



CZECHOUT

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PRESIDENT'S SAD DEPARTURE



Václav Havel bowed out as Czechoslovakia's president on Monday, 20 July 1992. He did so in a rueful but relaxed manner, leaving his divided country without a head of state as it approaches the most critical period of its 74 years history.

"I am sad," Mr. Havel admitted as he passed his last hours of office in bright sunshine on the lawn of the presidential country retreat at Láňy, outside Prague.

Meanwhile, at Prague Castle, a crowd of about 400 people, shouting "We want Havel", watched as the presidential standard was ceremonially lowered for the last time in Václav Havel's short but remarkable 'reign'. At the time of writing, the future of the Czechoslovak state as we know it today, is in grave doubt. Whatever is decided however, we sincerely hope that it will be for the betterment of the peoples of that country.

We illustrate the only Czechoslovak postage stamp to bear Havel's image to date. It was issued on 9 January 1990. Václav Havel held his country's presidency from 29.12.1989 (just six weeks following the 'velvet' revolution) to 20.7.1992. A.J.K.



SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICES

Meeting held Sat. 20th June 1992

Vice-Chairman, Bill Dawson welcomed 18 members. Chairman and five other members had sent in their apologies for absence.

Mr. W.A. Page, FRPS, L. was congratulated on his winning a Vermeil Award at the Cardinal Spellman Museum (USA) 16th Philatelic Fair, with his recent publication "Czechoslovak and Allied Forces in Russia 1918-20". Alec was presented with his Certificate at our meeting by Mr. W.A. Dawson. This is an annual philatelic literature event in the United States with worldwide participation.

New Members: Six new members were announced and their applications were formally accepted.

Mr. John L. Whiteside, FRPS, L. then proceeded to entertain members with a talk and display on a rather unusual philatelic subject for this Society and one of those occasional events when the subject matter is not totally Czechoslovakia related "Hyper-inflation". The display was in two sections and included material from Germany, Poland, Austria, Russia, Greece and China.

The most notable item was a stampless Polish cover sent to Warsaw from Wokkowysk with an endorsement to the effect that 200,000 marks had been pre-paid for postage - the correct internal rate for that period! There were numerous other most notable and rare items included - too vast for further analytical review here. However, John has since supplied your Editor with a lengthy review of this display which we hope to publish for members' benefit in regard to hyper-inflation rates in central Europe soon after World War 1.

A warm vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Whiteside by Mr. Michael Elliott, who also paid his own tribute to John's extensive and detailed knowledge of this subject ... and not a note in sight throughout the entire lecture! Members warmly endorsed this vote of thanks. Following the meeting, seventeen stayed for an informal dinner in the Restaurant of the Czechoslovak National Club, on whose premises most of our meetings are held.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into our Society the following new members with our hope that their sojourn with us will be long, happy and philatelically fruitful:

Mrs. A. Lustig, Sale, Cheshire
 Mr. Brian E. Tupper, Eastbourne, Essex
 Mr. David Austin, Northampton
 Mr. Martin Griggs, Gillingham
 Mr. David G. Smith, Andover

Free catalogues

J. Barefoot Ltd. advise us of their auction in either late September or early October. It will include about a 100 or so Czechechoslovakian-related lots. Members of this Society are offered free catalogues upon their personal requests which should be addressed to: J. Barefoot, Ltd., P.O. Box 5, Catterick, North Yorkshire. DL9 3HX (Tel. 0748-832214). Please quote this journal when you apply.

Correction

Edition 2/1992, page 33; 2nd paragraph: This should read July **2nd** 1992. Sorry!

Modern Road Maps of Czechoslovakia (From John Whiteside)

There have been some recent developments in map publishing, which may be of interest to members; I give some details below:

- 1 - Freytag & Berndt, Vienna: 1:600,000 Czechoslovakia. This superb map has recently appeared in a new edition which has, on the reverse, a place index with map references which makes it even more useful than before. In my view, this is the "Rolls Royce" of modern maps.
- 2 - GeoCenter International - 1:300,000 Czechoslovakia (1 and 2). These two maps have appeared quite recently. At twice as large a scale as most road maps, they show many small villages not shown on the normal 1:600,000 maps:-
 - Czechoslovakia 1 covers Bohemia and Southern Moravia.
 - Czechoslovakia 2 covers Northern Moravia and Slovakia.

These three maps are most heartily recommended to members and should be obtainable from most good bookshops.

Bohemia and Moravia ('Protectorate') Postal Stationery

One of our Australian members is very interested in the above facet of our hobby. He tells the Editor that his access to such material is very limited and would welcome an exchange of views - and possibly ps. items - with other members with a similar interest. Our member is currently examining the 1942 (60h Hitler Head) bordered postcard printed in mauve. He has noticed a number of minor printing faults on this and wishes to discuss it with other interested members because he feels more research should be applied to these ps items of that era.

Interested members should write to: Mr. Clyde Ziegler, P.O. Box 11, **Sedan 5353**, South Australia. **N.B.** A stamped-addressed envelope to the Editor will ensure anyone interested a photocopy of an example of Clyde's study of the card mentioned above.

Your letters

From: Roy W. Wright,
4a Richmond Parade,
East Twickenham,
Middlesex. TW1 2ET



Replies direct to above
address - by request.

1. Can anyone help me with information on the cancel shown above? I have traced Háje and Martinice (Merzdorf) but ... Where is Sytová/Sittau? What is this cancel? It looks like a TPO one but Háje does not seem to be on any railway system. Is it a Highway or Mobile P.O.? It is known that Highway POs commenced in 1937 but did they continue through during 1939-45 and have they continued since? Is there a List available of Highway POs., showing routes, dates of commencement and/or cessation - through to the present day? The date on the above postmark is 27.X.43.
2. I and a colleague in the "TPO & Seaport" Society are compiling a comprehensive List of TPO and Railway Station postmarks, from pre-republic days to the present time. We have collated a vast amount of information from the Cz. monographs 13, 14, 16 and 17, plus other sources up to March 1939. Now we have a problem! Again - we know that TPOs ran during 1939-45 and post-1945 to the present day. However, we cannot trace any written information concerning these two periods so, can anyone help please? Any information received would be greatly appreciated and expenses would be refunded.



Here are copies of three labels issued by the Cz. Forces in the Middle East during 1942 and 1943.

Colin Smith asks if anyone can tell him where he can obtain further information on these labels and any others issued in the ME during WW2. Answers via The Editor, please. >

CZECHOSLOVAK 3-COLOUR CANCELLATIONS

Cz. Postmarks

[A new find!]

From J.B. Horne

Mr. Barry Horne has yet another 'find' to his name! He wrote to the Editor pointing out that a certain 3-colour cancellation he had noted carried a peculiar date and wished to know whether this 'error' has been seen before and, if so, how many copies are known.

The Editor promptly passed this 'hot potato' to our Vice-Chairman Bill Dawson, our acknowledged expert on such matters and, as was to be expected of him, Bill came up with the following:

"The cover Pardubitz 2/12.VI.39 is definitely worthy of comment. The cancel (in black/red/blue) was in use to mark the 7th motor-cycle race held annually as a memorial to the Czech sportsman and racer Jiří Kristián Lobkowitz, born 1907 - died 1932. The cancel was in use only for the 11th and 12th June 1938. This example, clearly dated '39' was obviously an error which I have never seen mention of before. I would suggest that in changing the date-plugs from 11 to 12 for the second day of use, the year-plug was accidentally altered as well.

It would also seem that only a handful of items were postmarked before the error was noticed and corrected, otherwise such an error would have been well documented by now. The premier expert on Czechoslovak postmarks, the late Václav Nebeský of Praha, makes no mention of such an error in his books covering the special commemorative postmarks of the period in question. I have three examples of this cancel in my collection and all are clearly dated "12.VI.38-12" having exactly the same time "12" as the example shown. With the verification of the date-error, this makes this particular item very desirable, interesting and unusual - most definitely worthy of illustrations of both sides of this cover in my humble opinion.

Incidentally, this special cover was produced for this occasion by the Pardubice branch of the Czechoslovak Autoclub and bears the logo of that local organization - but it is quite common though very attractive and nicely printed in two-colour blue and red."

Bill's suggestion of illustrating both sides of Barry's cover set the Editor off again in search of a translator because the message text is entirely in German. I soon found a kindly volunteer in Mr. Roger Morrell who, together with a work colleague, soon had the entire thing 'buttoned up' for us. It should be noted that the text is handwritten and therefore not as easy to read/translate as would be the printed word but Roger offers the following:-

Auf Wunsch wird hiermit Herrn Josef Foerster in Altwaltersdorf amtlich bescheinigt, das vorliegender Briefumschlag versehen mit 5 (funf) CSR-marken, abgestempelt am 12.6.1939, unterzeichnete Amtsverwaltung am heutigem Tage vorgelegen hat.

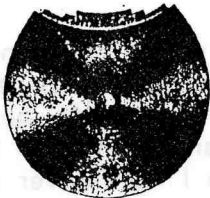
Altwaltersdorf - the 27.VI 1938

Der Amtsvorsteher.

>



PARDUBICE



MEZINÁRODNÍ MOTOCYKLOVÉ ZÁVODY O
VII. MEMORIAL J. K. LOBKOWICZE

*Hop Herrsch wird hiermit Herrn Josef
Frentz in Altwaldersdorf auslieh be-
scheinigt, daß vorliegende Briefum-
schlag versehen mit 5 (fünf)
C.S.R.-Marken, abgestempelt
am 12. 6. 1939, imbezweckten Antrags-
stellung am heutigen Tage vorgelegen
hat.*

Altwaldersdorf, den 27. 5. 1938.



Der Amtsvorsteher

Herrn

The cachet reads: Der Amtsvorsteher
des Amtsbezirks
Altwaltersdorf
Kreis Habelschwerdt

Roger continues: "My translation had an element of uncertainty about it surrounding whether Foerster was the envelope supplier or the name of the signatory. A work colleague sought the advice of a German national having legal experience for the correct interpretation. We conclude that Josef Foerster was the owner of the envelope placed in front of the Amtsvorsteher, whose signature cannot be readily deciphered (Germans usually sign letters surname only. The original penstrokes may be a little clearer on the original envelope). The translation therefore reads:

'As requested, it is hereby officially attested to Mr. Josef Foerster in Altwaltersdorf that the present envelope supplied with 5 (five) CSR stamps, datestamped 12.6.1939 was laid before the undersigned Administration Office on this day.'

Altwaltersdorf the 27.V.1938.
Administration Director.

So I guess that as a well-respected (one hopes!) public official, he was acting as an authenticator of the forward-dated datestamp which was presumably an error on the part of the person who set up the canceller (or was it done by 'favour'? Aren't I a cynic!).

I hope this is not too far from a correct translation; it is not straight-forward German because it is in semi-legal terminology."

The cachet translates as:

The Administration Director
of the Administration Area of
Altwaltersdorf
District of Habelschwerdt

[Ed. note: For further reading on the subject of 3-colour cancellations, see Czechout No. 58 (Vol. 8/1-11) - W.A.Dawson, March 1990. If anyone can identify the present location of the 'district' of Habelschwerdt and 'area' of Altwaltersdorf, such information would nicely complete this study of a most interesting and unusual cover.

Whether the 'error' of dating was genuine or not must remain a matter for speculation by philatelists unless, of course, someone can come up with some more thoughts on the matter. AK.]

Reminder:

Members are asked not to forget the short EGM to be held at 2.0pm on Sat. 12 September, prior to the normal meeting at 2.30pm. The Agenda has been circulated with our last issue.

BOHEMIA & MORAVIA**POSTAL PROVISIONS OF THE PROTECTORATE MILITIA**

- Dr. Miroslav Vostatek -
[English translation: Vladimír Králiček]

Part 2 - conclusion

Many ways were sought by the militiamen to send messages home without the use of the normal field post. Some was carried by themselves when they went home - for whatever reasons. More was carried by Italian civilians who had them then taken into Austria for onward transmission. I have in my possession a letter having the Villach cancellation dated 21.8.1944 on which is the blue airmail logo shown as fig. 7. This was addressed to the environs of Rynarce u. Pelhrimov. The writer was thanking his wife for her letter of 31.7 that had reached him on 11.8.44.

I also have two cards from a Josef Lenner sent as greetings cards. One is addressed from Brescie with pmk Brescie Ferrovia "ordinarie" and the date is 27.5.44X XII 20 (12th year of the Fascist era). The writer has written "Field-post" into the heading and addressed his wife in German at Purglitz (Krivoklat). He has also written a short text in Czech. The card carries the normal German circular censor mark in red, plus a circled 24, the letter **M** and the number **10**. If we note that the first Protectorate troops arrived in Italy on 27.5.44 (although the 'billetes' arrived before that date) then, prohibition or no prohibition, this soldier had sent news of himself homeward with unbelievable speed! (fig.8).

As time went by, the troops sent greetings home from other towns and I have one dated 5.9.44 from Padov and franked with the stamps of the Italian Socialist Republic. Amazingly the card cleared its way through without having any signs of censorship. Entire series exist showing how soldiers received them from their Italian friends. For example, Ladislav Formanek (F.P. 32.224D) received a card dated 25.9.44 XXII franked with mixed Italian and Italian Socialist Republic stamps. Understandably though, this card carries Italian censorship markings: "Verificato/Per Censura" with the number 11 encircled., etc. Before I close this paragraph, may I remark on a card that seemed to have been censored at Battalion level. It carries in red pencil a note that is strikingly similar to others we have seen before on 1938 FP cards (fig.9). It is small - but it is possible to read it as "cens/parafa".

Life and Service of the soldiers in Italy

From philately, including postal history it is again necessary to digress from what was done and what touched our people - the soldiers in Italy. Without this it is not possible to truly understand the following circumstances very well. At first the German Army used the soldiers for railway guard duties, e.g. along the length of the Brenner Pass, an important route from Germany to Italy. Additionally they guarded important bridges and Battalion 12 in Taino di Sesto guarded the local explosives factory. Many of our soldiers deserted soon after their arrival in Italy - e.g. some members of Battalion 6 from Hradec Kralove escaped to Switzerland and later they were followed by many more via the same routes. Many however were caught en-route and from a total of 150 officers and 4500 men during the first four months, over 1000 were lost, most simply summarily executed. Even today their graves are being cared for by Italian veterans and other friends.

Illustrations to Part 2 of:
POSTAL PROVISIONS OF THE PROTECTORATE MILITIA

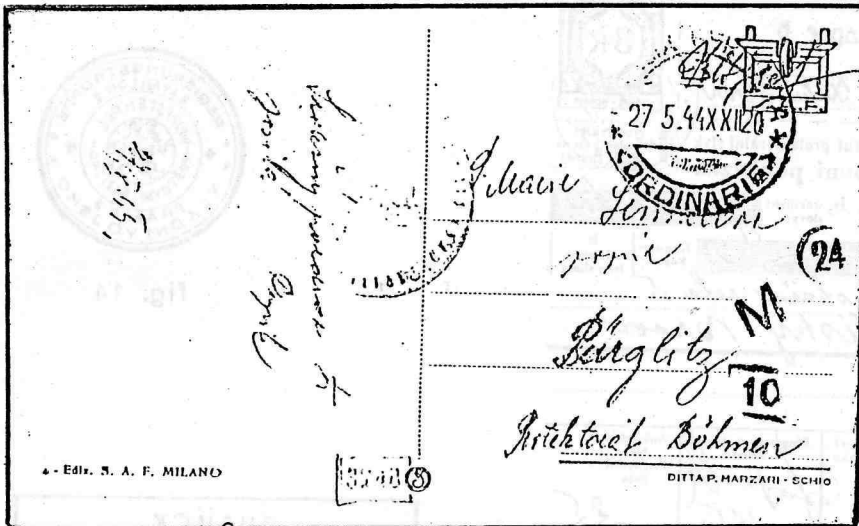


fig. 8

Handwritten signature

fig. 9

Zollfrei Monatsendung
1. Monat Februar 1945

Dienststelle
Feldpost Nr. 27716 - E

Der Kompaniechef:

Hauptmann I Klasse:

fig. 10 >

Zollfreie Monatsendung für den
 Monat Dezember 1944 Fp.Nr.47248
 Aus Mängel des Feldpostdienst-
 stelles regals
K. Mückler
 Hauptmann I.Kl.u.Btl.Adjutant

fig. 11

REGIERUNGSTRUPPE
 BATAILLON 2. STANDORTABTEILUNG RAKONITZ
 VLÁDNÍ VOJSKO
 PRAPOR 2. POSÁDKOVÝ ODDÍL RAKOVNÍK

fig. 13

Bataillon 5
 prapor 5
Kulka Hlava
 Váleční protektorátní slyk
 štovní poukázka
 50 h, wörtlich: *jednoráz*
 slovy:
 Kronen h
 korun wie oben
 jako shora
u štábního roba 5
dištyj prapor



fig. 14

stempel il. číslo	Eingetragen durch Prijal:	Ankunfts- Nr. Přichodní číslo
<i>11/2</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>85</i>
am dne		

fig. 12

ZURÜCK
 NEUE ANSCHRIFT ABV . 1

fig. 15

Überprüft

fig. 16

15 BASE
 POST OFFICE

10 AUG 45

fig. 17 ::

Postal provisions to/from Italy

Soldiers and their families were able to exchange parcels via the normal German Fieldpost although it is today believed that the Militia troops were severely rationed to this end and certainly were not provided for as equal military partners. For this purpose troops were issued with so-called "Admission" stamps (Zulassungsmarke Deutsche Feldpost) and, later, 40pf stamps with the o/print "Feldpost 2kg". Witnesses remember these parcels but none could vouch for or even remember anything similar for themselves. Expert German philatelists are sure today that this right did exist for the militia however. Personally, I believe that the 'Government Forces' were not always equal partners and thus some discrimination against them in this field has shown itself manifestly clearly. If anyone can find an entire with this stamp addressed to the Czech Lands it surely will be a noteworthy find.

There existed some 'Admission' cancellers. An example is known from the Rakovnik 2 Battalion (fig.10). It always gave the FP number and some information to the fact that this was a free 'monthly' consignment. It always bore the battalion commander's signature and, in German, its given value. My uncle in Pardubice was one such recipient. It was sent directly by the commander, a Lt. Col. Kalenský but was signed by his adjutant Vomáčka. On gummed paper they had to justify that they did not have available an appropriate FP service canceller. On the parcel was placed a current 20pf German stamp marked with a two-line text: "Bei der Feldpost zensuriert." (fig.11).

Telegrams were also permitted in both directions and a fragment of the telegraph form is shown at fig. 12. These telegrams often bore good news but soon it became clear that 'bad' news was increasing! (deaths in families, severe illnesses, etc.) It also became clear to the authorities that this system was, to all intents and purposes, being abused in order that militiamen might be granted compassionate leave to return home. An interesting circular has survived to prove this assumption. We call it The Rakovnik Circular. This was a printed item that 'accompanied' a letter received by the wife of a militiaman living at Nemajevov u Pelhrimova. Translated, it reads as follows:

"Members of the Militia in Italy seem to be trying to go home by all possible means. They are aided in this by their families who endeavour to send telegrams informing them of sudden illness, etc. to next-of-kin and others which are then utilised to obtain special leave. Doctors are being requested to provide necessary proof by way of certificates. All such requests are always subjected to official scrutiny where all that is not correct must manifest itself. In many cases such untrue claims have been so proven. In certain serious cases however leave is granted which is of great benefit to the soldiers. It is therefore unacceptable to take unfair advantage of this opportunity. If the present situation persists, our superiors will discontinue such leave completely, thereby causing suffering to our troops whose needs are genuine.

Government Militia,
Battalion 2,
Rakonice detachment.
January 1st 1945"

The cover carries the round marker of 2 Battalion (fig.14). There is also the unit marking in German/Czech (fig.13). >

Beside the normal FP cards available to militia forces, I have seen one peculiar one printed on carton paper used for wrapping by a Magdeburg firm "Knackebrot Burg bei Magdeburg". The company wrapped its produce in printed carton paper that was printed in such a way as to include a section that could be used as a field postcard. The purchaser was advised, in German, to open carefully so as to be able to use this card (Vorsichtig abtrennen um als Feldpostkarte verwenden). This particular card was sent via FP 27 716-A in July 1944.

It was not unusual for militia units to be moved about like any other military unit and with such changes came FP number changes also. This can be noted on a blank card sent to a family who used it to write to Italy. FP 27 716 is deleted with blue pencil and on it is a cancellation "Return to (fig. 15) and a circled "11b". It also shows a new address but today it cannot be easily deciphered. It dates from January 1945. Another example of FP mail for Govt. forces in Italy was supplied by Mr. V. Zidlicky (Praha) dated 21.6.1944. The addressee was an agency KF in Turnov. Sender wrote his address as: Strazn. vl. voj. Praha XIX/47, Kleistová.99. The card bears the cachet "Uberprust" - Fig.16. This is often seen on other military entires.

Post-Italian Liberation

Following the German defeat by the Allies in 1945 and the liberation of Italy, the so-called Government Forces (Militia) were incorporated into the Czechoslovak Army. They were then to serve in the C.M.F. (Central Mediterranean Forces) until being gradually released to return home. They were taken home by rail and centred in Straslicich u Rokycan where they were thoroughly screened and debriefed before being sent back into the Czechoslovak Army or being demobilized and sent to their homes. But it did not just end like that for some who, until this day, claim that having been members of the "Govt. Militia" branded them for the rest of their lives - like the 'mark of Cain.'

It is interesting to note that some mail reaching home from Italy at the end of hostilities in Italy bore a cachet in English (Fig. 17). This had travelled by way of the Allied censorship system, of course and I have even seen the words "Czechoslovakian Army". Such mail travelled free of postage but is very hard to find nowadays and thereby relatively scarce.

In conclusion I would like to thank all who assisted me with my research into this not yet popular philatelic subject matter and would welcome any further information from readers who may have come across any such mail from the Govt. Militia of the German occupied Bohemia and Moravia of WW2. There are still lots of grey areas yet to be completely filled in and your help will be appreciated.

[Ed. note. This work had to be curtailed somewhat to maintain a mainly philatelic content. If readers would like to contact the author, they may do so by writing to him as follows: RNDr. Miroslav Vostatek, Bělehradská 271, 530-09 Pardubice - Polabiny 11, Czechoslovakia].

Further reading: 'Czechoslovak Specialist'(USA) No. 505/1991.

QUERY CORNER

From J. B. Horne FRPS,L

THE MOSCOW ISSUE - 1945

We had not received a "Query" for this column for some considerable time when, out of the blue, came a most interesting one from our good friend, Barry Horne. Indeed Barry has supplied a further one which is dealt with elsewhere in this issue. Let us however concentrate our minds on this one firstly.

His query must now be obvious to you if you study the illustration on the right. It carries no perforations above the top two stamps! Barry asks us "Does this occur in any other values and has it been reported before?"



The answers are "Yes" and Yes"!

With my limited knowledge of Czech I was able to establish from page 99 of the Specialised Handbook (that very large coffee-table volume published in Prague in 1988) that this variety is well known and indeed is fully described. However, for a complete translation of the entire description of this issue, I turned (once again) to our overworked but very willing translator, Mr. Vladimír Králíček. So, to set the matter squarely before all our interested readers, here is an English version of the contents of this page as it concerns this issue; only the more important notes for brevity's sake.

Moscow Issue 1945/1946; recess printed; printed in Moscow before the liberation of Czechoslovakia; Line perforated 12½. Then follows the suggested 'points' values of each stamp. Note **points** and not in Cz. Crowns (Kčs). When this book was published, we estimated a 'point' value then to be about 10p in UK currency. What one makes it today is for the market to decide of course. The values shown are for mint, used and on cover:



5h	purple	0.4	0.3	10
10h	brown-yellow	0.3	0.3	10
20h	brown	0.4	0.2	10
50h	green	0.2	0.1	0.1
1K	red	0.1	0.1	0.1
2K	grey-blue	0.6	0.5	2

There then follows "plate-flaws" - Sheet pos. 42/1: Horizontal line over collar on the 5h; On the 20h: Value tablet right-corner damaged and value tablet left-bottom corner interrupted on sheet pos. 12 and 92/3 respectively. >

Stamps separation

Missing perforations (one - exceptionally two lines) occur with all values on the vertical and horizontal borders of the sheet and also but exceptionally in combination of horiz. and vert. perforations; double perforations (beware of forgeries!), shifted perforations - thus producing stamps of wide and narrow format. Fairly common are missing single perforations in various positions of the sheet. There are also known differing dimensions of perforation holes (0.8-1.2mm) and some less sharp perforations.

Omitted Perforations

On Upper Border:

5h, 10h, 20h	150	150
50h, 1K,	100	100
2K	80	80

On Left Side:

5h, 10h, 20h	200	200
50h, 1K,	160	160
2K	120	120

On Lower Border:

5h, 10, 20h	300	300
50h, 1K	200	200
2K	180	180

On Right Side:

2K	300	300
----	-----	-----

Trial Prints

Are known perf. with all values; trial print of the 1K is also known in various colours in drawing of the value on thick paper. Likewise are known imperforate stamps in original colours, glued to stiff card paper with inscription ППОЭКТ, ** with the date 28.2.1945 - plus a signature. Numerous colour-shades occur with all values chiefly with the 10h and 2K; different printing intensity; glue: colourless to brown; smooth to spotted. Papers vary in quality and strength (with the 20h, very thin, transparent paper. Also known are various printing imperfections such as dyed paper, partial print, folds, transfers, repaired paper, machine and sheet offsets. [** = Draft or design].

Date of Issue

June 1945 for 50h, 1K, 2K in the Czech Lands (precise date unknown). The earliest known use was on Post Office issued commemorative sheets for the visit of USSR Marshalls on 6.6.1945. In Slovakia they were placed in use on 1.8.1945. The 5h, 10h and 20h were issued nationwide on 5.3.1946. **Postally Valid until 31.12.1948.**

Quantities Issued: (in thousands) 5h: 1880; 10h: 2000; 20h: 2035; 50h: 4000; 1K: 4140; 2K 2000.

So! Here we have plenty of information on quite a common stamp issue and we think that Barry's buy from the Midland Federation Packet was an excellent one - at 20 pence!
AJK.

Travel**A VISIT TO BRATISLAVA
(in May 1992)**

John Perry

The two parts of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (ČSFR) have distinct languages. This means however that while a Czech will be understood in Slovakia he will be recognised as soon as he speaks. Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, lies on the Austrian border, only 55 km. from Vienna - Hungary is almost as near. German is understood in Bratislava although not usually spoken but few people have more than a rudimentary grasp of English. Bratislava's former names of Pressburg -- as it was known when it was part of Austria and Pozsony, the Hungarian version, indicate well the influences in the area.

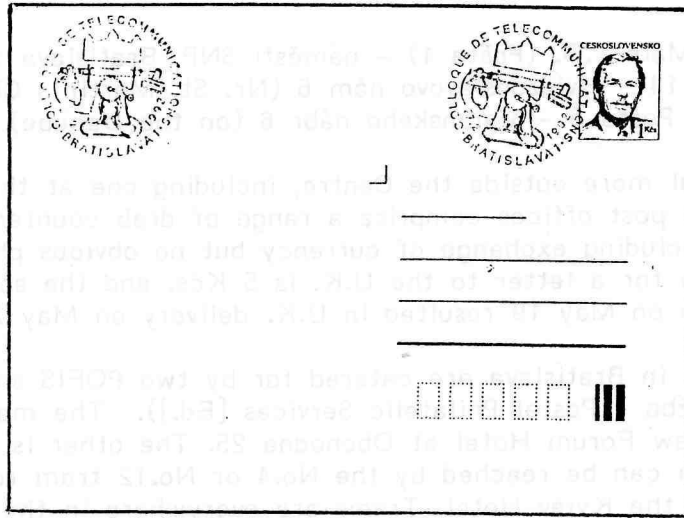
I had the opportunity to visit Czechoslovakia in May for a conference held at the trade union centre in Bratislava. There are no direct flights from the U.K. to Bratislava, the options being to fly to Prague and then take a domestic flight or train journey; or to fly to Vienna. There is an infrequent 'bus service from Vienna Airport to Bratislava but this does not connect well with flights. The other options are to take the airport 'bus to Vienna South Station and then take the train across the border - or negotiate with a taxi driver! Crossing the border is now only a formality with a British passport - you even get a smile thrown in - but there are queues both in and out.

The quality of hotels in Bratislava is generally low by Western standards. The three main international hotels are: Forum, Kyjev and Devin. Rates at Kyjev are quite high for foreigners: 2,350 Kčs. a night (£47) for bed and breakfast, at the current exchange rate of £/50Kčs. ČSFR citizens pay one-quarter of this rate, as we observed when one of our party booked in with a Czech passport. A dual-pricing system also seems to operate with the taxis.

Bratislava is a seemingly young and expanding city of some 400,000 with a high proportion of the population being under 30 years of age. The young dress fashionably and the city seems to generally be a happy place. This was my first visit but those who were here two years ago say that the people are now much more 'open'. There are no queues and the shops are well-stocked. As is to be expected with a young population, clothes and record shops are plentiful. There are plenty of drinking places but fewer places to eat in style.

To give some idea of prices, a good meal out, with drinks, costs 150-250 Kčs., while a simple lunch in a market runs from 6 Kčs. for soup and roll to 30 Kčs. The local ice-cream (well worth trying!) is only 1 Kčs. Earnings average about 3,000 Kčs. per month which makes eating out or a visit to the opera (at about 100 Kčs.) a rare luxury. The number of visitors from Austria is an indication of the low prices by Western standards and of the high quality of services.

The centre of the city has retained its charm despite having faded somewhat under the former regime. Buildings are now being restored and shop window displays improved. Outside the Centre, the buildings are of the concrete-slab variety, a testament to the previous government as well as the industrial base of the city. Pollution has been a problem but - at least when I was there - the levels were in acceptable proportions as measured by electronic displays outside the Prior department store. >



PS card carrying the special cancellation of a Telecommunications seminar 1992 held in Bratislava. The text of the pmk reads (in French): "Colloque de Telecommunications" - cancelled Bratislava 1 - 27.2.1992 -



22.4.1992 - Visit of Pope John Paul II - special cover issued bearing the Pope Paul stamp of 16.4.1990 cancelled with one of three special postmarks - all on this cover. Inscriptions on cover and pmks are all in the Slovak language.

As an inveterate stamp collector. I soon located the post offices, of which there are three in the Centre:

Main P.O. (Pošta 1) - náměstí SNP, Bratislava 1
 Pošta 14 - Hviezdoslavovo nám 6 (Nr. St. Martin's Church)
 Pošta 6 - Vajanskeho nábr 6 (on the Danube)

There are several more outside the Centre, including one at the railway station (Pošta 12). The post offices comprise a range of drab counters, offering different services including exchange of currency but no obvious philatelic services. The current rate for a letter to the U.K. is 5 Kčs. and the speed of service is good: a despatch on May 19 resulted in U.K. delivery on May 23.

Stamp collectors in Bratislava are catered for by two POFIS shops (Poštova Filatelisická Služba - Postal Philatelic Services [Ed.]). The main one is outside the plush new Forum Hotel at Obchodna 25. The other is at Odborářské náměstí 6, which can be reached by the No.4 or No.12 tram routes - or by a short walk from the Kyjev Hotel. Trams are everywhere in the city and a single ride costs 3 Kčs. (6p). To use the tram you need a ticket which is bought from a machine at most tram stops.

While I was in the main shop in Bratislava (the other was closed for the week due to holidays), several collectors were buying small quantities of the low values, presumably to stick on mail for their foreign exchange contacts. If the Bratislava shop is a reasonable guide, POFIS shops sell a fair range of ČSFR stamps and postal stationery at face-value and other, more difficult, items at higher prices. They also stock stamps from other countries but mainly of the wallpaper variety. The various catalogues available indicate well the prices that you pay; the standard 1 Kčs. stamps are usually 2p each.

The following recent special cancellations from Bratislava were available:

22 April 1990 - Visit of Pope John Paul:
 (three different cancels showing the Pope,
 The Papal Arms and a Shield)

12 April 1991 - Commemorating J.A. Gagarin (USSR cosmonaut)

2 December 1991 - 700th Anniv. of Bratislava's 'city' status:
 (this was applied to the 50h olive-green ps. pc. with imprinted
 stamp showing the MOST SNP (SNP Bridge) and Brat. Castle).

[Ed: SNP = Slovak National Uprising]

27 February 1992 - Telecommunications Seminar

There were several catalogues - including auction catalogues on sale here and I was particularly pleased with the Monografie Československých Známeč - Vol. 17 in two hard-back parts that list Czechoslovakian postmarks from 1919 to 1939. There is also an unofficial market comprising stamp clubs and a bourse but I did not have the time to see how it operated, although I did buy a few ps items at about 50p each.

At the end of the trip we left for Vienna by train - a very pleasant way to travel. With a little time to spare before our flight back to the U.K., we could compare the two cities - Bratislava was the more pleasant. Although Vienna is more affluent and better preserved, it struck me as being more impersonal and less friendly than Bratislava - a city of faded charm.

UNUSUAL BOHEMIA-MORAVIA MARKINGS

- John Whiteside Comments -

Notes on the queries from Clyde Ziegler - "Czechout" 4/1991 (Vol.9/4) pp. 92-3

Question 1 - The "Cash-on-Delivery" card.

Firstly, it must be said that this particular card has no connection whatever with the parcel post service. Any form of mail: printed matter, postcard, letter or parcel could be sent 'C.o.D' with the appropriate postage paid plus the C.o.D fee. Once the money had been collected, it was returned by the post office to the sender using a money-order card upon which, upon its delivery, further charges were payable.

The addressee could (a) pay the money immediately, (b) refuse the item or (c) pay at the post office within a statutory period (German: Frist) which I believe was seven days at that time. He could also request the p.o. to extend this period, up to certain limits, upon payment of a fee.

This card is an example of a formula card produced by the post office to facilitate the service, similar to cards for C.o.D parcels but its intended use was to collect subscriptions of one sort or another, e.g. to journals, societies, political parties. It would have had a money order card attached. The cards could then be sent at either printed matter or postcard rate, as the sender elected.

In this particular case, the card was sent at the postcard rate by a health insurance company to collect two months' premiums for April and May 1944 on a policy, the amount totalling 367.20 K. The stamps pay the additional internal postcard rate of 60h. plus the C.o.D fee of 2K.

Unlike a parcel card, where the left-hand portion was intended as a receipt to be retained by the sender if so desired, on these cards it was intended to remain attached. The five lines in the lower part were for the use of the p.o. to note the reason for non-collection should they have failed to collect the money and had to return the item to the sender. These are: "Could not be delivered"; "notice left"; "statutory period extended"; "not paid"; "refused".

This card follows German practice and German formula cards of this type are often encountered. I think it is possible that they were also produced by the Czechoslovakian Republic prior to 1939 - but I have not seen one.

Question 2 - The "Fiscal" stamps.

Fiscal stamps are used to collect a tax, **not** as any form of provisional postage-dues. They are of a specific type and this case, apparently used for their intended purpose. As such the card is a quite scarce and desirable item! The key, which the front of the card confirms, is that the parcel contained **food**. From 1st March 1925, a tax was levied on parcels containing food addressed into the three largest cities of Prague, Brno and Bratislava. The tax scale was:- >

Für die		2	88		Stempel		
Elbgauinitz		58		Týnec nad Labem		PAKETKARTE POŠTOVNÍ PRŮVOD	
Preis Cena		s h		Strüczahl-Verpackung Počet kusů - Obal		Inhalt - Obsah marmelady	
Wert Cena		K		h		Gebühren bei der Abgabe: Poplatky při dodání:	
Pan		Ing. Fr. Procházka		Mozartova		Nachgebühr doplatné	
in		Praha XVI		Post (Land) Pošta (země)		Zusatz - Benachr. - Gebühr u. Ortszuschlag doručné - návěštné & místní příspěvek	
Gewicht Váha		5.80 kg		Eingangsstempel (für Paketkarte) Přichodní razítko (průvodky)		Lagergebühr úložné	
						sonst. Gebühren jiné poplatky	

1Kč for a parcel weighing up to 1kg., 2Kč for 1-15kg. and 3Kč for over 15kg. Perhaps it should be made clear here that as requested by your Editor, Mr. Ziegler kindly sent us a copy of the front of the card in question which we illustrate above. As far as I am aware, the tax scale remained unchanged throughout its duration.

The first stamps provided were postage-due stamps overprinted "Paušalovana potravini daň" (which roughly translates to 'overall/all-in food tax) and 1Kč or 2Kč. Three separate issues, on the 250h, 500h and 25h stamps were produced in 1925, 1927 and 1929 respectively, before a definitive pair was issued in 1930. These were very similar to the "Bohemia and Moravia" ones used on this card and probably issued early in 1940.

In the 'Protectorate' the tax was abolished on 1st June 1942. In Slovakia it continued for parcels into Bratislava and I think overprints on postage-dues were issued in 1941. Their use was quite short-lived and I believe the tax was quickly abolished there also.

The content of this parcel was indeed, food - 'marmelady' = jam or preserves in Czech. This particular parcel was sent from Týnec nad Labem on 22nd March, 1941 and is addressed to a food expert at Mozartová 2276 at Prague XVI - in the district of Smichov. The card was received at the p.o. Praha 55 (Smichov 1) later the same day, as is evidenced by the arrival mark in the box at the bottom of the card.

The parcel weighed 5.80kg. and the paid postage amounted to 5K - the correct charge for a parcel weighing between 5 and 6kg. carried for a distance of between 75 and 150km. (Týnec is approx. 80km. from Prague).

The parcel arrived on 24th March, as shown by the cancellation of the back of the card (illustrated on page 93 in 'CZECHOUT' 4/1991) and on the tax stamps themselves. The word KUBIK above the arrival mark is probably the name-stamp of the clerk who dealt with this matter.

The card was signed by a lady who collected the parcel but unfortunately this was not dated.

I do hope this is a reasonably clear explanation of a rather unusual item. J.W.

AEROPHILATELY

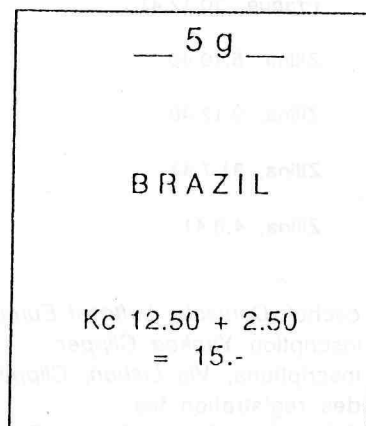
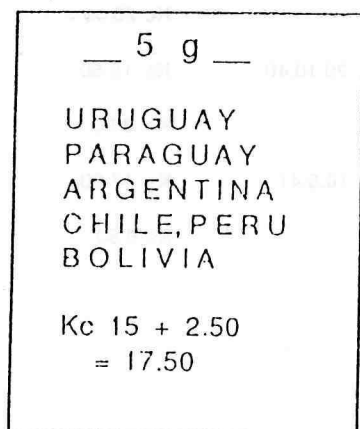
Transatlantic airmails: 1937-1941

Richard Beith

As an aerophilatelist I am interested in acceptances from all European countries for the early North and South Atlantic air mail services up to 1945. Those known to me from Czechoslovakia, Bohemia and Moravia and Slovakia are listed below together with the routes used:

- (a) Pre war Czech covers to South America via *Air France*:
- (b) Pre war Czech covers to South America via *Deutsche Lufthansa*:
- (c) Bohemia and Moravia covers to North America via Lisbon and the Pan American Clipper:
- (d) Bohemia and Moravia covers to South America via Lisbon and the Pan American Clipper (ie via New York, even though addressed to South America):
- (e) Bohemia and Moravia covers to South America via the direct *LATI* service (Italian air line: Rome-Rio, 12/39 to 12/41):
- (f) Slovakia covers to North America via Lisbon and the Pan American Clipper

Can members help with an analysis of the postal rates used by the three postal authorities? The only clue I have comes from fellow air mail enthusiast Peter Wingent who sent me a photocopy of the 28.6.38 letter from Zlin to Trinidad (cover (3), see table) which used a printed *Air France* envelope with printed, stamp size, postal rate information in the top right hand corner:



This ties up with the franking on covers (1), (2) and (4) listed below.

Another question arises over the route used for cover (5) to reach Lisbon from Pilsen. This is almost certainly an August 1939 cover and it was not till October 1939 that the first German mails were accepted on the Pan Am Clipper. Did this cover go directly to Rome for onward transmission to Lisbon by the Italian service?

Any comments on such early transatlantic air mails from the Czech and Slovak lands would be much appreciated. >

Cover	Route	From	To	Rate (Crowns)	Notes
(1)	(a)	Stare Benatky, 5.6.37	Buenos Aires, 9.6.37	Kc 17.50	
(2)	(b)	Brno, 30.8.37	Buenos Aires, 5.9.37	Kc 17.50	(1)
(3)	(b)	Zlin, 28.6.38	Port of Spain, 5.7.38	Kc 20.00	(1)
(4)	(b)	Brno, 24.12.38	Montevideo, 2.1.39	Kc 17.50	(1)
(5)	(c)	Pilsen, 31.8 (?) .39	Boston, Mass	Kc 13.50	(2)
(6)	(c)	Prague, 8.12.39,	San Francisco, 6.1.40	Kc 16.00	(4), (6),
(7)	(c)	Prague, 11.8.41	New York	Kc 6.50	
(8)	(c)	Olomouc, 21.7.41	New York	Kc 6.50	(3)
(9)	(c)	Moravska Ostrava, 26.4.41	New York, 13.5.41	Kc 14.00	(4)
(10)	(d)	Jihlava, 13.11.39	Buenos Aires, 29.11.39	Kc 17.50	(5), (6)
(11)	(d)	Prague, 4.4.41	Quito, Ecuador	Kc 20.50	(6)
(12)	(e)	Prague, 26.11.40	Buenos Aires, 12.12.40	Kc 21.50	(7)
(13)	(e)	Brno, 9.4.41	Buenos Aires, 1.5.41	Kc 21.50	(7)
(14)	(e)	Prague, 27.11.41	Quito, Ecuador	Kc 19.00	(7)
(15)	(e)	Prague, 16.12.41	Quito, Ecuador	Kc 19.00	(8)
(16)	(e)	Prague, 30.12.41	Quito, Ecuador	Kc 20.00	(8)
(17)	(f)	Zilina, 5.10.40	Orange NJ, USA, 20.10.40	Ks 16.50	(4)
(18)	(f)	Zilina, 9.12.40	Orange, NJ, USA	Ks 8.50	(3)
(19)	(f)	Zilina, 31.7.41	Orange NJ, USA, 16.8.41	Ks 17.00	(4)
(20)	(f)	Zilina, 4.8.41	Orange NJ, USA	Ks 8.50	

Notes:

- (1) Red cachet: *Deutsche Luftpost Europa-Sudamerika*
- (2) m/s inscription *Yankee Clipper*
- (3) m/s inscriptions, *Via Lisbon, Clipper*
- (4) Includes registration fee
- (5) Mixed franking: Czechoslovakia/Bohemia & Moravia
- (6) Boxed: *Mit Luftpost nach Nordamerika und ab New York*
- (7) Boxed: *Mit Luftpost nach Sudamerika*
- (8) Returned to sender as LATI ceased to operate

Censorship:

- DK Praha cachet: covers (5), (6) and (10)
 OKW seal, no code: cover (5)
 OKW seal, code (b) = Berlin: Covers (14), (15) and (16)
 OKW seal, code (d) = Munich: Cover (13)
 OKW seal, code (e) = Frankfurt: Cover (7), (8), (9), (11) and (12)
 UK censor seal (Bermuda?): Cover (19)
 Slovak censor seal: cover (20)

NEW ISSUES

AJK.

25th SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES - BARCELONA

May 21 - 2Kčs. Des: Robert Jančovič; Eng: Václav Fajt. 23x30mm, printed rotary-recess combined with four colour recess print in colours black, red, blue, green, yellow in sheets of 50 pieces; perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. Design "Tennis Player" with **Slovak** inscription "Hry XXV. Olympiády v Barcelone." and Olympic circles and date 1992.

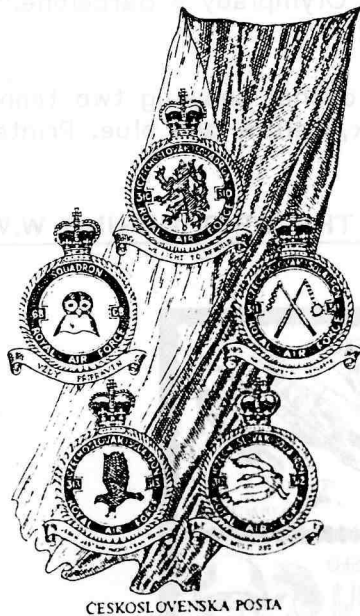
FDC: Special Bratislava pmk and cachet showing two tennis players near the net. Colours black, yellow and blue. Printed flat-place recess.

CZECHOSLOVAK RESISTANCE IN THE WEST DURING W.W.II

May 21 - Four values. Des: Karol Ondreička. Design sizes: 40x23mm. Printed by rotary-recess process combined with four-colour recess print. Sheets x 50 pieces perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. Four FDCs printed flat-plate recess all designed by K. Ondreička. All FDCs engraved by Bohumil Šneider.

1. 1Kčs - Eng: Bohumil Šneider. Colours: Black, green, rose, green-brown, ochre. Subjects of stamp: J. Kubiš and J. Gabčík who fatally wounded R. Heydrich on 27.5.1942. Text: "Čs. Západný Odboj/Czechoslovak Resistance Movement in the West/Atentát na R. Heydricha 27.5.1942/the attempt on Heydrich's Life."
2. 2Kčs - Eng: Bohumil Šneider. Colours Black, yellow, red, blue, green. Subject: Fighter 'planes symbolized by pilots in France and Great Britain 1939-45. FDC: Badges of five Czechoslovak Wings in the Royal Air Force: 310, 311, 312, 313 and 68 against the background of the Czechoslovak National Standard. Colours black, red and blue. Special Bratislava pmk.
3. 3Kčs - Eng: Miloš Ondráček in colours black, brown, red, green and grey. Subject: Soldier in battle-dress with barbed wire and five ships in background. Symbolizes Tobruk (N.Africa) 1941. FDC: pmk Praha and cachet showing palm tree, barbed wire and stone inscribed Tobruk. Colour of FDC: Black.
4. 6Kčs - Eng: Miloš Ondráček. Colours black, yellow, grey, light-blue and dark-blue. Subject: "Dunkirk 1944-45" FDC cachet shows soldiers under fire. Pmk. Bratislava and in colour black. >

Re: the FDC for the 1Kčs. value: Postmarked Praha and with coloured cachet depicting a broken tree in flames and three descending parachutists. Colours: Black and red.



Re: The 2Kčs FDC cachet

This is a remarkable cachet in that not only does it depict the emblems of the five Czechoslovak Wings in the Royal Air Force of that time but all are surmounted with the Imperial State Crown, something never before depicted on a Cz. fdc.

Although the official press release refers to the emblems being those of 'wings', the emblems bear the words "Squadron" and "Czechoslovak Squadron". That of the 310 unit carries its motto in English: "We Fight to Rebuild".

The emblems are all printed in black but the Czechoslovak National Standard is in its normal colours of white, blue and red.

For readers interested in military cachets, we print it here slightly enlarged for further clarity.

CZECHOSLOVAK RED CROSS

June 10 - 2Kčs. Des: Karol Felix; Eng: Martin Činovský. Printed rotary-recess combined with three-colour recess print in red, black, violet and yellow in sheets of fifty stamps. Perforation: $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

Design: 23x30mm. Large red cross with two children's paper-boats surrounded by paper design cuttings. The larger 'boat' carries a red cross central. This is to symbolize the hope for rescue of human lives. The text reads "Humanitou k Mieru" meaning "With Humanity to Peace."



FDC: Stamp cancelled 10.6.1992. Bratislava with pmk designed as a 'drop of blood'. The cachet is attractive: a young child's head wearing a paper hat (the upturned 'boat' type) within a similar design to that of the postmark.

The cover is printed flat-plate recess in black and red. As has now become the set format, the cover measures 16.1x11.5cm.

I recently asked the Ministry if it would consider including specific details of the perforation of their stamps in their press releases. This has now been agreed. I later requested more information on the precise and official descriptions of all first-day cover postmarks, particularly concerning the design. I am happy to report that they will try to incorporate this information shortly.

On behalf of the Society I have conveyed our thanks to the PTT Philatelic Service for all the excellent releases received of late; an immense improvement over the old system - and supplied in English - a courtesy much appreciated, especially by our translators!
AJK.

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – TOPOLČANY 1992

June 30 – 1Kčs. Des: Igor Rumanský; Eng: Václav Fajt. Printed rotary-recess in black, combined with four colour recess print in yellow, blue, grey and green in sheets of 50 pieces – perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

Design: Table-tennis player (in stylized high-speed motion) at the playing table: Note that he is playing left-handed.
Size of design: 23x30mm.



Stamp inscribed: Topolčany 1992 (sideways and Majstrovstvá Európy Juniorov v Stolnom Tenise."

FDC: Pmk: Ball over a pair of crossed t.t. bats surmounting the p.o. name – Topolčany/30.6.1992. The large, dark-green cachet depicts the official emblem – a bat with superimposed map of Europe, a ball and initials E.T.T.U. This is surrounded with the **English** description "European Table Tennis Youth Championships/ Topolčany – ČSFR 1992. Printed flat-plate recess.

[Geographical note: Topolčany is an important industrial town lying 38 km. north of **Nitra** in Slovakia].

July 15 – 4 values.

NATURE PROTECTION – PROTECTED BEETLES

Designer: Petr Johaniš

Engraver: Miloš Ondráček

Printing: Rotary-recess x sheets of 50.

Size of Design area: 30x23mm.

Perforation: $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$

FDCs: 2 (1 + 4Kčs) (2 + 3Kčs) printed flat-plate; black & green.

Values: 1, 2, 3 & 4Kčs.

Post Printing Office, Prague.

Cancellations: Praha/15.7.1992

with 'beetle' pmks. designs.

Languages: Inscribed in Czech, Slovak and Latin. FDC cachets read (in Czech) "Protected Beetles".



1. 1Kčs – Beetle: *Polyphylla fullo* L in colours black, brown, ochre, grey, yellow. (The "Walker" beetle). FDC cachet: Lesser Searcher beetle.
2. 2Kčs – Beetle: *Ergates faber* L. (A male member of the "Longicorn" Family). Colours: black, brown, grey, green and green-brown.
3. 3Kčs – Beetle: *Meloe violaceus* Marsh ("Blister" or "Oil" Beetle Family). Colours: Black, red, light-blue, grey and dark-blue.
4. 4Kčs – Beetle: *Dytiscus latissimus* (Water Beetle) FDC cachet: "Lesser Searcher" beetle.

(We hope to publish fuller descriptions and life-styles of these beetles in Dec. issue)

>

BEAUTIES OF OUR COUNTRY



July 22 - 3 values. Graphic arrangements: Josef Herčík. Design size: 40x26mm.
(26x40mm 7Kčs.)

Printed multi-colour flat-plate recess in sheets x 8 pieces. p.11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x11 $\frac{1}{2}$
(11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7Kčs.)

FDCs - 3 - printed flat-plate recess.

1. 6Kčs. - **Trója Château - Prague.** Design: Front of the château with garden and the stepped Grand Entrance. Colours: black, blue, green, ochre and salmon. **Des./Eng:** Miloš Ondráček. Inscribed in Czech. **FDC:-** Carries drawing of one of Bombelli's ceramic vases from the château terrace (colours: black and orange).
2. 7Kčs. - **Saint Martin Statue** - In St. Martin's Cathedral, Bratislava. The statue is the work of G.R. Donner. Colours: black and pale-rose. **Des./Eng:** Martin Činovský. Inscribed in Slovak. **FDC:** St. Martin's Cathedral (colour: black).
3. 8Kčs. - **Lednice Castle** - (once belonged to the Liechtenstein family; built in Gothic style); situated in South Moravia. **Des./Eng:** Pavel Kovářik. Inscribed in Czech. Colours: black, blue and lemon. **FDC:** carries a drawing of a minaret from the castle park. Colours: ochre, red and blue-black.

Cancellations: 1. A motif of decorative lattice at the château. 2. Column and part of Gothic ceiling vault in the cathedral. 3. Motif of one of the (female) statues at the castle.
(FDCs)

Acknowledgment: Information from press releases supplied by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Philatelic Service. Printing: Post Printing House.