



CZECHOUT

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NOTES

We enclose with this journal the November Auction List. The Society will be holding its bi-annual Weekend at the Manor Hotel, Leamington Spa from 1-3 October, and the next London meeting is on Saturday 13 November when the Society Annual General Meeting will be held and the Society Auction in the afternoon. The Regional meeting at Leeds will be on Saturday 20 November. It will take the usual form with members bringing material. For further details ring Yvonne Wheatley on 0113 2601978 (evenings).

We send our best wishes to members Jan Dobrovolný, Phillips Freer, Tom Morovics, Betty Penny and W.C. Thorn; who have been unwell and hope that they may all be enjoying better health now. We are sorry to learn that our Honorary Life Member Josef Herčík, the Czech Engraver who gave us such an enjoyable and welcome tour of his studio in 1998, has died recently. A memoir will appear in the December *Czechout*.

Brian Day is giving displays of Czechoslovakia and its forerunners to Eltham PS on 14 October 1999 and Canterbury PS on 27 March 2000 starting at 730 p.m. Members wishing to attend please ring Brian on 01795 842678.

UK, Eire, Belgium and Netherlands members will have received details of a Society visit to Brno during the "BRNO 2000" Exhibition (5-11 March 2000), staying at the Hotel VORONEZ from 7-12 March. Other overseas members visiting Brno might like to note this.

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 26 June 1999

The Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 18 members and several visitors to the meeting held at 6 Tarmount Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea. He especially welcomed Pam and Dave Hilton, who oversaw the arrangements for the meeting, David Quantrill, a local visitor, Mark Whitehorn, a new member attending his first meeting, and David Holt, who joined during the course of the meeting. Apologies had been received from two members.

The Hon Secretary gave details of eight prospective new members:

Christopher Bates from Newcastle-under-Lyme
 Mark Whitehorn from Epsom, Surrey
 Tony Hickey from Chislehurst, Kent
 Veronica Matthews from Newcastle-upon-Tyne
 Yuji Onuki from Semata, Japan
 Richard Berry from Richmond, Virginia
 Geoffrey Frost from Warminster
 David Holt from Haywards Heath
 whose applications were readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The afternoon was devoted to members' displays. The following members exhibited:

Ernst Gorge	The first postage dues
Yvonne Gren	New York World Fair; Mladá prints, etc
Ian Nutley	Theresienstadt Ghetto
Barry Home	New York World Fair
Brian Day	Patriotic cards of the German Bund; Italians PMs in Slovakia
Bob Bradford	Miscellany
Colin Spong	Hlinka definitives of Slovakia
Heinz Vogel	Memorials to Czechoslovak forces in Great Britain
Rex Dixon	Souvenir sheets (ex Alec Page collection)
Bill Dawson	Military operations in Slovakia 1919-1920
Brian Day	Jóža Uprka, painter and printmaker

In addition, Barry Home had an album on show containing a large number of watercolour paintings on commemorative covers, which attracted many admiring (and envious?) glances.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

Rex A Dixon

Midpex '99

The doors opened at 0800 so that stands could be set up, 0845 was early enough for me. The car park at Tile Hill was already filling up and the only problem was to find the door to get in. Having achieved that task, on the reception desk was a philatelist from the same village as myself. Our stand was in a good location in hall two and I painstakingly started to put up others members' exhibits:

Folk Costumes	Brian Day
Hradčany Issue	Bob Bradford
Souvenirs	The late Alec Page FRPSL
Sudetenland	Rex Dixon
Slovakia	Colin Spong FRPSL
Watercolour paintings on commemorative covers	Barry Home

The last frame was meant to be of my Liberation overprints but having seen Barry's covers at the Shoreham meeting the previous weekend, I could see they were eye catching. I was right, they certainly caused passers by to stop and admire.

>

The first two visitors were looking for Colin Spong and the third was a Dutch lady, after that I lost count as the tempo picked up and many visitors were greeted. Bob Bradford arrived at 1030 and after that we worked the stand between us. There were a steady stream of members who called in: Roger Morrell, the auctioneer; Ian Nickson, webmaster; John Hammonds, Richard Beith and many others. My shift finished at 1500 and I was pleased to leave the hot hall and the clearing up to Bob Bradford. We sold £30 of publications and had enquiries concerning membership from 5 people.

Bob Hill

Congratulations

To Brian Day for Silver Bronze Medal for his monograph "The Sokols in Philately" at *OLYMSPORT '99* The National Specialized Philatelic Exhibition and International Exhibition of Philatelic Literature, held in Prague, 17-22 May 1999.

Letters to the Editor

A letter requesting a correspondent has been received from Mr Jan Szwej, ul Kühna 39, 2-256 Olsztyn, pow. Częstochowski, woj. Śląskie, Poland. He offers mint complete sets using the Michel catalogue for Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania, North Korea, North Vietnam, Mongolia, Cuba, USSR and now independent states ex USSR. Mr Szwej wishes to receive mint Great Britain from 1990 to 1999.

We suggest members answering any requests should not send any stamps until contact has been confirmed and a satisfactory form of exchange, etc, agreed upon. The Society cannot enter into any correspondence or take responsibility for any transactions entered into.

Publications

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

- The March 1999 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, Vol. 31, Whole No 119 and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of contents for us. The articles include:
 - ▶ New Registration labels for the Czech Post Office (-); Recommendations for searching for Plate Errors in the Hradčany issue and exchanges amongst members (-); Jaroslav Gločák: The Postal History of Valtice [Feldberg] (-); Hradčany 75h - Plate reconstruction (Krnak & Vauhsem); The Chust overprint "ČSP 1944" (Holoubek) The experimental "Postal Depots" of the Slovakian Post Office (Muller).
- The Jul/Aug issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Vol. 61, Whole No 556, No 4. The articles include:
 - ▶ Czech Post Marks SCP 60th Anniversary (Verner); The German Bohemia Province (Lunc); Alphonse Mucha Exhibition (Dewey); To Chicago in 1941 via the Trans-Siberia Railroad (Miskevich); Prague Pneumatic Tube Mail System's 100th Anniversary (Hahn); Postal Cards of the Czech Scout Post to Private Persons (Lawrence); Czech Stamp Collectors On Line (Svoboda); The Czech Republic's Oldest Chain Bridge (Horvath).
- The July issue of *Dylizans* No 14, 1999 includes the following:
 - ▶ A fourth part of an article on the Polish Railway Travelling Post Offices 1919-1939 (Berrisford & Bojakowski).
- The 2/99 and 3/99 issues of *Merkur Review*, by courtesy of Bill Dawson. The articles include:
 - ▶ The Řečkovice post office (Žampach); Interview with Bedřich Housa (Fritz). The unknown proofs of the ČSP 1944 Chust overprint (Markus).
 - ▶ The Řečkovice post office (continued) (Žampach); Deutschböhmen and post-war times (Vostatek); Polní Pošta 1919-20 (Vostatek).

BOOK REVIEW

The Issues of Czechoslovakia for the New York World's Fair 1939, 1940, Monography and Catalogue, by Eckart H Dissen. Amsterdam, E=mc² Publishers, 1998. All enquiries, orders and payments via Mr Dissen, Bestevaerstraat 9, 2014 AL Haarlem, Netherlands. [e-mail: perspex@worldonline.nl].

Three versions of this publication are planned. At the time of writing (5/99) only the two limited edition A4 versions are available, the 'popular' A5 version has yet to appear. Details are:

- Version A: A4 size, hardback, with two original World's Fair miniature sheets included.
- Version B: As version A but with only one miniature sheet
- Version C: A5 size, with corrections and some new illustrations, revised layout of probably 150 pages.

All three versions are written in English with trilingual [Dutch/English/German] texts in the catalogue section and in captions to illustrations.

It would appear that 20 copies of (A) have been produced and 40 copies of (B). Version (C) will be in an edition of 100 copies. Approx costs are (A) £55 and (B) £26 plus postage.

Payment can be made through a Giro-account, by Eurocheque and by cash [registered letter]. Mr Dissen suggests that members would be advised to write first stating their interests when Mr Dissen will confirm prices, postages and current payment methods. When version (C) is available the cost to CsPSGB members will be £20 including postage.

The following comments are based on a copy of Version (B):

The book is well bound with good quality boards and 101 pages of text and illustrations. In Mirko L Vondra's Foreword, the background to the issues is set out. The New York World's Fair of 1939-40 officially opened on 30 April, 1939, just weeks after the German invasion of Czecho-Slovakia, the establishment of the Protectorate and the creation of the puppet Slovak State. After the invasion, New York Mayor La Guardia sponsored a committee to raise funds to finish and operate the as yet empty shell of the Czechoslovak Pavilion. Dr Beneš, President-in-Exile, was present on the opening day of the Fair. The Pavilion was never officially opened, the only activity was the sale of the souvenir sheets listed in this monograph. Vondra notes that the sale of these sheets and the display merchandise shipped over prior to the German invasion also helped support the exiled government in London.

The Fair opened for two summer seasons totalling 12 months in all. The Organising Committee for the Czechoslovak Pavilion had the idea of selling stocks of the miniature sheets issued for the Bratislava (1937) and Prague (1938) philatelic exhibitions with appropriate overprints relating to the Fair and the Pavilion. The actual overprinting and sale of the sheets was controlled by the Consulate with the blessing of the Government-in-Exile. The original sheets were donated from their stocks by US stamp dealers of Czechoslovak ancestry and by other well-wishers.

Mr Dissen goes on to list the sheets, the many different colours of overprints, the presentation folders and the commemorative handstamps used to cancel the sheets in great detail. Smaller quantities of other miniature sheets such as the 1937 Masaryk sheet were also overprinted. With the success of the participation in the New York Fair in mind, miniature sheets were also overprinted for the forthcoming Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, but this event was cancelled due to the outbreak of WWII and most of the sheets with Toronto overprints were again overprinted for New York. The catalogue proper runs from page 55 to page 86; the very first table relating to the Bratislava Sheet for use in 1939 shows no less than 24 different variants based on the colour of the text overprint and the coat-of-arms overprint. Using a points system, indications of relative rarity (but not actual valuations) are given for mint items, those with a Fair cancellation, those with a Czechoslovak cancellation and for sheets on cover. Of course, none of these items had any postal validity, but they can occasionally be found on covers with regular US postage stamps paying the appropriate postal charges.

>

In addition to the main thesis, there are passing references to the Czechoslovak Field Posts in France (1939-40) (Slightly inaccurate in the early copies, but this should be corrected in the A5 version) and to the 1943 Exhibition of Czechoslovak stamps in London.

All in all, it is quite impossible to imagine a more detailed treatment of these interesting patriotic issues. Mr Dissen is to be congratulated on the production of this labour of love with its plethora of full colour illustrations.

Richard Beith

The Postal Rates of Croatia and Srem by Geoff Barling ISBN 0 9520086 1 0

This study concentrates on the territories of the Republic of Croatia, as it is today, and the region of Srem which has remained within Yugoslavia, both of which have experienced a number of administrative changes and boundary alterations, from 1750 to 1992.

Although the principal rates for Austria and Italy have become fairly well known from recent publications, many aspects are far more difficult, including a number of military occupations and the inflation period in Yugoslavia itself during 1985-1992. Rates coverage in this substantial volume also extends to the posts of Ragusa, Illyia, Istria, Dalmatia, Venezia Giulia Hungary and Fiume.

Users will find helpful the thirteen maps and the glossary of place names in their different languages, which so often make some of the postmarks rather confusing. The historical introduction goes a long way towards explaining why there are so many territorial changes to be considered and so many different versions of the placenames.

Nearly every question a collector will ever need to ask is authoritatively answered in this thorough compendium. It is certain to become immediately established as the standard reference.

Price £26 plus P&P £4. obtainable from A.J. Bosworth, 34 Richmond Way, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6BN. England.

Tony Bosworth

POFIS Catalogue of Czechoslovakia 1918-1939. 175 pages, size A5. Obtainable from POFIS, Klimentska 6, CZ-110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic price Kč 298 (about £6), soft bound.

A number of catalogues of pre-war Czechoslovakia have been published over the last years, but this is an entirely new work, written by Ing. František Beneš co-author of the prestige publication "*Mail Service in the Ghetto Terezin 1941-1945*". This catalogue, printed in full colour, incorporates not only all the information about Czechoslovak stamps known so far, but it offers much more. Ing. František Beneš is an expert in the field of Czechoslovak stamps, and he has included his experience of many years of expertising. The catalogue has been completely re-written. At the back of the catalogue the postal rates valid in Czechoslovakia over the 21 years are given. He has also worked out a system how to calculate the value of entires with Czechoslovak stamps. First of all after each issue he gives a table of values for entires, and at the back he explains how to calculate the value depending on whether it is a single franking, multiple or mixed, also how many percentage points have to be added for registration, express items, mail going abroad etc. This is an excellent work, and despite the fact that it is written in Czech, collectors will soon find their way and understand it.

Please advise the Hon.Treasurer, Bob Bradford, if you wish to order this catalogue

Otto Hornung

Richard Beith advises us that the correct price for the book *Airmail Operations during World War II* by Thomas Boyle is now £31.95 inc UK p+p. Richard has also written an article on *Czech and Slovak Musical Philately* for The Dvořák Society journal *Czech Music*, Vol.20 1997/8. A copy is in the Society Library but additional copies of this magazine can be obtained from the Dvořák Society, c/o Peter Herbert, 5 Linden Grove, Garstang, Preston PR3 1FN, enclosing a cheque for £9.00 inc UK P&P payable to the Dvořák Society [overseas add £1].

POSTAL EVOLUTION IN THE HLUČÍN REGION FROM PRESTAMP ERA TO 1973

Continued from Czechout 2/99 page 39.

-Viktor Jindra-

Translated by V.J.Králíček

The Czechoslovak Republic Post

Four post offices in the Ratiboř region were taken over by the Czechoslovak Post during the period of 1 to 3 February 1920. These were: Bolatice, Hlučín (with the postal area of Bobrovník and Kozimce), Kravaře (with the postal area of Kouty and Ludgeřovice including Koblov). In addition ten postal agencies were also taken over: Benešov u Hlučína, Buslavice, Hošťálkovice, Velké Hoštice (together with Chlebičov, Malé Hoštice and Pusté Jakartice). Chuchelná, Kobeřice, Oldřišov, Sudice (with Rohov), Šilheřovice and Štěpánkovice.

In the morning of 4 February 1920 the Czechoslovak post offices in the Hlučín region commenced business, selling solely Czechoslovak stamps and stationery. According to the Post and Telegraph administration in Opava it was allowed for eight days to use German stamps and stationery in the Hlučín region, when these items were placed into postal boxes. These instructions were not, however, observed as items franked with German stamps are found as late as February 1920: and German stamps are also known on registered articles which were handed in over the postal counter. The conversion rate was 1 Mark = 1 Kčs.

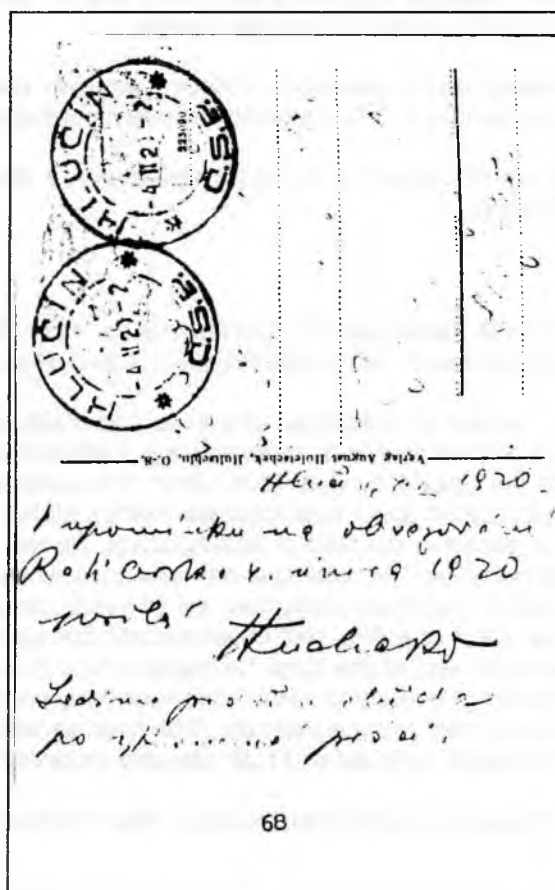
Mail franked with German stamps or with mixed frankings, i.e. with German and Czechoslovak stamps and cancelled in Hlučín at that time, are very much sought after by specialists (68).

Post Offices were provided with Czechoslovak datestamps in time for cancelling mail on the first day, so that from the beginning all Post Offices were using Czech postal cancellers. The datestamps used at the post offices in Hlučín, Bolatice, Benešov u Hlučína, Chuchelná, Štěpánkovice and Hošťálkovice had only czech inscriptions, the remainder of the post offices were provided with cancellers in czech-german inscriptions (68 to 81). Since many of the first cancellers had deficiencies such as incorrect spelling or a completely wrong description of the Post Office name, it was necessary to correct those that were faulty or change them altogether.

Thus for example the titles of the first cancellers were ŠULÉŘOVICE (96) instead of ŠILHEŘOVICE (81), BUSLAVICE (71) instead of BŮSLAVICE (83) which was later changed to BOHUSLAVICE U HLUČÍNÁ (83a). KRAVAŘ/DEUTSCH KRAWARN (76) was changed to KRAVAŘE/KRAWARN (84) then to KRAVAŘE VE SLEZKU (85), and again later to KRAVAŘE U OPAVY (86). LUDHEŘOVICE/LUDGIERZOWITZ (77) was changed to LUDGEŘOVICE/LUDGERSTHAL (82).

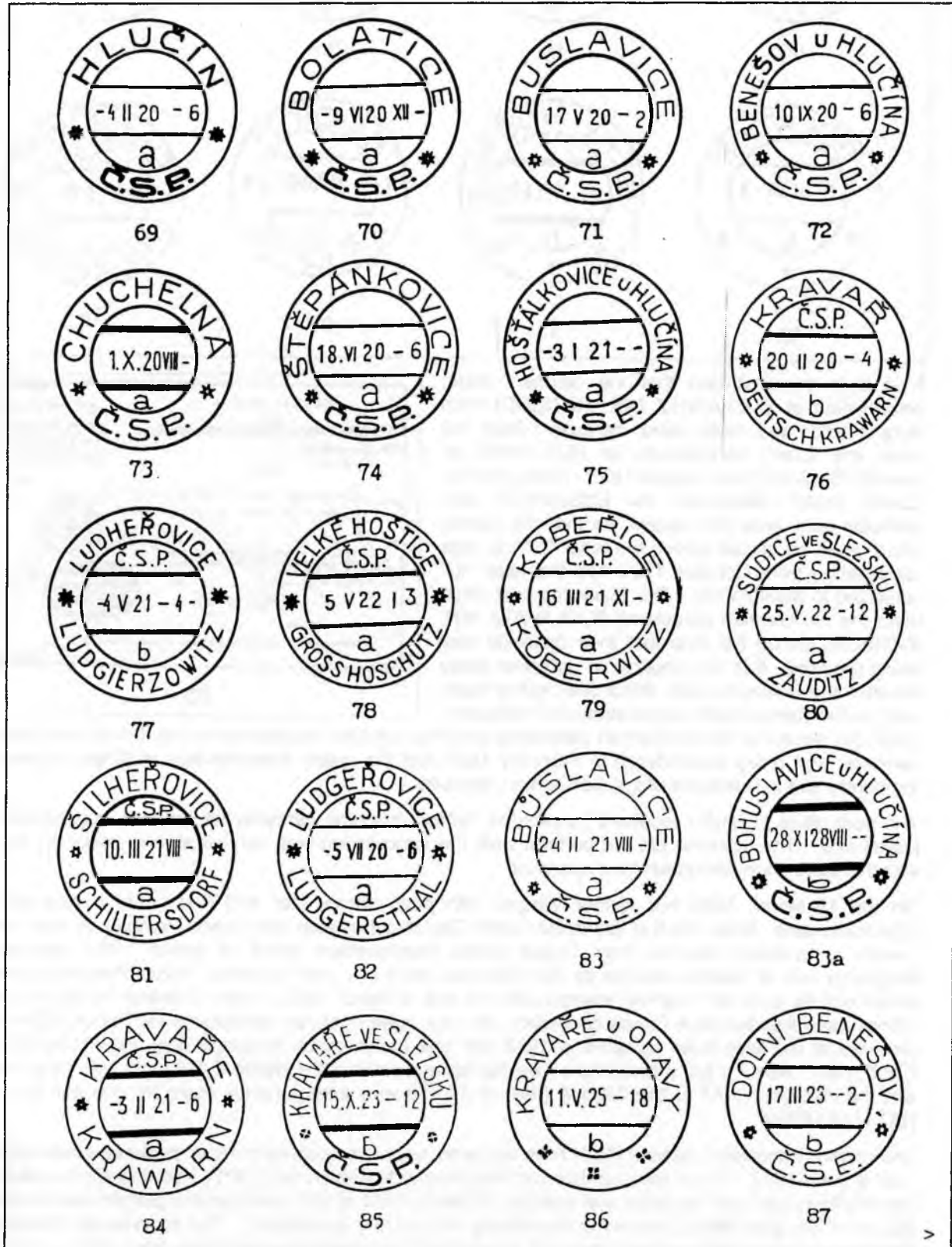
With the progress of time the Czech cancellers with the initials Č.S.P. changed to cancellers with three stars or crosses, as in the rest of Czech Republic. Also the Czech-German cancellers were replaced mainly by Czech datestamps. In 1938 only one post office in the Hlučín region used the Czech-German canceller, and that was for the post office in SUDICE/ZAUDITZ (89 to 94).

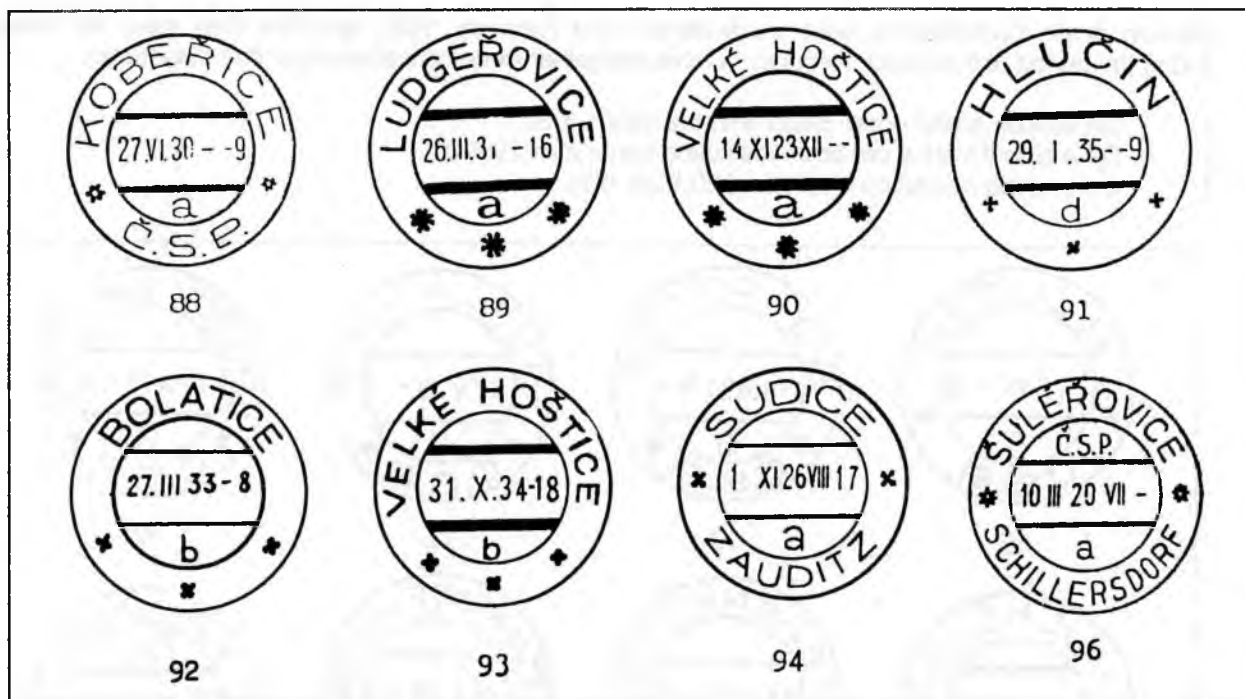
Only a few years ago I discovered on an entire the imprint of the German cancellation for BUSLAWITZ (KR. RATIBOR) from August 1920, which was a great surprise to me, since so far it was thought that all



German postal cancellations were surrendered on 4 February 1920, and that they were not used during the period of the Czech Republic. I have altogether three cancellations of that datestamp:

- 1 On a small postal order cutout with the date 1.8.20.
- 2 On a cutout from a law court restitution form dated 29.8.20
- 3 On a whole restitution form dated 20.8.20 (95).





It is thus demonstrated that the German postal cancellation at BUSLAWITZ (KR. RATIBOR) from August 1920 was really used, because I have not seen any Czech cancellation for BUSLAVICE or even BÜSLAVICE from August 1920. I think that the Czech postal datestamp for BUSLAVICE was probably sent away for repairs, so that the accent circle could be placed above the letter "U". A later cancellation from October 1920 has the letter "U" corrected to BÜSLAVICE. The Buslavice post office used the old German datestamp BUSLAWITZ (KR. RATIBOR) during the time that their canceller was being repaired. It is not possible to ascertain today whether the Buslavice post office after being taken over by the Czech postal administration in February 1920, did surrender its old German datestamp and thus had the opportunity to use this, or whether the canceller was really surrendered in February 1920 and the postal administration at Opava allowed a temporary use in Buslavice of the old German canceller.



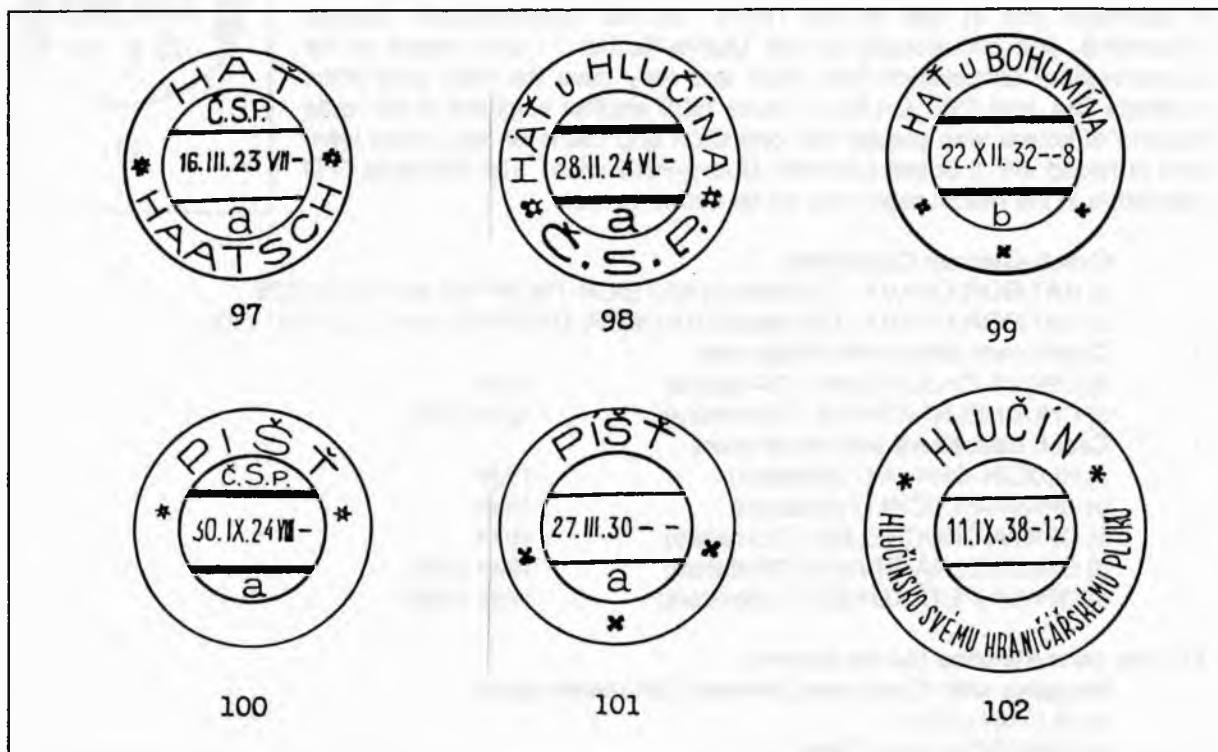
95

The post office in Hlučín received, possibly in 1934, a machine canceller for the bulk cancellation of postal mail. The machine did not perform well; the cancellation was very weak and unsightly, and it was therefore soon withdrawn from operation.

On the 16 March 1923 two further villages with post offices, Hať and Pišť, were transferred to Czechoslovakia. From the first day in the Czech Republic they sold only Czech stamps and stationery; special instructions received from Opava postal headquarters dated 15 March 1923, allowed a temporary use of German stamps for the first three days i.e., until 18 March 1923. Properly franked postal entires exist with German stamps until the end of March 1923. From 16 March 1923 both post offices used the definitive Czech cancellers; the new czech-german handstamp HAŤ/HAATSCH (97) received at Hať was soon replaced in 1924 with one in the czech language only, HAŤ U HLUČINA Č.S.P. (98). About 1932 it received a new handstamp without the letters Č.S.P., but with three stars and the inscription HAŤ U BOHUMÍNA (99). In 1936 it was changed once again for one with the text HAŤ U HLUČINA.

The original handstamp used at Pišť I have not seen; in my own collection I only possess a cancellation from 9 June 1923. It was bilingual but with the german text removed (100). I am therefore unable to say whether a german canceller was used on 16 March 1923 at Pišť, and had the german text removed later or if this post office received a handstamp without the inscription? This provisional handstamp was in use up to 1925 and was changed for one with the inscription and three stars (101). I do not

know of any PÍŠŤ/Č.S.P cancellers. German or Upper Silesian stamps exist on pieces with Czech/German text cancellations of HAŤ/HAATSCH dated 16 March 1923. From that I would judge that in Hat' there was a very active philatelic group, in contrast to Píšť, where so far I have not seen similar cutouts.

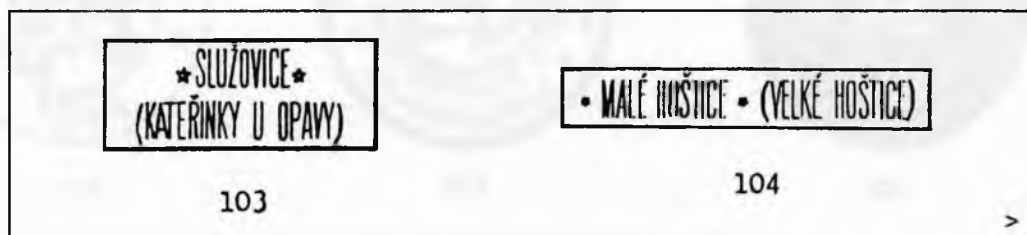


It is also necessary to mention that Hlučín received in 1938 a commemorative cancel (the only special cancellation in the Hlučín region) in a blue-red colour and inscribed: HLUČÍN/HLUČÍNSKO SVĚMU HRANIČÁŘSKÉMU PLUKU. This canceller was to be used only from 3 to 12 September 1938. On the majority of postally used items the cancellation has the date 11 September 1938, the main celebrations in Hlučín being held on that day. The Prague philatelic counter was using this cancellation for seven days for collectors with the date of 12 September 1938; cancellations with other dates occur only infrequently. I have only seen examples for 3 and 6 September 1938 (102).

Sub-Post Offices

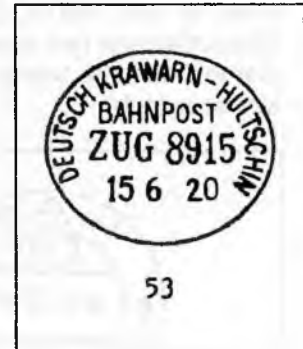
I am unable to describe the sub-post offices cancellers in the Hlučín region from 1920, as I have not seen them. Later cancellers are similar to the Czech Republic cancellers of that time. They are oblong, made from india rubber and have beside the post office name in brackets the name of the head post office. I only know of two types of these handstamps:

- 1 **Oblong canceller with two line text**
 - a] · HNEVOŠICE · (KATEŘINKY U OPAVY) on a letter from October 1930.
 - b] · SLUŽOVICE · (KATEŘINKY U OPAVY) on a return label from November 1930 (103).
- 2 **Oblong canceller with single line text**
 - a] · SLUŽOVICE · (KATEŘINKY U OPAVY) on a letter from June 1938.
 - b] · MALÉ HOŠTICE · (VELKÉ HOŠTICE) on a postcard from 1938 (104).



Train Post Offices

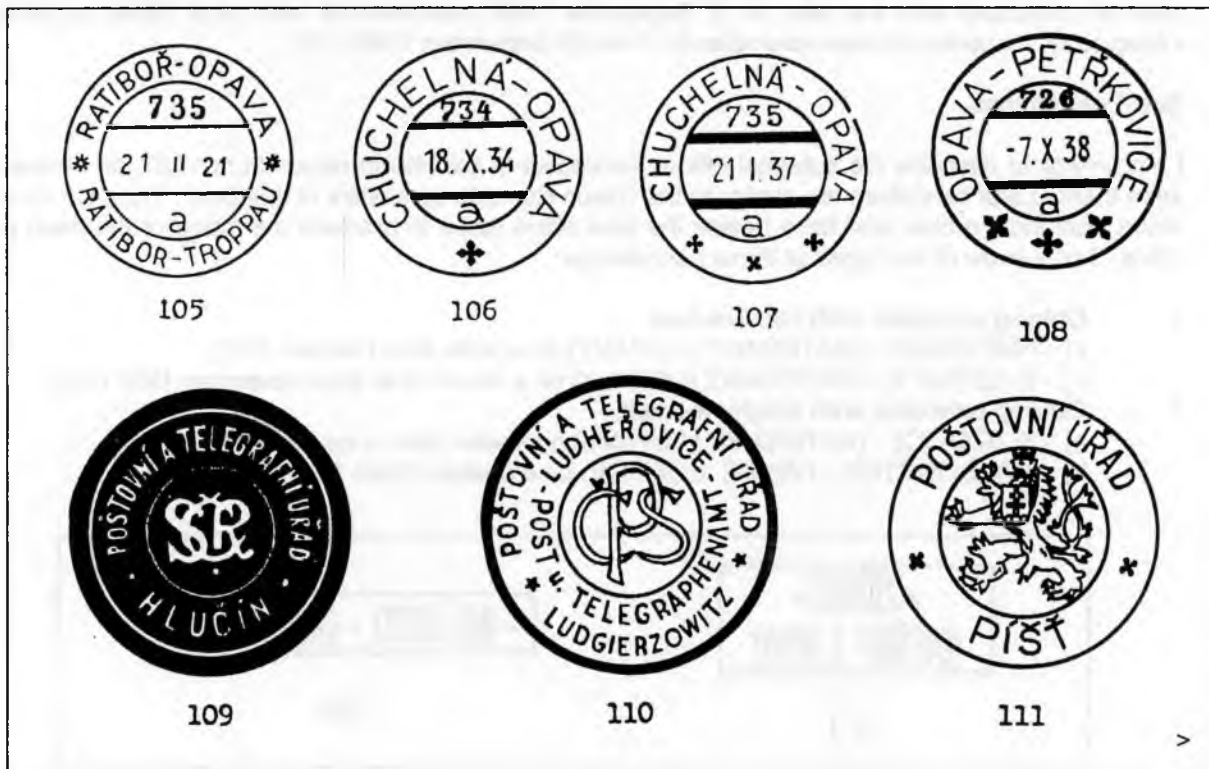
After the Hlučín region was taken over by the Czech post office on 4 February 1920 the Kravaře - Hlučín TPO's were still using the old German cancellers, allegedly until June 1930 (53). However, I do not know what type of canceller was in use by the TPO's on the Opava-Knavře, Opava-Chuchelná, and occasionally on the Opava-Ratiboř. I only aware of the Opava-Ratiboř cancellation from 1921 and they have the train post office numbers 734, and 735. On the 14 June 1925 another segment of the route Hlučín-Petřkovice was placed into operation and trains on this route were also provided with a postal canceller Opava-Petřkovice. The following TPO cancellers in the Hlučín region are so far known to me:



- 1 **Czech-German Cancellers**
 - a) RATIBOŘ-OPAVA (734/date/a) RATIBOR-TROPPAU from 13.3.1925
 - b) RATIBOŘ-OPAVA (735/date/a) RATIBOR-TROPPAU from 21.2.1921 (105).
- 2 **Czech cancellers with single star**
 - a) OPAVA-CHUCHELNÁ (734/date/a) 1934
 - b) CHUCHELNÁ-OPAVA (734/date/a) 1934 (106).
- 3 **Czech cancellers with three stars**
 - a) HLUČÍN-OPAVA (726/date/a) 1934
 - b) OPAVA-HLUČÍN (726/date/a) 1934
 - c) OPAVA-CHUCHELNÁ (735/date/a) 1934
 - d) CHUCHELNÁ-OPAVA (735/date/a) 1934 (107)
 - e) OPAVA-PETŘKOVICE (726/date/a) 1938 (108).

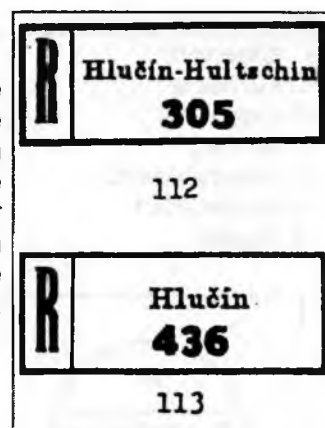
Priority cancellations (so far known)

- 1 **Negative with Czech text, initials ČSR inside circle**
 - a) HLUČÍN (109)
 - b) BENEŠOV U HLUČÍNA
- 2 **Positive metal canceller with Czech-German text**
 - a) LUDHEŘOVICE/LUDGIERZOWITZ (110)
- 3 **Positive double circle metal canceller with the initial CSR**
 - a) PÍŠŤ (111)



Registration Labels

On the day of the opening of the Hlučín region post offices under the Czechoslovak Postal Administration, the Czech registration labels were issued and solely used. It is interesting that every post office in the Hlučín region received in the first instance Czech-German labels, even those offices which were using cancellers with czech only inscriptions. After using up their first allocation of registration labels all post offices then received further supplies with just the czech text. It was only at the SUDICE/ZAUDITZ post office that the dual language were in use until October 1938 (112, 113).



The Posts of Nazi Germany

On the 8 October 1938 the Hlučín region was occupied by the German Army and was annexed to the German Third Reich. The Post Offices were supplied with German stamps, with the Czech stamps remaining officially valid until the end of October 1938. Cases are known where the Czech stamps were even in use after that date and not rejected. Naturally mixed franking exists with both German and Czech stamps. So far I have not seen Czech postal cancellations from the Hlučín region in use after 8 October 1938, not even with the Czech text removed. From that I would judge that either the evacuation of the post offices was so well carried out, so that in the Hlučín region not one Czech canceller remained, or that they were not used because with the exception of the Sudice post office, all cancellers had only Czech text.

The post offices in the Hlučín area have therefore arranged their own provisional cancellers of various types and designs. Mostly they are single or double line cancellers; some were in German Gothic letters whilst others were in Roman characters. During the first days Velké Hoštice post office used a primitive two line date stamp made from a child's printing set. In Hlučín a three line canceller was used and in Šilhéřovice a two line datestamp, the so-called "Liberation" canceller. All of these heterogeneous provisional date stamps were changed in 1939 for oblong framed provisional cancellers. However, even these were progressively changed for metal cancellers with a date bridge.

Postal centres were set up in the smaller settlements which were using rubber frame cancellers of uniform type. The name of the postal centre was found in the upper half and underlined, and in the lower half it was always the following inscription "über Ratibor". The centres cancellations were postmarked principally beside the stamps, the stamps were invalidated only by the Ratibor post office. So far only cancellations for the following centres are known: Gross Darkowitz, Klein Darkowitz, Klingbeutel, Kosmütz, Odersch, Rohow, Schlausewitz and Wreschin.

Train Post Offices cancellations on mail and sent from the Hlučín region are known:

- 1 Heydebreck-Ratibor-Troppau, Zug 0715
- 2 Kattowitz-Jägerndorf.

Registration Labels

I have only seen so far Czech registration labels used during the occupation at Velké Hoštice post office; the original Czech text label, was crossed through by pen and written across the label was the inscription "Gross Hoschütz" instead. Otherwise the Hlučín region post offices were allocated registration labels in record time by 1938.

Underneath I list all the post offices and postal centres which existed in the Hlučín region during the occupation, together with their Czech names. At the same time I note the type of canceller used in each post office which are known to me at this time.

Official German name	Czech name	Type of canceller used
1 Beneschau	Dolní Benešov	124, 125, 129, 131
2 Bolatitz	Bolatice	124, 125
3 Buslawitz	Bohuslavice u Hlučína	124, 129, 131
4 Deutsch Krawarn	Kravaře u Hlučína	124, 130
5 Gross Hoschutz	Velké Hoštice	127, 128, 131
6 Haatsch	Hať u Hlučína	125, 131
7 Hoschialkowitz	Hošťálkovice	125, 131
8 Hultschin	Hlučín	122, 123, 124, 130 >

Official German name	Czech name	Type of canceller used
9 Köberwitz	Kobeřice	124, 125, 129, 131
10 Kuchelna	Chuchelná	124, 129
11 Ludgerstal	Ludgeřovice	124, 126, 130, 131
12 Sandau	Pišť	124, 125, 129, 131
13 Schepankowitz	Štěpánkovice	124, 129
14 Schillersdorf	Šilheřovice	124, 125, 129
15 Zauditz	Sudice	?

	<u>Deutsch Krawarn</u>	<u>Ludgerstal</u>
122	Hultschin	<u>Hultschin</u>
	123	124
Postamt Ludgerstal	<u>Hoschialkowitz</u>	<u>Schillersdorf</u>
126	über Ratibor	über Ratibor
	<u>Köberwitz</u>	<u>Bolatitz</u>
	über Ratibor	über Ratibor
Postagentur	<u>Haatsch</u>	
Gros - Ho₂hütz	über Ratibor	125
127	Buslawitz	
	über Ratibor	
Postamt		
Gros - Ho₂hütz		
128	129	131
		HLUČÍN
		T. I.
	132	
130	HLUČÍN	HLUČÍN
	T. II.	T. III.
	133	

Postal Centres

1	Gross Darkowitz	Darkovice	114
2	Klein Darkowitz	Darkovičky	115
3	Klingebeutel	Pusté Jakartice	116
4	Kosmütz	Kozmice	117
5	Odersch	Oldřišov	118
6	Rohow	Rohov	119
7	Schlausewitz	Služovice	120
8	Wreschin	Vřesina	121

Gross Darkowitz
über Ratibor

114

Klein Darkowitz
über Ratibor

115

Klingebeutel
über Ratibor

116

Kosmütz
über Ratibor

117

Odersch
über Ratibor

118

Rohow
über Ratibor

119

Schlaufewitz
über Ratibor

120

Wreschin
über Ratibor

121

To be continued...

FREE CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Concerts and Patriotic Events from the Cholmondeley period and their philatelic souvenirs.

Richard Beith

Richard is working on a new monograph to cover the UK period 1940-1944 to complement the existing Monograph No.5 and he would welcome correspondence on this topic, additions/corrections to the UK coverage in Monograph No.1. Editor

Reference to Page will remind readers of the train of events which lead the Free Czechoslovak Forces to arrive in Great Britain from France in early July 1940. (1) The first British home for these gallant fighters was in tented accommodation in the peaceful surroundings of the Park surrounding Cholmondeley Castle, the early nineteenth century gothic style home of the Cholmondeley family. Located near Malpas in Cheshire, this was to be the Forces home until late October 1940, when they moved to winter quarters near Leamington Spa. Obviously the London based Czechoslovak Government-in-exile didn't wish to waste any time in drawing the attention of the British people to their most important aspiration, the creation of a reunited democratic Czechoslovakia after the defeat of the Axis powers. Hence, almost at once, the Czechs and Slovaks resident at Cholmondeley participated in a number of very public events which were well reported in the British press and which were often commemorated by the production of philatelic souvenirs.

Since the author now lives less than 30 minutes drive from Cholmondeley Park, he has a special interest in recording this fragment of local history. Known events are listed in date order:

26 July, 1940: Visit of Dr E Beneš President of the Government-in-exile, to review the forces at Cholmondeley.

This was the occasion for the first use of a commemorative cancel produced by the Czechoslovak Army Post Office in Great Britain. When first used they could only be applied 'by favour' on sheets of plain paper or on printed souvenir folders. The inside and outside of one such folder is shown as Figs 14 and 15 in ref. (1). Another variant is known with a plain inside. As first produced, the cancellation contained the location 'Cholmondeley', but it must have been realised that to name the location of the camp was a breach of security.

Photograph courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, London

This was the only commemorative cancellation issued by the Czechoslovak Army Post Office in Great Britain which illustrated an actual camp site, rather than featuring a symbolic design relating to Czech and Slovak history. The design shows the impressive gateway at Beeston Lodge, the main entrance to the Cholmondeley Estate on the A49 road. Fig 1 shows Dr Beneš. greeting the Commanding Officer on his arrival. The appearance has not changed much with the passage of time, see the August 1998 photograph shown as Fig 2. The cancellations are shown as Fig 12 (with camp location) and Fig 13 (without camp location) in ref. (1)



>

The visit was reported locally, the site of the camp being referred to only as:

"The beautiful setting of an English parkland"

It was noted that:

"The troops are under canvas and they have many amenities which include the printing of their own newspaper. They are all in splendid heart and the people of the countryside are giving them all the hospitality possible." (2)



28 July, 1940: "Grand Concert by the Czecho-Slovak Army" Chester.

This event was advertised in the local Chester press as early as 20 July, see Fig 3. The Gaumont Palace Cinema still exists today, but as a Mecca Bingo Hall. Such were the oddities of war-time censorship that although the concert could be announced giving time and place, when it came to reporting the event afterwards, the location could only be given as "in a Northern Town". (3, 4) One report described the event as:

"The first concert in this country by members of the Czecho-Slovak Army.... attracted an audience of 2,000 people. Many were unable to get in."

Gaumont Palace Chester. Sunday, July 28th
Commencing 7-30 p.m. Doors open 6-45 p.m.

GRAND CONCERT
BY THE
CZECHO-SLOVAK ARMY
IN AID OF THEIR COMFORTS FUND

Under the auspices of the Western Command. Programme includes—

<p>Czecho-Slovak MILITARY BAND comprising over 40 instrumentalists</p> <p>SLOVAK CHOIR of Fifty Singers.</p> <p>CHROMATIC HARMONICA TRIO.</p> <p>SLOVAK FOLK DANCES</p> <p>INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL Items.</p> <p>Organiser—Capt. Kvetoslav Prokes.</p> <p>Choirmaster—Lieut. Bohuslav Sigmund.</p>	<p>SLOVAK DANCE 'Under the Sabres'</p> <p>TABLEAUX 'Release from Bondage'</p> <p>Thrilling GYMNASTIC & TRAPEZE DISPLAY by the Champions of the Sokol—team includes the famous JAN KOUTNY</p> <p>Bandmaster—Bergl. J. Obruc.</p> <p>Pianist—Lieut. Ludvik Jaros.</p>
--	---

TICKETS—Reserved 3/6; Unreserved 2/6, 1/6, and 1/2. Obtainable from the Gaumont Cinema.

The audience included the great and the good, the Mayor and Mayoress, the local MP, General Viest, Dr Rudolf Ripka (Czech Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), General Miroslav (Commanding the First Czech Army) and General Nizborsky (Divisional Commander). A message was read from President Beneš.

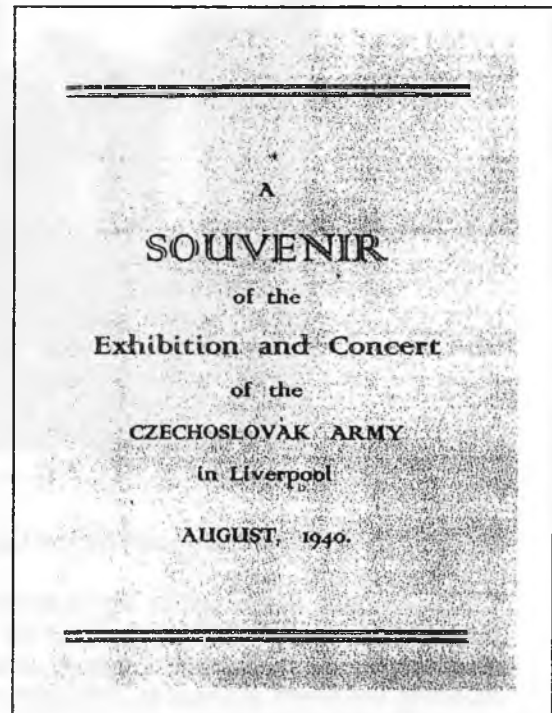
There was a great variety of entertainment. The Czech Army Choir under Lieutenant Bohuslav Sigmund contributed a large share of the programme, dancers in folk costume performed a sword dance and more popular music was given by an accordion group. More classical music was followed by a Sokol display which included symbolic groupings as a comment on current events in Europe. Part of the concert was broadcast on the BBC, Home and Empire wavelengths, and to the USA.

Have any separate philatelic souvenirs of this concert been reported or were souvenirs of the President's visit to Cholmondeley on 26 July utilised ?

25 August, 1940: Czecho-Slovak concert in Liverpool.

A similar concert was given at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool. President Beneš. was welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Alderman Sir Sydney Jones). Even more of the great and good were recorded as attending the concert than at Chester. Visitors included Lord Derby and Lord and Lady Leverhume, as well as many Czechoslovak military and civil dignitaries. The press report notes that during the interval, the Lord Mayor was presented with a painting of the Czecho-Slovak Camp (ie Cholmondeley). I wonder if it is still in the Lord Mayor's Parlour? (5)

Figs 4 and 5 show the front and inside of the souvenir folder produced for the occasion. The inside photograph shows President Beneš. on the review stand at Cholmondeley and the Penny Black Centenary stamp is cancelled with the 26 July postmark without camp name. There is a note in Ref (1) that 26 July folders with the inside blank, exist cancelled on 25 August. Perhaps these were also used as souvenirs in Liverpool.



DR. EDVARD BENES,

President of Czechoslovakia, visiting his troops on July 26, 1940.



The Festival Stamp used by the Czechoslovak Army Post Office in its Camp on the day of the President's visit.

8 September, 1940: Czecho-Slovak concert in Manchester

A further concert was given at the Odeon Theatre, Manchester, which produced the same mixture of choral singing, instrumental solos, lighter accordian pieces, folk dances and Sokol displays. General Ingr, Minister of National Defence, was present. A small exhibition had opened earlier in the week at 7 Corporation Street, Manchester, with displays of photographs, regimental colours and paintings. (6) A souvenir folder was produced, similar to the Liverpool example. The Manchester folder is illustrated on page 10 of Ref (1) and again uses the Cholmondeley handstamp with 26 July date.

15 September, 1940: Petr Bezruč Cancellation

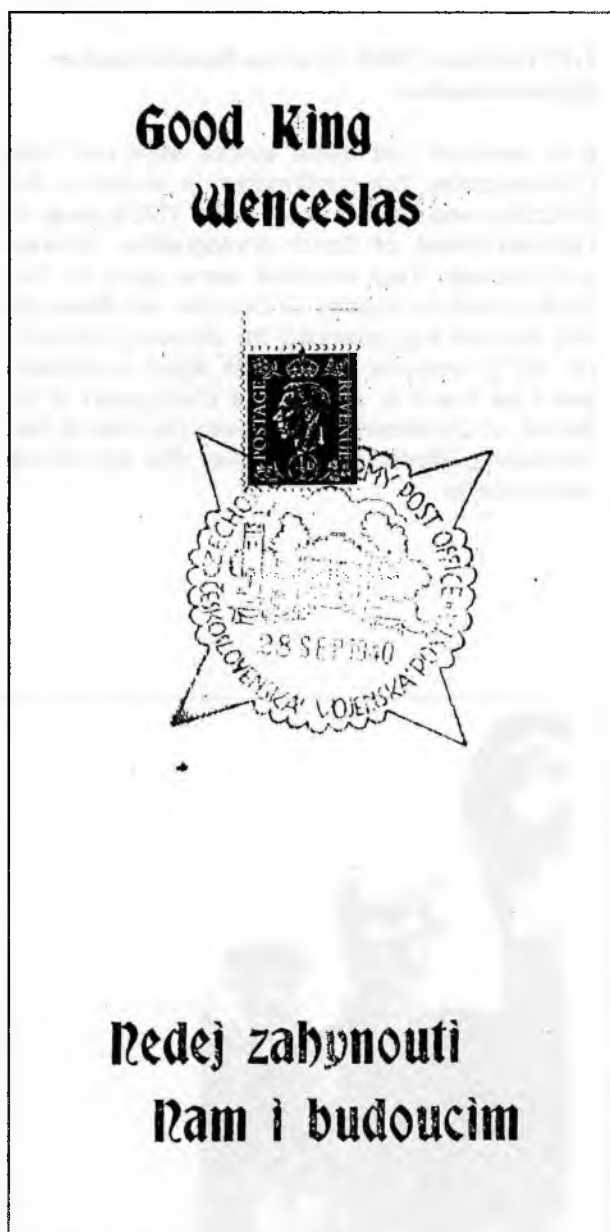
Reference to this special cancellation is included here as it was produced during the Cholmondeley period. However, no reports of connected special events have been seen. Can readers comment? The postmark is shown as Fig 17 of Ref (1). Petr Bezruč was the pen name of Vladimír Vašek (1867-1958), who wrote powerful poems about the hardships of life in the mining regions near Ostrava. Some of his most dramatic poems were set to music for male chorus by Leoš Janáček.

28 September, 1940: St Wenceslas Day Celebrations at Cholmondeley.

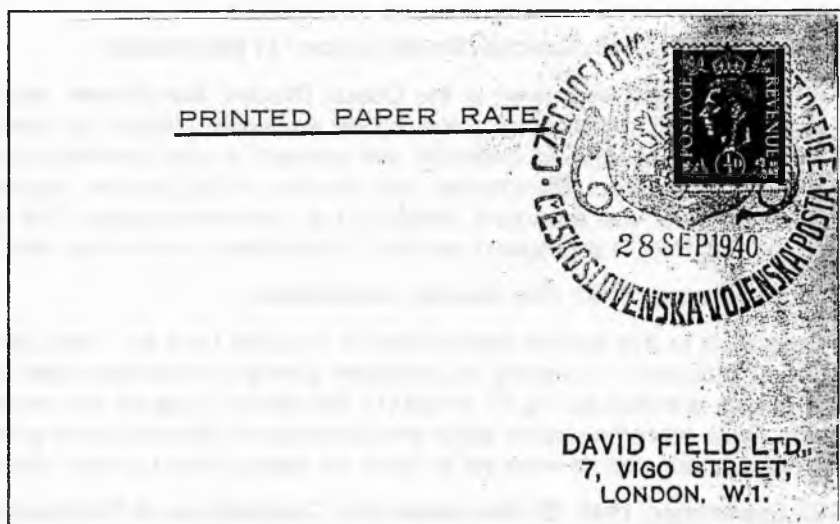
Fig 16 in ref (1) shows the inside of a folder honouring St Wenceslas with the words in English of the carol *Good King Wenceslas* and the Czech words to the old Bohemian chorale *Svatý Václav*. Fig 6 shows the front of the folder with Cholmondeley handstamp dated 28 September. The 'coat of arms' postmark illustrated as Fig 9 in ref (1) has been regarded as a Leamington Spa item, but the same mark can also be found dated 28 September 1940 suggesting that it was first used at Cholmondeley. See Fig 7 for the mark used on St Wenceslas Day, addressed, no doubt by favour, to the well known philatelic dealers David Field Ltd. This kind of philatelic activity suggests that 28 September, 1940, was a big day at Cholmondeley.

Luckily, the local Chester weekly paper gave a good account of events. (7) General Sir Gordon Finlaystone, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command, made a formal presentation to the Czechoslovak Army of new guns, lorries and Bren-gun carriers. Speeches of thanks were given by General Ingr and by Jan Masaryk, Foreign Minister in the government-in-exile. Following the speeches an unveiling ceremony took place:

"While thousands of Czech soldiers in English battle-dress looked on in a corner of a beautiful park somewhere in Western Command on what was the day of their patron saint - Good King Wenceslas - a simple carved monument was unveiled as a lasting memorial to the sojourn there and the equipping with arms of the first Czecho-Slovak army ever to be established in this country. The stone bearing the Czecho-Slovak coat of arms had been carved by a nineteen year old private in the Czech Army who escaped to England just before Hitler entered his country."

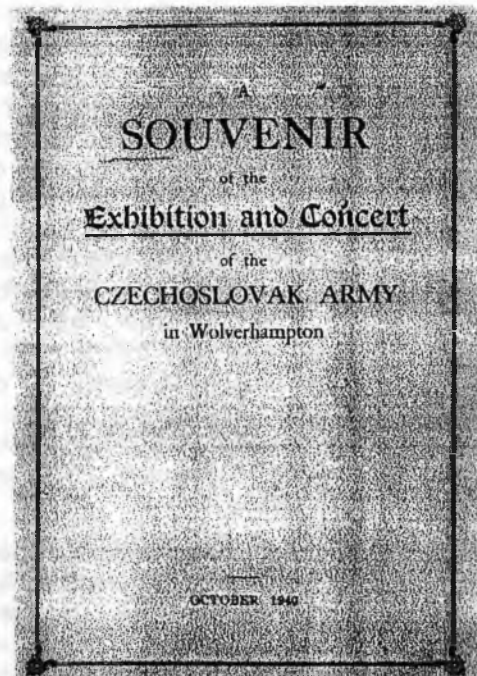


Jan Masaryk indicated that the stone would be visited each year on St. Wenceslas Day. Indeed, commemorative visits are still made by old comrades and their families. The stone can be seen on those days when Cholmondeley Gardens are open to the public. A local publication from the 1980s includes a photograph of the stone and gives the sculptor's name as František Bělský. (8) [See note (c)]



7-13 October, 1940: Czecho-Slovak Week in Wolverhampton

It is assumed that these events were run from Cholmondeley, but confirmation is welcome. An exhibition was held all week in the YMCA shop in Lichfield Street, of Czech photographs, pictures and posters. Two concerts were given in the Wulfrun Hall on Sunday 13 October. Jan Masaryk and General Ingr attended the afternoon concert. (9, 10) A souvenir folder was again produced, see Figs 8 and 9, also with a photograph of Dr Beneš. at Cholmondeley, but with the date on the handstamp altered to 13 October, the day of the two concerts.



DR. EDVARD BENES

President of Czechoslovakia, visiting his troops on July 26th, 1940



The Festival Stamp used by the Czechoslovak Army Post Office in its Camp on the day of the President's visit

Farewell Cholmondeley

By late October, the Czechoslovak Forces had moved to Leamington Spa, where they were to remain until May 1942. A final press reference can be quoted:

"It can now be revealed that the Czecho-Slovakian Army, which has just removed to winter quarters in another part of the country, spent the past three months under canvas in Cheshire. Most of the men were in France and they reached this country with little more than the clothes they stood in. Tribute to the warm welcome which the people of Cheshire gave to the soldiers was given by one of their number 'Most of us', he said 'left our hardly pressed country more than a year ago because we decided to offer all our might and effort to smash the barbarous foeWe arrived in France through different routes, through Poland, Rumania, the Balkans, Syria, Russia, Sweden and Belgium. The collapse of France was a great shock to us.....After a long and dangerous voyage we arrived at a British port.'"

No doubt there were other events during the Cholmondeley period which may or may not have had philatelic commemoration. For example, the veteran orchestral conductor Vilém Tausky [see note (d)] recalls concerts in Whitchurch as well as in Chester. (12)

Cholmondeley Park Restoration of Czechoslovak Army Memorial

The author went to Cholmondeley on Sunday 11 July for the re-dedication of the memorial now nicely landscaped. A very happy afternoon with superb weather



The sculptor František Běský pictured beside the restored Czechoslovak Memorial at Cholmondeley Park after the rededication of the monument on Sunday 11 July 1999. He had created this as a 19-year old private in the summer of 1940.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the helpful staff at the Central Reference Libraries in Liverpool and Manchester, to the equally helpful staff at the Chester City Record Office, to Mrs Mary Ellis, Archives Education Officer, Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council and to the staff of the Imperial War Museum photographic archive.

The photograph shown as Fig 1 is reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum, London. Fig 2 was taken by the author.

>

Notes:

- (a) Where original references included a hyphen in the name "Czecho-Slovakia", this has been copied as written.
- (b) In 1999, Cholmondeley Gardens are open to the public from 11.30am-5.00pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2 April until Thursday 30 September. For confirmation of current opening times telephone: 01829 720383
- (c) Franta Bělský was born in Brno in 1921. He survived the war and still lives in the UK. His sculptures can be found in major collections and public places on both sides of the Atlantic. He designed the 1995 RAF Memorial in Prague.
- (d) Vilém Tausky was born in Přerov, Moravia, in 1910 and trained at the Brno Conservatoire. He now lives in Kent. As Corporal Tausky, in charge of the Czechoslovak military band in France, he succeeded in taking a neutral ship from Arcachon on the French Atlantic coast south of Bordeaux with 35 other comrades and eventually reached Cholmondeley via the docks at Newport, Monmouthshire.
- (e) The writer welcomes corrections and additions to this story.

References:

- (1) Page W A, *Czechoslovak Army and Air Force in Exile, 1939-1945*, CsPSGB, Monograph No 1 and Supplement, consolidated edition, 1994.
- (2) "Czech Army on Parade. Dr Beneš takes the salute.", *Liverpool Daily Post*, 27 July, 1940.
- (3) "Czechs Entertain. Concert in a Northern town", *Liverpool Daily Post*, 29 July, 1940.
- (4) "Czecho-Slovakian Army Concert", *The Chronicle* [Chester], 3 August, 1940.
- (5) "Visit of Czech President. Dr Beneš at War Fund Concert", *Liverpool Daily Post*, 26 August, 1940.
- (6) "Czecho-Slovak Folk Songs. A Manchester Concert", *Manchester Guardian*, 9 September, 1940.
- (7) "New Arms for Czechs. Handed over in the North. Festival Day: A lasting memorial.", *The Chronicle* [Chester], 5 October 1940.
- (8) Anon, *Discovering Wartime Cheshire 1939-1945*, Chester, Cheshire County Council, 1985.
- (9) "Czecho-Slovak Week Opens in W'ton", *Express and Star*, [Wolverhampton] 8 October, 1940.
- (10) "Czech Concert Delights W'ton", *Express and Star*, [Wolverhampton] 14 October, 1940.
- (11) "Czech Army in England. Happy days in Cheshire. Gone now to winter Quarters." *The Chronicle* [Chester], 26 October, 1940.
- (12) Tausky, Margaret, *Vilém Tausky tells his story. A Two-part Setting*, London, Stainer and Bell, 1979.

EAST SILESIA - 1920

- J Barry Home FRPSL. -

While in Prague for the Praga 1998 Exhibition I bought a mixed franking registered cover bearing German and Czech stamps, and cancelled 5 February 1920 at Hlučín [reg'n label dual language - Hlučín / Hultschin]. [fig. 1]



Fig. 1. Mixed franking cover from Hlučín dated 5 February 1920.

While it is a Philatelic production it is still a very attractive and desirable cover and I set out to try and find more information about the cover, cancel and the area.

Monografie Československých Známek No 1, page 56 gives most of the information and has been kindly translated as follows: -

"Both Czechoslovakia and Poland laid claim for part of the Austrian Teschen territory, with Czechoslovakia claiming land which had formed part of the St Wenceslas Crown within its historical borders, while Poland's claim was on the grounds of Nationality. And so in 1918 the Poles occupied places where the Czech element mixed with the Polish one. The Czechoslovak Government could not accept this action and since negotiations failed to achieve a result it resorted to Military action and occupied Teschen with Troops. On 31 January 1919 a truce was agreed which culminated on 25 February with the International Commission designating a demarcation line. The border went from Bohumin across the railway station at Zablač, Rychwald, Poruba, Dombrova, Karvinna Station to the edge of Teschen across Cukrova, Nebory, Plenicko, Dolní Homna and Skalka to the Slovakian border.

At that time Polish stamps could be used in places which belonged to Czechoslovakia and vice-versa. There are also examples of mixed franking with Austrian stamps which were then valid. The Commission, which was to determine the Teschen question with a Plebiscite [which was never held owing to disorders], appointed a Provisional Government for the area which would operate until a bilateral agreement was concluded at the International Diplomatic Conference held at Spa on 10 July 1920. The new Border was then moved further East from the provisional demarcation line.

Part of the Hlučín area in which there were mainly Czech towns were taken over from Germany on 4 February 1920. These comprised the following Post Offices: - Benešov u Hlučína, Bolatice, Bůslavice, Kravaře ve Slezsku, Velké Hoštice, Hlučína, Hostalkovice u Hlučína, Chuchelná, Koberžice, Ludheřovice, Štěpánkovice, Silheřovice, Sudice ve Slezsku, Velké Hoštice. >

In accordance with a ruling issued by the Ministry of Posts in Prague, citizens of the area taken over were allowed to use up stocks of German stamps for a period of 8 days. From this short period one may come across mixed franking of German and Czech stamps and Czech cancellations on German stamps. Czechoslovak stamps overprinted "S 0 1920" were issued on 13 February 1920 while Polish stamps so overprinted were not issued until 15 April 1920.

On 16 March 1923 Czechoslovakia had handed over to them Hat' and Piš' where there were Post Offices. In both places the Directorate of Posts in Opava permitted German Stamps to be used for a period of 3 days."

Fig 2.

Photocopy of cover from Monografie No 1. p58 showing similar cancel of Hlučín I

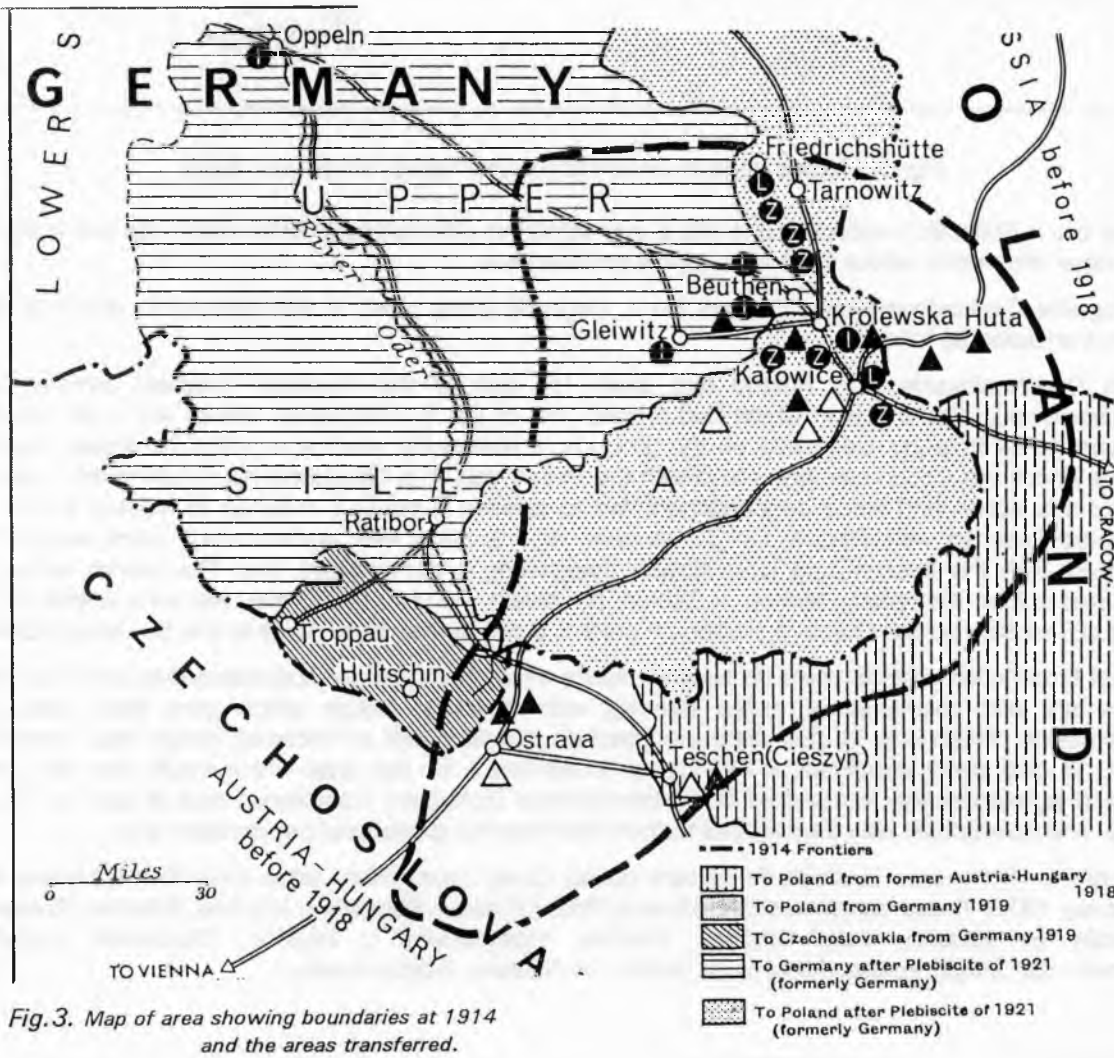
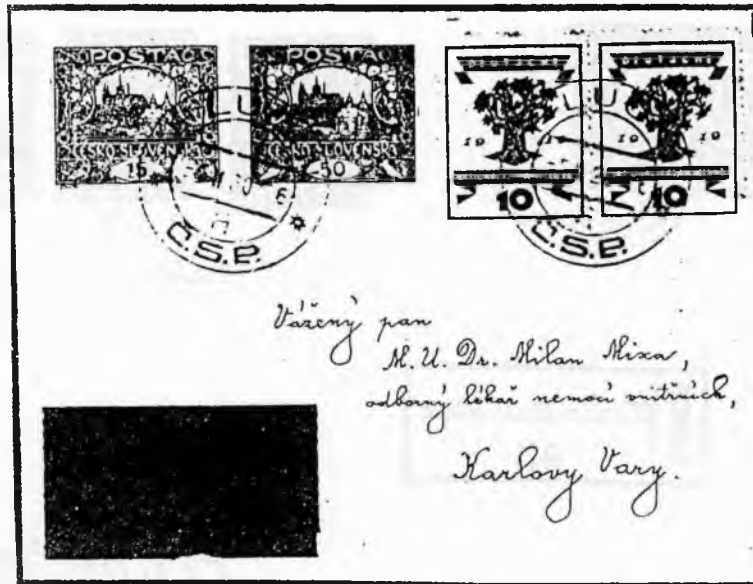


Fig.3. Map of area showing boundaries at 1914 and the areas transferred.

Now comes some speculation.

We know that The Ministry of Posts in Prague ruled that the Citizens of the area taken over from Germany could use up stocks of German stamps for a period of **eight days**. We know that the Czechoslovak stamps overprinted "S 0 1920" were issued on **13 February 1920** [a Friday] and the take over of the Towns took place on **4 February 1920** [a Wednesday].

The Ministry of Posts ruling that German stamps could be used for **eight days** would indicate that usage would be the eight days starting **5 February 1920** and ending on **12 February 1920**. [Thursday to Thursday]. I feel it safe to assume that the usage of mixed franking, German and Czech stamps, would be allowed only until the eve of the issuance of the overprinted stamps for use in the Territory on 13 February 1920.

The cover illustrated from Monografie No.1. [Fig. 2] is dated 5 February 1920, and also the cover illustrated at [Fig.1] and I am suggesting therefore that this is the First day of usage of mixed franking. It would certainly be of interest to learn what other covers from this short period are held by Members, and also for the three days from 16 March 1921 for Hat' and Píšť, where again mixed franking of German and Czech stamps was allowed. If Members would kindly check and let me have details I will compile a report for publication as a follow on from this article.

Acknowledgements and Bibliography.

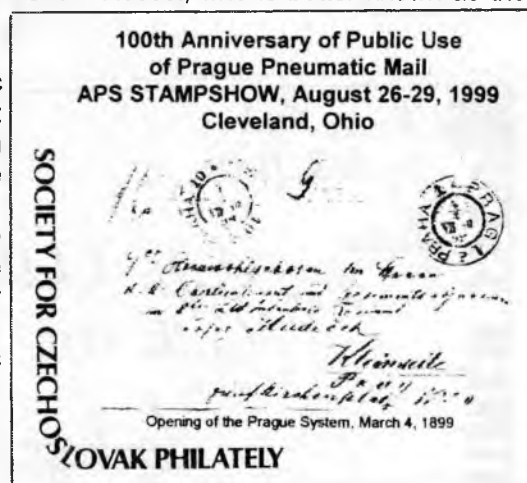
My thanks go to Brian Day for pointing me in the right direction to - Monografie Československých Známek No 1 Praha 1968 Page 56, 57,58. [Fig.2.] and to Robert Kingsley for so kindly translating the relevant parts. Recent History Atlas. Martin Gilbert. London 1966. [Fig. 3. is based a Map on page 44] and I suppose I should also thank Tom Morovics for allowing me to buy the cover at Fig. 1]!

PRAGUE PNEUMATIC MAIL

The **Society for Czechoslovak Philately** has sponsored a commemoration of the 100 Anniversary of Initiation of Pneumatic Mails in Prague by issuing a cover depicting an example of Prague Pneumatic Mail. This cover is available from CSP c/o Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090, USA. Prices - \$1 for blank cachets, \$2 for serviced cachets plus postage. Please contact Edwin Lehecka for full details.

The system was based on the operation in Vienna, Austria, which was initiated in 1875. It is important to note that the inventor of the system was a Czech named Josef Ressel, who is better known as the inventor of the screw for ship propulsion.

The Prague Pneumatic Mail system opened to the public on 4 March, 1899 with just three stations: Jindriska Street (Prague 1), the post office at Maly Rynek in Old Town (Prague 2) and a station on Malostranske Namesti (Prague 10). The line was later extended to Kralovske Vinohrady, Hradcany Castle and beyond. Red mail boxes were installed to collect Pneumatic Tube mail. The initial rate was 10 Kr for postcards, 15 Kr for letters and 15 Kr for lettercards. Some nine rate changes occurred up to 1945, after which time rates were no longer published and public use of the system ceased. Mail was carried in canisters through a network of tubes, requiring most cards to be folded for placement in the centre of the canister.



Letters were generally rolled along the outer edges of the cylindrical canisters, and were frequently not folded. A fold in a cover does not render the item defective, but is rather additional proof of pneumatic transport. Collections of Pneumatic Mail generally concentrate on a broad variety of special postal stationery and postal markings - both cancels and hand markings. Mail was generally delivered as fast as in 15 minutes, and mail boxes were emptied during similar time intervals. Pneumatic Mail in such cities as Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Prague gave way to the increasing use of the telephone. Yet, the systems remain a pride to the efficiency of the period post offices and have given us a romantic field of collecting. The author would be grateful for any other information, via the Editor.

[We thank Henry Hahn, the author, and Lou Svoboda, Editor, for permission to reprint this article which appeared in the Czechoslovak Specialist, vol.61 July/August 1999.]

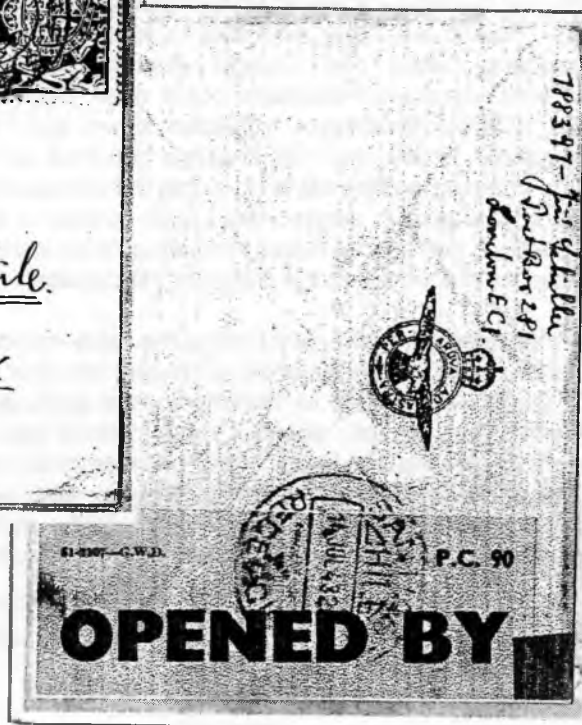
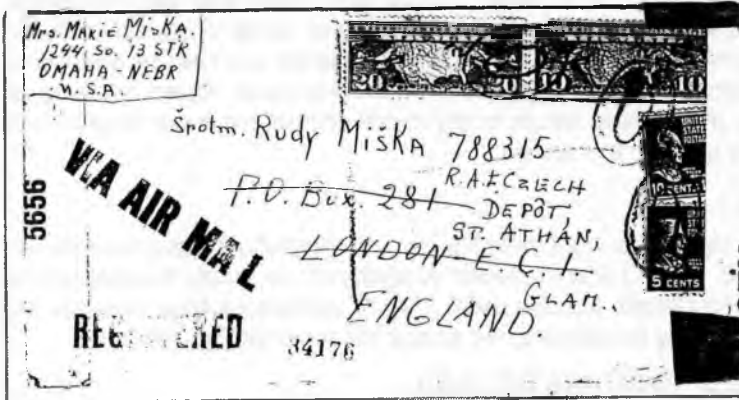
WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

-Members' Queries-

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

Re Richard Beith's query in Czechout 1/99 page 18

Richard reported on 4 April that he had acquired a cover showing that PO Box 281 does exist, and enclosed a photocopy of this letter redirected to RAF St Athan. In May he discovered an outward letter from a Czech in the RAF to Chile, giving PO Box 281 as the sender's address. Both of these covers are illustrated below:



Re Chris Cordes query in Czechout 2/99 pages 45/6.

From Jim Ansell: who has sent in a similar query to the Editor. "Further to your letter dated 28 June and receipt of the June Czechout with Chris Cordes's query, I viewed seven lots offered in the Rugby Philatelic Auction on 15th July described as essays circa 1920. Also on offer were the essay lots which remained unsold from the April Auction.

Referring to the illustrations in Czechout, the seven lots were all of the types shown as the broken strip. Numbering these from 1 - 7 from the top of the page and as 8 - 10 from left to right the following is the result. All the essays were imperf, on gummed paper in differing shades of the colours listed.

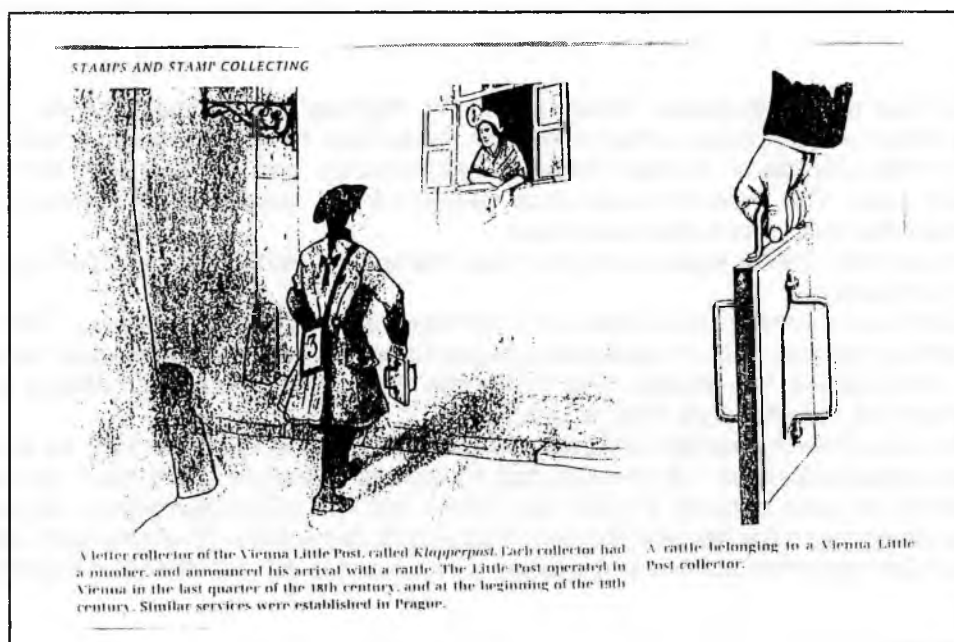
	Bistre-Brown	Green	Blue	Red	Indigo	Mauve	Purple	Total No.	R'serve
1	7	5	2	2	4	2	2	24	50
2	4	3	2	1	2	2	-	14	30
3	6	4	4	2	4	-	4	24	50
4	5	4	1	1	3	3	-	17	35
5	5	5	4	1	-	2	-	17	35
6	3	1	1	-	2	-	-	7)
7	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	6) 40
10	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	6)
8	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	5)
9	3	3	1	-	1	1	1	10) 30

1-5 were separate lots described respectively as, lion design, statue, king on horseback, seated figure, and portrait. 6, 7 & 10 were one lot described as buildings and 8-9, again one lot, described as landscapes. I already have in my collection an example of each of Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, & 10, all in the same shade of purple and on ungummed horizontally laid paper. The portrait essay (No.5) has a distinct similarity with the 1920 Masaryk issue and the view of Kurluv Tyn Castle (No.10) was used for the 20h, 1k 20 and 1k 50 values of the 1926-31 definitive issue.

From the illustrations of Chris's examples and which scale exactly as my copies, his are line perf 11½. We can surmise that these essays were printed from a plate made up of n columns x 10 different rows. It would be nice to know a value for "n". Incidentally, all the lots are re-offered in the Rugby Sale on 26th August."

One new query:

From Lindy Knight: Does anyone know anything about the "Klapperpost"? One of the 1998 Czech postcards for Praga '98 had this theme. The illustrated copy was sent to me by Geoff McAuley.



NEW ISSUES

Lindy Knight

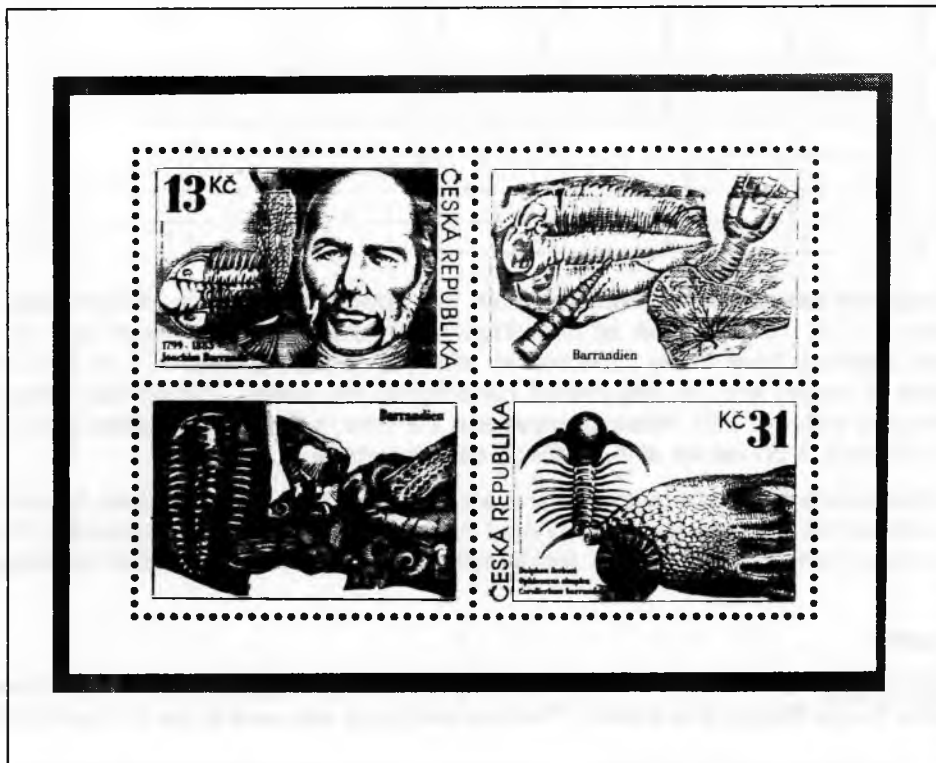
Unless otherwise stated, the stamps and stationery for the Czech and Slovak Republics are printed by Post Printing House Prague.

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

23.6.99

Joachim Barrande and the Czech Trilobites.



Designer: Jan Kavan **Engraver:** Miloš Ondráček **Printing:** DS in sheets of two stamps and two labels se-tenant in black-brown, brown and green. Sheet size 105x77mm; stamp size 40x26mm.

Design: 13Kč: portrait of Joachim Barrande with trilobites and marginal text with his name and birth/death years. The se-tenant labels show various trilobite species and other fossil forms with text "Barrandien" the place where they were found.

31 Kč: three fossil animal species with their Latin names ---Deiphon forbesi, Ophioceras simplex and Carolicrinus barrandei.

FDCs: both covers printed DS in black with commemorative Prague cancellation. 13Kč cachet has a trilobite with a compass, pair of spectacles and geological hammer. The handle has the text "Barrande 1842." 31Kč cachet has another type of trilobite with magnifying glass, callipers and geological hammer with the text "Barrande 1883" on the handle.

Barrande was a French geologist and palaeontologist who came to Prague in 1831 as a tutor but Czech Palaeozoic fossils fascinated him so much that he devoted his whole life to them. He was particularly interested in the area between Prague and Pilsen and now called Barrandien. He bequeathed his extensive collection to the National Museum Prague and also wrote a 22-volume work entitled "Silurian System of Central Bohemia." The stamp issue commemorates the bicentenary of his birth.

>

23.6.99

750th Anniversary of Jihlava Mining Rights.

Designer: Zdeněk Mézl **Engraver:** Josef Herčík
Printing: RD in sheets of 30 in black, yellow, blue and red
 Picture size 40x23mm

Design: King Wenceslas I handing over the Mining Rights document, a scene of miners working and a Prague silver coin. The marginal text has the date and in Czech "750th Anniversary of Jihlava Mining Right" The Mining Right was issued as part of the town rights in 1249 and was the first to be ratified by a monarch. The Jihlava Right was used as a model for mining laws in the Czech Lands and elsewhere in Europe.

FDC: printed DS in black with a commemorative Jihlava cancellation. The cachet is a humorous sketch of various mining activities above the town coat of arms.

Booklet: of 8 stamps and 4 labels. The label design has mining tools, the King's crown, initial of the town and date 1249.

23.6.99

125th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

Designer: Jaroslav Fišer **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider

Printing: RD+DS in sheets of 5 with 10 labels. Stamp size 23x40mm and label size 23x19mm.

Design: a stylized drawing of the globe and in bold image the initials UPU with the official logo of the UPU. The text in Czech "World Postal Union" and dates "1874-1999", complete the design. There are two label designs arranged alternately. One label has the logo of the UPU and the other is a globe with various postal items.

FDC: printed DS in blue with commemorative Prague cancellation. The cachet is the logo of the UPU surrounded by rays.

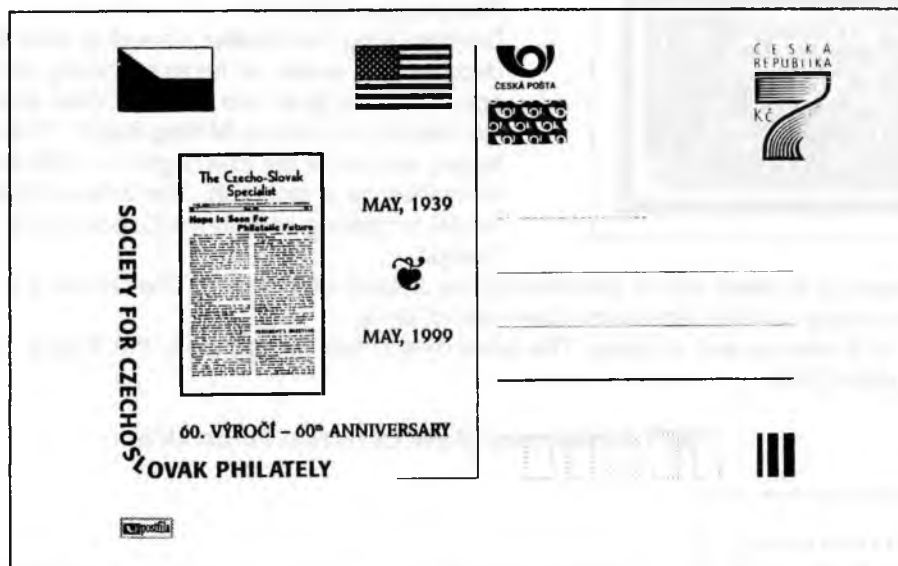
Postal Stationery**Commemorative Postcards**

27.4.99 IBRA '99 Nürnberg. To promote the Stamp Fair held 27.4.99 to 4.5.99 at Nürnberg. The card with imprinted 7Kč stamp is as described in "Czechout" 2/99 page 50. Left part of card has a drawing of a mounted post courier galloping through the countryside. There was a first day of issue cancellation from Prague and a commemorative Nürnberg cancellation.

31.5.99 60th Anniversary of the Society For Czechoslovak Philately. The card with imprinted 7Kč stamp is as described in "Czechout" 2/99 page 50. The left portion of the card has the flags of the Czech Republic and the United States above a reproduction of the first page of the first publication of the society dated May 1939. Marginal texts of dates and society name are in bright blue.

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(Further background information is in the July/August 1999 edition of the Czechoslovak Specialist held in our Society library.)



Slovak Republic

15.6.99

Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra.



Designer and Engraver: Rudolf Cigánik **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Size 23x40mm.

Design: a circle of music notation on a background of blue sky and clouds. In the foreground is the scroll of a violin on which a nightingale is perched. The legend, in Slovak, "Slovak Philharmonic" and dates "1949-1999" appear at the head of the design.

FDC: printed DS with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design shows a conductor against the background of an orchestra.

15.6.99

International Year of Older People



Designer: Mikuláš Klimčák **Engraver:** Arnold Feké **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Size 23x30mm.

Design: three hands from three generations reaching out to each other with marginal text in Slovak "International Year of Older People" the international logo and date 1999. The United Nations Assembly has designated 1999 as the International Year of Older People with the unifying theme of "a society for all age groups".

FDC: printed DS in brown with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design is a rocking chair.

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15.6.99

The First Slovak in Space

**Designer:** Dušan Nágel (stamp and block)**Engravers:** Martin Cinovský (stamp) and František Horniak (block)**Printing:** RD+DS . Block size 70x85mm and stamp size 40x23mm.**Design:** the stamp has a portrait of the first Slovak cosmonaut, Ivan Bella, with part of the orbital station, Mir. Inscriptions give dates of the flight and name of the space craft. The block has a drawing of the Mir space station. **FDC:** printed DS in grey with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design is a rocket—Sojuz TM-29—blasting off into space.

15.6.99

125th Anniversary of UPU—Žilina University**Designer:** Marián Čapka **Engraver:** Pavel Kovařík**Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Size 30x23mm.**Design:** superimposed on a world globe is a panorama of the University buildings with an open book in the foreground and post motives together with the UPU logo. Originally the campus was the College of Transport and Communications and has provided for forty years specialist training in the field of postal communications. The University now offers a wider range of courses and other disciplines.**FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Žilina cancellation. The cachet design is a view of the university buildings, an open book and two communications satellites.

15.7.99

125th Anniversary of UPU—Slovak Post Office**Designer:** Dušan Grečner **Engraver:** Pavel Kovařík **Printing:** RD in sheets of 50. Size 30x23mm.**Design:** Emblem of the Slovak Post with globe. The marginal inscription in Slovak is "125 years of UPU" with the UPU logo.**FDC:** printed DS in black with a commemorative Banska Bystrica cancellation. The cachet design is the head of the god Mercury who is the symbol of the Postal Services worldwide.

Postal Stationery

Envelopes

Each of the following envelopes has an imprinted 8Sk stamp in olive black the design of which is the State Emblem.

2/99(?) The cachet design at the left has the episcopal emblem of the Nitra diocese with a red cardinal's hat above. The inscription below is as follows: "ERB - Jana Chryzostoma Kardinala Korca - nitrianskeho diecezneho biskupa"

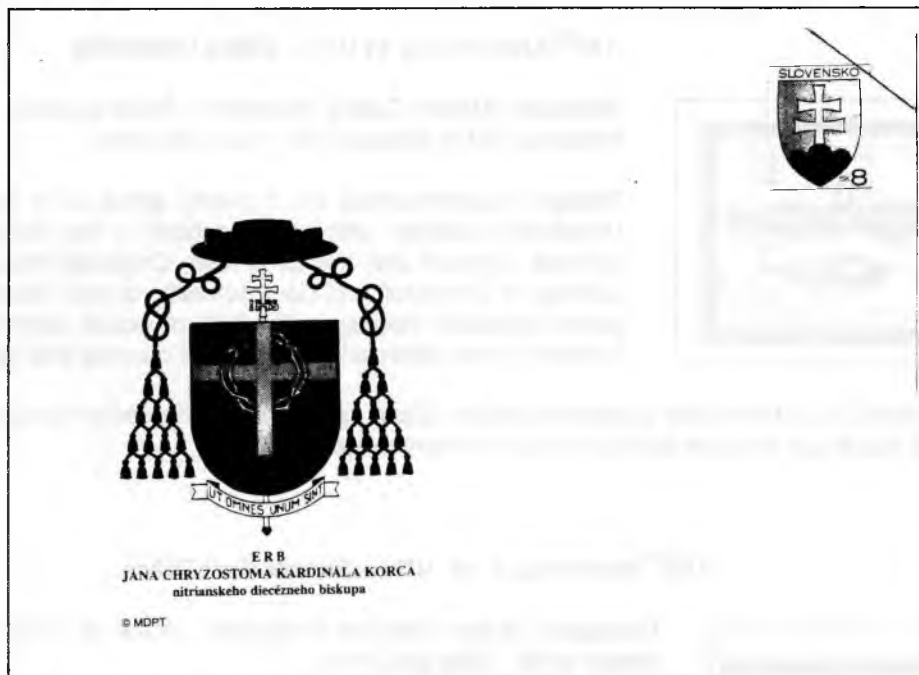
7/99(?) 40th Anniversary of the Faculty of Economy and Management at the Slovak Agricultural University at Nitra. The design at the left has a woman's head with a head-dress of ears of corn, leaves and flowers and inscription in Slovak.

7/99(?) 40th year of the Philosophy Faculty at Nitra University. The design is a woman's head decorated with flowers and an open book above. The page has a capital "A" and two hands with pointing fingers.

Postcards

3/99(?) For current postal use. The imprinted 4Sk stamp was designed by Jozef Balaz and is a collage of modern and old Slovak buildings. The card retails at 4.50Sk.

7/99(?) Promotional card. The imprinted 4Sk stamp is as described above. The left portion has a reproduction drawing of the stamp issued on 1/1/98 to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the Republic. Below this is a text in Slovak indicating that the stamp was the winner in a competition to find the most beautiful stamp of 1998. The card retails at 4.50Sk.



STOP PRESS - FOR SALE

A member has a collection of Austrian period postal history housed in 15 boxed "Favourite" albums comprising BOHEMIA 10 albums, MORAVIA 4 albums, CZECH SILESIA 1 album. Totals approx. 2,100 items (mainly cards, covers, postal stationery) excluding loose stamps.

Includes collection of 12 items of postal stationery for Prague Pneumatic Post. Numerous special and commemorative postmarks, with collection of 21 postcards for Prague 1908 Jubilee Exhibition. Mixed currency examples and many other scarce items. Leitmeritz local postal service issues (19 different) on 2 sheets. Votoček points value of postmarks alone approx. 45,000.

Owner is restricting his collecting interests.
(Telephone: 0181-550-0368)

PRICE £6,000