

CZECHOUT

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CO-EDITORIAL

It is with pleasure that we announce the forthcoming issue of the first of a series of monographs, and we thank Alec Page for his work in producing the draft on 'Czech Forces in Exile' for members to see at the last meeting.

This is one aspect for which a Specialist society exists, and we rely on members to produce ideas for consideration, or assist with studies in order that research may be published and not lost.

Colin Spong Yvonne Wheatley
Co-Editors

MEMBERSHIP

The following were elected to membership of the society at the last meeting -
M.E.Jelley (Surbiton); R.Bradford (Tetbury); R.J.Comber (Walthamstow).

SOCIETY NEWS

The Chairman welcomed Messrs Beck and Bradford to their first meeting held in the home of Vice Chairman Cyril Wackett (in the chair), and sent the society's condolences to Kay and Ted Goodman in their recent sad loss of son, Tony. The 'draft rules' for the Francis Pettitt Salver Competition were discussed, several alterations and amendments were suggested, and it is hoped to have these confirmed at the next meeting, in time for the Competition to be held in September.

Mrs Oliver has reported that she should be able to present a closing statement re the Exchange Packet for the June meeting. Two payments being received from the Post Office, and one from the Insurance Company for missing packets.

Complimentary remarks were made to Mr Page on the production of the new cover for Czechout, with thanks to George Beal for the new design being used.

The society PRO reported that magazines had been circulated with the revised dates of the season's programme. Colin Smith was also appointed to be the society's delegate to the BPF Congress being held in Guernsey this year from October 1-5.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting the decision to ratify the discontinuation of the Exchange Packet was agreed unanimously, however following some discussion a rider was added that this decision was taken with regret, and to be re-considered at the next AGM.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a display by members of sheets covering the 1919 Overprints. A vote of thanks was expressed to Cyril Wackett for his hospitality.

EDITORS WED

Philatelists gathered at St Mary's Broadwater, Worthing on Saturday April 11 for the Wedding of Miss Yvonne King, a Solicitor and editor of Philately, the journal of the British Philatelic Federation, and a past secretary of Worthing Philatelic Society, who was married to Mr Richard Wheatley, a past president of Leeds Philatelic Society and editor of the Netherlands Philatelist.

The bride, daughter of Mr & Mrs Harry King of Worthing, her bridegroom, son of Mr & Mrs Eric Wheatley of Whitkirk, Leeds, is sales manager with a builders merchant. Given away by her father, the bride wore a full-length cream dress and hat trimmed with a white Yorkshire rose. The bridesmaids Jenny & Karen Everell, nieces of the bridegroom, wore apricot replicas of the brides' dress.

Bestman was John Whiteside of Leeds Philatelic Society, and Ushers Bernard Lucas of Leeds PS and Colin Spong of Worthing PS. The service was conducted by the Revd Canon William Filby. The couple left for a secret honeymoon after a reception held in the Masonic Hall Broadwater, and plan to live in Leeds.

The Czechoslovak PS was represented by Kay & Ted Goodman, and Yvonne & Fred Gren.

SOCIETY MEETING

The next meeting will take place at Worthing on Saturday June 20, at the Adult Education Centre, Union Place (opposite the Connaught Theatre). Members coming by road follow the A24 to Broadwater Green, then the Broadwater Road continues on to the bridge over the railway, and the main Chapel Road towards the sea front. Union Place is the first turning on the left past the General Post Office (at traffic lights.) Travelling by Rail from Victoria Station: A direct train leaves every hour at 23 minutes past.

The meeting will commence at 2.30 pm. Two displays will be given on Field Post, World War I and 2, by John Whiteside, and Alec Page. It is hoped to arrange an evening meal after the meeting, will members who would like to attend this please let Bob Kingsley know in order to obtain some numbers, and we shall endeavour to obtain a costing for his guidance.

QUERY CORNER

Member Geoffrey Kalp informs us that the block of four stamps illustrated in Czechout 4.80 have been confirmed as a souvenir label for a Philatelic Exhibition held in Prague.

Geoffrey has also recently acquired some labels depicting the former President of Slovakia, Mgr. Tiso, presumably issued by some 'Free Slovakia Group.'?

CZECHOSLOVAK MILITARY POSTS IN SLOVAKIA 1918-1920: by John L Whiteside c 'td

The Cancellations used at the Field Post Offices: Four basic types of the circular datestamps were used by the Field Post Offices. Two of these may be further divided into sub-types.

Type 1. A double-circle datestamp, diameter $27\frac{1}{2}$ mm., with a bridge containing the date across the centre of the inner circle. The circles carry the inscription CESKOSLOVENSKA POLNI POSTA and the office number at the foot set between two stars. This was the first type to be introduced.

Type 1a. This is similar to Type 1, but CESKO-SLOVENSKA is hyphenated.

Type 2. This is again a double-circle datestamp of similar style to Type 1, but larger - diameter $31\frac{1}{2}$ mm. - and CESKO-SLOVENSKA is hyphenated.

Type 3. This is again of similar pattern to Types 1 and 2, but is larger, diameter 33mm. As in Type 1, CESKOSLOVENSKA is without a hyphen. The year date shows all four figures, in contrast to the other types, where only the last two figures are indicated.

Type 4. A double-circle datestamp 30mm. in diameter with a date bridge across the inner circle. The upper inscription in the circles reads POLNI POSTA and the office number. The lower part bears the letters C.S.P. between two stars. The date in the bridge, in addition to the day, month and year, shows two slugs to indicate the time of posting. These were not always used for that purpose, sometimes appearing as dashes, while F.P.O. 8 indicated the year with the second time slug, with the normal year slug and the first time slug appearing as dashes.

There are three sub-types of Type 4.

Type 4a. This has a hyphen between POLNI and POSTA.

Type 4b. Has two dots like a colon between POSTA and the number.

Type 4c. Has c (= cislo or number) between POSTA and the number. It also has thick lines forming the date bridge.

The Field Post Sorting Office used a double-circle datestamp rather similar to Type 3. The inscription is TRIDIRNA CS. POLNICH POST and with a star in the base. The mark is 33mm. in diameter. The date across the inner circle shows the year in full, but there are no lines forming the bridge.

The table that follows shows the different types of cancellation used by the various Field Post Offices.

Office	<u>Type 1</u>	<u>Type 1a</u>	<u>Type 2</u>	<u>Type 3</u>	<u>Type 4</u>	<u>Type 4a</u>	<u>Type 4b</u>	<u>Type 4c</u>
5					X	X		
8					X			
10				X				
12							X	X
14					X			
20					X			

CZECHOSLOVAK MILITARY POSTS IN SLOVAKIA c'td

<u>Office</u>	<u>Type 1</u>	<u>Type 1a</u>	<u>Type 2</u>	<u>Type 3</u>	<u>Type 4</u>	<u>Type 4a</u>	<u>Type 4b</u>	<u>Type 4c</u>
22	X							
25				X				
35							X	
38		X	X	X				
44			X					
46	X	X			X			
50	X				X			
63			X					
75	X							

It can be seen from the above that some offices used more than one type. Generally one of these is normal and the others are scarce to rare. At No. 5, Type 4 is the normal, at No. 38, Type 2, at Nos. 46 and 50, Type 1, but the two types for No. 12 occur almost equally often.

There are very considerable differences in the frequency of occurrence of the various F.P.O.'s. This would seem to depend partly on the length of time the office was open but primarily on the size of the units that it served. The most commonly seen are Nos. 8, 22, 38, 44, 46, and 75. The others are much less frequently met with and Nos. 10, 25 and 35 are probably the scarcest.

These marks normally are found on soldiers personal postcards or letters for which the free franking privilege applied, or on official mail between army units. They may occasionally be found cancelling stamps. These occur on parcel cards, money orders or personal registered letters, which were handled by the F.P.O.'s., but for which the free franking privilege did not apply. However, some stamps occur obviously cancelled to order, especially from F.P.O. 12.

Registration of Mail: As mentioned above, registered mail was handled by the Field Post Offices. This was indicated at first by marking the envelope with a large R and the registration number in red or blue crayon. Some offices later began to use boxed handstamped registration markings similar in design to registered labels. The Novotny handbook illustrates examples from Nos. 14, 35, 38, 44, 46, and 50 and I have an example from No. 20 in addition.

Unit cachets: As a conclusion to this article, further mention should be made of the various unit cachets, which were applied to each item of mail sent as confirmation of free franking.

In many ways these are of even more interest than the postal markings, since they reveal much more about the origin of the item. They are usually of straight-line type, either one or two lines, but some circular ones occur.

In the early period, cachets of the volunteer units formed in various Czech towns may be found, for example "Assistencni setnina Vysokemytska" = Auxiliary Company from Vysoke Myto, or "1 setnina Jicinska na Slovaci" = 1st. Company from Jicin to Slovakia.

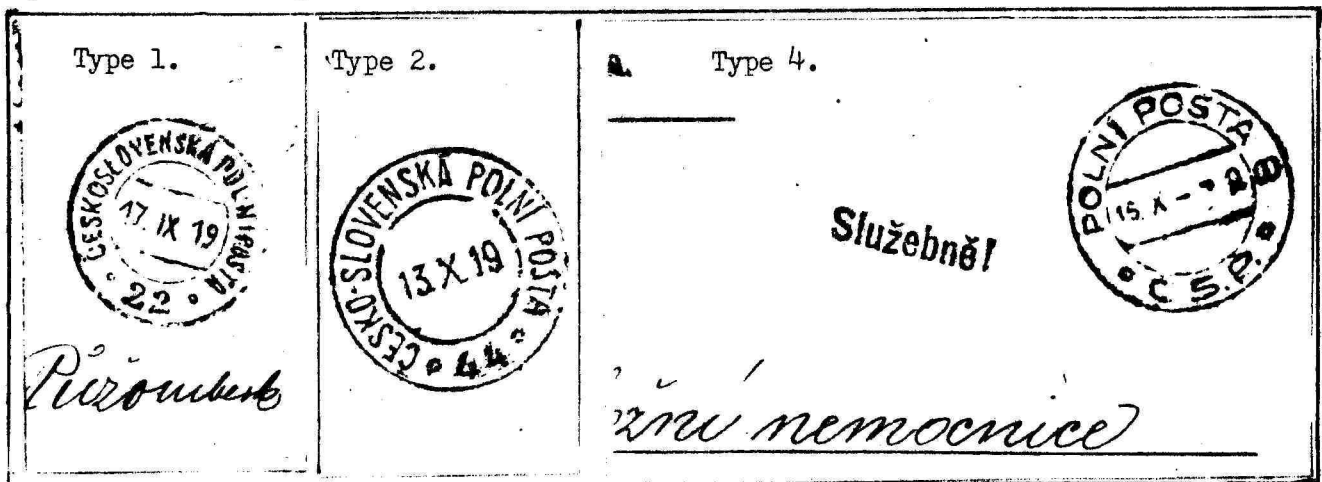
A number of railwaymen were attached to the army and were entitled to the free franking privilege. Thus the cachet "Zeleznici" = Railway. Army railway units also existed, for example, "Prvni cs, polni zeleznicni stavebni setnina" = 1st. Czech Field Railway Construction Company.

Cachets were often very specific, for instance "polni pekarna 2 cs. polni divise" = field bakery of the 2nd Czech field division, or "Cs. posadkova nemocnice v Kosicich; infekcni oddeleni" = Isolation ward, Garrison Hospital, Kosice.

An especially interesting cachet worthy of special explanation is "Ceskoslovenske namornictvi" = Czech navy. This is used from F.P.O. 8 at Bratislava. A unit formed from Czechs who had been serving in the Austro-Hungarian navy at Pola. After the war ended, they made their way to Prague and were sent to Bratislava, where they at first acted as an infantry unit but later operated on gunboats on the Danube, which formed part of the border between Slovakia and Hungary.

A final type of cachet which should be noted are those of the Army Homes set up by the American Y.M.C.A., to provide rest centres for the troops. Mail sent from these Homes was not censored and received no unit cachet, but free franking still applied. The legend read "Vojensky Domov", American and the triangular Y.M.C.A., logo. There were ten of these Homes; at Bratislava, Komarno, Kosice, Lucenec, Nitra, Nove Zamky, Presov, Trencin, Uzhorod and Zilina.

Sources and Acknowledgements: The primary source for this article is a series of notes by Bohumil Matejka of Prague, which were published in "The American Philatelist" or "The Czechoslovak Specialist" between 1966 and 1969. Further information, especially on cancellation types, is from the 1970 Handbook by Ladislav Novotny.



Czechoslovakian Military Posts in Slovakia c'tdQUERY CORNERTHE MASARYK ISSUES by W. F. Parker

...Of the 78 different stamps, two souvenir sheets and a memorial sheet all carrying a portrait of Professor T. G. Masaryk, 39 carry designs incorporating the Svabinsky portrait first issued for his 70th birthday. Nine of these stamps are the same 1 Kc value and the same carmine colour issued between 1925 and 1927.

Excluding differences in paper, shade, variations of watermark position and the many errors, it is still particularly difficult to identify the major differences between the nine. Stanley Gibbons and Pofis catalogues do not agree and although I borrowed a copy of Henry Hahn's specialty series publication of 1977 "Stamps with a portrait of T.G. Masaryk" I still find the subject difficult. (Mr Hahn refers to Masaryk's 70th birthday issue of 7.3.1925 - surely this should be 75?).

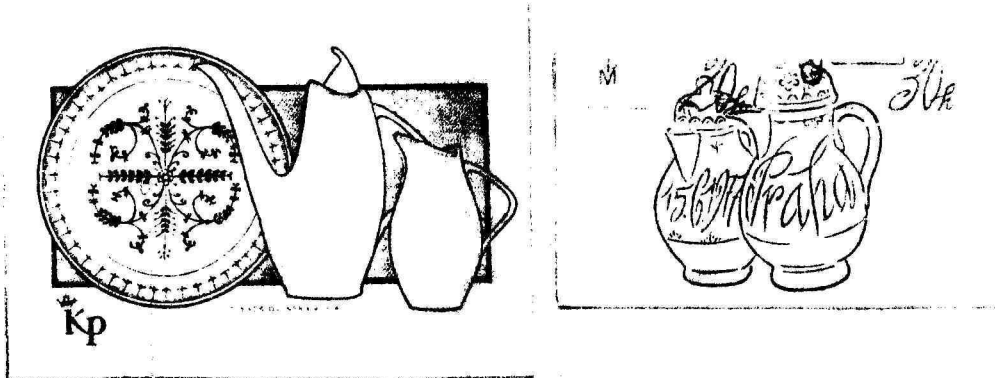
I have spent some time trying to draw up a layman's table of the major variations in these stamps and I am wondering if anyone can suggest any means of obtaining some authentic comments on it?'

Editor's comments: We are glad to publish this worthwhile attempt to study this difficult issue, and welcome comments that can be published to assist Mr Parker and others.

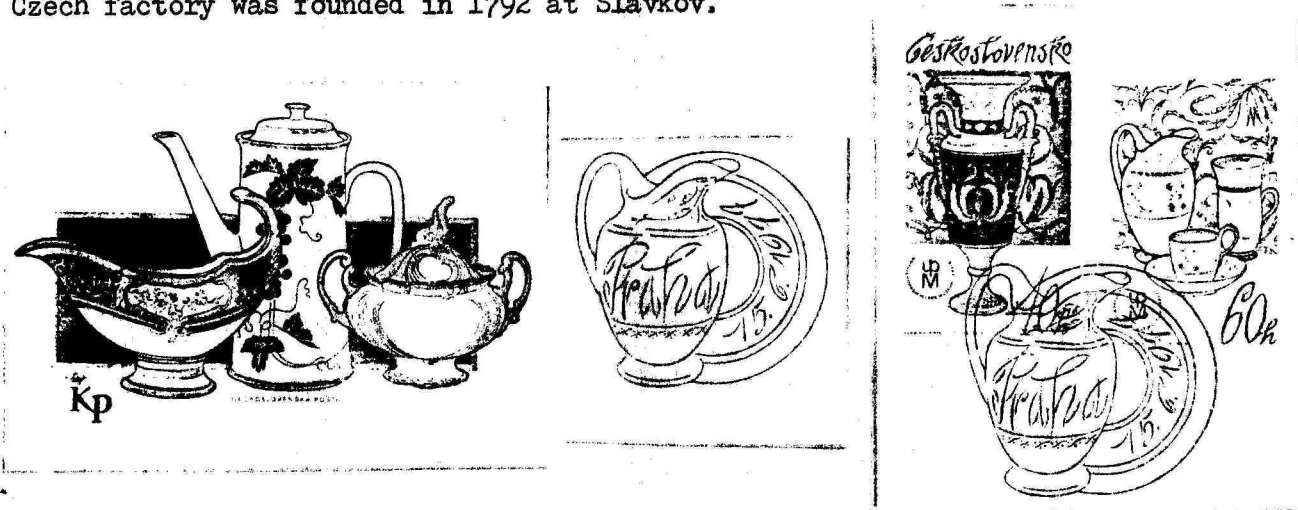
VARIATIONS IN IKC. CARMINE STAMP OF 1925-1927 WITH SVABINSKY PORTRAIT						
	CAT NO		LINDEN LEAF WATERMARK	FRAME SIZE (m.m)	POSITION OF 'T' IN 'POSTA' IN RELATION TO 'V' IN 'CESKOSLOVENSKA'	SHOULDER SHADING
	S.G.	POFIS				
<i>Type A - 13½ Perf. with Shaded Lettering on horizontally lined background to Name and Value Tablets.</i>						
1	237A	190A	Vertical	19¼ X 23	Central	Crosshatch
2	237B	190B	Horizontal	19¾ X 22½	Central	Crosshatch
3	241	194	Horizontal	18¾ X 21¾	Over Right Arm	Crosshatch
4	241a	197	Horizontal	18¾ X 21¾	Over Right Arm	Single Line
<i>Type B - 9¾ Perf. with Shaded Lettering on horizontally lined background to Name and Value Tablets.</i>						
5	243a	199	Horizontal	19¼ X 21¾	Over Right Arm	Single Line
<i>Type C - 9¾ Perf. with Unshaded Lettering on horizontal and vertical lined background to Name and Value Tablets.</i>						
6	244	200	Horizontal	19¼ X 21¾	Over Left Arm	Crosshatch
7	244b	202	None	19¼ X 21¾	Over Left Arm	Crosshatch
<i>Type D - 9¾ Perf. with Unshaded Lettering on horizontal and vertical lined background to Name and Value Tablets AND with thicker line below portrait.</i>						
8	244a	201	Horizontal	19¼ X 21¾	Over Left Arm	Crosshatch
<i>Type E - 9¾ Perf. with Unshaded Lettering on horizontal and vertical lined background to Name and Value Tablets, thicker line below portrait AND retouched moustache.</i>						
9	244b/c	203	None	19¼ X 21¾	Over Left Arm	Crosshatch

CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT No. 9 by Alan J. Knight

Porcelain on Czechoslovak Stamps: The Chinese were the first to make porcelain - in 7th Century A.D. and they guarded the secret of its manufacture with utmost vigour for many centuries. Only in the 17th Century did production start elsewhere - in Japan and other places in Asia.



The first European factory of real chinese hard-paste porcelain was founded at Meissen near Dresden in 1710 (The Royal Saxon). Ten years later Meissen's secret was pirated and gradually the "know-how" spread throughout Europe. Probably due to the fact that kaolin was found in Western Bohemia it was there that the first Czech factory was founded in 1792 at Slavkov.



Porcelain was the subject matter of a Press Conference held on the occasion of the issue by Czechoslovakia of a set of special stamps with special "Porcelain Motifs" in 1977. "Porcelain" said the Manager of the National Corporation "Porcelain of Karlovy Vary (trade mark "KP")" is a noble material shaped by human spirits and by the tenderness of the woman" and he was right because more than 80% of workers in porcelain factories in Western Bohemia (part of the Czech Lands of Czechoslovakia) are now women.

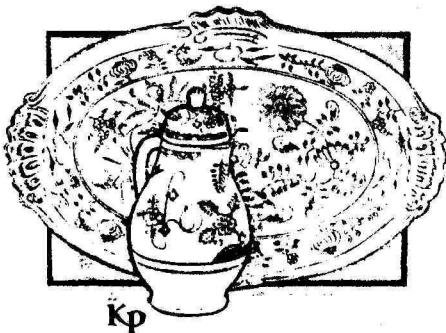
The National Corporation Karlovarský porcelán associates various factories in this region, the products of which appeared on six stamps issued by the Czechoslovak Federal Ministry of Telecommunication in Prague on the 15th June 1977 (POFIS 2257-62)

These were designed by Vladimír Kovařík and printed by the Printing Office of Telecommunication in Prague, by rotary recess combined with three-colour photogravure, in sheets of 50, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$; the size of the designs being 23 x 40 mm.

- 20h Pictures a Pot with cobalt decor "Bird and Rock" made at the Klasterec factory (see Trademark) in about 1800, together with another Pot with cobalt straw/floral decor/design manufactured at Brezova (see Trademark) after 1800. Both Pots are now in the Art and Industrial Museum in Prague. This stamp was engraved by Jan Mráček. Quantity issued: 11.1 million.
- 30h Picture of "Vase of Medici" with gold decor, product of Slavkov factory (see Trademark "S") between 1803 and 1840, now in Art Gallery at Karlovy Vary (see 'Logo' GU). Stamp engraved by Jan Mráček. Quantity issued: 12.4 million.
- 40h Amphora manufactured at Slavkov in 1820 now in Prague's Art and Industrial Museum (UPM). Engraved by Jindra Schmidt (Czechoslovakia's oldest practicing stamp engraver today!) of which 11.3 million were issued.
- 60h Pot with Cup (gold decor roses) and Spa's Cup - Karlsbad (gold decor), both made at Slavkov early 18th Century, now at UPM Prague and GU at Karlovy Vary (Cup). Engraver: J. Schmidt. Quantity issued: 7 million.
- 1 Kcs Pierced Plate and small Candlestick (cobalt decor with so-called Onion design) manufactured without interruption from 1874 to date with the trademark of the DUBÍ factory. Engraved by Miloš Ondráček and produced in quantity of 5.6 million.
- 3Kcs Pot with Cup (cobalt and gold decor) at Dubí from 1874 to date. Stamp engraved by M. Ondráček with ONLY 500,000 issued.

In most cases the design is set out in panoramic fashion as the background of the stamps. Three First Day Covers accompanied this issue as follows:

- 1st FDC With engraved Plate, design 'Henrietta' with cobalt floral decor from Lesov factory 1973 with two simple pots ex "Elka set" manufactured at Brezova factory in 1958 (Grand Prix at World Exhibition in Brussels).
- 2nd FDC Pot design "Josephine", floral decoration in cobalt and gold from the Loucky factory from 1973 to date and sugar basin (part of the "Thun Set") originally handmade at Klášterec in 1856, now copied at Lesov factory, together with sauce-boat from Březová in 1930.
- 3rd FDC Pot with "Bird and Stone" design in underglaze blue made at Klášterec about 1800 with big plate, rich in decoration in cobalt and gold - the so-called Onion design - from the Dubí factory.



A CZECHOSLOVAK GHOST by Ernest G. Taylor

I have noticed a rather interesting variety that occurs on the 1 Kcs 50th Anniv. of Czech Red Cross issue (SG 1803). Perhaps I am using the word 'variety' in the wrong context here and should substitute "phenomenon", as to a greater or lesser extent, what I have to report appears on each stamp of the sheet.

The stamp is produced, as is usual with Czechoslovak commemorative issues in two distinct types of printing. Firstly the red portion of the design is produced by recess or line engraving, giving fine clear impressions to the important details, including the Red Cross symbol, the inscription in the south west corner and the designer/engravers imprint. The black and ultramarine portions of the lay-out are said to be printed by the photogravure method, although the black impression of the country's name appears in this case to be by letter-press or surface printing, with absolutely no trace of a screen being apparent as is mostly the case with photogravure. But I digress, the matter of the printing of the black section of the design is not the subject of this discourse. No it is the ultramarine print that provides the evidence of a crisis and in consequence a change of mind on the part of the printers.

If you would care to examine the red inscription that reads "LIGA SPOLOCNOSTI CEVENENO KRIZA 1919-1969" you will discern a ghost of this inscription about 1 mm out of register above the clear red inscription, but in ultramarine. Now, why was this ultramarine inscription rejected and attempts made to erase it from the ultramarine plate. I can think of a couple of reasons and there may be more,

- (a) because some mistake was made in the inscription, which was at first intended to be produced in ultramarine, for example a spelling mistake, it was decided to erase this portion from the blue plate to save the expense and trouble of producing a whole new blue plate, or -
- (b) the blue inscription was just not sharp enough at the proof stage and it was decided to switch to the red plate and for the reasons mentioned above the ultramarine inscription was expurgated.

Whatever the reason I know of no other case where this anomaly occurs in Czech issues or any other countries issues for that matter.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

In the February issue of PHILATELIC MAGAZINE there is an interesting follow-up to Roy Dehn's article on the 1938 Bratislava Exhibition, by Herman Herst jnr who relates a personal experience of buying these sheets. He also adds some more information to the book review of 'The Postal History of the A.E.F.' edited by Theo van Dam, mentioning the Americans (and Czechs and Canadians, who were part of this Expeditionary Force.)