

MAGYAR FILATÉLIAI TUDOMÁNYOS TÁRSASÁG

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A MISSING CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

Egy eltűnt Szt. István Koronája
Eine vermisst Krone von St. Stephan

Over the last five years,* I have been studying "surviving" Hungarian postage cancellers which continued to be used in the "lost territories" after November 1918, and even beyond the Treaty of Trianon (signed June 4, 1920; officially in effect, July 31, 1921) into at least 1922. (I have seen a Lugoj survivor dated 1959.) Some cancellers were physically mutilated by the postal workers of the "successor" states that possessed the territories. In the most dramatic mutilation, there was a total excision of the Crown of St. Stephen, which was a standard feature of Hungarian cancellers of type H, J, and K (and the later L-R types).† A systematic account of survivors in the lost territories is not included in the **Monográfiája**. These cancellers were no longer legitimately Hungarian, used neither in Hungary nor by the Hungarian post. Information about surviving cancellers and their mutilation can be found, for example, in the Czechoslovakian **Monografie** (16. Díl, II. Svazek), for cancellers used in the post-revolution Slovak and Ukrainian segments of that country. Unearthing surviving Hungarian cancels on the stamps of Fiume, the various regions of S.H.S., the Erdély, Partium, and Bánát in Romania, and Czechoslovakia is rewarding; discovering cancels on these stamps from which the iconic Crown of St. Stephen has been removed (an understandable political tactic in the nationalization of an endogenous post) is especially gratifying. However, cancellers from which the Crown of St. Stephen had been excised were employed in and by Hungary itself throughout the 20th Century. For some early specimens of indigenous Hungarian Crown-excised cancellers (type F₀), see Ercsi (1909, 1918, † p. 315), Keszthely (1902, 1912, † p. 320), Pásztó (1912, † p. 327), and Várpalota (1911, † p. 335). But the absolute death-by-excision of the Crown was carried out starting in 1946 (§ p. 466) by the post-WWII postal administration; see cancels from Nádasd (1957; § image 228), Vác (1953; † p. 215), Bácsbokod (1957; † p. 228), Hatvan (1958; † p. 339), Paks (1960; † p. 374), Budapest (1967; † p. 374), and Homokterenyé (1955; † p. 308). Not only was the Crown eliminated, but "Kir." (= Király) as well. Whether the sentiment was anti-monarchical, anti-clerical, pro-democracy, and/or pro-communist is unclear. My "gem" is a surgically disfigured cancel which lost both "Kir." and the Crown (center and right):



Canceller 179 struck on Romania Scott 449 (King Carol, 2 lei green, 1935-40; desaturated image), used during the Visszatért period in the Partium town Avastújváros.† The cancel (§ Image 297), dated 1940 September 5 – soon after the Second Vienna Award, 1940 August 30 – includes both "Kir." and the Crown.



Two-piece Tápiósüly temporary canceller. Both "Kir." and the Crown have been excised from the circular steel canceller, leaving two empty spaces (§ Image 294). The town name is misspelled on the rubber canceller. The stamp is MPBK 1046 (1947), Scott 828.



Desaturated image. Tápiósüly was in Pest megye, ca. 40 km east of Budapest. Tápiósüly and Tápiósáp were merged 1950-1954, forming Sülysáp; in 1970 they were remerged. In 1940 Tápiósüly had its own cancellers († p. 450). Why replacement or temporary cancellers in 1947?

*Beginning with A. Soble, "Obliterations and Their Absence: The Prolonged Fate of Post-WWI Hungarian Postmarks," *News of Hungarian Philately* 40:1 (January-March, 2009), pp. 17-32; and 40:2 (April-June), pp. 3-11. Reprinted in *Stamps of Hungary* (U.K.), no. 178 (September, 2009), pp. 11-28; and no. 179 (December, 2009), pp. 10-22. The most recent part is "Post-Trianon Hungarian Survivors in the Successor States," *News of Hungarian Philately* 43:1 (January-March, 2012), pp. 14-29. † Dr. Palotás Zoltán, "Az 1940-ben visszacsatolt Erdélyrész pótbélyegzői," *Philatelica* 88/2, pp. 14-28, at p. 23. § *Monográfiája*, Vol. I (2013). † *Monográfiája*, Vol. VI (1973).



Excised Rákosi Shield, 1956