



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Editorial Hinges

I am now finishing up my fourth year as editor of the *SPECIALIST*. It would seem therefore like an odd time to be laying out my editorial policy, but here it is nevertheless.

As editor I see my primary function being to bring to our members the widest possible range of topics and views on philately related to our interest areas. As such, any article submitted is just about automatically destined for publication, because the majority of problems which face an article such as grammar, errors in content, etc., can normally be worked out with the author. But I still have to look at articles with a critical eye.

The one area that can force me to have to make an excruciatingly difficult decision involves an article that in some way demeans someone with unverifiable accusations. In this case the author's word or reputation simply are not sufficient grounds to justify publishing the article. I have to remember that -- as editor of the *SPECIALIST* -- I am representing our Society and must adhere to a higher standard.

I welcome your views on this policy whether in support or in opposition. Also remember that contrary to articles, letters to the editor can express personal unverifiable views and thus could be published.

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SILESIA TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAKS IN 1919

by Lubor Kunc

One of the "best kept secrets" of Czech history relates to the Czech occupation of part of Silesia. This story from 1919 is not widely known, however every collector of Czechoslovak stamps knows its outcome -- the Czechoslovak and Polish stamps having SO 1920 overprints. Let's take a look at this event!

On October 28, 1918 the Czechoslovak Republic was established. At that time a German-populace state was established in northern Moravia and the Czech part



Fig. 1a



Fig. 1b

of Silesia. It was called Provincie Sudety (Sudetenland Province) with its capital in Opava (Troppau). The objective for the establishment of this state was the same as the reason for the founding of the other German states in Bohemia (e.g., the German Bohemia Province -- see *SPECIALIST* 4/1999) -- that is, to save the area for Germans and to incorporate it into Germany after the end of World War I.

On October 29, 1918 the Czech population established a Národní Výbor (National Committee) in Ostrava with the objective of incorporating Eastern Silesia into Czechoslovakia.

Subsequently on October 30, 1918 the Polish population founded the Polish Rada Narodowa (National Council) in Těšín (Cieszyn/Teschen). All of these organizations play key roles in our story.

The main problem consisted of the question, "Where does the border lie between Czechoslovakia and Poland in this territory?" The Národní Výbor

and the Rada Narodowa set the first preliminary borders on November 5, 1918 with both sides, however, recognizing that they were not definitive. The borders were particularly not advantageous for Czechoslovakia, because per the agreement important towns and large coal deposits belonged to Poland -- but the Czechoslovaks needed to gain time for their conflict with the Sudetenland Province.

Late in November the Czechoslovak government launched the liberation of all of the German areas in Bohemia and Moravia, including the Sudetenland Province. As a result of this activity Czechoslovak units occupied Opava on December 18, 1918. By the end of December the Cz. troops occupied all of the towns and villages belonging to the Province. After this action there remained only two players in the game for Silesia.



Fig. 2a

The relationship between the Czechoslovaks and Poles in Eastern Silesia got worse during December 1918 and January 1919. No one on either side was willing to accept the proposals of the other side, both of them wanted the whole area for their own state.

On January 10, 1919 the Polish government announced that Polish parliamentary elections were planned for January 26, 1919. The Polish voting districts also contained the area of Eastern Silesia. The Czechoslovak government rejected the incorporation of this area into the Polish voting districts. Because the negotiations between the Czechoslovak and Polish governments had not had positive results, the Czechoslovak government decided to occupy the territory. This military action was called the Šnejdárék Expedition. Colonel Šnejdárék was an officer in the Czech Legion in France during WWI, and upon his return from France he was identified as one of the best officers in the Czechoslovak Army.

The expedition began on January 23, 1919. The Czechoslovak troops occupied the area between the preliminary border of November 5, 1918 and the Wisla River. The military action ended on January 30, 1919 when the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense issued an order for the advance to stop and to remain on the occupied territory.



<p>Auszahlungsstempel</p> 	<p>Tagesrechnungsnummer</p>	<p>Bestellkarteneintragung</p>
<p>Angewiesenen Betrag empfangen:</p> <p>Ort _____ den _____ 191__</p> <p>Name _____</p>		
<p>Ankunftsnummer</p>	<p>Ankunftstempel</p> 	

Fig. 2b

On the occupied territory were located the following post offices:

I. Post offices now belonging to the Czech Republic:

<u>Czech Name</u>	<u>Polish Name</u>	<u>German Name</u>
Bohumín 1 and 2	Bogumin 1 and 2	Oderberg 1 and 2
Dolní Bludovice	Bledovice Dolne	Nieder Bludowitz
Dolní Domaslavice		Nieder Domaslowitz
Dombrová	Dombrowa	Dombrau
Hnojník	Gnojnik	
Horní Suchá	Górna Sucha	Ober Suchau
Chotěbuz	Kocobedz	Kotzobendz
Karvín 1	Karwina 1	Karwin 1
Komorní Lhotka	Ligotka Kameralna	Cameral Ellgoth
Louky	Laki, Slask. Austr.	Lonkau in Österr. Schl.
Pudlov	Pudłów	Pudlau
Ropice	Ropica	Roppitz
Rychwald	Rychwald. Slask.	Reichwaldau
Stonava	Stonawa	Steinau

II. Post offices now belonging to Poland:

Holešov ve Slezsku	Goleszów
Ohrazená	Ogrodzona

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Pruchná	Pruchna	
Puncov	Punców	
Struměň	Strumien	
Těšín 1	Cieszyn 1	Teschen 1
Ustroň	Ustron	
Velké Kunčice ve Slezsku	Konczyce Wlk.	
Žibřidovice ve Slezsku	Zebrzydowice	

In addition to the above post offices, there were 12 contract post offices situated on the territory.

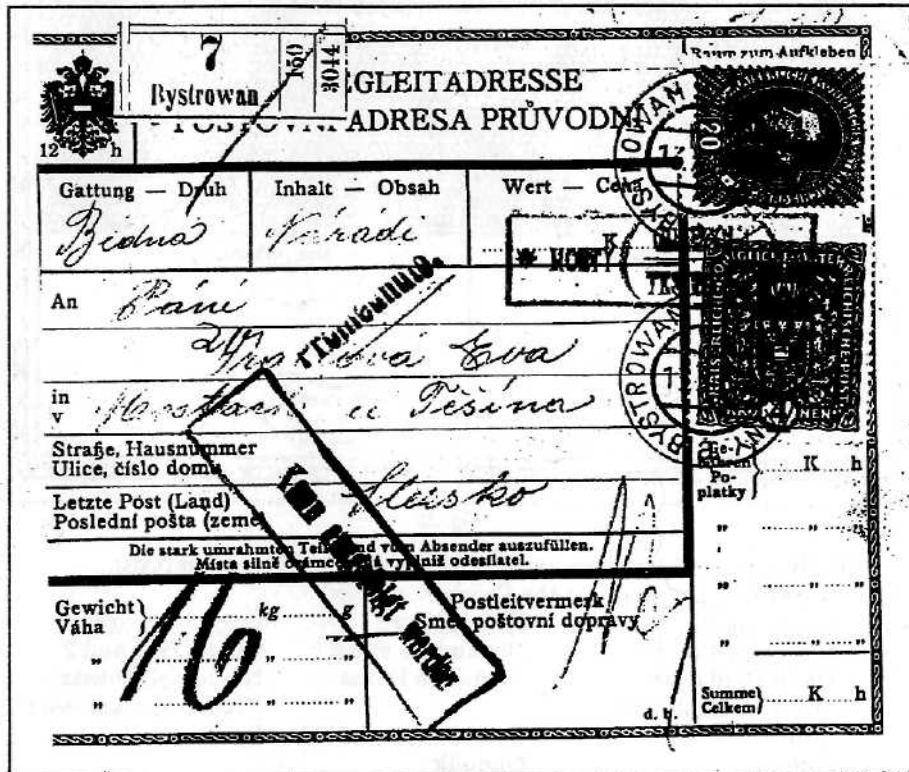


Fig. 3a

From a philatelic point of view the stamps and entires mailed January 27 - February 25, 1919 from the post offices mentioned in list II should be classified as Czechoslovak. You can find more details on this in the philatelic portion of this article.

On February 3, 1919 a Peace Conference was held in Paris. The results of this conference was the setting of preliminary borders between Czechoslovakia and Poland, and an agreement that Czechoslovak units would leave by February 25, 1919 the part of the occupied area given by the Conference to Poland.

The preliminary borders set by the conference corresponded with few exceptions to the current Czech-Polish borders. The conference was more beneficial

for Czechoslovakia, because it received some towns and mining areas belonging -- per the 1918 agreement -- to Poland.

This solution was accepted by both parties. Czechoslovak units departed the area by the above deadline and on January 26, 1919 Polish troops occupied the Polish part of the area set by the Conference of Paris.

The above mentioned "few exceptions" were the following post offices which the Conference decided to give to Poland:

III. Post offices belonging to Poland from February 26, 1919 to August 1920:

<u>Czech Name</u>	<u>Polish Name</u>	<u>German Name</u>
Bystrice ve Slezsku	Bystrzyca	Bistritz in Schl.
Darkov	Draków	Darkau
Dětmarovice	Dziemmorowice	Dittmannsdorf
Fryštát ve Slezsku	Frysztat. Slask. Austr.	Freistadt, Österr. Schl.
Jablunkov ve Slezsku	Jablunków	Jablunkau in Schl.
Návsí	Nawsi	Nawsie
Německá Lutyně	Niemecka Lutynia	Deutschleuten
Petrovice u Fryštátu	Pietrowice	Petrowitz b. Freistadt
Skřečůň	Skrzecon	
Těšín 2	Cieszyn 2	Teschen 2
Trinec	Trzyniec	Trzynietz
Vendryně	Wendrynie	Wendrin

Abgabenummer Císlo dodací	Abgabestempel Razítko poštovního úřadu dodacího	Bestellvermerk Záznam dodací
Vorne bezeichnete Sendung erhalten Zásilku na přední straně označenou přijal		
Ort Místo	(den) (dne)	19
Name Jméno	Eva Kralová	
d. b.		

Fig. 3b

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The Czech-Polish Peace Conference continued its work even after February 1919. In September 1919 it was decided to implement a plebiscite in this area during 1920. This decision greatly upset the Czechoslovak Legions in Russia. Their outrage was so great that one company of legionnaires refused to take part in a review in Tomsk put on for delegates of the Czechoslovak government. Both states issued stamps overprinted SO 1920 for the plebiscite, but thanks to an agreement between the two governments as to definitive borders -- which was declared on July 10, 1919 -- the plebiscite never occurred. Thanks to this agreement the area with towns mentioned in list III was returned to the Czechoslovak Republic in August 1920.

I am sure that you have noticed that Těšín is mentioned in both lists II and III. This is not a mistake. It is necessary to explain that in 1918 Těšín was divided into two parts: a Polish part (now Cieszyn) with post office Těšín 1/Cieszyn 1/Teschen 1 and a Czech part (now Český Těšín) with post office Těšín 2/Cieszyn 2/Teschen 2. During the Šnejdárek expedition the two parts were united and incorporated into Czechoslovakia, and after the expedition the entire town was given over to Poland. In August 1920 the town was re-divided into Czech and Polish parts, and that division still exists today. The bad economic situation in the town between the end of the Šnejdárek expedition in February 1919 and its re-division in August 1920 is demonstrated by the banknotes issued by the Těšín city hall in May and October 1919. Both issues bear the same picture and inscriptions, and both were printed bi-lingually in German and Polish -- the only differences between the two issues are the issue dates mentioned in the lower left and the color of the banknotes.

Einig. 10/11

POSTANWEISUNG auf <i>80K - h</i>		Raum zum Aufkleben der Briefmarken	
_____ K _____ h		KLEINE ZEITUNG	
an <i>Herrn Kautlich</i>		30	
in <i>Angelsburg Nr. 88</i>			
Straße, Hausnummer <i>o. Grundenthal</i>			
letzte Post (Land)			
Die stark umrahmten Rubriken sind vom Absender auszufüllen.			
Annahmenummer	Aufgabetag	Bezirkspostempel	Unterschrift des Postbeamten
<i>907</i>	<i>16/11</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>My</i>

Fig. 4a

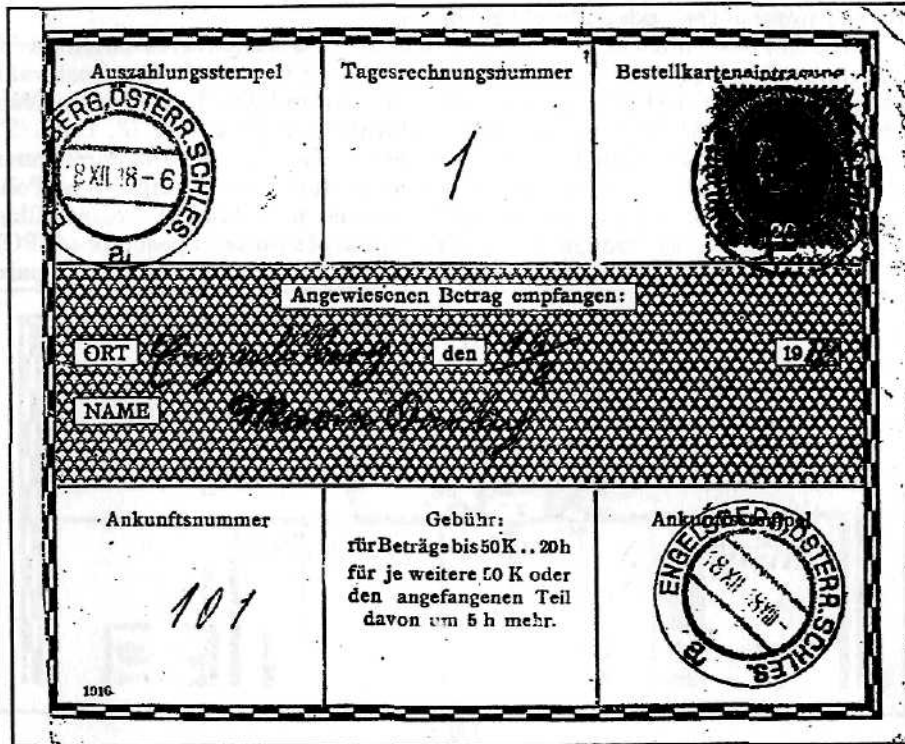


Fig. 4b

In Figures 1a/b you see the Polish side of a banknote of the May issue and the German side of a banknote of the October issue. I would like to thank our fellow member, Joseph Bush of Richmond, VA, for sending these nice pieces of Těšín history.

As a result of the Polish side not being as satisfied with the established borders as the Czechs were, Poland occupied this area in 1938 as a repeal from the Munich Accord. But that is another story.

The Šnejdárek expedition even had an influence on the Czechoslovak economy. Because Eastern Silesia was the last area of Bohemia and Moravia with yet undetermined borders, it was necessary to delay the monetary reform of replacing the Austrian currency with Czechoslovak money until the borders were established. As a result of the Parisian Conference finally setting the borders as well as the exact date of their validity, the Czechoslovak Finance Minister Rašín was able to prepare the monetary reform for February 26, 1919. As you know, one of the results of the monetary reform was the end of validity of Austrian and Hungarian postal stamps in all of Czechoslovakia on February 28, 1919.

Now I would like to draw your attention to the philatelic side of the above history.

Figures 2a/b show a money order for an amount of 3 Crowns (!) sent from Horní Vlčkovice (Ober Wölsdorf, at that time probably a part of the German Bohemia Province) on November 27, 1918 to Opava (Troppau) -- which at that time

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was the capital of the Sudetenland Province.

Another nice entire is found at Figures 3a/b. This is a parcel dispatch card for a parcel sent from Bystrovany (Bystrowan, at that time and now in Czechoslovakia) through the Těšín 1 post office (at that time and now in Poland) to Mosty u Těšína (at that time probably Poland, now Czechoslovakia) on December 13, 1918. The postage was paid by Austrian definitive stamps (used as Czechoslovak forerunners) and on the other side you see an Austrian postage due stamp (as a Polish forerunner). Because there was no post office located in the Mosty u Těšína village, the parcel was delivered through the intermediation of a contract post office (CPO) -- you can see its cancel on the face of the dispatch card. CPO cancels on parcel

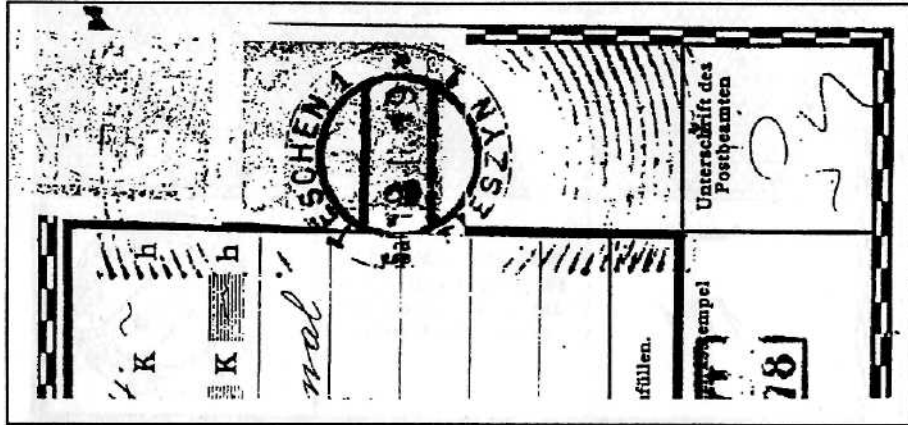


Fig. 5

dispatch cards are not seen very often. The cancel Kann Ausgefolgt Werden was used in the old Austrian Monarchy to signify that the parcel can be given to the addressee. Because this cancel was being used after the Austrian Monarchy had ended, someone had removed the Austrian Eagle from the left part of the cancel leaving it empty. I believe the cancel was applied at the Těšín 1 post office.

Another example is the money order for 80 Crowns (Fig. 4a/b) sent from Bohumín (Oderberg/Bogumin, at that time in Poland) to the village Andělská Hora

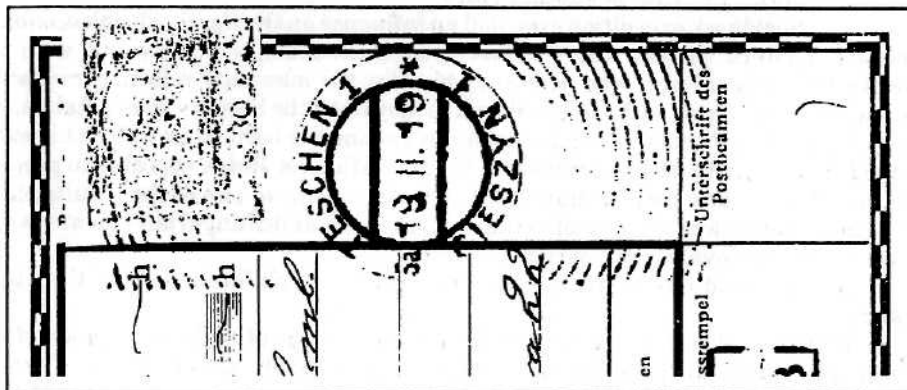


Fig. 6

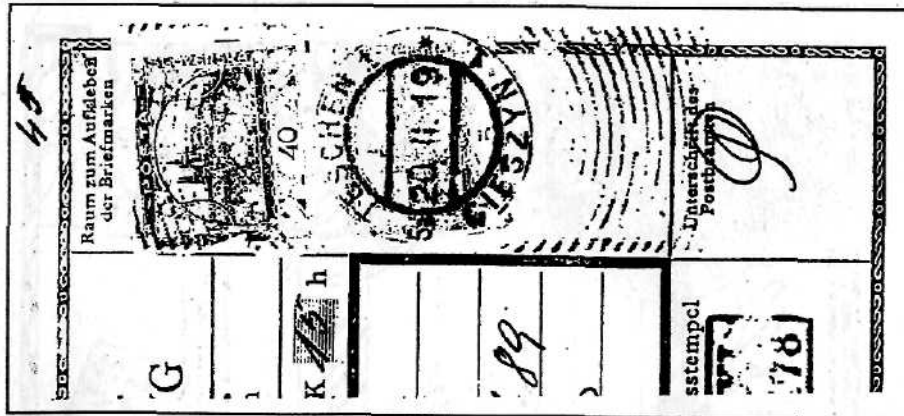


Fig. 7a

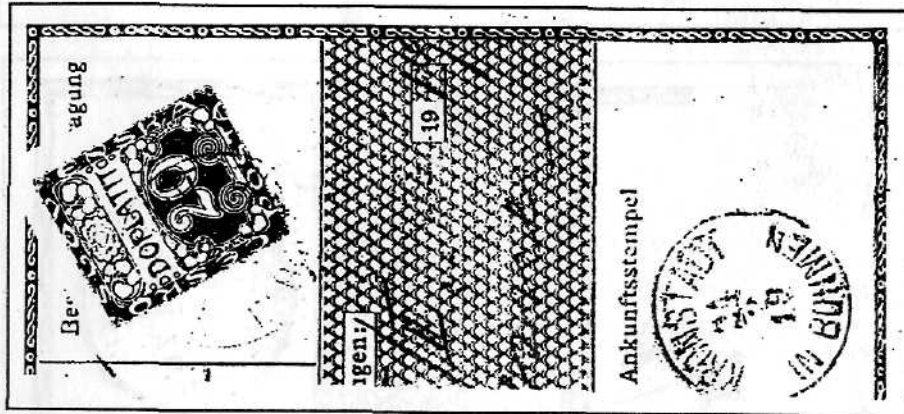


Fig. 7b

ve Slezsku (Engelsberg/Österr. Schles.) on December 16, 1918. Today the item would be domestic mail, but at that time Bohumín was in Poland and Andělská Hora was located in Czechoslovakia.

Thanks to the fact that the Šnejdárek expedition took place in January/February 1919, the Hradčany stamps (and probably the Czechoslovak postage due ones) were valid in the occupied Polish territory for only about one month! Until now, we know of two Polish post offices that used the Hradčany stamps: Těšín 1 and Ustroń. Hradčany stamps having the cancels of these post offices (and, if they exist, cancels from others mentioned in list II) from the period January 27 - February 25, 1919 are very rare, because they were valid for only a very short period. We know of only a small number of covers or other documents franked with them. Figures 5, 6, and 7a/b are examples.

Figures 7a/b show both sides of a money order sent from occupied territory (post office Těšín 1) on February 20, 1919 to Kunštát (Kronstadt in Bohmen) franked with Hradčany stamps and, in addition, with a Czechoslovak postage due stamp affixed in Kunštát. This is a very interesting franking, because Czechoslovak

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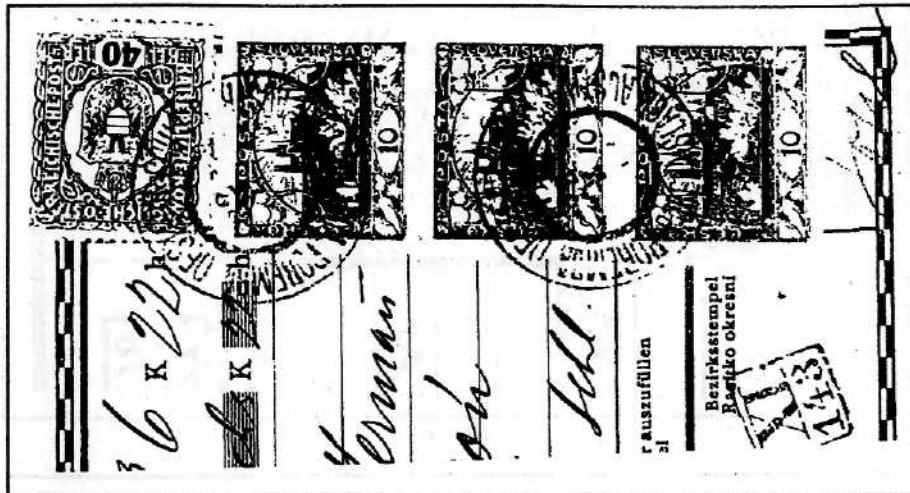


Fig. 8a

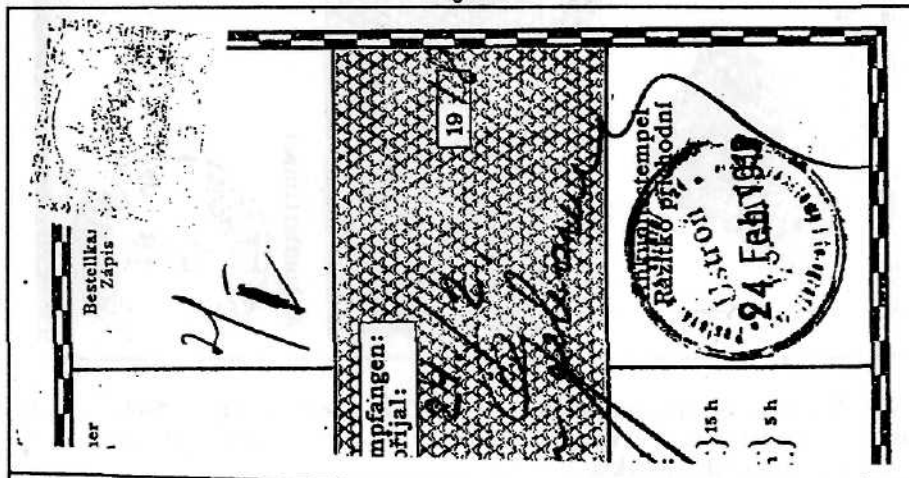


Fig. 8b

postage due stamps were first issued in February 1919 and used covers containing them from that period are not found very often. A mixed franking containing a Hradčany stamp used on occupied Polish territory and a Czechoslovak postage due stamp is very unusual!

Czechoslovak stopgap cancels were used by Czech postmen in a few post offices, because Polish postal employees moved not only the equipment but also the cancels to Poland before the Czechs occupied the towns. An example of this can be seen in Figures 8a/b. This is a money order sent on February 22, 1919 from Poruba u Orlové (Poremba) on Czechoslovak territory to Ustroň situated on occupied territory. The money order was franked with mixed franking of Austrian and Czechoslovak stamps. It reached Ustroň on February 24 -- notice the stopgap cancel from Ustroň.

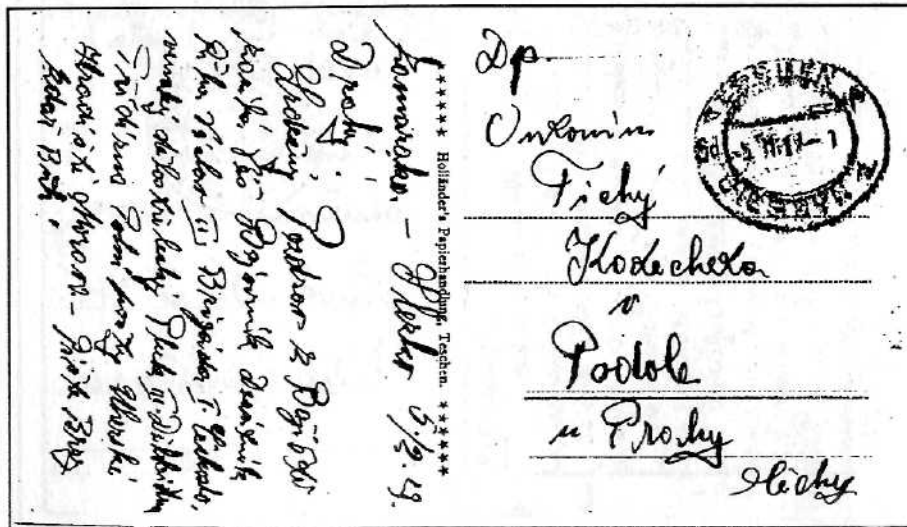


Fig. 9

Figure 9 shows a postal card sent by one of the Czech soldiers from Těšín 1 on February 5, 1919 to Podolí (now in Prague). The first very interesting feature of this card involves the cancel bearing the characters "5d", which is not mentioned in Votoček's Monografie (see Monografie 16, Vol. II, page 24). The second interesting feature is the full address of the sender: II. brigáda I. Československé dělostřelecký pluk, III. dělobitna, třídírna polní pošty, Uherské Hradiště, Morava. We have to add that all correspondence sent by Czechoslovak soldiers from the occupied territory was mailed at the Těšín 1 post office. There existed no special field post cancels for the troops in Silesia.

Figure 10 shows a postal card sent through the Czechoslovak Field Post to České Budějovice on January 22, 1919 -- a day before the start of the Šnejdárek Expedition! Its sender was a Czech soldier belonging to a Czechoslovak military unit situated at the Slovak-Polish border. The name of his unit was "I. Československý dělostřelecký pluk, IV. dělobitna". As you can see, this military unit belonged to the same regiment (pluk) as the sender of the card pictured in Figure 9. However, in my opinion the IV. Dělobitna did not take part in the Šnejdárek expedition, because it was located at too great a distance from the Eastern Silesian area. The card bears a very interesting message relating to this military action. Here is a translation of part of it: *Dear Mařenka, I would like to inform you, that we have moved from Košice to the Polish border. We are now situated in a village at the Poprad river.* The rest of the message is private and unimportant to us. The implication is clear -- because of the Šnejdárek Expedition the Czechoslovak military units moved from all other areas to the territory near the Polish border to be able to defend Czechoslovak territory in case of a Polish attack. I only wonder that the censors allowed this card to be delivered since the sender mentions the area that he moved to. But by comparing the dates of January 19, 1919 (on this date the card was written) and January 22, 1919 (on this date the card was posted at the Field Post Office) we can

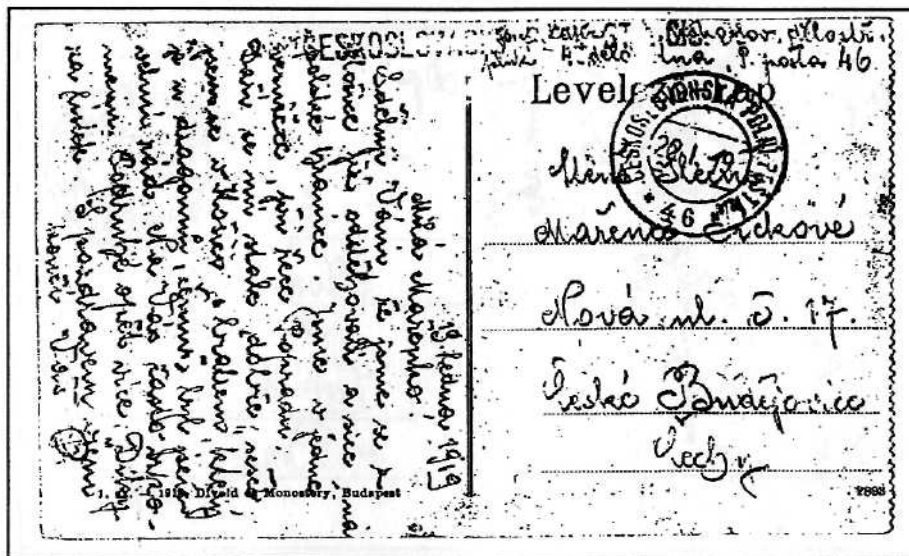


Fig. 10

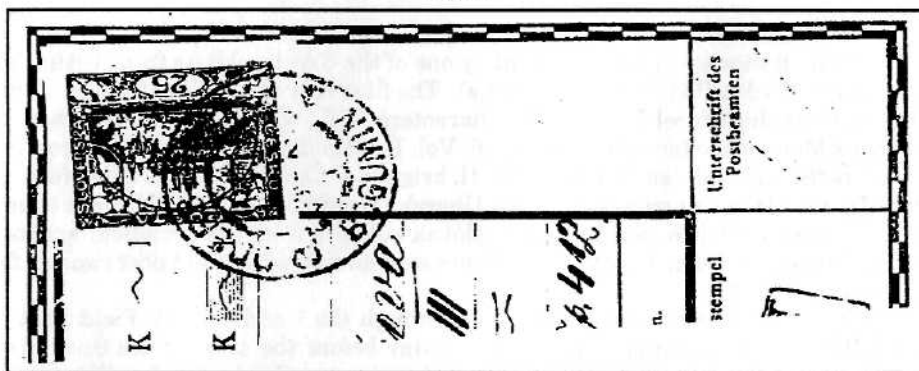


Fig. 11

deduce that the censors froze the card until the message was no longer dangerous to the expedition.

The last illustration, Figure 11, shows a money order sent from Bohumín (Oderberg/Bogumin) to Prague on June 19, 1919. You can see the bilingual German - Polish cancel (originated by the Austrian Monarchy), however at that time the town was part of Czechoslovakia -- see list I.

As you can see, the postal history of Eastern Silesia is not simple, but it is a very interesting part of Czechoslovak history creating a background of the well known SO 1920 issue. I want you to find similar philatelic items in your collection, and I hope that you will then share them with other collectors.

Resources:

1. M. Votoček: Monografie Čs. Známek, Vol. 16, Praha, 1982
2. J. Kypast: articles in the journal *FILATELIE*, no. 4 and 5, 1994
3. O. Tovačovský: Monografie Čs. Známek, Vol. 5, Praha, 1998
4. General M. Janin: Moje účast na Československém boji za svobodu, Praha, ?

**K.u.K. CENSOR STATION VOJTANOV –
RARITY or FORGERY?**

by Horst Thielk
trans. by Lubor Kunc

Quite a lot of the Austro-Hungarian soldier correspondence is preserved -- especially that of officers in Russian prisoner-of-war camps -- and is very popular amongst philatelists. The following is reported about such correspondence so that collectors can be aware of possible problems.

Captain (Hauptmann) Wilhelm von Helmfeld wrote very often from the Siberian prisoner-of-war camp at Tomsk to his wife Maria von Helmfeld at Ungargasse 24-9, Vienna III. Due to his numbering of his mailed cards, we can conclude that he was a very diligent writer. So far nine of his cards are known to me from the years 1916-1917. Every one of them carries a number of various censor cancels from the military censor of Tomsk, and all -- before they were delivered -- passed through the Vienna censor detachment (Gemeinsamen Zentralen Nachweise-Buro) where they were denoted by a triangular censor hand stamp of type Č 2.12 (based upon the above mentioned catalog).

As a result of the fact that all of the cards known so far were not delivered in Vienna, they all received the large hand stamp "Abgereist/Parti" (addressee/departed), the added postal hand stamp "Nachsenden:" (forwarded:), and the hand written direction "Schloss Altenteich, Post Voitersreuth - Bohmen" (Staré Rybník Castle, Vojtanov post office - Bohemia)(Fig. 1).

Some of the cards could not even be delivered in Vojtanov and thus received an additional hand written direction "per Adr. Liessen in Cöln a/Rhein, Mauritiuswall

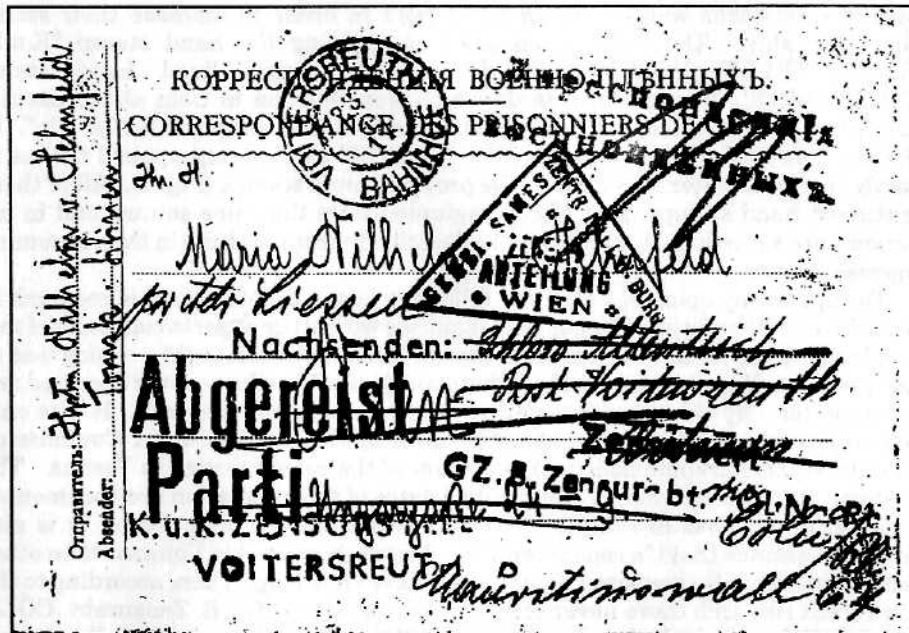


Fig. 1

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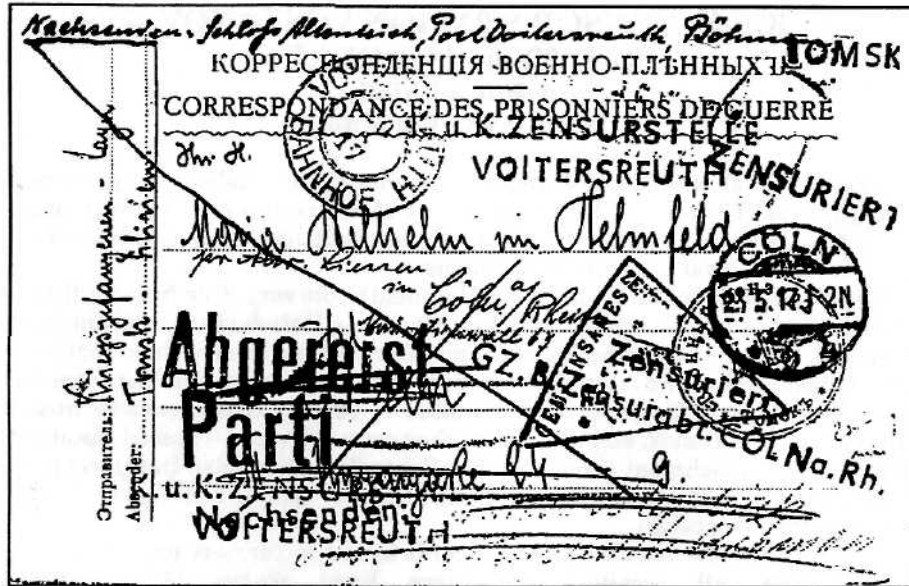


Fig. 2

67" which was a forwarding address. In order to give complete knowledge about the above sent cards it is important to mention that some of the mailed cards also have arrival post marks of Vojtanov and Cöln.

Now, I have to in fact say that these -- up until this point -- entirely genuine and postally used cards were subsequently forged in order to increase their stamp collecting value. The forging consisted of applying the hand stamp "K.u.K. ZENSURSTELLE/ VOITERSREUTH" and the single lined hand stamp "ZENSURIERT". Those of the cards which were sent on to Cöln also contain a subsequently applied hand stamp "Zensuriert/GZ. B. Zensurabt. CÖLN a. Rh.". In addition, four of the cards had a further "TOMSK" hand stamp applied that is in exactly the same letter font used in the previous hand stamps (Fig. 2). All of these mentioned hand stamps most likely originated from the same source, and in my opinion were subsequently applied to the described cards resulting in their becoming forgeries.

To support my opinion, I offer the following facts. Several years of research in the archives of Vienna and Prague, and inquiries with other experts/collectors of this area, leads to the educated conclusion that Vojtanov (Voitersreuth) -- which was at that time a small community on the Bohemian-German border -- never operated any censor center. By this time the mail to Germany was not censored. It was only randomly checked at border exchange stations by the Mobile Censor Commission (Ambulante Zensurkommissionen), a system of the censor center in Vienna. The locations of the mail exchange stations and dates of their operation are documented in the State Archives in Prague. Vojtanov is not listed among them. It is also possible to assume that if a censor center had actually existed in Vojtanov then other postal items that also transited there should have shown up. Then, according to the most recent research there never existed a censor center "GZ. B. Zensurabt. CÖLN a. Rh." at Cöln. And, the hand stamp "TOMSK" in Latin letters is totally absurd.

If there had been a need at the Tomsk prisoner-of-war camp or post office for an additional hand stamp to be applied to mail, then it certainly would have been in Cyrillic letters.

I would like to again point out that all of the mentioned hand stamps were made up of exactly the same letter font, and the hand stamp executions display the same characteristics.

To complete this presentation I want to add that I even know of one card addressed directly to Staré Rybník castle/Vojtanov and subsequently forwarded to Cöln which does not contain the forged hand stamps.

To conclude, I think these are without question forged censor marks.

I would very much appreciate hearing from any collector who might have a postal item showing any of these hand stamps. Please send copies to Horst Thielk, Schilkseer Str. 152, D-24 159 Kiel, Germany.

[Ed. Note: This article is re-printed from the Czech stamp journal TERRA, 12/1999. It is the journal of the Society of Collectors of European Countries of the Union of Czech Philatelists. Mr. Thielk is a longtime collector of Austro-Hungarian Censorship Cancels. Among other publications he authored the catalogue *Zivilpost-Zensur in Österreich-Ungarn 1914-1918* and is now preparing the newest edition of it.]

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

INTRODUCTION TO THE MACHINE CANCELS OF AUSTRIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Richard E. Small

Around the turn of the century (that is 1900), postal authorities were testing various mechanical devices to improve the processing of mail. An increased volume of mail was, in part, caused by the introduction of the post card.

According to information available at the Technical Museum in Vienna, which also includes a Postal Museum, a hand driven canceling device was tested in Vienna in 1873 (Fig. 1). An article by a prominent Austrian implies of a possibility that Robert Hinrichsen of Hamburg came to Vienna with his machine in 1869/1870, although this cannot be verified. A machine, invented by Hinrichsen, was being tested by the German Postal authorities at the time.

A Hoster machine, manufactured by The Postal Machinery Co. of London, was shipped in 1886 to Vienna for evaluation. The evaluation was successful and the Czeija-Nissl Company of Vienna received a license to manufacture a Hoster designed machine in Vienna. In October of 1886, the Hoster machine began its evaluation by canceling only mail in the Central Delivery Section of the Vienna Post Office, no outgoing mail received an experimental Hoster cancel, only mail to be delivered. There appears that at least 4 different dies were used in the two-headed machine in a period of 6 years -- a



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 3

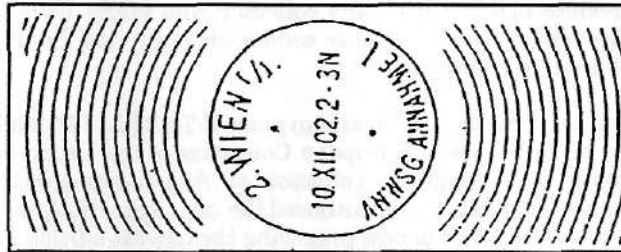


Fig. 4

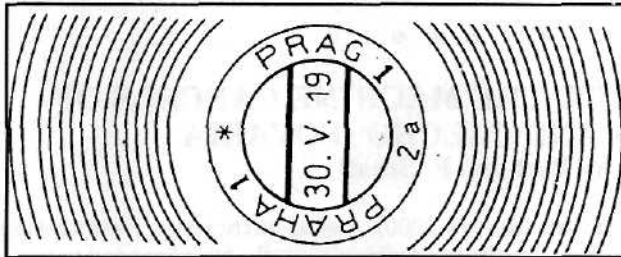


Fig. 5

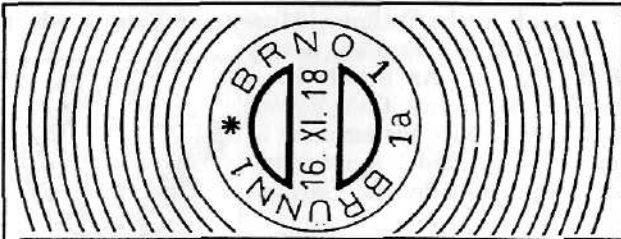


Fig. 6

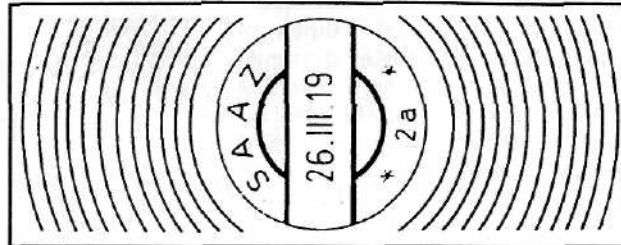


Fig. 7

double ring dial with a 30 mm outer ring and an 18 mm inner ring (Fig. 2). The date indicia is made up of 3 lines, strangely the delivery time does not show if it is AM or PM on the top line, followed by the day/month, and the bottom line is the 2 digit year date. This type of vertical feed machine was used primarily on postal cards, the cancels are positioned on the left, front side of the card. The date for the first Hoster licensed machine, manufactured by the Czeija-Nissl Co. (originally manufacturers of telephone and telegraph equipment) is

1890, when the machine was used and demonstrated at the Vienna Land and Forest-Agriculture Exposition.

A completely new style of canceling die was first seen in 1891 (Fig. 3). It was a single 31 mm dial rim -- in black or blue ink -- used at the Central delivery section in the main office at Wien 1/1, with a 1 on the second line, followed by BESTELLT (i.e. ordered), the next line down was the date, and the bottom line was the time. This machine was used in Vienna and several sub stations from 1891 to 1909. It was also used in Prag from 1900 to 1907. Votoček did not record this postmark style. Note the straight line day, month and date.

On January 1, 1903 at the deposit window of the Vienna 1 Post Office an experimental device, made by the Bachrach and Harner firm of Vienna, was placed in service. It simultaneously canceled all parts of the postal receipt, which includes sequence number of receipt, day, month and year of payment, and country designation (Fig. 4). This mechanical

hand stamp was used exclusively on money orders. It was used at several other Austrian and (to be) Czechoslovakian post offices, including Prag/Prague (Fig. 5, 6, 7, 8).

Two Bickerdike machines, invented by the Canadian Postal Supply Co., Montreal, Canada and produced under license by the Berlin-Karlsruhe firm Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken was, in 1905, placed in service at the main Vienna post office for canceling letters (Fig. 9).

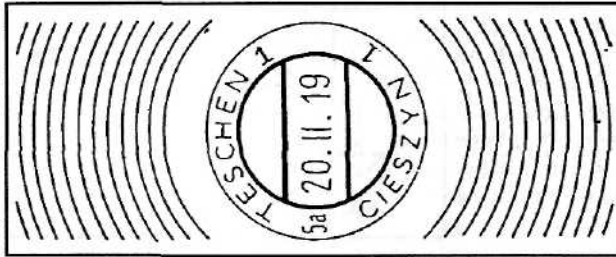


Fig. 8



Fig. 9

The first Krag rapid canceling machine (from Norway) was introduced in Austria on February 1, 1906 at the main Vienna 1 post office (Fig. 10). Shortly thereafter license to produce this machine in Vienna was granted to Donauwerk, Ernst Krause

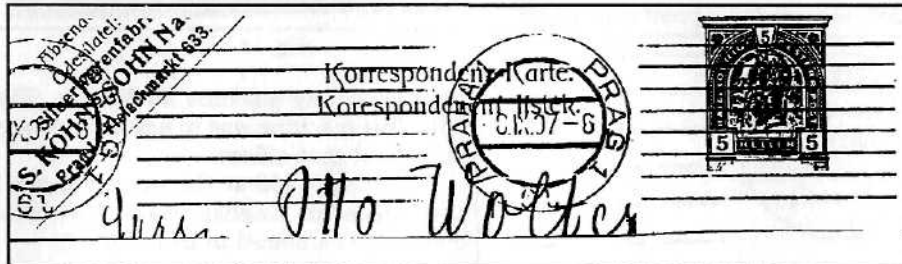


Fig. 10

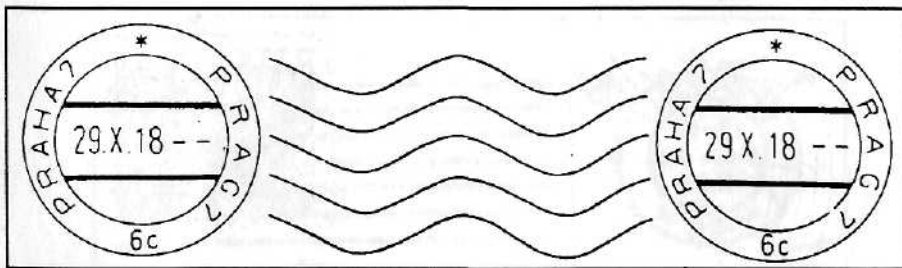


Fig. 11

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

and Co. This early machine had removable dies and was probably a type E/9 machine. This machine was used in several (to be) Czechoslovak post offices, starting in 1908 (Fig. 11, 12, 13).

In about 1917, at the main Vienna post office, a German made Universal machine (from the USA) was placed in use. A license to produce this machine was granted to a German company. This machine was used at Prague in about 1921 (Fig. 14). Votoček did not record this postmark style.

In 1925 the German firm of Michelius provided a proof copy of

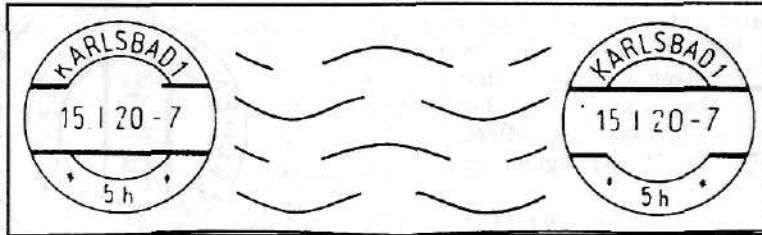


Fig. 12

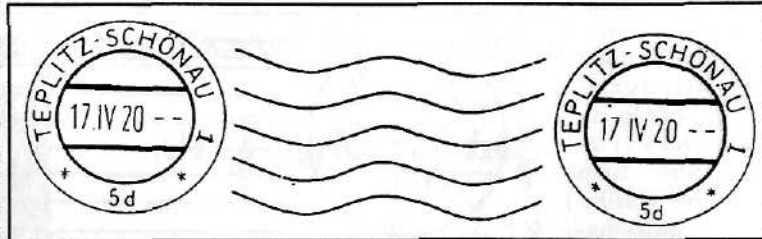


Fig. 13

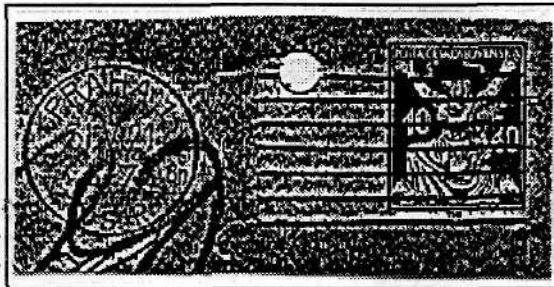


Fig. 14

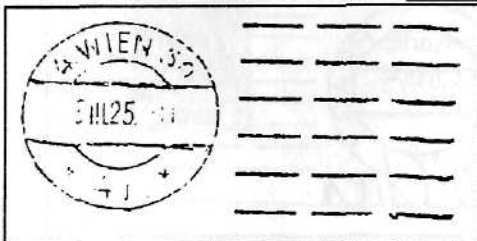


Fig. 15

their canceling machine for Vienna (Fig. 15). This machine was in use in Germany at several post offices.

In about 1930 at the main Vienna 1 post office an English made Universal machine was placed in use (Fig. 16).

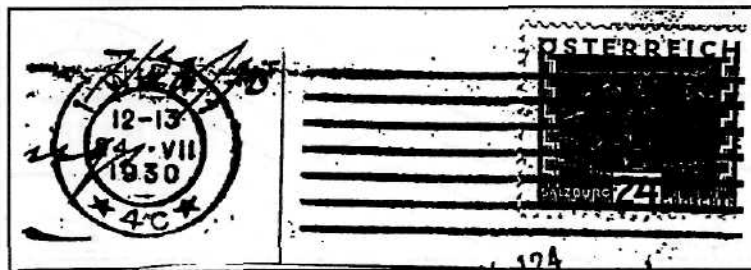


Fig. 16

*Jiří Majer
and Jaroslav Thraumb
Auctions announce
their fourteenth auction
on September 23, 2000*

This is probably one of our most outstanding auctions. Of special note, this sale includes a 4K as well as a 10K granite paper POŠTA, a Přijezd President Masaryk set, a headless 50h Chainbreaker, interesting postal stationery from the 1918-1963 period, air mail letters, and other good Pošta and Hradčany material. Jiří Majer will be attending BALPEX and can answer any of your questions.

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**CZ. AIRMAIL STAMPS FROM 1930 USED IN
POSTAL TRANSFERS OF AIRMAIL COVERS TO ASIA**

by Andrej Tekel
trans. by Joseph Lacko

Being acquainted with the main air routes helps us to better appreciate the problems of airmail shipments in the 30's. It aids in understanding why the airmail surcharge to some areas more distant from Czechoslovakia was lower than to areas that were closer but away from the main air routes.

In the years between the World Wars, England, France and Holland had far-flung colonies in Asia. To ensure rapid contact with these dependent territories they needed to institute reliable air routes. The fastest contact was secured through Holland's KLM airlines. Air route #113, Amsterdam - Bandoeng, was the one most frequently used by the Czechoslovak post to deliver airmail shipments to Asia. Airmail was sent from Prague via train #39/D39 and #D98 to Naples, and then from Naples via air route #113 and its connecting routes. The time table for air route #113 is presented in the table.

133 Amsterdam - Bandoeng 531 KLM								
Sat.	Tues.	Thurs.	depart	Amsterdam	arrive	Tues.	Thurs.	Sun.
Sun.	Wed.	Fri.	depart	Naples	arrive	Mon.	Wed.	Sat.
↓	↓	↓		Athens				
Mon.	Thurs.	Sat.	depart	Rhodes				
				Alexandria				
				Lydda				
				Baghdad	arrive	Sun.	Tues.	Fri.
Tues.	Fri.	Sun.	depart	Basrah		↑	↑	↑
				Djask				
				Karachi				
Wed.	Sat.	Mon.	depart	Jodhpur	arrive	Sat.	Mon.	Thurs.
				Allahabad				
				Calcutta				
Thurs.	Sun.	Tues.	depart	Rangoon	arrive	Fri.	Sun.	Wed.
				Bangkok				
				Penang				
				Medan	arrive	Thurs.	Sat.	Tues.
Fri.	Mon.	Wed.	depart	Singapore		↑	↑	↑
				Palembang				
				Batavia				
Fri.	Mon.		arrive	Bandoeng	depart	Thurs.	Sat.	Tues.

Various lands which lie on this air route sound very exotic, and coming across an airmail letter mailed from Czechoslovakia in the 1930's to one of them is a rare occurrence. Much of the mail -- that was not returned -- just vanished with the addressees.

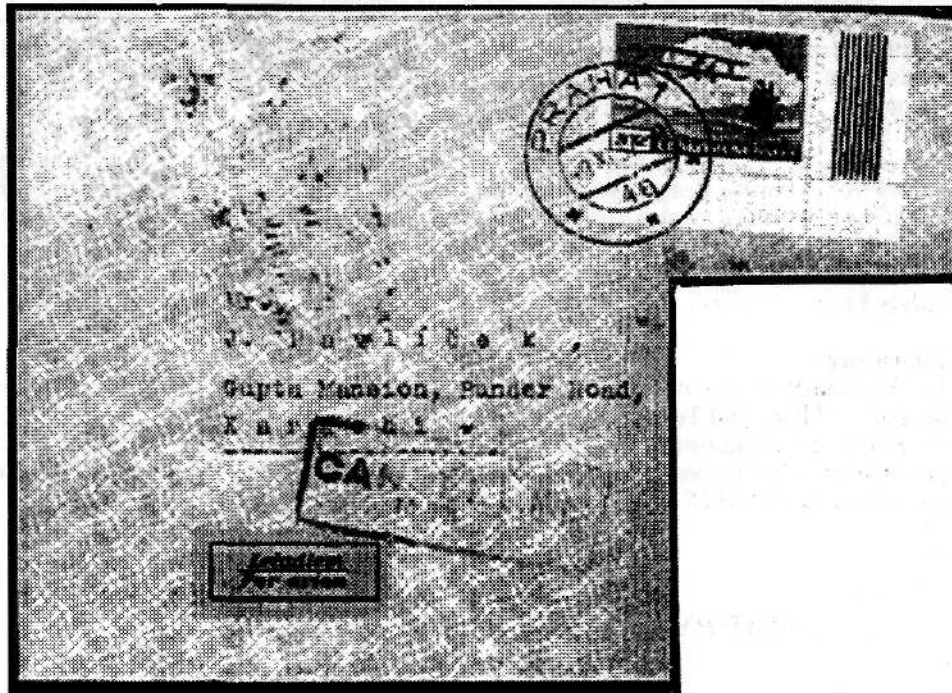


Fig. 1

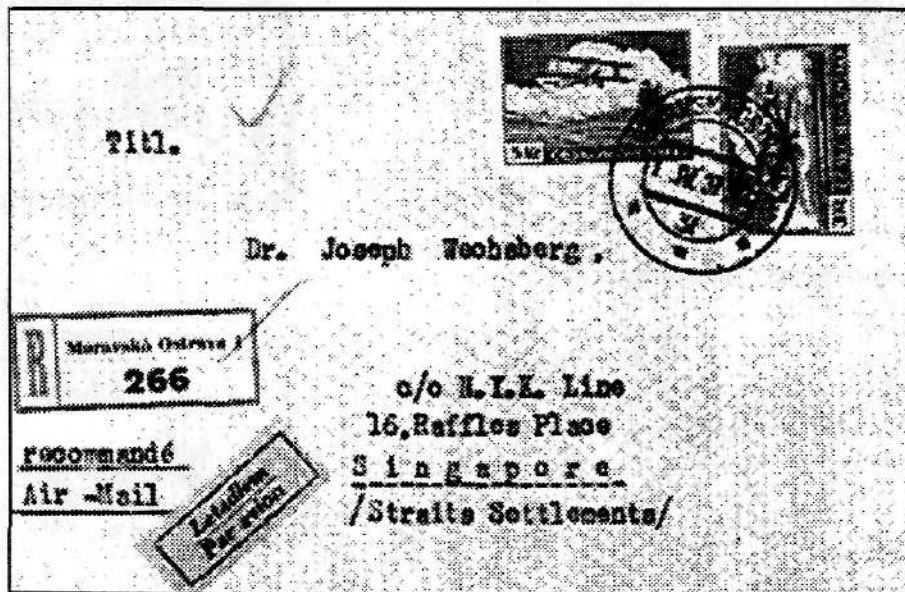


Fig. 2

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Figure 1 shows an airmail letter sent to Karachi which was posted Tuesday, Nov. 9, 1937 at post office Prague 1. The letter was transported via train to Naples and, according to the time table, it left Naples on November 12th and arrived in Karachi on Nov. 14, 1937. The arrival postmark on the letter shows Nov. 15, 1937 -- Karachi.

Figure 2 shows an airmail letter sent to Singapore which was posted Thursday, Apr. 1, 1937 at post office Moravská Ostrava 1, and at 8 PM on that day it was at post office Prague 7. It was further transported by train to Naples, and departed from there by plane on Friday, Apr. 2, arriving in Singapore on Wednesday, April 7. The arrival cancel of April 8, 1937 also shows the hour as 7,00.

Airmail covers to distant lands enrich every collection, but their numbers must surely be very limited.

Literature:

1. Summary of Postal Airmail Service, Volumes 1930-1939, published by the Ministry of Post and Telegraph, Prague (supplement to VMPT)
2. Tekel, A.: Czechoslovak Airmail Stamps from 1930. Summary of postal rates payable on Czechoslovak airmail covers from 1930-1939, supplement to the periodical *FILATELIE* 7/1995.

* * * * *

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY – FLAG OF CR by Savoy Horvath

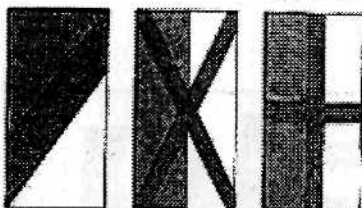


Fig. 1

On March 30, 1920 the Czechoslovak National Assembly approved a new state flag, the same as the one known today.

The author of the flag was then the archivist of the Interior Ministry, Jaroslav Kursa.



Fig. 2

The original proposal had the point of the blue wedge intruding only about one third of the way between the white and red

stripes. But over the years, as a result of citizen's insistence, the wedge point today reaches exactly to the center of the flag. Three of J. Kursa's rejected designs are shown in Figure 1.

The white and red stripes are Slavic colors, and became accepted as their symbol during the PanSlavic Congress in 1848 Prague.

White is the color of innocence and purity, while red is the color of the blood, the heart, and through it, sincerity. The



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

blue color symbolized the blue skies over the Tatra Mountains in the new united state, and thus Slovakia.

Here are some sour grapes to the above. During the Velvet Divorce in 1993, the Mečiar faction in Slovakia demanded that the Czechs remove the blue wedge from their flag.



Fig. 6

The Czech flag as an overall design has appeared only once on a Czechoslovak stamp, Scott #1579 (Fig. 2). The same is true with United



Fig. 7

States stamps, Scott #910 (Fig. 3). It has appeared twice on UN stamps, #355 as Czechoslovakia (Fig. 4) and #725 as the Czech Republic (Fig. 5). The flag as a partial



Fig. 8

design has appeared often on Czech stamps and on those of many other nations, most recently on Czech Republic #2941 (Fig. 6) and the new issue of Canada celebrating 50 years of NATO (Fig. 7).

During WWII and the German occupation the

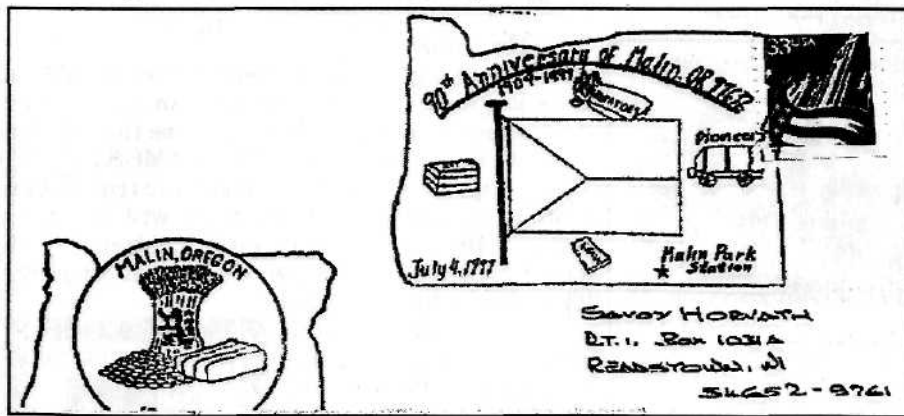


Fig. 9

Nazis did not allow the flag to be used, but Czechs could use the tricolor -- stripes of white, red and blue. The order of the colors of the stripes is alphabetical in the Czech language -- bílá (white), červená (red), modrá (blue). The tricolor can be seen on Czech Republic #2928 (Fig. 8).

Last year, Malin, Oregon 97632 celebrated 90 years of its existence with a special post cancel picturing the Czech flag (Fig. 9). Malin was founded and built by the Czech Colonization Club in 1909.

UMĚNÍ A ZNÁMKY
ART ON STAMPS
by G. M. van Zanten

Bohumil Kubišta 1884 - 1918
Jan Zrzavý 1890 - 1977

Recently I started a side collection based on the Prague National Gallery art works. This is giving me a great deal of pleasure as well as getting to know the works of art and the lives of many of the Czech painters, therefore I thought it an opportune time to share a closer look at both Kubišta and Zrzavý who were close friends.

Bohumil Kubišta

He was born at Vlčkovice u Hradec Králové in 1884. He was one of the most outstanding representatives of modern Czech art as well as being a member of its founding generation. From an early age he displayed a talent for draftsmanship, geometry and mathematics. He was strongly influenced by the Norwegian painter Edvard Munch (1863-1944), by van Gogh (1853-1890), and by Cézanne (1837-1906).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

He was an intellectual-type painter and had a mathematical-analytical frame of mind. He made an intense study of Cézanne's works; it is from this time that his "Self Portrait" under the title of "THE SMOKER" 1910 (Fig. 1) originates. In 1909 he made two trips to Paris to study modern French art, along with the latest works of Braque and of Picasso's cubism. By the spring of 1910 he had drawn his first cubist picture "THE SMOKER" (referred to earlier). In Czech art this represents the first painting in this genre. Several still-

lives followed. Figure 2 ("KITCHEN STILL LIFE" 1910) shows the cachet art work for the FDC associated with the later Pierrot stamp. This was followed in 1911-1912 by three religious compositions, allegorizing his -- by now extremely difficult -- life situation. Also from this period dates the subject of the 1973 2 Kčs stamp in the art series entitled "PIERROT" 1911 (Fig. 3). The original of this work measures 100 x 68 cm and is housed in the National Gallery. He tried out several ideas in portraits of his



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

friend Jan Zrzavý in 1911.

In 1913 his hopeless social circumstances made it necessary for him to answer the call-up for reserve officers in the Austrian army. World War I completely



Fig. 5

interrupted his artistic career. He returned to Prague in the autumn of 1918, only to succumb to the flu epidemic -- a sad end to one of the greatest painters in the history of Czech art.



Fig. 6

Jan Zrzavý

He was born at Vadín u Havlíčkova Brodu in 1890. He entered the world of Czech visual arts when his artistic views crystallized between 1907 and 1910. He studied at the School of Applied Arts in Prague. From 1918 he was a member of the Turdošijný group. His creations, both landscapes and figure compositions, were greatly influenced by his travels in Italy and France. Clearly belonging to his landscape compositions, the 4 Kčs value stamp from the 1980 Art series depicts "WASTE HEAPS" 1933. The work is housed in the Art Gallery in Ostrava and measures 66 x 100 cm (Fig.4). Its FDC depicts a 1913 still-life (Fig. 5). Its cancellation is in keeping with the stamp subject, with the addition of his name (Fig. 6).



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

In graphic art he produced lithographs, while with charcoal he illustrated mainly Czech poetry. In addition to the above, he was also a stage designer.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

The young Zrzavý -- who had never had any formal art education -- was strengthened by example (through his friendship with Bohumil



Fig. 11

Kubišta) to embark on his own creative work in Expressionism and Cubism. Another important moment in his career was lessons that he learned from Picasso.

One of his early works -- "MOON(woman) SEARCHING FOR LILIES OF THE VALLEY" 1913 -- is depicted on the 60h stamp in the Czech & Slovak graphic art set of January 28, 1971 (Fig. 7). The original of this work measures 15.5 x 10 cm.

The first version of "CLEOPATRA" dates from 1912. He continued to work on this piece for nearly half a century. Figure 8 shows the final result of these studies -- the 60h stamp of the art series issued on 29 November 1968 -- the original of which measures 201 x 181 cm. The FDC cachet reminds us of his visits to Paris and shows the "PORT AT ILE DE SEINE" 1950 (Fig. 9).

In the art series of 1990 another piece by Zrzavý entitled "KRUCEMBURK" 1923 is shown at Figure 10. Its FDC cachet as well as the cancel are of interest (Fig. 11, Fig. 12).



Fig. 12

While in Venice in the second half of the fifties, he was enthused by the mosaics in St. Mark's church and produced a new painting technique based on fingerprints dipped in color. From the sixties until his death he thought a great deal about figural composition inspired by ancient mythology.

Jan Zrzavý remains a classical figure of Czech modern art. He died in Prague in 1977.

* * * * *

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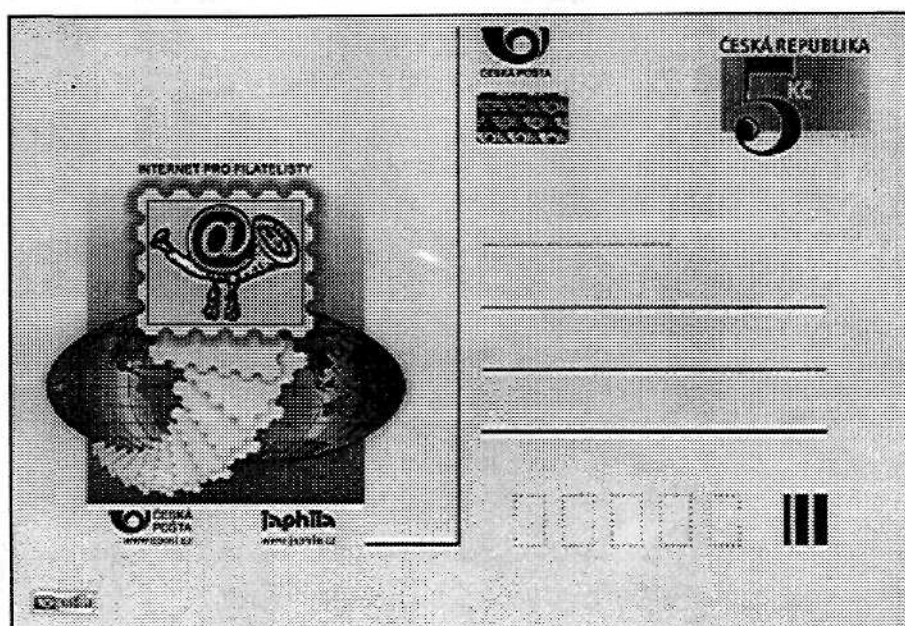
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A mint, unused copy of the 1946 double postal card showing the red 2.40K imprint of Pres. Benes (Pofis no. CDV 86). If you have an available copy, please contact Mirko Vondra at 717/263-5523. Quote price and condition of card.

ISSUE OF POSTAL CARD WITH CACHET INTERNET FOR PHILATELISTS

by Breta Janík
trans. by Henry Hahn

The Czech Post, Issuing and Commercial Service Department -- POSTFILA has placed in service on June 28th, 2000 a postal card (Fig. 1) with an imprinted cachet honoring the first anniversary of the philatelic on-line magazine *JAPHILA* -- <http://www.japhila.cz/>, which provides objective information on Czech stamps, regular and commemorative cancellations and other information. Besides in Czech and English, information is also presented in German, French, and Slovak.



The author of the cachet is Martin Činovský of Slovakia. The Czech Post utilized a postal card design intended for use with additional cachets. The postal card has an imprinted denomination of 5 Kč. Pictured to the left is a composition containing a globe, stylized postage stamps, a post horn and the symbol @. Below the illustration are the logos of the Czech Post and the firm JAPHILA with the addresses of the web sites. The cachet is produced by means of multicolored offset printing.

The postal card will be sold in the sales offices of POSTFILA, to subscribers, and through the sales offices of the firm Jan Palovsky -- SLOVFILA, Prague.

The sales price of the uncanceled postal card is 11 Kč, and with a single regular cancel 11.30 Kč. The postal card is valid for postal use from June 28th, 2000 until recall.

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by Jaroslav J. Verner

The NASDAQ is up; the NASDAQ is down. Some .com companies have sold themselves for big bucks without producing anything while others have gone broke. The mark of success for an e-commerce company seems to be how much money they have lost. By such criteria we appear to be out of step with the times. Not that the Society is not on the Web, it is and has been there for about three years -- an eternity by Worldwide Web standards. We started small and have grown ever since. Various design elements have been tried and rejected, while others have proved very durable. Being on the web has been good for the Society; about a third of our new members now come from collectors who first make contact with our Society on the Web. Our site has been recognized by F.I.P. as a two star philatelic site.

Not only has the Society web site changed over this period, but so have the number of our members who are connected to "the web". Some of us use it primarily for e-mail, some like it as a high tech research tool, and still others have great fun shopping at auctions and other venues. Whatever is your thing, we hope all of you who are already "connected" or those of you seriously thinking about it, will, at your first opportunity visit the Society for Czechoslovak Philately web site.

As I have already mentioned, the site has grown over time. It continues to have extensive information about the Society, its leadership, and member benefits. In addition, we have added features such as "Cover of the Month" page, "stamp stories", a "books for sale" section, reports of Society activities, and the entire catalog of the Society's Library holdings. Of course, *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST* continues to be the main communications venue for the Society, but as you see from the above listing, we can do things with the web site which the magazine can not or does not do. The technology is different, and each has its limitation and benefits. Since I am writing about the web, let me focus on what we can do on the web site that is unique. The first is that we can make large blocks of information available to our members. Witness the library catalog; books for sale which not only pictures the books and gives short descriptions of each, but also archives all related book reviews. The cover of the month feature not only adds an interesting new cover each month, but continues to list all the covers featured since January 1998. The site also can and does get information to the members quickly since we are not limited by a publication schedule. For instance, the information contained in this issue about our annual convention and exhibit at BALPEX was on the web in early June. Illustrations used in the articles and features are in full color. Finally, the site publishes materials which are not or can not be published, for whatever reason, in *The SPECIALIST*; witness the report on BRNO 2000 by the U.S. Commissioner for that exhibition.

It would be nice if each member with an on-line computer looked at the site regularly, I suspect this is unrealistic, largely because we can not assure them there will be something new each time they log on (this is voluntary labor after all). So, as the newest feature on the site, we have created an "update list". Those on the list receive an e-mail message when and only when the web site has been updated. You can add your name to the list by clicking on the little blue "subscribe" below the icon buttons at the left on the Home Page. You do not have to fill in all the information requested on the form. All that is required is to send a blank e-mail to

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«scupdatesubscribe@egroups.com» and that should put you on the list. It you have problems with this connection, any comments or suggestions, or material we could use on the site, please contact me or our Webmeister directly. Our coordinates can be found at sibpost@erols.com.

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THE CLASSICS CORNER
by Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D., FRPSL

In the Auctions: Rarities of the Czech Scout Post

One of a very small number of postal cards of the Czech Scout Post, upfranked with an "Arrival of President Masaryk" overprint, was hammered down to a new owner in the Majer & Thraumb auction conducted on March 5, 2000 in Brno, Czech Republic, in conjunction with the FEPA-sanctioned regional philatelic exhibition BRNO 2000. The card (Fig. 1) bears a carmine-red 20h "Arrival of President Masaryk" overprint in addition to the original 10h blue embossed indicium, both of which were canceled on December 21, 1918 by a single POSTA SKAUTU handstamp. Addressed to A. Svojsik, the founder of Scouting in Czechoslovakia and the Chief Scout of the Junak (Scout Association) at the Wilson Station and carried by Scout Sourek (genitive case of his name, Sourka, on the two-line delivery/receipt handstamp), the card carried a message about the assignments of some of the Scouts who had been reactivated for one day only to support the arrival of President-elect Masaryk to Prague (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1: Czech Scout postal card upfranked with 20h carmine-red overprinted in black

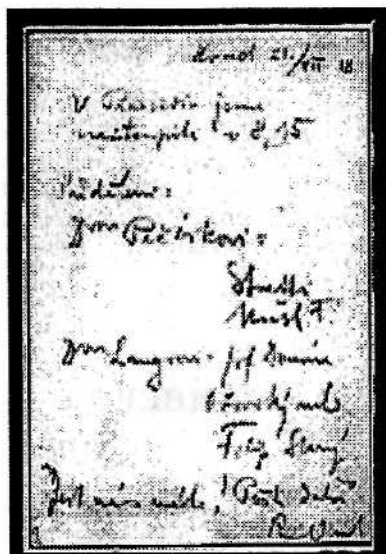


Fig. 2: Message side (reverse) of upfranked Czech Scout postal card

This card was first discussed and illustrated in the December 1975 (Vol. 24, No. 11) *SOSSI Journal* in "Czech Scout Stamps -- Use on Telegrams -- The Postal Cards" by Jan Dvorak and the late Lester A. Behnke (page 10 and Figure 11), which was reprinted from the October 1973 and April 1974 issues of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*, the journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, and subsequently reprinted in the May 1974 issue of the *Journal of the Society of Philatelic Americans*. At that time the authors stated, "A few postal cards exist with the overprinted Masaryk stamp added, and canceled 21/XII, the only day of use of the Masaryk stamp. . . ." The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog description states, "This cover is extraordinarily rare and interesting. Apparently only one additionally franked card exists." This card gives every appearance of being completely genuine. Adjacent to the stamp are the marks of the Czech philatelic experts Gilbert and Mrnak. The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog description further states, "[Jan] Karasek certificate

available on request", which means that the buyer could elect to pay for a photo certificate from Karasek as a condition of purchase. The card was purchased by a Scouts collector for 875,000 Czech crowns + 10% buyer's commission (about US \$26,000).

A second rarity of the Czech Scout Post was also offered in the Majer & Thraumb auction: a 10h blue stamp overprinted "Arrival of President Masaryk" in black with traces of red under the black, and with a set-off (offset) of the overprint in red on the reverse (Fig. 3). The normal color of the overprint on the 10h stamp is red. Such stamps were first discussed and illustrated in the May 1976 (Vol. 25, No. 5) *SOSSI Journal* in "Czech Scout Stamps -- The Masaryk Overprints" by Jan Dvorak and the late Lester A. Behnke (page 4 and Figure 2), which was reprinted from the October 1975 issue of the journal of the Society of Philatelic Americans and subsequently reprinted in the November 1978 issue of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*. At that time the authors stated:

Evidently the black overprint was first applied to the 20h red stamp. Later, the same printing plate was inked with red for the printing of the 10h blue stamp without removing all of the black ink. This produced a few 10h stamps with the overprint showing a red color tinged with black . . . Only a few of these exist, but they do appear occasionally in international exhibitions.



Fig. 3: 10h blue stamp overprinted in black with traces of red underneath and red offset on reverse

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The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog description states, "This stamp was exhibited only twice, at PRAGA 1968 . . . Unique item, outstanding quality, an exceptional opportunity."

The stamp also gives every appearance of being completely genuine. It is signed on the reverse by the Czech philatelic experts Gilbert and Mrnak. The Majer & Thraumb auction catalog description further states, "[Jan] Karasek certificate available on request." The stamp had a reserve of 1,700,000 Czech crowns (about US \$46,000), drew no bids at or above this reserve, and went unsold. It is expected that the stamp will be re-offered in a Majer & Thraumb auction later this year.

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CZECHS, SLOVAKS AND SOCIETY MEMBERS SCORE AT WIPA 2000

by Henry Hahn
US Commissioner

For the first time since 1981, Vienna was host to the legendary WIPA event. The previous ones took place in 1881, 1933, 1965 and 1981. This time the show was under the auspices of FEPA, the European Federation of Philatelic Societies, and was dedicated to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the issuance of Austria's first postage stamp.



Though WIPA was not a FIP (International Federation for Philately) sponsored show, the difference could hardly be detected in this superb exhibit, held in Vienna's modern "AUSTRIA CENTER" (Fig. 1), located just minutes by subway from Vienna's

historic center. The show took place from May 30th through June 4th -- a time period considered by some too short for viewing the 3,000 frames and visits to the large number of world-class dealers. The facilities in the main pavilion were excellent, with plenty of seating, wide aisles, and good restaurants. The accommodating staff was managed by Gerhard Dusska, Johann Brunner, Dr. Helmut Seebald and Horst Ziegler. The General Commissioner was Kurt Wolfbauer, the Secretary General was Klaus Proske, and KR Erik Hanke handled Public Relations and Media.

Some minor shortcomings included lack of prominent signs causing some visitors to be lost or unable to find the exhibit they were looking for. Another shortcoming included the fact that the frames were not numbered, except for a small slip at the beginning of each exhibit. WIPA's 12-page frames appeared advantageous over the more conventional 16-page version, making viewing of the bottom rows far easier.

Postal History, Aerophilately, Maximaphily, Astrophilately, Revenue Stamps and Youth Philately were displayed in a separate pavilion, just a few steps away from the Main Pavilion. This pavilion was somewhat less elegant than the Main Pavilion, but more than adequate for the purpose. It also displayed the "jewels of philately", including the "Bordeaux Letter" (Mauritius), scarlet (Zinnoberroter) Mercury and other color varieties in multiples, the Swedish three Skilling Banco in yellow, the British Guyana, the only existing Austrian remnant from the 1937 Lakehurst disaster, rarities from the Berlin Postal Museum, Hawaiian Missionaries and others.

There were 39 Commissioners, including two from the United States (Ken Gilbert and Henry Hahn), one from the Czech Republic (Miroslav Langhammer) and one from Slovakia (Lubomír Floch). There were two (2) judges from the Czech Republic (Ladislav Dvoráček and Vladimír Viklický) and one Czech member of the Expert Team (Pavel Pittermann). Knud Mohr, FIP President was Honorary Judge, Helmut Pfalz (Austria) was Jury President, Damian Laege (Switzerland) was Jury Secretary and Gerhard Kraner (Switzerland) was Jury Assistant. There were 33 jurors, 2 experts, and 4 apprentices (all 4 Austrian).

Participation by US, Czech, Slovak and other exhibitors displaying Czechoslovakia related material was relatively modest in comparison with the number of applications submitted. Only six (6) such competitive exhibits were accepted. On the other hand all literature exhibit applications were accepted, which numbered seventeen (17). At least one major Czechoslovakia related exhibit was withdrawn due to the political problem in Austria. The judging of Czechoslovakia related exhibits appears fair, and is listed below.

COMPETITIVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA RELATED STAMP EXHIBITS

Name	Country	Title	Award
Lumír Brendl	ČR	Troubled Times in Bohemia & Czecho. 1620-1945	G
Henry Hahn	USA	Czechoslovakia: The First Republic 1918-1938	G
Hans van Dooremalen	NETH	Postal History of Brno	LV
Otto Gata	SLOV	Prestamp Period on Slovak Territory 1700-1850	LV
Otto Hornung	GB	Postal History of the Carpatho-Ukraine	V
Antonín Šmid	ČR	Prague Pneumatic Mail 1899-1945	LS

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COMPETITIVE CZECHO. RELATED PHILATELIC LIT. EXHIBITS

Jan Karásek	ČR	Czechoslovak Stamps and Their Forgeries	G
Josef Obert et al	SLOV	Monografie 15	LV
Oldřich Tovačovský	ČR	Monografie 5 (SO 1920)	LV
František Beneš	ČR	Catalogue of Czechoslovakia 1918-1939	LS
Petr Horka	ČR	Czechoslovak Air Mail	LS
František Beneš	ČR	Catalogue of Protectorate Boh. & Mor. 1939-1945	LS
Mercury Review	ČR	Journal, 1998	LS
Vladimír Schodelbauer	ČR	FILATELIE Journal	LS
Václav Svoboda	ČR	Czech Republic Postage Stamps 1993-1998	LS
Miloš Hauptman	ČR	The Butterflies PL 1217-1225	S
Ludvík Svoboda	USA	The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST	S
Jozef Olah et al	SLOV	Catalogue of Slovak Stamps and Postal Stationery	S
Jaroslav Petrášek	ČR	Czech and Czecho. Olympic Movement in Philately	SB
Svaz Slov. Filatelistu	SLOV	Zběratel	SB
Jaroslav Punčochář	ČR	Air Mail Cancels and Markings of Czechoslovakia	SB
Ivan Vapenka	ČR	Friedensfahrt (Peace Journey) I and II	B
Václav Svoboda	ČR	Czech Stamps 1945-1992	CERT

The social events and lectures at WIPA were of excellent quality. A reception for officials, judges, commissioners and their wives at Vienna's "Rathaus" (City Hall) was festive and entertaining. The Palmares also took place at the Rathaus. The black tie affair was elegant, with an all-ladies orchestra providing lovely Viennese music. Speeches were short, and only Large Golds and the top awards were presented.

Clearly, Vienna once again demonstrated its ability to field an outstanding philatelic event, with superior exhibits, first class facilities, and a highly competent staff.



AUTOMATED HANDLING OF LETTER MAIL IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

by Miroslav Langhammer
trans. by Henry Hahn

Introduction

A number of articles have been published dealing with automation and details of the process in Czechoslovakia as well as in the Czech Republic. These have been published in *FILATELIE* as well as in the specialized informational news journal *MECHANIZACE A AUTOMATIZACE POŠTY* (Mechanization and Automation of the Post Office). Articles appeared only sporadically in foreign journals. The information is not available to all readers of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*. In addition, a new generation of philatelists is growing which does not have the opportunity to leaf through the older journals.

The field of automation of letter mail represents a modern and very interesting area which for many collectors is still considered a marginal area of postal history and philately. Many recognized collectors have no interest in this

area.

Basic Definition

The field of automation of letter mail as part of philately and postal history includes philatelic documentation of introduction of the means of automation in a certain time period, and the routing from sender to recipient as well as philatelic material demonstrating procedures necessitated before and after introduction of new technology.

The entire field may be divided into several parts, including:

- introduction of zip codes as a basis for machine sorting
- the printing (design) of the address side of mailings for compatibility with automatic handling
- issuance of stamps on luminescent paper
- introduction and operation of automatic culler, facer, and canceler
- introduction and use of automatic sorting lines
- use of semi-automatic sorting lines
- trial operation of the Czechoslovak simple coding machine
- trial operation of automats for receipt of registered mail
- trial operation of electronic equipment at post office windows
- equipping post offices with post office window terminals (APOST)

Individual segments of introduction of new technology into postal operations, as well as changes occurring during introduction, may be demonstrated (with few exceptions) through interesting philatelic documentation. In some cases we are concerned with experiments which were terminated after a given time period and never placed in operation. In such instances documentation generally does not exist or is difficult to find.

As in other philatelic areas, automation of letter mail in Czechoslovakia has its own "forerunners". These include, for example, the first machine canceling devices or cancels, used between WWI and WWII propagating the use of normalized formats of mailings or the pasting of stamps in the upper right side of letters to accommodate machine (mechanized) canceling, etc.

[Trans. note: Mr. Langhammer is editor of the journal *MECHANIZACE A AUTOMATIZACE POŠTY V ČESKOSLOVENSKU A ČESKÉ REPUBLICE* which is now a supplement to the Czech journal *POSTILION* which is devoted to postal history. Readers interested in a subscription should contact the author, M. Langhammer, Mezivrsi 27, 147 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic.]

New Issues

**CZECH REPUBLIC
by G.M. van Zanten**

1. On June 28, 2000, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a set of three commemorative postage stamps in the *Beauties of Our Country* series, titled *The Royal Road*, depicting historic monuments from three architectural styles which



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

made a considerable impact in Prague -- gothic, baroque and art nouveau (Fig. 1). These monuments are situated on the Royal Road, which for centuries was the route of coronation processions to Prague Castle. The designer of the set was Jan Kavan, and the engraver was Miloš Ondráček. The multicolored stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 8 pieces.

- The 9 Kč stamp (ocher, blue, red, black) -- at the foot of Charles' Bridge, the right bank of the Vltava river is adorned by the Old Town Bridge Tower. Its construction was begun in 1357 by P. Parler, who achieved fame as the architect of St. Vitus cathedral. He also oversaw the rich decoration of the tower, where a

statue of St. Vitus, Charles IV and Wenceslas IV overlooks the gate. The Old Town Bridge Tower is considered the most beautiful tower in Gothic Europe. The grey-black FDC bears the statue of St. Vitus -- the patron of Charles Bridge from the Old Town Bridge Tower (Fig. 2).

- The 11 Kč stamp (green, brown, blue, black) -- the church of St. Nicolas on Malostranské Náměstí (the Lesser Town Square) is the most beautiful and precious building of Czech baroque architecture, in the style of Roman architectural illusionism. The architect Kryštof Dienzenhofer began the construction of the nave in 1704. The rich decoration involved the work of many artists, such as J. Platzer, J. B. Kohl, R. and P. Prachner and the painter J. Z. Kracker. The grey-black FDC depicts the statue of St. Nicolas from the interior of the church of St. Nicolas in the Lesser Town (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

- The 13 Kč stamp (ocher, green, blue, black) -- the City of Prague ordered the construction of the Municipal House (Obecní Dům) in 1906-12 on the site of the former Royal Court, according to a design by A. Balšánek and O. Polívka. The whole building is decorated with many statues, mosaics

and reliefs by eminent artists. The center of the building houses the largest concert hall in Prague -- the Smetana Hall (Smetanová síň), with sculptures by K. Novák and L. Saloun and paintings by K. Špillár. The decoration of the halls, corridors, restaurants and other rooms involved the work of such personalities as A. Mucha,



Fig. 5

J. Obrovský, M. Aleš and others. The Municipal House is an imposing example of late art nouveau. The grey-black FDC shows a statue from the pier of the Municipal House (Fig. 4). 2. On June 28, 2000, the Ministry issued a set of four commemorative stamps in the Nature Conservation series, titled Rare Fungi (Fig. 5). The fungal wealth of this country is highly regarded throughout the world. This year's issue presents rare species of fungus which grow only in the Czech Republic. The set was designed by Josef Saska (who also designed the Poisonous Fungi issue from 1989), and was engraved by Václav Fajt. They were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces in a chessboard arrangement (2 and 2).

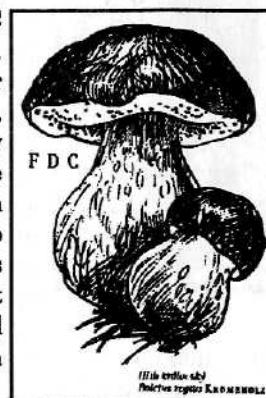


Fig. 6

- A 5 Kč stamp (black, ocher, brown-red, red, grey) -- boletus satanoides (SMOTLACHA) is a poisonous fungus when eaten raw and was described by the Czech fungologist František Smotlacha. The brown FDC depicts another rare fungus, boletus regius (J.V. KROMBOLZ) (Fig. 6).



Fig. 7

- A 5 Kč stamp (black, ocher, brown-red, red, grey) -- gastrum pouzarii (STANĚK) was found by the excellent fungologist Zdeněk Pouzar and described by the Czech natural historian J. V. Staněk. Gastrums are not edible but very beautiful and interesting. Gastrum pouzarii is one of the smallest but most beautiful gastrums in the Czech Republic, occurring very rarely in the neighborhood of Prague. A red



Fig. 8

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FDC depicts *amanita caesarea* (SCOP.: FR.) PERS (Fig. 7).

- A 5.40 Kč stamp (black, yellow, red, green, grey) -- *verpa bohemica* was described by the Czech fungologist J. V. Krombholz 150 years ago. It is very rare and very palatable. The dark red FDC shows *pluteus aurantiorugosus* (TROG) SACC (Fig. 8).

- A 5.40 Kč stamp (black, yellow, red, green, grey) -- *morchela pragensis* (F. SMOTLACHA), *morchelas* are fungi which are very variable in form, size and colors and are also very palatable. The brown-green FDC shows *rhodocybe obscura* (PILÁT) MOSER (Fig. 9).

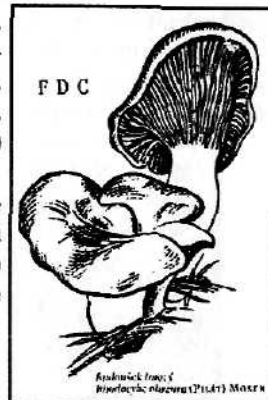


Fig. 9

SLOVAKIA
by F. Garancovsky



Fig. 10

3. On May 9, 2000, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 12 Sk multicolored commemorative stamp entitled "EUROPA 2000" (Fig. 10). It shows children building a tower from the stars of the European Union emblem. The design was based upon a proposal by Frenchman Jean-Paul Cousin and was graphically laid out and engraved by Martin Činovský. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using recess printing from flat plates (black color) in combination with offset printing on printing sheets of 8 pieces (two blocks of four with a blank gutter). A FDC in grey-blue includes a motif of children reaching for the stars, and bears a postmark from Bratislava.

4. On June 1, 2000, the Ministry issued a 10 Sk multicolored commemorative stamp entitled "150th Anniversary of the First Stamp Put into Circulation on the Postal Service Territory of Slovakia" (Fig. 11). The stamp depicts a postman in historical uniform, an Austrian 2 Kreuzer stamp, and a historical postmark from Pressburg (Bratislava). It is worth noting that when the Austrian stamps were first put into use, they met with some opposition -- the practice prior to their introduction was to



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

have the recipient of a letter pay the postal delivery charge. This commemorative stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by Martin Činovský. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing (black) in combination with recess printing (orange) on printing sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in blue-grey shows a mailbox and has a cancel from Bratislava.

5. On June 1, 2000, the Ministry issued a 5.50 Sk multicolored commemorative stamp representing "Children's Postage Stamp -- UNICEF" (Fig. 12). On the stamp is reproduced the painting "Animals From a Rainbow" by the juvenile author Alexandra Baníková. It also contains the UN Children's Fund -- UNICEF logo. It was designed by Martin Činovský and engraved by Juraj Vitek. This is Vitek's first engraved stamp. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House -- Prague using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing on printing sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in dark blue contains a cancellation designed by Katarína Lalíková (9 years old) entitled "Picnic of the Rabbits" as well as a drawing by Terézia Barčiaková (9 years old) entitled "In the Circus". It bears a postmark from Detva.

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Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

I very much enjoyed the articles on "Our National Symbols" by Miroslav Vostatek. In part III (May/June 2000 issue), he discusses the matter of [the Czech] flag. Since the only illustration of the flag was the USA stamp from the Occupied Nations series, I got curious as to how many times was [the Czech] flag shown on Czechoslovak stamps. The only example I could find was a 50h 1984 stamp issued for the 15th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Federation (TR2627/SC2493)(Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

There are other instances where the flag is shown in conjunction with other flags -- primarily that of the USSR (5K--TR1216/SC1080, 30h--TR1532/SC1397, 3K--A2553/4/SC2424a/SC2425a, 1K--TR2695/SC2558). There are other examples of [the Czech] flag issued by other postal authorities such as the Flag Series of the UN.

It seems that [Czech flags] were shown more often on foreign than [Czech] stamps. I believe that this is due to the fact that the heraldic symbols have been used for centuries, while [the Czech] flag is relatively new. In comparison, there were no heraldic symbols for the American Republic. Our flag was and is the recognition of our sovereignty and is often displayed on our stamps.

With best regards,
Karl [Ruzicka]

2. Dear Lou:

I hope you or another member can answer this question asked of me by SCP member, Gerald Arndt.

"... question I have for someone in the Society regards the engraver that was honored on Trojan 3029/SC2876 (18.12.1992, Jindra Schmidt). I have noticed in the KATALOG that he did much of the engraving for M. Švabinský's designs many of which I have collected because I have greatly admired both men. Does anyone know

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why the engraver's name on the stamps was most often printed as "Jindra S Sc" instead of the more logical J. Schmidt?"

Karl Ruzicka

3. Lou:

The article "Railroad Cancel 992 -- Halmei Košice" somehow seemed very familiar. So, I went to my files and found that I had translated a very similar article several years ago. It was published in the September/October 1996 issue of the *SPECIALIST*, pp 22-25. That earlier article is somewhat more extensive with more illustrations. While the earlier article is not exactly the same, it does cover the same material. Is one RR cancel worth two similar articles? I don't think so.

Jerry [Verner]

[Ed. Comments: Checking my files, I found that Jerry is absolutely correct. It is my fault in not checking back issues more carefully. Our most current cumulative index (compiled by Anne Vondra) is only up through 1992, so it would be very time consuming for me to go through the last eight years of issues. This will be remedied in the near future, because I understand that Anne has a new edition cumulative index almost ready that will cover up through the end of 1999.]

4. Dear Lou:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading John Miskevich's article on the KLV camps in the July/August issue of the *SPECIALIST*. I wondered what the child who wrote home, using the postal card illustrated in Figure 1, would have been writing about to her family back in Berlin. My wife Luise very kindly translated for me. The message reads as follows:

"From R. Muneke, Radoschowitz bei Prague (Bohemia and Moravia), Hotel Monopol.

. . . I am going to start a diary. Yesterday and the day before yesterday we had good warm weather. Today the weather is half and half.

Dear mother, my tennis shoes are kaput. If it is possible, send me some money so that I can buy some new ones. It doesn't have to be right away because in the meantime they are good enough.

Now, many greetings and kisses to everybody."

The writing of a diary suggests to me that the writer is a young female teenager. The message is perhaps similar to what a young person of today would be writing home from summer camp. She states her address to be in "Radoschowitz bei Prague", while the stamped return address is "bei Ritschen". I found the location of Radošovice in my Kuemmerly and Frey map of the Czech Republic at a distance of approximately 35/40 miles to the southeast of Prague, very close to the City of Vlašim (Germ un Viaschim). I did not find Ritschen, as I did not know its Czech name. Sometimes it is interesting to put a human face on such postal history items.

Keep up the good work with the *SPECIALIST*. It is always a pleasure to receive and to read it.

Sincerely,
Sal Rizza

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.

***** AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS *****

(All prices are postpaid; E=English, Cz=Czech, Sl=Slovak)

[NEW] MANUAL FOR HRADČANY COLLECTORS - VOL. 2, by František Hamr, Jiří Škaloud (Cz) -- Follow on to the previous shown below. As before, very detailed. (Not yet reviewed)	\$10.00
[NEW] SPECIALIZED CATALOG CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-99, from MERKUR REVIEW (Cz) -- A handsome 160 page color catalog dealing with the stamps, stationery, and specialized items. (Not yet reviewed)	\$10.00
[NEW] MILITARY CARDS OF THE EXILED CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES in France and Great Britain (1939-1945), Monograph 12 (CPSofGB), by Vladimír Kralicek and W.A. Page (E) -- Illustrated. (Not yet reviewed)	\$12.00
[NEW] THE HRADČANY ISSUE 1918-1920, Monograph 13 (CPSofGB), by Robert Bradford (E) -- (Not yet reviewed)	\$12.00
CHAINBREAKER, by Chvalovský and Kašpar (Cz) -- booklet, 6x8, 93pg, BxW	\$12.00
PROTECTORATE OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA 1939-1945, by František Beneš, Martin Trojan (Cz) -- The specialized catalog for the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia stamps. (Not yet reviewed)	\$15.00
STORY OF JOSEF HERČÍK'S POSTAGE STAMPS, by Jan Chovanec (E) -- (Reviewed: Jul/Aug 99)	\$ 6.00
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