

# MAGYAR FILATÉLIAI TUDOMÁNYOS TÁRSASÁG

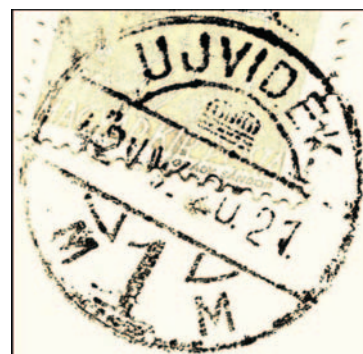
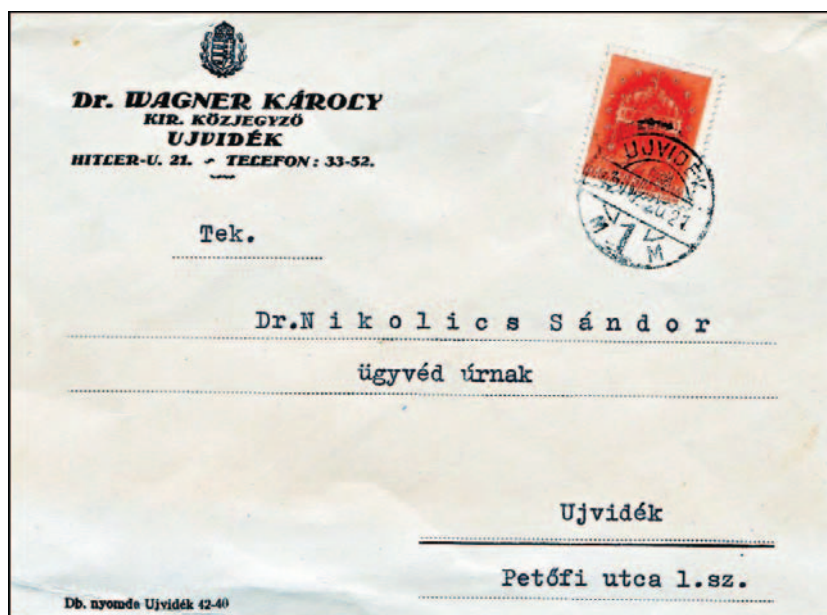
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## *Ujvidék, an Interloper* *Ujvidék, Határsértő* *Ujvidék, ein Usurpator*

I have had, for a number of years and for three reasons, an interest in the Vojvodinian town Ujvidék. First, there has been much confusion – in the Hungarian postal system, in philately and postal history, and geography and cartography – about the spelling of the name: "Ujvidék" *versus* "Újvidék." Second, the lengthy record of the construction, destruction, and rebuilding of the bridges spanning the Danube at Ujvidék is intriguing. Third, the political status of the town epitomizes the fate of the "lost territories": (1) in the Kingdom of Hungary, it was located in Bács-Bodrog Vármegye; (2) for two decades after the Treaty of Trianon (June 4, 1920), it was in a Balkanizing Yugoslavia; (3) in 1941, it became a "Visszatért" city in a semi-reconstituted Nagymagyarország; and (4) after World War II it was once again in Yugoslavia (this time Communist). Throughout its history the town was identified as "Ujvidék" in Hungarian, "Neusatz" in German, and "Novi Sad" in Serbian. The Ujvidék commercial, nonphilatelic cover on display is a gem in my collection as a representative of period (3). The cover's return address provokes reflection about Ujvidék's political culture and the "irredentist" role of Hungary in WWII.



There was in Visszatért Ujvidék also a "Mussolini út" (printed-inscribed, not handwritten, on another cover in my collection). Note that on this 1942 "gem" the town's name is spelled "Ujvidék," *ékezetmentes* [no accent], four times. I have many examples of the alternative "Újvidék" spelling on stamps and covers.

In Visszatért Kolozsvár, "Hitler tér" was the WW2 name of Cluj-Napoca's "Stefan cel Mare" square. Recall the interloperian renaming of "Andrássy út" to "Sztálin út" (1950-1956), then to "Magyar Ifjúság útja," and then to "Népköztársaság út" until 1990.

Ujvidék in the Kingdom of Hungary was, up to World War I, a multiethnic, multicultural, cosmopolitan city, inhabited by a mixture of Hungarians (39.7%), Germans (17.6%; Albert Einstein, 1905-1907), and Serbs (34.5%). The city was a microcosm of the Empire and a paradigm of "The happy unity of Europe" (A.J.P. Taylor, *From Sarajevo to Potsdam*, 1965, p. 12). After WWI, the proportion of Hungarians and Germans decreased only slightly. In 1941-1944 (Visszatért), Hungarians were temporarily a majority (50.4%). The collapse of the Axis in 1944-1945 had a greater effect on Germans than did WWI: they were reduced to virtually zero. The Hungarian population was halved. Today the town is 80% Serb and 4% Magyar. Tennis champion Szeles Mónika was born here – Novi Sad – in 1973. (Population data from Károly Kocsis and Eszter Kocsis-Hodosi, *Ethnic Geography of the Hungarian Minorities in the Carpathian Basin*, 1998, p. 144.)

Trilingual manufacturer's inscription on a pre-1914 Ujvidék postcard:

4585 Buchhandlung-Milan Ivković, Ujvidék Serie 151