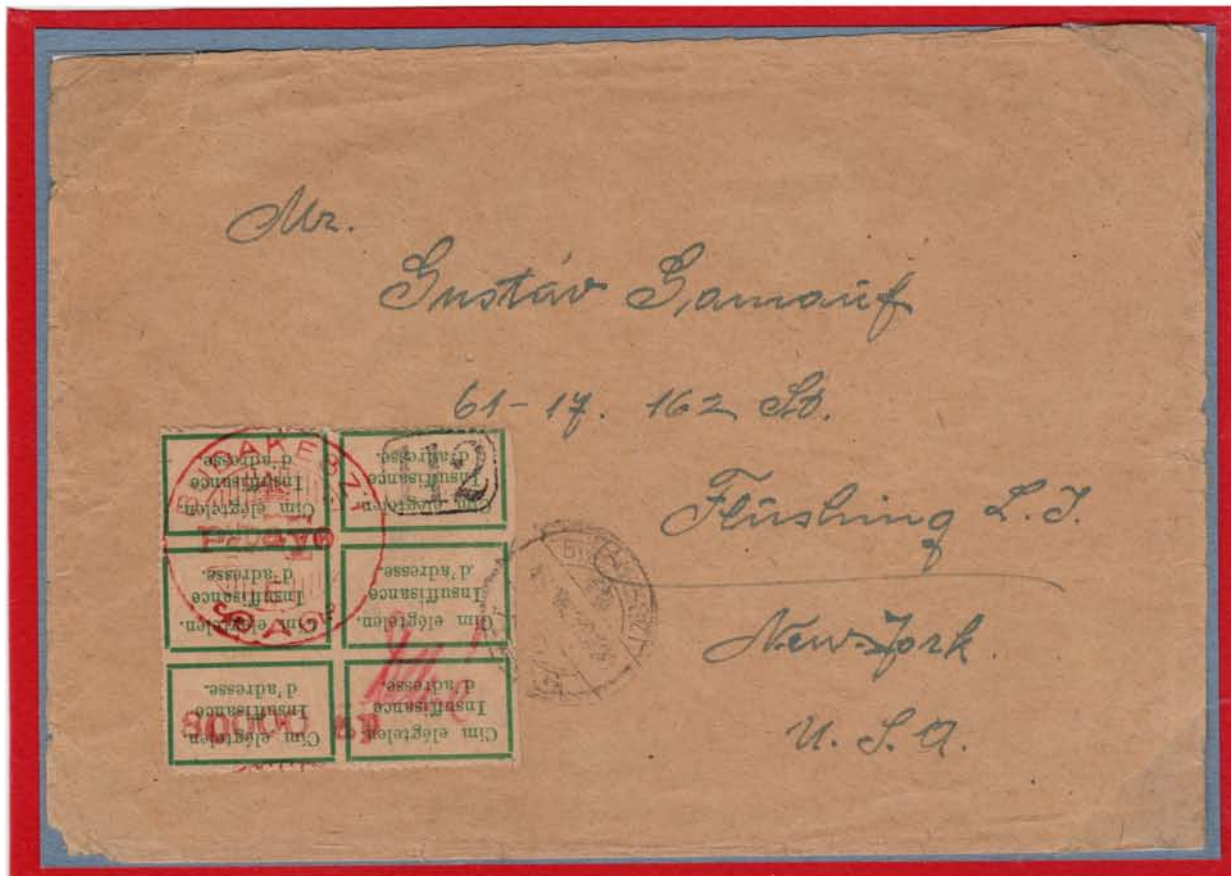


THE BUDAKESZI POSTMASTER PROVISIONALS

Rate Period 25.

Budakeszi, July 17, 1946.

#1



Paid Foreign letter rate 80,000 AdóPengö

'Insufficient Address' labels overprinted '80,000 ap' (AP) and used as provisional postage stamps. Hungary's postal regulations did not allow for this type of provisional stamp. Improvised home printing set was used to imprint the correct rate, same time it was initialed with red pencil.

#2

Reduced

Rate Period 24.

Budakeszi, July 11, 1946.

The 'Provisional stamps' were prepared (with red daystamp and '112' control number) on July 4th but was posted only on July 11, 1946. (see black cds. tying stamps to cover). The needed values were applied on the day of mailing. (200ezer B. + 400ezer B.)

Paid double-weight foreign letter rate
650,000 Billio Pengö (short paid 50,000 BP)

Certificate



THE BUDAKESZI POSTMASTER PROVISIONALS

In the pre-Internet/pre-eBay days we had to look through dozens of auction house catalogs arriving in the mailbox each month. In those years my main collecting interest was the imperforated stamps of Hungary. I was a stamp collector, not a postal history collector. In April 1987, received a catalog from the Roger Koerber, a Michigan stamp dealer/auction house and while looking it through I've seen pictures of two Hungary covers (#1 and #2) with stamps on them that I have never seen before. My first reaction was that these must be fakes, looking at them a little more I wasn't sure anymore but ignited my interest because the two covers had different types of stamps on them. Both covers were from the same sender to the same address in the USA. I have decided to bid on both of them, but on one I bid a little less (just in case they turn out to be fakes). In the auction I have won the one where I've bid more (#1) but did not get the other one (#2).

After I've received the #1 cover I came to the conclusion that it looked genuine but had no idea what it was. There was no such thing shown in any Hungarian catalogue. After a year of research I've learned that it was a rare Budakeszi Postmaster Provisional cover. While I was researching this cover I've gotten to know the difficulties/challenges of the Hyperinflation's 27 rate periods and I was 'hooked'. That is when I became a postal history collector from a stamp collector and that is the point when my journey into Hungary's Hyperinflation as postal history began. That Budakeszi cover became the first collection item into what turned out to be my main collecting interest since. Over the years this quest gave me more fun, philatelic friends, challenges and satisfaction that I have ever imagined.

As I've started to learn and collect material for my new interest, I was thinking about the other Budakeszi cover that I did not get in 1987. I've called up the auctioneer and

asked him who bought that cover but he couldn't (or did not want to) tell me. It was 'bugging me' (fúrta az oldalamat) to find that cover and in 1991, I've written articles in the *Stamps of Hungary (HPS)*, *News of Hungarian Philately (SHP)* and in *The American Philatelist (APS)*. In the articles I've mentioned that I was very interested to examine that missing cover, hoping that somebody will read it and will get in touch with me. In 1994, I have received a note from Mr. Janos Gabriel who bought and owed that missing cover of my interest. I've asked for and he graciously sent the cover to me so I could examine it in actuality. When I've returned the cover, I've asked Mr. Gabriel to remember me when he decides to sell it. That call came five years later and my quest for the cover ended - the two covers are in my collection together again!

Both covers are integral parts of the collection *"HUNGARY: THE HYPERINFLATION 1945-1946"* and were exhibited in four FIP International shows receiving four Gold medals. The latest in LONDON 2010 – received a high point (92) Gold medal. In U.S.A. Nationals were shown in the past 20 years and have always received Gold medals plus assorted extra awards. This year the collection was shown at ARIPEX (Arizona) 2014, received Gold and the highest honor: the GRAND AWARD. *This was the first time that any Hungarian exhibit has ever have received the Grand Award in the U.S.A.!*

All my collected researched data was published in the first comprehensive book ever written covering the title *"The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946"* published by the Collectors Club of Chicago (2003). The book was exhibited at Colopex 2004, received National Gold and the Grand Award. At 'APS StampShow 2004' Gold, Reserve Grand and the prestigious Diane D. Boehret Award for the 'Best U.S.A. Philatelic Handbook Published in 2003/2004'.

Robert Morgan