



CZECHOUT

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Vol. 16/1	CONTENTS	March 1998
	Valedictory	1
	News and Notices	2
	History in the Post-A Card to Professor Masaryk	5
	Petite Entente : Malá Dohoda	6
	Another World War II 'Find'	9
	Visiting the Postal Museum at Vyšší Brod	11
	What, When, Where?	15
	New Issues (Czech)	23
	New Issues (Slovak)	26

VALEDICTORY

William Alexander Page FRPSL: In 1976 Kay Goodman said to us 'let us invite Bill Page to join the Society'. He had recently acquired a Czechoslovak collection and Alec as he was known to us, quickly committed himself to Czechoslovak philately, the Society and its promotion. A formal obituary appears on page 4 and Peter Rooke's letter of appreciation expresses the feelings of the membership to our sad loss.

Alec had an accountant's mind, an eye for bargains, but was precise and took great pains with everything he did. He was disciplined, knew where he was going, quite forthright, occasionally pedantic, but a good friend. He was generous to others if not with himself, and there are many who owe much to him, for his encouragement, help and assistance. When I mentioned to Alec in hospital that we were looking forward to presenting his Life Membership certificate, he simply said 'I haven't done anything to deserve it.' Alec by nature was a nervous person, but through these past months of suffering he has shown great fortitude and courage.

I feel that over the years he and I built up a great rapport, so that we both felt on the same wavelength with many projects and ideas. It was through his support, know-how and energy that we produced Czechout, Monographs, brochures, printing of letterheads and other memoranda which have contributed to the Society's standing, its organisation and financial savings. I shall miss him both as a friend, and as a colleague. May he rest in peace.

Colin W Spong FRPSL

NEWS & NOTICES

Regional Meeting of Saturday 22 November 1997

At the regional meeting held at Pudsey, Stephen Holder FRPSL was the guest speaker. It was the first time that there had been an invited display at this annual event and Stephen proved a worthy guest.

The display was entitled Austrian Forerunners and consisted of spectacular items of postal history from the Austrian Empire. Of particular note were railway cancellations and TPO's: a branch postal agents datestamp of 1738 Josefthal-Morchenstein and a 1883 Tahiti to Prague cover cancelled FPA 32 Fahrendes Postamt with the reply half cancelled Marburg-Franzensfeste. Postage dues and newspaper mail items were also shown. To conclude the display there was a selection of fine Gruss aus Cards. Continuing with the Austrian theme Yvonne Wheatley displayed stamps of Austria overprinted Pošta Československá 1919.

The next meeting has been arranged for 28 November 1998.

YW

Meeting of Saturday 10 January 1998

The Vice-Chairman, Robert Kingsley, welcomed 22 members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from two members. Robert opened by calling for silence in memory of the recent death in office of the Chairman, Alec Page FRPSL, whose contribution to the Society over the years had been immense. When the Society's history is written, Robert said that Alec would rank amongst the greats, alongside George Pearson and Kay Goodman. He announced that, as a tribute the Society will be making a donation to Alec's nominated charity.

On a happier note, Robert congratulated Ernst Gorge FRPSL on his Large Silver medal for his Hradčany collection at INDEPEX 97 in India. Ernst displayed the medal to the members present.

The Hon. Editor, Colin Spong FRPSL, displayed the two medals which *Czechout* had won during 1997: a Silver at the National Philatelic Literature Exhibition at Palmerston North in New Zealand, and a Bronze Silver given by the American PS Writers Unit at the APS STAMPSHOW 97 held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the USA.

The Hon. Secretary, Rex Dixon, welcomed a recent member, John Peters, attending his first meeting. He gave details of one prospective new member, Roger Castle from Banbury, whose application was readily endorsed and formally accepted.

The first part of the afternoon was devoted to the **Kay Goodman Trophy** Competition, which attracted a mere two entries. Judging was performed by Colin Spong and Yvonne Gren. The results were as follows:

1st	Bill Dawson	The Railway TPO's - a Brief Review of Postmark Types
2nd	Brian Day	Exhibitions, Fairs and Festivals in the Czech Lands.

In announcing the results, Colin said that the judges had liked the presence of the introductory sheet in the Exhibitions exhibit, and that the research shown had been excellent in both but especially with the TPO's. Colin noted that judges would find it of assistance if entrants indicated under which class their entries should be judged. The acting Chairman presented the rosebowl to the winner, who remarked that with only two entries the competition should be void - the members showed, however, that they would not countenance that and that he should accept the trophy.

John Hammonds FRPSL then displayed "Bohemia and Moravia for Fun", an extract from his ten volume sideline collection. The display started with the Munich crisis before moving on to the Protectorate period proper. The survey of the various fields of B&M philately encompassed liberation slogans, postage rates, 'V' cancels, special and multi-coloured cancels, the German Dienstpost, official mails, fieldpost, TPO's, airmails and the Prague pneumatic post; he remarked that every philatelic >

facet was possible apart from maritime mail. Colin, in proposing the vote of thanks, remarked that it was a fascinating and comprehensive display of the postal history which he had very much enjoyed.

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

Letters to the Editor

Yvonne Wheatley writes "A joint meeting with this Society, the Austrian Stamp Club of GB, the Hungarian PS of GB and the Society for Polish Philately in GB will be held on Saturday 30 May 1998. The hosts will be Stephen and Judith Holder and the meeting will be held in their office at the Barn, Heaton Royds, Shay Lane, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

The programme will be as follows:

10.00am Coffee	10.30-1.00pm Members displays	1.00-2.00 Buffet Lunch
2.00-5.00 Display	5.00 Cup of tea and close of proceedings.	

All the Societies have shown enthusiasm for the meeting and therefore numbers have to be limited to six from each Society. Full details and application forms are available from Mrs Yvonne Wheatley Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS15 9BW on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

Robert Downie, the new owner of PaperSafe offers both the range of archival quality philatelic goods, and also a Book Track or finding service. Members may like to write to him at The North Lodge, Adderley, Market Drayton TF9 3TF

Mrs Brenda Miller, thanks everyone who contributed to the Royal Society for Protection of Birds in memory of Alex Page. She has sent a cheque to the Society totalling so far, £182.00. Brenda has asked them to make an inscription in their In Memoriam Book which is displayed in the shop at The Lodge in Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Mr R Carter asks if any member can supply him with two stamps of the 31.12.1993 Slovakia Art on Stamps: Josef Kostka with vertical label showing signature in centre. [131 Moss Bank, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2EW].

Publications

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

- The December 1996 issue of *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei*, and Douglas Baxter has kindly translated the list of articles for us. [not including New Issues, Postal Stationery Catalogue, Airmail issues etc.]
- ▶ 60 years ago: State Stamp Exhibition, Bratislava 1937 (Cermak); 60 years ago: Czechoslovakia mourns T.G.Masaryk (Cermak); An examination of the printing plates in the Commemorative block issued on the 1st anniversary of the Slovak Uprising [28.08.44] (Cermak).
- The 5 and 6/97 issues of *Merkur Revue*, amongst the contents are the following articles.
 - ▶ 60th Anniversary of TGM's death (Ustohal); Enigma of a perforation - The Dove 40h (Karásek); Half century old plagiarism - Košice 1945 issue (Fischer); C. a k. polní pošta 1914-18 (Vostatek).
 - ▶ St. George and May Revolution [4+6 kčs value] (Fischer); 60h President Novotný issue (Fritz); Gen. L. Svoboda issue 1975 (Fischer).

OBITUARY

William Alexander Page

Alec or Bill Page, as he was known to different societies, passed away on Tuesday 16 December 1997, in Livingstone Hospital, Dartford. Alec had suffered a relapse after treatment he had undergone for several serious operations during the past two years.

He was born in Hammersmith in 1921, moving to the Dartford area in 1927. Leaving school at 14, he joined APV Engineering Company, where he completed 50 years service, retiring as Company Treasurer in 1985. During WW2 he joined the Royal Air Force as a Ground Wireless Operator, going first to South Africa, then serving three years in India.

Alec was a Life President of Dartford & District PS, Life Member of Gravesend SC, and a member of Woolwich PS and Kent PHS. He had been the only person twice elected as President of the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies; a member of the Royal PSL since 1954, becoming a Fellow in 1964, and of the National PS. A member of a number of specialist societies including the BAeF, China, Forces PH, Polar, Tristan, PHS; also several in the USA and South Africa.

Alec was a founder Secretary of the London Group of the South African Collectors Society in 1953, becoming Secretary of the main Society, later General Secretary in 1962. He joined the Czechoslovak PS in 1976, a member of the Committee in 1980, becoming Publications Officer, and elected Chairman in 1996 and a Life Member of the Society in 1997. Alec also served on the Publication Committee of the late BPF, and was a member of the AIJP [Association Internationale des Journalistes Philateliques]; travelling widely, often as a freelance reporter to Philatelic Conventions and Exhibitions. He was Press Officer for STAMPWORLD 90.

Alec was a founder member and Treasurer, also a past Chairman of the Philatelic Writers Society. He had been writing magazine articles since 1947, mainly of a specialist content, including being the author of several monographs for both the South African and Czechoslovak Societies; and also supplied information on new issues to one of the monthly philatelic journals.

Alec visited many societies around the UK giving displays, he also printed and despatched bulletins and magazines for several societies, greatly serving the hobby he enjoyed so much. Outside of philately, Alec was a keen Opera and classical music lover, often going to Convent Garden and other concert halls. He likewise had a love for football of the soccer variety, Charlton being the club he followed until recent years. He will be greatly missed and philately is the poorer for his going.

PJOK/CWS

A Personal Tribute - Peter Rooke

Others who knew Alec Page for longer, and worked with him more closely, are better qualified than I to speak of his work for the Society and Czechoslovak philately, but as a rank-and-file member I would like to express my admiration and appreciation of him.

We first met when we found ourselves seated side by side on a plane bound for PRAGA 88; later we bumped into each other in the exhibition hall in Julius Fučík Park, when I introduced him to my Slovak friend Dr Ivan Horvath.

Our next chance meeting was at the wonderful exhibition commemorating the Society's fortieth anniversary, held at the Slovak Embassy in London in 1993. In conversation he discovered my interest in the postal history of the Czech Forces in World War II - and, of course, I could not have spoken to a more well-informed man. I came away with a copy of his monograph on the subject and a warm invitation to join the Society - which I promptly did. Shortly afterwards, at his kind invitation, I spent a very useful and informative day at his home in Dartford.

>

So my reaction to the news of his death is one of gratitude: for his writing, for his work in the publication of Czechout, for introducing me to the many benefits of Society membership, and above all for his friendly encouragement of a newcomer to Czechoslovak philately. He will be a hard act to follow.

HISTORY IN THE POST - A CARD TO PROFESSOR MASARYK

Postal History

Geoff McAuley

In December 1914 Professor Tomas Masaryk, later to be President-Liberator of his country, left Bohemia secretly. He spent the next four years travelling the world and working tirelessly for the foundation of a Czechoslovak state. Much of that time was spent in Great Britain.

Illustrated here is a postcard from a Czech medical graduate in Serbian captivity addressed to Professor Masaryk in London which has an interesting tale to tell.

First the card. It appears to be a postal stationery item, but it is not.



The Serbian Army retreated through Albania in late 1915, and early in 1916 most of them were ferried to Corfu. A Greek printer in Corfu, named Aspiotis, printed some cards for use of the Serbian forces there, as their field post was disorganised at this time. He imprinted the card with a reduced reproduction of the Serbian 1915 10 para red stamp, which however had no postal validity, and included the inscription "Correspondence Card of the Serbian Soldiers." Soon afterwards the French Army opened its MPO Trésor et Postes 512 in Corfu and it handled mail from all Allied servicemen free of charge, if addressed to the Salonika theatre of war, France, North Africa and England. After the entry of Italy into the war, mail addressed there was also carried free of charge.

Next, the message on the reverse of the card, translated through the kindness of Henry Hahn, President of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc, in America.

"Honoured Professor! A Czech medical graduate, captured at the start of the Austro-Serbian War, sincerely requests you send him Czech journals published abroad and information which I would request in future correspondence. By birth I am a Moravian - from Vyskov - and of advanced political conviction. I have read your philosophical articles - I have taken to heart your advice to learn foreign languages. I speak perfect German and Serbian, I studied French, which I am continuing, and I am also learning English, through the English-Serbian Sanitary Mission "Christic" to Valjevo. We place the greatest weight on this, out of respect for you. Miss Anne Christic, a journalist and supporter of aid for>

Serbia in England, has told me that she has spoken with you. During the retreat she remained in Trstenik, so I cannot now determine her whereabouts. I would be happy if I could learn perfect English, which would be easy if I had English speaking people in the vicinity. I am now a ship's doctor, perhaps the first Czech medical graduate to be so in Serbian captivity. I beg for your response.

Yours sincerely

Medic Francis Navratil,
Command of the Serbian Navy, Corfu Port."

Finally, did it ever reach Professor Masaryk?

Despite the inadequate address, the British Post Office made every effort to deliver it. The addresses written on the card correspond with his known movements in England. He did for a time live at 4, Halford Road, Hampstead, and lectured at King's College, London. He also stayed for some time at the Tollard Royal Hotel in Bournemouth. The card bears the postmarks of London, E ?, 26th April 1916, and Hampstead, 16th May. There are two 'Insufficient Address' cachets, one from London EC1, but no marking for Bournemouth. Did the card catch up with him there? It would be nice to think so.

PETITE ENTENTE : MALÁ DOHODA

Stamps

J.David Pring

One October whilst browsing in a Prague stamp shop I spotted a "set" of eight stamps which contained only two that I recognised, the "Petite Entente" set of 1937. Closer examination revealed that the other stamps were from Rumania and Yugoslavia. The 'set' was inexpensive and so I purchased it meaning to seek an explanation. Last year 'the packet' provided the post card illustrated and so spurred me to satisfy my earlier curiosity.

In the uncertain years immediately after the First World War the newly independent state of Czechoslovakia looked to support its independence on a wider stage with a treaty of alliance with France. At this time it might be argued that France was a major director of European politics in that the United States had become increasingly isolationist and Great Britain was juggling with the balance of power by indirect support of Italy and in the end even the Germany of Hitler.

In Central Europe Czechoslovakia co-operated closely with Yugoslavia and Rumania, which were likewise apprehensive of Hungarian attempts at a restoration of the Habsburgs. This co-operation led to the so-called "Petite Entente". It was based on the treaty of August 14, 1920 which was concluded in Belgrade between Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia and then joined by Rumania in treaties with Czechoslovakia on April 23 and with Yugoslavia on June 7, 1921.

At first this was essentially a defensive organisation and it was to prove its effectiveness in 1921 when 'Charles the last King Emperor' made his final and unsuccessful attempt to establish himself in Hungary.

A treaty signed August 31, 1922 made clear their desires for greater political and economic co-operation and in May 1929 they agreed that the renewal of the treaty of alliance should be automatic at the end of each five year period. At the same time, closely following a 1928 League of Nations model, they signed a treaty for the peaceful settlement of any of their remaining differences.

In 1931 the "Petite Entente" showed its worth when it took the lead in urging effective sanctions against Japan and in 1933 by successfully resisting Mussolini's attempts to interfere with existing Central European treaties. In that same year, the awareness of the growing threat of Facist Italy and the advent of Adolf Hitler led to an alliance with the USSR and an attempt to strengthen the 'Entente' by the formation of what was to all intents and purposes a diplomatic federation. It was intended that their foreign ministers would meet three times a year and that a permanent secretariat would function at the League of Nations. From its first meeting in Prague, idealistically and pragmatically, the economic >

council not only attempted to lay the foundations for closer economic co-operation among the three countries but also attempted to include in its work Austria and Hungary.

However, the "Petite Entente" had already been weakened in 1934 by the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and as time passed the new ruling clique in Yugoslavia favoured a policy of rapprochement toward Italy, Bulgaria and Germany, which to all intents and purposes excluded Yugoslavia from the politics of Central Europe. In the same year the French foreign minister, Louis Barthou, was also assassinated and there was no one in France willing to take on his political intention of drawing his central European allies, Czechoslovakia and Poland into mutually acceptable policies. Poland was drawn to alliance with Germany whilst Austria and Hungary joined with Italy in the Pact of Rome. This pact created a counter bloc to the "Petite Entente" which was further weakened by the authoritarian rule of King Carol. To all intents and purposes the effectiveness of the "Petite Entente" was at an end.

Stamp Details:

The stamps were produced to celebrate the 16th Anniversary of the "Petite Entente".

Czechoslovakia

1 July 1937 Stamp design; JC Vondurous. Engraved by K Seizinger and rotary printed with line perforation 12½. The 2k green and 2k.50 ultramarine illustrate Prague cathedral and castle.



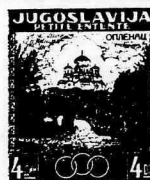
Rumania

1936 The 7 leu blue and 10 leu blue are portraits of King Carol overprinted in red with 'CEHOSLOVACIA' and 'Yugoslavia 1920-1936', these were followed in 1937 by the 7 leu 50 bani and the 10 leu blue, which illustrates the Cutea de Argeş cathedral.



Yugoslavia

1937 3 dinar green and 4 dinar blue illustrating Oplenats.



The Post Card details:

The post card illustrated has a caption reading 'uniting in strength truth prevails'.

The portraits moving clockwise from the top left are :

King Carol II of Rumania,
 President Thomas Garrigue Masaryk of Czechoslovakia,
 perhaps Milan Stodajinovic, Premier of Yugoslavia, ?
 King Peter II of Yugoslavia,
 Eduard Beneš of Czechoslovakia and
 Crown Prince [later King] Michael of Rumania.



NB: Perhaps members will confirm that I have the correct details.

ANOTHER WORLD WAR II 'FIND'

-W Alex Page FRPSL-

A recent query from a non-member provided a copy of what appeared to be a proof sheet of strikes from a series of 16 numbered censor handstamps, purported to be for use of the Czechoslovak exiled forces in Great Britain. Also provided was a copy of a cover showing the use of censor No. 7.

The cover has all the correct features of a normal inland letter posted by the Czechoslovak Field Post Office. It has correct franking 2½ d and a standard field post cancellation [Type 3] dated 4th May 1943. The forces were at the time in the Lowestoft area. The letter is addressed to the Czechoslovak Depot at Southend-on-Sea to a Cadet with a service No. of R-1171 - certainly in the correct style of other members of the forces. Nevertheless it is unlikely that this letter was ever sent through the postal system. Normally mail sent to the depot from other Czechoslovak units received a local machine backstamp and/or some indication of receipt at the depot.

Nothing seems to have been published in the past about the censor handstamps, which in any case were not needed at that time. The mail handled through the Field Post Office was not censored apart from selected items for external mailing and that was at the discretion of the duty officer. Such items were then handed over to the General Office "Intelligence Section".

Last Autumn however, a document surfaced in Czech Republic which now provided the answer to this latest find. This is a manuscript written by Captain Oldřich Večerek, who was the first officer in charge of the Field Post Office from its inception and through until 31st July 1943. It tells the story of his involvement with the Field Post and is in effect an autobiography.

Captain Večerek was well known for his artistic talents and for the preparation of designs for the commemorative handstamps in the early days of the Field Post. Not all the designs were accepted and some of the original artwork is now in private hands.

The manuscript describes, how and why the censor marks were prepared. By early 1943 it would have been known that with the formation of the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade, that eventually their destination would be to return to European soil. With this in mind the Captain designed his own censor stamp, 16 in number, presumably geared to each unit in the brigade. The handstamps were eventually manufactured, hence the existence of the "proof sheet", now illustrated.

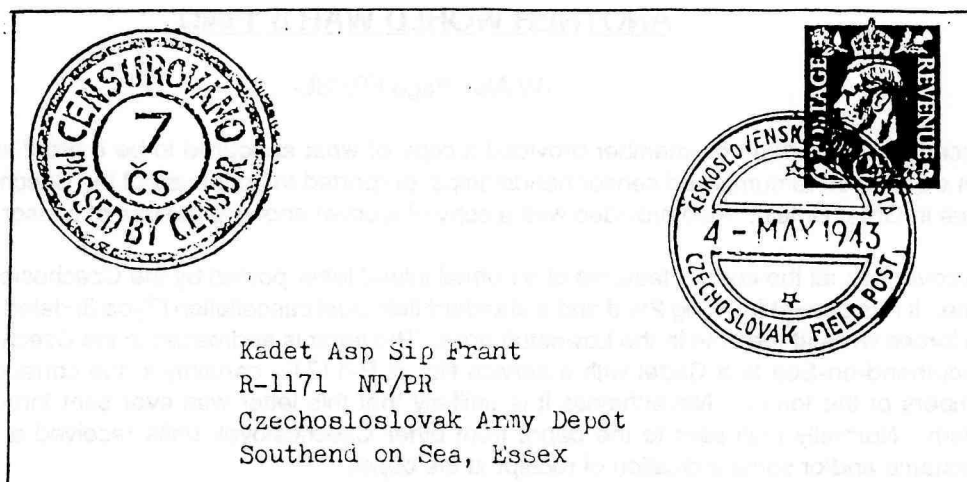
What became of the actual handstamps is a mystery, although I recall reading somewhere that some unaccepted designs of censor marks are held in the Military History archives in Prague.

In the event the censor handstamps were not allowed and when the Czechoslovaks returned to Europe in August 1944, they had already been provided with the British Shield type censor handstamps as part of the British Liberation Army. Seventeen numbers were allocated - one for each unit. (For full write-up of this aspect see *Czechout* No.4/83 pages 42/45).

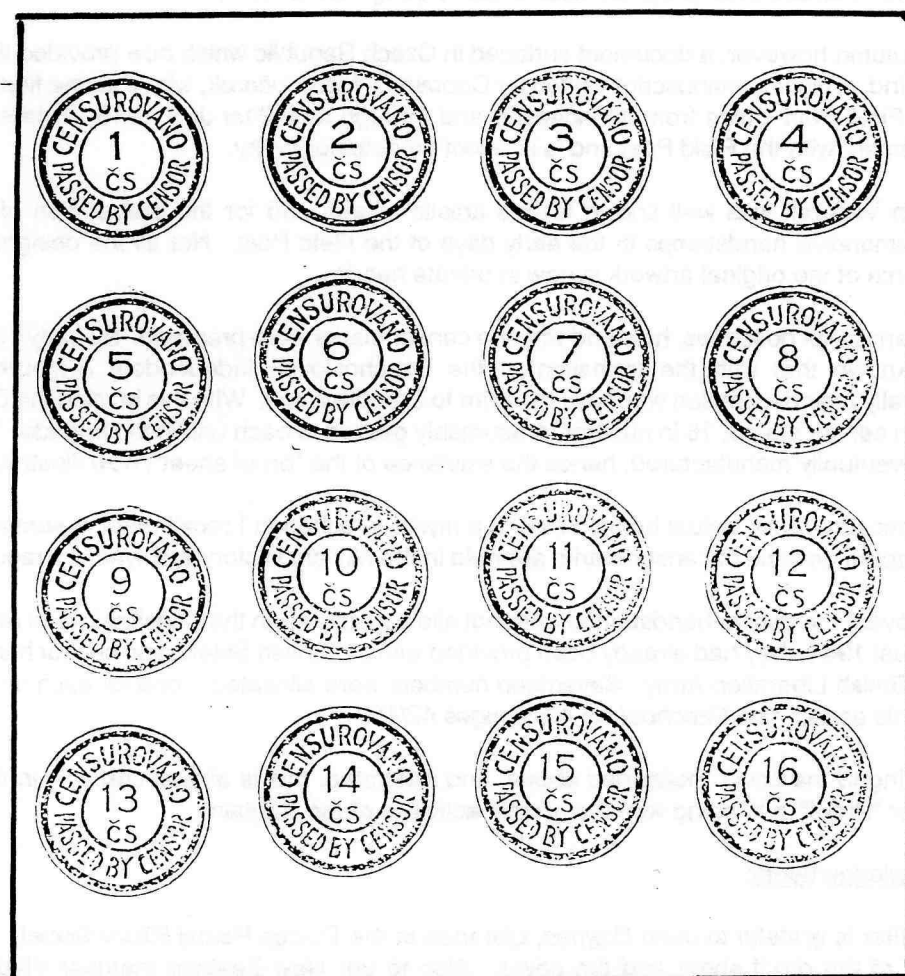
Reverting to the cover mentioned above, and illustrated, this is almost certainly in the category of a "trial" or "Proof" in keeping with the normal activities of the Captain.

Acknowledgements:

The writer is grateful to John Daynes, Librarian of the Forces Postal History Society for providing the copies of the proof sheet and the cover. Also to our New Zealand member Vladimír Králíček for extracting the background information from Captain Večerek's manuscript, and translating it.



Part of "trial" cover showing censor stamp No.7.



Proof sheet of censor handstamp - Original 18 cm x 18 cm
Handstamp size 30 mm.

VISITING THE POSTAL MUSEUM AT VYŠŠÍ BROD

-Robert J. Hill-

Some time ago when Yvonne Gren, asked for a volunteer to organise a trip for members to the Postal Museum at Vyšší Brod my offer was not only because I had never been there, I had never even heard of it!

Using a Czech atlas I soon found the location of the town, which is on the river Vltava, near Lipno, less than 10 kilometres from the Austrian border. It is about 40 kilometres south of České Budějovice.



There were insufficient intending participants for this trip so I decided to go by myself. Without incurring massive debts, it is better for me to tie my "educational excursions" to business trips and my regular contacts were suddenly plagued with requests for work in the České Budějovice area.

Thus I eventually found myself, late on a miserable Sunday evening in May, at České Budějovice railway station sheltering from the pouring rain and looking for a taxi. The wait seemed an eternity, but was probably only ten minutes and the drive to the Hotel Zvon, impressively sited on the south east corner of the massive Otakara II square, was short.

A late dinner of local carp and Bohemian beef in the hotel's Mozart restaurant, which overlooks the square revived my flagging spirits. Breakfast the next morning in the same restaurant was a joy as the sun came out and lit up the square. Suitably refreshed, the short walk to work was a pleasure and on arrival I

outlined my plan to work late on that day and put in very long hours on Wednesday and Thursday so that I could visit a museum at Vyšší Brod the next day.

The plan was to catch the 0919 train from the main station and change at Rybník for the local train to Vyšší Brod Klášter station, a secretary at the company went to the station to buy a ticket for me.

At the station on Tuesday morning it came as a great surprise to find that the train was not running and a substitute bus service would take me as far as the station at Velešín. The weather matched my mood, it had started raining again as the bus driver did his best to stop at every set of traffic lights. From the little I could see the journey through the countryside along route E55 was not spectacular. Changing from bus to train was easy and we arrived at Rybník only ten minutes behind schedule.

There was no connecting train! Having left my phone card in the hotel room I could not ring for a taxi from the telephone box opposite the station entrance. I flourished the phrase book at the booking office window, was invited in and attempts were made to get me a taxi. These proved fruitless, no doubt because of the wet weather. The very helpful station official informed me that a bus left from the bottom of the station road at 11.19.

By the time I got to the road junction there was about 40 minutes to wait and I took refuge from the weather in a bus shelter sited on the wrong side of the road. With little else to do I avidly read the bus timetable (Kaplice - Dolní Dvoříté - Rybník - Vyšší Brod - Lipno and beyond). The bus arrived slightly late and I was pleased to pay the driver my 5Kč for the 20 minute ride to the centre of Vyšší Brod. The grey wet day had not abated as the bus travelled in the opposite direction to the flow of the raging river Vltava the bus passed a sign for Erotik Club Studánky" which seemed somewhat comical. >

I left the bus at the centre of Vyšší Brod and the rain had actually stopped. I got my bearings and headed towards the Klášter. A five minute walk took me to the foot of the old stone steps and the welcoming signpost of POŠTOVNÍ MUZEUM (even I can understand this). The steps led to a low archway, looking back from this gave a fantastic view across the cloud shrouded valley. Following yet more signs I turned left, passed the fountain and saw the written bilingual notice on the entrance door which told me that the museum was closed between 1200 and 1300.

It was 1150 so I went for a walk around the Klášter, found the railway station (in the distance) for my return journey, got into conversation with some Austrians, and went into a cafe at the side of the church. With about 45 minutes to kill and "Sprite" at 6Kč a bottle, I consumed two, bought and wrote some postcards found the gents and took a leisurely stroll back to the Postal Museum. It was 1245, the museum was open so I popped the cards in the wall mail box outside the museum and went in.

The entrance fee was 20Kč, a complete set of eight local postcards 28Kč, a special set of museum postcards 12.50Kč and the guide book 12.50Kč, so the visit was not expensive. I signed the visitors book, thanked the lady attendant (who told me that more than 90% visitors were Czech and the remainder were mainly Austrian) and entered through the hallway.

Useful tip 1 The shoes in the rack are actually over shoes, leave your own footwear on or you will look as big a fool as I did.

Useful tip 2 Take your time and get over shoes that fit, I wish I had.

The museum is the sole branch of the Praha Museum and is situated in the former abbey of a Cistercian monastery, the one way system for visitors takes you through this magnificent building. Some of the ceilings are beautifully decorated and the highly polished inlaid floor is also of great interest. As stairs are climbed, the views out of the windows of the exhibition rooms get better.

Post from 16th thru 18th century

Going up the short stairs, the first part of the exhibition deals with organised postal services in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia from the emergence of the first regular postal service. An overview states that in order to transport news, mail, money and people it was necessary to create a network of locations to change horse and keep records of these events. As in other countries locations were created to facilitate the efficient transportation of "the mails".

The museum's earliest exhibit dates from 1526 when Archduke Ferdinand of Habsburg was elected Czech King, and ordered his postmaster to establish a regular route between Praha and the residence of the Imperial court in Wien. Of interest were the copies of messenger's clothes made, during the 1920's, from pictures of the period, one of these dates back to the 13th century.

There is a significant display of historical correspondence and many minor items including mail scales, inkstands, sanders, lamps and other postally related items.

Part of the display deals with two families (the Taxis and the Paars) who had a major hand in organising postal services throughout Europe. Beneath the windows, on raised platforms, are postal cash boxes from the 18th and 19th century. A notice states that by the mid 18th century there were 46 postal stations in Bohemia.

There is also mention of Václav Dragoun the first director of the Post Museum.

Moving into the second room the theme is the development of the postal administration and the legal system which was necessary for it to operate efficiently, some copies of the law are displayed. In glass cases are examples of postal related clothing from the period.

A connecting hall deals with the development of the postal services occasioned by the upturn in trade, industry and finance. This included the start of town mail deliveries, referred to as "clapper" post so named after the clapper in a bell, the bell was rung to denote the arrival of the postman.

A small room deals specifically with post in Praha, it shows that there has been connection with:

- Dresden and Leipzig thru Lovosice since 1664.
- Poland and Russia via Hradec Králové and Vratislav since 1675.
- Brno since 1732.

this is complemented by copies of contemporary maps of the area, and original letters from 1781. There are also mail office timetables displayed in this room.

The maps and timetables are exceedingly interesting in that they show postal development and administrative arrangements with surrounding areas. On display is part of Müller's map of Bohemia from 1720 (the first time post roads and stations). Also displayed is Elsenwanger's map of Bohemia dated 1775. The walls are amusingly decorated with Baroque post signs from the last quarter of the 18th century.

Post in the 19th Century

Moving to the first floor, the rapid changes to the postal services in the 19th century including discoveries and inventions, are dealt with. The introduction of the railways is highlighted because of the way that this speeded the mails, the first vans of railway post dating to 1851 are noted.

The invention of telegraph and telephone improved the speed and quality of communication and the lead up to the World Post Union in 1874 and the International Telegraph Union in 1865 are observed. The fact that the volume of delivered mail increased significantly with the introduction of postage stamps in 1850 is also remarked upon. There are records on the profitability of the post, moneys devoted to technological advances and the formation of communications with other countries.

A large part of the display is devoted to documents from the Post Offices. The section devoted to the development of the postal network shows details of transportation, contemporary pictures, tariffs, maps and documents. A government circular regulating the conditions on railways to conform with the laws of the land is prominently displayed. Various small items are in evidence - inkstands, sand sprinklers, string cases and plugging scissors are included, there is a typewriter which is stated to date from the 1880's. The display of the substantial and artistic post boxes from the period 1840 thru 1880 is accompanied by a note that the first post box dated from 1817.

The long glass cases are full of original uniforms, including:

- a Postillion's used in 1838
- Post Officers
- Director of Field Post late 19th century.

In a prominent position is a highly decorated Dutch stove, presumably from one of the offices.

Telegraph

This section of the display, which comprises a whole room, deals with the developments that led to the transmission of information, using electricity - by "Telegraph". Credit is given to Morse (1837); Hughes (1855); and Baudot (1873). The translation states that the first telegraph line was introduced into the country in 1847 and used equipment based on the works of the Scottish inventor Bain, it goes on to tell how the system was gradually updated and extended with more modern equipment.

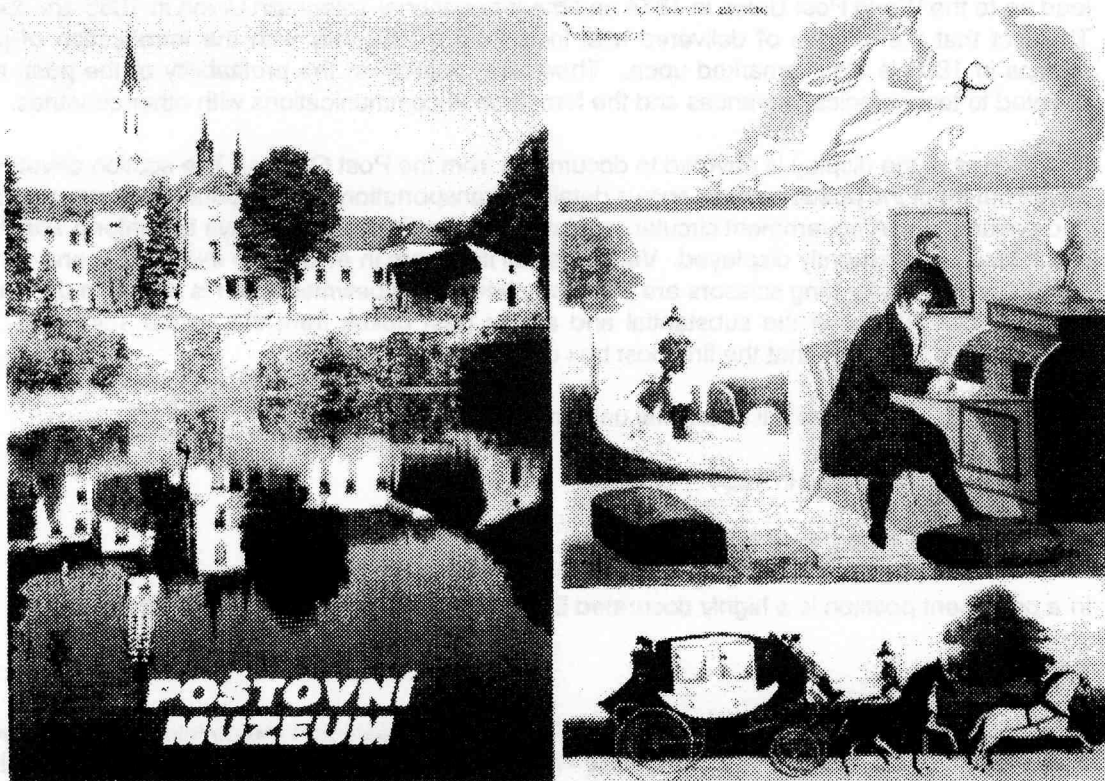
There is a schematic map of the network in Bohemia in 1873, by which time the use of transmission by Telegraph had become more common. Surrounding this are cabinets showing examples of the old equipment and stationery. Quite startling is the display of wires, which have a significantly larger diameter than might otherwise be imagined.

The displays go on to show 20th century developments by Marconi and Popov, it also includes developments of facsimiles. Lastly there is a display of Telex machines which were made by Siemens and Lorenz, these are surrounded by examples of signs for Telegraph Offices.

Telephone

The next room commences with a display board showing the development, from 1876, of the telephone, and is complemented by examples of early equipment. The translation states that the first telephone line in Bohemia was between the offices of a mine in Ledvice and the railway station in Duchcov.

Details of implementation in Bratislava and Praha are illustrated by schematics of the telephone network in 1902. There is also an early telephone directory - Praha 1883. The displays continue with further examples of the progress made and the statement that the first automatic exchange was introduced in Praha during 1925. The author was tempted to pick up the handset on the many old phones that were hanging from the wall but the ever present video cameras were an adequate deterrent.



to be concluded in the next issue.

"WHAT?, WHEN?, WHERE?"

- Members' Queries -

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

Re Bill Dawson's query in Czechout 4/94, page 88.

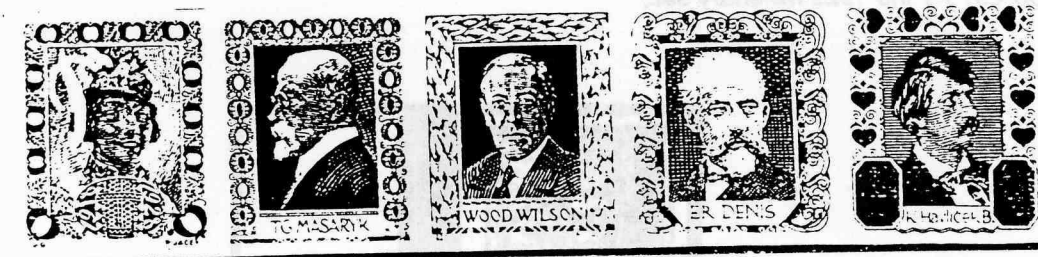
From Fred J Sansom: Further to Bill Dawson's reply to Chris Cordes query, I found his article on unadopted essays most enlightening. In addition to those figuring in that edition of Czechout, my own collection includes the following items

The nude in Figure 1 is as the illustration shown on page 89 but in place of the value it has the dates 1918-1938 and inscribed DVACATE' VYROCI' C S R.



(Figure 1)

As to the se-tenant designs as in figures 5, 6 and 7 shown on page 90, there are two strips of ten designs [both from the top of the sheets] on glazed white card, one in black the other in blue. The designs are much the same but with different borders and are a somewhat larger format. They also exist in ten different colours on gummed paper and perforated. Figures 2 and 3, the strip shown here in two sections.

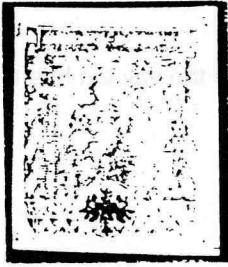


(Figure 2)

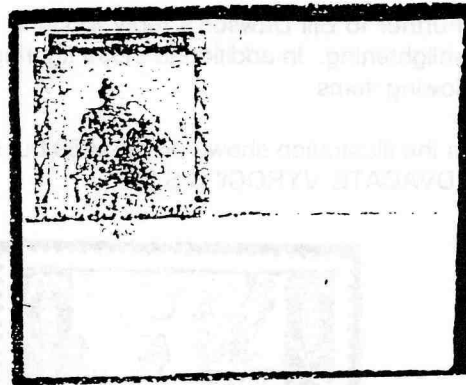


(Figure 3)

The design showing Prince Vaclav [figures 4 and 5] show rough proofs from incompletely etched plates, imperf; on thin white paper and figure 6 shows the completed design which differs from the one shown on page 91 by having an emblem in place of the value, there are three different colours [brown, blue and red] all on gummed white paper and perforated.



(Figure 4)



(Figure 5)



(Figure 6)

In addition to this design is a very beautiful one by the same artist, RIJACEK. Figure 7 shows an essay in black on thin glazed card, dated at top 929-1929 [a thousand year commemorative?] these are also in orange, dull green, red, grey, brown and maroon, [colour trials?]. Inscribed below SVATY VACLAV [Saint Vaclav] when was he beatified?

[Editorial note: In 985, Vaclav's english name is Wenceslas, he was murdered in 929, and buried in S.Vitas Cathedral Prague, his feast is kept on 28 September. See Czechout 4.87, also SG 293-297 for the 1929 Millenary set.]



(Figure 7)

The finished design in a block of four in black [Figure 8 - shown on next page] also exists in dull green, red and brown, all on gummed white paper and perforated. Figure 9 depicts a much enlarged version of the same design. Why was such a lovely design for such a grand occasion never issued?



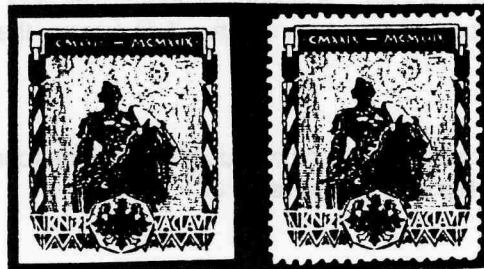
(Figure 8)



(Figure 9)

Figure 9 also exists in maroon, green and red.

Some further notes made by W Alex Page: Reference figures 4, 5 and 6 - The completed design exists also on gummed paper, in imperf and perforated style. Colours [in my collection] - Imperf: Blue, Green, Red and Brown. Perforated: Indigo, Green, Red, Brown and Dull-purple



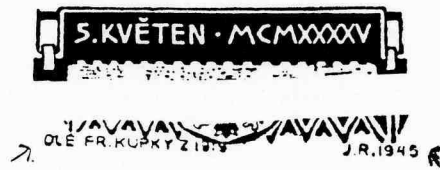
One additional item in similar format and design, but with a different text in the top border and a "give away" imprint at the foot.

Top border: 5 KVĚTEN - MCMXXXV [5th May 1945]

Imprint: DLE FR KUPKY Z 1919-J.R. 1945 [the J.R. could be Rijáček?] Also printed on gummed paper and perforated [my example is in red]. This would appear to have some connection with Liberation in May 1945.



Enlargement of top border text and imprint for clarity.



Two Queries:

From Mr R W Allen: I have a collection devoted to "Errors Corrected", ie of stamps whose design or inscription contains an error which is subsequently corrected in a re-issue. One of the best known is, of course, the 1918 definite issue of Czechoslovakia with the incorrect sunset behind Hradčany Castle, corrected to show a sunrise.

More recently, there have been two issues of this type: 1971 25th Anniversary of UNICEF, 60h value with frame in blue, corrected to frame in black, and 1983 Pigeon Carrier Olympiad, 6k pre-stamped envelope with ČESKOSKOVENSKO inscription, corrected by an overprint ČESKOSLOVENSKO. I wonder if any members of your Society, have any background information on the circumstances of these issues and their subsequent re-issue, including printers and dates of issues, as well as how, or why, the errors came about in the first place?

Rex Dixon: replies, 'There is an article in *Czechout* 2.93 which is an extract from the book *Errors in Postage Stamp Design* by D E G Irvine and M Seshold, NPS 1979, which you have almost certainly referred to yourself. It mentions the Hradčany sunset error, of course, but nothing else that seems of relevance to you. The December 95 issue includes a map of the Prague Castle Hill and shows the precise direction from which Mucha's design is drawn.

It also yields a news article in the 1.84 issue re the ČESKOSKOVENSKO misprint, which reproduces information from Otto Hornung's "World Scene" in *Stamp Collecting* of 1.12.93. It says "It is reported that only some 300 of these [erroneous] covers were sold at Prague post office before the error was discovered and sales were stopped. A reprint of this cover was issued but it came out early in February, that is too late for the commemorative handstamp that was in use from 28th to 31st January."

I assume you have access to the normal catalogues, so don't need information on the dates of issue, etc, for the original stamps, but only for the reprints.

From: Garth Taylor: In preparing some censored covers for our local Loughborough Society President's Cup Competition I realised that one of the British Shield censor stamps - 15918 was not recorded in either Monograph No.1 or Monograph No.5 lists of British Shield Censor Stamps assigned to the Czech Forces. Figure 1 shows the use of Censor No 15818 on a cover dated 19th April 1945, and I believe that this particular censor is known on other Czech Forces covers held by some members of the Society?.

The cover illustrated by Figure 2 shows the British shield censor handstamp 11692 assigned to the Artillery Company dated 20th March 1945. Closer examination of the censor's signature, Figures 3 and 4, by an enlargement of the signatures in the bottom left of the two covers, Figures 1 and 2 respectively, show that the same person signed both envelopes.

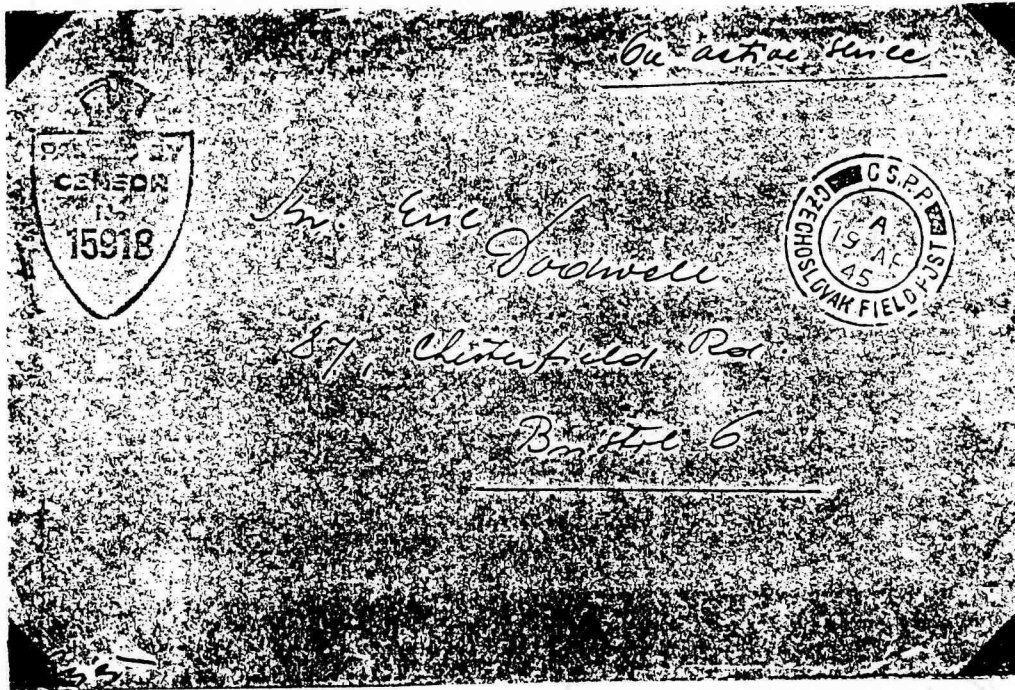


Figure 1

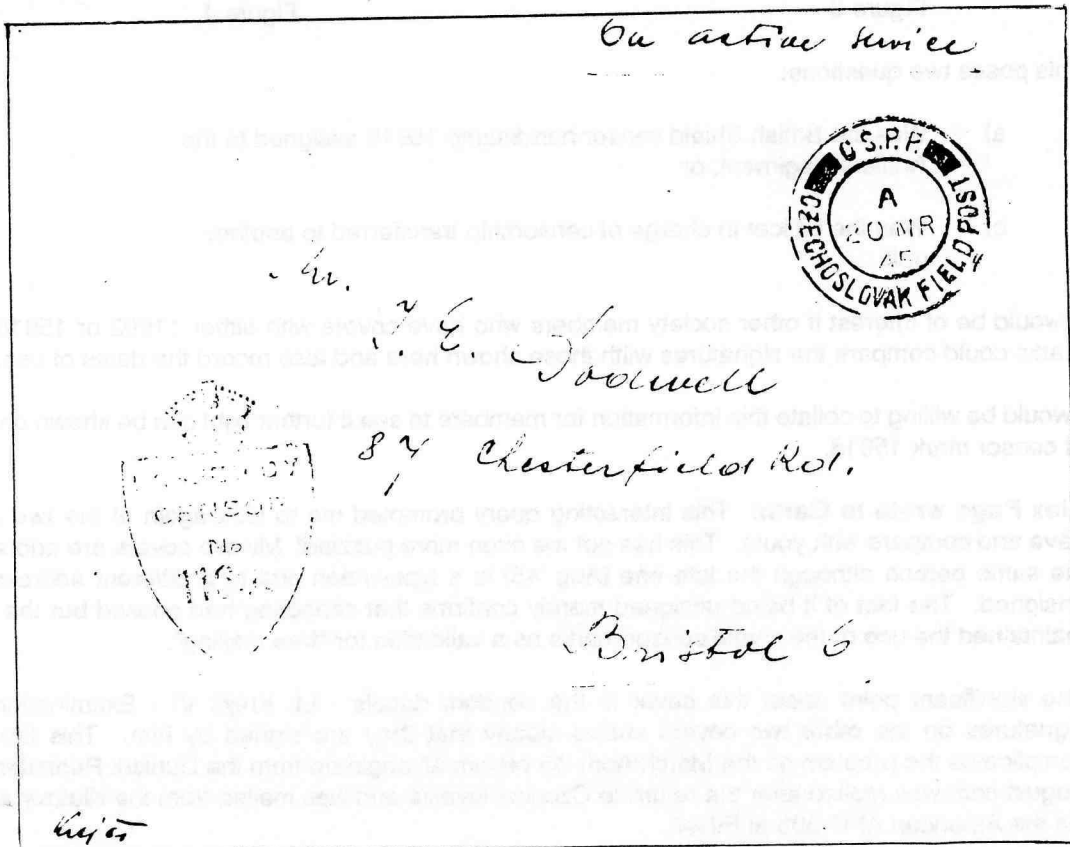


Figure 2

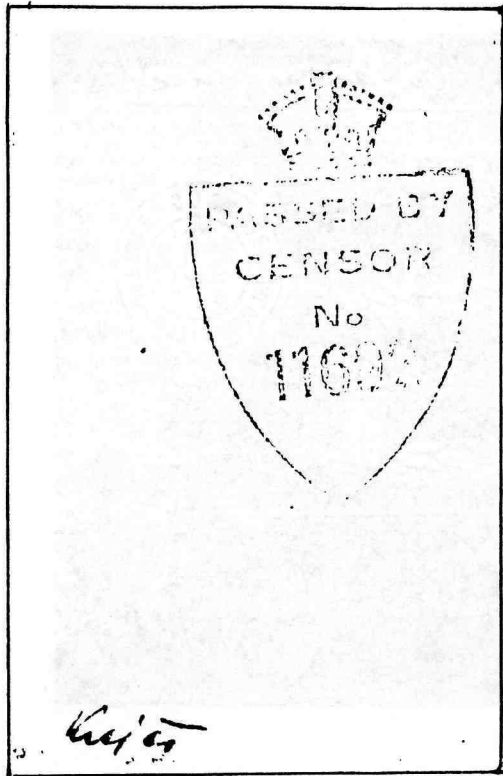


Figure 3

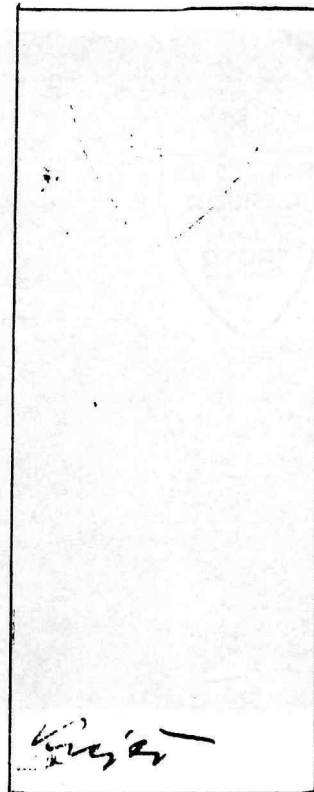


Figure 4

This poses two questions:

- a) Was the British Shield censor handstamp 15918 assigned to the Artillery Regiment, or
- b) Was the Officer in charge of censorship transferred to another unit.

It would be of interest if other society members who have covers with either 11692 or 15918 censor marks could compare the signatures with those shown here and also record the dates of use.

I would be willing to collate this information for members to see if further light can be shown on the use of censor mark 15918.

Alex Page wrote to Garth: This interesting query prompted me to look again at the two covers I have and compare with yours. This has got me even more puzzled! My two covers are addressed to the same person although the late one (Aug '45) is a typewritten one to a different address and is unsigned. The fact of it being unsigned merely confirms that censoring had ceased but the Czechs maintained the use of the shield censor marks as a validation for "free mailing".

The significant point about this cover is the senders details - Lt. Krejčí VI - Examination of the signatures on the other two covers shows clearly that they are signed by him. This link further complicates the problem as the March/April '45 covers all originate from the Dunkirk Perimeter but the August item was mailed after the return to Czechoslovakia and was mailed from the Klatovy area and via the American APO 305 at Pilsen.

That almost confirms that Censor No.15918 was held by the Czechs. Now it seems a how, where and when situation. Was it possibly left by the forces that left the Dunkirk area when the Czechs took over or was it allocated later?

>

Reverting to Censor No.11692 that is unquestionable as 'belonging' to the Artillery regiment - the published information is from records in the Museum at Brno. [Captain Večerek lived in Brno and his widow died recently and is buried there]. I have 14 covers bearing this censor - dating from early September through to 5th September 1945.

I am enclosing copies of my two items for your perusal but think your query should be published 'as is' to see what other feed back arises. I have tried for years to find records of the allocations of the shield censor marks and the equivalent circular types without success. Enquiries to museums, military sources all prove negative - and suggest that such records do not exist - that I find hard to accept. It will be interesting to see whether your query brings forth further information.

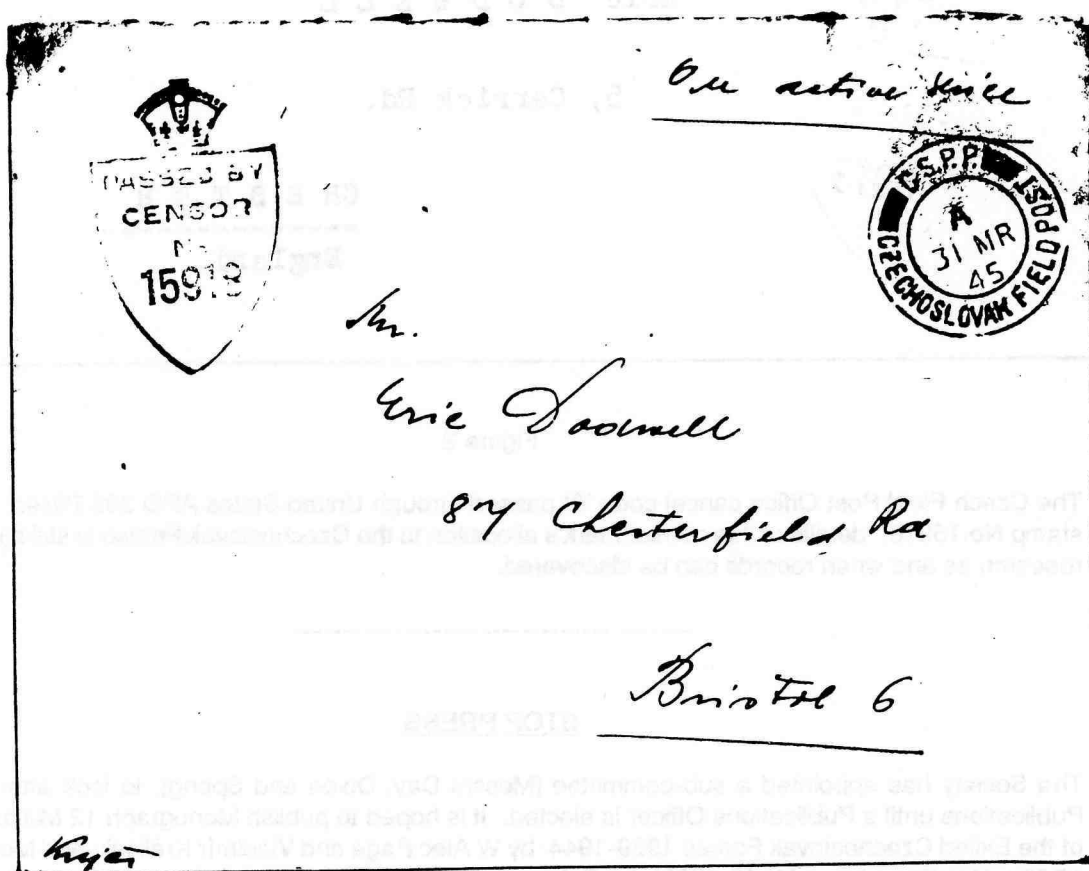


Figure 1

Active Service Mail from Dunkirk Perimeter dated 31st March 1945. Censor 15918 allocation unknown to GB. FPO cancel code 'A'.

The second cover is also Active Service Mail from the Czechoslovak Field Post Office at Nemice u Klatov, dated 3rd August 1945 to Great Britain.

The letter is from Lt. Krejčí VI, whose forwarding address is American Post Office 655 United States Army.

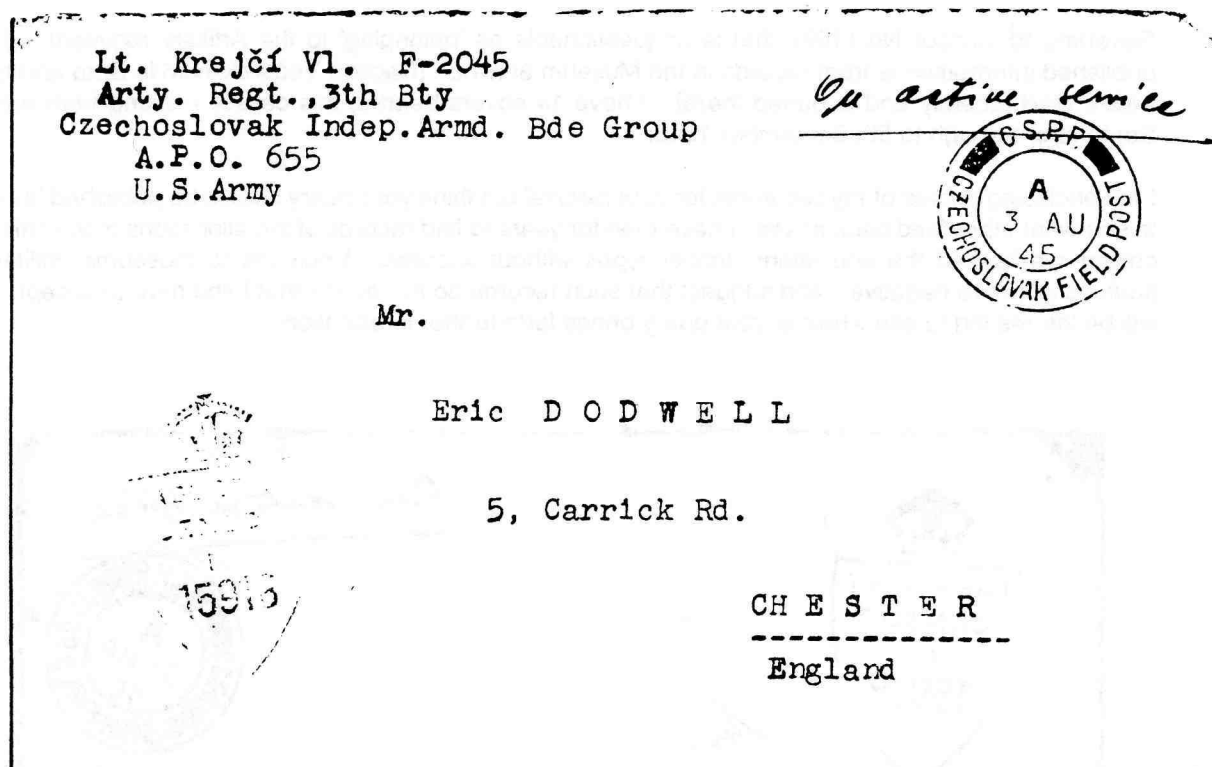


Figure 2

The Czech Field Post Office cancel code 'A' passed through United States APO 305 Pilsen. Censor stamp No.15918, details of this censor mark's allocation to the Czechoslovak Forces is still a matter of research as and when records can be discovered.

STOP PRESS

The Society has appointed a sub-committee [Messrs Day, Dixon and Spong], to look after Society Publications until a Publications Officer is elected. It is hoped to publish Monograph 12 Military Cards of the Exiled Czechoslovak Forces 1939-1944: by W Alec Page and Vladimír Králíček; and Monograph 13 The Hradčany Issue [1918-1920]: by Robert Bradford during 1998/99. We should be pleased to consider any other manuscripts that may be in preparation.

At present back issues of *Czechout* and Society Monographs are being looked after by Rex Dixon, to whom requests should be addressed.

We understand that for the time being, no further issues of the journal *Slovenská Filatelie* will be published. We will cease exchanging journals until further information is received.

However, we have agreed to exchange journals with the Society for Polish Philately in GB.

Opinions expressed in articles in Czechout are the sole responsibility of the author(s), and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Society.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

Lindy Knight

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

20.1.98

TRADITION OF CZECH STAMP PRODUCTION



Designer: Jaroslav Fišer Engraver: Václav Fajt

Printing: Rotary recess with photogravure in red-brown and green in sheets of 30 at 12.60Kč each. Stamp size 40x23mm.

Design: From the 1920 Economy & Science issue originally designed by Jakub Obrovský. Marginal text has 'The Tradition of Czech Stamp Production' in Czech.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in blue-grey with commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet design is a motif from an unaccepted stamp design by Jakub Obrovský with the Praga 98 exhibition logo above.

Booklets: containing 8 stamps and 4 labels with the Praga 98 exhibition logo in red-brown.

20.1.98

XVIIIth OLYMPIC GAMES NAGANO 1998



Designer: Aleš Najbrt Engraver: Bohumil Šneider

Printing: Multi-coloured offset in sheets of 50 at 7Kč each, by Victoria Security Printing Prague. Stamp size 23x20mm.

Design: The background represents a used ice rink surface on which is superimposed the coloured Olympic rings and a flying hockey puck with Olympic rings in grey. The text in Czech language commemorates the Games.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates has a commemorative Praha cancel. The cachet in dark blue has the Olympic rings with two hockey pucks.

22.1.98

DEFINITIVE - PRESIDENT VÁCLAV HAVEL



Designer: Jiří Rathouský Engraver: Milos Ondráček

Printing: rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 100 at 4.60Kč each. Stamp size 19x23mm.

Design: Portrait of President in green with denomination and Česká Republika in red.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in red with a commemorative Praha Hrad cancellation. The cachet design is the lion of Bohemia with a torch and the initials V.H.

4.2.98

LOVE



Designer: Vladimír Suchánek **Engraver:** Milos Ondráček

Printing: rotary recess combined with photogravure in black, ochre, red, blue and gold in sheets of 50 at 4Kč each. Stamp size 23x30mm

Design: A red heart with flying cupid aiming an arrow of love from a bow. Stamp is a reminder of St.Valentine, the patron of true love whose name day is 14 February.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in gold with a commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet design is a hand offering a rose, with the text in Czech "With love".

25.2.98

HISTORY OF EXHIBITIONS PRAGA 98



Designer & Engraver: Bedřich Housa

Printing: recess from flat plates combined with offset in dark blue and red in souvenir sheets as illustrated, size 148x105mm. Stamp size 30x23mm.

Design: from the 1938 Vyšehrad issue designed by J.C.Vondrouš. Between the two stamps is the logo of the Praga 98 exhibition. The souvenir sheet commemorates 60 years since the first Praga Exhibition in 1938. The text in Czech promotes the International Postage Stamp Exhibition with the years 1938-1998 below.

FDC printed recess from flat plates in red with a commemorative Praha cancellation. The cachet is from the Praga 1938 souvenir sheet stamp design Hradčany.

25.2.98

WORLD SKIBOB CHAMPIONSHIP



Designer: Krystof Krejča **Engraver:** Milos Ondráček

Printing: rotary recess in dark blue with photogravure in yellow, red and light blue, in sheets of 50 at 8Kč each. Stamp size 30x23mm.

Design: a skier taking part in the slalom race with the text in Czech 'The World Skibob Championship 1998' The issue commemorates the event to take place in Spindlerův mlýn 9-15 March 1998

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in dark blue with a commemorative cancellation from Spindlerův mlýn. The cachet is a race participant against an uneven race track.

POSTAL STATIONERY

24.10.97 Promotional Postcard
Sindelfingen 97

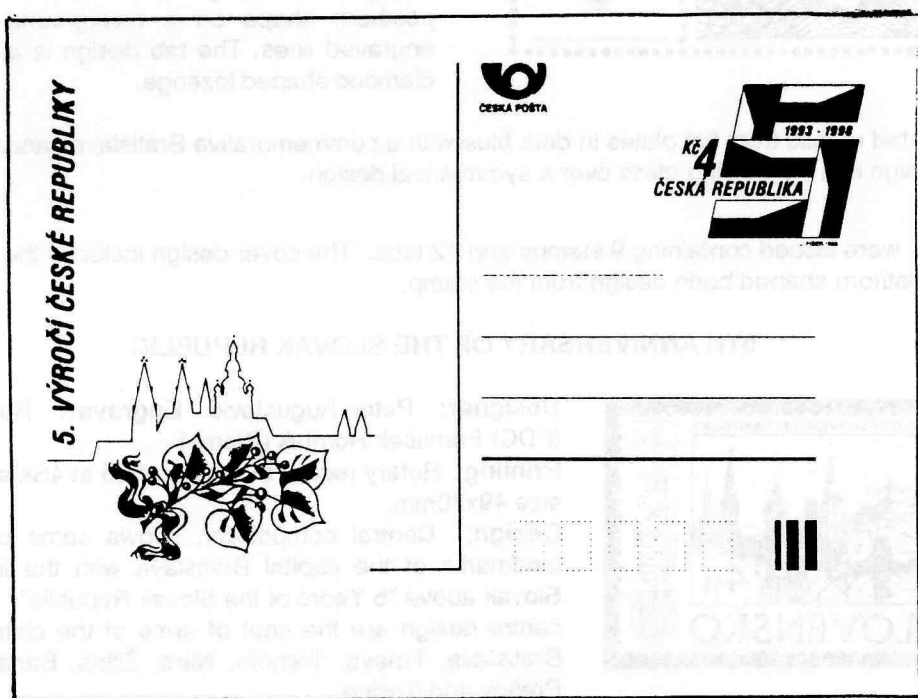
Imprinted 4Kč postage design as illustrated Czechout 2/97 page 50. Cachet design promotes the International Stamp Bourse held at Sindelfingen from 24-26 October 1997.

13.11.97 Promotional Postcard
Exhibition of Old Masters

Imprinted 4Kč postage design as illustrated Czechout 2/97 page 50. Cachet has reproduction of a painting by the artist Master Theodoricus. The marginal inscription has the National Gallery emblem with dates of the exhibition 13.11.97 to 26.4.1998 at St.Agne's Convent Prague.

28.11.97 Promotional Postcard
Monaco 97

Imprinted 4Kč postage design as illustrated Czechout 2/97 page 50. Cachet design promotes the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Monaco from 28-30 November 1997.

1.1.98 Special Postcard
5th Anniversary of the Czech Republic

Designer: Jaroslav Fišer. **Printing:** Multi-coloured offset

Design: Imprinted postage design 4Kč has the figure 5 formed by the national flags accompanied by the years 1993-1998 and text Česká Republika. The picture part of the card has a stylized panorama of Prague Castle with a lime (linden) twig tied with a red, white and blue ribbon and the text in Czech "5th Anniversary of the Czech Republic".

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1.12.97

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL



Designer and Engraver: Martin Činovský

Printing: Rotary recess in sheets of 50 at 4Sk each. Stamp size 23x30mm.

Design: taken from Vincent Hložík cycle of original art works entitled Old and New Testaments. Stamp depicts Resurrection of Christ. This issue is a response to Pope John Paul II's Encyclical 'The Approaching Third Millennium' - a three year period of spiritual and moral preparation beginning in 1997 with the first year theme of Jesus Christ The Sacrament of Baptism.

FDC: recess printing from flat plates in dark brown with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design was engraved by Arnold Feke and is part of the work Nativity from Hložík's Old and New Testament cycle.

18.12.97

POSTAGE STAMP DAY



Designer: Robert Brun **Engraver:** František Horniak

Printing: Rotary recess in sheets of 30 stamps at 4Sk each with 40 tabs. Stamp size 40x23mm. Tab 19x23mm

Design: An engraver's burin twisted into a posthorn shape on a background network of engraved lines. The tab design is an eye with a diamond shaped lozenge.

FDC: printed recess from flat plates in dark blue with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet design is a magnifying glass over a symmetrical design.

Booklets: were issued containing 9 stamps and 12 tabs. The cover design includes the FDC cachet and the posthorn shaped burin design from the stamp.

1.1.98

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



Designer: Peter Augustovič **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik (FDC) František Horniak (Stamp)

Printing: Rotary recess in sheets of 25 at 4Sk each. Stamp size 49x30mm.

Design: Central composition shows some of the major landmarks of the capital Bratislava with the inscription in Slovak above "5 Years of the Slovak Republic". Flanking the centre design are the coat of arms of the district towns of Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice.

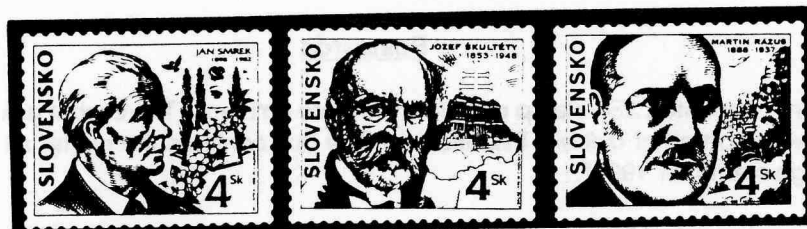
FDC: printed recess from flat plates in dark blue with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet is a view of the High Tatra peak Kriváň and in the foreground the hilt of a sword from the Great Moravian Empire era found at the Blatnica site near Martin.

Booklets: of 10 stamps were issued. The cover design is a background of various buildings with an outline map in red, blue and white of Slovakia and the state emblem. The inscription in red in Slovak commemorates 5 years of the Republic.

19.1.98

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES NAGANO 1998**Designer:** Igor Piačka **Engraver:** Bohumil Šneider**Printing:** Rotary recess in sheets of 50 at 19Sk each. Stamp size 40x23mm**Design:** An ice hockey player in motion with the five Olympic rings**FDC:** printed recess from flat plates in grey-blue with a commemorative Bratislava cancellation. The cachet shows two ice hockey players with the five Olympic rings above.

19.1.98

PERSONALITIES**Printing:** Rotary recess in sheets of 50 stamps at 4Sk each. Stamp size 30x23mm.**Designs:**

a) **Ján Smrek** (real name Ján Čietek) 1898-1982 poet, translator, journalist and cultural organizer. **Designer:** Marian Čapka **Engraver:** Rudolf Cigánik. Stamp has a portrait of Smrek with his name and birth/death dates. **FDC:** printed recess from flat plates in green-brown with a commemorative Modra cancellation. The cachet design is from an illustrative interpretation of a poem by Smrek.

b) **Jozef Škultéty** 1853-1948, literary critic, historian, linguist, translator and journalist. From 1919 to 1948 he was head of the Matica slovenská, the Slovak national cultural institution. **Designer:** Jozef Baláž **Engraver:** Martin Cinovský. Stamp has a portrait of Škultéty with his name and birth/death dates. **FDC:** printed recess from flat plates in gray blue engraved by Arnold Feko. The commemorative cancellation is from Martin. The cachet design is a symbolic representation of his life work and facsimile signature.

c) **Martin Rázus** 1888-1937 Lutheran pastor, writer, journalist and politician. **Designer:** Jan Trojan **Engraver:** František Horniak. Stamp has a portrait of the writer with his name and birth/death dates. **FDC** printed recess from flat plates in black with a commemorative cancellation from Liptovský Mikuláš. The cachet design is an illustration of his idea of creation.

POSTAL STATIONERY**Envelopes**

? 1997 **350 Years of the free royal town Pezinok.** Imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem of the Republic. The cachet in green is of important town buildings with name of the town above. Inscription in gold and small roundel with dates 1647-1997 complete the design.

16.9.97 **Day of World Awareness of Ozone Layer** Imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem of the Republic. The cachet shows a world globe shielded by an open umbrella against a background of sunlit clouds. A first day of issue commemorative cancellation from Bratislava was used.

18.9.97 **Heinrich Von Stephan - 100th anniversary of death** Imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem. The cachet shows a head and shoulders of Von Stephan with name and birth/death dates beneath. A first day of issue commemorative cancellation from Bratislava with facsimile signature was used.

21.11.97 70 Years of the Tešitelov Brothers in Marianka The imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem. The cachet was designed by Ladislav Pavlovský and printed offset by Kníhtlač Gerthoffer Zohor. Retail price of envelope 9Sk. The cachet in gold and black shows the statue of the Virgin Mary from Marianka. There was a first day of issue commemorative cancellation from Marianka.

12.12.97 Anton Bernolák The imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem. The cachet was designed by Marián Čapka and printed offset by Kníhtlač Gerthoffer Zohor. Retail price of envelope 9Sk. The cachet in black and yellow is a portrait of Bernolák and three books open at the title page. His facsimile signature and birth/death dates complete the design. There was a first day commemorative cancellation from Bratislava.

23.1.98 5th Presidential Conference of Middle European States The imprinted 8Sk stamp is the state emblem. The cachet design incorporates a dove, two entwined hearts and the Slovak state emblem with two building columns supporting a vaulted roof. An inscription Levoča 23-24 Január 1998 complete the design. There was a first day commemorative cancellation from Levoča.

Postcards

Date unknown. Imprinted 3Sk stamp design is the state emblem. The cachet is a reproduction of the 3.5.96 issue with portrait of Izabela Textorisová. The text confirms the stamp as the "Most beautiful Slovak postage stamp for 1996".

Date unknown. Imprinted 3Sk stamp design is the state emblem. The cachet is a child's art work of flying birds. The inscription promotes the 3rd annual Exhibition of Young Peoples ideas for postage stamps held in Detva 1997.

PROPOSED NEW ISSUES 1998

1 January	5th Anniversary of Founding of Slovak Republic	1 at 4Sk
19 January	Winter Olympics Nagano	1 at 19 Sk
19 January	Personalities	3 at 4Sk ea
3 March	Folk Traditions - Easter (+ stamp booklet)	1 at 3Sk
3 March	Splendours of Our Homeland	6Sk, 11Sk, 18Sk (18Sk in bloc)
5 May	Europa - Folk Wedding	1 at 12Sk (+ stamp booklet & in sheets of 8)
5 May	Spiritual Renewal	1 at 16Sk
1 June	Children Centre	1 at 3Sk (+ stamp booklet)
1 June	Anniversary of Revolt in Kragujevac	1 at 3Sk
1 June	Slovak Rising 1848-49	1 at 4Sk with tablet
20 August	Technical Monuments: Historical Railways & Locomotives	4Sk, 10Sk and 15Sk
14 September	Definitive Trnava	1 at 5Sk
14 September	Nature Protection - Fish	4Sk, 11Sk, 16Sk (block of 3) (Maximum Cards)
14 September	Religious Holiday of Virgin Mary	1 at 18Sk (block of 4)
5 October	Ecotofilm 25th Volume	1 at 4Sk (+ stamp booklet)
15 October	Art Martin Benka 10Sk) Ludovit Fulla 12Sk)	in block of 4
3 November	Definitive Prešov	1 at 10Sk
3 November	Christmas 1998	1 at 3Sk (+ stamp booklet + Maximum Card)
18 December	Stamp Day - History of Post	1 at 4Sk + tablet (+ stamp booklet)