

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official publication of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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EDITORIAL

Members, please read with care the notice by our President. We are quite unhappy about it all but none of it is our doing. We are only trying to protect the best interest of the Society.

As you will note, we have begun the publication of the translation of Padělky. Our good friend, Jaroslav Verner, took time out to do a large part of the translation of the book. We sincerely feel that without the help of faithful members we could not carry on with this fine publication.

The job of an Editor is not the writing of articles but the securing of them and the proper presentation of the publication. We are working on an extensive article for our Linn's issue and we hope to obtain help from a number of our members since we may have forty pages of our own material in that particular issue. We hope that our Stamps issue, January 30, 1965, pleased our readers. It had necessarily to be brief but the article by Kvasnička-Skopceek was quite interesting.

Some months ago we mentioned the importance of decision regarding one's philatelic holdings. We received only one response but we checked many organizations and listened to all sorts of ideas regarding it from many of our philatelic friends. One matter is essential. Everyone of us should place a note with our records stating how we wish our holdings to be handled. This would give the next of kin at least some aid in the process of management of this part of the estate.

We find that SPA has a committee to aid heirs of decedent members. We do not find a similar committee designation in APS or ATA. In a specialty society like ours we believe the president could appoint a committee consisting of members in various parts of the country and this would be published in the Specialist for the members to keep on file. We will ask the president to take this matter under advisement and we hope there are members willing to serve on such a committee.

Mr. Schoenig informed us that all flat sets of the Specialist were already mailed out to our sustaining members in January and that the bound volumes will surely be in the hands of our patron members by the time this issue reaches them.

To the Members of the Society

I regret extremely to be forced to communicate with you again regarding the most unpleasant situation our Society has ever encountered. I reported to you in the September 1964 Specialist that the Council had voted to revoke permission by the members in Chicago the use of branch designation by a great majority. Before Nojex in October the Secretary-Treasurer of the former Chicago branch repeatedly pressed for an opportunity to "clear up the misunderstanding" between the Chicago group and the Society leadership. At the Nojex exhibition he did meet with two officers of the Society and thus he gave the impression that he spoke for the group in Chicago. At this conference the correspondence referring to request for permission to translate the forgery book was read in part by the Chicago member but he was advised that the crux of the matter was when the Chicago members first advertised the sale of this translation and when the permission was ultimately granted. To repeat: In the May 2, 1964 issue of STAMPS an article appeared offering a complete translation of Padělky for sale at the forthcoming Compex, May 29-31. We also have on hand official notification of permission from the Czechoslovak Agency dated June 3, 1964, which conclusively proves that the advertisement appeared BEFORE official permission had been given. This is not an ethical procedure and reflects unfavorably on our Society. Furthermore, the president and editor were never informed that the members in Chicago were working on such a translation which had previously been announced to them through the Specialist as a project of the national society. This gives you all a good idea of the magnificent co-operation of those members! We are beginning to publish another translation in this issue and will raise the number of pages of the text in the not too distant future to enable us to complete it more rapidly. Here you members are getting a good translation free of charge as originally planned.

Now we wish to return to the above-mentioned conference. We were willing to let bygones be bygones and the only detail we insisted on was that in the future the members in Chicago (as a branch) must abide by the authority of the Council, which consists of the elected officers of the Society. This should have been an unnecessary request because it should have been understood. Our guest did not disagree and we assumed that all would be settled and we could go on with no future nonsense on this score. When I sent a letter for signature, in which it stated that the branch would abide by the authority of the Council and that would concern itself with affairs of a local nature as is customary in branches, we received the response from the same member that first of all he had not been authorized to speak for the members in Chicago and secondly they would never abide by the authority of the Council. Therefore, to my great disappointment, the decision of the council revoking the privilege of meeting as a branch, must stand.

Just recently we learned from the philatelic press of the formation of an "independent" organization calling itself "Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society." We are very sorry to have to state that this designation is one of the most improper ones in U. S. philatelic history. Aside from the fact that the intention is manifestly to harm our Society, organized in 1939, it is purposely misleading. I understand that there have already been some inquiries. It is a sad state of affairs when grown-up people resort to such tactics.

I must say that when the secretary-treasurer of the erstwhile branch was my house guest during his stay in New York, he convinced me that he meant well and sincerely wanted only fair dealings. I regret he has caused me to come to different conclusions now.

One should never assume that if one had worked for a society even for twenty years that he owns the society. All the good he has previously done for such society is negated by the harm he is now knowingly producing.

We will work hard to continue to give you a good publication and I only hope that many members in Chicago will awake to the truth that all the present officers want is fairness and decent relationship. Those may then convince the mighty few there that the important thing is not Chicago, New York or another part of the country but the CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY which has a very fine past and I earnestly hope a bright future!

Lolly M. Horechny, President

Just received (after all material had already been sent to our printer for the March issue and so we are asking him to add this to our Editorial) a circular letter signed by three members and two non-members of the Society which states, among other fallacies, that your Editor put most of the Council members into office!! We are therefore obliged to point out that the Society members voted in the usual democratic fashion, by the election of 1963, to put into office the members of our governing council. Tabulation of the results was done by James W. Adler, Chairman of the Election Committee.

As for the translation of the Forgeries Handbook, see the June and September 1964 issues of the Specialist, for the story.

Our President has informed us that any member interested in securing valid detailed information on the matters mis-outlined in that circular letter may communicate with him and he would be willing to send complete pertinent data.

We could publish the facts about the actions of the members in question, which they have presented in such a twisted fashion as to give a totally false impression, but this would unnecessarily take valuable space.

This circular letter is our "thanks" from these peculiar members for our objective and non-vindictive insistence that the affairs of the Society must be carried on only in an open and honest fashion and on behalf of ALL the members.

NEW MEMBERS

- 801 Richard W. Culin, 894 Greenwood Ave., Akron, Ohio 44320
802 Michael G. Hvidsak, 385 Como Street, Struthers, Ohio

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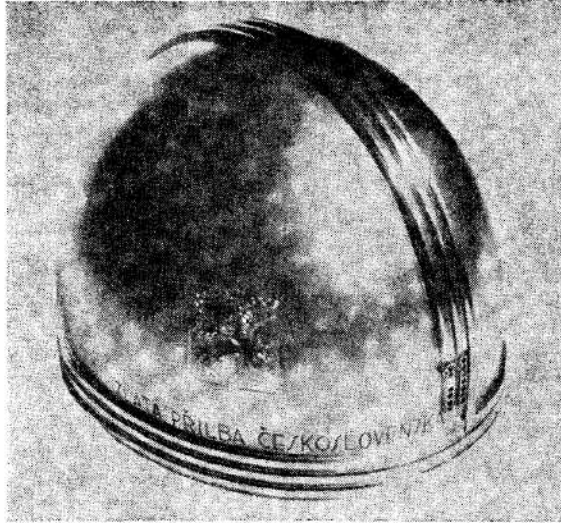
New York 57, N. Y.

The "Golden Helmet" of Czechoslovakia

By Joseph M. Lacko

Reprinted from the Journal of Sports Philately

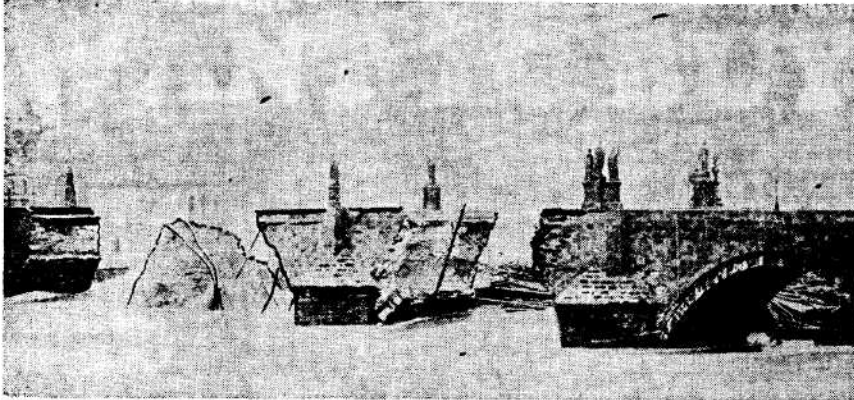
"Zlata Prilba" ("The Golden Helmet") is a cancellation frequently seen on both older and recent covers from Czechoslovakia. This cancellation honors a motorcycle race equally important to the host city, Pardubice, as its famous race, the "Grand Pardubice Steeplechase." Motorcycling was first mentioned in Pardubice in 1895 and the first motorcycle race there was held in 1903. Of course the "Golden Helmet" of Czechoslovakia has added more fame to Pardubice.



Pardubice Zavodiste/13 Zlata prilba Ceskoslovenska/20.VIII.1961
 Pardubice Zavodiste/14 Zlata prilba Ceskoslovenska/16.IX.1962
 Pardubice Jubilejun 15./Zlata prilba CSSR/15.IX.1963

CHARLES BRIDGE IN 1890

By Jiří Nekvasil



By courtesy of our good friend G. R. Skopecek we are reproducing a photograph of Charles Bridge after the floods of August 1890.

Adrien Boutreele, the photographer of the Collectors Club in New York, donated his effort in the fine reproduction of the old copy. We refer our readers to the article on Charles Bridge in the November 1964 issue of the Specialist.

POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

By Wolfgang Fritzsche

1965 Postal Cards. They have imprinted stamp like the 30h III ČS Spartakiada Praha 1965 stamp. Color is black on buff. At left is picture, black on buff. There are twelve cards with four pictures of Praha and eight various sport's scenes. Legend under the picture: III Celoštatni Spartakiada—Praha 35 h. There is in the form of the Spartakiada emblem III Č. S. 1965. Photo: C. Moravec. At right are three address lines. There are no titles to the pictures and the cards are not numbered.

The 1964 regular postal card of 30 h Novotny stamp imprint now shows the sales price of 35 h at the left of the dividing line.

Just received shipment of Forgery Book, cost \$3.96 postpaid

TRAVELING?

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"Travel with the man who was born there".

Padělký Československých Poštovních Známek (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps)

1918-1939

Eng. Jan Karásek, Zdeněk Kvasnička, Břetislav Pauliček

Translated by Jaroslav J. Verner

By permission of the Czechoslovak Theatrical and Literary Agency
Dilia, dated June 3, 1964

Editor's Note: In the Czech language "padělek" denotes fake, forgery or counterfeit. We wish to present this translation with the use of the following nomenclature:

Fake: Manufacture of non-existent stamp, perforation, color, denomination, date stamp or other hand stamp. In addition, placing postmark on stamp which had no validity at that particular place or that particular date.
(To defraud collector)

Forgery: Changing perforation, removing perforation by making stamp imperforate, changing color, denomination, falsifying postmark, treating paper, repairing stamp.
(To defraud collector)

Counterfeit: Imitation of a stamp or overprint.
(To defraud government or collector)

We consider this book one of the finest philatelic publications of recent years and since it should prove of great value to each of you we urge you to acquire a copy. You could easily differentiate yourself between the genuine and non-genuine item with the aid of this translation of the pertinent text especially as the illustrations are truly marvelous.

Sources from which the Czech edition may be obtained, for \$3.96 a bound copy, are advertised in the Specialist.

Book Page 20

Hradčany

Designer: Alfons Mucha

10 h yellow green

Validity: Jan. 3, 1920 to April 30, 1921

(Catalog numbers listed)

Imperforate

Comb perforation 13¼x13½

Comb perforation 11¼

Line perforation 13¼

White to yellowish paper in various thicknesses with white gum

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 26.3x22.3 mm.

Genuine

1. Details of the dome of St. Nicholas cathedral are sharply defined.
2. In the left corner the linden leaves are completely dotted.
3. On the right side the linden branch is of the same thickness along its entire length.
4. Wings of the doves are shaded in by thin lines.

Page 21**Counterfeit A (to defraud collector)**

10 h yellow green in various shades

This counterfeit of the 10 h stamp was first discovered in 1932 along with the 20 h carmine and 30 h red violet denominations. It was disposed of to collectors in large quantities. It can also be found with genuine cancellations which were applied by a postal employee subsequent to the cancellation date.

Yellowish or grayish paper with grayish gum and normal thickness.

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 26.3x22.2 mm.

Illustration**Counterfeit**

1. The details of the dome of St. Nicholas Cathedral are not sharp.
2. In the left corner the linden leaves are partially dotted.
3. On the right side the linden branch is of the same thickness along its entire length.
4. The wings of the doves and the hearts are shaded with thick irregular lines.

Page 22**Counterfeit B (to defraud collector)**

10 h yellow green in various shades

This counterfeit was printed in typography in blocks of eight. There are slight variations in each stamp. The right linden branch is markedly different. White paper with white gum and normal thickness.

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 26.3x22.2 mm.

Illustration**Counterfeit**

1. The details on the dome of St. Nicholas cathedral are not sharp.
2. In the left corner the linden leaves are partially dotted.
3. On the right the Linden branch is wider in the center.
4. The shading of the hearts and doves is coarser and unclear.

Page 23**Counterfeit C (to defraud the collector)**

10 h yellow green

This counterfeit was probably printed from a single die. A large white spot under the letter P easily identifies this counterfeit. Its color and paper are similar to the original. The gum is white and thinly applied. The paper is gray and the color of the design is olive under ultraviolet light.

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 26x22 mm

Illustration**Counterfeit**

1. A small colored dot is missing above the dome of St. Nicholas cathedral.
2. In the left corner the linden leaves are dotted similarly to the original.
3. On the right side the linden branch is of the same thickness along its entire length.
4. There is a large white spot under the P in Pošta.
5. Above the roof of St. Vitus cathedral there is a colored spot.
6. A white spot is in the bushes below St. Vitus cathedral.
7. There is a small colored dot after the number 10 in the denomination tablet.

Page 24

20 h carmine

Validity: Jan. 3, 1920 to April 30, 1921

(catalog numbers listed)

Imperforate

Comb perforation $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ Line perforation $13\frac{3}{4}$

White to yellowish paper in various thicknesses with white gum. The paper is white and the color of the stamp is carmine under ultra-violet light.

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size: 26.5x22.3 mm.

Illustration

Genuine

1. The dome of St. Nicholas cathedral has well defined details of design.
2. On the steeple the clock is round with an arch above and a round window over it.
3. The roof of St. Vitus cathedral is uneven and serrated.
4. In the left corner the linden leaves are completely dotted in.
5. The number 2 is further from the lower edge of the denomination tablet.
6. The wings of the doves and the hearts are shaded with thin lines.

Page 25

Counterfeit A (to defraud collector)

20 h carmine

This counterfeit was first discovered along with the 10 h and 30 h in 1932.

Yellowish paper of normal thickness and bears yellow gum.

The paper is gray and the color of the stamp is dark red under ultra-violet light.

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 26.7x22.4 mm.

Illustration

Counterfeit

1. The dome of St. Nicholas cathedral is poorly defined in the fine detail.
2. The clock on the steeple is round without an upper arch and with a dark dot above.
3. The roof of St. Vitus cathedral is straight.
4. In the left corner the linden leaves are partially dotted.
5. The number 2 almost touches the lower edge of the denomination tablet.
6. The wings of the doves and the hearts are shaded with thin, uneven lines and the drawing of the doves differs from the original.

Page 26

Counterfeit B (to defraud the collector)

20 h carmine

The stereotype plates of the counterfeit were set up in a block of eight. Etching effected slight differences. However, basically they are the same and by the same counterfeiter.

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 26.5x22.4 mm.

Illustration

Counterfeit

1. The dome of St. Nicholas cathedral has poorly defined details.
2. The clock on the steeple is round with a broken arch and a dark dot above.
3. The roof is straight.
4. In the left corner the linden leaves are partially dotted.
5. The number 2 touches the lower edge of the denomination tablet.
6. The wings of the doves and the hearts are drawn with thick lines with coarse outline and inner shading.

Page 27

30 h light red violet
(catalog numbers listed)

Validity: April 12, 1920 to April 30, 1921

Imperforate

Comb perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$

Comb perforation 11 $\frac{3}{4}$

Line perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$

Line perforation 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Line perforation 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$

White paper in various thicknesses with white gum. The paper is white and the color of the stamp is light violet under ultraviolet light.

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 26.8x22.9 mm.

Illustration**Genuine**

1. The dome of St. Nicholas cathedral shows well marked fine details.
2. The clock on the steeple is clear with round window above.
3. The roof of St. Vitus cathedral is serrated.
4. In the left and right corners the linden leaves are completely lined and dotted.
5. The ornament is a narrow regular triangle.
6. The tip of the spire on the dome is broken.
7. The wings of the doves and the hearts are shaded with thin lines.

Page 28

Counterfeit A (to defraud collector)

30 h light violet

This counterfeit was discovered along with the 10 h green and 20 h carmine in 1932.

The paper is of normal thickness, yellowish, at times grayish with yellowish gum. It is gray and the color of the stamp is red violet under ultraviolet light.

Illustration

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 26.5x22.7 mm.

Counterfeit

1. The fine detail is not well marked on the dome of St. Nicholas cathedral.
2. The clock on the steeple and the round window are not distinguishable.
3. The roof of St. Vitus cathedral is straight.
4. In the right and left corners the linden leaves are irregularly dotted.
5. The narrow regular triangular ornament is missing (it seems a mere vestige).
6. The tip of the spire is taller and broken.
7. The hearts and the doves at the bottom are almost completely filled in.

Page 29

Counterfeit B (to defraud collector)

30 h light red violet

The stereotype plates of the counterfeit were set up in blocks of eight.

Etching effected small differences but all are considered the same basic counterfeit. The paper is gray with the color of stamp blue violet under ultraviolet light.

Typography — Type of engraving: E — Size of design: 27.0x22.7 mm.

(to be continued)

Czechoslovak Courier Service of 1918-1920

By Z. Kvasnička

Translated by G. R. Skopecek



Fig. 1

This very ancient type of service was and is used for a safe delivery of letters and documents where the regular postal service is not considered prompt or safe. It is preferred by the military and diplomatic services. However, our interest is not in these phases but in the Courier Service organized in the unsettled post-war period when boundaries of new states were in a state of flux.

The new states formed out of the old Austrian Empire had a semblance of a postal service, but they had no secure interrelation with each other because of the closure of the borders. Many Czechs and Slovaks in exile and loyal to their homeland were without any news from the Republic, and also

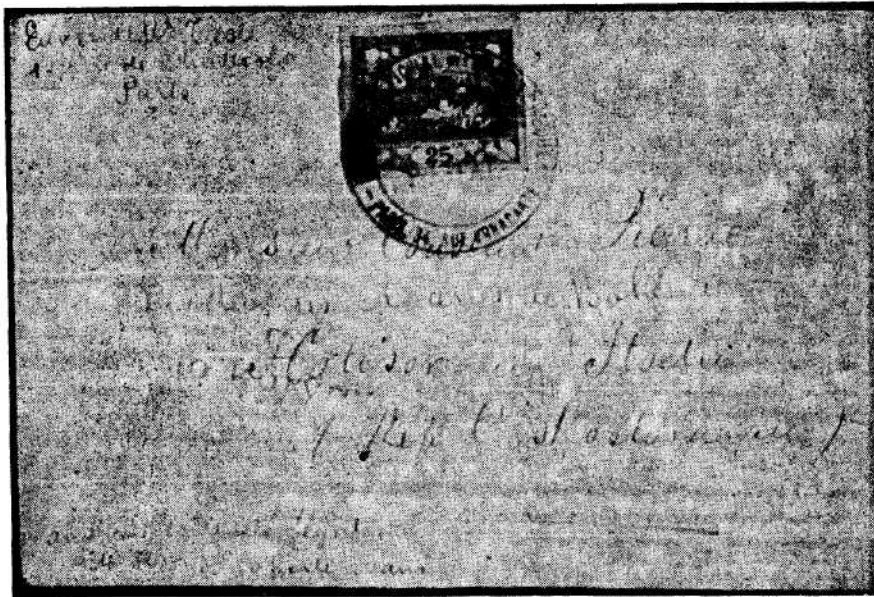


Fig. 2—Double-circle cancellation with text as described in accompanying article, and other details as related by the author.



Fig. 3

the newly established diplomatic offices had no regular communications with their government so a courier service was established.

In Praha the central office was in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It used a round stamp with red or violet ink. The text on it was "Správa Kurýru Československeho Vrchního Stanu v Praze" (Administration of the Courier Service of the Czechoslovak Supreme Headquarters in Prague). In the center of the handstamp was a reproduction of the Czech Lion (Fig. 1). Another round stamp which was used had the text "Ministerstvo Věci Zahranič. Československé Republiky-Správa Kurýrů" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Republic-Administration of the Courier Service). Official mail was handled free, but private, business, and bank letters were franked at the current rates with Austrian, Hungarian, or Czech stamps. From the covers at hand it appears that the service lasted from the end of 1918 to the middle of 1920.

The mail brought by couriers to Praha was stamped by a one-line stamp—"DOSLO KURYREM" (arrived by courier) and turned over to the local post office for delivery. A substation of the service was established in Bratislava, called in the transition period "Prešpurk" or "Wilsontown." Substations were also in all diplomatic offices in foreign countries.

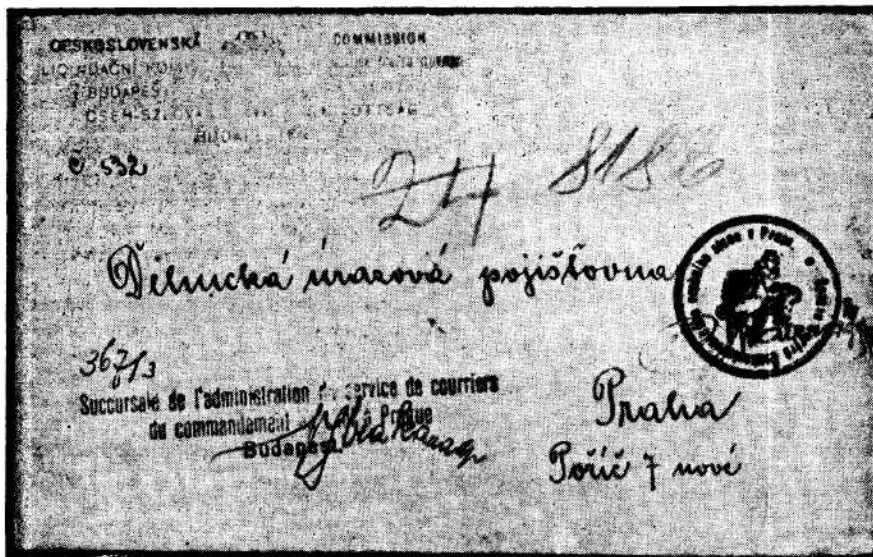


Fig. 4—Czechoslovak Liquidation Commission Cover with its official designation and using a stamp in French of Courier Administration Service in Budapest.



Fig. 5

The French substation was in the building of the Czech National Council in Paris. The mail had to be franked with Czech stamps which were brought in by the couriers. The cancellation was done by a double circle rubber stamp with French text "Council National Des Pays Tcheques, Paris, 34 Rue Bonaparte" (National Council of Czech Countries). In the center of the stamp was a two-line text "Service Postal." On arrival of the mail in Prague, it was stamped "DOŠLO KURÝREM" and turned over for delivery to the local post office. (Fig. 2).

The Hungarian substation using a two-line handstamp in red with the Czech lion in the center was in Budapest (Fig. 3). The Czechoslovak Liquidation Commission in Budapest used its official designation when sending out



Fig. 6—Živnostenska Banka letter to Poland stamped "Zuruko" (return) and "kein verkehr" (no communication).



Fig. 7—Živnostenská Banka letter addressed to Brezna, mailed to Prague as registered letter, and delivered at courier service there.

mail, utilizing also a stamp in French of Courier Administration Service in Budapest (Fig. 4).

The mail to Slovakia had the receiving stamp of the courier substation in Bratislava (Prešpurk) (Fig. 5).

In Turkey, the courier substation using a rectangular stamp about 20 mm x 17 mm for overprinting the Hradčany stamps which the courier brought in, was in the offices of the Czechoslovak representative in Istanbul. This was an unofficial overprint—Čs. Levanty (Czechoslovak Levant) and letters with such an overprint are a rare example of the service.

The letter of the Živnostenská Banka shown here and addressed to Poland, was returned stamped Zuruko (Return) and Kein Verkehr (no communication) in black (Fig. 6). The very unsettled conditions in some parts of Slovakia forced the post office to use the courier service for the movement of regular mail. The illustrated letter (Fig. 7), addressed to Brezna, was mailed in Prague as a registered letter and was delivered at courier service there. It had no stamp of the receiving station. The mixed franking pinpoints the mailing time as sometime at the end of 1918 or the beginning of 1919.

The largest part of the courier mail reached Prague from Siberia where there was a large Czech army at that time. Usually unofficial mail carried no postage and after having been delivered to the Prague post office (Hradčany substation) was forwarded with a notation of postage due. At times the letters were franked with the silhouette issue of the Czechoslovak Legion. All official mail carried no postage and in both instances the letters were marked "Došlo Kurýrem" (arrived by courier).

Please Mention this Magazine when writing Advertisers. Thanks!

The Autopost

The Czechoslovak Highway Postoffice

Translated by G. R. Skopecek

Reprinted from Filatelie

The Autopost was put in operation September 16, 1937, and received an immediate approval from both the general public and collectors, because it offered a convenient transportation to cultural and other assemblies of local, national and international interest.

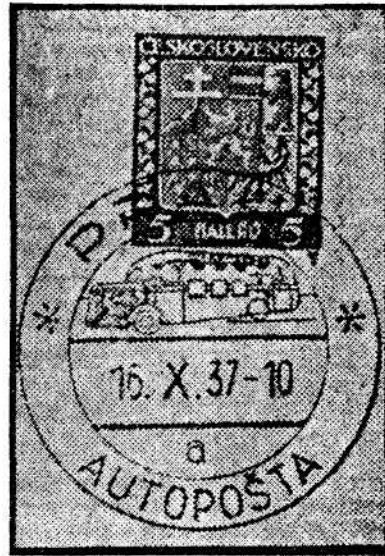
To advertise the Autopost, the Government issued very attractive posters and two postcards in the set "Poznejte svou vlast" (Know your country) designed by Architect A. Jonáš. From 1937 to 1945 a special cancel stamp, using orange ink, was its badge. This stamp was about one and three-eighths inches in diameter with a crossbar. In the top half was the name of the postoffice and in the bottom half was the word AUTOPOŠTA. In the segment above the bar was a picture of the coach, in the crossbar the date and in the lower segment the distinguishing letter "a" or "b" or "c" etc. When another coach was added in 1938, to distinguish its cancel the classifying letters were "1a," "1b" etc.

During the occupation one of the coaches was sent for service in Slovakia. Both used the same cancelling stamp in a new form. After the liberation the Autopost was restored to its original territory and a new individual cancelling stamp was substituted for the original orange one. On the new one the word Auto-pošta is almost lost.

A special rubber stamp for local use was employed in 1946 and 1947. This stamp consisted of two concentric circles, sometimes with different letters, but similar to the one already in use. The name of a station was in the upper half and AUTOPOŠTA in the lower half. It had no crossbar and the date was in one line in the center. The date in this stamp sometimes covered several days while the coach was in the same neighborhood; an example of it is "Havlíčkův Brod 5-7-VII 1946 AUTOPOŠTA". The imprint of this stamp is found mostly on registered matter, usually across the registration sticker. The principal duty of this cancel was to confirm the receipt of mail by the coach, in cases where the local cancel did not contain the word AUTOPOŠTA, was not legible or used an R sticker with name different from the locality in which the coach operated, as when in 1947 Lidice used the R sticker PRAHA—1. The R stickers were used by all postoffices where the coach was presently operating. R stickers with only the word AUTOPOŠTA, originally provided for the International Industrial Fair in 1950, were also sometimes used.

Presently, the Autopost coach is used for a variety of purposes, which are not shown by the cancel. The picture of an Autopost coach is omitted from the cancel now used.

Postage stamps cancelled by the original orange cancel are now a collectors item.



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