

CZECHOUT

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EDITORIAL

As we commence a new year I look forward to receiving from members further articles for publishing in your bulletin; whilst a number of my contemporaries have to appeal regularly for copy, we have enjoyed excellent support from the membership, so that I know you will not disappoint me this year. We are enclosing with this issue the Auction List, a Report on the Exchange Packet Questionnaire, the new Regulations on Exchange Control in CSSR, and finally two items for your views please.

Colin Spong
Editor

MEMBERSHIP

The following were elected to membership of the society at the last meeting -
B. A. Jones (Solihull), S. Asklund (Nairobi), and D. S Jones (Chichester)

SOCIETY MEETING

The Chairman welcomed 15 members and 1 visitor to the home of Robert Bradford, at Tetbury. Apologies were received from 6 members. Reports were heard from the officers, and it was agreed to publish the results of the Questionnaire prepared by Colin Smith, and the Draft Rules for the George Pearson Memorial Trophy Competition drawn up by Reg Hounsell and Brian Parker. The Chairman thanked these members for their hard work in preparing these reports. A letter had been received from Mrs Freda Pearson who was delighted to learn of the proposed competition in memory of her late husband and invited the Society to hold a meeting in her house at Westcliffe. It was felt that it might be appropriate to hold the competition there.

It was agreed to re-schedule the meeting arranged for September 25, 1982 at Royston, as the Chairman was unable to attend on that day, the Society would now visit Royston on Saturday October 2, 1982, and would members please note this change in their diary's.

Congratulations were extended to John Whiteside upon gaining a Silver at Stampex, and Yvonne Gren who gained a third place in the Worthing PS Thematic Cup Competition with her entry of "City of Prague."

Francis Pettitt Competition

6 members submitted entries, and the judging was carried out by all members present in accordance with the regulations, the voting being verified by Mr. Ted Goodman. The result of the competition was as follows:

1st Mr Reg Hounsell
2nd Mrs Yvonne Gren
3rd Mr Bryan Jones

SOCIETY MEETING c'td

There followed a display by several members of Proofs and Colour Trials covering a number of issues, including definitives and commemoratives. The meeting terminated at 5.30 p.m. with a sincere vote of thanks to Mr & Mrs Bradford for their hospitality.

NEXT MEETING - Saturday March 27, 1982.

The Society will hold an Auction at the home of the Hon. Secretary Robert Kingsley, and he would be grateful if all bid forms could be sent to him by March 20, 1982.

Directions to Bromley (address on front cover):

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

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

EXCHANGE

A letter has been received from Dr Oldrich Paces, Jahodova 2890/49, 10600 PRAHA 10, CSSR wishing to exchange Postal Stationery (GB) for Czech items.

Robert Kingsley
Hon. Secretary

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Frank Spencer's Overseas Postal Stationery column in STAMP COLLECTING of January 21, mentions two items of interest - a 6Kcs envelope commemorating the 10th Year of the Intersputnik Programme for telecommunications. The symbolical design of the stamp and panel was by R. Vanek, the engraving by Milos Ondracek, issued on October 20, 1981. The second a 4.40Kcs postcard marked the 80th Anniversary of Organised Football in the country, of interest particularly as CSSR has since qualified for the World Cup in Spain. The stamp is recess-printed in green, the panel in blue; both show action scenes, though the kit of the players on the stamp is more old fashioned in style. Photogravure was also used. The emblem of the Czech FA is shown on the left-hand side. The October issue of The BOOKMARK, journal of GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle has an interesting item on PVC Protectors which we are re-printing with due acknowledgment. "With the large number of protectors and stock leaves on the market the inexperienced collector could condemn his collection to destruction if he buys harmful storage accessories.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY c'td

If the pocket is soft and pliable KEEP AWAY. It will most likely be made of plasticized PVC which, if used, will, in time, cause the inks on stamps to bleach, run or stick to the protector pocket.

A very simple and efficient test that anyone may carry out to detect PVC is to obtain a length of copper wire and rub it clean with sandpaper. Place the end of the copper wire in a gas flame and heat to red-hot. Touch the suspect pocket and transfer the molten blob that will form on the end of the wire back to the flame and re-heat.

A GREEN FLAME means that the pocket is made of PVC - buy no more of that make and preferably transfer any items already stocked in such similar pockets to stock leaves which do not give a green flame under the same test conditions."

Thanks to Alan Knight for that item.

A VISIT TO THE CZECH POSTAL MUSEUM - JULY 1981 by George E Connolly

During a holiday in Prague this summer, I paid a visit to the Prague Postal Museum. The museum is situated in the Gothic Benedictine Monastery of Saint Gabriel at Smichov, Holeckova street. The museum is not very well signposted even inside the monastery - I lost my way twice! I then found a door marked with the sign "Postovni Museum", I knocked and entered and found myself in a large office which is in fact a reference library for the postal museum and a member of staff who understood my question took me along a corridor and down some stairs to the museum.

Along the wall is a large "Post Map". It is in fact a blow up of an original from the archives. Each road is marked with black slashes indicating post horse change points with $2\frac{1}{2}$ marks being the distance travelled in a day. Inside this room - the museum - are large cabinets on three sides. These contain vertical display trays which pull out and may be swung flat on their double hinges for viewing. These contain the general collection with many early European classics including a full sheet of the Austrian Blue Mercury (100 stamps) and also modern issues. Case I and II contain stamps of Europe 1840 - 1939. Then come another case with stamps of the Peoples Republics. Then comes another cabinet containing Czechoslovakia 1918 - 1939 and 1945 - to date. A further cabinet contains stamps of Great Britain and Sweden. The Czechoslovakia cabinet s start with original drawings by Mucha of the Hradcany design with additional detail sketched along the side. On one of these the value tablet is heart shaped but this design was finally only used as a side ornament.

Another frame contained the "Posta 1919" overprints and also a single cliché about 1 inch cube, and a paper matrices of the 24 positions used for the 2 to 10 crown Austrian stamps and a full sheet of 100 black proofs of the overprint.

A VISIT TO THE CZECH POSTAL MUSEUM c'td

These frames also contain a great rarity the only know inverted on the 4K granite paper and also all the other regular granite paper issue of 4K and 10K. These stamps could be seen in display with all the overprint of 1919 and also all the Revolutionary overprints in various colours. The cabinet also contained the Scout post including covers and the overprinted cover to celebrate the "arrival of the President" and telegrams containing Scout stamp 'announcing the arrival of the president'. Also in this cabinet was a collection of the Siberian Legion issues including the five imperforated essays in the five colours of blue, red, violet, green and brown showing the following scenes:

- 1) Standing Legionnaire
- 2) Soldier Scouting
- 3) Military Train
- 4) Soldier on Guard
- 5) Soldiers by the Campfire

and also artist drawings of the original design of Siberia issue. As I was examining these a member of staff asked me where I was from and invited me to sign the Visitors Book. This person explained to me that only part of the display was here, the rest was at the branch of the museum at Vyssi Brod in Sumava and some Postal History on display at the post office near the Old Town Square.

Another cabinet contains a display of the 1h Hradcany in a block of 25 made to show how to produce postage stamps. This display consisted of:

- a) glass negative
- b) Transfer to a copper plate
- c) First etching - edges opaqued out
- d) Final etching with routing showing on edges and between stamps
- e) Finished printing plate
- f) Black proofs from the plate

I bought a set of cards of the postal museum and they show - A Post Horn, Picture of the Abbey in Vyassi Brod, and a Post Box. Inside this cover is a booklet and another 12 cards showing the following scenes dealing with the post or telegraph.

- 1) Alfons Mucha: The Hradcany Castle 1918
- 2) A Postal Safe 18th century
- 3) The permanent exhibits of the history of the post at Vyassi Brod - passage to the coach house
- 4) The Post Coach House
- 5) Ceremonial Coach belonging to the Emperor Ferdinand V
- 6) Collection of historical telephones
- 7) A paper weight, second half of the 19th century
- 8) A case for cord and a wick cutter, mid 19th century
- 9) A porcelain inkpot bearing the motif of the International Telegraph Union, and types of postal rubber stamps (19th century)

A VISIT TO THE CZECH POSTAL MUSEUM c'td

- 10) Hughes telegraph unit, late 19th century
- 11) Ericissons manual telephone, late 19th century
- 12) A hat and a sabre, postmasters ceremonial uniforms (19th century)

When I had finished my tour of the cabinets containing postal cancels and medals won by the museums display at different exhibitions the member of the staff presented me with two books:

1. Sbornik Postovniho Muzea 1980 NADAS
2. Sbornik Postovniho Muzea 1981 NADAS

These books translate as "Memorial Volume of the Postal Museum 1980" and the same for 1981. The 1980 volume contains a preface and six articles by writers dealing with the Postal Museum and its activities. Each article is followed by a resume in Russian, German and French. The following is a translation of the titles of the articles in the 1980 volume:

Preface by 1st Deputy of Ministry of Posts - Juraj Mamak

- 1) Dr Pavel Ctvrtnik: The Postal Museum and International Co-operation.
- 2) Rudolf Fisher: Contributions to the theoretical development of Stamps and Philately.
- 3) Jiri Hanl; Alena Klokocnikova: Map Archives of the Postal Museum.
- 4) Ing. Antonin Nemrava: Telecommunications in the History of Civilisation.
- 5) Ing. Miroslav Palisensky: Swedish Field Post during the Thirty Years War.
- 6) Dr Miroslav Martinek, PhD: The Development of the Postal System at the turn of the 19th and 20th century.

The 1981 volume contains a reprint of the Map from the archives shown on the wall of the Museum. It also contains the following articles:

- 1) Rudolf Fisher: Some theoretical and practical problems of stamp production and printing.
- 2) Pavel Ctvrtnik: Postal History of Coaches and Carriages.
- 3) Ing. Miroslav Palisensky: Travellers journey from Bruge and its significance in the Czech Postal History.
- 4) Milena Ruffova: Letter in Czech History.
- 5) Miroslav Martinek: Postal History in Specialised Czech at the turn of the century.
- 6) Jiri Hanl: Vaclav Dragoun and the archives of the Postal Museum.
- 7) Alexandra Spiritova: Written sources of Postal History.
- 8) Alena Klokocnikova: List of Postal Maps in the Collection of the Postal Museum.

Each time I look through either of these books which are very well illustrated or the post cards it brings back memories of my visit to the Prague Postal Museum.

BACK NUMBERS of CZECHOUT

Nos 8, 10, 15 - 18, 20 - 25 @ 50p each.
Nos 1 - 7, 11 - 14, and 19 photocopied
at a cost of £6.20p.

CPS MONOGRAPH No 1

Czechoslovak Army and Air Force
in Exile 1939 - 1945: Postal and
Other Philatelic Activities by
W.A.Page FRPSL £2.50 plus postage
UK 2nd class 32p Europe 94p and else-
where at Airmail printed matter rate
Zone a. £1.22; Zone b. £1.66 and
Zone c. £1.88

PLATE NUMBERS OF THE CZECH NEWSPAPER STAMPS: 5h Issued 1924-5 by Frantisek Zampach
Translated by Robert Kingsley from FILATELIE 10/1978 to whom we offer acknowledgment

In the course of the activities of the group of collectors of our Newspaper Stamps we present to the collecting public the result of one of the tasks; to compile reference tables of the plate numbers of the 5h newspaper stamps (falcon in flight) of the years 1924 and 1925.

We are fully conscious of the difficulty of the task which, due to the unavailability of documentary material would be impossible for an individual to undertake. We are nevertheless of the opinion that with the understanding and assistance of collectors of newspaper stamps we could successfully fulfill this difficult task. So far we have only been able to concentrate on part of the material from which it has however not yet been possible to establish definitely the connection between individual pairs of stamps with plate numbers, in fact in many cases not even to arrange in the correct order the plate serial numbers.

On the tables shown are marked those serial numbers and the year as far as these are evident to us from the original evidence and information at our disposal. The pairs of plate numbers marked with an "x" belong to each other, in all other instances it has not yet been possible to show the connection with any certainty.

YEAR 1924 (see reference table)

The stamps of this year were printed from 20 galvanised plates marked with serial numbers from 1 to 20, and with the appropriate year abbreviated (24). The serial numbers are placed mainly under the 91st stamp and the year under the 100th row. This method was however, not always adhered to, on one printing the plates were marked the other way around - under the 91st stamp there is shown the year 24 and under the 100th row the serial number. These are plates with serial numbers 13, 14, 15 and 16.

The printing plates, as was usual with this value, were placed into 5 forms of 4 plates and these had on both vertical sides protective borders which were marked with continuous or interrupted lines. These marked borders were in the case of the newspaper stamps only used for galvanised printing plates for the 5h and 20h values.

The impression of the separating line of the sheet is generally to be found under the last row of stamps on the left hand side, and these are of varying length. The original print of the stamps was carried out in a Green shade which hardly varied.

In the case of this year we have so far been able to complete 22 rows in the table there remain a further 18 to be completed.

PLATE NOS OF THE CZECH NEWSPAPER STAMPS c'td

YEAR 1925 (see reference table)

For the printing of the stamps of this year 22 printing plates were used, i.e. 5 forms of 4 plates, and 1 form of 2 plates filled up to full capacity with plates of the following year, the plate numbers of this year were already shown in a uniform manner. The serial numbers are always shown under the 91st stamp and the year under the 100th row. The borders as before were marked with continuous and interrupted lines, and also the shade of Green was used without any marked variations.

In the case of this year we have been able to complete 34 rows in the table, the remaining 10 rows are not finished.

We would therefore ask all collectors to pass their opinion on these tables, and should anyone have any observations with full documentary evidence, or additions, to let us have these to assess and publicise.

We will be happy to evaluate every such observation and to reply to all letters. Any material sent to us for copying we will return in good order. Upon the co-operation of all interested collectors depends the success of this project which will help to fill another "blank spot" in our Czechoslovak philately.

The address of the leader of the Group at that time was - Frantisek Zampach, Filkukova 14, 621 00 Brno 21, CSSR.

5 hal. roc. 1924

x	1 - 50	5 - 24			
x	2 - 50	5 - 24			
			24 - 50	5 - 13	x
			24 - 50	5 - 14	
	5 - 50			5 - 15	
	6 - 50		24 - 50	5 - 16	x
	7 - 50		17 - 50	5 - 24	x
	8 - 50		18 - 50	5 - 24	x
	9 - 50				
	10 - 50		20 - 50		

NOTE: The Sheet nos are in coloured box on original. Editor.

CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS under the Ultra-Violet light by Dr Dusan Brabec

published in STAMPS January 1981 and reprinted with the kind permission of the Editor.

Czechoslovak stamps are printed on various different types of paper: these are best distinguished under ultra-violet light using a quartz lamp. The difference between the stamp papers is caused by the application or incorporation of chemicals -

PLATE NOS OF THE CZECH NEWSPAPER STAMPS c'tdYEAR 19255 hal. roc. 1925

	5° - 25	12 - 50	
2 - 50		13 - 50	5° - 25
3 - 50	5° - 25	14 - 50	5° - 25
4 - 50	5° - 25	15 - 50	5° - 25
x 5 - 50	5° - 25	16 - 50	5° - 25
6 - 50		17 - 50	5° - 25
7 - 50		18 - 50	5° - 25
8 - 50	5° - 25	19 - 50	5° - 25
	5° - 25		5° - 25
	5° - 25	21 - 50	
11 - 50	5° - 25		5° - 25

NOTE: The Sheet Nos are in coloured box on original. Editor.

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-optical brighteners and other fluorescent agents-into the paper. Similar differential stamp printing papers are found in Sweden, Finland, West Germany etc, but the Czechoslovak issues have not previously been detailed outside official government records.

Three basic paper types used on Czechoslovak stamps can be discovered under ultra-violet light:

TYPE A

Ordinary, no-flourescent paper used on all stamps printed until 1965. This shows graduations from a dirty brown to a light violet fluorescence under the quartz lamp. Stamps printed in the period 1966-1970 show graduations from light violet to a slightly blue fluorescence. Slightly blue fluorescence is caused by the addition of rag pulp to the cellulose in the manufacture of the stamp paper. This rag pulp contained the optical brighteners used at the time, and the slightest trace was detectable in the stamp paper. The same graduation of slightly blue fluorescence can be discovered in the paper of some stamps issued during the 1970-1974 period; it is caused by the experimental application of optical brighteners of domestic origin in indefinably small amounts onto the stamp paper. This fluorescence can be studied, but only by experts with access to official information.

TYPE B

Fluorescent paper containing the optical brightener (a derivative of 4.4'-diamenostilbene - 2.2' - disulfonic acid) in definable amounts. This paper is pure white and it shows a heavy light-blue fluorescence under the quartz lamp.

Such paper has been used for some stamps issued in the period 1970-1974 (imported

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optical brightener,) and on most of the stamps issued from 1974 to date (domestic product).

TYPE C

Fluorescent paper which shows a heavy yellow fluorescence under the quartz lamp. The reason for the application of this fluorescent agent (salicylaldazine) was the introduction of the letter-facing machine. The first stamps printed on this paper were issued in 1976. At present most Czechoslovak stamps are printed on Type C paper, but some issues are still produced on Type B.

All three types of paper were used on some values of the definitive series which were printed over a very long period and in very large quantities. However, some commemoratives also were printed on more than one type of paper, and thus exist in significant varieties. The stamps printed on differing papers are listed in the table below.

AVAILABILITY

Readers should note that these paper variants on Czechoslovak issues were prepared entirely to conform to service purposes in connection with letter-sorting and facing machinery. Many of the varieties were not known outside their country of origin and even in Czechoslovakia details of the paper differences have only recently been published.

+Export of postage stamps from Czechoslovakia is possible in one of two ways. Firstly by means of regulated commerce via the state foreign trade corporation "ARTIA", whose address is: PO Box 790, Praha 1, CSSR. The department dealing with stamp exports has not however, been able to supply any of the older fluorescence varieties, and is only now in a position to supply current issues as it receives them from the Ministry of Posts. In general, it is not possible to obtain these stamps from dealers as they rely on the exports from 'Artia', and are not allowed to purchase stamps from private sources in the country.

The second method of obtaining Czech stamps is by means of exchange of stamps with collectors in Czechoslovakia itself. This exchange is conducted via the Czechoslovak Philatelic Federation and a regular column of collectors wishing to exchange stamps is printed in the Federations' monthly magazine FILATELIA. The magazine is, however, printed entirely in Czech or Slovak languages. Although, of course, many of the collectors in Czechoslovakia speak good or reasonable English, their first foreign languages are Russian and German. Address of the CSSR Federation is Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists, Jindriska 18, Praha, CSSR. Make allowance for the fact that you

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must adhere to the regulations of the Union which are governed by Czechoslovakia's foreign trade regulations, and that the stamps you require may have taken your correspondent a great deal of hard work (and cash) to track down.

POFIS CATALOGUE

All these varieties are publicised, local collectors themselves will wish to complete their own collections before they obtain extra copies for exchange purposes. Prices are noted in the postage stamp catalogue issued by the Pofis stamp trade corporation which deals only with local collectors in Czechoslovakia. Copies can be obtained through 'Artia' or via the Union of Philatelists.

Serious enquiries in connection with the stamps, accompanied by two international reply coupons, will be forwarded to Dr Brabec the author of the article, who will do his best to reply direct to readers. Such enquiries should be sent to the Editor, STAMPS, Sovereign House, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4SE enclosing 15½p in mint stamps and an outer envelope in which the enquiry can be sent to Prague.

+ See new Exchange Control Regulations in CZECHOUT Supplement supplied with this issue.

SG No	Description	Paper Types		
1530	50th Czech Towns definitive, 1965	A	B	
1936	1 Kcs Regional Buildings Definitive 1971	A	B	C
1937	1.60 Kcs ditto	A	B	
1938	2 Kcs ditto	A	B	C
1940	3 Kcs ditto	A	B	C
1941	3.60 Kcs ditto	A	B	
1942	5 Kcs ditto	A	B	
1946	10 Kcs ditto	A	B	(trial print)
2049	80h Slovak wire work 1972	A	B	(trial print)
2170	1.80 Kcs Paintings 1972	A	B	
2190	20h Posthorn definitive 1972		B	C
2191	30h PTT Emblem ditto	A	B	C
2192	40h Postillion ditto	A	B	C
2193	60h PTT/Dove definitive		B	C
2204	1.60 Kcs Czech Graphics 1975	A	B	
2210	60h Folk Customs 1975	A	B	
2215	60h Regional arms (Znojmo) 1975	A	B	
2135	40h Motor cycles 1975	A	B	
2244	5 Kcs Space Research 1975	A	B	
MS 2285	55th Anniversary Communist Party sheet 1976	A	B	
2245	30h Husak 1975	A	B	C
2246	60h Ditto		B	C
Pofis Cat:				
2303	60h		B	C
2323	1 Kcs	A	B	
2324	2 Kcs	A	B	
2331	2 Kcs		B	C
2346	60h	A	B	
2359	30h		B	C
2361	1.60 Kcs		B	C
SG D1985	Postage Due 1971 10h	A	B	
1986	ditto 20h	A	B	
1988	ditto 60h	A	B	
1989	ditto 80h	A	B	
1992 & 6	ditto 2 Kcs & 6 Kcs	A	B	