

CZECHOUT

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EDITORIAL

Members who look back to this issue for 1982 will find that I mentioned that we would be issuing an Index in the New Year! This has not been forgotten, but has been delayed for a special reason which will become apparent in due course. We also hope to issue a Handbook covering the recently revised Rules and Regulations of this Society, but I will ask the indulgence of the membership if they do not receive these publications immediately 1984 comes into view.... may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Colin Spong
Chairman & Editor

SOCIETY MEETING ON SATURDAY September 24, 1983

The Chairman welcomed 14 members and 6 visitors to the Centenary House, North Street, in Leeds. Apologies were received from 8 members.

Membership

Application from Mr L. Shotton (Hampshire) was approved, and a nomination was received for Mr K. Morrison (Glasgow) and approved.

BPF Congress

The Society's delegates Mrs Y. Wheatley and Mr J.L. Whiteside asked for guidance from the Society regarding election for Council of the BPF. The Society nominations were R.C.A. Payne, A.W. Watton and Mrs H. Wellsted.

Displays

The following members displayed -

Flowers on Stamps: Lindy James; Study of 'Man's Flight into Space': Hans Hocke; Kosice Issue and Tatra Park: Henry Sewell; 1945-46: Brian Day; Stamps of 1969: Yvonne Wheatley; Postal History: Brian Parker; Prague Castle: Alan Knight; Registration Labels & Etiquettes (Air): Alec Page; Exhibitions: Kay Goodman; Post 1945 Pictorials: Reg Hounsell; and Fiscals & Stamped Paper: John Whiteside.

The Chairman thanked everyone who had given a display, and the meeting adjourned to a local restaurant for dinner.

Mrs D Yvonne Gren
Honorary Secretary

SOCIETY MEETING AT THE BPF CONGRESS ON WEDNESDAY October 5, 1983

The Honorary Life President Mrs Kay Goodman welcomed 6 members and 2 visitors to the Study Circle held in the Pump Room Complex, Bath. The meeting unfortunately clashed with the Reception given by the Chairman of Congress at Jolly's, however, those present had slipped away to see displays from the following members.

CONGRESS MEETING C'td

John Whiteside: Fiscals used in Czech Lands, and Stamped Paper-Provisional Issue; Kay Goodman: Austrian Stamps used in Czechoslovakia (Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia); Yvonne Wheatley: 1st Anniversary Issue of the Czech Republic; and W Alec Page: Free Czech Forces Mail in France and the United Kingdom. A Vote of thanks was given by the Chairman.

CZECH POSTAGE RATES by John L Whiteside FRPSL

In the course of conversation at the Worthing meeting in June, it became apparant to me that postal rates were a subject which some people found difficult, if only because little or nothing is published in English.

The most comprehensive listings I know of are published in the 1978 Specializovany Katalog (the 'green catalogue') on pages 354-361.

These do, however, have disadvantages for the English reader. They are in Czech, in exceedingly small print and have a mass of footnotes.

I have attempted in the tables that follow to list the main information contained in these tables. I have changed the format and layout totally.

Internal Postage Rates: I have split these into two tables, up to 1939 and 1945 onward. I have incorporated into the main tables much information that appears as footnotes in the original reference, principally the various changes that occurred to more frequently than the other rates.

There are a number of postal services for which the reference lists no rates, nor does any other that I have encountered. The principal omissions are:- Newspaper rates, Cash-on-Delivery fees and Insured Letter (value declared) fees. I should be very interested if any reader knows if these have been published, especially for the period up to 1939.

Foreign Postage Rates: These present rather more problems because of the system of charging lower rates to certain foreign countries. In most cases these applied only to letters and postcards. If other rates were affected, these are shown in brackets in the appropriate place.

The countries to which the reductions applied varied at different times. To accommodate this, I have introduced a column headed Footnotes and listed the variations under the appropriate numbered headings.

From the original reference, I have ommitted the rates for business papers (Obchodni papiry). I have also omitted the references to special low rates for newspaper and book post.

CZECH POSTAGE RATES C'tdINTERNAL POSTAGE RATESa) 1918 - 1939

PERIOD	PRINTED MATTER (Tiskopis) (c)	POSTCARD	LOCAL LETTER (a)	INTERNAL LETTER	REGISTRATION FEE	EXPRESS FEE
28/10/1918 to 14/5/1919	per 50g. .03	.10	no separate rate	first 20g. .20 each additional 20g. .05	.25	.30
15/5/1919 to 14/3/1920	per 50g. .05	.15	no separate rate	first 20g. .25 each additional 20g. .05	.50	.60
15/3/1920 to 31/7/1920	per 50g. .05	.20	no separate rate	first 20g. .30 each additional 20g. .05	.50	.60 3.00 (b)
1/8/1920 to 31/12/31	per 50g. .10	.40	no separate rate	first 20g. .60 each additional 20g. .20	1.25	1.00 (5.00)(b)
1/1/1922 to 30/4/1923	per 50g. .20	.50	first 20g .60 each addition 20g. .30	first 20g 1.00 each additional 20g. .30	2.00	1.00
1/5/1923 to 30/9/1925	per 50g. .10	all other rates remained unchanged				
1/10/1925 to 31/7/1926	full per 50g. .10 part per 50g. .20	all other rates remained unchanged				
1/8/1926 to 28/2/1937	full per 50g. .20 part per 50g. .30 " 50-100g .40 each additional 50g. .20	all other rates remained unchanged				
1/3/1937 to 15/3/1939	full to 50g.20 part to 50g.30 50-150g. .50 150-250g. .80 250-500g. 1.50 500-1000g 2.00 1000-2000 3.00	.50	to 20g. .60 20-100g. 1.10 100-250g 2.00 250-500g 2.50 500-1000 3.00	to 20g. 1.00 20-100g. 1.60 100-250g. 2.50 250-500g. 3.00 500-1000g 4.00	2.00	2.00

NOTES

- A) Reduced rates for local letters were not introduced until 1/1/22. Until then local letters were charged at the ordinary internal rate.
- B) The higher express fees shown were for mail addressed to places covered by a rural postal delivery round, i.e., to villages outside main post towns.
- C) In October 1925, a distinction was introduced between full and partial printed matter. Full printed matter was that whose contents could be seen - a postcard or an unsealed envelope. Partial printed matter was that sent in a sealed envelope or packet

CZECH POSTAGE RATES C'tdNOTES

- D) Business Printed Matter - Obchodni Tiskoviny = O.T. From 15/11/34 to 15/3/1939, a lower rate service was offered for which specially overprinted stamps had to be used. The rate was Kc 0.10 per 50g. up to a minimum weight of 300g.

INTERNAL POSTAGE RATESB) 1945 - 1978

PERIOD	PRINTED MATTER (Tiskopis)	POST CARD	LOCAL LETTER	INTERNAL LETTER	REGISTRATION FEE	EXPRESS FEE
Bohemia and Moravia Liberation to 30/11/45	up to 20g .30 20-50g .40 50-100g .80 100-250g 1.50 250-500g 3.00	.60 (local card .50	up to 20g .80 20-250g 1.60 250-500g 2.00 500-1000g 3.00	up to 20g 1.20 20-250g 2.40 250-500g 4.00 500-1000g 6.00	3.00	4.00 (for a rural) delivery area 8.00
Slovakia Liberation to 31/7/45	up to 50g .50 50-100g 1.50 100-250g 2.00 250-500g 2.50	1.50	no separate rate	up to 20g 2.00 20-250g 4.50 250-500g 6.00 500-1000g 7.50	3.00	2.50
Slovakia 1/8/1945 to 30/11/45	up to 50g .50 50-100g 1.00 100-250g 1.50 250-500g 2.00	1.00	no separate rate	up to 20g 1.50 20-250g 3.00 250-500g 4.00 500-1000g 5.00	2.50	2.00
All Republic 1/12/1945 to 31/12/47	up to 50g .60 50-100g 1.20 100-250g 2.40	1.20	up to 20g 1.60 20-250g 3.20 250-500g 6.00	up to 20g 2.40 20-250g 5.00 250-500g 8.00	5.00	8.00
1/1/1948 to 31/3/52	up to 50g .80 50-100g 1.50 100-250g 2.50 250-500g 4.00	1.50	up to 20g 2.00 20-250g 4.00 250-500g 6.00 500-1000g 9.00	up to 20g 3.00 20-250g 6.00 250-500g 9.00 500-1000g 12.00	5.00	8.00
1/4/1952 to 31/5/53	up to 50g 1.00 50-250g 2.00 250-500g 4.00 500-1000g 6.00 1000-2000 9.00	All other rates remained unchanged				
1/6/1953 to 18/6/53	Currency Reform: 1 new Kc = 50 old Kc. above. In new money at 1/50 of this or			Rates paid in old money at 10 times those the rates shown below.		
19/6/1953 to date (1978) (from 1/1/70) for private mail only)	up to 50g .20 50-250g .40 250-500g .80 500-1000g 1.20 1000-2000 1.80	.30	up to 20g .40 20-250g .80 250-500g 1.20 500-1000g 1.80	up to 20g .60 20-250g 1.20 250-500g 1.80 500-1000g 2.40	1.00	1.60
1/1/1970 to date(78) mail rates paid by organisations	up to 50g .40 50-250g .80 250-500g 1.60 500-1000g 2.00 1000-2000 3.00	.50	up to 20g 1.00 20-250g? 1.60	up to 20g 1.00 20-250g? 1.60	3.00	3.00

CZECH POSTAGE RATES C'tdFOREIGN POSTAGE RATES

PERIOD	PRINTED MATTER	NORMAL RATE		REDUCED RATE			REGISTERED FEE	EXPRESS FEE
		LETTER	POSTCARD	FOOT- NOTE	LETTER	POSTCARD		
29/10/1918 to 14/5/19	per 50g .03	a) .25 b) .25	.10		Not applicable		.25	no service
15/5/1919 to 31/7/20	.10 see note 1	a) .50 b) .30	.20	(1)			.50	no service
1/8/1920 to 31/12/21	.25 see note 1	a) 1.25 b) .75	.50	(1)			1.25	1.00
1/1/1922 to 15/3/1939	.50	a) 2.50 b) 1.50	1.50	(2) (3)	a) 2.00 b) 1.50	1.20	2.50	5.00
Bohemia and Moravia Liberation to 30/11/1945	.50	a) 2.50 b) 1.50	1.50		not applicable		3.50	no service
1/12/1945 to 31/12/1947	.80	a) 4.00 b) 2.40	2.40	(4)			8.00	8.00
1/1/1948 to 31/5/1953	1.00	a) 5.00 b) 3.00	3.00	(4)			8.00	8.00
1/6/1953 to 18/6/1953	Currency Reform those above. In	1 new Kc = 50 old new money 1/50 of	kc. Rates paid in old money at 10	times				
19/6/1953 31/3/1959	.15	a) .75 b) .45	.45	(5)	a) .60 b) .35	.35	1.20	1.40
1/4/1959 to 31/12/1959	.15	a) 1.00 b) .60	.60	(6)	a) .75 b) .45	.45	1.00	1.40
1/1/1960 to 31/12/1970	.20	a) 1.00 b) .60	.60	(7)	a) .60 add 40g 1.60	.30	1.40 (1.00)	2.00 (1.60)
1/1/1971 to to date (1978)	1.60 (1.80)	a) 3.60 b) 2.20	2.00	(8)	a) .60 b) as normal foreign	.30	5.40	7.20

General Note: Letter post rate a) = first 20g.
rate b) = each additional 20g.

Liberation to 30/11/1945: rates given for Bohemia and Moravia only. However, foreign mail services were greatly restricted, though restrictions were somewhat relaxed from 1st October 1945.

No rates given for Slovakia, since foreign mail was almost totally restricted.

Foreign Postage Rates - Footnotes:

- (1) From 15th May 1919 to 31st December 1921, Internal postage rates were applied to the following countries:-

Austria, Germany, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Poland.

Czech Postage Rates c'tdForeign Postage Rates - Footnotes:

- (2) From 1st January 1922, the reduced rates applied to:-
Austria, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Roumania (from 13th April 1922) and Italy (from 1st April 1922 until 31st December 1927.)
- (3) From 1st April 1937 In addition to the countries of note 2 the reduced rates applied also to the countries of the Little Entente - Greece, Jugoslavia, Roumania and Turkey. There were further reductions to these countries, printed matter was .15kc per 50g, registration fee was 2kc, and the letter post rate for each additional 20g was 1.20kc.
- (4) Between 1946 and 1953, reduced rates were agreed with some countries by individual negotiation. For example:
- | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|------|---------------|------|
| <u>Austria</u> | Letter 1st 20g | to 31/12/1947 | 3.00 | from 1/1/1948 | 3.80 |
| | each add 20g | | 1.80 | | 2.30 |
| | Postcard | | 1.80 | | 2.30 |
- (5) Reduced rates shown valid to Austria and Bulgaria. Internal rates were charged to Hungary and Poland.
- (6) Reduced rate shown valid to Bulgaria. Internal rates continued to be charged to Hungary and Poland.
- (7) Reduced rates shown apply to all the Eastern Bloc states.
- (8) Reduced rates still apply to the Eastern Bloc states, but for letters over 20g the normal foreign rates are charged. To Hungary, printed matter and letter post is charged at internal rates up to a weight of 1000g.

I hope that these tables will prove of some assistance to members.

I am not a Czech speaker and I have attempted to interpret the various notes in the original reference as best I can with the aid of a dictionary. I would welcome any corrections from more informed readers. I am fairly confident from my personal experience that information given for the period up to 1939 is correct. However, the post-1945 information I present as it is, since I do not collect material from this period and so I have not made use of it, and tested the information on a range of actual covers.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN EXILE - U.K. TYPE CENSOR MARKS by W.A. Page FRPSL

The following notes are based on an article by Karel Blaha, which appeared in the Brno 1974 Stamp Exhibition catalogue, and the author is indebted to George Connolly for obtaining a translation.

In the early days of the operation of the Czechoslovak Field Post Office in the United Kingdom the letters were not censored as a matter of routine. It is however, customary for mails destined for overseas to have a random selection vetted by the Intelligence Section. Similar mails handled directly by the Field Post Office was sometimes checked by the Officer Commanding.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN EXILE c'td

Official censorship was ordered and first established with the No. 1 Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in readiness for their ultimate return to the European mainland.

Daily Order No. 67, Article 4 of 21st May 1944:

"The censorship of all correspondence of brigade was established on 22nd May 1944.

Czechoslovak Field Posts must not cancel or forward any mail which is not initialled by censor and does not carry the censorship mark.

Telegrams must also be censored by the posting unit. If necessary Chief of Field Post is authorised by the Commander of the Brigade to censor and despatch telegrams."

The British type 'green honour envelopes'

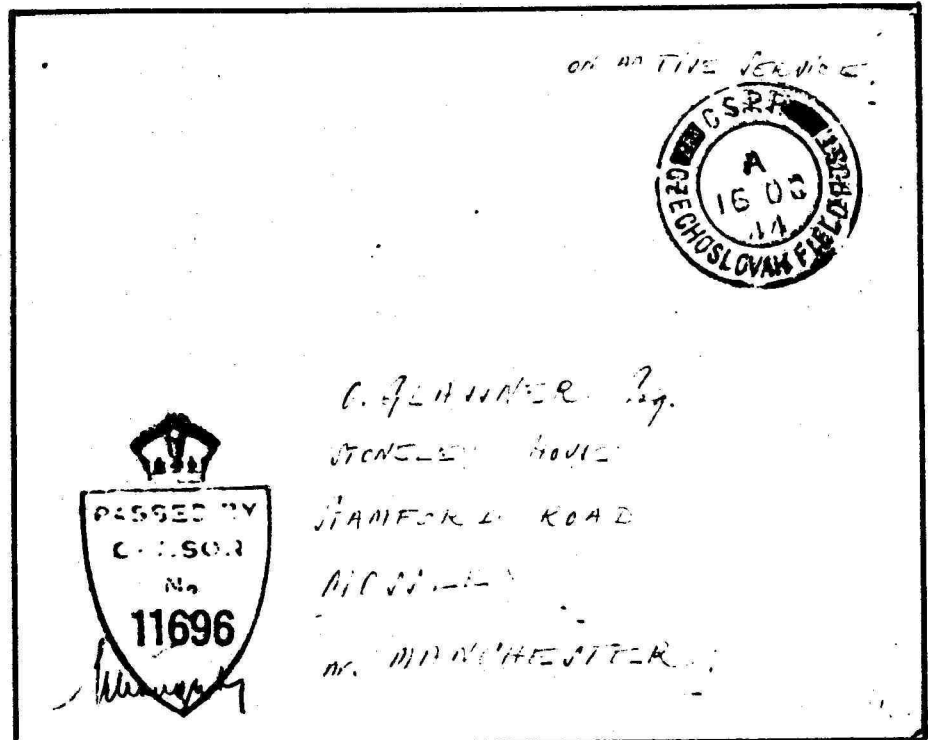
(AFW. 3078) did not come under this order, as these were liable to be censored by the British Base Censor. Similarly letters to Prisoners of War and Internees were not stamped with the censor stamp, or the Field Post Office stamp. Such mail was included in a second envelope addressed to the Base Censor with a note of the contents and stamped with the normal Field Post Office canceller.

Local censoring was normally carried out by chosen officers, and occasionally by N.C.O.'s The censor stamps were applied in violet, red or black.

To facilitate their activities the censor officers required a compulsory marking of letters with the language (except English) in which the letter was written. This was introduced by the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade, and had to be shown on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

The Czechoslovak Command applied to have it's own distinctive style censor stamp, and a design was prepared to this end. However, the request was turned down. (The prepared design is now housed in the archives of military history in Prague.)

The Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade was supplied with 17 standard type British Shield type censor stamps, which were allocated to the following units of the Brigade:-





CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN EXILE c'td

<u>Number:</u>	<u>Unit</u>
11688	Brigade Headquarters - Administrative Office
11689	No. 1 Tank Battalion
11690	No. 2 Tank Battalion
11691	Motor Division
11692	Artillery Regiment
11693	Sappers Squadron
11694	Transport Unit
11695	Anti-tank Battery
11696	Company of Heavy Workshops
12715	Motorised Scouting Unit
12716	Telecommunication Squadron
12717	Battery PL.
12719	Light Brigade Ambulance
12720	Brigade Staff Squadron
12736	Artillery Regiment
12737	Artillery Regiment
12738	Quartermasters

The official instruction to censor officers (Article 112) comprised a series of guide lines:-

1. Censors of units take care that the following instructions will be adhered to.
 - a) it is not permitted to send post-cards with pictures of places or country-side.
 - b) in correspondence no name of the place where the unit is stationed directly

<p>[Crown Copyright Reserved]. A.F. W3078</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">ACTIVE SERVICE</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">ARMY PRIVILEGE ENVELOPE</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">J.D. & Co. Apaley.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">INSTRUCTIONS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Up to three letters may be forwarded in this cover, but these must all be from the same writer. The cover should be addressed in such cases to the Base Censor. 2. This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration. 3. Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base. 4. The following Certificate must be signed by the writer. <p><i>I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family affairs.</i></p> <p>Signature } Name only } <i>E. Beck</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">-ADDRESS:-</p> <p><i>Mrs. A. Beck</i></p> <p><i>47 Smiters St</i></p> <p><i>B'z. Winkland</i></p> <p><i>Co. Durham (ENGL)</i></p>
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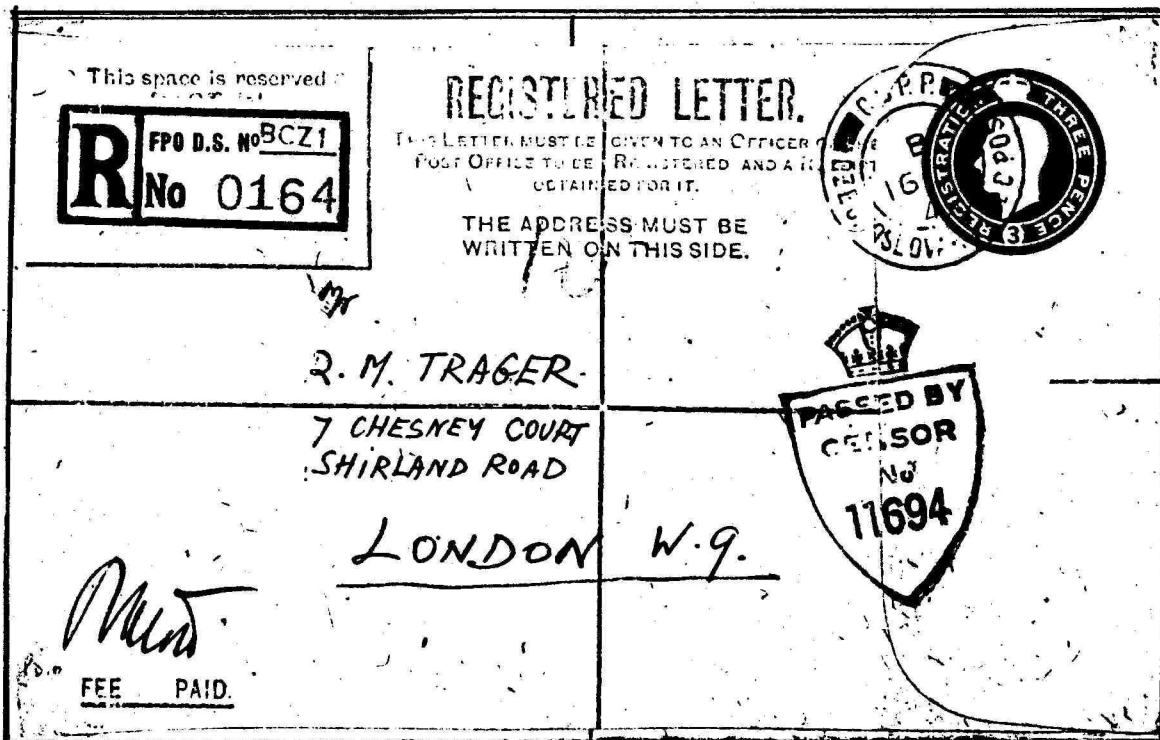
or indirectly can be mentioned. After the transfer to the field the writer can only name the country where the unit is "Somewhere in....."

- c) description of personal experiences in fighting can be allowed through the censor only in the following cases.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN EXILE c'td

- I) The experience took place 14 days ago.
 - II) The description did not contain date, place and losses.
 - III) No numbers of units or their marks, own or neighbouring were mentioned.
 - IV) Writer kept to all instructions about censorship and safety of news.
2. Officer entrusted with censorship must find out that enclosures to personal letters do not endanger security, especially with unit location.

The Censor Officers were entrusted with stamping and signing the mail before onward despatch. Likewise they were responsible for the security of the censor stamps,



with instructions for their destruction to avoid them falling into enemy hands.

On 1st June 1945 a new order was issued, making the censoring of mail unnecessary, but the letters still had to be stamped with the censor stamp, but no longer initialled.

The illustrations show some examples of the censor stamps in use; including one on a "green honour" envelope contrary to normal.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Peter Ibbotson's EUROPAGE Column in "Stamp Collecting" of 10th November 1983, gives the following information on CZECH POSTAL RATES: A new foreign postal tariff came into force in Czechoslovakia on 1st July. Within Europe, there are three tariffs, (1) to Hungary, (2) to the socialist countries, and (3) to the rest of Europe. To Hungary, letters up to 20g cost only 1kcs (as inland letters) and up to 500g; 2kcs; with postcards at 50h.

To the socialist countries, i.e. the countries of the European Communist bloc, the rate is for letters up to 20g., 1kcs; up to 50g., 7kcs; up to 100g., 10kcs; and up to 250g., 20kcs; with postcards 50h.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY c'td

To the rest of Europe the letter rate is 4kcs. for up to 20g., with the socialist tariff applying thereafter, but postcards cost 3kcs.

Everywhere, registration and express letter fees are 9kcs., except that a registered letter to East Germany, up to 50g costs 16kcs, and an express letter to Austria up to 20g., costs 13kcs.

This foreign rate change necessitated slight alterations to the published 1983 stamp-issuing programme. The World Communications Year set issued on 30th September, which also commemorated 60 years of Czech-slovak Airlines, was originally planned as a set of 50h, 1kcs, and 3kcs.60; but the increase in the 'rest of Europe' minimum letter rate to 4kcs. necessitated a change to the top value. The planned denomination is illustrated; in the event, only the denomination was altered on the issued stamp.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

At a recent meeting of the Scunthorpe & District PS member Yvonne Wheatley gave a show of her Railway TPO's , she was accompanied by husband Richard on her visit to South Humberside area.

The Society has been presented with a number of Miniature Sheets from the collection of the late George Siddle, these will be offered in the next postal auction. We are grateful to Mrs Vera Siddle for this very kind gift.

We regret to announce that Vaclav Nebesky of Praha passed away on October 31, aged 85.

Member Alec Page has suggested that the Society might explore the possibility of having a club TIE with a Headscarf for the Ladies with a suitable motif i.e. the Society emblem. Any comments to the Honorary Secretary for guidance of your Committee.

Honorary Treasurer Robert Kingsley reminds members that all subscriptions were due on OCTOBER 1st and would be grateful to receive these as soon as possible.

New member E. Skovbo Jensen (Rosenlundvej 12, DK-4863 Eskilstrup Denmark) is anxious to obtain Czech material i.e., pairs, strips, blocks, mint or used, or marked or on letters. He also wants any variant of print, paper, colour or printer's waste, proofs etc for plating purposes and specialised collection.

Life President Kay Goodman has received a very nice newsy letter from member Henry Hahn who has just completed his term as President of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately USA. We hope to reproduce some information from Henry in the next issue of Czechout.

We thank Lindy Knight for the kind donation of copies of 'English-Czech Dictionary', Slovensky Stat 1939, and Umeni a Znamka (Art on Stamps) for the Society Library. Librarian Fred Gren appeals for any copies of the Czechoslovak Specialist 1939-1940; and 1943-44 to complete the Society's set.

Messrs G. Cawser (Burton on Trent) and G.J. Riddle (Stocton on Tees) have regrettably had to resign their membership. We thank them for their past interest.

QUERY CORNER

Member Ron Hollis confirms that he has several covers with the cachet 'Victory (Viktoria)' omitted in 1941 on Prag I but with Victory postmark dated 16.VIII.41. Also a cover from Prag 2 with the cachet only and an ordinary roller cancel 6.IX.41.

He confirms that Lufthansa carried the mail to Frankfurt, and then on to Lisbon. The boxed 'Mit Luftpost nach Nordamerika und ab New York' in his collection is dated 22.XI.39 to USA, but he has no information as to where the handstamp was applied, but they were censored in Frankfurt either by Money Control until early 1940, or direct German Censorship after that date.

Air Letters in coll'n

14.VII.39	Brunn 1	DK Brunn 2	Money Control Label	to London UK
20.VII.39	Prag 1	DK Prag 25	No Label	to USA
29.VII.39	Prag 6	no DK (German Control)	" "	to Hull UK
20.IV.39	Brunn 1	DK Brunn 2	Money Control Label	to London UK
1.VIII.39	Prag Express Office	DK Prag 25	no Label	to London UK
22.XI.39	Prag 1	DK Prag 7	Money Control Label	to USA
20.VI.40	Prag 7	no DK	German Censor Label	to USA
22.V.41	Prag 7	no DK	German Censor Label	to USA



Illustration of 3.60kcs airmail Comm.