



CZECHOUT

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EDITORIAL

MIDPEX has come and gone - what a wonderful event it was both socially and for extolling the many facets of specialist society groups. The venue was well supported and easily reached by road and railway and I met many friends from the four quarters of our land. Whilst the CSPGB did not on this occasion take a table, [we like my other specialist societies decided not to participate this year] however, we might care to consider this for 1997, if not our own table, perhaps sharing with like-minded societies, as I noted some societies did. If any members living within a 20/25 mile radius of Coventry or who intend visiting Midpex 97 care to give an hour or two of their time to manning a stand **Please let me know** so that I can pass this on to our Committee. The latest ABPS NEWS of July 1995 contains a full account of Midpex 95, together with news of other societies.

Colin W Spong FRPS,L

Letters to the Editor

Ctibor Sobotka informs us he is now the Auction Officer for De Vereniging voor Tsjechosl Filatelie, and that the 6th Mail Auction is being prepared. Members who would like to have a free catalogue please write to Ctibor Sobotka, Inderstorfer Str 16, 80689 Munich, Germany. [The closing date for bids. 30 March 1996].

STOP PRESS: Congratulations to Pat Rothnie on being made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours, to John Whiteside on his Fellowship, and to John Hammonds on becoming an Associate of the Society of Postal Historians.

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting of Saturday June 17 1995

The Chairman, Mr. Wm. Dawson, welcomed 14 members and 3 visitors to the meeting. He acknowledged the five 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 Chad Neighbor was accepted into Society membership. We wish him a long and happy stay with us.

The Chairman then introduced the following displays by members:-

Reg Hounsell	- Postal Stationery and a Miscellany
Brian Parker	- Prague Postmarks
Colin Smith	- Essays
Bob MacLeod	- Air Covers
Robert Kingsley	- Miniature Sheets of Czechoslovakia
Rex Dixon	- Postal Stationery
Colin Spong	- Slovakia Definitives
Ernst Gorge	- Issues of 1st Republic
Brian Day	- Mucha on Postcards
Yvonne Gren	- Czech Airmails
Bill Dawson	- Cross Border TPO's; Czech Army in Slovakia; 1943 London Exhibition Sheets; S.O Overprints

Mr Dave Hilton, a visitor from Shoreham Philatelic Society gave a generous vote of thanks to all those who had shown their material. Mr Hilton remarked that he had seen material which was unfamiliar to him and found each display of great interest.

The Chairman reminded members about the next meeting on September 9 at the Czech & Slovak House and there being no further business, the meeting closed at about 5.00 pm. Members and their partners met again at the Royal George Restaurant, Shoreham-by-Sea where a congenial evening was spent over a delicious Carvery meal, during which Yvonne and Fred Gren were thanked by the Chairman, Mr Wm Dawson for hosting such an enjoyable meeting.

Committee Decisions

Regrettably a gremlin entered the minute for publishing in Czechout 2/95 - but only 2 out of 160 have noticed the deliberate mistake! the correct wording as below

- It was agreed that following the distribution of this issue of *Czechout* the Commission rates for the Exchange Packet Insurance would be increased to 2½% and Sales to 7%. The Auction commission would remain unchanged at 0.5% Insurance and 10% on Sales.

Publications

Československá Letecká Pošta Katalog 1945-1992 by Petr Holm. Společnost aerofilatelie SČF Prague 1993. soft-bound, 160 pages, illustrated, in Czech language with English explanatory notes of Guidelines. price US \$20.

This publication submitted by Alec Page contains a full chronological listing of various types of flights, with date, flight route including stopovers, aircraft used and company, philatelic description, amount of mail flown where known, a point valuation, and in a supplement, examples of covers. The symbols used are those introduced in *Specialisovaná příručka* [Specialised handbook] as well as a number of new ones.

Brian Parker has drawn our attention to two interesting articles. "Railways and War in the Twentieth Century" published in *Back Track* Vol.9 No.6, June 1995 [monthly at £2.95]: this first part contains details of the Czech Trans-Siberian Railway Campaign. A memoire in the Daily Telegraph of Ivo Tonder, a Czech fighter pilot who took part in the "Great Escape" from Stalag Luft III at Sagan in Lower Silesia. Brian will gladly arrange for photocopies.

REGIONAL MEETING

A meeting of the Society will take place at the annual fair of the Leeds Philatelic Society on Saturday November 25 1995 from 12 noon to 2.00 pm.

The meeting will be informal with members' short displays. Snacks and drinks will be available. The fair will have approximately 40 dealers in attendance; additionally, two other specialist societies will be holding meetings at the Fair. We look forward to meeting members who are unable to attend the meetings of the Society in the South. For further information contact Yvonne Wheatley on 0113 2601978.

HOW TO FIND US

PUDSEY CIVIC HALL is situated on the western edge of the Leeds ring road, close to the roundabout where the A647 leaves the ring road for Bradford. The new Asda and M+S superstores and the National Breakdown H.Q. are well known landmarks close to us.

We are signposted on all approaches to the roundabout. Visitors approaching from the south should ignore signs for Pudsey and stay on the ring road, we are not in Pudsey Town centre. There is ample car parking at the hall.

New Pudsey railway station is 2 minutes walk away.

Stamps

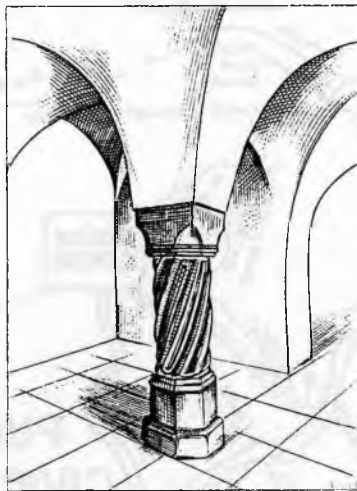
ERRORS IN DESIGN - Telč 1994

Colin Smith

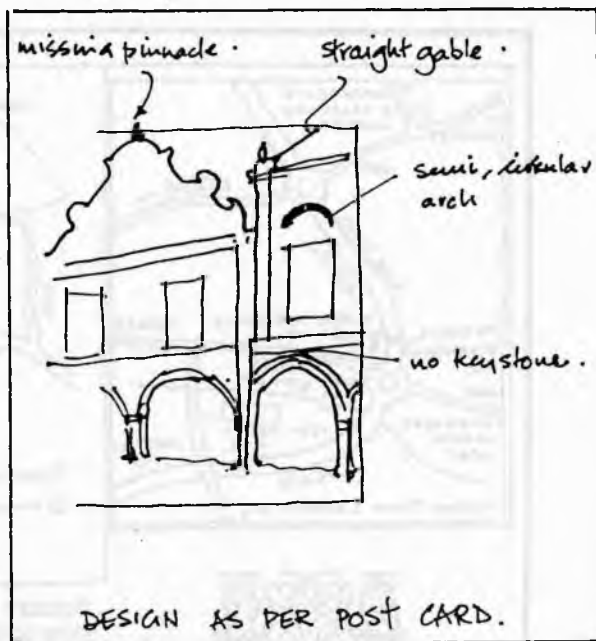
Having visited Telč, unbeknown that there was to be a stamp issued the following week depicting the Market Place, Telč [SG 45. 8k], as one of two stamps for UNESCO World Heritage Sites, I decided to compare this value designed by P.Hrach and engraved by V. Fajt, with some postcards which I bought of the town square. [Postcards not illustrated.]



I have enlarged the stamp, and in particular attempted to relate the stamp design to the postcards showing the unique arched colonnade and decorated facades. It would seem that the part building on the extreme right of the stamp has suffered artistic licence. The postcard shows there being no key stones to the colonnade arch, the first floor window should have a semi-circular plaster feature above the window and the gable should be straight and not curved. Another item missing is a pinnacle to the top of the gable of the two arched colonnade building. The drawn sketch shows the differences, as well as the First Day Cover drawing.



F D C



Stamps

THE PERFORATIONS OF THE HRADCANY ISSUES Fred J Sansom

In many years of study of the perforations [both official and private] of these issues I have found very little written about the private perforations; such as by whom they were produced and by what methods.

The Chart I have drawn up is based on my own collection and therefore will be far from complete. It will be seen by the chart that the perforations of some stamps are not catalogued as official although the perforation measurements are the same as the recognised ones. This is evident in the top eight rows on the chart.

A particularly interesting query arises in respect of Specimen stamps, why are so many perforated with official measurements when the same value issued stamps are not listed as official. The rouletted stamps are best collected in blocks or pairs, whilst the private perforations are best when used, preferably on covers or cards.

In the final column of the chart I have indicated the office or origin of private perfs where known. The shaded squares represent 'Official' perforations. O denotes unused; X denotes used; S denotes specimen.

WW2

THE AMERICAN ARMY & RELATED POSTS IN CZCHOSLOVAKIA FROM APRIL 1945

W.A.Page FRPS,L

The survey that follows was prompted by a query raised by our member, Jim Ansell, whilst researching a then recent acquisition.

Part 1

Little appears to have been published on the subject in recent years, in the English language. The most recent coverage was in the Czech language and appeared in "Filatelie" in 1989. This particular article links the mail handling with both the American and Czechoslovak forces and its interface.

The locations of the American Army Post Offices set up at the end of hostilities are well documented, and those that operated in the Western Bohemia theatre have been published on several occasions. The most comprehensive listing is that compiled by Capt. Edward J. Benchik (USAR) and published in the Czechoslovak Specialist in March 1967. The author does however admit that "the entire record is not complete".

To fully appreciate the various postal and philatelic activities it is perhaps logical to look at the whole period from April 1945 and leading up to the final "liberation" of the Czechoslovak territories and the aftermath as it affected the Americans and the returned Czechosloaks.

The final push The first crossing of the pre-Munich Czechoslovak border by the American Army occurred on 18th April 1945 with patrols from the American 3rd Army. Three days later the border town of Aš (Asch) was taken. Cheb (Eger) fell to the Americans on 26th April 1945.

Meantime it has been agreed by the Allied Command that a token Czechoslovak force should be involved in the entry into Czechoslovak territory. At that time the main Czechoslovak forces were holding a perimeter around Dunkirk (France). A detachment of 140 men from Dunkirk moved to the border and arrived near Cheb (Eger) on 1st May 1945. The border crossing was made the same day as a symbolic action and the Czechoslovak flag was raised at a small ceremony. (Fig. 1)

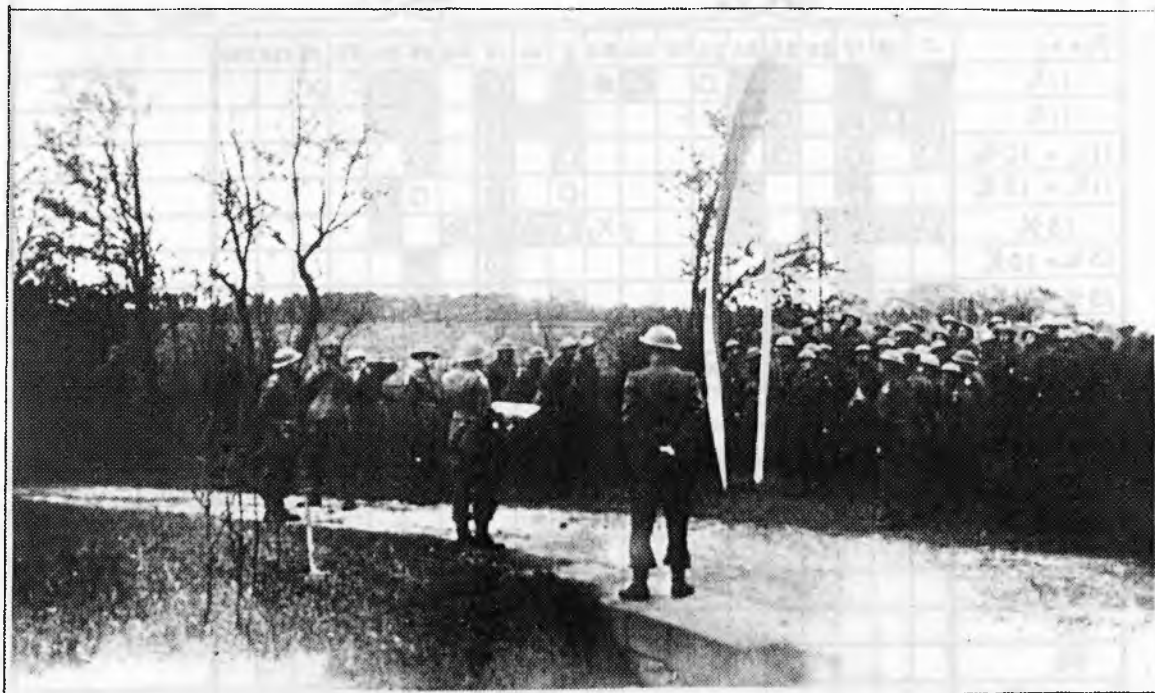


Fig. 1 1st May - Raising the Czechoslovak flag near Cheb (Eger)

>

The American army continued its advance in Western Bohemia, but only until 6th May 1945. At that time they were holding a front line stretching some 450 kilometres from Karlovy Vary (Karlbad) in the north-west to Píseň (Pilsen) and south to České Budějovice (Budweis). At this stage international politics intervened! The halted advance left the advancing Russian army "free" to enter Praha (Prag) which was agreed at the Yalta meeting. Ironically, the full surrender by the Germans had taken place before the Russian army reached the city! (Fig. 2)

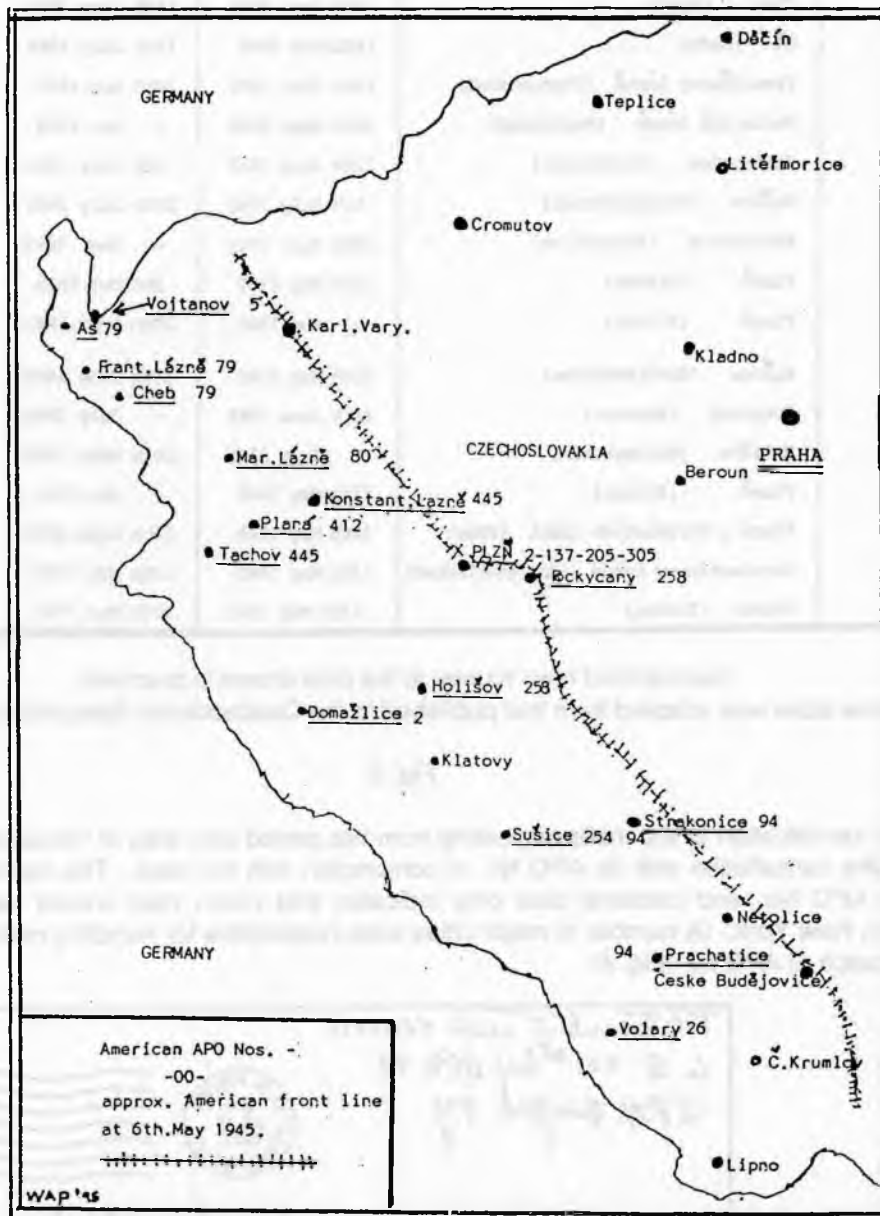


Fig 2 - Map showing American A.P.O. locations

Consolidation After the German surrender the American army established its units over the territories "liberated" and set up a series of camps supported by their own Army Post Offices. Some camps were short-lived and units moved to other locations. Their stay on Czechoslovak territory overall ended in December 1945, another provision of the Yalta and other political agreements. The army then withdrew into Germany and Austria. (Fig. 3)

Locations of the American Army Post Offices in Czechoslovakia 1945

<u>APO NUMBER</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>OPENED</u>	<u>CLOSED</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
2	Plzeň (Pilsen)	12th May 1945	8th June 1945	2nd Inf.Div.
2	Domažlice	8th June 1945	11th June 1945	2nd Inf.Div.
5	Vojtanov (Winterburg)	11th May 1945	21st May 1945	5th Inf.Div.
26	Volary (Wallern)	24th May 1945	15th Aug. 1945	26th Inf.Div.
79	Cheb (Eger)	4th June 1945	14th June 1945	79th Inf.Div.
79	Asch (Asch)	14th June 1945	13th July 1945	79th Inf.Div.
79	Františkovy Lázně (Franzensbad)	13th July 1945	10th Aug. 1945	79th Inf.Div.
80	Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad)	25th Sept. 1945	- Dec. 1945	80th Inf.Div.
94	Strakonice (Strakonitz)	11th June 1945	5th July 1945	94th Inf.Div.
94	Sušice (Schüttenhofen)	5th July 1945	28th July 1945	94th Inf.Div.
94	Prachatice (Prachatitz)	28th July 1945	- Dec. 1945	94th Inf.Div.
137	Plzeň (Pilsen)	11th May 1945	3rd Oct. 1945	} unknown - } possibly } admin units.
205	Plzeň (Pilsen)	- Aug 1945	20th Sept. 1945	
254	Sušice (Schüttenhofen)	11th May 1945	14th June 1945	4th Armd.Div.
258	Rokycany (Rokycan)	11th June 1945	- July 1945	8th Armd.Div.
258	Holíčov (Holleischen)	- July 1945	26th Sept. 1945	8th Armd.Div.
305	Plzeň (Pilsen)	11th May 1945	- Jan. 1946	'V' Corps.
412	Planá u Mariánských Lázní (Plan)	16th May 1945	15th Sept. 1945	16th Armd.Div.
445	Konstantinovy Lázně (Konstantinsbad)	11th May 1945	13th May 1945	97th Inf.Div.
445	Tachov (Tachau)	13th May 1945	19th May 1945	97th Inf.Div.

Germanized town names at the time shown in brackets.

(The above table was adapted from that published in the Czechoslovak Specialist in March 1967)

Fig. 3

The mails Identification of the mails originating from this period and area of "occupation" is possible only from the cancellation with its APO No. in conjunction with the date. The senders detail whilst giving the APO No. and personal data only indicates that return mail should be routed via the Postmaster, New York. (A number of major cities were responsible for handling mail for delivery to a particular batch of APO's). (Fig. 4)

Fig. 4

18th July 1945
APO 94 at Sušice
(Schüttenhofen)

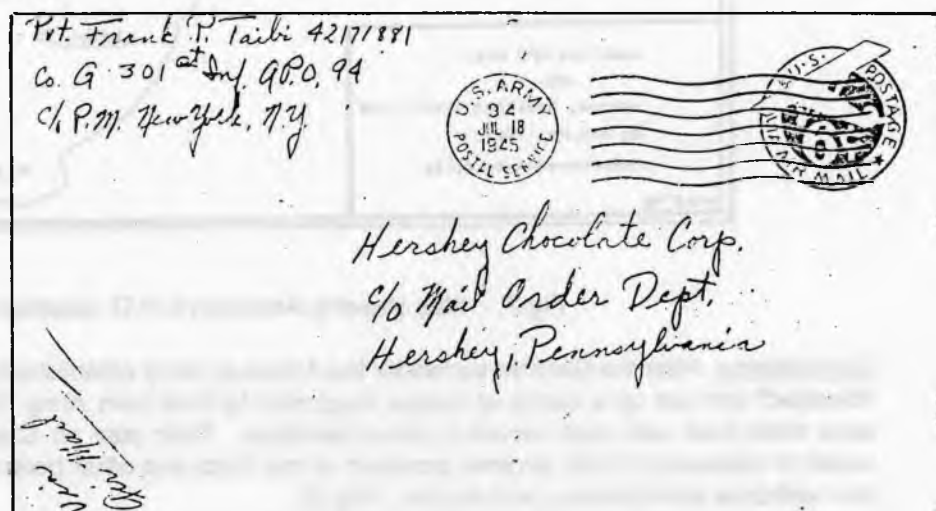
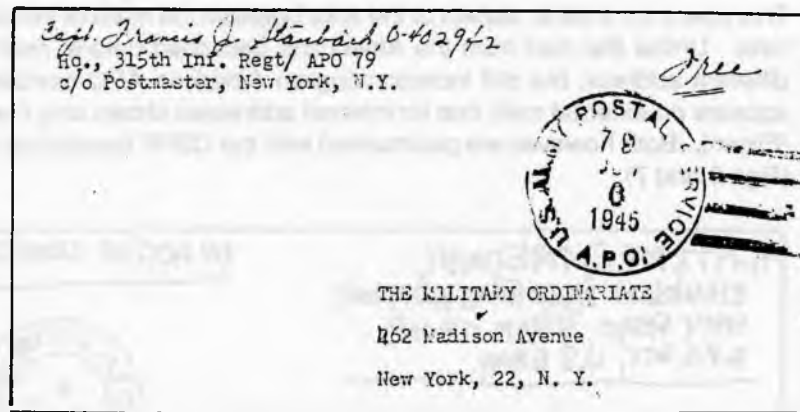


Fig 4
6th June 1945 APO 79
At Cheb (Eger)



Three of the American APO's were located at Plzeň (Pilsen) - Nos's 2, 137 and 305. No. 2 later moved to Domažlice with its unit. It is at Plzeň (Pilsen) where the link occurs between the Americans and the returned Czechoslovak forces.

The Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade holding the Dunkirk perimeter received the German surrender document on 9th May 1945 and within a few days were journeying back to their homeland, via Luxembourg and Germany. They arrived in the Plzeň (Pilsen) area on 18th May 1945.

It has always been somewhat obscure as to how and where mails from this transitional period were handled. The first positive information has since come to light as a result of the personal memoirs and correspondence with several people who were actually involved.

The first garrison for the returned Czechoslovaks was established at Kolíneč u Klatov (see Klatovy on Map Fig. 2). Initially the mail from this camp was forwarded through civilian channels with the co-operation of the local postmaster. According to one correspondent the first Czechoslovak Field post was set up at Němice u Klatovy. Mails collected from units in the area were processed at the FPO and for speed of despatch passed over to the American APO at Plzeň (Pilsen).

Mail so handled was cancelled with the regular CSPP canceller Code 'A' (Type 5 of CPSGB Monograph No. 1 p.33 Fig. 45) already identified as in use at Dunkirk. Additionally mail still carried the British shield type censor stamps, which provided an identifying mark.

From examples of mail seen, and in the collection, the American APO at Plzeň (Pilsen) that handled the Czechoslovak mail was APO 305.

Fig. 5 14th July
1945 - External mail
from Czechoslovak
private post through
American APO 305 Censor
No. 11692 - 'Artillery
Regiment'



This opens up another aspect of the links between the mails of the two armies, i.e. the senders address data. Unlike the mail from the Americans described before, mail from the Czechoslovaks bears a different address, but still incorporating an American APO number - APO 655. This however only appears on external mail, that for internal addresses shows only the personal and unit data plus Plzeň (Pilsen). Both however are postmarked with the CSPP handstamp and the shield type censor stamp. (Figs 6 and 7)

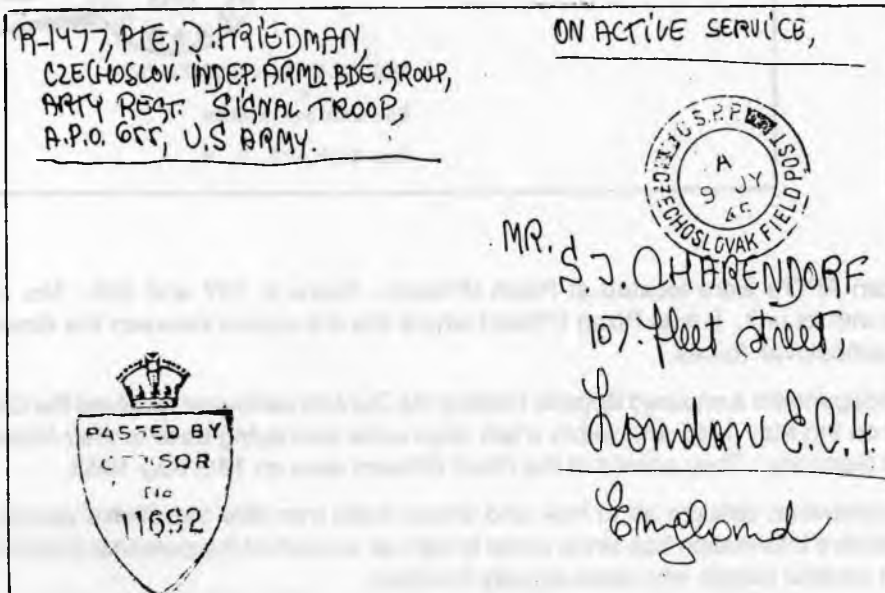
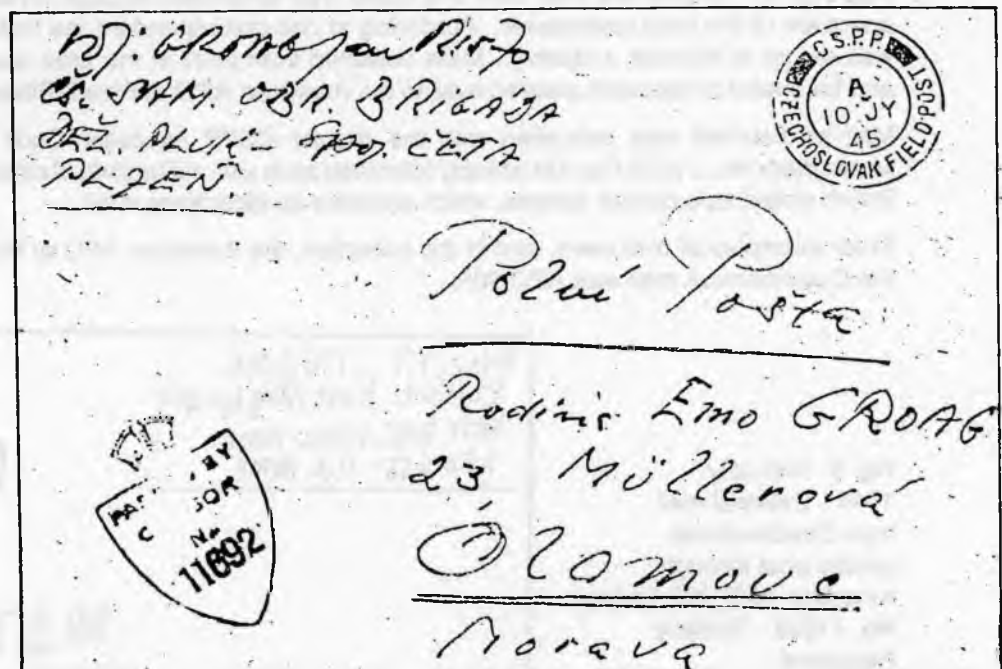


Fig. 6 9th July 1945, see also Fig 5. External mail from same source stamped with CSPP handstamp.

Fig. 7 10th July 1945 Internal mail, without American APO in senders details



The American APO 655 opened at Wiesbaden in Germany with the 12th Army Group on 5th May 1945 and operated until 5th September 1945. Wiesbaden is some 400+ kilometres from the Czechoslovak border and there remains one unanswered question. Did incoming mail for the Czechoslovaks get routed via Wiesbaden?

From these various pieces of information the following conclusions may be drawn on the original/locations of the mails emanating from this important period of the postal history from the re-emergence of a Nation.

The newly liberated Republic's postal system was at the time still in a state of flux and to ensure speedy communication with the military units full use was made of the systems already well established by the Americans.

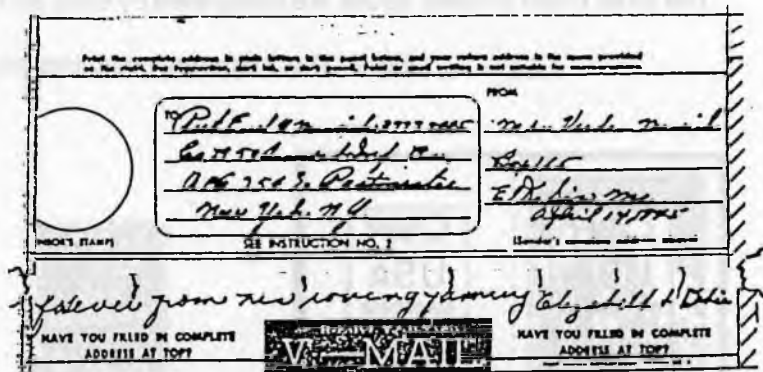
Summary of main types of mail:

1. Mail from American personnel - identification from APO No. and dates - checked against location schedule (Fig. 3)
2. Mail from Czechoslovak forces after 18th May 1945
 - a) External - CSPP cancellation and shield type censor stamp - senders detail including APO 655
 - b) Internal - CSPP cancellation and shield type censor stamp - senders details with PLZEŇ (No American APO No.)
3. Mail without CSPP cancellation but with shield censor stamp - postmarked with American APO 305.

This mail was either posted directly or missed the CSPP cancellation - the latter being most likely.

American forces and their correspondents had access to the 'V' mail system - the equivalent to the British airgraph system - for the shorter and speedy airmail communication. Illustrated below are examples of 'V' mail in both directions - just showing the address panels portion and an example of the delivery envelope. (Fig.8)

Fig. 8 14th April 1945 'V' mail to APO 254 at Sušice from 11th May 1945 ("Filatelie")



17th May 1945 'V' mail from APO 5 at Vojtanov, and USA delivery envelope. (J. Ansell)

Part II Other American Involvements

After the American units established their local camps, they were administratively involved with the newly set up local National Councils etc. The local desire was to obliterate, immediately the memory of the German occupation and to celebrate "freedom". The posts offered the ideal medium for both, pending the re-organisation of a National postal system.

In several areas the Americans became "involved" and perhaps the most visual was in the Plzeň (Pilsen) area. Here existing stocks of the stamps of Bohemia and Moravia were withdrawn and then overprinted with patriotic legends and motifs. Three different overprints "recognised" the Americans in the Plzeň (Pilsen) area. (In collecting circles these overprints and the many others throughout the country are accepted as local issues and have attracted a general "Label" of "The 1945 Liberation Issues". Many did a postal service although mainly philatelic or souvenir).

Some issues have achieved full catalogue status in America and Europe. The only and most comprehensive publication that exists is the result of an almost life-long study by a Spanish collector, Juan Santageugenia Grau of Barcelona whose book "Revolutionary Stamps and Overprints 1944-1945" comprises a fully illustrated listing of all the known issues. (See reviews in "CZECHOUT" No.2/90 p.28 and No.3/90 p.71)

The three Plzeň (Pilsen) issues are designated by Grau as Types V, X and XI.

Fig. 9 The 3 different overprints from Plzeň (Pilsen)



Type V

Type X

Type XI

Fig. 9a 15th May 1945. Cover with full series of Bohemia and Moravia. Hitler definitives overprinted with Plzeň Type V.



Here a word of caution on another overprint with a Plzeň (Pilsen) - American connection. The origin of this is not recorded but it is known to have been done after 1945 and is thus fraudulent!

Fig 10 The Plzeň fraudulent overprint
(enlarged for clarity)



Two other towns provide evidence of the American involvement with the preparation of locally overprinted stamps.

Velichovsky, although some 200 kilometers from Plzeň (Pilsen) is one such town, where four stamps of Bohemia & Moravia were overprinted with a text "honouring" the American liberation. The stamps were the two commemorative issues for St. Vitus Cathedral and Smetana (SG716/119). The full background story to this issue was told by Dr. Miroslav Vostatek in "CZECHOUT" No.3/90 p.69.

Fig. 11 The Velichovsky overprint



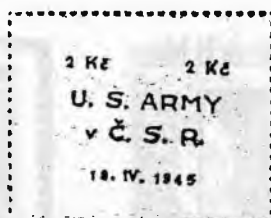
The other town was Frantiskový Lázně (Franzenbad). This is also well documented in the 'Czechoslovak Specialist' in January 1965 and October 1972. Both articles followed similar coverage in Germany.

However the background to this episode is not without interest and worthy of comment and to demonstrate the sensitivity of some of these local issues.

A unit of the American Army reached the north-west corner of Czechoslovak territory on 18th April 1945 and established a civil administration for the area which included neighbouring towns. A paramount need was for a postal service as the central system was still lacking. Thus the joint decision was made to make use of existing stamps and suitably overprint them. Frantiskový Lázně (Franzenbad) was in Sudetanland and the area taken by the Germans in 1938, and stamps of the Third Reich were in use. Care was taken not to use any of the existing stamps that bore either the portrait of Hitler or the Nazi emblem and this limited the availability of a large choice.

The six "charity" issues for "The Postal Employees & Hitler Culture Funds" of May 1944 (SG 876/881) and the "1200th Anniversary of Fulda" issue of March 1944 (SG 874) were overprinted 'U.S.ARMY v C.S.R. 18.IV.1945' and surcharged with new values in Czech crowns.

Fig. 12 The Overprint surcharge



A joint protocol was issued in support of the action, signed by the Allied Expedition Force Government officer and a member of the newly appointed Civil Administration.

Fig. 13 The joint protocol document from Frantiskový Lázně (Franzenbad)

<u>PROHLAŠENÍ</u>	<u>NOTICE</u>																												
<p>Poněvadž nebylo československých známek k dostání bylo dovoleno zdejšími vladnoucími orgány užívatí od 26 Května 1945 zvláštního přetisku německých známek jsou to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kameradschafesblock 1944 1 Stadt Fulda</p> <p>Tyto známky se zvláštním přetiskem byly vydány v tomto množství:</p> <p>Kameradschafesblock</p> <table> <tr><td>6 Rgt</td><td>1250 Kusu na 60 h.</td></tr> <tr><td>8 Rgt</td><td>1250 Kusu na 80 h.</td></tr> <tr><td>12 Rgt</td><td>1250 Kusu na 1.20 Kc.</td></tr> <tr><td>16 Rgt</td><td>1250 Kusu na 1.60 Kc.</td></tr> <tr><td>20 Rgt</td><td>1250 Kusu na 2.00 Kc.</td></tr> <tr><td>24 Rgt</td><td>1250 Kusu na 2.40 Kc.</td></tr> <tr><td>Fulda 12 pf.</td><td>1000 Kusu na 5.00 Kc.</td></tr> </table> <p>Aby bylo zabráněno vydávání podobných známek, byly tiskařské formy v přítomnosti podepsaných svědků zničeny.</p>	6 Rgt	1250 Kusu na 60 h.	8 Rgt	1250 Kusu na 80 h.	12 Rgt	1250 Kusu na 1.20 Kc.	16 Rgt	1250 Kusu na 1.60 Kc.	20 Rgt	1250 Kusu na 2.00 Kc.	24 Rgt	1250 Kusu na 2.40 Kc.	Fulda 12 pf.	1000 Kusu na 5.00 Kc.	<p>Because Czechoslovakian postage stamps were not available, permission was granted by the local Government authorities on 26 May 1945, to use German Reich stamps locally with a special overprint as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kameradschafesblock 1944 1 Stadt Fulda.</p> <p>These stamps with the special overprint were issued in the following quantity:</p> <p>Kameradschafesblock</p> <table> <tr><td>6 Rgt</td><td>1250 pieces to 60 h.</td></tr> <tr><td>8 Rgt</td><td>1250 pieces to 80 h.</td></tr> <tr><td>12 Rgt</td><td>1250 pieces to 1.20 Kc.</td></tr> <tr><td>16 Rgt</td><td>1250 pieces to 1.60 Kc.</td></tr> <tr><td>20 Rgt</td><td>1250 pieces to 2.00 Kc.</td></tr> <tr><td>24 Rgt</td><td>1250 pieces to 2.40 Kc.</td></tr> <tr><td>Fulda 12 pf.</td><td>1000 pieces to 5.00 Kc.</td></tr> </table> <p>The printing blocks, after reprinting, were destroyed in the presence of the undersigned to prevent any printing of similar stamps.</p>	6 Rgt	1250 pieces to 60 h.	8 Rgt	1250 pieces to 80 h.	12 Rgt	1250 pieces to 1.20 Kc.	16 Rgt	1250 pieces to 1.60 Kc.	20 Rgt	1250 pieces to 2.00 Kc.	24 Rgt	1250 pieces to 2.40 Kc.	Fulda 12 pf.	1000 pieces to 5.00 Kc.
6 Rgt	1250 Kusu na 60 h.																												
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24 Rgt	1250 pieces to 2.40 Kc.																												
Fulda 12 pf.	1000 pieces to 5.00 Kc.																												

The overprinting was carried out locally under strict control and limited to the number of stamps indicated in the protocol. The plates for the overprint were destroyed on completion of the work.

The overprinted/surcharged stamps were distributed on 25th May 1945 to the post offices in the area, namely Frantiskový Lázně (Franzenbad) - Cheb (Eger) - Falknov (Falkenau) and Vildštejn (Wildstein). Sales were few, in the absence of prior publicity. However on the following day, 26th May, telephone instructions were issued to those post offices not to sell the stamps to the civilians, but only to American personnel for official use on their own mail.

This instruction either didn't reach Vildštejn (Wildstein) or was not acted upon and mail from this office is recorded postmarked either on 26th or 27th May 1945 - undoubtedly philatelic!

Fig. 14 27th May 1945 - cover with full series - cancellation with German 'WILDSTEIN' only.



The stamps were withdrawn and were intended to be used up on official mail. Eventually the Americans established their own APO at Frantiskový Lázně (Franzenbad) - No. 79 but not until 13th July 1945 when it moved from Aš (Asch).

Acknowledgements, Sources of Information and Further Reading

Philatelic

CPSGB Monograph No. 5 by R. Reader "Czechoslovak Army in France" (1988)

"Czechoslovak Specialist": - March 1963 - January 1965 - March 1967 - October 1972 - March 1983 - March 1987

"Filatelie": - 16/1989 (In Czech)

"Czechout": - 2/1990 & 3/1990

Non-philatelic

"The Defeat of Germany" by Major L.F. Ellis - HMSO London 1968.

Personal Correspondence

Dr. M. Vostatek, Dr. W. Bohne and V.J. Kralicek who kindly translated from the Czech language.

Illustrations From the author's collection, unless otherwise indicated.

"WHAT?. WHEN?. WHERE?"

- Members' Queries -

Another selection, together with some answers, for which we are sure our inquirers will be grateful; the answers first.

Re the Yvonne Gren & Colin Spong query in Czechout 2/95

From John Whiteside: I have been giving some thought to the Slovak items on page 44, and to Richard Beith's article in Czechout 3/93 with regard to rates after examining a document received from Paul Jensen "*Slovak Airmail Postage Rates wef 6.5. 1940*" by Ing. Andrej Tekel. [We hope to publish this in our next issue. Editor.]

The U.S.A. fees are :- 4.50ks to New York per 5g., 6Ks. per 5g. to rest of U.S.A. Postage was 2.50ks up to 20g., 1.50ks per further 20g. Registration was 2.50ks. It is possible to construct a little table of fees for air covers, as follows:-

A) - to New York			B) - Rest of U.S.A.	
ord.	reg.		ord.	reg.
7	9.50	up to 5g.	8.50	11
11.50	14	5 - 10g.	14.50	17
16	18.50	10 - 15g.	20.50	23
20.50	23	15 - 20g.	26.50	29
26.50	29	20 - 25g.	34.	36.50
31	33.50	25 - 30g.	40	42.50

YG's cover on p.44 is thus ordinary to New York, 5-10g. and CS's is registered up to 5g., to New York. The 5 covers cited in the articles in Czechout 3/93 fit into the table above except one, @ 16.50ks. The only explanation I can postulate for this, is that it was to New York, at 5-10g., unregistered, but express [fee 5ks.] and thus 11.50 + 5 = 16.50ks.

re Colin Spong's query on page 48.

The Tekel document gives air fee to China of 5.50ks per 5g. So the rate of 8ks is correct for up to 5g. Next the SHANGHAI arrival. The date-line reads I think + 共四 年 八月 卅 -
The left side, before the separation line is unimportant - it is I think an hour figure. The rest is 20 4 30
8 month year.

Chinese years start from 1/1/1912, so 11 must be added to get the western year. So the cover appears to have arrived 28th April 1941. The one reservation I have is about the year. It is difficult to see in the copy. 卅 is the symbol for 30. The year symbol is correctly 卅, but I think it is often squashed. 31 [i.e.1942] would be 卅一. Though I am sure it is unlikely to be over a year's transit! Assuming the arrival is 28/4/41. I think the item must have been flown PAA Transatlantic and Transpacific. There is an alternative, via Russia, but, for several reasons, so rapid a transit is most unlikely by that route. A brief survey of it may be of interest.

From July 1940, a China-Russia air service had been established and mail for Europe could be, and was, routed that way. It involved, from Europe, transit to Moscow, thence by Russian air service to Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan). From there, by Sino-Soviet Air Co. across Sinkiang, via Iling and Tihwa to Hami, thence to Chungking via Eurasia Air Corp. Chungking was in Kuomintang China. This service operated, mail was carried, but the Chinese P.O. complained of delays of 2 to 3 months on European mail in Moscow. It seems also that it was suspended in January to May 1941.

It would seem, therefore, not to be feasible. Furthermore, it must be noted that Shanghai had been occupied by Japan from 1937. Mail was exchanged between Kuomintang China and Japanese occupied China, but I think foreign airmail is most unlikely to be so routed. [N.B. the source for the above, much condensed, is "*Postage Rates of China*" by Pingwen Sieh and Blackburn.]

I suppose it is possible to speculate about transit Russia-Japan-Shanghai, but I am sure that is fantasy.

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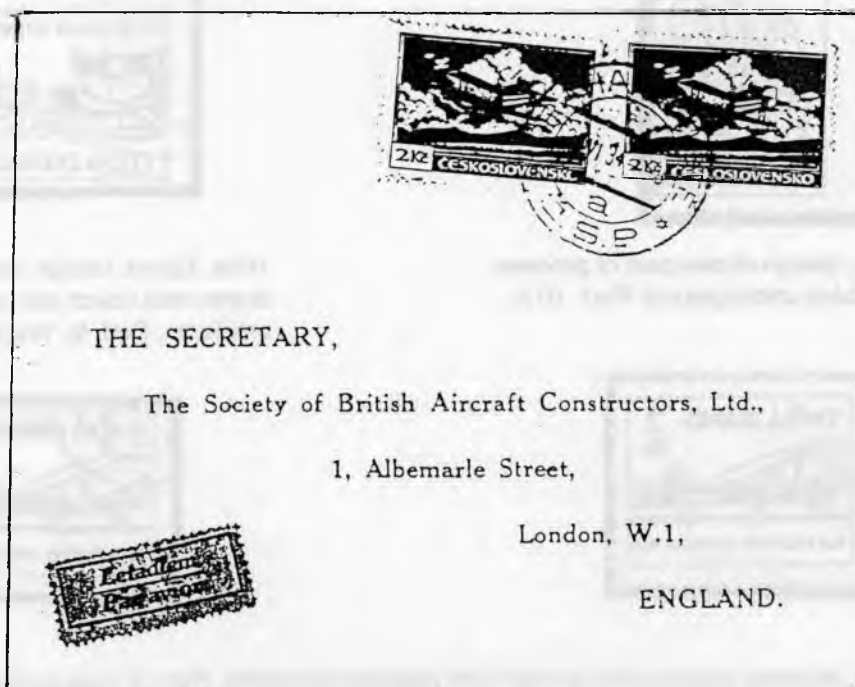
Three new queries.

From Brian Day: Among my forerunners are a number of postards for Franz-Joeph's Diamond Jubilee in 1908 and one of them depicts Hradcany together with a beautifully painted allegorical figure; printed in Prague by D.Kosiner.



I also have two publicity labels, reduced size, with the same painting with wording in the Czech and German languages. I can find no initial or name of the artist and I wonder if anyone knows who it was. Does the direction of the Sun's rays have any significance?

From Garth Taylor: I have two airmail covers - one a recent acquisition posted on 26.6.1934 where the PRAHA LETISTE \diamond CSP \diamond post mark was used. This cancellation according to Roy Dehn's article in Czechout 2/89 was used between 1.4.1921 and 2.3.1926 and occasionally afterwards.



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Secondly - a cover where the PRAHA 82 LETISTE with the letter c in the chord was used as late as 25.5.1937. Can anyone tell me what information is available on the last usage of these two cancellations.



From Robert Hill: I show some examples in my limited collection of Postal Training Stamps - what other stamps are there? where is [or was] the Training School, and date of issue please!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| VÝCVIKOVÉ STŘEDISKO Training Centre | } | Adhesives used to train Postal employees. |
| CVIČNÁ ZNÁMKA Training Stamp | } | All these stamps are on white gummed paper. |



20h. Ochre, design shows part of process of laying cables underground. Perf. 10½.



1Kcs. Claret, design shows a horse drawn mail coach with post horn emblems. Perf. 9. 16x68 dumb cancel.



2Kcs. Bistre, showing a turbo prop aircraft with posthorn emblems. Perf. 9. Overall size of stamp varies from large to small, with dumb canceller/dated dumb canceller.



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

Alan Knight

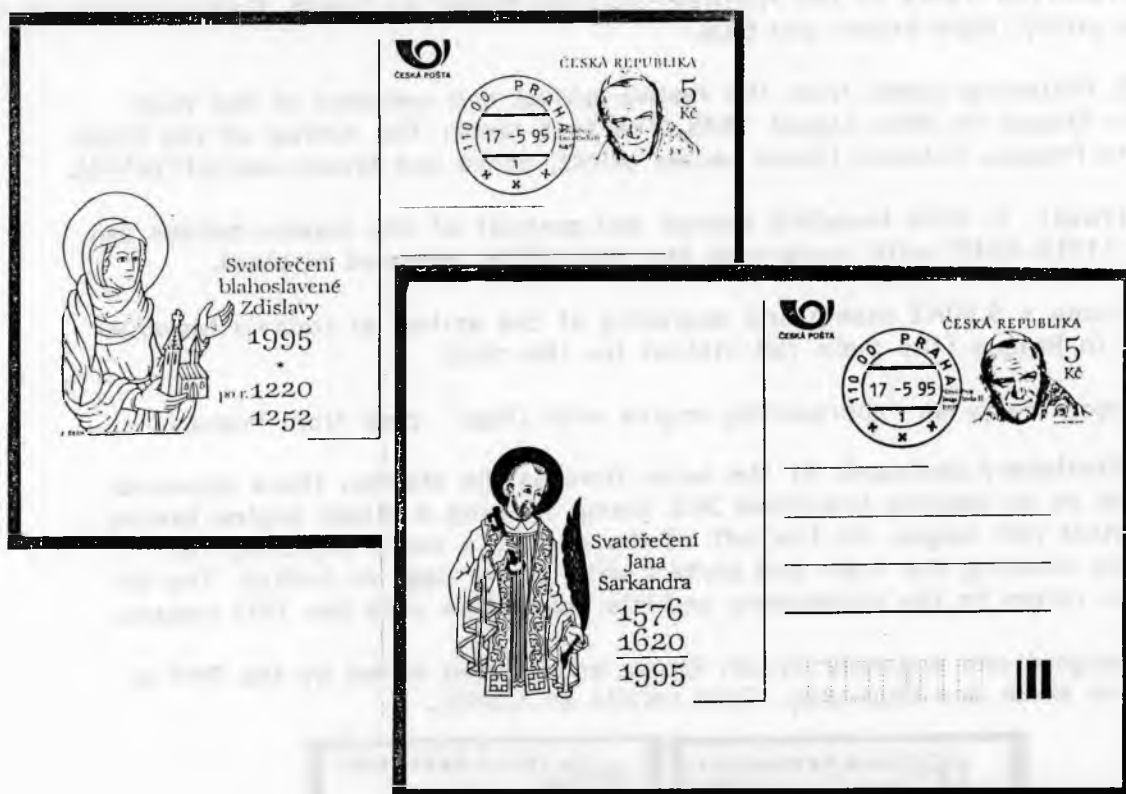
The Ministry of Economy of the Czech Republic (via the Czech Post Philatelic Service POSTFILA) announces the following new issues:

POPE JOHN PAUL's VISIT 1995
[Postal Stationery]

17 May 1995 Two special postcards commemorating the visit and the papal consecration of Jan Sarkander and the Blessed Lady Zdislava:

Both cards are identical except for the illustrations and colour of printings. The card bearing the image of Jan Sarkander with inscription "Svatořečení Jan Sarkandra/1576/1620-1995 (Consecration of Jan Sarkander and date periods) is printed in blue-violet and gold. The 5Kč imprinted stamp bears the Pope's portrait/'Visit of John Paul II/1995' in Czech and FDI pmk from Praha. The top line in the address portion is microprinted "PTC ČESKA POSTA 95 PTC :....." Graphic design: Pavel Sivko; stamp design: Václav Fajt.

The pc bearing the image of the Lady Zdislava shows her with aureole and a model of a church in her hand. Inscription reads "Consecration of Blessed Zdislava 1995" and "After 1220-1252" in Czech. The print colour is brown-violet. Drawing and typography arranged by Pavel Sivko. All other details are as for the other pc. Cards printed by Post Printing House, Prague. Both cards are priced at 5.30 Kč each.



FOR CHILDREN - 1995

June 1 1995 **3.60Kč.** [30x23mm]



Designed by Josef Paleček : Engraved by Václav Fajt.
Printed rotary recess in black/photogravure in yellow,
red, blue and violet in sheets of 50 pcs - p.11½x11¼.

The design of the stamp incorporates a 'smiling cat'
and the simple inscription "Dětem" (for children).

FDC carries one stamp cancelled at Praha by black (and humorous) pmk.
The cover also carries a drawing of a sleeping child in a hat and holding a
bouquet, with accompanying small toy.

**150th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST TRAIN FROM
OLOMOUC TO PRAGUE**

June 21 1995 (2 stamps): Designed and engraved by Jiří Bouda (40x23mm).

3Kč. Historical train leaving the tunnel at Choceň, completed by the text:
"1845-1995/155 Years of the Railway Olomouc-Praha" in Czech. Colours: black
(recess print), light-brown and blue.

9.60Kč. Historical scene from the festive arrival and welcome of the first
train in Prague on 20th August 1845. The text reads: The Arrival of the First
Train to Prague. Colours: (black recess print), ochre and brown-red.(p11¾x11¼).

FDCs (two): 1. With twox3Kč stamps and portrait of the master builder Jan
Perner (1815-1845) with route-map and theodolite, engraved in black.

2. With one x 9.60Kč stamp and engraving of the arrival at today's Masaryk
Station in Prague (the main rail station for the city).

Both covers carry an 'approaching engine with flags' pmk from Praha.

Postal Stationery postcard: At the same time as the stamps, there appeared
a special ps pc bearing imprinted 3Kč stamp showing a steam engine towing
a historical rail wagon. At the left of the card is a scene depicting rail
travellers entering the train and porters with postal bags on trolley. The in-
scription refers to the anniversary and it's connection with the TPO system.

Card designed and engraved by Jiří Bouda and printed offset by the PPH in
Prague in black and blue-grey. Card retails at 3.30Kč.



REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA

The Slovak Ministry of Transport, Communications and Public Works (via POFIS of Bratislava) announces the following new issues:

April 20 1995

"PERSONALITIES"
(two values)



1. 3Sk. Béla Bartók (1881-1945) - Composer
2. 6Sk. Ján Bahýl (1856-1916) - Inventor

The 40x23mm designs are as follows:-
Bartók portrait with a motif of a dancing figure.
Bahýl portrait with a 'helicopter' motif.

Designs: Igor Piačka : Engravings: Bohumil Šneider.

Printing was by the Post Printing House, Prague in sheets of 50 stamps - p.11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{4}$ - rotary recess/recess.

FDCs (2): Printed in green/blue, showing Dancing Figure (3Sk) and in red/grey-green showing a motif of a helicopter (6Sk). Both designs by Igor Piačka.

April 20 1995

ĽUDOVÍT ŠTÚR
- 1815-1856 -



16Sk. Multi-coloured stamp (26x40mm) is printed as a block in size 70x90mm. (my example is 69x90mm.)

The design is composed of a portrait of Štúr alongside an allegorical study of a stylized woman in profile left. Accompanying this is "Ľudovít Štúr/1815-1856" and 16SK face value. (p.11 $\frac{1}{2}$).

Below the stamp is an open book design bearing Štúr's signature under an open flower-head.

Printed from flat plates by the PPH in Prague.
Designed by Josef Baláž and engraved by M. Činovský.

FDC: Carries a design containing the Slovak double-cross with three mounts and an eagle. Designs: R. Cigánik.
The cover was also printed in Prague.

EUROPA - "PEACE & FREEDOM"



May 5 1995 8SK. The multi-coloured stamp (40x23 p.11 $\frac{3}{4}$) is the work of Academic Artist Igor Rumanský whilst the engravings were by Academic Artist Rudolf Cigánik. It shows an allegorical figure - 'Freedom' with outstretched arms and broken wrist-shackles against a township backdrop.

This (horizontal) stamp was printed from flat plates by the Post Printing House, Prague in sheetlets of ten stamps.

FDC. Shows a face bending over a wounded dove, printed black-red, by the stamp's designer noted above.

LIBERATION OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS 1945

May 5 1995 12Sk. The multi-coloured stamp shows a design (33mm²) of a group of liberated prisoners from a concentration camp. The backdrop scene provides a Rising Sun at left with a portion of barbed-wire fencing at right. The stamp also carries the text (in Slovak) - "Liberation of Concentration Camps 1945".



The design was the creation of Jan Trojan with the engraving by Václav Fajt.

Printing by rotary recess combined with recess printing was by the Post Printing House in Prague in sheets of 35 stamps. p.11 $\frac{1}{4}$.

FDC. This shows a compounded image of figures in black-golden colours. This also was the work of design artist Jan Trojan and the engraver Václav Fajt.

SLOVAK SCOUTING

May 18 1995 5Sk.



This stamp, with a dominant drawing of a Boy Scout in portrait giving the well-known Scout salute with the Slovak tricolour in background, itself bearing the universal scouting 'Fleur-de-Lys' badge.

Designed by Jozef Bálaš and engraved by M. Ondráček. Printed by rotary recess/recess printing in sheets x 35 pcs by PPH, Prague. p.11 $\frac{1}{4}$.

FDC. Shows symbolic drawings with a globe, symbols and emblems of the Scout movement by Jozef Bálaš.

VISIT OF POPE JOHN PAUL

May 29 1995 3SK. The 33m² stamp design incorporates the Pope's portrait together with the Papal arms and a map of Slovakia highlighting Bratislava, Šaštín and Levoča.



The entire stamp-base is in light-ochre upon which is printed the portrait in rose-red colour.

Design work was by Jozef Balaž and the engravings by Martin Činovský. Apart from map place-names, Arms and the face value and state title, no other inscription is on this stamp.

Printing by PPH, Prague in sheets of 35 stamps by rotary recess/recess system; p. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$.

FDC. The artistic composition is by Rudolf Ciganik, showing a composition of the Virgin Mary statue at Šaštín, a map of the state and Mount Krivaň.

CENTENARY OF ORGANIZED
PHILATELY IN SLOVAKIA

June 1 1995



A block x 2 stamps: 80x88mm with central gutter horizontal.

The **3Sk.** stamp design shows the top-right corners of three 'stamps'. They respectively bear the wording: 100 výročie / Filatelie / Spolok Album - and Kremnica 1895. This translates to '100th Anniversary of Philately: Association Album Kremnica 1895.

The 50x19mm stamps are divided by a stamp-sized gutter in which there is a sheath fish and the logogram of "Dunajfila '95" phil. exhibition.

The sheet was printed **rotary** recess in Prague in black, blue and grey (stamps p. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ x11 $\frac{3}{4}$)

FDC (no details to hand yet!). The entire issue was designed by Miroslav Cipár and engraved by Josef Herčík.

N.B. The Sheath Fish (or Sheat Fish) - A large fresh-water fish 'Silurus glanis' that is common in the Danube and other rivers of eastern Europe. (Shorter OED).

.....**Stop Press.** FDC in blue-black colour, is an artistic composition of historic pmks. used by the Association Album and the following text in Slovak - "100th Anniversary of Organized Philately in Slovakia."

NOVÁ BAŇA

-definitive-

June 15 1995

4Sk.

This small (19x23mm) definitive stamp shows the central architecture of the town of Nová Baňa: the former town hall and the Trinity statue. Design is completed by the town arms at top-right together with the town's name. The clock is set at 'ten-eighteen'.



Printed rotary recess/recess printing in blue, green and black, the issue was designed/engraved by František Horňák. Printed in Prague in sheets x 100 stamps. p11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{4}$.

FDC. Reproduction from an altar relief - a miner. The pmk is a motif of symbolic hammers. The cover was printed by the Bratislava printing house Kasico in offset (brown).

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JIŘI ANDERLE

In the reference to the Czech stamp "Europa" 1995 (issued 3rd May), we spelt this artist's name incorrectly. This was due to the official press release doing the same thing, which we copied. We regret this error. We note that our USA friends also did the same thing in their journal 'The Czechoslovak Specialist'.....

Our thanks to **Graham Slater** for raising the matter with the Editor. Graham also included some further information on Jiří Anderle which members may find of some interest:

Graham writes: " [Jiří Anderle] is a major artist outside the field of stamps and has recently had an exhibition in London.

He graduated from the Prague Academy in 1962 and thereafter, for some eight years, worked and travelled with the famous 'Black Theatre'. Over the years he 'developed and refined his draughtsmanship to such a high level that none of his contemporaries can reach him' - I am quoting Harold Joachim, the curator of Prints and Drawings at the Art Institute of Chicago.

My wife and I were astounded by his current skills and artistry and in confirmation of his ability, can I just add that his work has been purchased by the Victoria and Albert Museum (London), the Metropolitan Museum (New York), the Pompidou Centre (Paris), the National Gallery (Washington) and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence!

His two stamps are just pleasant reminders, on a small scale, of his output and I was delighted when they recently came to me from Alan Knight with the New Issues. By way of reinforcement, I received at the same time a pair on a cover from Prague this morning! "

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