



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 61

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

No. 1, Whole No. 553

## *President's Corner*

### A BUSY YEAR – SOMETHING TO BUILD ON

1998 was a very busy year for the Society with two conventions and exhibitions, at NOJEX and PRAGA. For many of us PRAGA was the philatelic high point of the year, if not the decade. It was most satisfying to see so many of our members from many countries at the Society dinner held in Prague, especially since this was the first time we met overseas. But that was then and this is now, and there are activities ahead of us.

It is not too early to start planning your visit to the Society's annual convention/exhibit. This year it will be held at APS's STAMP SHOW in Cleveland, Ohio from August 26 through the 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope that all our members in middle America (and beyond) will make a special effort to attend this show, to exhibit, and to participate in all the Society activities. We will keep you informed as our plans for STAMPSHOW take firm form. But block out the time in your new date books.

It is with regret that I must inform you that Phil Freer had to resign his position on the Board of Directors for health reasons. Phil's energetic participation in the work of the Board will be missed, but we all hope that he will stay engaged as

*(Continued on Page 33)*

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1997 FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE  
SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Member Dues	\$6,849.00	SPECIALIST	\$6,182.93
Circuit Fees	1,753.46	Award Medals	730.68
Net Book Sales	1,541.14	Patron Books	33.44
Interest	380.77	Library Binding	118.30
Donations	147.00	Membership Expense	239.91
Advertising	393.30	Officers Expense	502.19
		Advertising	129.00
		Czech Member Exchange	18.50
		Convention Expense	288.42
		Printing	167.33
		Miscellaneous	16.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$11,064.67</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$8,427.20</b>
<b>NET GAIN/LOSS</b>	<b>\$2,637.47</b>		

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(ISSN 0526-5843)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.  
A.P.S. Unit 18

VOL. 61

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

No. 1, Whole No. 553

Published bi-monthly - \$18.00 per year  
Periodical Paid at Chambersburg, PA 17201  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST,  
2363 McCleary Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201  
Web Site: [www.erols.com/sibpost](http://www.erols.com/sibpost)

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and without compensation.*

## CZECHOSLOVAK AIRMAIL TO SOUTH AFRICA

by John Miskevich

On February 28, 1931, flying over a route that had taken eleven years to prepare, a nine-ton Armstrong-Whitworth Argosy biplane left Croydon (London) in a drizzling rain inaugurating the first section of the Imperial Airways Ltd. route to Cape Town, South Africa. In addition to a half ton of urgent freight, it carried fifty bags of mail containing more than 40,000 letters for delivery in various parts of Africa, 10,000 of which were sent by stamp collectors. The airliner traveled across Europe to Athens where its cargo was transferred to a Short-Kent four-engined flying boat for the Mediterranean journey to Egypt. From Cairo, flying boats flew 2,760 miles to Mwanza (Muansa) on the southern shore of Lake Victoria in British Tanganyika Territory, completing 5,114 miles from London in nine days, a journey normally taking thirty-two days by ship and train. The new service was run each Saturday morning from Croydon, and -- for the time being -- Mwanza (later Nairobi, Kenya Colony) was the southern terminus of the route.

On January 20, 1932 the long projected service from Cairo to South Africa was completed bringing Cape Town within eleven days of London by air. The route stretched 5,700 miles between the Pyramids and Table Mountain otherwise traversed only by an interminable succession of separate rail, motor, and steamship journeys. Africa's first transcontinental airmail left Croydon aboard a giant British Hannibal aircraft for Paris commencing an 8,000 mile trip to Cape Town carrying over 20,000 letters and parcels (Fig. 1). The mail, and a few passengers, were transferred from flying boat or airplane seven times on the African continent before reaching Cape Town, different types of aircraft being used for each sort of terrain encountered along the way. As far as Kisumu (at Lake Victoria) the line traversed the already established route. The new part of the service started from Nairobi touching down nights at Mbeya, Salisbury, and Johannesburg, before landing at Cape Town four days later.

The cover at Figure 2 was posted at Horní Plana/Ober Plan on January 20, 1933 sent "Par Avion Athinaï - Cape Town" (by airmail Athens - Cape Town) to Tanganyika Territory, British East Africa via the city of Moshi (see Figure 1). On the reverse is a Praha 7 airmail exchange postmark dated Saturday, January 21 as well as an Athens airmail transit cancel of Friday, January 27. The postmarks suggest six days flight time for the envelope. It certainly didn't take six days for airmail to reach Athens from Praha. Imperial Airways service to Cape Town from London with train service from Paris to Brindisi, Italy covered the route in eleven days. (Eventually it was hoped to bring the time down to nine, and with night flying, even to seven days.) Imperial Airways operated a regular weekly air service in each direction. Airmail from various parts of Europe to be flown the route to South Africa was collected at Athens and processed in time for flights leaving Athens. This cover may have just missed the previous weekly flight from Athens. As per the backstamp, the cover reached Moshi on February 2, 1933.

Postage paid by the sender was 8.00 Koruny (Kč) airmail fee up to 20 grams weight, plus a 2.50 Kč foreign letter fee up to 20 grams weight for a total of 10.50 Kč. The sender uses 11.00 Kč postage to pay for the service although a little less would have been just fine. On June 1, 1937 the airmail postage rate from Czechoslovakia

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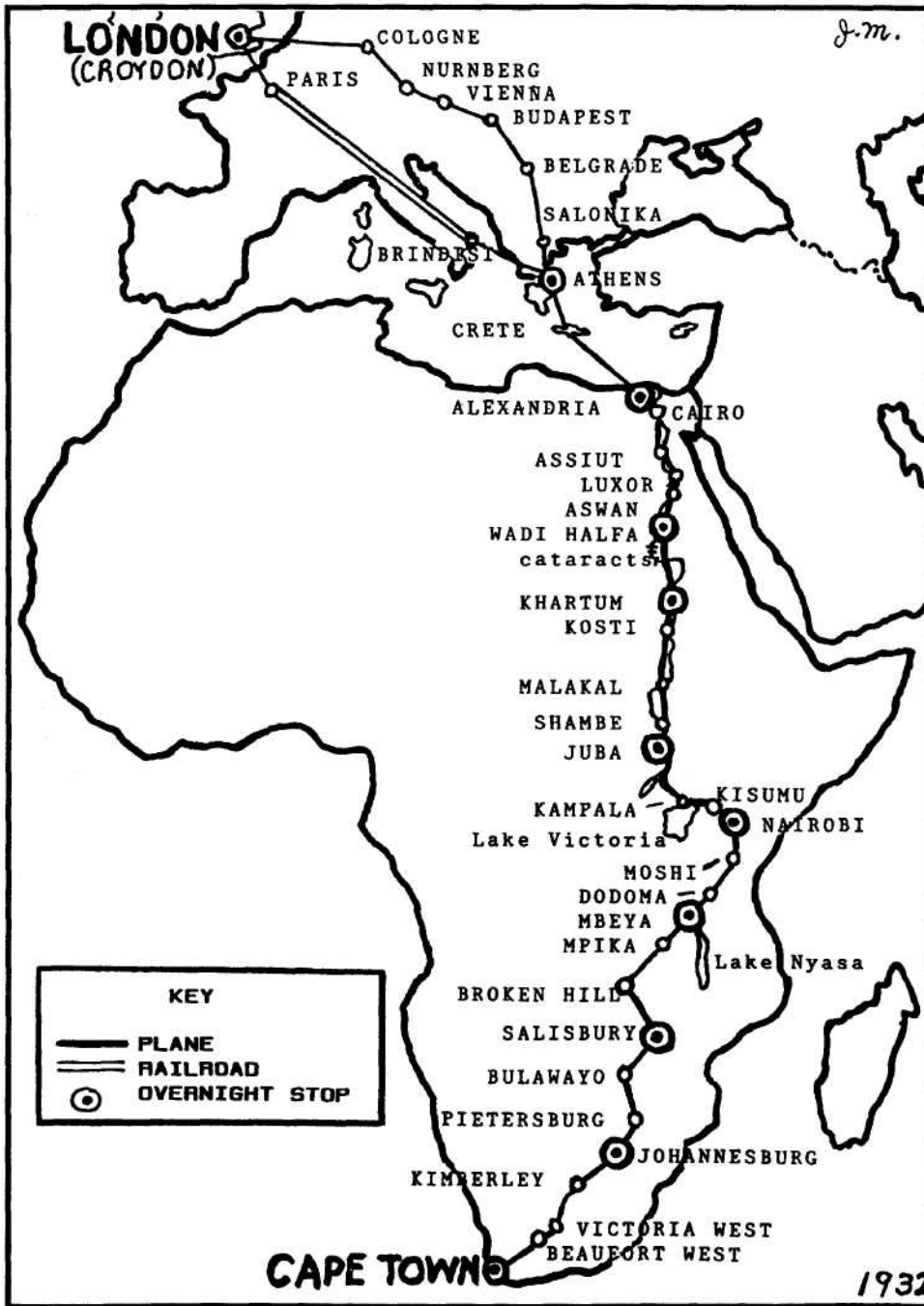


Fig. 1



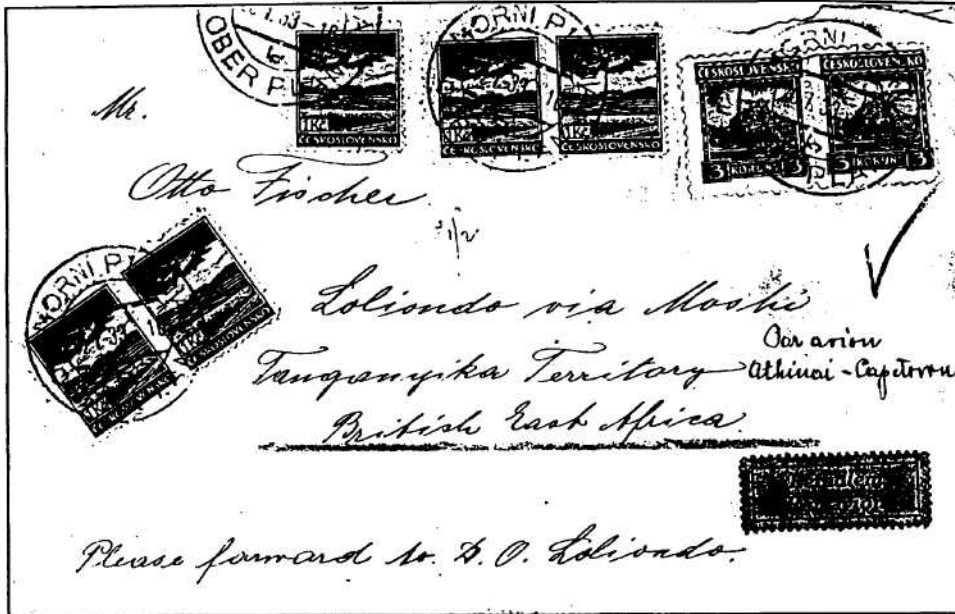


Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

to Tanganyika (either letters or printed matter) would become 2.50 Kč for every 5 grams.

Figure 3 is an airmail cover posted August 2, 1937 addressed to Johannesburg, South Africa sent from Železný Brod. Postage paid on 22 grams (see center of cover) was 21.50 Kč representing 17.50 Kč (3.50 Kč x 5) airmail charge plus 4.00 Kč second tier foreign letter rate for mail weighing over 20 grams but no more than 40 grams. On June 1, 1937 postage on airmail from Czechoslovakia to South Africa (letters or printed matter) had become 3.50 Kč for every 5 grams. Also of interest, note the rectangular Praha 7 airmail postmark of August 3 to the left on the face of the cover. A postal counter clerk at Železný Brod had originally weighed the piece in at 20 grams. A correction was made with regard to weight at the Praha 7 airmail exchange post office resulting in the cost of an additional 3.00 Kč in postage (stamp added August 3) plus possibly an administrative fee charged to the sender.

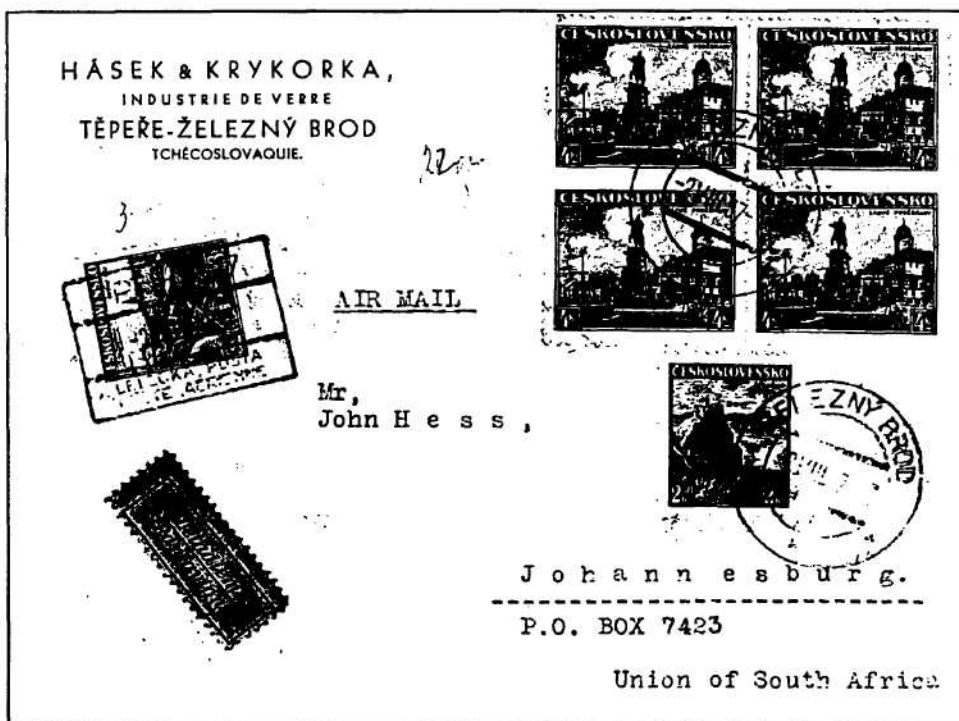


Fig. 3

The airmail route across Africa, over mountains, deserts, and lakes began at Alexandria, Egypt after a transoceanic trip of 300 miles from Crete over the Mediterranean Sea. (Czechoslovak airmail had been flown to Egypt as early as 1927.) At Alexandria, the mail and passengers leave their plane to ride the rails to Cairo. After a night in Cairo (there were no lighted airports on the route and practically no night flying), mails, freight, and passengers went aboard a twenty passenger Armstrong Argosy biplane flying to Wadi Halfa passing over the first cataract of the Nile River and coming to rest on a desert airstrip bordering the great

Nubian waste. The next day, with the same Argosy aircraft refueled, the route followed the course of the Nile River over more cataracts to Kareima and Khartoum in the Sudan. This marks the end of the journey for the Argosy. Transfer was made to a Short Calcutta flying boat with an eighteen passenger capacity. (Imperial Airways, being a government subsidized company working British imperial air routes, prefers to carry more mail rather than additional passengers south of Khartoum.) Next began an almost endless flight to reach Juba over swamps fed by the Nile teeming with crocodiles and hippopotami.

During this time the route south from Khartoum was judged to be the worst flying country in the world. So treacherous were thunderstorms between Khartoum in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Juba on its Uganda border during the rainy season that flying was safe only during certain hours of the day. Airdromes and emergency landing grounds were hewn from tropical forests with rest houses and radio stations constructed over the leg of the journey. Imperial Airways gathered voluminous data from four weather stations in the Sudan on changing temperatures and tropical rains as well as the depth of rivers in all seasons on which flying boats might in certain sections of the route alight in case of emergency. Only extensive surveys and the juggling of time schedules to avoid tropical phenomena permitted the route to be flown every week of the year.

Motoring south beyond the swamps the flying boat reaches Juba, the center of big game country surging with giraffe, rhinoceros, waterbuck, lion, and countless other species of game. This is an inaccessible region known to explorers and traders rather than tourists. On the fourth day out of Cairo the airplane noses up from the headwaters of the Nile for the flight to Kisumu, a terminus of the Kenyan Railways, near Lake Victoria. Here, another change is made to a land plane, a three-engine De Haviland Hercules fourteen passenger biplane, whose broad wings were built for high altitudes and long range flying with heavy loads. The airplane was capable of climbing to 10,000 feet, away from the tropical heat into clear, dry air. Nairobi loomed up ahead in the highlands.

For flying reasons and because European populations had settled there, from Nairobi onward the route was mapped to follow higher elevations. Near Moshi, the first scheduled stop out of Nairobi, the Hercules passed the highest peak in Africa, Kilimanjaro, which reared its snow-covered head 19,000 feet above sea level. All of the ground organization for the airline had to be created because many of the airdromes necessarily were in remote places. On the plus side, the region flown the last four days of the eight-day journey from Cairo to Cape Town was ideal much of the year for flying. For hundreds of miles the airway was flown over wide, grassy plains. Here and there the noise of engines and propellers stirred great herds of antelope and buck. Thunderstorms visible at great distances can easily be avoided by flying around them.

At Broken Hill, the airliner reaches the northernmost lines of the South African railway system. But it will still be as far from Cape Town as Kansas City is from New York. On the sixth day from Cairo the plane comes down at Salisbury on the edge of Southern Rhodesia. Fifty years earlier it sometimes took six months for mail to reach this remote region from Europe. South of Salisbury the plane follows a route close to the Victoria Falls of the Zambesi and then on to Johannesburg. There still remained 825 miles, another long day's flying, before mail from Europe could be delivered to Cape Town.



Fig. 4a

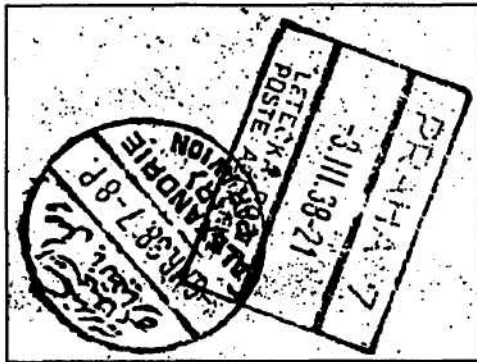


Fig. 4b

The registered airmail cover on display at Figure 4 was posted on March 3, 1938 and flown from Praha to Johannesburg. It features six copies of a 5.00 Kč airmail stamp first issued in 1930. There is no writing on the envelope to indicate its weight. However, knowing the postal rates on March 3, 1938, one can work in reverse to determine the approximate weight for this piece of mail. The 31.50 Kč in postage represents 2.50 Kč for registry, 4.00 Kč for mail weighing over twenty grams but no more than 40 grams, plus 24.50 Kč (3.50 Kč x 7) airmail fee. The

airmail rate was 3.50 Kč for every unit of 5 grams weight. So, 24.50 Kč divided by 3.50 equals 7 units of 5 grams. The cover weighed at least 30 grams but no more than 35 grams. On the reverse there is revealed a Praha 7 airmail exchange cancel of March 3 struck at the 21st hour in the evening. There's also an Alexandria, Egypt, airmail transit applied March 6, 1938 at "7-8 P" (between the 19th and 20th hours). One could hardly expect faster service today.

With amazing rapidity Africa was opened up by air. The volume of airmail on the London-Cape Town route increased immensely since its inauguration. The map of Africa in many places began to shrink as feeder airlines radiating from the main stem began to serve sections of what had been most difficult country. Figure 5 shows the airway network flown in Africa at the beginning of 1937. Please note that the name of a city and/or its spelling was the form used by Europeans at the time. This caveat also applies to the map at Figure 1.

One feeder airline extending the advantages of airmail over areas of hundreds of miles was the coastal route operated by Wilson Airways connecting Tanga and

Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika with the Imperial Airways route at Nairobi. Junction could be had with both the northward and southward Cairo-Cape Town services. Another example was the air link extending from Kisumu on the main transafrican line flow along the northern shore of Lake Victoria via Jinja, Tororo, and Eldhorst to Entebbe.

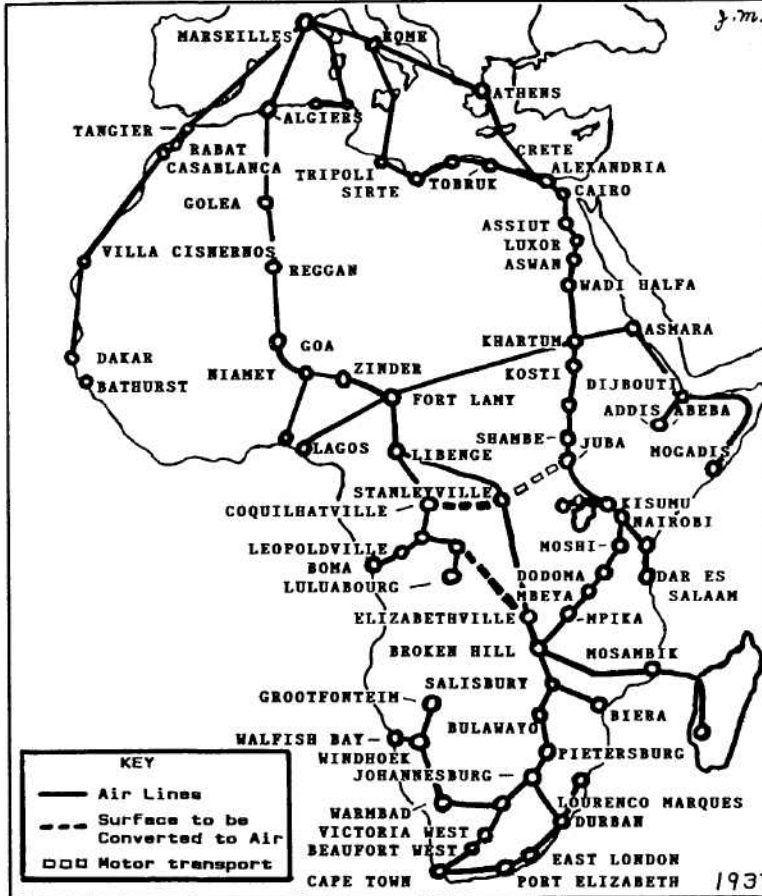


Fig. 5

Airmail posted in Czechoslovakia could be flown over these routes.

Expansion of flying over Africa followed with the inception of the Elders Colonial Airways in 1936 bridging East Africa and West Africa and most other British possessions. The air link reached from Khartoum to Kano in northern Nigeria in February 1936 and on through to Lagos on the west coast of Africa in October. Elders operated an extension from Lagos to Accra on the Gold

Coast, and later to Kumasi and Takoradi.

S.A.B.E.N.A. Airways of Belgium commenced air service south from Marseille, France to Algiers then across the Sahara Desert and through French West Africa to the Belgium Congo on November 15, 1935. The air route eventually stretched all the way to Madagascar. Figure 6 illustrates a Czechoslovak cover which may have flown Sabena Airways. It was posted August 26, 1938 at Jablonec nad Nisou/Gablonz an der Neisse and addressed to Elizabethville, Belgium Congo. There is no Elizabethville arrival backstamp, just a Praha 7 airmail exchange rectangular backstamp. There appears to be a private straight-line handstamp on the face of the cover indicating reception on September 8, 1938 ("8.9.38."). It is also possible that



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the cover travelled the Cairo-Cape Town main transafrican line as by 1938 a feeder airline provided air service to Elizabethville by way of Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia. The 6.50 Kč postage may represent 2.50 Kč paying the foreign letter rate up to 20 grams plus an outlay of 4.00 Kč to take care of the air fee up to and including 5 grams.

Czechoslovak air covers could be flown via Air France to French West Africa as far south as Dakar, Senegal for delivery. Air France operated an air service to South America which flew through Dakar. The French had been flying foreign mail to their North Africa possessions as early as 1923 to Morocco and 1924 to Algeria, and airmail from Czechoslovakia was accepted for delivery. It was also possible to send mail to West Africa by way of the German Luft Hansa. German airmail service to South America included stops in the Canary Islands and at Bathurst in the Gambia.

Italy began flying to Italian East Africa in 1936 from Rome via Bengasi in Libya, Cairo, and generally following the Imperial Airways route to Khartoum in the

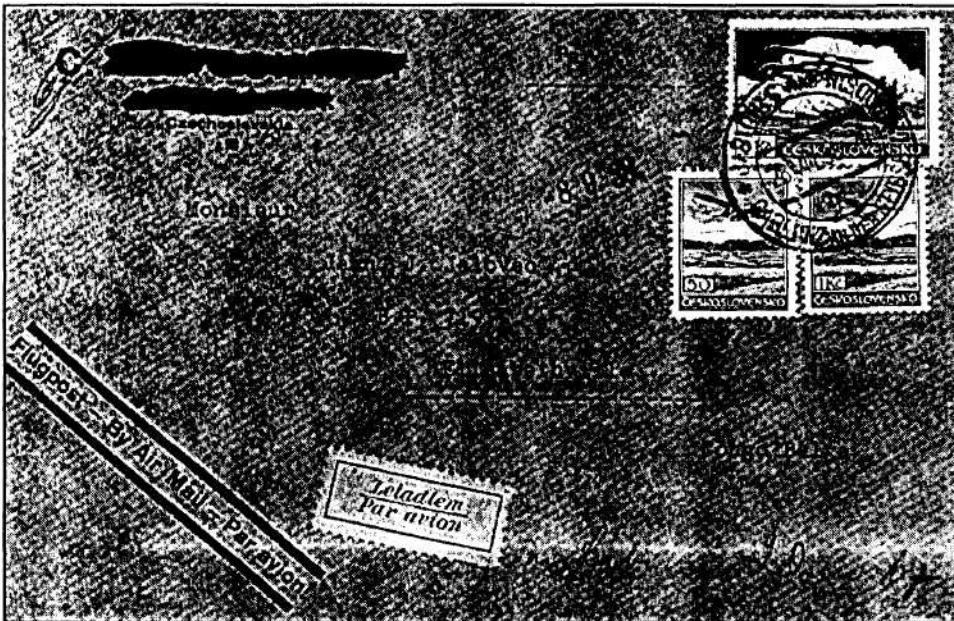


Fig. 6

Sudan. From there airmail and passengers flew to Asmara where connections could be had for Addis Ababa, Djibouti, and Mogadiscio (see Figure 5). Czechoslovak airmail flown to Italian East Africa required 3.50 Kč by 1938 for every 5 grams weight. The route was closed only on June 14, 1940 when Italy entered the Second World War.

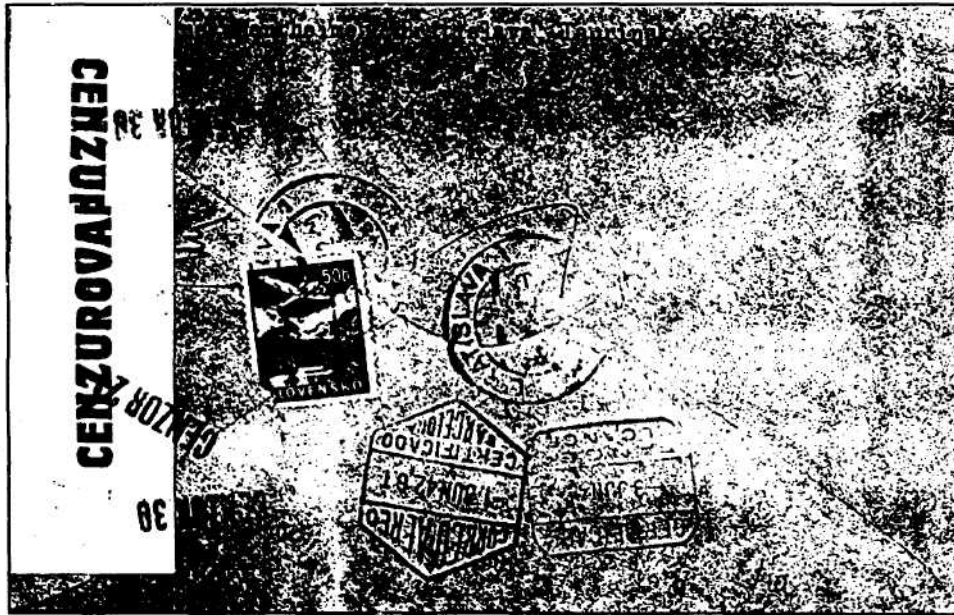
I wonder if it was still possible for residents of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia to send airmail (other than military field post or prisoner of war mail) to Africa in 1942? The Vichy French government controlled French Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia until November 1942. The cover at Figure 7 is registered airmail posted May 26, 1942 from Bratislava, Slovakia to Tangier, Spanish Morocco (actually it was the International Zone of Tangier). The cover was censored in Slovakia and bears





Fig. 7a

postage in the amount of 14.10 Slovak Koruny (Ks). The airmail rate at the time from Slovakia to Spanish Morocco was 1.00 Ks every 5 grams. This cover may have travelled only as far as Barcelona, Spain witness the hexagonal "Correo Aereo" (by



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Fig. 8a



Fig. 8b

airmail) backstamp dated June 1. There is a Tanger registry backstamp of June 3, but no Tanger airmail backstamp. The postage figures to be 3.00 Ks registry, 4.00 Ks for a foreign letter weighing over 20 grams but no more than 40 grams, plus 7.00

Ks (1.00 Ks x 7) air mail fee. The envelope weighed over 30 grams but no more than 35 grams.

Finally, at Figure 8 is airmail posted May 3, 1944 from Bratislava to Tangier. As such, it is a very late usage. The Allies landed in Normandy, France on June 6 and by the middle of July had advanced into central France. The air route from Germany and Slovakia to Spain was cut. Airmail accepted for delivery to Spain (and Spanish Morocco) began to be sent via Berlin and Stockholm, Sweden. An entire set of the Slovak Historical Rulers stamps of 1944 was utilized by the sender as postage, so it is very likely that this is a "philatelic cover". The envelope was opened in Slovakia for the purpose of civil censorship, and after the content was examined it was sealed with a censor tape reading "CENZUROVANE". This cover also has a German civil censor transit mark "Ag" indicating the cover was passed (in this case at Vienna) but not opened by an examiner. The envelope also has on its face a rectangular Spanish censor handstamp applied to mail coming out of or going into Tangier. Of importance to collectors of airmail covers is a hexagonal, Spanish-style arrival postmark, "CORREOS AEREO TANGER" (by airmail Tangier), May 15, 1944. It is evidence that the cover was flown all the way to Africa.

REFERENCES

Katalog Československá Letecká Pošta 1918-1939, Filatelie Trojan, Praha (1997)

The New York Times, "Three Types of Aircraft to be Used on Picturesque Route Will Bring London Within Eleven Days of Cape Town", November 2, 1930, Section IX, p. 7; "London - Cape Town Air Mail to Start Today After Eleven Years Spent Laying Out the Route", February 28, 1931, p. 1; "Mail Plane Leaves Croydon For Africa", March 1, 1931, p. 12; "Cape Town Line Next", January 17, 1932, Section IX, p. 8; "Croydon to Cape Town Air Service Is Opened; 11 Days Needed for 8,000 Miles Over Wild Areas", January 21, 1932, p. 2; "Short Lines For Africa", February 19, 1933, Section VIII, p. 7; "Africa Lines Extended", September 6, 1936, Section X, p. 3.



***Announcement***

**WIPA '00 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBIT  
TO TAKE PLACE IN VIENNA – MAY 31, 2000**

It is not too early to begin planning your visit to WIPA '00 -- which is probably the best show in Europe. The show is under full patronage of FIP and will be open from May 31 through June 4. Vienna is only a few hours drive from Prague and less than one hour from Bratislava for those with continued nostalgia after our wonderful encounter with PRAGA'98.

Preliminary applications and Bulletin 1 are now available from the US Commissioner, Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031, Tel: (703) 560-2972, e-mail: hhahn25@aol.com. The preliminary applications are due June 30, 1999.

Auf Wiedersehen in Wien!

## CZECH OFFICIAL ENVELOPES – REVISITED

by Lubor Kunc

I saw the article on Czech Official Envelopes in the Jul/Aug issue of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*. I am enclosing a few copies of letters or postal stationery bearing the sign “Věc poštovní služby”.

The words “Věc poštovní služby” basically mean “Official postal business”. And their purpose is to show that no postage is to be collected. These envelopes are used on everyday correspondence of post offices and other units belonging to the Czech Postal Service. This applies to correspondence with the public as well as with another postal unit/office.

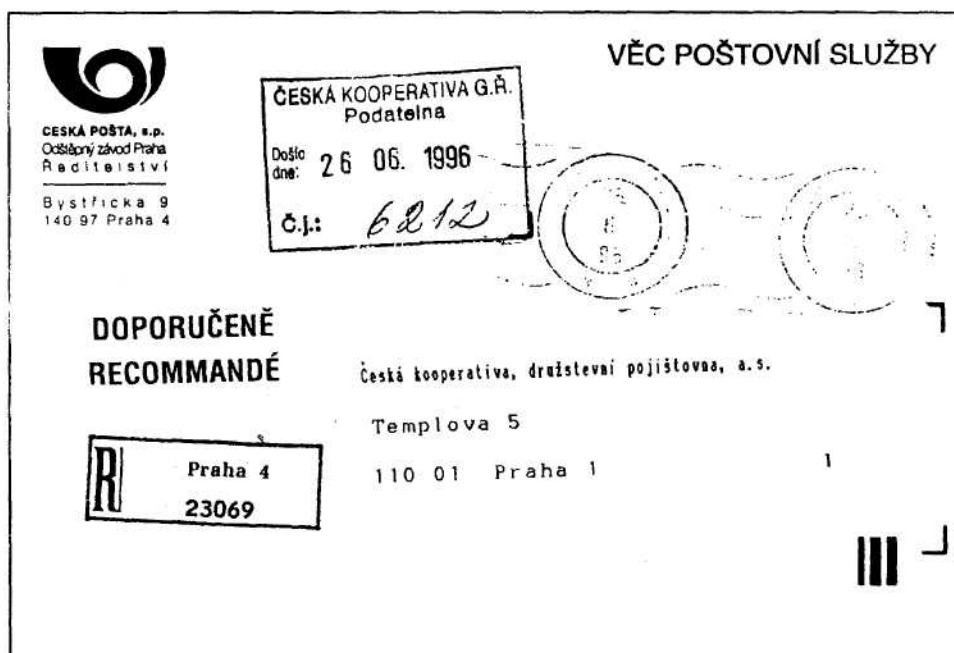


Fig. 1

The official postal business designation is usually pre-printed on envelopes (Fig. 1). In this case you can detect that this envelope was really sent through the mails because it bears a postal cancel. However, sometimes the cancel is missing on sent covers (Fig. 2). Note also in this example that the designation “Věc služby poštovní” has the same meaning as “Věc poštovní služby”.

There is another possibility that makes it easier to detect a cover that was really sent. This is the case where the designation “Věc poštovní služby” is applied as a hand stamp (Fig. 3).

Another variety of the use of the pre-printed “Věc poštovní služby” is the return receipt card (doručenka) for domestic mail (Fig. 4).

There are also covers that have a little different inscription.

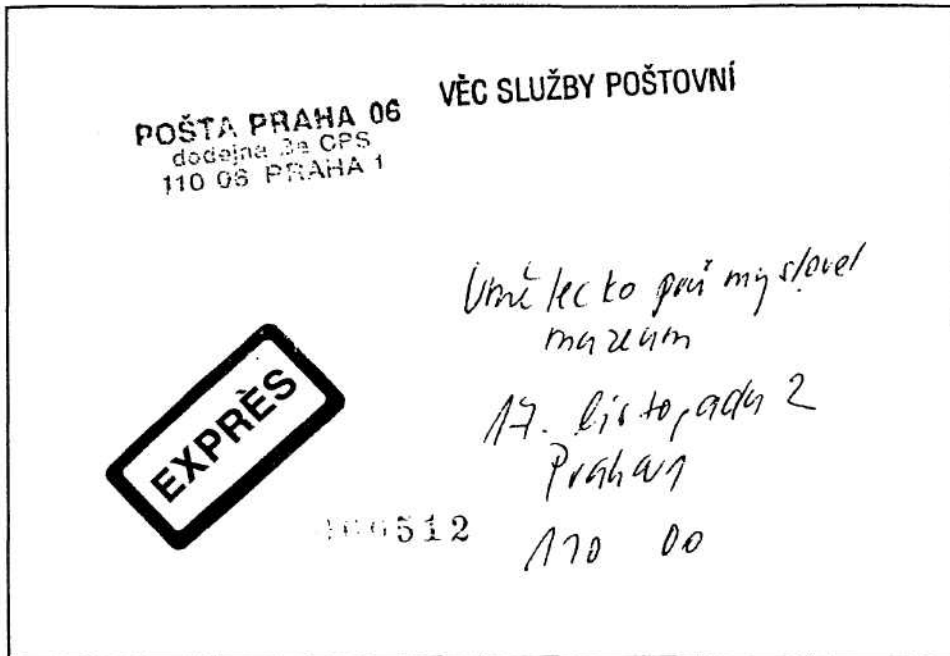


Fig. 2

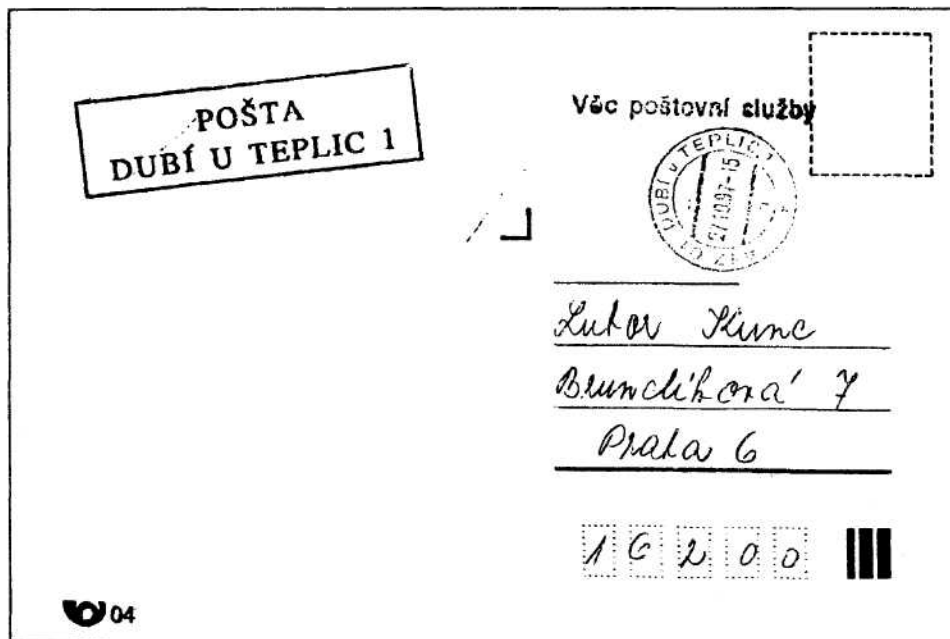


Fig. 3

**DORUČENKA**

Věc poštovní služby

Sítě arámovanou část vyplň pečlivě

<input type="checkbox"/>	Doporučená zásilka
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cenné psaní
<input type="checkbox"/>	Balík
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poštovní poukázka na ..... Kč ..... h

> udaná cena ..... Kč  
 Podací pošta .....  
 Datum podání ..... Podací číslo .....

Adresát zaslanky:

\_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

11 - 061 (03.96)

Fig. 4

Věc spojové služby

**PRAHA 74**  
6452



PRVNÍ NOVINOVÁ SPOLEČNOST s.s.  
 došlo Praha  
 PTJ Praha-sever  
 170 00 Praha 7, U Práhonu 5

**DOBORUČENÉ**




Fig. 5

Figure 5 is an example of an older windowed envelope that was posted in 1994. The inscription "Věc spojové služby" has a similar - but different - meaning to the previous two presented. The Czech word "spoje" means not only the postal service, but also includes phone services, telegraph services, and transport of the newspapers. This cover was sent by a private company -- První novinová společnost (PNS) -- which arranges the delivery of newspapers by postmen to mail boxes. In my opinion the use of such free postal services as this envelope shows occurring in the past is no longer allowed to private companies.



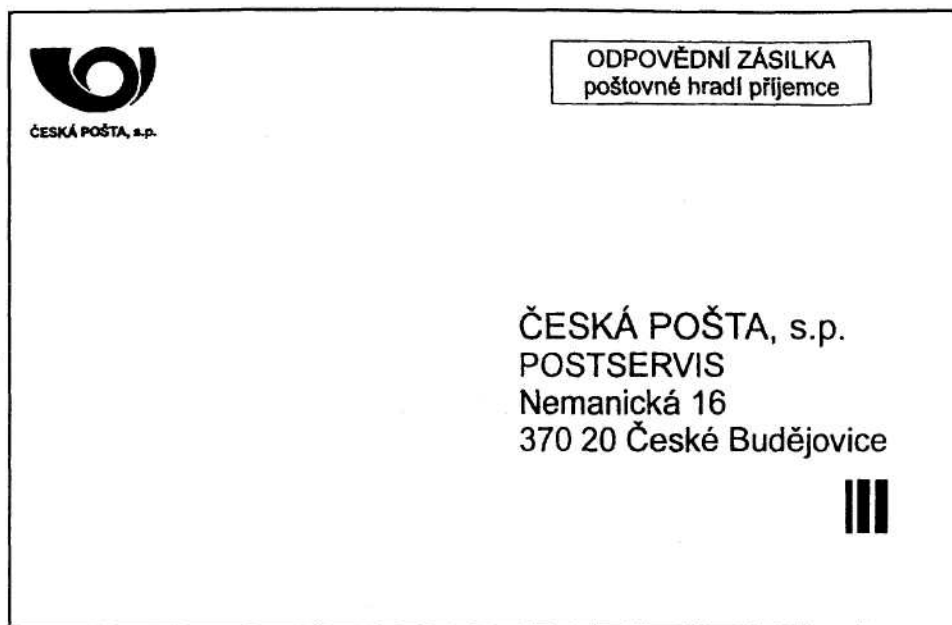


Fig. 6

The last illustration (Fig. 6) shows an unused cover giving pre-paid return postage. Notice the pre-printed inscription "ODPOVĚDNÍ ZÁSILKA/poštovné hradí příjemce" (response form/recipients postage defrayed). This was distributed by the Czech Postal Service for use in conjunction with advertising leaflets that were left in recipients mail boxes. The Postal Service prepared these covers because it expected the people to answer, and this gave them the opportunity to do so while having the Postal Service pay the postage.

I hope this additional information will generate some questions.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

### ***Announcement***

## **BEFITEN'99 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION BEGIJNENDIJK, BELGIUM - 5/6 JUNE 1999**

To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Begijnendijk Philatelic Society, we welcome you to participate in our 6<sup>th</sup> International Open Philatelic Exhibition to be held at the "De Tumkens" sportscenter in Begijnendijk-Betekom.

The exhibition is held under the F.I.P. regulations. It is an open competitive exhibition for traditional, fiscal and topical philately as well as postal history, aerophilately, open class and youth.

Application requests and questions should be directed to BEFITEN'99, c/o Paul Wijnants, Saffraanberg 11, B-3130 Begijnendijk, Belgium.

*[Ed. Note: Paul Wijnants is a Society member and the president of the Exhibition Committee.]*

**THE ISSUES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR THE  
1939 NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1940**



Eckart H. Dissen

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with one original sheet of 1939

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## CZECHOSLOVAK AIRMAIL STAMPS OF 1930

Used In the Postal Dispatch of Airmail

Shipments to Ecuador

by Andrej Tekel

trans. by Frances Svoboda

[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the May/June 1998 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here with the permission of the Editor-in-Chief, Jan Klím, and the author.]

During a close examination of the airmail surcharge raises of the second half of the 1930's, an apparent anomaly cannot escape our attention since airmail shipments to Ecuador are -- to the largest extent -- cheaper than the shipments to Brazil, which is not as far. The airmail surcharge increase depends on the transportation route taken.

In the years 1936 through 1939 airmail shipments to Ecuador could be transported in the following ways:

a) via New York

Shipments were transported on airmail route #15 (Prague - Paris) to Paris, from there by train to French ports, then on by ship mail to New York, and from there by the airmail route New York - Atlanta - Miami - Cristobal - St. Elena - Guayaquil.

Another possibility was by train #29/D148 to France, then train #14/D100 to

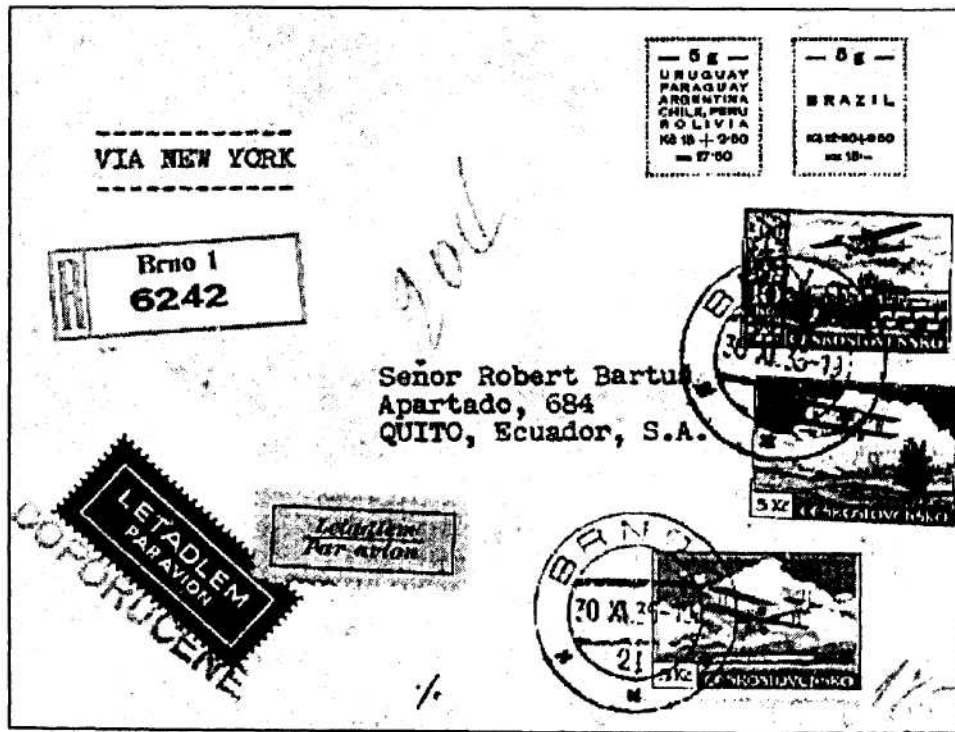


Fig. 1

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Italy, then on by ship mail to New York, and then by airmail route New York - Atlanta - Miami - Cristobal - St. Elena - Guayaquil.

In order for the sender to request this type of transport, the shipment had to have affixed an imprint reading "Par avion via New York".

b) via France

Shipments were transported on airmail route #15 (Prague - Paris) to Paris and route #120 (Paris - Marseille - Toulouse - Barcelona - Casablanca - Dakar - Natal - Pernambuco - Bahia - Caravellas - Rio de Janeiro - Florianopolis - Porto Alegre - Buenos Aires - Montevideo - Mendoza - Santiago de Chile - Lima) to Santiago and from there by the airmail route Santiago - Guayaquil.

The shipment had to have affixed an imprint reading "Par avion France -- Amerique du Sud".

c) via Germany

Shipments were transported by train #29/D148 to Frankfurt on Main, then from there by airmail route #121 (Berlin - Frankfurt on Main - Marseille -- Lisbon - Las Palmas - Bathurst - Natal - Pernambuco - Bahia - Rio de Janeiro - Santos - Florianopolis - Porto Alegre - Montevideo - Buenos Aires - Mendoza - Santiago de Chile) to Santiago and from there by the airmail route Santiago - Guayaquil.

Another possibility was by train D63 to Berlin, and from there by airmail route #121, Germany - South America. The shipment had to have affixed an imprint reading "Par poste aerienne -- allemande".

In the case of transport via Germany it was also possible to use the dirigible (Zeppelin) system. This route via New York was substantially longer, whereas ship

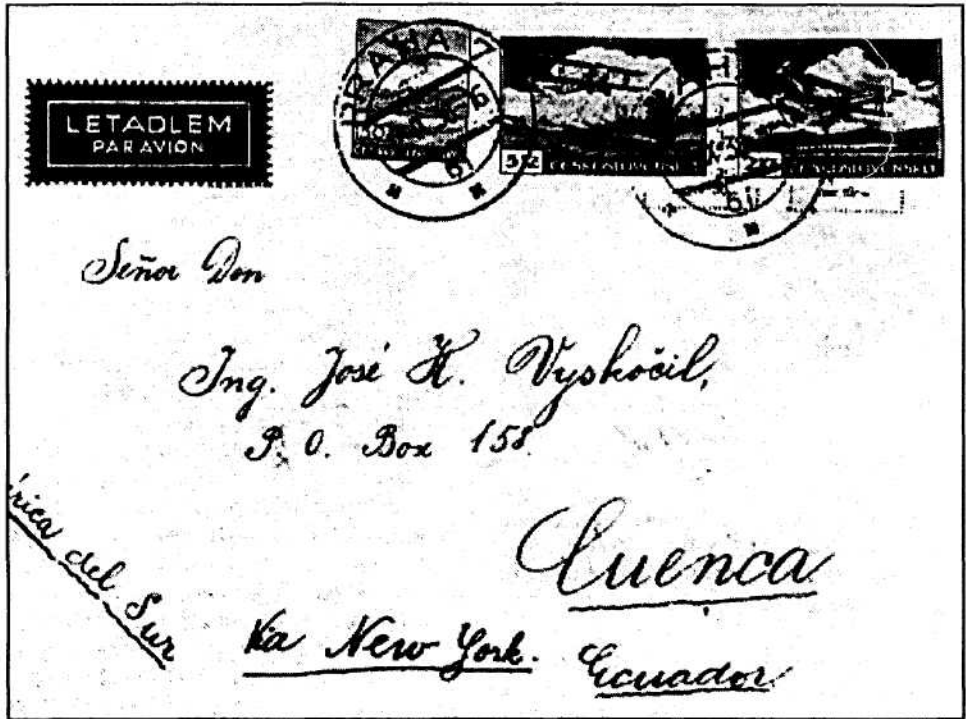


Fig. 2

transport could be used via the ocean which was less expensive than the airmail surcharge.

In Figure 1 is an airmail letter to Quito which was dispatched 30.11.1936 from postoffice Brno 1. The letter was transported to Prague (postmarked 1.12.1936 Prague 7 airmail), flown to France, then on by ship mail to New York (postmarked 7.12.1936 New York). From New York it went by airmail route New York - Atlanta - Miami - Cristobal - St. Elena - Guayaquil (postmarked 8.12.1936). It went on to Quito probably by the national airmail system. It arrived in Quito on 14.12.1936. In analyzing the affixed postage: 2.50Kč charge for the first 20g letter rate, 2.50Kč surcharge for a registered letter, and 2 x 6.50Kč airmail surcharge for each 5g of weight.

In Figure 2 is an airmail letter to Cuenca which was dispatched 12.9.1938 from postoffice Prague 7. In this case a more cost agreeable route via New York was used. It arrived in Guayaquil on 25.9.1938. In analyzing the affixed postage: 2.50Kč charge for the first 20g letter rate, and 5Kč airmail surcharge for each 5g of weight. The airmail surcharge rate was lowered in 1938. A more detailed study of the literature from this period would possibly explain many of the apparent illogical facts.

Literature:

1. Summary of Airmail Postal Traffic, Volumes 1930 - 1939, published by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph, Prague (supplement to VMPT).
2. Tekel, A.: Czechoslovak Airmail Stamps of 1930. A summary of the postal tariffs payable for shipments in the years 1930-1939; a supplement to the periodical FILATELIE 7/1995.



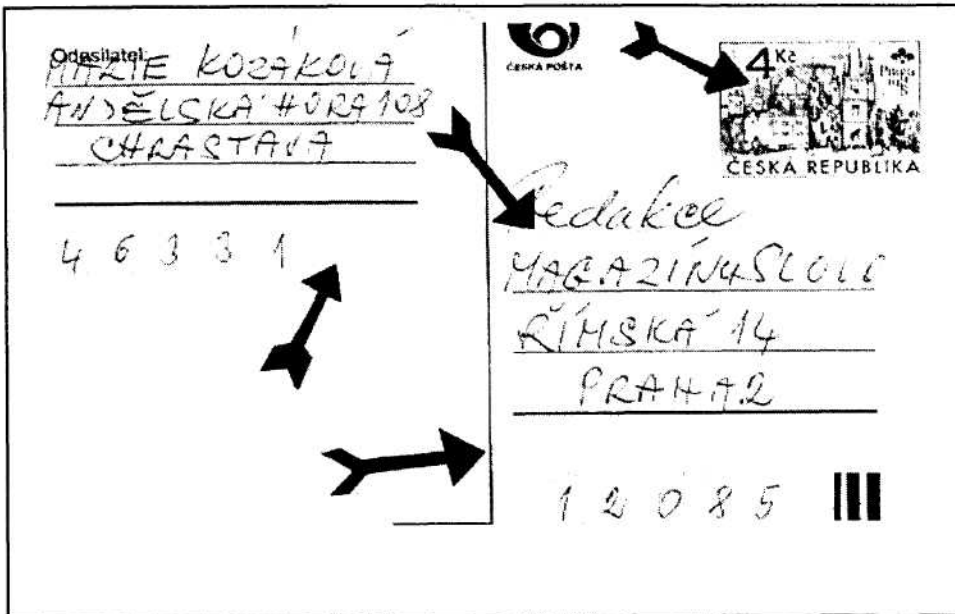
## MORE COUNTERFEITS OF POSTAL CARDS

by Miloslav Vlček  
trans. by Mirko Vondra

This year's early spring months have unveiled the presence of additional counterfeits of Czech postal cards on sale at newspaper stands and tobacconists not only in Bohemia, but also Moravia. Because they are so well made, they appear genuine to the untrained eye and have eluded the attention of many postal authorities throughout the Czech Republic.

We are concerned here with the counterfeiting of Tribuna card no. CDV 21 (4 Kč) printed by offset on March 3, 1997 by the Prague Printery in brown and reddish brown (See illustration). Showing a view of Prague's Charles Bridge with the Old City Tower and various background churches with the logo of PRAGA 98 in upper right corner, it was designed by academic painter and graphic artist Alfred Fuchs for general postal use. The card has protective features intended to safeguard it against counterfeiting, including a thin vertical line down the middle separating several horizontal thin address lines with the logo "Česká Pošta" at the top. To the left of the vertical line is a second logo printed in pale grey which fades away when it comes in contact with heat. For trial purposes, it is enough to place one's thumb over the grey logo to watch it almost disappear. Once it cools down, the logo again reappears.

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It is possible to identify a counterfeit card by comparing it with one that is genuine. The counterfeit shows a grid background on the imprinted stamp, the picture on the stamp is lighter in color, and the microtext on the first line of the addressee side has defective lettering with some of the letters missing.

The safeguarding elements of both cards are quite similar. Even the pale grey logo tends to vanish with heat, though not entirely. As for the dimensions of the cards, there is barely a difference of 1 mm. in their widths, the genuine card being a trifle wider.

So far there are no known plates with additional deviations from those already described. Perhaps a later reprinting of this issue might disclose clearer distinctions. The counterfeiter probably felt no need to make further modifications since his product is already so good that it is barely detectable. Those who employ the most modern printing techniques seem to have few problems even with the safeguards currently used to eliminate counterfeiting. The dealer's circuit certainly has not discouraged them from promoting their devious practices throughout the Republic nor has it taken any precautions to keep those postal cards out of the public's reach -- much to the counterfeiter's advantage.

This brings up an interesting question. Should counterfeits be saved as collectors' items? Certainly it is each collector's prerogative to feature a known counterfeit if he or she chooses. But in that case, it is always better to show a counterfeit that has been postally used because only then has its creator achieved his purpose -- to defraud the postal authorities.

*[Ed. Note: It would be instructive if some of our readers -- especially those that are seasoned exhibitors -- would respond to the author's suggestion to include counterfeits in exhibits. Also, do current exhibit judging criteria allow for counterfeits to be included? Should their inclusion carry a certificate from a recognized expert?]*



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*Book Review*

**"THE ISSUES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR  
THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR"**

by Eckart H. Dissen

The book about to be reviewed was published as a MONOGRAPHY & CATALOGUE by E=mc<sup>2</sup> Publishers, Amsterdam, 1998 in two formats: A4 (210 x 297mm) and A5 (142 x 210mm). This review is based on the A4 format.

The book includes 101 pages in excellent hard binding with illustrations in full color. The printing is of superior quality with generous layout of the text and illustrations. The text is in English, with illustration captions in Dutch, English and German. The author sought and received assistance with the English language from several associates. The Forward was written by Mirko L. Vondra.

The book was exhibited at the PRAGA'98 FEPA show and received a Silver-Bronze award with only 65 points -- a score too low based on the first impression of the book. Unfortunately a careful reading sheds light on the low evaluation. This is probably based on factors less related to the Dutch author than to his American assistants. While the author is to be complimented on his meticulous compilation of the catalogue, the English text contains numerous errors in English, mostly typos, and presents facts highly suspicious to this reviewer. Of the many typos, the most notable is the word "FOREWARD" (instead of FOREWORD) with which we are greeted in the early pages of the book. The same writer goes on to say: "Meanwhile the northern border regions including the Carpatho-Ukraine were temporarily occupied by Poland and Hungary, a move that Poland would soon regret" (p. 15). We doubt that Poland occupied the Carpatho-Ukraine.

However, in the Foreword the writer correctly states the basic weakness in the subject of this book when he writes: ". . . it is common knowledge that these overprinted sheets were never postally valid and therefore do not qualify as true philatelic matter". This fact alone may have played a major role in the low evaluation by the PRAGA'98 jury.

We question the need for presenting captions in three languages since the text is entirely in English. Such captions, particularly that under the map on p. 14 are somewhat awkward. In the chapter entitled "Issues of Czechoslovakia", we find no information whatsoever on that subject, but rather a brief discussion of history.

The question of whether certain sheets are proofs of regular sheets is considered unimportant. The explanation on p. 34 is only of slight help. It is nevertheless apparent that the large number of color combinations point to the speculative nature of the entire venture. It is interesting to note that the protective covers for use in New York use the hyphenated "CZECHO-SLOVAK" whereas the Canadian ones use the older unhyphenated "CZECHOSLOVAK". This is not explained.

The "Cancellations" discussed are not actually cancellations, since they did not invalidate the sheets which had no postal value. Even the San Francisco postmark is not a cancellation when applied over the World's Fair sheets.

We strongly suspect that the so-called proofs, errors and varieties were inspired by the merchants who anticipated a market for such items among collectors. There was no authority controlling what was released. Yet, the book states without comment that Stach, a stamp dealer, claimed that "all errors and varieties were the results of mistakes in printing and therefore were accidental, not deliberate". Are we to believe that? Including the color combinations?

In the STATUS chapter it is stated that . . . "These issues are more legal

than the postage stamps that the German Reich issued for its co-called Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia". Can a philatelist-reader accept this statement?

Mention in the book of the US Flag issue of July 12, 1943 falls outside the scope of this book, as are several other sheet and label issues described.

The Catalogue is in full color and lists all known varieties, "errors" and "proofs". Point count presented is to indicate relative rarity and is not to be interpreted as a price listing. For some reason, the text in the APPENDIX appears in three languages.

Despite the shortcomings discussed above, the purpose of the issue was noble and collecting of the New York World's Fair material is gaining in popularity. Eckart Dissen has done an excellent job cataloging the material, and we recommend purchase of the book. It may be purchased in the A5 format from: E=mc<sup>2</sup> Publishers-Amsterdam, PO Box 11514, 1001 GM Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Copies of the book in A5 format are specially priced for members of the SCP at \$29, post paid. Write to Eckart Dissen at the address given above.

Henry Hahn

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

**TYCHO BRAHE 1546 - 1601**  
by G. M. van Zanten

**"NEITHER POWER NOR WEALTH,  
BUT KNOWLEDGE HAS THE STRENGTH OF IRON"**  
**TYCHO BRAHE**



Fig. 1

Who was Tycho Brahe? Refer to the stamp issued on October 9, 1996, commemorating the 450th anniversary of his birth in Denmark, see *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST* of July/August 1997, page 28.

Tycho was born in 1546, and at the age of thirty he won the favour of King Frederick of Denmark. With his support an observatory was built on Hven island in the Oresund straits. Tycho remained there for some twenty years in concentrated astronomical work.

In 1575 Tycho met the personal physician of Rudolf II, Tadeáš Hájek of Hájek (Fig. 1) at the emperor's coronation in Regensburg. Hájek (also a keen astronomer) and Tycho kept in touch, and thus in 1599 -- on Hájek's recommendation -- he was invited to come to Prague. Rudolf II appointed him a privy councilor with a considerable salary of three thousand florins, a sum unheard of in those times. This made it possible for him to settle in Prague with his wife Kirsten and eight children as well as numerous associates and servants.

He accepted provisional accommodation at today's 76 Nový Svět (Fig. 2), but Prague failed to provide a sufficiently tranquil environment for his activities. He therefore welcomed an offer to continue his work at Nové Benátky chateau, which

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is situated on a hill and thus more suitable for his astronomical observations (Fig. 3). Allegedly he met there with the young Jan Kepler (1571-1630) on February 3, 1600 -- Kepler being another astronomer who had come to Prague from Germany. Tycho meantime encountered many financial difficulties with the administrator of the crown's Estate. Thus in June 1600 he returned to Prague.

On October 13, 1601, Tycho sat down at a party given by His Grace, Lord of Rožemberk -- where he drank quite a bit, and sensing pressure in his bladder, he sacrificed health to courtesy. He succumbed to an acute inflammation eleven days later on October 24, 1601.

Emperor Rudolf II had Tycho's body buried with great circumstance in the Týn Church (Fig. 4). The astronomer's widow, Kirsten Joergensdatter (who was never married to Tycho, but bore him eight children in a happy union) followed him to the Týn Church three years later.

The portrait of Tycho Brahe at the age of forty two (on an engraving in one of his books) shows the wound from a sword in the middle part of his nose, suffered twenty years before in a duel with his cousin. Throughout his life he used a silver sheet cover to hide the deep scar (Fig. 5).

David Gans (1541-1613) was a friend of Tycho Brahe. He was



Fig. 2

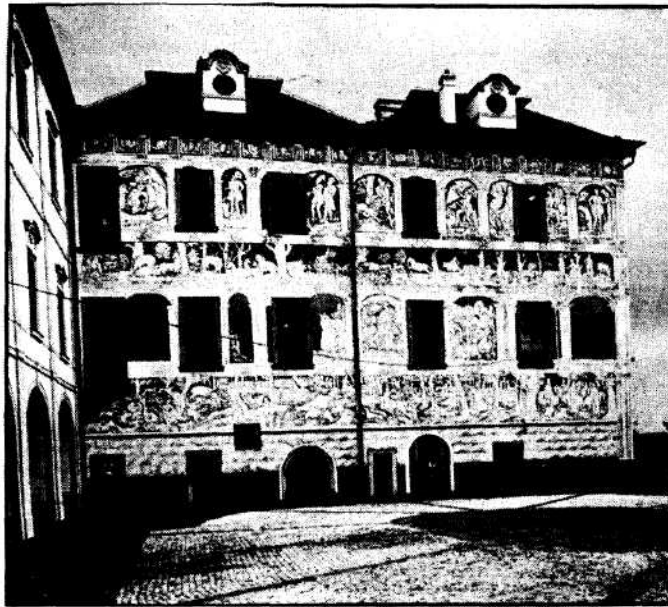


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

born in Lippstadt and came to Prague in 1564, remaining there until his death in 1613. He was the first Jew to be engaged in historical studies and had a great feeling for history. An interest in astronomy and mathematics brought Gans into contact with outstanding scholars of his time including Kepler and Brahe.

He published a number of books including an extensive work on astronomy and physical geography which -- after a long wait -- finally appeared for the first time in 1743 in Jessnitz under the title "NECHMAD VE-NAIM" (Lovely and Agreeable). A manuscript of this book can be seen in Brno. This work is extremely interesting, the more so for being

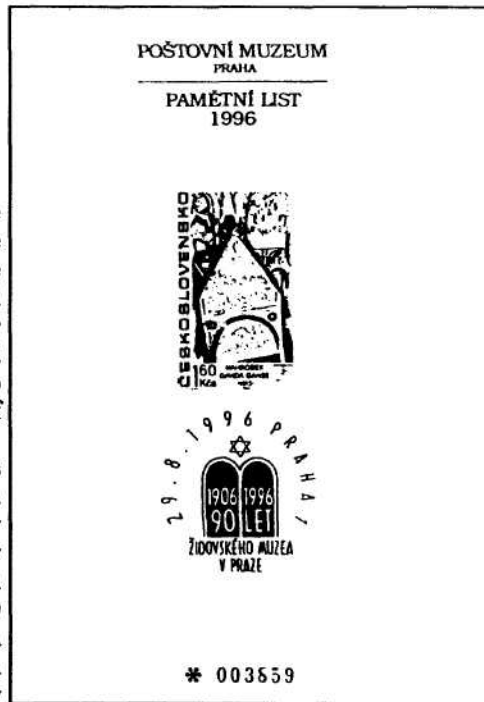


Fig. 6

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

unique in Jewish literature. It described in great detail his impressions from visits to the observatory of Tycho Brahe in Benátky and indicated that he was already acquainted with the work of Copernicus and the earth-heliocentric compromise system of Tycho Brahe.

Figure 6 shows the tomb of the writer and astronomer David Gans. The tomb is decorated with the symbols of his name -- a star of David and a goose (Gans in German). This illustration is in fact a card issued by the Postal Museum in Prague and depicts the stamp issued on May 22, 1967 in the set "Judaica".



### *Book Review*

#### **CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS AND THEIR COUNTERFEITS 1918-1939**

by Ing. Jan Karásek

If you are a collector of 1<sup>st</sup> Republic Czechoslovak stamps, then this book must be on your shelf.

Thirty five years ago (1963) a consortium of Czechoslovak philatelic experts published an illustrated book with a similar title which undertook the task of educating philatelists in order to make them able to distinguish the real from the fake or forged. Its greatest drawback was that it was completely in Czech. It sold out in a relatively short period of time and was subsequently very difficult to find on the resale market.

To alleviate the language drawback, your Society (through translators Henry Hahn and Jaroslav Verner) published a translation of the book in 1965/66 (without illustrations) as a series of articles in the SPECIALIST. However, you had to go back and forth between the book and the articles because of the lack of illustrations.

Then, in 1985 another of our members, Fred Hefer, in conjunction with the SCP put out a revised and illustrated edition. It basically took the 1966 translation and added pictures. It was plastic-rib bound, copy machine quality, and had typewriter text. Probably its greatest drawback was that it simply translated 22 year old information.

So what is so different about this latest volume compared to its predecessors?

- It is authored by one of the original three expert authors.
- It lists 7 new literature references over and above the 5 in the original book, thus including the very latest in forgery discoveries.
- The entire volume's text (including picture captions) is in a very clear, distinct, and repetitive system in Czech, English, and German.
- This very handsome 250 page hardbound book is in A4 format with heavy gloss paper and excellent print quality.
- While the book is in black and white, at the front it contains a 6 page section which illustrates in color many of the stamp issues discussed in the volume.
- The volume can only be described as profusely illustrated -- much, much more than previously. As an example, the POŠTA 1919 overprints issue contains 58 illustrations compared to 31 in the previous.



- Each issue covered (and there are four more than in the previous -- Red Cross, 1928 Jubilee, Nitra, Carpatho-Ukraine) is broken down, as necessary, into:
  - total counterfeit
  - partial counterfeits
    - counterfeiting overprints on genuine stamps
    - counterfeiting by changing the stamp design
    - counterfeiting perforations
    - counterfeiting by cutting off perforations
    - counterfeiting by changing the original color
    - counterfeiting by modifying the paper
    - counterfeiting the watermark
    - counterfeiting the gum
    - counterfeiting by removing a cancellation
    - counterfeiting the cancellation
    - counterfeiting by creating an entire
    - counterfeiting expert marks
- Almost every issue has new material compared to the previous.
- There are many more unusual or unique categories covered along with their illustrations, such as:
  - counterfeiting by joining two stamps
  - counterfeiting of a trial print
  - counterfeiting of types
- There are many more illustrations of counterfeits on covers, on piece, and of the sheetlets that some of these were printed in.

As with any publication there are some areas where I found fault:

- The use of numbered pointers to indicate where in the illustration of the stamp you should look for the characteristic that differentiated the genuine from the fake was not used in some of the issues. The words used to describe the characteristic were not clear enough to rule out the need for the pointer. This was especially true in the Kde Domov Můj issue. The previous version consistently used pointers.
- The nine block Hradčany issue sample used to indicate the required size of margins to satisfy imperforate status was not included. This is especially surprising because the whole area of counterfeiting by cutting off perforations is otherwise covered much more extensively than before.
- The SO 1920 overprints are not covered as well as they were. There are no numbered pointers. The layouts of the entire genuine overprint plates that were used (there were several per issue) and a listing/illustration of the significant overprint variety locations on the plate were not included. There are no close-ups of the counterfeit characteristics.
- An opportunity was missed to include the counterfeits of the provisional and Legion Stamps.

Despite these few deficiencies, this comprehensive study stands out as the most important tool to aid Czechoslovak philatelists in decades. I wholeheartedly recommend it.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

*[Ed. Note: This book is available at a special price to our members (the normal price is \$45). See the Publications Available ad inside the back cover of this issue.]*

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*Book Review*

**REVOLUTIONARY STAMPS AND  
OVERPRINTS 1944/45 – Local Issues**  
by Juan Santa Eugenia Grau

This brief review deals with the VI<sup>th</sup> edition of the familiar work by the well known author and collector of the so-called "Revolutionary" stamps of 1944/45 Czechoslovakia. The previous V<sup>th</sup> edition was reviewed in *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST* (Nov/Dec 1996, p.20), and the detailed description of its organization and coverage remain valid.

The VI<sup>th</sup> edition is primarily an improved and corrected version of its predecessor. The most notable improvements are the full color presentation of the overprinted stamps and the printing on both sides of the paper, reducing the thickness of the book to 1/2. The overprints of Breclav (4 stamps), Podivin (1 stamp), Prague II (one sheetlet of 4), Prague III (Z. Kvasnička issue of 3 stamps), and Valášké Meziříčí II (1 stamp) are included in the additional listing. At least two (2) overprint types are added in the overprint type chapter and several illustrations of souvenir sheets are added to the text. An entirely new chapter of illustrations of covers, both regular and philatelic, has been added. Some nineteen changes have been made in the Unknown Overprints chapter and the Fantasy Overprints chapter has been enhanced by several additions. All these represent the results of the author's continued diligence directed toward assembling all of the issues on his subject.

We fully expect a VII<sup>th</sup> edition in due course. We hope this edition will be entirely free of typos, such as one on p.12 citing "origen" instead of "origin". We also expect that the Czech Introduction will be retyped with type matching the rest of the book, and the text will be justified. We are certain this fine author will find additional material to add.

The book was first seen at the PRAGA'98 FEPA exhibition in Prague, where it was exhibited in the Philatelic Literature Class, and where it received a Silver medal. That is the same valuation it received at PRAGA'88 and PRAGA'78. We highly recommend purchase of this book, which may be obtained from the author, Mr. Juan Santa Eugenia Grau, Travesera de Dalt, 11/13, Atc.2º, Dº, 08024 BARCELONA, Spain.

Henry Hahn



***Philatelic News & Views***

From Savoy Horvath:

- On May 10-15, 1998 the 7th Governmental Postage Stamp Printing Conference was held in Washington, DC. Eighteen countries from around the world were represented. One of the functions of the conferees was to select the most beautiful stamp in six different categories for the years 1996 and 1997. With a very strong concurrence of the 18 countries, an Award of Excellence for the Best Intaglio Stamp

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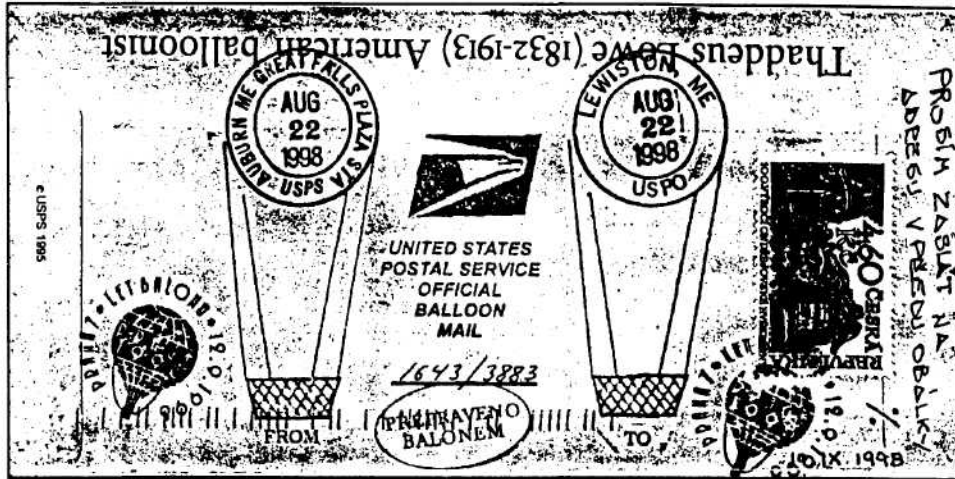


Fig. 1a

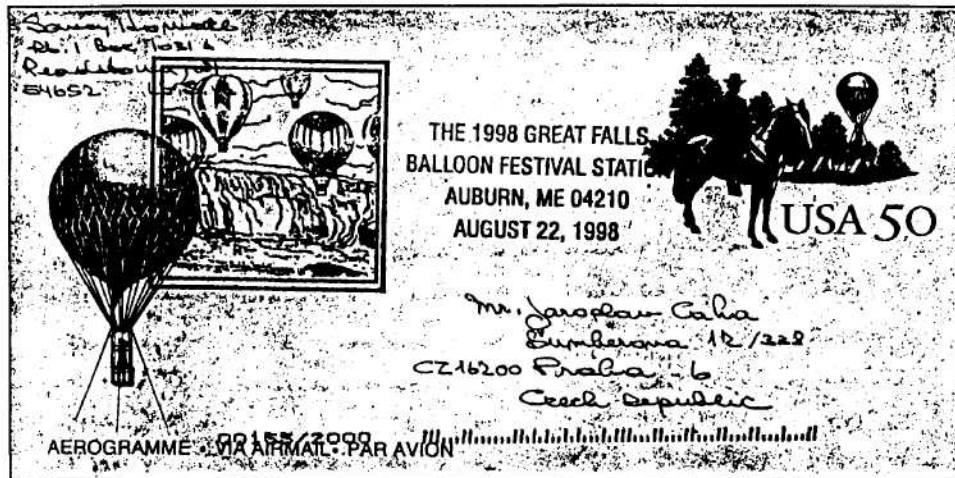


Fig. 1b

for 1996-1997 was presented to the Czech Republic. The issue which won this award was the 7 Kč issue illustrating the painting "Landscapes with Chateau in Chantilly (c.1883)" by Antonín Chittussi which was issued November 12, 1997. It was engraved by Václav Fajt. It is of interest that the Czech Republic won the same award at the previous 6th world conference.

- One of the more interesting features of PRAGA'98 was the balloon mail flights. I took a USPS balloon mail cover officially flown on 22 August 1998 in Lewiston, Maine and had it re-flown at PRAGA on 12.9.1998 (Fig. 1a/1b). I addressed the cover to my cousin, and he returned it to me.

- The big news out of Slovakia (besides the defeat of Meciar) is that one week after their parliamentary elections (Oct. 1), the Slovak koruna was devalued by 15%. You will now notice a definite difference between the exchange rates of the Czech



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

koruna and the Slovak koruna. [Ed. Note: On Nov. 27, the Czech koruna was 30.48 to the \$US, and the Slovak koruna was 36.79 to the \$US]

- The Czech Republic will raise its overall postage rates as of January 1, 1999. The Czech Postal Service issued the 1999 stamp program, but the stamps are without values as of yet.

- The Czech philatelic publication, *FILATELIE*, had high praise for everything happening at PRAGA'98 including our Society. They stated: the Society for Czechoslovak Philately in USA was established sixty years ago by our countrymen. Throughout their existence they have been issuing a publication, *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*, six times per year. They have built an exemplary and large philatelic library, translate Czech publications into English, hold auctions, and have a sales circuit. At PRAGA'98 they passed out a leaflet describing their Society including in beautiful Czech. They invited interested visitors to stop at their booth or to write directly to their secretary. The overall story was written by František Beneš.



Fig. 4

- Illustrated here are three of the more popular cancels used at PRAGA'98. Figure 2 shows the one used for the balloon flights, Figure 3 the one for the postal stage, and Figure 4 the one for the clapper post/postal museum.



**President's Corner**  
(Continued from page 1)

his health improves. In accordance with our Bylaws, I have asked Charles Rehman to serve out Phil's unexpired term. Chuck grew up in New Jersey and New York. He holds degrees from Iowa State University, Bethel Theological Seminary, and Princeton University. After college he was a pilot with the U.S. Air Force and was a pastor at seven churches over a 34 year period. His father was a stamp collector so Chuck probably had philately in his DNA. He began to collect more seriously in the 1960s and became interested in Czechoslovak philately 10 plus years ago when his son became a Czech linguist for the Air Force. Chuck and his wife, Janice, have

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST


visited the Czech Republic and Slovakia four times, the last time this past September for PRAGA. He has also participated in a number of our Society conventions which, he commented, he "enjoyed very much the education and fellowship at these meetings". He and Janice have two daughters and a son as well as five grandchildren. We look forward to Chuck's energetic contributions to the work of the Board.

This is a good segue to the election of the Board. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a form you may use to nominate members for the Board. Your Board is central to the health and good functioning of our Society; so look around for the most talented and energetic fellow members you can find and nominate him or her. I trust the next Board will be as outstanding as the current one is (in my opinion).

In the last issue of the SPECIALIST you will have noticed that a number of interesting new books on several aspects of Czechoslovak philately appeared in time for PRAGA. Most of them will be reviewed in the SPECIALIST, but even before their reviews I would like to call your attention to the new version of "PADĚLKY" (Counterfeits) -- which is a must for serious collectors of Czechoslovakia. Some of you will remember the effort the Society put into the translation of the first version of this work -- some thirty years ago. This time around you will not have to wait for a translation of the up-dated version because it is in Czech, English, and German. Just as impressive a publication is volume 5 of the Monograph series. It deals with stamps and covers with the "SO" overprint. Do check the listing of the publications available through the Society and order them from Ed Lehecka -- while they are still in stock.

Jaroslav J. Verner


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*New Issues*

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

by G. M. van Zanten

1. On October 28, 1998, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Czech Republic issued a set of three commemorative postage stamps on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic (Fig. 1). The graphic design of the whole set was made by the architect and graphic artist Zdeněk Ziegler based on advertising posters, postcards, and graphic works of the Czech painter and graphic artist Vojtěch Preissig. The engravings were the work of Miloš Ondráček.



Fig. 1

Vojtěch Preissig was born 1873 in Světec at Bilina and studied at the School of Applied Art in Prague. In 1898-1903 he worked in the studio of Alfons Mucha in Paris. In 1910 he left with his family for the United States where he taught graphic art in New York at Columbia University. He later became director of the graphic school in

Boston. During the first world war he began to struggle for an independent Czechoslovak Republic, and became an organizer of Czech and Slovak volunteers in the USA. He painted advertising posters and postcards issued in America and France promoting the anti-Hapsburg revolt among the public. Vojtěch Preissig was also active in the revolt during the second world war. He died in Dachau concentration camp in 1944. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague.



FDC

Fig. 2



FDC

Fig. 3

-- The 4.60 and 5 Kč stamps based upon advertising post cards appealing for the struggle for independence are printed by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces in black, grey, yellow, red and blue. The 4.60 Kč stamp shows the flags of the various Czechoslovak political units, while it's FDC includes a marching soldier (Fig. 2). The 5 Kč stamp shows marching soldiers, while it's FDC includes a standard bearer against a background of files of soldiers (Fig. 3).

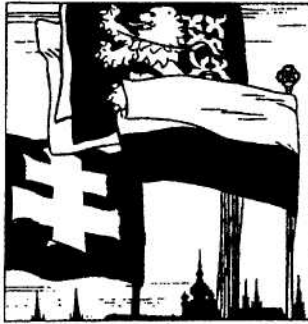


Fig. 4

-- The 12.60 Kč stamp is issued in a printing sheet containing 6 stamps and 2 labels printed by recess printing from flat plates combined with multicolored offset. The scene on the stamp shows a view of St. Nicolas church and of the houses in Malá Strana decorated by flags -- in the middle is a rosette containing a Czech lion. For the upper label the theme from an advertising poster was used, while the lower one -- taking up three stamp fields -- contains the text 28 October 1918 in a decorative frame. The FDC shows flags fluttering over Prague (Fig. 4).

FDC 2. On November 18, 1998, the Ministry issued a set of two postage stamps commemorating Christmas and

showing scenes from country life including Christmas Eve symbols (Fig. 5). Both stamps were designed by graphic artist Zdenka Kabátová-Táborská and engraved by Martin Srb. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, by rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red and blue (4 Kč stamp) and blue, red, yellow and ochre (6 Kč stamp) in



Fig. 5

sheets of 50 stamps.



Fig. 6

-- The 4 Kč stamp shows countrymen hastening to Bethlehem with their gifts. The FDC in blue shows a man carrying a carp (Fig. 6).

-- The 6 Kč stamp shows an angel hovering over a snow-covered landscape. The FDC in yellow-brown includes a farmer's wife carrying a large vánočka (Christmas bread) (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

3. On November 18, 1998, the Ministry issued a set of two postage stamps in a new series of definitive stamps titled "Signs of the Zodiac" (Fig. 8). Both stamps were designed by graphic artist Vladimír Suchánek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 100 stamps on paper with tropicalized gum.



Fig. 8

-- The 1 Kč stamp is black, brown-green, and red. It contains a drawing of the Capricorn symbol along with the appropriate astrological sign.

-- The 10 Kč stamp is black, blue, and ochre. It contains a drawing of the Aquarius symbol along with the appropriate astrological sign.

### Postal Stationery

4. On November 18, 1998, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted unbordered stamp in the denomination of 7 Kč dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Fig. 9). These 30 articles of the basic political and social human rights were accepted by the General



Fig. 9

Meeting of the United Nations on December 10, 1948 in Paris. The picture part of the stamp is made up of the five colored profiles of various types of people and is completed by the logo of the 50th anniversary of the Declaration in pink-violet. In the picture part of the postal card is a symbolic expression of the idea that people belong together. The picture is completed by the dates 1948-1998 and the text "50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in the Czech language. The graphic design was by Jaroslav Fišer. The card was printed by the Post Printing House, Prague, by multicolored offset. It's selling price is 7.40 Kč.

SLOVAKIA

by F. Garancovsky and G.M. van Zanten



Fig. 10

5. On October 5, 1998, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 4 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Ecotopfilm -- 25 Years" (Fig. 10). The multicolored stamp consists of a symbolic drawing with a sunflower as the central subject, complimented by motifs of human and animal figures running around the sunflower bloom. Also shown at the bottom are the emblem of Ecotopfilm and the text "25 Years". The designer of the stamp was Igor Benca with the engraving by František Horniak. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 35 stamps. A FDC in blue shows a symbolic drawing with an ecological motif with a cancel from Žilina.



Fig. 11

6. On October 5, 1998, the Ministry issued a 3 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "No to drugs" (Fig. 11). The multicolored stamp shows a symbolic drawing of a butterfly, a cube, and a stone as well as the inscription "no to drugs" in Slovak. The designer of the stamp was Alexej Vojtášek with engraving by Rudolf Ciganik. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. The FDC in grey-black shows a symbolic "drug-addicted" with a cancel from Bratislava.

7. On October 15, 1998, the Ministry issued a set of two stamps from the "Art" series. Both stamps were produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using multicolored recess printing from flat plates on sheets of 4 stamps and 2 tablets.

-- The 10 Sk stamp shows a work of art entitled "The Countryside about Terchová, 1936/Martin Benka (1888-1971)" from the Martin Benka Museum in Martin (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12

The designer of the stamp was Martin Činovský with engraving by František Horniak. The FDC in dark-brown shows a reproduction of a drawing by Martin Benka with cancel from Martin. The two tablets on the printing sheet are blank.



Fig. 13

-- The 12 Sk stamp shows a work of art entitled "Fishermen, 1930/Ludovít Fulla (1902-1980)" from the Slovak National Gallery in commemoration of its 50th anniversary (Fig. 13). The designer of the stamp was Martin Činovský with the engraving by Rudolf Cigánik. The FDC in black shows a reproduction of the Ludovít

Fulla drawing "The Painter". On the two tablets of the printing sheet can be found the emblem "SNG" and the text "50 Years, Slovak National Gallery".

8. On November 3, 1998, the Ministry issued a 4 Sk definitive stamp entitled "Prešov" (Fig. 14). The multicolored stamp shows the historical center of the town along with its coat-of-arms. The designer and engraver of this stamp was František Horniak. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 100 stamps. A FDC shows a historical architecture motif with a cancel from Prešov.



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

9. On November 3, 1998, the Ministry issued a 3 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "Christmas '98" (Fig. 15). The multicolored stamp reproduces the graphic "Bowling down of three kings" by Viera Hložíková. The designer and engraver of the stamp was Martin Činovský. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC shows the reproduction of the graphic "A Birth" by Viera Hložíková with cancel from Bratislava.

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### *Letters to the Editor*

1. Dear Lou:

I found Charles Chesloe's letter in the Nov/Dec 98 issue surprisingly discouraging and certainly inaccurate. I'm glad you responded with your own Editor's Note. However, I would like to add a few comments of my own.

There were 9 articles and 6 columns in the Jul/Aug 98 issue to which Mr. Chesloe refers (actually the PRAGA 98 Update by Jaroslav Verner could be considered a tenth article rather than a column). Of those ten articles, exactly one was about exhibits, exhibitors and social events, namely the Exhibits at ISRAEL 98 by Henry Hahn.

I welcome such articles as well as Verner's PRAGA 98 Update, because they keep me as well as the other Society members informed of what is going on in our very active organization these days. They should continue to be featured just the way they were in the Nov/Dec 98 issue.

Of course articles concerning the technical side of Czech and Slovak philately are equally important, and I have to compliment you for the fine balance you have maintained by providing our readers with informative as well as substantive articles. I call Mr. Chesloe's attention to the size of our publication which is growing along with the size of our readership. That is a very healthy sign.

I hope Mr. Chesloe will see the *SPECIALIST* in a different light and acknowledge that it is far ahead of what it used to be twenty or more years ago.

Yours truly,  
Mirko Vondra

2. Dear Lou:

A friend of mine sent me the enclosed (Fig. 1), which he indicates concerns stamps overprinted for "Osvobození Olomouce Rudou Armádou 8.5.1945" [The Freeing of Olomouc by the Red Army, May 8, 1945]. They were sent to his family in 1977 from Czechoslovakia by someone identifying himself as "vrchní poštovní tajemník v.v." [chief postal secretary?]. He indicated that the issue was on sale from May 15 to May 22, 1945, and that the issue was limited to 25,000 sets.



Fig. 1

I would like to make the following two comments.

The Protectorate stamps which were overprinted were issued in 1942. This means that for the next few years, the perpetrators of the overprint accumulated 25,000 pieces of 5 values -- 30, 40, 50, 60h and 1.20. This is not an easy task. The perpetrators were either patriots or speculators.

The Communists were still strongly in power in 1977. For reasons known only



to them, they did not recognize that ČSR was every occupied. The stamps of the Protectorate and the Slovak Republic were on the prohibited list. Nobody was allowed to trade them. The fact that the postal official sent them out indicates that either he felt no harm could come of it, or that the overprints of Protectorate stamps were not on the prohibited list (as were the Protectorate and Slovak Republic ones).

I would appreciate if one of our members (even maybe from the Czech Republic) would comment on my thoughts about this issue and shed some light about its production.

Regards,  
Karl J. Ruzicka

[Ed. Note: This overprint is included in Grau's "Revolutionary Overprints and Stamps, 1944/45" as an Olomouc issue.]

3. Dear Lou:

I do not know whether other Society members would be interested, but we now have a philatelic museum here in Oaxaca City. It is the only one in Mexico, and probably the only one in all of Central and South America. It is a beautiful and spacious place and has attracted a lot of attention here in Oaxaca. It is open every day and is within walking distance of downtown Oaxaca. They have many beautiful displays of stamps -- mostly Mexican stamps of course -- but other countries also (Fig. 2). Next January there will be a permanent display of "The Beautiful Stamps and Souvenir Sheets of the Former Republic of Czechoslovakia".



Figure 2: Mexican stamp commemorating the postal museum at Oaxaca, Mexico

Sincerely,  
Phil [Freer]

4. Dear Ludvíku:

I'm sending you my best greetings after arrival from South Africa where I was taking part in ILSAPEX'98 in Johannesburg -- the first FIP Exhibition in Africa.

It was a nice trip but I still keep in my mind PRAGA'98 and an unforgettable evening SCP organized on the eve of the Exhibition.

For the year 2000, early in March, we are preparing BRNO 2000 Philatelic Exhibition to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Thomas Garrigue Masaryk's Birthday. We hope our friends in the USA will also take part.

Yours,  
Lumir Brendl

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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**Errata**

In the article on the exhibits at PRAGA'98 in the Nov/Dec 1998 issue, we inadvertently left out the following listing in the display of exhibits and their scores:

Holoubek, K. CZ yes Czechoslovakia: "Revolution Issue" (May 1945) SB/69

We sincerely regret this error and hope that it did not inconvenience or upset anyone.



**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

As is specified in our Bylaws, it is the time of year for our Society to nominate members in good standing to be candidates in an election for five (5) of our 15 (fifteen) Board of Directors positions.

Candidates shall be nominated in writing by two (2) members of the Society (other than themselves) whose signatures shall be affixed to a nominating petition. Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy. The names of the outgoing board members and of the remaining board members can be found in the cover article of the November/December 1998 issue.

If you decide to nominate someone, please remember the following:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing
2. The nominee must have given his consent to be nominated
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board Meeting location specified by the President
4. The petition originator must see to finding another member to sign the petition
5. The Secretary must receive the petition by the last day of February 1999

A sample nomination petition form is shown below. After filling it (or a reasonable facsimile) out, mail it to our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225. Make sure that it reaches him no later than the last day of February 1999.

---

**SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY, INC.  
NOMINATING FORM**

We, the undersigned, certify that we are paid-up members in good standing and hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_ as candidate for a seat on the Board of Directors of the S.C.P. for 1999.

1. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_
2. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

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