



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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## TWO MAJOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA RARITIES DISAPPEAR AT PHILANIPPON

Prominent Dutch collector and Society Member No. 1213, J. L. Klein, has reported the loss at PHILANIPPON of two well known rarities from his exhibit of "Selected Pages from a Collection of Czechoslovakia 1918 - 1939".

The first item, Czechoslovakia's greatest rarity, the 4K, POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 overprint on "granite" paper (unissued thus - Scott No. B-24) was found missing from the exhibit frame by the Commissioner of the Netherlands, Mr. L.M.A. Crandel. According to the Commissioner's report, the exhibit was checked in and signed for as intact by Mr. T. Arai of the PHILANIPPON Committee. The Commissioner further noted that upon bringing the matter to the attention of the Exhibit Committee, including the Chairman of the Executive Committee



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Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are fully entitled:

1. A sales and exchange circuit is operated by Jack Benchik. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/ Sept. 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact Jack Benchik, P.O. Box 555, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556.
2. A book sales division is run by Edwin Lehecka. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Ed Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.
3. A Society library is housed with Richard Palaschak, librarian. A complete write-up including contents of the library last appeared in the June 1989 SPECIALIST, page 10. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Dick Palaschak, 113 Joyes Lane, Dover, NJ 07801.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Edwin Lehecka. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Rd., Willow Springs, IL 60480
5. Stamp auctions are currently conducted through Tribuna Stamp Co., in Chicago and ads announcing forthcoming auctions appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For catalogs and bid forms or for information on submission of philatelic material for future auctions, contact Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.
6. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, translating articles from Czech to English, advertising rates and bound copies, contact Mirko Vondra, editor, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

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## MORE ON POSTAL SERVICE AND MARKINGS OF THE PROTECTORATE GOVERNMENT MILITIA

by **Miroslav Vostatek**  
translated by **Henry Hahn**

*Translator's Note: An original article on Militia Mail by the translator appeared in the Jan./Feb. SPECIALIST (Vol. 53, No.1, p. 3-10) in which the author acknowledged RNDr. Vostatek as one of his main sources of factual information. At about the same time, RNDr. Vostatek published a similar article in FILATELIE (1991/4/114). The following article is a supplement to his article in FILATELIE, but can just as well serve as a supplement to the SPECIALIST article, since the information was previously unknown to both authors.*

\* I was pleasantly surprised by the response to my recent article in FILATELIE on the postal service of the Protectorate Militia during the war years. I was happy to receive comments as well as documentary material which expanded our overview of this wartime postal history subject, now nearly half a century behind us.

Regierungstruppe - Inspektorat II  
Königgrätz  
Vládní vojsko - inspektorát II.  
Hradec Králové.

Fig. 1

By introduction, it is important to further clarify the origin of the Militia. Officially, this occurred by the publication of Governmental Order of July 25, 1939 in the Protectorate "Summary of Laws and Orders", part 80 of September 30, 1939, par. 16. The text of this order speaks of the founding and duties of this armed unit.

### Fieldpost Numbers

In the FILATELIE (1991/4/114) article, there appeared a table of the field posts of individual inspectorates and battalions of the Militia assigned in Italy. It is significant that the fieldpost number of the Brno Inspectorate III (Torino, Bologna) is still unknown, \* and that it is not listed in articles published in Germany.

VLÁDNÍ VOJSKO-PRAPOR 9  
HOSPODÁŘSKÁ SPRÁVA.  
Vysoké Mýto.

Fig. 2

However, based on information recently received, we can now update our table \*\* as follows:

BN# 5 ZI I Locations Bologna, later Parma-Bologna, FP 19 745

BN# 7 ZI II Locations Alba, later Aosta, 22 182

BN# 12 ZI III Locations Savigliano, later Taino di Sesto Cal 31 834

### Unit Addresses

The return addresses of early mail from Italy, prior to the assignment of fieldposts, are most interesting. A typical one reads: "Corp. K. Pfeffer, 7th Battalion, via General Inspectorate of Government Militia, Prague XIX/47, Kleistova 99." The return addressee has recently written me from Benešov, that this was his first as well as last letter from Italy. Upon arrival there with Battalion #7 from Josefov, he wrote home immediately and awaited a means of mailing the letter. He posted it on June 15th in the evening, shortly before marching off to guard duty. But that same night he and others in his group deserted and joined the partisans.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

"Write to Fieldpost". This indicated that soldiers wrote via the General Inspectorate in Prague because they didn't have their own fieldpost. It is assumed that mail was carried by a courier. This, however, is still to be documented. On one of the above mentioned cards, next to the German fieldpost cancel, is the arrival postmark of the General Inspectorate. This is undoubtedly rare.

The letter went to Ledeč nad Sázavou, and was date stamped by the fieldpost on June 21, 1944. On that date the sender was already five days in the mountains with the partisans, where he participated in numerous engagements. The sender wound up in the 1st Tank Corps of the First Czechoslovak Armored Brigade, which by May 9, 1945 was located at the French port of Dunkerque. Two additional postcards, from different soldiers, dated June 26th and 27th and addressed to Choteboř and Pardubice respectively, carry the same return address, i.e. via General Inspectorate . . . . . It is necessary to note that there is a pencil addition to the return address saying "Invalid" and



Fig. 5

conirms what the survivor told me. I also have photographs of Militia soldiers guarding a railroad bridge over the Chrudimka River in Pardubice, and from the tracks at Vály u Přelouče.

First Battalion of Smíchov

Concerning the "castle" battalion, i.e. Bn #1 of Prague-Smíchov, it was noted that this battalion did not depart to Italy, and therefore used no fieldpost. A survivor has informed me that members of this battalion were also part of a labor battalion working in Pardubice. They were the lucky ones, possibly those with some "pull". I own a picture postcard from Pardubice, addressed to Nejpín u Uhelné Příbrami, dated the 1st of June, 1944. The sender's address reads as follows: PVT. F.T., Government Militia 1. - 4th Battalion, Fliegerhorst Pardubice. This indicated that he was at the Pardubice military airport. The literal translation of "Fliegerhorst" is "flying predator's nest"; an interestingly appropriate designation. (see Fig. 10) This item

Languages on Correspondence

I have been asked about the precise rules concerning the usage of language during the German occupation. I don't know the exact legal basis, but already at the start of the occupation it was ordered that both German and Czech must be used, with German given preference. Later on, the official language gradually became German.



Fig. 6

This legality was reflected on the correspondence of Protectorate Militia. On soldiers' correspondence, both the addressee and return address are generally in German. However, exceptions, particularly in 1945, are plentiful. Soldiers let it be known where their sympathies lay.

The official unit markings of the Militia were in German - Czech. (Fig. 1), but toward the end of the war, printed matter emanating from the General Inspectorate was in German only. It is therefore surprising that a letter from Vysoké Mýto, sent in August of 1943, bears a unit marking in Czech only. (Fig. 2).

Postal markings used by the battalions were generally of a standard



and we unfortunately have no news of him.

"Based on our experience thus far, many of the missing have returned to their units healthy. It would therefore not be unexpected if this missing individual were to return.

"The General Inspectorate assures you, that all cases of missing are on record and we will not forget to inform you as soon as any news of the missing is received.

"Further military pay has been discontinued.

"General Inspector, by order  
(signature).

The missing may by then have fought numerous battles from the other side, along with his comrades, or himself become a casualty. Similar news concerning the missing may have arrived via military units in



Fig. 9

the Protectorate of the Courts.

Regierungsgruppe Böhmen u. Mähren (Government Militia of Bohemia and Moravia), Battalion 7, (unit marking in German only) sent to the County Court in Jaroměř a filled-out form concerning a missing soldier. Besides personal data, it also gives the date on which the individual became missing, and a demand that his relatives be interrogated, upon which an appropriate person be named his custodian, in accordance with Par. 276 of the Public Law, in order to assume responsibility for the missing soldier's interests during his absence. Battalion Commander Hubený signed the form.

Through the courtesy of Mr. O. Špreňar, I was able to examine many such documents, and have found among them one in the name of a survivor from Ledeč, Karel Skála. When I last saw him, he wore the uniform and black baret of a member of a tank crew. I had great admiration for him, and hence have recently tried to find him.

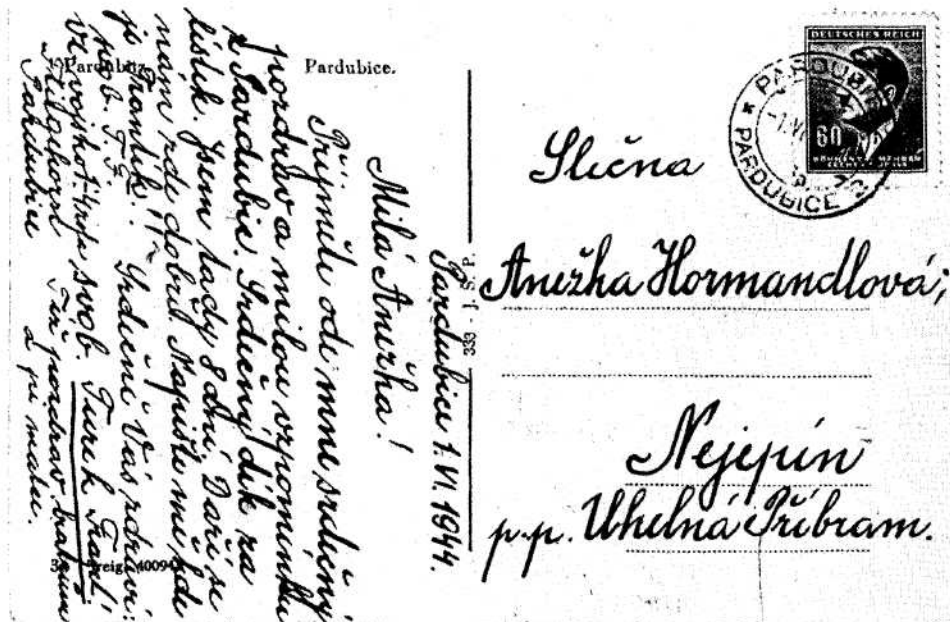


Fig. 10

I succeeded, and his joy at seeing the document was overwhelming. At times, the fruits of Postal History studies bring true personal delight.

*The Post-War Period*

Members of the Militia began to arrive home. A Liquidation Unit was organized in Prague which had its own marking and used it on official correspondence (Fig 8). The interests of the Militia troops were also to have been served by the organization known as "Association of the National Revolution", which had a branch named "Odboj Italie 1944-45" (Resistance Italy, 1944-45) whose marking is shown in Fig. 9. There also existed a round marking, with an emblem at the center. A dominant personality was the chairman of the Czechoslovak Military Revolutionary National Council in Northern Italy, Dr. Jiří Veselý. This priest was an officer, knew perfect Italian, and influenced the life of the troops, both before and after the war. About a year ago I read in MLADÁ FRONTA, A Prague Communist newspaper, an interview, dealing with another subject. I learned that he has been living for many years in Rome. Truthfully, the post-war fate of his soldiers serving in Italy was not something to be remembered with joy. It is a fact that these troops received far more recognition in Italy than in Czechoslovakia. I am personally convinced of that. When I worked to assemble the Postal History of the Czech troops in Italy, I was delighted to have had the help of many survivors of this campaign and had many postally used documents at my disposal. If I can even now add and supplement my studies, I am doubly happy. The establishment of facts through interviews with those that lived through those times will soon come to a close.

I am happy to acknowledge the cooperation of many friends and acquaintances, and I wish to thank them. I was helped by the following: M. Bunde, MUDr. O. Houda, K. Janáček, Ing. J. Hlaváč, J. Kubát, K. Skála, O. Špreňar, M. Šmídová, J. Vaněk and others.

The beautiful part of Postal History is that there is always more to be discovered.

\* This location of the Inspectorate III was not listed in the prior SPECIALIST article.

\*\* Same applies to Table II, p.5 of the SPECIALIST article. Other field posts of the Wehrmacht which have been used by the Militia but not identified as to the Battalion using it are: 31 834-E, 45 271, 56 264-B (of June 1, 1944) and 57 332-B. It is important to add that these field posts served other military units and Czech "participation" represented only a small fraction of their activity.

## COVERS WITH THE SECOND AIRMAIL ISSUE

by *Vladimír Bubák*

On June 9, 1922, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs announced the publishing of a new set of airmail stamps in its Bulletin No. 37.

These stamps were issued on June 15 (see SPECIALIST, Nov. 1990, page 10) again as provisional overprints on Agriculture and Science stamps. They were printed in three values: 50h/100h, 100h/200h and 250h/400h. All important details about these issues can be found in the major catalogs and in special literature. Here we merely remind our readers that the airmail charge for each 20 grams of letter weight was as follows:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Postcard</u>
Prague to Vienna	1k	0.50k
Prague to Bucharest	5k	2.00k
Prague to Constantinople	6.50k	2.50k

Nobody in June 1922 expected that the new second provisional issue of stamps would be valid for such a long time (i.e. until March 31, 1931). This almost-nine-year period of service brought to aerophilatelists so much beautiful material from various flights during that time that up to this day they belong among the most popular and sought-after.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



To obtain airmail covers from any of the 1922 flights is truly a fine accomplishment. The number of these covers is limited, as can be seen from the table below:

Month	Strasbourg	Paris	Warsaw	Vienna	Bucharest	Constantinople
July	134	699	119	-	-	-
August	197	626	134	290	-	-
September	78	485	148	369	6	-
October	29	269	96	165	2	2
November	10	72	20	46	1	1
December	(Transportation of airmail terminated on Nov. 15).					



Fig. 3

All the early covers of 1922 still bear the same attractive marks that were characteristic of the First Airmail Issue of 1920, such as direction labels, handstamps of Type I, etc. Fig. 1 illustrates one of these early covers sent by a famous stamp dealer, František Šašek, to Grenoble on August 7, 1922. Some errors noted on the overprint of the cover are noteworthy. Fig. 2 and 3 show a cover sent to Warsaw from Prague on July 4, 1925 on which the 100h stamp has the second zero in the denomination visibly smaller. This error comes from sheet position 62.

A few flights from the period during the validity of the Second Airmail Issue are quite rare. Fig. 4 shows a beautiful cover sent from Prague to Rotterdam via the First Flight on the



Fig. 4  
9



Fig. 5

Prague-Mariensbad-Kassel-Rotterdam route on April 30, 1928. Only 161 parcels of mail were flown on this trip. One must wonder how many of those covers remain to this day.

But that is not all! This very same flight to Rotterdam offers choice samplings of covers sent from other places en route. Fig. 5 shows a cover sent to Rotterdam from Mariensbad (Mariánské Lázně). Besides its superb quality, this cover also shows a handstamp of Mariensbad I (Type I) which the noted expert on the postmarks of Czechoslovakia, Emil Votoček, in his definitive MONOGRAFIE, apparently was not aware of. The handstamp is without the dividing marks or stars between the names. I have seen another handstamp of this very same kind in the collection of the celebrated aerophilatelist from Prague, Petr Horka, known for his articles in FILATELIE, who confirmed the originality and genuineness of this cover. By the way, the sender of this unique cover was again none other than the dealer, F. Šašek who, together with Jaroslav Šula, left us with beautiful airmail material.

**MILOŠ ONDRÁČEK,**  
**CONTEMPORARY CZECHOSLOVAK**  
*by Gene Hessler*

*(Ed. Note: This article is here reprinted from the Essay-Proof Journal, vol. 48, no. 1 by permission of its editor, Barbara R. Mueller).*

Miloš Ondráček, born on September 15, 1936 in Prague, is the eldest of the four stamp and bank note engravers I met while in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1990. Since he has some ability to converse in English, no translator was necessary for our conversations.

From 1951 to 1955, Mr. Ondráček studied at a technical school in Turnov where he worked with precious metals and stones. He then studied privately with Professors R. Pipala and F. Emlera.



Fig. 1

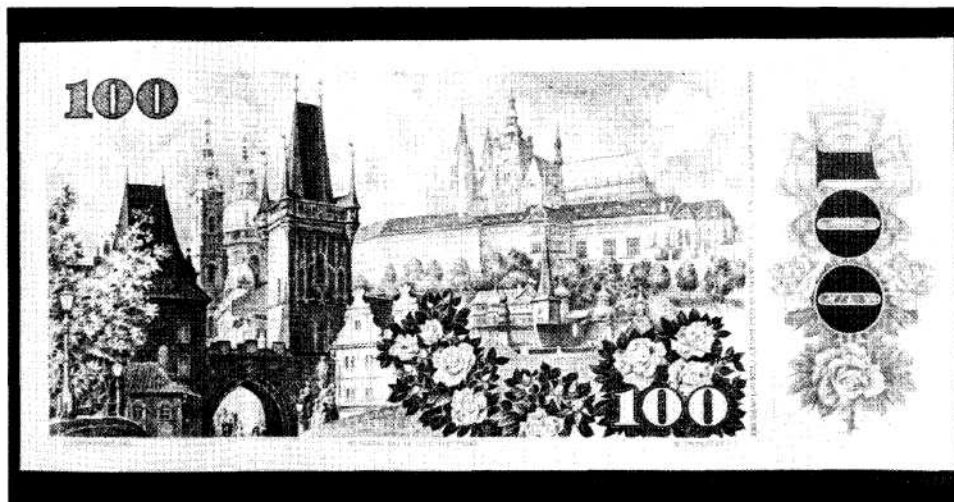


Fig. 2

In the late 1960's Mr. Ondráček joined the State Printing Works of Securities in Prague where he continues as an engraver. His first bank note engraving was done in 1970; it was the back of the 20 korun note (Fig. 1). In 1973 he engraved the back for the 500 korun note (fig.2). These notes are now obsolete. Two of the current bank notes also display the work of this engraver: the face of the 20 korun note (Fig. 1) with the portrait of Jan Amos Komensky (1592-1670), and the back of the 100 korun note (Fig. 2) with a view of the Prague Castle.



Fig. 4

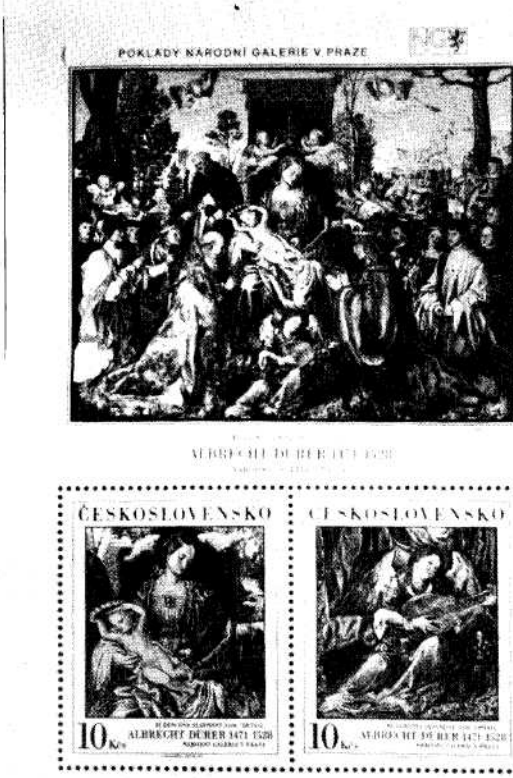


Fig. 3



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 5

A list of postage stamps engraved by Miloš Ondráček would probably exceed one hundred items. A souvenir sheet that includes two 10 korun stamps and a comparatively large, although diminutive, version of the entrie Albrecht Dürer *Feast of the Rose Garlands*, (1506), is an excellent example of this engraver's work. Although not visible here, the illustrated example bears the signature of Mr. Ondráček. The original Dürer painting hangs in the National Gallery in Prague.

Members of our Society who collect stamps from Czechoslovakia are probably familiar with the work of Miloš Ondráček. Czechoslovakia, as some countries do, includes the name of the designer and engraver near the border of stamps and bank notes. For an illustration of a stamp with the engraved portrait of Czechoslovak President Václav Havel by this engraver, see *Essay Proof Journal* 188, the fourth quarter, 1990 issue.

I, for one, look forward to future stamps and bank notes that will be engraved by Miloš Ondráček.

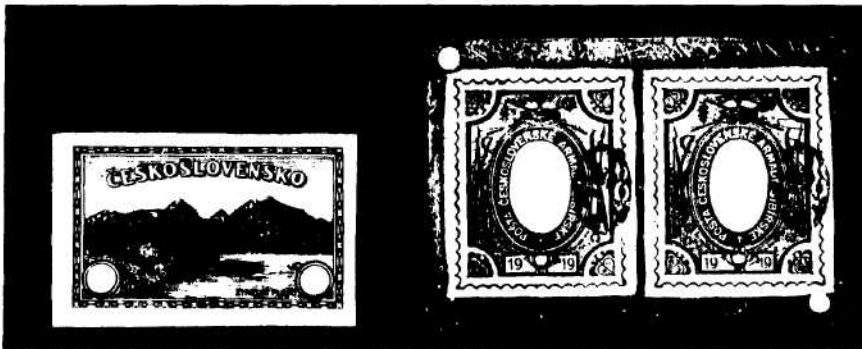
## WITH SORROW

As this issue went to press, we learned that member C.J. (Bud) Pearce of Coalgate, Oklahoma, has expired, and member Adolf Hujer of Prague had met an untimely death. Obituaries will appear in our next issue.

## BALPEX 92

We have just received the applications for exhibiting at BALPEX 92. Please fill out and mail the form in the center fold if you intend to exhibit. Details of our Society's participation at BALPEX 92 will appear in the next issue.

**SEE NEXT ISSUE**



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*Continued from Page 1*

of PHILANIPPON, Mr. Yoskia Watanabe, no significant action was taken. Subsequently, the Organizing Committee declared that the missing stamp was not there at receipt of the collection. A "STAMP MISSING" red sticker was placed in the empty space only AFTER the stamp was reported missing by the Commissioner.

The 4K (PC 1919) has an estimated value of over \$45,000. It is believed that 3 or 4 copies are in private collections. The one that is now missing was expertized and signed by both Mrnák and Jan Karásek.

The second missing item is the used POSTAGE DUE error overprint "50/50". The 50h overprint, regularly applied to the red 20h denomination, was erroneously applied to a single sheet of the (also) red 50h denomination, giving rise to one of Czechoslovakia's much sought-after rarities. No mint copies are known to exist. Somewhere between 20 and 30 used copies are known to be among collectors. The stamp is listed as Scott No. J52a, Michel No. 51F.

The item was found missing by the owner upon return of the exhibit from PHILANIPPON. Absence of the stamp was not noted by the Committee member during sign-in of the exhibit. The stamp was not reported missing during the showing or on acceptance of the exhibit for its return by the Commissioner.

When the exhibition closed, Commissioner Crandel filed an official report on December 1, 1991, the English translation of which is reprinted below.

Collectors and dealers are urgently to be on the lookout for these two missing items. If anyone sees either of these rarities on display, for sale at an auction or booth or simply in a collection where one might not ordinarily expect to find such rarities, they are requested to report their finding to Frank Julsen by telephone at 602/948-7366.

If there are any further developments on this unusual double-disappearance, they will be reported in subsequent issues of the SPECIALIST.

#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

*The following is an English translation of the text of Commissioner Crandel's report dated December 1, 1991 at Heemskerk, Holland for PHILANIPPON 91 which was sent to the Netherlandse Bond van Filatelisten-Berenigingen and to J. L. Klein:*

The exhibit from Mr. J. L. Klein (selected pages of a collection of Czechoslovakia 1918-1939) was the first one I submitted. This exhibit was checked by a group of three gentleman: the sheets were taken from the envelopes and were examined. The complete collection of eight envelopes was placed in a box. A signed receipt was given to me.

After I had presented all exhibits to the committee I learned that the mounting of the sheets had already begun. The most nearby collection was Mr. Klein's exhibit. When I looked at it, I saw that on the first page of the third frame (page 33) one stamp was missing. I reported this at once - the box with the eight now empty envelopes was brought back and the mounting crew was alerted. I ordered all frames to be reopened and the contents to be rechecked. Also the eight envelopes and the box were thoroughly examined but the stamp was not found.

I reported to the gentlemen who took receipt of the exhibits. They referred me to the Committee. I was sent from one authority to another but no one had an answer to this problem. All of a sudden they no longer understood my English sufficiently.

Regularly almost on a daily basis I spoke about this problem with Mr. Yoshia Watanabe, Chairman of the Executive Committee, without ever getting a satisfying answer.

When the exhibit pages were returned to me after the exhibition closed, I did not sign a receipt and again contacted the Organizing Committee. To my great astonishment, these gentlemen told me that the fact that a stamp was missing had been noted by the gentlemen who were in charge of receiving the exhibits. They had applied a red sticker on the formular

("Stamp missing").

I made it completely clear that it was I who reported the fact that a stamp was missing and neither the crew who received my collection nor the crew in charge of mounting the exhibits had seen any irregularity.

The gentleman who had received my collection (Mr. T. Arai) was very much astonished and made it clear that he had signed a receipt and that the exhibit was complete.

Mr. T. Arai also confirmed that the mounting crew had not seen anything irregular.

The Organizing Committee, however, declared again that the stamp was not there at receipt of the collection.

I did not sign a receipt and took the PHILANIPPON receipt with me, photocopy of which I sent to Mr. J. L. Klein.

### *President's Corner*

## **GREETINGS FROM LUDVIK SVOBODA**

This is by first opportunity to greet all of you since being elected to the Presidency.

I hope that your holidays were as enjoyable as my wife's, Katherine, my son's, Matt and mine. It certainly turned out to be a great time to break in as the new President of our Society.

I was very pleased with the participation and results of the Board meeting held at CHICAGOPEX 91 in November. We resolved many issues, cleared the air to better understand others and made some key decisions. I want to make you aware of a few of them.

We have started several new programs to attack the ever-present problem of not only attracting new members but more importantly, keeping the ones we already have. So that you can help us with this effort, we will be providing you with the details of our plan soon.

We established a new and much easier means for existing and potential members in Czechoslovakia to receive copies of our SPECIALISTS, to pay their dues (through four different methods) and to keep the process as cost effective as possible for the Society.

In order for members to be able to better plan ahead for our conventions, we have set up three groups to make arrangements for the Society's participation in the next three years of philatelic shows. By planning this far ahead, we can consider different sites that may provide us exposure to new potential members and make different sites that may provide us exposure to new potential members and make the convention more convenient to current members. Again, we will notify you of our plans well in advance.

Finally, we appointed a new director, Tom Cossaboom of Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, to finish out the term of Frank Julsen of Phoenix, Arizona. (see Specialist, Feb. 1989, page 11) Frank has been a member and director for many years. As recently as 1988, he has been active in helping to edit and publish the SPECIALIST. He has requested replacement on the Board due to personal reasons. We are sorry to lose his expertise but are glad to see that he will remain with us as a member. Thank you, Frank for all the time you devoted in helping to make the SPECIALIST one of the best philatelic publications in the APS. We have the awards to prove it.

### **NOTICE TO DELINQUENT MEMBERS**

1. Members who pay their 1992 dues ON OR AFTER March 1, please add three dollars (\$3.00) for reinstatement fee.
2. Members who fail to pay their dues ON OR BEFORE the end of April will receive no further issues of the SPECIALIST and will be dropped from the membership roster.
3. Please help the Society meet its financial obligations. Avoid delinquency in the payment of membership dues!



## STAMP ON CZECH NOTES ORIGINATED AS POSTAGE STAMP ESSAY

by *Barbara R. Mueller*

(Ed. Note: This article is here reprinted from the *Essay-Proof Journal*, vol. 48, no. 1 by permission of its editor, Barbara R. Mueller).

A by-product of long winter evenings spent rearranging a philatelic library and reference files led to the happy discovery of little-known information about one of the stamps found on provisional bank notes of Czechoslovakia in the immediate post-World War II period. An article by Robson Lowe in his publication *The Philatelic/P.J.G.B.* for December 1981, pages 259-262, yielded these nuggets:

"The Downey Tales—a story of one of the last engravers for Perkins Bacon" is the title of the article found in the files. That story involves Alfred James Downey of the family of court photographers who made the famous portrait of King George V for the 1911 1/2 d. and 1d. stamps universally known as the "Downey Heads." the younger Downey, A.J., began his engraving career by specializing in bookplates, which faded from fashion after World War I, forcing him to change to security paper engraving. He first joined Perkins Bacon as a stamp and bank note designer and engraver. When that firm liquidated in the '30s, he joined De La Rue, for whom he worked until his death in 1944.

Robson Lowe Discovered at a wayside inn in Hampshire a tiny, "bijou" album of proofs inscribed "This book belongs to A. J. Downey, 25 Cantelowes Road, London N. W. 1." In it was an assortment of proofs ranging from the 1930 Greek Independence issue to the Newfoundland Humphrey Gilbert issue. "Lying loose was a die proof in green of the side face portrait of President Masaryk on a Czechoslovakian 50 k., an essay made in 1944 for De La Rue. It was not accepted."

That essay is reproduced here from the article illustration. I immediately recognized it as one of the aforementioned validation stamps. In an album I found the note also illustrated here. The "stamp" on it is identical to the essay except that the letter "Y" has been substituted



for the figure of value. Also, it is in a deep, rich, rose color that enhances the fine intaglio print.

It is worth observing that the first general issue of Czech stamps after World War II was printed by De La Rue also. Of a smaller size than the essay, they still show a familial resemblance to the sparse, uncluttered design of the validation stamp and the excellent portraiture. Did Downey have a hand in these (Scott nos. 272-87, Types A93-100, war heroes) too? De La Rue also printed intaglio issues for the Norwegian government in exile - Scott nos. 259-66-for use on mail carried by Norwegian ships and later in the country itself after liberation from the Nazis. According to Lowe, Downey engraved the 30 ore showing a convoy and the 50 ore picturing King Haakon VII. So it may have been possible that Downey was working on the Czech stamps, as well, just prior to his death.

In any case, the note, validation stamp, and essay comprise yet another example of the close relationship between stamps and paper currency.

The large 7 9/16 x 3 5/8 inch multicolored 1000 korun note with underprint was first issued in the puppet state of Slovakia (Fig. 2, date 11/25/1940) which ceased to exist in May 1945. The revalidated note is listed under Czech provisionals as Pick no 54. One hundred and 500 korun notes of the same series were pressed into use after V-E Day by the affixing of other stamps to validate them for use in the liberated Republic. Those stamps are smaller and more old-fashioned in design, showing Masaryk in a military cap.

Neither the Pick catalogues nor his *Catalogue of European Paper Money Since 1900* explain the exact origin and purpose of the stamps. From this new information we can deduce that the Czech government in exile in London, which returned to its homeland after V-E day, recalled the rejected De La Rue essay and ordered it modified to be suitable as a sort of validation on the notes of the now defunct Slovak Republic, thereby utilizing them as an emergency measure.

## A CZECH INCREMENT

by Charles Chesloe

Last year I discussed a die which the American Bank Note Co. engraved for the Slovak League of America for a "stamp" or, more accurately, a "label" to aid Slovak resistance against Hungarian rule. That article appeared under the heading "A Slovak Increment" in the July/Aug 1991 issue of the SPECIALIST starting at the bottom of page 16.

Prior to that (in 1906-17), the ordered and received from the American Bank Note Co. a "stamp" or "label" to publicize and support the Czech independence movement against Austro-Hungarian domination. The die proof shown in fig. 1 was in black color and was made on November 9, 1906, pursuant to Order no. 17939 from W. F. Severa and Co. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was engraved under Special Order C-1062 by R. Savage who also engraved the subsequent Slovak label.

Both labels had a value of one cent each. Both were issued in sheets of 100 stamps. But the Czech labels were also prepared in booklet form. there were two booklets: a 25-cent booklet consisting of four panes, each containing six "stamps" (see fig. 2) and a 50-cent booklet comprising eight panes, each containing six "stamps" (see fig. 3). The 50-cent booklets had wax paper inserted between each of the panes.



Fig. 1



Tato knížečka obsahuje 24 jednocentových kolků

Fig. 2



Tato knížečka obsahuje 48 jednocentových kolků

Fig. 3

Collectors who are fortunate to have both forms of the Czech label and can also boast possession of the Slovak label have an increment to their collection that is indeed noteworthy.

**For the Beginner**

**THE AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE ISSUES**

During 1920-1925, stamps known as the Agriculture and Science series were issued. I find these stamps one of the most interesting of the New Republic. Their design shows a seated figure holding a sheaf of wheat with the left arm and supporting an open book with the right arm. In front of the book and extending upward from it is a Linden tree from which leaves are growing. In the upper right-hand corner is a buried sword from which leaves are sprouting. (see Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

There is a difference of opinion regarding two things in connection with this stamp. First, this issue is referred to as the Agriculture and Science issue here in the U.S. Some European philatelists call it the Economy and Science issue. Second is the question regarding the seated figure's sex. Some say it is a man; others claim it is a woman. At the moment I think it is a woman; tomorrow I will probably contend it is a man.

The stamps of the first series were issued in 1920 and were in six values: 100h, 200h, 300h, 400h, 500h and 600h. They are listed as Scott nos. 76 through 81. The 1923 issues were in denominations of 100h, 200h and 300h, but in different colors. They appear as Scott nos. 92, 93 and 94 and were created by decree no. 1 in the Journal of the Ministry of Posts

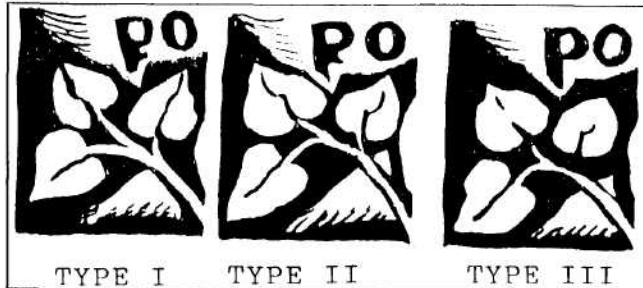


Fig. 2

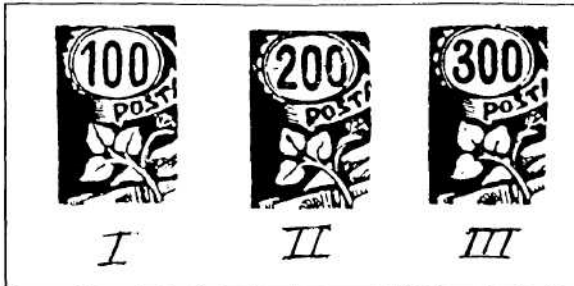


Fig. 3

leaves directly below the "PO" in "Posta" and by the left side of the numeral oval. Fig. 2 illustrates the three types as identified by the appearance of the leaves. Note how the veining differs in each of the types. As for the oval, the scalloping on the outer left side of the oval signified the differences in the types, as seen in Fig. 3. Note also that in Fig. 2 the triangle beneath the leaves varies in position and shape.

The basic perforation of all values is 14. However, several of the 1920 series are found perforated 14 x 13 1/2 and all of them exist imperforated. All three values of the 1923 series exist perforated both 14 and 14 x 13 1/2.

In 1922, three of the 1920 series were overprinted for use as airmail stamps. In so doing, the Ministry of Posts changed the 100h by overprinting it as "50h", the 200h was overprinted "100h" and the 400h became "250h". In 1926, the 300h, 500h and 600h of the same series were overprinted as postage due stamps and their values were changed to 40h, 50h and 100h respectively.

So far as is known, the Agriculture and Science issues have never been counterfeited. However, the airmail overprints have been forged. Attempts have also been made to create imperforated stamps from perforated copies. Because of that fact, collectors are advised not to accept allegedly imperforated stamps of this issue unless the margins exceed those of their perforated equivalents.

Because of the popularity of this set and the interest it has generated worldwide, there is much literature to be found for the benefit of those wishing to delve further. Our SPECIALIST over the past fifty years published at least five articles on this subject which can be found in our INDEX issue of June 1982. For those who like to read Czech, MONOGRAFIE vol. II, has an entire chapter about the set starting at page 362.

– Phillips Freer

### THE SOCIETY AUDIT

Edwin Lehecka has completed the annual audit of the Society's books of account and financial statements and submitted his annual audit report to the Board of Directors. According to this report, income exceeds expenses by \$346.33 ending with the calendar year 1991. The largest single item of expense was the printing and mailing of the SPECIALIST.

Approval of the tax-exempt, non-profit status of the S.C.P. is currently pending in the state of Illinois.

**Letters to the Editor**

1. Dear Sir:

I am turning to you for assistance - to help me contact our philatelic brethren in the U.S.

For many years I have worked closely with Joe Janečka of Riverside, Ill. But as you know, he passed away recently, leaving a void in your country's representation on the subject of Bohemoslovenika.

I am currently the editor of a philatelic newsletter called BOHEMOSLOVENIKA which this year is in its 23rd year of publication (no. 142 being the latest issue). Despite Mr. Janečka's demise, I would like to continue the balance of contributing material to BOHEMOSLOVENIKA between our country and yours. But without knowing anyone in the U.S. willing to assume Joe's enthusiastic work on the subject, that balance cannot be maintained.

Would it be possible to solicit the aid of one or several of your members across the ocean to work with us in compiling new material for our philatelic newsletter? Has someone from your group already taken on Mr. Janečka's functions in this area? If not, perhaps I could ask you to be so kind as to announce in the SPECIALIST our search for an American replacement for Joe in this very interesting and specialized field of endeavor. Those willing to undertake this function or further information about it, please have them contact me at:

Rudešová ul. 1176  
393 01 Pelhřimov  
Czechoslovakia

Many thanks for your kind assistance.



Joseph J. Janečka, Jr.

Yours truly,  
Ing. Antonin Černý

*(Ed. Note - This letter, written in Czech and dated Dec. 16, 1991, was translated by the editor. Members interested in this project are urged to respond)*

2. Dear Editor:

With due respect for deceased Joseph J. Janečka and the work he had done for Czechoslovak philately, one correction should be made.

The First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club was founded in June 1928 in the old newspaper building SPRAVEDLIVOST, located on Kedrie Ave. just north of 26th Street in Chicago. The three founding members were Anton Dragoun, Louis Divis and Joseph Vondrak.

Respectfully yours,  
Joseph Vondrak

*(Ed. Note - This letter refers to an article appearing in the Sept/Oct 1991 SPECIALIST on page 4.)*

*Editorial Hinges*

**A WARNING AND AN INQUIRY**

Our President, our secretary, our various Board members, even your editor and his staff occasionally receive letters from philatelists in Czechoslovakia or other parts of the world expressing an interest to communicate with our own members in this country for the purpose of exchanging stamps.

This is not something new. Letters of this nature and letters containing other similar requests from non-members have been coming in on a regular basis for some time. More than two years ago, your editor published a list of 23 names and addresses of would-be correspondents (see *SPECIALIST*, Feb. 1989, pages 12-13). Only six of them were SCP members. If any one of our existing members ever contacted any of these correspondents, your editor would appreciate knowing about the results of those contacts.

There is a good reason for this inquiry. Recently one of our Board members sent your editor a letter from a Herman Setiawaty of South Perth in Australia. It was just another request that his name and address be published as a collector interested in exchanging stamps with other collectors. Lo and behold! A warning appeared in *FILATELIE* in its edition of 18/1991-562 that this person has been sent stamps by numerous unsuspecting collectors in Czechoslovakia who responded to his inquiries. Once they sent him their stamps, they never heard from him again. This warning has been reprinted in *CZECHOUT* (Dec. 1991), the official publication of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. When our staff published this list of 23 would-be correspondents, it did so with tongue in cheek and at a time when we were still searching for material to fill our pages. Times have changed since then. Printing space is now at a premium and we are pleased to have a respectable reserve of publishable articles. Even so, it is unfair to our members that we print the names and addresses of alleged collectors from all over the world unless they can be thoroughly screened beforehand. But our Society is not equipped to provide that kind of screening. Therefore the only protection we can offer is to refuse publication of solicitation letters of this nature.

There are exceptions. A letter such as the first one that appears in this issue under "Letters to the Editor" is one example. Such a letter obviously carries a sincere philatelic message and is not designed to defraud anyone. Another example would be letters from our own members in good standing seeking contact with other members overseas.

Referring to this issue's "Letters to the Editor", your editorial staff believes that someone in our Society should come forth with a favorable response to Antonin Černý's appeal for help in finding an American replacement for the late Joseph Janečka in his work on behalf of Bohemoslovenika. It is very close to being a specialized form of "topical" which can furnish hours of fun to anyone whose interests run along those lines.

For the past few issues, the *SPECIALIST* has been reminding our readers that our Sales and Exchange circuit is alive and well, but is now functioning under a new circuit manager. Jack Benchik has replaced Wolfgang Fritzsche who, after almost fifty years of devoted service, has retired.

Of course, Jack Benchik is interested in not only keeping the circuit functioning as smoothly as it did under Mr. Fritzsche, but hopes to expand it and, in some respects, streamline the operation.

As far as expansion of the circuit is concerned, we urge more members to take advantage of it by submitting their surplus and unwanted philatelic material to him for entry in the circuit

books. In addition, we invite non-members to participate. However, in order to give members in good standing the advantage of their membership, fees collected by the circuit manager are, effective Jan. 1, 1992, half as much for members as for non-members. Therefore if a member pays five percent of all sales of his material in the circuit, a non-member pays ten percent. And if the non-member wishes to reduce that fee to five percent, he may do so by applying for membership in the S. C. P.

Regarding streamlining, Jack Benchik would appreciate some comments from our members about the circuit books that are currently in use. As you know, each page contains 12 squares of equal size. At the bottom of each square is the following text: "Cat. no. \_\_\_\_\_ Val. \_\_\_\_\_; Net \_\_\_\_\_." Many members have not been filling out the first two blanks.

Do you feel the "Value" Column is necessary? Why or why not? Since all the boxes on a single page are the same size and all pages in a circuit book are exactly the same, do you recommend that all boxes remain the same size? Or should they differ with various sizes on each page, or should they differ in size from page to page? Should a certain number of pages be completely blank for postal cards, souvenir sheets and small covers? Or do you have other suggestions or ideas?

If you have been dissatisfied with the way our circuit books have been arranged, this is the time to voice your opinion and give Jack Benchik some valuable input. His address is shown on top of page 2, item 1.

### *New Issues*

#### **1. THE DAY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMP 1991**

On December 18, 1991 the Ministry of Posts issued a stamp commemorating the anniversary of the first Czechoslovak Stamp (Hradčany, Dec. 18, 1918). The 2k denomination comprises the text of Martin Benka (1888-1971), "Den Československej Poštovej Známký 18.12.91". (The Day of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp 12/18/91). It shows the Slovak painter, Martin Benka, as a creator of postage stamps. In addition to the artist's portrait on the stamp, there is an engraver's transcription of the detail of one of his first three published stamps (The Wood Cutter, The Embroiderer and The Girl at the Spring) issued in Slovakia on October 6, 1939.



The author of the graphic design and engraving is the academic painter and graphic artist, Martin Činovský.

The stamp was printed by rotary recess print in black color combined with the three-color recess print in ochre, red brown and orange in sheets of 50 stamps at the Post Printing House in Prague. The stamp picture measures 49 x 19 mm.

In conjunction with this stamp, a first day cover with commemorative cancel was issued. It bears a facsimile of Benka's signature and the engraver's transcription of the unpublished drawings of the stamp - a symbolic composition with a double cross (1939). The cover is printed by recess print from flat plates in black-green color.

The stamp is valid for domestic as well as international franking until officially withdrawn.

## 2. XVIIth WINTER OLYMPICS IN ALBERTVILLE



On January 6, 1992, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued a commemorative stamp for the occasion of the XVIIth Winter Olympics in Albertville, France.

Having a 1k face value, the stamp features a stylized drawing of a biathlon participant. Biathlon is a composite athletic contest combining cross-country skiing with rifle sharpshooting. It covers a distance of 12.5 miles in which the contestants make four stops during which they test their sharpshooting skills.

The author of the design is the academic painter and graphicist, Robert Jancovic; the engraver is Václav Fajt.

The stamp design has dimensions of 23 x 30 mm. and was printed by the Printing Plant of the Ministry of Communications by rotary steel press (in black) combined with four-color recess printing (in blue, green, yellow and red) in sheets of 50.

A first day cover with a commemorative cancel has been issued to compliment the stamp. The illustrative position shows the biathlon participant on track. The envelope is flat plate printed from steel plates in black, red and blue.

The stamp itself is valid for domestic as well as international franking from its date of issue on Jan. 6 until officially withdrawn.

## 3. COUNTRY SCENES

Late word has reached us that on August 28, 1991, the Ministry of Posts released a set of two commemorative stamps honoring beautiful scenes of the country.

(a) 4 kčs - Mount Říp

Designed by academic painter and graphic artist, Josef Saska.

Engraved by Václav Fajt.

Colors: yellow, red, blue, dark blue.

(b) 4 kčs - Kriváň

Designed by academic painter and graphic artist, Karol Ondrejčka.

Engraved by academic painter and graphic artist, Martin Činovský.

Colors: violet, green, black.

With picture measuring 23 X 19 MM., the stamps were printed at the Post Printing House in Prague by recess printing from flat plates in sheetlets of 20.

Two first day covers, each with its own special cancellations, were made available from designs engraved by the same artists named above.

(a) The cover for the 4 kčs Mt. Říp shows a drawing in brown of the rotunda of St. George of Říp.

(b) The cover for the 4 kčs Kriváň shows a dark green drawing of a pine tree.

These covers are also recess printed from flat plates.

The stamps are valid for franking both domestically and internationally until withdrawn from circulation.





**The Library****MORE LIBRARY NOTES**

The following are additions to the Society's Library which continue the numbering sequence of the Library Catalog published in the June 1989 SPECIALIST plus the additions noted in the July/August 1991 and November/December 1991 SPECIALIST:

194. Ryan, G. S.; Cancellation of Hungarian Post Offices of the First Five Issues of Austrian Stamps (1850 - 1867) During the Austrian Administration( 1980, 641 pp, English and German). *[Must be insured for \$150]* This book is the definitive work for its specialized topic which is clearly defined by its title. It is very easy to use.
195. Švarc, Dr. František; Svět Filatelie (1982, 345 pp, Czech).
196. Komise Československé Známky SCSF; Sborník Článků o Československých Známkách ( No. 1, 1987, 76 pp; No. 2, 1988, 80 pp; No. 3., 1989. 64 pp; Czech). These pamphlets include selected articles on Czechoslovak philately and continue the annual cataloging of Czech stamps, postcards, and stamped envelopes contained in the Specialized Handbook (No. 159 in the Library Catalog).
197. Katalóg, Znojmo '76; Krajské Výstavy Poštovních Známeč(1976, 89 pp, Czech).
198. Páleníček, Ludvík; Jindra Schmidt, Grafik a Rytec Maxe Švabinského (1971, 31pp, Czech).
199. Katalóg, Socfilex '81, Bratislava; Medzinárodná Výstava Poštových Známeč (1981, 149 pp, Czech and Russian).
200. Hahn, Henry; Stamps with a Portrait of T. G. Masaryk (1977, 30 pp, English).
201. Katalog, Praga 1978; World Postage Stamp Exhibition (1978, 397 pp, Czech and Multilingual).

**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:

<u>Member Number</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Member Number</u>	<u>Name and address</u>
1612	Witt W. Hadley, Jr. 87 Lancaster Ave. Elk Grove Village, IL 60007	1614	Charles E. Kern II 3812 Garrison St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20016
1613	Joseph M. Lacko 1031 West Chestnut St. Union, NJ 07083	1615	Jorn Larsen Molleparkvej 5-20 Dk-6715 Esbjerg N Denmark

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