



# CZECHOUT

Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

- 1953-1993 -

March 1993

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No 70 Vol.11 No.1  
Copyright 1993 CPSGB

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



Vol. 11/1	<u>Contents</u>	March 1993
	Editorial	1
	Society News and Notices	2
	Is this a First Day of Issue Mark?	6
	Philately and History (Pt.1)	7
	The Typography of Masaryk's 70th Birthday	15
	New Issues (Czech)	18
	New Issues (Slovak)	20
	Provisional Czech and Slovak 1993 issues	22

## EDITORIAL

The territorial division of Czechoslovakia into separate Czech and Slovak states was something we hoped would never happen - but it did. Nevertheless, our Society will continue to serve collectors as a focus on Czech-Slovak philately as we have done for the past forty years; this is your Committee's feeling at present. However, we welcome members' initiatives: constructive suggestions and ideas for the future.

These changes have had an immediate effect on this journal insofar as this particular edition is concerned. Having to now deal with **two** countries, it has been necessary to include additional and important information herein. This has meant a re-scheduling of proposed contents; we apologise to contributors whose works we must postpone until our next issue. It is felt better to inform our members of all relevant information as soon as possible, hence a number of pages herein are devoted to these facts. The Editor asks for your understanding please. At the same time however, it is hoped that you will all find something to your particular taste within these pages.

CPSGB

SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICESMeeting on Saturday, January 16th 1993

Immediately prior to the general meeting, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held in accordance with the Agenda issued with our last edition. Items 1 and 2 on that Agenda were unanimously agreed as was the recommended alterations to Constitution Rule No. 12.

The Chairman, Mr. A.J.Knight, welcomed 25 members and one visitor to the ordinary meeting, especially welcoming a new member, Mr. G. Slater.

Two Applications for Membership were accepted by the meeting. They were  
 Paul Johnstone, Chorlton, Manchester  
 Michael Vojta, Vienna, Austria

The Librarian, Mrs. Lindy Knight announced that the American publication "Czechoslovak Heritage" had recently closed down and no further issues are to be made. [N.B. Any enquiries should be addressed to the Publisher at P.O. Box 159, Berwyn, Illinois 60402. United States - and not to this Society].

Following the short business session, members were entertained by Ron Hollis who presented a fine display of almost every "Bohemia & Moravia" special postmark and commemorative sheet issued during the German Occupation period of World War 2. The collection is near to 100% complete and this was recognized in Michael Elliott's fine speech during his Vote of Thanks on behalf of all of us present. A very unusual yet enjoyable display of philatelic material that represented many years of hard 'collecting' by Mr. Hollis.

NEXT MEETING

You are reminded that this will be our **Annual Competitions Event** on Saturday, March 13th at 2.30pm. The Competitions will be for the George Pearson Shield ( 16 sheets of any Czechoslovak philatelic material from 1918 to 15.3.1939 ). For the Francis Pettitt Salver: 12 sheets of Czechoslovak philatelic material from May 1945 onwards. Committee will meet earlier - at 11.30am.

.....

Special Announcements

- 1 - Despite the changes in Czechoslovakia, Committee announces that it recommends no change in the Society's name/title for the time being. The matter will be kept under review for the foreseeable future but any recommended changes will be brought to the Society through the proper channels.
2. - **Annual Subscriptions:** These are now due and should be made **as soon as possible** to Mr. R. Kingsley, Hon. Treasurer. Rates are £10 (U.K.) and £12 outside the U.K. >

.....

### Our 40th Anniversary year

You will already be aware that we celebrate our 40th Anniversary this year and, in October, we shall be holding a special Dinner to mark the occasions. This will be additional to our normal Summer Dinner. This special dinner will follow our normal general meeting in the afternoon when a special display of members' material will be showing. More details in our next edition. So! **remember the date, please:** Saturday October 16th.

.....

### Summer Meeting - June 19th.

We shall again be visiting Shoreham-by-Sea Community Centre by invitation of Yvonne and Fred Gren. This will be followed by our Annual Dinner. Members interested in attending both functions are asked to kindly advise our Hon. Sec. Mrs. Yvonne Gren at the earliest possible date, please. This year there will be a requirement for a £3 deposit against the cost of the meal per person. Will you please ensure Mrs. Gren is notified of your intentions as early as you can.

.....

### Proposed Visit to Prague Post Office and Museum

Provided that there is a good and viable response, it may be possible for us to organize a Society trip to Prague during 1994 with the intention of visiting the P.O. printing plant and the Postal Museum. This is an early advice because it is essential that the trip be viable in numbers travelling in the group(s) and therefore, your early interest is sought.

Any member wishing to join such a party is asked to inform the Hon. secretary as soon as possible please, even if, at the moment, you are only **interested** in the suggestion. If you can also include the number of companions you would like to accompany you, please include them in your figures. The earlier we can propose numbers to Prague, the easier for all concerned.

.....

### Anniversary edition - September 1993

You are invited by the Editor of this journal to submit, in good time, items that you would like to be included in support of our celebrations. Maybe you have recalled some interesting anecdotes from those early days in the 1950s.

We would like to publish them with your permission for the benefit of hindsight for our older members and as matters of interest for our younger friends. They could well become archival material for 'the records' of the future! Just send in your thoughts and, if necessary, the editor will tidy them up for publication.>

### PHILITEX 92 (New York)

In our last issue, we drew members' attention to the two Silver-Bronze awards gained by our Society publications entries at this International Philatelic Literature Exhibition last Oct.-November. We have since received a copy of the Exhibition's Palmares recording all award winners.

We are proud to inform you that our member, Gary Ryan, RDP,FRPS,L. was awarded **Large Gold with Special Prize - Grand Award (Best in Section)** for his entry **Cancellations of Hungarian Post Offices on the First Issue of Hungary 1867-1871**. We tender Gary our congratulations on his distinguished success in this, the first North American Philatelic Literature International.

We also are pleased to record another 'Silver Bronze' award gained by our own Michael Birks who entered his "The Central American Newsletter." Finally, we would like to mention the Silver Award made to Mirko Vondra, current editor of "The Czechoslovak Specialist" - journal of our friends in the Society of Czechoslovak Philately (USA); Well done!

This international was under the auspices of the International Philatelic Federation. It was sponsored by The Collectors Club (New York) and the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA). The Great Britain Judge for this occasion was Mr. Francis L. Kiddle.

.....

### EUROFILEX 1992 - Budapest

Over 120 exhibitors from some 20 countries produced a high quality display in over 500 frames. The Jury, chaired by Dr. Alan Huggins (UK) included our member Paul Jensen, of Oslo, Norway. Another member, Mervyn Benford gained a 'Silver' in the Literature Class. Gary Ryan (see above) contributed with his exhibit in the Court of Honour. [Information courtesy "Stamp Lover"]

.....

### Congratulations!

To our member Chris Cordes on attaining a Vermeil award at the National Exhibition in Pretoria (RSA) October 1992 for his thematic exhibit "Waterfalls Around the World."

.....

### Black Mark!

To "The Philatelic Exporter" (UK trade journal) for describing the value of the Czech Republic's first stamp as being of 'three kopecks.' The Czech Republic (and the former Czechoslovak Republic) never was, is not and never likely to be - **Russian!** >

.....

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN METER MARKS?

This philatelic angle rarely comes to light these days insofar as Czechoslovakia is concerned. We know of a member who is very keen on this facet of Czechoslovak philately - and he would like to hear from you if you are like-minded:

Stig Asklund, Box 5058, S-14105 HUDDINGE 5, Sweden wishes to obtain any Czechoslovakian meter mark covers and cards - even cut-outs - from between 1926 and 1939 (also Bohemia and Moravia 1939-45). Single items, collections, everything is of interest. We hope that our Swedish member will be able to later report a healthy response to his appeal.

If any member interested would like to compose an article on this subject for this journal, the Editor will be glad to hear from you.

.....

### CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLICS - Update:

It will not be the policy of this journal to indulge in political dialogue concerning the former Czechoslovak Federative Republic nor the recently formed Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic; that is not our purpose. However, we feel we should keep members informed of some main events in those two parts of the divided former Czechoslovakia both for their own information and for the archival records of our Society. We bring members up-to-date with the following news items as they have appeared since our last issue:

The Czechoslovak Federative Republic ceased to exist on December 31st 1992. The Czech and Slovak Republics came into existence on January 1st 1993.

January 27th 1993: Václav Havel, the former dissident, playwright and President of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic was elected the first President of the newly-formed Czech Republic. Mr. Havel, 56, took his Oath of Office on February 2nd 1993, six months after he had resigned as President of the former ČSFR.

February 8th 1993: **Currencies:-** The Czech and Slovak Republics began using separate currencies following the division between them of the former ČSFR. It was agreed to maintain the Czechoslovak crown for an unspecified period. Both currencies began at parity. Banknotes in both countries have been stamped with distinctive new markings. The maximum initial holding in the Czech Republic was 4000 koruny (£91).

February 11th 1993: It was announced in the Court Circular from Buckingham Palace, London that - His Excellency Mr. Ján Viličkovský was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Slovakia to the Court of St. James's. His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy:- Mr. Miloš Ruppeltdt (2nd Secretary) and Mr. Vladimír Devečka (Commercial Attache). >

February 15th 1993: **Bratislav** (Reuter) - The Slovak parliament elected the economist Michal Kováč, a close ally of the new Prime Minister, Vladimir Mečiar, as the Slovak Republic's first state President. Mr. Kováč (62) was the only candidate. He is deputy-chairman of the dominant Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, the party whose campaign for Slovak independence hastened Czechoslovakia's partition into separate Czech and Slovak states.

#### LONDON EMBASSIES:

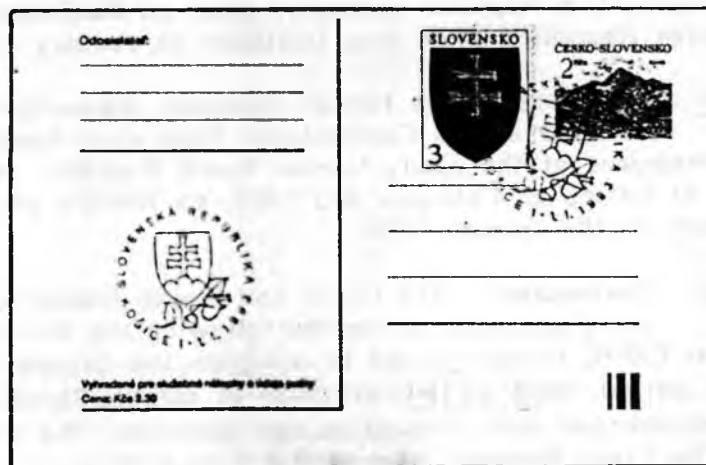
Embassy of the Czech Republic, 26 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QY. (Tel. 071-727-4918).

Embassy of the Slovak Republic, 25 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QY. (Tel. 071-243-0803).

#### A member appeals ....

Mr. Roy A. Dehn says "I was pleased to get in the recent Auction a little group of Russian stamps with forged "Czech Post" (in Russian cyrillic) overprint. If any member has an example of the **10 kopek with GENUINE overprint**, I would like a photocopy for my album page." If any member can assist Roy, he can be reached at 6 Ninham's Court, Norwich, Norfolk. (Tel. 0603-621736)

#### IS THIS A FIRST DAY OF ISSUE MARK?



This is a Slovakian printed ps card with imprinted 2Kčs ppi of Kriváň Peak in the High Tatras. Note the hyphen in **Česko-Slovenso** above the design. However, the main question here is why **Košice 1** Post Office cancelled the new 3Kčs Slovak stamp/ppi with a special cancellation dated 1.1.1993?

The **official day of issue** was 2.1.1993 as is proven by a copy of the official FDC for the stamp shown elsewhere in this edition of our journal. How come that Košice 1 apparently 'jumped the gun?'

**PHILATELY AND HISTORY**

(Part 1)

-by-

Dr. phil. Walter J. Rauch

This paper was offered to this journal via the good offices of our Publications Officer, Mr. W.A. Page, FRPS,L. The author offers his work to our members and readers in the hope that his views on History and Postal Documents might be examined more closely than is, perhaps, the general case today. It is important to realise at the outset that Philately and History is not of necessity Postal History. This paper also has appeared in the Czechoslovak Specialist (USA) - Vol.53/2 in 1991 and it is this English translation by Messrs. J.L.Klein & G.Rewwer that the author has sent to us. We are happy to acknowledge these sources. This work is basically a commentary for philatelic judges at all levels.

---

**Foreword**

**Postal History** pays attention to the transmitted message via the institution called 'The Post' and describes how, in which manner and by what technical means the postal services have been carried out over the years.

**History - reflected by postal documents** shows the **preconditions** for the establishment, existence and demise of an independent communications network. Such "documents" (marked by addresses, cancellations, censor signs, additional labels) provide answers to the question concerning why **lines of communication** were set up or interrupted in often very remote territories, during relatively short transitional periods and with special interest for certain groups of people - and their exclusion.

**Current Rules**

Current rules governing postal history exhibits overlook certain fundamentals. Let us examine these in the light of what the rules should be:

**Definition of problems**

The important areas of endeavour for the serious collector are:

- a - Forms and ways of communication.
- b - Preconditions and possibilities for participating in this communication.
- c - Contents of the communication.

If we trace the technical side of postal service from the establishment of routes of delivery to the electronic distribution system; from the Citto Citto marking via pre-printed forms to perforation differences and various kinds of glue used on slips of paper called 'postage stamps' to indicate payment of mailing fees, we are examining the developmental phases of progression of postal services, i.e. the 'postal system.' In order to document the 'history of postal service' in philatelic terms, it is necessary to trace the forms, changes and stages of postal service from posting to delivery of the message or reply and to categorize them according to specific criteria. >

When philatelists speak of 'postal history' they use the term in various ways. Most of us mean that to relate to the development of the institution known as **Mail**. However, if we refer to the 'Postwesen' [postal service] as being the nature, form and essence of transmitting messages, we have to look right back to the 17c. and even earlier times - e.g. letters from emperors or even the exchange of letters between Egyptian and Hethiter kings. The broader definition 'postwesen' also encompasses telephone code systems, picture transmissions, telegrams, telex, fax (facsimile) machines and future high-tech advances applicable in communicating data.

At certain times, people in power representing a certain faith or governing authority wanted to be well-informed about events and they paid dearly for regular transmission of news (courier routes). The Von Taxis, by direction of their rulers and in their own lucrative self-interest, achieved an extraordinary organization level. Finally, these communication networks were gradually taken over by State governments and the **Postal Institution** retreated into the shadows of history. We are concerned about the motivating forces behind those great historical events.

The writer believes that it would be helpful if the present synonymously-used meaning of 'postal history' would apply only to operational aspects of the postal organisation. An explanation should be given for the setting-up, the maintenance and termination of new, specific postal services under various rulers. Surely it cannot be attributed to a language problem when Czechoslovak specialists who participated in and contributed greatly in developing the F.I.P. rules speak of 'postal-historical studies' (1). The hyphen in 'postal-historical' can be interpreted as a sign of displeasure in the referenced article.

This explanation includes such reasons as existing power struggles (prisoners of war and concentration camp mail), anticipation of new sovereignties (revolts, plebiscites, legion mail), territorial transition periods (change of borders and names of towns) as well as political decisions that changed governments (Free City of Danzig; autonomous territory of the National Council of Slovakia).

The author's belief is based on the following:

1. Postal Management History encompasses the management, operation, handling of message data transmission and describes how (in which manner) and by what technical means the postal service has been carried out over the years.
2. History reflected by postal documents shows the preconditions for the establishment, existence and demise of an independent postal service as a communications network (2). These documents provide answers to the question of why, during times of temporary upheaval, lines of communication were often set up or interrupted in very small territories and during relatively short periods and to the exclusion of certain groups of people. Binding administrative actions do not provide such explanations. We are dealing with historical events and/or actions initiated by different ruling classes which effected the postal service.
3. Communication contents: What do we mean by 'contents' and how do we categorize contents of postal documents regarding 'postwesen' versus 'History in the light of postal documents'? Under philatelic criteria by using common sense, of course! >



With reference to points (1) and (2) above, these examples might serve to clarify them:

A Decree by the Emperor concerning relay courier express lines (Stafettenpost) or a tax table applicable to certain services, printed and issued by Bohemia (Böhmisches Landesgubernium) belong to the 'Postwesen' or 'Postal Service' category. As for how to classify official postcards with imprinted stamps, the following rules for exhibiting should apply: If one collects them according to types or different kinds of paper, they belong to entires (postal stationery). Picture postcards however, can find a legitimate place in historical documentations (propagands cards) - or in thematic exhibitions (tourism).

The first two special cancellations of the Austrian Empire were used in the Kingdom of Bohemia for correspondence by the Reichstag that assembled at Kroměříž (Kremsier) in Moravia (fig.1). They can embellish a collection of old Classic Austria if shown on a pre-philatelic cover or they can be shown as stages in the development of cancellation postmarks - or they can document a phase of the 1848 constitutional revolution if shown as 'postal history.'

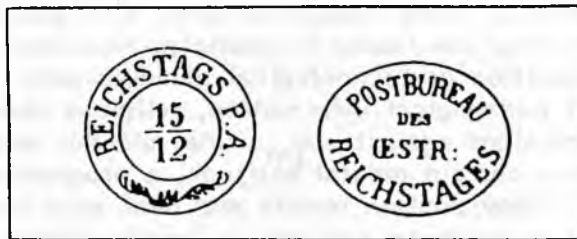


Fig. 1

This illustrates how necessary it is to revise many misconceptions stemming from a tradition followed by eager, meritorious collectors of old letters for a long time. As one authority recently wrote: "A collection of postal history is not a collection of stamp cancellations." This is a negative statement that could be compared with "no postal history exists without documenting the postal routes and applicable rates." Does the development of cancellation types and the periods of their use in specific postal areas not belong to the "postwesen" (postal history)? Might it be possible that the above author's objection to the special status of "marcophily" within the directives for judges of postal history (4) can be considered obsolete or even void? This makes for a lively controversy to which a clear answer has been given pointing to serious corrections that should now occupy the F.I.P. expert Committee's time.

Postage stamps are like receipts which evidence that payment has been made for certain services, rendered by postal institutions of independent territories (Post-Hoheitsgebiete). Stamps are not always issued based on postal necessity. Many local issues appeared on instructions of military authority (e.g. German o/pts in the USSR in 1941) or by party leaders (certain stamps of the Sudetenland). Stamps were even issued by 'interested' philatelists (as in March 1939 with the o/pts of Moravska Ostrava which belonged to the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia. Of these, a scarce second issue appeared on military instructions). We can also classify the so-called "Liberation Overprints" of the Czechoslovak Republic that appeared in 1945 in this grouping. >

To signify their country of origin, stamps with national emblems or coats of arms, or with portraits of heads of states were used over a long period. Eventually postal authorities realized that graphic artistry vastly enhanced their beauty and appearance - along with their propaganda effect. Consequently stamps began to reflect the socio-political status of a country and the historical importance of a certain period (fig.2).



fig.2

Some philatelists are interested in the postal-technical part of the 'receipt', i.e. stamp's face value, paperquality, colour, perforation. Others might be interested in its subject matter or the symbolic force of its design and format. With the exception of permanent series of stamps [definitives] with their denominations based on postal rates valid at time of issue, stamps are often issued to celebrate (commemorate) certain memorable events. They serve to remind us of historical dates or show maps/landmarks with geographical or ecological themes. Often they are issued to publicize economic strength, art appreciation, status of education or technological achievements. They can also convey the pros & cons of pedagogical information, religious and social involvement and can promote campaigns against war, crime, alcohol and drug abuse. In that respect they show a certain mental attitude, a programme, a struggle for or against something. They contain motifs and deal with certain themes. They can illustrate, reject or promote and can be totally biased. This not only refers to postal services under a state's authority but also concerns the investigative course that collectors follow in amassing their material. Just as the era of discovery spawned the birth of colonialism; just as the Napoleonic wars heralded the subjugation of Europe; just as the beginning of industrialization provoked the dawn of capitalism - so the official character of postage stamps reflects the clash between communication, politics and interpretation of history. It is, therefore, this clash that has stimulated collectors' curiosity and led to their interest in postal history and its background.

#### How and what to show

The first problem is how to handle the above subjects within the chosen time frame and subject interpretation. The answer is either purely according to the subject or according to postal historical documentations. One might even follow both paths. After determining the differences between the postal service and its corresponding political authorities, there is a second problem to be solved, namely: how to organize or arrange socio-political themes if one keeps in mind the valid regulations for philatelic exhibits and the existing categories for evaluating subjects.

To organize a postal history exhibit, historical events of long ago should be shown thematically. Only topical philatelists can cover themes and events concerning Slavs in Central Europe before the 17c. since there is no philatelic material per se of The Great Moravian Empire, the Wends or the Elb Slavs. Only symbols and images pictured on stamps, such as excavation (Cyril and >

Methodius allegory on hymn-blocks) can be shown. On the other hand, a problem for the judge to decide is whether a postal historical document of the Kingdom of Bohemia can be presented with a maximum-card from Luxembourg showing King John the Blind (Jan Luxemburský) as a starting point. From a literal interpretation, this is an open question.

The examples I give refer to Czechoslovakia as part-successor to the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. This can be explained by the fact that I base my article on my own exhibits of the Kingdom of Bohemia, Upper Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Similar comparisons can be made to quite a number of other philatelic subjects such as colonialization and independence of the U.S., the succession rulers of Scandinavia or of Palestine/Israel, etc.

My special field of interest - the Carpatho-Ukraine - can be presented either as a territorial collection or in a postal-historical manner. If presented in the latter form, you should show the changing political scenes with the following sovereignties between 1918 and 1946: Kingdom/Republic of Hungary, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, ČSSR, Hungary and finally, USSR. The Thirty-Years War can also be shown both thematically and post-historically as a religious and political conflict of power. This can be done by means of military documents of the Protestant Union and the Catholic League through the Imperial Spanish, Swedish and other armies.

This brings me to the purpose of this article: The F.I.P [Federation Internationale de Philatelie - International Philatelic Federation] regulations give little attention to strict categorization ..... but we are still in the evaluation phase. From experience we know that to change a law takes much more time than to propose and pass that law. Since the F.I.P. rules are already there, we must now consider what simple improvements can be made on behalf of collectors and exhibitors. We can start out by mentioning F.I.P. rules and special regulations governing the evaluation of exhibits of postal history and thematic items.

The contents of postal history exhibits are heterogenous. Based upon frequently voiced opinions as well as my past experience, they can be separated into two different groupings:

#### History of postal management, operation and service

Here, philately deals with the technical issues relating to postal routes, the equipment and service. This includes:

- a. Pre-philatelic postal services in their broadest sense, and
- b. Development of postal services including private or local town postal services and postal stationery/entires.

There are restrictive elements which impede and, in some instances, actually prevent the transmission of communications. Purists tend to ignore these elements. The reasons for establishing routes of communication are stated here. These reasons must include the pre-history of the founding of "Post". In what other category could one possibly fit such documents as those from the Thurn and Taxis archives or correspondence from the Postmaster-General and Secretary of State of the German Reich von Stephan? These date back to early times when attempts were made to form an international postal union. In order to explore its existence, one can neither ignore nor neglect its origin. As for excluding entires (Ganzsachen) from the postal service section, that seems to >

be totally illogical. If the judging criteria is to be "used/unused" only, then entire belong in the "unused" section just as mint stamps belong to territorial philately and "used" stamps to postal history where only fully cancelled stamps could find a place (see Article 3.1.5. Rules of Evaluation).

- c. Postal tariffs, including currency exchanges.
- d. Means of postal delivery, including messenger mail, express mail, telegrams, consignments sent by coach (Führmannsbrieft) as predecessors of parcel post, delivery by truck, car, railway, ship, air, telegraphy, radio messages, etc.
- e. Cancellations (Marcophily) including pre-cancellation and automation.
- f. Official Service mail. There is a question whether classifying this in the second grouping would not be desirable. Such mail can mostly be seen as a way of communicating between governmental departments (administrative offices, financial branches, police, etc.). It also comprises mail from cultural and religious bodies which enjoy freedom from, or reduction of postal charges. (fig.3).



(fig.3) Official (Ecclesiastical) Austrian pc (free of postage) 11.IX.(19)14 from The Parish Office of St. Gothard, Bubentš/Bubentsch (bi-lingual German/Czech) to the Parish Office in Ounetich, Roztoky, Prague. N.B. the official parish h/stamp to qualify the pc for postage-free service in the mails.

## 2. History as reflected in postal documents

It deals with the decline of older political powers and the rise of new ones as well as changes in sovereignties and interference with internal postal authority. It deals with the presentation - in the light of postal documents - of the authoritative influence in the communication systems. This could be divided into:

- a. History of state and country; as an example: Ireland, as a stamp-issuing country, has existed only since 1922. It comprises the Republic and belongs to 'territorial collections'. The documentation of the island's partitioning through philatelic material of different developments of the two territories [Irish Republic and Northern Ireland], of the respective political >

dependencies, etc. is a matter of historical interpretation. For instance, a cultural-historical study of the Gallic settlers, the influence of Irish monks and their missionary work in Western Europe, the impact of religious wars since the time of Oliver Cromwell and the English nobility, the special attitude, the mindset and the cultural achievements of the island inhabitants and their reasons for emigrating, - all can only be presented in a thematic exhibit.

b. History of regions and towns. Examples of these are Heligoland, Malta, Upper Silesia as well as Danzig and Liechtenstein. What they have in common is that they belonged to and were ruled by other countries. Based on their size, they correspond to the poorly-defined evaluation factor "Significance" within the framework of a collector's exhibit. That is a separate subject that cannot be treated here. It might be noted that the smaller the regions, the more difficult it is to specialize and obtain the **necessary** philatelic material. This grouping includes the so-called "local collections." It is an all-encompassing subject which is frequently treated in a step-motherly fashion. Prof. Brühl (3) does not agree that they are part of 'postal history' but adds that it must depend on the definition of 'local' and its significance as a capital city, world harbour - or whatever! The saying goes: "Hic Rhodus, hic salta" which means that its significance has to be proved.

c. Changes of borders and boundary lines. This is a symptom of a state's founding, its dissolution or disintegration (e.g. the step-by-step separation of Upper Hungary and the incorporation of Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine into [the recently divided] Czechoslovakia). The need for historical documentary presentation becomes even clearer when the name of Teschen (Těšín) is mentioned. Between 1918 and 1920, there were at least seven armistice agreements and/or demarcation lines for this area. (If a collector concentrates on types, perforation, colour and overprint differences - as in "S.O.", one speaks of a territorial collection, though here limited to a rather small area).

It was not until the Allied Ambassadors Conference at Spa, that the final borderline was established (6) - (fig.4). Old Austrian, Czechoslovak and Polish plebiscite frankings and cancellations can be found for that three-year period. Then from 1938 to 1945, the same "Teschen/Olsaland" territory changed hands from Czechoslovakia to Polish -to German and then back to Czechoslovakian.

d. Military and field mail (courier service). Often a distinction between these two is difficult since military campaigns and war always mean turmoil. During such times, a lawfully installed, judicially based government does not exist. Victories are often but fleeting moments; rules, directions, norms take on a rather temporary character. As far as admissible postal material is concerned, a problem common to all historical-documentary specialist fields must be mentioned. The efforts of some enthusiasts to require that factors such as place, location, time and person on specific exhibits match only those on corresponding exhibits is commendable **but practically unacceptable**. For example:  
 Q. Should the following items be included in historical-regional collections: Scarce exhibit material valid beyond national borders in custom-exempt enclaves such as the little Walser Valley in the German-Austrian Alpine border region, or exhibits from post offices on foreign territory not just emanating from trade agreements (e.g. Prussian P.O. in Venlo, the Netherlands, Thurn & Taxis, Post Office "Asch.R.4" in Western Bohemia, Gran Chaco exhibits)? Here, the factor 'place' (and/or 'territory') hardly corresponds to highly limited judging rules. >

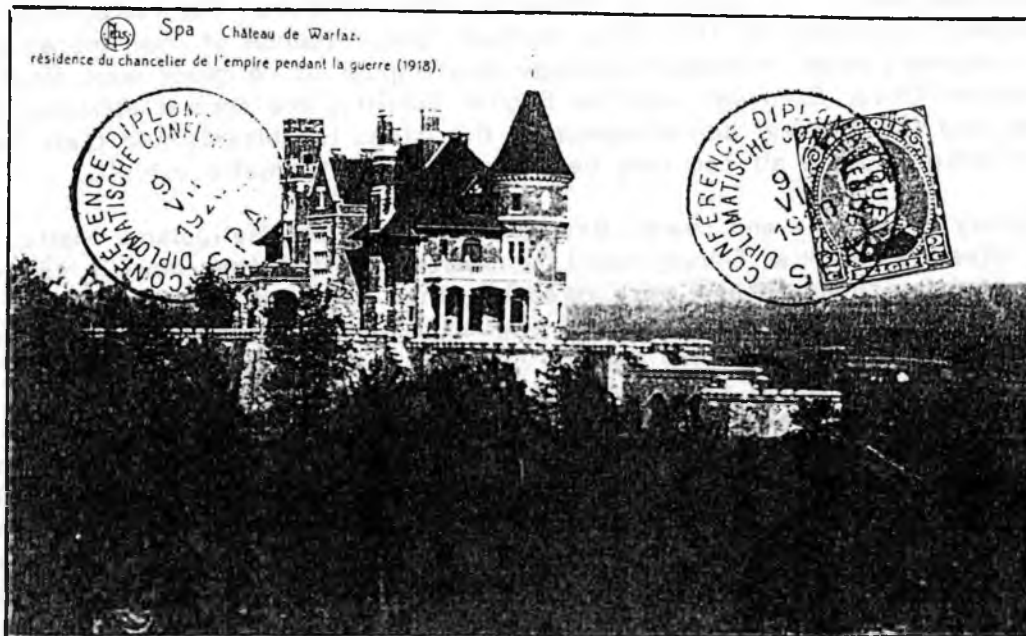


Fig.4: Spa (Chateau de Warfaz) Liege, Belgium. Maximum card bearing a 2c. Belgian stamp and two official diplomatic conference h/stamps dated 9.VII.1920. (Note: this was the original 'spa'- A health resort).

During WW1, a Czechoslovak Legion was formed under French command. It was recognized by the Allies; though lacking diplomatic acceptance as a political arm of a [then] non-existent Czech & Slovak Republic. Without this legal international prerequisite, correspondence from the Legion in France should belong to a category "France - Fieldpost of Volunteers in French Service", unless proper rules take into account the historical connotations. However, the time factor mentioned in the rules has not yet been met as far as Cz. military mail/documents are concerned. Also to be reckoned with are autographs from rulers, commanders, politicians or captured soldiers.

Additionally, we are dealing with portraits on stamps like jubilee issues and etchings which not only promote interest in research but also serve the pedagogic understanding of philately. This raises a pragmatic question: Is a rule being violated if an exhibit contains a letter from the Commander-in-Chief, Archduke Charles, fighting with the "Bohemian Legion" against Napoleon and this letter is accompanied by a 1935 stamp showing his portrait?

[We hope to conclude this paper in our next edition. Please hold your comments until the entire paper has been published - we will then welcome them, of course. Ed.]

N.B. Figures in () brackets refer readers to the bibliography that will appear at the end of the paper. Notes in [] are editorial explanations and do not form part of the author's text. Most illustrations are the author's but a few are the Editor's. ::



Printing Techniques

THE TYPOGRAPHY  
of  
MASARYK'S 70th BIRTHDAY

R.A. Dehn, FRPS,L.



Curiosity about the apparent contradictions in the technical words used by Czechoslovakian catalogues to describe printing methods and a chance to look at part of Ernst Gorge's splendid collection, has awakened my interest in the group of stamps and essays produced to mark President Masaryk's seventieth birthday anniversary. These offer a panorama of printing methods in which, if forgeries are included, we shall find examples of gravure, recess, letterpress and litho printing.

The issued stamps (1920) are listed by Gibbons between SG185 and 187. These three values (125h, 500h and 1000h) are just the peak of the iceberg. Beneath the surface there are a mass of essays and colour trials, both of the issued values and of the unissued ones - 50h, 1200h and 2000h.

All the work on the stamps was undertaken by the Czech national printing works: the "Česka grafická Unie" in Prague. Security at the press was minimal; trials and printer's waste were soon in the hands of members of the Prague Collectors' Club and on the market. It is interesting but difficult to determine the category to which particular pieces belong. Some, we may charitably assume, were the result of genuine interest in the study of methods of printing stamps. The various interesting techniques used for later Czechoslovakian stamps support this assumption. Other pieces seem to have been deliberately contrived to please officials - or for collectors or gain. Printer's waste falls into a separate category. Waste is inevitable and it **should be destroyed**. Some of the waste which escaped from the Česka Grafická Unie seems to have been deliberately contrived and I am surprised at the prices some collectors are willing to pay for it.

### The Letterpress Stamps

Gibbons just describes the 500h and 1000h as 'Typo' although they are a combination of letterpress and litho. Both values have a litho underprinting of a shade similar to the letterpress impression above. It is wrong to describe the paper as 'tinted' because among the essays there are examples of printings on tinted paper where back and front of the paper have the same colour (e.g. shades of grey and buff). The use of a litho underprinting in the same colour as the letterpress printing may have been to give the impression that the stamps were printed by the more expensive recess method. When the plate of recess printed stamps is wiped before an impression is made, a thin film of ink is >

usually left on the surface, where it ought **not** to be. This often gives the impression of an overall 'tint.' When the contract for Italian 15c. stamps was given in 1906, to a recess printer in Rome, the State printers in Turin (in wounded pride) appealed to their friends in De La Rue for help. De La Rue advised them not to forsake letterpress printing but to break the shading lines into dots and use the underprinting of the same shade as the stamps. This, they said, would make the stamps **look** as though printed recess but without some of the problems in printing and security which recess printing entailed.

The 500h and 1000h values were produced from an engraved die and the engraver's name appears below the SE corner. The 125h stamp was produced photochemically, so no engraver's name appears. The printing sheet was made up of two panes of 100 stamps side-by-side, produced by a black-print block of 25; in the NW block of stamps in both panes the value figure is thinner. It is said that this occurred because this part of the plate was deeply etched but I think this to be very doubtful. Were it to be true, there would be evidence of deeper, or irregular etching elsewhere in the design - there is not. It is surely more likely that a different black-print block was used for this quarter of the pane.

Those who have copies of the attractively illustrated "Třicet Let Československé Poštovní Známký" (Thirty Years of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps) published in 1948, will know that plates V and VI are devoted to trials for this group. In the middle of plate VI is a reproduction of a letterpress proof of the un-issued 50h value\*. The stamp is printed in red in the middle of a small sheet; the area not covered by the stamp is also printed in the same red colour. The stamp is separated from the overall red printing by roughly cut white lines forming a kind of 'frame'. These single 'dies' are apparently produced photochemically. They are known in various colours.

Producing colour trials from an apparently unfinished die would seem curious but if, at the same time, colour trials **were** required and no other cliché was available, there might have been some reason for their use. In Ernst Gorge's well-known collection there is, among similar 'colour trials', a 'pull' in green. In this instance however, the green of the stamp is a lighter colour than the green of the background outside the stamp area. This might be the result of a double printing but I do not think so. I think that after inking the small plate overall in green, the printer has, before printing, added (by brush?) a lighter ink over the stamp area only. There is evidence of a line of the same added green at the top of the background area.

Also known are mirror prints of various values of these stamps, in letterpress. Since they appear in various colours they must be largely philatelic; no one would produce serious colour trials from a mirror-image if normal clichés were available. Production of the original clichés will have been justified by the wish to make litho trials. It might seem that the simple reversal of the photographic negative would suffice but in days before the ultra-thin backing of modern film and when glass plates were used, this might not have been satisfactory. If this was so, then the image would have to be reversed optically and used to produce a letterpress block that would print a 'mirror-image'. If this block were inked with transfer ink, it would produce the mirror-image on transfer paper from which it could be pressed onto the litho printing stone (or plate). The result would be a normal image on the stone which, used in an offset press would produce a normal litho image on the paper. >

\* A similar piece is illustrated on Mongrafie Vol.11 at figs. 283 and 287.



Mirror-prints should not be confused with impressions **set-off** on the back of printed stamps although they may look the same.

### **Recess**

Trials of the unissued 1200h and 2000h values were produced by the 'recess' method. Some, I believe, by an offset recess process.

### **Gravure**

This method, which is called 'photo' by Gibbons and 'hlubotisk' in the Czech catalogues, can most easily be identified by the rough edges on the figures of value under magnification. In the hands of the 'Česka grafická Unie' at this time, it often produces a rather foggy impression. The same impression can be given by the roughly overinked **letterpress** colour trials. The nature of the gravure process is such that the stamps will usually be proofed in multiples - not singly. A multiple in Ernst Gorge's collection suggests that two methods may have been used for the initial preparation of the gravure plates. To explain this, it is necessary to briefly recall the first stages in producing a gravure plate. **Gravure is a 'recess' process.** The plate is honeycombed with tiny hollows which fill with ink. In the areas meant to print lightly, they are shallow and take less ink. To prevent ink running from hollow to hollow, small walls, impervious to etching acid, are built round the hollows. When the plate has been inked, all traces of ink must be removed from the flat, un-hollowed surface. This is done by the '**doctor-blade**'. The small walls also help support the doctor-blade. In the earlier days of gravure, the walls were created either by a dusting of resin or bitumen powder which was then baked in to protect the plate under the powder particles from being etched - or by a line network applied photochemically for the same purpose. Where a line network is used, parallel thin, white lines - usually at an angle - can be observed under magnification. With the powder method however, there is much less regularity and no lines are visible. Typically, even in the dark areas, there are tiny white spots.

### **Which method ?**

I think that most of the gravure trials of these stamps were made on plates prepared by the powder method. However, in Ernst Gorge's collection there is one small multiple in which the regular white network lines can easily be seen. There may be other examples and if so, the trials printed by gravure can be therefore grouped into two categories [ ]

---

### **WHAT OF THE FUTURE?**

The division of former Czechoslovakia into two separate states will obviously affect the treatment of relevant philately in this journal. No big differences will become apparent this year. However, the Editor is interested in just how the territorial changes will affect **your** collecting habits.

If such, or any, changes will be significant or your wishes regarding future presentation in this journal are strong enough, do please let the Editor know as early as possible. Also - in addition to this, if **you** have strong feelings about the name of the Society now - or this Journal - please tell us so that it can be looked at by Committee; preferably before September would be helpful. Your views on these important issues will be very much appreciated. Thanks!

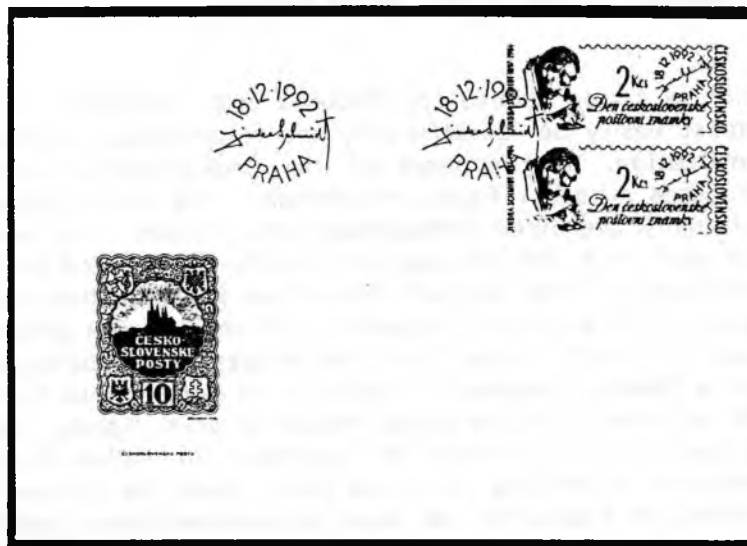
New Issues

- The Last -

Alan Knight

**DAY OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS  
18.12. 1992**

---



It was most appropriate that Czechoslovakia should issue as its very last postage stamp, one that was to become a truly memorable symbol of the occasion of the state's very first postage stamp in 1918. This new stamp is the last in the long series that commenced on 18.12.1965 and has continued annually for 28 years. Thus ends the issue of postage stamps of the Republic of Czechoslovakia that came into existence on October 18th 1918 and lasting through many vicissitudes, including World War 2, until December 31st 1992.

#### Technical Details

Printed in sheets x 50 stamps (perf.  $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ ) by rotary press combined with four-colour recess print in dark brown, brown, ochre, blue and gold. The dimensions of design are 49x19mm. Value 2Kčs. **Design:** Depicts the post-war 'father' of postage stamp engravers, Jindra Schmidt (1897-1984) at work. The design is that of a perforated stamp cancelled at Praha 18.12.1992, by a pmk. bearing the engraver's facsimile signature. The stamp carries inscription: **Day of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps** in Czech.

**FDC:** This carried two stamps cancelled exactly as per the design. The violet coloured illustration depicts an engraver's transcription of Jindra Schmidt's woodcut design of Prague Castle/St. Vitus' Cathedral on the Hradčany hilltop. In the four corners of this 'stamp' design are the emblems of Bohemia (lion), Moravia and Silesia (eagles) and Slovakia. Above the '10' value tablet appears the Czech language equivalent of "Czecho-Slovak Post." It must be stated here that this particular design of 1918 was unadopted. N.B. Engraver: Dřevoryt.

.....

The Prague Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (Philatelic Dept.) has promised to continue to supply this journal with New Issues information on the stamps of the new **Czech Republic**. We look forward to this with thanks.

## - NEW ISSUES -

Česká Republika - Czech Republic

The Czech Republic came into existence on January 1st 1993. It issued its first postage stamp on January 20th. It is a representation of the small State Arms - The crowned Lion of Bohemia rampant within a red shield. The crown is golden in colour as are the Lion's tongue and claws. The shield lies against a background of bk/w Linden sprays with the State tri-colour ribbon below. The entire is surmounted by "Česká Republika" and - smaller - the well-known State motto: "Pravda Vítězí" - 'Truth Prevails.'

The design size is 33mm<sup>2</sup> - 38mm<sup>2</sup> overall. Perforated p11½ Face value 3Kčs. Designed and engraved by Josef Herčík, the stamp was printed in sheets of 35 pieces by rotary-recess in black colour, combined with four-colour recess in silver, gold, red and blue. Total sheet (5x7) measures 25.5x29.2cm.

FDC: 16.1 x 11.4cm (white) bearing one specially cancelled stamp and an extra postmark: Praha/20.1./1993 around a Bohemian Lion shield. The cover is illustrated with a black drawing of a shield, combining the shields of Moravia (eagle), Silesia (eagle) and Bohemian Lion (twice). Printed in grey. The old text "Československá Pošta" has given way to a brief 'FDC' under the bottom right of overall shield design.

February 17: World Figure-skating Champs. - Prague

2 Kčs. single stamp with design size of 30x23mm (overall size 35x27mm) printed by rotary-recess in blue-black, combined with four-colour recess print in orange, red, green and blue in sheets of 50 pieces. Perf. 11½x11½. Design: Ivan Strnad - Engraving: Miloš Ondráček. This shows a symbolic drawing of figure-skating boots with a spring Tulip stem. Inscription is in Czech, reading as the title with 1993 year-date.

FDC: Dimensions as for first stamp bearing two cancelled stamps and an extra special cancellation (allegorical smiling boot on skate) dated Praha/17.2./1993. The cover design is similar (in green-blue) with a bunch of Spring tulips emerging. Beneath drawing is the simple inscription: FDC.

Expected emissions

March 11th: St. John of Nepomuk - 600th death anniversary. 8Kčs.  
" " : EUROPA-CEPT: sheet x 4 - 14Kčs .

New definitives are expected within the 1st Quarter of the year -details later.>

SLOVAKIA: First sheetlet 1993

This is the first stamp of the new Slovak Republic, issued January 1st, 1993. The stamp format is 26x40cm (design area); the entire sheet of six stamps measuring 11.2x16.5cm. Printed flat press recess in black, blue, red and silver.



(reduced)

Perforation is  $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ . Design/Engraving is by Martin Činovský, showing the Slovak state emblem and a single numeral 8 for the value. At this time the official currency was still the Kčs (Czechoslovak Koruna) although the space in which one would expect to see the currency marked has been left blank.

The horizontal gutter carries a symbolic design with linden leaves (traditional mark of respect) and a state emblem badge upon the country's tricolour. The small badge is inscribed 'Slovenská Republika' in red and the entire is surmounted with further symbols.

SLOVAKIA - First fdc of 1993

(reduced)

The 2nd stamp scheduled for issue of the new Slovak Republic was the 3Kčs.

This is the official fdc carrying illustrated 'Bratislava/2.1.1993' cancellations and blue coloured drawing of the opening notes of the Slovak national anthem (Lightning Over The Tatras), an outline map showing Bratislava Castle which is all surmounted with a soaring dove. Superimposed are the state colours of red, blue (white is part of the cover).

Technical Details: Design and engraving is by Martin Činovský who also was responsible for the large stamp valued at '8' described elsewhere herein. Both designs are identical - the Slovak state emblem.

Printed by rotary recess process (in sheets x 50) in black, combined with three colour recess and perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ . Over all size is 31x45mm.

Special note: Although officially shown here as a January 2nd. issue, there also exist covers bearing an official special **Košice 1** cancel dated January 1st. This is a 31mm. dia. mark in black surrounding the Slovak emblematic shield/linden leaves. The surrounding inscription reads: 'Slovenska Republika'/Kosice 1.1.1993. See elsewhere within.

So! Not only we do have the New Slovakia's first stamp here but also the first variety of fdc markings.

CZECH REPUBLIC

AJK

**PROVISIONAL STAMP PROGRAMME**  
- 1993 -

---

This is the official programme supplied to us by the PTT Philatelic Services in Prague. They inform us that this programme is subject to changes without prior notice.

**This list could be altered at any time!**

Date	Subject	Values k.	Size mm	Remarks
Jan 20	The Czech State Emblem (Lion)	3	33 <sup>2</sup>	
Feb 17	World Figure-Skating C'ships.	2	30x23	
Mar 11	St. Jan of Nepomuk - 600th Ann.		23x40	
" "	EUROPA/CEPT (Art)	14	40x23	Shts x 4
Apl 3	Czech Beauty Spots	2 (x2)		
14	Břevnov Monastery: Millenium	4	40x23	
	Coats of Arms	8 (x2)		Sheet
	World Jnr. Weight-Lifting Champs.	6	23x30	
	World Rowing Champs. (Račice)	3	23x30	
Jun 22	St. Cyril & Methodius in Moravia	8	40x23	
Summer/	Protection of Nature (Trees/shrubs)	5,7,9.	23x30	
Autumn	Personalities: A.Sedláček/E.Čech	2,3.	19x23	
Nov 8	Christmas	2	19x23	
	Art in Czech Galleries	9,11,14.	40x50	Sheet

1 spare slot for special event (no date supplied)

Definitives expected during first six months: Czech/Moravian Towns: 1,3,8,10,20.  
plus a single Presidential stamp.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

J. Gronský

**PROVISIONAL STAMP PROGRAMME**  
- 1993 -

[Subject to alteration without prior notice]

Jan 1	Slovak Arms (large format)	8	26x40	Shts x 4
2	Slovak Arms (small format)	3	23x40	
Mar 8	Nature Preservation (Trees)	3,4,10.	23x30	
Apl 14	Personalities (four)	2,5,8,20.	19x23	
May 5	EUROPA/CEPT (Modern Art)	14	26x30	Shts x 4
Jun 22	Saints Cyril & Methodius	9	40x23	
" "	Slovak Language (150 years)	3	40x23	
Sep 2	M.R.Štefanik (his mausoleum)	10	40x26	Shts x 4
" "	BIB Biennial of Children's Illust.	6,9.		
Nov 8	Christmas	2	19x23	
" "	Art on Stamps	9	40x50	Shts x 4
Dec 18	Stamp Day	3	49x19	

[undated definitives expected (Urban Architecture) 1,3,8,30,50.]