



CZECHOUT

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

September 1997

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 88 Vol.15 No.3
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EDITORIAL

We have now received the first Bulletin for PRAGA 1998, which will take place under the auspices of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations [FEPA] and in the STOP PRESS you will see that the British Commissioner has been appointed - Mrs Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL, a long time member of our Society, to whom we send our best wishes and congratulations upon this appointment. The Competitive part of the Exhibition will be in accordance with the regulations of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie [FIP].

We have also taken the opportunity to ask Bob Hill to write on his visits to the Postal Museums in Praha [see page 70], Vyšší Brod, and also the Aerospace Museum at Kbely, which will appear in later issues of *Czechout*. I am sure these will be of great interest to those members who will be visiting Prague for the Exhibition.

Finally, I would draw members attention to Reg Hounsell's letter on Postcards - a subject which has so far received little attention with the exception of Brian Day's excellent Monograph.

Colin W Spong FRPSL

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting of Saturday 7 June 1997 at 6 Tarmount Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea at 2.30 pm

The Chairman, Alec Page FRPSL, welcomed 15 members and one visitor to the meeting. He made several announcements concerning publications which were available during the afternoon.

Mrs Yvonne Gren proposed a vote of thanks to Mr & Mrs Dave Hilton [Shoreham PS], for devoting their Saturday afternoon especially to provide members with tea, and gave details of one new member, Mr Keith Riddle from Kettering. Mr Riddle was Hon. Secretary of this Society during 1963-65 and his application was readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The following displays were seen:-

Yvonne Gren	- "The Three In-between Years, 1990-93
Colin Spong	- Slovak Parliament & Štefánik 20th Anniversary
Brian Day	- Sokol
Reg Hounsell	- Czech Airmails
John Hammonds	- Children's camps and the Pneumatic Post of Prague
Bill Dawson	- "Unusual Items from my Collection"
Ernst Gorge	- Scout Issue and Allegory Issue
Otto Hornung	- Bishop Popovics' Mail
Brian Day	- Czech Airmails

In his vote of thanks, the Chairman warmly thanked all those who had shown material during the afternoon. Alec discussed arrangements for the October weekend which Barry Horne is organising in Devon, to-date 33 members have shown interest. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the Royal George Carvery Restaurant.

The next meeting will take place at the Czechoslovak National Club on Saturday 6 September 1997, when the display will be given by Mr J.L. Klein from Netherlands on "Czechoslovakia 1918-1938."

NOTE: The Hon Secretary's phone number has now changed to 01628 628628.

MIDPEX '97 Tile Hill, Coventry, 28 June 1997

Everyone who attended this exhibition for national and specialist philatelic societies agreed that it was a very successful day, and that the previous one in 1995 was not a "flash in the pan". The many dealers present seemed pleased with the specialist audience. Plans are already being made for MIDPEX'99.

Space limited representation to sixty societies of truly diverse character. It gave our Society the opportunity of liaising with others concerned with overlapping interests, given the historic fluidity of borders in central Europe. The outcome is the decision to hold a joint meeting in Spring 1998 with the Austrian SC, the Hungarian PS of GB and the Society of Polish Philately in GB; the venue will be in the Leeds area, with Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL co-ordinating it for us. More details will appear in a future *Czechout*. I hope our members will support it in large numbers.

The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) published their new *National & Specialist Society Handbook* on the day, which is reviewed in this *Czechout*. The ABPS also held a seminar, a little inconclusive perhaps, into how the ABPS can best meet the needs of specialist societies.

The Society's stand was manned by Bob Bradford, Bob McLeod, Yvonne Wheatley, Colin Spong and myself. My sincere thanks to them all, and to Colin in particular for his leading role in assembling the following six frames of displays, of which the unique material in Alec's 1943 Exhibition attracted most attention.

1	East Silesia	Yvonne Gren
2	Hradčany-Prague Castle	Alec Page, FRPSL
3	Chainbreakers	Yvonne Wheatley, FRPSL
4	Carpatho-Ukraine, WWII	Rex Dixon
5	Exiled Czech Forces in WWII - France, Camp d'Agde - 1943 London Stamp Exhibition	Alec Page, FRPSL
6	The Years In-Between, 1990-93	Yvonne Gren

We were pleased to have the opportunity to meet several of our members during the day, some of whom were only names before [to me at least]. Two new members were recruited, one almost as soon as the doors opened in the morning; their names will be published in due course in the normal way, but may I take this opportunity of welcoming them to the Society.

Rex Dixon

Regional Meeting

This will take place as usual at the annual fair of the Leeds Philatelic Society on Saturday 22 November 1997 from 2.15 to 4.15pm. Regulars will know that the meeting is informal and members are invited to bring short displays. In addition this year we are privileged to have Stephen Holder FRPSL as a guest speaker. He will be showing Austrian Forerunners. If you have not been before you will be especially welcome.

The fair will have more than 40 dealers in attendance, and other specialist societies will be holding meetings during the day. Snacks and drinks will be available. Please see *Czechout* 3/94: p.55 or 3/95: p.57 for a map. For further information phone Yvonne Wheatley on 0113.2601978.

Obituary

Gerry Bater FRPSL: We read with sadness in the *ABPS NEWS* for July of the death of Gerry Bater suddenly on 4 April. It was during the Worthing PGBS Congress in 1978 that Gerry, who was editor of *The Overprinter*, the journal of the GB Overprints Society, suggested we rename our CPSGB Bulletin '*Czechout*.' Gerry was an enthusiastic philatelist, a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, and first County representative of Somerset and Dorset, being one of the leaders responsible in 1990 for the South Western 'Royal' group which continues to meet twice yearly. He published handbooks on the G.B. Waterloo issues of both KGVI and QEII, and had just completed a series of articles on the 1939-48 GB high values. Gerry Bater had also developed a philatelic photographic service, which he demonstrated at one of the Congresses. He will be much missed by his many friends.

Letters to the Editor

Via the Chairman:

In the *BAeF Bulletin* July 97 their "Diary" records on 29 Oct. 1997: Richard Beith will give a display "A Czech & Slovak Evening" at Crewe & District PS, Central Library. [Contact W.G.Sexton 01270-69725].

Reg Hounsell writes "I wish to gauge the interest in Czechoslovak Postcards amongst our Society members (postally used or collected for the picture side). In addition I would wish to put together a 'mini' catalogue or guide to collecting Czech postcards, eg. one similar to the publications for British and American topographical and other theme cards. It is not intended to include "Official Cards" i.e. postal stationery, and those related which are already well covered by existing philatelic publications.

I therefore seek the help of other members to build a list of publishers, artists and subjects, plus lists of cards where a number sequence may exist. A list from other members on their cards, publishers and perceived rarity, especially the Art Cards depicting Czechoslovak costumes and customs, would be helpful.

>

I would also like to establish the earliest postal use of some items, especially where the postmark relates to the town [topographical] or the event. Specifically I "challenge" members to help identify earliest known posting dates of the various 'Gruss Aus' & "Pozdrav z" view cards. I have a large number of privately published postcards in my collection, many of which have been postally used, which I have grouped into the following subject matters:-

Artist (coloured view cards)
 Czech Legion in Siberia/Russia/France & Italy
 Exhibitions (excluding SOKOL)
 General Topographical [hand coloured, Black & white single & multiple views]
 German Occupation period
 Gruss Aus & Pozdrav z cards
 National Costumes, e.g. events, festivals etc. where local costumes are worn
 People
 Publicity cards [Artist]
 Publicity cards [General]
 Real Photo cards (events)
 Real Photo cards (Topographical)
 Special events

When replying to the above, if in detail, it would be of help if the Publisher's details and the serial number is shown against individual cards. Please write to me at 31 Parklands, Royston, Herts, SG8 9HL."

Congratulations

At the Fifth New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition held in Palmerston North on 28 June 1997: Bronze to **Vladimir Kralicek & Alec Page** for Monograph 10: *The 25th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence (the 1943 London Exhibitions)*; Silver Bronze to **Brian Day** for his Monograph 11: *The Sokols in Philately: postal, commemorative postmarks and postcards*; and a Silver for *Czechout*, Vols.13-14, 1995/6. The Judges were Robin Gwynn FRPSNZ FRPSL, Roy Shuker, Robin Startup FRPSNZ FRPSL and Malcolm Francis [apprentice].

Robert J Hill: for his informative article on 'The Stamps of Czechoslovakia' in *The Raflet Philatelic Magazine*; July/August 1997, the journal of the Raflet Stamp Club.

Publications

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

- ◆ The May/June & July/August issues of *The Czechoslovak Philatelist* Vol.58/9, No.3/4, Whole No 537/8. by courtesy of Alec Page. The contents include:-
- ▶ Czech Postal Service Mechanization (Holoubek); Czech Republic Postal Rate Increase (Horvath); 66th Apostolic Journey Pope John Paul II in Slovakia (Waliniski); Czech Counterfeit items (Horvath).
- ▶ Adventures of Missent or Undelivered Mail (Horvath); Austrian 60th Jubilee Postal Cards (Rizza); Revolutionary Overprints of 1945 : Novotny-Prague 33, Kostelec nad Orlici, (Holoubek).
- ◆ The June 1997 [No 112] issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakewi*, and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the contents for us.
- ▶ New Airmail Special Postmarks Catalogue [Stručný a Neúplný Přehled Příležitostných Razítek Sleteckými Motívvy z Území Bývalého Československa 1918-1994 by Jaroslav Punčochář]; Hardly known-Mobile post offices on scheduled routes [not AUTOPOSTA] (Danesch); Report of a contemporary witness of the revolutionary overprints 1945 (Liebermann/Pokorny); A view about the Carpatho-Ukraine overprints 1944/45 on Hungarian stamps (Markus); Registration labels of the Carpathian lands (Hahn). >

- ◆ The 3/97 issue of Merkur Revue the contents include:-
 - ▶ Types of postcard 150h 'Liberated Republic'(Kašpar); Small addition to Monograph - 1920 Liberated Republic issue (Pospíšil); Plate flaws on 30h Dove (Kašparovi); Russian Polní Pošta in Ukraine (Cais); Interview with Oldřich Kulhánek [Graphic artist] (Fritz); Fokker or Tupolev? on 1930 airmail stamps (Steidler, Gebauer); Albína Brunovského [Designer] 25.2.1935-19.1.1997(Fischer).

BOOK REVIEWS

Glossary of Philatelic Terminology, by Ludvik Z. Svoboda, Compiled and edited by Jolana Machalek. The Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. 1996. 128 pages, Card cover & Comb binding in large format 28 x 22cm.

Last year, our friends across the Atlantic, the Society for Czechoslovak Philately published an extensive glossary as an attempt to provide assistance to the non-Czech/Slovak speaking/reading collector, to enable better use to be made in researching source information.

The Foreword to the Glossary emphasises that it is not a translation dictionary but a translated listing of frequently encountered philatelic and everyday terms. Likewise, as an aid to the use of Czech/Slovak catalogues the Table of Contents, Designations and Numbering System of the 1988 Handbook (*Specializovaná Příručka*) is also included in a side by side translation.

Separate sections are devoted to what is described as Thematic Terms, under headings of Colours, Months, Days, Numbers etc. A multi-section on Military Terms and finally Continents and Countries completes this part of the book. It is, as would be expected in two parts Czech/Slovak to English and vice-versa. Careful study of the Foreword by the author Ludvik Z Svoboda a Past-President and currently the editor of the *Czechoslovak Specialist* facilitates easy use of the glossary.

Certainly by far the most extensive of the several previously published books/pamphlets geared to the English language collector. [U.K. members wishing to obtain copies of the Glossary should contact the Publications Officer (address inside front cover of *Czechout*) who can order in bulk from America. The current cost cannot be determined but will be in the range of £12.50 to £15 (plus postage/packing £1.50). To avoid multi-ordering from America, this offer will remain open only until the end of September.

W.A.Page FRPSL

Slovenští Letci/Slovak Airmen 1939-1941 by Jiří Rajlich & Jiří Sehnal, 64 page A4 softback, 1991, UK price £6.95 + pp £1.50 from Midland Counties Publications, Unit 3 Maizefield, Hinckley Fields, Hinckley, Leicester, LE10 1YF

This useful study with its bilingual Slovak/English text covers the history of aviation in Slovakia during the lifetime of the 1939/1945 puppet state. Inevitably most of the text is concerned with military aviation but there is also a useful guide to the limited activity in the field of commercial aviation.

The Slovak Air Force was formed immediately after partition and was based on the former Air Regiment No 3 of Czechoslovak Air Force which had been based on Slovak territory at Piešťany. Nearly 300 aircraft of variable quality were available to the Slovaks. The Slovak Air Force was soon in action in the east in a number of border skirmishes with Hungarian forces. After the loss to Slovakia of the airfield at Košice, the main base in the east was that of Spišská Nová Ves. In September 1939, the Slovak Air Force joined in the German attack on Poland, but only in a very limited way. At the same time as this limited action, other Slovak airmen had decided that their future lay with the Western powers and eventually succeeded in making their way first to Poland or France, later to England and Russia. The authors note that nearly 40 Slovak airmen lost their lives while flying with the RAF.

The authors continue their story by describing the growth of the Slovak Air Force and the actions on the Russian Front. By early 1944 the Slovak fighters were in action against American bombers, but by the late summer of that year, the Slovak National Uprising had broken out and a *Combined Flight* dedicated to the uprising was located at Tri Duby between Zvolen and Banská Bystrica. With the end of the uprising some flew their planes to Russia to continue the fight, others took to the hills as >

partisans. However, as the war neared the end, Slovaks flying from the advancing Russian front continued to make their contribution to the final defeat of the Germans and were well represented at the eventual victory celebrations in Prague.

As far as commercial aviation is concerned it is noted that a Slovak Air Company was formed on 19 June 1939, but it was only possible to open a line from Bratislava to Vienna by agreement with *Deutsche Lufthansa* who supplied Ju 86 planes and German crews at various times. Later, a Stinson Reliant and an Airspeed Envoy (ex CSA?) were purchased with the aim of operating an internal service from Bratislava to Spišská Nová Ves via Piešťany and Tri Duby, but the line never opened. In 1943 two FW 58C *Weihe* (Kite) aircraft were obtained to operate Bratislava-Vienna and Bratislava-Tri Duby-Prešov. This route remained in operation until 30 September 1943, but the changing war situation put an end to any further 'commercial' activities.

This booklet contains a wide-ranging selection of black and white photographs in rather grainy reproductions plus a large number of well produced colour representations of the principal military and civil planes mentioned in the text, including RAF planes flown by Slovak crews. Several statistical tables and a map showing the location of Slovak air bases complete this valuable record of a complicated and ever-changing story.

Richard Beith

National & Specialists Society Handbook 1997-98, Compiled and edited by the Association of British Philatelic Societies Ltd., 1997. 164 pages, Card cover 14.5 x 20.6 cm. Price £10. or to members of Affiliated Societies £5. Obtainable from John Hammonds, ABPS Secretary, 31 Wheatsheaf Close, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 5TH.

We welcome a new publication from our Collectors organisation [publishers of *ABPS NEWS* and *ABPS YEAR BOOK*]. This handy size book contains a listing of all the known Country groups both in the United Kingdom and Overseas, and other International Organisations, Philatelic libraries & Postal Museums. Importantly, it also lists what has been published by the individual groups [where this information has been given to the editorial team.] This will be a most useful tool in the hands of the collector as well as the specialist researcher.

This has been a real labour of love and a positive reaction to the needs of members of the ABPS, thus it surely deserves to be on our library shelves.

The Editor

CZECH AND SLOVAK STAMP BOOKLETS ISSUED SINCE 1.1.93

Booklets

Richard Beith BaeF

I have been collecting new issues and FDCs for the first time in decades. The trigger to this revived interest was the creation of the two new stamp issuing countries of the Czech Republic and Slovakia on 1.1.93. Not long after that date, I signed up with a UK new issue dealer who specialised in Central and Eastern Europe for all the Czech and Slovak new issues. Now, writing at the end 1996, I'm a little surprised at the volume of material which has reached me over the last four years!

That material included a goodly selection of stamp booklets, which do not seem to have received much attention in *Czechout*. Two tabulated lists are presented here in the hope that some members may be interested in these booklet issues and with the hope that more knowledgeable members may well be able to make corrections and additions to the listing and confirm or deny the official status of these issues. Of course, the author is in no position to guarantee the completeness of these lists.

As far as the Slovak booklets are concerned they are generally restricted to commemorative or other special issues with a booklet print run between 5,000 and 10,000 copies. 15 out of the 16 different booklets seen by me, bear the logo of the Slovak Post Office on the reverse side.

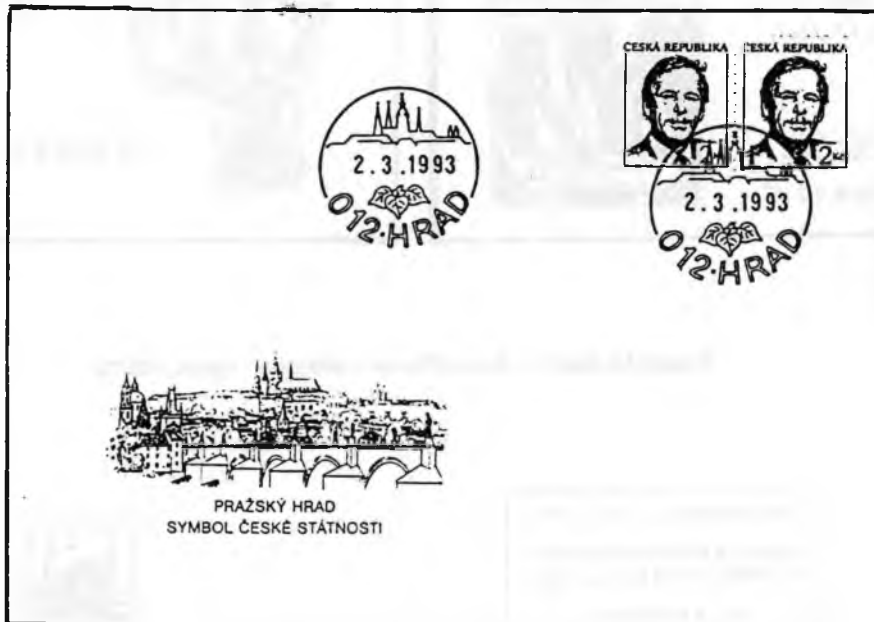
I have seen 48 different booklets from the Czech Republic. Print runs for commemorative items vary between 5,000 and 12,000 booklets, with between 5,000 and 300,000 booklets produced for definitive issues. One or two oddities have been noted. For example, three of the booklets issued for the >

founders of the Liberated Theatre, all contain stamps of the same face value, but Voskovec was given a 10,000 print run, Ježek and Werich only 5,000 each! The 1994 Christmas issue ran to 120,000 booklets, but only 18,000 were issued for Christmas 1995 and 19,000 for Christmas 1996. Note that some of 1993 and 1994 definitives have up to four different booklet cover designs per value. Of the 48 Czech booklets seen, 37 included printed references to Česká Pošta, seven earlier issues refer to HÚP Praha and the final four appeared to have been issued by the regional postal authorities in Pilsen. All comments welcome via the Editor. (Can anyone explain the initials HÚP?)



2 March 1993
 SG 3: 2 Kč *President Václav Havel*
 10 Kč & 20 Kč booklets & FDC

5,000
 print run

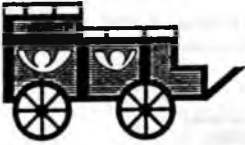



300,000 print run

1993 Definitives: 1 July 1993
 SG 13: 2 Kc *Usti nad Labem*
 4 x 20 Kc Booklets




10 kusů à 2 Kč


20 Kč

10 ks à 2 Kč



20 Kč

*Poštovní muzeum
 Praha
 poštovní úřad
 ze 17. stol.*



20 Kč
 10 kusů à 2 Kč



20 Kč
 10 kusů à 2 Kč

Postal Museum - four different designs - same stamp

1993 Definitives: 1 July 1993
 SG 14: 3 Kc *Cesky Krumlov*
 (UNESCO world heritage site)
 3 x 15 Kc Booklets



5 KUSŮ
 À 3 Kč



15 Kč

5,000
 print run



print run 200,000!



print run 300,000!

Czech Booklets: 1993 onwards

Date of stamp issue(1)	Booklet Contents	Stamps	No. issued	Notes
20.1.93	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	State Arms, SG1	5,000	(2)
17.2.93	5 x 2Kč = 10Kč	Ice Skating, SG2	100,000	(2)
2.3.93	5 x 2Kč = 10Kč	}Havel definitive	5,000	(2)
	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	}Havel definitive	300,000	(2)
1.7.93	10 x 1Kč = 10Kč	definitive, SG12	?	(3)
1.7.93	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	definitive, SG13	200,000	(4)
	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	definitive, SG13	300,000	(4)
	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	definitive, SG13	200,000	(4)
	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	definitive, SG13	300,000	(4)
1.7.93	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG14	5,000	(2)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG14	200,000	(2)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG14	300,000	(2)
1.7.93	3 x 5Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG16	5,000	(5)
	5 x 5Kč = 25Kč	definitive, SG16	5,000	(5)
	3 x 5Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG16	5,000	(6)
	5 x 5Kč = 25Kč	definitive, SG16	5,000	(6)
30.3.94	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG15 (Brno)	5,000	(4)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG15 (Brno)	200,000	(4)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG15 (Brno)	200,000	(4)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	definitive, SG15 (Brno)	200,000	(4)
18.5.94	5 x 5Kč = 25Kč	Dr. Beneš, SG44	5,000	(4)
1.6.94	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	Dinosaurs, SG48	5,000	(4)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Dinosaurs, SG49	5,000	(4)
	5 x 5Kč = 25Kč	Dinosaurs, SG50	5,000	(4)
15.6.94	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	Sokol Congress, SG52	75,000	(4)
24.8.94	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Songbirds	8,000	(4)
	5 x 5Kč = 25Kč	Songbirds	8,000	(4)
5.10.94	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	Historic motor cars	8,000	(4)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Historic motor cars	8,000	(4)
9.11.94	10 x 2Kč = 20Kč	Christmas	120,000	(4)

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15.3.95	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Voskovec (Lib.Theatre)	10,000	(4)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Werich (Lib.Theatre)	5,000	(4)
	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Ježek (Liberated Th'tre)	5,000	(4)
	6 x 3Kč = 18Kč	Two each, V, W & J	8,000	(4)
22.3.95	10 x 60h = 6Kč	Country motif	50,000	(7)
22.3.95	5 x 3.60Kč = 18Kč	Havel definitive	50,000	(7)
12.4.95	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Euro. Nature Cons Year	12,000	(7)
	5 x 5Kč = 25Kč	Euro. Nature Cons Year	12,000	(7)
	5 x 6Kč = 30Kč	Euro. Nature Cons Year	12,000	(7)
21.6.95	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Olomouc-Prague Rlwy.	12,000	(7)
6.9.95	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Cartoon humour	12,000	(7)
	5 x 3.60Kč = 18Kč	Cartoon humour	12,000	(7)
	5 x 5Kč = 25Kč	Cartoon humour	12,000	(7)
8.11.95	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Christmas	18,000	(7)
13.3.96	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Happy Easter	12,000	(7)
25.5.96	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Atlanta Olympics	18,000	(7)
25.9.96	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Kladruby Horses	10,000	(7)(8)
25.9.96	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Kladruby Horses	10,000	(7)(9)
13.11.96	5 x 3Kč = 15Kč	Christmas	19,000	(7)

Notes:

- (1) Not necessarily the date of the booklet issue
- (2) Inscribed on reverse: *Vydala HÚP Praha v nákladu XXXX ks* (XXXX = booklet print run)
- (3) Reported, but not seen by author.
- (4) Inscribed on reverse *Vydala Česká Pošta v nákladu XXXX ks.* (XXXX = booklet print run)
- (5) Inscribed on reverse: *Vydala Okresní správa pošt v Pízní ve spolupráci s Nadací 700 let města Pízně. PRESSFIL* (Issued by the Pilsen regional post to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the city (1295-1995) issued late 1994?
- (6) As (5) but issued early to mid 1995?
- (7) Inscribed on reverse: *Vydala Česká Pošta s.p. v. nákladu XXXX ks.*
- (8) Three black and two white horses in the strip
- (9) Two black and three white horses in the strip.

Slovak Booklets: 1993 onwards

Date of stamp issue(1)	Booklet Contents	Stamps	No. issued	Notes
1-2.1.93	5 x 3K, 1 x 8K = 23K	State Arms, SG,145/46	?	(2)
26.1.94	10 x 2Sk = 20Sk	Winter Olympics, SG 175	10,000	(3)
29.4.94	5 x 3Sk = 15Sk	Int. Year of the Family, SG 176	10,000	(3)
12.12.94	5 x 3Sk = 15Sk	Chatam Sófer	10,000	(3)
28.2.95	10 x 2Sk = 20Sk	}European Nature	5,000	(3)
	10 x 3Sk = 30Sk	}Protection Year	5,000	(3)
25.5.95	10 x 3Sk = 30Sk	Visit of Pope John Paul II	5,000	(3)
5.9.95	10 x 2Sk = 20Sk	}Biennial of Children's	5,000	(3)
	10 x 3Sk = 30Sk	}Book Illustrations, Bratislava	5,000	(3)

15.3.96	10 x 2Sk = 20Sk	"Greetings stamps"?	7,000	(3)
30.5.96	10 x 3Sk = 30Sk	Tour of Slovakia Cycle Race	7,000	(3)
16.7.96	10 x 4Sk = 40Sk	European Bison	7,000	(3)
16.7.96	10 x 4Sk = 40Sk	Mouflon	7,000	(3)
16.7.96	10 x 4Sk = 40Sk	Tatra Chamois	7,000	(3)
15.10.96	10 x 4Sk = 40Sk	Bratislava-Trnava Railway	7,000	(3)
15.10.96	10 x 4Sk = 40Sk	Andrej Kvasz's Aeroplane	7,000	(3)

Notes:

- (1) Not necessarily the date of the booklet issue
- (2) Inscribed on reverse: *Philaservis ZZ 1/93*. No reference to the Slovak Post Office.
- (3) Inscribed on reverse: *Vydala Slovenská Pošta, šp POFIS v náklade XXXX kusov with Slovenská Pošta logo. (XXXX = booklet print run).*



1945

THE PROBLEMS OF POSTAGE DUE AND POSTAL STATIONERY

Liberation Issues

Robert Hill

Following the liberation of the country, until the issue of 1 May 1946 (see figure 1), there were no Czechoslovakia postage due stamps officially available.

The German stamps utilised in the former Sudetenland area were not used after the Liberation overprints ceased to be valid at various dates around mid-May 1945.

The former Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia, where Postage Due were withdrawn on 1 November 1942 and no longer valid from 1 April 1943, had issued other stamps, but these were demonetised on 15 May 1945. In the short term a defaced (German legend removed) cachet was used for both normal postage paid in cash (see figure 2) and postage due (see figures 3 and 4) although the use of normal postage stamps for postage due purposes is also known. Other types of cachet exist for postage paid in cash.



Figure 1
20h value of 1 May 1946 issue



Figure 2

Posted in Praha and cancelled with defaced (German legend removed) bilingual Protectorate canceller
PRAHA 55 22.V.45

Sent to The Board of Management at the State Conservatory of Music.

Cachet in violet is the defaced (German legend removed) Protectorate bilingual type. Doplatné and in pencil -80, the local letter rate up to 30.XI.45.

The hand stamp was used to denote both amounts paid in cash and postage due, this is an example of a cover paid in cash (deduced from the rate). >

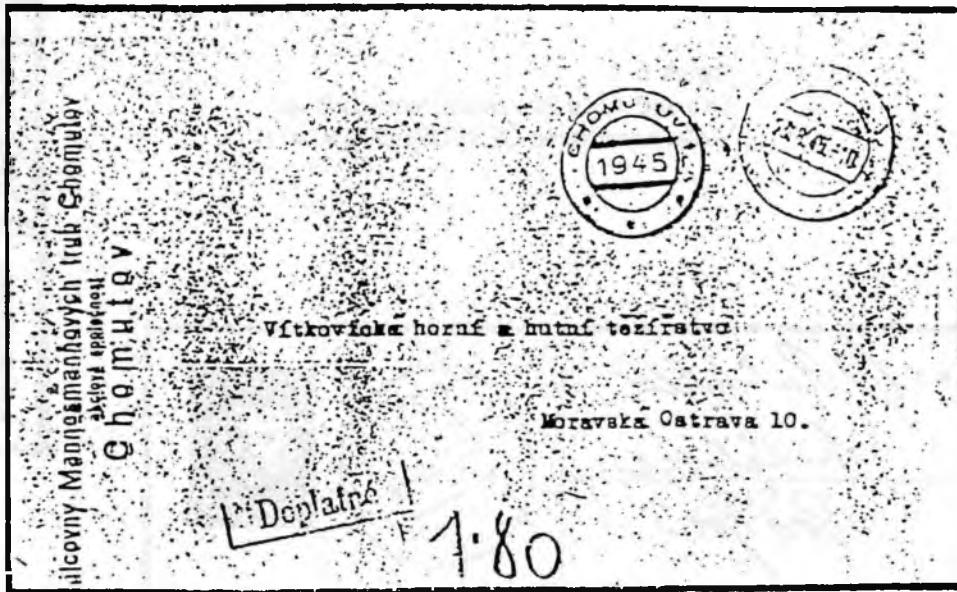


Figure 3

Commercial cover sent from Chomutov to Ostrava.

Rubber pink canceller CHOMUTOV 1 1945. Dumb black canceller 23.8.45.

Pink boxed defaced (German legend removed) bilingual Doplatné with black manuscript 1.80, this represents a postage due deducted from the postage rate of 1.20 + 50% surcharge.



Figure 4

Black and white postcard of Liberec Town Square, sent to an address in Pardubice. Cancelled at LIBEREC 3 18.IX.45 with First Republic canceller (type M47). The German legend on the card has been over stamped in violet with a cachet to the effect that old stock is being used up. Boxed pink defaced (German legend removed) bilingual Doplatné with blue crayon 90, this represents a postage due, deducted from the postcard rate of 60h + 50% surcharge.

The situation in Slovakia was somewhat different "POVERENI 'CTVO POŠT'" (Executive Post Office) permitted the use of all stamps, including the issues of the former Republic of Slovakia, until 30 September 1947. Some of the values were, of course, used up quickly and by August 1945 "POVERENI 'CTVO POŠT'" allowed combinations of lower values to be used. The postage due 1.60(Mi 33) was used as value 1.50 without overprint or manuscript change. Overprinting of Slovakian stamps was not obligatory although Postage Due and Postal Stationery exists with the straight line hand overprint of ČESKOSLOVENSKO (see figures 5 thru 8). >

Figure 5
5Ks and 10Ks Slovakian Postage Dues
Violet handstamp ČESKOSLOVENSKO

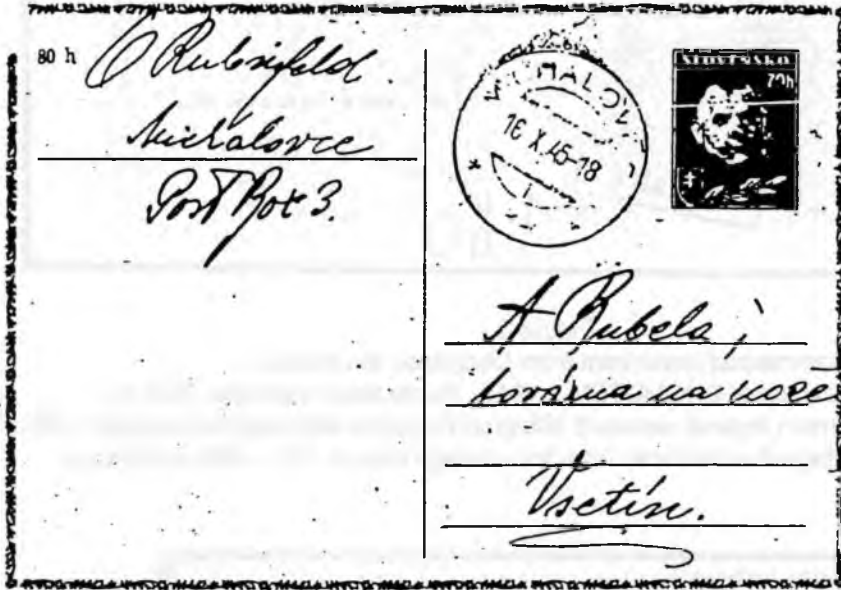



Figure 6
Slovakian Postal Stationery card. Cancelled
MICHALOVCE 16.X.45
with First Republic
canceller (type M45).
Overprinted
ČESKOSLOVENSKO.

Figure 7
Slovakian Parcel
Card. Black
ČESKOSLOVENSKO
overprint

Odsírlžuk - Podacia pečiatka		Miesto pre poštové známky			
Cena Ks 1 10		Deň podania		POŠTOVÁ SPRIEVODKA	
Odosielateľ		Počet kusov - Obal		Obsah	
Miesto v hrubom rámci na obidvoch stranách veľmi odovzdať!		Cena		Cena	
Pošta		kg g		Príručná pečiatka (Ks, h)	
		kg g		Poplatky pri podaní:	
		kg g		výplataé Ks b	
		kg g		Ks b	
		kg g		Ks b	
		kg g		miestny príplatok Ks h	
		kg g		Ks b	
		kg g		Poplatky pri dodaní:	
		kg g		doplatné Ks h	
		kg g		Ks b	
		kg g		Ks b	
		kg g		Ks b	
		kg g		Joručné Ks b	
		kg g		návestné Ks b	
		kg g		miestny príplatok Ks h	
		kg g		úložné Ks b	
		kg g		od do Ks b	
		kg g		iné poplatky Ks h	
		kg g		Ks h	

Ak odosielateľ neurbi upravenie pre prípad neobdobnosti, bude zálečka bez jeho súhlasu vrátená!

Figure 8
Slovakian Reply Paid Telegram Form
Violet ČESKOSLOVENSKO overprint

To summarise, the situation regarding Postage Due and other related items after the 1945 Liberation was:

Bohemia & Moravia

1. Postage due stamps were replaced by postage stamps from the Protectorate area until 15 May 1945.
2. Postage due was paid by cash from 16 May 1945 thru 10 September 1945 as a matter of course. At certain locations this was permissible until 30 November 1945, after this date the practice was illegal - however, some did still pay cash in hand (see figure 9).
3. Postage due was then achieved by the use of Czechoslovakian stamps from 1 December 1945 until the new Postage Due stamps were issued on 1 May 1946.



Figure 9
Addressed to the Tax Office in Chrudim. Postage paid 1.20 and cancelled HĚRMŮV MĚSTEC 17.1.46 with defaced (German legend removed) bilingual canceller. Boxed red defaced bilingual Doplatné with manuscript blue crayon 240. The correct postage was 2.40. The deficit was 1.20 + 100%. The 100% deficiency rate applied from 1 December 1945. >

Slovakia

1. After Liberation, postage due was paid by Republic of Slovakia issues from 1939, 1940 and 1942. From 1 September 1945 the 1.60 value was used as 1.50 face value.
2. Postage due was also paid with Postage stamps from the new Czechoslovakia. These are known in combination with the Slovakian postage dues.
3. Postage due was then paid by the issue of 1 May 1946 until 30 September 1947.
4. Postage due was also paid in cash.

Reference:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. | SČSF KATALOG ZNÁMEK A CELIN 1939 - 1945 | PRAHA 1990 |
| 2. | SPECIALIZOVNÁ PŘÍRUČKA | PRAHA 1988 |

With thanks to W.A. Dawson for his scrutiny and comment.

VISIT TO THE CZECH POSTAL MUSEUM - PRAHA

- Robert J. Hill -

I had two hours to spare during a recent visit to the beautiful city of Praha and having already visited the postal museum at Vyšší Brod, I thought it was high time I called in at the museum on Nové mlýny. The building is beautiful with murals by the Czech painter Josef Navrátil.

The ground floor is taken up with a comprehensive collection of Czech material, which is displayed in suspended frames, including:

SG 87aa	4k on granite paper	SG 89aa	10k on granite paper
SG 94	10h rose carmine	SG 104	2h rose carmine
SG 111	50h rose carmine	SG D280	50h on 50h rose red

I took photos of these but I have not yet mastered my new camera as I am still getting light bounce. Also present on the ground floor are stamps from other countries of the world. This was quite interesting but no more than one would expect.

Moving up to the first floor there is an exhibition related to Rudolf II. Praha is teeming with displays about this man, the halls around Hradčany and throughout the city have various parts of the display and the current CSA flight magazine also carries a lengthy feature. The special exhibition guide is in Czech and English and illustrates detail from the exhibition which covers the period 1550 thru 1678.

Items seen included:

- ▶ Rudolf II mandate from 1577
- ▶ Imperial letters personally signed by Maxmilian II (1571) and Rudolf II (1594)
- ▶ 1620 map of Czech lands by the Dutchman Janzoon
- ▶ Letters from Rudolf's successors Mathias II (1611), Ferdinand III (1652) - sent to the Mayor and Councillors of Kolín and concerning the appointment of a Sub Chamberlain, Leopold I (1678)

Personally I found the book on postal distances of 1623 the most interesting, it was a reprint of a 1608 publication showing all European postal stations with the added information that - 1 post = 2 postal miles = between 15 and 20 kilometers.

It was okay but not nearly as interesting or informative as my trip to Vyšší Brod.

The museum is open daily, except Mondays, 0900 thru 1700 and the entrance fee was 15Kč. It is just around the corner from two stamp shops on Klimentůvská.

NOT IN THE TROJAN CATALOGUE!

-Brian Day-

It is of interest that the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair Overprints do not appear in the latest Trojan catalogue. "After the Tempest of Wrath Has Passed, The Rule of The Country Will Return to Thee, O Czech People" - these words uttered by Comenius, a Czech refugee from Germanic oppression three hundred years ago, were sculptured on the white facade of the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the New York World's Fair.

When the Germans invaded Prague the Pavilion stood unfinished and for two years the Pavilion was maintained by donations, not only from American-Czechoslovaks, but thousands of freedom loving people from around the world. One of the money raising campaigns was the overprinting of souvenir sheets, wholly donated by stamp dealers and sold at the Pavilion.

On June 10th, 1939, the officials of the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the Fair, with the consent of the Czechoslovak Government in exile, and the authorisation of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Dr Eduard Beneš, overprinted the souvenir sheets. These sheets were not valid for postage.



Reference: *Československo 1918-1992/Česká Republika 1993-1996, Slovenská Republika 1993-1996.*
Filatelie, Trojan, Praha.

"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 Ian McQueen's query in Czechout 2/97 page 44.

From Richard Beith: The 'directional' cachet: I have one example of this used on an internal letter with the destination "M Lázne". The *Praha 1* cds is for 12 September 1927. When I obtained this cover one Stampex, (ex-Whiteside?) there was a hand written note included stating that this cachet was used from June 1927 until airmail etiquettes were introduced on 1.4.28. However the cover to Paris shown on page 44 was posted on 3.4.28 and bears a *Létadlem/Par Avion* etiquette apparently making the cachet redundant?

From John Whiteside: In my airmail collection that I disposed of many years ago, I had at least two items bearing cachets of this type. I was always a bit uncertain about them because one was on a totally philatelic postcard, without message, created by a known creator of odd airmail items, Lt. Hukl, while the other was also a contrived item. I was a bit concerned therefore that the cachet might have been an unofficial production.

But this cover looks to be above reproach. The total fees paid are 8.50, which is, I think, correct for a registered airmail cover, weight 20-40g., postage of 2.50 for the first 20g., then 1.50 per further 20g., registration of 2.50 and air fee to France of 2 x 1.00 per 20g. This was, as far as I am aware, the air fee to France from 1925 onwards.

Another point about the cover is that there is an endorsement in Czech between the first two lines of the address. The first word starts, I think with V and the second word is "letadlem". I think this may mean that the cover was not carried by air, which may account for the fact that the only backstamp is an Epinay arrival. A Praha 7 or Praha 82 Letište or even a Paris Avion mark might be expected. Perhaps the directional air cachet was applied and then it was found that it could not catch a plane, so it was sent surface. I am by no means sure that this is correct, but it would be nice to be able to read the endorsement.

Re Alec Page's query in Czechout 2/98 page 45.

From Richard Beith: The first flight to the USA by Imperial Airways [Southampton-Foynes-Botwood-Montreal-New York] did not take place until 5 August 1939, using the Short's S30 G-AFCV *Caribou*. As this cover was franked at 6.50Kč, strongly suggest this was 2.50Kč for registration plus 4.00Kč for air mail to England, thence by sea. Nobody was flying air mail across the North Atlantic in April 1939. Of course this cover, if correctly dated 1.4.39, comes from the early Protectorate period. Are there any signs of currency control markings?

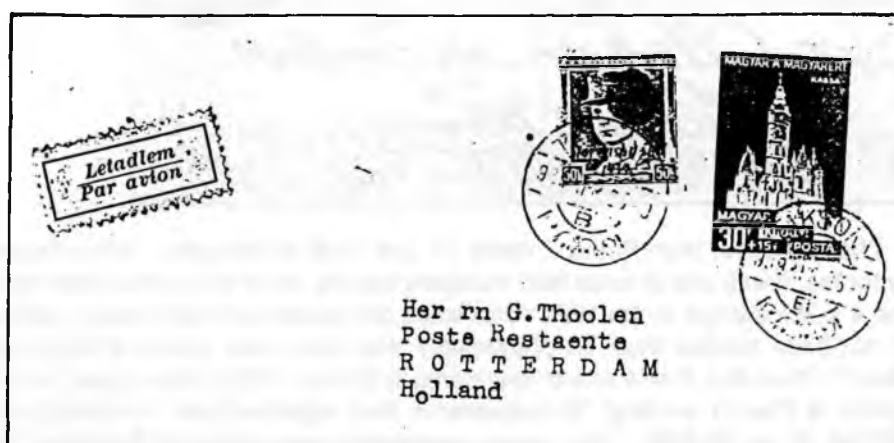
Three new Queries:

From Jim Ansell: I have a cover, apart from the stamps, identical to one illustrated in Mervyn Benford's book *The Visszatért Period in Hungarian Philately* on page 26, without a caption. I have however, been unable to identify Taksony on any map, although I bought it as a Carpatho-Ukraine item. [Editor: I have a similar cover which is illustrated with Jim's below.] Jim wrote to Mervyn "The Gazetteer of places, Appendix 6 of your publication lists Takcsany, (Stakcin) and Taksonyfalva, (Taksan). Can you please identify - none of the maps I have seen have Taksonyfalva on them, but my Czech & Slovak Republic map dated 1993/4 has Stakcin located about 20 kms inside Slovak territory and not in the Ukraine.

Mervyn Benford replied as follows: "The Hungarian cancellation is quite clear TAKSONY. This is a quite different word from TAKCSANY. I have recently acquired a major gazetteer listing all the places that once were Hungarian with bi-lingual reverse indices. Both Takcsany and Taksonfalva are listed. The latter is given as Slovak Matuskovo, if that helps you locate it. Taksony on its own is not listed either in Slovak or what later became Soviet parts of old Hungary. This latter was in POZSONY >

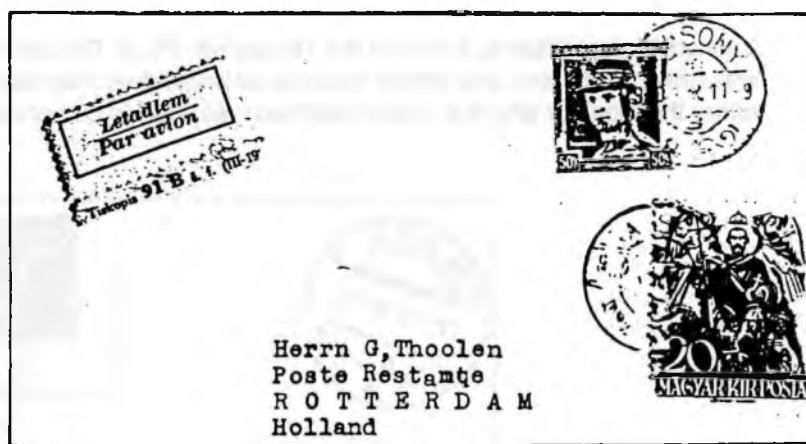
country, ie., western Slovakia, now Bratislava region, and rather out of the way for the 1939 action. The town of POZSONY had not returned in 1938. The history was that in 1939 Hungary annexed Ruthania but it also marched into a thin border slice of what still remained, even after 1938, Czech. There was fighting even, and air activity. There were minor border corrections and adjustments, all undone in the 1946 treaties. But maybe if TAKSONY was anything to do with TAKCSANY, just 20km inside the Slovak border, there could be a connection, with a locally-inspired 'liberation' series of flown covers based on getting Hungarian control back, albeit briefly.

But that implies a link between the two names, either linguistic or geographical for which I have no evidence. My other historical gazetteer of Hungary quotes TAKSONY as an alternative version of TAKSONYFALVA anyway. I think we have a cover which seems odd. If it originates in the Bratislava region, why Hungarian stamps and postmarks, and why 1939. If it was in the Ukraine border region the postmark seems odd. Thus there was no explanatory caption on page 26. I shall be pleased if I have given any clues you yourself can take forward.



J.A. Cover:
dated 25th
April 1939
received in
Rotterdam on
28th April

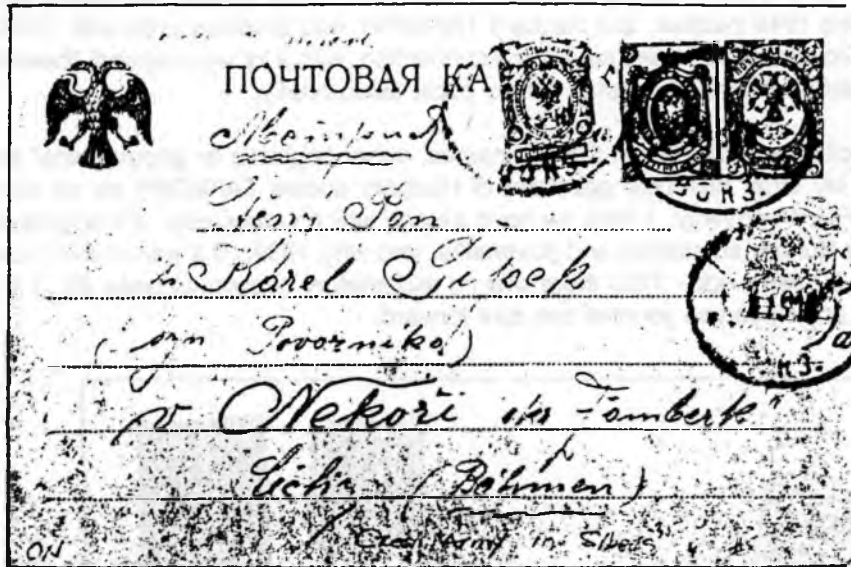
C.W.S. Cover dated
11th April 1939,
received in Rotterdam
14th April.



From Alec Page: The Slovakia Monograph 15, page 343 records post office at POZONY-TAKSONY changed in 1911 to TAKSONYFALVA after administration changed to CSR. Czech Monograph 16 II page 254, the 1920-1938 name becomes TAKŠOŇ [Cancellation 1918-20 Taksony Falva]. Czech Monograph 17 II confirms above to 1938 on page 324. On page 151 in Mervyn Benford's book Taksonyfalva is shown as Hungarian with alternative name as Taksan. Conclusions - that TAKSONY certainly in the greater Bratislava area but I cannot find any reference in the Czech Autoatlas (1963) or on the map. Likewise no reference in the latest "PALLAS" guide 1991 [an excellent tourist reference book published as one of a series by PALLAS ATHENE, 59 Linden Gardens, London W2 4HJ, published price £15.95].

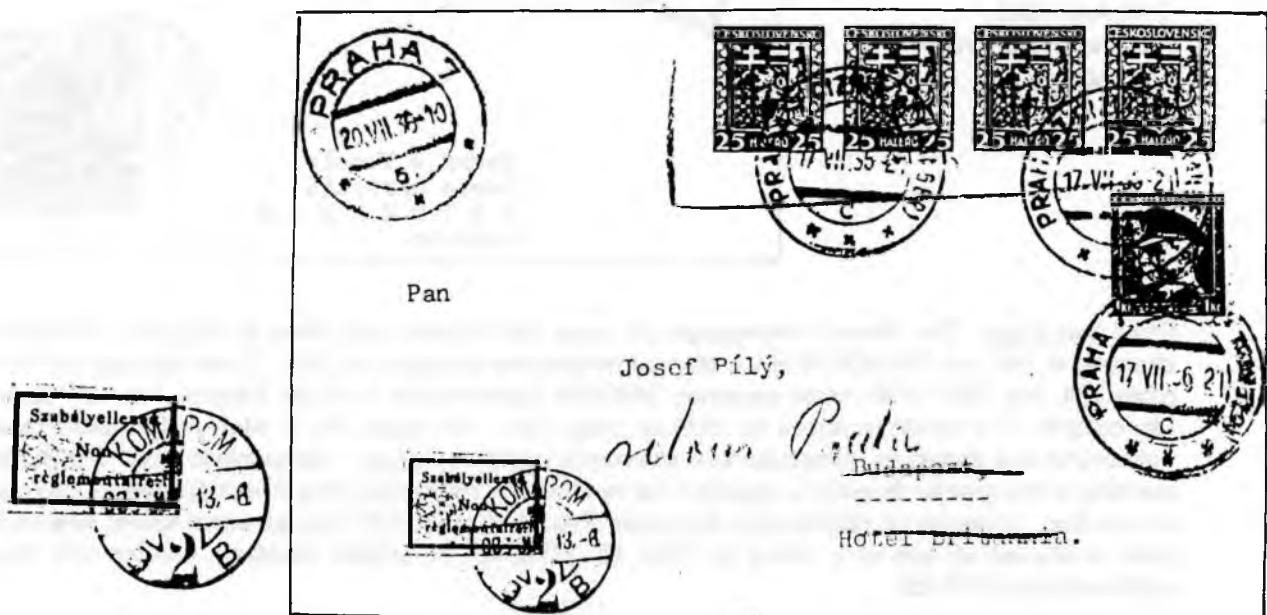
Another query from Jim Ansell: This relates to a Russian 5K brown postal stationery card which I obtained by auction, and it was described as Army in Siberia. It is clearly dated both in manuscript >

and by the unidentified Russian Station postmark, 21.3.1918. The stamps added to the card are SG 107A, 110A, and 115dB. I have found it difficult to identify as it is written in pencil, the reverse of the card has what appears to be Ruckr 21/3 written in the top right hand corner.



From Chris Proctor: I have a cover from Praha 7 dated 17 July 1936 to Hungary, which hopefully someone can identify for me, it was one of three from the same source, all of which have been treated in the same way. The 4 x 25h stamps of the 1929 Arms issue are boxed with blue crayon, although the 1k Masaryk has not been treated thus, so presumably this cover was returned because the stamps were disallowed? There is a Praha arrival datestamp of 20 July 1936, and a green on white label with the Hungarian & French wording "Szabalyellen-s Non réglementaire" cancelled with a datestamp of KOMAROM 18 Jul 36 B2B. The covers apparently never reached Budapest, being returned from the border town of Komárom.

I asked David Williams, Editor of the Hungarian PS of GB Journal, who informed me that this label was unknown to him, and further inquiries amongst their members produced no further information on either the label, or why the covers had been returned to Czechoslovakia.



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.

25.6.97 DEFINITIVE - HISTORIC BUILDING STYLES - CUBISM



Designer: Jan Solpera Engraver: Bohumil Šneider

Printing: Rotary recess with photogravure in brown and blue in sheets of 100 stamps at 12.60Kč each. Stamp size 19x23mm.

Design: A characteristic Cubistic style window surrounded by a radial decoration with the text 'Kubismus'. There was no FDC.

25.6.97 ANNIVERSARIES OF PERSONALITIES - FRANTIŠEK KŘIŽÍK



Designer: Jan Krejčí Engraver: Martin Srb

Printing: Rotary recess with photogravure in blue, ochre, pink and red in sheets of 50 at 6Kč each. Stamp size 40x23mm.

Design: Křižík's portrait with marginal text inscription of his name and birth/death dates. A drawing of an arc lamp completes the design. Křižík was an electrical engineer and constructed the first electric tramway from Letná to Stromovka in Prague 1891 and the intercity electric tramway Tábor to Bechyně 1902.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in blue with commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet shows Křižík's 'electromobile' with a driver and passengers with Prague Castle in the background.

27.8.97 EUROPEAN SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Designer: Ladislav Kuklík Engraver: Miloš Ondráček

Printing: Rotary recess with photogravure in black-brown, ochre and blue in sheets of 50 at 11Kč each. Stamp size 40x23mm.

Design: A free-style swimmer with marginal inscription in Czech European Swimming and Diving Championships Praha 1997.

FDC printed recess from flat plates in black with commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet shows a diver.

POSTAL STATIONERY

7.5.97 Promotional postcard with imprinted 4Kč postage rate (as shown Czechout 2/97 page 50) for Na Posta 97 held in Stuttgart 7-11 May 1997.

- 1) NIB The postcard issue 26/3/97 for current postal use with Praga 98 logo in postage rate design has a thermal posthorn between the sender's post code box and recipient's address. The posthorn 'disappears' on contact with heat e.g. a finger.
- 2) Israel issued two stamps on 30/4/97 which have the same design as those issued in Czech Republic on 30/4/97. (Jewish Monuments in Prague. >

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

October(?) 1996

DEATH OF JOZEF KOSTKA

The Art issue 9Sk of 31/12/93 was reissued in vertical strips of two with a marginal facsimile signature of Jozef Kostka with dates 1912-1996. No information has been received about this re-issue.

12.6.97

FOLK FESTIVAL VÝCHODNÁ



Designer: Sibyla Greinerová **Graphic Artist:** Martin Činovský **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik

Printing: Rotary recess with recess printing. Block size 66x80mm with stamp size 23x40mm.

Design: A dancing couple in folk costume. The stamp has the head and body of the couple with the drawing continued onto the block margin.

The Festival has been held annually at Východná since 1953 and was this year held from 4-6 July. Many aspects of folk culture and traditions are represented.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in blue has a Východná commemorative cancellation. The cachet is a dancing couple in folk costume.

12.7.97

SPLENDOURS OF OUR HOMELAND



Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský

Printing: Recess printing from flat plates in sheets of 8 (4 x 6Sk and 4 x 8Sk) with central margin bearing symbol of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Stamp size 40x23mm.

Design: 6Sk Domica Cavern. Stamp shows limestone formations from the cave. The cave has been opened since 1932 but was discovered in 1926 and forms part of a system 21km long. Much evidence of neolithic man inhabiting the caves has been found.

FDC: engraved by Arnold Felce from a design by Martin Činovský printed from flat plates in brown has a commemorative cancellation of a cave system from Dlhá Ves. The cachet shows stalagmite and otalactite formations from the cave.

8Sk Aragonite Cavern of Ochtiná. Stamp shows a characteristic aragonite formation from the cave system. The cave was opened in 1972 but was discovered by miners excavating a gallery in 1954.

FDC: designed and engraved as 6Sk but printed dark-green with a commemorative Ochtiná cancellation. The cachet shows a typical crystalline aragonite (type of limestone) formation found in the caves.

21.6.97

TRIENNIAL OF NAIVE (POPULAR/FOLK ART)

Designer: Pavel Blazó **Engraver:** Václav Fajt.

Printing: Rotary recess with recess in sheets of 50 at 3Sk each. Stamp size 23x40mm.

Design: From an original work in oil by Martin Jonáš entitled 'Dance' in SNG Bratislava.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in green with a Bratislava cancellation. The cancellation is taken from the drawing of O.Šteberl 'Bride'. The cachet is from a work by the same artist entitled 'Walking'. Both works are in the SNG Bratislava.

17.7.97

WORLD YEAR OF SLOVAKS

Designer: Igor Rumanský **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik

Printing: Rotary recess combined with recess in sheets of 50 stamps at 9Sk each. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: An allegoric figure on a background outline of the Slovak Republic with coat of arms of the Republic.

The World Year of Slovaks was declared on July 17 1997 and will run until 19.9.98 with the aim to promote world awareness of the nation and all aspects of its culture and history.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates with commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet is an allegoric drawing of 2 figures.

17.7.97

DEFINITIVE: MARTIN

Designer and Engraver: František Horniak

Printing: Rotary recess combined with recess in sheets of 100 pieces at 7Sk each. Stamp size 19x23mm.

Design: The church of St.Martin with town coat of arms. The oldest settlements in the Martin district have been identified from the late Stone Age. The oldest building is the Gothic church built before 1284 but consecrated by St.Martin who gave his name to the town. The town is an important centre for Slovak culture and national life.

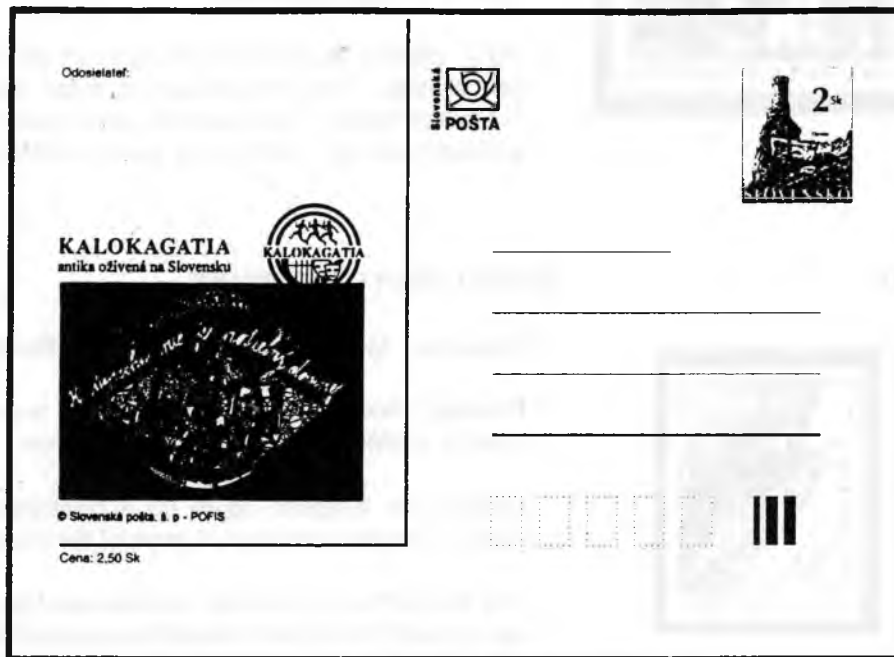
FDC printed offset by Gerthoffer Typography Printing House, Zohor. The commemorative Martin cancellation is from a 10-12th century silver ring found in the district. The cachet is a detail from the Gothic frescoes of the church showing the knight Donč followed by his wife.

POSTAL STATIONERY

31.1.97

Promotional Postcard - Kalokagatia

Cachet in lower left shows the emblem of Kalokagatia above a rectangular allegoric opened eye design. The imprinted 2Sk postage rate design is a view of the medieval fortified castle and later 17th century castle at Devin. Selling price of card 2.50Sk.



STOP PRESS

Notification received from:

The Joint Working Group on International Affairs of The British Philatelic Trust
Dr Alan K Huggins MBE RDP FRPSL : Chairman

The Union of Czech Philatelists is organising an International Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1998 at the National Art Gallery and Postal Museum from 10-13 September 1998. This Exhibition is open to the Member Federations of FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic Associations) and exhibitors wishing to participate should contact the UK Commissioner for this event Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, LS15 9BW for further details and entry forms.

The Hon Secretary, Rex Dixon, advises members that the Bi-annual Kay Goodman Competition will be held on Saturday 10 January 1998, and looks forward to members preparing entries for this competition.

Several members have enquired about Society Ties recently. We are now able to announce that a further batch of 36 are being prepared and might be ready in time for the September meeting. If not they will be available from our Hon. Treasurer, Bob Kingsley. The price will be £7.50 each or £8 including p & p. We thank Yvonne Gren for arranging this for us.

We offer our congratulations to member J.L. Klein who won a Gold medal for his entry of the Postal History of the Kingdom of Bohemia at NORWEX '97. [*The London Philatelist* July-August 1997]