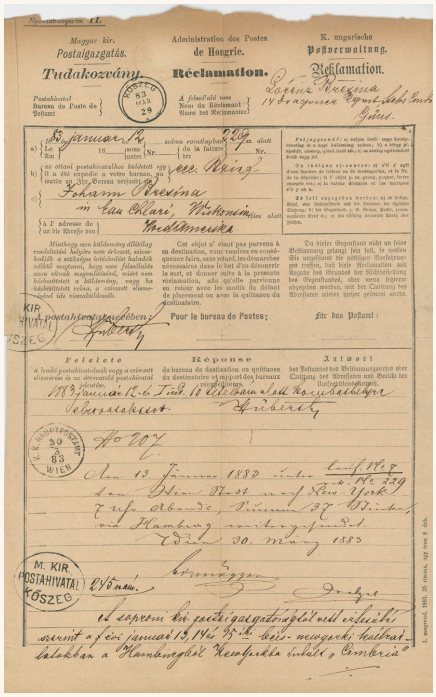
1883 · KŐSZEG → BÉCS → HAMBURG → EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

Tudakozvány egy levélről, amely a „Cimbria” gőzössel süllyedt el

A tracer form for a letter lost with the steamship “Cimbria”

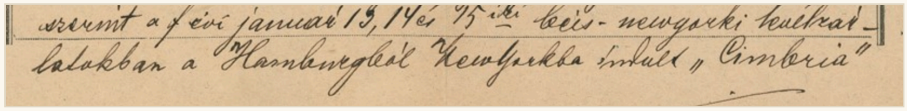


Előoldal · Front — KŐSZEG 83 MAR 29, K.K. HAUPTPOSTAMT WIEN 30/3 83

Whilst reorganising my Hungarian display for Ulm, I came across a document whose contents I hadn’t looked at for the past 20 years. That was a big mistake....

It is an “tracer form” (Nachfrageschreiben) concerning a registered letter sent to Eau Claire (Wisconsin) in the USA, which apparently never arrived. The letter was posted in Köszeg on 12 January 1883 and had the Reco No. 229. So far, so good...

Whilst looking over the contents, I stumbled across the following line of Hungarian text right at the bottom:



Even without any knowledge of Hungarian, this caught my attention and I looked up ‘Cimbria’. The Cimbria was a steamship belonging to the Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt Actien-Gesellschaft (Hapag) and it sank on 17 January 1883 north-west of Emden.

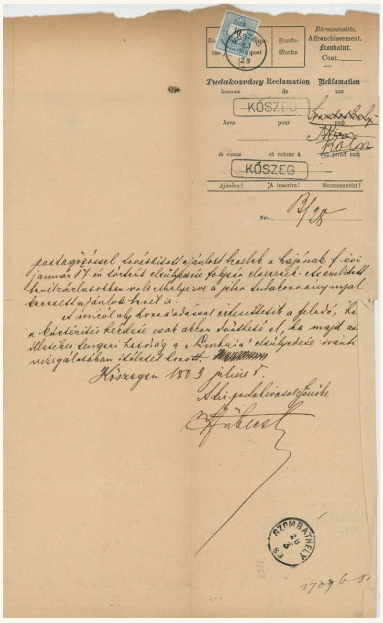
The initial information from the Imperial and Royal Main Post Office in Vienna dated 30 March 1883 reads:

> “ No. 207
> On 13 January 1883, under serial No. 7 / reg. No. 229
> from Vienna to New York
> 7 o’clock in the evening, total of 37 items
> forwarded via Hamburg
> Vienna, 30 March 1883 “

The Hungarian text on the front and back is very clear:

> *According to the notification from the Royal Postal Directorate in Sopron, the registered letters which were in the sealed bundles of mail from Vienna to New York dated 13, 14 and 15 January of this year, en route from Hamburg to New York on the postal steamer ‘Cimbria’, were lost as a result of the ship’s sinking on 17 January of this year. The registered letter sought in this enquiry was also contained in the mentioned mailbags.*
>
> *The sender is to be informed of this, with the note that a decision on the question of compensation can only be made once the competent maritime authority has reached a verdict as part of its investigation into the sinking of the ‘Cimbria’.*
>
> *Kőszeg, 5 July 1883*
> *Head of the Royal Post Office*

Until now, there has been an interesting enquiry letter in my collection of foreign items....



Hátoldal · Back — Kőszeg, 1883. július 5.

Köszönjük Martin Rhein tagtársunknak a beküldött darabot.
Our thanks to our member Martin Rhein for the item submitted.