

# CZECHOUT



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Production: W. Alec Page

## EDITORIAL

You will notice that we have today reached the 50th edition of our Society's journal - a small jubilee which deserves a little mention. A great deal of work, commitment and personal effort has gone into all these productions which are provided for the philatelic information of our many members at home and overseas. It must be only right to reiterate our thanks to all those who have given of their own time and expert knowledge so freely over the years to gradually enlarge and improve our journal and Society image. We especially remember those contributors who are no longer with us, whose efforts in this direction have assisted very many of us to be that much more knowledgeable over many years in the field of Czechoslovak philately. I am sure I am speaking for our Society in total when I tender you all its most sincere thanks.

We hope to include a complete Index to our journal's articles and writers right up to the end of 1986 with this issue. For this we have to say Thank You once again to Yvonne Wheatley, one of our former joint-editors. As I passed that work through the typewriter, I became ever more aware of the many hours of work such a task entails. We are, indeed grateful to you, Yvonne.

Finally, may I ask you to take a look at the list of contributors over the years to this journal. It makes fascinating reading when seeing so many names (from here and overseas) representing all who have done this work on our behalf; sadly though, some have since passed away. In order to help this journal to maintain and improve its quality however, we need a constant flow of such works today and I would, once again, appeal to our many writers to please remember that we do rely on you for this. Some of our articles have been outstanding; some less so but nevertheless of great interest to many individuals who read these lines. I know I can count upon you all to help us again henceforth. I now look forward to opening all that mail which is bound to follow!

## A SPECIAL APPEAL

We are placing this right on the first page so that EVERYONE will see it and, hopefully, REMEMBER it. We hope too, that it will thereby obviate any need to repeat it at any time later.

Will members using the EXCHANGE PACKET CIRCUITS please note that 72 HOURS is the maximum time permitted under our Exchange Packet Regulations for members to hold the box. It is totally unfair to keep it for days on end - and it is happening! It is unfair to the next member on the List and it is very unfair indeed to the vendors who supply the books in the first place. If every member held the box for one day longer than permitted, it would add WEEKS to the time when vendors receive payment from the Hon. Packet Secretary. Remember - the rule is STRICT if and when the Packet Secretary has to enforce it. Please READ AND UNDERSTAND the EXCHANGE PACKET REGULATIONS.

MEETING: January 30th 1988

The main subject was W. Alec Page's display and talk on the subject of THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY - 1939-1945 before about 30 members and invited guests from the Czechoslovak National Club. It was a most enjoyable afternoon (with fine weather this year!) as we listened to and examined some of Alec's fine collection on this subject. This included examples of many of the official and unofficial handstamps and cachets employed by the CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN EXILE during its long struggle to gain independence and freedom from the German occupiers of Czechoslovakia. In support of this material were displayed a number of detailed maps showing lines of communication, areas of combat and routes taken by the troops from the time they had left the homeland up to the end of hostilities.

Bill Dawson proposed a glowing Vote of Thanks to Alec which the meeting heartily endorsed.

NEXT MEETING: 26 March 1988

This is to be the first occasion at which members can compete for the KAY GOODMAN TROPHY in our annual competitions - the only competition in force this year. As members will have noted within the recently distributed regulations for this particular competition, there is a far wider scope for the choice of your subject. It is hoped that members will support this first occasion when the award will be given in memory of our late President, Mrs. Kathleen ('Kay') Goodman. As well as the competition, members are invited to bring along their sheets for the section which will be devoted to MEMBERS' DISPLAYS. We know you will not be disappointed because, again, you are free to choose whatever facet of Czechoslovak philately you desire to show to fellow members.

MEETING: 17 September 1988

We can now CONFIRM that the subject for this meeting will be "SUSPENDED SERVICE", an unusual topic which is to be presented by Mr. B. Johnson of the Postal History Society. Please mark your diaries and your programme schedules for this event so that you will not overlook coming along in support of our visiting speaker.

CAN YOU MAKE TEA/COFFEE?

Of course you can! Then could we ask whether you would be willing to spend a short period of your visit to our meeting at the British Philatelic Centre on 7 May in order to assist Betty Day (our Chairman's wife) to run the refreshment stall on our behalf. If you are able, please write or telephone Mrs. Day as soon as possible so that a day's schedule can be planned for that kind service to visiting members.

Offers to: Mrs. Betty Day, 'Trimsaran', Keykol Hill, Newington, Nr. Sittingbourne, Kent. ME9 8NA or by telephone - 0795-842678. Our sincere thanks in advance!

**NOTE:** Our Treasurer, Bob Kingsley still has a few gentlemen's ties and ladies' headscarves with Society 'logo' for sale to members. Details in CZECHOUT 3/87. They are good value and smart in appearance, so do avail yourselves of the opportunity to 'be with it' at our meetings!

FROM THE HON. SECRETARY - YVONNE GREN

JOINT CZECHO-AUSTRIA-MAGYAR MEETING

Our Society is proud to be able to host the third joint meeting between ourselves and the AUSTRIAN and MAGYAR philatelic societies on 7 MAY this year. This is being staged from 10.00 am onwards at THE BRITISH PHILATELIC CENTRE, 107 CHARTERHOUSE STREET, LONDON, EC1M 6PT. It is being organised as a Philatelic Day Out and its success will depend entirely upon attendances; PLEASE DO YOUR BEST to support this important occasion.

We will welcome your material so that we can erect a standing display around the room for all to browse over. There will be three short displays during the event at 11.30 am., 2.00 pm, and 3.30 pm. JOHN WHITESIDE FRPS, L. has kindly agreed to represent our Society with his unusual PARCEL POST material. The 'standing' displays can be arranged as and when the supply of material dictates.

It is hoped that a small bourse will be available at a nominal cost. (PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY: There is a strict NO SMOKING rule WITHIN the building!). If you have spare material and are not a dealer, please bring it along with you - it might be just what someone else is looking for!

Light refreshments will be available although we are still looking for a couple of helpers. Please see a notice to this effect elsewhere within this issue.

A MAP AND GENERAL TRAVEL DIRECTIONS will be found in the Supplement; our thanks to Colin Spong for the information used to make that page.

DYG. [Ed note: Make a note of this date NOW! This is the ONLY Notice to be published]

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#### NEW MEMBERS

Once again it is our great pleasure to welcome new members into our society, something we are happy to note is becoming a regular feature at our meetings. At the 30th January meeting, the following were confirmed and approved as members of this Society:

John Glynn, London; R.C. Robinson, Birmingham; Peter Walsham, Bristol.

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#### INTERNATIONAL AUCTION

Our friends 'across the water' in Holland are organising their second CZECHOSLOVAKIA and related International Auction during March and April 1988. Auction Catalogues (£1 each inc. p&p) can be obtained from:

SECRETARIS STUDIEGROUP TSECHOSLOWAKYE,  
POSTBUS 136,  
N-L 5120 AC RYAN.  
THE NETHERLANDS.

Lots will range from 18th c. Bohemia through to the more modern. We wish them every success.

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#### NEW ISSUES SERVICE

The Editor will be pleased to provide information regarding his NI Service for members on receipt of an sae. There is still time for members to receive 1988 new issues as soon as they are released by the British distributors of Czechoslovak postage stamps but .... time IS now running short!

LITERATURE REVIEW

A STUDY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN  
1945 LIBERATION ISSUES

Cyril Wackett 1988 [ Price £5 ]

This long awaited book by our past vice-chairman is now available as a limited edition to our members. Printed in soft-back form (A4), its 53 pages provide an insight into the very many unofficial overprints applied to Bohemia-Moravia and Hungarian stamps of that time following Czechoslovakia's liberation from the German occupation during World War 2.

As the author states in his introduction, this can only be a 'study' because, as time advances, those knowledgeable in the subject gradually pass away and the information is lost forever. The book contains basic information and some background stories behind the issue of these o/prints right under the noses of the occupying forces and often at great risk. Reading through Cyril's work, I was surprised to learn just what an important part in this exercise was played by the members of various stamp clubs and philatelic societies, despite the obvious risks involved.

Orders should be addressed directly to: Mr. C. Wackett, 8 Greenway, Bishops Stortford. CM23 5LX.

[Ed.]

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COUNTRY MEETING - JUNE 18th 1988

We can confirm that our annual meeting outside London will, this year, be at ROYSTON, Herts. Due to the re-scheduling of timetables for the summer months, railway details and a location map will be sent to members by post nearer the date. However, do, please diary the date NOW! We shall meet at the Royston Community Centre (at the rear of the Town Hall) at 2.30pm. Prior to that, for members wishing for a short break following their journeys, a light Buffet Lunch will be provided from about 1.00pm. We are indebted to Mr. Reg. Hounsell for arranging this meeting in his home-town. We trust members will appreciate this and attend in large numbers. Subject: MEMBERS' POSTAL STATIONERY so do please bring a few sheets with you for display.

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FUTURE 'CZECHOUT's

Efforts are being made to ensure that our journal is now produced at regular QUARTERLY intervals. However, there is a risk that the next two issues may be just a little behind time.

Because of holiday commitments, the SUMMER edition will not appear before the END of JUNE or it could be just a few days later.

The AUTUMN issue likewise will not appear before the last week in SEPTEMBER but we shall 'burn the midnight oil' to try to keep to this. You will all appreciate that many of us, including the CZECHOUT production team, expect to visit PRAGA '88 during August and this fact alone is bound to delay things a little. Secondly, we hope to include a few PRAGA'88 MEMOIRS from some members. If YOU are attending PRAGA '88 and would be willing to write on a few of your views and experiences there, do please let the Editor know as soon as possible. Non-visiting members will enjoy reading of your experiences, we feel sure - they certainly did following PRAGA '78.



QUERY CORNER

1926: 2K (SG 263) Wmk. Perf. 13½ (Prague)

We have received the following note, together with photocopies, from our member in Stafford, J. Barry Horne, FRPSL, who writes:

"I have several bottom right hand corner blocks x 4 stamps of Plate 5 of this value. I have now found on several of the single copies that there is a missing pin perforation. This occurs in the sides of the stamps in the bottom row of the sheet and also, in the horizontal rows of the right hand vertical row of stamps in the sheet.

Although there appear to be 4 missing pins on the stamps, there is, in fact, only ONE since the issue is LINE PERFORATED. This also explains why the position of the missing pin is not constant, being from 4 to 7 pins above the horizontal row and from 15 to 17 pins to the left of the vertical row, as shown on the copies below:



Can any member provide me with any information on this matter, please? I have seen six copies with Plate 5 appearing as in the illustrations and am wondering just how long it took for the pin to be replaced. Does this 'missing pin' variety appear on other values, either of this set or other issue? While this does not appear to happen too often, I have examples from another country's stamps where broken pins were replaced by narrower pins in a comb perforator, with over 10 pins being replaced".

If any reader can assist Barry to solve this problem, please send your material direct to Mr. J.B. Horne, 7, Elm Drive, Bradley, Stafford ST18 9DS or telephone him on 0785-780388.

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If YOU have a philatelic problem you would like to place before our readers, please let the Editor have your question(s), together with sharp photocopies (or the loan of the original if you wish). Over the years a number of these 'Queries' have been solved, much to members' personal satisfaction. It is a small facet of this journal's work which attracts many useful and informative replies.

MEMBERS' DISPLAYS (2)

BILL DAWSONFORGERIES ON CZECHOSLOVAK ISSUES

February 14 1987 will be remembered when Bill Dawson did the 'double' in that year's competitions by winning both the GEORGE PAERSON and FRANCIS PETTITT awards. In this issue we are publishing just a small proportion of Bill's entry for the GP award. We are very aware of the fact however, that within the space we can afford for this article, scant justice can be done to the complete display which gave so much enjoyment to many of the members present at the time.

We have, therefore, chosen just a very few examples in order to whet the appetites of those of us not fully aware of the many examples of forgeries that exist within Czechoslovak philately.

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1920 HRADČANY Issue - 20h (type 5b) with joined spiral top-left.

It should be explained that on plate 1 of this stamp, there remained two type 5a UNRETOUCHED units. There was an imperforate error genuinely produced with only the FRYDEK Post Office and its local offices receiving them. They were released during August and September 1920 and in total believed to be 125 sheets x 100 (12,500 stamps). It is noted that the perforated issue was released on 3 January 1920.

- Fig. 1. 20h genuine imperf. copy signed 'Karásek'.  
 " 2. Complete forgery: Cupola of St. Nicholas' Cathedral has poorly defined detail when compared with genuine. Linden leaves at upper-left are only partially dotted for shading. Doves and hearts are more heavily shaded. Lines being thicker and regular. Roof of St. Vitus' Cathedral is too even, unlike the 'saw-edged' genuine design. Foot of '2' of value touches oval frame. St. Nicholas tower clock has incomplete upper arch. Paper yellowish and surface shinier than genuine. Colour is more red than carmine.

These forgeries, together with similar forgeries of the imperf. 10h and 30h in type 5, were made to defraud collectors; believed the work of the same forger. One other complete forgery is known to exist in addition to the more readily seen 'trimmed perfs.' variety.

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1919 "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919" on Austrian/Hungarian issues.

Overprint type "B" made from four plates - used only on Austrian issues:

- Fig. 3. 1h on Austrian provisional postage-due, with o/print type "B" from plate 4 was used exclusively for this value. It exists in 2 sub-types both set at a 45° angle; Issue 7,000. Sub-type 1 has axis of 'T' touching left of 'V' below and just left of second '9'. Haček on 'C' well formed. Sub-type 2 has axis of 'T' touching left of 'V' and left of second '9' with shaved base curve. 'C' haček is like a dot. >>

>> (Members' Displays):

- Fig. 4. Forged o/print type "A" on genuine stamp. Distinguishing features: Axis of 'T' passes between 'O' and 'V' below and touching second '9'. Broader v over letter 'C' with arms of unequal sizes. Second '9' not shaved at bottom-right. Incorrect angle of  $43^{\circ}$ . The v over 'S' is too large and too high. Many characters are wrong in form, shape and size, particularly the 'E' of 'Česko...', the 'N' and '1919'.

These and similar forgeries were made to defraud collectors. N.B: The other three plates of type 'B' were used as follows: Plate 1/2h and 5h triangular Special Delivery; plate 2/prov.airmails and plate3/provisional surcharged postage-dues .

- Fig. 5. 1.50K used on Austrian provisional airmail, with o/print type 'B' from plate 2 which was used only for provisional airmail set. Exists in two sub-types with angle settings of  $28^{\circ}$ . Issued: 750 only. Sub-type 1 has axis of 'T' passing through right side of 'O' and is touching the right side of second '1'; minor shaving off left foot of first 'K'; minor dent in upper-left curve of 'S' of '...SKA' and the second '9' has right curve shaved at base. Sub-type '2' has the axis of 'T' passing between 'O' and 'V' below and just touching second '9' which is also shaved at right base curve. This genuine copy of sub-type 1 is signed 'Lešetický', 'Borek' and 'Karásek'.

- Fig. 6. Forged o/print type 'C' on genuine provisional airmail stamp. Distinguishing features: Axis of 'T' passes through left leg of 'V' and touches second '9'. Deformed 'K' of 'Česko....' and 'S' of '..SKA'. Second '9' is unshaved at bottom right. Angle wrong at  $30^{\circ}$  instead of the genuine  $28^{\circ}$ . Haček's (the 'v's) on 'S' and 'C' are broader, larger and placed too high. Some characters differ in shape, notably the 'P' and 'S' of 'POŠTA'. Both letters 'K'. Inking of o/print is not solid with some letters showing an outline.

These as well as the other two known forgeries were to deceive and defraud collectors. The forgery of the 2.50K (Fig. 8) shows the same features as the forgery of the 1.50K (Fig. 6), both being the work of the same forger but these are not detailed in the forgeries handbook.

- Fig. 7. 2.50K on Austrian prov. airmail (o/p type 'B'/plate 2). The o/print exists in two sub-types as described for Fig. 5 with angle of  $28^{\circ}$ . Illustrated herein is a genuine copy of sub-type 2, signed as in Fig. 5 above.

- Fig. 8. Forged o/print 'C' as described for Fig. 6 on a genuine stamp.

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1920 AIRMAILS (1st Issue) Issued 14 September. Overprint and surcharge applied to HV HRADČANY issue.

- Fig. 9. 28Kč on 100h violet. Overprint and surcharge in dk. green. Comb perf.  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ ; total printing being 860,000. Distinguishing features are: Pilot's head is round and joined to wing by vertical line. Wing-strut before pilot intersects four lines in the wing. There are three white dots under the white surface in the tail-rudder, Undercarriage wheels are oval, thicker on left-side with dot in centre of right wheel. There is a step in the top outline of the rudder The 'v' over 'c' of Kč is rounded at bottom point. Propellor hubs by surcharge are shaded.

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Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6





Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

>> (Members' Displays):

Fig. 10. Forged overprint type 'D' on forged stamp. Distinguishing features: Pilot's head is egg-shaped but joined to wing as the original. End of strut before pilot is smeared and the shading lines in wing are irregular. Wheels are similar to genuine o/p but right wheel has a larger dot. Edge of the rudder has a curve instead of a step. Haček over 'c' is more closed and blunt, with wider opening on its right side. Propellers have coarser shading. Overprint/surcharge is of a paler shade of green.

This forgery to defraud collectors was applied to the known total forgery of the original stamp, also made to defraud collectors and used mainly for this o/print and for the "S.O.1920" overprint. Printed in blocks of eight clichés, showing: Irregular shading of all the Linden leaves; shading in the hearts and doves is coarse and irregular; spire on the St. Nicholas cupola is shorter and blunt and the three figures '000' in value are crooked, often touching each other. N.B: In this first airmail set, the imperf issue was released on 11 August 1920 whilst the perforated stamps were issued on 14 September 1920.

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1920 (15 Oct.) LIBERATION ('Chainbreaker'): Designer: Vratislav H. Brunner.

Fig. 11. 100 (haleru) dark brown shades, comb perf 14 (line perf  $13\frac{3}{4}$  known but scarce). Valid until 31.1.1923. Genuine copy. Total printing 191,580,000.

Fig. 12. Forgery to defraud the posts. Distinguishing features: Design size is 18.4x21.7mm (Genuine is 18.2x22.0mm). Inscription 'POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ' is slightly irregular. Vs on 'S' and 'C' are too regular, too sharp and too long. Middle bar of 'E' of 'ČESKO..' placed too low. Accent over 'A' of 'SLOVENSKA' is almost vertical. Value figures ragged and uneven. Band on woman's left wrist is less curved and the outline of her lap is too angular. The right of the two almost vertical lines in lap is too short and less curved. Less shading in tufts of grass, particularly at the left. Colour is a lighter, softer shade of brown. Perforation is line  $11\frac{1}{2}$  but the genuine is comb 14 (sometimes line  $13\frac{3}{4}$ ).

This forgery was apparently produced in Hungary and first discovered at LUČENEC (Slovakia). After the sale of about 700 copies, the distributors were apprehended and the remaining stock of 19,300 copies confiscated. All Čs. post offices were circularised with a copy of forgery attached to this memorandum. The balance remaining was said to have been destroyed. It would seem probable therefore that blocks of these forgeries are scarce.

Fig. 13. Block x 4 of these forgeries, all signed 'J.Mrnák'.

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1937 (24 Oct.) Sheet of 25 copies x 10h Newspaper stamps to mark the National Philatelic Exhibition at Bratislava ("BRATISLAVA 1937").

Fig. 14. Genuine sheet being one of 212,175 issued. (Section only illustr.)

Fig. 15. Forgery to deceive collectors. Distinguishing features being: Flowers in beak are star-shaped not joined lines as original. Upper right wing-tip is variable - original has a wing with short line right. No tiny white dots at top of 'h' - two are

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**INÍ VÝSTAVĚ POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK,  
RATISLAVA 1937**

Fig. 14



**INÍ VÝSTAVĚ POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK,**

Fig. 15

>> (Members' Displays)

in the original sheet. Unit 1 has a block of colour in upper wing below 'ens'. Units 10 and 24 have no white dot in 'e' of 'Česko..'. The accent 'v's over both 'S's and 'E' in inscription touch the letters. Inscription below is placed slightly more to the left. Colour is a deeper shade of red-brown.

This forgery was discovered in PRAGUE in December 1937. Why forge such a common item as this sheet? Even now it is priced only at 10Kčs by POFIS and £1.25 in Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue. It seems, therefore, that the forgery must be a far more desirable item than the original!



Fig. 13

[Ed.note: SUGGESTED FURTHER READING: 'Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps' (J.Karásek, Z.Kvasnička and B.Pauliček).English translation by Jaroslav J. Verner and Henry Hahn published by the SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY, Kansas 66044. U.S.A.]

It is appreciated that much detail is lost in photocopying but having the written word to hand will assist in detecting some forgeries which members might have unknowingly collected.

We are asked to acknowledge that these photographs are taken from originals supplied by TAPWOODS LIMITED of Braintree, Essex. This we are happy to do.



PHILATELIC DREAMS

Dr. M. Vender

Recently I woke up from a nice philatelic dream and feel inspired to share it with you all. Did you ever experience the excitement of a great philatelic discovery? Something like finding a mint, full sheet x 100 stamps of the HRADČANY imperf 20h carmine of 1920 or even a bundle of mint 5K (perf 12) Airs of 1930? Well, that's the sort of dream I am talking about now!

Many years ago I purchased in a postal bid auction "an untidy lot of Czechoslovakia from the estate of one deceased". I sent my twenty dollars and received in good time a large carton with thousands of stamps in a very mixed condition. Some of them were quite good - some fit for the waste bin and, what is more, I did not then have the time to thoroughly examine all of them in depth. So, the carton went up into the storage room to be eventually covered by more boxes to patiently await a clean-up campaign by me at some future date. By very good luck my box escaped the incinerator and even survived the trauma of my moving into a new house. Some time following my eventual retirement I found myself with some time on my hands and so decided to sort through some of my 'buried treasures' - including this carton of "an untidy, etc"...which proved worth the effort. I had found a bundle of East Silesia overprints in Black (SG. E40) priced today at £3.75 each. But that was nothing when compared to my next 'find' - a real bombshell! This was a Russian stamp (SG.122) the 3.50 Rouble with the overprint in the Russian alphabet which read "CZECH MAIL" ..... a first-class rarity!

To explain the basis of my excitement, we must go back in time to the end of the Great War of 1914-1918. Czech and Slovak soldiers who became Russian prisoners of war or had deserted from the Austrian army formed themselves in Russia into an army of about 70,000 men to fight against Austria and Germany. After the Bolshevik Revolution this army continued its fighting, holding onto, for several years, the Trans-Siberian Railway.

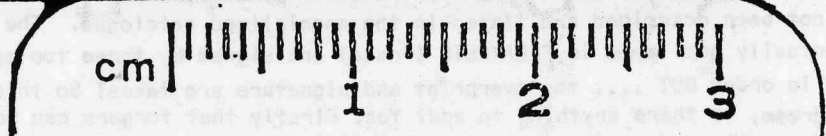
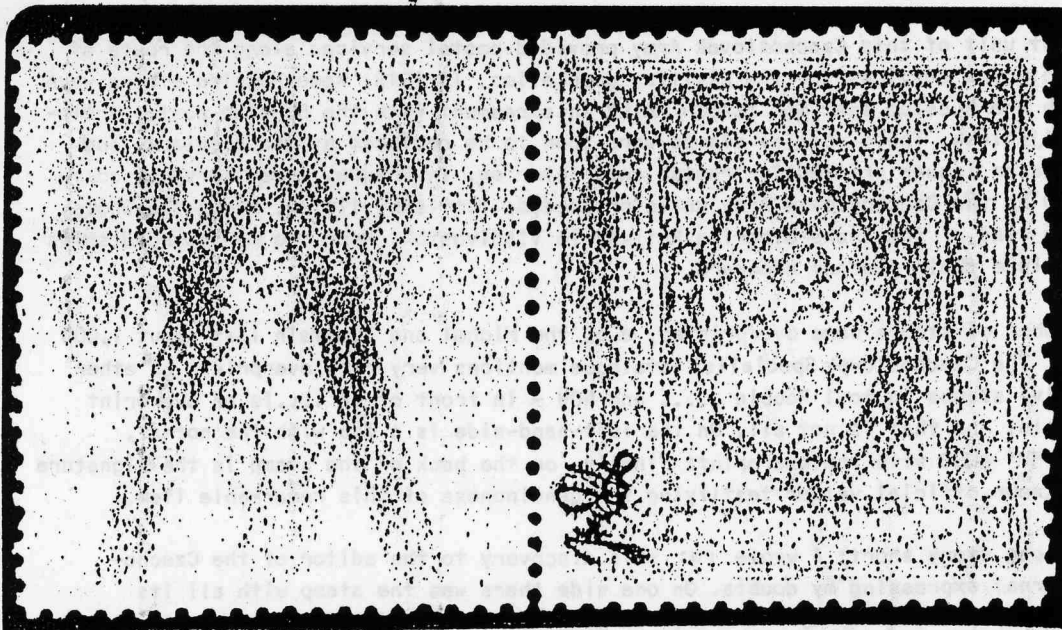
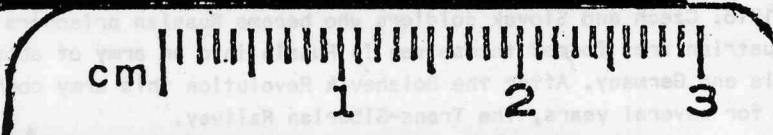
The military post unit of this Czechoslovak Army provided postal services along the route of the railway, including services for the civilian population. In 1918, some Russian stamps were overprinted with the Russian text for "CZECH MAIL" in agreement with the Russian postal administration at Celjabinsk. These special stamps were soon to be replaced by the regular - and now famous - regular issues printed in Irkutsk and, later on, in Prague. These services continued until 1920 as the Czechoslovak Army units proceeded, little-by-little, along the whole of the remaining line of the Trans-Siberian Railway to Vladivostok. Here the men boarded ships in order to continue their journey homeward.

Only a small number of stamps were overprinted, e.g. the Michel and Zumstein list about 1,000 of the 10 Kopek. The Czechoslovak Specialist catalogue mentions very rare overprints on other Russian definitive stamps up to 1 Rouble ..... and NOW - in front of me .... is an overprint on the 3.50 Rouble! And that is not all. On the left-hand-side is a tab with the normal, inverted letter "V" ALSO with the overprint! Finally, on the back of the stamp is the signature mark of a well-known official valuer testifying the genuineness of this remarkable item.

Well, to cut a long story short: I wrote re: this discovery to the editor of the Czechoslovak stamp journal expressing my doubts. On one side there was the stamp with all its credentials and, on the other hand, the matter of just why and how it had escaped attention and had not been described and listed in the specialised catalogue. The answers to all this were eventually published in FILATELIE (Praha) and signed by three top specialists - the basic stamp is in order BUT .... the overprint and signature are fakes! So this was the awakening from my dream. Is there anything to add? Yes. Firstly that forgers can today forge almost everything and anything so don't trust every 'authenticating signature' you see. Secondly, in spite of my original doubts it is a nice feeling to own something which was possibly a first-Class rarity. Finally, the awakening was not so bad - there are still so many 'not so First-Class' stamps that are still worthy of my attention..... >>

[Based upon an article by Dr. Vender in THE ST. GEORGE PHILATELIST - Australia]

THE "PHILATELIC DREAM"



CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Editor was recently asked if he could supply a member with the words of the Czechoslovak National Anthem (or 'State Hymn'). This was done, of course, but just in case some others of our members are seeking answers to the same question we are publishing these - once again - together with a little background information. You will recall that a special set was issued in 1934 commemorating the centenary of the CZECH NATIONAL ANTHEM (POFIS 283-284), this being accompanied by a special souvenir sheets issue which has now become a 'classic' for those interested in MUSIC ON STAMPS. What may not be so clear to members however, is the fact that this issue referred only to the CZECH portion of the anthem entitled "KDE DOMOV MŮJ", which translates into English as "Where is My Home?" - the first of two verses comprising the complete CZECHOSLOVAK National Anthem. The complete anthem is, as stated, in two parts, the second of which is entitled "LIGHTNING OVER THE TATRAS", referring to the Tatra range of mountains of northern Slovakia: a spur of the Carpathians.

CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL ANTHEM

Where is my Home - where is my Home?  
Streams are rushing through my meadows;  
'Mid the rocks sigh fragrant pine groves.  
Orchards, decked in Spring's array  
Scenes of Paradise portray;  
And this Land of wond'rous beauty  
Is the Czech Land, Homeland mine,  
Is the Czech Land, Homeland mine.

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Lightning strikes our Mighty Tatras, tempest shaken,  
Lightning strikes our Mighty Tatras, tempest shaken  
Stand we fast, friends of mine!  
Storms must pass, sun will shine.  
Slovaks shall awaken!

Verse 1 was written by JOSEF KATEJÁN TYL (POFIS 896) and set to the music of FRANTIŠEK ŠKROUP (POFIS 1234). The Slovak verse was written by the Slovak poet, JANKO MATUŠKA who hailed from the Orava regional town of Dolný Kubín. This was later set to the music of a traditional Slovak melody. The words are a reference to the Slovak Students' exodus from Bratislava in 1843 but - that is another story!

Should you like a record of the Anthem in full, these are obtainable from most large music shops in Czechoslovakia on a 45 rpm disc. If you have no correspondents over there and would still like a record, the Editor will be pleased to record this on a blank tape if you send it to him, together with return postage. There is no charge for this.

The music itself is of contrasting natures between the haunting melody of verse 1 and the strident urgency of verse 2. The entire makes for a very moving musical experience.



## A RECENT ISSUE (2)



THE TEREŽÍN MEMORIAL

Alan Knight

The fact about the little Bohemian mining village of Lidice is so well known across the entire globe that I shall not repeat it here. However, just about 40km due north of this place (as the crow flies) lies the site of one of the most terrible of all the Nazi concentration camps for Jews during the Second World War (1939-1945) - TEREŽÍN (Theresienstadt). This place was an 18th century water fortress which never had its fortifications tested but was employed almost from the start as a prison. During WW1 it held about 20,000 prisoners of war. A noteworthy inmate here during that period was the young man who sparked off the First World War by his assassination of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife - Gavrilo Princip - who spent the remainder of his mortal life here. There was really only sufficient space to accommodate 7,000 (approx. 50/50 civil/pow) inmates. In 1941 however, the German Nazis converted it into a concentration camp for Jews from Czechoslovakia and other parts of Europe, cramming nearly 60,000 souls within its grim walls.

In order not to give way entirely to despair, the inmates wrote, painted, composed music - even forming a prisoners choir - and another well-known and respected person assembled enough musicians to form a camp orchestra which concentrated, quite naturally, on the works of Dvořák and other national composers; that person was Karel Ančerl who later was to become one of the best known and respected permanent conductors of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. Everyone played his and her part to help ease the terror of this place within the children held there. They gave them (forbidden) lessons and exercises to try to maintain and develop their talents. "The war will soon be over" they told the youngsters "and what will you do then? You must be ready to go outside and face the world like those other children 'out there'".

Of the 15,000+ children within those terrible walls - just about 100 survived to see the 'outside'.

On 23 September 1987 there appeared a special 'Remembrance' stamp dedicated to the TEREŽÍN MEMORIAL built on the site of that camp in 1947. It complemented the two earlier issues commemorating the destruction by the Nazis of LIDICE and LEŽÁKY that appeared on 10th June last year.

The design of the TEREŽÍN MEMORIAL stamp is simple yet dignified with an allegorical drawing representing flames, barbed wire, a rose and a Jewish menorah. The inscription is also quite simple, "1947/1987/Památník ('Memorial')/Terežín". Measuring 33x27mm overall (perf. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ), the stamp was designed by J. Kodejš and engraved by V. Fajt. This small stamp will eventually, I believe, take its rightful place alongside other issues on the themes of JUDAICA and WW2.

Over the years, Czechoslovakia has issued a number of stamps on these themes; all miniature works of art and handled with delicately good taste. I recall, for example, feeling very inwardly moved when first viewing the 1968 set depicting drawings by these children. My favourite remains today as the little drawing entitled 'BUTTERFLIES'. The little eleven-years-old girl artist never lived to see them again in real life 'outside' but she did leave her name to posterity and respect - K. Brunnerova. It is to that girl's memory and to the memory also of thousands of her fellow-inmates, that the 1987 TEREŽÍN MEMORIAL stamp is dedicated. Let us never ever forget them because, even today, there are those who have lost and suffered by the deeds committed within that place.