



CZECHOUT

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

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Quarterly

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EDITORIAL

On October 17th., the Society celebrates its 40th Birthday! It is not intended that this should be a 'universal rouser' of an occasion but rather a quiet enjoyment amongst ourselves over the continued growth and success of our organization during this period. We shall celebrate however and although full particulars are enclosed with this journal, here for the record, are the main planned events:

On Saturday, October 16th we shall hold a special meeting devoted mainly to the presentation and display of Czechoslovak related philatelic material, some of which will be from award winning collections. This meeting will be later followed by our Anniversary Dinner. From October 22nd-24th we shall hold our Public Exhibition on the premises of the London Embassy of The Slovak Republic. Committee have, with the kind co-operation of Czech Post, arranged for the issue of a 40th Anniv. Commemorative Cover, postmarked from Prague.

It is hoped that the fullest possible support to these events will be given by our membership for an occasion that can never be repeated - at least, not a '40th Anniversary'. Plans for this occasion were made many months ago and have entailed a great deal of time and effort by Committee - and at some cost also. We hope you will please remember this and support our efforts. Most of the hard grafting has been by a small sub-committee under the able and willing stewardship of Brian Day, our Immediate Past-Chairman and to whom we are all most most grateful.

From humble beginnings our Society has slowly but steadily grown in size and stature, being now internationally recognized in the philatelic world as a serious body of people devoted to the collection and study of Czech and Slovak Philately. Do, please, come along and lend your support on this happy occasion.



CZECHOUT

SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICES

Meeting: Saturday, June 19th 1993

This year our 'Summer' meeting was again held at the Community Centre, Shoreham-on-Sea by kind invitation of Yvonne and Fred Gren.

The Chairman welcomed 17 members and then presented Competition Certificates to those who had been successful at the recent Competition Meeting.

New Members: Five new applications for membership were announced and their membership was formally accepted: they were:

Michael Rogers - Florida, USA
 Mrs. Betty Penny - Barnstaple, Devon
 Robert Hill - Manchester
 Mrs. Shirley Kemp - Addlestone, Surrey
 Ian McDonald - London W4

A special welcome was extended to Mr. Robert Hill, who was present with us.

Proposed Praha visit - 1994

The Hon. Secretary reported that so far, only 6 members had expressed to her an interest in this proposal.

OBITUARY: A note of sadness and deep regret was displayed when the Chairman announced the recent passing of one of our members: Mr. Kenneth Sargeant of Eastbourne, Sussex. Members stood in silent memory for a few moments. R.I.P.

Members' Displays

Six members displayed Czechoslovak and related material as follows:-

Roger Morrell	- Austro-Hungarian Receipts
Rex Dixon	- Post-Hungarian Occupation of Carpatho-Ukraine - 1939.
Alec Page	- 1940: Czech Forces in France/PS Cards
Ernst Gorge	- 1918: Scout stamps/Provisional stamps
Bill Dawson	- Carpatho-Ukraine Through The Ages/T.P.Os
Alan Knight	- Imp. Russia 1914-1918: Censorship of POW (Czech-Slovak) Mail.

A Vote of Thanks was proposed by Brian Day, remarking upon the quality of these displays - shown with no prior arrangements - some of which, he said, were 'worthy of National Exhibition Class.' Mr. Roy Wright seconded, also thanking Fred and Yvonne Gren for organizing this happy event.

Annual Dinner: 20 members attended at the 'Royal George' Carvery for a splendid and welcome meal ... A Very Happy Evening! >

5th Netherlands Mail Auction

Members will be receiving catalogues for this Spring 1994 event in due course. However, as well as being invited to purchase from this auction, our members are also invited to sell their philatelic items there. Sendings should be sent by Registered mail to: Jan Verlag, Sweelinckstraat 52, 2517 GE 's-Gravenhage, The Netherlands as soon as possible. For telephone enquiries, please use the following number (from the U.K.): 010-3170-3458979.

Please note: 10% commission applies to vendors and buyers. If selling, please state cat. number(s) and Catalogue used. This mail auction is in conjunction with the German "Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei".

Advertisement in "Bulletin No. 1" (June 1943)

Through the kind co-operation of Bob McLeod, the Editor possesses a copy of the first Bulletin issued by the "Czechoslovak Philatelic Society" (our fore-runners). The President is listed as Msgr. P. Macháček; Vice-Presidents: Lt.Col. J. Broz and Geo. Pearson; Secretary: J. Tauber, 20 Compton Avenue, Luton, Beds.

Here are a few items taken from a member's "For Sale" advertisement of that time talk about 'inflation'!

Miniature Sheets: "Praga" 3/6d per sheet; "Bratislava" 3/6d per sheet.
National Anthem (both sheets) 'guaranteed genuine' - £15 for pair. !!
Mint Stamps in Sets:

SG.369-370 Little Entente (cat. 4/6d set)	3/- (15p.)
SG.378-379 10th Sokol Display (cat. 2/3)	1/3 (06p.)
SG.382-384 20th Anniv. Battles in Russia,(cat. 3/3)	2/- (10p.)
France and Italy:	
SG. 354-62 10 attractive pictorials of towns (cat. 19/9)	13/6 (67p.)
SG.371-372 Purkyne (cat. 2/2d)	1/3 (06p.)
Bohemia-Moravia (SG.1-19)	cat. over 45/- 35/- (£1.75)

Used stamps in Sets

SG.335-338 Masaryk's 85th Birthday	1/6 (07p.)
SG.373-374 Masaryk Mourning	1/- (05p.)
SG.371-372 Purkyne	1/-
SG.349-350 Macha	1/-
SG.378-379 10th Sokol Display	1/6
SG.382-384 Battles in Russia, France, Italy	2/6 (12½p.)

I can see you now rummaging around for the old SG cat. to compare!
 Anyway, the end result should afford you some wry smiling exercises. AJK.

THE CS. PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF G.B. (1953-1993)

- Alan J. Knight -

A Brief Résumé and Explanation

Although our roots go back to the early 1940s, there are specific reasons why we celebrate our official Birthday as October 17th 1953. I will try to briefly outline our beginnings for the uninitiated, albeit members can read more in their Society Handbooks, from which most of these notes are taken.

Following Germany's occupation of Czechoslovak territory in September 1938, many nationals escaped to other countries; many came here. After a while they proceeded to settle down and form into various social/cultural groups. We know that Czechs and Slovaks are great philatelists and very large in numbers. For this reason perhaps, many brought out collections with them and continued to collect and study within our shores. With the impending imminence of war, many volunteered to join our forces in the fight to liberate Europe and defend ourselves. Thus was eventually formed the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain. Within that force was a certain establishment known as the Czechoslovak Field Post Office and it was within that Service that the philatelists troops came into their own. They produced many fine commemorative cachets and cancellers for use by their comrades - these are now well-known to most of us. The Czechs and Slovaks very soon integrated with British collectors and soon there arose a 'Czechoslovak Philatelic Society' formed by a certain Mr. J. Tauber, a London stamp dealer. This was really a Stamp Exchange Club with a circulating exchange packet.

Members were permitted to receive specimens of the Cz. Field Post postmarks produced at its H.Q. in Cheshire. This lasted until 1944 when the Czechoslovak forces were removed from here en-route to the war in Europe. Up to then the Czechoslovak exiled Government permitted the Society the use of accommodation at its Headquarters in Grosvenor Place, London. In November 1943, under the patronage of the exiled Government, a big Czechoslovak Philatelic Exhibition was held at Grosvenor Place in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918. It was here that the now world famous London Sheet saw the light of day.

However, with the gradual withdrawal abroad of the Czechoslovak Forces from England, the Society became very depleted indeed - until 1951 when a certain member (he is still with us!) - Vincent R. Jourdan sent out a circular to a small number of people during Sept. and Oct. inviting comments and suggestions for the Society's revival. Although the name we carry today was adopted then, it was still to be just an exchange club in effect. However, others soon became interested and this saw the emergence of such names as A.J. (Jack) Stoyel (who is still with us as is Eric Rogers), Stuart Clark, Herbert Beavon, Wm. Ludlow and George Pearson, FRPS,L.

Following a display he had given at the Royal Philatelic Society, London on May 21st 1953, George Pearson together with some of the aforementioned names, met together with the firm intention of reviving the Society and placing it on a more solid footing. A meeting was arranged for **October 17th 1953** on the premises of Peach and Dow's Auction Rooms in London and was advertised in >

the Philatelic Press. There were 15 persons present at that meeting and the Chair was occupied by George Pearson. There was much discussion but at the end of it all, it was agreed that the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain should henceforth hold regular Quarterly meetings. Before breaking up, the Meeting elected the following Officers:

Chairman/Packet Secretary: Mr. George Pearson, FRPS,L.
Honorary Secretary: Mr. Eric H. Rogers
Committee: Dr. Wilfred Anthony, FRPS,L.,
Mr. A.J. Stoyel and Mrs. 'Kay' Goodman

Thus it was that the first fully committed officers and committee were elected and the regular Quarterly Meetings adopted and put into fact. **It has been thus ever since.** Now, perhaps, readers can see why this date is today of such great import to us.

Much - very much - more can be written but that is not the purpose of this short epitome. However, I cannot conclude without paying my personal tribute to those early stalwarts who dug up those old roots, re-potted them in fresh soil; nurtured them lovingly bringing forth our now internationally recognized and respected philatelic society.

George Pearson eventually became one of only two (so far) Hon. Life Presidents; the other was our late and still lamented Kay Goodman. On your behalf, I take this opportunity to salute also Eric Rogers, Vincent Jourdan and Jack Stoyel. We owe them all a great debt of gratitude - and our warmest thanks!

In closing, there are some others whom we must **never forget**: those men who left their Homeland to go abroad to fight for Czechoslovakia's liberation (and our freedom, too) and without whose initial hard endeavours, this Society would possibly never have existed today in its present form. It is to their memory that we occasionally display, talk about and write about in our journal, the many designs they produced for our later study - those old "Polni Pošta" postal markings.

AJK.

A.G.M. Annual Auction - Nov. 13th. 1993

Members are formally reminded here that our Annual General Meeting will take place at the usual venue at 11.30am. This will be followed at 2.30pm (after lunchtime) by our Annual Auction. Notice of the AGM and the Auction List should be included in the cover carrying this journal.

The AGM is a business necessity and the Auction a time to enjoy the fun that always accompanies these events with us. John Whiteside will again be our Hon. Auctioneer for the day need I say more?

Without fail, there are **always** some good bargains on offer, so do come along and snap them up as a favour to yourselves - and to the Society, because a proportion of receipts goes in to the Hon. Treasurer's coffers. See you there!

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

- Michael Elliott -

[This is mainly intended for 'Home' consumption but any readers' comments are most welcome and, if addressed to Mr. Elliott, will be forwarded directly to him by the Editor. Michael, apart from being one of our members, is the Chairman of the new body's Steering Committee.]

With the demise of the British Philatelic Federation last year and its formal suspension early this year, we have been without a National body to represent our pastime. However, this time has not been wasted and a Steering Committee has been working since last Autumn to create a new organization for Philately. This committee, which was originally appointed as the last act of the BPF, has now changed almost completely and I am pleased to report that we are now moving towards a new era of National representation for all societies.

A meeting of the Federations and the large National/Specialist societies was held at Birmingham in January and although this proved inconclusive, the new committee presented revised proposals at a further meeting there on June 5th. This second meeting proved to be decisive in agreeing to form a new body; agreeing to the general organization and requirements - and also agreeing to use the name shown above. The Steering Committee is now preparing a draft constitution and full organizational details for final ratification by a further National meeting at Birmingham; probably in early November.

As this work proceeds, the committee will be contacting all National and Specialist societies to create some sort of forum for the expression of their views and their representation on the new body. The issue of the greatest solidarity among Local and National societies is seen to be of prime importance but as always, the issue comes down to money.

It is proposed that **all** societies should pay a subscription for affiliation, calculated to be at 50 pence per member as although a higher figure has been considered, it does not seem that local societies will pay more, given the situation of a fairly serious underfunding at grass roots. This means that the problem of funding a National Association @ One Penny, per person, per week will be considerable and it will be impossible to expect too much, particularly during the start-up years. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that **all Societies** should join and that other fund-raising activities are initiated.

The formation of a new National body for Philately should be a matter of national pride if we are to be properly represented in our own country and abroad. It is to be hoped that **all collectors and societies** will see the need for and support the **ABPS**.

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Transatlantic Air Routes for Czech and Slovak Mails to end 1941.

Richard Beith

As an aerophilatelist with a special interest in transatlantic mails, and a growing fascination with Czechoslovak air mails from the 20s and 30s, a survey of early transatlantic acceptances from the Czech and Slovak lands seemed a worthwhile project.

To start the project, two short articles were published in 1992 with the idea of obtaining details of flown covers known to the members of the British Aerophilatelic Federation and the Czechoslovak PS of Great Britain (1, 2). In particular, information was sought on the postal rates (air mail surcharges) which applied to this flown mail. My thanks to all the collectors who responded to those articles, their interest has made this survey far more complete. For those readers who wish to learn more about the mail routes mentioned below, I have included a detailed bibliography.

1. SOUTH ATLANTIC ROUTES:

'South Atlantic' is the name given to those direct air mail routes between Europe and South America (and return) which followed a more or less straight line from Europe to the north east tip of Brazil via the west coast of N. Africa. These are given pride of place as they pre-dated regular North Atlantic services by several years.

1.1 The French Service:

This service was in development from the end of the Great War. From 1919 onwards a route was initiated via Spain and Morocco with a regular Toulouse - Dakar (Senegal) air service running by 1925. From 1924 onwards, French interests sponsored the development of airlines in Argentina and Brazil and by November 1927 it was possible to fly from Natal in the north east of Brazil to Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. Thus by 1928 the then French company *Compagnie Générale Aéropostale (CGA)* were able to open an air-sea-air service between France and South America with fast steamers linking Dakar and Natal. Experimental 'all the way by air' flights over the South Atlantic in 1930, 1933 and 1934 were followed later by a regular all-air service in 1934. *Air France* had come into existence in 1933 and *CGA* was one of the airlines incorporated in the new national carrier. By 1937, the service had become a true weekly one in each direction and collaboration with *Deutsche Lufthansa* (see 1.3) gave letter senders a choice of two flights a week from Europe to South America, one French (at the weekend) and one German (midweek). The *Air France* service continued on its own during the early months of WWII but with the fall of France, the last flight from Europe was on 25 June 1940. Note that passengers were **not** carried on the Atlantic crossing, this was only for mail and express freight. The full story of this French enterprise to 1940 can be found in an excellent, fully illustrated, French language history by Collot and Cornu (3). Note that during the late 1930s there was no choice for sending mail to South America by air from Europe. Wherever the sender lived: Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, the low countries, Scandinavia, etc. the choice came down to the two services: the French and the German.

Covers flown from Czechoslovakia to South America by this route have been recorded from 1933 to 1938. There seems no reason why they shouldn't be found back to the start of the air-sea-air service in 1928. After all, the French airline *CIDNA (Compagnie internationale de Navigation aérienne)* had been one of the main carriers of air mail out of Prague since the early 1920s and there was a direct Prague-Marseille link operated by the Czech airline *CLS (Ceskoslovenská letecká společnost)* from May 1935 to 1 October 1938 (but with some wintertime breaks). *Deutsche Lufthansa* had already carried mail from Prague to Marseille between August 1927 and October 1934. (4) (Marseille was particularly handy for making connections with flights to South America.) It should be noted that Mahr and Vohsem (4, 5) don't include this French service in their air mail booklets, directing their attention solely to German air mail services across the Atlantic.

Nine covers flown to South America via *Air France* have been noted, destinations included Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and Buenos Aires and Cordoba in Argentina. At least two printed *Air France* envelopes have been seen with Czechoslovak postal rate information printed in the top right hand corner of the envelope:

-5g-
URUGUAY PARAGUAY ARGENTINA CHILE, PERU BOLIVIA
Kc 15 + 2.50 = 17.50

-5g-
BRAZIL
Kc 12.50 + 2.50 = 15.-

The postal rates applying to mail carried by Air France to South America would appear to follow these rules:

Foreign surface postage	- Kč 2.50/20g
Foreign printed matter, surface rate	- Kč 0.50/50g
Foreign postcards	- Kč 1.50
Air mail surcharge to Brazil	- Kč 12.50/5g
Air mail surcharge to Argentina, Chile, Uruguay etc	- Kč 15.00/5g
Foreign registration fee	- Kč 2.50
Printed matter air mail surcharge	- ???

That is, a letter to Brazil weighing between 10 and 15g should have cost Kč 2.50 + 3 x Kč 12.50 = Kč 40.00, or Kč 42.50, if registered. Note, when considering mail by this direct route, most European countries at this time differentiated between the charge for mail to Brazil and the charge for the other countries of South America.



Cover from Prague, 6 October 1937, flown to Cordoba, Argentina, via the *Air France* South Atlantic service. Backstamps of Buenos Aires 13.10.37 and Cordoba, 14.10.37, indicate that this letter crossed from Senegal to Brazil in the Farman 2200 landplane: F-AOXF, *Ville de Mendoza*.

Franked at Kč 20 = Foreign postage Kč 2.50 + Air Fee Kč 15.00 + Registration fee Kč 2.50

1.2 The German Airship Service

German lighter than air craft made 73 regular round trips between Europe and South America during the period 1930-1937: 65 by the LZ 127 *Graf Zeppelin* and eight in 1936 and 1937 by the LZ 129 *Hindenburg*. The service came to an abrupt end in May 1937 as a result of the destruction by fire of LZ129 *Hindenburg*. Although the LZ127 *Graf Zeppelin* was flying smoothly from South America back to Germany at the time, with passengers and mails, it never made another commercial flight. Mail from Czechoslovakia can be found: see Mahr and Voushem, who illustrate four covers from 1931-1933 (5).

The first of these carries mixed Czechoslovak/German franking, but the three examples from 1932-1933 bear frankings of (a) Kč 17.00 on a registered cover from Bratislava, to Pernambuco, Brazil, (b) Kč 41.00 on a registered cover from Litoměřice to Rio de Janeiro and (c) Kč 18.50 on a registered cover from Prague to Montevideo, Uruguay. These frankings are broadly along the same lines as the charges discussed above for the French service, but the arithmetic is not always perfect. (Mahr and Voushem seem to pay little attention to postal rates in general, it is always possible that the covers they illustrate may have had additional stamps on the reverse sides.)

Cover (a) appears to be Kč 0.50 short; ie logic says it should be Kč 2.50 (basic rate) + Kč 12.50 (Air fee) + Kč 2.50 (registration) = Kč 17.50. Assuming cover (b) weighed between 10 and 15g, the rate could be Kč 2.50 (Basic rate) + 3 x Kč 12.50 (air fee) + Kč 2.50 (registration) = Kč 42.50, ie the franking is Kč 1.50 short. Cover (c) is also Kč 1.50 short as this should presumably be franked at Kč 2.50 (basic rate) + Kč 15.00 (Air Fee to Uruguay) + Kč 2.50 (registration). Perhaps postal clerks were uncertain of the correct charges because of the rarity of letters sent by airship.

As the *Deutsche Lufthansa* seaplane service became established from 1934 onwards, (see 1.3), mails carried by the German airships tended to be restricted to philatelic mail specifically endorsed for flight by airship and mail posted on board by passengers. The seaplane service was faster than that provided by the airships and operated to a more regular timetable, hence the smaller amount of airship mail from 1934-1937.

1.3 The German Seaplane Service

The German airline *Deutsche Lufthansa (DLH)* experimented with air-sea-air services from 1930 onwards, but not in the regular manner adopted by the then French airline. Following experiments in 1933, *DLH* opened an 'all the way by air' mail only service in 1934 which used Dornier Wal flying boats to make the transatlantic hop. Landplanes were used to carry the mails from France and Germany to Bathurst in British Gambia via Seville and Las Palmas in the Canaries and associated German airlines in Brazil and other South American countries were used to carry the mail on to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay etc. The Dornier flying boats did not have sufficient range to cross from coast to coast so a mother ship was placed in the South Atlantic; half-way across. The Dornier landed alongside the mother ship, was winched aboard, refuelled and then catapulted off. In later years two mother ships were used, one near the African coast, one near Brazil. More powerful planes were used in subsequent years but the catapult system was maintained. (In comparison, the French always used seaplanes and landplanes capable of completing the transatlantic leg in one flight. In the late 1930s the French mainly used four engined Farman landplanes between Senegal and Brazil.) Haberer has produced a clear, easy to use, German language listing of all these German flights from 1934 to 1939 (7). The last through flight from Europe took place on 24 August 1939. No attempt was made to operate the line during WWII, though the Italian service (see 1.4) could be regarded as a successor operation.

Mail from Czechoslovakia flown to South America over this route is not that common. The author has details of eight covers flown between January 1936 and March 1939 and Mahr and Voushem illustrate another four examples. Addresses on these 12 covers range from Bahia and Rio in Brazil to Buenos Aires, Montevideo in Uruguay and Port of Spain, Trinidad. Franking adheres quite carefully to the rates given under 1.1.

All 12 covers bear the well-known red ink cachet lettered DEUTSCHE LUFTPOST * EUROPA-SUD AMERIKA, which shows an airship and a flying boat in the design. This means exactly what it suggests: "This cover **may** have been flown by airship or it **may** have been flown by seaplane", it does **not** mean that the particular cover has automatically been flown on a Zeppelin! The design of the cachet was not changed after the withdrawal of the *Graf Zeppelin* from the South Atlantic route in May 1937 - the same cachet continued in use until August 1939. A typical flown cover from this service is shown overleaf

Mail can also be found from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and from Slovakia flown by *DLH* to South America between March and August 1939 but it appears quite rare.





Cover from Dřevohostice, 3 August 1937, flown to Argentina via the *Deutsche Lufthansa* South Atlantic service. Backstamps of PRAHA 7 *Letecká Posta* 4.8.37 and Buenos Aires 8.8.37, indicating that this letter crossed the South Atlantic on Haberer flight 565. Franked at Kč 17.50 = Foreign postage Kč 2.50 + Air Fee Kč 15.00/5g
Red cachet: DEUSTCHE LUFTPOST * EUROPA-SÜDAMERIKA.

1.4 The Italian Service

A new service on the South Atlantic was provided from December 1939 by the Italian line *Linee Aeree Transcontinentali Italiane*, usually known by its initials *LATI*. A roughly weekly service was maintained using Savoia Marchetti tri-motor landplanes along the route: Rome-Seville-Villa Cisneros (Spanish Sahara)-Sal (Cape Verde Islands)-Natal/Recife-Rio de Janeiro. The line was extended southwards to Buenos Aires in July 1941 but came to an abrupt end in December 1941 as the German and Italian declaration of war on the USA allowed the United States government to persuade the Brazilian authorities to withdraw facilities for the Italian line (8).

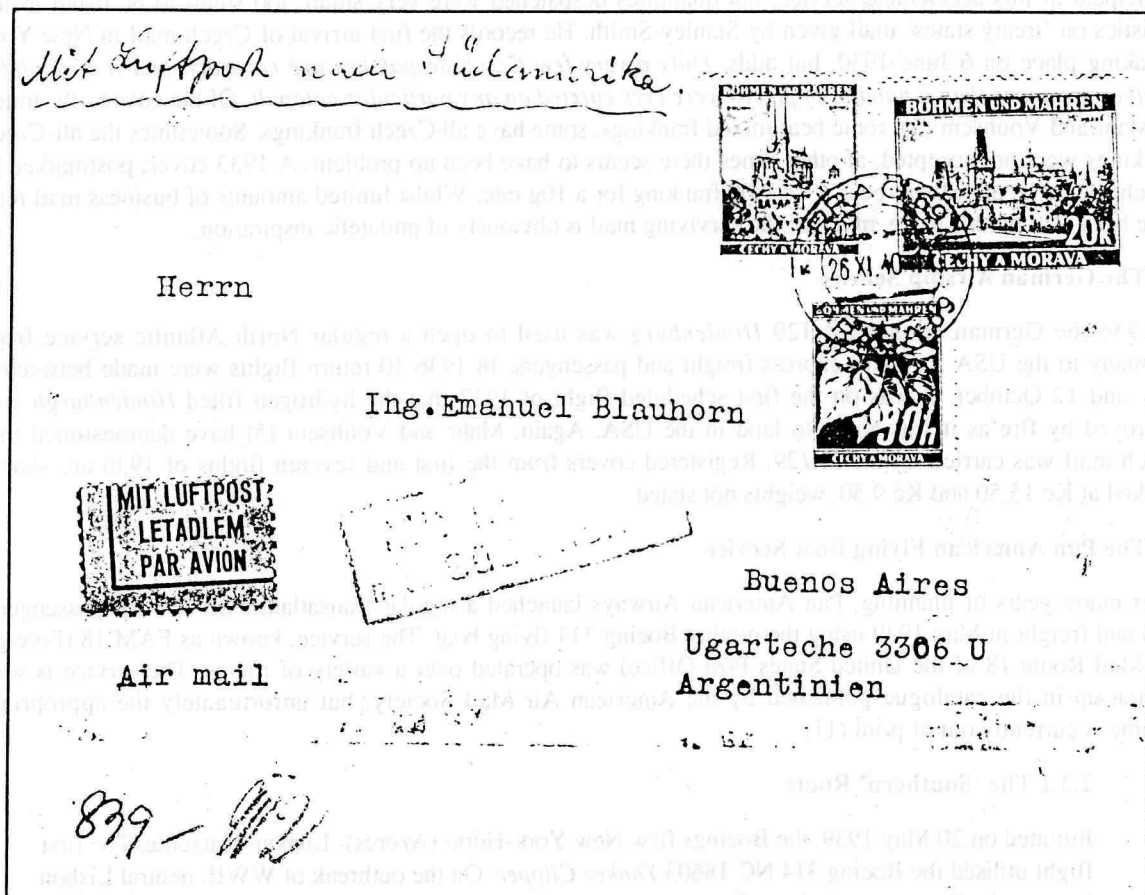
Mail from Bohemia and Moravia to South America sent via this Italian line is not uncommon, 18 flown covers have been recorded by the writer to various destinations in Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador, posted between February 1940 and December 1941. One suspects that some (much?) of this mail was sent to and from Czech nationals in South America who had been lucky enough to emigrate before their homeland was invaded. The majority of the covers bear a boxed cachet, approx 15 x 45mm and inscribed 'Mit Luftpost/nach Südamerika'. The closure of the line was so abrupt that late December 1941 letters intended for South America can be found with a two line 'return to sender' cachet lettered 'Zurück/Postverkehr eingestellt', probably applied in Berlin. Mail was usually censored by the OKW (*Oberkommando der Wehrmacht*) in Frankfurt.

Unfortunately, the franking on these 18 covers does not follow a precise pattern, but the best estimate to emerge is:

Foreign surface postage	K 2.50/20g
Foreign postcard	K 1.50
Air mail surcharge to Brazil	K 14.00/5g
Air mail surcharge to Argentina etc	K 19.00/5g
Foreign registration fee	K 3.00 (rather than K 2.50?)

Of the eight covers to Buenos Aires, six fall in with the above scheme. Five are franked at K 21.50, equivalent to K 2.50 + K 19.00 plus a registered cover at K 24.50, equivalent to K 2.50 + K 19.00 + K 3.00.

On the six covers to Brazil there is a greater variety of frankings. However, four covers fall in with the above suggestions, being franked at K 16.50 or K 19.50 (registered). One member of the Czechoslovak PS of GB has suggested an air surcharge to Brazil of K 15.50/5g to explain a K 21.00 franking on a registered letter. The cover shown below is typical of mail from Bohemia and Moravia sent via LATI.



Cover from Prague, 26 November 1940, flown to Buenos Aires, Argentina, via the Rome to Rio de Janeiro service of *Linee Aeree Transcontinentali Italiane (LATI)*.

OKW censor seal on the reverse, code (e) = Frankfurt.

Boxed cachet *Mit Luftpost/nach Südamerika*

Franked at K 21.50 = Foreign postage K 2.50 + Air Fee K 19.00/5g.

An August 1940 cover has been reported from Slovakia to Chile, flown by LATI, and franked at Ks 21.50.

2 NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTES

Although the distances between suitable stopping off points on any proposed North Atlantic air route were not much different than those on the South Atlantic, conditions for flyers in the 1930s were much more difficult in the north, with adverse weather conditions and strong winds. Thus it was only natural that viable, commercial, North Atlantic air routes took much longer to appear.

2.1 North Atlantic Catapult Services

Both French and German interests evolved a different kind of catapult service on the North Atlantic. Here, aeroplanes were carried on board a handful of crack liners, the plane being catapulted from the ship and proceeding to New York or a Channel port with the mails ahead of the vessel. That is, only accelerated ship-air services were provided, not an 'all the way by air' service. Haberer (9) has also catalogued these accelerated services, listing the limited number of mails carried by the French ship *Ile de France* between 1928 and 1930 and the much longer German involvement with the ships *Bremen* and *Europa* between 1929 and 1935. In 1990 Stanley-Smith published a detailed two volume English language handbook and catalogue on these services which provides much useful background information (10)

Czechoslovakia did have some kind of agreement with the German post office so that Czech mails could participate in this accelerated service, but quantities despatched were very small, too small to be listed in the statistics on 'treaty states' mail given by Stanley-Smith. He records the first arrival of Czech mail in New York as taking place on 6 June 1930, but adds: *Only a very few Czech despatches are recorded and it is doubtful whether any more than a handful of pieces were ever carried on any particular catapult.* Of the covers illustrated by Mahr and Vohsem (5), some bear mixed frankings, some have all-Czech frankings. Sometimes the all-Czech frankings were not accepted, at other times there seems to have been no problem. A 1933 cover, postmarked in Czechoslovakia, appears to bear a Kč 9.00 franking for a 10g rate. Whilst limited amounts of business mail may have been sent by this route, much of the surviving mail is obviously of philatelic inspiration.

2.2 The German Airship Service

In 1936 the German airship LZ 129 *Hindenburg* was used to open a regular North Atlantic service from Germany to the USA for mail, express freight and passengers. In 1936 10 return flights were made between 6 May and 12 October. It was on the first scheduled flight of 1937 that the hydrogen filled *Hindenburg* was destroyed by fire as it was about to land in the USA. Again, Mahr and Vohsem (5) have demonstrated that Czech mail was carried on the LZ129. Registered covers from the first and seventh flights of 1936 are shown franked at Kč 15.50 and Kč 9.50, weights not stated.

2.3 The Pan American Flying Boat Service

After many years of planning, Pan American Airways launched a regular transatlantic service for passengers, mail and freight in May 1939 using the mighty Boeing 314 flying boat. The service, known as FAM 18 (Foreign Air Mail Route 18 of the United States Post Office) was operated over a variety of routes. The service is well written up in the catalogue published by the American Air Mail Society, but unfortunately the appropriate volume is currently out of print (11).

2.3.1 The 'Southern' Route

Initiated on 20 May 1939, the Boeings flew New York-Horta (Azores)-Lisbon-Marseille. The first flight utilised the Boeing 314 NC 18603 *Yankee Clipper*. On the outbreak of WWII, neutral Lisbon became the European terminus. Because of range limitations, calls often had to be made at the British colony of Bermuda. (Much fuss was caused in still neutral USA when the British authorities removed the mails for censorship when the Clippers called at Bermuda.)

2.3.2 The 'Northern' Route:

Initiated on 24 June 1939, also by *Yankee Clipper*, Pan American flew New York-Shediac (New Brunswick)-Botwood (Newfoundland)-Foynes (Irish Free State)-Southampton. On the outbreak of WWII, neutral Foynes became the European terminus. On 7 October 1939, the weekly northern trip routed from Lisbon via Foynes was suspended.

2.3.3 The 'Alternative Southern' Route

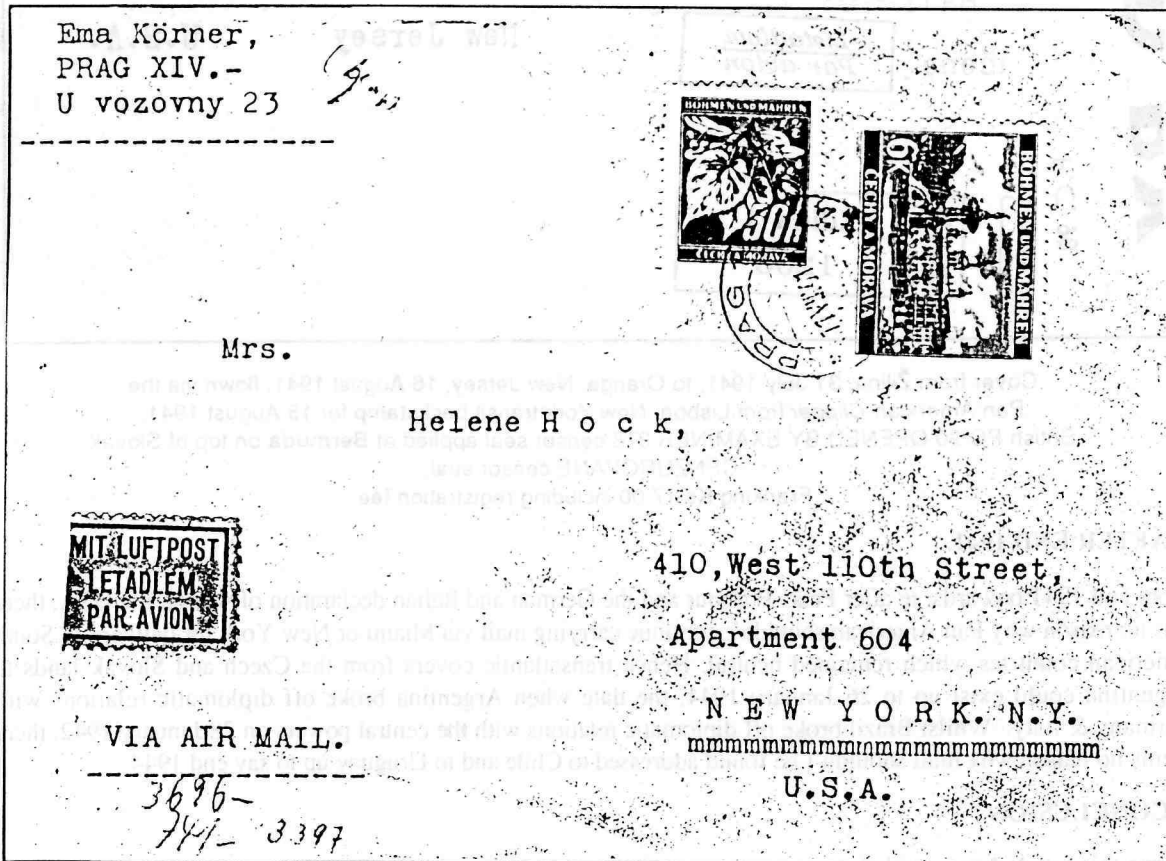
This was only flown in the westbound direction from Europe from 2 February 1941 onwards: Lisbon-Bolama (Portugese Guinea)-Trinidad- San Juan (Puerto Rico)-New York. (The Azores route was still used, as required, depending on the season and the weather.)

Mail from both Bohemia and Moravia and from Slovakia was regularly flown via Pan American to North America until the end of 1941. Mail for South America could also be flown via Lisbon to New York as an alternative to the direct LATI route.

19 examples of mail from Bohemia and Moravia to the USA have been reported, plus a further three to Argentina and Ecuador via Lisbon and New York. Over half the covers bear a boxed cachet *Mit Luftpost nach Nordamerika und ab New York*, Frankfurt is the commonest centre for censorship by the OKW. Again, observed postal rates vary somewhat, but the consensus for mail to the USA seems to be:

Foreign surface postage rate	K 2.50/20g
Foreign postcards	K 1.50
Air mail surcharge to the USA	K 4.00/5g
Foreign registration fee	K 3.00 (rather than K 2.50?)

For unregistered mail this would give a total cost of K 6.50 for a letter under 5g (see illustration), K 10.50 for a letter under 10g and K 14.50 for a letter under 15g, etc, etc. The same weights of registered mail should cost K 9.50, K 13.50 and K 17.50 respectively. Of the 19 letters reported, nine fit the above schedule including one postcard at K 5.50 (K 1.50 + K 4.00).

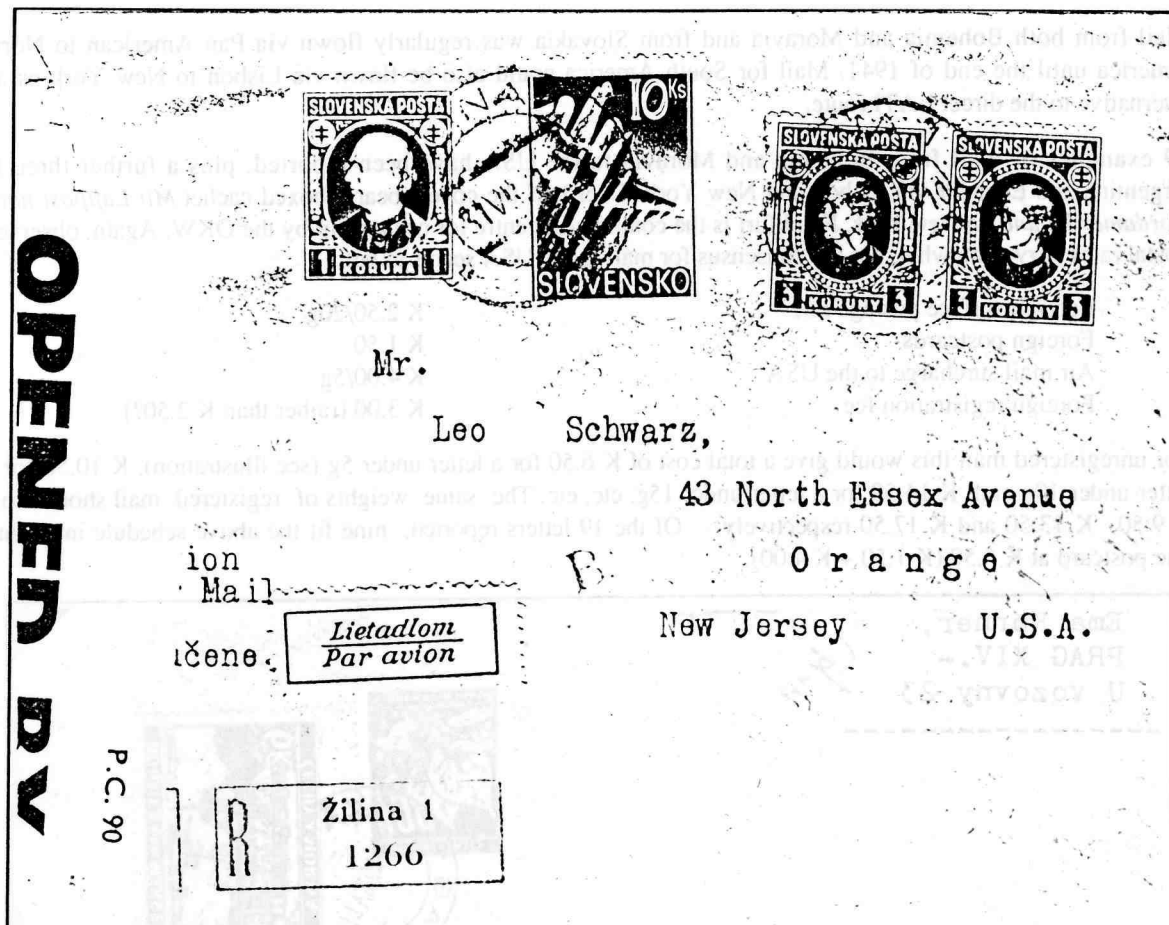


Cover from Prague, 11 August 1941, flown to New York via the Pan American Clipper from Lisbon.

OKW censor seal on reverse, code (e) = Frankfurt

Franked at K 6.50 = Foreign postage K2.50 + Air Fee K 4.00/5g

Five covers have been reported from Slovakia to the USA from this period. Two unregistered covers were franked at Ks 8.50, three registered covers at Ks 9.50, Ks 16.50 and Ks 17.00 respectively. Guidance on the interpretation of this data would be welcome.



Cover from Žilina, 31 July 1941, to Orange, New Jersey, 16 August 1941, flown via the Pan American *Clipper* from Lisbon. New York transit backstamp for 15 August 1941. British PC 90 OPENED BY EXAMINER 378 censor seal applied at Bermuda on top of Slovak CENZUROVANÉ censor seal. Franking Ks 17.00 including registration fee.

3. AFTER END 1941.

From end 1941 onwards, ie after Pearl Harbour and the German and Italian declaration of war on the USA, there was no reason why Pan American shouldn't continue carrying mail via Miami or New York for delivery to South American countries which remained neutral. Hence transatlantic covers from the Czech and Slovak lands to Argentina could exist up to 26 January 1944, the date when Argentina broke off diplomatic relations with Germany & Italy. Whilst Brazil broke off diplomatic relations with the central powers on 28 January 1942, there seems no reason why mail shouldn't be found addressed to Chile and to Uruguay up to say end 1944.

4. CONCLUSION.

I hope this article has provided some guidance on the range of transatlantic air mail routes utilised by the postal authorities in the Czech and Slovak lands to the end of 1941. The author welcomes comments, corrections and additions to the story. Obviously the postal rate data is a 'best guess' taken from a study of flown covers. More light would certainly be shed on the matter if any readers could produce copies (and translations) of the relevant postal regulations from the period covered. Again, the story could be expanded by studying the routes by which mails reached the transatlantic planes from Czech and Slovak territory.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to the following members of the BAeF and Czechoslovak PS of GB for supplying data and photocopies: Frans van Beveren, C Cordes, John Duggan, John Hammonds, Alan J Knight, Ian Nutley, Alec Page, Joe Roberts, Colin Spong, Peter Wingent and C F Zeigler. Special thanks to John Johnson Jr, Vice President of the American Air Mail Society for information on Pan American route changes during WWII.

References

- (1) Beith R, "Questions & Answers", *British Aerophilatelic Federation Bulletin*, No 108, April-May 1992
- (2) Beith R, "Transatlantic Airmails 1937-1941", *Czechout*, Vol 10, No 3, September 1992
- (3) Collot G & Cornu A, *Ligne Mermoz, Histoire aérophilatelique, Latécoère, Aéropostale, Air France, 1918-1940*, Paris, Editions Bertrand Sinais, 1990
- (4) Mahr M & Vouhsem H P, *Geschichte der Tschechoslowakischen Flugpost, Teil 3, Die Flugstrecken in der Tschechoslowakei 1923-1938/9*, Hamminkeln (Germany), ARGE Tschechoslowakei eV, 1989
- (5) *ibid*, Teil 4, *Zeppelin, Katapultflugpost und allgemeine Angaben 1923-1938/9*, 1990
- (6) Curley W, *The Graf Zeppelin's Flights to South America*, Weston Massachusetts, Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum Inc, 1970. (Reprinted 1981)
- (7) Haberer E, *Katalog Über die Katapultpost, Teil 2: Sudatlantik*, Weil der Stadt, the Author, 1988
- (8) Beith R, *The Italian South Atlantic Air Mail Service 1939-1941*, Chester, Richard Beith Associates, 1993
- (9) Haberer E, *Katalog über die Katapultpost Teil 1: Nordatlantik*, Weil der Stadt, the Author, 1992
- (10) Stanley-Smith R G, *The North Atlantic Catapult (Parts 1 & 2)*, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, Pier Point Publishing, 1990
- (11) Nahl PC (ed), *American Air Mail Catalogue, Volume 4, Fifth Edition*, Cinnaminson NJ, American Air Mail Society, 1981.

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SOME ITEMS APPEARING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

- Hans van Dooremalen: "Prussian Occupation of Brunn - 1866"
Being a small study of the philatelic consequences of the Prussian presence in Brunn (Brno) during the Austro-Prussian war of 1866.
- Geoff McAuley: "Saints Cyril and Methodius". The first of a series of short, illustrated articles under the overall heading of "History in the Post". Stamps shown will not all be CS. related but will serve the philatelic coverage worldwide of the subjects chosen.
- Jiří Nekvasil: "River Gun Boats" - This is to be the concluding article of Alan Knight's series reviewing the Austro-Hungarian Armed Forces in WW1 - all with CS connections. (See also editions 3/90 and 3/91).

..... plus further "Query Corner" items which could not be squeezed into this somewhat enlarged Anniversary Edition - and further New Issues information.

Czech Legion (WW1)**NOTES ON WW1 COVER**
[see p.35 of Issue No. 71]

John Whiteside writes: When I first glanced at "Czechout", I thought this cover looked rather interesting and so I decided to take a second, closer look, especially at the redirection, which seemed unusual. In addition, the bi-lingual censor mark in Czech-French caught the eye.

The cover is from **Boskowitz/Boskovice** in Moravia. It received the triangle censor mark for p.o.w. mail in Vienna and, I suspect, the French oval censor mark on arrival. It is addressed to Kriegsgefangener (p.o.w.) at St. Nazaire. Beneath his name the crossed-out line appears to be No.5114 - Comp.1, Gruppe No.1. The redirection is to 21 tchècoslovaque, Cognac, Charente. This is the important point because it seems to indicate that the erstwhile p.o.w. had volunteered to join the Czech Legion in France.

The Czech Legion proper was formed in August 1917. A company "Na Zdar" of some 350 men had formed in 1914 and had fought in the Battle of Arras in 1915 - hence the 1935 Czechslovakian commemorative issue. But they were then a **part of the French Foreign Legion - and always remained so.**

The Czech Legion consisted of volunteers of Czech **and Slovak** nationality. Over 2000 were from the USA; others were from the Serbian, Montenegrin and Italian armies and p.o.w.s from various camps in France. They continued to enlist through to the end of the war, when the Legion numbered almost 10,000 men. Most of the p.o.w.s came from the Indre, Marseilles or Nantes areas.

The Legion comprised the First Infantry Brigade, consisting of the 21st and 22nd Infantry Regiments. In June 1918, the 23rd Infantry Regiment was formed and the Brigade had grown to a Division. The Legion was established, based and trained at Cognac in the Charente département. As the regiments were ready for service, they were moved to the Amiens area and fought in the final battles of the war in and around Vouziers on the river Aisne on the 9th-11th Nov.1918.

The significance of the 'redirection' should now be apparent. The bi-lingual censor mark 'Česko-Slovacká-Kontrola/Censure Tchècoslovaque' has 'Nantes/X1ª Secion' in the centre. It may have been applied either on arrival or, more probably, on the letter's redirection.

Sources of Information:

La Feldpost Tchèque - Roger Richet - Le Monde des Philatelistes booklet - 1930s.

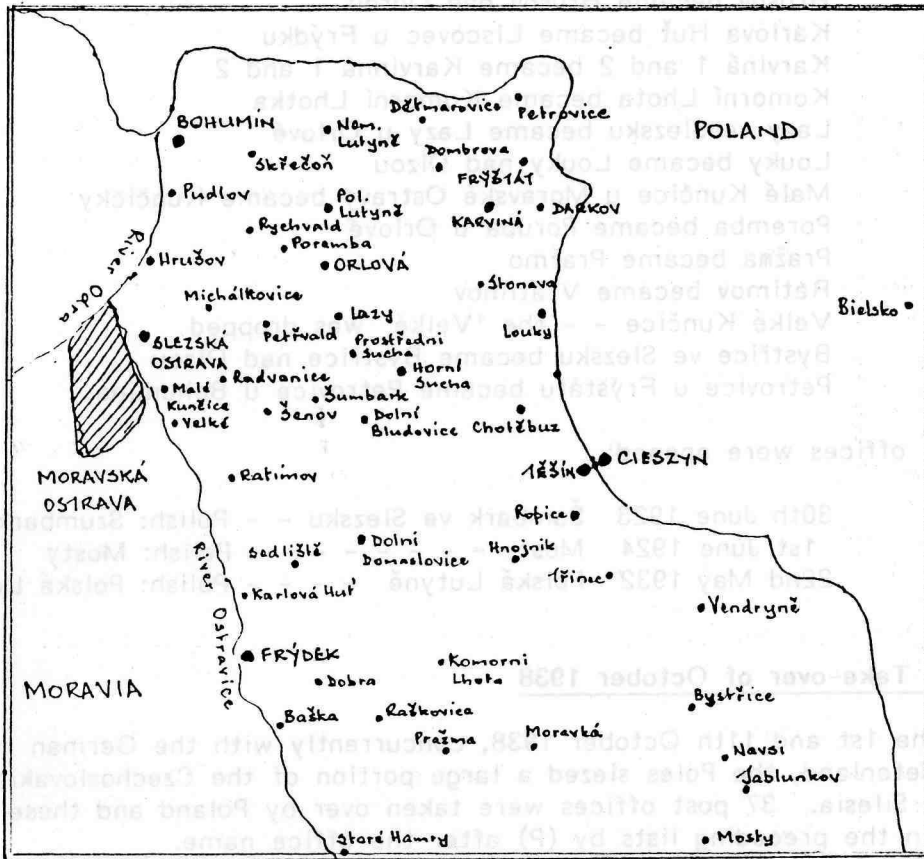
Czechoslovak Fieldposts of 1918-1920 - Bohumil Matejka - extensive footnote to p.122 - The American Philatelist, Vol. 82, No.2, February 1968.

[Ed. Note of apology: It must be recorded that Colin Spong had told me that the p.o.w. referred to herein, had, in fact joined the Czech Legion in France. for a completely unknown reason I deleted this from the edited page. However, John Whiteside has now proved that good can come out of bad: It made him scratch his head, thumb through reference literature - and come up with a most interesting insight into the Czech-Slovak Legion in France!]

EVENTS AND CHANGES POST-1918

- by -

John L. Whiteside FRPS,L.



Those offices in the Polish list for which a Czech name is shown were transferred to Czechoslovakia in July 1920 - following the accord at Spa.

It should be emphasized that **Teschen 2** was transferred at this time but that **Teschen 1** remained Polish. The town was divided by the Olsa river: the main old town with the Teschen 1 office was on the Polish side of the river, whilst the station and a newer part of the town were on the Czechoslovakian side and contained the Teschen 2 office [see map above].

During the use of the S.O. stamps, the Czechs were allowed to set up a post office in the prefecture, which employed a postmark with the legend: **POŠTOVNÍ ÚŘAD ČS. PREFEKTURY v TĚŠÍNĚ * Č.S.P. ***

The period 1920-1938

During this time a number of post office names were changed - especially in 1925, when many office names throughout Czechoslovakia were modified. Some names were altered more than once. Many were minor changes but some were drastic enough as to be a possible cause for confusion. >

The name-changes that follow are those that were current in **1938**:

Bašku - ve Slezsku dropped
 Dolní Domaslovice became Dolní Domašlavice
 Dombrová became Doubrava
 Hrušov became Hrušov nad Odrou
 Karlova Huť became Lisovec u Frýdku
 Karviná 1 and 2 became Karvinná 1 and 2
 Komorní Lhota became Komorní Lhotka
 Lazy ve Slezsku became Lazy u Orlové
 Louky became Louky nad Olzou
 Malé Kunčice u Moravské Ostravý became Kunčičky
 Poremba became Poruba u Orlové
 Pražma became Pražmo
 Ratimov became Vratimov
 Velké Kunčice - - the 'Velké' was dropped
 Bystřice ve Slezsku became Bystřice nad Olzou
 Petrovice u Frýštátu became Petrovice u Bohumína

Three new offices were opened:

30th June 1923	Šumbark ve Slezsku - -	Polish: Szumbark	(P)
1st June 1924	Mosty - - - - -	Polish: Mosty	(P)
22nd May 1932	Polská Lutyně - - - -	Polish: Polska Lutynia	(P)

The Polish Take-over of October 1938

Between the 1st and 11th October 1938, concurrently with the German take-over of the Sudetenland, the Poles siezed a large portion of the Czechoslovakian area of Eastern Silesia. 37 post offices were taken over by Poland and these are indicated in the preceding lists by (P) after the office name.

They were then provided with Polish date-stamps of the then standard Polish single-circle type with the office names in Polish. These are fully described in the Society Monograph No.8 (1989) by Jiří Neumann entitled "The Occupation of Czechoslovak Frontier Territories by Beck's Poland from the Postal History View-point".

Česky Těšín reverted to the designation **Cieszyn 2** and is perhaps the most readily encountered of these markings.

Morávská is a special case. It was not taken over by Poland until 16th Nov.1938 and it remained in Polish hands for a short period only - up to 9th Dec. 1938 - when it was returned to Czechoslovakia. The other 36 offices continued to use Polish stamps until September 1939.

The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

Upon the establishment of the Protectorate following Germany's invasion on 15th March 1939, the remaining 17 post offices shown in the table of offices using Czech stamps o/printed S.O. 1920 were taken into the protectorate. Moravka was also to be come an office of the Protectorate. >

These 18 offices continued to use the stamps and cancellations of the Protectorate until liberation in 1945. A further office which had been opened in 1921 was also included:

Sedlišťe (German Sedlisch ?) - Polish Siedliszcze.

The German invasion of Poland Sept. 1939

On 1st September 1939 Germany invaded Poland and, effectively, completed its conquest in three weeks. The 36 offices that had been taken over in Oct. 1938 were taken immediately by Germany. A large part of Poland taken by Germany was administered by the 'Generalgouvernement Polen', but substantial areas in the north and west of Poland were incorporated directly into the German Reich. Eastern Silesia was one such area. It was known as the 'Olsagebiet', from the river Olsa (Czech = Olše) which flows through Teschen.

As well as the 1938-occupied Czech areas, the whole of the rest of the old province of Austrian Silesia - extending to Bielitz (Bielsko) was included, i.e. the remainder of the area that had used Polish stamps or printed S.O.1920. The area extended yet further eastward, beyond the Biala river in a strip about 20 miles wide at its maximum - until the boundary of the Generalgouvernement was reached.

German stamps were immediately employed, which were cancelled by temporary markings with the p.o. name in German. This paralleled the procedure adopted in the German take-over of the Sudetenland in October 1938.

Most of the markings so far seen are single-line name marks in Gothic script without date. These have a date applied using a separate handstamp. These were used until permanent date stamps, of standard German types, could be manufactured and supplied. This appears to have taken some time as I have examples dated in February 1940.

This is similar to the practice that had occurred in the Sudetenland; they look very similar and my first two items were acquired in the belief that they were Sudetenland items. Details are given below of the few items that have been encountered:

Dombrau (Olsagebiet) - Gothic-script - 2 examples, one with separate date marked 27. XII. 1939.

KARWIN 1 - Latin-script capitals.

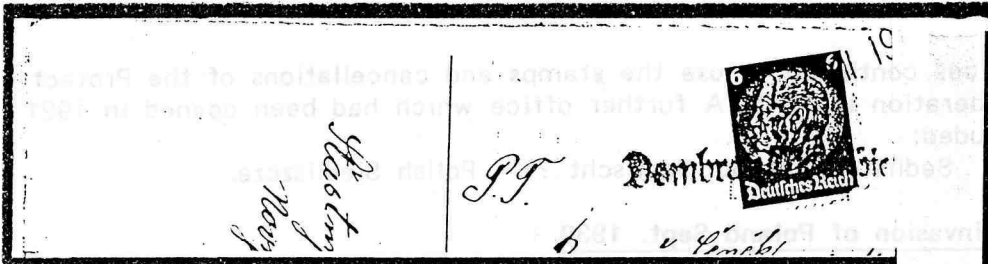
Peterswald (Oberschlesien) - Latin-script with separate date marked 2.FEB.1940.

Reichwaldau (Oberschles) - Latin-script.

Teschen (Oberschl.) - Gothic-script.

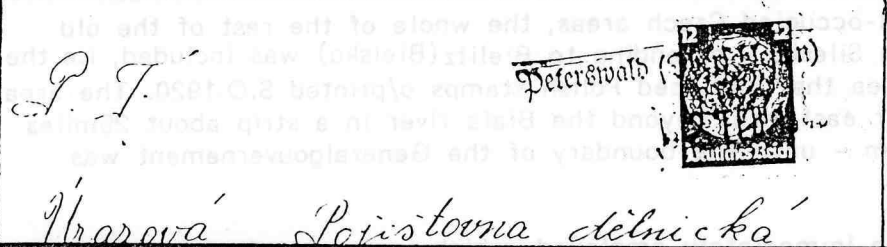
Bielitz (Olsagebiet) - Gothic-script on a postcard dated 19th Oct. 1939.

Andrichau (Oberschlesien) - Gothic-script with separate date mark 22 Feb. 1940. (This place is ANDRYCHÓW approx. 14m. east of Bielitz.) >

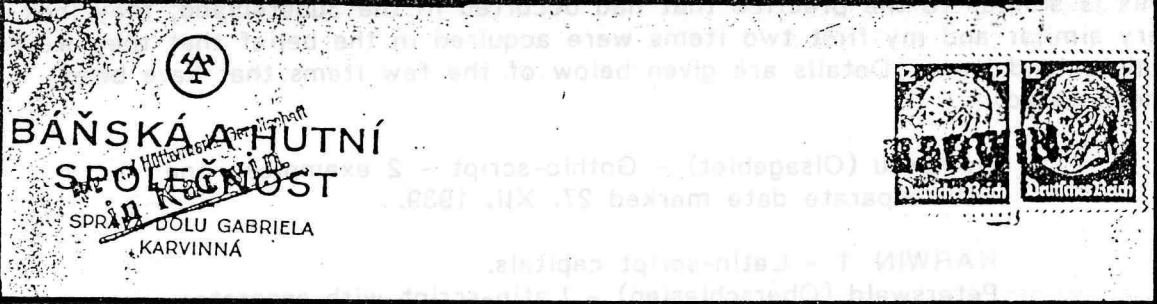
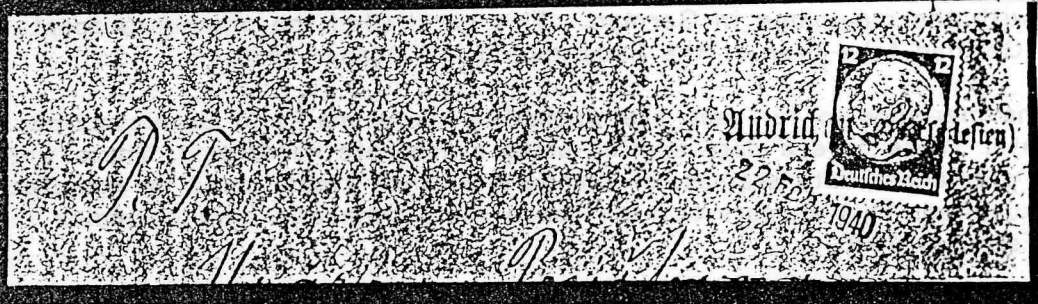


Abfender:
 Wohnort, nach Ostpreußen oder Litauen
 Straße, Hausnummer, Gehäusenr., Stadtviertel, Postleitzahlnummer

Postkarte
 Bielitz
 6
 Deutsches Reich



Uvarová Pojistovna dělnická



Sept. 1939 onwards : German take-over of Eastern Silesia
 Temporary postmarks :- Dombrau (Olsagebiet) + date 27.XII.1939;
 Bielitz (Olsagebiet); Peterswald (Oberschlesien) + date 2. FEB. 1940;
 Andrichau (Oberschlesien) + date 22. Feb. 1940; KARWIN I

I should appreciate details of other markings readers may have; they seem to be fairly difficult to find. It seems probable that as well as the 36 post offices in the Czech area, there were another 40-50 offices on the Polish side of the border that formed the Olsagebiet.

The end of the War in 1945

Following the end of the war, the Czechoslovakian borders were restored to those that had been in existence on 30th September 1938.

In looking at a modern map of the Eastern Silesia area, several of the towns named will not be found: Hrušov, Slezská Ostrava and Malé and Velké Kunčice have all been absorbed into OSTRAVA. Frýštát, which was an important town in Austrian days, has been absorbed into KARVINÁ.

A new town - HAVÍŘOV - has been created since 1945. It appears to encompass the area of Šumbark, Dolní Bludovice and Prostřední Sucha.

The Slovakian areas of ORAVA and SPIŠ

As well as the disputed areas in Eastern Silesia, Poland also claimed parts of two areas of Slovakia in the districts of Orava and Spiš. The Czechoslovakian stamps ov/printed S.O.1920 were used between 13th February and 11th August 1920 at a further 34 post offices in these areas: 26 in the Orava district and 8 in Spiš.

A) The ORAVA district

<u>Slovak Name</u>	<u>Hungarian Name</u>	<u>Polish Name</u>
Bobrov	Bobró	
Breza	Breza	
Dolná Lipnica	Alsólipnicza	Lipnica Dolne
Erdútka	Erdődka	
Hladovka	Glodówka	
Hruštín	Hrustin	
Chyžne	Chizsne	Chyżne
Jablonka	Jablonka	Jabłónka
Klin	Klin	
Krušetnica		
Liesek	Ljeszek	
Lokca	Lokcza	
Mutné	Mutne	
Namestovo	Nómesztó	
Novoť	Novoty	
Podvilk	Podvilk	Podwilk
Polhora Oravská	Árvapolhora	
Rabča	Rabcsa	
Rabčice	Rabscicza	
Slanica	Jzlanicza	
Trstená	Trsztena	
Ústie (nad Oravou)	Usztye Árva Varmegye >	

Veselé
Vyšná Zubrica
Zakamenné-Klín
Zubrohlava

Vszele
Felsőzubricza
Klinzakamene
Zubrohlava

Zubrzyca Dolne

Krušetnica is something of a problem. It is listed in all the various references I have encountered but ... both Monografie Nos. 16 and 17 state that it was not opened until 1st October 1924. It may have been a postal agency, still using a Hungarian 'Postaí Ugyn' mark as a canceller.

Breza, Hladovka and Hruštín were all closed in 1923 or 1924.
A **new office** - SUCHÁ HORA - opened on 1st October 1924.



B) The SPIŠ district

<u>Slovak Name</u>	<u>Hungarian Name</u>	<u>Polish Name</u>
Fridman	Frígyesvágása	Frydman
Hanušovce	Hanusfalva	
Javorina	Javorina	
Nedeca	Nedecz	Niedzica
Smerdžonka	Koronahegyfürdő	
Spišská Stará Ves	Szepesófalv	
Tribš	Ujterebes	Trybsz
Velký Lipník	Nágyhársas	

Two further offices: OSTURŇA and RICHVALD, are quoted as operating in this area. They are believed to have been postal agencies.

Subsequent Changes

As part of the 1920 Spa accord which averted the proposed plebiscite, 8 offices: 5 in the Orava district and 3 in Spiš, were to be transferred to Poland. These offices are those for which a Polish name is shown in these lists. For some reason which I have, so far, been unable to establish, this transfer did not take place until 1924. >

In late November 1938, probably on the 26th., Poland took over 4 Czechoslovakian post offices - one in Orava, one in Spiš and two others to the north-east of Čadca, between Eastern Silesia and Orava. These were:-

Suchá Hora	- Polish name	Sucha Góra Orawska
Javorina	"	Jaworzyna Spiska
Čierne pri Čadci	"	Czerna Beskidzka
Skalité	"	Skalite

Early in September 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, the new State of Slovakia took the 4 offices that had been taken over by Poland in Novr. 1938; the offices that had been transferred to Poland in 1924 and one further office - Jurgov (Polish = Jurgów).

In 1945, the boundaries were restored to those in force on 30th Sept. 1938, so Jurgów and the 8 offices involved in the 1924 transfer again reverted to Poland.

Use of S.O. overprints outside the Plebiscite area



During their period of validity (13th Feb. to 10th Aug. 1920), some instances are known of use at offices outside the Plebiscite areas. The first instances, early in the period, are at Moravská Ostrava, Paskov and Místek, all on the Moravian side of the river Ostravice, which formed the border of the area.

A T.P.O. operated into the Orava area, from Kralovany to Suchá Hora, via Trstená and this can be found on S.O. stamps.

Finally, for reasons unknown, some were placed for sale in certain towns in SLOVAKIA: Spišská Nova Ves, Kežmarok, Spišská Bela and Stará Ľubovňa have been recorded and use at other places in this area is probable.

By courtesy of the Editor, two p.c. postmarks are illustrated above, showing use in July 1920 [one is even postmarked on the day that the Ambassadors' Council divided the area between Czechoslovakia and Poland - 28th July]: one from Spišská Bela, the other cancelled on the T.P.O [957] Podolinec - Poprad Velká; written at Bušovce, a station on the line about two miles north of Spišská Bela. >

Conclusion

It is hoped that this article may provide a useful guide and starting-point for those interested in aspects of the postal history of this area.

I became interested in the area when I obtained two covers from the German take-over of the Olsagebiet in 1939 and had great difficulty in tracing what they were. This remains my only collecting interest in this area. It seemed to me that there was a story to be told and that such information as there was on this area was tucked away in odd corners of the literature. I made an attempt at an article on this basis in 1989 but then the Society Monograph No. 8 was published. I have since obtained much further information on the area to revise that original article and to extend it. It is not original work on my part but an attempt to collate the work of others. It will contain inaccuracies and there will be omissions. Any further information will be welcomed - especially on covers of the German take-over of 1939.

Sources:

- Monografie Československých Známeč Vols. 13, 14, 16, 17.*
Padělky Československých Poštovních Známeč 1918-39.
Speciální Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Známeč - Ladislav Novotný - 1970.
Československé Známečky - Hirsčin/Franěk - 1935.
Czechoslovak Stamps Overprinted S.O.1920 for Eastern Silesia - Z. Kvasnica (Cz. Specialist).
1939 Field Post of the Short-lived Slovak State - Viktor Indra.
Postal History Journal (USA) No. 24.
Maps/Documents obtained from the muzeum at Teschen by Fred and Yvonne Gren.
Society Monograph No. 8 by Jiří Neumann.
Verzeichnis der Postorte in Sudetenland - Walter Möldner 1979
Postal Place Names in Poland - G.K. Kay 1992.

.....

Re: Part 1 of "Austrian Silesia" in Czechout No. 71: ERRATUM

- p.29 - line 6: Should read The Freistadt district
- p.29 - (table): (Dolní).
- p.32 - Czech should read MALE KUNČICE u MORAVSKÉ OSTRAVY
- p.32 - Czech should read STARÉ HAMRY
- p.33 - Pol. should be ALEKSANDROWICE
- Bielsko Stare: Ger. should read ALT BIELITZ
 - Cieszyn 2: Cz. should read ČESKÝ TĚŠÍN
 - LUTYNIA NIEMIECKA: Ger. should read DEUTSCHLEUTEN
 - " " : Pol. should read RUDZIČA

[Errare est Humánium - my apologies AK.]

NEW ISSUES - CZECH REPUBLIC

A.J.K.

2.3.1993

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC - VÁCLAV HAVEL

2Kč. Designed and Engraved: Miloš Ondráček.

Sizes: Design 19x23mm; overall 23x27mm. p.11½x11¼

Printing: Post Printing House, Prague in sheets x 100 pcs. by rotary recess in dark red combined with bi-colour recess in light blue and violet. **There was no official FDC.**

President Havel's portrait is that used by Czechoslovakia for its issue dated 9.1.1990.

11.3.1993

"EUROPA" (Modern Art) - MIKULÁŠ MEDEK

14Kč. Designed and Engraved: Václav Fajt.

Sizes: Design 26x40mm. overall 32x46mm. p.11½

Printing: PPH/P in sheets x 4 pcs. Recess from flat plates in light blue, red and black.

Design: Engraver's transcription of painting in Prague National Gallery: "Hungry Saint 1" by M. Medek (1926-1974); executed in 1966.

FDC: Stamp cancelled from Praha with boxed 'eyes'. Cover drawing: "Sleeping Head" (1953) by same artist.

11.3.1993

ST. JAN NEPOMUK - DEATH SEXCENTENERY

8Kč. Designed and Engraved: Josef Herčík.

Sizes: Design 40x23mm; overall 44x28mm. p.11½x11¼

Printing: PPH/P in sheets x 50 pcs.

Rotary recess in black, combined with tri-colour recess print in grey-blue, dark blue and yellow.

Design details: A graphic composition with background view of Charles Bridge, Prague, crossing River Vlatava (formerly the Moldau). Central piece is the statue of

St. Jan Nepomuk, cast in bronze by J.W. Heroldt in Norimberk in 1683. He based his work on works by J.B.Mathy (a drawing), a sketch by M. Rauchmüller and a wooden model by J. Brokov.

FDC: Pmk is a five-star 'halo' (as on the statue). The cover drawing is a very fine engraving of the three-part relief on the statue. The left panel depicts a praying Queen Sofia; central is a text in Latin relating the details of St. Jan's death - being thrown from Charles Bridge into the waters of the Moldau on the orders of King Wenceslas IV in 1393. This is enacted in the right panel. At top central is a shield bearing the arms of the statue's donor.

BEAUTIES OF OUR COUNTRY - 1. Church of The Sacred Heart, Prague



30.3.93 Design/Engraving: Pavel Kovářik; p11½.
5 Kč. Sizes: Design 40x26mm/overall 45x32mm.
 Printing: PPH, Prague five-colour flat plate recess in black, brown, blue, ochre and green. **in sheets x 8 pieces.**

Subject: Architecture of The Church of The Sacred Heart - Prague.

The church was designed by Josip Plečnik. Stamp inscription reads: "PRAHA- PLEČNIK-KOSTEL NEJSV. SRDCE PANE."

FDC: Printed in green and brown with stamp cancelled by a calligraphic signature of the architect Plečnik. The cover design is that of a carved lion's head, similar to those designed by the architect concerned to adorn the stairs leading to representatives' rooms in Prague Castle. These were made during the last great building reconstruction of the castle.

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BŘEVNOV MONASTERY - PRAGUE (Millennium)



14.4.93 Design: /Engraving: Pavel Kovářik.
4 Kč. Sizes: Design 40x23mm/overall 45x27mm.
 Printing: PPH, Prague; rotary-recess/photogravure in colours black, blue, brown, yellow and red in sheets x 50.

Subject: Entrance gateway of the monastery by the architect Killián

Ignác Diezenhofer with the statue of St. Benedict. In the background can be seen the cloister basilica of St. Margaret. The stamp's text reads: '1000 let BŘEVNOVSKÉHO KLÁŠTERA V PRAZE - UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization). (p 11½x11½).

This first of all Bohemian monasteries was founded for Benedictines in 991 by Boleslav II and St. Vojtech. The building was declared a national monument in 1991.

FDC: cancelled with illustrated circular pmk inscribed 'Břevnovský Klášter/ Praha/14.4.1993.' The cover illustration is brown and silver coloured and depicts the statue of St. Margaret and Adam and Eve from the interior of St. Margaret's Basilica.

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WORLD WEIGHT-LIFTING (Juniors) CHAMPIONSHIP

12.5.93 Design: Ivan Strnad; Engraver: M. Ondráček.
6 Kč Sizes: Overall 34x29/Design 30x23mm.
 Printing: Rotary recess in black, combined with photogravure in black, yellow, red, blue and green in sheets of 50 pieces. p. 11½x11¼.

Subject: Lifter taking strain. Inscription: "World Championship/Junior Weight-Lifting/Cheb 1993".

FDC: Bears single stamp cancelled "Cheb/12.5.1993". Cover illustrates "Lifting in Phases".

BEAUTIES OF OUR COUNTRY (II) - BRNO

16.6.93 Design: Jaroslav Fišer; Engraver: Václav Fajt.
8 Kč Sizes: Overall 46x32/Design 26x40mm. p. 11¾x11½
 Printing: Recess from flat-plates. Colours: Black-brown, red, blue and green. **Sheets x 8.**

Subject: Tower of old city hall with Church of Saints Peter & Paul at Petrov in background.

FDC: Symbols of Brno (Hanging "Crocodile" and the wheel from the passage of old city hall/Brno Arms over "BRNO/750/let (Brno/750/Years). Cancellation of single stamp reads "750 Years City of Brno/Brno 16.6.93" and surrounds the Arms of Brno.

* - also referred to locally as 'the dragon'.

GREAT STATE EMBLEM OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

2 x 8 Kč stamps sheet. **22.6.93**
 Design/Engraving: Bedřich Housa
 Size of stamp design: 26x40mm;
 Size of m/s: 79x80mm overall.
 Printing: Recess from flat-plates in colours silver, golden, black, red and blue. p. 11½x11¾
 M/s contains two fully perforated stamps (horizontal).

Bottom margin carries the initials Č in red/R in blue between two Linden branches. [Czech Republic]

Design: Shield emblazoned with the Arms of Bohemia (twice); Moravia and Silesia over a Linden branch.

FDC: Three Shields/Praha cancelled.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

- (a) – 1130th Anniversary of arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius
 (b) – 1125th Anniversary of the Recognition of the old
 Slav language "Staroslověnština"

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22.6.93 Design: Igor Benca; Engr: Martin Srb.
 8 Kč Size overall: 44x28/design: 40x23mm.
 Printing: Rotary recess in black, combined with photogravure in colours green, yellow and blue. p.11½x11¼

Double-portraits (imaginary) of Saints Cyril and Methodius and a composition of initials in Cyrillic, orig. Glagolitic and Roman alphabets with an open book: symbols of the evolution of writing and culture. Design is completed with inscription in Czech "1130 Years since the Arrival of Cyril and Methodius".

FDC: Praha cancel – 22.6.1993 around initials. Illustration: Printed in black, dark blue, blue and orange in sheets x 50 pieces. The pictures bears the same initials as on stamp, in combination with a rood and the sun. Above this design, in Czech, is inscribed "1125 Years Since Recognition of Staroslověnština".

N.B. The designs of the stamp and FDC are the same as a similar Slovak issue, differing only in languages and post offices.

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FIRST DEFINITIVE SET: CITY ARCHITECTURE (eight values)

- a) 1 Kč. České Budějovice. Design: Jiří Bouda; Engr: Bohumil Šnejdr. Subject: Front of City Hall with Samson's Fountain foreground. Printing: Rotary recess in brown and (photo.) orange.
- b) 2 Kč. Ústí nad Labem. Design/engraving by Jiří Bouda. Subject: Church of Our Lady (with leaning tower) with (background) a Dominican cloister church. Printed in colours purple (rotary recess) and blue (photogravure). >

All issued 1.7.1993



No FDCs



[Defins. - cont:-]

- c) **3 Kč.** **Český Krumlov.** Design/Engr. Josef Herčík. Subject: Panoramic view of the chateau and architectural dominants of the city. This value is a modification of the stamp originally issued on 19.10.1992. This stamp design is completed with the inscription UNESCO and the small sign of the World Organization for Cultural and Natural Heritage. The sign expresses the fact that this city has been included in the List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites.
Printing: Rotary recess (blue-grey) and (photo.) dark rose.
- d) **5 Kč.** **Plzeň.** Des./Engr. Jiří Bouda. Subject: The Plague Column. Printing: Rotary recess (green) and (photo.) brown.
- e) **8 Kč.** **Olomouc.** Square, with the City Hall - in the foreground is a representation of the statues of The Holy Trinity. Printing: Rotary recess (dark purple) with photogravured brown. Designed by Jiří Bouda with engraving by Bohumil Šnejdr.
- f) **10 Kč.** **Hradek Králové.** Designed and engraved by Jiří Bouda. Printed rotary recess (grey-green) and photogravured red. Subject:- The City Hall and Church of The Holy Ghost with the White Tower in the background.
- g) **20 Kč.** **Prague.** Subject: Panoramic view of Prague Castle, the Church of St. Nicholas and the Malá Strana Bridge Tower. Inscribed UNESCO with the same Heritage symbol as the 3 Kč. value. Printing: Rotary recess (red) and photogravured blue. Designed and engraved by Jiří Bouda.
- h) **50 Kč.** **Opava.** Designed/engraved by Jiří Bouda, showing image of the Silesian Museum. Printed in light brown by rotary recess and green (photogravure).

The set was issued in printing sheets x 100 pieces: p. $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ (except the 3 Kč. value: $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$). Total face-value: 99 Kč.

Sizes: Design 19x23mm (3 Kč. 23x19mm) Overall: 22x27mm (27x22mm).

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"ČESKOSLOVENSKO" ISSUES:

We are informed by Czech Post that all postage stamps bearing the a/m title (i.e. Czechoslovakia) will cease to be postally valid on September 30th. 1993. Many of you will have been collecting the 'mixed frankings' of covers bearing both Czech and Slovak stamps since January 1st; now is the time to look out (or arrange) for covers with 'Last Day of Mixed Franking' postal markings! >

18.8.1993

WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS - RAČICE

3Kč. Designed: Ivan Strnad; Engraved: Miloš Ondráček. Design (30x23mm): Young woman rowing; inscription:- "Mistrovství Světa Ve Veslování Račice 1993". Printing: Rotary-recess in black, combined with four col. photogravure in ochre, red, blue and green in printing sheets of 50 pieces. FDC: Carries one stamp cancelled at Roudnice nad Labem. Cover illustration (in red): Girl with 'paddles' head decor.

26.8.1993

ANNIVERSARIES OF PERSONALITIES

1. 2Kč. **August Sedláček (Historian) 1843-1920.**
Author of the monumental work of 15 volumes - "Castles and Fortresses of the Bohemian Kingdom".
2. 3Kč. **Eduard Čech (Mathematician) 1893-1960.**
Famous for studies in topology and geometry.

Graphic arrangement: Josef Baláž; Engravings by Martin Činovský: portraits within a design size of 19x23mm for both stamps. Printing by rotary-recess combined with multicolour photogravure: 2Kč: Blue-grey, ochre and green; 3Kč. Blue, ochre and violet. FDCs: **Two.** One with 2x2Kč stamps cancelled at Praha with drawing of Selmberg Castle; second cover carries a single 3Kč. stamp from Praha and a design drawing of composition of a saddle point with a flower.

[Both stamps printed in sheets x 100 pieces]

CZECH/SLOVAK NEW ISSUES

The Editor runs a New Issues Service for interested members but since the 1989 political changes, membership has sharply reduced. If the Service is to survive as a viable project, more members are needed.

New members are automatically supplied with New Issues Service application forms but if you have not seen one yet - or need one anyway, please contact Alan Knight as soon as possible. A deposit is required at the outset.

Charges are cost + 50% and is restricted to **members only**. A percentage of your subscriptions is annually paid to the Society by way of donations. Postage is free (except if Reg. or Rec. Delivery is requested). Issues are restricted to **one item per member only**.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Editor has finally been able to establish a firm link between this journal and the Slovak Ministry of Transport, Communications and Public Works. Via the Ministry's Agents: "Poštová Filatelistická Služba" (better known perhaps to us as POFIS), we are now promised regular information on all forthcoming issues. Although some information on the first issues has already appeared in this journal, it is felt important that complete information on **all** issues that has been supplied, shall be published herein, hence the reason for starting our listing with "Slovakia 1".

THE SLOVAK STATE EMBLEM



- 1.1.1993** Issued in sheets of six pieces, this item was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský, who also designed the gutter drawing. The latter was designed by Jozef Balaz. Printing: By flat-plate recess; p.11½x11½. [For sheet illustration, see Czechout 1/93-20] Sizes: Design 26x40mm Overall 31x45mm. Sheet 11.2x16.5cm. Colours: red, blue, black and silver.

FDC: Bears a single stamp with Bratislava circular s/r cancel 1.1.1993. Design incorporates a map outline of Slovakia and a post-horn. The cover illustration shows a further map of "Slovensko", part of Bratislava Castle, a music notation of the opening notes of the Slovak National Anthem "Lightning Over The Tatras", the letters FDC and, at left, the initials of the FDC's designer (Josef Balaz) and the engraver (Martin Činovský). Colours: red/blue.



- 2.1.93** Smaller version of the 8 Sk stamp with same designer and engraver. Printed in sheets of 50 by rotary recess in red, blue, black and silver. Same design as the 8 Sk value. Sizes: Design 23x30mm; overall 27x34mm.

FDC: Same as for the 8 Sk value except the pmk: A circular cancel containing drawing of Bratislava city dominants. Inscribed "Bratislava 2.1.1993/ Slovensko".

N.B. Although this FDC is dated 2.1.93, it must be again recorded that this stamp appeared on a special "Košice 1" p.o. cover with pmk dated 1.1.93! Both the above stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in **Prague.** >

SLOVAK TOWNS (Definitives)



- 31.1.93 10 Sk. **Košice.** Designed/Engraved: Jiří Bouda.
Printed by rotary recess process in colours violet, blue and orange. Sheets x 100 pieces perf. $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. Sizes: Design 19x23mm; overall: 23x27mm.
Subject: Historic centre of Košice.



- 5 Sk **Ružomberok.** Designer/Engraver: Josef Herčík.
Printed by rotary recess process in violet-blue and orange. Sheets x 50 pieces; perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. Sizes: Design 23x19; overall 27x23mm.

[Both stamps printed by Post Printing House, Prague]

STATE PRESIDENT MICHAL KOVÁČ



- 2.3.93 2 Sk Definitive issue. Designed/Engraved: Martin Činovský.
Printed in Prague (PPH) by rotary recess (indigo) in sheets x 100 pieces.

FDC: Contains two stamps with special cancellation symbolically representing the President's inauguration. An open book represents the State Constitution. Pmk: Bratislava 2.3.1993.

SAINT JOHN OF NEPOMUK - DEATH SEXCENTENARY



- 11.3.93 8 Sk. The issue of this stamp was coincidental with the issue of an identical stamp by the Czech and German Republics. A full description of this stamp is given under the New Issues List for the Czech Republic on another page of this issue. The only difference is with the respective State names. This also applies to the Slovak FDC which differs from the Czech issue only with "Bratislava" in the postmark.

The statue of St. John of Nepomuk is No. 23 of those accompanying it on Charles Bridge in Prague. It was placed there in 1683 to commemorate the Saint's martyrdom in 1393. John was then the Vicar General of the Prague Episcopal Court. For defying the King (Wenceslaus), Jan was ordered to 'be bound hand and foot' and to be thrown into the River Moldau (Vltava). According to the engraving on the FDC., it appears that his hands were wide apart as he was thrown down from Charles Bridge! >

NATURE PROTECTION - TREES



14.5.93

Set designed by Katarína Ševellová and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. Printed in Prague by PPH by rotary recess combined with multi-colour recess in sheets of 100 pieces. Sizes: Design 25x30mm; overall 27x34mm. Perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

3 Sk. English Oak/*Quercus robur*, in green-brown, yellow-green, grey-brown, brown and black.

4 Sk. European Hornbeam/*Carpinus betulus*, in ochre, brown, green, grey, black.

10 Sk. Scots Pine/*Pinus sylvestris*, in blue, brown, green, red and black.

[There were two FDCs bearing the 3/4 and 10 SK values respectively]

FAMOUS PERSONALITIES



20.5.1993

Designed by Josef Baláž and engraved by Martin Činovský, this set was printed by rotary recess method, combined with multi-col. recess in sheets of 100. Sizes: Design area 23x30mm; overall 24x28mm. Perf. $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. Three FDCs.

5 Sk. Ján Levoslav Bella (1843-1936) Composer in cream, blue, red-brown.

8 Sk. Alexander Dubček (1921-92) Statesman in cream, red, dark-brown.

20 Sk. Ján Kollár (1793-1852) Poet in cream, orange, red-brown. >



EUROPA

31.5.93 14 Sk. (sheetlets x 4). Des./Eng: Pavel Kovárik.
Design (46x30mm) Flat-plate recess, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$.
"Woman with Jug" (Marian Čunderlík - 1958), now
in Slovak Nat. Gallery, Bratislava. Colours: Yellow,
grey-blue, red, red-brown, black.

FDC: Drawing and cancellation by Pavel Kovárik.
One colour - flat place recess.

ARRIVAL OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS



22.6.93 8 Sk. Except for the State title and language,
the stamp is identical to that issued by the Czech
Republic the same day.

FDC: Same as that issued by the Czech Republic
other than the postmark.

SLOVAK LITERARY LANGUAGE: 150 YEARS SINCE RECOGNITION



22.6.93 2 Sk. Design (40x23mm): Igor Benca; Engraved:
Martin Činovský. Rotary-recess black, combined
with 3-col. recess in sheets x 50 pieces. Colours:
Black, blue, green, yellow. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$. Symbolic
drawing of sun/face against blue background.

FDC: Symbolic drawing engraved by Frant. Horniak.
Flat-plate recess.

DUBNICE nad VÁHOM (Town Arms) - Definitive



8.7.93 1 Sk. Designed /Engraved by Martin Činovský.
Design: Depicts the Arms of the town in silver
and blue colours. Printed rotary-recess/recess
in sheets of 100 pieces. Perf. $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$.

FDC: Shows St. James' Church and inscription
recognising the 800th Anniversary of Dubnica's
township award.

[Note: To date, all Slovakia's stamps were printed in Prague]