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# President's Corner

# NEW WEBSITE

By the time you read these words, the Society's new web site will be up and running. To find the site, go to www.CSPhilately.org.

The general public will be able to join the Society and purchase publications using PayPal. They will also be able to search for information on specific topics of Czechoslovak philately. Non-members can view the cover-of-the-month, summaries of articles on Czechoslovak philately, the table of contents for the latest SPECIALIST, and copies of The Specialist, 1939-1999.

Members of the Society will have additional services available. Members will be able to view the complete articles on Czechoslovak philately, including illustrations. If members have covers they would like to be considered for inclusion in Cover-of-the-Month, they can submit them through the web site. Members will be able to submit and read articles on Czechoslovak philately and comment on the articles. Members can leave contact information and collecting interests to help find other members with similar collecting interests. It is anticipated that the members-only section will be expanded based on the response from members.

The web site is designed for all members. Take advantage of it. Let us know what you would like to have on the site.

Tom Cossaboom

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# CAMPS IN BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA - 1914-1918

by Piero Santangelo trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

The true implementation of captivity of combatants -- on a worldwide scale -- was first experienced during WW I. In those times, when millions of individuals had to be interned in concentration camps, a problem arose -- often a very dramatic one -- with the prisoners of war.

With the outbreak of the world conflict, it became clear that the international norms that were in existence to that time were inadequate and inappropriate for the situation they had to face. The activities of the neutral states were significant, especially that of Switzerland with the International Red Cross, but also of Sweden, Spain, Holland, Norway, and the United States -- up to the time they joined in the military conflict. Also the influence of the Vatican was important for the inauguration of the indirect negotiations that were to resolve the problem of the prisoners of war.



Figure 1: Postcard with the pre-printed name of the camp, Plan, addressed to Rome.

According to the publications "La Nouvelles De l'Agence Internazionale des Prisonniers de Guerre" by R. Montandon and "La Distribution Geografique des Prisonniers de Guerre Pendant le Conflit Mondial de 1916/1919", Geneve 1919, concentration camps were found not only in Europe, which was suffering the war, but also on the other continents -- India, Burma, Australia, Japan, Borneo, New Guinea, New Zealand, the colonial parts of Africa, Egypt, the United States, Latin America, Canada, and China.

In this situation -- and with reference to Article 7 of the Haag Convention --



Figure 2: Postcard with the pre-printed name of the camp, Josefstadt, addressed to Brescia.

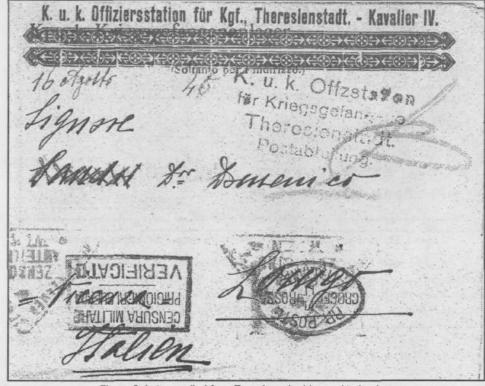


Figure 3: Letter mailed from Terezín and addressed to Lonigo.



Figure 4: Hungarian postcard addressed to the Terezin camp.

the prisoners were to be taken care of as the responsibility of the country in which they were found, and they were to receive the same treatment as the soldiers of their own military. From this it is clear that prisoners were held in a variety of conditions based on the country in which they were held, because in some countries the standard of support for soldiers was very inadequate.

At the beginning of the war, to house prisoners, the individual countries were using the whole extent of already existing facilities: castles, old barracks, monasteries, hotels, and factories. Later, with the continuation of the war -- when any illusions of its quick ending had disappeared -- they began the building of new accommodations. In Austria, the first detention camps which were built, were to serve the civilian population that had to leave the border zones. These structures were models for all the other housing built from 1915.

For the housing of such a tremendous number of prisoners of different nationalities (through 1 January 1918 there were 1,307,000 prisoners), the Austro-Hungarian authorities activated a large number of camps across their lands, and a part of them grew up in the Bohemian and Moravian regions.

#### Prisoner of War Camps

- District Prag (Prague)
  - Eger (Cheb)
  - Heinrichsgrün (Jindřichovice)
  - Plan (Planá)

#### -- District Leitmeritz (Litoměřice)

- Braunau in Boemia (Broumov)
- Brüx (Most)
- Deutsch Gabel (Německé Jablonné)
- Josefstadt (Josefov)
- Milowitz (Milovice)
- Reichenberg (Liberec)
- Theresienstadt (Terezín)



Figure 5: Postcard with pre-printed text from the Mauthausen camp -- mailed by a deported prisoner working in a factory in Raudnitz (Roudnice) -- censor stamps from Mauthausen camp and Italy.

For all of these prisoners the only contact with their families or friends was through correspondence. They could use "in franchigia" postcards. There is a rich documentation of cards with the imprinted name of their camp and having the respective administrative and censor handstamps.



Figure 6: Private postcard from a prisoner of war addressed to the camp in Heinrichsgrünn.

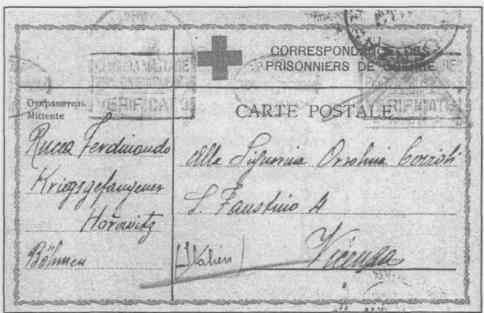


Figure 7: Postcard mailed from the camp in Horowitz and addressed to Vicenza.

Precisely the censors had the final say in the passing on of the mail to its final destination. The written text was subject to review both by the censor in the specific camp and by the national censor of the individual prisoner. The censor could erase any compromising phrases from the text. If the content of the card could harm the



Figure 8: Postcard mailed from the camp in Bistritz and addressed to the Novara province.

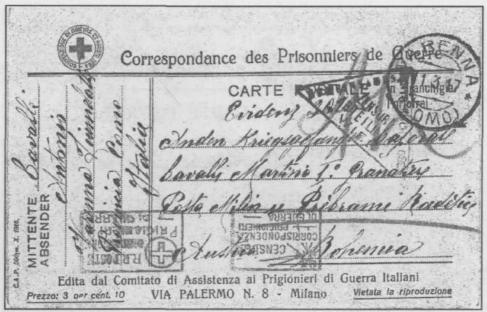


Figure 9: Postcard mailed from the Como province and addressed to a prisoner in the Radetice camp, Milin u Příbrami post office.

individual government and its policies, then in that case the correspondence was held back with possible serious consequences for the prisoner.

In Italy there were a thousand judicial tribunals -- opened through the Tribunale Supremo Militare (Supreme Military Court). There cases were initiated against prisoners who allowed themselves to protest against the Italian government or military forces. In the end there were so many of these cases that, for their final resolution, the Italian government in 1919 granted amnesty for all transgressions connected with the wartime period.

Bilowitz (Bílovice)	A	Bistritz a. Hostein (Bystrice p. Hostyn	A/L
Brüx (Most)	A	Budweis (Budějovice)	C
Deutsch Brod (Německý Brod)	C	Drahowitz bei Karlsbad (Drahovice)	C
Dux (Duchcov)	A	Eger (Cheb)	M
Friedland (Frydant)	C	Göding (Hodonín)	L
Hatschein bei Olmütz (Hejcín)	A/L	Heinrichsgrün (Jindřichovice)	A
Horowitz (Hořovice)	A/L	Chotzen (Choceň)	A
Josefstadt (Josefov)	A	Kaaden (Kadaň)	C
Kalowice	L	Kladrub (Kladruby)	L
Klosterbruck	M	Kolin (Kolín)	L
Kreptschein bei Olmütz		Kriegsdorf (Vojnovice)	A
Kurowitz	L	Labetin bei Kladrub	L
Ledownitz	C	Leitmeritz (Litoměřice)	
Lissa (Lysá)	C	Littau (Litovel)	C
Malleschau bei Kutenberg (Malešo	v A	Malomeritz bei Brunn	L
u Kutná Hora)		Milowitz (Milovice)	A

#### JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

Marienbad (Marianské Lázně)	C	Nimburg (Nymburk)	L
Nedweditz (Nedvědice)	C	Obersedlitz bei Aussig (Novosedlice	C
Obergerspitz bei Brunn	L	u Ustí nad Labem)	
Olmütz (Olomouc)	A	Pardubitz (Pardubice)	A
Podebrad (Poděbrady)	A	Prossnitz (Prostějov)	C
Puschwitz (Buškovice)	C	Raudnitz (Roudnice)	L
Rebeck	C	Reichenberg (Liberec)	A
Schlackenwerth (Ostrov u Karlovy Vary)	C	Schwaden bei Aussig (Svádov u Ustí nad Labem)	C
Sukdol bei Kuttenberg (Suchdol u	L	Tabor (Tábor)	L
Kutné Hory)		Waldeck bei Unhost	C
Teplitz Schonau (Teplice-Šanov)		Witkowitz (Vítkovice)	L
Wirklitz bei Aussig (Vyklice u Ustí nad Labem)	L		
A = Army Compo		C = Concentration Comps	

A = Army Camps L = Labor Camps -= Other C = Concentration Camps M = Military Hospitals

#### Sources:

- Dr. Gottfried Kohler: Die Kriegsgefangenen - Internierten - und Militarlager in Osterreich-Ungarn 1914-1919 [Prisoners of war - internees - and m ilitary camps in Austria-Hungary 1914-1919]; Publisher - ARGE Field and Censored Mail, Graz-Linz 1991

- Giovanna Procacci: Soldati e prigionieri Italiani nella Grande Guerra [The Italian soldiers and prisoners of war during the World War]; Publisher - Bollati Boringhieri "Gli archi", Torino 2000.

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# SAYONARA II

Well, it has now been a year since I wrote the original SAYONARA article in which I made my plea for a replacement editor, and very little has happened about it since then. I don't know if I should be angry or feel complemented. Angry that I have served the Society well for this number of years and now am taken for granted, or that no one feels that they can keep up the standard of the current publication (yeah, right!). The truth, as with most life situations, is probably a mixture and somewhere in between the two. None of this, or course, solves my problem. What do I do until a new editor finally comes forward? I have contemplated simply informing the Society that "this is my last issue, find someone else to take over, now", but my conscience and loyalty will not allow it. Nonetheless, my wife (now retired for about a year) and I have begun planning longer vacations and travels that do not fit in well with the editorship (mind you, a trip here or there is not a problem, but we have looked forward to being more spontaneous and taking longer trips -- three weeks, spend a month in the Czech Republic, etc.). In the meantime, you can plan on some disruptions -- late issues, shorter issues, etc. So, I am once again making my plea. We need a new editor, very soon. Whoever that person might be, I will not desert them, I will stay on as long as needed to assist and advise.

> Ludvik Z. Svoboda Editor

# 1993 – BIRTH OF THE CZECH POST AND CZECH POSTAGE STAMPS

by Miroslav Langhammer

[Ed. Note: This article represents the text and illustrations of a presentation made by the author to an audience at WASHINGTON'06.]

In 1993, the Czech Post and Czech postage stamps were born.

Before getting to the core of the matter, I would like to briefly mention some relevant points from the post-war history of the Czechoslovak Post, and then, I would like to speak about the philatelic consequences of these changes.

Facts from the history stated here are drawn upon the book Dějiny Pošty v Českých Zemích (History of Post in the Czech Lands), published by the Czech Post in 2000.

#### Brief historical review

Even though the Czechoslovak Postal Law of 1946, which replaced the Austrian law of 1837 and Hungarian law of 1850, was one of the most progressive postal laws in Europe in the post-war time, future development was strongly influenced by the political development in Czechoslovakia after 1948. Post became part of the state administration, and it was more or less on the periphery of interest of the party and state leaders. Overall *spoje* ("communication" according to the Soviet model), telecommunications (with respect to the military aspects), press distribution (propaganda), and postal money transfers were preferred. The letter and parcel post was the last in this line.

At the end of 1989, Post was administered by Federální ministerstvo dopravy a spojů (Federal Ministry of Transport and Communication), since February 1990 by Federální ministerstvo spojů (Federal Ministry of Communication). Since July 1990, posts on the territory of the Czech Republic were managed by Ministerstvo hospodářství (Ministry of Economy). At the top of the organizational structure of the post was Správa pošt a telekomunikací (= SPT, Administration of Post and Telecommunications). Concepts of future development on the federal and national government level were sometimes in conflict. In autumn 1992, in context with the prepared split-up of Czechoslovakia, the federal ministry was finally dissolved.

In 1991, the management of SPT Praha started to prepare a privatization project with the help of foreign advisors. Priorities were the split of telecommunications (Telecom) and post, and the preparation of privatization of the Telecom. Within SPT, a postal division called Česká pošta (Czech Post) was established as of 1 January 1992. The most important parts of the postal transformation were the accounting separation of post and telecommunications, the building of postal management structure, and the first analyses of the economic situation of the post.

The result of the analyses was a new postal tariff. Tariffs set after the currency reform in 1953 remained unchanged until 1970 for the mail posted by organizations, and even for private post until 1979. And after that, they remained unchanged again. In 1992 it was therefore necessary to increase the rates

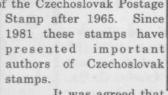
substantially -- e.g. for inland postcards from 0.50 to 2 Kčs and for letters up to 20g from 1 to 3 Kčs.

The legal form of the Czech Post was also discussed in that time. Even though there were proposals to set up a state owned joint-stock company, the government decided that the Czech Post, which became an independent legal entity on 1 January 1993, would be a state enterprise. This remains even now.

Since 1992, responsible ministries prepared a new basic postal law. This should replace the law of 1946 and reflect the trends in the postal development. However, the Czech Parliament passed the new Postal Law only with effect from 1 July 2000. Since then it has been amended to be in harmony with European legislation and recent development trends in the world.

### Philatelic consequences

At the end of 1992, about 2,350 Czechoslovak postage stamps were valid and could be used as postage, most of them more or less only theoretically. The oldest of them were issued on 19 June 1953 -- portraits of the Communist presidents Gottwald (four stamps -- Fig. 1) and Zápotocky (two stamps -- Fig. 2) and stamps with portraits of musicians Josef Slavík and Leoš Janáček (Fig. 3). The last stamp was issued on 18 December 1992 for the Day of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp with a portrait of Jindra Schmidt (Fig. 4), engraver of a great number of Czechoslovak postage stamps. It was the last stamp in a long row of typical longish stamps issued for the Day of the Czechoslovak Postage



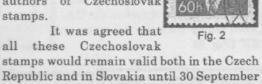




Fig. 4

The first stamp of the Czech Republic was issued as late as three weeks after the new country was born --20 January 1993. It shows the

small national coat of arms of the Czech Republic, designed by Josef Herčík (Fig. 5). The stamp is very nice and representative. However, the picture does not exactly copy the official model. More correct picture of the



Fig. 5



1993.



heraldic Czech lion is on the block showing the great national coat of arms (together with the Moravian and Silesian eagles), issued in June 1993 (Fig. 6).

The face value of the first Czech stamp is 3 Kčs. At that time both Czech Republic and Slovakia still used the Czechoslovak crown (Kčs) as their common currency. As of 8 February 1993, this common currency was replaced by two separate currencies -- in the Czech Republic the Czech crown (Koruna česká = Kč) and in Slovakia the Slovak crown (Slovenská koruna = Sk).

The second Czech stamp issued for the World Skating Championship on 17 February 1993 still shows the

Fig. 6

abbreviation "Kčs", even though it was issued after the currency split (Fig. 7). The third stamp with President Václav Havel is the first Czech stamp with the face value in "Kč" (Fig. 8).



Fig. 7



Fig. 8









Fig. 10

As a result of the s p l i t · u p o f Czechoslovakia, a few stamps were issued in 1993 in both the successor countries ·- Jan Nepomucký (joint i s s u e w i t h Germany)(Fig. 9), Cyril a Metoděj (Fig. 10), and Trees (Fig. 11).



The Czechoslovak definitive stamp of Český Krumlov (3 Kčs), designed by Josef Herčík and issued in October 1992, was re-issued as a Czech definitive stamp in different colors in July 1993 (Fig. 12). Two other stamps prepared (Ružomberok and Košice) were issued in 1993 in Slovakia (Fig. 13).









1993 GESKAPOSTA 1998

002598

Fig. 16

Until September 1993, twenty-two postage stamps had been issued in the Czech Republic. They could be used for postage together with old Czechoslovak stamps. Of course they could not be used in mixed frankings with the new Slovak stamps. However, similar frankings prepared by philatelists exist.

On 30 September 1993, Prague main post office Praha 1 used a commemorative postmark with the text "Last day of validity of Czechoslovak postage stamps" (Fig. 14). Philatelists produced many different covers and cards to remember that very special day and to use the rest of Czechoslovak stamps (Fig. 15).

Five years after the first Czech postage stamp was issued, in 1998, Czech Post issued a commemorative card with the unaccepted draft for the first Czech stamp prepared by the famous painter and author of many stamps, Josef Liesler (Fig. 16). This rather unconventional picture shows the mythical Libuše, a shapely girl, with smaller pictures of the Prague Castle and Vyšehrad in the background.

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# JAN KAŠPAR, PILOT

and the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> flight in the Czech Republic by Savoy Horvath

Well, actually it was the first flight not even in Czechoslovakia, but as it happened in 1911, in Bohemia.

The pilot was Ing. Jan Kašpar, born in 1883 in Pardubice. Even while studying mechanical engineering at an institute in Prague, he felt that his life's ambition would be flying. His first employment was in Germany in 1908 for a manufacturer of dirigible parts. At the time he started working, the only way to fly was in air ships. To purchase his own ship was not financially possible, so he concentrated his flying interest on the achievements of the Wright brothers, Bleriot, Voisin, and other pilots of this era. Kašpar set his own goal to become the first Czech pilot and to build his own plane.

After only one year in Germany, Kašpar returned to Pardubice, and in the fall of 1909 with the help from his cousin he began construction of his plane even building his own engine. Patience was not one of his virtues. Finishing the construction late in the afternoon, he decided on a first flight at dusk -- not being able to see clearly he ended up in a deep ditch, crashing his plane. As he still wanted to be the first, he used all of his savings and that of his father, went to France, and purchased one of Bleriot's planes. Soon after the plane was delivered, Kašpar started to train on a Pardubice military installation. In April 16, 1910, he was successful with a two kilometer flight. This day went into the record books as the beginning of aviation in Czechia. About a year later, the date May 13, 1911, marks Kašpar's historic flight from Pardubice to Prague flying in the Bleriot. Many books and encyclopedias erroneously state that Kašpar flew in a plane of his own construction. Kašpar's own plane was later repaired and, in 1913, was placed in the National Technical Museum in Prague.

The post card (Fig. 1) shows the flight and pilot Kašpar, and on the reverse

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

(Fig. 2) bears two similar commemorative cancels, one from Pardubice 2 and the other from Praha 59 for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The PŘEPRAVENO VRTULNÍKEM indicates that it was to have been transported by helicopter. The oval artwork in the lower left commemorates the flight held 80 years before.

Kašpar went on with flying, was first to have a passenger on board, but later had a few crashes and injuries. WW I stopped his flying. Heavily in debt, he went bankrupt. With the death of his best friend and father, he went into a depression, became mentally unstable, and in 1927 committed suicide.

Ing. Jan Kašpar stands in the forefront of Czech aviation, yet not many people remember him today.

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# IS THERE A FRAME EVEN ON THE HRADČANY 500h OF PRINTING PLATE II?

by Pavel Švejnar trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

The current discussion regarding the bar [príčka] and frame [rámeček] types of the stamps of the Hradčany V design (in the past articles of Messrs. Jaroslav Maleček, František Hamr, Karel Paděra, and Ladislav Olšina in the Filatelie periodical and in the Zpravodaj of the Collectors of Typographical Stamps of SČF) forced me to again carefully examine our "classics".

On 500h Hradčany stamps printed with printing plate II [PP II], I found a stamp from the bottom row (margin without the row control numbers) on which is distinctly shown traces of the possible cutting through of the right frame (an interrupted hair thin line -- the interruption is possibly the result of color inundation) -- Fig. 1. [Ed. Note: Unfortunately, because these minute details do not show up in these "copies of copies"

illustrations, the reader has to accept them at faith.]

I have identified it as the 93<sup>rd</sup> stamp sheet position [SSP] by using the reconstruction of the 500h



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

PP II by František Hamr of Soběslav, even though František Hamr in his description of this position does not identify it as having a changed stamp design. The identification of the stamp position was also confirmed by Doc. Karel Paděra of Prague, who showed me a cancelled stamp from this position which also had a hairline elongated right frame. Further, in Figure 4, I present the discovery of a trial black-print from a worked plate from the 93<sup>rd</sup> SSP of PP II, on which the hairline elongated right frame is better visible than on



Fig. 3

the finished stamp (which is, from the vagaries of stamp production, easy to understand).

In Filatelie 5/2002, page 32, I showed the discovery of a trial black-print from the period of the print preparation of the 93rd SSP of PPI (Fig. 2) on which the right frame is evidently not elongated. From this I deduced that the frame (at that time I used the term



Fig. 4

right bar) was cut through as the intentional intervention of a retoucher before the printing of stamps directly from PPI. Such an alteration would imply the possibility of the launching of a new type. For comparison, I am showing in Figure 3, a stamp from the 93<sup>rd</sup> SSP of PPI with a cut through frame.

It is known that PP II was produced with a view to overprinting for the first airmail issue and was retouched (the fourth spiral and the left bar). For its production was obviously used the same negative of the photograph of the auxiliary composition, as was done for PP I. This is substantiated also by the same identifying signs, for example, the rays in the sky of the 93rd SSP of PP I and PP II.

From the comparison of the 93<sup>rd</sup> SSP of PPI and PPII, it follows that the "cut through" frame (owing to photochemical plate production) could have already been on the glass negative and was then etched (of course by a slightly different method) both on PPI, as well as on PPII (unfortunately, neither the glass negative nor the copper plates were preserved). Naturally, this does not validate the described trial print, from which rather ensued the alteration up until PPI.

We have then a group of evidence from which could possibly ensue the following interpretations:

 The right frame was already on the glass negative from which both plates were produced -- this, however, is not confirmed by the black-print from the 93<sup>rd</sup> SSP of PP I.

2) The right frame was already on the glass negative from which were produced both PP's, and the black-print from the 93<sup>rd</sup> SSP of PP I was completed during the production of some kind of "less than first" PP, which was not used for some unknown reasons.

3) The retoucher engraved the frame directly on PP I and PP II -- from a timing standpoint such production is improbable since the stamps printed from PP I were issued 9.8.1919 and those from PP II were issued on 11.8.1920.

4) The right frame is cut through only on the 93<sup>rd</sup> SSP of PP I, while in the case of PP II, it is an accidental plate flaw, whose origin could have been on the glass negative as it was used for the second time (or perhaps it pertains to only a limited portion of the whole print).

5). . . . ?

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is pleased to reprint this article from FILATELIE 5/2004, with the permission of the editor and author.]

# LEGIONNAIRES ISSUE 1919

by Lubor Kunc

This is probably the most unpopular stamp set of Czechoslovakia 1918-1939 (together with the POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 issue). It would seem that 1919 was a critical year for the Czechoslovak Postal Administration.

The postal body decided to issue a special stamp set with a surcharge for the families of the Czechoslovak legionnaires injured or killed in WW I. An important share of the money was reserved for the legionnaires in Russia, who were fighting against the Bolshevik forces at the time, when the stamp set was issued. The other reason for the issuance of these stamps was the celebration of the first anniversary of the foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic. That is why they were put into circulation on October 27, 1919.

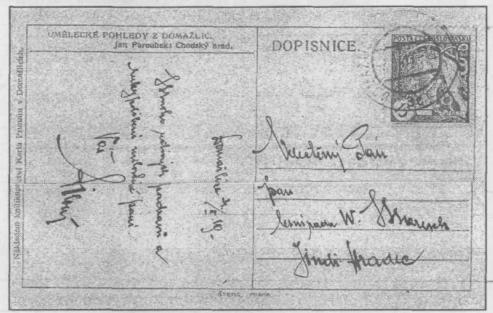


Figure 1: Post card franked with a 15 Heller stamp of the Legionnaire issue, sent from Domažlice to Jindřichův Hradec on Nov. 2, 1919 (Sunday). We can assume a philatelic background for the card, but it bears all of the signs of postal delivery including the correct franking, so it is acceptable for our collections.

The intention of the Czechoslovak Postal Administration was to issue stamps that were valid for only a few days and then afterward withdrawing them from postal operations. The stamps had to be acquired only via the Legionnaire Fund. This measure was to earn a lot of money for the fund, because it was expected that stamp collectors would be looking for the stamps.

The reality was totally different from these expectations, and the philatelic public raised heavy complaints to the postal administration rejecting the stamp

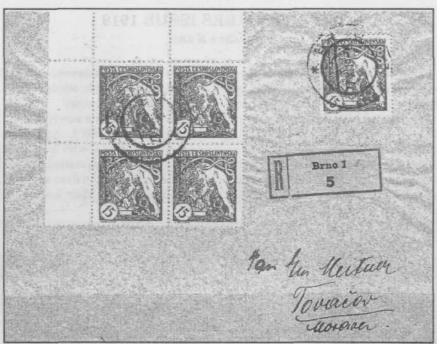


Figure 2: Registered letter franked 5 x 15 Heller sent from Brno to Tovačov on Oct. 27, 1919 (= FDC). Mr. Meitner of Tovačov produced more of such letters, but despite the fact that they have a philatelic background, they fully correspond to the valid postal rates. In addition, the letter bears the arrival postmark of the Tovačov post office dated Oct. 29, 1919 showing it was actually sent and not just canceled upon request.



Figure 3: The last item is an excellent example of non-philatelic usage of the Legionnaire set. We are talking about a registered letter addressed to the Chrudim Court of Justice, which was properly franked with a 75 Heller Legionnaire stamp.

The cover was sent from Pardubice on an unknown day.

finding that the stamps were issued with different perforations as well as imperforate (some of the stamps were produced with rare perforations in small quantities in addition). As a result the majority of the stamp issue remained unsold at the post offices, and they were later given to the Legionnaire Fund where the stamps were sold under their face value.

Because of the above circumstances, the stamps were not often used by the public, and the majority of the existing covers bear the complete stamp set without respect to the postal rates. These philatelic covers were produced by both philatelists and the public to get souvenirs for the first birthday of Czechoslovakia. The genuinely postally used covers were extremely rare (also due to the extremely short period of validity -- Oct. 27 - Nov. 3, 1919).

Below you see a few examples of interesting covers correctly franked with this issue.

The last item (Fig. 4) is very unusual.

It is a parcel dispatch card sent on Oct. 31, 1919 from Lovosice (Lobositz) and franked with mixed franking of Hradčany and Legionnaire stamps. The franking is correct, we can split is as follows:

- 120 Heller for a parcel up to 5 kilograms
- 20 Heller for insuring the parcel for value not exceeding 300 Crowns.

This parcel dispatch note shows us, the Legionnaire stamps were used also in regular postal operations and not only on philatelic covers.

I hope you enjoyed seeing these covers which improve the respect of the Legionnaire stamp issue.

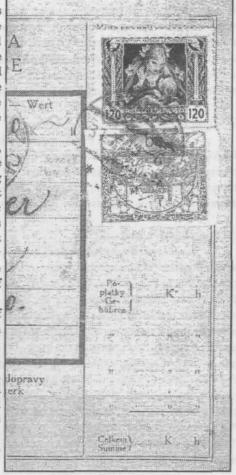


Figure 4

#### \*\*\*

# Philatelic News and Views

- 1. From Savoy Horvath:
  - -- Last month Pofis issued a new handbook "Obloukové Typy, 25h Hradčany,

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V. Drawing" by Ladislav Olsina (in Czech). The title translates as "Arch (or Arc) Types". It refers to the arch which encapsulates the image in the center of the V<sup>th</sup> design. There are various types with respect to where there are gaps or errors in the arch line. As this was a limited printing for members of Filatelie only, I was only able to get a few copies through our member Karel Holoubek of the Hradec Králové philatelic club. I will try to get some more copies, but cannot guarantee success. Meanwhile, our members can borrow the copy that will be in our library (the others have already been spoken for).

#### 2. From Jiří Sedlák:

-- At the Malaga FIP Congress, we received the strongest FIP endorsement for PRAGA'08. Right now [back in the Czech Republic] we are having elections . . . of local representatives. As soon as the elections are over, we are going to urge the endorsement of the president and mayor of Prague -- letters have already been sent and are being hand delivered. As soon as I have any further news, I will inform you.

#### 3. From Paul Valasek:

- -- I wanted to let my fellow Society members know about a book that I just wrote and published: "Haller's Polish Army in France". These Poles were just down the road from the Czech's in France. For the first time in English, there is a history of the Polish Army in France, aka Haller's Army, aka the Blue Army, aka Armia Hallera, compiled from regimental histories, memoirs, period reports, letters and documents. Starting with the origins of the Restoration of Poland movement and the major roles of the city of Pittsburgh and the Polish Falcons, through the view of Ignacy Paderewski as he officially sat at the Paris peace talks; this book explains the formation, development, and accomplishments of this fighting force of Polish volunteers from America. They enlisted to travel to France for battle against the Imperial German and Austro-Hungarian armies on the western front, and subsequently to fight against the wave of Communism and the Bolshevik menace in the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1920. Many of these resources have not been published in over 75 years and many are here for the first time in English. Included in the book (among many other things) are:
  - regimental histories written less than 10 years after the war
- accounts of the rapport which existed between the Polish Army in France and the YMCA
  - biography of General Haller
  - 75 photos, 6 maps
  - 1600 names of recruits from the Pittsburgh/SW Pennsylvania region
  - 277 place names involved with battles
  - 432 pages, soft-cover, 7 x 10, perfect bound. ISBN 0-977-9757-0-3

If you have an interest, the book is \$35 plus postage and can be ordered from me at:

Dr. Paul S. Valasek 2643 W. 51St Street Chicago, IL 60632-1559 e-mail: hallersarmy@aol.com

#### Book Review

# CZECHOSLOVAK AIR POST 1918-1939

by MUDr. Petr Horka Published as Trojan Catalog

This 224 page, soft bound handbook published in 1997 [but still current today] matches in size and appearance the numerous catalogues published by Trojan. As in the case of other Trojan catalogues, it is in Czech. [But don't let this disuade you, through the use of the tables, illustrations, terms described in the book, and our Glossary, it is an extremely valuable source for air post information. More on this later.] [I am noting here] both the positive and negative aspects of this work.

The handbook is described in the introductory chapter as a catalogue. It is a catalogue in the sense that individual covers are point valued, where one point equals 1 Kč in 1997. But in content it far exceeds a catalogue, and should be considered a handbook. Its chapters include a good historical introduction, beginning with the hot air balloon of the Czech scientist Tedeas Hanka, which carried the first written message delivered "by air" in March of 1784. He covers development through the French Balloon Mail of the Franco-Prussian War, early balloon mail, early aviators, and Austro-Hungarian military mail. These are systematically listed in table form. He then covers early Czechoslovak military mail up to 1920 which pioneered the earliest Czechoslovak air routes. MUDr. Horka's presentation of history without deviating excessively from philately is believed to be the strongest part of his work.

The presentation of the earliest commercial Air Post period [1920-1921] includes much data previously unpublished. Much has been written (and argued) about the earliest flights, but Horka's presentation is again clear and systematic. In his tables showing dates of flight with corresponding weight of mail, he includes flights to and from Warsaw, all of which occurred after the end of the first rate period . . . [Actually, he includes tables showing all of the flights to and from Strasbourg, Paris, London, and Warsaw.]

The 1922-1930 period is presented in great detail, showing schedules of both domestic and international flights. [The very extensive route tables (about 11 pages) in this section show along the top: year, inaugural day/month, city names, last flight date, comments (e.g., first flight to one of the cities, connections to other non-Czechoslovak cities, etc.). Airplane icons are then used on each date line to show where the flight originated and then again at each city that was a stop on that route with a line connecting them. Thus, the left-most airplane is the origination city of the flight and the right-most the termination city. The cover valuation section for this period extends over 16 pages, is chronological, and shows for each flight (or flight segment): the date, origination and termination city, if there is a special postmark/cachet and what kind, the number of transported consignments on each segment (if known), kind of flight (first flight, postal flight), the airline that flew the route, and a price in Kč. This is all explained in Czech, German, and English at the beginning of the handbook in the "Directions for using the catalogue". I have found no first flights in that period that were not listed and detailed in the handbook and would therefore venture to say that the listing is virtually complete. Interesting

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covers with foreign destinations are illustrated and described. The only lack of clarity was observed in the listing of covers connecting to German Lufthansa flights in 1927 (p 102) where Czechoslovak routes and dates are not given. [For clarity, this is refering to the fact that the tables list not just Czechoslovak flights but also foreign carrier flights that carried mail and that transited Czechoslovak cities during this period.]

The period from 1931-1939 is again presented comprehensively, with good historic narrative, good illustrations of aircraft and clear international schedules. Main emphasis is again on the listing of First Flights and commemorative cancels. As in previous chapters, the airlines are listed. [Again, route tables for European cities (about 4 pages) and a cover valuation section (14 pages) are included. Also shown are the special cancels that were used for the first flights. Other special tables are also included such as one showing which foreign carriers flew which routes through Czechoslovakia.]

Separate chapters are devoted to commemorative flights, balloon flights, and catapult flights. The dates of all Zeppelin flights are listed, including those when foreign franking for Zeppelin flights was required (the period before the 1932 Czechoslovak treaty). [This description of the section does not really do justice to the coverage. Only 3 pages cover 5 special commemorative flights and 4 pages cover the balloon flights, while 11 pages are devoted to the catapult/Zeppelin flights with the vast majority covering the Zeppelin's. Keep in mind that these are only covers originating in Czechoslovakia that were carried on one of the Zeppelin flights during the 1929-1939 period mainly to South America and also North America.]

A separate chapter on crash covers and emergency landings beginning with May of 1918 gives dates, routes, airlines, pertinent notes and valuation in most cases.

The last major chapter is devoted to postage rates. Shown are tables giving basic international surface rates upon which Air Post surcharges were levied. The tables of foreign surcharges are given by continent. In each, the country and time interval are given, and surcharges for letters, postcards and printed matter are listed. Pertinent notes are added as applicable.

[I have to add here that the reviewer failed to mention two additional sections that are included. The first (4 pages) lists and illustrates the daily cancels of the Czechoslovak airport post offices and the percentage increase in value to a cover that bears it. And the second section (12 pages) lists airmail labels, airmail cancels, and airmail cutouts. Airmail labels are shown and priced for mint copies. Airmail cancels are those applied by the post office directing airmail delivery and possibly other special instructions. Airmail cutouts are similar to airmail labels, but the "cancel" is applied to white paper that is then cutout and pasted to the cover (there are 5 of these). Each of the cancels and cutouts is listed, shown, and the percentage increase in value to the cover is given.]

The author admits that the handbook is not complete and is eager to accept new information from readers. That statement is true of almost any handbook and should not detract from the usefulness of the work. I highly recommend it . . . . [I could not agree more. If you have any interest in Czechoslovak air post, this handbook is a must. There is a section in the front that lists the various abbreviations

used and a page showing (descriptive elements explained in Czech, German, and English) the "Directions for using the catalogue". To keep you oriented in the handbook, the top of each page lists the section that you are in including the years where appropriate. In the back is a page of city and country names translated from Czech into English, and a page of colors translated into German and English. There is also a one page Introductory Remarks in English.]

Henry Hahn

[Ed. Note: Because this is the most authoritative (and only, to my knowledge) book on Czechoslovak air post, I wanted to bring it to the attention of our members. I have taken this review by Henry from the Sep/Oct 1999 issue and annotated it with my additional comments -- in italics. It is available for \$15 from our book manager -- see details in the back of this issue.]

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#### Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

My eye was caught by the recent article by Frank Garancovsky on Eastern

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Silesia. He should have referred to it as SILESIA ORIENTALIS. On page 24 [Sept/Oct 2006 issue] he starts the paragraph with "Eastern Silesia was known as TESCHEN to the Czechs". Bloody hxxx! Teschen is German -- the Czechs knew it as TĚŠÍN. In the paragraph starting with "The History of Silesia, on the 4th line he mentions the HAPSBURG period" -- it is HABSBURG. On page 25 he mentions the ODERBURG -JABLUNKOV railway. Sorry, it is not ODERBURG but ODERBERG and the Czech name is BOHUMIN which is the station for Ostrava. Toward the end he mentions "Blessed CECELIA Schelingova" -- it should have read CECILIA.

Signed Anonymous

#### ADVERTISEMENT

# WANTED

Some years ago I foolishly purchased a short set and have been unable since to complete with the high value stamp. I am looking for a mint copy of Pofis #RV19; the 10K value of the 1918 Prague Revolutionary overprint (Type 1, small shield) on normal paper.

Richard Berry, 404 Littletown Quarter, Williamsburg, VA 23185, rhberry@verizon.net, 757-253-1677

### New Issues

# CZECH REPUBLIC by G.M. van Zanten

# 2007 ISSUE PLAN FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of		Number	Value
Issue	Name of Issue	in set	Kč
Jan 10	Personalities	2	BadT
	Fráňa Šrámek (1877-1952)		7.50
	Karel Slavoj Amerling (1807-1884)		19
Jan 10	Czech Institute of Science and Technology (1707-2007)	1	9
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production J. Liesler	1	7.50
Feb 21	Oriental Art from the NG Collection in Zbraslav	2	
	Japanese woodcuts		12
	Indian art		24
Feb 21	Prevention of Oncological Diseases	1	7.50
Feb 21	Had Second Place in CR Information Ministry Competition	1	12
Mar 14	Easter	1	7.50
Mar 14	World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008	. 1	
	Prague's Lesser Town - 750 years		7.50
Apr 4	Beauties of Our Country Spas	2	

#### JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

	Luhačovice - Jurkovič House		12
	Lázně Bohdaneč - Gočár Pavilion		15
Apr 4	Joint Issue with Belgium Stoclet House in Brussels	-	20,35
May 9	EUROPA: Scouting	1	10
May 30	For Children J. Foglar: Swift Arrows	1	7.50
Jun 20	World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008	1 s/s	
	Charles Bridge - 650 years		43
Jun 20	World Graphic Artist Václav Hollar (1607-1677)	1 s/s	35
Jun 20	Arts and Crafts - Historical Stoves	2	7.50,
			12
Sep 5	Works of J.A. Komenský Opera Didactica Omnia	1	
	350 years since publication		10
Sep 5	100 Years since Launching First Movie of Viktor Ponrep	1	7.50
Sep 5	Nature Preservation White Carpathian Mountains	4 s/s	9.10
	orchid meadows		11,12
Oct 3	160th Birth Anniversary of Explorer Emil Holub (1847-1902)	101	11
Oct 3	Technical Monuments water towers	2	
	- Karviná		7.50
	Plzeń		18
Nov 7	Works of Art on Stamps	3	
1101	- Amálie Mánesová (1817-1883)		22
	- Otakar Lebeda (1877-1901)		25
			23
NI . 7	- Soběslav Hippolyt Pinkas (1827-1901)		
Nov 7	Christmas	1	7.50

1. On November 8, 2006, the Ministry of Communications of the Czech Republic issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Art on Stamps series (Fig. 1). The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 4 pieces.



Fig. 1

-- 22 Kčs: Jan Davidsz de Heem (1606-1684), "Still Life with Fruit, 1652", National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Miloš Ondráček; black, orange, red, blue, and green. The Dutch painter J.D. de Heem became famous with his characteristic still lives. The postage stamp features an engraved version of the painting "Still Life

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with Fruit", a beautiful example of de Heem's painting and compositional mastership. His early works were influenced by Rembrandt. After his permanent settlement at Antwerpen, de Heem used the decorative style to paint still lives rich in colors, with expensive dishes, glasses, fruit and flowers, with crawling little beatles and flying butterflies. He had a great sense of details; his still lives give an impression of a harmonious unit. He was able to combine the Dutch pragmatism with the Flemish colorism and decorativeness. A FDC in black-green shows a drawing on wood by Cornelis de Heem "Still Life with Fruit" (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

-- 25 Kčs: Jaroslav Čermák (1830-1878), "Montenegrin Madonna, 1865", National Gallery in Prague, engraved by Václav Fajt; black-brown, yellow, light orange, red, and blue. The Czech painter J. Čermák was for a short time a student at the Prague Academy, after which he studied at the academies in Munich, Antwerpen and Brussels. Although he had been living from 1857 in Paris, he maintained active contacts with the Czech society and devoted numerous works, in which a strong realistic feeling fell into the shade of an idealization, to the Czech



Fig. 3

history, especially to the Hussite era. He loved painting the sea, mountains and rocks as well as interiors of folk buildings in Brittany and Dalmatia. Čermák's adventurous and romantic nature was also attracted by the wild landscape of Montenegro and the unrestrained nature of its population. In the course of twenty years he created a number of paintings of the life of the Southern Slavs expressing his admiration for their struggle for national freedom and commemorating the then hot idea of Slavonic unity. His paintings attracted attention as far afield as Paris. He painted dramatic compositions of heroic female Slavs. A FDC in green-black shows a portrait of a girl with a tankard by J. Čermák (Fig. 3).

Kaván (1866-1941), "Pod Suchým Skalím, 1899", West Bohemian Art Gallery in Plzeň, engraved by Václav Fajt; black-brown, yellow, red, green, and blue. The Czech painter F. Kaván became famous as a landscape painter. He studied at the Prague Academy with Prof. J. Mařák and enjoyed his favor and support. However, Kaván's works were more influenced by A. Chittussi. Kaván loved the Vysočina Hillside around the Zelezné Mountains and other locations, and he endeavored to paint his works as a realistic description of the mood of nature and the expression of the landscape.

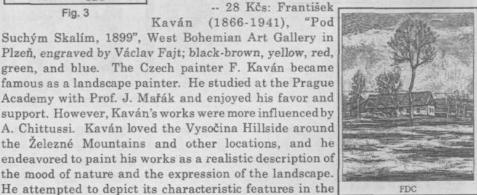


Fig. 4

changing atmosphere. Later on he inclined for some time to symbolism. He worked until an old age, but he received the greatest recognition for his paintings from the mid-90s which combine the intimate landscape painting with the outcoming impressionism in the Czech art of painting. The painting "Pod Suchým Skalím" comes from this period. A FDC in dark gray shows a detail of a painting by J. Kaván, "The Early Spring in the Jilemnice Region" (Fig. 4).

2. On November 8, 2006, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kč commemorative stamp celebrating Christmas (Fig. 5) the theme of which is a folk crèche. A crèche became the symbol of Christmas earlier than the Christmas tree. The tradition of Christmas

cribs was founded in 1223 by Saint Francis of Assisi in Umbria. He is credited with popularizing the crèche tradition. The first Christmas crib in Bohemia was displayed in Prague in 1560. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century they spread from churches and monasteries to households. Home production and building of Christmas cribs was typical especially for mountainous and sub-mountainous regions. They were made of various materials -- wood, clay, paper, glass, gingerbread, dough. There are small



Fig. 5

cribs with the main figures of the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Three Magi and the donkey and cow but also those with hundreds of figures. The most precious one in the Czech Republic, Probosek's Christmas crib in Třebechovice, is a moving one, more than 100 years old and listed on the list of national cultural heritage. It is a



Fig. 6

unique work both in the terms of art and technique. The stamp shows the central part of the crèche from the Krušné Mountains. The Holy Family is surrounded by sheep, a burro, a steer, the Three Kings with their gifts, and shepherds. This hereditary crèche, the author of which is unknown, can be seen year-round in the Museum of Crèche in Karlštejn. The stamp was designed by Jan Ungrád, engraved by Bohumil Šneider, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in ocher, orange, red, and green in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark

green shows a silhouette of the town of Bethlehem with a comet (Fig. 6).

3. On December 1, 2006, the Ministry issued a 7.50 Kčs definitive

stamp to promote the World Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2008 showing the logo of the exhibition (Fig. 7). The stamp was designed by Jan Solpera and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in printing sheets of 100 pieces.



Fig. 7

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