

# CZECHOUT



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## AT THIS FESTIVE SEASON

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A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL 1991

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*"Radnostj Vánoce a Št'astrnj Novj Rok 1991"*

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## EDITORIAL

As we draw near to the close of yet another year, it is customary for us to send our members and friends, at home and overseas, our very best wishes for Christmas and the coming New Year. For us at home in the northern hemisphere, it is approaching winter; for our members and friends 'down under' it is approaching the hot season. Makes no difference, because wherever you are, the officers and committee join me in sincerely wishing all of you everything that you could wish yourselves and your families.

1990 has been a momentous year for our Society in a number of ways as was highlighted by my predecessor as Chairman in his Report to our Annual General Meeting. Most particularly of course, were the events in Prague - and elsewhere in Czechoslovakia - just a year ago. To all our friends and members there, our message is even more meaningful as we wish you well in the days ahead.

If philately is truly a genuine source of international friendship, then it was never more so than it is today within our Society. Membership is steadily rising and newcomers are from overseas (including the ČSFR) as well as within the United Kingdom. This is gratifying to all of us and it can only be hoped that together, we shall enter a new year with a spirit of hope and enterprise.

Finally, please forgive me a brief personal note here as Editor. My sincerest thanks to everyone, at home and overseas, who have contributed in any way at all, in my efforts to maintain this journal on a level that members may find both informative and interesting. You all make this possible; I am only the helmsman ... Many thanks! A.J.K.

## SLOVAK POSTCARD RATE 1943

Seppo Laaksonen



Cover from Hanko (30.8.1944) to Bratislava. Postage of FIM 3,50 was the correct letter-rate (inland under 20gr.) between 1.9.1942 until 30.6.1945. During the same period the 'Foreign' rate was FIM 4,50. N.B. Finnish and German (Ag = Vienna transit) censorship marks. Very late usage between Finland and Slovakia. The Moscow peace treaty (Finland/USSR) was signed on 19.9.1944 and all postal connections to Germany and German controlled areas were discontinued a few days later.

Referring to Mr. Paul Jensen's reply to Mr. Hollis' questions in CZECHOUT 3/90, pp53-54, I should like to add a few more comments:

1. There can be no doubting the fact that Slovakia signed the European Postal Agreement in Vienna 1942. In my files I have photocopies of the original texts in German and Italian, plus an official Finnish translation by the Finnish Post Office. Countries signing the Agreement on 19.10.1942 were: Albania, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Italy, Croatia, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, San Marino, SLOVAKIA (the signatory being Ing. Kudlak) and Hungary. The Agreement became valid w.e.f. 1.04.1943.

It could be that our friends and members in Czechoslovakia might now be able to establish just how well the Agreement was in actual practice within Slovakia. The original files and documents might already be available for postal history students. For Scandinavian members, this task is much more difficult.

2. I have examined my Slovak material for the years 1943 to 1944 but regret that I do not have a single item verifying the use of inland rate to countries mentioned above.

However, I do have two covers sent in 1944 from Finland to Slovakia, both with inland letter rate pre-paid (see above example). It follows therefore, that at least Finland followed the Vienna Agreement in relation to postal rates to Slovakia. S.L. Helsinki

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S CURRENCY REFORM  
(1.6.1953)

W.A.Dawson



Last of the 'old' [Agriculture] 8.5.1953

Eight years after their liberation from Nazi rule, a surprise monetary devaluation was sprung on the people of Czechoslovakia - on 1 June 1953. This came as a complete and utter surprise, causing great dismay and anger throughout the length and breadth of the country. Indeed, serious rioting erupted throughout the Republic although the devaluation did, to some extent, assist in the elimination of restrictions to supplies, the 'Black' markets and rationing.

The cold, basic facts of this drastic devaluation meant that for every five Korony in a person's pocket at the time, only one new Koruna was given in exchange. However, this new 'advantageous' rate applied only to the first 300 Kčs of old currency held; that amount being exchanged for 60 'new' Koruny (Kčs). Amounts exceeding this basic 300Kčs old money (and this applied to most people) could only be exchanged at the rate of 50 old Koruny for just ONE 'new' Koruna!

From a philatelic point of view, we must concern ourselves with all the postal rates having to be adjusted; virtually overnight. It was immediately announced that all postal rates would be cut to one-fifth of the 'old' Kčs rate as applicable to the 'new' one. These new rates were applicable with effect from 1 June 1953. Below is a Table showing the principal postage rates alterations effected on that date:

ITEM	OLD RATE (-31.5.53)	NEW RATE (18.6.53+)
Internal postcard	1.50 Kčs	0.30 'new' Kčs
Internal letter	3.00 Kčs	0.60 Kčs
Registration Fee	5.00 Kčs	1.00 Kčs
Local town letter	2.00 Kčs	0.40 Kčs

The letter rates shown applied to items up to 20gr. in weight. For overweight letters (up to 250gr. in weight) the above listed rates were doubled.

EXTERNAL RATES were rather more complicated. In the post-WWII period, preferential rates had applied to some 'socialist' countries and to Austria. For other countries the rates for the interim period 1st to 18th June were temporarily reduced to one-tenth of previously existing rates. From 19 June 1953, these were re-assessed to more realistic rates in 'new' Korony - as tabled below:

ITEM	OLD RATE (-31.5.53)	INTERIM RATE (1-18.6.53)
External postcard	3.00 Kčs	0.30 Kčs
External letter	5.00 Kčs	0.50 Kčs
Ext.Registration Fee	8.00 Kčs	0.80 Kčs

ADJUSTED RATE EFFECTIVE FROM 19.6.1953

External postcard	0.45 'new' Kčs.
External letter	0.75 " "
Registration Fee	1.20 " "

>

For the interim period of eighteen days (1-18.6.53), all 'old currency' postage stamps remained valid for postage and on sale at post offices - but DEVALUED by 50:1 of their original face. In other words, for this interim period only, old definitives, commemoratives, personal delivery and airmails could be used at the rate of 50 old Kčs/1Kčs new. An example of this would be that the new internal letter rate of 0.60 new Kčs (basic) could be pre-paid by old currency stamps to the value of 30 (old) Kčs. An internal registered letter of basic weight would require old values of 80 Kčs!



"First of the New" - President Gottwald - 19 June 1953

#### FROM 19 JUNE 1953

From this date, new adhesive stamps with values expressed in the new Kčs currency ratings were issued. On that date, all old currency postage stamps became invalid for any form of postal usage. Another fact (not always obvious) was that all franking machines were used during the interim period with values expressed in old currency. These were changed to the new Kčs currency from 19.6.1953, so that the interim period frankings had to be at the prescribed 50:1 rate.

With postal rates effectively increased tenfold for the interim period of eighteen days, it is easy to see why covers of this particular period are not over-abundant. Obviously, in those hectic days people had more urgent need for their shrinking money than to write letters and pay for the use of the mails at these swollen prices. It therefore follows that all items of mail, especially letters and postcards of this interim period are at a premium which can be very variable.

In assessing a points-value for any such items, one should first take into account the points value of the stamps used. When the franking consists of more than one face-different stamps, a premium of 10-25 points can be applicable but if the franking consists of multiples of one specific stamp, there would be an increased premium of between 15 to 40 points.

Further premiums apply to items of mail in the following classes, the added points value being a guide to evaluation:

A. Picture postcard	15pts	
B. Plain postcard	15 "	
C. Postal stationery postcard	30 "	
D. Postal stationery envelope	30 "	
E. Local letter (rated such)	5 "	
F. Inland Registered letter	5 "	
G. Express Fee letter	10 "	
H. Value Declared letter	80 "	
I. Parcel post card	20 "	
J. Other postal forms	10 "	>

- K. Items postmarked 7.6 or 14.6.53 (Sundays) 40pts
- L. Items of external mail 100 "
- M. Combinations of stamps/cash payment 20 "
- N. Combinations of 3-plus methods of paymt. 50 "  
[e.g. stamp/meter/cash payment]
- O. Items carrying 'postage due' stamps 150 "

From the facts and figures provided, it is thus possible to determine a reasonably accurate points value for any item used within this special interim period. From this figure, a Sterling valuation can be arrived at using an approximate rate of 10pts/£1, though it must be pointed out that such rate is somewhat arbitrary and is based upon prices paid for such material by the author in the last two years.

With the complete withdrawal of all postage stamps at the close of business on 18 June 1953, it followed that new supplies of stamps in the new currency had to be put on sale on June 19. This was, indeed, a formidable task with a maximum of only eighteen days during which to decide on the precise values to be issued, designs, preparation of plates and cylinders, printing and distribution. Available in the country were two suitable stamp printing works: at Prague and Bratislava. The Prague works were set up for production by the rotary recess process with two machines. The old, pre-war press production was perforated by a 'line' machine gauging  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . The second machine was a modern 'Wifag' press built-in multiple comb or 'harrow' perforator operated by an electronic 'eye' that gauged between  $11\frac{3}{4}$  and  $11\frac{1}{4}$ . The Bratislava works had one machine that was normally used for the photogravure process of stamp production, using a comb machine perforator of gauge 14.

The decision was taken to confine the initial issue in the new currency to just eight values: 15 haléřů, 20 haléřů, 60 haléřů, 75 haléřů, 1 korona, 1.60 korony and 3 korony. From these eight values, all postal charges could be covered by combinations of such issues, with the most used rates for internal postage and letters governed by appropriate values.

Two of the required values already existed in the old currency issues with the portrait of President Klement Gottwald engraved by Jindra Schmidt from a photograph by K. Hajka; these being the 1Kčs of June 1952 and the 3Kčs. The first value was printed on the Prague pre-war press in grey-green, while the 3Kčs had been recently printed, from April 1953, on the new Wifag machine in a wine-red shade. Thus, for these two values, all that was necessary was for the inking rollers and cylinders to be cleaned and for the new production to start in the colours of light violet & grey respectively. The resulting issues would then be line perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$  (1Kčs) and comb-perforated  $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$  (3Kčs).

With the proliferation of commemorative and other special issues during those times particularly, it is not surprising that there was a special issue to mark the annual Prague Music Festival, since, after all, there had already been thirteen different special issues during the first five months of 1953. For this proposed issue, there were two designs depicting famed Czech composers: Josef Slavík (1806-33) by Jaroslav Lieser and Leos Janáček (1854-1928) by Karel Svolínský, both engraved by the prolific Jindra Schmidt, who was called upon to re-engrave the numerals of values to the required 75h and 1.60Kčs. The printing of these values was allocated to the new Wifag press in Prague. The 75h depicting Josef Slavík was to be printed in grey-blue whilst the Leos Janáček design (1.60Kčs) was to be in brown with a later printing in greyish-brown, Comb perf.  $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$  in both instances.

The lowest two values of 15h and 20h did not conform to any postal rates other than those for Printed Paper rates but were also to be used for the purpose of 'making up' certain rates, e.g. external registered letters, external postcards, overweight items, etc.>

For these values it was found expedient in the matter of saving time to use the excellent design of the portrait of the then late President Gottwald [Ed: died 14.3.1953]. Individual dies for each value were prepared with engravings again by J. Schmidt, after which the printing cylinders were made for use on the rotary recess presses. Whilst these hurried preparations were going on, the two Prague machines were busy printing stocks of the Gottwald portrait issues. The less prolific pre-war machine was allocated the 15h which was printed in a slightly olive shade of green immediately upon completion of production of the 1Kcs value, these being the only two 'emergency' issues printed on that machine with the line perforator gauge  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . The more efficient Wifag press was first used for the 3Kcs value, after which it proceeded to print the final value in the Gottwald portrait design, the 20h; the ink being of a purple-brown shade. Please note that these values from the Wifag press (comb-perf.  $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ ) were delivered sideways so that the single stamps are slightly shorter and wider than those perforated on the pre-war machine.

The two remaining values of the series (30h and 60h) correspond to the internal rates for postcards and letters up to 20gr. These were allocated to the Bratislava works and since the press there used the photogravure method of printing, it was necessary to start completely from scratch. The design chosen was a portrait of the newly elected President Antonín Zápotocký.



President A. Zápotocký in photogravure/engraved designs

A suitable photographic portrait of the new President was available, so all the designer (J. Poš) had to do was to add the country name in coloured capital letters at the top and values in colourless numerals at lower-left to complete the design. The 30h for postcards was printed in bright blue while the 60h letter rate value was in a carmine red; both being perf. comb 14.

In point of fact, the results of a hurried job in producing the above two photogravure values were not deemed to be fully satisfactory. Once the emergency was over the same design was re-drawn and improved by J. Poš for rotary recess printing with the required dies being engraved by J. Schmidt. The new printings in this recess process were produced in similar but paler shades and released in July 1953: the 30h on the 18th and 60h on 22nd.

As earlier stated, all definitives, commemoratives, personal delivery and airmail adhesives became invalid for all postal usage on 19.6.1953. However, the series of postage dues issued in 1946 and 1948 remained valid and continued to be used even after the new design series were issued in 1954 (line perf.  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ) and again in 1963 (comb. perf.  $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$  and  $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ ). After the use of postage due labels was discontinued in late 1984, authority was given that they could be used to pre-pay postage charges. The earliest date I have recorded for such usage of postage dues is 13 April 1985.

The reason behind this unusual decision was to use up stocks of postage due labels and since the 1946/1948 issues had not been invalidated, these, together with all post-war postage due labels, became valid for postage pre-payment. Information from Prague was to the effect that this concession would cease on 31.7.1988 but items are known to exist with such frankings of postage dues on much later dates. >

At this point we are now up-to-date with the story of the 1953 monetary reform, except maybe to mention the obvious fact that all postal stationery with values expressed in old currency also became invalid from the end of the interim period, i.e. 19 June 1953.

Finally then, here is a checklist of the issues in the 'New' currency made available on 19 June 1953:

POFIS No.	Value	Colour	Design details	Printing method	Print machines	Perforations
732	15h.	olive-grn	Pres.Gottwald	Rotary recess	Prague (pre-war)	Line 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
733	20h	purp/brwn	" "	" "	" (Wifag)	Comb 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{4}$
736	30h	bright blue	" Zápotocký	Photogravure	Bratislava	" 14
737	60h	car-m-red	" "	" "	" "	" "
738	75h	grey-blue	J. Slavík	Rotary recess	Prague (Wifag)	" 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{2}$
734	1 Kčs	Lt.violet	Pres.Gottwald	" "	" (pre-war)	Line 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
739	1.60	brown	Leos Janáček	" "	" (Wifag)	Comb 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{2}$
735	3.00	grey	Pres.Gottwald	" "	" "	" 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{4}$

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Kolektiv	Specializovaný katalog Čs. pošt. známek	Praha 1978
Kolektiv	Příručka pro sběratele Čs. známek a celin	Praha 1988

#### BOOK REVIEW

Dr. Juan E. Page

MIROSLAV BLAHA - "ZAKARPATSKO" [Carpatho-Ukraine]

Issued by "Svaz Českých Filatelistů" as number 20 of the "Filatelistické příručky"  
 Praha 1990 - Issue: 1000 - Pages 172. Price Kčs 37.- [in Czech].

There are many publications concerning the complex and interesting postal history of this territory of Central Europe but most of them refer to some specific topic. Now, however, and more than twenty years after the publication of F. Tábor's "Zakarpatska Ukrajina", a new publication is devoted to the entire history of the territory. The author, M. Blaha of Zábřeh (ČSFR) is a world renowned expert on the matter.



The volume is divided into 18 chapters covering from the pre-stamp period to today and it contains information on all the territory's different administrative periods (Austrian, Hungarian, Czech, independent and USSR). It seems that nothing has been overlooked, with information on stamps (with points evaluation) and stationeries, postmarks, TPOs., field post and (through the collaboration of S. Kučera) registration labels. Several hundred illustrations, maps and city names complete this work.

Never has so much information been published in a single volume. This work will be of great importance to the expert and surely contribute to increased interest in this complex topic.

[Ed. note: Dr. Page has kindly presented our Library with a copy of this book]

## QUERY CORNER

[ From Alec Page ]

Odesílatel: <i>Josef Urkiny</i> Bydliště (v zájmu): Voj. útvar: <i>Společná pol. pošta 3</i> Číslo polní pošty:	 <b>DOPISNICE ČS. POLNÍ POŠTY</b> <i>Pau</i> <i>major Frant. Jerišek</i>  <i>Olomouc</i> <i>Jiřího z Poděbrad 7</i>	
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This Cz. Field Postcard bears the cancellation TŘÍDÍRNA POLNÍ POŠTY C3/\*Č.S.P.\* (a Base Sort.Office) which translated reads SORTING OFFICE FIELD POST No.3/\*Č.S.P.\* which, according to Budesarge Tschechoslowakei e.V 1985 No. 87-001, was based at Vrútky in Slovakia.

Such cancellations are usually to be found in black, although to celebrate certain 'National' days of importance, they may be found in red or occasionally in green. This particular card however, has the postmark applied in metallic-gold! The cancellation carries the date 28.X.38, which was the 20th anniversary of the founding of the First Republic.

The card is probably 'philatelic' and carries a nine-word message to a Major from a private soldier at Olomouc. On the front above the printed word DOPISNICE, is a red manuscript censor endorsement [too faint for re-printing by the photocopier!].

My 'Query' is this: Has any reader seen or have any knowledge of this particular cancel or any other Polní Poštý 'gold' cancellations?

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MR. RON HOLLIS has written a letter of thanks via the Editor to all who responded to his Queries in our issue of June [2/1990]. Ron has found much interest in these replies and, as stated, is very grateful.

Our member has also presented us with a couple more 'Queries' which, because of pressure on space, must be held over until a future date.

If Y O U have any Czechoslovakian-related philatelic questions which you would like sorted out by our members, why not let the Editor have them (or good photocopies) for publication?

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## NEW COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS



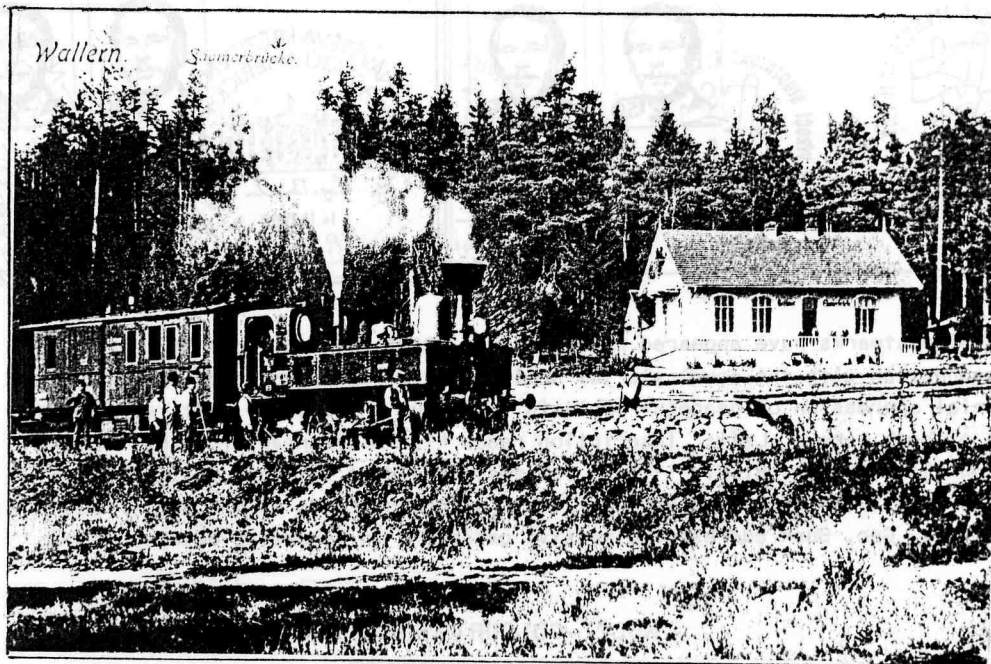
Two special postmarks have appeared recently from PRAHA 1 (Head) Post Office; both in direct connection with the country's 1st Anniversary of the revolution which followed the official oppression of peaceful protests in Prague in November last year. We show examples of both here. Left: Inscription reads "1st Anniversary [of the] Students' Revolution 17.11.1990." Right: "Visit [of the] President [of the] United States of America to ČSFR." The mark is dated 14.11.1990 although it was on the actual anniversary date that Pres. Geo. Bush addressed a massive gathering in Wenceslas Square, Prague.

## MULTI-COLOUR CANCELS



With reference to W.A.Dawson's "Three-colour Cancellations" [Cz.1/90-11-16], we have now received advice from Mr. Stig Asklund [Sweden] that he has discovered two further postmarks from PARDUBITZ 2-PARDUBICE 2 dated 7.IX.40 and 12.IX.40. We show one of them here. Mr. Dawson's checklist showed this exhibition as being 15-16.9.40. Our member has also found the [illustrated] PRAHA 10 HRAD [Prague Castle] commem. pmk. covering the re-election of President Masaryk and dated 18.XII.35. Mr. Asklund queries [in the light of this PRAHA 10 p/mark] whether the author's reference to a PRAHA 1 issue was correct or a misprint. PRAHA 1 is the city's HEAD P.O. and it seems unlikely to me that such a great occasion would have been ignored by that office. Does anyone possess such a pmk that could be published here? AJK.

AN EARLY TRAVELLING POST OFFICE TRAIN



Through the kindness of Dr. Miroslav Vostatek in supplying us with this old photograph, we are able to illustrate an early Travelling Post Office Train operating upon Czech territory at the beginning of the century.

Our picture shows a Type 310 locomotive with its postal wagon steaming through WALLERN [today VOLARY]. The picture also shows the German "SÄUMERBRÜCKE" which, in Czech, is "SOUMARSKÝ MOST" ... 'most' = 'bridge'.

The attached postal wagon bears on its side the legend K.K.POST - C.K.POŠTA and also a small posting box. This particular train was used on the STRAKONITZ-WALLERN [Strakonice-Volary] route and operated from 1.2.1901. The TPO designations for the route were No.s 357 and 358 and the cancellers were of the style illustrated for Route No. 374 [Kralup-Kladno].

See also Cz. Monograph No. 14, p471, items 3435 and 3436.

W.A.P.

CZECHOSLOVAK NEWSPAPER STAMPS  
Design Development from 1937

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Translation: Dr.M. Vender

- A Short Study -

By Tomáš Moravics

Essays, preliminary prints and trial printings tests always represent enrichment of every specialized stamp collection. These prints are known and sometimes available for most of the Czechoslovak stamps printed by lithography. However, in the case of newspaper stamps produced from the year 1937, the situation is different. On page 234 of "Monografie Československých Známeč" (Vol.4), Praha 1986, is stated "The Postal Museum owns unique essays printed by lithography in red, blue and green colours in two different formats: 36 x 35cm and in actual stamp size and with three different variants of the drawing that are fixed on separate cardboard sheets."

Some time ago I had an opportunity to inspect a printing trial of the total size 100 x 140mm and one essay with a figurative design in size 30 x 36cm (fig.1). The trial was produced by lithography in black colour on yellowish, smooth thin paper. It should be noticed for the sake of completeness that the existence of this print has already been published but there was an error in the colour description - given incorrectly as being red. The individual essays from this printing could be compared with the printing trials described on page 235:



- \* 30h value numerals not filled. Monograph mentions this as being filled with dots.
- \* 30h value numerals not shaded. This essay is comparable with the essay of the 5h stamp in the Monograph - identical types of figures.
- \* 5h large value figure. Later, on a printer's block, was produced with the same design but in actual stamp size;
- \* 3h value placed in centre of pigeon. An essay of this has not yet been described. >

Very interesting is the design of the 25h stamp (fig.2). It represents a group of three people: mother, daughter and son concentrating their gazes on the sky. It is possible to interpret the design as a mental connection with the topic of the pigeon in flight. It is, however, necessary to note this is not a normally complete family! It is, therefore, quite possible that the design's author was inspired by contemporary world affairs, e.g. the civil war in Spain. Without any doubts, the author of this essay was Professor Jaroslav Benda; as he was for the other designs. This can be demonstrated by the similarity of the 'handwriting' of the drawings, particularly by the shaping and design of "Československo" and the fact that all these essays come from the same printer's stone.



I conclude my study of this particular printing trial by postulating that Benda pictured the pigeon in the original design in the form of a symbolic 'child' drawing (fig.3). This was transferred to a photographic negative which was in turn used to reproduce the necessary number of copies required to incorporate the value numerals. There were at least five copies made because this is the number of known variants of value figures (1x3h, 2x5h, 2x30h). The filling-in of the flower leaves and the body of the pigeon with dots was made separately in each copy. For this reason, the individual copies used for the preparation of the printer's block differ in these details. The production sequence is apparent also from observing the fig.4 illustration, showing a copy of the 30h value. The area of intersection of the body of the pigeon with the inside of the value numerals is free of dots and it is even possible to identify the characteristic (line) drawing of the initial design. The apparent defect was later corrected and the new version (with dots) was used for the preparation of a new printer's block as shown on page 235 of the monograph (fig.4a).

Fig.5 shows the next stage of the development in the drawing design. Benda has chosen the 'negative' variant which was not accepted. However, the drawing of the pigeon was significantly modified to become close to the final version. The author narrowed the tail, shortened the upper and lengthened the lower wings and modified the shape of the head. The flower-in-beak remained from the initial design but the inscription lettering was changed. This design shows for the first time a regular network of dots of differing sizes.>

The definitive version of the design (fig.6) represents a fully balanced drawing. Benda used basically the drawing of the pigeon from the previous version and transposed it into a 'positive' form. Redrawing of some contours (especially the relocation of the lower wing forward) eliminated a certain immobility of the drawing, introducing an element of 'motion'. The dot pattern filling the body was further improved and the flower-in-beak and the lettering of the inscription were redrawn. In addition, the author also placed his name in the bottom left corner 'BENDA'.



Similarly, as in the case of the initial design, a negative was made for the production of the necessary number of copies in which the value numerals were inserted and from which the printers' blocks were made. The further procedure is already adequately described in the corresponding section of the Monograph.

In spite of the partial cover of the pigeon drawing by the value figures, which especially in the case of the two digit values, hide a substantial part of the drawing, we can say that the author created a complete and balanced design of a postage stamp with high artistic value.

#### LITERATURE:

F. Zampach - Newspaper stamps 1937, Monograph IV pp.203-251

T. Morovics - An Unknown Trial Print of Newspaper Stamps - Czechoslovak Specialist, 1988/10/12.

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#### EDITORIAL NOTE:

The author of this article, has asked us to please make an appeal to any readers who may have seen or even possess another copy of the complete trial print (as in fig.1) to let CZECHOUT know so that such information can be forwarded to Mr. Morovics. The origins of any such finds would be needed for his records - indeed, for general philatelic record. AJK.



**NEW ZEALAND 1990**  
 WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION • AUCKLAND • NEW ZEALAND  
 24 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER 1990

A REPORT BY W.A. PAGE, FRPS, L.



August 24 to September 2, 1990, saw New Zealand's first ever International exhibition in Auckland. Although somewhat smaller than LONDON 90, it was excellently staged and the attendance figures exceeded all expectations.

Our Society was well represented by exhibits and visitors and it was most pleasing to meet all three of our N.Z. members - and another from Australia and to spend an informal evening together and with much Czechoslovak material to peruse. Our U.K. members, Otto Hornung and Michael Birks were among the award winners for their 'loves' of Turkey and Nicaragua respectively. Our Norwegian member, Paul Jensen, RDP. served on the international jury.

Although there were only four specific Czechoslovak exhibits, there were several other 'related' entries with much interest for Cz. collectors. One exhibit in the Thematic Class attracted much attention: "From White Mountain Disaster to National Revival" (a reference to Czech national struggles through the ages). This 80 sheet exhibit traced history from 1620 to 1918 and gained a Large Vermeil for Ludmir Brendl (Czechoslovakia).

In the Traditional Class, Frantisek Dvořak, (Cz.) gained a Silver award for his "Czechoslovakian Forerunner Stamps 1918-1919, showing the various Austrian issues both in mint series and their use in Czechoslovakia after 1918. By contrast, the period 1945/1953 was covered by Frantisek Hutyrá (Cz.) with an intensive study of the 'Košice' issue. Other post-liberation issues: Bratislava, Moscow, Prague and London and a selection of other issues, provided a good cross-section of material of that era, gaining the exhibitor a Large Silver award.

A very regular visitor on the international scene (Dr. Svatopluk Sablatura, Cz.) covered the 20-year period from the founding of the Cz. Republic in 1918 up to the year 1938 with selected highlights from most issues. The 1937 Bratislava Exhibition m/s formed a study which included the original drawings of both stamps. This five-frame exhibit won for its owner a Vermeil award.

In the Postal History section, another Czechoslovak exhibitor (Teodor Burian) covered Hungarian documents of the History of the Post from 1701 to 1850 (the period of the Austrian Post). Much material of Slovakian interest linked this exhibit nicely to the overall study of Czechoslovak 'forerunner' material, with pre-stamp entires showing the postal rates, etc. of that time. Indeed, this was a worthy winner of another Vermeil award.

Finally, in this selection, I have chosen an eight-frame exhibit from Argentina - a study of the first issues of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia that also included a large number of stamps and letters with Czechoslovakian related postal markings.

In general then, an interesting selection of displays, much appreciated by our Antipodean members, who rarely have opportunities of seeing such material locally.

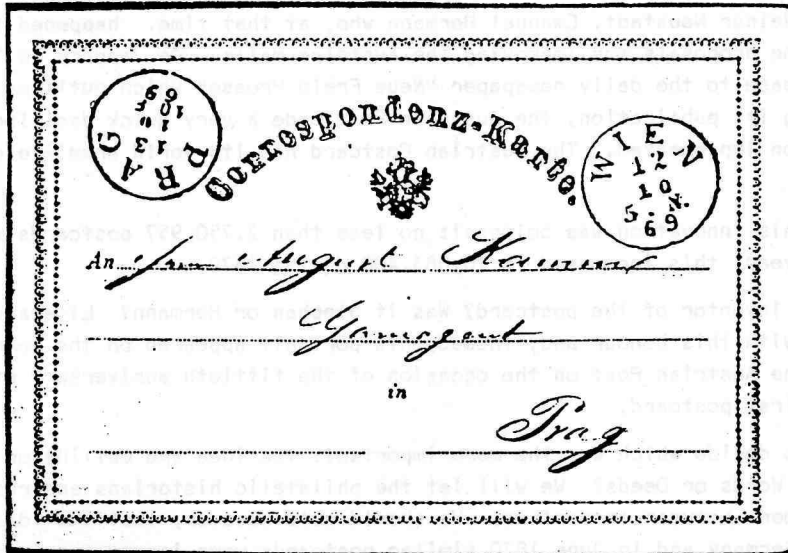
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[We would like to send our special good wishes to our members in New Zealand and Australia. We were very happy to learn of their little CPSGB meeting in Auckland with Alec and wish them every possible success in their future searches for Czechoslovakia's philatelic "gems".]

Translator: Dr.M.Vender

## THE FIRST POSTCARD

Vítězslav Houška



Wien 12.10.1869 at 5.00pm - To Prag, arr. 13.10.69 at 10.00am

#### THE OLD QUESTION: WHO INVENTED IT?

Who invented the telephone, the motor car, the aeroplane, or, for that matter, the game of dominoes? Surprisingly, there are always more than one person inspired by some notion at the very same time, both in matters important and unimportant.

Philatelic history indisputably records the merits of Lovrence Košire and James Chalmers in regard to the invention of postage stamps but recognises that Rowland Hill was the first among them.

Less revolutionary than the telephone but much more important than dominoes was, for those wishing to send a brief message through the post, the invention of the correspondence card, today more correctly called the postcard. For the time being however, we shall call the very first postcard by the original name printed on it: "Korespondenz-Karte" (in German). At a later date, this became bilingual with the additional Czech "Korešpondenční lístek" also printed at the head.

Who was the inventor? Even today, after nearly 125 years, this remains undecided in reality. To ascertain this, one must simply relate the facts as we know them to be.

In the autumn of 1865, the Fifth German Postal Conference was convened at Karlsruhe and it was here that the Prussian P.M.G., (who later founded the U.P.U.), one Heinrich von Stephan, proposed the idea of introducing a card, made of carton paper and of the size of a common letter envelope, upon which could be written the address on one side and the message on the other. It would be intended for writers wishing to send short, simple messages through the mails at a reduced charge. Conference studied the matter, thanked and praised Stephan for his initiative - then politely rejected his idea. >

Attending the conference was the Departmental Director of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce, Herr Kolbensteiner (who later was PMG at Vienna). He felt that Stephan's proposal DID hold a measure of potentiality for the future. He informed his ministerial advisor and Professor of Economics at Weiner Neustadt, Emanuel Hermann who, at that time, happened to be engaged in working on some proposals for improving the Austrian mails. On January 26 1869, Hermann sent a press release to the daily newspaper "Neue Freie Presse" which outlined Stephan's ideas. Following its publication, the Austrian Post made a very quick decision and Stephan's idea was very soon implemented. The Austrian Postcard had its world première on October 1st. 1869.

The success of this innovation was colossal: no less than 2,750,957 postcards were sold by the end of that year; this increased to 10,083,400 during 1870.

Who then, was the inventor of the postcard? Was it Stephan or Hermann? Literature usually credits Hermann with this honour and, indeed, his portrait appeared on the commemorative card issued by the Austrian Post on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of the first postcard.

It is not easy to decide which was the more important: the idea and outline or the practical implementation? Words or Deeds? We will let the philatelic historians and researchers decide that argument between themselves. We should note however, that the idea was soon also adopted in Germany and in June 1870 similar postcards were issued for internal and international use. Luxembourg and competing Austria with other states soon following suit: Württemberg, Switzerland, Great Britain, Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries, Russia, Spain, Canada and Chile. The U.S.A. legislated for the introduction of the postcard in the June of 1873 and more than 31m cards were sold in the first month! France was a bit late: the first postcards appeared in 1873 but were not provided with an imprinted stamp.

There is one more important date for the record: July 1 1875 saw the validity of the postcard in the international mails acknowledged by the Universal Postal Union.

#### FIELD WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Firstly, a description of the subject of our present interest. The first postcards were printed on a smooth carton paper of yellowish colour with slight pinkish tint (early reprints were on white paper with greyish tint). The size was 122x84mm but occasionally a little larger, by 1-2mm. At the top of the facing side was inscribed "Correspondenz-Karte" over the Austrian coat-of-arms, the double-headed eagle. There was a decorative frame consisting of dots and diamonds around the whole of this side of the card. There were four dotted lines for the insertion of an address. The first line had a pre-printed 'An' (to) with 'in' (at) centrally below. At top-right was an imprinted 2Kr. stamp in yellow (has not reproduced on our illustration ... Ed.) picturing Emperor Franz Josef I in an oval frame, the same as the Austrian adhesive stamp of 1867.

The postcard was issued in three variants: one for Austria (including, of course, Bohemia and Moravia), two for Hungary (one with Hungarian and the other with German inscriptions) but in both cases with the Arms of Hungary. There were many reprintings causing very many variants of carton papers and stamp shades, the latter being between very light yellow to dark orange and ochre.

Jaroslav Ježek, who devoted much of his philatelic work to the study of the 'first' postcard, named it 'yellow' and this became accepted in standard practise. For the collector of postal stationery, the 'yellow' postcard holds the same significance as the British 'Penny Black' does for stamp collectors. It is the 'Alpha' in a long chronicle of this philatelic area. >



Just as many collectors devote their energies to the Penny Black from 1840 and its many hundreds of variations, some collectors of postal stationery specialize exclusively in collecting the yellow card issues from 1869-76, with the innumerable variants of linguistic variations, with combinations of German-Czech, German-Polish, Ruthenian, Italian and Slovenian inscriptions, printing and colour variations, additional postages for reconstruction, variants of use, etc. They are however, also aware that their efforts are in vain because the number of possibilities is infinite and inexhaustible, so that the FULL story of the first postcard can never be completed.

The yellow card also had its famous printing error and many kilograms of paper have been written about it yet we still cannot say for sure that everything has been explained, fully and clearly.

I refer to the issue of November 1873 where the stamp value 5Kr. was printed instead of the correct 2Kr. This appeared on some of the cards with German-Czech text. The precise number of cards with this error is still not known but it is estimated to have been around 400,000 pieces. We do know, however, that the error was discovered in December 1873. The entire printing with the incorrect value was supposed to have been burned as useless waste. The supervisor of the printing workshop concerned with the error was supposed to have been ordered to pay damages in the sum of 657 gulden. However, the authorities, with some compassion, reduced this eventually to 70 gulden only. They had decided that the erroneous cards would stay in circulation, being corrected at post offices by the fixing of a 2Kr. stamp over the offending imprinted 5Kr. From a humanitarian point of view, the decision was probably correct but the otherwise very careful Austrian Post administration did not think the matter fully through ... namely that the fixing of adhesive stamps over the erroneous imprint would actually encourage fraudulent activities! Somewhere some 'smart Alec' would peel off the stamp and have a 2Kr. stamp with the postcard free of charge. There was no risk involved because he could always claim to have purchased the card earlier at the P.O. A few discovered frauds however, soon caused the postal administration to reverse its earlier decision and about 16,000 cards with fixed adhesive stamps were withdrawn from P.O. counters and destroyed.

When we take into account the fact that the error value 5Kr. instead of 2Kr. was printed on cards with three variants of the decorative frame and that further possible combinations were given by the fixed adhesives, plus the dates of their use, we can now appreciate why a collector has a field practically unlimited in size.

#### JAROSLAV JEŽEK (1908) ENTERS STAGE

The interest in early Czechoslovak philately indicated to him the direction leading from an earlier study of postmarks on postcards, especially those applied to the first issue of 1869, because of the highlighted contrast between the postmark and the preprinted yellow stamp. He believed that only the postmark gave the stamp its 'soul' (especially when nicely placed, centred and clearly printed).

This 'yellow card' offers to its admirers a rich variety of postmarks. These include the then still surviving marks from the pre-stamp era, postmasters' postmarks, postmarks of the railway mail boxes and, of course, the 'thimble' marks which were introduced in some P.O.s after 1867. The name 'Thimble' derives from the very small diameter of between 16 and 21mm of the circle.

Almost all postcards are marked with the date of arrival or other postmarks of offices through which it travelled. Some 'misdirected' cards had as many as seven different marks simply because the sender omitted to include the nearest post office in the address and postmasters had to guess which direction would be best for it to reach its destination. >

Ježek however, discovered another possibility for specializing with; his idea was simple and unique: he started arranging his yellow cards in pmk date-order. The most interesting are certainly those from the last quarter of 1869. More rare are those applied during the first month of the card's issue and, today, the discovery of any genuine mark of 1.10.1869 on any genuine card would be hitting the bull's eye.

#### THE CALENDAR

We know that during the last three months of 1869, 2.75m yellow cards were sold so we do have a wide choice. Ježek spread his nets, begged and purchased everything he could but he always checked the pmk dates first. Another of our late and avid collectors of entires, Jiří Nekvasil, once admitted that he owned a box full of these cards amounting to some 5000 items. He selected a few very interesting cards and gave away the rest! He was not at all interested in dates, so did not record whether there were any cards from 1869 amongst them. There were, in fact, enough to make some fine selections but those bearing the date 1869 were very few indeed. It took Jaroslav Ježek many years to reach a card bearing the date of 4 October 1869. In fact, there were two cards bearing the same date of four days after the first day of issue. One carried a blue 'thimble' pmk BRANDEISEL (a village between Kladno and Kralupy) and the message it contained was an order for goods from the village co-op. It reached Prague at 8.00pm the same day. The second card, sent to the same address in Prague, had the pmk BŘAS 4.10 (a village to the north of Rokycany). It arrived in Prague at 9.00am on 5 October.

In the Spring of 1972, Ježek found a yellow card dated 2 October 1869, again with a blue pmk, This was from Leopoldstadt/Wien addressed to Neu-Erlaa at Inzersdorf. Ježek was delighted by this further step 'back' towards his goal. He was disappointed nevertheless, by the fact that this item had nothing to do with Czechoslovakian territory. Ježek then wrote to Vienna, requesting a copy of a card dated 1 October 1869, in order that he might be able to see an item that so eluded him after so many years of strenuous searching. He assumed that there might be sufficient of these cards in Viennese philatelic circles and hoped that at least one of them would be from Czech territory. But, Ježek never dreamed of the wording of the reply to his enquiry which eventually came back to him. It was from (wait for it) ... The Viennese Society of Collectors of Entires and Postmarks; from its President, Herr Tomschick. He wrote thus: "I read your letter to our Society and we were all astonished by it. Mr. Ježek, you are obviously the owner of the oldest used postcard in the world and we .... envy you this card. I have but three from the end of 1869 and these are dated November and December. Even the Grandson of the famous initiator of the postcard, Emanuel Hermann, who is a specialized collector of these cards does not have such an old card in his possession."

This news caused an immediate and widespread search amongst the philatelists in Austria and eventually, Ježek himself almost fulfilled his dream when he found a card with the date of 2.10.1869 from ČASLAU which arrived in Prague at 9.00pm the same day - Bohemia/Bohemia at last. But still, the elusive card with 1.10.1869 did not appear. Then came the great day for philatelists. A collector from Ostrava, a certain Jiri Kučera, sent a letter to Ježek with a description and a reproduction of a card with a Wien postmark but without a year date. Unfortunately also, there was no BRNO arrival date - its destination. Nor did the lines of message contain any clue as to the year of posting. Later, some other worthy collectors in Austria wrote to Ježek, claiming their own several 'near-miss' dates but that did not help very much. Our worthy hero however, did not give up his searching and finally saw success!

In 1977, Jaroslav Ježek realized his life's dream - a card dated 1 October 1869, from Vienna to Brno was discovered and revealed to the philatelic world by our Czech collector.>

Our story of the famous Yellow Card does not, however, end there. The previously mentioned Czech collector J. Kučera, found and presented to the editor of FILATELIE (which left us breathless) a yellow card with the premature date of 30 September 1869.

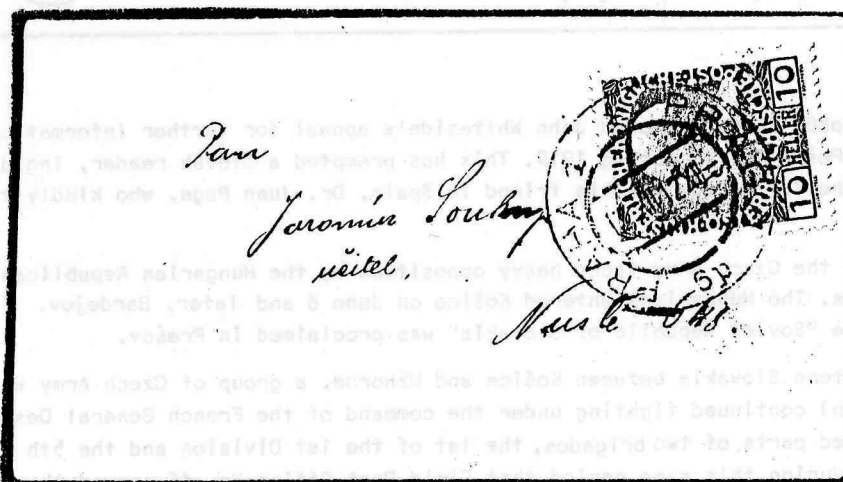
According to the Austrian Postal Bulletin for Monday, 27 September 1869, sales of the first postcards were supposed to have commenced on Friday, 1 October 1869. Understandably maybe, it appears that P.O.s were supplied a little earlier; most probably by 30 September. It would appear that the sender of this card was probably well-known at Wien/Leopoldstadt P.O. and the card was sold to him prematurely.

The card is addressed to the business of Alois Schmeidl, Fruit & Vegetable Merchant. The genuineness of the discovery is confirmed by the application of a rectangular arrival pmk reading BRÜNN/1.10. 1EXP. It was, therefore, the first morning mail arriving from Wien. Even more important is the genuineness of the (blue) Leopoldstadt pmk as well as the BRÜNN arrival mark.

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 [This edited extract is taken from the author's article in FILATELIE 7/1989, pp 209-210. The illustrated cover is from Otto Hornung's "Illustrated Encyclopedia of Postage Stamps", 1970]  
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ALL THE TWELVES - NINETEEN TWELVE!

A.J.Knight



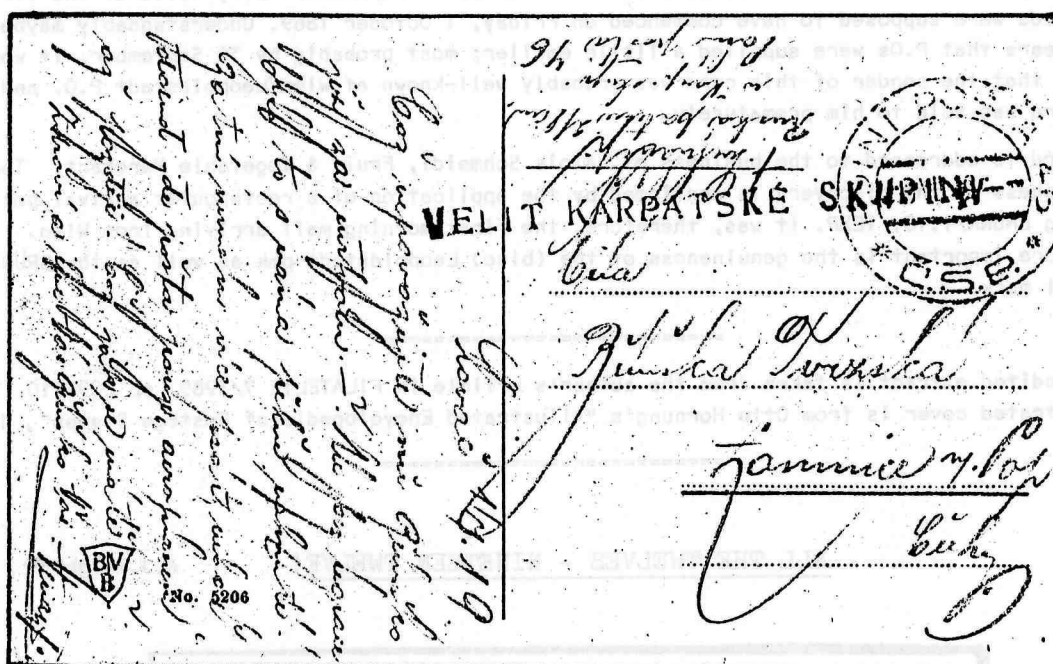
I certainly called "House!" when I noticed this little number in a "20p each" box at a York Stamp Fair a couple of years ago. It also proves to be a seasonably interesting item for readers at this time of the year.

The envelope, of excellent quality, measures only 11x6.1cm and has the initials U.M.S. embossed on the flap. It is addressed to the NUSLE district of Prague and carries a copy of the 10 heller (carmine) value from the 1908 Austrian set "60th Anniversary of Emperor's Accession" (SG 194).

The interesting postmark is that of PRAHA 1 \* PRAG 1/ 12 XII 12 XII -/6p (Noon on 12th Dec. 1912). This pmk is type G139 (Praha No. 87) in Cz. Monograph No. 14, p59. It takes another one hundred years (2012) from that date for a similar Prague postmark to be realised! There does however, remain a single regret ... why couldn't it have been from PRAHA XII post office?

1919 - THE BLUE STRIKES OF FIELD POST OFFICE 46

Jozef Tekel



In edition 4/89, p88, there appeared John Whiteside's appeal for further information on BLUE STRIKES of Polní Pošta No. 46 during 1919. This has prompted a Slovak reader, Ing. Jozef Tekel to respond with the following, via his friend in Spain, Dr. Juan Page, who kindly translated into English:

During June 1919, the Czech Army faced heavy opposition by the Hungarian Republican Army with temporary retreats. The Hungarians entered Košice on June 6 and later, Bardejov. It was on 16.6.1919 that the "Soviet Republic of Slovakia" was proclaimed in Prešov.

Meanwhile, in eastern Slovakia between Košice and Užhorod, a group of Czech Army units (the "Carpathian" Group) continued fighting under the command of the French General Destremeau. This group included parts of two brigades, the 1st of the 1st Division and the 5th of the 3rd Division. It was during this same period that Field Post Office No. 46 served the 3rd Infantry Division in Užhorod. However, following the occupation of Košice by the Hungarians, the rail link with Subcarpathian Russia was severed, thus isolating the Carpathian Group from its H.Q. in E. Slovakia (at Spišská Nová Ves). F.P.O 46 now used two different cancels:

- (a) with text ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ POLNÍ POŠTA/+46+ with 27.5mm dia cds.
- (b) with text POLNÍ POŠTA 46/\*C.S.P.\* within 30mm dia. cds.

These strikes are usually found in black but blue/blue-green was used for a short period in June and July, the latter caused, most likely, by strategic problems and short supplies of black ink. Studies of known items confirm the use of a BLUE ink for postmark (a) from June 16-July 31 being a short period of only 45 days. However, the use of BLUE ink on postmark (b) is known only for July 3 1919 (see illustration above).

Obviously these blue strikes are only found on the mail of the CARPATHIAN GROUP, comprising the 3rd, 28th and 36th Infantry Regiments and the 2nd Battalion/21st Rifle Regiment of the French Legion and a few smaller units. These postmarks can be included in FP collections of the Czechoslovak Army of the time and also in the postal history of the Transcarpathian region ::

[Ed. note: The military cachet on postcard above reads "HEADQUARTERS CARPATHIAN GROUP"]

NEW ISSUES

A.J.K.

STAMPS ISSUED BETWEEN JANUARY and JUNE 1990 (With POFIS Nos.)

DATE	POFIS	FACE	DESCRIPTION	REMARKS
Jan 8	2921	1 Kčs	International Literacy Year	With Tab.
	9	2922	Personalites (Čapek)	
		2923	" (Masaryk)	
		2924	"	
		2925	"	
		2926	"	
		2927	"	
	9	2928	President Václav Havel	Defin.
Feb 1	2929	0.50	Handball Championships	
Mar 1	2930	0.50	Garden Flowers	Rotary
		2931	" "	"
		2932	" "	"
		*2933	" "	Flat recess
	28	2934	Town Crests (Bytča)	
		2935	" " (Poděbrady)	
		2936	" " (Prostějov)	
		2937	" " (Soběslav)	
Apr 16	2938	1.00	Pope John Paul's visit to ČSFR	
May 5	2939	1.00	45th Anniv. of Liberation	
	6	A2940	150th Anniv. First Stamps	M/sheet
	8	2941	World Cup in Italy (F'ball)	
Jun 1	2942	1.00	Free Elections in ČSFR	
	6	2943	Prague Castle Treasures	Series
		2944	" " "	"
	21	**2945	15th Anniv. Helsinki Conf.	Rotary
	27	2946	Dr.M.Horáková (Memorial)	

[Info. courtesy FILATELIE (Praha) No. 14/90]

Notes: \*2933 - Printed in sheets x 10 by flat-plate process. (whiter paper).  
 \*\*2945 - Not issued as m/s as Prague earlier advised.

RE: 1989 LIST: An error in numbering was advised us. Please correct as follows: (see CZECHOUT 2/90-43). After entry 2915PL, insert the following new entries: 2916 (17/11) 50th Anniv. Int. Students Day (Jan Opletal) 1 Kčs. The following issues will then read: Art 2917-19; Stamp Day (18/12) 2920 (1Kčs). Our regret for this unavoidable error.

ALTERATIONS TO FOLLOWING ISSUES: WORLD CANINE SHOW (July 2) contained only the values 50h, 1 Kčs, 4 Kčs and 7 Kčs.

GRAND PARDUBICE STEEPLECHASE - 100th ANNIVERSARY (September 7): This set comprised TWO values, the 50h and 4 Kčs.

The 2 Kčs values from both the above sets were not issued.

\*\*\* Please note that all ADVANCE information supplied to the author is ALWAYS subject to alteration. This has always been the case but, understandably, this year has been rather exceptional.

WANTED BY AUSTRALIAN MEMBER

Postal stationery of Bohemia-Moravia (mint or used). Will purchase OR exchange for Australian material: Please write in first instance to: MR. CLYDE ZIEGELER, P.O. BOX 11, SEDAN 5353. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

## NEW ISSUES FROM JULY to DECEMBER 1990



A

B



C

D

E

F



- A. 2.7.90 World Canine Exhibition at Brno. Des: H. Čáповá, Eng: M. Ondráček.  
 21.7.90 Bratislava Motifs (elsewhere this issue), Des./Eng: M. Činovský. (4 Kčs).  
 29.9.90 - DITTO - (3 Kčs)
- D. 7.9.90 Pardubice Steeple Chase (100 years), Des: R. Kollář, Eng: M. Ondráček.
- B. 1.10.90 Protected Mammals [Mountain Marmot, Wild Cat, Beaver, Long-eared Bat]...  
 Des: I. Schurmann, Eng: V. Fajt.
- F.15.10.90 1990 Helsinki Civic Meeting. Des: V. Kovařík, Eng: J. Herčík.
- C.27.11.90 Art on Stamps (in sheets of 4). Des./Eng.: B.Housa (2Kčs), J. Herčík (3Kčs),  
 V. Fajt (4Kčs), M. Ondráček (5Kčs).
- 15.11.90 Christmas. (see elsewhere in this issue).
- E.18.12.90 Day of Cz. Postage Stamp. Des: O. Kulhánek, Eng: M. Ondráček.  
 [Commemorating designer Karel Švolinský (1896-1986)]

## A RECENT ISSUE

## "BRATISLAVA MOTIFS"

Helena Hodková

[Trans. Bob Kingsley]



1990 sees the 14th set in this annual series, with the two stamps taking us back into ancient history and also much more recent times. This year the stamps strike a different tone than has been the custom hitherto. This is no criticism; precisely the opposite. The designs feature motifs which elevate and enrich our cultural awareness so that the more inquisitive amongst us are led to a deeper understanding of the subjects.

The first (3Kčs) stamp refers to the cultural heritage of the Celts and the treasures found by our archeological excavations. From as early as the 7th cent.B.C. right up to the early Middle Ages there was a steady movement of Celts around Europe, particularly from Central Europe in a westerly direction. Amongst these were the warriors who, as we recall from our history lessons, settled on our [Cz.] territory. They were a large and mature tribe and excellent fighters although they never formed any kind of national identity. The Celts were driven out by the Germans in the area north of the Danube and, in the south, by the Romans. Their ancestors are now to be found in Brittany, France and the British Isles; Scotland, Wales and, particularly, in Ireland. Celtic culture, called "La Tene" forms an important chapter in European civilization. For example, we recall the Arthurian Legends; Wagner's operas "Tristan and Isolde" and "Parsival" owe their libretti to the same source.

Traces of the Celtic cultural influence lead us to Poland, to the Ukraine and to Asia. Proof of the fact that the Celts had their own currency - some interesting coinage - is given in this issue. The stamp shows the coin of the type found in Bratislava which is decorated with two heads in profile and dating back to the 1st century. In the sheet margin [the stamp is printed in a sheet of four] there is, again, a Celtic coin with a horse and its rider. A well-known Celtic ornament, a bronze dog, forms the design on the FDC for this issue. This motif is [also] incorporated in the special cancellation on the cover.

The second (4Kčs) stamp is devoted to much more recent history. It refers to Milan Rastislav Štefánik, co-founder of our [Cz.] Republic and a close collaborator of T.G. Masaryk, who was born 110 years ago - 21 July 1880. Štefánik's portrait dates from 1934 and is by the national artist Ján Mudroch (1904-1968). We recall this artist from the 'ART' issue of 1977 which featured his painting 'Fear' from 1939 - POFIS 2248/[SG2375].

Štefánik died on his return home from France on 4 May 1919 as his plane attempted to land at Vajnory. To this day, this tragic accident has not been satisfactorily explained. The FDC uses as its theme Štefánik's love for flying, showing a statue of Štefánik in flying kit by Bohumil Kajka (1878-1942). This is also featured in the sheet margin. The cover cancellation refers to "Tumulus", the work of Dušan Jurkovič, the architect.

M.R. Štefánik was born in the village of Košartsko in the Nitra region, studied natural sciences and devoted himself to astronomy. He worked in France and gained French citizenship. During World War 1 he attained the rank of General in the French Army. Continual yearning for freedom and independence for his nation led him to outstanding diplomatic activity, aimed at the creation of an independent Czechoslovak state. >

Štefánik's memory and significance were systematically suppressed in more recent, unhappy times. He was, of course, not the only person whose feats and achievements were intended to be forgotten.

Štefánik's portrait has been featured on Cz. stamps several times: in the years 1935-1938 (POFIS 291, 302 and 346; SG. 341, 347 and 390/91). Then again in the 'Prague Spring' set of 4 May 1969, when the stamps commemorated the 50th anniversary of Štefánik's tragic and untimely death: POFIS 1765 (SG. 1826).

The 14th 'Bratislava Motifs' issue is the work of the Slovakian artist Martin Činovský, who represents the younger generation of stamp designers. He both designed and engraved these stamps. No doubt, being from Bratislava, he worked on this issue with special enthusiasm.

[Edited reprint from FILATELIE 17/90-523. It must also be noted that these two stamps were issued on different dates, the Štefánik stamp being on the 100th anniversary of his birth.]

#### . . . . .

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S FIRST "CHRISTMAS" STAMP



Czechoslovakia this year issued its first ever special stamp commemorating Christmas. Small in size and of a low face value, this little stamp carries such a simplistic and seasonal design, that no title is necessary, nor was one used on it.

Measuring only 26 x 22 mm. overall and having absolutely no complexity nor intricacies of design, it truthfully bears up to its official title given it by the issuing authorities: "CHRISTMAS - FESTIVAL OF TRANQUILITY AND PEACE".

The design is based on a painting of 1982 by the academic painter Vladimír Kompánek, portraying a peaceful, deep-winter scene in the countryside... a perfect little 'gem'.

#### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issued 15.11.1990, perf.  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$  in sheets of 100 stamps by Post Printing Office in Prague. Graphic design by Rostislav Vaněk with engraving by Martin Činovský. Colours used were black, blue, grey and brown. AJK.



## - NOTICE BOARD -

ANNUAL OUT OF TOWN MEETING: 12 SEPTEMBER 1990

This year, at the invitation of Chairman Brian Day and Mrs. Day, we met in the lovely Kent village of Newington, near Sittingbourne, at the home of our Chairman.

We were entertained to a variety of members' displays and these were interspersed with some of Brian Day's own material, including SOKOL, pre-stamp forerunners, thimble postmarks, PS items, etc:

W.A. Dawson:	Airmail and First-Flight Covers
Colin Smith:	Modern Covers
Bob McLeod:	Modern Flaws and Die-proofs
A.J.Knight:	WW1: Czech related Austro-Hungarian Fieldpost and Russian POW cards to Czech territories.

Following this, Brian, Mrs Day and Family spoilt us all for choice with a very fine meal to cover our various journeys homeward. It must be said that the planning and provision of this must have cost the Day family many hours of hard work - and it was appreciated!

Thanking the Chairman and his family for such a lovely afternoon, Mr. A. Knight expressed the overall opinion that this meeting would be one to be long remembered for its happy atmosphere ... we were mostly sorry to leave!

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MEETING 3 NOVEMBER 1990 (A.G.M. and ANNUAL AUCTION)

AGM reports are enclosed with this edition, eliminating the need for repetition here. Following lunchtime break, we re-assembled at the Czech Club once again for our Annual Auction. This was conducted once again by our usual, jovial auctioneer, John Whiteside, most ably assisted by Brian Parker (Auction Secretary) and Bob Kingsley (Treasurer). Bidding was brisk and brought forth many gasps of surprise at prices realised. It is hoped to include the final results with this issue.

In thanking all who had contributed in any way to the great success of the afternoon's event, Mr. A.Knight and Mr. Whiteside paid tribute to Brian Parker's unceasing efforts and many hours of hard work behind the scenes in order that these events would be successful. Brian regretted that due to business commitments, a 1991 SPRING AUCTION would not be on our agenda but invited lots for the 1991 Auction as early as possible. If YOU would like to contribute, please do so NOW, if you are able. These auctions not only provide cash injections to Society funds but also afford vendors the chance of selling surplus material at good prices. For the buyers, there are always many bargains, too!

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NEXT MEETING:

This will be on Saturday 12 January 1991 at our usual West Hampstead venue at 2.30pm. It will be our pleasure to welcome ERNST GORGE once again to display and talk on his excellent collection of the 1920 "MASARYK" issue. Many of us already know of some of the magnificent material this collection comprises and greatly look forward to another opportunity to view it. Your support is requested, too, please.

ADVANCE NOTICE ... DON'T FORGET ... ANNUAL COMPETITIONS (for Geo Pearson and Francis Pettitt trophies) on Saturday 16 March; to be followed by DISPLAY AND TALK on "PRAGA EXHIBITIONS" by Mr. Michael Birks. >

AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

Our members are invited by the above society's Auction Secretary to participate in their regular (usually Quarterly) auctions. We understand that these often carry a lot of Czech material. Non-members of the ASGB amongst our membership can apply for auction lists to:- MR. K. TRANMER, 100 RAMSGILL DRIVE, ILFORD, ESSEX. IG2 7TP.

POLISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Members having POLISH material surplus to their requirements are invited to write to the Hon. Secretary of the PPF, outlining what they can offer for sale in the Federation's auctions. the usual terms are: 10% commission levied on realized prices; Unsold material returned at vendors' expense. The address to write to is: Dr. K.W. Franzmann, 6 Northstead Road, Tulse Hill, LONDON, SW2 3JW.

NEW HUNGARIAN HANDBOOK EXPECTED

If you have any suggestions for inclusion in a new handbook on the pre-adhesive postmarks of Hungary, these would be welcomed. Please contact: Andor Bér, Hegedűs Guyula u. 36, H-1136 Budapest, Hungary.

CZECHOSLOVAK FIELDPOST 1938 CHECKLIST

With this issue, you will find an illustrated checklist of the various types of date-stamps used by the FPO in 1938. Compiled by Bob McLeod, it forms a compact summary and a back-up to the full contribution by Bill Dawson in the Society Bulletin 2 and 3 (June & Sept. 1975). Copies of these two Bulletins are available from Alec Page, Publications Officer, for £1, inc. postage/packing. For Alec's address, see inside front cover of this issue.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following and hope their stay with us will be fruitful and happy:- Mr. Ronald Tomlinson - Morecamble; Mr. James Freeman - Torquay.

BRITISH LIBRARY COLLECTION

Some few weeks ago in the company of our N.Z. member, Vladimír Králiček, I was privileged to view a small collection bequeathed to the British Library by the late Josef Josten who was, up to his death, Hon. Founder-Secretary of the U.K. Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Prosecuted. Josef Josten was an escapee from the Nazis in 1940 to southern France and again, later, from the Communists. He remained a keen 'pro-freedom' fighter.

The main collection comprises mainly World War 2 material, as examined in Society Monograph No.1 and Supplement. There are also some items of Sokol interest, including folders, cards, etc. of Canadian, American and French Sokol movements.

The collection has not yet been prepared for display but may be privately viewed by prior arrangement with the British Library (Tel. 071-323-7635). Security allows only pencils for note taking. Photocopies of documents may be obtained but the copying of philatelic items is prohibited. W.A. Page.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

These are now overdue. If you have overlooked the matter, please send now to our Treasurer, Bob Kingsley. For this year: £5 ordinary membership/£7 'Family' membership. Please note that w.e.f. October 1991, these rates will be increased to £7/£10 respectively.[see AGM notices herewith]. Although regretted, the increases are due to increasing 'overheads'.

CORRECTIONS:-

(a) CZECHOUT 3/90-57: Line 13 should read "... but also a highly interesting one. [delete the comma and the word 'even'] (b) CZECHOUT 1/90-16: Item 7 (11-12.6.38) should read LOBKOWICZE (in German) and not in Czech, as published. Our apologies for these errors::