



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,  
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization  
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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## SOCIETY TO MEET AT MILCOPEX 96

Our annual convention will be held in conjunction with MILCOPEX 96 on Sept. 20-21-22 Milwaukee/West Allis, Wisconsin at the Milwaukee state fairgrounds.

The S.C.P. board of directors will meet at 1 p.m. in the Huron room of the Ramada Inn on Sept. 19. Details on a general meeting of the Society will be provided in a later issue.

We have reserved a block of 25 rooms to be available until Aug. 19 at the Ramada Inn-West located at 201 North Mayfair Rd. (Highway 100) Milwaukee, WI 53226. This is the closest motel to the fairgrounds. The special rate per room is \$56.00 for two adults. You must tell them you are with the Society of Czechoslovak Philately when making reservations. The motel phone numbers are 1-800-531-3965 or 414-717-4400.

Prospectus and Official entry form for exhibiting is included in the center of this issue of the SPECIALIST. A minimum of 50 frames have been set aside for the Society. For those exhibiting, tear out and complete the Entry Form and mail it to the

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address indicated on top of the form. Space did not permit us to include the List of Exhibit Sections, one of which you must show when completing the Entry Form. This List is therefore reprinted for your information below:

- |                             |                          |                           |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Czechoslovak Philately   | E. Postal Stationery     | I. Novice                 |
| B. Related History & Topics | F. Thematic Topical      | J. Special                |
| C. Countries of the World   | G. First Day Covers      | K. Miscellaneous          |
| D. Postal History           | H. Junior (under age 12) | L. MPS One Frame Exhibits |

Any members who would like a dealer's table, contact bourse chairman John R. Fagan 1-414-251-0617. The S.C.P. hopes to have its usual hospitality table available for members and friends at or near the exhibit area. For those interested, there will be a Harvest Fair and a Craft Fair on the fairgrounds as well as the Stamp show. For any other questions relating to the Society's participation at MILCOPEX, please contact Robert Koschalk at 1-414-654-3941.

A group of members has tentatively agreed to drive from Milwaukee after the stamp show to visit the new Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For those interested in joining the group, please contact the editor, Mirko Vondra, at 1-717-263-5523.

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*President's Corner*POLITICAL CHANGE AND  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

Six years ago last November, the Berlin Wall ceased to exist as a symbol of the East-West political divide. As luck would have it, we had philatelic friends from Prague visiting us in East Berlin that week end when the Wall was breached. Philately moved to a distinct second place as we observed the political earthquake that was unfolding before our eyes. Our guests were even more excited than we by the developments and enthusiastically speculated what this might mean for them and how it would impact on Czechoslovakia. A few weeks later we learned. We happened to arrive in Prague the day after the beginning of the student strike that turned into the Velvet Revolution. We had a dinner appointment at the "Three Ostriches" Hotel in Malá Strana the night of our arrival, but could not reach the restaurant until two hours after the appointed time. We had great difficulty crossing the Vltava since heavily armed riot police had blocked all the bridges to Staré Město and Malá Strana, anticipating a student march on Hradčany Castle. To get across the river required a long detour up-river - and then we were not permitted to drive into the Malá Strana section of the city as the police had closed it off to all vehicular traffic. However, after explaining our plight and bemoaning the lateness of the hour, the policeman who stopped us agreed to let us park on the sidewalk and to watch our car until we got back - a generous offer, I thought, given the tension abroad that night.

These events were part of a series that not only led to the freeing of Eastern and Central European states from Soviet domination, but to the disintegration of the Soviet Union itself. More than that, they changed political perceptions throughout the world; led to the break-up of Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia; impacted on domestic arrangements and attitudes in countries East and West (including our own); and led former President Bush to proclaim the need for a new world order. And the repercussions are still reverberating as they probably will for some time to come.

And what has all this to do with philately? Quite a lot, really. It revived a number of "philatelically dead" or "completed" countries (Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbidjan, Russia, Croatia, and Ukraine); eliminated others (Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic); and created a large number of countries that had never issued a stamp before (Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kazakstan, Slovenia, Moldova, Belarus, and Turkmenistan). Here are opportunities galore for the collectors who had "completed" countries, who were looking for new collecting interests, or were able to expand collections to cover successor states. There is even something here for specialized collectors. Just think of how the area of "inflation issues" has been expanded by the economic turmoil in many, if not most, of the states listed. There is also challenge for the postal historian. Tracing the development, growing pains, and confusion of new postal systems (our local post office in Tashkent often quoted us different postal rates than the Central Post Office did on the same day) will require research, patience, imagination, and persistence, but probably not much money.

Czechoslovak philately has also changed considerably during this 6 year period, mostly for the better in my view. For one thing, it has become "respectable" again to collect philatelic material from this sophisticated, cultured, ex-communist dominated country and its successor states. Many Americans and other Westerners have "discovered" the charms and beauty of Prague, Czech and Slovak spas, the High Tatras and the myriad of sights, tastes, and sounds in between. Some of these visitors have become new collectors of Czechoslovakia and related material - witness the increased number of our newer members. On the Czech and Slovak side, the collectors now have much better access to fellow collectors and philatelic markets in other countries; they

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are no longer restrained by Big Brother's ever present interference in peoples' private lives, including their hobbies.

Privatization of the economy has had a great impact on the philatelic life in the Czech Republic. (I am less familiar with the philatelic developments in Slovakia, so I will not include it in my observations. However, from what little I know, I surmise that many philatelic developments in Slovakia are similar to those in the Czech Republic). For instance, the philatelic market in the Czech Republic is no longer dominated by a state enterprise that can set prices any way it wishes. Stamp dealers have sprung up everywhere. And so have auction houses. Both have combined to create a philatelic market which has, in turn, drawn out a lot of material long hidden from the philatelic market place. This market is no longer strictly domestic. The near disappearance of any fiscal restrictions on dealing in Czech krouns has not only made access to the Czech philatelic market much easier for us foreigners, but has also allowed collectors in the former Czechoslovakia to participate in foreign markets. It might surprise some to know that many Czech philatelic dealers make regular **buying** trips to such philatelic centers as Vienna, Paris, and Geneva, as well as to the United States.

The new atmosphere has also eliminated former political constraints on collection areas, such as the former prohibition on collecting and exhibiting materials from the Nazi dominated Bohemia and Moravia or concentration camp mail. New specialty collecting groups have formed and they are producing new philatelic research and journals in which to publish it.

Finally, the new philatelic market has also begun to produce albums and catalogs whose quality and timeliness are competitive with other European products. For instance, the latest addition to the line of philatelic material being produced by Filatelie Trojan is *Katalog: Protektorát Čechy a Morava; Slovenský Štát 1939-1938; Sudety 1938* (Catalog of the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia; the Slovak State 1939-1938; and Sudetenland 1938). This highly illustrated, 244 page catalog follows the general format of the same firm's earlier 1994 and 1995 catalogs of Czechoslovakia. It begins with a three language (Czech/German/English) definition of abbreviations and markings, description of the catalog layout, color listing, and a one page listing of philatelic terms. In addition to the usual listing of stamps, the catalog also lists plate numbers, plate and design varieties and coupon layout. It has an extensive section on postal forms and stationery as well as commemorative cancellations with pricing on piece and on cover. A feature I rather like is the pricing of stamp usage as singles, pairs and with other stamps on cover. There is a tariff table for Bohemia and Moravia, but unfortunately one for Slovakia is lacking. A few copies of this catalog will be available through our publication service.

- JAROSLAV VERNER

*Have you paid your dues for 1996? If not, please do so NOW and be sure to add \$3.00 as late charge for payments after February 29. Make checks payable to Society for Czechoslovak Philately and mail to Ed Lehecka at 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.*

## A GERMAN CENSORSHIP OFFICE IN BRATISLAVA ?

by Ing. Mirko Bachratý

Translated by Rev. George M. Franko

Courtesy of Frank Garancovsky

The censorship of postal material is among the least studied fields of Czecho-Slovak postal history. Since censorial interventions were not carried out by postal institutions, censors' stamps, remarks and stickers remained for many years on the fringes of stamp collectors' interests. It was only when general interest in postal history in its entirety accelerated in the early 70's that a number of collectors began to pay systematic attention to this field.

The greatest obstacle to the study of postal censorship is the lack of information in available sources (journals) and also the scarcity of study material. This opens up an area for serious philatelic research. On the other hand, there are in this field a number of hypotheses, assumptions and errors. To the last category, we can assign the question of the existence of a German Censorship Office in Bratislava during World War II. This Censorship Office supposedly used a single-circle rubber stamp with letters "Nc" in the center. The abbreviation is alleged to mean "Nemecká censúra" -(German Censorship Office).



Fig. 0

The first proponent of this theory was the author of the article (cited in Ref. A). He based his theory on the "Nc" stamp's similarity to analogous stamps used by

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German Censorship Offices set up in all sectors of German occupied Europe and in Germany itself (Fig. 0). The characteristic of these single-circle stamps is the capital letter "A" (standing for "Auslands-postprüfs-telle," meaning Control Center for Foreign Mail)

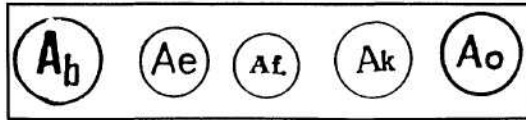


Fig. 1

with a small letter according to the location of the censorship office (e.g. "c" for Cologne, "r" for Rhine, "d" for Munich, "e" for Paris, "g" for Vienna) (Fig. 1). These stamps were used on letters that were to be censored, but the censorship offices did not consider their supervision to be absolutely necessary and so the letters, after a short delay, were sent on for further postal disposition. This usually occurred with official and business correspondence where there was little likelihood of detecting suspicious communications of objectionable content. In pertinent literature (Ref. B), these stamps are referred to

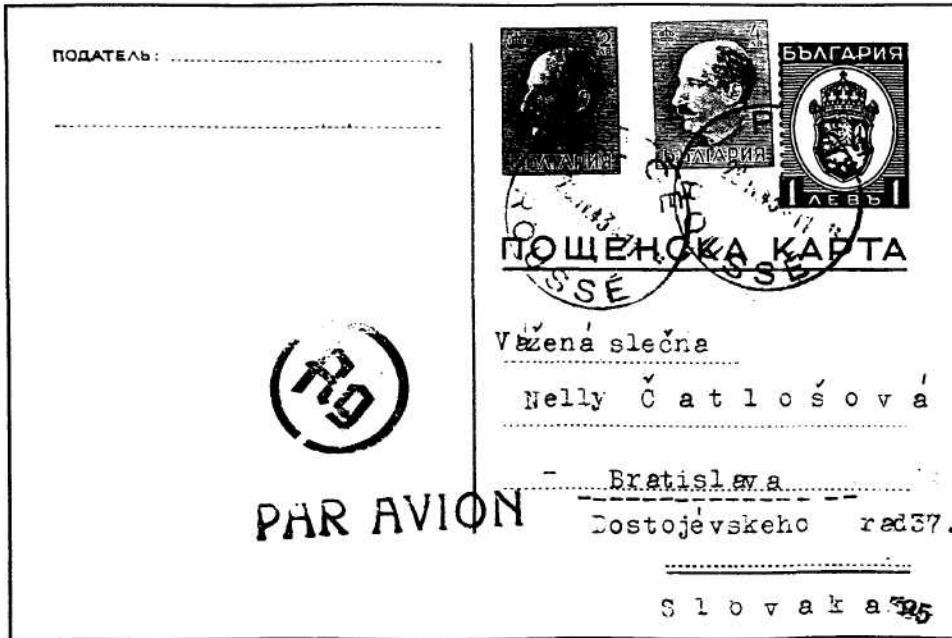


Fig. 2

as "Durchlaufstempel" (transits or transit stamps). As a rule, mail so stamped does not show any other sign of censorship nor are there any indications or signs of being opened (Fig. 2). In extraordinary cases, such a stamp was used (e.g. the Censorship Office in Vienna) as a censor's stamp when stamping machines broke down or when the supply of printed censor's stamps ran out (Fig. 3). The Vienna service used two types of hand transit stamps "Ag." There are a number of issues of both. These were later, for purposes of differentiating them, classified according to the indentations on the different parts of the circle.

The apparent similarity of the stamp "Nc" with these German censors' stamps was the only argument supporting the theory of the existence of a German Censorship Office in Bratislava. The author of the article cited in Ref. 1 used the same argument

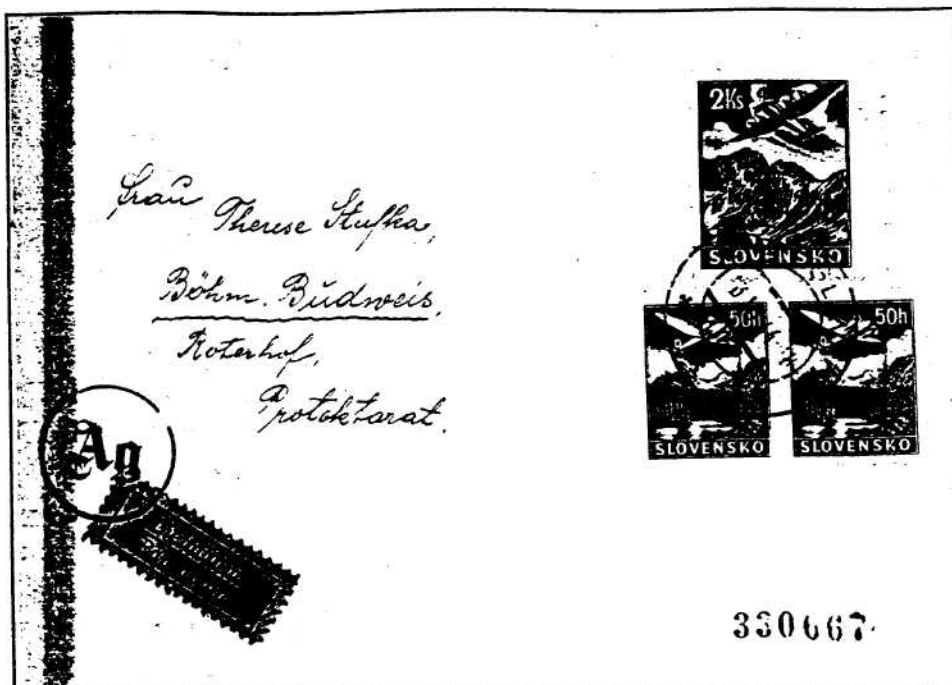


Fig. 3

in his other article cited in Ref. C in which he assumes that after the German forces retreated from Slovakia, the Slovak Censorship Office adopted the stamp. I injudiciously accepted this interpretation of Stamp "Nc" in my study mentioned in Ref. D. More recently an article appeared which dealt with these rubber stamps (two versions exist) (Ref. E). The author of this article without any proof whatsoever attempts to lump together the procedures of censorship in Slovakia. Attributing the imprint "Nc" to the German Censorship Office in Bratislava I consider unwarranted for the following reasons:

1. Inspection centers for foreign mail were established exclusively in Germany or in those German occupied lands which lost their sovereignty along with, among other things, their postal service. Their structure is described in an article cited in Ref. B. The author of this publication, as a matter of fact, does speak of the imprint "Nc" as a stamp of the German Censorship Office occasionally operating in Bratislava; however, he does not prove this. Elsewhere in the publication he casts doubt on the existence of even short-term censorship offices operating outside the German Reich. Slovakia, even though her sovereignty was somewhat limited due to her dependence on Germany, decidedly cannot be considered an occupied land.

2. Mailings with the stamp "Nc" show no other indications of German or Slovak censorship as is the case with other obviously censored mail and neither do they show

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any sign of being opened. From this I hold that the "Nc" stamps served the same purpose as similar stamps of German Censorship Offices and the abbreviation "Nc" can be understood as meaning "Necenzúrované" or "uncensored." Its similarity to German stamps does not demand that it be completely accidental. One can reasonably assume that the Slovak censorship offices cooperated with the neighboring Vienna services from which they could have adopted this system of marking transit mail as well as the practice of using special censor's numbering stamps. Vienna was finally an innovator of various technical advances that expedited and speeded mail during the days of censorship.

3. Printed "Nc" stamps are found mainly on official correspondence, such as those transmitting vital statistics. In the publication listed at Ref. E, there is an illustration of a communication from the Ministry of the Interior to the Red Cross in Geneva on parcels whose contents were previously inspected when permission was to be obtained for export and on communications addressed to Slovak legations abroad, or vice versa. These facts support the assumption that the "Nc" stamp was meant to evidence submitting the mailings to censors but not censorship itself.

4. As direct proof that the "Nc" stamps were used by Slovak censors, I consider the front and back side of a cover (Fig. a and 4b). It is a registered letter mailed July 15, 1942 at the Post Office in Zilina 2 (apparently passed by the postal officials) and addressed to R.K., The Police "Inspector", Bratislava 1, Office of Censorship. The letter is stamped 7 times with the "Nc" imprint on the front. On the back side there are two censors' stickers stamped together beforehand with 24 imprints of various stamps used by Slovak censors.

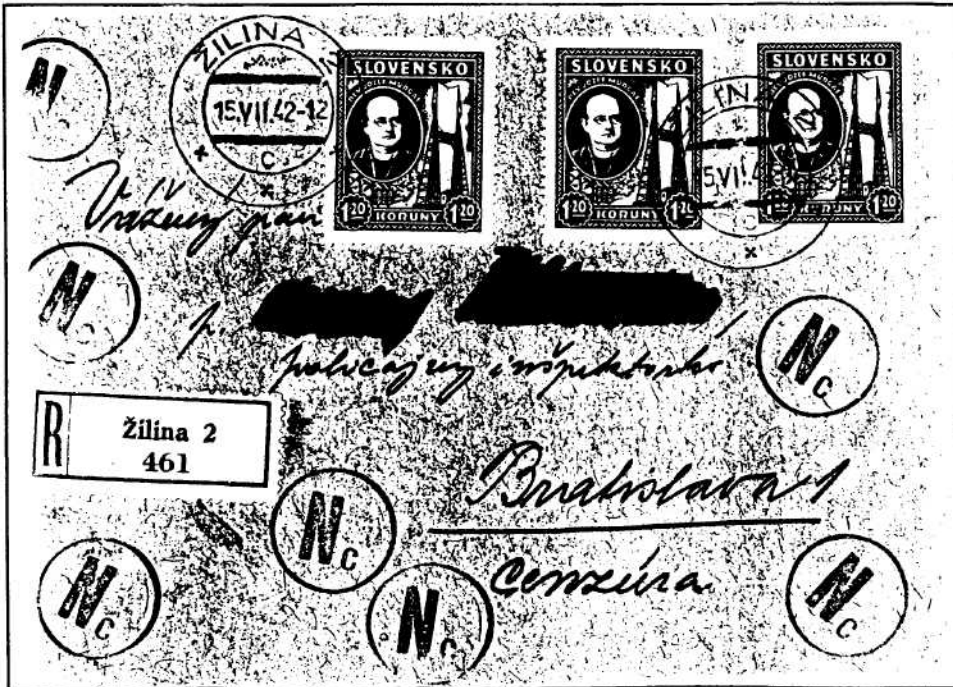


Fig. 4A



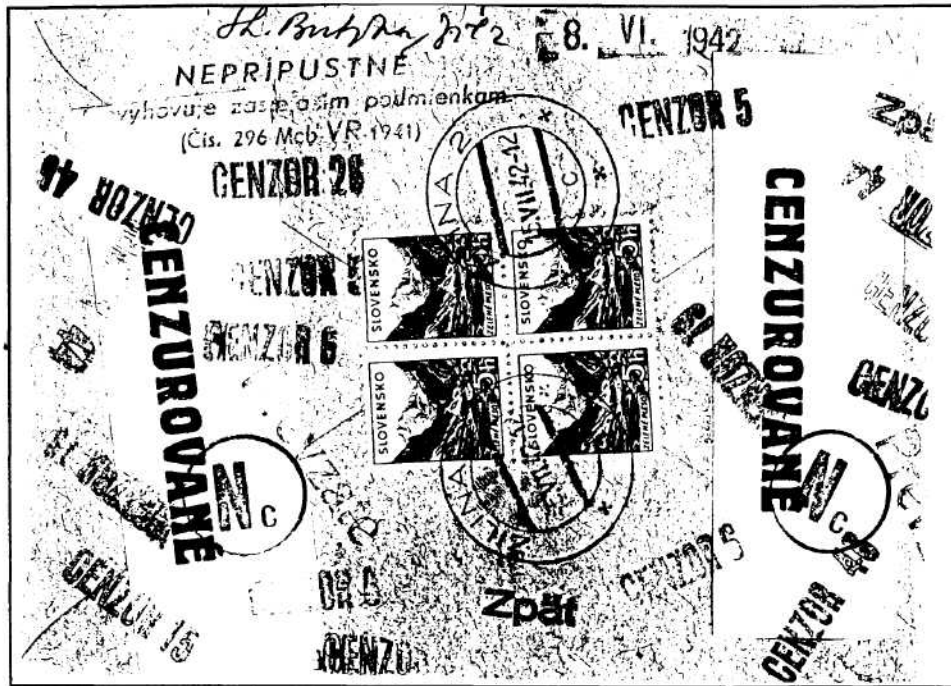


Fig. 4B

inspector") and from the entire appearance of the envelope (the envelope was not opened under the censors' stickers), one can surmise that it was a prank by which students "saluted" a classmate (perhaps on the occasion of some anniversary). This "Censor's Prank" attests to the variety of stamps used by the Censorship Office at the Bratislava Post Office, one of which is the "Nc" stamp. It can hardly be asserted that German censors would have been party to this prank. All of the stamps are printed in the same red-purple color.

On the basis of the evidence presented, I consider that the question of the origin of the Circle "Nc" Stamp to be resolved.

## REFERENCES:

- A. Palkoska, Vratislava, Dr.: Cenzurovane na Slovensku: (Censorship in Slovakia), *FILATELIE* 1973/14.
- B. Riemer, Karl-Heinz: Die Uberwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs wahrend des II. Weltkrieges durch deutsche Dienststellen; (The supervision of foreign communication during the course of the second World War passing through German duty stations.) *Poststempel Gilde "Rhein Donau e.V."*
- C. Palkoska, Vratislav, Dr.: *Posta na Slovensku po oslobodeni*; (Postal service in Slovakia after liberation), KF 08 21 Hlohovec 1975.
- D. Bachraty, Mirko, Ing.: *Kontrola Postovych Zasielok v odobi Slovenskej republiky 1939-1945*; (Control of postal shipments during the time of the Slovak Republic 1939-1945), *Slovenskej postilion 1*, ZSF, 1990
- E. Miskevich, John S.: *German Censorship Handstamps in Slovakia 1941-1944*; *CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST* 3/4 1995.

## THE CHEB OVERPRINTS OF 1945

by Karel Holoubek

Cheb was granted its charter by the Czech King, Jan Lucemburský, in the year 1322. Under its provisions, Cheb was declared to be part of the Kingdom of Bohemia with all the rights and privileges of Czech citizens vested in its inhabitants.

With the rise of Hitler in Germany during the 1930's, the name of "Sudetenland" (the land of the South Germans) was invented and applied to the fringes of Czechoslovakia where a substantial percentage of the population was German by virtue of immigration and infiltration into that part of the Czech lands. Ultimately, that gave Hitler an excuse to seize the fortified areas of the country under the provisions of the infamous Munich Accord.

As World War II approached its end, the U.S. Army occupied the region around Cheb and the town itself, with a population of 60,000, fell to the Allied forces on April 26 after a two-day battle. One of the "corrective facilities" to be rescued in that area was called "Ebrach u Bamberka." Many of its prisoners wondered what form their newly-liberated country would take. As the Red Army advanced from the east, prisoners freed from Nazi concentration camps followed in the path of the American forces while civilian refugees poured from the opposite direction to escape occupation by the Soviets.

In this confused and somewhat chaotic situation, a postal problem had to be resolved: what kind of postage stamps were to be used in the liberated territories pending establishment of a free democratic government with the power and facility to begin printing new Czechoslovak stamps? That question had come up as far back as 1940, as some of the prisoners of Ebrach recalled. At that time, the former manager of the town of Melantrich, Antonín Mádl, had proposed using the Protectorate stamps of Bohemia and Moravia showing a closeup of Hitler and overprinting them as provisionals of a new Republic with the text "Pravda Vítězi" and the letters "ČSR". Following the liberation of Bamberk, its freed prisoners at Ebrach began negotiating for the transfer of the printery back to Czech hands. Captain Hrubý, leader of the Czechoslovak Repatriation Mission, selected 24 former prisoners who were deemed experts in certain vital professions to be sent to Cheb to negotiate the takeover of the town and organize its new Czech administration. One of them was a Mr. Janoušek, who was named the new postmaster at Cheb. He recalled how he arrived at this postal station and found it in shambles. All usable furniture and equipment had been stripped and removed. What remained were a few broken tables and smashed stools. Thanks to the Commander of the U.S. garrison, Lt. Hartman, Janoušek was able to secure a supply of German Reich stamps from Bayreuth - grey ones with a value of 4 pf. and purple ones with a value of 6 pf.

Meanwhile the 24 former prisoners took over the printing house Egerer Zeitung. There the stamps were to be overprinted as provisional stamps of a free Czechoslovakia. The new value was set at 1k and the old values were to be obliterated with a die of three short, thin horizontal lines. These overprints would have to be handstamped individually and would therefore vary from one to the other (Fig. 1). But when they found another die with linden leaves instead of lines, they decided to use that one for



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

obliterating the old values (Fig. 2). A further search disclosed there was yet a third die consisting of small hearts (Fig. 3). Using the last two on a ten-row plate, they decided to make eight dies with linden leaves and two with small hearts. This was done at the behest of J. Horák, Commerce Commissioner at Cheb.

The rate was fixed at 1k for a postcard and 2k for a letter. Shown in Fig. 4 is a cover bearing the German Reich stamp in the upper right corner with 12 pf. which was invalid on that date (May 8, 1945). To cure the defect, two German Reich stamps were affixed at the lower left corner, each with a 1k "Pravda Vítězí" overprint. It was handstamped at Eger (Cheb) and delivered in Prague on May 14. The Registry label did not change the rate during that emergency period. Also shown is the upper portion of a cover handstamped May 8, 1945, at "Poštovní Úřad in Cheb 1" (Postoffice Cheb 1)

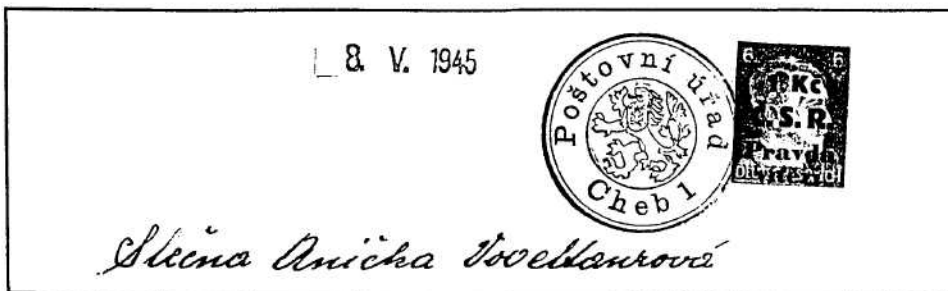


Fig. 5

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with an invalid 6 pf. German Reich stamp with the value obliterated with linden leaves and overprinted with a 1k value. Another 1k overprinted stamp presumably appeared on another part of the damaged cover (Fig. 5).

Though mail could not be transported by rail due to the fighting going on in town, people were anxious to let their loved ones know they were alive and coming home. It was therefore decided to make deliveries by courier. There were two possible routes: one directly from Cheb to Prague; the other via Pilsen. On the direct route, the courier had to cross from one zone to the other. That created problems. The route by way of Pilsen was the simpler and safer one. At Pilsen, a courier service was operating without interference. A joint courier service to Prague was instituted on May 13, 1945.

News and communications between communities situated in different occupation zones was extremely difficult and precarious. Hence it is small wonder that the citizens of Cheb believed theirs were the first stamps to be issued and used in a free Czechoslovakia. They were unaware of developments at Chust at the time.

### REFERENCES:

1. CHEBSKO: INFORMACE NÁRODNÍHO VÝBORU V CHEBU, vol. 1, no. 2, May 22, 1945.
2. FILATELISTICKÝ LISTY 1946, pgs. 161 to 163
3. Vč INFORMACE 1984, no. 62, pgs. 95 to 101.
4. PLZENSKÁ PRAVDA, May 13, 1945.
5. ZPRAVODAJ NAŠÍ FILATELIE 1947, no. 1, p. 16.

## THE PILSNER "THIRTY-FIVERS" AT MAINZ

by Vaclav Konstant  
translated by Henry Hahn

When the name of the west-Bohemian city of Pilsen is mentioned among the population of the German city of Mainz, the citizens of the city on the Rhine will recall that Pilsen is the home of the well-known Skoda works or the famous brewery Prazdroj. On the other hand, I believe that Mainz is less well known to the citizens of Pilsen. Hence, it is appropriate that on last year's unique 700th anniversary of the founding of Pilsen, we call attention to the relationship between the two cities, based on postal history.

Since the days of the Roman Wars, Mainz has been associated with military matters, and has up to the 20th century been known as what we might today call a "garrison town". The military felt at home in this city. It gave it character; historic and attractive uniforms of soldiers and officers, and changing armies gave Mainz a certain social polish. Mainz was the home of an archbishopric, wealthy prelates, wealthy German nobility and parts of the population all of which gave the city a high degree of public success. Culture prospered, and I would blame myself if I did not mention at least the invention of typography and the name of Gutenberg associated with it (Fig. 1).

In this town and environs, described briefly above, the Pilseners, members of the popular, regular infantry Regiment Number 35, spent ten years of their military duties, i.e. from April 1837 to November 1847. This fact conveys why the two cities bear a close relationship. In order to better appreciate the significance of the stay of the "thirty-fivers" in Mainz (to our postal history and, more particularly, to our west-Bohemian region and Pilsen itself), it is necessary to present some historical facts, which due to the scope of this paper will be incomplete. We shall skip the Roman period and partially the period between 1793 and 1797, when the rich history of Mainz

was witness to the movement of German and French troops. We shall concentrate on the period when the fortress was manned by the Austrian Armies, which included Czech Regiments, lasting from 1814 to 1866. This time period is of importance to us, not only because there were two Czech Regiments in Mainz, but because in 1819 a Field Post was organized there.

French units were in the fortress of Mainz periodically for 17 years, up to May 4, 1814, when they capitulated to the German Army under the command of Duke Ernst Coburg. On June 30, 1816, a treaty was signed between Austria, Prussia, the Hessen in which the fortress Mainz was defined as a "German association fortress" under the sovereignty of the Grand Duchy of Hessen. More important in the further development of the fortress was the "Carlsbad Congress", which took place on August 10, 1817, when, for the first time, the west-Bohemian region entered decisively in the future development of Mainz. It concerned the placement of the Czech 35th Infantry Regiment

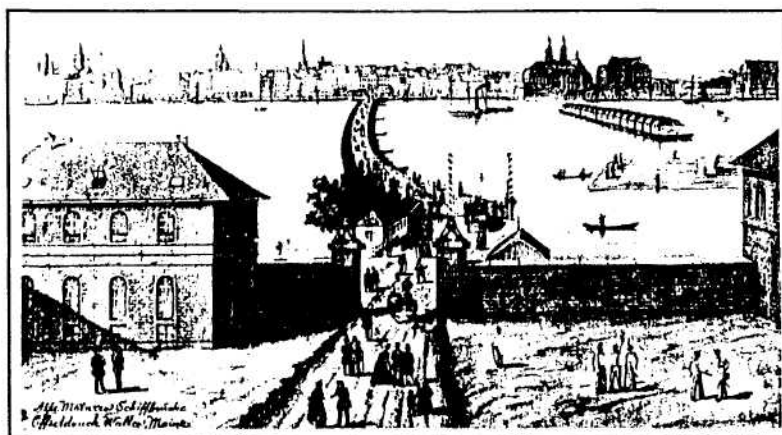


Fig. 1

The city of Mainz and pontoon bridge across the Rhine, where the entrance to the military fortress was located.

in the fortress. At this Congress it was decided that the fortress would, in the future, be occupied alternatively by Prussian and Austrian military forces, with the alternating period being five years. The highest ranking administrative officer in the fortress was to be a Governor, and the treaty established that the Governor was to be Prussian during the presence of Austrian military forces, and Austrian during the presence of Prussian forces.

I do not need to emphasize that letters from this period are indeed rare. The Thurn & Taxis mail service which, at that time, serviced both outgoing and incoming mail in the fortress, functioned once each day. It departed from Mainz at 11 a.m. on a route that led through Regensburg, Straubing, Passau, and St. Polten to Vienna. After the departure of the French, Germans and later Austrian units took over the mail, including postal equipment as well as the canceling device, which was a single line and gave the name in French, i.e. MAYENCE. A characteristic of this postmark was that the last "E" is always illegible. It is illustrated in Fig. 2.

Later on, from 1815 the MAYENCE postmark was replaced by a new one having somewhat larger letters and with the last "E" legible. Both of these postmarks may be considered as forerunners to the field post. In 1819, field posts were organized in

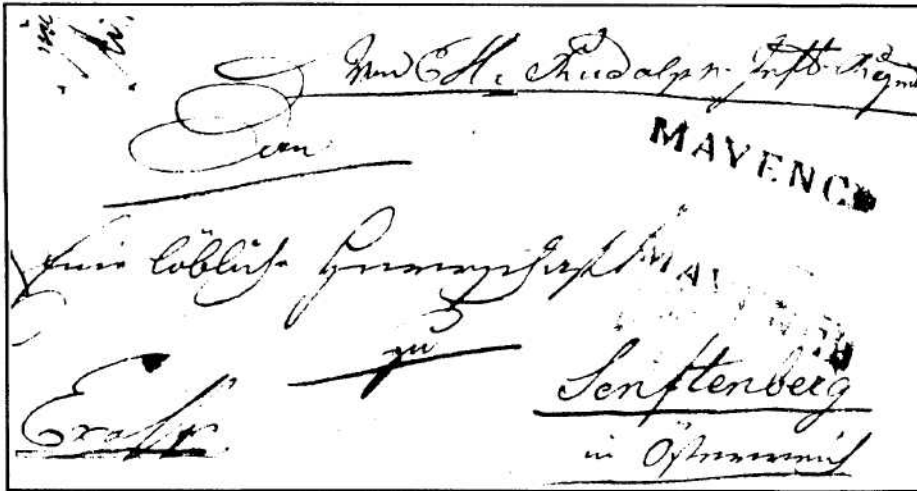


Fig. 2  
Cover with MAYENCE postmark

Austria. Included was the Mainz field post, which was issued a postmark of surprisingly unusual shape. It is octagonal and bears the text: K.K.OEST.MILIT.POST in the upper portion whereas the lower portion gives the day, month and year. Inside the oval appears the name "MAINZ" in script form. The sender of the cover illustrated in Fig. 3 is Baron Kerpen, Linien Infant. Rgt. No. 49, addressee is Schwarzenbach. Field post cancellations during the period 1819 to 1825, when this canceler was in use, are exclusively in red. Covers from this time period bearing this cancellation, with a good strike as shown in Fig. 3, are great rarities and are generally absent even in large collections.

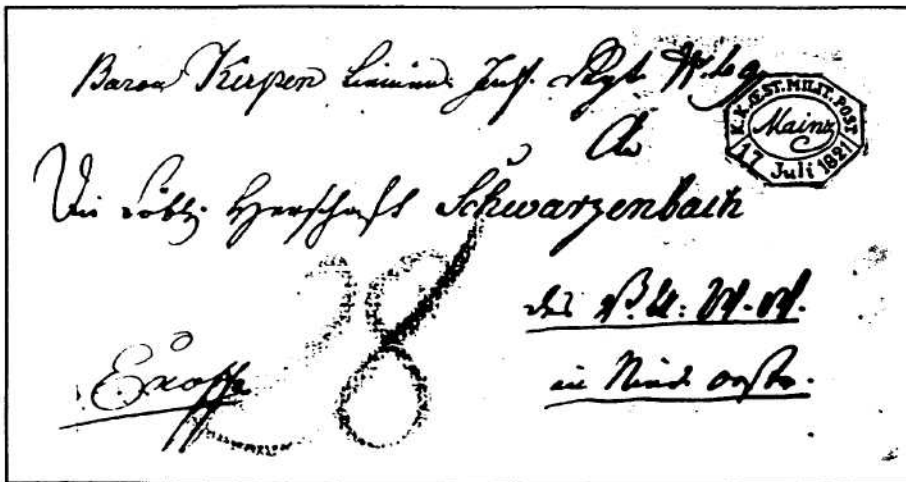


Fig. 3  
MAINZ Austrian field post cover

In 1824 with the change in field post, there occurred a change in the field post cancel. If the first octagonal cancel was surprising in shape, the second cancel is not far behind, and is considered the most beautiful cancel used by the Austrian field post. We can determine that from covers bearing clean and legible strikes. The field post used this canceler from 1823 till November 1824, during the residence of units of the 49th Infantry Regiment of Baron Kerpen, which then became the property of the Bachelor Gentleman von Langenau. However, no changes in the field post office occurred with the change of command, except for a change in canceling ink. Use of red ink ended in 1833, and henceforth only black ink was used.



Fig. 4  
Cover from Fleischer's Infantry Regiment No. 35

Bachelor Gentleman von Lagenau and his 49th Regiment left the fortress in April 1837, and their replacement marched into the fortress. The new force was the Pilsner Regular Infantry Regiment No. 35 of Baron Fleischer.

The change did not cause interruption of field post service, which at that time was under the direction of Lieutenant Milder. The cancel did not change, and black ink continued in used. Fig. 4 is an example of a cover from this period. The letter shown in Fig. 4 concerned a military matter, and the sender was Baron Fleischer's Line Infantry Regiment No. 35, sent through the field post in the Mainz fortress (see oval cancel), addressed to Kout in Šumava in western Bohemia.

In examining this cover, we realize why documents of this type are so cherished by collectors and so highly priced. We arrive at a curious situation. "Thirty-fivers" as members of a Czech Regiment from Pilsen, serving in the Austrian forces, sent mail from inside a fortress belonging to a foreign state, and serviced the mail using an Austrian field post cancel. The young men of Pilsen and the Pilsen environs called Mainz their home for 10 long year, and letters from soldiers as well as officers were infrequent. Even though I had, at a time, collected material of this type intensively, I have never owned or seen in other collections a personal letter from this period.

The commander of the Pilsen Regiment No. 35, Baron Fleischer von Eichenkranz was born in 1777 in Kornenburg in lower Austria, where he began his military career. In 1796, he became a first lieutenant and in 1800, a major. He participated in the battle of Wagram in the Army unit of Count Kolowrat. He died as a Division

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Commander on Dec. 13, 1841 in Bratislava.

After the death of Baron Fleischer, the 35th Infantry Regiment was transferred to the command of Baron von Khewenhuller-Metsch. However, while it was still under the command of Baron Fleischer, i.e. on Sept. 1, 1841, there came into use at the field post in Mainz a new canceler which, as the third one of the series, replaced the beautiful oval canceler.

The new one was of a much simpler two-line design, the word Mainz being in leaning script form, with the day and month shown beneath it. The date was part of the canceler. This canceler remained in service until the end of the tenure of the "thirty-fivers" at the Mainz fortress, i.e. until November 1847.

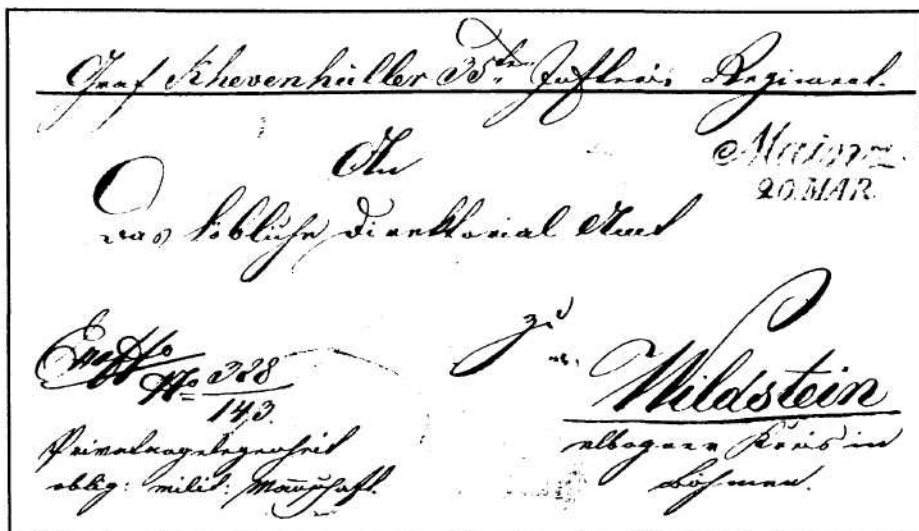


Fig. 5  
Cover bearing the third Austrian postmark of Mainz

This portion of the tenure of the Pilseners in Mainz is demonstrated in the photo of a letter in Fig. 5. The sender is given as Count Khewenhuller, 35th Infantry Regiment. It is addressed to someone in the town of Wildstein, then in the region of Lokty in western Bohemia.

I would have liked to show a portrait of Baron Fleischer, the first commander of the 35th Infantry Regiment, in this article. Unfortunately I was not able to locate one, though I have been trying for over 20 years. My good friends, Ing. Wolfgang Balzer and Heinrich Himmel, who compiled the history of the field post of Mainz and published the book BEFESTUNG MAINZ IN 1977, which I used as a source, were equally unsuccessful. I was, however, able to locate a portrait of the second owner of the 35th Infantry Regiment, the Baron Khewenhuller, which is shown in Fig. 6.

This, of course, does not end the story of Czech Regiments in foreign service. Already in September of 1847, the 11th Infantry Regiment of Archduke Reiner began its march from Pisek to Mainz, where it arrived on November 1st of that year, to replace the Pilsner "thirty-fivers" with the Pisek "Reinerites". And so the story continues.



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Fig. 6  
Baron von Khewenhuller, second owner  
of the 35th Infantry Regiment.

### A PHILATELIC TOUR OF LEGENDARY PRAGUE: FINALE by Michele Patrick

*In this sequel to the author's three-part story published serially in last year's SPECIALIST, we return to the architectural smorgasbord of Old Town Square and journey through the heart of the Jewish Ghetto. This will conclude our "magical mystery march" through Prague's legends.*

As the rays of the morning sun dance across the golden cupula of the National Museum, we retrace our steps down Wenceslaus Square (Fig. 1). Passing the Europa Hotel, whose cafe is allegedly a replica of the one on the Titanic, we again reach Melantrichova Street.

Linking cosmopolitan Wenceslaus Square with architecturally magnificent Old Town Square, narrow Melantrichova, with its somber brown buildings and its pervading air of Gothic gloom, seems unremarkable. But in Prague, even the most ordinary looking street cannot be ignored. On Melantrichova, approximately midway between the two famous squares, stand the "Tefyl House." An unimposing structure, ochre in color with one of Prague's famous red slate roofs and classical stucco work above its windows, the house was



Fig. 1  
Wenceslaus Square-  
National Museum  
and St. Wenceslaus  
statue

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allegedly the home of the infamous Dr. Faust - who tried to make gold through a pact with the devil.



Fig. 2  
The Old Town Square

Interestingly, Prague is such a naturally fertile soil for myths, that it has three homes, scattered throughout the city, which were supposedly inhabited by Faust. According to legend, it was in Prague where the doctor wrote his famous Magic Book, before he surrendered his soul to the devil. By using this cursed tome, Faust was able to conjure Mephistopheles and other infernal rulers.

Emerging on the Old Town Square, we are surrounded on all sides by a fairytale in stone (Fig. 2). No other area of Prague, or any European city, can boast such a collection of architectural wonders: Gothic porches, Renaissance graffiti, Baroque pediments and Art Nouveau windows - all with a riot of decoration.

On the west side of the Square is the Old Town Hall, whose famous Astronomical Clock marked the end of our first journey (Fig. 3). On the east side of the structure, a commemorative tablet recalls one of Prague's bloodier moments.

On May 23, 1621, twenty-four Bohemian noblemen and three commoners, all Protestants, were executed on that spot for leading the 1618 rebellion against the Habsburgs of Austria, who were despotically ruling Bohemia at that time. Each year, on the anniversary of their deaths, the men appear on the spot and solemnly proceed across the Square to Our Lady of Tyn Church. Once there, they receive a ghostly Holy Communion from a chalice, one of the traditional symbols of Bohemian Protestants.

The 14th Century Tyn church, which is partially hidden behind its parsonage school, is probably the most well known Prague land mark after the Hradcany; its multi-steepled twin towers, with countless golden prongs, are recognizable from anywhere in the city. Few notice that the tower on the right is significantly broader than the one on the left. Medieval rules dictated that a fat "male" tower had to protect a slim "female" tower from the midday sun.

The church was once the main worshipping site of the Czech "Hussites," nationalist Protestants and followers of religious reformer Jan Hus, who attacked the abuses of the Medieval Catholic Church a century before Martin Luther (Fig. 4). The adjoining Tyn Courtyard is inhabited by one of Prague's less friendly spirits. A turbaned Turk, who killed his sweetheart in a fit of jealousy, is still seen wandering around the courtyard with the girl's head in a jewel box.



Fig. 3  
Detail from the clock



Fig. 4  
Hussite warriors on the march

Almost adjacent to the church, on its northern side, is the 13th century House of the Stone Bell, the oldest, intact, Gothic house in Prague. Standing next to it is the unforgettable Goltz-Kinsky Palace, with its pink sherbet color and confectionery stucco work. This charming Rococo building also seems like the vision of a fairytale, but in Prague, where the central bridge



Fig. 5  
Gottwald and Stalin

bends and one of the main clocks runs backward, nothing is as it seems.

For the building is actually the setting of a nightmare. In February of 1948, Klement Gottwald, under direction from Joseph Stalin, stepped onto the balcony of the Palace and declared that the Communist party had taken over the government (Fig. 5). The golden city was soon plunged into the darkness of terror, as Gottwald initiated one of the most brutal Stalinization campaigns in Eastern Europe.

He even "offered" Stalin Czechoslovakia as the sixteenth republic of the Soviet Union; for unknown reasons, Stalin refused the gift. Gottwald caught pneumonia standing in the rain at Stalin's funeral

in March of 1953, and he died nine days later. But Praguers refused to believe that the story was so simple, and they could not allow a moment of history to slip by without encasing it in legend. The popular version is that Gottwald, still slavishly following his master in all things, promptly willed himself to die, in order to continue adhering to Stalin's line (Fig. 6).

Undeniably, the Old Town Square in not only a treasure trove of architecture, but of legends of the mystical and the macabre, the religious and the rapsallion. But for the next stop on our journey, we will take a detour. If we go through Tyn courtyard, we emerge almost in front of one of Prague's greatest treasures, St. James Church.

The interior is one of the most elegant in the city, a riot of gilded cherubs, carved ornamentation and tall reddish marble pillars topped by opulent gold capitals. The magnificence is a testimony to human achievement, but we have come to see a monument to human folly.

To the left of the main doors hangs a scraggly human forearm dangling from a chain. Legend has it that in the year 1400, a thief tried to pilfer the jewels of the statue of the Virgin Mary on the high altar. Irate, the Virgin's statue came to life and grabbed the man's arm.

Despite much pleading and begging by church and civic officials, she simply would not let go. Exasperated, the villain's arm was severed by the perplexed assembly; the painting on the wall depicts the memorable scene. Ever since, the "arm of divine justice" has hung there as a grisly warning.

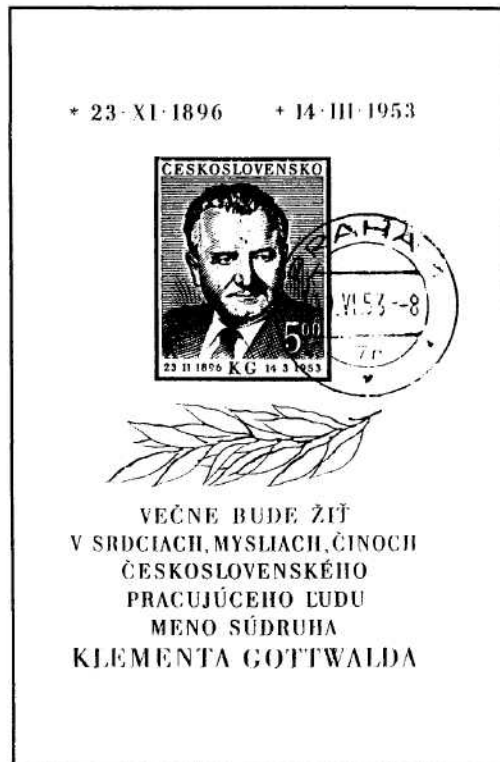


Fig. 6  
S/S commemorating Gottwald's death

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Returning to the Square, on the western side, we walk past the snow white Baroque masterpiece of St. Nicholas Church and down Parizska street (Fig. 7). Since the fall of Communism, this boulevard has been transformed into one of Prague's most elite avenues, boasting establishments such as Ninna Ricci.

But when strolling down Parizska Street, we must take a moment to pry our eyes from the appealing storefronts and look at the building facades above us. Parizska is lined with magnificent Art Nouveau structures. In fact, the whole "Jewish Ghetto" is a storehouse of such buildings. For in the opening years of this century, the ancient lanes and homes of the Ghetto were demolished in an early attempt at urban renewal.

Viewing today's cosmopolitan setting, it is difficult to imagine that the Jewish Ghetto was once, truly, a place apart. The entire area was surrounded by a high wall with six gates, which were closed by Prague's officials at night at all times during Easter Week. Inside, the area was a maze of narrow alleys and twisting lanes. Despite the transformation, at twilight when the silent buildings are bathed in a bluish, almost other worldly light, it is still easy to comprehend why the Ghetto is home to more of Prague's legends than any area.

We will continue down Parizska until we reach Siroka. We will then travel a short distance on Siroka, until we come to Maislova. Turning right onto Maislova, we are now in the heart of the Ghetto; we will continue to walk in a northerly direction, towards the Vltava River, and soon reach the imposing facade of the Old-New Synagogue (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8  
The Old-New  
Synagogue

From all sides, dark smoke obstructed the view of the Synagogue. Yet, in the midst of the conflagration, two doves landed on its roof. When the smoke cleared, the Synagogue stood unscathed and, suddenly, the birds rose and were lost in the clouds.



Fig. 7  
Window from St.  
Nicholas Church

With its thick, gray walls worn by time and weather and its high, narrow windows, the Synagogue seems more medieval fortress than religious house. Built in 1270, it is the oldest functioning synagogue in Europe. Legend tells that it was constructed from the last Temple of Jerusalem, which was brought to Prague by angels in 135 A.D.

When the Messiah does arrive, the Jewish Community must return the structure to the Holy Land. Apparently, the angels who bore the Temple also instructed the Jewish Elders to leave the Synagogue unchanged, forever. Those people that later tried to improve or repair it never finished their task; they were either crippled while working or died a sudden death soon afterward.

In 1558, a great fire broke out in the Jewish Quarter. Everything was destroyed...or almost everything.



Fig. 9  
Gravestone in the old  
Jewish Cemetery

If we leave the Old-New Synagogue and proceed down U Starého Hřbitova Street, directly in front of us is the crown jewel of all the gems in the Jewish Ghetto -- the old Jewish Cemetery.

The oldest remaining Jewish cemetery in the world saw its first burial in 1439. Today, over 20,000 people are buried in twelve underground levels. Its forest of worn and warping tombstones, decorated with figures or flourishes or finials, wildly lean and fall over one another in what seems the macabre setting of a Gothic horror novel (Fig. 9).

Naturally, all those buried in the cemetery are Jewish, except one...Many years ago, a Jewish man converted to Christianity and eventually became a Catholic priest. Late in life, he recanted and wanted to be buried with his own people. Unfortunately, after death, his spirit is still uneasy. During the night, he rests in the Jewish Cemetery. But at daybreak, his ghost is rowed by a skeleton across the Vltava River. He climbs the steep hill to the Hradcany and walks to St. Vitus Cathedral. Throughout the day, undetected by anyone, he plays the great organ; at night, he returns to his grave in the Ghetto.

The ancient Cemetery is probably best known as the setting for the "Golem" legend -- the original incarnation of the Frankenstein story. Of Prague's many fascinating tales, the Golem is the only one which has achieved worldwide fame.

In the late 1500's, a certain Rabbi Loew lived in Prague. Well versed in magic, on one occasion he transformed the inside of his humble home into an Italianate Palace to impress the Emperor. Apparently, Loew was counseled by heaven to make the Golem by means of a mystical formula, which was communicated in a dream.

One night, Loew went to the Cemetery and, following heavenly instruction, fashioned a man out of clay; he then placed a plug into his mouth which was inscribed with the magic word of life, "Shem." If the plug was removed, life would immediately drain from the Golem.

The Golem was the ultimate servant and would meticulously follow Loew's orders. As the Rabbi's creation, he needed those orders to function and could not think on its own. Loew, however, did not use the Golem for simple domestic chores; on the contrary, heaven had intended that the creature be used to protect the Jewish community and to guard the streets of the Ghetto. Among his many exploits, the creature once discovered poisoned matzah and often helped disprove accusations that the Jewish community was killing Christian children.

At the beginning of each Sabbath, Loew would remove the magic plug before going to lead services in the synagogue. Once, however, he forgot -- with disastrous results. Without specific instructions, the Golem grew restless, then violent. With nothing to do, the Golem -- like one mad -- began running through the Jewish Quarter on a rampage of destruction.

Alerted to the situation, Loew rushed to find the Golem; he commanded him to stop and removed the magical plug -- the Golem then became just a simple creature of mud and clay. According to legend, the lifeless Golem was placed in the attic of the Old-New Synagogue and covered with Torah wrappings.

Rabbi Loew, realizing that no one should tamper with the laws of creation, instructed that the creature was never to be disturbed. And so it rests, even today, in the stillness of the Synagogue, waiting to be called to life, again, with the magic plug.

With the setting sun casting long shadows on the gravestones of the Jewish Cemetery and turning the area into a macabre lunar landscape, and with Prague's



Fig. 10

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hundreds of bells rising in what seem a crescendo of mournful wails, it is fitting to end our journey into legend.

Although we have experienced much on our philatelic tour, many of Prague's major sites have been overlooked and many legends have not been told. This series was not meant as a complete guide to Prague or its tales, but only as a representative sample.

I hope that the many illustrations have piqued (or deepened) your interest in Czech philately. For years, Czech stamps have been among the finest in the world for artistic design and technical merit. I also hope that this series has either awakened your interest in Prague, or enhanced your appreciation of this magical city.

Franz Kafka, who was born directly off the Old Town Square, once called Prague "The little mother with claws." (Fig. 10) Nothing could be truer. To paraphrase author Anna Chapin, although many places get into your mind, Prague gets into your heart --and you will never be able to completely free yourself of her magic.

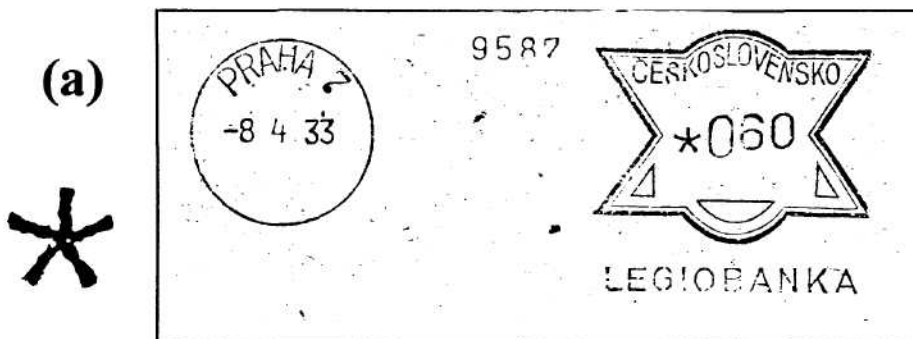
## THE LEGIOBANKA METER STAMPS

by Stig Asklund

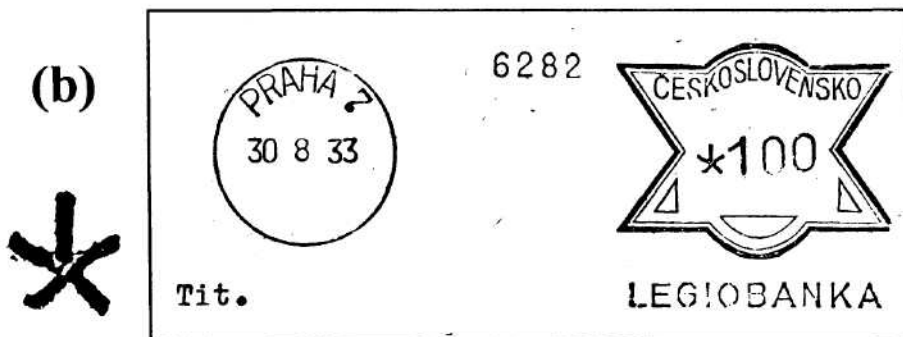
In the Czechoslovak SPECIALIST of July/August 1995 Henry Hahn brought to our attention the fact that the Czechoslovak Legions, when returning from abroad after the first World War, opened up their own bank "Banka Československých Legií v Praze" or, for short, "Legiobanka". To supplement that article I offer the following philatelic contribution to the Legions' history.

Meter stamp machines came into use in Czechoslovakia in September 1926 and, in due course, the Legions' bank procured its own machine manufactured by Anker Werke in Berlin. The machine was of a type having a fairly short distance between the date stamp and the value stamp. The Legions' machine came into use in early 1928 and the latest recorded date of use is September 28, 1938.

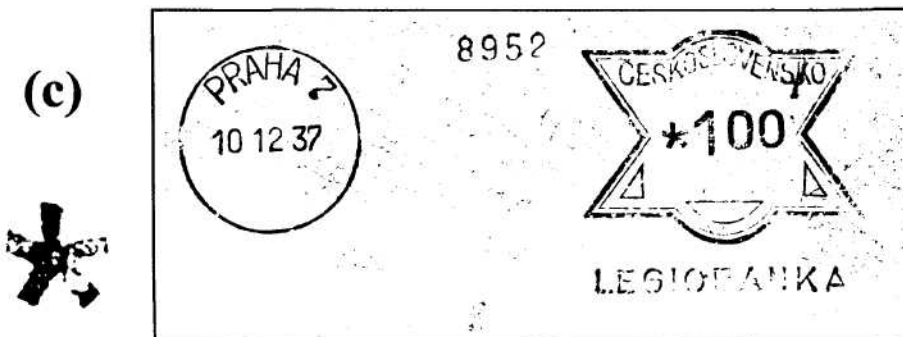
During the time the machine was in use, the meter stamp had three varieties, as shown by the illustrations. These varieties are distinguished by the shape of the five-pointed "star" in the value stamp. Note supporting illustrations showing examples of these varieties.



- (a) The first variety was in use from January 1928 until mid 1933. Boušja-Leiš wrongly gives the starting date as March 1930. Jonás states January 13, 1928 to be the first date of use. I have several meters from 1929 in my possession. Shown here is a meter stamp dated April 8, 1933, which is the latest recorded use of the (a) variety.



- (b) The second variety is said to have existed from mid 1933 to mid 1935. Shown here is a meter stamp used August 30, 1933.



- (c) The third and final variety existed from June 1937, with the latest recorded day being September 26, 1938. Shown here is a meter stamp used on December 10, 1937.

Any amendments to the dates above would be highly appreciated, particularly as regards the time between mid 1935 to mid 1937.

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Late Arrival- We have just learned before going to press that our Board member, Bob Koschalk, suffered a possible heart attack and required immediate heart surgery. He is home from the hospital and we all wish him a quick and complete recovery.

**THOMAS  
MARTIANEZ  
AUSTIN, 1909-1995**

Tom Austin, a valued friend, enthusiastic SCP member of long standing, passed away on December 28, 1995. Once a collector of all of Czechoslovakia, his main interest was the First Issue (Hradčany), which he successfully exhibited at several national shows. Originally assigned number 857, he was made an honorary member in 1993. (See July/August '93 SPECIALIST, page 1.)

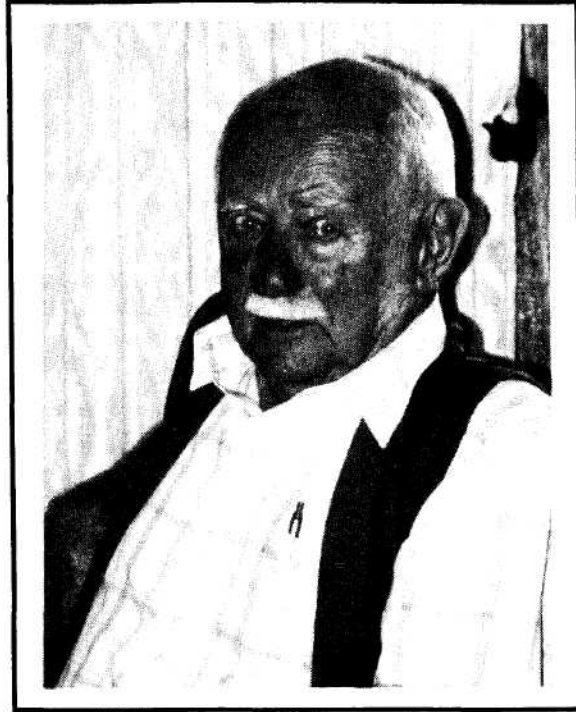
Marty Austin, as he was called by his family, was born in Tenneriffe, Canary Islands. He received his education in England and, in 1928, went to Jamaica to study agriculture. In 1930, he moved to Costa Rica where he bought a coffee plantation in Juan Vinas. In 1942, he joined the Royal Air Force, serving in the Intelligence Branch, where he achieved the rank of Flight Lieutenant. After the war, he returned to Costa Rica to become a coffee broker and distributor of Dunlop tires. In 1956, he returned to growing coffee on a plantation in Turrialba, Costa Rica, until he retired in 1965.

In 1957 Marty joined the Lions Club in Turrialba. He served as the Club's Executive and as President. During his service, the Lions Club Committee established the first school for the deaf in Costa Rica. Later he served on the Isthmus District Executive Council and as District Governor in 1976.

In retirement, he concentrated on his stamp collection, specializing in Czechoslovakia. His life-long hobby gave him countless hours of enjoyment. He was proud of his many awards and of the many friends he made among members of our Society.

Tom lost his beloved wife of 53 years, Amparo, in 1989. Amparo accompanied Tom to many Society stamp shows and enjoyed them as much as Tom. Tom was predeceased by 2 brothers, a sister and a grandchild. He is survived by his daughter, Margaret Jones (Cecil) of Moncton, New Brunswick; by his sons Tom and wife Margaret of Winnipeg, Manitoba and by Bill and Margaret of Toronto. He is further survived by 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, a sister, Dr. Ann Lendrum, and a brother, Anthony Austin, living in England. Funeral services were held in Costa Rica.

The SCP Board of Directors, on behalf of the entire membership, expresses its heartfelt sorrow and extends its condolences to all members of his family.





*For The Beginner*

## STAMP PRINTING PROCESSES

*(Ed. Note: What has probably been the most well-received and highly acclaimed series of articles ever published in the SPECIALIST, "For the Beginner" is now being expanded by its author with a set of supplements designed to give the collector an insight into what makes the philately of Czechoslovakia so outstanding and unique. The previous articles, now available in book form, were published in the following issues: Vol 53, whole nos. 508,509; vol 54, whole nos. 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516; Vol 55, whole nos. 517, 518, 519, 520, 521; and vol. 56, whole nos. 524 and 525. No further articles were published under this column since then.)*

I first became interested in what is involved in the printing of stamps over 20 years ago when I went to Oaxaca, Mexico, on a summer's vacation in an attempt to learn about the printing of what are known as the Oaxaca Provisionals, Scott Nos. 414-19. They are rather crudely designed stamps and no one seemed to know just how they were produced. I finally "dug out" the complete story of their production but it took eight summer vacation trips to do so.

On June 3, 1915, the provisional governor had issued a decree declaring the sovereignty of Oaxaca (it lasted for only nine months). Stamps were ordered printed. With a steel needle, a design was engraved on a small lead die by a local Priest (under duress); forty-two impressions were made on partially dried plaster-of-paris and zinc alloy plates were made from these impressions from which the stamps were printed on an old German hand-operated press. The stamps were perforated on a sewing machine using a blunt needle. Quite a difference from modern-day stamp production methods!

Necessity was then the mother of invention, much as it is today.

The first issues of the newly formed Republic of Czechoslovakia, 1918-20, were designed by the famous artist Alphonse Mucha, and picture Hradčany Castle in Prague. They were printed by the process known as Typography, typo for short, and are Scott Nos. 1-53.

In the printing of stamps by typography, the

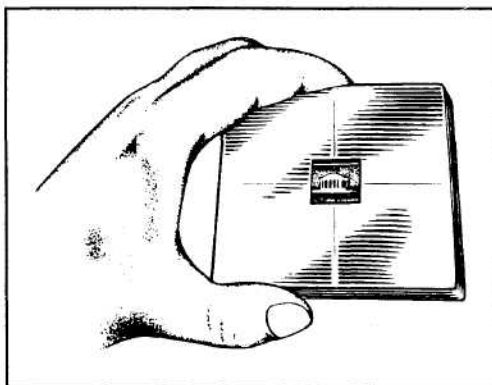


Fig. 1  
Master die used in intaglio printing

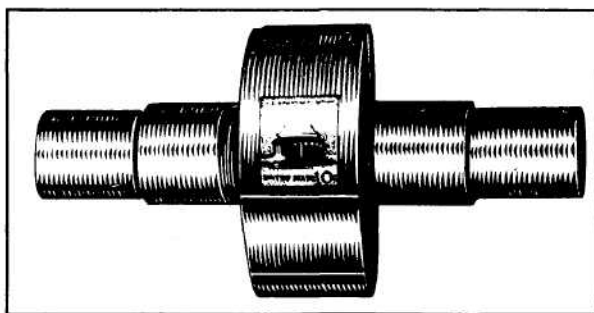


Fig. 2  
Transfer roll

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printing die is usually made of steel; the design is engraved in reverse and the paper which will become sheets of stamps, is pressed into contact with only the inked printing surface of the die. The metal that is not to print is cut away from the surface of the die which leaves the printing surface "in relief".

In 1925, the Masaryk stamps of that year were first printed by the process known as Photogravure (Scott Nos. 95-097), after which Masaryk stamps (Scott Nos. 98-108) were printed by engraving.

Photogravure is a branch of the somewhat general term, Intaglio. In printing by the photogravure process, a drawing of the stamp design is first made and is then photographed with a special camera. The photo is then reduced to stamp size and this becomes the printing base. In photographing the design of the stamp, very minute "cells", of differing depths, are created. The ink "flows" into these cells. The deeper the cell, the more ink is deposited therein and hence the darker will be the impression on the paper. Under magnification, stamps printed by photogravure will be seen to be composed of innumerable dots or minute squares of the same size but of different intensity.

Many of the early Czech stamps were printed by the engraving process. In this process, a master die is first created which is a recess engraving in reverse, made on a small flat block of soft steel (Fig. 1). The die is then hardened and the engraving is transferred to a blank roll of soft steel which is also hardened (Fig. 2). After solidifying, the roll is run back and forth on a soft metal plate creating the same design over and over (Fig. 3). The metal plate is then hardened and used to print the sheet of stamps.

A variation of the engraving process has been used to manufacture what I, personally, think are some of the most beautiful stamps ever produced. This is the planographic steelprint process by which reproductions of famous paintings are made in their natural colors. This process was explained in previous installments of FOR THE BEGINNER and in the book "FOR BEGINNERS", so it will not be repeated here.

Another method of stamp printing is known as Lithography. This term means, literally, printing from a stone. However, instead of a stone base, thin metal plates are now used. There are no recessed or raised subjects on the base. Scott Nos. 1428-34 and 1447-53 are examples of Czech stamps printed by the litho process.

There are two terms associated with the printing of stamps which the collector frequently comes across: proofs and essays. A proof is an impression taken from a die or plate before a press run to check the accuracy of the imprinted design. An essay is a stamp design which, in some instances, differs from the design of the stamp which is finally accepted and issued.

--PHILLIPS B. FREER

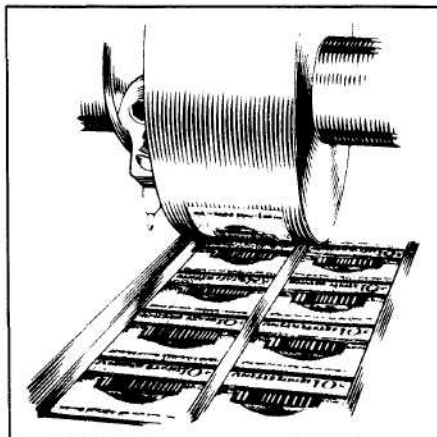


Fig. 3

Using the transfer roll to transfer a stamp design onto a printing plate

**Book Review****"MERKUR REVUE" - A NEW PHILATELIC JOURNAL**

A preliminary, introductory issue of a new Czech journal, the MERKUR REVUE was published in January, 1996. The new journal devoted to philately, numismatics and bancophily will be published six (6) times per year by MERKUR REVUE (spol.s.r.o.) in Brno, a group headed by Editor in Chief Jan Klim and an illustrious staff and advisory group including Jan Karasek, Jaroslav Maleček, Pavel Pittermann, František Zampach and Svatopluk Sablatura. External coworkers include Lumir Brandl (CR), W.A. Dawson (GB), Hans van Dooremalen (Neth.), Henry Hahn (USA), Otto Hornung (GB), Paul H. Jensen (NOR.), J.L. Klein (Neth.), Wm. Maresch (Can.), Hynek Ondrášek (CR), Walter Rauch (Ger.) And Jaroslav Verner (USA).

The name is reminiscent of a previous publication from Brno, the "BRNĚNSKÝ MERKUR", which ceased publication in its third year, in 1971, as a result of "administrative interference". The name is taken from the Austrian "Mercury" issue, the world's first newspaper issue of 1851. Graphic preparation of this issue took place in Brno, 145 years ago.

The new journal will concern itself primarily with issues of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic and philatelic literature. It will report on international stamp events as reported by its external coworkers and foreign journals. The journal promises to maintain the highest standards as the reader's advisor, informer and friend. It will publish editorial comment, and also concern itself with young collectors.

The size of the journal will be the Czech A4 format (8½x11¼ inches), it will be mailed in a colored stiff envelope, and each issue will contain 32 pages, on glossy paper, about half of which will be in color.

The contents of the introductory issue are broad and well illustrated. Included is an article of the 1851 Mercury issue, forgeries of the "Slovenský Stát" overprint flooding the philatelic market, a discussion of Czech 1994 issues, Air Mail issue of 1920, reports of FINLANDIA '95 and SINGAPORE '95 stamp exhibits, 190th Anniversary of the Battle of Austerlitz, New Issues, an auction report and several shorter articles. Abstracts in German and English accompany most articles. Overall impression of the new publication appears to be most satisfactory and we heartily recommend it to all Czech collectors.

The subscription price is \$30.00 per year, of which \$8.50 is for the journal and \$21.50 for air mail postage. Those interested in subscribing should contact Henry Hahn at 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031. -HENRY HAHN

**NEW MEMBERS**

The following persons have joined the S.C.P. since we published the last list of new members in the January/February 1996 SPECIALIST. We are pleased to welcome the latest contingent of new members and wish them all the very best in their philatelic pursuits within our Society. From time to time, we publish a listing of benefits to which our members are entitled. We, who are on the Board of Directors, the Editorial Staff and heads of the various committees, are ready to assist them in whatever way possible.

No.	Name	Address
1763	Hutyra, F.	Chodska 23, Praha 2, Vinohrady, Czech Rep. 12000
1764	Teisler, D.	262 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY 11238
1765	Miyazaki, Kazunori	2-15-1 Tajiri Cyo, Hytachi City, Japan 319-14
1766	Bylen, P	PO Box 7193, Westchester, IL 60154
1767	Gruhalla, G	PO Box 48, Daisytown, PA 15427
1768	Semko, EM Rev.	42 Cooke Ave., Carteret, NJ 07008
1769	Weaver, JV Ms.	1215 Beechwood Dr., Deland, FL 32723
1770	Ruzicka, KJ	530 S. Shellman Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773
1771	Hoflund, B	Bolas 6919, Kungsbacka, Sweden 43496
1772	Hanl, E.	Holechova 10, Praha 5, Czech Rep. 15000
1773	Ball, MA.	431 Dewey, Suite 300, Royal Oak, MI 48067
1774	Sarchet, GA	4427 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60630

*Letters to the Editor*

1. Dear Mirko: (translated from Czech)

I wish to call attention to the Sept/Oct 95 SPECIALIST, page 21 where, in the Editor's note, the cover illustrated on page 17 allegedly provides us with "a validly posted mixed franking cover for 1993." Unfortunately, this cover is not genuine. Here are my reasons:

1. It is franked with stamps totaling 19kč. That year, a letter in an envelope weighing 20 grams carried a rate of only 11 kč. 19kč is the rate for letters weighing between 21 and 30 grams. Most senders do not have the sensitive weight scales necessary for weighing their letters.
2. This is a philatelic cover; hence, it is a "mache".
3. Mixed franking on a cover with stamps of the Czech Republic and Slovakia is not possible. The stamps of those two countries apply only at their respective offices, never at only a single postoffice. The only valid mixed franking would be if a stamp of the former Czechoslovakia was combined with either a Czech Republic stamp or with a Slovakia stamp. The fact that the illustrated cover was canceled in the Czech Republic is due to the postal clerk's oversight or negligence. However, the fact that both stamps have identical designs and colors may explain why the postal clerk did not notice the mixed franking, especially since the name of the State is in black letters on dark blue background.

Yours truly,  
Lubor Kunc

2. Dear Sir:

.....Though I do not collect stamps of Czechoslovakia, I have a modest collection of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia. I joined your Society because I find the area fascinating politically and philatelically and because your publication contains some very informative articles.....

Sincerely,  
Robert E. Lamb

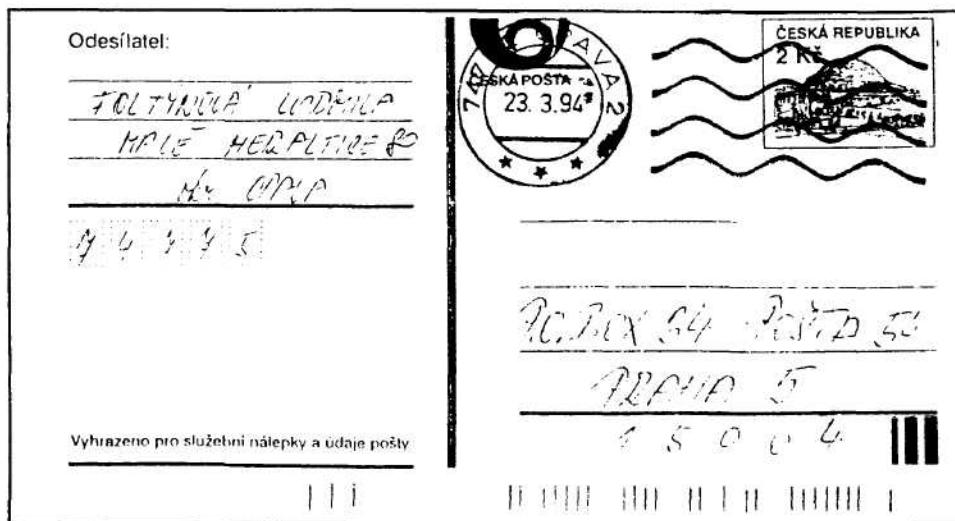


Fig. 1

3. Dear Mirko:

..... Your Czech Republic column on NEW ISSUES is excellent, but it missed the point in its description of a new postal card. Page 25 of the Sept./Oct. '95 issue states: "The cachet on the left side shows travelers entering a train at a station with porters hauling a baggage cart." Not so! At the front of the cart you will see a Czech postal emblem. There is no luggage in the cart, but rather mail packs. That is a postal clerk's uniform of that era, not a porter's. The actual illustration in Fig. 3, page 26, reads: "150 years of the rail line Olomouc - Praha and delivery of mail by railroad."

As for your Nov./Dec. '95 issue, it is excellent as always, particularly Miloslav Vlček's article on Stolen Postal Cards. I started gathering information on the same subject, but his story is much better! I'm enclosing a Xerox copy of this card postally used in 1994 (Fig. 1). The card even has postal zip markings along the bottom (enhanced for printing).

With regards,  
Savoy Horvath

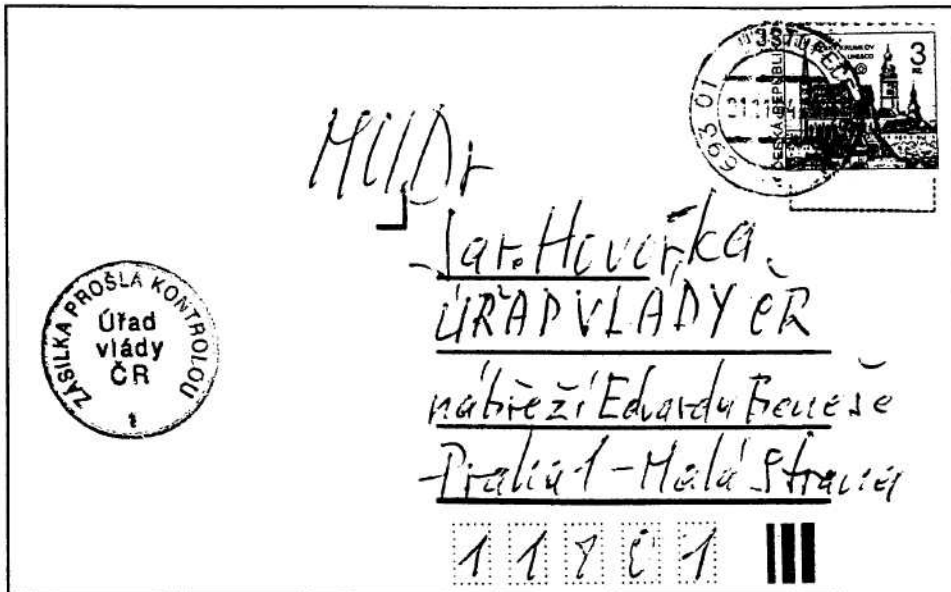


Fig. 2

4. Dear Mirko:

Here is a cover our readers might find interesting. Note the red imprint to the left of the addressee information. The cover was canceled on Nov. 21, 1994 (Fig. 2).

Best wishes,  
Joseph M. Lacko

*(Ed.'s Note: The cancel seems to bear the town name of "Hostupec u Brna." However, it is possible the first letter of the town might be "P", not "H".)*

**\* SLOVAKIA'S SCHEDULE OF STAMPS  
TO BE ISSUED IN 1996**  
(This is a preliminary listing to further alteration.)

Date of Issue	Title	Face Value	Size
Feb. 15	Hundred Years of the Olympic Games - A. Szokol	9	30 x 23
	Personalities - Jozef Ciger Hronský	4	23 x 30
	Personalities - Jozef Ludovít Holuby	4	23 x 30
Mar. 15	Folk Traditions - Easter	3	23 x 30
Apr. 15	Year of Poverty Eradication - block	7	26 x 40
May 3	EUROPA '96 - Izabela Textorisová - portrait - sheetlet of 8 stamps (4x89, 4x90)	8	23 x 40
	EUROPA '96 - Work of I. Textorisová sheetlet	8	23 x 40
		64	
May 15	Senica - definitive stamp	6	19 x 23
	Anniversary of the Film "Jánošík" - block	16	23 x 40
	Olympic Games '96 - Atlanta - block	12+2	23 x 40
May 30	150 years of the "Slovenské pohľady" Review	18	23 x 30
	"Okolo Slovenska" - Cycle Races	3	23 x 30
July 14	Nature Preservation - Moufflon pleso lake	4	40 x 23
	Nature Preservation - Bison pleso lake	4	40 x 23
	Nature Preservation - Chamois pleso lake	4	40 x 23
Sep. 25	Splendors of our Homeland - Popradské	4	40 x 23
	Splendors of our Homeland - Skalnaté	8	40 x 23
	Splendors of our Homeland - Štrbské pleso lake	12	40 x 23
Oct. 5	Art - Andy Warhol: sheetlet of 4 stamps	7	40 x 50
		28	
	Art - F. X. Messerschmidt:	10	40 x 50
	Art - Endre Nemes:	40	
		14	40 x 50
		56	
Oct. 15	Technical Monuments - Horse-drawn Railway	4	33 x 33
	Technical Monuments - Airplane	6	33 x 33
Nov. 5	Christmas '96	3	30 x 23
Nov. 22	Day of the Postage Stamp - Martin Benka	3	19 x 40

\* Our thanks to Gerald van Zanten for this contribution.

**\* PLAN OF CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS  
SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN 1996**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in Set	Denomination
Jan. 2	Centenary of Czech Philharmonic Orch.	1	3.00
Jan. 22	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production	1	3.60
Feb. 14	History of Czech Chess Games: V. Menčíkova	1	6.00
March 13	Easter	1	3.00
March 13	Czech Photography: J. Studek	1	9.60
March 27	Centenary of first ModernOH	1	9.60
March 27	Beauties of the Country: Zelená Hora (50th anniv. of UNESCO) Prague's Loreta	2	8.00 9.00
April 24	Protecting Nature's Species All mammals	4	3.60, 5.00, 6.00, 8.00
May 2	Europa: Famous Women - Ema Destinn	1	8.00
May 15	J. G. Debureau	1	14.00
May 29	Honoring 26th Olympic Games in Atlanta	1	3.00
May 29	For Children	1	3.00
June 6	The Luxembourg Dynasty: Jan Lucemburský Zikmund Lucemburský Karel IV Václav IV	4	14.00 14.00 14.00 14.00
Sept. 11	50th Anniversary of UNICEF (semi-postal)	1	3 + 1
Sept. 25	Kladrub Horses (se-tenant)	2	3.00 3.00
Oct. 5	Art on Stamps: Andre Nemeš	1	20.00
Oct. 9	Great Philosophers: Tycho Brahe	1	5.00
Oct. 9	Historic Airplanes	3	5.00, 8.00 & 9.00
Nov. 13	Art on Stamps: George Flegel Josef Váchal	2	11.00 9.00
Nov. 13	Christmas	1	3.00

\* Our thanks to member Bretislav Chlub for this contribution. This list is not definitive and is subject to change. Usually additional issues are announced during the course of the year.

*New Issues*

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

1. On Jan. 2, 1996, the Ministry of Economy issued a 3.60kč stamp commemorating the centenary of the Czech Philharmonic Symphony. The picture consists of an allegorical drawing representing a young musician from whom music flows. Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Jaroslav Sura and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the stamp is 40 x 23 mm. in size. It was printed at the Post Printery in Praha by rotary recess print in black color combined with Photogravure in ochre, red and blue in sheets of 50 (Fig. 1). A First Day Cover with a commemorative cancellation has a cachet that completes the theme of the stamp. It was printed by recess print from flat plates in black and blue.



Fig. 1

2. On Jan. 20, 1996, the Ministry issued a stamp honoring its fine tradition of Czech stamp production. The picture shows a reproduction of the unpublished variety of Jaroslav Benda's carrier pigeon, as explained in Czech in fine print directly below the picture. Along the right side is the text: "Tradice České Znamkové Tvorby" (Tradition of Czech Stamp Production). The stamp is 23 x 40 mm. in size and was designed and engraved by academic painter and graphic artist Bedřich Housa (Fig. 2). Printed at the Post Printery in Praha by rotary recess print in brown combined with photogravure in light blue, red and gold in sheets of 50. Accompanying it is an FDC with commemorative cancellation and a cachet bearing the engraver's transposition of Benda's newspaper stamp of 1937. It was printed by recess print from flat plates in grey-blue.



Fig. 2

**SLOVAKIA**

1. On Nov. 30, 1995, the Ministry of Transports, Posts and Telecommunications issued a stamp in its Art series showing a reproduction by Mikuláš Galanda's surrealist painting titled "Two Women." Designed by Martin Činovský and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the stamp was printed at the Post Printery in Praha by recess printing from flat plates. It should be noted here that between 1930 and 1932, Galanda and L'udovit Fulla jointly published "The Private Letters of Fulla and Galanda" about the tenets of avant-garde art (Fig. 3). An FDC accompanies the stamp and shows a drawing of Galanda's painting "Clown with a Banjo". The cancellation, designed by Martin Činovský, shows Galanda's pen and ink drawing "Woman with a Little Bird".



Fig. 3



2. On Nov. 30, 1995, the Ministry issued a second stamp in as many days on the subject of Art. This one is a reproduction of the Hlohovec Nativity. Done by an unknown artist, the painting hangs in the center of the main Baroque altar in Hlohovec Castle. Designed by Martin Činovský and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the stamp was printed at the Post Printery in Praha by recess printing from flat plates (Fig. 4). The accompanying FDC, also printed from flat plates, shows a detail of the Madonna from the same painting.



Fig. 4

All of the above stamps are valid for both domestic and international mailings from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.

*(Editor's Note: On the bottom of page 29 of our previous issue, we described the issuance of Slovakia's Christmas stamp on Oct. 27, 1995. There was no picture accompanying the stamp. We are now publishing a cover with a special Christmas cancellation showing four copies of that 2sk stamp. Colors are deep red, light beige and brown. Also shown is a post card bearing a 2sk stamp of Jan Bahyl with a special Christmas cancellation from Bratislava. We are thankful to Joe Lacko for allowing us to publish these two covers (Fig. 5).*

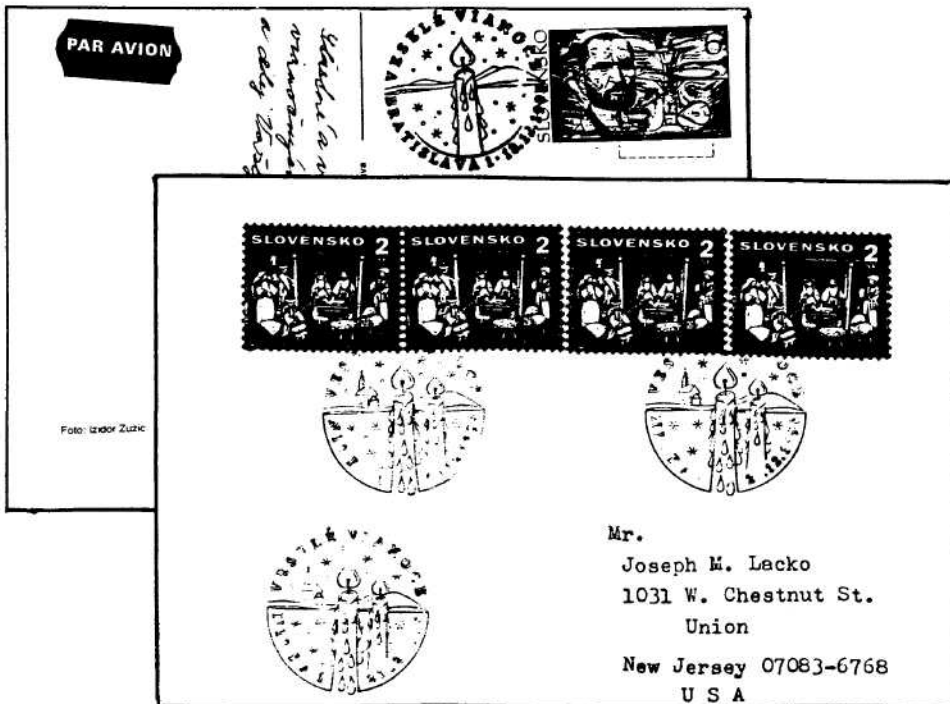


Fig. 5

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

**- NOTICE -**

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Managing Editor

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