



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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## Society Announcement

### WANTED Society Cachets

Our Society has a collection of past SPECIALISTS, and I think it is time to also put together a collection of all past Society cachet covers and possibly exhibit them at future stamp shows.

I am asking for donations of old Society cachet covers (typically put out in conjunction with one of our annual conventions at a stamp show). But please, let me know first what you have available as I do not want duplicates. You will find my e-mail address and mailing address on the back cover of this issue.

Also, please send a short write up with any cover you are donating -- who was the author, when it was put out, or any other important information that you know about it. I plan on mounting the covers on exhibition pages, and when completed, sending the collection to our librarian for storing and then subsequent exhibiting.

Does anyone know when the first Society cachet cover was created?

Savoy Horvath

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### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are entitled.

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the May/June 2004 SPECIALIST. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092, or e-mail: h.alan.hoover@mail.com
2. A book sales division is run by Savoy Horvath. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Savoy Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: canclcek@mwt.net
3. A Society library is housed with Mark Wilson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTs or making book donations, contact Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, VA 22603, or e-mail: scplibrary@knihtisk.org
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/e-mail above).
6. Our web site ([www.czechoslovakphilately.com](http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com)) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via e-mail, and more. The site is maintained by Jaroslav Verner, 8602 Ewing Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817, e-mail: sibpost@starpower.net.

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## LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Savoy Horvath

While most of Slovakia was liberated in 1944, what is now the Czech Republic had to wait until April 1945, both from the east by the Soviet armies and the west by the US Army. First from the east came the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukrainian Front on April 13<sup>th</sup> near Hodonín (Fig. 1). From the west it was a unit from the 90<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Division on April 18<sup>th</sup> near Hranice by Aš.



Fig. 1

Closest to the Czechoslovak border in April 1945 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 358<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, The Tough Ombres (Fig. 2). In the early morning of 18 April, a reconnaissance platoon led by Lt. Merrill B. Rudes (of Czech ancestry) was dispatched toward the Czechoslovak border from their base in Lower Bavaria east of Hof. At 10:00 hours, Lt. Rudes was the first American liberator to enter Czechoslovakia. The platoon's orders were to make contact with the enemy. They proceeded half-way into the Czech horn, encountering only small arms fire and white flags (Fig. 3). By the time of their return trip at noon, they had captured 30+ German prisoners. As soon as they had made their report, a large US infantry force accompanied by light armor reentered Czechoslovakia and captured the first Czech town, Hranice. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the city of Aš was liberated. This was very symbolic as Aš was just days before visited by Konrad Henlein, the Nazi Gauleiter of the former Sudetenland -- who gave orders to defend the

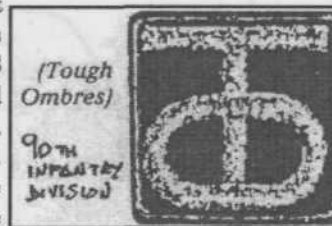


Fig. 2

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Fig. 3

city to the last man standing. Also, April 20<sup>th</sup> was Adolf Hitler's birthday, and the only man standing in Aš on that day was its mayor with a white flag.

Other US armies were entering Czechoslovakia by this time. The only real resistance was on April 25/26 in Cheb. A fierce battle developed for the town, and the US 1<sup>st</sup> Army suffered casualties. Fighting for Cheb's airport (where the first German jets were based) was still going on when the Czechoslovak Combined Armored Brigade arrived from Dunkirk on the Czechoslovak border west of Cheb. They took time out to symbolically raise the Czechoslovak flag right on the border, and then proceeded to take over the administration of Cheb.

Taking over the administrative powers in the newly liberated towns in the former Sudetenland was done by the US command, mainly because at that moment there were not any Czechs available for the job. As replacements from the Czech interior started arriving, the US Army handed all powers over to the Czechs.

At the war's end, I lived with my parents in Hradec Králové. My dad, a business man and politician, was shortly informed to proceed to Cheb by train to secure two large factories, and I was allowed to travel with him. It was May 28<sup>th</sup>, Cheb was in Czechoslovak military hands, and basic services like mail were already in motion. I stopped in the Cheb post office and purchased overprinted Hitler head stamps, and sent a letter to my Mom in Hradec Králové.

But, going back to US administrative units, a most unique situation developed in the town of Vildštejn (during German annexation it was called Wildstein, and after the communist takeover changed to Skalná). The administrative commander was Major Webb and his adjutant was Lt. Burton Doling. Both were avid philatelists, and while still in Germany they worked out a plan by creating a Czechoslovak Liberation issue. Visiting different German post offices, they had secured a large stock of German sheet stamps. Not wanting to use anything connected to Nazism (especially German definitives with Adolf Hitler), they had settled on the German Postal Workers set (Scott B 272-277 and Fulda B 270)(Fig. 4). Once settled in Vildštejn they had contacted a local printer and the process of



Fig. 4



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overprinting was put into motion, including rarities like inverts and pairs -- one with overprint and one without. About a quarter of the printing was sold to the GI's in Aš, Vildštejn, Františkovy Lázně and Cheb. For one day only they were for sale to the civilians, but already in May 1945 the majority of the issue was shipped to Lt. Doling's mother in upstate New York who placed a full page ad in *Stamps* and sold out in a few weeks. I have owned two covers with these issues, one mailed to Michigan and another mailed by a local German from Vildštejn to Cheb.

In 1995 I traced the former Lt. Doling to California through a story in *Linn's* and received a written confirmation by him on all that happened with this issue.

A different version of the Vildštejn overprint story appeared in the *SPECIALIST* in the past -- I believe this was incorrect information. The originator of the overprint issue is still with us (although in his nineties) and is still active in his California stamp shop.

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## AMERICAN AND BRITISH FIELD POST OFFICES IN WESTERN BOHEMIA IN 1945

by Lubor Kunc

(Continued from  
previous issue)

But let us return to postal history. The Army Post Offices (APOs) of the US Army were situated in different places in Western Bohemia. At the end of this article you will find a list of the American APOs in Bohemia. The below covers (Fig. 6/7) show two of the APOs being situated in Plzeň.

I would like to thank our member, Salvator Rizza, who gave me the cover shown in Figure 6, which was sent by his brother, who served in the US Army in Western Bohemia.



Figure 6: A letter sent by an American soldier from Plzeň (APO No. 305)



Figure 7: A letter sent by an American soldier from APO No. 137

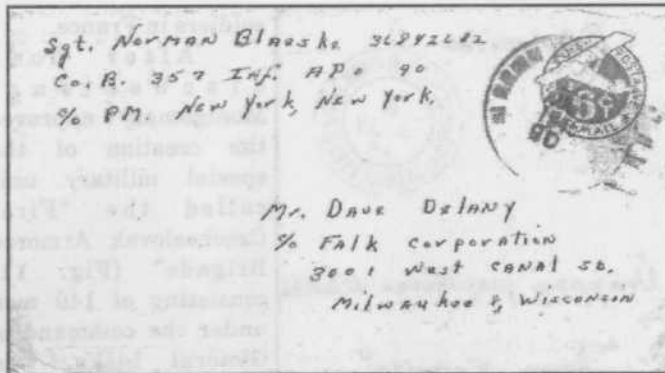


Fig. 8

The US troops remained in Bohemia for only a short time; the majority of them left Czechoslovakia in 1945 to continue their journey. They were followed by APOs which accompanied the troops. This return home can be illustrated by Figure 8 showing a letter sent via APO 90, which was originally in Bohemia,



Fig. 9

but at the time of the mailing of this letter (Aug. 25, 1945), it was present in Marseille, France.



Figure 10: Issue of 1992 celebrating Czechoslovak soldiers fighting at Dunkerque (S2860)

When you read the above text, you are probably asking where the Czechoslovak soldiers were when the US and Soviet armies liberated Czecho-slovakia. The answer is easy -- the Czechoslovak troops created in the Soviet Union (Fig. 9) under the command of General Ludvik Svoboda fought in the frame of the Soviet Red Army on Czechoslovak territory (going from Slovakia and Moravia in a westerly direction). The Czechoslovak soldiers coming from Great Britain were fighting at Dunkerque in France (Fig. 10).

In April 1945 the Czechoslovak government-in-exile asked the supreme commander of Allied armies in Europe, Marshal Montgomery, to move Czechoslovak

soldiers from Dunkerque to Czechoslovakia to allow them to liberate at least part of the Czechoslovak territory and to create a counter-balance to the Czechoslovak (communist) troops of the Soviet Union being present on Czechoslovak territory. Marshall Montgomery rejected the demand, because he needed the well trained



Figure 11: Postcard of 1945 showing members of the unit with their armored vehicles

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Figure 12: A letter sent by a member of the First Czechoslovak Armored Brigade from Czechoslovak field post office in July 1945

soldiers in France.

After long discussions, Montgomery approved the creation of the special military unit called the "First Czechoslovak Armored Brigade" (Fig. 11) consisting of 140 men under the command of General Liška, who were officially serving in the British army. They left France on April 23, 1945 and traveled via Luxembourg and Germany to the US Zone in Western Bohemia. They reached

Czechoslovakia on May 1, 1945 near Cheb (Eger) and immediately took part in military operations in Western Bohemia.

The arrival of the Czechoslovak armored brigade caused problems in postal operations. All of the other units in Western Bohemia were American ones, so the only military post offices operating in the area were US APOs. The Czechoslovak unit was officially a British one, so it had to use the British FPO system, but no FPO was situated in the region, and the unit had no connection with FPOs being in Germany. The solution was the establishment of the Czechoslovak Field Post Office in the village of Němčice u Klatov (it was originally situated at Arneke near Dunkerque; it reached Czech territory on May 18, 1945). The mail was transported from the Czechoslovak field post office by a military car to APO No. 305 (being in Plzeň) which forwarded the mail into the US field post system. However, while the mail was

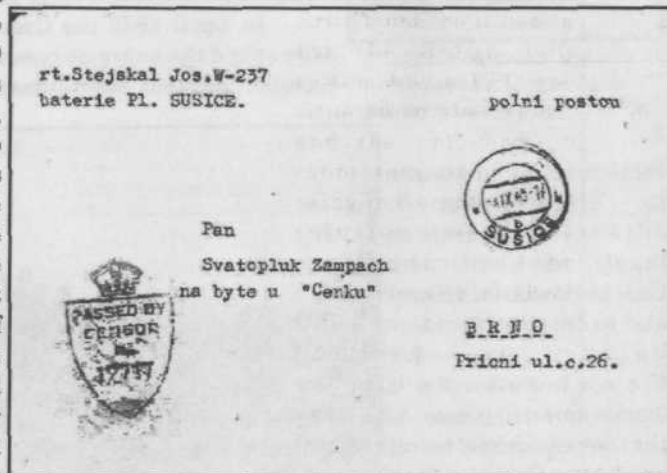


Figure 13: A letter sent by a Czechoslovak soldier in Sept. 1945 bearing Sušice (Schuttenhofen) civil post office cancel via US APO



treated by the US army post offices, you will find no APO cancels on it.

By July 1945 the Czechoslovak field post used the original British style of post cancels (Fig. 12). Going into effect from July 20, 1945, the Czechoslovak civil post offices were involved in postal services for the unit (Fig. 13). On Oct. 12, 1945 the Czechoslovak Field Post Office moved to Plzeň and then on Jan. 19, 1946 to Moravská Třebová (Mährisch Trübau). It was closed on Jan. 22, 1946. Interesting also are the covers sent from civil post offices to the Czechoslovak soldiers of the armored brigade (Fig. 14).

A special role among the US APOs was played by APO No. 655 situated in Wiesbaden (Germany). It was used for the international mail of the Czechoslovak soldiers when the mail came to or from a country other than Czechoslovakia. Examples can be found at Figures 15 and 16.

You should be aware of a forged cancel of APO 655 (Fig. 17) with the accompanying text "MILITARY CENSORSHIP / CIVIL

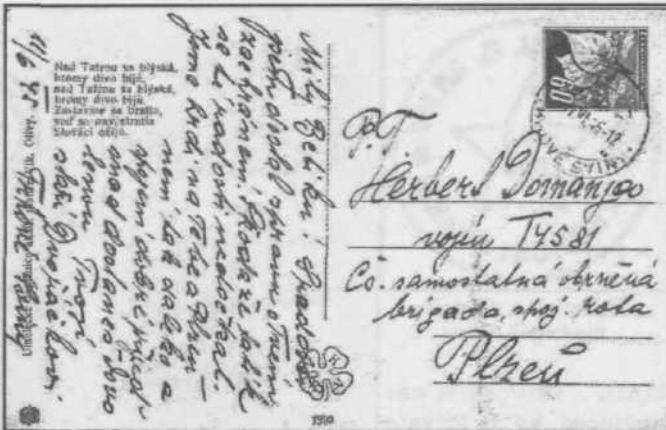


Figure 14: A card sent in June 1945 by relatives to a Czech soldier greeting him again at home and inviting him for a visit

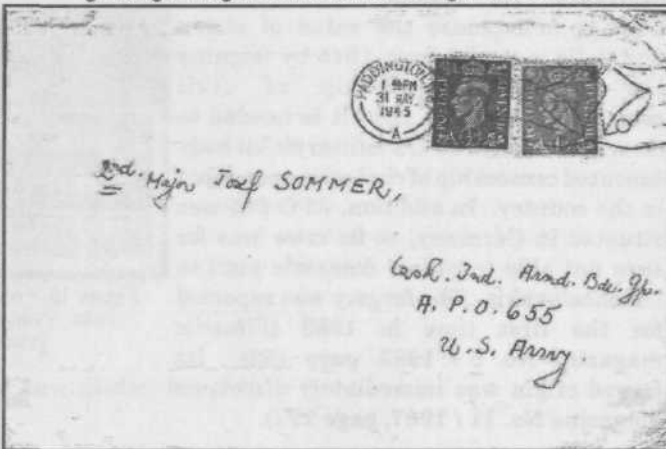


Figure 15: A letter from Great Britain addressed to Captain O. Sommer, former head of the Czechoslovak field post in France

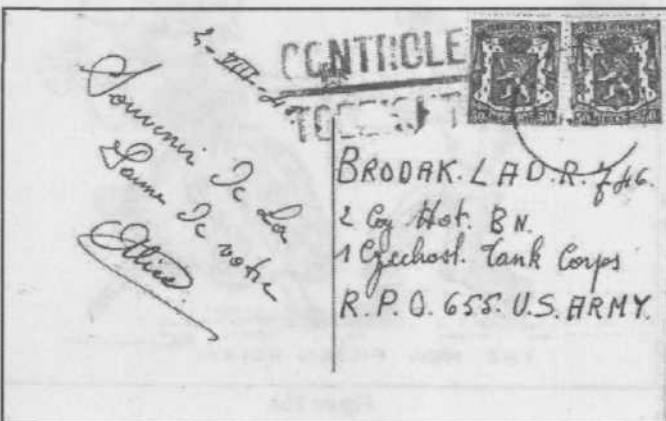


Figure 16: A card sent from Belgium to a Czechoslovak soldier via APO 655

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Figure 17: A detail of the forged cancel

MAIL". This cancel was produced by a private person in Czechoslovakia. Its author used it to increase the value of cheap philatelic material from 1945 by feigning US military censorship of civil correspondence (Fig. 18). It is needed to clearly state that no US military/civil body executed censorship of civil correspondence in the country. In addition, APO 655 was situated in Germany, so its crew was for sure not able to censor domestic mail in Czechoslovakia. The forgery was reported for the first time in 1983 (*Filatelie* magazine No. 5 / 1983, page 153). Its forged origin was immediately discovered (which was later repeated in *Filatelie* magazine No. 11 / 1987, page 297).

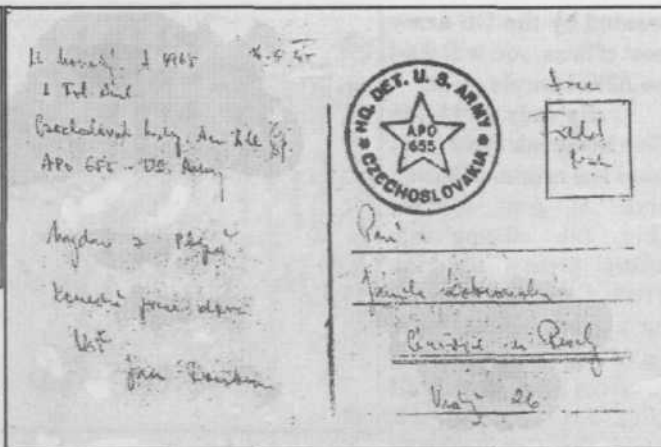


Figure 18: The forged cancel on card



Figure 19: French stamps: "Chenonceaux" (1944; Yvert 611/S496), and "Marianna" (1945; Yvert 731/S554)



Figure 20a

There were reported also coded telegrams sent by US soldiers from Czechoslovakia. The coded telegrams were a special service for US forces (see *Czechoslovak Specialist* No. 1/1995). It was allowed to write a telegram on a special form prepared by the French Postal Administration. The US APOs delivered the form to Paris, where the

telegram was transmitted by radio to the USA. There was a special fee of 25 French Francs payable for the service. The fee was paid by two special French stamps (Fig. 19). This service was available not only to US soldiers in France, but also in other countries including Czechoslovakia. A description of the French stamp bearing portions of the APO 94 and 412 cancels (being situated in Bohemia at that time) can be found in the article of D. Michaud and Colonel Deloste.

Figure 20b

An interesting item is the card at Figure 20a. Such cards were printed in Plzeň in 1945. Their author is an American soldier, Bill Powell, who was drawing the life of American soldiers in Bohemia (an interesting article on this person was published in the *Czechoslovak Specialist* magazine, No. 5+6/1996). The card shows "Beer Barrel Polka" -- a famous Czech song becoming the anthem of the *American soldiers in Europe* (its original Czech name is "Škoda lásky" = Shame of Love). Someone affixed a privately issued Czechoslovak stamp saying that "Plzeň has been liberated by US Army" (again overprinted on Protectorate stamp). Bill Powell was not only an advanced drawer, but also a lyric writer -- he wrote a song "Yank Soldier's Song" pictured on the next postcard (Fig. 20b).

The presence of the US Army in Bohemia also caused some "revolutionary issues" prepared by local authorities, private persons or postal crews. Examples can be seen at Figure 21 and 22. The issues were produced as overprints on Protectorate stamps. The first (too light) overprint means "USA / ČSR". The second example commemorates the liberation of Plzeň by the overprint "U.S. army / 6.5. free 1945 / PILS".

The thanks of the Czechoslovak authorities to the US soldiers did not last a long time. In 1945 a Czechoslovak stamp issue celebrated four liberating forces of WW II (Soviet Union, GB, USA, Czechoslovakia; Fig. 23 / S288). After the Communist coup in 1948, the official history stated that Czechoslovakia was liberated only by the Soviet Union (this is what we learned in school, but our parents told us about the real situation). All of the stamps from the 50's through the 80's



Figure 21

Figure 22

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Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25

celebrate only Soviet soldiers as Czechoslovak liberators (Fig. 24, issue of 1952, S522). The situation changed first after the Velvet Revolution of 1989, when the important participation of the US Army and other Allied armies was again celebrated. The first stamp re-celebrating Czechoslovak liberation by the USA and USSR was issued in May 1990 (Fig. 25, S2788).

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW II was remembered by special cancels of the Czech Postal Administration (you can see one of them in the *Specialist*, No. 1/2005, page 21). There is a lot of official and private (Fig. 26) philatelic material dealing with the liberation of Czechoslovakia and the US Army, which was produced in the 90's.



Figure 26: Private stamp booklet of 1995 honoring US troops liberating Western Bohemia

### Resources:

- V. Dražan: "Americké polní pošty v Čechách", *Filatelie* 11/1987
  - M. Vostatek: "Polní pošty v západních Čechách", *Filatelie* 16/1989
  - Cosentini, Gruenzner: *US Numbered Military Post Offices -- Assignments and Locations*, The Military Postal History Society, 1994
  - R. Mendelsohn: "40. výročí osvobození", US Embassy, Prague, 1985
  - O. Bradley: "A Soldier's Story", The Modern Library, N.Y.
  - D. Michaud: "Le 25F Chateau de Chenonceaux Raconte Son Extraordinaire Epopée", *Timbroscopie*, June 1994
  - Col. Deloste: "Historie Postale Et Militaire De La Deuxième Guerre Mondiale", Echangiste Universel, 1969
  - P. Gebauer: Czech Postal History at <http://phist.webpark.cz/index.htm>
- History of Plzeň: <http://www.zcu.cz/plzen/history/index-cz.html#XX>  
History of 1945: <http://dejepis.info/?t=91>

## TELČ TRIP

by Phil Rhoads

I accepted Henry Hahn's offer of taking a side trip to his hometown of Telč following Brno 2005. As a non-Czech speaker with no Czech heritage or family, it is often difficult to get past the typical "tourist" activities. My hope was that Henry's trip to Telč would provide an opportunity for a more personal, in-depth experience of Czech culture and heritage. I was not disappointed!

For those of us without cars, transport from Brno to Telč was provided by the Telč mayor's office on Monday morning. The "tour group" included a total of nine people from Germany, the Czech Republic, and the United States. Arrangements had been made for me to stay in a pension right on the Telč town square, a fabulous location (Fig. 1).

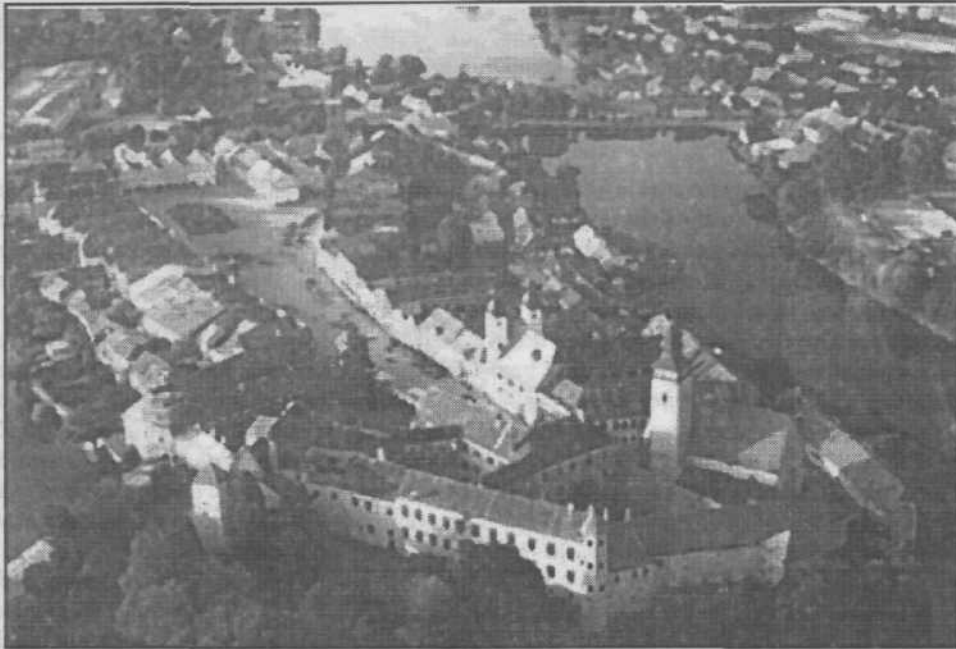


Fig. 1

During our first afternoon in Telč, Oldřich Zadražil, Secretary of the Town Government, led us on a tour of the Telč World War I and World War II memorials. Following that, he led us up the tower of the St. James Church. The views were unforgettable! The Telč town square is virtually unchanged since the Renaissance, and the panorama from the tower was breathtaking! (Fig. 2) The climb up the tower was a staircase that was sometimes circular stone, sometimes, wooden, but always narrow, steep, and challenging. But definitely worth it! (Note: I'm glad they apparently don't have an OSHA equivalent in the Czech Republic, because public access up such a staircase would never be permitted here!) After the tower climb,





Fig. 2

we were received and welcomed in the city council chambers by the Telč mayor, Roman Fabeš.

Tuesday started with a privately guided tour of the Chateau, parts of which date to the latter half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Chateau ranks as one of the best preserved examples of Renaissance architecture. I was especially awed by the beauty and variety of detailed art styles and techniques used on the ceilings. We then visited the Jewish Cemetery, which Henry is in the process of restoring. Because of the Holocaust, there is no surviving Jewish community in Telč. In the afternoon, we had a guided tour of part of the city museum, located in part of the Chateau. I especially appreciated the World War II exhibit and the 1890's animated Christmas diorama. The afternoon concluded by attending a meeting of the Telč philatelic club, at which Henry did an illustrated presentation (in English and Czech) on Telč postal history. Ing. B. Makovička, the club president and Head of Telč Fisheries who also attended most of our croup activities, passed around many interesting examples of Telč postal items illustrating Henry's talk.

We started Wednesday with a guided tour of the Telč Education and Conference Center, which is operated by the Czech Ministry of Education. The facilities are beautiful (and reasonably priced!). Attending a conference there would be special. We also spent some time in the Telč high school. As the students were changing classes, it seemed to me that, except for the language, it could have been a high school from just about anywhere. Although it rained most of the day, I did have an opportunity during the afternoon to just wander around the town square a little and explore some of the shops. The mayor's office provided transportation to the bus station (at the edge of town) for the trip to Prague, concluding a memorable visit.

My hope of seeing a part of Czech history and heritage "up close and personal" was most definitely realized. It was certainly a unique opportunity that will always remain a highlight of my travels. My appreciation to Henry and Marilyn Hahn and to all of the people from Telč who made it a great experience.

**POSTAL HISTORY**  
**THE CZECHOSLOVAK CURRENCY REFORM OF 1953**

by Vladimír Dražan, Pavel Aksamit  
 trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

Part 5

*Today we introduce the fifth and final part of one of the most interesting segments of philately in post war Czechoslovakia -- the 1953 currency reform. In the previous parts we have dealt with the basic facts of the reforms, validity of stamps and postal stationery, postal tariffs, paying postage on consignments in cash, imprints of meter machines, consignments abroad, usage and value of postage due stamps, usage of less common stamps, airmail stamps, single and multiple stamp franking, combination of stamps and meter machine imprints as well as interesting entires such as with stepped franking, consignments with fixed and credited franking, postal stationery, cut offs from parcel dispatch forms, and less common types of consignments.*

In today's part we shall deal with consignments from the beginning of the new currency period, forgeries of entires, and in particular the valuation of standard entires and some collectable interesting variations, which can be found in our markets.



Figure 58: Trial prints -- prints of stamp engravings with the original nominal values still in the old currency.

**9. Beginning of the new currency period**

By coincidence, on 1 June 1953 there was announced the release of two commemorative stamp issues -- i.e., Prague Spring and For Children. In view of the announcement of the currency reform, the release of these stamps on that date was in fact abandoned. The Prague Spring series was issued on 19.6.1953 in changed values (the stamp with the

portrait of J. Slavík - 75h, with the portrait of L. Janáček - 1.60 Kčs), and the For Children stamps were not issued at all. That theme was used later -- in 1967 -- on the postal stationery envelope COB 20 issued for the "Pardubice 1967" young philatelist's exhibition. There exist prints of the engravings of the Prague Spring stamps with the original values (Fig. 58). Unfortunately we do not know if these stamps with the original values in the old currency were actually printed;



Figure 59: The stamps of the Prague Spring issue with values in the new currency.

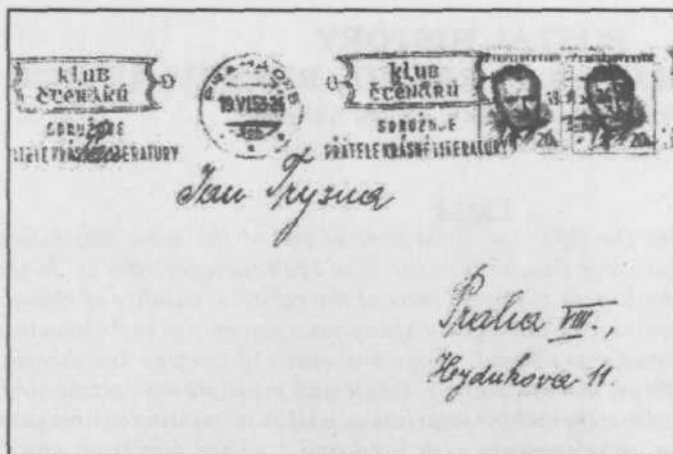


Figure 60: Local letter sent on 19.6.1953, postage 40h in new currency, franking 2 x Pof. 733.

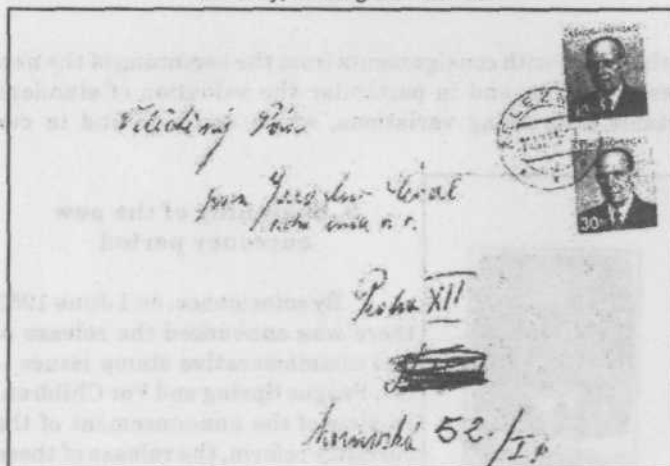


Figure 61: Letter sent on 19.6.1953, postage 60h in new currency, franking 2 x Pof. 736.

so far, their existence has not been substantiated.

Stamps in the new currency were issued on 19.6.1953. They were the above mentioned two Prague Spring 1953 stamps in the values of 75h and 1.60 Kčs (Pof. 738-39), as well as four stamps with the portrait of Kl. Gottwald in the values of 15h, 20h, 1 Kčs and 3 Kčs (Pof. 732-35), and two stamps with values of 30h and 60h with the portrait of President A. Zápotocký, printed in recess printing (Pof. 736-37). Originally, other stamps were announced for issue for the period after 1.6.1953, but in the end in fact the above mentioned eight stamps with the values indicated were issued. For the first days after the introduction of the currency reforms, the stamps handled the

basic postal tariffs. All consignments from 19.6.1953, -- i.e. from the first day of validity of the above mentioned stamps -- are exceptionally interesting (Fig. 60 and 61) and are much sought after by specialists. (Note: official FDC's were not issued)

Where the postage on a consignment was still paid in stamps of the old currency, this franking was not recognized, and the consignments had to be franked again in the new currency (Fig. 62).

From the given summary it follows, that the postage stamps in the new currency were available in limited quantities, and at quite a few places even their distribution was held up, such that already in their first days of validity they were used up in some post offices, and again consignment franking had to be paid for in cash (Fig. 63).

In an entire group of post offices the first supply of new stamps was used up

during June 1953 and thus came to them again various provisional arrangements (Fig. 64).

To give the full picture we add that in July and August 1953 the following additional stamps were issued: 18.7.1953 the 30h A. Zápotocký (Pof. 740), 22.7.1953 the 60h A. Zápotocký (Pof. 741), and 15.8.1953 the 5 Kčs Charles Bridge (Pof. 742).

At some post offices, however, consignments were accepted that were franked with stamps having the old currency, or more precisely, they were tolerated in postal operations for many days after the cessation of their validity, even though there was no rational reason for this (Fig. 65).

Postage stamps in the new currency were already delivered to some post offices ahead of the scheduled 17 or 18.6.1953. Occasionally entires occur that are franked with these stamps one or two days prior to when they became valid (Fig. 66), as well as consignments having mixed franking of old and new currency stamps from these two days. In the majority of cases we are dealing with philatelic consignments submitted at some post offices in Brno.



Figure 62: Business registered letter sent on 19.6.1953, the old currency franking of 80 Kčs was not honored, postage 1.60 Kčs.

**10. Forgeries of entires**

The interest of collectors in entires from the currency reform period and particularly then their prices (which are being paid for them during the last few years) stimulated the interest of various forgers. The majority of the unused stamps are still very affordable, and a number of postal cancellers are in private hands.

We would therefore like to warn

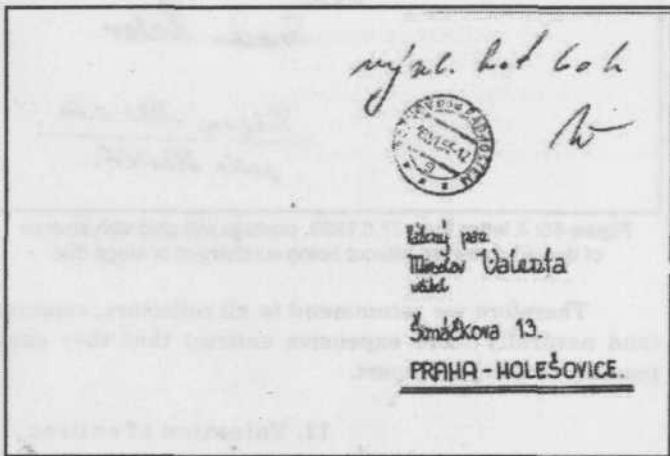


Figure 63: Letter sent on 19.6.1953, postage paid in cash at the Rožnov pod Radhoštěm post office.

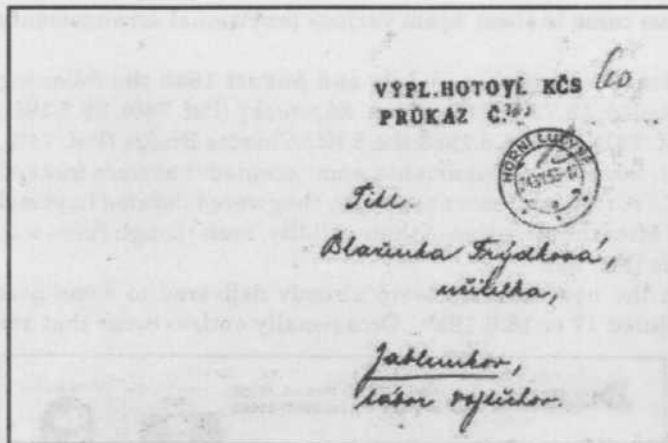


Figure 64: A letter from 24.6.1953, postage paid in cash at the Horní Lutyně post office.

collectors, especially the less experienced ones, about both the forgeries of entires and about consignments with senseless franking, with indistinct prints of cancellations, or with wrongly set dates on daily cancellers. (It could be settings of the month, perhaps IV. instead of VI., or perhaps the month is difficult to read, for example VII. is mistakenly taken to be

VI -- an example from one of the recent auctions.)

Even now, for example, it is quite possible to find in the Prague bourse in Strašnice forged entires with the familiar Neratovice - f canceller. When some time ago entires appeared with stamps of the new currency used before their 19.6.1953

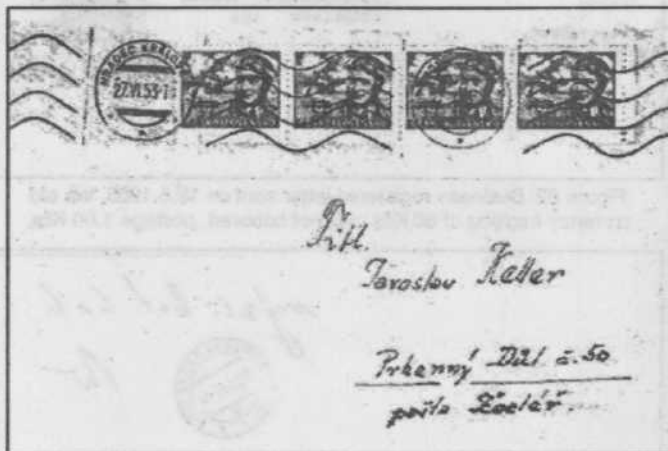


Figure 65: A letter from 27.6.1953, postage still paid with stamps of the old currency, without being surcharged postage due.

day of issue and having reached high prices, the forgers immediately reacted. In last year's trade fair Sběratel [collector] there were offered entires having stamps of the new currency even with a canceller date 11.6.1953! At that time these stamps were not even printed yet, and so we are talking again about forgeries. Likewise also appeared forged covers with meter machine imprints.

Therefore we recommend to all collectors, especially when buying the rarer (and naturally more expensive entires) that they exercise greater caution and possibly consult an expert.

### 11. Valuation of entires

The below listing of valuations of commonly occurring entires from the 1953



currency reform period result from detailed observations of our stamp market over the last five years. But first, it will be necessary to introduce a few general rules and notes. In view of the larger quantity of applied stamps, a greater use was made -- more often than in other periods -- of larger format envelopes. On the normal envelope there are sometimes a portion of the stamps (or even all of them) affixed to the reverse side.

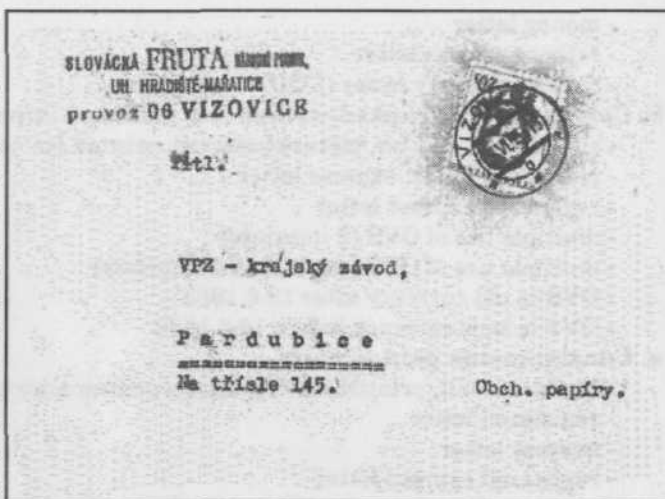


Figure 66: Business printed matter from 18.6.1953, postage paid with a 20h stamp in the new currency (Pof. 733), one day before its validity.

Understandably collectors have a preference for the smaller (i.e. normal) envelopes and entires, upon which the stamps and pertinent labels are affixed to the addressed side. The given valuations assume a standard quality of entire -- an undamaged envelope or picture postcard, undamaged stamps, and a readable print of the cancels. Fairly often entires occur that are slightly overfranked (by 50h to 2 Kčs - in old currency), which was obviously caused by a lack of suitable stamps. In our opinion such slight overfranking does not reduce the value of the entire, because it is also always necessary to take into consideration the circumstance (in this case the currency reform of 50:1) in which it occurred.

The extent and aim of this article prevent us from valuing the entires, for example, according to the postage stamps that were used. We present, therefore, only the valuation of standard entires, and in addition, the valuation of some collector-interesting variations that sometimes appear in our philatelic market. The valuations are given in Kč's.

**A. Domestic consignments**

**a. Consignments franked with stamps**

- business mail, printed matter, letter, picture postcard 100
- registered letter 150
- express letter 200
- registered express letter 300
- standard postcard 200
- special occasion postcard 400
- photo picture postcard 300
- colored artistic picture postcard 900
- envelope with imprinted stamp 400

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- money letter		≥1000
- railway station letter		800
- cash on delivery letter (COD)		1500
<b>b. Consignments franked with meter machine imprints (OVS)</b>		
- single OVS -- letter, picture postcard, printed matter		250
- registered letter, express letter		400
- registered express letter		500
- multiple use of OVS (2 imprints)		1000
- multiple use of OVS (more than 2 imprints)		2000
- OVS in old currency after 18.6.1953		800
- OVS in new currency before 19.6.1953		2500
<b>c. Consignments paid in cash</b>		
- business mail, printed matter, letter, picture postcard		200
- registered letter		300
- express letter		350
- registered express letter		400
<i>(Note: The given valuations are valid for the period 10.6. - 18.6.1953. For the period 1.6. -- 4.6.1953 there is a surcharge of +100%, and for the period 5.6. -- 9.6.1953 there is a surcharge of +50%)</i>		
- entire from 20.6. through 31.7.1953		300
<b>d. Other types of consignments</b>		
- postal stationery franked with OVS	500	
- postal stationery paid in cash	800	
- entire with combination of stamps and OVS =		
value of a consignment with an OVS		+150
- entire with combination of stamps and paid in cash =		
value of a consignment paid in cash		+100
- entire with postage-paid or postage-on-credit		500
- entire with postage-paid or postage-on-credit sent express		1000
- parcel dispatch form (clipping)	300	
- entire sent on Sunday (7.6. or 14.6.1953) =		
value of a consignment		+400
- entire with a cancellation from a train post =		
value of a consignment		+200
- entire with a cancellation from a railway station postal box =		
value of a consignment		+200
- entire with a cancellation from a contract post office =		
value of a consignment		+350
- entire sent on 19.6.1953 (FDC of the new currency)		400
<b>e. Single stamp franking</b>		
<b>10 Kčs -- business mail and printed matter:</b>		
- Pof. 521 Zvolen	150	
- Pof. L20 Bratislava	500	
- Pof. L34 Lázně	800	
<b>15 Kčs -- postcards, picture postcards</b>		
- Pof. L31 provisional overprint	600	
- Pof. L35 Lázně	800	

20 Kčs -- local letter, heavier commercial papers

- Pof. 489 Kl. Gottwald 150
- Pof. L22 Bratislava 500
- Pof. L36 Lázně 1500

30 Kčs -- letters for further transport

- Pof. L32 provisional overprint 600

50 Kčs -- foreign letter

- Pof. L24 Prague 1200

**f. Multiple franking**

- definitive stamps = value of a definitive stamp entire +50
- special occasion stamps = value of a special occasion stamp entire +100
- airmail stamps = value of an airmail stamp entire +400

**g. Consignments with postage due applied**

- without postage due stamps applied = basic value of the entire +50
- with postage due stamps applied = basic value of the entire+2500

**B. Consignments going abroad**

- ordinary consignment = value of such a domestic consignment+1000
- entire sent registered or express = value of such a domestic consignment+2000

**Conclusion**

We have tried, with this comprehensive contribution for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the currency reforms, to produce an overall view from the philatelic perspective of this whole problem. The Czechoslovak 1953 currency reforms gave philatelists an unrepeatable chance for deep study and specialization especially through various postally used entires. The possibilities on how to collect this philatelic sphere are many, and suitable material is still available. One of these possibilities is the endeavour to illustrate the postal usage of all the valid stamps and souvenir sheets, or on various types of consignments to document the then valid tariffs, and appropriately to record the postal operations for each day of the currency reforms. As long as our article interested readers, and perhaps persuaded some of them to search through their "treasures", or even to consider extending their Czechoslovakia-after-1945 collections, then it fulfilled its purpose.

**References:**

The complete list would contain tens of entries. For those interested, therefore, we include only a selection of sources containing essential information or new details.

- 1) *The Communications Gazette*, No. 24/53 from 16.6.1953
- 2) "The Currency Reforms and Czechoslovak Stamps", *Filatelie 1953*, No. 11, page 163
- 3) "The Ministry of Communications Decree, re Terminating the Validity of Postage Stamps that were Issued before the Currency Reforms", *Filatelie 1953*, No. 13, page 199
- 4) "Again About the New Postal Charges", *Filatelie 1953*, No. 16-17, page 254
- 5) M. Bachratý: "The 1953 Currency Reforms", *Young Philatelist 1975-76*, No. 2, page 12
- 6) J. Nekvasil: "The Czechoslovak Currency Reform in Documented Postal History", *Filatelie 1977*, No. 11, page 338

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- 7) V. Indra: "The Usage of Czechoslovak Postage Due Stamps", *Filatelie 1980*, No. 6, page 176  
8) F. Šubart: "The Franking Bomb", *Filatelie 1981*, No. 8, page 237  
9) F. Šubart: "The 1953 Currency Reform", *Filatelie 1981*, No. 15, page 460  
10) V. Dražan: "The 1953 Currency Reform", *Filatelie 1983*, No. 7, page 200  
11) V. Münzberger, P. Aksamit: "The 1953 Currency Reform", *Filatelie 1983*, No. 13, page 392  
12) V. Dražan: "Postage Due in June 1953", *Filatelie 1983*, No. 16, page 485  
13) V. Dražan: "Czechoslovak Airmail Franking from the Period of the 1953 Currency Reform", *Filatelie 1987*, No. 3, page 74

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Society for Czechoslovak Philately, award winning bi-monthly journal, sales circuit, expertising, translations, conventions, auctions, lending library. Write: Philip Rhoads, 28168 Cedar Trail, Cleveland, MN 56017

## HEYDRICH BLOCK CENSUS

by Phil Rhoades

I recently received a mimeographed booklet from the German Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren study group with detailed information on the Heydrich Deathmask issue (Scott B20, Michel 131, Pofis 111). The booklet appears to have been published in the mid-to-late 1980's. Included in the booklet is a census of the Heydrich Block, the special control numbered souvenir sheet with one copy of the Deathmask issue. It had a printing of 1000 copies.

I have started a preliminary effort to update this census. I am looking for the control number of existing Heydrich Blocks, along with information on when it was last on the market (i.e., auction name or sale and date).

Below are two lists of known Heydrich Block control numbers. The first list includes those numbers for which I have some sale information. The second list is of those numbers identified in the German study group booklet but for which no additional information was provided.

I would appreciate anyone with additional or updated information contacting me. Updated information will be provided to all who contact me and to the philatelic press. My e-mail is: [philip.rhoades@mnsu.edu](mailto:philip.rhoades@mnsu.edu). My postal address is: 28168 Cedar Trail, Cleveland, MN 56017. [Ed. Note: Notice it is Cleveland, MN, not OH.]



Fig. 1

<u>Control #</u>	<u>Last Information</u>	<u>Control #</u>	<u>Last Information</u>
117	HBA, November 1984	353	Liberty, 1950
134**	Hobbyphilatelie, May 2005	354	Götz, April 1980
197	Felzmann, June 1986	580	Cherrystone, September 2004
206	Bühler, November 1983	581	Cherrystone, May 2005
212	Franscois Feldman, April 2005	593	Globus, June 1986
232	Cherrystone, August 2003	596*	Interphila, September 2002
250	Majer, March 2004	613	Cherrystone, May 2005
320	Götz, September 1986	632	Kirstein, end of 1984
351	Kirstein, November 1976		

<u>Control #</u>	<u>Control #</u>	<u>Control #</u>	<u>Control #</u>
8	231	449	609
21	282	500	616
31	297	510	621
41	328	513	625
87	329	522	626



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105	337	534	629
108	368	538	630
109	372	551	633
129	374	553	653
153	378	562	657
167	381*	563	671
178	383	575	673
195	400	576	677
224	402	577	702
225	409	599	712

\* Canceled

\*\* Mounted on graphic-designed memory card

**W. A. DAWSON**  
**29 July 1916 - 16 June 2005**

It is with deep regret that we learnt of the death of our Life President Bill Dawson just after midday on 16 June 2005.

Bill has suffered a terrible year health wise and had confided during February that this was his and Audrey's *annus horribulus*, although his pronunciation of *annus* summed up his true feelings. At the last meeting he attended at West Hampstead in March, he arrived having driven himself from home even though he was only recently discharged from hospital. When he was reproached about drinking and driving this was met with a stern "When you get to my age you can take a few chances". Bill looked frail and was certainly ill but his sense of humor was as sharp as ever (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

As his health declined we got him to the Embassy in April for the launch of Society Monograph 18 that was dedicated to him. He looked weak but was determined to attend.

When Audrey rang shortly before his death to say he was taken as an emergency to the King George hospital in Ilford, it did not come as too much of a shock. His anaemia had worsened, he then suffered a stroke and passed away two days later.

A potted history of Bill's activities:

**Memberships**

<u>Joined CPSGB</u>	1961	third longest Society member
Committee member	1986-90, 1996-03	
Vice Chairman	1990-93	
Chair	1993-96	
Honorary Life Member	2003	
Life President	2003	
<u>Joined SCP</u>	1986	

**Publications**

Monograph 6, 1988	The German Occupation of the Sudetenland (now in third reprint)
-------------------	--

**Competitions**

George Pearson Trophy	1985, 1987, 1989
Francis Pettitt Salver	1987, 1995
Kay Goodman Trophy	1994, 1998

What was Bill like? Well he was erudite (error what? He would have said), friendly, fun, encouraging, self deprecating, placatory and so very knowledgeable on his topic. To illustrate:

- After a committee meeting that seemed never ending - "We're here for stamps, not politics."
- On describing part of his collection - "Would you like to see some of my rubbish."
- On his health - "I'm getting old, what do you expect?"
- On his knowledge - "The more I see the less I know."
- On being asked by a new member why he collected Sudetenland material - "I'm buggered if I can remember."

Bill, or "the big man" as his beloved wife Audrey referred to him was a good friend and an inspiration to me, I will miss our regular phone conversations which always seemed to feature his comment "well mush, this has got me out of the washing up."

Robert Hill

*Book Review*

**Monograph No. 14**  
**LIBERATION OF OLOMOUC – MAY 1945**  
Postal Arrangements, Including Local and  
Revolutionary Overprints

**Monograph No. 18**  
**POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING THE**  
**LIBERATION OF PRAGUE IN MAY 1945**

This is the start of a brand new series of Monographs from the CPSGB on a topic new to some Czechoslovak collectors dealing with revolutionary or liberation overprints and local issues released following immediately after the liberation of different ČSR towns and cities in 1944-45 starting with Zakarpatská Ukraina and ending in Bohemia. Where applicable, the monographs also deal with the associated topics of post offices, cancellers, labels, postal stationery, handstamps, etc.

Recognition of these liberation overprints and local issues was suppressed by forty plus years of communist rule, mainly due to the fact, that they would have to recognize that a large part of Bohemia was liberated by the Western Allies -- US Army. Having lived in the ČSR at that time, I still remember rumors spread by communist party faithful that the US Army was actually Soviet soldiers dressed in US Army uniforms so they could capture the Vlassov Army which was trying to surrender to the Americans.

The overprints and local issues were in large postal usage until the middle of May 1945, when a ČSR Post directive was sent out from Prague prohibiting their sale by post offices. I also remember going to our local post office in Nový Hradec Králové with my Dad and purchasing half a sheet of each of the overprinted stamps available. My Dad was a businessman and was using them for his postage. I was twelve years old at this time and in stamp collecting for four years. My stamp collection of the overprints in 1945 amounted to seventy different issues.

Collecting the Liberation Overprints in the Czech Republic is the fastest growing topic of Czechoslovak philately, one can best see this by looking through the many different auction catalogs.

The author of the Liberation Overprint series is Robert J. Hill of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Monograph No. 14: Liberation of Olomouc

The definitive study of the often misunderstood topic -- liberation or revolutionary overprints -- takes place in Olomouc located in east central Moravia. This 50 page, softbound, A4 format, color and b/w illustrated publication is not just a write-up of a topic, this is in-depth research of a part of Czechoslovak history. The volume covers not only the legitimate issues but also the questionable ones. Unique among other liberation issues, Olomouc also had a set of local stamps showing the Přemysl Dynasty eagle. The stamps were semi-postal with the profit going to the Czechoslovak Red Cross. A noble idea, but in reality a whopping sum of 750,000 Kčs

went instead to the communist party headquarters in Brno.

**Monograph No. 18: Liberation of Prague**

An enlightening and intriguing account of Prague's liberation with an eyewitness account to Prague's uprising and a foreword by our Peter Kleskovic who lived through it.

This 92 page, softbound, A4 format, color and b/w illustrated monograph contains a numbered black print and a color map of Prague. The publication is bilingual English-Czech; this is a first for British Monographs, as this one is aimed at collectors outside of the Czech Republic. I believe it would have been better to have the Czech version done as an insert to be included only for Czech delivery. This would have made room for full sized overprint illustrations. By no means is this a run of the mill typical dry philatelic narrative. This is a well documented coverage of Prague's uprising and eventual after-the-victory liberation by the Soviet Army. The region of Prague had the most different liberation issues. Each of Prague's suburbs had their own local post overprint, plus newly printed local stamps. Even in Prague itself the order to cease using and selling the liberation overprints was not issued until the middle of May.

The book has a very good closing word by Otto Hornung who was a lieutenant with the independent Czechoslovak Armored Brigade, wearing British uniforms, and entering Czechoslovakia with the first US Army units in April 1945.

In closing we can look forward to the next work by Robert Hill, the so-called Eastern Bohemia overprint, also called Rychnov nad Kněžnou, as this is the town where it originated. This overprint saw postal usage in many eastern Bohemian towns. This is also the overprint that I purchased in May 1945 at my post office in Nový Hradec Králové.

Savoy Horvath



**President's Corner**

**BRNO 2005 EXHIBITION – REDO**

I goofed. Here are the remainder of our members who won awards at BRNO 2005:

- Richard Beith -- Philatelic Literature, "British South American Airways, 1946-1949", Silver
- Richard Beith -- Philatelic Literature, "The Postal History of the Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain, 1940-1945", Silver
- Robert J. Hill -- Philatelic Literature, "Postal Arrangements Following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945", Large Silver
- Robert J. Hill -- Philatelic Literature, "The Liberation of Olomouc-- May 1945", Silver
- Yvonne Wheatley -- Philatelic Literature, "Index to *CZECHOUT* Vols 1-20",

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Silver Bronze

- Otto Hornung -- Invited Exhibits, "The City Post of Istanbul"
- Otto Hornung -- Postal History, "Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine", Large

Vermeil

- Jurgen Hammer -- Postal History, "Brno, Hauptstadt Mahrens", Large Vermeil
- Vladimir Cermak -- Philatelic Literature, "Fachlexikon der Philateli", Silver

Bronze

- Karel Fischer -- Traditional Philately, "Czechoslovakia 1945, The Košice Issue",

Large Silver

- Vladimír Munzberger -- One-Frame Exhibit, "The Oldest Perforations on Austrian Stamps", Vermeil

- Juan E. Page -- Traditional Philately, "Carpatho-Ukraine", Vermeil

- Piero Santangelo -- Postal History, "The Czechoslovakian Legion in Italy and Czechoslovakia", Large Vermeil

- Jiří Sedlák -- One-Frame Exhibit, "Vending-Machine Stamps in Postal Practice", Silver

- Jan Verleg -- Postal History, "The Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine, 1786-1945", Large Vermeil

- Georg Wilhelms -- Aerophilately, "Die Tschechoslowakische Luftpost 1920-39", Large Vermeil and Special Prize

\*\*\*\*\*

*Philatelic News and Views*

From Lubor Kunc:

-- The Czechs have always been quick to take advantage of some good news to advertise by way of their postal system. Thus it is no surprise to see the cancel on

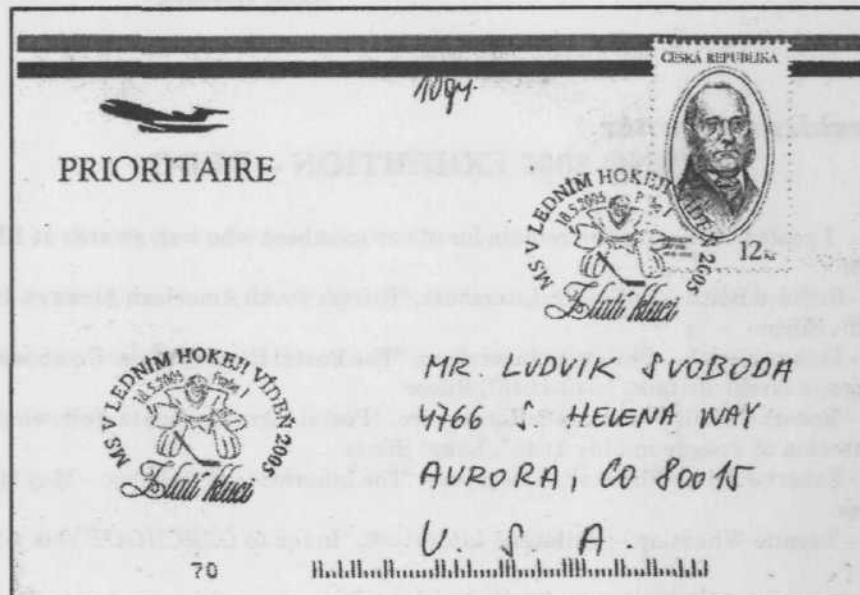


Fig. 1  
28

this cover which advertises the fact that the Czech hockey team won the recent world hockey championships which took place in Vienna, Austria (Fig. 1). The cancel reads "MS v Ledním Hokeji Víden 2005 / Zlatí kluci" (world championship in ice hockey Vienna 2005 / golden boys) and 18.5.2005, Prague 1.

From Richard Beith:

-- 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at Cholmondeley. In the first weeks of July 1940, many members of the Free Czechoslovak Forces who had fought in France, both airmen and soldiers, reached the safety of the British Isles. Most arrived at the Mersey ports, Birkenhead or Liverpool, and had only a short journey by train to their first English home. This was a tented camp in the peaceful grounds surrounding Cholmondeley Castle in the heart of rural Cheshire. Airmen who reached here were soon on their way to the RAF, but the soldiers remained until early October when they moved to permanent accommodation in and around Royal Leamington Spa. It was at Cholmondeley that the



Fig. 2

soldiers could rest, recover, receive British uniforms and their first replacement weapons. They were visited here by President Beneš on 26 July and by Jan Masaryk on 28 September, St. Wenceslas' Day. On that occasion Jan Masaryk unveiled a simple memorial, an inscribed standing stone commemorating the temporary presence of Czechoslovak Forces in Cheshire (Fig. 2).

This memorial was renovated and landscaped in 1999 and now remains the location of an annual act of remembrance on the first Sunday of July. Thus veterans, their families, friends, children and grandchildren gathered on 3 July 2005 to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rebirth of the Czechoslovak Army on British soil. The surviving veterans were aided by members of the local Parish Council, by the local British Legion and by uniformed members of the Defence staff from the Czech and Slovak Embassies in London (Fig. 3). After this simple but moving ceremony, which was blessed with good weather, we were all invited back to a Parish Councillor's garden where ample refreshments awaited.





Fig. 3

From Henry Hahn:

-- The jury panel and support personnel for the international WASHINGTON 2006 exhibition scheduled to be held May 27-June 3, 2006, have been selected. The jury consists of 40 judges from 22 countries. Representing the Czech Republic will be Lumír Brendl and Vít Vaniček (there is no Slovak judge).

---

**\*\*\* SCP NOTICE \*\*\***

**Bound Volume for Patron Members**

Because of changes in appointed Society positions, illnesses of officers, and delays at the bindery, the bound volume of the 2003-2004 issues of the SPECIALIST will not be mailed out until October -- and then, by Media Mail. So do not expect your volume until possibly November.

---

***Letters to the Editor***

1. Dear Lou:

Having just read our President's report on Brno, I thought I would share some of my exhibitor's feelings with you.

It may be of interest, because I am a Czech Society member, that I too had an exhibit, though non-Czech, at BRNO 2005. However, there were two very nice Czech related covers displayed in it.

My "Dublin Censor Office" exhibit only received a Large Silver. A German friend saw the exhibit at Brno and was furious at the low medal level I received. He really felt that judging was rather substandard.

Some of what he wrote was:

"I was surprised and disappointed as well that you have got only a Large Silver!?!?!"

... Don't worry about the results -- the jurors were obviously not happy with your presentation -- and obviously do not know very much about the Irish Censorship in WW II."

His comments are interesting because I got 4 points out of 5 for Presentation and for treatment only 20 out of 30, Knowledge 29 out of 35 (that is ridiculous for 25 years research) when this is a solid gold medal winning exhibit (nationally) for which I have had exemplary comments from high ranking AAPE members for my treatment. In its last international outing, BANGKOK 2003, I got a Vermeil, and it was improved with several scarce and exotic pieces specifically for Brno.

While, in the past, in other philatelic publications, I have seen comments on the state of International judging and unhappiness with it, I feel there must be some lack of knowledge and standards going on specifically with regards to Brno.

Had the judges bothered to even give a cursory look at the recently published book on Irish censorship by Hans Moxter, they would have seen many, many more items, as well as discovery items, then are listed there and also the author's acknowledgement of my contribution to this subject. There can be no excuse that there was no contemporary reference material available on this specific subject.

It really makes me wonder if these judges know anything at all about the material they are set to judge, or do they even do any research beforehand. Anyway I just felt like venting some anger about, what I consider, under par judging.

....

And, yes, one of these days you will see a Czech exhibit of mine.

Karl Winkelmann

*[Ed. Note: After I received Karl's communication above, I asked (with Karl's permission) several other members who had attended BRNO 2005 to read his e-mail and to give me their opinions on the judging at BRNO. I told them that their comments would be anonymous.]*

A. "Re judging at Brno, on a scale of 10, I would give it about a 4. This may be a bit unfair since I do not claim to have done a thorough examination. But based on my observation of things that interested me as well as comments from other exhibitors and visitors, the judges did not get high or even passing marks. A quick comparison between PRAGA 98 and BRNO 05, of exhibits that I know, shows either getting the same award . . . or lesser ones. . . . I think it can safely be said that none of the collectors in my non-scientific sample have been standing still during the last seven years.

I was very surprised that one exhibit of Czechoslovakia in the traditional philately class received a gold. In postal history one large gold was awarded (Austrian mail in the Czech lands, 1600-1850) and one gold (postal history of Brno). I believe that many of the exhibits of Czechoslovakia deserved more than they received."

B. "I do believe the Brno jury made some mistakes . . . . But I don't think the judging was as bad as "A" states -- i.e. 4 on a scale of 10. The jury procedures in Czecho are not as good as in the US. We in the US have the use of the APS library, get title pages and synopses in advance of the show, and are advised to consult outsiders when there is no expert on the jury in a particular area. This was not true of the Brno jury, and hence the judging suffered."

2. Dear Lou:

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

It was my pleasure to read the article "Hradčany 50h -- Its Postal Use" by František Hamr in the March/April 2005 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. I enjoy reading about how stamps that I collect were used and avidly collect covers showing as many different uses as possible. I have a particular affinity for solo uses.

Unfortunately, a few errors of fact mar an otherwise excellent article. Firstly, it was the purple or violet 50h stamp that was issued first on February 27, 1919, while the blue 50h stamp was issued August 19, 1919 -- not the other way around as stated in the opening paragraph. [Ed. Note: This error was also noted by member Mark Wilson and reported as an "ERRATA" in the May/June issue, page 36.]

In the III postal rate period [15.03.20 - 31.07.20] the foreign postcard rate was still 20h. This rate did not increase to 50h until the IV rate period [1.08.20 - 31.12.21].

I must also challenge Mr. Hamr's assertion that a solo use of the 50h stamp



Fig. 1

was not possible until the II rate period [15.09.19 - 14.03.20]. While no simple rate was satisfied by a solo 50h stamp, there were three combined rates which could be franked by a single 50h stamp.

- 1) A domestic double-weight, registered letter (20+5+25)
- 2) A foreign bound double-weight letter (25+25)
- 3) A foreign-bound registered letter (25+25)

Given that the purple 50h stamp was issued on February 27 and the rates changed on May 15, 1919 a solo franking was possible for just 77 days. Finding examples may be quite a challenge, but they are possible.

Attached is an example of an attractive registered letter sent to Goteborg, Sweden posted on May 6, 1919 (Fig. 1). The purple tint of the envelope and the art nouveau style of the corner card beautifully compliment the 50h stamp.

Regards,  
Tony Dewey

3. Dear Lou:

The other day came a letter from the Republic. Looking on the envelope, I saw that one of the "stamps" -- 80 Kč -- bore the picture of my friend Ervin Eichner (Fig. 2). What went through my mind -- and I believe I am correct there -- is that the Czech Postal Service joined other countries in printing personal "stamps" for price, thus adding to their income. I know for sure that the Swiss PTT started such service some years ago.

In addition, the Czech Post issued a descriptive leaflet of the "stamp" (Fig. 3). The text is clearly suggested by the payer. I never heard before the word

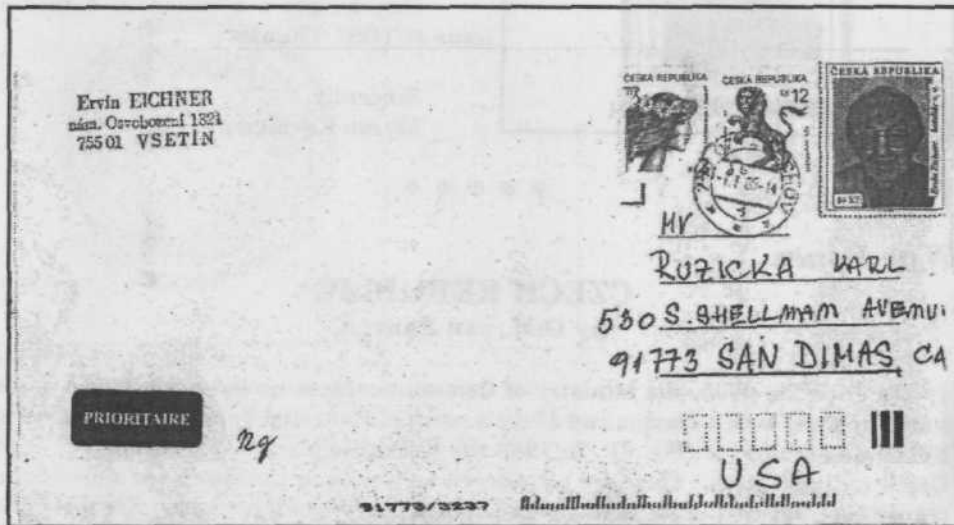


Fig. 2

"Anketa" -- when looking it up in the Czech dictionary, the translation was "Public Inquiry"; such would suggest that it is a wanted person.

Perhaps some other members of our Association [sic] received similar post.

With best regards,  
Karl [Ruzicka]

[Ed. Note: Anketa = survey or opinion poll. Thus, the customized stamp was applied to a leaflet that was announcing the "most beautiful postage stamp of the year 2005" as determined by a survey conducted by the Czech Post.]

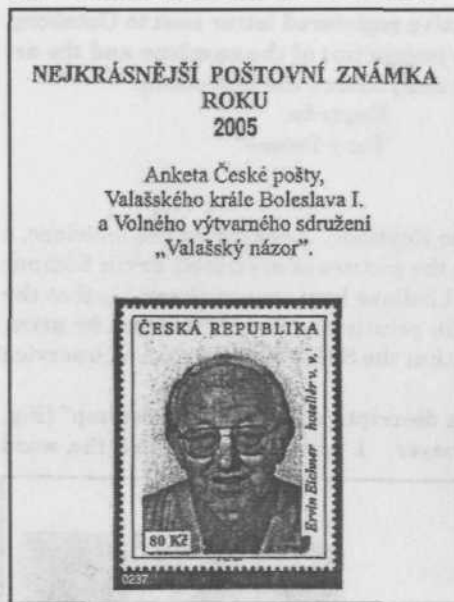


Fig. 3

4. Dear Mr. Horvath [sent to him in error as the Editor]:

Last year you ran ads from Otto Zeman, Kitchner, Ontario, Canada in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. Were you aware he died last year?

I thought I'd see a mention of his death (April 2004, prostate cancer) in the TCS.

I bought many stamps from Mr. Zeman as a result of his ad. I got to know him and we shared many an email back and forth. I was planning to visit him in Ontario and then he told me of his illness and we never shared that drink together.

Can he get a mention in a future issue of TCS? Thanks.

Sincerely,  
Myron Kavalgian

\* \* \* \* \*

### New Issues

## CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On June 22, 2005, the Ministry of Communications issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with 4 stamps and 4 labels entitled Protected Fauna and Flora in the Krkonoše Mountains (Fig. 1). In 1963 the Krkonoše Mountains became the first Czech national park. They are considered as a unique European example of the transition from medium to high mountains and the area of the richest nature in the Czech Republic. The nature on the slopes of the Krkonoše Mountains is classified into four altitudinal zones: submountainous (400-800m above sea level), mountainous (800-1200m above sea level), subalpine (1200-1450m above sea level) and alpine (1450-1602m above sea level). There are more than 1250 species of flowers, i.e. almost one half of the original flora of the Czech Republic, and over 320 species of vertebrates, predominantly birds. Remarkably rich is also the share of glacial relics (plant and animal kinds from the time of the latest glacification) and predominantly plant endemic species (species developed and occurring only at a single location in the world). It is a unique mosaic of ecosystems of alpine peaks, turfs and marches on the high plateaus and leeward slopes of glacial basins. As such it is a rare combination of arctic, Central European and alpine organisms and their communities. The block of 4 postage stamps and 4 coupons features this extraordinary diversity and richness of the nature of the Krkonoše Mountains with the highest Czech mountain Sněžka (1602m above sea level) together with the most





Fig. 1



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

valuable and most protected (as well as endangered) part of the park. In 1992 the Krkonoše National Park obtained the status of a UNESCO biospheric reserve. The souvenir sheet and its stamps were designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with colored offset. The FDCs feature additional protected species of the fauna and flora of the Krkonoše Mountains.

-- 12 Kč: *Viola Lutea Sudetica*, *Hedysarum Hedysaroides*; and its label: *Lilium Martagon*, *Hieracium Aurantiacum*. A FDC in grey-blue shows *Turdus Torquatus* (Fig. 2).

-- 14 Kč: *Cinclus Cinclus*, *Leucojum Vernum*; and its label: *Anthus Spinoletta*, *Sorbus Sudetica*, *Charadrius Morinellus*. A FDC in grey shows *Veratrum Album Lobelianum* (Fig. 3).

-- 15 Kč: *Sorex Alpinus*, *Salamandra Salamandra*, *Primula Minima*; and its label: *Torula Quadrifaria*, *Lacerta Vivipara*, *Rubus Chamaemorus*. A FDC in brown shows *Teatrao Urogallus* (Fig 4).

-- 22 Kč: *Luscinia Svecica Svecica*, *Aeschna Coerulea*, *Pneumonanthe Asclepiadea*; and its label: *Campanula Bohemica*, *Andromeda Polyfolia*, *Triturus Alpestris*. A FDC in darkgreen shows *Pulsatilla Alba* (Fig. 5).

2. On June 22, 2005, the Ministry issued a 9 Kč commemorative stamp for the 2005 European Championship in Baseball (Fig. 6). Baseball seems to have originated from the popular English racket game called rounders. The first baseball club was set up in 1845 in New York. The game became quickly popular in America and soon began spreading over the world. The founder and promoter of this game here was the American Joe First. The first match was played in 1920 between the Plzeň and Prague branches of the YMCA. Due to its overseas origin baseball experienced a slowdown in growth after World War II. Its modern history began in the 60's with the setting up of the "Baseball Section" and the starting of cooperation with the European Confederation CEBA. The Czech Baseball Association and the National Extra League were set up in 1992 and 1993, respectively. The Czech Republic is the organizer of many



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

international competitions, including championships. The European titles from the 2003 and 2004 European Championships of Pupils and the 2004 European Championship of Cadets in Blansko are among the latest success. The European Championship of Men, featured on the postage stamp, is to be held on July 7-17, 2005 in Prague, Ostrava, Brno, Choceň, Olomouc and Blansko. The stamp depicts a player striking the ball. The stamp was designed by Zdeněk Netopil, engraved by Milos Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, orange, red and blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in bluegreen shows a baseball player in action (Fig. 7).

## SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

3. On February 24, 2005, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 25 Sk stamp to commemorate the Slovakia Summit 2005 (Fig. 8). This issue of Slovakia Summit 2005 is being printed at the time when Slovakia is hosting a series of important international meetings. The Slovak Republic will be visited by George Bush, the President of the United States of America, for the first time ever. And Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation, will pay his first official visit to Slovakia. Besides meetings with the supreme representatives of Slovakia the Presidents George Bush and Vladimir Putin will hold their summit on February 24, which is a follow up on their previous meetings. Slovakia with its foreign policy, as well as its domestic reforms, is respected abroad both in Moscow and in Washington -- as is proved by the summit being held here. It gives Slovakia an opportunity to tell its story of being a country in which freedom and democracy have asserted themselves, and that offers a helping hand to all those that long for freedom. The stamp shows the flags of the United States, Slovakia and Russia, and also Bratislava Castle. It was designed by Enterprise Agency and produced by WSP - CARTOR of France using offset in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 8

4. On March 10, 2005, the Ministry issued a 9 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Easter 2005 (Fig. 9). The Easter Feast is composed of various cultural influences. Easter is the most important feast in the Christian church calendar and is associated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and is often symbolized as a lamb. In traditional culture, Easter is related to customs based on the coming of spring -- ensuring the health and protection of people and economic prosperity, and is symbolized



Fig. 9

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

from the earliest time by water, greenery and eggs. These symbols are present in this stamp. The stamp was designed by Vladimír Machaj and produced by WSP - CARTOR of France using offset in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC was issued.

5. On March 10, 2005, the Ministry issued a commemorative sheetlet containing a single 34 Sk perforated stamp in remembrance of Zdenka Schelingová (Fig. 10). The beautiful Sister Zdenka Schelingová was born on 24 December 1916 in Krivá na Orave. Entirely engrossed by the love and self-sacrifice of the Merciful Sisters of the Holy Cross, she -- as a fifteen-year-old girl -- went to their convent for nuns in Podunajské Biskupice and committed to give all her life to the love of God and her neighbors. After finishing medical school and compulsory convent education, on 30 January 1937 she took her first vows. As a medical nurse, she first worked in Humenné, and from 1942 onwards at Bratislava State Hospital's x-ray ward. Not even after the political upheaval in 1948, when the persecution of the Catholic Church started, could she betray her belief. With exceptional courage, in February

1952 she helped an imprisoned priest to escape while he was being treated at the hospital for the effects of torture. She said, "Lord Jesus, for his life I sacrifice my only life. Help him to stay alive!" The State Security Police arrested her on 29 February 1952, and after merciless anguish in the pre-trial custody in Bratislava, she was finally sentenced, on 17 June 1952, to 12 years of imprisonment and condemned to 10 years of civic rights loss. She was kept in prisons in Rimavská Sobota, Pardubice, Brno and Prague. As her belief demanded, she suffered the cruel treatment of custody with heroic fortitude. When it was clear that due to severe health problems she had no more than one year left to live, she was released on amnesty on 16 April 1955. Three



Fig. 10

months later on 31 July 1955, she died at Trnava Hospital. Her physical remains are kept at the Holy Cross Church in Podunajské Biskupice. The exceptional life of Sister Zdenka Schelingová was acknowledged by Pope John Paul II, who beatified her in Bratislava on 14 September 2003 during his third visit to Slovakia. The life story of Sister Zdenka Schelingová -- the first Slovak woman to be beatified -- shines as an example of loyalty and forgiveness, as the way to unity and peace in the historical context of the renewal of Slovakia and Europe. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovic, produced by WSP - CARTOR of France using offset. A FDC was issued.

6. On March 31, 2005, the Ministry issued a 25 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Solidarity with Asia/Tsunami (Fig. 11). Those countries that suffered the natural disaster at the end of 2004 need help. This overwhelming international and human tragedy cannot leave civilized countries and societies -- communities to which the Slovak Republic and Slovak post undoubtedly belong -- unmoved. The Slovak post declares its support for the suffering countries by the issuance



Fig. 11

of a postage stamp, FDC, and Commemorative Sheet dedicated to "Solidarity with Asia". The core motif of the stamp is humanity and solidarity, and empathy with the suffering countries and their citizens. Slovak post will donate part of the proceeds from sales to UNICEF Slovensko, which will use the donated funds to support relief programs in Indonesia aimed at the health and nutrition of children and pregnant women. The work of art "Poor Mother" by František Studený (pencil, 1944-1945) from the Orava Gallery in Dolný Kubin is reproduced in the stamp. It is a drawing which, by its interpretation, elicits participation in the simplest form -- sympathy with helpless victims. Its strong social undertone, although caused by different circumstances, acquires general meaning in this

context. The stamp was designed and engraved by Arnold Feke and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House in Prague using recess printing from flat plates of eight stamps. A FDC was issued.

7. On March 31, 2005, the Ministry issued a 22 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Cycling (Fig. 12). For the first time in the history of the Slovak Republic a stamp with paralympic motive will be issued. For many years the Slovak paralympic athletes have been very successful. Since Slovakia's independence they have taken part in 6 Paralympic Games (3 summer and 3 winter) and have won 60 medals, 10 of them gold. They have been most successful in table tennis, skiing, athletics and cycling. The stamp shows the deceased cycling athlete Radovan Kaufman during his winning event, the 1 km sprint at the Paralympic Games Sydney 2000. Besides his gold medal at Sydney, he set a world record at the World Championships in Colorado Springs in 1998. The stamp was designed by Igor Piačka and produced



Fig. 12

by WSP - CARTOR in France using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 13

8. On April 22, 2005, the Ministry issued a 19 Sk commemorative stamp in the EUROPA series entitled Gastronomy (Fig. 13). In dependence on the Slovak environment, vegetable and dairy products have traditionally constituted the preponderance of Slovak citizen's diets. Meat originally did not play a significant role. Slovak food was characterized by it generally sour taste. Sweeter meals were consumed only occasionally. Considering the techniques used for

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the preparation of meals, boiled meals were preferred over roasted ones. Over the previous two centuries the development of Slovak food was influenced by the expansion of agricultural commodities such as potatoes, maize and sugar-beets, the enhanced milling of cereals, as well as increasing cross-border trade. Vegetable products, bread, cooked pasta, mashed vegetable and potato meals, soups, sauces and various kinds of cakes formed the basic components of Slovak citizens' meals. Bread was always treated with respect. Welcoming noble guests with bread and salt represents one of the best-known Slovak customs. However, small dumplings made of potato and flour are the best-known and most typical "pasta" cooked by the Slovak population. Cabbage, especially in sour and fermented forms, is the historically most used vegetable. Specific dairy products in Slovak food are made of ewes' milk, while soft ewes' milk cheese (*bryndza*), various smoked and cooked cheeses (*oštiepok*, *parenica*), and milk drinks (*žinčica*) are the best-known. With respect to alcoholic drinks, mead (*medovina*) represents one of the oldest kinds. Distilled spirits, made from plums and juniper berries, are characteristic for the Slovak nation. In its design, the stamp characterizes the basic food-stuff in the Slovak diet, bread with salt, which simultaneously represents the symbol of hospitality. The stamp was designed by Karol Prudil and produced by WSP - CARTOR in France using offset in sheets of eight stamps. A FDC was issued.

9. On April 29, 2005, the Ministry issued a 23 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Bratislava Peace (Fig.14). The victory in the Battle at Ulm on 17 October 1805 opened up the path for Napoleon into Central Europe, and most specifically to Vienna which Napoleon seized during the night of 13/14 November. Napoleon's further progress towards the east was to be stopped by a battle in Moravia, near Slavkov (Austerlitz). In the same place on 2 December 1805, Napoleon's army won over the allied armies of the last Holy Roman-German Emperor and at the same time the first Austrian Emperor František (Francis II), and the Russian Tsar Alexander. This was the second defeat of Emperor Francis II, who was also the Czech and Hungarian king. Although Hungary strived to remain independent in the wars against Napoleon, the defeat at Slavkov had catastrophic consequences for this kingdom, in particular for its former capital and coronation town of Pressburg (today Bratislava). Napoleon could now dictate his will to Europe without any limitations and maximized the opportunity to do so. Via his representatives and negotiators he set humiliating conditions for the Emperor Francis in the Peace Treaty. Under the terms of the Treaty, the political map of the then Europe should have changed completely. The negotiations took less than a month. The final wording was signed by the representatives of both Emperors. The location was the winter palace of



Fig. 14

Esztergom Archbishop in Pressburg. The date was 26 December 1805. Today, the building widely known as the Primate's Palace is the Town Hall of the Capital of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava. In signing the document, Emperor Francis II lost his influence over further development in the German countries. Bavaria and



Württemberg became kingdoms that were to stand by the Emperor Napoleon in the future. The Republic of Batavia (the Netherlands) and the Republic of Helvetia (Switzerland) were recognized as independent countries. Peace was short-lived. As early as 1809, Napoleon and his army returned with the intention of seizing Pressburg and mortifying Francis, whose daughter, Marie Louise, Napoleon later married in 1810. The stamp was designed by Peter Augustovič and produced by WSP - CARTOR in France using offset in sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC was issued.

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