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PACIFIC '97 - MAKE ARRANGEMENTS NOW!

PACIFIC '97, which will take place in San Francisco from May 29 to June 8, 1997, is in the advance stages of planning. In fact, it is already too late to apply for exhibit frames. PACIFIC '97 is an International FIP Philatelic Exhibit which takes place in the USA only once each decade.

Our Society will be present at PACIFIC '97 in full force. We will hold our 1997 convention there, have a table on the show floor, present a series of lectures, and hold a Society Breakfast.

The lecture series is planned for Sunday, June 1st, and the Society Breakfast for May 31st. Our principal speakers will be the Czech Commissioner, Ing. Pavel Pittermann and Vice Chairman of the Commission of (Czech) Experts, Ing. Jan Karásek. Details of our planned activities will appear in the SPECIALIST as they become available.

At this time about 25,000 rooms at the major hotels located within walking distance of the Moscone Convention Center where PACIFIC '97 will be located have already been booked by the show management. Our Society has entered into a special arrangement with the HOTEL MILANO, located a short walk from the Moscone Center. This hotel has reserved for us twenty (20) double rooms at a reduced rate of \$125 + tax which must be booked by April 28, 1997 at the VERY latest.

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SEARCHING FOR BILL POWELL

by Karel Holoubek

Who is Bill Powell? We see him as a U. S. Army infantryman fighting for the liberation of Europe from Nazism - as a key member of Allied forces in World War II. We see him disembarking with his countrymen from ships on the French coast as part of the Second Infantry Division and reaching the western section of Bohemia when, at Pilsen, the war ends for him in May 1945. And that is all we know.

Where did he come from? What did he do? What happened to him after the War?

In May 1945, the firm PLANOGRAFIE printed a set of picture post cards in Pilsen.

All but one have simple pictures showing the daily lives of members of the U. S. Armed Forces, their contact with local Czech inhabitants and their activities among them. Based on the styling and the signature they bear, we can conclude there are three series. The size and color of the paper used and the printing on it help us determine the series. We attribute four of the cards to the first series, ten to the second and five to the third.

The first grouping is perhaps the most interesting and is different from the others in color. Of the four in that series, the first card is the most interesting and unique. It has an ornamental frame with the American and Czech flags forming an arch over which appears the title "Yank Soldier's Song" (Fig. 1). The reverse side has the score of the song with English text and the

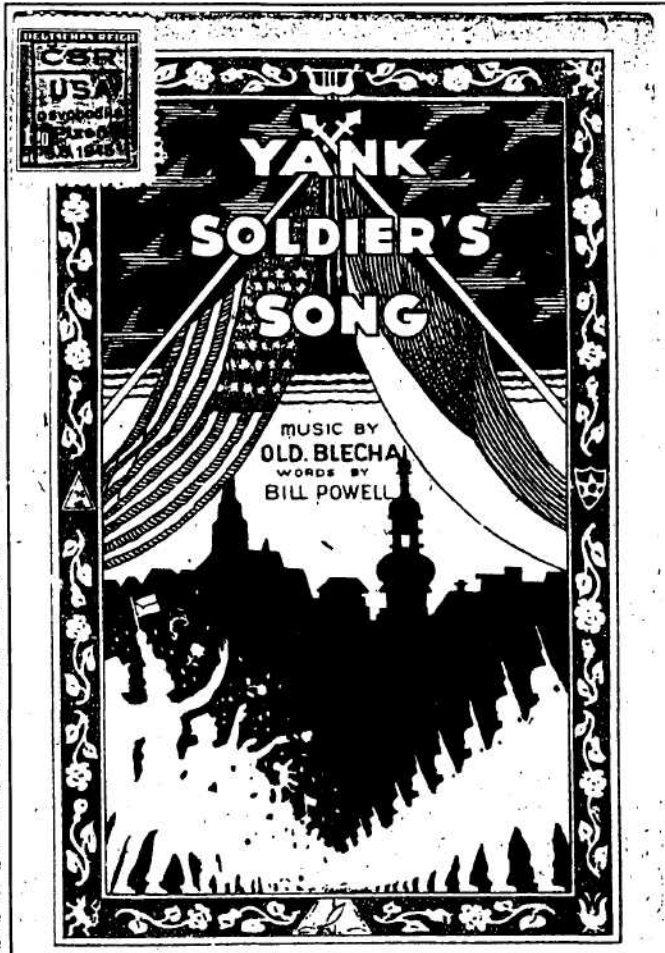


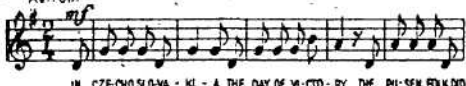
Fig. 1

Czech translation along the bottom. To the right is the addressee part with an Indian head inside a star across a shield - the insignia of the Second Infantry Division (Fig. 2).

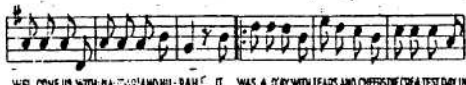
- YANK SOLDIER'S SONG -

Words By Sgt. Bill Powell By Oldř. Blecha

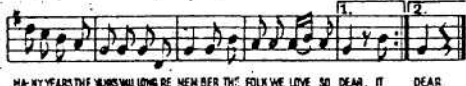
Tric: *Refrain*



IN CZE-CHOSLO-VA - KI - A THE DAY OF VI-CTO - RY, THE PLI-SEN FOLK DO




WEL COME US WITH NA-TOUS AND HU - RAN! IT WAS A DAY WITH TEARS AND CHEERS/WE CELEB TEST DAY IN



MA-NY YEARS/THE WARS WILL LONG RE MEM BER THE FOLK WE LOVE SO DEAR. IT DEAR

VOLNĚ PŘELOŽENO:

V ČESKOSLOVENSKU V DEN VÍTĚZVÍ, PLZEŇSKÝ
LID VÍTAL NÁS: „NAZDAR! A HURÁ!“
BYL TO DEN SLZ A JÁSÁNÍ, NEJVĚTŠÍ DEN ZA MNOHO
LET. AMERIČANĚ BUDOU DLOUHO VZPOMÍNAT NA LID,
KTERÝ TOLIK MILUJÍ. —



Pan
Ludvík Juleš
Thomáškovi 30

Boris

Fig. 2

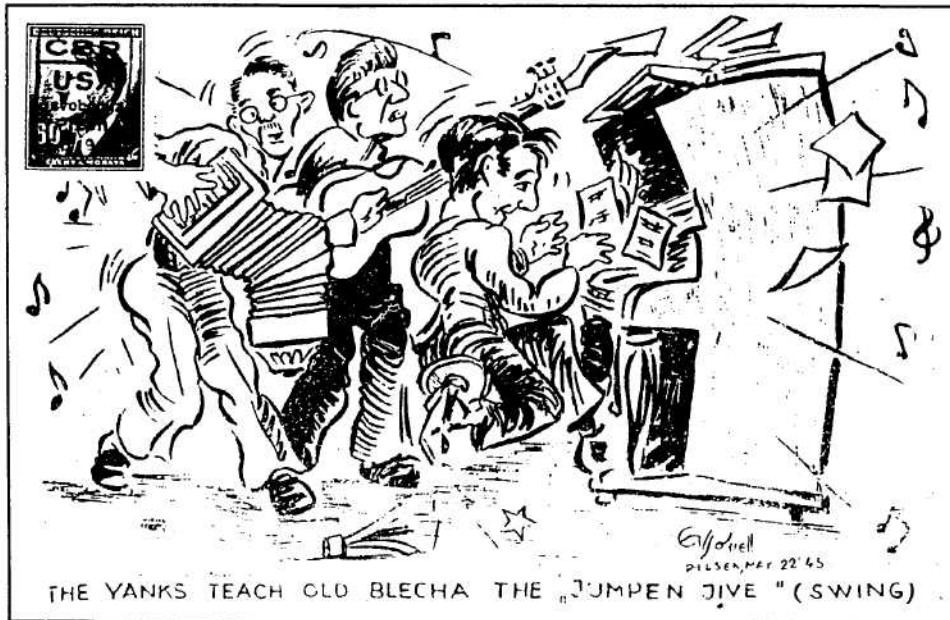


Fig. 3

Note that the name of Bill Powell appears on both sides of the card as the author of the verse, including his rank as a Sergeant. The music composer is listed as Oldř. Blecha. His name suggests he may be a Czech from Pilsen.

The remaining three cards of the series show "Bill Powell" as the signatory with the name and date shown as "Pilsen, May 22, 1945" (Fig. 3, 4, 5). Note all four cards have the Hitler stamp with the overprint "ČSR - USA osvobodila Plzeň May 6, 1945". The addressee side of each card shows the name of the printery: "PLANOGRAFIA PLZEN".

The second and third series of pictorial cards are signed either "Lauda" or "J. Lauda 1945". Note that the pictures in those two series have more realistic drawings than the cartoons and caricatures of the first series. In addition, the Lauda cards have bilingual texts whereas the Powell cards have only English texts. The second grouping of cards is shown in Figures 6 through 14.

In the first and second series, the paper is slightly yellowish while the color of the print is black. But whereas the first series had the usual addressee lines on the reverse side, the second series has that side blank. As for the third series, the drawings are similar to those of the second series, both of them being drawn by Lauda. But the cards of the third grouping have pinkish-colored paper and brown print and are slightly larger than the cards of the first two series.

It seems logical that if all three series were done at the same Printery at about the same time, they were probably printed in equal quantities, i.e. each series had the same number of different cards. Assuming that each grouping had ten cards, then six cards are missing from the first group while five are missing from the third. Of course, if there are actually more than ten cards in the second series, then the other two series would have a correspondingly higher number of cards. If we knew of Bill Powell's whereabouts, he might be able to solve our problem. But without his help, we must turn to the collectors in the hope they can provide some answers.

If anyone has additional cards of the first grouping not shown in these illustrations, please let the author know through the editor of this publication.

(Ed. Note: No illustrations of any cards in the third series have been provided.)



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

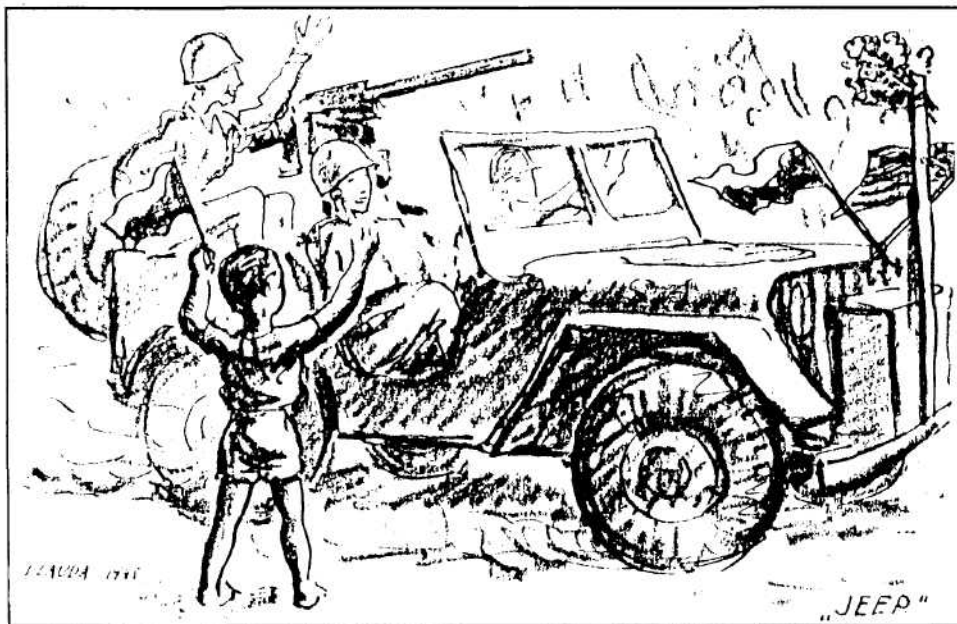


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

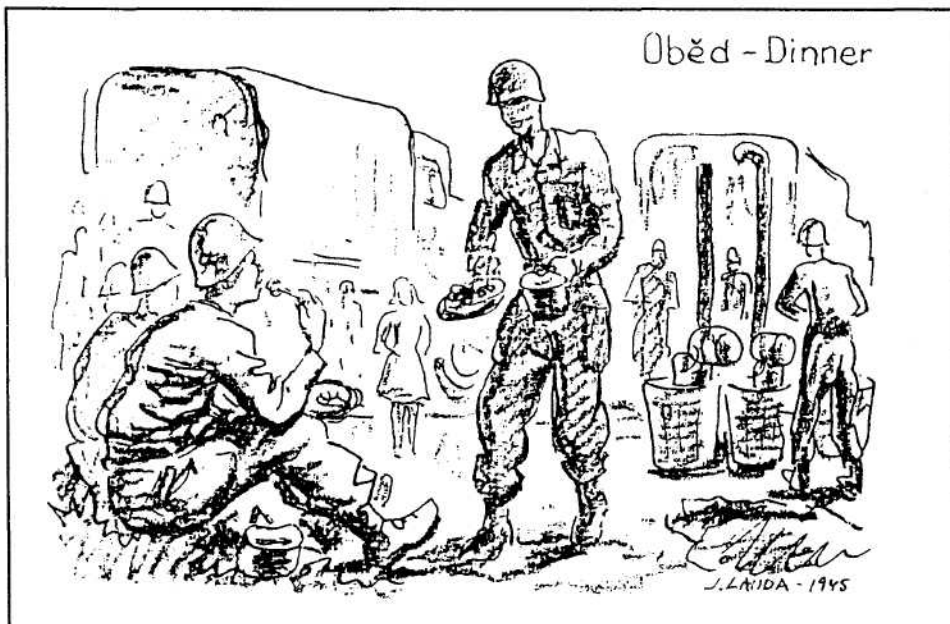


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

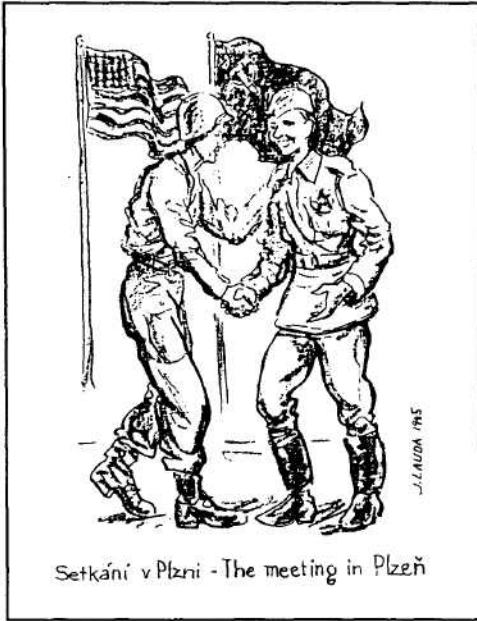


Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

GERMAN CENSORSHIP IN BRATISLAVA by John Miskevich

(Ed. Note: The author, member no. 1697, is a practicing attorney who has an intense interest in the postal history of Czechoslovakia (1919-1939) as well as of Bohemia-Moravia (1939-1945). Since 1983, he has written over 50 articles for the G.P.S. study group publications and, for the past three years, has contributed to the GERMAN SPECIALIST. In this, his first article written for our publication, he responds to an article by Ing. Mirko Bachratý that appeared in our SPECIALIST earlier this year)

I was pleased to see Ing. Mirko Bachratý's article, "A German Censorship Office in Bratislava?" included in the March/April issue of The Czechoslovak Specialist. The article appeared last year in the German language in the AGZ Rundbrief 82/95, at pages 35-38. It was written, apparently in part, as a response to an article I had contributed on the subject, "German Censorship Handstamps in Slovakia 1941 - 1944", printed in the March/April 1995 edition of the Specialist. Publishing Mr. Bachratý's article allows me, for the first time, an opportunity to offer a rebuttal.

The purpose of my earlier article was to document and detail the existence of two distinct and different "Nc" censorship handstamps of a German office located in Bratislava. It was not my purpose to debate the very existence of such an office. The philatelic literature is replete with references to a German facility. I cite two sources within the text of my article. All five References cited by M. Bachratý in his recent essay (including an article penned himself in 1990) are in accord with the viewpoint that there was a German censorship office (at least at one time or another) located in Bratislava between 1941 and 1944. Nevertheless, I am willing to debate the subject.

Without giving us any proof in the form of documents, the author concludes that the "Nc" was a Slovakia censorship office marking and not German. He shows us one very strange cover upon which he rests the bulk of his case. He concludes his article with the statement: "On the basis of the evidence presented, I consider that the question of the origin of the Circle "Nc" Stamp to be resolved." If only I were so sure about anything besides death and taxes!

There is a resemblance between the handstamps "Nc" and various devices used by the Germans to censor or route mail. Shown at Fig. 1a is an "Lc" within a circle. Mail of official government bodies and the Nazi Party were exempt from the German Directive on Communications Service of April 2, 1940 as amended. When this mail found its way to a censorship examining office due to routing procedures, it received a special transit marking "L" (Leitstelle) followed by a lower case code letter of the particular office.¹ In this case it was Cologne. Illustrated at Fig. 1b is a German control and the German Feldpost.² The "Sp" in the square at Fig. 1c stands for "Servicio Publico". It is a German "Leitstempel" (control handstamp) used on mail sent to or from members of the Spanish "Blue



Fig. 1a



Fig. 1b



Fig. 1c



Fig. 1d



Fig. 1e

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Division" serving with the German Army against the Soviet Union.³ The "As" at Fig. 1d is a transit censor marking of the "SS-Feldpostprüfstellen" (SS Feld Post Censorship Offices). The "A" in this device should not be confused with the "Auslandsbriefprüfstellen" (Foreign Letter Examining Offices) processing civilian mail.⁴ The "R." in the circle at Fig. 1e is a routing (possibly censor) handstamp of the Deutsch Reichspost in Bohemia & Moravia.⁵ Only the Germans utilized systems of censorship or routing of mail that involved Circle handstamps approximately 20 to 25 mm in diameter containing code letters.

Overlooked in Bachratý's discussion of the subject is the fact that Slovakia had a significant German minority prior to 1945. Ethnic Germans settled or had been settled on the land for centuries. Prior to the Second World War it is estimated that in the vicinity of Bratislava (Pressburg) as much as 30% of the population was German.⁶ German "language islands" existed all over Slovakia. Most notable was an area around Kremnica (Kremnitz) where as many as one in two of the population was German. Important enclaves also existed in the regions surrounding Poprad (Popper) and Gelnice (Gollnitz). A German commemorative postmark issued at Stuttgart for use on August 4 and 5, 1951 even manages to celebrate "800 Jahre / Slowakeideutschtum" (800th Year / Slovaks of German Ancestry).⁷

The abbreviation "Nc" is said to mean "Německá censura" (German Censor).⁸ The place where the "Nc" turns up is on the mail of Slovakia sent to or received from Switzerland and Hungary. In addition to Slovakia, these two were the only countries in Central Europe during the period 1941 to 1944 not to be under some form of German military occupation. A German Censorship Office at Bratislava would have been a good way to gain some modicum of control over communications between Slovakia and the other two. If the "Nc" means "not censored", as Bachratý contends, then why haven't we encountered it on Slovak mail addressed to, or foreign mail addressed from, countries other than Switzerland and Hungary? It is not far-fetched to believe that the "Nc" examiner's handstamp emanated from a German Censorship Office located in Slovakia.

Let me now turn to the four reasons at pages 7 and 8 why the writer considers the "Nc" not to be of German origin:

1. The author asserts that German centers for the inspection of foreign mail were established in Germany and in occupied lands that lost their postal services. This is not the case. German censorship offices were opened at Oslo and at Trondheim in Norway, as well as at Copenhagen in Denmark. The Norwegians and Danes retained their own postal systems even under German military occupation. There are other examples I could cite. What the Germans often did in countries that they occupied during the Second World War was to introduce an additional postal system -- their own Deutsche Dienstpost (German Official Post).⁹

It is true that Karl-Heinz Riemer in his 1980 catalog, Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs des Während des II. Weltkrieges Durch Deutsche Dienststellen, cited in my article, does not offer specifics that prove that a German examiner's office was located in Bratislava. But at the same time, Bachratý offers no evidence in the form of writings of postal documents that prove the "Nc" is a Slovak marking.

2. That the mail with the "Nc" shows no indication of either additional German censorship is a valuable observation. If a letter were passed by the German examiner at Bratislava, it was probably good enough for the Germans at Vienna. Mail, more suspicious in nature, needing to be opened and read, could be forwarded to the German Censor at Vienna without marking it at Bratislava. Bags of mail, for example, sent from Switzerland direct to Slovakia, could have been processed in such a manner. The German office at Bratislava may have operated as a sub-station for Vienna particularly when the latter's volume was high. Sorting and clearing part of the mail that, on its face, was believed to be of an innocent nature destined for Slovakia or sent from Slovakia may have been its sole function. The Germans are known to have operated a sub-station of

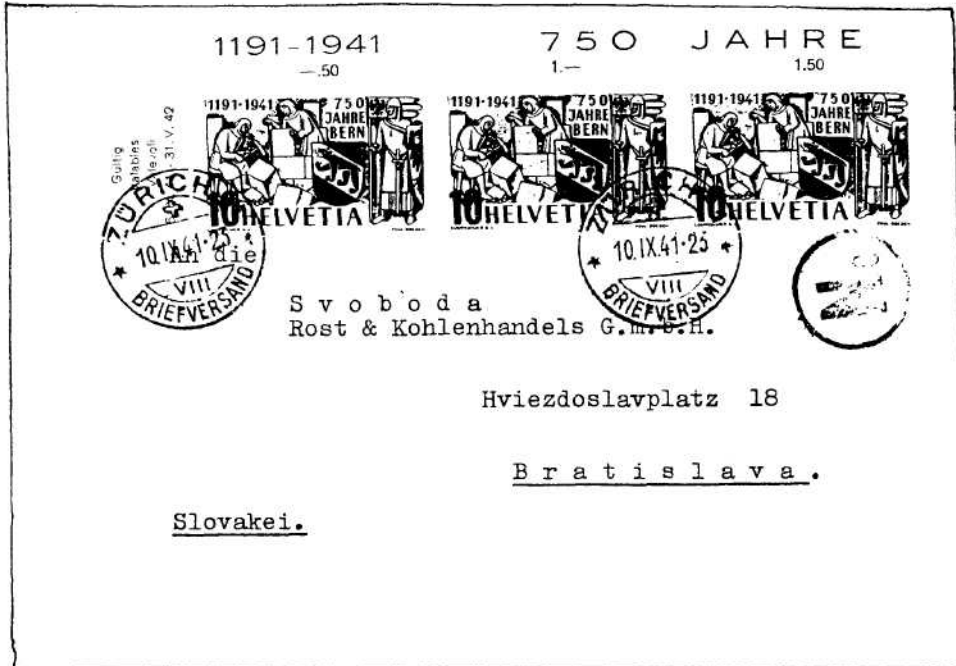


Fig. 2

the Vienna office in Belgrade.¹⁰ This sub-station in German-occupied Serbia is known to have also used the "g" censorship examiners code.

With the above in mind, see the cover at Fig. 2 posted at Zürich, Switzerland, to Bratislava on September 10, 1941. The "Nc" handstamp in use on the envelope is in black. The reverse of the cover is blank except for a printed return address, "K.H. Zürich, Rennweg 1".

3. Despite what M. Bachratý says, the "Nc" handstamps are not found mainly on official correspondence. The cover (not a parcel) which I illustrate at Fig. 3, and in my article of March/April 1995 in the *Specialist* is the exception rather than the rule. It would serve little useful purpose for a German censor to openly examine mail sent to a neutral country (Switzerland) from a government Ministry of one of its brothers-in-arms. Such a pattern of interference might provoke a diplomatic protest. By September 1944, Germany needed all the allies it could muster. It is rather more likely that this letter was passed by a German transit censor at Bratislava. Otherwise, the cover surely would have found its way into the hands of the German Censor at Vienna.

There is no evidence of censorship of the cover at Vienna. It is unlikely that the official mail of a Slovak government ministry would have been routed to one of its own foreign examining censorship offices to be marked "not censored" and not also intercepted at Vienna where it would have received at least a German transit censor handstamp "Ag" indicating that the piece was passed but not read. If the "Nc" mark were that of a German transit censor, there would be no need to duplicate it with an "Ag" at Vienna. In 1944 the Germans would have insisted on making a decision as to whether the contents of this envelope addressed to the Red Cross in Geneva were to be read or not.

4. I have some serious questions about the registered cover(?) at Fig. 4 in M. Bachratý's article. He offers it as "direct proof" that the "Nc" handstamps were used by

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Slovak censors. The cover is a veritable archive of censorship markings. The handstamps were the tools of the Slovak foreign letter examiners; yet, they have been applied to a cover in the internal mail. The cover appears to be a registered mailing from Zilina, but it does not bear the backstamp of the post office of delivery, Bratislava.

It is the author's conjecture that the envelope was part of a "student prank". All the handstamps are in the same color ink so I tend to think that they were applied by one person using a single ink pad. Bachratý thinks that German censors, if they were using



Fig. 3

the "Nc" would not have been party to this prank. Therefore, the "Nc" must be a Slovak examiner's device.

A report, written by the United States Censorship Station in San Juan, Puerto Rico in late 1943, was declassified by the National Archives on October 16, 1991 through a Freedom of Information Act application. It is based in large part on a British report of December 23, 1942. With regard to Slovak censorship it reads in pertinent part as follows:

"Slovakia enjoys the privilege of having her own distinctive censorship, which is reputed to be more lenient than the German Censorship. Although mail from Slovakia is often given a second examination at Vienna, it is frequently permitted to proceed without a second check. Presumably the censorship in Slovakia is under rigid German control."¹¹

I do not think the Slovak censors would have been party to any prank either.

An important question I have concerns the date on which this "censorship fantasy" was created. Was it in 1942, the date on the cover, or was it later? M. Bachratý knows the name of the addressee. He refers to the person as "R.K.", "Police Inspector, Bratislava 1, Office of Censorship". It would be helpful to find out more about "R.K."

The cover does not show the "Nc" handstamp used "in the regular course of the

business" of a censorship facility. That the "Nc" and known Slovak censor handstamps appear on the cover is not definitive. It is the only example of the occurrence that has come to light and it is not a very good one.

Who is to say whether these censorship handstamps and tapes used in Bratislava were not collected by someone for some purpose after the war? The cover may be the creation of a person who gained access to an accumulation of handstamps and tapes. It would not be a unique circumstance. In the field of German philately, collectors are plagued by the dangerous use of actual post office cancellations falling into private hands during and after the Second World War.

I look forward to the presentation of a cover that does not have so many drawbacks. A search of the historical archives in Bratislava might provide a more definitive answer regarding the existence of a German Censorship Office in the City. I leave open the possibility that the "Nc" handstamp are the product of Slovakia's Censorship Office.

FOOTNOTES

1. Houston, Robert J., Mail Surveillance Under the Third Reich, A Handbook of the Third Reich Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society, Inc., Arnold, Maryland, U.S.A. (1980) at Page 21.
2. Michel Handbook-Katalog Deutsche Feldpost 1937-1945, Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH, Munich, Germany, First Edition (1983) at page 83.
3. Id. At page 82.
4. Moxter, H.g., "SS Censorship", The Bulletin of the Civil Censorship Study Group, Chesire, U.K., Vol 9, Nr. 1 (October, 1981) at page; illustrated in Petersen, Heinrich, German Military Mail Cancellations 1937-1945, A Handbook of the Third Reich Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society, Inc., at page 18.
5. Reimer, Karl-Heinz, Die Überwachung des Auslandsbrief-Verkehrs Während Des II. Weltkrieges Durch Deutsche Dienststellen, Düsseldorf, Germany (1980) at page 212.
6. Wiskemann, Elizabeth, Czechs & Germans, St. Martins Press, New York, N.Y., 2nd Ed., (1967) in the chart found after page 118.
7. Bochmann, Julius, Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel, Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau", Düsseldorf, Germany (1956), Vol. 15, page 719.
8. Riemer, at page 210.
9. Schultz, Dr. Hermann, Deutsche Dienstpost 1939-1945, Poststem +pelgilde "Rhein-Donau", Düsseldorf, Germany (1945) Volumes 1 to 8.
10. Houston, at page 5.
11. Fox, Myron, "San Juan Postal Censor's Evaluation of German Censorship", The Bulletin (Third Reich Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society, Inc.) Vol. XXIX, Nr. 4, Whole Nr. 117 (October, 1995) at page 18.

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CARPATHO-UKRAINE IN THE REFLECTION OF HISTORY

by Dr. Walter J. Rauch
Translated by Jay Carrigan
Part II

An even more philatelically rich chapter in the history of postal operations in Carpatho-Ukraine was written in the course of the reorganization of eastern Europe which resulted from the power politics at the end of World War II. Again it was a period of radical change, in which postal decrees often lagged behind the actual events.

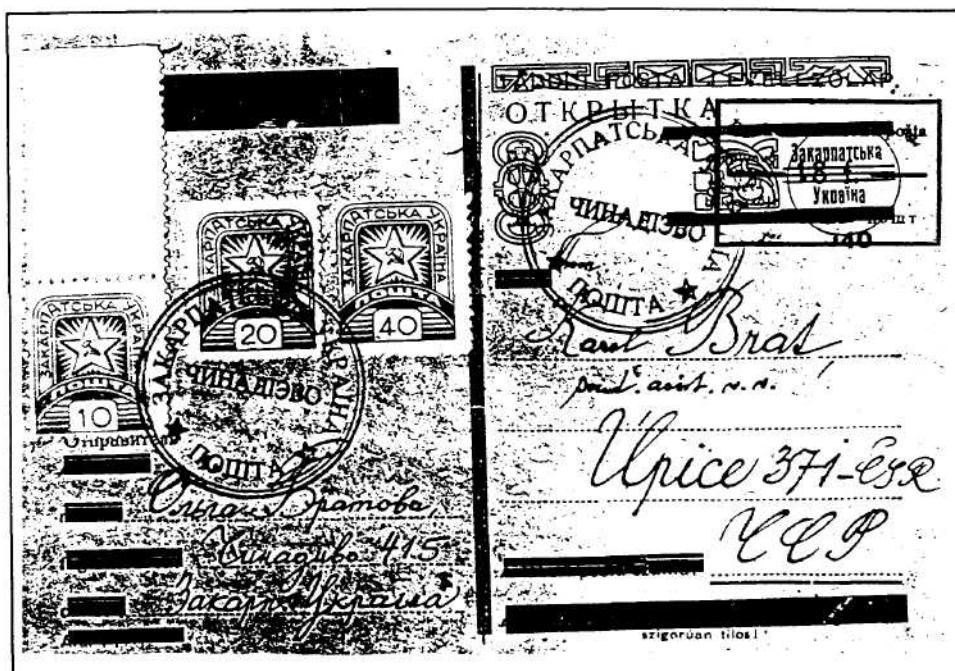
Already on November 11, 1944, delegate-and-fully-empowered Minister Němec, who was dispatched to Carpatho-Ukraine as a representative of the London government-in-exile, ordered that the new sovereignty be recognized by the overprinting of Hungarian

<p>A raktárkönyv folytatásaként 188</p> <p>Bérmentesítési díj: 40</p> <p>A bérlevelek (értékjegyenymatok) helye</p>  <p>A kézbesítéskor fizetendő portó és egyéb díjak:</p> <p>Portó P f</p>	<p>09311940 szám.</p> <p>Levelezőlap</p> <p>Tek.</p> <p>Nagy Rakó/Veliki Rakovete</p> <p>kiadmány alapjául szolgáló ügyszám: v. 231 / 1940 -</p> <p>csatolandó mellékletek száma:</p> <p>táridő: 19 évi hó</p>	 <p>Országos Társadalom- Biztosító Intézetnek</p> <p>Ungvár</p> <p>Vasalya ut. 2. szám.</p>
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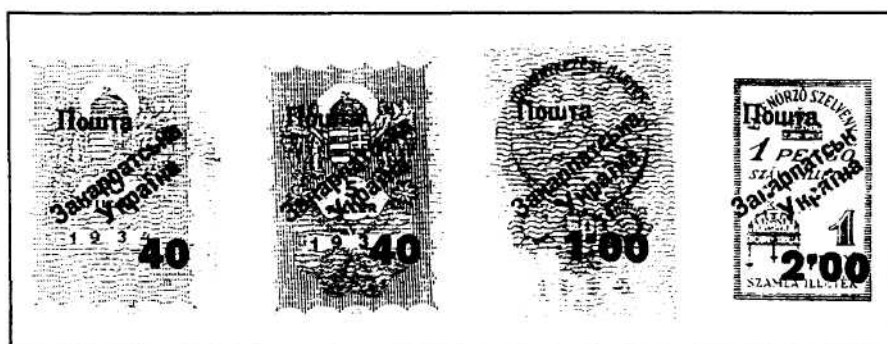
Postal agencies in Carpathalia (Zones I-IV). For 1939-44, B. Simady lists 34 postal agencies; Z. Palotás lists 38 & M. Blaha lists 56. In Zone I V, postal agency cancels were also renationalized with Hungarian names only (since 1941). Shown here are bilingual postal agency cancels "Nagy Rakó/Veliki Rakovete" & "Also-hunkóc/Chuňkovcy" - Zones II-III.

stamp stocks. Towards the end of the month, overprinting was done in the main Chust* post office, by hand, using the two line steel handstamp "ČSP.1944." made by Izak (official protocol memorandum of December 4, 1944). With this decree, it appears that delegate Němec unwittingly gave impetus to two local overprints. At the end of the year in Mukačevo, around 100 postage and revenue stamps as well as postal forms were overprinted and locally used with "Č S R", and in Berehovo, 44 values were overprinted with "Č S P" though without being put to postal use. In Chust itself there were officially around 40 stamps including three wine tax stamps with a total of around 32,700 pieces, plus 16,000 postal cards and 180 double cards as well as 244 letter cards. In addition, a few souvenir items were overprinted in black and delivered to the partly active offices of the Chust, Sevljuš, Tačovo and Volové districts. Foreign correspondence and a few early provisional cancellations are known to exist.

In February 1945, the Czechoslovak government delegation, in the face of an already

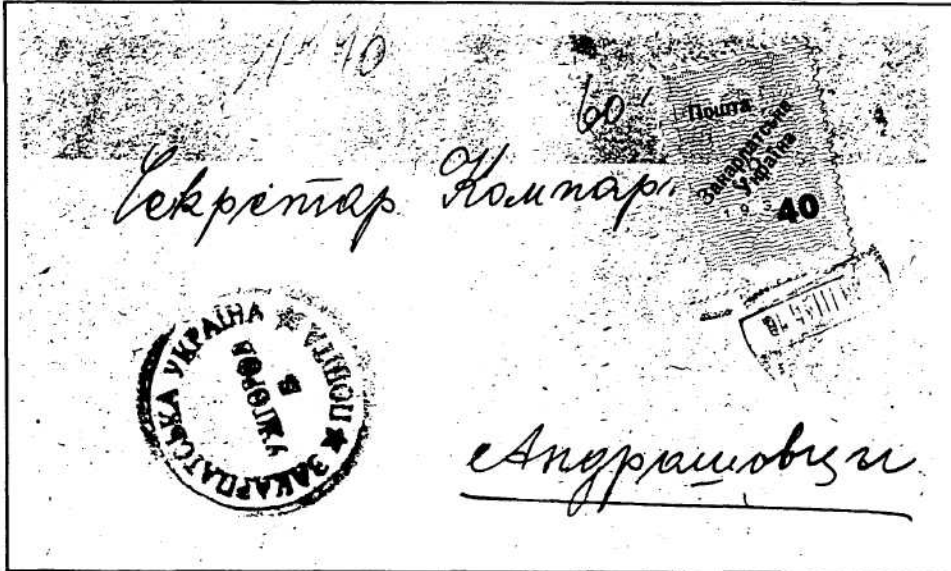


Card mailed from Činadevo (Zone II) showing 4 phases of postal history: 1 - original Hungarian fieldpost card, 2 - bilingual Czech-Ruthenian overprint "Ceskoslovenská pošta" (obliterated), 3-2nd overprint "Transcarpatho Ukraine" of the NRZU national council (also obliterated), 4-additional franking with 2nd definitive issue of NRZU after decision to annex to Ukrainian SSR.

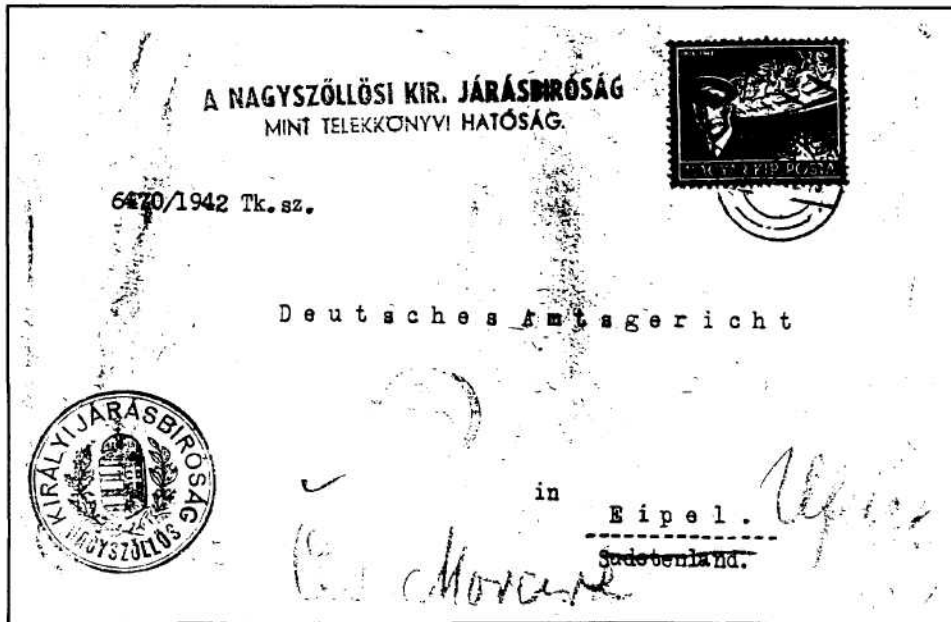


The so-called first edition of overprinted NRZU stamps made at Földesi/Užhorod included about 1,100 revenue stamps and vignettes (altogether 56 types) intended as supplementary franking, which were never placed on sale.

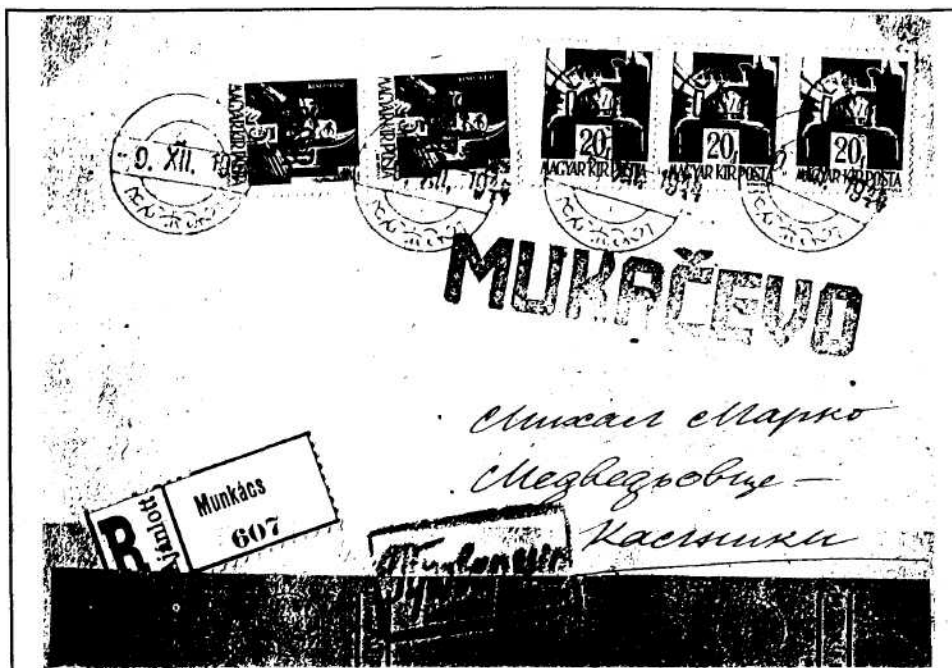
THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



A rare cover from Užhorod cancelled March 29, 1945 showing one of the overprinted NRZU stamps that eluded controls and slipped through as postage.



Court letter from Nagyszöllös/Sevluš. A nationally-conscious postal official changed the destination city from Eipel/Sudetenland to Úpice/Bohemia and Moravia. Censor: Released unexamined handstamp "Ag" - per Riemer Type G-30 (8/41 - 12/43).



In late 1944, a Congress of Ukrainians in Mukačevo directed formation of a National Council (NRZU) which favored annexing easternmost province of "ČSR" to Ukrainian People's Republic. As a protest, a private overprint "ČSR" appeared in Dec. 1944 on Hungarian stamps. Shown here is proven postal usage on cover cancelled on Dec. 9, 1944.

long-established people's council (NRZU), withdrew to Košice to the seat of the provisional Czechoslovak government; a small number of the Chust overprinted stamps were brought along and used here.

In the western part of the territory, people's councils were acting in the name of the Soviet military administration. On November 26, 1944, a Central Congress in Mukačevo demanded annexation by the Soviet Union. On January 3, 1945, the NRZU's national council decreed, among other things, the full resumption of postal operations per postal deputy F.M. Langfelder, the recall of all stamps located in its area of authority for the purpose of overprinting in Užhorod and the introduction of uniform rubber postmarks "Post of Transcarpathian-Ukraine". The overprints, in two layouts of the same wording, with value but with no currency and in black (in part also in red), were produced in February and April 1945 in two printeries (the so-called 1st and 2nd editions). The sole living witness is the Užhorod philatelist, A.M. Dobej who, at the time, was a member of a five-person supervisory commission. The authors M. Blaha, a Czech philatelic expert, and the Hungarian Dr. B. Simády refer to him and his audit report. **

Their sporadically divergent descriptions of the printing sequence in the final analysis only allude to the truly complicated type classification of the NRZU overprints. The many variants are the result of a shortage of type and of a primitive production process (hand typography from flat plate forms). The quantities issued of the 102 overprinted values, drawn together from different postal stocks, varies considerable between a total of 8 and 7,078 copies. Revenue stamps that were overprinted in the same way and were intended for franking use did not in the end reach the postal



Fieldpost in Carpatho-Ukraine from first postwar days cancelled May 15, 1945. Card and propaganda folding letter to Činadovo (Bez Mukačovo).

corresponding organizational chaos, a few franked covers are known. Added to this are several overprint variations (angle of inclination) on postal cards, fieldpost cards, view cards, letter cards - a still incompletely researched field.

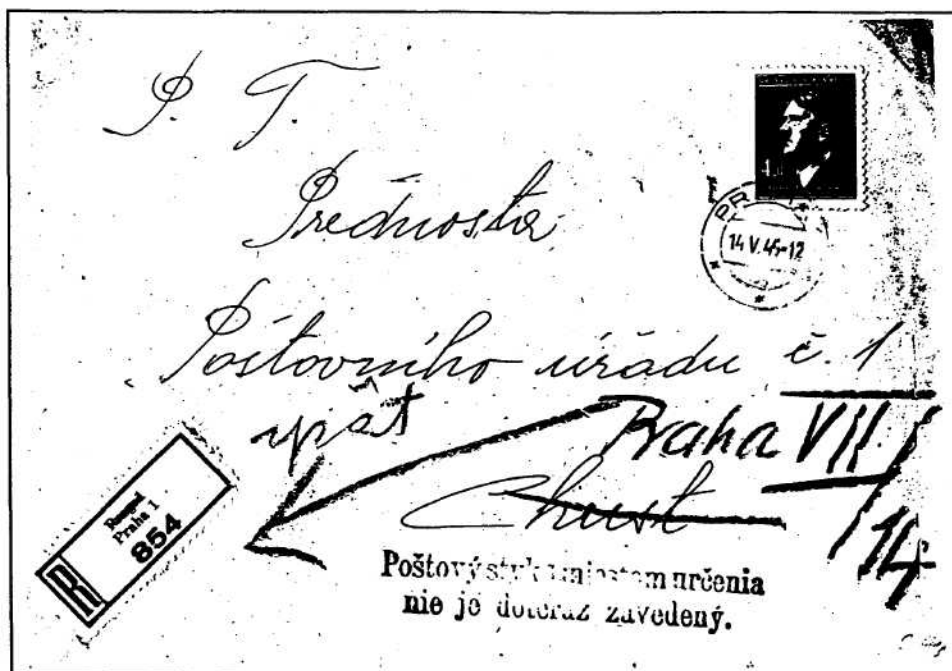
By the middle of February 1945, the remaining provisional stamps from the sphere of influence of the departed Czechoslovak government delegation were called in to Užhorod by the NRZU postal deputies, where they were again overprinted as part of the above-mentioned 2nd "late" edition and accordingly were designated as stamps of the transformed system of power. A total of 12 stamp values received these double overprints (Pošta Zakarpatska Ukraina on ČSP 1944). From the total issue, (1,780 copies), about 70 percent were used. Theoretically, mint stamps are scarcer than exceedingly rare covers; barely more than a dozen remaining copies have been registered.

This is also the case for postal cards that were double overprinted in three towns. The validity of the NRZU provisionals ended on August 31, 1945 (Edict No. 6035/45). By the end of May, "definitive" stamps of the national council had already arrived at postal counters. After a brief period of advertising for designs and a hurried printing at Litografie Lam in Užhorod, three large format values were issued; then in June, six more were printed by typography in the usual stamp format. Finally the 10 and 20 values for printed matter rates were reprinted in August with slight changes in year numerals. All three of these "definitive" NRZU issues are characterized by defects of paper/color/perforation due to inadequate production facilities of the period.

Since the validity of all Carpatho-Ukraine stamps expired on October 15th, the remaining covers are getting collectively scarce. This is especially true not just for the double overprints, but also for the third NRZU issue with "19 - 45" at the base of the stamp. Thus the complicated postwar situation in this underdeveloped region gave us postal historical documents which inspire specialized collectors.

In the Spring of 1945, it was already clear to the government-in-exile of President Beneš

Beneš that the eastern province of the former Czechoslovak Republic would be ceded "according to the will of the people to the victorious Eastern Power." On the 29th of June 1945, the treaty was signed. However, the entire Hungarian-occupied CU territory was not affected. The east Slovakia Zone III that was ceded in 1939 reverted to ČSR II, except for a strategic border strip in former Slovakia (southeast rail line Čop-Užok). The Soviet Union postally took over the former Carpatho-Ukraine with the introduction of ruble currency on November 15, 1945.



Reg. Letter cancelled at Prague on May 14, 1945 sent to Chust postoffice and returned to sender on July 11 with Slovak text (translated): "Postal service to this destination has not yet been resumed." From this text we can conclude that the letter got as far as the still-autonomous postal region of Slovak National Council, but not to its destination in Transcarpathian National Administration (NRZU). Because it was now under Soviet control, Czechoslovak delegates of their London government-in-exile had already retreated to Košice.

The remaining NRZU stamp stocks were, according to protocol, destroyed in Užhorod on December 7, 1945. The whereabouts of a few cancellers, allegedly surrendered to museums, is unclear. On January 22, 1946, through a decree of the Supreme Soviet in the region of the Ukrainian SSR, the "Province of Transcarpathian Ukraine" (Zakarpatskaja oblastj) was created. The only allusion to the earlier conditions was merely a stamped envelope and special cancellation on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the annexation of Carpatho-Ukraine; opportunities for commemorative envelopes for such was heroes from the region as Capt. Jaroš (Svoboda-Armee) were neglected.

Today this territory belongs to the Ukrainian Republic. Philatelists researching the historical aspects of the region, its communications and political consequences, will find

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a highly absorbing field of work is opened up to them. Worldwide there are scarcely more than a half dozen collections.

* These are not the same as the subsequent 44 Berehovo overprints of a 1944 issue, or the 31 "CSP" Berehovo overprints from 1944. Most of the Hungarian stamps used for these overprints were issued after 1939.

** *Translator's Note:* Messrs. Blaha and Simády both died in 1993.

RAILROAD POST OFFICE KOŠICE - HALMEU NO. 992

by Dr. Miroslav Vostatek

Translated by JJ Verner

If there is anything that interests me in the study of postal history, it is (in addition to entires that passed through the mails, and other postal attributes) those items which reflect past realities and the people involved in them.

One of the more exotic railroad post offices (RRPO) of the inter-war years is Railroad Post Office No. 992, Košice - Halmeu; the only trans-border railroad post office between Czechoslovakia and Rumania. Some years ago a philatelist from Brno, Josef Kasal, wrote to me about that RRPO and other interesting things. He himself was an official of the railroad post office and lived in Bohumin at the time. During the mobilization of 1938, he was head of Field Post 12 (Fig. 1), first in Užhorod, later in Perečín.

First, a little geography. Košice is the metropolis of eastern Slovakia and, from there, railroad No. 301 led eastward via Legiň, Michal'any, and Slovenské Nové Město to the town of Jasina in Sub-Carpathian Russia and then on to Chop. Unlike today, in those days, Chop was part of Slovakia. From there the route went to Bat'ovo and Sevluš to Královo nad Tisou. From there, rail line No. 329 ran south to the Rumanian border and to the first Romanian station, Halmeu (Rumanians called it Halmei). It was the only express rail connection from Sub-Carpathian Russia to Rumania and the Balkans. In Rumania, this line was No. 560.

Currently there is a rail connection between Korolev (formerly Královo nad Tisou), which is now in Ukraine, to the Rumanian town of Satu Mare and then on to Cluj.

Josef Kasal worked at the rail post office in Bohumin near Ostrava. From there they carried mail to Košice and from there, after a rest stop, to Jasina (See Czechoslovak stamp: Trojan No. 236) or to Halmeu and return. The trip took several days. He remembered that in 1936 they went from Košice in a small, four-axle mail car attached to Express No. 2 that ran from Praha to Jasina. Normally larger, four-axle mail cars were used on this route. Kasal recalled that the Express roared through the flat countryside so fast that the small mail car "flew" more than it rolled. It was therefore very difficult to write anything or otherwise do other necessary work due to the shaking and swaying of the car. They carried mail for Sub-Carpathian Russia; they also had many mail bags destined for Rumania and Bulgaria. (Figure 2 shows the type of mail bag routing ticket used by the railroad post offices. This one is from the Praha-Košice line). In Slovenské Nové Město they took on additional mail from Hungary for Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria.



Fig. 1

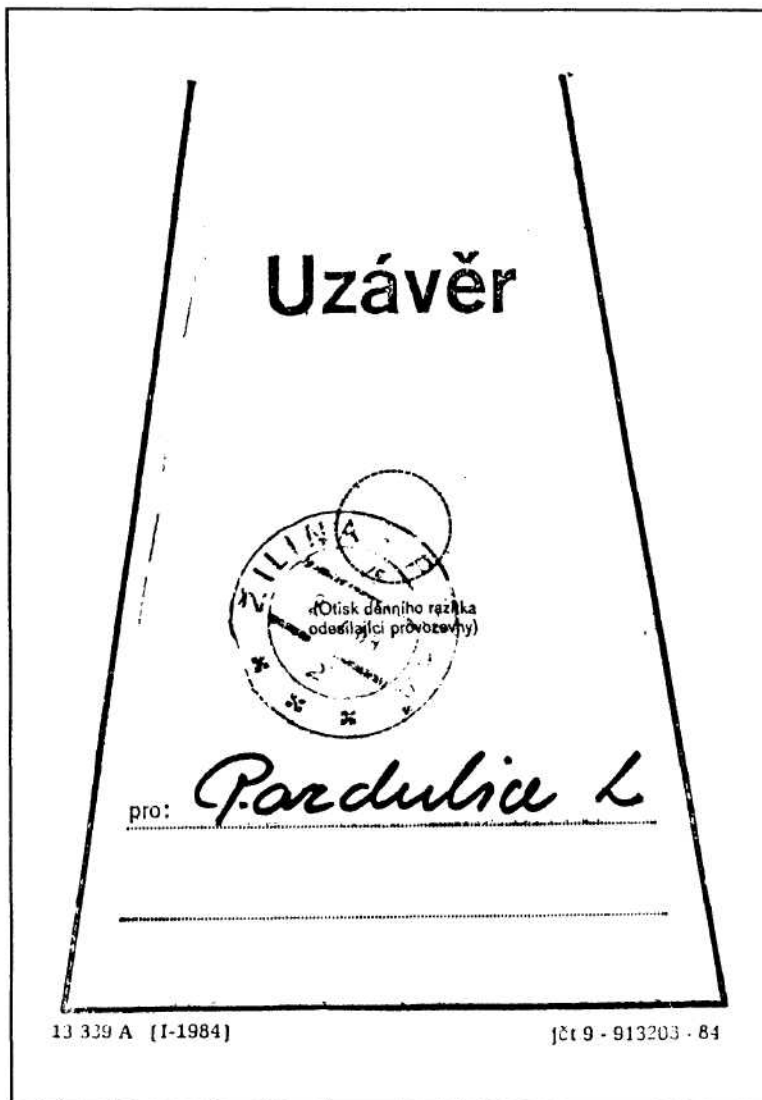


Fig. 2

The train took three hours to cover the distance from Košice to Královo nad Tisou. Here the mail car was disconnected from the Express which continued to Jasina. (Figure 3 shows a post card with a Jasina-Košice post mark). The post office rented rooms where the crews of railroad post offices rested before taking the leg to Halmeu. A short express train came through Jasina and the mail car was attached to it. The railroad station in Královo nad Tisou was destroyed during World War I and both the station and the attached post office were in temporary buildings between the wars. However,

it did have its own, distinctive postmark. It was not far from Královo to Rumania and en route the train passed through the stations of Tekovo, Sasovo, Černý, Ardov, and Dakovo. Following the arrival in Halmeu, the mail bags and parcels were turned over to the Rumanian postal authorities and the mail car was shunted onto a spare rail. Even

circumstances in which they worked to deliver the mails. On the other hand, the postmark from Královo nad Tisou station reminds us of the unhealed wounds of World War I when World War II was just around the corner. (Fig. 5A shows the postmark in Czech above the date and Ukrainian below the date. Fig. 5B uses the Hungarian name for Královo nad Tisou, showing it first in the Latin alphabet and then in the Cyrillic version.)

LEGIOBANKA SEAL by Frank Garancovsky

Recent Legiobanka articles printed in the SPECIALIST of July/August '95 by Henry Hahn (letters to the Editor), and in the March/April; '96 issue as well as an article by Stig Asklund on Legiobanka meter stamps, appears to invite further research. Having read these recently, I came across an interesting cover in a dealer's stock at a recent Ohio stamp show. On its face, it appears to be a rather unpretentious registered air mail cover franked with six different stamps totaling 7 kcs.

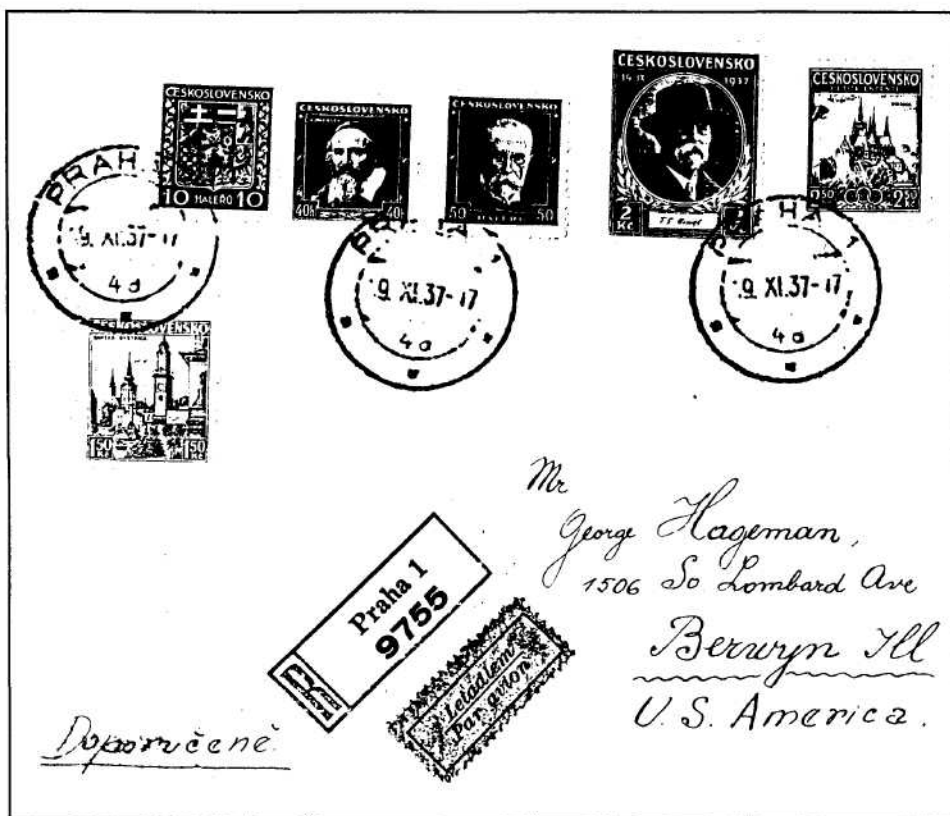


Fig. 1

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The 2 kcs black Masaryk (Scott 235/Trojan 325), along with the 5h black Masaryk (Scott 234/Trojan 324) plus other commemoratives and regular issue stamps make it colorful cover, although it may be overfranked by 50h for no apparent reason. The stamps on cover represented enough lower value variety to properly frank the piece at the proper rate of 6.50 kcs.

The paper of the cover is of a carton type quality, quite heavy and would have required the second rate of postage. The 2kc Masaryk was printed with tabs, so this cover completed a page of my Masaryk section. My surprise bonus was the return address on the reverse: a very legible sender's name and address of the Legiobanka, and a Legiobanka label to complete the sealing of the letter. The label is blue and portrays the bank building on 22 Porio Street in Prague. The lettering at the base of the label is raised and reads, "The Central Bank of the Czechoslovak Legion in Prague". The sender is Elias Vilibald, obviously a bank official with the penned return address of Legiobanka completing the cover.

The letter was mailed November 19, 1937, arrived in Chicago on November 30, and was delivered from Berwyn, Illinois on December 1, 1937: outstanding mail service of 12 days from point of origin to destination, considering the specialized handling required for registered mail.

I am happy to share this with our readers as it adds yet another bit of historical information of the legendary Legions with the Legiobanka label seal tied to a mailed cover.

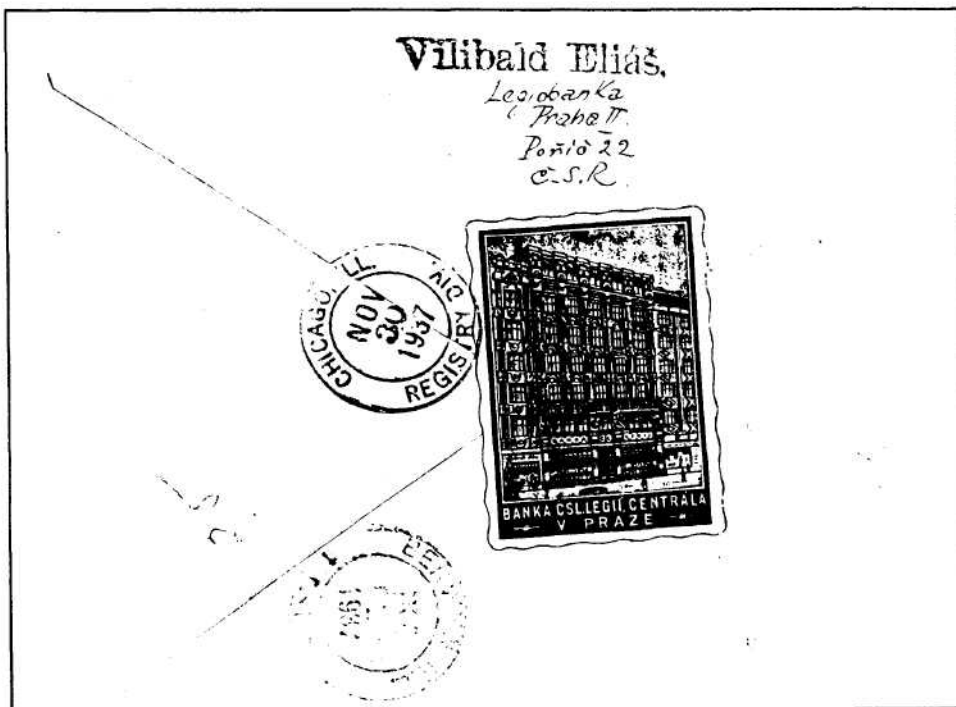


Fig. 2

PROGRESS OF GERMAN WEHRMACHT ON RED CROSS ISSUES

by Miroslav Vostatek
translated by Henry Hahn



First Set



Second Set



Third Set

and unable to drink without assistance. The year 1943, when the last Red Cross stamp issued, shows a stone eagle reminiscent of a gravestone.

Was Max Geyer trying to tell us something?

Have you ever looked at the Protectorates's four German Red Cross sets in chronological order? The first set was issued on June 26, 1940. These as well as the succeeding ones were printed by recess printing and all were designed by the German artist, Max Geyer. The first set pictures a German soldier with a sling about his arm along side a nurse. The second set, issued on April 20, 1941, pictures an alert soldier, lying in bed, being cared for by a nurse. A year later, on September 1, 1942, the third set issued pictures a seriously wounded soldier, with a head bandage, being given a drink by the nurse. Finally, in 1943, the fourth single stamp issue appeared picturing a stone eagle sitting on a red cross next to the Protectorate coat of arms - all in black!

Czech collectors during the war explained the Wehrmacht's progress with the lack of success by Hitler's military. In 1940, the stamp represented Hitler's success in France and the rest of Europe. The Blitzkrieg was successful and the soldier was only slightly wounded. In 1941, the situation worsened with the battles in the Balkans and the attack on the Soviet Union; hence the soldier's wounds were more serious, confining him to a hospital bed. 1942 was the year of the great German slowdown, including the start of the battle of Stalingrad. Rommel in Africa began his retreat. The soldier on the stamp is now heavily bandaged



Fourth Set

Book Review

THERESIENSTADT GHETTO MAIL

In a recent "President's Corner" I wrote about the impact of political events on our hobby. The article focused on the last five years, but there are many other examples we could pull from the past. One such is the fact that the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia decreed that collecting philatelic material from the 1939-1945 period was forbidden because, it argued, such activity would be supporting Fascism. I recall visiting a well-known philatelist in Prague one cold, wintry night in the middle 60s only to find my friend extremely agitated. He and his son had been burning their stock of Bohemia-Moravia material because the government was in the middle of one of its periodic crackdowns on the politically incorrect. My friend gave me the few Bohemia and Moravia stamps remaining, under the proviso that I take them with me and tell no one where I got them. Overreaction? Not really, for the consequences could be severe.

Such a political climate could re-direct philatelic interests. And it did. Since it was illegal to collect, trade or sell material from this period, most collectors in Czechoslovakia either did not collect it or kept very quiet about it. This also meant that there was little philatelic research being done in Czechoslovakia on this period. But times have changed and philatelic interest in the World War II period has increased in the former Czechoslovakia.

A fine example of the new philatelic research now being done is the new book on the mail system connected with the Theresienstadt (Terezín) Ghetto by František Beneš and Patricia Tošnerová that was published in Prague earlier this year by Dum Filatelie Profil containing 343 pages and priced at 2398kcs.

The authors use the mails to illustrate how one link in the policy chain the Nazis forged was used to torment the Jews. By detailing how the mails were used to isolate rather than to connect people, the authors leave us with a real sense of how totally invasive the policies of the occupiers were. No doubt is left in the reader's mind about the ultimate Nazi goal - extermination.

The study begins - as any good history must, even a philatelic one - by establishing the background before which their main topic played out. They do this by laying out in considerable detail not only the postal decrees introduced by the German occupiers, but also the regulations and restrictions Czech Jews faced with regard to property rights, banking services, employment, and health services. These regulations were introduced immediately following the establishment of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia on March 16, 1939. Every aspect of Jewish life was controlled by the new rulers and many of the laws and regulations imposed by the Nazis in this newly occupied territory were simply transferred from Germany. The pervasiveness of the regulations gives the reader a clear understanding of their impact on the daily lives of the Jewish population of the Protectorate.

The second section deals with both the history of the Theresienstadt Ghetto and the organization of the mails serving it. It details the changes in the organization of the postal units responsible for handling the mails, the regulations governing mail to and from prisoners in Theresienstadt, and how the system actually worked. Also included is inter-camp mail and mail to work groups located at sites away from Theresienstadt. Of particular interest to me was the information on the various "transports" to and from Theresienstadt and handling of mail intended for those involved in them.

The regulations for sending parcel mail to the Theresienstadt Ghetto are ably covered in Section Three. The details and controls covered by these regulations were extensive, covering almost every contingency. There certainly was no cost-benefit analysis involved. Section Four deals with the production and use of the "admission stamp" required for sending parcels to Theresienstadt after July 1943. The authors

examine the reasons for introducing the stamp, trace its use, and speculate, based on available documentary evidence, on how many of them may have been used. Also covered is the postal paper connected with the process of allocating the stamps, their delivery to the sender, and cards prisoners sent to acknowledge receipt of the parcels. The section ends with a consideration of some of the generally held, but erroneous, views about these stamps. The final section is a catalog of philatelic material related to the Theresienstadt Ghetto.

In addition to being an important contribution to the Postal History of Czechoslovakia, this is a handsome book. It is printed on high grade chalk paper in what is commonly called the "coffee table" size. It is generously illustrated, mostly in black and white, although it does contain a folio of color reproduction of originals, errors, color presentation copies, and forgeries of the Theresienstadt admission stamp. The text is in Czech, German, and English. Sources used are listed at the end of each section. The book was a joint effort of Prof. and the Prague Postal Museum.

Unfortunately criticism is also in order. While the book contains many interesting illustrations, they are in no way referenced to relevant texts. Hence the reader must guess which illustration is the appropriate companion to which part of the text. Our second criticism is even more serious. While we certainly welcome the effort made (and it certainly was considerable) to produce this book in three languages, it is indeed unfortunate that the quality of the English translation is so poor. The English reader will quickly become aware of the confusion of tenses and frequent word order errors. From time to time the translator gets completely lost when trying to translate a long, complicated Czech sentence. We hasten to add that the English is understandable, but it reads like a translation and, at times, a poor one. Given the effort and cost that went into this book, it is a shame that the publisher did not obtain the services of a native English-speaking editor to produce a more finished English translation.

- Jaroslav J. Verner

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Five of the fifteen Directors of the Society will be elected by June 30, 1997 to replace outgoing Directors Ed Lehecka, Richard Palaschak, Jaroslav Verner, Charles Chesloe and Jane Sterba. (Outgoing Directors may be re-nominated.) Each Director is elected to serve a six year term; five Directors are elected in two year intervals, so that our Board enjoys continuity. Directors who will continue to serve include: Charles Bush, Tom Cossaboom, Phillips Freer, Frank Garancovsky, Henry Hahn, Robert Koschalk, Frederick Lawrence, Donna Lyons, Ludvik Svoboda, and Mirko Vondra.

Serving our Society as a Director is both a serious responsibility and an honor. The Board meets twice each year of which at least one meeting is held at the time and place of our national convention and show. Some Board action is taken through the mail. The Board conducts all Society business, including election of officers and appointment of activity managers.

Each nominee must be nominated by two Society members, other than the nominee with the nominee's full knowledge and consent. Use the nominating form shown on the bottom of page 39. After filling it out, mail the cut-out form to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031 by February 15, 1997. Elections will be completed by May 15th with the new Board assuming responsibilities at our Convention and Meeting at PACIFIC '97 in San Francisco starting May 29th.

CZECH EXHIBITS AT CAPEX '96

by Henry Hahn

CAPEX '96, Canada's FIP World Philatelic Exposition took place in Toronto, Ont. June 8-16. The Commissioner of the Czech Republic was Ing. Jan Karásek, assisted by Ing. Pavel Pittermann, who brought about a half dozen exhibits which, when added to United States and Dutch exhibitors of Czecho, made for a fine showing - though apparently NOT to the jury. As seen below, competitive exhibits received no gold awards - a far cry from other recent FIP exhibits in which golds and large golds were awarded for Czech exhibits. The apparent reason? In looking over the listing of judges, we find not a single judge appears to have had the proper expertise for Central Europe and, in particular, Czechoslovakia. The listing of exhibits and awards in the competitive class is shown below:

Exhibitor	Nationality	Subject	Award	Points
Klein, J.L.	Netherlands	Czechoslovakia 1918-39	Large Vermeil	88
McAuley, G.	Ireland	Where is My Home?	Large Vermeil	87
Karásek, J.	Cz. Rep.	Cz. Air Mail, 1920-39	Large Vermeil	86
Rozhon, M.	Cz. Rep.	Hradčany 1918-29	Vermeil + SP	84
Van Dooremalen, H.	Neth.	PH of Brno, 1647-1869	Vermeil	83
Horák, J.	Cz. Rep.	Century of the Motorcar	Vermeil	82
Vaniček, V.	Cz. Rep.	Austro-Hungarian Navy	Vermeil	82
Lawrence, F.	US	Scouts - 3 Spec. Studies	Vermeil	81
Klim, J.	Cz. Rep.	Hradčany 1918	Vermeil	81
Fischmeister, L.	US	Czecho & Terr., 1918-45	Large Silver	75

Ludvik Pytlíček of the Czech Republic exhibited in the FIP Championship Class.

A particularly refreshing exhibit seen by this writer for the first time was that of Geoffrey McAuley. Shown as a topical, the exhibit is a detailed history of the Czech nation, portrayed through philately of many states and periods.

Czech exhibitors and members of the SCP attending the show met for dinner at a lovely Czech restaurant "U Vlastičky". We missed those of you who did not make it.

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New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On May 29, 1996, the Ministry of Economy issued a 3kč stamp honoring stamps for children. The picture denotes a happy cat with a young boy and girl on its back with letters spelling the name "Czech Republic" across its torso and the word "Dětem" ("For children") below the cat's tongue. Designed by academic painter Adolf Born and engraved by Jirí Bouda, the stamps were printed by the Post Printery in Praha by rotary recess print in black color combined with photogravure in red, green, orange and rose. The picture size is 30 x 23 mm. and the stamps are printed in sheets of 50. (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1

Accompanying it is a First Day Cover with a special cancellation. The cachet bears a drawing of a happy couple. The cover was printed by recess print from flat plates in brown.



Fig. 2

2. On May 29, the Ministry issued a 3kč stamp for the occasion of the forthcoming Olympic games to take place from July 19 to August 4. The stamp depicts a javelin thrower with a red, white and blue spiral background alongside the five-ring Olympic logo. The text along the left side reads (in Czech) "The 26th Summer Olympic Games, Atlanta." Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Milan Erazim and engraved by Martin Srb, the stamp was printed at the Post Printery in Praha by rotary recess print in black color combined with photogravure in red, blue, yellow and green. The stamp size is 23 x 30 mm. and was printed in sheets of 50. (Fig. 2)

Accompanying it is an FDC with a special cancellation. The cachet shows a drawn composition of a javelin, running shoes, bag and the five-ring logo. The FDC was printed by recess print from flat plates in grey-blue.

3. On June 12, the Ministry issued a definitive stamp in its Historical Building Style series - this one on Classicism. Issued in a 4Kč denomination, it pictures the upper portion of a classic portal. Below the name "Czech Republic" is a decorative element of the same style with the text "Klasicismus". Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Jan Solpera and engraved by Bohumil Šnaider, the stamp is of 19 x 23 mm. size and was printed at the Post Printery in Praha by rotary recess print in green-blue combined with photogravure in brown-red in sheets of 100 (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

There are no FDC's for this series of definitive stamps.

4. On June 26, the Ministry issued two stamps in its series commemorating Beauties of its Country. The 8kč shows what the text along its left side indicates in Czech:

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

"J.B.Santini - Green Mountain - Pilgrimage Church" in black, grey, rose and grey-green (Fig. 4a). The 9kč shows what the text along its left side indicates: K.I. Diemstzenhofer - Praha Loretto in black, rose, brown and grey-green. (Fig. 4b) Both stamps were designed by Eva Hašková and engraved by Martin Srb. Both are of 26 x 40mm. size and both were printed at the Post Printery in miniature sheets of 8.

The 8kč stamp has an FDC with special cancellation and a cachet showing the floor plan of the Church of Zelená Hora, including the Pilgrimage Cloisters, printed by recess print from flat plates in black. The 9kč stamp has an FDC with special cancellation with a cachet showing a drawing of the mechanism of the clock in the tower of Loretto. This also was printed by recess print from flat plates in black.



Fig. 4A



Fig. 4B



Fig. 5

5. On May 29, the Ministry issued a postal stationery envelope with an imprinted stamp commemorating the 26th Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. It is of 10kč denomination showing two racers in the water slalom and the five-ring Olympic logo with the appropriate text along the bottom. The stamp was designed by graphic artist Kryštof Krejča and engraved by Václav Fajt. In addition, the envelope was printed at the Post Printery by recess print from flat plates in blue green (the stamp) and in grey-violet (the cachet). The envelope is on sale at a price of 14.50kč. (Fig. 5)



Fig. 6

All stamps, including the above-depicted envelope, are valid for domestic as well as international use from date of issuance until withdrawn from circulation.

SLOVAKIA

1. On Feb. 15, 1996, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 9sk stamp commemorating one hundred years of the Olympic Games. The picture shows a runner with the Acropolis in Athens for a background with text in Slovak (translated): "Alois Sokol, 3rd Place, 100 meters, OH Athens 1896." Designed by Dušan Nágel and engraved by Fran-tíšek

Horniak, the stamp was printed in black with a background of pale green and ochre colors. The FDC features on its cachet the head and shoulders of a runner with awards shown on his jersey. (Fig. 6)



Fig. 7A

Fig. 7B

2. On Feb. 15, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps depicting outstanding personalities. The 3sk stamp honors the 100th anniversary of the birth of the writer, J.C. Hronský (1896-1960). Its colors are black with a background of ochre, brown and violet. The 4sk stamp honors the life of the botanist, Josef L'udovit Holuby (1836-1923) and shows his closeup alongside a blackberry motif. Both stamps were designed and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik and were printed in sheets of 50. (Fig. 7a & 7b)

3. On April 15, the Ministry issued a single 7sk stamp in sheetlet form with text along the bottom reading (translated): "Year of the Eradication of Poverty". The multicolored stamp pictures a derelict landscape through which a naked figure is passing from the past to the future. The tab below the stamp depicts a maze with a heart at its center.



Fig. 8

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Designed by Julia Piačková and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, the sheetlet measures 73 x 90 mm. (Fig. 8)

4. On May 3, the Ministry issued two stamps, each having a value of 8sk and arranged in se-tenant form in two blocks of four separated by a tab as part of its EUROPA series. Featuring the Year of Women, one of the stamps shows a portrait of the first female botanist, Izabela Textorisová, behind a daphne eneorum flower. The other stamp is an allegorical representation of her work with the thistle Carduus Textorianus Marg. named after her. The center tab pictures a motif from Textorisová's herbarium. Designed by J. Baláz and engraved by M. Činovský, they appear in multicolor. The FDC shows on its cachet a female figure by a tree in a rocky landscape. (Fig. 9)



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

5. On May 15, the Ministry issued what appears to be two stamps as a se-tenant, but is actually a single stamp of 16sk value alongside a coupon resembling a second stamp. The stamp itself shows a film strip with two frames of the actor Pal'o Bielik in the title role of JANOŠIK with a text along the top and bottom reading (translated): "100 years of Cinema - Janošik (1936)." The coupon pictures a camera mounted atop three hills overlooking a river. Designed by Igor Benca and engraved by František Horniak, the stamp (as a



Fig. 11

block) measures 79 x 88 mm. and was printed in metallic blue, azure and yellow colors. (Fig. 10)

6. On May 15, the Ministry issued a 12sk stamp with a 2sk surcharge in sheetlet form to aid the Slovak Olympic Committee in sending its athletes to the Atlanta 96 games. Allegorical in nature, the picture shows two hands reaching through a pair of boxing gloves in a handshake. Spanning them is a rainbow and the five-ring Olympic logo. Below the stamp is a drawing of a sailing ship on its way to "A" for "Atlanta." Designed by Oliver Solga and engraved by Bohumil Šneider, the stamp is printed in black and blue with the Slovak tricolor in the rainbow. The FDC shows a dominating "A" on its cachet as well as a discus

thrower and the five-rings. (Fig. 11)

7. On March 15, the Ministry issued a 2sk stamp entitled "Folk Traditions" based on Easter themes. The "tradition" in this case refers to the dousing of women with water as depicted in the picture alongside a few decorative ornaments. (Fig. 12) Designed by Katerina Ševellová and engraved by Martin Činovský, the stamps were printed in sheets of 50. The FDC features the banishing of winter on its cachet which shows two girls carrying the figure Morena, representing winter.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

8. On May 30, the Ministry issued an 18sk stamp commemorating 150 years of Slovak Perspectives. It bears a symbolic design (a page from a Review, a geometrical triple peak and a silhouette of mountains) with the text "Slovenské Pohľady, 1846" in black, red, and blue. Designed by Peter Augustovič and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, it was printed in sheets of 50. (Fig. 13)

9. On May 30, the Ministry issued a stamp publicizing the Slovakia Cycle Race with a denomination of 3sk. The picture shows a long-distance cyclist with the outline of Slovakia's border in the background and the text "Around Slovakia". The stamp was printed in Slovak tricolors in sheets of 50 and was designed by Robert Brun with engraving by Martin Srb. The FDC features a cyclist with laurel leaves on the cachet. (Fig. 14)



Fig. 14

10. On Jan. 25, a postal stationery envelope was issued for the "Office of the Regional UPU Counselor in Bratislava" having a nominal value of 8sk. The imprinted stamp shows the National Emblem of the Slovak Republic. A cachet in

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

the lower left corner bears a motif of the UPU emblem, a silhouette of Bratislava and the inscription; "Office of the Regional UPU Counselor in Bratislava" (translated). The imprinted stamp was designed by Martin Činovský and printed in Praha. The cachet was printed in Bratislava in dark blue and violet.

11. On March 12, another postal stationery envelope was issued to celebrate the Year of Slovak Music. The imprinted stamp, with a value of 8sk, again shows the National Emblem of the Slovak Republic, but the cachet shows a dancing figure and the scroll of a violin with the text (translated): "Year of Slovak Music, 1996". Design is by Igor Piačka.

12. On March 19, yet a third envelope bearing the National Emblem was issued to commemorate 140 years of gas utilities in Slovakia. This 8sk value envelope shows a gas lamp in red and beam of light in orange-yellow with the appropriate text in Slovak, as designed by Milan Spál.

None of the above three envelopes were available to us for illustration. If anyone has mint ones to submit to the editor, they will be published and returned.

Book Review

"CROSS-SECTION OF POSTAL HISTORY OF EAST PRUSSIA TO SUDETENLAND"

A forty page booklet under the above title has recently been published in German, by the Briefmarkenfreunden Dusseldorf eV. (Rethelstr. 133, 40237 Dusseldorf, Germany). Of particular interest to collectors of Czechoslovakia is the booklet's first chapter, authored by Dr. Walter Rauch, entitled "Postal Development in the Serbian Language District of Both Lusatian Settlements". The chapter deals with the Slavic enclave in present-day Germany located due north of Liberec (Reichenberg) inhabited by what the Czechs call "Luzicti Srbove". They include the districts of Oberlausitz and Niederlausitz. The ethnic group has a population of 52,000 and includes "Obersorben" centered in Bautzen, who are Catholic and the "Neidersorben" who speak the Cottbusser dialect, and who are Protestant. In 1635 the region became part of Bohemia, later part of Saxony and, in 1815, all of Niederlausitz and half of Oberlausitz became part of Prussia.

Several re-awakenings of the Slavic spirit continued to 1937, at which time such movements were forbidden. In 1945 there arose a movement for unification with Czechoslovakia, which did not materialize, but left behind some philately.

Dr. Rauch's chapter covers postal documentation up to the end of WWII. A separate chapter section is devoted to the period starting at the end of May 1945. It also covers postmarks, including quite recent bilingual postmarks. Included is relatively recent postal history and the status of post offices in the ethnic region.

The chapter is well illustrated and includes a card bearing a Czechoslovak 1945 (Linden Leaves) 30h stamp with a "LISOV" propaganda cancel advocating union with the Czechoslovak Republic.

We highly recommend this booklet to serious collectors of Czech postal history. We only wish it were in English.

-- Henry Hahn

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

The Czechoslovak Society of Great Britain informative series of monographs is again available. Please note that #10 is newly published and ready. All are in English.

#1 - CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY & AIR FORCE IN EXILE	\$14.00	Postpaid
#3 - POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ OVERPRINTS 1919	\$10.00	"
#4 - CARPATHO-UKRAINE POSTAL MARKINGS	\$14.00	"
#5 - CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN FRANCE	\$19.00	"
#6 - GERMAN OCCUPATION SUDETENLAND	\$14.00	"
#8 - OCCUPATION CZECHOSLOVAK FRONTIER TERR.	\$14.00	"
#9 - FIELD POST OF CZECHOSLOVAK & ALLIED FORCES IN RUSSIA 1918-20	\$14.00	"
#10 - THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE (LONDON 1943 EXHIBITIONS)	\$15.00	"
CUMULATIVE INDEX OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST 1939-92		
	\$15.00	"
TRJAN CATALOG - CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918-92, CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-5	\$20.00	"
THE PHILATELY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR BEGINNERS	\$ 3.50	"
FORGERIES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA POSTAGE STAMPS	\$25.00	"

NEWLY LISTED

SPECIALIZED CATALOG OF STAMPS & POSTAL STATIONERY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-5	\$10.00	"
SPECIALIZED CATALOG OF CZECH STAMPS & POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUED IN 1995	\$ 5.00	"

These two publications were reviewed in detail by Henry Hahn
in the July-August 1996 SPECIALIST (See page 31).

All orders should be placed with:

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.
Attention: Edwin W. Lehecka
217 Hazel Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

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(Pacific 97 - continued from page 1)

It is therefore imperative that you book your room(s) early by contacting the MILANO Hotel, 55 Fifth St., San Francisco, CA 94103. Their toll-free phone number is 800-398-7555, FAX (415) 543- 5843. When contacting their reservationist, be sure to mention the Society for Czechoslovak Philately in order to get the above special rate. A credit card number or advance deposit is required. Reservations canceled without at least a twenty-four hour notice will be subject to one night's room and tax charged to the credit card submitted as a guarantee.

We also recommend that you make your flight reservations early to take advantage of the various low fares the airlines are offering.

It would be much appreciated if you would let us know that you are coming, whether you will attend our breakfast and whether you have made room reservations at the MILANO Hotel. Any suggestions for our program of activities or other related inquiries should be made to: Henry Hahn, (SCP Chairman, PACIFIC '97) 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031. Phone (703) 560-2972; Fax (703) 560-2437; E-mail: hhahn25@aol.com.

NEW MEMBERS

Due to limited space, we have been unable to publish the latest list of New Members since our Jan/Feb 1996 issue. As a result, we welcome all the following New Members into our Society with the realization that this official welcome, in most instances, is long overdue. However, we are, as always, pleased to have them with us and hope they will avail themselves of the many Benefits listed on Page 2 of this issue. If they have any questions about these Benefits, they are encouraged to contact each of the committee chairmen listed next to each Benefit for details.

Member

No.	Name	Address
1763	Hutyra, F.	Chodska 23, Praha 2, Vinohrady Czech Repub. 12000
1764	Teisler, D	262 Prospect Place, Brooklyn NY 11238
1765	Miyazaki, Kazunori	2-15-1 Tajiri Cyo, Hitachi City, Japan 319-14
1766	Bylen, P	P.O. Box 7193, Westchester, IL 60154
1767	Gruhalla, G	P.O. Box 48, Daisytown, PA 15427
1768	Semko, E.M. Rev.	42 Cooke Ave., Carteret, NJ 07008
1769	Weaver, J.V.Ms	1215 Beechwood Drive, Deland, FL32723
1770	Ruzicka, K.J.	530 /S. Shellman Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773
1771	Hoflund, B	Bolas 6919, Kungsbacka, Sweden 434 96
1772	Hanl. G.	Holechova 10, Praha 5, Czech Republic 15000
1773	Ball, M.A.	431 Dewey, Suite 300, Royal Oak MI 48067
1774	Sarchet, G.A.	4427 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60630
1775	Linhart, P.	Wolkerova 6/1886, Teplice, Czech Republic 41501
1776	Vaccarezza, F.	c/o Spoldi, Via Monte Suello 1, Milano, Italy 201133
1777P	Whitmore, F.C.	4401 FM 389, Brenham, TX 77833
1778	Krejci, B.M.	5174 Columbia Rd., North Olmsted, OH 44070
1779	Marusak, S.	110 Dunhagen Place, Cary, NC 27511
1780	Yost, G	2925 W. Bradley Rd., River Hills, WI 53217
1781	Ceremuga, K.	PO Box 1097, Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia 4825
1782	Wignall, H.	3707 Heather, Pearland, TX 77581
1783	Qvale, H.	Oberst Angell's Vei 2A, Oslo, Norway N-0390
1784	LaPorta, J	PO Box 2286, LaGrange, IL 60525
1785	Stossel, R.	950 Via Della Rose, Sebastopol, CA 95472

1786 Kofranek, J.A. 1331 Versailles Ave., Alameda, CA 94501
 1787 Lehmann, R.K. Rte. 2 Box 109A, Bay City, TX 77414
 1788 Dibley, A. 83 Park Ave., Waikanae, New Zealand
 1789 Matustik, L. 9613 Cinnabar, St. Louis, MO 63126
 1790 Katsui, Akinori M-Stage Sugiyama 106, 1192-1 Ide, Numazu Shizo, Japan 410-03
 1791 Drvostep, J. 21-80 46th St., Astoria, NY 11105

**1995 FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE
 SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.**

INCOME	TOTAL	EXPENSES	TOTAL
Member Dues	\$6,965.10	SPECIALIST Printing	\$5,156.00
Circuit Fees	3,439.58	SPECIALIST Mailing	873.50
Net Book Sales	913.03	Convention Expense	797.22
Donations	711.61	Membership Expense	308.10
Avertising	295.70	Book Projects	297.96
Interest	293.26	Advertising	260.15
Miscellaneous	6.00	Officers Expense	190.15
		Czech Member Exchange	54.42
		Printing	10.30
		Miscellaneous	39.36
TOTAL INCOME	\$12, 624.28	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$7,987.66
NET GAIN	\$4,636.62		

IT'S ON TO MILCOPEX!

Our Society's "first ever" participation at the MILCOPEX '96 show in Milwaukee will take place on Sept. 20, 21, and 22 at the Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis, Wisc.

All frames reserved for the S.C.P. have now been filled and we are grateful that so many members have taken the opportunity to submit their exhibits.

The S.C.P. Board will be fully represented and looks forward to greeting its new members as well as those who have regularly attended our prior shows. All members planning to come are urged to contact the Ramada Inn West, 210 North Mayfair Rd. (Hgw. 100), Milwaukee, telephone 1-800-531-3965 or 1-414-717-4400 as there are still a few rooms available. Please refer to page 1 of the July/Aug. issue for details.

**SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY, INC.
 NOMINATING FORM FOR 1996**

We, the undersigned, certify that we are paid-up members in good standing

and hereby nominate _____ as candidate for a seat
 on the Board of Directors of the S.C.P.

1. Signed _____ Member No. _____ Dated _____

2. Signed _____ Member No. _____ Dated _____

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