



CZECHOUT

Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

December 1992

Affiliated to B.P.F.

Whole No 69 Vol.10 No. 4
Copyright 1992 CPSGB

Editor: A.J. Knight
Technical Production: W.A. Page

| Vol. 10/4 | <u>C O N T E N T S</u> | December 1992 |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| | Society News and Notices | 78 |
| | Your Letters | 80 |
| | Národní Kolek Booklet | 82 |
| | The New Czechoslovakia (an appeal) | 84 |
| | Query Corner | 85 |
| | Hyperinflation (in Europe) | 87 |
| | May 1945 in Olomouc Area | 89 |
| | A Matter of Definition (printing types) | 92 |
| | A Recent Issue (protected beetles) | 94 |
| | Vojtěch Preissig (artist) | 96 |
| | New Issues (Aug.-Nov. 1992) | 98 |

END OF AN EPOCH

By just three simple votes on Wednesday, November 25th 1992, the federal parliament of the Czechoslovak Federated Republic voted the 74-year-old federation out of existence. At its third attempt the Federal Assembly approved a legal basis for the formation of independent Czech and Slovak states, with effect from January 1st 1993. Thus will end Masaryk's vision of unity between these two peoples, confirmed by his election as the First President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic on 14.11.1918.

For almost 40 years, this Society has devoted its efforts to the research and study of the stamps and postal history of that Czechoslovakia and we do not envisage a great change in that policy in the foreseeable future. However, it seems that instead of dealing with one 'country' - it will henceforth be two. We shall continue, as in the past to actively encourage Czechoslovak, Czech and Slovak philately in 'ancient and modern' forms - including 'forerunner' material. It will further remain our wish and desire to co-operate, to the best of our ability, with Czech and Slovak philatelists at whatever level. We wish them all over there as well as members and friends of our Society - everywhere - a Happy Christmas and Good New Year!

CPSGB.

SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICESMeeting held on Saturday, 12 September 1992

We welcomed 19 members and there were 9 apologies for absence.

The Chairman presented Mr. R. Hollis with his 1992 Competition Certificate for Third Place in the 'Kay Goodman Trophy' competition for his entry: "The Official Mails of Bohemia & Moravia."

The following new membership applications were approved:

Graham Slater - Cambridge
Nigel Stockman - Waltham Cross, Herts.
Robert Marks - Cambridge

Mr. Heinz Vogel displayed and discussed with us "Aerophilately - A Personal Choice"; a long a very detailed account of the Airmail scene over many years. Mr. R. Hollis proposed the usual Vote of Thanks which members fully endorsed.

E.G.M. of Saturday, 12 September 1992

The Chairman read the agenda (distributed to members with Czechout 3/1992) and a general Statement explaining the need for Society to increase Subscription Rates for the forthcoming year, underlining the fact that current costs were averaging £12 per member p.a. The Hon. Sec. read out Committee's proposals that Subscription for the coming year should be: (U.K.) £10 each member (Outside U.K.) £12. One of the heaviest calls upon our funds was the regularly increasing postage charges for 'Czechout', especially by airmail which overseas members prefer. Following a short discussion, Committee's recommendations were approved and agreed. [Proposer: Mr.R.Hollis; Seconder: Mr.F.Gren].

Annual General Meeting: Saturday 14 November 1992

A full report of those proceedings is enclosed with this edition of Czechout as separate documents.

Annual Auction: 14 November 1992

This attracted 34 members, including Mr. V. Králiček (Auckland, New Zealand) and Mr. G. McAuley (Dublin, Irish Republic). Chairman especially welcomed these two members for having taken the trouble to travel so far to be there.

The following applications for Membership were advised and approved:

Ian M. Nickson - Timperley, Cheshire
Robert Flaman - Maghull, Merseyside
Sqn. Ldr. E.D. Campbell - Seaton, Devon
D.J.M. Kerr - Earlston, Berwickshire

Mr. John Whiteside conducted our annual auction. Bidding was extremely brisk for the 365 lots on hand but eventually, most of them were sold. Unconfirmed >

but reliable sources suggest sales totalling in excess of £2,000 which would be a Society all-time auction record. Our most grateful thanks to vendors and buyers for another fine sale and enjoyable afternoon.

On behalf of all present, Colin Spong expressed a very warm Vote of Thanks to John Whiteside and his team (Bob Kingsley, Brian Parker, Roger Morrell and Gill Clarke) for the good-humoured session and usual aplomb. This was warmly endorsed by the meeting.

Next Meeting Jan 16th at 2.30pm -EGM and Ordinary Meeting (see accompanying Chairman's letter). We trust the weather will be kind to everyone wishing to be with us for a display and talk by Mr. R. Hollis on "Bohemia & Moravia" posts.

Congratulations to:-

Ernst Gorge and Pat Rothnie on being accepted into the Fellowship of The Royal Philatelic Society, London at a recent meeting of that august body. Further congratulations also to Pat Rothnie on his receipt of the BPF "Award of Merit" presented to him at the 1992 Congress of the British Philatelic Federation at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Pat Rothnie had the responsibilities of Organizing Secretary for this year's annual Congress and from all accounts of that occasion it seems that Pat's efforts were to everyone's satisfaction. Amongst his many philatelic activities, Pat is President of the North-East Federation.

Geoffrey McAuley on his well-earned **Vermeil** award at **Genova 92**, the 1992 International Philatelic Exhibition at Genoa, Italy earlier this year. Geoff's award was for his thematic entry: "Where is My Home" which, as most of us well know, are the opening words to the Czech national anthem.

.....and lastly ... to **Ourselves:-**

The Society gained two **Bronze-Silver** awards at the International Philatelic Literature Exhibition, New York, USA last month for its publication: **Czechout** and our Society Publication No. 9 of last year: **Field Post of Czechoslovak and Allied Forces in Russia - 1918-1922.**" The two awards were made to our Editor, Alan Knight (for 'Czechout') and Alec Page for the Publication No. 9.

Members will remember that these publications won 3 awards for us at the 1991 "Stampex" in London. With **your help**, we aim to gain more in the future

.....

Editorial Note:

We are always keen to learn of the occasions when our members "spread the word" about Czechoslovak philately through other societies or organisations. Please let the Editor know when you talk and/or display "Czechoslovakia" at any level, be it International, National, Federation or Local Stamp Society / Club, when we will be happy to inform members of your efforts in this direction.

YOUR LETTERS

From Roy Dehn:

I was very interested in the note on the 1945 MOSCOW issues (3/92-63) and at once looked up my two sheets of the 20h to see if I had either of the errors - I had two copies of the 'missing left corner'. Another look for the imperf. top margin - but no! Then I read: 'Moscow Issue 1945/1946 recess printed'.... Well, if these stamps are 'recess' then I'm (something else)!! I take out my Specializovaná and there, sure enough, is HT (Hlubotisk, i.e. 'deep-print'). So I check the reliable 'Novotný' and find the same and even find the same in an early 'POFIS' catalogue. Rather discouraged, I take up Pt. 5 of the Gibbons cat. and am relieved to find 'photo' and taking up Michel I am doubly relieved to find 'RaTdr' which is Rastertiefdruck - viz. photogravure which, without any doubt is the method by which these stamps were printed. My curiosity now roused I wondered what word the Czech catalogues use for the 28 October 1923 portrait of Masaryk by Švabinský in the series printed to mark the 5th anniversary of the Republic - a set that is obviously printed 'recess'. I find OTp which is ocelotisk; the p is for 'plochý' flat and indicates that the plates were flat and the 'ocelo' that they were of steel. OTr in the Czech catalogues stands for 'rotační ocelotisk' which I had mentally translated as 'rotary gravure' (they used to call gravure 'Neotype'). It now appears if the plates are not steel the Czechs use the word 'hlubotisk', even if the process is gravure and not recess. Very confusing and rather illogical.

From John Whiteside:

[Ref. issue 3/92-56/57]: Mr. Forster (astute chap!) had taken the cover to his local administrator to confirm its date error as your translation confirms. ALTWALTERSDORF is now STARY-WALISZÓW approx. 1 mile east of HABEL-SCHWERDT, now BYSTRZYCA KŁODZKA. They are in Poland, approx. 12 miles north of the Czech border; almost due north of LANSKROUN. This area is part of the Germany that became Polish in the 1945 border changes, so, of course, in 1938 it was part of Germany proper.

Now a couple of comments on the Militia article by Dr. Vostatek [3/92-58/62]. A caption error has occurred on p.61, para 3, line 2: Fig. 12 is **not** part of a telegraph form but part of a money-order card and is correctly described in the first part of the article in issue 2/92-45, from para. 2, line 5. On p.62-para 2, Fig 16 is ÜBERPRUFT, not Uberprust. [Ed. drops head in abject shame on that one!]. Some comment on figs. 10 and 11 might be useful; it will amplify what Dr. Vostatek has said in para. 2 p. 61: The operative word is "Zollfrei" ... Customs- or duty-free. Troops were allowed one parcel per month free of customs inspection or duty. More frequent sendings could have duty charged.

Fig. 15 may possibly be NEUE ANSCHRIM ABWARTET = "New address awaited". I hope this is helpful. >

From Richard Wheatley :

The latest issue of 'Czechout' arrived today and whilst Yvonne was out of the room, I sneaked a quick look at it. What strikes me at once is the clear and uncluttered layout it has; any society would be proud to have such a publication. As for content, there seems a fair spread of articles with news and chat interspersed. Someone has also got their act together by including other Society information within the same envelope. No wonder the Society prospers with such obvious enthusiasm and co-operation. [There I must stop, Richard - simply for modesty's sake but you are right in stating that **co-operation** is important. Ed.]

From Reg. Dixon:

As well as confirming John Whiteside's information on locations concerning Altwaltersdorf and Habelschwerdt already mention above, Reg. advises us of two further Czechoslovak Road Maps he has found very useful: (a) "Velký Atlas Československá" (Kartografie, Praha 1990) that he purchased from Stanford's in London - 'the best map seller I know', he says. (b) The second map he recommends is a series of of 3 bi-lingual German-Czech maps of Northern Sudeten areas at 1:200,000. published by Hofer Verlag of D-6057 Dietzenbach, Germany. Fully up-to-date, their main advantage is that the Sudeten-German border is shown and that every place-name is given in two languages. This also applies just across the border, with bi-lingual German-Polish place-names.

It is known that other replies have been sent directly to Roy Wright who raised the query regarding the location of Martinice-Merzdorf railway station. **Bill Dawson** advises us that SYTOVÁ/SITTAU lies on the river Jizera in NW Bohemia. In the First Republic period, it was a 'halt' on the 20km branch line, Háje being an adjacent small town. The route of this branch line was: Martinice-Jilemnice-Hrabačov - Vichová-nad-Jizerou-Sytova-Haje - Ponikla-Jablonec-nad-Jizerou-Rokytnice-nad-Jizerou. TPOs 191,192 and 193 operated on this line during the First Republic, the line is still in operation. However, the halt then known as SYTOVÁ-HÁJE is now shown in current timetables as **Horní Sytová**.

From Colin Spong:

With ref. to Richard Beith's interesting paper on Trans-Atlantic Airmails 1937-1941, (edition 3/92-71), Colin has the following item to record:-
Route (f): From Bratislava 27.3.41 to Jackson's Heights NY, USA, 24.4.41, franked Ks. 9.50 (inc. registration). Red/white label "Bratislava 3 897; airmail stationery env. (blue); boxed-3-line Mit Luftpost/Par Avion/By Airmail. No censor markings - backstamped: "Regy.Div" handstamp. Colin also raises a further query which we will publish in our next issue.

Cinderella.

NÁRODNÍ KOLEK BOOKLET

A.Knight

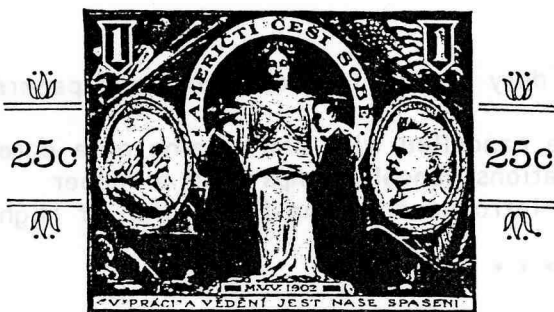
In "Czechout" 2/1991 - 49, under the heading "Portrait of a Slovak Girl" we discussed the possible origins of two American propaganda labels from the early part of the century. The second label discussed was one that I had found in my miscellaneous file some years ago. Jeffrey Kalp had raised the matter with his query concerning the first label of a young Slovak girl. The second one concerned a label bearing images of Jan Komenský and the Czech patriot Karel Jonaš. With the help of Dr. Ján Gronský of Prague, we were able to shed some light on Karel Jonaš in our issue of 3/1991-40. Today we are able to bring members a more complete story in regard to the second label. You will recall that Charley Chesloe (USA) wrote us with some information on both these labels. Since then, I have had the good fortune to meet with our member - Mr. R.A. Dixon who showed me a complete booklet containing the second label in panes of six. Mr. Dixon very kindly permitted me to borrow his booklet for photocopying and translation. Bob Kingsley has now translated the entire for our benefit and with this translation, plus illustrations, we can now obtain a far more detailed picture of the thinking behind the issue of these 'stamps' so long ago in the USA. Here is Bob's understanding of what is written on the four covers of this particular booklet.

- A. Front Cover (face): NATIONAL DUTY STAMP 25c. Stamp inscribed: American Czechs Help Each Other and Work and Knowledge are our Salvation. Under the illustration of label is: This Booklet contains 24 individual stamps.
- C. Front cover (inside): Proceeds from the sale of these stamps go to the Foundation of Higher Education to be used for the following purpose:
1. One half to provide interest-free loans to poor Czech students who wish to pursue Higher Education in subjects such as: Economics, Science, Teaching, Literature, Technical subjects and Engineering.
 2. One quarter for purposes connected with maintaining and fostering the Czech language in American establishments of Higher Education, so as to promote the teaching of the Czech language, Czech History and Literature.
 3. One quarter for a fund to assist young disabled people of Czech extraction to enable them to obtain specialised education.

Applicants for loans to the Foundation of Higher Education, of either sex, must be of Czech extraction, Czech speaking and regard themselves as Czechs, and of good character; they must show themselves to possess the abilities for Higher Education, as well as being without means. The maximum loan is \$250 per annum.

- B. Back cover (outside): Stamps can be obtained from the FOUNDATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
P.A. Korab, Secretary. Iowa City, Iowa.
Do not send personal cheques as we lose 10c. on the exchange.
- D. Back cover (inside): Do not use these stamps instead of Postage Stamps.
Uses for these stamps are: A Duty Stamp may be affixed to personal and commercial letters and post-cards (however, not on the address side), commercial papers, theatre tickets and tickets for other events; portraits >

NÁRODNÍ KOLEK



Tato knížečka obsahuje 24 jednocentových kolků

A: Front cover

Národní kolekly lze obdržeti od

MATICE VYŠŠÍHO VZDĚLÁNÍ,

P. A. Koráb, taj.

Iowa City, Iowa.

Neposílejte osobní checky, ztrácíme zde 10c při směně.

B: Back cover

Výnos kolku případně Maticí Vyššího Vzdělání
na tyto účely:

1.) Polovina na poskytování nezúčitelných půjček chudým českým studentům, kteří by chtěli na vyšších učelištích studovat kursy jako jsou: národohospodářský, vědecký, učitelský, literární, technický a inženýrský.

2.) Jedna čtvrtina na účely spojené se zavedením a udržováním stolic českého jazyka na vyšších vzdělávacích ústavách amerických, kde má být vyučováno češtině, českým dějinám a literatuře.

3.) Jedna čtvrtina na pomocný fond pro zmrzačené mladé lidi českého původu, aby dosáhnutí mohli odborného vzdělání.

Uchazeči o půjčky M. V. V. obého pohlaví musí být českého původu, mocni české řeči, česky cítiti a býti mravně zachovalí; musí se vykázáti potřebnými schopnostmi k vyššímu studiu, jakož i svojí nemajetností. Nejvyšší půjčka jest \$250 ročně.

C.

D.

NÁRODNÍ KOLEK BOOKLET

Size 85x65cm.

Covers: Cream card/one staple

Binding: Thin fabric in ochre

Text: four sides of covers

Price: 25c for booklet x 24

Panes: 4x6 sideways (3x2)

Labels: In olive-green p12 and trimmed sides/bottom.

Paper: Light-buff

Gum: Brown

[Panes interleaved with tissue to prevent gum adhesion].



Panes were bound sideways

Neužívejte tohoto kolku místo poštovních známek.

Způsoby užívání kolku: Národní kolek se lepí na soukromé i spolkové dopisy a pohlednice, (ne však na straně adresované), na různé spolkové listiny; na vstupenky divadelní, výletní a k různým zábavám; na podobizny, dárky do knih, atd.

Mnohé spolky i jednotlivci opatřují všechny své knihy a listiny národním kolkem.

Doporučuje se nalepený kolek přepsati svým neb sborovým jménem, neb napsati přes něj datum, aby též kolek více než jednou používán nebyl. Některé spolky označují kolek svým razítkem.

Národní kolek zaveden Maticí Vyššího Vzdělání roku 1906.

> to next page.

presents for books, etc.

Many organisations and individuals stick duty stamps to their books and papers.

It is recommended that a duty stamp be cancelled with one's name or a date to prevent its further use; some organisations cancel stamps with a rubber stamp. A national Duty Stamp was first introduced by the Foundation of Higher Education in the year 1906.

* * * * *

[Ed. note: This last sentence raises a question as to when, exactly, the first Duty Stamp was issued. Mr. Chesloe states that the 'Slovak Girl' label was **printed** in 1907; could that have been the first one, **introduced** in 1906? It seems so - unless somebody out there knows different. If you do, please let us know so that the story can be completed. So you see, a single, simple 'Query Corner' question has enabled us to shed light in a wide area since Jeffery Kalp first raised the matter nearly two years ago!]

* * * * *

THE NEW CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM 1993

- A Special Appeal -

As is now common knowledge, Czechoslovakia as we know it today will cease in the New Year - it will divide itself into two distinct states. In order to ensure adequate accurate coverage of philatelic information from those two states, we are hoping to recruit volunteers from both capitals, Praha and Bratislava to act as our National Correspondents. The job would have to be on a voluntary basis, without pay although the refund of out-of-pocket expenses such as for postages (including registration charges) and cost of photocopying, would be considered and discussed.

If you can recommend such persons to us we would be grateful. Or - you might be reading this in Czechoslovakia now and would like to offer your help, In either case, please write to the Editor (A.Knight) at his home address:- 25 Weymouth Crescent, Scunthorpe, South Humberside, England. DN17 1TU.

The main requirements would be the ability to obtain, notate and report to us any newsworthy items of philatelic interest (Czech/Slovak related, of course) **in the English Language** for publication in this journal. The usual copyright requirements would be met of course. Where original material cannot be supplied to us, good photocopies are acceptable, of course but if originals were sent, it would be by registered mail, payable by us in both directions.

Finally, the correspondents would receive gratis copies of the editions of this journal in which their material was published. Please note that even if you do not live in either of the capitals but are still willing to assist us as outlined above, we would still very much like to hear from you.

We feel that such co-operation could only enhance good philatelic relations between Czech/Slovak philatelists and our Society.

Exhibition Sheets

QUERY CORNER

From Colin Smith

SG. 377a



Colin sent the Editor three sheets, one of which we illustrate above and asks (a) whether these were the only sheets overprinted as shown and (b) whether there were more than the one cover-card, which he also enclosed (illustrated overleaf).

After some dutiful searching of reference material, a very interesting article on this subject was found in 'The Czechoslovak Specialist' Vol.23, No. 206 dated October 1960. This is the journal of our sister Society in the U.S.A. then with the title 'The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America' - now The Society for Czechoslovak Philately. We are sure that our American friends will have no objection to our quoting from that article in order to answer our member and any others so interested.

When the Germans invaded Prague, the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the New York World's Fair stood unfinished and only half-filled with Czechoslovak products that had arrived prior to the tragic events of 1939. For two years the pavilion was maintained by donations from American-Czechoslovaks and thousands of freedom-loving people from around the world. One of the money-raising campaigns was the overprinting of souvenir sheets that had been wholly donated by stamp dealers for sale at the Pavilion. In all some 6,500 sheets were donated but due to the outbreak of war in Europe, the Exposition was not opened and the original overprints were obliterated with black wavy lines.

Eventually there were located some Bratislava 1937 Exhibition sheets, including the famous 'newspaper' stamps sheet and it was decided that these should be overprinted and sold at the Exposition. The overprint had a central design of the Coat of Arms of Czechoslovakia at the top of the sheet and an inscription - Czecho-Slovak Participation New York World's Fair 1939/Czecho-Slovak Pavilion at the bottom of the sheet. The o/p coat of arms was embossed in luminous black. These sheets were sold at the Pavilion for 75c. persheet. From time-to-time these were followed by sheets with the embossed coat of arms in different colours, i.e. green, red, blue, gold and silver. The issue of these was very small. The coloured o/ps were sold for \$1.50 and the silver (and some others) at £5.00. The silver o/ps are extremely scarce. All the sheets were sold out by 1940. >

Some sheets exist with the bottom inscription printed in red, green and blue.

Other small sheets used for this purpose were the Prague Exhibition Sheet of 24.6.1938 (SG. MS388a) and the small Masaryk memorial sheet (SG. MS381a) of 7.3.1938.

SPECIAL COVER

A special folded single sheet card cover was also produced to carry these very special sheets:

When folded, the cover measured 9.00x16.50cm. and was printed in light-blue.

It bore an image of the small sheet issued on 19.12.1938 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic (SG. MS393a).

Above this illustration was printed the words "Truth Prevails/Czecho-Slovakia/ will Rise Again" and below it - "Czecho-Slovak Pavilion/New York World's Fair 1939".

At the bottom of the back cover there appears the statement "Net Proceeds contribute Toward the Maintenance of The Czecho-Slovak Pavilion".

The years "1939" and "1940" appear on most of the inscriptions of these sheets but it is the 1939 o/print that carries a good premium.



The article that we quote from here is much too lengthy for us to re-print in full. For interested members, it is suggested that they obtain a reference copy from our Librarian, quoting The Czechoslovak Specialist bound volume for 1959 and 1960. See pages 116 to 119 (1960). Another very interesting article dealing with this subject is to be found in the same Journal, in the bound volume for 1973 and 1974 on page 149 (1973). AJK.

Bibliography:

"The New York World's Fair Overprints - 1939-1940 (George V. Havlik).
The additional quoted article is "A Chat with an Old Friend - Alfons Stach" in the journal "Czechoslovak Specialist" - December 1973.

Postal Rates. HYPERINFLATION J.L. Whiteside

[On 20.6.1992, John Whiteside, FRPSL, delivered a paper, supported by a vast amount of display material, entitled "Hyperinflation". The subject was not confined to Czechoslovakia and included Germany, Austria, Poland, Russia, Romania, Hungary, China and Greece. So well was this paper received at 'the point of sale' that your Editor asked John if he would submit some notes from this paper, for publication in our journal for future reference/research by our members. John readily agreed and we now have the pleasure of presenting his notes to our readership]

.....

Hyperinflation has no strict definition but perhaps the best one is that it is an inflation in which prices double every six months - or more frequently.

Following World War 1, most European countries experienced inflation but only in five: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Russia, was the 'hyperinflation' level reached. In Czechoslovakia there was inflation between 1918 and 1922. The value of the Czechoslovak 'crown' declined from 10d. sterling to 1½d. and then remained substantially at this level (160 Kč. to £1) from 1922 to 1939.

Until 1918, postage between all places in the German and Austrian empires had been fixed at a uniform rate - the 'internal' rate. This had been originally established by the Austro-German Postal Union of 1850. When the empires were broken up after the war, the new states made other arrangements. For a period, between some states, internal rates still applied but foreign mail rates were usually enforced.

The resultant sharp increases in postages were not appreciated, particularly by the business communities, so special 'reduced' foreign rates for single letters and postcards were negotiated between the states and began to come into force from 1922. Czechoslovakia had such rates to Austria, Germany, Hungary, Jugoslavia and Poland. Germany kept internal rates for Austria and had the reduced foreign rates to Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Where possible in the display, covers paid at these rates were shown.

The following countries were shown:

Germany - (24 sheets): All the items shown were the reduced foreign rates to Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The German inflation, from its latter stages of August-November 1923 was the worst ever experienced in a major industrial nation. When revaluation occurred on 1.12.1923, the new 'Rentenmarke' was equal to 1 billion (10^{12}) old marks. The items shown illustrated the changes in the rate to Czechoslovakia from 3 marks in January 1922 to 240,000 million marks at the end of November 1923.

Austria - (12 sheets): This, like that of Hungary, was not as severe inflation as that of Germany and ended differently in that the currency was not revalued for almost 18 months after inflation had slowed.

A small selection of mail at the reduced foreign rates, mainly to Czechoslovakia, was displayed. >

Poland - (36 sheets): Until the middle of 1923, the Polish inflation was more severe than that in Germany but it did not have the final extreme spiral that occurred there. Until 29.12.1923, postage rates had increased 16 times, the foreign letter rate rising from 50 fenigi to 50,000 marks. Between then and 1.5.1924, when the new 'zloty' was introduced, there was a period when rates were expressed in gold centimes and charged at a varying rate in Polish marks. For most of the period the foreign letter rate being 550,000 or 600,000 marks. Examples were also shown of the special rates that applied in the Poznan province until 1.2.1920, when German rates applied; of the "S.O.1920" overprints used in Eastern Silesia and of the continued use of German currency and rates in Upper Silesia after the plebiscite until 30.4.1923, for which special stamps - the 'Miners' issue - were employed.

Russia - (24 sheets): This inflation, from 1921 to the end of 1923 was very severe. Unlike most countries, where stamps had been supplied by various methods to keep abreast of increasing rates, the Russians had great problems. These were illustrated by covers showing all the changes in the foreign letter rates and how these were coped with, such as the use between May and December 1922 of Tsarist stamps sold at their numerical face value in 1922 roubles (10,000 old roubles) so that rouble values were used at 10,000 times 'face' value and kopeck values at 1,000,000 times face. The final period when stamps in a new, gold currency were issued in October 1923 but had to be purchased at a daily rate in old money until December 1923 because the new gold money had not been produced, was illustrated.

Greece - (12 sheets): The inflation illustrated was from the comparatively little-known, but very severe one, that occurred in the final period of German occupation in 1944. Material is scarce and information on postal rates has proved impossible to obtain. However, covers showing a rate progression for mail to Germany from 400 drachma in November 1943 to 500,000 drachma at the end of August 1944 were displayed.

Romania - (12 sheets): After WW2, inflation occurred until 15.8.1947, when the leu was revalued so that 1 new leu = 10,000 old leu. Most foreign mail of the period was registered and the rates rose from 860leu in Jan 1946 to 110,000 leu before revaluation.

Hungary - (48 sheets): The 1945/46 inflation in Hungary was, by far, the worst ever recorded. The new forint, introduced 1.8.1946 equalled 4×10^{29} pengo. From May 1945 to this point, there had been 27 changes in postal rates. Up to the end of June 1946, stamps had been provided well to cope but in July both stamps and banknotes could not be supplied quickly enough. In January 1946, the Finance Ministry had introduced the Adopengo - or Tax pengo - as a means of maintaining tax revenues. Taxes were assessed in Adopengo and paid for at a daily rate in pengo. Special banknotes were issued; in July these became the currency at a rate of 1 adopengo = 2×10^{18} old pengo and stamps in Adopengo were issued from mid-July. For much foreign mail, stamps were not used and covers were handstamped 'Taxe percue' to indicate that postage had been paid in cash.

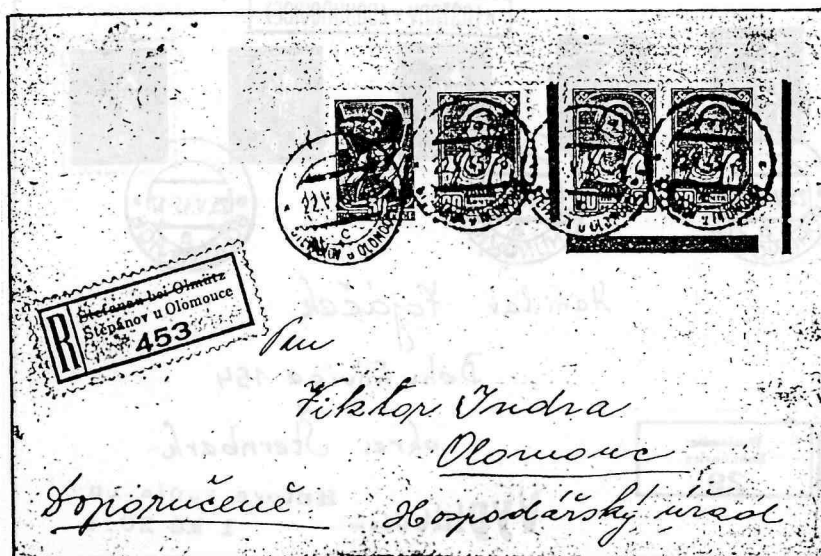
The first twelve sheets shown illustrated the 'unit' issues of January, February and May 1946 - for internal use only - where stamps were overprinted to show a postal use - postcard, letter, 5kg. parcel, etc. and sold at the rate for that service. The remaining 36 sheets showed foreign mail from January to August, 1946, illustrating all rate changes and the expedients adopted to cope with them.

Bohemia & Moravia

MAY 1945 - In the Olomouc Area

- W.A. Page -

Researching a cover recently shown to me has resulted in some interesting facts being revealed relating to the posts in the Olomouc region in 1945. The cover (fig.1) originated at Štěpánov u Olomouce - it is franked by USSR definitives; it is postmarked 22 May 1945. However, the canceller had been altered by the removal of the German legend: Štafanau bei Olmütz.



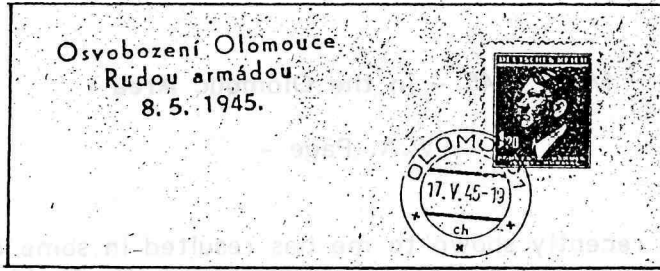
(fig.1) - Showing use of USSR defs; altered cancellers and registration label - addressed locally 1945

Olomouc and environs were liberated by the USSR Red Army on 8 May 1945 and in common with many other Allied liberated areas, immediate action was taken to postally commemorate their newly-won freedom and, at the same time, to try to eliminate the German influence. Where necessary, original German bilingual cancellers had the German legends removed or entirely withdrawn and replaced by new unilingual cancellers.

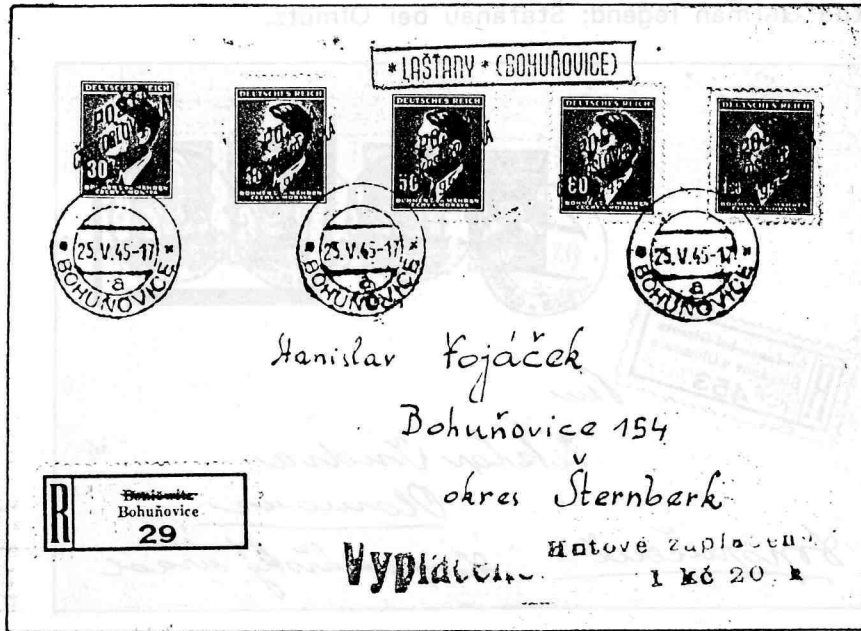
Similarly, in many towns stocks of stamps were suitably overprinted at the behest of postmasters, local national committees and philatelic clubs or other like-minded bodies. Olomouc was one such town that was quick to act.

First, a commemorative cachet was produced for use on mail but is also sometimes now found to have been used to cancel the stamps (fig.2). The cachet reads "Liberation Olomouc/Red Army/8.5.1945." The illustration further shows that Olomouc had been quick off the mark with the manufacture and use of a new canceller, dated 17.V.45.

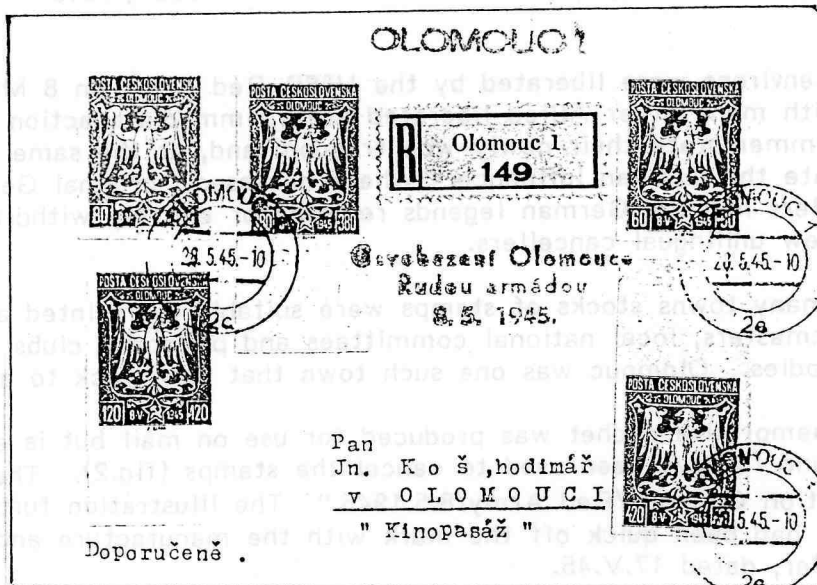
On 15 May 1945, at the instigation of the postmaster and local National Committee, five values of the Hitler Bohemia and Moravia definitives were overprinted "Pošta Československá 1945." The diagonally placed opts. were applied to >



(fig.2) 'Liberation' cachet and Olomouc



(fig.3) - see text

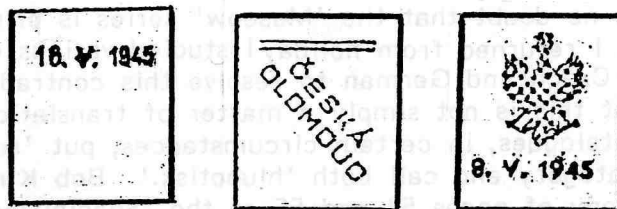


(fig.4) Olomouc 'Eagle' - Last day of Use 28.5.1945 (philatelic)

the 30h, 40h, 50h, 60h and 1k.20 values. A further (80h) value was also overprinted but not placed on sale. This overprinting was carried out by the Hana Printing Office. The stamps were sold in sets with a surcharge of 1k. and were used (philatelically) between 19 and 27 May 1945 (fig.3). Un-overprinted stamps also remained in use.

Not to be outdone, the local philatelic club became responsible for the production of a 'local stamp' issue, now well-known to collectors of local issues: the Premysl Eagle, drawn by artist - Aljo Beran. These five values were printed by the National Printing Office (Kramar & Prochazka). The series was used and sold by the three main Olomouc post offices from 25 to 28 May 1945 (fig.4).

Three other opts. on stamps of Bohemia & Moravia are known from the area but their origin is in doubt and they were almost certainly privately contrived (fig.5).



(fig.5) Three opts. with doubtful origins

In general, the small post offices in the outlying districts continued using their original handstamps with German legends removed and (fig.3) shows such an example. Here there were five 'Hitler Head' totalling 3k in value to cover postage/registration, all cancelled with a modified handstamp 'Bohuňovice' with the German part removed. Note the postal agency cachet 'Lašťany'.

Usage of local and o/printed stamps ceased by the end of May 1945 under an earlier directive and by which time the newly produced country stamps were in circulation.

Reverting to the use of USSR stamps (fig.1): it is thought likely that this cover could be philatelic because the addressee had been linked to other mail some ten years earlier; particularly with a 1st-Flight pc from Uzhorod to Bucharest. This had been returned from Bucharest 'Unknown' and back to the sender in Štěpánov - this same person. It is thought that the Bucharest address was a bogus one. Nevertheless, it would be useful to learn if other mail exists bearing USSR adhesives during the liberation period, even if, perhaps, of philatelic origin.

Bibliography:

- Juan S. Grau: Revolutionary Stamps and Overprints 1944-1945 (4th ed. rev.1989).
 Cyril Wackett: c.1987 - "A Study of Czechoslovakian 1945 Liberation Issues."
 R. Hillman, Senr.: Illustration (fig.1)
 Other Illustrations: The author. N.B. For further reading on the 'Premysl' eagle issue, see Cz. Specialist Vol. XXXVII, No.5 May 1975.

Printing

A MATTER OF DEFINITION

- Roy A. Dehn, FRPS,L. -



Just before I went away on holiday I enjoyed the interesting note on the **Moscow Issue** which appeared in the September issue of 'Czechout.' When I looked out the three sheets I have of this series, I was reminded that the series was printed **gravure**; it was therefore a surprise to read "Moscow Issue 1945/1946: **recess printed**." I wrote to our editor to challenge this. He replied that the Czechoslovak catalogues appeared to confirm the description 'recess' since they described the printing method as 'hlubotisk' and that 'hlubo' meant **deep** and 'tisk' meant printing ergo 'recess' ... but Alan did wonder!

There is no doubt that the 'Moscow' series is printed gravure, so when I returned from holiday I studied various catalogues - English, Czech and German to resolve this contradiction. I was surprised to discover that this is not simply a matter of translation but of category. The Czech catalogues, in certain circumstances, put 'recess' and 'gravure' in the same category and call both 'hlubotisk.' Bob Kingsley has kindly sent me a photocopy of pages 54 and 55 of the 'Specializeovaná Příručka Katalog' issued at the time of the 'Praga '78' Int. Exhibition. Here there is a translation of the methods of printing in German, English, French, Spanish and Russian. Under HT hlubotisk, I find the English 'races printing' a misprint for 'recess' but the French 'gravure'. Care should therefore be taken in writing-up a Czechoslovak collection, since a failure to understand the categories may convey philatelic rather than linguistic ignorance.

Since there may be one or two readers new to collecting, It may be helpful to briefly describe two of the English categories. **Recess printing**, called by the French 'taille douce', was the method used for the Penny black. To put it simply, lines are impressed into the copper plate and these fill with ink. It is the ink in the hollows which prints; the surface of the plate is wiped clean. Copper plates wore out quickly so they were later plated with steel and then the engraving was made on steel rather than copper. **Whatever the metal used for the plate, we call the method 'recess.'**

Gravure printing (Gibbons illogically calls this 'photo' though the camera is used in other methods of printing as well) is, admittedly, also a recess process. Here there are no **lines** but the plate is etched as if by acne with a regular surface of little pits. These are all of the same size but differ in depth. The deeper pits hold more ink than the shallower, so that they print more darkly. Although both methods are 'recess' the ink is usually raised and you can feel it with the tip of your finger; on a 'gravure' stamp the surface appears much flatter and the impression less sharp.

It also may be helpful to take up the **Novotný** specialized catalogue of 1970 and observe the words used to describe some of the Masaryk stamps issued in the 1920s. The 'Jubilee' issue of 1923 is obviously a recess printed stamp. The catalogue calls it simply 'hlubotisk' as it does the overprint applied in 1925 for the Olympic Congress; we should call both recess. >

In July 1925 three heller values were issued and they are quite different. The surface is flat and the colours rather flat - indeed, they can 'run' if left in watermark fluid. Novotný calls these stamps 'hlubotisk' too but does add (in brackets) 'neotypie.' This was the early Czech name for gravure; some trials of the Prague Castle ['Hradčany'] issue were made by this method. The Crown values of the 1925 series were printed recess and they too, are called 'hlubotisk' but this is qualified **z plochých desek** - from a flat plate. In 1926 new 'Masaryk' heller values joined the crown values and they too, were printed recess - but the process is now called **rotační ocelotisk** i.e. 'rotary Steel' print. Later in 1926, two landscape series were issued, both being printed recess. The smaller stamps, depicting castles, were printed, we are told, by **rotační ocelotisk** and the larger ones depicting Prague and the Tatra Mountains were printed **ocelotisk z plochých desek** i.e. steel printing from a flat plate. I hope this excursion into the catalogue demonstrates how different the Czech philosophy is: emphasising their concern for the **metal of the plate** and the type of machine (whether rotary or flat-bed) at the cost of a clear description of the **printing method**.

The methods of printing other than recess and gravure pose fewer problems. In the hope of being helpful, I give below a summary of the technical terms for printing, with a literal translation where it might help:

- 1. Kamenotisk (Stone-printing) Lithography, litho.
- 2. Ofset - Offset or Ofsetovy Tisk, offset litho.
- 3. Knihtisk (Book printing) Letterpress (sometimes called 'typograhpy' by older collectors. Dřevoryt woodcut is a method of letterpress illustration.
- 4. Ocelotisk (Steel printing) **always recess**. Rotační ocelotisk is rotary recess printing; ocelotisk z plochých is flat-bed printing.
- 5. Hlubotisk (Deep printing) Sometimes recess, especially if hlubotisk z plochých desek (Flat-bed deep-printing) - otherwise gravure, photo, photogravure. In this case it is now usually rotační i.e. rotary-gravure.
- 6. Jednobarvovy single colour; Vicebarbový multicoloured.
- 7. Obtisk - set-off.

The Czechs often combine methods. The first Masaryk issue was printed by letterpress with a litho underprinting (knihtisk s litografickým podtiskem) and a number of more recent issues cleverly combine recess and gravure **rotační ocelotisk kombinovaný s hlubotiskem**.

I have not mentioned 'Meditisk. This is copper-printing i.e. recess printing on copper. It was the method used to make the etchings which young men used to invite their girl-friends to come up and see and it was the method used to print the high value stamps of the Austrian series used to carry the 'Pošta Československá' overprint. I don't think it applies to any modern series.

Bibliography: Readers interested in philatelic printing may like to be reminded that the brilliant standard work is L.N. and M. Williams - **Fundamentals of Philately** published by the American Philatelic Society. A less extensive treatment is offered by R.A. Dehn in the issues of **Stamp Collecting** of 6, 13, 27 October and 3, 17 November and 29 December 1983.

* * * * *

Stamps.

A RECENT ISSUE - Protected Beetles

- A.J. Knight -



Date of Issue: 15.7.1992
 Values: 1, 2, 3 & 4 Kčs
 Des: Petr Johanis
 Eng: Miloš Ondráček



Thirty years have passed since Czechoslovak Post issued its colourful and very popular "Brouci" set of 'Beetles on Stamps' on 15.12.1962 - well, almost thirty years! Now another set, perhaps not as colourful but as equally an attractive set to whet the appetites of both professional and amateur nature-watchers, -lovers and philatelic thematic collectors too, has been produced to very high standards of design, accuracy of drawings and engravings. As was promised in our last edition, here is a little closer look at these attractive and important members of the animal kingdom.

First of all let us define exactly what a beetle is! Well, for starters, **all beetles are insects** and members of a vast group of animals scientifically known as **Arthropods**. This is, by far, the largest group in the animal kingdom, forming over 80% of a kingdom on this earth made up of many classes, of which insects are just one. This insect class is, in itself, very large and varied, embracing more than 30 **orders** - one order of which is **Coleoptera**, an order of insects having the anterior pair of wings converted into **elytra** (hard sheaths) which cover the other pair when not in use - **beetles**.

"Why 'protected' Beetles?"

We now know that beetles form part of the animal world known as insects and it is also known that insects have inhabited our planet for some 350m years, which is far longer than man, who first walked this earth some mere 1m years ago. When man first appeared, insects had behind them a long and varied evolution - something that continues to this day.

Many animals, including insects, were man's companions from the very beginning of his existence, a fact recorded by some ancient civilizations: remember the **scarabs** of the Egyptian pharaohs who regarded them as symbols of creation and creative power. Since time immemorial man has appreciated the importance of insects in the **evolutionary chain** of life on earth and they remain today an important part of life around us. As such, they must therefore merit our attention and protection - break that chain and calamity could ensue! Next time you come upon a forest clearing, stop and try to take a good look at the remarkable shapes, colourings and ornamentations of some insects - and then remember that they, too, are a very important part of the animal kingdom of which man himself is part. The animals of this planet - and their habitats - must be protected by man from man himself. This set of stamps is therefore a very small but very important contribution towards this goal and towards aims embodied in the series' title: "**Nature Protection - Protected Beetles**."

The Stamps:

Now we return to philately and a chance to look more closely at the lifestyles of the beetles shown in this most recent issue of beetles stamps. >

1 Kčs - Polyphylla fullo (Family: The Stag Beetles). With a length of some 25-36mm. this is the largest and most interestingly coloured of the European 'chafers'. The fan on the male's antenna is composed of seven long **lamellae**; the female's of only five short ones. Beetles are on the wing in July from dusk until late at night in pine woods and their vicinity. Eggs are laid in sandy soil at the edges of forests and vineyards. The larvae feed on roots of various grasses. Development takes 4 but sometimes 5 years. Distribution: Generally in central Europe and sometimes in southern England.

2 Kčs - Ergates faber (Family: Longhorn Beetles). 25-60mm. and found only locally in Europe - one of the largest known longhorn beetles. The stamp shows quite clearly the great length of the male's antennae; longer than the length of its body. On the wing from mid-evenings to late at night during late summer and early autumn. Found in damp woods where they also pass through the larval stage. The female lays some 150-300 eggs on pine and other coniferous stumps as well as in fresh and rotting wood. This species is becoming increasingly rarer, with rapid disappearance of suitable situations where it can undergo its several-years development undisturbed. Distribution: Europe, Middle East, Asia Minor and North Africa.

3 Kčs - Meloë violaceus Marsh (Family: The Oil Beetles). 10-32mm. having an unusually complicated development. Large numbers of eggs are laid, hatching into tiny larvae called **triungulins**. These eventually crawl up flowers to await the arrival of a solitary bee when they then are carried on the bee's back to its nest - otherwise they will die. Oil beetles are so-called because when alarmed, they exude an oily substance which stinks when on the human skin. This is actually the animal's blood and the action is known as reflex bleeding. This fluid will stain fingers and sometimes cause minor blistering of the skin. Distribution: Throughout Europe.

4 Kčs - Dytiscus latissimus (Family: Water Beetles). This is the largest member of the whole Family (length: 35-44mm.) and becoming increasingly rarer in many areas - almost extinct in some places. Although predacious, the adult beetle is **not a pest** of fish-fry as is sometimes believed and even stated in some literature. Larvae pupate beside water and the adults fly only at night. Distribution: Europe (except Great Britain) as far as southern Siberia. Its western limit is in France.

Bibliography

- E.F. Linssen: Beetles of The British Isles - 1959 ((F. Warne & Co. Ltd.)
 Dr. Jiří Zahradník: Field Guide to Insects (1977) - Artia, Praha.
 Dr. J. Toman and
 Dr. J. Felix: Field Guide to Plants and Animals (197?) - Artia, Praha.

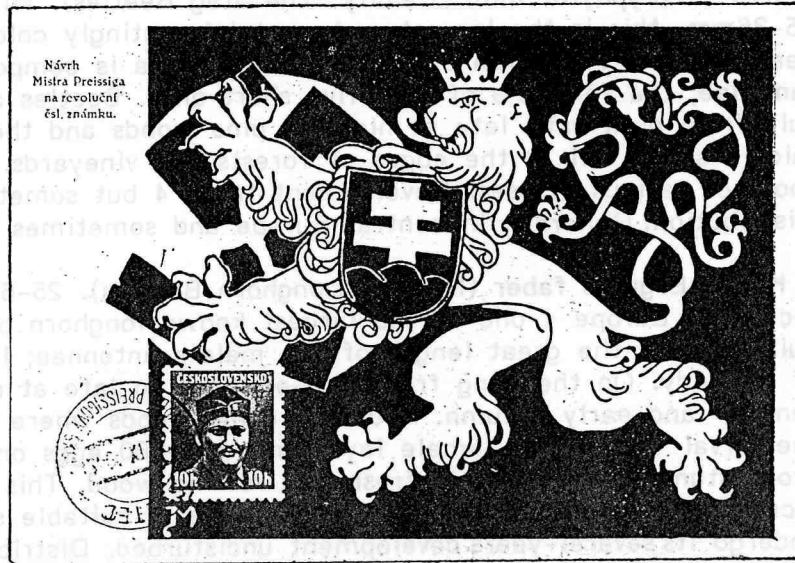
Artists.

VOJTĚCH PREISSIG

W. A. Page



(b)



(a)

Vojtěch Preissig, an outstanding Czech graphic artist is honoured on the 6 Kčs. value in the 22nd "Art on Stamps" series of stamps issued 17.11.1988. This depicts his coloured etching dating from 1903 and entitled "Bluebird." [Ed. note: The SG Catalogue refers to "Woman Watching Bird" but this is incorrect. The title in Czech is "Modráček" and the ARTIA press-release for this set refers to "Bluebird"]. There was however, much more to the man than just his artistic talents.

Preissig was born in Světcí u Biliny on 31.7.1873. It was here on 23.9.1945 that his memory was perpetuated with the opening of The Preissig School. This was also the occasion for the issue of a commemorative postcard depicting a Preissig design for a revolutionary stamp - "The Czech Lion Crushing the Nazi swastika". Additionally a special cancellation was in use for that day with the legend: " * Světec */23.IX.1945/Otevření Preissigovy Školy" - "Opening of Preissig's School".

In his younger days Vojtěch Preissig studied in Prague; one of his teachers being Alfons Mucha. The outbreak of World War 1 saw a change in his life when he became actively engaged in the struggle for independence and his artistic expertise was put to good use by producing cards with the theme of the Czechoslovak Army in France. Between the wars he spent some time teaching in America but with the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Nazis he soon joined in with the resistance movement. He was one of the initiators of the illegal magazine "V boj" (into battle) with his daughter Inka Bernášková. This and other patriotic activities soon led to her arrest and imprisonment in Berlin, where she died aged 38 years on 16 March 1942. Vojtěch was also arrested on 21 September 1940.

During the summer of 1940 Vojtěch worked on revolutionary stamp designs and an etiquette with the theme bearing on the 50th number of the illicit magazine. During this time he became friendly with an employee of the Ministry of Education who photographed his finished designs ready for etching. They were engraved by Hrácha at the firm of Šimáně in Prague. >



(c)

The plans were that his daughter Inka would take the finished plates (illegally) into Hungary and there to hand them over to the French Embassy for onward transmission to England, there to be printed after the end of the war.

Although the plates were finished shortly before V. Preissig's arrest, they remained undiscovered in his lodgings until after the war. When discovered by person(s) unknown they were used to print examples of the stamp designs which were then sold.

Vojtěch Preissig died June 11, 1944 in Dachau concentration camp.

Illustrations

- (a) Commemorative postcard (reduced) and special cancellation.
- (b) The Preissig "Art" stamp of 1988 (SG. 2955).
- (c) 1940 - The revolutionary stamp design and the propaganda etiquette - "HROM A PEKLO" - "Thunder and Hell".

Acknowledgments:

"Filatelie" 24-752/1985
 Dr. Miroslav Vostatek
 Vladimír Králiček (translator)

REMINDER - NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Members are gently reminded of the new Subscription Rates that take effect from **January 1 1993**. These are now £10 p.a. (U.K. only) and £12 overseas. If you have already sent the Treasurer your new subscription but at the old rate, will you please adjust this at your earliest convenience. In future, our Subscription Rate(s) will be reviewed **annually** at the AGMs, so please read the AGM reports for any new rates that may be applied in the future.

POST BANKING SERVICES

August 28 - 20 Kčs. Des: Ivan Strnad; Eng: Bedřich Housa. Printed by rotary-recess combined with four colour recess print in sheets of 50 pieces. Perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. Colours: red, violet, rose, green and yellow.

Design (23x40mm.): Allegoric portrait of two faces - old man and young girl complemented by two posthorns and the Czech text: '**Bankovní Služby Pošty**'.



The head is printed in an unusual manner - in five vertical strips of colour shades and not subtly mingled shades as might be expected.

FDC: Cover illustrated in blue with stylized dove/human face and right hand combined with posthorn. Same text as stamp. The cancellation is by Praha/28.8./1992 in black.

Printed by HÚP Praha Post Printing House for the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

FOLK ARCHITECTURE

August 28 - [re-issued vignette] Des: Jaroslav Lukavský; Eng: Miloš Pošusta (50h) Printed rotary-recess combined with three-colour recess print in sheets of 50 pieces. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. Colours: black, violet, blue and olive-green.



Design: (30x23mm.): Drawing of the Chapel in Chrudim in eastern Bohemia.

N.B. The design of this stamp is identical to the 3.60 Kčs. stamp issued 25.2.1971 (Čs. 1879/SG. 1941) but bears face value of 0.50 Kčs. FDC: No information supplied to date. Printed by HÚP Praha Post Printing House.

Although the stamp shows the engraver's name of Goldschmeid who engraved the original 3.60 Kčs. stamp, the engraver of the 50h denomination is shown above.

200th ANNIVERSARY: SLOVAK LEARNED SOCIETY

October 6 - 5 Kčs. Des: Jozef Baláž; Eng: Martin Činovský. Design size: 40x23mm.



Printing: Rotary recess in brown, combined with three-colour recess print in ochre, yellow and blue in sheets x 50 pcs. Perf. $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$

Design: Images of the two founders of the Society: Anton Bernolák and Juraj Fándly with their respective facsimile signatures (in Latin style) - Antonius Bernolák and Georgius Fándly. Also shown is the oldest known coat-of arms of TRNAVA. It was here that The Society of Scholars ("Učené tovarišstvo"), the foremost scientific and literary association; of the Slovaks was founded. The design is completed by the Slovak inscription: "200. Výročie Slovenského Učeného Tovaríštva".>

> cont:-

FDC: - Symbolic design for TRNAVA/6.10.1992 comprises the postmark.

The illustration on cover is the engraver's transcription of the frontispiece of J. Fandly's work: "The Third Aspect of Home and Farming Householder" of 1800. The text: eCCe paLLaDeM/per hanC DesCenDent DoCta opera. ex Parnasso" creates two chronograms of "1800". The design is completed in red-brown with "Československá Pošta".

Ed. note: Heraldry enthusiasts can find a more modern TRNAVA coat-of-arms on the 50h stamp of 5.2.1985 (SG. 2767 - CS. 2681) in the 5th series of "Cz. Town Arms".

CITY ARCHITECTURE - 1st issue

October 19 - 3 Kčs. (additional to published programme): Des./Eng: Josef Herčík.



Design (23x19mm): ČESKÝ KRUMLOV CASTLE and environs. Printing: Sheets x 50 stamps by rotary-recess combined with monocolour recess print. (orange). Perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$

Colours: Black and Orange.

Inscription - Český Krumlov

The press release describes this stamp as being the first of a new set. **FDC:** No information given.

ART ON STAMPS



November 2 - 3 values. Engravers: Josef Herčík (6 Kčs); Bedřich Housa. Printing: Multi-coloured flat-plate recess (4 stamps per sheet) perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$. Design sizes: 40x50mm (vert.) - 50x40mm (horiz.)

6 Kčs - **Koloman Sokol (*1902)** Design shows the engraver's interpretation of the artist's woodcut "The Old Raftsman" (1934) from the collection of the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava. Colours: Black, ochre and brown. See also (1971 "Graphic Art") SG1933.

7 Kčs - **Georges Braque (1882-1963)** Design depicts the engraver's transcription of the artist's signed picture "Still Life with Bunch of Grapes" (1922) from the National Gallery in Prague. Colours: Black, ochre, blue, brown and green. >

NEW ISSUES cont...

8 Kčs - Toyen (1902-1980) Engraver's transcription of the artist's picture : "The Abandoned Den" (1937) showing a woman's 'empty' bodice on cliff face. Colours: Black, grey, blue and light-blue. Original in Prague's National Gallery.

FDCs:

One issued for each stamp:-

6 Kčs - Bratislava cancel depicting a reed-player. The cover design - in colours black and rose - illustrates a charcoal and chalk drawing of "Mother With Child" (1940).

7 Kčs - Praha cancel by commemorative pmk depicting the large beaker shown in the stamp design and the artist's initials: G.B. The cover illustration (in black) is entitled "Still Life With Apples" and again, includes the beaker and artist's "G.B." initials. Note too, the tiny initials of the engraver, Bedřich Housa. (H.B.) right-corner. The drawing is in blackish-brown colour. Drawing in pencil/charcoal.

8 Kčs - Praha cancel incorporating the name 'Toyen' below a line sketch by the artist. The cover design in black is surrealist and simply entitled "Komposition." Close examination reveals a woman's face, legs and shoes and the faint suggestion of a man's features. Note the artist's and engraver's initials.

CHRISTMAS

November 9 - 2Kčs. Des: Karel Franta; Eng: Bedřich Housa. Printed rotary-recess, combined with four-colour recess print in sheets x 100 pieces. P.11½x11½.



Design: Composition of two shepherds - one with medieval harp and the other with horn. All over an organ and Christmas carp. Entire is surmounted by Bethlehem's Star. Size: 19x23mm.

Colours: Dk. brown, rose, yellow, red and blue.

Other than the value and Československo, there is no inscription.

FDC: - 16.2 x 11.4cm. (folded). Commemorative PRAHA pmk shows candle in in candle-holder with 'heart' flame dated 9.11.1992. Carries two stamps for basic postage.

The illustration in ochre, blue and brown depicts a singing angel under the star of Bethlehem over the five front pipes of organ allegory composed of two blue birds. The design is printed flat-plate recess.

This is Czechoslovakia's third special Christmas issue, the others were for the years 1990 and 1991.

DAY OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS

Although scheduled for December 18th., no information to hand up to printing deadline. We hope to publish these details in our next issue in March 1993.

- End of Volume 10 -