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A. P. S. Unit 18

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GOOD RESULTS AT BALPEX 92

Another BALPEX show has come and gone and, as usual, several members of our Society distinguished themselves "on the field of battle." There was a total of 36 exhibits comprising 237 frames. Of those, seven exhibits totalling 49 frames were by S.C.P. members.

The BALPEX Grand Award went to M.D. Jolly for his 10-frame exhibit of Germany. The BALPEX Court of Honor exhibit was by Charles Chesloe on Czechoslovakia. While none of our members captured a Gold Award, Vermeil Awards were won by Mirko Vondra for his Hradčany and by Richard Major for his Austro-Hungarian Naval Mail. Keith Stupell captured a Silver for his Czechoslovakia Under German Occupation as did Randy Frank for his Fourth World Boy Scout Jamboree. Phil Freer won a Silver Bronze for his First Republic of Czechoslovakia exhibit and Robert Koschalk for his Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

Our S.C.P. awards were made as follows:

First Prize - Mirko Vondra

Second Prize - Keith Stupell

Third Prize - Robert Koschalk

Besides serving on the Judges' panel, member Henry Hahn gave an enlightening account of pre-stamp mail of Austria with emphasis on postal rates at our Society's general meeting. This was followed by another interesting presentation by Richard Major on World War I fieldposts of the involved nations. Both talks were well documented by slide illustrations.

Our Society thanks its active members for their contributions to Czechoslovak philately at BALPEX and hopes that more of our members, especially the new ones, will participate in our future exhibitions. Those future exhibitions will be announced in one of our first two issues of the SPECIALIST in 1993.

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are fully entitled:

1. A sales and exchange circuit is operated by Jack Benchik. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/ Sept. 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact Jack Benchik, P.O. Box 555, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556.
2. A book sales division is run by Edwin Lehecka. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Ed Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.
3. A Society library is housed with Richard Palaschak, librarian. A complete write-up including contents of the library last appeared in the June 1989 SPECIALIST, page 10. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Dick Palaschak, 113 Joyes Lane, Dover, NJ 07801.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Charles Chesloe. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.
5. Stamp auctions are currently conducted through Tribuna Stamp Co., in Chicago and ads announcing forthcoming auctions appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For catalogs and bid forms or for information on submission of philatelic material for future auctions, contact Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.
6. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, translating articles from Czech to English, advertising rates and bound copies, contact Mirko Vondra, editor, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

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RATE & RELATED MARKINGS ON AUSTRIAN PRE-STAMP MAIL

by Henry Hahn

This article was first published in the Sept. 1992 issue of the *COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST*, official journal of the Collectors Club in New York. Permission to reprint is gratefully acknowledged.

While early postmarks used in the Habsburg Empire have been studied and well described by such authors as Muller (1), Ryan (2), Ber (3), and Votoček (4), rates and rate markings still present a challenge to students of this subject. Ber, et al, tabulate domestic rates in effect in Hungary, which are for the most part identical to pre-stamp period rates in other parts of the Empire. Unfortunately, Ber's coverage is incomplete and does not address the far more complicated area of international mail. Searches of libraries in Vienna and Prague have thus far not been very fruitful in the areas of international mail (except for rates to the borders of Austria) and it appears likely that not much will be found in the future since prior to the 19th century, no organized rate structure for ship mail existed in the Empire.

A second challenge is in deciphering the rate markings themselves. Postal clerks of yesteryear were no calligraphers, nor were they always prone to follow regulations. Thus, a lot of doodles passed for registry markings, squiggly lines passed for a "2" or a "4" or even a single line indicating "half prepaid".

On the brighter side, one need not fret as to whether a cover is philatelic. The often encountered fine state of preservation of covers going back to the sixteenth century is due to the lack of destructive or UV sensitive chemical fillers in the handmade papers of those times, and the message of the folded letters is often a great aid in the determination of postal data.

Prior to the introduction of regular postal service by Ferdinand I in 1526, there already existed regular courier service between numerous cities. For example regular courier service between Prague and Vienna operated as early as 1439. These, however, were private courier services, though not necessarily "Royal", but in any event not open to the public. Rate markings do not generally appear on 16th century mail, since payment of postage for a particular piece of mail was not required.

By 1509 there was such a service between Innsbruck and Passau, as evidenced by the letter shown in Fig. 1, written on behalf of the Royal Court and dated "in the Imperial Castle near Passau, September 12, 1509. It is written in humanistic Latin and addressed to Innsbruck: "to the Learned and Respected Gentleman, Stephan Gruyen, Imperial Secretary . . ."

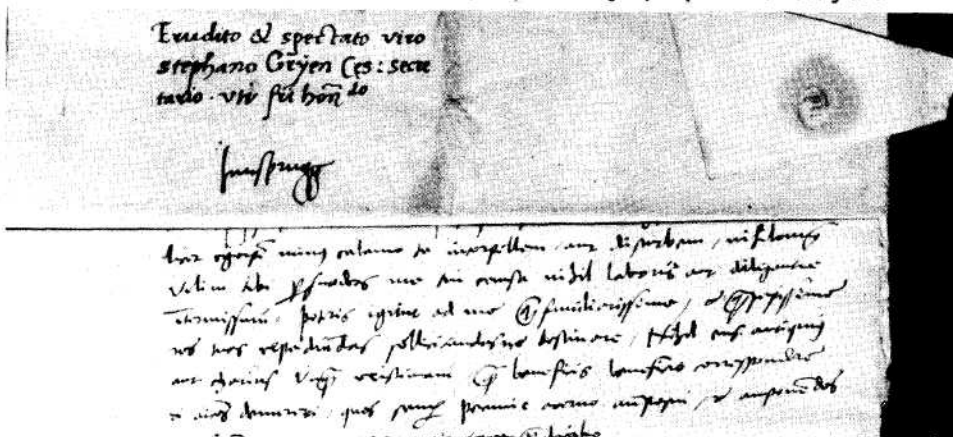


Fig. 1 Example of Pre-1526 Letter forwarded by Imperial Mail Service Between Passau and Innsbruck

Among the earliest "postal" markings found on mail is the "Cito, Cito, Cito" (or variation of this) marking. Typically appearing on Royal mail, it translates to "rush, rush, rush" and can even be thought of as a "rate" marking when one considers the cost to anyone interfering with the delivery process. Punishment for such interference with Royal mail so marked was often harsh. An example of a "Cito, Cito, Cito" marked letter appears in Fig. 2. It is addressed to the Archduke of Austria.

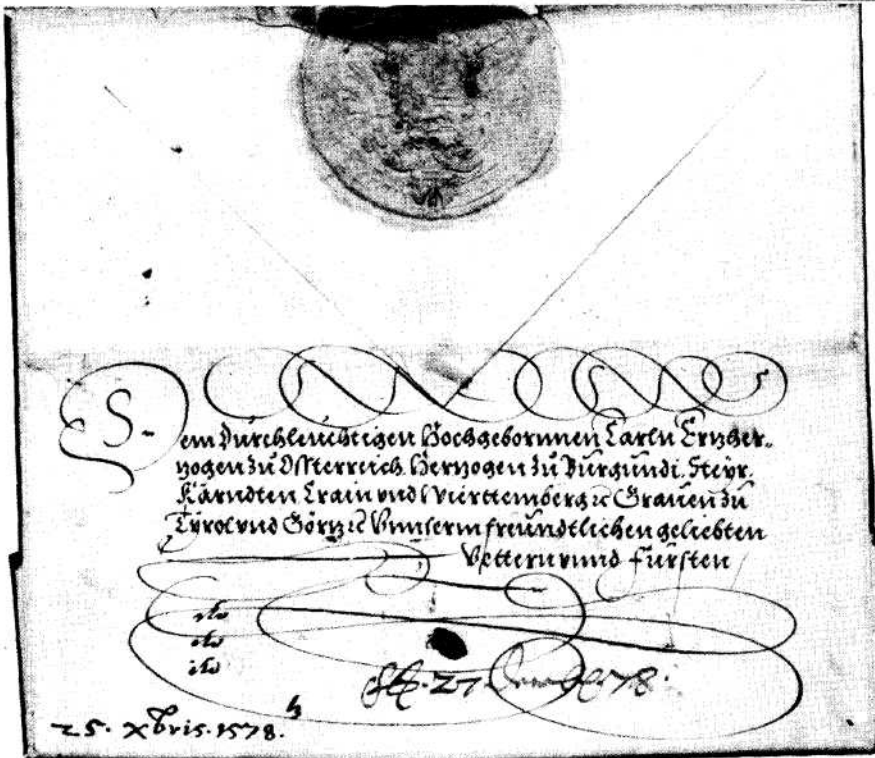


Fig. 2 Letter on Behalf of Emperor Rudolph II, Dated in Prague, December 25, 1578, bearing the marking "Cito, Cito, Cito" and the Royal Seal.

Rate markings on ordinary mail by means of the "Roethel" were probably introduced toward the end of the 17th century, possibly as late as the start of the 18th century. The "Roethel" is a marking using an orange-red crayon, and the name is derived from the work "rot" which in German means "red". Early use of the "Roethel" markings appears on Royal mail as well, where it was used for accounting purposes rather than to indicate the postage to be collected from recipient.

The earliest written record of the setting of postal rates appears to be when, in 1661, Postmaster Carl von Paar ordered that the Graz postoffice charge the same as the Vienna postoffice, i.e. 3 Kr¹ for single sheets weighing up to 1/2 Loth and 6 Kr for single sheets weighing up to 1 Loth. The Haber-Wessely reference (5) does not indicate the date or existence of any record of the setting of rates in Vienna.

On April 16, 1695 Leopold I issued a "Postal Patent" in which rates are spelled out. However, most postal historians view the period between January 1, 1704 and June 30, 1722 as Austria's first official published rate period. By then postal service was no longer the privi-

lege of nobility, and a uniform rate for letters was set at 6 Kreuzer (Kr) per page.

This rate had to be prepaid, and applies to letters addressed to any part of the Empire. The letters did not need to have been weighed, since the rate applied to a single page without regard to size or weight.

Mailing privileges were so numerous that we see more frank-free than franked mail. The Royal Court, Postmaster General, all Government Agencies, all Christian Clergy represent only part of the list. Included as free services were registry fees and return receipts when these were introduced later on. An example of such a free piece of clergy mail is shown in Fig. 3. It is a return registry receipt pertaining to a late 18th century letter from Prague, addressed to Monsieur de Nuce, Donal de l'ordre du Malte et du grand Priore de Boh (emie) in Vienna. Note such registry marking as N.B., i.e. Nota Bene, indicating that the receipt itself went back to Prague registered.

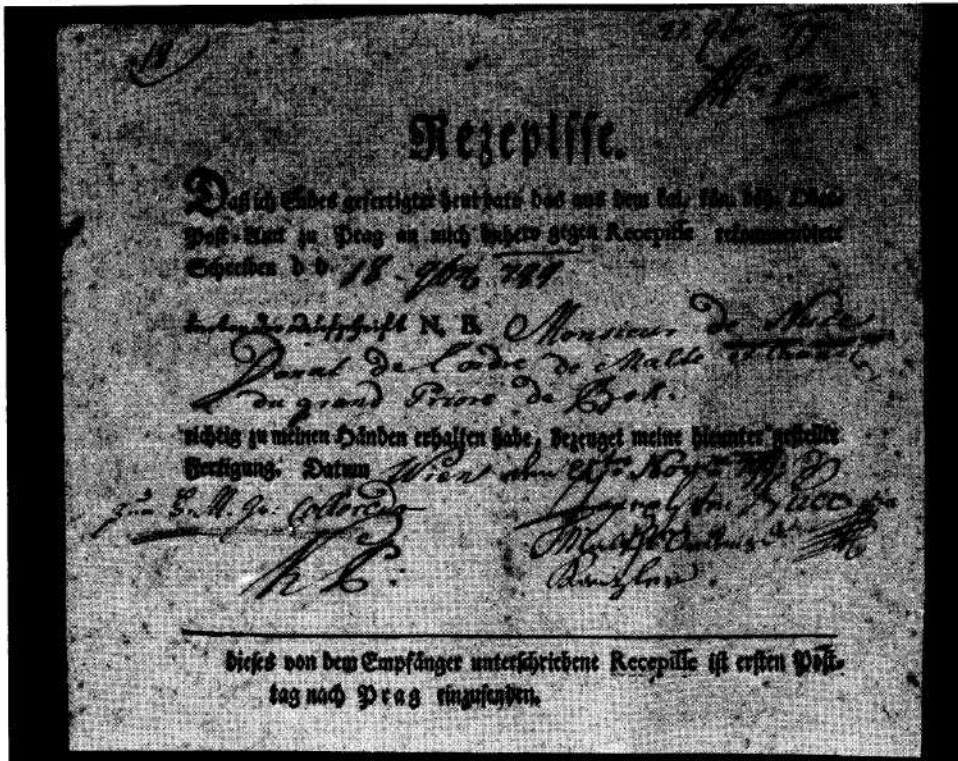


Fig. 3 Return Receipt for Registered Letter, Mailed in 1799 from Vienna to Prague

Two important novelties were introduced into the system in 1722, when weight of the letter determined postage and letters no longer needed to be fully prepaid. A great many new rules were introduced through the postal patent proclaimed by Maria Theresia in 1722, which was partially translated and discussed in an article by the author (See Ref. 6).

The unit of weight in use through the pre-stamp periods was the Loth², and letters were generally weighed to the nearest 1/2 Loth.

When in 1722 the weighing of letters rather than the counting of sheets was introduced, the rates within Lower and Central Austria, Bohemia, Hungary and certain other parts of the Empire were established at 6 Kr for the first 1/2 Loth, 8 Kr for the first Loth, and 4 Kr for each additional 1/2 Loth. These rates were referred to as "Half Rates", since they were col-

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lected from both the sender and the recipient, and thus represent a tripling of the rate for a single sheet weighing less than 1/2 Loth. Letters going outside the areas mentioned above were charged 6 Kr for each 1/2 Loth (Half Rate), but the full rate had to be paid by either the sender or recipient.

This "gouging" by the private postal authorities met with resistance from both the Court and the public, resulting in a significant lowering of the rates, effective October 16, 1722. At that time the domestic rate was reduced to 4 Kr (Half Rate) for each full Loth, and foreign to 6 Kr (Half Rate) for each Loth. Domestic rates were still split between sender and recipient, except between major cities in which the full rate could be prepaid. The full foreign rate could again be either prepaid or collected.

The convention used to show amount to be collected and prepayment was not entirely uniform throughout the Empire or was not always adhered to. The work "Franko" meant prepayment, while "Porto" indicated the sum to be collected. Alternatively or simultaneously, a single diagonal line indicated 1/2 prepaid, while crossed diagonal lines indicated fully prepaid. A rate numeral, in pen or "Roethel" on the address side indicated the sum in Kr to be collected from the recipient, while a rate numeral on the reverse indicated the amount that was prepaid.

On July 1, 1750 the rates were increased and full postage was established. Letters could be fully prepaid or fully collected. Two basic sets of rates were prescribed; one for letter within the Empire, except for letters destined for Tuscany, Mantua, Milano, the Austrian Netherlands and the Holy Roman Empire, and the second surcharge rate to the latter provinces. The first rate was 8 Kr for the first 1/2 Loth, with 8 Kr for each additional Loth (or part). For letters to Tuscany, Mantua, Milano, the Austrian Netherlands and Upper Austria and the Holy Roman Empire the surcharge was 6 Kr for the first 1/2 Loth and 6 Kr for each additional Loth.

Only one and a half years later, toward the end of 1751, the system returned to the option of prepaying the 1/2 rate and collecting the other 1/2 from the recipient. However, full prepayment as well as full rate collection could still be made. The rate remained the same up to 5 Loth. Above that, the rate for each additional Loth was reduced to 6 Kr. In addition, a lower rate was established for letters weighing 2 Loth or more, traveling from a main post office to one of its branches. The half rate above the 2 Loths was 4 Kr per Loth. An even lower rate applied to letters NOT passing any main post office. This half rate was just 3 Kr for the first 1/2 Loth, 6 Kr for 1 Loth, 2 Kr for each Loth over 1 and up to 5 Loth, and 1 Kr for each additional Loth over 5 Loth.

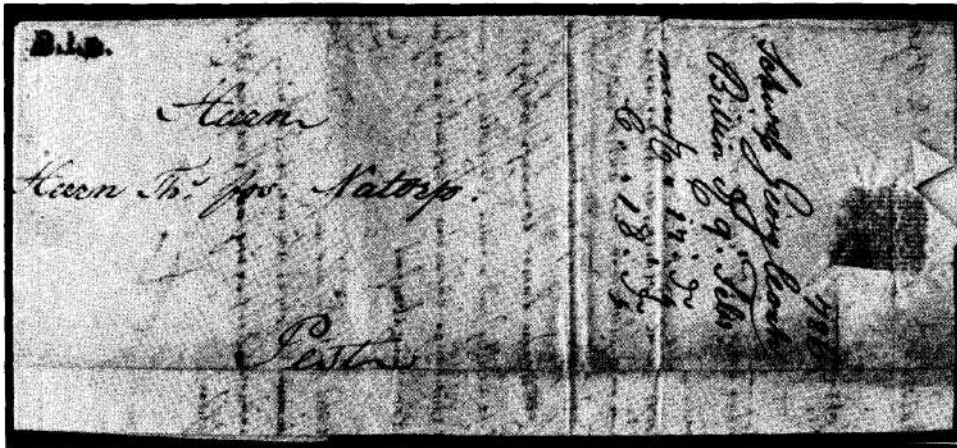


Fig. 4 Letter from Bilin to Pesth Showing Earliest Bilin Postmark and 4 Kr Half Rate to be Collected.

A 1/2 Loth letter of that period is illustrated in Fig. 4. The letter was mailed from BILIN (now Czechoslovakia) to PESTH (now Budapest) on Feb. 9, 1786. The 4 Kr shown on front was to be collected from recipient.

The 1751 rate remained essentially unchanged through July 31, 1798, except that as of Nov. 1, 1789, the reduced postage for "local" mail, i.e. mail between main post offices and branch post offices and mail between branch offices feeding into a single main post office was eliminated. In addition, the rate table was broken down to 1/2 Loth increments; i.e. the basic half rate was still 4 Kr for the first 1/2 Loth, with 4 Kr added for each additional 1/2 Loth to 5 Loth. Above that, and up to 10 Loth the rate was 3 Kr per 1/2 Loth and, above 10 Loth to 20 Loth, the rate was 2 Kr per Loth. Above 20 Loth the rate was 1 Kr per 1/2 Loth and above 1 Pfund the rate dropped to 1 Kr per full Loth.

In mid-1798 the rates were increased. The half rate could still be paid by the sender or recipient, though now the full rate could be paid by the sender only. The half rate was simply 6 Kr per 1/2 Loth up to 5 Loth for domestic mail which included Austria, Bohemia, Hungary, Galicia, Transylvania and the Tyrol. Mail destined for other parts of the Holy Roman Empire, the Netherlands, Tuscany and the Italian States was charged exactly twice the above rate. A letter representative of the 1798 - 1808 rate period is shown in Fig. 5. The half rate of 6 Kr to be collected is shown by the Roethel on the front, while the prepaid 6 Kr half rate is indicated on the back.



Fig. 5 Letter posted v. (from) Troppau (Opava), Silesia to Brunn on January 7, 1802.

During this rate period, a registry rate appeared for the first time; it was 6 Kr and had to be prepaid. A rate was also established for return receipts, which was 3 Kr, to be paid on delivery of the receipt. In addition, a "receipt fee" of 2 Kr was imposed, payable by both the sender and recipient, if a return receipt was ordered.

A further increase in ordinary postage took effect on November 15, 1803, when the half rate per 1/2 Loth was increased from 6 Kr to 8 Kr. This rate remained in effect to October 1, 1810 when, for the first time, a zone system went into effect. The previous 1803 rate remained in effect only if the letter was addressed to a destination WITHIN 4 postal stations. The half rate was double, i.e. 16 Kr per 1/2 Loth, for mail addressed to OUTSIDE 4 postal stations.

On February 20, 1811 postal rates were slashed to exactly 1/2 of the 1810 rate for mail traveling within the 4 postal stations, and reduced to 7 Kr per 1/2 Loth for mail addressed to outside the 4 stations.

On February 1, 1814 only the rate for mail addressed to outside the 4 postal stations was increased. This increase of the half rate was from 7 Kr to 8 Kr per 1/2 Loth. On May 16, 1815 the rates were again increased by one third, i.e. to 6 Kr per 1/2 Loth for mail traveling inside 4 postal stations, and 12 Kr per 1/2 Loth for mail destined outside the 4 postal stations.

Prior to that, in the second half of the 18th century, Count Paar, then "Highest Imperial Postmaster", issued orders to the postal administrations throughout the Empire, to initiate the use of postmarks. The need for such postmarks was based primarily on the rate system introduced in 1751 when, as mentioned above, mail traveling from a branch post office to its main post office and mail traveling between branches falling under the same main post office were reduced.

The orders called for applications of postmarks to the front of each departing letter bearing the name of the locality in which the post office was situated, and application of a receiving postmark showing month and day to the backs of arriving letters. The order went into effect in Bohemia on Sept. 1, 1782, and the first postmark responsive to this order was the "Von Prag" postmark of 1782 shown in Fig. 6.



Fig. 6 Earliest Prague Postmark (1782 in red) Used on Letter Dated Feb. 4, 1784 addressed to Antwerp. Roethel indicates Postage of 6 Kr to Border, with additional Rate Markings Applied along the way.

However, some Austrian, Hungarian as well as Bohemian postmarks were in use prior to 1782. The first postmark in Bohemia is probably that of EGER (CHEB) of 1756, while the earliest known Hungarian postmark appears on a letter from DEBRECEN, dated April 13, 1752. According to Ryan (see Fig. 7), less than 140 Hungarian postmarks of 1752-1817 have been preserved, and those of Bohemia are also somewhat rare.

A reason for this rarity is that between 1790 and 1817 the use of the postmarks was largely suspended. This is due to the fact that postal rates within the inner Empire, including Austria, Bohemia and Hungary as well as some close-by provinces became largely uniform through discontinuation of the lower rates for mail traveling from branch post offices to main post offices, and for mail traveling between branches of the same main post office. As pointed out earlier, this change went into effect on November 1, 1789.

Despite establishment of the two zone system on October 1, 1810 (first zone within 4 postal stations, second zone outside the 4 postal stations), a new and comprehensive order for

use of postmarks was not issued until 1817, when the 7 - zone ("Rayon") system went into effect.

A far more complicated system for establishing postal fees, based on both weight and the number of postal stations passed, went into effect on June 1, 1817. The rates were based on full rate postage, which could be either prepaid or collected from the recipient.

The key to the rate calculations was knowledge of how many postal stations would be passed in order to reach a particular routing. The routing, generally specified by the postmaster, could be dependent on the day of mailing, since some routes were not necessarily serviced on a daily basis.

The 7 zones were defined as: Zone 1 being within 3 postal stations, Zone 2 within 6 postal stations, etc., etc.,with Zone 7 being outside 18 postal stations.

The unit fees were relatively simple; 2 Kr for each 1/2 Loth and for each zone segment. Thus, a letter weighing 1 1/2 Loth, addressed to within the 4th zone would cost:

$$3 (1/2 \text{ Loth}) \times 2 \text{ Kr} = 6 \text{ Kr},$$

$$\text{and } 6 \text{ Kr (for weight)} \times 4 \text{ (for 4th zone)} = 24 \text{ Kr}$$

One must not forget that 60 Kr equals 1 Gulden, and thus 4 Loth going to the 5th zone would cost:

$$8 (1/2 \text{ Loth}) \times 2 \text{ Kr} = 16 \text{ Kr},$$

$$\text{and } 16 \text{ Kr (for weight)} \times 5 \text{ (for 5th zone)} = 80 \text{ Kr}$$

but 80 Kr converts to 1 Gulden 20 Kr.

Since the number of post offices changed drastically through the period of the 7 - zone rate system, which lasted through July 31, 1842, and postal maps for the intervening years are not easily available, a postal scale in grams with a conversion table to Loth, and faith in the postmaster's familiarity with the route must generally suffice to verify the Roethel marking.

An early second zone letter originating in TETSCHEN (DECIN nad LABEM) and addressed to Prague is shown in Fig. 7. Since the TETSCHEN post office only opened in 1832, and merely had a collection station for the AUSSIG (USTI nad LABEM) post office, the letter received its postmark at AUSSIG: its relatively new framed postmark of 1822. Since Prague was the fourth station on the postal route heading south, and the letter weighed only 1/2 Loth, the rate was 4 Kr. It was collected from the recipient.

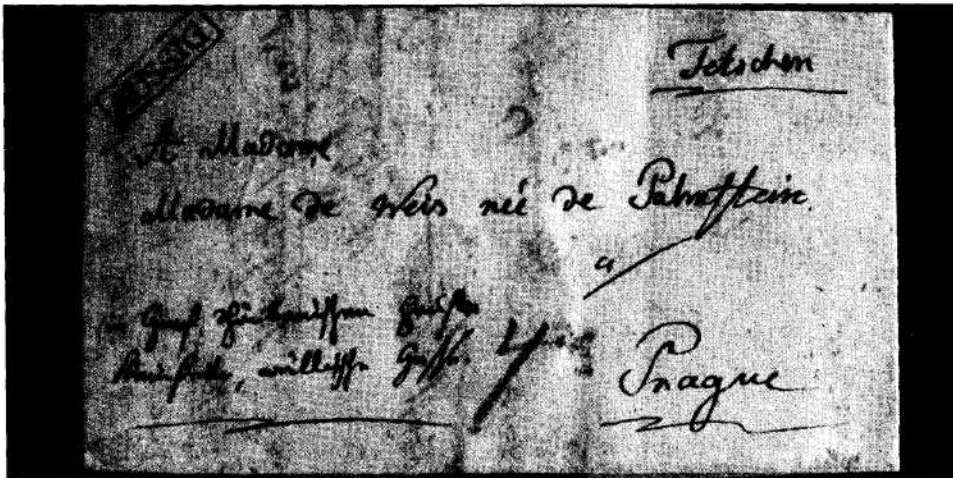


Fig. 7 Second Zone 1/2 Loth, Letter from Tetschen (via Aussig) to Prag.

Prepayment of postage is shown in essentially all possible ways on a letter shown in Fig. 8. This letter bears the framed "PRAG - Alt" (PRAGUE, OLD TOWN) postmark of 1831,

one of the early dated postmarks. It is addressed to the local court in SAAR (Stadt Saar in Mahren) which is in the IGLAU (Moravia) district, and between 10 and 12 postal stations distant from the OLD TOWN PRAGUE post office, i.e. in the fourth distance zone.

Letters to courts required prepayment even if the sender was a magistrate, as is true in the present case. The letter is a legal document, since it is written on paper bearing a 15 Kr revenue imprint. Prepayment is evident from:

- a. Script "Franco" on front
- b. "Franco" postal marking on front
- c. Roethel cross (faint) marking on front
- d. Roethel marking of "32" on back

From the relatively high postage it is apparent that the letter contained one or more enclosures and weighed 2 Loth. It may also be observed that the postal clerk in Saar duly marked the arrival on the reverse (30/10) for the 30th of October. The Prague postmark is dated 28 October.

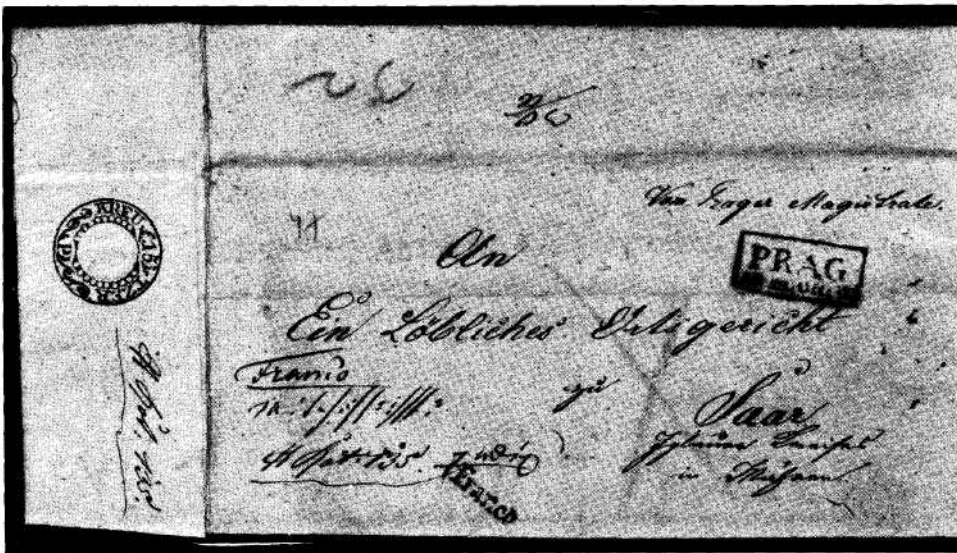


Fig. 8 Prepaid Letter weighting 2 Loth, 4th Zone, Charged 32 Kr.

On August 1, 1842 the 7-zone rate system was replaced by a 2-zone system, now measured in distance rather than the number of postal stations traversed. The first distance zone was inside of 10 Meilen and the letter rate up to 5 Loth was 6 Kr full rate per 1/2 Loth. The second zone, i.e. outside 10 Meilen was at 12 Kr per 1/2 Loth. Registry was raised from 4 Kr to 6 Kr and "Local" rates of 2 Kr up to 2 Loth were introduced. Printed matter rates were established for the first time and were at 2/3 the letter rate up to 2 pfund.

A registered letter mailed during this rate period is shown in Fig. 9. It was mailed in ELBOGEN (LOKET), BOHEMIA to PEGGAU (Styria) in 1846. The prepaid registry fee is indicated on the reverse as 6 Kr, while the ordinary postage of 12 Kr (1/2 Loth, second distance zone) is shown on the front. The registry is noted by both the postal marking "Recommandiert" and the "NB" (Nota Bene) Roethel marking on the front. Note routing via "Prague-Vienna-Bruch and PEGGAU, 23 Mai" arrival marking.

The two-zone system was changed to a three-zone system on July 1, 1848. In this system the first-zone, under 10 Meilen was charged at 2 Kr per 1/2 Loth, up to 2 Loth, with lower rates over 2 Loth. The second zone, over 10 but under 20 Meilen was charged at three times

the first zone rate, while the third zone rate was charged at 5-times the first zone rate.

The last rate change prior to the introduction of adhesive stamps took place on April 1, 1849. The three zone rate remained in effect, though some of the rates were increased and the rate table was simplified. The uniform first zone rate to 5 Loth was 3 Kr per 1/2 Loth, double that for the second zone, and double the second zone rate for the third zone rate. Registry fees remained at 6 kr.

One of the major challenges in the study of postal rates in the Habsburg Empire are foreign rates. A typical letter representative of the 7-zone (1817-1842) rate period is shown in Fig. 10. It is postmarked in TROPPAU, July 7, 1841. Red "FRANCO" and "GRENZE" together with incomplete diagonal pen lines indicates prepayment of postage to the border. The payment was 13 or 14 Kr (script on back), while the script "13" on front probably indicates postage to be collected on delivery. Script "8" on front probably indicates postage to be collected in French currency.

Black handstamp (Letter Autrichienne) was applied by Thurn

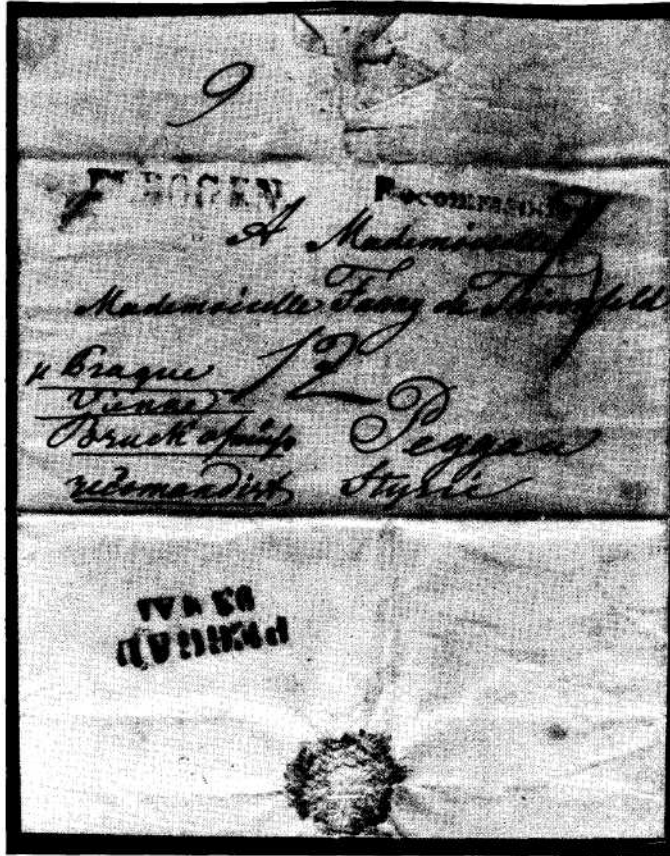


fig. 9 Second Zone Rate, 1/2 Loth 12 Kr. Collect. Registered 6 Kr. Prepaid and indicated on Reverse.

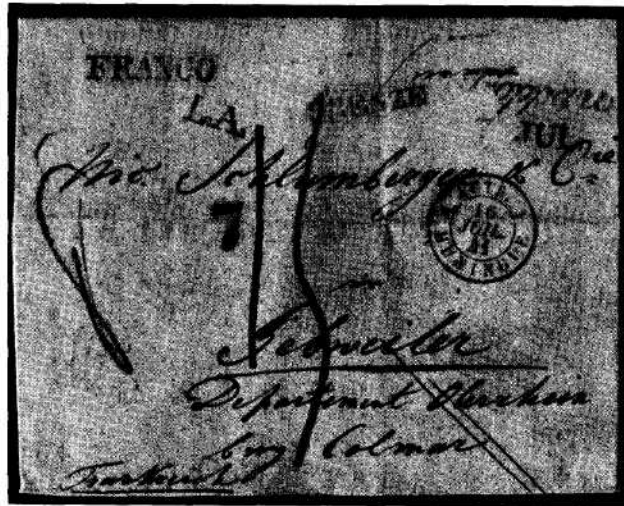


Fig. 10 Troppau to Gebweiler (France), Posted July 7, 1841

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and Taxis in Germany. Double circle transit mark on front "AUTR. 16 Juil. 41-HUNINGUE" was applied at entry to France. The receiving postmark on back reads "GUIBWILLER 17 Juil. 41 (66). The "66" designates Department of Haut-Rhin, France.

Footnotes

1. To 1818 in Wiener Währung, where 60 Kr = 1 Gulden, and 21 Gulden = 1 Mark of silver. After 1818 and up to 1857 in Conventionsmunze, where 60 Kr (still) = 1 Gulden, but only 20 Gulden = 1 Mark of silver.
2. 1 Pfund (Austrian pound, approximately .56 Kg) = 32 Loth; 1 Loth = 17.5 g (approx); 10 g = 9/16 Loth (approx.)

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7. Ryan, G.S.: Ibid p. 7.

PHILATELICALLY SPEAKING

The very fine setenant pair of Czechs and Slovaks has been broken. The romance of joined types is gone. Tete-beche politics have yielded to major varieties and pink shades. Leadership has become unhinged as the pressure mounts, while freaks and errors have become the topicals of the day.

Thins and tears are what remains of a superb state in the general foreign category.

The men who framed the subjects are creased and broken, resting in their mounts. Their Grand Award is devoid of felicitations. Fake tongs have denied the genuine subjects - new neotypes replace intaglio images, perforating the once imperforate and inseparable.

Will common sense ever again reach the high water mark? Will overprinted Slovakia ever emerge from the back of the book? Recall the Svatopluk allegory of the broken wands! Independence will be no dandy roll; it could be a gutter. History is not offset by regumming old hatreds.

- Henry Hahn

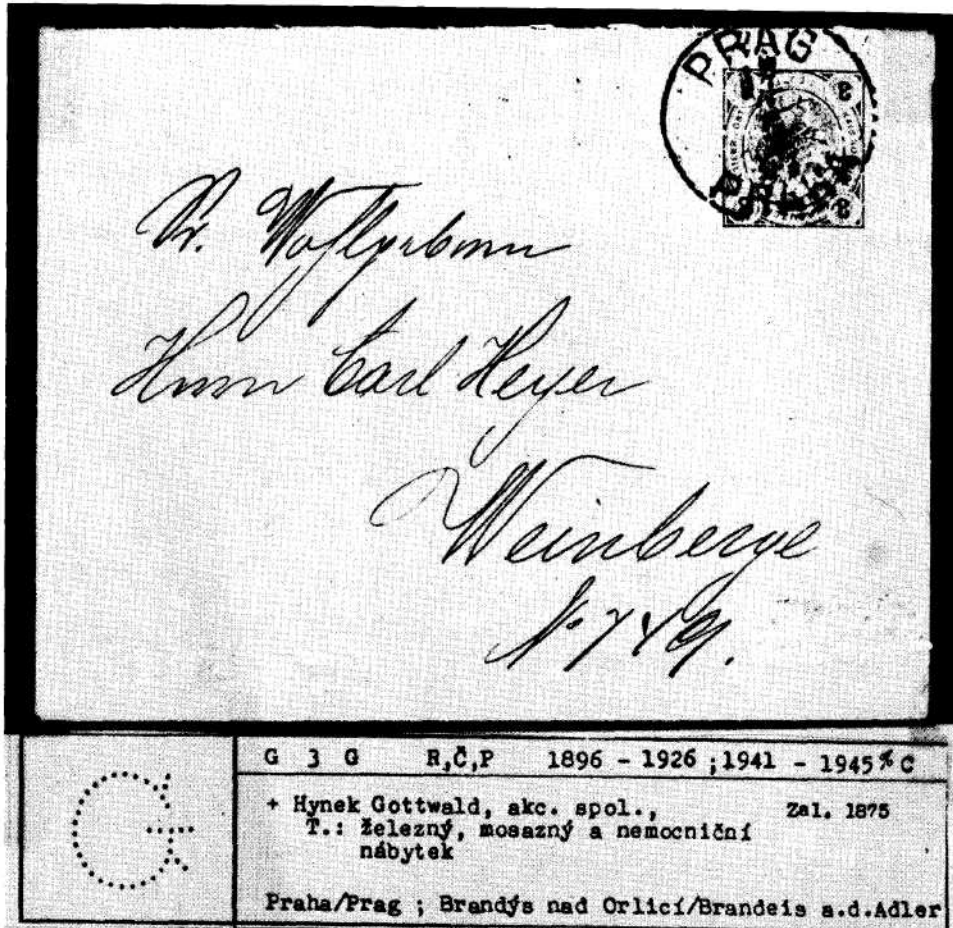


Fig. 2

- A - Over 200 pieces known of this perfin.
- B - Between 100 to 200 pieces known to exist.
- C - Between 50 to 99 pieces known to exist.
- D - Between 20 to 49 pieces known to exist.
- E - Between 5 to 19 pieces known to exist.
- F - 4 or less pieces in existence.

In my opinion, they are based on estimates on the current supply in Europe. Surely one must take into consideration the material that got into the United States and Canada after 1938 and never returned. Here are some examples of those that reached us. Below each is the Maxa catalog listing with its coded line.

Fig. 1 shows the initials "J.S." on an Austrian parcel form sent from Brno on July 22, 1895. It carries a "C" value rating and a catalog number "J97".

Fig. 2 shows the initial "G" on a local Prague cover with a partially obliterated postmark from the year 1897. It carries a "C" value rating and a catalog number "G3".

Fig. 3 shows the initials "J.Č." with a Prague postmark of Nov. 10, 1927 on a 100h redrawn Agriculture and Science issue Type III comb perforated 13 3/4 x 13 1/2. It has a "C" value

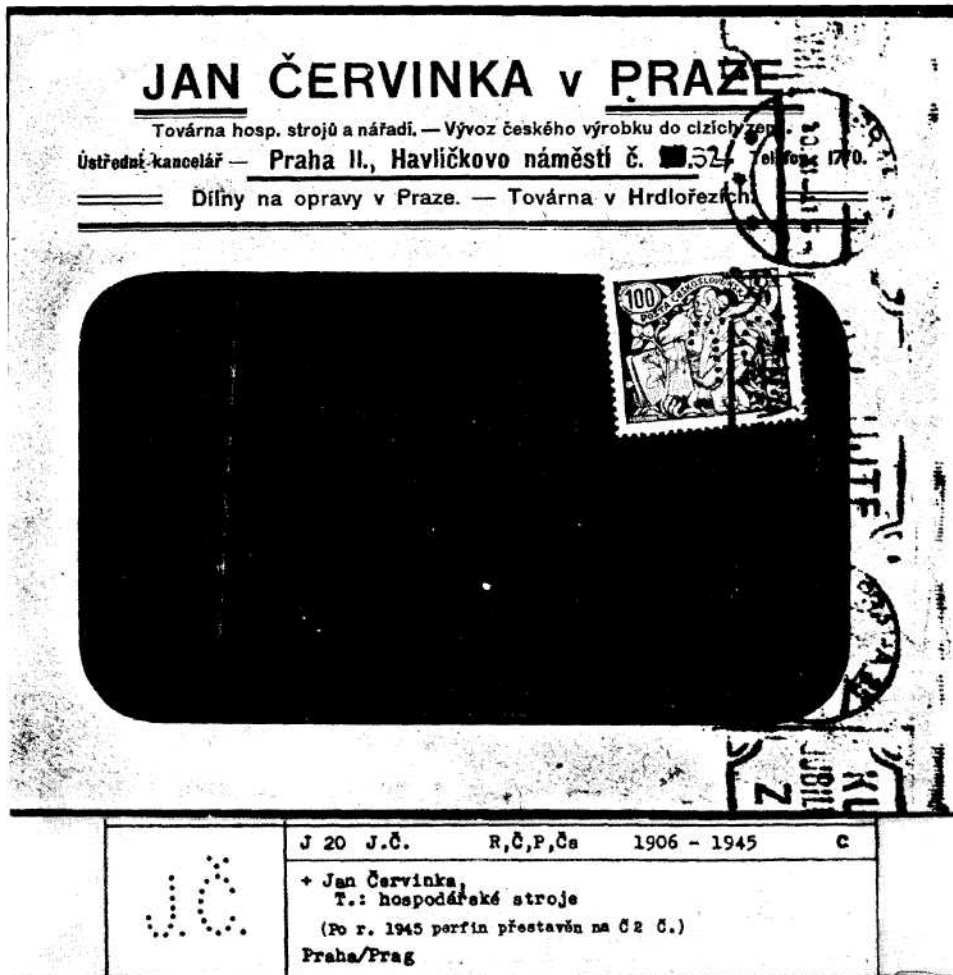


Fig. 3

rating and catalog number "J20".

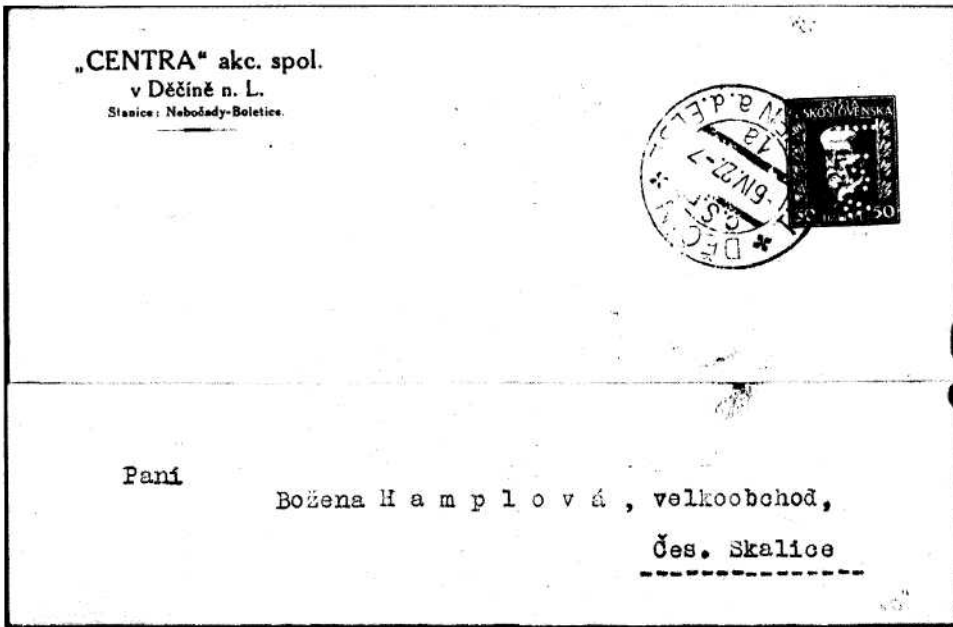
Fig. 4 has the initials "B.F.&C." on a 50h comb perforated Masaryk stamp cancelled in Luhačovice during 1926. The perfin is that of the B. Fischmann Company in Brno. Apparently someone in the Company was spending some time at the Spa in Luhačovice. This perfin is quite scarce, showing a "D" value rating.

Fig. 5 shows the initials "N.E.K." of Nathan Eisler of Kolin. The date appears to be obliterated. It is also quite scarce, carrying a "D" value rating.

Fig. 6 shows the perfin "LIGA" of Centra in Děčín. It was mailed on May 6, 1927 and carries a "C" value rating.

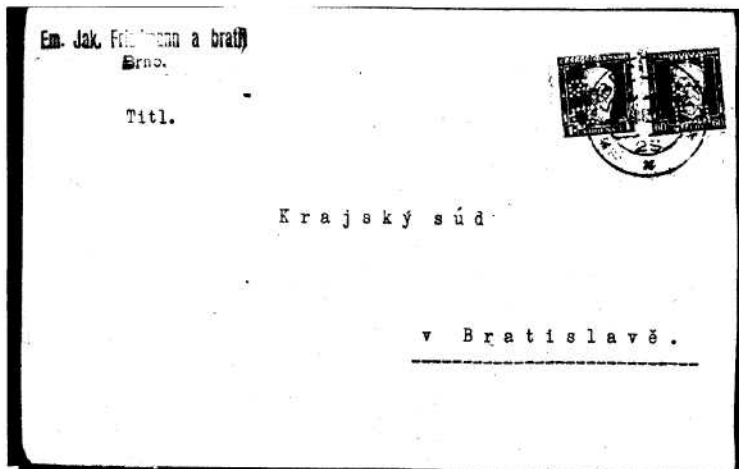
Fig. 7 is that of an overweight letter franked with the 1930 Masaryk 60 h and 1 k denominations. It has an "F.&B." perfin of the firm Emanuel Jakub Friedmann & Brothers of Brno. Mailed in August 1931, it carries a "B" value rating.

Fig. 8 shows the perfin "L.B." of Ladislav Bartoš of Česká Skalice. It was mailed on Nov. 24, 1936 and carries a "B" value rating.



| | | | | |
|------|---|---|-------------|------------|
| LIGA | L 20 LIGA | Č | 1920 - 1930 | C |
| | + Centra, akc. spol., T.: tukové výrobky (Liga - ochranná známka umělého tuku) Děčín | | | Prot. 1925 |

Fig. 6



| | | | | |
|-------|--|---------|-------------|---|
| F & B | F 9 F. & B. | R, Č, P | 1908 - 1944 | B |
| | + Emanuel Jakob Friedmann & bratři, Prot. 1897 T.: papírnické zboží, lepenka a psací potřeby Brno/Brünn | | | |

Fig. 7

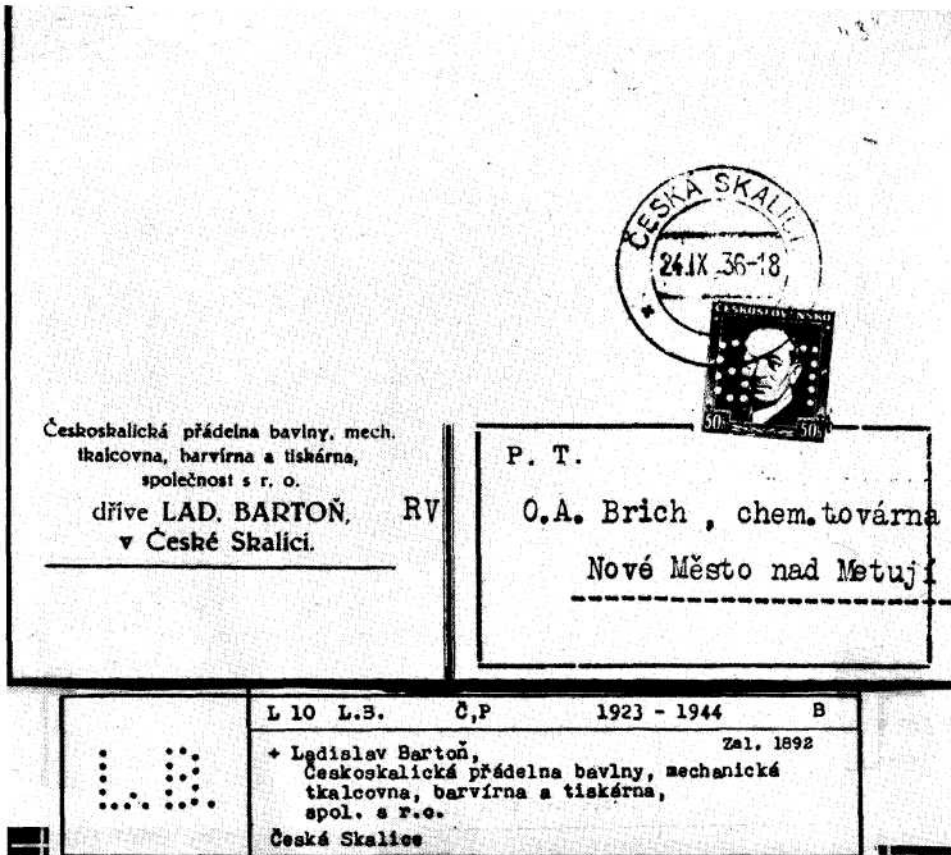


Fig. 8

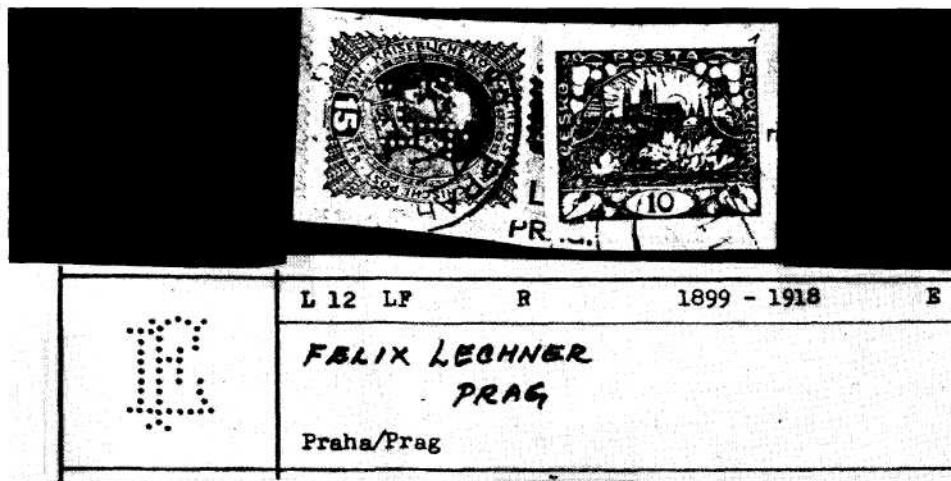


Fig. 9

Finally there is Fig. 9. Of all these illustrations, this last one is the "Piece de résistance". It shows the perfin of Felix Lechner of Prague, an artistic logo combining the letters "F.L." This business did work in the wood industry and the export of wood. The perfin has an "E" rating, which is that of a rarity.

This article contains but a sampling to show what perfin collecting is all about. Covers with perfins are single stamps and are usually moderately priced at dealers' tables and sometimes you may be lucky enough to find a real bargain. In an earlier article a few issues ago, I described a registered cover I purchased with Austrian issues of 1908. The cover was sent from Bohemian Escompte Bank in Děčín in 1913 with a perfin that carries a rating value of "E". I paid ten dollars for the cover and found it under "Austria" in a dealer's cover box.

Collecting perfins can be lots of fun and can be limited to a particular country like Czechoslovakia or it can encompass several European countries. But to get the most out of such a collection, one should have available the Maxa Perfin catalog. Our Society library carries one under Item 97 and it is available to our members on a loan basis.

Below each illustrated cover, I have shown its listing in Maxa 1987. The top line to the right of the perfin shows the catalog number first (i.e. L12 in Fig. 9). Next comes the letter or letters of the perfin (i.e. LF). "R" is a code to designate it appeared only on Austrian issues. Then follow the years during which the perfin was used (i.e. 1899-1918). Actually the Felix Lechner perfin shown in Fig. 9 was cancelled in Prague on Jan. 11, 1919. Finally comes the rating (i.e. E for rarity).

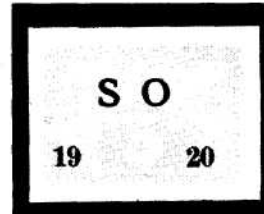
For the Beginner

MORE ON OVERPRINTS

There is another group of overprinted stamps which are very definitely a part of Czechoslovak Philately, but which will not be found in the Czech section of the Scott Catalogue. Scott lists them under the heading EASTERN SILESIA. They are Hradčany Issues, both imperf and perforated; the 500h and 1000h of the first Masaryk stamps; Special Delivery Stamps; Postage Due Stamps and Newspaper stamps, all of which are overprinted SO 1920. Included in the Eastern Silesia listing are ten stamps of Poland with the same overprint.

The explanation for these overprints is a story of considerable historic significance. There is a part of the former Austrian Silesia which is known as Těšhin and, because of its economic importance, was of great interest to both Poland and Czechoslovakia. Following the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Poland occupied this territory. However, the Czechoslovak Army pushed the Poles back and occupied the region. At a conference in 1920 the Těšhin area was continued within the boundaries of Czechoslovakia and a Commission, which took over the government of the area, suggested that both Czech and Polish stamps be overprinted SO, which probably stood for the latin "Silesia Orientalis" (Eastern Silesia) plus the year date 1920. For some reason (perhaps philatelic?) these stamps were overprinted in rather large quantities considering the comparatively small area intended for their use. Many varieties of the overprint are found as well as counterfeits. However, very few are known to exist postally used on cover.

Because of limited space, we are illustrating only two SO overprints - one on Hradčany and one on a Special Delivery stamp.



- Phillips B. Freer

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mirko,

The September/ October 1992 issue of THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST arrived yesterday, and I anxiously turned to Mr. Phil Freer's column, "For the Beginner - Overprints." To my surprise and great distress, Mr. Freer neglected to even mention the most famous overprint, and the only legitimate overprint form the so-called "Revolutionary or Provisional Overprints" period of late 1918, viz the "Přijezd presidenta Masaryka" overprint, authorized by the Czech National Council for overprinting on the two Czech Scout Official Mail



Delivery Service (Scout Post) stamps for one day only use on December 21, 1918, when the Czech Scouts assisted with the arrival of President Masaryk in Prague. Could it be that Mr. Freer is unaware of these well-known and very valuable overprints? Should that be the case, may I refer him to the excellent articles on the Scout Post by Ivo Kvasnicka and on the "Přijezd" overprints by Jan Dvořák and the late Lester Behnke, which have appeared in the SPECIALIST and been reprinted in other philatelic publications. Should Mr. Freer need any assistance in locating these articles, I shall be pleased to provide him

the specific references; he need only contact me at the above address.

I trust that Mr. Freer will atone for his omission of the "Přijezd" overprints by prominently featuring them in a future installment of his "For the Beginner" column.

The SPECIALIST continues to be an outstanding Society publication. Keep up the good work!

Philatelically yours,
Fred Lawrence

Editor's Note: The above letter is appreciated for its constructive and informative criticism. However, the Scout stamps were not issued by the government of the then new Czechoslovak Republic and are not even listed in Scott's catalog under "Czechoslovakia." Though we do not dispute the importance of the overprint itself, the item is so scarce and so highly specialized, Phil Freer did not feel it belonged in a column headed "For the Beginner."

NEW ISSUES

1. On July 22, 1992, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications announced the issuance of a three stamp set publicizing the Beauties of Our Country in denominations of 6 kčs, 7 kčs and 8 kčs. (see Fig. 1).



Fig. 1
20

The 6 kčs stamp shows the drawing of the garden front with terrace and staircase of Castle Troja in Prague. At the bottom, the text "Zámek Troja" identifies the subject. Designed and engraved by Miloš Ondráček and graphically arranged by Josef Herčík, the stamp was printed in black, reddish brown, blue, ochre and green colors.

The 7 kčs stamp shows a drawing of G.R. Donner's statue of St. Martin situated in Bratislava's Cathedral bearing his name. The text in Slovak reads "Súsošie Sv. Martina, Bratislavský Dom." Design and engraving is by Martin Činovský and graphic arrangement is by Josef Herčík. The stamp was printed in black and dark rose colors.

The 8 kčs shows a drawing of the Castle Lednice in southern Moravia with the text "Zámek Lednice" in the lower right corner. Design and engraving is by Pavel Kovářik and graphic arrangement by Josef Herčík. The colors are black and orange.

The set was printed at the Post Printing House in Prague by multi-colored flat plate recess in miniature sheets of eight stamps. All three pictures are 40mm. by 26 mm. in size.

First Day covers printed by flat-plate recess accompany each stamp with a special cancellation. The FDC for the 6 kčs stamp has a drawing of one of Bombelli's ceramic vases from the terrace of the Castle Troja in black and orange colors. The FDC for the 7 kčs stamp has a drawn view of St. Martin's Cathedral in black color. The FDC for the 8 kčs stamp shows a drawing of a minaret from the castle park in Lednice in ochre, red and black-blue colors.

The stamps are postally valid for domestic and international use from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.

2. On August 28, 1992, the Ministry of Posts announced issuance of a single stamp honoring folk architecture. Issued in a .50k denomination, the stamp bears the drawing of a Chapel in the Chrudim region of Bohemia. (see Fig. 2).

Design is by academic painter and graphic artist Jaroslav Lukavský; engraving by Jaroslav Goldschmied. The engraving is by Miloš Pošusta. The design and engraving is similar to the 3.60 kčs stamps issued in 1971 and the size of the picture is 30 mm. by 23 mm. Printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess in black color combined with three-colored recess print in blue, violet and olive green in sheets of fifty stamps, its validity for domestic and international postal use extends from date of issue until officially withdrawn. There appears to be no accompanying First Day cover for this stamp.



Fig. 2

3. On August 28, 1992, the Ministry of Posts issued another single stamp honoring Postal Bank Services. Issued in a 20 Kčs. denomination, the stamp pictures an allegorical portrait of two faces - an old man and a young girl - complete with two stylized musical horns and the text "Bankovní Služby Pošty" in Czech.

Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Ivan Strnad and engraved by academic painter and graphic artist Bedřich Housa, the stamp was produced at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in sheets of fifty. The picture measures 23 mm. by 40 mm. and is printed in red combined with four-color recess print in yellow, rose, green and violet. (see Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

A First Day cover was printed for this stamp by flat-plate recess in blue color accompanied by a special cancellation. The FDC shows a creative paraphrase of the dove and the musical horn and contains the text "Bankovní Služby Pošty" in Czech.

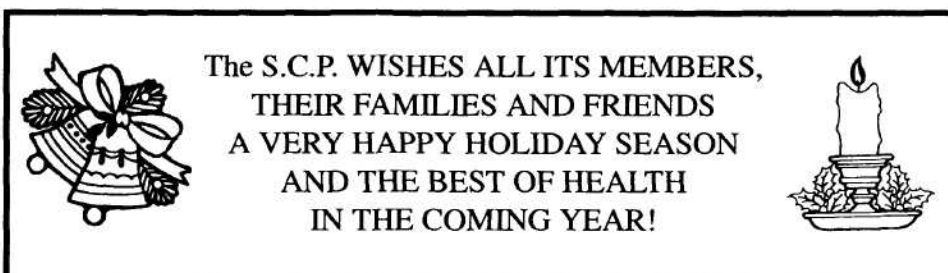
The stamp is postally valid for domestic and international usage from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.

LIBRARY NOTES

The following are additions to the Society's Library and continue the numbering sequence of the Library Catalog published in the June 1989 Specialist plus the additions noted in the July/August 1991, November/December 1991, March/April 1992, and May/June 1992 SPECIALIST:

209. Czechoslovak SPECIALIST; 1964-1980 Subject (1982, 64 pp, English)
210. Michel; Deutschland-Spezial-Katalog, 1983/84 (1983, 1224pp, German). This catalog of German stamps contains one of the few priced listings of Sudetenland overprints of Czechoslovak stamps.
211. Svazu Československých Filatelistů, Komise Námětové Filatelie (Hrnčíře); Filatelistické Motivy ČSR Roku 1945 (1989, 122pp, Czech).
212. Svazu Československých Filatelistů, Komise Námětové Filatelie (Musil); Filatelistické Motivy ČSR Roku 1982 (1983, 109pp, Czech).
213. Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists, Thematic Commission; Motives of Czechoslovak Philatelic Materials, 1982(1983, 26pp, English).
The above three publications contain a listing and description (with many illustrations) of commemorative postmarks for the indicated years.
214. Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (Reader, Roy E.); Monograph No. 5 (Supplement); Czechoslovak Army in France (1992, 45 pp, English).
215. Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (Fessak, Borys); Special Publication No. 2; Ukrainian DP Camp, POW Camp, Government in Exile, and National Council Issues (1992, 80 pp, English).
216. Hahn, Henry and Verner, Jaroslav J.; Czechoslovakia 1918-1920, Philatelic Elements of the Transition Period (16 pp, English). An excellent introduction to this period of Czechoslovak philately for the beginning collector and good refresher reading for those who have been collecting for awhile.
217. The Prestamp Postmarks of Moravia and Silesia (3 pp, English). This contains a listing of those towns in Moravia and Silesia which had Post Offices before the introduction of postage stamps into these areas.
218. Cross Stamp Co.; Specialized Postage Stamp Catalog of Czechoslovakia and Eastern Silesia (1937, 27 pp, English).
219. Burianek, Josef and Ittel, William; The General Revenue Stamps of Czechoslovakia (1971, 11 pp, English and German). [2 copies] This pamphlet contains a priced listing (with a few illustrations) of the General Revenue stamps of Czechoslovakia, including those of Slovakia and Bohemia-Moravia. The prices are obviously dated, but it is a unique work.

- Richard Palaschak



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The below-listed philatelic collectors are cordially welcomed as new members of our Society. Their membership is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1992 and they will receive all back issues of the **SPECIALIST** for this year. Anyone joining the Society after Nov. 1, 1992 will have his or her dues applied to the calendar year 1993 (unless they indicate differently) and membership will commence on Jan. 1, 1993.

- 1622 - Alfonso G. Zulueta, Jr., 1835 Clayton Way, Concord, California 94519
- 1623 - Theodore E. Russell, 1833 Briar Ridge Court, McLean, Virginia 22101
- 1624 - Vojta Michael, Gruenberg Str. 31/DG, Vienna, Austria A - 1120
- 1625 - Lubor Kunc, Brunclikova 7, Praha, Czechoslovakia
- 1626 - Hagai Nassau, 146 Hudson Road, Falmouth, Virginia 22405
- 1627 - Dr. Anthony Guido, 3340 So. Oak Park Ave. Suite 308, Berwyn, Illinois 60402
- 1628 - George Alevizos, 2800 28th Street, Suite 323, Santa Monica, California 90405
- 1629 - Robert S. Picha, 999 No. Holiston, Pasadena, California 91104
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- 1636 - Alois Horacek, 900 Post Road #83, Warwick, Rhode Island 02888
- 1637 - Edward M. York, 766 Carolina Ave., Riverview Park, Reading, Pennsylvania 19605
- 1638 - M. J. (Mike) Jolly, P.O. Box 431, Saddle Brook, NJ 07662
- 1639 - Mercer Bristow, P.O. Box #8145, State College, PA 16803
- 1640 - Miroslav Fojt, 1700 Old Columbia Pike #44, Silver Springs MD 20904
- 1641 - Lubertus Schapelhouman, 1880 Golden Way, Mountain View, CA 94040-4015
- 1642 - D. W. Bruce, 417 Guildwood Court, Burlington, Ontario Canada L7N1Y1
- 1643 - Michael F. Derry, 409 - 285 Loretta Ave. S, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5A5
- 1644 - Sidney Casel, 221 Mohican Street, Lester, PA 19029
- 1645 - Walter J. Lederer, 630 Bedford Drive, Crystal Lake IL 60014
- 1646 - Paul A. Gulak, 1 Ilanai Lane, New Paltz, NY 12561
- 1647 - John A. Lutz, 728 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VA 05059-0647
- 1648 - Dr. V. J. Rerucha, 902 Bexley Dr., Perrysburg, OH 43551

1993 DUES TO BE BILLED

Each current member will be billed in early January 1993 for 1993 dues. This is a departure from our previous procedure for enclosing an envelope in an issue of the **SPECIALIST**, as we have not found this to be an entirely satisfactory method.

Your invoice will indicate the various forms of membership and will request payment no later than Feb. 28th after which time a \$3.00 late fee will apply.

Members who joined in 1992 should note that as long as they joined prior to Nov. 1 1992, their dues cover that year and they receive all copies of the 1992 **SPECIALIST**. Those who become members on or after Nov 1 will have their dues apply to the calendar year 1993.

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