



CZECHOUT

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

DECEMBER 1998

ISSN 0142-3525

Whole No. 93 Vol.16 No.4 Editor:

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NOTES

We enclose with this journal the annual subscription form, AGM minutes, annual accounts and programme card for 1999. The annual index for this volume will be sent out with the March issue of *Czechout*, as usual with the bi-annual up-date to the Society Handbook

Members are reminded that at the first meeting on 16 January Mrs Yvonne Wheatley will be displaying on the subject Miscellany! On 6 March we shall hold the Francis Pettitt & George Pearson Competitions (see handbook for regulations) and members are invited to bring material relating to *Czechoslovak Forces*, for the afternoon's display.

The Editor thanks the Society members most sincerely for awarding him Life Membership at the AGM. With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the Editorial team.

Opinions expressed in articles in Czechout are the sole responsibility of the author(s), and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Society.

NEWS & NOTICES

Meeting of Saturday 7 November 1998

The New Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 22 members to the Society Auction held in the Czech & Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm. Apologies had been received from four members.

There being no Society business he handed the meeting over to the Society Auctioneer, Roger Morrell, conducting his first auction for the Society. He was assisted at the top table by Robert Hill, the Hon Auction Secretary, and Robert Kingsley and Bob Bradford, the outgoing and incoming Hon Treasurers. Dr Garth Taylor acted as 'runner'. Less than two thirds of the 300 lots on offer were sold, despite a good number of postal bids. The result was disappointing.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at about 4.45 pm.

The following is an extract from the AGM minutes:

The Hon Secretary gave details of three prospective new members:

Byron Jones, from Bromsgrove

James Fulton, from Coatbridge

Dr Jan Dobrovolný, from Pardubice

whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

Rex A Dixon

Joint Meeting with the Austrian SC, the Hungarian PS of GB and the Society of Polish Philately in GB, Heaton Royds, Bradford, Saturday 29 May 1999.

Following the success of the joint meeting in May this year a similar meeting has been arranged for 1999. The format will be the same with members displays of material of interest to the other societies represented. The event is possible thanks to the hospitality offered by Stephen and Judith Holder at their home in Bradford, West Yorkshire. For further details and to reserve a place please contact Yvonne Wheatley at Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS15 9BW. Tel: 0113 260 1978 (home).

Midpex '99: Tile Hill, Coventry on Saturday 3 July.

The Society will be having a table again at this Specialist Society event. Further details will appear in the March *Czechout*.

Club weekend in Leamington Spa, 1-3 October 1999

Following on from the success of the Society's first residential weekend in 1997, the Society is arranging a second one at the Manor House Hotel near the centre of Leamington Spa, from evening dinner on Friday 1 October to lunchtime on Sunday 3 October. A full programme of entertainment is being arranged, with both philatelic activities and opportunities to visit the many attractions in the neighbourhood. Leamington itself has connections with the exiled Czechoslovak forces during the last war, whilst nearby Warwick and Stratford offer many opportunities – details of the trips that will be offered have not yet been finalised.

The estimated package price is £90.00 per person. This includes dinner, bed & breakfast for both Friday and Saturday nights, and a buffet lunch on Saturday. It also includes the use throughout of a meeting room. But it excludes any costs in connection with trips away from the hotel. Sunday lunch is extra, at £9.95.

If you are interested in joining the Society in Leamington, it would assist the organiser, Dr Garth Taylor, if you were to complete and return the enclosed slip together with a deposit of £15.00 per person. **DO IT NOW BEFORE** Christmas and the New Year drive it from your mind. At this stage, you won't have finally committed yourself. Organiser: Dr Garth Taylor, 2 Penfold Close, The Green, Hathern, Loughborough, LE12 5LS. Tel: 01509 843575.

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Congratulations

To **Brian & Betty Day** on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 9 October, and it was good to see Brian back at the last meeting after recent hospitalisation; also **Fred & Yvonne Gren** on their 25th Wedding Anniversary on 22 August. The following members won awards at recent exhibitions:

PRAGA '98: **Richard Beith** Large Vermeil *The Effects of the Civil War on Spanish Airmail routes 1936-39*; **Brian Day** Bronze *The Sokols in Philately*; **Hans van Dooremalen** Large Vermeil *Postal History of Brno 1638-1869*; **Ernst Gorge** Large Silver *T.G.Masaryk 1920-27*; Silver bronze *Allegory 1920-39*; **Otto Hornung** Large Vermeil *Carpatho-Ukraine*; Silver bronze *World War 2 Czech Government Troops: The Missing Link in Italy*; **Johan L Klein** Large Gold, Prix National & Special prize *Czechoslovakia 1918-38*; Large Gold & Special prize *The Postal History of the Kingdom of Bohemia*; **Geoffrey McAuley** Large Vermeil Special prize *Kde domov můj? Where is my home?*; **Juan Page** Large Silver *Transcarpathian & Ukraine*; **Jaroslav Verner** Gold *Czechoslovakia 1918-38*; Large Vermeil *Czechoslovak Field Post in France, Italy & Slovakia*.

ITALIA Milan '98: The following members exhibited but we do not have details of their awards. Richard Beith, Otto Hornung and Geoffrey McAuley.

Brighton & Hove '98: **Brian Day** Silver Bronze *The Sokols in Philately*; **Vladimír Králíček & W Alec Page** Silver Bronze 25 Anniversary of Independence. Monographs 10/11.

Letters to the Editor

Richard Beith will be giving his multi-part display "A Czech and Slovak Evening" at the following Societies: 9.02.99: Heswell & Dist.PS, 7.30 pm, Primary Hall, Methodist Church, Telegraph Road, Heswell, Wirral; 12.03.99 Aberconwy PS, 7.00 pm, English Presbyterian Church, Victoria Drive, Llandudno; 24.03.99 Chester & Dist.PS, 7.30 pm, St.Thomas of Canterbury Hall, Parkgate Road, Chester; 13.04.99 South Manchester PS, 7.45 pm, St.Mary's Church Hall, Handforth, Cheshire. On 17.04.99 Richard is displaying his "Czech & Slovak Airmails to 1941" to the South Coast group of the British Aerophilatelic Federation, 2.15 pm, East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane.

Dales Philatelic (Dick Brand) of Post Office Box 2, Masham, North Yorkshire, HG4 4DX, writes offering a stamp approval service including a good stock of earlier Czechoslovak stamps and covers; **John Barefoot Ltd**, PO Box 8, York, YO30 7GL, has issued a new list of Czechoslovak stamps and postal history.

Roy Dehn has written a most complimentary letter to the editor following the publication of his article in the last issue. It is nice to receive compliments! Thank you Roy for your contributions to the journal and congratulations on your new book on the Stamps and Postal History of Fiume.

Eckart H.Dissen has now published his monograph on "The Czechoslovak Issues for the New York World's Fair 1939 & 1940" It is available in three versions A: A4 size, hardbound cover, with two original sheets of 1939 enclosed, £55.00 + Reg.p/p £5 extra; B: A4 size, hardbound cover, with one original sheet of 1939 enclosed, £26.00 + R p/p £5 extra; C: A5 size, to be published October/November 1998, £17.00 + p/p £3 extra. From E=mc² Publishers, Post Office Box 11514, 1001 GM Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Bob Hill writes " I have just loaded into my Lap Top a marvellous piece of software called YAP 4.0. It translates Czech-English, English-Czech, Czech-German and German-Czech. All you do is select the dictionary, key in the word and the translation is instantaneous. The instructions are in Czech, but it will be obvious to every Windows user what is going on – or you can use the translator to interpret the commands! My colleagues in Pardubice obtained this for me at the modest price of 1800 Kč. It is sold by Adicom CZ. Na nivách 18, 14100 Praha 4, Czech Republic."

Bob also writes "That, effective midnight Sunday 22 November 1998, full UK passport holders no longer need visas for the Slovak Republic. Non-UK passport holders should inquire from the Slovak Embassy, London. 10 am – 1230 pm Monday to Friday cost £11.00. Slovak Embassy, Praha. All working hours. Cost 2.000 Kčs Brečlav-Kuti border on demand, cost 2,000Sk."

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Mr Milan Polák, Pisecká 15, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic, who is an owner of a small publishing business, wishes to correspond and exchange Czech material for Great Britain. He is an advanced collector of his own country but a beginner in Great Britain, having some Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth stamps and covers. Mr Polák has sent some material which a member may find useful, any member wishing to exchange with him, please contact the Editor for these items.

Publications

We have received the following journals which will be available from the Society Library. Items of interest to members are:

- The September issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 30, Whole No 117 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ List of articles on Czech philately and Postal History (Then); Postal Items from PRAGA 98 (Cermak & Last); Reconstruction of Plates 1 & 2 of the 20h Hradčany stamp (Hamr & Vuhsem).
- The Sep/Oct & Nov/Dec issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 60, Whole No 551/552, Nos 5/6; by courtesy of Lindy Knight. The articles include:
 - ▶ Postal Operations in the Czech Republic after the breakup of Czechoslovakia (Kunc); The 1944 Chust Overprint (Holoubek); Hradčany 15h-what's the shade? (Pittermann); Carpatho-Ukraine's Private Yasina [Jasina] stamp issues of 1939 (Kuzych); Plate varieties in the Protectorate First Red Cross issue (Vostatek); TGM 1925 60h stamp, red violet, on parchment paper (Karásek); Sport under Red Flags [update] (Miskevich). Another forged Czech stamp to defraud the post office (Valeš)
 - ▶ Currency Control/Examination of Mail in Bohemia & Moravia, 1939 (Miskevich); Kroměříž (Viček); The Scarcest Stamps of Czechoslovakia (Klein).
- The 4/98 issue of *Merkur Review*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ Postage stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine 1945 (Holoubek); Riddle of a Post Office Box 252 New York (Palkoska).

As we have mentioned previously we are now receiving *Dylišans*, the journal of the Society for Polish Philately in Great Britain. Where there is an appropriate article we shall bring this to the attention of our members, and this journal may be borrowed from our Society Library; along with the other Society journals with whom we have exchange arrangements: e.g. Austria [whom we congratulate upon their Golden Jubilee], and Hungary arising from our several enjoyable and useful joint meetings.

OBITUARIES

Vincent R Jourdan, Life Member

Through the perseverance of Rex Dixon and Bob Hill, in searching for information, we sadly learnt that Vincent had died on 16 February 1995, in Arncliffe Court Nursing Home where he had lived for some years. It was in *Stamp Collecting's* "W.E.FYNDEM" column of 24 August 1951 that Vincent placed an announcement about the possibility of forming a "Czech Exchange Club", and in November of that year the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain was reborn. He commenced exchange packets, and a study circle dossier for members to contribute their researches. Vincent held the office of Hon Secretary and Sales Superintendent from 1951 to 1953, when the London area group of members put the Society on a formal basis. Owing to family illness and business commitments, he resigned from office, and in 1955 the Society made him a Life Member.

Vincent Jourdan was a past President of the Liverpool PS and the Merseyside PS [1969-70] and continued to offer his services as Auditor until 1981. For many years until it was amalgamated, he was Hon Secretary of the British Registration Label Society. Vincent's interests were many and varied >

including stamps and covers, first day covers, cheese labels, cigarette cards, registration and baggage labels, according to his daughter Patricia filling every available space in the house! He had innumerable correspondents, particularly in Europe, and his desk was always piled high with letters and stamp magazines. When Vincent had to move into the Arncliffe, his good friend and colleague Jim Cowley, organised the disposal of his extensive collections apart from the Great Britain FDC's and PDQ's which he maintained until the end. The Society will always be indebted to Vincent for arousing interest in Czechoslovakia and rekindling the Society after its period of inactivity for eight years. Also for his personal interest over the years and his contribution of an article in 1987. We thank Patricia Jourdan and Jim Cowley for their assistance towards this tribute.

Alfred A. Buttery

We were sorry to hear of the death of Alfred Buttery on 1 August. Although Alfred was unable to attend Society meetings, he had a great love of Czechoslovakia and its stamps, visiting Prague on two occasions, discovering the city and also its stamp shops! Alfred spent many years working in the philatelic firm of David Field Ltd of Mayfair until its closure. His knowledge and memory for detail was phenomenal as was his integrity and interest. Alfred spent his last years as a stamp consultant to old clients, friends, acquaintances and their contacts. Alfred's wife, Edna, said that the membership of the Society and its publications gave him much pleasure. We send our sincere condolences to Edna.

Michael Richard Elliott, ARIBA, FRPSL

It is sad to recall that just as Michael was beginning to look forward to assuming the office of President of the German & Colonies PS and the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, his sudden death on 17 September robbed philately of his expertise, guidance and leadership. I first met Michael to converse with in 1979 when I was invited by the Brighton & Hove PS to judge their society competitions. His display of Bosnia & Herzegovina was attractive in its lay-out, well researched and I had no hesitation in giving it the particular award. I discovered Michael was a partner with a Brighton firm of architect's [David Bennis Partnership], a member of the Rotary movement, and lectured on Jazz [although he had a wide taste in music as his memorial service proved]. Michael at that time was involved with both the Brighton & Hove PS and the Lewes PS, as well as the Association of Austrian Philatelists, Germany & Colonies, and the British Society of Russian Philately. These philatelic interests coincided with his great love of history, of which he had a wide knowledge.

It was the downturn in the construction industry in the late 1980's which changed his lifestyle, and it gave him the opportunity to devote many spare hours to philately. Michael was by then very active in a number of other societies including the Society of Postal Historians, the France & Colonies PS, the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, the Worthing Society of Postal Historians, as well as the Czech PS. in which Michael was a committee member for the period of 1991 to 1994, and but for the sudden change in circumstances would no doubt have gone on to higher office in the society. But there is a true saying "That when one door closes another one opens" – and it was national philately which was in the doldrums following the collapse of the British Philatelic Federation.

With a number of other collectors he guided with enthusiasm the founding of the Association of British Philatelic Societies, and his work as Chairman of both the steering committee and latterly of the management committee, ensured that we now have a strong national body in this country. Michael will be remembered for the two exhibitions which he inspired, the Newcastle '96 and the recent Brighton & Hove '98, which would have been very much his pride and joy.

In 1985 Michael had joined the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and was elected a fellow in 1994, and in his capacity as an architect was advising on their building improvement campaign. Michael was a easy-going fellow, never spoke ill of anyone, but had a love of life, enjoying and sharing his experiences and knowledge, without forcing it on to anyone. He devoted himself to the service of others, whether through his profession, philately or rotary, and when he had through unforeseen circumstances to dispose of his varied collections, never be-moaned his fate but took it in his stride and got on with the tasks he had undertaken. We shall all miss his friendship and expertise, and send our condolences to Jeannie and Simeon.

CWS

BOOK REVIEW

Sellos y Sobrecargas Revolucionarias Checoslovaquia 1944 1945
Revolutionary Stamps and Overprints Czechoslovakia 1944 1945
 Juan Santa Eugenia Grau, Barcelona

This 225 page hardback book, in five languages and with mainly coloured illustrations is a vast improvement on the previous five editions as it has been thoroughly revised in order to correct the many typographical and few grammatical errors. It was produced to coincide with Praga 98 where it was entered in the literature category.

It is split into logical sections:

1. A copy of a letter from the President's office at Hradčany
2. Introduction
3. List of awards won by previous publications
4. An alphabetical list of locations which issued overprints – in colour
Adamov (page 14)– Žitava (page 112)
5. Alphabetical index by location
6. Alphabetical and Symbolic index by stamp
7. Handwritten overprint index
8. Souvenir sheets – in colour
9. A selection of Postally used covers – in colour
10. Unknown overprints – partly in colour
11. Cross Reference to Yvert et Tellier, Zumstein, Michel and Scott
12. Fantasy and fraudulent overprint – partly in colour
13. Basic translator: Spanish, Czech, French, English and German

When my copy arrived I was surprised at the difference the colour illustrations make, it is simply so much easier to use. In his covering letter to me, Señor Grau says he is already preparing the next edition and specifically wants colour photocopies of any covers, especially those with supporting documentation. Any offers – please contact me.

Bob Hill

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY VISIT TO PRAGA'98

- Barry Horne FRPSL-

Twenty-three people – members, wives and husbands, met at Heathrow Terminal One on Monday 7th September for the Prague flight, George Firmage was in control; having issued our tickets we booked in and free of our luggage were able to explore the shops and duty free, before boarding the plane.

On arrival in Prague we were ushered by George and his friend Zdenek Prokop to a pre-booked bus which took us to our lodgings for the week. This was the Wertheim Pension at Bila Hora, to the west of Prague and at a tram terminus. Comfortable, clean and quiet we all felt that George had made an excellent choice for our stay, We were welcomed not only by the owners, but also by another member staying there Fred Backeljauw, who had taken 11 hours to drive from Antwerp, but was still able to come out with some of us to find a restaurant to get food and drink (or was that the other way about!)

Tuesday and Wednesday we spent on various visits, including the National Gallery, the Municipal House in Prague where unfortunately the Mayor's Parlour was closed, Alphons Mucha exhibition, Prague Castle, St.Vitus' Cathedral, Golden Lane, Charles Bridge, Wenceslas Square, and much else besides. All this with the party travelling via the trams or underground – an excellent and cheap way to get about.

Thursday saw the opening of Praga '98 and with our tickets to the fore we managed with a struggle to get through the crowds queuing for tickets at the turnstiles. A large stand for the Czech Post Office was always busy with long queues. No dealers at the show except for literature, album and accessory suppliers. The displays were in a large, light and airy hall, and while I found many very interesting >

things to see I felt that the frames had been placed so very close together, it was difficult to view properly because of the jostling caused by the numbers trying to view. It must have been constraints of cost, for ideally the exhibits should have been spread into a second hall with wider spaces to make viewing so much easier. Apart from that small quibble I think the Exhibition was a great success. On the Wednesday a number of our members were invited to the American S C P dinner, organised by Jerry Verner, and had a pleasant evening.

Thursday evening saw the Society Dinner, at a restaurant a short walk from our Pension (I stress "walk" for Fred Gren decided to walk back to Wertheim Pension, and made it before the tram came!) We met up with many old friends and made new ones. There were too many there to name all but I mention that the evening was chaired by Robert Kingsley and we saw Jane Sterba and party, Lou Svoboda and party and Tom Morovics and his wife. Several members had invited guests; Janet and I were very pleased to have friends from Pilsen, Libor and Hana Boula, who we met for the first time on Tuesday, although we have been writing and exchanging stamps for at least 12 years.

Friday morning we had a rare treat; 33 people were allowed to visit Josef Herčík's studio. We saw some wonderful items and were each presented with a folder with signed engravings. We bought books about the engraver which he graciously signed. Following this we drove into Prague, had lunch and visited the Postal Museum, for the display of the Literature exhibits, and also looked at their library.

While all this was going on there was a bourse being held about 10 minutes walk from the main exhibition at the Trade Hall. Most of us managed at least one visit, and made some very good purchases. It was crowded and hot; most tables were taken by dealers with a few collectors, with items to sell. Prices on the whole were very reasonable, and sometimes very cheap, but I thought that some of the German dealers were expensive. Everyone was very helpful, language was not a problem, for most spoke English. I think Tom Morovics had a good Exhibition; he had two girls in the Main Exhibition hall handing out leaflets showing where his new shop could be found, When we were there hoards of collectors were filling the shop, and although he had extra staff they were being rushed off their feet. He does provide an excellent cup of coffee!

Saturday followed the same pattern; by then some of our wives had learnt the ropes and were doing their own thing, via tram and underground, shopping, lunching, sightseeing etc. Sunday was a free day, with nothing planned; we were collected at 9.30am by our friends and taken to Pilsen for the day, arriving back at the pension with five minutes to spare for the 5pm departure of the coach to the airport; everyone loaded up with purchases, books and new catalogues, but happy.

A most enjoyable trip, that went by all too quickly. We all owe Brian Day and George Firmage (and his friend Zdenek Prokop) a very big thank you for all the hard work and organising they did to make the visit such a resounding success. Is it just talk or may we be going to Bratislava next year?

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON PRAGA'98

- Bob Hill -

I arrived in Praha on Friday 10th September and travelled by train to Kolín, my domicile for this stay. The accommodation had been booked through Čedok and as my Czech friend would say "it was nothing extra".

The first excursion was to Brno on the Sunday – to find the centre of the city littered with poor souls taking part in a triathlon. Monday found me at the stop halfway up the cable car on the outskirts of Praha having an excellent lunch with Bill Dawson, the next day I was in the company of Tom Cossaboom for a visit to fellow member Tom Morovic's stamp shop – unfortunately I missed a lunch date with Bob Kingsley. Wednesday found me up the Pink Mountain in Pec and I managed to miss the American Society's dinner as I had recorded it in my diary for the Friday.

Thursday was the first day of the exhibition and the train was diverted and very late – fortunately I managed to bump into Bob Kingsley and get the entrance tickets but kept poor old Bill Dawson waiting for the train to arrive. The evening saw the Society dinner which was well attended and I was able to make some fitting apologies. It was a very late train back to Kolín and a lie in bed of the morning which meant I missed the visit to Herčík's workshop.

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On the Saturday I had a cunning plan – there was a bourse in Kolín from 0730 thru 1200 at Ekonom Skola. Nearly everyone else would go to Praga 98, so I would go to this. I have no doubt it took place, ask as I might I just could not find it.

More work, more leisure and a return to the UK on 15th September.

High Points

Ate honeyed ribs at Kolín restaurant
 Managed to eat lots of other good food
 Put lots of faces to names
 Ensured, by sampling, that the beer was very good
 Got two new members for our Society

Low Points

Missed one lunch appointment
 Missed one dinner appointment
 Could not find Kolín bourse
 Stayed too far out of Praha to
 combine business and pleasure

By the way, was I the only person who was actually disappointed by the Praga 98 exhibition. The displays were mostly superb, some were fantastic and one left me wondering. The usual large names were present but where were the dealers (yes I know they were at a remote bourse, priced away from the main exhibition) and where was the collection of mineralogy and other featured items? I am told by a local stamp dealer that the prices had been pitched so high that only 17% of the available floor space was used, can any other member confirm this?

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION PRAGA '98 BY THE BRITISH NATIONAL COMMISSIONER/NÁRODNÍ KOMISAŘI

- Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL -

When I visited Praha for the International Exhibition PRAGA '78 I vowed to go back if only to see the Town Hall clock in action striking the hour. Little did I expect to be the UK commissioner for a similar exhibition to be held 20 years later when I kept my promise. At noon on 7th September Richard and I were at Heathrow with Alan Huggins RDP, President of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) and Observer for PRAGA '98, Brian Asquith, member of the Jury and Brian Sole, Apprentice Judge with their wives and two trunks containing 13 exhibits.

Of course, there had been plenty of activity before that day. I had to encourage people to enter. This was made more difficult by the number of exhibitions now available. Sorting out the insurance was another problem. The literature exhibits were dispatched by the end of June to allow the judges time to carry out the judging. It was a relief to be able to send out the final instructions and entries envelopes to the exhibitors.

The date was fixed for the exhibitors to bring in their entries to 107 Charterhouse Street, the home of The Philatelic Trust, National Philatelic Society and Philatelic Traders Society. I was taking with me to London three exhibits and therefore chose the disguise of someone going on holiday with a trolley case. However the image was fine as far as King's Cross but was a bit incongruous in the vicinity of Smithfield market! Some exhibitors also took to disguise. Not many brought their entries in a case. A store carrier was the preferred choice. It was obvious that some exhibitors thought that only carriers of prestigious stores were a fit form of conveyance for their precious sheets – Harrods, Harvey Nicholls and the like.

Back to Heathrow. Customs clearance was easily accomplished but not so at Prague airport where our arrival was expected! There were no problems as such, just a long wait. The trip from Prague airport to the exhibition venue was the worst part of the adventure. After a lot of negotiation in the local language to ensure the cab-driver had the correct instructions, Richard, the trunks containing the material, our luggage and I climbed aboard. We were to be taken to the exhibition hall where the trunks were to be left in safe custody overnight. After depositing the exhibits the driver was to take us to our hotel.

That was the theory but in reality the driver took us direct to our hotel and started to unload our luggage and demand the fare (which had been taken care of by the organisers). I was concerned to get the trunks into safe storage so I stayed with them in the back of the cab and away we went. Richard raised the alarm at the hotel. The thoughts that went through my head would have made interesting reading >

more like a horror novel. I knew the driver was dubious and he knew the contents of the trunks were valuable. If trouble came I could not lift one trunk – let alone two!

Outside the exhibition hall the driver stopped and went inside. Time passed and then a car pulled up beside the cab. To my relief I recognised the Secretary to the Jury who I had met at the airport. With him was the President of the Exhibition, they made easy work of removing the trunks to the car and we were away. Alan Huggins had 'observed' the problem and sent help.

Next morning was spent with the customs, each sheet had to be compared with the list of contents. As you can imagine it was a time consuming process. Mounting the displays was a nightmare as the frames were antiquated and with one glazier it would take for ever. Soon Commissioners and the organising committee found skills they did not know they possessed and became expert glaziers. It did not seem possible that the exhibition would open on time but all was well. It was so successful that safety regulations required the exhibition to close three times on the Saturday to reduce the size of the crowd. I was delighted to see so many members of this Society with their spouses at the exhibition. I would have liked to have joined in with the excellent programme organised by Brian Day but it was not possible to work to two schedules.

Time passed all too quickly and we were taking down the exhibits all too soon. There is always one person who causes problems. In his innocence that person was Geoff McAuley. Geoff's envelopes for his exhibit did not arrive. I had submitted his entry form and received the acceptance. When I investigated the problem, I found out I was not his commissioner because he was from Ireland. During the tedious customs inventory inspection, work stopped because the customs employee assigned to our exhibits kept showing his neighbour sheets from Geoff's collection, as he could relate to the Czech history. We were delighted that Geoff had won a special prize but hardly dared to find out what it was, as getting a crystal vase safely to Ireland was daunting. However, our fears were unfounded as Geoff won a splendid pewter salver.

Customs on the way home posed no problems. A sigh of relief when the exhibits were safely back and the journey made to Charterhouse Street to return them to their owners. A most enjoyable experience. A holiday? Not exactly! Did I see the Clock strike the hour. Yes.

PRAGUE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS AND POST OFFICES, NAMES AND NUMBERS **A rough guide**

Postal History

John L Whiteside FSPH FRPSL

Administrative Districts In the 19th century, the administrative districts of Prague began to be designated by a Roman numeral, in the same way as the districts of Vienna were described. This started with the inner city districts, then later in the century and beyond, other numbers were added for other suburbs, until finally by 1922, greater Prague comprised 19 districts. An address in Prague thus normally has a Roman number after it, e.g. Praha V. As they get further from the centre, the districts become larger and larger. A list of these, with their rough areas, follows:

I = Staré Město	VIII = Libeň	XV = Podolí-Bráník
II = Nové Město	IX = Vysočany	XVI = Smíchov
III = Malá Strana	X = Karlín	XVII = Košíře
IV = Hradčany	XI = Žižkov	XVIII = Břevnov-Střešovice
V = Josefov	XII = Vinohrady	XIX = Dejvice-Bubeneč
VI = Vyšehrad	XIII = Vršovice-Strašnice	
VII = Holešovice-Bubna	XIV = Nusle-Pankrác-Michle	

To appreciate these, a map of Prague during the First Republic period is useful. A good one known to me is in Král's Guide to the Czech Republic, published by Čedok in 1928.

Post Offices – Names and Numbers The most important change to the way post offices (and postmarks) in Prague were described took place on 17 February 1896. Different offices in a town or city were to be differentiated by the allocation of a number and different datestamps were allocated an >

individual code, either a letter or a number and letter. This was following the practice of the German Empire which they had adopted on 1 July 1875. Trials of code letters were made in Prague from 1892.

From 17 February 1896, Prague was considered to be the districts I to VII outlined above and so there were now 15 numbered offices within them which had been differentiated by various names of areas, streets or stations. In 1902 district VIII, Libeň, was considered to be in Prague, becoming Praha 22. Between 1896 and independence in October 1918, other offices were opened in these districts, so that the numbered offices had reached Praha 27. Full details of the history of these offices and the different postmarks employed can be found in Monografie 14.

Changes in the First Republic. 1919-1939 Up to now, all the offices in the other districts of Prague were known by their place name and/or number, if there were more than one office within a place, e.g. Kral. Vinohrady 1 to 5, or Smíchov 1 to 4. It was decided that all these offices should be redescribed as Praha plus an office number. This was carried out gradually from 1919 and apparently somewhat haphazardly as the changes are not carried out in numerical order. It is probable that the allocation of numbers was pre-planned and carried out piecemeal as and when an opportunity arose.

There is thus a problem finding out quickly, which named office becomes which number. However if the name is looked up in the index of offices in monografie 17:II, a number will be found, which is the number of the book entry of that office (e.g. Troja is number 1901, or Praha 43). The renumbering of named offices and the opening of new ones meant that by the end of the First Republic in 1939, the sequence had reached Praha 89. Full details of the changes of names to numbers and of the postmarks used are to be found in Monografie 17:I.

Conclusion This is only intended to be a general survey of how Prague should be looked at and where more detailed information may be found. It does involve the use of two of the volumes in the Monografie Československých Známek series, which not all collectors have. It might therefore, perhaps be a useful exercise, if someone with an interest in Prague postal history were to use these sources and any other relevant ones, to produce a survey of all the offices from Praha 1 to Praha 89. This might provide a handy reference to the history of each office, from the date of its opening, setting out the changes in names and numbers and the dates from which these occurred.

The sources quoted should enable this to be done to provide a history up to 1939. It would be even better if any student can provide further data on the history, number changes and dates of closing of offices or opening of new ones through World War II and thereafter up to the present time.

A MODERN LITERARY CLASSIC AND ITS PHILATELIC CONNECTIONS

- W.Alec Page FR SPL -

Writer's Introduction. The following narrative has been prepared, drawing widely on a lengthy article by Dr. Miroslav Vostatek of Pardubice and kindly translated by Vladimír Kralíček of Auckland, New Zealand, The article about the 91st Infantry Division (WWI) as it features in Jaroslav Hašek's well known novel "The Good Soldier Švejk". Dr. Vostatek has carried out much personal research which could form the basis of an in-depth "thematic" presentation on the novel and its characters. Any reader who may be interested in the original text, plus further illustrations not used herein may obtain a copy from the Editor (two first class stamps please to defray copying costs)

A Central Europe classic that has been translated into many languages world-wide is "The Good Soldier Švejk" by Jaroslav Hašek. The novel was developed from a series of short stories which started prior to WWI. Eventually the plan was to produce a six volume book but only four volumes were achieved before the author died in 1923. The novel is largely based on his own experiences after he was recruited into the Austrian army in 1914 and is a down to earth satire on the army, its bureaucracy and the characters with whom he became involved.

First however a little about the author. Jaroslav Hašek was born in Prague in 1883 and died in 1923 at Lipnice. He studied in Prague and became a bank clerk for a brief period. His bohemian make-up however always led him on to something else and he turned to journalism. He was recruited into the Austrian Army in 1914 and found himself with the České Budějovice Regiment 91, in Southern Bohemia. (Figure 1)

>



K.u.k. Infanterieregiment No.91
III: Marschkompanie

Figure 1

There he escaped and was taken as a Prisoner of War by the Russians – in fact he defected! His role as a P.O.W. was to function as a political commissar. During this period he left his mark and was once described as the only true Czech in the Austrian Army! (A Field Postcard has been found which bears a label in dark green 70x40mm for the 91st Regiment War Album Fund - Hašek's old regiment). (Figure 2)



Figure 2



Figure 3

His high profile has been well documented and his memory preserved in Russia and Poland. A street in Moscow is named after him and in Kyjev a memorial plaque mounted in his honour.

In 1963 the USSR issued a stamp with his portrait (Figure 3) and this followed in 1983 with a pictorial postal stationery envelope marking the centenary of his birth. The imprinted stamp depicts Lipa Castle and a mini-drawing of "Švejk", Hašek's main character in the book, as drawn by Josef Lada (Figure 4).

>

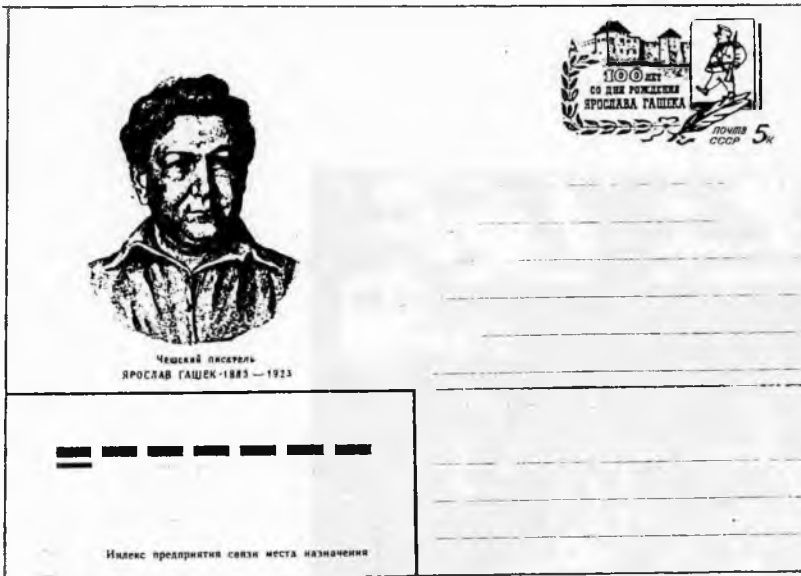


Figure 4



Figure 4 – enlarged stamp imprint

Poland has also honoured Hašek's birth centenary with a postal stationery postcard showing his portrait – issued on 18th March 1983. (Figure 5)



Figure 5

When Jaroslav Hašek returned home after the end of the war he resumed his bohemian life-style, but drew on his war experiences to produce weekly parts of "The Good Soldier Švejk" for which his friend the graphic artist Josef Lada was commissioned to illustrate the covers. It was Lada who later provided the hundreds of illustrations for the novel. Many of the characters referred to in the novel actually lived and the various communities and localities do exist.

Hašek was not forgotten in his homeland and he was honoured with portraits on two stamps. The first with the reproduction of a drawing of a sculptured bust by Josef Malejovsky as part of a "Sculptures" series of stamps issued in November 1982. Then in the following year to mark the centenary of his birth a portrait by Karel Svoboda provided a stamp in the "Celebrities Anniversaries" series issued on 27th February 1983 (Figures 6 and 7).

One cartoon-like character study drawn by Josef Lada for the book was used as part of the design of one value of the series on "Historic Artillery" issued on 31st August 1970 when the chief character "Švejk" was also "honoured. (Figure 8)

>



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

Josef Lada was born in Hrušice in 1887 and died in Prague in 1957. He was trained as a book-gilder, cartoonist, illustrator of children's books. He was also editor of the paper "Karikatury" to which Hašek contributed his stories of Švejk. Lada was also well known for his paintings, which reflected the joviality of Czech village life with which he became deeply involved. His work is most frequently encountered as designs for Easter, Christmas and New Year greetings cards. (Figure 9) His international fame emerged as a result of his drawings for the Hašek novel. The real irony of those drawings was that Hašek never saw them as they were not completed until 1924, a year after Hašek's death.

Josef Lada was also honoured as a national artist with a four-stamp issue in 1987 marking the centenary of his birth (Figure 10). He also holds pride of place in one of the stamps from the 1987 annual Art Series, which reproduces the detail from "A Bohemian Landscape" – a triptych painted in 1935 and now housed in the Prague National Gallery.



Figure 9 – Early Easter card c. 1925



Figure 10



Figure 11



"The Good Soldier Švejk"

"The Good Soldier Švejk":
 Creator & Author – Jaroslav Hašek
 Book Illustrator – Josef Lada

Long may they R.I.P.

Figure 12

Illustrations: Nos 1 to 8 provided with original text by Dr. Vostatek. Remainder by the writer.

MORE ON CZeCHoslovakia

John Whiteside writes "The "ch" group was long established in English spelling, in Scots, as in loch, and in spelling German names, for example. English abhors accents, so Č had to be transliterated somehow. On c and s, at least it might be best rendered as h, so ch, but of course that was already used for something else. This must be, I think, why the Polish "cz" was adopted. I do not know when it first began, but it must have been a very long time ago.

It seems, from the various languages that Rex details, that most had some difficulty in expressing the two different "ch" sounds. German is a very good example as "ch" in that language is always the sound as in "ich" or the Scottish "loch". The sound as in "church" does not exist in German, so while we adopted "cz," they adopted "tsch."

I do think one very significant language was not quoted – Russian. I show the Cyrillic letters and below these, what I think is the accepted transliteration current about 1920.

Russian	ЧЕХО	СЛОВАКИЯ
	ЧЕХИ	slovakiya

The key thing to note is that Cyrillic has two letters that express the two different sounds. The letter "ч" is the "ch" as in church and the letter "х", usually transliterated "kh", is like the German in "ich", but rather harsher.

Rex replies: I have had a quick look at the full Oxford English Dictionary, but couldn't make notes at the time so the following is from memory. The word "Czech" and its variants such as "Czechic" only appeared first in English in the mid 19th century. Initial spelling illustrated in examples was "TSCHeKK", a strange hybrid with a German rendering of the initial phoneme and a quirky rendering of the final phoneme. The Oxford English Dictionary failed to explain the subsequent adoption of Polish spelling - John's explanation is plausible, but were such logical thought processes ever undertaken, and by whom?

John is quite right about Russian, where their letters match the required phonemes exactly.

When I wrote what I did, it seemed unnecessarily complicated to include Cyrillic as well.

1945 LIBERATION OVERPRINT

Bohemia & Moravia

Robert J.Hill

Unknown

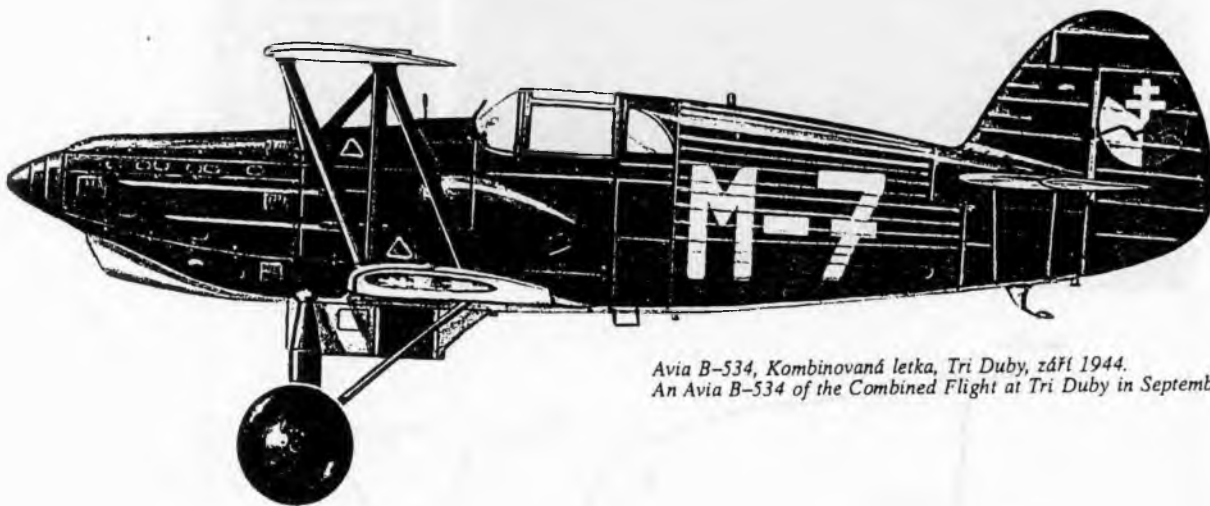
1945 Liberation Overprint



A light blue overprint on Bohemia & Moravia 30 h + 20 h SG 74 of 1942.
The plane has been identified as an Avia B-534.

The B-534 is a descendant of the Avia B-34 (designed by František Novotný) and was the basic type of fighter plane used in the Czechoslovak Air Force in the late 1930's.

The Avia B-534 was looked on as a symbol of the country's readiness to defend itself - during 1937, at an international contest in Zurich, it was placed second in all contests behind the German Messerschmitt Bf-109 fighter.



*Avia B-534, Kombinovaná letka, Tri Duby, září 1944.
An Avia B-534 of the Combined Flight at Tri Duby in September 1944*

Acknowledgments:

Richard Beith
Československé Letectví
Dr. Jan Dobrovolný
Slovenští Letci

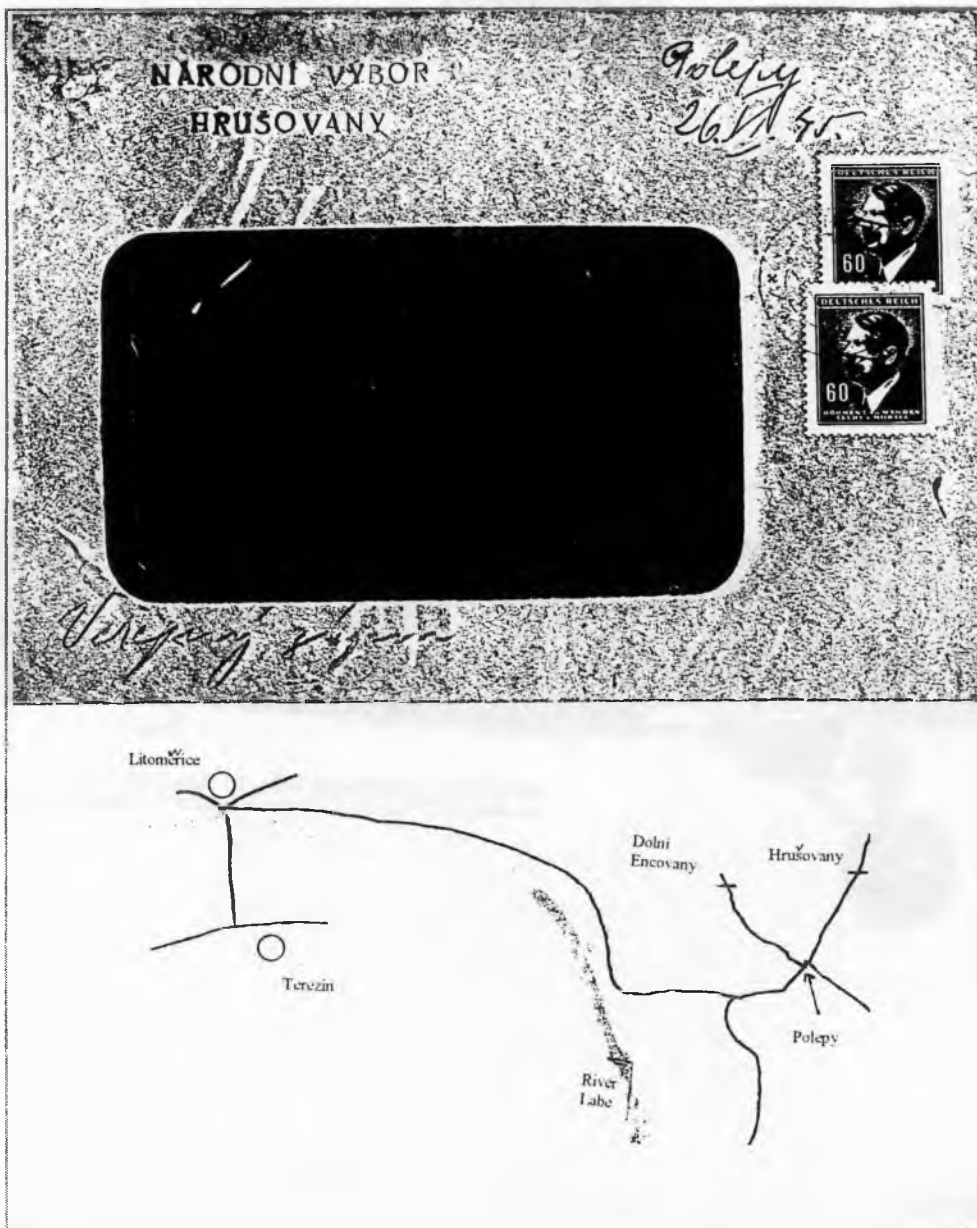
Chester
Prague Technical Museum 1988
Pardubice
Jiří Rajlich; Jiří Sehnal

A NEW LIBERATION OVERPRINT FIND – DOLNÍ ENCOVANY

-Robert J Hill-

I purchased this cover at a Pardubice bourse, initially thinking it was a variety of a Jicín overprint – but it can not be as the town of usage is so far away. This cover is a window envelope with two 60h Hitler head stamps, making up the postage of 1.20 k. The overprint on the stamps is in red and is that used in the town of Jicín without the words "Pravda zvitezila!" In the top left corner of the envelope is a rubber purple handstamp; NARODNÍ VÝBOR (National Committee) / HRUŠOVANY, the town of Hrušovany had no post office at this time.

The stamps are cancelled with a circular date stamp "DOLNÍ ENCOVANY", which is a small hamlet 70 kilometers to the east of Jicín, near the river Labe – see map. Above the stamps appears in manuscript black ink "Polepy / 26.V. 45", the town of Polepy is less than 2 kilometers from Dolní Encovany. At the bottom right appears in red crayon manuscript *Veřejný zájem* (public interest).



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 Bob Hill's query in Czechout 3/98 page 74.

From John Whiteside: The answer to his main query is to be found (or deduced from) his own excellent tables of liberation dates on pp. 63/64. Opava is shown as liberated on 22/IV/45. Krnov is not listed, but it must have been liberated not too long after this and definitely before Bruntál on 7/V/45.

The post office at Krnov, an important centre, had been transferred because of the Red Army advance, to Svitavy. This item, of post office official business, was still sent out under its correct title – Postamt Jägerndorf 1, but the coupon portion at the left has the handwritten addition "derz. Zwittau", where derz. is derzeit, or at present. Initials "Schl?" and date 3.5. are in the same hand, together with the official post office handstamp "a. 53/ Zwittau 1" at the bottom centre. One of the main uses of these handstamps was to validate Money Orders.

The amount sent is a payment of a postal employee's pension from the "Rentenstelle" or pensions' section of Jägerndorf 1, and the item is also handstamped "Postsache", or postal business, so it has been sent postage free. The fee of 60 Rpf. indicated on the back of the card has not, therefore, been charged. The handstamp "Eigenhändig" is to emphasise that payment is to be made into the addressee's hand only.

It arrived at the post office at Römerstadt on 5 May (not presented), but it either was not delivered to the addressee, or he never cashed the order, as he has not signed for the money. Rýmařov, between Bruntál and Šumperk, must have been liberated on the 8 or 9 May. To have obtained such an item used so close to liberation dates is truly remarkable.

I must make one last point – it is misleading to describe these offices as being in the Oppeln or Breslau areas, as a glance at a map will show. I am not sure of the Third Reich terminology, but in earlier parlance, Breslau and Oppeln were the "Oberpostdirektion" or Chief Administrative Offices of very large districts, each containing many post offices. They were the most important centres in the organisation and chain of command of the Ministry of Posts, but in a locational sense, they have no relevance whatsoever.

From Rex Dixon: I cannot throw light on all aspects of this query, but can make the following points.

1. Bob quotes Monograph 6 to say that Jägerndorf was "in the area of" Oppeln, implying close proximity. This is reading too much into the column headed "German Region Head P.O." Bill Dawson got the information he published from an index published by RPD Breslau of Sudetenland postal localities, with routing information, as of 10 December 1938, soon after the takeover. The corresponding column is headed "Überleitungs-RPD", and lists the Regional Postal Directorate in Germany proper through which mail should be routed to the named Sudeten locality.

This allocation of Sudeten localities to RPDs was an interim measure until the Sudetenland was fully incorporated into the Reichspost. New RPDs were established in Aussig and Karlsbad in the main north-west area of Sudetenland, and in Troppau for East Sudetenland. (The southern areas were incorporated into neighbouring RPD areas across the old border.) To use information published in autumn 1938 to understand arrangements in spring 1945 can lead to misunderstandings!

2. Römerstadt is Rýmarov, not Rýmrov as printed.

3. "Eigenhändig" means delivery to the named recipient in person, as distinct from just to the household given by the address. There would normally have been an extra fee for this service, but the item was postage free as it was sent on *official business* by a post office (endorsement "Postsache").

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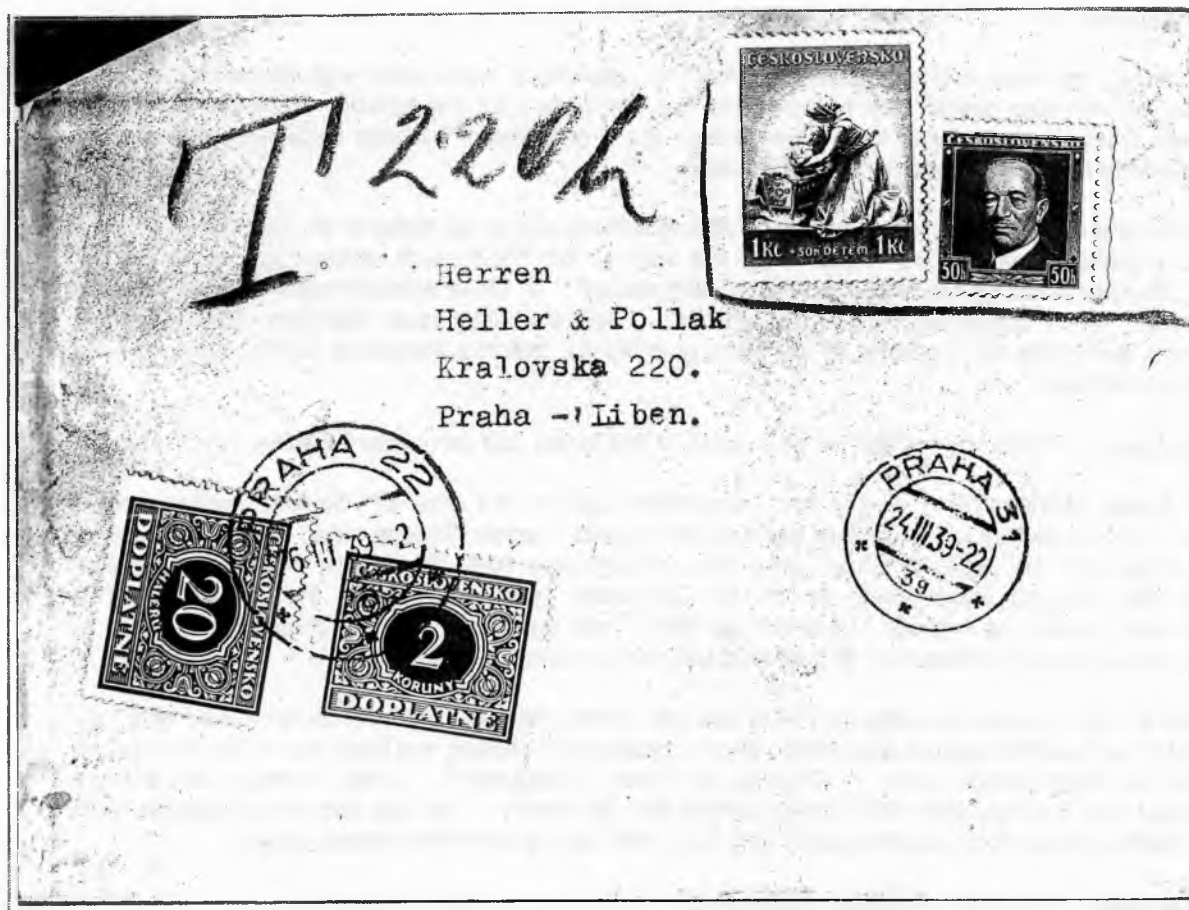
Re Graham Slater's query in Czechout 3/98 page 75

From the Editor: In an article "The Participation of Foreign Pilots in the Battle of France (May-June 1940) by V.E.Ferry, published in *Le Trait-d'Union* issue No 37 of September 1974, Section 1. The Czechs: there is mention of Sergeant Prchal in 8th Wing, 1st Squadron (1/8) credited with three certain victories. After the fall of France all the surviving pilots went to England. Sergeant Prchal, who became Flight Lieutenant in the R.A.F. (511 Squadron), would be the pilot of the Liberator AL 523 that had an accident on take-off from Gibraltar on 4 July 1943. This aircraft was carrying General Sikorski who was returning from an inspection visit in the Middle East. There has been a great deal of talk about sabotage on that occasion. Prchal was the sole survivor.

Two new queries:

From Chris Miller, Hon Secretary, Civil Censorship Study Group inquires whether anyone has information on civil censorship of Czech mail which took place in the early part of the war by Czech authorities. Replies please to the Editor.

From Clyde Ziegeler: I enclose a photocopy of an item I am bidding on at auction here in Australia. It has intrigued me, and appears that the item, sent locally within Prague – sent from Prag 31 on 24.3.39, was forwarded to Prag 22, arriving on 26.3.39. As a local cover, the postage would be 1.10k, assuming that the item weighed over 20 gm.



The stamping was not acceptable, so postage due was levied at 2 x deficiency – 2.20k. My query is - what was wrong with the two stamps totalling 1.50k?

NEW ISSUES

Lindy Knight

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

Printing R.D. = rotary die stamping combined with multicolour photogravure
 D.S. = die stamping from flat plates
 R.D.+ D.S. = combination of both techniques

1. Czech Republic

7.10.98 BEAUTIES OF OUR COUNTRY (UNESCO)



Designer: Antonín Odehnal **Engraver:** Václav Fajt
Printing: D.S. in sheets of 8 in black-brown, ochre, red, blue and green. Picture size 26x40mm
Design: 8Kč St. Barbara's Cathedral, Kutná Hora. The cathedral was built between 1388-1548 to designs of Jan Parler but completed by the Prague master builder Matyáš Rejsek and the royal architect Benedikt Rejt. At this time the city was the first after Prague by reason of its silver mines and the Royal Mint. The mine owners commissioned the cathedral and dedicated it to St. Barbara the patron saint of miners. The building is included on the UNESCO list of World Culture and Natural Heritage sites. **FDC:** printed D.S in blue-grey with commemorative cancellation. The cachet shows two silver groschen of Bohemia (obverse and reverse).
 11Kčs The Chateau of Valtice. The chateau is on the site of a Gothic castle and later Renaissance chateau. The present building (baroque) was begun in the late 17th century but not completed until the end of the 18th century. At the end of the 19th century Valtice was connected to Lednice by extensive landscaping. The whole area has been classified as a UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage

monument and includes two chateaux, communities, gardens, ponds etc. **FDC:** printed D.S. in brown with commemorative cancellation. The cachet depicts an old wine press. The chateau is famous for its wine cellars and there has been a vintner school at Valtice for many centuries.

28.10.98 80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC



Designer: Zdeněk Ziegler **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** 4.60 and 5 Kč R.D. in sheets of 50. 12.60 Kč recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 6 (with 2 labels). Picture size (all denominations) 23x40mm.

Design: based on advertising posters, postcards and graphic works of the Czech artist Voljě Preissig (b.1873 d. Dachau Concentration Camp 1944). In 1910 he took a teaching post in the U.S.A and during the 1st World War became involved with the Independence movement for a Czechoslovak Republic and was an organiser of Czech and Slovak volunteers in the U.S.A. The designs of 4.60 Kč and 5 Kč are taken from postcards to promote independence of nations from the Hapsburg Empire. The design of the 12.60Kč stamp is from the cover of an exhibition catalogue showing houses decorated with flags in the Malá Strana district of Prague with St.Nicholas church in the background. A rosette in the Czech colours with the Czech lion in the middle is in the design foreground. The upper label design is from an advertising poster and the lower label has the date 28th October 1918 in a decorative frame. (All three stamps have the text "80th Anniversary of the Founding of Czechoslovakia" in the Czech language).

FDCs: printed recess from flat plates in black, with commemorative Prague cancellations. 4.60Kč cachet is a detail from a publicity postcard issued in France showing a marching soldier. 5Kč cachet depicts a standard bearer against a background of a column of soldiers also based on a postcard design. 12.60Kč cachet design from a poster design showing flags fluttering over Prague.

18.11.98

CHRISTMAS



Designer: Zdenka Kabátová-Táborská **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** R.D. in sheets of 50 pieces in black, yellow, red, blue and ochre. Picture size 4Kč 30x23mm. 6Kč 23x30mm **Designs:** 4Kč shows a group of country folk hurrying to Bethlehem with their gifts guided by a star. 6Kč has an angel blowing a trumpet hovering over a snow-covered village landscape. **FDCs:** printed DS with commemorative Praha cancellations. 4Kč cachet in blue of a man with a carp (the traditional Christmas dish). 6Kč cachet in yellow-brown of a farmer's wife holding a traditional Christmas cake.

18.11.98

SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC – NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES



Designer: Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** R.D. in sheets of 100. On tropicalized gummed paper. Size 19x23mm **Design:** 1Kč symbolic drawing of Capricorn with astrological sign and the text in Czech "Zodiac Capricorn". 10Kč symbolic drawing of Aquarius with astrological sign and the text in Czech "Zodiac Aquarius". N.B. No FDCs were issued.

9.12.98

1998 ART ON STAMPS 2ND ISSUE

15kč Designer: from an original work of Jan Preisler **Engraver:** Josef Herčík **Printing:** DS in ochre, pink, green, blue and black in sheets of four. Stamp size 50x40mm. **Design:** One of the paintings by Jan Preisler from a series entitled "The Greater Cycle". Jan Preisler (1872-1918) was one of the >

founders of Czech modern art and a professor at the Prague Academy of Visual Arts. Many preparatory works were made before the completion of "The Greater Cycle". He spent some time in Italy which influenced his later work. The painting shown on the stamp was finished after his return from Italy. **FDC**; printed DS in grey-black with commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet is a transcription of the artist's self portrait from 1902/3 (oil on canvas).

16Kč Designer: from original work of Josef Navrátil **Engraver:** Bedřich Housa

Printing: DS in ochre, red, grey-blue, dark brown and black in sheets of four. Stamp size 40x50mm

Design: From an oil painting "Spinner" (c1850). Josef Navrátil was a versatile artist including the production of murals. The rooms of the Postal Museum Prague are a sample of this genre. He embraced the Colourist tradition of the 18th century and was a pre-Impressionist. **FDC**: printed DS in grey-black with commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet is from an undated pencil and pen drawing of Our Lady with Infant Jesus and Saints.

Both paintings by Preisler and Navrátil are in the National Gallery Prague. (The first part of the Art Issue was released on 17 June 1998 in the Praga 1998 series)

Postal Stationery

18.11.98 50th Anniversary Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Designer: Jaroslav Fišer **Printing:** multi-coloured offset. **Design:** 7Kč imprinted stamp in 5 different coloured profiles of various types of people with the logo of the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration in pink-violet, and the text "Human Rights for All" in Czech. The pictorial half of the card shows a symbolic drawing expressing peoples belonging together. Beneath are the dates 1948-1998 and the text in Czech "50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" Selling price of the card is 7.40Kč

Provisional Issues for the Czech Republic 1999

20 January	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production	(1 stamp)
17 February	Cats	(3 stamps)
10 March	Easter	(1 stamp)
10 March	Nature Protection – Butterflies and Birds	(4 stamps)
14 April	50 th Anniversary European Council	(1 stamp)
14 April	Centenary of the Czech Olympic Committee	(1 stamp)
5 May	"Europa" National Reservations and Parks	(2 stamps)
26 May	For Children – 100 th Anniversary of O.Sekora	(1 stamp)
26 May	Beauties of the Republic	(2 stamps)
23 June	J Barrande and Czech Trilobites	(2 stamps – sheet)
23 June	750 Years of the Mining Law of Jihlava	(1 stamp)
8 September	UNESCO 200 th Anniversary W.Priessnitz	(1 stamp)
29 September	Folk Art – Beehives	(3 stamps)
20 October	Cartoon Jokes	(3 stamps)
20 October	Art School of Beroun	(2 stamps – sheet)
10 November	Art on Stamps	(3 stamps)
10 November	Christmas	(1 stamp)

2. Slovak Republic

20.8.98

150 YEARS OF RAILWAYS IN SLOVAKIA



Designer: Dušan Grečner **Engraver:** Martin Srb **Printing:** Rotary recess and recess in sheets of 50. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Designs: 4Sk shows the steam locomotive 310.433 which was built in 1896 in Budapest and until 1970 was in service at the Pohranský Ruskov sugar refinery. It was restored by enthusiasts between 1979 and 1981. The locomotive is typical of the kind employed in track laying in Slovakia at the beginning of the century. **FDC:** cachet in grey-blue has a railway carriage in the background and water supply apparatus used to arm steam locomotives.

10Sk has an electric locomotive which was one of two built by the firm Ganz in Budapest in 1905 for the L'ubochňa narrow gauge railway. The locomotive weighed 10 tons, was 4238m in length, had a speed of 30kph and a power of 2x18kw. The first electrified forest narrow-gauge railway in central Europe ran from L'ubochňa to Močidlá. The 760mm gauge track was 28kms long and current was supplied by a hydro-electric power station on the River L'ubochnianka. The track was also used by diesel and steam locomotives. **FDC:** cachet in dark-green depicts a set of points beside a track.

15Sk shows a diesel locomotive number M120.4 produced between 1930 and 1935 at Tatra Kopřivnice. It is one of a series of 89, the last being taken out of service in 1958. **FDC:** cachet in dark-brown shows station switching levers.

All three FDCs have commemorative Bratislava cancellations.

7.9.98

NATURE CONSERVATION - FISH

Designer: Dušan Kállay **Engraver:** Josef Herčík **Printing:** recess from flat plates combined with offset in printing sheets of three different stamps. Sheet size 108x165mm. Stamp size 40x23mm.

Designs: 4Sk Umbra krameri (European mud minnow). This fish, related to the pike family, is about 7cms long and lives in weedy ponds and streams. **FDC:** with commemorative Bratislava cancellation and cachet in grey-blue of the *Esox lucius* (pike).

11Sk Zingel zingel, a small species of the perch family having no commercial value. **FDC:** with commemorative Bratislava cancellation and cachet in grey-blue of the species *Hucho hucho* (Huchen). It lives in clean tributaries of the Danube and is one of the members of the Salmonid family but does not migrate to the sea like other members. It can weigh up to 15kg and the flesh is excellent.

16Sk *Cyprinus carpio* (wild river carp). This species has been bred in Europe since 13th century. Can have a life span of 50 years and weigh up to 35kg. **FDC:** with commemorative Bratislava cancellation and cachet in grey-blue of the *cipenser ruthenus* (sterlet). This fish is one of the sturgeon family living in rivers emptying into the Black and Caspian Seas but occasionally in the Danube as far as Linz. Has a long snout feeding on the river bed on other animals. Excellent flesh and roe prized as caviare.



The gutter margins round the stamps show the following species of river fish:

Alburnus alburnus (bleak) Abundant and important in the diet of predacious fish.

Misgurnus fossilis (weatherfish) lives in mud at bottom of stagnant slow-flowing water feeding on bottom dwelling animals and debris. Has accessory intestinal respiration allowing it to live in oxygen-deficient water.

Pelecus cultratus East European fish living in shoals and migrating from Black Sea to Danube River.

Stizostedion lucioperca (pike perch) lives in clean rivers, ponds and brackish water preying on other fish. Can be up to 1.3m long and weigh 10kg. Excellent flavour flesh.

Silurus glanis (European catfish) inhabits deep slow flowing rivers, dams and lakes leading a solitary predacious life. The body is scaleless and it can grow up to 3m long and weigh 250kg. Flesh has excellent flavour.

Cottus poecilopus one of the members of the sculpin family which are mainly salt water fish. This is a small (up to 10cm long) fresh water species.

Esox lucius (pike) found in rivers and stagnant waters living on fish and amphibians.

Anguilla anguilla (European eel) migrates to western part of Atlantic to spawn. From age of 2/3 years until mature – 9/12 years lives in rivers and coastal waters. Young bred in ponds.

All the fish depicted are uncommon through loss of habitat, pollution and over-fishing. All are protected species within Slovakia and some are protected throughout Europe as endangered species.

>

12.9.98

DEFINITIVE TRNAVA



Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský **Printing:** Rotary recess in sheets of 100 pieces in black, blue and yellow. Stamp size 19x23mm. **Design:** The most prominent buildings of the town – the tower and statue to the Holy Trinity in the foreground and old burgher houses with a church behind, The coat of arms of the town with "Trnava" complete the design. The town is situated advantageously on the road from Hungary to Bohemia and was granted the right as a free royal town in 1238. In 1543 when the Turks conquered Buda, Trnava became the See of the Archbishop of Esztergom and for nearly 300 years the

ecclesiastical centre of Hungary. A university was established in 1635 with faculties for Art, Theology, Law and Medicine. **FDC:** printed offset in brown-yellow and brown by the printing house "Knihtlač Gerthoffer-Zohor" with a commemorative Trnava cancellation. The cachet is an early version of the coat of arms in a baroque frame. It shows Christ's head in the middle of a wheel. The six spoke wheel forms a monogram with Greek letters I (iota) Jesus and X (chi) Christos.

14.9.98

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OF THE VIRGIN MARY (ART SERIES)



Designer: Martin Činovský from an original wood carving by an unknown artist. **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček. **Printing:** DS in sheets of 4 stamps and 2 plain gutters, Stamp size 40x50mm. **Design** The renovated statue of Our Lady of Sorrows. The sculpture was commissioned in 1564 after the wife of a local landowner prayed to Our Lady of Sorrows who appeared to her and answer her petitions. Later a small chapel was built round the statue. In 1764 a new basilica was erected and the statue placed on the main altar. In 1927 Our Lady of Sorrows was canonized as the patron saint of Slovakia.

FDC; printed DS in blackish-brown with commemorative Šaštín-Stráže cancellation. The cachet shows the small three sided Marian chapel originally built to house the statue in Šaštín.

5.10.98

EKOTOPFILM – 25 YEARS



Designer: Igor Benca **Engraver:** František Homiak **Printing:** Rotary recess in sheets of 35 stamps size 33x33mm. **Design:** a symbolic drawing with a sunflower in the centre and diagrammatic border. Human figures and animals surround this. The emblem of Ekotopfilm and text "25 Years" complete the design. Ekotopfilm is a specialist international festival of films, television and video programmes devoted to ecological issues and has been held annually since 1974. **FDC;** printed DS in blue with a commemorative Žilina cancellation. The cachet is a symbolic ecological motif. **Booklet:** containing 10 stamps and retailing at 40Sk was issued. The front cover has the Ekotopfilm logo with the text of the event and legend "25 Years". The symbolic ecological motif from the FDC is reproduced on the booklet cover.

5.10.98

ANTI-DRUGS CAMPAIGN



Designer: Alexej Vojtášek

Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik

Printing: Rotary recess in sheets of 50 pieces, stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: a symbolic drawing of a moth with a stone encased in a cuboid and the text in Slovak "No to Drugs".

FDC; printed DS in grey-black with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet sketch depicts a drug addict with syringe.

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15.10.98

ART SERIES



Designer: Martin Činovský from an original work by Martin Benka.
Engraver: František Horniak.

Printing: DS in 5 colours in sheets of 4 stamps and 2 blank gutters, Size of stamp 40x50mm.

Design: From Benka's work entitled "Terchová Landscape" completed in 1936 and awarded the Silver Medal at the Paris World Fair 1937. The inscription in Slovak gives the title of the work, Benka's name and birth/death dates and the art gallery displaying the picture. **FDC:** printed DS in dark-brown with a commemorative Martin cancellation. This design is taken from Benka's drawing "Field with Haycocks". The cachet design is also from the artist's original work.

15.10.98

ART SERIES 50TH ANNIVERSARY SLOVAK NATIONAL GALLERY

Designer: Martin Činovský from an original work by L'udovít Fulla.
Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik. **Printing:** DS in 4 colours in sheets of 4 stamps and 2 gutters. Size of stamp 40x50mm. **Design:** From an original work entitled "Fishermen". Fulla worked in many fields of art and in 1969 donated a substantial part of his work to the state. This is now housed in the gallery at Ružomberok which is part of the Slovak National Gallery. The gutters have the emblem of the Slovak National Gallery and the text "50 Years, Slovak National Gallery". The text on the stamp gives the title of the work, Fulla's birth/death dates and Slovak National Gallery. **FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design is a pen and pencil drawing of a painter from a larger work "Painter and Model" 1958.

3.11.98

DEFINITIVE PREŠOV



Designer and Engraver: František Horniak. **Printing:** Rotary recess in sheets of 100 stamps. Size 19x23mm. **Design:** Several important buildings from the town centre. The present day town is on the site of very earliest settlements. The Romans maintained a presence there from 145BC to 169AD and from the 8th to 12th century it was a Slav settlement. In the 15th century it became a free and royal town. It has many notable buildings and since 1950 has been designated an Urban Heritage Area. **FDC:** printed offset by the Printers "Knihťlač Gerthoffer-Zohor". The commemorative Prešov cancellation includes part of one of the town buildings. The cachet shows another example of the architecture.

3.11.98

CHRISTMAS



Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský from an original work by Viera Hložníková **Printing:** Rotary recess with recess in sheets of 50 stamps, size 23x30mm. **Design:** From a work titled "Adoration of the Magi". The artist was born in Znojmo in 1920 and studied art in Prague. She began her career by illustrating books for the Slovak Cultural Institution and later focused on mosaics and stained glass windows. Recent years have been spent working in graphics on sacred themes in particular colour lino-cuts. She is married to the Slovak artist Vincent Hložník. **FDC:** printed two colour offset by the "Knihťlač Gerthoffer-Zohor". The commemorative Bratislava postmark is based on another of the artist's works "A Birth" as is the cachet.

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Postal Stationery

Postcards

August 1998 XIX World Aerobatic Championship Trenčín 1998

Promotional postcard without imprinted stamp. The pictorial part of the card has two aeroplanes performing stunts with the text of the event in Slovak (bold type) above and in English (smaller type) below. The Championships were held from 11-24th August 1998 but date of issue of card unknown. There was a commemorative cancellation from Trenčín dated 22 August.

September 1998 European Volleyball Tournament for Statisticians

Card has imprinted 3Sk stamp in red, silver and blue, the design of which is the State Emblem. The address portion has the Slovak Post logo. Retail price of card is 3.50Sk. Pictorial part shows three players at the net with a ball composed from the letters E V S. The text above is in both Slovak and English. Below is a small coat of arms of Bratislava and the text "Bratislava, 11-13 September 1998".

Envelopes

Each of the following envelopes has an imprinted 8Sk stamp in olive-black the design of which is the State Emblem. The dates of issue are unknown.

- a) (Sept/Oct 1998?) Andrej Hlinka. Cachet has portrait of Hlinka with his name and birth/death dates below.
- b) (Sept/Oct 1998?) 45th Anniversary Žilina University. Cachet shows an open book with the University campus across the pages. A medal surrounded by the various faculty logos and the inscription in Slovak "45th Anniversary Žilina University" completes the design.
- c) (Sept/Oct 1998?) 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the church at Zohor. Cachet drawing is a view of the building
- d) (Sept/Oct 1998?) Slovak Institute. Cachet is a banner with a cross depicting the Saints Cyril and Methodius in the centre and two groups of blue robed followers. The four quarters of the banner have small illustrations from the lives of the saints. Below is the text "Slovenský Ústav – Sv. Cyrila a Sv. Methoda v Ríme—po 35 rokoch—Pápežským."

Aerogramme

Date of issue unknown ?Sept/Oct 1998?

The imprinted 8Sk stamp shows a Savoia Marchetti SM-73 plane. A photographic view of Bratislava with the cathedral of St. Martin in the foreground completes the address panel. The reverse side has a panoramic view of Bratislava with the Old Town and castle in the background and the River Danube with New Bridge in the foreground. An outline map of Slovakia highlighting Bratislava with informative text completes the design. The two flaps give information about folding the aerogramme and warning as to usage. Details of the history of Bratislava and other facts, together with flying details of the plane on the imprinted stamp are on the other flap. The aerogramme has only one gummed flap to seal the sheet. The retail price is 12Sk.

The firm of Spong and Spong had hoped to complete this year's journal using their tried and trusted (though a trifle old -- like the firm) Amstrad 8512 word processor. Unfortunately the printer decided it liked to chew paper and it has had to go to hospital. A few weeks ago we had decided to increase Bill Gates' billions by investing in Windows, Word and Office, so we have had to get to grips with this in order to produce the current Czechout. This has been a frustrating but finally rewarding exercise so hopefully future editions will look prettier, as we approach the Millennium.