

# CZECHOUT

Whole No. 43  
Volume 4  
(c) Czechoslovak PS of GB

Quarterly  
Edition 2:86  
ISSN 0142-3525

## EDITORIAL \*\*\*\*\*

I was recently asked by a non-stamp-collecting Czech which was my favourite Czech stamp. Like other members I don't normally think of the stamps in that way: we tend to think of issues, years, or sets. But having to give an answer I thought about which stamp. There isn't ONE, but if I had to choose there is a short set of 2 that would qualify.

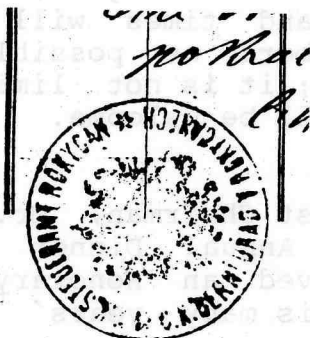
Obviously it's a personal choice, but I think POFIS Nos 796 & 797 would qualify as my favourites. Cheap, single coloured, and not particularly sought after they are, to my mind "special".

It's an interesting exercise - trying to condense a collection into 1 or 2 stamps. You might like to try, and if anyone wants to share their thoughts, or their favourites, I'll be happy to print them in future issues.

We now have a healthy balance of very good and informative articles just waiting to be published. If you've sent something in and it hasn't appeared yet don't worry - it will.

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Last issue showed some early postal history from Rokycany. John Whiteside sent the following 2 illustrations of franks from Rokycany from his Fiscal collect. The document appears to be the record of salary payments to the local schoolmaster from 1870 to 1875. The stamp is the 15k from the 1893 issue - probably applied when the record was lodged for pension payment purposes.



SOCIETY NEWS  
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First, the Society warmly welcomes new members:

Mr. A. W. J. Dawkins, 29 Westfield, Ashted, Surrey, KT211HR  
Tel: 03727 74565

Mr. J. W. A. Corscaden, 17 Larch Avenue, Bricket Wood,  
ST Albans, Herts AL2 3SN Tel: 0923 673347

Mr. M. O'Meara, 11, St. Georges Terrace, Kidderminster,  
Worcestershire DY10 1SQ Tel: Kidderminster 743423

Mr. D. Cleve, Beelsby Road, Swallow, Lincoln. Tel:0472 89226

Mr. F.D. A. Backeljauw, Felix Timmermanslaan 39,  
B - 2621 - Schelle, Belgium. Tel: 03/887.73.39

Mr. L. Brown of Livorno, Italy invites members to contact  
him if they are visiting Italy. They would be welcome to  
meet him and see his stamp collection.

The following gentlemen are anxious to have exchange  
partners in this country:-

Petr Marcol, Ostravsk 54, 737 01 Cesky Tesin, CSSR  
Vladimir Dolezal, Anglicka 8/530, 120 00 Praha 2, CSSR -  
interested in new issues, especially stamp booklets.  
Petr Skuhrawy, 16500 Praha 6, Stehlikova 975, CSSR -  
interested in meter marks; knows England; writes perfect  
English.

And a quiet reminder that Paul Kelly still has 150 Czech  
collectors looking for exchange partners.

A translation of pp 149 - 164 of Mongrafie 2 covering the  
1920 Masaryk issue ( which was shown at the last meeting by  
Ernest Gorge) has been received by the Librarian. Many  
thanks to Ernst Gorge who donated the translation.

A Study Circle has been arranged to take place on 18.9.86 at  
B.F.P. Congress at the University of East Anglia, Norwich  
during the evening. Full details and times will appear  
later. It is hoped that as many members as possible will  
take advantage of this extra meeting; it is not limited to  
those attending Congress, and all will be welcome.

Warmest congratulations go to our Past Chairman, Mr. Colin  
W. Spong, FRPSL who, at the recent Annual Dinner of the  
Worthing Philatelic Society received an Honorary Life  
Membership award in recognition of his many years' service  
to that Society.

Brian Parker has sent the following statement:

Members may have noticed that the address labels on the envelopes for the distribution of CZECHOUT have been printed by computer. The names and addresses of all members are held on a computer file and printed out to the labels automatically when a CZECHOUT circulation is required. This process takes only a few minutes, and greatly reduces the time previously spent addressing the envelopes.

Several corrections have been made where errors have crept in, and the computer file should now be up to date. However, should there be an error in your address, please cut out the label, identify the correction required and send it to Brian Parker, 16 Eastfield Road, Royston, Herts SG8 7ED. If your address (in the U.K.) does not include your postcard, please add to the label and send in as above.

( Brian's computer programs speed up a great deal of the Society's business - not only making the editor's job much easier when it comes to sending out CZECHOUT, but also, for example, with the Society's auctions. Keep up the good work, Brian)

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WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

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Normally I list the articles and authors appearing in the current issue of the magazines the Society receives. We've received too much to go into detail here - there are the first three issues of the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST for the new year, for example. The Society regularly receives:

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

AUSTRIA

STAMPS OF HUNGARY

STAMP LOVER

as well as occasional issues of other magazines.

Contact the Librarian, giving him details of your interests. You will be surprised at the useful information in the library. If you are coming to the meeting have a look through the books and magazines. If you can't make the meetings contact Fred Gren to make arrangements about postal borrowing. A list of books available from the library appears in the Society Handbook.

Just a quick mention of another magazine: I'm sure many members knew about the Czech Patriotic Secret Marks to be found on four issues of the first set of definitives for Bohemia and Moravia, but I didn't. A short article by Will Payne in April's STAMPS & FOREIGN STAMPS gives details. Very interesting.

T.P.O. ROUTES  
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In answer to Mervyn Benford's queries concerning T.P.O. Routes (CZEHOUI 1/86) John Whiteside has sent the following information.

✓ KOŠICE - BOHUMIN - Total distance by rail 351 km.

Bohumin (German ODERBERG) is on the Polish (formerly German border just to the north of MORAVSKA OSTRAVA.

Route via KARVINNA, TESIN, CADCA to ŽILINA, thence through central Slovakia to RUŽOMBEROK, POPRAD, SPISSKA NOVA VES to KOŠICE. POPRAD is 110 km west of KOŠICE.

TATRANSKÁ LOMNICA - POPRAD - distance 19 km.

The line runs northwards from POPRAD. TATRANSKÁ LOMNICA is one of the High Tatra resorts. The railway branch seems to be now closed, but in 1930, through carriages ran to it from various place, via Poprad.

PODOLINEC - POPRAD - distance 33 km.

This line runs north-east from POPRAD, via KEŽMAROK. It is still marked on a map of 1973.

✓ KOŠICE - MEDZILABORCE - Medzilaborce is near the Polish border, north-east of Košice. The rail route was via LEGIŇA - MICHALNY, south-east of Kosice on the line to SLOVENSKÉ NOVÉ MESTO and ČOP. At Michalňy (as it is on most modern maps) this line branches northwards via MICHALOVCE and HUMENNÉ to MEDZILABORCE.

Total distance is 155 km.

✓ KOŠICE - TERESVA Terešva was in Carpatho-Ukraine and is now in Russia and named TYSHEVO. It is on the Russian-Romanian border about 20 km. from the Romanian town of SIGHET.

This line was part of the principal route into Carpatho-Ukraine. It ran via MICHALNY, ČOP (see above), BAT'OVO, BEREHOVO, SEVLUŠ, and CHUST to TERESVA. Total distance 243km.

Beyond ČOP, now CHOP, all the stations mentioned are now in Russia.

TISOVEC - FELED distance 50 km.

In 1930 in Král's Guide to the Czech Republic, this is described as TISOVEC-FELEDINCE (FELED). FELEDINCE is noted as the railway junction for the TISOVEC line from the ZVOLEN-PLEŠIVEC line. On the modern maps it seems to be known as JASENSKE.

The cover illustrated (see CZECHOUT 1/86) bears the TPO mark BYLNICE - PREROV. BYLNICE is on the Moravian side of the Moravian - Slovakian border, about 20km north of TRENČIN. It is on a rail route from BRNO, via UHERSKÉ HRADISTĚ and UHERSKÝ BROD to TRENČIANSKE TEPLICE, 19km from the latter.

From BYLNICE, the line to PŘESOV run northwards, via VALAŠSKÉ KLOBOUKY, VSETIN and VALAŠSKÉ MEZIRIČÍ to HRANICE and PREROV. The distance is about 110Km in total.

The cover is addressed to HRANICE and appears to originate from the village of SOBĚCHLEBY.

Many thanks to John for his information. It's always very pleasing to be able print the answer to a query in CZECHOUT.

Since we're dealing with railways, members might be interested to know that the first railway on the European continent was constructed by František Antonín Gerstner, and in 1825 travelled from Ceske Budejovice to Linz in Austria. Although steam transport had been built in Czechoslovakia 15 years earlier by Josef Božek, Gerstner's railway used an older, and some might say a more pleasant form of propulsion - the horse.

ISSUE DATES OF SLOVAKIA COMMEMORATIVES  
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James Negus

For some commemoratives of Slovakia, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue quotes dates of issue different from other sources. This is noted from comparing the current SG (Part 5, 3rd Edn., 1985) with:

- a) the Scott Catalogue 1983 (Vol II countries A-F)
- b) Ladislav Novotny : SPECIALNI KATALOG 1949 (Part 3, Bratislava 1949)
- c) George A. Blizil: BOHEMIA MORAVIA SLOVAKIA pages 45 - 103 (Czechoslovak P.S. of North America 1958). Although not stated, this handbook appears to be based on the Novotny catalogue and so does not require particular mention, except for its usefulness in being in the English language.

Am I right in thinking Novotny is the most reliable source? First Day covers would settle these minor discrepancies very quickly, so would members fortunate to possess any please help by checking the dates and informing CZECHOUT? Even if the sources appear to agree, this independent check is worthwhile, as catalogues often copy one another's information and misprints.

(British style dates: day, month, year)

- 1939-41 Murgas no wmk: SG 51-52 = Sept. 1939  
Scott (38-39) & Novotny (40-41) give 1939  
only, not Sept.
- wmk: SG 53 = 1941  
Scott (65) & Novotny (42) agree 1941, but  
FDCs unlikely?
- 1939 Child Welfare: SG 54 = 6.11.39  
Scott (B1) agrees, but Novotny (49) says  
2.11.39
- 1941 Slovak Memorandum: SG 69-71 = 26.5.41  
Scott (62-64) & Novotny (67-69) agree.
- 1941 Red Cross: SG 72-74 = 10.11.41  
Scott (B2-4) & Novotny (70-72) agree.
- 1941 Child Welfare: SG 75-77 = 10.12.41  
Scott (B5-7) agrees but Novotny (73075 says  
12.12.41
- 1942 Hlinka Youth: SG 78-80 = 14.3.42 (3rd  
Anniversary of Independence)  
Scott (B8-10) & Novotny (77-79) agree.
- 1942 Philatelic Exhibition: SG 82-85 = 23.5.42  
Scott (70-73) & Novotny (80-83) agree.
- 1942 Postal Congress: SG 86-88 = 12.10.42  
Scott (74-76) & Novotny (84-86) agree.
- 1942 Literary Society: SG 89-94 = 14.12.42  
Scott (77-82 & Novotny (87-92) agree.
- 1943 Winter Relief: SG 98-100 = 1943  
Scott (B11-13) agrees; Novotny (97-99) gives  
8.2.43
- 1943 Fighting Forces: SG 106-108 = 28.7.43  
Scott (B14-16) agrees. but Novotny (100-102)  
gives 3.7.43
- 1943 Railway: SG 109-112 = 5.9.43  
Scott (89-92) & Novotny (1030106) agree.
- 1943 Culture Fund: SG 113-116 = 14.10.43  
Scott (B17-20) & Novotny (107-110) both say  
16.10.43

- 1944 5th Anniversary Independence: SG 117-124 =  
14.3.44  
Scott (95-102) & Novotny (111-118) agree
- 1944 Sports: SG 130-133 = 30.4.44  
Scott (B21-24) & Novotny (119-122) agree
- 1944 Protection with charity surcharge: SG 134-135  
= 6.10.44  
Scott (B25-26) agrees, Novotny(128-129) says  
24.10.44
- 1944 Protection unsurcharged: SG 136-137 = 6.10.44  
Scott (108-109) agrees, Novotny (130-131) says  
6.11.44
- 1944 Child Welfare sheet: SG 138 = 18.12.44  
Scott (B27) & Novotny (132) agree
- 1945 Tiso: SG 139-144 = 1945  
Scott (110-115) agrees 1945: Novotny (133-138)  
says 14.3.45, the 6th anniversary of  
independence.

(I wish to thank Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gren for the loan of items  
b & c above)

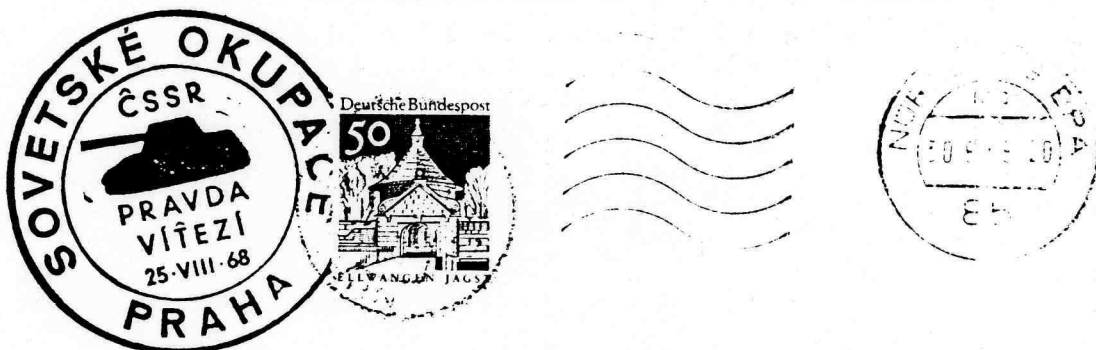
It's always pleasing to get material from a new member, so many thanks to James for his piece  
on Slovakia. If any other member can help confirm or otherwise please send in details. James  
thanks our Librarian for his help - another "plug" for the library, and a practical  
demonstration of how useful it can be to have a look at the Society's library.

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THE SOVIET OCCUPATION  
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John Guy asks for some help with an interesting  
cancellation. A friend from the Epsom Society presented this  
cover and asked "what was the background and story behind  
this cancellation".

Apart from the obvious - the day the Russian tanks went into  
Prague - this cover is a mystery to John. Why such a  
cancellation on a GERMAN stamp? Can anyone help with an  
answer?



DOPLATNE - THE END OF AN ERA  
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by Alan Knight

By now it must be reasonably common knowledge amongst collectors of Czechoslovak stamps that the use of "DOPLATNE! ('TO PAY') labels have been discontinued in that country for the direct collection of postages due on 'TAXE' items. Remaining stocks are being used up as ordinary postage stamps for the pre-payment of postage - the opposite of their original role in the postal service. Having heard this from various sources I tried to obtain first-hand information from the Ministry concerned in Prague but was told that my enquiry could not be dealt with by them and that they were forwarding it to another undertaking for action; I am still awaiting this answer ! Not to be defeated in my quest I have now been able to obtain the answers to a number of questions on this matter from one of my correspondents over there, due to his kindness in researching the matter very thoroughly for me. I gratefully acknowledge this assistance and submit the questions and answers below for the benefit of our readers.

Question 1. On what date did Czechoslovak 'DOPLATNE' labels become valid for pre-payment of postages ?

Answer: 19.4.1985

Question 2. What was the official Order number covering this change ?

Answer There was initially an official circular to all post offices from the Central Directorate of Communications. Following this circular, the Federal Ministry of Communications issued Public Notice number 5585/1985.

Question 3. Which of the old 'DOPLATNE' labels are now valid for the pre-payment of postages ?

Answer All labels issued in the 'New Currency' since 1953. (By this I understand it to mean 'DOPLATNE' labels issued on and since November 1954).

Question 4. By what method is postage due on 'TAXE' items now collected ?





Answer

Following experiments in specific regions, the following procedure will be officially adopted for the entire country with effect from 1.4.1986: Where unpaid postage is to be collected, the item will be held at the post office until this is paid. A special postcard, printed by Jihočeské tiskárny in South Bohemia, will be delivered to the addressee, showing amount due and providing space for the affixing of the relevant value postage stamps (postage stamps / postage-due labels). The postcard should then be forwarded to the issuing post office and, upon confirmation of the correct amount having been affixed to the postcard, the 'TAXED' item can be released.

I hope this information will now assist other enquiring collectors on this matter - unless ofcourse, YOU know differently ! If you do, please let The Editor know.

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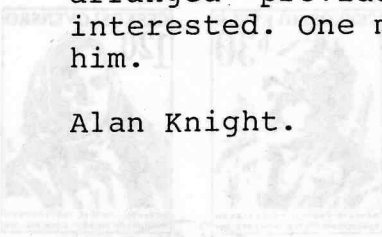
NEW POFIS CATALOGUE  
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I have made further enquiries regarding information on the expected new issue of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp Catalogue published by POFIS, Prague. A letter received from ARTIA (Foreign Trade Corpn.) in Prague informs me as follows:-

"We have received your letter ..... in which you were asking for information about the new issue of the POFIS stamp catalogue. We wish to inform you that the new issue should be finished in 1987. The new catalogue is prepared as a combined work (1918-1939 together with post-war issues). We will let you know about price and the date of issue as soon as we have any detailed information. The catalogue could be ordered by our department".

As soon as this information is recieved I will pass it to our editor; it may be a bulk delivery to us could be arranged provided a sufficient number of members are interested. One member has already asked me to order one for him.

Alan Knight.



FINALLY  
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A chance to see what POFIS No. 2328 is based on. This 1978 stamp, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Folk Festival at Východná, shows 2 Slovak dancers, one with an axe or "valáš". The cancellation continues the "valáš", this time with the dancer wearing a costume from Detva. This costume is instantly recognisable and very different from most Slovak costume with it's wide, loose shirt and trousers. The shirt and waistcoat are cut short to leave the midriff bare - although I've performed the "valáš" I've always been banned from wearing this costume !

In June a Slovak dance group PARTIZAN will be appearing in the South East, and will almost certainly be performing dances from this region. It's a good chance to see and hear traditional Slovak folk music - and to go backstage and meet the group over 2 or 3 litres of Slivovice. If anyone's interested in seeing them perform, I can get details of dates and venues.



Having completed this issue I came across a copy of the two stamps I mentioned in the editorial - my two favourite Czech stamps. The fact that they reproduce so well in black & white bears out my point about the simplicity and strength of their design.

That's all for this issue - as the Slovaks say, AHOJ!

Bob Black, Editor.

POFIS No.s 796/797, commemorating 10th Anniversary Slovak National Uprising. Cancellation is from Banska Bystrica, where the Uprising began.

