

CZECHOUT

No. 14

Edition 1. 79.

ISSN 0142-3525

CO-EDITORIAL

We hope you will like our cover. The inspiration for the design came from a window display advertising "PRAGA 1978"; this was admired on a Sunday evening stroll in Prague by our Chairman, and her husband Ted, Alec Page and Yvonne King.

The suggestion was made that it would make a good cover design. It was put to the vote; passed unanimously and here it is, thanks to the good offices of Alec in having it printed, (from the design by Yvonne.)

You will also notice our International Serial Number. This was pioneered by Colin and now we are committed to keeping "CZECHOUT" in print!

Can anyone explain the name of this journal in a few words? No prizes but the best will be printed and it will enable Alan Knight to explain the title to a Czech.

Congratulations to Ernst Gorge for his entry of the 'Allegory Issue of 1920-1925' which won a Bronze silver medal with felicitations at Stampex 79. Ernst's entry included essays, proofs, varieties, perforations and covers. In the same section Reg Hounsell won a Bronze medal for the same issues. The display included proofs, and trial printings together with examples of the Red Cross issues showing several of the Allegory values used for trial overprints.

We now have insurance for our Exchange Packet. The limit is £350 for one packet and £1500 for any one loss. It was felt that the time had come for some new rules to be drawn up. This has been done with acknowledgement to Worthing Philatelic Society and the rules are included with this journal. Please help the Packet Secretary by adhering to them. Some of the common material in the packets have been priced rather high; please consider the fact that you are selling to members of this Society. Don't hold on to the packet longer than the 48 hours permitted under the Rules.

Magyar Philatelic Society of Great Britain

We are in correspondence with Mervyn Benford, Honorary Secretary of the Magyar Society from which we hope a joint meeting of our two societies may take place at some future date, perhaps also in association with the Austrian Society as well.

The Co-Editors were greatly pleased to be asked to assist with judging the Magyar Society Cup Competitions on Saturday 10 March, under the guidance of Gary Ryan and our mutual friend John Field, who looked after the Airmail section. A pleasant and enjoyable day not to be forgotten.

London 1980

Our application for a meeting room on Saturday 10 May, 1980 during the Exhibition to enable us to hold a meeting with the Czech Societies of America and Germany has been recorded. Bulletin No 1 for the exhibition is now available and contains a provisional application form for exhibitors. Anyone interested should apply to The Secretariat, P.O.Box 300, Danes Inn House, 265 Strand, London WC2R 1AF.

Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members - Mr Frederick Gren, Mrs Yvonne Gren, Mr W.A. Whitson and Mr E.F. Barnes. For reasons of security members addresses will not be circulated. Any member wishing to contact another member may do so through the Honorary Secretary: Robert Kingsley.

Co-Editors

The British Philatelic Federation Limited have appointed Yvonne King as Assistant Editor of their journal 'PHILATELY.' Whilst Colin Spong has assumed the mantle of Editor of the Sussex Federation Newsletter "ASPS."

1. 79

Co-Editorial c'td

Czech issue of Stamp Collecting

The special edition of Stamp Collecting which included all the articles written by our members appeared on 15 February. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Editor, George Beal for the major part he played in making this possible, also for the work undertaken by his assistant Douglas Muir.

Catalogues

Two catalogues produced for PRAGA 78, namely the Blue Exhibition Catalogue and the Green Specialised Catalogue have been donated to this Society, and are now available on loan to any member who pays the postage, 86p for the U.K. Please apply to Yvonne King.

Society Nights

By the time you receive this, our Chairman will have given a display to Vectis, Isle of Wight for their President's Night on 20 March. Kay will also be displaying to Salisbury on 11 April, and Winchester on 24 April. The Co-Editors will be visiting Henfield on 27 March.

Czech Events

Meeting of 6 January 1979: Only a few brave members attended this meeting at Ernst Gorge's house owing to the severe weather. The journey was well worth while both for Ernst's hospitality and the quality of the display. Lindy James gave a most comprehensive display of the material issued for Praga 78. It was the result of many hours of patient queuing and those of us who could not face such hardship were amazed at the extent of the collection. Lindy has kindly prepared a check list which appears in this edition.

Meeting of 3 March 1979: By way of contrast there was hardly room to move at the BPF headquarters. The Chairman was able to welcome Fred and Yvonne Gren to their first meeting, and Mr Mirtl who was able to make one of his rare visits owing to business commitments. There was a change in programme and members showed their favourite sheets. The members who participated were:-

Francis Pettitt

Postcards featuring the work of Mikolas Ales, folk lore of Jos Lada, Old Prague and the picture gallery of Prague Castle.

John Whiteside

Austria used in Czechoslovakia

Alec Page

Czech Forces in G.B.

Changes in the Programme

The subject of the next meeting on 19 May will be the Revolutionary and Scout Issues. The date of the following meeting at the house of Mrs Irene Galloway has been changed to 30 June to enable more members to attend. The subject will be Forces Mail World Wars I and II.

The venue and date of this year's British Philatelic Exhibition will be changed and is to take place at the Wembley Complex in mid-November. We will give you the date as soon as it is known. In view of this our meeting on 20 October will now be at the home of Robert Kingsley, by his kind invitation. This will be the AGM and Auction. Items for this Auction should be a minimum of £1.00 in value. Further details will appear as soon as possible.

Monographie

Volume 14 of the Monographie (in Czech) has just been printed. Twenty copies have been ordered by Harris Publications Ltd., 42 Maiden Lane, London WC2E 7LW. Reserve your copy by contacting Harris' as soon as possible. The price is not known at the time of going to press. It is hoped at a later date to produce a English translation to be issued as a Handbook. Can anyone please offer their services say for a chapter or two?

Harrogate 79

The British Philatelic Federation Congress will take place at Harrogate from Wednesday 29 August to Saturday 1 September 1979. The Society will require two delegates so if you wish to volunteer please contact the Secretary. This promises to be a congenial Congress in a particularly delightful part of the country. To find out about the duties of a delegate please contact Colin or Yvonne who will also be pleased to give further particulars of the Congress.

Colin Spong Yvonne King
Co-Editors

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY 19 MAY 1979

By kind invitation of our Vice Chairman Cyril Wackett this will take place at his house - 8 Greenway, Bishops Stortford, Herts. (Tel. 0279.53840) Meeting: 2.30 pm.

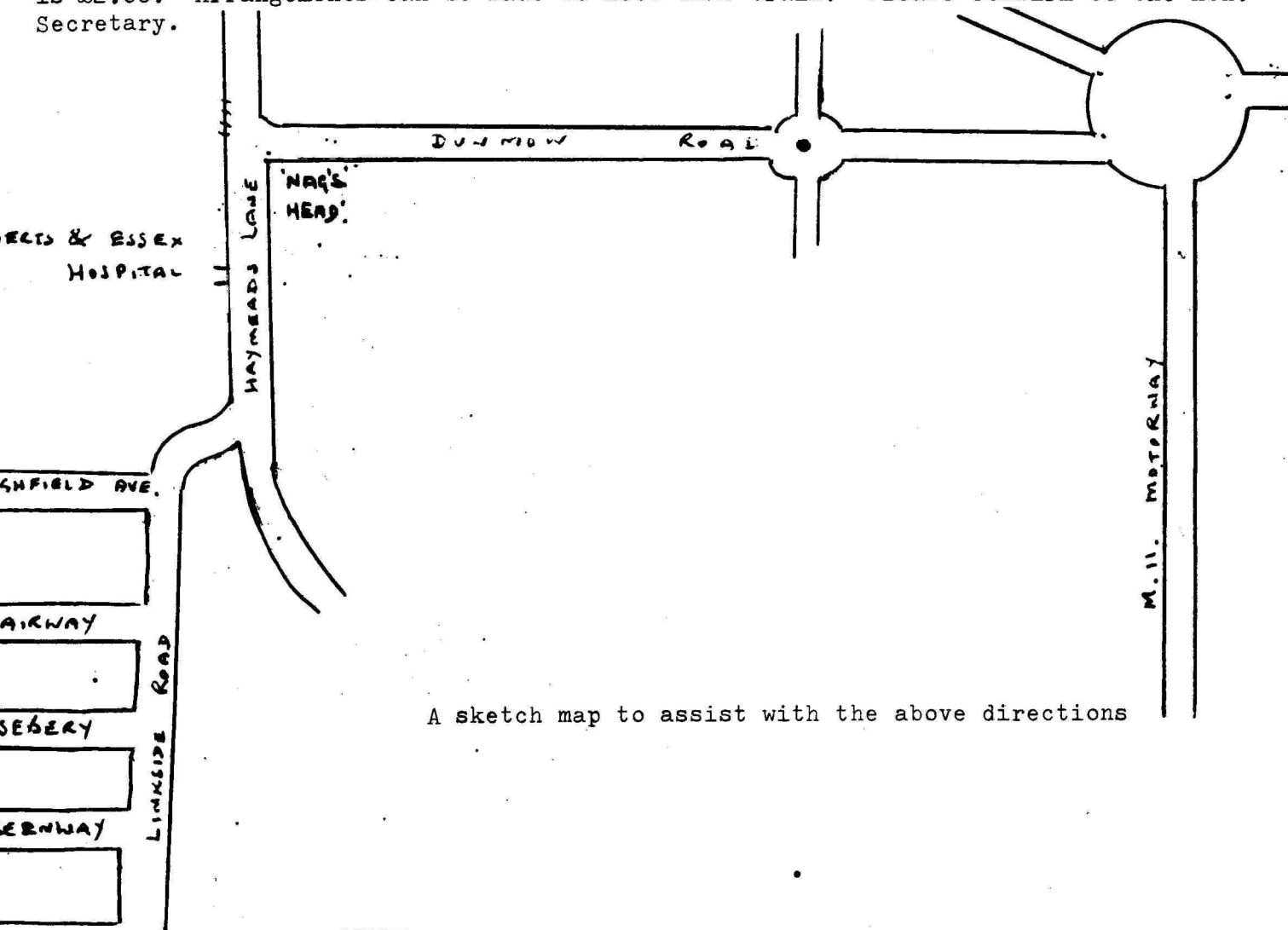
Subject: The Revolutionary & Scout Issues

Refreshments will be available prior to the meeting and will those attending please confirm to the Secretary in order that arrangements can be made as to numbers etc.,

Travelling Directions:

BY ROAD To the M.11 Motorway and continue until the very end (as far as it goes.) At the end of the Motorway is a large roundabout and take the first turning on the left which is signposted to 'Bishop's Stortford' continue along this road (Dunmow Road) for about 2 miles. until reaching a point where the road makes a sharp right turn. On the left is a Public House called the 'Nag's Head.' Turn left here along Haymeads Lane which leads into Linkside Road. Greenway is the third cul-de-sac which is almost at the end of Linkside Road. No 8 is the last house on the right.

BY RAIL From Liverpool Street Station a fast train at 12.36 pm which usually leaves No 7 platform and arrives at Bishop's Stortford at 13.10 pm. The cheap day return is £2.00. Arrangements can be made to meet this train. Please confirm to the Hon. Secretary.



A sketch map to assist with the above directions

A large contingent of the Czech Armed Forces was stationed at Westcliff, and my position with the local authority necessitated my inspection of the sanitary arrangements. It was only possible to gain access to the area by means of a Pass, but during the long period of 'occupation' I came to know many of the Czechs, several of whom were interested in stamps. They attended our society meetings and my home was the venue for some who remained friends for many years, and created my intense interest in Czech philately.

Many Czech Field Force covers came my way, together with a large quantity of Czech stamps as quite a number had managed to escape from Czechoslovakia with supplies, hoping they could be used as barter in other countries. I became a member of the Czechoslovak Society of Great Britain and contributed material for the Czech Exhibition of Stamps in London on 8th November 1943, for which I received an attractive Diploma, which was signed by the then President of the Republic (in exile) Dr Eduard Benes.

The acquisition of a fine accumulation of the 'Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919' which proved to be entirely genuine, made me decide to concentrate on Czech philately, particularly the overprints, being materially assisted by three members of the Czech Forces whom I met locally during the war. One of these who did not return to the country of his birth, visited many parts of the Continent to acquire many fine Czech items for my collection; among which may be mentioned a fantastic collection of proofs, essays and rare perforations in three albums which was secured despite keen opposition, and from Paris, an extra-ordinary selection of Tete-beche items, many on covers, which had been left with a French dealer as security by a German officer during the Occupation, and had failed to return to claim the material at the end of hostilities.

By this time, my collection had attained prodigious proportions, and its wealth of material provided ample display material for our members. I had joined the Royal Philatelic Society of London in 1947 and accepted an invitation to give a display of Czechoslovakia to the members of that society, the first time the country had been shown as a full display. This comprised 600 pages and was given on the 21st May 1953.

A prominent American came to the meeting and stated that he was astonished by the nature of the material shown as he thought his own collection was especially good. It was shortly after giving this display that I was made a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society,

Many contacts were made with collectors in Czechoslovakia and philatelic organisations which resulted in many acquisitions for my collection. I received considerable information from the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies and on the occasion of the International Philatelic Exhibition in London in 1960, I met the General Secretary of that organisation by arrangement, being greeted with a large album of Czech stamps and other souvenirs. Although we had some difficulty as he could not converse in English, I was able to show him some of the sights of London he wished to see. Resultant upon this and an inspection of the Czech material which I exhibited, I was asked to act as a member of the Jury for the National Philatelic Exhibition in Bratislava in September 1960, an invitation I gladly accepted.

This was a thrilling experience with everything provided. My initial air flight over was in a TU104 jet from London Airport to Prague where I changed over to a IL 14 twin engined turbo-prop to Bratislava. I arrived late at night but could not find anyone who could speak English. As I had arrived one day earlier than expected, no member of the exhibition was there to greet me, but observing that the passengers entered a bus, I thought it better to do likewise, eventually to be deposited in a small office which was packed with people. It was a long time before I managed to find a young lady on the airways staff who had a knowledge of English and after telephoning for about half-an-hour succeeded in contacting the

1. 79

organising secretary, took me in her car to the Carlton Hotel where a Reception Committee awaited my arrival. From then everything went swimmingly during my ten days visit. Much of the time was devoted to an examination of the numerous entries, each member of the Jury being allotted particular sections dependent upon their own specific interests, many countries being represented on the Jury. As the sole English representative, I received considerable attention, especially from the USSR judge who asked me to come to his room when he gave me a collection of mint Russian stamps and a beautiful series of photographs in colour. We all sat round in a discussion room, from many differing countries and our Chairman said how nice it was to be able to be together and speaking one language only, namely 'PHILATELY'.

Every Jury member received a beautifully inscribed album of Czech stamps in mint blocks of four, and the special Exhibition issues arrived whilst we were having a reception at the Devin Hotel by the Deputy Minister of Posts. The designer of the Exhibition stamps, B.Roule was also there and signed special covers for all present. I was called upon to broadcast for Radio Prague, giving my observations on the exhibition and the benefits that could be derived from stamp collecting. There was nothing controversial in the questions asked. I subsequently heard from listeners in England who had heard my broadcast. Fortunately, my replies to the questions asked were taped and immediately played back to me for any required alterations - However, none was necessary.....to be continued.

PRAGA 78 A list of the days of the exhibition and details of the various handstamps

- 8.9.78 Day of the World Exhibition Praga 78
- 9.9.78 Day of the Young Philatelists
- 10.9.78 Day of the Czechoslovak Postal Stamp
- 11.9.78 Day of Thematic Philately
- 12.9.78 Day of Postal History and Aerophilately
- 13.9.78 Day of F.I.P. (World Federation of Philatelists)
- 14.9.78 Day of World and International Exhibitions
(Capex 78; Philaserdica 79 Sofia.)
- 15.9.78 Day of the World Postal Union 'UPU'
- 16.9.78 Day of the United Nations
- 17.9.78 Day of Peace and Friendship

A special cancellation was in use on each of the above dates and the design was intended to convey the theme of the day. Special handstamps were used on each of the above days at the following post offices:-

- Praha 1 (Nos 1 to 5) This was the main Post Office near Hybernia
- Praha 012 (Nos 1 only) Praha Castle (Hradčany)
- Praha 72 (Nos 1 to 11) Julius Fučík Park i.e. main exhibition
- Praha 72 Autoposta (Nos 1 to 4) " " "

The most difficult cancellation (pictorial) to obtain was for 8.9.78. The Praha 72 Post Office was apparently only open for a short while from 4.00 pm. The Praha 012 cancellation also seems to be less common than the others. I think this was because fewer people knew of the existence of that Post Office and that it was using special handstamps.

Postcards were issued during the exhibition for the various daily themes. I am not sure whether a special card was issued each day but I will try and find out. Other postcards were also issued depicting Praga 78 stamps (similar to our GB thematic cards) but how many and which days, I do not know. I have only one of these cards depicting historical postal uniforms. Mr Pettitt has informed me a booklet of stamps was also issued for Praga 78 priced at 18Kcs. as follows:-

5 x 2Kcs; 5 x 1Kcs; and 5 x 60h. I have not seen it and did not know of its existence but have written to see if I can obtain one.

Publicity Labels were issued prior to PRAGA 78 - 4 designs in two colours -

- May 77: 1) Small outline picture of part of Prague(a)gold(b)silver
- 2) Posta Ceskoslovenska symbol in (a) blue and red (b) green and orange.
- 3) Praga 78 symbol (a) red (b) orange

PRAGA 78 List C'td

1. 79

- May 77: 4)Praga 78 lettering (a) black (b) magenta
- Aug 77: Profile of woman with dove of peace (a) red and gold (b) blue and silver
- Oct 77: Flying Machine design (a) gold, orange and green
(b) gold, blue and red
- Jan 78: Woman riding a unicorn (a) green background and gold design
(b) gold background and blue design

On 13th September 1978, a special miniature sheet was issued showing part of a Tiziano Vacelli painting. The sheet is quite easily obtainable but the one issued on 13.9.78 has a Praga 78 inscription on one margin and on the opposite margin 'Day of F.I.P.' inscription, which is not easily obtainable. It could be purchased only at the Exhibition and one sheet per person per coupon, in theory..... Lindy James.

WANTS LIST: I should be interested to buy any of the following material relating to PRAGA 78.

1. Any official covers sent from Secretariat of Praga 78, either before, during or after the exhibition.
2. Any covers with the publicity labels.
3. Any covers with the cancellations (a) Praha 1 (1,2,3, or 5); (b) Praha 72(No.10) (c) Praha 012.
4. Any covers with pictorial cancellation for 8.9.78.

SUPPLEMENT to the POFIS CATALOGUE - 3rd QUARTER 1978 compiled by Alan J Knight.

	<u>FACE</u>	<u>MINT</u>	<u>USED</u>	<u>(In Kcs)</u>
30th Anniversary of Victorious February - M/S in connection with Praga 78:				
A 2294/A	4, 00	14.00	-	
25th Folklore Festival at Vychodna:				
2326	0, 30	0,33	0.10	
"New Prague" Opening of Praga 78:				
2327	0. 60	0.60	0.30	
2328	1. 00	1.00	0.50	
2329	2. 00	2.00	1.00	
2330	6. 00	18.00	6.00	
"Old Prague" -(Morstadt) M/S 60th Anniversary of Czechoslovak stamps				
A 2331	20. 00	45.00	45.00	
"Titian M/S" - Apollo punishes Marsyus' UNESCO-Praga 78 (with PLAIN margins)				
TL 2332	20. 00	45.00	45.00	
TL 2332A (with Day of FIP) margin:	20. 00	100.00	-	
20th Brno Trade Fair - 50 years of Brno Fairground				
2333	0. 30	0.30	0.10	
25 years of Newspaper Postal Service: (PNS)				
2334	0. 30	0.30	0.10	
Day of Press, Radio & TV (media Day):				
2335	0. 30	0.30	0.10	
25 years of CSSR Television:				
2336	0. 30	0.30	0.10	

By Alan J. Knight

TITIAN MINIATURE SHEET - PRAGA 78

Date of Issue: 12.9.1978
 Sheet Size: 108 x 165 mm
 Graphic Size: 65 x 70 mm
 Stamps Size: 40 x 50 mm
 (2 x 10Kcs)

Engraver: Joseph Hercik
 Quantities: - later -
 Printing Process: Flat Plate Recess
 in five colours
 By: T.U.S. Prague
 (Post Printing
 Office)

APOLLO PUNISHES MARSYUS:

This sheet was issued in connection with "PRAGA 78" and "UNESCO" but although referred to as a 'miniature sheet' perhaps 'miniature graphic' with two perforated stamps would be more apt description. With the necessary preliminary work, the engraving of this sheet took a year to complete and was eventually printed from flat plates (plate recess printing) in five colours.

The graphic engraving shows a transcription of the oil-painting by the 16 century Italian artist Tiziano Vecelli (known as TITIAN). His date of birth is uncertain; some sources say in 1477 at Piave di Cadore but the sheet bears an alternative - 1488/90. What is known is that this great Master died of Plague in Venice on 26th August 1576 and at a great age. An even more astounding fact is that this picture was painted when the Artist was well over 90 years old!

The original picture "Apollo Punishes Marsyus" was at one time in England, in the possession of one Thomas Howard Arundel during the 17th century but was eventually sold by auction to a German art collector in Cologne. From Germany it subsequently re-sold to the 18th century Bishop of Moravia - Karl von Lichtenstein and has remained in Moravia ever since. It is now kept in KROMĚŘIŽ at the Chateau Gallery, formerly the residence of the Archbishop.

In his youth, Titian's ideals in subject-matter for his art-work seems to have been 'Youth and sensual beauty' - as witness another of his better-known works, which he painted in his twenties - LADY AT HER TOILET (see POFIS Cat. No. A1466) which was also the subject of another sheet by the Czechoslovak Post Office. In his late years however, Titian often painted religious compositions reflecting a wise scepticism and compassion on the tragedy of human life.

This picture was painted about two years before Titian's death and depicts in graphic but barbaric detail the death, by skinning-alive, of MARSYUS at the hand of the god APOLLO. The ancient legend (see OVIDIUS: "Metamorphosis") has it that King Midas had once passed judgement in a musical duel between the god Apollo and the shepherd Pan, awarding victory to the terrestrial music of the shepherd. This angered Apollo greatly

SVĚTOVÁ VYSTAVA POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK PRAGA 1978



DEN F.I.P. - JOURNÉE DE LA FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELIE

APOLLÓN TRESTÁ MARSYA (PO 1570)
 TIZIANO VECELLI MEZI 1488/90-1576
 ZÁMECKÁ OBRAZÁRNA V KROMĚŘIŽI

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



10 Kčs

APOLLÓN TRESTÁ MARSYA (PO 1570)
 APOLLÓNOVY POKUTOVÁNÍ MARSYAS
 TIZIANO VECELLI MEZI 1488/90-1576
 ZÁMECKÁ OBRAZÁRNA V KROMĚŘIŽI

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



10 Kčs

APOLLÓN TRESTÁ MARSYA (PO 1570)
 APOLLÓNOVY POKUTOVÁNÍ MARSYAS
 TIZIANO VECELLI MEZI 1488/90-1576
 ZÁMECKÁ OBRAZÁRNA V KROMĚŘIŽI

and he demeaned King Midas with Donkey's ears! The scene painted shows in awful detail the results of another 'musical quarrel' with Marsyus whom he punishes by skinning his body.

Duel punishment? - Sad picture? Indeed.....I leave conclusions to those who study this picture, for there is and must be, a stark lesson for all of us here.....

The left-hand *OKcs stamp on this sheet shows a cut (detail) from Titian's painting with Apollo's Companion representing the triumphant god's music watching this barbarous execution. The second stamp shows the unwise King Midas in a somewhat pensive mood. What is he thinking?...Indeed - what was Titian thinking when he painted this master-piece? Possibly he too, was in a pensive mood as often becomes old but wiser people.

On 13th September 1978 the Czechoslovak Post Office issued this sheet with marginal reference to 'Day of International Federation of Philatelists - F.I.P.' but the issue was severely restricted. Tied with the special Exhibition postmark - "Day of F.I.P." this sheet and/or stamps on cover must be a coveted item for philatelists or collectors and the number in this condition is bound to be extremely small. The sheet (plain) is catalogued by POFIS under TL 2332 and the F.I.P. issue under TL 2332/A.



THE THREE TYPES OF THE SVABINSKY STAMP - SG No. 1049 - POFIS 1013

to commemorate the 85th Birthday of the Artist Laureate Professor Dr Max Svabinsky on 7th September 1958, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued a special postage stamp with a reproduction of the artist's symbolic work "The Poet and the Muse". The design was prepared in line drawing by Professor Svabinsky himself and to conform to his wishes, the engraving was executed by Jindra Schmidt.

The stamp, which is of the value of 1.60 Kcs., was produced by the flat recess process at the Post Printing Office in Prague, in sheets of four stamps, the colour being brownish-black, and was valid for internal and international postal use from 20th August 1958.

THE THREE TYPES OF THE SVABINSKY STAMP C'td

Six printing plates, each comprising four stamps, were prepared, each being distinguished by prolonging the number of vertical lines behind the elbow of the "Muse", these varying from one to six. In the original drawing, not more than one line touches the border above the letters "U" and "S" of "MUSA", but on the printing plates, the lines were added to conform to the sequence of six. The number of plates was then reduced from six to two by welding together three plates on an iron base. This resulted in one plate containing the stamps with one, three and five lines, and the other those with two, four and six lines.



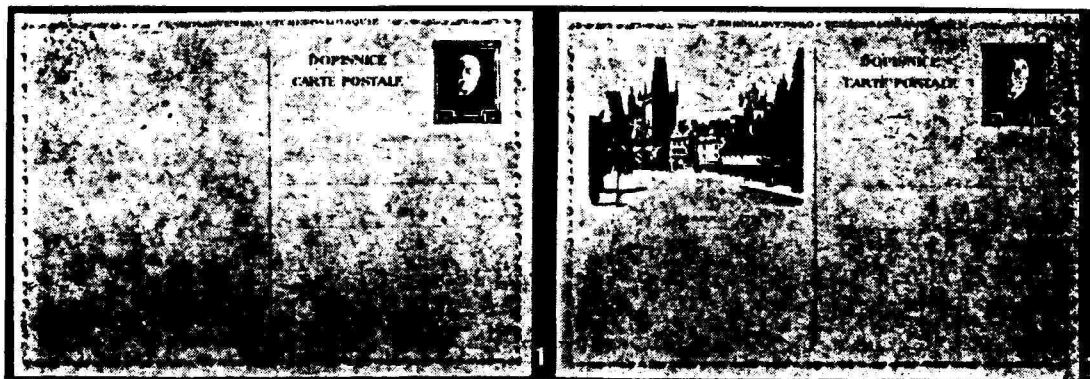
A newly installed Wait-Seville machine was employed for this issue which was capable of printing up to 50 stamps of 23 x 30 mm, but as the Printing Works have no perforating machine capable of dealing with such a number, a smaller number is printed at a time. The machine was found to be so efficient that only the plate, of three blocks of four, with even numbers of extended lines, was employed. All stamps sold can therefore be found with either two, four or six extended lines, and in view of the manner in which they were printed, the three types were issued in identical numbers. Following the printing, the three blocks of four were cut into single sheets of four stamps, and perforated. The paper employed was pregummed. Each block comprises one of the three types only.

Register marks appear on the two left-hand stamps of each block and can be discerned above the second "E" in "CESKOSLOVENSKO" in Plates 1 (two extended lines) and Plate 2 (4 extended lines) although more indistinct in the latter instance, and on Plate 3 (6 extended lines) can be faintly seen on the line below the letter "E".

Sketches of the three types are given above.

DISCOVERY OF NEW PRINTING TRIALS OF STAMPS FOR CZECHOSLOVAK POSTCARDS
by Eduard Herout and translated from 'FILATELIE' by Ernst Gorge.

Even in the sphere of postage stamps printed on postcards new material is appearing, after a period of 45 years. In the thirties the Czech postal administration prepared an issue of new postcards. For this issue a new version of the stamp bearing the portrait of T.G. Masaryk was to be used. With this designed stamp there appeared several types of postcards, mainly intended for abroad.



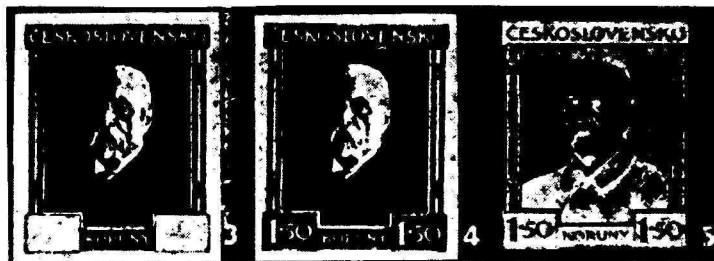
Some printing trials of these stamps recently came into my possession in different colour and printing variations. I believe it would be useful to acquaint the readers with the following discoveries, and basically we are talking about the following:

- a) Printing trials of the stamps without the value shield - on yellowish paper. 0.18 mm thick, in colours light green, dark green, orange, carmine - brown.
- b) Printing trials of the stamps showing the value 1.50 Kc - on white paper, 0.07 mm to 0.13 mm thick, in various colours from yellow to black.
- c) Printing trials of the stamps showing the value 1.50 Kc, but with the word

DISCOVERY OF NEW PRINTING TRIALS OF STAMPS FOR CZECHOSLOVAK POSTCARDS C'td 1. 79

"Czechoslovensko" in a shield of a different colour, these proofs are on yellowish paper, 0.18 mm thick. The print exists in various shades of colours, just as the actual stamps and also the shield bearing the word 'Ceskosc., in another colour.

- d) Printing trial of the stamp showing the value 1.50 Kc in white colour - negative print, finished on black paper, 0.13 mm thick.



There are in all 4 varieties of printing trials executed in 'deep print' which by means of this printing process have been issued as postcards. All the printing trials are carried out on paper without gum.

From what has been said it follows that in philately a period of 45 years or more is too short for us to be spared from lots of new discoveries which are often most surprising. There was, of course, no shortage of surprising discoveries at the exhibition BRNO 74. It is only a question of what the future holds in store, particularly in the field of unissued and printing trials of our stamps.

THE SKALICE ISSUE OF SLOVAKIA

Ernst Gorge

In the period following the revolution, two kinds of overprints appeared on Hungarian stamps, but under essentially different circumstances. Both originated in Slovakia but must be strictly separated. These are the so-called "SKALICE" and the "SROBAR" issues. It must be borne in mind that the transient, early and private Skalice issue cannot be placed on the same level as the SROBAR issue. The latter originated in official circles and is therefore of greater value from a collectors viewpoint.

About 15 November 1918, overprinted Hungarian stamps appeared in Skalice, Slovakia, the overprint being similar to that of the second revolutionary Prague issue. The same sized 'legionnaires' shield was used, with two line inscription, exactly as in the Prague issue, reading "CESKOSLOVENSKA STATNI POSTA". The type used was the same as in the Prague issue, deviating only in measurement, as the smaller format of the Hungarian stamps required smaller letters.

There were 14 Hungarian values overprinted as follows:

- Reaper with coloured figures: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 15f (1916)
- King Karl: 10, 20, 25f (1918)
- Queen Zita: 40, 50f, (1918)
- War issue: 10, 15f, (1916)
- Newspaper: 2f (1913)

STOP PRESS

A letter received from Frederick Langfelder, 12 Rylestone Ave, London NW6 7AA "One of my friends in Bratislava is looking for a partner for stamps from Czechoslovakia, all other Eastern block countries & Yugoslavia in exchange for stamps from Great Britain and its former colonies." Anyone interested please contact Mr Langfelder direct.

There is a stock of the commemorative cover produced for the Society's Exhibition in Worthing on 25 May 1974. The covers have a handstamp (in the shape of the Czech flag) and are available from Robert Kingsley at a price of 15 pence each.