

Whole No. 18
Volume 2.

Edition 1. 80.
ISSN 0142-3525

CO-EDITORIAL

We have to commence our second volume with the sad news of the passing of James J Matejka, we hope to publish an obituary in our next issue. It gave us pleasure to meet James and his wife at Harrogate last year, when he came over to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. We also have to record that our printer Ron White has lost his wife, in tragic circumstances. We should like to convey to both of their families our most sincere condolences.

This sudden bereavement has caused Ron to cut down on his printing commitments for the present, and we should like to thank him for setting the high standard on our behalf. However, we are happy to report that our friend and colleague Alec Page, has stepped into the breach and this and future issues will be printed through the good offices of his firm's printing department.

We enclose with this issue our Index for the first volume which ended with Whole No 17, and sincerely hope that everyone will find it useful.

We join with the readers of Stamp Collecting (issue of January 3) in sending birthday greetings to that prolific postage stamp engraver Jan Mracek, who has been engraving stamps since 1948, and recently celebrated his 70th birthday.

Yvonne King Colin Spong
Co-Editors.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into the society the following: -

Maurice Bardiger(Chelmsford), Kevin Clark(Swindon), and Eric Wood of Guisborough.

SOCIETY MEETING

Twelve members with Kay Goodman in the Chair met at Lindy James home in Sutton on Saturday January 19. Packet Secretary Pat Oliver reported that four packets were in circulation (small size) with eight others ready, but more booklets were still required.

Member Yvonne Gren has won the Challenge Cup for a first time entry of Czech stamps at the Shoreham PS meeting recently.

Honorary President George Pearson's name has been forwarded to the Board of Distinguished Philatelists for consideration.

The display of the afternoon was on 1928-1938 Czech material and members Ernst Gorge showed stamps of the period with varieties; Yvonne Gren with Folders containing stamps with special cancellations, and Kay Goodman concluded with Personal Delivery, Pneumatic Mail, and special three-colour cancellations.

The meeting appointed Lindy James and Cyril Wackett, as delegates to the BPF Congress to be held at Cambridge in August.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday 22 March at Vice Chairman, Cyril Wackett's home - 8 Greenway, Bishops Stortford, Herts. (Tel. 0279.53840) at 2.30 p.m. Subject: The issues of Bohemia/Moravia/Slovakia.

Travelling Directions: By Rail from Liverpool Street Station a fast train at 12.36 p.m. which usually leaves No 7 platform and arrives at 13.10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING C'td

By Road: The M.11 Motorway as far as it goes (from the South). At the end is a large roundabout and take the first turning on the left which is sign-posted to 'Bishops 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 (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.

LONDON 1980

A reminder that a meeting with our sister societies of America and Germany has been arranged for Sunday May 11, at Earls Court from 2.00 p.m. until 4.30 p.m. (14.00 to 16.30). Lunch for anyone wishing to attend at the Polish Air Force Club, 14 Collingham Gardens (which is less than 10 mins. from Earls Court.) The four course lunch including wine will cost approx. £6.50. Meet for Lunch at 11.45 for 12.30 p.m. Bookings through Chairman Kay Goodman.

CZECH COLLECTION for Sale.

A letter received from Mr. R. Spence, No. 1 Tawa St, WAIKANAE, New Zealand., who has a Czech collection including Hradcany issues in a number of perms, a few blocks ie. Kosice, Bratislava, Plzen(2), comm. sheets of Masaryk with 7.3.35 red cancellations etc until 1947. Anyone interested please write direct to Mr. Spence.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Secretary Robert Kingsley reminds members that subscriptions were due on January 1, 1980.

LIBRARY

A copy of a Philatelic Atlas in Czech was added to the Library - please contact Yvonne King.

BOOK REVIEWS by Colin Spong

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: by Wm V. Wallace (Nations of the Modern World Series) publ. Ernest Benn Ltd, 1976. 374pp. 25 New St Square, Fleet St, London EC4A 3JA at £9.95.

This book describes the development of the Czech and Slovak National Movements from mid 19c. onwards. Its relationships with the USA and USSR and background to international crisis of 1938, 1948 and 1968.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: A Short History by J.F.N. Bradley (Volume 2 in the Short History of Europe Series) Published by Edinburgh University Press 1971; 212pp. price £3.50.

This excellent book by the lecturer in Government at the University of Manchester covers in broad outline the arrival of the Western Slavs until after the events of August 21, 1968. The Author of Czech descent, within the 212 pages gives a miniature portrait of the Czech and Slovak nations. It is fully recommended for background to Czech philately. Obtainable from Foyles of Charing Cross Road, London WC2.

STAMP DENOMINATIONS - Kc; K; Kcs

Alan Knights' Czech correspondent points out that he has noted that we from time to time make the mistake of constantly referring to stamp denominations as Kcs, whereas this term has only been applied to Czech stamps since 1945. During the First Republic (1918-1938) the abbreviation was Kc with no 's' at the end. During the Occupation (1938-1945) the abbreviation was K (Czech Koruna (German Krone). From November 1945 to date the abbreviation is Kcs (Koruna ceskoslovenska) - N.B. no capital (C) the final letter "s" does not mean plural.

5 Heller "Hradcany" 1918 - "Some further thoughts" by Alec Page FRPSL

The 5h value Green together with the 10h Red issued on 18th December 1918, were the first definitives of the newly formed Czechoslovak Republic. The design comprises a view of the Hradcany, (Prague Castle) framed by a decorative design by Alfons Mucha. The stamps were printed by typograph method at the Grafia Union in Prague.

The 5h value was used for internal printed matter until the rate was increased on 1st August 1920. Additionally it was used for supplementing overweight internal letters - an additional 5h per 20 grams. The stamps were issued in both imperforate and perforated state.

Much study has already taken place of the various values of this first definitive issue and in 1961 the late John Velek (USA) published a comprehensive specialised booklet of his studies, (Billig's Specialised Catalogue No. 10) In this book he lists a number of positional plate flaws and characteristics, by which it is possible to determine the use of more than one plate for printing some of the values.

The listings for the 5h value indicate the use of three separate plates, although identification of Plate III is only determined from the value inscription on the bottom margin, under the first stamp. This is described as having a dot in front of the '50, and a broken base to the '5'. Plates I and II are similarly identified - Plate I again with a dot before the '50 (no break in 5) and Plate II without dot before the 50. Additionally however a number of constant plate flaws are listed, pertaining to each of the first two plates. No flaws are listed for Plate III.

A recent study of several complete sheets and a number of part sheets of the 5h value has revealed some interesting variations to the published information. In some of the items studied there emerges characteristics which suggest yet a further Plate, or perhaps a third state for Plate II. Both Plates I and II contain one major "white" flaw, which was subsequently re-touched.

The significant aspect is that several part sheets and one complete sheet, positively identified from the '50' under stamp one in the bottom margin as Plate II (no dot before 50), whilst containing almost all the recognised flaws does not have the "white" flaw either in original form or in re-touched state - (Stamp No. 7 of Row 3). Other flaws in Row 3 are however present, notably the break in the left hand tower on Stamp No. 10.

Several theories have been expressed as to the exact media used to print the stamps, including the making of electrotypes from a master plate. This method seems most likely since we have Plates I and II, with correction of the "white" flaws by re-touching. The Plate II "re-touch" was not well done, and the result, whilst removing the white patch, produces a green blob with a "halo". Is it therefore possible that a third state of Plate II exists, with a further correction to the imperfections on Stamp 7 of Row 3?

The major plate flaws are listed, and illustrated for comparison

5 Heller "Hradcany" 1918 c'tdPLATE I

<u>Illustration</u>		<u>First State</u>	<u>Second State</u>
A/Aa	Row 5 No. 1	Large white patch between bushes	Patch re-touched
B	Row 6 No. 7	Middle white linden leaf extended (top left)	Still present
C	Row 7 No. 1	Small line to right of '5' in value tablet	Still present
D	Row 9 No. 10	Top right of castle roof broken & small white patch to left	Still present

PLATE II

		<u>First State</u>	<u>Second State</u>	<u>Third State</u>
E	Row 1 No. 8	White blob under 'N' of Slovenska	Still present	Still present
F	Row 1 No. 9	---	---	Small pennant on pole to right of tower (? developed flaw on certain sheets only)
G	Row 2 No. 1	Two white patches on roof	Still present	Still present
H Ha/Hb	Row 3 No. 7	Large white patch above left bush	Re-touched	Normal design characteristic
J	Row 3 No. 9	Dot under '5' of value	Still present	Still present
K	Row 3 No. 10	Left hand tower broken	Still present	Still present
L	Row 9 No. 8	Short top to 'E' of 'CESKO'	Still present	Still present
M	Row 9 No. 10	Broken 5 in value white patch lower right of roof	Still present	Still present

PLATE I

ROW 5 NO.1 "WHITE FLAW" & RETOUCH



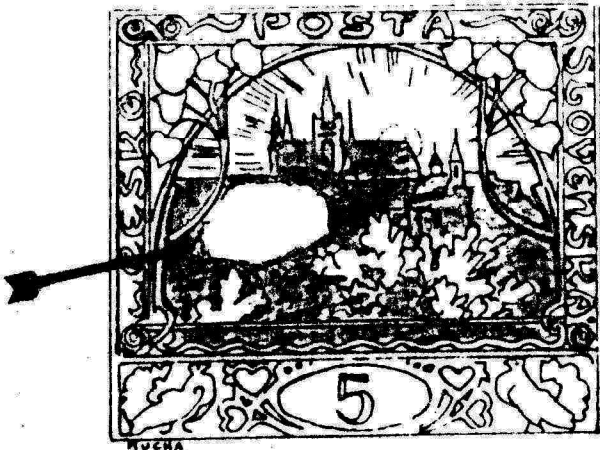
A



Aa

PLATE II

ROW 3 NO.7 "WHITE FLAW" & RETOUCH

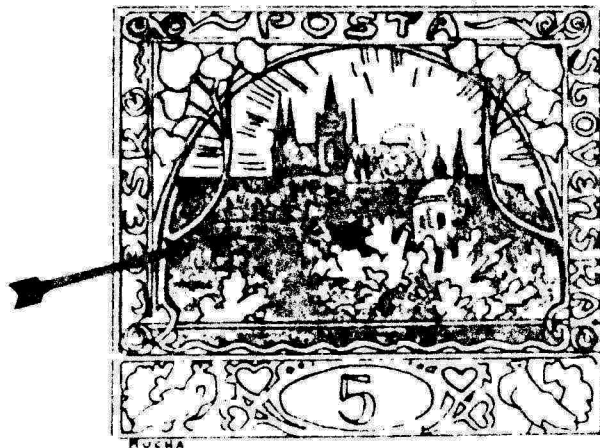


H



Ha

ROW 3 NO.7 NO FLAW



Hb

PLATES I & II

OTHER FLAWS

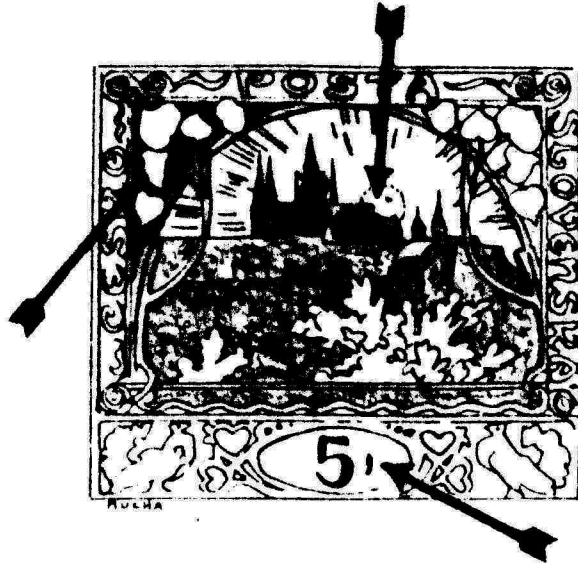


Plate I B, C & D

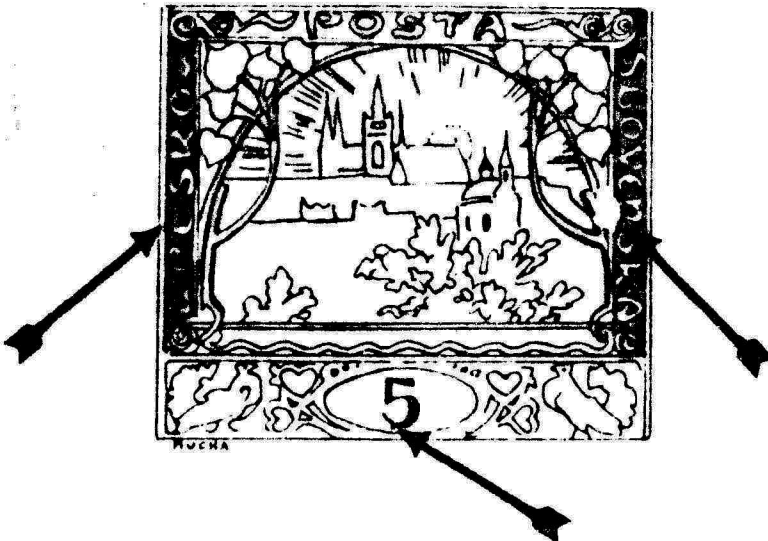


Plate II E, J & L



Plate II G, K & M

THE CHARLES BRIDGE by Yvonne King FRPSL

The Miniature sheet issued on 10 September, 1978 for PRAGA 78 showing Old Prague and Charles Bridge gives me the opportunity of researching some of the history of this famous bridge.

The approach to the Bridge is made through the Old Town Tower, one of Prague's prize examples of early Gothic, built during the reign of Charles IV, from 1357. The tower is elaborately ornamented and gives the impression of being an entrance to a castle.

Hundreds of years ago, a wooden footbridge spanned the site of the earlier ford. It was replaced in the 12th Century by a stone bridge named after Judith, wife of King Vladislav II. The bridge was considered a marvel of engineering of its day, there being only two other stone bridges in Europe at the time in Dresden, and in Regensburg. Seven yards wide, it stood for two centuries until it was borne away by flood waters. A new bridge was commissioned by Charles IV in 1357. Peter Parler of Grund, the architect, was then only 27 years old.

As soon as the new bridge was built, it became the pride of Prague, both because of the fortified towers at each end and because of its

THE STATUES ON THE CHARLES BRIDGE

- 1 Saint Ivo (original by Matthias Braun 1711, copy by Fr. Hergessel 1908)
- 2 Saint Barbara, Saint Margaret and Saint Elizabeth (Ferd. Maxm. Brokoff 1707)
- 3 Pietá (Eman. Max 1859)
- 4 Saint Joseph (Jos. Max 1854)
- 5 Saint Francis Xavier (original F. M. Brokoff 1711, copy Vinzenz Vosmik 1913)
- 6 Saint Christopher (E. Max 1857)
- 7 Saint Francis Borgia (F. M. Brokoff 1710)
- 8 Saint Ludmilla (sculptor unknown, probably from the workshop of Matthias Braun about 1720, erected in 1784 to replace the statue of Saint Wenceslas by Ottavio Most, 1695-1701, which was swept away by the flood of that year).
- 9 Saint Francis of Seraphin (Em. Max 1855)
- 10 Saint Vincent of Ferrara and Saint Prokop (F. M. Brokoff 1712)
- 11 Saint Nicholas of Tolentino (Jan Bedř. Kohl 1708).—Brunswick (Lud. Simek 1884). Statue on the pillar erected in place of the original work in memory of the victory in the legal action brought by the citizens of the Old Town against the nobility about the payment of duties in 1506)
- 12 Saint Luitgarda (M. B. Braun 1710)
- 13 Saint Vojtěch (Jos. Michal Brokoff 1709)
- 14 Saint John of Mathy, Felix and Ivan with the Turk (F. M. Brokoff 1714)
- 15 Saint Wenceslas (Jos. Kamil Böhm 1858)
- 16 Madonna with Saint Bernard (Matthias Václav Jákl 1709)
- 17 Madonna with Saint Dominic and Thomas Aquinas (M. V. Jákl 1708)
- 18 Calvary (1657), statues by Em. Max 1861, the Hebraic inscription (1696) glorifying God (paid for by a fine imposed on a Jew who mocked at God)
- 19 Saint Anne (M. V. Jákl 1707)
- 20 Saints Cyril and Methodius (Karel Dvořák 1928) in replacement of the statue of Saint Ignatius by F. M. Brokoff 1711, which now stands in the Lapidarium
- 21 Saint John the Baptist (Jos. Max 1857)
- 22 Saints Norbert, Wenceslas and Sigmund (J. Max 1853); also on the parapet a marble plaque at the spot where in 1393 Jan of Nepomuk is supposed to have been thrown into the Vltava
- 23 Saint John of Nepomuk (1683)
- 24 Saint Anthony of Padua (Jan Oldřich Mauer 1707)
- 25 Saint Jude Tadeus (J. O. Mayer 1708)
- 26 Saint Augustine (J. B. Kohl 1706)
- 27 Saint Gaetan (F. M. Brokoff 1709)
- 28 Saint Philip Benicinus (Michel Bernard Mande 1714)
- 29 Saint Vitas (F. M. Brokoff 1714)
- 30 Saints Salvator, Cosmas and Damian (J. O. Mayer 1709)

length. From tower to tower the bridge measured 660 yards. Its fame really dates from the time the stone statues were placed on the bridge during the 18th cent.

As examples of Baroque vitality and power, the statues are unequalled.

Twenty-six were set on their pillars between 1706 and 1714 all of sandstone. The pillars that were not occupied were gradually filled during the next century.

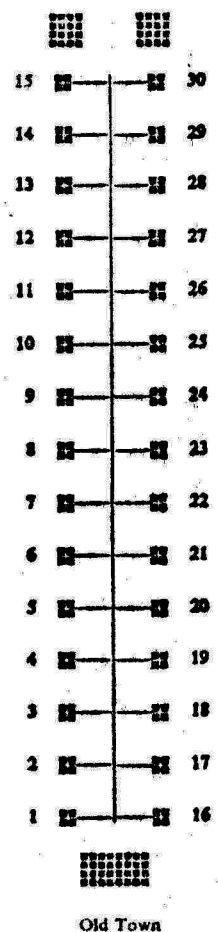
When the flood of 1890 swept away F.M. Brokoff's statue of Saint

Ignatius Loyola, sculptor Karel Dvorak replaced it with one of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the bringers of Christianity and the Cyrillic alphabet, respectively to Moravia.

Not all the statues are of the same artistic value. Opinion generally concedes first place to the group around Saint Luitgarda (No. 12 on the plan). The best loved is that of St John of Mathy, Felix and Ivan with the Turk (No. 14 on the plan.) The group was erected for the Trinitarian Order, whose job it was to ransom Christians from the Turks.

PRAGUEPLAN OF CHARLES BRIDGE

Small side



THE CHARLES BRIDGE c'td

In this capacity they were highly successful, because they are credited with having liberated some 1,400,000 prisoners. The insolent Turk stands callously above the cringing Christian in the dungeon, while a fierce dog stands guard lest the hapless captive tries to escape before the ransom money arrives.

Two towers of equal strength, and unequal height rise above the bridge where it touches Mala Strana. The lesser bridge is the only surviving part of the Judith Bridge, which was outwardly restored in 1591. The higher tower is late Gothic.

During the six centuries the bridge has existed it has survived many floods and much fighting. There are countless legends about it. One of the most interesting is that its mortar was made stronger by being mixed with fresh eggs, donated by thousands of citizens.

A joke grew up about the town of Velry. The townsfolk also sent a wagon-load of eggs to help with the building but when the masons cracked them they were found to be hard boiled! Whether the 'egg' story is true or not there is an old saying that the bridge's solidity is such that should the rest of Prague fall down the Charles Bridge will still survive.

The Charles Bridge also appears on the stamps issued for the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia - two values 20k and 5k (15 August 1939.)

Reference: Fodor's Guide Czechoslovakia 1975.

I am indebted to Mrs Jane Sterba of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of America for kindly supplying the illustrations.

CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT No. 5 by Alan J Knight

CHARLES IV - King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor: My 'spotlight' this issue is turned onto the PRAGUE CASTLE SERIES and the 1978 set issued on May 9th, and in particular onto the 3.60Kcs value depicting the head of Charles IV. This set was issued in the usual format of four stamps of each value (the other being the 3Kcs value showing a detail from a medieval painting of one of Charles's ancestors - OTAKER II per sheet, with dividing horizontal gutter. A First Day Cover was issued bearing one of each stamp cancelled by an illustrated c.d.s. at Prague Castle Post Office 012 dated 9.V.1978 and a black/gold engraving showing the Hradcany Castle as it appeared in 1493.

For reference I note that this is not the first stamp issued since 1945 depicting this ancient king's head - see the "600th Anniversary of Charles IV University" issue of 1948-and it is co-incidental that the 1978 Prague Castle Series was issued in the year when an exhibition of the Royal Regalia of Charles IV was drawing thousands of visitors to the Gothic Palace at Prague Castle on the 600th Anniversary of Charles's death!

Who was Charles IV? What role did he play in the history of the Czech nation? Why is he still held in such reverence to this very day - over six centuries later?

Son of John of Luxembourg; descended on his mother's side from the Royal Bohemian Dynasty of the PREMYSLIDS, In 1346, he became King of Bohemia and, in 1355 - Holy Roman Emperor. In the mid-14th century, Charles IV transformed the Czech Lands into a dominant administrative centre of his tripartite state.

CHARLES IV c'td.

Charles IV - the most important figure of Czech mediaeval history - thus accomplished the century-long endeavour to create a Czech state and, under his rule, Bohemia achieved a level of cultural and national prosperity comparable in its range and impact with the most advanced countries of Europe at that time. The values created at that time are timeless. They left an imprint on world history and the culture of late feudalism and indeed became the guarantee of the subsequent national development of the Czech nation. The reign of Charles IV was the logical outcome of Czech state and cultural development, attained under the rule of his great grandfather - Premysl Otakar II (see the 3Kcs stamp of the Prague Castle set referred to above) and his grandfather Vaclav II.

Way back in the late 13th century, the Czech kingdom was a recognised power in Central Europe and the Prague Court a renowned scholastic centre.

Charles IV identified those aspects and elements required for the transformation of this ancient state into a centrally administered monarchy. He accomplished everything which his Premyslid ancestors failed to achieve due to various political factors: the transformation of Bohemia into a Holy Roman Empire, autonomy for the Czech Church, not subordinate to the Archbishopric at Mainz and - the foundation of the Prague University - the first in Central Europe.

King Vaclav II, Charles's grandfather had tried in vain at the end of the 13th century to attain these same political and cultural goals.

The culmination of the cultural traditions of the last Premyslids under Charles's rule is reflected in a number of other areas. On a scale unparalleled in the Middle Ages, Charles IV sponsored monumental projects, works of art, painting and sculpture thus creating a truly representative Capital City of Prague. With magnanimity in an unusual form in mediaeval Europe, he commissioned the building of a new Prague Castle and the commencement of a new town quarter in Prague - Prague New Town. Ancient documents of that time show the extent of this expansion, its rising prosperity and political significance. One particular reference is very interesting in that it reveals the population of Prague at the time to have been 85,000 (London 50,000 - Florence 40,000 and Nuremberg 26,000).

Space precludes much more to be written here on the subject of this ancient yet still well-beloved Czech monarch, but his spirit still lives within the walls of that ever-beloved building which embodies the very spirit and soul of the Czech nation - PRAGUE CASTLE.

I am greatly indebted to R.Krtilova and the journal 'Czechoslovak Trade Unions' for the historical data contained in this article. A.J.K.

ČESKOSLOVENSKO



380 PRAŽSKÝ HRAD
3K
KARL IV. DETAIL
1978
2. V. 1978

PRAGUE 1493



ČESKOSLOVENSKO



PRAGSKÝ HRAD
PREMYSLOVSKÁ
1978
2. V. 1978

SUPPLEMENT TO "POFIS" STAMP CATALOGUE OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS.....A.J.K.

N.B. Please note that stamps have been re-numbered from the issue "35th Anniversary of Slovak Uprising" which carries the number 2387 and not as expected, number 2384.

STAMPS ISSUED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1979 PRICED IN CZECH CROWNS

Approximately: 5p = 1Kcs = 100h.

<u>Pofis No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Face</u>	<u>Mint</u>	<u>Used</u>
2387	35th Anniv. of Slovak Uprising	0.30	0.30	0.10
2388	Biennale of Illustrations for Children and Youth (UNESCO)	0.20	0.20	0.10
2389	"	0.40	0.40	0.20
2390	"	0.60	0.60	0.30
2391	"	1.00	1.00	0.50
2392	"	3.00	9.50	3.00
2393	Historical Bicycles	0.20	0.20	0.10
2394	"	0.40	0.40	0.20
2395	"	0.60	0.60	0.30
2396	"	2.00	2.00	1.00
2397	"	3.60	12.10	3.60
2398	COIL STAMPS - Definitives	0.50	0.50	0.20
	"	1.00	1.00	0.40

PRICE ALTERATIONS

1791	16th Congress UPU	3.20	10.00	5.00
A2294/A	M/s "Praga 1978" re: 30th Anniv. Victorious February (4 x 1Kcs)	4.00	14.00	14.00
Airmail:				
91	Joint Space Flight	0.30	0.30	0.30
92	CSSR/USSR	3.60	24.70	24.70

THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Following upon the occupation of Czechoslovakia in September 1938, many Nationals managed to escape to other countries, eventually forming cultural and social groups, and many offered themselves as fighting units. A considerable number were formed into the Czechoslovak Forces in G.B., of which several members were interested in stamp collecting. Following some publicity in the philatelic press a "Czechoslovak Philatelic Society" was formed under the Presidency of Lt.Col. J.Broz, GSO in charge of Czech Forces, the Secretary being Mr.J.Tauber.

After the war the interests of the Society were maintained in a moderate form until 17 October 1953 when a well attended meeting of Czechoslovak enthusiasts met in London. The name was amended to the title above, and the society has continued to grow slowly.

In recent years two one day exhibitions have been held, one in 1970 at Bishops Stortford, and the other in 1974 at Worthing. The society is affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation Limited, and Meetings are held five times a year, two being in London to coincide with the National Exhibitions, and the others in members homes in different parts of the country. The Society's journal CZECHOUT is issued four times a year. The subscription is at present £2.50 per annum (£3.50 from October 1980) and further details may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary -

Robert Kingsley, 6 Fenn Close, Lake Avenue, BROMLEY, BR1 4DX.