

# CZECHOUT

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-: WITH SEASONAL GREETINGS :-  
*Radnosta Vánoce a Šťastný Nový Rok*  
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## EDITORIAL

....Thus, we come almost to the end of another year, sadly tinged of course by the Society's sad loss in Kay's passing. However, as she would wish .... the Society lives on and so does CZECHOUT, the latter next year celebrating a small 'jubilee': the next issue through your letter-boxes in March 1988 will be its fiftieth edition!

As you will have learned by the enclosed AGM Minutes, we gladly welcome BRIAN DAY as our new leader and Chairman during a year that is forecast to be a very busy and important one, i.e. the year of that great decennial event, PRAGA '88 and another joint-meeting with our friends of the Austrian and Hungarian societies. Brian will be a busy man for sure and we wish him well. Brian Day is a very well-respected personage and a man of few words with a very dry wit. Business-like in approach he seems to many to be an ideal person to assume the Chair vacated by Reg. Hounsell after two years.

I take this golden opportunity to sincerely thank all who have contributed to CZECHOUT over the past year, especially to the authors of our varied articles during that period, both from within our Society and from overseas. I am really most grateful to all of you. I am now in the position of looking for sufficient, good material for the next year's issues and would most gladly welcome serious studies and philatelic articles connected with our specific subject of Czechoslovak Philately (including 'forerunner' material); length is immaterial!

This brings me to another matter of what are generally known as 'Specialists'. This Society is recognised as a Specialist philatelic society; the only problem with that nomenclature is that it can, perhaps, deter some prospective new members. To them - and our newer members - I say: "Don't be put off by that word SPECIALIST!". The fact is that only a very small percentage of our membership is composed of these philatelists (on whom we depend so much for our philatelic 'education') and even they would readily admit to having been 'beginners' at some time in the past. No! We are NOT all specialists (but would like to be). I wish a substitute of SPECIALIST could be found, so let us suggest that the majority of us are just ARDENT STUDENTS of Czechoslovak Philately. So, if anyone is standing, shivering at our door, then 'Come on into our warm and friendly atmosphere - you are most welcome!"

Finally, to those we do not see at our meetings, especially those who are physically unable to make the journeys: We do think of you all and thank you for your support by virtue of your membership. We wish you ALL well in the coming year ..... and look forward to welcoming you at our meetings if you can possibly manage it.

Good Hunting!

Alan Knight

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1987

Copies of the Hon. Secretary's Minutes and of the Officers' Reports are enclosed with this issue.

ORDINARY MEETING 7.11.1987Hon. Secretary's Minutes:

The new Chairman, Mr. B.C. Day welcomed 27 members and presented Mr. C. Wackett with a Certificate of Participation for his Display at BPE in 1986.

The Secretary gave details of three new members whose Applications for Membership were formally approved:-

Mr. C. Cordes - South Africa

Mr. S. Wright - Leeds

Mr. W. Stanley - London

Mr. John Whiteside, FRPSL, assisted by Messrs. Parker, Hounsell, Kingsley, Spong and Mrs. D.Y. Gren conducted the Society Auction. Bidding was brisk at times and there were about 40 unsold items only. Mr. B. Day thanked Mr. Whiteside and all those who had helped, for their hard work during the afternoon.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Czechoslovakia has been passed to me. It is from:

Gabriel Kővér,  
Galaktická 14,  
040 01 KOŠICE.  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The writer states that he has heard of the existence of our Society via a recent issue of the Czechoslovak journal FILATELIE. Mr. Kővér says that he is "offering some good Czechoslovak stamps to the members....." The writer does not make it clear whether this is an offer to exchange or to sell: [Ed.].

NEW ISSUES (Additional item)

Czechoslovakia has issued a stamp additional to the official planned programme for this year. There appeared on September 23rd a single stamp (50h) inscribed "1947/1987/Památník/TEREZÍN". The design incorporates a stylised drawing that depicts a red rose, barbed wire and a Jewish menorah. More will be written on this stamp in our next issue.

CONGRATULATIONS

We are most happy to announce that three of our members were among the award winners at the recent 'International' - HAFNIA 87 - held in Copenhagen, Denmark. To the following we extend our sincere congratulations:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| OTTO HORNUNG (London, GB)     | PAUL JENSEN (Norway)  |
| MICHAEL BIRKS (Manchester,GB) | KJETIL KVIST (Norway) |

Elsewhere in this Issue, Mr. W.A.Page, FRPSL reviews the event in fuller detail.

We are also happy to congratulate member MRS LINDY KNIGHT on being awarded a 'Gold' in the 1987 CIVIL SERVICE Competition. Lindy submitted her display "CZECHOSLOVAKIA - THE FIRST ISSUES 1918-20" which was also adjudged as being the Best Overall Entry in this event.

NOTE FROM PRAGUE

A reader in Prague has kindly commented on Paul Jensen's article in the last issue wherein he confirmed his belief that only two stamps had carried titles with hyphenated forms of CZECHOSLOVAKIA (Česko-Slovensko). Our reader points out that there were two more! He refers to the SLOVAKIA (Father Hlinka) 1939 issue (SG. 23-24) 50h and 1K stamps. Our thanks for this observation. We now await further comment.

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CHARLES GALLOWAY<sup>+</sup>

It is with deep regret that we have learned of the passing of CHARLES GALLOWAY on Monday, November 9th. Charles was the husband of one of our earliest members, IRENE GALLOWAY, who remained a member until recently. To IRENE AND FAMILY we offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

We again point out that expressions of opinion published in CZECHOUT are those of the writers and are not necessarily the views of the Society. It would be an impossible task for the Editor to verify every 'fact' written by our contributors, most of which are accepted in good faith. Where discrepancies can be adequately proven, we will publish these as soon as we can.

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CORRIGENDUM (The Editor's 'humble-pie' column!)

1. Issue 3/1987: Page numbers should read 25-45 in accordance with our whole-volume system.
2. " " : P.9, penultimate line: Delete KRUMAN - insert KRUMAU (editing error).
3. " " : P15, para.5, line 6: Delete JUNE-insert JANUARY (error in submitted copy).

.....

WELCOME!

We extend a very warm welcome to our Society to the following new members; we sincerely hope that their's will be a long and happy association with us:

Messrs. Steven J. Wright of Leeds, West Yorkshire; William Stanley of North-West London and Christopher Cordes in South Africa.

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NOVEMBER (1987) AUCTION - DAYLIGHT ROBBERY!

No! not THAT sort of daylight robbery - but a REAL one which may have affected some members' Bids! On Saturday, 10th October 1987 a postman in Royston had his bag containing mail stolen. Unfortunately our Auction Secretary's home is on that particular 'walk' and mail for Brian Parker could well have been stolen with it. There is no way yet of knowing if any bids were lost by this thief's action and therefore, Brian has made the following suggestion:

Bids received are always acknowledged by either a 'Sorry! Bid(s) Unsuccessful' or an Invoice. Any member who sent in a bid and has not received any sort of acknowledgment from Brian is asked to please contact him ..... but .....Please wait for about three weeks to elapse before doing so. It could be that some unsold lots could be sold for the reserve price.

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CURRENT PHILATELIC LITERATUREPHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEW, Vol. 36/No.3 - 3rd Quarter 1987:

Index to the Congress Books of The American Philatelic Congress, Vol. 1-52; 1935-1936, compiled by Kathleen Wolsiffer. Notations: Year, (Volume), page no: Copies are in the RPSL Library and possibly also that of the NPS:-

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Plating the 100 Haleru of the First Issue: John Velek; 1959 (25) 83.  
Czechoslovak Provisional Stationery: Geo.A.Blizel;(1945 Stationery) 1949 (15) 38.  
Philatelic Activities of The Czechoslovak Army in Britain: Geo.A.Blizel, 1945(11)74.  
Pošta Československá 1919: James J. Matejka (Jnr);1974(40)11.  
Early Czechoslovak Town Postmarks, pre-stamp period-1867: Mildred A.Glueck;1951(17)171.

CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST (USA) Vol.49/No.7:

Czechoslovak Collections at STOCKHOLMIA 1987: Jaroslav J. Verner, p4.  
Stamp Booklets: Zdenek Kvasnička (Transl.- J.J.Verner), p8.  
Terezin Work Brigades: Dr. P. Gebauer/Eng.P.Blaha (Tranl.- J.J.Verner) p11.  
Čs Monografie 2 ("Holubice") from p185: English Tranl.-(Pt 1)V.J.Kraliček.

FILATELIE (Praha):

No. 19/1987;p560: Czechoslovak Fieldpost 1938: Miroslav Vostatek.  
Botanical and Zoological Terminology on Czechoslovak Postage Stamps:J.Jelenčiak;p562.

**"HAFNIA 87"**

[Copenhagen: October 16-25]

W.Alec Page, FRPSL

"HAFNIA 87" opened with a theme reflected in the various opening addresses: "We may not be the largest but we are the Friendliest". Certainly, the exhibition lived up to this claim, being an excellent event holding plenty to attract both exhibitors and visitors alike.

The formal opening ceremony was performed by the Minister of Culture and Communication, Mr. H.P. Clausen. Later in the week, the Bela Centre was honoured by a visit of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II who spent over an hour looking around and being shown some of the highlights.

Congratulations to our members Otto Hornung who gained a Gold medal for his CLASSICAL TURKEY and to Michael Birks who, following closely on his success at BPE gained a Silver-Bronze medal for his fine display of the Waterlow issues of NICARAGUA.

Collectors of 'Czechoslovakia' could perhaps be excused their disappointment at the small number of Czechoslovak exhibits - probably due to the need to withhold them for PRAGA '88. However, visitors were privileged to view a first-class collection of pre-adhesive postal markings [in the Jury Class displays] from our Norwegian member, Paul H. Jensen, FRPSL.

Paul's material covered periods from the early 1500s through to the 18th century. Included were the pre-Habsburg period when mail was carried only by couriers; from 1526 when a postal system was set up with postmasters appointed by the Emperor; the 100-years period from 1622 when posts were operated by the Counts of Paar Imperial Postmasters. From 1722 the K.u.K (Imperial and Royal) postal monopoly was re-established and on 27 December 1788, a decree was issued relating to the Imperial Mail, establishing a unified letter-rate for the Habsburg German, Bohemian and Hungarian Lands: w.e.f. 1 January 1789 a basic rate of 8 kreuzer; half to be paid the the sender; the remaining half by the recipient.

Amongst the wealth of material displayed were many items of special interest; these included a letter from 1547 from Prague, personally signed by Ferdinand I and addressed to the Governor of Lower Austria in Vienna; an Imperial letter from Pressburg (Bratislava), signed by Maximilian, King of Bohemia and Archduke of Austria and letters from Prague Castle dated 1580/81, signed by Rudolf II.

The 30-Years War (1616-1648) and the First War of Austrian Succession (1742) were covered, including a French military cover bearing the cachet "ARMEE DE BOHEME". Many examples of early straight-line handstamps and an example of the 'crowned posthorn' cancellation of Bartfeld (Bardejov) of 1776 all added to the interest of the collection.

It must be said, however, that no review can adequately do justice to the wealth of information, research and quality of the items in this display - it just had to be seen!

The exhibits in competitive classes included a very promising exhibit from another of our members from Norway - Kjetil Kvist, who gained a Silver medal and a special Book-Prize in the 16-18 Years age-group. This display covered material over a wide spectrum, including the pre-stamp period. Another Junior entry (19-21) was a study of the 1945 "BRATISLAVA ISSUE" which also gained a Silver medal. >>

&gt;&gt; HAFNIA 87:-



There were only two exhibits in the Senior Class: one from Czechoslovakia, the other from Canada. The Czechoslovak exhibitor - Svatopluk Sablatura, covered the period from 1918 to 1937, including a wide variety of proofs and essays in support of the various issues. This entry received a Large Vermeil award. The Canadian exhibitor, Karel Fischer, displayed a detailed study of the 1945 "KOSICE" ISSUE, including paper variations and other varieties. This exhibit gained a Silver Bronze medal.

As at most International exhibitions the Czechoslovak postal agents ARTIA produced their usual souvenirs - one of which is illustrated above.

W.A.P.

[We are most grateful to Alec who, during his tour of this exhibition, took the time and trouble to make the necessarily voluminous notes from which to build this article. Ed.]

THE PRAGUE SCOUT POST OF 1918

Ivo Kvasnička

[This is John F. Giblin's English translation from the German text, published by Wiener Briefmarken Spiegel (Austria) 1970 which we gladly acknowledge].JFG is the AUSTRIAN SCGB's Editor.

THE HISTORY OF THE CZECH SCOUT POST

The first stamps used during a war in connection with the voluntary service of young men, appeared in April 1900 in MAFEKING, a town of the then British Cape Colony. This town was defended by the English for 217 days against the Boers. The commander of the enclosed garrison was GENERAL SIR ROBERT BADEN-POWELL, who later became World Chief Scout. Baden-Powell organised a group of boys for the delivery of important messages. The cards and letters which were delivered in this way, were franked with a 1d stamp which showed a cyclist (Sergeant-Major GOODYEAR) or with a 3d stamp bearing the portrait of General Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

A similar story repeated itself at the end of the First World War in 1918, in the days when the Czechoslovak Republic became an independent state. Then, Czech scouts delivered important notices, letters and telegrams between the new state offices and political leaders. To frank this post the scouts issued special stamps which are the first real "Scout Stamps".

The beginnings of the Czech scouts are closely bound up with the name of PROF. A.B. SVOJSIK who founded in 1911 the first scout group in Bohemia and thus laid the foundation stone for the forming of the Czech scouts. The number of scouts and groups increased so much that, on 15 June 1914, the independent organisation "JUNÁK-ČESKÝ SKAŮT" ("Junák" - (Czech) Scout ) was founded. The South Slav word 'Junák' (hero), with which the Czech scouts were designated, expressed their actual moral and physical values. Just as in other countries, the Czech scouts chose the fleur-de-lys as their symbol but in the centre of which was the head of a dog. The dog's head, as the symbol of loyalty and fearlessness came from the banner of "Psohlavci" (Heads of Dogs). The "Psohlavci" were frontier guards in old Bohemia, the dogs of which were always considered as being models of vigilance and loyalty.

The scouts, already in September 1918, began to get ready beforehand for the service of the "NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR", the National Committee. In the new republic this was the chief organ of the power of the state. In this period the idea also arose of issuing special revolutionary postage stamps. This idea was then realised by the printing of two stamps, of 10 heller and 20 heller. The firm of Kolman in Prague-Vinohrady produced these stamps.

The revolution broke out on 28 October 1918. Already, on the afternoon of that same day, the Czech scouts, with the SOKOLS, students and other volunteers, began their service to protect exposed objects, persons and property. The headquarters of the Czech scouts and that of the Chief Scout, Professor Svojsik, his deputy ROUBAL and the President of the Scouts, a certain J. RÖSSLER-OROVSKY, was located on the island of Strelecky in the Moldau (now the Vltava).

Because the new, revolutionary government used trustworthy workers for the transmission of important information and letters between the National Committee, the police and the organs of state, the National Committee handed over this task to the scouts on the evening of the 28th October 1918. At the start, the courier and delivery service of the scouts was semi-official and simply based on a verbal agreement between the leader of the Czech scouts and the National Committee. On 2 November the President of the Scouts, Rössler-Orovsky, presented to the National Committee, which had its seat in the Palais Harrach, samples of the officially prepared cancellations and gave notice of their first use as 10.00am the following day. >>

The Scout Post was officially constituted by the issuing of the "SERVICE ORDER FOR THE DELIVERY OF LETTERS AND CARDS BY CZECH SCOUTS" of 7 November 1918 No. 324/R. This service order is signed by members of the National Committee, Dr. Pavlaskou, Rössler-Orovsky, A.V. Jelen and the Chief Scout of the Czech Scouts, by which the cancellations and stamps of the "Scout Post" were used as of the National Committee and that of the Scouts.

No. 324/R. SERVICE ORDER OF THE CZECH SCOUTS IN RELATION TO THE DELIVERY OF LETTERS AND CARDS.

1. The Czech scouts are in the service of the National Committee by a statement of their organisation, satisfactorily signed, and are responsible for the letters and cards entrusted to them which they conscientiously deliver to the prescribed addresses.
2. The letters are handed to the scouts at the proper office on the ground floor of the Palais Harrach, the seat of the National Committee in the Jindrichgasse. At the handing-over, each letter must be endorsed by the recipient either on the cover or in a receipt book which the scout produces at the address. The scout has again to bring back the signed envelope.
3. All letters which are to be delivered by scouts are to be provided with a stamp of the Czech Scouts, which is to be stuck on in the scout post office.
4. If it should be impossible to hand over letters, cards, telegrams or packages in accordance with the regulations, the scout must immediately return these postal items to the same official who gave the post over to him.
5. A special cancellation is provided, in which is placed the date and the name of the scout, in order to establish the receipt of a letter.

Prague: 7 November 1918.

All post, which was provided for delivery by the scouts, was collected by the official offices of the scouts in the Palais Harrach, in the Cadet School, in Parliament and in the Town Hall. Important cards, letters, despatches and telegrams, which came with the regular state post, were then immediately sorted and delivered to the addressees. The scouts delivered their post on foot in Prague and its immediate neighbourhood, or by bicycle or tram-car. Their uniform and proof of identity, made possible to the scouts, access to members of the government and politicians at all times of the day and night. The recipient confirmed receipt of the letter in a receipt book or, more commonly still, on the envelope which the "Skaüt" gave back again into the office for the purpose of controlling the completion of his mission.

On 16 November the "Skaütpošt" was also approved by the Minister of the Interior in the City of Prague. Further, a permanent scout service was set up in the Post- and Telegraph-office on the Jindrichstrasse, at the Wilson Railway Station and at the telephone trunk exchange office at Letna. Officially the scout postal service was discontinued by a decree of the Scout President, Rössler-Orovsky, on the evening of 25 November 1918. A large number of the scouts had to go back to school and work again. Some ministries had also already at their disposal, their own reliable employees. The Scout Post Service at the "Národní Výbor" was begun on the day of independence, 28 October, operating day and night on six-hour turns, then recognised by the highest government organ of the National Committee on 7 November and terminated on 25 November 1918.

The Scout Post was re-introduced once again on 21 December 1918, as Prague welcomed the First President of The Czechoslovak Republic. The return of President Tomáš G. Masaryk to the homeland was then a great event. The scouts also participated in the actual organisation of the day. The forwarding of messages and important telegrams between the Castle (Hradčany), the Town Hall and the Wilson Railway Station was, once again, entrusted to them. For this reason, a small number of the scout stamps were provided with the overprint "PŘÍJEZD PRESIDENTA MASARYKA" (Arrival of President Masaryk) in order to frank the post forwarded with it. To day it is no longer possible to establish who officially had instigated the overprinting and the use of these stamps, because no written records were preserved. According to the statements of eye-witnesses, it is known that the idea and stimulus of the overprint came from scouts and that some members of the National Committee were informed of the matter and that they sanctioned it. >>



### SCOUT STAMPS AND SCOUT POSTCARDS

Every revolution bites deeply into the political and economic life of a state and also reflects itself in postal history. Such a revolution always brings with it, as a parallel occurrence, a new issue of regular postage stamps. The Czech scout stamps, which appeared during the period of the revolution of 1918, could be described as a typical example of this phenomenon.

As already mentioned, the idea of producing special scout postage stamps, had already been born in September 1918. The proposal relating to the issue was approved at a meeting on 20 October. The provisional National Committee had already previously decided to use scouts for security and guard duties and also to hand over to them the organisation of a local postal service. The publisher KNAPP from Prague-Karlín decided to have the stamps printed by the firm KOLMAN of Prague-Vinohrady. Together with Scout President Rössler-Orovsky, they placed the order for the production of the stamps. The first order amounted to 20,000 pieces each of the 10 heller blue and the 20 heller red. 10 heller was the delivery charge for postcards and printed matter and 20 hellers for letters, telegrams, newspapers and packets. The raising of these charges was necessary because the scouts only received for their services a lump sum out of a special fund of the National Committee.

Since the stamps were not sold openly, they must be considered as sorts of official stamps: they were officially valid from 7 - 25 November 1918. There are, however, some letters known which were forwarded in the period from the 3rd to 7th November.

The central part of both stamps shows the double-tailed Lion of Bohemia. The value tablet on a white field is on both sides of the Lion. Above the coat-of-arms and value tablet may be read "Pošt Českých Skautů" (Post of Czech Scouts); underneath, "VE SLUŽBÁCH NÁRODNÍ VLÁDY" (In the Service of the National Government).

The stamps were produced by embossed printing and at the same time, perforated (roul) 12½; the dies were engraved by J. Panenka. Only one die was produced for each value so that no print-variations are possible with one and the same value. Printing and perforation was one operation on pre-gummed paper. Later, these dies were rendered unusable by indentation and preserved, with cancellations and other records relating to the Scout Post in the National Committee's archives. This material was, however, destroyed - either during the period of occupation of Czechoslovakia by the German Reich or in a fire in the Old Town Hall during the Prague Resistance in May 1945.

There were two issues of the Scout Post stamps. The first was printed on strong paper with yellow gum which appears to be irregularly spread and the second printing was on thinner paper with white gum. There are in existence some stamps printed on parchment-like paper. Mint stamps of the first issue are rare as they were mainly used up by the Scout Post. There are various shades of colour and irregularities in the colour coating with both values.

The spectrum of colour of the 10 heller stamp extends from light-blue to violet whilst that of the 20 heller from rose to carmine. The printers delivered the stamps to the scouts in batches of 500 and 1000 pieces. The production being under great pressure for time, there appears to have been little or no control over the numbers delivered, thus the exact number of impressions issued is today unknown. It is however, estimated that approximately 30,000 blue (10h) stamps and 50,000 red (20h) stamps were actually delivered to the scouts.

Trial printings of both stamps are known to exist, printed on white paper with yellow and/or white gum. Trial colours of the 10h stamp exist in diverse variations of red-brown, brown, grey and purple. Trial printings of the 20h are known in red-brown, brown, violet, purple, grey-olive, orange and, less often, in light-blue and blue-green. >>

During the printing of the stamps, the following errors arose: imperf or incomplete-perf, inexact formats, negative perfs, double-paper, paper-folds, double-printings, irregular or botched colour application and various printers waste, blank printings and some complete or partial omissions. Such printing errors are relatively rare, although printed by a private firm. All these facts strengthen the argument that the Scout Stamps were created specifically for the use of the Revolutionary Post and not for philatelic collections.

Following his death, much of Rössler-Orovsky's estate, including Scout Stamps with the so-called "Prague Revolutionary Overprint" came into the hands of some collectors. This idea of a revolutionary overprint arose in the first days of the new state among members of the National Committee and there followed some overprinting of the Austrian definitives. This same overprint on Scout Stamps therefore holds no significance; they are considered only as 'trial printings' with little or no 'specialities' values. There are three types of the first overprint, with the so-called 'small' shield and one type (large shield) known on the Scout Stamps. There are also shifted prints and inverted ones. The following types of overprint are known:

Overprint 'A': "PROVISORNI ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ VLÁDA (Provisional Czechoslovak Government) and the Lion of Bohemia in a vertically-shaded shield, above which is the Bohemian Crown.

OVERPRINT 'B': "ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ STÁTNÍ POŠTA" (Czechoslovak State Post) with arms and a crown.

OVERPRINT 'C': The final overprint ran to "PROVISORNI ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ VLÁDA" and the Czech coat-of-arms; the crown above the shield was filed out. After this overprint had been used for many days on Austrian stamps, the National Committee criticised it because the union of Bohemia and Moravia with Slovakia might not be clearly obvious from it. The o/p was then altered yet again.

OVERPRINT 'D': The last overprint consisted of the words "ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ STÁTNÍ POŠTA" and the combined coat-of-arms of Bohemia and Slovakia; the so-called 'Legionary' coat-of-arms. There was also a very small impression of only 1000 postcards on which was IMPRINTED the 10h stamp, it being in the upper right-hand corner. These were produced on white card in embossed printing. These postcards were intended for communications between the scouts themselves and between scouts and the National Committee. Properly used cards are extremely scarce.

#### CANCELLATIONS OF THE SCOUT POST

The Scout Post used THREE different hand-cancellations in order to distinguish the post to be delivered; they were as follows:-

- A. METAL CANCELLATION (round): a round, metal cancellations (dia.24mm) and the letters "N.V." (Národní Výbor - National Committee). This cancellation was only used in the post office of the scouts at the National Committee.
- B. RUBBER CANCELLATION (round): A rubber cancellation (dia.30mm approx.) and the text "POŠTA SKAUTŮ - PRAHA 1918" (Scout Post-Prague 1918); the date was inserted by hand. This cancellation was used at ALL the scouts' post offices.
- C. RUBBER CANCELLATION (long): A two-line rubber cancellation with the words "Dopis od skauta.../převzal..." (Letter from scout...../Accepted by.....) This cancellation was signed by the scout delivering it (on top line) and on the second line by the recipient. Both signatures proving that the item of mail had been delivered according to regulations.

These cancellations are mostly in blue and purple; accidentally, also in red. There have been seen correctly transmitted items bearing green cancellations. All pieces of Scout Post forwarded by the scouts display both the corresponding stamp and the cancellation. The same applies to letters

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which were first delivered by the regular post of the National Committee but then were further transmitted by means of the Scout Post to offices and/or persons. Letters bearing mixed frankings, i.e. stamps of the "SKAUTPOŠT" and Austrian stamps, are rare and desirable pieces of postal history of the revolutionary period. Stamps were also applied to the fronts of telegrams but where these ran to more than one side of the paper, Scout Stamps were applied to ALL sides. Scouts also delivered daily, bundles of newspapers and magazines and, in such cases, only the TOP COPY received a Scout Stamp and cancellation.

The fixing of frankings in relation to scout stamps did not always follow, especially if the scout ran out of supplies of stamps. Thus, and because, some letters had already been forwarded prior to the appearance of the Scout Stamps, there are items containing only cancels. If a receipt book was used by the scout, then the letter displayed only the two-line cancel C.

#### UNOFFICIAL HAND-STAMPS ON SCOUT POST

- A. An official (but not postal) handstamp bearing the legend NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR/ČESKOSLOVENSKY/V PRAZE (Czechoslovak National Committee in Prague) was likewise used. It was applied in various colours including violet, red or black.
- B. Some hand-stamps belonging to various scout groups working for the National Committee are also sometimes seen on letters. However, these had no official recognition and were merely applied as propaganda for the scouts themselves.

The official mark A. occurs only on original letters, papers and other communications material and was not intended for cancelling stamps. This mark officially authenticated the papers on which they appeared, being recognised as marks of authority. Due to the fact that all hand-stamps were kept together in one of the official rooms of the National Committee it had to be that some were used in error on some covers. This oval mark and also the official metal cancellation "N.V." - and also the round, rubber cancel survived in the official room of the National Committee when the "SKAUTPOŠT" discontinued its service. At a later period in time a small number of additional letters was produced and, in most cases, covers imprinted "NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR" were used. They applied a stamp to these which were then cancelled with the official cancellation A. and, in addition, received one or even two postal cancellations.

These letters, on which the forger wrote either a fake date (25 November or later) and even a fake address, cannot be distinguished from official letters actually delivered by the scouts.

#### "PŘÍJEZD PRESIDENTA MASARYKA" OVERPRINT

As mentioned at the start of this article, the "SKAUTPOŠT" was re-activated on 21 December 1918; the day of the return of President Masaryk to his homeland. For this memorable event, the scout stamps were provided with a three-line overprint "PŘÍJEZD PRESIDENTA MASARYKA" (Arrival of President Masaryk). This overprint was applied by the KNAPP PRINTING WORKS on stamps of the first and second impressions. The 10h blue received a brick-red overprint whilst the 20h stamp, a black one. Approximately 600 pieces of the 10h blue and 1000 pieces of the 20h red were thus overprinted. The present high prices demanded for these overprinted stamps confirms that the stamps which were not actually used were immediately destroyed.

All letters with the overprinted scout stamps, forwarded in the prescribed manner, were cancelled by the round strike POŠTA SKAUTŮ-PRAHA 1918 and marked with a black 'C'. There was an exception: this being letters despatched by the Chairman of the Ministerial Council, in which case, these were provided with an unofficial round (non-postal) strike which bore the legend "PRESIDIUM MINISTERSKÉ RADY, REPUBLIKA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ" (Presidium of the Ministerial Council of the Czechoslovak Republic). Some scout postcards were also stuck with overprinted stamps and used on this particular day. >>

## FORGERIES OF THE SCOUT STAMPS

Even if the stamps of the "SKAUTPOŠT" are not to be numbered amongst the really rare issues, nevertheless they were forged many times. All forgeries were produced with deception in mind.

### 1. The 10 Heller Stamp Blue

#### Forgery "A":

The forger used the 20h stamp as a specimen and on this, the right hind-leg of the lion is indented. This indentation and the wrong position of the letter "S" identifies this otherwise well produced forgery. It is likewise produced in embossed printing and made with the original type of perforation. However, the perforation 'teeth' are somewhat shallow. These stamps were made in grey-blue colour with a rough, yellow gum. The stamps were also produced in blue and with a smooth, yellowish gum.

#### FORGERY "B":

Design and perforation exactly as "A" above, only the indentation on the lion's leg was re-touched (filled in). The colour of this forgery is blue or violet-blue/smooth white or yellow gum.

#### FORGERY "C":

Design differs considerably from the original. It is also produced by embossing and with uniform perforations. However, the holes between the teeth of the perfs. are round and deep. The teeth themselves are more blunt than pointed and each side has around two more teeth than the original. (Original p.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; forgery perf.13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ). Colour of stamp is light-blue or blue with smooth, yellowish gum.

### 2. The 20 Heller stamp Red

#### FORGERY "A":

This forgery, most probably, comes from the same forger as "A" and "B" of the 10h forgery. The distinguishing characteristics are the fake "S" in the text and the error of the indented leg of the lion. Individual forgeries vary in the purity of the embossing which, however, is NEVER as distinct and clear as the original. The size of the perforation is unequal and the holes are shallow. The colour is bright-red to red and the gum is white or slightly yellowish; also, often rough and white.

#### FORGERY "B":

This forgery differs considerably from the original: the letters and numerals are smaller and the lion fills up the space to the border. This forgery is also produced in embossed printing with uniform perforation. The recognition characteristics of this forgery are the slender perforation and shallow holes. Each side of the perfs. has about three teeth more than the original. The colour is carmine with light, white gum.

### 3. The "PŘÍJEZD PRESIDENTA MASARYKA" overprint

The small impression and the high price of these stamps are the reasons why this overprint was forged so many times. Forged overprints occur on genuine and forged stamps. In NO CASE however, do they correspond to the original. The forged overprint was also put on stamps of Scout Post letters that had genuinely gone through the scout mail. These letters often bear the strike "N.V." which was not used on 21 December 1918. >>

CZECHOSLOVAK "SCOUT" STAMPS 1918

- FORGERIES -



FORGERY "A" ON 10h STAMP



FORGERY "B" ON 10h STAMP



FORGERY "A" ON 20h STAMP



FORGERY "B" ON 20h STAMP

## THE PRAGUE SCOUT POST 1918



(a)

Dopis od skauta \_\_\_\_\_  
převzal: \_\_\_\_\_

(b)



(f)



(g)



(c)



(d)



(e)

- (a) Genuine pair of Prague Scout Post Stamps of 1918  
 (b) Scouts' Delivery/Receipt cachet (Rubber Stamp)  
 (c) Official handstamp of the Czechoslovak National Committee in Praha  
 (d) Enlargement of genuine overprint "Arrival of President Masaryk"  
 (e) Stamp of Chairman of Ministerial Council  
 (f) N.V. Stamp used only in the Scouts' Post Office at the Nat. Committee  
 (g) Handstamp used by ALL Scout Post Offices

FORGERY "A":

The clearest characteristic of this forgery is that the central part of the letter "M" does not reach to the base-line as on the original. Likewise, the central part of the letter "d" is round and not oblong. This overprint forgery is on original stamps; on the 10h type "C" forgeries and on letters of the "SKAUTPOŠT" that really went through the genuine post. The red printing on the 10h stamp is matte.

FORGERY "B":

This forgery differs from the original in the deviating form of the letter "S" and in the tail of the "t" in the word "Presidenta". The letters are not sharp at the edges. This forgery even appears in black on the Blue 10h stamp.

FORGERY "C":

The types of letters are completely different to those of the original. Also, many letters are incompletely printed. The colours of this forgery are the same as those of the original stamps.

.....



[Photo:POFIS]

Cover of 21.XII.1918 with 10h and 20h Scout stamps overprinted "Přijezd presidenta Masaryka" ----- addressed to the President of Scouts, Josef L. Rössler-Orovsky -----

.....

SAINT WENCESLAS  
(detail)  
1511



The 'Good King'  
in the English  
Christmas Carol

### THE GOOD PRINCE (or King)

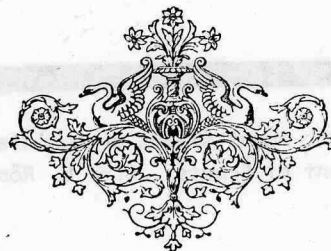
Elsewhere in this issue will be found reference to the latest PRAGUE CASTLE issue so, perhaps we can complement this with a snap-shot view of a seasonal figure whose mortal remains are said to lie within this beautiful castle's confines; precisely: in the great Cathedral of Saint Vitus. On a spot which is claimed by the Czechs to be the actual site of the 10th century rotunda, is the Chapel of St. Wenceslas (one of four princes of that name). Along with his great stone tomb and silver bust, the Saint is enshrined within a group of paintings over the chapel altar. This painting is accredited to the Master of Litoměřice, a small town lying 65 km north of Prague. It is believed to have been executed around the year 1511AD.

St. Wenceslas (the 'Good King' of the old Victorian Christmas Carol) ascended the throne of old Bohemia in the year 924AD but was brutally assassinated some years later. Readers will recall perhaps, the Czechoslovak issue of 1929 which commemorated the Millenium of St. Wenceslas. It has however, now been established by researchers that the Saint's death was during the years of 935-936AD - but that would be another story.

St. Wenceslas is really a 'beloved saint' in the eyes of many Czechs even today. Not only does his huge equestrian statue stand at the top of the great Prague Square bearing his name (it is sometimes a focal point as is our own Trafalgar Square) but in many places throughout the whole country.

We illustrate the 3Kčs stamp of the 1969 PRAGUE CASTLE set which depicts St. Wenceslas standing in a wine-grape tub, pressing out the juices for (so we are told) distribution amongst the poor. Ah, well! It is a very human story of this prince (or king) being displayed as prosaic, human and close to his people. We must, of course, remember however that this is all part of the great tradition that has grown around the name of St. Wenceslas (in Czech: Václav) over the centuries.

Technical details: POFIS 1766 (1969) PRAGUE CASTLE 3Kčs. Printed in sheets of four stamps by flat-bed recess system, perf 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Designed and engraved by the late Jindra Schmidt. A.J.K.







As confirmed in our last issue, the exhibition dates have now been firmly established by the Exhibition Committee as being from 26 August to 4 September, 1988. This committee's address is as follows:

World Exhibition of Postage Stamps PRAGA '88,  
Staroměstské náměstí 15 (1 patro),  
POB number 830,  
111 21 PRAHA 1. CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS

Intending visitors (except our Society party) are advised that the Czechoslovak Travel Agency ČEDOK will be attending to all aspects of visitors' requirements, including tours, cultural programmes, guides and local travel, etc. The Head Office of ČEDOK is:

ČEDOK (Praha),  
Na příkopě 18,  
111 35 PRAHA 1. CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

#### SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES.

Fifteen are planned (including souvenir and m/sheets), commencing with the FIP issue of 3.6.1986. Postal Stationery will also be featured with special 'Day' cancels - as during PRAGA '78 - and special AIRMAIL (PAR AVION/PRAHA '88) labels will also appear along with special Registration Labels.

#### PUBLICATIONS

The usual exhibition catalogues will appear, including those on ART ON STAMPS and CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY. There is no news yet as to whether any stamp catalogue will appear (this includes the long-awaited and updated POFIS standard Czechoslovak Stamp Catalogue).

#### BULLETINS

Numbers 1, 2 and 3 have already been issued; the latter containing the full Exhibition Regulations. Others are expected in due course.

#### EXHIBITION MEDALS

Exhibition Award medals will be manufactured by the State Mint at Kremnice. Each will be designed by Artist of Merit and Academic Sculptor, ZDENĚK KOLÁŘSKÝ.

#### EXHIBITION POSTERS

A number of posters of varying sizes are planned, including one size A1 for the ART ON STAMPS Exhibition scheduled to be held in the Riding School within Prague Castle.

#### FINLANDIA '88

It is anticipated that philatelic co-operation will be arranged to co-incide with PRAGA '88.

AUSTRIAN POSTAGE RATES UP TO 1918

John Whiteside, FRPSL.

John has supplied something here which will be of invaluable assistance to 'forerunner' collectors, especially when Registration, Express and Postage Dues are involved. (Ed).

A. INTERNAL MAIL

a) Local Letters.	1.6.1850	2Kr per loth	
	1.11.1858	3Kr per loth	
	1.7.1873	Up to 15gr. 3Kr	
		15 - 250gr. 6Kr	
	1.1.1893	Up to 20gr. 3Kr	
		20 - 250gr. 6Kr	
	1.1.1900	Up to 20gr. 6h	
		20 - 250gr. 12h	
	16.1.1907	Separate rates for local letters abolished.	
b) Internal Letters.	1.6.1850	Up to 10 German Miles	3Kr per loth
		10 to 20 "	6Kr per loth
		Over 20 "	9Kr per loth
	1.11.1858	Up to 10 "	5Kr per loth
		10 to 20 "	10Kr per loth
		Over 20 "	15Kr per loth
	1.1.1866	Over any distance	5Kr per loth
	1.7.1873	Up to 15gr. 5Kr	
		15 - 250gr. 10Kr	
	1.1.1883	Up to 20gr. 5Kr	
		20 - 250gr. 10Kr	
	1.1.1900	Up to 20gr. 10h	
		20 - 250gr. 20h	
	1.10.1916	Up to 20gr. 15h	
		each additional 20gr. 5h	
	1.9.1918	Up to 20gr. 10h	
		each additional 20gr. 5h	
c) Postcards.	1.10.1869	2Kr	
	1.1.1900	5h	
	1.10.1916	10h	
	ONLY Postal stationery	8h	
	1.9.1918	10h	
d) Printed Matter. (Drucksache)	1.6.1850	1Kr per loth	
	1.11.1858	2Kr per loth	
	1.1.1866	2Kr per 2.5 loth	
	1.7.1873	2Kr per 50gr. (up to 250gr.)	
	1.7.1875	Up to 50gr. 2Kr	
		50 - 250gr. 5Kr	
	1.1.1900	Up to 50gr. 3h	
		50 - 100gr. 5h	
		100 - 250gr. 10h	
	1.10.1916	each 50gr. 3h	>>

>> AUSTRIAN POSTAGE RATES (cont.):

e) Registration Fee.	1.6.1850	Local	3Kr
		internal	6Kr
	1.11.1858	Local	5Kr
		internal	10Kr
	1.1.1900	uniform	25h
f) Express Fee.	1.6.1850	?	
	1.11.1858	15Kr	
	1.1.1900	30h	
	1.9.1918	60h	

NOTES

1) The Weight unit - the loth equalled approx. 16g.

2) The distance scales in the early letter rates were laid down in the Austro-German Postal Convention of 1850. One German Mile was equal to about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  English miles.

The provisions of the Convention were that internal rates were charged to all parts of the German Empire, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg. This remained so until after World War I.

3) Currencies - Up to 1858, the Gulden (or Florin) was divided into 60 Kreuzer. The Gulden was minted at a standard of 20 Gulden per mark of fine silver (1 mark about 235 or 295g).

In 1858, the standard of the Gulden was changed to 21 Gulden per mark of fine silver and the Gulden was now divided into 100 Kreuzer. This followed a series of Austro-German coinage conventions and meant that the various German and Austrian currencies could be easily converted, which had not been the case previously.

In 1900, the Krone and Heller currency was brought into use. One old Gulden equalled 2 Kronen.

B. FOREIGN MAIL

a) Letters.	1.7.1875	per 15gr.	10Kr
	1.1.1883	per 20gr.	10Kr
	1.1.1900	per 20gr.	25h
	1.9.1918	Up to 20 gr.	25h
		additional 20 gr.	15h
b) Postcards.	1.7.1875	5Kr	
	1.1.1900	10h	

&gt;&gt;

## &gt;&gt; AUSTRIAN POSTAGE RATES

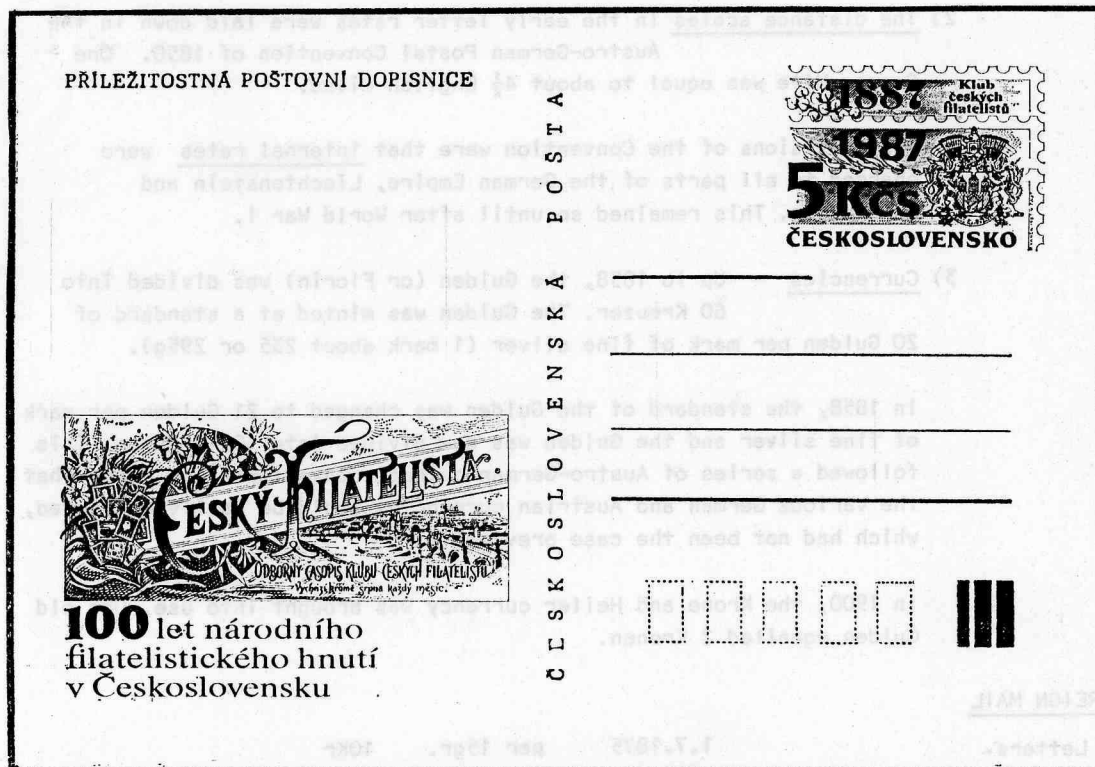
c) Printed Matter	1.7.1875	per 50gr	3Kr
	1.1.1900	" "	5h
d) Registration Fee	1.7.1875		10Kr

- NOTES:
- 1) Prior to 1.7.1875, foreign rates varied by country according to the various treaties negotiated between them.
  - 2) Rates quoted from 1.7.1875 are UPU rates which applied as each foreign country signed the UPU Convention.

[Source: MICHEL: Österreich Spezialkatalog]

JLW

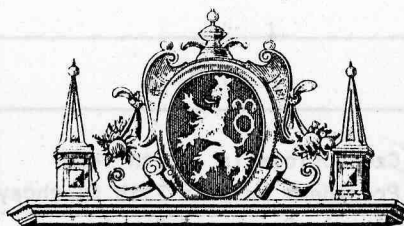
## POSTAL CARD



Item of postal stationery issued this year commemorating the centenary of the CZECH PHILATELISTS CLUB. The ppi carries relevant dates/Club's title/Arms of Prague. The illustration is of an early title banner of the Club's official organ - the CZECH PHILATELIST, under which appears "100 years of national philatelic movement in Czechoslovakia". We understand this to be a limited (not general) issue especially for the Club. The date of actual issue has yet to be ascertained. A.K.

A RECENT ISSUE (1)

A.J.Knight



• PRAŽSKÝ HRAD •

— PRAGUE CASTLE —

May 9 1987



Every year since 1965, Czechoslovakia has issued a special set of stamps dedicated to the great Castle of The Bohemian Kings (and contemporary seat of government) which is situated in the Hradčany district of Prague upon a high hill overlooking the River Vitava (formerly the Moldau) which runs through the city. The dominant architectural feature of Prague Castle (Pražký Hrad) is the most beautiful and imposing edifice of the Cathedral of St. Vitus and it was this view of the castle and its cathedral which inspired Alfons Mucha to design Czechoslovakia's first stamps following its independence from Austria-Hungary in 1918. Thus, every year we now see a set of stamps depicting the architectural beauty and numerous artifacts of the castle.

This year we take a closer look at some of the stained-glass windows of the Cathedral of St. Vitus. The first stamp (2Kčs) shows the detail of one of the most beautiful of all within the cathedral. These windows are the work over many years of leading Czech artists, such as the late Max Švabinský and Karel Svoboda, who also have a number of Czechoslovak postage stamps to their credit. The window in this stamp is one of the older works, designed by František Sequens (1836-1896), a painter who devoted most of his works to historical and religious themes. As a professor at Prague Academy of Fine Arts he emphasized the ethical function of art.

The other (3Kčs) stamp features a mural painting decorating the old Royal Palace in the hall called "New Land Rolls", the old depository for land rolls. The decoration of this hall dates back to the period following the fire which damaged the palace in 1541. The murals were restored with remarkable mastership in 1982-83. In addition to The Bohemian Lion (illustrated above), they feature the insignia of the high land officials of that time. This stamp portrays one of them.

These two stamps were accompanied by a FDC with a very interesting drawing. It depicts a marvelous jewelled box: a unique type of case from gilded silver with bright enamels and jewels. It was made in the mid-17th century and is part of the Augsburg treasure in the Cathedral. The postmark on the cover features period arabesques.

Lovers of artistic and historical themes on postage stamps will certainly like the 1987 PRAŽSKÝ HRAD set, portraying some of the art objects found within the castle confines whose history goes back a thousand years. Each century, each architectural style and the gallery of artists of all times have left their imprint on this magnificent monument, to their own glory and that of future generations.

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Technical details: Engravers (2Kčs): Ladislav Jirka and Miloš Ondráček. (3Kčs): Josef Herčík.

Both designs are by Jan Solpera. Multicolour flat recess printing on sheets of six stamps by Post Printing Office, Prague. Size of design: 26x40mm. Perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

## STAMP PROGRAMME - 1988

(Subject to Alteration)

Priced in Kčs

DATE	QTY	SET FACE	TITLE	FDCs	REMARKS
January 1	1 ✓	1.00 ✓	Czechoslovakia - 70th Year	1	
10	1 ✓	1.00 ✓	President Husak's 75th Birthday		Definitive
February 1	3	7.50 ✓	Olympic Games and Sports	1	
	3	15.00	" " " "		Sheets/tabs x 2
25	1	2.00	Victorious February 1948 (sheetx4 50h)	1	PRAGA '88
		.50 ✓	Cs. Nat. Front 40th Anniversary		
March 1	5	10.50	Historical Motor Vehicles	3	
10	4	7.50	Postal Museum's 70 Years	2	PRAGA '88
	1	12.00	" " " "		PRAGA '88 sheet
29	1	.50 ✓	Matice Slovenska (125th Anniversary)	1	
April 14	1	.50	Young Pioneers (40th Anniversary)	1	
May 12	4	15.00	State Care for Historical Monuments and Nature Conservation - Museum of National Literature in Prague	2	PRAGA '88 sheets
June 1	4	10.00	Prague Fountains	2	PRAGA '88 "
July 7	4	7.50	Contemporary Prague	2	PRAGA '88
			" "		Two sheets
August 18	1	5.00	Czechoslovak Stamps - 70th Year	1	PRAGA '88
	1		" " " "		PRAGA '88 sheet
19	1	5.00	Stamp Museum (Vavra's House - Prague)	1	PRAGA '88
			" " " "	1	PRAGA '88 sheet
*26	2	20.00	" " " "	1	PRAGA '88 (FIP)
Sept. 28	2	5.00	Prague Castle (Annual)	1	2 sheets x 4
	1	1.00	Defin. with red/blue tab		PRAGA '88
Oct. 19	2	7.00	Bratislava Historical Motifs (Annual)	1	2 sheets x 4
Nov. 17	3	15.00	Art on Stamps (Annual)	3	3 sheets x 4
Dec. 18	1	1.00	Day of Czechoslovak Stamp (Annual)	1	

COMPLETE YEAR:

Commemorative	39
Definitive	2
*Souvenir Sheet	1 (other sheets are Print or Counter sheets)
Total Face value of all sets/sheets = 149.50 Kčs	
Total of FDCs	25

[Source: ARTIA Praha]

SPECIAL NOTICEAbove is always subject to alteration.

Some older stamps have been re-issued on phosphorised paper but are NOT considered by Prague to be new issues and are not to be catalogued as such according to ARTIA.

[For the benefit of some new members:- ARTIA Foreign Trade Corporation, n.p. is the government agency controlling the world export of Czechoslovak postage stamps to overseas dealers, etc.]