

CZECHOUT

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EDITORIAL

With No.29 we complete another volume, and in the New Year we shall be issuing an Index which at present is being prepared by Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, to whom I am most grateful for taking on this task. It will be a cumulative index thus covering the previous volumes. I would also like to thank Alec Page for his kindly assistance in ensuring this (and our other printing work) goes through so smoothly.

Those of you who look at the Report of the AGM first will note a certain number of changes in the Officers - and I have a two-fold task in thanking firstly our President, Mrs Kay Goodman for her stewardship of the Society as Chairman. Kay succeeded Mr George Pearson in the chair at the AGM of 1976 and has performed this so ably; particularly with the large amount of other philatelic work she has been responsible for during these past years, and this does not include the many society displays, or looking after a home. Kay has brought to the Society an enthusiasm, and friendship, whilst the business of the society has been orderly with strong support given to her officers. Secondly I have to thank the Society for electing me to the office of Chairman, but I must say how much we appreciate all that Mr Cyril Wackett has done, during his years as Vice Chairman, supporting both George Pearson, and Kay Goodman, Cyril has always been willing to contribute in his quiet manner, to any task asked of him, and will continue to do so.

I am deeply conscious of the honour and trust you have passed on to me, and it was with some reflection that I accepted the nomination, after Cyril informed me due to business reasons he would not be going forward to the chair. I will try and do my best for the Society. With every blessing to you all for a happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Colin Spong
Chairman & Editor

SOCIETY MEETING on SATURDAY OCTOBER 2 at ROYSTON

The Chairman Mrs Kay Goodman welcomed 16 members to the Royston Community Centre and apologies were received from 12 members. The minutes of the previous meeting of June 26 were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Membership Approval was given to the applications received from -
Senor Juan E Page de la Vega (Spain), Mr George Siddle (Bedford) and Mr Roland Hollis (London).

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hollis and Mr J.Klein, who was en route to the States from the Netherlands, also Mr Siddle attending his first meeting.

Czechout The Editor stated that the notice for the AGM together with the Auction list would be despatched to members during October, and the next Czechout with the report of the AGM during December.

PRO & EXCHANGE PACKETS Colin Smith reported that details of the meetings had

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been circulated to the philatelic press. He apologised for not being present at this meeting and thanked the Secretary for reading his report, in his absence the meeting authorised his appointment as Packet Secretary which would be ratified at the AGM. He had sufficient material to start 2 packets which would be despatched in the near future. Draft rules had been vetted by Mrs Y.Wheatley, subject to minor adjustments. Authority was given to open a bank account for the Packet, with two signatories (Messrs C.Smith & W.A.Page).

HENDON 82 The Chairman stated that the Society was participating in the British Aerophilatelic Federation's Exhibition at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon on October 23/4. We had been allocated four frames and there would be a composite display in the name of the Society.

POSTAL AUCTION As mentioned above, the Auction List would be prepared for despatch with the AGM notice. The auction was being looked after by Messrs Cyril Wackett and Robert Kingsley, and the bids to be in by November 30.

MONOGRAFIE Alec Page stated he had a number of the new Monografie No 2 with him for members to purchase, and that a Supplement was in preparation for No 1, and should be ready early in the New Year. Any members having additional data were asked to communicate with him as soon as possible.

GEORGE PEARSON TROPHY Brian Parker & Reg Hounsell reported that they hoped to present the rules for ratification at the AGM, and the first entries to take place at the January meeting.

DISPLAY BY MEMBERS

The following members displayed material:-

Brian Parker	Prague cancellations pre-1918
Irene Galloway	Czech Queries
Robert McLeod	Miscellaneous Czech
Ernst Gorge	Srouber & Scout issues
Brian Day	Airmails & Czech Forces in GB
Yvonne Gren	Prague Castles
Fred Gren	Czech Cities - Postcards & View Cards
Alec Page	Czech Forerunners.
Yvonne Wheatley	Allegories
Reg Hounsell	Mixture of Czech Postcards & Stamps
Kay Goodman	Czech Forces in Siberia & a Pot Pourri

The Vice Chairman, Cyril Wackett on behalf of those not displaying expressed appreciation to those who had presented a varied and interesting range of material.

After completion of the displays, Mrs Hounsell and Mrs Parker provided an excellent buffet for members, and a sincere vote of thanks was expressed to them on behalf of all members present, as well as also to Reg Hounsell and Brian Parker for making all the arrangements for this very successful meeting.

Robert Kingsley
Hon. Secretary

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

The September issue of STAMP MAGAZINE has an article entitled "A History of Czechoslovakia by H Aubrey Rowe" on pages 52-56. Whilst the ESSAY PROOF JOURNAL (USA) No 154, 1982 on pp 82-89 has an interesting paper entitled "Contemporary Czech Engravings/Reproductions by Barbara Mueller (Philatelic/Syngraphic Souvenirs) of the stamp & bank notes of J.Schmidt, B.Fojtasek, K.Svolinsky, J.Hracek, M.Svabinsky and F.Schirnbock. Compiled from the 1981-15th Meeting Czech Numismatic Society attended by Messrs Schmidt and Fojtasek.

JINDRA SCHMIDT - FATHER OF CZECH ENGRAVERS: by Alan J. Knight

Some time ago I came by a copy of a popular Czechoslovak magazine entitled "*Kvety*" and within its pages found a most enlightening article on the life of the "*Nestor of Czech Engravers.*" I have now been able to obtain an English translation of this article and present it, hopefully, in the belief that collectors of Czechoslovak stamps, whether they be members of our society or not, will learn a little more about the engraver of some of the most sought-after postage stamps of Czechoslovakia. First, however, I must pay respects to the copyright-owners - "*Rude Pravo*" of Prague. Here is a free translation of the "*Kvety*" article.

When somebody is in his eighties and he is an honoured and respected man, the newspaperman feels some sort of stage-fright: How to appreciate in plain journalistic language an unusual life, long and fruitful, full of concentrated hard work, beauty and a sheer joy of art? However, you do not feel at all shy when talking with Jindra Schmidt. He does not look his age, more like his mid-sixties, maybe. Neither does he look like an artist but more like a pleasant, smooth-shaven and bespectacled bank-clerk. As if I heard him saying ".....a bank-clerk?" "Well, I can't take offence at that because I worked with the National Bank for 33 years - and engraved during that time. I cannot remember how much I engraved.....". It is not important... but HOW he engraved is. He started on bank-notes and it must have been a successful start, for even today, the State Bank of Czechoslovakia still considers Schmidt's copper-engravings to be amongst the world's best. Examples of this are his Petr Brandl, a portrait on an old five-hundred note, Petr Parler on a one-thousand note and Prince Wencelas on a five-thousand note, all ranking amongst the highest acclaimed note-engravings anywhere in the world, even by the then American standard, considered the world's finest at that time.

The life of Jindra Schmidt is divided into long, quiet periods. For more than sixty years he has been working with an etching needle and a magnifying glass in hand, amidst precision, but also tenderness and beauty of the engraving art. Time passes over him without leaving many marks. His face is wrinkle-free, smiling and solid. There is peace in it.

How did it all begin?

"The same way as other people - I was born! That was three years before the end of the nineteenth century. My father had a goldsmith's shop in Prague, Na porici, where the E.F. Burian Theatre is today: but I lost my parents by the time I was only three. When I finished school and began to wonder about what work I should do, I decided I would like to become a painter. My elder brother Leopold had been attracted by art - he was a sculptor."

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The fourteen-years-old boy however had to obey his guardian, a matter-of-fact uncle, who maintained that being an artist was a risky business. "He decided I should first of all learn a Trade." Luckily an aunt from Vienna came to visit the Schmidt's at that time. She listened to the boy's desires and decided he should become a skilled wood-engraver at the shop of her son-in-law. "It is something like being a painter" she said, "You will have a trade and, at the same time, be close to art". "It was strange....." The man with the magnifier in his eye was lost in thought. "It was the very first and the last time I ever saw that aunt of mine, yet still she was resolute in her wishes for my future way of life".

And so he started work in the workshop of Karel Kubelka in Vinohrady and for the next four years learned the art of wood-engraving and attended evening classes in Drawing under Professor Dvorak and Professor Hofbauer at the School of Applied Arts. Later, he added private classes with landscape painter Karel Klar and portrait painter Rudolf Vacha. Before the end of World War 1, in 1918 young Schmidt obtained a job in the "National Politics" printing and publishing house in Parague's Wenceslas Square. "It was there that I engraved my very first postage stamp" he remembers. "It was just after the revolutionary changes in the country and I was twenty-one. On the impulse of director Geistlich I made an engraving in wood in two sizes; I still have a few trial prints left as memories.....there was the silhouette of Hradcany with the rising sun".

However, it took all of the next twenty years before Jindra Schmidt returned to making stamps. The workers of the National Bank sought him in the Printing House and, in 1939, he was offered the job of Head of the Engraving-galvanoplastic Department of the Bank. He accepted this offer and remained there for more than thirty years, till he retired. Retirement however is rather strange and vague term for Jindra Schmidt. He worked four years past his retirement age and retired.... in fact, only to engage full-time in stamp engraving!

"It was at the time I was doing Svabinsky's Butterflies. It was then that I said to myself I could not do this only in the evenings as I just had to give my whole self to it."

"How many stamps have you actually engraved" ? I asked. "Well, I can't give you an exact number but the other day I had a visit from a stamp collector and he told me it was something over eight hundred. He had probably counted also the stamps I have engraved for foreign countries like Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Albania, Iraq and possibly some of my First Day Covers engravings."

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Schmidt's great love for stamps based on the drawings of Max Svabinsky.....a lovely colour series of butterflies. Poet and Muse, and a number of national personalities such as Palacky, Rieger, Svatopluk Cech, Josef Hora, Hana Kvapilova, Havlicek, Nemcova, Komansky, Ondricek..... It is a great pity that Svabinsky could not finish another series of colour-stamps: after Butterflies should have come Beetles. Unfortunately this work remained in sketch and was not realised. Later, and alone, I finished it for him!" He looked into space"It still has not come out.... yet."

Svabinsky and Schmidt were very close to each other in both a long period of working co-operation and as friends in the personal sense. Schmidt collected his memories of Svabinsky in a small book of talks, intimate observations and reflections. Schmidt celebrated the Hundredth Anniversary of his departed friend's birth by engraving the splendid drawing's of Svabinsky's woodcuts: John the Baptist, Noon in August, Union of Souls, Paradise Sonata, Doomsday and Bouquet.

"Once", remembers Schmidt, "Professor Svabinsky and I discussed the proposed size of a stamp of Komensky. In the end there was a mix-up and the Professor drew Komensky two-and-a-half centimetres short. When working on the details of the drawing, I quietly added a part of a coat below the portrait of the Teacher of Nations. When I later showed the drawings to Svabinsky, I said nothing about this. I waited for him to notice the alteration...but he didn't. So, I just had to own up. The Professor looked at the drawing again...'You rascal!.. but you've made a good job of it!' This Komensky of your's is even more majestic now."

The keen eyes of the old engraver are glistening with joy, interest in Life.... and his beloved memories of the past. The little table with etching needles and a magnifying glass is heaped with work, drawings and partly engraved steel plates..... Retirement ??



Jindra Schmidt's engraving of Svabinsky's design for the First Day Cover of the 1959 "Tenth Anniversary of the 'World Peace Movement' stamp(F.Joliot-Curie)" Pofis #1049 SG# 1088. Both mens' initials are shown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Member Bob Bradford has settled in at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and reports that the ARAMCO area does have a 'local' philatelic society - the Arabian PS mainly concerned with the stamps of Saudi Arabia, but there is one lady who collects Czechoslovakia so there is a connection for swapping material! or perhaps an article?

The British Aerophilatelic Federation Exhibition at RAF Museum Hendon produced a group display from the CPS ably organised by John Whiteside. The four frames that were allocated contained material from the following members:-

Roy Dehn FRPSL: Overprint provisionals 11.8.1920, including plate proofs, surcharge error 28kc; perforation varieties on 14.9.20 issues (line perf. 13 $\frac{3}{4}$, comb perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$)

Kay Goodman FRPSL: The 1st Airmail issue; including an interesting section of covers from Praha to London, Strasbourg and Paris.

Reg Hounsell: Airmails 1939-40. The 1930 issue of 16.12.30 with plate varieties, with a nice cover to Sutton Coldfield dated 16.12.30 were noted.

John Whiteside FRPSL: A composite display showing the 'Use of the First Airmail Issue' with covers demonstrating the development of the Czech Air services. An extremely fine display well written-up.

Colin Smith sent in a report covering the recent Germania Posta IX held at Watford on 16.10.1982.

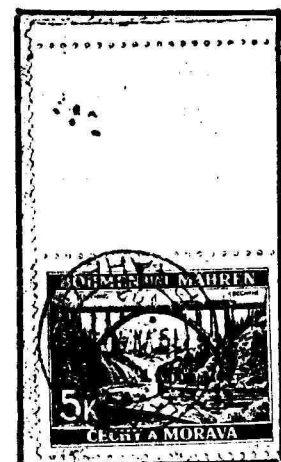
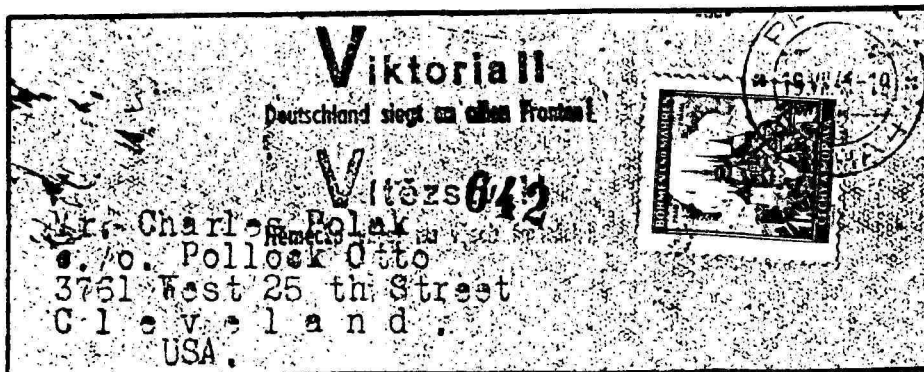
John Whiteside obtained a SILVER for entries on DANZIG: 1886-1900 and HAMBURG prio 1867.
Colin Smith obtained a SILVER for entry covering the Occupation of Czechoslovakia, whilst Roy Sawyer who has attended our meetings obtained a Bronze for The Occupation of Austria, & a Certificate of Participation for The 1972 Olympic Games.

Mr M. Mirtl states that the Pofis 2520 sheet of which Alan Knight mentions having 2 formats, that these were a sheet of eight (counter sheet) for Pofis 2519, and a miniature sheet of four for Pofis 2520.

Mrs Yvonne Wheatley has two copies of the latest POFIS for sale at £4.50 (including postage) each - write 28 Rockingham Road, LEEDS LS15 8UL.

Congratulations to the SCP USA for their new Index covering the issues of the Czechoslovak Specialist 1964-1980: Vols. 26-42. This is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr William Reiner-Deutsch, who was editor during the late 50-60's. Mrs Henry Stollnitz and Mrs Anne Vondra have produced a most valuable publication.

A query has been received from Ian J. Bagnall of 117 Warburton Road, Canford Heath, POOLE, Dorset BH17 7SD re a cover he has recently purchased - perhaps one of our czech speaking members can supply the answer (via the Editor).



A cover from Prague dated 19 VII 41 - 19 PRAG 4/PRAHA 4/28

Cachet applied in red German/Czech VIKTORIA II Deutschland siegtFronten I VITEZSTV II Nemecko vna vFron....I

Mr Bagnall would be grateful for a translation of the cachet. The cover is franked by stamps of the Protectorate, two of which are missing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS c'td

John Whiteside kindly confirms my answer to Alan Knight re 1968 3Kcs 'Madonna & Child' SG: 1794 in the Church of St. James in Levoca.

The name of the Church at Levoca in Czech is Svaty Jakub, this is shown on the stamp and is also shown in the Cedok Guide, 1928; by Kral. Translated into English - St James, the latin name Jacobus became James in English, but the root survives in the adjectives Jacobean and Jacobite. The name Jacob of course from the same root, survives in English in a Hebraic context i.e. Old Testament, as compared to James as found i.e. New Testament context. A similar dichotomy exists also in Italian & Spanish, for example the Italian Giacomo and Jacopo. In German and other North European languages and also in the Slavonic languages, no such double derivation exists. In German - Jakob = James or Jacob, but in a Christian religious context Jakobkirch: St James Church. Similarly Jakub in Czech and Yakov in Russian = James.

Robert Kingsley recently translated a RAF Leaflet for Mr Robert Holdeman, who has agreed that we may publish this translation which was made for his Bank Manager who is a collector of Militaria. The Royal Air Force dropped this leaflet over Prague during World War 2.

VELKÁ BRITÁNIE ČESKÉMU NÁRODU

ČECHOVÉ!

Demokratické národy celého světa sledují s obdivem a sympatiemi váš skvělý boj proti útisku. Ohavné činy nacistických násilníků a zvláště obědy, která se jmenuje Karel Herrmann Frank, vzbudily rozbouření celého civilisovaného světa.

Buďte trpěliví! Nedejte se vyprovokovati k předčasnému krveprolití.

Dokázali jste nám, jako již tolikrát v minulosti, že váš duch je nepřemožitelný.

Naše společné suctování s naším společným nepřitelem, kterým jsou brutální Hitlerovi pomocníci, již přichází. Právo je na straně svobodných národů a váš národ bude brzy opět mezi svobodnými národy. Důvěřujte nám; jsme s vámi právě tak jako jsme s vámi byli před dvaceti pěti lety.

PRAVDA ZVÍTĚZÍ.

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FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO THE CZECH PEOPLE

CZECHS!

All the democratic countries of the world follow with admiration and sympathy your excellent fight against oppression. The monstrous deeds of the Nazi tyrants and especially of one monster by the name of Karel Herrman Frank have roused the indignation of the entire civilised world.

Be patient. Do not allow yourselves to be provoked to a premature spilling of blood.

You have shown us, as indeed you have many times in the past that your spirit cannot be broken.

The time of reckoning with our mutual enemy, which is what Hitler's brutal associates are, approaches. Right is on the side of free nations and your country will soon again be amongst those free nations. Trust us; we are with you just as we were 25 years ago.

TRUTH WILL PREVAIL.

We are delighted that Robert is still with us on the Committee as Hon. Treasurer, and Ernst Gorge can enjoy a little relaxation as a committee member - they deserve our sincere thanks for the many years of service to the Society as joint Sec/Treas; The Society's good wishes go out to Yvonne Gren has she picks up the secretarial pen!

CZECH DRUZINA AND SQUAD "NAZDAR" by George E. Connolly

Commemorative stamps were issued for the Twentieth Anniversary of the establishing of the first army unit for the foreign struggle in 1914 in France and in Russia. Stamps were issued by the Czech volunteers in Russia....The Czech Druzina... (Circle of Old Companions) who started the fight in the First World War against the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Germany. The four stamps were issued in the values of 50h, 1kc, 2kc and 3kc and were pencil drawn by the academic painter Vaclav Fiala from different subjects, partly from photographs of that time and partly from his own ideas. Even though the designer used a photograph as a model he changed the scene according to his own ideas and completed the frames and lower part of the stamp picture with suitable stylish adjustments. For the higher value he used a symbolic drawing of three Czech volunteers in the uniforms of France, Russia and Serbia. Although all these models were created as pencil drawings, the engravings were successfully carried out by Karel Seizinger.

The stamps were announced in a special bulletin, in a festive arrangement - white paper, black and red print frames - including the pictures of the four stamps by provision: No 34/1934 VMPT No 30 issued on August 11, 1934. The Bulletin was called *"Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Origin of Czechoslovak Military Forces, Issue of Commemorative Postage Stamp of Czech Druzina and Squad "Nazdar" 1914-1934.*

The 50h stamps show the memorable events of the festive oath and blessing of the standard of a Czech company in the then Sophia Square in Kiev on Saint Nicholas Day, September 28, 1914 (Russian Calendar). According to our calendar that was on October 11, 1914. The 50h stamp speaks not of the idea of freedom for an oppressed people through the democracy of the West, but of the Russian-Pan-Slav ideal! and it was hoped by the Czechs that one or more of the lesser Grand Dukes might one day occupy a seat on the throne of Prague. It pleased the Czechs to set up Russia as the Father of all Slav peoples! Here in Kiev the exiled Czechs gathered and dreamed of a new lustre for the Throne of Saint Wencelas. The Standard is held by Standard Bearer Hejuk - his story is told under the 2kc value. To the right of the banner is Lt. Colonel Sezontovic, and at the left is Legionnaire J.J.Svec, who later rose to the rank of Colonel. Kissing the banner is 2nd Lieutenant Vladimir Klecanda, who later became Staff Commander of the Legion. At his right is 2nd Lieutenant Cecek who eventually became Commander in the Far East and rose to the rank of Colonel. The Ecclesiastical Dignitaries are dressed in the robes of the Greek (Russian) Orthodox Church, one a Bishop and the others lesser clergy, but their names are not known. The inscription on the stamps is "PRISAHA A POSVECENI PRAPORU CESKE DRUZINY" V KEJEVE" (Taking the Oath and Consecration of the Czech "Druzina" in Kiev). What does Druziny mean? The word

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is known to us from the oldest Russian chronicles and signifies the followers of the sovereign. Thus it was also understood in medieval Czech. Brandl in his glossary (BRNO 1876) gives the following definition: Druzina - followers of the Barnerets, the chivalrous Knights from the more distinguished of the 'Celed' and usually with the addition 'dobra'. (Celed means the common house-retainer, dobra properly speaking, means 'good'; but in medieval Czech is translated as Noble). Therefore in Bohemia, Druh was handed down as an expression for the lower followers of the nobility, and means a sort of bodyguard of the Sovereign. The Czech troops in Kiev were given the name Druzina in 1914 because they were viewed as the basis of a bodyguard for the future Czech king.

The 1kc stamp shows the Festive Oath of the Czech Volunteers of the Squad 'Nazdar' which took place on October 12, 1914 on the army exercise grounds in Bayonne. The flag or standard a gift from the ladies of Bayonne to the Legion contains the double tailed Lion of Bohemia and is held by Standard Bearer, Karel Bezdicek. At the left of the standard are seen the troops taking the oath. In front of the standard in the uniform of the French Foreign Legion - S. Svoboda reads the oath. At the right, beside the flag stand two French Officers - Commander of the Troops, Salle, and Lieutenant Chapoulet. Among the group of civilian guests is Professor Ernest Denis, a teacher of Bohemian History at the Sorbonne, and a very good friend of Czechoslovakia. These Czech volunteers were formed from the Czechs and Slovaks who were resident in France at the start of the war. The original strength of the Nazdar company was 350 soldiers and it served and fought as part of the French Foreign Legion. In the background of the picture is Bayonne Cathedral with a cluster of trees and part of the fortifications. In the top part of the stamp are the words "PRISAHA ROTY NAZDAR V BAYONNE" which translates as 'Administering the Oath to the Nazdar Company in Bayonne' Nazdar is a customary form of greeting among Czechs (Roughly translated it means 'Hurrah').

The 2kc stamp shows the standard of the Czech Druzina presented by the Moscow Czechs and held by Legionnaire Standard Bearer Jaroslav Hejduk. The flag consisted of the Czech colours and the Crown of St Wencelas, and also the emblems of the four Czech lands. On the left of the standard a red heart (shield) within it a crowned lion, the emblem of Bohemia, below it on the right, a black eagle on gold, the emblem of Silesia. In the centre of the flag the crown of St Wencelas. On the right of the flag at the top a silver patriarchal cross on a blue three peaked mountain and a red background, the emblem of Slovakia, below this on the left, a reddish-silver eagle with wings outspread on blue, the emblem of Moravia. At the top of the flag was, (as was the custom in Russia at that time) the Russian Eagle. Later copies of the standard had the Sokol Falcon on the top of the standard instead of the Russian eagle. Jaroslav Hejduk, the grey-bearded standard bearer was also the outstanding personality among the Czechs in Russia, and was not only the first to volunteer, but carried the flag for three years with honour and

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distinction. After the Russian Revolution of 1917 he proceeded to Novorossijako to recruit Czech volunteers for Kornilov's Army (White Russians). At Tuapse he died suddenly in 1917. The inscription on the banner reads PRAPOR CESKE DRUZINY (The Flag of the Czech Legion.)

The 3kc stamp shows three allegoric figures of Czechoslovak volunteers - the first in the uniform of the French Foreign Legion, the second in the uniform of a Russian infantryman, and the third as a Serbian volunteer. Above them the names - France, Russia and Serbia with the dates 1914-1918. The frame of the stamps are ribbed and trimmed with the tricolour. In the top part is a sign CZECHOSLOVENSKO drawn in white letters on all stamps. On the 50h and 1Kc, in the top corner are the years 1914 on the left, and 1934 on the right. In the bottom corner is a coloured label containing a value digit and a twig of laurel. On the bottom part of the picture lies a sword with a laurel twig and a small emblem of the republic. On the 2kc and 3kc the bottom part consists of a coloured label with the value digit on the left side, the word Koruny in white letters, a Laurel twig and in the right hand side an upright lion in a small coloured label.

These stamps were demonitized on February 29, 1937 bu No 8/1937 VMPT No.6 and were valid until March 15, 1937. The stamps were printed at the Unity Graphies Printing Works, Prague in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) 1 and 1A by the rotary method. The most important details about the stamps are shown in the following table:

Value	Colour	Area of Picture	Printing Technique	Perforation	Number of stamps(1000)	First Day of Issue
50h	Green	39.5 x 19.5	Rotary	Line 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	21,191	August 15, 1934
1Kc	Red	39.1 x 19.5	Press	"	19,226	"
2Kc	Blue	20 x 39		"	5,151	"
3Kc	Light Brown			"	21,191	"

On October 22, 1934 and for some time thereafter, the post office used a machine cancellation, Its central section showed the postmark date, to the left is a French helmet and laurel branch, and the inscription "20 Vyroci csl. armady 1914-1934 (20th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Army Day 1914-1934). To the right is a Russian Military cap, and the words "Ceske Druzina, Rota Nazdar 1914-1934 (Czech Circle of Old Companions, Hurrah Company 1914-1934) fig.1.

On October 28, 1934, a round double circle postmark in gold was applied by the post office at Prague Hrad (Presidential residence) with the legend "20 Vyroci zalozeni csl. armady 1914 - 1934 (20th Anniversary of the foundation of the Czechoslovak Army 1914-1934). fig.2.

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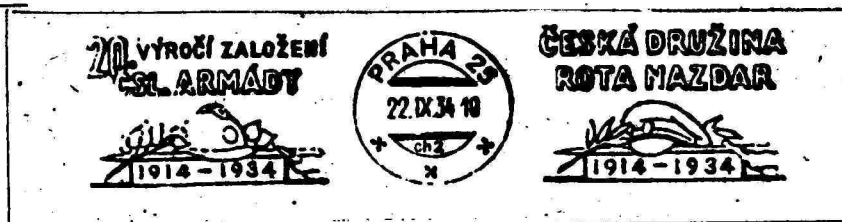


fig. 1

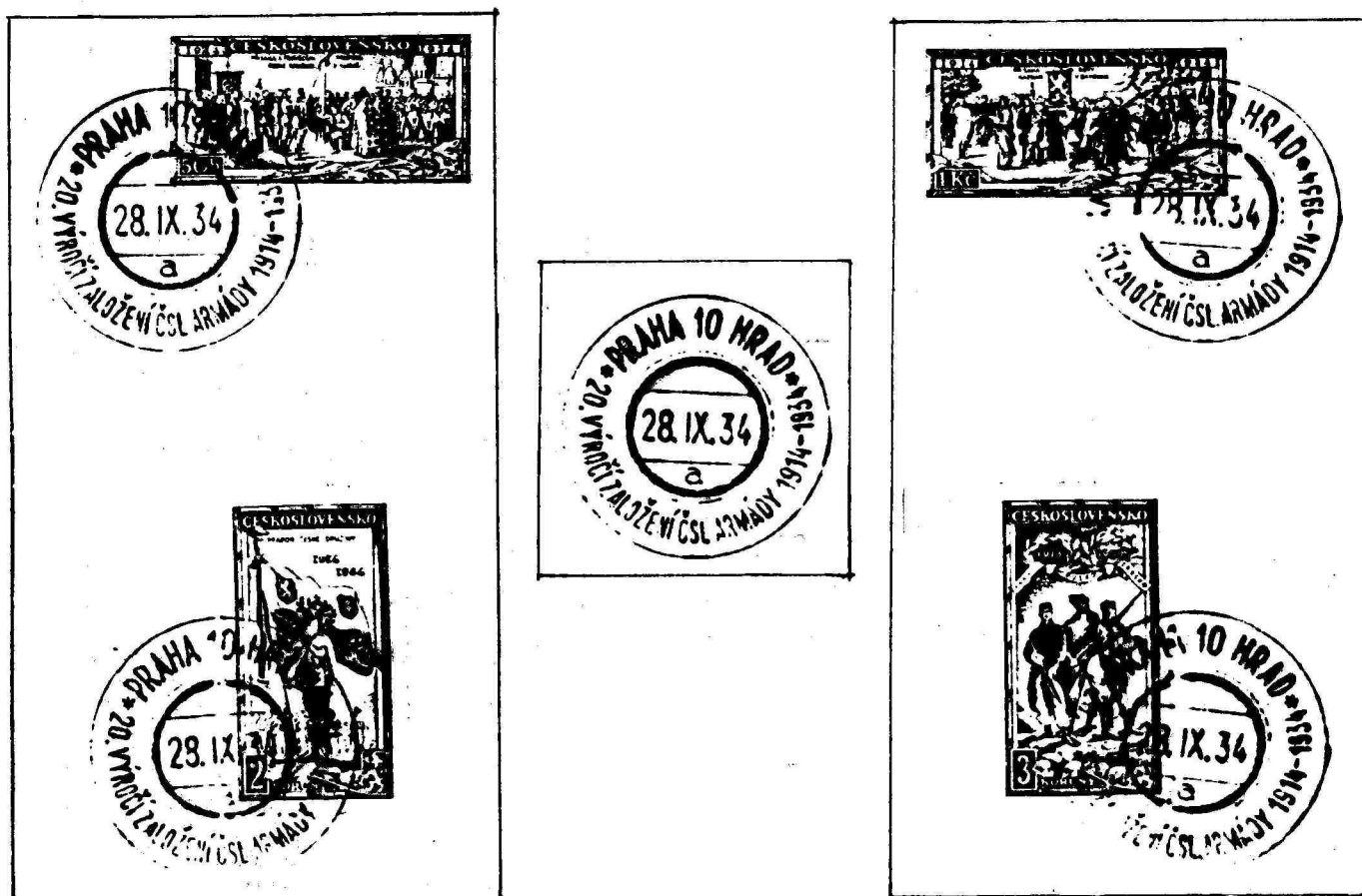


fig. 2

From July 7, to July 9, 1935 the post office Prague Hrad (Presidential residence), cancelled mail with a blue double circle postmark bearing the legend "III Manifestanci Sjezd csl. Legionaru" (Third National Convention of the Czechoslovak Legion.)

REFERENCES

- Monografie Ceskoslovenskych Znamek, Part 3, pages 206-212, 1923-1939; Ing. J. Karasek, F. Zempach & Professor J. Papousek. Prague 1979.*
- The Legion Stamps (1934) by W.L. Russel. The Czechoslovak Specialist, Vol. 5 No. 1; 1943.*
- Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia. J.W. Lowey. The Czechoslovak Specialist, Vol. 6 No. 10; 1944.*
- I would like to express my thanks to Jay T. Carrigan, Librarian of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc., for sending me photocopies of the articles from the Czechoslovak Specialist. GEC.*

THE CHOICE IS YOURS: For several years now, WHO (World Health Organisation) has conducted a vigorous campaign aimed at propagating information concerning the dangers to the human body resulting from smoking.

Several countries have joined in this campaign by issuing postage stamps on this theme and Czechoslovakia issued its own stamp: (POFIS 2215-SG 2301) in 1976, of which there appeared 1,452 copies. Now the second of such stamps has been issued by the CSSR on October 27, 1981.

Even as a veteran pipe-smoker I was deeply impressed by the stark, persuasive nature of the design of not only the stamp but also the accompanying two coupons incorporated into the printed sheet. It is a pity these coupons were not attached to every stamp for regretfully only two coupons are included in the eight stamp sheet.

These sheets were designed by a committed non-smoker - National Artist - Professor Karel Svoboda and engraved by Bedrich Housa.

The sheet carries the inscription WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION in four languages: Czech and English at the top margin, and French and Russian at the bottom. Note the spelling of ORGANISATION in the English version, something likely to cause pedantic argument, I'm sure! The side margins contain the logo's of UNO (left) and WHO (right).

The stamp itself depicts what appears to be a skinny Hand of Death proffering an unlit cigarette to the eager, pouting lips of an apparently healthy face above which is the inscription in Czech "Fight against Smoking". By complete contrast the bottom coupon shows an extremely emaciated face, with tight lips grasping a burning cigarette surrounded by a much larger inscription (as in stamp) but very shakily written and almost indecipherable within the curling smoke from the cigarette. The coupon in the upper portion of the sheet shows a burning cigarette being pierced by an arrow-head and the same inscription which is a little easier to read..... but the human face is no longer present!

I find this stamp and the coupons impelling, thought-provoking and poignant in the extreme - a very worthy contribution by Czechoslovakia's Postal Authority to the support by the World Health Organisation. Its story is simple, yet stark - THE CHOICE IS YOUR'S.....

