

CZECHOUT

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CO-EDITORIAL

This issue is being prepared just prior to LONDON 1980 so that the report of our Lunch and Meeting on Sunday 11 May with our friends of the German and American societies will not appear until the next quarter. We are able to rejoice in the recent election of our member Henry Hahn to the Presidential chair of the CPS Inc., and our best wishes to Dick Major on assuming the Vice Presidency and Editorship of the Czechoslovak Specialist.

Likewise our sincere congratulations to Gary Ryan on being nominated to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the BPF Congress to be held at Cambridge, 20 - 23 August. Gary was awarded a Gold Medal for his Hungarian Postal History at INDIA 80, and the energetic secretary of the Magyar PS, Mervyn Benford came home with a Silver medal. Congratulations to both of them.

Colin Spong Yvonne King
Co-Editors.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into the society two new members -

Edward J Sabol(Woodbury USA) and Jeffery L Kalp(Northwood) and regret due to unforeseen circumstances the resignation of W Wujw(Rugby). We omitted from the last Czechout the election of George E Connolly(London) to the society.

Our remarks re subscriptions in the last issue were somewhat ambiguous - they are payable from 1st October in each year, and if not received by January 1 unpaid members are removed from the mailing list.

SOCIETY MEETING

Fifteen members with Kay Goodman in the Chair met at Cyril Wackett's home on Saturday 22 March. Pat Oliver(Packet Secretary) reported that some members were returning their packets to her, if they were no longer interested in them. It is requested that members adhere to the mailing list provided. The Exchange Packet is to be discussed at the next AGM.

A letter was received from the Austro Hungarian Slavic Postal History Project Director:- Dr Abdul G Khan(POB 2636, Springfield, Va. 22153 USA) it was agreed that Cyril Wackett would represent the society at the next Seminar arranged for Saturday 10 May at the home of Denis Vanderveld in North London.

The subject for display was on the issues of Bohemia/Moravia/Slovakia and stamps and postal history were shown by Irene Galloway, Colin Spong, Pat Oliver and Reg Hounsell.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday 12 July at the home of Kay Goodman - subject: 10 sheets from all members. Please confirm to Kay if you are attending (address as on cover) in order that arrangements can be made for lunch.

Travelling Directions: By Road

From London take the M3 then carry on following signs 'Southampton' until you come to the new by-pass, M27: go on this and come off at the Lyndhurst sign and proceed to Lyndhurst. From Lyndhurst take the Christchurch - Bournemouth road, about 9 miles on the right hand side pass pub 'Cat and Fiddle', immediately afterwards turn left to Hinton Admiral Station, over the railway bridge, 2nd turning on left Holmhurst Ave, immediately sharp

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left into Oakwood Road, No.5 is the third house.

By Rail: Trains depart from Waterloo Station at 46 minutes past each hour (check new timetable), book to NEW MILTON Station. The journey takes approx 2 hours, therefore it is suggested that any members travelling by train take the 10.46, arriving at New Milton 12.40. Members travelling on this train can be met by car at the station.

CORRIGENDUM

Alec Page advises that the illustration headings in his article "5 Heller 'HRADCANY' 1918" should read as follows:-

Page 4. Illustration A/Aa Row 5 No. 6
C Row 8 No. 1

Page 5. Illustration Heading Row 5 No. 6

CZECHOSLOVAK Stamps

A letter received from Mr Russell Brown, 1 Angmering Way, Rustington, W. Sussex BN16 3RH who has some stamps for sale, and also a czech correspondent for anyone who is interested. Please write directly to Mr Brown.

BOOK REVIEWS

The new POFIS KATALOG 1980 is a larger format volume containing ONLY 1945 to 1979, and all stamps are illustrated in full colour. Much more space has been given on each page, and it is entitled POFIS - CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1980 and contains 448 pages. The descriptions are concise but without the usual specialist information. The part-two companion volume with 1918/1939 is to follow later in the year.

Generally, I note with some surprises, that prices have ———increased but ——— little (generally) - many have remained as for the 1975 volume. However, there are some substantial rises amongst special issues, particularly the miniature sheets. The PRAGA 78 issues show interesting prices, proving very collectable. The TITAN sheet with 'FIP' references in the margins is now 160 Kcs both used and unused. Whilst the plain sheet without marginal references is now 45 Kcs used and unused, together with the FDC. The total number of sheets printed are: Plain(A2334/5)371,100 and the 'FIP' issue 233,700.

Other figures are:- A2333(Morstadt-Old Prague) 350,200; 45 Kcs m/u. Imperf A2327(Old Prague Astronomical Clock)155,000 at 200 Kcs m/u! Perf.290,000 45 Kcs m/u. National Costume Head-dresses 25-20 Kcs per set (m/u) whilst the complete counter set of sheets(four each of 8 stamps/2 coupons) are priced at 201.60 Kcs for the set. Only 450,000 complete sets possible of stamps. Finally I quote the 1979 Joint Space Flight (CSSR/USSR) m/s: 25 Kcs perf. and 200 Kcs imperf. No figures of production noted. With the average exchange rate at about £1/20 Kcs it is easy to assess rough values.

Alan K Knight

BPF HANDBOOK (YEARBOOK & DIRECTORY)

Available free to members of the British Philatelic Federation and priced £2.00 to others this excellent publication contains information on world-wide philatelic organisations (federations, societies, bureaux and some permanent exhibitions.) Lecturers and details of BPF's own services. This volume lists all signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, winners of the Congress Medal, and 1979 Awards of Merit. A list of all previous Congresses is included, with the names of individuals and the societies represented at Harrogate in 1979. Finally there are lists of BPF members by category.

Colin Spong

JAMES J MATEJKA jr. M.D., R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.

It was with great regret that I learned of the death of Jim Matejka, who passed away on 30 November 1979, in the early hours of the morning. It will be remembered that he had signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists - to much warm acclamation - at the ceremony on the final afternoon of the Philatelic Congress held in Harrogate last August, and whose merits (philatelic) are enumerated on page 20 of the 1980 Yearbook.

It was quite evident to us all that Jim was in poor health, and although both he and his wife Marie, because of their own learning within medicine, knew only too well the final score, I know that the final game of life came upon them far more rapidly than anyone had expected.

My own recollections of Jim go back to 1964. Our paths crossed in many places; Vienna, London, Prague, Budapest, Chicago, West Berlin, and Switzerland. I remember him mainly as an Englishman's idea of a typical American (that is, full of life) but without the coarse brashness that some of us on this side of the pond equate - quite wrongly - with members of our ex-colony over there.

During the years it became apparent that Jim combined an irrepressible sense of fun (which functioned equally well whether the joke was on him or when it was perpetrated by him) with a clarity of thought which could propose solutions to problems enmeshed in a tangle of verbiage, together with an understanding of and compassion for the frailties of others. To give examples of these aspects of his character would take some length. To put it on a purely personal level, I think that I probably only once asked his advice about some item of food or drink in some foreign place with regard to my migraine attacks; despite my possible breaching of the rules of medical etiquette 'Doc' nevertheless answered me courteously and helpfully.

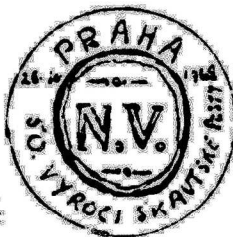
I can only conclude this personal tribute by saying in a style which he himself would have appreciated, "Sleep well, boy, we'll miss you,"

John C W Field.

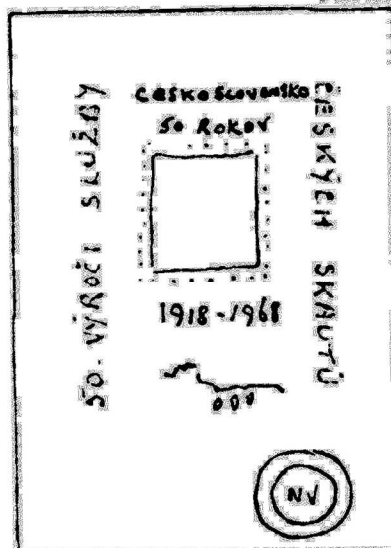
QUERY CORNER

Henry Sewell writes 'I have just received from a friend in Czechoslovakia two miniature sheets (SG: 1782 POFIS: A1721) issued 28 October 1968, 50th Anniversary of Republic (2nd issue) which has some additional printing and a special cancel, obviously commemorating the original 1918 Scout Post.'

As I cannot find them listed in any of my literature I wonder if anyone could throw some light upon the matter. Is this printing official? If not who was responsible, under what circumstances, and approximately how many of each colour even printed? Herewith some rough sketches..



The cancel.



Both are unused with original gum, one with additional printing in green and the cancel in black; the other with red printing and a green cancel.

'Retouches to the General M R Stefanik
Definitive.' by Ernest G Taylor

JINDRA SCHMIDT

1

JINDRA

2

A

3

2k 40 SG: 455 POFIS: 418
20K SG: 462a POFIS: 428

I recently had an opportunity to examine some Czech kiloware of the early postwar period, consisting of the Linden, De la Rue, and the 1945-47 definitives. I found little of interest, with the exception of a few German expurgated postmarks and began to idly examine a small heap of the 1945-47 2k40 carmine stamps with a strong glass. I was surprised to find evidence of minor retouching to the designer's imprint that appears at the

bottom left of the stamp image.

The most outstanding variety found has the "RA" of 'JINDRA' and the 'CHMID' of "SCHMIDT" rather inexpertly retouched so that the 'D' of "SCHMIDT" appears as a 'P' (Fig.1). This variety is the top left stamp of a block of four without any marginal selvage.

A single stamp with left margin attached shows a retouch of the letters "RA" of 'JINDRA', the letters appear stunted and slope to the right. (Fig.2). Lastly a single stamp has the right leg of the 'A' of "JINDRA" recut and extended above the letter, also the centre bar is not straight but is 'seagull' shaped. (Fig.3).

In the kiloware there was just one copy of the 20k purple-brown, and this shows doubling of the whole of the imprint and slight doubling in the laurel spray at the base of the design. I do not think that this variety is a fresh entry as the doubling is almost coincidental and is due to roller moving fractionally during the transfer process. This happened frequently with the GB 1d red resulting in the well known basal flaws and more recently with French commemorative issues of the 1945 to 1960 period.

I feel sure that my fellow fly-speck philatelists will turn-up quite a few varieties on this neglected issue.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE POFIS 1980 POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE.....A.J. Knight.

Stamps issued during the last Quarter of 1979 priced in Czechoslovak Crowns - 1Kcs = 100h = £0.05 approx.

<u>Pofis No</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Face</u>	<u>Mint</u>	<u>Used</u>
2400	Historical Clocks	0.40	0.40	0.20
2401		0.60	0.60	0.30
2402*		0.80	6.80	0.80
2403		1.00	1.00	0.50
2404		2.00	2.00	1.00
2405	Art on Stamps	1.60	1.60	1.60
2406		2.00	2.00	2.00
2407		3.00	3.00	3.00
2408*		3.60	22.60	22.60
2409		5.00	5.00	5.00
2410	Bratislava Hist. Motifs	3.00	3.00	3.00
2411*		3.60	11.80	11.80
2412	Czechoslovak Stamp Day	1.00	1.00	0.50

* some of those elusive ones!

IN MEMORIAM: S V O B O D A Ludvik (1895-1979) A.J.Knight

It was announced from Prague last September that General Ludvik Svoboda, former President of the Czechoslovak Republic had died at the age of 84.

Ludvik Svoboda was afforded a State funeral in Prague which was attended by many thousands of Prague's citizens, while millions of Czechs and Slovaks shared this public mourning at home, watching this sad event on the State Television Service.

General Svoboda had distinguished career in him becoming the Republic and Supreme Forces. He was a and in 1968 was Czechoslovak Peace

During World War 1, fought in the Czech taking part in the (Pofis 318-319) and 336). Between WW1 various posts in the going to Poland in formed the Czech Later in Russia organized the First Battalion at became famous in in January 1943 m/s commemorating and illustrated by



from his book "From Buzuluk to Prague"). After WW2 he became the country's Vice Premier in 1951 but following a difficult period in 1952, he was recalled into the Army. On 30th March 1968 General Ludvik Svoboda was elected President of the Republic and Supreme Commander of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces. It was during the difficult days of 1969 that President Svoboda became known more generally in Great Britain.

For his personal courage - in wartime and peacetime - and for his marked modesty and other personal qualities President Ludvik Svoboda was deeply loved by 'his soldiers' and the entire nation. It is indeed most appropriate to this man's memory that in translation into English, his name Svoboda means Liberty.....

CZECH STAMPS IN GLASGOW by Robert McLeod

In the Glasgow Head Post Office, the Philatelic counter has a display of stamps which is changed each month. This is to add an interest to the sales area and usually the display reflects the theme of the current issue of British stamps.

When no special issues are due in a particular month, the display can be from any subject or country, and are 'donated' by members of local Philatelic Clubs. A great deal of interest is shown locally in this display and when the Postmaster, Mr Service recently retired, he donated a sum of money towards a trophy for the best display of the year.

I was asked to supply 60 sheets from my Czech collection during February 1980. To please as many people as possible I included postal history, postal stationery, art, Sudetenland, airmails and finished off with some 'general stamps.'

We congratulate Mr McLeod on his display and trust that it brought many inquiries concerning the hobby and of Czech stamps in particular. Editors.

a long and most which culminated President of the Commander of Armed Hero of the CSSR honoured by the Prize.

Ludvik Svoboda Legions in Russia, battles at Zborov at Bachmac (Pofis and WW2 he held Czechoslovak Army, 1939 where he Military Unit. Ludvik Svoboda Czechoslovak Ind; Buzuluk that battle near Sokolow (see Pofis A2175 his 80th Birthday Svoboda's citation

REVOLUTIONARY OVERPRINTS ON AUSTRIAN STAMPS by Ernst Gorge

(Originally published in the Czech issue of Stamp Collecting 15.2.1979.)

First Prague Revolutionary Issue

In an attempt to copy other succession states, Poland and Jugoslavia, a group of people connected with the National Council and led by J. Rossler-Orovsky, asked the Wiesner printing Works in Prague to prepare sample plates for over-printing. (Fig.1) These plates were to carry the text "Provisorni Ceskoslovenska Vlada" (Provisional Czechoslovak Government) and "Czeskoslovenska Statni Posta" (Czechoslovak State Post) with a drawing of a small coat of arms, with and without a crown, together with the Czech lion.

Low value Austrian stamps with these overprints were submitted to the National Council for approval. This however was postponed because of questions concerning the suitability of the text, and also because of the movement to issue indigenous Czechoslovak stamps as soon as possible. The group which submitted these proposals continued to make preparations for the issue by publishing an announcement in the daily press that Austrian stamps were to be overprinted and put into circulation. Following this announcement, inquiries by philatelists began coming in which were handled by Rossler-Orovsky and his group on a commercial basis.

The first day of use appears to be the 1st November, 1918 as this is the first date to be found on registered letters which were mostly mailed by members of this group. A metal die was prepared and a small number of low denomination, and even a few whole sets of Austrian stamps were thus overprinted. From this, plates were made to overprint whole series of stamps in the Knapp printing works. Whole series of definitive and the two special delivery values were overprinted. In all 21 values appeared with these overprints.

Definitive issues overprinted were the following:

- 3h, 5h, 10h and 12h showing the crown
- 15h, 20h, 25h, and 30h depicting the Emperor Karl
- 40h, 50h, 60h, 80h, 90h and 1k picturing the Hapsburg coat-of-arms (small format)
- 2k, 3k, 4k and 10k also with coat-of-arms (Large format)
- 2h and 5h stamps of the 1917 special delivery issue.

The coat-of-arms with the lion in the stereotype came from the stock of the Provisional Committee which had used it in the headings on various types of stationery. For use in the overprint the crown was filed off.

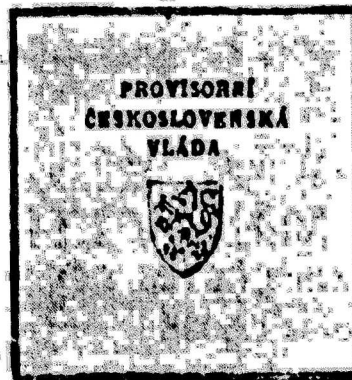
Various trial overprints, with and without the crown, on various kinds of paper and various Austrian stamps are known.

The original overprints from the hand-setting shows two types. The variations between each other, as well as from those overprinted from stereotyped cliches (type III) can easily be discerned.

Type 1 Overprint from Handsetting

1. Shield blunted on right corner, no trace on the shield showing where crown has been cut off.
2. The letter "P" in PROVISORNI is lower than the following "R"
3. The lower bend of the second "S" in CESKOSLOVENSKA is greatly miss-hapen.

Fig. 1 Trial overprint
"Provisorni Czecho-
slovak Government"
without crown.

**Type II Overprint from handsetting**

1. The right hand shield corner runs sharply to a point.
2. The letters "I" and "RNI" in PROVISORNI are about the same height whilst the first "R" is rather larger than the following 'O'.

REVOLUTIONARY OVERPRINTS C'td

3. The letter "V" in VLADA is lower than the following 'L'. These two types are unquestionably the earliest. They are usually in pairs and are much rarer than the following type, overprinted from stereotyped cliches (Fig 2) but which also originated in the revolutionary period.

Type III Overprinted from stereotyped cliches:

1. Right shield as in Type I, blunted.
2. The removal of the crown from the shield left very marked traces on the upper edge of it.
3. The alignment of the letters is almost perfect. Only the 'P' in PROVISIORNI is slightly lower than the following 'R'.
4. The letter "C" in CESKOSLOVENSKA is occasionally small. The stereotypes were made from the handset type of the original overprint, and apparently only 4 stereotypes were used because no larger blocks than blocks of four are known.



Fig. 2 Original stereotype overprint of first Prague issue.

Second Prague Revolutionary Issue.

The text and coat-of-arms used in the first revolutionary issue were criticised because they did not reflect the union of Czechs and Slovaks in one state. As J Rossler-Orovsky was a resourceful man, he arranged for a second, slightly altered issue to be printed. This carried the text "CESKOSLOVENSKA STATNI POSTA" (Czechoslovak State Post) and the large so-called Legionnaires coat-of-arms. The die for the coat-of-arms was borrowed from the office of the Czechoslovak Legions where it was used for letter headings and other printed matter.

The preparation of this issue was very similar to the first Revolutionary issue. The overprint was set by hand and used to prepare a small number of complete sets and a whole series of trial overprints on various Austrian stamps, scout stamps and on plain paper. This overprint was also applied to a small quantity of postcards. A stereotype was made from this metal hand stamp. This stereotyped overprint is the most common and usually is to be found in complete sets. This issue, like the first Prague issue consists of the same 21 values. The registered letters were mailed from post offices Prague 1, Praha Zemsky Snem, Praha Kralovy Vynohrady. The earliest known postmark is 7th November 1918. Used stamps are usually those overprinted with the handstamp. It is very unusual to find a cover bearing mixed franking from the first and second Revolutionary issues.

As with the first Prague revolutionary issue, two distinct types can be differentiated.



Fig. 3 Original Type I overprint, second Prague issue.

Type I Overprint from handsetting (Fig 3):

1. The distance from the bottom edge of the inscription to the top edge of the shield is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
2. There is a distinct space between letter and accent on "A" in CESKOSLOVENSKA.

From this set-up a stereotyped cliché was made (Type II) which

shows no substantial difference from Type I except that the accent on the "A" in CESKOSLOVENSKA is joined to the letter.

As with the first revolutionary issue the handsetting is more scarce than the stereotyped one.

REVOLUTIONARY OVERPRINTS C'td**The Hluboka or Mares Overprints:**

The producer of these early overprints was Mares, former head gardner at Hluboka castle. He asked the engraver Hory of Ceske Budejovice to prepare a metal handstamp for him with the drawing of the Czech lion above the words "CESKOSLOVENSKY STAT." At the beginning these overprinted stamps were used by him and his friends only. However, as soon as collectors showed interest in his stamps, Mares began overprinting whole series of stamps in red and black which he sent to collectors and dealers for a fee. He did not forget to create inverted overprints and other philatelic oddities! Registered letters franked with these stamps passed through the mail without difficulty and originated from various post offices, i.e. Ceske Budejovice (5th November) Praha (7th November) Hluboka (8 November) Driten (7th November) 1918.

The Hluboka overprint has the following distinguish features (Fig 4).

1. The lion's crown is narrow at the left hand side.
2. Above the eye there is a clearly distinguished eyebrow.
3. The claws are distinct and sharp.
4. The centre of the back leg lines up between the letters "E" and "S".
5. The letter 'C' in CESKO is lower than the other letters.
6. The accent above the letter "Y" in SLOVENSKY is in the wrong direction, slanting left instead of right.
7. The line above the "A" in the word STAT is not clear.
8. There is a small dot after the word CESKO.
9. The text does not have a full stop at the end.



Fig. 4 Original Hluboka overprint.

The Horner Overprints:

The stamp dealer Horner had a hand stamp prepared by the same engraver Hory of Ceske Budejovice, based on the Mares design. With this he overprinted for speculative purposes, a whole series of definitive and postage due stamps of Austria. Horner also prepared inverted

overprints, tete-beche pairs, and

so on. Letters with these stamps had no difficulty in passing through the mail. They were mailed from various post offices around 10th November, 1918.

The Horner overprints are distinguished by the following features: (Fig 5)

1. The crown on the lion's head is smaller and not very precisely drawn.
2. The eye is longer and without an eyebrow.
3. The claws are shorter and dulled.
4. The middle claw of the back leg bisects the upper curve of the letter "S".
5. The letter 'C' is wider and the mark above is larger.
6. The mark above the letter "Y" in the word SLOVENSKY is normal, that is, slanting to the right.
7. The accent above the "A" in the word STAT is larger.
8. After the CESKO there is a dash.
9. The text ends with a full stop.



Fig. 5 Original Horner overprint.

Both of these overprints, Mares and Horner, are recognised by specialized collectors as valid issues. The Mares overprint appears on 42 values and the Horner only on 39. The colours of the overprints are black and red.

REVOLUTIONARY OVERPRINTS C'td

Easy disposition of these overprinted stamps, the simple design and perhaps most important, a gap in the law; there was no law in Czechoslovakia protecting collectors from counterfeiters of philatelic material, were the main reasons for the appearance of many forgeries in later years. In addition, Horner himself manufactured more overprints later, for which he was subsequently prosecuted. Counterfeits were produced on individual values as well as in whole sets.

A FUNDAMENTAL POSTMARK PUBLICATION by Otto Hornung

In the early sixties the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists embarked on a very ambitious plan. They decided to produce a series of basic works and publications covering all aspects of Czechoslovak philately. The name chosen 'Monograph of Czechoslovak Stamps' - is actually a misnomer because the set of books will include not only works on stamp issues but also on postmarks etc.

No doubt the plan to produce a set of philatelic handbooks was greatly influenced by the fact that the Hungarian Federation of Philatelic Societies had previously decided on a similar set of handbooks, and some were already in the pipeline. A detailed plan was drawn up for the individual titles in the Czechoslovak series and each work was given its serial number under which it was to appear, although the handbooks were not published in numerical sequence, but depending on which part was ready for publication.

So far four volumes of the "Monograph" have been published: No 1 - The Period after the Revolution, Hradcany 1918-20; No 2 - Commemorative Stamps 1919-20, Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919, Allegories, Red Cross, Economy and Science 1923; No 13 - Czech Postal Handstamps from the Earliest Times to the Year 1918, Part 1; No 14 - Czech Postal Handstamps from the Earliest Times to the Year 1918, Part 2; To this list of publications I should like to add another volume preceding the parts of the Monograph, but produced with a similar high standard and of equal importance: 'Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps', written by Inz. Jan Karasek, Zdenek Kvasnicka and Bretislav Paulicek, published in 1963.

The authors of the above listed five volumes are Czechoslovak philatelists who are acknowledged experts in the field they are covering, people with long years of collecting experience, and with substantial collections in the areas they write about. All the volumes are richly illustrated. At a later stage during the preparations of the set of handbooks it was realized that there is a great interest in these publications overseas, and that the fact that they are printed in Czech only would make it difficult for overseas collectors to use them. That is why volumes 13 and 14 have a resume in German at least.

The last two volumes published are possibly the most important ones of the whole series. They are written by the eminent expert Inz. Emil Votocek and they cover and illustrate all known postmarks used in post offices in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia up to the year 1918. That is up to the moment when Czechoslovakia was founded. Only postmarks of post offices that are now inside Czechoslovakia are listed. The author has restricted himself to the western part of Czechoslovakia. The eastern part, Slovakia, was before 1918 part of Hungary, whereas the western part was under Austrian jurisdiction. Therefore, the history of Slovak postal services etc. is different, and will be dealt with separately by some other author.

The postmarks of Austria (and that includes the territories covered in the two volumes 13 and 14) have always attracted great interest, and some prominent philatelists wrote about them in the past. The man, whose works are best known, is Edwin Müller. In 1925 he published his first book covering the period 1850-1867. His second volume of 1930 dealt with the period 1867, and in his third handbook he covered the prestamp post-

A FUNDAMENTAL POSTMARK PUBLICATION C'td

marks of Austria. Wilhelm Klein wrote a handbook on postmarks of Austria for the period 1867-1900. Thus, as can be seen, there are still wide gaps left.

Volumes 13 and 14 of the Monograph go up to the year 1918, and fully cover every aspect of postal markings in the western part of Czechoslovakia. They list some 20,000 handstamps of various types and purpose. Dates are given for the opening of post offices, for the introduction of postmarks, present names of places, and all details that have so far become known. In addition there is a point system indicating the rarity or otherwise of various cancellations.

Inz. Emil Votocek has produced a work of remarkable comprehensiveness and detail. Naturally, as always in philately, new facts are coming to light, new postmarks are being discovered. Nevertheless, these two handbooks will remain the bible for every collector who is interested in postmarks of that area, whether he is a stamp collector, postmark specialist or postal historian. The author has promised to publish in future all new discoveries and thus to supplement his work. In fact, he has already produced a supplement in volume 14 giving all new facts that came to light after the publication of volume 13. Naturally, he is pleased to hear about all new finds in future, and you can find his address in the books.

Inz. Emil Votocek has already submitted to the printers a further volume covering postmarks of the period 1918-1920, but this time for the whole territory of Czechoslovakia, including the eastern part Slovakia. These are the original Austrian and Hungarian handstamps taken over by the Czechoslovak Postal Administration and 'nationalised', meaning modified by deletion of the German and Hungarian spelling, and used up to their replacement by new Czechoslovak handstamps. In all probability this will be volume 15 of the Monograph, and it will appear towards the end of 1980 or later.

Furthermore, the same author is working on two volumes dealing with postmarks used in Czechoslovakia from 1920 to 1939, including also the territory of the subcarpathian Ukraine, that formed part of Czechoslovakia before World War II, but is now part of the Soviet Union. It is not yet certain whether there will be a volume on the postmarks of the Protectorate (Bohemia and Moravia occupied by Germany) and the Slovak State 1939-1945. There should be a further handbook on postmarks of liberated Czechoslovakia 1945-1947, and naturally, a continuation from 1947 onwards. For these volumes other writers will have to be found.

As can be seen there is still a great deal of work to be done, not only on postmarks, before the set of monographs is finished. As far as stamps go there is still the period of 1923-1939 to be dealt with, then the post-war period. It will take many years before the gaps are closed, and the set is completed.

The printing of the individual volumes of the Monograph is fairly high for such specialised handbooks, around 7,000 for volumes 1, 13 and 14, but only 5,000 for volume 2. Despite the high numbers, the earlier volumes are out of print, and all the remaining copies of No 14 will soon be sold. This is due to the fact that the publishers have included in each volume a different black print from the original blocks of Czechoslovak stamps to promote sales. Naturally, specialised collectors have bought the handbooks to obtain black prints. There is already a demand for the early volumes (No 1 published in 1968, No 2 - 1971), but it is doubtful if they will be reprinted in the foreseeable future.

This article originally appeared in STAMP COLLECTING of 30 August 1979 and we are grateful to the author for allowing us to publish it.