

EDITORIAL

We would like to commence by expressing the Society's deep gratitude to Cyril Wackett for his editorship of the Bulletin from March 1975 to January 1978 including the Special Edition, the translation of Part XIII of the Monographie. In connection with the translation we would also like to thank Pat Oliver for her part as proof reader. The reproduction of the Bulletins has been excellent and we are most grateful to Cyril for the hours he spent in producing the Bulletin which provided much needed information for our members.

In taking over the editorship, Colin Spong and I cannot hope to match the standard of production, but we will endeavour to produce four Bulletins a year to co-incide with our meetings; one Bulletin covering the meetings of January and February.

Our aim is to provide studies and more serious articles of reference together with not so serious articles in an endeavour to include something for everyone. In addition, there will be news about the Society and its members and a Bibliography.

At the moment we are not able to reproduce illustrations but we hope to overcome this difficulty as soon as possible. We apologise for the fact that this Bulletin is not uniform with its predecessors. Original articles by members will be very welcome. We shall always be pleased to hear from members with information for the Bulletin and ideas as to how the Bulletin can be improved.

Some time ago our Honorary Life President, George Pearson, wrote an autobiography. This is written in George's inimitable style and will be serialized, the first episode appearing in this edition. We will include autobiographies of other members if the idea is popular.

As we produce this edition Colin and I are preparing for the British Philatelic Federation Congress to which the Worthing Philatelic Society are acting as host and we are the co-organising secretaries. The dates of the Congress are Tuesday 30 May to Friday 2 June, at the Civic Centre, Worthing. The Society's delegates are Alec Page and Reg Hounsell and a report on the Congress by our delegates will be included in a future Bulletin. If any member would like to attend either for the whole or part of the time you will be most welcome. Please write to us for further information.

Colin Spong - 70 Westlake Gardens, Rusper Road
Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 1LF

Yvonne King - 5 Alfriston Road, Worthing
West Sussex, BN14 7QU

Joint Editors

MEETING 4 MARCH 1978

Here is a brief resume of the business which was transacted at that meeting:-

New Members

Applications for membership had been received from

Kenneth S. Sargeant,
5 Ashburnham Gardens, Eastbourne, East Sussex

G.M. Van Zanten,
P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

M. Mirtl,
20 Marylands Road, London W9

who were duly elected as new members.

Autumn Auction

As previously announced, there will be an Auction later in the year, and it will be held on 21st October 1978 combined with the A.G.M. Members are asked to prepare any stamps which they would like to submit to the Auction (not under £1 S.G. Catalogue) and in our next mailing you will be advised when and where to send them. A catalogue will then be compiled and postal bids requested.

Monographie

Some members felt that the translation lacked the illustrations and to make full use of it, the original publication was required. An Addendum will be issued as soon as possible with the illustrations. Future translations will be issued as special Bulletins and will be additional to the ordinary Bulletins.

Exchange Packet

Contributors are reminded that material for inclusion in the Exchange Packet is at the risk of the contributor and the Society cannot be held responsible for loss however caused. If contributors are relying on their own insurance they should check their policies to ensure that cover is not lost if the stamps are transmitted by post, other than registered post. The possibility of the Society taking out insurance cover for the Packet is being investigated.

Our Exchange Packet Secretary, Pat Oliver, would like members to be extra careful when adding up their purchases and marking the booklets. On a recent packet it seemed that more members made errors than members who were accurate. Please pass on the Packet within 3 days. Some members have been detaining the Packet weeks and even months. This rule was made for the benefit of those on the circulation list who should not be kept waiting for excessive periods between packets, but more especially for the contributors so that the net proceeds are made available to them as soon as possible; if there is a delay it means that stamps purchased towards the end of the circuit are being sold well below the market price. Let us all be more considerate to the Packet Secretary, the contributors and other members on the circuit. Anyone disregarding the rules will be removed from the circulation list without further warning. Mrs. Oliver can always do with more booklets. If you wish to include stamps other than Czechoslovakie, please do so.

British Philatelic Federation Congress

A donation of £5 was given to the organising committee of this year's Congress as a contribution towards the provision of prizes for the Tombola stand at the Congress. The proceeds from the Tombola will go to the Melville and Youth Committee Funds which encourages philately amongst juniors and organises a national competition in four age groups up to the age of 21.

Displays by Members of the Society

In future the Bulletin will contain details of future displays by members of the Society in the hope that members living in the vicinity will be able to go along.

A Society visit was made to Woking on 27 February when Kay Goodman, Reg Hounsell and Heinz Vogel represented the Society. The displays were very well received.

29 March	Kay Goodman	at Chippenham
5 April	Pat Oliver	at Bedford
7 June	Pat Oliver	at Grantham
22 June	Colin Spang	at Seaford

PRAGA 78 International Exhibition

A number of our members have submitted application forms and await acceptance. A party of our members and their spouses will be travelling to Prague from 9th to 16th September. It is hoped that a joint dinner will be arranged between our members and the members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of America. Anyone interested in joining the party who has not already advised our Chairman should do so immediately.

Congratulations were offered to:

Reg Hounsell for winning a silver medal at Stampex. Reg showed a study of airmail practices during the first ten years, considering the provisional overprints applied to flown covers. The display described the development of services, brief history of the early flights 1920-21 and aircraft used.

Alec Page and Yvonne King for being elected to receive the B.P.F. Award of Merit. This is a newly instituted award by the Federation following a decision that some form of recognition should be granted to collectors who had performed outstanding philatelic service in their own localities or regions. From a large number of nominations 16 were recommended for the Award; Mr. Page being nominated by the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies and Miss King by Worthing Philatelic Society.

Mrs. Florence Pettitt who regularly attends our meetings with her husband Francis Pettitt was made an honorary member of the Society for her invaluable assistance to the Society.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held on:-

SATURDAY, 6 MAY 1978

at the home of our Chairman, Mrs. Kay Goodman, "Ingledene", 5 Oakwood Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset. Many members will recall that we had a most enjoyable meeting at Mrs. Goodman's home 2 years ago; and just as then, she has again invited all Members to a buffet lunch, and it is suggested that we assemble at Mrs. Goodman's house at 12.30 p.m.

The philatelic content of the meeting is simply called "Chairman's Afternoon", and knowing our Chairman and her material, we are, no doubt, in for a treat.

Travelling Directions:

BY ROAD: From London take the M.3, then carry on following signs "Southampton" until you come to the new by-pass, M.27: go on this and come off at the Lyndhurst sign and proceed to Lyndhurst. From Lyndhurst take the Christchurch - Bournemouth road, about 9 miles on the right hand side pass pub "Cat and Fiddle", immediately afterwards turn left to Hinton Admiral Station, over the railway bridge, 2nd turning on left Holmhurst Avenue, immediately sharp left into Oakwood Road, No. 5 is the third house.

BY RAIL: Trains depart from Waterloo Station at 46 minutes past each hour. Book to NEW MILTON Station. The journey takes approx. 2 hours, therefore it is suggested that any Members travelling by train take the 10.46, arriving at New Milton 12.40. Members travelling on this train can be met by car at the Station.

In order that Mrs. Goodman can be advised in good time of exact numbers attending, would all Members who will be there please notify our Secretary, Mr. R. Kingsley,

6, Fenn Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 4DX, not later than 30th April. Would any Member who will be travelling by train and wishes to be met at the Station, please indicate accordingly.

BOOK REVIEW
by Colin Spong

I have recently had on loan copies of the "Philatelic Literature Review" and have extracted the following items of interest to members. This journal is published by the American Philatelic Research Library, P.O. Box 338, State College, PA 16801, USA.

Bibliography prepared by David R. Opperman, for "P.L.R."

The American Philatelist

Verner, 'Field Post of Czechoslovak Siberian Legions' Vol.78 No.8 May 1965
Matejka, Bohumil; 'Czechoslovak Field Posts of 1918-1920' Vol.79 No.9 June 1966.
Vol.80 No.6 March 1967; Vol.82 No.2 Feb. 1968; Vol.82 No.4 April 1968.
* Reprinted in the Czech Specialist.

Complex Directory 1962.

Kvasnicks, Zdenek, 'Stamps of the Czechoslovak Field Post in Russia' trans.J.J.Verner.

Infantry Journal

Barrett Capt. Wm.S. The Story of the Czechoslovaks Vol.36 No.6 June 1930 pp 585-592.

Postal History Journal (USA)

Verner, Fakes of Czechoslovak Covers from Siberia Vol.6 No.1 p.54.

Stamps

Metzger, Kolchak, Czechoslovak Issues of Siberia & AEF Siberia Post. Vol.6 p.369.
Van Wart, Czechoslovak Army Post in Siberia Vol.33 No. 10 Dec. 7 1940 p.333.

War Cover Philatelist

Norona Delf, The Czechoslovak Post in Siberia Vol.1 No. 6 Sept. 1938.

Thomas M. Tenczar (writing as T.M. Gordon) has produced a series of checklists of cancellations on stamps of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Available from the author, P.O.Box 3363 Scottsdale, AZ 85257 USA.

Checklist of Czechoslovakia (sic) Town Cancels on the Stamps of the Austrian Empire (1850-1893) published October 1970. Includes Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, Silesia; 222 pp. over 9600 pricings. \$ 12.50 post paid.

Following a general introduction and guide to points values, illustrations show the individual cancellations appropriate to the particular volume. Each regional section tabulates town names, type cancels and time periods, giving values for each case known; remarks show variants on town names, special markings, and use of coloured cancels. Bibliography added.

The War Cover Club, L.E. Kieffer, POB 352 Montvale NJ 07645
(WC Bulletin and WC Philatelist)

General

Czecho-slovak Post in Siberia. Sept. 38 (WCPH)

Foreign

Czech Postmarks of the Sept-Oct 1938 Crisis Mar. 39 (WCPH)
Postmarks from the Sudetenland 1938 Mar. 39 "

WC Bull

The Story of Theresienstadt (concentration camp) Aug. 61

Le Monde Des Philatelists. No.193: La Feldpost Tcheque by Roger Richet
(11 bis, Boulevard Haussmann, Paris 9e, France)

(Published 1975. 40 pp., illustrated; 12F. 'deluxe ed., 14F. plus 1.50F.postage.)

A highly detailed study of stamps, cancellations, registry labels, stationery, censorship markings, used by Czech military field posts. Covering use in France in WW1, the Czech Legion in Siberia, and Czech volunteers at Techn, 1919-1920, through WW11 forces in France, England, Russia and in Northern Italy.

Ack. Philatelic Literature Review Vol.25 No.1, 1976.

A Post-Habsburg Index

Compiled by H.C. and P.R. Davis. Published 1975 by Harry Hayes, 48 Trafalgar Street, Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 7HA, as a HH Philatelic Study No.13. Stiff cover, offset 8½ x 13, iv + 150 pp. + 4 plates + two fold-out maps; £4.50 plus postage. Simple but helpful using a set of indexed maps of the Dual Monarchy from 1861, the authors have provided cross-references for towns with pre-WW1 post offices. The tables show old name (German) and province, current name and country, and a map reference keyed to the Hallwag Europa Auto Atlas or (for the USSR) the Freytag-Brandt Eastern Europe map. A short reverse index is provided for locations whose current name begins with a different letter than does the former name.

Articles in the Philatelic Literature Review

Czechoslovakia

Flowers (Scott 1013-18; 1241-46) Whole No. 23: pp 12.

Art invades the Space World (Scott 1233-40 designs by Jaroslav Lukavsky) 5: 26-27

Slovak National Rising, Dukla Pass (Scott 1253-55) 7/8: 33.

Space Research on Stamps (1289-95) 6: 28-29

Forgotten Stamp? PRAGA Helicopter issue, 1972. 23:13,15.

Articles in the American Philatelic Congress Books

The American Philatelic Congress Inc., Thomas E. Elman, Secretary, P.O.Box 34 Skokie, Ill. 60076.

Czechoslovakia

Czech Provisional Stationery, 1945. Blizil, G.A.

	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Czech Provisional Stationery, 1945. Blizil, G.A.	15	38
Early Czechoslovakian Town Postmarks, Pre-stamp period, 1867, Glueck, Mildred	17	171
Philatelic Activities of the Czechoslovak Army in Britain, Blizil, G.A.	11	74
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Early Czechoslovakian Town Postmarks, Pre-stamp period, 1867,

Glueck, Mildred

Philatelic Activities of the Czechoslovak Army in Britain,

Blizil, G.A.

Plating the 100-haleru of the First Issue. Velek, John

Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919

Matejka, James J.

The American Philatelic Congress year book can be found in the library of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

With acknowledgements to the Philatelic Literature Review.

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK LEGIONNAIRES

by George Pearson

When turning over the pages of a collection of the postage stamps of Czechoslovakia one's attention is drawn to the fact that there are a number commemorating the deeds of the Czech Legions and some data of the origin and object of these splendid fighting forces will assuredly be of interest to those collecting the stamps of a country which has passed through many vicissitudes in its endeavour to regain autonomy.

For nearly 400 years prior to the Great War of 1914-1918, the Slav people, comprising Czechs, Moravians and Slovaks, had to bow allegiance to the Hapsburg Empire, later to become Austria-Hungary. Efforts to free themselves from this bondage were first demonstrated in 1848, and persisted throughout the remainder of the 19th century, but it was not until 1914 that the first real opportunity presented itself when they were unwillingly forced to fight in the armies of Austria-Hungary.

Creating considerable disorganization in the Austrian ranks they deserted in considerable numbers, forming Legions to fight on the side of the Allies against the hated Teuton. This hate had been deeply rooted from time immemorial, and the opportunities now available made them a most formidable fighting force.

Approximately 300,000 surrendered to the Russians, 35,000 went to the side of Serbia and when it was learned that Italy was in sympathy with their national aspirations, a further 20,000 managed to escape to assist that country in its efforts to resist the invaders. Many of these were able to get to the Western front and rendered yeoman service to the Allies. The 3k value of 13th August, 1934 portrays a French, Russian and a Serbian Legionary whilst the other stamps of the same issue depict the Standard of the Russian Legion on the 2k. and the Consecration of the Colours at Kiev on the 50h. The remaining value 1k. shows the enrolment of the French Legion battalion at Bayonne.

It will not be amiss to refer to some of the Legion activities and their philatelic connections. The Russian Legion comprised the most important because it was the basis of the future independent Czechoslovakian Army, organised by Thomas Masaryk, long recognised by the Czechs as their champion and ultimately to become the first president of the new republic. Its first important military achievement was at the Battle of Zborov in Poland on July 2nd, 1917, when the defeat of about 7,000 Austro-Hungarians was accomplished by a Czech force of half that number and 4,200 of the enemy taken prisoner. The 20th anniversary of this event is commemorated by the issues of two stamps on 15th June, 1937 and it is of interest to record that the designer, Ondrich Vlcek, was himself a Czech Legionary.

When Lenin seized power in November, 1917, the Czecho-Slovaks, who would have nothing to do with Bolshevism, decided to attach themselves to the independent loyalist government, seeking to establish itself in Siberia. The Bolsheviks, who had guaranteed them a safe journey, proved treacherous and the Legionnaires had to fight their way to join the Cossacks at Nikolsk. One of these engagements, the Battle of Pachmac, fought in the Ukraine during 1918, is recalled by the design and details of a 50h. stamp issued on 15 March, 1938. By this time, Britain recognised the Czecho-Slovaks as a belligerent army and they later formed part of the Allied Forces in Siberia, where special stamps were prepared for use by the troops during 1919-1920. The first issues were printed at Irkutsk but following upon the setting up of the Czechoslovakian Republic, printings were made at Prague. The stamps are listed under the heading of "Czecho-Slovak Army in Siberia."

The Serbian Legionnaires suffered severely during the Serbian retreat throughout the winter of 1915, most of them perishing in the Albanian mountains.

A large number of Czechs trekked with Masaryk from Russia across Siberia to America and from thence to France where they were permitted by the French government to form an independent Czecho-Slovak army in December 1917. During the early months of the war many Czechs and Slavs fought with the Allies on the Western Front and a monument to the memory of those who fell was erected at Arras and this can be seen on the two stamps issued on the 4th May, 1935. One engagement in which the Legionnaires were conspicuous for their gallantry was that at Vouziers in France, and the event is commemorated on the 50h. value issued on 21st May, 1938. Whilst a stamp of similar denomination appearing at the same time honours the Legionnaires for their victory at Doss Alto on the Piave in 1918 whilst fighting on the side of the Italians.

Throughout the war, the Czech soldiers fought wherever possible for their race and great was their joy when the independent Czecho-Slovak State was proclaimed on 28th October, 1918, by a National Committee which had been set up earlier in Prague to prepare for the transference of government from the Austrians. One year later, namely 27th October, 1919, a set of six stamps was issued to commemorate the glorious deeds of the Legions. These were appropriately printed by the Cartographic section of the Czecho-Slovak Army.

Alas, this hard fought freedom was not to be maintained, for a few years later the Republic received the attentions of the National Socialist Party of Germany, with dire results.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CZECHOSLOVAKIE - LINKS IN HISTORY

In the fourteenth century, the people of Bohemia came into touch with the English as enemies, and later in history as friends.

At the Battle of Crecy, the blind King John of Bohemia, refused to retreat before the victorious English and exclaimed: "So will it God, it shall not be that a King of Bohemia flies from the battlefield".

These brave words became a proverb of the Czechs, and tradition says that the badge of the blind King John is the badge that is used by the Heir to the English throne, the familiar "Prince of Wales Feathers".

Later in history, Richard II of England married the Bohemian Princess Anne, sister of King Wenceslas of Bohemia, but it is an earlier King Wenceslas referred to in the popular English Christmas carol.

In the seventeenth century, the British Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King James I, married the Elector Palatine Frederick, who was later elected King of Bohemia. At the Battle of the White Mountains of 1621, this King of Bohemia and his people were defeated by the Austrians, and from that date were under the subjection of Austria until the establishment of the Czecho-Slovakian Republic in 1918.

THE 1919 LEGIONNAIRE STAMPS

Issued for the benefit of the orphans of Czech Legionnaires

by E.H. Rogers

After the end of World War I artists were invited to participate in an open competition for suitable designs for a stamp to commemorate the first anniversary of the new Republic. A number of leading artists took part in this competition and on the 18th June, 1919 the selection committee chose a design by Prof. V.H. Brunner as being the best, one by Prof. Jaroslav Benda as second and the third design by Prof. Jakub Obrovsky. Neither the first nor the second prize winning design was used for this issue, Professor Brunner's winning essay was used later in a modified form as part of the second definitive issue and is known as the "Liberated Republic" or "Chainbreaker" design. The committee's second choice which represented a Legionnaire in bursts of shrapnel was found to be unsuitable for stamp design. The drawing by Prof. Obrovsky which won third award represented "Moter Republic holding the child of a fallen Legionnaire" and was used for the 75h. grey, the 100h. red-brown and the 120h. violet of this issue. The design used for the other three stamps of the issue "The Czech Lion breaking the chains of bondage" was also by Obrovsky but it was not recognised by the original selection committee as possessing any special artistic value.

The stamps were printed by the Czech Graphic Union in Prague. The Lion type was printed from zinc plates by the letter-press process and the other type was printed from steel engraved plates by the photogravure method. The forms of the lower values consisted of four plates arranged so that the values 15h. and 25h. were printed together (2 similar plates placed side by side and the other pair opposite) and the 50h. value probably printed in a forme of four plates all being the same value. The 100h. and 120h. values were printed from plates consisting of two panes of 100 subjects each and the 75h. from plates of 100 stamps each. Five million of each value were printed.

Besides the comb machine (perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$) and the two line machines ($11\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{3}{4}$) used for the Hradcany issues a new line machine perf. $10\frac{1}{2}$ was used and so many perforation combinations appeared for this issue.

Plates 1, 2, 3 and 4 were used for the 75h., plates 5 and 6 for the 100h. and plates 7 and 8 for the 120h. The 15h. and 50h. plates were not marked by a number but two plates of the 15h. can be identified by variations in the control numbers and three plates of the 50h. by the same method. The 25h. value has no plate markings.

The stamps were officially placed on sale on 27th October 1919 (Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs declaration number 38989/VI-19 dated 4th October, 1919) and were valid for inland mails only up to 3rd November 1919; this meant that they had franking value for only 8 days. After demonitization they could not be returned to the Post Office for exchange. All remainders, estimated at $3\frac{1}{2}$ million sets, were given to the "Committee for the Legionnaire Help Fund" who sold them to collectors for many years afterwards. For the benefit of this committee, commemorative cancellations were applied at the Post Office philatelic counter for 10h. each, to blocks of four or to stamps on cover. The cancelling dies were later given to the fund committee who applied them to the remainders when requested at the original price. The special cancellations were the suggestion of A. Mudrunka. Two types of cancelling die were used, one a limeleaf and the other a circle design, of each design there were three types, the first two of each being the originals the third being applied to remainders after 1931 and is the most common. The cancellation was applied in either green, blue, violet, red or black ink.

Plate Faults

15h. green	White circle by tail of lion
25h. brown	Right part of fetter joined to hair on leg (91st stamp)
50h. blue	Line above frame over ENSKA
120h. violet	Scratched plate

Types of cancelling dies

The first two types of each were the originals, the third type was applied to remainders after 1931 and is the most common.

Line Leaf

Prescribed colour was green but it was also applied in red, blue or black.

Type I

stalk on top of leaf curved at top
O in Sirotam flattened

Type II

crosspiece of the stalk nearly flat
O in Sirotam rounder

Type III

The crosspiece of the A in PRAHA is lower than in Types I and II, the B is narrower. In Sirotam the M is lopsided at the top. The bottom of the leaf is not so pointed. The O in Sirotam is flattened but the top of the stalk is not curved. There are more shades of colour than in the original types (black-green and blue-green). The scarcer colours are more plentiful in this type.

Round cancellation

Prescribed colour was blue (various shades) on exceptional occasions it was applied in violet, green, black or red.

Types I and II

There is little difference between the two.

Type III

The crosspiece of the A in PRAHA is lower, the M in Sirotam the same as in the lime leaf. The E in Legionarich has the crosspiece longer than in the other types. Type III was also applied in red and black.

Degree of Rarity 1919 Legion Issue

In this order:
+, *, R, RR, RRR.

	imperf	comb	line	line	line	line	line	comb	line	line	line
	$13\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	
	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	
	$13\frac{3}{4}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$			$13\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	
15H green	R	+	+	+	R	RR	*				
grey-green	R	*	*	R	R		R				
light green	R	R	*		?						
offset		R									
missing perf			R								
double perf			*								
mixed perf		(	$11\frac{1}{2}$	x	$13\frac{3}{4}$	x	$10\frac{1}{2}$	x	$13\frac{3}{4}$	R)
25H dark brown	R	+	+	+	RR	*	*				
transparent paper			+								
offset			*								
double perf			*								
missing perf			R								
mixed perf		(	horizontal	$11\frac{1}{2}$	vertical	$11\frac{1}{2}$	and	$13\frac{3}{4}$	RR)	
light brown	RR	R	RRR		?						
50H blue	R	+	RR	RR	?	?					
transparent paper	R	+									
offset	R	*									
75H grey	*					?	R	+	+	+	?
missing perf								R	?		
100H violet-brown	*					?	?	+	+	?	?
red-brown								+	+		
black-brown	*							+	+	*	RRR
carton paper	R								?		
offset								*	?		
double perf vert.									?		
double perf horiz									?		
sloping perf									R		
120H violet	R					?	R	+	+	?	?
white paper	R										
double perf								R	?		

GEORGE PEARSON ; An autobiography with philately as its main theme

I first saw the light of day on a summer's day in the closing period of the nineteenth century, being born on the strength of the 1st Essex Regiment stationed at Warley, Essex, my father being on the Depot staff of the Regiment. My baptism was carried out by the Chaplain to the Forces, and my earliest recollections were of standing on the parade ground and saluting the soldiers on their way to Church Parade and receiving a reciprocal salutation at the age of three. After the cessation of the hostilities in the South African War of 1899-1902 my father left Regular Military Service for Reserve duties, and moved to Southend-on-Sea where all our futures were moulded. My acquisitions comprised one brother and one sister, and to reach our school necessitated traversing a large field with a huge herd of cows and a dangerous railway crossing, and there was no way of avoiding either of these hazards. Moving house created a walk of over two miles each way until the erection of a new school adjacent to our new residence considerably eased the situation. My accumulating interests resolved around cigarette cards, prompted by a very large collection of Ogdens Boer War and Famous Actresses of the early Twentieth Century acquired by my father and the Nelson Navy Series of 1905 period, together with a personal accumulation of butterflies and moths and bird's eggs, very easy to acquire in our area. We had a cat who brought us a plentiful supply of moles, the skins of which were treated and turned into mittens. The poultry belonging to a farm in an adjoining field used to wander in their egg-laying pursuits and their produce could be found in many positions, some times in large numbers, particularly by ducks and geese. Facing our home was an extensive gipsy encampment and we were kept supplied with pegs, baskets, etc. by the occupants in exchange for water. One day in the year, the caravans would move to a different site in the field so they did not become responsible for rates, by remaining on the same spot for a whole year. The gypsies were very orderly and gave no trouble, but had to move to the western part of the town through building development, and were there for many years in an area known as the Bohemia Estate, the caravans being eventually replaced by permanent bungalows and became a well-ordered site.

My initial interest in the collecting of postage stamps arose from the award of a complete used set of Transvaal from the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value to £1 from my Sunday School teacher for saying the Collect regularly. The acquisition of a 1d. note book and the purchase of a bottle of glue for affixing the stamps by each of the four corners comprised my first collection. I had no indication of the employment of stamp mounts although I had observed packets labelled as such in the windows of shops selling stamps. Enquiries soon elicited the fact that stamp edgings could be employed successfully, hence the reason for so many of the earlier issues being found with accumulations of them on the backs of the stamps, alas to the usual detriment of the items. I soon obtained a guide to Stamp Collecting, which readily placed me on the road to Philately, and from that time, condition was always uppermost in mind and has remained with me to this day. Most of my pocket money went on stamps, there being quite a number of shops selling stamps, but my main source of bargains was derived from a bowl placed in the window of a German Jew who carried on a general business as a second-hand furniture dealer. The stamps were all priced at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each and I can still recall some of the items acquired at that figure which would cost quite a lot nowadays. His shop was smashed up by a gang of ruffians who went on the rampage against anything having a Teutonic connection. Another dealer used to display sheets of Old Colonials at a penny or two each and many an early classic was obtained from that source. Subscription to a philatelic magazine introduced me to many sources of supply. The receipt of approvals with free offers in relation to the purchases made produced sets of attractive but 'cancelled to order' stamps of British North Borneo and Labuan or Seebeck productions from South America. Three years with the Scouting movement brought me to the end of my schooling days, and I joined the local Territorials as a drummer, this action having a dramatic effect on my future life, as with the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 I was immediately mobilized, and until early in 1918, at the age of 17, was sent overseas on active service after being a traveller to many parts of England.

To be continued