

# CZECHOUT

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## EDITORIAL

We are pleased to announce that we hope to publish very shortly Monograph No. 2 A Bibliography on Czechoslovak Philately by George Connolly, which will cover Handbooks, Catalogues and Periodicals. The Society also has another monograph in preparation on postmarks or cancellations, the section covering Czechoslovak cancellations is being looked after by William Dawson, and Ernest Taylor is researching the Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate period. However, we are looking for someone who is able to help us with anything on the Carpatho-Ukraine, or the Slovakia State.

Colin Spong  
Editor

## SOCIETY MEETING on Saturday March 27, 1982

The Chairman welcomed 17 members to the home of Robert Kingsley, at Bromley. Apologies were received from 8 members, and Kay Goodman warmly welcomed members William Dawson and R. McLeod who had been unable to come to any meetings for some time. Congratulations were offered to Mr.H.J. Collinson upon gaining a Bronze at Stampex.

Membership. Approval was given for Geoffrey Noel Woodward' (aged 13) application to join the society. The Hon. Secretary reported that those members who were still outstanding with their 1981/2 subscriptions, despite several reminders, would now be deleted from the membership list.

Packet Questionnaire. It was agreed in view of a large number of lots to be auctioned during the afternoon, that discussion of this matter would be held over until the June meeting.

George Pearson Trophy. A number of replies had been received expressing members views on the proposed rules. It was also agreed to defer this matter until the next meeting. The Chairman reported that Mrs Freda Pearson would be very happy to host a meeting in her house either in the Spring or Summer, 1983.

Magyar Philatelic Society of GB. The letter received from this Society was discussed, and it was agreed to support their suggestion of a joint meeting with our Society, and the Austrian Stamp Club of GB on Saturday March 19, 1983 in Birmingham. (An additional meeting to the programme) and the following sub-committee would consider details for the joint meeting: Mrs K.Goodman, Mr C.Spong, Mr R.Hounsell, Mrs Y.Wheatley, Mr J.Whiteside, and Mr R.Kingsley.

Czechout. The question was raised of members who request additional copies for correspondents, or philatelic societies, as apart from the Copyright Libraries, and certain Philatelic Libraries on a National level, which are free. It was agreed that as a matter of policy any additional copies of Czechout would be

SOCIETY MEETING c'td

charged for to members at 50p. per copy.

British Philatelic Federation. The following members were appointed to represent our Society as Delegates at the 1982 Congress in Southampton: Mrs K. Goodman and Mr W. Alec Page.

Monografie. A report was received from Mr George Connolly on his forthcoming monograph on "Czechoslovak Philatelic Bibliography" he said that the text had now been handed over to the Editor for typing. Mr Colin Spong also outlined a proposed monograph covering Czech Postmarks or Cancellations, further details when known would be given to the June meeting, when Mr Roy Dehn (who was giving the display) would be present, and we hoped to have some information on a project he was undertaking for the Society.

Postal Auction. This would again be held in the Autumn, any material to be sent to Mr. Cyril Wackett by September 26, 1982.

The Auction followed, and the meeting terminated at 6.0 pm. with a sincere vote of thanks to Mr & Mrs Robert Kingsley for their hospitality.

Robert Kingsley  
Hon. Secretary

NEXT MEETING - Saturday June 26

As announced this will take place at the home of Kay Goodman, our Chairman. Any member who has not yet completed the proforma regarding the Dinner after the meeting please let Kay have this as soon as possible. The subject would be on The Early Overprints by Roy Dehn FRPSL.

Directions to Highcliffe (address on front cover):

By Road From London take the M3 then carry on following signs "Southampton" until you come to the M27: go on this and come off at the Lyndhurst sign and proceed to Lyndhurst. From Lyndhurst take the Christchurch - Bournemouth road, about 9 miles on the right hand side pass the 'Cat and Fiddle', immediately afterwards turn left to Hinton Admiral Station, over the railway bridge, 2nd turning on left Holmhurst Avenue, immediately sharp left into Oakwood Road, No 5 is the 3rd house.

By rail Trains depart from Waterloo Station approximately 46 minutes past each hour (check new timetable), book to NEW MILTON STATION. The journey takes about 2 hours, therefore it is suggested that members catch a train arriving at New Milton approximately 1340. Members travelling on this train can be met by car, please confirm, if you wish to be met.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Stamp Collecting of March 4 contained an article by member Jane Sterba on 'Good King Wencelas - Svaty Vaclav.'

JINDRA SCHMIDT by Robert Kingsley (translated from LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE, Praha.. dated March 10 1982.)

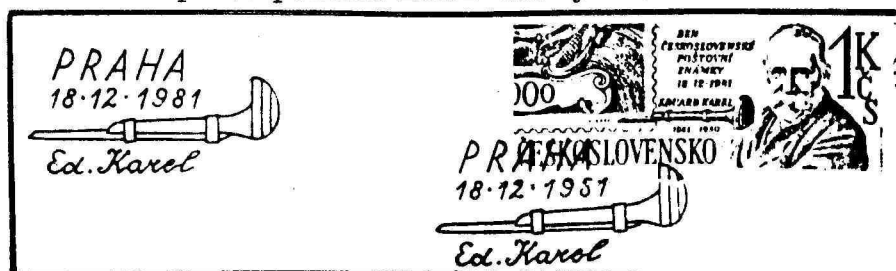
"They are excellent, my friend Schmidt"! Max Svabinsky. 5 December 1957, we read on the proof of the original stamp engraving bearing the portrait of Svatopluc Cech (see SG 1053 or POFIS 1012). "You've done a wonderful job" added Svabinsky to the engraving of "Hans Kvapilova" and similar such remarks from K. Svolinsky, C. Bouda and others are to be found at the exhibition of drawings and engravings by Jindra Schmidt which opened in the Exhibition Hall Kniha in Prague in Vodickova ulice (street). The doyen of our engravers, he celebrates his 85th Birthday this June and is showing here only a selection of his rich work to which could be easily added many further examples of rich and mature engraving art.

Apart from this, he could have shown a considerable number of engravings of Czechoslovak Banknotes as well as his graphic and drawing work which encompasses a handful of landscape drawings and watercolours.

In all this, Schmidt has shown himself to be a true master of his trade which he has elevated to art. Our reproduction picture shows the engraver Schmidt at work.

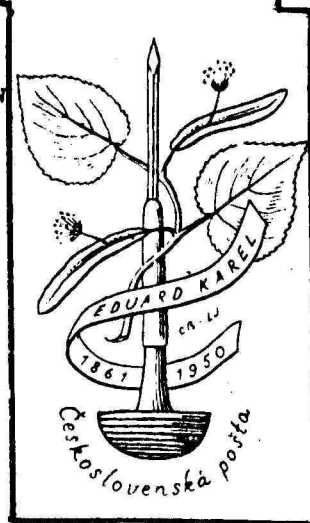


Alan Knight is preparing a serialised translation of the work of Jindra Schmidt which we hope to publish later this year.



CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT No. 10 by Alan J Knight

"Den Ceskoslovenske Postovni Znamky:" Few members cannot but know that the first official postage stamps of the First Czechoslovak Republic appeared on the 18 December 1918 (see POFIS 3/5 and SG 5/6), designed by Alfons Mucha for his now world-famous HRADCANY series. Since then Mucha and these stamps have been honoured a number of times on stamps of Czechoslovakia. From 18 December 1965 however, a very special stamp has been issued annually, on that date, to commemorate the "Day of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp." The first issue was in a very small number of 175,000 but nowadays averages about 3 millions per issue.



For the next few issues the Postal Authority are to issue stamps on each December 18 honouring some of the great names in Czechoslovak Stamp Engraving, such well-known names as Karel Seizinger, B. Heinz, J. Goldschmied and B. Roule.

CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT No.10 c'td

The latest of these special stamps has already appeared - on 18.12.1981 - in honour of the engraver EDUARD KAREL (1861-1950) whose first stamps helped to form the 1920 President Masaryk set, (his name was omitted from the 125h value.) The 1981 stamp (1Kcs) carries Eduard Karel's portrait, and a drawing of an old engraving tool, the blade of which is pointing to the engraver's name (E.KAREL) at the bottom of a portion of the 1000h value stamp of the 1920 issue already referred to. The inscription reads "Den Ceskoslovenske Postovni Znameky" (Day of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp,) 18.12.1981 and Eduard Karel 1861-1950. The related First Day Cover carries a drawing of an engraving tool surrounded by a fruit-bearing Linden branch. This stamp was designed by C.Bouda and engraved by L. Jirka.

CZECH PROVISIONALS by Fred and Yvonne Gren

We thought members would be interested to have some information about Czech Provisionals which has been passed to us by a friend in Prague. These stamps were used for a short period in May 1945 in various towns in Czechoslovakia, during the time after the German Occupation Forces left the country and the Russian Army and the new Czech-Russian Administration took over.

Shortly before this situation arose and under the authority of the National Town Committees, the stamps of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia were overprinted by some patriotic printers, with various symbols of the new state of Czechoslovakia. They were and still are, very popular even though they were used for a short period - in many cases, one week only, and without the blessing of the official administration. Our friend recalls how as a boy he queued outside his local Post Office in order to buy a block of four newly overprinted stamps; that was the maximum allowed to each person!

In Pardubice the stamps were overprinted with the Czech coat of arms - the lion. Other towns used similar symbols, e.g. Kolin used the letters CSR, and they were used until new issues arrived from printers in England and Moscow. It is also interesting to note that the last definitive set of Bohemia and Moravia bearing the portrait of Adolf Hitler was not completely overprinted with this type of revolutionary overprint - only the lower values. Speculation was not expected!

There are only two known types of overprints which came from the Czech territory which was incorporated into the German Reich. The first Czech Settlers who returned to their home town, Rumburk overprinted the German stamps then in use with their own inscriptions bearing the new Czech value and name of the new state - CSR and in addition they used the words 'Pravda Vitezi' - Truth prevails.

Although these Provisionals are not found in any Catalogue, (they are regarded as unofficial issues), they are much sought after by collectors on the Continent

CZECH PROVISIONALS c'td

as they bear witness to the eventful period of the final stages of World War 2.

We are grateful to Dr Paces for allowing us to pass this information on to members of the Czech Society through us.

(Editor: See review of Senor Juan Santauegenia's book "Overprints of the Liberation Territory of the Republic of Czechoslovakia 1939-1945," Barcelona 1978 in Czechout 3.79.)

THE GOVERNMENT OF BOHEMIA and MORAVIA and its Mail by Otto Hornung

We are grateful to the author for allowing us to use this article with slight alteration which originally appeared in STAMP COLLECTING 13 December 1979, to whom we acknowledge use of illustrations.

Many works of history have been published about World War II and there is an almost endless list of generals, war correspondents, statesmen and victims who have written their memoirs and given an account. Still, there are some areas of shadow left, some matters not fully explained, and that has also its bearings on philately and postal history. Recently Peter Rickenback, the London dealer specialising in the German area showed me some very interesting postal history items from Bohemia and Moravia, and as this field has not been fully explained as yet, at least as far as I am aware, I shall try to shed some light on one particular sector.

Czechoslovakia was occupied by Hitler on 15 March 1939, and events of that prelude to World War II are well known. The eastern part of the country, Slovakia, became an 'independent' puppet regime issuing its own stamps, and the central and western parts of dismembered Czechoslovakia were transformed into the German Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, also a stamp-issuing country. The Czechoslovak army which was an army of conscripts doing two years military service, with a certain percentage of professional soldiers and officers, was disbanded.

As far as the Nazis were concerned, it was the end of the army of the Czechoslovak Republic, but this was not to be. As soon as the country was occupied many soldiers escaped abroad, and soon new units of the Czechoslovak

Ročník 1939.

709

# Sbírka zákonů a nařízení Protektorátu Čechy a Morava.

Částka 80.

Vydána dne 30. září 1939.

Cena: K 1.--

Obsah: (216. a 217.) 216. Nařízení, jímž se zřizuje vládní vojsko Protektorátu Čechy a Morava. —  
217. Vyhláška o úpravě hospodaření čekankou, kávovými náhražkami, kávou a čajem.

The heading of Decree No. 216 of the government of the Protectorate, dated 25th July, 1939.



THE GOVERNMENT OF BOHEMIA & MORAVIA and its mail (c'td.)

army were formed abroad to fight against Hitler, similar to the Czechoslovak Legions formed in the course of World War I Czechoslovak army units fought from 1939 in Poland, the Middle East, the Soviet Union, and in France. There was an Independent Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade in Great Britain and Czechoslovak squadrons in the R.A.F. in Britain. The Fieldpost services of these units are known and documented.

It is not so well known, though, that in the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia a new army was formed under the auspices of the German authorities. Their story is hidden in the mist of accessible documents, embarrassment and silence.

First of all the facts. By Decree No. 216 of the Government of the Protectorate of 25 July 1939, published in the official Collection of Laws and Decrees on 30 September 1939 the so-called Government Troops of the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia were established. The Decree No. 216 is signed by the President of the Protectorate Dr Hacha, by Prime Minister Ing. Elias, and also bears the following signatures - Jezek, Dr Kalfus, Dr Kapras, Dr Krejci, Dr Sadek, Dr Havelka, Ciperka, Dr Feierabend and Dr Klumpar.

The Decree states that the task of the Government Troops is: "...to co-operate in the maintenance of internal security and order, including their use for service of assistance, mainly in the case of disasters threatening life and property." Former professional soldiers and employees were transferred to service in the Government Troops. They wore the old uniforms and distinctions of rank of the Czechoslovak army.

As can be seen, naturally these "Government Troops" were not charged to defend the country. Czechoslovakia was occupied, and it was the German army who were in charge. The Government Troops were meant to serve as a police force, as an auxiliary, as an indirect mercenary unit in the interest of the German masters. There were no conscripts, no obligatory military service, but the Government Troops were formed of professionals and volunteers. I should like to emphasise right at the beginning, that whilst the Government Troops were under the command of high ranking officers and a government subservient to the Germans, the rank and file troops in their absolute majority were enemies of the invaders. The professional soldiers had to join because they had scarcely any other choice. As far as the rank and file who joined later were concerned, there were various reasons and also some pressure to make them join, exerted by the labour offices etc.

The German masters were quite aware of the fact that they could not really trust the Government Troops. This army of the Protectorate was not large in numbers. There were no regiments, as far as I know. They were organised into battalions,

THE GOVERNMENT OF BOHEMIA & MORAVIA and its Mail c'td

of which there were some eight or ten. I do not dare guess the total number of soldiers, but it was just a few thousand. The Government Troops were used for guard duties inside the country. They had no heavy weapons, no artillery, no tanks, no aircraft.

As the war progressed, the Germans were experiencing a growing shortage of manpower. That is why they gave the Government Troops of the Protectorate more and more tasks, so as to free their own troops for combat. At first these tasks were confined to the territory of Bohemia and Moravia, but in 1943, when the manpower shortage became very acute, the Protectorate Government Troops were sent abroad for the first time. Some were despatched to northern Italy for guard duties on railways, power stations and the like. At that time a very strong partisan movement was building up in northern Italy. Soon the Italian partisans established contacts with the Czech soldiers, and more and more Czechs deserted their units to join the partisans in the fight against the Nazis. In the end a complete battalion of the Czech Government Troops with most of their officers and flying colours defected and joined the uprising against the Germans.

Some of the Czech soldiers fought alongside the Italians in the mountains right to the end of the war, some managed to escape to the allied forces in Italy, and were transferred to Britain. Practically all of them were incorporated in the Czechoslovak Brigade in Britain, and fought in France after the invasion of 1944. They retained their ranks; even the officers kept their ranks obtained in the Government Troops. After the war, soldiers of the Government Troops with the exception of German collaborators were incorporated in the new army of Czechoslovakia. There were not too many of them in the first place, and now hardly any are left in the army of Czechoslovakia.

This is a brief history of the Government Troops of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, but there is also a philatelic side to it. The battalions of the Government Troops inside the Protectorate operated on the same basis as their predecessors, the army of Czechoslovakia. They had their quartermaster departments, they had to buy food and supplies, and they had to pay for them. As they were a government unit with the President of the Protectorate as their supreme commander (at least as per the Decree of 1939), and subject to the office of the Prime Minister, they did not use normal stamps for their official correspondence, but they used official stamps of the Protectorate. In addition they used on their official correspondence cachets of their units, and, as was the custom in the German army, they also had special "Briefstempel" cachets, but bilingual, giving the name of the unit, and having in the centre the arms of the Protectorate, the Bohemian Lion.

These are the documents I have seen, and these I want to list and describe.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BOHEMIA & MORAVIA and its Mail c'td

I should like to state explicitly that I am not writing about the Fieldpost of the Government Troops. I have not yet seen any Fieldpost items. In all probability, whilst the Government Troops were inside Bohemia & Moravia, soldiers were using the normal mail, but this I cannot say for certain. There must have been a Fieldpost service available to them when some of the battalions were stationed in northern Italy, but again, I have not seen documents, and this field of research I must leave open to others.

Let me return, though, to the official mail used by the Government Troops in Bohemia and Moravia. I have seen several covers, and all of them show the same style: official stamps affixed to the top right, a cachet of the unit at top left, the "Briefstempel" or mail cachet of the unit at bottom left, and additional cachets, like reference number (cachet), Registered (cachet) etc.

The "Briefstempel" cachet I have seen is the one issued to the 1st battalion of the Government Troops. It is circular, diameter 30 millimetres, bilingual, German text at top, Czech at bottom, and the Bohemian Lion in a 12 millimetre circle in the centre. The text of this cachet can be seen in the illustration. I have seen strikes in black, blue and red, depending on what stamping pad was available.

The unit cachets exist in two basic types: either just in Czech or bilingual, again German at top, Czech at bottom. It seems there was no definite policy in the use of these cachets. On some covers dated 1941 there is a cachet in Czech only, on later covers the cachet is bilingual, but once again, I have seen covers of 1944 with the cachet in Czech only. This means that they were just using the cachets available, without paying too much attention to the language side. The cachets are found in black, blue and red.

The cachets shown to me also have another cachet: "Cis. jedn.....", meaning reference number, and the details entered by hand. As the covers I have seen were sent by the quartermasters administration of the 1st Battalion the references relate to lists of supplies ordered, and their numbers.

Practically all these covers were registered, with a registration handstamp in Czech "DOPORUCENE!" and registration labels of post office Prague 55. The stamps used were the Protectorate officials of 1941 and 1943. The postal rate is mostly 3.80 Crowns made up of various values.

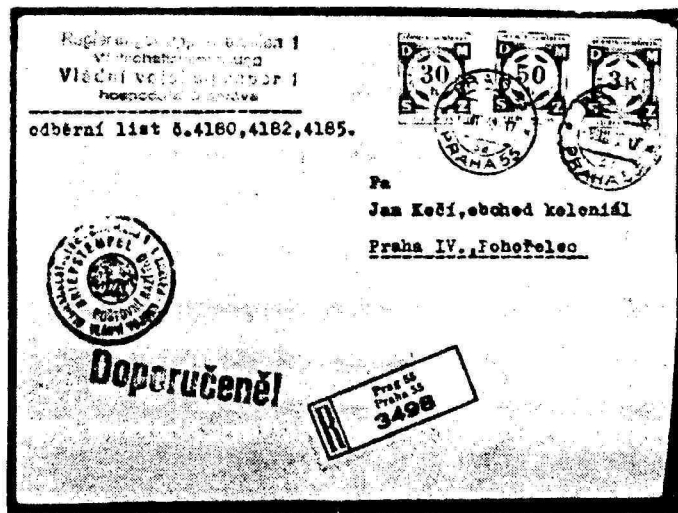
In addition to these official covers of the Protectorate Government Troops, I have also seen the right hand sections of money orders, with official stamps. These were handed to the recipient together with the money sent by post for his records. The ones I have seen were posted from various places in Bohemia and Moravia, and bear handstamps of various units of the Government Troops.



THE GOVERNMENT OF BOHEMIA & MORAVIA and its Mail c'td

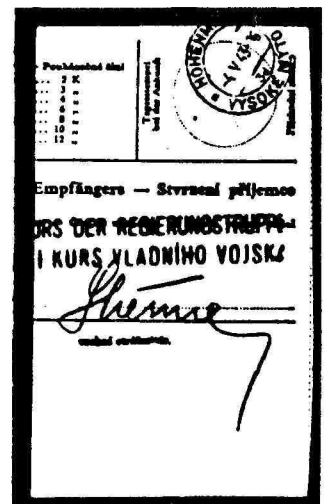
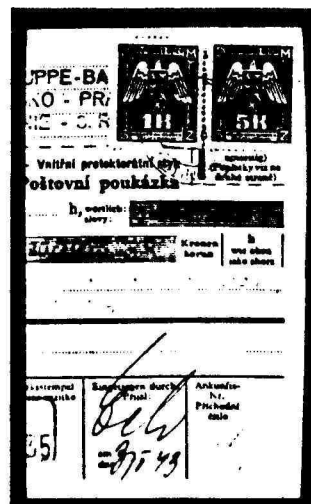
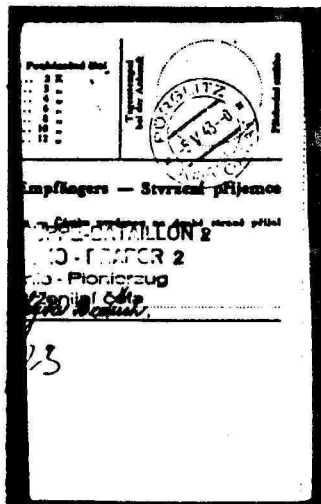
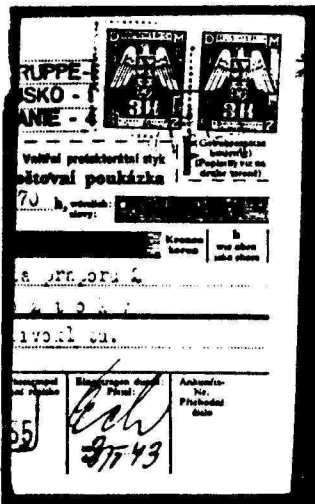
Unfortunately parts were cut off. I could make out the following bilingual cachets: 2nd Battalion, 4th Company on front with 2nd Battalion, Pioneer Platoon on back; 1st Battalion, 2nd Company on front with Support Company (Czech only) on back; 2nd Battalion, 3rd Company on front, and Driving Course of the Government Troops on back; 3rd Battalion, 4th Company on front with "Briefstempel" cachet of the 3rd Battalion on the back. The stamps used and the postal rates vary depending on the amounts of money sent.

As is evident from the above there must have been many more cachets of other companies and units of the Government Troops in use, but it appears that very few documents of this interesting field have survived. I shall be most interested to hear from other postal historians if they have come across more documents of the military mail of the Government Troops of the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia, and especially if they have found any fieldpost items of this forgotten army.



Part of money order with bilingual cachet of Battalion 2, Company 4 partly under stamps. On back cachet of Government Troops, Battalion 2, Pioneer Platoon in German and Czech, and arrival handstamp of Křivoklát.

Part of money order with bilingual cachet Government Troops, Battalion 2, Company 3 partly under stamps. On back bilingual cachet of Driving Course of the Government Troops at Vysoké Myto and arrival handstamps.



SUPPLEMENT to POFIS CATALOGUE of CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS: Translated by Alan Knight  
 Stamps issued during the first and second quarters of 1981. Prices in Cz Crowns

<u>Pofis No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Face</u>	<u>Mint</u>	<u>Used</u>
2467	Start to 7th Year Plan	00.50	00.50	00.30
2468	International Yr. Disabled People	01.00	01.00	00.50
2469	Postal Museum of CSSR	00.50	00.50	00.30
2470	Historical Postal Vans	01.00	01.00	00.50
2471	" "	03.60	25.00	03.60
2472	" "	05.00	05.00	02.50
2473	" "	07.00	07.00	03.50
2474	Personalities anniv-Jan Sverma	00.50	00.50	00.30
2475	" " M Schneider-Trnavsky	00.50	00.50	00.30
2476	" " J Hronec	00.50	00.50	00.30
2477	" " J Hlavka	00.50	00.50	00.30
2478	" " D Schostakovich	01.00	01.00	00.50
2479	" " G B Shaw	01.00	01.00	00.50
2480	" " B Bolzano	01.00	01.00	00.50
2481	" " W A Mozart	01.00	01.00	00.50

Kcs 1.00 is new basic rate for letters within CSSR and to all socialist countries

Kcs 0.50 is now basic rate for postcards within CSSR and to all socialist countries

2482	Intercosmos	06.00	13.50	13.50
2482TL	M/s 2 x No.2482		27.00	27.00
2483	16th Party Congress (KSC)	00.50	00.50	00.30
2484	" "	01.00	01.00	00.50
2485	60th Anniversary of Czech Communist Party	00.50	00.50	00.30
2486	" "	01.00	01.00	00.50
2487	" "	04.00	04.00	02.00
2488	90th Anniv of Museum of Agriculture	01.00	01.00	00.50
2489TL	M/s Day of Czechoslovak Stamp WIPA Exhib.		63.00	
2490	Elections	00.50	00.50	00.30
2491	Socialist Development	00.80	00.80	00.40
2492	" "	01.00	01.00	00.50
2493	" "	02.00	02.00	01.00
2494	Bratislava Historical	03.00	11.70	11.70
2495	Motifs	04.00	04.00	04.00

Third Quarter of 1981

2496 A	M/s Picasso Birth Centenary	10.00	22.50	22.50
2487	30th Anniv. Chrudim Puppets	02.00	02.00	01.00
2498	Frontier Protection	00.40	00.40	00.20
2499	30th Anniv. Civil Defence	00.50	00.50	00.30
2500	30th Anniv. "Svazarm"	01.00	01.00	00.50
2501	25 Years: Youth Climbing-Rysy:	03.60	03.60	01.80
2502	8th Biennale Exhibition of Childrens Book	00.50	00.50	00.30
2503	Illustrations in Bratislava BIB	01.00	01.00	00.50
2504	" "	02.00	02.00	01.00
2505	" "	04.00	04.00	02.00
2506	" "	10.00	31.90	10.00
2507	50th Jubilee of the Prague	00.50	00.50	00.30
2508	Zoological Gardens	01.00	01.00	00.50
2509	" "	07.00	17.60	07.00