26
1

Philatelica

English translation

2026/1

Content:

Karoly Szucs:	Editorial Preface to Issue 2026/1	1
Janos Dan:	Postal Traffic During The Period Of Military Operations Part Iii – Szeged Postal Directorate 1944–1945	2
Denes Czirok RDP, FRPSL:	Forgeries Using the 1871 Hungarian 10 Krajcar Imprinted Envelopes	14
Karoly Szucs – Gyorgy Toth:	The Pengo-Forint Transition as the 28th Period of Hyperinflation	27
News		31

Editor: Karoly Szucs, member of Mafitt and curator of the Gervay Foundation
Translators: Denes Czirok RDP, FSPRL; Janos Dan; Karoly Szucs

Consultants:
Mervyn Benford, member of Mafitt and Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain (HPSGB)
Dr. Gyorgy Lovei, president of the Mafitt

Correction:
In our previous issue, the Mafitt Stamp Expert Group was mistakenly reported as having already been established, as it was in progress during the editing of the magazine, but had ultimately failed by the time of publication of the magazine. The stamp experts of that group, independent of Mafitt, have since established a civil society with a changed name but retaining the same abbreviation as before - in contrast to which the previous umbrella organizational role of our society no longer exists.

EDITORIAL PREFACE TO ISSUE 2026/1



KAROLY SZUCS

At our general meeting, I unfortunately unsuccessfully pointed out the problems in the production of our newspaper that I had also indicated in the preface to our previous issue. By the middle of the year, a meaningful new issue had already begun to take shape, for which we had even prepared an English translation.

The largest article in the volume would have been a large-scale study summarizing new research results on Hungarian airmail. This was done in several steps, and its continuous development could already be followed on the editorial page of our website during the year.

Unfortunately, this article is still not final. Although we waited until the last moment of the year for this, our last year's issue was ultimately omitted entirely due to lack of material - our usual length was finally filled with the help of a shorter article that arrived in the meantime.

It still depends on our membership how it will continue. Knowing the capabilities of our members, I firmly believe that we are able to put together five or six larger articles, including images, in the range of 70-80 pages.

In addition, for publication, we will also need members who will work in translation and proofreading, although these concerns have been significantly alleviated in recent times with the dramatic improvement in the quality of machine translation using artificial intelligence.

I hope that we will support our new presidency, which will be renewed this year, in being able to organize again so that there will still be something to edit with the same abundance as before.



POSTAL TRAFFIC DURING THE PERIOD OF MILITARY OPERATIONS
PART III – SZEGED POSTAL DIRECTORATE 1944–1945

DAN JANOS, BUDAPEST

1. CSONGRÁD-CSANÁD COUNTY

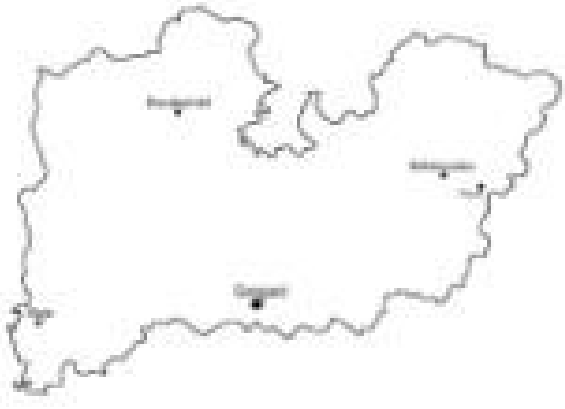


Figure 1. The Territory of the Szeged Postal Directorate

In September 1944, the evacuation of post offices to the west was organized. Generally, half of the staff of the post offices departed together with the equipment, documents, valuables, and seals to be evacuated. Transport was carried out by horse-drawn carts, since the military was using the motor vehicles. Smaller post offices transferred their valuables to larger ones, and the larger offices then transported them further—this time by rail—together with their own valuables.

On September 23, the Mezőkovácsháza post office had already ceased operation. On the same day, the Battonya post office was evacuated to Orosháza.

On September 24, at the Orosháza railway station, the evacuated valuables and staff of the post offices of the following villages were waiting for transportation: Dombegyháza, Kunágota, Dombiratos, Battonya, Nagykamarás, Kaszaper, and Mezőhegyes.

Also on the 24th, around noon, the Szeged postal director informed the chief notary of the county by telephone that, following the order of the commander of the Royal Hungarian 5th Army District, the post offices east of Makó had to cease operations. These were the post offices of Apátfalva, Magyarcsanád, Nagylak, Csanádpalota, Kövegy, and Pitvaros. The Makó post office was to be prepared for evacuation.

By the afternoon, due to the worsening situation, the evacuation of the Makó post office was ordered, and the officials were instructed that those who could should leave the town immediately to the north.

Military administration was introduced in Hódmezővásárhely. On September 26, Makó was occupied by the Red Army.



Figure 2. October 4, 1944. A local letter posted in Hódmezővásárhely. It was sent on the penultimate day of the post office's operation and delivered on its last day.

On October 6, Post Office No. 1 in Hódmezővásárhely, located on Kossuth Square, was evacuated. The state and municipal offices were evacuated to Szekszárd.

October 7. The Budapest Postal Directorate sent a car to evacuate the valuables of the Szentes post office.

October 8. The Szeged Postal Directorate was transferred to Budapest along with its leaders. More than 80% of the staff left Szeged. Hódmezővásárhely and Szentes were occupied by the Red Army.

October 11. The Red Army entered Szeged. Posters called on postal workers to return to work.

With the onset of winter and the lack of fuel, the soldiers used old postal documents found at the Szeged Directorate as firewood, resulting in the complete destruction of archival materials from 1920–1944.

October 15. The telephone exchange in Szentes was already in operation.

October 16. The Szeged Directorate began operations. However, its building had been used by the Soviets as a military hospital, so postal work could not yet resume there. Employees worked in temporary locations.

November 1. The mechanical telephone exchange in Szeged was dismantled and transported to the Soviet Union. In its place, a manual switchboard was installed, which operated for months under military supervision.

November 6. Postal operations resumed in Hódmezővásárhely. Local letters as well as ordinary letters addressed to Szentes, Kunszentmárton, and Orosháza were accepted and dispatched.

November 7. The Szeged City Council ordered the resumption of operations at the Szeged Postal Directorate.

November 21. Szeged 1 Main Post Office began accepting ordinary and registered local letters and postcards at the last valid tariff (July 1, 1943). Letters had to be submitted unsealed, written in a plain and comprehensible language; the use of coded or agreed-upon language was strictly prohibited under military regulations (134/1944).

November 23. Postal transport of ordinary and registered letters, as well as postcards, began between the Szeged 1 post office and the post offices of Szeged-Alsóközpont, Királyhalom, Pusztamérges, and the postal agencies of Feketeszél, Lengyelkápolna, and Csorva, located along the Szeged Economic Railway. (140/1944).



Figure 3. December 1944. A postcard posted from Hódmezővásárhely to Nagykőrös. In December, the Hódmezővásárhely post office used this provisional rubber handstamp.



Figure 4. January 3, 1945. Printed matter sent from Deszk to Szeged, using the temporary rubber handstamp of Deszk.

By late November, traffic resumed on the Hódmezővásárhely–Makó–Mezőhegyes railway line, which also restored postal traffic.

December 13. A temporary railway service began operating between Szeged and Kiskunfélegyháza, thus connecting Kistelek to Szeged by postal service as well. The train in the afternoon, the train departs for Kiskunfélegyháza and returns to Szeged early in the morning. There is also train service on the Szeged–Szőreg line. Toward Makó, trains also operate: from Szeged to the Maros bridge, where the mail is carried across to the train waiting on the opposite side, which then continues on to Makó. In this way, Szeged had postal connections with almost the entire county of Csongrád.

To the following villages, mail was delivered by occasional couriers in the absence of rail connections: Deszk, Klárafalva, Kiszombor, Tápé, Kiskundorozsma, Szatymaz, and Sándorfalva.

January 6, 1945. All trains in operation were used for mail transport, including military trains and Russian supply trains. Where there was no rail service, mail was transported by horse-drawn mail coaches and occasional couriers. In places without post offices, the parish priest, the schoolteacher, or anyone in the village took responsibility for receiving and delivering the letters to the addressees.

Postal connections already existed with Kecskemét. Letters from Transylvania, including Máramarossziget (Sighetu Marmației), also arrived within a short time.

Parcel and money transfer services were suspended. From Hódmezővásárhely, mail was already being transported by motor vehicle to Orosháza and Békéscsaba.

The Szeged Postal Directorate submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Trade suggesting that stamps be overprinted with the inscription *"Democratic Hungarian Government 1944"* and sold with a small surcharge. This proposal was not implemented.

Telephone connections from Szeged were already operating with Dorozsma, Kiskunfélegyháza, Kecskemét, Szentes, Makó, and Hódmezővásárhely.



Figure 5. January 8, 1945. A letter posted from Pitvaros to Budapest, bearing the temporary rubber handstamp of Pitvaros.



Figure 6. January 22, 1945. A postcard sent from Hódmezővásárhely to Nagykőrös. The card bears the temporary rubber handstamp used at the Hódmezővásárhely post office during January and early February.



Figure 7. February 7, 1945. Postcard sent from Szeged to Makó.

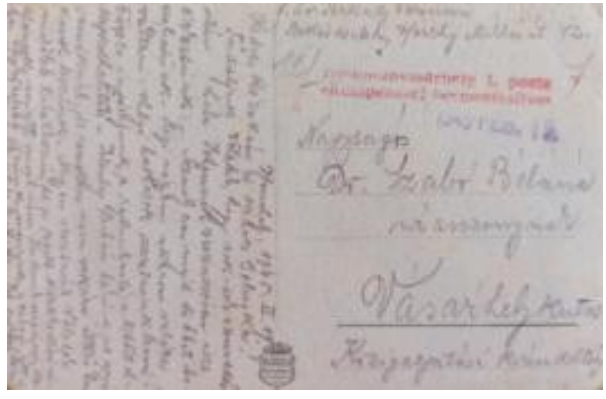


Figure 8. February 19, 1945. Picture postcard sent from Hódmezővásárhely to Vásárhelykutas.

The card bears the cash franking handstamp of Post Office No. 1 in Hódmezővásárhely, which was used due to the shortage of postage stamps until mid-November.



Figure 9. March 7, 1945. Letter sent from Kunágota to Szeged, with the temporary handstamp of Kunágota.

March 10. The post offices in Szeged began accepting letters addressed to areas already occupied by the Red Army. Letter traffic with Budapest was also opened to the general public, as until then only official correspondence had been forwarded.

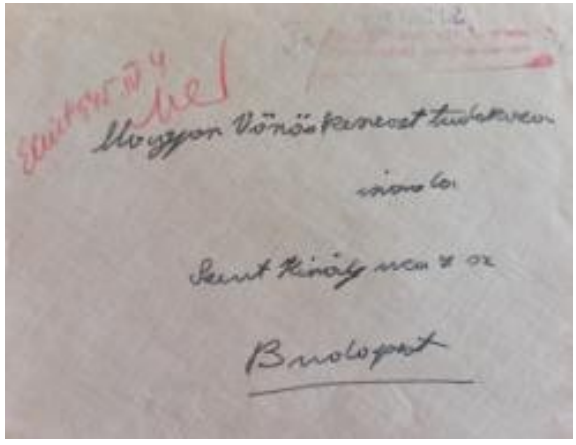


Figure 10. March 12, 1945. Letter sent from Hódmezővásárhely to Budapest, posted during the first days of the newly opened correspondence with Budapest.

March 23. A traveling post office (railway mail coach) began operating from Makó to Kétegyháza, Szeged, and Hódmezővásárhely. No mail had yet arrived from Budapest.

Letters were being received from Kispest, though not yet from Budapest. Registered letters were accepted by the post only at the sender's own risk. The stock of postage stamps in the city was running very low.

In May, alongside the Szeged Postal Directorate, the Szeged Postal Technical Directorate also began operations.

May 5. Road guards were still transporting mail items within the directorate's territory. Telegrams could now also be sent to Budapest.

Telephone connections from Szeged were already operating with the following towns: Baja, Békéscsaba, Cegléd, Gyula, Hódmezővásárhely, Kalocsa, Kecskemét, Kiskunfélegyháza, Kiskunhalas, Makó, Mezőtúr, Nagykőrös, Orosháza, Szarvas, and Szentes. With few exceptions, the telephone exchanges in smaller villages were also in operation. Private conversations with Budapest were still not possible; only official calls were connected.



Figure 11. March 14, 1945. Letter sent from Apátfalva to Szeged, bearing the temporary rubber handstamp of Apátfalva.



Figure 12. April 27, 1945. Field post postcard of private issue, sent from Szeged to Kalocsa.



Figure 13. April 23, 1945. Letter sent from Hódmezővásárhely to Budapest. It was surcharged 60 fillér postage due, double the missing 30 fillér of the Budapest tariff.



Figure 14. April 1, 1945. Picture postcard sent from Makó to Budapest, with censorship mark, franked using the Makó cash franking handstamp.



Figure 15. Handstamp prepared by the head of the Szentes post office, which was used not as a commemorative handstamp but as a regular date-stamp.

2. . BÉKÉS COUNTY



Figure 16. November 28, 1944. Postcard sent from Budapest to Békéscsaba. Due to the interruption of postal connections, it was returned to the sender with the marking "Return! Service suspended!"

From September 1, 1944, Békés County was considered a military operations area. On September 7, the Chief of the General Staff ordered the evacuation of the operational area. Evacuation for the civilian population was voluntary, but neither the railway nor the main transport routes could be used for leaving the county, as these were reserved for military purposes.

From the villages, the assets of the post were evacuated, mainly valuables and cash, but many date-stamps left their offices and were lost forever during the evacuation. Postal workers were also allowed to leave their posts, though this too was voluntary. Since in many places all the cancellers had been removed, when postal service resumed, temporary handstamps were used to certify the acceptance of letters.

On September 23, the first Soviet soldiers crossed Hungary's current border south of Battonya. This is the official account, but by the 1960s evidence had already surfaced that Soviet reconnaissance tanks had entered the county as early as the 21st.



Figure 17. September 21, 1944. Postcard sent from Battonya to Rákosliget. By the 23rd, the village was already in the hands of the Red Army. The card was written by a soldier and, in violation of regulations, posted through the civilian post without censorship. At this time, the date-stamp had not yet been evacuated.



Figure 18. April 14, 1945. Postcard sent from Battonya to Budapest. The card bears the provisional handstamp of Battonya. In Budapest, no postage due was charged,

even though the 18 fillér imprinted stamp was insufficient compared to the Budapest tariff of 40 fillér.

The occupation of the county took place very quickly, between October 6–7, so the population endured the events with relatively little suffering.

On October 29, 1944, a public notice appeared in Gyula, of which point 6 concerned the postal service:

"6. In order to ensure communication between the authorities until regular postal traffic resumes, I order that every post office immediately repair the telephone and telegraph lines under its supervision and maintain normal office service. Furthermore, villages must at once organize a local postal courier service, whereby each village shall deliver official letters and other postal items daily to the neighboring village in the direction of their destination, entered into an official delivery book, for further dispatch. The members of the village leadership are disciplinarily responsible for these postal items."

On January 14, the deputy lord-lieutenant of Békés County (Dr. Antal Csige Varga) ordered, by circular no. 235/945, an increase in postal tariffs.

- Local letters: 40 fillér
- Letters to the countryside: 80 fillér
- Postcards: local 20 fillér, countryside 40 fillér

The new tariff was valid throughout the entire county. The increased tariff remained in force until mid-February 1945, i.e., for about one month.

Mezőhegyes

On September 23 or 24, 1944, an order arrived from the Szeged Postal Directorate that all postal valuables, cancellers, and cash be taken to the nearest treasury post office in Orosháza.

They set off by horse-drawn cart with several postal employees and two gendarme escorts. The wagon carried several sacks of money, since Mezőhegyes collected the cash deposits of surrounding post offices and, together with its own, forwarded it to Békéscsaba. In Orosháza the valuables were duly handed over and the money accounted for.

Körösladány

On October 6, 1944, the postal valuables, cancellers, and cash were transported to Kiskunfélegyháza. They also wanted to dismantle the telephone and telegraph, but a Hungarian officer forbade it; two days later, the Russians dismantled and carried them away.

There was no fighting at Körösladány, so the front passed with little damage.

By early November, the post office was already operating again. Along the Gyoma–Dévaványa–Körösladány–Szeghalom–Vésztő–Sarkad branch line it was possible to reach Békéscsaba and Gyula. The postal delivery man brought the mail to the irregularly arriving trains, and the postal delivery man brought the mail sacks to the post office. At the railway station, the station master handled postal tasks; he received and delivered the mail sacks from the firemen or locomotive drivers.

Orosháza

On October 7, 1944, units of the Red Army occupied the town. Postal operations were restarted on the afternoon of October 9 at 1 p.m. The postal authorities wanted to resume mail transport quickly but lacked the means. The Soviet military command provided a horse for this purpose.

This horse-drawn cart service transported mail sacks between Orosháza and Kaszaper. On this route, letters also reached Békéscsaba via Tótkomlós and Csanádapáca, and then returned along the same path.

From Békéscsaba, mail could be sent by train to Szolnok and from there to Debrecen, handed over to the drivers of military trains. Later, postal wagons (small cargo carts) were attached to the trains to deliver mail to settlements along the railway line.

For several months, a Russian soldier who spoke Hungarian sat in the telephone exchange, supervising telegraph and telephone operations.



Figure 19. December 15, 1944. Field post postcard of private issue sent from Orosháza to Békéscsaba for civilian use.

The card was franked with cash; the fee (18 fillér) was noted in pencil on the card.

Sarkad

On December 16, 1944, the chief magistrate of the Cséffai-Szalontai district arbitrarily raised the postal tariff in the district. Letters required 40 fillér postage.

In Békés County, the road-guard courier service operated by the State Architectural Office should also be mentioned. I will not cover this here, as Imre Sebestyén, a specialist and collector of this topic, intends to publish a comprehensive study in the future.



Figure 20. September 22, 1944. Postcard sent via a field post office.

The card probably got stuck somewhere, as it was only delivered on March 28, 1945, via Békéscsaba to Kétegyán. According to the hand-stamp on the card, it was transported by road guards of the State Architectural Office.



Figure 21. March 29, 1945. Two registered letters sent from Magyarbánhegyes to Kiszombor, with the sender's receipt. I am not aware of any other sender's receipts for registered mail from this period. The registered letters were most likely transported by the Gyula road-guard courier service.

3. BÁCS-KISKUN VÁRMEGYE

Kecskemét

In Kecskemét, the evacuation order was issued on October 23, 1944. The evacuation was completed by October 30. On the afternoon of October 31, the city was occupied by the Red Army.

November 16. Restoration of the Kecskemét Economic Railway track was completed. A connection was established with Kiskunmajsa.

November 22. Restoration work was already underway at the post office. The operational telephone exchange was staffed day and night. Mail delivery could not yet begin due to a shortage of personnel. A telephone connection with Szeged already existed, but calls could only be initiated from the post office.

November 24. Mail delivery began with seven employees.

November 27. Thirty people were working at the post office.



Figure 22. February 2, 1945. Postcard sent from Kecskemét to Tiszaföldvár, bearing the Kecskemét censorship handstamp and the censor's signature.

February 2. The post office requested the public to write as briefly as possible and to include only private matters, as this speeds up censorship and allows letters to be forwarded more quickly.

February 10. The National Committee ordered letter inspection. At the Kecskemét post office, due to the high volume of mail, five censors were already working, whose salaries had not yet been settled. The city was therefore asked to advance the payment to the post office, to be settled later.

March 21. The National Committee approved that three postal employees, whose credentials were not yet verified, could work temporarily until their official confirmation.

April 30. Kecskemét still had no telephone connection with Budapest.



Figure 23. October 21, 1944. Postcard sent from Budapest to Baja. It was posted on the very day the Red Army occupied Baja. Due to the hostilities, the card was returned to the sender, but the usual "Return! Service suspended!" handstamp was not applied.

Baja

In Baja, the evacuation of the city began on October 10, 1944.

By October 12, the post office and telegraph office were available only to military authorities.

On October 21, the Red Army occupied the city.

At the end of November, postal services resumed, and items could be sent from the clerk's office using the old postmarks.



Figure 24. March 17, 1945. Registered letter sent from Baja to Budapest, franked according to the official tariff. No postage due was applied in Budapest. Notably, a unique registration numbering system was used.

To be continued!

Acknowledgment: I would like to thank Mariann Csatlósné for allowing me to use items from her collection (images 2, 8, 10) for this article.

4. SOURCES

- László Tóth: *A Short History of the Szeged Postal Directorate*, *Múltidéző* Vol. 3, Southern Great Plain Postal History Foundation, Szentes 2015.
- Relevant issues of *Délmagyarország* newspaper, 1944–1945.
- József Ruszoly: *National Committees and Local Governments in Csanád-Arad-Torontál: Administrative History of Temporarily United Counties, Sept. 1944 – Mar. 1945*, *Studies from the History of Csongrád County* Vol. 21, Szeged 1994.

- Relevant issues of *Makói Népújság*, 1945.
- Zoltán Vida: *The History of Schools in Makó from Liberation to Nationalization, 1944–1948.*
  Makó Museum Booklets, Vol. 11, Makó, 1973.
- *Documents from the History of Kecskemét, Vol. 1 (October 31, 1944 – May 8, 1945).*
  Kecskemét, 1975.
- Ferenc Oltvai: The Administration of Szeged from the Liberation of the City to the Liberation of the Country, October 11, 1944 – April 4, 1945.
  Archival Communications, Vol. 34, 1963.
- István Verók: The Post Offices of Szentes.
  Reminiscence, Vol. 3, Southern Great Plain Postal History Foundation, Szentes, 2015.
- András Borbély: The Passage of the Front through Hódmezővásárhely.
  https://www.masodikvh.hu/erdekessegek/tortenetek-fotok/1221-a-front-atvonulasa-hodmezvasarhelyen
- Mihály Keresztes: The Liberation of Békés County (September–October 7, 1944).
  Békési Life, Vol. IV, No. 3, Békéscsaba, 1969.
- István Sugár: The Story of Two Semi-Official Provisional Stamp Issues after Liberation.
  Philatelic Museum Review, Vol. II, No. 1, 1970.
- Imre Sebestyén: A Special Postal-Historical Relic from the Past of Békés County, or the History of the Courier Post on the Gyula Road, Presented on Exhibition Sheets.
  Privately Published, 2021.
- Pálné Laurinyecz: Episodes from the Postal History of Mezőhegyes.
  Reminiscence, Vol. 3, Southern Great Plain Postal History Foundation, Szentes, 2015.
- Lajos Papp – Mihály Kata: The History of the Post in Körösladány.
  Reminiscence, Vol. 3, Southern Great Plain Postal History Foundation, Szentes, 2015.
- György Károlyi: The History of the Post in Orosháza (1799–2009).
  Reminiscence, Vol. 2, Southern Great Plain Postal History Foundation, Szentes, 2010.
- Dezső Flasch: Horse Post – Temporary Postal Service of 1944–45.
  Philatelic Review, 1979/6.
- E. Gergely – M. Kőhegyi: Life Restarts and the Activities of the National Committee in Baja, 1944–1948.
  Cumania, Vol. 3, Kecskemét, 1975.

FORGERIES USING THE 1871 HUNGARIAN 10 KRAJCAR IMPRINTED ENVELOPES



DENES CZIROK RDP, FRPSL

1. HISTORY

On May 1, 1871, imprinted envelopes with denominations of 3, 5, 10 and 15 krajcárs were introduced in Hungary (Decree No. 4060/366, PRT 7/1871. April 26.). The 3 kr envelopes were intended for local, the 5 kr envelopes for long-distance correspondence, the 10 kr envelopes for foreign traffic, while the 15 kr envelopes were mainly intended for domestic registered correspondence. Users quickly became fond of the imprinted envelopes, as was apparent from the large quantities of the 5 kr envelopes that were sold. The envelopes were in circulation for more than 5 years, until December 31, 1876.

The earliest use is dated May 25, 1871, a long-distance letter from Karczag to Pest.



Figure 1 The earliest known imprinted envelope from Karczag to Pest on May 25, 1871

In the first period, envelopes were printed using the lithographic printing process, but later the printers switched to the typographic printing process.



Figure 2 Unused imprinted lithographed 10kr envelope

2. PRINTING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LITHOGRAPHIC AND TYPOGRAPHIC ENVELOPES

Basically, all lithographed envelopes can be recognized by the base line of the neck, as there is a break in the lower base line of the neck above the cross of the crown.



Figure 3 In lithographed envelopes, the lower baseline of neck is interrupted above the cross of the crown.

In addition, the 10 kr lithographed envelopes have another characteristic: the background in the upper left corner of the Dalmatian coat of arms is white, while on the typographic envelopes it is spotted.



Figure 4 The upper left corner of coat of arms is white



Figure 5 The upper left corner of coat of arms is spotted

3. USE OF THE 10 KR LITHOGRAPH ENVELOPES

Since 10 kr envelopes could only be used for letters of the 2nd weight class in domestic circulation, their use was extremely rare. In international circulation, before the UPU, the rate of 10 kr was only used for letters to certain countries (e.g. Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway), so their use was also rare.

Currently, we in collector circles do not know how the lithographic 10 kr imprinted envelope was actually used! Only one example - a registered letter - is known in the collection of the world-famous Budapest Stamp Museum, established in 1930,. Unfortunately, the letter is not complete, as a minimum fee of 15 kr had to be charged for a registered letter, so there must have been a 5 kr engraved stamp on the rear, which was cut off.

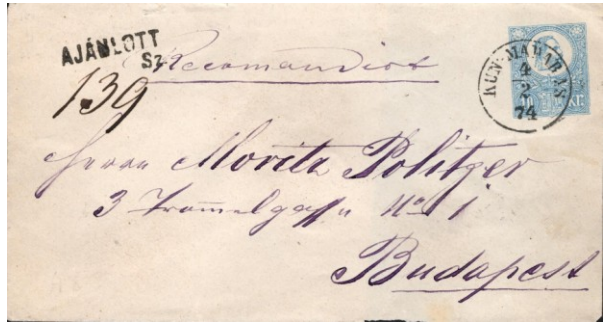


Figure 6 Genuine 10 kr lithograph envelope on a registered letter

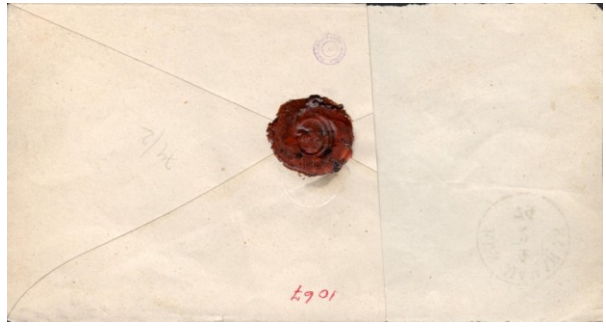


Figure 7 Image of the rear of the envelope with the stamp missing on the cut-off right side

Since these envelopes were designed using lithographic stamp images, their types are the same as the lithographic stamp types. This specimen is type II, one of the main characteristics of which is the break in the vertical frame line in the lower right corner.

Of course, I also examined the postmark of this letter (several letters are known from this small village) and the postmarks match, so there is no doubt about the authenticity of the letter!



Figure 8 The matching KUN MADARAS cancellation and the Type II. imprinted stamp are enlarged, showing the characteristics of both the lithographic basic type and the Type II. subtype, where they are clearly visible.

4. FALSE USE OF 10 KR LITHOGRAPHIC ENVELOPES

Since the envelopes were not sold out in normal postal circulation, large stocks remained, which the postal administration sold to philatelists after the validity of the envelopes expired. Since philatelists had known for several decades that these postage-stamp envelopes had not had any real postal use, they tried to "use" them afterwards. These forgeries can be recognized mainly by the applied postmarks. Let's see them!

The interesting thing about the letter below is that not only is the front postmark fake, but the rear postmark is also a forgery. A town called "Felsenbrunnersdorf" DOES NOT EXIST in German-speaking countries!

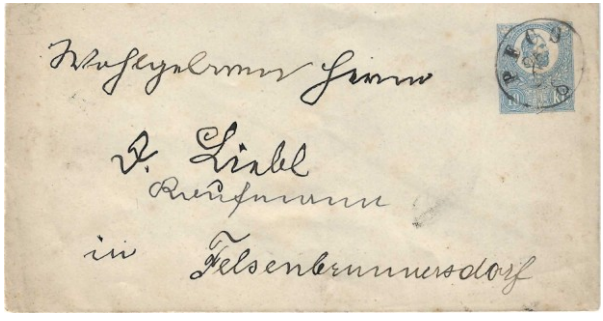


Figure 9 Lithographic imprinted envelope with fake postmark from Pécs to "Felsenbrunnersdorf"



Figure 10 fake "Felsenbrunnersdorf" postmark on rear

It should be noted, as an interesting fact, that another similar FAKE product - also made by the creator of the previous letter - was sold at a Hungarian auction house in 2025:



Figure 11 Fake PÉCS and FELSENBRUNNERSDORF postmark on a postcard issued in 1869

The following 10 kr lithographic imprinted envelope has been the subject of much debate in recent decades, with some experts believing it to be genuine. Between 2001 and 2010, several Hungarian auction houses attempted to sell the piece, starting at around €4,000 and gradually decreasing to €1,000, but without success. The cover is stamped NAGY-KANIZSA/PÁLYA-UDVAR on the front, with no postmark on the back. The 10 kr imprinted envelope is clearly lithographic, and is also of Type II.

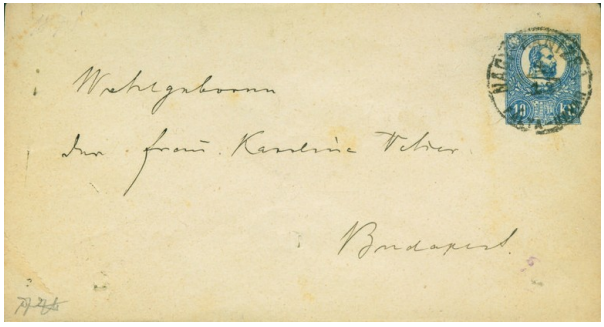


Figure 12 Fake lithographic imprinted envelope with NAGYKANIZSA/PÁLYAUDVAR postmark

In this case too, the postmark reveals the falsity of the piece. In my Zala County collection there are several pieces with guaranteed genuine stamps, and the truth was revealed when comparing them. The basic structure of the postmark (the position of the date selection axis and the outer letters) are completely different, and the ink colour of the postmarks is also different, revealing the forgery.



Figure 13-14-15 GENUINE – FAKE - GENUINE postmarks of NAGY-KANIZSA/PÁLYA-UDVAR

5. THE GENUINE USE OF 10 KR TYPOGRAPHED ENVELOPES

All literary sources (Monographiaja, Simády and Hodobay catalogues) mention that genuine used 10 kr typographic envelopes are extremely rare. The Hodobay catalogue published in 2020 estimates their price at 1.2 million HUF (at the time: approx. €3,500).

I have been collecting copies of letters and postage stamps from the classical period (from the beginnings to 1900) based on auction catalogues, exhibition materials and private collections for 45 years. During this time, I have only come across 1 guaranteed genuine and fully franked typographic 10 kr envelope. The registered letter left Pest on 7 September 1871 and was in Ostend, Belgium, 2 days later. In that case there is no doubt about the authenticity of the 10 kr imprinted envelope.



Figure 16 Registered foreign letter from Pest to Belgium with a genuine typographic 10 kr envelope and 2 lithographed 5 kr stamps on the back

6. FAKE USES OF 10 KR TYPOGRAPHIC ENVELOPES

As I mentioned earlier, these 10 kr envelopes were not popular at post offices, and as a result,

huge stocks remained which were later sold by the post office. This gave stamp collectors easy access to unused "raw material" which they then, with a little ingenuity, tried to sell as real used pieces. The main purpose of this article is to draw the attention of a wide international audience to the worthlessness of these pieces.

6.1. FALSE use of 10 kr typographic envelopes without additional stamps

These envelopes are extremely rare even without additional stamps, so many collectors either "ran" them with the help of postal staff or obtained older cancellers and cancelled them themselves. The dangerous cancels are as follows: Avas-Újváros, Budapest/Lipótváros, Budapest/Vár, Kőbánya, Maros-Újvár, Nagy-Szlabos, Pécs, Pest/Lipótváros, Pozsony, Tolna, Vucin, Zalathna and Zvecevo. Let's see some examples!

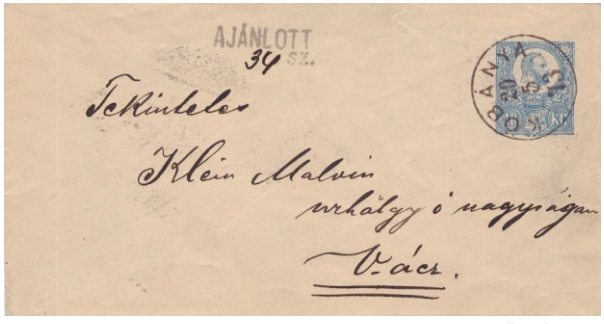


Figure 17 FAKE registered letter with KŐBÁNYA postmark to Vácz



Figure 18 The postmark on the rear is also fake and there is no additional postage (minimum 5 kr) on either the front or the rear, which would have been necessary due to the registration.

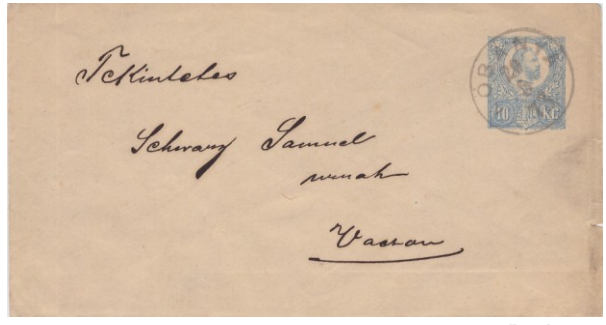


Figure 19 FAKE long-distance letter with KŐBÁNYA postmark to Vácz, with the same date as the previous letter (there are other similar letters from Kőbánya, with the same date)

POZSONY is another popular fake postmark and several examples of this forgery are known. The interesting thing about the letter shown below is that in 2025, despite my call for it to be treated as a forgery, a renowned German auction house sold the piece for €260:

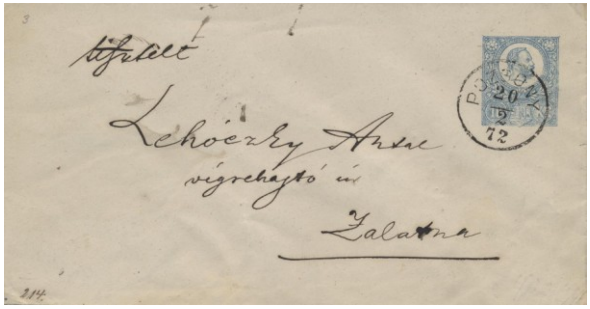


Figure 20 FAKE long distance letter with POZSONY 20/2/72 postmark to Zalatna



Figure 21 Of course, there is also a FAKE arrival postmark from Zalathna on the rear.

It is also clear from the structure of the postmark that the forger used the previous two-line date canceller ZALATHNA by inserting a misplaced year insert.

To my knowledge, the following FAKE 10 kr envelopes exist - without additional stamps:

Date	Postmark	Address	Recipient	Remarks
28/10	AVAS-UJVÁROS			letter-piece
8/11/72	BALÁSFALVA/A	Alsó-Vály	Schwarcz József	rear arrival
75/ÁPR/27	BUDAPEST/LIPÓTVÁROS			letter-piece
72/MÁR/8	BUDAPEST/VÁR	Stuhlweisenburg	Sigismund Cseörgeő	
75/MÁJ/18	BUDAPEST/VÁR	Pest	Franz Klein	rear arrival
20/3/73	KŐBÁNYA	Vácz	Bleyer Jakab	rear arrival
20/3/73	KŐBÁNYA	Vácz	Erdőssy Miklós	
20/5/73	KŐBÁNYA	Vácz	Schwarcz Sámuel	rear arrival
20/5/73	KŐBÁNYA	Vácz	Klein Malvin	rear arrival
22/11/72	MAROS-ÚJVÁR	Alsó-Vály	Láng Antal	rear arrival
71/8/1(?)	NAGY-SZLABOS	Nagyszlabos	Hornbacher Frigyes	rear arrival
10/11/71	PEST/LIPÓTVÁROS			without address
20/2/72	POZSONY	Zalatna	Lehoczky Antal	rear arrival
17/9/72	POZSONY	Alsó-Vály	Anton Kraus	
9/11/72	POZSONY	Medgyes	Ignácz Weiss	+registered postmark
72/NOV/18	TOLNA	Hidja	Bezerédy	
5/1	VUCIN	Zvecevo	Stelzig u. Palme	
11/11/72	ZALATHNA	Wien	Moritz Schlesinger	
2/11/72	ZALATHNA	Maros-Újvár	Béla Kraft	
23/10	ZVECEVO	Vucin	Josef Mollnar	rear arrival

6.2. FALSE use of 10 kr typographic envelopes with additional stamps

An imprinted envelope is much more exciting if it has one or two additional stamps from the same period. The counterfeiters of the time knew this and produced the most beautiful pieces. The smarter ones also knew that for a registered letter, a 5 kr stamp was required in addition to the 10 kr postage stamp, which is much nicer with a 2+3 kr variation. They no longer paid attention to at least changing the date, so we know of 4 pieces of the following version so far, all with the same date and all to the same city!



Figure 22 FAKE registered letter with POZSONY 9/11/72 postmark to Medgyes, engraved-stamps 2+3 kr with addition (2003: Hungarian auction house: 13,000 HUF – ca. 50€)



Figure 23 FAKE registered letter with postmark POZSONY 9/11/72 (same date) to Medgyes, with engraved stamps 2+3 kr addition

The above piece was offered by a reputable American auction house at one of its auctions in 2019 for 450 USD. Fortunately no one bought it.

The same registered letter version also occurs with an engraved 5 kr stamp:

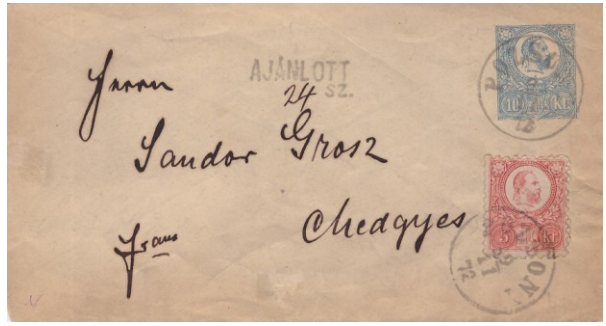


Figure 24 FAKE registered letter with postmark POZSONY 9/11/72 to Medgyes, with engraved 5 kr addition (same date and address as in figures 22 and 23!)

It is also interesting that, if the forger had a POZSONY 9/11/72 canceller, he used it to forge not only a 10 kr imprinted envelope, but also a 15 kr one! (but that will feature in another story!)

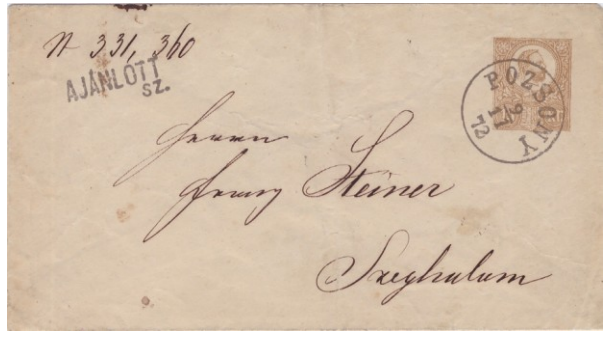


Figure 25 FAKE registered letter with POZSONY 9/11/72 postmark to Szeghalom, on a 15 kr imprinted envelope

There are also more dangerous forgeries, where it is not easy to decide whether it is a genuine mail or not. One such example is the letter below, where the addition appears to be a 5 kr lithographic stamp. But only "apparently", because in reality the stamp is already an envelope cut-out!



Figure 26 Registered letter with AVAS-UJVÁROS 28/11 postmark and a FAKE 5 kr stamp added. The question is, is this envelope now GENUINE or FAKE?

The rear of the letter with a SZATHMÁR arrival postmark is also available:



Figure 27 The rear of the previous letter with the arrival postmark, which is FAKE

We know from the above that there is a forgery with the AVAS-UJVAROS postmark which we described in the table in the previous section, but it is only a letter-piece. This postmark is comparatively rare (in Gudlin's book: 300 points), but it was used for a relatively long time (1862-1874). Fortunately, we know of guaranteed genuine letters with this postmark which we can used for comparison with this letter.



Figure 28-29-30 GENUINE – FAKE



Figure 28-29-30 GENUINE

If we look at the 3 postmarks, it is obvious that in the middle postmark the letter “U” is much wider, the last letter “S” is much lower, and the distance between the letters “J” and “V” is also much greater. As a secondary point the middle postmark is more elliptical in shape and not a regular circle like the other two. This clearly shows that the postmark and thus the envelope itself is FAKE!

Similar methods can be used to prove the forgery of other questionable postmarks.

One of the "most beautiful" pieces in this area is this registered letter, where a bisected 2 kr stamp

has already been used to create the additional 5 kr part of the registration fee!



Figure 31 FAKE registered letter sent from Zalatna to Maroș-Újvár on 20.02.1872, with a bisected engraved 2 kr stamp

The rear of the letter is also forged, with the MAROS-ÚJVÁR postmark:



Figure 32 Rear of the previous letter

Based on the above the known FAKE letters with additional franking are as follows:

Date	Postmark	Additional franking	Address	Recipient	Remarks
9/11/72	POZSONY	Réz(2+3)	Medgyes	Steiner Dávid	
9/11/72	POZSONY	Réz(2+3)	Medgyes	Etel Klein	
9/11/72	POZSONY	Réz(2+3)	Medgyes	Fehér Sándor	
9/11/72	POZSONY	Réz(2+3)	Medgyes	Róth Lázár	
20/2/72	ZALATHNA	Réz 2x2+2/2	Maros-Újvár	Sipóczy Endre	bisected 2 kr
20/5/73	KŐBÁNYA	Réz5	Vácz	Király Pál	
20/5/73	KŐBÁNYA	Réz5	Vácz	Kelemen György	on the rear
10/9/73	PÉCS	Réz 5	Szeged	Joachim Jarlins?	rear arrival
9/11/72	POZSONY	Réz 5	Medgyes	Sándor Grosz	rear arrival
28/11	AVAS-UJVÁROS	Kő 5	Szathmár	Bakó Lajos	
9/11/73	POZSONY	Réz 10	Medgyes	Glück Ignácz	on the rear

6.3. The 10 kr typographic envelopes are being perforated as FAKE stamps

Since both the lithographic and engraved stamps of 1871 have been very popular in recent decades, examples from the remaining 10 kr imprinted envelopes have often been perforated. I do not intend to deal with this topic in detail in this article, but would like to present only two typical pieces:



Figure 33-34 A fake 10 kr stamp taken from an unused and a used envelope

7. QUESTIONABLE ITEMS WITHIN THE EXPIRY DATE (12/31/1876)

There are 2 envelopes whose authenticity cannot be clearly determined based on our current knowledge. Let's see these too!

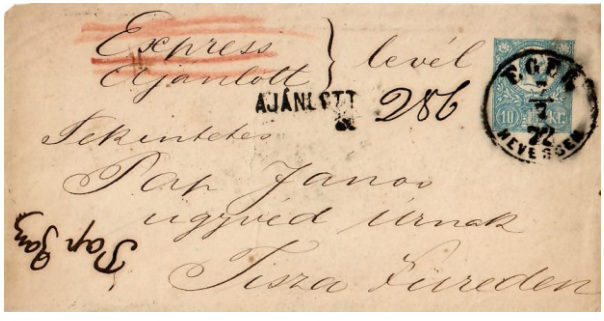


Figure 35 Front of a 10 kr registered express envelope posted on July 7, 1872

The envelope's imprint is indeed a typographic 10 kr stamp and the postmark appears to be original when compared to other EGER/HEVESBEN postmarks. The only problem is that the envelope lacks a rear where a minimum of 20 kr of stamps should have been (the 1st class registered express letter fee was 30 kr), so it is not possible to determine clearly the franking of the letter.

The other piece is from a few years later, as it already features a 5 kr stamp issued in 1874:



Figure 36 10 kr registered envelope with TORNÓCZ postmark, dated 15 December 1874-76, with a ***5 kr stamp issued in 1874***

The 10 kr imprint is clearly a typographic type and the stamp and TORNÓCZ postmark are also original. Based on the information on the front the registered letter could not be delivered to the original address ("Pösling"), it was forwarded to Pöstyén and the registered letter was re-posted three times. Despite this, there is no postal marking on the rear.



Figure 37 Image of the blank rear of the letter above

Questions arise because the postmark is known from several other contemporary letters where the authenticity of the letter is questionable. It is also unusual that the AJÁNLOTT postmark is partially on the stamp. Based on the above, the 100% authenticity of this letter cannot be clearly determined.

8. LETTERS BEYOND THE EXPIRY DATE (1876.12.31.)

It is clear that the postal administration no longer accepted the independent use of imprinted envelopes (without additional stamps) beyond the period of use. However, we know of several cases where the sender used the imprinted envelope as a simple envelope and applied it with appropriate additional postage. These belong to the category of "philatelic games"!



Figure 38 Philatelic game with a postmark of June 4, 1900. The piece certainly did not "run", as the fee of a registered letter to Warsaw at that time was 50 fillér, which was equivalent to 25 krajcars.



Figure 39 Philatelic game with a Vienna mailing date of April 12, 1912, which the recipient (Miklós Rédey – a renowned stamp collector of the time) did not accept and "sent back" to Vienna

Similar pieces are known even from the 1930s.

An even less clear area of use occurred when the krajcár stamps of 1874-1900 (especially their colour-numbered versions) were affixed to the imprint cover and such letters were then "run".

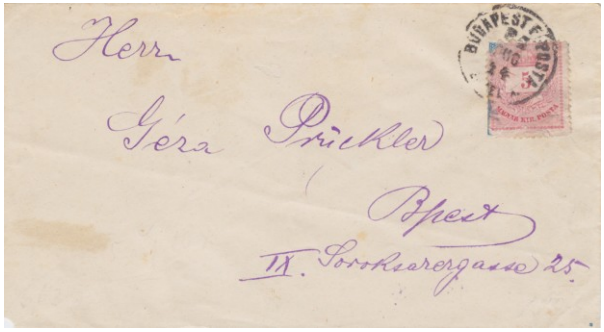


Figure 40 Philatelic game with a 5 kr stamp affixed to a 10 kr imprinted envelope dated August 14, 1887, addressed as an overfranked local letter to Géza Prückler (brother of the famous stamp dealer of the time, Klára Prückler)

Half a dozen examples of this version are already known with the BUDAPEST/VÁR, BUDAPEST and PÚSPÖKLADÁNY postmarks

There are also completely genuine copies among them, such as the letter below, which went from Budapest to London and was then returned as the recipient was "unknown".

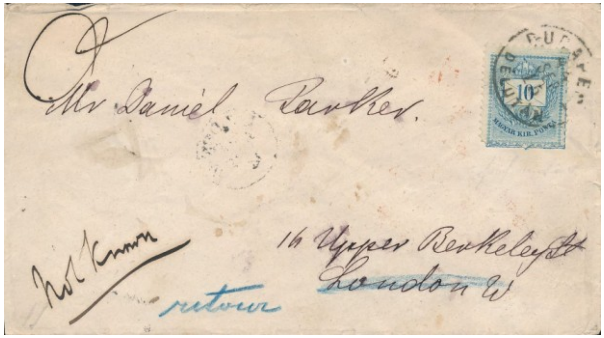


Figure 41 A registered letter from Budapest to London sent on September 15, 1886, with a 10 krajcár stamp (letter envelope design) affixed to the 10 kr envelope imprint, as the stamp just paid the postage in the normal way.

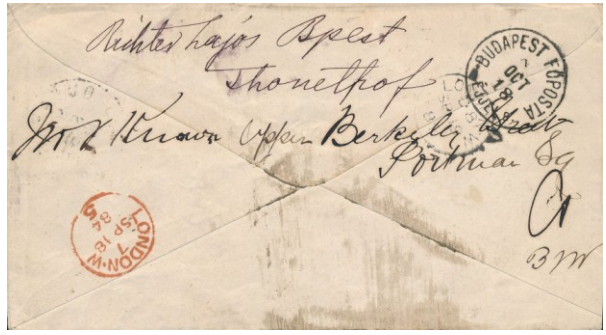


Figure 42 The rear of the previous letter has the regular red LONDON arrival postmark of 09.15 and the BUDAPEST/FŐPOSTA postmark of 10.18 after the return. The sender of the letter was the most famous stamp collector of the time: Lajos RICHTER ☺

There are also 3, 5 and 15 kr imprinted envelopes with similar envelope design stamps added, but that can be part of another study!

9. Acknowledgement

Today, the development of an interesting topic in philatelic research is only possible if we help each other and thus put common information on the table.

In this spirit, I would like to thank the following fellow collectors for their help:

- Adriano Bergamini RDP (CH)
- Bándi Attila (A)
- Bélyegmúzeum (H)
- Borda Lőrinc (H)
- Boross Kálmán (H)
- Csicsay Péter (SK)
- Hodobay Andor (H)r
- Paul de Leeuw van Weenen (NL)

Many thanks to Bill Hedley FRPSL for helping to produce an understandable English translation.

10 References:

- Postai Rendeletek Tára 1871 (Kereskedelmi Minisztérium, Budapest, 1871)
- Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája III. kötet (Budapest, 1968)
- Bánfalvy Tamás: Az 1871. évi könyvnyomásos levélborítékok díjjegyeinek típusai (Philatelica 1979/1.)
- Dr. Simády Béla: A Magyar Díjjegyes Postai Nyomtatványok Katalógusa (Budapest, 1983)
- Gudlin Tamás: Magyarország Klasszikus Postabélyegzői (Braunschweig, 2004)
- Hodobay Andor: A Magyar Díjjegyes Postai Nyomtatványok Katalógusa (Budapest, 2021)

THE PENGO-FORINT TRANSITION AS THE 28TH PERIOD OF HYPERINFLATION




KAROLY SZUCS BUDAPEST –GYORGY TOTH BEKESCSABA

When the forint was introduced on 1 August 1946, the tax pengő remained valid until 20 September. The exchange rate was 2 million tax pengő = 1 fillér. Although the validity of the tax pengő stamps expired on 31 July 1946, there are some items that are related to the fee calculations related to the previous period.

This article summarizes such cases recognized by the authors, which, similarly to the transition after the corona inflation mentioned in the black book, can also be considered to belong to teh ending of inflation as a finising last 28th period.

1. PORTÓZÁS ADÓPENGŐBEN

Among the underpaid items sent at the end of July, there was at least one case where the penalty postage due was still charged in tax pengo.



Figure 1. 1946.7.30 Szécsény-Budapest long-distance letter

The postcard shown in Figure 1 was sent to the post office on August 30, at the rate of the 26th fee period, with 50,000 tax pengó postage-free. However, the fee for the long-distance postcard between July 27-31, in the last, 27th fee period of inflation, was already 200,000 tax pengó, and the grace period allowed for postage-free items according to the previous period was only one day. The fee shortfall is therefore 150,000 tax pengó.

According to the date stamp “1946 AUG 1” under the triangular “T” postage mark, the postcard was only processed on the day the forint was introduced. The penalty postage amount to be paid by the recipient, which was twice the amount of the fee shortfall, was calculated in tax pengs and written in numbers and by hand at the bottom of the sheet ("300000" / "Three hundred thousand"), and then - presumably to prove the postage payment, when it was collected - it was signed.

2. MIXED MONETARY PRIZE SUPPLEMENT

In the early days, post offices did not yet have all the denominations of the forint stamps. The letter shown in Figure 2 was posted at a post office that, according to the evidence of this mail, did not have stamps in denominations lower than 1 forint or 60 fillér.

In such a case, cash payment should have been used, but in order to speed up the collection of the letter, stamps with an expired value of 5 million tax pengő were used irregularly, at a value of 2.5

fillér per piece according to the tax pengő-forint exchange rate.



Figure 2. 1946.08.04 Apátfalva–Graz front and back pages

Payment: 60f
+16x5 = 80 million tax pengo 40f
Payed abroad-tariff..... 1Ft

3. CASH PAYMENT

Express postcard, paid in cash in the absence of a stamp:

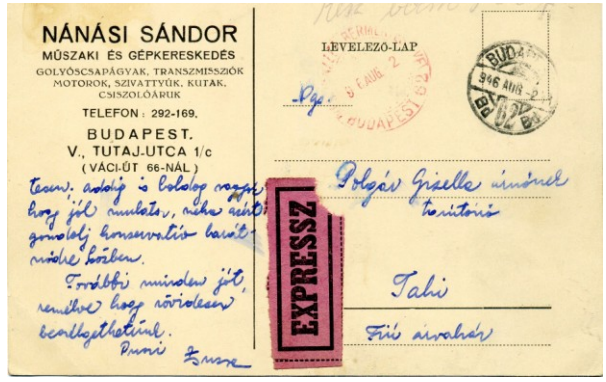


Figure 3. 1946.08.12 Bp. 62-Tahi Tariff: 40f long-distance postcard + 3 Ft express fee

However, there were places where several different forint and penny denominations were available from the very first day, for example on registered letters sent abroad by post office number 72.



Figure 4. 1946.08.01 Bp72 Stockholm (Sweden) 3x1Ft+60f = 3.6Ft

4. AIRMAIL AT POST OFFICE 72

During the hyperinflation, between May 1 and July 31, 1946, only post office 72 near Keleti Railway Station accepted airmail letters, in very limited quantities per day – presumably limited to a total of only 200 grams. At the end of the day, the Vienna train delivered the quantity collected that day and they set off from Schwechat Airport to numerous destinations, including such distant ones as New Zealand.

The airmail surcharge was set in Swiss francs with varying weight and fee values depending on the destination country and was converted into pengő at the daily exchange rate, and in recent periods into tax pengő.

Inflationary airmail letters are very sought after by collectors, as we currently know of only 80 pieces of the remaining quantity, and these are also divided between the 14-27 fee periods. Thus, we only know of a few pieces from each period, of which only one is postage-paid with a stamp, the rest are all cash-paid. Bob Morgan provided us with a comprehensive overview of this topic in the 2011/2 issue of Philatelica (this article only records 59 items, which have since been expanded by another 21 pieces).

It has not been mentioned in the literature so far that the practice of handling airmail continued even after the introduction of the forint, that such letters could only be sent at post office number 72.

The only change was that the penciled fee calculation on the letters was now in forints, which was still collected in cash instead of stamps, even though they would have had forint stamps. Based on the letters known from inflation, between 100-200 letters from this period may have survived, currently still in circulation.



Figure 5. 1946.08.05 Bp.72–Ventnor City NY, USA

Based on 7½g in the upper left corner, the letter is of the 2nd weight class above 5g (this can be seen in the upper middle, written by hand). The surcharge for this weight class up to 10g is 2x4 HUF. In addition to the 1 HUF foreign letter fee, the 9 written in the upper right corner indicates the amount to be paid in cash. The payment is confirmed by the red cash stamp.

Figure 4 shows the 5 HUF fee for the first weight category from a few days later:



Figure 6 1946.08.08 Bp.72–Los Altos California, USA



Figure 7 1946.11.19 Bp 72-Beverly Hills California, USA

The handling of airmail letters therefore did not change – presumably only for a short time – after the end of inflation, but after the arrival of forint denominations, the postage was already paid with stamps, and then – probably only from January 1947 – it became possible to send airmail letters at other post offices:



Figure 8 1947.01.24 Bp.4-New York City NY, USA

REFERENCES

Robert B. Morgan: The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945 -1946 – The Postage Rates and Postal History of History's Most Impressive Inflation *2003 Chicago.*

Robert B. Morgan: Airmail during the 1946 hyperinflation Philatelica 2012/1 p13.

NEWS – INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION RESULTS OF OUR MEMBERS

URUGUAY 2025 FIP SPECIALIZÁLT BÉLYEG KIÁLLÍTÁS PUNTA DEL ESTE (2025.02. 17-22)





Class		Results and avards
PH	**Adriano Bergamini** (Swiss): Hungarian Postmarks used on the First Issue of Austria 1850.1858	95p **LG**
PH	**Karoly Szucs** (Hungary) Hungary – the Unfortunate World Record Holder of Inflations	85p **LV**







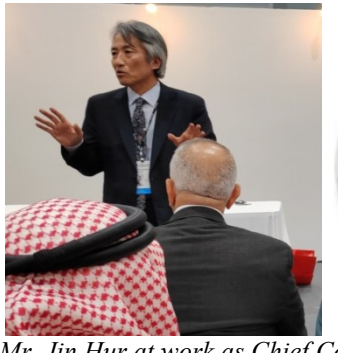
A. Bergamini receives an award from the President of FIP – one of the jury groups – and the only exhibitor from Hungarian

PHILAKOREA 2025 FIP SPECIALIZED WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION SZÖUL (2025.09.17-21)



The large group of organizers at the opening of the exhibition

PH	**Adriano Bergamini** (Swiss)**:** The Postal History of Croatia 1850-1875	95p **LG**
PH	**Adriano Bergamini** (Swiss): The Independent Hungarian Postal Administration to UPU(1867-1875)	96p **LG**
PH	**Zsolt Bodnar**(Hungary): Chapters from Captain's Registry of Adria: The Peterdi Letter's Story	88p **LV**
PH	**Peter Csicsay** (Slovakia)**:** The Postal History of Kingdom of Hungary 1900-1918	91p **G**
TR	**Karoly Szucs** (Hungary) Hungary – the Unfortunate World Record Holder of Inflations	83p **V**







Mr. Jin Hur at work as Chief Commissioner. As a sign of their appreciation, Commissioners were also invited to the Palmares podium.

Free for members of Mafitt

The Philatelica is published twice a year, first in the period from 1971to 1991
and after a twenty year break from 2011 on.

The full contents of our newspaper and digital disc attachment can be downloaded from Mafitt's website

www.mafitt.hu



2014

Volume XXXVI



2015

The English issue without ISSN number is an accurate translation
of the Hungarian publication ISSN 0324–4806 by

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research
H-1064 Budapest, Vörösmarty u. 65, Mafitt
e-mail: **info@mafitt.hu**

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation