



CZECHOUT

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

June 1994

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 75 Vol.12 No.2
Copyright 1994 CPSGB

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

Vol. 12/2	<u>CONTENTS</u>	June 1994
	Editorial	23
	News and Notices	24
	More on Airmail Postage Rates	26
	Secret Marks (on Czechoslovak postage stamps)	29
	Members' Local Displays	35
	Vitorazsko (historic territory)	37
	Medicinal plants on stamps	41
	What?, When?, Where? - Members' Queries	45
	New Issues (Czech)	50
	New Issues (Slovak)	52

EDITORIAL

To see only four entries in one of our annual competitions this year is - to say the least - very disappointing. At the same time it must be acknowledged that this downward trend in numbers of entries has been gradual over the past few years. Of course, it has to be admitted that some members prefer to collect precisely in their own fashion; not being disposed to spend time and sheets on the special presentation styles that competitions usually demand. It is a matter of personal choice - as indeed, is the writing-up of collectors' sheets in formal fashion. That is the great thing about philately as a hobby: the great freedom of choice of stamps, subjects and presentation.

However - there is another way to take our collections to a wider audience where few rules apply and that is by displaying them in our local societies. Some time ago, we asked members to inform us when they did this and today a member has kindly responded. By so doing, he has given us an insight into his collecting interests and - more importantly - has given all of us some better idea as to how to build up a theme for display. Many of us can feel thankful to our member for this. Therefore the call goes out again: 'Let us know how you prepare and present Czechoslovak philately locally - it can be of great assistance to many of us and first-class publicity for our hobby'.

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting of Saturday March 12 1994

The Chairman, Mr. Wm. Dawson welcomed 18 members and acknowledged the six apologies for absence. One new application for membership was announced by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. D.Y. Gren and after the meeting endorsed this application, **Mr. Howard Davies of Shrewsbury, Shropshire** was accepted into Society membership. We wish him a long and happy stay with us.

Details of an 'Open Evening' to be held by Phillips Auction House in London on November 1st were read by the Hon. Secretary. Twelve Society members were invited to this event and all places have now been filled.

Members present were invited to suggest ideas for our displays next season but none was forthcoming. **If YOU have some ideas**, please tell Mrs. Gren.

The first part of the day's programme was the staging of entries for our annual Competition. This time it was for the 'Kay Goodman Trophy'. We were surprised to note that only four entries were present this year. However, after very careful judging by Messrs. B.C. Day and E. Gorge, the following results were announced:

- 1st. - Mr. W. A. Dawson The Postal History of Mikulov.
- 2nd. - Mrs. D.Y. Gren Air Mails of Czechoslovakia.
- 3rd. - Mr. Rex Dixon Carpatho-Ukraine.

In receiving the coveted Rosebowl, Bill Dawson congratulated all who had taken part in the contest. He also particularly thanked Brian Day and Ernst Gorge for their careful and meticulous judging.

There then followed the 'Chairman's Display' event when Bill Dawson entertained the meeting with a fine display and very entertaining introductions to what he called a 'Miscellany of the Posts of Czechoslovakia' - and members were not disappointed!

Bill covered his display with very many interesting (sometimes puzzling) items. Amongst these were items of TPO mails, pre-stamp covers/entires, 'Bohemia & Moravia' from the 2nd World War era, plate varieties of the "Dove" issues (it was from this series that the Society adopted its official emblem!), Pneumatic mails, provisional issues of 1945-46 and some most interesting and rare items covering the 1953 monetary reforms. In all, a fascinating display that prompted Brian Parker to tender, on behalf of members present, a glowing Vote of Thanks. This was heartily endorsed by meeting.

Autumn Meeting : Saturday September 10th at 2.30pm.

This will be at our usual London venue when Mr. R.A. Dehn, FRPS,L. will display and speak about the celebrated 1919 Overprints (on A-H stamps). >

Congratulations to:

Richard Beith on his obtainment of a Large Silver Medal award at HAFNIA '94 International Exhibition at Copenhagen, Denmark for his entry:
"Italian South Atlantic Airmail Services 1939-1945"



It is with the deepest regret that we have to report the passing of our member Mrs Eva Simmonds of London NW7. **R.I.P.**

Stop-Press

Since the "Members' Queries" column was completed and set up for printing, John Whiteside has reported that he has seen a cover bearing the **BATOV 1** cds with a date as late as 7.2.46. This was in bi-lingual style but with the German name expunged.

Corrections to issue 1/1994

Will interested readers please make the following text corrections and accept the Editor's apologies for these errors:-

Page 10, line 2 should read 3.60Kčs stamp and not 3 Kčs.

Page 21: Re. "Agricola" stamp design. Date period should read "1494-1525".

From The Editor

As you are probably already aware, this will be my final edition of this journal. My reasons for this have already been made known to you and I am most grateful to Committee for the kindly manner in which my application to be relieved of this post has been received. I took over in 1986 and during the ensuing years, have gained much pleasure, happiness and (yes!) much philatelic knowledge as the result of my appointment. My deepest thanks to all who helped to make this possible. I do trust that you will continue to support our journal in the best possible way as you have with me and give all the assistance you can to my successor. International awards in recent years confirms 'Czechout' is now recognised as a journal of some quality - mainly with thanks to you, its contributors. Again, my best thanks! Alan Knight.

Airmails

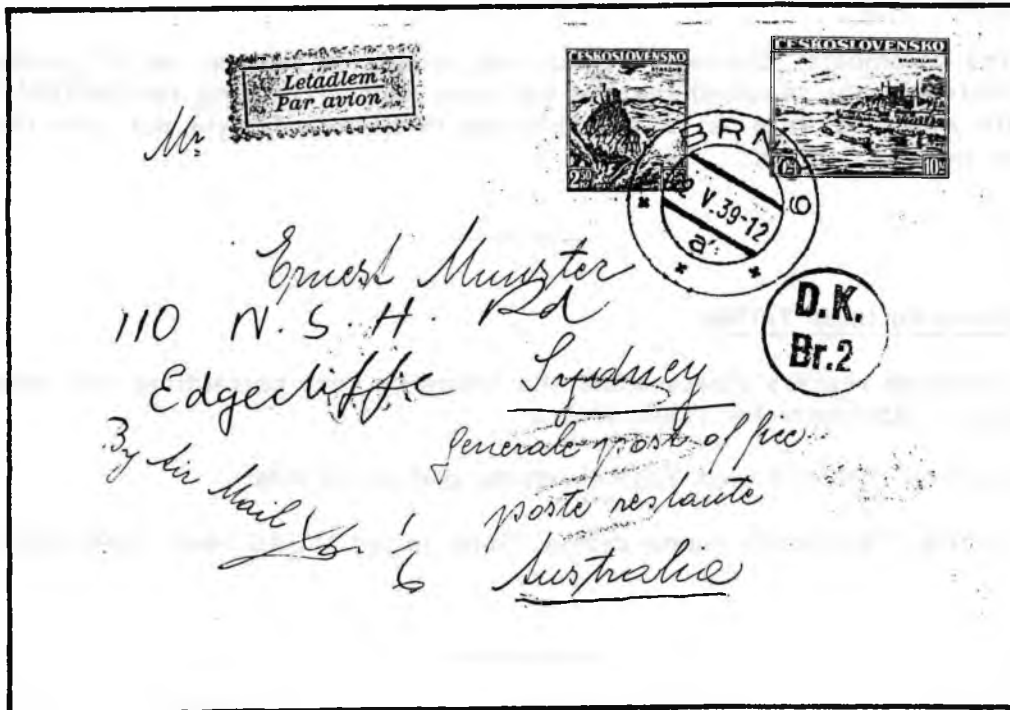
MORE ON AIR MAIL POSTAGE RATES

Richard Beith

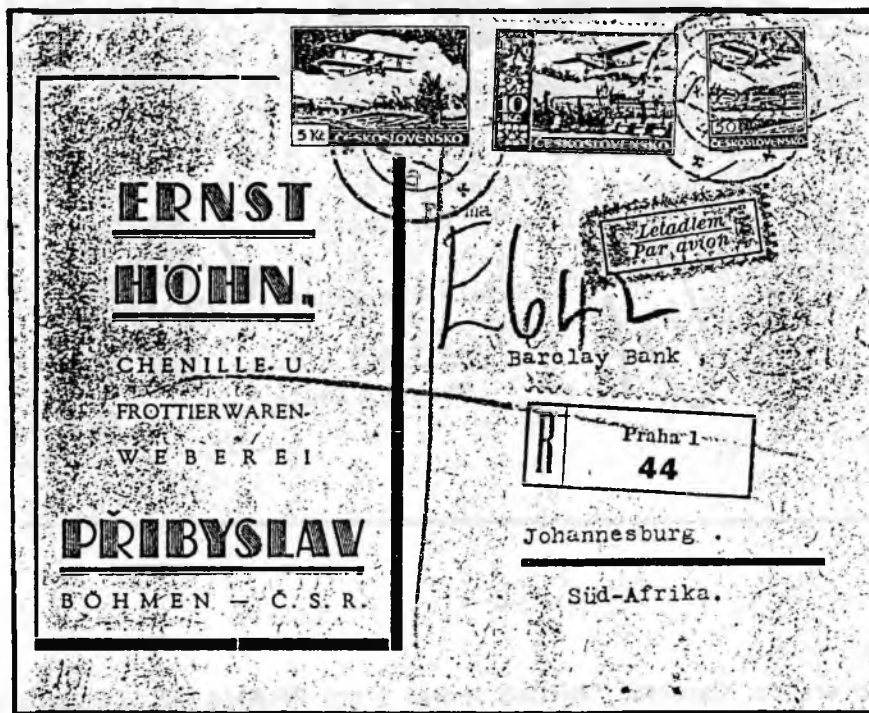
Further to my article in 'Czechout' for September 1993: Clyde Ziegler has kindly confirmed that the registration fee for these overseas services was raised from 2.50k to 3.00k on 1st October 1940.

Can I also make one small correction: the availability of two air mail flights a week between Europe and South America, i.e. one French service and one German service, started in 1936 and not 1937 as stated on page 57.

I have recently acquired examples of covers flown from Czechoslovakia to Australia, to the Dutch East Indies, to India and to South Africa. Dates, rates and transit marks are:



1. - BRNO, 22 May 1939 to Sydney, Australia; arrived 1 June 1939. Praha 7 transit and circled DK Br.2 censor handstamp. Franking: Kč 12.50 - presumably this equals Kč 2.50 basic + 1 x Kč 10.00/5g air fee.
2. - ČESKE BUDĚJOVICE 22 December 1934, to Batavia, Dutch East Indies, arrived 4th January 1935. Praha 7 and Athens transit marks. Typed inscription 'per KLM line'. Franking: Kč 20.50, i.e. leaving Kč 18.00 for the air fee. [Question: 'Was this 2 x 9Kč/5g or 3 x 6Kč/5g?]. >



-4-

4. - Three covers to **Johannesburg, South Africa** from **PRAHA 1**, 28 April 1936 with **Athens** transit for 29 April 1936; from **ČERVENÝ KOSTALEC**, 24 June 1936, with **Athens** transit for 27.6.36 and from **PIŠEK** 4 April 1938, with **Alexandria** transit 10 April 38. Franking: Kč 15.50 (including registration fee); Kč 9.50 and Kč 6.00 respectively. These three covers are consistent with Kč 2.50 basic, Kč 2.50 registration fee and Kč 3.50/5g air fee. That is, they represent rates for <15g, <10g and <5g respectively.

I would be glad to hear from members with comments on my conjectured air mail fees. [Address your comments via the Editor if you wish. Ed.]

In his covering letter to the Editor, Richard Beith advises him that he has been asked to resurrect one of his earlier interests: "Scottish Air Mails" and give a talk in Inverness at the end of May - in connection with the 60th anniversary of the Inverness-Orkney Air Mail; Quite an eventful occasion with British Airways and the Scottish Postal Board being involved.

We very much hope that Richard was well-received and that a good time was enjoyed by all. If **you** have been invited to speak/display your favourite theme in Czechoslovak and related philately - do please tell us all about it.

Artwork: W.A.Page

SECRET MARKS

W.A. Dawson

Collectors will recognise the term "Secret Marks" with possibly those incorporated into some designs - the middle issues of Canada being the best-known examples. What is perhaps not so well known is that this term also applies to certain issues of the First Republic of Czechoslovakia.

The first examples are to be found in the set of 10 pictorials issued on the 28th October 1928 to mark the country's 10th Anniversary of Independence. All ten designs were engraved by Karl Seizinger. Depicted on the 2Kč value is the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Brno, from a painting by Jaroslav Šetelik. In the bushes at 1.5mm above the frame of the left value tablet, the engraver inserted a tiny letter 'S'. The top value of this issue (5Kč) shows a representation of the Old Town Square in Praha from a painting by Václav Malý. In this instance, Karl Seizinger incorporated his full initials 'KS' at the lower left corner of the illustration adjacent to the left value tablet.

On 14th May 1929, the next commemorative set was released to mark the death in 929AD of Prince Václav, patron Saint of the Czech people. All five values again engraved by the eminent Seizinger. The two lower values of 50h and 60h shared a design depicting Prince Václav on horseback and holding his standard, adapted from a painting by Mikuláš Aleš. Here, again, the engraver's initials 'KS' appear in the lower right floral decoration just inside the circular frame and 4mm above the right encircled value [fig.1]. (Ed. 'Ales' also appears 5mm above centre of the left value tablet).

Prince Václav receiving homage, from a painting by Felix Jenewein, formed the basis of the design for the 2Kč value and here, again, the initials 'KS' appear in the engraving work [fig.2]. They are placed sideways and reading upward in the inside right side of the arched frame, almost level with the fifth linden leaf up from the right value tablet. For the top values (3Kč and 5Kč), the design was based on a further painting - this time by the artist Josef Maneš - depicting the assassination of Prince Václav at the Church in Mladá Boleslav, by his brother Boleslav and fellow conspirators. The engraver again deftly incorporated his 'KS' mark at lower right of the circular frame at the base of the archway of the bridge-like structure; just above the right encircled value [fig.3]. In addition and in deference to the fame of the painter, the initials 'JM' were also included in monogram form in the middle of the bridge structure - at the right.

During the years 1929-1931 a set of four pictorial high value definitives was released, again - engraved by the prolific Seizinger. For the 3Kč value issued 15th October 1929, the same design of the Cathedral in Brno from the painting by Šetelik was employed. Again, the letter 'S' is to be found in the bushes, a little way above the frame of the left value tablet. A photograph of the High Tatra mountains (Slovakia) by Ján Procházky provided the design for the 4Kč value issued simultaneously with the 3Kč. The Seizinger 'trade mark' in the form of the letter 'S' is to be found touching the inner left frame by the top of the fir tree, 4.25mm below the inscription 'TATRY'. On the same date as the two a/m values, the 5Kč value was released and repeating the same central design as for the same value of the 1928 '10th Anniversary' series, i.e. the Old Town Square of Praha, painted by Václav Malý but printed this time in olive-green instead of the original deep violet. Obviously, as in the 1928 release, 'KS' >



Fig.1.

Fig.2.

Fig.3.



Fig.4.

Fig.5.

Fig.6.

appears at lower left of the main picture - by the value tablet. Finally, the top value (10Kč) was issued 15th May 1931 and depicting the Malá Strana (with the Church of St. Nicholas) in Praha. This was based on a painting by Karel Vika and again the small 'KS' insignia appears at lower left corner of the main design; just right of the value tablet and above the 'K' of 'Korun'.

A set of three pictorials (3.50, 4 and 9Kč values) depicting notable castles was issued on 2nd January 1932. All three dies for the designs were engraved by Karl Seizinger and with, yet again, his initial 'S' showing in the finished product. Krivoklát Castle features on the 3.50Kč value and the 'secret' mark by the inner left frame, between branches of foliage of the tree - about 4.5mm above the left value tablet [fig.4]. The 4Kč value is an adaption of a painting by J. Vaic of Orlik Castle on a rocky outcrop that overlooks the river Vltava. In this instance, the letter 'S' was placed in the top foliage of the tree by the inner left frame, just 1mm below the inscription 'Orlik' [fig.5]. As in the instance of the 3.50Kč value, the 5Kč design showing the Castle at Český Krumlov was based on a photograph by J. Vaic. The imprinted 'S' is in the corner of inner frame line of the left-hand value tablet at the end of the bridge (over the Vltava once again) [Fig.6].

1932 saw the centenary of the birth of the founder of the 'Sokol' Movement - Doctor Miroslav Tyrš. A set of four stamps was issued on 16th March. The higher values of 2 and 3Kč did not carry any 'secret' marks by Seizinger but the two values of 50h and 1Kč did. These two, like the others, shared a common portrait of Dr. Tyrš in 'Sokol' uniform and in these two, the engraver followed his usual practise of including the letter 'S' in both engravings. He placed it sideways at the lower right corner by the inner frame line and just below the '1932' scroll [fig.7].

Prince Pribina established the first Christian Church at Nitra (Slovakia) in the year 833 . On June 20th 1933, two low value stamps were issued to mark the 1100th Anniversary of that foundation. Two different montages were employed for the designs, engraved by none other than the one and only Karl Seizinger. On the 50h value, the letter 'S' appears in a sloping position (leaning towards its back) in the rocks below the base of the right buttress of the Church, 5.5mm above the right value tablet [fig. 8]. The same initial 'S' is also to be found on the 1Kč value; this time vertical, near the top of the tree at right, inside the arch 4mm below the figure '1' of '1993' [fig.9].

Early in World War 1 (1914) a Czechoslovak unit was formed at Kiev to fight alongside the Russian armies. In the main it was composed of deserters from the Austro-Hungarian Army. In 1917 a Czechoslovak company, consisting largely of Czech and Slovak emigrés in France together with volunteers from USA was formed at Bayonne, France. August 15th 1934 saw the release of a 4-values set to mark the 20th Anniversary of the first Czechoslovak unit to fight on the side of the Allies. The designs were the work of Václav Fiala and the engravings were again entrusted to Karl Seizinger. The 50h depicts the Oath of Allegiance to the Czechoslovak Legion Flag being taken at Kiev on 21st September 1914. As one would by now expect this set carried the Seizinger monogram 'S'. In this instance - in the cross-hatching above the hilt of the sword, below the third soldier from the right. The 1Kč value illustrates the Oath of Allegiance being taken on December 19th.1917 at Bayonne by the Czechoslovak company "Nazdar!" The initial is in the trees at upper right, sloping slightly to the left >



Fig.7.

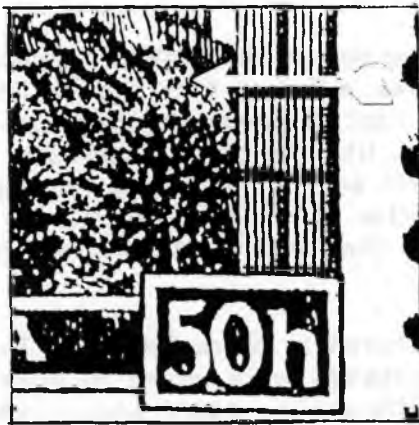


Fig.8.



Fig.9.



Fig.10.

at 1.5mm below the "1" of '1934'. Ensign Heyduk holding the Legion colours at the ceremony of Trooping the Colours of the Czechoslovak unit attached to the Russian Army is shown on the 2Kč value. Here the engraver's insignia is to be found in the shading just below the heels of the standard bearer. Legionnaires in the uniforms of the French, Russian and Serbian Armies are the subject matter for the design of the 3Kč value in this set. Seizinger has inserted his initial below the 'c' of the left-hand scroll 'Francie'.

"Kde domov můj?" (Where is my Home?) is the title of the Czech National Anthem. [Ed. In the former Czechoslovakia, it was the first part of the Nat. Anthem of that state). The Anthem's centenary was celebrated in 1934, marked by two values issued on 17th December. The 1 and 2Kč values were of the same design, based on the painting 'Homeland' by the famed Josef Maněš. Engraving was, again, the work of Karl Seizinger whose skills and ingenuity one can only but admire. In this engraving his 'S' slopes down to the right and is found in the white bush between the central figures [fig.10]. In this instance, the engraver again paid tribute to a painter by including 'M' (Maněš) in the lower left corner of the picture; just right of the value tablet - possibly the most easily seen of all these 'secret' marks. Since the original dies were also used for the now famous "Music Sheets" issued on 21st December 1934, both the 'S' and 'M' appear in each of the 15 units comprising these very special sheets.

Thus is concluded this review of the 'Secret Marks' instigated by Karl Seizinger on Czechoslovak postage stamps. He did the engraving work on further issues of the First Republic but did not incorporate his personal mark into any of the designs after 1934. However, this is not the end of this review since another prolific engraver - Bohumil Heinz - enters the scene. Heinz's first work at stamp engraving was that depicting the famous composer Antonin Dvořák, issued on 22nd November 1934, marking the composer's 30th death anniversary. No evidence of an engraver's personal mark appears in that design.

The next issue to follow the National Anthem set was on 1st March 1935, marking the forthcoming 85th birthday on 7th March of the President of the Republic, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk - in four values. The two lower values were in small format (50h and 1Kč) featuring the President in profile and wearing a military style cap. This was a design adapted by Heinz from a photograph. In the instance of these two lower value stamps, engraver Bohumil Heinz incorporated his monogram "HB" in a tiny circle touching the top frame of the right-hand value tablet. The larger format stamp, showing a $\frac{3}{4}$ face portrait of the President in a 'Trilby' hat (from another photograph) but the engraver Heinz did not include any such mark indicating it to be his work.

General Milan Rostislav Štefánik was War Minister in the first Government of President Masaryk. He was tragically killed in a 'plane crash on Bradlo Hill, some 8 km. south of Myjava in western Slovakia in May 1919. A photographic portrait of the general in uniform was used as the basis of a design for a 50h issue released on 18th May 1935, marking the 16th anniversary of Štefánik's death. Bohumil Heinz designed and engraved the artwork of this issue, including again the monogram 'HB' at the lower corner of the shoulder epaulette close to the left-hand value tablet.

A new four-values definitive portraits set was released during 1935/36. This included a 60h value printed in violet and using the same presentation of the 'Štefánik' portrait as the 1935 50h issue detailed in the previous paragraph. >

An amended engraving to show the different value was produced by Heinz and the stamps were produced on 27th May 1936. Obviously the same "HB" monogram appeared in this definitive stamp exactly as in the previous issue and at the same spot. The other three values were devoid of any such marks.

This same design was also used once more in the re-issue of a 50h value - again in green - as the original 1935 release; that had been comb. perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$ but now it became comb perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ - but again it carried the same monogram

Similarly, the 60h 'Štefánik' portrait design was re-issued but in blue colour during the period of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia on 30th March '39. Total printing of this issue was 50,000 of which 25,000 pieces were overprinted 'Slovenský stat/1939' for use in the newly independent republic of Slovakia. These stamps can be recorded as again showing the Heinz monogram in the same position on the epaulette.

Thus concludes this survey of 'secret' marks to be found on the stamps of the First Czechoslovak Republic. As far as the writer knows, no further examples exist on any other definitive or commemorative issues, nor on any airmail, newspaper, express, personal delivery or postage due stamps. However, further secret marks from the graving tools of Karl Seizinger do exist and are to be found on some World War 2 issues of the Republic of Croatia - but that is another story!

References

1. Ladislav Novotný Catalogue 1978
2. The 'Green' publication "Specializovaný Katalog"(Praga 1978) Praha 1978.
3. The Specializovaná Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Poštovních Známk a Celin - Praha 1978.

Footnote by W.A. Page, FRPS,L.

Having enjoyed the privilege of reading a preview of Bill Dawson's presentation of 'Secret Marks' incorporated into the fine engravings of Karel Seizinger, I recalled a full write-up on the artist which may be of interest to readers. This first appeared in 'Stamps' (USA) and later in 'Czechoslovak Specialist'.

Seizinger was attributed with engravings for 61 Czechoslovak stamps and a further 19 for other postal administrations.



It is said that in some issues his initial(s) is included on only one stamp or row >

within a sheet. Whilst mention is made of the inclusion of the initials 'S' or 'KS' it uses only one stamp to cover this point - that of the 10Kč value of the 'Views' issue of 1936 (SG362) but without illustration.

The existence of the initials is mentioned also in two catalogues: Michel (Germany) and the Novotný Catalogue (Czechoslovakia). However, the article now published is certainly the most comprehensive study of this fascinating feature of Czechoslovak stamps to appear in print.

I illustrate the two values of the 1936 views issue (SG362 and 363).

Further Reading

"Stamps" (USA) - Karl Seizinger's Stamp Engravings by O.L. Harvey and A.I. Kosskin - 12th November 1965.

'Czechoslovak Specialist' - A reprint of the above. - February 1959.

'Michel' Briefmarken Catalogues.

"Specialní Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Známek (1970) - L. Novotný

MEMBERS' 'LOCAL' DISPLAYS

The question has occasionally been raised in this journal as to what members are today displaying in their local clubs when asked to present something on Czechoslovak Philately. The Editor has just received the first response on this subject from Mr. J. Ansell, one of our Gloucestershire members.

Jim had earlier and quite casually mentioned the fact that he had been asked to show 'Czechoslovakia' in Bristol and would be quite prepared to submit a summary of his presentation for publication in 'Czechout' at some later date. Naturally, his offer was gratefully accepted.

It must be noted however, that Jim was 'sharing' that evening with another collector friend and, as he suggests, this was not perhaps quite sufficient time to do justice to the subject.

We are publishing Jim's letter in full because it is felt that it contains much good 'food for thought' when one is faced with such a request. It shows just a few subjects as suggestions but, more importantly, it is a very good guide to the age-old problem of how best to develop a theme properly within a limited space of time:-

"When I was asked to show 'Czechoslovakia' and was looking for a subject theme, I noticed how much the stamps and modern postal history had been used as a propaganda means to promote nationalism. Also - my increasing interest in the Sudetenland and the 1938-1939 period gave added impetus to using 'Nationalism' >

as the principal theme. Additionally, I wanted to exhibit the large variety of 'sidelines' over and above the stamps which make collecting 'Czechoslovakia' such an interesting and rewarding activity.

The display was split into a number of sections to emphasise the variety of subjects but with the material chosen to illustrate the principal theme:

1. - Army in Siberia
2. - 1918 Horner overprints
3. - Scout stamps
4. - Hradčany (1st & 2nd issues) and the First Anniv. of Independence

All of these emphasise Czechoslovakia's new national identity.

5. - Charity overprints and Forgeries to my mind, a purely philatelic exercise but still a means of advertising through collectors worldwide and a device repeated later with the 1945 Liberation overprints.
6. - Pre-war issues: President Masaryk, 1920 and 1922 Airmails. (Today every emerging nation now has a national airline).
The Tenth Anniversary of Independence plus the 1937 and 1938 Philatelic Exhibitions' miniature sheets.
7. - Sudetenland
8. - Slovakia
9. - Carpatho-Ukraine
10. - Bohemia & Moravia this group formed the core of the display with the material illustrating the way in which Hitler had engineered the take-over of Czechoslovakia.
11. - The Czech Army in France and Britain
12. - 1945 Liberation overprints
13. - Post-war issues with Soviet influence
14. - The current new issues from the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

All these examples of the use of philately to advertise a national and political viewpoint relevant to the time.

I showed a total of 70 sheets and although the display was well received, in hindsight I now think the subject requires a full evening to do it justice."

REMINDER!

If you hope to attend the June meeting at Newington with Mr. and Mrs. B. Day and have not yet sent them your notification form issued with our last edition, do please hurry. Full details were published in our last issue.

Postmarks

VITORAZSKO

[Trans: V.J. Králíček]

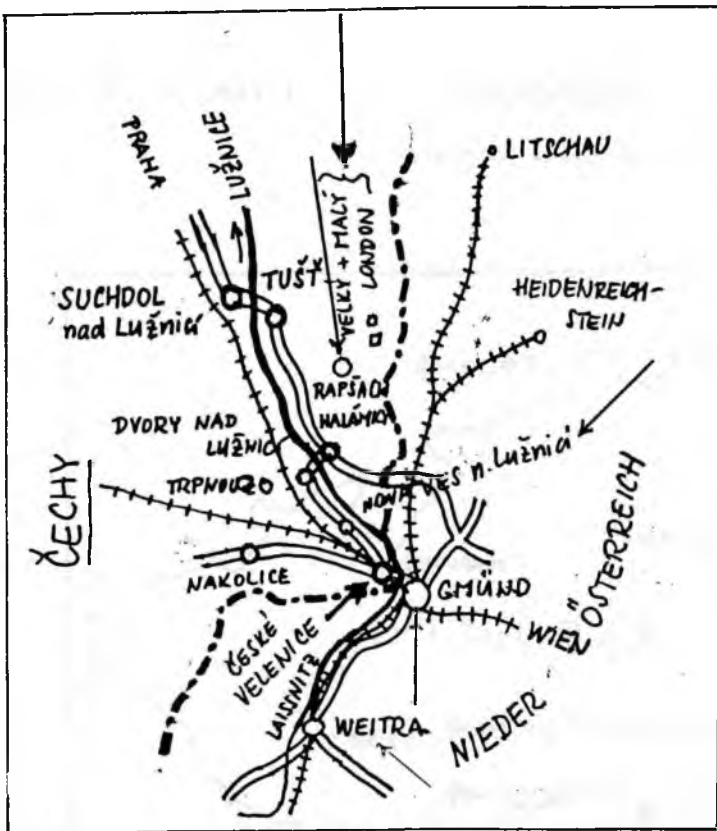
- Dr. Miroslav Vostatek -



I have already written about this South Bohemian region in 'Filatelie' 1976/11 but there have been many changes since that time - It is now possible for us Czechs to travel without any problems to Austrian locations.

Vitorazsko is that historic territory in the upper drainage area of the river Lužnice (Laissnitz). It was originally settled by the Slavs but German colonisation began during the 12th C. In 1185, the Bohemian knight Bedřich Vitorazsko established the Kuering Family fiefdom. One of them - Hadmar - built the castle Weitra (Vitoraz) which became the family seat, giving name to the region. Today, the town of Weitra is still known as the "Kuering Town".

The Kuerings had been involved with Přemysl Otakar II and after the last battle in the Moravian fields, Vitoraz was conquered and in 1280 (some sources say 1279) was taken from the Keurings by Emperor Rudolf Hapsburg. It was annexed to the Lower Austria Duchy and removed from the Bohemian Crown. On the basis of the 10.9.1919 St. Germain Peace Agreement, part of the region was given to the new Czechoslovak Republic. This took place on 31st July 1920, the border adjustments ending on 1st October of the same year. The largest town - Gmünd - was portioned into Austrian Gmünt and Czechoslovak Gmünd. on the river Lužnice. The Czechoslovak part of this town consisted of the rail station and workshops with attached buildings. As late as 1870, not a single building had existed there. Important railway routes now converged onto the station: from Cheb via České Budějovice to Wien and from Prague via Veselí-Mezimostí - also to Wien (fig.1). >



The Vitorazsko Region



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4



fig. 5

From this station started the narrow-gauge railway to Litschau in Austria, with a branch-line to Heidenreichstein; this was abolished after 1945. It is also quite possible that it carried postal consignments.

In 1920 the townships of České Cejle, with the settlements of Josefsko, Dolní Velenice, Nakolice (today, part of Nový Hrad), Vyšné; Trpnouze, with the settlements Žofina Huť, Halámky, Krabonoš, Dvorný nad Lužnicí (formerly Němcké); Rapšach Kunšach with the settlements of Spaleniště, Malý Londyn ['Little London'] and Velký Londyn ['Great London'], Vochůzka; the township of Tušt with the settlements of Nový York and Paříž ['New York' and 'Paris'] were annexed to the ČSR. Today it is possible to find on a detailed map the settlements of Bosna [Bosnia] and Františky.

It is beyond the scope of this article to describe the postal history of these townships, including the establishment of post offices and sub-offices but it is worth mentioning a few points of interest. During the A-H Monarchy, Gmünd had three post offices (1-3). The last one was situated in the Czechoslovak part of the town: this was re-named Cmunt v Čechách (fig.2). It was (according to the Bulletin of the Post & Telegraph dated 21.11.1922) re-named České Velenice on the 1st December 1922. The division of the town was not without some pain as the power station, water works and hospital remained in Austria, whilst (as stated) the railway station/workshops came into the ČSR.

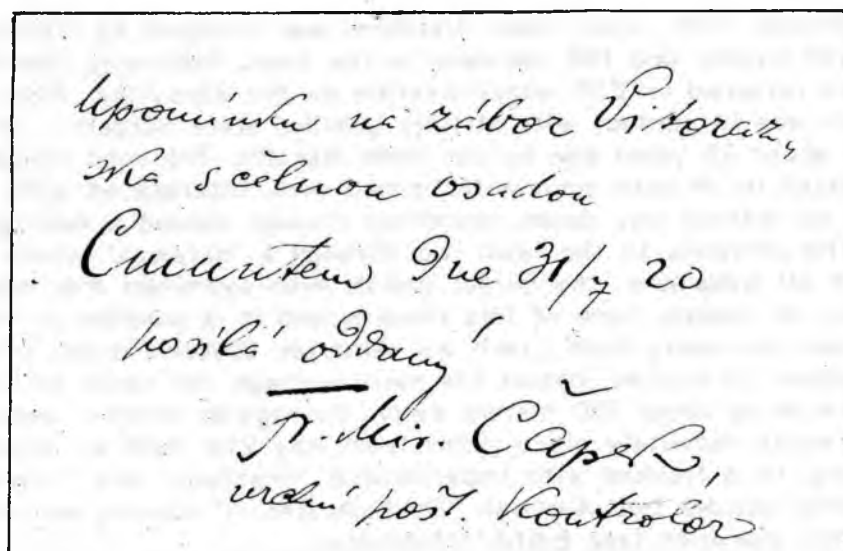
On the 8th October 1938, when Česke Velenice was occupied by German forces, there were 4780 Czechs and 180 Germans in the town. Following liberation in 1945, the town returned to ČSR administration on the 23rd May. After a few years the town was in contact with strictly guarded state borders. I travelled through there about 20 years ago by car from Nakolik. The road through the forest was fenced in on both sides with barbed wire, interspaced with frequent guard towers, so without any doubt, travelling through caused a feeling of oppression. The entrance to the town was through a 'gateway' where there was wire from all sides and the border guards even examined the underside of the car. Today, of course, none of this remains and it is possible to traverse the state borders by newly built Czech and Austrian Customs posts, beyond which, after about 30 metres, passes the narrow-gauge rail route to Litschau, the town square being about 300 meters away. As regards postally used items of interest, I would definitely place items from July 21st 1920 of which, I possess just one. It is franked with imperforated 'Hradčany' and 'Liberated Republic' stamps besides two Austrian "Deutschosterich" stamps and old A-H stamps with this overprint (see Editor's footnote).

The cancellation "Cmunt v Čechach -a- Č.S.P." with the a/m date was used in dark carmine colour. In July 1945 a commemorative cancellation was used in České Velenice (fig.3) with the legend "Oslava 25 letého připojení Vitorazska k ČSR". A provisional rubber stamp cancellation "České Velenice/1945" was used as a daily cancel (fig. 4). Not so numerous are the Railway Post Office cancellations (Fig.5) from Prague to České Velenice or even to Gmünd. The possibility of postal service existence on the narrow-gauge railway I have already mentioned. I will welcome any further information from knowledgeable readers on this particular facet of this article. There still are some remains of this old narrow-gauge system to be seen on the north side of the station.

I have since re-visited this area and was pleased to see that the border crossings today join more and more people together rather than separating them.>



[Ed. footnote to "Vitorazsko" Members may recall a query I raised concerning this card some years ago (Vol.6/3 1988). It can again be interesting because of its direct connection with Dr. Vostatek's article. Here is a card similar to his own which he has described. Addressed to a philat-



elic club at Král Vinohrady (Prague area) and sent by F.M. Čapek, Chief Postal Controller at Cmunt v Čechach. It contains a truly historic message from that time, reading:

"Reminder of the annexation of Vitoraz with the leading settlement Cmunt, 31.7.20.....

With Greetings"

[signature]

[Trans. V.J. Králíček]

Indeed, more information came from John Whiteside in the next edition, thereby proving that a member's "Query" can have the desired effect! AJK.

Thematic

MEDICINAL PLANTS ON STAMPS**- Tom Wilson -**

Following up from last issue's well-received article on "Physicians on Stamps", we are publishing a further short treatise by the same author highlighting certain Czechoslovak issues carrying illustrations of certain medicinal plants grown in Eastern Europe. It is hoped that both items will be of some benefit to readers interested in 'Medication' as a thematic study. Tom Wilson also included a checklist which will be found at the end of this article. [Editor]

To assemble a collection of the medicinal plants that are illustrated on the postage stamps of the former Czechoslovakia imposes a problem of selection. You could be totally eclectic and include any flower, tree or fruit which can be used for its medicinal or healing properties. On the other hand, you could narrow the field by selecting only those issues which feature in sets entitled "Medicinal Plants" or "Medicinal Flowers".

I have chosen the middle path. I have excluded most of the remedies which occasionally crop up under such titles as "Flowers", "Fruits" or "Protected Plants". Nevertheless, I have included in my overall collection, whole sets of "Flowers" from Rumania and Yugoslavia. Similarly "Useful Plants" from Bulgaria as well as "Poisonous Plants" from the former German Democratic Republic. [Edit. note: excluded from this shortened article which concentrates on Czechoslovak issues].

Nowadays in the Western democracies, medicines of plant origin have mostly been supplanted by synthetic drugs manufactured by large multinational corporations. The governments of Eastern Europe could little afford to spend scarce "hard" currency on these sophisticated drugs. Their régimes were apt to stress the importance of self-sufficiency. They were happy to use colourful postage stamps so as to encourage their citizens to prefer traditional remedies. Herbal cures which had been recommended for centuries past can be grown cheaply at home and provide the poorly-paid peasants with useful labour.

The plants and flowers I have selected for my collection fall into three categories. Many are the basis for herbal teas (or 'tisanes' - traditional cottage physic for minor illnesses). Examples are Peppermint for flatulence or colic; Valerian for hysteria; Dandelion for constipation; Yarrow for dyspepsia; Chamomile as a tonic or Lime Flowers as a sedative or to reduce fever.

Secondly, herbs or their extracts are often used externally in the forms of ointments or liniments. Some promote wound healing or check bleeding, e.g. House Leek, Bistort (*Polygonatum*), Arnica and Calendula (popular in homeopathic medicine), Bilberry Fruit or Comfrey. Others can be of value as counter irritants for rheumatic pains - such as Rue, Pasque Flower, Caltha and Bryony. Ulcers of the mouth and throat can be treated by gargling with demulcents like Marsh Mallow, Salep Tuber, Majoram or Comfrey. >



1957



1960



1964



1965 >



> 1965



1971



1983

The last category includes products of the woods and hedgerows *which are by no means harmless. These plants may contain certain dangerous poisons but used correctly in the hands of skilled physicians, they can relieve pain and prolong active life.

Czechoslovakia stamps checklist

1957	SG	995-96	Gentian (<i>G. lutea</i>); Edelweiss (<i>Leontopodium alpinum</i>).
1960	SG	1193-96	Doronicum (<i>Arnica montana</i>); Primula auricula; Cobweb Houseleek (<i>Sempervivum montanum</i>); Gentian (<i>G. clusii</i>); Pasque Flower (<i>Pulsatilla slavnica</i>).
1964	SG	1424-29	Thistle (<i>Carlina acaulis</i>); Chicory (<i>Ch. intybus</i>); Iris (<i>Iris germanica</i>); Gentian; Poppy (<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>).
1965	SG	1538-44	"Medicinal Plants" - Coltsfoot; Meadow Saffron; Poppy; Foxglove; Arnica; Cornflower (<i>Centaury</i>); Dog Rose.
1971	SG	1979-84	"Medicinal Plants and Utensils" - Coltsfoot and cannisters; Dog Rose and glass jars; Spring Adonis and hand-scales; Valerian and pestle/mortar; Succory (<i>Chicory</i>) and crucibles; Hyoscyamus (<i>Henbane</i>); and root-grinder.
1983	SG	2674-75	Violet (<i>Viola sudetica</i>); <i>Nymphaea candida</i> .
		2678	<i>Gentiana aesclepiadea</i> .

Bibliography

Martindale's Extra Pharmacopoeia - Pharmaceutical Press, London.
 Drugs and Pharmacy on Stamps - George Griffenhagen, P.Ph., M.S. 1967.
 A.T.A. Johnstown, Pennsylvania, USA.
 The Macdonald Encyclopedia of Medicinal Plants - Robert Chiej, 1982.
 Illustrations: A.J.Knight (this publication).
 [First published in "Stamp Lover" (London), January 1993].

CAUTION!

* As the author advises us, many woodland and hedgerow plants can be dangerous when handled by the inexperienced. Several wild flowers are dangerous, e.g. the Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Belladonna ('Golden Chain').

Another type of plant to be extremely wary of if you know little or nothing about them are so-called mushrooms or toadstools. Some are deadly - most especially some brightly coloured ones. Admire them all, of course, but if in doubt - don't touch!

"WHAT?, WHEN?, WHERE?"
- Members' Queries -

Another selection this time, together with some answers, for which we are sure our inquirers will be grateful: the answers first:-

From Martin Griggs:

Re the query from Bob Hill about the location of **Batov**; my correspondent in Pardubice replies as follows:

BATOV - This is the old name for **Otrokovice** (Moravia). It was used before and during World War 2 but was later re-named. It was founded by a man called "Batá" - a big shoe manufacturer in Czechoslovakia. After the war he was forced to leave the country because his family had co-operated with the Germans during the war.

From Rex Dixon:

During the period of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, refs [1] and [2] (see below) both give the German name for **Bat'ov** as **Otrokovitz**. Ref [1] actually uses the apostrophe form of the accent on the 't'.

I have not found the*documentary evidence to show that Otrokowitz and Otrokovice are one and the same place but their highly probable identity becomes almost certain after noting that ref [1] states that Otrokowitz is served by the rail-line between Prerau (Přerov) and Lundenburgh (Břeclav). Ref [1] goes on to indicate that Otrokowitz 1 was on Thomas Batastr (tr. Tomáše Bati) and that Otrokowitz 2 was at the station.

I would guess that the town was re-named after the Bat'a shoemaking enterprise founded in 1894 by Tomas Bat'a in near-by **Zlin**. Or was it named directly after the founder himself? - I do not have his autobiography.

* The documentary evidence is published in the Czechoslovak Monograph 13, p541 (No. 1725):- **Otrokowitz - Otrokovice**. It has had a post office since at least 1893. [Ed.]

Mr. Dixon also offers some late information regarding a discussion in this journal around two years ago about bi-lingual (Slovak/German) R-labels in wartime Slovakia. He writes:

In the 5th Auction of the Verenging voor Tsechoslowakije Filatelie, Lot No. 1145 is a bi-lingual R-label from **Nižný Medzev/Unter Metzenseifen** on cover. The Lot description states that there are precisely 9 such bi-lingual R-labels, 5 of which are from Bratislava.

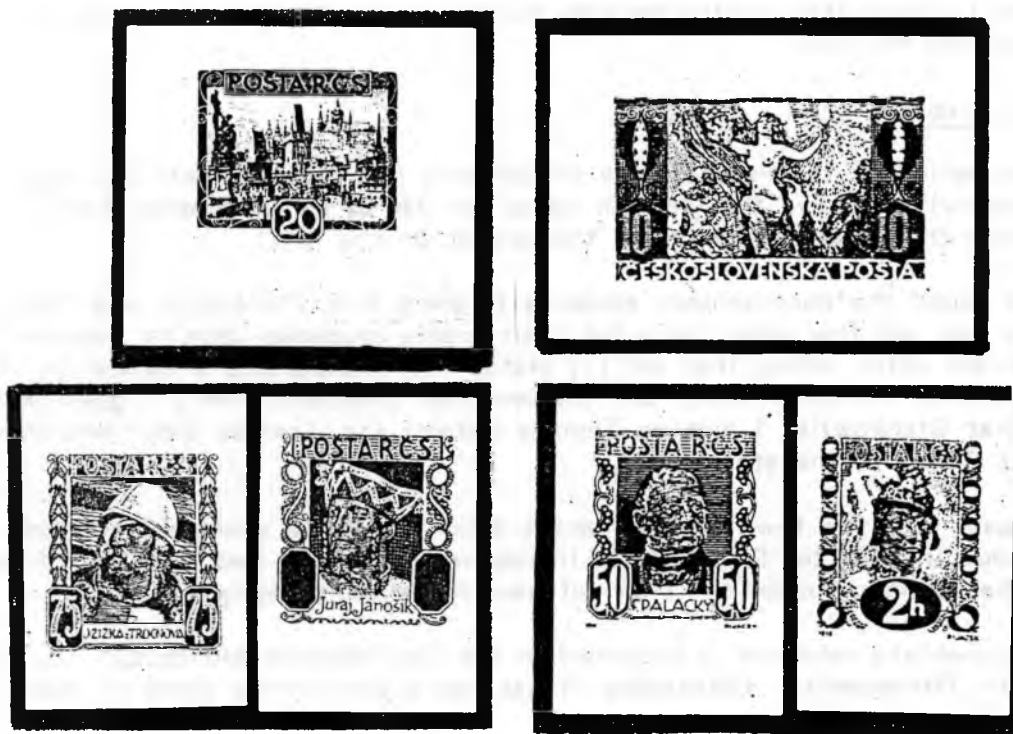
.....

We hope that Bob Hill and any other interested readers are now quite sure of the location of today's **Otrokovice**. >

References quoted by Mr. Dixon:

[1] - Ortsverzeichnis: Verzeichnis der Postämter und amtsstellen ... in Grossdeutschland (Gazeteer: Index of Post Offices and Postal Agencies ... in Greater Germany), published by the Reichpost Central Office, May 1944.

[1] - Böhmen und Mahren Spezial-Katalog, Teil 12, Deutsch-Tschechisches Verzeichnis der Postämter (Bohemia and Moravia Specialized Catalogue, Part 12, German-Czech Index of Post Offices) by Dipl.Ing. V. Jaroš, 1982.



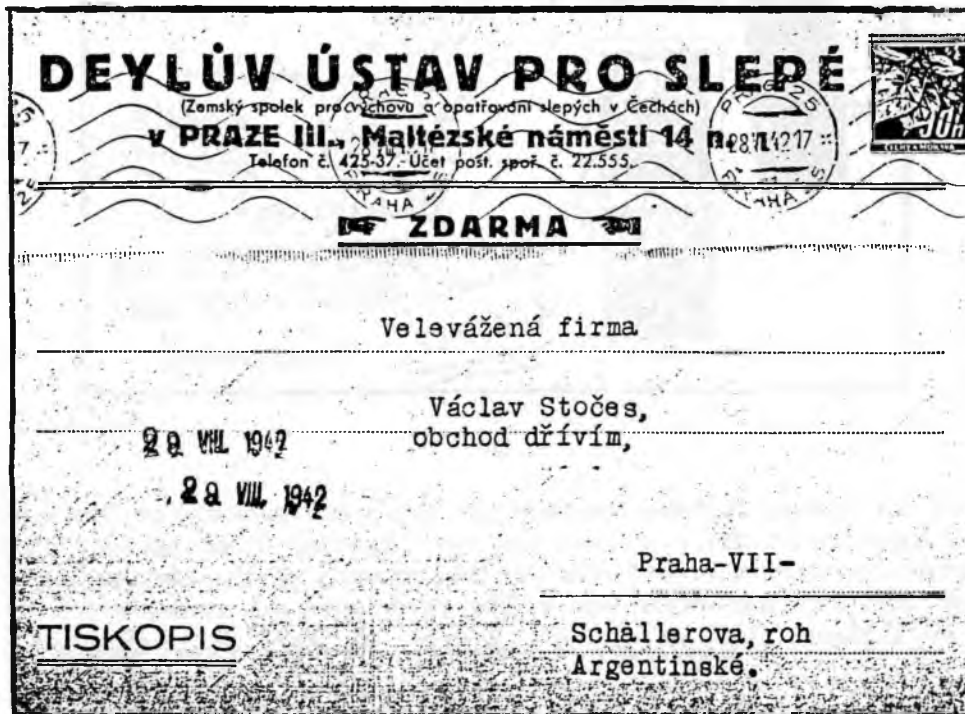
From Chris Cordes (Marshalltown in South Africa):

I have some items that seem to be 'trials'. Unfortunately I have no real idea what they are, except that they are on glossy paper and (apart from the 'nude') are mono-coloured. Can you, or any of your readers, tell me what they are?

[Ed. From the date of 1919 that appears on three of the lower prints showing images of well-known Czech/Slovak historical personages, it would appear that they are unadopted essays for Czechoslovakia's early issues. One can presume the initials "R.Č.S" to represent "Republic of Czechoslovakia"; this appears on five of these prints. Four show 'values' in 'h' (haléřu) whilst the upper-right one appears to be in Korun (Crowns). The designer of at least three of these items shows the name of "Rijacek".] Can You assist further? >

From Clyde Ziegeler in Middleton, S. Australia:

Before bringing you two more queries, let me thank you for the space you have given me in 'Czechout'. The information supplied by your experts has been invaluable and I would think it would also help others who are interested in this fascinating period.



The above item was sold to me as a 'Printed Matter' item but I am wondering if it is a legitimate 'Blind Post' cover. It was sent from an institute for the blind and is marked >Zdarma < meaning 'free'. I believe the envelope was most likely printed pre-war and that probably 'Blind Post' was free at that time. The 30h postage paid on this cover conforms to the 'Blind Post' rate and also the 'Printed Matter' rate at that time. My question is - 'Which is it?' I have another similar item that is undoubtedly Blind Post. It consists of a single folded sheet on which the message is typed in raised capital letters. On the address side is a rubber stamp inscription - **Slepecký Tisk. Zvlástu Sazba.** I understand this to mean 'Blind Print - Special Rate'.

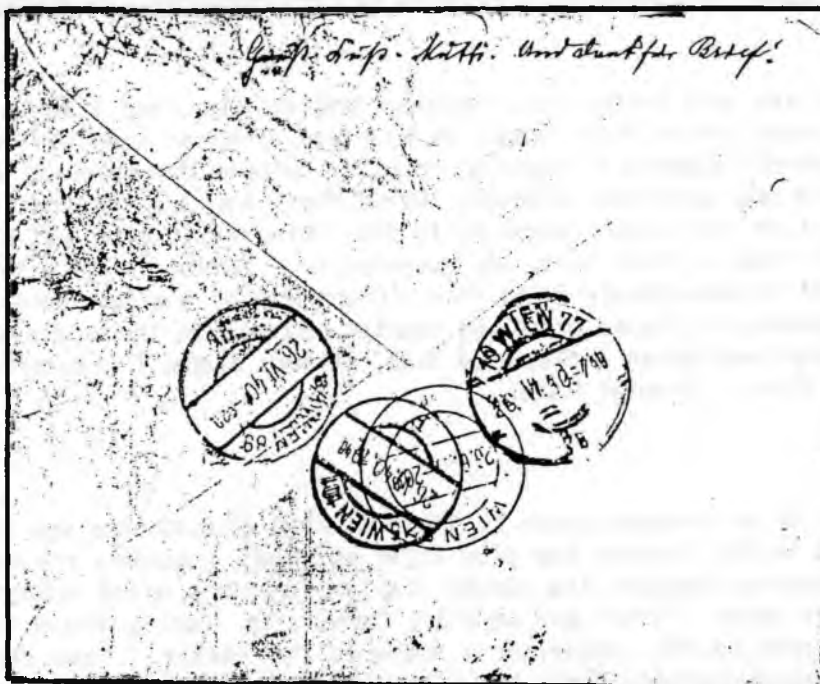
.....

My second item is an Express cover to Vienna dated 25.6.40. Postage should have been 5.20k [4.00k Express fee plus 1.20k postage]. I assume the overpayment of 20h occurred because the sender did not have the exact amount in stamps. In their book - "Civil and Military Censorship during World War 2" by Stich and Specht (p.70), reference is made to the cachet - "aus dem briefkarsten" indicating that if the letter was placed in a letter-box and was addressed outside of the country, it was returned to the sender. >



This does not appear to have happened as there are backstamps of Vienna. It would appear that the cover has had two 'Express' rides because of the two numbers on the face. But what is the meaning of the manuscript "Nieders Stubaital" and also the inscription of the reverse of the cover, which is not the return address?

Geogr. Eins. Kitti. Und stant für Restf.



>



Finally, from David Miles:

Can you please help? Can you please tell me what these overprints are as I have not seen them before? I found them in a Czech collection so I presume they are 'locals' from the 1919 period.

The overprint 'Slovenska Pošta' above a shield containing the emblem of Slovakia is printed in blue-black/red. I have them on the Harvester, Parliament and the Charles stamps but not in full sets.

The other type of overprint is on Harvester, Postage Due and Newspaper stamps. They are overprinted Franko and Porto. Is there any listing of these o/prints in our library on these issues? If not can they be placed in "Query Column"?

[We are always happy to assist if we can by printing members' queries. They often result in good answers for the questioners but in this case, Lindy tells me there is no reference in our library at present on these overprints - so, it is now 'over to you'. AJK.]

New IssuesCZECH REPUBLIC

A.J. Knight

The Ministry of Economy announces the following new issues of postage stamps:

City Architecture (Definitive)

30.3.1994

"BRNO"

3Kč Designer: Jiří Bouda; Engraver: Bohumil Šneider

Printed rotary recess combined with photogravure in the colours blue and red [19x23mm] in sheets x 100 pieces.

Design shows the Court of the Moravian Land Museum with the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in background.

[No FDC]

**"EUROPA"****- Discoveries -**

4.5.1994 4x14Kč (2 stamps) mini-sheet

Design: Adolf Born; Eng: Miloš Ondráček

Printed flat-plate recess in colours of ochre, light green, red, dk. green, black.

Sizes: Designs 26x40mm.

Sheet overall approx. 77x108mm.

The two designs are in humorous form. They depict fabulous creatures described by the contemporaries of the Italian traveller Marco Polo (1254-1324).

It was while he was imprisoned for fighting for Venice (he was a Venetian) against Genoa that he wrote (with some graphic detail) of his encounters whilst on his many travelling expeditions. It is now believed by some scholars that a great deal of his descriptive narrative was not entirely factual but derived

from conversations with other travellers to the Far East. Although much of the fabulous beasts' depictions here emanate from China, modern scholars suspect Polo may never have reached there at all! >

New Issues cont.....

FDCs: (2): Printed flat-plate recess in black and ochre. The cover bearing the 'Elephant' stamp carries a drawing of a mounted archer; that with the 'fish' drawing carries a depiction of a small dragon with a sail boat with sailor. The stamps bear the inscription - "1254-1324/Marco Polo" and are respectively cancelled at Prague by appropriate designed cancel that each depict a fabulous camel and bird.

EDUARD BENEŠ - 110th. Birth Anniversary

18.5.1994 5Kč. Des./Eng: Václav Fajt.



Design: [23x30mm] is a portrait engraving of the subject engraved "Edvard Beneš/1884/1948"

Printed rotary recess in sheets x 50 pcs, combined with photogravure in grey-blue and violet.

FDC: Printed recess from flat plate in light brown and bearing Beneš' facsimile signature/linden leaves.

Dr. Eduard Beneš was Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Affairs (1921-22) and President of the Republic from 1935-1938 and 1945-1948.



CZECH BEAUTY SPOTS
- Beauties of our Country -
[18.5.1994]

2 values



Designer: Pavel Hrach
Engraver: Václav Fajt

Des: Zdeněk Ziegler
Eng: Bohumil Šneider

8Kč: Shows the Baroque gables of the houses in The Square at TELČ.

9Kč: Shows the exterior (looking upward) of the Cubistic house that is Neklanova Street No. 30 in Prague. This is the house of the architect Josef Chocel.

Both 40x26mm stamps were printed recess from flat plates in sheets x 8 pcs. in colours (8Kč) yellow, red, blue, brown and black and in (9Kč) ochre, grey, grey-blue, black and brown-red.

This set pays tribute to UNESCO and its List in regard to World National and Cultural Heritage in which both these places are noted. Both stamps bear the small symbol connected with UNESCO's roll relating to cultural and national treasures. >

New Issues - Cont:

- FDCs: (8Kč) - With symbolic cancel from **Telč** and a drawing of a column within the Town Hall in grey-black.
- (9Kč) - Cancelled by symbolic design in cubist style from **Praha** and a drawing of the monumental interior c.1912 by the architect Pavel Janák in black and brown.

STAMPED PS COVER

4.5.1994 - Printed by "Helma Praha" by offset with imprinted stamp. Design is Švengsbir's original one used on a 2Kčs stamp issued for the 'PRAHA 1950' exhibition. It depicts Prague in 1493. Stamp design was according to a woodcut by Michael Wohlgemuth in the book "Liber chronicarum" by one H. Schedel. The item is priced 4Kč with stamp at 3Kč face. [The Press release mentions both 'cover' and 'card' which?]

SLOVAKIAWINTER OLYMPIC GAMES - LILLEHAMMER '94

Ministry of Transport & Public Works announce the issuance of the following:



26.1.1994 - 2Ks. Designer: Dušan Nágel; Eng: Fr. Horniak.

Design size: 23x30mm with perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ in sheets of 50 pcs. Printed in Prague by rotary-recess in cols. black, cobalt, mauve. Depicts a ski-jumper in flight.

FDC: Features the Olympic Rings with a mountain massif in background.

Collectors may be interested to note that is the first sheet postage stamp of the new Slovak Republic to show the denomination in Slovak Crowns (Sk.).

It is regretted that no further information was supplied to the Editor by the P.O. in Bratislava and no information of later issues was to hand when this issue went to print.
