

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award — INTERPHIL '76
SILVER AWARD — CAPEX '78

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXX

October 1978

No. 8, Whole No. 383

The Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine

Dominick J. Riccio, Ph.D.

Part I—The Pre-stamp Period

Over the next year or so, I would like to review for you the postal history of Carpatho-Ukraine. For those who are interested in pursuing this fascinating area further and more quickly than I will cover it, Rodger Richet's book is a good beginning. It is available from the S. C. P. in both the original French version or the Society's fine English translation.

The beginning of the postal history of the Carpatho-Ukraine (also called Ruthenia, Subcarpathian Rus and various derivative names) is coincidental with that of the Austro-Hungarian Empire as was that of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. As a matter of fact Ruthenia was often considered the hunting forests of the Hungarian aristocracy and was a political plum that was

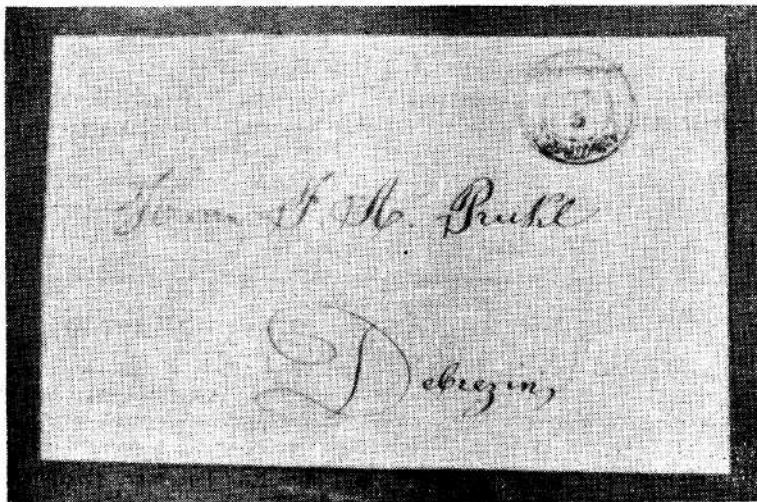


Fig. 1

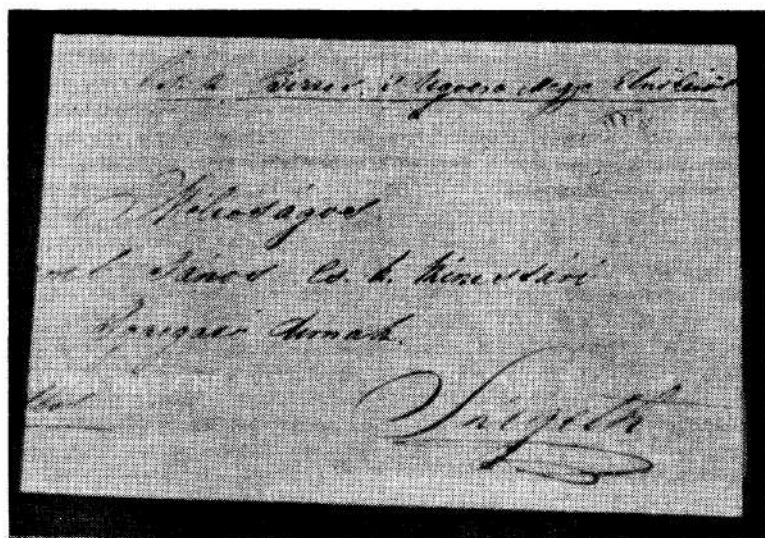


Fig. 2

awarded to the various noblemen for their allegiance. Little attention or freedom accrued to this largely uneducated and extremely parochial people called Ruthenes. They depended on farming and forestry for their meager survival. Nonetheless, it was not uncommon for their carefully tilled crops to be destroyed by the wild boar, deer and other animals because the law of the empire protected the game animals better than it protected the rights of the people. There was little commerce in the four counties that formed the ter-

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No. 8, Whole No. 383

Published monthly except July and August — \$7.50 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Office of Publication, 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Editor—Dominick J. Riccio, 235 W. 76th St., Apt. 4D, New York NY 10023

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913 Spring Road, Elmhurst, Ill. 62106

Dick Major, Sales Agent, For Sale Through the Specialist

P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, Va. 22204

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Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

ritory of Carpatho-Ukraine, namely: Ung, Bereg, Ugocsa and Marmaros. Since the rulers of the land essentially ignored the social and educational needs of their "hunting preserve keepers," it must be assumed that the postal system was infrequently used except by Hungarian or Austrian businessmen and tourists. Therefore, stampless covers from this period are relatively scarce and those that can be found are usually written in either Hungarian or Austrian.

In my collection, I have two pre-stamp covers from Chust (Huszt). One is dated March 28, 1847 and as can be seen in figure 1, it has a double circle city and date cancel in black ink and is written in Austrian. The other (fig. 2) is also a double circle city and date cancel, which is dated December 28, 1849. This one is written in Hungarian and is addressed to Szigeth. In Edwin Mueller's Handbook of the Pre-stamp Postmarks of Austria, he lists two pre-1850 cancels for Huszt. The first is a straight line cancel in use from 1836 to 1846 and the second is a double circle cancel in use from 1846 on. Both cancels are reported in green ink as well as black but the latter is probably quite scarce, if not rare. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who possesses any of these cancels or further information about them.

It is interesting to note that although several authors report that twelve post offices were in existence before 1850, none of these authors lists the post offices. Therefore after some intensive research and close examination of maps dating from 1820 to 1936, I have been able to verify the following twelve post offices to be in existence before 1850.

Town	Date Opened	Date Closed
Beregszasz	1838	
Gacs	before 1783	4/12/1843
Huszt	1836	
Munkacs	before 1817	
Nagy-Zollos	before 1817	
Polena	1833	
Szeredyne	before 1817	
Tetso	1836	
Tisza Ujlak	1836	
Unghvar	before 1817	
Vereczke	1833	
Nyiresfalva	before 1817	1838

In my next article, I will describe the various postmarks used in each town.

NEW MEMBER

1212 Kenneth H. Kenyon, 558 Hillcrest Drive, Rt. 8, Verona, Wisc. 53593

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

1203 Ludvik Z. Svoboda, Correct to 9102 Rural Plains Place, Springfield, Va. 22153

1189 Melissa G. Wheeler, c/o Ye Olde Parcel Poste Co., 25 Newtown Road, Danbury, CT 06810

The Carpathian Review

Dominick J. Riccio, Editor

This year marks my fourth year as a member of the S. C. P. and as a collector of Czechoslovakian stamps. Apropos of this, I'd like to take the present opportunity to thank all of the members and friends of this wonderful society for sharing their considerable philatelic and personal knowledge with me. Indeed, my association with the Society has enriched my life significantly by helping me to explore my own family heritage through stamps and by introducing me to collectors all over the world. More specifically, I would like to thank our president, Mrs. Jane Sterba and the members of the board for their vote of confidence by appointing me to the esteemed position of Editor of the Specialist. I hope that, with the support of the individual members of the Society, I will be able to live up to the fine tradition established by former editors.

As you may have surmised from the title of the column, my special interest in Czech philately is the postal history of Carpatho-Ukraine, before, during and after it became part of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. However, my own personal bias is that individual philatelic interests often reflect the idiosyncracies, personality and history of the individual collector. Therefore I'd like to invite each member to submit any Czech related philatelic item that expresses something personal about them. Mail the item or a glossy photograph of it to me with a brief biographical sketch or anecdote that explains your personal connection to that item, and I will publish it in The Carpathian Review. In this manner, the whole Society will not only get an opportunity to view your collection but also to get to meet you as a

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person. Examples of material that might be interesting are letters or post-cards from grandparents with unusual town cancels or postal markings, stamps with designs that are especially meaningful to you, etc., etc. The essential concept is to learn personal history from philatelic history and visa versa.

One of the many goals during my tenure as editor will be to encourage a broader and more active participation in our society since any organization is only as vital as the interest and energy of its members permits. If you can imagine an analogy as trite as an automobile, you can see clearly that an organization can only make progress when it is fueled by the energy of all of its members. Therefore, I urge all members to recognize their importance to the life of the Society and to make their ideas and philatelic knowledge known by writing letters to your editor.

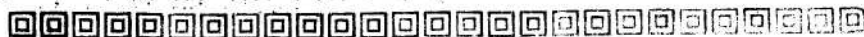
Best wishes and good luck to all of our members showing at Praga. The next issue of the Specialist will document all the excitement and fanfare of Praga '78 for all of you who could not attend this great philatelic event in person.



FOR SALE THROUGH THE SPECIALIST

The following books are still available for purchase through the Specialist. Send your check made out to the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST to Richard Major, P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, Va. 22204. Please add 70c for postage and insurance for the first book and 40c for each additional book

MONOGRAFIE, Vol. 13, Part I. Cancellations to 1918 town A-O with black print (černotisk). In Czech, German notes	\$14.50
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Translation of PADELKY (Forgeries) as published in the Specialist. Unbound	4.50
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1976 Supplement to POFIS, Catalogue of Czechoslovak Stamps. In Czech	1.00
SOCFILEX 1976 Exhibition Catalogue, 109 pages illustrated. In Czech.	2.50
ZNOJMO '76 Exhibition Catalogue, 88 pages illustrated, with postal stationery item and black print from the show. In Czech	3.50



President's Gazette

By Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402

11:00 a.m. Monday—Sept. 4th, 1978.

Time is rushing and within 2 hours I must leave for O'Hare International Airport in order to fly to Prague and PRAGA '78, and I just received a phone call from Dr. Matejka—that there has been a change in the flight time, so I must rush off.

Since Joe and I will travel around in Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy and West Germany, following the stamp show you will not be hearing from me until the December Specialist comes out. I will be doing some articles for Dominick, which I hope you will enjoy.

Our best wishes to you all,

Sincerely, Jane Sterba, Pres.

Reflections On Collecting

By Henry Hahn

There are times when it seem that we have all become a civilization of filing clerks. Compartmentalizing, classifying, categorizing—and whatever else we choose is of course part of knowing and understanding. Those of us in science and certain other areas of endeavor spend our life times at this human obsession, and quite naturally, much of this obsession has made its way into philately. We collect by country, topic, subject, historic origin, as well as by some less obscure characteristics.

But has it ever occurred to you that while you can get fired from your job, put in a nut house, ostracized by your colleagues, etc., for revolting against this obsession in real life—they can't hurt you very much in philately? You can't get fired, and being considered somewhat crazy already—you might as well REVOLT!

I chuckle at some of the hangups collectors manifest when they tell me they just collect mint . . . just collect postal history . . . just collect Czecho! . . . or even just mint UNHINGED! It is difficult to understand how an adult intellect with the objective of having a bit of relaxing fun, detached from his "other" life, can punish himself by placing such severe limitations or restrictions upon his hobby.

Does this mean that the free and happy collector collects EVERYTHING? Of course not; though he does collect ANYTHING.

In doing this, the happy collector thumbs his nose at the stone faced judge (the international ones, counting rarities within an assumed compartment, and the national ones who must first check your title page description to be sure you haven't strayed). But since, as I was recently told, showing is nothing but an ego trip—not a fun trip—the happy collector probably never shows anyway. Well—not really—because showing what you think will "sell" the judges is yet another fun challenge—though not to be confused with philately.

So let's mix it up! Proofs, mint unhinged, postal history, literature, "Wir sind frei?", cats and dogs clipped by Czech clippers and write it all up for the SPECIALIST.

Postal Stationery

By Wolfgang Fritzsche

Additions to the Czechoslovak Section of the Higgins & Gage catalogue. Continuation of the listings in the Feb. 1977 issue of the Czechoslovak Specialist, page 30.

Airmail —F— (postal cards)

1977. Stamp design: stylized bird. At left cachet in black: a castle BYTCA 1977, for exhibition of the Czech stamp.
- #7. blue, KCS 4.40 a Fig. 7
1977. Stamp design: A castle and a church and a round seal. Cachet at lower left: Bulgarian flag, CSSR and BLR, Trebic 1977 in red and green, for the Czechoslovakia-Bulgaria stamp exhibition in Trebic. Issued June 4.
- #8. 4.40 Kcs, red, blue and black a Fig. 8
1977. Stamp design: Antique flying machine, PRAGA 1978 seal. Cachet at left Montgolfiere balloon in flight, ribbon: Celostatni vystava AEROPHILATELIE, HRADEC-KRALOVE 1977 in blue. For the national aerophilatelic exhibition, Hradec-Kralove. Issued Sept. 2, used for special balloon flights in Sept. 10 and 11.
- #9. 4.40 Kcs, multicolored a Fig. 9
1977. Stamp design: Head of Leonardo Da Vinci and some of his inventions and PRAGA 1978 seal. Cachet at lower left: stylized sun, balloon and 4 panel tablet inscription: Temafila 1977 Sezimovo Usti. Issued Oct. 9 for the national topical exhibition. Cachet in brown.
- #10. 4.40 Kcs, multicolored a Fig. 10

Airmail —F— (envelopes FB)

1977. Stamp design: Trotzky, Space rocket, hammer and sickle 1917-1977. At left cachet: Berlin TV tower and building, SOCFILEX 77—Berlin. Issued Aug. 19 for the international stamp exhibition in Berlin commemorating the October Revolution 1917. Cachet blue and red.
- #8. 6 Kcs, red, blue, brown size N Fig. FB 8

Postal cards

1977. Stamp design: Motorcycle rider, at left cachet: Rider, flag waver, large 6 in brown, red and black. Issued for the 6 day motorcycle race at the 52nd international Motorcycle competition in Povazska Bystrica.
- #181. 30h brown, black, red a Fig. 43

Envelopes —B—

1977. Stamp design: portrait of Pres. Husak. 4 address lines, the last is a double line with in front.
- #38. 60h red brown, size e Fig. B 31
lines 78 mm apart
- 38a. 60h same, but lines only 71 mm apart
1977. Similar to Nr. 38 but one short and 3 long address lines in black, now 5 boxes and 3 heavy vert. lines below address lines for routing code number
- #39. 60h red brown, size e Fig. 32

DR. LADISLAV V. FISCHMEISTER, M.D.
V. A. Hospital — Augusta, Ga. 30904

FOURTEENTH MAIL SALE

Sale ends November 15th, 1978

All stamps are unused, unless otherwise stated.

The prices below represent MINIMUM BIDS (AUSRÜFPREIS)

1. Praha, II revolutionary, 15 val., VF	\$30.00
2. HRADCANY, 1-1000, 19 val. BLACKPRINT on ART paper, F-VF	100.00
3. same, 1-1000, 14 val., BLACKPRINT on ART paper, F-VF	70.00
4. same, 3-120, 6 val., BLACKPRINT on brownish paper, VF	24.00
5. —, 200h ESSAY on blue and brownish paper, VF, 2 val.	8.00
6. —, 25h ULTRAMARINE, F-VF	13.00
7. —, 20h, BLACKPRINT TYPE I, on ART paper, R, VF	20.00
8. —, 75h, ESSAY, gold yellow, VF	12.00
9. —, 10h, ESSAY, NEOTYPE, orange, low rand with 6.— on cream	15.00
10. —, same, dark carmine, low left corner, 54 mm, VF, R, Special	20.00
11. —, 1-500, ministerial perforation 11½, 9 val., VF	23.00
12. —, 3-300, same, perf 13¾, 5 val., VF	10.00
13. —, 3-100h, 6 Essays on brownish paper, VF	12.00
14. —, 3-100h, 6 Essays on br. paper. DOUBLE PRINT, VF	12.00
15. LEGION, 15, 50 blackprint on art paper and 50h blprt on grey, VF	15.00
16. —, 25h LIGHT brown, VF	6.00
17. —, 25h perf. 11½, VF	5.00
18. —, 75h perf. 10½:11½ m VF	13.00
19. —, 100h perf. 10½:11½, VF	13.00
20. —, 100h OFFSET, VF	3.50
21. PC 1919, 10h carmine, DOUBLE, INVERTED Print, VF	10.00
22. —, 12h OFFSET type I and II, VF	12.00
23. —, 15h, OFFSET, type I and II, VF	12.00
24. —, 50h, OFFSET, type I and II, VF	12.00
25. —, 60h, OFFSET, type I and II, VF	12.00
26. —, 1K BLACK overprint, B17, M 50b, VF	35.00
27. —, porto 15/36, OFFSET, VF	20.00
28. —, 10/24, M 94, B 60, F, special	47.00
29. —, 1 h, M 92, B 58, VF	10.00
30. —, 15/2, M 93, B 59, VF	55.00
31. —, 3 K, Parliament, F-VF	22.00
32. —, 5 K, VF	57.00
33. —, 15 f, WHITE num., B 88, M 119, SHIFTED OVERPT., F-VF	65.00
34. ALLEGORY, ESSAY, 25h black, format 22½x27½, luxus, R	38.00
35. —, 20 and 30, CARMINE on 11cm x 9½cm sheet, VF, R	80.00
36. —, DOVE, Agricult., Masaryk, 14 stps on 80mm x 225mm sheet, RED, VF, RR	300.00
37. —, 25 Dove, type I and II, BLACKPRINT on ART Paper, R, VF	10.00
38. —, 5h-250h, 13 val., BLACKPRINT on ART Paper, VF	50.00
39. —, 5-250, 8 val., Blackprint on cream paper, VF	30.00
40. —, 40h ESSAYS, 4 val. on pink, gray, cream and blue paper, VF	7.00
41. —, 100h, perf. 11½, FISCAL FALSUM, VF, R	38.00
42. —, 140 h ESSAY in Orange, VF, special	10.00

42. —, 140 h ESSAY in Violet, VF, special -----	10.00
44. —, 10, 40, tête-bêche, VF -----	6.00
45. —, same, GUTTER tête-bêche, VF -----	15.00
46. HUSITE, 80 and 90 IMPERFORATE, VF -----	8.00
47. —, 80 h IMPERFORATE PAIR, VF -----	8.00
48. —, 90 h ESSAYS, 10 diff. color, VF -----	37.00
49. RED CROSS, essay Hradcany 40 and 60h on cream paper, NO OVERPRINT, VF -----	15.00
50. —, 40 and 60h IMPERFORATE, VF -----	20.00
51. —, ALLEGORIE 40h, ESSAY overpr. I, INVERTED, VF, RR special, red overprint -----	35.00
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53. —, same, 40 and 60h, red overprint III, R, VF -----	20.00
54. —, MASARYK, 125h, essay of overprint IV in RED and BLK, R	40.00
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65. 1945. Kosice, vertical gutter, compl. 4 stamps, VF -----	15.00
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67. 1939. New York World Fair, Newspaper sheet, OVERPRINT BLACK VF -----	10.00
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69. 1968, DURER BLACKPRINT, VF -----	5.00
70. 1962. 5 Kc, sheet of 4 Praga 1962, VF, R -----	35.00
71. NEWSPAPER, 2, 6, 10, 20, BLACKPRINT on ART paper, VF --	20.00
72. —, 1937 sheet WITHOUT COMMA behind, snamek, VF -----	20.00
73. SO 1920, ESSAY black overprint on 200 h, VF -----	18.00
74. 15 h PERFORATION 13¾, RR, cent. to top, signed Karasek, etc., Special -----	95.00
78. Hradcany 500 and 1000 blue overpr., VF -----	6.00
79. Masaryk, 2 values, F-VF, special -----	75.00
80. Porto, VZOREC, perf. 13¾, 10½, 11½, imp., overprint, right, left, upside down, RR comb. 34 val. -----	210.00
81. AIRMAIL, ESSAY on pink paper, ⅓ Kc type I and II, R, VF --	30.00
82. —, Essay on PINK paper, 4 and 5 Kc, VF, R -----	30.00
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Dr. Ladislav V. Fischmeister, M.D.

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Tschechoslowakei und Oberschlesien

Austro-Hungarian Naval Forces During the 1914-1918 World War

By Jiri Nekvasil

Translated by Henry Hahn

(Reprinted by permission of the Postal History Journal)

(Conclusion)

Austrian Mail in Peking

Considerable political and economic pressures exerted by the major powers against the Chinese Empire resulted in a fierce reaction toward the end of the nineteenth century. This culminated in a Chinese Nationalistic movement, "First of Peace and Equality," referred to briefly as the Boxer movement. Its objective was the expulsion from China of "white devils," and between 1899 and 1900s attempted the liquidation of all Caucasians in China. When the Boxers (together with the Chinese Imperial Army) besieged the European quarter in Peking, various western powers dispatched expeditionary armies to China. Austria-Hungary did likewise and dispatched the warships S.M.S. Kaiserin und Konigin Maria Theresia, S.M.S. Elisabeth, S.M.S. Aspern, and S.M.S. Zenta, as well as a strong contingent of marines for service on land.

Philatelically this expedition was interesting, since once again the field post of its members was frank-free and marked exclusively by Austrian field post postmarks in accordance with the terms of the pronouncement of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce No. 3724 of December 21, 1900.

Following the defeat of China, Austria made no territorial demands and demanded no privileges. However, for the protection of its legation in Peking it provided a unit of marines which performed sentry duty. Austrian field posts in China were discontinued by order of the same ministry (No. 33 766 in 1901). But there was re-established, in 1902, a special Austrian postoffice on Chinese territory.

At the Peking postoffice, the following Austrian stamps were successively used (Zumstein Catalog): numbers 94/104, 112/145, 153/156 and Hungarian stamps 54/67, 74/86, 91/104, and 109/123. These stamps contained no alterations of any kind and were sold for either Austrian or Hungarian currency. Simultaneously, there were for sale currently valid items of postal stationery. (Stamps of Bosnia never were used officially at the Peking post office for franking. Whenever found with postmarks of the Peking Austrian post office, they were cancelled to order and without philatelic value.) Franking rates were the same as in Austria, i.e., post card, 5h; ordinary letter, 10h; registry surcharge, 25h. Parcel post was forwarded to Europe primarily in mail bags, by way Tsingtau, in Austro-Hungarian or German steamers, or else across Siberia and Russia by land. Postal services of the Austro-Hungarian postoffice were available to foreigners as in the case of other foreign postoffices in China (French, British, Russian, etc.)

During 1902 and 1915 the Austrian post offices in Peking used postmarks which illustrate clearly that the postoffice was primarily serving sentries of the Austrian marine:

1. Until about 1907, there was a single circle postmark bearing the legend **K.u.K. GesandtschaftsWachedetachment/Peking** (Diplomatic Guard Detachment). The date (day, month, year) is placed in vertical order at the center of the postmark.



Fig. 32. A Sebenico Coastal Flight marking

2. A later postmark is double-circled with a date-bridge bounded by the inner circle. Probably used from 1907 to 1915, it has a larger diameter than the third postmark and bears the legend K.u.K. Mariniedetachment/Peking. The date consists of the day, month and year.

3. The last postmark is similar to the above except for a smaller diameter and, between the two legends on the left, has a distinguishing letter "A." The postmarks are in black ink.

A real interest in these items of postal history has only arisen in the last decades. Of course, today these postmarks are seen rarely. For example, the older Kohl Handbook of 1926 states that the Peking postoffice was discontinued in 1910; while Ing. E. Muller lists its closing as 1914 (at the start of World War I). The German Michel Catalog lists the discontinuance of the postoffice as 1915. This corresponds with the date of preserved covers.

The cruisers S.M.S. Kaiserin Elisabeth became the guard ship of the Chinese port Tsingtau. The ship was constructed in 1890. It was 98 meters long, 15 meters wide, with a draft of 5.7 meters (approximately 321 by 49 feet with a 19 foot draft), and a displacement of 4,000 tons. Its engines delivered 8,000 horsepower. (During the course of years this cruiser was modernized). It met its fate in Chinese waters because (following the declaration of war) it was threatened with seizure by foreign forces, and the captain chose to scuttle the ship on November 7, 1914 to prevent it from falling into enemy hands.

Mail of Captain Xavier Wutscher

It is essential to acquaint the reader with Captain Xavier Wutscher who initially commanded the torpedo cutter S.M.S. Ulan; later the repair vessel S.M.S. Hercules. He was an ardent collector of ship mail throughout the course of the First World War. In order to obtain postal material from all



Fig. 33. A Captain Xavier Wutscher card which was dispatched from his ship, the Ulan; and eventually returned through the Marine Post Office in Pola.

ships of the Adriatic and Danubian fleets, he sent to all ships field post cards with his own printed address. Commanders of the ships, who were his friends, were happy to oblige since it did not cost anything. Wutscher's cards actually were mailed from the sender to the addressee, have pretty, legible ships postmarks, and include-concurrent, varying transit and receiving postmarks. To the uninitiated, however, they appear highly suspect, due primarily to Wutscher's printed address. Nevertheless, I consider these as fully valid, and this opinion is shared by other collectors, including those abroad.

Following the war, numerous Wutscher-cards made their way to collectors, and may be found in the largest collections. The majority of cards, however, has been lost or destroyed in the last 60 years.

One such Wutscher-card is illustrated in Fig 33. Dispatched from the S.M.S. Ulan, which he commanded, it has both legible postmarks of the ship (official and censor, with dates) and was returned to Wutscher through the Marinefeldpostamt in Pola on July 12, 1915.

The Navy's End

In 1918 the Austro-Hungarian Navy was in the midst of agony: the supply of personnel and food were lowered to a minimum. The socialistic revolution in Russia had opened the eyes of the seamen, and lent support to their desire for an end to a useless war. On the first of February 1918, members of the squadron in Boca Kotorska mutinied, and raised the red flag. The leader of the revolutionary council was a Czech named Frantisek Ráz of Prerov. Heading the mutiny were Czechs and members of other Slavic nations. The commander, Admiral M. Njegovan, who would not deny his Croat nationality, was demoted and replaced by Captain Mikulas Horty von Nagybanya, who up to then had been commander of the cruiser S.M.S. Novara. Bloody suppression of the mutiny followed; the fourth division of naval vessels was dispersed; Czech



Fig. 34. Historic card from a Czech seaman sent from Bratislava to Jicin, a blue-lined postmark in Czech reads: "Headquarters, First Unit of Czechoslovak Seamen." (Translation of message appears in text.)

and Croat seamen were assigned to penal labor units; but order was not fully restored.

The "victories" achieved by the navy in the course of several naval actions demonstrated the incompetence of the commanders. Thus, for example, the old coastal armored ship S.M.S. Wien was sunk inside the harbor of Trieste in December 1917 by an Italian torpedo boat. During the summer of 1918, Horthy prepared for a major naval action against Allied shipping, which, however, ended before it was fully under way. While steaming from Pola to Kotor, the two dreadnaughts S.M.S. Tegetthof and S.M.S. Szent Istvan were attacked by Italian torpedo boats. This encounter was a catastrophe to the latter which was struck by a torpedo and sank within three hours. The entire action was aborted and further interest in continuing the war waned. Ships were dispersed during October, the port and ships were occupied by Allied units, and the field post went out of existence. Large naval units were taken over by the major Allied powers, smaller units by Yugoslavia and Hungary.

Czechoslovak seamen, together with Czech marines (infantry, artillery and technical units) formed a Czechoslovak Committee in Pola and quickly formed marching units which called themselves the Czechoslovak Naval Legion. They immediately began to move by railroad to newly liberated Czechoslovakia with all their supplies and armament in order to place themselves at the disposal of Czechoslovakia's provisional government. It is probable that the first naval units arriving in Prague were quickly transferred to Bratislava because in Slovakia the Czech government was in dire need of troops. This is indicated in the passage of French General Eugene Mittlehouser, who at that time was military aide to the Czech administrator for Slovakia, Dr. Vavro Srobár. The General mentioned a unit of Czech seamen who defended Bratislava during the summer of 1919.

Further proof may be the postcard illustrated in Fig. 34, which was sent from Bratislava to Jicin by a seaman, Frantisek Svoboda, a member of the machine gun company, second battalion, first unit of Czech seamen. On the address side is a blue lined postmark bearing in Czech: "Headquarters, First Unit of Czechoslovak Seamen," in addition to the regular civilian postmark Pozsony 1 (Bratislava 1). The situation is further clarified by the contents of the post card which state . . . "for the moment we are engaged in French military training and we serve as infantry. But we are also taking courses on ships, temporarily inside the harbor. As soon as we occupy the other shore, and more ships arrive, we will carry out patrols along the Danube into the Black Sea. I am looking forward to that. . ."

I believe that such documents of the Czech field post during the disturbing years following the liberation of Czechoslovakia during 1918 through 1920 are few.

Even Czechoslovakia received several smaller Danubian monitors after the war and a small Czechoslovakian Navy was organized for the purpose of patrolling, and exploration.

According to full documentation, a new ship was constructed between 1928 and 1930 for patrol purposes and named "President Masaryk." This Danubian ship had a displacement of 185 tons, was armored by means of four cannon (Skoda type 30 having 6.6cm bore) and four machine guns of the Schwarzlose type. The monitor was constructed at the Skoda shipyard in Komarno.

At that time the Ministry of National Defense formulated a comprehensive defense program for the Danube which was to be put into effect gradually. In 1935, due to complete deterioration, two gun ships which had been taken over from the Austrian Navy after the war were removed from the service. At a later time, further arming of the Danubian defense forces was discontinued to conserve manufacturing resources which by then had to be committed to the army in order to counteract the more awesome threat from Germany under Hitler.

Epilogue

As I pointed out earlier, it is essential for collectors of ship field post mail to know details of the organization, names, and other technical/military facts concerning particular naval units. Otherwise they would be unable to assemble either a general, specialized, or topical collection dealing with this area. However, I should like to warn the collector that such a task, in any event, is difficult at the present time.

Included in such collections must be entires, since cut squares, as in the instances of postal stationery, are without philatelic value. This is so because only an entire can contain all the markings which document that such an item had performed its mission from writer to addressee. In addition to a ship marking which may be of any type (postal, official, or censor) the entire must also show the field post marking of the field post office in Pola or another "transit" postmark. We of course include in such collections pieces which have legible markings and are otherwise pleasing in terms of appearance. Sometimes, of course, the collector must include in his collection less "beautiful" items which, however, include rare or seldom seen markings. Price valuation of individual postmarks does not exist and I believe that it will never exist even though such a price catalog is theoretically possible.

As in other areas of postal history, we have tried in the instance of

Austro-Hungarian ship mail to collect entire dispatches from every ship of the Danubian or Adriatic fleet regardless of markings. In specialized collecting we try to document all markings used by a particular ship in the course of World War I as for example the S.H.S. Viribus Unitis which used two official markings, the first postal markings, the others censor markings of various shapes and sizes. Smaller ships used only one, or at the most two markings.

In addition to ships, the Navy encompassed a series of land units, service centers, workshops, schools, hospitals, naval fortifications, and supporting land based units which were important from the standpoint of communications. However, these have no connection with actual ship mail. As an example, I can cite the Matrosenkorps (marines, including infantry and artillery units) which was organized to incorporate such naval land units as the Seearsenalkommando (naval arsenal) in Pola, Sanitatabteilungskommando (Sanitation Command) also in Pola, Marinetelegraphenstation (Naval Telegraphy Station) in Grpastjak, Musil, Movar and Pola, Marinespitalkommando (Naval Hospital Command) in Pola, Marinebekleidungsamt (Naval Clothing Bureau) in Pola, Festungsartillerieregiment (Fortress Artillery Regiment), Graf Colloredo-Mels Number 4 and many others.

All these units used frank-free field post markings which however had no connection whatever with ships' mail.

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