



CZECHOUT

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EDITORIAL

We would draw all members attention to two important philatelic events that hopefully we will give our strong support: 28 June: MIDPEX 97, at Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry [adjacent to BR Main Line Station]. The Exhibition for National/Specialist Societies. 60 Specialist Societies taking part including the CPSGB and over 40 dealers.

Society Weekend in Torquay 17 to 19 October 1997

Bookings have been coming in well with 33 booked so far. We still have room for a few more, so if you have been thinking about coming, please delay no longer. Please send the booking slip now, or telephone to provisionally book and then send the slip.

Barry is working on a tentative programme, including those who have little [or no] interest in stamps. There have been quite a number of suggestions and offers of material that could be shown and he also has a few ideas. The programme will be sent out to all those attending and hopefully also be published in the next issue of *Czechout*. [and perhaps encourage one or two more people to come if only for the day]. Please send to - J B Horne, 16 St Peters Mount, Exeter, EX4 2JD tel 01392 273 012 fax [office] 01392 427632.

Colin W Spong FRPSL

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting of Saturday 8 March 1997

The Chairman, Mr W A Page, welcomed 17 members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from three members. Alec told members of the untimely death of Bob Silver, an enthusiastic young member, who had only recently joined the Society and who had attended his first meeting in January.

The Hon Secretary, Rex Dixon, gave details of three prospective new members:

S L Fisher, from Gosport C Proctor, from Cheltenham B F Young, from London N1

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Rex reminded members of the Society's attendance at Midpex 97 in Coventry on 28th June, and called for volunteers to help man the Society table.

The first part of the afternoon was devoted to two competitions, which each attracted just four entries. None were received from members who did not attend in person. The results were as follows:

George Pearson Trophy

1st Yvonne Gren

2nd Brian Day

3rd Hans van Dooremalen

East Silesia

National Costume Postcards used as Fieldpost Cards

Praha-Bratislava TPO Postmarks

Francis Pettit Salver

1st Hans van Dooremalen

2nd Alec Page

3rd Bill Dawson

The Liberation of Brno in 1945

WWII Exiled Forces: Return to the Homeland

Currency Reform of 1st June 1953



L/R: Hans van Dooremalen, winner of Francis Pettit Salver. Yvonne Gren, winner of George Pearson Trophy; Alec Page, Chairman, Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. [Note: portrait of President Tomas Garrigue Masaryk in the background.]

George Firmage then displayed a large and impressive selection of modern die proofs from his extensive collection, together with essays and colour trials. He described them as a picture gallery illustrating the art of making stamps. They were mainly engraved by Messrs Herčík, with whom George has struck up a close friendship, and Švengsbir. The Chairman, in his vote of thanks, said that he had met both of the engravers and that therefore the display was of particular interest to him. He remarked that the display was truly marvellous.

The Chairman reminded members about the next meeting on **7 June at Shoreham**; there being no further business, the meeting closed at about 4.15 pm.

Letters to the Editor

Mr R Morrell writes "For Sale - Offers are invited for the following remaining items from Roy Wright's effects:

- ① Lightly once used printed album leaves: Schaubeck: Czechoslovakia 1918 to 1991, including miniature sheets and sheetlets, Czech Army, Eastern Silesia, B & H. Also: Leuchtturm and Ka-Be: Slovakia. Ideal for that used collection. Weight approx 7kg.
- ② Set Mucha colour reproduction postcards [30], Polygrafia. Praga. 1991.
- ③ "Alice through the pillar box - and what she found there", Gerald M King, Whizzard Press, 1978 - A real spoof - excellent condition.
- ④ Czechout from the start to issue 3/1995, bound with board covers and comb bindings to Volume 11. Weight approx 4.5kg

Contact: R. Morrell, 39 Claremont Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8DH, tel: 0181 287 0828.

Mr John Parmenter writes "I collect post 1945 Czech stamps, that have been arranged by their designer. I have accumulated a lot of duplicates by buying collections at auction and yet still have a few gaps to fill. If any members would like to exchange mint material please contact me: J.Parmenter, 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU.

Richard Beith sent us a cutting from *The Prague Post* an English language paper. In an article entitled WAR ERUPTS BETWEEN BASTIONS OF INEFFICIENCY: Martin Horák, writes of the opting out of the Czech Postal Service's mail delivery service by SPT Telecom. They have annoyed their colleagues in Česká Pošta, by hiring a private company OLBO to deliver Telecom's mail to customers in Prague. The dispute has now gone to law. [Cutting is available from the editor].

We too have recently experienced difficulties with deliveries in the British Post office delivery service. They have recently re-organised the routes of delivery, as well as first class mail sorting no longer taking place locally. Correspondence in the local press has not been complimentary, although the postal authorities say that the system is now improving. [Editor]

Roy Dehn writes "March Czechout p3. Geoff Fuller's problem. If he can read German? The Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei e.V. im BDPH has translated part of Monografie. Volumes I & II have certainly been translated. Vol I includes the treatment of the Prague Castle issue. I cannot remember from whom I got my copy. Stephen Holder (HH Sales Ltd, The Barn, Shay Lane, Bradford BD9 6SH tel 01274 544 446 fax 01274 545 634) may know. I have Vols I & II. In both of them the German address is badly printed. It is - more-or-less - Bundesarge Tschechoslowakei, Ackerstrasse 11, D-4236 Hamminkeln.

I think Geoff Fuller will find that he can make his way pretty well simply by using a Czech-English dictionary. For the first hour or two it will seem hard work, but quite soon it will be clear that he will understand simple words like dot, bush, above, below, clock. The vocabulary below the pictures is limited and practical. He should perhaps be warned that although the illustrations of plate varieties look like photographs, they have, I think, often been drawn in for greater clarity. This drawing is sometimes deceptive.

Publications

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

- ◆ The Spring issue of *Austria* No 119/97
This contains an appeal by Nicholas Harty [Editor] & Andrew Taylor for a joint ASCGB - CPSGB project on Dumb Cancels. They ask if there is anyone out there willing to take up the challenge - preferably a joint member? This follows the review of the March *Czechout* which included the reply by Andy Taylor to Graham Slater's query. We commend this appeal to our members.
- ◆ The March 1997 [Vol. XXIX. No 111] issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakewi*, and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the contents for us.
- ▶ Draft Agreement between Czech Society of Collectors of Czechoslovak Stamps & the German Study Group; Drafts for Czechoslovak Fieldpost items; Review of new Specialised Catalogue of Slovakia 1939-45/1993-95, published by ZSF Bratislava; Czech Railway & Mobile Post Offices (Danesch); Review of Slovenská Armáda [The Slovak Army] 1939-45, by Charles Kliment, published by Verlag Mustang, Pilsen, 1996 in Czech, price 239Kc. Čsl. armáda v roce 1938 [The Czech Army 1938], by Pavel Sramek, Edition Fakta Bd 1, Brünn/Nachrod 1996, price Kc189; Railway post from & to Eisenstein (Heimeier); Czechoslovak Airmail Stamps 1930's & their use in the postal service (Tekel/Weilmelms).
- ◆ The Mar/Apr 97 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* Vol. 59, No 2. by courtesy of Alec Page. The articles include:-
 - ▶ Joseph Herčík-Graphic Artist & Engraver (Vicek); Linden Leaves 10h Denomination of the Protectorate (Vostatek); Bohemika (Černý & Svoboda).
- ◆ The 1/97 & 2/97 issues of *Merkur Revue*
 - ▶ 1/97: Hradčany bar types 75h (Škaloud); Retouches of Agriculture & Science 1923 (Žampach); Posta Militare 52 (Santangelo); 65th Anniversary Slovak Republic 1921 Stamp (Šablatúra); Registered postmark of Kunštátu (Štrof)
 - ▶ 2/97: Josef Herčík [designer/engraver] jubilee; Hradčany bar types 500h (Škaloud); Dove 1920: 30h (J & M Kašparovi); Liberated Republic 1920 (Pospíšil); TGM 5k (Gebauer); Czech Airmail Stamps 1930 used on 133 Amsterdam-Bandoeng route 531 KLM (Tekel!); Bučovice postage stamps 1945 (Machala).
- ◆ The 7-12 1996 & 1-3 1997 issues of *Slovenská Filatelie* have also been received.

BOOK REVIEWS

Československo 1918-1992/Česká Republika 1993-1996, Slovenská Republika 1993-1996.
Filatelie, Trojan, Praha. Reviewed by Robert J Hill.

This volume, with its colour illustrations, comes from Martin Trojan, the bow tie wearing philatelist of Pardubice. It brings an up to date view of the stamp issues and quotes prices in Kč's. Towards the beginning there is a glossary in Czech, German and English which certainly aids comprehension of this extensive volume.

The depth of detail can be illustrated by stating that there are 14, A5 pages devoted to the 1919 overprint issues - this is certainly sufficient for the average collector. Throughout the volume, no space appears to have been spared to explain the usual varieties. Nearly 280 pages are required to deal with the period 1918 thru 1992.

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This is followed by 62 pages dealing with:

un-issued stamps, newspaper express, newspaper, express,
postage due, official, 1920 plebiscite, forerunners,
Army in Siberia, provisionals, liberation overprints,
miniature sheets issued abroad, provisional newspaper stamps,
tax stamps, black prints

then follows details of the value of issues on year, plus a look up table showing paper and fluorescent varieties. The new issues of the Czech Republic then Slovakia follow, these include postal stationery. What is missing? Well, the 1939 thru 1945 issues which are the subject of a previous Trojan catalogue and postal stationery for the issues of Czechoslovakia, but altogether not a bad buy - however, in this writers opinion, for detail, the 1945 thru 1992 catalogue from Pofis is much more useful.

Československo 1945-1992: Speciaslizovaný Katalog 1997, POFIS. Price £6.
[We invited Brian Day and Bob Hill to review this new catalogue]

Brian Day: The general collector will find this a good, easy to follow catalogue, with a nice lay-out and exceptionally wide coverage of irregular and sub-types of the material, although the more specialist collector will need a good Czech/English dictionary to effect deeper study. If the publisher reads this review it might note that a simple improvement by the addition of say four pages of abbreviations and signs in English, would be advantageous and sell more copies. Prices have changed widely; some earlier miniature sheets have almost doubled since 1988 and commemorative sets show steady increases. Sports and other thematic sets show spectacular gains; the 1959 sport set from 13kčs. to 37kčs., during the same period, and the butterflies and moths set of 1961, from 30kčs to 280kčs. for the mint set, with an outstanding increase from 12kčs. to 200kčs. for the 1964 mint birds set.

Comparing the prices of these three sets with Gibbons' 5th Edition, I found higher quotations at £3, £12.50 and £5.50 which at the exchange rate of 40kčs. to the £ amount to differences of, respectively, 300%, 78% and 10%. Gibbons also quotes the first art set of 1966 at £45 as compared to Pofis' £10 equivalent but the writer believes that willing sellers couldn't be found at the lower prices.

Furthermore on a comparison with the current Trojan catalogue, readers will find that some of its prices are roughly twice the Pofis prices and in other cases only half of them. Even allowing for purchases in Prague at full catalogue values and, say, at only 30% of Gibbons' prices the writer concludes that it will be some time before international values rationalise and collectors should continue to rely on their knowledge and experience, ignoring these absurdities.

Bob Hill: This substantial hard back book immediately disappointed me because of the black and white illustrations as compared with the recent Trojan, Pardubice, coloured catalogue. However on more detailed inspection the number of listed varieties and the accompanying graphic illustrations is in much more detail. For example, the first three pages (plus eight lines) are entirely devoted to the Kosice issue of 1945 and are simple enough for even me to follow. Pages 7 thru 249 take the issues in chronological order up to December 1992. There then follows another 40 pages covering, Air; Postage Dues; Official; Personal Delivery; Revolutionary Overprints; Black Prints; Special Prints; Postal Stationery etc.

The approach is rigorous and thorough throughout and it is a good addition to the library, especially as it is hard cover. Whilst there is no English language translation sheet, this is a minor inconvenience for any collector whose interest is in detail and varieties.

Mail Service in the Ghetto Terezin 1941-1945 by Frantisek Benes & Patricia Tosnerova, published by Profil dum Filatelie, Prague. 1996
Reviewed by Ian Nutley BAeF

Much has been written about many aspects of postal history from World War II, but one neglected aspect is the Holocaust, particularly in English. The *Simon Catalogue of Concentration Camp Post* is splendid, but now long out of print and incomplete. Personal aspects like Henry Schwab's *The Echoes That Remain* are invaluable but by definition restricted in scope. Thus it is to be applauded that a major contribution to this aspect of postal history has appeared.

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Published last year, this handsome (22cm x 30cm) hardbound book runs to 343 pages, largely due to the fact that the text is in Czech, German and English. Following a 24 page introduction on the posts and the Jewish population in Bohemia & Moravia, the remainder of the work covers every aspect of the postal system of the Theresienstadt Ghetto. Detailed and invaluable background is also provided, e.g. the Jewish self-administration of the Ghetto, followed by a close examination of the postal service. The work is profusely illustrated throughout, covering the mail into and from the Ghetto, the well-known parcel receipt cards, and mail between Theresienstadt and neutral and foreign countries.

A fascinating section on the Terezin Family Camp in Auschwitz clears up many questions, before a substantial closing section on the well known parcel admission stamp. This covers production and use, with some 15 pages of illustrations of the stamp in colour, including many mouth-watering varieties. Also covered is every aspect of the application and notification forms for obtaining the stamp, clearly indicating the ponderous bureaucracy of the National Socialist system.

In my view, the only criticism of this excellent book is that the English translation could be better. Sometimes a little laboured and ambiguous, it is clearly not the work of a native English speaker. However, this does little to detract from the book which I recommend without reservation to all interested in the subject. It will clearly remain the definitive work on Theresienstadt for many many years. Availability may be a problem, as well as price. The book costs around £50 and as far as I am aware is not generally available in the U.K. If you have a contact in Prague, however, try and obtain a copy; it is a must for the bookshelf of all interested in the postal history of Czechoslovakia or the Holocaust.

SOME STAMPS OF MEDICAL INTEREST

Thematics

Tom Wilson

We thank Tom for offering this article for publication in Czechout and the Czechoslovak Philatelist.

In January 1994, I contributed some "Physicians on Czechoslovak Stamps", but this did not exhaust the number of items of medical interest connected with this area, from time to time. For instance, the country has long been noted for its medicinal spas and two fine sets were issued on 17 March 1956 and 25 June 1958 with designs that depicted the watering places of Karlsbad, Marienbad, Plestany, Tatra Mountains (Tatry Vysne Ruzbachy), (SG912/15); Karlovy Vary, Podebrady, Marianske Lozne, Lukacovice, Strabske Pleso and Trencianske Teplice. (SG1043/48). The 1200th anniversary of the discovery of Klary's Spring at Teplice was honoured by a 60h. stamp of 1962, SG1303. Many other spas have featured on their own special cancellations.

The cathedral of Saint Vitus in Prague is featured on a number of Czech stamps (2k. May 1929, SG295, and a bust of the saint on 3k. May 1970, SG1893). The cult of St. Vitus began during the Middle Ages when it was believed that to dance before his image guaranteed good health for a year - a custom remembered by the eponym 'St. Vitus's Dance'. Because he was tortured by being thrown into a boiling cauldron (but emerged unscathed!). He is the patron saint of pharmacists in France.

In 1937 Austria issued a very fine set of nine "Austrian Doctors" which is much prized by 'Medical' collectors. (Austria, SG815/823) What has this to do with Czechoslovakia? Taking them in alphabetical order, Carl Ferdinand Ritter von Arlt (1812-1887) was born in Teplitz, Bohemia, and studied at the Karls University, Prague and graduated in medicine in 1839. He was Professor of Ophthalmology at Prague from 1849-1856. Ferdinand Ritter von Hebra (1816-1880) was born at Bruenn, Bohemia, graduated at the University of Vienna and became the foremost dermatologist of his time. Whilst he was a medical student, Hebra was caught robbing a grave of a corpse for dissection and sentenced to be hanged. His sentence was commuted but he was forced to wear a cord around his neck for the rest of his days as punishment for his crime.

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Although he was Hungarian, Joseph Hyrtl (1810-1894) became Professor of Anatomy at Prague University from 1837-1844. He was the greatest teacher of anatomy in the 19th century. Human dissection, which nearly became the downfall of von Hebra, reached its pinnacle under Carl Freiherr von Rokitansky (1804-1878). He was born at Königgraz, Bohemia, and studied medicine at Karls University, Prague. He was well known for his humorous quips. He had four sons, of whom two became physicians while the others became singers. "Two of my sons heal" he jested, "while the other two howl".



L/R: C F R von Arlt, F R von Hebra, J Hyrtl and C F von Rokitansky

Born in Pilsen, the son of a mechanic, Joseph Skoda graduated in medicine at Vienna in 1831, where he became Professor of Medicine in 1847. He pioneered the diagnosis of illnesses of the chest by percussing with the fingertips while listening to sounds that indicated consolidation or the presence of excess fluids. He was connected to the family who founded the Skoda steelworks at Pilsen in 1859. So you see, five out of the nine did have strong connections with Prague or Bohemia.

The silver and copper mines at Joachimstal, Bohemia have an important place in the history of medicine, Georgius Agricola (George Bauer, 1495-1555) was a German physician who became town doctor at Joachimstal in 1524. He studied the condition that was common among the miners and was known as 'mountain sickness' and identified this as an industrial disease, brought on by their working conditions. Curiously enough, the same diagnosis was made at about that time by the Swiss doctor, Paracelsus von Hohenheim (1493-1541). In our own time the disease has been identified as bronchial carcinoma, caused by the presence of uranium ores. The 400th anniversary of the death of Agricola was celebrated by DDR in 1955 with his portrait on a 10pf. stamp. He is also portrayed on a 6k. stamp of the Czech Republic, as a 'Historic Personality', 2 February 1994. The 500th birth anniversary of Paracelsus was commemorated by stamps from Germany, Switzerland and Austria.



L/R: J Skoda, P von Hohenheim, P & M Curie and G Mendel

It was the presence of uranium in pitchblende from Joachimstal that set Marie Sklodowska Curie (1867-1934) and her husband Pierre on the trail that led eventually to their discovery of the radioactive elements radium and polonium and a joint Nobel Prize. The couple have been honoured on stamps from Cuba, France, Monaco and a dozen other lands. Only their son-in-law, Frederic Joliot-Curie (1900-1958) has his portrait on a Czech stamp of 1959; he shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry with his wife Irene Curie (SG1088).

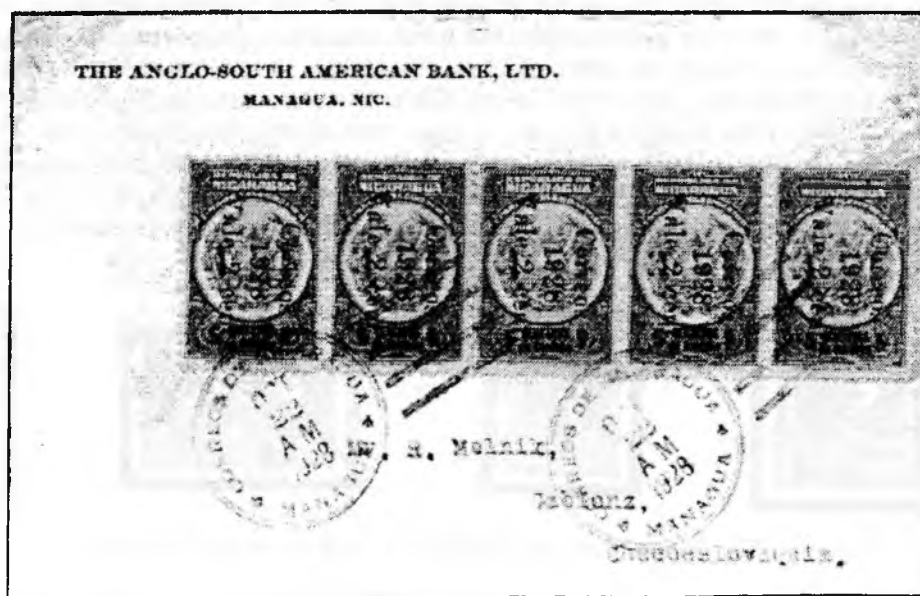
The laws of genetic variations that were formulated by an Augustinian monk, Gregor Mendel (1822-1884) are of vital importance to medical science in the present day. Mendel was born in Heinzendorf, Moravia to a peasant family. In a small garden at the monastery he made the classic experiments with growing peas, by which he discovered the laws of mutation that are taken for granted today. His portrait appears on a Czech stamp of 1965, to celebrate the centenary of the publication of his study in Brno (SG1508).

A special 1k. stamp was issued in connection with a Congress of Pharmacology held in Prague in 1963 and illustrates a mouse with tail erect (SG1376). Mice are considered very useful as experimental animals in pharmacology. The characteristic erection of the tail occurs when morphine is injected and is called 'Straub's phenomenon'. The International Pharmacy Congress held in Prague, 20 September 1971 was signalled by a set of six stamps, which depicted historic utensils from the Museum of Pharmacy in Kucs Castle (SG1979/84). The pharmacy there was founded in 1749. Two stamps of Czechoslovakia depict hospitals; the earlier was a 30h. of September 1958 of the Children's Hospital, Brno (SG1054). In 1988 2k. stamp (SG2942) showed the Motol Teaching Hospital. It seems to me curious that I haven't been able to find any others, since hospitals are favoured subjects for stamp designs with postal authorities in most countries.

I conclude with some odds and ends; October 1955, 40h, portrait of Friedrich Schiller (SG900). Besides being a great German poet and dramatist, he served as a surgeon in the Prussian Army. July 1952, Czech health service; doctor measuring patient's blood pressure, SG713 and 715. 1954 definitive set: 20h. nurse; 1k.20, scientist and microscope; 2k. doctor and baby; 3k, chemist. (SG816, 823, 825 and 827). The WHO campaign for the eradication of malaria brought the issue of a pair of stamps with the campaign emblem (the Staff of Asklepios), SG1304/5. Finally Slovakia, the 31st May 1994, issued a 3sk. stamp showing a cross formed from two cigarettes for the 'World Day Without Tobacco' campaign.

COVERS OF INTEREST

In *Czechout* 3/1996 Michael Birks illustrated a cover from Czechoslovakia to Nicaragua, and he has been looking for one going from Nicaragua to Czechoslovakia - at last one has come Michael's way, so that both of his philatelic interests have their appropriate covers.



CZECH SOLDIERS ON THE THESSALONIKA FRONT DURING 1917/18

Military Postal History

-Dr Miroslav Vostatek-

Translated by Vladimír Kralicek

When the Serbian Army was overcome by the forces of the German General Mackensen in 1917, two Anglo/French Divisions were disembarking at the Greek port of Salonika; their advance was also stopped by General Mackensen's soldiers. Greece entered the war on 2.7.1917; the battle against the Axis Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria) was at that time being waged by the armies of England, France, [Greece], Italy and Serbia.

The Serbians brought over large numbers of soldiers, mainly armed by the French, from France with other units from Russia. With the Serbian forces there were also about 800-1000 Czech soldiers. They came mainly from France, where they were interned in POW camps, volunteering for the Serbian Army, as at that time there were still problems for the Czechoslovak Legions. Similarly there were volunteers, for the Serbian Army, who came from Russia. Finally there were also countrymen who came from Australia and other places, as well as captured Czech soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian Army in the Balkan area [for example the town of Pisoderia].

An example of a postally used card comes from Czech Lieutenant František Kryštof. This officer is mentioned in contemporary literature and I have come across an article describing the Czech soldiers participation in Serbian battles, who were in the Serbian units of our Legion, etc. The return address is written in Cyrillic script:- Frano Kryštof, Lieutenant Artillery, Operational Section Staff Headquarters, Field Post No. 999. The addressee was another Czech soldier, NCO EM. Hajný or Hajna, Aircraft Depot, Field Post No 80. It concerns the Serbian Army Field Post.

Text on the reverse, mentions names of other Czech Officers. Commemorative literature describes the experiences of the Czech participants in battles held in the mountains of Northern Greece and Macedonia, where our soldiers arrived from France at the beginning of December 1917. By April they were moved back to France where they joined the Czech Legion.

Correspondence of the Czech soldiers in the Serbian units is not very common, and for that reason it deserves at a least a brief mention.



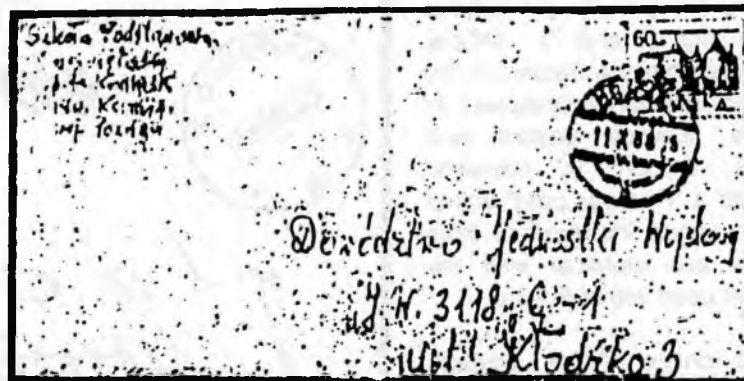
SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

Recently, through the good offices of our friend Dr. Miroslav Vostatek I received details of two special cancellations marking the establishment of "friendships" with towns outside the Czech Republic - a form of twinning commonplace to Britain! Dr. Vostatek's home town, Pardubice, some 100 kilometres from Prague has established two such relationships one in Italy and the other in Sweden. The Italian link is with Rosignano (Tuscany) and the Swedish town is Skellefteå. In both cases special commemorative handstamps were prepared to mark the relationships.

Alec Page



A postal service was provided to the soldiers of the Polish Second Army as witness the fact that thousands of items were sent to military units for institutions, schools, organisations and private individuals. (Fig.2.)'

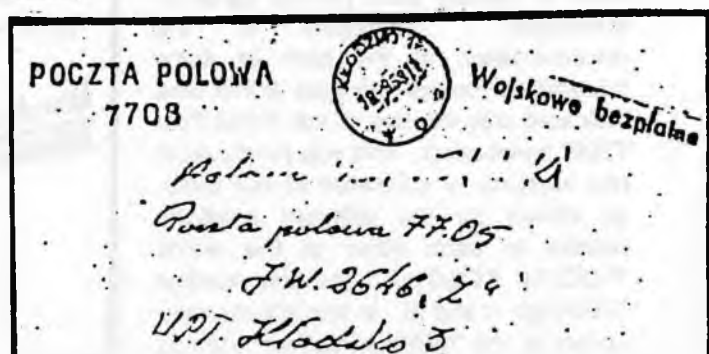


In order to provide a postal service to the Polish Second Army in Operation Danube a special temporary so-called combined postal system was organised,² which united elements of the military and civil post but in practice was characterised by numerous improved practices. That situation resulted from the lack of appropriate legal regulations governing the military post in both Poland and Czechoslovakia, as well as from the short period (62-83 days) during which the Polish forces participated in the operation. A Field Post Base was set up for the purpose at the headquarters of the Polish Second Army at Hradec Králové³ but Field Post Stations operated in the "zones of responsibility" of particular divisions. These Field Post Stations served military units and garrison commands of the Polish Army in Czechoslovakia.⁴ Field Post Numbers (Base and Station) and military units were therefore used in the addresses of postal items during Operation Danube. Four figure numbers denoting military units in the address were linked with a letter from A to Z, which denoted the sub-unit, headquarters, group, company, position, etc. Nevertheless, Kłodzko 3 Post Office was chosen as the civilian address of all the units of the Second Polish Army (figs. 2, 3, 4 & 7).

The Field Post Base collected all correspondence to the Second Army from Kłodzko 3 Post Office by its own transport and conveyed it to Hradec Králové, where it was sorted to individual Field Post Stations. Correspondence emanating from the Field Post Stations was, however, carried for introduction into the Polish civilian postal system - mostly via Kłodzko 1 Post Office (figs. 3 and 4), Kłodzko 3 (figs. 5 and 8), Wrocław 2 and Wrocław 27 (fig. 6). Theoretically they could have been posted at any Polish post office.



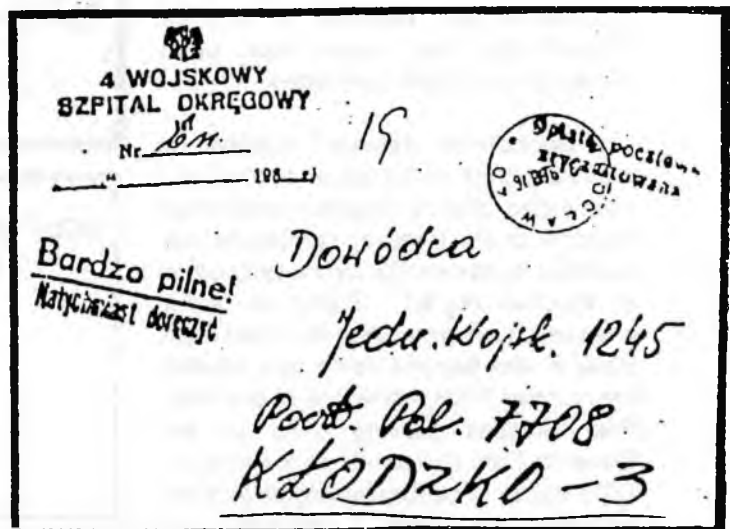
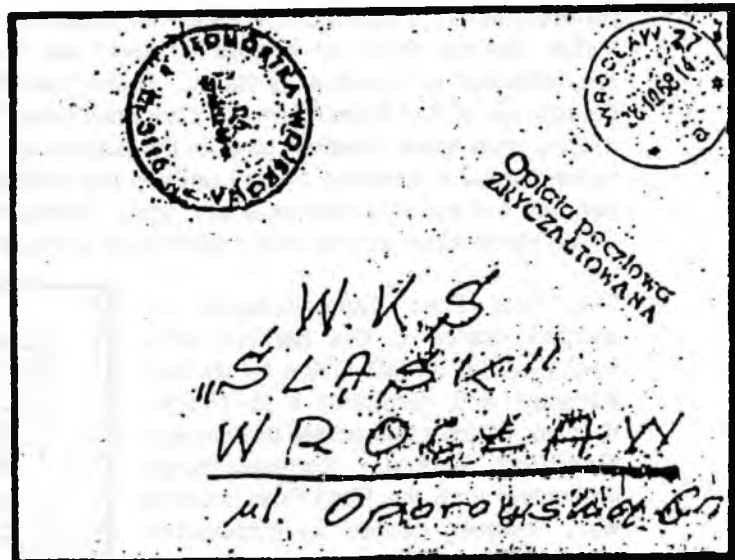
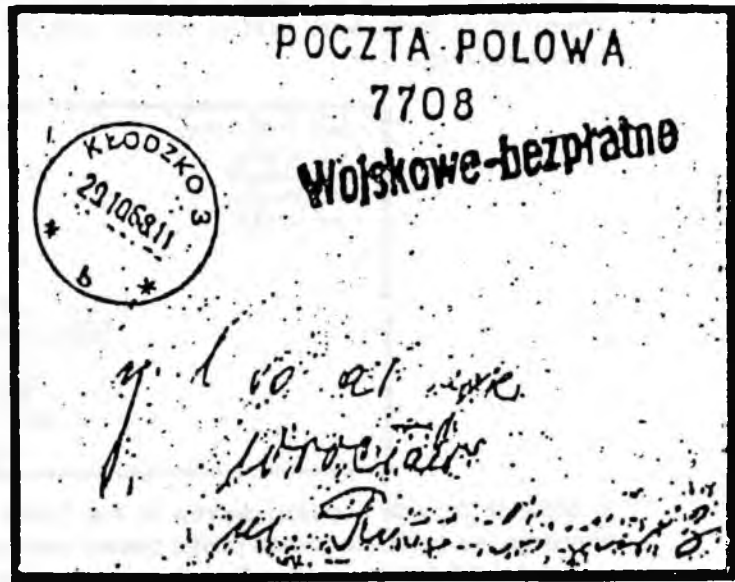
Correspondence between soldiers of individual units of the Second Army was exchanged directly between Field Post Stations at the Base or sometimes (for example inadvertently) by the post office in Kłodzko (fig.4). From the items analysed it emerges that the Field Post Base of the Second Army was allotted the number 7708, while one of the Field Post Stations serving units of the Eleventh Tank Division bore the number 7705 (fig.3). The functioning of a mixed system for the sending of



correspondence during Operation Danube is attested also by the fact that items posted in Poland to troops in units of the Second Army were not exempt from postage (figs. 2 and 7). Official correspondence from the Second Army to civilian and military addressees in Poland were likewise posted and delivered as though in domestic conditions, with a "Postage paid" stamp (fig.6). The various impressions from these stamps are identical with the examples often used within Poland.

In the initial phase Polish postage stamps which they had brought with them were sometimes affixed to their correspondence by soldiers of the Second Army. An example is a picture postcard of Hradec Králové with details of the sender's private address, which was transmitted by the Field Post through Kłodzko 1 Post Office on 28.08.68 (fig.2). Throughout the whole period of Operation Danube postcards and ordinary letters posted by soldiers of the Second Polish Army to addresses in Poland were exempt from postage. This is most often attested by impressions from "Military - Postfree" handstamps, mostly applied together with the "Field Post 7708" stamp (figs. 4,5,8).

The temporary character of the operational system of the postal service of the Second Polish Army is directly shown by deficiencies in the provision of typical field post supplies. In spite of considerable efforts, enquiries and interviews with participants in these events, I have so far been unable to find documentary evidence of the use of appropriate Field Post datestamps, or of handstamps from Field Post Stations or even of military post printed cards or envelopes.² Analysis of the documentation in the form of items transmitted through the post at that time indicates only the use of the "Field Post 7708" handstamp. This was produced in two versions or consisted of two parts, as shown by the different positions relative to each other of the words "POCZTA POLOWA" and the number 7708 (figs. 4 and 5). In this situation the variety of the "Military Postfree" stamps used rather points to the conclusion that



these were applied at the level of military units (Field Post Stations) before correspondence was forwarded to Field Post Bases (figs. 4, 5 and 8).

The Polish Post Office also accepted "Military Postfree" handstamps either in isolation or with a "For Packets" stamp from a military unit, which also validated a handwritten inscription giving exemption from postage. The "For Packets" stamps of individual units were harmonised as regards lettering and size (29-30mm) with those used within Poland before and after Operation Danube. On the basis of the items analysed it can be deduced that the "For Packets" stamps of military units were used in place of Field Post Station stamps and, if they too were unavailable

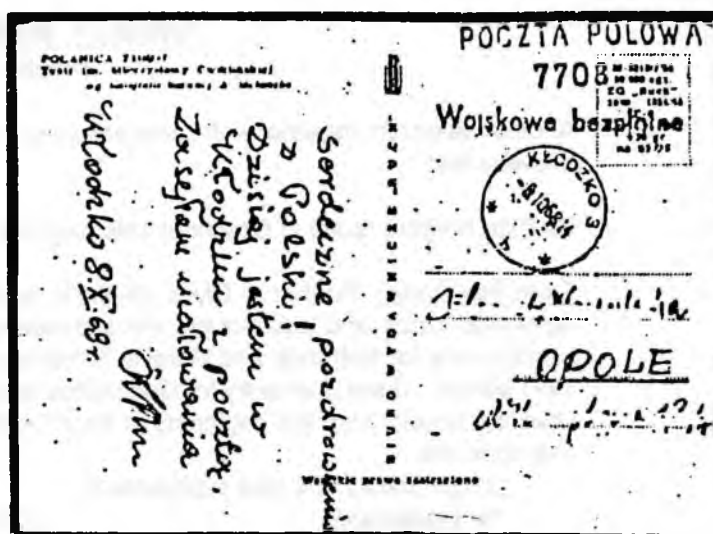
the "Field Post 7708" stamp and a "For Packets" one from a military unit. Furthermore, official handstamps of military units, the so-called sender's stamps with emblem were not used on correspondence from the Second Polish Army, such as were used for example, on an item from the Fourth Military District Hospital at Wrocław (fig.7). All the rubber stamps which appeared in connection with the transmission of correspondence during Operation Danube were applied with violet coloured lithographic ink, in accordance with the general regulations. The date stamps of Polish Post Offices on the items shown were struck in black ink.

I take the opportunity to urge other philatelists and participants in Operation Danube to provide further information in order to create a complete picture of the above episode in the activity of Polish Field Posts. Comments may be addressed to the author at 50-984 Wrocław 27, P.O.Box 4.

N.B. All illustrations follow in numerical order.

Footnotes

1. Apart from this general statement there is a lack of concrete information about the operation of the Field Post: Lech Kowalski "Codename Danube", Książka i Wiedza, Warsaw 1992, page 92.
2. The basic military formations of the Field Post are: Military Postal Base (sorting office), Military Postal Station (agency) and Military Postilion: Little Military Encyclopedia, MON Publishing House, Warsaw 1970, pp.651-2.
3. The Military Postal Base (sorting office) is a formation the task of which is the exchange of postal items between Postal Stations (agencies) recorded at the Military Postal Base: Little Military Encyclopedia, pp 651-2
4. The Military Postal Station (agency) is a formation of the Field Post which effects the exchange of postal items between the Military Postal Base and the formations (and sub-formations) recorded with the Station (agency) in question and the troops forming part of them through designated messengers from among the personnel of those detachments or sub-detachments: Little Encyclopedia, p.652.
5. Standardised datestamps and stationery of Polish Military Posts were used in other planned operations of units of the Polish Army, about which I shall write another time.



"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 page 23.

From Rex Dixon: Further to Clyde Ziegler's contribution in *Czechout 2/96* page 45 on the business reply-paid cards and subsequent correspondence, I have had some further thoughts inspired by postage rate for Bohemia and Moravia in the Michel *Brief-Katalog Deutschland*, of which I have the 1991 edition. There is an entry for *Geschäftsantwortsendungen* (business reply mail), for which internal rates are quoted from the beginning of the Protectorate until 1.10.1940; thereafter nothing is quoted. The rates are:

single [basic] rate plus supplement:
 for a postcard: 0,10
 for a letter: 0,20

This means that the business receiver paid whatever was normal for the item concerned together with a per-item fee for the service. For a postcard, the overall sums involved should be, for the period for which the rates are quoted:

for a postcard: 0,70
 for a letter: 1,40

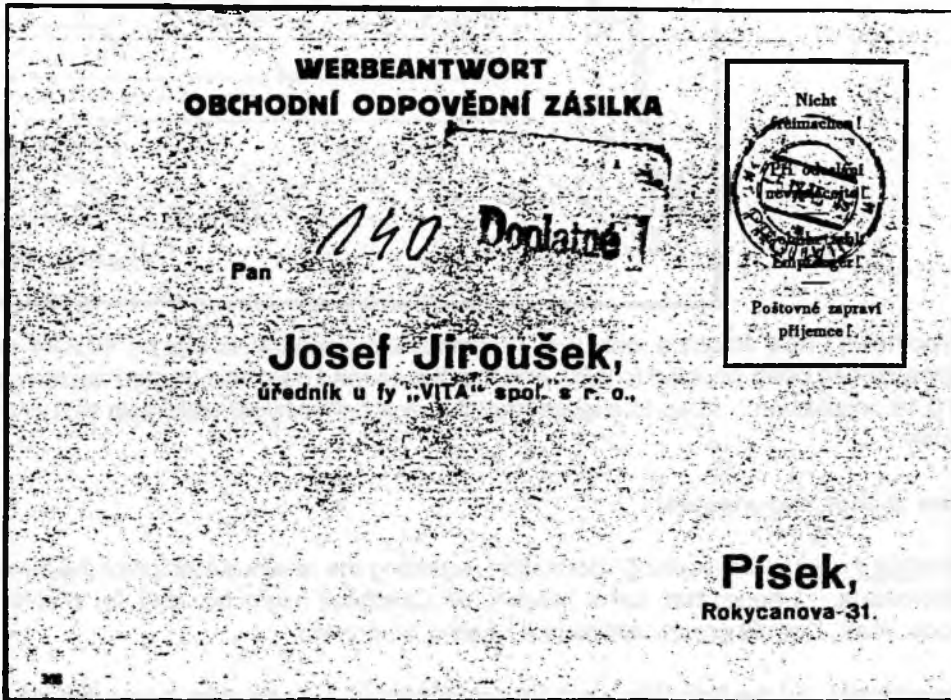
Deutsche Besetzungsausgaben 1939/45 (Böhmen und Mähren)							
	Protectorat Böhmen und Mähren			Deutsches Reich			
	15. 3. 1939	1. 6. 1940	1. 10. 1940	15. 3. 1939	1. 4. 1939	17. 7. 1939 ¹⁵⁾	1. 10. 1940 ¹⁶⁾
Nachnahmegebühr Wert 100.— K. 200.— K. jede weitere 200.— K.	1.50 2.— —50	1.50 2.— —50	wie Brief+2.—	wie Brief+3K. ¹⁴⁾ u. jede 100 K. —50	wie Brief+3K. ¹⁴⁾ u. jede 100 K. —50	wie Brief+3K. ¹⁴⁾ u. jede 100 K. —50	wie Brief+2.—
Einschreibengebührlzuschlag	2.—	2.—	3.—	2.50	2.50	2.50	3.—
Eigenhändige Zustellung	—50	—50	1.—	von D.R. —50	—50	—50	1.—
Eilzustellung	2.— ²²⁾	2.—	4.— (8.—) ¹⁵⁾	5.—	5.—	4.— (8.—) ¹⁵⁾	4.— ¹⁹⁾ (8.—) ¹⁵⁾
Rohrpostzuschlag	—40 ¹⁷⁾	—	1.— ²¹⁾				
Ruckschein a) bei Einlieferung b) nach Einlieferung c) für Versich.-Aml (gewöhn. Briefe)	2.50 4.— 1.—	2.50 4.— 1.—	3.— 4.— 1.—	2.50 4.— —	2.50 4.— —	2.50 4.— —	3.— ¹⁴⁾ ¹⁹⁾ 4.— —
Poste restante	—50	—50	—	—50	—50	—	—
Wertbrief 100 g 250 g 500 g 1000 g + Versich.-Gebühr für jede 1000 K. a) Brief geschlossen b) Brief geöffnet	2.— 4.— 8.— 13.— 1.— 2.—	2.— 4.— 8.— 13.— 1.— 2.—	wie gewöhn. Brief + für jede 5000 K. 1.— + Behandl.-Geb. bis 1000 K. 4.— über 1000 K. 5.—	wie E-Brief + Versich. für jede 300 Goldfranken 2.80	wie E-Brief + Versich. für jede 300 Goldfranken 2.80	wie gewöhn. Brief + Versich. jede 5000 K. 1.— + Behandl.-Geb. bis 1000 K. 4.— über 1000 K. Wert 5.—	wie gewöhn. Brief + Versich. jede 5000 K. 1.— + Behandl.-Geb. bis 1000 K. Wert 4.— über 1000 K. Wert 5.—
Nicht oder teilw. frank. Sendungen Geschäftsantwortsendungen = einfache Höhe und dazu bei a) Postkarte b) Brief	2 mal —10 —20	2 mal —10 —20	1,5 mal	2 mal mind. —50 E-Brief 1 mal mind. —50	2 mal mind. —50 E-Brief 1 mal mind. —50	2 mal	2 mal
jede Zeitung, jede 100 g jede Zulage	—05 ⁶⁾ —02	—05 —02	—05 —02	jede 50 g —25	—05 ¹⁸⁾ —02	—05 —02	—05 —02
Einlieferungsbescheinigung (gewöhnliches Päckchen)	—	—	1.— ¹⁹⁾	—	—	—	1.— ¹⁹⁾

>

Douglas Baxter has kindly translated this outlined section for us:

Unfranked or under-franked items	Penalty charge	x2,	x2,	x1½
Business reply items = a standard fee				
a) Postcard		.10	.10	
b) Letter		.20	.20	

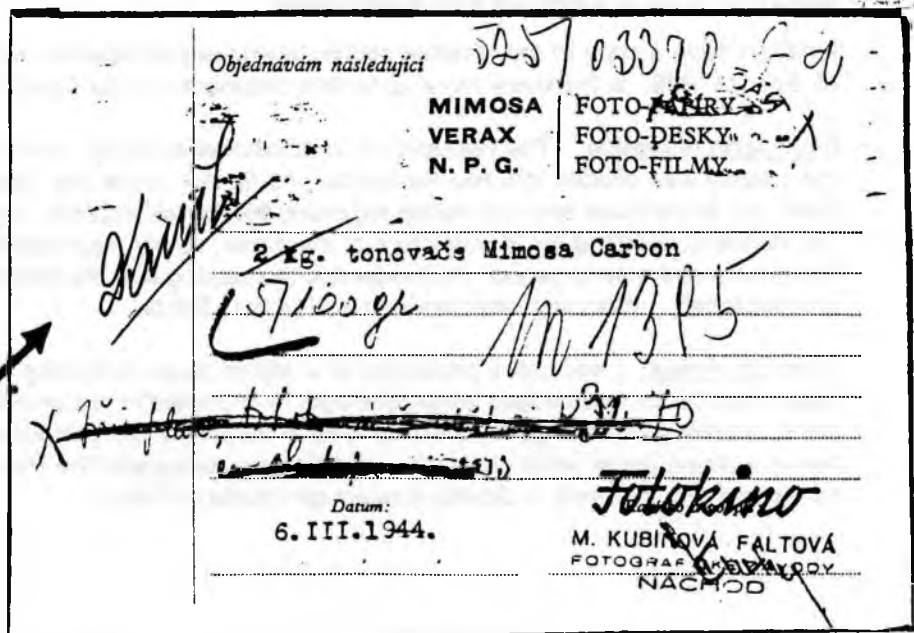
I illustrate a photocopy of a business reply-paid letter from 5.IX.45 which seems to bear out this scheme. It receives a postage due marking of "140".



In *Czechout* 3/96 on page 72 are illustrated two reply-paid cards I submitted, one with 0,80 postage due, the other with 0,40. I now illustrate photocopies of the reverse of the two cards, which to me indicate that the second one could be treated as printed matter.

Reverse of card charged 0,40:

short typewritten order plus rubber business stamp. Other writing appears to be by recipient. Except perhaps for .. "Druck" = printed [matter]



>

Reverse of card
charged 0,80:

Handwritten therefore
not printed matter

Fotoatelier Jindřich Lukesle Brandýs n. Orli.	Objednávám následující :	
	MIMOSA	FOTO-PAPÍRY
	VERAX	FOTO-DESKY
	N. P. G.	FOTO-FILMY
	2.000 dopisnic	V 380
	2.000 "	V 382
	1.000 "	Va 324
	Prosim o brzké vyřízení!	
	S pozdravem	
	Datum:	Razítko a podpis:
	15. 11. 1944.	Lukesle Brandýs n. Orli.
M IV 22. 2. 44.		

The hypothesis I now advance, only with circumstantial evidence, is that by 16.11.44 the supplement for postcards had been doubled to 0,20; and that the second card was treated as printed matter (0,30) with a 0,10 supplement. I beg to suggest that this is a better hypothesis than that which I advanced previously.

Two new queries and answers:

From Phillips Freer: I am seeking information regarding the revenue stamps of the former Republic of Czechoslovakia. I hope that some readers of *Czechout* might be able to answer some of my questions. If so, I would greatly appreciate hearing from them.

First, specifically, did the Republic issue Revenue stamps up to the time it was divided into the Czech and Slovak Republics? If not, what was the date when revenue stamps were no longer issued.

Second, I would like to have information regarding the manufacture of Pelure paper on which the first revenue stamps were printed and some information regarding the printing process used in printing these first revenue stamps on such fragile paper.

Finally, I have a copy of the revenue stamp catalogue put together by Severin Gottsmich, edited by M. Erlar of 1976. Is there any more up to date catalogues of the Czech revenues?

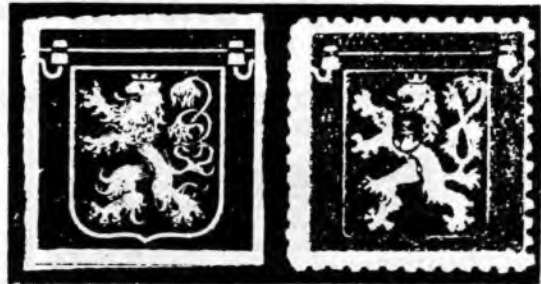
From John Whiteside: The Republic of Czechoslovakia issued revenue stamps up to the time that the country was divided into two Republics. As far as I know the Czech Republic was still issuing them, but do not have any information regarding the Slovak Republic. Unfortunately, I do not possess any details concerning the manufacture of the paper, as my main interests is collecting revenues on documents of the early period. With regard to the catalogues, the Martin Erlar of 1976 is still the only one published. [Can any other member add to this...Editor]

From Jim Ansell: I enclose a photocopy of a album page containing a label that was included in a Czech auction lot I purchased some time ago. It is printed in red on thin brown unglazed paper with shiny, crackly, yellowish gum similar to Army in Siberia issue from Irkusk. The design is the Czech lion in a shield under what could be a telephone or telegraph line mounted on two insulators. Is it connected with the Army in Siberia, a telegraph stamp perhaps?



From Alec Page: I have found two similar labels in my collection, but with the left hand label depicting the coat-of-arms of Bohemia, whilst Jim's label shows those of Slovakia.

Since writing the above note, Alec whilst visiting Wembley 97 Exhibition found the document below.



Alec writes "The dealer told me that these are Telegram Seals and were part of a collection purchased from a Jewish collector in North London.

This was apparently the only one that wasn't torn in half [on opening telegram, all those items were badly damaged!]

The telegraph form is dated 28 VIII 32

Došiel pod číslom 54

28 VIII 32

Služobné údaje, smer dopravy

Číslo	Počet slov	Deň podania
50	109	28 VIII 32

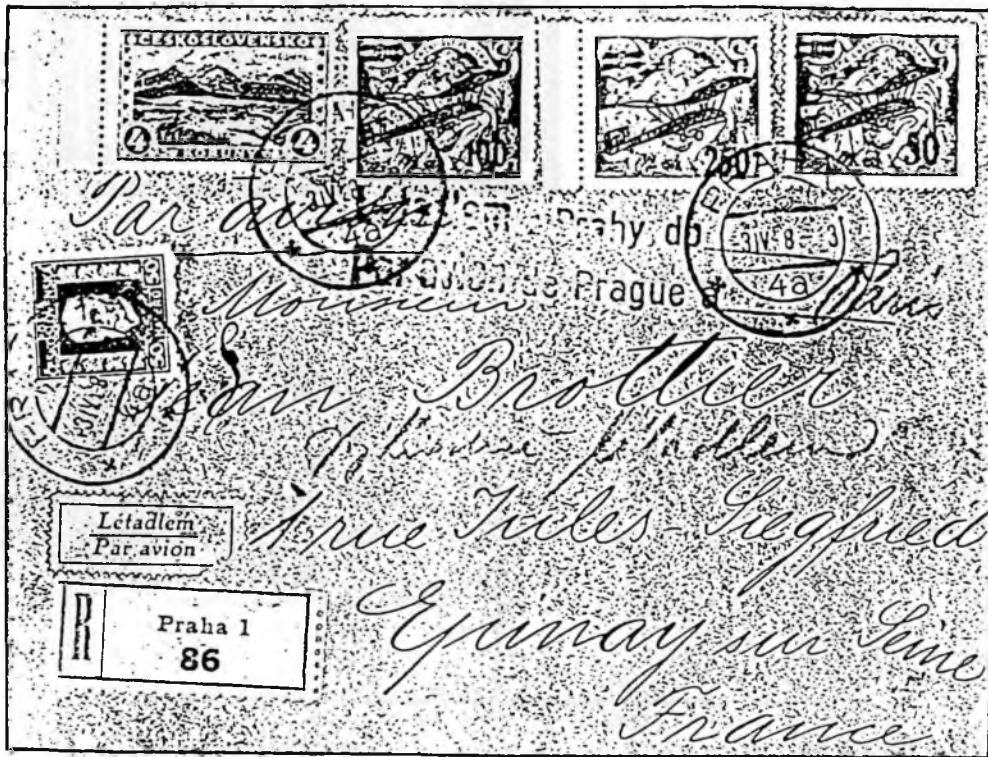
A/5

Two new Airmail queries:

From Ian McQueen: I enclose a copy of a recent acquisition [Prague 1928] with a Jusqu'à type marking I have never encountered before, together with an enlargement of the 'business portion'. There is nothing on the reverse, except a rather poor EPINAY^S/SEINE/SEINE 5-4-28 datestamp.

Létadlem z Prahy do _____
Par avion de Prague à _____

[McQ]
Prague.
1928.
Red.
To France.
"Paris" in
red ms.
Sk. 50. Red.
(look in
all images)



The cachet is in red, with a pinkish-red "Paris" and a.....létadlem" in crayon.

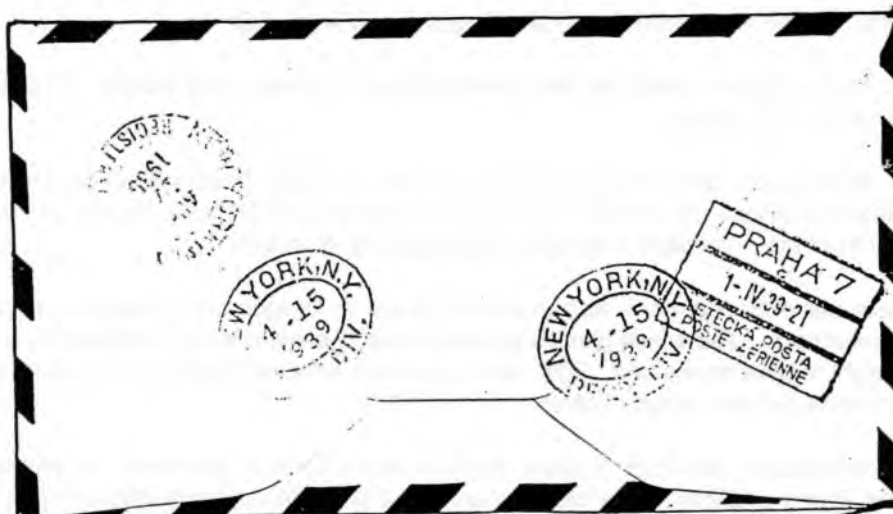
Any information would be much appreciated. The rate is presumably 2.50 for postage, another 2.50 for registration, leaving 3.00 for air fee(s).



From Alec Page: The cover illustrated has been the subject of a query for some time, raised by a member in United States. Each avenue of research to date has proved negative. Quite clearly the cover was prepared as an acceptance for an Imperial Airways First Flight - England to USA, and would appear a one of a batch. Unfortunately the date of the flight was not indicated on the cover, which doesn't help! Certainly flown from Prague on 1 April 1939 but to where?



Back stamps indicated its arrival in New York with handstamps 15th April 1939 [Registration Div] and an 17th, which would be a local delivery cancellation. No transit marks which is unusual for registered mail which breaks a journey. The question is was this an acceptance for a First flight - if so, when? Or was the cover just mailed on a normal service from Prague to New York, in other words an attempt at "an acceptance" that went wrong? Or just use of unwanted stationery? Answers direct to me please.



New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

Lindy Knight

NB: Unless otherwise stated, the stamps and stationery for Czech and Slovak Republics are printed by Postal Printing House Prague.

12.3.97

EASTER



Designer: Olga Čechová Engraver: Bedřich House

Printing: Rotary recess with photogravure in yellow, grey, blue-green and red in sheets of 50 stamps at 3Kčs each. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: Easter symbols of a hare, a chick, a plaited willow cane and decorated egg.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in dark blue. The cachet shows a stylised sun with birds and a plaited decorated willow cane. The commemorative cancellation from Praha incorporates a basket of eggs.

12.3.97

NATURE CONSERVATION - PROTECTED FLORA



Designers: Libuše and Jaromír Knotek. Engraver: Václav Fajt

Printing: Rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. Stamp size 23x30mm. FDC recess from flat plates.

3.60Kčs *Erythronium dens-canis*, commonly known as Dog's Tooth violet. Requires damp situation in semi-shade but does not tolerate wet winter conditions. FDC has a Praha commemorative cancel with a cachet of the plant *lilium martagon* (Martagon lily) in brown.

4Kčs *Calla palustris* commonly known as Bog Arum or Dragonroot, growing in pools, ditches, reed beds and peat bogs. The whole plant is poisonous and believed to be pollinated by snails. In the past it was thought to cure snake bite. FDC with a commemorative Praha cancel has a cachet in green of *Trollius altissimus* Crantz (globe flower).

5Kčs *Cypripedium calceolus* (Lady's slipper orchid) grows scattered in deciduous woods on calcareous, loamy soil, from lowlands to mountains. FDC with commemorative Praha cancellation has a cachet in brown-red of *Dictamnus albus* (Burning bush or white Dittany).

8Kčs *Iris pumila*. This plant requires a dry soil and dry air to thrive. FDC has commemorative Praha cancellation and the cachet in brown shows *Adonanthe vernalis* Spach.

All the plants depicted are endangered species within the Republic and protected.

>

26.3.97

BEST WISHES

(amended date of issue from 5 February)

**Designer:** Jindřich Kovařík**Printing:** Offset in sheets of 50 stamps at 4Kčs each by Victoria Security Printing. Stamp size 23x30mm.**Design:** A drawing of a girl holding a cat in her arms with three other cats at her feet and the word "Congratulations" in Czech. This is the first 'Greetings' stamp to be issued in the Republic.

FDC printed by Post Printing House Prague by recess from flat plates in blue with a commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet of an ornamental vase with carnation was engraved by Bohumil Šneider.

26.3.97

DEFINITIVE: HISTORIC BUILDING STYLES - ROCOCO**Designer:** Jan Solpera **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider**Printing:** Rotary recess in pink with photogravure in green in sheets of 100 stamps at 4.60Kčs each. Stamp size 19x23mm.**Design:** A Rococo window from a house in Třeboň with the inscription in Czech 'Rococo' and shell ornaments at the base of the design. (No FDC issued).

23.4.97

MILLENNIUM OF THE DEATH OF ST.ADALBERT (UNESCO Series)

(Joint Czech-Hungarian-Polish and German Issue)

**Designer:** Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček**Printing:** Recess from flat plates in violet in sheets of 8 stamps at 7Kčs each. Stamp size 26x40mm.**Design:** Portrait of St. Adalbert from a medieval stained glass window. The text on the sheet of 8 stamps commemorates the saint's death millenium and incorporates the UNESCO logo.

Adalbert (Vojtěch) was born at Lidice about 956. He was confirmed and studied for the priesthood in Magdeburg. He was ordained a priest on returning to Prague. On the death of the first bishop of Prague he was elected to succeed to the bishopric. He founded a Benedictine monastery in Břevnov. In 994 he left Prague for Poland and Hungary and from Bohemia then travelled to Prussia where he was killed in 997. He was canonised in 999.

FDC printed recess from flat plates in brown-violet. The commemorative cancellation from Praha incorporates the head of a crozier. The cachet is a drawing of the saint taken from an historic woodcut with text in Czech and UNESCO initials.

30.4.97

EUROPA ISSUE - TALES AND LEGENDS



Designer: Adolf Born
Engraver: Vačlav Fajt

Printing: Rotary recess with photogravure in black, ochre, red, blue, green, in sheets of 8 stamps at 8Kčs each. Stamp size 23x40mm.

Design: taken from two Czech legends.

a) About Brunevik (inscribed in Czech) shows the Czech prince wielding a magic sword with his beautiful wife Heomenie and his faithful lion. The heads of monsters symbolise his various adventures. The Europa logo is at the base of the stamp.

FDC recess printed from flat plates in brown with Praha cancellation. The cachet is a six-headed dragon with a mounted knight wielding a sword in the background.

b) Žito the Magician (in Czech) has a magician at the court of King Wenceslas IV being drawn in a cart pulled by three cocks. The King looks on the scene from a window. FDC recess printed from flat plates in brown with Praha cancellation. The cachet is taken from the legend Girls War showing Sárka bound to a tree with the armed horseman Ctírad in the background.

30.4.97 BEAUTIES OF OUR COUNTRY - JEWISH MONUMENTS IN PRAGUE

(Changed date of issue from 25th June)



Designer: James Janiček
Engraver: Miloš Ondráček

Printing: Recess from flat plates in black, red and blue in sheets printed: block of four x 8Kč (left), marginal inscription, block of four x 10Kč (right). Stamp size 26x40mm.

Design: 8Kč Part of the east side of the Old-New Synagogue with a five part Gothic ribbed vault and ark for the Torah. The gothic grille from the end of the 15th century surrounds the area where the Torah is read. Over the window the

inscription in Hebrew reads "Be aware of whom you are facing". The marginal Czech text translates as Prague - Old-New Synagogue. FDC recess from flat plates with Praha cancellation. The cachet is a silver pointer used in reading from the Torah.

10Kč shows the gravestone of Rabbi Löw in the Old Jewish cemetery where he and his wife are buried. The marginal inscription "Prague - the gravestone of Rabbi Löw" is in Czech. FDC recess from flat plates with Praha cancellation. The cachet shows a crown used during Jewish feasts above a smaller rearing lion.

Sheetlet has central inscription in Latin and Hebrew "Jewish Monuments in Prague".

14.5.97

SOUVENIR SHEET - RUDOLF II's PRAGUE



Praha Rudolfa II.

Designer: Oldřich Kulhanek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: Recess from flat plates in brown, red and green. Stamp size 26x40mm. Sheet size 118x91mm with 3 se-tenant stamps, 6Kč, 8Kč and 10Kč.

Design:

6Kč A collection of the diverse objects both natural and man-made collected by Rudolf II.

8Kč A portrait of Rudolf II wearing a laurel wreath and holding a rose in his hand as he listens to the Muses.

10Kč A drawing of the Emperor's court painter Arcimboldo surrounded by objects from which he created his paintings.

Sheet The three stamps se-tenant above a decorative drawing of flowers and fruits with the text "Rudolf II's Prague" in Czech.

Rudolf II ruled from 1576-1611 and was a patron of the arts and avid collector. His court became a cultural and spiritual centre of Central Europe influencing the development of European Art and Science. During 1997 an exhibition 'Rudolf II and Prague' will be held in Prague.

3 FDC's recess printed from flat plates with commemorative Praha cancels have cachets with views of Prague Castle, Charles Bridge and Prague Churches.

28.5.97

FOR CHILDREN

Designer: Zdeněk Smetana **Engraver:** Jiří Bouda



Printing: Rotary recess combined with photogravure in black, orange, red, light-green and dark green in sheets of 50 pieces at 4.60Kč each. Stamp size 23x40mm.

Design: The cartoon character Rákosniček (the Little Reed Man) stands smiling and holding an umbrella of rowan berries above his head. The character is from a contemporary children's bedtime T.V. series.

FDC printed recess from flat plates in orange has a commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet is a cartoon smiling sun. >

POSTAL STATIONERY

26.3.97

Postcard for current postal use

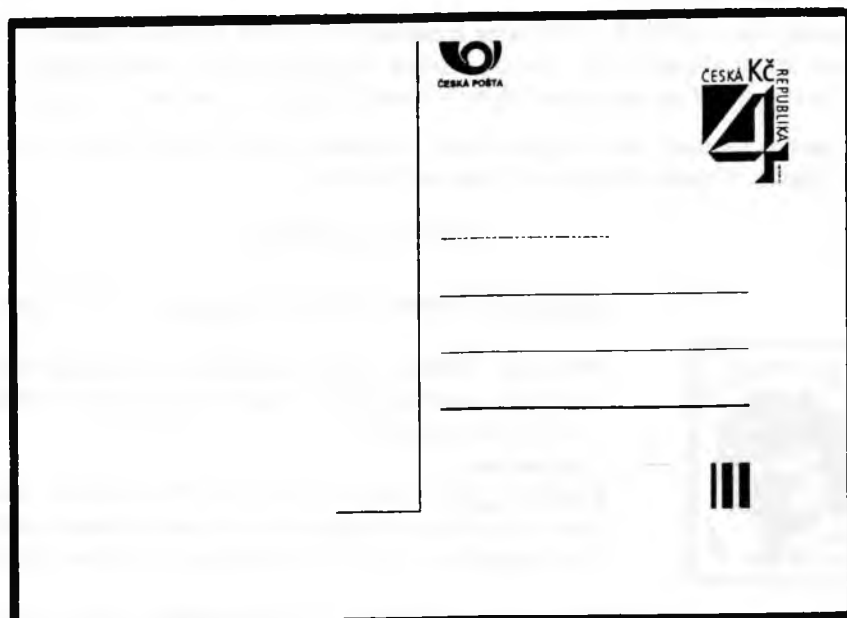
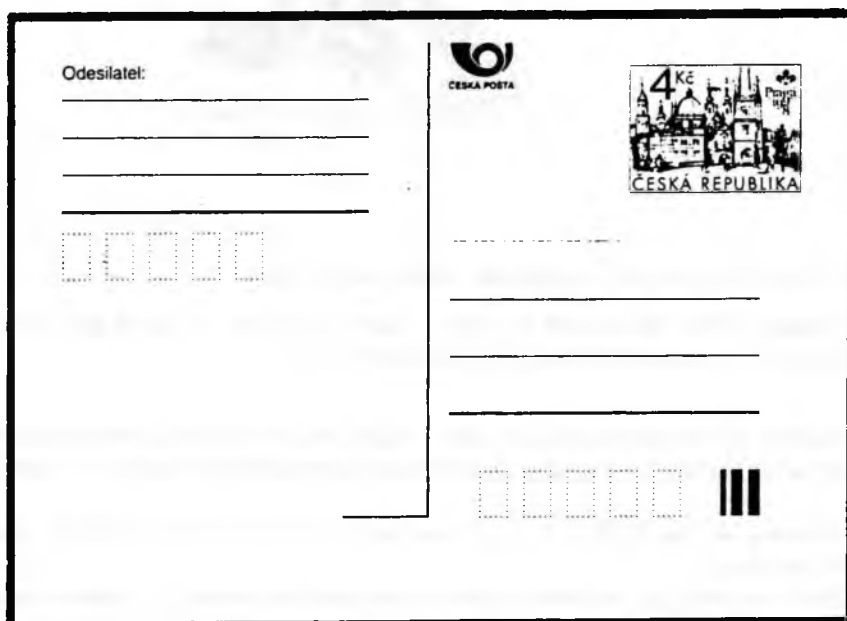
The card has 4Kč imprinted stamp showing a view from Charles Bridge over Mala Strana Bridge Tower and the monastery with dome of St. Francis' Church and tower of the Clementinum. Logo for the International Postage Stamp Exhibition Praga 98 appears in the upper right corner.

Designer Alfred Fuchs. Printing in offset in brown and brown-red. The postcard has a new protective anti-forgery strip between the vertical line for sender's name and address and recipient's name and address. Selling price. 4.40Kč.

26.3.97

Postcard for commercial and promotional use

Designer Jan Solpero. The card has imprinted 4Kč stamp in blue-green and black printed offset. Left half of the card is blank for commercial additional printing. Selling price 4.40Kčs.



CZECH REPUBLIC - PROMOTIONAL POSTCARDS

19.7.96 Olympilex '96 Atlanta 1996. Imprinted 3Kč postage rate with address portion at right hand side. Left half of card advertising Olympilex '96 held July 19 - August 3 1996.

?8.96 35th Europa International Philatelic Exhibition. Imprinted 3Kč postage rate with address portion at right side. Left half advertising the Exhibition at Riccione held 30.8 - 1.9.1996 and promoting sale of Czech stamps. Cachet is facsimile of the two 14Kč Europa stamps issued 4.5.1994.

12.2.97 11th Asian International Stamp Exhibition. Imprinted 3Kč postage rate with address portion at right side. Left half advertising the Exhibition held in Hong Kong 12-16 February 1997 and promoting sale of Czech stamps.

21.2.97 Singapex '97. Imprinted 3Kč stamp of a girl's face, rose and dove. Left half of card advertising the Singapore National Stamp Exhibition 1997 held in Singapore 21-23 February and promoting sale of Czech stamps.

16.4.97 Visit of Pope John Paul II. Imprinted 4Kč postage rate with address portion at right side. Left side in Czech "Pastoral Visit of Pope John Paul II to the Czech Republic on the occasion of the death millenium of St.Vojtech 25-27.4.1997" below the State arms of the Vatican and shield.

18.4.97 International Philatelic and Telephone Card Fair Köln. Imprinted 4Kč postage rate with address portion at right side. Left half advertising the Fair held 18-20 April 1997 with a drawing of an early mounted postal carrier blowing a posthorn. Upper left corner has words 'Postfila Prag' in red.

14.5.97 To promote awareness of the problems of the blind and partially sighted. Designer Jaroslav Fišer and printed offset in brown and red, retailing at 4.40Kč. The 4Kč imprinted stamp shows partial face with blind eyes and the text 'Zora' in Braille. 'Zora' was founded in 1917 and was a magazine to assist in the rehabilitation of blinded soldiers returning from war. The magazine now promotes information for the visually handicapped.

The cachet at the left is Alfons Muchas' drawing 'Word of Thanks of the Blind' created in the 1930's for a sticker for the club 'Czech Braille'. The club gave these stickers to sponsors and donors. The logo in red of the United Organisation of the Blind and Partially Sighted of Č.R. is also shown.

28.5.97. National Philatelic Exhibition Benešov 1997. Issued to promote the exhibition taking place at Benešov 20-22 June 1997. Designer Jaroslav Fišer and printed offset in blue-black & blue by Victoria Security Printing, retailing at 4.40Kč. The imprinted 4Kč stamp design is from the postcard issued for centenary of the Czech Philatelic Press with an arrangement of stamps, magnifying glass and tweezers. The left side of the card has the ruin of The Minorite monastery at Benešov and seal from about 1600 of the city. The National Philatelic Exhibition Benešov 1997 in Czech is below the cachet.

CZECH REPUBLIC

As from 1 April 1997 postal rates have increased. The revised rates are:-

	a	b	c	d	e
Postcard	4Kč	5	6	6	7
Letter					
to 10gr.	-	5	6	6	10
to 20g.	4.60Kč	7	8	8	11
to 50g	8Kč	15	15	15	23
to 100g	-	30	30	30	45
to 250g	-	50	50	50	90
to 500g	15Kč				
to 1000g	22Kč				

>

Inland registered 8Kč Express 15Kč in addition to postage

- | | |
|---|---|
| a | Internal Mail |
| b | International Mail Slovakia |
| c | International Mail Europe |
| d | International Mail Outside Europe by land/sea |
| e | International mail Outside Europe by air. |

As a result of increased postage rates, there may be some changes in the planned issues for 1997.

The first stamps publicising the International Stamp Exhibition Praga 98 to be held 10-13 September 1998 have been announced.

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 24.9.97 | Praga 98 - large sheet issue |
| 24.9.97 | Praga 98 - Se tenant sheetlet. |

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

15.2.97

FOLK TRADITION - EASTER



Designer and Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik (stamp and FDC)

Printing: Rotary recess combined with recess in sheets of 50 stamps at 3Sk each. Stamp size 23x30mm. FDC recess from flat plates

Design: Stamp is a design based on an ancient western Slovak tradition of women collecting Spring dew. The FDC cachet is a reminder of a tradition from the Mitra area where the housewife drove rodents from the house in Spring by loudly ringing her bunch of keys all round the house. The commemorative cancellation is from Bratislava.

25.3.97 700TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH BRATISLAVA



Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** František Horniak

Printing: Rotary recess with recess in sheets of 50 at 16Sk each. Stamp size 24x40mm. FDC recess from flat plates.

Design: shows part of the interior of the chapel of St. John, with a neogothic pinnacle and detail of a roof boss from the crypt. Marginal inscription in Slovak commemorates the 700th anniversary. The FDC cachet gives a detail of the Gothic interior decoration and detail of a roof boss from the presbytery. The Bratislava cancellation includes the symbol of the Franciscan Order.

The Franciscan Church of Annunciation of the Virgin Mary in Bratislava was consecrated on 25 March 1297. Earthquakes destroyed much of the fabric in 1580 and 1586 but restoration was carried out between 1613 and 1616. The baroque exterior and interior work dates from the beginning of the 18th Century.

15.4.97

DEFINITIVE STAMP - ŽILINA

Designer: Marian Čapka Engraver: František Horniak



Printing: Rotary recess combined with recess in sheets of 100 stamps at 9Sk each. Stamp size 19x23mm.

Design: Upper right corner has the armorial shield dating from 13th century and one of the oldest in Slovakia. A panorama of Žilina includes the parish church dating from 1300 with 16th century tower and town ramparts. The town in north-west Slovakia lies in the Váh valley at the confluence of the Kysuca and Rajčianka. Žilina originated at the beginning of the 13th century where five important trade routes crossed and was given the rights of a free royal town in 1321.

FDC printed offset by Kníhtlač Gerthoffer Zohor has commemorative Žilina cancellation. The cachet shows the Žilina book - a collection of laws and orders of the free royal town. It is the oldest juristic document written in the Slovak tongue. The royal document with seal dates from 1381, gave privileges to the town after a visit by King Ludovít Velký.

15.4.97

ANNIVERSARY: 100 YEARS WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

Designer: Oliver Solga Engraver: Martin Srb



Printing: Rotary recess combined with recess in sheets of 50 stamps at 10Sk each. Stamp size 23x40mm.

Design: Portrait of Guglielmo Marconi with transmitter and radio waves in the background.

FDC printed recess from flat plates in grey green with commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet is a symbolic drawing of an early radio set with transmitters and radio waves.

5.5.97

EUROPA ISSUE "THE MIRACULOUS RAIN NEAR HRON"
(Myths & Legends)Designer: Karol Ondreička
Engraver: František Horniak

Printing: Rotary recess from flat plates in sheetlets of alternate stamps and tabs. Stamp and tab size 23x40mm.

Design: A symbolic drawing showing the rain which fell on the beleaguered Roman Army encamped near Levica. For five days and nights they were without water and exposed to the summer sun but the Miraculous Rain storm brought relief.

FDC printed recess from flat plates with commemorative Levica cancellation. The cachet is a detail from the relief of the historical pillar in Rome of Marcus Aurelius celebrating his triumph in war. >

POSTAL STATIONERY

Special Envelope 3.8.96. 70th Anniversary Slovak Radio

Designed by Jozef Baláž, printed offset with 8Sk (state emblem) impressed stamp retailing at 9Sk. The cachet has a sky blue triangle motif with laurel wreathed head emerging from a mountainous & wooded landscape. The text "70 years of Radio in Slovakia" appears in Slovak with the date 3.8.1926. A commemorative Bratislava cancellation was issued 3.8.1996.

Special Envelope 22.11.96 75th Anniversary of birth Alexander Dubček.

Cachet in lower left is portrait of Dubček with his name and year of birth & death. The imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem of the Slovak Republic. There was a first day of issue commemorative cancellation from Bratislava.

Special Envelope 27.11.96 Bardejov European Cultural Heritage Site.

To commemorate the town of Bardejov, its links with UNESCO and the conservation programme to preserve its ancient buildings. Cachet in lower left corner shows parish church of St Aegidius and a burgher house. A gold roundel in the foreground confirms the town as a European Cultural Heritage Site. A commemorative first day of issue cancellation from Bardejov was issued.

Special Envelope 19.3.97 Jozef Miloslav Hurban.

Designer Marián Čapka. Imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem of the Republic & printed by Post Printing House, Prague. The cachet printed offset in dark-blue by Gerthoffer Zohor. Selling price 9Sk. Cachet is a portrait of Hurban with books and his signature with the text '1817 Beckov' & '1888 Hlboké'.

Special Envelope 1.4.97 Albín Brunovský

Designer Martin Činovský. Engraver of cachet Josef Herčík. Imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem of the Republic. Selling price 9Sk. Cachet has an artists portrait of Brunovský printed in black brown surrounded by fruiting plants, sun & rain printed in pastel grey-blue with dates 1935-1997.

Postcard 1.4.97 For Current Postal Use

Designer Martin Činovský. Printed offset by Kasico Bratislava. Selling price 3.50Sk. The imprinted stamp in red, blue, silver & black is the state emblem. The logo of the Slovak Post is in blue with all other lines & texts in black. The first line for the address is in repeated micro text "Slovenská pošta."

