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Editor: Karoly Szucs, Secretary of Mafitt
Translators: Dr. Geza Homonnay and Csaba Kohalmi

Consultants: Mervyn Benford, member of The Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain
Dr. Gyorgy Lovei, president of the Gervay Foundation



TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER: THEIR INTRODUCTION AND TYPES OF FORMS 1868-1900

DENES CZIROK FRPSL (ZALAEGERSZEG)

A detailed study about the first (blue coloured) money order forms was published in the 2018/1 issue of Philatelica. This current study is a direct continuation to that article.

1. PRIOR LITERATURE

The work for the previous article has also begun with an overview of the earlier literature so I thought I will find ample sources for this topic in the works of our illustrious predecessors. Still, while the money order forms of the 1867 period without preprinted stamps are presented in details through 10 pages in Volume III. of the Monograph (named „precedents of value articles"), I haven't found any mentioning of the introduction and types of the telegraph money order forms. The situation is the same in the case of the 1871 edition.

I looked around in the ample foreign literature of Hungarian Philately (the works of the British, American and German Societies) but this topic is also barely mentioned in these. Therefore what remained for me was to study the original postal orders and philatelic sources.

2. POSTAL HISTORY ANTECEDENTS

AS I have mentioned in my previous article, money transfer by money order forms has already been introduced by the Austrian postal authority on 1 October 1850, but being very complicated it was not used extensively.

The basis of the real breakthrough in postal money transfer was the new order of the Emperor, signed on 21 January 1867, published on 13 February 1867 and applicable as of 15 March 1867.



Verordnungen

für die

Oesterreichischen Post-Aemter.

№ 5. Redigirt im Handels-Ministerium. Mittwoch, den 13. Februar 1867.

Inhalt: Kaiserliche Verordnung vom 21. Jänner 1867, wegen Ermäßigung der inländischen Fahrpost-Gebühren. — Verordnung des Ministers für Handel und Volkswirthschaft vom 31. Jänner 1867, betreffend den Vollzug der kaiserl. Verordnung vom 21. Jänner 1867 wegen Ermäßigung der inländischen Fahrpost-Gebühren.

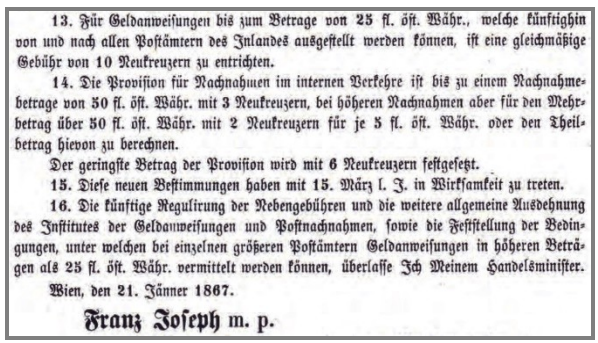
Kaiserliche Verordnung vom 21. Jänner 1867,

wegen Ermäßigung der inländischen Fahrpost-Gebühren.

Giltig für das ganze Reich.

Figure 1. The Emperor's order published on 13 February 1867 and applicable from 15 March 1867 about the tariffs of the new coach mail ervice.

Paragraph 13 of this order deals – rather tight-lipped – with the reform of money transfers.



13. Für Geldanweisungen bis zum Betrage von 25 fl. öst. Währ., welche künftighin von und nach allen Postämtern des Inlandes ausgestellt werden können, ist eine gleichmäßige Gebühr von 10 Neukreuzern zu entrichten.

14. Die Provision für Nachnahmen im internen Verkehre ist bis zu einem Nachnahmebetrage von 50 fl. öst. Währ. mit 3 Neukreuzern, bei höheren Nachnahmen aber für den Mehrbetrag über 50 fl. öst. Währ. mit 2 Neukreuzern für je 5 fl. öst. Währ. oder den Theilbetrag hievon zu berechnen.

Der geringste Betrag der Provision wird mit 6 Neukreuzern festgesetzt.

15. Diese neuen Bestimmungen haben mit 15. März l. J. in Wirksamkeit zu treten.

16. Die künftige Regulirung der Nebengebühren und die weitere allgemeine Ausdehnung des Institutes der Geldanweisungen und Postnachnahmen, sowie die Feststellung der Bedingungen, unter welchen bei einzelnen größeren Postämtern Geldanweisungen in höheren Beträgen als 25 fl. öst. Währ. vermittelt werden können, überlasse Ich Meinem Handelsminister.

Wien, den 21. Jänner 1867.

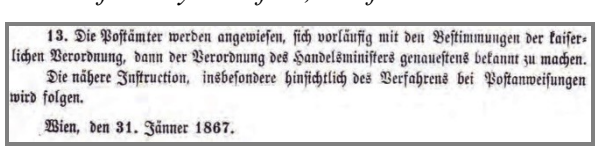
Franz Joseph m. p.

Figure 2. The part of the Emperor's order published on 13 February 1867 and applicable from 15 March dealing with money transfers

It writes: *„Money order forms up to the value of 25 Ft, usable in the future in all post offices, will be charged with a unified fee of 10 new kr"*

Fortunately the Emperor had it written to the end of the order (Paragraph 16), that „… *I concede the future regulation to the M inister of Commerce"*.

This minister used his rights well, when he published his detailed order No. 1430-150 on 31 January 1867, filling three whole pages with the matters of postal money orders. Feeling that even this will be not enough, he finished the order with „*Further instructions, especially regarding the matter of money transfers, will follow"*.



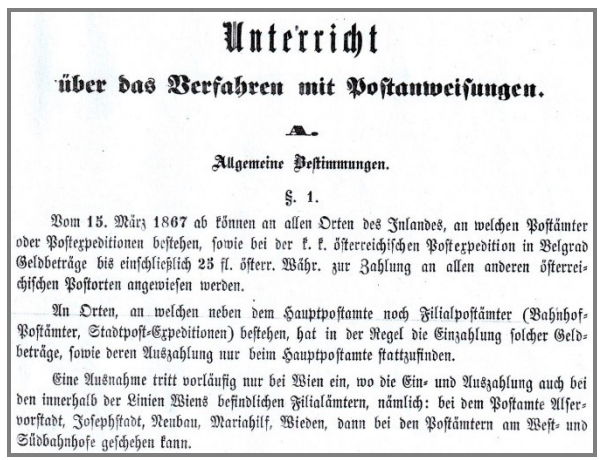
13. Die Postämter werden angewiesen, sich vorläufig mit den Bestimmungen der kaiserlichen Verordnung, dann der Verordnung des Handelsministers genauestens bekannt zu machen.

Die nähere Instruction, insbesondere hinsichtlich des Verfahrens bei Postanweisungen wird folgen.

Wien, den 31. Jänner 1867.

Figure 3. Last paragraph of the order of the Minister of Commerce from 31 January 1867

Then on 26 February 1867 a 20-page order was published which I could recently find in the library of the Post Museum. This deals to the smallest details with the topic of sending and receiving money order forms.



Unterricht

über das Verfahren mit Postanweisungen.

A.

Allgemeine Bestimmungen.

§. 1.

Vom 15. März 1867 ab können an allen Orten des Inlandes, an welchen Postämter oder Postexpeditionen bestehen, sowie bei der k. k. österreichischen Postexpedition in Belgrad Geldbeträge bis einschließlich 25 fl. österr. Währ. zur Zahlung an allen anderen österreichischen Postorten angewiesen werden.

An Orten, an welchen neben dem Hauptpostamte noch Filialpostämter (Bahnhof-Postämter, Stadtpost-Expeditionen) bestehen, hat in der Regel die Einzahlung solcher Geldbeträge, sowie deren Auszahlung nur beim Hauptpostamte stattzufinden.

Eine Ausnahme tritt vorläufig nur bei Wien ein, wo die Ein- und Auszahlung auch bei den innerhalb der Linien Wiens befindlichen Filialämtern, nämlich: bei dem Postamte Alservorstadt, Josephstadt, Neubau, Mariahilf, Wieden, dann bei den Postämtern am West- und Südbahnhofe geschehen kann.

Figure 4. First page of the 20-page order published on 26 February 1867 and applicable from 15 March 1867 about the details of the introduction of postal money.

This order was published during the period of the Austrian postal authority, so theoretically there could exist postal money order forms franked with stamps of the 1864 (double-headed eagle) issue, but no such Hungarian usage was found up to now. (The first known item is dated 19 March 1868 – see the previous study). (There is no known money order form franked with an 1864 issue stamp from any other Austrian province, on the contrary, the first known Austrian usage is of later date than the Hungarian usage mentioned before.)

Both the Austrian and the Hungarian postal authoritis raised the upper limit of the money transfers from 25 Ft to 50 Ft on 1 January 1868. The Hungarian Post therefore issued an order on 19 December (PRT 20/28 December 1867), announcing this modification. The fee of the transfer remained 10 kr.

As an effect of these orders the usage of the money order became widespread in the whole Monarchy but the speed of the transfer was slower than the need of the developing industry and commerce. This is why the independent Hungarian postal authority (after coordination with the Ministry of Commerce of the Monarchy) decided to introduce the possibility of telegraphic money transfers beginning on 20 May 1868.

3. THE ORDER OF 20 APRIL 1868



RENDELVENYEK

A

MAGYAR POSTA-HIVATALOK SZÁMÁRA.

Közrebocsátja a kereskedelmi ministerium.

11. sz. Pest, april 25-én 1868.

Tartalom. — Inhalt.

A távirda közvetítésével eszközlött pénzutalványozások. — Az Ó-Szinezki postahivatal felhatalmazása az 50 forint összeget meghaladó postautalványok elfogadására és kifizetésére. — A kőolaj-nemü küldemények postai szállításának megtiltása. — Uj postaintézetek. — Változások. — Személyzetiek. — Pályázatok.

Vermittlung von Geldanweisungen im telegraphischen Wege. — Ermächtigung des k. ung. Postamtes zu Alt-(Civil)-Sissek zum Geldanweisungsgeschäfte über 50 fl. — Verbot der Beförderung von Steinölsendungen mittelst der Post. — Neue Postanstalten. — Veränderungen. — Personalnachrichten. — Concurse.

A távirda közvetítésével eszközlött pénzutalványozások.

Vermittlung von Geldanweisungen im telegraphischen Wege.

5083/1426.

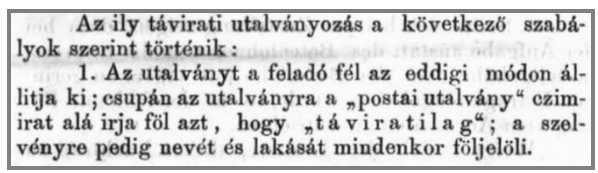
A cs. kir. kereskedelmi ministeriummal létrejött egyezmény alapján f. évi május 20-kától kezdve a belföldi forgalomnál a postai utalványozás végett befizetett összletek kifizetésére a rendeltetési hely postahivatala — ha a feladó ugy kívánja — táviratilag is utasitatni fog; ha t. i. a feladási és rendeltetési hely közt távirdai összeköttetés léteznek, s az utalványozandó összlet az ötszáz o. é. forintot meg nem haladja.

In Folge einer Vereinbarung mit dem k. k. Handelsministerium werden vom 20. Mai l. J. ab, im internen Verkehre die auf Postanweisungen eingezahlten Beträge über Verlangen des Absenders auf telegrafischem Wege bei der Postanstalt des Bestimmungsortes zur Auszahlung angewiesen, wenn zwischen der Postanstalt des Aufgabsortes und jener des Bestimmungsortes eine Staatstelegrafenverbindung besteht und der Betrag der Anweisung fünfhundert Gulden ö. W. nicht überschreitet.

Figure 5. First page of the order on the introduction of telegraphic money orders published on 25 April 1868 and applicable from 20 May 1868.

The order dated 20 April 1868 (PRT 11/25 April 1868) introduced an epoch-making novelty by allowing money transfers to be posted by telegraph. The 9-page order, applicable from 20 May 1868 regulated every possible detail.

As there were no telegraphic money order forms at the post offices during the first period of the applicability of this order, the most important rule (paragraph 1) was that nothing changes with the telegraphic orders except for the obligation of writing the word „Telegraphic" on the top of the form.



Az ily távirati utalványozás a következő szabályok szerint történik:

1. Az utalványt a feladó fél az eddigi módon állitja ki; csupán az utalványra a „postai utalvány" czimirat alá irja föl azt, hogy „táviratilag"; a szelvényre pedig nevét és lakását mindenkor följelöli.

Figure 6. The first paragraph of the order said that the word „telegraphic" has to be written on the top of the traditional form.

This instruction was performed by the senders either in Hungarian or in German language.

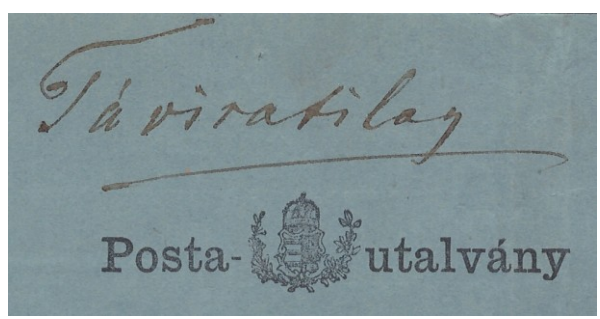


Figure 7. „Telegraphic" notation in Hungarian at the top of the form: „Táviratilag"



Figure 8. „Telegraphic" notation in German on the top of the form: „per Telegram"

Of course the order regulated the fee to be paid for the telegraphic money orders, which consisted of two parts: on one hand the fee to be paid for the normal money order and on the other hand an extra fee. The extra fee consisted of three parts: a forwarding fee, the telegraphic fee and the delivery fee.

3. A távirati utalványozásokért a közönséges, levéljegyek által, az 50 ftot meghaladó utalványoknál pedig készpénzben fedezendő utalványozási illetéken kivül, a feladáskor a következő illetékek fizetendők:

a) 10 ujkrajczár illeték a távirat elküldéseért a feladás helyén levő postahivataltól a távirdai állomásig, de csak akkor, ha a távirda nem a postaépületben van elhelyezve.

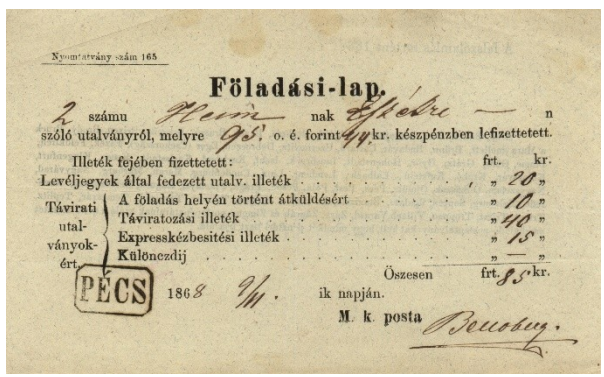
b) A feladási helytől a rendeltetési helyig táviratozott sürgöny illetéke, és pedig a 200 fton felül 500 fttig terjedő összletektől az ajánlatozott táviratok illetéke, vagy is még egyszer anyi, menyi a közönséges táviratért fizettetik.

15 ujkr kézbesitési dij, ha az utalvány a leadó postahivatal (postapénztár) székhelyén kézbesitetett; vagy 50 ujkr küldönczdij egy-egy mérföld vagy egy mérföldön alóli távolság után, ha a czimzett a postahivatal székhelyén kivül lakik.

Figure 9. The fees to be paid

The forwarding fee has been 10 kr but only if the telegraph station was at a different location than the post office. At that time this was mostly the case, the usual location of the telegraph office being the railway station. The telegraphic fee has been that of a normal telegraph, except for high sums (between 200 and 500 Ft), when it was doubled. The delivery fee was similar to the express fee, 15 kr in the direct delivery area of the receiving post office, 50 kr per German mile outside of it.

These fees were never inscribed on the money transfer forms. Still the whole fee of a telegraphic money order can be recognized on the dispatch forms, which are fairly rare from this time period.


Nyomtatvány szám 165

Föladási-lap.

2 számu Pécs nak Eszékre — n

szóló utalványról, melyre 95 o. é. forint — kr. készpénzben lefizettetett.

Illeték fejében fizettetett:	frt.	kr.
Levéljegyek által fedezett utalv. illeték	„ 20	„
Táviratiutalványokért: A föladás helyén történt átküldésért	„ 10	„
Táviratozási illeték	„ 40	„
Expresskézbesitési illeték	„ 15	„
Különczdij	„ —	„
Összesen	frt. 85	kr.

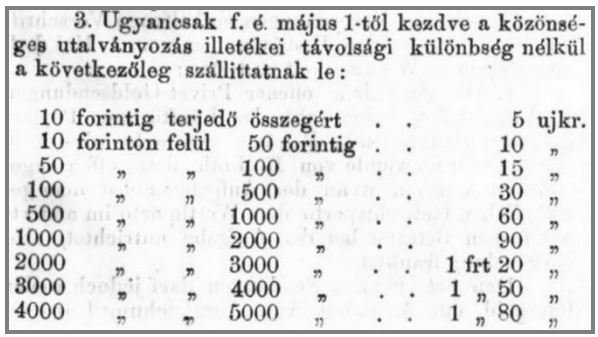
PÉCS 1868 9/11. ik napján.

M. k. posta Beneday.

Figure 10. Fees of a telegraphic money order sent on 9 November 1868 from Pecs to Eszek: 20 kr fee of the money transfer, 10 kr forwarding fee, 40 kr telegraphic fee and 15 kr delivery fee, in all 85 kr.

4. THE ORDER OF 15 APRIL 1870

Seemingly the money transfer business soon became popular, therefore a new order appeared, applicable from 1 May 1870 (PRT 6/15 May 1870), which raised the upper limit of transferrable sums from 50 Ft to 100 Ft and introduced a new tariff table.



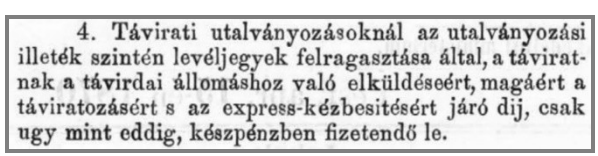
3. Ugyancsak f. é. május 1-től kezdve a közönséges utalványozás illetékei távolsági különbség nélkül a következőleg szállittatnak le:

10	forintig terjedő összegért					5	ujkr.
10	forinton felül	50	forintig			10	„
50	„ „	100	„			15	„
100	„ „	500	„			30	„
500	„ „	1000	„			60	„
1000	„ „	2000	„			90	„
2000	„ „	3000	„		1 frt	20	„
3000	„ „	4000	„		1 „	50	„
4000	„ „	5000	„		1 „	80	„

Figure 11. The new order with the new tariff table, applicable from 1 May 1870.

No change was made to the part of the regulation that sums above 100 Ft could be transferred only from the important post offices up to the value of 1000 Ft. Plus, from these post offices to Vienna and Pest it was possible to send sums up to 5000 Ft. The upper limit of telegraphic transfers remained 500 Ft.

The order once again stressed that the extra fees are to be paid not by stamps, but in cash.



4. Távirati utalványozásoknál az utalványozási illeték szintén levéljegyek felragasztása által, a táviratnak a távirdai állomáshoz való elküldéséért, magáért a táviratozásért s az express-kézbesitésért járó dij, csak ugy mint eddig, készpénzben fizetendő le.

Figure 12. Extra fees to be paid

5. „FORERUNNERS" OF THE TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER FORMS

As we have seen, there were no self-standing forms for telegraphic money order at the time of the introduction of this service on 20 May 1868. The first such forms appeared only later, on 1 September 1872. The first known telegraphic money order form is dated 1 January 1871, meaning no telegraphic forerunner forms are known from the years 1868-1869-1870. After 1 January 1871, on the territory of Hungary (including Croatia, which again belonged to the Hungarian postal authority at that time) the most frequent money order forms were the following four (some other types are known, but only one item is known of each and those are not telegraphic):

- Blue coloured postal money order form in Hungarian language (with several subtypes)
- Blue coloured postal money order form in German language (with several subtypes)
- Yellow coloured postal money order form in German language
- Yellow coloured postal money order form in German language with preprinted 5 kr stamp

In February 1871 a fifth type was added, the green postal money order form, of which the first known item is from 24 February 1871 and the first known telegraphic item is from 31 March.

Telegraphic usage of these forms is rather rare, which statement can be proven by the following numbers:

- Blue coloured Hungarian language form: currently 111 items are known, of which 5 are telegraphic;
- Blue coloured German language form: currently 94 items are known, of which 1 is telegraphic;
- Yellow coloured German language form: currently 39 items are known, of which 1 is telegraphic;
- Yellow coloured printed matter form: currently we know 55 items, of which 5 are telegraphic;

- Green coloured form: currently we know 379 items, of which 15 are telegraphic.

In all 678 items, of which 27 are telegraphic (4%).

(This statistic is of course live, new items can surface. The above numbers are valid at the publishing date of this article.)

But why wonder? It is clear, that the telegraphic money transfer was very expensive, as we have seen on figure 10, at least 80-90 kr was the fee of such an operation as opposed to the average 10 kr fee of a normal transfer.

Let us see one example of each type:

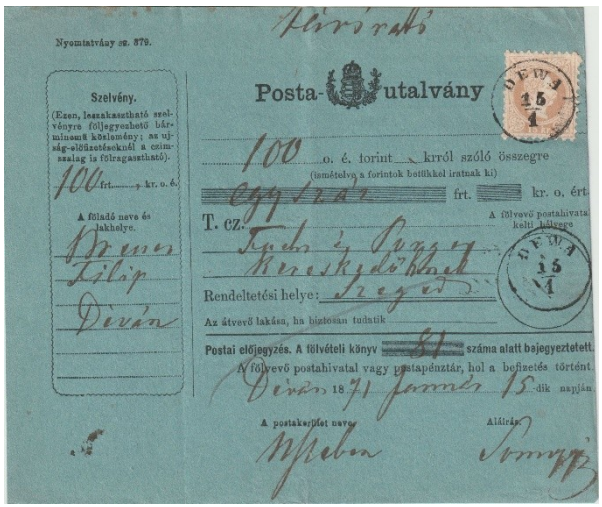


Figure 13. Blue coloured Hungarian language telegraphic postal money order form from Dewa to Szeged on 15 January 1871



Figure 14. Blue coloured German language telegraphic postal money order form from Brasso to Trieste on 4 June 1871

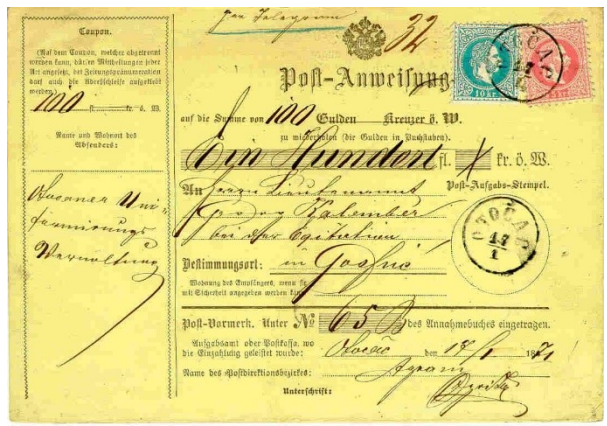


Figure 15. Yellow coloured German language postal money order form from Otocac to Gospic on 17 January 1871

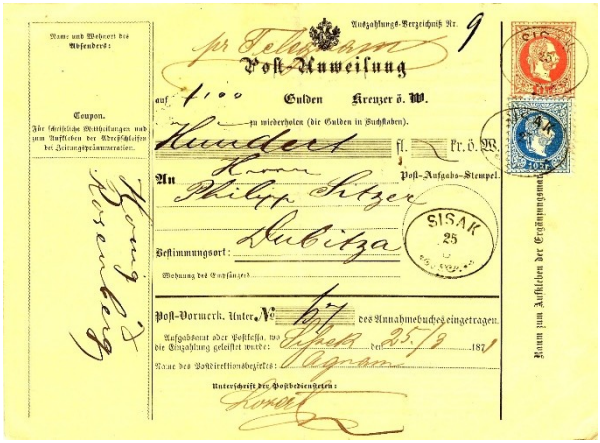


Figure 16. Yellow coloured telegraphic money order form with preprinted stamp from Sisak to Dubica on 25 March 1871

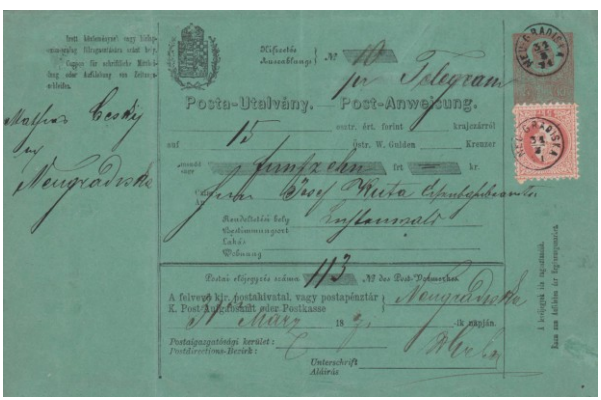


Figure 17. Green coloured telegraphic money order form from Neu-Gradisca on 31 March 1871

6. INTRODUCTION OF THE TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER FORMS

The order introducing the separate forms for telegraphic money transfers (called at that time „blanks") appeared in the 24 July issue of the PRT (Collection of Postal Orders) and came to effect on 1 September 1872.


POSTAI

RENDELETEK TÁRA.

Közrebocsátja a kereskedelmi ministerium.

20. sz. Pest, julius 24. 1872.

Tartalom. Külön úrlapok használata a távirati utalványozásoknál. — Változások. — Személyzetiek. — Új postaintézetek. — Pályázatok.

Inhalt. Einführung eigener Blanquetten für telegrafische Postanweisungen. — Aenderung. — Personalien. — Neue Postanstalten. — Concursen.

Külön úrlapok használata a távirati utalványozásoknál.

Einführung eigener Blanquetten für telegrafische Postanweisungen.

7780/902

Figure 18. Title part of the order for self-standing telegraphic money order forms

Paragraph 1. of this order unequivocally states that in Hungary the new telegraphic money order „blanks" will be issued on pink paper with black letters, while in Austria on white paper with blue letters.

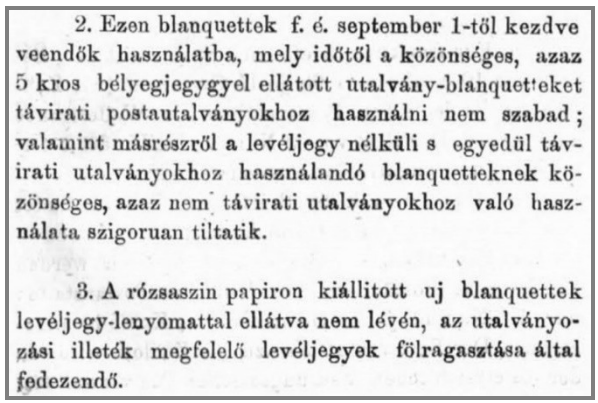
A távirati utalványok fedezetéül szolgáló utalványlapok szabálytalan kiállításából eredő gyakori viszszásságok elháritása czéljából a cs. k. osztrák kereskedelmi ministeriummal egyetértőleg rendeltetik, mint következik:

1. Oly utalványokhoz, melyek pénzösszleteinek kifizetésére a rendeltetési hely postahivatala a föladó kivánságára táviratilag utasittatik, a mellékelt mintára kiállitott különös blanquettek, és pedig a m. kir. postaterületen rózsaszin papiron fekete nyomattal, a cs. kir. kereskedelmi ministerium igazgatási területéhez tartozó postahivataloktól pedig fehér papiron kék nyomattal használtassanak.

Figure 19. Paragraph 1. of the order prescribes the usage of pink blanks

The next paragraph states that from 1 September the normal green coloured money order forms would not be allowed to be used for the purpose

of telegraphic money transferring, and vice versa, the pink forms would not be allowed to be used for normal money orders.



2. Ezen blanquettek f. é. september 1-től kezdve veendők használatba, mely időtől a közönséges, azaz 5 kros bélyegjegygyel ellátott utalvány-blanquetteket távirati postautalványokhoz használni nem szabad; valamint másrészről a levéljegy nélküli s egyedül távirati utalványokhoz használandó blanquetteknek közönséges, azaz nem távirati utalványokhoz való használata szigoruan tiltatik.

3. A rózsaszin papiron kiállitott uj blanquettek levéljegy-lenyomattal ellátva nem lévén, az utalványozási illeték megfelelő levéljegyek fölragasztása által fedezendő.

Figure 20. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the order

The earliest telegraphic money order we know is dated only four days after the introduction of the new form (1 September 1872)!



Figure 21. The earliest known pink telegraphic money order form from 4 September 1872

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPES OF THE TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER FORMS

The previously shown telegraphic money order form being the earliest known one, it is viable to call it type I.

7.1. Characteristics of type 1:

Hungarian-German text with „big Hungarian" shield.



Figure 22a.

In the upper left corner: „Nyomtatvány szám. 37" (Form no. 37).

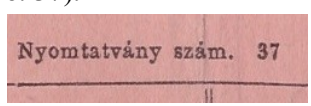


Figure 22b.

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 8 rows

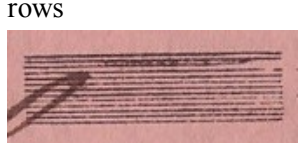


Figure 22c.



Figure 22d.

Colour: pink – brownish purple.

Period of usage: 04. September 1872 – 20 October 1877.

7.2. Characteristics of type 2.a.:

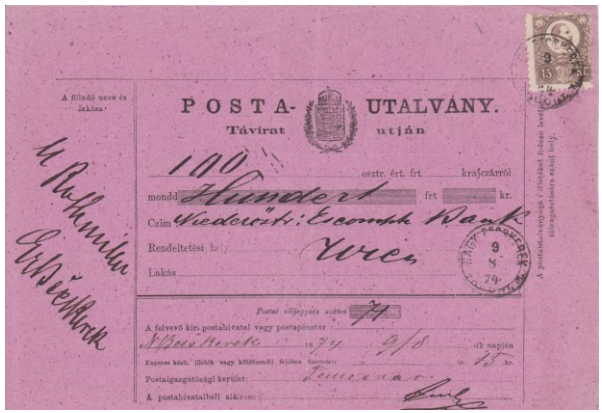


Figure 23. Telegraphic money order form type 2a

Hungarian text with „big Hungarian” shield.



Figure 24a.

No form number in the upper left corner.

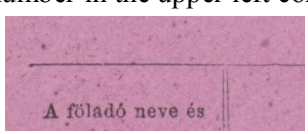


Figure 24b.

Upper text field with 14 rows, lower with 11 rows

.



Figure 24c.

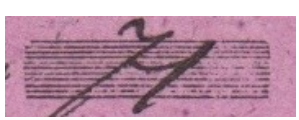


Figure 24d.

Colour: pale purple - purple.
Period of usage: 12.01.1874. – 06.09.1880.

7.3. Characteristics of type 2.b.:

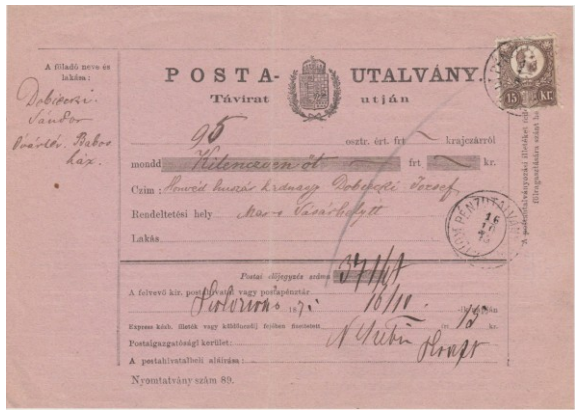


Figure 25. Telegraphic money order form type 2b from Kolozsvár

Hungarian text with „big Hungarian” shield.



Figure 26a.

No form number in the upper left corner.

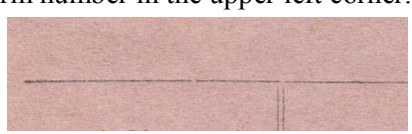


Figure 26b.

But there it is, on the bottom! (Form No. 89)

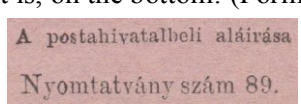


Figure 26c.

Upper text field with 14 rows, lower with 11 rows
Colour: pale purple - purple
Period of usage: 28.08.1875. – 16.10.1875.

7.4. Characteristics of type 3.:

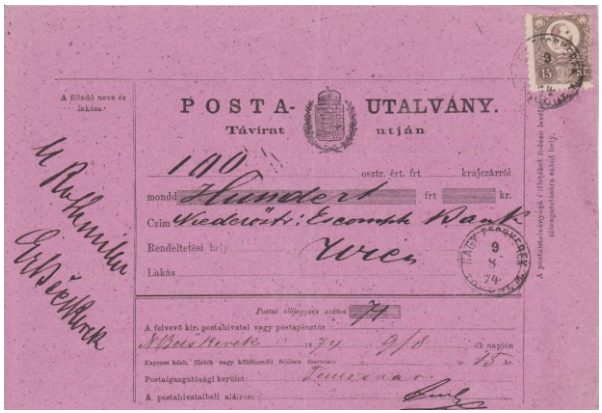


Figure 27. Telegraphic money order form type 3

Hungarian-Italian text with „big Hungarian" shield.



Figure 28a.

No form number in the upper left corner.

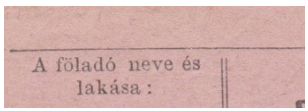


Figure 28b.

Upper text field with 11 rows, lower with 7 rows.

Colour: pink – brownish purple.

Period of usage: 23.06.1877. – 03.03.1878.

7.5. Characteristics of type 4.a.:



Figure 29. Telegraphic money order form type 4a

Hungarian-Croatian text with „big Hungarian" shield, without the wreath.



Figure 30a.

In the upper left corner: „Tiskanice br. 379."

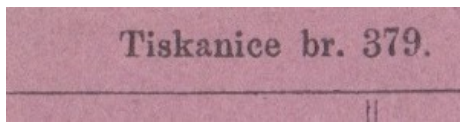


Figure 30b.

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 11 rows.

Colour: brownish purple.

Period of usage: 04.03.1874. – 04.04.1878.

7.6. Characteristics of type 4.b.:



Figure 31. Telegraphic money order form type 4.b.

Hungarian-Croatian text with „big Hungarian" shield, without the wreath.



Figure 32a.

In the upper left corner: „Tiskanice broj 379."

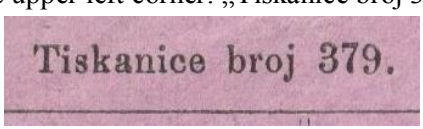


Figure 32b.

Upper text field with 11 rows, lower with 11 rows – but there exists an 8-row version!

Two subtypes in the back page text: „igénybe" or „giénybe" (this latter a spelling error).

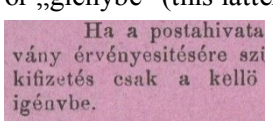


Figure 32c *Figure 32d.*

Colour: brownish purple.

Period of usage: 21.07.1874. – 17.05.1876.

7.7. Characteristics of type 4.c.:

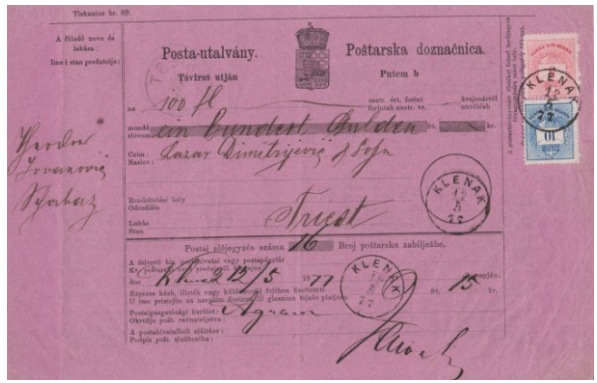


Figure 33. Telegraphic money order form type 4.c.

Hungarian-Croatian text with „big Hungarian" shield, without the wreath.

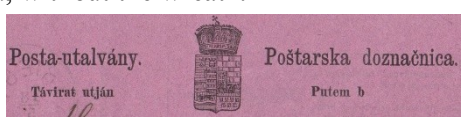


Figure 34a.

In the upper left corner: „Tiskanice br. 89."

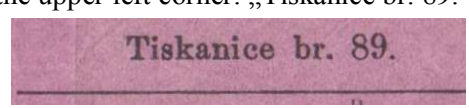


Figure 34b.

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 11 rows – but there exists an 8-row version!

2 subtypes: „Putem b" and „Putem brzojava".

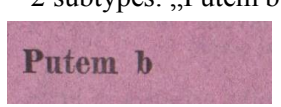


Figure 34c

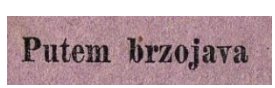


Figure 34d.

Colour: brownish purple.

Period of usage: 10.08.1876. – 12.05.1877.

7.8. Characteristics of type 4.d.:



Figure 35. Telegraphic money order form type 4.d.

Hungarian-Croatian text with „big Hungarian" shield, without the wreath.



Figure 36a.

In the upper left corner: „Tiskanice broj 89."

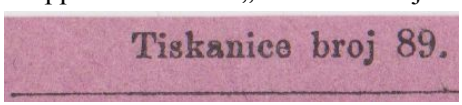


Figure 36b.

Upper text field with 11 rows, lower with 11 rows.

Colour: brownish purple.

Period of usage: 05.05.1875. – 03.05.1877.

The following money order form posted at Vukovar belongs to this type. The 10 kr stamp on it has a spectacular double perforation. Once this beautiful item decorated the Dezso Nagy collection in Sweden.

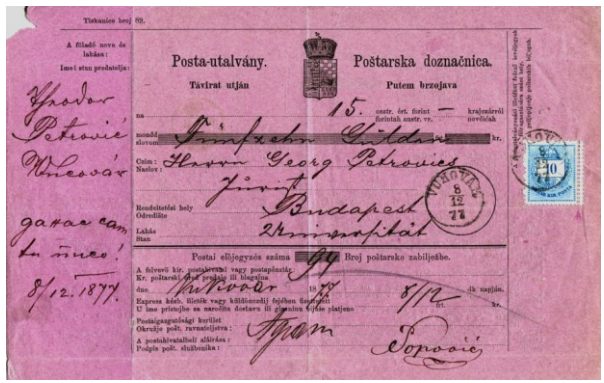


Figure 36c.

7.9. Summary of the types shown up to now

All types shown up to now were characterized by the „big Hungarian" shield, partly with and partly without wreath. We recognized 4 main types, according to their languages applied:

- Type 1: in Hungarian-German language
- Type 2: in Hungarian language
- Type 3: in Hungarian-Italian language
- Type 4: in Hungarian-Croatian language

Most main types consist of subtypes, sortable by the form numbers. It can be seen that the earlier numbers are the 37 and the 379, followed later by the 89. Several smaller printing differences are dealt with at the concerning subtypes.

The types shown up to now are summarized in the following table:

Címer	Nagy magyar címer koszorúval				Nagy magyar címer koszorú nélkül			
Nyelv	magyar-német	magyar		magyar-olasz	magyar-horvát			
Nyomtatványszám	"37"	nincs	89 (alul)	nincs	br. 379	broj 379	br. 89	broj 89
Felső szövegmező	12-soros	14-soros	14-soros	11-soros	12-soros	11-soros	12-soros	11-soros
Alsó szövegmező	8-soros	11-soros	11-soros	7-soros	11-soros	11- és 8-soros	11-soros	11-soros
Szín	rózsaszín-barnáslila	halványlila-lila	rózsaszín-barnáslila	rózsaszín-barnáslila	barnáslila	barnáslila	barnáslila	barnáslila
Megrendelési szám	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Felhasználási idő	72.09.04-77.10.20.	74.01.12-80.09.06.	75.08.28-75.10.16.	77.06.23-78.03.03.	74.03.04-78.04.04.	74.07.21-76.05.17.	76.08.10-77.05.12.	75.05.05-77.05.03.
Típusnév	1.	2.a.	2.b.	3.	4.a.	4.b.	4.c.	4.d.
Megjegyzés/ változatok						- igénybe -giénybe	-Putem b -Putem brzojava	

Figure 37a.

Advertisement with social purpose: philatelic lectures, trainings and presentations of collections monthly in MABÉOSZ!



Jury course, 25. January 2020. *Photo: Karoly Szucs*

In the next types the „big Hungarian” shield has been replaced by other figures.

7.10. Characteristics of type 5.:



Figure 38. Telegraphic money order form type 5

Hungarian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn.



Figure 39a.

In the upper left corner: „Nyomtatvány 89.” (Form No. 89).

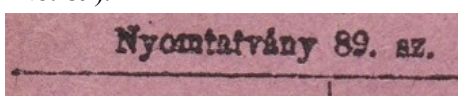


Figure 39b

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 11 rows.

Colour: Purple.

Period of usage: 02.12.1876. – 27.09.1878.

7.11. Characteristics of type 6.a.:

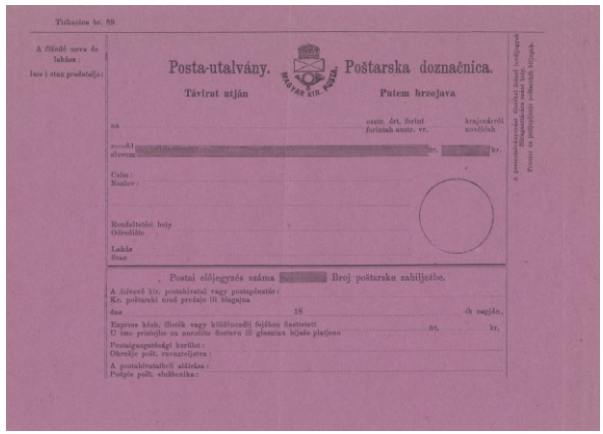


Figure 40. Telegraphic money order form type 6a

Hungarian - Croatian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn.



Figure 41a.

In the upper left corner: „Tiskanice br. 89.”

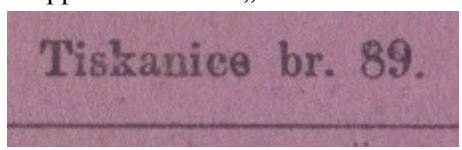


Figure 41b.

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 11 rows.

Colour: Purple.

Period of usage: 10.11.1877. – 26.08.1878.

7.12. Characteristics of type 6.b.:

This type differs from the previous one only in its visibly different colour. While the colour of type 6.a is purple, the colour of type 6.b is pinkish purple. All other characteristics are the same.

It is important to remark that the forms issued from 1872 on, basically of purple colour with different shades, can easily change colour because of storage or other circumstances. Plenty of forms are known where the colour has drastically changed even within one item as an effect of these circumstances.

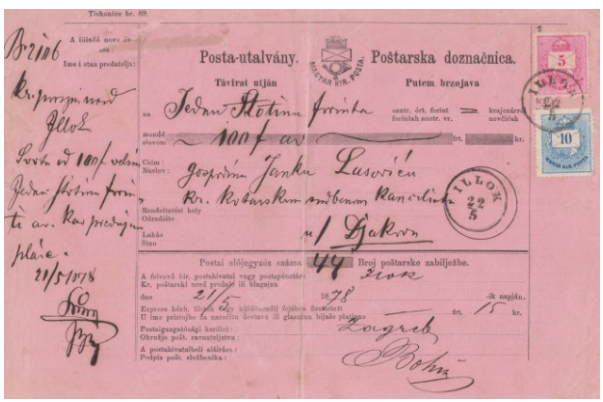


Figure 42. Telegraphic money order form type 6.b

Hungarian - Croatian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn.

In the upper left corner: „Tiskanice br. 89."

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 11 rows.

Colour: Pinkish-purple.

Period of usage: 22.05.1878. – 13.11.1878.

7.13. Characteristics of type 6.c.:



Figure 43. Telegraphic money order form type 6.c.

Hungarian - Croatian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn

See the previous one.

In the upper left corner: „Tiskanice broj 89."

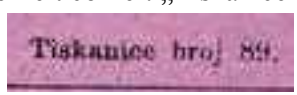


Figure 44.

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 11 rows.

Colour: Purple.

Period of usage: 13.09.1882.

7.14. Characteristics of type 6.d.:

This type differs from the previous one only in its visibly different colour. While the colour of type 6.c is purple, the colour of type 6.d is pinkish purple. All other characteristics are the same.



Figure 45. Telegraphic money order form type 6.d.

Hungarian - Croatian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn.

In the upper left corner: „Tiskanice broj 89."

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 11 rows.

Colour: Pinkish-purple.

Period of usage: 27.12.1877.

7.15. Characteristics of type 7.:



Figure 46. Telegraphic money order form type 7.

Hungarian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + post horn (envelope vanished).



Figure 47.

In the upper left corner: „Nyomtatvány 89. sz."

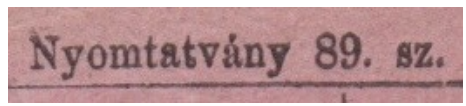


Figure 48.

Upper text field with 7 rows, lower with 7 rows.

Colour: Purple.

Period of usage: 19.12.1877. – 15.09.1884.

With this type the introduction of the purple (and shades) coloured telegraphic money order forms issued after 1 September 1872 is finished. They were followed by basically white coloured forms, which were regulated by orders.

8. MORE ORDERS

The order published in the 26. October 1878. issue of the PRT contained a new regulation for the fees of the money order forms.



POSTAI

RENDELETEK TÁRA.

Kiadja a földmivelés-, ipar- s kereskedelemügyi m. k. Ministerium.

Budapest. *28. szám.* *October 26. 1878.*

Tartalom:

A postautalványok díjainak megváltoztatása és a közönséges postahivataloknál egy utalványra feladható összegnek felemelése a belföldi forgalomban. — Pályázatok.

Inhalt:

Abänderung der Postanweisungs-Provision und Erhöhung des Maximalanweisungsbetrages bei gewöhnlichen Postämtern im inländischen Verkehre. — Concurse.

A postautalványok díjainak megváltoztatása és a közönséges postahivataloknál egy utalványra feladható összegnek felemelése a belföldi forgalomban.

Abänderung der Postanweisungs- Provision und Erhöhung des Maximalanweisungsbetrages bei gewöhnlichen Postämtern im inländischen Verkehr.

24811.

Figure 49. The order published on 26 October 1878 about the new money order tariffs

The order increased the fees that were valid since 1 May 1870. At lower sums the first step was diminished from the earlier 10 Ft to 5 Ft, and on the other end of the scale the bands above 100 Ft became more detailed. The earlier fee of a 500 Ft transfer, 30 kr, now increased to 50 kr. The fee of the highest possible transferable sum (5000 Ft) increased from 180 kr to 300 kr.

A belföldön (ide értve az osztrák postaigazgatás területét is) váltott postautalványok számára 1870. évi május hó 1-én életbe lépett tarifa, 1878. évi november hó 1-től kezdve megszünik és helyébe lép a következő uj tarifa:

5 frtig terjedő összegért				5 kr.
5	frton felül	50 frtig		10 kr.
50	frton „	150 frtig		20 kr.
150	frton „	300 frtig		30 kr.
300	frton „	500 frtig		50 kr.
500	frton „	1000 frtig		1 frt — kr.
1000	frton „	2000 frtig		1 frt 50 kr.
2000	frton „	3000 frtig		2 frt — kr.
3000	frton „	4000 frtig		2 frt 50 kr.
4000	frton „	5000 frtig		3 frt — kr.

Figure 50. The new money transfer fees

II. A közönséges (nem kincstárilag kezelt) postahivataloknál e g y utalványra feladható vagy kifizethető összeg ugyan e naptól kezdve 100 ftról 150 ftra felemeltetik.

A kincstárilag kezelt postahivatalok az egymás közt váltott forgalomban egy postautalványon 1000 frtot — és ha az utalvány Budapestre vagy Bécsbe szól, 5000 frtot is vehetnek föl.

III. A táviratilag egy utalványra utalványozható összeg a közönséges postahivataloknál feladott vagy kifizetendő utalványokra nézve szintén 150 ftra emeltetik fel, ellenben a kincstárilag kezelt postahivatalok közti forgalomban 500 fttal megmarad.

IV. A most használatban levő postautalványi ürlapok elfogytával uj alaku ürlapok fognak kiadatni, melyek levéljegygyel ellátva nincsenek. Ezen ürlapok más értékczikkek módjára 100 darabos csomagokban rendelendők meg és darabonkint $^1/_2$ krért árusitandók el.

Figure 51. Further parts of the order about the raising of upper limit and the cessation of the free of charge forms

The regulation to increase the upper limit of transferable sums at the smaller post offices from 100 Ft to 150 Ft already served the purposes of the industrial and commercial developments of the 1880s.

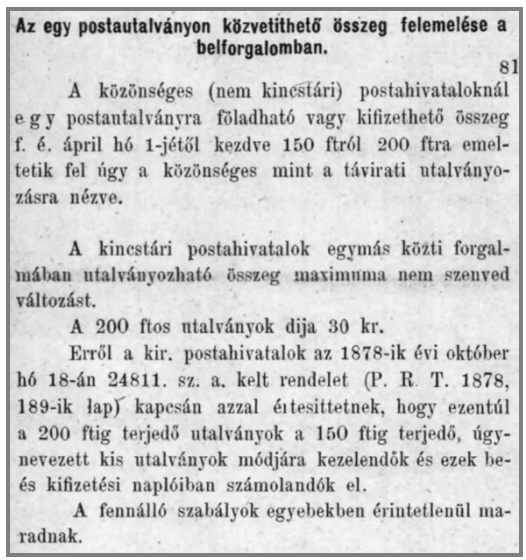
Higher sums (up to 1000 Ft) were only transferrable, as previously, among „treasury" post offices. The exceptions were Budapest and Vienna, which were able to accept transfers up to 5000 Ft.

The regulation communicated that new forms will be introduced soon. This ended the era of purple forms, but of course the transition period was quite long, as we can find usages of the purple forms even in September 1884. Obviously the post offices accumulated a huge stock of forms, as the white form described in the regulation only appears in September 1882. In parallel the money order forms (the telegraphic ones as well) were not free of charge any more. A form cost ½ kr from then on.

From a philatelic point of view the telegraphic money order forms thus became „quasi" printed matters, as one had to pay for them, just the preprinted stamp was missing from them.

From 1 April 1879. (PRT.31.03.1879.) the upper limit was increased from 150 Ft to 200 Ft. This limit was raised to 300 Ft in 1885 and to 500 Ft in 1888.

1 April 1879 also marked a slight change in the fees of the money order forms, up to the limit of 200 Ft the fee became 30 kr.



Az egy postautalványon közvetithető összeg felemelése a belforgalomban.

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A közönséges (nem kincstári) postahivataloknál egy postautalványra föladható vagy kifizethető összeg f. é. április hó 1-jétől kezdve 150 ftról 200 ftra emeltetik fel úgy a közönséges mint a távirati utalványozásra nézve.

A kincstári postahivatalok egymás közti forgalmában utalványozható összeg maximuma nem szenved változást.

A 200 ftos utalványok dija 30 kr.

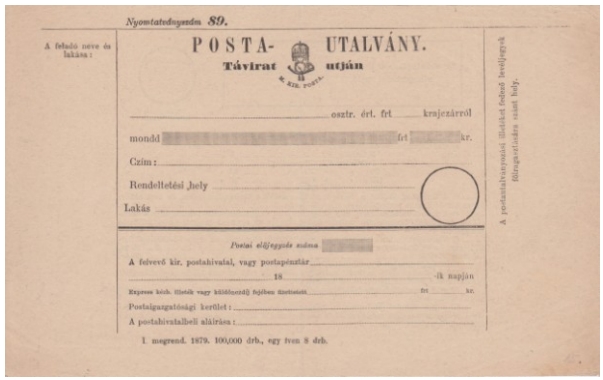
Erről a kir. postahivatalok az 1878-ik évi október hó 18-án 24811. sz. a. kelt rendelet (P. R. T. 1878, 189-ik lap) kapcsán azzal értesittetnek, hogy ezentúl a 200 ftig terjedő utalványok a 150 ftig terjedő, úgynevezett kis utalványok módjára kezelendők és ezek be- és kifizetési naplóiban számolandók el.

A fennálló szabályok egyebekben érintetlenül maradnak.

Figure 52. The regulation valid from 1 April 1879 increasing the upper limit

Let's get back though to philately, to the telegraphic money order forms. As per the 1878 regulation the new, unified forms in white colour appeared.

9.1. Characteristics of type 8.a.:


Nyomtatványszám 89.

POSTA- UTALVÁNY.

Távirat utján

K. KIR. POSTA.

A feladó neve és lakása:

oszlr. ért. frt krajczárról

mondd frt kr.

Czim:

Rendeltetési hely

Lakás

Postai előjegyzés száma

A felvevő kir. postahivatal, vagy postapénztár

18 -ik napján

Expressz kézb. illeték vagy különczélú fejében fizetett frt kr.

Postajáratossági kerület:

A postahivatalbeli aláírása:

I. megrend. 1879. 100,000 drb., egy íven 8 drb.

A postautalványozási illeték fedező bélyegnek illetőségi helye.

Figure 53.Telegraphic money order form type 8.a.

Hungarian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + post horn (envelope vanished).


POSTA- UTALVÁNY.

Távirat utján

K. KIR. POSTA.

Figure 54a.

In the upper left corner: „Nyomtatványszám 89.”

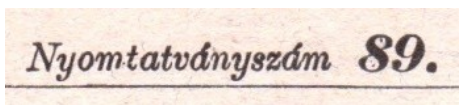

Nyomtatványszám 89.

Figure 54b.

Order no:

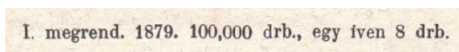

I. megrend. 1879. 100,000 drb., egy íven 8 drb.

Figure 54c.

Upper text field with 12 rows, but dotted.


frt kr.

Figure 55a.

Lower text field with 12 rows, but dotted.



Figure 55b.

Colour: white.

Period of usage: 09.07.1883. – 25.08.1883.

Relatively many items remained of this type thanks to the large number of money transfers sent to engineer Moskowitz telegraphically.


Nyomtatványszám 89.

POSTA- UTALVÁNY.

Távirat utján

K. KIR. POSTA.

578

A feladó neve és lakása:

– 500 – oszlr. ért. frt krajczárról

mondd Ofnász – frt kr.

Czim: Moskowitz mérnök

Rendeltetési hely Budapest

Lakás

Postai előjegyzés száma 89

A felvevő kir. postahivatal, vagy postapénztár Kassa 1883 204 -ik napján

Expressz kézb. illeték vagy különczélú fejében fizetett frt 15 kr.

Postajáratossági kerület:

A postahivatalbeli aláírása:

I. megrend. 1879. 100,000 drb., egy íven 8 drb.

KASSÁN

Figure 56. Telegraphic money order form type 8.a sent to engineer Moskowitz from Kassa to Pest

9.2. Characteristics of type 8.b.:

Form type 8.b. only differs from the previous one in the order number, changed from 1879 to 1880:

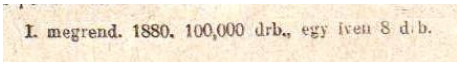


Figure 57. The different order number



Figure 58a. The telegraphic money order form type 8.b.

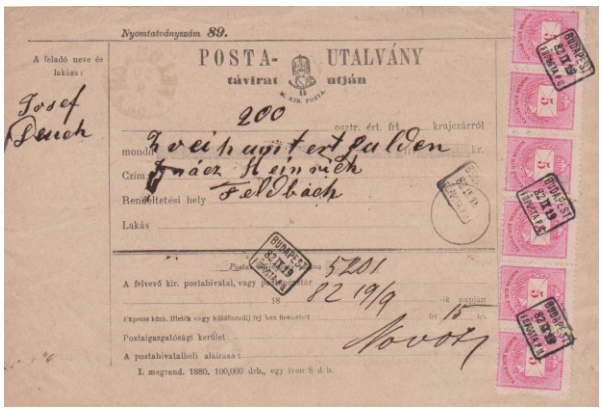


Figure 58b.The telegraphic money order form type 8.b.

Period of usage: 19.02.1882. – 16.08.1883.

9.3. Characteristics of type 8.c.:

This type contains no order number below. It is also possible that this is not a new type, but within one production sheet there may have existed some items with order number and some items without it.



Figure 59. The telegraphic money order form type 8.c – without order number below

Period of usage: unknown, as we only know unused examples

9.4. Characteristics of type 9.a.:

We slowly reach the end of the long row of types. Type 9 (with two subtypes) could have been listed earlier, as the shield (The „big Hungarian" shield with wreath) on it is the same as for example on type 3. But the colour of the paper indicates that this is the right place for it in the list of types.

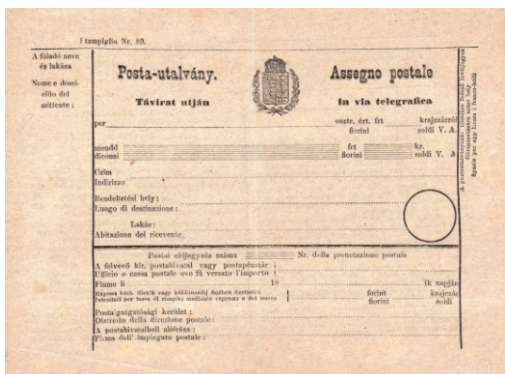


Figure 60. Telegraphic money order form type 9.a.

Hungarian-Italian text, with the „big Hungarian" shield with wreath.



Figure 61a.

In the upper left corner: „Stampiglia Nr. 89."

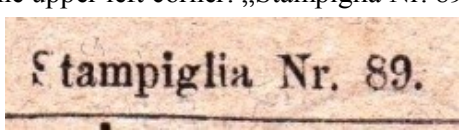


Figure 61b.

Upper text field with 8 rows, lower with 4 rows.
Colour: white.
Period of usage: unknown, as we only know unused examples.

9.5. Characteristics of type 9.b.:

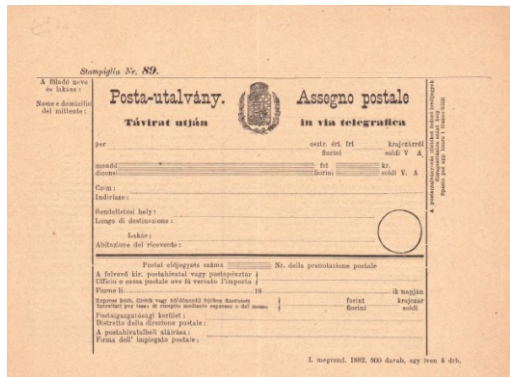


Figure 62. Telegraphic money order form type 9.b.

Hungarian-Italian text, with the „big Hungarian" shield with wreath



Figure 63a.

In the upper left corner: „*Stampiglia Nr.* ***89.***", bold and italic 89.

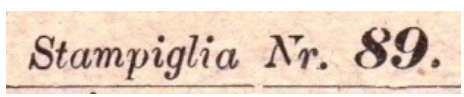


Figure 63b.

Order number:

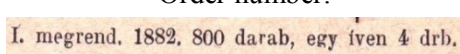


Figure 63c.

Upper text field with 7 rows (at type 9a it was 8!), lower one with 4 rows.
Colour: white.
Period of usage: unknown, as we only know unused examples (but after 1882, see order no.)

.

The types shown in the second phase are summarized in the following table:

Címer	Korona+boríték+kürt					Korona+kürt				Nagy magyar címer koszorúval	
Nyelv	magyar	magyar-horvát				magyar				magyar-olasz	
Nyomtatványszám	89 (felül)	br. 89	br. 89	broj 89	broj 89	89 (felül)				Nr. 89 kisméret	Nr. 89 nagyméret
Felső szövegmező	12-soros	12-soros	12-soros	12-soros	12-soros	7-soros	12-soros (pontozott)			8-soros	7-soros
Alsó szövegmező	11-soros	11-soros	11-soros	11-soros	11-soros	7-soros	12-soros (pontozott)			4-soros	4-soros
Szín	lila	lila	rózsalila	lila	rózsalila	lila	fehér			fehér	
Megrendelési szám	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	"1879"	"1880"	NO	NO	"1882"
Felhasználási idő	76.12.02-78.09.27.	77.11.10-78.08.26.	78.05.22-78.11.13.	82.09.13.	77.12.27.	77.12.08-84.09.15.	83.07.09-83.09.01.	82.09.19-83.08.16.	xx	xx	xx
Típusnév	5.	6.a.	6.b.	6.c.	6.d.	7.	8.a.	8.b.	8.c.	9.a.	9.b.

Figure 64. Summarizing table of types 5-9.

10. FREQUENCY OF TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER FORMS

It is obvious that after a summary of a new research theme many philatelists will report new discoveries, which will make us happy. It is a comforting feeling though that revolutionary discoveries are not expected, as the basis of this research is a 35 year long systematic data collection, based also on the Lajos Richter collection, which was put together by this famous Hungarian collector 120-130 years ago.

Let's see, approximately how many telegraphic money order forms we know currently:

Unused forms: at least 20 items
(their number is difficult to esteem, as the same items are auctioned several times.)

Forms with 1871 stamps: 59 items

Forms with 1871-1874 stamps: 13 items

Forms with 1874 stamps: 119 items

In all 211 items, but we would like to stress once again, that this statistic is of course live, new items can surface from month to month. The above numbers are valid at the publishing date of this article.

11. FURHTER RESEARCH TASKS

The study presented the telegraphic money orders used during the validity period of the 1871 and 1874 stamp issues. According to our present knowledge no later issue (e.g. the black numeral envelope issue) exists on telegraphic money order forms. The latest known date is 15 September 1884.



Figure 65.

Why don't we know later forms? The role of telegraphic money order forms was probably taken over by a different kind of postal service, to be presented later in a separate study.

But until then we should admire these fantastic treasures of Hungarian philately!

I would like to thank the help of collectors and auction houses which led to plenty of copies and thereby much new information.

Special thanks are due for making available some of the pictures to Adriano Bergamini (figures no. 14, 16 and 21) Herbert Kotal (figure no. 38), Roger Morrell (figure 46), the late Ellak Punkosti (figure no. 10), Werner Schindler (figure no. 15) and Dezso Szilagyi (figure no. 44). All other pictures are from the collection of the author.

Literature used:

PRTs (Postal Order Collection) of the years 1867-1888 (http://apps.arcanum.hu/app/postamuzeum/)

MBSZ
Magyar Bélyegvizsgáló Szakcsoport

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www.mafitt.hu – menu item Stamp Examination



PHILATELIC VARIETES FROM THE END OF WAR 1944–1945 – PART ONE

DR. FERENC NAGY (VIENNA)

As long as the world stands, these dates will be considered very significant to future generations. From an international political, economic, and military perspective, the collapse of the Third Reich was such a shock to the world that its repercussions even today, 75 years later, engage us and will continue to do so whether we like it or not.

Our country suffered such serious calamities that its survival can be considered miraculous. Cities ruined by bombing and close combat as well as the renewed stripping away of areas inhabited by Hungarians for over a 1000 years endangered our nation's existence. In the 1950s the suggestion surfaced that we should request our "voluntary" admission as a member state of the Soviet Union. That's a fact.

What kind of traces did this era leave behind for us philatelists and postal historians? I am familiar with the pertinent literature but can emphatically state that there is a lot more to be said. Everything has not yet been written. There are still a lot of interesting revelations that can be published. Please, follow me!

THE FATE OF THE 30 FILLER VALUE FROM THE MILITARY LEADERS SET

Even though the stamp was last printed 2 months prior to the collapse, we have to mention it here. The stamp was placed into circulation starting on November 22, 1943 but because of its widespread use especially in the returned territories, a reprinting was ordered. The initially printed sheets have the printing dates 43 XI. and 43 XII. in the margins (alternating once in the middle of the left or right side); sheets with the date 44 X. exist to support my conclusion.

Let me show a sheet with such a date.



Figure 1. The only known imperforate full sheet with such a date.

As we can see, the sheet is IMPERFORATE. What could have happened?

In describing the stamp, the Monograph writes the following: *"Illegally acquired press sheets without perforations of the 30 filler stamp were circulated amongst collectors."*

The Handbook presents the following analysis: *"Imperforate 30f stamps were illegally removed from the printers. Their value is minimal."*

In my opinion, the following could have happened. As these stamps were being printed during the normal operations at the printer, the building of the Hungarian State Printer also suffered damage because of the Russian and Anglo-Saxon bombings. In the chaotic hours that followed, someone absconded with a few uncut 4x100 sheets that were out in the open and unguarded for a short period of time.

Based on my extensive philatelic experience, I estimate that the quantity of the missing sheets is between 5 and 10. This quantity could have been easily overlooked in the total quantity of sheets printed. The sheets were then cut apart so that collectors could acquire a smaller or large number of stamps as well as to camouflage the theft. Consequently, no other complete sheets can be found as opposed to the number of pairs and blocks of 4.



Figure 2. Pairs of stamps with central gutter indicating that uncut sheets of 400 were taken from the printer.

Between October and December of 1944 it was not advisable to use these imperforate stamps for franking because of the risk of being discovered. Starting in 1945, however, the legal situation changed completely and the risks abated; but we still don't find frequent use of these on cards or letters. I am showing the nicest block of 4 from a few known examples used on a local, ordinary, philatelic, slightly overfranked (78 fillers) postcard. On the reverse side, the sender calls the addressee's attention to the affixed imperforate stamps.



Figure 3. Overfranked local postcard mailed at the Budapest 4 post office on July 27, 1945 (the correct rate would have been 1,60 Pengo). This is the only known block of 4 on a postally used mailing.

THE USE OF THE 2 AND 5 PENGO STAMPS FROM THE MILITARY LEADERS SERIES

By the late fall of 1944, the military situation was desperately bad. There was little doubt that we had lost the war and the main goal was to stay alive. A stamp issue occurred in this dire situation that may have been planned for a better time and for which there was no urgent need. The subject here is the last two values of the Military Leaders set, the 2 and

5 Pengo face value stamps in brown and violet colours. They are similar to the colours of the 2 and 5 Pengo Regent's Portrait 2nd and 3rd series stamps in use since 1941. The terrorist ruling Arrow Cross party did not consider these to be politically correct at the time since Horthy took steps to end the war (the "bailing out attempt"). The new (Arrow Cross) regime that came to rule after October 15, 1944 (the date of seizing power) had little time to prepare a new issue, so they stayed with the original designs.

The two new regular stamps were issued 10 days prior to siege ring closing around Budapest. Normal traffic had stopped earlier from the north, east, and south. Back then, in the evenings we heard the sound of cannon fire from the direction of Vecses. The people were fleeing westward out of the capital, and all services were about to disintegrate or were heading in that direction. Stamp issues? Who would be interested?

Solely ME! I remember that the young lady living next door who was a postal clerk happily brought me the two new stamps on the evening of December 15th knowing that even then I was an enthusiastic stamp collector. I will never forget that joy. What a treasure! (I thought)

Thus the post office had the new stamps but before it could distribute them, there was no place to do so. The larger post offices in Budapest received a supply, but the somewhat open roads in the westerly direction were packed with caravans of refugees, not with supplies of stamps. Packaging, sealing, accounting for these was impossible! There was panic and chaos everywhere.

(I am aware of the fact that these stamps were available in the postal warehouse at the end of November, but there was little significant difference in the military situation even then.)

What purpose did these 2 stamps serve? They could be used mostly to pay for shipping parcels because there was no need for a 5 Pengo stamp when the letter tariffs were relatively low. (Revisiting: local letter 20 filler, domestic 30 filler, local registration 50, domestic registration 70 filler.) And, at the time they were issued, the postal parcel traffic had ceased!

Let's look at the available information regarding these 2 stamps. The Handbook puts the brakes on our natural curiosity: the 2 Pengo on a letter from 1945 is 200 points, a 5 Pengo letter is 800 points. These are pricey valuations!

2.1. USE IN DECEMBER 1944

These two stamps used at the time of issue in December 1944 had been unknown previously. Dear Reader, it's my greatest joy that now I can show you one such mailing, this UNIQUE letter. Miraculously perfect and beautiful. I had recently discovered this item and its scarcity is unparalleled!



Figure 4. Front side of the letter of value mailed from Budapest 4 on December 27, 1944.



Figure 5. Reverse side of the letter of value with the unique 2 Pengo stamp that is a part of the 2,10 Pengo franking.

We see the letter of value, on the front side of which is the postage calculation next to the sender's name. The 1,30 Pengo is the fee for a 2nd weight class (53gr) domestic registered letter. Letters of value were handled as registered mail, but they were processed separately and not accounted for along with the rest of the registered letters. 80 filler is the double value fee. The single value fee was 40 filler for 400 Pengo contents; the declared value was 600 Pengo, so it required the 2nd value fee increment, 2 x 40 = 80 filler + 1,30 P. registration = 2,10 Pengo.

The letter was addressed to Andrashida in Zala County. After an extensive search, I managed to find it on the map and discovered that the settlement had been integrated into the city of Zalaegerszeg. Furthermore, we can see the annotation "forgalom szünetel=service suspended" and a return arrow marked in blue pencil.

After the very informative front side, let us look at the reverse side. A 10 filler Hadik stamp together with the 2 Pengo make up the 2,10 Pengo franking. The stamps were cancelled on the day of the posting: 44 DEC. 22. at the inner city Main Post Office No. 4. This is interesting from several points of view. As I stated in an earlier work published in the Belyegvilag, this date was a Friday, the last regular work day for the postal service in Budapest. Therefore it was a typical workday "when the post offices were open." From the letters cancelled on the following day, December 23rd (Saturday), we see that only the larger post offices processed mail. We can also see from this letter that it was transferred from the No. 4 post office to No. 70, where it was judged to be undeliverable and placed into safe custody.

The letter also shows 5 wax seals alongside he stamps. The seals survived the adversities of the past 75 years intact.

What story does this letter tell us? This letter that was accepted for delivery to Zala County on December 22nd at 4:00PM is the ONLY LETTER TO SURFACE with the 2 Pengo stamp from the two values that were issued one week earlier on December 15th. The following interests me greatly: why

was this letter accepted in the first place? Why didn't somebody say the magic words "a forgalom szünetel=traffic is suspended" out loud? At that time there may have still been a few believers in a reversal of fortune because the "miracle weapon" (die Wunderwaffe) was coming which would restore our military advantage. Or, the liberating armies were coming to repel the Russians. Still, postal traffic would resume shortly, and this situation is only transitional.

In my article from the January 2018 issue of Belyegvilag, I mentioned a postcard from Denes Czirok's postal history column. It was sent registered to Zagreb on December 22, 1944 and was accepted even during this nonsense situation. On the next day, it was placed into limbo with the marking "Vissza! Forgalom szünetel=Return! Service suspended." These were registered mailings not dropped into a letter box but handled in person at a post office window. Had the post office not accepted these letters, they would have acknowledged the hopelessness of the military situation. Such a mailing prompts interesting speculation…

The 5 Pengo value from the set has not turned up on a letter from 1944. It may seem that the Postal Directorate did not distribute the 5 Pengo stamp even in Budapest because of the turmoil at the time as well as the lack of demand (there was no postal parcel service). As we will see later, only two mailings with the 5 Pengo stamp turned up AFTER the siege from the No. 114 post office that operated out of the Directorate's office building on Szell Kalman Square.

So much for the use of the two stamps in Budapest prior to the end of the war.

The situation was dire on December 15, 1944. Thousands of refugees waited for the few trains that arrived on railroad lines that were still open. The transportation of mail did not exist. A few pieces of mail may have arrived on postal wagons.

Knowing this situation, my VISUALIZATION is as follows:

Because of the bad transportation situation in Transdanubia, the distribution of the 2 and 5 Pengo to the post offices could have occurred using a single motor vehicle. Its route: Budapest, Szekesfehervar then taking a side road to Pecs and another: Sarvar, Beled, Sopron, Agfalva, Nagycenk, Szombathely, and Szentgotthard. I did not find any traces of routing to Gyor. This route follows the route taken by the small detachment fleeing toward Austria near the end of 1944. But, this is only SPECULATION…

As Western Hungary gradually got smaller, there was little need for stamps in the unoccupied areas. Their usage prior to the end of the war (April 4, 1945) or even a few days later is unknown. The first pieces found are from early June 1945, during the 1st rate period of the inflation, used in Sopron. The 30 covers from my collection fall exactly along the route given above. The 30 pieces included items from a recently broken up large collection from Szeged.

I am not writing this to brag but to explain what is involved here: after having inquired from multiple Hungarian collectors, I did not encounter these two stamps. At auction houses: nothing. Stock of the Stamp Museum: still nothing. Thus the 30 covers that I had collected fastidiously over the span of 50 years speak for themselves.

2.2. POSTALLY USED MAILINGS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE BUDAPEST TARIFFS (1945.03.02 – 05.01.)

The use in Budapest was possible because the tariffs were already increased as of March 2, 1945. (Budapest emergency tariffs). A non-local letter was 60 filler, registration outside of the customs border was 1,40 Pengo. Below is a letter addressed to the Red Cross with a 2 Pengo stamp. How did the stamp get to Újpest? Újpest was a part of the Budapest environs that benefitted from the distribution of the 2 Pengo stamp in mid-December; thus the stamps were on hand when the service was re-started.



Figure 6. Registered letter mailed from Újpest on March 16, 1945 franked with a 2 Pengo stamp according to the "Budapest local emergency tariffs."

I found another registered letter, also from Újpest with 2 Pengo franking sent to Budapest on March 19th. The sender had to walk to Újpest from Rakospalota since the post office wasn't open there, yet. The registry number on the first letter is "193"; on the second letter sent 3 days later, it's "241" indicating that in a span of 3 days, 50 registered letters were posted. Still, despite the increased traffic, only two examples are known!

2.3. POSTALLY USED MAILING DURING THE FIRST RATE PEERIOD OF THE INFLATION (1945.05.01 – 07.01.)

Again, we see a 2 Pengo stamp affixed to the letter, which is a local registered letter, the tariff on which, effective as of May 1st, is as follows: 50 filler, local letter, local registration 1,50 Pengo, for a total of 2 Pengo.



Figure 7. Local registered letter mailed in Budapest on May 15, 1945 franked with a single 2 Pengo stamp.

Rakosszentmihaly was not part of Budapest then, only in 1950 was it incorporated into the capital's administration. A postcard mailed from here required the domestic rate franking. The next figure shows an 18 filler postcard sent registered from Rakosszentmihaly to Budapest with supplemental, 3-color franking. The fee for a domestic postcard was 60 filler, registration 2 Pengo, total of 2,60 Pengo.



Figure 8. Registered postcard sent from Rakosszentmihaly to Budapest on May 22, 1945 with a total franking of 2,60 Pengo.

Next, I can show a very interesting item. A large quantity of telephone bill statements was offered on the philatelic market in the 1960s. Some of the forms had stamps. The statements showed a due date by which payment was required for the service. If the payment was not received in time, a 5 Pengo late fee had to be paid. On most of these forms, the 5P/8f Rakoczi stamp overprint from the 2nd Provisional series was used to indicate this fee. In a very few cases, the 5 Pengo stamp from the Military Leaders series was used. However, this is extremely scarce.

These statements were mailed on September 21, 1945 (this date of the mailing was during the 3rd rate period of the inflation) at the No. 114 post office that operated in the (damaged) office building of the Postal Directorate on Szell Kalman Square. The 5 Pengo stamp, used during the 3rd rate period, was available in the office of the directorate, possibly in not a very large quantity.

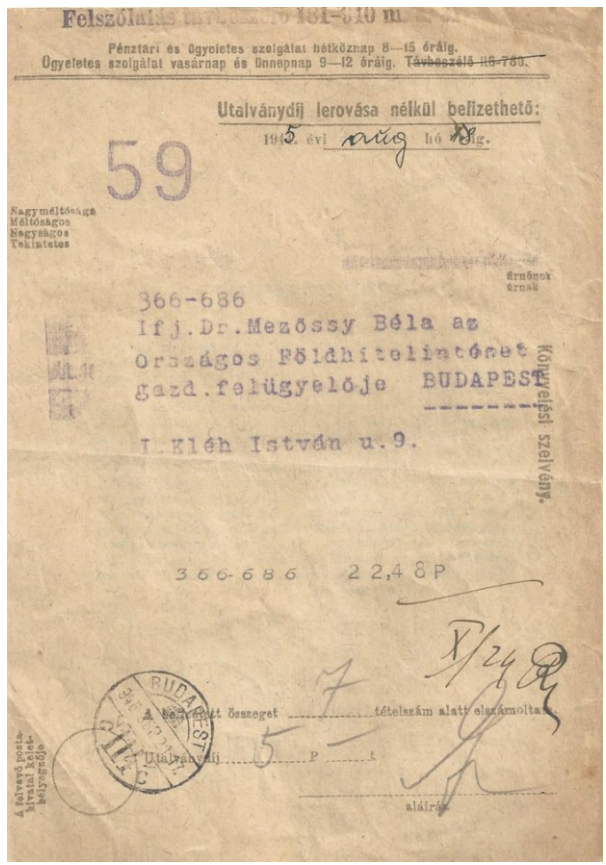


Figure 9a. 5 Pengo late fee paid on a telephone statement from the Budapest 114 post office (front side)



Figure 9b. Reverse side of the form with the 5 Pengo stamp.

I have another registered letter from the Budapest 114 post office with a 5 Pengo stamp, but it is a bit unsightly, so I'm not going to show it.

Before we travel to Transdanubia. I'm going to make one or two irregular comments.

In my opinion, the 5 Pengo stamps were not distributed to the Budapest post office in December 1944, but were placed under lock and key because of the difficult situation after a shipment was sent westward. The FELSZABADULAS (Liberation) set appeared on May 1, 1945 as the first issue following the liberation. Let's look at the basic stamps that were overprinted: they were the 1 filler to 1 Pengo stamps. Neither the 2 Pengo nor the 5 Pengo received the overprint. These two values had not yet entered postal circulation because they were still in storage. However, it is noticeable though that the 5 Pengo stamp usage is relative abundant in Transdanubia.

2.4. THE USE OF THE 2 AND 5 PENGO STAMPS IN TRANSDANUBIA (1945. JUNE – OCTOBER)

How did these stamps reach Transdanubia from Budapest at the time when the siege was imminent? Railroad connections did not exist. On a few lines that were open, the traffic was improvised. As I surmised previously, the Postal Directorate sent out a small detachment on a motor vehicle around December 5-10, 1944 with the 2 newly released stamps in their baggage. Their goal was to reach the border and leave supplies of stamps in unoccupied towns and settlements. They completed this task. The distribution of the material found subsequently confirms the route that I gave previously. It is interesting that the number of items found increases as they got closer to the border. Items from Sopron turn up most frequently.

Szekesfehervar is the first stop on our virtual tour of the stamp shipment. We find the first copy of the 5 Pengo stamp from Transdanubia from here (from a geographical perspective). I am using this mailing as a start for showing these scarce letter, card, and parcel slips.

The registered letter sent to the Postal Savings Bank is extraordinary. Postal checks were sent to the central office in this envelope; and, as we can see from the imprint, the mailing would have been postage-free. The prudent sender, however, mailed the envelope with registration that required 5 Pengo according to the tariffs at the time (between 1945.07.02 and 1945.09.15).

This was paid with a 5 Pengo stamp creating this very interesting mailing. A registry etiquette was unavailable at Fehervar, so a piece of paper was used to create a provisional registry label.



Figure 10. A registered "check envelope" mailed from Szekesfehervar to Budapest on August 17, 1945. The registry fee was paid with a 5 Pengo stamp.

From here we make a long arc to the south. It is impossible to explain how these stamps made their way to Pecs. Most likely, they arrived from Fehervar after the postal service resumed. Pecs fell to the Russians on November 29, 1944.



Figure 10a. The stations of the virtual tour in Transdanubia. Use is known from red-framed settlements.

The nice commercial letter shown below with 3 Pengo franking according to the tariffs of the 2nd rate period went to Budapest as an ordinary letter with a local censor stamp.



Figure 11. Domestic 20 gram letter sent from Pecs to Budapest of August 8. 1945 franked with 1 + 2 = 3 Pengo stamps in accordance with the 2nd rate period of the inflation.

I also found a picture postcard, the use of which is unusual for this time, sent from Pecsvarad to Budapest. We can see the provisional Pecsvarad cancellation on the card. (Figure 12 on previous page.)



Figure 12. Postcard sent from Pecsvarad to Budapest on July 12, 1945 correctly franked with a 2 Pengo stamp according to the 2nd rate period tariffs. It was cancelled with a provisional rubber canceller.

The next use is from Sarvar, a town best known for its sugar factory.



Figure 13. Postcard sent from Felsopaty to Szeged on August 20, 1945 franked with 2 Pengo according to the tariffs of the 2nd rate period of the inflation. Cancelled with a provisional rubber stamp. The face value of the indicium on the card was not taken into consideration.

An employee purchased the card there, took it home to Felsopaty (today its known as Rabapaty, 5 km to the north of Sarvar) to write a message, after which he mailed it at the local post office after August 20, 1945. That's what's revealed from the message. The date on the provisional cancellation is illegible.

I found another mailing from Sarvar. The delivery confirmation notice was signed in Csenge (5 km east of Sarvar) on September 18, 1945 and was forwarded to Zalaegerszeg on the next day. It was handled as printed matter and franked with a 2 Pengo stamp in accordance with the 3rd rate period of the inflation. The printed text "Hivatalból Díj átalányozva" indicating the sender did not have to pay postage was ignored. In my collection, I have another similar mailing from October 11, 1945.



Figure 14. Delivery confirmation sent from Sarvar to Zalaegerszeg on September 19, 1945 franked with a 2 Pengo stamp, the correct rate for the 3rd rate period of the inflation.

Szombathely is 24 km from Sarvar and it's our next destination on our virtual tour.

The usages from here are very interesting. Let's start with a postcard that is spectacularly franked with 7 Pengo using multiple stamps. This was the

tariff for a registered mailing. One of the stamps on the card is an invalid 1 filler from the Churches series; another one is a 5 Pengo stamp. These turn up "more frequently" near the border. We can also see the mark of the local Soviet Russian censor.



Figure 15. Registered postcard sent from Szombathely to Gyongyos on August 1, 1945 with a total franking of 7 Pengo according to the 2nd rate period inflation tariff.

Another spectacular rarity waits for us in Szombathely. We can see 18 Pengo franking on a parcel slip from August 6th consisting of a pair and a single 5 Pengo stamp as well as 10 30 filler stamps from the Military Leaders series. This was the tariff for a 5 kg parcel sent to the farthest destination during the 2nd rate period. The 3 5 Pengo stamps are unique on a single mailing.



Figure 16. Parcel slip sent from Szombathely to Budapest on August 6, 1945 during the 2nd rate period of the inflation with a total franking of 18 Pengo. (The picture shows 3 x 5 Pengo stamps. There are 10 30 filler stamps on the reverse side.)

I also have a nice letter in my collection from this town with a 1 + 2 + 5 Pengo franking variation, but I'm not going to show it since there's going to be a better item!

The next stop is Szentgotthard. We have a postal card from there similar to the one from Szombathely, 7 Pengo franking again with a lilac 5 Pengo stamp. The card was sent to Kormend with a provisional registry label.



Figure 17. Registered postcard sent from Szentgotthard to Kormend on July 1, 1945 with a total franking of 7 Pengo corresponding to the rate during the 2nd rate period of the inflation. The registry label is provisional.

We reach Sopron heading north along the border. I found 2 items with 8 Pengo franking. I have to show both of them since each of them are important examples of postal history.

The registered letter went from the small Sopron 4 post office to Miskolc. This represents a scarce routing since travel connections were disrupted for almost half a year. We can see the Miskolc censor stamp on the envelope. This is interesting because its use dates from the FIRST World War. Back then the text read "KATONAI CENZURA MISKOLCZ." A pessimistic official didn't discard the stamp, but kept it for 27 years thinking that it might be useful again. It happened this way, but the word "KATONAI" was excised from the device. This proves that a pessimist is nothing more than a well-informed optimist. The three-colour (green, brown, and violet) non-overprinted stamps make this letter very spectacular but hard to find a duplicate since the 1st provisional series was already in circulation as of June 1, 1945.



Figure 18. Registered letter sent from Sopron 4 to Miskolc on July 20, 1945 franked with 8 Pengo in accordance with the 2nd rate period of the inflation. The registry label is blank. "CENZURA MISKOLCZ" censor stamp. The letter arrived in 4 days.

Next, we see the most spectacular mailing from this area. We again find 3 un-overprinted stamps on a business envelope. Although the letter went from Sopron, we see that the company's headquarters and factory were located in Repcelak. Please, make a mental note of this settlement for a few minutes. The letter was addressed to the Postal Savings Bank in Budapest as many other 5 Pengo letters were. This is the nicest cover from this era; its attractiveness and visual appeal are outstanding.



Figure 19. Registered letter sent from Sopron to Budapest on August 8, 1945 satisfactorily franked with 8 Pengo according to the 2nd rate period of the inflation. The letter arrived in 4 days.

Nagycenk is near Sopron and its most famous landmark is the famous Szecheny manor house. The town's postmaster, when fleeing to the west, took with him the cancelling device as he was directed to do (?) from the post office. No registry labels remained, either. Thus in June of 1945, manuscript invalidation was needed.

I am familiar with 2 mailings from here with the ominous 2 Pengo stamps; and, because of their scarcity, I'm showing both. The franking on the first one is correct in accordance with the 2nd rate period of the inflation. The postcard was mailed to Gyulaj in Tolna County where the stamps were badly defaced upon arrival by a strike from the village's large rubber stamp. The hand-annotated registry label's serial number is 140. I like this card because it has the initials of a noted historian and great philatelist (founding member and first president of MAFITT), Professor Laszlo Makkai. The 2,60 Pengo franking corresponds to the 1st rate period of the inflation fee of 60 filler for a postcard and 2 Pengo for registration.



Figure 20. Registered postcard sent from Nagycenk to Gyulaj on June 25, 1945 with manuscript invalidation of the 2,60 Pengo franking that was correct during the 1st rate period of the inflation.

The next (marvellous), or as my great fellow collector who passed away much too early, Professor Bernath used to say "festive" cover has a strip of four 2 Pengo stamps, for which I had never seen a match. The manuscript date written on the stamps was VII/3 at first and then was corrected to VII/4. The settlement name ***Nagycenk*** is written below the stamps. The serial number on the hand-written registry label is 168, so comparing it to the mailing above, 28 registered mailings were posted in the small village in a span of approximately 2 weeks. I have been watching for these scarce letters in philatelic offerings for about 30 years and this letter is the first one that I found with 4x2 Pengo franking.



Figure 21. Registered letter sent from Nagycenk to Budapest on July 4, 1945 with the 8 Pengo franking manuscript invalidated. The franking is the correct fee during the 2nd rate period of the inflation.

The next mailing that we have is from Agfalva. This little village is next to Sopron in the immediate vicinity of the Austrian border. The occurrence of the 5 Pengo stamp from here is a mystery; and I can explain it only by suggesting that the motor vehicle fleeing to Austria left Hungary here. The picture postcard is from Sopron, mailed in Agfalva and sent to Kispest franked according to the 3rd rate period of the inflation. Domestic postcard: 6 Pengo. The small post office experienced light traffic, that's why it still had a supply of the 5 Pengo stamps in September.



Figure 22. Postcard sent from Agfalva to Kispest on September 23, 1945 franked with 6 Pengo according to the tariffs of the 3rd rate period of the inflation.

In conclusion, I would like to try to explain a couple of seemingly contradictory things. Dear Reader, what is your reaction to the mailings shown below, such as this express letter from the village of Beled with an ominous 5 Pengo stamp? Or, the parcel slip with a pair of 5 Pengo stamps from the same place?

If we look to find Beled on the map, its location emerges a mere 8 kilometres from Repcelak (2900 inhabitants). If we glance again at the previous (Figure 19) nice 1+2+5 Pengo letter, we can see from the sender's address that the Stauffer Company's main factory was in Repcelak. It is possible that the company's Sopron office supplied the stamps during the summer to the little village located near its factory. A unique item was created with 13 Pengo franking.



Figure 23. Express letter sent from Beled to Budapest on July 27, 1945 correctly franked according to the tariffs of the 2nd rate period of the inflation. (Letter fee: 3 P.; express: 10 P.)

The other item from Beled is a parcel slip for a 5 kg package for sending foodstuff, a common practice at the time. The package sent to a 3rd distance zone address cost 14 Pengo. Here we see a pair of 5 Pengo stamps just like on the parcel slip from Szombathely, so now we have seen two. The 3,5 kg parcel contained bread, and it was en route for 5 days providing the addressee something to chew on.



Figure 24. Parcel slip sent from Beled to Budapest with 14 Pengo in accordance with the 2nd rate period of the inflation.

With this we have completed the journey of the 2 and 5 Pengo stamps in Western Hungary. It was an interesting excursion.

Let us not disregard the two other items that turned up recently from the East. I will show one since the franking is very interesting. A stamp collector complained on the card from Balassagyarmat as to why he has not received new issues from stamp dealer Sandor Szekely? The card was franked with 6 Pengo according to the tariffs of the 3rd rate period of the inflation. One of the stamps was a 5 Pengo stamp that was not used there. The sender's occupation makes the explanation plausible; he was a postal official who received the stamps by mail from Budapest.



Figure 25. Postcard sent from Balassagyarmat to Budapest franked with 6 Pengo in accordance with the 3rd rate period of the inflation.

I'm mentioning the other item for the sake of completeness. It's a 2+1 Pengo letter from Miskolc from the 2nd rate period of the inflation. Other than this odd letter, there is no evidence for the distribution of the stamps towards the east. And, a single swallow doesn't bring summer. Of course, the letter is genuine as evidenced by the Miskolc (formerly military) censor stamp mentioned above.



Figure 26. Domestic letter sent from Miskolc to Budapest on August 1, 1945 satisfactorily franked with 3 Pengo in accordance with the 2nd rate period of the inflation.

Dear Reader! I tried to show in the small opus how many interesting facets are hidden in the 1944-1945 timeframe. Even if the topic doesn't contain sky-high rarities, we can still ponder about the bisects from the 1850-1864 era, of which there are more than 100 covers known that are valued in 5-digit euro sums each, while these small rarities go for 2-digit euro prices. Please, look into your "forgotten" material in your collections and see if there are any from this era.

Good luck! (To be continued!)

(I would like to express my special thanks to Denes Czirok and Karoly Szucs for their help in editing this article.)

NEWS

Tamas T. Sebestyen and the Dream Car

The sheet reconstructions assembled by Ferenc Orban were acquired by Tamas T Sebestyen, our MAFITT member who lives in Paris, during Orban's lifetime. Tamas continued to expand them with great reverence, respect, and diligence.

Although he gave up active collecting because of advancing age and passed on his collections to deserving Hungarian collectors, he kept his MAFITT membership and continued to visit Budapest regularly, several times a year.

Thus I had many opportunities to join him for dinner, sometimes in the company of others. We spent hours conversing about our life lifelong avocation, Hungarian philately. The site of these get-togethers was his favourite place, the Karpatia restaurant. This was also his base in the 90s when he was the chief editor of the Magyar Nemzet.

Our last meeting was in June 2018 when these pictures of him were taken exiting the restaurant. He smiled at the sight of the "Dream Car," the star of one of the most popular movies of his youth. Unfortunately, we have not met up with Tamas since, and we have been unable to reach him by phone or email. So, I am hoping that these possible last pictures of him published in the Philatelica will reach his son in his Paris residence. Hopefully, he can provide some news about his father.

Karoly Szucs





In memoriam Leslie Grof /1933-2020/

The memory of our recently deceased life member will be preserved in the Hungarian Philatelic Pantheon.

We recommend that our members visit this link and pay their respects to his memory. His legacy contained in the autobiography of his life's adventures provides an entertaining and edifying lesson for us. It's an open book for all of us.

www.mafitt.hu/pantheon



Leslie Grof in the Hungarian Day of Royal Philatelic Society (21 Mai 2014) *Photo: Karoly Szucs*

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H-1074 Budapest, Harsfa u. 47 Belyegmuzeum, Mafitt
e-mail: **info@mafitt.hu**

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