

Thursday 21 November 2013 at 1pm Czechoslovak PS of GB 60th Anniversary

On 21 November 85 Fellows and Members and 30 guests were privileged to see an outstanding display by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, marking the 60th anniversary of the society. As always when specialist societies give a club display, it provided a remarkable range of diversity and illustrated the vast array of aspects that are offered to the collector of this fascinating part of the world. The region that became Czechoslovakia in 1918, and now comprises the separate nations of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, has endured more turbulence and upheaval in its history than most countries and this was well reflected in the range of displays.



Members of the Czechoslovak PS of GB at No. 41

Until 1918 the Czech and Slovak lands formed part of the Austria-Hungary and their early philately is an integral part of the story of the Danubian Empire with its complex mixture of nationalities and languages. With the declaration of independence in October 1918 they became a republic which included the eastern region of Carpatho-Ukraine, but in 1939 the first republic disappeared with the Czech lands becoming the German Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, and Slovakia becoming a puppet state allied to Germany. Liberation in 1945 was quickly followed by Soviet domination and Czechoslovakia (minus Carpatho-Ukraine) became a communist state until the 1989 revolution which in its turn was followed by the 'velvet divorce' in 1993 whereby the Czech Republic and Slovakia went their separate ways.

Complex you may say, exhausting even but also intriguing and all of these stages were illustrated together with many aspects of the life, art and culture of the region. As we know from the annual Sberatel exhibitions in Prague, philately in this part of the world is alive and well and 23 members of the society produced no less than 32 displays to demonstrate that. These were:

Keith Brandon	Postmarks of Bohemia & Moravia
Wim Tukker	Postal history of Karlsbad
Keith Brandon	Postal history of Kosice
Hans van Dooremalen FRPSL	Postal history of Brno
Ian Burniston	Liberation overprints 1945
Reg Hounsell	Zeppelin and DHL mail
James Hooper	1963 space miniature sheet
Dai Pring	Czech perfins 1870-1970
Derek Baron	Olomouc TPOs in Austrian period
Tony Bosworth FRPSL	Sokol 1912 slet
Reg Hounsell	Prague pneumatic post 1898-1938
Brian Day	Czech Army in Siberia 1918-20
Barry Horne FRPSL	1918 Scout mail
Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL	Hradcany issue 1918-1920
Barry Horne FRPSL	Charity overprints
Roger Morrell	Civilian mail censorship
Yvonne Gren	East Silesia
Garth Taylor	Czechoslovak airmails 1922-31
Rex Dixon FRPSL	Hlucinsko/Hultschiner Landchen
Tony Moseley	German occ. of Sudetenland 1938
Colin Spong FRPSL	Slovaklands in Austro-Hungary
Hans van Dooremalen	FRPSL Slovak postal stationery
Rex Dixon FRPSL	Bohemia & Moravia tariffs
Derek Baron	Liberation of Olomouc 1945
Wojciech Kierstan	Operation Anthropoid
Richard Wheatley FRPSL	War heroes on parcel cards
Barry Horne FRPSL	1953 currency reform
Norman Hudson	Alfons Mucha - Designer
Barry Horne FRPSL	Art and skill of the engraver
Lindy Bosworth	1930s multi-coloured cancels
Norman Hudson	The Tatra mountains of Slovakia
Kenneth Burr	Communist stamp design.

In addition the Czechoslovak Society provided a range of material to fill the display cases, illustrating the achievements of the society during its 60 years, and 12 static displays on Czechoslovak themes for the frames in the meeting room after the meeting. The static displays accompanying the main display were a first by a specialist society and Yvonne Wheatley, the Chairman of the society, was warmly congratulated by the President for this innovation as well as for the range and quality of the display. Afterwards the Czechoslovak Society members joined the RPSL for a convivial dinner at the Kings Head.