

CZECHOUT

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CO-EDITORIAL

The aftermath of LONDON 1980 as far as this society is concerned will lead to a closer link with our many friends overseas (and in the UK) towards a furthering of philatelic study of Czechoslovak stamps and postal history.

One reminder of the Czech Luncheon on Sunday May 11 we shall treasure are the Wenceslaus Hollar Covers postmarked May 12 (Society Day), and the card post-marked May 8 (Day of the Americas) so ably organised by Jane Sterba, also the list of names of those who were able to attend the Lunch at the Polish Air Force Club. We look forward to the next occasion when we can all meet again.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, Cyril Wackett was unable to attend the Seminar arranged by the Austro Hungarian Slavic Postal History Group, however, we hope to be able to report in a future issue, the results of this meeting arranged by Denis Vandervelde.

Colin Spong Yvonne King
Co-Editors

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into the society seven new members -

F.W.Hefer(Munich,Germany); J.J.Verner(Bethseda,USA); L.Wijnkamp Sr(Amsterdam)
G.Hedborn(Bromma,Sweden); L.Roberts(Cardiff); R.K.Sutton(Chester); and
P.G.Titterton(Brackley).

With regret the death of Francis Pettitt was received during the London 1980 Luncheon, a floral tribute was sent on behalf of the society.

SOCIETY MEETING

Once again the society was fortunate to have a lovely sunny day for the visit to Kay and Ted Goodman's home at Highcliffe. After a magnificent buffet lunch we were entertained to displays provided by the following members:-

John Whiteside(Provisional Newspaper Stamps 1918); Alan Knight(Forerunners and War Post 1914-18); Alec Page(85th Birthday issue of President Masaryk); Lindy James(Art on Stamps); Yvonne King(1829-1830 covers, and unadopted essays for the first Czech issue); Heinz Vogel(Presidential election post-marks); and Yvonne Gren(Sounds of Old Prague-illustrated by tape and stamps).

Saturday July 12 will not be forgotten by those who were able to attend and enjoy our Chairman's hospitality. Thank you Kay and Ted.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Saturday October 18 at the home of Ernst Gorge (see full details on the enclosed notice.) PLEASE NOTE the auction has been postponed until the January meeting. Would members kindly send in their lots by November 1, to Ernst Gorge.

British Philatelic Federation Congress

The next philatelic event on the horizon will be the Congress at Cambridge at which this society will be represented by Lindy James and Cyril Wackett, a report will appear in the next issue of CZECHOUT. As announced in an earlier issue Kay Goodman will be Chairman of Congress this year, which is to be held in the historic Trinity College.

Congress is being hosted by the Cambridge PS who are celebrating their Golden Jubilee, and it is with great pleasure we congratulate their President, Jack Simmonds on being nominated for the Congress Medal.

LONDON 1980 by Lindy James PRO of the Czechoslovak PS

Now that the hustle and bustle of London 1980 has passed, it is pleasant to recall the highlights of not only the Exhibition itself, but of meetings with friends old and new.

For the Czech Philatelic Society this was certainly the case on Sunday May 11, on that day our members and friends, together with members from our sister societies in America and Germany, were present at a Lunch, and then afterwards at a meeting in the Exhibition complex.

The informal meal held at the Polish Air Force Club in Collingham Gardens, which was a short walk from the Exhibition, was attended by 38 people representing many countries. Old friends were delighted to meet again, and new friendships and acquaintances were made. Listening to the number of languages and accents the gathering had a truly international flavour to match the Exhibition.

Language appeared no problem when the common area of interest was philately, and discussions became both heated and intense at times. At the end of the meal, group photographs were taken on the steps of the Polish Air Force Club, to remember a convivial gathering.

The short walk back to London 1980 began and finished in high spirits. - The residents of the area were no doubt surprised to find the quiet of their Sunday afternoon momentarily disturbed by the collection of Czech philatelists, all talking excitedly wending their way back to Earls Court. All arrived safely at the Exhibition area for the combined meeting with our sister societies. Kay Goodman was our guide through the labyrinths of the Exhibition, and after a few minor detours we finally arrived at our meeting place, to find more members and friends awaiting us.

The meeting opened with our Chairman, Mrs Kay Goodman welcoming everyone, but especially those friends from abroad interested in our common bond - Czech philately. After the various officials of the GB Society were introduced we were pleased to have reports from representatives of collectors in Holland, Germany, Denmark and USA., telling us of their societies and experiences of collecting in their countries.

A presentation was made to our chairman by Mr John Verner of the American Society of a philatelic item in appreciation of all the work Kay has done for Czech philately.

A display of a variety of members material was enjoyed and sparked off several discussion groups, and points for debate. The material shown ranged from the first issues of Czech stamps, postal stationery items, unadopted designs and essays to modern issues and miniature sheets.

During a break in the proceedings for a cup of the 'inevitable English tea', a few pen friends met face to face with their correspondents for the first time. Advantage was taken of the break to acquire information and guidance on many aspects of collecting Czech stamps from a number of distinguished and specialist philatelists present.

The end of the meeting came all too quickly for most people present, when though we had 'run over time' and there was little time left to look round London 1980 itself. For everyone present it was surely a few pleasant hours to remember, and now instead of reading names in our various publications, we can now put a face to a name and recall the person from our meeting. Philately brings us more than an absorbing hobby - it also brings us friendship round the world.

CONGRATULATIONS

To John Whiteside winning the Aero Philatelic Award at Bradford PS with Czech Airmails 1920-23.

CONRATULATIONS C'td

London 1980 Awards Court of Honour: G.Ryan(Hungary)

Gold: O.Grosz(Czechoslovakia); Dr.L.Fischmeister(Czechoslovakia); J.Jakubec (Czechoslovakia); J.J.Verner(Czech Siberian Post); Vermeil: J.Kracik(Czech); H.Hahn(Czechoslovakia); J.Hecko(Czechoslovakia); P.Jensen(Czech Postal History); Silver: Dr.L.Fischmeister(Austria & Territories); Mrs.K.Goodman(Czechoslovakia); Silver-Bronze: L.Wijnkamp(Bohemia-Moravia Austrian period); Bronze: Ms Y.King (Czechoslovakia); Airmails: Vermeil: G.Hedbom(Czech.1920-38); Silver: R.Hounsell (Czech.1920-39); F.Daniel(USSR Airmails); Thematic.Vermeil: L.Brandl(From the White Mt Disaster to the National Revival); Dr.S.Zrubec(The Rotary Presses Roll Today); Youth.Silver: M.Zika(Czechoslovak No.1.); Bronze: J.Hermann(Czechoslovak -The Events of 1918,1939 and 1945-7); Literature: Silver: J.Karasek(Monographie Vol.3.); Bronze: J.Santaeugenia(Checoslovakia); Hors Concours: G.Ryan(Cancellations of Hungarian Post Offices.)

FRANCIS COURTNEY PETTITT

The news that Francis had passed away after we had assembled at Earls Court for the Czech Lunch, was not unexpected as he had been ill for some time, although until recently he had been a regular attender at society meetings. In the early days, he and his wife Florence travelled up from their home in Chippenham by coach to Victoria, combining with a visit to one of the National Philatelic Exhibitions.

During the past three or four years they have come in Alan Knight's car, the journey being enlivened no doubt with Francis's comments. To those who met him for the first time he could be a redoubtable figure, he did not suffer fools gladly, and could often express opinions with that 'naval' humour acquired in the senior service. But underneath the surface he had a kindly heart, and many a new member (or older) were helped with items which appeared from his stock books, with the comment 'is this what you are looking for?'

Francis was mainly interested in the modern Czech material, and possessed a fine collection, plus a most remarkable collection of postcards. He had innumerable correspondents, and if he knew you were seeking for something, would take immense trouble to try and obtain this for you. He was greatly touched with the tape recording of the previous meeting held at Cyril Wackett's home, and the high esteem in which he held the members affection has been shown in the number of letters that Florence has received. Some time ago Florence was made an honorary member, of the society, and it was with some pleasure we welcomed her at our last function in July.

I can only end this personal tribute by quoting a verse from the Hymn used at the Funeral in St Peter's Chippenham. "I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless, Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me."

Colin Spong

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Peter Ibbotson in his EUROPAGE column (Stamp Collecting 22.5.80) mentions an interesting item on Czechoslovak Instructional Markings. On a letter received by an English collector from a Czech pen friend, was a perforated label reading Peclive nazitkufte. Peter refers the collector to the Post Office Guide where under Czechoslovakia is the following note. "Letter Post" that restrictions 'apply to the importation of...postage stamps.' In due course the collector after writing to his friend, asking what the label meant, and enclosing a gift of GB stamps, received his letter back, resealed with a CSSR customs label: having affixed an adhesive label Non admis/nepripustne; and handstamped in Czech and French in red and in French (with date) in violet. A GB returned to sender cachet was struck on the back of the envelope.

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

<u>Pofis No.</u>	<u>Face</u>	<u>Mint</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Nos Issued</u>
	<u>Priced in Czechoslovak Crowns;20/£</u>			
Coil Stamps				
2413	2.00	2.00	1.00	
2414	3.00	3.00	1.50	
13th Winter Olympic Games - Lake Placid				
2415	1.00	1.00	0.50	13,965,000
2416	2.00	9.50	2.00	500,000
2417	3.00	3.00	1.50	9,350,000
22nd Summer Olympic Games - Moscow				
2418	0.40	0.40	0.20	8,440,000
2419	1.00	1.00	0.50	6,164,000
2420	2.00	10.80	2.00	437,000
2421	3.60	3.60	1.80	4,300,000
50th International Marathon Peace Race in Kosice				
2422	0.50	0.50	0.30	
Heraldic Emblems-Czechoslovak Towns				
2423(Bystrice).....	0.50	0.50	0.30	
2424(Kunstat).....	0.50	0.50	0.30	
2425(Rozmital).....	0.50	0.50	0.30	
2426(Zlata Idka).....	0.50	0.50	0.30	
60th Anniv. Slovak National Theatre, Bratislava				
2427	1.00	1.00	0.50	
50 Years of Jirasek's Hronov''				
2428	0.50	0.50	0.30	
'' Festival of amateur theatre at Hronov, a town in Eastern Bohemia Alois Jirasek (1851-1930) Czech Writer.				

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY STAMP DESIGN CONTEST by Yvonne King FRPSL

The Hradcany issue was much criticised because of the primitive method of printing used and the artistic liberty taken by the artist, Alfons Mucha. A contest was arranged, therefore, for a new design after the first two values were issued on 18 December 1918. It was intended that the new stamps should be ready to celebrate the first anniversary of the Republic the following October.

Four prizes were offered for the best design:-

First	1200 crowns
Second	1000 crowns
Third	800 crowns
Fourth	500 crowns

The board of judges consisted of the following: Professor Max Svabinsky, presiding, eight artists, 2 postal officials and two philatelists. The two philatelists were Jaroslav Sula and Anton Richter.

By 18 January, 1919 approximately 100 designs were submitted. The judges first eliminated the unknown artists and on the 24 January 1919 announced the winners:

First prize	- St Wenceslas (fig.A1) showing the mail clad figure of figure of St Wenceslas, with lance and sword, holding a shield emblazoned with the arms of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia by Frank Kysel
Second prize	Girl in National Costume, holding a spray of four Linden leaves in her right hand (fig.A2) by Alfons Mucha
Third prize	Coats of Arms of the Provinces arranged vertically down the centre (fig.A3) by Frank Kysel
Fourth prize	Flying Dove in Octagon - an octagonal central design with dove in centre and twig with four linden leaves in its beak (fig.A4) by Jaroslav Benda

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- Fifth prize - Provincial coat of arms by Frank Kysel
- Sixth prize - Diagonal lion by Frank Kysel
- Seventh prize Men with coats of arms headdresses (off.24/25)
by Frank Kysel
- Eighth prize Czech lion in post horn by Alois Mudrunka
- Honorable mention - Hussite knight by Pravoslava Kotik
- Not given an award but included in the composite essay
Jan Zika portrait by an unknown designer (off.23)

After the presentation of the awards, the drawings were reduced to stamp size which resulted in a composite essay. The essay was printed in orange red by typography and measured $9\frac{1}{4}$ x $5.3\frac{1}{4}$ ins. When reduced to stamp size none of the drawings proved suitable for stamps.

The second competition was held in Prague on 18 June, 1919 and was open only to the artists, Benda, Brunner and Obrovsky. This was for the Legionnaire commemorative series.

The winners were:-

- First - Brunner (fig.B1) Figure of Czechoslovakia breaking chains of oppression, a symbolic figure of Czechoslovakia in kneeling position with broken fetters.
- Second Benda (fig.B2) Futuristic design of Legionnaire with battle helmet, surrounded by bursting shells
- Third Obrovsky (fig B3) Symbolic figure of Czechoslovakia caressing orphaned child of a Legionnaire; two swords in the side panels.

In addition to the prize winning designs, there were many others submitted which fall into the category of official essays. Official essays are those either prepared from designs submitted to the Ministry of Posts by direct order of the Government, or presented to the Ministry as a result of competitions sponsored by the Ministry. These were essays prepared primarily to enable those responsible for judging to see them executed in manner and size as similar as possible to the stamp.

Many of the designs submitted but which were not placed in the competitions later became stamps with alterations.

The following is a list of these further official essays.

- Off. 8 Hradcany Castle by A.Mucha
Central design showing the Hradcany as seen through an arch of linden branches with linden leaves in the upper corners.
- Off. 9 Czech Lion breaking Chains by J.Obrovsky
The Czech Lion tearing off the chains of oppression; date of liberation "28 X 1918" in the upper part of the design.
- Off.10 Jan Hus Chalice by A.Mucha
A Hussite priest holding the sacred chalice, symbol of the Hussite reformation movement.
- Off.11 Agriculture and Science by J.Obrovsky
Symbolic figure of Czechoslovakia with a sheaf of wheat over one knee, an open book symbolic of knowledge, a young growing linden branch symbolic of the new nation, and buried in the ground, a sword symbolic of hatred of war.
- Off.12 Special Delivery by A.Mucha
Two doves in flight flanking the central value numeral panel with linden leaves in the border.

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- Off.13 Postage Due by A.Mucha
Large central design value numeral with legend "doplatit"
(postage due) with ornamental linden leaves.
- Off.14 Newspaper by A.Mucha
The Windhover bird in central design encircled by the legend
"Posta" and "Ceskoslovenska" with value numerals in linden
leaves.
- Off.15 Lion of Bohemia by A.Mucha
Czech Lion of Bohemia in the centre surrounded by the legend
"Ceskoslovenska Rupublika".
- Off.16 Sprig of Linden leaf by J.Benda
Sprig of linden leaves growing from a sawn tree stump. In
the background a sunburst with the date of liberation 28.X.1918.
- Off.17 Masaryk Portrait
Portrait of President Thomas G. Masaryk in oblong form with the
value 15 heller below which is the date of liberation 28 October
1918.
- Off.18 Knight in armour by P.Kotik
Mounted knight with a lance in hand charging to the right
- Off.19 Heraldic Lion by F.Kysel
An upright rectangle with the heraldic lion and two bands across
the design with the legend 'Ceskoslovenska Posta.'
- Off.20 Dove Essay by J.Benda size 23 x 25 mm
An upright rectangular form with a downward flying dove with a
letter in its beak.
- Off.21 Dove Essay by J.Benda size 18 x 21 mm
Same as Off 20 except slightly reduced in size and printed by
photogravure process.
- Off.22 Lion of Bohemia in Posthorn by A.Mudrunka
A symbolic Lion of Bohemia completely enclosed in a large
posthorn.
- Off.23 Jan Ziska Portrait
A three-quarter face portrait of the military genius of the
Hussite forces in the Hundred Years War.
- Off.24 Four Youths with Headdresses by F.Kysel
Horizontal rectangle with four youths wearing headdresses of the
coats of arms of the provinces of Silesia, Slovakia, Bohemia and
Moravia.
- Off.25 Four Youths with Headdress by F.Kysel
Same design as Off 24 except slight variation in the design.
- Off.26 Phoenix Rising from the Flames, with the initials "C.S.R." on
the birds breast.
- Off.27 Four Winged Letters separated by three narrow bands in a square
design.
- Off.28 Coats of Arms by F.Kysel
The coats of arms design of the four provinces with the Czech,
Moravian, Silesian and Slovakian arranged in vertical format.
- Off.29 Symbolic Czech Lion by A.Mudrunka
Czech Lion with serpent entwining the lion. Legend 'Ceskoslovenska
Posta' in outer border.
- Off.30 Linden Leaves in sunburst; by J.Benda
Sprig of linden leaves with the letters "C.S.R." below and the
sunburst effect above and below.

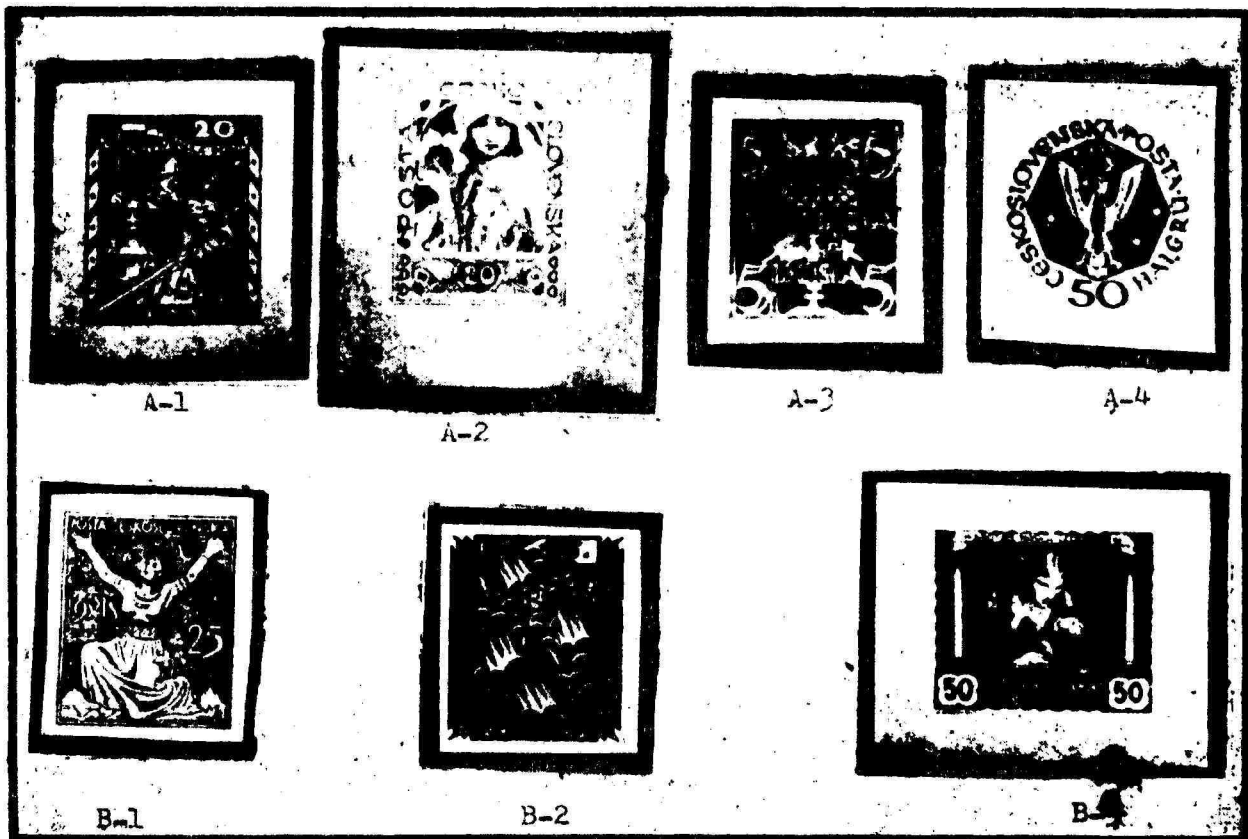
THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY STAMP DESIGN CONTEST c'td

- Off.31 Saluting Hand by J.Benda
Central design with the letters "C.S.R." surrounding a hand upraised in salute with the legend "Posta Ceskoslovenska" above and 'Pro Sirotkam nasim Legionari' above with the "25" value numeral in lower sides.
- Off.32 Czech Lion - size 21 x 27 mm by F.Kysel
Czech lion encircled with the legend 'Posta Ceskoslovenska'.
- Off.33 Czech Lion - size 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 22 mm by F.Kysel
Same design as Off 32 except smaller size

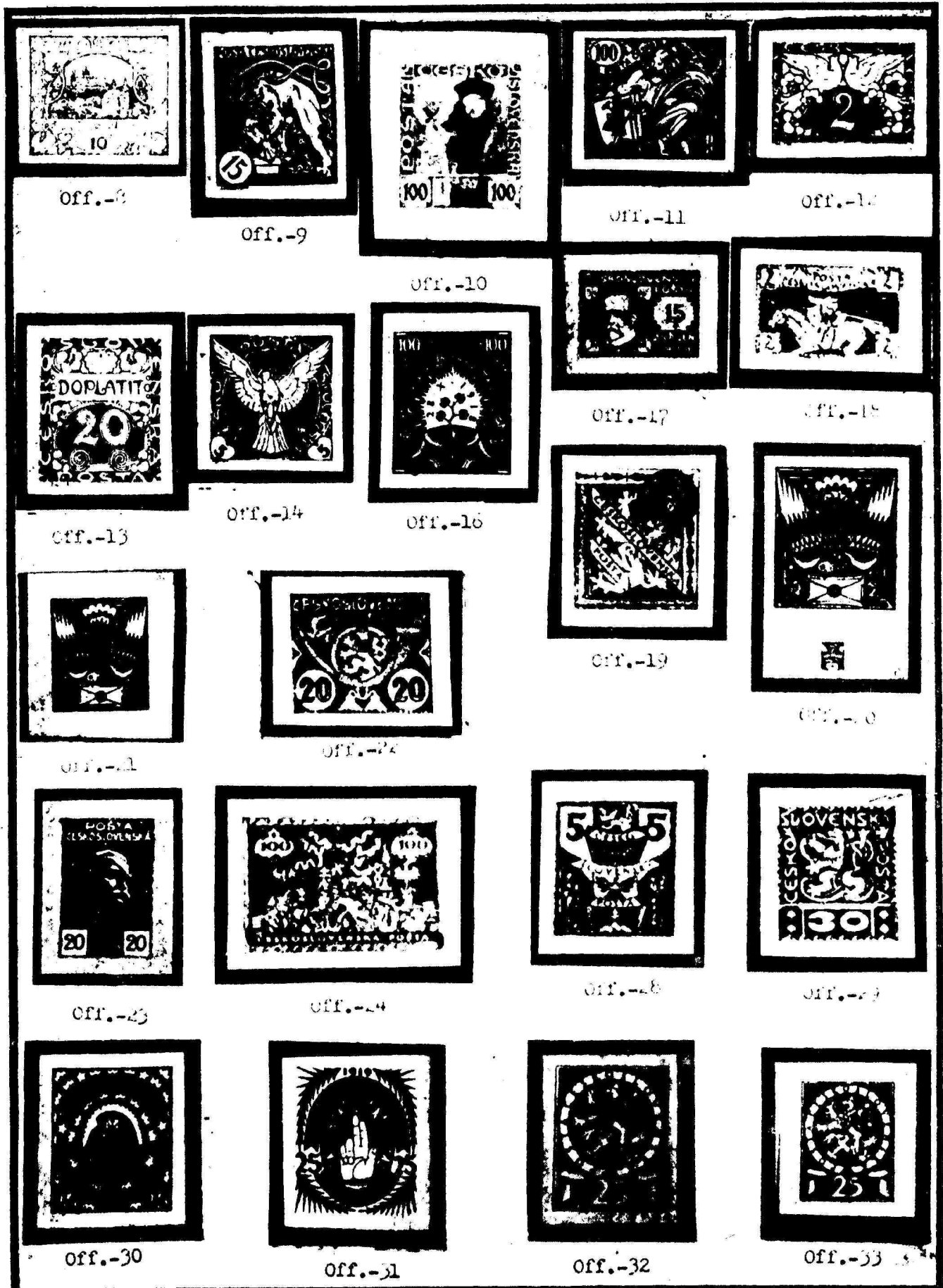
The foregoing represents a summary of the essays which formed the basis for the designs of the early issues of Czechoslovakia. Knowledge gained in their preparation and execution served as the basis for most of the later issues of the country.

Sources and Acknowledgements

The primary source for this article is the notes and illustrations 'Czechoslovak Official Essays 1918-1919 by Joseph J.Jiranek which were published in STAMPS 17 May 1958.' Also Czechoslovakia - The First Anniversary Stamp Design Contest by John Velek published in The Essay Proof Journal No.118.



At top, official essays of the first essay competition, Prague January 24, 1919 shown in the order (left to right) first, second, third, & fourth prizes. At bottom: first, second, and third prize winners in the second competition, June 18, 1919. The 'A' and 'B' numbers shown below each stamp design key them to the same numbers in the above article, where the title of the design and the name of the designer are given along with other details.



CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT No. 6 by Alan J. Knight

Historical Bicycles: In the September 1979 issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly the following short notice appeared in the World Stamp News column:

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Five stamps for the World Cycling Championship are expected on 10 September.

For the sake of accuracy and good order, I venture to preface this article with one or two details by way of explanation. The coincidence with the World Cycling Championship was a mere chance. In certain other publications another supposition appeared, namely that this issue was to commemorate the Centenary of the first Czech Cycling Club. However, for this event, we must wait a further two years, for the first Czech Cycling Club was not formed before 1881.

It seems that for the true reason for this issue we should look elsewhere. In September 1975 a set of Historical Czech Motorcycles was issued - see POFIS 2154 - 2159; CS 2115 - 2120. The author was the Czech painter and illustrator Kamil Lhotak. His beloved theme is the world of mechanics, especially from the past and his approach to this subject is characteristic and individual. This 1975 issue at first met with some controversy amongst collectors but eventually proved acceptable to them. When asked at a Press conference what he would like to design for another set of stamps, the author replied "Historical Bicycles." In 1979 he had the opportunity which resulted in the issue of the following five stamps:



- 3.60 Kcs. Showing the forerunners of present-day bicycles, named the 'Dresine' after the German inventor Karl von Drais. This stamp shows an 1820 model of wooden construction with no rubber tyres or any form of mechanical movement. To propel this machine, the rider was simply required to rebound from Mother Earth by exaggerated leg-strides...presumably non too comfortable.
- 2.00 Kcs. Illustrating the oldest type bicycle in the National Technical Museum in Prague, from the year 1870 - the so-called 'Bone-shaker', invented by the Frenchman Michaux. At the left side of the picture is a bicycle with steel rims and on the right, its ten-years-younger brother.
- 60 hal. The better-known High Wheel machine (Penny-farthing) made in the Smichov district of Prague by the firm Kohout Bros. (Left) and the three-wheel rover machine (right.)

CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT No.6 c'td

40 hal. Typical rovers used in the early 20th century. In 1910 there appeared the first machines for ladies, with rear wheels covered with coloured netting to prevent voluminous and colourful skirts from entering the wheels.

20 hal. This stamp illustrates the modern (1978) favourites for both sexes. Cycling in Czechoslovakia is becoming increasingly more popular although nobody knows the real reason. Probably for purely economic reasons or the world shortage of motor fuel..... or some other reason.

Technicalities: These stamps were engraved by Josef Hercik and Jan Mracek (3.60) only and printed by Prague's T.U.S. by rotary recess process combined with three colour photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps, size 40 x 23 mm.

Quantities issued:

20 hal.....	8,340,000
40 hal.....	9,910,400
60 hal.....	8,430,000
2 Kcs.....	4,815,000
3.60 "	500,000

CZECH LITERATURE BIBLIOGRAPHY by Robert McLeod

The article by Otto Hornung in the 2/80 issue of Czechout brings to mind an idea I had a few years back which lack of time, etc., let it slip my mind until now.

Every so often in auction catalogues I notice literature pertaining to Czechoslovakia, Bohemia & Moravia and Slovakia. Has anyone gone to the trouble to list just what is - or probably more important - has been available to collectors of Czechoslovakia in the way of literature.

Mr Hornung mentions the many-volumed Monographie, most of which are still available from Harris Publications in London. Less well known are the six volumes issued in 1971 listing all the special postmarks used in Czechoslovakia from 1919 until 1969.

These volumes list the postmarks under categories (Sport, culture, etc.) and volume six has a very useful index in several languages including English.

Another booklet I have obtained lists the provisional postmarks on Czechoslovak mail in the years 1918 - 1920, and 1944 - 1947. This booklet has the text in Czech and German and was published during the Praga 1968 Stamp Exhibition.

The Billig Handbooks including Czechoslovakia in the series, and there are also postal stationery catalogues and many specialised handbooks including the one on the 1939 overprints for Slovakia. I am sure there must be many, many more publications of which I am unaware yet would help to increase my knowledge of the stamps and postal history of Czechoslovakia.

I write this mainly in the hope that someone with more time on his (or her) hands may one day do us all a wonderful service and list just what can be bought, begged, borrowed or otherwise obtained!

Editor's comments:

I have replied to Bob McLeod that this is a matter near to my heart to eventually make an attempt to compile a Bibliography of Czech philatelic literature, and that for the lack of time at the moment the matter rests. However, we will endeavour to keep it to the forefront of future plans.

However, as a start if members would like to let us have a list of the books or publications they have in their libraries this would be a start. Another source is the type-written list compiled by Arthur Brown, a copy of which is in the Library of the Royal, and the Collector's Club of New York.