



CZECHOUT

Journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
[Founded 1953]

December 1993

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No.73 Vol.11 No.4
Copyright 1993 CPSGB

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

WITH ALL BEST WISHES FOR
A V E R Y H A P P Y C H R I S T M A S
-and-
P E A C E F U L N E W Y E A R



Vol. 11/4

CONTENTS

Dec. 1993

Society News & Notices	86
40th Anniversary Exhibition	87
WAPEX 1993 - More awards	90
Editorial	91
Query Corner: Where do all The Postmen Go?	92
Chainbreaker forged o/prints - further notes	93
Prussian Occupation of Brunn - 1866	95
WW1: The Danube River Fleet	100
"History in The Post" - Cyril & Methodius	108
WW2: Cz. Army in France and GB	112
New Issues (Czech)	114
New Issues (Slovak)	116
Autumn STAMPEX Awards 1993	116

SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICES

Saturday, October 16th 1993

This was the meeting to celebrate the Society's 40th Anniversary and to be followed by our Anniversary Dinner in the presence of H.E. The Ambassador of Slovakia, the Embassy's 2nd Secretary and Cultural Attache and his Lady. We report that occasion later on.

The Chairman Mr. A.J. Knight welcomed 27 members and guests, including some from overseas, viz New Zealand, Ireland and The Czech Republic. He also reported from Committee that they were recommending Hon. Life Membership to our founder-member, Mr. A.J. (Jack) Stoyel (now 80 years of age) for his long and devoted service to the Society. Membership present agreed totally.

The following applications for membership were submitted and approved:-

David Brabbing - Rochford, Essex
N. Bhandari - London SW5
Mrs. J. Prosser - Isle of Man

By the Chairman's invitation, Mr. Brian Day occupied the Chair for the remainder of the afternoon in order to introduce the Special Display of Members' 200 sheets for this special occasion, which Brian had organized on Committee's behalf. There were eight 'rolling' displays as follows:

Rex Dixon: - 1939 Carpatho-Ukraine
Vladimir Králiček: - Early Fieldpost History and Selected WW2 items
Mrs. Lindy Knight: - The History of The National Theatre - Prague
Alan Knight: - The Czechs and Slovaks of the Austro-Hungarian Army during WW1
Geoff. McAuley: - Thematic Study "Where is My Home" (History of Czechoslovakia)
Ron Hollis: - Bohemia and Moravia Postal Rates
Brian Day: - Slovak-Hungarian Campaign 1919-20 - and - Sokol Cancellations
Bill Dawson: - Austrian Special Cancellations - plus souvenirs.

The 40th Anniversary Dinner

Held at our usual venue at Czechoslovak House, West End Lane, London. At 6.0 pm., the Chairman, Alan Knight and Mrs. Lindy Kinight welcomed our special guests: H.E. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Mr. Ján Vilikovský and the Embassy's 2nd Secretary and Cultural Attache, Mr. Miloš Ruppeltdt and his Lady, Mrs. Ruppeltdt. His Excellency expressed his regrets that his wife was unable to attend due to an indisposition. Following the formal welcoming ceremony, Chairman and Mrs. Knight escorted our special guests into the Dining Hall to the Top Table. Following the normal introduction of our guests and H.E.'s warm reply, about 35 members, their partners and guests sat down to Dinner.

During coffee, Chairman proposed three Toasts: to H.M. The Queen, Our Guests and The Society & Absent Friends. Our Guests and members suitably responded. In his short opening speech, The Ambassador spoke of his early 'stamp collecting days as a boy' and of the happiness and appreciation he felt in accepting our Society's invitation to himself and accompanying Embassy officials. >

H.E. further congratulated the Society on its arranging such a large (136 frames) public exhibition on the premises of the Embassy of The Slovak Republic in London during the period 22-24 Oct. 1993. He wished the Society and the Exhibition every success. The Chairman reciprocated these sentiments, then Brian Day (Exhibition Sub-Committee Chairman) proposed a "Toast to The Chairman and His Lady" - Alan Knight responded by speaking of the near end of his Term of Office and the great pleasure he had received at being the Society's leader at this special time of celebration. He thanked all who had contributed in any way to the success of these memorable events and was sure that the Society would now be looking towards the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in ten years time (or, as he said - some of us anyway!).

Prior to our guests' departure, floral tributes were presented to the Ambassador (for his Lady) by Mrs. Lindy Knight and to Mrs. Ruppeltdt, wife of the Second Secretary/Cultural Attache by Mrs. Betty Day. Thus ended the very memorable day - another in our Society's history.



The Exhibition

(By Brian Day)

The 40th Anniversary Exhibition produced a first-class selection of exhibits rarely seen under one roof.

The thematic entry "Where is my Home?" brought many complimentary remarks as did the 'Czech Airmails'. One of the visitors apparently very much impressed was the President of the Czech Philatelic Federation, Ing. Jan Karásek who uttered nice words to this effect. He had travelled to London from his home in Brno as the guest of one of our members.

There were some excellent sheets of forerunner material and some very good Hradčany exhibits. A quite outstanding "Masaryk 1920" exhibit contained rare essays and colour trials - by general agreement, the best on show.

Also showing were some very good 'Sudetenland', some outstanding 'Dues', very rare 'Polni Posta' including ex-"Italian Legion" military posts in Slovakia (1918-1920). Embassy staff found much to interest them in the sheets on "The Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain" and "..... in France 1940-1944" and in fresh material from both the new Republics.

Also amongst the 136 exhibition frames were "The Czechs in World War 1", "Austrian Thimbles", "Scouts" (more rare material), Legionaries, a selection of The First Republic, Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate (outstanding items here!), Carpatho-Ukraine, 1945 'Liberation' overprints, 1953 'Currency Reform', "Sokol" cards and covers, "Art on Cz. Stamps", "Gruss Aus" (Greetings From) Czech Spa Towns, National Costumes, "Polni Posta - 1938", Prague's 'Pneumatic' Posts, "Praga 1988 Int. Exhibition" and an interesting thematic display on the subject "The Czech National Theatre".

Last - but not, of course, least - there was over a century of philatelic exhibits of Railway Travelling Post Offices, Postal Stationery Postcards and Newspaper Stamps. **Many thanks and congratulations to all our exhibitors. >**



Annual General Meeting - Sat. 13.11.93

This is reported separately and in full in leaflet form accompanying this issue. However, we are pleased to note **two more New Members** were accepted into our Society at this meeting:-

Dr. John D. Wiggles - Cheshire
Peter E. Rooke - Herts.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new friends together with the wish that they will enjoy a long and mutually beneficial stay with us. We include here, of course, the other new members mentioned earlier in these notes.

From our Librarian

Lindy Knight reports the following:

Our complete Library List and "Czechout" Index are in the process of being placed on computer discs. When this task is completed, a fresh Library List will be distributed with our journal. We sincerely thank Mr. Bob McLeod for his generous undertaking on behalf of membership.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

We have been the recipients recently of three very generous donations:-

"Reference Book of Overprints on Hungarian Stamps" by our member Mr. David Miles. This 1993 publication is a large and heavy one, containing much of great interest to Czechoslovakia collectors, e.g. the section dealing with the 1919 overprints on Hungarian stamps. With masses of illustrations and historical background information, this volume can still be obtained from Mr. David Miles, 7 Tennyson Avenue, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE17 4TU. at £15 + p&p. (U.K. £2), Europe £2.60, Zone 1 £2.60 (airmail £7.50), Zone 2 £2.60 (airmail £8.50). **N.B.** The charges may have now been increased since the recent British P.O. tariffs were altered in November.

"Cancellations of Hungarian Post Offices on The First Issue of Hungary" by another of our members, Gary Ryan (1988 - The Royal Philatelic Society, London). This massive 2 volume publication was presented to the Society's Library by Mr. Ernst Gorge. Our most grateful thanks to Ernst for this most splendid addition to our literature store. The publication has won national and international awards since it first appeared. It is a heavy item for posting and would prove costly to borrowers having to pay two-way postage. As with all our books, Lindy Knight advises members to contact her prior to a Society meeting and arrangements can probably be made for her to bring such books to the meeting for a personal handover to be effected - the same at the following meeting (or by arrangement) for their return. (weighs 3Kg.).

From member Mr. George Firmage, London

We are extremely grateful to George for his most generous gift to us of >

no less than fifteen volumes of books (mainly large 'coffee-table' types) that cover very many historical profiles of Czechoslovakia (especially Prague); much containing beautiful, large photographs, travel guides, etc. and over extended periods. Although not directly 'philatelic' there is much good research material available in these books. Again, most are large and heavy - so heed Lindy's advice...! Lack of space precludes the full list of titles here but, as previously indicated, they will appear on the forthcoming amended Library List. Finally, just two short reminders, please: Period of Loan is for an initial period of **three months**. Extensions can be applied for via the Librarian. It is very important that this rule is strictly applied in fairness to waiting borrowers. Finally, postage **both ways** is payable by borrowers, so note the amount the Librarian has had to pay to get books to you. At present, please make payments to "D.Knight" and not the Society.

Our Next Meeting - Important Notice:

This will be at our usual venue in London on Saturday, January 15th, 1994 commencing at 2.30pm. John Whiteside, FRPS,L. will be presenting a talk and display on "Revenues".

Please note carefully: Photographs taken by Bob McLeod at the 40th Anniversary Dinner and the Exhibition at the Slovak Embassy will be on view. It is hoped to be able to afford opportunities for members to obtain copies of their liking in due course. However, details are not yet fully to hand so - if you are at all interested in this aspect of our recent celebrations, please attend this meeting.

We are most grateful to Bob for all the work entailed in his efforts to secure good archive material for the Society records. Bob worked hard and deserves our very best thanks.

Annual Auction (following the AGM)

The retiring Chairman, Mr. A. Knight welcomed 28 members to this our now annual event.

With a total of 280 Lots on offer, bidding was brisk and very competitive. As in recent years, our guest auctioneer was John Whiteside - with his usual ready wit, good humour and homely advice!

Taking care of The Book was our Hon. Auctioneer, Brian Parker with our Hon. Treasurer Bob Kingsley kept very busy on the accounting side of the business. Roger Morrell and Roy Wright greatly assisted smooth operations by acting as runners - there was even good humour ventilating from this part of the combined team.

Even allowing for a few 'unsold' items, this auction capped all others before it with a total sales figure exceeding £2,000. The editor has already been approached with a request that we make this a bi-annual event. That facet has been passed to Committee for possible examination. To vendors and buyers Committee tender their sincere thanks for ensuring such a successful event.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE EDITOR

After seven years in this very pleasant but arduous post, I regret that due to health and other reasons, I must now ask Committee to appoint a new person for this work. I feel that a new face, with new ideas and concepts is now needed to maintain our journal at its present standard - and improve it in the light of modern philatelic practises. I have reported my wishes to Committee and at the recent A.G.M.

I have agreed to continue in my post into next year but will conclude my term following the publication of the June issue of 'Czechout' - or earlier if this proves possible. Members who are interested in accepting this appointment are asked to contact the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Yvonne Gren asap please. Any current or previous experience in philatelic journalism will, of course, be an advantage but is not essential.

Finally, my best thanks for all who have assisted and encouraged me in any way over the years. Without your active assistance, 'Czechout' would not be the respected philatelic journal it now is.

More Awards for Society Publications

At **WAPEX 93** in Western Australia International Philatelic Literature Exhibition we gained the following awards:

CZECHOUT Volume 10: Silver Medal (Editor Alan J. Knight).
CZECHOUT INDEX (Vols. 1-9): Bronze Medal (Compiler Yvonne Wheatley)
SOCIETY PUBLICATION No. 9 - Silver Medal (Fieldpost of the Czechoslovak & Allied Forces in Russia 1918-20 - Anthology by W.A. Page, FRPS,L.)
 These items were also exhibited (non-competitively) at Palmerston, New Zealand in June 1993. This exhibition was organized by The "Central Districts Philatelic Trust" of New Zealand.

"Query Corner" Continued from page 92.

So, Mr. Wensel Sirek, Postal Official, having 'Gone Away', had his private mail - or at least, this card - redirected without any forwarding address, to Prague. Why? Was there a Great Clearing House for unwanted mail in Greater Austria? If so, why was it here and not in Vienna, the seat of the Empire?

Did the Post Office keep track of its employees and send it to Prague because it was written in Czech or -do I assume too much for the non-computer days?

I go for the ledger of lost mail - unless, of course, somebody else know better!

40th Anniversary cover (Prague Castle postmark)

Members wishing to purchase these can do so by sending £2 per cover to Mr. B.C. Day, "Trimsaran", Keycol Hill, Newington, SITTINGBOURNE, Kent, ME9 8NA. Please enclose stamped/addressed envelope of minimum size 165x118mm.

EDITORIAL

This Society is proud to show all readers of this journal the ultimate tribute paid to us on the occasion of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, centred on the date shown on this, our commemorative cover for the occasion. When we mooted the suggestion to the former Czechoslovak Postal Authority, we never ever contemplated more than possibly a reasonable 'Praha 1' postmark. The prolonged arrangements with them - and also with the Czechoslovak London Embassy were interrupted by the great political changes that occurred in that country, resulting, as it did, in its political division into two separate states - the Czech and Slovak Republics. Notwithstanding these difficulties, we, with the new Czech and Slovak authorities persevered. The end result was the great Czechoslovak Philatelic Exhibition on the premises of the Slovak Embassy here in London and the issuance of this special commemorative cover on our behalf by the Czech Republic's Post Office. To have been considered sufficiently important to rate a 'Prague Castle' postmark (Praha 012) is encouragement enough. We tender our heartfelt and grateful thanks to the relevant authorities of both states without whose active and willing co-operation we could not have achieved such a high level of success as we did.

The Exhibition was the largest of its kind ever held in this country; the "Praha 012" postmark on our cover is, so we believe, also a first for any Czechoslovak Philatelic Society outside the countries concerned. The cover itself is to be highly prized for another reason - there were only 150 produced.

How can we now best continue with our good philatelic work? For starters we must look for new members to maintain our present levels of study and education. We are always in need of new blood, new faces, new ideas, new concepts and, above all else, a new determination to ensure (to the very best of our abilities) that Czechoslovak Philately continues to go from strength to strength in this country. Now it is up to us!

Query
Corner

WHERE DO ALL THE POSTMEN GO?

[asks Roger Morrell]



Not, I hasten to say, am I complaining about the current service of the Post Office, especially since I now seem to have an early delivery after years of neglect. I am simply posing the question to see if anyone has the answer!

The item shown above is a late C19th Bulgarian postal stationery card addressed to a certain "Herr Wensel Širek, /KK Postbeamter" (Austrian 'Postal Official') from Lom Palanka in Bulgaria to Vienna. The datestamps are: Lom Palanka (north-west corner of Bulgaria, on the Danube)/ 5.XI.97; Vidin (a few miles up-river on the Danube)/ 6.XI.97 and the usual "Wien Bestellt" in blue/ 20.11.97. The apparently long journey is easily explained by the continued use of the Julian Calendar in Bulgaria, which was about 12 days adrift at the end of the C19th. Next - the local address in Vienna, the delightfully named but incorrectly spelt Porzellangasse (porcelain Lane) Nr. 53 has been crossed out with a thick, purple wax pencil and across the top of the card has been written "IX/1 Porzellangasse Nr. 53 (squiggles, initials?) eingezogen" i.e. "Gone away". 'Now what' - you may ask 'has this to do with our Soc.'s interests?' Well, the next day the card was datestamped with a bi-lingual **Prag/Praha b/21.11.97** and the following day by a bi-lingual **Prag Kleinseit/Praha Mala Strana/22.11.97**. However, there is no evidence that the card was ever received by Mr. Širek. How could it be delivered anywhere without an address on the card? The only other clues are the remnants of brown paper down one side, suggesting that at some time it was stuck in a book or ledger plus the fact that the text is written in Bohemian (as it was at that time). continue on p.90 <

ERROR 50 Doplatit 50 on 50h (SG. D280/Mich. 51F)

From Roy Dehn

I was sorry to hear that our Editor did not receive the third illustration which I meant to enclose with my note on the above - (see 'Czechout' 2/1993 p.34). This made the note difficult to understand. The DOPLATIT variety is one of the rarest Czechoslovak varieties, so I have asked the Editor for space to repeat the information with a little amplification.



A

B

C

A = Original overprint ; B = Forged o/p on genuine 150h; C = Genuine 50h

Original discovered in October 1929. Not known unused. Used values all post-marked at PRAHA 14 - Twenty copies recorded.

Basic Stamp

Under UV its colour is bright light-red; the 20h red and 150h red are dark-red under UV. On the 50h both the '5' and '0' have a coloured line within the white and the 'flag' of the '5' swings upward. The 150h has no lines within the figures and the top of the '5' is almost flat. The '0' is 2mm wide and the space between the frame and '5' is 1.5mm.

Original Overprint

This is letterpress printed and of an even dark metallic violet. The top '50' measures 4.7mm high; the oblique 'Doplatit' measures 20.2mm from bottom of the 'D' to the right bar of 'T'. The outlines of the letters are clear and smooth. The foot of the 'L' is level; the back and front of the flag of '5' are on the same level. The top of the lower '5' is level with the base of the 'A' (it varies a little).

Forgery

The basic stamp is the 150 - not the 50h (no lines within the figures '5' & '0'). >

The overprint has been placed so as to obscure the '1' of the '150'; black has been used to darken the overprinted figure '5' for the same reason. The outlines of letters and figures are irregular; all letters and figures are thicker than in the original overprint. 'Doplatit' is slightly longer; the P and L touch, as do the '5' and '0' of the top '50'. The counter of the 'A' is too small and the top of the first 'T' turns up at the left.

The Czechoslovak Forgeries handbook illustrates a forgery on the 50h:
 1.- The flag of the top '5' is lower at the right. 2.- The letter 'O' is pointed at the top corner. 3.- The foot of the 'L' slopes downward. 4.- The top of the '5' is above the level of the base of the 'A'. 5.- The neck of the '5' is longer and bent inwards; the '5' is 5.1mm tall and 'Doplatit' 20.8mm.

[The Editor thanks Roy for this additional note and apologizes for not having taken note of the omission before publishing an incomplete story. As I have repeatedly stated, 'Errare est Humánum' - and I seem to be more human than most of late! AJK.]

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WANTS LIST

Geoff Mc Auley, 24 Nutley Avenue, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Ireland.

1918	Scout 10h on cover Scout postal stationery Srobar (Žilina) overprints, any, mint or on cover
1919	First Anniversary of Independence, IMPERF
1920	Siberia surcharges
1920	60h Liberated Republic, Tete-beche Type A, mint
1936	10k Bratislava, Pofis 313, coupons, top and bottom
1937	Bratislava M Sheet A329-330 Type 1 and Type 2

PLATE NUMBERS

1930	Pofis 258 50h Masaryk, Pofis 259 60h Pofis 260 1Kc	Plate No 2 1, 1A, 2A 4A
1929	Pofis253 40h coat of Arms	1, 1A, 2A
1933	273-4 Nitra	All plate nos.
1934	276-280 20th Ann of Foreign Legions	All plate nos.
1936	298-299 Macha	All plate nos
1934	281-282 Kde Domov Můj?	All plate nos.
1937	314 Dr E Beneš	1, 1A, 2, 2A
1937	324 Masaryk Mourning	6, 6A

1934 2Kč Music Sheet
 1989 Občanske Forum meter mark
 29.12.1989 Volba Presidenty postmark or meter mark.

1848 Reichstags P.A. postmark (Kroměříž)

Members' philat. advertisements are free of charge but at Editor's discretion

Field
Post

THE PRUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF BRÜNN
- 1866 -

By Hans van Dooremalen

[Editorial note: In March this year, Hans came from Holland to display part of his award-winning collection on the postal history of Brünn before the Society. So greatly impressed were members present that I was persuaded to ask our member if he would kindly let us have a short article dealing with a couple of his sheets he had displayed. Hans immediately agreed - Here is the result. AJK.]

July	2nd Army	1st Army	Elbe-Army	Headquarters
5.	Opatowitz	Prelautsch	Chlumetz	Horsitz
6.	Pardubitz	"	"	"
7.	"	Heřmaněstec	Neuhof	Pardubitz
8.	Hohenmauth	Chrast	Goltsch-Jenikau	"
9.	Leutomischl	Richenburg	Deutschbrod	Hohenmauth
10.	Mährisch-Trübau	Neustadt	Iglau	Zwittau
11.	"	Pernstein	"	"
12.	"	Brünn	Trebitsch	Czernahora
13.	Opatowitz (Mähren)	"	"	Brünn
14.	Konitz	"	"	"
15.	"	"	Znaim	"
16.	*	Pawlowitz	"	"
17.	"	Lundenburg	Mistelbach-Wülferadorf	"
18.	"	Feldsberg	"	Nikolsburg
19.	"	Dürnkruth	"	"
20.	"	Ebenthal	Wolkersdorf/Gaunersdorf	"

*On July 16th the 2nd army split up: the 1st Corps stayed in Olmütz, the 6th Corps went in the direction of Brünn and from there after the 1st Army; the 5th Corps went the originally planned way: July 19th: Napagedl, July 20th: Ungarisch-Hradisch.

The conflict between Austria and Prussia concerning the leadership of the German Alliance - the alliance between German cities and the sovereigns - and the Austrian attempts to prevent Prussian unification led to a war between the two states in 1866.

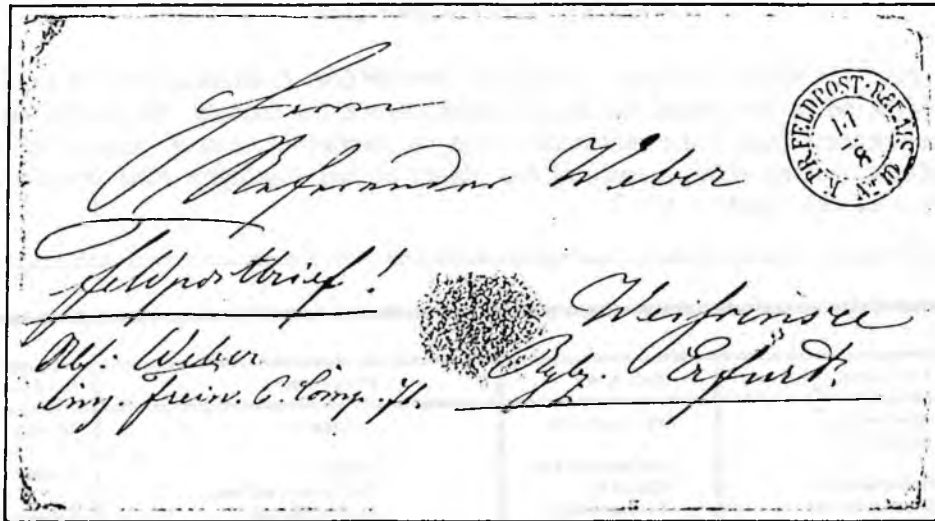
The Austro-Prussian war began on June 22nd, when the Prussian forces crossed the Austrian border on north-east Bohemia with three armies: The First, the Second and the so-called 'Elbe' Army'. Following the Battle of Königgratz/Hradek Kralové on July 2nd, the defeated Austrian army began a hasty retreat. The table above shows the advance of the Prussian Army.

Prussian Fieldpost

The Prussian Fieldpost was organized under the directives of 1862. Supreme Command had its Head Fieldpost Office, the Armies and Corps the Fieldpost while the Divisions controlled the 'Forwarders'. Mail was via F.Post Relays.

Since both First and Second Armies marched through Brünn, the H.Qs became stationed there for a few days; the Command of the Second Army/6 Corps was in Brünn; it should be interesting to explore the possibility of any philatelic traces being found of the Prussians' presence for a short time in this city. >

Examples of Fieldpost Relay No. 10 Handstamps



Figs. 1 & 2

Coming from the north-west (Pernstein), the Prussians ran into the Austrian enemy in the town of Tischnowitz. They beat them off and marched on to reach the city of Brünn on July 12th. For these Prussian soldiers, their arrival in the city was a great relief; it was the first time for weeks that they were now in a decent city with all its services and supplies. In order to provide these men with a postal service, the fieldpost relay No. 10 was very quickly established there. For the troops serving as rearguards, this provided for them a regular mail service. >

Figs. 1 & 2 show letters, sent from Brünn via the fieldpost relay No. 10 on the 14th and 24th August.

Fieldpost letters were sent free of postage from the theatre of operations to the Home front. Those illustrated were sent to Erfurt and Hamburg respectively.



Fig. 3

The relay was also responsible for delivering letters to soldiers and this fact is illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4.

The letter above (Fig.3) was sent from the field office of the 1st Army's 2nd Corps in Prague (note upper d/c pmk) to Brünn on August 22nd. It was delivered by the fieldpost relay No. 10 on August 23rd (see lower pmk).

The letter illustrated (fig.4) overleaf was sent from the Home Front in Bonn on August 20th and was received in Brünn later that month. This letter was also delivered by Relay No. 10. This unit remained operational in Brünn until Aug.25 a little while after the Prague Peace Treaty which ended the hostilities between Austria and Prussia.

Other parts of the Army were only in Brünn for a short while. The sender of the letter in (fig.5) - who was in the 6th Infantry Division of the 3rd Corps of the 1st Army - wrote his letter from Brünn on July 13th. Since he used a piece of paper from the Technical High School in Brünn (fig.6), it may well be possible that he was billeted at this particular establishment. The letter was sent (free of postage) to his wife in Jüterbog, in Prussia, where it was delivered on July 18th. Very interesting are the contents of this letter which very accurately describes the Battle of Königgratz and the march towards and into >

the city of Brünn. Letters like this are very uncommon today, especially as the First Army was stationed in Brünn for only **four days.** >



fig. 4

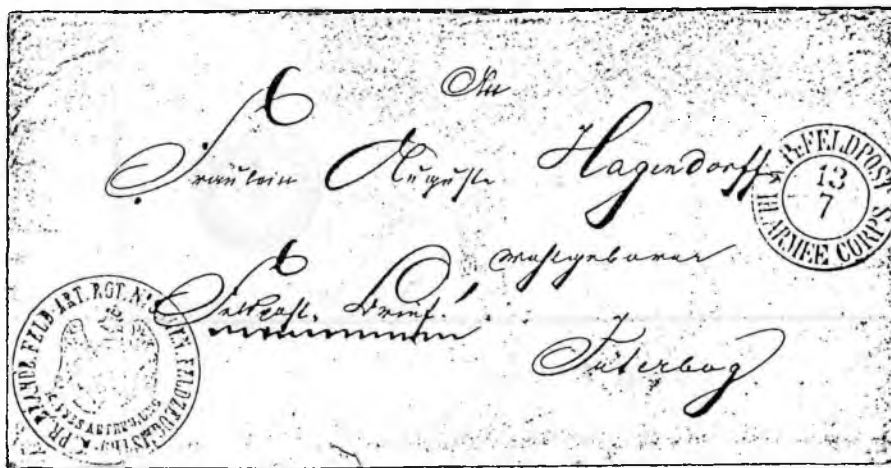


fig. 5

fig. 6



Very rare is the letter below (fig. 7). It was sent from a druggist in Brünn (F.L. Bittner) via the forwarder of an infantry regiment on July 31st to a sugar factory at Raitz. The fact that the Prussian Fieldpost recognized the Austrian postage that carried the letter is rather unusual. Maybe they were concerned that the sugar factory in Raitz remained in business and that they were supplied with chemicals (by Bittner). It is a pity that the letter could not be studied because it was subject to speculation at an auction and went for a very high price to an unknown buyer.

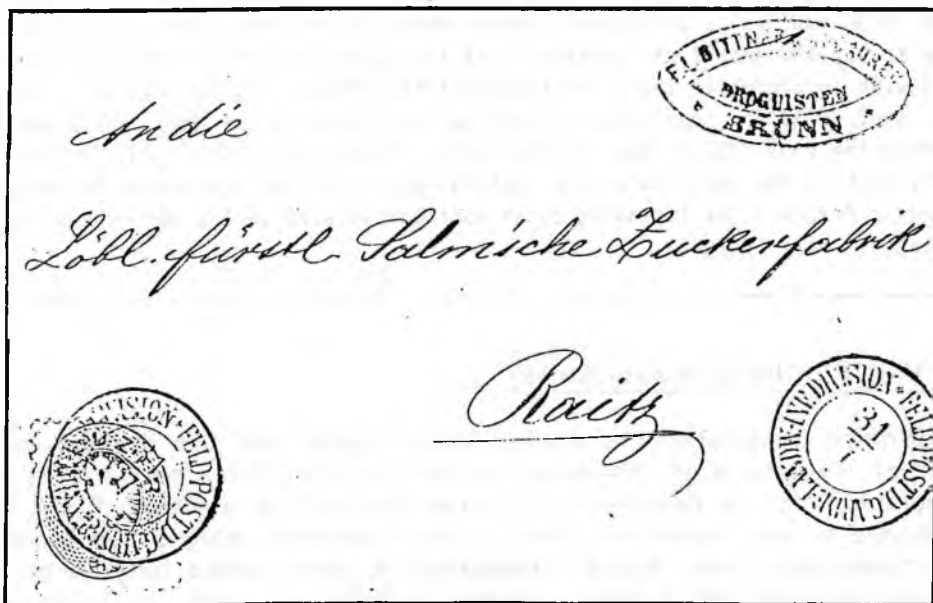


fig. 7

On July 28th a cease-fire was agreed upon in Nikolsburg. The ensuing Peace Treaty was signed in Prague on August 23rd. Shortly after that date, the Prussian troops withdrew from the Austrian Empire.

The historical consequences were: Austria lost its leading role in the German Alliance to Prussia and this led, in turn, to the fact that Austria stayed outside the German Empire, when it was founded four years later.

Acknowledgments

The Author tenders his special thanks to:-

Mr. Hartwig Danesch (Schwelm, FRG)
for providing some of the illustrations.

Mr. Erich Harzer (Gelenau, FRG)
for translations

Vladimir Ustohal (Slapanice, CR)
for providing historical background.

WW1 - Austria-Hungary

Jiří Nekvasil

FIELDPOST OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN RIVER FLEET IN WORLD WAR 1

This is the third and final part of my trilogy dealing with the Czechs and Slovaks in the armed forces of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, before the latter's collapse at the end of 1918. Please see also Czechout 3/90 and 3/91. Czechs and Slovaks served in the Army, Navy and Air Force and it is surprising to see the amount of surviving mail today, particularly from the ships of the Imperial Navy. I wish to sincerely thank the Editor of the "Postal History Journal" (Postal History Society, Inc., USA) for supplying the material dealing with the Navy, including this article, taken from the PHJ - Vol.14 No. 25 (May 1970). It was most regrettable to learn of the author's untimely death a few weeks before my application to him for permission to publish from his works arrived in Prague. The following is an abridged version of the author's work published in the United States. Alan Knight.

The Danube Fleet Flotilla (Donauflotte)

The Austrian Empire considered the whole Balkan region and the Danube as a very important part of its sphere of influence, and during the latter part of the nineteenth and at the beginning of the twentieth centuries had built up a strong River War Fleet which was assigned a very important task in the expansive designs and policies of the empire. This completely new **K.u.K. Donauflotte** participated fully in the military operations connected with the Austrian attack on Serbia in 1914 and was active for practically the duration of World War 1 - which ended with the liquidation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



K. u. K. DONAUFLOTTILLENKOMMANDO,
(Danube Fleet Command) in an arc at the top; an
asterisk at the bottom; this is a horizontal oval postmark
with combined Austrian and Hungarian state seals in the
center, size 43 by 35mm, in purple pink; dateline
14.III.17 (1917).

This fleet was organized into several divisions of heavy 'monitors' - patrol boats, mine-layers and mine-sweepers, repair, hospital and other auxiliary ships which were mobilized at the beginning of the war and assigned to the war fleet. The operational Headquarters was situated at Budapest, which was also the fleet's winter and peacetime quarters, so-called 'Kapitanat'. The Danubian War Fleet was under the command of the Admiralty of the "K.u.K Kriegsmarine" (Imperial & Royal War Fleet) at Pola (today Pula) on the Adriatic Sea. >

Technical Details of the Donauflotilla

As already noted, the build-up of the Danube war fleet had begun in the latter part of the C.19th. In 1871 the first two monitors were assigned to the fleet. These were built in Austrian shipyards from their own plans and specifications. Gross tonnage was 310 (metric), armed with a one-gun turret with 8" naval gun and 3 x 3" guns, plus 3 x 8mm machine-guns. The ships were named S.M.S. (H.M.S.) **Maros** and **Leitha**. Heavy 55mm armour plating was used for their construction and their speed was approx. 12 knots. These monitors were 150' long, 24' wide and had a draft of 3½'. Both were modernized twice - in 1894 and 1917.



K. u. K. KRIEGSMARINE, (Imperial and Royal War Fleet), in an arc at the top; S. M. S. "MAROS", in an arc at the bottom; postmark, diameter 35.5mm, in black; dateline 2.1.17 (1917).

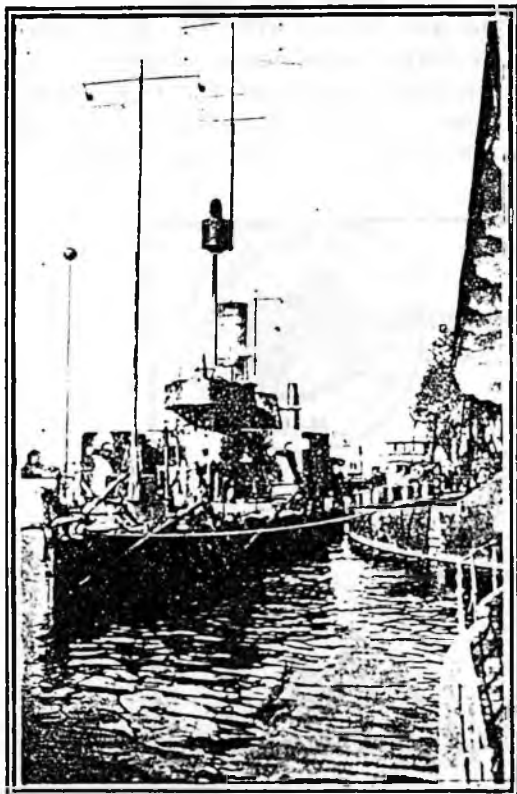
Two monitors **SMS Szamos** and **SMS Koros** were completed in 1892. These had two gun turrets and their gross tonnage was increased to 448. Armour plating was 75mm. thick and their speed raised to 15 knots. Armament consisted of 2 x 8" and 2 x 3" guns, plus 2 x 8mm. machine guns. Two more like ships followed in 1904, with an added 7mm. anti-aircraft gun. These were named **Temes** and **Bodrog** (latter illustrated).

Shortly before the start of the war, the heaviest monitors were quickly commissioned. Their gross tonnage was 536 and they were armed with 2 x 8" naval guns, three howitzers, 2 x 7mm A.A. guns and 6-8 machine guns. These heavy monitors carried a complement of 100 men.

The Danube Fleet was very active for the duration of the war although this could not be said of the High Seas Fleet on the Adriatic (based at Pola). The Danube Fleet participated during the attack on Serbia, then intervened decisively during the operations against Rumania when it supported the Austrian and German field armies with its firepower, conducted large mining and anti-mining operations on the river and transported troops, war material and evacuated POWs and wounded personnel. In the spring of 1918 a group of its heaviest monitors, accompanied by auxiliary vessels, conducted a very risky operation: it supported one of the last Austrian >

offences against Russia. The group sailed along the entire length of the Danube into the Black Sea to Odessa. There it continued along the Dnieper to Nicolajev, where

Danube Monitor.



BODROG (1904). 133 tons. Dimensions 183½ x 31½ x 4 feet. Designed H.P. 1100 = 13 kts. Boilers: Yarrow. Armament: 2-4.7 inch (45 cal) + 1 1.7 inch howitzer, 2-3 pdr, 1 or 3 machine. Armour: 1½" Belt and Bulkheads, 1" Deck, 3"-1½" Turrets and Gunning tower. Complement, 79. Coal: 62 tons.

its firepower supported the advancing Austrian army units. However, this offensive collapsed and the ships had to return by the same route back and while proceeding along the Danube were heavily bombarded by Serbian and French artillery which in the meantime had reached the river banks with the advancing armies. After the end of the war, the lighter fleet units were ceded to Hungary, while the heavy monitors were divided between Rumania and the Navy of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes Yugoslavia. Thus Hungary was left with only light patrol vessels of 140 tonnes.

It should also be noted that these old Austrian ships of WW1 vintage were left in commission and participated some twenty years later in WW2 operations until captured in 1944 by advancing Red Army units and assigned to the Red Fleet to end their useful naval life there. The Czechoslovak 1st Republic (1918-1938) had one monitor on the Danube. It was built from Austrian blue prints and named **President Masaryk** - after the new state's first President.

When Hitler seized power in Germany, the famous **Škoda Works** prepared a comprehensive building programme for the modern Czechoslovak river fleet which was to be built in its Komarno shipyards. However, this programme was never realized because

this industrial and armament giant was assigned to complete German defence needs which received top priority. Presently the River Danube is internationalized and serves as an important trade route between central and eastern European countries.

Danube Fleet Command (K.u.K. Donauflotillenkommando)

Ist Division of Monitors (two-turret)

- First Group. SMS Bosna (formerly Temes II) and SMS Enns.
- Second Group SMS Inn and SMS Sava.
- Third Group Temes, Bodrog (q.v.)
- Fourth Group Koros
- Fifth Group Szamos, Maros, Leitha and one old one turret monitor.

[S.M.S. Seiner Majestät Schiff = His Majesty's Ship] >



The postmark of the Admiralty of the Kriegsmarine (war fleet) located at Pola on the Adriatic Sea appears at the top. An official date stamp of S. M. S. (His Majesty's Ship) ERZHERZOGKARL, with a vertical arrangement of day, month and year, appears at the bottom of the cover. This latter type datestamp was not used by the Danube River fleet.



A: S. M. PATROUILLENBOOT (patrol boat) "STOR", arranged in a circle; postmark, diameter 36mm, in light blue.
 B: K. u. K. (Kaiserlich und Königlich) KRIEGSMARINE, at top; S. M. S. TEMES, at bottom; postmark, diameter 37mm, in red;
 Both have the imperial eagle in the center but in the "STOR" marker it is closed within an inner circle.



S. M. Spitalschiff (His Majesty's Hospital Ship) "Kulpa", in an arc at the top; K. u. K. Kriegsmarine, in an arc at the bottom; postmark, diameter 35mm, in black; dateline 2.1.17 (1917).

Patrouillenbootdivision - Patrol Boat Division

(in four groups I - IV)

- I. SMPb Visa and SMPb Barsch - 28.4.1916
- II. SMPb Compo and SMPb Weis - 14.3.1916
- III. SMPb Fogas and SMPb Czuka - 16.12.1915
- IV. SMPb Lachs and SMPb Stor.

Group IV was out of action between December 29th 1914 and April 9th 1915 due to repairs and refitting. During 1917 it was transferred to the Adriatic War Fleet for patrol duties in the Trieste area.

(S.M.Pb = SeinerMajestät Patrouillenboot = H.M. Patrol Boat)

The River Mine-Laying Group

SMS Balaton (from 24.3.1915); SMS Baja (26.2.1915); SMS Baczka (transport for munitions) (3.7.1916).

Armed Steamships

These armed ships were commandeered from their owners, the Danube Steamship Company (Donau Dampferschiffsfahrts Gesellschaft). Their armament consisted of 2 x 2½" guns, 2 rapid fire 47mm. guns and 2 x 8mm. m/c guns.

SMS Helene (from 24.3.1915)
 SMS Almas (from 6.12.1914)
 SMS Ulna (from 7.4.1915)
 SMD Vag (from 23.2.1915)
 SMD Czobans (from 17.7.1917)
 SMD Szigliget (from 17.7.1917)

(S.M.D. = Seiner Majestät Dampfer = H.M. Steamship)

Special Purpose Ships

This category includes all support ships i.e. transport, munitions, hospital, training, rescue, repair and various tenders. These include:

Steamships

SMD Belgrad (sunk 30.3.1915); SMD Achilles (from 1.4.1916); SMD Bauhaus (from 1.4.1916); SMD Traum (out of service 22.12.1914-3.1.1915); SMS Trinitas (in service only between 22.12.1914 and 3.1.1915).

Repair and Rescue Ship

SMD Sampson (paddle wheeler specially outfitted for this service)

Barrack Ship of the Danubian Fleet Command

SMD Hebe (paddle-wheeler) >

Hospital Ships

S.M. Spitalschiff Kulpa (in service from 26.7.1914).
 S.M. Spitalschiff Traisen (in service from 24.7.1914 to 2.9.1916)
 S.M. Spitalschiff Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand (Ship's Doctor: Dr. Barozay).

Auxiliary Ships

(Motorboats, Transport and Provisions Ships, Barges, etc.)

Motorboats: Linz, Gisela, Ariston, Iren, Gott Mit Uns, Frieda, Eveline (Kaiserlich Deutsche Motorboat), Achilles, Pusztaszer, Pillango, Lelek, Helene (see below), Bataszek, Andor.

Schleppern (tug-boats): S1, SII, SIII, SIV

Wasserbooten (Waterboats): I, II, III, IV (Barges for drinking water).

Booten "D", "E" and "I" (boats for various other duties)



K. u. K. KRIEGSMARINE, in an arc at the top;
 S. M. S. "HELENE", in an arc at the bottom; this is a
 vertical oval postmark with the Austrian state seal in
 the center, size 40 by 32mm, in light purple.

Postal Operations of the Fleet during World War 1

During the war the Danubian fleet personnel had the same free franking privilege as the personnel of the other Austro-Hungarian armed forces. Seamen on each ship either took their mail to a senior non-commissioned officer assigned to collect the mail, or to their immediate commanding officer and it was censored before departure. [N.B. Censored but not always stamped so]. Mostly the seamen used ordinary military field postcards headed (in German): Feldpost Korrespondenzkarte or (in Hungarian) Tábori-Levelező-Lap, both meaning 'Field Post Card'; but other private stationery was also permitted, hence the many p.p.c's seen today from all over the Adriatic coastline (not so many from the Danube crews). All outgoing mail was stamped with special handstamps that verified the items in question to travel en-route to destinations. These handstamps (or cancellers) were accepted as Ships' postmarks and bore many forms and designs. Two types: one bearing the Austrian state arms in the centre and the other with the dual mark of Austria-Hungary. One can almost safely state that no two were absolutely identical; they differed in shape, size, design and appeared in various coloured inks - black, blue, purple and reds of all shades. >

FOUR "TYPES" EXAMPLES



Each of these items is a circular postmark with the combined state seals of Austria and Hungary appearing in the center.

No. 1. K. u. K. KRIEGSMARINE (Imperial and Royal War Fleet), in an arc at the top; S. M. S. (His Majesty's Ship) "ENNS", in an arc at the bottom; postmark, diameter 34mm, in dark purple; dateline Aug. 7. 1916.

No. 2. K. u. K. KRIEGSMARINE S. M. P. b. (His Majesty's Patrol Boat) "COMPO", arranged in a circle; postmark, diameter 30mm, in dark purple; dateline 16.II.17 (1917).

No. 3. K. u. K. (Kaiserlich und Koniglich) KRIEGSMARINE, in an arc at top; S. M. S. "KOROS", in an arc at bottom; postmark, diameter 36mm, in light blue; dateline Aug. 7. 1916.

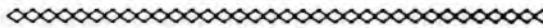
No. 4. K. u. K. KRIEGSMARINE, in an arc at top; S. M. P. b. "BARSCH", in an arc at bottom; postmark, diameter 35.5mm, in light purple; dateline 20.II.17 (1917).

Routing the Mail

First it was relayed from the ships to their respective Field Post Offices (FPOs) these being usually FPO No. 170 or 299. During actual fighting along the river however, mail could be transferred from ships to other FPOs nearby or even to civilian POs. During this process the mail would be struck with 'transit' marks and these postmarks ensured the evidence that the items had been properly posted thus enabling them to proceed through the whole of the Empire's postal system. (see examples illustrated).

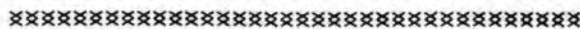
Collectors may occasionally find very neatly marked Fieldpost Cards sent to a certain Xaver Wutscher (Korvettenkapitan) of Pola. This officer was a very keen collector of ships' mail and its many markers. He had hundreds of special cards printed with his Naval address sent to almost every ship's commander in the entire Adriatic and Danube fleets seeking a nice 'example' of their special markers. Eventually some - not very many - of these came into collectors' hands. Although quite rightly being termed 'By Favour' these 'Wutscher' cards are still collectable simply because they did travel properly through the Navy Mail systems. That was over 75 years ago and few can be left unknown today so - if you see one - collect it.

Austro-Hungarian Forces Mail is today very collectable but because of the time span between WW1 and today, it is getting scarcer every day. Official records about this fleet are incomplete and not very precise. One may therefore, find some unknown, unrecorded piece of Navy Mail and this applies to the Adriatic and Danube Fleets. It must be remembered however, that the crews of some of these old Danubian ships were numerically quite small. This fact, of course, is very important in the evaluation and pricing of these covers. Indeed ALL A-H Navy covers/cards are getting scarcer daily and thus - remain a most fascinating facet of Forces Mail collecting.



Bibliography

- Almanach der K.u.K. Kriegsmarine 1914-1918, Wien.
 Archiv für Seewesen 1914, Wien.
 Die Wehrmacht der Monarchie im Weltkrieg 1914, Bruder Hartmann, Wien 1915.
 Kpt. Hugo Sokol: Oesterreich-Ungaren Seekrieg 1914-1918 Vol. 1-4, Amaltea Verlag, Wien 1933.
 Josef Tschupik: Die Abstempelungen der Österr-Ung. Marine im Weltkrieg, Donaupost 1921.
 Alfred Clement: Der K.u.K. Kriegsmarine und deren Schiffe, Graz 1965.
 Jiří Nekvasil: Válečné lodi Dunaji, Obrana Lidu Magazine, Praha 1967.
 Jane's Publishing Co. (additional) for 'Bödros' photograph.



History in
The Post

CYRIL AND METHODIUS
- Geoffrey McAuley -

This story is one of many relating to the history of Czechoslovakia which have left their marks on stamps, postmarks and postal history. Further tales will be related in future articles, together with illustrations from "history in the post" such as those used here.

On 22nd June, 1935, the Czechoslovak Post Office issued a set of three stamps showing Saint Cyril and his brother Saint Methodius holding a book in which is written the first words of the gospel of St. John: "In the beginning was the Word", written in Cyrillic script.



Bulgaria, 1937 series

Rastislav

They were both orthodox priests of noble blood, not new to missionary work, their work among the Bulgars had been successful. They are commemorated on a Bulgarian set of 1937, (SG.379/383). Rastislav, Prince of the Great Moravian Empire (Slovakia SG.119 of 1944) fearing that the advance of Western Christianity would lead to German domination, asked Byzantium for missionaries. Cyril and Methodius were sent in 863AD; Greece SG.1149 shows the Byzantium Emperor Michael III issuing them with a mandate to preach in Moravia. They were accompanied by St. Clement and St. Naum, both shown on Bulgarian stamps.



With Michael III

St Clement

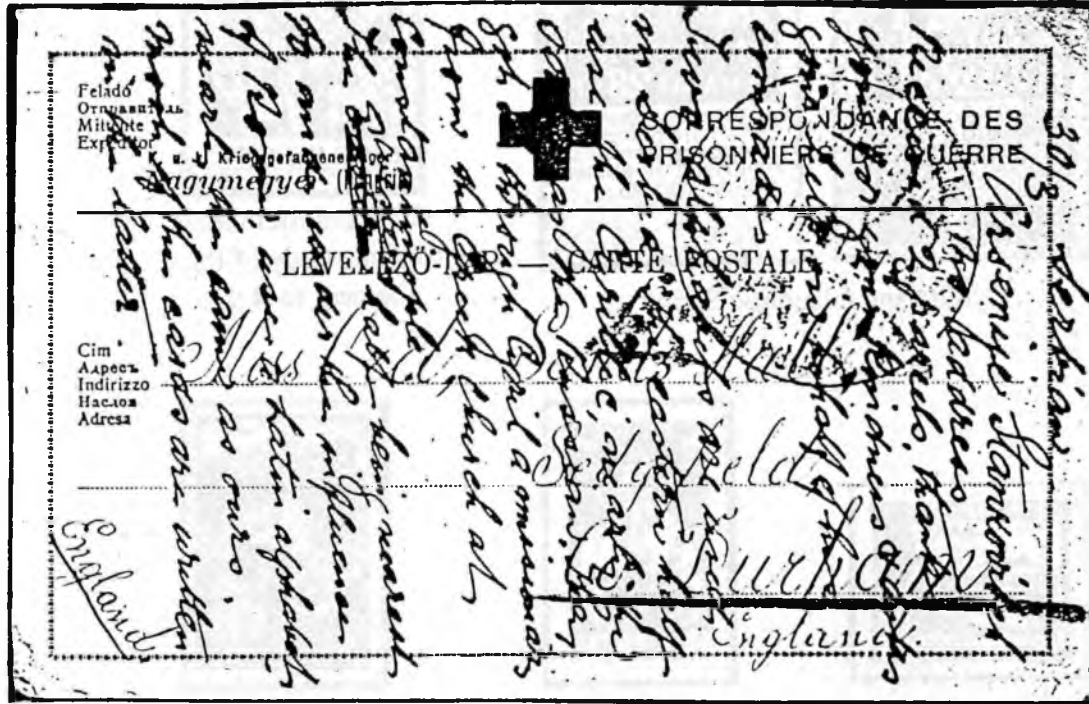
St Naum

Translating the Bible

The first and most significant feature of their mission was the proclamation of the Christian faith in the Slavonic language and to this end, Cyril invented the alphabet named after him and upon which modern Russian, Bulgarian and Serbian orthography is based. It was derived from the Greek script, adapted to suite the peculiarities of the Slav tongue. Greece 1148 and 1150, printed se-tenant, show the two missionaries translating the bible. Thus they brought literacy as well as faith to the Slavs. >

Illustrated here is a Red Cross card dated 1918 from a Serbian prisoner of war in Nagymegyer Camp in Hungary [Nagymegyer is now in Slovakia] and it is written in the Cyrillic script. The translator has added an explanation across the face of the card as follows:-

"Two alphabets are used in Serbia. The Eastern half use the Cyrillic, nearly the same as Russian. They got it from Cyril, a missionary from the Greek church at Constantinople. The Western half, being nearest to and under the influence of Rome, use the Latin...."



1918 Red Cross Correspondence Card from Serbian P.O.W. in Nagymegyer Camp [today in Slovakia]

The missionaries of the West, with whom Christianity and Germanism went hand in hand, denounced them to the Holy See and they were summoned to Rome. A Vatican City stamp (1970) shows them carrying the body of Pope Clement which they had discovered in Rome. Cyril died there in 869AD but Methodius was invested as Archbishop of Moravia and Pannonia, and given permission to use their script. The 1100th anniversary of Cyril's death was commemorated by two Bulgarian stamps (SG.1909/10) which have set-tenant labels showing both Cyrillic and Glagolitic characters. [Illustrated overleaf].

Methodius returned to Velehrad which is still a place of pilgrimage in Moravia. It first appeared philatelically on the 1.20 Koruny value of the series for the 10th anniversary of the CSR in 1928. Though hampered in every way by the German party and imprisoned for a time, he continued teaching until his death in 885AD, which was honoured on a Yugoslavian stamp in 1985. After his death his disciples were banished from Moravia; St. Clement went to Bulgaria, where he died in Ochrid monastery, which is shown on Bulgaria SG. 498. >



Cyrillic and Glagolitic Script

Cyril and Methodius carrying body of Pope Clement to Rome.



Velehrad



Death of Methodius



Ochrid Monastery



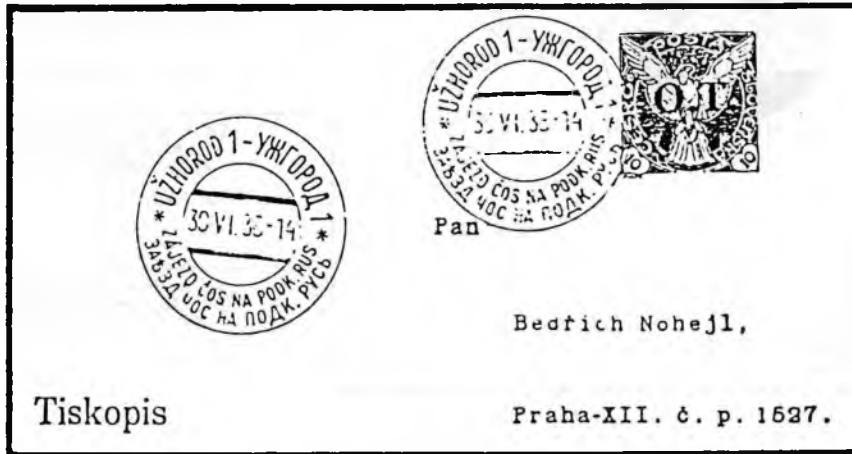
Svatopluk



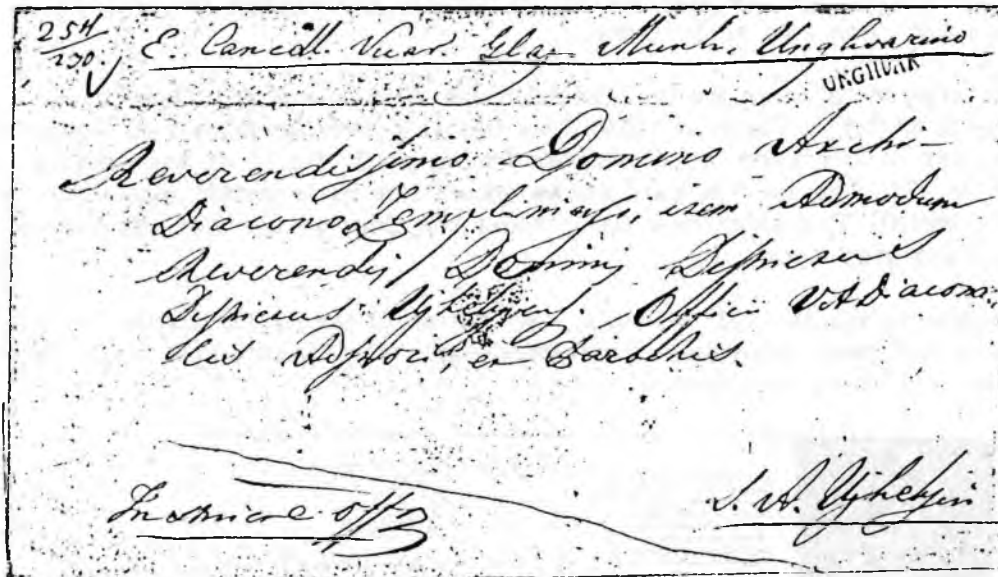
Latin Inscriptions



King Svatopluk (Slovakia SG.120 of 1944), who had overthrown his uncle Rastislav, banned Cyrillic script after the death of Methodius. Latin was used by the church thereafter for 1000 years in the whole area. Examples can be seen on Czechoslovakia S.G.MS1658 and SG. 1703.



The literate native population, however, spoke a Slavic tongue and used Cyril's alphabet.



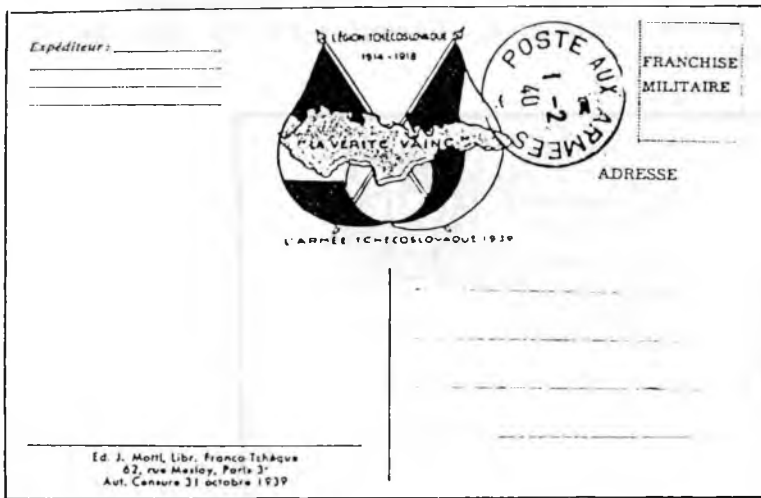
Illustrated here is an Ex Offio ecclesiastical entire from **Uzhorod** (Unghvar) the extreme east of what was Czechoslovakia before Division [today **Uzhgorod** in W. Ukraine]. This shows the use of Latin characters and language, although Cyrillic was - and still is - used by the ordinary people. This is clearly visible in the postmarks on the (top) 'Printed Papers' item to Prague of 30.VI.1938.

The next article in this series 'History in The Post' will deal with the Czech Legion in France (1914-1918)

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN FRANCE AND U.K.
1939 - 1945

W.W.2

W.A.Page



Inscriptions (actual size)
- card reduced here -

Ed. J. Mottl, Libr. Franco-Tchèque
62, rue Meslay, Paris-3°

Normal

Ed. J. Mottl, Libr. Franco-Tchèque
62, rue Meslay, Paris-2°

Error

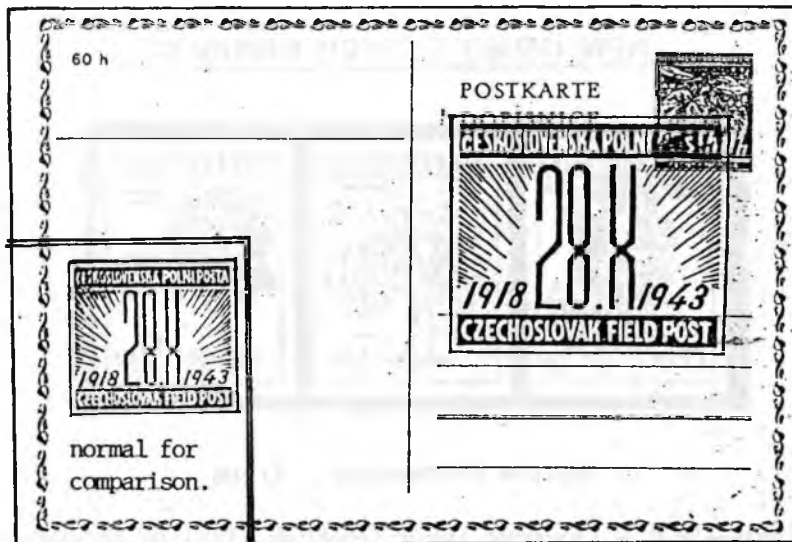
A common fact in publishing philatelic and postal history studies is that upon publishing, something else invariably 'turns up' that has not been previously recorded. Publication of the Supplement to Society Monograph No. 5 (by Roy Reader) has seen two such items.

The first is a printing error on the Czechoslovak Army postcard (Type 2) published by J. Mottl in Paris in 1939. This has the inscription in two lines at the bottom-left of the card, as illustrated facing p.10 (fig.3) of the original Monograph No. 5. The normal card shows the Paris postal district a '3e' (troisième - third). The error now seen shows the district as '2e' (deuxième - second) as illustrated here.

The item below is No.24 in J. Marek's own series of Army Postcards. A number of these have not been recorded (see Monograph No.5 Supplement p.3). No. 24 has not been previously recorded.



Card No. 24 - reduced



National Day 1943 cancellation (reduced)

On a similar theme, an unknown version of one of the pictorial cancellations used in Great Britain has been seen. These cancels were used by the Czechoslovak Forces between 1940 and 1943. This is the "National Day" cancel of 28th October 1943, marking the 25th Anniversary of Independence. In almost all respects, the canceller now seen (above) is identical to that normally seen with the exception of sizes. This one measures 51x45mm whereas the other is 32x29mm. These marks were struck in red on a variety of letters, cards and souvenirs. In both instances quoted here the sizes are approximate, bearing in mind that the cancellers were made of rubber, liable to distortion on application.

This particular handstamp was one of a number designed by Jindrich Křeček as described in 'Czechout' No. 67, p.42 in June 1992.

It is noteworthy perhaps to see that the illustrated card is a "Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate" issue with the larger version of canceller applied also in red. Perhaps it was originally intended that the larger size should be issued but for practical reasons may have been reduced. This suggests that perhaps this latest discovery may be a trial printing ... who knows?

[With acknowledgments to Brian Day and Roy Reader who provided details of the first and third items examined here]

[Editorial Note: Elsewhere in this issue will be noted that 18 Rue Bonaparte in Paris 6 was selected as the offices of the Czechoslovak National Council in February 1916]

NEW ISSUES - CZECH REPUBLIC

Nature Protection - Trees

October 26 (3v): 5Kč - *Quercus robur* (English Oak) in colours green, yellow-green, grey and brown.

7Kč - *Carpinus betulus* (European Hornbeam) in colours black, ochre, grey, green and brown.

9Kč - *Pinus silvestris* (Scots Pine) in colours blue, green, rose and brown.

Designer: Katarina Ševellova-Šutekova.

Engraver: Miloš Ondráček.

Design Size: 23x30mm.

Printing: PPH, Prague in sheets x 50 pieces by rotary recess/4-colour photogravure.

F.D.C. Two - (a) Carrying the 5Kč and 7Kč stamps with cachet drawing of a girl's face/leaves ('Living Nature') engraved by Martin Srb. (b) Carrying the 9Kč stamp and symbolic engraving by Martin Srb of 'The Appurtenance of Mankind and Nature'. Postmarked from Praha.

[These stamps were also issued by Slovakia on May 14th 1993; the only differences being in language of States and Values]

Christmas



November 8

Festive scene - Bearded man driving reindeer/sledge carrying an 'angel' with gifts. (Even the reindeer is smoking a pipe!)

Designer: Adolf Born.

Engraver: Martin Srb

2Kč: Printed rotary recess/4-col. photogravure in sheets x 100.

Design Size: 23x29mm in colours black, blue, green, brown and red. FDC: Skiing Crow with letter in black, blue, orange.

Printed by PPH, Prague. p. 11½x11¾. >

ART ON POSTAGE STAMPS - 1993

[Please note that this series is in **two parts** for 1993]

November 8 (2v): 11Kč



"Composition" (1933) by Joan Miró (1893-1983)
The stamp commemorates the Centenary of the National Gallery in Prague.

Engraver: Bohumil Šneider
Design Size: 50x40mm

Colours: Yellow, red, blue, brown-red, black.

Printing: Recess from flat plates in sheets x 4.
by PPH, Prague. p.11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{2}$

14Kč



"Green Rye" (1889) by Vincent V. Gogh (1853-90)
Original painting is in the National Gallery, Prague.

Engraver: Milos Ondráček
Design Size: 50x40mm

Colours: Yellow, green, dark-green and black.

[Printing details same as the 11Kč stamp]

FDCs: 11Kč.- Carries engraver's transcription of Artist's coloured lithography - "Equation".

14Kč With engraver's variation of the Artist's self-portrait.

December 15 (1v) 9Kč



"Our Lady of Strahov" by a Czech Master post-1350.
Original is in the Strahov Gallery, Prague.

Engraver: Bedřich Housa
Design Size: 40x50mm

Colours: Gold, red, ochre, blue and black.

Printing: Recess from flat plates in sheets x 4.
by PPH, Prague. p. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11 $\frac{3}{4}$

FDC: Carries the engraver's transcription of a work by Jan Štícha - ornate initial/view of Strahov Church/music record of Mass hymn with Latin text.

[Acknowledgment: Press releases/specimens by courtesy of Ministry of Economy via its Philatelic Service in Prague - "Postfila". PPH = Post Printing House]

NEW ISSUES - SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Slovak Ministry of Transport, Communications and Public Works announce the issue of the following postage stamps. N.B. Value numerals = Sk (Sl.Crown)

September 24 - "ZVOLEN" (1v) 30



Stamp carries a picture of Zvolen Castle/Arms of Zvolen. It commemorates the 750th Anniversary of the town's municipal privileges restoration.

Colours: Black, red and light-blue.

FDC: No information.

Designer/Engraver: Martin Činovský.

Format: 23x19mm. **Printing:** Post Printing House, Prague; rotary-recess/photogravure in sheets x 100 pieces. p. 11½x11¾.

September 2 - "Biennale of Illustrations - Bratislava" (1v) 5



Design is a reproduction of Lane Smith's illustration taken from the book "Big Pets" (Publishing House 'Viking', New York 1991). The book's illustrations won the "BIB Golden Apple" award for 1991.

Designer: Ľubomir Krátky

Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik

Format: 23x30mm. p.11¼

Printing: PPH, Prague by rotary recess/photogravure/sheetx50.

FDC: Printed by PPH, Prague in brown: Designer/Engraver - as stamp. Design:- Toad in car with Chicken by Hans de Beer (Holland) from the book "Valentino Frosch" produced by Nord-Sud Verlag Publishing House, Monchhalter - 1990. The book's illustrations were awarded a plaque at BIB '91.

[Press Releases by Slovak Post (per ARTIA), Bratislava]

1993 Autumn " STAMPEX " Awards

W.A.P

We offer our sincere congratulations to the following members for their continued successes in National and International Competitions. These latest awards are noted with much pleasure by Committee:-

Geoff. McAuley

International Class - **Large Silver-Gilt** - for "Harness the Wind Hazard the-Sea".

Gary S. Ryan

" " - **Silver-Gilt** - for "English Municipal Revenue Stamps".

National Class - **Small Silver-Gilt** - for "East African Revenues"