

# CZECHOUT

No. 12

Edition 3. 78.

## EDITORIAL

Our meeting on 15th July was well attended and Mrs Doreen James kindly provided the venue and a most enjoyable tea. The subject for discussion was "Postal Stationery" and five members produced a variety of material with hardly any duplication.

The meeting approved the membership of another overseas member:

Alec McMillan of 50, Sunnybrae Road, Takapuna,  
Auckland 10, New Zealand.

We have received a most interesting letter from Alec of life in the Philatelic world in New Zealand, and we hope he will enjoy his membership of our society. We shall be glad to receive news from our overseas members.

Congratulations to Ernst Gorge and Paul H. Jensen on being elected to membership of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Paul Jensen from Oslo has just written a newsy letter. We had the pleasure of meeting Paul when he attended our convention in Worthing in 1974. Paul writes "Since we met, I have exhibited my CS Postal History at HAFNIA in 1976 and at CAPEX in 78 and got a silver each time for my pains. I am very satisfied with that - as my exhibit did not contain a single postage stamp!. I am going to PRAGA 78 as a trainee juror to learn a bit more, and my collections will be outside competition there - luckily.

I am quite deeply engaged in organisation matters these days - thus never enough time for real collecting. I have become a Vice President of the Norwegian Philatelic Association, and also Vice President of the organising committee for the Norwegian International in 1980, the NORWEX 80. Apart from that I am the Secretary for the Postal History Society of Norway, which was formed some two years ago. In addition I do put in some occasional work at my job....."

We are thrilled by the response to our request for articles. In this issue Alan Knight brings us up to date with details of the Joint Space Flight issue of March this year. Alan hopes to produce further articles on these lines on new issues and it is a service which we will all appreciate.

The proposed special CZECH issue of STAMP COLLECTING is well under way. At least five articles are being prepared together with a history of the Society and a report on PRAGA 78 and will be submitted for publication shortly after the close of the International Exhibition. The Editor of Stamp Collecting, George Beal, thinks this a very good idea and will let me know in due course the date of the edition.

As I write this I am looking forward to our visit to Czechoslovakia and the opportunity to meet some of our members who are unable to come to our meetings, together with many friends from the Society in America. The next edition of CZECHOUT will contain a report on PRAGA 78.

We hope that many members will take the opportunity to visit the British Philatelic Exhibition on Saturday 21st October and attend our A.G.M. and Auction the same day. Enclosed with this issue is the Auction List which has been prepared by Ernst Gorge. As usual Ernst has made an excellent job of the list which is no easy task.

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

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

Co-Editors

NEWSFLASH

Congratulations to Colin Spong on being invited to act as a Learner Judge at the B.P.E.

BOOK REVIEWS

All-Up Airmail by John C.W. Field, Published by Francis J. Field Ltd, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6BJ. price: £2.00

This illustrated pamphlet tells the story of the use of air mail, the carrying of mail, outlining the various changes, from the days when a surcharge was made for the service, to the period when mail was carried by air without surcharge.

(Acknowledgement: STAMP MAGAZINE August 1978.)

Philatelic Vocabulary in Five Languages: English-Francais-Deutsch-Italiano-Espanol. Edited by Robert P. Odenweller, Published by The Philatelic Foundation, New York, USA. Price £3.00.

Another multilingual glossary more extensive in its scope than, for example, catalogue publishers can be expected to furnish, was long overdue. The present publication, was made up of 24 three-hole-punched 8½" x 11" pages, is quite admirable in its composition and presentation, and therefore in its usefulness. It embraces technical and semi-technical terms, colours, days, months and numbers. The editor has departed from the conventional form of treatment, by running a left-hand column alphabetizing all the entries irrespective of language and thence proceeding across the five remaining columns which give the equivalent in each of the other languages. The left-hand column is thus everyman's starting point, and a time saver.

The work has been produced in collaboration with The Collector's Club of New York and the United Nations Postal Administration, with the valued assistance of such notables as Enzo Diena, Domenico Facci, Ernest Kehr, Pierre Langlois, Marc Martin, Alex Rendon, Roberto M. Rosende, Hans Stoltz, and Ira Zweifach.

(Acknowledgement: THE PHILATELIC MAGAZINE August 1978)

Both of these publications may be ordered from either HARRIS PUBLICATIONS or VERA TRINDER.

C.S.

THE JOINT SPACE FLIGHT SET 2 March 1978

Alan J. Knight

As you probably know, on March 2 this year, Czechoslovakia issued a special 2 value set commemorating the Joint Space Flight of astronauts: from the USSR and CSSR being very similar in design to the COSMOS 5 value set of last year (POFIS 2276/80). No. 2277 was the basic design chosen for the JOINT SPACE FLIGHT issue and the following may be of some interest to our members.

The two new stamps I refer to are POFIS AIR MAIL STAMPS 91 and 92 - being 30h and 3.60Kcs respectively. Officially these are NOT overprints although the old GARGARIN (POFIS 2277) die was used. These stamps were printed by rotary recess combined with two-colour photogravure in sheets of 50. They were sold out within the first three days of issue. They have been seen in Prague, with shifted inscriptions and selling at four times face value.

Printings were as follows: Value 30h...3 millions. Value 3.60Kcs ONLY 0.3 millions (about 330,000 only.)

FILATELIE 13/1978 makes the following observations:

The 30h stamp was already printed on 11th; 12th and 14th November last year, the printing form being of two plates (5 x 10 stamps each - plates A and B.) The base of the inscription more or less normally touches the lower part of Gargarin's helmet. Part of the sheets printed on 14th November, however, left the inscription about 1.5mm higher. Since their issue, collectors in Czechoslovakia have found a large number of variations. From the original die-engraving only one so

The Joint Space Flight set continued

far noted: being that the 'h' in the value 30h there has been noted a vertical short line above that letter on the 8th stamp in the plate 'A'. On the other hand, various 'errors' have been noted in the 'second' printing - i.e. inscription by photogravure and these errors appear on both stamps:

- 2) Dot under N of Ceskoslovensko (8th stamp/Plate A)
- 3) This Dot appears within the letter N where the inscription is lifted higher.
- 4) "R" in CSSR - white spot in upper part (22nd stamp Plate A.)
- 5) "C" in SPOLEČNY - white spot in middle (40th stamp Plate A.)
- 6) "Y" in SPOLEČNY - broken stalk (10th stamp/Plate B)
- 7) "T" in Let - broken lower stalk( ditto )
- 8) "S" in CSSR - white speck in lower part of bottom 'bulge'. (12th stamp/Plate B.)
- 9) "C" in SPOLEČNY - white spot in middle (or broken in same place) 13th stamp/Plate B.
- 10) "S" in SSSR - White speck in upper bulge.(15th stamp/Plate B.)
- 11) "S" in SSSR - white speck in upper bulge.(19th stamp/Plate B.)
- 12) "T" in Let - break in lower stalk.

Of the stamps I have myself, discovered Type 6 in a block of four taken from the top-right corner of a sheet, showing a fine but distinct 'break' in the stem of the letter Y on the upper right-hand stamp.



Type 6

When noting the printings of the above issue, some comparison can be drawn from the official numbers printed for the STATE MINT AT KREMNICKE issue this year. (POFIS 2296/2300.)

20h.....	12 millions
40h.....	11 millions
1.40Kcs.....	0.5 "
3.00Kcs.....	8 millions
5.00Kcs.....	6 millions

So it is obvious to see which is to be the future 'key stamp' of this particular issue. For those with correspondents in the CSSR, I advise them to seek ordinary covers to themselves bearing the complete set or at least, bearing the 1.40Kcs stamp.

STOP PRESS

At PRAGA 78 a sample of the first space post will be shown. These were delivered and cancelled on the space SOJUZ 28 by the Soviet astronaut - Alexej Guburev and the first Czech astronaut - Vladimir Remek. Information bulletin 11/5. 1.7.78.

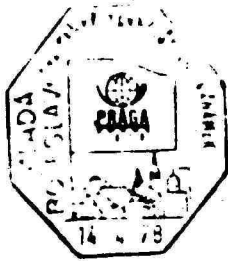
A.J.K.

Illustrations of two covers

Cover 1: carries the special postmark of the Regional Stamp Exhibition at Mladá Boleslav dated 14.4.78, within which can be clearly seen the PRAGA 78 'logo'. The stamps are the original GARGARIN stamp from the 5 value set issued in 1977 in the COSMOS series (POFIS 2277); the other three are copies of the 1978 issue - FIRST JOINT SPACE FLIGHT USSR/ČSSR 30h stamp (the other being a 3.60Kčs value). The first of these three is 'normal', the middle one shows a slight upward shift of about 1mm from the bottom of helmet and the third stamp shows what is believed to date to be the greatest observed 'shift' upwards of approximately 2mm.

Illustrations of two covers continued

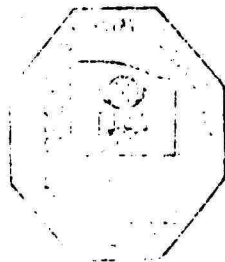
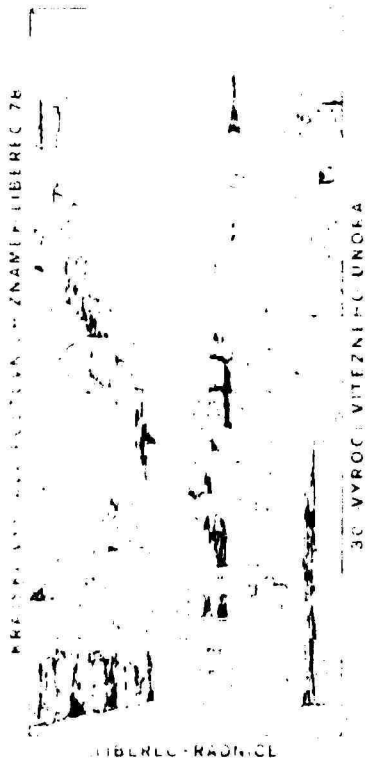
Cover 1:



MB  
78

KRAJSKÁ VYSTAVA POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK  
STŘEDOČESKÉHO KRAJE A MĚSTA PRAHY  
- MLADÁ BOLESLAV 1978

Cover 2: from the LIBEREC Regional Exhibition issued 27.4.78 with stamps similar to the stamps on the Mlada Boleslav cover - again note the 2mm shift (upward) of the inscription on the top-left stamp. A.J.K.



LIBEREC - RADNICE

Members Wants

Czechoslovakia: 1918 Revolutionary overprints, Skalicka and Srobar issues. 1918 Provisional Newspaper Labels, except Nos. 11,16,17,18 as listed in Pofis. 1918 Scout Stamps on entires. Covers/Cards period 1918-1920, 1945-1946, 1953-1st-18th June. Pre-stamp and pre-1919 covers/cards. Hradcany issues in blocks and gutter pairs. All colour trials, proofs and specimen VZOREC overprints, forgeries, "Cinderellas" and fiscals. 1936/7 4K, 5K, 10K with coupon. Virtually any specialist items.

W.A.Dawson, 55 Strafford Avenue, Clayhall, ILFORD, Essex IG5 OTJ (01-550-0368.)

HANA BENSOVA - Part 2. One of the founders of the Czechoslovak Democracy.

Life was very eventful, hard and exciting for Hana from 1915 to 1918. Her husband was travelling all over Europe, working, planning, conspiring, leading a life of hardship and privations: facts she knew only too well, but which she could not alter, because she was in a still worse situation. She spent most of this time in prison, cross-examined and tortured to betray her organisation, and spied upon and persecuted during the short intervals when she was set free. Nevertheless she succeeded in building up a powerful Czech secret organisation, the "Maffia" that caused many a sleepless night to the Austrian authorities, and formed the backbone of the young Czech State when Masaryk and Benes came home triumphant after the foundation of the Republic on the 28th October, 1918.

Although for many years Hana had been a forefront fighter for her national cause, publicly she had always kept herself in the background, and it had been only a comparatively small circle that knew her and of her activity. Almost overnight she had to leave her seclusion, her name was forced into the limelight, she stood in the centre of events, she became the leader of Czech womanhood, the first lady of the nation.

Masaryk, or Father Masaryk, as the Czech nation called him, was made the first President of the new Republic: but his wife had died in the meantime, and his daughter only reluctantly accepted the role of hostess at the castle of Prague. Therefore it was Hana Benesova who became the first lady of Czechoslovakia, long before her husband became the second President of the State.

At that time Hana was in her prime, a small woman, with a very smart little figure, fair hair, blue eyes, a ready and very appealing smile, and a good taste for simple dressing.

During the twenty years of Czech independence Hana and Edward never spared themselves in their work for the republic, and when they had to leave their country, they did it only under the extreme pressure of their friends. They knew that there would come a day when they would be called back to that position to which no one had as much right as they.

Hana once said that the happiest time of her life was the time of her planning and preparing the struggle for their great aim, for the liberation of the Slava from the yoke and suppression which they had to endure for centuries, and for a short twenty years she helped them to catch a glimpse of that liberty.

Unlike his predecessor in office, Thomas Masaryk, Edward Benes was never credited with philatelic inclinations. Hana Benesova, on the other hand, during her wartime exile in London, became known as an ardent stamp collector. Part of her collection was shown at the Czechoslovak Philatelic Exhibition held at Grosvenor Gardens in 1943 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Republic.

THE SCOUT ISSUES of 1918

Before the bloodless revolution, which took place on 28 October 1918, there were many forces working and planning for the establishment of the new nation. Legions of Czechs were fighting in France with the French Army. In Siberia an army of 80, 000 men fought independently and controlled the Trans-Siberian Railway after the Bolshevik Revolution of October 1917.

THE SCOUT ISSUES of 1918 continued

In America, plans, money and material aid of many kinds were being prepared to support the other more active fronts. This same sort of planning and preparedness was being actively carried on in the Czechoslovak homeland, but because of the necessity of secrecy, all activities had to be carried on underground, with the death penalty hovering over everyone who participated. Because freedom from the Austro-Hungarian Empire was the main idea of the times, the home-front effort was a co-operative venture. The various segments of the underground movement were assigned definite duties and responsibilities.

The Scouts were assigned the duty of handling the Official Mail transmission for the National Committee of Liberation. They of course would not have anything to do with the regular or business mails, but only with the official communications between the various elements of the National Committee. They assumed their job on 7 November 1918 and continued only until 25 November 1918, except of the honourable task of again assuming the carrying of the mails on 21 December 1918, the day of entry of the newly elected President T. G. Masaryk into Prague, the capital of the new State.

The method of service was as follows: mail to be transmitted through official channels was brought to Scout headquarters where the stamps were affixed. Many accounts state that the 10 heller blue was used on cards and the 20 heller red on letters. This is not correct, the two rates being for mail either within a limited radius of the headquarters of the Provisional Government or outside a specified area, the higher rate being made for the longer distance.

It is thought that all mail was enclosed in order that it could not be read, as much of the matter sent at the time was highly confidential. Later, many philatelic covers were made, but these have only the 'NV' in circle on the stamp, the other marks being omitted. Many copies were affixed to paper or card and received the 'NV' mark, but the stamps were reprints of the original in the main, distinguishable by colour or the gum in the case of unused stamps.

Carriers took the mails and delivered them to the addressee, who paid the delivering Scout the amount shown in the stamps on the letter. The Scouts were to keep this money for their services, but a fund was established into which the individual Scouts could contribute from their receipts. This fund was then used to help maintain the needy Scouts so that they could continue serving.

About a week before the Revolution, M. Knapp ordered the two stamps from the Kolmann Printing Firm in Vinohrady. The printing of each value was done by one die which besides printing the stamp, embossed the central design (consisting of the Czech Royal Lion, the lettering at the top and bottom) and cut the outer edges of the stamp to resemble perforations. These edges, however, cannot be called perforations because each stamp was printed and cut individually, thus neither a block nor a pair can exist. The upper inscription "Posta Ceskych Skautu" means "Czech Scout Post" and the bottom lines "Ve Sluzbach Narodni Vlady" means "In the service of the National Government."

Because of the various ink mixtures, there exist about three shades of each colour of each value. The 10 heller exists in dark blue, violet-blue and light blue; the 20 heller exists in dark red, light red and rose.

On covers, these stamps were cancelled by a circular postmark with the letters 'NV', standing for the Czech legend "National Committee." In addition, there also exist oblong postmarks which were used only for mail actually posted at National Committee headquarters. These postmarks have the legend in Czech "National Committee - of Czechoslovakia - in Prague" and are very rare on covers.

Although these stamps are not listed in many world catalogues, they did play a very proper and basic role in the transmission of Official Mail for the then Provisional Government, which later became the Official Government. These stamps were not planned or printed for philatelic circles, but served an actual need, and therefore deserve recognition as legitimate issues.

Based on an article by Leo Eaton printed in "STAMPS" with additional information by George Pearson.

GUARANTEE MARKS ON CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS

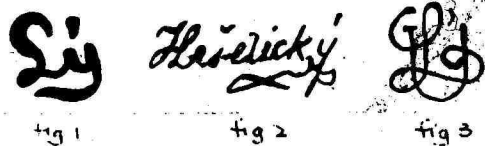
Three kinds of marks may be distinguished: guarantee marks by experts, trader's marks and ownership marks.

Since 1919 guarantee marks were placed on the back usually near the bottom edge of the stamps, exceptionally higher up. There were no rules regarding the exact position of the guarantee mark as there are now. Exact marking in certain positions was introduced as late as 1941. The reason for this was that overprints were falsified on stamps bearing guarantee marks. The key to the position of guarantee marks is published in a table included in the Pofis Catalogue.

The first experts were Jaroslav Lešetický, chief official of the Ministry of Posts, and Mr Sula, engineer, chairman of the Club of Czech Philatelists in Prague. Lešetický practically proved and marked all that was set before him and thus did more harm than good. He piled mistake on mistake. His expertizing was rather primitive, lacking deeper knowledge of the printing of the stamps which he did not study. His "speciality" was the stamps overprinted "Pošta Československá 1919."

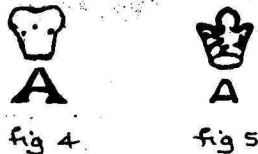
Lešetický used four marks. The first was the abbreviation "Ly" a rubber stamp (fig.1) applied in lilac on many stamps of the overprint issue. His second guarantee mark was the signature "J. Lešetický" applied usually in red-blue, lilac or black with a metal stamp (fig.2). The third mark "LŮ" appears as a monogram in lilac or black (fig.3) by a metal stamp. In the monogram the letter "L" is the initial of the name Lešetický and the "Ů" stands for "Ústředí pro zkoušení známek" - Centre for Expertising of Stamps which was founded by the Union of Stamp Traders in the first years after the war. The fourth mark is the same though somewhat smaller and framed by a square. This guarantee mark was used only for imperforated stamps.

It is to be noted that stamps expertised by Lešetický were later re-expertised.



The other expert of stamps at that time was Ing. Sula. He marked only more valuable stamps, Pošta Československá 1919, and mostly those which he himself sold out of his stocks. He was in constant disagreement with Lešetický because of the latter's mistakes in expertising stamps. His knowledge of the overprint issues was for the time, really considerable. Sula gained a remarkable confidence in philatelic circles after the discovery of Szekula's forgeries of the "lions" which Lešetický marked as genuine.

His marks, of two types, in lilac, green or blackish lilac appear mainly on stamps overprinted "Pošta Československá 1919." His marks are composed of a stylized crown and a capital 'A'. In the first mark the A almost touches the crown (fig.4) in the second one the A is  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm smaller and the crown is of a different shape. (fig.5)



Through intense study editor Ervin Hirsch discovered many new findings concerning the first Czech stamps, and he found a number of differences and mistakes committed by Lešetický. Through his initiative the expertising centre of "Tribuna Filatelistu" was founded with a permanent staff consisting of Jaroslav Franěk and Jan Mrňák. In 1939 the only monographic work on Czechoslovak stamps was issued in which forgeries are described.

GUARANTEE MARKS ON CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS Continued

This expertising centre marked the stamps with the mark "Tribuna" (fig.6) and the mark with the signature of Hirsch (fig.7) sometimes "Franěk" (fig.8) and Mrňák (fig.9). Sometimes the mark "Tribuna" is crossed twice. This was how Hirsch marked the stamps when he lost the stamp with his name. The marks in black or lilac, exceptionally in red or green were applied with metal stamps. The position of the mark "Tribuna" was various, sometimes in the upper half horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Some stamps were also marked separately "Franěk" in black.

The expertising centre of Tribuna expertised all issues of Czech stamps from 1918 and marked them with guarantee marks. All forgeries were marked without exception with the stamp "Falsum" - "Padelek" - "Zfalšováno" etc. At that time many new forgeries were discovered or forgeries hitherto considered genuine, many of them marked 'Lešetický.' These forgeries were also marked "Falsum."



fig 6

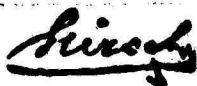


fig 7



fig 8

With the stamps overprinted SO 1920 Hirsch and Franěk found effective help in the work of Jan Weis of Ostrava, who gained deep respect through his intense study and great knowledge of these plebiscite stamps with overprint.

The occupation and the second world war interrupted the work of the expertising centre of Tribuna. In this period two experts undertook to expertise stamps: Jan Mrňák who closely co-operated with E.Hirsch and Franěk and Dr Gilbert.

Both experts placed with guarantee marks in the respective position and in addition quoted the type of perforation, paper, colour tone, type and watermark etc., to avoid accidental or deliberate errors.

The guarantee marks of these two experts, Mrňák and Gilbert are the best known and most frequent ones (figs, 9 and 10). Their marks are the signatures of the experts in black from metal stamps. The mark of Mrnak is the most reliable brand of genuity of Czech stamps since the second world war.



fig 9



fig 10

The connoisseur and expert for the retouches of the Dove and Liberated Republic issues is J.Hanák of Brno. He has been studying plate flaws and retouches of these issues for several decades. He expertises the stamps marking them with his signature applied with pencil or metal stamp in black in the lower part of the stamp horizontally, exceptionally vertically (fig.11).

There are however also forgeries of guarantee marks. They occur rarely and are always easily recognised under a glass. Some forged stamps are marked with false marks of Lešetický, Mrňák (fig.12) or Gilbert (fig.13)



fig 11

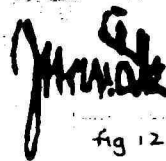


fig 12



fig 13

Since 1960 the guarantee marks of two new members of the Committee of Experts of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists appear on expertised stamps. Owing to the short period of their activity as experts not very frequently as yet. They are the signatures Karásek or Šrámek from metal stamps in black or dark blue.

Besides the guarantee marks of experts we can find the marks of former stamp traders on the stamps of Czechoslovakia. They are situated mostly in the lower right or left corner of the stamps. They were usually applied with rubber or



GUARANTEE MARKS ON CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS Continued

metal stamps. For example "A.Stach, Prague" in blue or red, Havlas in blue (fig. 14,) and the signature of Kapras (fig.15) in black or blue.



Of the older marks, it is that of Hugo Suchánek, a triangle including the letters H.S.P., that of Antonín Černý, two marks decorative letters AČ and the same in block letter, further the mark of Brunners signature and that of Al. Pošta, decorative initials AP, which deserve mentioning. This is however not a complete enumeration of traders' marks. Recently the mark of Pofis has been appearing in black from a metal stamp.

The majority of stamps marked with traders' mark also bear one or other guarantee mark of an expert.

Jan Karásek: Filatelie 1963: Translated by L. Haerberle.

NEWSFLASH

PRAGA 78 AWARDS .....Congratulations to our Chairman Kay Goodman on a Silver for Pre-adhesive and Czech Army in Siberia .....to Reg Hounsell and John Whiteside who gained Silver's for Airmail entry's and to our co-editor Yvonne King for a Bronze with her Hradcany issues.

Colin Spong.

THE GEORGE PEARSON STORY - PART 3

An incident on the Arras front a few weeks later necessitated my removal to the No 2 Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, near Boulogne, and during my stay there, the camp bugler, Eric Storey, whose father was the Premier of New South Wales, was instructed to return to the front. The camp staff had noted from my records that I had been a bugler and given a test, I was retained as a hospital patient and assigned various duties at the hospital. The staff, mainly Australians, naturally received a large amount of mail, especially parcels, on which the high value Kangaroos predominated. I helped with the delivery of some of the mail in the various wards, and again managed to acquire a good selection of Australian and New Zealand stamps. I was allotted a hut at the entrance to the hospital, and one of my duties was to receive the Late Night Passes, and check and sign time of return, the latter frequently being two or three hours after the permitted time which invariably produced a handsome tip when I failed to notice the terminating hour.

In the closing days of hostilities, I had to return to my unit to clear up the mess on the battlefields, and can well recall having to dig unexploded shells out of heavily frozen ground with a pickaxe. After the war, we were moved to Belgium and I was billeted in a large house in Carnieres with one of my comrades. The owner would not accept more than two soldiers. His wife was a teacher of music and during the German Occupation, their home was selected as a billet by a number of Germans but speedily vacated the premises when a procession of pupils practised their scales, etc. They could not tolerate the noise. It was a very friendly family, the master was an employee of the managerial staff of the Belgian State Railways. When he was aware of my interest in stamps, he gave me a stock of pre-war Belgian stamps which he had hidden in his office. We used to travel to Brussels by street-car and I was able to purchase the 1918 Red Cross Fund set, sold at double face value, at the General Post Office. Unfortunately, there were no copies of the top value 10f + 10f. available at the time of my visit.

Having completed my period of service whilst in Belgium, I did not go with the Army of Occupation to Germany and was consequently demobilised early in 1919, returning with the stamps I had managed to acquire whilst abroad. Unfortunately I possessed a very dim knowledge of values and disposed of much of the material at prices which must now seem to be ridiculous. The Australian stamps were acquired by a firm well known at the time, and I hate to think of what they got for their £5. I did retain the British West Indian material and commenced specialising in that group, obtaining most of the new issues direct from the islands concerned. Other material was obtained through a New Issue Service operated by Bowie & Son who made a very moderate charge of 1d in the shilling, namely  $8\frac{1}{3}\%$ , and many fine items were obtained from that source.

I maintained an active correspondence with collectors in Bermuda and Jamaica and became a member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society and ultimately Life Member of that organisation. I accumulated a very fine collection of Jamaica and through the displays given to various societies, attracted the attention of a number of specialists. A Dinner was organised by the Jamaica P.S. in London when all the items on the menu were produced in the island, and Jamaican staff engaged to attend to our requirements. It was decided to produce an up-to-date handbook on Jamaican Postal History and I was asked to co-operate in its production, the Committee being formed from the leading Jamaican stamp collectors present. I was deputed the task of drawing the two maps depicting the various post towns in 1858 1860 and 1879, the former unfortunately not being employed, reproductions of all the local OFFICIAL and the Provisional 2½d on 4d. of 1890 overprints with the many type variations. In addition, I collaborated with Mr L.C.C. Nicholson in the acquisition and examination of a stock of many thousands of the Key Plate issues which we purchased at 5s. per 1,000 returning the unwanted items at half that price. The material provided the basis for the table of 'squared circle' and 'double ring,' postmarks appearing in the handbook, and also of stamps used in the Cayman Islands. I was also responsible for most of the illustrations of postmarks shown and the enlargements of the 'Union Jack' error and correction which appeared on the 2½d value of 18 February 1921 and is still continued in Gibbons Catalogues to this day.

Additional studies of the overprints resulted in an article on the 1890 provisionals which I prepared for publication in 'Gibbons' Stamp Monthly' of November, 1932, in which the three settings were fully detailed on the two plates which accompanied the article, enabling collectors to place individual copies to the respective setting. The preparation of the data for this article disclosed that the production sequence for the local official stamps as appearing in the Jamaica Handbook was incorrect, and I subsequently had an article which was published in "The Jamaica Philatelist" giving the correct order of production for both the local Officials and the 1890 Provisionals which were overprinted by the same local printer in Kingston, Camille Vendryes. My work on these two issues attracted the attention of Mr. A.J. Watkin, who was interested in some rare Jamaica stamps overprinted "CAYMAN ISLANDS". These were sent to me for opinion and I was able to prove that some of these had the identical type used by Vendryes, including type varieties, the employment of which enabled me to give the approximate date of production, and to allow Mr Watkin to produce his booklet on these very scarce stamps.

My attention was drawn to the fact that a local philatelic society existed when a Stamp Exhibition was held in the local Central Public Library in July 1921, as a result I became and still am a member of the society, having held every position possible during more than fifty-years membership. The society organised one of the first County Conventions in 1945, and provided the basis of procedure for the many such gatherings which have been held throughout the country since that date.

The society continued to function during the war of 1939-1945, often under extreme difficulties as Southend was in the forefront of hostilities.

to be continued.....