



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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20TH CENTURY SPECIALIST ON DVD !!!!

Thanks to the great and very extensive work of Mark Wilson, the Society now has available all of the 20th century issues (1939-1999) of the *SPECIALIST* scanned onto a DVD along with the index for all of these issues.

The Board had already decided that this material (both the index and the issues) would be made available to anyone on our web site (in a read only format). Thus, anyone, anywhere could have all of this information on Czechoslovak philately open to them. However, as many of you are aware, downloading such materials to your computer can be a time consuming process -- and if you are interested in an article that is covered over several issues, you are really talking about some computer time.

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If you would like one of these invaluable tools, turn to the back of this issue and find the details on how to order one -- they are very reasonably priced for our members.

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

11½ North Washington Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Web Site: www.czechoslovakphilately.com

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

e-mail: Lousvoboda@comcast.net Phone/FAX: 303-680-7118

Assistant Editor: Gerald van Zanten, P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

Foreign Editor: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

Elected Officers

President: R. T. Cossaboom, Jr., Box 4124, Prescott, AZ 86302

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NOTES ON VARIATIONS IN THE HRADČANY ISSUES 1918-1920

by Mark Wilson

Certain of the images in this article, for instance the horizontal gutter and the colors shown for the 300h essays, are better understood when rendered in color. They may be seen in color on the Internet at: <http://knihtisk.org/knihtisk/scp/LS1V6N3.pdf>.

The classic Hradčany issues of Czechoslovakia are capable of invoking in the most amateur philatelist the excitement of discovering variations. This is because in the short period of their production -- less than two years -- six designs and numerous types and subtypes were produced for the twenty Hradčany denominations. In point of fact, it is possible after close examination to determine for each and every stamp produced its original position on one of the issue's sixty-five plates. Nor is there a shortage of material: over a billion Hradčany stamps were produced, and they remain even today inexpensive to acquire.

Basic Morphology

The most cursory examination of any handful of Hradčany stamps reveals three basic forms: an initial form, identified by the inscription ČESKO SLOVENSKÁ in the stamp's side panels; an intermediate form, identified by two circles in each side panel; and a final form, identified by an arabesque decoration in the side panels. Each of these forms, however, may be immediately divided into sub-forms which represent the six major divisions or designs (*kresba*) recognized by classical Czech philately.

The Initial Form

The initial form represents two of these major divisions, designated as the First and Second Designs. On the surface, they differ only in the color of their inscriptions. The First Design's inscriptions have white letters on a colored background while the Second Design's inscriptions have colored letters on a white background. Most likely, this shift was a corrective reaction to the problems presented by the printing technique used to produce the stamps: typography, sometimes called letterpress, printing. Because that technique permits no shading, the First Design inscriptions were somewhat difficult to read. Reversing the color-to-background scheme rendered the inscriptions more legible and made the presentation of the inscription and value indication match.

While the stamps of the First Design are relatively identical in their execution, those of the Second Design do differ from each other in certain small details, and one, the 400h denomination, actually has four distinct types.



First Design



Second Design

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According to the authoritative *Monografie Československých Známek*, these small changes were introduced by the workmen preparing the plates for printing the Second Design stamps, the 100h, 200h, and 400h denominations.

These changes were the result of the plate-maker's having to deal with the point at which the inversion of the colors introduced into the side panels of the Second Design interacted with the original design's scroll work at the bottom of these panels. Apparently the workmen hand-tooled the changes for each of the values because they differ in each of the Second Design's three denominations. They are best considered together if the differences are to be made most apparent.

First, consider the scroll work at the bottom of the left hand panel (below ČESKO). Note the white horizontal line entering from the right that eventually enters the top of the leftmost or largest spiral. It is pierced three times, twice from above and once from below, by a curling scroll line. The horizontal line is broken to the left of the tip of this curl in the 100h, to the right of the tip of the curl in the 200h, and not at all in the 400h. Also, the



execution of the smaller spiral differs between the three denominations. The discerning eye may discover other tiny details indicative of hand tooling. Note, for instance, the difference in the colored and white details under the curve between the piercings of the white horizontal line on each denomination.

The bottom of the right hand panel is even more diverse. Note that for the 100h and 200h designs, the smaller spiral has only one semicircle above the curved line that pierces it, while the smaller spiral on all four versions of the 400h stamps has an additional semicircle above this piercing curve. Also, the curved scroll line pierces the horizontal white line only once in all but last of the 400h examples.

The horizontal white line coming in from the left and eventually entering the top of the larger spiral also has different characteristics in each denomination. For the 100h, it is clearly broken in four places while in the 200h only two faint breaks appear, and in the 400h stamp, this line is broken once or not at all.

The 400h stamp requires careful attention to the colored area extending inward from the right hand side of the stamp, for it, in forming the lower and left frame lines on the right hand panel, also distinguishes the four types of the 400h stamp. Not used here are either of the two somewhat arcane and convoluted identification systems used by classical Czech philately to describe the 400h types. Instead, the types are described by their most salient feature: the environs of the

lower left hand corner of the right hand panel.

The Rounded type displays a thick and rounded shape for this lower left hand corner, while the Square type is, well, somewhat squarer. The Wedge type describes the lower frame leading into the lower left corner and may also appear with a squared end replacing the taper at its right end where it rises out of the lower frame. The Broken type shows two breaks, one in the left side of the frame and another one in the lower frame.



First Design



Second Design

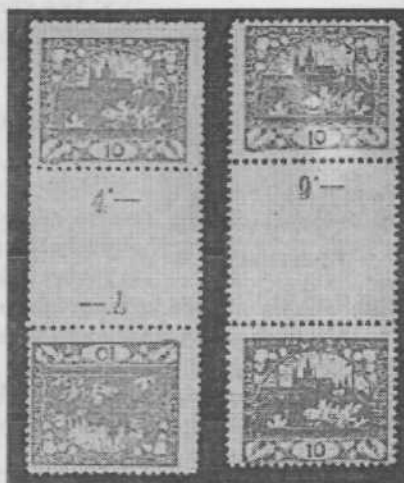
As was said earlier, the difference between the First and Second Designs bears mostly upon the color and background of the inscriptions. Another difference may be found in the shapes of the letters. For example, the letter P in POŠTA has an open loop in the First Design while that loop is closed in the Second Design.

Note also that the P's wedge-shaped leg is flush with the top of the loop in the First Design but stops well short of the top of the loop in the Second Design. Even within a single denomination, however, variations may be found in the execution of many of the letters. For instance, the P may be found with a straight rather than wedge shaped leg.

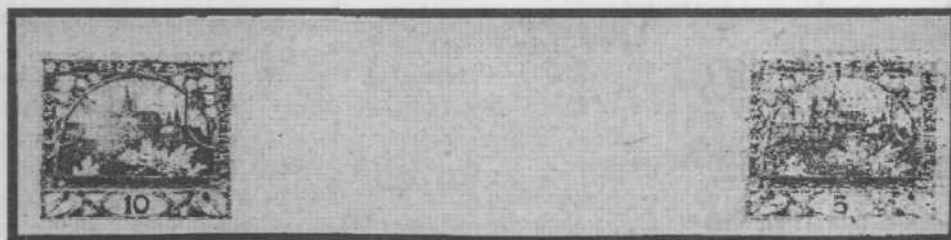
One final note on the First Design: it is the only design for which vertical gutters were officially released to the public for postal use. Unlike some philatelic descriptions of gutter pairs, Czechoslovakian conventions describe the relative position of the stamps rather than the direction of the gutters between them. Of its seven denominations, 3h, 5h, 10h, 20h, 25h, 30h, and 40h, all but the 40h appear in vertical gutter format.

These vertical gutters are represented by two types, unidirectional and reciprocal. Of the two, the unidirectional are far more scarce. The examples here illustrated were privately perforated; all Hradčany gutters were officially released imperforate.

Horizontal gutters could exist in couplings with the same stamp, with other Hradčany denominations, or even paired with stamps from completely different



Reciprocal & Unidirectional
First Design Vertical Gutters



Horizontal Unidirectional Gutter

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issues. For the most part, they are available only as printer's waste or in trial printing formats as they were never released for official postal use. They may be found in unidirectional or reciprocal formats. An example like the one above may also be found in a reversed state, that is, with the 10h on the right and the 5h on the left.



Third Design



Fourth Design

The Intermediate Form

As with the initial form, the intermediate form contains two of the Czechoslovak classically designated designs, the Third Design and the Fourth Design. These two designs differ from each other in less than subtle ways. The Third Design contains a sun in the vignette while the Fourth Design does not, and the Third Design's shrubbery is white while the Fourth Design's has shading lines.

The differences between these two designs and the first two are considerable. Most obvious are the changes in the side panels and the introduction of a central panel with the words ČESKO-SLOVENSKÁ. However, the white background in the panels of the Second Design has been dropped and all of the inscriptions are now white on a colored background, as in the First Design. Since the designer, Alphonse Mucha, submitted the intermediate form himself, we must assume that he was not pleased with the tinkering done by the printing house to the Second Design and wished to revert to his original lettering concept. As a concession to legibility, the letters now appear much more boldfaced than in the initial design.

In both of the intermediate forms, the side panel lettering has been replaced with two circles and a wavy line. In addition, the leaves, doves, and hearts now contain shading lines. The spirals have been made larger and, to accommodate the more legible inscriptions, the ribbons in the top panel have been removed and the word POŠTA greatly enlarged.

The shapes of the letters are far more interesting in the intermediate form than in their earlier representation. Here they have much more of an *art nouveau* flair.



First Design Third Design Fourth Design Third Design

However, after only two denominations were released, the 1h and the 50h, the drastic curve at the end of the T in POŠTA's right arm was dropped. Interestingly enough, the P in the same word became something of a cross between the P's of the First and Second Designs.



50 h Top Right Heart 1h Top Right Heart

The area taken by the new middle panel in the Third Design caused the shrubbery to be drawn somewhat smaller. The shrubbery was made larger in the Fourth Design when the shading lines were added. The representation of St. Nicholas' Cathedral seems to have been redone and made slightly clearer in both designs.

There are even some small differences between the two denominations of the Third Design. The first denomination issued, the 50h, lacks shading lines in the lower tip of the upper right heart in the lower panel. These lines are present in the 1h which was issued afterwards. Shading lines are also missing from the left dove's neck and throat on the 50h, while those lines are present on the 1h.



50h Left Dove

1h Left Dove

Four denominations were released in the Fourth Design: the 60h, 80h, 300h, and the 1000h. Other than the remarks made above, the only other major difference between the Third and Fourth Designs occurs in the lettering within the central panel. The letters are narrower and appear slightly shorter in the Fourth Design as compared to those in the Third Design.



Fourth Design 300h essays from the author's collection

As an aside, although every Hradčany stamp may be found in variant shades of its official color, largely because of postwar shortages of necessary materials, inexperience on the part of the printers, and variation in the pressures applied to the printing press, trials and essays exist in numerous colors. For instance, the Fourth Design 300h may be found in essay form in a near rainbow of colors. While on the topic of trials and essays, readers should take care with respect to printers' waste. The piece shown, with the Fourth Design 80h superimposed upon a First Design 10h, is typical. These pieces, while interesting, do not represent errors, although they are frequently advertised and sold as "double-print" errors. They are actually the remnants of 125,000 sheets of waste material presented to the Philatelic Club of Prague in the 1920's. As with trials and essays, some may be found in a postally used condition.



Printers' Waste



Fifth Design



Fifth (a) Design

The Final Form

More denominations, types, and subtypes were issued in the two designs of the final form than in any of the forms previously discussed. However, instead of continuing to number the designs as the Fifth and Sixth Designs, they are called in classical Czech philatelic terminology the Fifth Design and the Fifth (a) Design. (Since the designs are typically referred to by Roman numerals, these two designs are most often designated V and Va). This may have happened because only one stamp, the final issue of the Hradčany series, was released in the Va design. Czech philatelists may have believed that a single stamp was unworthy of its own stand-alone design designation.

The most apparent changes in these two designs, with respect to the earlier ones, is the removal of the shrubbery and the mottling of the leaves, hearts, and doves. The side panels are now busier, being occupied by an ornate arabesque decoration in place of the inscriptions and circles of the earlier designs. Less obvious is the slimming down of the letters in the inscription ČESKO-SLOVENSKÁ. The Va Design differs in very tiny detail from the Fifth Design, chiefly in that the darker areas of the stamp are courser and the lighter areas have been reduced in size and aspect.

The Fifth Design does have several types. The first is based upon the drawing of the upper left spiral, which may be complete or incomplete; in Czech terminology, either open or closed. Actually, eight subtypes of the closed type are identified in the *Monografie Československých Známek*, each one distinguished by the form of the line at the closure point.



Closed Spiral

Open Spiral

A second type in the Fifth Design is based upon the length of a small bar above the left end of the middle panel at the base of the left branch. There are three recognized types, but

identification of the third type -- the unfinished bar type -- may require a somewhat subjective appraisal to separate it from the short bar type. Its bottom tip almost touches the white horizontal line. Since Hradčany stamps were frequently over-inked, it may be that the unfinished bar example shown here is merely a long bar type with some extra ink over the lower tip of the bar.



Short Bar

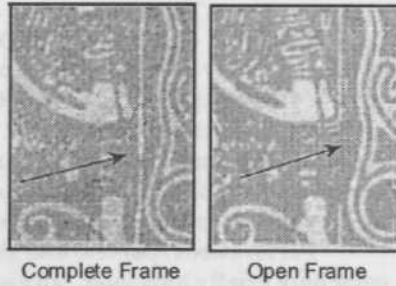
Long Bar

Unfinished Bar

There is a subdued Fifth Design type that involves the inner white frame on the right side of the stamp between the lower wrap on the branch and the base of the white frame line. In the more common version, this vertical frame line is

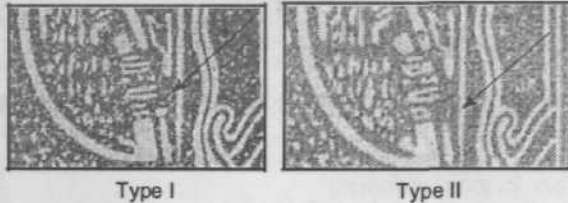
incomplete, while in the scarcer version of the type, the white frame line has no gap in it. This subtype is found only on the 10h, the 75h, and the 500h Fifth Design stamps.

The final major Fifth Design type has to do with the rendition of the right dove's tail and the line over it. These types were probably created at the same time that the open and closed spiral types were. Someone discovered that the white frame line under the spiral following the letters SKÁ was broken, as was the dove's tail below it. The repair of these flaws was somewhat erratic, so that stamps may be found with both gaps filled in, both open, or only one or the other repaired. Czech philately indicates these conditions by signaling a repaired gap with a '+' and an open gap with a '-', so that



a stamp with both gaps repaired is designated '++' and a stamp with both gaps open is designated '--'. Those stamps with one open gap are designated as '+-' and '-+', depending on whether the gap in the line (the former) or the gap in the tail (the latter) had been repaired. Do note the shorter left leg of the Á in those illustrations compared with its shape in the earlier forms.

The Va Design, only represented by the 30h denomination, comes in two colors -- light and dark. The darker color was initially used for the stamp but proved unsatisfactory as printed panes often resembled checkerboards. Most stamps were printed in the lighter color.



The Va Design also exists in two types, but a magnifying glass is required to distinguish them. Type I has a small white spot to the right of the bottom of the upper wrap on the right tree trunk. Type II lacks this white spot. To find it, note that the branches at the bottom of the illustrations extend leftward and the trunk itself extends upward at a slight leftward angle. The trunk is soon broken by a wrap -- here some horizontal lines across the trunk. To the immediate right of the trunk and running parallel with it up to the wrap is a white line slightly thicker than the frame line. In Type I, this line has a small, white colored knot at its top, just to the right of the bottom of the wrap. In Type II, this white knot is not present.

In Conclusion

Believe it or not, only the grossest variations of the several implementations of the Hradčany design have been treated here. As a study, the reader is invited to review simply the changes to letters in the word POŠTA across all six designs. Although differences in the P and T have been mentioned, careful investigation will reveal changes not mentioned here and changes in the other letters as well. Even within a single design or denomination -- take a good look at a number of 3h stamps, for instance -- examination will reveal differences.

Perforations, papers, and glues have not even been discussed, and the topic of color only briefly broached. To amass a collection of thousands of Hradčany stamps and to be able to defend each as having unique elements that distinguish it from all its brethren is not a difficult task. The rawest amateur may tackle this enterprise with every assurance of success and an opportunity to understand more deeply this wonderfully varied classic issue.



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: Alan Hoover, Robert Koschalk, Frederick P. Lawrence, Charles J. Rehman, Philip Rhoades
Remaining: Jay Carrigan, Tom Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, Savoy Horvath, Peter Z. Kleskovic, Edwin W. Lehecka, Richard Palaschak, Karl J. Ruzicka, Ludvik Z. Svoboda, Jaroslav J. Verner

Board members whose terms are expiring may be nominated for a succeeding candidacy.

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

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing
2. The nominee must have given his consent to be nominated
3. The nominee must be willing and able to travel at least once a year to a Board meeting location specified by the President
4. It is preferred that the nominee have an e-mail address on the Internet system.
5. The petition originator must see to finding another member to sign the petition
6. The Secretary must receive the petition by the last day of January 2007.

After filling out the enclosed petition form and getting another member's signature, mail it to our Secretary, Philip Rhoades, 28168 Cedar Trail, Cleveland, MN 56017. Make sure that it reaches him no later than the last day of January 2007.

CZECHOSLOVAK AIR SERVICE IN 1930

Used in Postal Transportation: Air Consignments to Asia

by Andrej Tekeľ

trans. by Vladimír Kralicek

During the period between the two world wars, Great Britain and Holland had extensive dependent territories in Asia. Under British administration were Cyprus, Palestine, the Bahrain islands, Aden, Arabia, Iraq, India, Ceylon, the Maldives, the Malaysian States, Sarawak, Brunei, Borneo (the northern part), and Hong Kong. Also, subordinate to Great Britain were Australia, New Zealand, and the islands in Oceania.

Holland had substantial dependent territories on the Asian continent under the consolidated title of the Dutch East Indies. It claimed the Greater Sunda Islands (Sumatra, Java, Madura, Bangka, and Borneo with the exception of the northern part which belonged to Great Britain), the Lesser Sunda Islands with the exception of Timor (the southwestern part belonged to Holland, the eastern part to Portugal), the Moluccas, and New Guinea (the western part belonged to Holland, the eastern to Great Britain). From these regions they obtained cane sugar, india-rubber, tea, tobacco, coffee, tropical fruits, gold, pearls and diamonds. To secure reliable and speedy contact with her colonies, Holland used an air link KLM #531 (Royal Dutch Airline Company) Amsterdam -- Bandoeng.

After stopovers in Lipsko, Budapest, and Athens, the air link Amsterdam -- Bandoeng heads to Egypt in North Africa (Alexandria). From Egypt it continues to Palestine (Lydda -- today Lod, Israel), then to Iraq (Baghdad, Basra), along the coastline of Iran (Djask), the northwestern coast of British India with a stop in

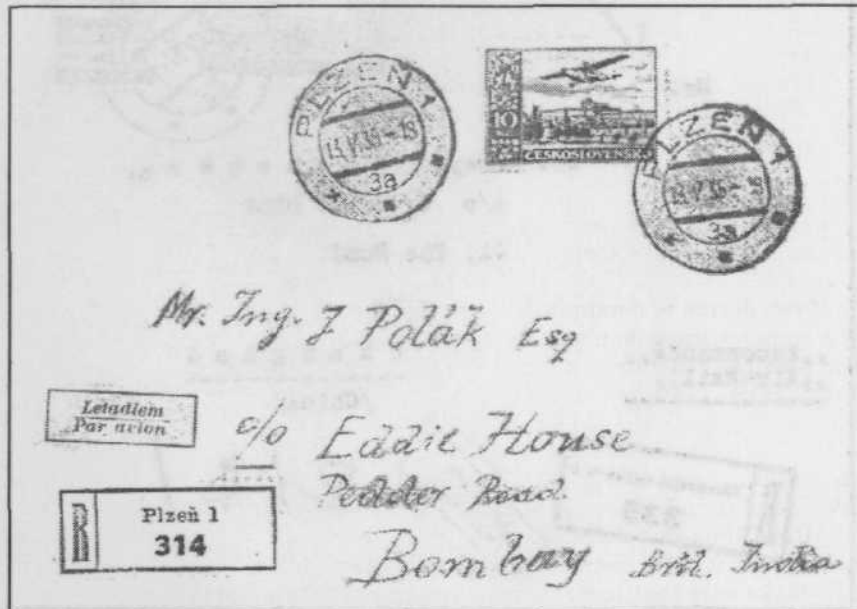


Fig. 1

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Karachi (today in Pakistan), continuing through interior India (Jodhpur, Allahabad) until the east coast of India (Calcutta), via Burma (Rangoon), Siam (Bangkok -- today Krung Thep, Thailand), Malaysia (Penang -- today George Town), Sumatra (Medan), Singapore, back to Sumatra (Palembang), to Java (Batavia, today Jakarta) and finally to the city of Bandoeng (today Bandung). This route captures the state of affairs in 1937 and 1938.

According to the 1935 Air Postal Services Bulletin (valid from 1.5.1935), air consignments from Czechoslovakia to the British dependent territories in Asia were carried by train #148 to Athens and from Athens either by air route #127 (Marseille -- Athens -- Saigon -- Shanghai) or by air route #128 (Great Britain -- British India -- by inland air links in British India). These facts are documented by the Athens arrival postmarks on air consignments from the year 1935 (Fig. 1).

According to the Air Postal Service Bulletin for the 1937 summer season and the 1937/1938 winter season, air consignments from Czechoslovakia were carried by air route #133 (Amsterdam -- Bandoeng), and therefore do not have the Athens postmark.

Airmail consignments to the British and Dutch dependent regions in Asia used the following transport route: from Prague by train #64 to Budapest, from Budapest by air route #133 (Amsterdam -- Bandoeng). In the winter season, from Prague either by train #39/D 39 or #D 98 to Naples, from Naples by air route #133 (Amsterdam -- Bandoeng). In the winter season the European route was more southerly (Amsterdam -- Naples -- Athens).

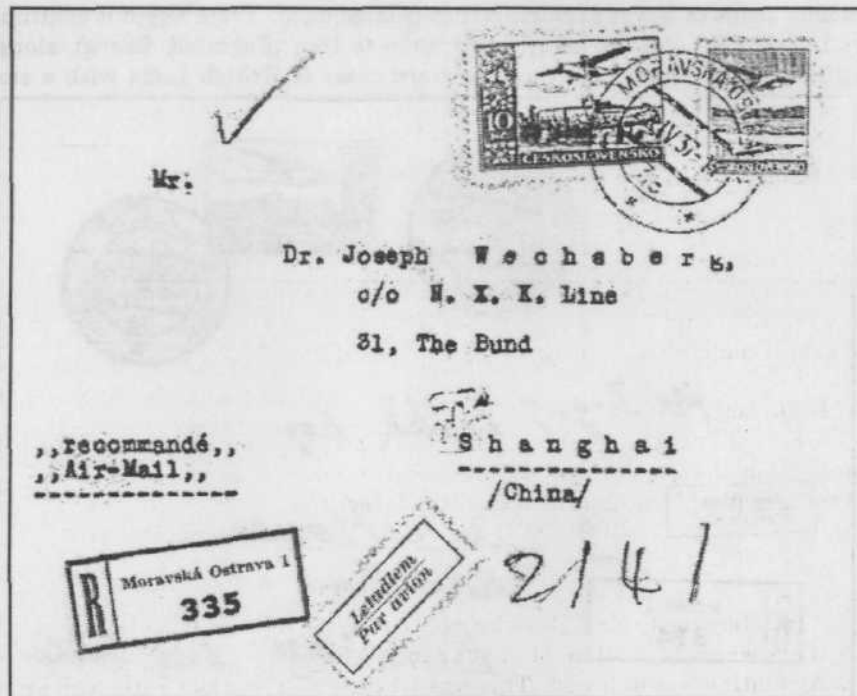


Fig. 2

In the years 1935 and 1936 this route was slightly different: Amsterdam, Lipsko, Bratislava, Budapest, Athens, Marsa Matruh (today Matruh, Egypt), Cairo, Gizeh, Baghdad, Bushire (today Bushehr, Iran), Djask, Karachi, Jodhpur, Allahabad, Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok, Alor Star, Medan, Singapore, Palembang, Batavia, Bandoeng.

During the 1937 summer season (7.4.1937 - 2.10.1937) the route was: Amsterdam, Lipsko, Budapest, Athens, Rhodes, Alexandria, Lydda, Baghdad, Basra, Djask, Karachi, Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok, Penang, Medan, Singapore, Palembang, Batavia, Bandoeng. Airmail consignments were carried by train #64 from Prague to Budapest, and from Budapest by air route #133 (Amsterdam -- Bandoeng) with feeder routes.

During the 1937/38 winter season (3.10.1937 - 24.3.1938), the route was: Amsterdam, Naples, Athens, Rhodes, Alexandria, Lydda, Baghdad, Basra, Djask, Karachi, Jodhpur, Allahabad, Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok, Penang, Medan, Singapore, Palembang, Batavia, Bandoeng. Airmail consignments were carried by either train #39/D 39 or #D 98 from Prague to Naples, and from Naples by air route #133 with feeder routes.

In Figure 1 is a registered airmail letter to Bombay, India, posted on 13.5.1935 (Monday) at the Plzen 1 post office. It has transit postmarks of 14.5.1935 from the Praha 7 airmail post office, 16.5.1935 from Athens (according to the 1935 Air Postal Service Bulletin the consignment was carried by train #148 from Prague to Athens), and a Bombay arrival postmark of 22.5.1935. Franking calculation: letter abroad up to 20gm = 2.50Kč, registration surcharge = 2.50Kč, twice the airmail surcharge for each 5gm of weight or portion thereof (at 2.50Kč each = 5Kč), altogether 10Kč -- resulting in a rare single-stamp franking.

In Figure 2 is a registered airmail letter to Shanghai, China, posted 22.4.1937 (Thursday) at the Moravská Ostrava 1 post office. It has transit postmarks of 23.4.1937 from the Praha 7 airmail post office; from Prague it was carried by train to Budapest; on Wednesday 28.4.1937 it left by plane from Budapest; on Sunday it was landed at Penang (transit postmark of 2.5.1937 at Penang); arrival postmark is 9.5.1937 in Shanghai. Franking calculation: letter abroad up to 20gm = 2.50Kč, registration surcharge = 2.50Kč, airmail surcharge for each 5gm of weight or portion thereof (at 2.50Kč = 6Kč), altogether 11Kč.

In Figure 3 we see an airmail letter from Prague to Karachi in today's Pakistan. The letter was posted on Tuesday, 9.11.1937, at the Praha 1 post office. It was carried by train to Naples, according to the flight timetable the aircraft left Naples on 12.11.1937 and was to arrive in Karachi on 14.11.1937 (Sunday), and an arrival postmark on the letter shows 15.11.1937, Karachi. Franking calculation: letter abroad up to 20gm = 2.50Kč, airmail surcharge for each 5gm of weight or portion thereof (at 2.50Kč), altogether 5Kč -- resulting in a rare single-stamp franking.

In Figure 4 is a registered airmail letter to Singapore, posted on 1.4.1937 (Thursday) at the Moravská Ostrava 1 post office. It has transit postmarks of 1.4.1937 from the Praha 7 airmail post office; from Prague it was carried by train to Naples; on Friday, 2.4.1937, it left by airplane from Naples and on Wednesday, 7.4.1937, an airplane delivered it to Singapore. The Singapore arrival postmark of

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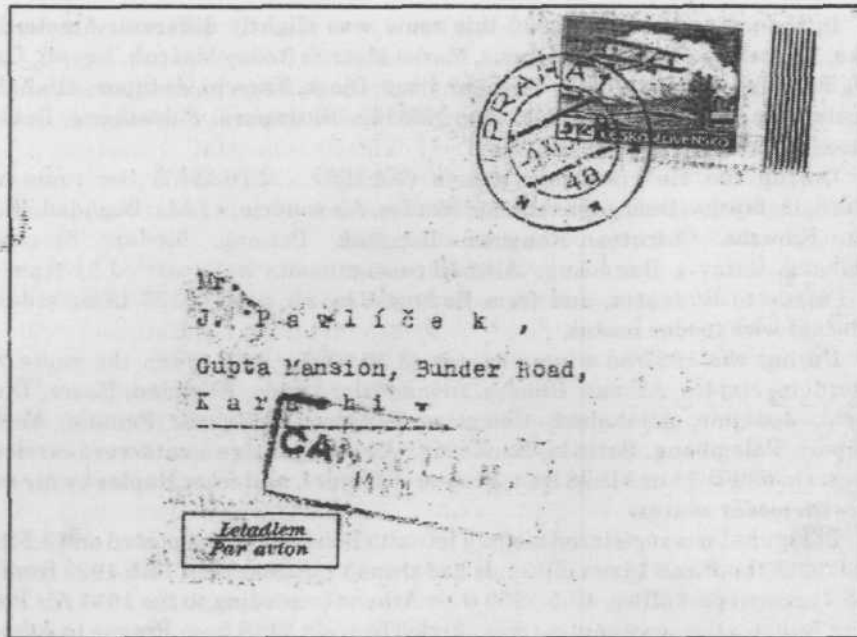


Fig. 3

8.4.1937 has a time stamp of 7:00. Franking calculation: letter abroad up to 20gm = 2.50Kč, registration surcharge = 2.50Kč, airmail surcharge for each 5gm of weight or portion thereof (at 2.50Kč) = 3Kč, altogether 8Kč.

It is only natural that airmail consignments to far away countries would greatly enhance any collection, although their greater representation would be

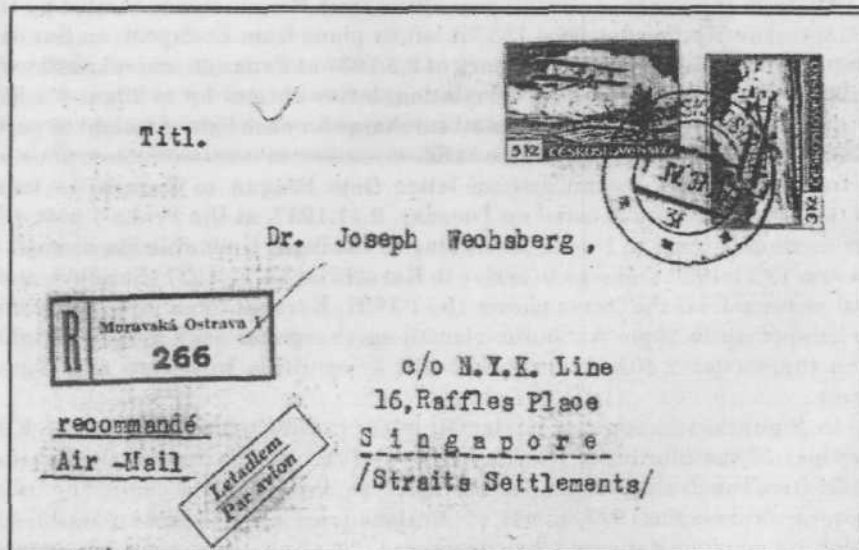


Fig. 4

certainly rare. As an attachment I introduce: an extract from the flight timetable for air route #133 (Amsterdam -- Bandoeng), by which was assured the delivery of airmail consignments to the Dutch dependent territories in Asia and the British dependent territories in Asia, Australia, and Oceania; an extract from the flight timetable for air route #127 (Marseille -- Athens -- Saigon -- Shanghai); and an extract from the flight timetable for air route #128 (Great Britain -- British India). In view of the fact that every year the air routes made small changes, under each table is given the exact time period when the data applies.

Literature:

1. *Guide to Mail Transportation by Air, Years 1930-1939*, issued by the Ministry of Post and Telegraph, Prague (Supplement to VMPT).
2. Tekeř, A.: *Czechoslovak Airmail Stamps from 1930*. Guide for postal tariffs valid for Czechoslovak airmail consignments for the years 1930-1939, a supplement to *FILATELIE* 7/1995.
3. Bujnák, P. and colleagues: Slovak encyclopedia, reference encyclopedia of knowledge in three parts, *LITEVNA*, Bratislava -- Praha 1932, part 1, pg 57, 60, 119.

↓ 127 Marseille – Athens – Saigon – Shanghai ↑ (486 Air France)				
	dep.	Marseille	“	“
Thursday		Naples	“	
“	“	Corfu	arr.	“
“	arr.	Athens	dep.	Friday
Friday	dep.	Athens	“	“
“	“	Castelrosso	“	“
“	“	Beyrouth	“	“
“	“	Damascus	arr.	“
“	arr.	Baghdad	dep.	Thursday
Saturday	dep.	Baghdad	“	“
“	“	Bouchin	arr.	“
“	arr.	Djask	dep.	Wednesday
Sunday	dep.	Djask	“	“
“	“	Karachi	arr.	Tuesday
“	arr.	Jodhpur	dep.	“
Monday	dep.	Jodhpur	“	“
“	“	Allahabad	arr.	“
“	arr.	Calcutta	dep.	Monday
Tuesday	dep.	Calcutta	“	“
“	“	Akyab	“	“
“	“	Rangoon	arr.	“
“	arr.	Bangkok	“	“
Wednesday	“	Saigon	dep.	Sunday
“	dep.	Bangkok	“	“

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"	arr.	Vientiane	arr.	"
"	"	Hanoi	dep.	Saturday
Thursday	dep.	Hanoi	arr.	"
"	arr.	Lungchow	"	"
"	"	Yungning	"	"
"	"	Wutchow	"	"
"	"	Canton	dep.	Friday
Friday	dep.	Hong-Kong	arr.	"
"	arr.	Swatow	"	"
"	"	Ammy	"	"
"	"	Shanghai	dep.	Thursday

Outline of airmail postal transport for the 1937 summer season
(7.4.1937 - 2.10.1937)

128 Great Britain - British India
(456 Imperial Airways)

↓	↓				↑	↑
Wednesday	Saturday	dep.	London	arr.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Marseille	dep.	"	"
Thursday	Sunday	dep.	Marseille	arr.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Rome	"	"	"
"	"	"	Brindisi	dep.	Sunday	Wednesday
Friday	Monday	dep.	Brindisi	arr.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Athens	"	"	"
"	"	"	Alexandria	dep.	Saturday	Tuesday
Saturday	Tuesday	dep.	Alexandria	arr.	"	"
"	"	"	Gaza	"	"	"
"	"	arr.	Baghdad	dep.	Friday	Monday
Sunday	Wednesday	dep.	Baghdad	arr.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Basrah	"	"	"
"	"	"	Kuwait	"	"	"
"	"	"	Bahrain	"	Thursday	Sunday
Monday	Thursday	"	Quatar	"	"	"
"	"	"	Karachi	"	"	"
"	"	"	Jodhpur	dep.	Wednesday	Saturday
Tuesday	Friday	dep.	Jodhpur	arr.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Delhi	"	"	"
"	"	"	Cawnpore	"	"	"
"	"	"	Allahabad	"	"	"
"	"	"	Calcutta	dep.	Tuesday	Friday
Wednesday	Saturday	dep.	Calcutta	arr.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Akyab	"	"	"
"	"	"	Rangoon	"	"	"
"	"	"	Bangkok	dep.	Monday	Thursday
Thursday	Sunday	dep.	Bangkok	arr.	"	"

"	"	arr.	Penang	dep.	"	"
"	"	"	Singapore	dep.	Sunday	Wednesday
	Monday	dep.	Penang	dep.	Saturday	
	Tuesday	arr.	Hong Kong	dep.	Friday	

Outline of airmail postal transport for the 1937 summer season
(7.4.1937 - 2.10.1937)

			<u>133</u>	Amsterdam - Bandoeng		
				(531 K. L. M.)		
↓	↓				↑	↑
Wednesday	Saturday	dep.	Amsterdam	arr.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Lipsko	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Budapest	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Athens	dep.	Monday	Thursday
Thursday	Sunday	arr.	Rhodes	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Alexandria	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Lydda	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Baghdad	dep.	Sunday	Wednesday
"	"	arr.	Basrah	dep.	"	"
Friday	Monday	arr.	Djask	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Karachi	dep.	Saturday	Tuesday
Saturday	Tuesday	arr.	Calcutta	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Rangoon	dep.	Friday	Monday
Sunday	Wednesday	arr.	Bangkok	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Penang	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Medan	dep.	Thursday	Sunday
"	"	arr.	Singapore	dep.	"	"
Monday	Thursday	arr.	Palembang	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Batavia	dep.	"	"
"	"	arr.	Bandoeng	dep.	Wednesday	Saturday

Outline of airmail postal transport for the 1937 summer season
(7.4.1937 - 2.10.1937)

			<u>133</u>	Amsterdam - Bandoeng		
				(531 K. L. M.)		
↓	↓	↓			↑	↑
Tues.	Thurs.	Sat.	dep.	Amsterdam	arr.	"
Wed.	Fri.	Sun.	dep.	Naples	arr.	Sun.
"	"	"	dep.	Athens	arr.	Tues.
"	"	"	dep.	Rhodes	arr.	Thurs.
Thurs.	Sat.	Mon.	dep.	Alexandria	arr.	"
"	"	"	dep.	Lydda	arr.	"
"	"	"	dep.	Baghdad	arr.	Sat.
Fri.	Sun.	Tues.	dep.	Basrah	arr.	Mon.
"	"	"	dep.	Djask	arr.	Wed.
"	"	"	dep.	Karachi	arr.	"
					Fri.	Sun.
					Tues.	

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Sat.	Mon.	Wed.	dep.	Jodhpur	arr.	"	"	"
"	"	"	dep.	Allahabad	arr.	"	"	"
"	"	"	dep.	Calcutta	arr.	Thurs.	Sat.	Mon.
Sun.	Tues.	Thurs.	dep.	Rangoon	arr.	"	"	"
"	"	"	dep.	Bangkok	arr.	"	"	"
"	"	"	dep.	Penang	arr.	Wed.	Fri.	Sun.
"	"	"	dep.	Medan	arr.	"	"	"
Mon.	Wed.	Fri.	dep.	Singapore	arr.	"	"	"
"	"	"	dep.	Palembang	arr.	"	"	"
"	"	"	dep.	Batavia	arr.	"	"	"
"	"	"	arr.	Bandoeng	dep.	Tues.	Thurs.	Sat.

Outline of airmail postal transport for the 1937/38 winter season
(2.10.1937 - 24.3.1938)

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the above article from *FILATELIE* 4/2004 with the permission of the editor and author.]

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Philatelic News and Views

From Henry Hahn:

-- DID YOU KNOW? A somewhat unusual but nevertheless worthy exhibit has made its way to EXPONET, the virtual international exhibit, visible on www.japhila.cz/hof/. It is a single frame exhibit depicting the Second International Philatelic Literature Exhibit held in conjunction with the well known PRAGA'1938 exhibition. Bretislav Janik's exhibit shows pages from the catalogue, lists the organizers and Patrons, and is presented in several world languages. But he raises a serious question to which he seeks an answer from our readers. It is: "Where did the FIRST International Literature Exhibit take place?" If you know the answer, please contact Mr. Janik directly by e-mail at janik@japhila.com.

From *Linn's Stamp News*, September 11, 2006, Show Awards:

-- At the Minnesota Stamp Expo -- Phil Rhoade received a Gold award and also the APS 1940-1980 medal for his exhibit "The Murder of Lidice"; Phil Rhoade received a Silver award for his exhibit "WW II Era Czech Philately"; Phil Rhoade received a Silver award for his one-frame exhibit "Pearl Harbor: Japan's First Anniversary Issue".

From Al Weiner:

-- I have been sorting through some of my historical material and have put together an approximate two-inch high pile of Czech stamp photos that I prepared during the 1950's. They cover a variety of issues . . . would you suggest someone who would be interested in them? If possible, I would like to trade them for a quantity of the inexpensive Czech newspaper stamps, mint and used. I am attempting to put these issues together in mint, used, paper, perforations, imperf, etc. [Ed. Note: If anyone has an interest, please contact Al at: almar@stny.rr.com.]



Fig. 1

From Kivdul Adobovs:

-- Imagine my surprise when I opened my October 2006 issue of *Discover* magazine and found the enclosed image (Fig. 1). It shows a Czechoslovak Republic postal card (CDV 22 I = open spiral in the upper left of the imprinted Hradčany 20h stamp, CDV 22 II would be with the closed spiral, same catalog value) that was issued in May 1920 with franking for domestic use (the domestic post card rate had gone up to 20h on March 15 of that year) that is postmarked Prague, 9. 1. 21. However, since the card was sent out of the country, it needed to be up-franked with a 30h Chainbreaker stamp to the foreign post card rate of 50h. However, none of this explains why this postal card is illustrated in what is essentially a science magazine.

Well, it turns out that the postal card had been used by Albert Einstein to correspond with his wife -- it is addressed to Elsa Einstein in Berlin. Its caption reads: "Soon I'll be fed up with relativity," Einstein wrote to his wife, Elsa, in 1921. Page 48. [Courtesy of the Albert Einstein Archives at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.] What we forget today is that Einstein's introduction of his theory of relativity was not met with open arms. While it is universally accepted today, in those days there was still a great deal of opposition and animosity over it -- it really "rocked" the scientific cradle. Einstein was very possibly in Prague at some kind of scientific conference where he was once-again defending his theory.

The bottom line to all of this -- when you are on your hunts, make sure that you look at even the most common looking of philatelic items for non-philatelic "value".

THE GERMAN OCCUPATIONS VI

by Paul S. Greenlaw, Ph.D.

Shirley M. Greenlaw

THE SUDETENLAND I

When I entered college, I intended to study the law. A very brilliant professor in my freshman year who both stimulated us to write creative papers and also was a clever quipper, proclaimed that we would study history from Pithecanthropus Man to Tru Man. Inspired by both the creative papers and clever comments, I switched into history, got my M.A. in history and international relations, and my doctorate in closely related political science.

In all of these disciplines we had to remember dates, as we remember 9/11 in the 21st Century; December 7, 1941, "Remember Pearl Harbor"; August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb destroys Hiroshima; and September 29, 1938, the Munich Pact and the sellout of the Sudetenland!

The Sudetenland? What is that? Last night I ordered a number of Sudetenland stamps from my dealer and thought about writing an article on this country. I first thought that this might be too easy a piece for *Global Stamp News*, so this morning I asked my highly educated and brilliant dentist what he knew about the Sudetenland, and he replied: "Not much. Its' [sic] in Africa isn't it?" I talked with some others and amazingly no one knew much about the subject. This convinced me that it would make an excellent piece for *Jan's Global*.

In this article, I will first describe what the Sudetenland is, and go into its history and relative geopolitics especially by the Twentieth Century, without really discussing stamps or philately. This will serve as a basis for my 99 44/100% pure discussion of the philatelic aspects of the Sudetenland in my second article on the subject.

THE WHERE

If not in Africa, just where is the Sudetenland? Most people have heard of Czechoslovakia, but only a few know that it was a newly declared Republic in 1918. When founded, Czechoslovakia included an area looking like a horseshoe around its provinces of Bohemia and Moravia. This area, containing a large number of German speaking inhabitants, was known as the Sudetenland. A map of these areas is shown in Figure 1. "Sudetenland" was a general name for the frontier region of Czechoslovakia, making up the western and part of the northern and southern boundary areas. It included those districts centered around the Sudeten mountains on the north, the Erzgebirge range on the northwest, and the Bohemian Forest. Before 1945, more than three million Sudeten Germans inhabited the area. But did the Sudetenland area, never really a full-fledged nation itself, ever really issue postage stamps? Just to show you that it certainly did so, Figure 2 depicts one of its 1939 provisionals, considered worthy enough to be listed in the *Michel Deutschland Katalog, 2001-2002*. We will now consider the history of the Sudetenland prior to Munich, September 28, 1938.



Fig. 1

PRE-MUNICH HISTORY

The Sudetenland was a part of Germany until 1806 and of the German Confederation from 1815-1866. After World War I, it became a part of Czechoslovakia. There was not much major political “noise” surrounding the Sudetenland in the 1920’s and 1930’s, although the territory faced similar inflation and later depression problems as many of its neighbors did.

Until Hitler came into power in the early 1930’s, most Sudeten Germans were satisfied in remaining in Czechoslovakia. In 1935, however, a Sudeten-German Party, financed by Nazis in Germany, started complaining that the Czech government was discriminating against them. Some Germans who had lost their jobs during the depression began to argue that they might be better off under Hitler. Hitler wanted to invade Czechoslovakia, but his generals warned him against it. His position was stated on September 12, 1938, at a huge Nazi rally in Nuremberg. In his famous “Sudetenland Speech” given here, he insisted that the Sudetenland be made part of Germany or he would invade Czechoslovakia.



Fig. 2

Later in September, Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister, met Hitler at this German home, and Hitler threatened to invade Czechoslovakia unless Britain supported Germany’s plans to take over the

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Sudetenland. After discussing the issue with Edouard Daladier of France and Eduard Beneš of Czechoslovakia, Chamberlain told Hitler that his proposals were unacceptable. Also, late in September, Germany sent an ultimatum to Czechoslovakia that the Sudetenland problem had to be resolved by midnight September 28. Also, although Hitler was in a difficult situation, he also knew that Britain and France were not willing to go to war over the Sudetenland.

THE MUNICH PACT!

Benito Mussolini, the Fascist dictator of Italy, suggested to his ally, Hitler, that one way of resolving the Sudetenland problem was via a four-power conference of Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy. This idea was adopted and the four powers met at Munich on September 29. The Key provision of the Munich Pact, agreed to by all four powers, was that (1) the Sudetenland would be returned to Germany in return for (2) Hitler's promise not to claim any other European territory.

The pact gave the Czechs a long time -- two days -- October 1, 1938, as the date for the Czech evacuation of the territory. German occupation of four specified districts was to take place between October 1 and 7. Germany also proceeded to claim much additional territory that was primarily Czech, and Poland and Hungary seized much of the remaining Czech territory they wanted. In March 1939, the Germans moved into Czechoslovakia and made most of the country a German protectorate, thus nullifying the Hitlerian promise in the Munich Pact that he would not touch any additional territories in Europe.

THE AFTERMATH

Neville Chamberlain and many of his Tory supporters were highly pleased with the Munich Pact. It brought "peace in our time". Since Herr Hitler was a very poor man at keeping his word, going into both Czechoslovakia and then Poland in 1939, probably most informed people considered Munich a tragic appeasement. As Clement Atlee, later Prime Minister of Britain, said in the British House of Commons:

"The events of these last few days constitute one of the greatest defeats that this country and France have ever sustained. There can be no doubt that it is a tremendous victory for Herr Hitler."

SOME CONCLUDING COMMENTS

I have three relevant concluding comments. First, I would wholeheartedly agree with Atlee that Munich was a tragedy. Second, and somewhat relatedly, I personally think that Munich did nothing but blow up further Hitler's grandiose expansionist ego. Finally, with a short time period take over of the Sudetenland, both provisional Sudetenland cancels and stamps had to be developed. It will be to these that we will next turn our attention.

The author wishes to give thanks to Mr. Knud-Erik Andersen of Randers, Denmark, for letting me draw textual and visual materials on the Sudetenland from his superb exhibition on the website. I encourage all *Global Stamp News* readers to view this website at: http://sudeten.bizland.com/postal_history.htm.

* * * *

THE SUDETENLAND II

We left off our story of the Sudetenland with the Munich Pact of September 29, 1938. As provided by the pact, Hitler was permitted to occupy the Sudetenland quickly beginning on October 1, and der Furher promised that he wouldn't take over any other territories in Europe -- quite a broken promise.

SUDETENLAND PHILATELY

As Hitler's forces took over the Sudetenland, when the Czech postal authorities left, they took with them a majority of stamps, postal stationery and cancels. In consequence, the new German postal authorities had to have new provisional cancels and stamps made. As Knud-Erik Anderson *[sic]* has pointed out, the Germans developed three postal mechanisms to handle the provisionality: a Fieldpost (or Feldpost) for the military and cancels and stamps for general use. We will now discuss each of these in turn.

THE FIELDPOST

The Fieldpost handled mail from and to the German troops "occupying" the Sudetenland. The Germans brought with them supplies of German stamps as well as their own Fieldpost cancels. These cancels have different numbers, which were assigned to different military units. One Fieldpost cover is shown in Figure 1. Mail to and from the soldiers was to be paid at German postal rates and those involved could use what there was of Czech stamps. The use of Czech stamps was not permitted after October 29, 1939, and as seen in Figure 1, both Czech and German stamps could be used on the same piece of mail.



Fig. 1

CANCELS

With the Germans in many cases having to make new cancels in a hurry, many were rather primitive, made of steel, rubber, cork or wood. Many of these

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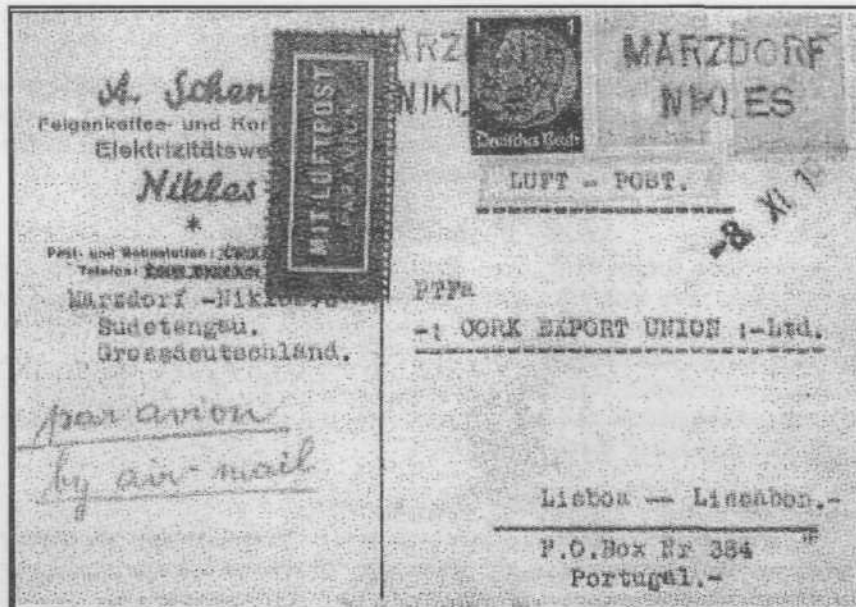


Fig. 2

were replaced soon by more sophisticated cancels. An example of a fairly primitive cancel is shown on Figure 2. Two additional points with respect to cancels are important. First, during the late September unrest, the "Sudetenland Freecorps"



Fig. 3

took control of parts of the northwest of the Sudetenland, and here the first provisional cancels were used on September 21, -8 days before the Munich Pact. Second, Sudetenland cancels were made less primitive and more sophisticated as seen in Figure 3.

THE PROVISIONAL STAMPS

In 1938 provisional stamps were issued in six different localities. They were overprints on Czech stamps and officially accepted by the German postal authorities. The six were (alphabetically):

1. Asch
2. Karlsbad
3. Konstantinsbad
4. Niklasdorf
5. Reichenberg Maffeishof
6. Rumburg.

In many other cities, Czech stamps were unofficially overprinted. Unbeknownst to many philatelists, German stamps now used in Rumburg, were overprinted and used as provisionals for a short time by American forces moving east in 1945. We will now discuss the above provisionals with greater emphasis on the areas where we have data and stamps to show.



Fig. 4

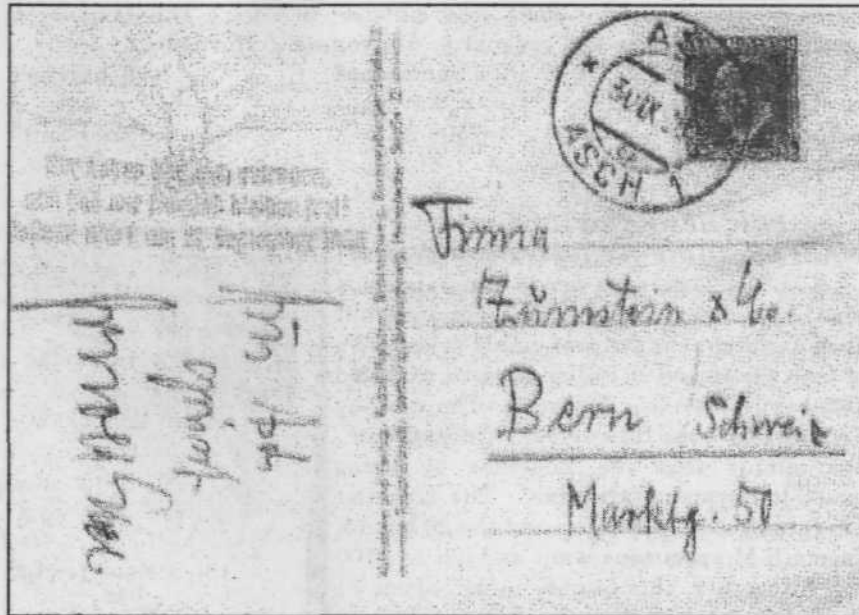


Fig. 5

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ASCH [Aš]

Asch issued only five provisionals in two different designs. Design one is shown in Figure 4, and a cover bearing the other is shown in Figure 5. *[It is difficult to see but the overprint is the same except that it is in red, all the others are in black.]*

We have no information on the size of these Asch issues, but it must have been fairly small as the catalog value of the whole set was 660 Euro.



Fig. 6

KARLSBAD [Karlovy Vary]

Michel lists many more stamps from Karlsbad than from Asch -- a total of over 63. I only have one stamp from Karlsbad (see Figure 6), and the reason becomes obvious when we look at Karlsbad catalog prices -- 55 of the over 63 stamps catalog 100 Euro or more; and several over 1000 Euro. The stamp I am showing you in Figure 6 is quite common, but don't "fall in love with it" and try for a complete Karlsbad collection to go along with your fiscally responsible complete Asch. *[There are three types of overprint all similar but depending upon the size and configuration of the stamp.]*

**KONSTANTINSBAD [Konstantinovy Lázně]
and NIKLASDORF [Mikulovice]**

I have no stamps to show from these two localities. *[The first overprint is a simple horizontal "Sudetenland" in black across the face of the stamp. The second is new denominations -- 1 Kč, 1,20 Kč, 2 Kč, 4,50 Kč -- in black.]* The stamps from both are generally very scarce and expensive. For example, *Michel* lists:

	Konstantinsbad	Niklasdorf
No. of issues	35	121
Highest value	2500 Euro	2200 Euro
Number under 100 Euro	0	4

REICHENBERG [Liberec]

-- MAFFERSDORF [Vratislavice n. Nisou]

R-M has some very scarce and expensive stamps like the two localities just mentioned, but some of its specimens are reasonably priced. We show both the 10 and 20 Heller on piece, canceled on October 10, 1938 (see Figure 7). The wording in German above the Swastikas, "Wir Sind Frei", means simply that the Sudetens by being returned to Germany "are Free". The 10 heller stamp cataloged only 20 Euro and the 20 but 15, but some R-M specimens went as high as 2100 Euro. Altogether, this locality issued about 81 stamps. *[My catalogs show that there were about 140-150 issued.]*



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

RUMBERG [Rumburk]

Rumberg issued a total of 52 stamps, two of which are shown in Figures 8 and 9. Figure 8 is Michel #7 at 5 Euro. Figure 9 is Michel #39 at 18 Euro, and is a postage due stamp.

We see the same swastika and "Wir Sind Frei" exclamations on both stamps as on the R-M stamp. Of the 52 stamps, only 4 are extremely expensive (1000 Euro or more) while 40 catalog at less than 100 Euro -- an area for Sudetenland collectors.



Fig. 9

RELATIVELY UNBEKNOWNST AMERICAN OCCUPATION

Here, in 1945 as Hitler's Third Reich was collapsing, and American troops were moving east, they occupied very briefly Rumberg (Rumburk) in the Sudetenland, which had been using German stamps since 1938. I have a set of 19 of these from the 2 pfennig up through the 80 pfennig. The whole set cost me only \$50 which indicates that these little beknownst stamps are not rare. I show three of them at Figure 10.



Fig. 10

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The stamps of the Sudetenland, often priced way above our budgetary limits are not philatelically important such as the penny black, British Guiana, no 13 [sic], or the beautiful German zeppelins. They are very historically/

politically important, however, because of the Munich Pact, "Peace in our time", appeasement all symbolizing the paving of a direct road into that Great Disaster -- World War II.

The author wishes to give thanks to Mr. Knud-Erik Andersen of Randers, Denmark, for letting me draw textual and visual materials on the Sudetenland from his superb exhibition on the website [see the previous article's end].

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint the preceding article(s) from Global Stamp News, July 2004, with permission of the editor and the author. For issues and subscription information contact Brandewie Ink through: jbrandewie@woh.rr.com, or 715 Johnston Drive, Sidney, OH 45365, or (937) 492-3183. The italicized additions throughout the text are those of the editor.]

[Ed. Note: The following Letter to the Editor appeared in the September 2004 issue of Global Stamp News pertaining to the above article(s):

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Dear Jan,

Having lived in former Sudetenland right after W.W.II, my family were the first Czechs to return, I find error in an otherwise great article by Paul S. Greenlaw. The dividing line between eastern and western Allies was the Elbe river in Germany. In Czechoslovakia, the line went a few kilometers east of Pilsen, and no way did the U.S. Army reach Rumburk. This region was all in the Soviet Army hands and never saw Americans. The only exemption was eastern Czech resort town of Velichovky, where a U.S. Recon force of about 200 men and armor made a raid (well before the Russians arrived) to arrest Nazi Field Marshall Ferdinand Schorner, but he was gone by the time they had arrived. To commemorate the U.S. Army presence in Velichovky a set of Protektorat BM stamps, Scott B27/28 were overprinted:

PŘEDVOJ	Recon
USA	USA
VE VELICHOVKACH	in Velichovky
8. 5. 1945	May 8, 1945

The Rumburk issue of Czechoslovak Revolutionary overprints shown in the article is a mix of two issues. They can be told apart by the letter y in výbor. The straight y is from the first issue; the y with a hook on the bottom (8 pf orange) is the second issue.

Complete set of Reichs Hitler heads were overprinted:

ČSR	Czechoslovak Republic
Národní	National
výbor	committee
Rumburk	Rumburk

Best wishes
Savoy Horvath]

* * * * *

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I wish to report to you some recent changes in personnel. At the end of this past August, Mark Wilson resigned from the Society's board and as web master and librarian. Because I had some hope that Mark would reconsider his decision, I delayed filling any of the vacancies. Mark has now made it clear that he has resigned.

I have appointed Jay Carrigan to fill the vacancy on the Society's board. Many of you know Jay. He is a past member of the board, and is an APS accredited judge. Jay's wisdom and experience will be greatly appreciated. Welcome aboard Jay.

As web master I appointed Marisa Galitz. Those of you who attended WASHINGTON 2006 and visited the Society's booth may have met Marisa. She has been a member of the Society since 1985. Marisa and her husband Earl have attended a number of the Society's general membership meetings and dinners over the years.

As you read these words, Marisa is in the process of setting up a new web site for the Society. The address is CSPhilately.org. As part of developing the new site, the board would like to hear what you, the members, want on the site. We can't promise that we will be able to do everything, but we will try. This is our web site so help us give you what you want.

Changing direction -- after reading an article on the cost of collecting individual countries in a recent Stamp Monthly, we can all be glad we collect Czech or Slovak stamps. According to the article, the Scott catalogue value of Czech stamps is \$31.25 (2003), \$32.80 (2004), and \$41.55 (2005). For Slovakia the corresponding yearly values are \$29.65, \$31.50, and \$32.20. Compare these figures to Germany -- \$144.75, \$116.25, \$148.70; Great Britain -- \$159.70, \$131.85, and \$181.75; or Japan -- \$207.55, \$275.05, and \$212.40. The figures for the United States were not given. I guess the author was afraid we would faint!

It is time for you to start planning to attend your Society's gathering next year. It will be held in conjunction with CHICAGOPEX 2007, 16-18 November 2007. The bad news is that the weather in Chicago in November can be cold and wet. The good news is CHICAGOPEX will be a pan-Slavic show with the Polish, Ukrainian, and Russian societies also participating. This promises to be a great show with a chance to see what our fellow Slavic philatelists are doing.

Speaking of planning, it is never too soon to start saving your pennies for the Society's 2008 gathering. As many of you know, years that end in 08 traditionally mean a large show in Prague. At WASHINGTON 2006, the board was told that this will continue. PRAGA 2008 will be held 12-14 September 2008. PRAGA 2008 already has its web site up: <http://www.praga2008.cz>. For those of you who are Czech-challenged like me, the site is in English. Check it out.

Your board voted to hold the Society's 2008 meeting in Prague in conjunction with PRAGA. It will be a wonderful opportunity to see some exceptional exhibits of Czechoslovak philatelic material. It will also be an opportunity for you to look for the one hard-to-find stamp to fill that hole in your Czech or Slovak collection.

Finally, I am sure you will join me in wishing a speedy recovery to one of our newest members, Bill Rapp who has had a recent spate of health problems and is presently confined to a hospital bed. Bill waited a long time to join our Society, but I finally persuaded him it was the right thing to do. Bill is my father-in-law.

Tom Cossaboom

Prescott, AZ

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THIRD PHILATELIC EXHIBIT "EUREGIA EGRENSIS" IN KARLOVY VARY, CZECH REPUBLIC

by Ing. B. Makovička

trans. by Henry Hahn

The Euro-regional exhibit EUREGIA EGRENSIS took place on August 24-26 in Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) in the Czech Republic. The exhibit consisted of two sections, i.e. the Czech National Exhibit and the Premier Exhibit for first time

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exhibitors. Both exhibits were Euro-regional, open to exhibitors from member states including Bavaria, Thuringia, the Rhineland, and Saxony.

The Czech National Exhibit included a total of 94 entries (80 from the Czech Republic, and 14 from Germany of which one was non-competitive), 59 traditional and postal history, 29 single frame, and 5 in open class. The highest awards were won by George Wilhelms for his showing of the Hradčany issue.

The Premier Exhibit included 39 entries (32 from the Czech Republic and 7 from Germany) of which 37 were traditional and postal history and 2 were revenue exhibits. The top awards went to Vít Vaniček, Vice Chairman of the Union of Czech Philatelists, for his showing the Postal History of the Czech Lands, followed by Postal Stationery Envelopes by Jan Krátký. The Czech-German-English Lexicon by Vladimír Čermák won a silver medal in the Literature Class.

EUREGIA EGRENSIS was very successful, including its printed catalogue. The Post Office issued commemorative post cards and picture cards with imprinted stamp and a Registry label with the logo of the show. A commemorative postmark was in use throughout the show. More details are available in the show catalogue and the show newsletter.

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Book Review

MANUAL FOR HRADČANY COLLECTORS (RUKOVĚT PRO SBĚRATELE HRADČAN) VOL. I (1998), VOL. II (2000), VOL. III (2005) by František Hamr and Jiří Škaloud

Volume I of this series was reviewed in the July/August 1999 issue of the *SPECIALIST* by Jaroslav J. Verner. I will be using some of his ideas and words in this introduction of the series and in describing Vol. I.

Our readers do not need to be told that the Hradčany series is much studied because of its interesting variations in paper, color, perforations, plate flaws, damaged and repaired plates as well as interesting usages -- as well as being the subject of several good monographs and handbooks. So why do we need this series? Well, while it may not be needed for the average collector, for the advanced Hradčany collector there is never enough information, especially when so much of it is in one place.

Hamr and Škaloud have made a significant contribution to the study and collecting of the Hradčany issues. They have taken this large subject and organized it into three parts.

Volume I

Vol. I breaks into two main sections, each having 17 sub-sections. The first half is the basic information on the stamps (design types, printing plates, printing, faults, retouches, paper, stamp colors, perforations, unissued stamps), counterfeits, uses, stationery, covers, perfins, cancellations, statistics, postal rates, and references. The second half is just as detailed, but deals extensively (45 pg) with

pricing these stamps in all these variations as well as the stationery upon which they are imprinted.

In detail, the book illustrates the main retouches (repairs), joined types and the currently much in vogue, column types. These illustrations show the specific stamps by plate position and describe their differences in detail. Other illustrations cover the cancellation types used on the Hradčany stamps and the postal stationery bearing Hradčany stamp imprints. Another aid to collectors are the detailed tables covering the many variations considered. 114 pg

Volume II

This second volume deals with the Hradčany stamp issues that were overprinted for special other uses. It is broken into three main sections. The first discusses the basic information about the stamps used (design types, stamp colors, perforations, retouches and faults, plate numbers). The second describes the four special use categories -- stamps used in the plebiscite territories (SO 1920), airmail stamps, Red Cross, and postage due (DOPLATIT). Each of these sub-sections talks to the rationale for their issue, which stamps were overprinted, details about the overprint plates and the overprint, postal usage, forgeries, numbers issued, and references. As before, illustrations and tables are used extensively. The final section (23 pg) provides pricing for all of these stamps, their variations, and the entires bearing them. 82 pg

Volume III

This volume consists of two sections. The first section describes in detail Printing Plate VII (PP VII) that was used in printing some of the 15h Hradčany stamps. Why is this significant? Because the existence of this printing plate was unknown until about 1994 (75 years after its use) when Zdeněk Ryvola of Havlíčkův Brod announced it to the world, and thus wrote his name forever into Czechoslovak postal history. At first this printing plate was given the informal title of "the postal card plate" (more on that later), but now is simply referred to as Printing Plate VII.

All possible aspects about PP VII are discussed: plate development, stamp types (open/closed spiral, bar varieties, open/closed tail/frame varieties) and their plate locations, print run, faults, stamp colors, perforations, retouches, uses, printing errors, and a discussion of their valuation. And, there is described how the stamp printing blocks from this plate were used to develop a plate from which were printed 15h Hradčany postal cards. Thus, the stamp images on these postal cards exhibit all of the stamp types and varieties found on the basic stamps.

Of great benefit, there is also provided a listing of the known post offices and dates when these stamps from PP VII were first used, a diagram comparing identifying features of stamps produced by PP VII as versus those produced from PP I and PP II (the other two plates used for 15h stamp production), a table of "keys to identification" which cross-correlates these "keys" to specific plate positions, an extensive series of illustrations showing what each of these "keys" looks like on each plate position (rays in the sky, top border with "POŠTA", lower left pigeon, lower right pigeon, denomination oval), and finally, an illustration of each of the 100 stamp plate positions with a description of the "key" identifiers.

The second section covers less routinely encountered entires: value letters, entires not requiring franking, and consignments of the postal check administration in Prague.

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-- Value letters are letters that have a declared value (often containing money or other valuable papers like postal money orders, promissory notes, stocks, postal stamps, bankbooks, etc.) and have been recorded or registered. In many cases there were special preprinted envelopes for these functions that carried a small purchase price (as with most of such postal items, each carried a form number). But to use them the sender had to attach postage stamps commensurate with the value of the contents or function -- often this involved hundreds or even thousands of krouns. During the period of the Hradčany stamps' validity (18.12.1918 - 30.4.1921) this was often accomplished with Hradčany issues. The various forms are illustrated along with the form number, official state seals and supplementary date/text that identifies them. The forms shown also cover the transition period for the Czech lands (e.g., Austro-Hungarian empire, Silesia, Carpatho-Ukraine). Besides being illustrated, each is described in extensive detail in a table. Finally, there are a group of 20 illustrations showing examples of franking by Hradčany on various of these forms.

-- Entires not requiring franking involve those sent by demobilization organizations and trade employment agencies in 1918 (right after WW I when the troops were coming home and looking for work), and beginning in 1919 the reciprocal correspondence between postal administrations. Greatly adding to the number of entires not having franking during this period was the number of so-called official post cards (single and double with return) and dispatch forms put out at the start of 1919. Besides these, many organizations themselves printed up needed forms so that they could legitimately send consignments without franking or their part of it. These could take the form of post cards, official post cards, unofficial postcards, letters, postal money orders, and even packages. Over 57 of these are illustrated as examples, many of them containing additional franking (registration, special delivery, etc.) in the form of Hradčany issues, and all are tied by descriptions in the text.

-- In the days of the First Czechoslovak Republic, the post office served as a bank for the people. Thus many goods and services were purchased or paid for with postal money orders (složenka). In using these forms, if the payee wanted a written assurance that the funds had been transferred or wanted written assurance that the funds had arrived to the payee, it required a written annotation on the back of the postal money order. Since this was the equivalent of a post card, it required franking. Thus, many složanky can be found with franking on the reverse. This section describes these uses and shows 25 examples of them. 150 pg

The greatest drawback to these three volumes is that they are only in Czech. While there is a useful summary in English and German in Volume I, it is too short. Nevertheless, these handbooks will be useful even to the non-Czech speaker because of the tables and illustrations. In addition, with the aid of the Society's "Glossary of Philatelic Terminology" the text should be manageable.

Currently the Society has all three volumes for sale -- Vol. I = \$10, Vol. II = \$10, Vol. III = \$18.50. These prices are for members in the US and include postage. Look in the very last pages of any current SPECIALIST in the Available Publications section.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Letters to the Editor

1. I received a number of responses about Frank Garancovsky's "railroad" cover, Sep/Oct 2006, pg 34:

-- Dear Ludvik:

I read with high interest the e-mail exchange published in last Specialist about the "railroad" cover of 1919 [Sep/Oct 2006, pg 34]. Both parties [are right] -- your partner is right, that the receiving authority was a railway office (Správa provozu místních drah = Operational management of local/regional railways), and you are right, that the cancel is a non-postal one being used just for marking of mail coming to the office of Správa Provozu (the slogan in upper part of the cancel).

I wonder if stamp collectors are interested in such cancels, almost every company uses them for marking the incoming mail (incl. the one I am working for). The shown cancel contains the following entries: sequence number, date of arrival, and (date of) processing.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

With greetings from Prague
Lubor (Kunc)

-- Lou:

I sent an e-mail to the auction house in Czechia where I purchased the cover asking for clarification on the lot description and received:

"I answer your question lot 103/74: red text translate -- railroad cancel but here it is presentation marking of railway office 'local railway control office'."

Frank Garancovsky

-- Lou:

I believe the two-lined straight line cancel above the stamps has a second line that reads "Nezamyslice - Morkovice" rather than Markovice as you proposed. On my map there is a Morkovice about 6 km due south of Nezamyslice.

Karl Ruzicka

[I checked the area on my Czech road atlas, and sure enough there is a town called Morkovice as described by Karl. In fact, on my map there is a railroad spur off of the main Brno-Kroměříž line that runs from Nezamyslice to Morkovice. Thus, this two-lined cancel could have been applied on the train.]

-- Hello Lou:

For the sake of completeness, following some intense lighting and magnification; the two line unreadable cancel above the stamps reads Nezamyslice--Morkovice in [both] the small font and the larger font. . .

Frank[Garancovsky]

2. Lou:

In reference to Karl Ruzicka's returned non admissible letter (Sep/Oct, pg 36), you ask where is the final Maumee cancel? From my days at the post office the following routine was followed. This was a 1 cent over franked letter airmail letter at 16 cents. When mail was returned via surface or air, it was backstamped at the

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office of arrival, namely Cleveland since that is where the flight was terminated. From there it was forwarded to Maumee for delivery sans additional backstamping. Had the letter been registered, it would have had a Maumee postmark, since all registered mail was backstamped at all transfer post office points during its transmittal. In a sad commentary on today's registered mail service, this is no longer the case . . .

Frank [Garancovsky]

3. Dear Lou:

[I have] another cover enquiry (Fig. 1) for you . . . This was sent from something called the "International Friendship League". Do you know how long this organization lasted and what it did?? I'd be curious to know. I imagine that when the Nazis marched into Prague a year later, it went out of business. The Nazis didn't believe in friendship, just "Gleichhaltung" or collaboration.

Yours

Vernon Wilhelm von der Heydt



Fig. 1

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New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On 13 September 2006, the Ministry of Communications of the Czech Republic issued a set of four commemorative stamps entitled Flower Growing -- Cactuses (Fig. 1). The stamps were designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek, engraved by Martin Srb, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset always two and two se-tenant in chess-board arrangement in printing sheets of 50 pieces (2 x 25). Cactuses were brought to Europe from America in the mid-16th century. The first real collections appeared no earlier than in the 18th century; the Czech population became more interested in these attractive plants in the early 19th century. They were popularized thanks to the travellers and botanists B. Roezl, T. Haenke, F. Seitz, and mainly the ethnographer and traveller A.V. Frič (1882-1944). The latter brought from America dozens of new cactuses, made a scientific description of thousands of them and passed his knowledge on others. He became a recognized European expert in cactuses and several of them were named after him.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

-- 7.50 Kč - *Gymnocalycium denudatum*. As one of the little number of hybrid cultivars it is often grown for its undemanding nature. It was created in 1942 in the collection of Ing. Pažout and later on named in honor of the cactus grower J. Šuba. A FDC in gray-green shows the cactuses *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* (with *Gymnocalycium denudatum*) (Fig. 2).

-- 7.50 Kč - *Obregonia denegrii*. It is the only species of the *Obregonia* genus. A.V. Frič discovered it in 1923 in the Mexican state Tamaulipas and considered it as his most important botanical discovery. It was described in 1925. A FDC in black-blue shows the cactuses *Myrtillocactus geometrizans* f. *Cristata* (with *Obregonia denegrii*) (Fig. 3).

-- 10 Kč - *Astrophytum asterias*. It is a thornless disc-shaped cactus rediscovered by A.F. Frič in Mexico and in 1925 brought by him back to Europe. Presently it is one of the most endangered species because it grows also on soil suitable for farming. A FDC in black-brown shows the cactuses *Melocactus*



Fig. 3

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Fig. 4

matanzanus (with *Astrophytum asterias*) (Fig. 4).

-- 10 Kč - *Cintia knizei*. It comes from the Bolivian province of Nor Cinti. So far it has been the only species of the *Cintia* genus. It was described by J. Říha who chose the generic name in honor of the Czech cactus grower living in Peru, K. Kníže. A FDC in black-green shows the cactuses *Opuntia robusta* (with *Cintia knizei*) (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5

2. On 13 September 2006, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet containing one stamp in the denomination of 35 Kč showing a mosaic by Giovanni Castrucci to promote the World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 to take place from 12-14 September 2008 at the Exhibition Grounds in Prague-Holešovice (Fig. 6). The Florentine mosaic is composed of precisely cut gems so that no or almost no gaps can be seen between the gems. The color and drawing of the stone is used to achieve the artistic effect. This technique was invented in Florence and was always considered as an exclusively Italian matter. In the 17th and 18th centuries it was much popular as a decoration



Fig. 6

of cabinets, boxes and furniture in general. The great collector and patron of arts Rudolf II invited to Prague the mosaic makers and gem cutters Cosim and Giovanni Castrucci who founded a prosperous workshop in Prague. Their work represents an interesting, independent version of the Florentine mosaic. The mosaic featured on the postage stamp is the property of the Museum of Applied Arts in Prague. The art of the subject is called Glyptic Art, which is the art related to engraving or carving, especially of precious stones. There is an effect achieved by the subtlest differentiation in the artist's choice of stones: the foregrounds are constructed from large,



Fig. 7

strongly colored stones, while smaller and paler stones recede into the distance, thus creating both form and space. The stamp and souvenir sheet were designed by Václav Kučera, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using recess print from flat plates in black combined with colored offset. A FDC in refracted black-red shows a portrait of Rudolf II with the St. Wenceslas crown by Giuseppe Arcimbold (about 1527-1593) completed by the letter R with an ornament (Fig. 7).

3. On 27 September 2006, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp dedicated to Ecology (Fig. 8). This stamp was created in accordance with the winning design from the competition announced by the Ministry of Informatics of the Czech Republic for the general public. Ecology as a science studies relationships between organisms and between the environment and organisms. Ecological behavior limits the negative impacts of human activities on the environment. The need for ecological education forming a correct relationship of men and nature is growing in the today's world of an increasing material consumption. The tree on the stamp symbolizes the mutuality of relations and integrity of nature. The stamp was designed by Jaroslav Chadima, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in black has a cachet that completes symbolically the theme of the stamp.



Fig. 8

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4. On 11 October 2006, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps titled Folk Architecture -- Little Wooden Churches (Fig. 9). The stamps were designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by



Fig. 9

Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces.

-- 7.50 Kč - Wooden church of the Virgin Mary in Broumov, 1449; colors: black, light blue, blue, violet, brown. In Broumov is an imposing Benedictine monastery, founded in 1322. In its church yard stands a tiny wooden church, the one shown on this stamp. The cemetery church of the Virgin Mary in Broumov is the oldest preserved monument of popular wooden architecture in this country. Today's form of the church dates back to 1449-1451. The wall framework is made of beams which are surfaced four faces, with late gothic timber boarding. In 1700 an additional lower-level vestibule was built to extend the one-nave church. The entrances have wooden gothic portals. The beam ceiling with the original ornamentation of the mid-

15th century is also preserved. The last reconstruction of the church took place in 1811. The drawing of the church on the stamp is completed by the ornaments from its internal decoration. A FDC in black-brown shows the carved statue of the Madonna, at present located in the cloistral church of St. Adalbert in Broumov (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10

-- 19 Kč - Wooden church of St. Andrew in Hodslavice, 1551; colors: black, light ocher, blue, violet, brown. The gothic wooden church of St. Andrew in Hodslavice nearby Valašské Meziříčí was consecrated around 1551 although it had been built earlier. It is a one-nave church of unsurfaced beam framework, with a pyramid tower, erected on the ground of an older church. The choir was additionally extended with a two-level oratory. The simple interior shows a reproduction of the painting of the Madonna of Hodslavice; the 15th-century original is kept in another place. The lower-level vestibule, typical of this type of building, gives refuge from adverse weather. The church on the stamp is accompanied by the outline of the curved balustrade from its interior. A FDC in black-brown shows the statue of the Madonna from the central altar the church of St. Andrew (Fig. 11). As an aside, it is in Hodslavice that František Palacký was born in 1798.



Fig. 11

5. On 11 October 2006, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp to promote the World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 to be held from 12-14 September 2008 at the Exhibition Grounds in Prague 7 - Holešovice



Fig. 12

(Fig. 12). Vrtbovská Garden is one of the most significant and beautiful Baroque gardens in Europe. It is located at the base of Petřín Hill by Vrtbovský Palace in the Lesser Town of Prague. The Italian-style garden was designed in 1715-20 by the architect F.M. Kaňka for the Count of Vrtba. The garden decorations are the work of major artists of the supreme Baroque -- sculptor M.B. Braun, painter V.V. Reiner, and stuccoer T. Soldati. The garden is divided into three terraces connected via stairways. The link between the garden and the palace is *salla terrena*, with its fresco and statue decorations. It is shaped of round segments with a skittle balustrade and double-wing stairway and decorated with statues of ancient gods and Baroque vases. Towering above the middle terrace (which

has a water pool and fountain) and going up to the top of the garden is a high supporting wall (Fig. 13). The garden is closed with a pavilion with a unique view of Prague Castle and the Lesser Town. The stamp was designed by Karel Zeman, engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdouň, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in brown-red combined with photogravure in brown, blue, green and ocher in printing sheets of 30 pieces. Besides the stamps in sheet arrangements there is also philatelic booklets with 8 stamps and 4 labels. The label shows the relief of water maids from the decoration of the Vrtba garden. A FDC in dark blue shows a view of the terrace and the stairs of the Vrtba garden.



Fig. 13

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6. On 11 October 2006, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč definitive stamp with a label for additional printing having the title Christmas Congratulation (Fig. 14). The stamp shows a view of a snow-covered landscape with red bird as seen from a Christmas decorated window. The stamp has been issued in an arranged printing sheet of 9 stamps and 12 labels. The right upper label depicts an open envelope with a small gift in Christmas arrangement complete by the text Merry Christmas in Czech. The other 11 labels bear the same motif with the text Merry Christmas with the Czech Post. A part of the printing number will be issued with blank labels for additional printings in accordance with the wish of the customer. The stamp and printing sheet with labels were designed by Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and produced by Victoria Security Printing using multicolored offset.



Fig. 14

Stationery

7. On 13 September 2006, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with imprinted 7.50 Kč postage stamp to mark the centenary of the longest Bohemian narrow-gauge railway Jindřichův Hradec - Obrataň (Fig. 15). The stamp depicts the narrow-gauge engine type U.41 made by První Česko-Moravská Továrna na Stroje (the First Czech-Moravian Machine Factory) in 1906 just for this railway. The left portion of the postal card shows the plan of the Jindřichův Hradec - Obrataň line and the historical carriage DF/u 647 made by the Ringhoffer factory in Prague in 1906 for this narrow-gauge railway. This carriage, put out of service in 1967, was in 2003 restored and taken back to the railway. The postal card was designed by Bedřich Housa and was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by colored offset. It sells for 12.50 Kč.



Fig. 15

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.

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