



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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No. 1, Whole No. 577

WESTPEX 2003

The annual convention of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately next year will be in conjunction with WESTPEX 2003 in San Francisco on April 25-27, 2003. The site of the show will be at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, 1101 Van Ness Avenue (at Geary Street). The show times are Friday from 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Prospectus for exhibitors is enclosed in with this issue of the SPECIALIST.

The Society's annual meeting will be held on Saturday (time and room to be determined). In conjunction with the annual meeting, Jerry Verner will present a talk on "Mail of the Czechoslovak Legions in France". As many of you may have noticed, this year Jerry published a book on this subject, the first of its kind. We also anticipate a wide variety of exhibits from our members which will provide many of us another opportunity to expand our philatelic knowledge. Watch for the

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Westpex 2003

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Mar/Apr issue of the SPECIALIST which will contain more details on show and Society activities (times, places), hotel accommodation options along with contact details, and transportation information (driving, bus, subway).

As usual, our Society will have a table with publications for sale. When you attend the show please make a special effort to stop by the table, attend our annual meeting, and hear Jerry's discussion of Legion Mail. All of these present opportunities for our members to meet each other, to learn, and to share our philatelic finds at the show. We hope to see you at the exhibition!

Richard Palaschak
President

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THE SUDETENLAND SAGA

by George E. Kuhn

It didn't have to happen this way. If Britain and France had lived up to their pledges of guaranteeing [sic guaranteeing] Czech autonomy World War II may never have occurred, but appeasement was the overwhelming principle of the time. It proved to be disastrous (Figure 1).



Figure 1

After the creation of Czechoslovakia following World War I the Czechs built many border fortifications in the Sudeten Mountains, fronting Germany and Austria. In 1937 German military leaders labeled them as "formidable" (Figure 2).

Hitler was determined to smash Czechoslovakia by military action, which would gain him control of the border territory and bring some 3 million Sudetenlanders into the Reich. In addition to the defense system, most Czech heavy industry was located in the Sudeten area. Stripped of this area, Czechoslovakia would be helpless against any German incursion, and the road to eastern Europe would be open. Shortly after the successful annexation of Austria Hitler instructed General Wilhelm Keitel, Chief of Staff of the High Command of the Armed Forces (OKW), to make plans for the military conquest of Czechoslovakia to begin no later than October 1st of the same year, 1938.

There were many dissident German generals who desperately wanted to get rid of Hitler before he brought utter disaster to the nation, and on May 20 the dictator's plans of aggression against Czechoslovakia leaked out. When this information reached London, Paris, Pargue [sic Prague] and Moscow a sudden panic

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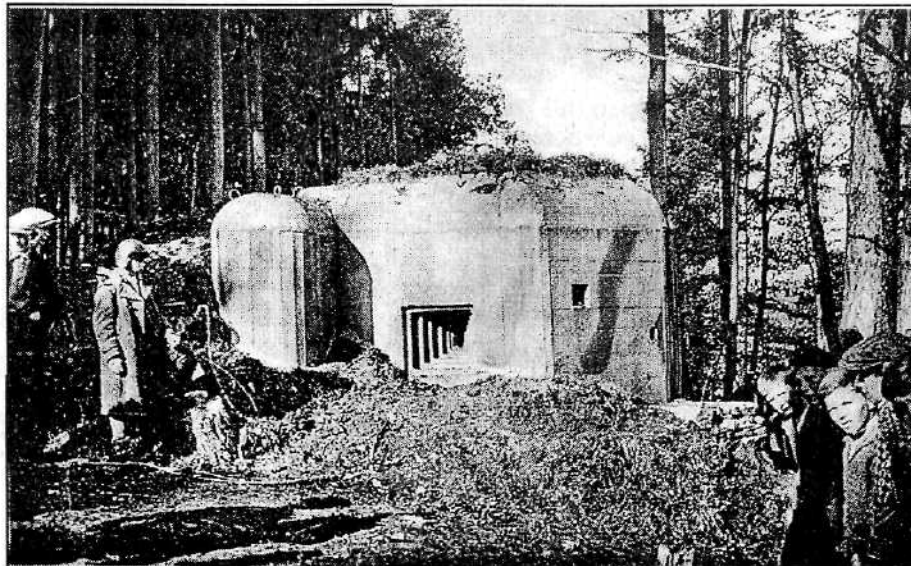


Figure 2: A picture post card of one of the formidable Czech fortifications in the Sudeten [sic Sudeten] Mountains near Frain, slightly north of the old Austrian border.

developed, as another European war seemed unexpectedly imminent. Britain, France and Russia responded by making it clear they were united in their resolve to uphold their guarantees [sic guarantees] and prevent any German aggression against Czechoslovakia.

Hitler took notice and deferred any ideas of immediate military action, preferring instead to have an "incident" inside Czechoslovakia which would provoke an immediate military response by his Wehrmacht. This might be in the form of an assassination of a prominent German diplomat or possibly a simulated attack by Czechs on German border troops, either of which would be carefully orchestrated by Czech Nazis under the leadership of Konrad Henlein. The weekend of May 20-22 was therefore very tense, abounding [sic abounding] with rumors and reports of troop movements on both sides of the border.

On Monday, May 23rd Hitler informed allied diplomats in Berlin that Germany had no military intentions against the Czechs, and the crisis passed. He then secretly ordered his generals to make plans for a military attack to begin on October 1st. In mid-August the anti-Hitler conspirators in government circles in Berlin managed to get word to London that Hitler planned an attack on Czechoslovakia at the end of September, averring that if Britain and France made an immediate military response they would soundly defeat Germany and put an end to the Nazi regime. London, however, chose to ignore this message, dismissing it as mere propaganda.

Nazi pressure on Czechoslovakia increased from within and without, with many demands by Sudeten Germans, and by early September Czech president Benes was doing all he could to give them everything they wanted in an effort to avoid bloodshed. This was against Hitler's wishes, as he wanted to militarily embarrass

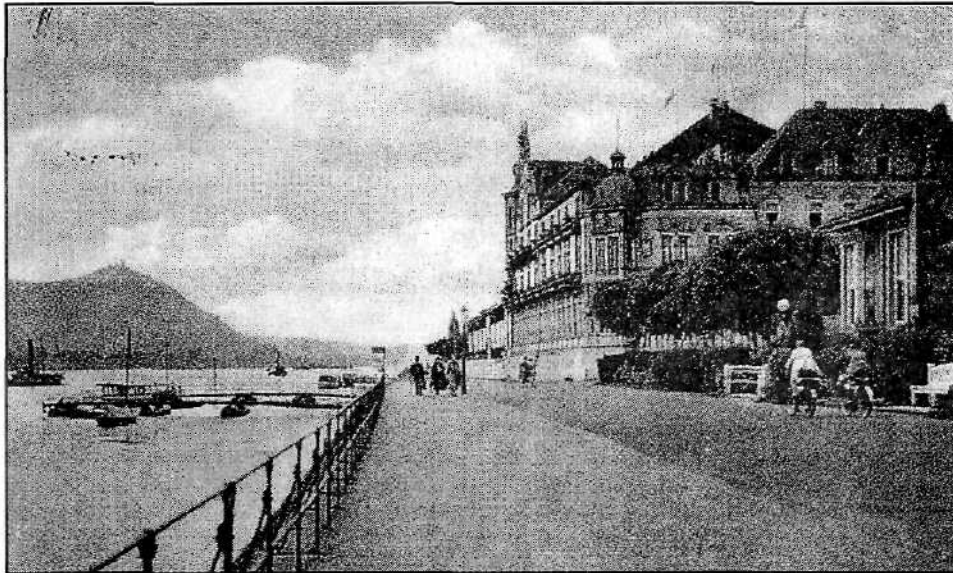


Figure 3a: The Rhine Hotel Dreesen in Bad Godesberg

the Czechs while showing the world the impotence of Britain and France by smashing Czechoslovakia as they quietly watched. He was convinced that Britain and France would take no action on behalf of the beleaguered [sic beleaguered] little nation.

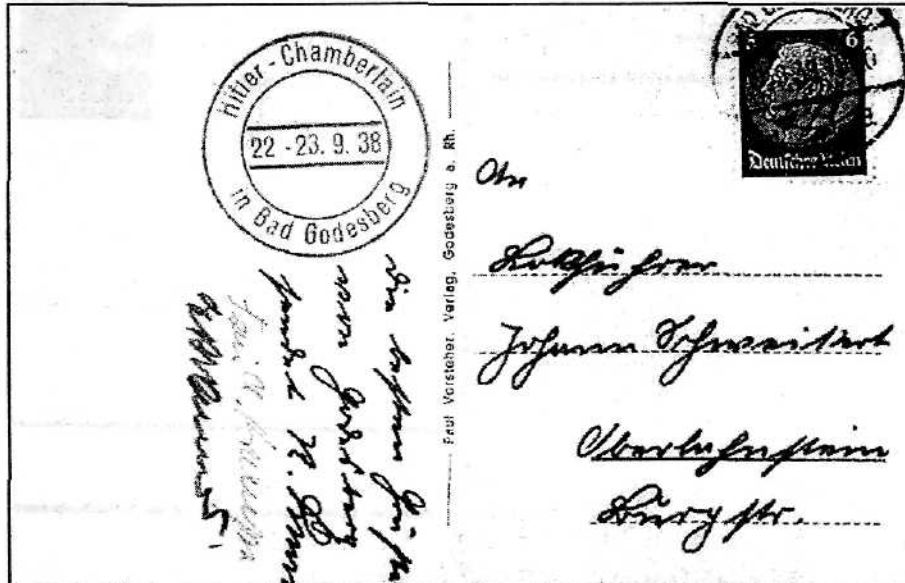


Figure 3b: Special green cachet commemorating the meeting of Hitler and Chamberlain on September 22-23, 1938.



Figure 4: Front and back of the commemorative post card issued in December 1938 to note the acquisition of the Sudetenland. A triumphant Hitler is superimposed in the midst of the map.

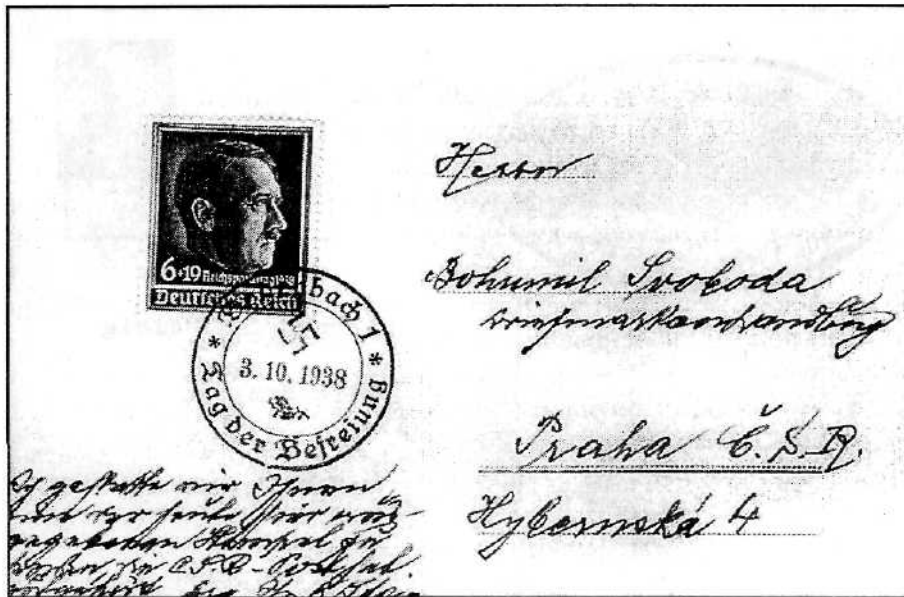


Figure 5: Special cancel from Bodenbach, noting October 3, 1938 as the "Day of Liberation".

During the Nazi party rally earlier in September both Goering and Hitler made inflammatory speeches that threatened war if German demands weren't met. Another crisis loomed. The day after Hitler's speech Neville Chamberlain sent word

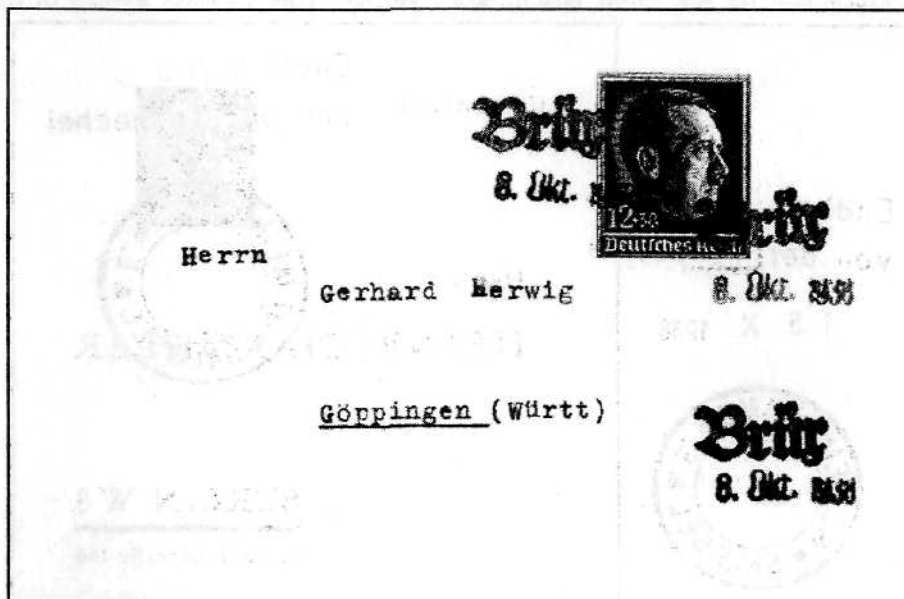


Figure 6: Provisional cancel from Brügge, October 8, 1938.

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Figure 7: Provisional rectangular box cancel in purple applied at Breitenfurt on the Hindenburg stamp; oval cachet in red notes the date of liberation as 6 October 1938 with the wording, "Thanks and love to our liberator!"

to Hitler that he'd travel to Germany to discuss the Czech situation directly with him. On September 15th he flew to Munich and boarded a special train to Berchtesgaden for their first face-to-face meeting. Chamberlain agreed to the



Figure 8. Salesal [sic Salesef], October 15, 1938. Red cachet reads, "Finally free from the Czechs."

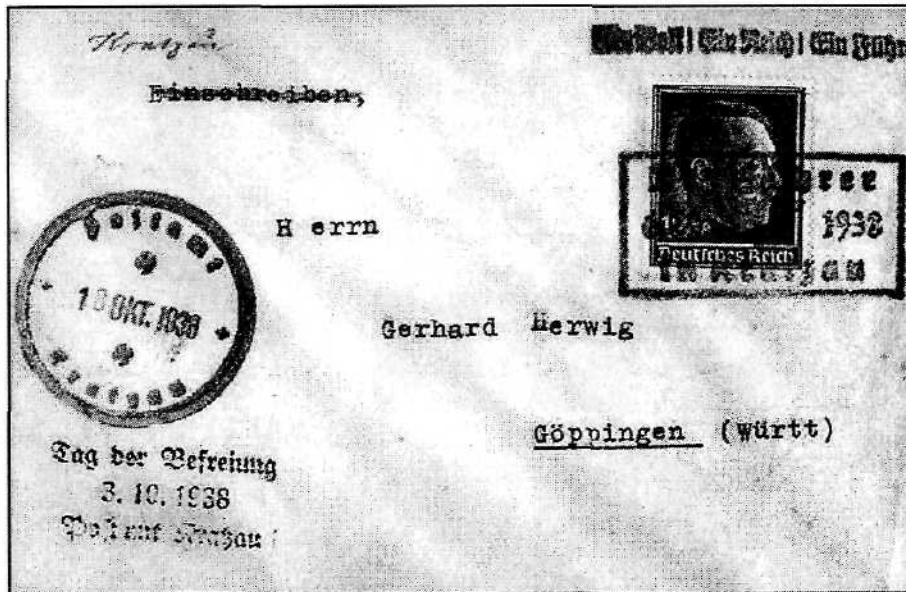


Figure 9: Kratzau cover with various inscriptions and dates. Handstamp at upper right, "One People! One Nation! One Leader!" Box cancel on stamp notes Hitler's visit on October 6, 1938. Purple circular cancel at left was evidently the actual mailing date, 18 October, 1938. Wording at lower left notes the day of liberation as 3 October 1938.



Figure 10: Special cachet noting Hitler's visit to Znam dated October 26, 1938 -- apparently from a German soldier.



Figure 11: Cover from Schreckenstein dated 9 October 1938, its day of liberation. Czech stamps have now been overprinted "We are free" and a prominent swastika. This town is in the Reichenberg-Maffersdorf

"principle" of the cessation of the Sudetenland to Germany and said he'd propose this to his government. Hitler promised he'd take no military action until they'd met again and Chamberlain returned to London. The second crisis seemed to be over.

Between September 15 and 21 there were several frantic meetings between leaders of Britain and France, and it was ultimately decided between them that the best thing to do was to let Hitler have the Sudetenland. Russia, also a guarantor of Czechoslovakia independence, was excluded from these meetings and the Czechs weren't consulted, which left their destiny in the hands of two military inept and irresolute western nations.

On September 22nd Chamberlain again flew to Germany, this time to meet Hitler at Bad Godesberg, on the Rhine near Cologne. The meetings took place at the hotel Breesen [*sic* Dreesen] on the west bank of the river, Hitler's headquarters (Figure 3), and Chamberlain lodged at a hotel on the east side. At this meeting he gave Hitler everything he'd asked for at Berchtesgaden a week earlier, but now Hitler refused, saying it wasn't good enough because things had changed in the last few days. He now said it was imperative that Germany begin occupying the Sudetenland "at once".



Figure 12: Fantasy item: Hindenburg stamp overprinted "Aussig is Free 10 October 1938" with Nazi emblem on handle of sword. Originally believed to be an official overprint, it was later disavowed by philatelic experts.

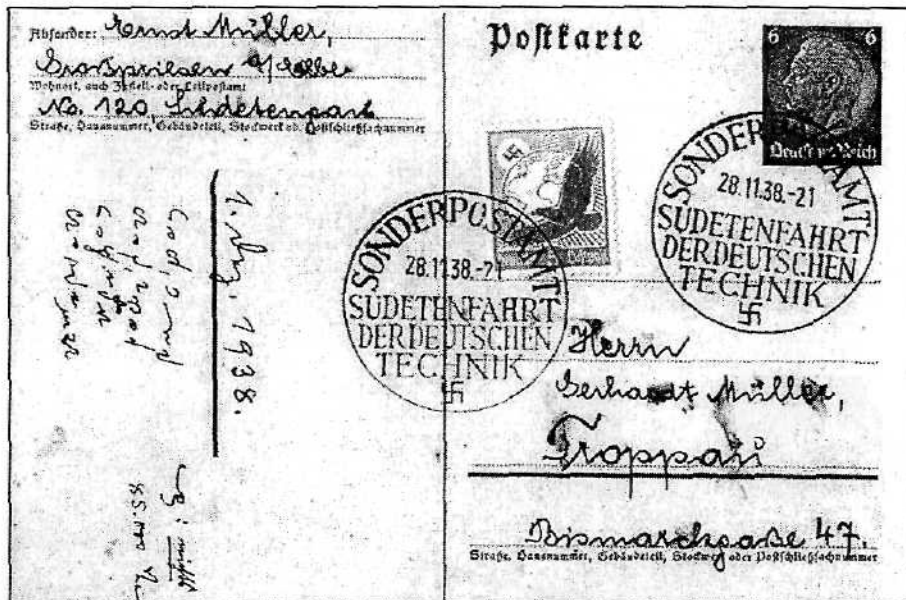


Figure 13: Special cancel noting a visit by German technology experts to propagandize their achievements to the newly acquired Sudetenland residents, November 28, 1938.

A stunned Chamberlain broke off the meeting and recrossed the river to his hotel to rethink the situation.

They met again the next day at the Hotel Dreesen, and now Hitler demanded that the Czechs begin evacuating the Sudetenland on September 26 and complete it by the 28th. Then, tossing a dry bone to a starving dog, Hitler agreed to allow the Czechs until October 1st to get out. This meeting finally ended around 1:00 a.m. on September 24, with Chamberlain saying he had to return to London with the latest German demands.

He flew home, summoned French representatives who agreed to everything, and then notified Hitler that he personally would be willing to sit in on negotiations between Hitler and the Czechs. Hitler refused, saying he wanted a firm response from Britain and France by no later than September 28, agreeing to German occupation of the Sudetenland to begin no later than October 1st.

With the outbreak of war seemingly only hours away, a shocked and desperate Chamberlain phoned Premier Daladier of France and then notified Hitler one last time, with Mussolini acting as mediator, and make the final decision about the cession of the Sudetenland. On September 29-30, 1938 the infamous Munich Conference took place at Hitler's headquarters, where the Sudetenland was given to Germany. The deed was done (Figure 4).

On October 1, 1938 German troops began occupying the Sudetenland. This was immediately noted philatelically by the appearance of numerous provisional cancellations on mail originating in the "liberated" towns and villages as the occupiers entered, shown here is a small sampling of the dozens of different cancels placed into use (Figures 5 - 9).



Figure 14: Registered cover from Eger (Sudetenland) to Nuremberg dated 4 December 1938, the date of the plebiscite to officialy [sic officialy] unite the Sudeten area with Germany. Backstamp shows receipt in Nuremberg on December 6. The slogan cancels read: "On 4th of December your "yes" for the Führer". The separate Eger cancel at the center of the cover also includes the "We are free!" slogan. Four of the surcharged stamps, Michel 684 and 685, were issued on December 2, 1938 to publicize the upcoming plebiscite. The stamps feature a couple from the "Egerland" part of the Sudetenland.

Hitler made a special visit to newly-occupied Znaim on October 26; a commemorative cachet noted the occasion (Figure 10).

Prominent overprints with "Wir sind frei!" and swastika suddenly appeared on Czech stamps, some of which were official issues and many of which are fraudulent. Expertization is a necessity for making a determination of authenticity of any such items (Figure 11).

Among the many philatelic innovations was a privately produced overprint on the 3 Pfennig Hindenburg stamp, showing a vertical Nazi sword and the wording "Aussig ist frei" at the lower part of its blade. This seems to have been machine printed on alternate vertical rows of stamps on the pane, but it is nothing more than an eye-catching souvenir (Figure 12).

Czechoslovakia was now in a hopeless position, having been betrayed by its two western allies, who didn't bother to invite their third ally, Russia, to join in the discussion. Poland had already refused to allow any Russian troops to cross its territory, as had Hungary, and each of these two countries had been promised a

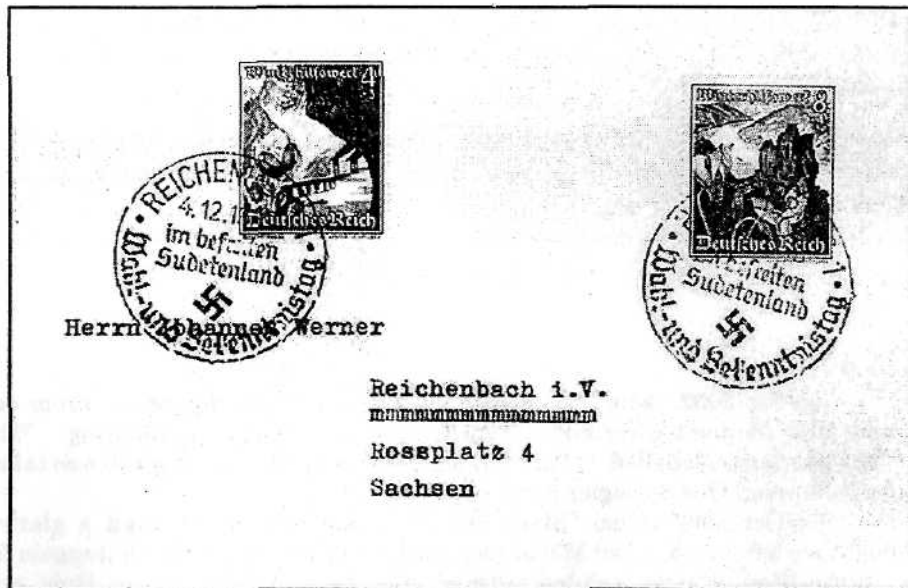


Figure 15: Special cancel from Reichenberg "in liberated Sudetenland" dated 4 December 1938, as "vote and acceptance day – the day of the plebiscite to officially unite the Sudetenland with the rest of Germany.

piece of a dismembered Czechoslovakia as a reward for cooperating with Hitler.

Late in November 1938 the Germans dispatched an exhibit of its technological achievements to the Sudetenland as part of the overall propaganda effort aimed at securing the support of the annexed populace (Figure 13).

To make the takeover "legal" a plebiscite was scheduled for December 4, which resulted in the expected overwhelming approval of the Sudetenlanders. Figure 14 shows a slogan cancel urging people to give their "yes" vote to the Führer, while the larger hand cancel in Figure 15 notes "Vote and Acceptance Day" to remind people that this is the day to cast their ballots.

The Czechs could only watch from the sidelines as their country was systematically desolved [*sic* dissolved]. Less than six month after annexing the Sudetenland Hitler sent his armed forces into the rest of the unprotected country. Czechoslovakia had been "wiped off the map", just as Hitler wanted and World War II was now inevitable.

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- Joachim C. Fest, *Hitler*
- Herbert Molloy Mason, Jr., *To Kill the Devil*

(George E. Kuhn has been a GPS member since 1960 and was a founding member of GPS Chapter 23, the Central Florida Chapter. He has served in various position [*sic*

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positions] in the chapter, including three tours as club president, and is presently vice president and APS liaison [sic liaison]. He has written various articles for the German Postal Specialist.)

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ERRATA

-- Sep/Oct 2002 issue, "Slovensko 2002 Report", p7, Figure 4. From our member and frequent contributor Richard Beith we have the following. "The kneeling gentleman labelled '???' at bottom right is me! This photograph was taken at the Palmares." Our apologies to Richard.

-- Sep/Oct 2002 issue, "Slovensko 2002 Report", p8. Through a glaring oversight we left out the Gold Medal received by our member Piero Santangelo for his Postal History class exhibit entitled "Czechoslovak Legions in Italy and Czechoslovakia". We most sincerely apologize for this omission.

-- Sep/Oct 2002 issue, "Slovensko 2002 Report", p11. Again from Richard Beith, "the Cholmondeley celebrations were on July 14 not June 14". Sorry, this was an information transmission error.

-- Sep/Oct 2002 issue, "Same Stamp With a Difference", pp27/28. This article references Figures 1 - 4a, but they do not appear. I'm not sure how I missed them, but it was pure oversight on my part. They appear here in Figure 1.



Figure 1

WARS, FIELD POST OFFICES AND CZECHOSLOVAKS - EPILOGUE 1

by Lubor Kunc, Tom Cossaboom, Vernon von der Heydt

[Ed. Note: Here is the promised followup article on this subject. It consists of a series of e-mails that record correspondence involving reader's comments and the author's responses. Because the information is rather technical and jumps around somewhat, it helps to have this past year's issues handy in order to reference the subjects being discussed. Also, because the correspondence is rather extensive, I have had to divide it into two parts. The second part will appear in the Mar/Apr issue. Please keep the comments coming.]

1. Lou:

Congratulations to Lubor Kunc for his two articles on Austro-Hungarian Feldpost. They are a very good summary of a complicated subject. I would like to offer a few clarifications, which may help those interested in the subject.

Not all Feldpost offices were active at the same time. For example at the end of 1914 there were 197 offices in operation. In 1916, the army began renumbering many of the post offices. At the end of the war approximately 320 numbered field post offices were in use. In addition there were about 200 additional offices with named locations.

The named post offices were Etappenpostamt, in Hungarian Hadtap Postahivatal. Mr. Kunc translates this as "occupation post office". Better terms in English would be rear area or communications zone post office. The Austro-Hungarian military established these post offices in areas behind the combat zone that were used for logistic support, resting units removed from combat, and final training of new soldiers. Initially, etappenpostamt were all numbered and were located in Austria-Hungary (Galicia, Bukovina, Croatia, Tyrol, etc.). As the Austro-Hungarian Army occupied more enemy territory in Russian Poland, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, and Italy, the etappenpostamt moved into occupied territory. By March 1915 some etappenpostamt began serving the civilian populations in the occupied territories as well as army personnel. At this point, some of the newly established rear area post offices were named for their location and remained in place for the duration of the war. In addition some of the numbered etappenpostamt were later converted to named offices.

The Austro-Hungarian Army, like all armies in World War I, was primarily an infantry organization. As a result of the political settlement of 1867 and Hungarian demands for a Hungarian 'national military force', the army -- in theory -- had three co-equal parts; common army, Austrian Landwehr, and Honved (Hungarian Landwehr). In practice, the common army was considered 'primus inter pares'. The common army included units of all types (infantry, artillery, cavalry, feldjager -- light infantry, etc.). Their official designations all begin with K.u.K. (Kaiserlich und Koniglich)(see Kunc Fig. 33).

Austrian Landwehr units, limited to infantry, artillery and cavalry, can be identified by the "K.k." (Kaiserlich-koniglich) at the beginning of their designation (see Kunc Fig. 32). Landwehrintanterieregiment is frequently shortened to "Lir".

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In 1917, Emperor Karl renamed these units *Kasierschutzen* to recognize their valor. Mr. Kunc refers to these as "rifle regiments". That is a type of unit used by the Soviet Army, but not by the Austro-Hungarian.

The Honved units like the Austrian Landwehr were limited to infantry, artillery, and cavalry. Their unit designations begin *M. kir.* (regiment number) *honved gyalog ezred* (Royal Hungarian Honved infantry regiment).

The second-line was called the Landsturm. In the Austrian half of the empire the unit title began 'K.k. Landsturm', 'Ldst' for short. In Hungary the unit title began *M. kir.* (unit number) *nepfelkelo*. In peacetime there were no organized Landsturm units. Rather, it was a body of men available for military service. These were men too young (19-21 years old) for active duty, those not selected for active duty, and those that had fulfilled their active duty (two years) and reserve commitments (ten years), but were younger than 42 years of age, at which time they were discharged from the military. At the beginning of the war, Landsturm and *nepfelkelo* infantry battalions and brigades were organized. Some were used for front-line combat. Others designated 'etappenbatallions' were used for rear area security. As the war continued, the age of conscription was lowered to 18 and the discharge age raised to 50 and then 55 with those 50-55 years old used for unarmed duty.

I hope the above comments provide additional useful information to the readers of the SPECIALIST.

Tom Cossaboom

[Ed. Note: Here follows Lubor Kunc's response to the above comments on his first two parts of the article.]

2. Mily Ludviku:

Thank you for sending me Tom Cossaboom's comments to my set of articles. It is evident, that Mr. Cossaboom is an expert in *Austro-Hungarian Field Post*.

Mr. Cossaboom is right, that all of the field post offices and "Etappenpostamt" didn't function at the same time. The numbers I mentioned in my article were the total numbers of those working during all of WW I. It is also known that the numbering of the existing field post offices was sometimes crazy -- they did not get numbers in order. As a result the highest field post office number being shown on a cancel (which is known to me) exceeds 600 -- which is a number higher than the total of all the existing field post offices.

Does the "200 additional offices with named locations" in the second paragraph mean the *Etappenpostamt*? And what does "combat" zone mean?

I appreciate the better English translation for "Etappenpostamt". The term I used, I created myself. I have never seen any English written text with a special name for these post offices. I am only not sure whether during WW I all of the rear area post offices were situated in the same relative places. This is especially true of the offices situated in areas close to the battle lines -- which often moved back and forth depending upon the current military situation. The main purpose of the offices was to substitute for the civil post offices, which belonged to the postal system of another country, were often destroyed by the war, and whose personnel were not

supportive of the Austrian occupation. In addition, in case the area was re-occupied by a non-Austrian country, the Austro-Hungarian Field Post did not remain there to serve the new occupants.

I enjoyed the information about the military infantry/rifle units. I found the name "rifle regiment" in a 1960's book by Pichlík entitled "Cervenobílá a Rudá". Mr. Pichlík was a prominent Czechoslovak historian, and I can confirm that his information is usually OK. In an annex to his book he lists Austro-Hungarian, Czechoslovak Legion, and Czechoslovak definitive military units. In the list he calls the Landwehr units as "střelecké" (rifle). This fits in with the fact that the Monarchy supported non-professional shooting organizations during peacetime. Prior to 1914 there existed a gun club or something like a National Guard (called Domobrana) in every Bohemian town. They conducted shooting training regularly and focused around a building called a "Střelnice" which was the center of the cultural life of the town (e.g. there is a very nice one in Dečín - Tetschen).

The Soviets were not the only ones that had rifle regiments, e.g. in WW I the Czechoslovak Legions in France consisted of the 21st - 24th Rifle Regiments (Regiment Chasseurs Tchécoslovaque) -- which makes me wonder if the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy didn't have such units also. This is a good question for future research.

An interesting theme was opened by Mr. Cossaboom -- the usage of "K.u.K." and "K.K." in the naming of various military units. I cannot confirm or deny his statements, I can only say that my information indicates there is no general rule on this. In the past I asked some Austrian collectors to describe what abbreviation was used for what state body or military organization. There was no general answer however, everybody said only "probably, on condition, etc."

We can divide the organizations into two groups:

-- organizations using the K.u.K. abbreviation -- usually military units (like K.u.K. XX Regiment) or other military structures (like K.u.K. Überprüfungscommission für Postsendungen in Wien = military censorship commission in Vienna). It is possible that "federal" organizations which were common to Austria and Hungary used this abbreviation (but that is not for sure).

-- organizations using the K.K. abbreviation -- e.g. police, customs, postal bodies, etc. Examples of these could be K.K. Polizei-Direktion Prag (Police Director's Office in Prague), K.K. Hauptzollamt Wien (Main Customs Office in Vienna), or K.K. Postamt Wien 1 (Vienna 1 civil post office). This abbreviation was probably used by the Austrian and Hungarian "national" bodies.

This could confirm Mr. Cossaboom's opinion, but the above is not a definitive solution, it is just a suggestion which still leaves an open question -- was the Customs Service really a national and not a federal body? Some nice examples of censorship cancels using the K.u.K. and K.K. abbreviations from territories of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy of 1914-18 are pictured in a book "Military Censorship of Civil Correspondence during WW I" by Horst Thielk and team (I was one of its members). I could send a few pages to illustrate the various examples referenced above.

As to my further comments on the "Landsturm" units, I totally agree with Mr. Cossaboom. These units were created on the battle line from units that were

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available in place. You can see an example at Figure 32 in the second part of my article [Mar/Apr 2002, p18]. A member of the Landsturmbattalion (originally serving in Feldjägerbattalion Nr. 12) sent the card. His unit had been incorporated into the Landsturm unit, nevertheless the sender mentions his original military unit also.

I am looking forward to any other comments of Mr. Cossaboom (please thank him for me!) as well as any by other members. I am really not an expert in this wide area, so any additional information is very much welcome.

Lubor Kunc

3. Dear Ludvik:

In Issue No. 2 of this year of The SPECIALIST, on pg. 17, I have some corrections to offer on the German as translated in the article. As you know, I have some 22+ years experience translating German. To my mind, "Feldpostsortierstelle" should be Field Post Sorting Station, as "Stelle" usually translates as "place" but in this case I would put it as Station. In German, it depends a great deal on how a word is used as to how it is translated. Also the next one down "sammelstelle", the verb "sammeln" means "to collect". For instance, when I first joined the Stamp Club over there in Germany, in 1979, I was asked "Was Sammeln Sie?" (What do you collect?). So, in this case, the correct translation should be "Field Post Collection Station". The rest are OK.

Vernon Wilhelm von der Heydt

4. Lou,

I was very glad to hear from Lubor Kunc. I will try to respond to Lubor's comments in the order they appear in his response.

In my second paragraph I used the term "offices with named locations". By that I meant the 'etappenpostamt' with town names rather than a number.

I did not mean to imply that numbered 'etappenpostamt' remained in the same place throughout their existence. In fact they moved as the 'etappenraum' moved with the advance or retreat of the Austro-Hungarian armies. The closest American military term for 'etappenraum' is zone of communications.

The 'etappenpostamt' with town names did not move. Once established, they remained stationary in the towns to serve the civilian population as well as the Austro-Hungarian and allied military. In some cases, numbered 'etappenpostamt' were converted to named offices. I assume this was because a need existed to serve a civilian population in an occupied area.

The information about the 'rifle regiments' is very interesting. In 1917, Emperor Karl renamed the 'Landwehr' units 'Schützen' to recognize their contributions to the defense of the realm. Thus 'K.k. Landwehrinfanterieregiment, Prag Nr. 8' became 'K.k. Schützenregiment, Prag Nr. 8'.

The problem is the word 'schützen'. After looking at my German dictionary again, I was reminded this word has two meanings. It can be a verb meaning to protect or defend. It can also be a noun meaning rifle. While the 'Landwehr' may have been excellent at defending the empire, I believe Lubor is correct. A 'schützenregiment' in English is a rifle regiment.

The French term 'chasseur' means hunter. I am aware that during World War I the French Army had battalions or regiments of 'chasseurs a pied' (light infantry), 'chasseurs a cheval' (light cavalry), and 'chasseurs d'Afrique' (the cavalry component of the Armee d'Afrique). The badges for these units incorporated a hunter's horn. The few English reference works I have read, leave these terms in French with an explanation of their mission.

I am very surprised by Lubor's statement that Austrians he has asked don't know the difference between 'K.u.k.' and 'K.k.'. His statements about the designation of police offices, customs offices, etc. are correct.

Austria-Hungary, the Austro-Hungarian Empire or the Dual Monarchy as it is called, was not a unitary state like the United States or the Czech Republic. It was, as Dual Monarchy implies, two states with a shared monarch and three common ministries, foreign affairs, finance and defense (the common army and the navy). The two states were in a customs union. All other functions, including police, education, etc., were handled separately. In addition, both states had separate ministries of defense which were limited to army-type functions only.

To add to the confusion, neither 'Austria' nor 'Hungary' was a unitary state. The "countries of the Hungarian Holy Crown" included Hungary proper, Croatia and Slavonia, and the city and district of Fiume. 'Austria' is a collective term used to identify the 17 crownlands represented in the parliament in Vienna. These included the Kingdoms of Bohemia, Dalmatia, and Galicia and Lodomeria; the Archduchies of Upper Austria and Lower Austria; the Ducies of Salzburg, Styria, Carinthia, Bukowina, Upper Silesia and Lower Silesia; the Margraves of Istria and Moravia; the Princely Counties of Tyrol with Vorarlberg and Görz and Gradisca; and the Imperial City of Trieste. For administrative purposes, Upper and Lower Silesia were treated as a single entity, called Austrian Silesia. Görz and Gradisca, the Imperial City of Trieste, and Istria were lumped together as Coastland. Franz Josef and Karl served as Emperor of Austria, Apostolic King of Hungary, King of Bohemia, etc.

When Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1908, this territory was administered by the K.u.k. Ministry of Finance. The three common ministries were referred to as Imperial and Royal (Kaiserlich und königlich or K. u. K.) to show that they represented the entire country. Hungarian government functions were titled Magyar kiralyi (Royal Ungarian or M. kir.). In Austria they were titled Kaiserlich - königlich (Imperial - Royal or K.k.).

Tom Cossaboom

5. Dear Tom and Ludvik:

Tom's mail contains a lot of interesting information, I really enjoyed reading it.

The "offices with names location' are now clear, and I believe we can agree on the Etappenpostämter and their services.

Now to the Rifle Regiments -- I read my German-Czech Dictionary, and I have found a word "der Schütze" with the meaning "a rifleman". Plural of the word is "die Schützen" = the name that the units received from the Emperor Charles I.

The information about the French "chasseurs" was completely new to me. I don't speak French, but I believe that the word is similar to the German word "schiessen" = to shoot. But thanks to its meaning "a hunter", we could connect the units with Austrian "Fieldjägerbattalions", because the word "Jäger" has the same meaning (in the Czech language the units were called "polni myslivci"). Probably

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one of the reasons that the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy lost the war might be the fact that although the French created regiments of the elite corps, the Austrians only created battalions.

On the other hand I believe that at least some of them were rifle units. The reason for my belief is a unit cachet used by the Czechoslovak 21st Regiment of Legionnaires. The French/Czech cachet bears the name of the regiment as follows: 21 REG. DE CHASSEURS TCHECO-SLOVAQUES / 21. CESKOSLOVENSKY STRELECKY PLUK -- in English it would be 21st Czechoslovak Rifle Regiment (you can see the cachet in Novotny's Handbook of 1970, page 512, last figure on the page).

Pichlík mentions in his book (that I referenced before in a previous e-mail) that all of the Czechoslovak Regiments (21st - 24th) of the French Legion were rifle regiments.

Now a little remark about the K.u.K./K.k situation. To back up my previous statement I can point out that in the Austrian journal *Rundbrief* (published by ArGe Feldpost 1914-1918 = Austrian philatelic section, Field Post during WWI) was printed an article asking the readers what kind of unit was a "K.k. Landsturmterritorialbattalion" and why the unit was K.k. and not K.u.K. The man who was asking the question was not new to collecting Austrian Field Post. It was Mr. Rainer, Editor of the journal (see No. 63/2000 of the journal, page 11).

An example of the "crazy usage" of K.u.K./K.k. is the customs offices, which were only K.k. However, their boss, the Minister of Finance, was K.u.K. In my opinion, customs matters were "federal" = common for both Austria and Hungary. I personally can hardly imagine that the customs offices were managed on a national level, because while the internal tariff within the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was zero, the external tariff should have been the same for both states to prevent huge imports of a good to the state with the lower customs tariff and its future selling with zero tariff to another part of the Monarchy which originally had the higher external tariff.

Another explainable, but bit crazy, example are the post offices. The civilian post offices were only K.k. (managed on the national level by the Austrian or Hungarian Postal Administration), but the military post offices (in Bosnia-Herzegovina + the field post/etappen post offices, etc., during WWI) were K.u.K., because they belonged to the federal army which was managed by the common Ministry of Defense.

I am not surprised that today people are crazy about the products of the famous Austrian "Bürokratie"!

Thank you for your most welcome additional information, and I am looking forward to seeing your comments to the next parts of my article.

Lubor Kunc

6. Lubor:

Thanks. I too am a member of ARGE Feld und Zensur Post 1914-18. I remember the question you mention regarding the territorial unit designation. I don't recall their being an answer.

I have a few examples in my feldpost collection that illustrate your point that sometimes the soldiers had no idea whether their unit was K.u.K., K.k., or K.u.!

I look forward to the next installment of your article.

Tom

CONSIDERING THE FIRST USA-CZECH REPUBLIC JOINT STAMP ISSUE

by Karl Ruzicka

There are Smetana, Kafka, T.G. Masaryk, Čapek . . . All well known -- then why DVOŘÁK? Two reasons:

- Dvořák's music is well known and liked in the USA
- Opportunity - May 1, 2004 will be Dvořák's 100th Death Anniversary.

Also there are other factors. Dvořák was the director of the National Conservatory in New York (1892-95), and he expressed his feelings about America by producing the well known Ninth Symphony -- "From the New World". Other works created during his stay in America were the String Quartet in F, the String Quintet in E-flat, and the Cello Concerto.

Dvořák's international reputation started with his composition of the Slovanic Dances, his Sixth Symphony, and the *Stabat mater*. And, once you listened to it, who could forget the music from his fairytale opera *Rusalka*?

Dvořák has appeared on the stamps of Czechoslovakia -- the first one in 1934 (Scott #199)(Fig. 1), thereafter in 1951 (#460, 462)(Fig. 2), 1954 (#660)(Fig. 3), and 1991 (#2820)(Fig. 4). If you were to select -- which would you judge to be the best?

Suggestion -- play one of your favorite Dvořák melodies, close your eyes and think what could appear on the joint US -- Czech Republic stamp issue. My "artistic" suggestion would be a portrait of Dvořák such as in stamp #199 with the opening notes of his Ninth Symphony floating in the background.

But to get this accomplished, it's going to take the concerted effort of all of us writing to people and organizations -- such as congressman, senators, and Czech cultural associations. If you belong to any Czech cultural or musical society and your society or you as an individual would like to petition for the issuance of the Dvořák stamps, write to: **Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfante Plaza, SW, Room 5670, Washington, D.C. 20260-2437.**



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

**LET'S DO IT
JOINT CZECH/USA ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK ISSUE IN 2004!**

Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

-- From *Mladá Fronta DNES* newspaper: "The Stamp for the President is not Yet Being Prepared. President Václav Havel's term of office will conclude next February. The portrait of the new president will then appear on postage stamps in place of him. In fact however, the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MDS), which issues postage stamps, has not yet even taken on this task.

'We have to wait until we find out who is elected President. Otherwise the engraver would have to work on at least eight designs, and that would be a waste of time. In addition, some kind of surprise cannot be ruled out', said the Director of Postal Services of the MDS, Jiří Řehola.

According to Řehola, it is certain that a commemorative postage stamp showing Václav Havel's successor will be issued. In our country it is a tradition -- in fact, the only exception has been the President of the Protectorate, Hácha.

The stamp issuance must occur no later than a month after the successor takes office -- what then will be the issuance process? After the presidential election, MDS will take up with the President's office what their idea is for the new stamp. The Czech Post (CP) will then need to finalize all of the technical details. On the question of how the selection process (from among the designer's stamps) will be made, Řehola answered, 'That is an issue for the design bureau of CP who have artists -- including engravers -- to perform such a function'.

The value that is printed on the President's stamp will, as a rule, be the proper rate for sending an ordinary letter (which is now 6.40Kč). The stamp must be issued roughly the month after the President ceases his functions. 'Achieving this deadline should not be a problem', assured Řehola.

As to the pace of issuance however, obviously the unsurpassed record continues to be from the beginning of 1990 when the Havel stamp came out on 9 January -- a mere 10 days after his election. 'It was done unbelievably quickly. At that time -- as versus with today's situation -- you could almost predict with certainty who the president would be', announced Řehola.

The press spokesman for the CP, Ladislav Vančura, estimates that if everything goes smoothly, the fabrication of the stamp with the portrait of the new president will take 3 to 6 weeks."

-- From a Prague newspaper: "Stamp Money for Flood Victims. Even the stamp printing facility in Prague was not missed by the flooding. Ortenovo Square in Holešovice (where the facility is located) was flooded, which resulted in damages of tens of millions of Crowns to the rotary presses and other equipment. Being the producer of postage stamps, the Ministry of Transport and Communications is considering issuing the post-flood stamps with a surcharge to their nominal value. This surcharge would go to an account for flood victims. Obviously these stamps would be produced by other than the normal printing facility.

-- As has been already reported, the postage rate in the Czech Republic for a standard letter (up to 20g) went up again on September 1, 2002 to 6.40Kč. This is the fifth rate increase in the 13 years since the current independence in 1989. If you think that our rates have gone up, look at these numbers:

Date	Postage Rate	% Increase
Nov 1989	1Kčs	
Oct 1992	3Kčs	200
Apr 1995	3.60Kč	20
Apr 1997	4.60Kč	27.7
Jan 2000	5.40Kč	17.3
Sep 2002	6.40Kč	18.5

-- Here might be something new in philately -- mail carried by a paratrooper!
 (Fig. 1) The parachute cancel states "First military parachute school in Slovakia, 60th Anniversary, 29. 6. 2002, Trenčín 4". The rectangular cancel shows "Special flight C-152 OM-SVK, Trenčín - Airdrome, GEN. ŠT. JURECHA [General Staff Jurech?], Janíkovce near Nitra 29. 6. 2002" [where they apparently dropped]. These



Fig. 1

two are in the same ink color and line up as if they were applied with the same strike. The bottom-middle surcharge announces "International Philatelic Exhibition NITRAFILA 2003, 11.-15. 6. 2003" and shows the exhibition logo. Also shown is a Trenčín Aeroclub logo cancel showing a set of wings with the Slovak emblem. And finally, in the middle is a NITRA 7, 29.-6.02.18 cancel which must record the arrival (18 representing 6 pm).

From Milan Černík:

-- Some of the philatelic firms in Prague were not treated well by the flood:

- * Profil -- they were able to largely move their stock to safety
- * Thraumb -- (earlier Majer & Thraumb) the entire first floor of the store was flooded out (there was 4 meters of water in the street)

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- * Slovfilia -- similar situation as Thraumb, flooded out
- * Majer -- (earlier Majer & Thraumb) OK
- * Hobby (Stošek) -- also completely flooded
- * Postal Museum -- material safely moved upstairs despite several meters of water

From *AMERICAN PHILATELIST*, Oct 2002, "Glassine Surfer", Michael Mills:

-- Sudetenland: A Philatelic Story. The postal story of Europe's Sudetenland from 1938 to 1945 is the focus of Knud-Erik Andersen's website. The area, with its largely German-speaking population, was included in the new Republic of Czechoslovakia when it was created in 1918. It became the focus of contention between Nazi Germany and European interests that led to the 1938 Munich Agreement and British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's infamous "peace in our time."

The website covers the Sudetenland's historical background, fieldpost, provisional cancels, primitive cancels, censorship, and registration labels, among others. The sections are well-illustrated and informative, and trace the changes from the Czechoslovakia post, to provisional markings, to German postal control, and finally liberation in 1945.

Sudetenland: A Philatelic Story
http://sudeten.bizland.com/postal_history.htm

From Rev. Augustine Serafini, Editor, COROS Chronicle:

-- On Dec. 8th, President John Schmidt [of COROS - Collectors Of Religion On Stamps] will present the plaque for the COROS FOUNDERS AWARD 2002 to the Department of Transportation and Communications of the Czech Republic during a reception for the Archbishop Metropolitan of Praha, Cardinal Miloslav Vlk, at the Consulate of the Czech Republic in New York. I hope to be present. [See SPECIALIST, Sep/Oct 2002, p10]

From Kivdul Adobovs:

-- One of our noted members [see SPECIALIST, Mar/Apr 2002, p10, for his Walachian passport] has recently availed himself of the opportunity presented by the Slovak postal ministry to have his picture included on the "personalizable" label of a recent issue [see SPECIALIST, Nov/Dec 2002, p36]. Figure 2 shows how the entire sheetlet appears after the customized printing.

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FOR SALE

Eleven circuit books containing a mixture of stamps, covers and postal cards of both Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic having a total value of \$1242.85. These are remainders of unsold material and are offered in their entirety only.

Please Contact:

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Fig. 2

Book Review

MAIL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGIONS IN FRANCE

by Jaroslav J. Verner

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately

This is the first book published on the subject of the mail of the Czech legions in France during World War I. It is a very well researched and written study, which will fill the void on this subject for many years.

The author has taken special care to insure that the reader is able to understand this little known subject. From the establishment of the first military unit of Czech expatriates in the French Foreign Legion, Company Nazdar, in August 1914, through the creation of the Czechoslovak 5th Division in France in 1918, to the conclusion of the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919, the author examines all matters relating to the mail generated or handled by the Czech legions in France. This includes postal cancels, unit cancels, censor markings, the Czechoslovak military stamp, labels, and field post cards. Due to the close relationship between the Czech units and the Czech National Council in Paris, the author also discusses the various cancels used by the latter organization.

To aid the reader in understanding the subject, and philatelists in identifying specific markings, the author has lavishly illustrated the work with excellent drawings and color photos of all the postal markings discussed in the text. Each is cited in a text reference, which leaves the reader in no doubt about what is being discussed. Included are photos of some extremely rare postal usages and covers. The author has appended a point valuation system for each postal marking discussed in the text.

Finally, Mr. Verner uses his skills as a researcher and writer to do what few philatelic authors do, provide the complete story. His ability to weave history and philately together into a single coherent narrative is exceptional. It allows the reader to understand who the members of the Czech legions were, how they got to France, why they joined, and their importance to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state, placing this little-known philatelic story in context. As if to emphasize the groundbreaking importance of this work, it contains both an English and Czech text. In either language it is very well done.

Tom Cossaboom

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Book Review

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE FREE CZECHOSLOVAK FORCES IN GREAT BRITAIN: 1940 - 1945

by Richard Beith

Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Monograph 15

A rich chapter in the history of the postal service during the Second World War is exposed in **The Postal History of the Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain: 1940 - 1945**, by Richard Beith. The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain published it, and it offers some interesting material for the Czechoslovak philatelist, but even more important information for the Czechoslovak World War II history buff.

The Monograph No. 15 covers in its 13 chapters some not well-known facts about the effort of the Exile Government of Czechoslovak to obtain its full political recognition, including its own postal administration. It was mainly thanks to their military units, fully engaged with the Western Allies during World War II, that the full recognition came -- even though in several stages.

The Monograph, despite its strong historic flavor documents some philatelic aspects of the war. It differentiates between the regular postal history items and those of strictly philatelic or patriotic nature, such as the souvenir sheets or postcards prepared in a celebration of various historic occurrences. The photographic documentation, supporting the study is of good quality.

With the defeat of France, the Czech troops -- using a variety of routes -- escaped mostly to Great Britain. Their first quarters were in Cholmondeley Park in Cheshire County, a place where the local population sincerely welcomed them. Their stay there was relatively short as opposed to Royal Leamington Spa, where they stayed for some 20 months. However, they still moved several times before their eventual return to the Continent during the final phase of the war.

The mail received at these locations documents the story. Most of the published covers carry, in addition to a regular postal cancellation of the forwarding location, a rubber stamp of the Czechoslovak Field Post -- at either the forwarding or at the receiving point.

One interesting aspect of their stay at Cholmondeley relates to a group of veterans from the Spanish Civil War, so called "Spaniards". These were strong leftist or communists, as the study says. They were interned during the beginning of the war because they refused to fight against the Nazis in the "capitalist war" -- until the Soviet Union was attacked by Germany. Then, this war suddenly became for the Soviets and the Czech communists a Patriotic war. A sample of the internee mail is documented.

The Czechoslovak units operated their post offices initially in France and after their escape from France also in Great Britain. There, in Cholmondeley, they produced in July 1940 their first commemorative postmarks. Because these were initially -- till October 1941 -- not recognized by the British Post Office, the mail was deposited at local post offices without the Czechoslovak special cancel. The Czechoslovak cancel was, however, used as a receipt mark until the time the

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permission was obtained for the outward marking. There are six different known postmarks used for this purpose. For commemorative purposes colored inks were in use.

As in all other aspects associated with the recognition of the Czechoslovak Field Post Office, the same slow process prevailed in the Registration of the mail. It was not until February 1942 that permission was secured and the Registration started to reflect the new bilingual *ČS. Polní Pošta -- Czechoslovak Field Post Office* designation.

A very nice example of the progress eventually achieved is shown on the Registered letter addressed to J. W. Lowey in New York as of May 4, 1944, which reflects this new Czechoslovak Registration label. In addition to it, the British postage stamps were canceled by a bilingual Czechoslovak Field Post rubber stamp with the Czech and Slovak national symbols in its center which was commemorating the anniversary of the death of General Štefánik.

The Monograph also covers the censored mail during WW II, another ambitious field for any collector. According to this study, the posted mail within Great Britain was not subject to censorship until the approach of D-Day. However, mail from other parts of the Kingdom was usually censored early in the war. In those cases, mail was stamped by the standard British shield handstamp *Passed by Censor* and accompanied by an appropriate signature of the Czech or Slovak linguist.

The International Mail was censored right from the beginning of the war. This chapter goes into great detail about this single aspect of collecting. It is interesting to note that on the outgoing International mail the geographical location of the postmark has been obliterated.

The soldiers, in their overseas correspondence, had to use the allocated mailbox number as their return address, since the location of all Free Forces was a closely guarded secret. Contact with relatives in enemy territory was discouraged with a warning that such contacts could create serious problems for the recipients.

The Monograph lists and shows 24 different elaborate commemorative postmarks offered by the Czechoslovak Field Post in Great Britain.

Chapter 12 of the Monograph covers *Czechoslovaks in the Royal Air Force*. This is a strictly historical chapter with very little information pertaining to postal activities, although various philatelic souvenirs were produced. It clearly states that the mail of the Czechoslovak squadrons went through the regular channels without any specific identification or distinctive markings as to its originator or the recipient. It is, however, interesting to note that the Sokol organization produced some souvenir cards used by the Army and the Air Force.

Appendix 1 consists of a listing of 43 patriotic postcards, which are displayed on several pages. They include the Czechoslovak coat of arms, Czechoslovak soldiers, Presidents Masaryk and Beneš and some other symbols of the WW II victory.

Appendix 2 includes a listing of 29 patriotic folders and souvenir sheets. All these items basically fall into the philatelic or patriotic category; they definitely do not represent the regular postal history. However, they include many interesting items, some of historic value, such as those with the signature of President Beneš

and other personalities. Obviously, a question can be raised as to how complete this listing is, since any talented individual could have produced some of these items.

Appendix 3 shows the patriotic labels and Christmas cards, while the next **Appendix 4** deals with the Czechoslovak Brigade's own newspaper *Our News*.

Appendix 5 celebrates the 30th, the 40th and the 60th anniversaries of the arrival of the Czechoslovak forces in Cheshire. The postcards issued by the Slovak and Czech Republics further complement the 60th anniversary. **Appendix 6** lists only the British postal rates during WW II.

The Monograph includes a **Foreword** by Frank Kaplan, who commemorates the friendly experience of the Czechoslovak Forces at Cholmondeley Park. In the **Preface**, Guilden Sutton recapitulated the history of the Czechoslovak Army in Exile from its beginnings in France in 1939 through the end of the war, as reflected in the various Monographs, published by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Monograph No. 15 includes a complete list of Acknowledgment and a detailed list of References.

After the review of Monograph No. 15, I feel that this study is of more value to a postal historian, or the Czechoslovak historian of WW II rather than to a philatelist. On the other hand, it is thanks to the philately that there is so much historical material uncovered here, material, which could hardly be brought to the attention of a historian in any other way. This Monograph should definitely be included in every Czech or Slovak World War II library.

Peter Z. Kleskovic

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!!!

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

Candidates shall be nominated in writing by two (2) members of the Society (other than themselves) whose signatures shall be affixed to a nominating petition. A blank petition for your use is enclosed with this issue as a separate sheet. The names of the term-ending board members and of the remaining board members are as follows:

Term Ending: Edwin W. Lehecka, Richard Palaschak, Karl Ruzicka, Jaroslav J. Verner, Kimber A. Wald
Remaining: Tom Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, H. Alan Hoover, Savoy Horvath, Peter Z. Kleskovic, Robert Koschalk, Frederick P. Lawrence, Charles J. Rehman, Bruce Sebek, Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy. Of these, Kimber Wald has declined to run again.

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

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing.

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2. The nominee must have given his consent to be nominated.
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board meeting location specified by the President.
4. The petition originator must see to finding another member to sign the petition.
5. The Secretary must receive the petition by the last day of January 2003.

After filling out the enclosed petition form and getting another member's signature, mail it to our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225. Make sure that it reaches him no later than the last day of January 2003.

* * * * *

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Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 1	10 th Anniversary of the Czech Republic	1	25
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production	1	6.40
Feb 12	Personalities	2	
	- Jaroslav Vrchlický		6.40
	- Josef Thomayer		8
Mar 26	Easter	1	6.40
Mar 26	Tradition of Folk Art -- Lace	2	6.40
			9

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May 7	EUROPA -- Art Posters	1	9
May 7	Beauties of Our Country	2	
	-- Czech Paradise - Hruboskalsko		12
	-- Moravian beauty		14
May 28	For Children	1	6.40
May 28	100 Years of Electric Railway -- Tábor - Bechyně	1	10
June 25	Sport -- European Shooting Championships	1	9
June 25	Czechs of Europe -- J. Dobrovský	1	9
Sep 10	Breeding -- Aquarium Fish	4	12, 14 16, 20
Sep 10	Technical Monuments -- Firemen Technology	2	6.40 12
Oct 1	European Exhibition BRNO 2005 -- Portal of the "Porta Coeli" Monastery in Predklášteří u Tišnova	1	6.40
Oct 1	Oriental Rugs	2	9, 12
Oct 15	Nature Conservation -- Birds of Prey	3	6.40 8, 9
Nov 5	Works of Art on Stamps	3	
	-- Max Švabinsky		17
	-- Antonín Slavíček		20
	-- Agnolo Bronzino		26
Nov 5	Christmas	1	6.40

This past summer's floods have played havoc with the stamp production and planning in the Czech Republic (and Slovak Republic also because their stamps are produced in Prague). As a result there have been some changes in the issue plan. The Oct. 16 Technological Memorial stamps (2) are postponed to another year. The Oct. 16 Collecting - Stylish Furniture stamps (increased from 3 to 4) has slipped to Nov. 13 (but I haven't seen anything about their being issued on that date either). The Nov. 6 Art Work on Stamps II issue (3) is delayed until Dec. 11. Three new issues were added (Václav Havel, St. Nicholas, NATO in Prague).



Fig. 1

1. On September 11, 2002, the Ministry of Post and Communications issued a 9 Kč commemorative stamp on the 80th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding Czech sportsman Emil Zátopek (Fig. 1). Emil Zátopek was born in Koprivnice on 19 September 1922 and died in Prague on 21 November 2000. He was one of the most outstanding personalities of all time in Czech and world athletics, a quadruple Olympic gold medalist -- the 10 km in 1948 and the 5 km, 10 km and marathon in 1952, and a triple European champion. He broke eighteen world records and was the Czechoslovak long distance running

champion many times. He was declared the world's best sportsman three times and won the Pierre de Coubertin international award for fair play in 1975. [The International Olympic Committee (IOC) unveiled a statue of long-distance runner Emil Zátopek at its site in the Olympic park in Lausanne, Switzerland.] Zátopek advocated harsh training methods, which he described in his book *Můj trénink a závodění* (My training and racing). The development of light athletics and sport in general in his country was influenced by his example. He and his wife Dana Zátopková are the authors of the book *V klincovkách a s ostěpom* (In Running Shoes and With a Javelin). In 1997, Zátopek was declared the best athlete of the 20th century. The stamp depicts Zátopek before finishing the marathon at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. It was designed by Zdeněk Netopil and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in ocher, red, light blue and dark blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in blue shows Zátopek running along with the text, Emil Zátopek The Best Czech Sportsman of the 20th Century, in Czech (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

2. On September 11, 2002, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the "Beauties of Our Country" series which depict unique historical monuments or buildings that are under the patronage of UNESCO. These multicolored stamps were designed by Antonín Odehnal, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 8 stamps.



Fig. 3

-- 12 Kč, Litomyšl - the chateau complex (Fig. 3). The Litomyšl chateau in East Bohemia is one of the jewels of the Czech renaissance. Vratislav of Pernštejn, the high chancellor of the Czech kingdom, was given the Litomyšl estate and castle by Emperor Ferdinand and entrusted the Italian architect G.B. Aostallis, who was also involved in the building of the Belvedere in Prague, with the reconstruction

in 1568-87. The chateau is a solid four-winged block surrounding two arcaded courtyards. S. Valck decorated the facades and chimneys with sgrafitti, whose motifs are not repeated anywhere else in the building. The most interesting rooms in the chateau include the battle hall and the large dining room. The outstanding theater, from the end of the 18th century, still features its original decor. The chateau is surrounded by an extensive garden, which was founded at the same time as the chateau, and largely baroque farm buildings. The chateau and the town of Litomyšl are



Fig. 4

associated with the name of the world-famous composer Bedřich Smetana. In 2000, the whole complex, including a courtyard with a fountain, a barn, stables, a house No. 134, a riding hall and a brewery, was placed on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage list. A FDC in green depicts a knight in armor, which is a part of the decoration of a Litomyšl renaissance house (Fig. 4).

-- 14 Kč, Olomouc - the Holy Trinity column (Fig. 5). Olomouc is the most historically significant city in Moravia with a rich history and many cultural monuments. A bishopric was founded there in 973 - 1063, and was raised to the status of an archbishopric in 1777. The city is also the seat of the Palacký University. The upper square features the thirty-five meter high baroque



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

column of the Holy Trinity, which dates from 1716-54 and is the work of the Olomouc-born sculptor V. Ruder and his followers. The top of the monument is decorated with a group of gilded cast copper statues representing the Holy Trinity. The column is richly decorated with sculptures, complemented by a chapel inside. This monumental work -- the largest grouping of baroque statues in a single sculpture -- was added to the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage list in 2000. A FDC in brown depicts the Assumption from the Holy Trinity Column (Fig. 6).

3. On November 6, 2002, the Ministry issued a 6.40 Kč definitive stamp with a portrait of the president of the republic, Václav Havel (Fig. 7), and based on a postage stamp issued on March 1, 2000. The stamp was designed by Jiří Rathouský, engraved by Miloš Ondráček, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in brown-black combined with photogravure in blue in printing sheets of 100 pieces.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

4. On November 6, 2002, the Ministry issued a 6.40 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "Gifts from St. Nicholas" (Fig. 8). The stamp bears a drawing of St. Nicholas with a basket full of gifts, an angel, and a devil. On the eve of St. Nicholas's Day, children's long wait for Christmas is made more enjoyable by gifts from the saint. The origin of this tradition is associated with St. Nicholas's unusual generosity. Widows, orphans, and fugitives found refuge with him. In the Russian Orthodox church, he became the most popular of all saints. In this country, over 120

churches are dedicated to him. He is the patron saint of bakers, because he miraculously multiplied loaves of bread in a time of famine, and of sailors and merchants, whom he saved at sea. Merchants and sailors in Prague had a church built to him by the architect K. I. Diezenhofer on what is now the Lesser Town Square. St. Nicholas is a people's saint in the best sense of the word. Children look forward to receiving gifts from Nicholas, accompanied by an angel and a devil, with hope and apprehension. The leading Czech illustrator and painter A. Born has interpreted this theme with his own unique humor, and it was engraved by Pavel Kovářík. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in light blue, red, yellow, and ocher in printing sheets of 30 stamps. Besides stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and two labels completing the motif of the stamps were issued. A FDC in brown also depicts a drawing of St. Nicholas with an angel and a devil.



Fig. 9

5. On November 13, 2002, the Ministry issued a 6.40 Kč commemorative stamp entitled "Christmas" (Fig. 9). The colorful lighted windows of a house in the shape of a Christmas tree on which the snow is quietly falling evoke the peace and quiet of Christmas Eve. The Christmas star in the form of a poinsettia with a golden tail adds to the festive atmosphere of well-being, joy and generosity, as do the drawings on the first day cover and cancellation. The stamp was designed by Jana Sigmundová, engraved by Jiří Bouda, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red, light blue, and dark blue in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A

FDC in blue shows an outline of the Czech Republic under a sheet of snow expressing a Christmas atmosphere.

6. On November 14, 2002, the Ministry issued a 9 Kč commemorative stamp to mark the summit of the top NATO representatives in Prague (Fig. 10). The stamp bears the logo of the summit against a background of the Hradčany as well as the date of the meeting, 21-22 November, 2002. The stamp was designed by Václav Kučera, engraved by Pavel Kovářík, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in dark blue combined with photogravure in red, light blue, and dark blue in printing sheets of 50 stamps. A FDC in blue bears a graphical composition of the towers of the Prague castle and the arches of the Charles bridge with the logo of NATO, completed by the text "The Summit of NATO in the Czech Republic -- The First Time in a New Membership Country" in Czech.



Fig. 10

Stationery

7. On October 16, 2002, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted 9 Kč postage stamp for the 2nd Czech-German postage stamp exhibition OSTROPA 2003 to take place 24 - 27 April, 2003, in Jihlava as a reciprocal action of the exhibition OSTROPA 2000 held in Münchberg, Germany



Fig. 11

(Fig. 11). The exhibition will mark the 10th anniversary of the Czech Republic and the issuance of the Czech postage stamp. The imprinted stamp depicts the logo of the OSTROPA 2003 exhibition which was designed by graphic artist Marie Svobodová. The cachet on the postal card shows the upper part of Masaryk square in Jihlava with the town hall. The postal card was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 14 Kč.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

Re: *The Society for Czechoslovak Philately: Here Today and Gone Tomorrow? Its Future Is In Your Hands!* [Sep/Oct SPECIALIST, p1]:

-- I like to congratulate Kimber Wald for his outstanding article. Also to say of my admiration for his dedication to SCP which is evident in his writing. While our enjoyment is the stamps, we all owe it to the Society to promote it and to contribute to its activities. To Kimber: A job well done.

Best regards,
Karl [Ruzicka]

-- The article by Kimber Wald -- SPECIALIST Sept.-Oct. Issue -- really hit the nail on the head.

Al [Alfred N. Weiner]



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

2. Dear Lou:

Frank A. Garancovsky's article in the September/October 2002 *Specialist* about the "Major Plate Flaw" is interesting. It shows the Bratislava 1937 souvenir sheet with a white spot at the right of the letter "L" on the 50h value stamp. I know of three other "white spot" print positions on this stamp which puts the plate flaw cause in doubt.

Figure 1 shows one in my collection at the base of the vertical line of the figure "5";

Figure 2 shows a white spot over "NS" reported in *Merkur Review 2 2002*;

Figure 3 shows one to the left of "V" reported in *Merkur Review 4 2002*.

I immediately assumed that these "moving" faults (interestingly horizontally) were caused by a floating perforation cut out, produced during printing but not if the sheets were printed prior to perforation as is normally the case. An alternative could be if there was a fault on the plate apparently confirmed by Frank's retouched copy. But if there were four such faults on the plate, why aren't there other retouched stamps?

I think that this flaw was caused by foreign matter moving on the plate during the print run in the following order:

- 1) the spot at the base of the vertical line of the "5";
- 2) the spot over the letters "NS";
- 3) the spot to the left of the letter "V";
- 4) the spot to the right of the letter "L";

then as the foreign matter moved position, *right to left*, a few of type 1, were produced, a few of type 2, a few of type 3 and finally many more of type 4, which latter continued until the foreign matter was either lost during or removed from the process.

Accordingly I suggest that there was no plate flaw, proven by no retouching (Frank's apparent retouch could be caused by poor print noticeable with other spidery blemishes on the sheets), the inconsistent numbers of different types of flaw found and the fact that no retouches have been found on types 1, 2 and 3.

With kind regards,
Brian Day

3. Dear Lou:

For those readers collecting stamps with coupons, I have a question.

The Trojan catalog lists left coupons only for airmail stamps C22, C24, C26 and C27. I do have this set with right coupons (Fig. 4).

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Furthermore, I also have a set of the C22, C24, C25, C26 and C27 with upper and lower coupons (Fig. 5a & 5b).

One may assume that the price for stamps with the right coupon would be the same as for the left coupon. BUT how about the upper and lower coupons not listed in the Trojan catalog? Would anyone know?

Best regards,
Karl [Ruzicka]

[Ed. Note: First of all, you are misreading the Trojan catalog. Just like Scott's catalog uses a "C" to designate airmail stamps, Czechoslovak catalogs use the letter "L" (thus, Scott's C27 = Trojan's L24). If the stamp has a variety with a coupon, they precede the stamp catalog number with the letter "K" (which stands for Czech "kupón" = coupon). Thus, KL24 does not mean "coupon left" 24, but simply L24 with a coupon, not specifying which position for the coupon.

As to the second issue of the various coupon positions and their relative values, we have to look at some older catalogs. Here we find that these issues were produced using a two panel printing sheet, where each panel contains 100 stamps and 12 coupons (Fig. 6).

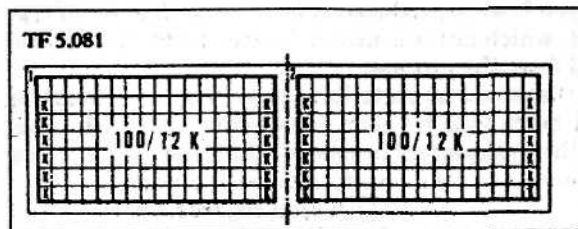


Fig. 6

When looking at this illustration keep in mind that the sheet was printed with the top of the stamps on the left or on the right (not on the top of the illustrated sheet as you are looking at it now). So if you turn this page sideways so you are looking at it from the right, you will see that only the upper right and lower right stamps could have a coupon-left; if you turn this page sideways so you are looking at it from the left, you will see that only the upper left and lower left stamps could have a coupon-right. Meanwhile with either orientation, you can have six coupon-bottoms and six coupon-tops (if you don't make one of each the coupon-left or coupon-right -- you can't have it both ways for that coupon): The earlier catalogs gave a higher value for the coupon-lefts and coupon-rights -- in fact, the value



Fig. 4



Fig. 5a



Fig. 5b

doubled. The newer catalogs do not differentiate, but I believe that is a mistake. If I were selling them, I would ask for more.]

4. Dear Lou:

At a recent auction I was fortunate enough to acquire margin blocks of four of the "white paper" variety 2h and 5h Expedited Business Mail (a.k.a. Special Delivery) stamps. In many references this variety is described as a second printing of the stamps, albeit one which may, or may not, have been actually issued. Both blocks were signed by an expert (Mahr) assuring me of their authenticity.

I was eager to get the blocks as they filled a long-standing gap in my collection of "Mucha" stamps. I was also interested to compare the blocks with some single stamps that I had acquired and suspected of being the "white paper" variety. When comparing blocks of stamps, especially those with margin selvage, the difference between the two printings was obvious. The original printing was done on paper with a creamy, slightly yellow color. However, I found that comparing single stamps, especially those with small margins, somewhat less definitive. Comparing stamps on cover proved particularly challenging.

As a collector and exhibitor of the First Issue of the United Nations, I am accustomed to using a long-wave ultraviolet lamp ("black light") to distinguish between paper types, and thus printings, of those stamps. Some papers are produced using chemical whiteners, which react (fluoresce) in varying degrees when subjected to UV light. Papers with no bleaches will not react and appear pretty much as they do when viewed under sunlight, incandescent or fluorescent light. Papers processed with whiteners may glow brightly. I decided to try an experiment to see if UV light could help separate the two printings of the Czech stamps, too. For the test I used a fluorescent desk lamp fitted with two 20-watt long-wave ultraviolet tubes.

What I saw when I placed the stamps under the UV lamp was nothing short of spectacular. While the paper of the original printing did not react, appearing as a cream color, the "white paper" variety glowed with the most lovely shade of lavender! This striking difference between the two papers made it quite easy to determine which stamps were from which printing. Alas, all of the copies I suspected as being "white paper" proved to be just normal copies. As I do not have the "white paper" variety of the 10h stamp, I cannot report on how it would react to UV light, but I suspect (hope) that it would yield the same result.

The UV lamp also revealed that the paper used to produce the first printing probably came from several stocks. The color of the paper under UV ranged from white to brownish, mostly falling into a range of cream colors. The darkest shades may be attributed to slight toning or foxing due to age and improper storage.

Perhaps the UV lamp will prove as useful a tool to Czech philately as it has for UN philately. Those who wish to reproduce the experiment, and perhaps experiment with other Czech stamps, should be cautioned NOT to look directly into the light source for the UV light and to work with UV light in short stints. Long and/or direct exposure to long-wave UV light may damage your eyes. I am glad to share my finding with my fellow Czech collectors and look forward to hearing about the results of other experiments.

Regards,
Tony [Dewey]

-- . . . received some more info on Mirko's Strange 'Philatelic' Find. It was created by Jane Sterba, and as some would probably think that HOSPODINE POMILUJ NY has something to do with New York, I checked the NY out:

Hospodine pomiluj ny!
 Jezu Kriste, pomiluj ny!
 Ty, Spase všehomira, spasiz ny!
 Daj nam všem, Hospodine,
 žizn a mir v zemi!
 Krles! Krles! Krles!

This is the oldest religious litany, the first in Slavik, and is from the 10th to 11th century. The song was sung not only at official or religious functions, but also served as a popular battle song.

Hospodine pomiluj ny = Hospodine smiluj se nad nami = Lord have mercy on us.

Savoy Horvath

7. Dear Lou:

After reading Janet Klug's article "What Happens to Your Collection If Something Happens to You?" (Sep/Oct 2002), I started to evaluate some of my collections. When I came to Czechoslovakia 1945, I ran into a pricing problem for stamps with coupons. Such were issued in the years 1945-1949 after which it stopped. Scott makes no reference to pricing of stamps with coupons. I then deferred to the Trojan catalog.

The first stamps issued with coupons -- which were blank unlike the rest of the issues -- are Scott #305-306. The Trojan catalog lists these as K431-432. The listed Trojan price for their #431-432 (without coupons) is Kčs 1.50; the same with coupons is Kčs 40. This means that there is a price multiplier factor of 27. The Scott price for the two stamps is \$0.40 -- multiplied by 27 = \$10.70. And this is just for one set. If you like coupons both L & R, the price comes to \$21.40.

The other stamps go as follows:

Scott #	Cat. Value	Mult. Factor	Scott #	Cat. Value	Mult. Factor
B156-157	\$0.65	10	355-356	\$0.40	3
315	0.20	16	357-359	0.65	7
322-324	0.70	4	366	1.10	5
326-328	2.30	19	361-362	0.40	3
329-331	1.20	10	369	0.20	2
334-335	0.60	20	B163-165	0.60	4
336-337	0.55	27	370-371	0.50	2
343-345	0.70	2.5	373	0.60	7
346-349	1.00	8	383-385	1.50	10
351-354	0.85	3.5	C25	0.90	*
			C22, 24, 26-27	9.60	9

* Trojan does not list any coupons for this stamp, even though coupons do exist.

The only explanation I can offer for the wide range of multiplication factors would lay in the way the stamp sheets were printed, such as that some of them may have fewer coupons available per sheet than others.

I would welcome any other information or opinions.

Karl Ruzicka

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[Ed. Note: See my comments at the end of Letter #3. It is possible, if not probable, that the "multiplication factor" should have several different values within a given issue depending on where the coupon is located.]

8. Dear Lou:

Macha was always one of my favorite poets. It was good to read about "his" region in the article by Gerald M. van Zanten [Nov/Dec 2002 SPECIALIST, p15].

There is not ever a first of May when I would not recite his poem:

"Byl první Maj, byl láský čas (it was the first of May, it was love's time)
o lásce zní hrdličký hlas . . ." (the turtle-dove's voice sang of love . . .)

The time of romantics is long gone -- but the memories remain.

Karl [Ruzicka]

9. Dear Mr. Wilson:

I . . . read your Czech SPECIALIST article today [*"Forgery or an Amazing Find?"*, Nov/Dec 2002, p3]. I also had doubts as to the genuineness of the gutter pairs, primarily because of the provisional postage due overprints.

Since you noticed that the used 5h and 10h pairs had a similar notch, I just wonder if you noticed that both of those used pairs were from the 8th row of their respective sheets. To confirm this, just note the control numbers 4- for the 5h pair and 8- for the 10h pair. Your explanation of these pairs as favor cancels done by a postal employee seems reasonable. To speculate further, it would appear that the postal employee, or someone else, took full sheets (or full gutter strips of 10) of the 5h and 10h stamps and then cut the used gutter pairs you have. That would explain the identical side notches in your used 5h and 10h pairs which both came from the 8th row of their sheets.

As to the provisional *PORTO* overprint having the decorative stars before and after PORTO -- I have not seen that at all. There are some PORTO overprints listed in the Novotny 1978 Czech Handbook Catalog, which also identifies cities that used such overprints, but nothing is listed from Náchod.

Thanks for the article. I enjoyed reading it.

Phil Melamed

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

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