

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official publication of the  Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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## THE PRAGUE PNEUMATIC MAIL 1899-1945

By Jiří Nekvasil

Written for the Specialist



In the early 50's and 60's of last century, a new type of mail transportation was introduced in Europe. This was pneumatic dispatch, a system of transporting written dispatches through long tubes of small diameter by means of compressed or rarefied air. The first patent for "transportation of packages" by this means was obtained in 1854 by Monsieur Cazalet, a Frenchman. However one year before, in 1853, the pneumatic dispatch was introduced by J. Latimer Clark between the Central and Stock Exchange stations of the Electric and International Telegraph Company in London, the stations being connected by a tube 1½ inches in diameter and 220 yards long; the messages, enclosed in a tight fitting carrier (container), being drawn through by production of a partial vacuum at one end. The system was im-

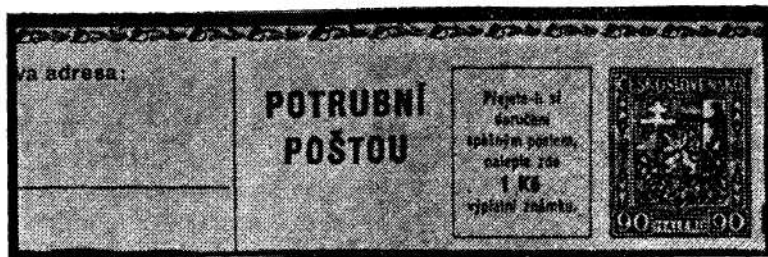


proved in 1858 by C. F. Varley, who used compressed air to return the carriers in the other direction. By this means it was possible to develop two-way working on single tubes between a central station, equipped with air compressing plant, and outlying offices. In 1862 the London Dispatch Company built and operated a pneumatic tube system between the Camden Town Post Office on Everholt Street and the Euston Railroad Station in Northwest London. Its tube was some 1800 feet (approximate 600 yards) long and was shaped as a horseshoe.

This system speeded-up the local mail considerably, and put it on par with the express mail (special delivery mail). In 1893 systems of pneumatic mail were established in 8 English cities with combined network of more than 50 miles. Leading newspapers and large department stores began to use it for their own internal mail. Generally the tubes were 1½ to 2 inches and more in diameter (up to 50 to 75 mm.) Metal containers lined with leather and felt were used. The moving force applied was either vacuum or rarified air or a combination of both.

The first pneumatic mail in Berlin was built and in operation in 1865. Some ten years later, the German General Postmaster, Dr. Stephan, ordered the building of a very extensive net of pneumatic mail system covering the whole area of the German capital city. This new system went into operation December 1st 1876. Next year, no less than 1,361,000 pieces of mail used the system and this amount rose in 1892 to some 4,952,000 pieces of mail. By 1913, the Berlin pneumatic mail system carried no less than 12,150,000 pieces of postal matter every year. After the Berlin success, similar system were built in Hamburg, Munich, Bremen and Leipzig. Austria followed with its first system in Vienna. Soon Paris and Marseilles had their pneumatic mail systems too. It is interesting to note that the French were first to use a special postal stationery and a special stamp for their pneumatic mail. In 1871, a Hungarian, Dr. Akin, had this kind of special pneumatic mail stamp (or label?) patented. Outside of Europe, only Brazil issued special stamps for its own pneumatic mail system, between 1911 and 1918 (built in Rio de Janeiro). There were 4 different stamps. Then the other above mentioned states began to issue special pneumatic mail stationery and stamps. However, these stamps were never printed in sheets or panes as is the case of regular stamps.

The Czechs and especially their technicians were keenly interested in this new system of dispatching mail. Already in 1836, the Czech magazine



Kwěty published an article on this subject. Also the world famous Czech inventor of ships propeller, Mr. Joseph Ressel (1793-1857), publicly advocated establishment of this system in Prague. The first pneumatic mail in Prague went into operation March 4, 1899—and connected the city's Central post office with the local largest hardware and plumbing supplies department store of Mr. Rott. Later this line was extended to the Prague's Royal Castle (the Hradčany). The expansion continued until the system had 43 direct lines with the total length of some 40 miles. Postcards and letters up to 100 grams of weight were accepted, but no heavy or hard paper was allowed. At a later date, the world famous Western Bohemian Spas Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), had its own pneumatic mail system built. However not many hard facts are known about its operation and few known entires of this mail are highly suspected as clever fakes.

The Austrian postal authorities began to issue special entires for the pneumatic mail in Prague in 1899. These were bi-lingual—in Czech and German—with the former language on top. The pneumatic mail postcards were issued in 1899, 1900 and 1907 both in single and pre-paid answer varieties. However since 1908 the authorities began to issue textless pneumatic mail entires (so called "blinds" by Czech philatelists) which were used both in Prague and Karlovy Vary. Thus only postmarks and cancellations were the only means of their identification. These entires used in Prague after October 28, 1918 (the day of Czechoslovak liberation and establishment of the modern Czechoslovakia) are the first provisional Czech entires, especially when franked with the first regular Czech stamp issue (the Hradčany series). These provisionals were followed in 1919 and 1920 with the first Czechoslovak pneumatic mail entires. This was a "letter-gramme" with imprinted 160 haleru denominations and a pneumatic mail postcard with 140 haleru imprinted stamp. Both with the likeness of the Chainbreaker, symbol of the Republic tearing up its chains. These two entires were printed on colored paper. In 1932 the last pneumatic mail entire was printed, a postcard with 90 haleru imprinted stamp (the Czech state seal) in green color.

All the mail destined for the Prague pneumatic mail had to have in addition a special purple label with the legend "Potrubní poštou" (via pneumatic mail). The letters and postcards had also to be placed in special red-blue mail boxes situated before all Prague post office buildings. Additional special mail boxes were also placed strategically on the most frequented Prague streets and thoroughfares. The pneumatic mail served very well the needs of Prague inhabitants during both World Wars. However in 1945 it was taken over by the postal authorities for their own internal use and ceased to be available to the general public.

So this chapter of the Prague's postal history is definitely closed. But some very interesting documentary collections could still be established from the available material.

(translated/adapted by lhv)

## CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST — INDEX FOR 1967

	No.	Page
<b>AIR MAIL</b>		
Czech Air Mail Letters 1920-21—Karel Basika .....	274	87
<b>BOHEMIA-MORAVIA</b>		
Why Bohemia-Moravia Issued Stamps—H. L. Halle .....	269	2
Regierungstruppe 1945—B. R. Beede .....	274	94
German Military Mail in Czechoslovakia 1938-45—Beede .....	278	157
<b>CANCELLATIONS</b>		
Commemorative Cancels of Austria-Hungary Used in Czechoslovak Areas—Z. Kvasnička and J. J. Verner ..	271	33
Czech Emergency Cancellations In Former Austrian Silesia 1945-46—Dr. H. Tzschaschel .....	273	70
<b>COUNTERFEITS</b>		
New Look at Two Pre-War Czech Stamp Counterfeits ..	271	45
More About the Smetana-Arras Stamps—Z. Kvasnička ..	274	92
Beware of Hradčany Entires—Dr. F. Kubat .....	277	144
<b>FIELD POSTS</b>		
Czechoslovak Field Posts of 1918-20—B. Matějka .....	274	82
<b>HISTORY</b>		
Czechoslovakia's History Taught by Postage Stamps— Dr. John H. Jakes .....	275	114
Cont. ....	276	124
<b>HRADČANY</b>		
Philatelic War Orphans (25 h)—Dr. O. Kutvirt .....	277	140
Two Types of Hradčany 400 h Stamp—Dr. F. Kubat .....	278	159
500 h Hradčany Stamp—J. Karásek .....	278	161
<b>LIBRARY</b>		
Librarians Report—F. Kosik .....	272	59
<b>LIDICE</b>		
25 Years Past and Not Forgotten—E. J. Hanish .....	277	136
<b>NEW ISSUES</b>		
Parade of New Issues—F. J. Kosik .....	269	9
“ .....	270	29
“ .....	277	146
“ .....	278	163
New Issue Costs—G. A. Blizil .....	272	75
<b>POST OFFICE and SERVICES</b>		
U. S. Army Post Offices in Czechoslovakia— Capt. E. J. Benchik .....	271	43
The New Czech Mobile Postal Service—K. Rossy .....	275	112
The Karlštejn Castle Mail—J. Nekvasil .....	276	117
<b>POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSÁ 1919</b>		
Study by J. Karásek .....	272	55
<b>POSTAL STATIONERY—</b>		
by W. Fritzsche .....	276	122
“ .....	277	138
“ .....	278	152
<b>RARITIES</b>		
Some Unique Rarities Among Czech Stamps—J. Karásek ..	269	4
The Rarest of all Czech Stamp Rarities—K. Basika .....	276	120
Early, Postwar Czechoslovakia Offers Philatelic Excitement—L. Grover .....	278	154
<b>STAMP DESIGN and DESIGNERS</b>		
Stamp Designer's Sketch Book—O. Kutvirt .....	270	17

That Picasso Stamp—G. A. Blizil .....	270	41
Bartered Bride Centennial Souvenir Sheet .....	271	43
Bedrich Housa and His Czech Stamps—O. Hornung .....	272	60
Alfons Mucha—J. Nekvasil .....	273	72
The 1945 Košice Souvenir Sheet—S. Kassay .....	276	122
<b>STAMP EXHIBITIONS</b>		
Catalog View at the Brno Stamp Exhibition .....	269	6
Brno Exhibition .....	269	8
The 35th FTP Congress at Munich .....	270	21
Participation of the N. Y. Branch at Collectors Club Meeting .....	274	91
World Philatelic Exhibition Praga 1968 .....	275	111
1967 Czechoslovak Exhibition—G. A. Blizil .....	277	133
<b>THERESIENSTADT</b>		
A Philatelic Study—Theodor Moebs .....	270	23
<b>TOWN NAMES and THEIR EQUIVALENTS</b>		
“ .....	269	11
“ .....	272	62
“ .....	276	130
<b>VARIETIES</b>		
30 h violet, Definitive Issue—Karásek-Hahn .....	272	49
Types of Praga 1962 Comm. Sheets—Herout-Verner .....	273	65
New Type of Siberian Lion—Jan Mrňák .....	273	76
Interesting Flaw on a Recent Issue—S. Horvath .....	274	92

#### EDITORIAL

We hope that many of you will participate at Praga-68 which is promising to become the largest and most elaborate exhibition which has ever been held. Since the maximum number of frames has been set at fifty we can visualize the presentation of some truly huge and outstanding collections. We were also interested to read that a minimum of five frames was decided on. This is really a good idea since in the past the trouble at other international shows was that an exhibitor had to fight hard to get even four frames allocated and the size of those frames did not permit more than twelve of the usual size pages. In this instance there is ample space for 16 of such pages. The cost of the frames is set at a not unusual figure of \$5.00 and the committee will carry the full insurance on the entries while in Czechoslovakia.

In the Nov. 25, 1967, issue of the Prague News Letter we noted more than one column devoted to a new type of collecting which has become popular among Czechoslovak collectors. This is called there Bohemoslovenica, according to the reporter of the Philately Corner of this four page publication. In another section of this Specialist, readers will note Mr. Krouman's review

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in Filatelie of our last year's Linn's issue on articles of Czechoslovak Philately. He referred to collecting Bohemoslovenica. We have never before heard that term used in connection with the collection of Czechoslovak stamps or postal history. In addition we are confused by the use of the term in such loose fashion. In the Philately Corner of the Prague News Letter a definite statement was made regarding Bohemoslovenica that would indicate the thematic character of that type of collecting in which we believe. We would agree to that term used in the sense a collector can assemble stamps, postmarks, postal stationery, etc., whose themes such as portraits, symbols or occasions on which they were issued, are in some way related to Czechoslovakia. In Filatelie reference to the term includes all Czechoslovak collecting. This is to our mind not correct but it may have been made in error. The article of Benchik could well be placed into the category as described above as taken from the Prague News Letter.

Our readers may have wondered why we paid so little attention to the masthead of our January issue. Yes, this is the 30th volume of the Specialist and may it prosper in spite of those few who for purely personal reasons put all kinds of obstacles in its way. Many members have sent in dues by now, even increasing the amounts they have sent to the treasurer but some of you have not as yet done so, although you should have mailed them on or about January 1, 1968. Do it now and, please, up your payment to \$5.00. We do not want to have to explain that it was because of lagging dues that you did not get your April Specialist. The Specialist is a very important part of Cz P S as all of you are well aware. Let us band together to keep it going.

#### NEW SPECIAL ISSUES FOR PRAGA 68 EXHIBITION

According to Filatelie the organizing committee for Praga 68 International Stamp Exhibition recently decided to issue several special postal stationery items and cancellations related to the event. These will be: special "Exhibition" envelope with imprinted 60 haleru stamp; another special envelope without stamp; eight picture post cards with imprinted stamp and these pictures will have some relation to philatelic activities conducted during the Exhibition; eight picture post cards with imprinted stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak stamp; an airletter; special stickers or stationery for balloon, helicopter and stagecoach mail which will also operate during the Exhibition. Also special exhibition cancellations and postmarks which will be changed daily during the duration. Finally there will be a special machine cancellation with the Exhibition slogans which will aim to propagandize this event abroad.

—lhv

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	Breznica	Budějovice Moravské	Moravské
Breznóbánya	Brezno na Slovensku		Budějovice
Brezová Slovenská	Podbrezová	Budigsdorf	Krasíkov
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	Brezovo	Buchbergsthal	Buchberkstál
Breovo Českó	Českó Breovo	Buchers	Bucheř
Briesau	Brezová vo Slezsku	Buky Mladé	Mladé Buky
Briesen	Brezno na Slovensku	Buky Staré	Staré Buky
Brims	Brnistě	Bünauburg	Bynov
Brněnec, Biezová	Biezová-Brněnec	Burgholz	Purkarec
Broczkó	Brodské	Bürgstein	Sloup v Čechách
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Brod Český	Český Brod	Burszentgyörgy	Búrsky Sv. Jur
Brod Německý	Německý Brod	Burszentmiklós	Búrsky Sv. Mikuláš
Brod Uherský	Uherský Brod	Busau	Bouzov
Brod Vyšší	Vyšší Brod	Busk	Boubská
Brod Železný	Železný Brod	Bůslavice	Bohuslavice u Hlučína
Brogján	Brodany	Busócz	Busovce
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Brtnice, Brancouzy		Buša	Bušince
	Brancouzy-Brtnice	Buštin	Bušтина
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Bruck	Dunahidaš	Butkovce	Budkovce
Bruck am Hammer	Brod	Buzice	Buzita
Brüd	Berežskij Brod	Buzinka	Bužinka
Bruch	Lom u Mostu	Byčkovice, Ploškovice	
Brumov, Bilnice	Bilnice-Brumov		Ploškovice Byčkovice
Brumovice, Škrochovice	Škrochovice-Brumovice,	Bydžov Nový	Nový Bydžov
		Bystré Turjanské	
Brünn	Brno		Turjanskoje Bystroje
Brunnersdorf	Pruneřov	Bystrica nad Váhom	Povážska
Brünnl	Dobrá Voda u Nov. Hradú		Bystrica
Brünnles	Brničko	Bystrica Nová	Nová Bystrica
Brünnlitz	Brněnec	Bystrica Povážska	Povážska Bystrica
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Brüsau	Brezová na Mor.	Bystroje Turjanskoje	
Brüsau-Brünnlitz	Březová-Brněnec		Turjanskoje Bystroje
Bruska	Praha (Bruska)	Bystrzyca	Bystřice ve Slezsku
Brusnice Horní	Horní Brusnice	Bystrice Malá	Malá Bystřice
Brusnice Německá	Německá	Bystrice Nová	Nová Bystřice
	Brusnice	Bystrice Velká	Velká Bystřice

Byšice, Liblice-	Liblice Byšice	Csiz	Číz
Bytča	Velká Bytča	Csizfördő	Číz
Bytča Malá	Bytčica	Csorba	Štrba
Bytča Velká	Velká Bytča	Csorbafördő	Štrbské Pleso
Byteš Velká	Velká Byteš	Csőrgő	Čergov
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Bytýška Veverská	Veverská Bytýška	Csütörtökhely	Štvrtok, župa Spišská
Bzince Horné	Horné Bzince	Csúz	Čúz
		Czabaj	Cabaj
		Calositz	Zalhostice
Caanovec	Ťahanovec	Czernosek	Žernoseky
Cejl, Kostelec-	Kostelec-Cejl	Czernowitz	Brno 18
Ceplica	Spišská Teplica	Czieszyn 2	yní úeský Těšín
Cerekev Horní	Horní Cerekev	Cziffer	Cífer
Cerekev Nová	Nová Cerekev	Czirókahoszúmező	Cirocké Dlhé
Cerekvice u Vys. Mýta	Cerekvice nad Loučnou	Czobolyfalu	Soblahov
		Čabaj	Cabaj
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Církvice na sev. záp. dr.	Církvice u Čáslavě	Čalomija Velká	Velká Čalomija
		Čáslavský, Černožice-	Černožice-Čáslavský
Cirocké Dluhy	Cirocké Dlhé	Čausa Velká	Velká Čausa
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Csacza	Čadca	Čermá Česká	Česká Čermá
Csákfalva	Velká Kubra	Čermá Malá	Malá Čermá
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	Žitnom Ostrove	Černošice Horní	Horní Černošice
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Csári	Čáry	Černý Kostelec	Kostelec nad Černými Lesy
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Cseszte	Častá		
Csetnek	Štitník		
Csieser	Čičarovce		
Csicsó	Čičov		
Csiffár	Čifáre		
Csilizpatas	Čiliz Pataš		
Csilizradvány	Čiliská Radvaň		



Darowa	Domrová	Deutsch Litta	Kopřivnice
Ďala Stará	Stará Ďala	Deutsch Lodenitz	Německá Loděnice
Dallwitz bei Karlsbad		Deutschloosen	Lazce
	Dalvice u Karl. Varů	Deutsch Prausnitz	Něm. Brusnice
Dar Boží	Boží Dar	Deutschproben	Německé Pravno
Ďarmoty Hontianske	Fyzeš	Deutsch Prona	Německé Pravno
	Ďarmoty	Deutsch Reichenau	Něm. Rychnov
Ďarmoty Kamenné	Karmenné	b. Friedberg	u Frimburku
	Ďarmoty	Deutsch Reichenau	Něm. Rychnov
Ďarmoty Malé	Ďarmotky	b. Gratzen	u Nov. Hradů
Ďarmoty Žitavské	Žitavské Ďarmoty	Deutsch Schützenorf	Německý
Darócz	Zdravce		Šicendorf
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Dassnitz-Maria Kulm	Dasnice-Chlum	Dévényúfalu	Devínska Nová Ves
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Daubitz	Doubice	Dimokur	Dymokury
Daudleb	Doudleby	Dimvár	Dimburk
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	Diákovce	Diósfalu	Orechovč
Deáki	Diákovce	Diószeg	Dioseg
Deákovce	Diákovce	Dirnfellern	Suché Vrbné
Dědina Nová	Nová Dědina	Dittersbach b. Böhm.	
Dědov, Metuj-	Metuj-Dědov	Kamnitz	Jetřichovice
Dejte	Dehtice	Dittersbach b. Friedland	
Deménd	Demändice		Dittersbach u Frýdlandu v Ć.
Demény	Domaníža	Dittersbach bei Halbstadt	Jetřichov
Deméte	Demiata	Dittersbach b. Polička	Stašov
Demiaty	Demiata	Dittersdorf	Dětrichovice
Deregyňo	Draňňov	Dittersdorf, Mhr.	Dětrichov na
Dernö	Drnava		Moravé
Deschenitz	Děšenice	Dittmannsdorf	Dětmarovice
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Desná, Tiefenbach-	Tiefenbach-Desná	Divény	Divín
Dessendorf	Desná v Jiz. Horách	Divina Velká	Velká Divina
Dessir	Tesáre, ž. hontianska	Divošek	Dioseg
Dešov Velký	Velký Dešov	Dlhá	Dluhá
Detrekösütörtok	Plavecký Štvrtok	Dlhá Lúka Muráňska	Muráňska
Detreköszentmiklós	Plavecký		Dlhá Lúka
	Svätý Mikuláš	Dlhé Cirocké	Cirocké Dlhé
Deutsch . . .	Německý, -á, ě . . .	Dlouhá Loučka Dolní	
Deutsch Beneschau	Něm. Benešov		Dolní Dlouhá Loučka
Deutsch Bielau	Něm. Bělá	Dlouhá Ves Stará	Stará Dlouhá Ves
Deutschbrod	Německý Brod	Dluhy Cirocké	Cirocké Dlhé
Deutsch Brodek	Brodek u Konice	Dobern bei Böhm. Leipa	Dobranov
Deutschendorf	Poprad	Dobóruszka	Doboruska
Deutsch Cabel	Něm. Jablonné	Dobra	Dobřiany
Deutsch Giesshübel	Něm. Vyskytná	Dobrá Voda Dolní	
Deutsch Hause	Německá Huzová		Dolní Dobrá Voda
Deutsch Horschowitz	Něm. Hořovice	Dobroň Velikaja	Velikaja Dobroň
Deutsch Jassnik	Jasenice na Mor.	Dobroň Velký	Velikaja Dobroň
Deutsch Killmes	Německý Chloumek	Dobronya	Dobronivá
Deutsch Knönitz	Německé Knínice	Dobrotivá Svata	Svata Dobrotivá
Deutsch Kralupp	Něm. Kralupy	Dobrouč Dolní	Dolní Dobrouč
Deutschleuten	Německá Lutyně	Dobrovice, Taxis-	Taxis-Dobrovice
Deutsch Liebau	Německé Libiny	Dobřzan	Dobřany

Dobschau	Dobšiná	Dubkowitz	Dobkovice
Dobsina	Dobšiná	Dubovaja	Dubovoje
Dócs	Dojčie	Dubovany Dolné	Dolné Dubovany
Dóczyfűrésze	Pila (Tekovská)	Dubové Dolné	Dolné Dubové
Dohalice, Sadová-	Sadová-Dohalice	Dubovinka	Kiralhaza
Dohé	Dolhoje	Dubriniči	Dubrinič
Dohnány	Dohnany	Duhopol	Dilhé Pole
Dochov Heřmínovy-	Heřmínovy-	Dúl Janův	Janův Dúl
	Dochov	Düllen	Baňská Belá
Dojčí	Dojčie	Dunajovice Dolní	Dolní Dunajovice
Dolgojc	Dolhojc	Dunajovice Horní	Horní Dunajovice
Dolha	Dolhoje	Dunamocs	Dunajská Moč
Dolná Borša	Velká Borša	Dunaradvány	Dunajské Radvany
Dolnaja Apša	Nižnaja Apša	Dunaszerdahely	Dunajská Streda
Dolné Michalany	Legiňa-Michalany	Duppau	Doupov
Dolí Bukovsko	Bukovsko	Durehlass	Tvořhráz
Domaslovice Dolní	Dolní Domaslovice	Dürnbach	Suchá pri Trnave
Domašov Horní	Horní Domašov	Dürnholz	Drnoholec
Dombelvé	Zákopčie	Dusina	Dusino
Dombó	Dubovoje	Dux	Duchcov
Domstadt	Domštát	Dux-Liptitz	Duchcov-Liptice
Donány	Dohnany	Dvory čtyry	čtyry Dvory
Donawitz bei Karlsbad		Dvory Nové	Nové Dvory
	Stanovice u Karl. Varů	Dvory Svobodné	Svobodné Dvory
Donitz	Donice	Dvořiště Dolní	Dolní Dvořiště
Donnersbergwarte	Milešovka	Dvořiště Horní	Horní Dvořiště
Donnersmarkt	Štvrtok, župa spišská	Dvůr Králův	Králův Dvůr
	Viska,	Dvůr Krásný	Krásný Dvůr
Dörfel, Bez. Reichenberg	okr. Liberec	Dvůr Mlýnický	Mlýnický Dvůr
	Derflice	Dvůr Nový	Nový Dvůr
Dörfnitz	Deštné ve Slezsku	Dwatzetin	Dvacetín
Dorfteschen	Dešná, okr. Jemnice	Dziečmarovice	Dětmarovice
Döschen	Tatrovice	Ebersdorf bei Habartice u Krupky	
Dotterwies	Doubravka	Graupen	
Doubraken	Dovalovo	Ebersdorf, Bez.	Ebersdorf, okr.
Dovalló	Dolhoje	Friedland i. B.	Frýdland v č.
Dovhoje	Doksany	Ebersdorf-Markersdorf	Habartice-
Doxan	Drahovce		Markvartice
Drahóc	Drahovo	Eckersdorf	Jakartovice
Drahová	Drahovice	Egbell	Gbely
Drahowitz	Zdravce	Egeg	Hokovce
Dravce, župa šarišská	Drahňov	Eger	Cheb
Drehňov	Janova Lehôta	Egersek	Jagersek
Drechselberg	Tři Sekery	Egyházgelle	Edházgele
Dreihacken	Drietoma	Egyházmárót	Kostolné Moravce
Dretoma	Nové Sedlo	Ehrenberg	Loučka
Drnoholec, Nové Sedlo	Sedlo-Drnoholec	Ehrenberg Dolní	Dolní Ehrenberg
Drosau	Strážov na Šumavě	Ehrenberg Starý	Starý Ehrenberg
Drum	Drmy	Eibenschütz	Ivančice
Družbaky Vyné	Vyšné Ružbachy	Eibis	Ivaň
Dřevíč Velký	Velký Dřevíč	Eidlitz	Údlice
Dub český	Český Dub	Eichhorn Bitischka	Veverská Bytýška
Duben	Dubné	Eichwald	Dubí
Dubenez	Dubeneč	Einsidl Dolní	Dolní Einsidl
Dubenky Horní	Horní Dubenky	Einsidl Horní	Horní Einsidl

## The Postal Cards of the First Czechoslovak Republic

By George D. Havis

(continued from last issue)

Cards 13 and 53 with views of Libochovice and inscription Birthplace of J. E. Purkyňe—Purkyňe Celebrations. (The 150th anniversary of the birth of this renown, Czech physiologist and physician was commemorated by 50 h and 1 Kč stamps issued on September 2, 1937).

Card 102, showing a view of Uherské Hradiště, was also issued with the added inscription *Výstava Slovácka*. This exhibition was held in July-August 1937 at Uherské Hradiště in Southeast Moravia.

Cards 248 and 249 were issued for the Anton Bernolák celebrations held at Trnava, which marked the 175th anniversary of the birth of this Slovak priest and filologist. The Trnava cathedral is depicted on one card, while the university appears on the other.

The Winter Games of the Tenth All-Sokol Slet, which were held in February 1938 in the High Tatra Mountains, were commemorated by a set of eight postal cards showing wintry mountain view on the left side (cards 2 to 8) and bearing the 50 h dark green imprinted stamp with a likeness of President Edvard Beneš (Scott 227, Minkus 431). The event was also marked by 50 h and 1 Kč stamps (Scott 241-242, Minkus 472-473). The design of the Winter Games official poster was used for the design of the stamps and appeared also on the left half of card no. 1 of this set.

The Tenth All-Sokol Slet of June-July 1938, was also commemorated with a set of eight postal cards with pictures on the left front side. The picture on card 7 shows the entrance of the American Sokol unit at the Strahov Stadium, bearing the United States flag and their Sokol unit flag at their lead. The other pictures show views of the stadium during the gymnastic and folkloric presentations of various classes of Sokols, while card 1 bears the official poster of the Tenth All-Sokol Slet. The imprinted stamp, like the pictures, is dark green and bears a picture of Jindřich Fügner, the co-founder of the Sokol movement. The same picture of Fügner was also used, in a larger and slightly modified format, on the set of three stamps issued for the Tenth All-Sokol Slet, Prague, 1938 (Scott 246-248, Minkus 480-482).

In 1938, a new set of pictorial postal cards was issued bearing the 50 h President Beneš imprinted stamp (Scott 227, Minkus 431). A few of the cards in this set were also commemorative or noted special events.

Card number 90 was inscribed "Náchod—Výstava 38 Náchod". This exhibition was held at Náchod in August 1938.

The Jubilee Exposition at Plzeň during the summer of 1938 was honored with cards 104, 105, and 106, showing various views of the city and with a 50 h stamp (Scott 249, Minkus 483) showing Plzeň's vast industrial section. (Plzeň was, and is, well known for its Škoda armament, locomotives, automobiles, and machinery works, as well as for its Pilsner Prazdroj brewery.) The issuance of this stamp at the time of increasing threats from Nazi Germany may have been of political significance.

The PRAGA 1938 philatelic exhibition, held in Prague in June-July 1938, in the shadows of the mounting crisis with the Sudeten Germans and Nazi Germany, was commemorated with cards 129, 130, 131, and a souvenir sheet (Scott 251, Minkus 485).

Card 132 commemorated the 600th anniversary of Prague's Staroměstská Radnice, the City Hall building in the Old Town section.

Card 316 bore a view of Detva and the added inscription "Narodopisné slavnosti tristoročnej Detvy 1638-1938" in honor of Detva's tercentenary celebrations in July 1938.

The last commemorative postal cards of the First Czechoslovak Republic (cards 328 and 329 of this series) noted the "Výstava východu ČSR 1938" (Exhibition of the Eastern region of Czechoslovakia) held at Košice during July-August 1938. A 50 h stamp (Scott 250, Minkus 484) was also issued for this occasion on July 15, 1938.

This brings us to the discussion of the pictorial postal cards (non-commemorative), the first set of which was issued in June 1929. This set consisted of 36 cards, many of which were identical with the cards of the set of 18 issued the previous year for Czechoslovakia's tenth year of independence, except for the fact that the inscriptions 1918—1928 were deleted from the vertical frames of the 50 h imprinted stamp (Figure 3). These cards measured 145x95 mm.

A set of eight cards was issued in June 1930, with 1.20 koruny brown-black imprinted stamp (chest length portrait of President Masaryk—Figure 2). The pictures, also in brown-black, occupied the upper left quarter of the front of the cards. There were four views of the Tatra Mountains, three views of the Krkonoše Mountains, and one of the Charles Bridge in Prague. These cards measured 145x95 mm and were intended for use to nearby foreign countries.

These cards were reissued in May 1931 in 148x105 mm sizes, and in May 1937 with the inscription of the 1.30 Kč sales price added at the bottom center of the cards.

A longer set of cards for domestic tourist propaganda (50 h green, imprinted stamp, Masaryk profile, Scott Type A60) was issued in July 1936. On fifteen of these cards the towns' names were in heavier letters, while on fifty-seven they were thinner. Some views appeared with both types of lettering. Scenes from all major regions of the republic were included in this series of pictorial cards. The town names of the Podkarpatska Rus region were written both in Czech and in Ruthenian, the latter in Cyrillic letters.

The most ambitious set of pictorial postal cards consists of about 200 cards. They all bear the uniform inscription at the top and bottom: POZNEJTE SVOJI VLAST—PROPAGUJTE JEJI KRÁSY POŠTOU (Get to know your country—advertise her beauties by means of the mails). The imprinted stamp was the 50 h deep green profile picture of Masaryk (Figure 4). The

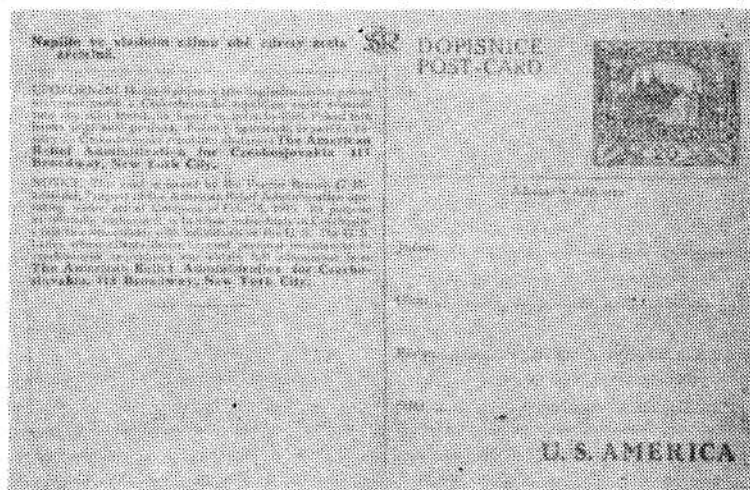


Fig. 5. One of the three types of "special" cards issued in July 1919 by The American Relief Administration for Czechoslovakia.

issuance of this set of cards began in July 1937 and continued probably through the early part of 1938. The cards were numbered in the lower left corner and a 60 h sales price was imprinted at the same level in the center. Cards numbered 1 to 100 showed Bohemian towns and scenery; cards 101 to 128 had views from Moravia and Silesia; cards 201 to 252 bore views from Slovakia, while Podkarpatská Rus was represented by cards 301 to 305. Cards 401 to 405 were again of Bohemia, and 406 and 407 had pictures of Autopošta (mobile post offices). These last two cards were probably on sale at these special, temporary post offices, which made appearances at exhibitions, fairs, and other special events or celebrations. The other cards were normally on sale in the towns and cities which they pictured.

Although sufficient gaps were left in the numbering to issue over four hundred cards in this set, only about two hundred were actually issued. (Major varieties exist of a few of these cards.) As mentioned elsewhere in this article, some cards of commemorative nature were also included in this set.

In May 1938, the issuance of another set of pictorial postal cards was begun. These cards had the then current, regular 50 h green, President Beneš stamp (Scott 227, Minkus 431, issued on April 26, 1937) imprinted on them. Altogether eighty cards were issued as part of this set and they are widely dispersed between the card bearing the number 1 and the one numbered 376. In addition to showing photographic reproductions of various tourist attractions, these cards also provide some evidence of the unrest, crisis, and changing times of the summer of 1938. As a concession, or conciliatory gesture toward the agitating Sudeten German minority, thirty-three of the cards bear both Czech and German inscriptions. Eleven cards were commemorative (as described in the preceding section), two showed scenes from Slovakia, and thirty-four showed scenes from Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia with Czech inscriptions only. The cards of this series were the last ones to be issued by the first Czechoslovak Republic.

The last category of postal cards discussed here will be arbitrarily called "special." In this category we might include the 20 h cards issued in July 1919 by The American Relief Administration for Czechoslovakia (deep red, Hradčany imprinted stamp) which were probably used for requesting assistance from relatives in America, or for acknowledging the receipt of same. The cards exist with Czech and English (Figure 5), Slovak and English, and Czech-English-German inscriptions.

Other cards in this category were the postal cards used for reporting one's change of address to the local post office. These cards bore the 50 haléřů, medium-size state emblem imprinted stamp in blue color. The inscriptions were also in blue and the sales price was listed at 60 h. These cards were issued in March 1937 with Czech, Slovak, and Czech and German texts.

Perhaps, two pneumatic mail postal cards should also be mentioned here. One was a 140 haléřů "Liberated Republic" type in blue (issued in 1920), the other was a 90 haléřů, olive green, medium-size state emblem type (probably issued in 1932).

One 15 h orange colored Hradčany imprinted stamp card of 1919 was overprinted in 1920 with "S O 1920" for use in the plebiscite areas of Eastern Silesia, Spiš, and Orava. This card also has some political historical significance—it tells us one tiny bit about the history of the new country.

In addition to history, the pictures on the various cards show us a bit of the culture of this country, an indication of the character of her people, their pastimes, activities, and interests. There is certainly plenty of evidence of interest and excellence in sports on these cards. There is indication of interest in Esperanto (several cards in the long series of 1937 and even in the prematurely foreshortened 1938 series provide evidence of this). People in

national costumes appear on several cards. One can see, on some cards, the automobiles, taxis, buses, trolley cars, clothing styles, and uniforms of a by-gone era. These cards are a record of the times and are, at the same time, also philatelic items.

Information for this article was obtained from F. Novotný, "Katalog Celin Československa a Protektorátu Čechy a Morava; Úplný Seznam Příležitostných Razítek 1918-1940," Nakladatelství Českého Alba Evropy, Praha-Smíchov (1940) and Ladislav Novotný, "Speciální Katalog 1949, Československo, Čechy a Morava, Slovensko; Známky—Celiny—Desk. Značky—Pol. Pošty," private edition, Bratislava (1949). (Only a few of the postal cards described here were actually seen by this writer.) "Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue," Scott Publications, New York, 1965, and "Minkus New World-Wide Postage Stamp Catalog," Minkus Publications, New York, 1965, were also used for easier and simpler identification of the stamp designs imprinted on the postal cards and for reference related to the issues of stamps.

### CZECH PHILATELY IS STIMULATING

With this inch-high headline across its first page—Linn's Weekly Stamp News—world's largest philatelic weekly—published August 28, 1967 (Vol. 27), introduced ten long and very richly documented—and considering the general American climate—also highly knowledgable and informative articles on Czechoslovak stamp production. This is even more significant because the majority of their authors are neither of Czech origin nor do they show any particular sympathies for our governmental system.

The introductory article, written by Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, concentrated on activities of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society in the USA (and its Washington and New York branches) which we could consider as a sort of a Czech bridgehead on the American continent but which—as we, collectors of the so-called Bohemoslavonic material, have been aware for a long time—had influenced production plans of American postal authorities several times. From Dr. Reiner-Deutsch's article we also learned that the Society is now engaged in negotiating with the American Postmaster General about the possible issuance of another American commemorative stamp related to the coming 50th anniversary (1968) of the Declaration of the Czechoslovak Independence announced in Washington, D. C. on October 18, 1918 and also in connection with the planned International Stamp Exhibition to be held next year in Prague.

In the next article, its author, Dr. Jakes, presents the history of Czechs and Slovaks from its early beginnings until the present time. He describes how by a pure chance he started to collect Czech stamps and about his difficulties in obtaining all the necessary information about them until he succeeded in making his stamp album "the most qualified history of what was to him a hitherto unknown country."

The saddest period of our history is the separate theme of Mr. Edwin Hanish's article on Lidice and several villages in North America which were so renamed after that unfortunate Czech place in protest of Nazi attempts to erase that name forever from people's minds and memories everywhere. The same period, but strictly philatelically described, is the subject of another article authored by Mr. B. R. Beede, "The German Field Post in Occupied Czechoslovakia 1938-45" with a precise analysis of the German military and official postal system on the territory of the so-called Bohemian-Moravian Protectorate including the Nazi post offices in Slovakia. The article has also interesting information on the field post of the Slovak Expeditionary Force in the East and that of the so-called "Protectorate Forces" in Italy obtained from material captured by the Allies during World War II. The Czechoslovak field post is described rather briefly in an unsigned article on the first special-

ized collection of the Czech field post in Slovakia during 1918-19 exhibited in non-competitive category at the recent Nojex Exhibition.

The above-mentioned postal period (the first years immediately after the end of World War I) was however broadly presented by Leslie Grover. In his long article he describes the rarest stamps of all general issues of this period (Pošta Československa 1919, Silesia plebiscite issues of this period, etc.), registering all known flaws, errors and print imperfections. In another thorough study, Dr. O. Kutvirt describes the official, semi-official and private perforations of the original imperforate 25 haleru Hradčany stamp. George Havis devoted his exhaustive article to the Czechoslovak entires.

"Czechoslovakiana" was the thematic subject of Capt. E. Benchik's article. In spite of its extensive nature, his study is not and could not be a definitive and complete review of such a large field because the author included a description of "Czechoslovak Americana," that is, those Czechoslovak stamps which have some relation to the United States. A significant section of his article was devoted to our Czech stamp Pofis 403 which includes the American flag in its design, with the stars in the present vertically shifted positions, although when this stamp was issued, the stars in the U. S. flag were placed in regular unshifted horizontal rows. Our American friends do not have to wonder about this mystery as to how the Czechoslovaks could have been so clairvoyant and to foresee the present likeness of the U. S. flag some 15 years ahead of time, because in the Praga 1962 series, the U. S. flag on one of those stamps is engraved in the old horizontal unshifted rows of stars, then of course out-dated.

This closing remark is for the author of this review an excuse not to "split hairs" a search for some minor inaccuracies in this enormously extensive and rich material about Czechoslovak stamp production presented in these articles for world philatelists by Linn's Weekly.

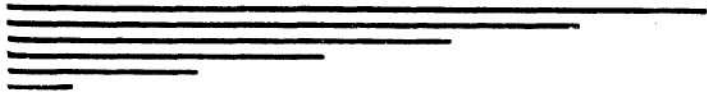
From Filatelie by J. P. Krouman

Editor's Note: Every philatelic editor enjoys it when a philatelic writer has some good words for his efforts. We were quite pleased to read Mr. Krouman's review in Filatelie reproduced here. We were proud to secure such diversified material from competent writers and of course happy also to be able to give the philatelic public of the world an interesting Czechoslovak issue of Linn's with the gracious help of its editor. We believe it necessary however to enlighten Mr. Krouman on one point. We find that over 60% of the authors are of Czech origin. The reference made to the field post article was made in error because the philatelic press reported only on the forthcoming exhibition of the material concerning the field posts on Slovakia 1918-19 at Nojex, non-competitively. There was no article written on the field posts in Linn's. We should mention this since field posts on Slovakia during those years represent a very interesting study of military mail service and deserve a number of articles, some of which have appeared in Filatelie from the pen of B. Matějka. Similar articles have also appeared in the American Philatelist by the same author and reprinted in the Specialist.

#### PRAGA 1968

Samuel Ray, 3600 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60613, has been appointed U. S. Commissioner for PRAGA-68, the international philatelic exhibition being held in Prague from June 22 to July 7, 1968. PRAGA-68 will be the largest philatelic show ever held, with 10,000 frames. Persons interested in exhibiting can secure forms and information from Mr. Ray.

George A. Blizil, Chairman of the A. P. S. International Relations Committee, has been appointed to serve as the U.S. member of the jury of PRAGA-68.



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