

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Editor:

Edward J. (Jack) Benchik, P. O. Drawer 1, Port Jefferson Station, N. Y. 11776

Assistant Editor:

William V. Schoenig, 20 Charles Ct., East Patchogue, N. Y. 11774

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## 1939 Field Post of Slovakia

By Viktor Indra

Translation by Henry Hahn

Reprinted from Postal History Journal

On the first of September, 1939, Poland was attacked by Germany. This situation was taken advantage of by the then independent Slovak state, which dispatched several military units to join in the attack.

A short-lived field post was established to serve the above mentioned Slovak units. It operated between September 1 and October 10, 1939. Supporting material, with cancellations of the Slovak field post 1939, is scarce since relatively few items have been preserved.

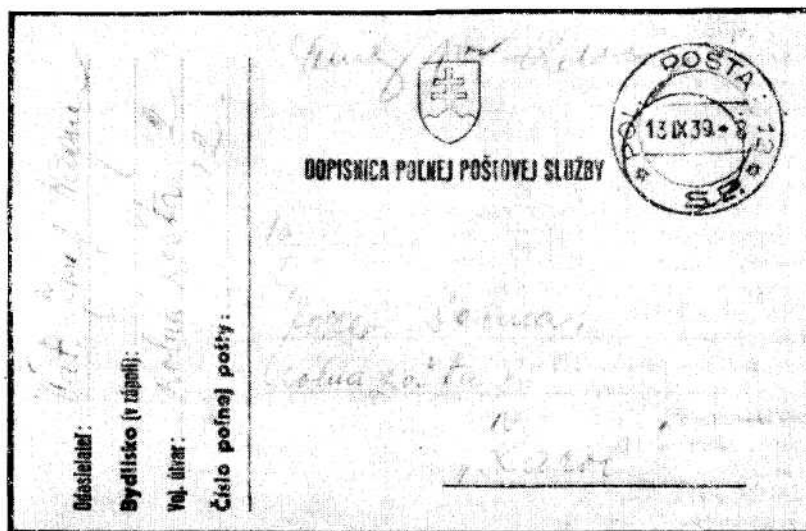


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

During the first days, the soldiers were issued old postal cards of the former Czechoslovak field post, which remained after the mobilization of 1938. After only a few days, however, the soldiers received a new Slovak postal card issue. The dimensions of the new postal cards are 9.3x14 centimeters; they exist in various colors. They were printed in two types:

- I. Type 1: The tip of the state seal points exactly to the letter J in the word POLNEJ (Fig. 1).

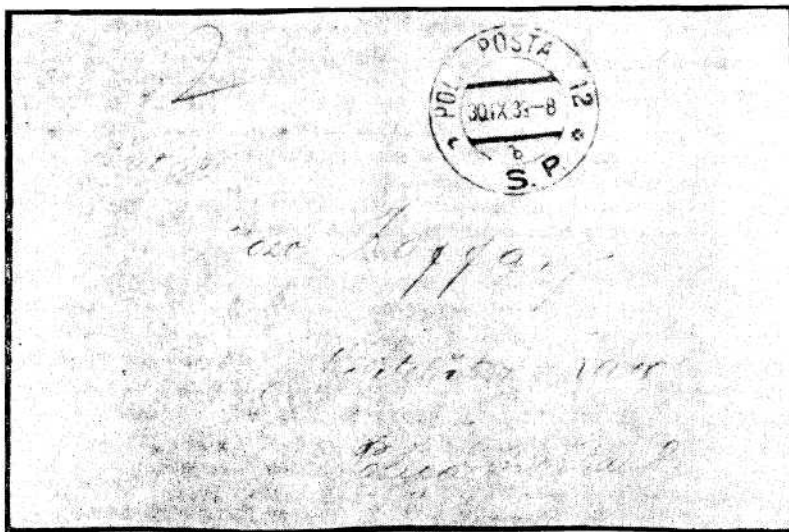


Fig. 3

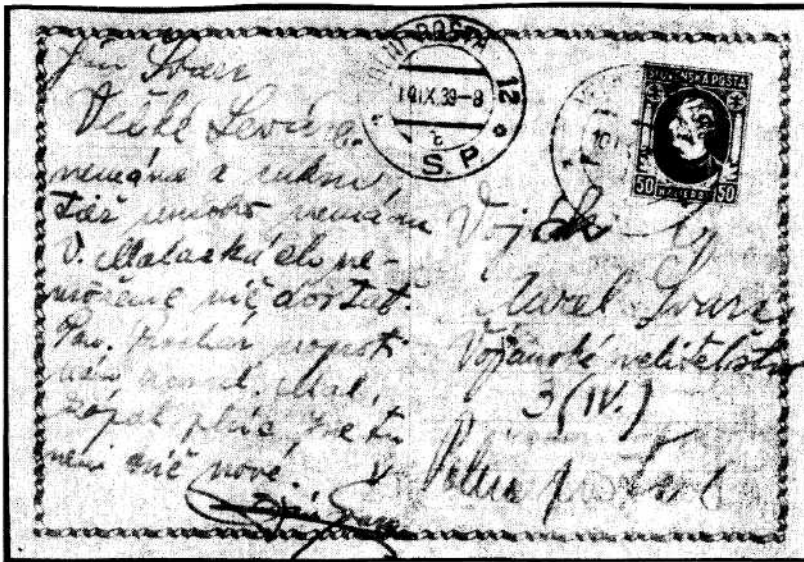


Fig. 4

II. Type 2: The tip of the state seal points between the letter J and P of the words POLNEJ and POŠTOVEJ (Fig. 2). There also exists a third type, which has a different drawing of the state seal.

The Slovak field post of 1939 utilized the following Postmarks:

8a: All postmark devices of the Czechoslovak field post of 1938 with removed C (S.P.)

8b: From September 1 to September 7, 1939, postmarks were made with the original 1938 Czechoslovak field post device without removal of the Č in

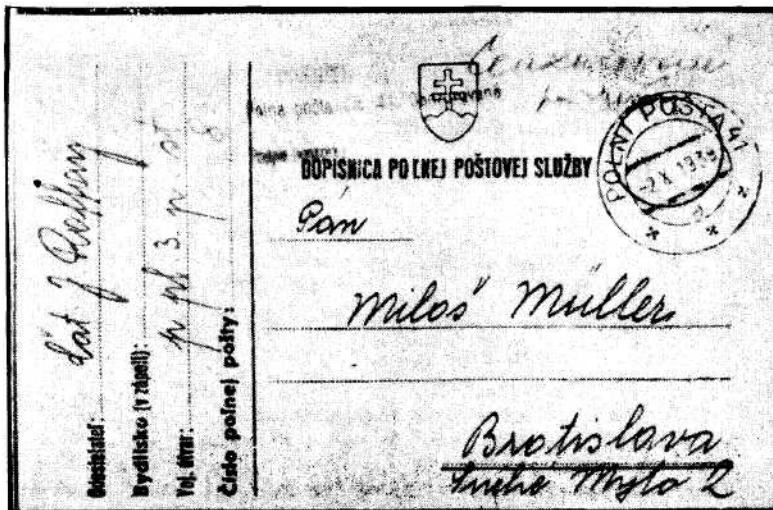


Fig. 5

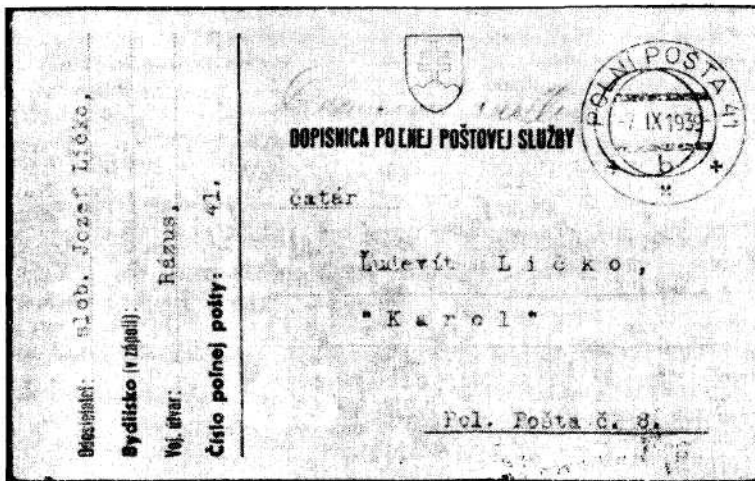


Fig. 6

- (Č.S.P.). On September 8, the letter "Č" was removed from this device, changing the initials from Č.S.P. to S.P., as illustrated in Fig. 2.
- 12: Postmark of the Czechoslovak field post of 1919-20 from which were removed the letters "N.I." (in POLNí) and Č (in Č.S.P.), as illustrated in Fig. 3.
- 12b: Postmark of the Czechoslovak field post of 1938. This postmark was used between September 1 and September 14, 1939 with removed Č (in Č.S.P.) as illustrated in Fig. 4. From September 15, 1939, the postmark was used with removed "N.I." (in POLNí).
- 16a: Postmark of the Czechoslovak field post of 1938 with removed letters "N.I."
- 16b: Same as 16a.
- 27b: Unaltered Czechoslovak postmark of 1938.
- 12/27b: Same postmark with manually altered numeral to "12".

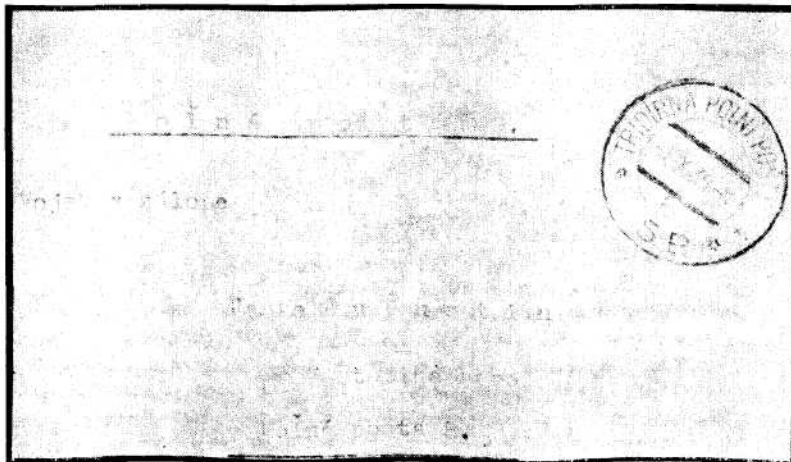


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

41a: Czechoslovak postmark unaltered as illustrated in Fig. 5.

41b: Same as 41a, illustrated in Fig. 6.

**Sorting station of field post number 4 (located in TURČ. Sv. MARTIN).**

Exists with letters a, b and c from September 1 to September 13, 1939, during which period the original postmark with the full initials "Č.S.P." was used. From September 14 on, the letter "Č" was removed from all 3 postmark devices, as shown in Fig. 7.

**Collection station of the field post in RUŽOMBEROK:**

This postmark is from the only new Slovak device, and bears the text

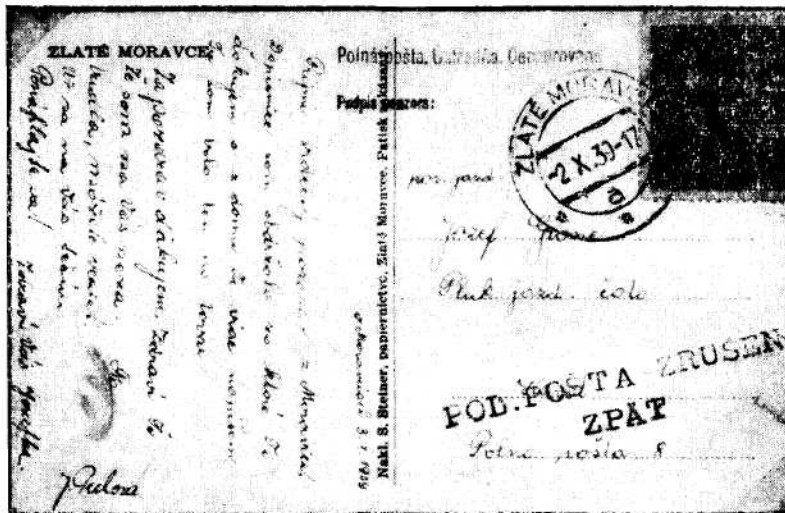


Fig. 9

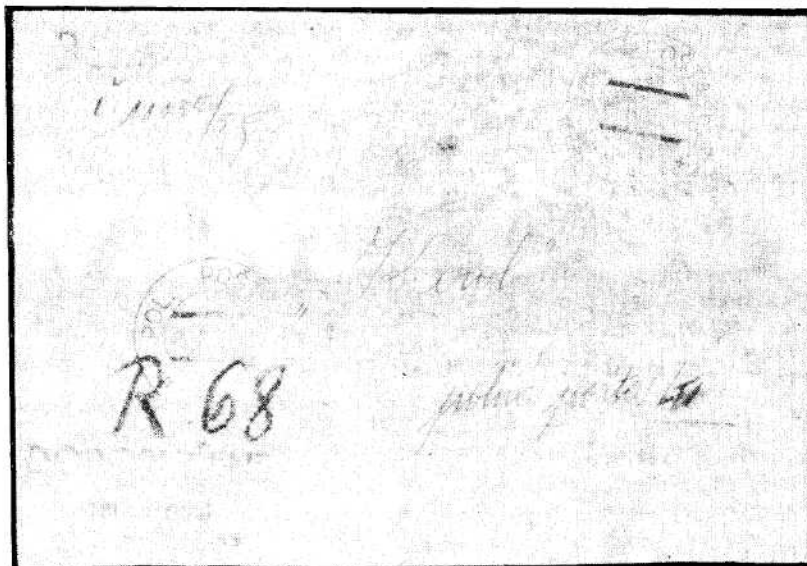


Fig. 10

SBERŇA POLNEJ POŠTY at the center; the Slovak state seal at the bottom; RUŽOMBEROK 1. The Postmark device is without date, the date being added with a separate date stamp (Fig. 8).

Upon cessation of activities of the Slovak field post in 1939, mail bearing field post addresses was returned to the sender. This mail was marked with a stamp "ZPAT! POLNA POŠTA ZRUSENA" (Return! Field post discontinued) as illustrated in Fig. 9.

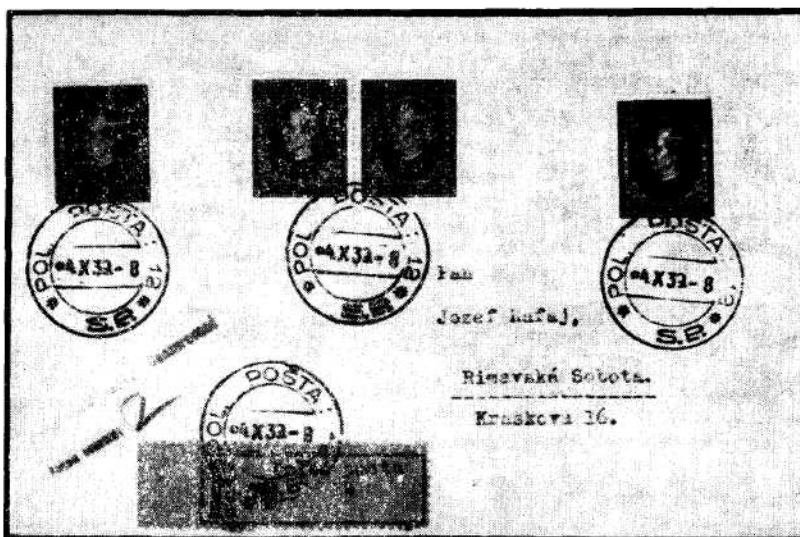


Fig. 11

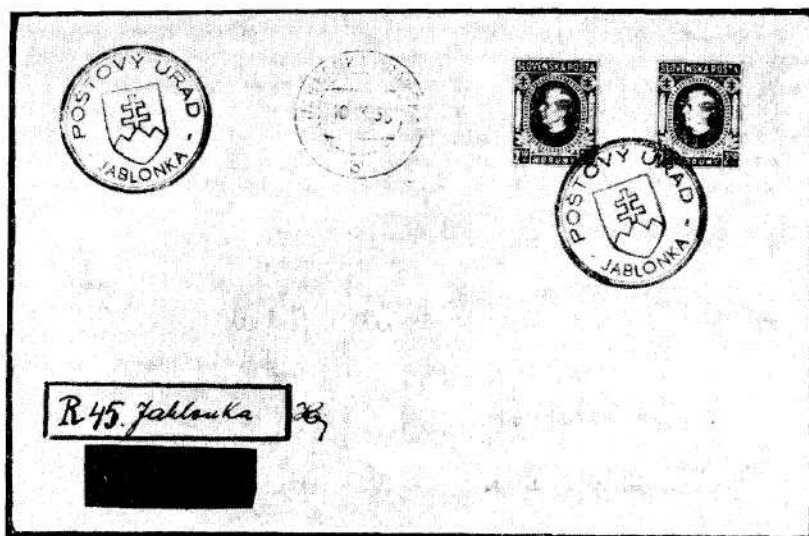


Fig. 12

Few censor markings were used. Most mail was marked by censors with colored pencil. In those few cases where censor stamps were used, these contained mainly the Czech text, as these stamps remained from the mobilization of 1938. Some censor stamps were left to read in the original Czech text, while others were adapted. Only rarely do we encounter new Slovak censor stamps.

Registered mail was marked either with colored pencil (R and number) as shown in Fig. 10, because "R stickers" were unavailable or else "R stickers" of the railroad post were utilized (Fig. 11). These were on white paper

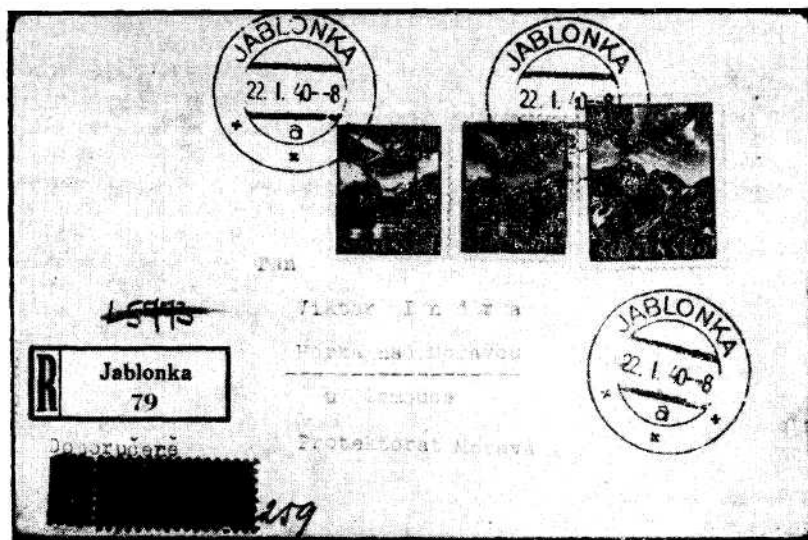


Fig. 13



Fig. 14

and framed, with both R and number in red. In the majority of cases, both hand markings and railroad "R stickers" were additionally postmarked by the field post. Registered letters are extremely scarce.

Slovakia gained five territories as a result of this military action. These same territories had previously (i.e. in the fall of 1938) been occupied by force by Poland.

In addition, Slovakia occupied several communities on the rivers ORAVA and SPIS, which up to 1918 were part of Slovakia (i.e. Hungary). These, however, had been ceded to Poland between 1919 and 1920 by the Czechoslovak Republic.

To those post offices which were newly returned to Slovakia and which to this day are part of Slovakia, were issued old Czechoslovak metal postmark devices. On Polish territories, which Slovakia occupied in September, 1939, are located in the following postal offices:

- 1) Jablonka (Polish: Jablonka Orawska)
- 2) Dolná Lipnica
- 3) Horná Zubrica
- 4) Jurgov
- 5) Fridman

These postal stations received, in the beginning, large circular postmarking devices with the text "POŠTOVY URAD—state seal—and the name of the postal office. These devices were used for cancelling stamps, whereas the old Polish marking appeared beside the stamp since it contained the date (Fig. 12).

Registered labels were not available, and hence, registered mail was marked by hand.

However, after only a few days, the above post offices received permanent metal double circle date cancelling devices which resemble in size, shape and otherwise the ordinary cancels used throughout Czechoslovakia during that period (Fig. 13). Eventually, Polish territories occupied by Slovakia together with all above mentioned post offices were (in 1944) returned to Polish administration. (Fig. 14).



## THE EMISSIONS AND CANCELLATIONS OF SUBCARPATHIAN RUSSIA AND SOUTHERN SLOVAKIA

By Roger Richet

Translated by Ernst M. Cohn

<p><b>The Issue of Chust</b></p> <p>After the fall of Hungary, in November 1944, the Czechoslovak government delegation that had come from London to the area now called Zakarpatska Ukrajina (Ukraine behind the Carpathians) had the then current Hungarian stamps, as found in the different post offices of the area, overprinted with "C. S. P. / 1944" in two lines. The overprint is black, the letters being 5 mm tall.</p> <p>To commemorate the liberation of the country, three commemorative cancels were used. The Hungarian inscriptions were gradually replaced by Czechoslovak and Ukrainian inscriptions, separately or combined.</p> <p>The famous Chust overprint was put on 32 postage stamps and 10 revenue stamps. Here are the details on these stamps, including the number of surcharges for each value:</p> <p>Series 1943-44, perf. 12x12½ (Yvert Nos. 612 to 628):</p> <p>1 fil gray --- No. overprinted: 2964 2 fil orange ----- 1912 3 fil ultramarine ----- 106 4 fil brown-red ----- 2879 5 fil vermilion ----- 586 6 fil blue-gray ----- 276 8 fil green-gray-olive ----- 4442 10 fil brown ----- 3380 12 fil green ----- 877 18 fil gray-violet ----- 1613 20 fil red-brown ----- 2547 24 fil lilac ----- 252 30 fil carmine (St. Marguerite and St. Stephen's crown, together) ----- 3008 50 fil blue ----- 289 80 fil olive-brown ----- 50 1 pengo green ----- 418</p> <p>1944—50th Anniversary of the Death of Kossuth</p> <p>4 fil brown (Yvert 653) ---- 678 20 fil dark green (654) ---- 675 50 fil blue-gray (656) ----- 165</p> <p>1945—Famous Women (Yvert 657-663)</p> <p>20 fil brown-olive ----- 636</p>	<p>24 fil purple ----- 80 30 fil brown-red ----- 1267 50 fil blue ----- 176 70 fil brown-orange ----- 730 80 fil brown-carmine ----- 327</p> <p>1941—Admiral Horthy</p> <p>2 pengo brown on yellow (Y 571) 92 5 pengo violet on yellow (572) -- 49</p> <p>Revenue stamps of April 5, 1941</p> <p>2 fil red-brown (Yvert 139) - 270 3 fil (140) ----- 160 4 fil (141) ----- 320 8 fil (143) ----- 60 10 fil (144) ----- 215 12 fil (145) ----- 102 16 fil (146) ----- 64 18 fil (147) ----- 60 20 fil (148) ----- 242 36 fil (151) ----- 242 40 fil (152) ----- 156</p> <p>The postmaster at Chust, Mr. Michel Fedelse, wrote an official notice (No. 27/4-1944) on December 4, 1944. It was issued in consequence of the ordinance of November 8, 1944 by the government delegate for administering the liberated areas (article 3 of the constitutional decree). Mr. Fedelse's note mentions that the following were also printed at Chust with the same overprint:</p> <p>—16,000 postal cards with the Hungarian 18 fil stamp —244 envelopes with the Hungarian 30 fil stamp —180 postal cards with return card attached with the Hungarian 36 fil stamp.</p> <p>To round out the store of postal cards, the red military postal cards were also surcharged, by a rubber stamp showing "POŠTA CESKOSLOVENSKA" in a rectangular frame.</p> <p>A postal employee, Michel Filip, was entrusted with surcharging the above stamps. He was a very serious man who carried out his work in the presence of the bureau chief and under the surveillance of another employee.</p> <p>The various stamps, postal cards,</p>
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and revenue stamps were put in service and sold at the counters of the Chust post office starting on December 4, 1944. The cliché of this surcharge was officially forwarded, during the summer of 1945, by the post office director at Chust to the ministry of P.T.T. (Posts, Telephones, and Telegraph). It can now be seen at the postal museum at Prague, according to the report by Dr. Albert Prazak, government delegate of the Czechoslovak Republic and special envoy from Moscow to Chust.

Supplementary and later printings of these emissions, according to this report, were made impossible because of the serious control measures taken by Mr. Fedelse.

However, a widely circulated fake was made at Budapest of this surcharge of Chust (Huszt in Hungarian) which is easily recognizable: The accent on the first letter, C, consists of a horizontal line that tilts upward at its right end. While awaiting the appearance of this issue people used the then current Hungarian stamps, available at Chust, for the local mail and for mail to London, Moscow, and Sevijus, cancelled with a red postmark bearing one of the following three dates: 8, 13, or 14 November 1944. The inscription reads, when translated into English, as "Czechoslovak Republic / Mail of the liberated territory of Chust."

Here is the exact number of stamps thus used and cancelled with the red postmark, struck on the envelopes at the moment when they were deposited at the post office at Chust (we repeat the previous list except for the revenue stamps, of course):

1 fil	pieces: 357
2 fil	368
3 fil	85
4 fil	380
5 fil	314
6 fil	196
8 fil	387
10 fil	316
12 fil	210
18 fil	366
20 fil	391
24 fil	108
30 fil	116

30 fil	370
50 fil	193
80 fil	86
1 pengó	193
4 fil	391
20 fil	240
50 fil	156
20 fil	316
24 fil	157
30 fil	308
50 fil	222
70 fil	205
80 fil	205
2 pengó	112
5 pengó	76

Because of the difficulty of transport, particularly the lack of gasoline at that time, the official and private mail of Chust was transported usually during official visits of government people in the area or with food transports.

This cancel was used not only at Chust but also in other areas of eastern Russian Subcarpathia: Teresva, Sevijus, Lipci, Tjacevo, Rachovo, Volové, etc.

#### The Roznava Issue

Roznava—Rosenau in German and Rozanyo in Hungarian—is a town of 7000 inhabitants on the River Sajo, 50 kilometers west of Košice. This district capital, in the extreme south of Czechoslovakia, a seat of a diocese (bishopric) since 1504, renowned for its gold mines and universities, was the place of celebrated combats of June 18, 1919, and March 2, 1945, the day of its liberation from the Hungarian and German armies that were fleeing the Czech and Russian armies.

To celebrate its liberation, the town of Roznava issued a certain number of stamps with a black typographed overprint "C.S.P." of three millimeter height. It is underlined by a double line that is thinly dotted above and heavily below. Only the then current historical series of Hungary appears to have been overprinted. We do not know the number of overprints on each value, which must have been very small. Stamps thus overprinted on cards or letters are extremely rare.

As far as we know, at least the

following values of this series exist:

4 fil	brown-yellow (Yvert 615)
5 fil	green-gray (618)
10 fil	brown-yellow (619)
12 fil	green (620)
18 fil	gray-violet (621)
20 fil	brown-red (622)
24 fil	dark lilac (623)
30 fil	carmine (624)
30 fil	carmine (625)
50 fil	dull blue (626)
70 fil	red-orange (Fam. wom., 651)
80 fil	brown-yellow (627)
80 fil	brown-lilac (662)

This list is no doubt incomplete because, again, we think that all the stamps of the two series above must have been overprinted.

Furthermore, the following revenue stamps were overprinted:

3 fil	brown-lilac (140)
4 fil	(141)
6 fil	(142)
8 fil	(143)
10 fil	(144)
16 fil	(146)
18 fil	(147)
40 fil	(152)

#### The Rimavska-Sobota Issue

Rimavska-Sobota—Rimaszombat in Czech—is a town of 7100 inhabitants on the River Rima, celebrated for its reformed bishopric, its canned goods, and machinery. It is the former capital of the Hungarian "Comitat" of Gömör. During its liberation from Hungarian troops in 1945, Rimavska-Sobota also wanted to commemorate its return to the Czechoslovak fatherland by a special local issue. This issue, little known and extremely rare does not have the artistic character of the issues of Chust and Roznava, nor of those discussed later. In fact, it was a very crude hand overprint, put on then current Hungarian stamps (historic and famous women series), by means of a rubber stamp. It reads "Č.S.P." and is 18 millimeter wide, with letters of 4.5 mm height.

The overprint consisted of rubber letters inserted in a holder and applied horizontally in red-orange. It was applied individually to each stamp and hence very irregularly. The impression is very crude and,

since each stamp was overprinted individually, the current that should normally have been in the lower part of the stamp is not always at the same level. The number of stamps overprinted is not known but here again it must have been very small. Unused stamps are very rare, and used on letters or on piece they are practically non-existent today. The following stamps have this overprint: Yvert 612, 614, 615, 617 to 623, 654, 656, 660 to 662.

#### The Four Užhorod Issues

No fewer than four different successive issues saw the light of day at Užhorod. The sum total of these four issues constitutes the largest number of stamps issued in Subcarpathian Russia. They are, so to speak, the only ones to have had the honor of being listed in European catalogs, particularly in Zumstein. In this addendum, we are only concerned with the First Issue.

At the beginning of 1945 Užhorod issued a first series of Hungarian stamps, surcharged in cyrillic characters on 12 fil 1.00 on 40 fil

Even some Hungarian fiscal stamps were thus surcharged to serve as actors in three lines, the first one horizontal on top and the other two oblique, with new values in the right corner:

The text, "Пошта / Закарпатська / Україна" means Ukrainian Subcarpathian mail.

This issue, particularly large, officially comprises 76 postage stamps (listed in the December 1969 Specialist), three official stamps, and nine revenue stamps, as follows:

#### Official stamps

(surcharged in three lines and number at lower left):

40 on 10 fil
40 on 20 fil
60 on 50 fil

#### Revenue stamps of 1941-42

(Yvert 139 to 152 brown-carmine)	
10 on 2 fil	40 on 20 fil
10 on 3 fil	60 on 3 fil
20 on 8 fil	60 on 4 fil
20 on 10 fil	60 on 6 fil

postage stamps. It is not impossible that still more values, in small numbers, were issued at that time and can be found in specialized collections. Inverted surcharges are also known.

All these stamps were issued by the post office of Užhorod, in application of a decree of the national committee of Užhorod. They were regularly used for postage. All are rare especially on cover and on piece.

Let us finally mention that some stamps of the Chust issue (Č.S.P.—1944) were surcharged with the cliché of this issue.

#### Overprint of Berehovo

Berehovo or Beregszasz (Beregszász in Hungarian) also had a liberation overprint, which was quite curious. This overprint contains the initials "ČSP" in black with the legend (in Cyrillic characters) "Zakarpatska Oblasty" which is translated as "Transcarpathian district." It is little known and not very widespread.

#### Issue of Košice

Košice (Kassa in Hungarian and Kaschau in German) is an important city of southern Slovakia which played a large philatelic role in the history of that region. It had a black hand overprint, comparable in every respect with that of Chust, with two differences that make it very easy to differentiate the two. Whereas the accent on the C of the Chust issue consists of an inverted circumflex (like an upside down roof), of which the right arm is quite raised and extended, the overprint of Košice has an accent much more distinct, pronounced, regular, and pointed at its base—in every respect similar to the accent found on the Hungarian issue overprinted "Pošta Československá" in 1919 (Yvert 43 to 154), at the beginning of the Czechoslovak republic.

The letters of the Košice overprint are slightly larger than those from Chust. It seems that all the stamps of the Hungarian historical series, Yvert 612 to 628, received this overprint, which is much less widespread than that of Chust.

#### Overprint of Kunova-Teplica

The overprint of Kunova-Teplica (Kuntapoleza in Hungarian) is quite characteristic. It is the only overprint in blue. This "Č. S. P." is in every way similar to the overprint of Lučenec, but applied in blue.

#### Overprint of Párkány

Párkány (Parkaň in Czech), a small southern Slovakian town not far from the Hungarian frontier, also had a liberation overprint in 1944, quite curious in its make-up of four lines "PARKAN / oslab / ruda Armadou / 1944." This legend is translated as "Parkaň liberated by the Red Army 1944." The overprint is rare. It was applied on the historical series of Hungary and on the Christmas stamps (Yvert 646 to 648).

#### The Overprint of Mukačevo

Mukačevo, Munkács in Hungarian, also prepared a liberation overprint. It is easily recognized. It was applied in gray-black, consisting only of the letters "Č. S. R." without the addition of the year 1944 or 1945. Like all overprints of that period, it was applied on all the stamps of the historical series of Hungary.

#### The Overprint of Krasnohorské-Podhradie

The overprint of Krasnohorské-Podhradie (Krasznahorka Váralja in Hungarian) is quite characteristic. It is a red hand overprint consisting of the letters "Č. S. P." in a rectangle formed by a continuous line. It occurs on the stamps of the historical series of Hungary (Yvert 612 to 628).

#### Issue of Lučenec

The overprint of Lučenec (Losonc in Hungarian) is a very beautiful black typographic overprint in two lines: "Č.S.P. / 1945." The size of the first line is 12 mm and the height of the letters composing this overprint is 4¼ mm. The total height of the overprint is 10 mm, not including the accept on the first letter. It exists on the following Hungarian stamps, Yvert 612 to 628, 628A, 628B, 657 to 660.

**Kelca**

An overprint was also issued at Kelca (Kelcse Zemplén in Hungarian) a place in southern Slovakia.  
Finis

Original booklet in French may be purchased for \$2.00 from the author:

Roger Richet  
58 Rue Bourbonnoux  
18 Bourges, France

**STAMP MARKET TIPS — By John G. Ross**

Reprinted from STAMPS Magazine

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA** — As I have reported previously, ever since the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia, I have noticed a distinct increase in demand of the stamps of that country. All their issues in the last twenty years were geared to make them attractive so that more collectors would be tempted to buy them. A set that has become very popular in this country is the 1966 issue to commemorate the centenary of the Naprstek Ethnographic Museum in Prague, its designs show American Indians, Scott Nos. 1400-1405. Being an "Americana" set, it is being collected by many who otherwise are not interested in the stamps of Czechoslovakia. Supplies are just about dried up everywhere. Most wholesalers are out of stock, and so are the retailers. Huge quantities were cancelled to order and sold at a great discount from the mint price. While the cancelled sets are still easily available, the price for the mint is up to around \$2.00, and chances are it will be going up still further.

**PIGEONGRAMS USED AT 1968 BRNO FAIR**

By George D. Havas

Reprinted from STAMPS

Pigeongrams were issued by the Czechoslovak Postal Administration during the Consumer Goods Fair held at Brno 9 May 1968 as an advance advertisement for the Tenth International Trade Fair which was to be held in that city 8-17 September 1968.

The pigeongrams bear a 1.20kčs imprinted stamp design of the type used on other Czechoslovak aerograms, although the paper is somewhat thinner than that used for regular aerograms. The inscriptions, and the airmail-type border in blue or light purple, are in Czech or in French. Translated the inscriptions read, "Czechoslovak Consumer Goods Fair—Brno / Delivered by messenger or carrier pigeon No. \_\_\_\_ / We are inviting you to the 10th International Trade Fair at Brno Sept. 8-17, 1968."

The imprinted stamps are postmarked with the C.C.G. Fair special postmark, dated May 9, 1968 Brno 2.

The clock-type rubber stamp shows the day (d); hour (h); minute (m); and seconds (s) of the time of dispatch of the pigeongram. More than likely at the instant before it was rolled up, and inserted into the capsule and attached to the messenger pigeon's leg.

The "Brno-Venkov (suburb of Brno) May 9, 1968 6 PM" postmark is probably an arrival backstamp, or possibly a point of dispatch stamp.

On the bottom is the rubber stamp of the Brno-Venkov (Chapter No.) 054 District Specialized Commission of CHPH, the Chovatelu Postovnich Holubu (messenger pigeon raisers) of the Czechoslovak Society of Small Animal Fanciers. Each dispatched pigeongram bears a stamped serial number.

The registration number of the messenger pigeon carrying the pigeongram is inserted in ink in the appropriate space.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I am a revenue stamp collector and interested in locating someone with interest in Czechoslovak revenues. The ultimate purpose would be to publish a catalogue of these issues.

To date I have published catalogues of the revenue stamps of Yugoslavia and of Finland.

If you can advise any of your members who have an interest in these fiscals, it would be appreciated.

William Ittel  
136 Dickson Avenue, Ben Avon, Pittsburgh, Penn. 15202

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