

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

Editor:

William V. Schoenig, 20 Charles Ct., East Patchogue, N. Y. 11772

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FIELD POSTS OF CZECHOSLOVAK SOLDIERS, 1936-1945

By Dr. Vratislav Palkoska

Reprinted from *Filatelie*

Translated by Lawrence J. Huml

Several articles published in "Filatelie" on the topic of the history and adventures of Czech and Slovak soldiers in the first and second world wars, including prisoner post, provoked replies from readers. These were addressed not only to the editor but also to the committee of the specialization departments of the SCF (Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists). Among these writers were young philatelists. In recent times, there have appeared on exhibitions some subjects on this topic that were more or less successful, attesting to the good intentions of their owners but which often show lack of detailed information of these posts, thanks to a shortage of suitable literature. It was with pleasure that I recently replied to some letters from young collectors about a correction of their collections.

A history of the Czechoslovak Field Post 1918-1920 was, for those years, described in detail in an article by the well-known collector Bohumil Matejka in "Filatelie," volumes 17 and 18 (1967-1968). In the course of time, much has been written also about the Czechoslovak Field Post of 1938, and several times even of the Soviet Field Post whose services were used by the Czechoslovak troops during the second world war while returning to the homeland by the side of the victorious Soviet army. Till now, however, we know little about the field postal services used by our military unit in the Middle East, by our air corps (members of a pursuit and bombardment wing) in England, and finally about a Czechoslovak military and a later field post in France and in Great Britain.

I believe that the series of articles will evoke further replies from readers who will offer their own documentary proof in order to fill the gaps on this subject with further knowledge not only of the Soviet Field Post services but also of the British Field Post in the Middle East and in England where our air corps used it.

A little history to begin with—

Very few nations and their men fought in the last two world wars in defense of their rights and independence on so many fronts as did the Czechs and Slovaks. In the first world war, when mobilized into the Austro-Hungarian army, they deserted to the allies. Here, as prisoners, they formed military

units, eventually creating a Czechoslovak legion in Russia, France and finally even in Italy. They fought, they conquered and they died, their graves are scattered over Europe. Some survivors returned to their homes to their former occupations, others however remained active in the Czechoslovak army in order to build it into a strong defensive unit of the free state. A well-trained and well-equipped army was forced to lay down its arms following the country's betrayal by its western allies who, on September 29th, 1938, together with fascist Germany and Italy, signed the Munich pact which ceded the Czechoslovak frontier territory to Hitler without the firing of a single shot.

From the beginning of its fascist leadership, Germany prepared for war. To carry out these aims it needed a tested army. The opportunity offered itself when General Franco carried out a putsch to gain power in Spain and actually opened up a civil war. Germany and Italy sent not only arms to Franco but troops as well. Volunteers from all of Europe flocked to the defense of Spanish democracy. It was Czechs again, old soldiers from the first world war and young men out of military service, who, by various routes, left their homeland to fight as members of an international brigade. Their letters from Spain were sent home by arrangement with the field post of the Army of the Spanish Republic, in most part by air mail over France. Their fighting ended when fascism triumphed in Spain in the year 1939. Together with a great many refugees, they retreated across the Pyrenees to France, to be interned in prisoner camps in Argeles-sur-Mer and St. Cyprien near Perpignan, in southern France, in January 1939. Here they fared badly, living as uninvited guests of otherwise friendly France who regarded them without exception as dangerous communists.

On March 15, 1939, the betrayal of Czechoslovakia was completed. Hitler occupied the remaining territory of Bohemia and Moravia, a day after the independence of Slovakia was proclaimed under his protection. And again, Czechs and Slovaks fled to foreign lands to voluntarily organize themselves into military units, in the strong belief that war was imminent. The greatest number streamed in the direction of Poland where the threat from the German side was most dangerous. They traveled in freight cars through the Ostrava coal-mine passages across the frontier formed by the Moravian-Polish Beskyd Mountains. A Czechoslovak military group was organized April 30th, 1939 in the Czechoslovak consulate building in Gracow. Because the Polish government did not offer the necessary support to create a Czechoslovak military unit, more than 1200 Czechs, in the course of the summer of 1939, left for the west to France and French North African possessions to join the colonial armies and the Foreign Legion, and to await there the final months before the outbreak of war. A few score men reached the USSR. Even at that, on the day of the outbreak of war, there were about 900 men on Polish soil forming a so-called Czech and Slovak Legion. A rapid retreat of the Polish army before the well-armed Wehrmacht compelled the Czechoslovaks to retreat. The Legion divided into two parts of which the smaller group, under the command of Captain Divoky, retreated to Romania, later to be transported for the most part

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to France. The larger, second group of about 700 men, under the command of Lt. Col. Ludwig Svoboda came in contact with the advancing Soviet army and was formally interned in the USSR. Many of them, eager to fight against the Germans as soon as possible, left with the consent of the USSR authority, some for France, some for the Middle East.

Toward the end of September 1939, in Agde, France, a small coastal city in the department of Herault, the first organized military unit was founded—one Czechoslovak auxiliary battalion and shortly after, one infantry battalion which later became the basis of the Czechoslovak Foreign Army. In November of 1939, the Czechoslovak national in Paris proclaimed the mobilization of all Czechoslovaks in the territory of France. At the beginning of June 1940, the Czechoslovak army had nearly 5000 soldiers including a nearly 500 strong Czechoslovak interbrigade who had finally, after a long struggle, arrived from camp Gurs in January 1940. On May 10, 1940, Germany began its assault against Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg and with that also against France. Czechoslovaks, comparatively poorly armed including insufficient air strength, helped in the defense of France. However, the war in France ended June 22nd, 1940, with the signing of an armistice in Compiègne since the French army was constantly driven back. Czechoslovak soldiers retreated to southern France. With the exception of naturalized Czechs and all the Slovaks, they embarked in comparatively great confusion (June 22-27, 1940) from the port of Sete and were transported to England. They numbered about 4000 persons including women and other family members.

In England they then formed one Czechoslovak mixed brigade, taking part in the defense of the British Isles. Toward the end of August 1944, they took over the siege of the fort at Dunquerque from which they returned to their homeland in the early days of the war's end.

At the outbreak of war, the tide of refugees turned to the southeast across Slovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia. Most of them aimed toward France, the rest across Romania arriving in the Middle East. Here, along the founding of a Czechoslovak military unit, a group of 200 men was formed who in June of 1940 crossed Syria to Palestine. Their first stop was Az Sumejriya and here was founded the Czechoslovak Fourth Infantry Regiment. It was changed in November of that year to the Czechoslovak 11th Infantry Battalion-Eastern and in May of 1942 to the Czechoslovak 200th light anti-aircraft regiment-Eastern. It operated in close ties with the British armies in Palestine, in Syria and toward the end of 1941 was assigned to encircled Tobruk which it defended till April, 1942. It returned to the defense of Tobruk once again toward the end of December, 1942, staying till June of 1943. At the beginning of June 1943, the whole military unit was transported to Great Britain and its personnel transferred to the reorganized Czechoslovak independent armored brigade from which they returned to their homeland.

In the early morning hours of June 22nd, 1940, Germany invaded the Soviet bloc. For a few Czechoslovak soldiers, from the legion in Poland, a formal internment ended. In July 1942, as a beginning, the first Czechoslovak independent field battalion was established numbering not quite 1000 members, including several scores of women. On January 31st, 1943, this battalion left its training quarters for the front. The Czechoslovak soldiers attained their first great victory over the fascists in a battle at Sokolov in March of 1943. In time, they were joined by more soldiers, mostly deserting Slovaks, members of a Slovak division immobilized on the eastern front. The largest reenforcement to this military unit were Volhynian Czechs numbering almost 12,000. Among them were 600 women. The original field battalion was reorganized into the first Czechoslovak brigade and on April 10th, 1944, into the

first Czechoslovak army corps, in the USSR. A number of Czechoslovak army officers also joined the Soviets, not content with their own armored brigade and wanting an active part on the war front in the fight against the Germans. The battle, known as the Carpatho-dukla operation, began September 8th, 1944. On October 6, 1944, after many hard-fought battles, Czechoslovak soldiers for the first time in five years stepped on Czechoslovak soil and gradually fought their way as far as Moravia when the war ended.

Czechoslovaks therefore fought during the period 1936 to 1945 altogether on 5 front, using the following field postal services of the armies by whose side they battled against fascism and for the freedom of their countries:

1. The Spanish field post, in the Spanish civil war, 1936-1939,
2. the Czechoslovak field post on their own territory during mobilization in the fall of 1938,
3. French military post in 1939-1940, using their own cancels as commemorative,
4. the British field post in the Middle East, 1940-1943,
5. the Czechoslovak military field post of the Czechoslovak army in Great Britain, 1940-1945, the British field post by the air corps,
6. the Soviet field post, by the union of Czechoslovak armies in the Soviet Union, 1942-1945.

Articles on the subject of these field posts will attempt to put together the field posts' history and at the same time even appeal to collectors to look into their own documentary proof and place such knowledge at the disposal of the editor.

We wish to thank the following for contributions to the Specialist fund:
Joseph Adams and Keith Willett.
Have you contributed? If not why not do so now.

NEW ISSUES



On the 28th of November 1971 the Federal Ministry of Post and Telecommunications issued one stamp commemorating the history of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in the painting "The Workers Revolt in Krompachy."

Value 60h.

This picture was painted by Julius Nemeik, graphically adapted by Jindra Schmidt. Printed at the Post printing office in Prague by flat recess print in sheets of 15. Dimensions of the stamp 76x30 mm. A first day cover designed by Julius Nemeik and engraved by J. Goldschmied was also issued. The drawing on the cover shows the picture of workers.

**HANDBOOK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN POSTMARKS
OF AUSTRIAN AND HUNGARIAN ORIGIN**
By Frederick Leitenberger — Translated by C. H. Osbourn
(continued)

These head groups, find further variations in the addition of small letters. Among the scroll decorations, they vary from the simplest forms to the most elaborate, and each change may be looked upon as a separate variety. The star decorations may be divided, according to their structure, as cross, six or eight pointed stars, rosettes, and so forth; and in combination with group one, forms group three; while in group four, in place of the star, the postmark letter, or the post office number appears. What we said about the Austrian postmarks, under the heading "Description of Postmark Forms," may be repeated here. It may therefore, be briefly stated that the following list differs from the first, in that the forms of the postmark are exceptionally authoritative or the following groups, according to which the separate postmarks may be arranged:

- I. Long Postmarks
- II. Circle Postmarks
 - 1) Single circle postmarks
 - a) Without the place of issue
 - b) Thimble postmarks
 - c) Single circle postmarks
 - d) With the place of issue
 - (1) place postmarks
 - (2) money order postmarks
 - (3) parcel post postmarks
 - 2) Double Circle Wheel Postmarks
 - a) place postmarks
 - b) station postmarks
 - c) train postmarks
- III. Box Postmarks
 - 1) Place postmarks
 - 2) railway freight postmarks
- IV. Six-sided postmarks

Also among these postmarks, the description concerns itself purely, with the forms which were taken over, and used unchanged, as well as the original forms. Since the nationalization of Hungarian postmarks could be carried out only in its limited scope, the heading "Postmark Nationalization" is sufficient here. In what manner, this found expression, will be explained in Part II of the Handbook.

I. LONG POSTMARKS

- LU1 Long postmark with a border, without date
(This is a railway freight postmark)
- LU2 Long postmark, with a border, without date
with the addition of the letters "P.U." (for Palya Udvar—railway)
(This is a railway freight postmark)

II. CIRCLE POSTMARK

- 1) SINGLE CIRCLE POSTMARK
 - (a) Without place of issue
 - (1) Thimble Postmark
- FU1 Thimble postmark
Without place of issue
Inscription—year, month-day, postmark number
(This is a ticket postmark)

(a2) Single Circle Postmark

NU1 Single circle postmark, Inscription: postage due

These postmark forms were, at the time of the revolution in Hungary, frequently used for the transformation of postage-paid stamps, and in default of sufficient regular postmarks, they could have found further use in the inner service.

STU1 Dead Letter single circle postmark (called "silent")
with 2mm wide, 28mm circle, and 4mm wide cross.
Pressburg cancellation postmark for postage stamps on unclaimed letters.

(b) With place of issue**(a1) Place postmark**

EU1 Single circle postmark, inscription above
EU2 Single circle postmark, inscription divided above and below

(a2) Money Order Postmark

GU1 Single circle postmark, inscription divided
(The word above means "post office order")
(The word below is the place name.)
GU2 Single circle postmark, inscription divided
Above—the place of issue; Below—the name for "postal note"

(a3) Parcel Post Postmark

PU1 Single circle postmark, inscription divided
Above—place of issue; Below—the word for "parcel post"

2. DOUBLE CIRCLE WHEEL POSTMARKS**(a) Place Postmarks**

RU1 Wheel postmark, inscription above
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the inner circle
Time-of-day letter in the inner circle segment below
Decoration in the under arc of the circle

RU2 Wheel postmark, inscription above
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the inner circle
Time-of-day letter in the inner circle segment below
Postmark letter in the lower arc of the circle

RU3 Wheel postmark, inscription above
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the inner circle
Time-of-day letter in the inner circle segment below
Postmark letter with decoration in the lower arc

RU4 Wheel postmark, inscription above, without the crown
Date opening as far as the outer circle, with the hour of issue
Postmark letter in the lower inner circle segment
Decoration in the lower arc of the circle

RU5 Wheel postmark, inscription above
Crown in the upper circle segment
Date opening as far as the outer circle, with the hour of issue
Decoration in the lower circle

(Continued on page 59)

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

HANDBOOK

BOHEMIA-MORAVIA & SLOVAKIA. An excellent reference and outstanding source of information for the stamps and postal stationery issued during the German occupation of the Bohemia and Moravia Protectorate and the independent state of Slovakia (1939-45). "... well planned arrangement for easy and quick reference, this book should be a delight to every collector of the issues of this extremely fascinating period of Czechoslovak history."—Review from Stamps Magazine. Hard cover, \$2.50.

PHILATELIC VOCABULARY

ENGLISH-CZECH and CZECH-ENGLISH. An absolute must for the English speaking collector of Czechoslovakia. Highly regarded in the philatelic world as shown by prominence given in lot description of extensive Czechoslovak collection in recent auction held by international stamp auction house. Hard cover \$2.25, soft cover \$1.50.

BACK ISSUES OF THE SPECIALIST

BOUND ORIGINALS

Year(s)	On Hand	Cost
1946-47	1	\$6.50
1949	2	4.50
1951	3	4.50
1951-53	4	8.50
1952-53	4	6.50
1953-54	1	6.50
1954	4	4.50
1954-55	5	6.50
1955	8	4.50
1958	10	4.50
1959	14	4.50
1960	5	4.50
1961	2	4.50
1963	2	5.50

UNBOUND ORIGINALS

1940 (missing: Jan., Feb., Oct., Nov.)	\$2.50
1941 (missing: April, June)	3.50
1945 (missing: Jan., Feb., April, March, Oct.)	1.75
1946 and 1947 complete	Each year 3.25
1948 (missing: March, June)	2.75
1949 to 1969 complete	Each year 3.50

SINGLE ISSUES

Each unbound copy of any of the above is 50c

All prices include postage and handling. Order from the editor.

Make checks payable to Czechoslovak Philatelic Society.

WILLIAM SCHOENIG

20 Charles Ct.

E. Patchogue, N. Y. 11772

47th MAIL SALE

We have again received a nice collection of Czech material. This time from Munich. The prices are MINIMUM and no lot will be sold below these prices.

1	Covers and cards 65 all used in Cz. Territory before Oct. 28th 1918 --	\$6.50
2	About 1000 Austrian stamps many Cz. cancels all before 1918 -----	15.00
3	A collection of post cards showing only Prague, about 100 -----	10.00
4	10 stampless covers all with Cz. cancels, all before 1950 -----	20.00
5	10 stamps of the first issue of Austria, all with Cz. town cancels --	10.00
6	About 100 Austrian stamps with only Cz. cancels -----	15.00
7	1 Statni clada, complete to 10k * -----	28.00
8	11 Statni vlada complete to 10k -----	28.00
9	Skalice 14 values * complete -----	30.00
10	Srobar Cover with about 10 stamps -----	18.00
11	Hradcany, about 2000 on and off paper, unpicked for cancels -----	18.00
12	Another lot about 1000 all on paper -----	10.00
13	Three imperfs, 10h, 20h, 30h, vf -----	25.00
14	55 Hradcany, all with Hungarian cancels -----	18.00
15	About 100 waste prints, fine lot -----	10.00
16	3 complete sheets of Hradcany -----	10.00
17	3 complete sheets of Hradcany, used -----	4.00
18	Posta 1919, 62 different -----	15.00
19	4k dark olive * -----	4.00
20	10k violet -----	25.00
21	Parliament set to 5k -----	15.00
22	Set of Hungarian postage due, 1f to 30f complete -----	28.00
23	5 stamps with inverted overprint -----	6.00
24	2 covers with Posta 1919 stamps -----	3.00
25	Masaryk set 1920 * -----	1.00
26	Same Imperf. -----	8.00
27	125h ultramarine -----	3.00
28	Same, imperf. -----	4.00
29	125h, 500h, 1000h proofs (bl) -----	10.00
30	1923 Complete set 4 values -----	2.00
31	Same, used -----	2.00
32	Congress * complete -----	18.00
33	Same used, vf -----	18.00
34	Slet * -----	15.00
35	Same, in blocks of 4, * -----	60.00

36	1925 complete from 40h to 5k *	4.00
37	vertical watermarks complete used	7.00
38	1k Scott #102 (Raminke)	17.00
39	1k different types (8)	8.00
40	60h Stefanik *	2.00
41	Same, used	2.00
42	Collection of Czech inc. slet and congress mint and used on pages	55.00
43	Collection of Czech incl. Boh. Mor. and some Slovakia	40.00
44	Collection of only Sudeten	22.60
45	Bohemia and Moravia complete, also some gutters and tabs on pages	16.00
46	First set * (Scott 1 to 19)	4.50
47	Same used	4.50
48	Nice collection of Slovakia on pages *	30.00
49	First set complete, signed, 1 to 23	18.00
50	S. O. nice set of 35 values *	5.00
51	Large lot of unused stamps, some 1000	10.00
52	100 F.D.C. all periods	10.00
53	Lot of essays and proofs and Makulatura, about 120	17.00
54	35 different favor sheets used at different occasions, nice lot	18.00
55	Balance of mint and used stamps, all periods	10.00
56	Lot of covers and cards used, about 500 (some dupl.)	12.00
57	Special cancels on stamps, some 500 (special events)	8.00
58	1945 after Hitler overprints, diff., some 100	12.00
59	F.D.C. of the last few years, some 60	7.00
60	Big box with all kinds of covers, stamps, blocks, cancels, etc., a real mystery lot	15.00
61	New York Worlds Fair, a set of 28 different sheets, sales price at the fair was \$41.50	40.00

End of Sale

Send your bids early, Sale ends April 30th 1972

Alfons Stach

P. O. Box 386, Shenandoah Station

Miami, Florida 33145

CZECH POLLING

The 9th annual International philatelic poll to choose the best Czechoslovak postage stamps has been announced by Mlada Fronta.

Collectors desiring to participate must submit answers to the following questions:

- (1) Which Czech stamp of 1971 is best from the viewpoint of artistic conception of design from original subjects?
- (2) Which Czech stamp of 1971 is best from artistic level of engraving using another master's work as the subject?

Replies should be mailed to Mlada Fronta Philatelic Poll, Panska 8, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia, to arrive by April 30, 1972.

All participants who send along an addressed 5x7 envelope and appropriate international reply coupons to cover cost of postage with the answers to the above two questions will receive a philatelic souvenir.

At the September regional exhibition in Jihlava, an exhibit of perfins by Vojtech Maxa, a Prague journalist, the first such display in the philatelic history of stamp shows in Czechoslovakia, was awarded a silver medal.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Richard W. Culin, P. O. Box 8101, Akron, Ohio 44320

Frank J. Kosik, Rt. 4, Box 471, Delavan, WI 53115

Joseph Prochazka, Jr., 1912 Heathfield Road, Baltimore, MD 21239

NEW MEMBER

#947 Krejci, Wesley A., 418 36th St. N. E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

NOJEX 1972

The Nojex exhibition is scheduled for October 27, 28 and 29, 1972, in the Coachman Inn on Jackson Drive in Cranford, New Jersey. Our society will hold its biannual meeting there on Saturday, October 28th at 11 a.m. Participants in this annual event will be the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, German Philatelic Society, and the Postal History Society. Our society is committed to submit up to 40 frames. These are Cipex type frames holding 16 8½x11 pages. The price is \$4.50 per frame. As in the past the Nojex committee consists of able and willing collectors, who will take extreme care in handling the material of all exhibitors. We expect to have three judges for our exhibits. An exhibitor may receive an award from our society, as well as from Nojex. Applications for participation should be addressed to Emil Michaelson, 1835 Arbor Lane, Union, New Jersey 07083. Anyone wishing to attend and to stay overnight should make advance reservations at the Inn. As guests of Nojex you will receive a discount on the room rates which are presently being quoted at \$16 for a single room and \$18 for a double. Further details and the program of the society will be in the next issue.

MEZÖKASZONY

LU1

KOMJÁT P.U.

LU2



FU1



MU1



STU1



FU1



EV2



GU1



GU2



PV1



RU1



RU3



RU2



RU4



RU5



RU6



RU7



RU8



RU9



RU10



RU10a



RU10B



RU11

- RU6 Wheel postmark, inscription above
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the outer circle, with the hour of issue
Postmark letter in the lower inner circle segment
Decoration in the lower arc
- RU7 Wheel postmark, inscription above
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the inner circle
Post office number
- RU8 Wheel postmark, inscription above
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the outer circle, with the hour of issue
Post office number
- RU9 Wheel postmark, inscription above
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the outer circle with the hour of issue
Post office number, postmark letters in the lower arc
- RU10 Wheel postmark, inscription divided, above and below
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the inner circle
Time-of-day letter in the lower inner circle segment
- RU10a This postmark contains at the end of the county name (szepes Vm) also the letter "A," of which, up till now, it cannot be ascertained whether it is a part of the inscription, or a postmark letter. For this reason it has not been considered advisable to give it a separate place, and it is entered merely as RU10a.
- RU10b Wheel postmark, inscription divided, above and below
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the inner circle
Time-of-day letter in the under inner circle segment
Left and right of the date opening postmark letter (?)
As in RU10a, the significance of the two letter "A's", left and right of the date opening, has not yet been made clear, wherefore this form is identified merely as RU10b.
- RU11 Wheel postmark, inscription divided, above and below
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the outer circle, with the hour of issue
Postmark letter in the lower inner circle segment
- (b) Railway Station Postmarks
- BU1 Wheel postmark, inscription divided
Above—place of issue, below—P.U. (meaning railway station)
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Time-of-day letter in the upper inner circle segment
- BU2 Wheel postmark, inscription divided
Above—place of issue, below—P.U.
Crown in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the outer circle, with the hour of issue
Postmark letter in the lower inner circle segment
- (c) Train Postmarks
- ZU1 Wheel postmark, inscription divided, above and below—with a hyphen
Train post number in the upper inner circle segment
Date opening as far as the outer circle, with the hour of issue
S.Z.—"Szam" (meaning number) in the lower inner circle segment
(to be continued)

THE STORY OF STANDARD TIME

By Joseph J. Janecka

(We wish to apologize to Mr. Joseph J. Janecka for the lateness in publishing his very interesting article. We somehow mislaid it and it has just come to light, although it does not pertain to Czech philately, it is a philatelic item in our opinion.)

The current Standard Time System in the United States was adopted by the General Time Convention of 1883, held at Chicago's Famous Grand Pacific Hotel then on the site of the present Continental Bank Building. To commemorate this historic event, The Midwest Historical Society, Inc., presented a plaque to the Continental Bank on November 18, 1971. The plaque which tells the story of Standard Time, will be installed on the southwest corner of the Continental Bank Building.

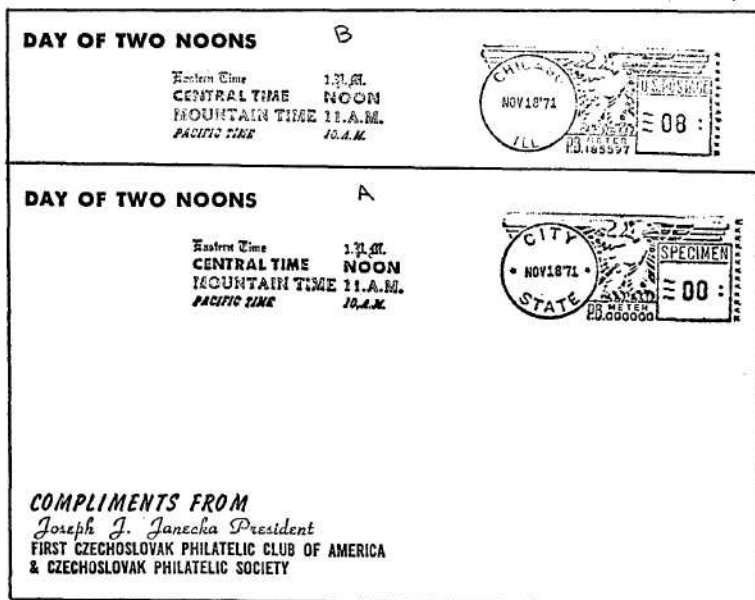
Imagine trying to schedule a trip if the time changed one minute for every thirteen miles traveled. This, in fact was almost the case if you were going from Chicago to Boston during the 1880's before the Standard Time System was adopted.

In those days, the only standard was "sun time" which was based on the transit of the sun across the meridian. More than 100 different local times resulted from this method, Illinois alone had 27 different local times. A man traveling from Maine to California had to change his watch more than 20 times in order to meet his schedules.

The General Time Convention of 1883 was called by the nations railroads. Delegates were asked to develop a better and more uniform time system to govern railroad operations.

The new system, proposed by William F. Allen, Convention Secretary, established four equal time zones across the country, each one hour ahead of the zone to its west. All railroad clocks in each zone were to be synchronized to strike the hour simultaneously.

The Standard Time System was inaugurated on November 18, 1883, known



as the "Day of Two Noons." On that Sunday, the Allegheny Observatory at the University of Pittsburgh transmitted a telegraph signal when it was exactly noon on the 90th meridian. Railroad clocks throughout the United States were reset on the hour according to time zones.

Although the plan was implemented by the railroads, the Federal Government, states and cities also began to use the system almost immediately. On March 19, 1918 Congress acknowledged the plan by passing the Standard Time Act.

Editor's Note: You will notice on the illustrations, "A" the specimen meter stamp, "B" the actual meter stamp.



The Ministry of Telecommunications of the CSSR issued on 17th August, 1971, a commemorative set of six stamps as follows:

- 20h—Pheasant—*Phasianus colchicus*
Engraver: M. Ondráček. Colors: black, red, yellow-brown, blue.
- 60h—Trout—*Palasarmo gairdneri*
Engraver: J. Schmidt. Colors: black, yellow, blue, violet
- 80h—Moufflon—*Ovis musimon*
Engraver: Jindra Schmidt. Colors: black, yellow-green, brown
- 1 Kcs—Chamois—*Rucicapra rucicapra*
Engraver: Lad. Jirka. Colors: black, yellow, brown, blue
- 2 Kcs—Stag—*Cercus elaphus*
Engraver: Jan Mráček
Colors: black, yellow-brown, orange
- 2.60—Sow—*Sus scrota*
Engraver: Milow Ondráček. Colors: black, yellow-brown, blue, violet.

The stamps were designed by acad. painter Jozef Baláz and printed at the Post Printing Office in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photo-

gravure in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture: 41x23mm.

Three First Day Covers designed by Baláz and engraved by Jar. Goldschmied were issued with the series.



The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued on September 20th, 1971, a set of commemorative stamps entitled "International Congress on the History of Pharmacy, Praha 1971" and comprised the following six stamps:
30h—Tussilago Farfara, engraved by Ladislav Jirka. Colors: Black, yellow, red, green.

60h—Rosa Canina, engraved by Bedrich Housa. Colors: Dark-brown, blue, yellow, pink.

1 Kcs—Adonis Vernalis, engraved by Milos Ondracek. Colors: Blue-black, yellow, brown, green.

1.20 Kcs—Valeriana Officinalis, engraved by Bedrich Housa. Colors: Black, yellow, pale-green, green.

1.80 Kcs—Cichorium Intybus, engraved by Ladislav Jirka. Colors: Red-brown, yellow, blue, olive, green.

2.40 Kcs—Hyoscyamus Niger, engraved by Bedrich Housa. Colors: Black-violet, green, violet, orange.

The stamp pictures depicting medicinal plants and historical pharmaceutical utensils were designed by Jaroslav Lukavsky.

The series was printed at the Post Printing Office in Prague by rotary recess print combined with three color photogravure in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture is 41x23 mm.

Three first day covers designed by Jaroslav Lukavsky and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied were issued with the set. The subjects of the drawings on the covers are:

- a) Medieval furnace and distillation flasks
- b) Pharmaceutical still life with an apothecary balance and mortars
- c) Apothecary carafes.

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