



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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PENNSYLVANIA IN 2004

by Rich Palaschak

The Society's Annual Convention in 2004 will take place in conjunction with the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (PNSE) next fall. PNSE 2004 is a three-day exhibition during October 1-3 (Friday through Sunday) and has a great reputation for its facilities and organization. In addition, there are nearby historical attractions, and the Pennsylvania Dutch areas are only a short drive away. The Exhibition location in the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania (just off Exit 325 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike) is only a few miles from the Valley Forge National Historical Park and about a 45 minute drive from downtown Philadelphia with all of its numerous attractions. The King of Prussia Plaza and Mall are also about two miles away. It is a very large combined shopping mall, if other family members want to do something while the philatelists do their thing. From the Philadelphia International Airport one can rent a car or use Tropiano Limousine Service, which goes to the King of Prussia area hotels. In 2003 the one-way cost was \$20.

The show hotel is the Radisson Valley Forge Hotel, which is adjacent to the Convention Center, so that you do not have to go outside. The PNSE organizers have not negotiated the hotel rate for show participants yet, but rooms were \$109

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per night for the 2003 show. We will research the rates for other hotels/motels in the area and provide that information in a later article as well as on the Society's website.

I hope that Kimber Wald's and Henry Hahn's recent articles on exhibiting in the SPECIALIST will encourage members to try their hand at exhibiting and, therefore, share their philatelic holdings and knowledge. To those members who have been regular exhibitors at the Society's gatherings, you have our sincere and heartfelt thanks that you continue to highlight our Society through your efforts; we hope to see all of you and your exhibits, of course, at PNSE 2004. The prospectus for exhibitors should be available by early spring.

If any member living within reasonable driving distance of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania is willing to assist in coordinating our Society's activities with the PNSE Organizing Committee, please contact me. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Richard Palaschak
4050 Carbury Court
Chantilly, VA 20151-2613
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E-mail: rschak@erols.com

Look for information on the Society's events in conjunction with PNSE 2004 in future issues of the SPECIALIST. This should be a great show. Hope you can join us!

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UNIQUE ITEMS STOLEN FROM MAIL

by Mark Wilson

On December 11, 2003, I sent the following e-mail message to Mr. Day, *stamptheft@msn.com*, of *The American Philatelist*:

Dear Mr. Day:

On September 21, an entire sack of registered mail was stolen at JFK [Airport, New York]. In it were two unique unfolded Czechoslovakian Hradčany gutters, one mint, the other canceled at Nachod, both bearing provisional postage due markings. A full description of these two pieces may be found in the May/June 2003 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. A copy of the article and a large scan of the two gutters may also be found on-line at my personal web site: *www.knihtisk.com*. Look on the Library/Articles page at the article entitled "The Nachod Discovery".

These gutters are especially important as they uniquely demonstrate that a second, unknown and unfolded, gutter sheet reached public hands. Until their discovery in 2002, it was thought that only one sheet, which was folded, had reached public hands. As unique items, their value is of course priceless.

A reward is offered for their return. Interested parties may reach me on-line at *info@knihtisk.com*, or by phone:

1-304-229-0100 Office (Dr. Mark Wilson)

1-540-877-3015 Home (Mark Wilson)

or by writing:

Mark Wilson, Librarian
Society for Czechoslovak Philately Library
316 Devland Drive
Winchester, VA 22603

A scan of the two gutters is attached. I can provide far better scans should you need one. If you can advise me as to the best means of advertising this theft, please let me know. I have never had to face this situation before.

Regards,
Mark Wilson

✽ ✽ ✽ ✽ ✽

CZECHOSLOVAK RESISTANCE IN ITALY 1944-45

by Piero Santangelo

trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

(Continued from previous issue)

12th Battalion

The Field Post #31 834 was assigned to the Twelfth Battalion. Their office was opened on June 24, 1944, then temporarily closed on December 27, 1944, and again reopened on February 28, 1945.

The Battalion was originally located in Savigliano, then from July 21, 1944,

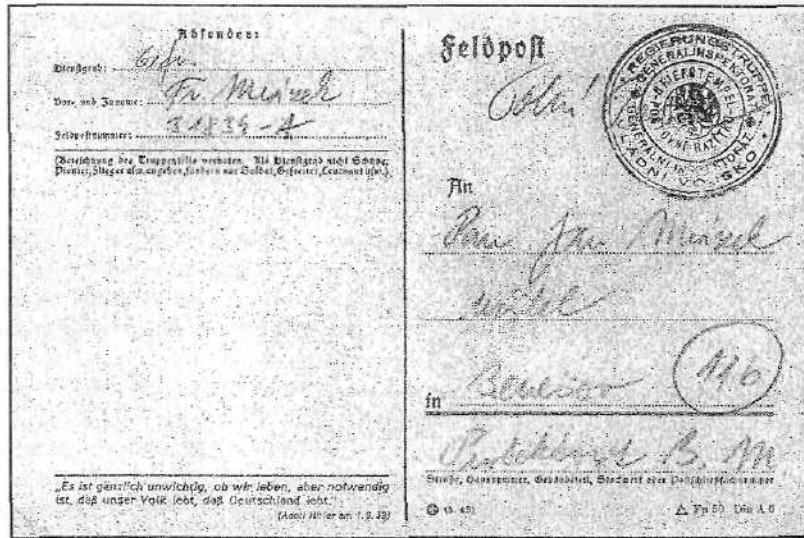


Figure 16: Postcard with Field Post #31 834-A, corresponding to the company attached to the command of the 12th Battalion, with the stamp of the General Inspectorate of Italy. [Pre-printed German text: (above) Indication of the troop's location is prohibited. No rank, infantry, pioneer or flier to be indicated; only soldier, corporal, officer, etc. (Below) "It is entirely unimportant, if we live, but it is necessary, that our Nation lives, that Germany lives." Adolf Hitler on 1.9.39]



Figure 17: Postcard dated June 1, 1944; the sender was using Field Post #56 264 D, corresponding to the "Military Command 1020 in Milano". (It is possible that here we are talking about by-passing the blockade.)

in Taino -- Sesto Calende, from September 24, 1944, in Lodi and from October 2, 1944, in San Doná (Venezia), and again from November 1944 in Stienta (Rovigo). Further then, it was located in Occhiobello, along the river Pád (Po). From February 1945 it was in Caldiero, Montebello, Recoaro, Valli del Pasubio, Rovereto, and in Avio (Fig. 16).

The Field Post number assigned to the individual units remained unchanged through the end of the war. For a short period of time the individual post offices ceased their activities, and then again started up operations according to the above shown dates. It is difficult to determine if correspondence was processed and moved during the period that the offices were closed, but apparently by some means it was, because there exist normal letters and postcards mailed even during this period. Most probably the senders were using the services of other Field Post Offices, even though their letters show a Field Post number of an office that was not operating during this period.

From this period one can find correspondence mailed and censored according to regulations and with the appropriate rubber stamps of Field Post units which by then did not exist (because they were closed before then). A possible explanation can be that the senders were using postcards and letters with pre-printed unit numbers.

Small groups of soldiers belonging to the Government Troops were associated with other units, and for their correspondence needs used the services of those unit's Field Post offices. The use of these Field Post numbers should not be confused with those assigned to the Government Troop units.

Field Post #	Unit
07 144	Todt Organization from 9.13.1944, located in Italy
19 448	Command of the 15. Infantry Division
29 710	387. Company -- Engineering Group
30 578	0610 Group assigned to work on the railroad
45 271	669 Military Hospital
56 264	1020 Military Command in Milano (Fig. 17)
57 332	1013 Military Command in Milano, Censor Commission assigned to the IX. Army, and 513 Field Gendarmes located in Lodi
58 068	Civil Security Command in Italy
58 478	VI. German Command -- Reception Office

The local Field Post offices serving Government Troop units (Fig. 18):

Local PO #	Accepts #	Location
802	121	Bolzano
451	121	Verona
476	537	Bologna
510	192	North Italy
756	215	Verona
802	809	Bolzano
731	844	Milano

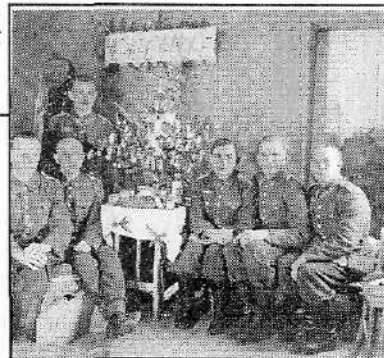


Figure 18: Joint photograph on the occasion of Christmas 1944 in Italy.



Figure 19: Postcard from Mattarello (Trento), dated May 2, 1945, mailed to Prague. The text of the postcard includes: "Greetings from liberated Italy, from the Czechosl. Army ..."

There were various versions of the cancels: g, b, e, h, f, k, l -- according to the MICHEL catalog.

In May 1945, after the liberation of Italy, the majority of Czech soldiers, along with those who had fought in partisan units, entered the Independent Czechoslovak Brigade (Brigada Indipendente Cecoslovacca) recognized by the Allies and the Italian Government (Fig. 19).

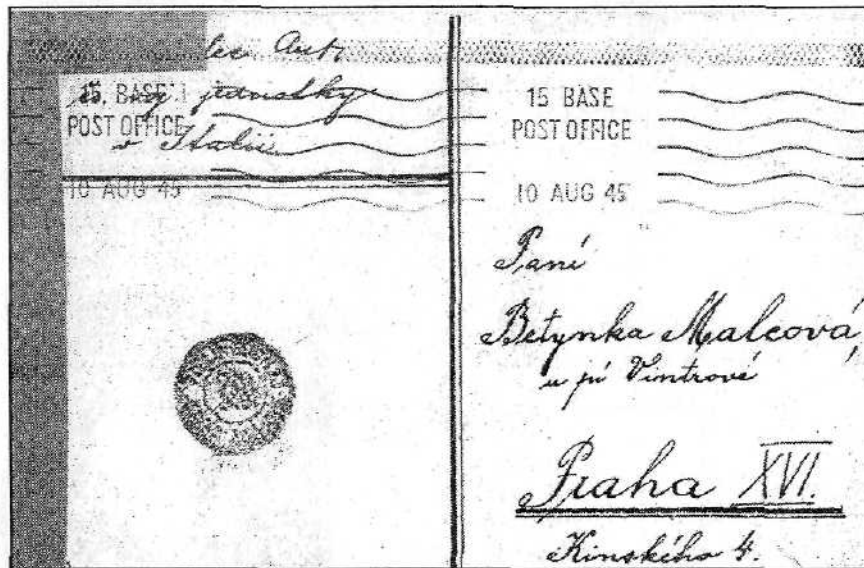


Figure 20: Postcard of a Czech soldier inducted into the 4th Czech Brigade, in northern Italy, dated July 5, 1945. The cancel is from the Base Post Office, dated August 10, 1945.

The complete text of the Allied Command communiqué:

S. Giovanni-Lupatoto-Verona, April 27, 1945

Re: General Staff -- Czecho-Slovakian Army in Italy --
reports:

1. That on the 26th of April, 1945, at San Giovanni Lupatoto (Verona) the General Staff (21 Officers and 159 Soldiers) passed voluntarily over to the American Command (General Kendall) with all their equipment.
2. The Czecho-Slovakian Army in Italy is composed of General (Major) Staff and 11 Battalions (Verona-Bolzano). This army is composed of members of the old Army of the Czech Republic.
3. In the year 1944, we were deported from Czecho-Slovakia into Italy by the Germans (150 Officers, 4500 Soldiers) because we were politically contrary to the German Government and Nazi ideals. In Italy, we were disarmed for the same reason as above and were transformed into labor battalions in the more dangerous zones. Six hundred (Czech) passed over into the hands of the Allies.
4. According to the order of the Czech Government (Dr. Edward Beneš) we desire to be incorporated as soon as possible into the Czech Army in the war against the Germans.
5. We ask to be considered not as Prisoners of War because we gave ourselves up voluntarily and because we belong to the Regular Czech Army, according to a secret decree of the Government of London (August 1944).
6. The Czecho-Slovakian Army requests that the Allied Government communicate this report to:
 - a) The corresponding Allied authority in Italy.
 - b) The Czecho-Slovakian officer (Plenipotentiary or Charge d'Affaire) assigned to the Allied Government.
 - c) The Czecho-Slovakian Ambassador at Rome.
 - d) The Czecho-Slovakian Ambassador at Berne, Switzerland.
7. We beseech them to make it possible for us to have contact with the Charge d'Affaire or Plenipotentiary Officer assigned to the Allied Command.

Pplk. Francis La Mott (received).

Major Dr. Jiří Maria Veselý O.P., President of the
Czechoslovak National Committee for Liberation.
J. Algani: by the Czechoslovakian Ambassador at Bern
in Switzerland, Dr. Kopecký.
P. Giorgio: by Mr. Weirich at Rome (Vatican)
(names, under which Dr. Veselý worked)
Staff Captain Jaromír Hnilička,
secretary of the Military National Committee for the
liberation of Italy.

The bulk of these forces passed through Verona, and their return to the homeland took place in stages throughout the summer of 1945. These returning

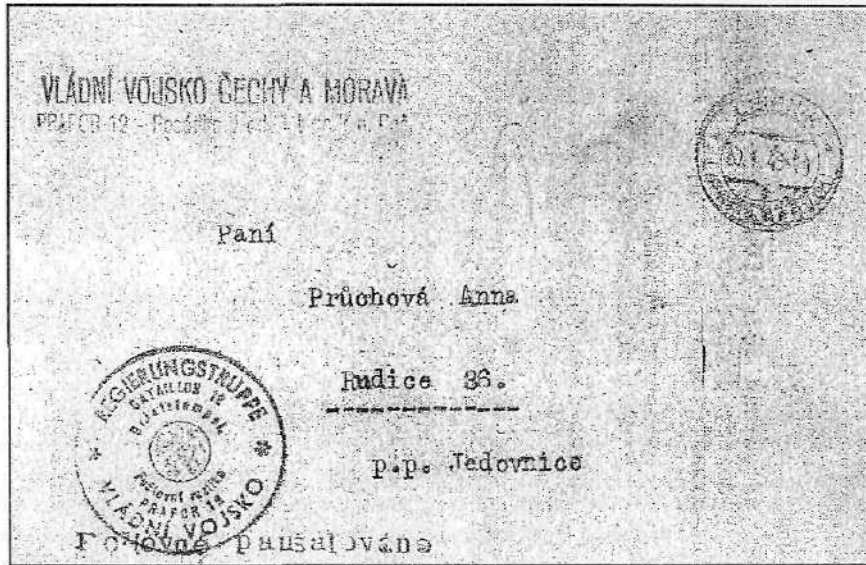


Figure 21: From the text of the letter: It is prohibited to send matches and film.

soldiers were assigned to various camps within Bohemia and Moravia. It was the British who provided the concluding postal services for the soldiers inducted into the Brigade (Fig. 20, 23).

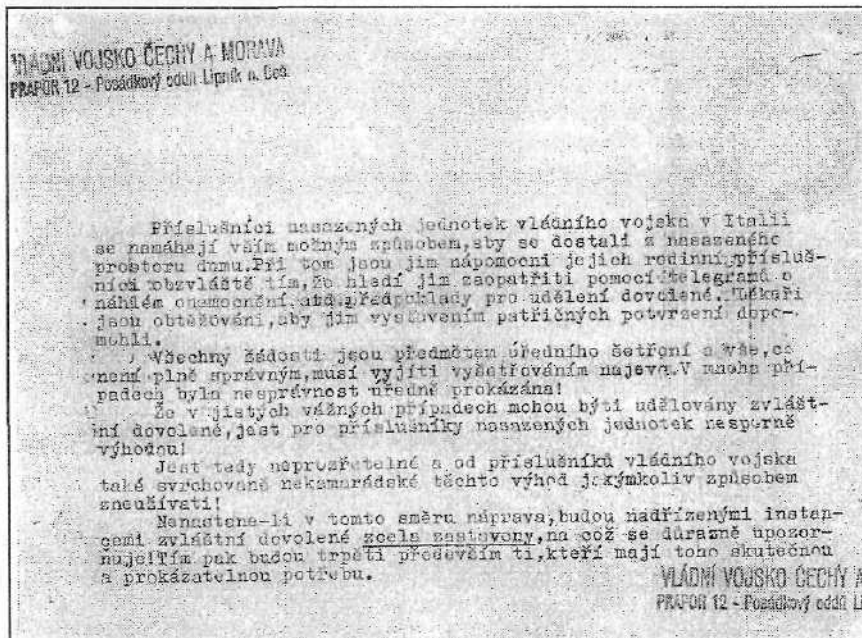


Figure 22: From the text of the order: It is prohibited to ask for a furlough due to family reasons. Permission will be given only in cases of death in the family.

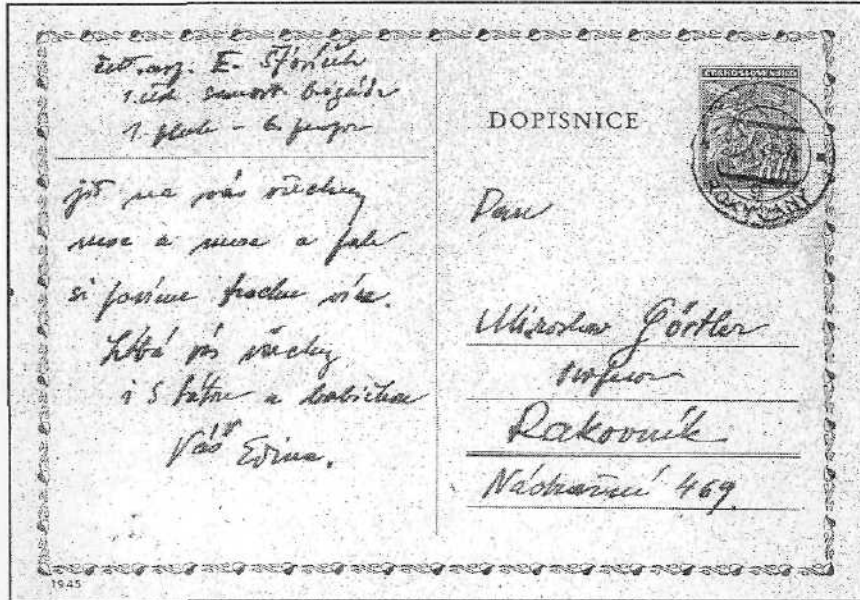


Figure 23: Correspondence card from Rokycany mailed to Rakovník. The sender was a member of the 1st Company of the 6th Battalion of the Independent Brigade.

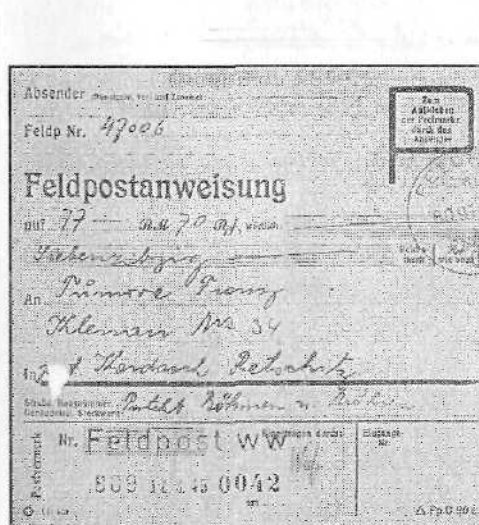


Figure 24: Postal Money Order sent on March 17, 1945, from Field Post Office #802, Kenn. #809, located at that time in the Bolzano zone.



Figure 25: Postal Money Order sent on November 8, 1944, from Tlumačov, with the addressee being a soldier attached to the 9th Battalion.

Italie, 12. 11. 1944

Milovaná Aničko!

Mnoho kradem se stálo
zpomínkou na Tebe a domovky
Ti zaslala s mi kněží, cest to
Italii. Tvůj Čeněk,

ještě živ a zdrav a vede se mi
dobře, a na tv, co mě boli hrani noby.

Byly za Tvůj dopis a listky se dne
20, 24 a 27/10 které jsem všeobecně
a které mě způsobily radost velkou.
jakože ~~.....~~

Nyní vešim kradem
na státním sledování.

Právě jak v obilí
ostrogol do nomenimisej
Dsr. Křestík - 641-44
Nyní vešim kradem

2399

Figure 26: Letter page containing censor number.

Obedient to the orders issued by the German command regarding the dispositions for sending packages or requests for furlough, the Government Troops Command of Bohemia and Moravia distributed packets of information. These translated sheets were intended for the relatives of the soldiers located in Italy and contained information about regulations and various prohibitions (Fig. 21, 22).

To conclude this "excursus storico" and considering also the accounts of the time, it remains clear that these troops never participated in any battle on the front lines, even when they were in the service of the Wehrmacht. On the other hand, in particular during the closing phases of the conflict, it was the relatively substantial strength of these soldiers from the backwoods of their individual companies and battalions who collaborated with the partisan units and also the Allied Army Command towards the goal to sabotage and to slow down the war activities of the Germans.

Financial Services

Czech soldiers could send and receive monetary amounts by using Postal Money Orders (Fig. 24, 25).

Censorship

All correspondence was subject to control by the censors: letters had to be submitted to a responsible individual from the unit command, opened, for the first review. Following that, all correspondence went through a further control by the censorship service.

Censor Marks

Identifying censor numbers are found, sometimes even several of them, in red, blue or violet colors both on postcards and on envelopes and even on the individual sheets in the letter (Fig. 26, 30). Sometimes the number of sheets in the envelope is listed by the censor, e.g. 2.

This censorship office was most likely located in Bolzano. From many documents it can be determined that the beginning of censorship was around June 7, 1944, and the end around March 14, 1945.

A -- Censorship by the Company Commander (Fig. 27)

B -- Censorship ribbons are found in various colors and on various types of paper (Fig. 28)

C -- Censor's rubber stamp "censored" (Überprüft) (Fig. 29). This stamp can be found on correspondence mailed in June and July 1944, and the office assigned for control of censorship was numbered IX., which was operated by one separate section of the military in Milano.

Forms Used for the Correspondence Between the Front and the Homeland

A -- Different kinds of Field Post cards (Fig. 31, 32):

B -- Postcards and envelopes, obtained by the Company, with pre-printed Field Post number (Fig. 33)



Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29



Figure 30: Postcard sent by a soldier from the 12th Regiment through the regular Italian postal service from San Donà di Piave (Venezia) dated November 3, 1944, with the cancel of the Italian censor #34 and the Munich censor "Ad".

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



<p>Absender:</p> <p>Dienstgrad: <i>Kapitán</i></p> <p>Vor- und Zuname: <i>Fr. Kovdeck</i></p> <p>Feldpostnummer: <i>17183E</i></p> <p><small>(Bezeichnung des Truppentiles verboten. Als Dienstgrad nicht Schütze, Pionier, Flieger usw. angeben, sondern nur Soldat, Gefreiter, Leutnant usw.)</small></p> <p><small>„Auch wenn wir vergehen müssen, muß Deutschland bestehen. Auch wenn uns im einzelnen das Schicksal schlagen sollte, muß Deutschland leben. Auch wenn wir Not und Sorge auf uns zu nehmen haben: Deutschland muß sein trotz Sorgen und Not.“</small></p>	<p>Feldpost</p> <p></p> <p>An</p> <p><i>Leutnant Jaroslav Červinka</i></p> <p><i>M. prop. Vlad. vojška</i></p> <p><i>Kostelec nad Orlicí</i></p> <p>in</p> <p><i>Autostation Čelý a Slavava</i></p> <p></p> <p><small>Δ Ep 50 Div A 6</small></p>
---	---

Figure 31: Postcard sent on December 29, 1944, to Kostelec nad Orlicí from Field Post #17 183E, corresponding to the 11th Battalion.



<p>Absender:</p> <p>Dienstgrad: <i>Strážmistr</i></p> <p>Vor- und Zuname: <i>Novotný Josef</i></p> <p>Feldpostnummer: <i>22.182 C</i></p> <p><small>(Bezeichnung des Truppentiles verboten. Als Dienstgrad nicht Schütze, Pionier, Flieger usw. angeben, sondern nur Soldat, Gefreiter, Leutnant usw.)</small></p>	<p>Feldpost</p> <p></p> <p>An</p> <p><i>Matějovský Fr.</i></p> <p><i>2438</i></p> <p><i>TURNOV</i></p> <p><i>2437</i> <i>338</i></p> <p></p> <p><small>1300</small></p>
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Figure 32: Postcard sent on February 12, 1945, to Turnov from Field Post #22 182C, corresponding to the 8th Battalion.

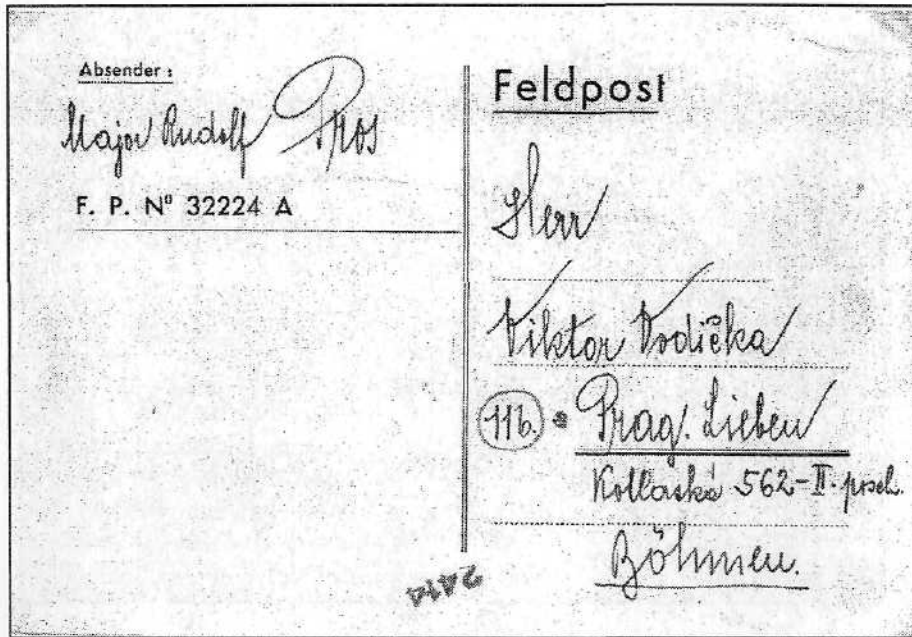


Figure 33: Postcard sent to Prague from Field Post #32 224A, corresponding to the 4th Battalion.



Figure 34: German correspondence card mailed from Brennero on July 7, 1944, to Rakonitz. The Field Post cancel is a so-called "dumb" one. [Pre-printed German text: The Fuehrer knows only Fight, Work and Worry. We would like to take that part away, the one we can take away from him.]



Figure 35

C -- Postcards and forms printed by private firms and propaganda cards (Fig. 34)

- D -- 1. Field Post propaganda (Fig. 35, 36)
 2. Propaganda by the firm Knacke-Werke, Burg bei Magdeburg (Fig. 37)



Figure 36



Figure 37: German text along the top and bottom edges reads: Carefully separate and use as a Field Post card.

E -- Italian correspondence cards and Field Post cards (Fig. 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43)

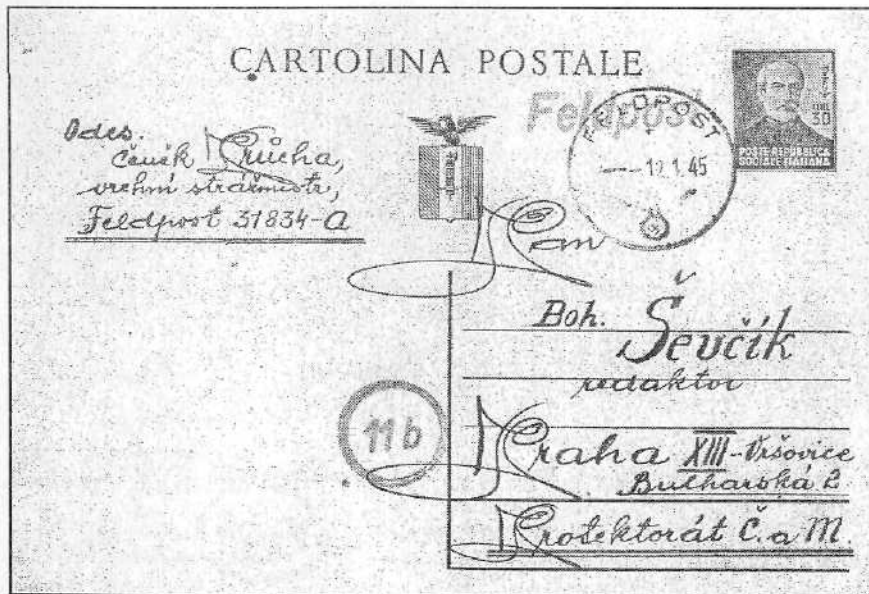


Figure 38: Italian correspondence postal card

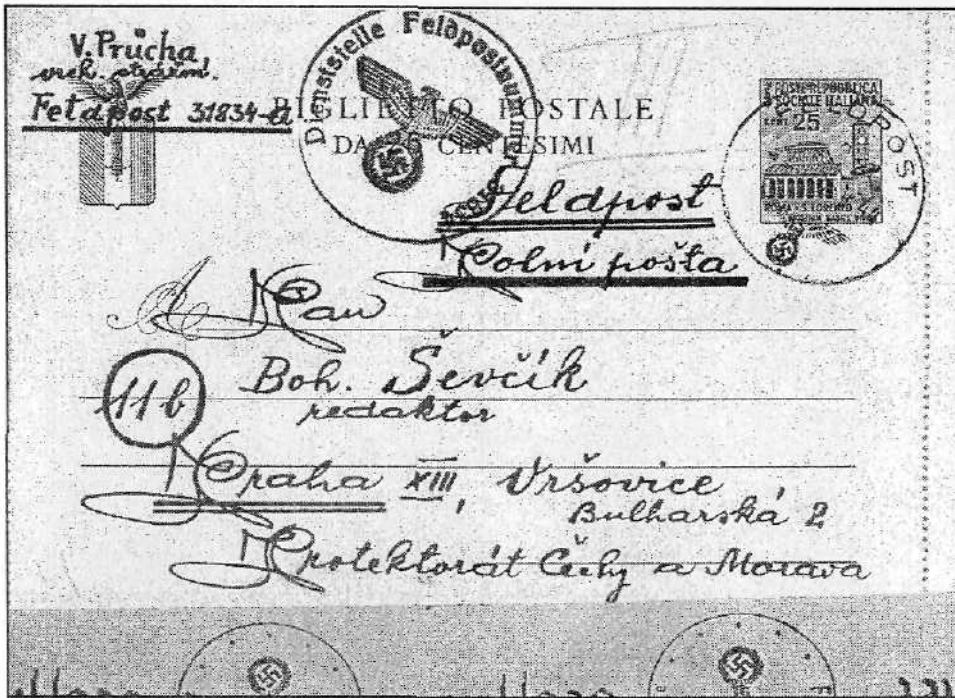


Figure 39: Italian postal card used by the Field Post

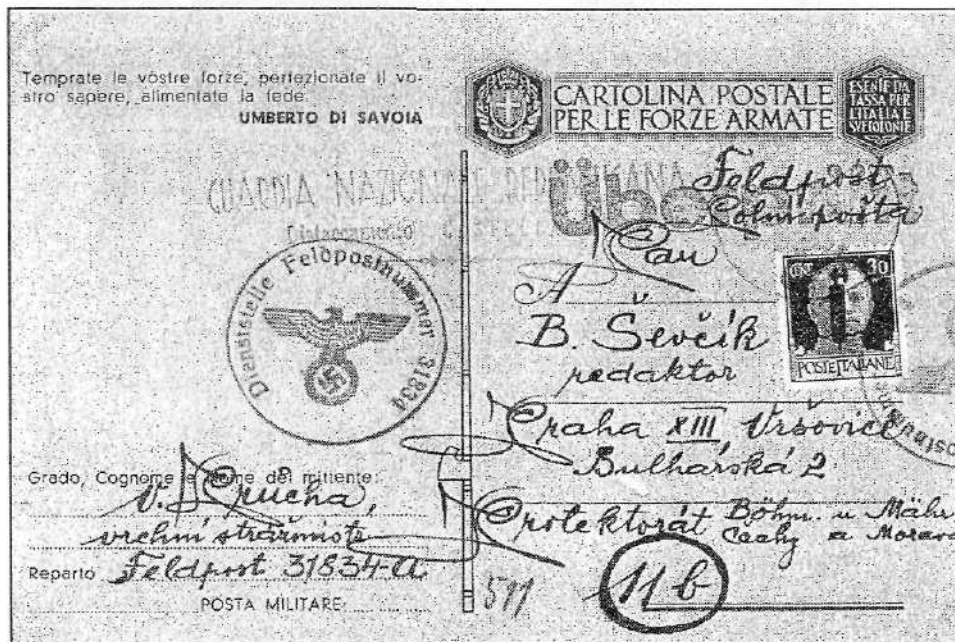


Figure 40: Italian "postage free" correspondence card for Military Service



Figure 41: Italian "postage free" postcard for Military Service

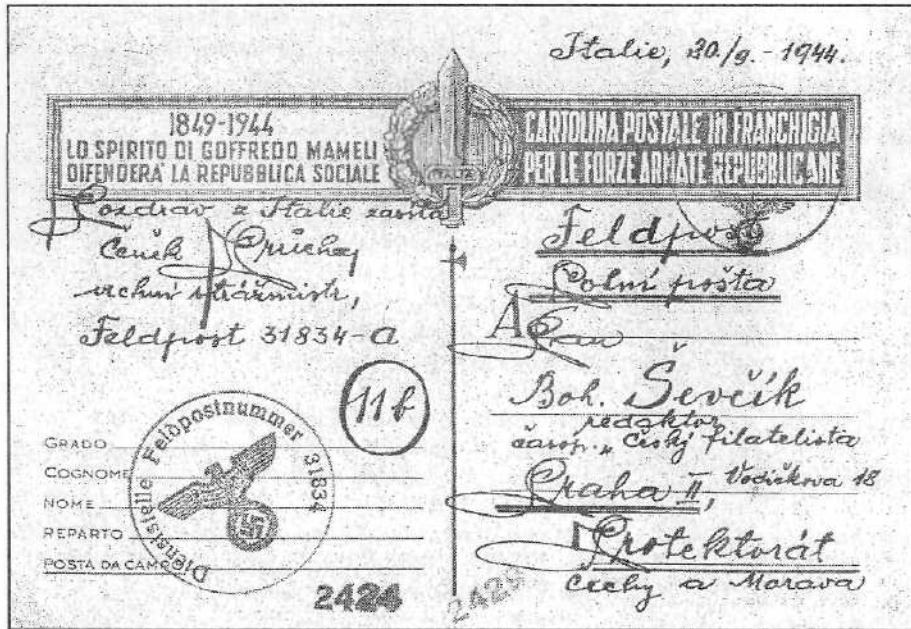


Figure 42: Italian "postage free" picture postcard from the Italian Social Republic

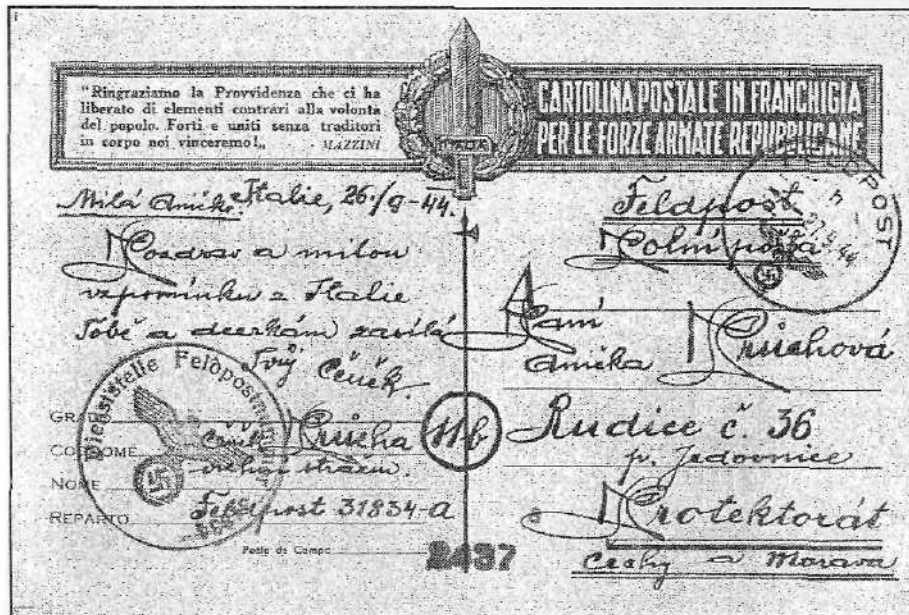


Figure 43

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Norbert Kannapin	Die Deutsche Feldpost 1939 - 1945 Biblio Verlag, Osnabrueck 1980 - 1982
Manfred Bunde	I Cechi al servizio dei Tedeschi La Posta Militare AICPM n. 62 1992
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Miroslav Vostátek	Poštovníctví Vládního vojska Filatelie No. 4 - 5 - 15/1991
Karel Bláha	Vládní vojsko 1939 - 1945 Filatelie No. 11/1991
Karel Bláha	K poštovní historii Vládního vojska Filatelie No. 8/1991
Oldřich Husek	K poštovníctví Vládního vojska Filatelie No. 14/1991
Piero Santangelo	Le truppe governative Ceche -- Vládní vojsko 1944-45 Ediz. AICPM - "1945 Dalla Guerra alla pace" Pages No. 144 - 149, 1995 Edition

All documents presented in this study belong to the author's collection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF CZECH PHILATELISTS (SCF)

The Executive Committee of SCF considered and decided:

1. Collective report of the Extraordinary Commission of the Presidium of SCF concerning counterfeit letters (see article by J. Stupka in the journal *Filatelie*).
2. The first instance made public of the appearance of the signature (mark) of Union experts on counterfeits was described in *Filatelie 9/1997* from the point of view of difficulties confronting SCF experts and with the commentary of the SCF Commission of Experts in *Filatelie 4/12/1997*, p.26.
3. Further instances were added by Jiří Stupka in *Filatelie 4/2002* and *4/2003*.
4. Extensive articles by František Beneš, LLD with criticism of Union experts made public in *Filatelie 11/2003* and *12/2003* as well as letters in the letters to the editor of *Filatelie*, particularly criticism from reader J. Dvořák about the incorrect action of P. Pittermann who admitted his erroneous certificates No. 62 - 64 from 1997, but he did not warn the public about them.

Based on all available texts, conclusions, and reasons presented, it does not appear that signatures (marks) on the covers and certificates prepared by Ing. Jan Karásek and Ing. Pavel Pittermann were counterfeited, or that the covers were not signed by these Union experts as genuine.

Given its responsibility to protect collectors from counterfeiters of postage stamps and other philatelic material and to cooperate with other relevant organizations in exposing counterfeits (see § 5 Statutes of SCF), and given the seriousness of the situation, the Executive Committee of the SCF has **decided on the temporary suspension of activities of the Commission of Experts of the SCF** as an advisory body to the Presidium of the SCF, **effective immediately**.

In connection with the cessation of activities of the Commission of Experts of the SCF, the Executive Committee of the SCF decided to **temporarily suspend the activities of its chairman** Ing. Pavel Pittermann, also effective immediately.

The Executive Committee of the SCF also decided to **temporarily suspend the activities of the Testing Laboratory of the SCF** and to not renew the agreement with its Director, Ing. Pavel Pittermann.

For the period of the temporary suspension of the activities of the Commission of Experts of the SCF, the Secretary of the SCF will organize (expertization) services. Experts of the SCF may conduct appropriate expertizing activities within the parameters established by their commissions and on their own responsibility.

For the correctness:

Jaroslav Maleček
Secretary, SCF

In Prague, the day of 30.12.2003

[Ed. Note: This announcement was originally published in Filatelie 1/2004 and was translated for us by Jaroslav J. Verner.]

LIBERATION OF PRAHA BŘEVNOV (PRAHA 51) IN MAY 1945

by Robert J. Hill

In common with other locations, stamps of Bohemia and Moravia were overprinted to mark the return of the territory to Czechoslovakian control following liberation from the German occupiers during the first half of May 1945. This overprint also achieved the task of defacing the despised head of Adolf Hitler on an item that still had monetary value.

At Praha Břevnov only three values were overprinted in black using Hitler head stamps (first issued in 1942). These stamps were in stock in sheets of 100 at the local Praha 51 post office, they were:

- 60 h violet
- 80 h orange red
- 1.20 k carmine

The overprint is in two lines and takes the form:

Pošta
Československá

It could not have been put horizontally across the stamp as it would have been too long, if the type was any smaller the print would not have been legible, and the printer was constrained by the material that was readily to hand (Fig. 1).

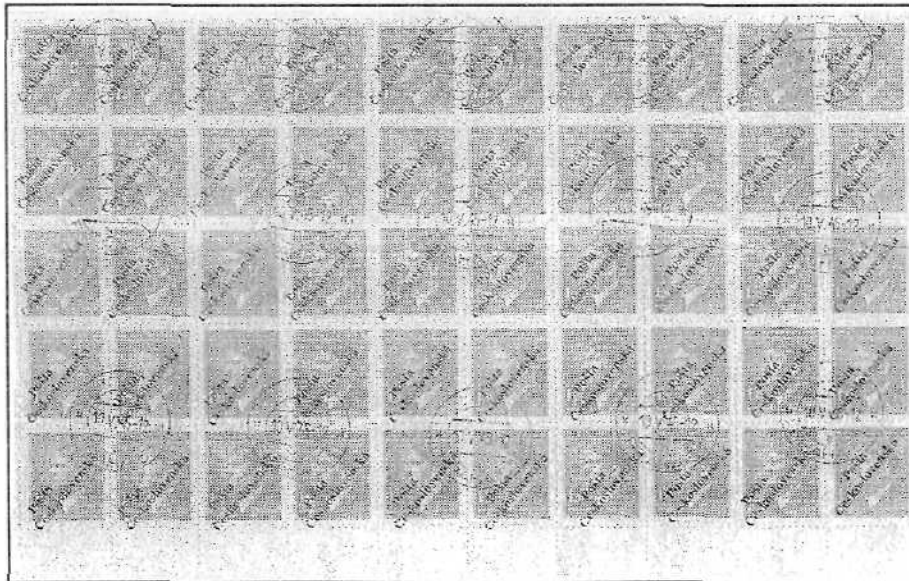


Figure 1: Lower part of a complete sheet of the 1.20 k value showing positions 51-100. Defaced canceller with the German language PRAG 51 excised from the top arc PRAHA 51 10.V.45 - 12 a. This is the first day that the stamps were put on sale.

In his authoritative work Karel Holoubek states that these were a local issue authorised by the Postmaster and sold in the local post office, he goes on to add that the issue was feasible because a postal secretary by the name of Novotný arranged the overprints. The stamps were put on sale in the local post office on May 10th 1945.

Juan Grau adds the intriguing footnote to his listing of the three stamps that the overprint occurs in 3 different positions. This statement has baffled me for some time as I have at least ten different positions of these stamps. A recent acquisition of the complete sheets for all three values (split into top and bottom halves) has solved the problem.

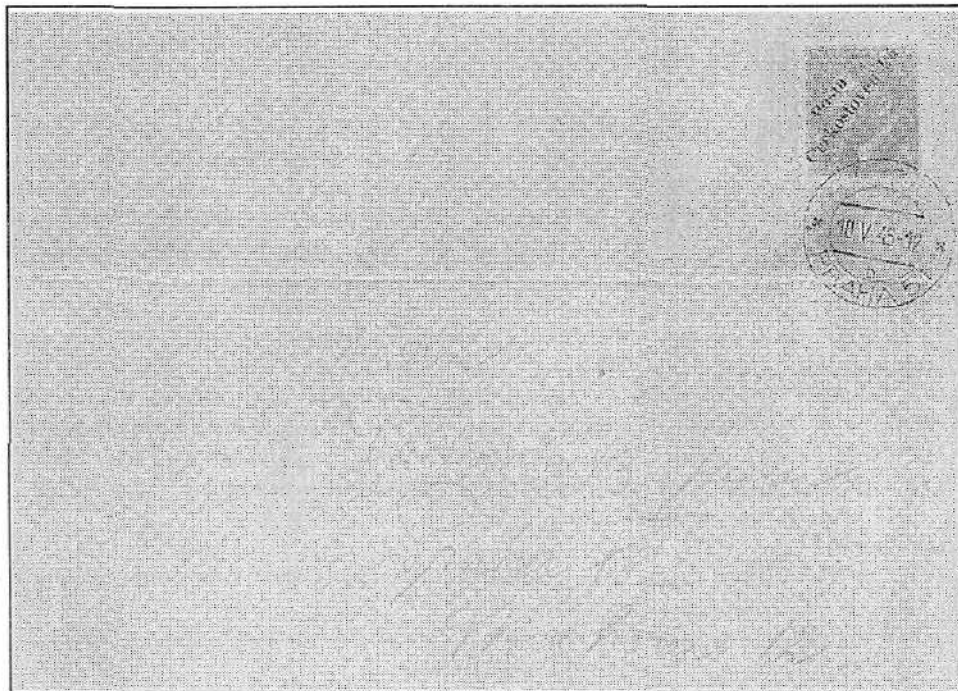


Figure 2: Reduced size cover. 1.20 k stamp "P thru (right of) k of sko", this overprint occurs at 22 different positions on the sheet. Defaced canceller with the German language PRAG 51 excised from the top arc PRAHA 51 10.V.45 -12 a. This is the first day that the stamps were put on sale.

Using the Stuart's Surcanrule given to me by fellow member Barry Horne, I patiently waded through each half sheet and aligned the left hand vertical line of the letter P (in Pošta) with the letters of the word Československá that appear on the line beneath it. Imagine my surprise as consistently there are not 3 but 11 different positions, these are as follows:

Alignment	Stamp place in sheet of 100
P between Č & e of Čes	42 92
P thru e of Čes	24 41 74 91
P between e & s of Čes	33 43 44 49 83 93 94 99

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P thru s of Čes	14 15 19 32 34 45 48 64 65 69 82 84 95 98
P between s & k of sko	11 21 61 71
P thru k of sko	5 6 23 31 35 36 37 39 40 46 47 55 56 73 81 85 86 87 89 90 96 97
P between k & o of sko	2 10 12 25 52 60 62 75
P thru o of sko	7 16 22 26 38 50 57 66 72 76 88 100
P between o & s of osl	17 30 67 80
P thru s of osl	3 4 8 13 18 20 27 28 29 53 54 58 63 68 70 77 78 79
P between s & l of osl	1 9 51 59

Now I could have gone further as I make it 21 sub types -- for example P thru left of o; P thru centre of o; and P thru right of o. This seemed a little overkill for this first attempt to understand what happened all those years ago (Fig. 2).

One thing is certain, the reason I have these in half sheets is because that is how they were overprinted as the overprint mirrors the stamp position in the top and bottom half.

In discussion with retired printer Paul Horton MIOP it became obvious to me what a torrid time they had setting the plate for these overprints. The text had to be set individually by hand in a composing stick. In the old fashioned hot metal world, everything had to be square, thus no provision was made for anything not horizontal or vertical. Anything out of the norm required a level of skill and dexterity.

Paul is of the opinion that either a linotype slug or lines of type were secured at an angle by metal furniture running vertically and horizontally or by wet paper (maché).

They had to place the overprint at an angle and achieve the required accuracy, with what was available to them. This in the political climate of early May 1945 within such a short space of time at a small local jobbing printers lacking sophisticated equipment was approaching impossible -- hence the varieties.

Reference:

1. *Česká Republika "Revoluční" Vydání (Květen 1945)*, Karel Holoubek, Geophila, Praha 11/1996, ISBN 80--901803--5--3
2. *Sellos y Sobrecargas Revolucionarias, 1944/1945 Emisiones Locales -- VI edición*, Juan Santauegenia Grau, Barcelona 1998

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President's Corner

One of the most critical elements to maintaining the health of any organization, including the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, is membership. After much experience, the Board of Directors has learned that it takes about 300 dues-paying members to provide a solid base for the Society. With the dues set at \$18.00 per year we need 300 members to pay for the publication of the *Specialist* in it's present format.

At the end of a normal year the SCP loses about 30 members. The losses are attributed to members aging, death, or fading interest in stamp collecting among others. To balance these losses, the Society normally attracts about a like number of new members.

New members learn about the Society from a number of sources: advertising in philatelic publications, the American Philatelic Society, word-of-mouth, and our website. In addition, for the last year Kimber Wald has sent the Society's brochure to many major philatelic shows and asked sponsors to make them available at the entrance.

The end of 2003 was not a normal year for membership losses. As I write this article, 47 members have not paid their 2004 dues. It is time for each of us to lend a hand in recruiting new members.

Where can you find a new member? When you attend a local stamp bourse or show, introduce yourself to the other collector you notice looking at Czechoslovak material. Ask the dealer with Czechoslovak material if he knows another collector with an interest in the same collection area. If you belong to a local stamp club, find out if any other member collects Czechoslovakia.

Enclosed with this issue of the *Specialist* is a copy of the Society's new brochure, which includes a list of the benefits of membership and an application. My challenge to each of you is to contact one potential new member for the Society, discuss the benefits of membership, and hand that person the brochure.

Help your Society for Czechoslovak Philately remain a vital healthy organization.

Tom Cossaboom

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Philatelic News and Views

From Alfred Weiner:

--After many years of developing a standard collection of Czechoslovak stamps based on a single copy of each stamp, I have decided that I would like to develop a more specialized collection. The Newspaper Stamps are an attractive group of stamps with numerous varieties. I would greatly appreciate the help and advice of anyone who has examined these stamps and their varieties. Alfred Weiner, 4105 Marietta Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. E-mail: almar@stny.rr.com. Member SCP.

From Savoy Horvath:

-- The attached article from the popular Czech newspaper *Mladá Fronta Dnes*, 9 July 2003 -- translated for us by our secretary, Peter Kleskovic -- talks about the Czechoslovak tradition of issuing a stamp with the new president's image as soon as possible after his election. Here is an additional interesting piece of information -- I have above normal correspondence with the Czech Republic, and what amazes me is that most of the Klaus' stamps are applied upside-down on the envelopes!

"Klaus Has the Same Value as Havel. Soon It Will be More Expensive.
For his presidential stamp, Vaclav Klaus had to wait four months. Initially he did not like his image, now, however, he is satisfied.

Vaclav Klaus and His Predecessors on Their Stamps



Prague -- Silvery white hair around his forehead remind us of Ludvík Svoboda, or the glasses, of the state portrait of Gustáv Husák. Add to it the drooping corners of his mouth, and you have the look of Edvard Beneš.

All of this can be found on the postage stamp of President Václav Klaus.

Yesterday the Ministry of Information published the likeness of the new presidential stamp, three weeks before the official day of issue.

The Czech postal service was working on the preparation of the stamp for several months. Originally it should have already been issued in May, however, the first design did not appeal to the President, and thus the post office had to prepare other variants.

Václav Klaus is satisfied with the current likeness. "The President saw the design of the stamp by painter Oldřich Kulháněk before its printing and was in agreement with it," reported Eva Černíková from the press department of the presidential office.

This stamp with Klaus does not differ significantly from the preceding series with the portraits of Václav Havel. It was done by the same engraver, Miloš Ondráček, and even has the same dimensions of 19 x 23 mm -- not even its denomination of 6 korun and 40 heller was changed. Every since the time of T.G. Masaryk it is the custom to print the president's portrait on a stamp having the basic postal rate.

In the era of the independent Czech Republic, Václav Havel began in January 1993 with a value of 2 Kč, but by the end of his first presidential term the denomination had risen an additional 1 Kč.

The post office printed the last sheets of stamps with the portrait of Václav Havel last year [2002] at the beginning of November. As long as the supplies last, people can select whether they prefer to glue Klaus or Havel on their letters.

Nor will Václav Klaus escape the price rise. As soon as the Finance Ministry removes the 10h and 20h coins from circulation, the post office will have to change its rates and with that even the denomination of the presidential stamp.

Outside of the price rise, the value of the stamp can also go up for other reasons. Collectors are sometimes willing to even pay a thousand fold of their nominal value for some valuable specimens.

So far the most valuable stamp is the ten korun souvenir sheet with Ludvík Svoboda which the post office produced in 1975 to celebrate his eightieth birthday. Collectors value it at more than 250,000 Kč.

"When Svoboda was still the president, the souvenir sheets were produced in advance. However, when Svoboda relinquished his function, an order immediately followed to withdraw them," declared František Beneš, a philatelic judge and expert. The post office immediately designed new souvenir sheets where the presidential standard was replaced with the inscription *From Buzuluk to Prague*. Nevertheless, a few of the original souvenir sheets survived. Obviously, some were "set aside" by functionaries of the day and some were just frankly stolen," declared Beneš. **David Macháček**

-- There is a big change in the printing of stamps from Slovakia. Ever since Czechoslovakia's split in January 1993, postage stamps and postal paper of the new Slovak Republic were printed in Prague, Czech Republic, by Pražská Tiskarna Cenín a.s. Praha. As of January 1, 2004, the printing of Slovak stamps is now produced by Walsall Security Printers Ltd., United Kingdom.

-- The December *Filatellie*, a monthly periodical from the Czech Republic, announced news on upcoming volumes of the Czech Monografie series:

- Mono. 6, Vol. 1, Scouts, by František Beneš Jr., work on this volume has begun.

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- Mono. 6, Vol. 2, ČSR Military in Siberia, by our very own Jerry Verner and Jiří Majer, projected for 2005.

- Mono. 7, Plate Numbers and Printing Forms on Stamps of ČSR, by V. Malovník. This volume is ready for the printer.

- Mono. 8, Stamps of ČSR II (1945-1992). This has been projected over the coming years into ten volumes.

- Mono. 9, Celiny ČSR II, postcards and stationery, in the planning stage.

- Mono. 10, Day of Issue Covers ČSR II, by Paul Aksamit. Work on this is in progress.

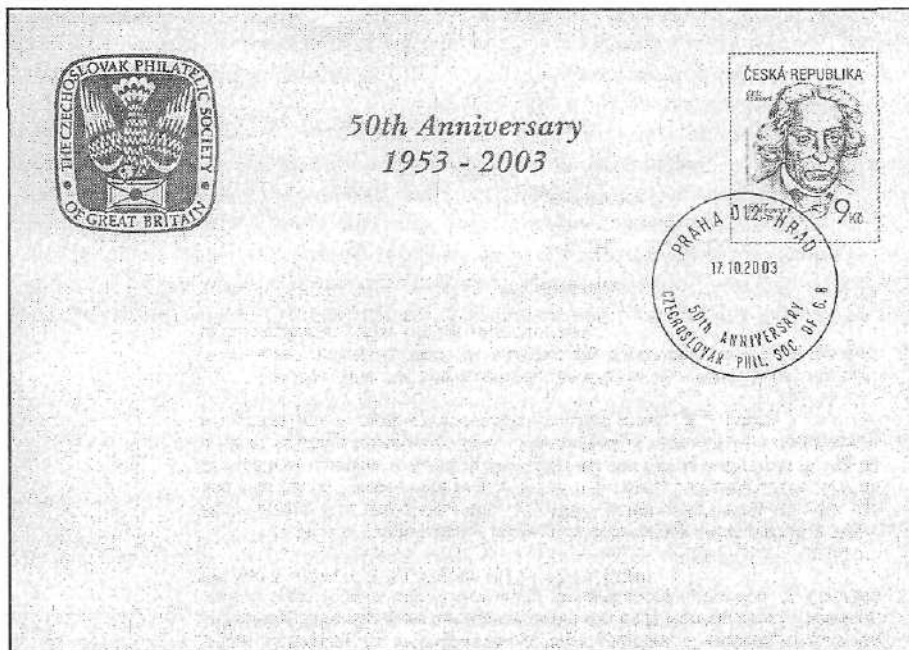
- Mono. 11, Vol. 1, Stamps and Postal Paper of Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia, by František Beneš Jr. and František Beneš Sr. Work on this volume has started.

- Mono. 11, Vol. 2, Post in the Terezín Ghetto, by Fratišek Beneš Jr. and P. Tošner. This volume is updated and reworked of the former Terezín monograph. The sale date is January 10, 2004. Our book store does not have this volume as yet, but I am taking orders for it.

- Mono. 12, Stamps and Postal Paper of the Slovak State. Only in the planning stage.

From Richard Beith:

-- This figure shows a 50th Anniversary of the CPSGB commemorative envelope that we added a Czech Republic stamp to and then had canceled with the 50th Anniversary commemorative cancel specially produced by the Czech postal service.



From SCP President Tom Cossaboom:

-- I just learned of a website that might be useful to any of our members who collect postal history documents written in German script during the late 19th or early 20th centuries. The script used is often Sütterlin script. Mr. Peter Dörling has a website, www.peter-doerling.de, which provides instruction on how to read Sütterlin. Better yet, the instruction is in English. Mr. Dörling's website also has instruction in 18th century chancery writing and the later Frakturschrift. Unfortunately, these last two are only in German.

-- We recently received correspondence from Mila Rechcigl, SVU President, going out to Czech and Slovak American Organizations with a subject of Preserving Czech & Slovak American Archival Materials. We are excerpting portions here to make you aware of how you may be able to help in this process.

"I am writing to you on behalf of our National Heritage Commission, an informal group of Czech and Slovak ethnic organizations in the US, joined together for the purpose of coordinating and spearheading our efforts toward preserving Czech and Slovak cultural heritage abroad.

. . . The [archival] conference was prompted by the genuine concern about the state and the uncertain fate of Czech and Slovak archival materials in America. Although some of these materials have been deposited in existing archival institutions, the majority of the documents are still in private hands. The individuals, in whose possession these materials are, are frequently unaware of their historic value and, as a consequence, many of these previous materials may get destroyed or lost. It is for this reason that ethnic leaders and chief officers of various Czech and Slovak American organizations were invited to the conference to acquaint them with the seriousness of the problem in an effort to persuade them to save these irreplaceable materials for the future.

. . . As a result of the conference, the participants unanimously agreed to launch a concerted effort leading to the preservation of the Czech and Slovak documents and other memorabilia for the future, irrespective of where they may be.

. . . We appeal . . . to all individuals who have possession of any documentary material or other memorabilia relating to Czechs and Slovaks in North America to please let us know. The type of material we are referring to includes correspondence, oral histories, diaries, memoirs, speeches, photographs, reprints, notebooks, newspaper clippings, obituaries and other announcements, certificates and various family documents, posters, records of meetings, club financial records, various types of publications, almanacs, calendars, annuals, old newspapers and periodicals, etc. Based on the type of material you have, we will be able to advise you where the material could be deposited for safe keeping so that future generations could learn how their ancestors lived. . . . Please send your responses, comments, suggestions and queries to the following e-mail address: SVU1@comcast.net "

6.40 Kč PANSY FORGERY REVISITED

by Savoy Horvath

The thought on the 6.40 Kč forgery in the Czech Republic is -- although this started as a forgery to defraud the Czech Postal Service, due to circumstances the opposite came to pass.

Soon after the forgery appeared nationwide at news stands, kiosks and stores where postage is sold, the government announced the discontinuance of two of the smallest denominated coins -- the ten heller and twenty heller. Now, only the 50 heller is in circulation. This meant that postage stamps would also have to be changed by rounding of their value to 50 heller instead of the old 40 heller (6.40 Kč to 6.50 Kč).

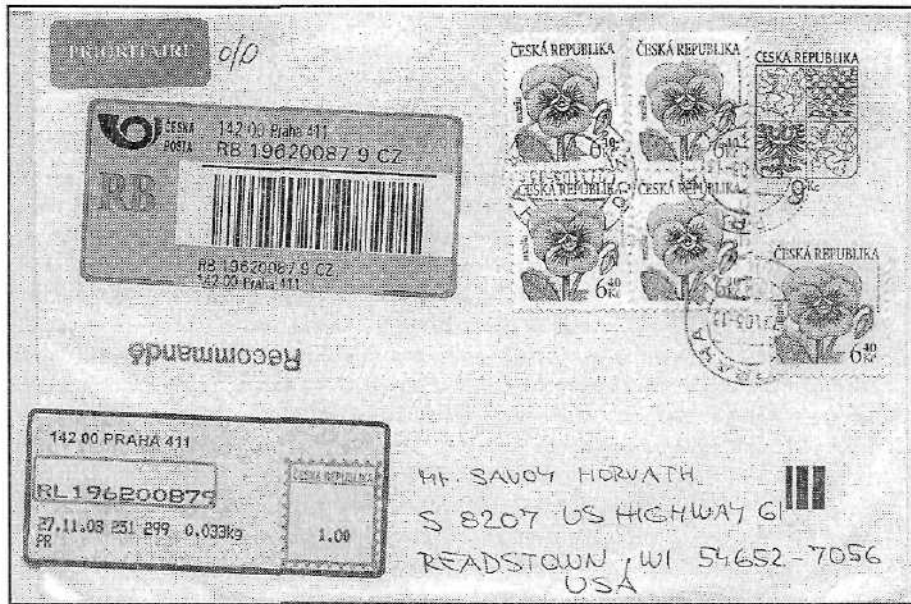


Fig. 1

Not knowing the procedure to come -- whether the old 6.40 Kč stamps would be allowed for postage until used up or whether they would be recalled and replaced with new 6.50 Kč stamps on demand -- the thought is the forger or forgers made a massive buy-back of their whole production. Now this forgery is starting to show up at different bourses across the country. I have purchased one mint and one on a registered cover (Fig. 1) at a bourse in Prague. The cover has a block of four of the real pansy and a forged single, in addition of other postage. I paid \$12.00 each for them. About a week later at the end of November, I bought another mint single from a bourse in Hradec Králové for a mere 50 Kč (less than \$2.00).

To my total amazement, when I put them under close observation I had two distinct types of this forgery. Both forgeries lack the iridescent gold under-printing.

Type I (Fig. 2) -- the see-through gold was applied over the printed stamp using most likely powdered mica, similar to the kind used in cosmetics. This type is tagged; it glows

when put under a UV light.

Type II (Fig. 3) -- is barely speckled with the powdered mica (more like dusted). This type is not tagged.

The original 6.40 Kč pansy is in Figure 4. It has 12 horizontal perforation holes while the forgery has 13.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

	Original	Forgery I	Forgery II
paper	ph, polished	oz, rough textured	oz, rough textured
perforations	11 3/4 : 11 1/4	12 3/4 : 11 1/4	12 3/4 : 11 1/4
overall color	bright	matte	dull
author's name	A. KHUNOVÁ	A. KHUNOVA	A. KHUNOVA
tagging	yes	yes	no
gold color	iridescent under-printing	powdered mica overprint	powdered mica speckling

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

NEW WEB SITE PROVIDES GUIDE TO EXPERTS' MARKS AND BACKGROUND

from Linn's Stamp News

A new web site exists to aid in identification and evaluation of expert marks applied to the backs of postage stamps.

The site, called Philatelic Experts, was compiled by G. Kock.

It lists more than 1,600 philatelic experts and dealers, past and present, who have backstamped or handsigned postage stamps or issued certificates.

The list also provides the experts' areas of expertise and biographical notes on the expertizers, including periods of expertizing activity.

The information is provided alphabetically sorted both by the name of the expert and by the area of expertise.

Collectors can use the web browser "Find" tool to search for an expert's full name if only part of it is present in an expertizing mark.

According to Kock, his web site is the only such list in existence.

The web site is located at: www.filatelia.fi/experts

There is an identical mirror site for security purposes at:

www.geocities.com/freyr555/experts.html

The history of stamp expertization goes back to the 1860s when the editors of philatelic magazines began to render opinions on whether or not a given stamp was genuine. By 1905 there were more than 150 experts rendering opinions.

Many early experts signified their opinion that a stamp was genuine by writing or stamping their mark on the back of the stamp.

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The mark of Gustav Seefeldner is shown to the right on the back of a Ukrainian stamp. The elaborate mark shows a heron and the initials "G S".

The practice of applying expert markings to the backs of postage stamps is much more common in Europe than in the United States, where such a practice has been generally frowned upon in modern times, especially in the past 10 years.

The study of expertization marks can be nearly as involved as the expertization process for the stamps themselves.

According to Kock, some experts are more to be trusted than others. Some experts were simply wrong. Some applied genuine marks to stamps that they knew to be false. Some experts marks have been forged.

Sometimes dealers' marks can be a guarantee that a stamp is genuine, and sometimes they are merely advertisements.

Marks of lesser known dealers and experts usually do not inspire much confidence.

Many old-time collectors stamped house marks (frequently initials) on the backs of their stamps simply as a mark of ownership.

Kock provides biographical information on the experts because he says he finds it interesting to know the background of the [sic] those whose names or marks are found on the backs of stamps or mentioned in auction catalogs.

To aid in identification, more than 600 hyperlinks to scans of marks, handstamps and certificates are included at the web site.

Kock is the compiler of the *World Forgery Catalogue: A Reference List of Stamp Forgery Descriptions*, published in 1998 in Finland by Porssitieto Ky of Helsinki.

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article from Linn's Stamp News, November 24, 2003. "Copyright 2003 Linn's Stamp News, Sidney, Ohio, USA. Reprinted with permission." I have looked at this web site and have found it to be interesting and useful as far as collectors of Czechoslovak stamps are concerned. There is a great deal of information for our purposes.]

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

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THERESIENSTADT PARCEL CONTROL STAMP OF 1943

by Christer Brunstrom

Stamps sometimes have pictures that have been cleverly designed to portray something in a misleading or outright incorrect manner. One such case is the parcel control stamp issued for the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Bohemia-Moravia (Michel 1) during World War II.

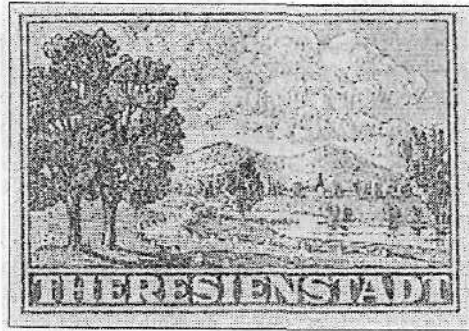


Fig. 1

Many forgeries of this stamp exist, and one from my collection is shown at Figure 1. Its design, identical to that of a legitimate copy, features a peaceful landscape which in no way reflects the horrendous conditions under which prisoners interred there were required to live.

Today, the Czech Republic capital city of Prague is one of Europe's most popular tourist destinations. People come to see the Prague Castle, the Charles Bridge, the Old Town and many other

sights that attract visitors from all over the world. Some even make a visit to Terezín -- the Czech name for Theresienstadt -- which is located a one-hour bus ride away.

At the end of the 18th century, a complex of fortresses was built at the confluence of the rivers Elbe and Ohre in Bohemia. It was named Theresienstadt after the Austro-Hungarian Empress Maria Theresia.

The complex comprised the Big Fortress and the Little Fortress. As it turned out, there was very little military need for the two fortresses, which were instead used as prisons for freedom fighters and political prisoners from all over the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In 1939, Nazi German armies invaded Czechoslovakia. The Gestapo was soon firmly established in Prague and doing its utmost to get rid of opponents of the Third Reich. On June 14, 1940, the Germans sent the first prisoners to the Little Fortress in Theresienstadt.

During World War II, some 32,000 people were imprisoned at Theresienstadt for varying periods of time. Over time, the Big Fortress became known as "the Jewish ghetto."

Most of the prisoners came from Czechoslovakia, but prisoners from other parts of Europe were also sent to Theresienstadt. Many of them had taken active part in the fight against Nazi Germany.

The main purpose of Theresienstadt was to serve as a transit camp from which prisoners were then shipped to extermination camps in Poland and elsewhere.

Nowadays Terezín stands as a monument to the victims of the Holocaust. Today's visitors can easily imagine the inhuman conditions that reigned in the crowded cells. Conditions were such that prisoners died in large numbers on a daily

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basis, and a crematorium is located on the outskirts of the Jewish ghetto.

What makes Theresienstadt unique among the numerous World War II concentration camps is that the Nazis wanted to portray it as an exemplary establishment where prisoners were treated well. A delegation from the Red Cross in Switzerland was even invited to the camp for an inspection.

To prepare for the inspection, prison authorities created special bathrooms, a room where sick prisoners were supposed to receive medical treatment and so on. The truth is that these rooms never served their assigned purposes, but the cosmetic changes sufficed to fool the Red Cross delegation.

One bright spot among the otherwise miserable conditions was that prisoners

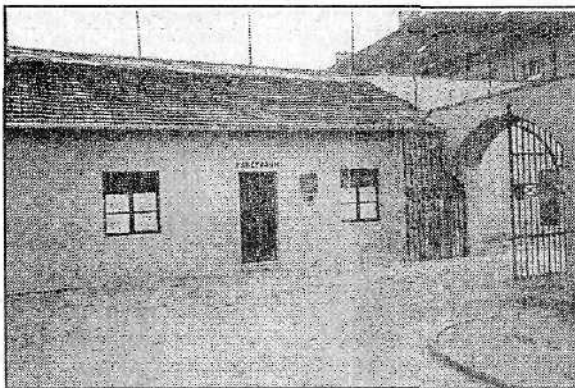


Fig. 2

were allowed to receive food parcels from their families. On July 10, 1943, the stamp illustrated here was issued to be used as a control on parcels mailed to the prisoners.

The Theresienstadt stamp had to be affixed to the parcels and, in most cases, were [sic] probably discarded along with the wrapping. Only 76,000 copies were ever printed, and today it is scarce in both mint and used condition.

Theresienstadt was the only German concentration camp to have this kind of parcel stamp, which suggests that it was produced in connection with the Red Cross visit. Several small numbered sheets containing four stamps each were printed in black, brown and dark green.

These sheets may have been intended as gifts to the Red Cross delegates. My guess is that the actual stamp saw very little use, an idea that was reinforced during a visit I made to Theresienstadt last August.

During a guided tour of the camp, I noticed a building labeled "Paketraum," or "Parcels room," in the Little Fortress area (Fig. 2). Although our guide noted that it was to this room that all parcels were taken before being distributed to the prisoners, he had no knowledge of the Theresienstadt parcel stamp.

When the tour had ended, I rushed to the museum, where I expected to learn more about the parcel stamp and how the scheme had worked. There was indeed an exhibit explaining how food parcels helped save many prisoners' lives, but there was nothing about the stamp.

Theresienstadt was liberated by units of the Red Army on May 8, 1945. At that time, there was an outbreak of typhoid fever among the prisoners, but Soviet doctors were soon able to get health matters under control. It then took several months before the prisoners could be sent home.

Ironically, the Little Fortress was then used as a prison for those who had to leave Czechoslovakia after the war. Survivors later asked the Czechoslovak

government to turn the Theresienstadt camp into a permanent memorial, which happened in 1947.

Today, nearly 50 years after its issue, the deceptively idyllic scene on the Theresienstadt parcel control stamp of 1943 remains a powerful reminder of the camp's gruesome history.

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the preceding article from *Mekeel's & Stamps MAGAZINE*, 2003 with permission of the editor, John Leszak.]

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	- Iron furnace at Stará huť u Adamova		17
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	- Antonín Procházka: Prometheus		
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	-- Svatá Hora u Pífbřami		12
	-- Svatý Hostýn		14
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			8
Sep 8	Breeding -- Parrots (souvenir sheet of 4)	1	12,14
			16,20
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			16
Nov 10	Works of Art on Stamps	3	
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	- Hanus Schwaiger (1854-1912)		22
	- Vojtěch Hynais		26
Nov 10	Christmas	1	6.50



Fig. 1

1. On January 20, 2004, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 6.50 Kč commemorative stamp in the Tradition of Czech Stamp Production series (Fig. 1). This year's stamp is represented by a postage stamp with the Green Frog sign designed by Jiří Švengsbír and first issued in the 1970 issue House Signs and Gables. Today's stamp was issued to honor the author of many Czech postage stamps Jiří A. Švengsbír. J. Švengsbír (1921-1983) created -- during more than 30 years -- over 250 engravings for Czechoslovak postage stamps and first day covers, many of them based on his own designs. In this area he won a number of awards at numerous national and international competitions. Švengsbír's timeless contributions to the history of Czechoslovak postage stamps were especially his engraved versions of the gems exhibited at Prague Castle; he stood at the beginning of the issues of postage stamps showing transpositions of works of art printed by the

unique multicolored recess print from flat plates (1965 -- The Painting Gallery at Prague Castle -- Tizian: The Toilet of A Young Woman). The issue Works of Art on Postage Stamps, first published in 1966 with the transpositions engraved by J. Švengsbír and J. Herčík, has become a regular part of issue plans. Today's stamp was designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, green, blue and brown in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides stamps in sheet arrangement, philatelic booklets of 8 stamps and 4 labels with two different motifs by J. Švengsbír will be issued. One label bears the Brno house emblem with a blue lion (originally a part of the stamp from 1970) and the Czech text EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION BRNO 2005 and the logo of this exhibition. The other label bears the emblem of the house At the Three Little Fiddlers in Nerudova Street No. 12 in Prague (originally the stamp 1.60 Kč from the series The Ancient Prague 1968). A FDC in black has a cachet which is a self-portrait of J. Švengsbír with the facsimile of his signature (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

2. On February 18, 2004, the Ministry issued a 17 Kč commemorative stamp entitled The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Brno to promote the European Exhibition of Postage Stamps BRNO 2005 which is to be held at the Brno Exhibition Center in May 10-15, 2005 (Fig. 3). The church of the Cistercian nunnery



Fig. 3

at Mendel Square in Old Brno was established in 1323 by Queen Eliška Rejčka who was buried there by the Holy Cross altar in 1335. The church is remarkable for its horizontal plan made up of two lateral naves. The technology used to build up the church exclusively of bricks and only a minimum of stone was rare in the Czech Kingdom. The building whose original surface was allegedly plastered has today a fairfaced brickwork. The church is remarkable for its architectural elements, the so-called odd arcades, or high blind arcades with lancet arches. The present baroque interior from the third quarter of the 18th century is the work of the sculptor O. Schweigl and painters J. Rotter, I. Raab and F.A. Scheffler. After the devastating war catastrophe in 1467 the church was renovated with late gothic elements and reconsecrated. The church houses an extraordinary image of the Madonna, a 13th century icon of the Italian-Byzantine style, the oldest in the Czech Republic, donated in 1356 by Charles IV to the Augustinian monastery of St. Thomas in Brno. It was brought here by the Augustinians after they obtained the site of the nunnery in 1782. In the 19th century the monastery was the center of education and culture in Brno. The abbot J.G. Mendel (1822-1884) did his genetic experiments here. The stamp shows a total view of the church. The stamp was designed by Karel Zeman and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. It was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black combined with colored offset in arranged printing sheets with four stamps and two labels; the upper one shows a woodcarved decorative element

from the monastic library, on the lower one is the logo of the exhibition, the coat-of-arms of Brno town and the text EUROPEAN POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION in Czech. A FDC in black-brown depicts a part of the botanic department of the monastic (convent) library, which Gregor Mendel also used.

3. On February 18, 2004, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Technical Monuments series (Fig. 4). The stamps were designed by Zdeněk Ziegler and engraved by Václav Fajt. These multicolored stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 stamps.



Fig. 4

-- 6.50 Kč: Bušek's water forging hammer in Lniště - in yellow, pink, blue, and red. Bušek's water forging hammer dating from the beginning of the 19th century is located in Lniště nearby

Trhové Sviny in the valley of the Dluhošský stream and was owned by several generations of the Bušek family. The tool-making hammer, operating until 1955, was fed with discarded railway tracks and scrap iron. The reconstructed buildings include a low brick house in the post-modern classical style with an exposition of the hammer miller's family housing, the building of the mill and outhouses (the former mill). Still kept in the mill are the original tail hammer, a couple of cabinet bellows, forge and grinding stone. The mill is driven by three wheels using surface water from the 1 km long mill-run. A FDC in grey-green depicts a set of old blacksmith's tongs.

-- 17 Kč: the iron furnace at Stará huť u Adamova -- in yellow, red, light blue, and dark blue. The iron furnace of the Františčina foundry at Stará huť u Adamova is located in the national preservation area in Josefovské valley north of Brno and was built in 1732 in the Liechtenstein estate to process iron ore. The furnace was in operation until 1877; today it is the oldest maintained foundry in Central Europe. Located nearby are two small lime kilns and a former pattern plant from the early 19th century which is presently used by the Technical Museum in Brno to display an exposition of the iron industry. A recent addition to the exposition are shaft furnaces in the premises of the foundry, occasionally used for experimental iron melting procedures to test defunct technologies. The stamp depicts the original furnace with the other buildings and the outline of the ground plan of the furniture. A FDC in brown-red depicts one of the designs of the reconstruction of Stará huť u Adamova.

Stationery

4. On January 20, 2004, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted 6.50 Kč postage stamp to mark the 1000th anniversary of the town of Žatec (Fig. 5). The cachet shows the logo of the 1000th anniversary celebration along with the Czech text "1000 years since the first written mention of the town of Žatec".

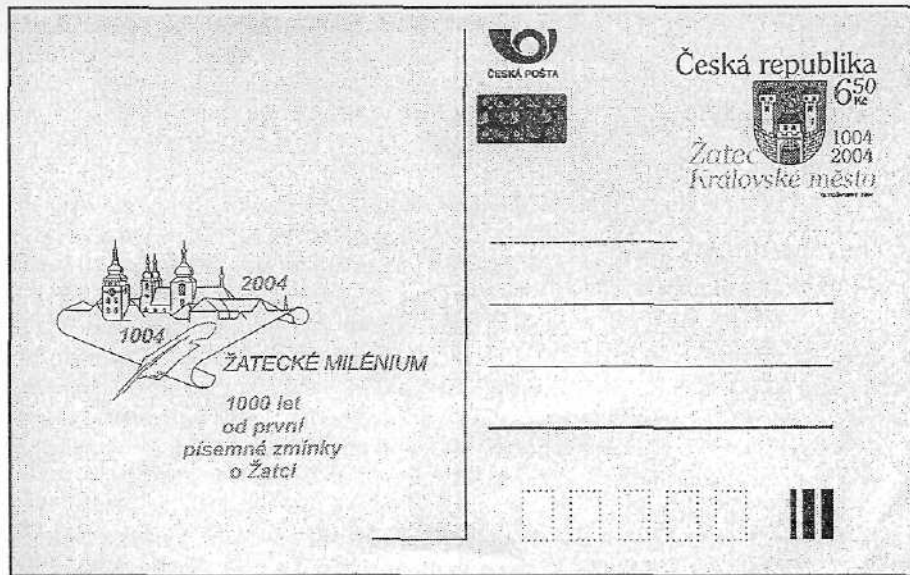


Fig. 5

Žatec (Saaz in German) lies about 24 km west of Louny. It is a very old Slav settlement which became a town in the mid-13th century. Although Žatec suffered damage through wars, pillage and fires, many of its historical buildings have survived, above all the remains of the town fortifications, several Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque houses, the town hall built originally in Gothic and later adapted in Baroque style, and the Gothic church. In the 15th century, Žatec stood on the side of the Hussite armies. After the defeat in the Battle of White Mountain, the inhabitants were severely persecuted and many of them fled abroad. Žatec has always been known as a center of hop-growing and is a typical hop town. The Žatec region provides approximately 2/3 of the total hop yield of the Czechoslovak Republic. There are in existence historical documents relating to the cultivation of hops as far back as 1348, when Charles IV reigned. Bohemian hops were already exported in the 16th century. They gained a reputation as an indispensable ingredient for the finer kinds of bitter beer. When the peak harvest period comes in late August, volunteer helpers (pupils from training centers and secondary schools) are even required to supplement the modern machines which are normally used. In September after the last hops have been picked, a hop festival is held every year. The postal card was designed by Oldřich Pošmurný and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. It sells for 11.50 Kč.

SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

5. On August 7, 2003, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 20 Sk stamp to commemorate 3rd Place in World Ice Hockey Championship, Finland 2003 (Fig. 6). A sheet containing four stamps was issued to commemorate



Fig. 6

the event. Each stamp shows the successful team members wearing their medals. The sheet shows a goalkeeper in Slovak colors defending the goal. [Ed. Note: Additional information thanks to Colin W. Spong FRPSL, CZECHOUT 4/2003.]

5. On September 7, 2003, the Ministry issued a 12 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Pope John Paul II's Third Visit to Slovakia. The stamp shows an early portrait of Pope John Paul II. The Pope visited the towns of Trnava, Banská Bystrica, Roznava, and Bratislava from 11 through 14 September 2003. The stamp was designed by Jozef Baláž, engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by Walsall Security Printers Ltd., England, by offset on cards with 4 self adhesive stamps. A FDC in dark blue-gray shows a drawing of Christ on the cross. [Ed. Note: Additional information thanks to Colin W. Spong FRPSL, CZECHOUT 4/2003.]

6. On September 17, 2003, the Ministry issued an 8 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Ján Baltazár Magin: Thorns or Defense of the Famous Trenčín See (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

The stamp shows a portrait of J.B. Magin and a frontispiece showing an animal. Ján Baltazár Magin, born in Vrbové on 6 January 1681, was a priest, poet and writer. He studied theology in Pázmáneum and Vienna then, after taking Holy Orders, Magin became a priest in Jarok, Košeca and Dubnica nad Váhom. In 1731 he was made titular Canon of the Nitra diocese. He died on 27 March 1734 in Dubnica nad Váhom.

Magin was educated in clerical and civil law, antique culture and literature. His acclaimed poetry and writings brought him to the attention of the aristocracy, clergy and citizens of Trenčín, who had been outraged by the *Novissima diaete nobillissime*, written by Michal Benčík, a Professor of Law at the University of Trnava. Believing that Benčík was libellous and demeaning of the local people, they beseeched Magin to write in defense of a Slovak identity. Consequently Magin wrote his most significant work: *Murices ...sive Apologia*, in which he was the first to advocate the rights of Slovaks to their own identity as an ethnic group with their own language and defined territorial borders. In *Thorns or defense* Magin illuminates the ancient history of Trenčín and emphasizes the importance and the glorious past of the Slavs and Slovaks in Hungary. The stamp was designed by Karol Ondreička, engraved by Arnold Feke, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC depicts the first page of *Murices ...sive Apologia* (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8

7. On September 18, 2003, the Ministry issued a 100 Sk

definitive stamp in the Cities series entitled "Pezinok". The stamp shows a view of the city, a statue of the Virgin Mary, and the city's coat-of-arms. It was designed by Oliver Solga, engraved by František Horniak, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using gravure.

8. On October 30, 2003, the Ministry issued a 7 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Christmas 2003 (Fig. 9). The multicolored stamp depicts a sleigh full of presents and musical instruments flying over a church with a star on top of its spire. It was designed by academic painter Ivan Schurmann, who was born on 28 June 1935 in Bratislava. He studied at the secondary vocational school of arts and crafts and at the Academy of Fine Arts under Professor Vincent Hložník. He illustrated more than



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

seventy books, mostly textbooks and children's literature, and enamelled several monumental three-dimensional works. From 1980 Schurmann created many stamp designs, most of all with social and sports themes, which are remarkable by their dynamic drawings. The stamp was engraved by Arnold Feke and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC has a stylized illustration of a town on Christmas eve night (Fig. 10).

9. On November 17, 2003, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk commemorative stamp entitled 100th Anniversary of the Wright Brothers First Flight (Fig. 11). The stamp depicts the aeroplane, on which its constructors successfully took to the air for the first time in history. The brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright got trained in mechanics and established a bicycle repair shop in Dayton, Ohio. They were repairing bicycles during the day, but at night they were secretly assembling new inventions. Finally they constructed an aeroplane. At first they tried their luck with



Fig. 11

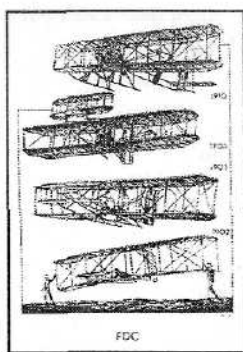


Fig. 12

a glider. Their experimental flights took place near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina on the Atlantic Ocean coast. Later they mounted a self-made fuel engine on the glider, and on 17 December 1903 this machine took flight. The aeroplane's wingspan was more than 12 meters and weighed 338 kilograms. Orville laid down on the aeroplane close to the engine and took off from a runway. It was not an overwhelming flight. The aeroplane flew up to 60 cm above the sand ground, covered 53 meters, and the flight lasted only 12 seconds. However it was a famous flight. It entered history as the first flight and fulfilled man's dream to fly like a bird. From this day the history of aviation started. The stamp was designed by Dušan Kállay, engraved by Arnold Feke, and

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC depicts experimental flying machines (Fig. 12).

10. On November 17, 2003, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk commemorative stamp entitled Priceless Artifacts -- Historical Paths (Fig. 13). Depicted on the stamp are archaeological items from the 9th-10th centuries -- a Cross (kaptorga) from Veľká Mača, the hilt from a double-edged sword from Krásna nad Hornádom, and bronze buttons from Nitra. This issue presents a part of the rich history of the Slovak Nation with its significant, artistic and cultural heritage. As the Roman Empire slowly began to dwindle in the 3rd Century AD, Slovakia's forefathers started coming to the area to make their settlements in the fertile lands between the Carpathian mountains and the Danube river. This influx carried on during the next couple of hundred years and around 630 AD they tried



Fig. 13

to establish the foundations of a new state: Sam's Empire. The first prince and ruler of this area was Pribina. He erected the first church in 828 AD in present-day Nitra, thus his people became part of Europe's Christian civilization. The Thessalonian brothers and missionaries to the Slavs: St. Cyril and St. Methodius, worked among the Khazars of Moravia, translating the scriptures into the local language. Methodius continued to teach Christianity in the vernacular throughout the Great Moravian Empire until his death. Unification of Moravia and Nitra in 833 AD, created the largest principality in central Europe which at its peak, under the Slav prince Svätopluk, had great material and cultural wealth. Not long after Svätopluk's death, the Great Moravian Empire collapsed -- the short life of a Slovak State ended with the Slovaks remaining under Hungarian rule for the next millennium, in fact until 1918. The stamp was designed by Dušan Grečner, engraved by Arnold Feke, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC depicts a detail from Monomach's crown found in Ivánka pri Nitre (Fig. 14).



Fig. 14

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