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WINNERS AT CHICAGOPEX 91

by Charles Chesloe

Our Society came to Chicago to stage its annual exhibition and convention and its exhibiting members all walked away with awards. This is noteworthy because CHICAGOPEX is usually one of the most competitive national exhibits and 1991 marked the 105th consecutive exhibition hosted by the Chicago Philatelic Society.

Our newest member, Jiří "Tex" Stupka from Železná Ruda, Czechoslovakia, received a gold medal for his excellent showing of the Dove and Allegory Issues of 1920. Jiří showed beginning designs to finished stamp and plate faults with retouches. He also showed the joined types of the 40h Allegory in the comb perforation, the reverse comb perforation "lezmý hřeben" and the only known Type II position 96 on an entire of the extremely rare line perf 13 3/4. His example is on a postal card. His talk covered this exhibit. (see Fig. 1)



Fig. 2 - Jiří Stupka speaking at general meeting

Particularly encouraging was the fact that other members who do not regularly exhibit submitted entries at this show. Ed Lehecka received a silver medal for his colorful exhibit of the Legionaires semi-postal issue of 1919. Mirko Vondra also received a silver medal with a special prize for his excellent entry Hradčany, first and second designs, Scott nos. 1 through 20.

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Fig. 2 - Mirko Vondra (left) and Phillips Freer (right) both editorial staff members, at the publication's silver award display.

His showing of the vertical strips of the 100h and 200h in tete-beche positions is extraordinary. These pieces are very rare and are found only in the collections of about three or four persons. Phillips Freer exhibited Czechoslovakia material for the first time in a national show and captured a silver-bronze - a wonderful achievement considering the quality of exhibits that were on display. The CHICAGOPEX Grand Award went to Ray Vogel for his eight frames of the U.S. one-cent issue of 1851-57. This was Mr. Vogel's first showing, though his material is well known. One Reserve Grand was awarded to an exhibit of Michigan Waterway and Railway markings by Cary Johnson. The other Reserve Grand went to Gordon Torrey for his world class exhibit of Russian Postoffices Abroad. In the literary periodical section, our SPECIALIST won two awards: a Silver medal and a Special Award "for excellent service to its membership and subject." Having already won three other awards this year, our publication has set a winning record for a single year. (see Fig 2).

I served as an apprentice judge and found all the exhibits to be excellent and highly competitive. This year the theme was Pan-Slavic Philately. In 1992, CHICAGOPEX will host the American Airmail Society. It will be strictly an airmail show. Those who lean towards airmail are encouraged to prepare for it.

-- Charles Chesloe

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LUDVIK SVOBODA ELECTED SOCIETY PRESIDENT

At its annual meeting held this year at CHICAGOPEX 91 on November 2, the Society's Board of Directors elected Ludvik Svoboda as its new President. (see Fig. 3 and Fig. 4)

Mr. Svoboda has been an active member of the S.C.P. since 1978 and has served as its treasurer for the past ten years. For more information on his background, please refer to the April 1988 SPECIALIST, pgs 3 and 4.

Other electees include Jaroslav Verner as Vice-President and Edwin Lehecka as treasurer. Jane Sterba was reelected to another term as secretary and Henry Hahn was confirmed to continue as A.P.S. representative.

The Board also adopted a three-year plan for participating at national stamp shows. It accepted an invitation from BALPEX to take part in its exhibition in 1992 and appointed committees to explore the feasibility of attending FLOREX and NOJEX in 1993 and 1994.



Fig. 3 - Pres. Ludvik Svoboda presiding at Board meeting flanked by Bob Koschalk and Jane Sterba, secretary



Fig. 4 - Pres. Ludvik Svoboda flanked by Jiří Stupka (left) and Vladimír Budák (right) at banquet.

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GENUINENESS OF ENTIRES WITH STAMPS OF THE DELIVERY SERVICE OF CZECH SCOUTS

by Pavel Pitterman

Reprinted from ZPRAVODAJ, no. 44, March 1991

Translated by Henry Hahn

Introduction by Frederick P. Lawrence

In this article from ZPRAVODAJ, Czech postal history expert Ing. Pavel Pitterman discusses the expertizing of entires of the 1918 Czech Scout Delivery Service (Czech "Scout Post"). The article is based on, and in some areas expands on, Ing. Pitterman's lectures on this subject presented at the World Stamp Expo in Washington, DC in November 1989 and at BALPEX in September 1990. This is a disputed subject, with Ing. Pitterman's views differing sharply with those of Milos Miltner of Neuenhof, Switzerland, who wrote and published the monograph "Werdegang, Erfolg, Uterdrückung und Wiederstehung der Tschechoslowakischen Pfadfinderbewegung aus der Sicht eines Pfadfinders und Briefmarkensammlers" (Origin, Success, Suppression and Resurrection of the Czech Scout Movement from the Viewpoint of a Scout and a Stamp Collector) in 1990. Ing. Pitterman's article joins articles previously published in The Czechoslovak Specialist on the Czech Scout Delivery Service by Ivo Kvasnička, Jan Dvořák and the late Lester Behnke. Since the original illustrations in ZPRAVODAJ were inadequate for reproduction, new figures have been added by this writer, as follows;

Figure 1. Charter document of the Czech Scout Delivery Service (Courtesy Ludvík Pytlíček).

Figure 2. Category 1 entire: Genuine and authentic. Internal Scout Delivery Service entire from the Czech Scout Association to J. Rössler-Orovský, President of the Czech Scouts.

Figure 3. Category 2 entire: Genuine but not authentic. Genuine registered double weight entire (overpaid 5h) to the Czech National Committee, delivered by the Prague Post Office, not carried by the Czech Scouts. Later enhanced by the addition of a genuine 20h Scout stamp tied by a genuine strike of the "N.V." marking.

Figure 4. Category 3 entire: Fabrication. Completely made-up entire, constructed for collectors, probably in the 1920's. All components - 20h Scout stamp and strikes of the "N.V.", "Dopis od skauta. . ." and oval "NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR V PRAZE" markings - are genuine, but the entire is spurious.

Figure 5a. Category 4 entire: Forgery. Genuine entire to the Czech National Committee, delivered by the Prague Post Office, not carried by the Czech Scouts. Later enhanced by the addition of a genuine 20h Scout stamp tied by a forged strike of the "POŠTA SKAUTU" marking. The expert's mark of Dr. Gilbert applies only to the Scout stamp.

Figure 5b. Category 4 telegram: Forgery. Genuine telegram to the Czech National Committee, delivered by the Czech Scouts. Later enhanced by the addition of two genuine 10h Scout stamps tied by forged strikes of the "POŠTA SKAUTU" and "N.V." markings.

The Disputes concerning justification for issuance of stamps and for entires of the delivery service are eighty years old. It is time that these disputes be replaced by factual discussion and evaluation of presently known facts.

What then are the facts? There are archival and literary documents proving the origin of the Scout courier service for the use by the National Committee starting on October 28th, 1918 during the afternoon hours, at which time independent Czechoslovak military units began to receive information from the Střelecký Ostrov (Riflemen's Island). Taking part in this action, besides military personnel, were also members of the Sokol and Scouts. The

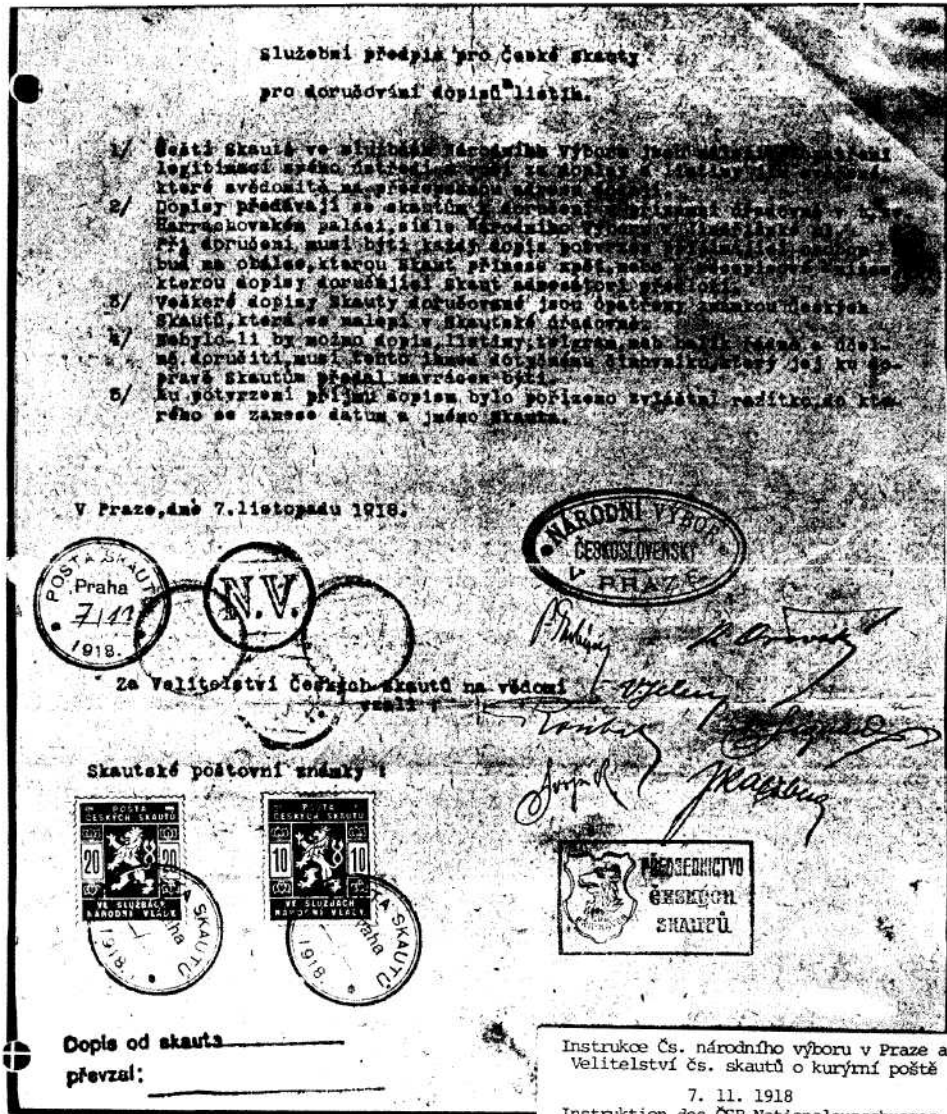


Fig. 1

Scouts served as couriers, delivering both verbal and written messages to and from leaders of local resistance. The reason was that the then current mail service did not insure sufficiently rapid and secure delivery.

The Scout service operated objectively, without stamps, postmarks or delivery books; all of this came later. This fact, often neglected in philatelic literature, is critical from the standpoint of general historical evaluation of the need for creation of the courier service. Against this background of determining circumstances, one must weigh, from the philatelic point of view, the secondary circumstances which later led to the issuance of the Scout stamps. However, it is undisputed that delivery service arose spontaneously on October 28, 1918 and ended on



Fig. 2

November 25, 1918. During this interval there were created internal regulations by the existing leaders of Czech Scouting. (Figure 1) Since this service was not organized by the postal authorities nor any other responsible institution, it must be considered as a private delivery service in any event. The principle of its private origin as well as that of its stamps and entires must be reflected in appropriate terminology. I suggest the use of the following terms and descriptions:

- Delivery service of Czech Scouts (i.e. courier service . . .)
- Stamps of the delivery service of Czech Scouts (Scout Stamps)
- Entires with stamps of the delivery service of Czech Scouts (entires with Scout Stamps)

This concept of the delivery service of Czech Scouts, in my opinion, distinguishes it by not employing the terms "post" and "postal", regarding all known facts about its origin and character. It is defined in the context of the general circumstances of the Czechoslovak Transitional Period and its postal service. From the philatelic viewpoint, it enables one to evaluate all documents originating during the period of its activity as valid material. It is an undeniable fact that this concept permits the proper interpretation of the stamps with the "PŘÍJEZD" overprint, and their usage on entires of December 21, 1918, the documentation of which from the standpoint of postal regulations valid on that date is very scarce.

Following this brief introduction, one may consider the clearly philatelic aspects of the valuation of these stamps and entires; there are many of these, and thorough consideration would suffice for several lectures. Here I shall deal with only one of the aspects, i.e. the genuineness of entires with Scout Stamps.

Expertizing of entires with Scout stamps does not differ basically from the expertizing of entires in general, though it has one prominent feature: a major role is played by the influence



Fig. 3

of non-postal circumstances and possible circumstances during the period of their origin. I am particularly thinking of local circumstances, both historic and technical. Hence, in expertizing entires with Scout Stamps, one must subject the items to the following:

- a. Genuineness of stamps (in some cases overprinted) and determine whether they are of the first or second issue.
- b. Genuineness of the marking "POŠTA SKAUTU" ("N.V.") as well as "DOPIS OD SKAUTA"
- c. Location of expert markings in items previously expertized.
- d. Location of cancels on entires, particularly in relation to the stamps.
- e. Relationship between sender and addressee, particularly with respect to the reasonableness of delivery via the courier service.
- f. In entires addressed outside the N.V., the true existence of the address and addressee.
- g. Validity of the stamps during the given time period and means of payment.
- h. Type and means of delivery.

Note the interpretation of results in accordance with the above criteria. In the case of the first three, the situation is clear, since the originals of the stamps, cancels, as well as expert marks are available and the characteristics of genuineness are known. Also well known are characteristics of typical forgeries. Hence, if any of the stamps or markings are judged to be forged, the entire is also considered to be a forgery. A question arises as to the number of types of the "POŠTA SKAUTU" markings that may be found on genuine entires. Most genuine entires include only two types, though the literature cites three types. The true answer will only be arrived at through study of a very large quantity of comparable material.

A somewhat different situation exists in the interpretation of the other criteria of genuineness, since in those we must consider current conventions on the basis of which these criteria must be interpreted. Let us try to formulate these:

1. Location of markings on the entires.

I begin with the supposed function of these markings. The circular "POŠTA SKAUTU", by its function, serves as a postal cancel and hence serves the purpose of devaluing the stamp.

NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR
PRAHA, OBECNÍ DŮM
o



Fig. 4

The further circular marking "N.V." is a marking by the sender, i.e. the Scout Service, at the point of departure for mail destined for the National Committee, and should be located remote from the stamp. Finally, the two-line marking "DOPIS OD SKAUTA" was also used for control purposes in the delivery books of the individual Scouts. One can therefore begin to consider entires to be genuine only if they fully meet the above criteria. However, the absence of the "N.V." marking is not to the detriment of entires that have not been sent through the origin point used for the National Committee mail. Entires not fully meeting these criteria must be regarded with suspicion as to their origin. Entires with markings of the Presidium of the Ministerial Council (Prezidium ministerské rady), which are round, and oval markings of the Czechoslovak National Committee in Prague (Narodní Výbor Československý v Praze) may be considered to be curiosities with a certain degree of collecting justification, though they are in no way related to the Scout delivery service. The second marking mentioned is frequently found on forged entriés.

2. Relationship between addressee and sender.

This relationship is derived with considerable difficulty, particularly in view of the private character of the delivery service and the broad range of the service functions. The private nature of the services precluded manipulation of the mail sent via the normal postal system. It is further known that the service centers of the delivery service functioned exclusively within the framework of activities of the National Committee, starting on October 28, 1918 and within the framework of the Ministry of the Interior from November 16 to November 25, 1918. The delivery service was intended for the exclusive use of these institutions. Hence, those entires may be considered to be genuine in which the relationship between the N.V.

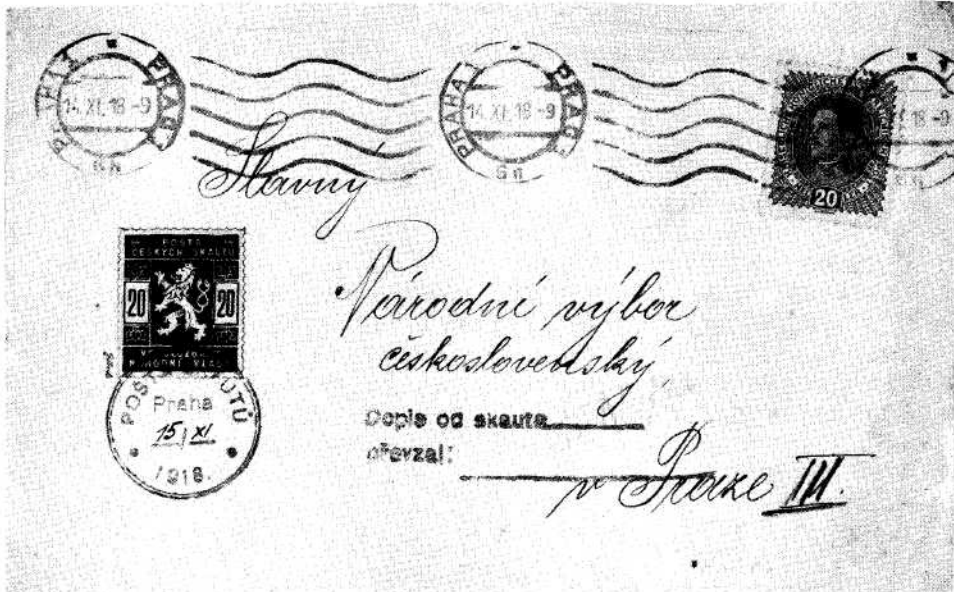


Fig. 5a

(National Committee) and sender, or between the sender and N.V. is provable, since only under those circumstances was there a realistic need for delivery by this means rather than delivery by the normal postal service. This also applies to correspondence among functionaries of the Scout movement, whose names are well known. This must be carefully considered in the instance of entires bearing the Scout stamps in correspondence between private persons.

3. Entires sent by the National Committee

A favorite means of fabricating, i.e. forging entires bearing the Scout stamps is by later adding fictitious addresses of supposed recipients. Hence the true existence of addresses must be verified. Entires that fail this test can not be considered genuine even if they bear genuine stamps and genuine markings, since they do not fulfill the purpose of their existence - i.e. to have been delivered by the Scout service.. One is also reminded that authentic letters sent via the N.V. dispatch station would bear the round marking "N.V.".

4. Validity of the stamps and means of payment

The period of validity of the stamps and means of payment were given in internal instructions by the organizers of the delivery service of the Czech Scouts. From these it is apparent that the stamps could be used in the period from November 7 to November 25, 1918. This applied to postcards and printed matter in the amount of 10h, and from letters and telegrams in the amount of 20h. This fact was often taken lightly or entirely neglected, since it was pointed out that the amount of franking was meaningless, because the service was paid for by the National Committee in bulk. This claim, however, is in dispute, since no valid proof exists and the fact whether or not the National Committee paid in bulk has little to do with the matter. If the entire matter of the delivery service were merely a "game of post office" (as some claim that it was), then only would the strict adherence to established rates be unimportant. However, under the circumstances, the period of validity and rate structure must be considered strictly in the evaluation of authenticity in entires. It should be distinguished from those which may nevertheless remain collectible items, but must be considered as having

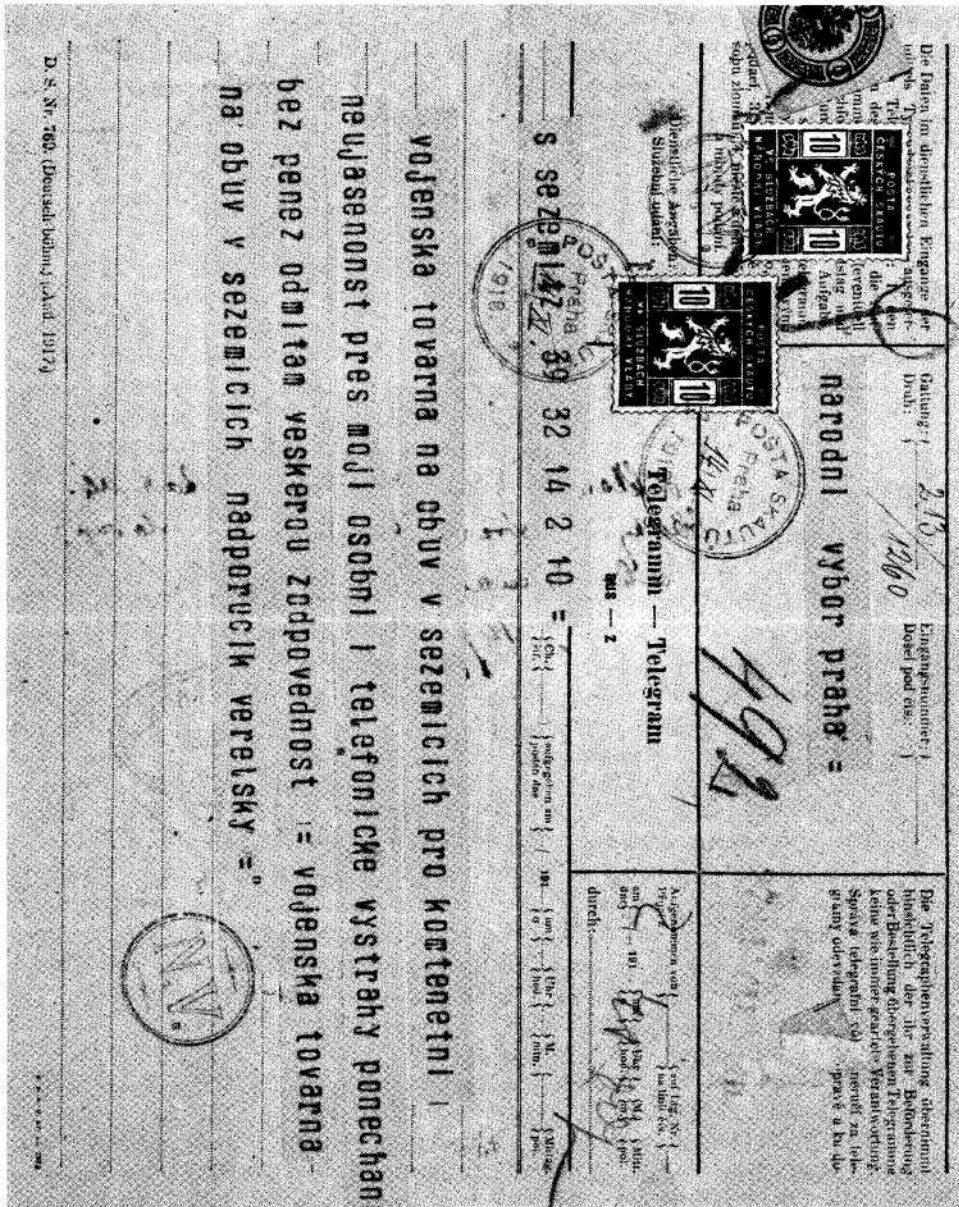


Fig. 5b

originated at a different time period or were not (or could not) have been regularly delivered.

5. Type and means of delivery

This is one of the helpful criteria for evaluation of authenticity, particularly since in recent years entires appeared with Scout stamps on items on which they simply could not have been used (such as on newspapers). It must therefore be emphasized that Scout stamps were exclusively intended for use on letters, printed matter, postcards and telegrams.

The question will certainly be raised as to proof of the foregoing statement, since this has a

critical effect on the authenticity of some presently recognized entires which the statement could place in doubt, (as well as on numerous other entires which are currently not recognized but could gain recognition). Proof of the statement is contained in all of the available literature on the subject. However the proof relied on are the actual Service Regulations for the Czech Scouts for delivery of letters and other mail, from which we can excerpt a number of truths that are sometimes neglected.

In the context of the definition of agreements between the Scouts and the National Committee, we are concerned with a document which has little legal significance, since one of the signatories, a member of the National Committee, was not empowered and therefore could not negotiate for the National Committee. Moreover, the oval marking of the National Committee appears on all documents as a representative marking used in conjunction with instructions for archiving or discarding of documents. In any event, we are not dealing with a marking having any relation with the delivery of mail. Nevertheless, this agreement between Scouts and the National Committee has value for the information it contains, since it names the individuals who had part in the organization of the Scout delivery service. The document contains means of transportation of mail, as well as genuine copies of the markings used during the period of the Scout delivery service. In the light of this document and with respect to the interpretation of the individual criteria, I find it useful to classify the genuineness of entires with Scout stamps as follows:

1. Authentic entires, genuine, without exception, conforming to all the listed criteria. (Figure 2)

2. Genuine entires, which, besides the genuineness of the stamps and markings, fulfill most of the criteria. Some of the characteristics can not be explained in the context of the then existing circumstances. Such entires may have been fabricated at a later date, for private purposes, and the facts of the circumstances are doubtful as to whether they existed or could have existed. (Figure 3)

3. So-called "mache" (fabrications), i.e. entires which are made using genuine stamps and markings, but are intended to defraud the collector by pretending facts which did not or could not have existed. Typical examples include letters and covers marked National Committee, (Narodní výdor), Public House (Obecní dum), with oval markings canceling the stamps. (Figure 4)

4. Forgeries, i.e. entires which are completely or partially forged, i.e. include forged stamps, markings, expert marks and other examples of later manipulation such as extending the postmark onto the cover, etc. (Figures 5a and 5b)

It is apparent that the above presentation will for some time remain the subject of discussion, particularly in the light of the present existence of sharply differing views between those accepting and those rejecting this philatelic subject. I believe, however, that I have offered a reasonable compromise and that the collecting public will agree, after some corrections, on this means of judging entires, at least for the present.

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MORE ON CZECHOSLOVAK POW MAIL DURING WWI

by Stig Asklund

Prisoner of War mail, with all its different markings, is truly fascinating and rewarding. In this article I will give some kaleidoscopic comments on POW mail concerning Czechs during World War I.

The topic has been discussed in the SPECIALIST before. Henry Hahn's article (Ref. 1) is a very good introduction. However, it caused me some initial puzzlement, mainly because some of his illustrations were either oversized (the Moscow circular censormark) or undersized (the wrongly-spelled Irkutsk censormark). Petr Reiniš's article (Ref. 2) contains several statements that are misleading and possibly erroneous. M. Vostatek (Ref. 3) has described the POW camps in Great Britain (Isle of Man) and J. Lukáš (Ref. 4) the field post in France.

Unfortunately, I am not conversant with the Russian language which I acknowledge is a handicap. I have, however, found two excellent handbooks I would like to recommend: "Russian Postmarks" by Kiryushkin and Robinson (Ref. 5) and "Siberia - Postmarks and Postal History of the Russian Empire Period" by Robinson (Ref. 6). A further extremely useful handbook is "Russische Postcensuur 1914 - 1918" by Speekhaert (Ref. 7), written in Dutch but easily understood thanks to the numerous illustrations.

It should be noted that my comments are deduced from about 210 POW cards and a few covers from Czech POW's in Russia (the majority of items, some 180); also Italy, France, Serbia and Great Britain. Only a few items are written by the same POW. The material is perhaps somewhat scanty, but I think it is comprehensive enough to arrive at some conclusions.

The Russian Front

The common circular Moscow censorship mark (Fig. 1) was used from October 1915 to March 1918, with numbers ranging from 2 to 751. The size of the mark is 25 - 27 mm in diameter. The text in lower number marks starts at the top and goes clockwise. In higher



Fig. 1

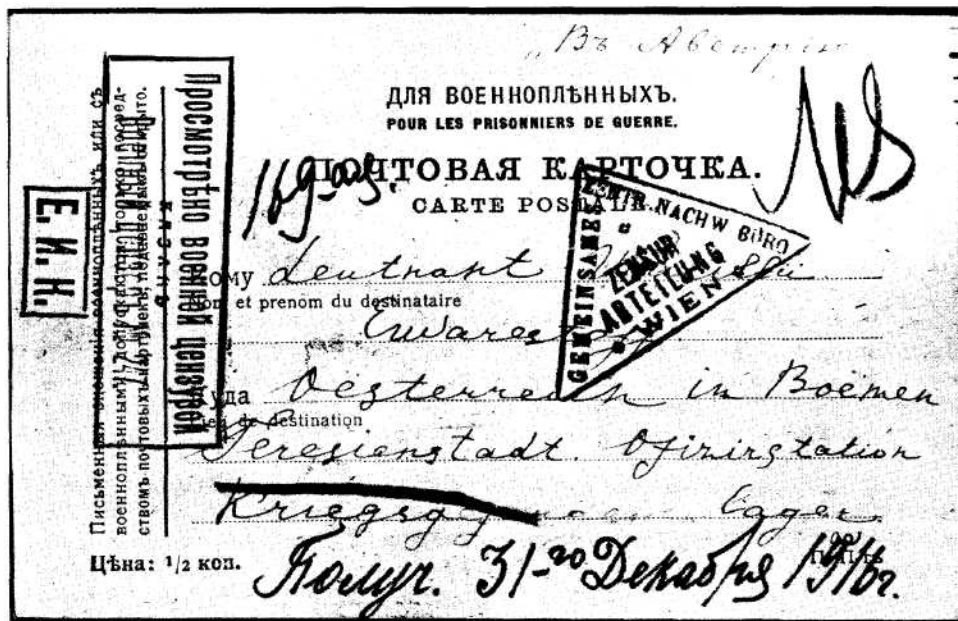


Fig. 2

number marks it starts from the bottom and goes clockwise as shown in Fig. 1. The stamp was a rubber stamp, and thus often faint in appearance - it might be difficult to find a good clear mark. The Moscow mark was used on POW mail from Russia but also on mail to POW's in Russia. It might be noted that there were no POW's in Moscow, with the exception



Fig. 3

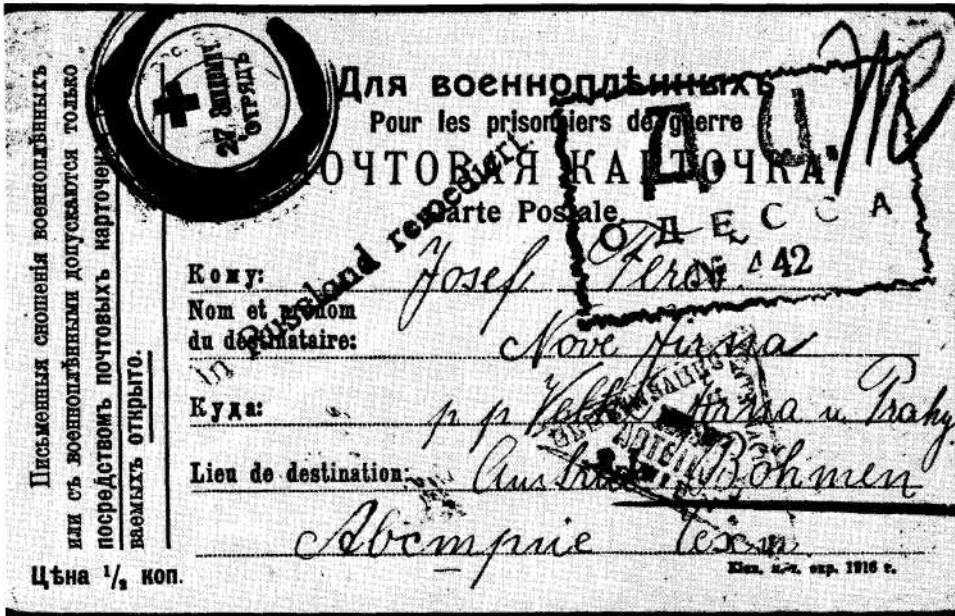


Fig. 4

of those in field hospitals located in the area. About 80 out of my 180 items originating in Russia have the Moscow censorship mark. The triangular marking is the one used by the Censor Division of the Joint Central Verification Bureau in Vienna. I have 24 of these. The locations are Sarapuel, Kazan, Penza and Petrograd. Beside the location appears the censor's

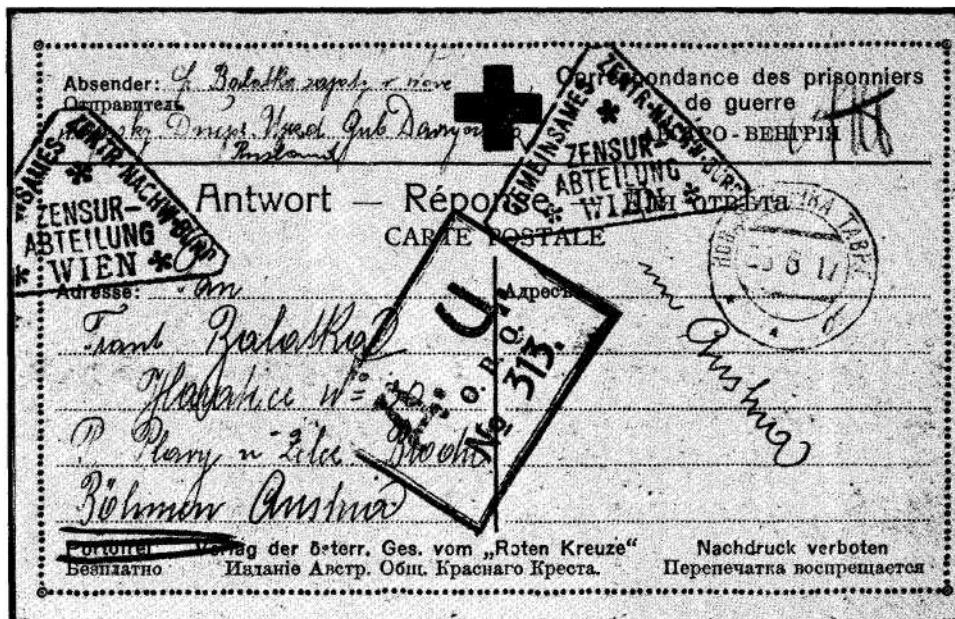


Fig. 5

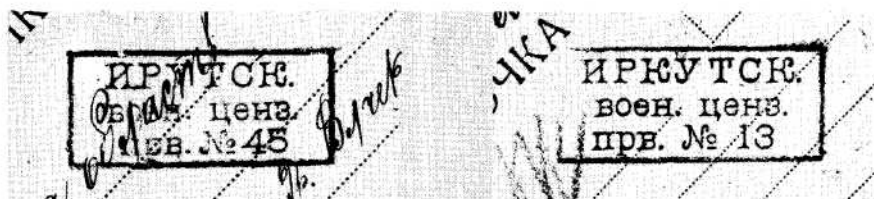


Fig. 6

number. The illustration (Fig. 2) shows the Kazan censormark with the censor's number shown as "247".

Mr. Hahn has described censorship marks from Tashkent and Omsk. (Ref.1) These exist in different designs and some are fairly common. The most common Tashkent mark is the one with two letters missing in the first word as illustrated in Fig. 3. The oval Tashkent military censormark is known to exist with slightly different designs. It was used from mid 1915 to the end of 1917.

The Odessa censorship mark also exists in slightly different designs. They normally have either the location clearly given - Odessa - or the initials OBO, and normally also with the censor's number. I have 6 items from Tashkent, 19 from Omsk and 23 from Odessa, and it could perhaps be assumed that a substantial number of Czech POW's resided in these areas. Two Odessa censorship marks are illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5. The type of Odessa censorship mark shown in Fig. A with the town name clearly indicated was used in mid 1916. Note the censored Red Cross stamp and the "In Russland remediert" stamp. A further Odessa mark, with OBO initials as seen in Fig. 5, was used in 1917. The Vienna rollerstamp mark should be noted.

Mr. Hahn has also described the misspelled IRUTSK (instead of IRKUTSK) censormark. Unfortunately the illustration in his article is greatly undersized. Below is the mark closer to its correct size (used on a Russian Postal stationery card in August 1917) and also compared



Fig. 7

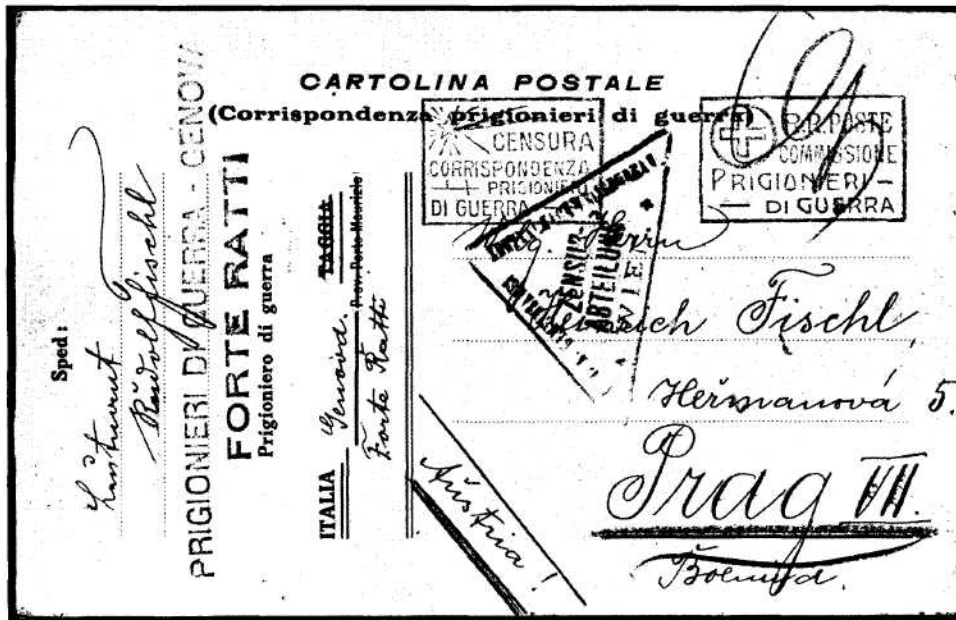


Fig. 8

with one showing the correct spelling (Fig. 6). The censormark with the incorrect spelling has censor number 45, and it is fairly common. There further exist (with correct spelling) censor numbers 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 26, 32, 38 and 47. However, I do not possess a Czech POW card with the Irkutsk censormark. Beside my 210 Czech items, I also have 31

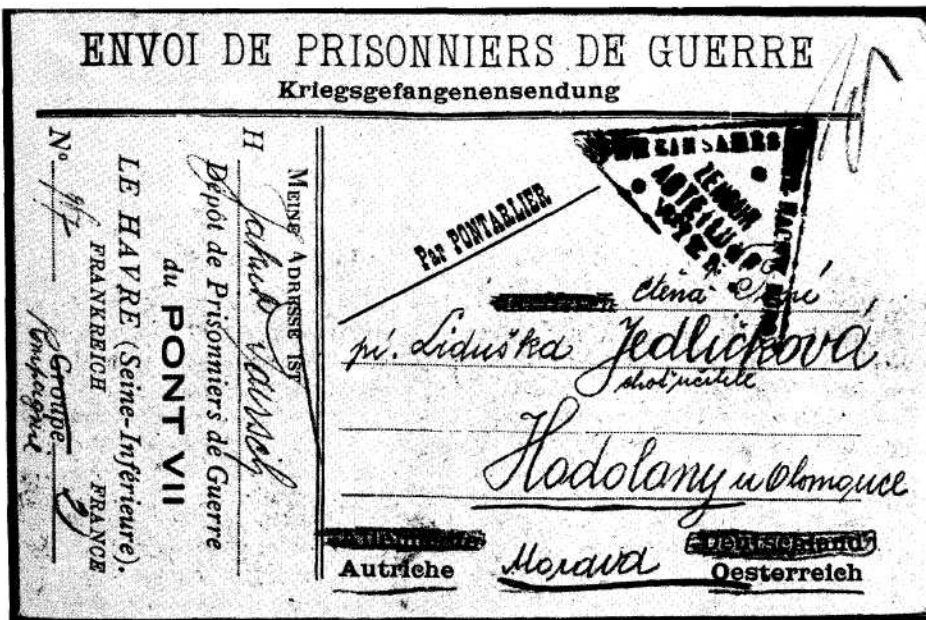


Fig. 9

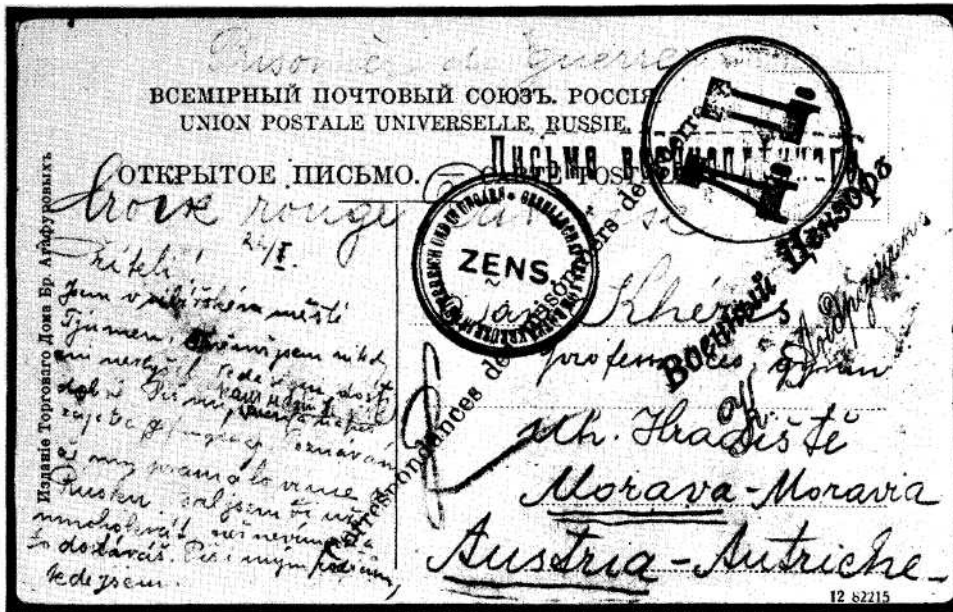


Fig. 10

cards form Austrian POW's in Russia. Eleven of these have an Irkutsk censormark, twelve have a Tomsk censormark and only two have the common Moscow mark. As mentioned, I possess no Czech card from Irkutsk, and I have none from Tomsk. Would it therefore be correct to assume that Austrian POW's resided mainly in other camps than Czech POW's?

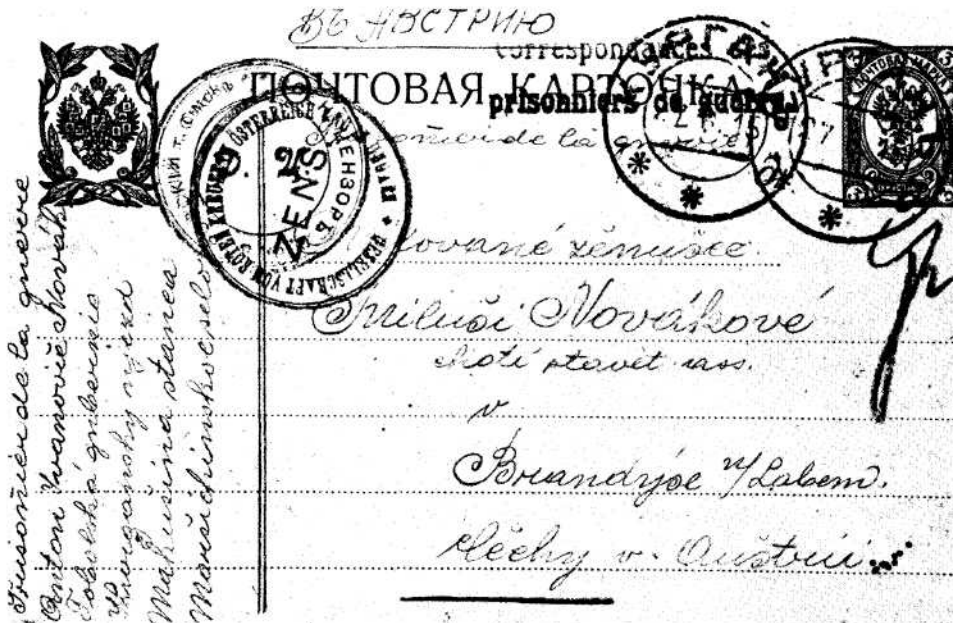


Fig. 11

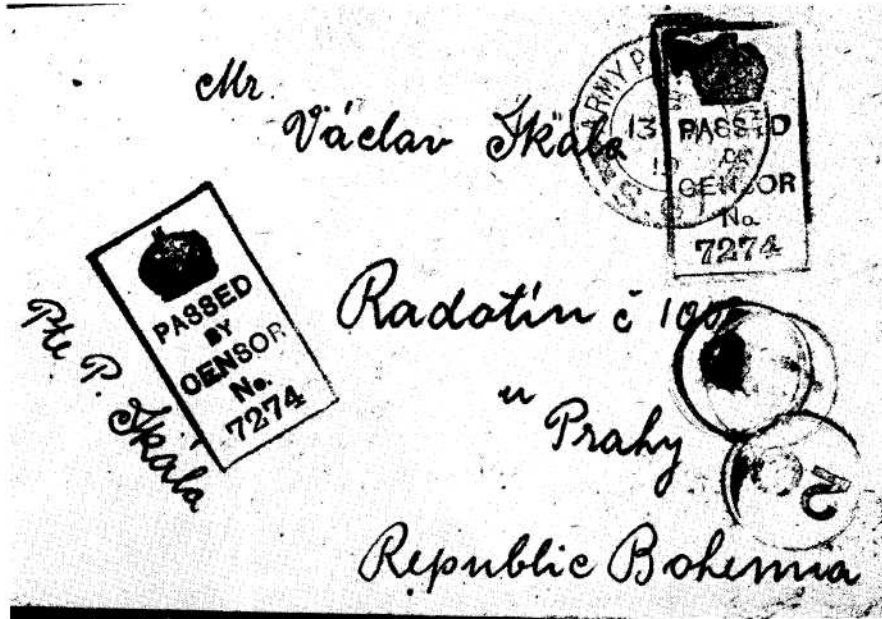


Fig. 13

POW's in Italy

On 23 May, 1915, Italy entered the war against Austria-Hungary.

I have fourteen items sent from Czech POW'S in Italy to Bohemia, spanning the time period from 14 January 1916 to 7 July 1918, all having the Vienna triangular censormark; some in the usual red color (January - August 1916) and some in the purple color (December 1916 - July 1918).

My first two items (14 January and 10 February 1916) have a large Italian Red Cross stamp in red, but this of course is not a censor marking. Instead, the censor marking, in dark blue color, is circular in shape, 33 mm in diameter, with the text "Censura corrispondenza" along the border and "Prigionieri di Guerra" in the middle (Fig. 7). From May 1916, a new censor marking was used. It consisted of two parts, i.e. two rectangular "boxes" approximately 26 x 18 mm and 30 x 18 mm in size respectively (Fig. 8). The color is red, though occasionally one appears in blue.

Incoming POW mail

While it might be considered a normal act during war to censor outgoing POW mail (e.g. Russian censorship of Czech POW's writing home), it is a little more difficult to understand why mail coming in to Austria should be censored, unless there was some reason involving intelligence.

Mr. Hahn states (Ref. 1) that all incoming POW mail from Russia and Serbia was censored with the most common triangular censorship marking and that the second most frequent marking was the round Red Cross censorship marking.

Mr. Reiniš states that "the familiar triangular censor's cancel appeared at the start of 1917. Its common color was red. On rare occasions it was found in black. The last known impression of this cancel appeared on Nov. 7, 1917. After that date, postcards were no longer censored by Austrian authorities and only Russian censor marks were seen" (Ref. 2). Kindly note the coincidence: 7 Nov. 1917 was the date of the Russian Revolution.

The above statements need some clarification and amendments:

Incoming mail from Russia and Serbia was censored, but so was mail from Italy and France with the triangular censorship marking, as can be seen in Figs. 7 and 8, and Fig. 9, which is a POW card from France, dated 11 July 1917, with the Vienna triangular marking.

I have 168 items with the triangular marking, the first dated 3 November 1915. This is more than one year earlier than Mr. Reiniš claims it appeared. Red color is used on 30 of these, all within the time period of 3 November 1915 through 26 September 1916. Purple color (and sometimes tinted toward red purple or blue purple) is used on 134 items within the time span of 25 August 1916 through 7 July 1918. I have only 4 marks in black color, all from the very end of February 1917 or from March of the same year.

Nine cards have a distinctive machine-cancel impression of the triangular marking, the first appearing 23 June 1917 and the last 7 July 1918 - most of them are from the very end of 1917. The machine-cancel impression, where the corners are less sharp than in the "normal" triangular mark, can be seen on one of the Odessa cards in Fig. 5.

The "second most frequent marking", i.e. the Red Cross marking, was used only early in the war. I have fourteen items with this marking, all from 1915, the first from 22 January and the last from 6 August. The Red Cross marking exists in two major "types": the earlier smaller one, with a diameter of approximately 27.5 mm with the text starting from the top and reading clockwise (Fig. 10); the later type (June - August), larger in size with a diameter of approximately 32mm with the text starting at the bottom, and then reading clockwise (Fig. 11). The smaller type is more common than the larger one.

The circular Red Cross marking was used only prior in time to the triangular marking. The two are never seen together. The Red Cross marking was used early in the war and by late 1915 it was replaced by the triangular marking. This, I think, indicated that by this time censorship became differently organized and taken over from the Red Cross by the Censor Division of the Joint Central Verification Bureau in Vienna.

In Fig. 10, the smaller Red Cross censormark, with text starting at the top, was used during the first half of 1915. The other marks on the card were used in Omsk in January 1915, and are rare. Note the censor's name, K. Androesjak.

In Fig. 11, the larger Red Cross censormark, with text starting at the bottom, was used in mid 1915 only. Beneath it is an Omsk censormark.

The last dated item I have with the triangular marking is from 7 July 1918. This is, indeed, some eight months after Mr. Reiniš claims there was no longer any Austrian censorship. Of course, after the Czechoslovak Independence in October 1918, there was no longer any need to direct POW mail over Vienna. Instead, it seems that the Red Cross - this time the Czech Red Cross - took over. I have, however, only one item, dated 26 December 1918, and I do not believe the marking should be considered a censormark.

The Knockaloe Camp

M. Vostatek (Ref. 3) describes the POW camps in Great Britain. He states that the Knockaloe POW camp "had its own independent postal suboffice with its own cancellations. These have not been found on any mail . . .". He has kindly sent me an illustration of the postmark (Fig. 12) at the Knockaloe POW camp where some Czechs were interned during WWI.

My own contribution here is the letter illustrated in Fig. 13. It was sent from Private P. Skála to a relative, Václav Skála, in Radotin near Prague, with the British APO S. 67 cancellation, dated 13 May 1919, and with a British censormark "Passed by Censor No. 7274". I

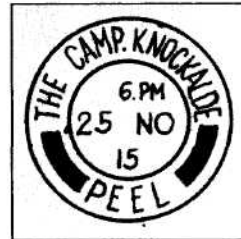


Fig. 12

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also have in my possession a further letter from the same sender and to the same addressee originating from the Knockaloe camp, but this second letter has no datestamp, only a British censormark. The British APO S. 67 datestamp was used mainly on the western front during the First World War. I have no information on where it was in 1919. Could it have been Knockaloe? That, in my opinion, is anybody's guess.

Czechoslovak POW mail during WWI is an important part of early Czechoslovak philately. No one interested in the political (and philatelic) events leading up to Czechoslovak Independence in 1918 should avoid looking into it.

Some years ago, I myself considered Czech POW mail a definitely lost cause, -something I would never understand. I did not know any Russian, which is still true today. However, with the help of articles in the SPECIALIST and the handbooks I have mentioned - and by getting hold of some material that is still fairly easy to get and also relatively inexpensive - I am now captivated by this challenging and rewarding field of early Czechoslovak philately. It is an area where imagination and some good common sense can combine to fill in the gaps that continue to plague specialized collectors. It is also an area where perserverence and continuing research may ultimately close those gaps and provide us with definitive answers.

Having offered tentative comments and raised more questions, I pause to await new information and further disclosures.

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For the Beginner

THE FIRST ŠVABINSKY AND BENDA



NÁRODNÍ UMĚLEC
MAX ŠVABINSKÝ

As was mentioned in the Sept/Oct 1991 SPECIALIST, the Hradčany stamps were designed by the world famous artist, Alfons Mucha. Several months after the stamps were first issued, the historian Jundřich Nováček interviewed Mucha and asked him why he chose Hradčany Castle as the Motif for the first stamps. Mucha's reply was "Why I decided on Hradčany Castle as the symbol for our first postal issue? Now, every nation has a palladium of its own embodying past and future history. Ever since my boyhood, I felt and saw in the architectural lines of St. Vitus Cathedral built so close to the Castle a powerful interpretation of our national symbol. I could, therefore, select no other subject for my design than Hradčany Castle and the surrounding architecture of the Middle Ages."

If those were his actual words, they were well chosen and most appropriate. After all, his essay (or sketched proposal) on Hradčany was not the only one submitted for the first stamp of Czechoslovakia. There were at least ten others. One of those came from Jaroslav Benda. Though Benda's was not accepted, his subsequent proposal for the fourth stamp bearing the letter-carrier pigeon became its official design.

But before getting to that, a few words about the third set of stamps immediately following Mucha's Hradčany. Issued in 1920, it was the first of many sets picturing Thomas Masaryk, founder and first President of the Czechoslovak Republic. The stamps were designed by Max Švabinský, who was destined to become one of the Country's great designer artists. (See Illustration) The set comprises three oversized stamps with denominations of 125h, 500h and 1000h, all perforated 13 1/2 and all available as imperfs. The basic issue is a simple one, though there is a color variety of the 125h. In addition, there are a number of plate faults and printing varieties and a myriad of color proofs. Like Hradčany, the first Masaryk set has been and still is a favorite subject of philatelic literature. (see fig. 1)

Returning to 1920, the first of a series of Allegory stamps were issued. Of these, Jaroslav Benda's letter-carrier pigeon was the first. It comprised eight stamps with six denominations: 5h, 10h, 15h, 20h and 25h. However, the 5h and the 10h exist in two different colors. They are all comb perforated 14 and are available as imperfs. (see fig. 2)

The second Allegory is referred to as the Chainbreaker, symbolizing the country in the form of a woman breaking the chains of bondage. The set, designed by V. H. Brunner, consists of eleven stamps of ten denominations: 20h, 25h, 30h, 40h, 50h, 60h, 100h, 150h, 185h and 250h. They are comb perforated 14 as well as imperf. The 50h exists in two different colors.

These two sets popularized the *tete-beche*, which is nothing more than a French term for two sets of adjoining stamps that are printed upside down relative to each other. (see fig. 3) The reason for them as well as for gutter margin *tele-beche* is that in 1921, a private company proposed that these stamps be printed in booklet form and the company agreed to pay the cost of printing so long as blank spaces be provided in each sheet of stamps where company advertising would be inserted. However, the deal fell through but the stamps had already been printed. The arrangement of the stamps on a sheet for booklet use resulted in a considerable number of *tete-beche* pairs. The stamps in these booklets were perforated 13 3/4.

Both the letter-carrier pigeon and the chainbreaker stamps can furnish the beginner, as well as the experienced collector, with hours of enjoyable research. Not only are there shade and color varieties, but there is actually a slight design variety in the chainbreaker. This variety is



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

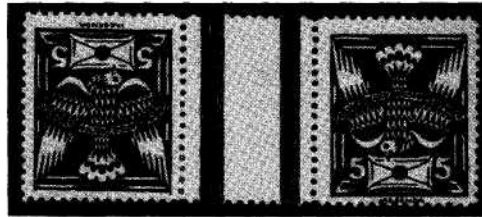


Fig. 3



Type I—9 leaves



Type II—10 leaves

Fig. 3

found in the 40h. It is called Type I if there are nine leaves on the right side of the woman's hip. It is called Type II if there are ten leaves to the right of the woman's hip. (see fig. 4)

The third Allegory is known as the Agriculture and Science set. Personally, I find this set one of the most interesting issues of the First Republic. Room does not permit a detailed analysis of these stamps in this installment. Therefore more will be said about them in the next issue of the SPECIALIST.

-- Phillips Freer

Have you paid this years dues? If not, please do so at once and help our Society remain solvent. Remember - any dues paid after February 28 incur a \$3 surcharge!

NEW ISSUES

1. On September 27, 1991 the Federal Ministry of Communications announced the issuance of a commemorative stamp honoring Andrej Hlinka. This is a 10 k. denomination stamp in a grayish blue color with the text "Andrej Hlinka 1864 - 1938" below the priest's portrait.

It was designed by Josef Balaž and engraved by Martin Činovský, both academic painters and graphic artists. Rotary recess printed in sheets of 50 stamps by the Communications Printery in Prague, the picture on each stamp measures 23 X 30 mm.

A first day cover with a special cancellation is available with a picture showing the Hlinka mausoleum in Ružomberk surrounded by olive branches. Recess printed on flat plates, the picture is in brown color.

The stamp is valid for domestic as well as international use from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.



2. Chronologically on September 30, the Federal Ministry of Communications issued a two-stamp commemorative set devoted to motifs of Prague and Bratislava.

- a. 3k. The Infant of Prague at the Church of St. Marie Vítězné.
Graphic engraving by Václav Fajt.
Color: yellow, red, blue, dark brown.
- b. 3k. Church of St. Elizabeth. "The Blue Church."
Designed and engraved by Josef Herčík.
Color: blue, violet, yellow, black.

Recess printed from flat plates at the Communications Printery in Prague, the stamps come in sheetlets of eight with each picture measuring 26 X 40 mm.

First day covers are available with special cancellations designed by the same persons who designed the stamps. Both covers were recess printed from flat plates.

a. The cover for the Prague Infant stamp shows the facade of the Church of St. Marie Vítězné in ochre, blue and black and was designed Václav Fajt.

b. The cover for the "Blue Church" stamp shows a portion of the mosaic ornament at the entrance to St. Elizabeth Church in yellow, blue and black. It was designed by Zbynek Kočvar, academic artist, and engraved by Josef Herčík.

The stamps are valid domestically as well as internationally from date of issue until withdrawn.



3. On November 3, 1991, the Federal Ministry issued a set of stamps commemorating a segment of the natural environment - the endangered species of flora.

- a. 1k. Bohemian Lily (*Gagea bohemica* (Z) R.S.)

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- Color: brown, yellow, orange, green, gold.
- b. 2k. Alpine aster (*Aster alpinus* L.)
Color: brown, yellow, violet, green, gold.
- c. 5k. Checkered fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris* L.)
Color: brown, red, green, gold.
- d. 11k. Aromatic daphne laurel (*Daphne cneorum* L.)
Color: brown, gold, violet, green, yellow.



The set was designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa, academic painter and graphic artist. The pictures measure 19 X 23 mm. The stamps were

manufactured at the Communications Printery in Prague on rotary steel press combined with multi-color photogravure in sheets of 100.

Two first day covers with special postal cancellations accompany the issue. Both covers were recess printed from flat plates.

a. For the 1k and 11k stamps, the cover shows an Austrian beehive (*Dracocephalum austriacum* L.) which appears in green, violet and brown colors.

b. For the 2k and 5k stamps, the cover has a drawing of a yellow water lily (*Nuphar pumila* Timm D.C.) in yellow, blue, green and brown colors.

The stamps are valid for both domestic and international usage from date of issue until formally withdrawn.

4. On November 3, 1991, the Federal Ministry issued a five-stamp set commemorating great works of art with the following:

- a. 2k. Life at Home (1913-14) by Max Ernst (1891-1976).
(100th anniversary of his birth). At the Jewish State Museum in Prague.
Engraver: Bohumil Šneider.
Color: ochre, red, blue, green, black.
- b. 3k. The Lovers (1875) by Auguste Renoir (1841-1919).
At the National Gallery in Prague.
Engraver: Bedřich Housa.
Color: ochre, green, blue, red, black.
- c. 4k. A Bust of Christ (approx. 1595) by El Greco (1541-1614).
At the National Gallery in Prague.
Engraver: Miloš Ondráček.
Color: yellow, blue, light blue, red, black.
- d. 7k. Two Maidens from House of Diamonds (1802) by Utamaro (1753-1806).
At the National Gallery in Prague.
Engraver: Josef Herčík.
Color: yellow, green, pale red, grey, black.
With gutter showing a trademark of stamp exposition, PHILANIPPON 91.
Color: pale red, black.

With the pictures measuring 40 X 50 mm., the stamps were printed in sheetlets of four. Accompanying each stamp is a first day cover with special cancellation. The cover was

executed by the engraver of that particular stamp.

a. The cover for the 2k stamp shows an engraved detail from Max Ernst's painting of "A Family Outing" dating from 1913-14 in reddish brown color.

b. For the 3k stamp, the cover bears an engraving in grey of a pencil study done



by Renoir of a standing girl.

c. For the 4k stamp, the cover contains an etched variation of a detail from "Bust of Christ" with a reproduction of El Greco's own signature, done in greenish grey and reddish brown.

d. The cover for the 5k stamp has a deep blue engraving of a graphic work by Guderna from his 1982 cycle titled "Sequence".

e. For the 7k stamp, there is a cover with a bluish grey etching of a wood cut by Utamaro from his triptych "Journey to the Bay of Ise" from 1804-6.

The stamps as well as the covers were manufactured at the Communications Printery in Prague on multi-color steel press from flat plates. The stamps are valid for domestic as well as international usage from date of issue until formally withdrawn.

5. On November 11, 1991, the Federal Ministry issued a 50h stamp to honor Christmas. It carries an etched illustration by Antonin Strnad, academic painter and graphic artist, of three carollers from the book "A Year Beneath the Mountains" by Josef Strnad. Vladimír Kovářik, also an academic painter and graphic artist, composed the typographic design; engraving was by Josef Herčík.

Rotary press printed by the Communications Printery in Prague, it is



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black in color combined with blue, red, silver and ochre recess printing. The stamp picture measures 19 X 23 mm. and appears in sheets of 100.

Accompanying the stamp is a first day cover with a special postal cancellation. The cover bears an etched likeness of Antonin Strnad's picture of the Infant in the Manger from the book "Songs of Bethlehem". It is recess printed from flat plates in dark blue color.

The stamp is postally valid for domestic and international usage from date of issue until formally withdrawn from circulation.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Society, its board of directors and your editorial staff is happy and proud to welcome the following who have recently decided to join as members:

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		1611	Jaroslav Wurm 2453 South 4th Ave. North Riverside, Il 60546

ERRATA

Our apologies to the family and friends of Jaroslav Ježek, whose obituary appeared on page 18 of our last issue. It was erroneously stated the Mr. Ježek died a bachelor. The fact of the matter is he is survived by his wife, Maria; his son, Dr. Jaroslav Ježek; his grandson, Daniel; and his brother, Vaclav.

Obviously he could not have been a bachelor and the SPECIALIST'S face is red. Unfortunately the editorial staff was not aware of these additional facts two months ago.

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