

CZECHOUT

No. 13

Edition 4. 78.

EDITORIAL

Here is the "PRAGA 78" Edition of "Czechout". All the articles have some connection with Praga and a number of our members have sent snippets of their impressions.

Alec Page has written a formal report and we are grateful to him for making it available to us. Lindy James, who was staying with a Czech family has written an informal report from the visitors point of view. Unfortunately the remaining reports are extracts only through lack of space and to avoid too much repetition. My grateful thanks to all who responded to my request to put pen to paper.(YK)

I counted 14 members of our Society as attending the exhibition but alas, I did not meet them all. I hope that the reports will encourage more members to attend the next International in Czechoslovakia which should be in 1988.

I would like to thank Kay Goodman, our Chairman, on behalf of the members for the efficient way in which she organised the trip, and both she and her husband Ted, made us feel 'at home' on foreign soil. Kay was unceasing in her efforts to obtain catalogues for us and to make sure everyone from this Society, where ever they were staying, knew of the special meetings which were arranged. This contributed greatly to the enjoyment of our stay.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society took place on Saturday 21 October 1978. The Chairman welcomed Messrs. M.Mirtl and P.E.Rooke to their first meeting.

The following were re-elected for the year 1978/79

PRESIDENT: George Pearson FRPSL

CHAIRMAN: Kay Goodman FRPSL

VICE CHAIRMAN: Cyril Wackett

JOINT HON SECRETARIES & TREASURERS: Robert Kingsley & Ernst Gorge

HON PACKET SECRETARY: Pat Oliver

PRO: Yvonne King FRPSL

JOINT EDITORS: Colin Spong FRPSL and Yvonne King FRPSL

COMMITTEE: Reg Hounsell, Lindy James and Brian Parker

The AGM was followed by a brisk auction when our Chairman disposed of over 100 lots in an hour. It was a most successful auction and nearly all the lots were sold. Again our thanks to Ernst for the preparatory work, to Kay and John Whiteside for running the auction and to Robert for all the paper work involved in the admin' after the event.

Mr W.F.Parker has given a display of Czechoslovakia to his local society, the Eastbourne & South Downs PS.

An invitation has been received from Twickenham PS for a team visit on 21 February and the proposed representatives are Mrs L.James and Messrs E.Gorge, H.Vogel and C.Wackett.

Membership: The following were elected to membership on 21 October 1978 -

Mr.N.G.Lake, 66 Manor Park Road, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 OJZ

Mrs Jane Sterba, President of the Society of Czechoslovakia Philately in America, 6624 Windsor Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois 60402, USA.

Dr John M.Buckner, 2560 N.W 13th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601, USA.

Change of Address: Mr B.T.Penzer to 7 Birchcroft Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 6BP.

We regret having to notify you of the passing of Mr.F.Eckstein and the resignation of Mr R.Richardson due to ill health and disposal of his collection.

4. 78

Editorial C'td

Mr.W.A.Dawson has given a display of Czechoslovakia to the Rayleigh PS.

London 1980: It is proposed to hold a meeting of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of GB during the exhibition and to invite the Czechoslovak affiliated Societies of America and Germany.

Subscriptions: A reminder that the annual subscription is now £2.50 and was due on 1st October.

Special CZECH Issue of "Stamp Collecting."

Five articles have been sent to the Editor and a publication date is awaited. The contributors are as follows:

Revolutionary Overprints on Austrian Stamps - Ernst Gorge
The Development of Multi-Coloured Cancellations - William Dawson
Aviation in Czechoslovak Philately - Heinz Vogel
Czechoslovakia, a prophesy unfulfilled? - Geoff McAuley
Czechoslovak Field Post Offices World War II - Commemorative Postmarks used in England - D.R. Gwynn

Colin Spang - 70 Westlake Gardens, Rusper Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1LF
Yvonne King - 5 Alfriston Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7QU

Co-Editors

PRAGA 78

by W. A. PAGE FRPSL (member Association Internationale Journaliste Philatelique.)

"PRAGA 78" - World Postage Stamp Exhibition took place in Prague, Czechoslovakia from 8th to 17th September 1978. The exhibition, which marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia and the issue of its first stamps was housed in the Congress Hall and Brussels Pavilion of the Julius Fučík Park of Recreation and Culture, with subsidiary exhibitions at the Riding School of Prague Castle and in the U. Hyberňu Palace in Republican Square.

On the afternoon of Friday 8th September, Dr Gustav Husák, the Czechoslovakian President officially opened the exhibition with its theme of "Postage Stamps and Philately - A World of Knowledge and Peace."

Shortly after the opening a special helicopter flight took place from Pardubice to the Julius Fučík Park. On board were letters in specially prepared airmail envelopes

Many other such events took place during the ten days period of the exhibition, each day being devoted to a special theme, under the patronage of the appropriate National Organisation. These included a parachute landing at the Congress Hall.

Young Philatelists Day on Saturday 9th September was for example sponsored by the Socialist Youth Federation and included an International symposium of 'Philately for Handicapped Youth.

Other days were devoted to such aspects of collecting, as Thematics, Aerophilately, Postal History and United Nations, each supported by appropriate symposium, most of which were held in Prague's most modern hotel, the Inter-continental.

United Nations Day was also the occasion for a number of balloon flights, each carrying special souvenir mails. The final day of the exhibition sponsored by the Czechoslovak National Front Central Committee had for its theme " Peace, Friendship..

and Co-operation."

During Saturday 9th September, a number of Artists and Engravers of Czech stamps were at the exhibition to sign, miniature sheets, postcards and other like souvenirs of the Exhibition.

The British exhibitors were entertained on Monday 11th September at a reception given by the British Ambassador at his residence at the Embassy in the lovely surroundings just below the Prague Castle.

Six series of pre-exhibition stamps have been issued and more were issued during the exhibition period, with miniature sheets, postal stationery, and special cancellations and cachets, all too numerous to list in detail. So popular is collecting in Czechoslovakia that those attending the exhibition, not only queued for several hours to gain admission but in many cases even longer to get their special philatelic souvenirs.

Visitors to Prague could not fail to be aware of the exhibition which was exceedingly well publicised with large posters in prominent places all over the city. The majority of the shops, both large and small devoted part of their window displays to a 'Praga 78' theme, some being quite original in their approach.

Regular radio broadcasts were made from the exhibition and it was covered by Czech Television; who have made a newsreel film also for cinema showing. Both French and East German television were also in attendance. (BBC please note for "London 1980").

The main exhibition included notable International collections in the Court of Honour and from members of the International Jury together with the invited exhibits (Hors-Concours).

Heading the displays was a fine selection from the collection of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II which included a 1d and 2d Post Office Mauritius and Cape Triangular Issues, together with various essays and proofs of GB stamps of her reign.

Considerable interest was shown by visitors and long queues evident throughout the exhibition to see the famous and unique British Guyana 1c stamp of 1856 - the worlds rarest stamp now owned by an American syndicate.

Other exhibits in the Court of Honour included one from Prince Rainier III of Monaco, and our own John D. Griffiths (Great Britain 1840-1880), John B. Marriott (Trinidad 1806-1809) and Gary S. Ryan (Hungarian classics.)

British members of the Jury exhibits came from Dr A. Huggins (GB) and George South (Colombia). Our FIP (Federation Internationale Philatelique) member Sidney Hands showed Bolivia.

In the competitive sphere the National Class attracted major collections from Europe and America with over 350 frames. A further 190 frames (hors-concours) housed a composite exhibition from 18 collectors - members of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists, which with the help of historic postal documents showed the development of the Czechoslovak State from the 16th century to the present day. The development of the postal system was illustrated by letters, postmarks, when the territory was still part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, then through the transitional period immediately after the first world war, and the stamp issues between the wars, concluding with contemporary material.

The main strength in the other competitive classes was in the European section with over 1800 frames of fine material from some of the best collections in the world.

The rest of the world comprised a further 800 frames, whilst there were over 1000 frames of World Postal History. Aerophilatelic entries filled some 650 frames, whilst the less popular classes of Postal Stationery, and maximum cards attracted only 21 and 11 entrants respectively.

The ever increasing development and popularity of Thematic collecting was evidenced by a total of 1250 frames, containing an extremely wide concept of subjects and themes with some very original approaches to already popular themes.

Notably amongst the Eastern European exhibits were a number documenting the path of struggle, embracing such elements as the fight against fascism and the all too grim remainder of mails from concentration camps.

The Junior section contained material from 42 participants with only one from the UK. The standard of these entries was very good with a high thematic content.

The popularity of collecting among the young in Czechoslovakia was borne out by the large number of school parties to visit the exhibition.

The Philatelic Literature class comprised some 300 publications of either a general or specialist nature.

The Czechoslovak Postal Museum had its own major contribution to the main exhibition with a fully representative collection of the stamp issues from 1918, together with many historic documents and postal equipment. A special section was devoted to the designers and engravers with examples of their original artwork.

In all over 1500 exhibitors from 140 countries contributed to what has been described as the largest yet ever International Exhibition covering an area of 27000 square metres. The attendance topped 200,000 with the 100,000 mark being reached by the 4th day.

In an adjacent building a small daily bourse was run by the local collectors, and was well supported by the visitors.

The theme of the Exhibition at the Riding School of Prague Castle was "Art and the Stamp," organised in co-operation of the National Galleries of Prague and Bratislava it brought together a goodly number of the original art treasures from the state museums as depicted on the regular art series of stamps. The art work of the designers and original dies of the engravers and progressive prints up to final issued stamp were displayed. This exhibition provided a unique opportunity of comparing the stamps with the original "objet d'art" and the results attained can only be described as superb.

The famous Titian painting "Appollo punishing Marsius" also on view, was the subject of a two stamp miniature sheet issued on the Wednesday of the exhibition. The interpretation of the detail of this painting by the engraver Joseph Herčík is in itself a work of art. Although organised to coincide with "PRAGA 78" this exhibition is to remain open for some time for the benefit of visitors to Prague Castle.

The U Hybernu Palace Exhibition consisted of displays from leading International Postal Museums and Postal Administration World wide, the first time that such an invitation has been extended for a Czech International.

The Czech Postal Museum contributed a coverage of the last 30 years stamps with many examples of original art work.

Our own National Postal Museum provided an exhibit with designs, suggestions and printings of the world's first adhesive stamp (postage) - the 1d Black. Modern artists designs, seldom seen on display, unadopted essays of modern GB commemoratives supplemented this section, as did a show case of some early P.O. archives and original hand stamps.

Crown Agents provided a good cross section of more recent Commonwealth issues.

Other countries provided a wide coverage of the world's stamps, postal history, proofs and essays including many varieties.

As part of this exhibition, visitors were able to see documents pertaining to the joint Russian-Czechoslovak space flight which took place in March this year. The exhibits included the space suit of the first Czech cosmonaut and two letters from the space ship; one addressed to "PRAGA 78" the other to the Prague Postal Museum. Both items carry two rather indistinct postmarks. At a Press conference

after returning to earth, the cosmonaut explained the difficulty in handling small objects such as stamps and a canceller in a state of weightlessness. The instructions to the cosmonauts for handling a "space post" were also displayed as were the designs for special stamps and miniature sheets to be issued in March 1979 - the first anniversary of the joint venture.

The Palmeres Banquet was held on Saturday 16th September following an earlier press conference announcing the various awards. The following members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of GB gained awards:-

Topping the list is Gary S. Ryan with a large Gold, 4 Gold and a Vermeil for various sections of his Hungarian collection.

Henry Hahn Gold - Czechoslovakia 1918-1939
 Kay Goodman Silver - Czechoslovakia 1918-1939
 Reg Hounsell Silver - Czechoslovak Airmails 1920-1940
 John Whiteside Silver - Czechoslovak Airmails 1920-1939
 Gerald van Zanten Bronze-silver - Postal History of Czechoslovakia 1839-1946
 Jane Sterba Bronze - Thematic exhibit 'Lions International'
 Yvonne King Bronze - Study of the Hradcany Issue

"The Czechoslovak Specialist" the journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of America gained a Bronze silver in the literature class.

Paul Jensen was a trainee judge and exhibited Postal History of Czechoslovakia 1547-1850 and Cash Franking 1918-1920 in the Hors Concours.

A PERSONAL VIEW by Lindy James

This was my first visit to an International Stamp Exhibition and an unforgettable experience. The most outstanding memories are not only of the quantity and quality of stamps and philatelic material on show but of more ordinary things such as people queuing, the smell of charcoal roasted sausages and baroque music at the exhibition.

My first day on Saturday 9 September began with a crowded tram ride through part of Prague to the Julius Fučík Park which was the site of the exhibition. As we arrived at the Park I was amazed at the crowds milling around and queuing for entrance tickets then lining up to go through the gates. Beyond the gates was a large cobbled square with the main exhibition hall the Sjezdovy Palace facing us. This was an imposing building with a gilt roof and clock tower. On the other two sides of the square were small flower beds and large hoardings depicting the various themes and cancellations for each day. Another queue snaked away from the Sjezdovy Palace where the main attraction was the British Guyana 1c of 1856, part of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II's collection and of Prince Rainier of Monaco.

Our objective was the Brussels Pavilion where the Post Office did business. Outside the Pavilion were two small queues - one for the Post Office (which we joined) and one for the Pofis counter where the three coveted catalogues, together with the Miniature sheets, were sometimes on sale! The Post Office queue became our daily way of life - and we often met the same people each day! As we waited each day to obtain the cancellations on cards and letters and buy stamps, we were entertained by music over the loudspeakers. I found this very pleasant - mostly baroque music - but the recording was always the same one.

Once each day - both mornings and afternoons the comradely conversation of the queue would stop whilst the spectacle of the yellow and black Post Coach, driven by four white horses clattered down the avenue with a postillion blowing a fan-fare on a horn. I never saw any mail being emptied or loaded on the coach, although visitors did alight or drive off on occasions. Although we spent part of each day queue-based we did take it in turns to visit one of the exhibition halls.

Time and tiredness were the enemies against seeing every exhibit thoroughly - my favourite places were the thematic exhibits and the two exhibits depicting the artwork of the early stamps of the first Republic of Czechoslovakia.

The initial sketches of Seizinger for the stamps were shown, together with later drawings, engravers copies and ultimately the printed stamps. During my time at PRAGA 78 I saw many fine collections and could admire them, but whenever I was in the Palace I would try to have a look at these two exhibits.

In the Brussels Pavilion it was not only the stamps to be seen - there was a small cinema which opened twice a day. The afternoon we were there, a film of the world of Mucha was showing, it was also an instructive way to take the weight off of tired feet for a while!

There was also a radio transmitting and receiving station tucked away in a corner. It seemed to be manned only occasionally but one afternoon a crowd began to gather around, and loud and clear a message from a radio 'ham' in Philadelphia came through which the Czech receiver wrote down on a card. A few moments later there was a stirring in the crowd as a Czech voice was heard over the air. This it transpired was from a Czech ship and a jovial exchange of news took place.

Another place for collecting souvenirs of cancellations was near the Sjezdovy Palace - here were two motor coaches with people always waiting for auto post cancellations. I managed to obtain one of these on the last day of the exhibition by posting a card in a box outside the coaches.

The Bourse or Exchange Centre was a small building tucked away from the main exhibiting area, only a few people had stands as we know them, but a lot of private exchanging went on outside the building between avid collectors!

People also figure prominently in my memories of PRAGA 78. I was surprised at the large number of people at the exhibition each day, especially at weekends. Sunday is not a working day in the CSSR, and it seemed that everyone within reach of easy travelling distance of Prague came along. There were all kinds of people from children in prams and push chairs to the very elderly eager to see the exhibits. For me it was a pleasure to bump into a familiar face occasionally, either from our society or the American society. One of the highlights of the week was to meet one evening with some of the members of the GB Society that I had not met before, and then another evening, some of the members of the American Society at a meal in a restaurant in Prague.

On Friday 15 September the awards of PRAGA 78 were announced, we managed to obtain the booklet listing the winning exhibits, and were able to compare our ideas with those of the judges. The area where we disagreed was in the Thematic Class. We stayed late that afternoon looking at the award winning entries in the Brussels Pavilion, the following day we then visited the winning entries in the main building including those from our own Society members, and also from my own local club.

Later on the Friday afternoon, waiting for the tram to take us home, we saw some of the Japanese exhibitors and award winners. The group of about twelve had their trophies, which were large crystal vases in cardboard boxes, and they were taking photographs of each other by the fountain outside the Pavilion. They looked highly delighted, our tram came and to my surprise the Japanese group struggled onto the crowded tram trying hard to keep their precious trophies intact and also retain their balance on the swaying tram. Some stops later they all got off with the large boxes and hopefully arrived back in Japan without any casualties...

The last day of the exhibition seemed to arrive all too quickly and was curiously quieter than the earlier days, although there were still many people about. The whole atmosphere had changed, in front of the Sjezdovy Palace a brass band formed of Post Office employees played. In the afternoon 3,000 pigeons were to be released to mark the end of PRAGA 78. Crowds had gathered to watch them fly away, as I waited for that moment I felt nostalgic for all the things that had been seen and the people I had met during my visit. Suddenly the pigeons were released and the sky was filled with the circling birds, wheeling in all directions. Only one bird seemed reluctant (as I) to leave-as it stood there and then strutted up and down the van roof from which they had all been released, before finally flying off. I also left the Julius Fučík Park filled with memories and hopes that in 1988 another exhibition and I would return to Prague.

The Exhibition was a very large one and it was interesting to compare it with 'Hafnia' 1976 and 'Amphilex' 1977. The standard of the exhibits was generally very good and there were a great many new to me.

There was a great wealth of superb and rare Czechoslovakian material on display, perhaps especially among the 1919 overprints. A great deal of very fine proof and essay material was in evidence.

However, I felt that the National Class was in some ways a disappointment - most of the entries were rather disjointed arrays of scarce and rare material; very fine to see - but put together with an eye to their rarity rather than the continuity of the exhibit. With some honourable exceptions, - few entires were coherent exhibits which followed a topic through.

The postal history entries were overwhelmingly of pre-adhesive material. An exhibit I greatly enjoyed was in the postal stationery class where there was some superb early stationery of Czechoslovakia very nicely displayed.

I found that much the most rewarding display of Czechoslovakia was the large combined display by the Komise Cs. Známky. This contained some really superb material covering both stamps and postal history, especially of the 1918-1919 period.

I was visiting Czechoslovakia for the first time and I thoroughly enjoyed my visit

On the first Saturday, a joint lunch had been arranged between the Czech Philatelic Societies of the USA and GB. Unfortunately, the majority of the GB members were travelling out that day, however, two GB members did attend, John McKay Doney and myself. It was an enjoyable occasion with an excellant meal and it was pleasant to meet some of the members of the US Society who had travelled to Prague.

A PERSONAL VIEW by Henry R Sewell

Never having been to an International Stamp Exhibition coupled with the chance of visiting Prague for the very first time seemed to be a good opportunity not to be missed. So in went my request to join the official party. Eventually on Saturday 9 September, my wife and I turned up at Heathrow Airport and met for the first time the other members. What a happy time we all had.

In the competitive section there were 56 entries in the National Class. I could have spent two days with a note book browsing in this section alone. I think it was at this point that I began to be disheartened. Whole pages of Scout Stamps including several rare varieties, autographed trials etc. A whole page of 1919 Charity Issue with inverted overprints, and so on, one could go on indefinitely with errors, trials etc., of which previously I had heard only of their existence.

On returning home my stamps have now become more meaningful, Hradcany is not just a picture on a stamp with a philatelic interest - but a reminder of a castle and Cathedral on a hill visited by my wife and I last September. My stamps besides being just a collection will in future bring back happy memories of a wonderful week in Prague.

A PERSONAL VIEW by Gerald M van Zanten

I found the exhibition a fantastic show all round and Prague in particular and was only sorry that we did not meet while there, but I had some other appointments with Czech friends to meet now and again who by the way, made me most welcome everywhere; spent an afternoon on the underground and visited many other places of interest.

A PERSONAL VIEW by John McKay Doney

It gave me great pleasure, in my self-imposed isolation here (in Edinburgh), to meet with you all and match faces with names. That is always an interesting exercise. I look forward to our next meeting - perhaps at PRAGA 88.

Departure from Heathrow being one and a half hours behind schedule did not do my first flight nerves much good! I was fortunate to have a window seat and was able to identify a good proportion of my home countryside which was a particular bonus.

My trip had a dual purpose - hopefully to meet my two Czechoslovakian pen-friends who happen to be GB collectors, and naturally to experience an International Exhibition.

Having arrived in Prague and eventually passed customs we were escorted by mini-bus to our hotel. We all stayed together at the hotel for Dinner for the first evening, had to, no money - only coupons! My Praha friend came to the hotel that evening to meet us all, and he was able to let us know a few details of the PRAHA 78.

I achieved the purpose of my trip; thanks solely to Antonin my Praha friend, who actually took a week off work for me, (who he had not previously met) four of us, and sometimes his son hot footed it around most places of interest within the city, we even managed to fit in car journeys to Lidice and Karlstein, both places of significance.

FINAL COMMENTS by Yvonne King

Just room to add my own comments. I will confine these to my most amusing memory and to my most embarrassing moment!..

Kay, Ted, Alec and I visited Mělnick Castle. At the top of the stairs was a chest containing slippers thought to be from yester year! By observing others we soon came to our senses and realised they were over slippers to protect the floors. You can imagine the hilarity these caused, especially when trying to negotiate steps.

My most embarrassing moment - at the joint dinner with members of the American Society, discovering I had inadvertently eaten the desert ordered by their President and good friend of mine, Jane Sterba!!

International Symposium of The Czechoslovak Postage Stamp held on 10 September 1978

"INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF COLLECTING CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS."

Text of lecture given by Gary S Ryan FRPSL, Chairman of Commission FIP Territorial Philately.

Why should a country's collecting of traditional philately start with the political independence of a country? Why should the collectors of Austrian Stamps show under the heading of "Austria" the first stamps used in Prague, Brno or Bratislava in 1850? The majority of the present generation of Austrian stamp collectors have little, if any, geographical or cultural affinity with Czechoslovakia.

Philately is based on collecting stamps issued by post offices in any country. The political rulers in the 1850's (the Hapsburg dynasty) were the same throughout the territory of the Monarchy. The stamps used in Prague in 1850 were "Czechoslovak" stamps, just as they were "Austrian" stamps at that time. They can be properly described as used under "Austrian Administration". Some collectors of Austria do show these stamps under the heading "Austria" and then, under a sub-heading "used in Bohemia" or used "in Slovakia", and yet others show these under "Austria" with a sub-heading "Postal Directorate in Prague" or "Postal Directorate in Pressburg". In my view the Austrian and Hungarian stamps used in Czechoslovakia 1850 - 1918 are not "forerunners" but stamps used in Czechoslovakia under "Austrian administration" and under "Hungarian" administration respectively.

What and how you collect is entirely for you. It is a different thing when you start to exhibit and to display your collection for viewing by the public - especially internationally. For displaying a collection internationally there must be certain guide rules.

I suggest that for a collection of Czechoslovakia there should be two simple factors that decide:

- (1) is the post office which issued the stamp in the traditional territory of the country?
- (2) where is the central control of the postal administration?

The pioneer work of Ing. Emil VOTECK has done much to bring before collectors the great and wide field of cancellation of Bohemian post offices. This work needs to be enlarged. Dr Eugen Vesely and Messrs L. Novotny and A. Preisler have done a similar though a less detailed exercise in respect of Slovakia up to 1867. These works can and should be the basis to build on.

These efforts about post office cancellations need to be co-ordinated in all collections. If these ideas become popular a new concept of showing Czechoslovakian stamps internationally will avail itself to collectors. In my view it would make good sense and would strike a balance in collecting the classical period to 1918 and the modern traditional philatelic period from 1918. Make no mistake about it, traditional philately is the father of all stamp collecting. It is both classical and modern.

There is nothing new or unusual in this suggestion. You will have noticed both in literature and in collecting habits the trend towards collecting stamps of post offices as against stamps of governments. Throughout the last 138 years collecting habits have changed. The stamps collector in 1841 in London collected Penny Blacks - he had no choice. With every year the choices widened and people began to collect stamps of other countries. By 1860 specialisation was quite widespread. At the turn of the century, one of the most popular collecting habits was collecting Revenue stamps and most of the well known philatelists collected these at the time.

The 20th century brought new collecting habits which further widened interest but, generally speaking, until the end of the First World War people collected on Traditional Lines. Traditional Philately is the collecting of postage stamps of any country old and new and, in particular, the science of philately from the planning of an issue up to its usage by a post office. The design, the paper used, the perforation, the type of print, the colours and, finally, the usage. Some maintain that Postal History which started its now accepted popularity in the 1920's - is part of Traditional Philately. Postal Historians will say that Traditional Philately is part of Postal History.

These matters are of lesser interest in the context of Czechoslovakia where the time has come for a change in the displaying of collections at international exhibitions. I now respectfully invite you to consider this for the future. Widen your field and balance your collections.

Such an exhibit need not be expensive to assemble. On the contrary, it may well be less expensive to put together say two, three frames of the period 1850 to 1918 then to show the more detailed and specialised issues of 1918 to 1924 of Czechoslovakia.

Another point to remember is that in displaying stamps of pre-independent Czechoslovakia, there is no need to go into the detailed study of plating, perforations, errors, or indeed, the study of Mint stamps. Remember that you are showing stamps "used in Czechoslovakia", Therefore, the study is to direct itself more to the usage of these stamps at Czech and Slovak post offices. How then should such a collection of Czechoslovakia be mounted for an international exhibit?

I suggest that you head your sheets always "Czechoslovakia". Under this main heading, you should put "Austrian administration" for all sheets showing post office usage in Bohemia and Moravia until 1918. For Slovakia only until 1867, because from the 1st May 1867 the Post Offices there came under Hungarian administration. Therefore, for Slovakian post offices the sub-heading will thereafter be "Hungarian administration". The cancellation must establish beyond any doubt that the usage was in Czechoslovakia. Mint stamps can be collected but should not be

shown under Czechoslovakia.

The various issues from 1850 onwards can then be shown in various ways according to your own desire and preference. You can show the issues purely by the year of issue, you can show the issue by reference to usage of a particular part of the country or to a postal directorate, or you can show the various issues by reference to one or more post office, namely, starting from 1850 and then show all the issues by that or by a number of post offices to 1918.

I shall now show you by way of illustrations and suggestions how such a collection could be mounted on sheets.

Sheet No. 3 gives you an example of Slovakian Cancellations

Sheet No. 4 gives you an example of Slovakian Cancellations

I have no need to elaborate further on the vast change that the collecting habits would open up. It would also enable great new strides in the research of usages of these stamps by Czechoslovak post offices, into Postal History by reference to the post offices.

Here much can be left to the imagination of the individual collector - but naturally, for exhibiting internationally, the field is narrowed by the mere fact that collectors only get a limited number of frames, and even with 16 sheets to a frame the allocation may not always be adequate. Therefore, the collection must be built up with great flexibility. Generally speaking, a collector who has achieved Vermeil international standard and who would normally obtain 5 frames should have ready mounted and available for changing 15 frames. A collector of International Gold standard who would normally get 10 frames but who may get more, should have a minimum of 40 frames written up ready for changing and a collection of an International Large Gold standard who would probably have a minimum of 60 frames or more as the standard is higher and more difficult to maintain the higher the grade of the collection.

You just had a report on the new proposal for acceptance by FIP of Rules for Judges at International Exhibitions prepared by Ing. L. Dvoracek. Study these before you write-up your collection. It will pay off to get the proper award.

I do not suppose that these suggestions should spark off a great change in the philatelic habits of collectors of Czechoslovak stamps. If it brings forward a few more collectors who will show first in national and later in international exhibitions the use of stamps and covers between 1850 - 1918 by post offices on Czechoslovak territory, I would be happy to feel that I had made some contribution.

(The Co-Editors thank Gary Ryan for allowing them to print his paper - for space reasons they have only included examples of two sheets illustrating his text in english.)

We also thank our member P. D. Ashcroft who has kindly produced these illustrations on a photocopier.

Part 4 of the George Pearson story will be in the next issue of CZECHOUT - we have recently heard from George who sends his best wishes to everyone, although health prevents him from attending meetings he is still very much interested in the welfare of the Society. We sincerely hope that we may at some time have the pleasure of a contribution from his fund of knowledge of Czechoslovak philately.

4. 78 CONTEMPORARY SPOTLIGHTS by Alan.J.Knight

PRAGA 78 - National Costume Head Dresses

Technicalities: Four values: 1.00; 1.60; 3.60; and 5.00Kcs
Issue Date: 31 August 1977
Designer: Karel Svolinsky
Engraver: Jindr Schmidt (values 1.00 & 5.00Kcs)
Ladislav Jirka (values 1.60 & 3.60Kcs)
Stamps size: 23 x 30mm

NOTE: The engraver Jindra Schmidt is now the oldest active engraver of Czechoslovak stamps - probably in the whole world - being now 81 years of age. His contemporary - Jaroslav Goldschmied - was still active in his profession when he died last year aged 87.

During discussions on the preparation of special issues for PRAGA 78, it was decided that in addition to special themes and subjects peculiar to Prague the Capital City of the Republic, there should also be included motifs related to other regions. National Artist Karel Svolinsky suggested and submitted drawings of girl's and women's bonnets worn, in the past, in different towns, villages and regions of Czechoslovakia. These entries were adopted and appeared in the form used to make up and produce this particular set of stamps. (1.00Kc Mladá Boleslav; 1.60Kcs Vazec; 3.60Kcs Zavadka and the 5.00Kcs Bělkovice).

National Costumes can be called a Dying World. They began to disappear at the turn of the century, being gradually substituted by town and country wear as we now know them. Nevertheless, they have not completely vanished and can still be seen in use on Sundays and Special occasions in Southern and Eastern Moravia and Slovakia.

This issue was printed at the Printing Office of Telecommunications in Prague from FLAT PLATES which is the old method of individual printing works of Art. When this method is applied in Czechoslovakia to the production of postage stamps, one can realise in advance, that production figures are going to be very limited - usually around or below the 500,000 figure! Normal Rotary Press printings are usually around the 10 million mark.

In this particular case the stamps were printed in TWO DIFFERENT LAYOUTS:

- 1) in sheets of ten stamps (5 x 2)
- 2) in sheets of eight stamps in two rows of four with the PRAGA 78 motif in the centre space of each row instead of two central stamps.

The sheets of ten stamps were available to the public from the Post Office and POFIS stamp shops, whereas the sheets with PRAGA 78 Coupons (Tabs) were available only to REGULAR New Issue Subscribers and, it is believed, at the PRAGA 78 Exhibition itself. The quantities printed are known to be limited to 400,000 only in the 1st style (10 stamps) but the figure for printing of the 2nd sheets is not yet to hand.

I would draw members' attention to the fact that in the second arrangement (8 stamps and 2 coupons) the drawings of the PRAGA 78 emblem are NOT identical. The upper coupon shows only ONE sprig of leaves, whereas the lower one has two sprigs! Moreover, the colour combinations vary also:

- 1.00Kcs - red and green
- 1.60Kcs - red and orange
- 3.60Kcs - red and violet
- 5.00Kcs - red and blue

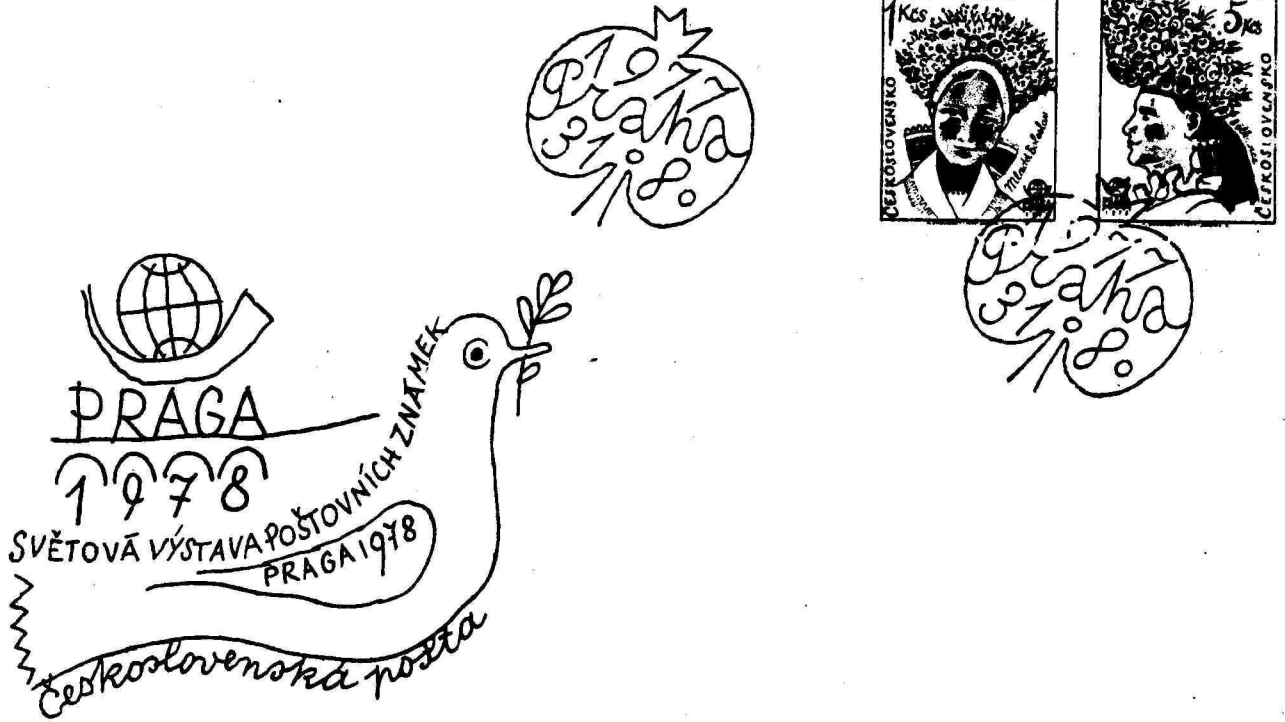
Also note that the printing of PRAGA 78 is in red only except on the LOWER COUPON of the 3.60Kcs value, where it appears in violet. On the LOWER COUPON of the 1.60Kcs value the colour is orange; a very interesting arrangement!

Concurrent with the issue of these stamps, two Official First Day Covers were made available. Designed by the author of the stamps Ladislav Jirka, they portray symbolic designs of a Dove and Cock in red and blue. The covers carry the stamps 1Kc/5Kcs and 1.60Kcs/3.60Kcs respectively.

PRAGA 78 - National Costume Head Dresses C'td

4. 78

Finally - for the fly-speck enthusiasts, some interesting 'finds' can be located in the 1Kc and 5Kcs stamps! For starters - take a look at the 'balance' of the design of the PRAGA 78 emblem!!



Official First Day Covers designed by Ladislav Jirka





The Sheets of eight stamps as described.



PRAGA 78 - Supplement to 'POFIS' Catalogue showing POFIS Numbers and Prices in Kcs

4. 78

1976

<u>PRAGA 78 (Airmail)</u>	<u>FACE</u>	<u>MINT</u>	<u>USED</u>
L 80	0.60	0.60	0.30
81	1.60	1.60	.80
82	2.00	2.00	.80
83	2.40	2.40	1.00
84	4.00	4.00	1.60
85	6.00	26.70	6.00

HISTORICAL PRAGUE WINDOWS

1977

2240	.20	.20	.10
2241	.30	.30	.20
2242	.40	.40	.20
2244	5.00	13.10	5.00

HISTORICAL POSTAL UNIFORMS

2253	0.60	0.60	0.30
2254	1.00	1.00	.50
2255	2.00	2.00	1.00
2256	3.60	12.60	3.60

NATIONAL COSTUME HEAD DRESS

2263	1.00	2.20	2.20
2264	1.60	3.60	3.60
2265	3.60	8.10	8.10
2266	5.00	11.30	11.30

HISTORY OF AVIATION (Airmail)

L 86	.60	.60	.30
87	1.00	1.00	.50
88	1.60	1.60	.80
89	2.00	2.00	1.00
90	4.40	16.40	4.40

PRICE-CHANGES FOR 1976 ISSUE "PRAGA 78" - ART ON STAMPS

2227	1.00	4.60	3.30
2228	1.40	6.40	4.60
2229	2.00	9.00	6.50
2230	3.60	5.00	3.60

Price changes effective from 1st September 1977

1978
650 Anniv. State Mint at Kremnice

2296	0.20	.20	.10
2297	.40	.40	.20
2298	1.40	13.90	1.40
2299	3.00	3.00	1.50
2300	5.00	5.00	2.50

THE BRIDGES OF PRAGUE

				<u>Quantities</u>
2314	0.20	0.20	0.10	7,600,000
2315	40	40	20	5,800,000
2316	1.00	1.00	50	4,900,000
2317	2.00	2.00	1.00	4,800,000
2318	3.00	3.00	1.50	5,100,000
2319	5.40	20.40	5.40	500,000 only

4.78

POFIS CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT C'td

PRAGUE OLD CITY CLOCK

"Astronomical Clock:"

	<u>FACE</u>	<u>MINT</u>	<u>USED</u>
2320	0.40	0.40	0.20
2321	1.00	1.00	50
2322	2.00	2.00	1.00
2323	3.00	15.50	3.00
2324	3.60	3.60	1.80
2325 MS(perf.)	10.00	22.50	22.50
2325 MS(imperf.)	10.00	200.00	-----

There is no information at present on the envisaged issue for 29 May 1978 60th State Anniv. which appears to have been delayed. A.J.Knight.

SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS 1978

A Review by Alan J. Knight

Having just received a copy of this new and impressive catalogue produced concurrently with PRAGA 78 and intended for the serious philatelist, I have already found it to be 1Kg. of absolutely pure delight for even the average-to-serious collector such as myself.

Containing up-dated descriptions, prices, varieties and very deep, specialised information and printed within 446 pages of fine-art paper, one can only recommend it as being absolutely 'must' reading for all serious collectors of the stamps of Czechoslovakia, by which I include Forerunners and Postal History.

Not only does it supply all the above information - and very much more - it contains material in no less than six languages. including English, by virtue of which, any "average-intelligence" person can soon find his or her way through most of the intricacies contained in this splendid volume. For example: over thirty pages containing no less than 415 individual definitions of fundamental philatelic terminology; 57 colour descriptions and approximately 40 different symbols used throughout the catalogue, including many perforation symbols - this splendid catalogue is a mine of information.

Many surprising price rises are noted - some of huge content - including many within the more modern issues, especially amongst Miniature Sheets and Blocks. And to make it that much easier for one to very quickly convert POFIS numbers to SG: Zumstein; Scott and several other Catalogue Numbers there are about 36 pages containing a very simplified system to enable the reader to make any reference in a few seconds. By the same charts, one can convert in reverse order quite as quickly!

Being printed on shiny, fine-art paper, the illustrations are superior to any within the normal POFIS catalogue. Although FDC's are listed and numbered, they are not, in the main, priced. However, all known 'Tab' stamps (stamps within sheets containing illustrated coupons or blanks) are individually priced right through the catalogue. The volume is as completely up-dated as far as is reasonably possible - from Hradcany No. 1 right through to 1978 the Old Prague Astronomical Clock Set issued for PRAGA 78.

In conclusion, it must be added that the POFIS KATALOG 1978 is expected to be published very shortly in the usual format.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr Henry R Sewell raises a query ..."I have a few Bohemia and Moravia stamps of the 1940-41 Views issue cancelled with a numerical cachet - these take the form of a large figure 1 with a number underneath, both enclosed in a square with rounded corners.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS C'td

4. 78

Mr Stuart Clark very kindly gave me an answer to this question some time ago....
"Sometimes you find the war-time Bohemian stamps with a postmark comprising one
(or two) number(s) within a rectangular frame. The larger number at the top is
the District and the smaller one below is the Town. Example e.g. 2/292."

Mr Sewell also asks...."can you explain why some of the 1920 5h green Newspaper
Stamps are cancelled with "WIEN" postmarks? Several postal districts have been
noted along with "W1" in a small circle.

Can any member help with this query?

Colin Spong

PRGRAMME 1979:

NEXT MEETING at Ernst Gorge's house on Saturday 6 January - 11 Manor Way,
Blackheath, London, SE3. Tel: 01.852.2589.
(for those members wishing to go by train from Central London, a convenient one
from either Charing Cross Station or London Bridge to arrive approximately around
2.20 where members will be met by car.) Subject: Praga 78 display.

All Meetings commence at 2.30 p.m.

Saturday March 3 at the National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE
(British Philatelic Federation Office - Room 10) to co-incide with STAMPEX. subject:
Scout, Revolutionary and Liberation issues.

Saturday 19 May at Bishops Stortford - perhaps in conjunction with an exhibition-
organised by Cyril Wackett.

Saturday 7 July at Mrs Irem Galloway's house - 46, Castlemaine Avenue, South
Croydon, Surrey.

CZECHOUT

Back issues are available price 25p each (plus postage) from Volume 1 to 8, 10 -
onwards. If any number has to be xeroxed price is 5p per page. Whilst stocks
last Bulletin 9 (The Monographie part 13) is free to members only, when exhausted
a charge of 5p per page will be made for xeroxing.

The Co-Editors have extended this issue to sixteen pages to commemorate the PRAGA
78 and hope that members will feel it was worthwhile.

CZECHOUT was recently reviewed in the American publication 'Philatelic Literature
Review' Vol.27 No 3 - Third Quarter 1978, and we thank them for their kind remarks.

It is also supplied to the British Library, as per copyright regulations and is
currently being registered by their UK National Serials Data Centre.

The Libraries of The Royal Philatelic Society of London, and The National Philatelic
Society, (in exchange we receive a copy of Stamp Lover, the journal of the NPS.)

We likewise send a copy to The American Philatelic Research Library in whose journal
'Philatelic Literature Review' is to be found excellant articles on publications
world-wide, as well as Bibliographies of different 'specialist technical societies'
from time to time.

We extend to all our members, and to our printers, a Happy Christmas and Every
Blessings in the New Year.