

# CZECHOUT

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## CO-EDITORIAL

It is hard to realise that we are commencing our third season as your 'Editors' but we sincerely hope that we are producing the sort of journal you feel this society should have.

Firstly, we must thank our regular contributors who send in their copy without being constantly reminded, and for those who have written an article or report at our request.

Whilst we endeavour to attempt to cover the many aspects of Czech philately, we do ask that members....start to write articles, or ask questions, or make comments because without your help a journal soon descends into a "one-man band."

These comments are brought to our attention in a very well put together review of a similar journal by those erudite reviewers, P.Air and Ajax Jakes, in their regular column produced for 'THE PHILATELIST.' We have been very lucky with the response received during the first period of our office, however, we are now over the honeymoon period, and we shall be looking to improve this journal, but this can only be done with your help, and ideas.

All good wishes for the new season and a Happy Christmas.

Colin Spong    Yvonne King  
Co-Editors

## MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into membership of this society Mr Michael Birks of Manchester. It was nice to see Michael at our recent Annual General Meeting.

## SOCIETY NEWS

A good attendance was recorded at our AGM held in Ernst Gorge's home, a report will be found on the reverse of the ~~attached~~ Auction proforma enclosed with this issue. We should like to thank all those members who responded to our call for comments in last quarter's CZECHOUT, these we fully discussed and a letter from the Hon. Secretary will be received by all those who sent in a question.

At the British Philatelic Exhibition Dinner held in the Cresta Hotel, Wembley, the Chairman, John Levett RDP FRPSL., announced to the gathering the engagement of our co-editor Yvonne King to Richard Wheatley.

Richard, who lives in Leeds, is the Editor of the Netherlands Philatelist, the journal of the Netherlands Philatelic Study Circle, and member of Leeds and Bradford Philatelic Societies.

We send them our sincere best wishes, and when Yvonne eventually moves to the Northern sphere, we are certain the long awaited northern section of the CPS will soon come into being. We do understand that John Whiteside is anxious to look at the suitcase of Czech material that will be travelling to Yorkshire.

THE 1981 PROGRAMME

24 January	Auction	(Robert Kingsley)
21 March	Members Displays (maximum of 15 sheets)	(Cyril Wackett)
20 June	1919 Overprints	(Irene Galloway)
26 September	Field Post (1918-)WW1(1938-)WW2	(at Worthing)
14 November	Annual General Meeting	(Ernst Gorge)

We are grateful to the above members for allowing us to meet in their homes, as mentioned the regional meeting will be arranged in Worthing this year.

The next meeting of the Society will be at Robert Kingsley's house - address on front cover.

BY ROAD: From Central London drive via Elephant & Castle on the A2 along New Kent Road, New Cross, Lewisham, Catford, following signposts "Bromley". (From Lewisham A21). About 2 miles after Catford watch out for Bromley Ct Hotel which is on the right-hand side of the main road. Directly opposite the hotel turn left into Avondale Road. Continue along Avondale Road which ultimately leads into Lake Avenue. No 6 is the sixth house on the left.

BY RAIL: From Charing Cross (main line) Station to Grove Park. A convenient train would be the 13.44 (check times) calling at London Bridge 13.50, and arriving at Grove Park approximately 14.12 where members can be met by car.

EXCHANGE

We have received a letter via the Hon. Secretary of the British Philatelic Federation from a czech correspondent wishing to exchange Czech stamps for GB.

Zdenek Menousek, U stadionu 461, 67527 OKRISKY, CSR. Mr Menousek encloses 3 FDC's and complete set u/m AIR PRAGA 1978 stamps, for which he would like to receive 50 pence LONDON 1980 stamp, or FDC. Anyone interested please contact Ms Yvonne King. The writer is 38 years old, a railway station officer, and corresponds in english.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN-SLAVIC POSTAL HISTORY GROUP by Denis Vandervelde

The newly-founded Project got off to an excellent start on Saturday May 10th, with a social meeting at the home of Denis Vandervelde in North West London. After the chaos and stuffy atmosphere of 'London 1980' at Earl's Court, the contrast could not have been greater or more welcome. Members from Merseyside, Milan, Dublin, Amsterdam, Vienna and several American States mingled with the home-grown species, to enjoy chilled lager in the sunshine of the garden before the meeting proper.

The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly Dr Nagy's magnificent collection of cancellations on "Whiskers" adhesives, shown on coloured slides by Dr Nagy himself, who had flown over for the occasion. There were side shows by Denis Vandervelde of the Travelling Post Offices of Roumania, and of covers and documents relating to the quarantine and disinfection of mail in Serbia. And there was a splendid high tea featuring such un-english delicacies as "Mozart Balls" (thanks to Dr Nagy) and a Pavia Cake (courtesy of Giorgio Migliavecca).

All in all, a joyous occasion, and an excellent launch for what looks like being a major contribution to the Balkan postal history scene. Further details from the project Director, Dr Abdul Khan. (address etc., in CZECHOUT 2.80.)

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We are most grateful to Denis for kindly contributing the above report for us in the absence of our own representative. Denis is a Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians, and Editor of the TPO Society journal, the SPH bulletin, and Pratique, journal of the Disinfected Mail & Public Health Postal History Circle.

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THE CAMBRIDGE CONGRESS of The British Philatelic Federation by Lindy James

'There is a first time for everybody' is an old saying and August 1980 was my first introduction as a delegate to a BPF Congress held in Trinity College from 19 to 23 of the holiday month. It was with some unease that I read the Congress Handbook, before starting my journey, first noting the aims of the BPF.

"A national organisation catering for the needs of collectors, societies, exchange clubs, dealers, auctioneers and philatelic publishers," then noting many eminent names from the philatelic world listed as officers of the Federation. The feeling of unease was somewhat allayed on reading the Handbook more closely, when some five or six familiar names were found - members of our own Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. Heading the list was the first ever lady Chairman of Congress for 1980, and in fact our own Chairman, Ms Kay Goodman FRPSL.

From the arrival of the 200 or so delegates on the Tuesday, until their departure on the following Sunday, a spirit of friendship and community pervaded the Congress. The advantages of all delegates being under one roof and the distinguished and beautiful surroundings of Trinity College all helped to foster this spirit. The Cambridge PS who hosted Congress saw that everything ran smoothly and successfully with a varied programme to cater for both philatelic and non-philatelic needs.

Three papers were presented to the delegates for discussion and each one provoked lively debate and food for thought. The subjects were diverse but interesting. The first paper 'Focus on Judging' by Alfred J Branston FRPSL., dealt with the freedoms and constraints imposed upon judges and competitors in the field of competitive philately. Mr Branston hoped by his thoughts on the problems that a more appreciative attitude to judges as a whole and to competitors as individuals would prevail, and that we should try to maximise the pleasures and enjoyments from the freedoms, and not the constraints of our chosen hobby, philately. Whether we enter this field or not, our aims should be of the highest to further this most worthwhile and interesting hobby recreation.

Judging was a subject which also came up again during the discussion on current philatelic events and trends, later in the week. The need for more qualified judges, training sessions for judges, and standards for 'would-be' judges were emphasized not only at a national level, but also at local levels too. With more qualified judges the standards of philately would be enhanced, taking it from the field of mediocrity which we sometimes see, not only locally, but both at regional and national levels.

The second paper 'The Secretary Bird' was presented by Colin Spong FRPSL. This expressed strong views on the most important role that a secretary has to play both in a local or specialist society. Many helpful points were made to guide the would-be secretary and we were led to believe that these were often 'rare birds indeed' (Sagittarius Serpentaries.) Colin hoped that far from putting off aspiring candidates for this secretarial position, he would be issuing a challenge and inspiring his listeners to take on this most worthwhile, and fulfilling role in their society in an active way.

The final paper 'The Ideal Catalogue' by Ian J Glassborow left us with a thought that such a publication could be produced but it is still probably in the realms of dreams. We all have our favourite catalogue wanting in some sphere, i.e., be it simplified, general or specialised, that we use. Many suggestions relating to issued stamps were put forward, but as Postal History is also another main interest, the ideal catalogue should include more than listed stamps. For many, inclusions would cover such items as value for covers, mixed franking indications, cancellations to look for and so on. If the many suggestions put forward were then incorporated into this ideal catalogue, it would be far too large for normal

CONGRESS REPORT c'td

usage, and the proposition was made that this ideal catalogue be restricted for the time being to issues only up to 1900.

Discussions and more informal meetings took place and there was time for a few specialised societies to have a get-together to look at stamps. A philatelic exhibition was staged during the Congress in the City Central Library including a display by the Post Office and the winning entries in the Melville and Youth Competition. A number of delegates also took advantage of the commercial Stamps & Coins Fair held in the Guildhall on the Friday, although no great finds were talked about, some useful material was gathered. The Post Office had a small sales counter in the precincts of the College, and the host society had various philatelic souvenirs for sale throughout Congress.

The Congress was not entirely devoted to philately and related matters; there was still time to enjoy the environs of Cambridge with a walking tour (conducted) of the Colleges, an afternoon excursion to Wimpole Hall, the home of the daughter of Rudyard Kipling, and a further afternoon outing to the Imperial War Museum at RAF Duxford. Cambridge itself offered ample facilities for browsing into the past and although crowded with holiday makers - many of them young foreign students seemingly on their first bicycle ride, this did not detract from the charm and beauty of the city.

A chilly windy afternoon concluded the formal part of Congress in the cloisters of Neville Court with the award of the Congress Medal to Jack Simmonds, the President of Cambridge PS, and then the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The philatelists signing the Roll in 1980 were:-

Stig Anderson FRPSL (Denmark); Teufik Kuyas FRPSL (Turkey); Kenneth Pennycuik PhD FRPSL; and Gary Ryan FRPSL of GB; and Arthur Salm FRPSL (USA).

The final event of the 62nd Congress was the social gathering - the Banquet held in the great hall of Trinity. The hall is the largest in Cambridge and has an imposing hammerbeam roof, graceful lantern, gallery for minstrels and beautiful stained glass windows.

As the delegates departed it was with a sense of regret to be going from such fine surroundings and to be taking leave of many old and new friends until the next Congress in 1981. With our departure went a renewed spirit to foster and better our common interest - philately.

AVIATION in CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY by Heinz Vogel

(originally published in the Czech issue of STAMP COLLECTING of 15.2.1979.)

Czechoslovakia's location in central Europe has highlighted the importance of air transport and ensured that special attention was devoted to aviation from the start of the State's independence in 1918 right through to the present day, as is evident from the many post office issues on this theme over the years.

Reference to catalogues of Czechoslovak stamps shows a wide range of aviation topics from some early attempts to fly, through the use of aviation in times of war as well as peace, culminating in a whole range of issues on the ultimate - the exploration of space.

These notes spotlight one of the earliest of indigenous aircraft designs - The SMOLIK S-19 - as depicted on the familiar 1930's Air Mail definitive issue.

1919 saw the first aircraft factories established in the Republic: LETOV, manufacturing military aeroplanes and AERO and AVIA, making both military and civil types. To these were in due course added the aeroplane divisions of the great engineering concern of SKODA (which also acquired a holding in AVIA) and Ceskomoravska.

The SMOLIK S-19 was built in 1924/1925 by the VOJENSKA TOVIRNA NA LETADLA (LETOV) of Prague, to the design of its Technical Director Alois Smolik. It was characterised by its high aspect ratio wings (i.e. considerable span and comparatively narrow chord) with only one set of "N" type interplane struts fitted on either side of the fuselage with fully enclosed passenger cabin.



AVIATION in CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY c'td

S-19's went into service with Ceskoslovenska Statni Aerolinie, who had a fleet of seven of these aircraft by 1927, in addition to seven British De H. 50's and one French Farman 'Goliath', for the Prague-Brno-and Prague-Bratislava-Kosice services which were showing commendable improvements in productivity, as demonstrated by the figures below:

Year	Passengers	Freight	Mails	Miles Flown
1924	426	1987kg	161kg	126,400
1925	604	18024kg	476kg	175,760
1926	1688	11288kg	285kg	148,125

SMOLIK S-19  
FIVE SEAT COMMERCIAL BIPLANE

Specification	
Wing Span	15.0m
Overall Length	9.0m
Height	3.5m
Wing Area	45.0 sq.m
Aspect Ratio	10
Loaded Weight	1950 kg
Useful Load	650 kg
Power Loading	7.5 kg/hp
Wing Loading	43.5 kg/sc.m

Max. Speed	188 km/hr
Landing Speed	90 km/hr
Endurance at Cruise Speed	2½ hours

260 hp MAYBACH Engine

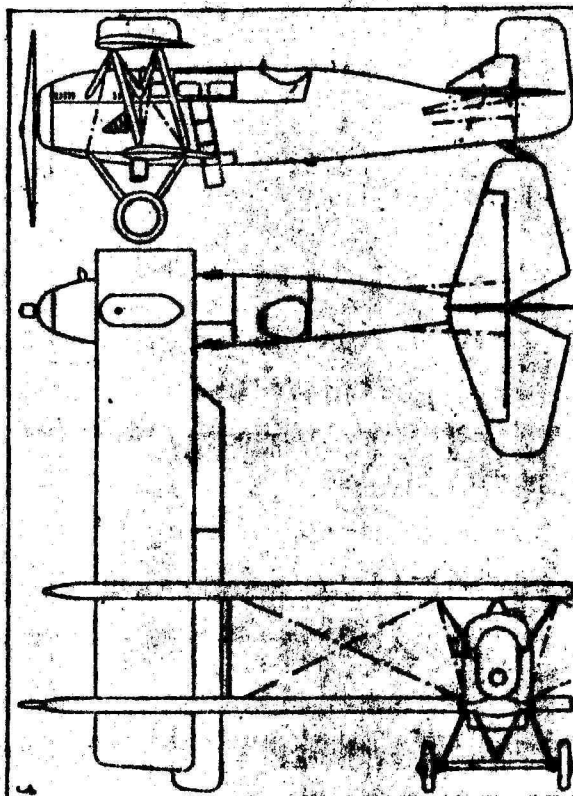
Acknowledgement to Janes' All the Worlds Aircraft 1927.

CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT NO.7 by Alan J Knight

Czechoslovak Airmails - Diamond Jubilee 1980: After the Great War 1914-1918, the newly formed Czechoslovak Postal Administration became aware of the importance - indeed the necessity of the transport of mail by aeroplanes and on the 5th March 1920 the very first official postal flight took place between Prague and Bratislava.

This inaugural - or perhaps better - 'trial flight' was operated in close co-operation with the British "Aircraft Transport and Travel Corporation" and resulted in a small gathering of officials of the Corporation and the Government at the old airfield at Kbely near Prague, with the Official Farewell by the then Minister of Posts Promptly at 10.00 am., the little English aeroplane took off, turned gently towards the east and Bratislava, where it eventually landed safely at midday with its precious cargo of about 30 kilos of mail. At 2.00 pm., it again took off from the military airfield at Vojnary for the return flight to Kbely where it landed at 4.15 pm, thus completing its historic mission.

The first international flight was effected later in October 1920 by the Franco-Roumanian Corporation from Prague to Strasbourg/Paris. In early 1921 this flight was extended to Warsaw(Poland) - Paris/Prague/Warsaw, and in 1922 it was connected with Prague-Vienna-Budapest-Beograd-Stamboul etc., It was always through foreign airlines until 6th October 1923 when the Czechoslovak State Airlines (CSA) was formed and continues to this day.



WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

The Overseas Postal Stationery column edited by Frank Spencer (STAMP COLLECTING 21.8.80) reports the 30th Anniversary of POFIS Stamp Trading Organisation (the internal one) was marked by a multicoloured 6 Kcs envelope on June 1. This was designed and engraved by Vladimir Kavarik and J. Hercik respectively, featuring the POFIS emblem, coloured stamps and the outline of buildings, and was repeated large on the panel. A 4.40Kcs postcard marks the meeting of the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (CAME) in Prague. Recess with the same design team as the envelope above, the panel shows a view of the old city, with the Tyn Church from Charles Bridge, in gold, olive, blue, red and black. The stamp shows the centre for the convention.

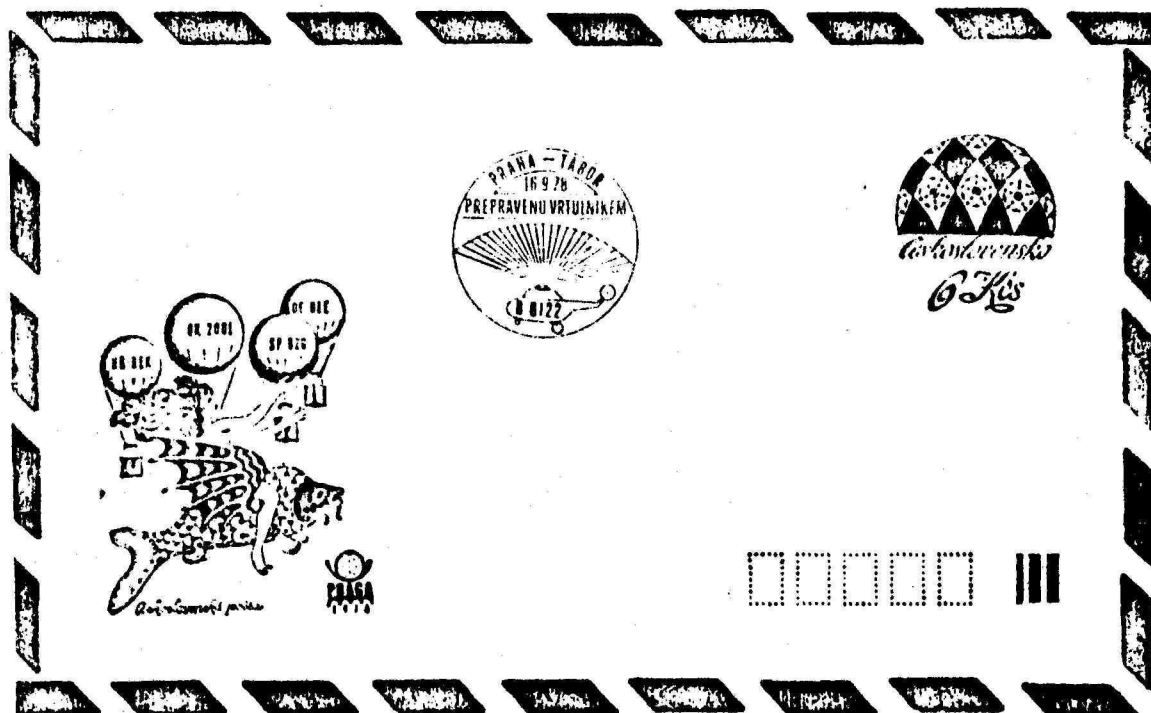
Member Roy Dehn has written a most readable article on the Bratislava Exhibition in this month's PHILATELIC MAGAZINE (November 1980).

Peter Ibbotson's Europage (STAMP COLLECTING 25.9.80) reports evidence of a Czech Exchange Bureaux... 'Evidence of stamp exchange via a central bureau in CSR is afforded by two envelopes of 1962 and 1963. That of 1962, from a collector in Prague; that of 1963, from a collector in Brno. Each is to the same address in Nottingham. Each has been sealed with three labels printed with a double-circle POSTOVNI URAD/PRAHA 121, and that from the Brno collector clearly cites the Stamp Exchange Head Office address on its flap. On the 1962 envelope, the labels are printed in black and the UK arrival mark is a red single-circle LONDON E.C. On the 1963 envelope, the labels are printed in green and the arrival mark is a red hooded REGISTERED/DOVER.'

PRAGA 78 - BALLOON POSTS by Colin Smith

Having queued at Exhibition POFIS and obtained amongst other items the pre-paid 6 Kcs envelopes for the balloon post, I joined another queue to enable me to post in the four separate boxes my addressed covers for despatch.

Through observing other collectors addressing envelopes I noticed that the balloon code was being placed within the five blank squares on the envelope, not wishing to miss out I promptly did the same, although one of the codes needed 6 spaces. I doubt on reflection that quoting the code on the envelope was necessary, considering four coded boxes were available.



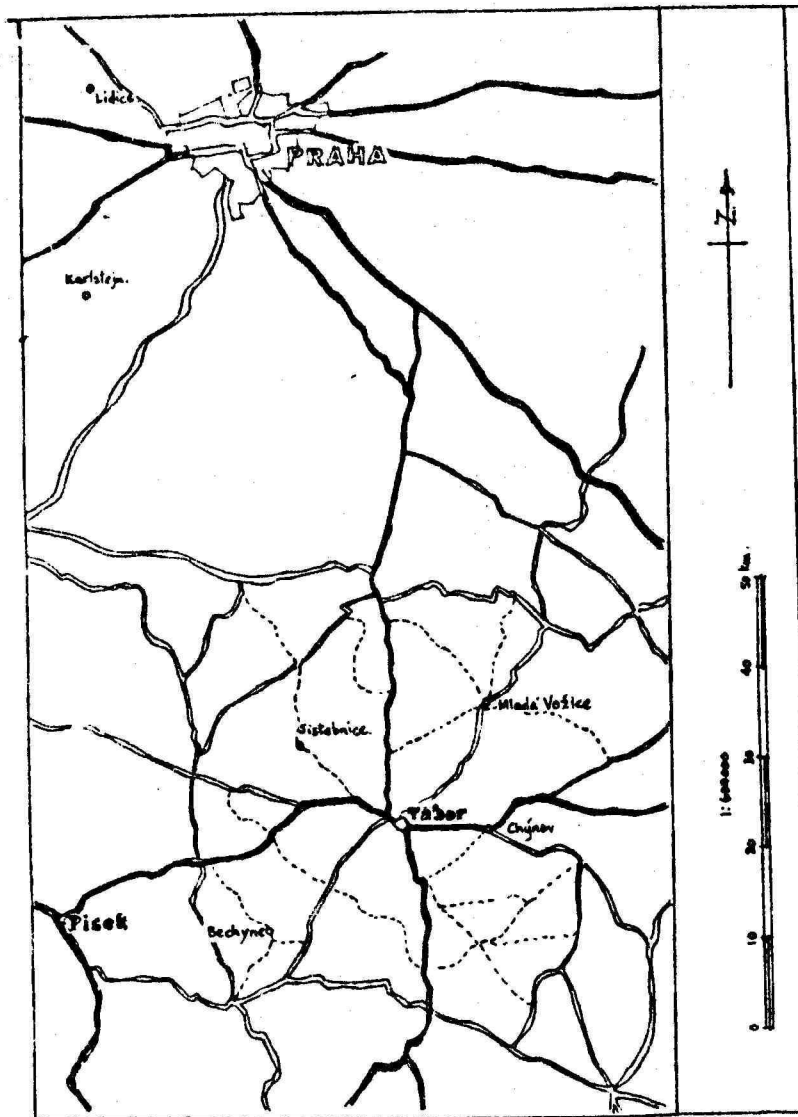
BALLOON POSTS c'td

I can only assume that relatively few sets of covers were processed, as I must have queued for over two hours and being a rather hot day, directly in the sun, without my friends bringing me liquid refreshment I doubt that I would have been prepared to wait.

The unused prep-paid envelope is shown, you will note that the helicopter transfer of all covers from Praha to Tabor has an appropriate blue printed cachet, also the cover has printed a flying fish carrying a maiden with the four balloons behind with the different flight codes. A small Praga 78 motive in red is below the fish, the balloon part of the value and 6 Kcs are printed in red and all other parts of the envelope are blue. The border is red/blue dashes.

All covers have an exhibition handstamp, the only variation being within the handstamp is the small numbers below the post horn, (see schedule), the German & Austrian covers have the same number 10, the Polish has a number 1 and the Czech, number 11 - can anyone explain why Praha 72 was incorporated in the handstamp and not 78?

<p>exhibition handstamp (note Praha 72 emblem) All black postmarks.</p>			
	<p>Same except for little number.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Same except for little number.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Same complete.</p> <p>10</p>
<p>take off. All blue postmarks.</p>			
<p>landed. All black postmarks.</p>			
<p>GERMAN BALLOON OE-DZE</p>	<p>POLAND BALLOON SP-BZG</p>	<p>CZECH. BALLOON OK-2001</p>	<p>AUSTRIAN BALLOON. HB-BEK</p>
<p>All covers were despatched from Praha to Tabor by helicopter, and a printed handstamp indicating this is shown on blank covers.</p>			

BALLOON POSTS c'td

Four balloons took off from Tabor presumably the destinations were hopefully to coincide with the related balloon country. However, all balloons landed within Czechoslovakia but all surprisingly in different directions from Tabor, (see map) the map indicates major and minor roads around Tabor but also shows Karlstain and Lidice which I managed to visit during my stay. I don't know if they all took off at the same time but guess perhaps the wind was negligible that day to account for different landings.

Each balloon had a different Tabor and flight code take off postmark (see schedule) upon landing the normal local post office handstamp was applied to covers (see schedule) it is noticeable that the Chynov cancellation is not similar to the other cancellations in many respects.

Flight distances:

(assuming a straight line)

Praha-tabor helicopter approximately 80 Km (50 miles)  
 German OE-DZE balloon to Bechyne 20 Km (12.4 miles)  
 Poland SP-BZG balloon to Jistebnice 15 Km (9.3 miles)  
 Czech OK-2001 balloon to Mlada-Vozice 18 Km (11.2 miles)  
 Austrian HB-BEK balloon to Chynov 9 Km (5.6 miles)

I do not know the type of helicopter or balloons used, if someone has more information or pictures, perhaps 'CZECHOUT' may issue a supplement. Also, if any of you have different postmarks or colours than schedule, kindly let me know.

QUERY CORNER

Member Geoffrey Kalp has recently purchased a collection of Czech material amongst which are the illustrated block of four stamps. Can anyone help Geoffrey identify these and the reason for their issue.

Please send your replies via Czechout.

LIBRARY

Mr M. Mirtl has kindly donated a copy of the Czech Monographie volume 3. This may be borrowed by members for cost of postage both ways, from Ms Yvonne King.





SCOUT CANCELLATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Before & After the World War 2


(Translated from the German text by John F Giblin) Wilhelm Otto Neubäck in the Wiener Briefmarkenspiegel 1969/6, 1970/1 & 1970/2. Reprinted from the Scout Stamps Collectors Club Bulletin Vol.12 No.1 January/February 1980 by kind permission of the Editor.

In 1911, Professor A.B.Svojsik founded the first Scout Group at the Prague-Zizkov Grammar School. On the 15th June 1914 the groups existing already, in many parts of the then Austrian provinces of Bohemia & Moravia, came together as 'Junak - Czech Scouts.' The first great Slav Jamboree took place in Prague in 1931. Two special cancellations were used on this occasion; an advertising roller cancellation and a special Jamboree strike. These were the first two Scout special Scout cancellations in Czechoslovakia. A further four strikes were added to these up to 1937. (illustrations 1.)

During the occupation and dismemberment of Czechoslovakia in the German Reich, as the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia, any participation in Scouting was forbidden. However, on 7th September 1945 there was again a Scout cancellation at Klattau - (Klattau); the first after the war.

The rarest of all Czech scout cancellations is that of the 3rd Scout Congress which should have taken place on 28th February 1948 at Zlin. The Congress did not take place however, since on the same day, the Scout organisation was forbidden by the Government over the whole country. Thus two hours after its use the special cancel at Zlin 1 Post Office provided for this Congress was confiscated by the State Police. There are scarcely any covers in existence.

It was first at the 'Prague Spring' that the Scouts were again permitted to show signs of life and for some short time to breathe strongly. This period was also marked philatelically, and indeed in the form of ten special cancellations. Up to the present there are 21 special cancellations, in addition to the cancellations of the 1918 Scout post, which have been used by the Association, camps and festivals of the Czech Scouts.

(1)  **TÁBORY  
SLOVANSKÝCH SKAUTŮ  
(SLOVANSKÉ JAMBOREE)  
PRAHA 28.VI.-4.VII.1931**



Advertising slogan cancellation Slav Jamboree and Slav Jamboree Strike (Black)



Regional Scout Congress (black)



12 World Camp of Scout Esperanto League (black or green)

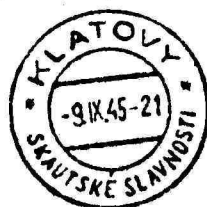


National Scout Congress (black or green)



Opening of Scout House, Jaromer. (black or green)

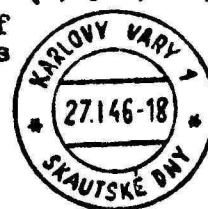
(2) The special Scout cancellations after the 2nd World War (1945-1948.)



Scout celebrations (black)



1 Congress of Slovak Scouts (blue to violet)



Scout Day (black)

SCOUT CANCELLATIONS c'td

Second Scout Congress (black) and  
Zlin 1 Scout Congress cancel (black)



The colour's of the various cancels are indicated within the bracket's. Part 2 of this article covering the 'Prague Spring' will appear in the next issue of CZECHOUT.

TPO Notes by Alan J Knight

130 Years of Train Post Offices on Czechoslovak Territory-1850 to 1980; The first TPO (Train post vans Nos 1 and 2) so-called 'ambulances' appeared in the territory of present Czechoslovakia on 1st August 1850 on the route from Vienna via Breclav and Prerov to Bohumin (Moravia). No doubt the "English experience" here served as an example. The next year (1851) 'ambulances' Nos 3 and 4 connected Vienna (Wien) with Prague (Prag) and later from Prague to Podmolky (Bodenbach - Northern Bohemia).

INK and PAPER VARIETIES of the 1960-63 "FLOODLIGHT CASTLES" issue by Ernest Taylor

The 'Floodlight Castle' definitive series SG:1142-1149 were the joint efforts of the best of Czechoslovakia's designers and engravers and despite the small size designated for the postage stamps, a harmonious and attractive series resulted.

I have been interested in this issue since 1961 when the 30h green Pernstejn Castle stamp appeared on watermarked paper. For if Gibbons is really correct and it was an error that the stamp appeared thus, then it was possible that other values may be found on this same watermarked paper. I have spent the intervening years in this vein quest. But a close study of any issue is seldom completely wasted and a few interesting varieties have been revealed which I think may be new to readers.

The 1K purple, with the view of the castle at Smolenice is found printed in two inks. One is ordinary inert purple, while the other is a brighter more intense aniline purple, which permeates the paper and exhibits a slight luminosity to the naked eye. If a stamp with the latter ink is placed under an ultra-violet lamp, the inked portions of the design glow with an orange reaction. Even stamps that have been soaked from envelopes retain luminosity of an equal intensity, suggesting that the ink is truly aniline dye and that the paper has not been treated with some phosphor agent, albeit accidentally.

The 20h, 30h, and 60h stamps are found on both unsurfaced and surfaced papers. The unsurfaced paper has a slight yellow tinge, whilst the surfaced type appears quite white in colour. If the two are examined together the difference is easily discernable. When viewed under the ultra-violet lamp the unsurfaced paper has a - drab muddy appearance, while the coated paper reacts with a light blue brilliance. All the examples of the coated surface paper that I have encountered have been cancelled to order with full gum and the question prompted is - were they ever issued in this form? for postal use, or were they, as I suspect later reprints made for stamp dealers in the packet trade. I would be most interested to hear if any member can produce a stamp on cover or piece with this variety of paper.

BOOK REVIEW by Colin Spang

The Postal History of the American Expeditionary Force 1917-1923, Ed; by Theo van Dam, 242pp.Clth bound. Compiled by the World War 1 AEF Study Group of the War Cover Club & published by The American Philatelic Society, State College, Pa.16801 USA. \$25.

Of particular interest to Czech collectors will be the section covering the period following the collapse of the Tsarist regime in Russia. The establishment of a US Postal Agency in Vladivostock, and three field stations at Verkhne-Udinsk, Khabarovsk, and Spasskoye. American forces were dispersed along something like 2000 miles of the Trans-Siberian Railway with the thankless task of protecting it against its seizure by either the Red Army or Marauders. The Agency was closed down in July 1920.