

CZECHOUT

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EDITORIAL

Members will find enclosed with this Quarterly Edition copies of a 'Draft' Constitution and Library Regulations, together with the notification of the next Society Meeting to be held in Leeds, and the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting that will take place in November. Members will also note that they are kindly asked to reply to certain requests from the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Auction Secretary, and the Organiser for the Leeds Meeting. We sincerely trust that Members will do their best to support these requests as soon as possible.

Colin Spong
Chairman.

SOCIETY MEETING ON SATURDAY June 25, 1983

The Chairman welcomed 16 members to the Adult Education Centre in Worthing, on a pleasant sunny day. Apologies had been received from 9 members.

Library

Mr Charles Stirton had brought to the meeting copies of the two volumes of Czech Monograph 16, it was agreed to purchase these for the Society and Mr Stirton was thanked from the Chair for making these available to the Library.

Membership

Applications from Mr G.H. Cawser (Burton-on-Trent) and Mr F.W. King (Consett) were approved.

The Chairman presented certificates to the successful candidates who took part in the George Pearson and Francis Pettitt Competitions in 1982 and 1983.

Display

Reg Hounsell and John Whiteside then gave a magnificent display and included a comprehensive history of the use of stamps and covers, and the development of companies forming the Air Post of Czechoslovakia during the period up to 1945.

Mrs D Yvonne Gren
Hon. Secretary.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

The January/March issue of the Stamp Lover contained an article by O.J. Simpson FRPSL on "Colourful Czech Cancells, 1940-1941." (Vol.75 No. 1; pp.10-13.) In the Second Quarter, 1983 issue of Philatelic Literature Review (USA); there is a critical and constructive review of Monograph No. 2 (PLR 32:2/119-20.) We thank Mr C.J. Peterson for his kind remarks re our Society Journal.

"HOW IT ALL BEGAN" by W.A. Page FRPSL

The story of the setting up of the Czechoslovak Field Post Office in Great Britain, as graphically recounted by it's first Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel Oldrich Vecerek, in correspondence with the author.

In the early days (1940) use of the specially prepared commemorative cancellations to cancel British stamps was not permitted and the mail for the Czechoslovak forces in Great Britain was handled through the civilian post offices.

The attempt to gain permission for a fully authorised Czechoslovak Post Office, then the only one in the free world is described from day one.

In Colonel Vecerek's own words "I started the Field Post Office with empty hands without any equipment." Within a few days the sorting boxes had been made up and assembled on army trestle tables, covered by French army blue blankets. These were not required since the army was without horses and soon became fully motorised! The walls of the office (described as dirty) were likewise hung with the horse blankets and decorated with pin-ups (photographs).

Later goes on Colonel Vecerek "I made 36 Post Boxes from metal biscuit boxes." "I ordered and paid for a rubber canceller with the inscriptions in Czech and English with moveable date segments." "And we started work."

The request for the right to use this canceller over British stamps was turned down and General Miroslav (Commander in Chief, Czech Forces in Great Britain) was critical of the Colonel in his requests for the 'impossible.'

It was nearly another year before the situation was resolved, with assistance from Colonel Pollock who was at that time Chief of the Liaison Mission. Within a matter of days Colonel Vecerek was sent to Kidderminster, to the 16th Division, which was preparing for overseas duty, to study the civilian postal activities and also the switch to the Military Field Post Office, including the organising of the equipment of the postal unit. He was also able to study the duties of the Postmaster.

The visit coincided with the issue of a Security Order No. 100 requesting help in finding out sources of leakages of information on locations of Allied Armies in England and the disclosure of their embarkation movements. Colonel Vecerek prepared his own report, including the use of Field Post Office numbers which was sent to the War Office.

"In four days time I was called to Chester (Western Command) where I met with three high ranking officers and Major Aidy, the Postmaster for Western Command." 'At 1800 hours I received from the War Office long teleprints - immediately stop using of civilian cancellers over stamps on outgoing mail from Czechoslovak soldiers and obligatory is the rubber stamp of the Czechoslovak Fieldpost with bilingual inscription.' "Registered mail will use the larger English label with Czech and

HOW IT ALL BEGAN c'td

English inscriptions" (see Monograph 1 Fig. 50).

Also included were detailed instructions on how to obtain supplies of the necessary items.

Colonel Vecerek returned to Leamington Spa late on 27th May 1941 and immediately wrote a congratulatory message to President Benes for his birthday (28th May) for inclusion in the Czechoslovak Daily Paper - Nase Noviny - Our News. (Mono: Supplement P.62) telling him that from his birthday that all mail going out from the Czechoslovak Field Post Office would be stamped with a bilingual cancellation over British stamps "by kind permission of H.M. King George VI" (see Monograph 1. Fig. 41). Mail was also to be stamped alongside with the festival canceller prepared for use on that day. (Monograph 1. Fig. 31).

"In the office I prepared the letters for the President, Postmaster General, Minister of National Defence (General Ingr), Colonel Pollock, General Miroslav, and myself." "The registered labels have had the numbers 1 - 6."

By the time General Miroslav had received his letter, the official instruction from the War Office to use the bilingual canceller had not reached the Czech Commander in Chief, or Colonel Pollock. (In fact the copy of the War Office instruction was in Colonel Pollock's letter - still unopened!).

What followed, was one gathers, a rather heated exchange with the sending for Colonel Vecerek to appear before General Miroslav and Colonel Pollock to explain an apparent disregard for orders. However, short-lived, and followed by congratulations all round.

(Colonel Vecerek, although appointed Officer Commanding the Czechoslovak Field Post Office in Great Britain was in fact an Artillery Officer.)

CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHT No 12 by Alan J Knight

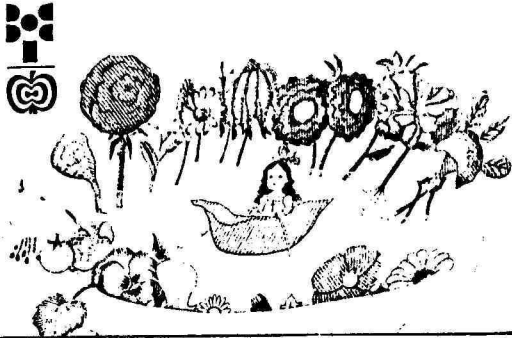
WHAT IS BIB? It's one of millions of abbreviations nowadays used quite commonly in the world; - few organisations these days are known by their full nomenclature but simply by an abbreviated form - BIB is one of these.

It represents the unspoilt world of children's dreams and fantasies. Every other year an International Exhibition of Children's Books Illustrations is held in the Slovak capital - Bratislava. It exposes to the thousands of visitors the magical world of fairy tales and other stories belonging to children and intended for their shiny, wondering eyes. The best entry is awarded a Grand Prix and 'Golden Apples' for the five runners-up.

The 8th Bienale of Illustrations took place in September and October 1981, attracting almost two-and-a-half thousand exhibits. The winner for this Exhibition was Als Roald from Denmark.

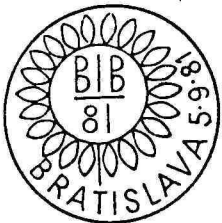
WHAT IS BIB? c'td

BIB 1981 BIENÁLE ILUSTRÁCIÍ BRATISLAVA
 BIENNALE OF ILLUSTRATIONS BRATISLAVA
 BIENNALE D'ILLUSTRATIONS DE BRATISLAVA
 BIENNALE DER ILLUSTRATIONEN BRATISLAVA
 BIENAL DE ILUSTRACIONES DE BRATISLAVA
 БЪЕНАЛЕ ИЛЛЮСТРАЦИИ БРАТИСЛАВА



Since 1971 the Czechoslovak Postal Authority has issued commemorative stamps of these exhibitions carrying the BIB motif and reproductions of the best entries. Thus it was that on September 5, 1981 a further such set was issued in Prague reproducing selected pictures from previous exhibitions which have appeared in children's books in various parts of the world. (See POFIS Nos. 2502-2506.)

The engravers were Josef Hercik, Bedrich Housa, Ladislav Jirka, Milos Ondracek and Jindra Schmidt (the last being the "Father" of Czechoslovak engravers of stamps, still active at over 80 years of age!). Illustrations were by Albin Brumovsky (50h) from CSSR; Adolf Born (1Kcs) also of CSSR; Vive Tolli (2kcs) from USSR; Etienne Delessert (4Kcs) of Switzerland and Suekichi Akaba (10Kcs) from Japan (one of those 'elusive ones'



referred to in one articles).



of my earlier

All the stamps, Arrangements by Svab, were printed

with Graphical Professor Jaroslav by TUS, Prague by



Rotary recess process combined with three-colour photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. Picture size 30 x 23 mm (50 hal. vertical.)

Simultaneously three official FDC's appeared with illustrations by Marlenka Stupica (Yugoslavia); Patrucco Rosaria Nunez (Peru) and Virginia Allen Jensen (Denmark). All covers bear the text: "BIB 1981 - BIENALE ILLUSTRACII BRATISLAVA."

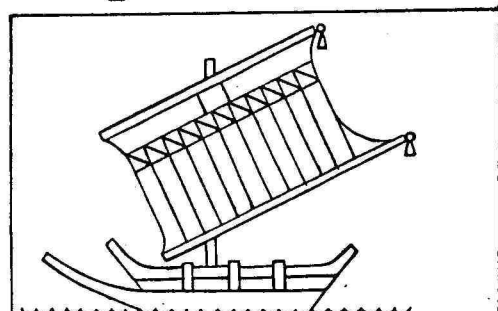
The text of the title appeared in five different languages above or below each illustration.

BIB 1981 BIENÁLE ILUSTRÁCIÍ BRATISLAVA
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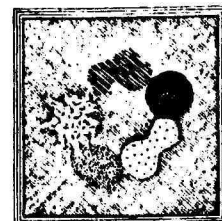


Československá pošta

The illustrations of the three official First Day Covers are shown together with examples of the First Day Cancellations which were in use on Sept. 5 1981.



BIB 1981 BIENÁLE ILUSTRÁCIÍ BRATISLAVA
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Československá pošta

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

We are sorry to report the recent death of Mr George Siddle who joined the Society at the Royston Meeting. We extend our sympathy to his wife Vera.

Congratulations to member Alan Knight who became the Chairman of the Scunthorpe & District PS at their AGM in June. Also to our Chairman, Colin Spong, who has been chosen to receive one of the British Philatelic Federation 1983 Awards of Merit.

At the BPF CONGRESS which is being hosted by the Bath PS this year; our Society will be holding a Society Meeting on Wednesday October 5, at 19.00 hours in the Bath Pump Room Complex. All members living in the area or attending Congress are particularly invited to come along and bring material for display. We have been allocated 3-5 frames. Non-members will also be welcome. Whilst the Delegates to Congress (including Members) will not incur any further charges, other Society members will be asked to contribute £1.00 to cover the use of the facilities, including the Congress Club during the whole day. (Lunch and Evening (Dinner) meals, plus a Bar will be available in the Club).

Member Yvonne Wheatley who accompanied her husband south to attend the Worthing PS Dinner returned home to Yorkshire a Honorary Life Member of the Worthing PS, whilst Richard had to sing for his 'supper' as one of the invited speakers!

FILATELIE 12/1983 carries an announcement of the 60th Birthday of Ing Ladislav Dvoracek. We also send our best wishes to Ing L. Dvoracek, who is President of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists and the International Philatelic Federation (FIP).

The UNION of CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELISTS also announces the publication in 1984 of a New Specialized Handbook for collectors of Czechoslovak stamps, postal stationery, themes and aerophilately. It will be entitled 'SPECIALSOVANA PRIRUCKA PRO SBERATELE CS. ZNAMEK A CELIN' and will contain about 700 pages, and more than 4,000 illustrations, the cost approximately 120 Kcs (rough equivalent in English - £6.50.)

It is intended as a follow-up from the now well known "GREEN" specialised catalogue published co-incidentally with the PRAGA 78 exhibition. This item was only printed in 40,000 volumes for a world-wide distribution and is now out of print, and much in demand. To enable the publishers to assess a printing figure for the new Handbook, they are seeking early subscriptions from interested collectors and others. If you have an exchange partner in the CSSR willing to assist you, why not send off NOW! and make a reservation. If you prefer to write direct to the publishers they are - NADAS, Hybernska 5, 115 78 PRAHA 1, CSR. A footnote mentions that the Czech numbering will not be used as in the Green book, but the universally accepted POFIS system will be adopted. It is not yet known whether this handbook will carry any cross-reference against other catalogue numbering systems. (The above information supplied by Alan Knight and Yvonne Gren.)

We have recently been in correspondence with Mr Genarino Petracco of Huntsville USA, and he writes to thank us for information supplied to help him with a Bohemia & Moravia exhibit he submitted to HUNTSPEX 83. We are delighted to record that he obtained a GOLD medal for this entry, which is now going forward to FLOREX 83, and Mr Petracco has also joined the Society of Czech Specialists in USA. A copy of ARAMCO Newspaper 'ARABIAN SUN' was received from member Bob Bradford, from which we learn

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS c'td

that the Arabian Philatelic Association held its 12th Annual Show "APEX 12" on April 28. We are delighted to report that Bob gained a second (Silver) prize for his 'Hradcany Issues', also that he is due in the UK for some leave and hopes to be at the Leeds Meeting. Bob had one query - he has a number of the 'KOLEK' Labels, 10,20,40 and 50h, and 1K, and would like to know what these were issued for? the heller values are printed in blue, and the 1K in red.

QUERY CORNER

Can any reader supply the background details in support of the two General Milan R Stefanik labels illustrated below.

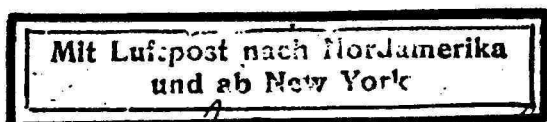


The imperforated item is printed in Blue and is dated below the design at left 1927, and the perforated design is in Carmine and dated 1928.

In March 1940 the 50 heller value of the Bohemia and Moravia pictorial definitive series was issued and is said to have the portraits of three prominent Czechoslovak "statesmen" engraved in the rocks below the castle, including that of General Stefanik. Can this be confirmed? and has any reader an enlarged illustration which brings out these design features? W. Alec Page.

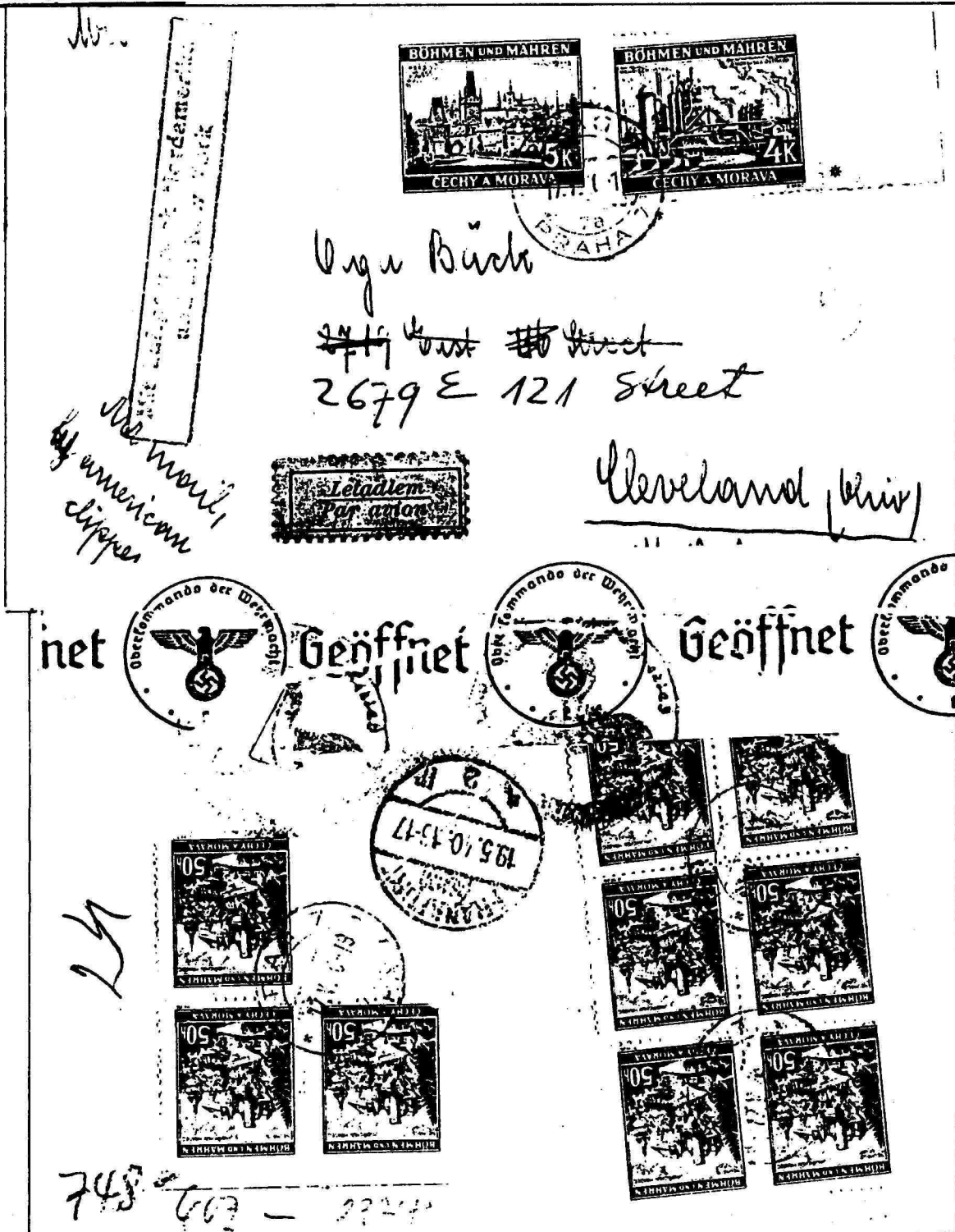
Ian J Bagnall writes "Your correspondent in CSSR has provided some very useful notes on the 'Victory (Viktoria) Cachet' - one question does cross my mind though - he does say the cachet was compulsory on all correspondence from Prague. I assume the cachet was not used anywhere else, as it is probable that all mails for external services would have been centralised in Prague, prior to forwarding? What also puzzles me is that I have one or two other covers from Prague, one dated 27.VII.41, just a few days after the previous VIKTORIA cover, and a couple from 1940 and 1941 all without the VIKTORIA cachet!. Is any one in possession of information relating to the route that the airmails would have taken out of Prague - I assume Lufthansa took them to Frankfurt, and then on to Lisbon?

One final question - has anyone any idea as to where the boxed cachet 'Mit Luftpost nach Nordamerika / und ab New York' was applied. Prague or Frankfurt? All the cachets are struck in pink, which I suppose was once a red ink?"



Boxed Cachet. There appears to be two types of Airmail Labels (etiquette) used during this period.

QUERY CORNER c'td



Cover: Prague to New York. Prague 1 double circle datestamp 15.5.40, airmail cachet and label (etiquette). Backstamped Frankfurt 2,19.5.40 and censored at Frankfurt 'e'. Postage paid 13k.50h.

UNLISTED and LITTLE KNOWN VARIETIES of STAMPS of CSSR 1945 to-date:

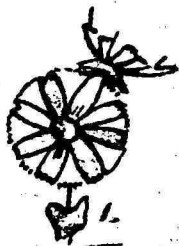
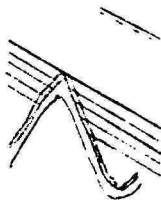
Compiled by Ernest G Taylor.

This is the first of an occasional series of little known and new discoveries of varieties not included in the 'Novotny' or "Specialzovany" catalogues. To make this series a success I would appeal to members who have varieties that fall within this field to write to me so that they may be included in a later part.

UNLISTED and LITTLE KNOWN VARIETIES of STAMPS of CSSR 1945 to-date

ČE
TATR

J. LUKAVSKÝ 1969 B. HOUSA



I intend to give both the SG Catalogue and POFIS Catalogue numbers and also where known the plate (pane) number and the 'positional number of the stamp within the plate (pane.)

Tratra National Park 60h value. SG:1844 Pofis:1781

Re-entry. The left hand side of the stamp shows doubling of the letters "CESKOSLOVENSKO", "TATRANSKY" "NARODNY PARK 1949-1969", and the inscription "J. LUKAVSKY 1969 B. HOUSA" and the mountain road. Position not known. (illustrated).

25th Anniversary of Kosice Reforms. SG:1883 Pofis:1822

Re-entry. National coat-of-arms shows extensive doubling. Position not known. (illustrated).

Cultural Anniversaries. SG:2043 Pofis:1969

Re-entry. Right upper side of stamp doubled, including "ENSKO" of "CESKOSLOVENSKO", designer's inscription and "KRAR". Position not known.

Songbirds. 1Kcs value. SG:2074 Pofis 2000

Missing colour. The red-brown colour was missed from a sheet resulting in the breast of the bird appearing blue instead of drab-olive, the branch grey-green where the normal is brown and the buds are yellow instead of dull orange.

25th Anniversary of International Children's Day
SG:2170 Pofis:2090

Registration lines and 'secret' plate mark. Registration lines appear by the top left flower and below the bottom right flower, there is also a small inverted "7" above the lower right registration line. Position not known. (illustrated).

50th International Peace Marathon. SG:2510 Pofis:2422

Damage to the Blue plate. On normal stamps the blue background touches the head of the right leading runner on Stamp -/40, the background is damaged and leaves a large uncoloured area behind the runners head.

Graphic Cut-Outs. 2Kcs value. SG:2539 Pofis:2451

Registration error. There is a sub-type of this value, on the 25th June 1980 the printing machine was set up with the red colour plate set out of register too high. This resulted in the variety "white band on cat's head". This was noticed in the early afternoon and corrected the same day.

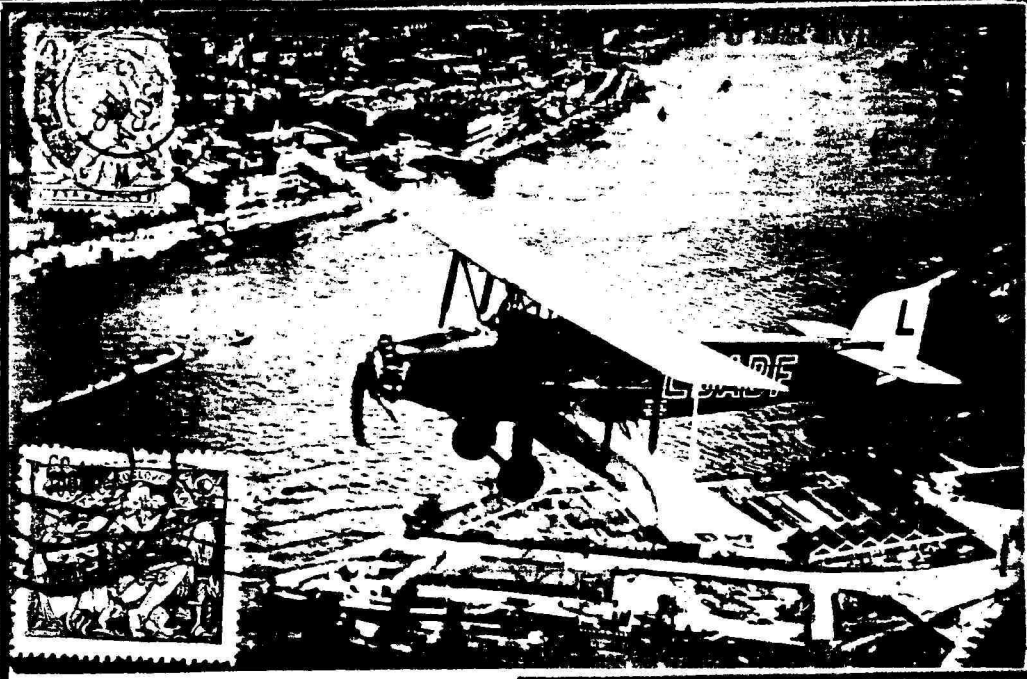
Day of the Stamp. SG:2554 Pofis:2466.

Plate variety. Constant black marks appear near the serif of the '1' of value on stamp -/36.

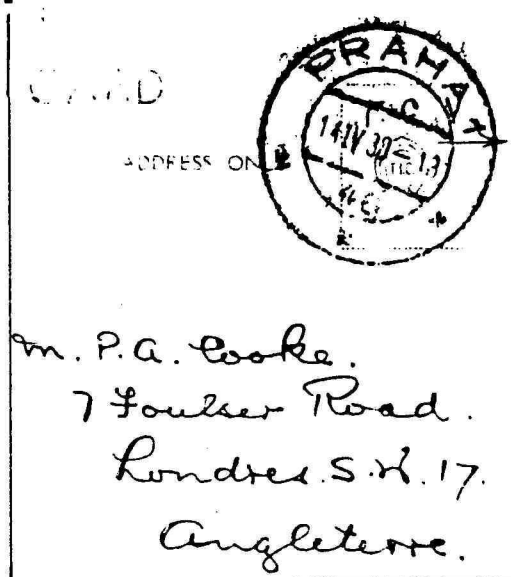
Seventh 5 Year Plan. SG:2555 Pofis:2467

Retouch. The 'C' of "Ceskoslovenso" has been retouched making the 'C' thinner at the top part. Stamp. 1/1.

AIRMAIL CORNER by Reg Hounsell



Some months ago I was asked to identify the cover shown and explain the use of the 1/2d British stamp also seen on the card. Time seems to have flown



by - but now I can reveal the following information.

The plane depicted is an Avia BH25, registration L-BABF, flying over Rotterdam? and was one of five built at Prague - Cakovice for the newly formed CLS Company, Ceskoslovenska Letecka Spolecnost, in 1927.

First routes for these aircraft were the inaugural Prague-Leipzig via Chemnitz service of May 2, 1927 and the Prague-Rotterdam via Marienbad and Kassel service started April 30, 1928. The planes were withdrawn from service

1936. With regard to the postmarks and stamps the following will explain what took place :-

As the British Post Office would not postmark incoming mail it became common practice, especially with airmail items to Francis Field, to affix 1/2d stamps and re-post items as soon as received. This insured that a day of receipt postmark was applied. On the postcard can be seen a Praha 1 cds of April 14, 1930 and a London mark of April 15. One day to get to England - must have flown!

Has any member got photocards of 1920 - 1940 Czech aircraft, I would welcome a photocopy. I would also be happy to try and answer any other queries on Czech airmail of this period. (31 Parklands ROYSTON Herts SG8 9HL).

UNLISTED and LITTLE KNOWN VARIETIES of STAMPS of CSSR 1945 to date c'td
Centenary of Picasso's Birth. SG:MS 2584 Pofis: -

Two types. Two types of impressions of the miniature sheet are found, one with and the other one without registration crosses. (82 Fir Tree Walk REIGATE Surrey RH2 0RU).

THE STORIES BEHIND THE STAMPS by Alan J Knight

No: 2 CYRIL AND METHODIUS, Saints (SG:342-344)

The brothers Cyril and Methodius were born, respectively, c.827 at Thessalonica (Salonika), died February 14, 869 at Rome; and c.825 at Thessalonica, died April 6, 884 at Velehrad, probably what is now Stare Mesto, Moravia.

Both were outstanding scholars, theologians and linguists and, for their outstanding work in christianising the Danubian Slavs and in influencing the cultural and religious development of all Slavic peoples, received the title "The Apostles of The Slavs."

In 860 AD, Cyril, by now a Professor of Philosophy, joined Methodius, then Abbot of a Greek monastery, in working for the conversions of the Khazars northeast of the Black Sea. In 862, when Prince Rotislav of Great Moravia wanted to oppose German political and ecclesiastical influence and the pressures from Bulgaria and asked Constantinople for missionary support, the Byzantine Emperor, Michael III and the Patriarch Photius both named Cyril and Methodius.

In 863 they started their work among the Slavs, using Slavonic in the liturgy. They translated the Holy Scriptures into the language later known as Old Church Slavonic (or old Bulgarian), and invented a Slavic alphabet based on Greek characters that in its final form is still in use today, (although somewhat modified as to the number of characters), for modern Russian, Bulgarian and other Slavic languages (the Cyrillic alphabet.)

In 867, the brothers accepted the invitation of Pope St Nicholas I's call to Rome to explain their conflict with the German Archbishop of Salzburg and Bishop of Passau, who claimed control of the same Slavic territory and who insisted on the use of the latin liturgy in that territory. Cyril and Methodius arrived in Rome in 868 where the new Pope, Adrian II sided with them and authorised the use of the Slavic liturgy. When Cyril died in the following year, Adrian sent Methodius back to the Slavs as his legate and Archbishop of Sirmium.

From his See at Pannonia (now Hungary), Methodius' ecclestical province included the whole of Moravia. However, after Methodius' death, Pope Stephen V forbade the use of the Slavic liturgy and the disciples of Cyril and Methodius were forced into exile, whereby the influence of the two brothers eventually reached Kiev in Russia besides leaving traces among the Slavs of Croatia, Bohemia and Poland. Cyril and Methodius were soon to become canonized by the Eastern Church (Orthodox) and consequently they were celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church in 1880. Their feast day was formerly on July 7, but under the recent reform of the Western Church calendar it is now February 14.

Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius were your instruments, Lord, in bringing the light of the gospel to the Slavonic peoples. May we take your word into our hearts and be at one in professing the true faith. We make our prayer through our Lord, Jesus Christ.