



# CZECHOUT

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## EDITORIAL

We would draw members attention to the revised Publications List which is enclosed with this issue, together with the Auction List, and the Agenda for the AGM on 9 November 1996.

As well as the usual features we include a thematic visit by Colin Smith, the second\* translation by Michael Chant, on a subject that Czech researchers have studied, but is a first for Polish students, and therefore it is useful to have their point of view for comparison. There is also a new feature 'Covers of Interest' hopeful that members might like to send us details of mail with unusual destinations, rates or other markings. Richard Beith continues his researches into airmail rates, and a unusual stamp essay by our Vice Chairman. We hope something for everyone.

Colin W Spong FRPS,L

## NEWS & NOTICES

### Meeting of Saturday June 8 1996 at Royston Town Hall Community Centre

The Chairman, Mr. Wm. A. Dawson, welcomed 13 members to the meeting; he particularly welcomed Ed Lehecka from the USA on his first visit to the Society since 1990. Apologies had been received from Fred and Yvonne Gren and from John Whiteside. He sends the Society's best wishes to Yvonne, who has recently undergone two minor operations, and to Fred, who is steadily improving. Bill also thanked Brian Parker and Reg Hounsell for organising and hosting the meeting, and their wives for looking after the teatime refreshments.

Bill commended the copies of *Merkur Revue* which were on display. Subscriptions can be placed through the Hon Treasurer.

The Hon Assistant Secretary gave details of four prospective new members:

John Sime, from Swindon  
Dr Yutako Kondo, from Ichinomiya City in Japan  
Henning Qvale, from Oslo in Norway  
Michael Lowe, from Paignton

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Rex also reported on a membership drive by the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, on a booklet entitled *Carpatho-Ukraine: A Catalog-Checklist* published by Ukrainian Philatelic Resources, and on the Society's intention to participate at Midpex in June 1997. [Readers can get more details from Rex Dixon.]

The main business was a display of some 500 (!) sheets by members:-

Brian Parker	Introduction to Royston Postal History
Brian Day	Siberia
Colin Spong	Slovenský Štát overprints
John Hammonds	Bohemia & Moravia
Rex Dixon	Some recent acquisitions
Alec Page	Cards for the Czech Legions; Preissig recruiting cards
Barry Horne	National Hymn; miscellany; airpost
Lindy Knight (for Alan)	Czech connection with Austro-Hungarian navy
Robert Hill	Liberation overprints: Č.Budojovice, Brno, Slavkov
Bill Dawson	Theresienstadt/Terezin, 1875 - date
Reg Hounsell	Selection from 25 years of collecting; airmails

In proposing the vote of thanks, Ed Lehecka remarked that no equivalent display by members was possible in our American sister society due to the geographical spread of its membership. They were able to get together just once a year, and then the displays were formal exhibits. He found this meeting "an educational experience".

There being no further business, the meeting closed at about 5.55 pm, and adjourned to the Bull Hotel, Royston for Dinner.

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### CAPEX 96

Capex 96, organised by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, was the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Toronto, Canada from 8-16 June. The exhibition was held in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The visitor was not assisted in finding the building by any outward visible sign of the exhibition.

The impression of the event was that it was small and lacked the stature of an International. The reason for this was the fact that the entire exhibition was housed on the first floor of the convention centre. Nevertheless there were 4656 frames, 78 dealers stands of which 28% were British, and 152 Postal Administration stands and the venue was not crowded. Following is a list of members of the Czech Societies of GB & USA and Czech nationals with their awards. >

Ludvik Pytlíček (CZE) FIP Championship Class	Czechoslovakia 1918-1939 Posta Overprints and Hradcany issues
Jan Klim (CZE) Vermeil	Hradcany
Johan L. Klein (NED) Large Vermeil	1918-1939
Ladislav Fischmeister (USA) Large Silver	1918-1945
Jan Karásek (CZE) Large Vermeil	Airmails 1920-1939
Geoffrey McAuley Large Vermeil	Where is my Home?
Richard Beith Silver	The Italian South Atlantic Air Mail Service 1939-1941 [Literature]
Paul H Jensen (NOR) Gold	Cook Islands & Nieu 1845-1920 Pre-postal missionary covers
Gary Ryan Gold	Revenues of Ireland Used for Judicial purposes.

Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL

### Letters to the Editor

Via the Vice-Chairman:

The first Newsletter *Eastpost* of the Postcards of Eastern Europe Society contains an article "Czech Card Hunting" by our member Graham Slater. This organisation connects collectors of postcards from this area, the term describes states and peoples that experienced Socialist systems of government at different times between 1917 and 1990, and the countries and nations that preceded them. As well as publishing features by readers, *Eastpost* may be used to advertise for requirements and sales, exchanges, approvals and whatever else readers may need to communicate.

As an extension it should prove interesting and useful to philatelists too. Write to:

Jonathan Smith, Eastpost, 240 Heathcote Road, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 9DU.

### Publications

We have received the the following journals which will be available from the Society Library.

- ◆ The May/June 96 issue of *The Czechoslovak Philatelist* Vol.58, No.3, Whole No 537. by Courtesy of Alec Page. The contents include:-

Czech Mail (Kvasnička); 25th Anniversary of the First Republic (Page); Thoughts on Bohumil Heinz (Chesloe); Olomouc to Prague - A Railway Anniversary (Holoubek).

- ◆ The June 1996 [No 108] issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakewi*, and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the contents for us.

Interview and Exhibition of the Stamp Engraver Bedřich Housa (VCE); 100 Years of the Philatelic press in Czech (Cermak); Revolutionary Overprints 1945 Part 2 (Hammer); Thoughts on a collection of Czechoslovak Field Post (Thielk); Postal Stationery Catalogue supplement: Part 7 Czech Republic 1995-6 (Osthues, Sobotka & Kokta); Special cancellations Czech Republic 1995 (Muller); Aero-philately 1995-6 Czech/Slovak Republics (Muller).

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Carpatho-Ukraine: A Catalog-Checklist* Peter Bylen. Ukrainian Philatelic Resources Publication No 3. P.O. Box 7193, Westchester, IL 60154-7193, USA. \$5.00 postpaid surface mail, if airmail delivery required add \$2.00. Payment strictly in US currency drafts payable to 'UPR' or "Ukrainian Philatelic Resources."

As collectors know the catalogues just list one stamp - the National Assembly issue of 15 March 1939 [SG 393c; Scott 254b] under Czechoslovakia. However, the Michel Europa-Katalog Ost listing is much better, and includes the overprints on Hungarian stamps of 1944-45 [nos 2-77], the National Council issues of 1945 [nos 78-88], and official and postage due stamps [3 + 9], for a total of 101 stamps (not 100, because 79a and 79b are listed separately). The Bylen catalogue-checklist lists 248 general issues and 101 local issues! Where do Bylen's extra stamps come from? Many are the Chust issue of 1944 [overprints of ĆSP/1944 on Hungarian stamps] these are mentioned in Michel, but not actually listed. Bylen also lists essays of unissued stamps, they are numbered in logical sequence with the issued stamps, but prefixed with an "E." The Bylen catalogue-checklist not only lists more, but it lists with more attention to important detail. For example Michel Carpatho-Ukraine nos 63-67 are overprints (Poshta/Zakarpatska/Ukraina) in either red or black on the Hungarian Lajos Kossuth issue of 1944. The Bylen listing of the same series is BK 208-12. It distinguishes BK 208-11, which are overprinted in black, from BK 212, which is overprinted in red. It includes BK E209, an essay not encompassed by Michel, and it excludes Michel no 65, since it 'does not exist with a genuine overprint.'

John-Paul Himka

*New Edition of the 1945 Liberation Overprints Book* A new edition (the 5th) of the only publication that "catalogues" all the known examples of these controversial stamps, was published in July 1996. The book by Juan Santæugenia Grau of Barcelona (Spain) is perhaps better described as a compendium as it completely ignores any reference to value or scarcity. It does however pay important attention to the bogus and fraudulent overprints many of which were done after the May 1945 period. Similarly nothing is included as to the origin of the many different towns that overprinted their existing stocks of stamps.

(A limited coverage of this aspect is covered in a book published by our life-member Cyril Wackett in 1988 which provides background information for over thirty different overprints from various towns.)

A review of an earlier edition of Senor Grau's book appeared in CZECHOUT for March 1990 - 3/90 page 71. However the writer has been privileged to have a preview of a draft copy of the main sections of the new book.

The first thing that caught my eye was the new presentation of the illustrations of the overprints. In the earlier editions these were either hand drawn or copied on to stamp sized blanks. The new edition now includes illustrations taken from actual stamps for all but a couple of dozen listings.

In some instances reproduction of the overprinted stamps is less clear than just seeing the overprints in "blanks", however retaining the earlier edition, one may have the best of both worlds.

This is the main part of the book, but a similar treatment has been given to the section covering the overprints that remain unidentified. The 'unknowns' have almost doubled since the last edition - from 93 listed to 174!

The main alphabetical listing by towns includes a number of new entries, and a few deletions and does away with the numbering system adopted in the earlier books.

For collectors of this fascinating period in immediate post-war postal activities the new book is a must even if the earlier editions are held. An introduction in English and a five language lexicon makes it easy to use, in spite of its Spanish language.

>

Over the past few years, more and more of the material is coming on to the market, particularly in Europe. Whether any of the issues will ever attain full normal catalogue status is doubtful. Nevertheless they exist, are collected and command a good price. Likewise a number were actually used and passed through the then existing postal system. Some covers and postal stationery items were cancelled by favour and most of those that did go through the post were philatelically contrived. Ideally the most desirable items are the registered covers sent on to addressees in other locations, especially those franked at the correct postal rates. Such items were handled in the correct manner, with the issue of registration receipts and were generally backstamped at the destination.

The cancellations themselves are not without interest and in many cases use is made of the original bi-lingual cancellers, with or without the German legend removed. Occasionally in the larger towns use has been made of new uni-lingual cancellers.

Whilst this aspect is not covered in Senor Grau's book, it is an interesting facet of the overall subject, and adds a degree of respectability to the overprinted stamps.

Since the preparation of this review, I learn from the author that he is now compiling a record of the number of covers/cards actually used (not C.T.O!) between the period November 1944 and July 1945. It is his intention to publish this record in due course.

I would thus be grateful if members with an interest in these overprinted stamps will be kind enough to let me have photo-copies of their holdings of covers, regardless of duplications. Copies should be clear and include any back stamps.

Members who wish to obtain the 5th edition of the book (which has 12 international awards since 1977 including silver medals at "Praga 1978" and "Praga 1988") should get in touch with me immediately, since the publication is not treated as a commercial venture. Price will be advised at time of ordering as this is still awaited from the author.

W.A.Page FRPSL






Thematic

### VIEWS ON STAMPS - HORA RÍP 1994

Colin Smith

On the 28 August 1991 there were issued two stamps each 4 Kčs in value, depicting Czech 'Beauty Spots' Mount Říp [SG 3066 Pofis 2984] and Kriváň [SG3067 Pofis 2983] of which the Hora Říp design has also been used for a Czech Republic 2 Kc postal card. Designed by J. Saska and engraved by V. Fajt the stamp depicts this National Monument which is situated about a 40 minute drive north of Praha/Prague by taking the E. 15 road.



<p>Odesílatel:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;">           ČESKÁ POŠTA       </p> <p style="text-align: right;">         ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA          2<sup>00</sup>   </p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	 

In May 1994 Maureen and I were staying with some friends in the Praha suburb of Kobylisy, where on a clear day from their flat window on the 7th floor we had a good view of Hora Říp and decided to visit the Mount. As you approach the 'Říp' it is prominent in an otherwise flat landscape. We started the long winding walk to the top, and were glad to use the occasional seat! The Říp is very much covered in a blanket of trees with the odd view over the surrounding countryside. On reaching the summit we visited the chapel dedicated to S. George, which is illustrated on the entry tickets.

Just as important in view of the exercise, we took advantage of the Bohemian pub for lunch, which is close by the chapel. There was also a small gift shop where I bought some postcards on the reverse of which are some fine backstamps and a wording, the phrase has the meaning "What Mecca is to the Moslem so Říp is to the Czechs".



### THE ŘÍP NATIONAL CULTURAL MONUMENT

Mount Říp arose during Tertiary volcanic activity, and the hill is wreathed with legends of the arrival of Forefather Czech and the beginning of the permanent settlement of the Slavs in Bohemia. In 1126 Prince Soběslav had a chapel built on the summit to commemorate his victory over the German ruler Lothar in the battle of Chlumec. The Romanesque rotunda with a semi-circular apse and a round tower is the culmination of the building development of the Bohemian rotunda. The edifice was built of roughly shaped marl stones, with vaulting and covered with a stone roof resting directly on the vault. In glorification of the Přemyslid dynasty the rotunda was consecrated to St George, the patron of tillage.

From 1143 the mount with the rotunda was the property of the Strahov monastery in Prague. After the Hussite Wars the squires of Ctíně were the owners, and one of them, Martin of Mnetěš had two bells cast for the rotunda. In 1515 Mount Říp reverted to Strahov monastery which then sold it and the Mnetěš estate to Vilém of Rožmberk in 1577. After his death the Lobkowitz family became the owners for a long time.

The oldest known building adaptations of the rotunda were carried out in 1826 on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the battle of Chlumec. Major repairs were carried out in 1869-81 when the stone roof cover was removed and replaced by cement panels. In 1966-74 The Regional Centre of Care for Ancient Monuments and Nature conservancy in Ústí nad Labem had the entire outer wall of the rotunda repaired and restored the original shape and siting of the windows.

Since 1848 Říp has been the centre of rallies for national and social rights. Since 1963 Mount Říp and the rotunda has been a National Cultural Monument. Inside the rotunda stands a sculpture symbolizing the transition of the Nomad Slavs into a settled agricultural people.

## THE POLISH POST IN ZAOLZIE 1938-1939

Silesia

-Tadeusz Wincewicz AIJP-

Translated by Michael Chant

*We thank Rudolph Szezurek, editor of the Polish Philatelic Review [Polski Przegląd Filatelistyczny], Journal of the Society for Polish Philately in GB for permission to publish this paper which appeared in Volume 31. ....Nos. 11 (118); 12(119); January and April 1995; and originally in Filatelistyka 10/1992 and Michael Chant for translating.*

As a result of the Munich Agreement concluded on 30 September 1938, Hitler's Germany carried out a partial annexation of Czechoslovakia, principally the Sudeten area (1 October 1938). Shortly afterwards the Hungarians added to their state that part of the territory of the Czechoslovak Republic which was inhabited by an ethnically Hungarian population and Poland did likewise in respect of the part inhabited by a Polish population.

Not much can be read about this fact in postwar Polish writing, including philatelic literature. This was linked to the negative evaluation of the attachment of Zaolzie to Poland in 1938. The time has now come to present to the Polish reader the postal repercussions of events of more than fifty years ago. In Czechoslovakia this subject has already been written about many times in the past.

"Zaolzie was an event which did not win friends in the world for Poland, and particularly not in France and England" writes Col. J.Z.E. Berek ('), a participant in the military operations, "but in Poland also it awakened negative feelings, especially in people who, as Gen. Bortnowski put in his lecture about Zaolzie, thought about the matter neither with the head nor the heart, but with the liver. Only in the hearts of the soldiers to whom fell the privilege of belonging to the "Silesia" Independent Operational Group under the leadership of Divisional General Wł. Bortnowski and of playing an active part in the operation of taking over this land for Poland and who saw with their own eyes the tears of happiness among the people of Zaolzie and their spontaneous welcome to the invading units has remained for ever a belief in a duty to the Fatherland well and justly discharged.

The matter of Zaolzie must have been considered at the highest level somewhere around the beginning of 1938, since as early as March of that year I in the General Staff was given the task of making an operational study of that question and of preparing the elements to carry it out, while preserving the strictest secrecy.

When the matter entered the stage of execution, I was assigned to Gen. Bortnowski's staff in the position of head of Department III, Operational, and I shared everything which was the fate of the Polish soldier in that campaign.

Observance of keeping the preparations secret was taken so far that the Ministers concerned learned of the operation only on the day the Polish ultimatum was accepted by the Czechs, while the soldiers of units returning in rail transports to their garrisons from manoeuvres in Volhynia did not even imagine that they were travelling not to recuperation but to marshalling points in the area of Skoczów.

After the Polish ultimatum had been accepted by the Czechs, Gen. Bortnowski's staff prepared in concert with the representative of the Czechoslovak Government, Gen. Hrabčík, and the representative of the Government of the Republic of Poland, Lt.Col. Czesław Korański, a plan for the taking over of Zaolzie. This plan provided for five successive phases in the course of the ten days - (from 2 to 12 October 1938).

If the accomplishment of the first four phases did not present the slightest difficulties, Gen. Bortnowski recognised, on the basis of intelligence received, the issue of special orders as essential in connection with the taking over of Bogumin (Bohumín). These orders, which were agreed with Gen. Hrabčík, were designed to prevent the taking-over of that town being anticipated by the German Nazi organisation known as "Ordnung" ("White Stockings").

On the day after 12 October 1938 Marshal Śmigły-Rydz arrived in Cieszyn. In the course of two days he visited all the more important centres in Zaolzie and everywhere was met with an enthusiastic welcome from the local population."

&gt;



Map of Zaolzie taken over by Poland in 1938 [reproduced from *Lublin Express* No.274, 6.10.1938]

### 1. The Postal Network

Postal agencies were being established in the acquired areas as the first Polish institutions of all. Immediately after the military units, postal vehicles were moving in with previously designated staff, basic post and telecommunications equipment and printed forms and postage stamps.

As individual localities were taken over the postal-telecommunication agencies came into operation on the following dates:

- 2 October: Cieszyn 2, Ropica; (Český Těšín, Ropice)
- 3 October: Kocobędz, Łąki Śląskie, Stonawa; (Chotěbuz, Louky nad Olzou, Stonava)
- 4 October: Trzyniec, Wendrynia, Bystrzyca nad Olzą, Nawsie, Jabłonków, Mosty Śląskie; (Trinec, Vendryně, Bystrice nad Olzou, Návsí, Jablunkov, Mosty)
- 5 October: Gnojnik Śląski, Ligotka, Kameralna; (Hnojník, Komorní Lhotka)
- 7 October: Domasławice Dolne; (Dolní Domaslavice)

>



- 8 October: Darków, Frysztat, Piotrowice k. Bogumina; (Darkov, Fryštát, Petrovice u Bohumína)
- 10 October: Sucha Górna, Sucha Średnia, Karwina 1, Karwina 2, Orłowa, Szumbark, Błędowice Dolne, Łazy Śląskie, Lutynia Polska, Lutynia Niemiecka, Dziecmorowice, Dąbrowa Śląska, Poręba k. Orłowy; (Horní Sucha, Prostřední Sucha, Karvinná 1, Karvinná 2, Orlová, Šumbark ve Slezsku, Dolní Bludovice, Łazy u Orlové, Polská Lutyně, Německá, Lutyně, Dětmorovice, Doubrava, Poruba u Orlové)
- 11 October: Pietwałd, Rychwałd, Śląski, Skrzeczón, Bogumin 1, Bogumin 2, Pudłów. (Petřvald ve Slezsku, Rychvald, Skřečoň, Bohumín 1, Bohumín 2. Pudlov).

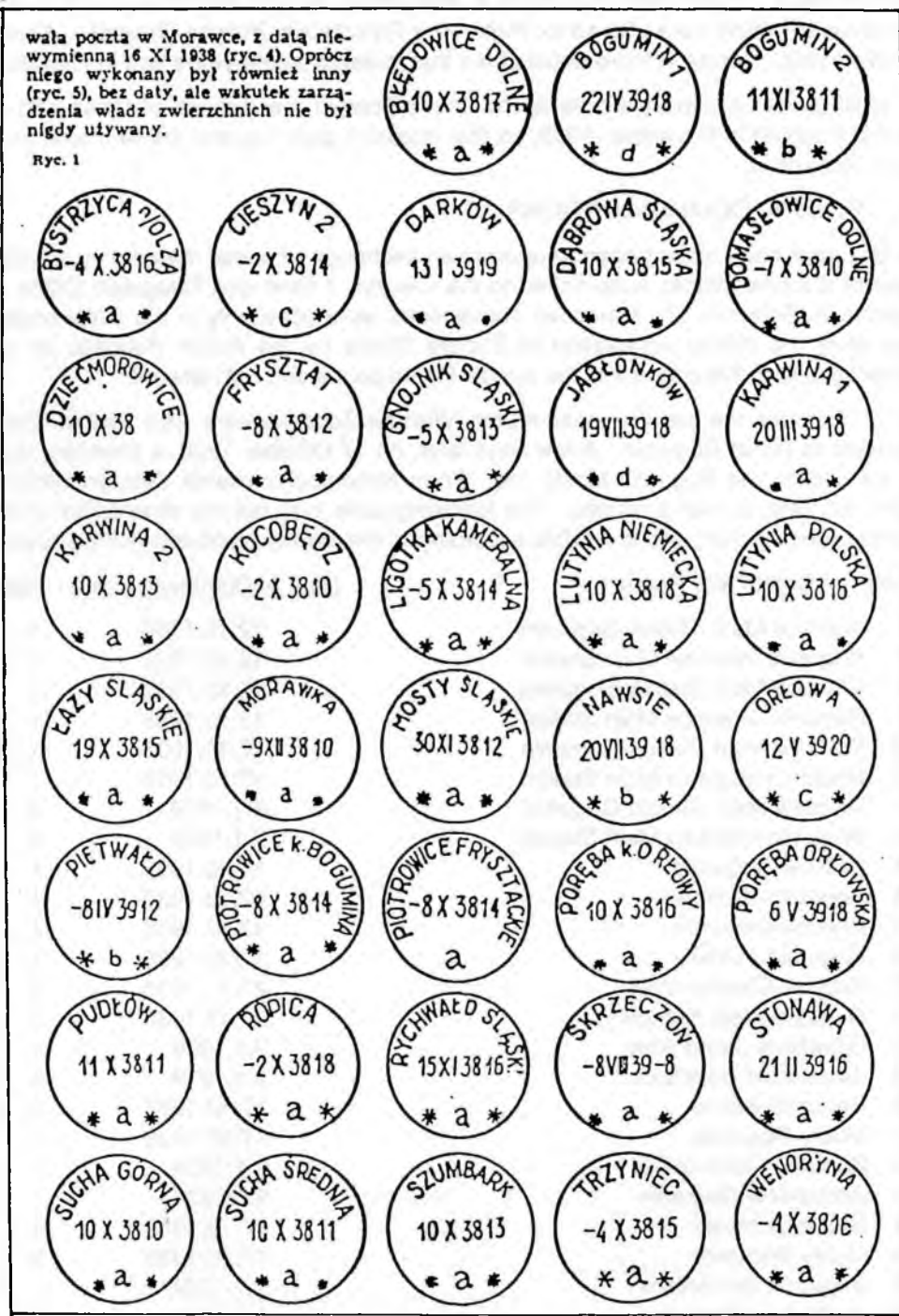


Figure 1 (Reduced)

The incorporation of the occupied territory within the frontiers of the Polish Republic followed on 11 October 1938 by virtue of a Decree of the President of the Polish Republic. After that date, on 17 November 1938, a further locality, Morawka (Morávka), was occupied and a postal agency was established there also. Subsequently, as a result of a decision of the Boundary commission, this locality returned to Czechoslovakia.

It is necessary to point out that, because of the lateness of the hour at which the post offices at Bystrzyca, Nawsie, Jabłonków and Mosty were taken over, only telephone communication work was undertaken on 4 October. However the letter service came into operation on the following day, 5 October.

It must be also noted that shortly after the occupation of Zaolzie the names of certain post offices were changed. These were Piotrowice k. Bogumina, Poręba k. Orłowy, Szumbark and Wendrynia, the names of which were altered to: Piotrowice Frysztaćkie, Poręba Ortowska, Szumbark Błędowicki and Wędrynia. I wrote in more detail about that question some years ago in *Filatelista* (No 12, 1985).

We shall devote a separate note to the post offices in the districts of Spisz and Orawa [Spiš and Orava] occupied in November 1938, as that question goes beyond the territorial area defined by the title of this article.

## 2. POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS

The day after each office began to operate an exchange of postal material by vehicle was organised. Some of the post offices were linked to the Cieszyn 1 Post and Telegraph Office and the rest with Bogumin 2 [Bohumín 2]. Motorised connections were used only in the initial organisational phase. Soon after the official annexation of Zaolzie Silesia by the Polish Republic its network of postal connections was integrated into the overall Polish postal and rail network.

On 12 October the railway post routes Warsaw-Zebrzydowice and Kraków-Zebrzydowice were extended as far as Bogumin. A few days later, on 17 October 1938, a travelling post coach was put into service on the Bogumin-Mosty line. From November onwards Cieszyn West was the terminal station for several mail coaches. The following table sets out the disposition of the travelling post coaches running from and to Zaolzie according to the railway numbering of the coaches:

<u>Number of Coach and Route</u>	<u>Date of Commencement</u>	<u>Notes</u>
2 Warsaw Main Station-Bogumin	12.10.1938	1
2 Bogumin-Warsaw Main Station	12.10.1938	1
12 Warsaw Main Station-Bogumin	12.10.1938	1
12 Bogumin-Warsaw Main Station	12.10.1938	1
102 Warsaw Main Station-Bogumin	12.10.1938	1
102 Bogumin-Warsaw Main Station	12.10.1938	1
112 Warsaw Main Station-Bogumin	9.1.1939	2
112 Bogumin-Warsaw Main Station	9.1.1939	2
134 Kraków-Bogumin	12.10.1938	1
134 Bogumin-Kraków	12.10.1938	1
135 Kraków-Bogumin	12.10.1938	1
135 Bogumin-Kraków	12.10.1938	1
136 Kraków-Cieszyn West	21.11.1938	3
136 Cieszyn-West Kraków	21.11.1938	3
335 Dziedzice-Jabłonków	9.1.1939	4
335 Jabłonków-Dziedzice	9.1.1939	4
338 Bogumin-Mosty	17.10.1938	5
338 Mosty-Bogumin	17.10.1938	5
338 Bogumin-Jabłonków	9.1.1939	
338 Jabłonków-Bogumin	9.1.1939	
339 Bogumin-Mosty	17.10.1938	5
339 Mosty-Bogumin	17.10.1938	5
339 Bogumin-Jabłonków	9.1.1939	
339 Jabłonków-Bogumin	9.1.1939	
340 Bogumin-Cieszyn West	10.11.1938	3
340 Cieszyn West-Bogumin	10.11.1938	3

341	Bielsko-Cieszyn West	10.11.1938	3
341	Cieszyn West-Bielsko	10.11.1938	3
348	Bielsko-Cieszyn West	15.5.1939	
348	Cieszyn West-Bielsko	15.5.1938	
608	Katowice-Cieszyn West	15.5.1939	
608	Cieszyn West-Katowice	15.5.1939	
609	Rybnik-Bogumin	15.5.1939	
609	Bogumin-Rybnik	15.5.1939	

### Notes

- |    |                            |    |  |
|----|----------------------------|----|--|
| 1. | Extended from Zebrzydowice | 4. | Put into service in place of the discontinued coach 355 Katowice-Zwardoń |
| 2. | Extended from Katowice     | 5. | Up to 8.1.1939   |
| 3. | Extended from Cieszyn      |    |  |

### 3. POSTAL MARKINGS

It is known from the documents (Source No. 3) that on 30 September 1938, 60 ordinary cancellers and 8 double-sided travelling post cancellers together with 150 postboxes for the despatch of correspondence, were sent by road from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph in Warsaw to the Regional Postal and Telecommunications Directorate in Katowice (to which were later attached all the post and telecommunications offices in the former Czech lands).

All the date stamps were manufactured in accordance with what was then the latest 1938 design. The external diameter was 24mm, the thickness of the rim, of the letters and of the shoulders of the stars 0.25mm, the distance between the interior edge of the rim and the upper edge of the letters 0.75mm, the height of the capital letters and of the numbers indicating the number of the office 1.5mm. The distinguishing sign is a small letter of the alphabet between two stars.

The majority of postal agencies were provided with only one dated postmark, with the distinguishing sign of a small letter between two small stars. Only the large offices had several dated postmarks each. V. Indra published a list of the known marks in the Prague "Filatelie"[3] and this was completed by J. Král[7]. At present the following distinguishing signs (other than \*a\*) are known: Bogumin 1 - d, Bogumin 2 - b,c,d, Bystrzyca n. Olzą - b, Cieszyn 2 - b,c,e,f, Dąbrowa Śląska - b,c, Frysztat - b,c,d,e,f,i,l, Jabłonków - b,c,d,, Karwina 1 - c,d, Karwina 2 - d, Łazy Śląskie - b,c, Lutynia Niemiecka - b, Nawsie - b, Orłowa - b,c,f, Pietwałd - b,c, Rychwałd Śląski - v, Skrzeczeń - b, Trzyniec - b,c,d.

It is necessary to devote a few words also to the provisional rubber cancellers. V. Indra [3] writes about such a canceller at the Cieszyn 2 Post and Telegraph Office. On 2 October, that is at the moment the Polish post office was put into operation, Polish dated postmarks and postage stamps had not yet arrived at Cieszyn. A rubber canceller was therefore made on the spot with a bridge containing the fixed date : 2 X 38. 14 (figure 2) and the distinguishing sign + 1 +. It is difficult to establish how long that date stamp continued in use. Some sources says that it was only hours, others several days. I shall return to that date stamp in Part IV. Another rubber stamp was used in Jabłonków. This was a small, single-line stamp with the inscription JABLONKOW (figure 3) and no date. The post office in Morawka used a similar provisional canceller, with the fixed date of 16 XI 38 (figure 4). Apart from that one, a later one was also prepared, without a date, but as a result of instructions from higher authorities was never used (figure 5).



Figure 2

JABLONKOW



Figure 4



Figure 5 &gt;

All postal agencies were also supplied with a registration stamp "R". The registration stamps issued to the lower level agencies and post offices showed only the name of the locality (figure 6), whilst those post offices with several windows for the reception of letters or where there was shift work were issued with "R" stamps with a distinguishing sign (a small letter of the alphabet) situated in the segment underneath the letter "R" (figure 7).

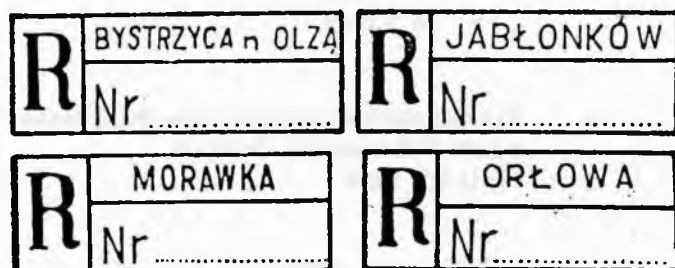


Figure 6

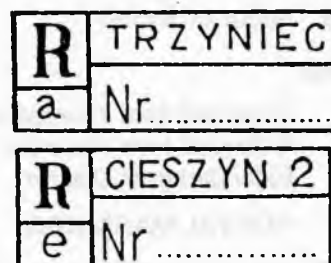


Figure 7

The double-sided postmarks of the travelling post office railway coaches also has a diameter of 24mm. Postmarks are known on which the coach number is given at the bottom between two small stars with the distinguishing sign above it (figure 8) or where the coach number is shown after the name of the route, with the distinguishing sign at the bottom (see "Filatelie" No.4 1983 page 108, figure 4).



Figure 8

Presumably the coaches were also supplied with registration stamps but I am not aware of what imprint these produced.

#### 4. THE POST AND PHILATELISTS

The annexation to Poland of the territory of Zaolzie Silesia constituted the "number one" theme of Polish propaganda of the time. Interest in the date stamps and other markings used by the Polish post offices was very great among philatelists, and not only among them. I will allow myself to quote one of the many press releases. It is a report of the Polish Telegraph Agency in Cieszyn dated 3 October 1938:

"Success of the Post Office in Cieszyn. Last Sunday (2 X 1938) the Polish Post Office despatched 28,000 letters and postcards from Zaolzie Cieszyn (Cieszyn 2) with Czech stamps affixed and Polish cancellations. Today letters are being despatched only with Polish stamps."

On the basis of the numerous surviving envelopes and cards with favour strikes of the stamps it can be stated that service to philatelists was one of the principal postal services rendered by the offices in the initial period of their operation. Similarly, in many articles in the press we read of "mass philatelic requests, which are being fulfilled with complete goodwill"

It can be assumed that the majority of philatelists sending covers for cancellation asked for the date stamp of the office in question to be set to the date (and even the hour) at which the Polish post began work and such wishes were fulfilled. In this way a situation arose by which a given cancellation was not in use on a particular day but strikes from it exist with that date. An example may be the Jabłonków canceller with the fixed date - 4 X 38.18. As I have written elsewhere, it unequivocally emerges from the documents that on that day the letter service was not in operation at all. Furthermore, a one-line provisional postmark was being applied (when?). Subsequent back-dating can also be shown by the existence of strikes from the WĘDRYNIA postmark dated 4 X 38: that name was not in use until at least 11 October [12]. Accordingly, in defining the period of use of individual postmarks, one can rely on postmarks made on non-philatelic items, or registered and express letters or those addressed to the post restante (these have the stamp of the receiving office on the back, which enables the transit time to be determined). I have seen a sheet of paper (not >

illustrated) with stamps affixed and cancelled with a Cieszyn 2 postmark. This however differs from the general Polish design in its distinguishing sign. Whereas all other postmarks have in their lower part a small letter of the alphabet between two small stars, this one has the figure 1, also between two small stars.

I believe that the genesis of the production of this postmark must be sought in the philatelic service. Perhaps philatelists having discovered that on the first day a postmark with the sign \*1\* had been used (cf. figure 2), asked for strikes from the canceller with this sign to be applied to envelopes sent later on. Another possibility may be that this canceller was manufactured for the philatelic service at the Head Post Office Warsaw 1, where there was a special philatelic counter. On the sheet referred to in the previous paragraph there is one Polish and five Czech stamps cancelled with a postmark - 2 X 38.14 and also one stamp cancelled with the date 11 XI 38-8. This last date is the day of issue of the "Return of Zaolzie to the Motherland" stamp, which stamp had just been postmarked.

The instructions given to those employed in the Polish post in Zaolzie clearly stated that only stamps issued by Poland had current validity. The toleration of Czech stamps (about which V. Indra writes [2], 3/4 was thus not permitted. Surviving postal items, however bear witness that the regulations were not too rigorously applied. There are also many covers with mixed Polish-Czech franking and favour cancellations.

In summary, it can be said that in providing service to philatelists violations of the otherwise binding regulations were permitted.

## CONCLUSION

In the present article I have tried to assemble information about which little or nothing has been written in Poland. I am not at present dealing with other issues described in the available literature, concerning the provisional postage due stamps at Orłowa or the military post (overprints on official stamps) or the supplementary propaganda markings.

I also make the traditional request to readers to contact me if they possess postmarks and registration labels different from those I have illustrated or described in this article.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Documentary Sources

1. Decree of the President of the Polish Republic of 11 October 1938 concerning the unification of the Recovered Territories of Cieszyn Silesia with the Polish Republic. (Official Journal of the Polish Republic No. 78, item 533 (reprinted in) Official Journal of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs No.21, item 39).
2. Extension of the activity of the state enterprise "Polish Post, Telegraph and Telephone" to the Recovered Territories of Cieszyn Silesia. (Official Journal of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs 1938 No.21 item 41).
3. Documents in the archives of the Post and Telecommunications Museum in Wrocław, catalogue No. PVI-328.

### Articles

- 1 J.Z.E. Berek: Zaolzie (Komunikat Filatelistyczny, the Organ of the Union of Polish Philatelists in Great Britain, 1965 No. 88 pages 101-109 and No.89 pages 113-121).
- 2 An interesting discovery in Czechoslovakia (Filatelista 1978 No.5, page 113).
- 3 V. Indra: "The cession of Czechoslovak territory to Poland in 1938" (Filatelie 1983 No.4 pages 108-109).



Airmails

**EVEN MORE ON AIRMAIL POSTAGE RATES**

Richard Beith

I have been discussing the frankings on airmail letters from Bohemia and Moravia to Great Britain in the months prior to the outbreak of World War II with Clyde Ziegler. While the combined air fee and basic letter rate from The First Republic to the UK seems to have remained at 4.00Kc [2.50Kc/20g basic + 1.50Kc air fee] for most of the 1930s, four covers posted from the Protectorate to the UK in the period 18 July to 23 August 1939, have all been franked at the rate of 3.00Kc. All the covers bear the usual *Letadlem/Par Avion* etiquette, see figure A. Clyde Ziegler has other Bohemia and Moravia - UK air mail covers of the same period franked at 3.50Kc indicating an apparent air fee of 1.00Kc. Can any reader comment on these apparent rate reductions?

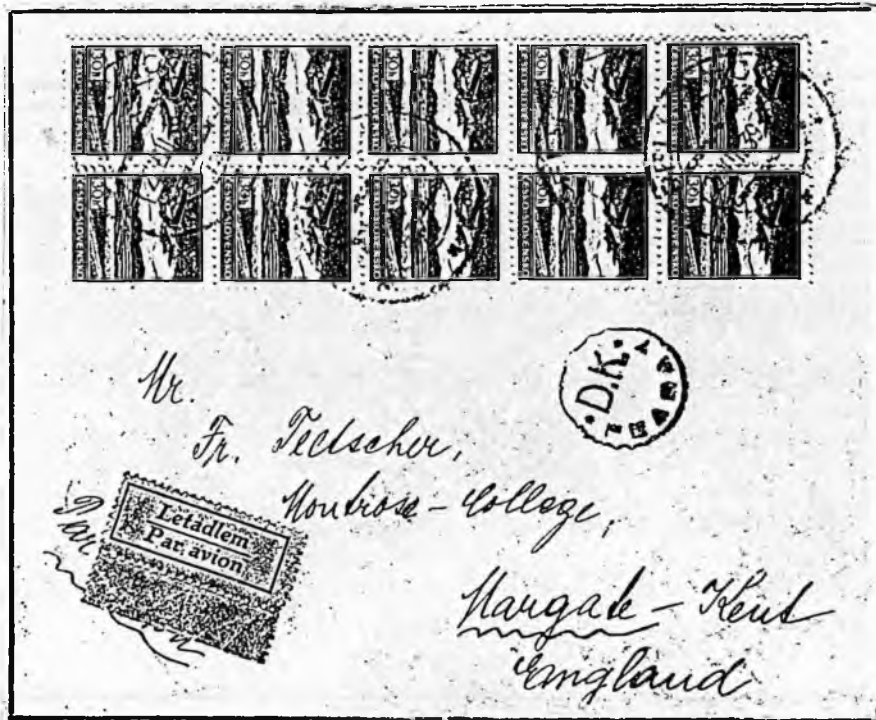
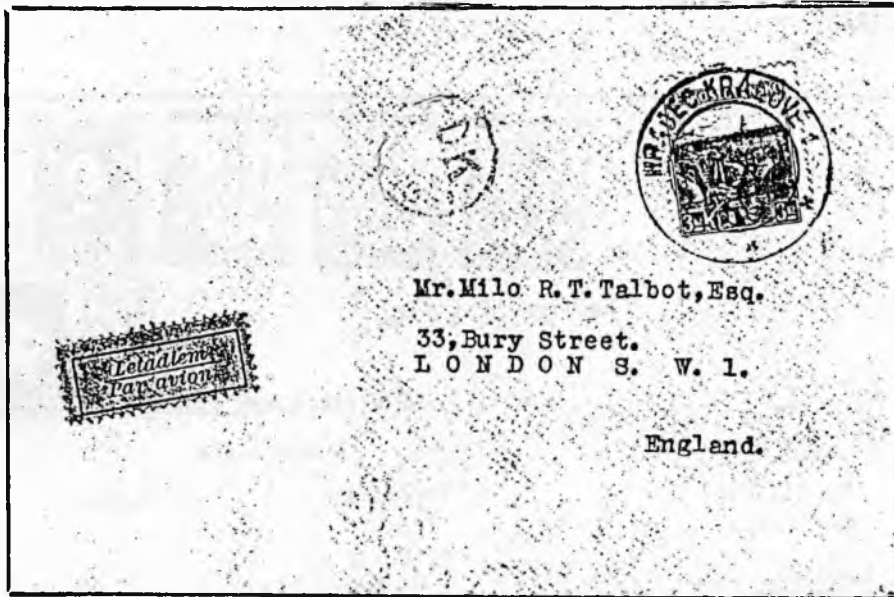


Figure A 11.7.39 - 22.8.39

>

John Whiteside's comments on Slovak air mail rates to the USA (*Czechout 3/1995, p70*) were much appreciated. I have had a fresh look at the six covers now in my collection with the following results:

- Addressed to New York: 1 cover at 8.50Ks (30.5.41) [i.e., franked at outside New York rate]
- Addressed outside New York:
  - All to New Jersey: 3 covers at 8.50Ks (8.8.40, 9.12.40 and 4.8.41) [all agree]. 1 registered cover at 17.00Ks (31.7.41) [agrees with double weight registered] 1 registered cover at 16.50Ks (5.10.40) [50h short of double weight registered] See figure B.

Could it be that the distinction between New York and outside New York was dropped at some time after 6.5.1940?

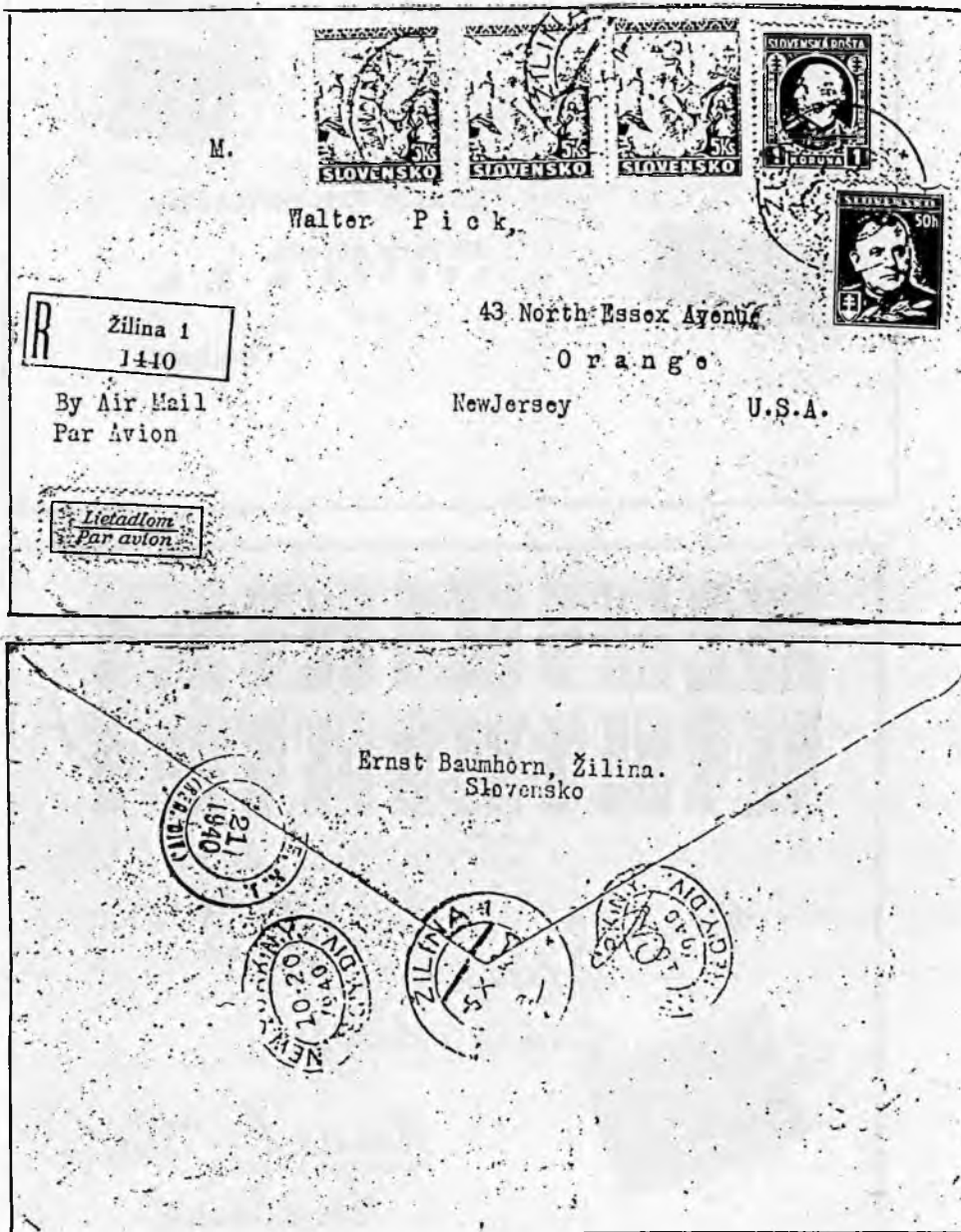


Figure B



Essay

**A SELDOM SEEN UNADOPTED ESSAY** W. Alec Page FRPSL

Bohumil Heinz was commissioned to provide a design for a proposed 5k stamp depicting the Charles Bridge, Prague, thought to have been in the 1930's - some schools of thought however say post-war. The design submitted was however rejected, but not before the basic engraving was made without the Country title or value. Die proofs in black were also prepared struck on cream paper in sunken mode indicating that the die was a single item.

However on 15th August 1953 a 5kčs stamp appeared showing the Charles Bridge (SG 782) with the design attributed to B. Heinz and the slightly smaller format engraving produced by J. Goldschmied. Comparison of the two items makes it obvious that the design was prepared from that earlier Essay, confirmation of the artist being shown as an imprint.

It is quite by accident that I eventually linked the original essay and the much later stamp but have never been able to find any reference to the original design.

Illustrated below is the Die proof of the Essay - the sunken portion highlighted for easy recognition. The issued stamp which exists in two shades is also illustrated - blue-grey or grey-black [1959 reprint].



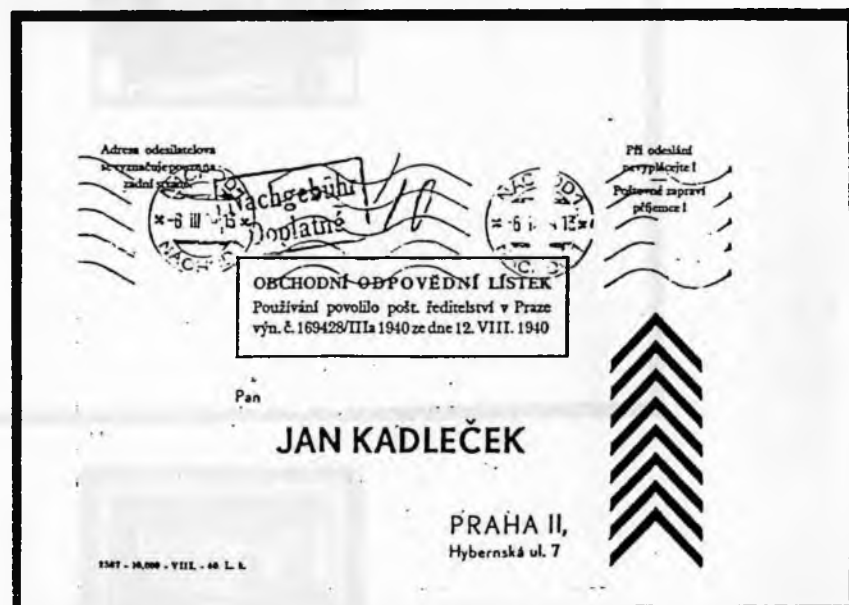
**"WHAT?. WHEN?. WHERE?!"**

- Members' Queries -

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

Re Alan Knight's query in Czechout 1/96 a further reply has been received.

From Rex Dixon: Further to Clyde Ziegler's contribution in Czechout 2/96 page 45 on the business reply-paid cards, I have two similar items from the protectorate period also addressed to Jan Kradleček. One, dated 16 III 44, is very similar to Clyde's, attracting a postage due of 80h. But the other, dated 6 III 44, attracts a postage due of 40h even though it is apparently identical in all other respects.



In general, Protectorate postal services and rates from 1 October 1940 were identical to those in Germany itself. But business reply-cards seem to be one of those differences. I have never seen one from Germany, and scouring the excellent and comprehensive handbook on German postage rates by Rainer Lütgens (*Deutsches Reich Postgebührenkatalog 1923 bis 1945*) I can find no mention of such a service.

&gt;

I doubt Clyde Ziegler's hypothesis that the 80h on his card was the business papers rate (*Geschäftspapiere* in German). That rate was designed for business letters, such as invoices, where there is no personal correspondence attached. It offered a reduction on the normal 1.20 letter rate. But as the normal postcard rate was 60h, the business papers rate would not be used for postcards.

I am wondering whether the explanation is that the rate was 40h. And whether the 80h represents a marking applied to the top of a pile of [just] two cards delivered at the same time. I have no evidence to support either hypothesis. But if fellow collectors have similar items with these or other rates of postage due, we may be able to test them.

Re Bill Dawson's query in Czechout 1/96 two replies have been received.

From John Whiteside: In *Verzeichnis der Postorte in Sudetenland* by Walter Möldner [1979] two villages, BERGEN and PARDORF, are shown as within the area served by the UNTERTANNOWITZ [DOLNÍ DUNAJOVICE] post office. I cannot trace an exact location or Czech name. In addition to PERNÁ, BAVORY and perhaps BŘEZI are nearby villages. N<sup>o</sup> 252 is the number of the property in the village as listed in the Land Registry (*Grundbuch*).

From Hans van Dooremalen: I am happy to confirm that the village Bergen is now called Perná. Both the *Allgemeines Postlexion*, issued in Vienna in 1906 and the *Dopravní místopisný lexikon Československé Republiky*, issued in Prague in 1928, of which I have included photostats, confirm this.

The responsible post office is Unter Tannowitz/Dolní Dunajovice, which is confirmed by the postmark that was illustrated.

<p><b>Bergele</b>, Kü, BH Hornmagor, BG Kötschach, OG Kötschach, P Kötschach. <b>Bergen (Perná)</b>, Mhr, BH u. BG Nikolsburg, OG Bergen, P Unter Tannowitz. <b>Bergen</b>, Stm, BH Feldbach, BG Fürstenfeld, OG Söchau, P Söchau.</p>
--

1906

<p><b>Bergbinder</b>, - Č, 6 Planá, 6 Bezdrůžice, 6 4 6 Lestkov. <b>Bergen (Perná)</b>, M, 6 Dolní Dunajovice. <b>Bergerhäuser (Bergrový Domky)</b>, Č, 6 Pec.</p>
--

1928

Re Robert Hill's query in Czechout 2/95

Bob informs us since his comments in Czechout 1/96 he has visited Karel Holoubek at Hradec Králové, who explained to him that the use of Deutsches Reich stamps for overprinting in Bohemia & Moravia (and indeed the use of Bohemia & Moravia stamps for overprinting at former Sudetenland towns) was occasioned by the destruction of the stock of stamps, and in some cases even the furniture, in post offices during the liberation of certain locations. He is extremely sceptical about the use of Deutsches Reich overprinted stamps in Praha and feels that these may be the result of philatelic enterprise.

&gt;

Four new queries.

From Brian Day: I wonder whether any member has seen the German field-post letter card showing the main area postal codes? and can provide further information.

**Dein Brief kommt schneller an!**

**Verwende Postleitzahlen!**

Postleitzahl 1 (Berlin), 2 (Mark Brandenburg, Stadtkreis Schneidemühl und die Landkreise Arnswalde, Friedeberg (Neum) und Netzkreis), 3 (Meklenburg), 4 (Pommern), 5 a (Danzig-Westpreußen), 5 b (Ostpreußen), 5 c (Reichskommissariat Ostland), 6 (Wartheland), 7 a (Generalgouvernement), 7 b (Reichskommissariat Ukraine), 8 (Niederschlesien und den Landkreis Grulich), 9 a (Oberschlesien), 9 b (Sudetenland Ost), 10 (Sachsen, Halle-Merseburg und v. Thüringen den Kreis Altenburg), 11 a (Sudetenland West), 11 b (Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren), 12 a (Wien, Niederdanau, Steiermark), 12 b (Kärnten, Oberdanau, Salzburg, Tirol-Vorarlberg), 13 a (Bayreuth, Franken, Mainfranken), 13 b (München-Oberbayern, Schwaben u. den Bezirk Niederbayern), 14 (Württemberg-Hohenzollern), 15 (Thüringen), 16 (Hessen-Nassau, Kurhessen), 17 a (Baden), 17 b (Elsaß), 18 (Westmark), 19 (Magdeburg-Anhalt), 20 (Ost-Hannover, Süd-Hannover-Braunschweig), 21 (Westfalen-Nord und Süd), 22 (Düsseldorf, Essen, Köln-Aachen, Moselland), 23 (Weser-Ems und die Landkreise Bremervörde, Wesermünde, Verden, (Aller, Rotenburg (Hannover) und Osterholz-Scharmbeck, Grafschaft Hoya und Diepholz), 24 (Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein und die Landkreise Land Hadeln, Stade, Lüneburg und Harburg sowie Stadt Cuxhaven).

**Feldpost**

Gummierung hier lösen ↓

10.8.44-18  
FORBACH (WESTM)  
3

Fürst Thurn  
Eulen  
bei Bodenbach

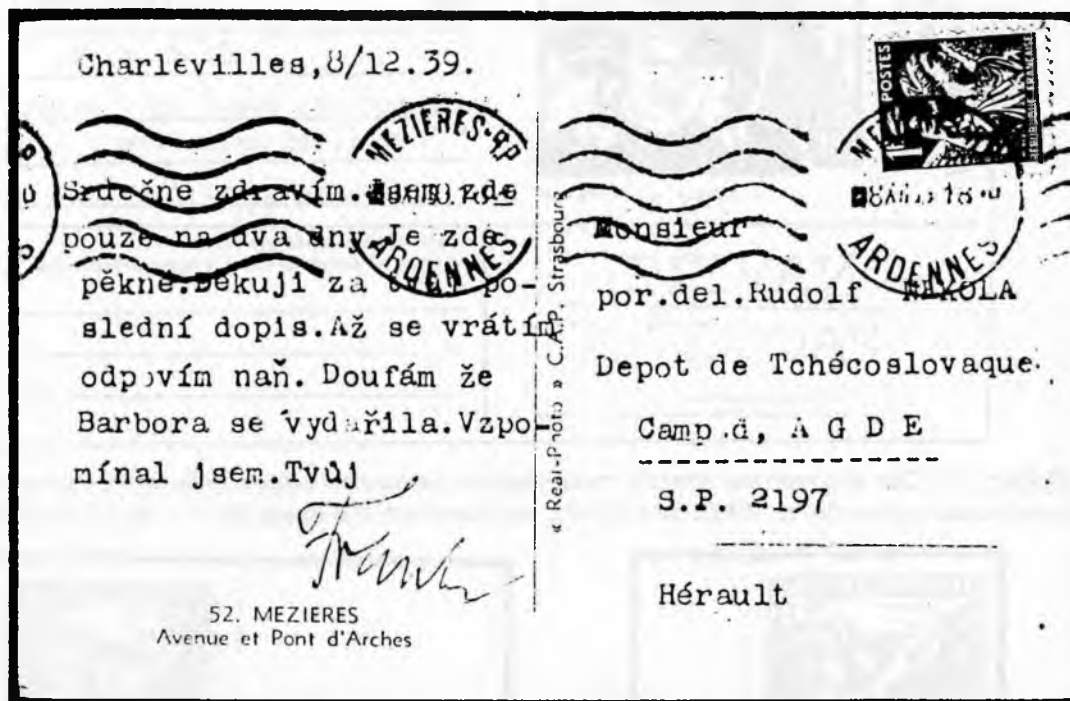
Absender:  
RITZ MYSAMMLESCH  
119

PAN-B Papier

Bauerdruck Mannheim  
ges. gesch.

Vor dem Zukleben erst falzen und  
dann nur eine Hälfte anfeuchten!

From Alex Swain: Alec (a member of the France & Colonies PS) has asked if anyone can help him with information on the postcard from Charlevilles addressed to the depot of the Czech Forces in France, datestamped at Mezieres.



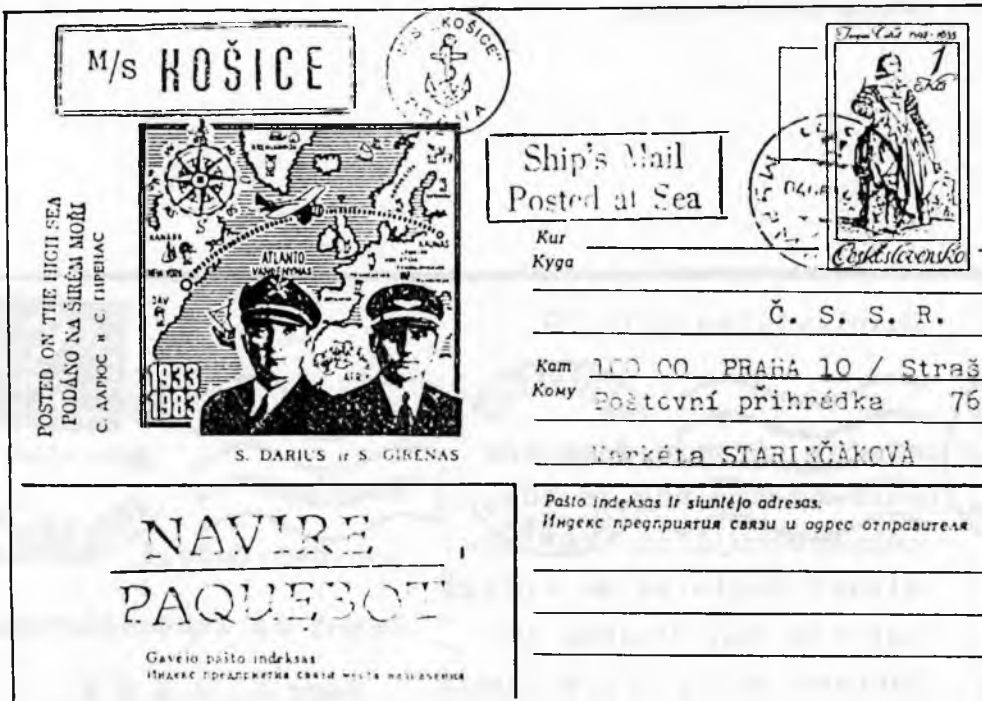
From Alec Page: The Maritime cover illustrated is of Russian(Soviet) origin - undoubtedly philatelic although its basic design does not appear to have any connection with its subsequent use.

Franked with a 1Kc Czechoslovak commemorative stamp, the postmark dated 04.06.84 is also Soviet with the "C.C.C.P" just visible at the top. Only part of the place name is decipherable, addressed to Prague.

The printed legend at lower left has been covered with plain paper and over stamped NAVIRE/PAQUEBOT. Four other markings all in blue are of Czechoslovak origin. Two are ship's cachets, one boxed M/S KOSICE the other a small circle M/S KOSICE/ANCHOR/PRAHA. The others are of the "posted at sea type", one in English, and the other in English & Czech.

[The reverse of the cover bears only the publishers/printers detail together with the usual enlarged electronic style figures '0-9' found on Russian pre-printed envelopes etc.

Can anyone provide information on the ship/where the cover was posted or any other relevant information.



From Robert Hill: Can any member identify these stamps: perforated values 5Kčs, 20Kčs and 50Kčs, and imperforated values 5Kčs, 10Kčs, and 20Kčs, inscribed with the dates 29 VIII 1944-29 VIII 1949.





## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Public Works reports the issue of the following stamps from 30.5.96.

30.5.1996

### 150 YEARS OF 'SLOVENSKÉ POHL'ADY'

Designer: Peter Augustovič Engraver: Miloš Ondráček

Printing: Rotary recess and recess in sheets of 50 (23x30mm) value 18Sk each.



Design in red, black and blue shows pages from the review, a geometrical triple peak and silhouette of mountains with the legend 'Slovenské pohľady 1846' in black. 'Slovenské pohľady' is a publication reflecting Slovak life and culture. It was founded in 1864 by Jozef Miloslav Hurban as Slovenské pohľady na literatúra, umenie a život (Slovak Perspectives on Literature, Art and Life).

FDC: Designer and engraver as for stamp has a commemorative cancellation from Martin. The cachet is a symbolic drawing in blue and black similar in design to the stamp.

30.5.1996

### ROUND SLOVAKIA CYCLE RACE

Designer: Róbert Brun Engraver: Martin Srb.

Printing: Rotary recess with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps (30x23mm) value 3Sk each.



Design: A racing cyclist against the outline of Slovakia in the Slovak tricolours. The issue celebrates the 40 holding of this international event. The centres for this year's event will be Prešov, Poprad and Zilina.

FDC: Designer and engraver as for stamp with commemorative cancellation from Prešov. The cachet in two colours shows a racing cyclist and laurel wreaths in a circular pattern.