



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

**VERMEIL**

**LITERATURE AWARD**

**APS STAMPSHOW 1999**

**CLEVELAND, OH**

(See pg. 13 & 25 for more details on awards/events at STAMPSHOW)

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### In Memoriam

Vladimír Kovářík -- academic painter, graphic artist, and an influential designer of Czechoslovak stamps -- died on July 6, 1999 in Prague at the age of 78.

It was way back in 1949 that artist Kovářík designed his first stamp. He continued in his endeavors for 45 years, culminating in 1994 by designing a stamp for the Universal Postal Union. During this period he designed a total of 96 stamps and 7 souvenir sheets of Czechoslovakia -- including many of their astronaut stamps -- and a number of foreign stamps. (For more details and some illustrations of the accomplishments of Vladimír Kovářík, please see the Mar/Apr 1997 issue of the *SPECIALIST*, pp27-30.)

Mr. Kovářík was also an accomplished musician. His studio walls were full of various musical instruments, all of which he had mastered. While he was a stamp designer, his son -- Pavel -- is a successful engraver of some of his father's stamps.

He is survived by his wife Milada and two sons, Vladimír and Pavel.

Peter Z. Kleskovic

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## SUDETENLAND: THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN MORAVIA

by William A. Dawson

*[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the Nov/Dec 1998 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here with the permission of the Editor-in-Chief, Jan Klim, and the author. This article will also be appearing in CZECHOUT, the journal of The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.]*

The year 1938 brought increasing tension in Europe with the prospects of another destructive armed conflict. This was due to the further provocative actions of Germany

under the leadership of Adolf Hitler that had included the "take over" of Austria in April. Hitler had repeatedly stated that it was his intention to destroy the Republic of Czechoslovakia. But the policy adopted by the Western powers was one of appeasement.

Under that policy, on 30 September 1938, representatives of Germany and Italy on the one side and Great Britain with France on the other jointly signed the so called Munich Agreement. The Republic of Czechoslovakia was not invited to be a signatory to a document where its territory was being sacrificed in the vain hope of avoiding a European war. Under the terms of this so called agreement, Germany was authorized to fulfill Hitler's in his own words "last territorial demands in Europe" by occupying those parts of Czechoslovakia he had demanded as defined by

his interpretation of Sudetenland. All such areas were to be occupied by the German armed forces in five stages within the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 1938, then incorporated into Germany proper subject to a plebescite. In point



Fig. 1 -- Postcard from Miroslav to Berlin. Cancellations feature a swastika and straight-line "Misslitz" with Nazi eagle emblem. Added date stamp shows an error of date.

Fig. 2 -- Printed paper rate cover to Ratibor from Mikulov. Single ring cancel with date of occupation and Nazi emblem.



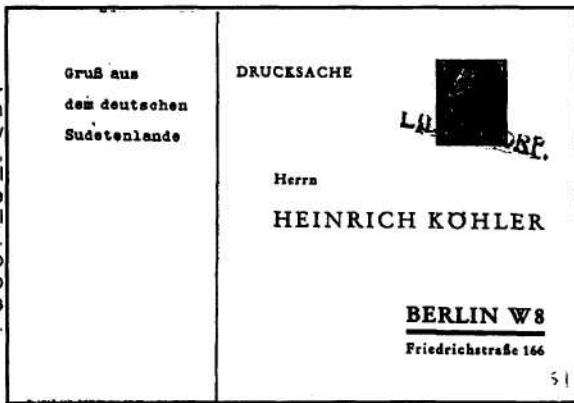
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Fig. 3 -- Postcard from Znojmo to Aachen with propaganda handstamp in red "Der Führer in Znaim" which was not true. Franking cancel by provisional use of existing Czechoslovak bi-lingual definitive metal handstamp code "2a", mutilated to expunge the Czech "ZNOJMO 1" from upper arc.



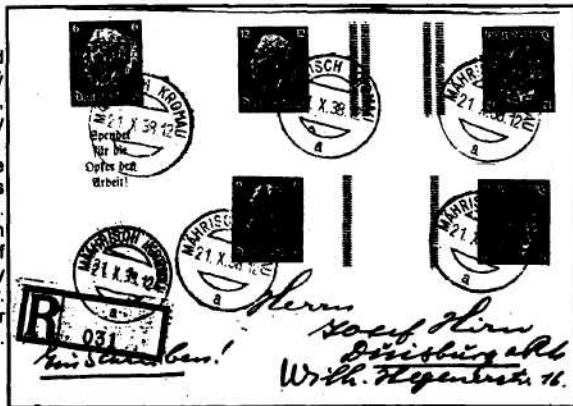
of fact, a few minor border changes took place later in October and in November resulting in a mere handful of post offices being handed back to the Czechoslovak postal authority whilst a slightly higher number came within the German occupation zones.

Fig. 4 -- Postcard from Liliendorf (now Lesná) to Berlin, provisional straight line rubber cancel "LILIENDORF". Contrary to regulations no date of origin is indicated.



The strip of southern Moravia included in the occupation of Sudetenland was taken over in stage 5 of the occupation on 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 1938. This zone included such

Fig. 5 -- Registered cover from Moravský Krumlov to Duisberg, Germany. Correctly franked 42 pf (internal letter rate 12 pf plus registration 30 pf). Registration label from blank stock, office of origin completed by same canceler. Backstamped for arrival.



towns as Břeclav, Hrušovany, Hustopeče, Mikulov, Miroslav, Moravský Krumlov and Znojmo, as well as many smaller towns and others that were little more than villages such as Suchohrdly u Miroslaví.

Obviously the effects of this occupation brought immediate and drastic changes to the postal facilities and arrangements since the organization came immediately under the German postal system. Postal rates were affected since Sudetenland

became part of Greater Germany with the same postal tariffs. From date of occupation, the remainder of Czechoslovakia was treated as a foreign country and foreign European rates applied. This situation remained until 15<sup>th</sup> March 1939 when the remainder of "Bohemia and Moravia" was occupied and created a "Protektorat" and Slovakia became a separate Republic. From that date, German internal postal rates applied for mail addressed to the Protectorate of "Böhmen und Mähren" -- and in the eyes of the aggressors, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist.

M u c h propaganda was made by the creation of provisional hand cancelers in a great variety of shapes, sizes, styles and content for use until such time as

metal definitive circular date stamp cancelers were provided by the German postal authorities for use in the areas of occupation. However this did not occur to the same high degree in the occupied strip of southern Moravia. Of the few such examples, three are illustrated in Figures 1, 2, and 3.

This occupied area under consideration, unlike other zones of the Sudetenland,



Fig. 6 – Registered cover from Znojmo 1 to Praha XII. Overfranked total 78 pf plus charity surcharge 212 pf against correct rate 42 pf. Probably produced for a collector.

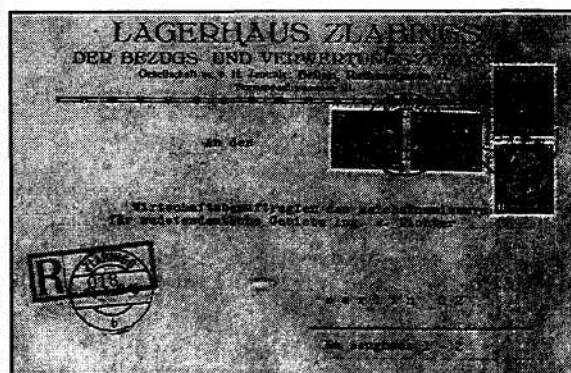


Fig. 7 – Commercial registered cover from Slavonice to Berlin. Erroneously with franking 52 pf against correct rate 42 pf. Registration label from blank stock, office of origin completed by same canceler code "b".

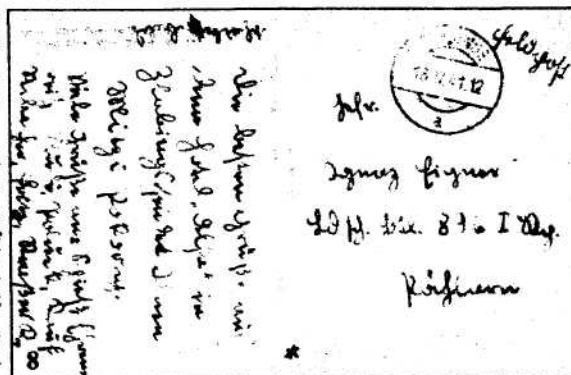
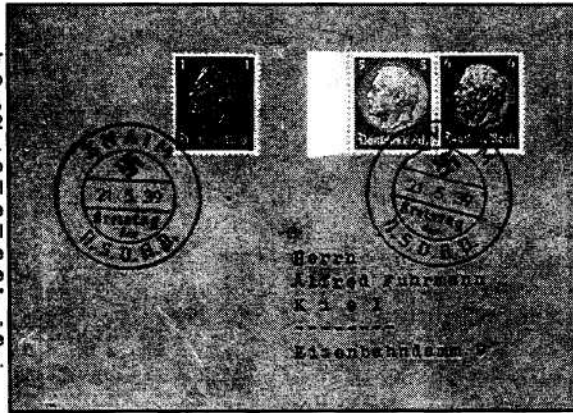


Fig. 8 – Stamless local viewcard endorsed in manuscript "Feldpost" from Slavonice to a German infantryman. Canceler as Fig. 7 but code "a".

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Fig. 9 -- Cover from Znojmo to Kiel, Germany, with correct 12 pfg franking. Special cancel to mark "Regional day of the National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partie" struck in red, fixed date 21.5.1939.



seldom used provisional straight line simple locally produced rubber cancelers. Figure 4 illustrates one such instance.

However, in the early days of the occupation the majority of post offices involved in this zone of Moravia did receive new steel circular

date stamps from the German postal authorities. These new German only cancelers fall into three types, which for the sake of simplicity we will call types A, B, and C, all of which are double ringed. Type A (Fig. 5) has the inner ring interrupted at the junctions with the central bridge bars. Type B (Fig. 6) has the inner ring unbroken. Type C (Fig. 7 and 8) has inner ring interrupted with central bridge bars extended to the outer ring.

During the nearly 7 years of German occupation there were only a small number of commemorative or special occasion cancelers used in this region of southern Moravia -- the subject of this article. Figures 9 and 10 illustrate two such special cancellations.



Fig. 10 -- Registered cover with special cancel for Znojmo 2 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth for Karl Postl (also known as Charles Sealsfield) at Popice near Znojmo. This is a curious cover. The special postmark cancels a German 4 pfg adhesive, obviously canceled by favour. Later the cover was addressed to Brno and sent by registered post from Únanov (German, Winau). This is a small town 5 km north from Znojmo just over the border from Sudetenland in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Franked with K1.20 in Protectorate adhesives to cover letter rate, plus German 30 pfg Hitler head to cover registration fee. Double ring bilingual definitive cancel \*\* WINAU \*/16.III.43--7/a/UNANOV\*.

At the conclusion of World War II and the liberation, the Sudetenland together with the Protectorate and Slovakia once again united as the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The years of 1945 and 1946 again experienced a profusion of provisional and Nationalized cancellations where existing cancelers were mutilated to expunge offending inscription. But that is another story, perhaps for some other writer to commit to paper . . . .

Appended below is a check list of post offices and postal agencies (poštoven) that the writer has been able to apportion to the occupied strip of southern Moravia. Those preceded by an asterisk (\*) are understood to have been only a postal agency or sub-post office.

Positive additions or corrections to this listing would be welcomed by the writer.

<u>CHECK LIST OF POST OFFICES AND POSTAL AGENCIES (*)</u>	
BOŽICE-ČESKÉ KRÍDLOVICE	= Possitz-Gross Grillowitz
BRANIŠOVICE	= Frainspitz
* BRÁTLSBRUN (now BŘEZÍ u MIKULOVA)	= Bratelsbrunn
BŘECLAV 1	= Lundenberg 1
BŘECLAV 2	= Lundenberg 2
BŘECLAV 3	= Lundenberg 3
DEŠNÁ u JEMNICE	= Döschen bz. Jamnitz
DOLNÍ DUNAJOVICE	= Unter Tannowitz
DOLNÍ VĚSTONICE	= Unter Wisternitz
DRNHOLEC	= Dürnholz
DYJAKOVICE	= Gross Tajax
FREJŠTEJN	= Freistein über Schaffa
FRÝSAVA u ZNOJMA (now BŘEŽANY)	= Frischau a.d. Ostbahn
HEVLÍN	= Höflein
HODONICE-TASOVICE	= Hödnitz-Tasswitz
* HORNÍ VĚSTONICE	= Ober Wisternitz
HOSTĚRADICE	= Hosterlitz
HRABĚTICE	= Grafendorf b. Grusbach
HRÁDEK u ZNOJMA	= Erdberg
HRUŠOVANY nad JEVIŠOVKOU	= Grusbach
HUSTOPEČE u BRNA	= Auspitz
* CHRLOPY (now KOROLUPY)	= Kurlupp über Ungerschitz
* CHVALATICE	= Chwallatitz über Schiltern
CHVALOVICE	= Kallendorf
JAROSLAVICE nad DYJÍ	= Joslowitz
JÍŘICE u MIROSLAVI	= Irritz
* LANČOV	= Landschau über Frain
LEDNICE na MORAVĚ	= Eisgrub
LECHOVICE	= Lechwitz
LILIENDORF (now LESNÁ)	= Liliendorf bei Znaim
LIPOLEC	= Lipoltz
LODĚNICE u POHOŘELIC	= Lodenitz bei Pohrlitz
* LUBNICE	= Hafnerluden über Ungarshitz
LUKOV u ZNOJMA	= Luggau
MACKOVICE	= Moskowitz über Frischau
* MEDLOV nad JIHLAVKOU	= Mödlau über Pohrlitz
MIKULOV	= Nikolsburg
* MILOVICE nad DYJÍ	= Millowitz über Eisgrub
MIROSLAV	= Misslitz
* MIROSLAVSKÉ KNÍNICE	= Deutsch Knonitz
MORAVSKÝ KRUMLOV	= Mährisch Kromau
MUŠOV nad DYJÍ	= Muschau
* NAČERATICE	= Naschetitz über Oblas
NOVOSEDLY na MORAVĚ	= Neusiedl
OLBRAMOVICE u MIROSLAVÍ	= Wolframitz
OBLEKOVICE	= Oblas

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OLEKSOVICE	= Gross Olkowitz
* PANNY MARIE POMOCNÉ u VLASATICE	= Mariahilf über Wostitz
* PASOHLÁVKY	= Weiss Statten über Muschau
PAVLOV	= Pollau über Unter Wisternitz
PÍSEČNÉ nad DYJÍ	= Piesling
PLAVEČ u ZNOJMA	= Pratsch über Lechwitz
* PODMYČE	= Pomitsch über Frain
POHOŘELICE	= Pohrlitz
POPICE	= Poppitz
POŠTORNÁ	= Unter Themenau
POUZDRÁNY nad SVRATKOU	= Pausram
PROSIMĚŘICE	= Prossmeritz
PŘÍTLUKY u HUSTOPEČ	= Prittlach
SEDEC u MIKULOVA	= Voitelbrun
SLAVONICE	= Zlabings
STARÉ HOBZÍ	= Alt Hart
STRACHOTICE	= Rausenbruck
* STRACHOTÍN	= Tracht über Unter Wiksternitz
SUCHOHRDLY u MIROSLAVI	= Socherl
ŠAFOV	= Schaffa
* ŠANOV na MORAVĚ	= Schonau über Grafendorf
ŠATOV na MORAVĚ	= Schattau
* ŠREFLOVA (now ZÁLESÍ)	= Schröffelsdorf über Schiltern
ŠUMVALD u ZNOJMA (now ŠUMNÁ)	= Schönwald a.d. Nordwestbahn
ŠTÍTARY	= Schiltern
TROSKOTOVICE	= Treskowitz über Irritz
* TVOŘIHRÁZ	= Durchlitz über Prossmeritz
UHERČICE u ZNOJMA	= Ungarschitz
VALTICE	= Feldsberg
VLASATICE nad MIROSOVKOU	= Wostitz
* VOJKOVICE u POHOŘLIC	= Wojkowitz über Pohrlitz
VRANOV nad DYJÍ	= Frain
VRANOVSKÁ VES	= Frainersdorf
VRATĚNÍN	= Fratting
* VRBOVEC	= Dorflitz über Rausenbruck
ZAJEČÍ	= Saitz
ZNOJMO 1,2, and 3	= Znaim 1,2, and 3
ŽELETICE u ZNOJMA	= Selletitz

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  2. "Auto Atlas Česká Socialistická Republika" published in Praha
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- ### Philatelic
4. "Gesamtverzeichnis der Sudetendeutschen Postorte mit Angabe des Leitwigs" published by R.P.O. Breslau, 10.12.1938
  5. "Monographie Československých Známek" volumes 1, 13, 14, 16 I & II, and 17 I & II



6. "Les Emissions, Surcharges, Oblitérations et Vignettes des Sudètes 1880-1970" by Roger Richet
7. "Die Postwertzeichen des Sudetenlandes" by Dr. Hugo Hörr & Dr. E. Dub
8. "Die Not- und Befreiungsstempel in den Sudetendeutschen Gebieten 1938/39" by Kurt and Hilde Quaiser
9. "Poštovní Směrovací Čísła" various editions, published Čs. Ministry of Posts
10. "The German Occupation of Sudetenland 1938", Monograph No. 6, published by Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

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## A RARITY AWAITING RECOGNITION

by Henry Hahn

The discovery of rarities among Czechoslovak post-WWII stamps is a relatively uncommon occurrence -- as is their confirmation and authentication by experts. Yet, the discovery of such a rarity -- if the discovery were authenticated by one of the ranking experts of Czechoslovakia, AIEP member and Chairman of the Czech Union of Philatelists Expertizing Committee, Ing. Pavel Pittermann -- would represent the most notable philatelic event in the area of post-war issues.

The story began at PRAGA'62 when a member of our Society, Mr. Karel Fischer of Canada, for the first time exhibited his specialized collection of the 1945 "Košice" issue. At this and several subsequent US national shows this exhibit received only moderate recognition and valuation. Only his most recent showing at PRAGA'98 met with recognition by the judges and receipt of a Vermeil medal -- a high degree of achievement in view of the fact that the exhibit is based on an issue of only seven stamps and one souvenir sheet. The highly specialized exhibit probably lost most points in the "philatelic importance" valuation component, a key factor in international judging. The Vermeil medal was undoubtedly based on showing two unissued souvenir sheets (having only six such sheets recorded) and a miniature of four blocks of four representing the corners of a full sheet of the 13 K value (Pofis 358, Scott 313) (Fig. 1) in an unrecorded color variety: brown-carmine, light shade. The 13 K value shown was in the color of the 1.50 K, the low value of the set. The normal color of the 13 K is brown, and exists in lighter and darker shades.



The brown-carmine 13 K is listed in no catalogue and has not appeared as such on the philatelic market or in auctions. The discoverer of the stamp estimates that about one hundred and sixty (160) copies exist. The stamp was submitted to the Expertizing Committee of the Union of Czech Philatelists several years ago, with their opinion eagerly anticipated by the end of this year.

We ask our readers to carefully examine their Košice 13 K stamps and report to the author (at the address listed on p. 2 of this issue) any indication of the presence of the 13 K in the brown-carmine color variety.

## THE CHILDREN'S POST WAS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION OF PRAGA'98 VISITORS

by Zdeněk Töpfer  
trans. by Savoy Horvath

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the following article in translation from the MERKUR REVIEW, Sep/Oct 1998, with the permission of the editor and the author.]

Youngsters were represented in only small numbers at the PRAGA'98 stamp exhibition. Nevertheless, the children came into their own, because the organizers of the exhibition prepared for them a children's post on the mezzanine floor above



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

the postal administration offices (Fig. 1). A typical post office was set up with all the customary counters which were serviced by the young visitors under the supervision of instructors. The postal counters were equipped with all the necessary possible materials including various postal labels and above all postal cards (Fig. 2) and two postage stamps for the "Children's Post" (Fig. 3,4). There were three special occasion cancels available for the use of the young postal clerks (Fig. 2).



Fig. 3

They sat at the counters affixing postage stamps to postal cards and envelopes and canceled them with great care.

Additional attractions had been prepared for the young visitors. First, positioned at painter's easels, kids received palettes, paints and white artist's smocks in order to create new postage stamp designs (Fig. 5). Then, they could compete in the solving of a puzzle or in the creation of one involving postal themes -- and always, a small reward awaited the participant. Five personal computers were set up loaded with the following programs: A Small Guide to Philately, A Philatelic Test, Czechoslovak Stamps 1945-1992, An Internet Presentation on POSTFILA, and The Graphical Design of Postage Stamps. The exhibition was decorated with stamp design contest entries which had been created by school students from all over the country (Fig. 6). The Czech Post also prepared a whole line of small items decorated with the PRAGA'98 logo. Visiting children could receive coloring books, balloons, puzzles, badges, pencils, brain teasers, stickers, etc. Everyone that participated received something, nobody was left out.

The youth commission of the SČF did their part in the preparation and operation of PRAGA'98 through the activities of the children's post office exhibition. The leadership of KMF and the young philatelists from Prague and Svitav were first in providing their services by participating in the activities. Several tables were set aside for the officers of KMF who took turns manning them and providing some additional activities. Here children could ask any kind of question about an area of philately which interested them, and there was always someone there to answer and advise them. Available for use by the officers was a national directory of all KMF members in the Czech Republic. This directory was used very extensively. During the



Fig. 4

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show the Prague KMF representatives signed up a number of new society members from the local area. The KM SCF prepared a philatelic contest for the young exhibition attendees. During the contest preparation we were uncertain as to how

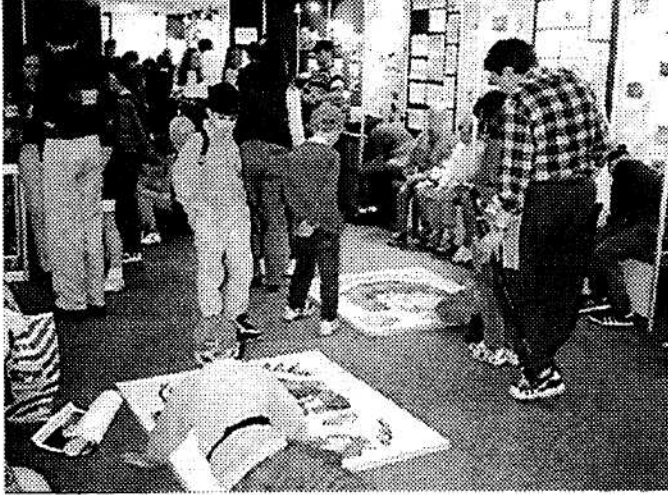


Fig. 5

much interest there would be, but reality exceeded our expectations. At our location there were always plenty of children doing their very best to answer all 10 questions in the contest. During twice daily drawings the winners received small philatelic gifts (a perforation gauge, stamp tongs, or a magnifying glass). At the close of the exhibition there was one final drawing of 3 winners from among all

the entrants. These winners received a book "Stamps as a Hobby".

For the exhibition the KM SCF also prepared a demonstration on the creation of album pages. This assignment was entrusted to four young philatelists from Svitav who were

experienced exhibitors and participants of FO. We were counting on the fact that as long as some of the young exhibition visitors would like to try on their own to make up album pages, they would be able to. As it turned out, our boys only demonstrated the creation of album pages on the first day of the exhibition. In the following days of increasing interest only the young visitors created album pages

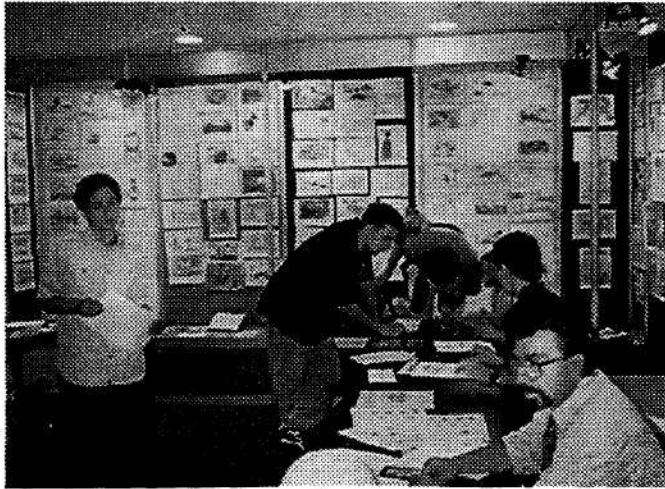


Fig. 6

(while the youngster from Svitav functioned only as instructors) and with good results, as could be seen in the creations of some of the youngsters.

KM SCF also contributed to the exhibition a new handbook for the leaders of

KMF and prepared two programs for personal computers which could be installed at the exhibition (A Small Guide to Philately, and A Philatelic Test).

For exhibition visitors there had been prepared brief information leaflets regarding the activities of KM SČF and reporting on the successful exhibits of youngsters at foreign stamp shows. The informative text was available also in English, which was seen as provident, as the children's post was visited by many adult foreign exhibitors, visitors, jurymen, and representatives of FIP, FEPA, and of course SČF. All of the visitors liked the children's exhibits and expressed their appreciation in particular of the striking diversity and abundance of activities for the young visitors.

The children's post was an idea that really turned out well. Surely all those who attended PRAGA'98 will attest to this. The children's post office exhibit was prepared and its operation orchestrated by Ing. J. Neubauer together with students of Prague's pedagogical school. The interest in this part of PRAGA'98 was great. Quite often the large number of visitors that had come to the exhibit had to be regulated. Finally, one of the goals of the exhibition were achieved: to provide parents a place to "set aside" their children while they devoted themselves to viewing the exhibits. Every child was thus absorbed in some activity, and it was enough for the parents to occasionally check up on their children. The children's post unquestionably contributed its share to the overall success of the PRAGA'98 exhibition.

\* \* \* \* \*

## RESULTS FROM STAMPSHOW'99

by Henry Hahn

The largest US philatelic show, sponsored by the American Philatelic Society, took place August 26-29 in Cleveland, Ohio. Our Society played a very big and successful part in the show as can be seen from the results of the Czechoslovak exhibits that were in competition:

1. In the literature class:
  - Ing. Jan Karásek won an APS Gold medal for the book "PADĚLKY" (Forgeries)
  - Our *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST* won an APS Vermeil award.
2. Jaroslav J. Verner won APS Gold as well as the APS Medal of Excellence 1900-1940 for his showing of "Czechoslovakia 1918-1939: Highlights of a Specialized Collection". He also received the Gold medal from our Society for the best exhibit of Czechoslovakia exhibited by a member.
3. Antonin Smid (Prague) won APS Gold for his exhibit "Prague Pneumatic Tube Mail 1899-1945". He further received our Society's Silver award.
4. Henry Hahn won APS Gold for his exhibit entitled "Pneumatic Mails of Vienna, Prague and Karlsbad".
5. Charley Chesloe won APS Vermeil for his exhibit entitled "Pošta Československá 1919". He also received the Collectors Club Award for best showing of Errors, Freaks and Oddities.
6. Mirko L. Vondra won an APS Vermeil for his exhibit entitled "Hradčany -- The First Issue of Czechoslovakia". He also received our Society's Bronze award.
7. Frank A. Garancovsky won an APS Silver for his exhibit entitled "Hradčany Czechoslovakia's First Issue, An Aggregate of Varieties".
8. Kimber A. Wald exhibited non-competitively with a showing of "Czechoslovakia -- The First 10 Years".

***Jiří Majer  
and Jaroslav Thraumb  
Auctions***

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## THE OLDEST SPECIAL POSTAL CANCELLATIONS FROM BRNO

by František Žampach  
trans. by Peter Kleskovic

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the following article in translation from the *MERKUR REVIEW*, May/June 1998, with permission of the editor and the author.]

In the chronology of the historical development of Brno's branch post offices which operate all year round, we also encounter post offices with operational time period and service limitations that are established for the occasions of significant anniversaries or special events. In this article I will remind the reader as well as supplement his knowledge of the already known data regarding the temporary post offices in Brno from the time of the former [Austro-Hungarian] Monarchy, which were using special bilingual postal cancellations. I have placed the especially interesting and relevant questions pertaining to the first special cancellation from Brno at the end of this study. Finally, I would like to add that entires, or even cut squares, with such cancellations are today very rare and highly sought after.

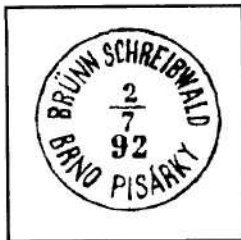


Fig. 1

1892. It used a special postal cancellation with a bilingual text of BRÜNN SCHREIBWALD - BRNO PISÁRKY (Fig. 1). During the next meet of the sharpshooters on July 19, 1901 -- also organized in Brno-Pisárky -- the aforementioned special occasion cancellation was again used.

In 1907 in Brno, an Exhibition Fair was organized in the area of the former Bauer's stage (today's Trade Fair area) which was given the original pretentious name of the organizer, the prosperous mayor of



Fig. 3

According to the "Postal and Telegraph Bulletin" (later called only Bulletin) of the former Monarchy from the year 1892/Z20682, a temporary military postal and telegraph office was established at the occasion of the 4th meet of the Austrian sharpshooters in Brno-Pisárky from June 19<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>.

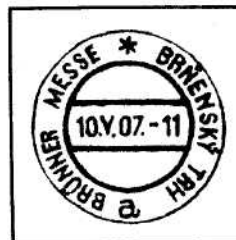


Fig. 2

Brno, Dr. August Wieser. It was called WIESER MESSI and was mockingly translated by the Czech populace [as Wieser's mess]. Being provoked by this, the German city hall of Brno was unwillingly forced to change the name to the neutral Brünner Messe. For this Exhibition Fair a temporary post office was opened in the area which used a special occasion cancellation with the text of BRÜNNER MESSE - BRNĚNSKÝ TRH (Fig. 2).

Also in Brno, for the cancellation of the well known bilingual jubilee postal card with a 5h stamp and the tex

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side with a beautiful copper engraving of the emperor in his uniform of a field marshal, was used a special cancellation in red, in a standard graphical design, with a text of BRÜNN -- BRNO and a date of December 2, 1908 (Fig. 3).

At the photographic exhibition organized in Brno in 1910 they used a bilingual postal cancellation with the text of PHOTOGR. AUSSTELLUNG BRÜNN 1910 -- FOTOGRAF. VÝSTAVA BRNO 1910 in black.

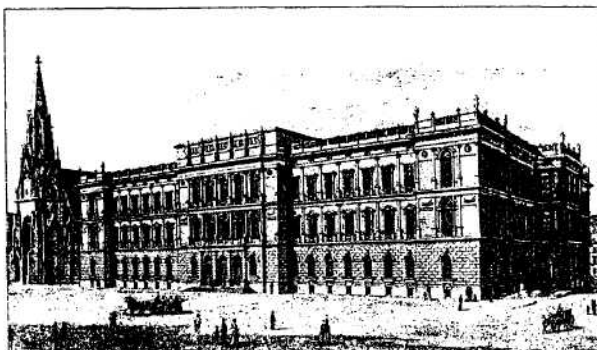


Fig. 4

In the succession of temporary post offices in Brno, I would like to mention an alleged post office which was to have been opened on the occasion of the Sokol Slet in Brno on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1914 at the exercising ground in Brno -- Králove Pole. Because of the Sarajevo assassination, however, the slet was officially prematurely closed. For this reason the referenced temporary post office along with its special cancellation were never put into operation.

It remains yet to mention that the first temporary post office in Brno was opened on 10 October, 1889 in the new State Assembly (1875-1878) on Joštova Avenue (Fig. 4). It was in operation only during the State Assembly's sessions and was later changed to all year use. In the beginning this post office provided services exclusively to the members of the State Assembly and to newspaper reporters. Besides handling regular mail and registered postal items, they also



Fig. 5

accepted telegram orders. They used a single-circle bilingual day stamp with the text BRÜNN LANDHAUS -- BRNO ZEMSKÝ DŮM having a changeable date and an abbreviated year in the center, all in black ink (Fig. 5). The supervision of this post office was delegated to František Pouchlý. The other operational personnel were supplied by the main post office Brno 1. I am documenting the above mentioned interesting cancellation with a copy of a registered letter envelope with a registration label that was



Fig. 6



submitted at the State Assembly post office and addressed to the mayor of Rýmařov (Fig. 6). The next piece of documentation material is a copy of a letter envelope addressed to a well known state assemblyman and associate of the State Committee -- Dr. Josef Fanderlík. We can see on its reverse side, among the various transit cancellations, the one from the post office of the State Assembly (Fig. 7).

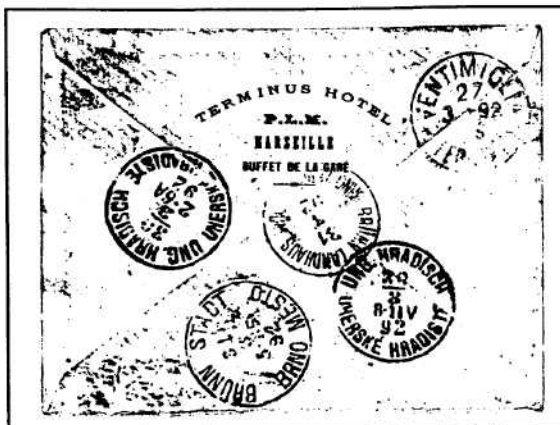


Fig. 7

According to Bulletin No. 1896/Z65732 from December 28, 1895, at the time of the numbering of the individual Brno branch post offices, the cancellation was changed to a double circle bilingual stamp with the name of BRÜNN 5 -- BRNO 5, with a changeable date, an abbreviated year, combined with changeable hourly data, all within the circle (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

According to the edict of the Ministry of Commerce as of June 6, 1907/Z19025/P this temporary post office was upgraded to one with year round operation, together with other services such as a postal savings bank, a telegraph office, and a public telephone call office. At the same time, the previous cancellation device was changed by introducing changeable hourly data in Roman numerals.

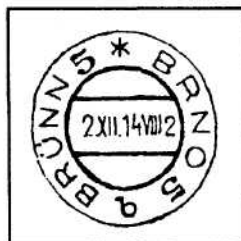


Fig. 9a

Beginning in 1910, there was introduced a double circle cancellation with the German text BRÜNN 5 on the left side and the Czech text of BRNO 5 on the right side. They were separated by a star on the top and the differentiation letters of "a" or "b" on the bottom. The bridge in the center of the circle could include changeable information (Fig. 9, 9a).

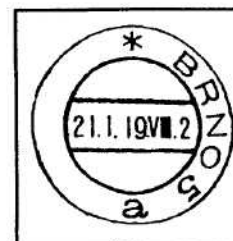


Fig. 10

After the liberation in 1918 this cancel was nationalized by dropping the German text. It still remained in use in the 1920's (Fig. 10, 10a). This was followed by the introduction of

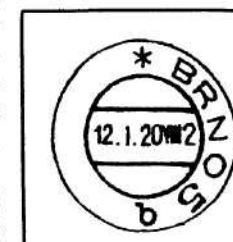


Fig. 10a



Fig. 11

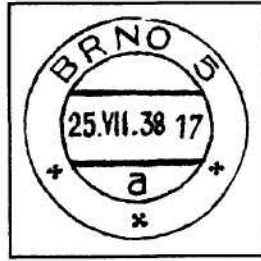


Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

a definitive double circled cancel with a bridge across its center. The upper semicircle showed a location of BRNO 5 and the lower contained the initials Č.S.P. set off by stars. In the lower segment were the differentiation letters of "a", "b", or "c" (Fig. 11).

Most likely because of organizational or economic reasons this post office was closed in 1922. However, on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1931 the BRNO 5 post office was again reactivated on Klácelova Street in the former Masaryk section of the city where it still is in operation today. After the reopening of this branch post office, they devised a standard double circle

cancel with a bridge in the center, the upper semicircle with the name BRNO 5, and the lower part filled with three crosses. The bridge was furnished with the usual arrangement of changeable data, and the lower segment included the differentiation letters (Fig. 12). To complete the information, I am also providing an illustration of a standard double circle official cancellation with a small national coat-of-arms in its center and without a date, which was used at this post office beginning in 1931. Such official cancellations were as a rule used on official business correspondence, sometimes on certain postal forms, and only very rarely on postage stamps (Fig. 13).

During the German Protectorate, this post office used the usual bilingual cancellations with a bridge in the center, the German text BRÜNN 5 on the top,



Fig. 15/16

the Czech text BRNO 5 on the bottom, and the identification letters in the lower segment (Fig. 14).

After the liberation in 1945, they utilized an oval official rubber cancel with the wording POŠTOVNÍ ÚŘAD on the top, BRNO 5 below that, and an ornamental filling in the middle. In the beginning this official cancel was used in conjunction with a rubber date stamp to surcharge letter parcels. As proof of such cases from the period shortly after the liberation (1945), I am providing a copy of the address side of an envelope franked with the postage stamps of the London issue 2.90 Kč (+ 2.50 Kč on the back side) which, in the absence of a regular dated cancel, was surcharged by the above mentioned official cancel in conjunction with the date by a rubber date stamp (Fig. 15,16). To this I would like to add, that after 1945 this type of official cancellation stamp was used by many other post offices, e.g. Brno 25, Znojmo 2, and others.

Finally, I would like to mention that this temporary post office, originally created for the needs of the State Assembly, and in the beginning exclusively serving the state assemblymen and the newspaper people, has become a part of the history of the Moravian-Silesian self-government.

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

## MAIL FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO PERSIA IN 1924

by John Miskevich

What is the explanation for the route the cover in this article took to reach its destination? The registered cover illustrated here (Fig. 1) was mailed from BRNO on November 3, 1924 and arrived (see backstamp, Fig. 2) at TEHERAN in Persia (Iran) on November 24, 1924. Postage paid in the amount of 7.50 Kčs represents a 2.50 Kčs registry fee plus 5.00 Kčs for an envelope weighing 49 grams (2.50 Kčs for the first 20 grams plus 1.25 Kčs for each additional 20 grams or each fraction thereafter). Added in red pencil below the address are instructions which read "via Moskau, Baku, Euseli". Indeed, there is a "Moskau" (Moscow) transit postmark of November 8, 1924 on the reverse of the cover. Transportation, as you can see, involved an extended journey courtesy of the railroad system of the Soviet Union. It is also likely that the cover was conveyed by ferry from Baku in Azerbaijan across the Caspian Sea to Euseli in northern Persia. Did mail posted in Czechoslovakia ordinarily travel by way of Moscow in 1924 to reach northern Persia?

I had always thought that mail from Central Europe for Persia was dispatched by train to Istanbul (Constantinople), Turkey aboard the Orient-Express and other trains that plied the routes. The Orient-Express was a luxury train that ran from Paris to Istanbul from 1883 to 1977. It was Europe's first transcontinental express including brief stopovers in such cities as Munich, Vienna, Budapest, and Bucharest. Its service was stopped by World War I but resumed in 1919 (as the Simplon-Orient-Express), with the route running from Calais and Paris to Lausanne, then via the Simplon Pass to Milan, Venice, Zagreb, Belgrade, and Sofia. My thinking all along had been that mail from Czechoslovakia traveled by railroad to Istanbul and then to eastern Turkey by rail (and maybe part of the way along the southern shore of the Black Sea by steamship) until it reached the Persian border. However, that may not have been the case. I've learned that transportation between eastern Turkey and western Persia was very rudimentary even in 1924. (I need to keep reminding myself that the railroad

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demolition featured in the film "Lawrence of Arabia" happened in Arabia and Palestine, and not in eastern Turkey.) Nevertheless, a route across Turkey to the Persian border -- despite the very mountainous terrain -- is the most direct passage.



Fig. 1

Speaking of Palestine, another route linking Czechoslovakia and Persia comes to mind. During the 1920s there was an overland bus service between Beirut (on the Mediterranean coast) via Damascus to Bagdad (Iraq), a distance of some 700 miles. Connections could be had with Persia. The system was known as the Overland Desert Mail and was operated by the Nairn Transport Company. It was founded by two New Zealanders named Nairn who had arrived in Palestine with the ANZACS during the World War and had remained after peace was concluded with Turkey. American-built six-wheeled buses, especially fitted for desert conditions, accommodated sixteen passengers, freight, and mail. Accomplishing the trip in 28 hours, pairs of former RAF pilots took turns driving and sleeping. Several buses, escorted by a number of swift light cars armed with machine-guns, made up the usual convoy. As the convoys were sometimes preyed upon by bandits and Bedouins -- earlier on camels, later sometimes in Buicks -- the trip became something of an Oriental adventure. Beginning in 1924, the buses carried mail for the governments of Iraq, Palestine, Persian, and Syria.

An additional fee was charged for the Overland Desert Mail service. Mail could travel by railroad from Central Europe via Istanbul to Damascus and from there overland to Bagdad and beyond. While covers from Britain and France (arriving by sea at Beirut) are known in 1924, and from Germany in 1926, none are known from Czechoslovakia during this period. Czechoslovak covers rarely made the trip to Bagdad during the entire time the service was in existence, let alone onward to Teheran.

There is one more factor in play as I evaluate the registered cover sent from Brno to

Persia on November 3, 1924. At 7 o'clock on November 7, the Executive Committee of the Austrian Railroad Employees Unions declared a general strike, following the government's refusal to grant a wage increase. All railroad traffic in Austria ceased at midnight. At that hour the President of the Austrian Republic accepted the resignation of the Chancellor and his entire Cabinet. Negotiations with the three unions representing Austrian railroad employees had been going on for several months, but bargaining had taken a turn for the worse a few days earlier. Could it be that a Czechoslovak postal clerk on November 3 added the routing instructions "via Moskau, Baku, Euseli" in red pencil to the cover in anticipation of a disruption in the transportation of Czechoslovak mail?

The Austrian railroad strike not only interrupted travel within Austria, but also worked havoc with international connections. Travel between Czechoslovakia and Italy via Austria was suspended. Moreover, trains which traveled the route from Calais and Paris

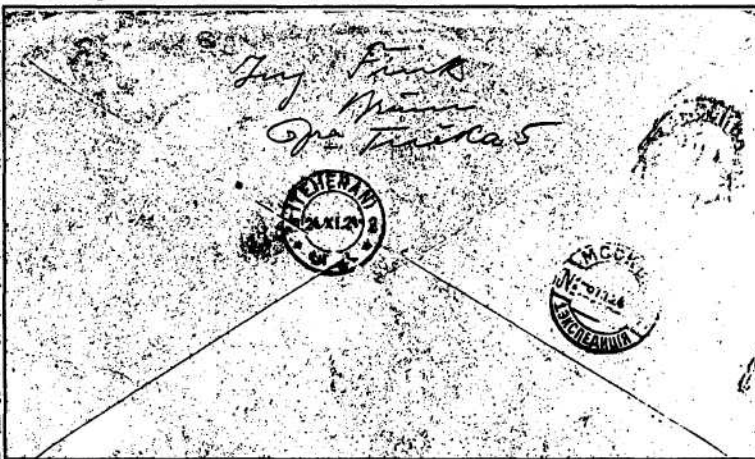


Fig. 2

via Germany and Austria to Hungary and Romania now stopped at Salzburg on the German Austrian frontier. International mail from Czechoslovakia to Turkey was affected during the railway strike. The Austrian railway strike was not ended until November 12 when traffic was resumed at midnight.

Collecting postal history is a wonderful hobby which always keeps the collector guessing. I have a cover in my collection mailed from Hamadan, Persia sent via Teheran and Baku, Russia to Ledgewood, New Jersey posted February 14, 1903. It is likely that the cover traveled by way of Moscow and St. Petersburg in order to be placed aboard a ship to reach the United States. It is apparent that northern Persia and Russia were well connected even in 1903. What was the ordinary route for Czechoslovak mail addressed to northern Persia in 1924? I will only be able to answer this question when you send a postal document or a copy of a relevant cover from your collection to the Editor.

#### References:

- *The Bulletin*, Postal Label Study Group, Serial #31 (April 1993) at page 1.
- Nutmeg Stamp Sales, Public Auction Catalog No. 15 (Dr. Arthur Groten's Collection "Via Palestine"), April 13, 1999.
- *The New York Times*: "Big Austrian Strike Forces Cabinet Out", November 8, 1924, page 4; "Through Trains Are Stopped", November 9, 1924, page 2; "Austrian Tie-Up Is Still Complete", November 10, 1924, page 19; "Italy and Czechoslovakia Suffer", November 11, 1924, page 19; "Austrian Rail Strike Ends", November 13, 1924, page 35.

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**SALES CIRCUIT INFORMATION & RULES**

**by H. Alan Hoover  
Circuit Sales Manager**

At a meeting held in the back room of a coffee shop on First Avenue in New York City on an autumn day in 1940, the Society's membership decided to initiate a Sales and Exchange Department.

There is nothing mysterious or complicated about the Society's Sales Circuit. Originally a sales and exchange circuit, it is now only a sales circuit. We are always seeking new members to join the circuit as sellers and as buyers. The actual rules for its use are listed towards the end of this article and can also be found on the Society web site: [www.erols.com/sib.post](http://www.erols.com/sib.post).

Only philatelic material of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Eastern Silesia, Silesia, Carpatho-Ukraine, and Bohemia-Moravia is accepted. Since early Czechoslovak postal history includes combined frankings and different town cancels, this material is also permitted. The circuit accepts stamps, miniature sheets, covers, postal history, and stampless covers from the above mentioned areas. Any of these may contain special cancellations, plate numbers, errors or varieties as listed in specialized catalogs.

With the exception of covers and postal stationery, all material submitted must be mounted in the Society's approval books, each of which has ten pages of 5 x 8

inches in size and holds 120 stamps. They are available from the Circuit Manager (CM) at \$1.00 each, postpaid. Covers and postal stationery may be submitted unmounted, but each cover or card must have the sales price written in pencil in the lower right-hand corner. A list must be generated by the owner identifying each cover in some small way, and then including this typed list with the lot when it is sent out to the sales circuit.

A suggested format would be something like:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Taken By: Name, Number</u>
1	\$10.00	Austrian field post card, 8 Jul 17	
2	\$5.00	Slovak cover, 14 Aug 42, Nitra	
3	\$4.00	Czech cover, 9 Mar 47, Brno	

The CM then batches and inserts them into a pouch with appropriate information on the front and back. This lot is then combined with other philatelic material for sale in a circuit.

When a "seller/owner" applies for and receives his approval books, he fills them with his stamps, prices each item in the spaces provided, totals the value of each book's contents at the end and returns the books to the CM. The CM then sorts the newly received books into groups of not less than six and not more than ten and begins circulating them among those members who have applied for the service -- they are the "buyers/purchasers". Thus a so-called "circuit" may be defined as a grouping of six to ten circuit approval books submitted by owners which travel by mail from buyer to buyer according to a Routing List accompanying each grouping. Only Society members in good standing may participate in our sales circuit purchasers, and only if they apply. Those who apply as purchasers and wish to receive groups of approval books are placed on a mailing list by the CM and have a different spot on each routing. This is done to prevent the same member from having poor material selection opportunities by constantly being near the bottom of the list. Purchasers are required to pay \$2.25 into the insurance fund for each circuit they receive, whether they buy anything or not. This supplements the insurance purchased through our independent insurance provider and assures full insurance coverage of the circuit. This is done in lieu of US postal insurance.

After a circuit is retired, the CM totals the sales and returns the books to the owners. They receive a check for their sales less a commission of 15% if the owner is a member, 20% if a non-member, and, in addition, less 1% of the gross value of the book for insurance and cost of return postage. On the buyers end of the process, a check from the buyer (payable to the CM) for purchases made is sent to the CM as soon as the buyer mails the books on to the next person on the routing sheet.

The Circuit Department handles on the average of twenty circuits a year. These circuits help form the lifeblood of our Society. Ever since its inception in 1941, the Department has been a source of extra Society funds and has aided immeasurably in maintaining the solvency of our Society's treasury. Even during the war years there was no interruption of service. By making purchases from these circuit books, members not only satisfy their own philatelic needs, but also provide valuable support to their Society.

The following are the rules and regulations governing the use of the circuits:

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1. Stamps must be mounted in the Society's sales books which can be obtained from the Circuit Manager for \$1.00 each. Only good peelable hinges or non-destructive mounts are to be used. Unused spaces are to be blocked out to prevent mistaken blank spaces. Covers may be supplied in a 6 1/2" x 9 1/2" clasp envelope, but each item must have the sales price marked in pencil on the front lower right corner.
2. The Society takes no responsibility for the quality or genuineness of the stamps and materials offered.
3. Scott's current catalog numbers are to be used. If you use any other specialized catalog, you must identify it, and it must be the current year catalog. Enter in the proper spaces the catalog number, catalog value, and the NET price at which you want to sell. Total net value of a book may not exceed \$800.00.
4. All books must remain in the Sales Department for at least one circuit routing.
5. After the books are retired from the circuit, they will be checked and the proceeds less charges will be paid to the owners. Charges include 15% for the service of members, 20% for non-members, return postage on the books, money order fee for payment of proceeds (if any), and 1% of the total original value of each book for the insurance fund (or \$2.25 whichever is greater).
6. Upon obtaining a mailing of circuit books, a buyer must first check the number of books received and their contents. If one finds any empty unmarked spaces, they must notify the sender of the circuit as well as the Circuit Manager. In each such space, the buyer should write "Found Empty" and include their name and membership number. The prices of those stamps will then be charged to the member who had the books before them. Do not hold up the circuit for this process.
7. A buyer must sign (use a felt-tip pen or a rubber stamp so not to "emboss" the stamps on the next page) every space from which he or she removes a stamp and place their membership number there. The buyer must mark the Report Sheet and the back of the book with the total amount removed from that book.
8. **DO NOT HOLD BOOKS FOR MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS.** A fee of 50 cents per day will be assessed for the holding of a circuit beyond the 14 days. After removing what material you want, send the books by **CERTIFIED FIRST CLASS** mail to the next member whose name appears on the Routing List accompanying each circuit. Try to use postage stamps when forwarding the circuit, since the next person appreciates receiving used US stamps also. At the same time, send the filled out Report Sheet and the amount due (there will always be an amount due) to the Circuit Manager.
9. Switching of stamps or substituting poor copies for better ones is stealing and will be dealt with as the offense warrants.
10. Each member is responsible for the full amount of the circuit as long as it is in their possession and until they receive the certified receipt from their post office or, if delivered personally, until they receive a receipt from the next member. Members should save all postal receipts for at least six months in case of a loss in the US Postal System. The \$2.25 insurance fee on the Report Sheet must still be paid even if the circuit is properly hand delivered to the next mailing list recipient.
11. Minimum value per circuit booklet accepted is \$40.00.
12. Checks or money orders must be made payable to and sent to: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross GA 30092-1383.



## *President's Corner*

STAMPSHOW 99 in Cleveland served as the backdrop for this year's board meeting. The Board decided to provide yet another challenge to me by affording me this opportunity to serve you as our Society's President. After eighteen years of membership in this Society, and almost as many as the Librarian, I recognize how fortunate we have been in the past to have enjoyed the dedication and leadership of my predecessors. I'm thankful that they still serve our organization and are available to offer their advice and counsel.

Jerry Verner, our outgoing President, led the Society for the past four years and outlined our accomplishments during his tenure in the July/August issue of the *SPECIALIST*. What he failed to mention was that many of these achievements were due to his personal efforts and very considerable dedication of time to the Society. His contributions to the Society, though greatly aided by a dynamic and extremely competent group of officers and Board Members, deserve special recognition and thanks. I sincerely hope that we can continue the momentum that he has created.

The Society's Board Meeting was, as always, lengthy and full of issues. A summary of the officers' reports and the Meeting results follow.

**Elections:** The Board elected Richard Palaschak as President, Robert Koschalk as Vice President, and re-elected Tom Cossaboom as Secretary and Ed Lehecka as Treasurer. All appointed officers of the Society agreed to continue serving in their respective positions.

**Membership:** Membership has remained stable at about 340 members. An increasing portion of our new members are getting their membership applications from the Society's web site.

**Financial:** We enjoy a robust balance of \$16,108. This healthy financial picture prompted the Board to approve several new initiatives which are discussed later in this report.

**SPECIALIST:** Membership dues continue to be sufficient to pay for the printing and mailing of the *SPECIALIST*. Lou Svoboda, our Editor, has expanded each issue of the *SPECIALIST* to forty-four (44) pages. This has been possible because of the efforts of many Society members who devote their time to writing and translating articles, and, certainly, to Lou Svoboda who has engineered this expansion. Please consider sharing your philatelic research and expertise by putting your knowledge in writing and providing it to our Editor for publication in the *SPECIALIST*. He's doing a great job but needs our help to fill each issue with solid philatelic writing.

**Library:** The Library Catalog is now available on the Society's web site. There are 319 individual books, pamphlets, and catalogs listed in our holdings. The Board directed the Librarian to offer the services of the Society's Library to APS judges free of charge. The Board felt that loaning material to APS judges benefitted those members of the Society who exhibit and, further, one of the underlying reasons supporting our Society's tax exempt status is our educational efforts. The Librarian will inform the Chairman of the APS Judging Committee of the Society's offer.

**Sale of SPECIALISTS:** Society members purchased over 1,000 back issues of the *SPECIALIST* during 1998.

**Publications:** Ed Lehecka reported that the sale of philatelic publications has grown dramatically and is now generating significant income for the Society. This increase is one of the reasons for the strong financial condition of our organization.

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Sales Circuits: Alan Hoover noted that circuit sales are still strong and continue to provide substantial income for the Society's initiatives, but that there isn't much new material being submitted. This would be a good time for members to organize their duplicates into circuit books and send them to Alan!

### Future Conventions:

-- 2000: The Society will meet at BALPEX around the Labor Day weekend. Jerry Verner is our Society's representative to BALPEX. Since the year 2000 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of President Masaryk (7 March 1850), the Society will work with the U.S. Postal Service to get an official postal cancel honoring President Masaryk for the show.

-- 2000: Although our Society will not hold a meeting during BRNO 2000, many of our Society members will be in the Czech Republic for this exhibition. Jerry Verner is the U.S. Commissioner for the exhibition and has been providing available information through the Specialist. As we firm up the number of Society members who will be at the show, we will determine if any Society sponsored functions should be organized.

-- 2001: The Society will meet at CHICAGOPEX in November. We will be looking for some members residing in the Chicago area to assist in the Society's participation in this show.

-- 2002: The Society will meet at NAPEX in June. Henry Hahn, the Society's representative to the show, reported that the Hungarian Philatelic Society will also meet at NAPEX. The Board decided to offer to hold a joint dinner with the Hungarian Society.

-- 2003: The Board decided to explore meeting locations in the western portion of the country including ARIPEX (January) in Arizona and WESTPEX (April) in San Francisco.

### New Initiatives:

-- SPECIALIST Index: Anne Vondra is working on an update of the "SPECIALIST Index" to include all articles through 1998. We are not sure yet whether this will be published as a separate supplementary ten (10) year index, or whether it will be integrated into the existing index and published as a new comprehensive sixty (60) year index.

-- Senior Members: The Board voted to honor those who have been Society members in good standing for fifty (50) years with the status of "Senior Members". Senior Members will not pay dues effective the year 2000 or the year after their fiftieth membership anniversary. Members who qualify for this honor will be notified in writing before 1 January 2000.

-- Czech Catalog Translation: The Society has obtained permission from the publisher of the recent Trojan Catalog "Ceskoslovensko, 1919-1939" to publish an English translation of the catalog. Such a work would provide a superior catalog of the philately of the First Czechoslovak Republic in English. Henry Hahn was authorized by the Board to explore the possibility of translating the catalog text. The effort is of such a scope that it would require five or more philatelic translators to complete the effort in a reasonable time frame.

There are several other projects that the Board is exploring. I will report on those as they mature into finite initiatives. The Board welcomes suggestions from our members regarding other initiatives that would be of interest to them. Our Society always has need of fresh ideas and the active involvement of its members.

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately continues to flourish. It is financially

healthy, philatelically dynamic, and enjoys a wonderful reputation. I will do my best during the next two years to sustain those conditions and, hopefully, encourage additional Society achievements that build upon those of the past. I am looking forward to my service as the President of our Society and ask for your support, your ideas, and your active participation in the Society.

Richard G. Palaschak

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## RETURNED MAIL SHIPMENTS

by Karel Holoubek & Jiří Kašpar

trans. by Savoy Horvath

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the following article in translation from the *MERKUR REVIEW*, Jul/Aug 1998, with the permission of the editor and the authors.]

The totalitarian regime of the former Czechoslovak Socialist Republic reserved for itself and for a small handful of chosen others that which is available for everyone in democracies. This involved, among other things, the management of foreign currency. This included not only foreign money, but also postage stamps -- which also belong among government issued and controlled valuables. That is why the movements of these items was regulated.

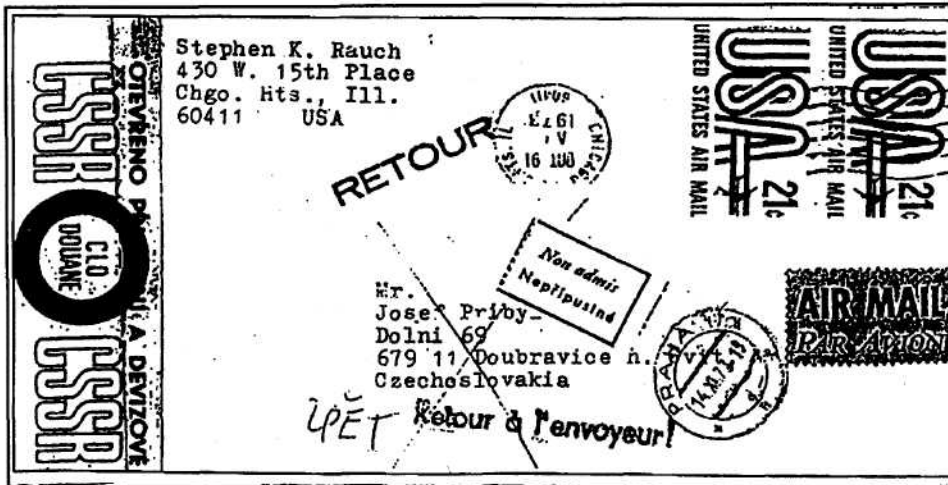


Figure 1: ZPĚT = back

All envelope mail going in or coming out of the ČSSR was centrally provided control through a post office located in Gorki Square in Prague. This censorship was provided by one of the sections of the Interior Ministry with the knowledge and agreement of the postal service. It is not necessary to point out that during this process many letter enclosures were pocketed.

No ordinary citizen of the ČSSR was allowed to possess foreign currency. If ever

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

anybody came into possession of foreign currency from whatever means, it was the citizen's duty to offer the money to a bank for their purchase in exchange for koruny (crowns). Later on some thoughtful communist economists "discovered" that exactly these kinds of gifts obtained from postal shipments from outside of the ČSSR were an easy source of foreign "hard" currency. Therefore they created "DAREX" and later "TUZEX". They were department stores with foreign merchandise -- and of course they were state owned -- where one could purchase various merchandise from needles to an automobile. And naturally, they were the kind of items normally not available in the regular ČSSR stores (brand name jeans, top-of-the-line grocery items, foreign made cars, etc.). Purchases were paid for either in foreign currency or by special bank-like notes. These special notes -- called TUZEX koruny or "bon's" -- could not be used at any other stores. They were issued by the National Bank in exchange for surrendered "hard" currency.

Many Czechoslovak families had friends or relatives in the west behind the Iron Curtain. They would occasionally send them "hard" currency in their letters. It was much easier for both the sender as well as the recipient if there were enclosed some marks or dollars in the envelope than to send a specific gift via parcel post. After converting the money to bon's, the recipient could purchase the merchandise that he wanted at TUZEX.

Figure #1 shows a typical envelope that was opened and resealed. If the envelope's contents included something forbidden, this was signified by attaching a dual language label "Non admis - Nepřipustné" [non admissible], and respectively rubber stamping it "RETOUR" [return], "Retour a l'envoyeur" [return to sender], or "Retour a l'expediteur" [return to expeditor] and returning it to the sender. Shipments containing only "unobjectionable" or even welcome amounts of foreign currency were delivered to the addressee together with an enclosed form that called attention to one's duty to exchange the money in a bank (Fig. 2).

Adresátovi listu: Priložite a odovzdajte pri výmene cudzozemských peňazí č.....	
<i>Prof. T. J. J.</i>	
Pri devízovej kontrole bolo zistené, že na Vás adresovaný list obsahuje tieto cudzozemské platidlá:	
<b>Jeden amer. dolar</b>	
Upozorňujeme Vás, že podľa devízových predpisov ste povinný(á) tieto cudzozemské platidlá ponúknuť do desiat dní po prijatí štátnej banky československej, ktorá Vám ich vymení za Kčs podľa príslušného kurzu. Cudzozemské platidlá môžete prípadne zaslať aj poštou najbližšej pobočky štátnej banky československej. Ak chcete valuty zameniť za TUZEX-poukazy, potom môžete tak urobiť len u niektorej pobočky štátnej banky československej.	
Tento lístok odovzdajte štátnej banke československej pri zámene platidiel.	
<i>X P. R. J.</i>	
Dev. 8 - 80 7770 stc 7818	

Figure 2: To the Letter's Addressee: Tally and return during the exchange of foreign money. During foreign currency control it was determined that a letter addressed to you contained the following foreign monies: ..... One Amer./Canad. Dollar  
We want to bring to your attention that according to foreign currency control regulations, you are duty bound to exchange these foreign monies for Kčs at the going exchange rate in a Czechoslovak State Bank within ten days of receipt of them. You can also mail the foreign money to your nearest branch of the Czechoslovak State Bank. If you want to exchange the money into TUZEX notes, you can do this only in selected Czechoslovak State Bank branches.  
Turn this form in to the Czechoslovak State Bank when exchanging currency.

What about postage stamps? Just as with everything else, their exchange with foreign collectors was also centrally controlled. The main customs house in Prague had a section called "The Center for Foreign Exchange". Here, interested parties had to register, pay an annual appropriate fee, and had to send all foreign stamp exchange mailings through this center. Every shipment was recorded, evaluated, and priced according to a standard catalog, and an invoice included with the annotation "má dáti - dal" [an amount was owed - it was paid]. Only then was the

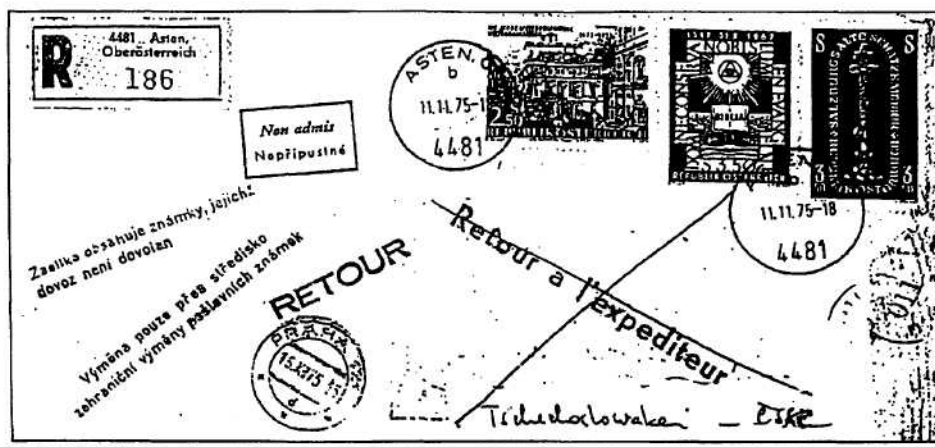


Figure 3: First two line cancel = This shipment includes postage stamps, their importation is not allowed.  
Second two line cancel = Exchange of postage stamps only through foreign exchange center

shipment forwarded to the addressee. The foreign exchange partner had to go through a similar procedure. Incoming envelopes were addressed to the center and also had to include a second envelope addressed to the final Czechoslovak addressee. The process was time consuming. There were fixed limits as to both the number of stamps sent and their value. Records were kept to determine if accounts balanced. In the event that these conditions were not adhered to the exchange was terminated.

Many of the foreign collectors exchanging with Czechoslovak partners occasionally did not have sympathy for this method of exchange, and so they tried the simple route -- direct mailing. How this customarily turned out is evident from Figure 3. Besides the previously mentioned labels and impression of rubber stamps prescribing the return of the shipment to the sender, additional rubber stamps were used. From them it was evident what had happened to the letter, why it was held up, or why it was being returned.

Czechoslovaks, however, were always inventive. Thus, even despite these restrictions, at bourses of that period one could always see and buy even the newest of foreign stamps, and often in considerable numbers. Fortunately, philatelists today exchange stamps with foreign partners without problems, and thus the envelopes illustrated belong in the sphere of postal history.

**TELEGRAMS OF THE CZECH SCOUT POST  
WITH 10H MASARYK OVERPRINTS**  
by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL

The Czech Scout Post was reactivated for one day on December 21, 1918 to support the arrival of President Thomas G. Masaryk in Prague. Six hundred copies of the 10h blue Scout Post stamps were overprinted "Příjezd Presidenta Masaryka" (Arrival of President Masaryk) in red, and 1,000 copies of the 20h red were overprinted in black by the Knapp Printing Plant in the Karlin district of Prague for use only on that day. Unused remainders were promptly destroyed, and it is estimated that only a small number of each value of these overprints have survived.

While the majority of the used overprints which are still on paper are on covers or on piece, a few are also found on the postal card of the Scout post and on telegrams. Jan Dvořák and Lester A. Behnke compiled a survey of the telegrams with Masaryk overprints which were known to them. They reported one telegram with a 10h Masaryk overprint, and five telegrams with 20h Masaryk overprints, all of which they illustrated (SPECIALIST, November 1978 and June 1979). In his talk on the Scout Post at the Society's 1990 annual meeting at BALPEX, Ing. Pavel Pittermann reported two additional telegrams with 20h Masaryk overprints.

On December 20, 1918 President Masaryk boarded a special train near the Czech border. The train reached Prague the next day in the early afternoon. The eight reported telegrams with Masaryk overprints were all sent from stops along the route of the train, either to the National Committee or private parties in Prague. On December 21, 1918 the telegrams were picked up by Scouts at the telegraph office at the Wilson Station, carried to the temporary Scout Post Operations Center, franked with Masaryk overprints, and then delivered by Scouts to their destinations. These telegrams are summarized in the following table.

Time/Date	Sent From	Sent By	Sent To	Franked with
1:10 PM Dec 20,1918	Horní Dvořiště	National Committee in České Budějovice	National Committee in Prague	10h Masaryk overprint
Duplicate of above	----	----	----	20h Masaryk overprint
1:15 PM Dec 20,1918	České Budějovice	Dr. Zahradník Minister of Railways	Editor's Office, Venkov (newspaper in Prague)	20h Masaryk overprint
3:10 PM Dec 20,1918	České Budějovice	Jan Masaryk (son of T.G. Masaryk)	Charlota Masaryk (wife of T.G. Masaryk)	20h Masaryk overprint
4:13 PM Dec 20,1918	České Budějovice	Svoboda	National Committee in Prague	20h Masaryk overprint
8:10 PM Dec 21,1918	České Budějovice	Hájek	National News (newspaper in Prague)	20h Masaryk overprint
10:15 AM Dec 21,1918	České Budějovice	National Committee in České Budějovice	National Committee in Prague	20h Masaryk overprint
11:45 AM Dec 21,1918	České Budějovice	Dr. Zahradník Minister of Railways	Presidium of National Committee in Prague	20h Masaryk overprint

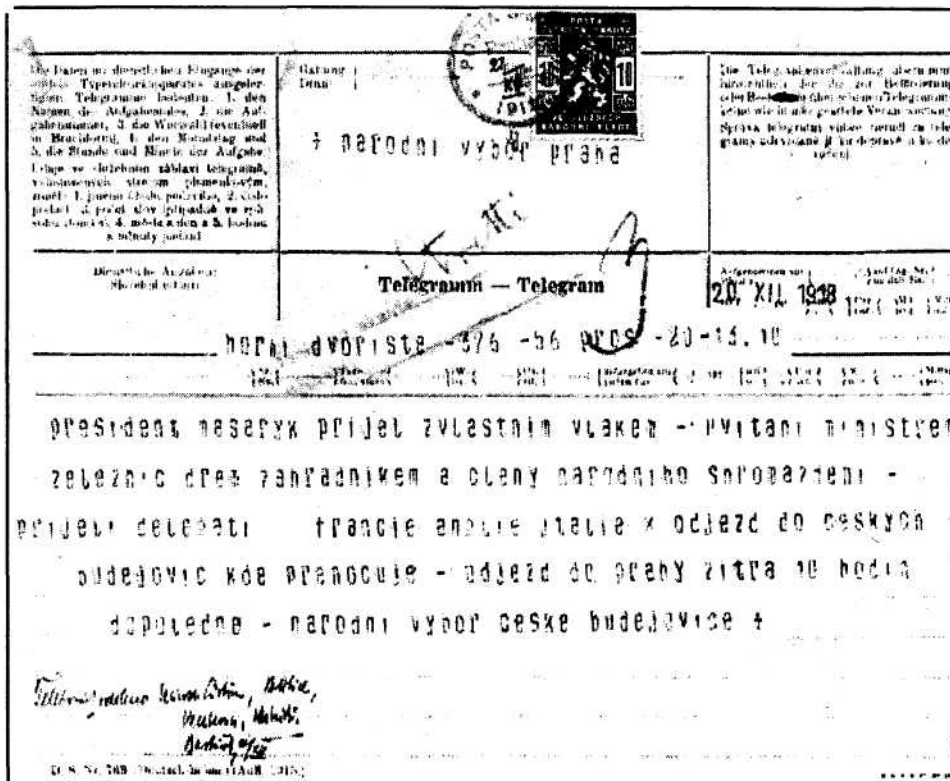


Fig. 1

The Scout Post stamps were used for accounting within the operation of the Scout Post. This accounting was necessary because the Scout Post was paid a lump sum for their services from a special National Committee fund. The 20h stamps were used for the delivery of letters and telegrams. Hence, it is unusual when a telegram is found which is franked with a single 10h stamp.

The telegram sent on December 20, 1918 from the railway station at Horní Dvořiště by the National Committee in České Budějovice to the National Committee in Prague and franked with a single 10h Masaryk overprint (first telegram in the table) is shown in Figure 1. It was previously discussed by Dvořák and Behnke (SPECIALIST, June 1979, p.102). This telegram is presently in the international large gold medal exhibit of Czechoslovakia formed by a collector in the Czech Republic.

A second, previously unreported telegram franked with a single 10h Masaryk overprint, is shown in Figure 2. It was recently sold by private treaty through the Prague dealer, Jiří Majer. Joseph Roessler-Ořovský, who was President of the Czech Scout Association and who organized and directed the Scout Post, was at the telegraph office at the Wilson Station on the morning of December 21, 1918, when the telegram sent at 10:15 AM by the National Committee in České Budějovice to the National Committee in Prague arrived (seventh telegram in the table).

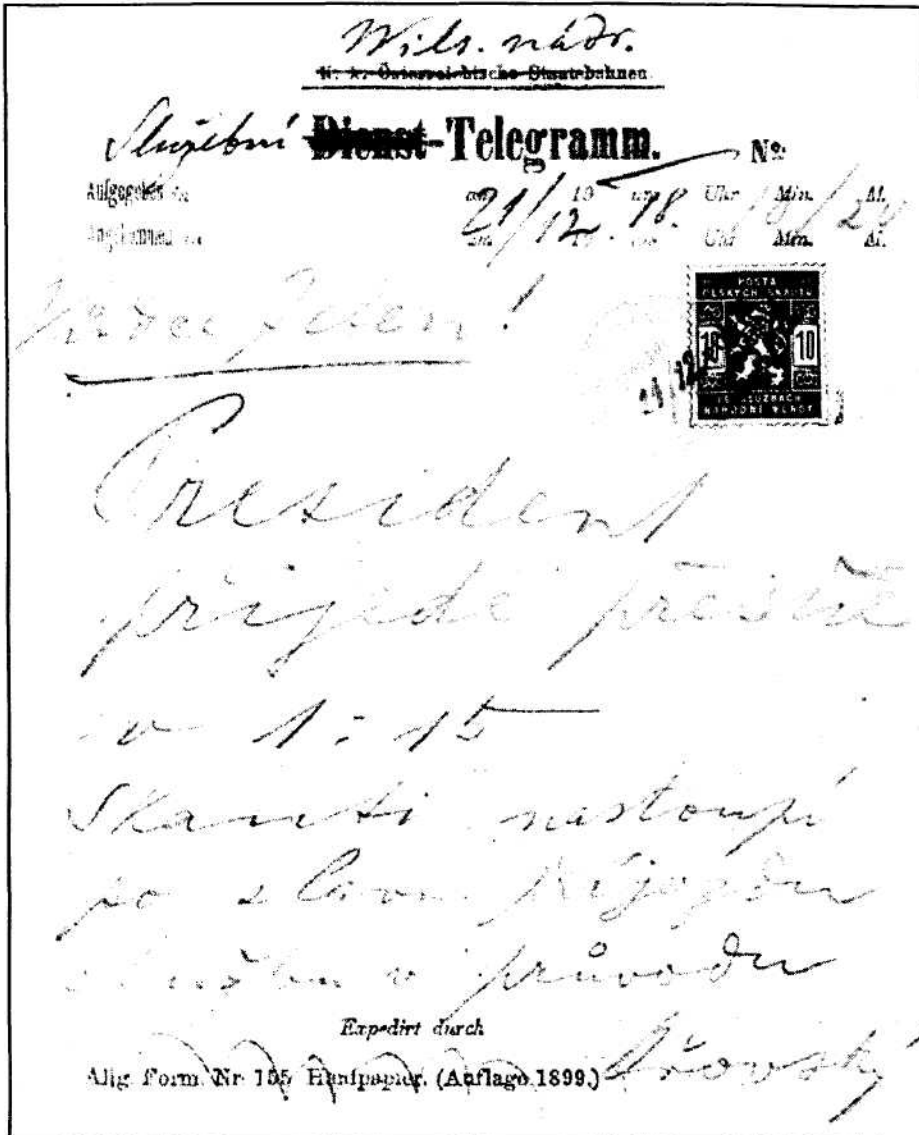


Fig. 2

At 10:20 AM he hand-wrote an urgent message to Scout Leader Jelen on an official telegram form from the former telegraph service of the Austrian state railways. He lined through the German text on the form which referred to the Austrian state railways and replaced it with "Wils.[onovo] nádr.[aži]" (Wilson Station), and he replaced the German "Dienst" (official) with "Služební" to indicate



that the message was an official communication of the newly formed government of Czechoslovakia. The message to Jelen reads:

"The President will arrive precisely at 1:15. Scouts will fall in for the celebration of the arrival and will participate in the parade. Ořovský."

Roessler-Ořovský handed the message to a Scout, who carried it to the temporary Scout Post Operations Center, where it was franked with a single 10h Masaryk overprint. From there, the message was carried to Jelen by a Scout. The two-line handstamp "Dopis od skauta ... Převzal ..." (Letter from Scout ... Accepted by ...), which was usually applied to letters, postal cards and telegrams delivered by the Scout Post, was not applied to the message, so the name(s) of the Scout(s) who carried it weren't recorded.

The telegram possesses a 1979 photo attest from Bundesprüfer Max Mahr and a 1999 color photo certificate from Ing. Jan Karásek, and is signed by both of these experts. It is presently in the international gold medal exhibit of the early issues of Scouting on stamps formed by a Scouts collector.

To date, only two telegrams with 10h Masaryk overprints have been reported. These telegrams are important historical documents from the formation of Czechoslovakia and world-class rarities of Czechoslovak philately.

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**AN EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY ON THE  
SOUVENIR SHEET ČR A10  
"THE LARGEST COUNTRY COAT-OF-ARMS"**

**by Zdeněk Fritz  
trans. by Peter Kleskovic**

*[Ed. Note: This article originally appeared in the Jan/Feb 1998 issue of Merkur Review. It is reprinted here in translation with the permission of the Editor-in-chief, Jan Klim, and the author.]*

The first souvenir sheet of the Czech Republic "The Largest Country Coat-of-Arms" (Troj./Pof. A10) attracted special attention not only because of the high quality of the printing process which used five-color steel print from flat plates, but also by the subsequent discovery of improperly cut souvenir sheets out of the print sheet (there were four souvenir sheets per print sheet). The cropping shifted upward so that a wide white edge appeared on top while the bottom edge partially touched the emblem under the stamps (A10 VV).

Now we are providing information about another irregularity (production flaw) on this souvenir sheet, wherein while being perforated a sheet was hit by two strokes of the perforation frame (Fig. 1). One of the strokes was completely correctly positioned in relation to the stamp picture, while the second one is shifted upwards about 3.5 mm. As a result there appear two parallel perforation rows both on the top and the bottom of the sheet (this is a shift up by two perforation openings).



The upper perforation row of the two at the lower edge of the stamp encroaches into the drawing in such a way that it cuts the "8 Kč" denomination and also the adjacent linden twig (see the figure). The second perforation stroke is very slightly shifted to the left (which is noticeable at the vertical perforations) and certainly was performed after the printing of the stamps was completed (which is confirmed by examining the edges of the perforation openings).

This extraordinary discovery was reported to our editor by Mr. Jaroslav Michna from Ostrava. According to his report so far only three examples have been discovered, and all of them in his philatelic club. Most likely they came from a new-stamp service package that was rush delivered to the club. As a

result of the printing form used to produce these sheets, we can presume with a degree of certainty that at least 4 of these specimens must exist. We cannot rule out that there are more of these; however, no further examples have been documented.

\* \* \* \* \*

### *Philatelic Hinges*

As you have seen from the cover of this issue, the APS literature judges have given this publication a tremendous vote of confidence. The largest share of the credit for this accomplishment must go to the authors of the articles and the translators of those which are presented to us in Czech or Slovak. The authors have their names listed on the cover and prominently right below the title of the article, thus their names become fairly well known. However, the translators get very little credit for the very important function that they perform -- not only translating the words of the article, but, more importantly, preserving the meaning and content of the ideas presented. With this in mind, my translators are: Peter Kleskovic, Vladimir Kralicek, Savoy Horvath, Henry Hahn, Jaroslav Verner, and Mark Vrzala. Thank you to them and all of the authors who made this award possible.

After many, many years of outstanding service to our Society as board member, President, author, translator, editor (for 9 years), and most recently distribution editor, Mirko Vondra has elected to retire from the editorial board as well as the board of directors, and to let other members display their abilities and expertise. Consequently, if you have any questions about the SPECIALIST, its content, editorial policies, mailing problems, or just plain non receipt of issues, please contact me. By all means write to Mirko for personal reasons, but writing to him about any of the other matters listed above will only delay a response, because he will just have to forward it to me.

And don't forget that the mailing addresses of all of the key people within the Society can be found on page 2 of any issue. These are the people to write to when you have a question or problem in a particular area, or if you have a suggestion as to how we can improve the Society.

By the way, you may have noticed that starting with the Jan/Feb 99 issue, your copy of the SPECIALIST has been held closed with a tab. This was added to help insure that your copy arrived in satisfactory condition. Since we have been using this method for a year now (6 issues), I would appreciate any feedback from members as to the effectiveness of this tab. I have already received one letter (see the *Letters to the Editor* column) dealing with how to effectively remove the tabs so no residue remains.

Another change to remark has to do with the mailing location of the SPECIALIST as noted on the back cover. Our printer -- and new member of our Society -- Nancy Godfrey, has taken over the responsibility of doing the second class mailing of the SPECIALIST from Shippensburg, PA. Now that an additional handler has been removed from the process, this change has the potential to speed up the mailing process thus getting your copy to you sooner.

Finally, you have seen in the Sep/Oct 99 issue as well as this one the announcement articles of the deaths of two great graphic artists in the Czech Republic, Josef Herčík and Vladimír Kovářík, respectively.

Ludvik Svoboda

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## *New Issues*

### CZECH REPUBLIC

by G. M. van Zanten

1. On September 8, 1999, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 4.60 Kč stamp in the UNESCO Anniversary of Personalities series commemorating Vincenc Priessnitz (Fig. 1). The stamp is issued on the bicentenary of his birth which is also the anniversary of UNESCO. Vincenc Priessnitz (1799-1851) was a folk healer. He promoted treatment with cold baths, poultices, long walks, physical work and an abstinent way of life. His steaming compress was used in the treatment of certain illnesses of the abdomen, joints and throat, not only in medical facilities but also in home treatment situations. In 1832, he founded the world's first hydrotherapy institute in Gräfenberg, now Lázně Jeseník. Here, using his principles, he successfully treated several tens of thousands of patients. This black, yellow, ochre, grey-blue, and brown stamp bears a portrait of Priessnitz surrounded by scenes of his medical methods depicted with humorous exaggeration. The stamp was designed by Václav Kabát and engraved by Martin Srb. It was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in sheets of 35 pieces.



Fig. 1

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

There is a FDC in dark brown portraying some more of Priessnitz's medical methods and again in humorous exaggeration.

2. On September 8, 1999, the Ministry issued two multicolored definitive stamps in the Signs of the Zodiac series (Fig. 2). Both stamps were designed by Vladimír Suchánek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. They were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 100 stamps.



Fig. 2

- The 8 Kč stamp in black, dark red, and brown-red depicts the zodiacal sign of Cancer -- the crab -- along with the appropriate astrological symbol.

- The 20 Kč stamp in black, violet, and brown depicts the zodiacal sign of Sagittarius -- the archer -- along with the appropriate astrological symbol.

3. On September 29, 1999, the Ministry issued a set of 3 commemorative stamps in the Folk Art series (Fig. 3). The theme of the stamps is the carved beehives which our ancestors began making as homes for bees way back in the Middle Ages and have continued making to the present. Some of the beehives of various designs have survived to the present day and can be seen in museums. The series includes two beehives with a secular motif and one with a religious one from the last century. All three of the stamps in the set were both designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa. They were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps.



Fig. 3

- The 4.60 Kč stamp in black, ochre, brown, green, and red depicts a carved beehive in the figure of a woman along with an illustration of a bee on a hexagonal honeycomb opening. A FDC in brown shows a beehive in the form of a lion from the beginning of the 20th century. It -- along with the beehive in the figure of a woman -- is in the collections of the Ethnographic Institute of the Moravian Country Museum in Brno.

- The 5 Kč stamp in black, brown, blue, ochre, and grey-green depicts a carved beehive in the figure of St. Joseph with Infant Jesus along with an illustration of a bee on a hexagonal honeycomb opening. A FDC in green shows the oldest beehive in Bohemia from the 17th century. It -- along with the beehive in the figure of St. Joseph with Infant Jesus -- is located in the Czech Country Museum in Kačina Castle.

- The 7 Kč stamp in black, brown, ochre, grey-blue, and green depicts a carved beehive in the figure of a chimney sweep along with an illustration of a bee on a hexagonal honeycomb opening. A FDC in ochre shows a beehive with a figure holding a bird in his

hand. It -- along with the beehive in the figure of a chimney sweep -- can be seen in the City Museum of Mnichovo Hradiště.

**Postal Stationery**

4. On September 8, 1999, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 4 Kč stamp in honor of PRAGUE -- EUROPE'S CITY OF CULTURE of the YEAR 2000 (Fig. 4). The multicolored stamp imprint shows a view of New Town with Prague Castle in the background. In the left upper part of the postal card are lines for the sender's address, and on the right of the ZIP code boxes is a hologram as a security element. The designer of the imprinted stamp was Alfred Fuchs, and the typographer was Karel Dvořák. The postal card was produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using multicolored offset and sells for 4.70 Kč.

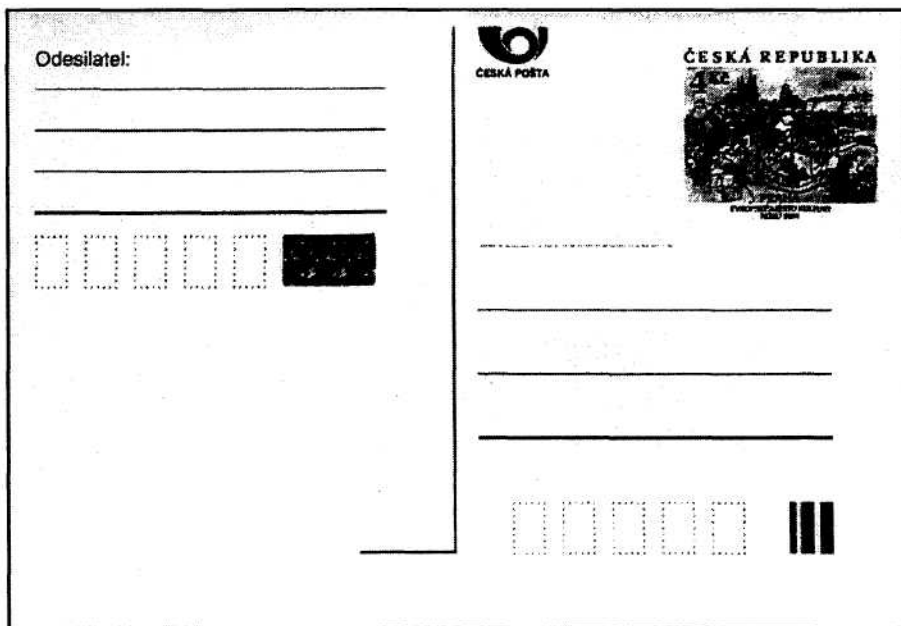


Fig. 4

5. On September 8, 1999, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 4 Kč stamp for BRNO 2000 -- Villa Tugendhat (1930) (Fig. 5). The imprinted stamp consists of a stylized 4 and the logo of the BRNO 2000 National Stamp Exhibition to take place March 5-11, 2000. On the left side of the postal card is depicted the front of the Brno villa Tugendhat, a famous functionalist building, completed in 1930. The designer of the building was Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who was in 1930-1933 the director of the Bauhaus, an avantgarde school in Germany. The appropriate security hologram is located below the Czech Post logo in the upper center of the card. The card was designed by Karel Dvořák and was printed by the Post Printing House, Prague, using multicolored offset, and sells for 4.70 Kč.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

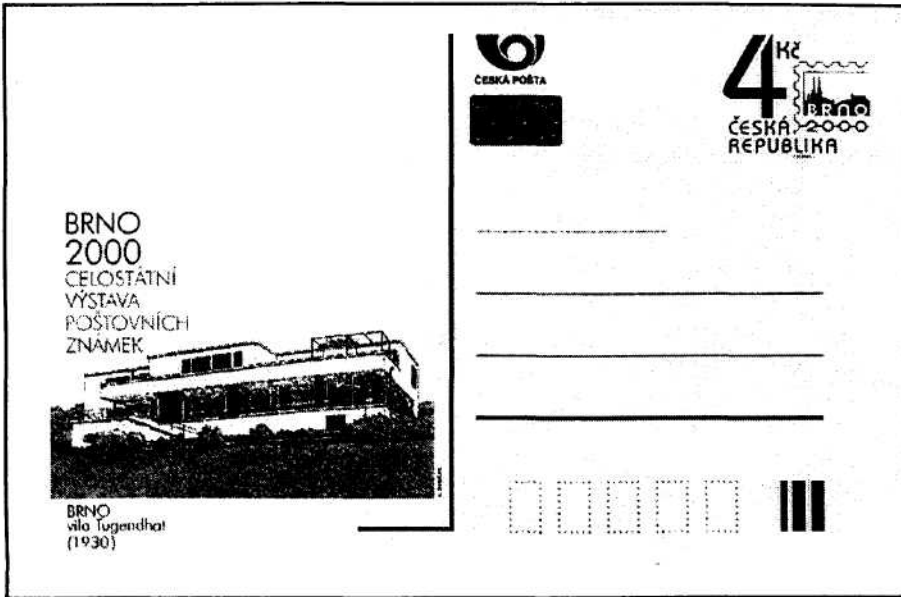


Fig. 5

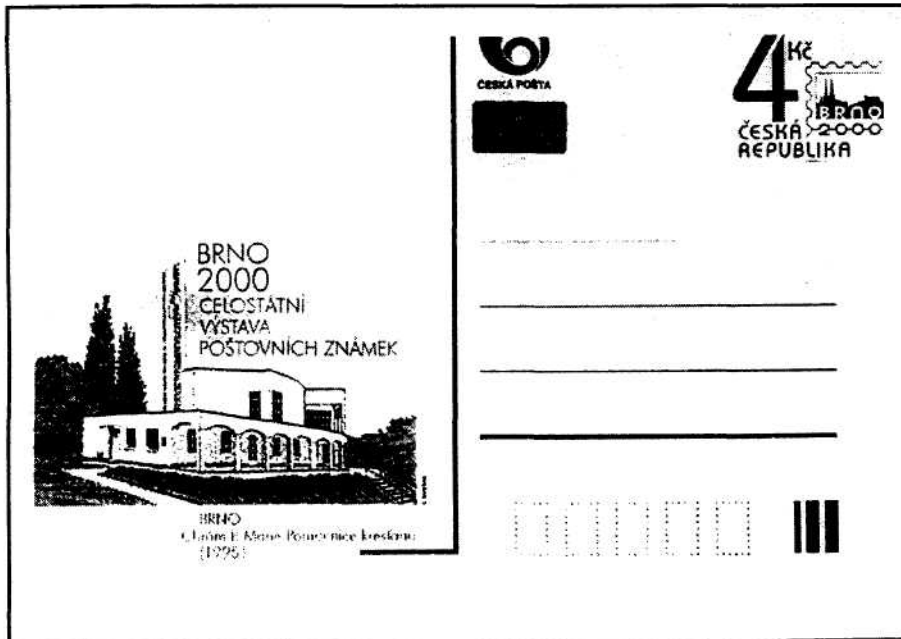


Fig. 6

6. On September 8, 1999, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 4 Kč stamp for BRNO 2000 -- Cathedral of the Christian Auxiliary of the Virgin Mary, Brno (1995) (Fig. 6). The imprinted stamp consists of a stylized 4 and the logo of the BRNO 2000 National Stamp Exhibition to take place March 5-11, 2000. On the left side of the postal card is depicted the Cathedral of the Christian Auxiliary of the Virgin Mary, the modern ecclesiastical building in Brno-Žabovřesky, which was consecrated in 1995. The appropriate security hologram is located below the Czech Post logo in the upper center of the card. The card was designed by Karel Dvořák and was printed by the Post Printing House, Prague, using multicolored offset, and sells for 4.70 Kč.

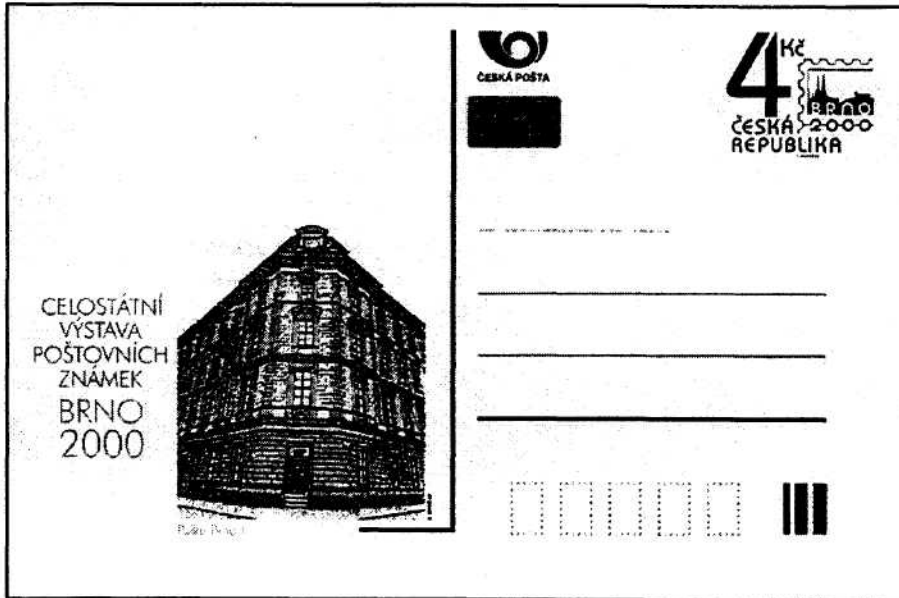


Fig. 7

7. On September 29, 1999, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 4 Kč stamp for BRNO 2000 -- BRNO 1 Post Office (Fig. 7). The imprinted stamp consists of a stylized 4 and the logo of the BRNO 2000 National Stamp Exhibition to take place March 5-11, 2000. On the left side of the postal card is depicted the ornamented corner of the BRNO 1 post office building at Poštovská street number 3/5. The appropriate security hologram is located below the Czech Post logo in the upper center of the card. The card was designed by Karel Dvořák and printed by the Post Printing House, Prague, using multicolored offset, and sells for 4.70 Kč.

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### *Letters to the Editor*

1. Dear Editor:

Because of the postal handling of second class mailings, some of our members complained that their SPECIALISTs were arriving with torn pages. To remedy the



Fig. 1

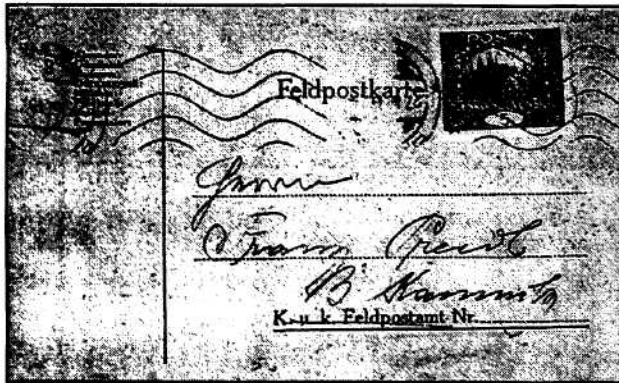


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

situation, [you directed] our printer [to add] sealer tabs to each copy of every issue to prevent tearing. This raised a new problem in that some members had a difficult time removing those tabs and often tore the page in doing so.

One of our members, Jack H. Copeland, suggests that to remove the sealer tab without damaging the periodical, you can wet a Q-tip with naphtha or any lighter fluid and apply it by saturating the edges of the tab with it. He said if you do that, the tab will lift off and leave no residue.

Yours truly,

Mirko Vondra

2. Dear Ludvik:

I would like to react [to] . . . the troop card with postage due stamp with overprint "FRANCO" [Letters to the Editor, p42, Jul/Aug 99 issue].

While it is the card used by Austrian soldiers during WWI, that is not the important fact in this situation. In the Austrian Monarchy, such cards were postage free. Their postal usage in Czechoslovakia was not rare. Such cards have the same value as non-troop cards.

After the end of WWI there was a large quantity of such cards still unused. This, with the fact that



there was a paper shortage, resulted in the public using these cards for many years -- see the card in Figure 1 which was used in 1926! There were no special rates for such "reused" cards, since it wasn't important for the postal administration if you used the previous troop card or just a small piece of paper, the postage was the same (the post card rate).



Fig. 4

The postage of 5 heller was the rate for "tiskopisy" (imprime mail) [printed matter] at the time of the sending of the card. Figures 2 and 3 show the front and back of a similar card, dated 27 XII 1919. It is also interesting to note that the postage on the card in figure 1 is the correct "tiskopisy" rate for its time -- 1926. Finally, figures 4 and 5 show other examples of such "reused" cards bearing valid post card rates.

But this is not the case with respect to the card in the referenced letter. This was not a "tiskopis". It was private message mail, so the correct postage should have been 15 heller (not 10 as was stated in the SPECIALIST -- new rates were introduced on May 15).

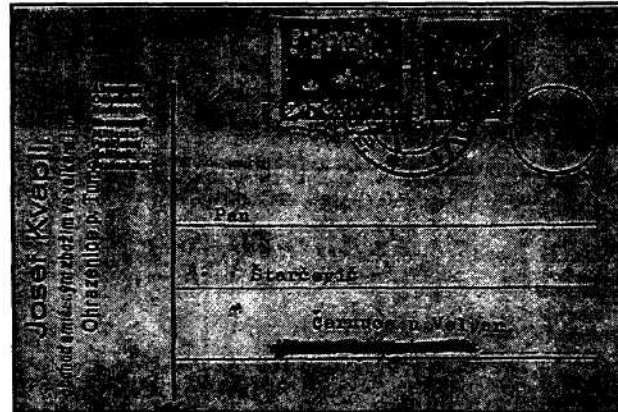


Fig. 5

I personally do not believe that the card is genuine, because there were sufficient quantities of stamps at postal offices in May 1919. These kinds of provisional overprints were used in Jan/Feb 1919, but in my opinion May is too late. Such items were also prepared in private, and you could find similar cards in stamp shows or at exchange meetings that were without any addressee, but with cancelled stamps and arriving post marks! Of course, this is only my opinion.

Sincerely,

Lubor Kunc

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