

THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

BULLETIN

EDITORIAL

CZECH-OUT What do you think of this as the new name for this publication? We feel that it would be good to have a name which will identify our publication rather than just 'Bulletin'. Czech-out was suggested to us by Gerry Bater, Secretary of the G.B. Overprints Society and Editor of its journal 'The Overprinter'. Gerry edits a most successful publication and has been most helpful in giving us suggestions as to how we can improve this journal.

Apologies for another emergency issue which is being produced immediately after the British Philatelic Federation Congress held at Worthing. We have had a kind offer from P.D. Ashcroft to produce illustrations by photocopier. It is our intention to include a sheet of illustrations with the next issue and perhaps advance to litho printing next year.

With this edition we are enclosing the illustrations referred to in the Monographic translation and in this connection we are most grateful to Heinz Vogel and Alec Page for providing the illustrations.

We should also like to thank Alec Page for his Congress report as a Delegate of this Society, which you will find in this edition. It arrived within a few days of the close of Congress so Alec must have given it priority on his return home.

Our meeting on 6th May was a very happy one at the home of our Chairman. Kay and Ted made us feel most welcome and at home. We enjoyed a marvellous buffet lunch after which Kay entertained us during the afternoon. The display commenced with an unusual display of revenue stamps. Some of the more unusual stamps were in respect of tax on yeast, flour, sugar and wheat, veterinary fees and fish permit stamps. We also saw many sheets of unadopted essays and picturesque cancellations, many in three colours.

Kay would not let us depart before tempting us to a variety of home-baked cakes. It was a most successful meeting and we do thank you, Kay for all the hard work you did to make it so enjoyable for us.

At that meeting we welcomed two new members:

Kenneth B. Millar of 12 Damascus Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1QQ and

W. Wujiw of 14 Collingwood Avenue, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 7EX.

Please note the following change of address:

P.D. Ashcroft to 10 Springfield Drive, Wheaton Aston, Staffs.

Our Secretary, Robert Kingsley has been looking into the cost of having an advertisement to attract new members, in the philatelic press. The cost of this is prohibitive and therefore we would like to persuade "Stamp Collecting" to run a special Czech number. To do this we need to submit three articles on the stamps of Czechoslovakia. We should be pleased to hear from any members who are prepared to undertake this.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have expressed kind remarks about our first bulletin. We have had several suggestions as to what you would like to see included in the journal and we hope to implement them in due course.

We shall be happy to undertake an advertisement column with members "wants" and "sales". The cost of each advertisement will be 25p.

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

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

Joint Editors.

SECRETARIES NEWS

PROSPECTUS FOR 1978 BPE READY

The Prospectus which contains the rules governing the various competitive classes, and the necessary entry forms which must be returned by 8 August (literature class by 11 August) are now available from - The Secretary, The British Philatelic Exhibition Ltd., Room 26, No. 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE.

BPE WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 TO SATURDAY OCTOBER 21

Dinner and Dance, Royal Lancaster Hotel, Bayswater, Friday October 20.
Tickets £9 (or £17 double) exclusive of wines.

Would-be entrants may be interested to know an excellent publication has been issued - "How to prepare Stamp Exhibits" by C.E. Foster Price 12.00 US Dollars. American Topical Assn. 3308 N. 50th St. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216, U.S.A. or from either Vera Trinder or Harris Publications.

Please note that the next meeting of the Society will be held on:

Saturday, 15th July 1978, at 2.30 p.m.

at the home of Mrs. D. James, 91 Banstead Road South, Sutton, Surrey.
(Tel. 01-643 4719).

Travelling Instructions:

BY RAIL: It is suggested that those travelling by train should catch the 14.02 from Victoria Station, arriving at Sutton at 14.21, where Members will be met by car.

BY ROAD: Travel along Sutton High Street in a southerly direction, passing Sutton Station. This main road (A 297) becomes Brighton Road. After approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, turn left by the Sutton General Hospital into Chiltern Road, continue to end, then turn right into Banstead Road South.

The philatelic subject for discussion at this meeting will be Postal Stationery. Please bring along all your own material.

AUTUMN AUCTION

As previously advised this will be held on 21st October 1978. Members are asked to prepare any stamps they would like to submit to the Auction (not under £1 S.G. Catalogue) and to send them between 1st and 31st July 1978 to:

Mr. E. Gorge, 11 Manor Way, Blackheath, London S.E.3.

Members should indicate a reserve price for any item, should they so desire.

A catalogue of all stamps received will be compiled and circulated to the membership who will then have an opportunity of submitting postal bids.

As the Society cannot accept responsibility for Members' stamps whilst in its possession, Members are asked to make their own arrangements with regard to insurance of their material.

BOOK REVIEW

The Baxton Encyclopedia of Wmks published by Baxton Stamp Co. Inc. Tappan N.Y. U.S.A. - £1.50 pp. from Harris Publications.

Lists all world watermarks by country. Numbers by Scott Catalogue but there is a compiled table for conversion to Stanley Gibbons or Minkus Nos.; a yearly supplement will be issued.

BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATIONCONGRESS AT WORTHING 30TH MAY - 2ND JUNE

In attending the 60th Congress of the British Philatelic Federation at Worthing from 30th May to 2nd June as your delegate, the first thing that struck me was the perfection of the organisation which made the whole event go with a swing.

A lot of credit for this must go to our own two members, Miss Yvonne King and Mr. Colin Spong whose untiring devotion left nothing which the delegates or visitors could fault.

The co-operation of the Borough of Worthing also cannot be praised too highly in providing full facilities of the large Civic Centre for the Congress and the issue to delegates and their wives of amenity facilities giving free access to the pier, concert halls, putting green and deck chairs etc.

The Exhibition staged by the host society fell into two categories, the main general displays in the museum designed to attract the general public and this was very ably backed with a fully comprehensive study complete with photographs and old prints of the development of the posts for the Worthing and surrounding districts since the 19th Century.

Adjacent to the museum in the Gordon Room of the Civic complex was a more specialised display which was opened officially on Tuesday 30th May by the Mayor of Worthing, Councillor, Mrs. C.G. Scott.

Once again, our own two members provided major contributions to this exhibition, Colin providing a fine display of Madagascar and Yvonne a fine collection of the 1918-1919 period of Czechoslovakia.

Amongst the other attractions during the Congress was a visit to the Sussex University Philatelic Unit where Professor John West and his colleagues explained the unit and its objectives. It houses amongst a library of philatelic background, a complete coloured photographic reproduction of the Reginald M. Philips G.B. collection which, as readers will know, is housed in the National Postal Museum. Visitors were also able to view a permanent collection of Chinese Ceramics and have a brief tour of the vast campus of the University.

The non-committed ladies were not left out with specially laid on outings, a fashion show and a beauty demonstration.

The Congress business sessions held during the four days included four philatelic papers, the texts of which have already been published in the Congress Handbook. These papers were both informative and controversial and evoked some spirited discussions from the body of the meetings.

The Civic Reception held at the Assembly Hall on Tuesday 30th May in the company of the Mayor of Worthing, Councillor Mrs. C.G. Scott was a relaxed social gathering and enjoyed by delegates and visitors alike after the more serious aspects of the day's business activities.

The Worthing and Goring Philatelic Societies and the Worthing Society of Postal Historians put on displays in the early evenings and on Thursday evening a series of study circle meetings were held, all of which were quite well supported.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the week was the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists which took place on Friday afternoon, 2nd June in the presence of the Mayor and a very notable gathering of signatories to the Roll past and present. In fact 17 Distinguished Philatelists were present and it is thought that this was a record attendance.

Friday evening was the final get-together with the Banquet and Ball but not before the closing address giving due thanks to the host society and announcing the venue of Harrogate for the 61st Congress next year to be held later than customary (Wednesday 31st August - Saturday 1st September 1979) the late timing being to avoid the possible clash with the 1979 International Exhibitions.

CZECH CASTLES

A number of stamps of Czechoslovakia depict castles and this article attempts to give some background information on a few of them. The stamps are described by reference to their dates of issue rather than catalogue numbers to avoid the necessity of quoting both Profis and Stanley Gibbons numbers,

The most famous and best-loved castle of all, the Hradcany at Prague is not exactly an individual but a whole range of buildings, erected at different periods, and a quarter to itself, towering on the left bank of the River Vltava or Moldau and dominating the vista of the city of Prague. It was the seat of government of the early Kingdom of Bohemia as well as of the Republic.

Within its precincts Hradcany Castle houses many famous places. St. Vitus' Cathedral, one of the masterpieces of Gothic architecture, rises above its surroundings, St. George's Basilica presents a sample of the Romanesque style, and Wladislav Hall was the assembly room of the Bohemian Estates, gathering to choose their King. It is built in early Gothic and improved upon by an early Renaissance style. The Hall is so big that in the middle ages the feudal barons used to enter it on horse-back and many a tournament was fought there.

The view of the Hradcany for the first issue of Czechoslovakia is obtained from the embankment looking across the river up to the castle on a hill. This Castle also appears on the 2Kc. and 3Kc. values of the recess-printed issue of 1926, and this view, taken from the opposite bank of the river and showing the famous Charles Bridge in the foreground is the best known.

Another view, incorporating one of the Gothic Gate-towers of Charles Bridge, is depicted on the 1Kc. stamp of the 1938 Praga sheet. The Cathedral of St. Vitus was chosen as the dominating centre of the design of yet another view, used for the Little Entente commemorative stamps, issued in July 1937.

Across the river Vltave the ruins of the old fortress of Vysehrad can be seen from the Hradcany. It is an historic place, where a castle is said to have stood long before Hradcany Castle had been built. There is even more significance attached to it, because Libussa, the daughter of the first ruler of the Czechs, Krok, looked from there down the river valley, then still a wilderness, and prophesied that a beautiful city would rise on its banks. So legend has it. The ruins of Vysehrad can be seen on the 50h value of the Praga sheet.

Up-river more famous castles will be found. Mid-way between Prague and the Southern Bohemian town of Budejovice or Budweis stands high on a rock Orlik Castle, shown on the 4Kc. stamp of 1932.

The river traverses deep forests, and at the confluence of the Moldau and its tributary Luznice the castle of Zvikov or Klingenberg (on the 2Kc. stamp of the 1936 pictorial issue) has been standing guard for centuries. The domain of the family of Rosenberg who, hundreds of years ago, were the most powerful family of feudal lords in Bohemia, for generations their members being advisers and chancellors to the Bohemian Kings. Their castle of Hluboka or Frauenberg can be seen on the 1Kc. value of the Jubilee issue of 1928, high above the river. At the ancient town of Krumlov or Krummau its castle was famous as a prison in Austrian times. The strong watch-tower of the castle dominates the picture of the town, as shown on the 5Kc. denomination of 1932. The castle of Krummau is also well known for the tales and legends attached to it.

A most familiar castle and one most steeped in Bohemian history is undoubtedly Karluv Tyn. This appears on the 1926 series on 2Kc.50 blue for foreign letters, 1Kc. 50 red for postcards for destinations outside the Republic. The 1Kc. 20 purple was introduced to serve for transmission of postcards to the country's neighbours and to Yugoslavia with whom the Czechs had agreements and affinities.

Built in 1348 by Charles IV at a time when the old kingdom of Bohemia attained its greatest prosperity and influence, it was his retreat for meditation and rest. He excluded females from it, though on one occasion, his devoted queen once managed to enter, dressed as a page. It housed the crown jewels and was considered impregnable. Today it is still an imposing site from the railway and serves as a national museum. For his wife, Charles renovated Krivoklat Castle, built originally in the twelfth century. This castle appears on the 3Kc. 50 value of the 1932 issue. It has associations with British history, for in it the alchemist Edward Kelley was imprisoned by Rudolf II in 1587. Kelley was killed in an attempt to escape. Kelley had previously visited Krumlov Castle, the seat of the Count of Rosenberg, but under more favourable conditions.

Yvonne King

References: Castles in Bohemia: Gerald Druce - Stamp Collecting 1.1.1938
Czech Castles: J.H. Marton - The Stamp Magazine 5.1945

THOMAS G. MASARYK OFFICIAL ESSAYS

The official essays of the President Thomas G. Masaryk values (50, 1200 and 2000 haleru) were originally printing trials and adaptations of the 500, 1000 and 125 haleru stamps of 1920. Because of changes in the postal rates and future plans, the stamps were not issued, so their status became that of essays instead of trial printings. Since they were executed under the direct control of the government, they bore official status and thus in a roundabout way may be considered official essays. The following is a listing of some of the known trial printings of these essays.

Type I 50 haleru Size A 23x32mm, on stamp paper with gum, imperf. in five colours: blue, ultramarine, green, red, red-violet. Size A 23x32mm. on stamp paper; ungummed, imperf. in five colours: blue, ultramarine, green, red, red-violet. Size A 23x32mm. on white chalk paper, ungummed, imperf. in five colours: blue, ultramarine, green, red, red-violet.

On the smaller format stamps, size 19x25 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. there exist two types of engravings: Type I thinner numerals; Type II heavier numerals.

Size B 19x25 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. - Type II, printed by typography on stamp paper in about 16 colours: rose red, vermillion, ultramarine, red-violet, purple, chocolate brown, red-brown, blue-green, dark green, olive-green.

Size B 19x25 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. - Type I, printed by typography on regular stamp paper; red-brown, green, blue, light blue, dark blue, ultramarine, scarlet, rose (also known perf. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ green).

Size B 19x25 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. - Type II printed by photogravure on white paper, gummed and imperf. in about 14 colours: dark green, olive green, bright green, yellow olive, brown yellow, rose, chocolate brown, red-brown, dull ultramarine, dark violet, blue violet, light violet, black violet. (There are also some of these values perforated 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ in blue).

Type II 1200 haleru - printed by typography, gummed, imperf. in six colours: violet, brown-violet, rose-red, yellow, brown, light green. Printed by typography, gummed, perf. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ in 6 colours: violet, brown-violet, rose-red, yellow, brown, light green.

Type III - 2000 haleru. Printed by typography on white paper, ungummed, imperf. in two colours; carmine and cinnamon. Printed by typography on various coloured papers, ungummed, imperf. blue violet on blue paper, violet on yellow paper, dark green on violet paper on white chalk paper, brown on yellow paper. Printed by typography on white paper, gummed and line perforated 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ in five different colours. Printed by typographic process on white or yellow paper, ungummed in six different colours.

Joseph J. Jiranek

Stamps 17.5.1958

RETOUCHES OF THE "EGG" VARIETY of the 50 haleru value

The red 50 haleru stamp was in use from 17 September 1920 until 31 January, 1923 and the green one from 23 January 1923 until 31 December 1925. The retouches were discovered by Dr. J. Munk and first described in an article in the 'Narodni sberatel' 1940/2. A note appeared in the Tribuna on the 4th May 1940. To these four retouches discovered in 1940 a further number has been added through discoveries during the following eighteen years and the total number is in the region of twenty.

The retouches discovered by Munk were made in order to correct the white spots known as the 'Egg' variety, which had been popular with collectors for several

years without it being known that this variety was found on different plates and that it had been subsequently retouched. The variety exists on the red stamp throughout its circulation. The green stamp was first printed from the same plates. The fault was removed from the plates sometime during the first half of 1922. (This can be ascertained from the postmarks on used copies). According to V. Nebesky 38 plates were used for the printing of the red stamp, out of which four were retouched and these were then replaced by new plates on which the 39th stamp was normal. On stamps used in 1924 and 1925 the retouch is no longer found.

In addition to the retouch other small flaws are found on the green stamp: two of these occur in conjunction with the retouch: a small coloured dot over the letter "B" in the group "VHB" at the bottom of the stamp. This is retouch 'A'. The second retouch 'B' comes from a different plate. It shows a small dot in the curved part of the left hand '5'. Retouch 'C' shows two dots in the right palm instead of three. Retouch 'D' has the lower right hand frame line broken by a small nick.

To discover a retouch it is necessary to compare the stamp with a normal one: the margins of the design from the chest downward, the first two wavy lines and the upper line across. The characteristics of type A, B, C and D must all be present.

For the printing of the postal stationery 50h in 1920 the plates for the 50h green were cut apart. Thus were also printed the cards no. 23, 24, 26 and 27 in later years. Therefore we find on these cards many interesting plate flaws e.g. the 'egg', the retouch of the leaf on the 9th stamp, retouch of the right-hand figure 5, but the retouch of the 'egg' is missing.

There exists also a fifth retouch of the girdle. The left part of the girdle with two parts of the wavy line were retouched. They are higher than in the case of the correctly drawn girdle. The first part of the wavy line is further from the border and nearer the second part. However they are not connected with one another. The small vertical lines are reinforced, the wavy line is weaker. There is a larger coloured dot above the letter 'B' in 'VHB' but it is further away than in the case of retouch 'A'. The printing of all copies that have been discovered is weak. The stamp was in use at the same time as the 39th stamp with the flaw.

Repair A has an unrepaired part of the egg still showing. The left side of the waist-line is vertical, the waist narrower, the first curve of the wavy-line smaller. The first line under the waist is missing. Control mark: a coloured spot near the mark VHB over and beyond the letter B.

Repair B The background is repaired. The left side of the narrowed waist line runs towards the right, first curve of the wavy-line almost similar. Three new vertical lines added to the former two under the waist line and the top line also repaired. The centre of the left zero slightly damaged in the lower part. Control mark: coloured spot in the curve of the right numeral 5.

Repair C The left side of the waist-line is slanted to the left. The first curve of the wavy-line is very shallow, the next almost vertical. Lines under the waist-line are not repaired. Control flaw: two spots in the palm of the right hand instead of three.

Repair D In repairing the background, the right lower part of the zero was repaired also which is thus narrower with a shorter shadow-line. This edge of the waist line runs towards the right as in Repair B. First part of the wavy-line similar to Repair C. The second vertical line under the waist prolonged. Control flaw: a nick in the right, lower part of the frame about 2 mm. from the corner.

Josef Hanak

Translated from Brno Bulletin No. 2

HANA BENESOVA

One of the founders of the Czechoslovak Democracy

It was a beautiful spring evening in 1907 in Paris when a young Czech school-teacher asked a young Czech university student to become his wife. The young man who made his very shy proposal was Edward Benes and the girl who listened to him so eagerly was Hana Vlokova, the future "First Lady of Czechoslovakia".

Hana Vlokova could not foresee that her union with this young man would bring her a life such as very few women experience; a life in which she was to play an important part, not only in the future of her own people, but in the history of the world; a life that would carry her from deepest misery, imprisonment, torture, and persecution to the summit of human society, give her moments of unspeakable happiness, and throw her back to the bitterest disappointment and exile.

Hana was the daughter of a railway employee. Both her parents died when she was quite young, and she was adopted by a wealthy aunt, who encouraged her niece to study, and sent the young girl to the University of Paris, the famous Sorbonne. Here she met young Dr. Edward Benes, who had also come to the French capital to study the French language and sociology. Being a very methodical man, Dr. Benes went to Paris with a definite purpose: to deepen his knowledge, for he was striving to acquire a professorship at his old university at Prague.

When Hana and Edward finished their studies in Paris they returned home and Edward got his professorship, helped by a much older colleague, Professor Thomas Garrigue Masaryk. In the meantime Hana's aunt died and left her a considerable fortune. The Benes were now very well off, but they did not change their modest way of living. Both were hard workers, simple, even frugal in their tastes, both cared little or nothing for the so-called good things of life, and both knew that there would come a time when they would need their money for a worthier cause than merely a luxurious style of living.

The moment the first World War was declared in July 1914, Edward and Hana knew that their time of preparation was over, and the moment to strike would come very soon. The group of liberators in Prague was small but well organised. Idealistic and eager to put everything they had into battle for the independence of their nation. The foundation of the future Czech Republic was laid one afternoon in the autumn of 1914 when Masaryk and Benes opened their hearts to each other, became friends and fellow-fighters for the remainder of their lives and a part of Hana's fortune was handed over to finance the movement.

To be continued in the next edition. Based on a story by Ann K. Tasny in the Australian Women's Digest and written in about 1938.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Queries have been raised by Mr. L. Norman Williams regarding the Liberation of Czechoslovakia sheet overprinted for the Brussels Philatelic Exhibition:

- a) Had the sheet any postal validity, seeing that the original sheet was valid for postage until December 1947.
- b) How many different varieties exist
- c) who produced the overprinted sheets,
- d) whether Lidice profited at all from their sale.



Mr. Jack Andrews of the Belgian Study Circle has kindly given us the following details:-

These sheets are listed in Belgian Catalogues as 'Private Issues'. They were issued by authorisation of the Czech Minister in Brussels, with the authorisation of the Belgian Minister of Communications in collaboration with the Belgian Postal Administration and under the patronage of the "Federation Royale des Cercles Philatéliques de Belgique".

It is believed this adds up to very little authority at this time. As usual they were issued in pairs - one in french domination language and one in flemish. A total of 12,439 pairs.

It is most doubtful if they had any postal validity - the 5 centime Belgian stamp would not cover any postal rate in 1945. They are not priced "used" in the Belgian catalogues.

It is most doubtful if any funds were made available to Lidice! They are also known with a revised surcharge.

THE GEORGE PEARSON STORY

PART II

After leaving school, I was employed as costing clerk on permanent way construction by the local authority, and a few days before being called upon for military service, had to deal with a demolition job involving a blacksmith's premises. Under the roof a canvas bag was discovered, the contents being a large amount of early English stamps. I never had the chance to examine the material thoroughly as my mobilization papers were received and any possible chance of a fortune had to be left until I could return home. However, this was not to be on my first leave, I found that my father had given the stamps together with my collection, which by that time has assumed goodly proportions, and also an extensive accumulation of cigarette cards including Ogden's Boer War and Actresses of the day - now highly sought - to a charity organisation appealing for such items to help the war effort.

My early war service took me to Stamford, Lincs, and I was fortunate in being billeted with a family having philatelic interests. The father was Estate Agent to Lord Burleigh which gave me special facilities, and I can say that I count my few months with them, in their stone cottage, as the happiest period of my life. Only one member of the family is still alive but we maintain an interesting correspondence to this day. The mother left me a collection of early classics together with a sum of money. My next venue was with a nice family in Norwich, and my initial interest was in a series of plates and a fire-screen covered with stamps of varying rarity but unfortunately completely spoiled by a heavy coating of varnish. An experiment was made to remove some of the items, but this proved to be fruitless as the stamps were so brittle that they disintegrated on removal. Similarly, a stamp snake of mainly Victorian 1d. reds had been spoilt by the thread employed for connecting the stamps together. All these were the work of an ancestor who was not a philatelist, just a despoiler of stamps.

The next philatelic associations were experienced on active service. Our billets comprised all that was habitable of buildings that had partially survived shellfire, and amongst the contents were many cards and letters sent by relatives who were in German Prisoner-of-War camps. These were very interesting, and often pitiful in character, but very collectable. When I became a casualty, I was taken to the Casualty Clearing Station at Warrens near St. Pol. Most of the patients were members of the British West Indian Contingent and they were suffering from the cold weather. Their patriotic character was evinced by the portraits of King George V which hung above their beds, but their repeated ejaculations of "I'm dying baas" were pitiful. I was given the task of delivering their mail and naturally my attention was drawn to the many West Indian stamps, mainly Jamaican, which prepaid postage on the letters and parcels. They readily acceded to my request to have the stamps with the result that I acquired a special interest in the West Indies and especially the stamps of Jamaica, of which more anon.

To be continued...