

CZECHOUT



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EDITOR: Alan Knight

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EDITORIAL

Many members must now be looking forward to Summer holidays and, perhaps, some respite from the hurly-burly of modern life - maybe, even a short rest from philately, too! Whether you are to be away from home enjoying yourselves or spending the coming weeks nearer to home or even being at home; maybe most of the time sunning it up in your gardens - wherever you will be, we send you all our best wishes for a happy and peaceful holiday.

When that is over and the summer sun gently recedes towards the South and the warm colours of Autumn start appearing, we shall again be turning over our album pages, sorting through our stocks (still waiting that promised 'write-up'?) and preparing for the darker evenings and the extra time they (hopefully) will afford us to catch up with our hobby.

In November, we shall be holding our Annual General Meeting - you know ... the one meeting in our annual calendar where and when we can put forward our ideas, suggestions (even criticisms) and resolutions for committee membership, etc. I make no apology for mentioning this autumn event even before spring has left us completely! The real reason I mention it is to remind everybody of the importance of the meeting and its implications for our future as a society. That is why in another page, you will read another similar appeal.

The Society belongs to its members and it is they (you and I) who form that membership. Don't leave it until the week before the AGM to suddenly write something to the Hon. Secretary that you would liked discussed there. Do it very soon, please. This will greatly assist Yvonne to sort out a reasonable Agenda for this gathering when the future of the Society - and its policies - for the ensuing year are discussed and finalised. We hope to meet you there and at the NEXT meeting on 14th September (which is also mentioned again elsewhere herein).

Until then ... Have a Happy Holiday!

- SOCIETY NEWS -

ANNUAL COMPETITIONS - March 16, 1991

We welcomed 24 members at this important event in our calendar. Details of two prospective members were given and their applications were approved.

There were five entries for the GEORGE PEARSON TROPHY competition and the successful entrants were:

- 1st - Alan Knight ... The First Stamps of ĀSR
- 2nd - W. Alec Page ... Allegory Definitives
- 3rd - Brian C. Day ... First Anniversary of Independence

There were five entrants for the FRANCIS PETTITT SALVER competition, the successful ones being:

- 1st - W. Alec Page ... 1945 Liberation Issues
- 2nd - Lindy Knight ... "PRAGA '78" International
- (Joint)- 3rd - Wm. A. Dawson ... Varieties of Note
- 3rd - Brian C. Day ... "Sokols"

The Chairman announced that due to illness, Mr. Michael Birks was unable to attend to give members his display and talk on "PRAGA Exhibitions" but that Michael was now recovering at home following his return there from hospital.

At short notice, Mrs. Lindy Knight showed a most comprehensive study of the PRAGA '78 issues, while Mrs. Yvonne Gren displayed several of her Cz. Exhibition sheets as well. Also stepping in to assist was Mr. Alec Page who also displayed international exhibition material - this time concerning "PRAGA '88." To round off a most pleasant afternoon, we were delighted with a special display by Mr. Ron. Hollis of a rarely heard of event - the PRAGA 1940 national exhibition in Prague, held during the German occupation period. Several interesting and new (to some of us) philatelic gems were there for all to see.

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NEW MEMBERS

In our note on our welcome to new member, Mr. Alan Edwards, we referred readers to others mentioned elsewhere in our last issue. Due to an unfortunate oversight, the Editor omitted to include the names of those 'others' - he gladly does now:-

- Mr. F. J. Samsom - Somerset
- Mr. Myles Mobbs - Northampton

We also warmly welcome the following:

- Mr. David Cooper - Southgate, London
- Mr. R. Lloyd-Thomas - London W.C.
- Mr. Hans van Dooremalen - Holland
- Mr. F. J. Wall - Kent
- Mrs. Lynda Bramley - Notts.
- Mr. John Parmenter - London S.W.
- Mr. John D. Pring. - Kingston-on-Thames

AWARDS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

It is with great pleasure and pride that we announce the following prestigious awards to our two following members:

BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION - AWARD OF MERIT (1991)

MRS. D. YVONNE GREN

Yvonne Gren joined this society on 8th December 1978 and from the outset, proved herself to be an asset to our organisation with her selfless commitment to our interests and generally to Czechoslovak philately.

Yvonne was elected to be our Honorary Secretary in 1982, a post she has held until this day. She has proved to be a first-class secretary and a hard working and efficient member of our Committee; certainly an ideal 'right-hand man' for our various chairmen, Yvonne takes a great interest in her philatelic work and maintains a fine collection of PHILATELIC EXHIBITION material obtained over several years' studies.

Apart from her work with us, Yvonne Gren is also very active in her home locale, being a member of SHOREHAM-on-SEA PS. Since joining them in 1977, Yvonne has served as PRO, Vice-Chairman, Chairman, Assist Hon. Secretary and, currently, Hon. Secretary.

Nearby WORTHING PS also welcomed her to their fold in 1980. Yvonne thereafter held the posts of Newsletter Editor and PRO (1981-87) and Hon. Secretary (1986-90).

* * * * *

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC JOURNALISTS (AIJP) "GOLD PIN" AWARD

Mr. W. Alec Page, FRPS, L., AIJP. - For meritorious service

Already a Diploma Member and holder of the Association's 'Silver Pin' award for his services to philatelic journalism and with 25 years+ membership of AIJP, our member and friend Alec Page was presented with the coveted 'Gold Pin' award at the Society's Annual Congress in Würzburg, Germany, on 11th May. The presentation was made by the Association's current President, Mr. Otto Hornung, another of our valued members.

Alec is also Chairman of the PHILATELIC WRITERS SOCIETY in this country, a society he founded several years ago. He also produces its journal 'THE PHILATELIC QUILL' every Quarter. The Kent Federation also benefitted for a number of years up to quite recently when Alec produced the Kent Bulletin for them. We know, of course, about Alec's devoted service to our own Society in which he currently serves as Publications Officer in addition to his work in producing CZECHOUT in the final format which you are now looking at. Wearing my other 'hat' as your Editor, I can truthfully say that I could wish for no better active co-operation in our joint effort of producing our journal than I receive from Alec. Many is the time (including this Issue!) when he has saved me from 'the jaws of death' by correcting some error or omission that has passed my supposedly eagle eye in the preparation of copy for CZECHOUT. Quite apart from CZECHOUT, Alec is also responsible for the many monographs we have published over the years and the time he spends over his copying machine must add up to, literally, 'weeks' - and all for free!

Apart from Czechoslovakian philately, Alec's other real great 'love' is the philately of SOUTH AFRICA and related issues, of which he possesses a very fine collection. Another one is that of the South Atlantic British Dependency, TRISTAN da CUNHA. Again, here, Alec is busy with that British society's journal.

We take this opportunity to openly thank Alec Page for all his work for this Society over a long period of time and to congratulate him on his latest, well-deserved award. A.J.K.

AWARDS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

† J I Ř Í M U C H A

J I Ř Í M U C H A, son of ALFONS M U C H A (1860-1939), the Czech artist who designed Czechoslovakia's first postage stamps in 1918, died in April at the age of 76. A courageous champion of personal liberty throughout his country's tribulations under both Nazism and Communism, he suffered much by the hands of the latter, serving as a prisoner down a well-known coal mine near Prague for a number of years.

Born on March 12 1915, Mucha registered as a medical student at Charles University, Prague before the clouds of war had started to loom over his homeland. Later, he managed to leave Czechoslovakia and escaped to France and there join the Czech Legion. When France capitulated to Germany, he once again went abroad; this time to England where he became an officer in the Royal Air Force.

In more recent time, Jiří Mucha was elected President of the Czechoslovak branch of PEN, the writers organisation. Now that his country is free again, his published works are to be reprinted. Jiří Mucha is survived by his wife, Geraldine; they had a son and daughter. AJK.

[Extracted from Jiří Mucha's obituary in the Daily Telegraph, London, April 18 1991]

AUCTION OF CZECHOSLOVAK MATERIAL - U.S.A.

We have been advised of a useful auction of Czechoslovak philatelic material in the United States in late October or early November this year.

Members wishing to be sent a catalogue should apply to the following address:

MR CHARLES CHESLOE
8300 South Wolf Road
WILLOW SPRINGS
ILL. 60480
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS [From October 1991: £7 single/£10 'family']

Whilst we always derive great pleasure from welcoming new members to our ranks, one of the sad tasks of our Treasurer is having to delete current members' names from the Roll because of non-payment of annual subscriptions. Regretfully, we have again had to take this course of action despite 'reminders' having been sent. We ask for the urgent co-operation of members this year.

The rules are quite clear but in case of any members having mislaid them, let me re-state them here for their guidance and advice: CONSTITUTION RULE 11. - The Society's Financial Year shall commence on 1st October each year. RULE 12. - Subscriptions shall be due and payable on 1st October each year. Where any member's subscription remains unpaid at 1st March following, that member may, at the discretion of the Committee, be removed from the Roll of Members. The amount of the annual subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and unless otherwise resolved shall be effective from 1st October following. Each member shall be considered a subscriber for the ensuing year unless sending a notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary not later than 30th September.

CHAIRMAN

BOOK REVIEW

PAUL H. Jensen RDP FRPSL.

A HANDBOOK ON CARPATHO-UKRAINE

Kárpátalja Postatörténete

DR. BÉLA SIMÁDY, Szeged, Hungary

1991 (In Hungarian) Price Forints 500

Print: 100 copies

OBTAINABLE FROM:

Fédération Nationale des Philatélistes

Hongrois Mabeosz, Post Office Box 4

H-1387 BUDAPEST. HUNGARY.

Price: \$12 (approx. £ 7) Plus postage

AUTHOR'S ADDRESS: Dr. Béla Simády, Jobb fásor 9, H-6726 SZEGED. HUNGARY

Dr. Simády, a recognised specialist on the postal history of the former Czechoslovakian territory of CARPATHO-UKRAINE [Ruthenia], has amassed his entire knowledge of the subject in this 178pp book. It is very well illustrated and, for interested collectors, early purchase is well advised.

Part of Hungary from 895-1918 when, at the end of WW1 it was incorporated into the newly-founded Czechoslovak Republic; albeit against the will of its population. Following the Munich Agreement in 1938, Hungary repossessed some parts of this territory and on 14.3.1939, the remainder of the territory declared its independence. Hungary again occupied the area on the following day.

During WW2, the resistance movement was very active against the Hungarians and in 1944, it actually succeeded in liberating parts of the territory. Some of it was in the hands of Communist resistance groups and most of it was liberated by the Soviet Army during 1944-45. Eventually, the USSR became the controlling power and since 1945, Carpatho-Ukraine has been part of the Soviet Union.

This area of Czechoslovak territory was also known by that country as RUTHENIA and Dr. Simády highlights this in his book. He also notes the Austrian connection (1786-1847) and postmarks from this period are described and illustrated. The treatise also covers the Hungarian insurrection period (1847-49) and the period following, from 1849 when Austro-Hungarian mails took over until 1867. At this point the Hungarian P.O. was established as an equal partner in the A-H dual monarchy, taking this little portion of territory under its wings. From the establishment of the Hungarian republic in 1918, it kept this postal system running but in 1919, the ČSR took over the area. It is from this period that collectors can find evidence of Czechoslovak Field Post in addition to its ordinary mails. Some areas were occupied by Romanian forces from 1919 to 1921, leaving behind postal traces of some interest. From 1921 to 1939 the ČSR P.O. controlled the mails. However, the 1938 events created a turbulent situation, with Czechoslovakian Field P.Os., The Hungarian occupation forces and a lot of unrest. On 14 March 1939, independence within the Czechoslovakian Federation was declared, with Hungary immediately taking over the remainder of Ruthenia. In 1944-45, a Czechoslovakian provisional government was re-established but on 15 November 1945, Ruthenia was 'comradely ceded' to the USSR.

This HANDBOOK ON CARPATHO-UKRAINE is probably the first complete work on the developments in mails of the K-U (inc. Ruthenia) ever published. One must wish that somewhere at some time, somebody could translate it into English and thereby make it accessible to a much wider international readership. I am certain that the author would welcome such an offer because this is truly a valuable reference book deserving much wider publicity than at present.

PLEASE NOTE: The author of this Review will be our special guest on Saturday 14 September when he will attend our ordinary meeting in the afternoon and display material dealing with the Postal History of Czechoslovakia PRIOR TO 1850. We shall be hoping for a good attendance on this special occasion.

EUROPEAN POSTAL UNION RATES FROM SLOVAKIA

By: PAUL JENSEN

Last year there was a discussion on whether Slovakia really implemented the European Postal Union rates to the other members - or not.

Seppo Laaksonen (Helsinki) and I have analysed his material of Slovakian covers to Finland and we have agreed on what was the probable sequence of affairs. The Agreement was signed on 12th October 1942 and was supposed to have been implemented from 1st April 1943.

The main object for postage rates reduction in relation to the UPU rates was the lowering of the first rate step for weight-class letters and postcards to the 'national' rate - or to a preferential rate for a regional agreement.

For the Nordic countries, this resulted in them accepting the Nordic Postal Agreement rates for the new EPU rates. I do not know if Sweden (then being neutral) joined but Denmark, Finland and Norway - being under German domination - agreed. Anyhow, for these countries, inland rates were mutually accepted for most postal services except for very heavy letters and parcel post.

In central Europe this situation was different. In 1850 the German States and Austria/Hungary formed a postal union which had survived. After 1920 this postal agreement became slightly different. For letters between Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia, those countries agreed to maintain a lower 1st class mail rate between themselves but a lower rate than the UPU but still above the inland rates.

In 1938, when Czechoslovakia started to break apart, the Central European Rates were:

Letters up to 20 grams: 2K (UPU 2.50)
Postcards - - 20 grams. 1.20Kcs (UPU 1.50)

When Slovakia went 'independent' on 15.3.1939, there was some confusion. Letters to the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia were, for a very brief period, charged at UPU rates instead of inland rates; however, they were, very soon, reduced to CEPU rates.

The covers in my possession show that this rate prevailed for mail to Germany, including Bohemia & Moravia, up to the end of World War 2. The impact of the new EPU was not envisaged.

Obviously Slovakia joined the EPU at the agreement of 12.10.1942 and the rates were meant to be implemented w.e.f. 1.4.1943. None-the-less, Slovakia obviously did not want to reduce the CEPU inland postage rates and for that reason, Slovakia's GPO must have interpreted the EPU agreement to be an extension of the CEPU agreement, to include the other European member countries of the EPU in the same postage rates.

Seppo Laaksonen has shown me covers to Finland of this period, when UPU postage would have been 2.50 Ks and Airmail 1.Ks additional, making 3.50Ks for a normal business letter sent by airmail.

In Seppo's collection are several covers to Finland after 1.4.1943 sent by airmail and franked 3.Ks (2.Ks letter rate plus 1Ks airmail charge). To us, this means definite proof that Slovakia implemented the CEPU rates to cover the EPU rates from 1.4.1943.

Any covers or cards sent to Germany or the Protectorate and paid at normal inland rates must have slipped through the mails. Proper postage rates to the CEPU and the EPU remained at 2Ks for a 1st class letter up to the end of the war. >

Should any further evidence present itself, we would be grateful for such information.

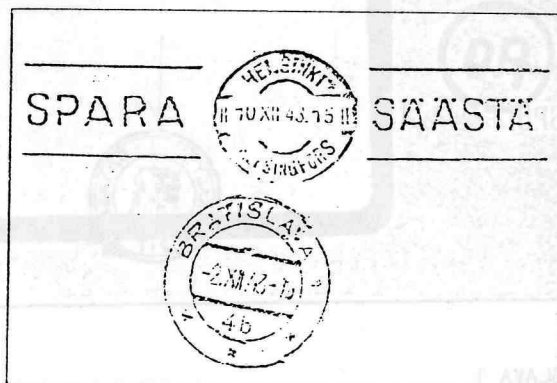
The wartime postal rates of Slovakia remain a mainly closed book that is being slowly opened up by the Czechs and Slovaks following the ban on research on wartime issues having now been lifted.

E.P.U.:



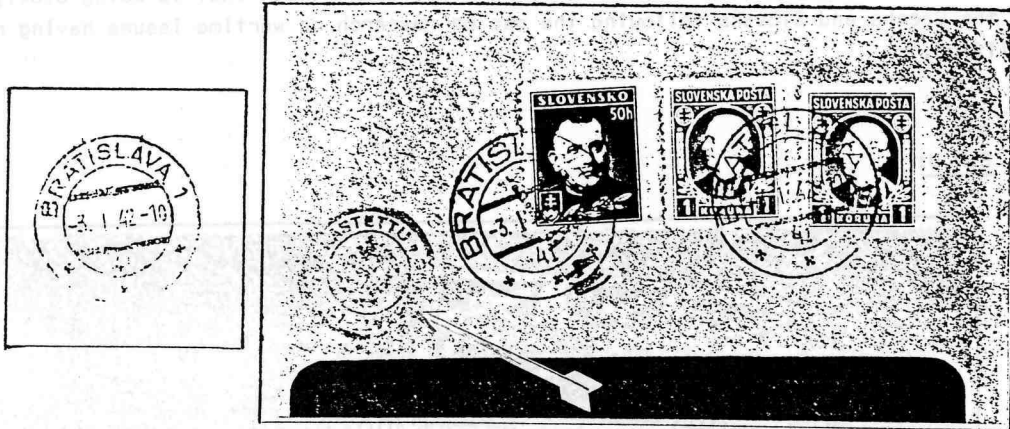
2.12.1943 BRATISLAVA 1

Airmail cover to FINLAND - EPU postage paid - 2Ks plus 1Ks airmail charge.



10.12.1943 Bratislava mark and HELSINKI rec. mark dated 10.XII.43.

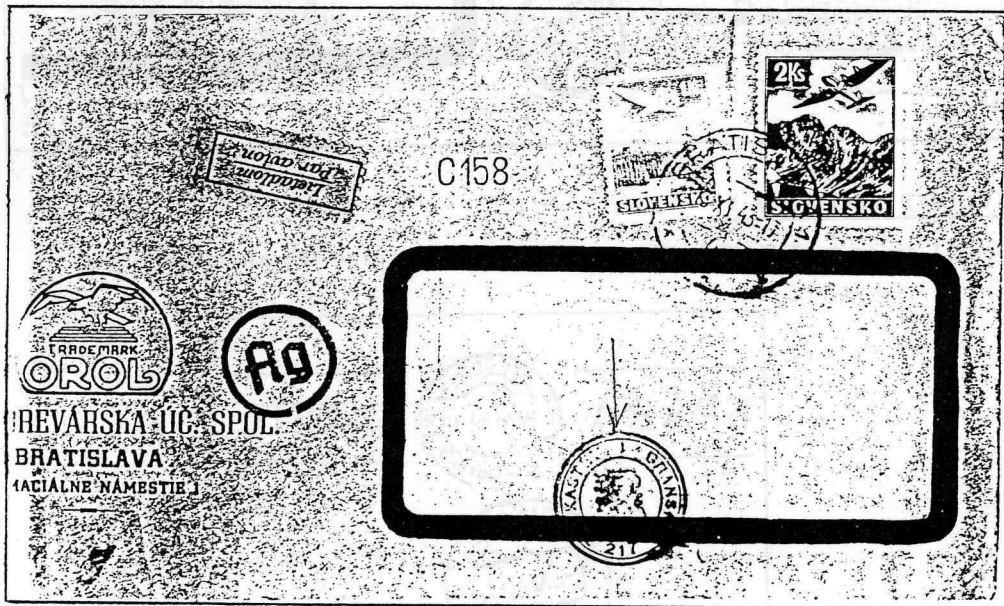
> BEFORE E.P.U



3.1.1942 BRATISLAVA 1

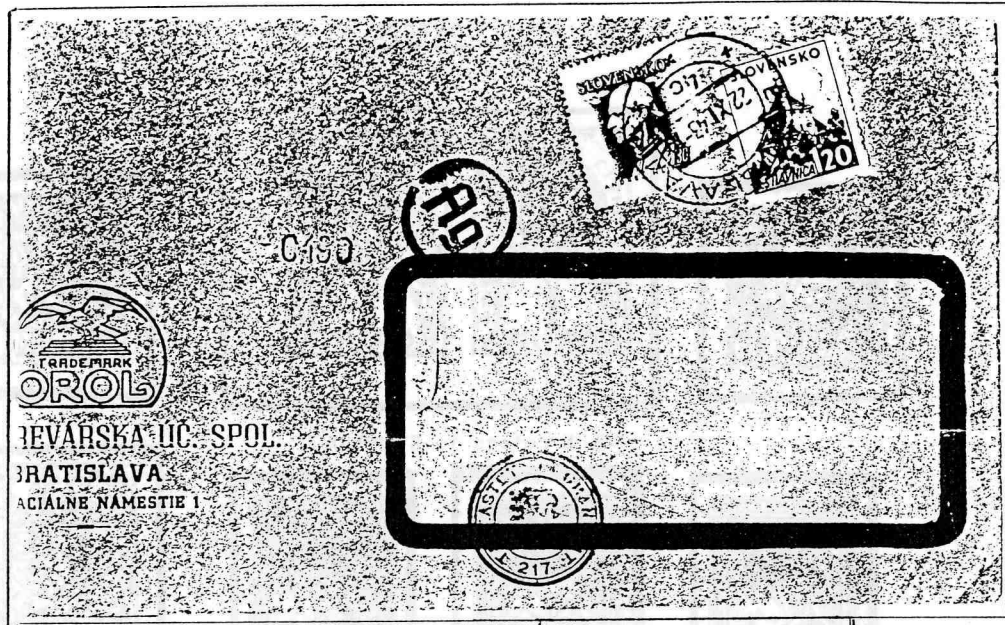
Cover to Finland. UPU postage paid @ 2.50Ks. Identifiable by Finnish censorship

E.P.U



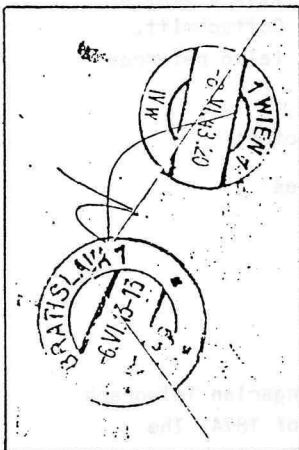
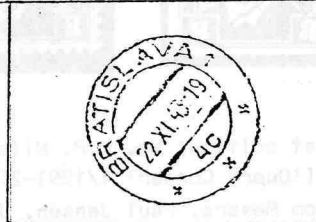
13.11.1943 BRATISLAVA 1

Airmail cover to Finland, again identifiable by Finnish censor mark over the envelope 'window' - EPU postage paid @ 2Ks + Airmail charge of 1Ks. >



22.11.1943 BRATISLAVA 1

Cover to Finland with Bratislava backstamp and the Finnish Censor's (217) mark. Postage paid UPU @ 2.50Ks. (author's remark: "Sender was probably all mixed up!")



6.6.1943 BRATISLAVA 1 (with backstamp)

Airmail to Finland - UPU postage @ 2.50Ks plus 1Ks for airmail charge. Note WIEN transit mark. [Ed. Our sincere thanks also to Seppo Laaksonen for his kind co-operation and cover copies] ::

BANKNOTE CONTROL STAMPS



KOLEK refers to STAMP DUTY

In our last edition, Mr. H.P. Milson raised a query over two stamps that he could not identify ['Query Corner' 1/1991-25]. Not only did we receive information of similar nature from Messrs. Paul Jensen, John Whiteside and Bob McLeod but Bob's accompanying photocopy of the Masaryk [B] stamp reproduced above also assisted the Editor with the identification of the other two like stamps [E and H] lying in his 'unidentified' file.

Let us start with Paul Jensen's reply which included the remainder of the photocopies above: "The first stamp [referring to the illustrations with Mr. Milson's query] is what is called a BANKNOTE CONTROL STAMP. My guess is that they were pasted on Austrian and Hungarian banknotes to remonitize them for use in the ČSR. I hold it improbable that they were ever used for postage" Mr. Jensen also included a copy of part of an article in "ČSR REVENUE AND RAILWAY STAMP" by Rev. Severin Gottschmitt. This showed illustrations as above but also the following information (also referred to by Mr. McLeod):

1919 3-9,3. For Control of Austrian and Hungarian Banknotes:

10h blue p.11 $\frac{3}{4}$ and imperf	on 10K notes
20h carmine " - -	on 20K "
50h brown " - -	on 50K "
1K brick-red imperf	on 100K "

The 1000K banknotes were imprinted directly with a 10K die

Paul Jensen continued: " ... The second stamp is from the issue of Hungarian Telegraph stamps; either the 1873 (lithographed) issue or the issue (engraved) of 1874. The kreuzer issues were printed blue-on-white; the forint (gulden) value in black-on-coloured (paper). They appear in the Yvert catalogue. These stamps went out of use on 1.4.1879. The 'Trenčín' pmk was probably (it is not very clear) used in the local telegraph office (maybe within the p.o.). Whilst postage stamps were later used on telegraph forms, especially on so-called letter-telegrams to augment payment, I have heard of no cases of telegraph stamps being used for postage except, possibly for internal accounting, >

Bob McLeod, after referring to most of the above information, added: "Stamps depicting President Masaryk were also used to control SLOVAK banknotes; surcharged 'stamps' were employed for use on the so-called 'Russian' banknotes.

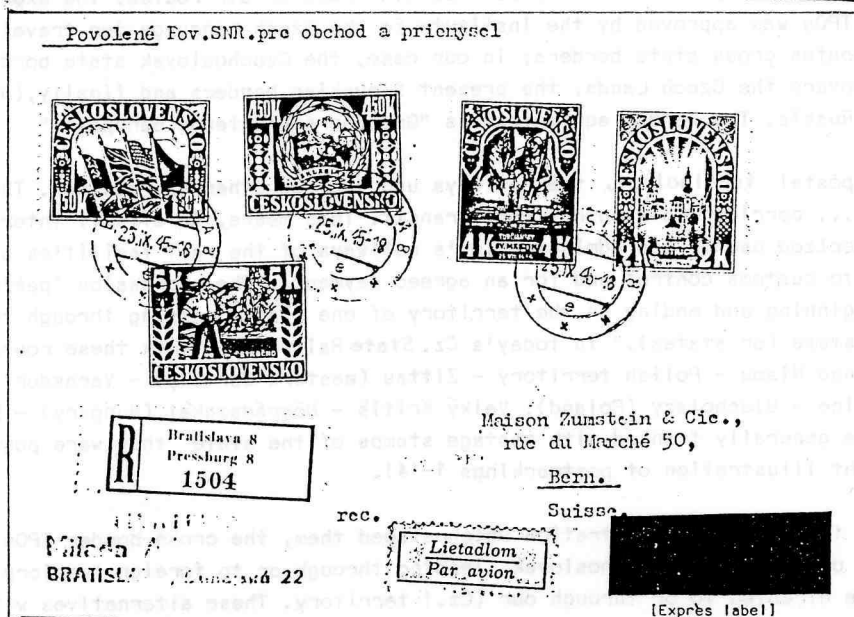
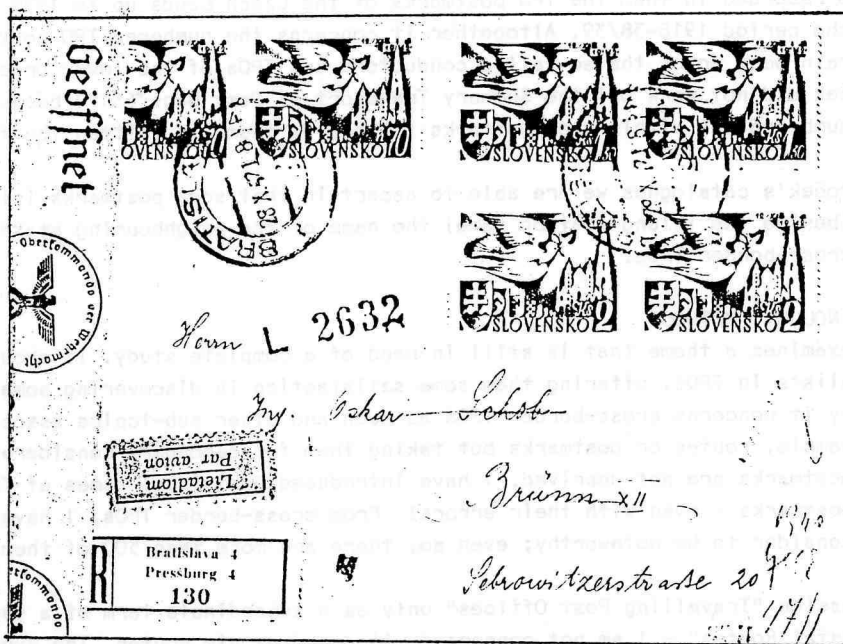
[Our thanks to all who replied. John Whiteside took the trouble to telephone the Editor with information covered here. Such co-operation is greatly valued. AJK]

BRATISLAVA 'R' LABELS (cont...)*

From: Geoffrey McAuley - Eire

Reference recent correspondence regarding bi-lingual BRATISLAVA 'R' labels. I enclose two copies of covers which may add to the information. The situation in Bratislava 8 is curious. Mr. Hollis records a bi-lingual label on 23.10.42 and Mr. Jensen a mono-lingual one from 1944. Could both types have been used side-by-side?

*[See issue 2/1990, pp40-41 & issue 3/1990-50]



1. BRATISLAVA 4 (28.10.1942): Probably 'philatelic' but I think it to be the first mentioned from this particular post office.
2. BRATISLAVA 8 (25.9.1945): Also probably 'philatelic' but employs 'nationalised' bi-lingual 'R' label.

CROSS-BORDER TRAVELLING POST OFFICES 1850-1988

- Dr. Alois Těšitel -

Translated by Vladimír Králíček

[Part 1]

1. MOTIVATION

To human nature is credited uncertainty - the grey areas. I am interested in the travelling post offices (TPOs) and especially where such routes lead through Czechoslovakia's state borders. Collectors of TPO postmarks have the Cz. Monografie Československých známek Vol. XIV and XVII from the pen of the late Ing. Votoček, to assist them in their hobby. The author has also recorded in them the TPO postmarks of the Czech Lands up to 1939 and for Slovakia, for the period 1918-38/39. Altogether it concerns the numbered TPO postmarks of the official train post or of the so-called conductors and TPOs of the lower order. It is a pity that Votoček did not work out the Summary Transport of Post Bags*(STP) because their routes are un-numbered but within the postmarks (or beside them) is written the train number.

By studying Votoček's catalogues we are able to ascertain that some postmarks introduce inside their legends [beside the inland station name] the name of the neighbouring state station. These are the cross-border TPOs.

2. THEME, TERMINOLOGY, METHODS

This treatise examines a theme that is still in need of a complete study. It should interest even non-specialists in TPOs, offering them some satisfaction in discovering some unfamiliar facts. Primarily it concerns cross-border TPOs as such and other sub-topics associated with them as, for example, routes or postmarks but taking them for secondary consideration. So that collectors of postmarks are not deprived, I have introduced individual names of TPOs in the form of their postmarks - even with their errors! From cross-border TPOs, I have chosen only those which I consider to be noteworthy; even so, there are more than 500 of them.

I use the expression "Travelling Post Offices" only as a subordinate term of a superior concept "The Railway Postal Routes" - I am not concerned with road or air routes. The expression "cross border" TPOs was approved by the Institute for the Czech Language for travelling post offices whose routes cross state borders; in our case, the Czechoslovak state borders. In particular it covers the Czech Lands, the present Slovakian borders and finally, (up to 1945) Sub-Carpathian Russia. The German equivalent is "Grenzüberschreitende Bahnpost."

In contrast to postal terminology, the railways use various other expressions. Thus, e.g. "peáž transit" ... corridor roll-on-roll-off transit. This means, in effect, inter-state agreed and authorized use by one administration's railways of the rail facilities of another state (subject to customs control and for an agreed payment). The expression 'peážní route' means 'route beginning and ending on the territory of one state; passing through territories of an adjacent state (or states).' In today's Cz. State Railways network these routes are: Liberec-Hrádek nad Nisou - Polish territory - Zittau (eastern Germany) - Varnsdorf; Olomouc-Hanušovice - Glucholazy (Poland); Velký Křtiny - Nógrádszakál (Hungary) - Lučenec. Consignments are generally franked with postage stamps of the state they were posted in, [See bottom-right illustration of postmarkings 1-14].

With respect to the postal administration which staged them, the cross-border TPOs may be, from our standpoint, of two types: Czechoslovak, leading through or to foreign territory and Foreign, whose routes are directed to or through our [Cz.] territory. These alternatives will be later mentioned again. By definition, it also follows that the cross-border TPOs leading to or through Czechoslovakia are also Bohemoslovakian. Furthermore, it is necessary at the outset to establish some historical concepts which are used by me. >

For example: what do I understand by 'the Czechoslovak border' in individual stages of the established TPOs on the Austrian railway lines in 1850? That was when the first TPO had travelled on the Vienna-Bohumín (Wien-Oderberg) route. I mean the Austrian (not the Prussian) Oderberg. At the same time it was also our first cross-border TPO because it leads from Austria (via the Moravian border) and crosses the Czech Crown Lands. Up to 1918, these were the Czech kingdom, The Moravian earldom and the Silesian duchy; with the small exceptions of Opava, Třebíč, Hlučinská, Vitorazsko and some others prevailing within our borders up to today. In the first period we will consider as Czech those TPOs whose administrations were then situated within the Czech Lands.

As far as Slovakia & Sub-Carpathian Russia (Sub-Russia) are concerned, it is necessary for us to remember that their state borders in the south and south-east were undemarcated up to 1918. Hungary, to whom both these territories belonged at that time, was divided into a confederation of district (counties) but these did not have designated borders. Some overlapped what were later to become Slovakian borders and Sub-Russia from both sides (today Sub-Carpathian Ukraine). For example: Zemplin (domiciliate Sátoral jáújhely), Mošon (Magyarórár), Ostrihom (Esztergom), Ráb (Győr), the districts of Nonohradski (Nógród) or in the Sub-Russia district of Užká (Ungvár, Užhorod). Commonly used terms 'Upper Province', 'Upper Hungary' or 'Lower Province', 'Lower Hungary' were not precisely geographically defined; in earlier times this indicated that they were the mountainous or lower part of Hungary. Henceforth therefore, I shall identify the Slovakia state border and those of Sub-Russia (up to 1918) as being those decided by the Trián Peace Agreement between Czechoslovakia and Hungary on 16 June 1920, disregarding their later violation by Hungarian occupation. This agreement lasted until 29 June 1945 when Sub-Russia was ceded to the USSR.

This study is chronologically divided into the following stages: Up to 1918; 1918-1938; 1939-1945 and 1945 onward.

TPOs will be taken through all territorial permutations in which they existed within the above stages. For better geographical orientation a map is included with indicated positions of less known stations which the cross-border TPO used.

The list of individual TPOs is in shortened form:- Legend/number of TPO/train (ZUG,Zug, z.), Record of legend/-indicated by (STP).

Postmark illustrations do not always agree with those TPOs which I introduce in the examples; with them, I widen the selection of TPOs.

3. CROSS-BORDER TPOs IN THE CZECH LANDS, SLOVAKIA AND SUB-RUSSIA TO 1918.

I shall begin with the Travelling Post Offices which have been running over Czech and German territories (i.e. Imperial Germany). It should then be noted that German TPOs, instead of the earlier frame or circular postmarks, began to use (from the end of 19thc.) elliptical pmks of more or less flattened shaped with the legends in the upper arc and, below this, the inscription 'BAHNPOST' and inside the bridge or space, the train number and date.

3.1 CROSS-BORDER TPOs OF THE CZECH LANDS AND BAVARIA

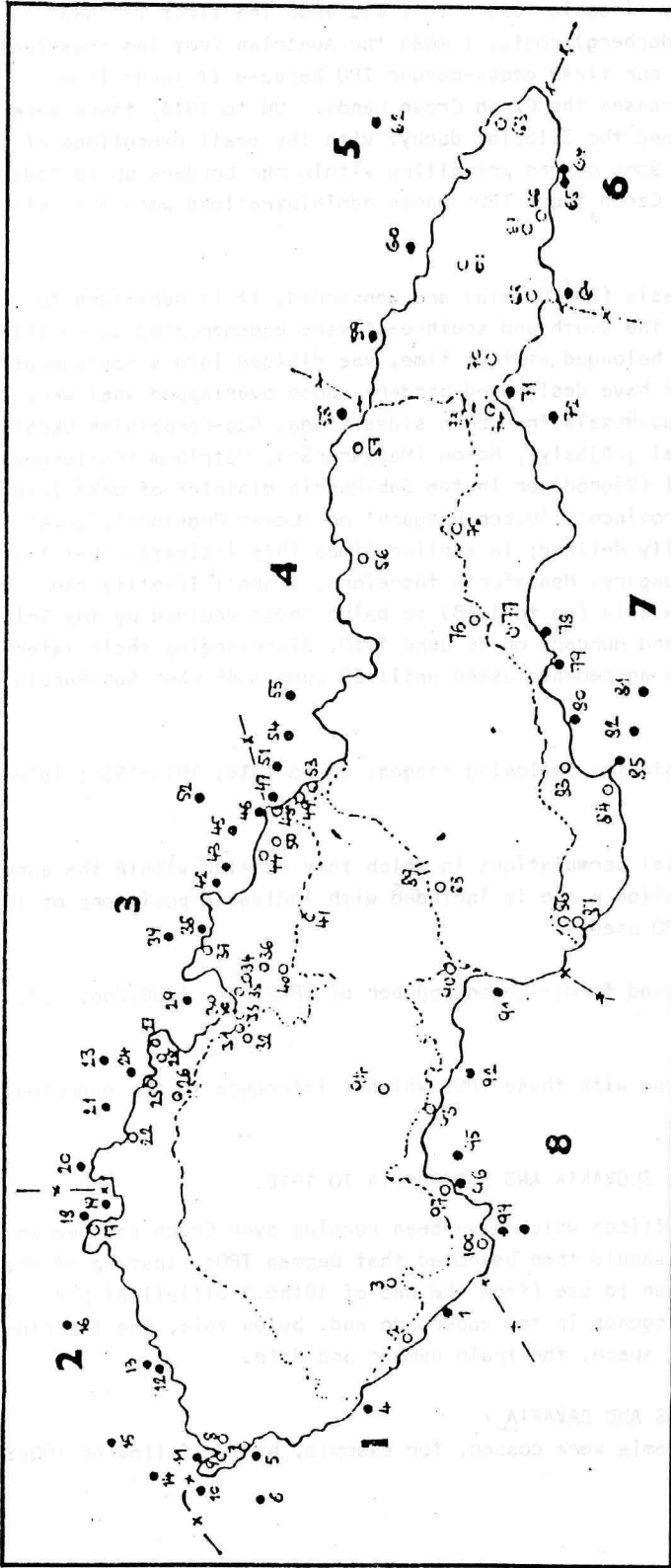
(a) The borders between Bavaria and Bohemia were crossed, for example, by the following TPOs:

Prag-Furth i. W./1,4,33,34
Pilsen-Furth i. W./571
Budweis-Haidmühle/367,368

(b) From Bavaria to the Czech Lands:

Nürnberg-Eger/1491,1497,1499,1523,1497
Hof-Asch/?
Hof-Eger/CI,II (see pmk illust. 1)
Wiesau-Eger/1491
Reichenhau-Eger 1168 >

ORIENTATION MAP of less known railway station names



CHRONOLOGICAL AND TERRITORIAL MARKINGS

- (a) Chronological: (without -) = up to 1918
 - = 1918-1938/39
 --- = from 1945

- (b) State borders and railway stations: Cz. borders 1918-1938
 Borders of neighbours 1900-89
 Annexation of Cz. territory 1938
 Stations on Cz. territory
 Stations beyond Cz. territory

NEIGHBOURING STATES

- 1** BAVARIA-GERMANY
- 2** SAXONY-GERMANY
- 3** PRUSSIAN UPPER SILESIA-GERMANY--POLAND
- 4** HALLIC-POLAND---
- 5** HALLIC-POLAND--USSR
- 6** HUNGARY-ROMANIA---
- 7** HUNGARY-HUNGARY---
- 8** AUSTRIA---



1

[reduced]



2



3



4



5



5a



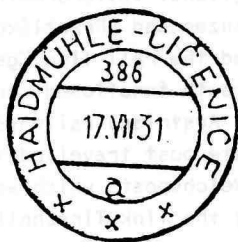
6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14

**REGISTRIK MÍSTNÍCH NÁZVŮ UVEDENÝCH V MAPCE
S PŘÍHLÉDNUTÍM KE ZNĚNÍ V RAZÍTKÁCH VLAKOVÝCH POŠT**

1 Haldmühle	36 Mähr. Schönberg, Šumperk	66 Taracköz, Teresva
2 Wintorberg, Vimperk	37 Weldenau, Vidnava (u Frývaldova)	67 Királyháza, Királyháza, Královo n. Tis.
3 Čičenice	38 Ziegenhals, Hlucholazy, Glucholazy	68 Beregszász, Beregsasy, Berehovo
4 Furth i. W., Brod n. Lesy	39 Neisse, Nysa	69 Halmel, Halmeu
5 Schlrnding	40 Müglitz, Mohelnice	70 Bátyu, Bafu, Batovo
6 Wlesau	41 Gross-Wisternitz, V. Bystřice (u Olomouce)	71 Záhony
7 Eger, Cheb	42 Leobschütz, Glubczyce	72 Nyiregyháza
8 Tirschnitz, Tršnice	43 Bauerwitz, Baborów	73 Ungvár, Užhorod
9 Vojtanov	44 Deutsch Krawarn, Kravaře	74 Csap, Čop
10 Hof	45 Ratibor, Ratibor, Racibórz	75 Kassa, Košice
11 Adorf	46 Annaberg (Preuss. Schl.), Chalupki	76 Slavošovce
12 Johannegeorgenstadt	47 Selbersdorf, Zebrzydowice	77 Tornalja, Turnianske Podhradie
13 Annaberg (Erzgeb.)	48 Oderberg, Bohumín	78 Bánréve
14 Plauen	49 Petrovice (u Karvlné)	79 Somoskőújfalu
15 Reichenbach	50 Hultschin, Hlučín	80 Balassagyrmát
16 Chemnitz, Karl-Marx-Stadt	51 Biehlitz, Bilsko, Bielsko	81 Aszód
17 Georgswalde	52 Kandrzyn, Kędzierzyn	82 Vác
18 Ebersbach	53 Těšín (Český), Cieszyn	83 Ipolyság, Šahy
19 Zittau, Žitava	54 Żywiec	84 Parkan-Nana, Stúrovo
20 Seldenberg, Zawidów	55 Sucha	85 Szob, Soba
21 Hirschberg, Jelenia Góra	56 Orlov	86 Szenc, Senec
22 Grünthal, Polaun, Polubný	57 Mezölaborcz, Medzilaborce	87 Oroszvár, Rusovce
23 Ruhbank	58 Zagórz	88 Hölak, Trenčianska Teplá
24 Liebau, Libava, Lubawka	59 Slanki	89 Wlara-Pass, Vlárský průsmyk
25 Königshau, Královce	60 Lawoczne	90 Ludenburg, Břeclav
26 Pelsdorf, Kunčice n. Lab.	61 Kušnica	91 Marchegg
27 Halbstadt, Meziměstí	62 Stanislaw, Stanislaw	92 Zellerndorf
28 Wekelsdorf, Teplice n. Met.	63 Körömező, Jasna	93 Zlabings, Slavonice
29 Glatz, Kladsko, Klódzko	64 Camara La Sighet	94 Wolframs, Kostelec u Jihlavy
30 Mittelwalde, Miedzylesie	65 Marmaros Sziget, Sighet Marmatiel	95 Schwarzenau
31 Getersberg, Kyšperk, Letohrad		96 Gmünd
32 Wildenschwert, Ústí n. Orl.		97 Cmunt, České Velenice
33 Lichkov, Lichtenau		98 Galsbach
34 Hanušovice, Hannedorf		99 Summerau, Sumerava
35 Nieder-Lipka, Dolní Lipka		100 Kaplitz, Kaplice

REGISTER OF LOCAL NAMES REFERRED TO IN MAP, WITH ACCOUNT TO WORDING IN TPO POSTMARKINGS

They were operated by the Bavarian Railways not, as may be thought, by Saxony Railways. Very surprising is the usage at that time of the CHEB protuberance by foreign railways. The Bavarian government had established and utilized the altogether independent route on Austro-Hungarian soil, though after signatory consideration with them. In 1865 it also came to an agreement with the Saxony Crown Railways and, in partnership, built the Plauen (Vogtland)-Voitersreuth (Vojtanov) route on Czech territory. It joined with an earlier Bavarian Franzensbad (Františkovy Lázně)-Eger (Cheb)-Waldsassen route. In addition, it also established the rail line Eger-Franzenbad-Asch-Selb, so that the stations Cheb, Franzensbad and Voitersreuth functioned under Bavarian or Saxony administration but not under Austrian (i.e. Czech Austrian) railways. Austrian Railways built a link to Cheb in the 1870s; Bavarian state post travelled to Bohemia up to 1919 but from 1920 it was absorbed into the German 'Deutsche Reichspost' which was in operation here until 1945. In this (Czech) territory there was only the link Tirschnitz (Tršnice)-Franzenbad and the cross-border Asch-Adorf, although the second did not have any link with the rest of the Czech territory network. (to be cont./...)

*NOTE on the Summary Transport of Mailbags (STP):-

This task was performed by early Second-Class TPOs, mainly on minor routes where normal TPO facilities would have been uneconomical. The sealed bags containing pre-sorted mail were accompanied by 'trail postal guards' (postal clerks) whose duty it was to accept ordinary mail from stations en-route, sort it en-route and apply special pmks which were un-numbered. Everything was then handed over to postal clerks at place of destination .

[Ed. note: It is regretted that it proved impossible to photocopy the map with any greater degree of clarity from the original copy printed in FILATELIE 18/1989-562]

BY THOMAS COOK & SON LTD FROM SLOVAKIA TO ENGLAND

- Paul Jensen -

VIA POB 506 LISBON was, for a considerable time the only way of corresponding between German-dominated Europe and Great Britain. Letters were sent via this POB, passed on by Cook's office in Lisbon to London and there sorted in co-operation with the United Kingdom's censorship authorities and representatives of the various exile organisations, to eventually find its way to the addressee. The usual procedure was that an addressed label should be inserted in the envelope for onward forwarding; however, because of censorship this was rarely done.

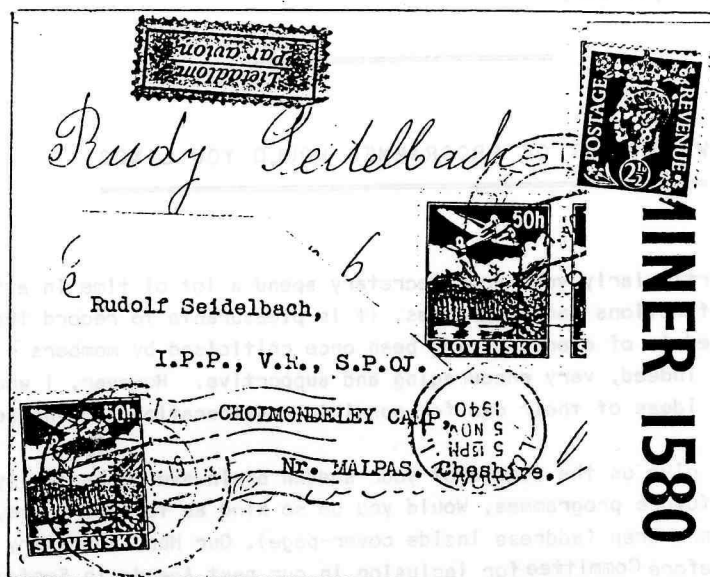
This particular cover was mailed from ^{*}ŠAŠTÍN, SLOVAKIA on 17th October 1940. It is franked with 3.50Ks, being 2.50Ks UPU postage to Portugal and 1Ks - the European Airmail charge. There are no Slovakian censorship marks and the envelope was obviously mailed open as the flap is inside the cover. This cover carries no less than seven copies of the (1939) 50h airmail stamp: four on the front (one is covered by the GB 2½d stamp) and three on the back (one covered by the censorship label).

The cover arrived at Lisbon central post office on 26th October; was sent on to London where it was stamped on 5th November with Cook's "Enemy Mail" handstamp. It was censored by the British censor No. 1580. A label with addressee's details was affixed in addition to which, Cook's applied one of their own (perfined) 2½d postage stamps, representing the Foreign rate (uncancelled). The stamp was placed over the UK censorship label and it later received the 5.15pm LONDON machine cancellation on 5 November 1940. However, as can be seen above, the envelope was upside down when it received the cancellation marking.

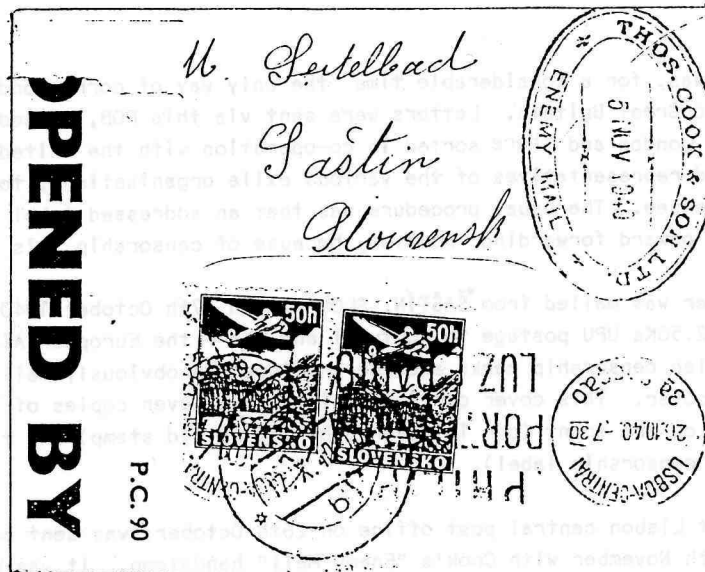
According to Kenneth Rowe there are very few POB 506 LISBON covers known from Slovakia. I obtained this cover from the late Dr. Reiner-Deutsch about fifteen years ago. He told me that it was [then] the only recorded one. However, since that time, I have seen 5-6 other such covers from Slovakia. >

Edit.

Note * ... ŠAŠTÍN today is shown on the map as ŠAŠTÍN-STRÁŽE and lies nearby Route BŘECLAV-SENICA, off the main D2 Highway. My thanks to J.G. and P.J. for this information.



There are seven copies of the 50 h. airmail stamps on this cover; four on the front (one covered by the GB 2½d stamp) and three on the back; one covered by the censorship label; making up the postage rate by air mail to Portugal of Ks. 3.50



It is however, a definitely rare cover and, beside being interesting, it is a good documentation of the procedures required to be followed by this early wartime "across enemy lines" postal service. Later in the war, of course, only Red Cross messages were passed through but in 1940, Slovakia obviously was not officially at war with Great Britain::

[Ed. The author has supplied the Editor with a full-length article by Kenneth Rowe, published by the POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL (USA) in the early 70s. Apart from showing some very fine illustrations of 'Via 506 Lisbon' covers, it contains the regulations covering the transit of mail in this fashion. Although there is no direct Czechoslovak connection, it maybe of interest to some of our readers. We shall publish some extract from this excellent article in our next edition in September]

WHAT SORT OF PROGRAMMES WOULD YOU LIKE?

Your Committee and particularly your Hon. Secretary spend a lot of time in attempting to plan the Society's future functions and programmes. It is pleasurable to record that I cannot ever recall any year's schedule of events having been once criticised by members - at least, not officially! That is, indeed, very encouraging and supportive. However, I would like to ask all members to submit ideas of their own for possible consideration for the season 1991-92.

If you feel you could give us the wisdom of your sudden brainwave or carefully thought through idea for one or more future programmes, Would you be so kind as to send these, set out clearly and precisely, to Yvonne Gren (address inside cover-page). Our Hon. Secretary would then be able to place these before Committee for inclusion in our next Agenda in September.

My thanks for your kind consideration of this request; we look forward to hearing from you.

CHAIRMAN

AN INTERESTING 1945 CARD
FROM PILSEN, BOHEMIA.

From: Vladimír Králíček, who
also translated for us.



Milí! V. Pilsen 23. IV. 45

*Všichni jsme živí a zdraví. Máme
jen okno v pokoji rozbíté. Verka je
s dětmi v Dýšině u Homoláčů.*

*S dečnými pozdravy
Václav Králíček
6. V. 45 v 9.30 - první tanky na
na náměstí*

Konečně odesláno 15. V. 1945

On the 23rd April 1945, V. Brejcha, residing at Wellnerová 47, Pilsen, began to write to a certain Mr. František Bárta, Engine Driver, of Heřmanův Městec 496 with the following:

"Dears!

We are all alive and healthy. We have only one window broken in the room. Vera is with the children in Dýšíně u Homoláčů.

Hearty Greetings,
V. Brejcha"

For whatever reason(s), this card was not sent on that date. However, after this message, there appears another one:

"With hearty greetings to you 6.V.45 at 9.30 - the first tanks in (? on) the town square!!!"

Finally - a third message reads:

"Finally sent on 15.V.1945."

The card is franked with a 2.50K/1.50K [Saint Vitus' Cathedral] Protektorate stamps, cancelled with the nationalised PLZEN 8/a double-circle postmark dated 16.V.1945.

My question is this: "Has the card been genuinely used or not?" Pilsen was liberated on 6th May and a number of the 'Liberation' overprints were in circulation up to 16th May, from which date their usage was prohibited. These stamps are NOT overprinted! Any ideas, please?

M. R. ŠTEFÁNIK - 50h Green - Pofis 291

(Translation: Bob Kingsley)

TOMÁŠ MOROVICS.



In spite of the fact that the subject of Czechoslovak stamps during the period 1925-1939 has been dealt with in Cz. Monografie Pt.3, it cannot be said that the study of this period has, by any means, been exhausted. It is always possible to make new discoveries and find additional information - in some cases, of quite significant importance. One of these stamps is the 50h (SG 341/Pofis 291) bearing the portrait of the famous Slovak scientist, statesman, soldier, politician - General Milan Rastislav Štefánik, issued in May 1935.

Literature correctly states that three printing plates were produced for this value for printing on a Stickney rotary machine (the printing form normally consisted of two plates doubled up into a half-roller). The reason that the third plate was produced was because of damage to the first plate, sometimes referred to as the 'smashed' plate. This damage was shown on the 181st stamp from the first plate [fig.3]. Nowhere however, have I found any mention of the fact that similar damage also existed in the case of the second plate [fig.4]. Judging from the colour of this example, I have concluded that damage to the second plate occurred during the second phase of printing, the printing done together with the third plate.

The third plate was finished later, as the literature states, and it is possible to distinguish it by the different plate mark. The figure "1" is LIGHTLY shaded here [fig.5]. I believe however, that one needs to establish exactly when these stamps, printed from this third plate, came into circulation. To this end it is necessary to find further stamps printed from this plate in order to see exactly how they differ from those printed on previous plates. >



On all stamps printed on a Stickney rotary machine, one can find traces of *molette equipment to be found on the edge of the stamp. On stamps printed from plates 1 and 2 we find these traces (colour spots) over the letter "E" [fig.1].

In the case of the new (third) plate, these spots are to be found in the top-right arc of the letter "O" [fig.2]. With the help of these spots it is consequently possible to distinguish individual stamps without plate marks and, by reference to the whole sheet, to establish when these stamps, printed from the third plate, were put into circulation. Reference has been made in the past to production imperfections on this value, concerning partly printed offset.

Finally, as a further matter of interest to collectors, fig.6 shows a block of 4 stamps with an omitted perforation below the bottom-left stamp. I have come across this error on stamps printed from the second and third plates.

By this contribution, I wish to draw attention to the number of grey areas in the question of our recess printed stamps. It really is a pity that more collectors do not devote themselves to their systematic study. ::

[Ed. note: *molette (Fr.) = dowel or milled nut; knurl; milling tool; cutting wheel]

BACKGROUND TO SOME RECENT ISSUES

To assist collectors with their eventual 'write-ups' of some new issues, we shall, where possible, publish some limited background information which we hope will prove useful in this direction. For the following notes, the Editor is most grateful to Dr. Ján Gronský of Prague both for the notes themselves and their English translations.

18.2.1991 - "ANNIVERSARIES OF OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES" (The 'Scout' stamp is dealt with separately elsewhere within this issue) - all stamps are valued at 1Kčs:

ANDREJ KMEŤ (19.11.1841-16.2.1908)

A Slovak scientist, botanist, folklore expert, patriot and national revivalist. He founded the Slovak National Museum. His fine collection of Slovak flora is now a part of the Museum in the north Slovakian town of Martin.

.....

JAROSLAV SEIFERT (23.09.1901-10.01.1986)

Czech poet; perhaps the most important Czech poet of the last 40 years. His output was really colossal with many especially written for children and which now form a real part of Czech National Culture. After 1968 he was head of the Czech Writers' Union. Following the Russian occupation of 1968-69, when Professor Goldstücker, the Union's then Head, had emigrated to Great Britain, Jaroslav Seifert was 'officially' banned from publishing his works for many years. In 1984, Seifert was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. A big demonstration marked the occasion of Seifert's funeral two years later.

.....

ALOIS JAN FRANTIŠEK SENEFELDER (6.11.1771-26.2.1834)

Czech inventor, actor and dramatist. He was the inventor of lithographic printing in c.1796 and which he later improved with his idea of autotypography. In 1797, he built his first lithography printing machine and, two years later, he founded a lithography workshop in Bavaria, followed by another in Vienna in 1800. He also wrote a book on the subject: "Lehrbuch der Lithographie/Textbook of Lithography".

.....

JAN MASARYK (1886-1948)

Son of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, founder of the first Czechoslovak Republic in 1918. Was Czechoslovakia's Foreign Minister from 1945-1948. Much speculation (still prevalent) has transpired since his death fall from a high window in Prague; was it suicide or murder? Whilst much speculation is still published in the now free press in Czechoslovakia, one doubts if the true facts will ever be known to the general public.

.....

CINDERELLA

"PORTRAIT OF A SLOVAK GIRL"

(QUERY CORNER)

C-775



1 ← Fig. → 2



From Jeffrey Kalp came a cry for help! He wanted to know the origin and purpose of the label above (Fig.1). The Editor was also puzzled because he had a similar label in his file which he could not identify (Fig.2). The upshot was that an enquiry was addressed to the U.S.A. and within a very short time, MR. CHARLES (He prefers 'Charley!') CHESLOE, PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY was able to unfold for our members the following first class background information on Jeffrey Kalp's 'stamp' and a little about the other one. This is what Mr. Chesloe wrote:

SLOVAK LEAGUE OF AMERICA: "PORTRAIT OF A SLOVAK GIRL" - Printed in 1907 by the American Bank-note Company, N.Y. to Order No. 20655 - C-775. Engraved by Messrs. Savage and Gunn at their offices in Pittsburgh, Pa. Finished 1.08.1907. [Figure 1 above is not the exact copy sent to us by Jeffrey Kalp but a die proof of it recently purchased by Mr. Chesloe, showing above it (but very faintly in this copy) the notation C-775. Mr. Chesloe also obtained a number of booklet panes of this issue as below]:



The money raised from the sale of the 1c 'stamp' (which probably began in the fall or winter of 1907) was intended to aid the Slovak Resistance against Hungarian rule. Through the years over one million dollars was collected and this was handed to T.G. Masaryk in 1918 to aid the establishment of Czechoslovakia.

The other (Fig.2) 'stamp' was issued by the Czechs in America and has the year 1902 beneath the central (female) figure. It also shows the American and Czech flags in the top corners. I am quite positive that this 'stamp' was used for the same purpose - to raise money in USA to be used for the liberation of the Czech Lands from Austria. N.B. This 'stamp' came out five years before the Slovak one.

The text is as follows: "Američtí Češi Sobě"/American Czechs United - "V práce a Věděni jest Naše Spaseni"/In Work and Knowledge for Our Salvation". In essence, American Czechs together in work and knowledge will lead to their preservation and salvation. The underlying notation here is "Freedom for the Mother Country" (Homeland).

Our grateful thanks to Charley for his considerable and most useful information on what is, after all, what we here term a "cinderella" topic but nevertheless of specific interest. We also are given to understand by Charley that he may be able to shed further light on these issues at some future date. We shall welcome that.

A RECENT ISSUEPROFESSOR ANTONIN SVOJSIK (5.09.1876-17.09.1938)

AJK



It must have been a most pleasant surprise for lovers of the philatelic BOY SCOUTS theme when Czechoslovakia issued the above stamp on 10th January 1991. It was meant to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the foundation of 'Scouting' in Czechoslovakia and the 115th anniversary of the birth of the founder of that Czechoslovak movement for boys.

ANTONÍN BENJAMIN SVOJSÍK, a physical training teacher from Prague had heard and read about the Scout movement which came into being at the turn of the century and whose spiritual fathers were the British General Robert Baden-Powell and the American writer E.Thompson-Seton whose books were published in Czechoslovakia; two examples are "Dawn at Cedar Mountain" and "About the Squirrel". To familiarise himself with this new movement for boys, Svojsik came to England in 1911, where he met Gen. Baden-Powell (the original 'Chief Scout'). He later drafted the first rules for and thought out the Czech description for Scouts and Scouting there, i.e. "Junák, junáctví. He then set about the giant task of organising Czech boys into scout groups where they could combine to learn the art of scouting (tracking), firm companionships and a love for the outdoors and nature. In addition to all that was the work needed to instil into the boys the knowledge of how to lead good, upright and clean lives and to look after themselves under all difficulties of life.

The greatest growth in Scout membership was in the 1930s but when the German occupation took place in 1938 the activities of Boy Scouts was prohibited by the occupational forces and many of its activists were prosecuted. The postwar renewal however, lasted only up to the year 1949, when the Pioneer organisation (ČSM) was established for children. New times, hoped for in 1968, soon became a glimmer only, with the Russian occupation and, yet again, scouting was banned.

However, the world-renowned organisation for boys (and girls), founded so long ago by a British army general, is once again, making a slow re-entry into Czechoslovakia and it is hoped that it will be officially represented at the World Jamboree in South Korea later on this year.

[Based on information in FILATELIE by Helena Hodková, from Dr. Ján Gronský and translations by Vladimír Králíček] ::

PUBLICATION NO.9.

The new Society Publication - "THE FIELD POST OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK & ALLIED FORCES IN RUSSIA 1918-1920", announced with the March issue of CZECHOUT is now available. The price to members is: £6 plus postage - Inland 50p - Europe 80p - Surface Elsewhere 80p - PP Air £2-25p (Order form was issued with March CZECHOUT).

W.A.Page (Publications Officer)

[Translation: R. Kingsley]

NEW ISSUES 1991

A.J.K



We are advised by TECHNICKÁ ÚSTŘEDNA SPOJŮ of the following announcements by the Federal Ministry of Postal and Telecommunications Services, Prague, in regard to new commemorative postage stamps issued recently:

MAY 6 1991: "EUROPE IN THE UNIVERSE" (CEPT) - A single 6Kčs stamp featuring a drawing of the second Czechoslovak spacecraft "Magion II" released into outer space in 1989, part of the world globe, the CEPT emblem and the words "EUROPE, MAGION II 1989" - The issue is common with the other CEPT member states who are issuing stamps on the common theme of "Europe in the Universe." Designer: Jaroslav Fišer; Engraver Václav Fajt. Size: 23x40mm; printed rotary recess combined with two-colour recess (blue and red) in sheets x 50 stamps.

First Day Cover: With commemorative cancellation showing a photograph of the sun taken by a cosmic probe "Phobos I" in 1988, the emblem CEPT and the words "PHOBOS I. 1988." Printed by recess/flat plates in red, black and yellow.

MAY 10 1991: "CENTENARY OF THE UNIVERSAL STATE EXHIBITION IN PRAGUE" - A single stamp with a drawing of the front of the central section of the Industrial Palace in 1891. It carries the following wording: "100th Anniversary of the Universal State Exhibition in Prague." and the dates 1891-1991. The year 1891 reminds us of the first industrial exhibition held at the Klementin in Prague. Designer: Oldřich Kulhánek; Engraver: Miloš Ondráček. Size 23x40mm and printed rotary recess (in blue) combined with three-colour recess in grey, dk.violet and violet in sheets x 50 stamps.

FDC: With commemorative cancellation with cachet showing a detail of the iron construction Petřín Tower in 1891 together with the wording as on the stamp. Printed flat plate recess in blue and pink.

MAY 20 1991: "30th ANNIVERSARY OF ANTARCTIC TREATY" - A single stamp having an 8Kčs face value. Illustration combines a map of the Antarctic, the Czechoslovak Flag, a drawing of penguins and inscription: "30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY". Designer: Ivan Schurmann; Engraver: Miloš Ondráček. Size 40x23mm; printed rotary recess (in blue-grey) combined with four-colour>

recess printing (in Lt. blue, blue, red and black) in sheets of 50 stamps.

FDC: Depicts a composition of fish and plants living in Antarctic waters. Printed flat plate in blue and red.

This international treaty for the peaceful use of the Antarctic was signed in Washington in 1959 and came into effect thirty years ago - in 1961. Czechoslovakia joined it in 1962.

JUNE 3 1991 "CZECHOSLOVAK CASTLES AND CHATEAUX" - A set of three stamps in the values of 50h., 1Kčs., 3Kčs. Designer: Alfred Fuchs; Engraver: Václav Fajt. The stamps measure 23x30mm and were printed rotary recess combined with multi-colour recess in sheets x 50 stamps.

1. 50h - Chateau BLATNÁ in colours black, ochre, olive-green, brown and dk. brown.
2. 1Kčs- Castle BOUZOV in colours black, ochre, orange, brown and dk. brown.
3. 3Kčs- Castle KEŽMAROK in colours black, pink, light purple, light red and olive green.

FDCs: Two FDCs were issued as follow:

- a) One cover bearing the 3Kčs stamp with cachet showing an engraving of the Renaissance portal of Kežmarok tower; printed in brown. Commemorative cancellation.
- b) One cover carrying the 50h and 1Kčs stamps and drawing of a well in the courtyard of Castle Bouzov. Printed in purple-brown. Both covers printed flat plate recess.

[Some notes by Ed. on these castle locations]:-

BLATNÁ - (Bohemia) 30km south-west of Orlik; 25km north-west of Písek. The chateau was once a flood refuge; it was built on a small island between the two arms of the little river Lomnice.

BOUZOV - (Moravia) 21km west of Litovel, this late 13th-century fortress was renovated between 1895 and 1909. It contains rich collections collected by native and foreign nobility. Ten towers and a 200 feet high watch tower embellish this castle. With some other strongholds Bouzov was once part of a system of defence.

KEŽMAROK - (E.Slovakia) Lies in the valley of the Poprad river on the northern edge of the SPIŠ basin (2,066 feet a.s.l.); the town was founded in the 12th-century during the Saxon colonisation of the Spiš. The five-towered 15th-century castle resembles a fortress and bounds the main square; it was rebuilt in the 17th century and is embellished by a Renaissance attic. During the Slovak National Uprising, the GESTAPO tortured and murdered local patriots in the rooms of this castle. There is now a municipal museum in the castle.

All the above-mentioned stamps were printed at the State Stamp Printing Office (T.Ú.S) in Prague. We are further advised that the address of this establishment has been altered as follows: DIMITRI SQUARE has been re-named and the following is the proper address today:-
Technická Ústředna Spojů (TUS), Ortenovo náměstí 16, 125 06 PRAHA 7. Č.S.F.R.

CORRECTION:

In the list of planned issues for 1991 (issue 1/1991-26) the commemorative 1Kčs JAN MASARYK stamp was omitted from the officially issued list. We did, however, list this stamp (with an illustration) on pp. 23 and 24 of the same issue : :

N.B. The Universal Exhibition will be held in Prague from 15 May to 28 October 1991.

Further details from: Society for the Universal Czechoslovak Exhibition, Exhibition Grounds, POB 79, PRAHA 7, 170 00. Czechoslovakia. [Tel. 37-73-40-9 : Fax 38 22 44.]