



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

We enclose with this journal the July Auction List. The next London meeting is on 4 September when Rex Dixon is showing Further European Border Changes in World War II.

Midpex '99: Tile Hill, Coventry on Saturday 3 July. The Society will be having a table again at this Specialist Society event. We hope members will go along and support this exhibition.

The Society has launched its own website: Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of our member Ian Nickson, the Society has recently launched its own website, with Ian acting as its webmaster. It is still early days, but already it has attracted a couple of new members to join the Society.

It contains information on the aims and services of the Society, links to related sites, illustrations of some Czechoslovak material, and an e-mail facility to initiate membership.

Readers are invited to visit the site at www.cpsqb.freemove.co.uk. Your comments as to how to develop the website further, and how to encourage increased interest in both the site and the Society, should be sent to the address you'll find when you visit the site. Thank you Ian.

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 6 March 1999

The Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 20 members to the meeting held in the Czech & Slovak National Club, 74 Westend Lane, London NW6 at 2.30 pm. He especially welcomed Derek Walker from Sunderland, who was attending his first meeting. Apologies had been received from two members.

The Hon Secretary gave details of six prospective new members:

Michael Lloyd from Portslade-by-Sea, Sussex
 Jan Verleg from Rijswijk, the Netherlands
 Alfonso Zulueta Jr from Concord, California
 Roberto Lazzari from Mestre, Italy
 Mrs Mary Smithers from Cheam, Surrey
 D N Baron from Otley, Yorkshire

Whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The first part of the afternoon was devoted to two competitions, which each attracted very few entries. The results were as follows:

George Pearson Trophy

1 st	Richard Beith	Czechoslovak Acceptances on South Atlantic Airmails
2 nd	Brian Day	The Czechoslovak Field Post in Siberia
3 rd	Bill Dawson	A Review of Postage Dues 1919-20

Francis Pettit Salver

1 st	Hans van Dooremalen	Nationalised TPO Postmarks 1945-50
2 nd	Bill Dawson	Railway TPO's-Examples from 1945-46

The rest of the afternoon was devoted to members' displays on the theme of *Czechoslovak Forces*. The following members exhibited:

Roy Reader	CSR forces in France 1939-40 & 1944
Roger Morrell	Czechs in the Austro-Hungarian Army
Brian Day	Siberia 1917-20; Slovakian Campaign
Garth Taylor	CSR forces in France & GB
Richard Beith	Watercolours from Agde; Cholmondeley
Bill Dawson	A Family Correspondence
Ron Hollis	Collaborators, &c

There being no further business, the meeting closed at about 4.55 pm.

Correction to the minutes of 16 January 1999:

In the last minutes I asserted that Derek Waugh comes from Sunderland, whereas he comes from Gateshead. My apologies to Derek for this error.

The Society visits Ruislip Philatelic Society

On 16 March, the Society accepted the kind invitation of the Ruislip Philatelic Society to give a display showing a wide range of Czechoslovak material. The Society was represented by Roger Morrell, Bill Dawson and Rex Dixon. Roger showed Austro-Hungarian forerunners and the formation of the First Republic. Bill showed a wide range of material from the First Republic, including essays, proofs and varieties. And Rex concentrated on the country's dismemberment during WWII. The displays were much appreciated, with many in the audience having above average knowledge of the country and its philately.

Rex A Dixon

Club weekend in Leamington Spa, 1-3 October 1999

Members wishing to attend this event, please note the date and advise Dr Garth Taylor as soon as possible.

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Joint Meeting with the Austrian Stamp Club of GB, Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB and Society for Polish Philately in GB at Heaton Royds, Bradford on Saturday 29 May 1999.

The formula for this the second joint meeting at the home of Stephen and Judith Holder followed the successful pattern set by the first meeting held last year. The number of those attending was slightly reduced to facilitate the viewing of frames.

We assembled at 10.00 am for coffee and started the business with the following displays:

Brian Madeley	Lemberg and Carpatho Ukraine
Martin Brumby	Revenues from Military Border and Bosnia-Herzegovina
Edmund Jagielski	Warsaw local and Citizens Post
Pat Rothnie	Sudetenland 1938
Jan Kaluski	Early and first flights of Poland
Richard Beith	Airmails
Andy Taylor	Newspaper Post
Mervyn Benford	Hungarian Railways

After a European-inspired buffet lunch of cold meats and salads served with wine and Czech beer, the afternoon displays commenced:

Malcolm Stockhill	Poland Inflation
John Beech	Kaiserreich and First Republic Austria
Stephen Holder [Guest]	Fiume
Bernard Lucas [Guest]	Pneumatic mail from Vienna and Prague
John Whiteside	Hungary
Alan Berrisford	Austrian Occupation of Southern Poland

The proceedings closed at 4.30 pm with a cup of tea and a selection of cakes from the countries represented. I would welcome recipes for Czech or Slovak cakes for future meetings. We have been invited again next year; the date to be confirmed. Our thanks to Stephen and Judith for making our day so enjoyable.

Yvonne Wheatley

BRNO 2000 Exhibition

A national philatelic Exhibition with international participation will be held on the occasion of 150th Anniversary of the birth of President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. The exhibition will be held from 5 to 11 March 2000 at the modern Congress Centre and in the pavilions on the Brno Exhibition Grounds in the Czech Republic.

Competitive exhibits are invited in all classes applicable to an international exhibition including literature. I have a supply of application forms so if you are considering entering please write to me as soon as possible for full details. Bulletin No 1 has only just been received but are in short supply.

Yvonne Wheatley, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, LEEDS LS15 9BW Tel 0113 2601978 (evenings)

Congratulations

To Yvonne, who has been appointed UK Commissioner for Madrid 2000 and Brussels 2001 International Philatelic Exhibitions. Yvonne has also been invited to sign the Roll of Honour of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association on Saturday 12 June.

On 31 May, Czech Post issued a Postcard in honour of the 60th Anniversary of the Society of Czechoslovak Philately (USA).

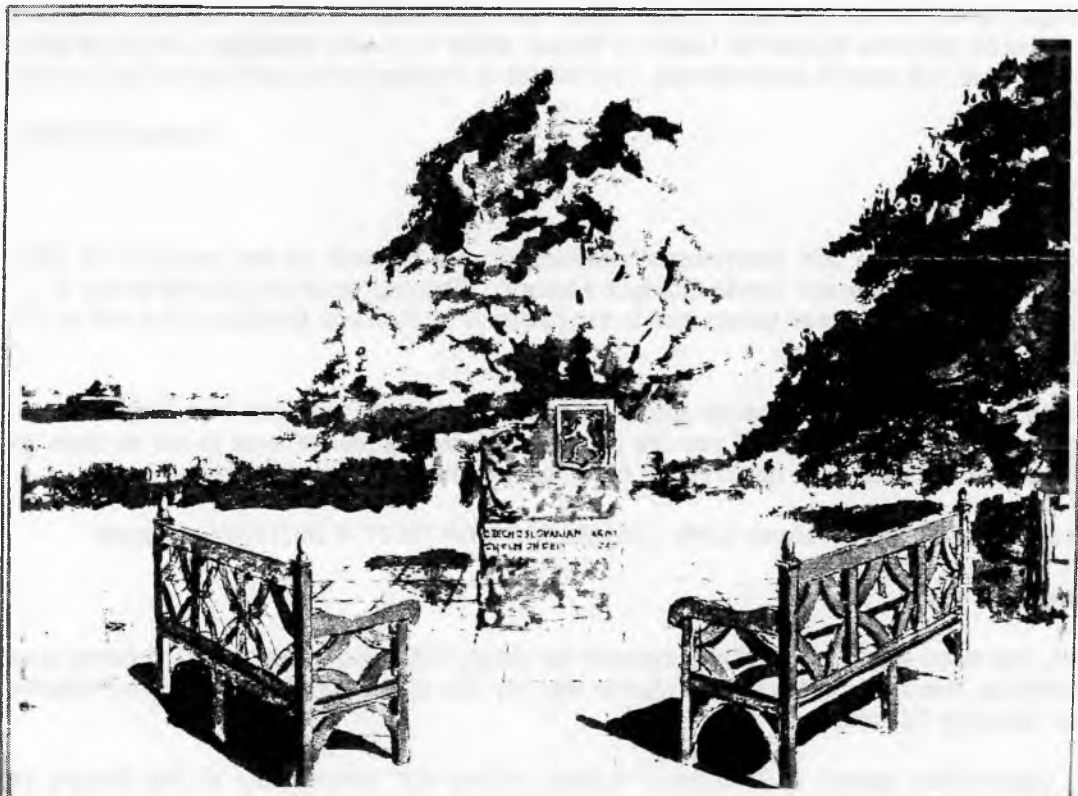
Letters to the Editor

A letter received from Mr Frank Kaplan, Chairman of the Cholmondeley Branch of The Association of Czechoslovak Legionaries, which the Committee at the March meeting agreed to support by advertising the following appeal. (*The Association has ordered some of our Monographs and will be able to assist with information on a forthcoming monograph.*)

Cholmondeley Park Restoration of Czechoslovak Army Memorial: To commemorate those members of the Czechoslovak Army & Air Force who were accommodated by the British Military Authorities at Cholmondeley Park, part of the estate of the Marquess of Cholmondeley, during World War II, a memorial was unveiled on 28 September 1940 by the then Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk. The carving of the memorial in local red sandstone was made by a then 19 year old private in the Czechoslovak Artillery, František Bělský, now FRBS, ARCA, an internationally well known sculptor and president of the Association of Portrait Sculptors.

Now 59 years later the monument is showing its age, and before more damage is done and while we are still about, the Branch of the Association has taken responsibility for its care. It has been decided to arrange cleaning of the monument, and the improvement of the site where it stands. A suitably inscribed plaque dedicated to the memory of all those Czech soldiers and airmen who gave their lives, will be included in the new design.

This is our aim, although we are a small branch with a membership getting smaller with the passing of time; we therefore rely heavily on any outside help that may be offered. We are planning to have the alterations ready for the re-unveiling on 4 July this year but there is no time limit for donations. We have obtained a small interest-free loan for carrying out the work. With many thanks for your interest and assistance. Please send your donations (Account "CSOL MEMORIAL") to Mrs H. Kaplan, 24 Jackson Avenue, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4EL.



Artist's impression of the restored memorial and surrounds

Publications

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

- The Mar/Apr & May/Jun issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 61, Whole Nos 554/5, Nos 2/3. The articles include:
 - ▶ The Mail goes through: A Siberian Trip Report(Verner); Stamps of Czchoslovakia used in Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia on and after 14 March 1939 (Miskevich); Confessions of a Flea Market Collector (Miskevich); Praga '98 & Society Dinner - Revisited (Svoboda).
 - ▶ Restoration of the Czech Postal Service after WWII (Holoubek); PhDr Stefan Moyses 1797-1997 (Bush); S/S varieties, Praga '55 (Garancovsky); Czech Airmail flown within the US, 1927-1931 (Miskevich); Aerogramme's and Not really Aerogramme's (Horvath); Where are we Heading? (Vostatek); An Incidental Observation in a Common Stamp (Vostatek).
- The April issue of *Dylizans* No 13, 1999 includes the following:
 - ▶ A third part of an article on the Polish Railway Travelling Post Offices 1919-1939 (Berrisford & Bojakowski).

BOOK REVIEW

We thank Frederik Backeljauw for inviting Ing. Jozef Tekel to review Czech Monograph No 5.

Tovačovský, Oldřich; Schödelbauer, Vladimír; Kypast, Jan: *Monografie Československých Známek, 5. díl, SO 1920*, Pofis, Praha 1998, 296 pp., price 698 Kč.

The last volume in the series of Czecho-Slovak monographs was issued in 1994, entitled *Poštové pečiatky na území Slovenska 1752-1918 diel 15 (Postage Stamps and Postmarks in the territory of Slovakia 1752-1918. Volume 15)*. After four years a further volume was issued to coincide with the International Stamp Exhibition held in Prague (PRAGA 98). This new monograph "SO 1920", the fifth in the series, is divided into nine chapters, which follow a logical construction for its readers.

Chapter 1 is a short introduction covering the history of these regions and the inception of borders between two new states in Central Europe: Czechoslovak Republic and Poland, in the years 1918-1920. Some uncertainties were the cause of border conflict and later caused a plebiscite to be held in Eastern Silesia (Těšínsko area) and northern Orava and Spiš in northern Slovakia.

Chapter 2 describes in detail all the overprinted stamps and postal stationery (one postcard) which were issued by the Czechoslovak postal administration for the plebiscite territories. Those stamps were valid exclusively for the plebiscite territories of eastern Silesia and northern Orava and Spiš. This part of the monograph contains all details about the method of overprinting by typography on the various Czech stamps (the Hradčany, postage dues, express stamps and President Masaryk issue).

Chapter 3 is devoted to printing flaws, namely offsets, inverted overprints, unissued stamps and examination of the overprint trials.

Chapter 4 describes in detail the plate faults of the overprints which are of great importance in studying the SO 1920 as a proof of their authenticity. Contemporary knowledge is presented about all the overprint plates; Information from this chapter allows a reconstruction of the overprint plates. These facts are very important for specialists and for philatelic experts too in the fight against forgeries. The importance of this chapter will be greatly valued mainly by exhibitors and philatelic expertising committees.

Chapter 5 is a basis for studying and collecting postmarks of this area. Of importance to collectors and postal historians are the tables with relative value (in points) for all cancellations used in the area; stamps with SO 1920 overprint are often rare used postally. There are details of the different types of registration labels, as well as cancels used for post offices, postal agencies, and travelling post offices.>

All post offices and TPO's in Orava and Spiš used a new double circle cancellation with the initials "ČSP". (Československá pošta). Trstená post office used simultaneously old Austro-Hungarian postmarks with legend Trsztena, for one year - 1920.

All postal documents (letters, postcards etc.) with cancellation overprint from the plebiscite territories during the period of validity of the plebiscite stamps (February 13 - August 20, 1920) are cited in group of plebiscite documents, indicating for their identification date of use and with name of locality, using the overprint cancellations. There are known documents with no overprinted stamps (without overprinted stamps) or covers; which have been stamped with mixed stamps (with and without overprint). Stamps without SO 1920 overprint were valid in plebiscite area as well.

This chapter lacks in my opinion just one correct item of information in the use of the old typography system of overprinting (see pages 106-114). The details of this system were transferred from older articles by Oldřich Tovačovský, (see journal *Filatelie*, 1976, or the catalogue of the Postage Stamps Exhibition Bohumin 1979); much better is the simpler and progressive system by Emil Votoček used in Czech monographs volumes 13-17. On page 114 of the monograph under review is an illustration of the cancellation for a rural postal agency (Detrekőcsütörtök)-this village is in western Slovakia; preferable would be illustrations from the rural postal agencies Krušetnica (Krusetnicza), Kacvín (Szentmindszent) or from Velká Lesná (Kristályfalu).

Chapter 6 is a very good presentation of the postal use of the plebiscite stamps, postal stationery and their relative rarity validation. There is also a list of postal rates used in the plebiscite territories.

Chapter 7 describes forgeries of the SO 1920 overprint.

Chapter 8 is devoted to cataloging philatelic materials from the plebiscite territories.

Chapter 9 describes the postal history of part of eastern Silesia when under Polish administration during October 1918, and in August 1920 when the territory became part of Czechoslovakia following the division between Czechoslovakia and Poland. This chapter is a supplementary part of Monograph five, which provides new information about Polish stamps, postal stationery with SO 1920 overprints and postal cancellations from the Polish plebiscite territory. Interesting are facts about the Czech occupation of present-day Polish territory during counter-attack by Lieutenant colonel J. Šnejdárěk (period January 26- February, 1919).

This Monograph is well written with construction and layout comparable with other volumes in the series of Czechoslovak monographs. I can recommend it to all collectors and researchers who are interested in the 1920 Czechoslovak and Polish plebiscite territories, as an ideal source for their studies.

Jozef Tekel'

Katalog Československá Letecká Pošta 1918-1939 by Petr Horka, Prague, Philatelie Trojan, 1997. A5 softback 232 pages + loose coloured insert map of Czechoslovak internal and European airmail routes operated by CLS and CSA.

This catalogue is very well printed on good quality paper with excellent illustrations of flown covers and mail planes, ephemera and airmail postmarks. The coloured map insert is an added bonus. Unfortunately I understand that it is already out-of-print, but some copies can still be found. Although the cover says '1918-1939', the Czech text actually goes further back in time and includes early balloon and airship mails in Bohemia, etc. The catalogue is divided into three main sections covering 1920-1921, 1922-1930 and 1931-1939. Each of these sections, in turn, is divided into descriptive text and a chronological catalogue with valuations in Kč. Changes in routes with time are also recorded in tabulated detail. Additional sections cover special cachets, acceptances for the German North and South Atlantic 'Catapult' services, Zeppelin acceptances, balloon mails, crash mails, airmail postmarks and etiquettes. There are 27 very valuable pages listing air mail surcharges from Czechoslovakia on a world wide basis with some quoted up to 1941, i.e. by LATI to South America. Comprehensive as this appears, I think this section could be expanded further. It is possible that dates quoted for a particular rate are not always the date on which that particular rate was introduced, but just what the rate happened to be on that date.

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The foreword is translated into English and German and there are translations of the abbreviations used into the same two languages.

This is an important addition to the literature of aerophilately. Let's hope that it is soon reprinted and that, one day, we might even see an English translation!

Richard Beith

Airmail Operations during World War II by Thomas H. Boyle Jr., published by The American Air Mail Society, PO Box 110, Mineola NY 11501-0110, USA, ISBN 0-939-429-20-9. This weighty tome is of some 927 pages, with 21 chapters and including a good bibliography as well as a list of airline abbreviations. It is packed full of information, and highly recommended for members interested in this all world country-wide area as well as the territories closely involved during this period of history. It can be obtained from Richard Beith, 14 Middlecroft, Guilden Sutton, Chester, CH3 7HF [price £28.50].

Colin Spong

1945 LIBERATION OVERPRINT - CHEB

- Karel Holoubek -

Translated by Robert Kingsley

Let me describe a find I made in the town of Tachov in Western Bohemia which concerns the 1945 Cheb revolutionary overprint. The fact that Cheb is not far from Tachov is one fact which supports the discovery, another is that it comes from an old collection which has only just come to light.

In May 1945, at the end of World War II, Cheb had more than 60,000 inhabitants. These were not only people who had always lived there, but a large number of Germans who ran from the east before the advancing Soviet Red Army. Of course, there was no Czech population in Cheb; the Henlein Nazi gang had made sure of that during the years 1938 and 1939 when all the Czechs had been driven out.

The American forces who had liberated this part of Czechoslovakia had none to whom they could hand over civil responsibilities and so from a prison in Bamberg, which was not too far away, a group of Czech prisoners were brought and they were accorded civil powers to run the town. Actually, they would have preferred to have gone home, even on foot, rather than be responsible for ensuring that the remaining Germans had basic living requirements.

The postal service was one of their responsibilities and this led to the Cheb overprint. In May 1945 there was virtually no postal service in Cheb, the retreating German Army made sure of that. A Czech administrative committee had already been set up in the prison who realised that it was vital for the postal service to be speedily re-established. The Americans brought, from Bamberg, supplies of only two values of Hitler head stamps:

4 pfennigs grey (Mi 783)

6 pfennigs burgundy (Mi 785)

It was decided to alter these stamps, the intention being to remove the face of the tyrant and insert "The Czechoslovak Republic lives and is free" and it was thought that the easiest and quickest way to alter the stamps was by means of an overprint - the task being given to the local Cheb printing works.

The stamps were overprinted in sheets of 100 stamps. Since they wanted to insert the new values onto the stamps, it was necessary to remove the old values which appeared in the top corners. The first idea was three horizontal lines. Then, in the printing works, they found a leaf symbol which was considered more suitable. However when the type was being set up they found they did not have a sufficient number of these symbols - they were two short. Instead they found symbols of a small heart design which were of the same character as the leaves and from which 10 blocks were produced which were set into a horizontal line.

>

The first 8 blocks had the leaf design, whilst the 9th and 10th had the heart design. This line was multiplied 10 times and formed the plate for the complete sheet of 100 stamps. So on the printed sheets the first 8 vertical columns have the leaf design and the other 2 the heart design. Copies of these printed, complete sheets are preserved in the Prague Postal Museum.

All of the above is well known and documented. The recent discovery, which consists of parts of sheets, are mainly of the 4 pfennigs value in various tones of grey. There are only a small number of the 6 pfennigs value. It is interesting that on the discovered 4 pfennigs stamps there is no overprinted horizontal line and it is likely that when the printing was being prepared they were trying to set up a gap so that the print was in the correct position, both in the horizontal and vertical plane. This is apparent from the illustration shown below. The first horizontal row has no overprint, but the second does, the next two rows again have no overprint and the rest of the sheet (6 rows) are again overprinted.

As I have already mentioned, in this discovery there are several examples of parts of sheets, such as that reproduced below. All of these are on the 4 pfennigs grey stamp. They are separated in various ways, not just as shown in the illustration. In this find there was not a single example from a sheet of the 6 pfennigs value probably only the 4 pfennigs stamps were used for these trials?

Does anyone know of a similar example on the other values?



POSTAL EVOLUTION IN THE HLUČÍN REGION FROM PRESTAMP ERA TO 1973

Continued from Czechout 1/99 page 15.

-Viktor Jindra-

Translated by V.J.Králiček

The German Empire Post

From 1 January 1872 postage stamps for the German Empire were introduced throughout Germany apart from the kingdoms of Bavaria and Wurtemberg. In the north, and consequently in the Hlučín region, the currency was expressed in groschen [30 groschen = 1 thaler], whilst in southern Germany it was in kreuzer [90 kreuzer = 1 thaler]. On 1 January 1875 a new currency was introduced, comprising a mark of 100 pfennigs. On the stamps, beside the national emblem "the German Eagle" the inscription read "DEUTSCHE REICHS-POST." On later issues from 1889 the inscription was changed to "REICHSPPOST"; and from 1902 "DEUTSCHES REICH." Official mail was marked by the despatching office with an oblong rubber stamp "Frei lt. Avers No.21/Kgl. Amtsgericht" or similar wording. Letters exist from the Hlučín region with official stamps issued in 1903. Such letters are relatively rare, as well as letters with censored markings from the First World War sent from the Hlučín area.

In 1866 a new post office building was built in the town square at Hlučín and in 1872 the personal and kariol post between Hlučín and the railway station in Prussian Bohumin was terminated. The mail was then carried by the landlord Svačina from Langendorf (czech name is: JASĚNKY). In 1875 the postal centre in Hlučín was promoted to a Post Office Class III, with telegraph facilities.

The old Prussian oblong handstamp remained in use in Hlučín up to about the end of 1872 (12). From 1873 the Hlučín post office used a new single circle datestamp HULTSCHIN (28). This date stamp had the place name, full date (day, month, year) and hours, with the marking "V" or "N" (Vormittag or Nachmittag). I also know of this canceller being used on a letter without the hours. Sometime probably in 1880 the Hlučín post office received a new single circle datestamp with larger letters (29). Once again around 1892 the Hlučín post office is using a new canceller, with a bridge and bars (30), which about 1912 was used in rotation with a similar datestamp with complementary text ("Kr. RATIBOR") (31).

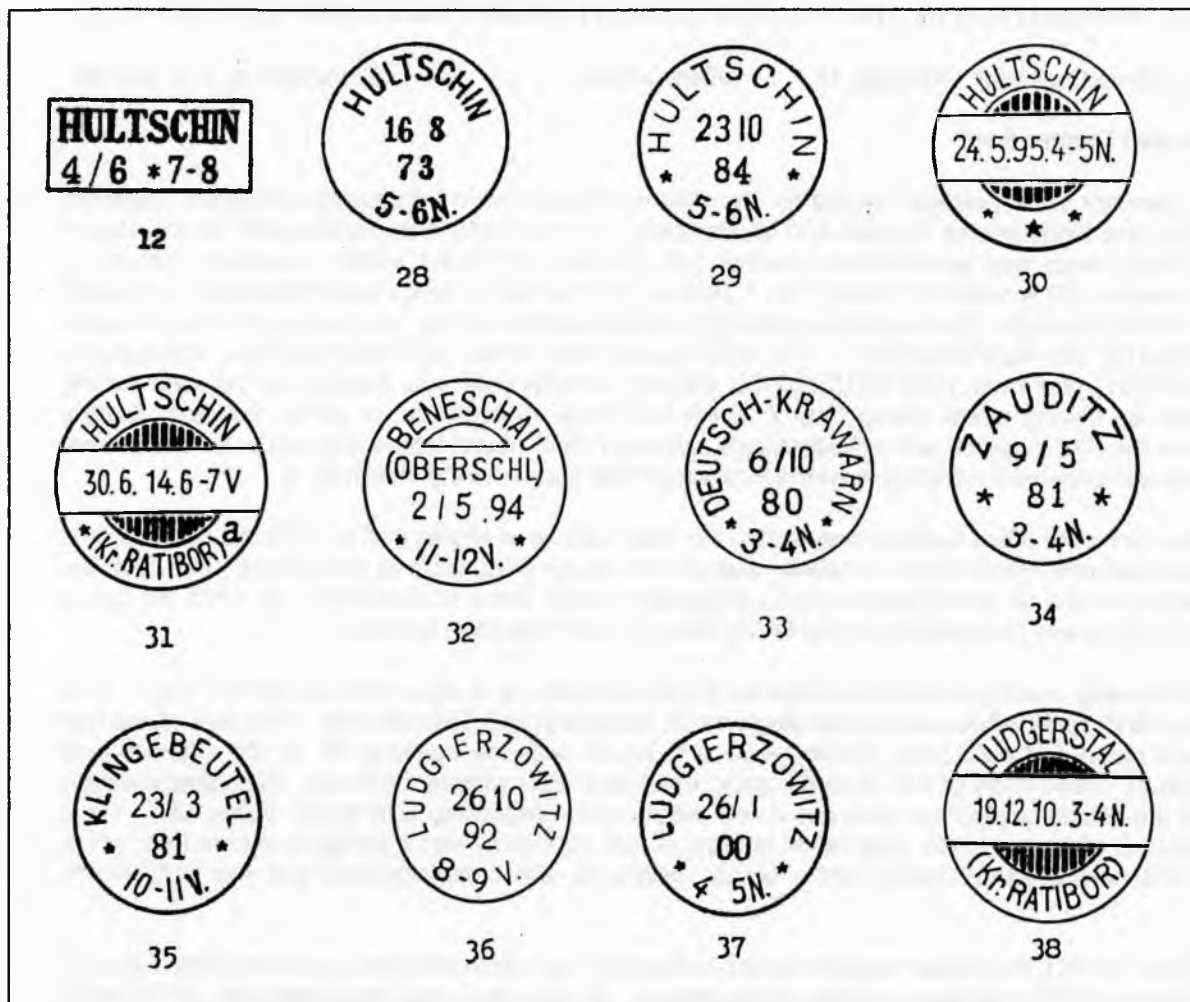
BENEŠOV: In 1875 the postal despatch centre in Benešov was also promoted to a Post Office Class III; in September 1878 it became a mere postal agency. At this post office they used the old Prussian oblong handstamp for quite a lengthy period: I have a letter cancelled in 1893 using this handstamp. In 1894 a new canceller was introduced and had the official name BENESCHAU (OBERSCHL) (32). It remained in use until February 1920.

KRAVAŘE: The postal despatch centre in Kravaře was changed in 1871 to a postal agency, later in 1879 to a Post Office Class III (Official Bulletin No.80 from 31 December). In Kravaře the old Prussian canceller without any alterations remained in use until 1876, and in 1877 the hour was removed. About 1880 this handstamp was changed for a new single circle datestamp DEUTSCH KRAWARN (33), which was in use up to February 1920.

SUDICE: The postal despatch centre in Sudice was changed in January 1872 to a postal agency (Bulletin No.3 from 10 January). The old Prussian oblong handstamp was probably used in Sudice until 1880, when it was changed for a single circle datestamp ZAUDITZ (34).

PUSTÉ JAKARTICE: The postal despatch centre in Pusté Jakartice was promoted in about 1875 to a Post Office Class III. In 1884 this was changed to a postal agency, and by April 1886 this agency closed (Bulletin No.21 from 5 April). The postal agency was taken over by the Piltsch (today's Polish name is PILSZCZ) Post Office, located in the immediate vicinity of Pusté Jakartice, but outside the Hlučín region. In Pusté Jakartice the old Prussian oblong handstamp continued in use until about 1880, when this was changed for a new single circle standard type datestamp KLINGEBEUTEL (35).

LUDGEŘOVICE: In November 1877 the postal network in the Hlučín region was extended by the establishment of the postal agency of Ludgeřovice (Bulletin No.65 from 11 November). The official name was LUDGIERZOWITZ; the agency used a single circle datestamp, which about 1895 changed to a similar type but with larger letters (36 & 37). The postal agency was upgraded in 1899 to a Post Office Class III (Bulletin No.44 from 11 August). In 1907 the settlement was renamed to LUDGERSTAL (Bulletin No.61 from 21 September) and the post office received a new double circle datestamp with bridge (38), which remained in use until February 1920. >

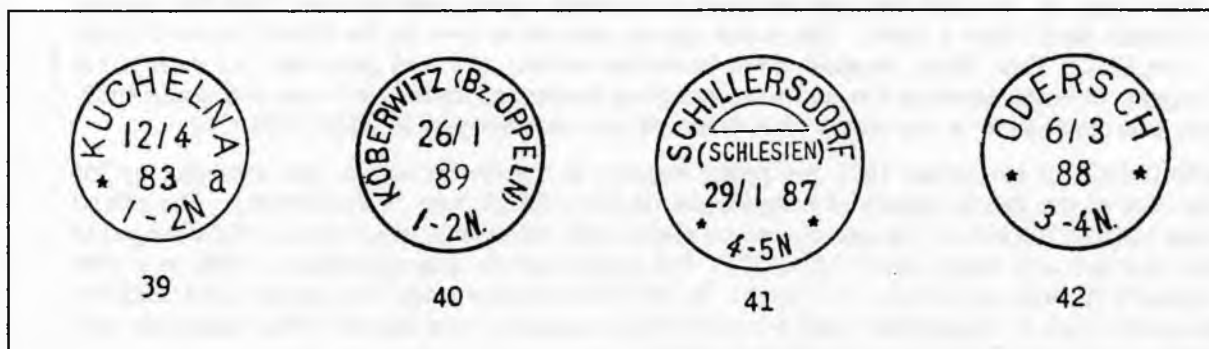


CHUCHELNÁ: At the beginning of January 1880 the postal agency in Chuchelná (Bulletin No.2 from 15 January) was provided with a new single circle standard type datestamp with the official name KUCHELNA (39), which was used up to February 1920.

KOBEŘICE: In April 1884 the postal network of the Hlučín region was extended with a postal agency in Koberice (Bulletin No.20 from 30 April). A single circle datestamp was used with its official name KÖBERWITZ, Reg. Bez. OPPELN. (40).

ŠILHEŘOVICE: The postal agency in Šilheřovice followed in June 1885 (Bulletin No.24 from 18 June); it was provided with a postal canceller with the name of SCHILLERSDORF/SCHLESIEEN (41), in use until February 1920.

OLDŘIŠOV: This was followed in April 1896 by the postal agency in Oldřišov (Bulletin No.21 from 4 April), which was provided with a datestamp with the official name of ODERSCH (42).

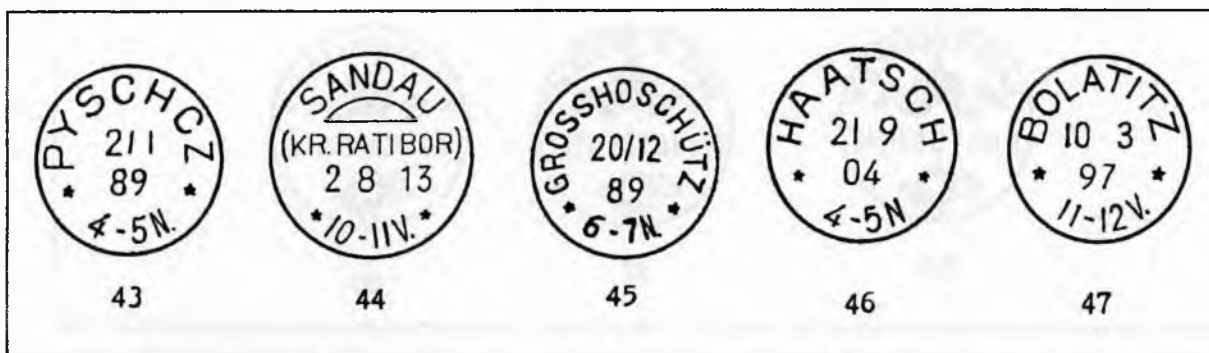


PÍŠŤ: In April 1896 a postal agency in Pišť, with the official name of PYSCHCZ (Bulletin No.16 from 10 April). It used a single circle cancel (43). In 1910 this settlement was twice renamed: first Pyscht and then to Sandau. A Pyscht cancel does not exist, but following the change of name to Sandau, the postal agency received probably in August or September 1910 a new cancel with the official name of SANDAU (KR. RATIBOR) (Bulletin No.62 from 7 September), which was in use up to March 1923 (44).

VELKÉ HOŠTICE: A year later in April 1889, a new postal agency was established in Velké Hoštice with the official name of GROSS HOSCHÜTZ (Bulletin No.15 from 16 April) and was provided with a single circle canceller (45).

HATĚ: In May 1894 another postal agency opened in Hatě, with the official name of HAATSCH (Bulletin No.29 from 26 May). It used a single circle datestamp until March 1923 (46).

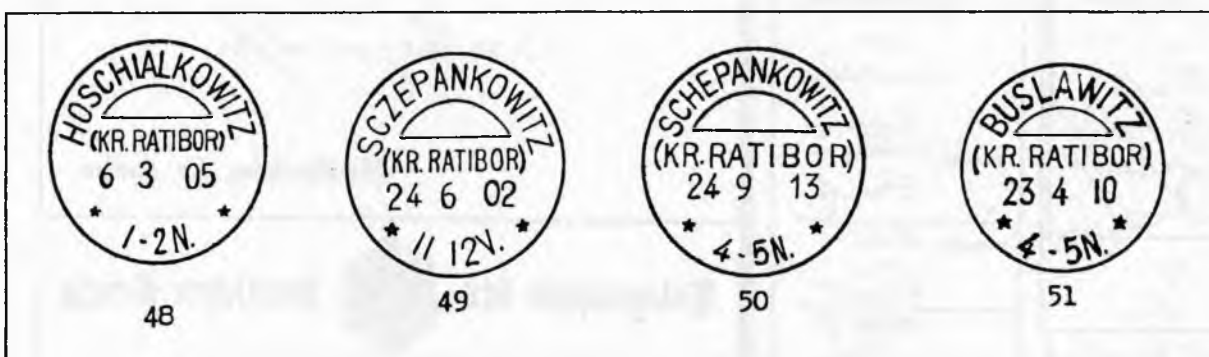
BOLATICE: In September 1895 a Post Office Class III was established in Bolatice, together with a telegraph station. It used a single circle datestamp with the official name of BOLATITZ until February 1920 (47).



HOŠŤÁLKOVICE: In April 1900 a postal agency was opened in Hošťálkovice (Bulletin No.26 from 11 April) and was provided with a datestamp with the official name of HOSCHIALKOWITZ (KR. RATIBOR) (48).

ŠTĚPÁNKOVICE: In May 1900 the Hlučín region received another postal agency, at Štěpánkovice (Bulletin No.32 from 13 May). It was originally named as SCZEPANKOWITZ (KR. RATIBOR) until 1908 when it changed to SCHEPANKOWITZ (KR. RATIBOR). Both versions can be found on handstamps (49, 50).

BOHUSLAVICE: In April 1908 the last postal agency was established in the Hlučín region, at Bohuslavice (Bulletin No.27 from 16 April). Its official name was BUSLAWITZ (KR. RATIBOR) (51).



In 1895 the railway route Ratibor-Opava was opened and also in 1913 the Kravaře-Hlučín route. This route was planned to extend as far as Pruský Bohumín (Annaberg), but the outbreak of the First World War prevented further building of this route. Postal vans travelled on both routes; these were using the railway post oval cancellers. So far the following markings are known:

RATIBOR - TROPPEAU: 646, 801, 804, and 805 (52).

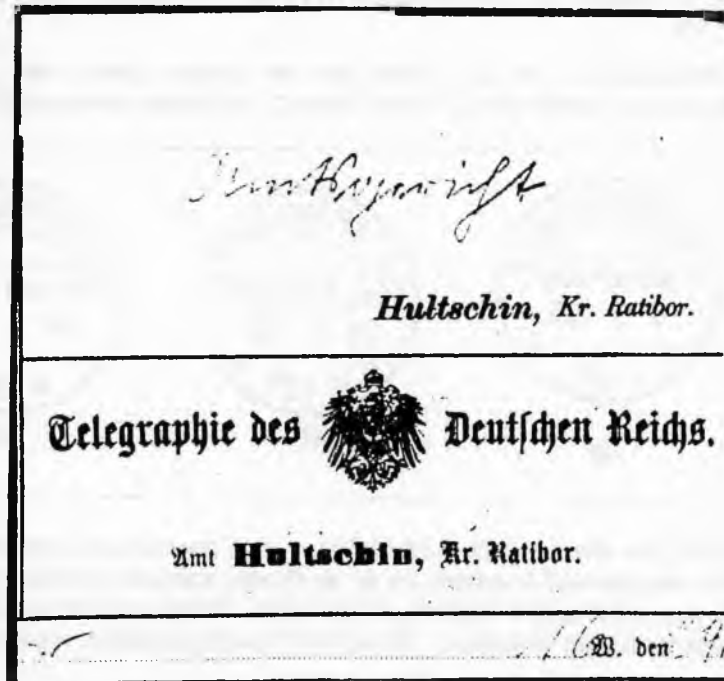
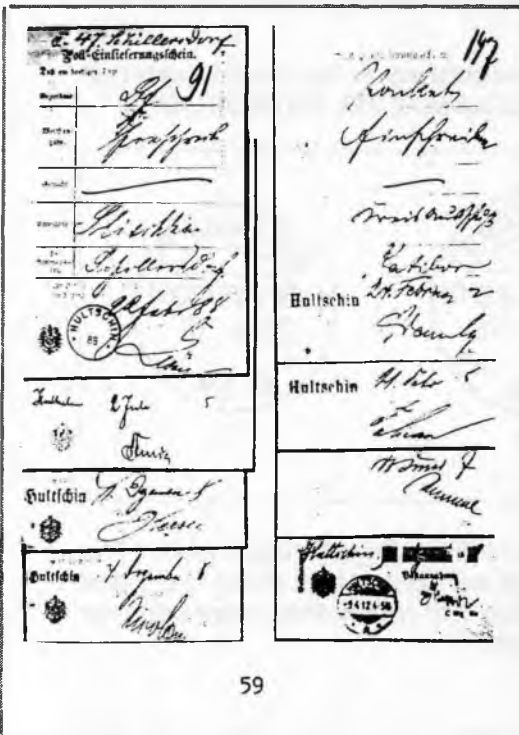
DEUTSCH KRAWARN - HULTSCHIN: without number, with numbers 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, and 8986 (53).

The previous cancellers, receipts and certificates of the Prussian post remained in use, but were progressively replaced with handstamps and documents of the German Empire Post. So far I know of examples of the German Empire post office seals only from GROSS HOSCHÜTZ and PYSCHCZ (54, 55). I do have examples of the early postmarks from HULTSCHIN, KLINGEBEUTEL and LUDGIERZOWITZ. (56, 57, 58).



The German postal advice notes were either stamped with a postal handstamp or were filled in by pen. Sometimes they were only marked with a rubber stamp [single line].

In Hlučín the postal advice notes were preprinted with the name of the post office, so that there was no need for the handstamp to be applied (59). The telegraph forms were likewise already printed, with both the royal emblem and legend "Telegraphie des Deutschen Reichs" as well as the post office inscription "Amt Hultschin, Kr. Ratibor" (60).



In 1875 the German Empire Post introduced the use of labels (etiquettes) for registered mail.

The first German registration labels were without the present day letter "R". They were oblong in shape, with the inscription "Eingeschrieben" and a number in red on white paper. The name of the office was printed in black letters, and they were imperforate. I had presented to me an 1876 label. Later labels issued in 1878 exist with red framing and the inscription "Eingeschrieben"; the name Hultschin and number are in black (61).

The second type of registration label is a red framed oblong with the inscription "Eingeschrieben", and in contrast to the first label it had a large letter boxed "R" on the right side. The place name and number is in black, and it is imperforate. These labels were used approximately during 1890-1900. Later issues were perforated (62).

The third type is a red framed oblong and in contrast to the previous issue has a large boxed "R" on the left side, and is without the inscription "Eingeschrieben". Hultschin and the number are in black. The labels were in use during 1905-1912 and are perforated (63).



The fourth registration label conforms with the previous issue, with the place name in two lines, for example Hultschin (Kr. Ratibor). These were in use up to February 1920.

Also known is a provisional registration label from Kravaře during 1917. It is a type two, perforated, with the name ODERSCH overprinted with a line postmark "Dtsch. Krawarn".

In my own collection I have examples of the following types and places:

1. Hultschin.
2. Imperforate: Deutsch Krawarn, Gross Hoschütz, Kuchelna, Hultschin, Schillersdorf (Schles.)
Beneschau, Pyschcz, Sczepankowicz, Köberwitz (Bz. Oppeln).
Perforated: Deutsch Krawarn, Gross Hoschütz, Hoschialkowitz (Kr. Ratibor), Beneschau (Oberschl.),
Bolatzitz, Schepankowitz (Kr. Ratibor), and provisional - Odersch/Dtsch. Krawarn.
3. Deutsch Krawarn, Haatsch, Hultschin.
4. Beneschau (Oberschlesien), Hultschin (Kr. Ratibor), Buslawitz (Kr. Ratibor), Ludgerstal (Kr. Ratibor).

After Germany lost the war, there were great disturbances and revolutionary disorders. Emperor Wilhelm II left on the 9 November 1918 for Holland, and Germany was proclaimed a Republic. All postal stationery and documents with cancellations dated after 9 November 1918 are classified in the next section.

The German Republic Post

On the 10 November 1918 the Government of the People's Commissioners was established with at its head Friedrich Ebert, which in December 1918 announced elections for the National Assembly. The elections were held on 19 January 1919, and on the 6 February 1919 the new National Assembly opened at Weimar. A German Republic was proclaimed on 9 November 1918 and the powers of the Provisional Government were handed over on 10 November 1918. The President of the Republic (so-called Weimar) was Friedrich Ebert and the Chancellor Philipp Scheidemann.

>

Documented philatelic material with cancellations from the 10 November 1918 are therefore categorised into the German Republic collections. All stamps, postal stationery and documents of the Empire post remained valid, and only the legible cancellation date determines whether the cover belongs to the Empire or the German Republic post. Because the Hlučín region was transferred to Czechoslovakia on the 4 February 1920, the postal documentation from the German Republic period is very scarce. Covers with the war victims surcharges, the Weimar Parliament and the airmail stamps appear only very rarely.



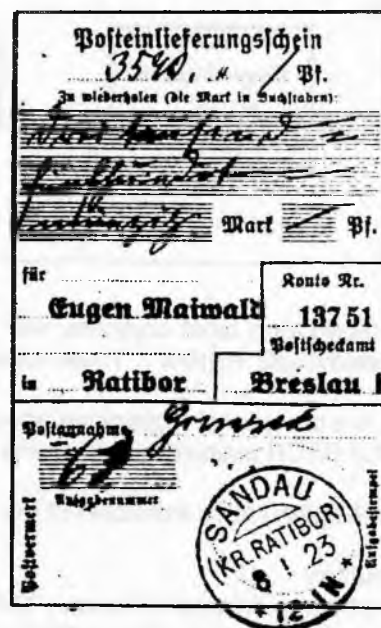
64

The postal datestamps remained at the post offices without any modification; with official letters, we come across partly modified official postmarks of the despatching offices. Usually it was the "Kgl." (ie. Royal) that was removed from the official postmarks.

Earlier postmarks were partly modified in such a way that the letter "K" (Kaiserlich - that is Imperial) was removed by melting the metal, and underneath the text the Imperial emblem was removed (64).

After the Hlučín region joined the ČSR (4 February 1920), two villages remained with their post offices in Germany until 11 February 1920. They were HAATSCH (Hať) and SANDAU (Píšť); later, in 1923, they joined Czechoslovakia. On 12 February 1920 both villages were handed over to the independent plebiscite region of Upper Silesia. After the division of this region between Poland and Germany, both villages were again returned, on 10 July 1922, to the German Republic and remained a constituent part up to 15 March 1923. On 16 March 1923, these two villages became part of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Postage stamps were used in the same way as in the rest of Germany, the cancellers remaining unchanged so that only a legible date determines the classification in a collection (65).



65

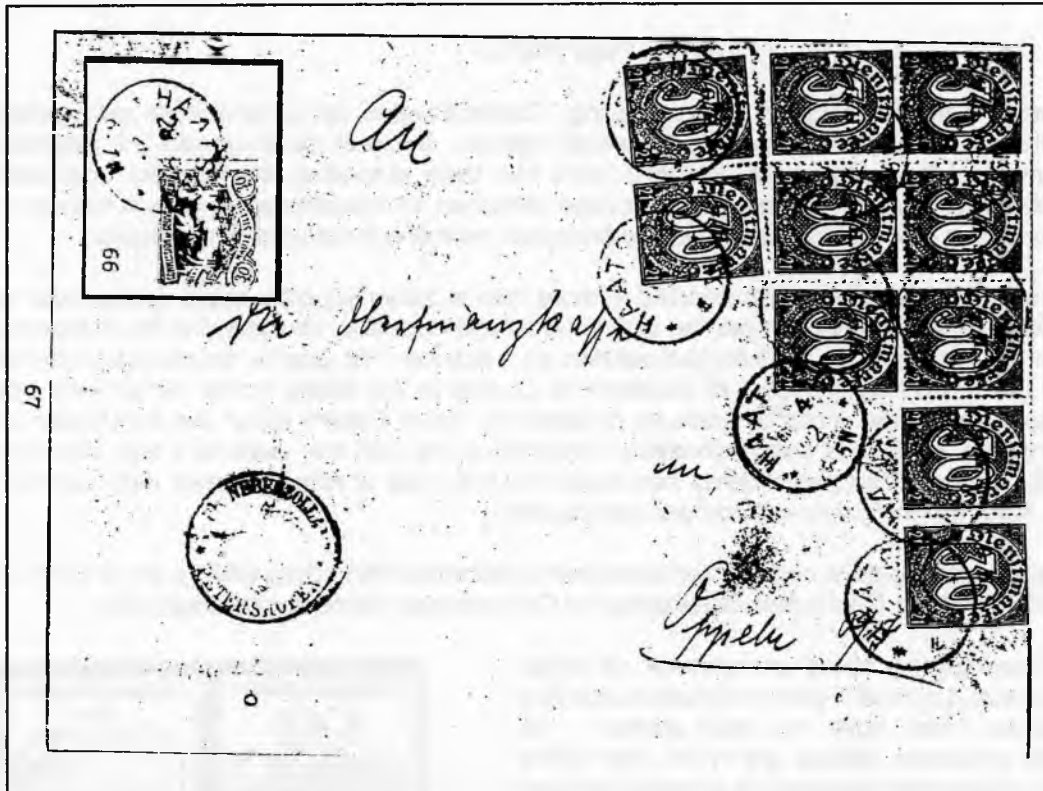
The Post of Upper Silesia

The Plebiscite Commission was active in Upper Silesia from 12 February 1920 until 9 July 1922. It is necessary for collectors to consider German stamps cancelled with postmarks of places laying within the plebiscite region during the above dates as forerunner stamps of Upper Silesia. From 20 February 1920 only the stamps of the plebiscite region were valid; mixed franking of German and Upper Silesian stamps is, theoretically, not possible, because on the day the plebiscite area stamps were issued the German issues previously used lost their validity.

The two villages of Haatsch (Hať) and Sandau (Píšť) in the Hlučín region were included in the plebiscite area. Covers franked with postage stamps of Upper Silesia from these two villages are very rare! (66).

Official stamps were also issued for the official mail; they were German Official Stamps overprinted in one line with the letters C.G.H.S. These were the initials of the COMMISSION (de) GOUVERNEMENT HAUTE SILESIE. The overprinting was carried out carelessly, so that overprints exist in all possible variations ie; from right to left, left to right, from top to bottom and reverse, inverted overprints, double prints, and shifts etc. Letters with official stamps franking them from these two post offices of Haatsch and Sandau are very rare! (67).

>



During the period of the Plebiscite the German postal cancellations, certificates, receipts, forms and registered labels remained unchanged. After the division of the plebiscite area between Poland and Germany, the stamps of Upper Silesia immediately lost their validity. The two post offices of Haatsch and Sandau reverted to Germany and used German stamps and postal stationery from 10 July 1922 until 15 March 1923. *To be continued...*



"IVAN STRNAD - GRAPHIC ARTIST, DESIGNER, & ILLUSTRATOR"

-W.A. Page FRPSL-

When it comes to stamp designing and engraving, Czechoslovakia left a world-wide mark among collectors with the quality of this aspect of the issued stamps. Some of the designers and engravers have been involved for many years and their work has been publicised and extolled both within philatelic circles and beyond. Others, however, have remained in obscurity apart from a mention by name at the time of a new issue of stamps and subsequent recording in the various catalogues.

One such design artist who has been involved in more than a dozen separate stamp issues over two decades is Ivan Strnad. A designer, painter, graphic artist and illustrator, he studied at the Academy of Applied Art in Prague where by 1969 he had qualified as a lecturer. His graphic sheets were exhibited at the Hollar Exhibition Hall, the Club of Education & Culture or the Mlada Fronta Gallery. His book illustrations are said to have included those he prepared for "Anne Frank's Diary" the well known and poignant story from WWII. He came into stamp designing in the post war years at a time when new elements and design concepts were being introduced and a number of new designers were coming to the fore, e.g. Karel Svolinský who will not need introduction.

Antonin Strnadel, another artist had his own department concerned with stamp design, at the School of Applied Art. This is where the modern development of Czechoslovak stamp design originated.

Ivan Strnad, commenting during an interview, on which this article is based, said that "I gain the greatest pleasure from my stamps which have not been printed" (A number of the unutilised designs are in the Post Office Museum). His name first appeared as a stamp designer when the 1969 Red Cross 50th Anniversary issue appeared on 31st January (SG1802/3) two symbolic designs the engravings for which were prepared by J. Goldschmied. This stamp was the first stamp of the then new Federal Socialist Republic.



Another interesting point from Ivan's interview was his observation that with the modern perception of stamp designing there are so many experts and advisers involved in the creative process, that in the end it is not absolutely clear where authorship begins and ends.

His next commission was for a series of Postage Due labels with need for 12 values, for issue between November 1971 and July 1972 (SG1985/96). These small format stamps give a clear indication of the modern art and design impact on future issues with their stylised flowers and plants.



Space does not permit a detailed review of all of his designs, which are listed below for easy reference, together with a small selection of illustrations.

One other issue, however, is worthy of special mention - the "Space Research" series (SG2367/71 - 4th October 1977). This shows portraits of Soviet and American astronauts, marking the International Achievements in Space Research and their heroes at the time. Four of the values portray prominent persons and the fifth two space stations. Four different engravers were employed to complete the miniscule design, a common facet of modern Czechoslovak stamp issues.



The following listing in chronological and catalogue sequence shows the items designed by Ivan Strnad. Those marked with an * are illustrated.

Chronological List of the Ivan Strnad stamp designs

Date:	Cat. No.	Details of issue.	No of Stamps
* 31st January 1969	SG. 1802/3	50th. Anniversary of Czechoslovak Red Cross	2
* Nov, 1971-July 1972	SG.D1955/96	Postage Due labels (stylised flowers & plants)	12
13th January 1972	SG. 2016/19	Winter Olympic Games, Sappora, Japan	4
14th June 1972	SG.2047	8th.T.U.C.Congress, Prague	1
* 23rd January 1974	SG.2145	25th. Anniversary - Communist Bloc Mutual Economic Assistance	1
30th April 1974	SG.2162	Inauguration of Czechoslovak Satellite Tele-Communications Earth Station	1
*15th June 1975	SG.2219/21	National Spartacist Games	3
30th September 1975	SG. 2240/44	Co-operation in Space	5
*22nd March 1976	SG.2270/72	Olympic Games, Montreal	3
11th February 1977	SG.2318/21	6th.Winter Spartakiad of Warsaw	4
*4th October 1977	SG.2367/71	Space Research	5
2nd April 1979	SG.2460	Anniversaries (60h value from set of 6)	1
25th .May 1979	SG.2468/72	Animals in Heraldry (coil stamps)	5
29th January 1980	SG. 2503/5	Winter Olympic Games, Lake Placid	3
*29th January 1982	SG.2609/11	World Football Cup, Spain	3
30th September 1983	SG.2692/94	World Communications Year & 60th. Anniversary of Czechoslovak Airlines	3
28th August 1992	SG.3104	Post Bank.	1





Footnote:

The above text is based on an interview with the designer by a local journalist Vladimír Thiele and subsequently published in an English language magazine "For You from Czechoslovakia", Issue No.2 June 1978. Published by "RAPID" in the month of the "PRAGA 1978" International Stamp Exhibition.

Stamp Illustrations from the late writer's collection. Catalogue references from Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Part 5 - 5th.Edition 1994, from which the further details of the engravers may be found.

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

From the Editor: Further to my note in Czechout 4/98 page 98, I have recently come across a book in my local reference library, entitled *Aces High*, by Christopher Shores & Clive Williams, Grub Street, The Basement, 10 Chiverley Road, London SW11 1HT, 1994, ISBN 1-898697-00-0, price £45. The following extract will provide Graham with additional biographical details.

PRCHAL, Eduard Maximilian. Squadron Leader, RAF No. 112323.

Eduard Prchal was born in Dolní Břežany, south of Prague, on 11 January 1911. He joined the Czech Air Force in 1929, serving until 1936. He then flew for Bata Co on international flights until 1939. In June of that year he arrived in Poland and in September, with the fall of that country, moved to France. Here he joined the Armée de l'Air, serving in the GC1/8 in which he flew Bloch MB152 fighters. With the fall of France, he escaped to England, where he joined 310 (Czech) Squadron as a Sergeant. He was to make three claims during the Battle of Britain, and was hit once and slightly wounded by a Bf109E on 26 August, force-landing his Hurricane as a result.

He was commissioned in December 1941 and posted to 68 Squadron to become a night fighter, although he achieved no successes in this role. He was later posted to 511 Squadron, Transport Command, ferrying aircraft from Canada to the Middle East. On 4 July 1943 he was the pilot of a Liberator carrying the Polish General Sikorski from Gibraltar to London, but crashed on take off and was badly injured, being the sole survivor. He returned to the Squadron on recovery.

After the war he returned to Czechoslovakia with his wife and daughter, serving with the air force there until January 1946, when he left and joined Czech Airlines as a Senior Captain. In 1950, he sought asylum in the UK, and the following year moved to the USA where he became Czech language instructor at the US Army Language School at Monterey, California. He retired in 1978 and died in California on 12 December 1984.

Date of the Claim	Type Claimed: whether shared Probable, or Damaged or Destroyed etc on the ground	Type of aircraft flown when the claim was made	Identification of aircraft flown	Location where claim was made, if known	Unit with which the Pilot was serving when the claim was made
1940					
06 Jun	Bf109 E	Bloch MB152		France	GC1/8
06 Jun 1/3	Do17	Bloch MB152		France	GC1/8
07 Jun	Hs126	Bloch MB152		France	GC1/8
26 Aug	Do17	Hurricane 1	P3157	E. North Weald	310 Squadron
15 Sep 1/2	He111	Hurricane 1	V6556 'E'	Foulness	310 Squadron
18 Sep	Do17	Hurricane 1	P3143 'D'	Thames Estuary	310 Squadron
TOTAL: 4 and 2 shared destroyed.					

Re Bob Hill's query in Czechout 1/99 page 19.

From Jan Dobrovorný. Juan Page & Jan Verleq: Lipča (ЛИПЧА) is a village in Ruthenia (Carpatho-Ukraine) some 10 kilometres North-West from Chust (Hust / ХУСТ). The details of the postmark can be found on page 365 of *Monografie Československých Známeek* Volume 17.II. Also in the monograph produced by Mr Simády on the post offices of Carpatho-Ukraine issued in Budapest 1991 (although the postmark is not shown). It was occupied by Hungary during during WWII until 1945 when it became part of the USSR.

>

Rex Dixon writes "it lies in Carpatho-Ukraine, some 12 kms NE of Chust. Its Hungarian name was Lipcsa, and its Ukrainian name was (and still is) ЛІПЧА. The date of the postmark, 26 XI 1944, is not related to the date of liberation by the Soviets, as Chust was entered a month earlier, on 24 X 1944. All this information is in our Monograph No.4. *Magyar Neve* also helps.

Jan Verleg writes "The Cancel is the provisional liberation postmark of Lipča, which belongs in the same category as the liberation cancels of Teresva, Sevlus and Volove. This is the second time I have seen this cancel; a letter with the same cancel is being offered in the 8th mail auction of our Dutch Society. I would be interested to know more about the whereabouts of the letter shown in Czechout."



Dr Juan Page writes "The postmark appearing on this letter is in my opinion a phantasy". Dr Page also encloses a map of the area.

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

From Dr Jan Dobrovolný: The Rýmařov Postal Order: The second word of the Zwittau cancellation is *Schönhengstgau* which translates to "beautiful stallion country" or "nice stud horse area". There were more of such similar two word cancellations here during the War. The offered explanation in Czechout 4/98 page 97, that the Post Office from Jägerndorf was transferred to Zwittau seems unlikely but what is possible is that a Pension Office was transferred. Integration of smaller offices of various kinds was made at the end of the war because there was a lack of men, they had to go and fight. But for the full explanation of the mystery one also needs to understand the system of employment pensions which I do not know.

Anyway I asked the head of the record office at Rýmařov whether they could find some records about Rudolf Hellman. Was he alive? Did he live there? I await a reply. He did not sign the Postal Order. Maybe the 215.80 RM are still at the Post Office and you can pick them up - but no, it is not likely in the Czech Republic as we have all been privatized.

A Further letter from Dr Jan Dobrovolný: I have now received a letter from Vladimira Škývarová, the manager of Bruntál archives (Státní okresní archiv Bruntál). This confirms that Bruntál was liberated on 7 May 1945 but no records exist concerning the recipient of the pension.

Re Richard Beith's query in Czechout 3/98 page 75.

From Chris Miller: [of the WWII Study Group within the Cinderella Stamp Club] This label was an issue by the Czechoslovak War Charities Fund, authorized by the Department of War Services, Ottawa, Canada. The entire proceeds go to the Czechoslovak Red Cross in London, England.

The label [or seal] was sold in booklets of 100 containing five panes of seals printed 5 x 4.
NB: The illustration is less than life size.



One new query:

From Chris Cordes: I enclose photocopies of some essays I obtained some years ago, and whilst I understand they were intended as essays for the "first issue" circa 1919, I have no real idea of their origins. I would appreciate any help in identification of these essays. The strip of ten designs appear in separate colours of green, red, blue, brown, purple and black, (for illustration purposes these have been divided). The other designs in blocks of four are a dull blue on beige paper.



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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

Czech Republic

10.3.99

Easter

Designer: Karel Franta **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: R.D. in sheets of 50 in black-brown, yellow, red, light blue and dark blue. Picture size 23x30mm.

Design: an ornate cockerel carrying a traditional plaited willow stick under its wing as he inspects his gaudy plumage.

FDC: printed D.S. in brown with commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet is a drawing of an ancient playing (musical?) box with a hen and plaited willow stick.

10.3.99

Nature Conservation

Designer: Hana Storchová **Engraver:** Josef Herčík **Printing:** multicoloured offset by Victoria Security Printing a.s. in sheets of 50 stamps se-tenant. Picture size 23x30mm.

Designs: Endangered birds and butterflies.

4.60Kč: a) *Merops apiaster* (Bee-eater) a colourful migratory bird about the size of a thrush. **FDC:** Cachet design in blue-grey is of four feathers from the Bee-eater.

b) *Upupa epops* (Hoopoe) larger than a blackbird with orange-brown, black and white chequered plumage; long, thin, curved beak and erectile fan-like crest. It is another migratory bird. **FDC:** Cachet design in violet is a sprig of thyme with a Hoopoe feather.

5 Kč: a) *Catocala electa* (Red Poplar Underwing) A member of the Tussock Moth family found mainly on poplars and willows from May to June. **FDC:** Cachet design in grey-green is two willow twigs.

b) *Euphydryas maturna* (Scarce Fritillary) Inhabits damp lowland forests but is becoming very rare. The caterpillars hibernate on ash and poplar trees. **FDC:** Cachet design in green is a plantain plant.

(All four FDCs were printed DS with commemorative Prague cancellations by Post Printing House Prague.)

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12.3.99 Entry of the Czech Republic into NATO


Designer: Zdeněk Zeigler **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD in sheets of 50 in blue and red. Picture size 40x23mm.

Design: Logo of NATO with the text in Czech "Czech Republic - a member of NATO". **FDC:** Printed DS in blue with commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet design is the 50th anniversary logo of NATO.

14.3.99. 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Council of Europe


Designer: Jan Solpera **Engraver:** Václav Fajt **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50 in blue, yellow, red and blue. Picture size 40x23mm.

Design: A circle of twelve stars - the logo of the Council - on a background of a cloudy sky. Beneath is the text in Czech "1949-50th Anniversary of the Council of Europe--1999." The Republic has been a Council member since 1993. **FDC:** Printed DS in blue with commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet has the Council logo on a background of clouds with the sun's rays shining on a map of Europe and the text "Council of Europe, Conseil de L'Europe."

14.4.99 Centenary of the Czech Olympic Committee


Designer: Kryštof Krejča, Karel Dvořák **Engraver:** Václav Fajt

Printing: RD in sheets of 50 in black, red and blue. Picture size 23x40mm.

Design: Portrait of Josef Rössler-Ořovský, the logo of the Czech Olympic Committee (ČOV) and the texts "100 Years of the Czech Olympic Committee". (in Czech) and "Josef Rössler-Ořovský". Josef Rössler-Ořovský (1869-1933) was the co-founder of the ČOV, a versatile sportsman leading for many years the Czech and Czechoslovak participants in the Olympic Games. He was also active in the Scouting Movement and politics. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet design is a drawing of J. Rössler-Ořovský as a skater wearing some of his medals.

5.5.99 Europa-- Nature Reserves and National Parks


Designer: Alfred Fuchs **Engraver:** Václav Fajt

Printing: RD in sheets of 8 in black, yellow, dark pink, light blue and dark blue. Picture size 40x23mm.

Design: Both stamps have the Europa logo and landscape views of the Parks.

11Kč: Šumava National Park designated in 1991 is the largest in the Republic (685 km²). The area is noted for its spruce forests, numerous peat bogs with rare flora and glaciers. The Vlatva and its tributaries rise in the Šumava. **FDC:** printed DS in green with a commemorative Kvilda cancellation. The cachet design is flora of the region.

17Kč: Podyjí National Park (63 km²) was also designated in 1991 within which several micro climates occur creating the conditions for a number of rare flora and fauna species particularly invertebrates. **FDC:** printed DS in dark pink with a commemorative Vranov nad Dyjí cancellation. The cachet drawing is the landscape of the river Dyje with flora of the area. >

5.5.99

Definitive ----Signs of the Zodiac



Designer: Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček

Printing: RD in sheets of 100 in black, green and brown-orange. Picture size 19x23mm.

Design: The zodiac sign and symbol of Libra with the text in Czech "Zodiac and Libra". **NB** No official FDC was issued.

26.5.99

For Children



Designer: Jaroslav Fišer **Engraver:** Josef Herčík

Printing: RD in sheets of 30 in black, red, yellow and blue. Picture size 30x23mm.

Design: From illustrations in the children's book "Ferda the Ant" by Ondřej Sekora. The design shows the Proud Ladybird being followed by Ferda the Ant and Pytlík the Beetle. **FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet shows Ferda the Ant lifting an enormous bar weight being watched by an admiring audience of beetles.

Booklet: Cover design is another drawing of Ferda the Ant this time with a gun and a cartridge bag. Ondřej Sekora (1899-1987) was an artist, illustrator, journalist, writer and author of children's books. The stamp commemorates his 100th birth anniversary.

26.5.99

Beauties of Our Country



Designer: Emanuel Ranný **Engraver:** Václav Fajt

Printing: DS in sheets of 8 in brown, ochre, yellow, green, red and blue. Picture size 8Kč 26x40mm, 10Kč 40x26mm.

Design: 8Kč. The chain bridge at Stádlec (between Tábor and Bechyně). This technical monument was designed and built by B. Schnirch and Ing. Gassner. The foundation stone was laid on 26th May 1847 and building was completed in 1848. The original bridge spanned the Vltava at Podolsko but after the building of the Orlický Dam it was moved to its present location on the Lužnice. It has been in service since 1975 and is the only bridge of its kind in the Republic to be conserved. **FDC:** cachet in dark grey is a drawing of two bridges spanning the river at Podolsko. To the right is the original 1848 bridge now in use at Stádlec and to the left the new bridge designed by Jan Balžek and built between 1936 and 1940. At the time it was the largest bridge construction with an arch span of 150m. The text in Czech, reads "Podolsko over the Vltava - The original location of the bridge." The commemorative cancellation is from Stádlec.

10Kč. The wooden bridge across the Svatka river at Černvír near Tišnov. The wooden beam construction supported by stone pillars and covered by a shingle saddleback is nowadays only used by pedestrians. The original bridge dates from 1718 but has been modified several times since then. **FDC:** cachet in brown is a drawing of the inner part of the bridge showing the wooden beam construction. The commemorative cancellation is from Nedvědice. Both FDCs printed DS.

POSTAL STATIONERY

For current postal use

24.3.99. Postcard with imprinted 4Kč stamp, printed black and blue-green (design first used 26.3.97 - see Czechout 2/97 page 50) with blank left hand area for commercial and promotional use. A hologram has been added to the lower left corner as a security device. The logo of the Czech Post alternates with a flying pigeon as the colours of the hologram change. Selling price is 4.70Kč.

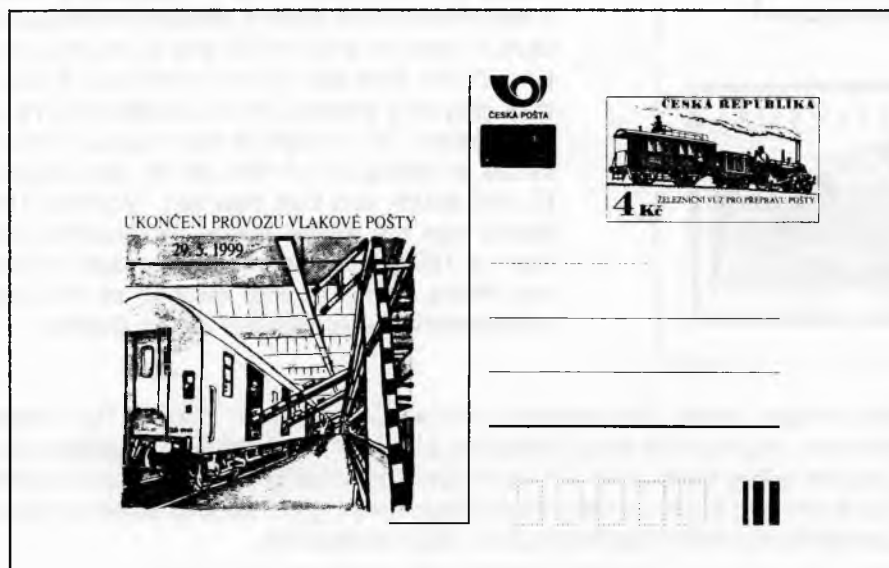
14.4.99. Postcard with imprinted 7Kč stamp in red designed by Jan Solpera in the form of a decorative 7 incorporating "Kč" with "Česka Republica" above. Below the Czech Post logo is a hologram as described for the 4Kč postcard. The left hand side is blank for commercial and promotional use. Selling price is 7.70Kč.

Commemorative Postcards

14.4.99. Centenary of the Czech Olympic Committee. Designer: Jaroslav Fišer. Printed multicoloured offset. The imprinted 4Kč stamp design is the emblem of the Czech Olympic Committee (ČOV) with the text (in Czech) "Czech Olympic Committee 1899-1999". The address portion of the card has the Czech Post logo and beneath this is a hologram (as previously described). The left part of the card has a stylized drawing of the triathlon events - swimming, cycling and running with the text in Czech "Triathlon-A New Olympic Sport" and "Olympsport '99". The triathlon has been recognised by the International Olympic Committee and will be a new event at the Sydney Olympics 2000. Olympsport '99 is the postage stamp exhibition held in Prague during May 1999 with the theme of sport and the Olympics. Retail price of the card is 4.70Kč.

5.5.99. Brno 2000-Congress Centre. Designer: Karel Dvořák. Printed multicolour offset. The imprinted 4Kč stamp design is a composition of the face value and the logo of the Brno 2000 National Stamp Exhibition which will take place from 5th-11th March 2000. The address portion of the card has the Czech Post logo with the hologram previously described beneath. The left part of the card has a drawing of the Congress Centre building in Brno and the texts in Czech "National Stamp Exhibition" and "Congress Centre-99- Venue of the Exhibition Brno 2000" together with the logo of the Congress Centre. The retail price of the card is 4.70Kč.

12.5.99. End of the Operation of the Railway Post. Designer: Jiří Bouda. Printed multicoloured offset. The imprinted 4Kč stamp design is from the postcard issued in 1995 for the 150th anniversary of the railway post. It shows a steam engine with tender and historical carriage for transporting post. The address portion of the card has the Czech Post logo and previously described hologram. The left part of the card shows mechanised loading of the railway post into wagons in the tracking hall of Malešice Sorting Centre and the text in Czech "End of the Operation of the Railway Post 29th May 1999." Retail price of the card is 4.70Kč.



12.5.99. 500 Years of Paper Production in the Czech Lands. Designer: Jiří Rathousky. Printed multicoloured offset. The imprinted 4Kč stamp design is an old symbol for wood (after R. Koch) which is the raw material of paper production. The text in Czech on a stylised sheaf of paper reads "500 Years of Paper Production in the Czech Lands." The address part of the card has the Czech Post logo and hologram as previously described. The left portion of the card shows the oldest known illustration of paper production from an engraving of 1568 by Jost Amman. Beside this is the text "1499" and "1999" with the words in Czech "Paper for common use of the Bohemian Country" above an heraldic rampant lion. The first written record of paper production in Bohemia is from the Cistercian Monastery in Zbraslav and dated 24th May 1499 during the reign of King Vladislav II. The retail price of the card is 4.70Kč.

Promotional Postcards

18.2.99. International Postage Stamp Day, Berlin. Imprinted 6Kč stamp design as issued 27.5.98 (see Czechout 3/8 page 76). Cachet design is the Berlin bear holding a stamp image with the word "Berlin" across it. Marginal text promotes the event held 18-20.2.99.

Slovak Republic

12.3.99. 125th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union



Designer and Engraver: František Horniak. **Printing:** RD, picture size 23x28mm. **Design:** Automatic Sorting Line apparatus with the texts (in Slovak) "125. Anniversary UPU" with the UPU logo and "Automatic Sorting Line." **FDC:** printed DS with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design is a globe encircled with envelopes and the Slovak Post logo. Since 1996 the Slovak Post has embarked upon a modernisation of the postal service including a mechanisation programme. The first automatic sorting line will be used in Košice from July 1999 and from November in Bratislava.

Booklet: containing 10 stamps was issued. The cover design is a reproduction of the FDC cachet and the UPU logo with marginal text, in Slovak, 125. Anniversary Universal Postal Union.

12.3.99 Splendours of Our Homeland---Folk Costumes



Designer: Kamila Štanclová from photographs by Karol Plicka.

Engravers: 4Sk and 15Sk Rudolf Cigánik, 18Sk František Horniak.

Printing: Rotary recess combined with offset in sheets of 10 for each denomination. Picture size 23x27mm. **Designs:** a) **4Sk.** Head of a woman wearing a bonnet from the Čajkov area. The unusual shape of this high bonnet was referred to as "horned" and was originally black with white decorations. Later coloured sequins and glass beads were used in addition to the traditional lace. **FDC:** printed DS in dark blue/grey with a commemorative Čajkov cancellation. Cachet design is a woman sitting making lace dressed in folk costume from the village of Liptovský Sliache.

b) **15Sk.** Head of a woman wearing a bonnet from the Upper Hron village of Hel'pa. Earlier bonnets were mainly in red, yellow and white but later other colours were used as well for the woven or embroidered geometric patterns. **FDC:** printed DS in green with a commemorative Hel'pa cancellation. Cachet design is a man playing the bagpipes watched by a group of three young boys.

c) **18Sk.** Head of a woman wearing a bonnet from the Madunice area. In the past these tulle and cambric bonnets were embroidered and then edged with thin white starched bobbin lace. **FDC:** printed DS in brown with a commemorative Madunice cancellation. The cachet design is a group of six young men in folk costume.

The bonnet is one of the oldest items of female folk costume. Traditionally it was placed on the head of the bride during the wedding ceremony and was worn as a sign of marital status for the rest of her life. In many areas, including Slovakia, the variety of head covering reflects traditional modes of hair dressing. Emphasis was placed on decoration particularly on bonnets for festive occasions.

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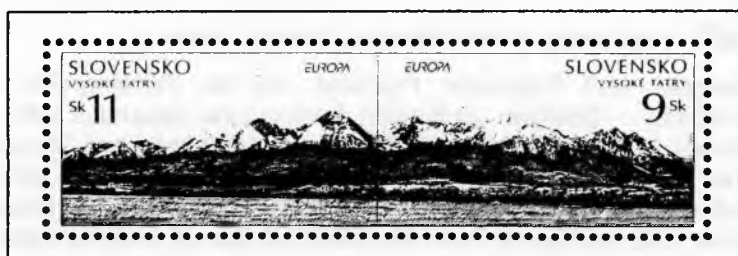
5.5.99.

Spiritual Renewal 1999

Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský from original art work of Vincent Hložník

Printing: RD in sheets of 50 with picture size 23x30mm. **Design:** "Transfiguration" from a cycle of works entitled "Old and New Testament" by the artist Vincent Hložník. **FDC:** printed DS in black with commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design was engraved by Arnold Feke and is entitled "Crucifixion" from the same cycle of works by Vincent Hložník.

5.5.99

Europa--- Nature Reserves and National Parks

Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský **Printing:** DS in five colours in se-tenant sheets of 8 with gutter. Picture size 40x23mm. **Design:** A panorama of the High Tatras with text (in Slovak) "High Tatras" and logo "Europa." The gutter on the sheets has a map of the Park and the text "High Tatras National Park" **FDC:** printed DS in dark grey with commemorative Tatranská Lomnica cancellation. The cachet engraving was by Arnold Feke and represents a frozen waterfall in the Bielovodská Valley.

5.5.99

50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Council of Europe

Designer: Karol Felix **Engraver:** František Horniak

Printing: Rotary recess with recess printing in a) sheets of 10 stamps and b) single stamp in block size 67x85mm. Picture size for both is 40x23mm.

Design: A symbolic face in blue on a blue background encircled with the Council logo in yellow and the text in Slovak, "50th Anniversary of the Council of Europe". The block has, above the stamp, the dates 1949 and 1999 with an emboldened 50 between. Below on a symbolic blue flag is the Council logo within a bright green letter "e." **FDC:** printed DS in blue with commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design is a central open rose bloom surrounded by a circle of sun's rays and the Council logo.