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Gaudeamus igitur!



EDITORIAL

Who would have believed that the reference, in our last issue, to one Jan Opletal, a Prague student, dying from the result of official violence on 17th November that year, would have become such an omen for the happenings in Prague just 50 years later - to the day? Such a coincidence could happen but once in a millenium. However, all that is now history. Today we watch Czechoslovakia emerge into the light ... and wish her well!

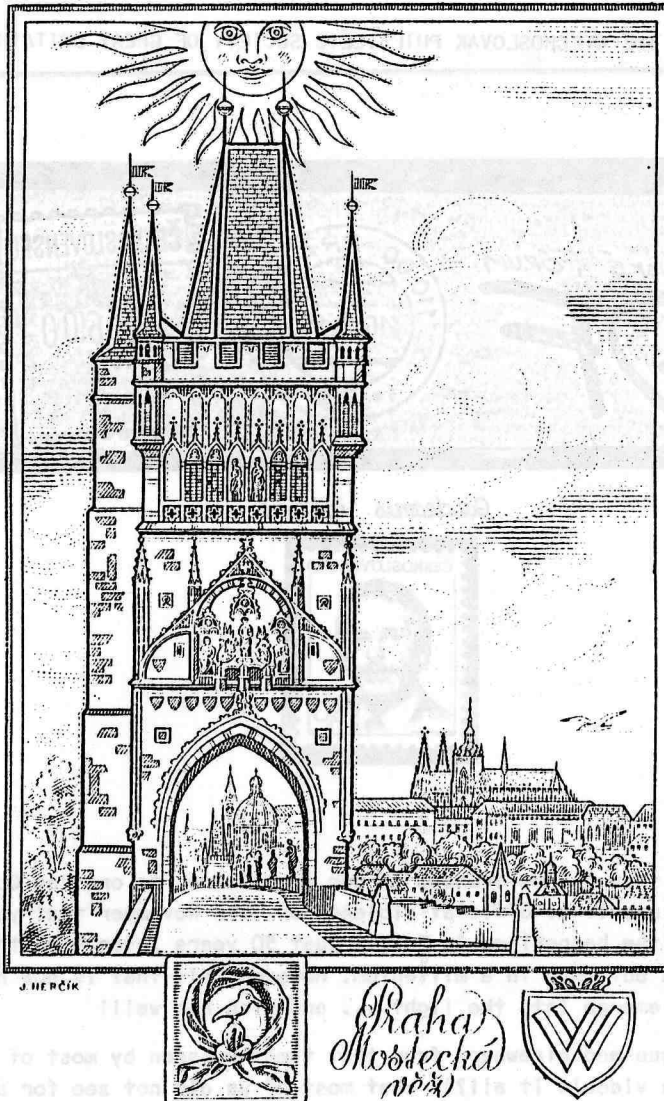
The celebrations in Prague and elsewhere from that time were seen by most of us on our TV screens (how many of you video'd it all?). What most of us did not see for a little while, was the official smiling face of PRAGUE 1 (Head) POST OFFICE, in the form you see above - this example being dated 16.1.90. The 'slogan' portion shows a smiling face (within the letter "O") followed by the letter "F" under inscription OBČANSKÉ FÓRUM (Civic Forum).

You may already know that it is customary in Czechoslovakia to prefix New Year greetings with the letters "P.F" (Fr. = Pour Félicité) meaning 'for happiness'. Now we begin to see the meaning behind the P.O. thinking - "Civic Form" (O.F.) wishes the recipient of this packet a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR! ["Civic Forum" was the name adopted by the leading pressure group in Prague during the initial uprising ... it is still so employed].

Well, as has been already said, much of the above is now history. The crowning glory perhaps, was the installation as President at Prague Castle on December 29th of another victim of official violence, VÁCLAV HAVEL. We show the President's first stamp, issued 11 days later. ... We discuss this stamp more deeply under 'New Issues'.

We close in joining all Czechoslovak philatelists in "So Let us be Joyful" and, naturally - "POUR FÉLICITÉ!"

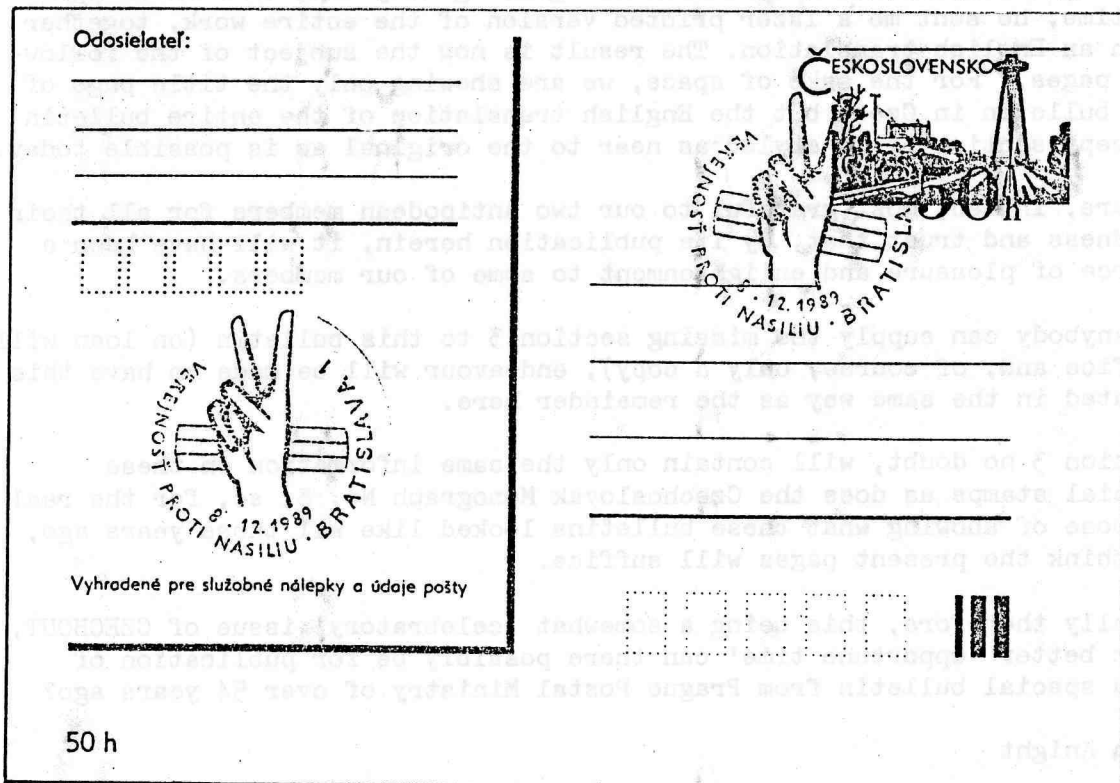
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!



P.F. 1990!

This fine engraving of Prague's OLD TOWN BRIDGE TOWER of CHARLES BRIDGE, with its very obvious happy message was sent to our members by ARTIA, the official exporters of Cz. postage stamps. The work is by the celebrated postage stamp engraver, Josef Herčík as his tribute to the new order now consolidating itself in Czechoslovakia. A reciprocal message has been sent by the Editor on behalf of our readers.

CHARLES BRIDGE is the oldest in Prague, indeed, until the mid-19th century, it was the only one in Prague. Always a 'must' for tourists, Charles Bridge links Prague's Old and New Towns as it spans the equally famous VLTAVA river (formerly called the MOLDAU), standing on its sixteen arches and leading to the seat of heads of state, PRAGUE CASTLE (in background). One of Europe's most beautiful Gothic structures, Charles Bridge was built (on the site of two older bridges) in 1357 By Emperor Charles IV. Its designer and building supervisor was one, PETR PARLER.



Top: (1918) The new State Arms of Czechoslovakia as envisaged by J. Procházský, Brno. Although details were correct, the actual design was probably listed as being 'unadopted'. This is the reverse of a privately printed postcard.

BELOW (1989) Modern ps postcard ex BRATISLAVA with pmk date of 8.12.1989, quite an early postal reference to the New Order in Czechoslovakia today. The inscription on pmk reads "THE PUBLIC AGAINST FORCE/BRATISLAVA 1"

MINISTERIAL POSTAL BULLETIN 9/1935

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Many moons ago, whilst thinning out some old philatelic paperwork, I came across an old Czechoslovak Postal Ministry bulletin that appeared to be a few pages short, so I put it all aside again 'for future reference' - the perfect way in which to be assured of 'accumulations' of paper work! Some time later, I sent them to Vladimir Králiček in New Zealand for his opinion on the possibility of having an English translation. Very soon, a reply came back confirming the missing pages (section 3) but including an English translation and a copy of one missing page, President Masaryk's photograph on which, as you will later learn, a stamp design was based.

Again, I kept everything for the 'opportune' moment to publish it all in CZECHOUT. However, the story continues ... I later on came into contact with a new member (then), Dr. Milan Vender of Australia and, during the course of postal conversation, realised that he might be able to help us further still with this bulletin. He agreed gladly and, in a short space of time, he sent me a laser printed version of the entire work, together with an English translation. The result is now the subject of the following pages. For the sake of space, we are showing only the title page of the bulletin in Czech but the English translation of the entire bulletin (except section 3) is styled as near to the original as is possible today.

We are, indeed, most grateful to our two Antipodean members for all their kindness and trust that, by its publication herein, it will have been a source of pleasure and enlightenment to some of our members.

If anybody can supply the missing section 3 to this bulletin (on loan will suffice and, of course, only a copy), endeavour will be made to have this treated in the same way as the remainder here.

Section 3 no doubt, will contain only the same information on these special stamps as does the Czechoslovak Monograph No. 3, so, for the real purpose of showing what these bulletins looked like all those years ago, we think the present pages will suffice.

Finally therefore, this being a somewhat 'celebratory' issue of CZECHOUT, what better 'opportune time' can there possibly be for publication of this special bulletin from Prague Postal Ministry of over 54 years ago?

Alan Knight

[The following illustrations are reduced by 20%]

VĚSTNÍK

MINISTERSTVA POŠT A TELEGRAFŮ

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|---------|
| Rok 1935 | V Praze 26. února | Číslo 9 |
| | Ustanovení č. 8/1935 | |

OSLAVA

OSMDESÁTÉHOPÁTÉHO VÝROČÍ NAROZENIN

PRESIDENTA REPUBLIKY

TOMÁŠE G. MASARYKA

1850 * 7. III. * 1935

I.

VYDÁNÍ PAMĚTNÍCH POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK.

(1) K oslavám a na trvalou pamět osmdesátéhopátého výročí narozenin pana presidenta republiky vydá poštovní správa čtyři pamětní poštovní známky těchto hodnot a barev:

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 50 h | zelená |
| 1 Kč | červená |
| 2 Kč | modrá |
| 3 Kč | hnědá. |

(2) Poštovní hospodářské úřady – v Čechách poštovní hospodářská ústředna – zašlou všem poštovním úřadům pamětní známky z moci úřední, a to nejdéle do 5. března 1935.

(3) Hospodářské úřady vyhotoví samy odběrní lístky (zvláštní tiskopis) a zašlou je poštovním úřadům zároveň se zásilkami známek.

(4) Poštovní úřad stvrdí odběrní lístek, jakmile známky převzal, vrátí jej svému hospodářskému úřadu a zúčtuje tento mimořádný odběr podle vzájemného lístku obvyklým způsobem.

BULLETIN

OF THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

EIGHTY FIVE YEARS OF THE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC T. G. MASARYK

Today, the eighty fifth birthday of the president of republic T. G. Masaryk, is not only a rare anniversary in his life. It is also a great anniversary of his work, to which he devoted his whole life; work for the knowledge, nation, state, democracy and peace.

Since 1918, T. G. Masaryk has been continuously the head of our state, which was created by his impressive effort during the fierce time of the world war, and which he wisely and safely leads since that through the turbulent currents of postwar Europe and the world. Our state and its democracy, these are Masaryk's whole life's work, placing him among the greatest men of the Czechoslovak nation. However, by his contribution to learning and by his fight for world-wide democracy and peace, he belongs to the whole world.

The passage of time confirms, again and again, the correctness and vitality of Masaryk's ideas and theses. It is precisely the present extraordinarily difficult time in our lives, which brings one of the greatest proofs that Masaryk's philosophical world outlook has been based on solid foundations. The present time brought the most valuable victory for Masaryk by demonstrating that, thanks to its intrinsic value, a sensible and mature democracy is able to survive best even in times of world economic and moral crisis.

The political rise of Masaryk, whose life means a constant growth, could not be finished by the achievement of his highest aim, i.e. the restoration of the Czechoslovak State. It had to continue, the work had to be secured and improved. He saw and still sees the continuously revitalized source of the existence and security of the state in the government of the people. He taught us, for this reason, to live in democracy and the long years of his creative work in this field are bringing a good harvest. Masaryk always stated that only a permanent secure peace can bring blessing to nations. Thus he put the same effort, with which he struggled for the independence of the Czechoslovak State, into the fight for its international security and for the policy of peace. Humanistic ideas, which he proclaimed long before the war, are in a logical agreement with his activities during the war as well as with his present efforts. As a philosopher and statesman, T.G. Masaryk follows with scientific precision the objectives which he declared by his humanistic and democratic ideas.

Today, when president T. G. Masaryk reaches the eighty fifth year of his life, we acknowledge with feelings of immense gratitude his great achievement, his blessed work for the nation, state and people. May our faith become reality, that for very much longer, he will continue to lead our nation along the path he has not only shown us, but also built.

BULLETIN

OF THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|
| Year 1935 | Prague 26th February | Number 9 |
| | Provision No. 8/1935 | |

CELEBRATION

OF THE EIGHTY FIFTH BIRTHDAY OF THE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC THOMAS G. MASARYK

1850 * 7. III. * 1935

I.

ISSUE OF COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

(1) To celebrate and for the lasting memory of the eighty fifth birthday of Mr. President of the Republic the Postal Administration will issue four commemorative stamps with the following values and colours:

50 h.....green
1 Kč.....red
2 Kč.....blue
3 Kč.....brown.

(2) The postal business administration offices - in Bohemia the Postal Business Centre - are directed to send the commemorative stamps to all post offices at the latest by the 5th March 1935.

(3) The business administration offices will prepare the docketts (separate form) and send them to post offices together with the shipment of the stamps.

(4) The post office will confirm in the dockett the receipt of the stamps and will return it to its administration office. The exceptional supply of stamps will be dealt with in the accounting books in the usual way in correspondence, with the mutually confirmed docketts.

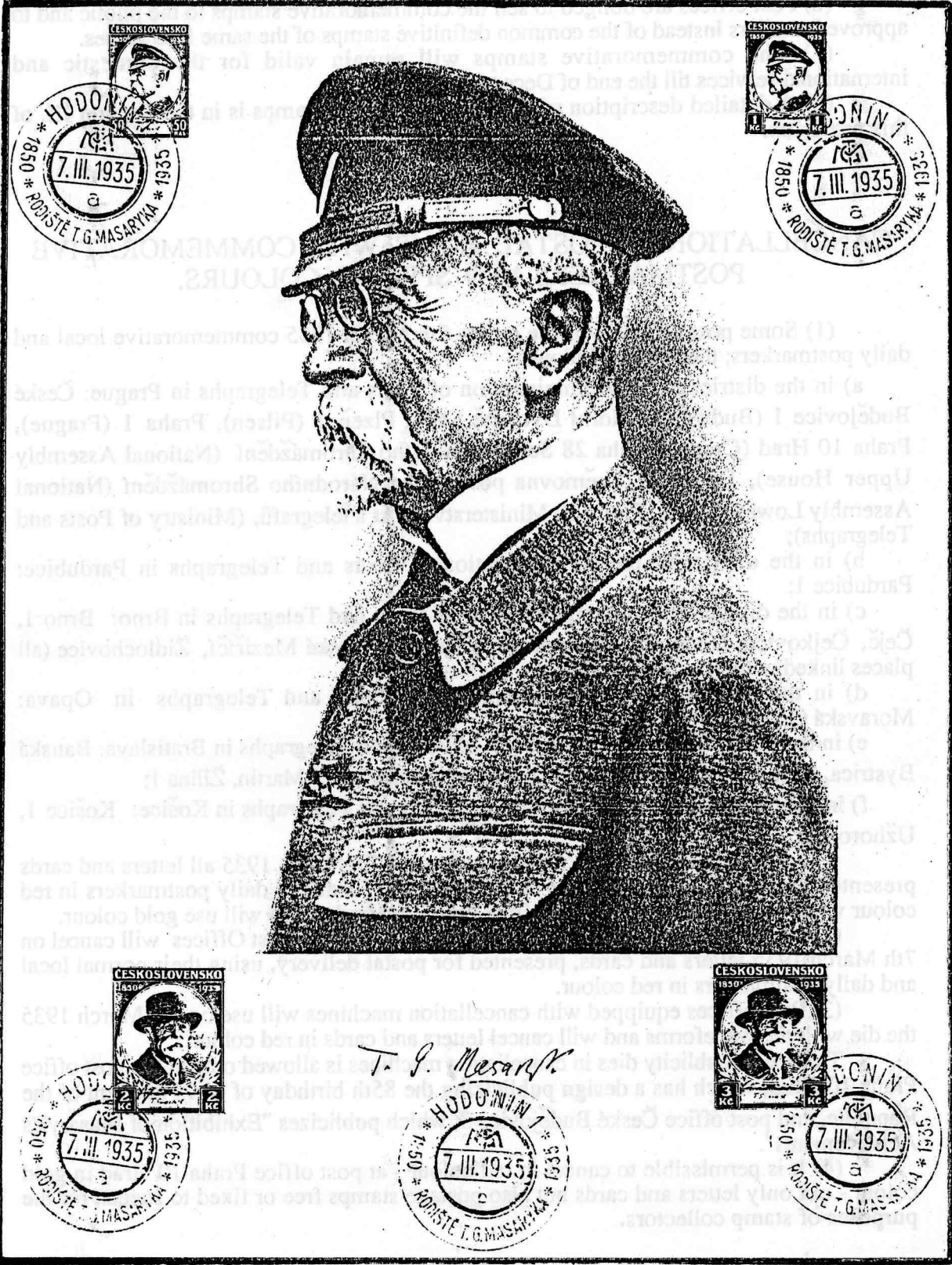
BULLETIN



*1850 * T.G. MASARYK * 1935*



*1850 * T.G. MASARYK * 1935*



(5) The post office will start selling the commemorative stamps immediately after delivery. The sale price is the face value indicated on the stamps; they are therefore sold without any surcharge.

(6) Post offices are obliged to sell the commemorative stamps to the public and to approved retailers instead of the common definitive stamps of the same face values.

(7) The commemorative stamps will remain valid for the domestic and international services till the end of December 1935.

(8) A detailed description of the commemorative stamps is in the Section III. of this provision.

II.

CANCELLATION OF POSTAL ITEMS WITH COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKERS AND SPECIAL COLOURS.

(1) Some post offices will use on the 7th March 1935 commemorative local and daily postmarkers; these are as follows:

a) in the district of the Administration of Posts and Telegraphs in Prague: České Budějovice 1 (Budweiss), Horní Dvořiště Lány, Plzeň 1 (Pilsen), Praha 1 (Prague), Praha 10 Hrad (Castle), Praha 28 Senát Národního Shromáždění (National Assembly Upper House), Praha 29 Sněmovna poslanecká Národního Shromáždění (National Assembly Lower House), Praha 30 Ministerstvo pošt a telegrafů, (Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs);

b) in the district of the Administration of Posts and Telegraphs in Pardubice: Pardubice 1;

c) in the district of the Administration of Posts and Telegraphs in Brno: Brno 1, Čejč, Čejkovice, Hodonín 1, Hustopeče u Brna, Valašské Meziříčí, Židlochovice (all places linked with the life of TGM);

d) in the district of the Administration of Posts and Telegraphs in Opava: Moravská Ostrava 1, Opava 1;

e) in the district of the Administration of Posts and Telegraphs in Bratislava: Banská Bystrica, Bratislava 1, Nitra, Topolčianky, Turčanský Svätý Martin, Žilina 1;

f) in the district of the Administration of Posts and Telegraphs in Košice: Košice 1, Užhorod 1.

The listed post offices will cancel on 7th March 1935 all letters and cards presented at the post office with the commemorative local and daily postmarkers in red colour with the exception of the post office Praha 10 Hrad which will use gold colour.

(2) Also all Class 1 Post Offices and Class 2- Grade 1 Post Offices will cancel on 7th March 1935 letters and cards, presented for postal delivery, using their normal local and daily postmarkers in red colour.

(3) Post offices equipped with cancellation machines will use on 7th March 1935 the die with the waveforms and will cancel letters and cards in red colour.

The use of publicity dies in cancellation machines is allowed only at the post office Praha 10 Hrad, which has a design publicizing the 85th birthday of Mr. President of the Republic, and post office České Budějovice 3, which publicizes "Exhibition of Masaryk's Achievements".

(4) It is permissible to cancel in red colour - at post office Praha 10 Hrad in gold colour - not only letters and cards but also postage stamps free or fixed to sheets, for the purposes of stamp collectors.

THE EVOLVEMENT OF THREE-COLOUR CANCELLATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- W. A. Dawson -

.....

Many collectors may find it something of a surprise to learn that Czechoslovakia was the first country to use three different coloured inks within the same circular cancellation. Furthermore, it may be found even more surprising to learn that such circular cancels, with moveable date plugs were first used as early as 1936. Many of you will doubtlessly recall the three-colour cancellations used for PHILYMPIA 1970. These however, were relatively simple three-line cancellers with fixed date and with each of the three lines being in a different colour - black, red and blue. Moreover, this 'novelty' came 34 years after the first Czechoslovak examples of three-colour moveable date circular handstamps.

To justify the title of this article, however, it is necessary to briefly relate the background story of those early beginnings of a unique philatelic episode but first of all, I must pay tribute to the late eminent Czech philatelist, Václav Nebeský, of Prague, whom I met there in 1975; he was then the leading authority on the subject of Czechoslovak postmarks.

Exactly one year after the Declaration of Independence on 28 October 1918, Czechoslovakia began employing coloured inks in addition to the normal black ink for postal cancellations. This was especially the case with commemorative and other special occasions postmarks. With the charity issue of 28th October 1919, marking the first anniversary of independence, came special hand cancellers in green, red, violet and blue inks. Together with purple, mauve and, occasionally, brown, orange or bright yellow, these colours were used liberally for special postmarkings for well over a decade.

What, perhaps, could be reasonably described as the ultimate in such colour cancellations came in 1934, with the commemorative hand cancellers used only at PRAHA 10 HRAD (the post office of Prague Castle, at Hradčanské náměstí). These were dated 28.IX.34 to mark the 20th anniversary of the raising of the Czechoslovak Army in France. This was an occasion for two cancellers being employed with the code letters 'a' and 'b'. These were struck in a special formula gold ink which, to this day, still retains some of its original lustre [see fig.1 showing five strikes]. This same gold ink was again used at the same post office on 7.3.35 with special cancels marking the 85th Birthday of President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. On that occasion, six handstamps were employed, using code letters 'a' to 'f'.

An accountant living in Prague, one Jan Jaroslav Poslušný, took out patent No. 61574 in 1935 in respect of his invention of 'an automatic postmarking device', as it was then designated. Basically, this was a machine for hand use which allowed the circular cancelling die to be segmented in such a way that each individual segment was independently inked from separate reservoirs. Thus, the number of colours that could be used was controlled by the number of individual segments into which the working dating-inscribed die was divided.

The mechanism for this device was similar to that employed in hand operated consecutive numbering machines which automatically alter the serial numbers with each stroke. Thus, when the hand operated device was placed into position on the item to be postmarked, each downward stroke brought each of the segments into contact with the surface one at a time. Therefore, if two colours were to be employed, the working head would be divided into two segments with the appropriate coloured ink reservoirs and two downward pressures would form the complete circular cancellation. For three colours, three segments with their ink reservoirs and three downward pressures would be needed ... etc. >

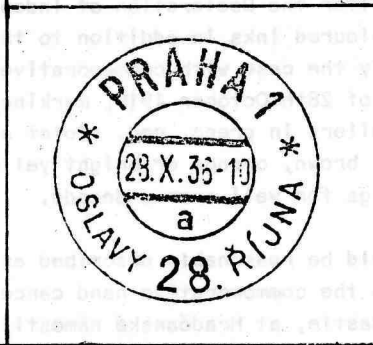
Jan Poslušný demonstrated his invention to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Prague. Though the officials of the ministry were impressed with the idea, they were not convinced of it being really practicable on the basis of the higher cost of such machines and the extra time needed for postal clerks to operate them. Nevertheless, following internal discussions, the ministry decided to try this new concept in postmarking with a special canceller in two colours.

In the previous four years, Independence day had been marked by the use of a handstamp at the Head Post Office in Prague, described PRAHA 1/28.X.(year)/OSLAVY (Celebrating 28th October). In 1935 this was the occasion to try this new idea with such a simple, special handstamp, with the outer ring and inscription in red and the inner, bridged, ring, dating device and code letter in blue [fig.2]. Four cancellers were employed with codes 'a' to 'd'. The same two-colour system was again used in Prague (PRAHA 1, 28 and 29) on 18th December to mark the re-election of the President of The Republic. These instances produced the first ever bi-coloured postmarks used anywhere in the world.

Fig.2 >



< Fig.3



These world 'firsts' in the field of special cancellations did not satisfy, nor greatly impress J.J.Poslušný. He made a copy of the die used for the 1935 Independence Day postmarks, segmented it into five separate sections and produced 'trials' incorporating five colours. When I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting Václav Nebeský in 1975, he showed me the two examples of the five-colour trials in his collections. To my great delight he presented me with one of his copies, being in the colours blue (PRAHA), green (OSLAVY), violet (28) and red (ŘÍJNA) to form the outer ring and inscription, with the centre ring and dating device - and the code 'a' all in brown [fig.3].

However, despite Poslušný's further efforts, the postal authorities of that time did not acquire a supply of these postmarking machines, although he did sell some to private companies for use as dating equipment. Examples from his own company in Prague and from the world-renowned Batá Shoe Company of Zlín have been recorded as having been used for receiving/dating handstamps.

The publicity that arose from the 1935 two-colour experimental postmarks and Poslušný's 'trials' resulted in a decision to use the system for the 1936 Independence Day special cancellers. These were to have been in blue/red/green but in the event, were never used. However, the Head postmaster of the Pardubice region in eastern Bohemia applied for and obtained permission to use three-colour handstamps for the 8th Golden Helmet Motor Cycle Championships. This event was held at Pardubice racecourse on 25th to 27th September 1936, with two handstamps with codes 'a' and 'b' being employed at the racecourse post office for each of the three days. >

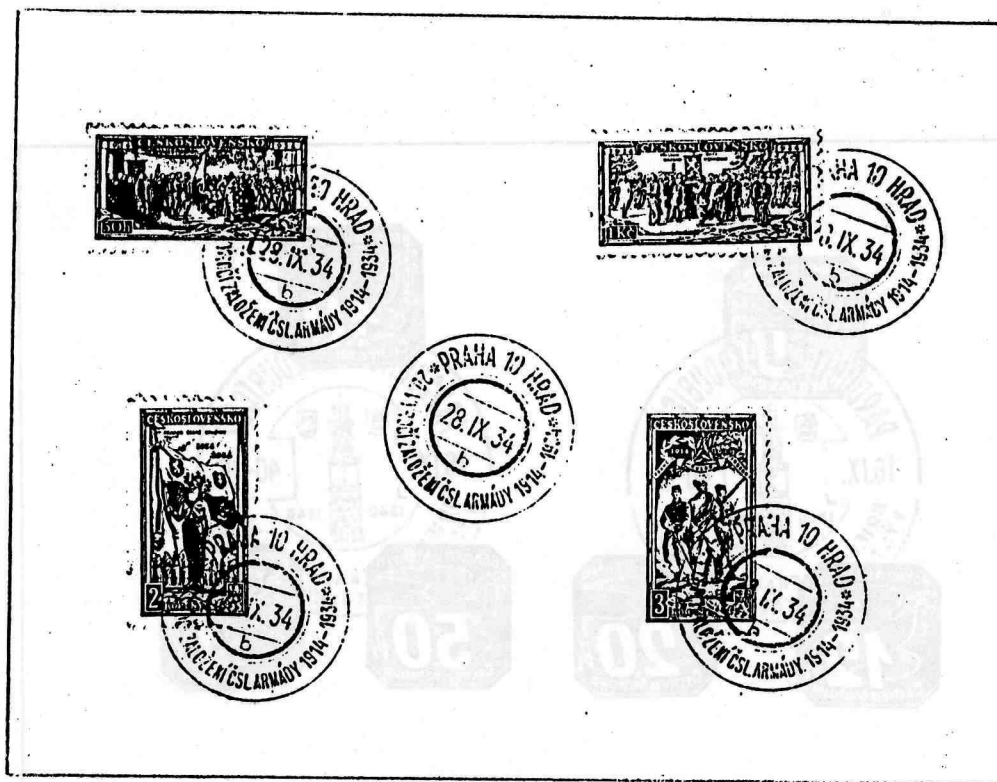


Fig.1 Gold strikes on the 1934 "Foreign Legion" 20th Anniversary set

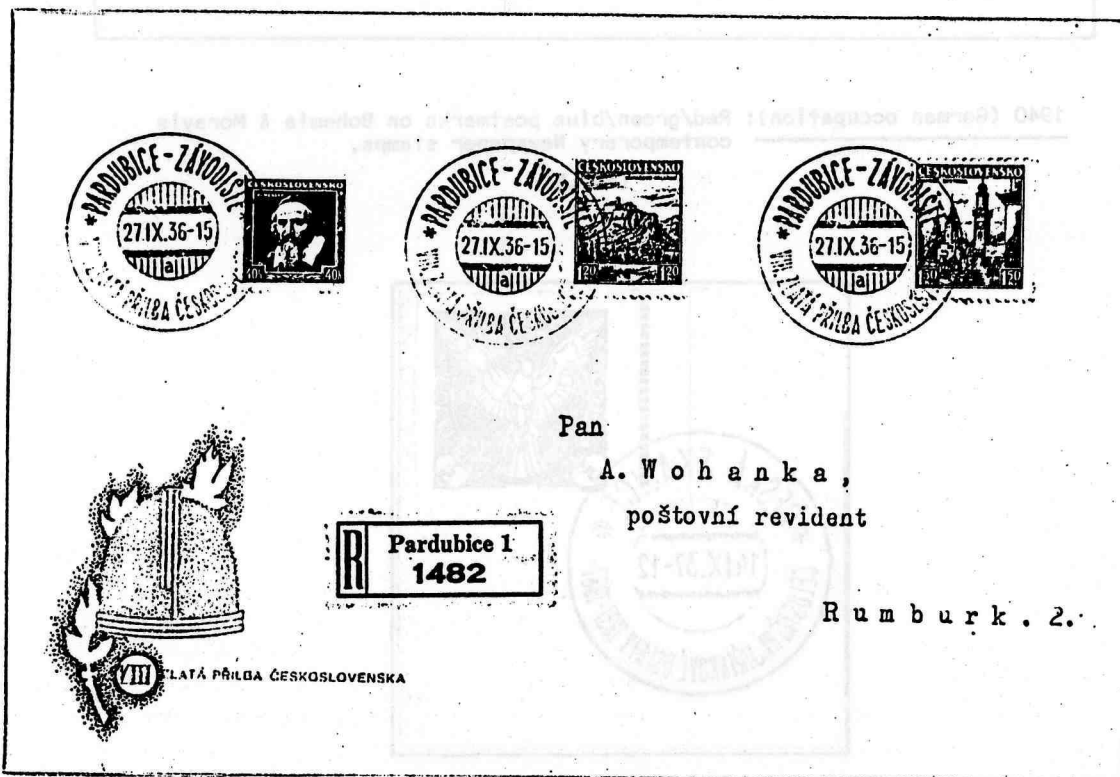
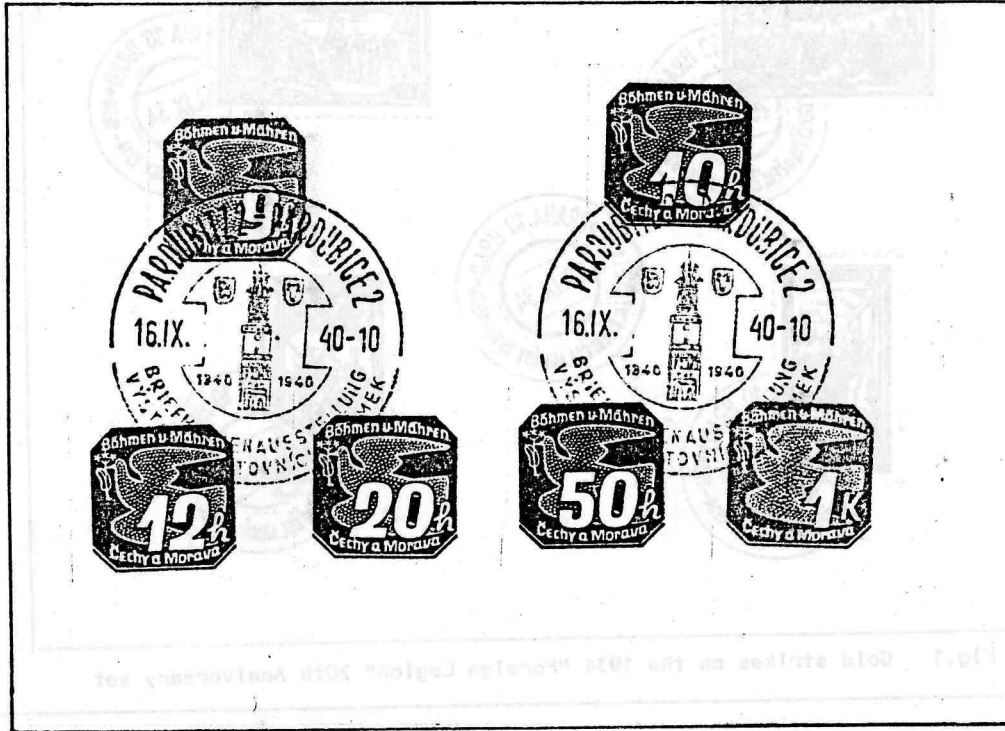


Fig. 4 Registered cover to the postal auditor at Rumburk 2.



1940 (German occupation): Red/green/blue postmarks on Bohemia & Moravia contemporary Newspaper stamps.

(Fig.5)

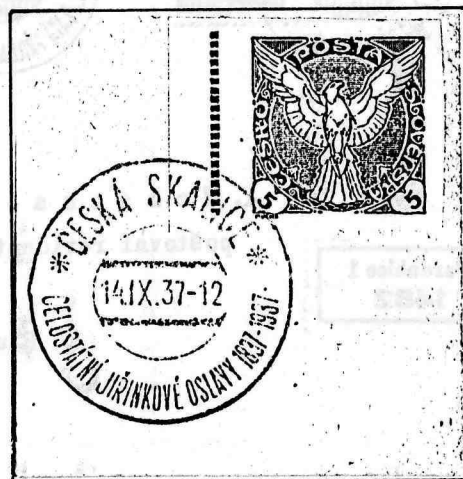


Fig.6

[See check 11st footnote]

These handstamps [fig. 4] were struck in green (PARDUBICE-ŽAVODIŠTĚ in upper semicircle), yellow (VIII ZLÁTA PŘILBA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ in lower semicircle) and violet (central dating device). As a point of interest, here it should be mentioned that this was the only example of the series of three-colour cancellations that used code letters and were, again, a philatelic 'first'.

The regional postmaster of Pardubice was impressed by the results of the September 1936 experiment in three-colour cancels, both by the quality of the strikes and the publicity afforded to this revolutionary and colorful postmark, as well, of course, by the demand. So, in 1937, four, mainly sportive, events being held in eastern Bohemia were marked by the use of special, commemorative three-colour postmarks. These were employed at the post offices of PARDUBICE 1, BOHDANEČ-u-PARDUBICE, ČESKÁ SKALICE and PARDUBICE-ŽAVODIŠTĚ in varying three-colour combinations of blue, violet, green and red. [see check-list at the end of this article for fuller details].

Despite the growing crisis with Nazi Germany, in 1938 four further noteworthy events within the same region were again marked by the use of three-colour cancellations. The post offices involved were, again, in PARDUBICE and BOHDANEČ, together with CHLUMEC-nad-CIDLINOÚ. Again, varying combinations of the same colours were used with the addition of black (used in one example).

In 1938 Nazi Germany occupied the Sudetenland regions in the first ten days of October. This was followed in March 1939 by the occupation of the rest of Bohemia and Moravia, with the creation of a separate 'republic' in Slovakia, the complete break-up of the Republic of Czechoslovakia and the outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939.

With such momentous events changing the very existence of the Czechoslovak people, it is surprising to find a further example of these tricoloured cancellations used from PARDUBICE, especially from the German 'Protektorat' period. This was, no doubt, largely due to the experiences and influence of the same regional postmaster. The fig.5 cancellation was in green (central device), red (upper half/date) and blue (lower half). The entire was in bilingual in German/Czech and inscribed "1840-1940/POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION" for a series of exhibitions marking the Penny Black centenary.

One further example of a three-colour cancel in Czechoslovakia is known. This was used at ZLÍN in eastern Moravia, the town built around the previously mentioned Batá Shoe factories. It was dated 2.VIII.41, was struck in blue/brown/red and marked the second Film Festival at that town.

Since this last mentioned date, no further examples of moveable date, three-colour cancellations have been used in Czechoslovakia - and, indeed, as far as I am aware, no others have been used anywhere else in the world.

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[Our thanks to the author for the loan of his originals by which to illustrate this study. A CHECK LIST of all multi-coloured cancellations covered here appears as the next page.]>

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: CHECK LIST OF THREE-COLOUR POSTMARKS

| <u>DATES</u> | <u>POST OFFICE OF ORIGIN AND INSCRIPTIONS</u> | <u>COLOURS</u> |
|--|--|---------------------|
| 27-29.9.36 | Pardubice Žavodiště codes 'a' and 'b' VIII Zlatá Přilba Československá (8th Golden Helmet of Czechoslovakia) | Green/Yellow/Violet |
| 28.10.36 | Praha 1 (prepared but not issued) Oslavy 28 října (Honouring Independence Day) | Blue/Red/Green |
| 7-8.8.37 | Bohdaneč-u-Pardubic Auto-moto-závody (Automobile races) | Blue/yellow/Green |
| 28-30.5.37 | Pardubice 1 VI Memorial J.K.Lobkovice (6th Lobkovice memorial races) | Blue/Violet/Yellow |
| 22.8.37- *14.9.37 | Česká Skalice Celostátní Jiřínkové slavnosti 1837-1937 (National Dahlia Centenary Festival) | Green/Yellow/Violet |
| 12.9. and 11-16.10.37 | Pardubice Žavodiště Malodohodové jezdecké hry a Military (Little Entente Equestrian & Military Games) | Blue/Yellow/Red |
| 11-12.6.38 | Pardubice 2 VII Memorial J.K. Lobkovice (7th Memorial J.K. Lobkovice races) | Black/Blue/Green |
| 6-7.8.38 | Bohdaneč-u-Pardubic Auto-moto-zavody III Bohdanečský okruh (Automobile races, 3rd at Bohdanec circuit) | Violet/Blue/Green |
| 1-4.9.38 | Pardubice Žavodiště IX Zlata prilba Ceskoslovenska ⁴ (9th Golden Helmet of Czechoslovakia) | Blue/Green/Yellow |
| 18.9.38 | Chlumec nad Cidlinou Oslavy zrušení roboty a památky selského povstání (Celebrating the abolition of serfdom - in memory of peasants' revolt) | Violet/Blue/Green |
| <u>BOHEMIA & MORAVIA</u> (Bi-lingual) | | |
| 15-16.9.40 | Pardubitz 2/Pardubice 2/1840-1940 Briefmarken ausstellung/Výstava poštovních známek (Postage Stamp Exhibition) | Red/Green/Blue |
| 2.8.41 | Zlín 1/Zlín 1/II Filmernte-II Filmové žně (2nd Film Review) | Blue/Brown/Red |

*[The Editor has come across another 3-col. cancel from ČESKÁ SKALICE of 14.9.37. which omits 'slavnosti' and inserts 'oslavy' (celebrations). See fig.6 in the illustrations to Bill Dawson's article. Can there possibly be others? AJK.]

THE 1927 (STATE ARMS) POSTCARD

We have considered in this study, the postcard identifiable as "drawing 'A'" in literature. From statements in Cz Monograph 3, the following is considered by us to be important:

The printing sheet comprised of 32 postcards. There are no differences in the stamp position and lines opposite to the frame; the single PCs exist in two types. The differences here are in the number of shade-lines extending into the right facing cross-bars of the arms 'cross'. It is regrettable that the monograph authors did not properly conclude their otherwise correct remarks, instead of closing the entire problem by saying (p.387) "The author of the State Arms stamp design is unknown to us; it possibly could have been a printers employee. The preparatory production stages of the PCs bearing this stamp impression is, for us so far, shrouded in a cloak of secrecy. Amongst the black-prints of the State Arms stamps, a 50h value does not exist."

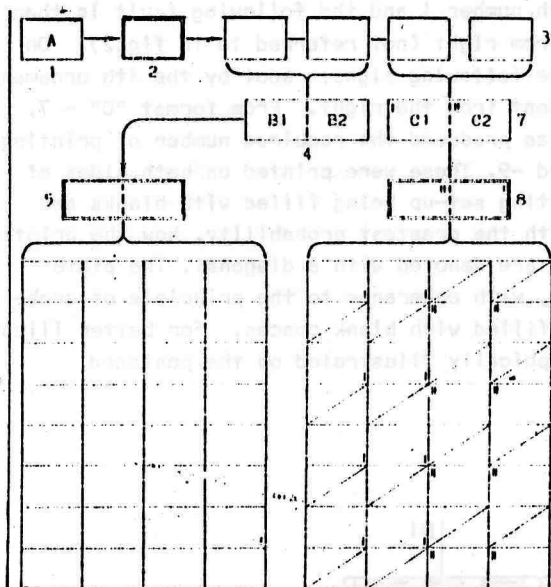


fig.1

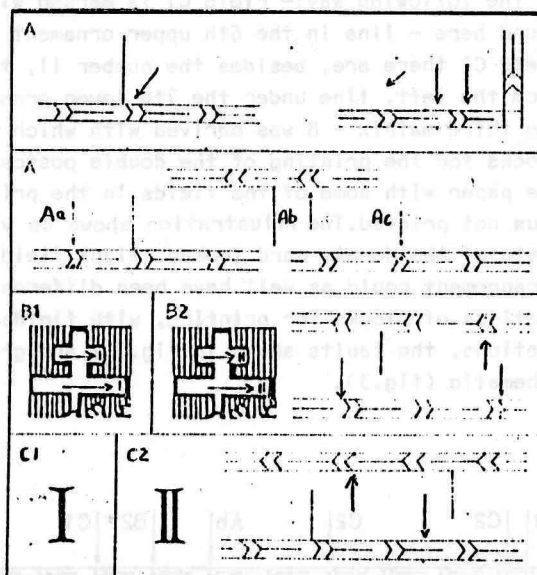


fig.2

At the outset here, our aim was to differentiate between the PCs of types I and II where postmarks hide the identification marks in the crosses. We have found such signs (fig.2) with the help of which it is not only possible to safely differentiate between postally used PCs of these two types but also to reconstruct the production progress of this quite common but interesting item of postal stationery.

PRINTING PLATE PRODUCTION

Fig.1 shows the production arrangement set-up. The original material was the etched block in postcard size: 1, from which was derived the first matrix; 2, which already contained several typical faults which were transferred to the production printing blocks - and, 3, the faults of the first matrix can be divided into two groups - see fig.2: First there are the faults transferred onto each of the production printing blocks: damaged ornament under vert. dividing line, plus a small line and some damage at the first lower ornament from the right-hand side. Secondly, there are the faults transferred from the matrix onto the printing blocks in unequal intensity and occasionally, not transferred at all - "Aa": spot in lower part of the fifth ornament from the left; "Ab": line inside the ornament at top and right of the vertical dividing line; "Ac": line inside ornament at top and right of the vert. dividing line. At "Ac" a dot is seen in the fourth lower ornament. >

from the right. Fault "Aa" occurs on the production printing blocks B2, C1 and C2. Fault "Ab" occurs in three variations: As a shorter line (B1, C2); as a line and a dot (C1) and as a longer line (B2). Fault "Ac" occurs with blocks B1, C1 and C2, though we know of postcards from the position C2 (reply portion of card) without this fault.

Combining production printing blocks B1/B2 produced format "B" - 4, where on field B1 a modification was carried out of the coat of arms and by removing the small lines in the cross, consequently giving rise to a typical fault given in literature as Type II. In position B2, the arms remained unmodified but there are other signs:- Dot in the 7th upper ornament from right and a dot in the lower 6th ornament from the right. From format "B" was derived the second matrix - 5, which assisted in the completion of the required number of blocks to produce a plate for the printing of a single postcard - 6.

Production blocks C1/C2 were combined and used as format "C" - 7, when they were completed by having the numerals I and II soldered on in order to distinguish the two different parts of the double postcard. Individual fields of the format "C" can be distinguished in the following way:- Field C1 is marked with number I and the following fault is then found here - line in the 6th upper ornament from right (not referred to in fig.2). On field C2 there are, besides the number II, the following signs:- spot by the 4th ornament from the left, line under the 7th lower ornament from the right. From format "C" - 7, the third matrix - 8 was derived with which was produced the required number of printing blocks for the printing of the double postcard -9. These were printed on both sides of the paper with some of the fields in the printing set-up being filled with blanks and thus not printed. The illustration shows us with the greatest probability, how the printing plate of the double card looked. Blank fields are denoted with a diagonal. The plate arrangement could as well have been different, with adherence to the principle of combinations of blocks for printing, with fields filled with blank spaces. For better illustrations, the faults shown in fig.3.2 are graphically illustrated on the postcard schematic (fig.3).

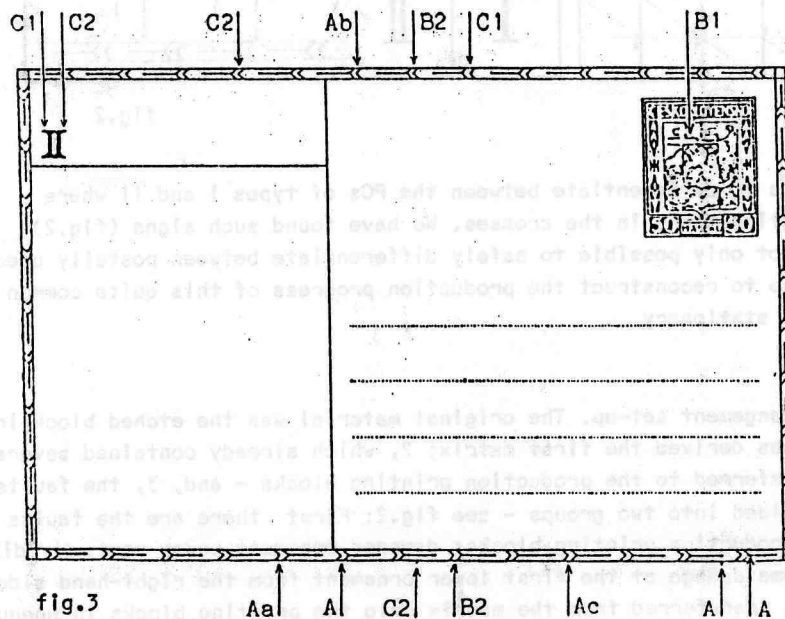


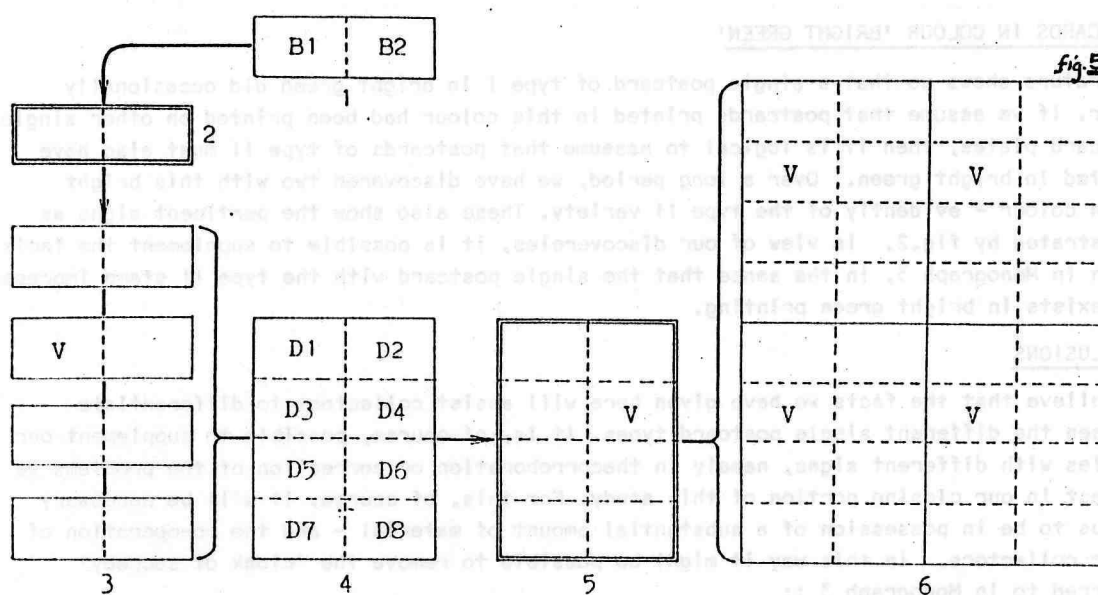
fig.3



fig.4

PLATE FAULT

Collectors are familiar with the trimmed "0" in the left value shield plate fault (fig.4). If it concerned only a common plate fault it would be represented once in a printing plate. We had the occasion of seeing more than one postcard with this fault which also showed other faults, too, often different, notwithstanding the fact that this fault occurs relatively often. Our studies confirm the fact that the above mentioned fault occurs in the printing plate arrangement more than once. This assumption is substantiated by the reconstruction of the production printing plate set-up for the printing of a single PC as depicted by fig. 5.



Let us return to format "B" - 1. As already stated, it was here that on field B1, the lines in the cross were engraved. From this format was derived the 2nd matrix - 2, and in all likelihood, the four production printing blocks in the two fields were derived from it, 3. During the production of these blocks the above mentioned fault occurred on one of them. This was transferred onto format "D" - 4, which was formed from these blocks. The format "D" then served for the production of matrix 4.- 5, from which were derived the blocks of eight used in the printing plate set-up - 6. As is obvious from the drawing the above mentioned fault occurred four times in the printing plate whereby it is possible to verify not only further differences in postcards containing this fault but also their fairly frequent occurrence. The production set-up shown in fig. 5 would cause an obvious acceleration of the printing plate production and would therefore have been much more effective; we are leaning towards this variation.

The occurrence of blocks with this variation would then be correct as far as positioning in the printing plate is concerned. That is, of course, only possible with the assumption that the plate was arranged from the final block of eight as they were produced. The final phase of the printing plate set-up could also be carried out if the finished blocks of eight were divided into individual blocks and so corrected. The placement of blocks with this fault in the set-up of the printing plate would then be irregular. This fact could only be proved after a study of the metal material in the Postal Museum. >

The scheme illustrated by fig.5 assumes a format of eight fields. At this point, we do not claim that the format employed had just eight fields because, from the study of only single postcards, such an assumption cannot be proved; format 'D' could have had six or even twelve fields. The eight fields we refer to seem to have been the more likely from a printer's viewpoint. Having regard to the manner in which format 'D' was utilized for the production of the single postcard printing plates, a format 'E' of several fields, derived from the fourth matrix, is distinctly possible. With the help of such a format as 'E', the printers would have found the production of printing plates for the double postcards much easier.

POSTCARDS IN COLOUR 'BRIGHT GREEN'

Literature shows us that a single postcard of type I in bright green did occasionally occur. If we assume that postcards printed in this colour had been printed on other single postcard plates, then it is logical to assume that postcards of type II must also have existed in bright green. Over a long period, we have discovered two with this bright green colour - evidently of the type II variety. These also show the pertinent signs as illustrated by fig.2. In view of our discoveries, it is possible to supplement the facts given in Monograph 3, in the sense that the single postcard with the type II stamp impression exists in bright green printing.

CONCLUSIONS

We believe that the facts we have given here will assist collectors to differentiate between the different single postcard types. It is, of course, possible to supplement our studies with different signs, namely in the corroboration or correction of the problems we suggest in our closing portion of this study. For this, of course, it will be necessary for us to be in possession of a substantial amount of material - and the co-operation of other collectors. In this way it might be possible to remove the 'cloak of secrecy' referred to in Monograph 3 ::

[Source - FILATELIE 8/1989]

English translation by VLADIMÍR J. KRÁLÍČEK 1989



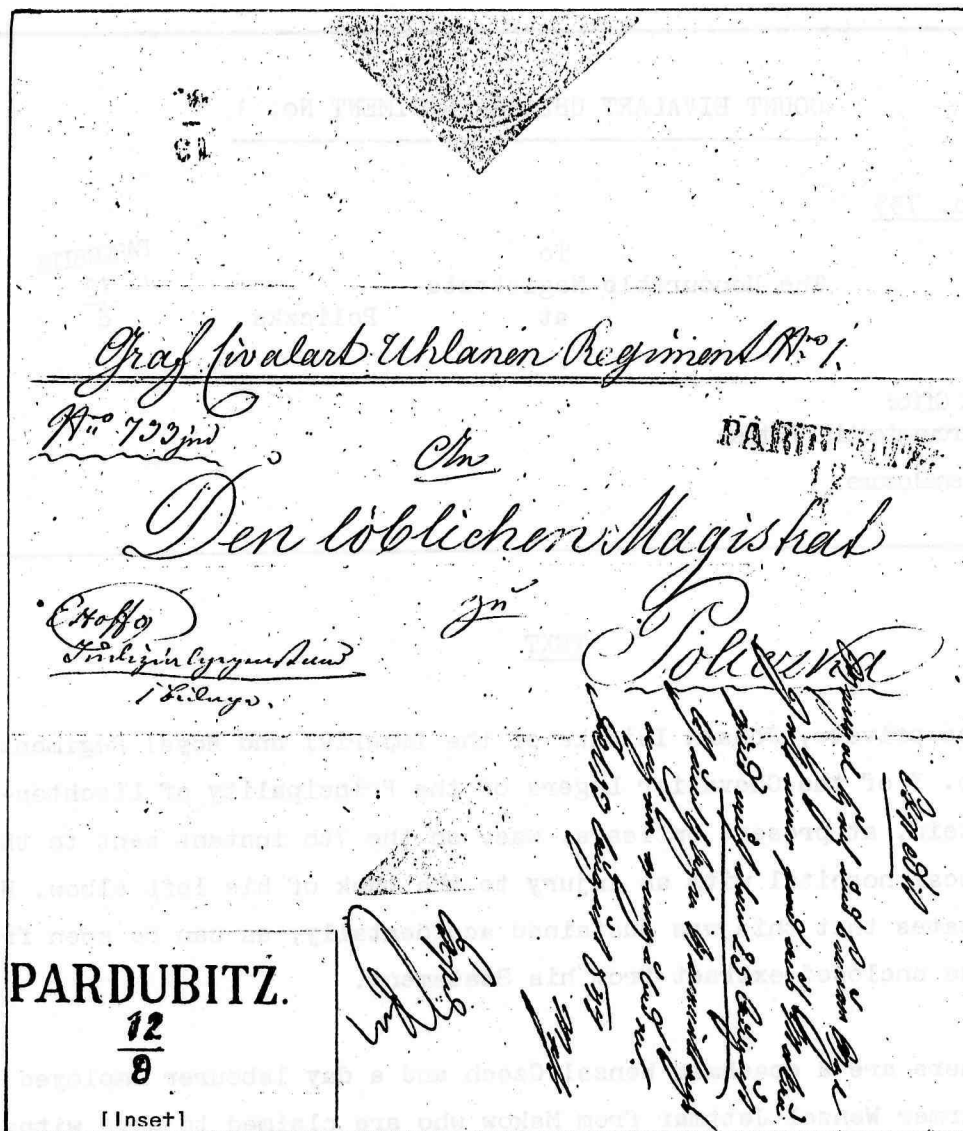
AGRICULTURE OR ECONOMY?

A.J.K.

All Czechoslovak references to the above stamp that I have seen, refer to it as being a member of the 1920 ECONOMY & SCIENCE issue. They refer to it as 'HOSPODÁŘSTVÍ A VĚDA' which, when translated into English becomes "ECONOMY & SCIENCE" without any doubt.

Why then, do English publications (and speakers) invariably refer to this set as being called the "AGRICULTURE & SCIENCE" issue? It is of course, very easy to assume that this is because of the very design of the thing - 'Republic' holding a sheaf of corn in her left hand and a book in her other one. Nevertheless, I feel that if the Czechs had wanted this set to be called "AGRICULTURE" & SCIENCE, they would have said so somewhere. I would welcome any comments or suggestions to enable me to put this niggling query away for good!

THE STORY OF AN ENTIRE



Collecting forerunner material from 19th. c. periods of the Austrian Empire can be much more rewarding than merely amassing multitudes of town cancels and other postal markings. Apart from the study and comprehension of the complex postal rates, routes and systems of the time, the simple contents of old letter sheets often reveal interesting aspects of the social history of the time - given of course, the facility for translating the old-style written word!

The entire illustrated above, gives a graphic account of the lengths to which officialdom would go in order to verify the veracity of a soldier's excuse for his absence after leave. The full text is translated overleaf. It is from a Regimental Colonel at PARDUBITZ (Pardubice) to the town magistrate at POLICZKA (Polička) requesting certain actions to be taken. This and the magistrate's endorsement on 'action taken' make for interesting reading.

Please note the 1840 type PARDUBITZ without year date (vert. 12 over 8 - see inset) and the 13 over 8 receiving mark at top-left of illustration.

ALEC PAGE

COUNT EIVALART UHLANEN REGIMENT No. 1

No. 733

To
The Honourable Magistrate
at Policzka

PARDUBITZ
 $\frac{12}{8}$

Ex Offo:
Circumstantial Matter

1 enclosure.

TEXT

The private, Johann Iniczka of the Imperial and Royal Regiment No. 3 of the Chevalier Legers of the Principality of Liechtenstein, at present on leave, was, on the 7th instant sent to the local hospital with an injury to the back of his left elbow. He states that this was sustained accidentally, as can be seen from the enclosed extract from his Statement.

There are a coachman Wenzel Czech and a day labourer employed by Farmer Wenzel Jettmar from Makow who are claimed to have witnessed this occurrence. You are respectfully requested to obtain affidavits from these witnesses and Wenzel Jettmar with regard to this occurrence, by subpoena, advising them that they will be required to make these Statements under oath.

Please let me have these affidavits as soon as possible.

Pardubitz 12 August 1847

(signed) Almassij

Colonel

[Sideways overleaf]

DESPATCH/ Wenzel Czech and the farmer Wenzel Jettmar from Makow are to be called to Court at 9 o'clock on 25 August.

(Court official's signature)

NEW ISSUES - January 1990



The political changes in Czechoslovakia commenced just after our last edition had been sent for printing, hence no commentary on those momentous times. The changes naturally caused the published programme of Cz. stamp issues for this year to be altered at very short notice - and others are anticipated later on. Therefore, we shall be dealing here with the two main changes already effected, plus some advance information on others.

The first change was the hurried additional stamp added to the FAMOUS PERSONALITIES set scheduled for January 9 - the first image of the first Cz. President in 1918 for over forty years - TOMÁŠ GARRIGUE MASARYK (1850-1937). This was a sure sign that his memory is still very highly respected after all that time. The stamp was engraved by Miloš Ondráček, who also engraved the 50h Karel Čapek and 3Kčs Jaroslav Heyrovský stamps. The remainder portrayed the following: Lenin (1Kčs), Émile Zola (2Kčs), engraved by M. Činovský and the 10Kčs of Bohuslav Martinů, engraver being J. Herčík. Printed rotary recess in sheets of 50 stamps, perf $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$.



The first definitive of the year was PRESIDENT VÁCLAV HAVEL on the blue/red 50h shown here. A very hurried issue, it is understandably quite a plain image but I am informed that his image is very close to the President's features in this engraving by Miloš Ondráček. It first appeared on January 9th in sheets of 100 stamps (10x10) by rotary recess method with perf $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. There was no official fdc., although several privately produced covers bear the PRAHA 10/HRAD (Castle) pmk.

A very human story connects with this stamp issue and concerns the engraver, Miloš Ondráček. He waived his normal fee for his work on this issue, asking that it be donated for the good of a certain Prague oncology unit for children. Other personalities made similar donations, including the celebrated singer, Karel Gott.

It seems that while leading government figures of the old régime could be catered for in a specially built and maintained hospital in Prague (not generally known by the people), as many as ten children to one small room were crowded into this clinic. Whilst the country's 'leaders' had every drug and medicine to hand that could be obtained from the west, these children were left to (more or less) die for want of adequate medicaments and drugs. A most human story - yes - but not a happy one. >

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR - 1990

The first stamp actually issued this year was the planned issue in support of the United Nations' effort to reduce illiteracy amongst its peoples -



This small stamp with face value of 1Kčs and design measurement of 23x19mm, was issued with a se-tenant illustrated coupon (tab) of stamp size. The stamp design incorporates a hand writing a letter "A" into a lined exercise book over the inscription in Czech: "International Campaign Against Illiteracy". The whole is surmounted by the campaign's symbol. The tab design incorporates "INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR" (in English) over the date 1990 and the same inscription as carried by the stamp in Czech. Also shown are the UNO and UNESCO symbols. The entire was designed by R. Vaněk and engraved by V. Fajt. Printing was by rotary-recess method with perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$. Date of Issue - January 8.

* * *

SOME CHANGES TO DATES OF ISSUE

Contrary to date officially pre-released, the actual issue date of the 1989 JAN OPLETAL (INT. STUDENTS DAY) single stamp was November 10. We highlighted this stamp in our last issue.

We are advised of the following changes to published programme for 1990 by ARTIA:

TOWN COATS OF ARMS planned for February 2 will now be issued March 28.

GARDEN FLOWERS set planned for March 7 will now appear on March 1. It is understood that the 5Kčs stamp of this set will be printed flat-plate in sheets x10 stamps.

A study of the previously issued plans for 1990 issues will show that more changes can be expected, although we will not anticipate them here but will inform members at the first opportunity.



Finally, here are the expected designs for the "Town Coats of Arms" set. They show the crests of the following towns: Prostějov (central Moravia), Bytča (N.W. Slovakia), Soběslav (S. Bohemia) and Poděbrady (spa town 50 km east of Prague). Designs are by Josef Herčík, also responsible for the engravings. Further details as and when received: ALAN KNIGHT

- NOTICE BOARD -

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MEETING: JANUARY: JANUARY 13 1990

Chairman, Mr. B. Day, opened the assembly by paying a warm tribute to VÁCLAV HAVEL, the new President of Czechoslovakia and to the momentous events there of late. This was warmly applauded by the members present.

Mrs. Yvonne Gren, Hon. Secretary, reported three more applications for membership, the result of which the following were accepted into our ranks:-

Messrs. Martin Sage of St. Louis, USA., Pan T. Morovics and Pan Jiří Neumann, Czechoslovakia.

Mrs. Gren also thanked members for supporting the Christmas Labels appeal by the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association. This had raised the sum of £53.46 for the Association.

DISPLAY

Members were entertained by Mr. Wm. A. Dawson (but I'd be better to call him just 'Bill' henceforth!). In his opening remarks, Bill advised us that what we saw laid out before us was merely "a pot-pourri of rubbish", doubtless, as we all realized of course, being simply a ploy to make his insurees feel a little more secure! A pot-pourri it was indeed, with examples of Czechoslovak philately so numerous as to be impossible to adequately describe here. There we saw a selection from the Czech Army in Russia (WW1), early MASARYK colour trials, plate-proofs of the 1919-20 DOPLATIT series, Šrobár overprints on Hungarian stamps and ... a most unusual item bearing the cachet of the First National Congress of Postage Stamp Dealers, Prague, held on 4.9.1922! - and, of course, very much, much more.....

In his glowing Vote of Thanks, Mr. Day paid tribute to Bill's unceasing efforts for the Society and its members, contemptuously of course, dismissing Bill's opening remarks as 'Rubbish!' Thus ended yet another friendly, and informative gathering of our membership.

VISITING SPEAKER

We understand that we may expect the internationally respected philatelist, PAUL JENSEN, RDP., to visit us in 1991, when he hopes to show us examples from his philatelically famous collection of postal history from what is now Czechoslovak territory, some of it dating back as far as the 16th century. We look forward with anticipation to this opportunity to meet Mr. Jensen again and will keep you informed later on as to the precise date, yet to be agreed.

SPECIAL EXTRA MEETING - 12 MAY 1990 *****

Committee have arranged this to coincide with STAMP WORLD LONDON 90 and have invited members of our kindred societies in Germany and the United States to be with us. This will be a very informal gathering to assist us all to get to know each other a little better. You are invited to bring along, say eight, sheets for a rotational display during the meeting. Following the session, we shall be holding our ANNUAL DINNER at the same venue. Details are enclosed as a separate sheet with this issue.

S.Č.S.F. PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

ING LADISLAV DVOŘÁČEK did not seek re-election to the Presidency of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists at its Congress on December 9th 1989. Ing. Dvořáček was elected President at the May 1965 Congress - and successively since. This time, however, he chose not to stand. Another well-known personality in Czechoslovak Philately is Ing. Jan Karásek, who was elected Chairman of the Expert Committee, thus replacing the former Chairman - Dr. Jan Bisek. Several other old-time top officials left their chairs, to be replaced by 'new blood' in this post-revolution era. >

POSTAL BID SALE

Member Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031, U.S.A., advises us of the POSTAL BID Sale of some of his surplus Czechoslovakia material, much of it being specialist items. Most periods are covered and members' WANTS LISTS are invited, preferably quoting POFIS numbers where suitable. Additionally, you can send for a catalogue from the above address, for which we advise Royal Mail aerogrammes - it's cheaper and quicker that way. The last date for receipt by the vendor for all bidding is April 30th, but a little leeway will be permitted in view of what Mr. Hahn calls the 'slow mails from Europe.' So, send off now!

VOLUNTEER SPEAKER FOR LOCAL SOCIETIES

Mr. Michael Birks, c/o: Flixton Girls School, Urmston Rd., Flixton, Manchester 31 3DR, in a recent letter to us, included the following lines:-

"... I enjoy exhibiting to societies although nothing of quality suitable for showing to our Society. If however, anyone contacted me, asking me to display PRAGA '88 and related material, recounting details of that exhibition at the same time, I would be pleased to do so. One thing I can do is ...TALK! (and I DO make people LAUGH!)."

If you would like Michael to visit your local society, his address is shown above. [N.B. Will OUR committee please note also!]

NOVEMBER 1989 AUCTION

The total figure raised for vendors by this sale amounted to £1216, a fine result. Our sincere thanks to everyone who subscribed in any way to this great success.

T.P.Os on CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORIES

We shall later be publishing very detailed listings of cross-border T.P.Os known to have operated on Czechoslovak territories up to 1989. The author is Dr. Alois Těšitel, Bělehradská 271, 530 09 Pardubice, Czechoslovakia.

The author of this work also offers to exchange TPO material with members, especially if you can offer anything from between 1850 and 1989. He is particularly interested at the moment with material of Austrian/German origin from cross-border T.P.Os prior to 1930. Members are advised to first write to Dr. Těšitel, explaining their wants/offers, at the address shown above. English is understood.

PERFINS ON CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY

The Editor may be able to assist members identify difficult 'perfins' on Austrian/Czech stamps. He recently received a gift copy of the book of this title, researched and written by the late Messrs. V. Maxa and Ladislav Janeček, assisted by Václav Fejtek. It cannot be placed in our Society library because of it being a gift from and signed by Věra Janečková, widow of Ladislav Janeček, who died in March 1987 and who was a long time correspondent with Alan Knight. However, a photocopy taken REVERSED, against a black background, with a suitable SAE will suffice for him to try to assist you with details of the origins of these items.

CZECHOUT - NEXT TWO ISSUES

Due to holidays and other commitments of Alan and Alec this summer, editions for JUNE and SEPTEMBER may be delayed until near the end of those respective months. We shall, naturally, do all we can to reduce that waiting time to the absolute limit. Please bear with us.