to the level of rates for organizations. The reduced rate for local deliveries was abolished.

1.7.1983

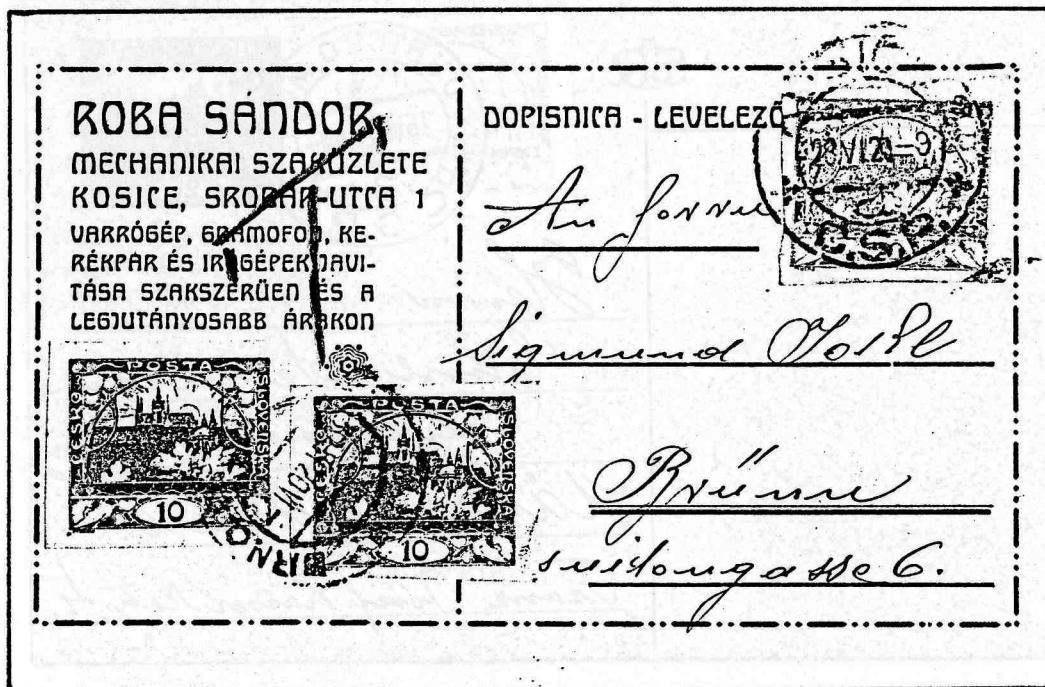
Further increase in Foreign rates - for postcards up to 3Kčs; letters up to 20g increased to 4Kčs.

1.1.1990

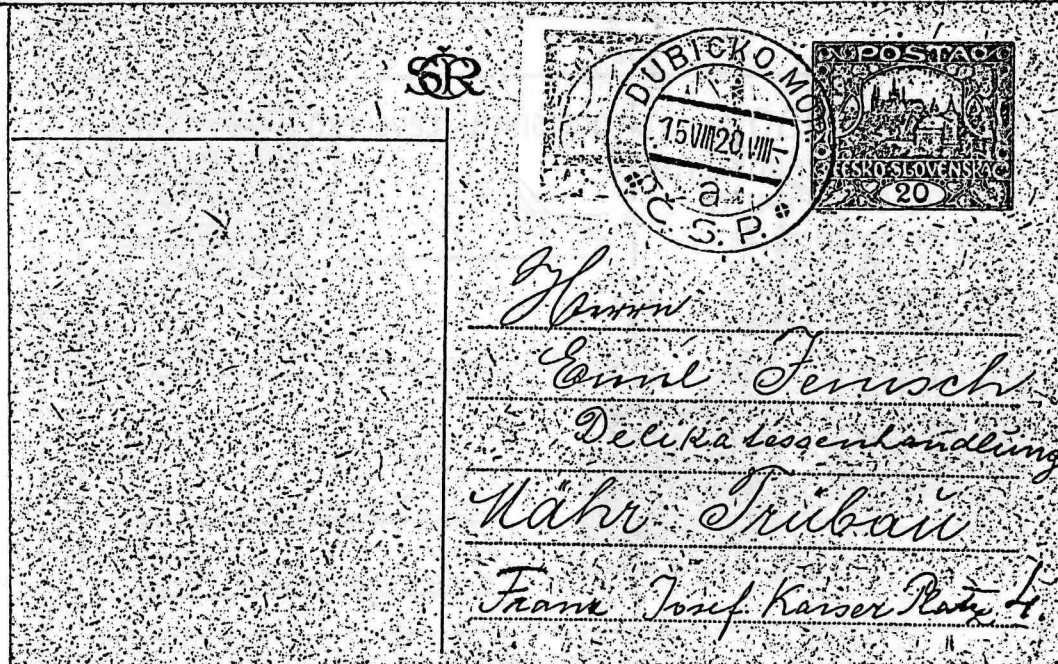
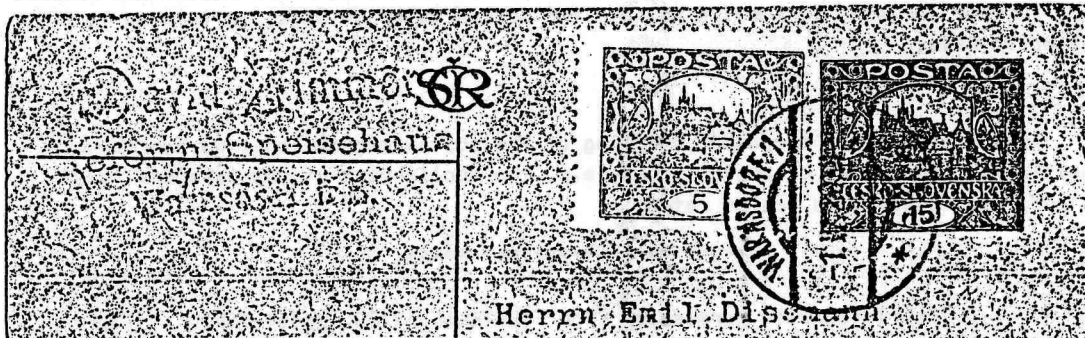
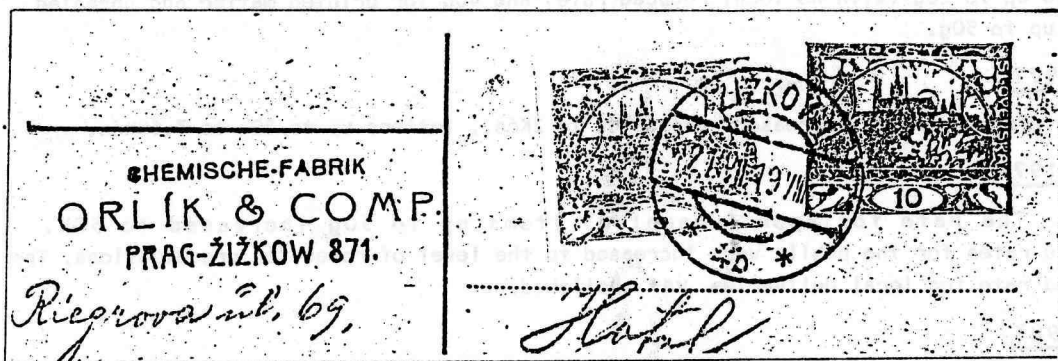
In the context of a radical updating of the postal regulations, we can expect changes in the categories of postal items, e.g. the abolishment of the category 'open' items and, most likely, in postal rates.

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[Reprinted with permission from FILATELIE 12/89, pp364-365]



QUERY FROM EDITOR! Postcard from Košice 28.VI.20 to Brno (arr: 30.VI.20) franked with correct postage of 20h. Why was it 'T' (taxed) with a 100% surcharge as an item with postage underpaid? The 40h postcard rate did not come into force until 1 August 1920. >



Three examples of printed PS postcards being augmented with additional adhesive stamps consequent to postage rate changes for postcards. Top: ŽIŽKOV (Praha) on 21.7.1919 from 10h to 15h (changed 15.5.1919). Centre: WARNSDORF (Varnsdorf) on 1.4.1920 from 15h to 20h (changed 15.3.1920). Bottom: DUBICKO/Mor. 15.8.1920 from 20h to 40h (changed 1.8.1920). Note the old Austrian postmarks still in use for Žižkov and Varnsdorf. [Illustrations courtesy Lindy Knight] ::





FROM RNDr.PhMr. MIROSLAV VOSTATEK (Pardubice)

The Editor has received a very interesting letter covering our publication in CZECHOUT 1/89 of Bill Dawson's display to the Society of his SUDETENLAND material and our "Sudetenland Addenda" by A.J. Stoyel between pages 14-19. Enclosed with his letter, Dr. Vostatek also refers to an article in FILATELIE 2/1979,p.38 by Jaroslav Mareda describing the "camp" we highlighted on page 19. It is believed that the information given will be of immense interest to many of our members who collect this type of material. In the light of this, we have decided to publish Dr. Vostatek's letter and reproduce the FILATELIE article below. We are very grateful to the Editor of FILATELIE for permission to publish this item and to our Australian member Dr. M. Vender for its translation. Thanks too to Vladimír Králíček who had sent to us Dr. Vostatek's letter with an English translation. (Now you can see why it has taken so long to be published!):-

".... I must say how much I admire what you are doing in England. I try with my very limited English to read the articles you publish. Is it possible that I might be able to help you with a few comments? Referring to the W.A.Dawson cover on p.16, It may be usefully added that in Dlouhé Loučce (but in Horní - i.e. Upper) was a POW camp OFLAG VIII H/H where there were predominantly French with a few British prisoners. Inside the castle was a footwear warehouse...which was burnt out about four years ago.

STALAG VIII B was in Lamsdorf, now Lambinowice u Nysy in Poland. Here, with other nationalities were kept Czechoslovak POWs - airmen from Czech formations, based in Great Britain.

There was, indeed, a prisoner camp in ZNOJMO in 1945/46 and covers are known but, quite understandably, are very rare in Czechoslovakia. I have located a witness (Dr. Mareda) who served as a soldier in a construction section. He has written about this in FILATELIE 1979/2.

The cover from CHORNICE (p.19) is very interesting and seen by me for the first time. The Germans began to build a motorway from Breslau to Vienna and that is why the camp was at Chornice. The republic was only a few tens of Km. wide at this point. Even today can be seen the unmistakable remains of embankments and cuttings of the unfinished motorway.

Finally - re: page 21: Indeed, on 1.9.1939, after the German invasion of Poland, even the Slovak Army turned itself northwards. Fieldpost cards with cancellations of the former Czechoslovak Field Post from 1938 are very rare (e.g. FPO 12 and some others) [Ed: this paragraph refers to QUERY CORNER].

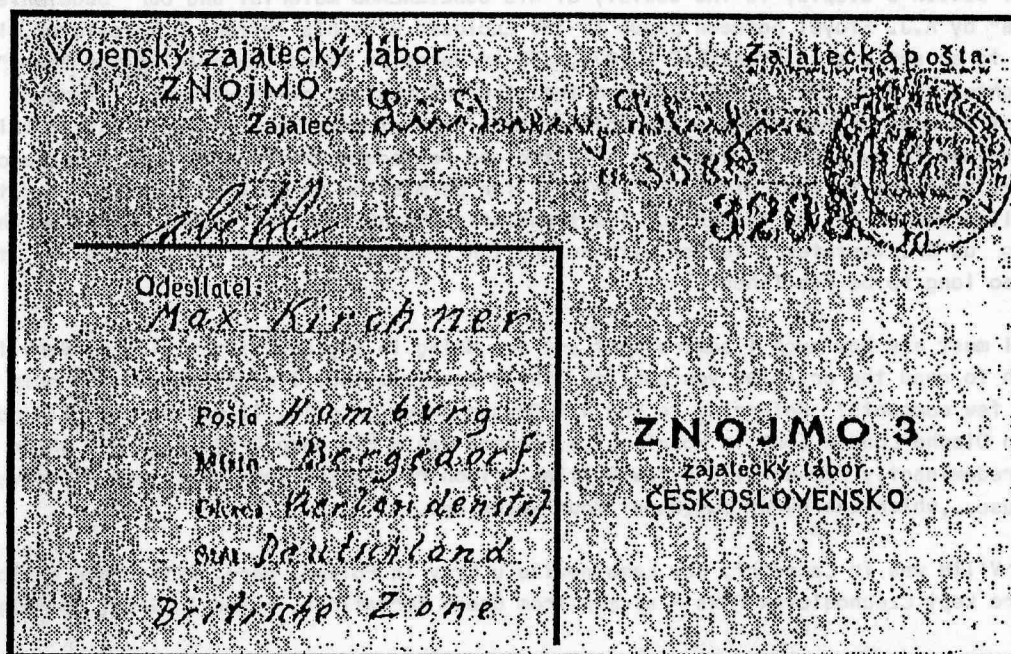
So much for this supplement to the most interesting articles [in CZECHOUT] and I am more than astonished to learn that they were written by other than Czechoslovaks. This is to their much greater merit".

Miroslav Vostatek.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Vostatek is a very well-known writer in Czechoslovakia on Military Mails with his articles appearing regularly in FILATELIE.

POW Camp Znojmo 3



- An enhancement of the illustration published in FILATELIE -

I read in FILATELIE 78/17 the article by Dr. M. Vostatek about the Prisoner of War camps in the years 1945-46. I was a serviceman in ZNOJMO in 1945 and was thereby in contact with the camp mentioned. One of my duties was to take care of the building works. In addition, I had to organise various works in connection with the preparation for demolition of some objects which was undertaken by prisoners; I was therefore familiar with the situation in this camp.

The POW Camp ZNOJMO 3 was established after the liberation of Znojmo by the Red Army during the restoration of the Czechoslovak Army. There were only military personnel - POWs - held in this camp. They were located in barracks close to the railway station behind the earlier factory for sanitary ceramics Ditmar Urbach. Originally, the premises were utilized as warehouses for the German Army but later on they were rebuilt to suit the needs of mass accommodation. In addition there was an administration building and sentry posts. The camp was under the military command of the city garrison headquarters who also provided the guards.

The commandant had very considerable administrative duties. One of these duties was to very thoroughly vet the prisoners in search of war criminals and was kept busy with communicating with various local and foreign organisations. I can mention, as an example, a letter from "Rat der Stadt Leipzig-Kommunalabteilung" (Dept. of the City Council of Leipzig for victims of fascist terror) addressed to the headquarters of this camp, which is in my collection.

POW registration was done with the use of special postcards designated "Zajatecká pošta" - "Prisoner of War Mail". These were (yellow) double postcards with text in red addressed to the "Prisoner of War Information Bureau of The Czechoslovak Red Cross, Praha III., Thunovská 8". >

One half of this card was detached in Prague and forwarded to the Central Office of the International Red Cross in Geneva.

For the prisoners' correspondence, the camp headquarters issued special reply cards printed on pinkish coloured paper with the Czech designation "Zajatecká pošta" and with the printed address "ZNOJMO 3 / zajatecký tábor / ČESKOSLOVENSKO" (Znojmo 3 / prisoner of war camp / Czechoslovakia) on the reply portion. This reply portion also carried at its head a line or round cachet with the text "Prisoner of War Camp Znojmo". The text was all in Czech with no French or other international language as was usual with international POW correspondence according to the Geneva convention. For this reason the reply portion was, in many cases, considered as normal mail and not POW mail and normal postage stamps were applied or demanded by the originating postal authorities. I know from experience that mail arriving at this camp from within Czechoslovakia (usually from Germans then living on this territory) was always minus postage stamps while mail from foreign countries did arrive with either postage stamps or none at all. I remember mail arriving from Austria, the British, Russian and American occupation zones of Germany and from Poland and Jugoslavia.

Now a few words about censorship. Mail was always censored before leaving this camp and mail from abroad usually carried censor stamps or numbers of censor offices of the Allied Forces - also sometimes censored by civil authorities.

The illustration to this article is that of a reply portion of a POW card and is dated as March 1946. It was sent from Hamburg-Bergendorf 1A and addressed to Prisoner No. 3585 Ludwig Bluhm. There is a line cachet of the Znojmo Camp and the censorship number 3208. The postage stamp (Yvert 21) was issued by the Allied Postal Administration (excepting the French occupation zone) in Germany and used from Hamburg in the British zone.

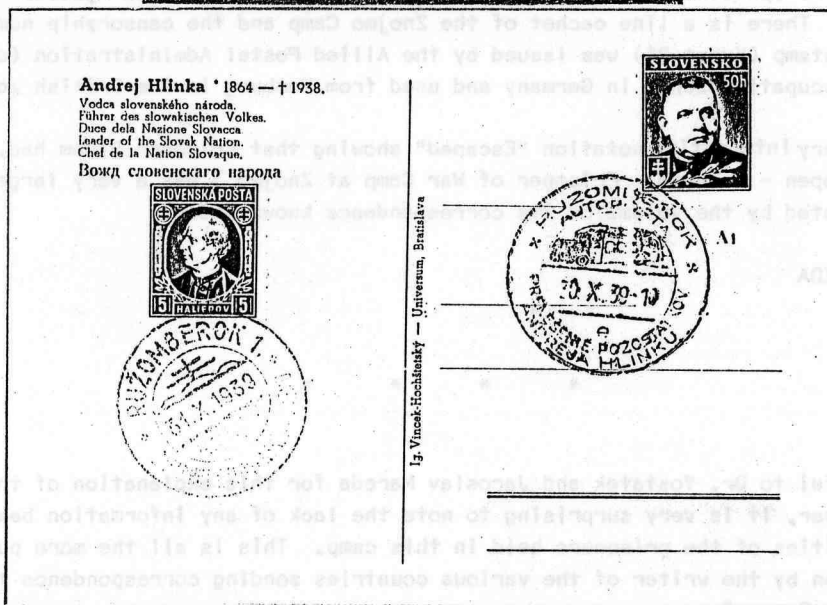
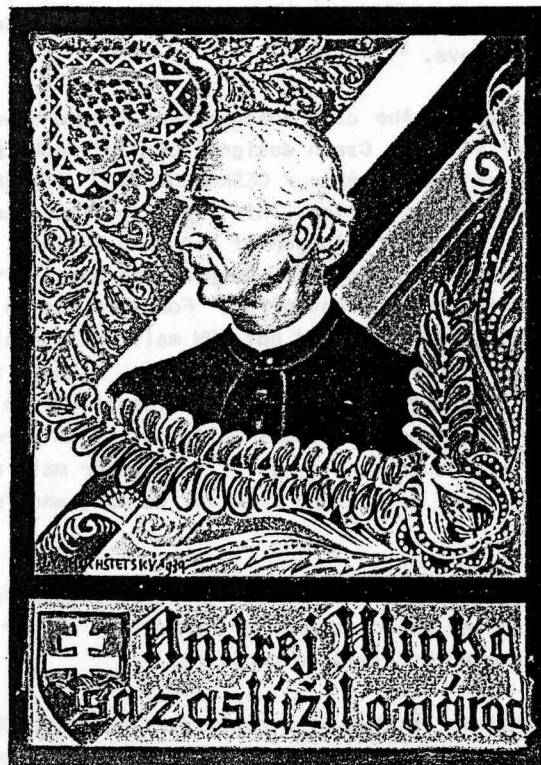
There is a very interesting notation "Escaped" showing that Prisoner Bluhm had, as did sometimes happen - escaped! Prisoner of War Camp at Znojmo 3 was a very large one indeed as is documented by the volume of its correspondence known today.

JAROSLAV MAREDA

\* \* \* \*

[We are grateful to Dr. Vostatek and Jaroslav Mareda for this explanation of these unusual covers. However, it is very surprising to note the lack of any information bearing upon the nationalities of the prisoners held in this camp. This is all the more puzzling by the revelation by the writer of the various countries sending correspondence to the camp! Were they ALL German?

It would be very enlightening for our members if anyone reading this article and having more definite information about the POWs there, would kindly inform us about any further knowledge they might have. I am aware of some theoretical thinking on this but would very much welcome some proof. Ed.] ::



An interesting follow-up to James Negus' article on Slovakia's Father Hlinka postcards (2/88 p28) supplied by Ron. Hollis (this one is not signed by Hlinka). Of 1939 vintage with picture side in multicolour, this item carries postage stamp (50h Tiso) cancelled by RUŽOMBEROK autopost 30.X.39 and a Slovak Father Hlinka 5h stamp favour-cancelled at RUŽOMBEROK 31.X.39 beneath a multi-lingual slogan "Leader of the Slovak Nation". Hlinka died on 16 August 1938, prior to the outbreak of war. "President" Tiso was executed on 16 April 1947. Entire published in Bratislava. Stamps: SG.25 (Hlinka) and SG.45 (Tiso).

## NEW ISSUES from SEPT to DEC.

POISONOUS FUNGI

Reduced copy of one of the sheets of the five-values set issued 5.9.89 by flat-bed m/col. recess process. There was no rotary press printing. Sheets will be listed in catalogues as PL (Přepažkový list) 'Counter Sheet' items. Designed by Academic painter Josef Sosna and engraved by Miloš Ondráček (50h and 5Kčs) and Vaclav Fajt (remainder) and printed by Post Printing Office at Prague.

- 50h - *Nolanea varna*
- 1Kčs - *Amanita phalloides* (Death Cap)
- 2Kčs - *Amanita virosa* (Destroying Angel)
- 3Kčs - *Cortinarius orellanus*
- 5Kčs - *Galerina marginata*

Stamps printed by this method in toto are only occasionally seen because the method is a very expensive one but it supersedes any other method by way of clarity of detail in the end product. Thus, this set now joins similar ones of earlier dates in the 'Very Collectable' category. I like this set immensely for its very fine detail, especially the engravings, and the unobtrusive choice of colours - so close to the natural state. One of the best sets for many years, methinks!

It should be made clear, perhaps, that such fungi are becoming increasingly scarce in nature for many reasons - some not yet understood. If you MUST pick them do be VERY CAREFUL because to consume inedible fungi can prove extremely dangerous - even fatal to humans. Nevertheless, what is sometimes harmful to mankind can be a good source of food to other animals in the wild. Left alone to grow naturally in the wild state, such fungi, with their fine adornment of shape and colour, serve to beautify our woodlands. Here, with this fine set, we have a lasting reminder of the creative beauty of Nature.

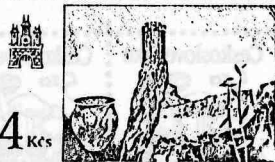
AJK.

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



BRATISLAVA MOTIFS

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



BRATISLAVA MOTIFS

Bratislava Motifs - 16.10.89 - in sheets x 4.



50th Anniv:  
Int. Students  
Day. 1v.  
...  
17 November 89  
Shown full size

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



ANTON JASUSCH 1882-1965

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



JAKUB SCHIKANEDER 1855-1924

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



PRAVOSLAV KOTIK 1889-1970

ART ON STAMPS (3v) in sheets of 4 stamps. Issued 27.11.1989



(left) 18.12.1989 - Day of Cz. Stamps, illustrating the stamp artist Cyril Bouda 1901-1984. 1v.  
The last stamp for 1989.

COMMEMORATION OF "50th Anniversary of 17 November 1939" (additional to pub. programme)

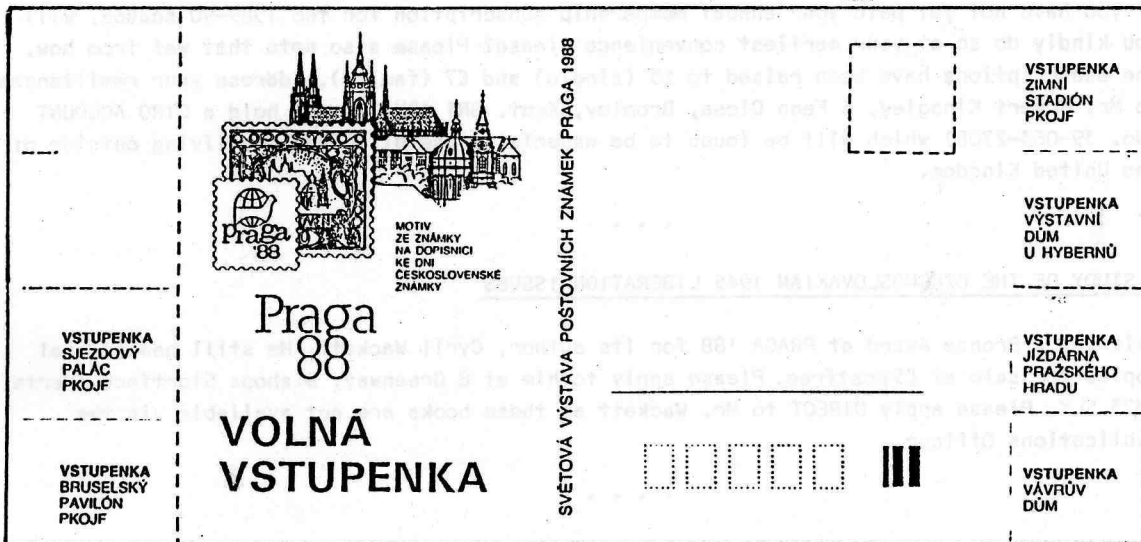
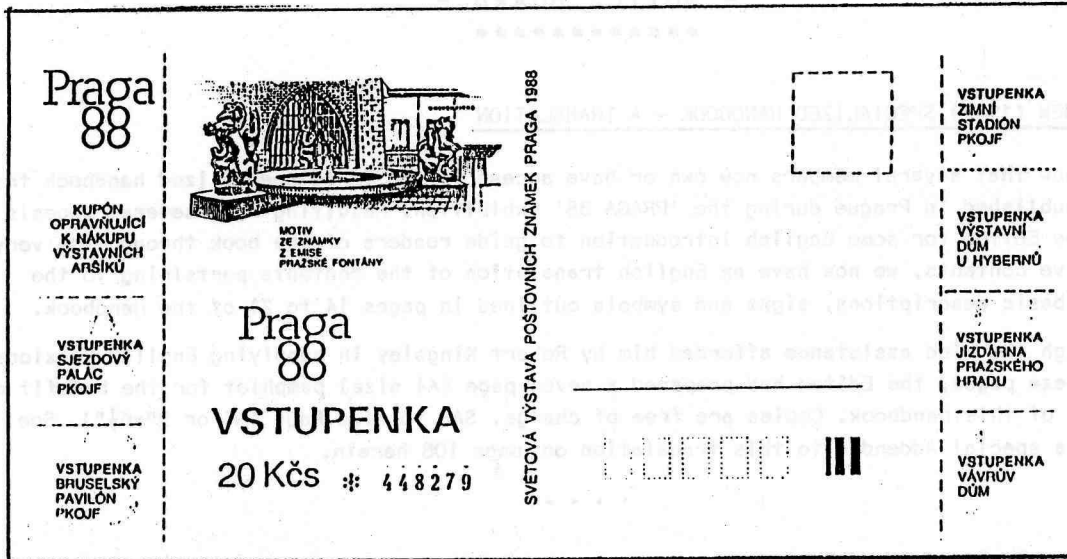
[Top-right] - 1Kčs m/col. rotary recess/photo. JAN OPLETAL 1915-1939 with logo of the International Students Union above inscription "17 Listopad (November) 1939-1989".

17 November (Int. Students Day) marks the day in 1939 when the Nazi forces of Occupation closed down all universities in Bohemia and Moravia. On 28 October 1939, anniversary of the date in 1918 when Czechoslovakia was proclaimed an independent state, demonstrations took place in Prague and other parts of the country against the occupaton. These led to repressive actions by the Nazis, in which Jan Opletal, a student of medicine at Charles University, was fatally wounded. He died within a few days. His funeral on 15 November sparked off further demonstrations by university students and others. Retaliation by the occupation forces was swift and thorough. Students' dormitories were raided and many students were imprisoned .... some executed. On 17 November, as already stated, the faculties were closed across the country.

The likeness of Jan Opletal engraved on the stamp by Josef Herčík from his own design, was based on a photograph of the young man on his (today - well preserved) Student's Card. Accompanying this special issue is a FDC with a drawing of the historical Seal of Charles University, Prague and the commemorative pmk is a motif from the emblem of the International Union of Students - the World globe. AJK.

All photographs and references courtesy ARTIA - Praha, 1989.

ADMISSION TICKETS TO PRAGA '88



In our WINTER 1988 edition (p.82), I described the two main types of admission tickets to The 'PRAGA 88' exhibition last year. Readers will recall that the main differences between the two types illustrated then were to be found in the red and blue inks employed and the philatelic motifs illustrating the top-left portions of both cards. I was pleasantly surprised a little while back when a member offered to exchange a ticket bearing no admission charge for one of the two we described. I was eventually very pleased with this exchange for it afforded me the chance to obtain a third type of ticket which I show above, under one of the other two already mentioned.

You will note that besides bearing no admission charge and no ticket number, the wording below the PRAGA 88 logo is different - VOLNÁ VYSTUPENKA (English = FREE ADMISSION). So, here we are then, with a third type of admission ticket/ps postcard.

This third type of ticket allowed the holder to visit all the exhibition sites at no cost but it is clear that the holder was not entitled to purchase the special exhibition sheets permitted to other ticket holders. This portion (top-left) has been left blank, except for a 6mm partial perforation line midway in the blank field. Here also then, is another nice Praga 88 postal stationery postcard for members to look out for. AJK.

- NOTICE BOARD -

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THE NEW (1988) SPECIALIZED HANDBOOK - A TRANSLATION

We know that several members now own or have access to the large specialized handbook that was published in Prague during the 'PRAGA 88' exhibition. Resulting from several appeals to the Editor for some English introduction to guide readers of the book through its very massive contents, we now have an English translation of the contents pertaining to the many basic descriptions, signs and symbols outlined in pages 14 to 21 of the Handbook.

Through the kind assistance afforded him by Robert Kingsley in supplying English versions of these pages, the Editor has prepared a seven page (A4 size) pamphlet for the benefit of users of this handbook. Copies are free of charge. SAE to Alec Page (A4 or 9"x6½"). See also a special Addendum to this translation on page 108 herein.

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A GENTLE REMINDER!

If you have not yet paid your annual membership subscription for the 1989-90 season, will you kindly do so at your earliest convenience please? Please also note that wef from now, the subscriptions have been raised to £5 (single) and £7 (family). Address your remittances to Mr. Robert Kingsley, 6 Fenn Close, Bromley, Kent. BR1 4DX. We now hold a GIRO ACCOUNT (No. 39-063-2708) which will be found to be especially useful to members living outside of the United Kingdom.

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A STUDY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN 1945 LIBERATION ISSUES

This won a Bronze Award at PRAGA '88 for its author, Cyril Wackett. He still has several copies for sale at £5 postfree. Please apply to him at 8 Greenway, Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 5LX. Please apply DIRECT to Mr. Wackett as these books are not available via the Publications Officer.

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ART ON STAMPS

Our new member, John Fosbery, FRPS, L. is hoping to form an ART ON STAMPS STUDY GROUP and would welcome the names of any members who would like to join such a group. The aim would be to closely study the art and the painters of works displayed in stamp form. We point out that this is not solely for Czechoslovakian stamps but of the entire world. Mr. Fosbery will always be glad to purchase mint stamps you may have to spare on this theme, too. For further information, apply to Mr. J. Fosbery, 52 St Leonard's Road, Newton Abbot, Devon. TQ12 1JX.

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THE SOCIETY PACKET - A FINAL CALL!

Despite our urgent appeal for more material for this service to members in our last issue, the response to date has been very low indeed. We make this FINAL APPEAL for more, good material for the Packet. Please send what you can spare to Bob Allard as soon as possible. The need is great and it is VERY URGENT! >



CZECHOSLOVAK LEGIONS IN SIBERIA (WW1) - A REQUEST FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

A major effort is under way to research all aspects of the Fieldpost of The Czechoslovak LEGIONS IN SIBERIA. As part of this project, a registry of Siberian covers and postal documents has been established with the following purposes: 1. Establishing which unit pmks were used on the mails, 2. Establishing the frequency of their use and their distribution, 3. Aiming to later publish all the researchers' findings. This calls for a wide and sound data base - and collectors of this material are asked to assist the researchers in either of the following ways:-

- A. Sending photocopies of backs and fronts of all your covers, postcards and postal documents (with some additional notes of your own if you like) or -
- B. Loaning originals to the researchers under cover of insured or registered mail. RETURN OF ALL MATERIAL IS GUARANTEED by the researchers.

Address for sendings: JAROSLAV VERNER, CLAYALLEE 170 (Box 'E'), 1000 BERLIN 33. Fed. Germany.

BOOK REVIEW

THE VISSZATÉRT PERIOD IN HUNGARIAN PHILATELY (BENFORD Mervyn, OXFORD 1989) Magyar PS of GB., 'Gerona', Church Rd., Grandborough, Warks. CV23 8DH. [154pp A4, limp covers, spiral-bound. £9.50 postfree inland and overseas (surface mail) but AIRMAIL is extra.

"VISSZATÉRT" is Hungarian for "Homecoming or "Return" and this work deals expressly with the period 1938-41 that saw the 'return' to Hungary of some territories lost by it under the Treaty of Trianon 1920, following World War I. From 1920-38 came a period of protest by Hungarians and other nationalities for border adjustments between Hungary and Poland/Czechoslovakia and Roumania/Czechoslovakia involving former Hungarian locations. The years 1938 to 1941 saw some of these 'lost' territories restored to Hungary (in part) under the Vienna Awards, negotiated in the climate of 'Munich' (1938-40) or by annexation under favourable political climate. It is, of course, general knowledge that Hungary once again lost most of these territories following the end of World War II.

Much of the content of this book has already been published elsewhere, e.g. in the booklet of 1988 by the Magyar and Czechoslovak Societies as a joint venture and under the same title as this newer and much enlarged work and our own Monograph 4 (PAGE Juan, Madrid 1985). This fact is acknowledged by the author in saying "It is less a work of my own creation than a distillation of information from those more expert than I."

A wealth of Czechoslovak related material can be found in this book, concerning Ruthenia, Slovakia and "Visszatért" areas within its territories. Many pages of gazetteer content relating to auxiliary cancellers and their localities with Hungarian/Czech (and other) towns and areas suitably listed. There is an abundance of historical facts; some for the first time, according to the author, including material on military and TPO matters. All in all, there is much for the Czechoslovakia philatelist to enjoy and it must be said that for the general collector of Central European philately, this book is extremely good value for the cost - who can grumble about 6p a page for such information? One just slight debit however must be marked up because of several blotchy reproductions and some rather cluttered pages tending to mar what must be the end result of so much deep research into a subject that even today, in philatelic terms, is still not completely and fully understood. It is a nice culmination to the Magyar Society's 25th anniversary year. AJK. ::

CORRESPONDENTS SOUGHT

Ing Jiří Matoušek, Na Dobešce 668/12, 147 00 PRAHA 4. Offers u. and m. Cz. material in return for GB and Commonwealth. A Want List supplied on request.

Pan Petr Homolka, Charbařovická 1322, 182 00 PRAHA 8. Aged 28, this collector offers all Cz. material m./u. in return for Commonwealth m./u. 1938-60. Gibbons/Michel cats.

Pan Antonín Ksana, Modřínová 1397/5, 182 00 PRAHA 8. Wishes to exch. GB/Cz. m./u. No further details supplied.

As always, you are advised not to send material until contacts have been established; and then by Registered mail. The Editor would be grateful for news from members who have established good contacts via these pages; this will enable him to assess the viability of publishing these appeals in future.

ADDENDUM TO SPECIALIZED HANDBOOK (1988)

The Editor is grateful to a Prague correspondent for clearing up a query relating to the now published English translation of an Introduction to this huge volume. This concerns the section 1.6.2. on p. 5. You will note that two entries - PA and PL refer to "Counter Sheets" - and both are correct .... but there is a difference:-

PA = Přepážkový arch. This applies to sheets from ROTARY PRINTINGS only, i.e. a printing by a cylinder revolving 360°.

PL = Přepážkový list. This applies to sheets printed by other methods; e.g. by flat-plate such as ART ON STAMPS, PRAGUE CASTLE TREASURES, TREASURES FROM ART GALLERIES such as the recent SEBASTIAN RICCI sheet.

STAMPS FOR SALE .....

WANTS LISTS WELCOME for all issues of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Bohemia & Moravia and East Silesia. Mainly used but some later mint. Ask me! I may have what you want!

Robert Bradford, 10 Silverdale Crescent, Lanark ML11 9HW.

PLEASE NOTE!

A glance at our Balance Sheet accompanying this issue will open members' eyes to the very heavy POSTAGES BILL.

YOU CAN HELP KEEP THESE TO A MINIMUM in the future by kindly enclosing a self-addressed/stamped envelope with correspondence to us requiring replies. This is a courtesy that is greatly appreciated.

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[END OF CZECHOUT VOLUME No.7. Next issue due in March 1990]  
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