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Philatelica

Philatelica 2011/1

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Greetings

DR. GÉZA HOMONNAY

Let all the members of Mafitt be greeted on the occasion of the membership having elected me as their president at our last general assembly. This is a great honour for me also from the point of the list of the previous presidents, and I would like to seize the opportunity to introduce myself and my plans.

First of all I would like to express my thanks to our previous president, Gabor Visnyovszky, who acted as president for two full cycles after replacing Professor Istvan Lang. We all know that he has been a key figure in Mafitt ever since it has been founded; he has been working with a lot of energy and spent a lot of time in the organization and guidance of our association. Above the coming into existence of our four-yearly big events, the Mafitt-salons and world encounters, it is mainly due to his activity that Mafitt is a reputed association both in Hungary and abroad. We have numerous well reputed philatelist members, about half of whom live abroad and who together are an *excellent representation of the front line of philatelists dealing with Hungarian philately*.

Without the force of Mafitt to create a society the name of these philatelists would only be known in a much smaller circle. Our website contains the „Gallery", acting like a Pantheon of Hungarian philately, which commemorates the activity of all those philatelists to whom we have so many to thank but who are regretfully not among us anymore. This is one of the principal goals of Mafitt, laid down also in the statutes as well – our organization filled in this role continuously and with good results. Gabor Visnyovszky has always given tremendous help to me personally in obtaining knowledge about stamps and philately. I am grateful and indebted to him also for this and can only wish him a lot of success in his post-Mafitt-presidency career.

About myself: I am 52 years old, originally an electrical engineer and have been leading my informatics company GAMAX Ltd. for more than twenty years now. I was an ardent shopper of unused Hungarian stamps in my teenage years, then – after a longer hiatus, like at many other collectors – renewed my activity some 15 years ago, and soon focused at the 1867 issue, which grew to a good exhibition collection. In the last years I began to collect worldwide postal history as well.

This publication, Philatelica, old but still new, is a continuation of the previous high-level periodical produced by the scientific working society of Mafitt, only published for a year after the establishment of Mafitt and dormant ever since. The new publication maintains both the original conception and the well-accepted format. We plan to produce two issues per year, but hopefully this number can increase. *This depends mainly on the activity of our membership in contributing actively to the contents.*

During the existence of Mafitt the members have always and continuously demanded this professional publication, but – mostly because of financial reasons – the presidium has been unable to publish it. This has happened despite the strong need for a publication that could help our philatelists to make their results, especially longer articles, appear in a high-level environment worth the elevated level of the research of these philatelists.

The new Philatelica will appear not only in print but also on our website, which will make it possible for our interested members to follow already the conforming process of the new issues (and comment the articles before their appearance in print). Its digital format and CD attachment will also enable huge-sized materials.

The periodical will not only act as a high-level philatelist newspaper containing articles and lectures, but also as the newsletter of Mafitt towards the members, with news concerning the organization and other interesting news concerning the Hungarian philately. Partly for the sake of our non-Hungarian members, but mainly to achieve an international recognition for the results of Hungarian philately we will produce the newspaper in two languages, Hungarian and English. As main contributors to the contents of our publication we count on the membership of Mafitt, but good contents will be accepted from non-members as well. Another topic where the members can help us is the translation – here the only criteria are high level and professionalism.

One of the basic rules of Mafitt is that new members should deliver an inaugural lecture, possibly within a year. This process practically ground to a halt a few years ago, most members admitted in the last few years have not delivered such a lecture yet. We would like to rectify the situation and publish these lectures or their shorter versions in our publication. We would also like to make it possible to access the contents of previous inaugural lectures, as these could not be made accessible due to the lack of a publication.

We would like to refresh our website more frequently and publish even more useful contents on it. Among others we put up all available assembly notes, plus we develop continuously the portrait gallery. We have some remaining material to be sold from our previous events; these can be viewed under the „Supply" menu item of the website. Even for outsiders the website can be interesting by giving an authentic picture about the events organized by Mafitt during the past two decades plus about the literature results of our members.

One regular program of Mafitt is the bi-yearly Austro-Hungarian Postal History Symposium, which was due this August. As the previous presidium could not prepare the event thoroughly enough, the new presidium negotiated a new date for the event with our Austrian friends, so it will be held on the weekend of 15 April 2012, probably at the original, for our goals nearly perfect venue, Pannonhalma.

One of my cherished dreams is to make the data and knowledge about Hungarian stamps worldwide available. As a good source we can think of the Monograph of Hungarian Stamps, being a superbly written, valuable work. Regretfully it has three big flaws: first, it is in Hungarian, second, it is nearly 60 years old, meaning it contains obsolete parts and third, because of the size limitations it does not contain enough pictures and in good enough quality.

Therefore I would like to start a leading project of Mafitt named „Internet Monograph", which essentially would mean the preparation of a *modernized version of the Monograph both in Hungarian and English only for the Internet*, with a significantly expanded

picture material and the new philatelic discoveries of the past 60 years. This is a huge and highly responsible task, for which we will need all our knowledge. I would like to ask our members interested in this task to present themselves at our secretary or myself, as I would like to start the project by the end of the year.

Neither this biggest project, nor the other planned philatelic ones are possible without the active participation of our members. Therefore all the projects can be found on our website, where the would-be – participants can view the actual state and tasks of the projects.

Finally, I cannot pass by the forgery of the pre-stamp covers without a word – and related to this our connection to MABÉOSZ. During the last few years regretfully a kind of demarcation line sprung into existence between Mafitt and MABÉOSZ, the two main organizations of Hungarian philately. All this despite most of our members being members of MABÉOSZ as well and our belief is that it is right for persons having positions or tasks in both organizations

In the middle of the last decade Mafitt decided to examine the origins and spreading of these forgeries and to name the responsible persons. Members of the presidium, but most of our entire president have done extensive research, and as a result quite a few facts have been revealed, and also the role of certain persons in the forgeries and in the spreading of the material internationally. All these have been summarized in a newsletter of Mafitt to its members on 5 April 2006, which, together with other documents of this case can still today be found on our website.

No clear-cut, convincing proofs about the intentional spreading of these forgeries have been obtained though. Therefore my opinion is that there's no merit in dealing with this dead case anymore. And there's also no merit in staying in a state of war with MABÉOSZ. This is why the presidium of both organizations issued a Declaration in June declaring that they deem this fairly old case as closed. My strong personal belief is that this was the right thing to do, mostly because all of us have a certain finite amount of energy which can be used for philately and this finite energy should be used for forward-going matters.

As there is an ongoing dispute about this matter outside of our organization, but some of our members are taking part in these, for us it was important to declare because of these members that from our point of view the case is closed and anybody disputing the matter outside of our organization is his or her personal business, not that of Mafitt: I myself would not like to continue any debate with strongly influenced, biased persons, who often make accusations not respecting sometimes even human dignity. And even more so as most of these persons, among them the leading figure, using militant party lingo are not our members.

I am confident that just because Mafitt issued some statements about the forgeries, we should not allow that it should be the forum of the disputes continued in sometimes repulsively rude tone by some persons regarding the operation of MABÉOSZ. With especial regard to the fact that some participants of this dispute transgress the basic behavioural norms and try to publicly enforce the removal and expulsion of certain persons, being proud of the fact that they do not accept the greeting and handshake of these persons. This is not the standard of Mafitt-members.

Our statutes declare the clear aim of the factual and scientific approach to the topics of Hungarian philately and the discussion of the disputed matters in a tone worthy of our knowledge – and it is indispensable that this stays so. Regarding the forgeries of the pre-

stamp covers it has been our obligation to collect and publish the revealable facts – and we still have scientific tasks before us in connection with the more as 500 letters collected by the Gervay Foundation – but we do not have either cause or grounds to act as back-seat driver in the name of the adversely affected parties. And it's really none of our business to clarify the different opinions in another organization about the corollaries of the case. A scientific approach consists of the examination and analysis of facts and events; it does not consist of qualification of persons or judgment of their behaviour.

As part of our membership did not agree with this opinion, an extraordinary general assembly has been held just this November according to their wish with the sole aim of clarifying this matter. It has been a long and interesting debate, reaching the conclusion that the plurality of MAFITT membership agrees with the joint MAFITT-MABÉOSZ declaration and thereby with the strategic line adopted by the Presidium regarding this matter. (Actually it was interesting to see, that the two main problems of the members who called together this assembly, the notifying of the international philatelic community about this forgery and the researchability of the bought-up forged letters are both done deals.) This has been a reassuring vote for me so we can continue with our planned program.

To ensure the tranquillity of the creative atmosphere of Mafitt I would like to ensure everybody that this has been the last time I have dealt with this wayward theme and also in the name of the current presidium I would deem it as closed. I would like to resurrect the working mood of our members who may have been made unsure by these happenings and I hope they will once again rejoice upon participating in our community.

It should not be our main aim to collect the data about forgeries produced in a small country town some 25-60 years ago, to find out who sold these to whom and who bought it back and when. Rather we should concentrate on our publication, on the overdue inaugural lectures, on the development of the Monograph and on the organization of philatelic events.

Let us look forward, not backward!

As a fruit of the renewed cooperation with MABÉOSZ, and together with the Stamp Museum we will try to find a solution for the long-standing problem of the non-existence of institutional expert examination of philatelic items. A solution could be the organization of the current official experts into an association or chamber.

In the spirit of these thoughts I wish for everybody a successful philatelic work and nice new items into the collection!



Photos about the general assembly of Mafitt in April with the new Presidency

1922-1928. First International Air Routes and Airmail Postage Stamps Used

DR. GYÖRGY LŐVEI

Compagnie Franco-Roumaine de Navigation Aérienne (CFRNA)[1] was founded on 23 April 1920 in order to establish air connection between Paris and Warsaw on the one hand, and Paris and Bucharest on the other, via Prague. On 6 October 1920, Prague-Strasbourg-Paris-London route was launched; the intention was to extend it to Warsaw that same year. This extension was finally completed 'only' on 14 April 1921. On 14 August 1922, the route from Prague to Vienna was launched.

That same year routes to Bucharest and Istanbul were launched: on 22 September 1922 the first aircraft to Bucharest took off, while on 29 October 1922[2]–to Istanbul. According to Romanian historical sources, aircrafts reached Bucharest via Budapest; nonetheless, Check and Hungarian sources remain silent on this issue. Until 1925, these planes did not (were not allowed to) carry mail to Budapest even if they stopped there. At the beginning, aircrafts flying from Vienna to Bucharest with a stopover in Budapest went also to Arad, because Yugoslavia did not let planes from Hungary enter its territory (Latham, item 106). Latham erroneously identified Budapest-Arad- Bucharest as a separate route.

In his work, Latham mentions the following dates (*Magyar légiposta-Magyarországi repülőjáratok 1896-1978. (MABÉOSZ 1979*) John D. Latham: Airmail and flights 1896-1976 published by the Hungarian Philatleic Society in London, 1978) (Hereinafter: Latham):

15 May 1922: Belgrade; 28 June: Budapest-Arad-Bucharest and Budapest-Vienna; 21 September: Budapest-Belgrade-Bucharest; 15 October: Budapest-Bucharest-Istanbul; 7 November 1922: Budapest-Warsaw. These dates referred to flights; we do not know of any letters to be transported by these aircrafts!

Tálas listed the following dates:

04/05/1922: Budapest-Paris; from 28 June with rectangular pinkpostmark[3]

1922: Budapest-Wien. Letters bearing following dates are known: 12/8/1922, 4/10/1922, and 13/11/1922.

[1] From 1/1/1925 Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne (CIDNA), from 1933 Air France

[2] There were 46 pieces of Prague-Vienna letters, while two letters were posted to Bucharest and two to Istanbul, which means that these flights were experimental. The Romanian piece of data, on the other hand, mentioned 17 September. Katalog Trojan: Ceskoslovenská Letecká Posta 36,37)

[3] Berecz mentioned 1 May, stating also that the arrival date was 5 May. The question is when it took off, given the fact that the journey took one day.

Mail items transported by these flights survived until today.

For the sake of completeness, in the publication of Alföldi and Tálas (Alföldi-Tálas: Ungarische Luftpost 1896-1930 I. Teil [hereinafter: Tálas]) the data published by Latham were re-published again, with indication that mail items were missing.

Correct dates are the following based on Hungarian Official Journal:

23/6/1922–15/11	Strasbourg, Paris
21/7/1922– 15/11	Vienna
21/7/1922–	postcards, non-insured samples could also be posted
22/8/1922–15/11	Prague-Warsaw, though only mail items destined to Warsaw could be posted.

Berecz presented a "First flight" letter from 1 May 1922, to Paris (its authenticity being rather dubious), which testified to the fact that its sender was a 'prophet': he covered the postage fee effective from 23/06/1922 (30 Kor). Besides this one, occasionally other letters with interesting postage have been turning up, with numerous postage stamps on them, fixed address label, and inscription *Par Avion.* The latter was provided for by certain provisions coming into effect later. The letters bearing this inscription were undoubtedly forged, since they do not bear postmarks upon arrival, which was unusual and unjustified at that time.

So far I have not come across any data on the flight bearing serial number 99 in the work of Latham, which flew between Budapest and Belgrade; 28/6/1922 Budapest-Arad-Bucharest correctly should be Vienna-(Budapest-Arad)-Bucharest: the aircrafts did not carry mail to Budapest or Arad! (Sipos Józsefné: A légipostaszolgálat történetéből 1900-1944 in Bélyegmúzeumi Évkönyv, Közdok, 1988) also mentioned the abovementioned route in 1922. It was extended to Constantinople on 25 October).

A letter marked 15/d in the volume II of the Fischer Polish Stamp Catalogue 2010 was addressed to G. Gyula (Grósz Gyula) in Budapest. The date of acceptance to mail is not illegible, while the arrival Vienna Flugpost postmark can be read: 26/8/1922. This letter provides evidence to the fact that after 15/8/1922 aircrafts were running on the route Warsaw-Prague-Vienna-Budapest, occasionally, for technical reasons, mail was taken by air only to Vienna, and then transported to Budapest on railway.

In Hungary, the postal regulation of 23/6/1922 announced the launch of the route Budapest-Strasbourg-Paris. The regulation provided for the mail carried by these aircrafts and destined abroad to be postmarked at the post office No. 72 of Budapest. It had to be done by an airmail rectangular routing/indication pink color cancellation[4]. The vertical rectangular red postmark read: *PAR AVION LÉGI PÓSTA*. If the final destination was not accessible by air, the name of the location where the air journey ended was to be written on the line between the French and the Hungarian texts. The French word *jusqu'á* (to…/destination name) stood there. It meant that the mail item was taken to that destination by air, while the rest of the journey was done on railway, or ship.[5] According to Latham, this hand cancellation was first applied on 17/7/1922. It was replaced by newer by-planes ones in May of 1924; there was a short period when both cancellations were used.

Postmark *Budapest-Wien* was first stamped on 2/5/1924, on the flight of MALÉRT that took place that day. Postmarks with earlier date (28 April) have also survived; in spite of this, it was

[4] No air mail label was introduced in this time

[5] Berecz, images 4-19 -4-34, the letter posted to Amsterdam was sent to Paris by air, and then transported by rail. (Victor G. Berecz, Jr.: The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail, 1996.)

MALÉRT to open air traffic that year on 1 May 1924, and the by-plane cachet[6] *Budapest-Wien* was used for the first time on the MALÉRT opening flight. Other by-plane cachets cannot be connected to specific flights, notwithstanding their dates. (Postmarks used on Hungarian Philatelic Weeks were *Budapest-Esztergom*, *Budapest-Szeged, Budapest-Győr*, as well as those for the reverse direction).

In the volume I of the Monograph (pp. 628-9), only half a page was devoted to by-plane cachets. However, the Manual (Kézikönyv, Black book) deals with them in detail.[7] Berecz was the one to present the period most painstakingly, while Tálas processed the topic in catalogue-like manner.

There are still many question marks as regards the use of these postmarks; some dates still need to be established more accurately.

On top of what was said above, I have not come across any postal provision which might have served basis for introduction of these by-plaens cahcets. There is only one comprehensive table devoted to this issue, in the book written by Berecz. Although the study carried out by István Tálas and László Alföldi processed the letters in their possession **on the basis of their date and postmark color, there were no attempts to reveal when these by-plane cachets had come into use. Berecz indicated only years, while Tálas included precise dates.[8]**

Obviously, commemorative routing airmail postmarks applied in the three successive Hungarian Philatelic Week (*Budapest-Szeged*, *Budapest-Esztergom*, *Budapest-Győr*, 1924-1926) can be easily identified. On the other hand, there are no official data whatsoever on the introduction or use of the new type of routing air mail cancellations. However, we may safely say that on 1 May 1924 they came to replace earlier *Par Avion/Légipósta* hand stamps.

Parallel use of the two types was not exceptional in 1924. Berecz presented a letter from June of 1924 on which both types were used together. There is another letter from 1927, in my possession, which bears two different postmarks. We do not know of any reason justifying this simultaneous appearance of these two kinds of postmarks in 1927. (Berecz – pages 4-32, images 4-59)



mage 1.

The table on pages 4-31 of Berecz's book includes minor inaccuracies; Tálas's list is inaccurate just as well. This was the reason why I have supplemented the table with my own data and with those obtained from juxtaposing the two abovementioned sources. It does not mean that this new, integrated table below is the most accurate one; it only represents an attempt to demonstrate the difficulties of obtaining correct data.

[6] Berecz uses this word
[7] Manual of Hungarian Postage Stamps, page 234.
[8] Oral statement of István Tálas

City	Color	Year of Introduction (Earliest Occurrence[10])	Rarity[9]
Wien	B(lack)	1/5/1924	2 [11]
Warsaw	B	6/5/1924	4 [12]
Paris	B	6/5/1924	2 [13]
Zürich	B	12/5/1924	5 (red, according to Tálas)[14]
Belgrade	B	4/6/1924	5 (red, according to Tálas)
Strasbourg	B	4/9/1924	3 [15]
Munich	B	14/10/1924	3
Bucharest	B	?/11/1924	6 (Tálas: 26/9/1927)[16]
Berlin	B	19/9/1924	5 (Berecz: 1926)
Prague	B	6/9/1926	4[17](Tálas: 26/9/1927)
Cologne	B	1926	6 (Tálas: 26/9/1927)[18]
Graz	B	21/4/1927	RRR [19, 20]
Istanbul	B	26/9/1927	7 (Berecz:1926)[21]
Danzig	B	29/9/1927	- (Berecz does not know of it)[22]
Dresden	B	26/9/1927	3
Vienna (szept.27)	B	27/9/1927	1 [23]
Innsbruck	B	27/9/1927	3
Breslau	B	27/9/1927	2
Frankfurt am Main	B	27/9/1927	2
Leipzig	B	27 /9/1927	2
Nurnberg	B	27/9/1927	2
Ankara	B	1927	RRR [24]
Vienna	R(ed)	21/4/1925	3 (Berecz: 1927.)[25]

[9] Research and evaluation done by Berecz, evaluation carried out by Tálas: the cheapest value, according to the date, was 100 CHF; it was accredited one point. The most expensive was 850 CHF; it was a letter with a red postmark from Paris and Zurich from 1924. In this sense, the evaluation based on 1 to 10 points was realistic. Trojan Catalogue listed the value of + 800 Kcs, which seems low.

[10] I quote data from the research done by Tálas. When data are missing, I indicate the data of Berecz: 1/5/1924 Vienna, 6/5/1924 Paris, Strasbourg, Warsaw, and Belgrade.

[11] First flight of MALÉRT

[12] First flight of CFRNA

[13] First flight of CFRNA

[14] In this case the *légipósta/par avion* hand stamp and the new one were used simultaneously.

[15] This date was not very logical, since the flight Budapest–Paris always stopped over in Strasbourg.

[16] Image 4-60 in the study of Berecz presented a front page without a postage stamp or date, which means that Tálas's piece of data was erroneous.

[17] Actual introduction probably took place as early as the second half of 1926: the letter is a part of Zoltán Koleszár's collection.

[18] Berecz presented a letter of the company Pewny A. (page 4-37, image 4-68), and reported that it was posted in 1926. Latham does not know of Cologne route.

[19] On Felzmann Auction no. 117 a letter with the postage of 2,42 filler (item 243) turned up, which was posted in Graz to Goeorg Sobietzky. The word '*Wien*' was replaced by '*Graz*' on the routing hand stamp. The letter, its starting price being €1000, was not sold. It was a precious piece of the Green collection (Green was the leader of the Austrian Airmail Group in the USA).

[20] Tálas knew of a letter destined to Graz, which was posted on 20 May 1924; we do not know, if it was transported to Graz via Vienna or not, due to the lack of a hand stamp or flight.

[21] The hand stamp was used as a routing one too: it was applied to letters posted in Berlin and forwarded farther from Budapest.

[22] According to Tálas, regular use: 28/4/1928

[23] It was not a separate type. Berecz was the one to point it out because he considered its value to be base. In my opinion, it is rare because no one viewed it worth to collect, since it did not represent a new type. More accurate wording would be to say that *Vienna* and *Paris* hand stamps were the most frequent.

[24] Neither Berecz, nor Tálas knew it, though Tálas published the image of the hand stamp. It included the word '*Angora'*.

[25] Zoltán Koleszár's collection includes by-plane cancellations from 1926-1928. The earliest is *Budapest-Wien* 17/10/1926; there are also *Budapest-Paris,*

Berlin	R	27/05/1927[26]	
Dresden	R	29/9/1927	8 [27]
Paris	R	4/9/1924	9 (Berecz: 1927.)
Prague	R	19/8/1927	9
Munich	R	15/11/1924	10 (Berecz:1926.)
Zürich	R	26/9/1927[28, 29]	

The table does not include the only planed by-plane chachets: Budapest-Basel, Budapest-Budapest (!), Budapest-Krakow, Budapest-Lvov, and Budapest-Lausanne.

The revised table above allows drawing following general conclusions:

a)

Vienna	B	1/5/1924
Warsaw	B	6/5/1924
Zürich	B	12/5/1924
Paris	B	06/05/1924
Belgrade	B	04/06/1924
Strasbourg	B	04/09/1924[30]
Munich	B	14/10/1924
Bucharest	B	?/ 11/1924

Based on the dates above, 8 hand stamps were used in 1924.

b/ In 1926, by-plane chachets for Cologne and Prague were produced, since the direct route between Budapest and Prague had opened on 26/04/1926, and the route to Munich had been extended to Cologne (further two hand stamps).

c/ Between 25 and 28 September 1927, because the flights of Luft-Hansa AG had joined in, other biplane cachets were used; on 3-4 October it happened again, though this time the number of these ba-plane cachets was much smaller. Cachets with location names *Krakow* or *Basel* were not used at all; evidence proves that those with *Innsbruck* and *Danzig* were applied later too.

Danzig	F	29/9/1927	- (unknown by Berecz)[31]
Dresden	F	26/9/1927	3
Innsbruck	F	27/9/1927	3
Breslau	F	27/9/1927	2
Frankfurt am Main	F	27/9/1927	2
Leipzig	F	27/9/1927	2
Nurnberg	F	27/9/1927	2

d) As curiosity, I would like to mention that Tálas classified letters also on the basis of postage stamps, adding notes '*Ikarusz*' or '*Turul*'. The second group usually included smaller denominations of the series of the year 1927, which featured the official falcon with the Crown. **However, the fact is not mentioned that from 1 April 1927 (when the '*Ikarusz*' postage stamps were withdrawn) until 31 August 1927, letters could be posted only with regular postage stamps, because '*Turul*' airmail postage stamps were introduced only on 1 September 1927.**

e) Neither did Tálas mention (nor was he interested in) combined postage Korona-Pengő-Fillér –similarly to the indifference

Prague, Dresden, Zürich, Munich, Berlin. As compared to Berecz's list, even *Zürich* is a plus.

[26] Felzmann Auction 128, item 57: starting price €100

[27] Knowing the date, the evaluation seems exaggerated.

[28] Neither Berecz, nor the Manual mentioned it.

[29] Felzmann Auction 128, item 73

[30] According to Berecz, 6/5/1924: Paris, Strasbourg, Warsaw, Belgrade

[31] According to Tálas, regular use: 28/4/1928

reflected in the Hungarian Manual (Black Book). However, combined postage was acceptable between 26 March 1926 and 31 March 1927[32]. The value of the Ikarusz + pengő filler stamps is not yet calculated.

f) Berecz reported that by-planes cachets were used in 1927, on letters incoming from German: Mannheim/Budapest-Bucharest, Bonn-Budapest-Sofia and Munich-Budapest-Constantinople (Istanbul)[33]. In his view, CIDNA[34] applied these by-plane cancellation when it took over mail from Luft-Hansa in Budapest, with the objective to forward it further.

g) Red by-planes cachets were not used before 1926 (therefore, they had not been used in 1924); the reason why they were introduced or used is unknown. Their use for urgent mail would have been logical; however, neither legal regulations, nor posted mail items provide evidence to this. Zoltán Koleszár's red by-plane cachet, which comes from 1926 is the earliest one, is the only piece of evidence to substantiate the use of such hand stamps in 1926. Therefore, the year 1927 stated by Berecz is inaccurate. The year 1924 reported by Tálas was definitely an error, because then the earlier pink rectangular and the by-plane chachets were coexisting.

h) All in all twenty hand stamps were used, plus the modified one in Graz, which amounts to twenty-one hand stamps.

i) We should take into account that by-plane cachets were used excessively on airmail printed forms on 26 and 27 September 1927. The names of the recipients reveal that this use was driven by philatelic reasons. This explains why the value of these printed matters is much lower than that of regular letters. This was also the reason why Berecz thought that the letters postmarked by the by-plane cachet *Budapest-Wien* on 27 September 1927 were the cheapest, and should serve as reference point. I should note that I have never come across any letters posted to Vienna on that day; I have though seen postmarks on letters posted to other, more interesting destinations (for example, Prague was much more frequent). Some believe that these were first day of issue postmarks; the fact that the new filler-pengo airmail series was released on 1 September conflicts with this hypothesis.

Berecz mentioned, however, that it was then that the Post Office introduced the by-plane cachet *Innsbruck*, *Breslau*, *Frankfurt am Main*, *Leipzig*, and *Nurnberg*; these ones were then used for the first time. His extra point, as well as the +20% of Tálas referred exactly to this. Out of the newly introduced by-plane cachet, Tálas had only *Danzig* and *Innsbruck* on later ordinary letters. The later use is rare simply because the flying season ended in the middle of November, and did not start again before 1 April 1928. One month later the new air mail label was introduced, so the old by-plane cachets were already withdrawn.

j) The by-plane cachets were withdrawn not in 1927 but on 30/04/1928, when the new blue airmail labels were introduced in accordance with the provisions of the airmail conference held in The Hague. Interestingly enough, catalogues report that the by-plane cachets were used between 1924 and 1927. This piece of data was automatically and uncritically accepted. Typically of this approach, the Chech catalogue *Trojan ,as* on its page 189, stated that these by-plane cachets were used between 1924 and 1927. Right below this piece of information, the photo of a letter with Budapest-Praha routing postmark with the date 6 April 1928 took place!

[32] Berecz presented even two letters: pages 4-29, letters 4-53, 54.
[33] Berecz, pages 4-38, images 4-78
[34] The new name of CFRNA from 1925 became CIDNA. The Hungarian Official Journal referred to the latter as Paris-Constantinople Airline.

k) Hungarian studies reported that 16 or 18 hand stamps were actually used (Monograph of Hungarian Postage Stamps, volume I, page 628; Manual of Hungarian Postage Stamps, page 234), stating also that they were withdrawn in 1927. These works also mentioned that hand stamps *Budapest-Wien* and *Budapest-Dresden* were used with red ink too. The Manual did not mention the *Angora* postmark at all, while Tálas presented the image of the postmark. In the meantime, a letter with the postmark including the word *Angora* turned up; it was sent from Budapest to Ankara, the capital of Turkey.[35]

l) Nevertheless, Hungarian publications did not take into account the table quoted on page 139 of Tálas's book, who looked at postmarks also as regards their color. According to his categorization, red color was used for *Belgrade, Berlin, Constantinople, Dresden, Innsbruck, Köln, Munich, Nurnberg, Paris, Warsaw, Vienna*, and *Zürich* by-plane cachets[36]. Prague was missing from the list. The list of the Manual was even more insufficient.

It is interesting, that on a letter posted on 25 March 1929 read as follows: Par avion jusqu'á _____ (on the line, *Marseille* was written); it meant that at first the letter went from Budapest to Paris, and from there to Marseille by plane. We know for sure that the combined transportation from Budapest to New York via Marseille took ten days. Due to the inherent nature of postmarks, it is impossible to determine whether it was applied by a Hungarian or a French post, or by the airline company



Image 2.

The postage fee was paid in a special way: pengő-denomination airmail stamps were released only in 1930; due to this, the extra 2-pengő airmail fee was covered by 2 x 1 Pengő "narrow" Madonna definitive stamps, while the basic fee for foreign destination (40f), as well as the registration fee (50f) was covered by airmail stamps.

In 1950s, these by-planes cachets underwent an interesting change: the text and the image of the aircraft were removed from them, and they were used as special censorship hand cancellation for printed matters destined abroad or incoming from foreign countries[37].

In 1973, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the route Budapest-Zürich, the Hungarian Post Office had a new by plane-memorial cachet with the date was produced (1973 Latham 858)

[35] *Angora* postmark was included in Auction Profila 70 as item 6679.

[36] It was interesting that Berecz deviated from this list, notwithstanding the fact that he was familiar with Tálas-Alföldi book.

[37] Gábor Visnyovszki published an article illustrated with postage stamp images in Philatelica, integrated volume 90/2 and 91/1, page 51-52.



Image 3.

Letters decorated with by-plane cachets are mentioned in catalogues issued in all countries; we do not know of any instance of routing cancellations being used at similarly high level in any other country.[38]

In the appendix to this article, I try to summarize the departure times of international flights, which might help collectors to better understand this field.

Appendix

Launch of International Routes First flights

First Day	Airline	Route
Year 1918		
1918. 07. 01.	Military	Budapest-Vienna-Krakow-Lvov-Kiev
1918.07.23.		This route ceased to exist!
Year 1922		
28.06.1922.		Hand stamp CFRNA Par Avion/Légipósta used on Budapest-Vienna-Strasbourg-Paris[39] first flight
01.07.1922.		Budapest-Vienna (regulation)
28.07.1922.		Postcards may be sent! (Regulation)
22.08.1922.		Budapest-Vienna-Prague-Warsaw (regulation)
15.11.1922.		Airmail Flights Suspended
Year 1923		
30.06.1923.	MALÉRT	Budapest-Vienna-Munich-Zürich
15.07.1923.	Aero-Expressz	Budapest-Vienna
16.07.1923.	Olag-Aero Expressz	Budapest-Vienna- Munich - Zürich-Geneva
16.06.1924.		Budapest-Geneva – Munich, connection to:
MALÉRT +	AERO-EXPRESS	Munich -Frankfurt-Berlin
21.09.1924.	AERO EXPRESS	Budapest- Munich -Danzig
07.10.1924.	Zeppelin	Budapest-Paris -New York airship
20.04.1925.	CIDNA	Budapest-Vienna-Innsbruck-Zürich-Basel
01.07.1925	CIDNA	Budapest-Vienna-Prague
16.04.1926.	CIDNA	Beograd-Budapest-Prague

[38] In Czechoslovakia, Post Office Praha 1 occasionally used the red hand stamp *Letadlem z Prahy do/Par avion de Prague jusq'á ……* or 2-line bilingual hand stamp in 1927.

[39] Aircrafts carried mail only to France (Strasbourg, Paris); from there it could be transported on land. To Vienna, mail was not carried on this route

Sheet Reconstruction of the Hungarian 1 Krajczár Documentary Revenue Stamp

KÁROLY SZÜCS

Despite almost two years' worth of research, I was reluctant to start writing this article because I was still agonizing over unsolved problems. Since this topic is practically inexhaustible, by delaying it in order to come up with the 'final' solution, I would deprive those who collect Hungarian documentary revenue stamps an opportunity to link up with my results and to conduct additional research.

In order to put the open questions to rest, I would still need to examine many more stamps from their extended period of production in addition to the approximately 1500 examples on which I based this article. This is especially true of the 1869-72 and 1876-79 time periods from which, unfortunately, I was able to examine only a miniscule number of stamps.

My wish, which is not without foundation, is that this will present a significant opportunity for lovers of 'fiscal philately.' The popularity of revenue stamps amongst collectors has been growing contrary to that of postage stamps. Still, writings about postage stamps are accepted as a given. For this collecting specialty, such articles are sorely lacking.

It is easy for postage stamp collectors to tap into the publications prepared by many generations of philatelic researchers.

In the case of Hungarian philately, these publications include the seven-volume Magyar bélyegek monográfiája (1965-1981), the 20-year run of the Philatelica (1971-1991), and the Magyar bélyegek kézikönyve that is popularly referred to as the 'Black Book.'

It is fitting that with the re-emergence of the Philatelica, we take a short detour to make a historical connection with the past, evaluate the present, and look forward to the future.

The aforementioned list of publications is the crowning scientific achievement of a group of distinguished MABÉOSZ members. As the membership in MABÉOSZ ebbed, the publication efforts of this group decreased noticeable by the late 1980s. Some of their work was merged with the FIP exhibition organization division.

The Philatelica became a casualty of diminished financial resources by 1991. About this time, the Mafitt was organized to fill the void left in the area of organized research.

Unfortunately, the size of this group was two orders of magnitude smaller; and for two decades, it still could not resume the publication of Philatelica.

Luckily, we are living in changing times. Technical problems no longer impede us, and we can now proceed on the research path set by our predecessors.

The early issues of the Philatelica were filled with the publication of the sheet-reconstruction work of the 19th century envelope design krajczár issued conducted by Ferenc Orbán, Dr. Tivadar Petrovics, and László Pákozdi. It is fitting that, after a long hiatus, the restarted periodical should contain an article paralleling the research of the krajczár stamps with the revenue issues.

Personally, I would like to see additional articles on traditional philatelic subjects such as postal history and topical collecting in future issues. In this way, we should be able to restore the publication to its former illustrious level. Please keep in perspective as you read this first issue that support from every one of our members is necessary in order to accomplish this. Please consider how everyone can contribute to this effort in such ways authoring articles, lectoring research, and translating into foreign languages.

When I first read the Orbán-Petrovics articles on how to approach the sheet reconstruction research in the MABÉOSZ organization's periodical called the Filatéliai Szemle in the 1970s, I was only in my 20s. Their approach from the short description was easy to comprehend and the results totally amazed me. The application of their methods proved to be more challenging. Still, the ordinary means available to those philatelists at the time allowed them to discover the specific sports that located each stamp in the sheet amidst the myriad of common printing flaws. Although I've been babying my collection of classical Hungarian revenue stamps for a long time, I dared not to think about how to apply these same techniques to it.

The world has changed a lot and, luckily, I finally matured up to this task. Between the years 2002 and 2007, I participated in the publication of a work on fiscal stamp issues. This gave me familiarity with a lot of background information. My career in information technology also evolved and it supported my efforts so that one no longer has to be a genius in philately in order to discover, to associate, and to validate small imperfections on stamps. During the 3rd Mafitt World Conference in 2004, complete sheets of previously unknown classical Hungarian revenue stamps became available for viewing. These gave me a solid basis for conducting research. Eventually, my collection grew and with the help of many unselfish fellow collectors I was able to have enough material to start the project of sheet reconstruction. Also, in November 2009, I was able to gain access to and scan the sample sheets printed on cardboard stock housed in the library of the Ministry of Finance. One of these sheets was a sheet of 1kr stamp shown in the illustration (600dpi scan) that is included in the data-filled disk (download from the website of Mafitt).

Still, my work still does not measure up to the results[40] achieved by the great Orbán-Petrovics-Pákozdi trio, who worked up the positioning of the envelope-design krajczár stamps, either in the quantity of positions identified or the level of difficulty that they faced. In my case, the results also do not apply to the 2x100 subject printing plates[41]. In the case of the 1kr stamp, the fine quality of engraving on the master die meant that regular re-engraving repairs were not required as was the case of the shallow engraved plated used for the envelope design postage stamps.

The pioneering nature of this writing is indisputable. This is the first attempt of its kind to discuss the identifying characteristics in the sheet of one value from the documentary revenue stamp series of the classical period. I would like to ask that my fellow collectors exercise restraint in criticizing this work. Rather, I would prefer constructive criticism given that the individual nature of this work had no previous research on which to rely.

[40] See references 4, 5, and 6.

[41] Az The first plate used to print the documentary revenue stamps contained 100 subjects.

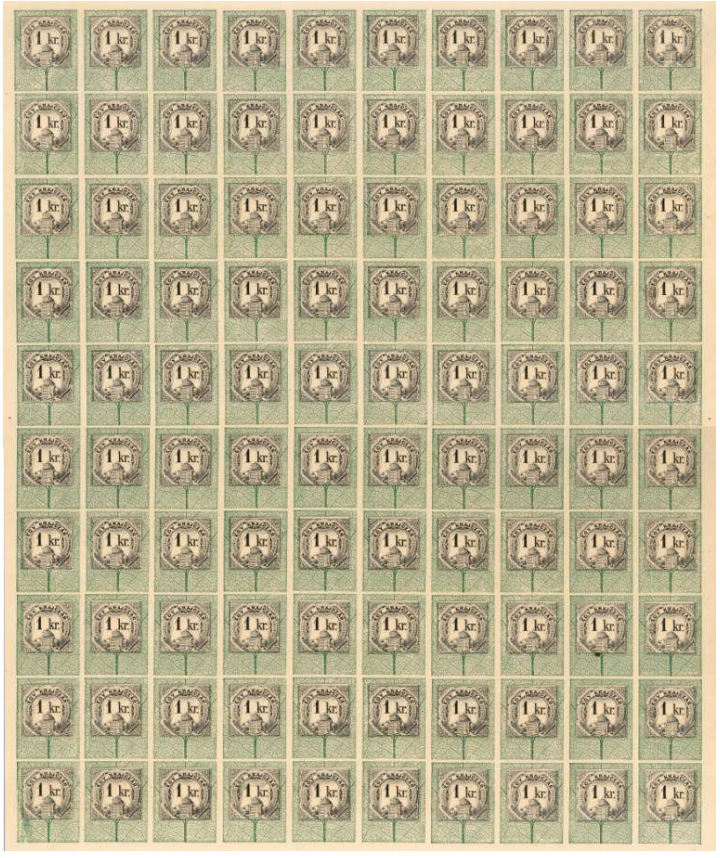


Figure 1. Sample sheet printed on cardboard stock
from the album prepared for the 1878 Paris World Exposition

I started to piece together the sheet reconstruction about two years ago using scanned sample sheets and accumulated stamps. Simply by happenstance, the 1kr value presented an excellent opportunity in solving the major problems. I showed my preliminary results at the MABÉOSZ 'Sándor Visnya' Traditional Collecting Section in early 2010. I repeated the showings in September 2010 at the IBK meeting held in Dabas and again at the HUNFILA 2011 stamp exhibition at Balatonfüred. My last exhibit included all of the discovered positional characteristics on the reconstructed 1kr sheet. This article represents the current status of my research as of July 2011.

I would like to acknowledge and express thanks to those who supported my work: manager of the Hungarian State Print and Mafitt member Dr. Erzsébet Novotny; Ministry of Finance librarian Mrs. József Földi; collector Ralph Ebner, who lives in Solingen, Germany; and collector Gyula Moys, who lives in Vác. My greatest thanks for the excellent translation of this complicated article into English belongs to Csaba Kőhalmi from Indianapolis.

Introducing the 1 krajczár stamp

The 1kr stamp is the most commonly encountered denomination from the 28-stamp series issued in 1868. (The 29th value was added to the series in 1870.) These stamps were produced using two printing techniques similar to the technology used to produce the Austrian documentary revenue stamps. The central part with its dominant appearance and richly detailed design features was printed using recessed engraving in black color. The underprinting on the rest of the stamps utilized typography.



Figure 2. A mint copy
of an 1868 1kr stamp printed in Vienna.s

The margins of the engraved design cover a small part of typographed printing that incorporates the veins of leaf used as a security feature.

The master plate for the first printing was prepared in early 1868 in Vienna because the Hungarian printers did not have the technical facilities necessary for stamp production. In 1889, with the need to print ever-increasing quantities of stamps, the transition to comb-perforating occurred and necessitated the construction of a second master plate. The work was done in Budapest. This second plate was used probably from 1889 to 1891. The indentifying marks listed here apply only to the stamps produced between 1868 and 1889 using the first master plate.

The initial printing of stamps issued on 20 June 1868 was so great that re-printings from Vienna[42] in 1869 and 1870 were ordered only for the most commonly used denominations. Printing in Hungary started on 1 October 1870 using equipment and plates transferred from Vienna. The production was supervised by technicians trained in Vienna. Certain circumstances[43] point to the fact that the first domestically produced stamp was the 1 krajczár value. During the 20-year life of these master plates, many production changes occurred[44] resulting in the possible existence, at least mathematically, of 200 different varieties.

This large number of philatelic varieties of the 1kr stamp makes it possible to ascertain the progression of sheet position identifiers that resulted from the regular, annual production of printing plates[45]. The one limiting factor in completing this study is the need for two to three times the quantity of 1500 1kr stamps that were available to date.

Description of the stamp design

Surprisingly, a detailed write-up of the designs from the first documentary revenue series has been lacking from philatelic literature. Since the discussion of the positional characteristics cannot be conducted without an accurate description of the stamp designs, this omission needs to be corrected.

Although trial prints exist[46], we do not know if there has even been one found for the 1kr value. Consequently, I can discuss the

[42] The steel engraving dies for the stamps, prepared by the master engravers of the Staats- und Hofdruckerei of Vienna, were based on designs by J. Bayer, a Hungarian-descent artist also employed at the printing plant in Vienna.See PMB, p. 59 and Koczynski, p. 338. The engraver for the 1kr design was H. Bültemeier, whose name is usually misspelled 'Büllemeir' in Hungarian literature. See Koczynski, p. 341..

[43] The 1kr stamps printed on thin parchment paper in Hungary starting in 1870 exist with four different underprinting. Initially, probably because of unfamiliarity with the use of the printing plates, two types of plates were used for the underprinting. These were not suitably matched with the size of the stamp and were intended for use on the smaller sized advertising revenue stamps. Soon thereafter, the use of these plates was discontinued..

[44] Paper types and watermarks as well as perforation measurements changed frequently. After 1880, the color of the underprint changed from green to brown. The positioning of the watermarks creates additional differences.

[45] The book, Pénzügyi bélyegek Magyarországon és a Habsburg Birodalomban (PBM, reference 3), appeared in 2007. In the handbook, my estimated quantity for the production of the green and brown stamps printed using plate no. 1 is 30 million. Ferenc Rend, in his writing contained in the Monográfia, stated that a contemporary recess-engraved plate could produce about 10,000 impressions of 100 stamps. This amounted to a quantity of one million stamps. In the 21 years between 1868-1889, therefore, 30 printing plates were needed to have been produced.

[46] At the 1992 Mafitt Salon, I discovered the trial printings that were originally in the well-known collection dr. István Floderer. The trial prints of the 1 and 5 forint stamps were shown on the cover of the Okmánybélyeg circular in 1998. Soon thereafter, both of these along with the original designs of the Military Border Districts newspaper tax stamps migrated abroad.

design based only on a relatively early clear impression made in 1868.



Figure 3. 1kr stamp design.

The dominant feature of the designs is the value indicator '1 kr' located in front of shading lines that get progressively thinner going from top to bottom. The curved text 'EGY KRAJCZÁR' is located above the numeral and is different than the location of such text of the other denominations of the series. The dual partial circle continues downwards symmetrically. The space between the panel for the numeral and the double circle is filled with decorative elements resembling the roofline of a house.

The Hungarian national crest occupies the space below the numeral. The crest is incorporated into a modified rectangular shield with chopped corners and is topped by the partially hidden royal mace and the Holy Crown with the cross on top leaning to the right[47].

The left side[48] of the crest is divided into eight stripes, four of which are shaded with vertical lines. The dominant visible feature of the right side is a double-barred cross resting on a small crown atop three hills. The background is shaded with vertical lines.

Ribbon-like design elements surround the shield and connect it, design-wise, to the numeral panel and the surrounding double circle. Shading lines fill the lower portion of the ribbons. On stamps printed from somewhat worn plates, these lines tend to fade.

The four corners of the stamp design are filled with stylized vines resembling Arabian-style decorative elements.

In order to conduct a computer-aided analysis of the stamp design, I first created a 1200 dpi scan of the central image along the outer margin of double lines. This allowed the visualization of the approximate 1% change due to paper shrinkage. The horizontal dimension of every scanned picture was shorter than the vertical dimension. The original picture design was probably perfectly square, although the dimensions of the subject shown in Figure 4 are 20.9 x 21.2mm; and it is not square because the upper right corner shifts downwards and the lower left, inwards. In order to

[47] The proper representation of the Holy Crown evolved only after the Compromise of 1867.

[48] According to the rules of heraldry, this would be the right side of the crest. In philatelic writings, however, the convention used describes the stamp design is from the perspective of the spectator.

be able to compare each image accurately, I had to reformat them to be the same exact size. This operation resulted in reversing the changes due to the paper shrinkage.

The image in Figure 5 served as the 1000 x 1000 pixel standard image, sized as an exact 21mm square. Even though the differences are not visible in the printed medium, viewing the two images on a computer screen from the CD attachment will reveal the distortion from the original picture.



Figure 4. Original scanned picture, 964 x 1006 pixels.



.Figure 5. Resized standard picture, 1000 x 1000 pixels.

Events leading up to the sheet reconstruction of the documentary revenue stamps

Collectors of the documentary revenue stamps held the belief for a long time that, because of the precise copper-plate engraving printing technology utilized in producing these stamps, identifiable sheet position characteristics do not exist. In the first edition of the OKMANYBÉLYEG (1991/1. pp. 8-16), Endre Szép wrote that the 'three bars' error of the 12kr stamp was discovered only in the 1930s, more than 60 years after these stamps were issued. This error was caused by repairs done during the assembly of the master plate.

Half a century after the initial discovery, in his article Endre Szép proved that the repairs were made during the image duplication process on a 50-subject portion of the plate. Thus, the error occurred in two positions 2 and 52, the full sheet of 100. In his article, using the multiples from his collection, he also pointed out the positional characteristics that could be found in positions 1 and 51. Following this first announcement up until today, we still had only four sheets positions identified for the 29-stamp series out of a possible 2300 sheet positions!

In the next two decades, this periodical published the single column characteristics for three different denominations. These were for the 2kr value discovered by Endre Szép in 1991 and for the 30kr (in 2006) and the 1kr (in 2010) based on my discoveries. After seeing my sheet reconstruction exhibit in 2011, several collectors commented that they were aware of the characteristics found on the 5th and the 10th columns of the 1kr value, although they never considered promulgating their discovery.

In reality, the possibility of being able to start the sheet reconstruction existed back in the 1990s. The small number of collectors familiar with this area may have been a drawback and the main reason why it was not done. Even now, I am not aware of anyone who has attempted an approach similar to mine.

Bottlenecks in the sheet reconstruction of the 1kr documentary revenue stamp and how they were overcome

One of the prerequisites for starting the research for a sheet reconstruction project, in addition to having perhaps several thousand stamps on hand, is the availability of large multiples. While this is not absolutely necessary, it definitely helps to get the project off the ground floor. A full sheet of stamps would also serve as a good way of double checking the results.

For quite some time, the lack of large multiples of the documentary revenue stamps seemed like an insurmountable obstacle for me. Multiples of revenue stamps are much more scarce that those of postage stamps. As we know from experience, revenue stamps, even when several copies of the same value were required for payment, were attached individually.

Signs point to the fact that documentary revenue stamp sheets were not kept intact by the users, who tended to separate them into strips. It was more convenient this way than to store with full sheets, the size of which was twice that of the postage stamps. Most likely, such strips were held together with paper clips, and the necessary stamps were removed one at a time.

I have concrete evidence of the existence of such unused strips of the ½kr, the 1kr, and the 2kr stamps. I am using one such strip of the 1kr stamps as a part of my sheet reconstruction.

Naturally, the unused strips are curiosities and are hard to find. We cannot bank on the availability of enough examples to support the sheet reconstruction. The vast majority if the classical revenue stamps are singles. Their existence in pairs is rare; larger multiples are even harder to find.

Still, it is a help to us that documentary revenue stamps came in more varieties that their contemporary postage stamps. The basic material for the sheet reconstruction can be acquired from bundles of 100 usually available on the philatelic market. From these bundles, even though the availability is not as great as is the case with postage stamps, we can find useable copies originating from the same sheet. This helps to support the reassembly of larger multiples.

Figure 6 shows an example of how two stamps can be matched as a pair using the partial cancellation, the complimentary perforations, the correct positioning of the watermark, and the color match of the underprint as guides.



Figure 6. Pair of stamps shown under a magnifier matched from a bundle mixture.

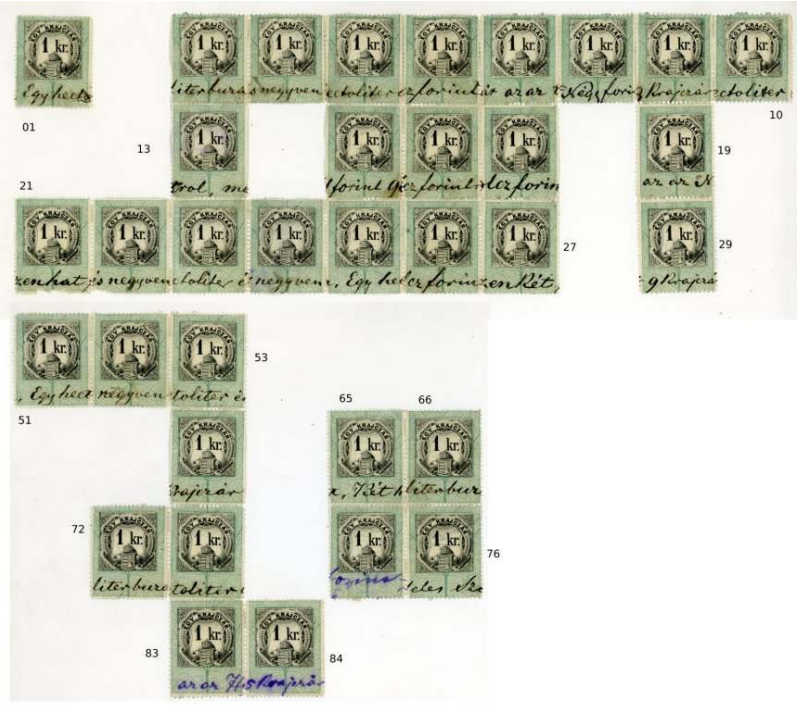


Figure 7. 1873 issue KRAJCZÁR watermarked stamps originating from the same sheet with 34 positions identified.

In September 2009 I came across the first opportunity to assemble a larger multiple suitable for comparison with the sample sheet.

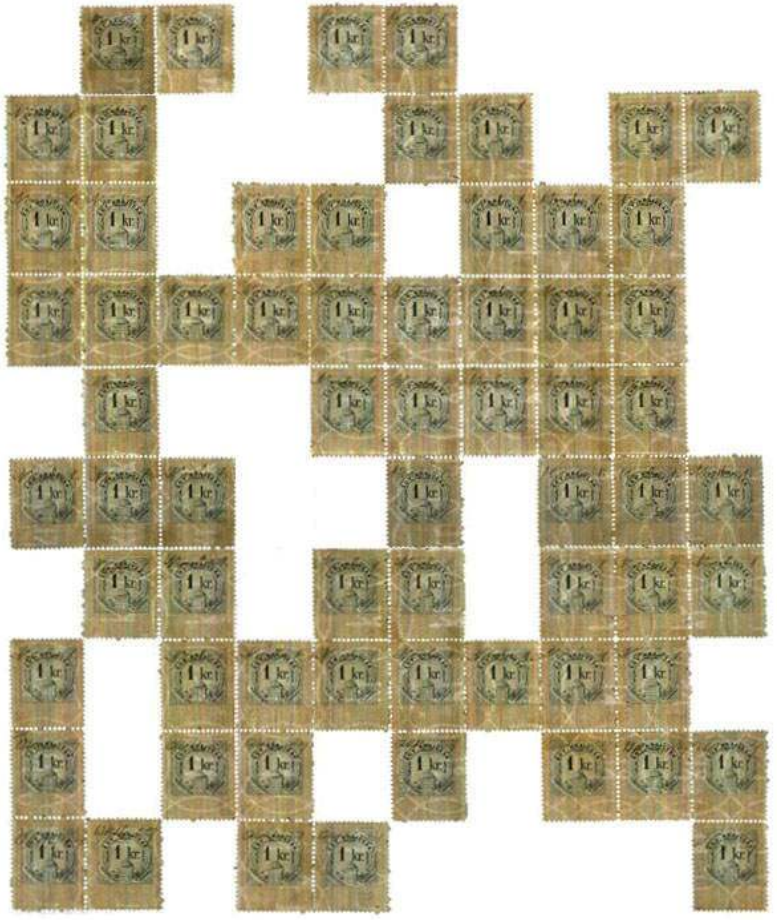


Figure 8. 1881 issue 'kr' watermarked stamps from the same sheet. The 66-stamp multiple is illuminated from the back to show the watermarks.

Statistics of the analyzed samples

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	12
0	10	19	15	15	11	18	16	13	16	14	
1	12	20	22	20	11	13	12	14	12	10	
2	10	16	10	13	13	7	16	7	10	10	
3	8	11	17	20	11	13	10	7	10	11	
4	10	7	10	13	11	8	9	9	14	10	
5	15	12	14	12	14	16	9	13	10	8	
6	4	12	16	9	18	16	10	13	16	19	
7	7	16	18	14	13	13	13	11	10	11	
8	13	12	14	18	9	14	9	7	6	12	
9	4	7	15	16	15	12	12	14	15	6	
OK:	93	132	151	150	126	130	116	108	119	111	**1 251**
1868	48	15	33		15	17		1	18	23	**170**
1873	8	13		16	5	1	4	11	3		**61**
brown	23		4	3	2	7	14	13	6	8	**80**
Sum	172	160	188	169	148	155	134	133	146	142	**1 562**

Table 1.

The columns of the table correspond to the columns of a sheet of stamps; the rows, to the rows in the sheet. The fields marked with a white background indicate the identification of at least 12 examples satisfying the average distribution requirement (a statistical term). The orange-shaded fields show positions that presented a problem with identification because the quantity of samples was below the average distribution. The row labeled OK shows the total quantity of stamps that have been identified by location in each column. The next three rows below show the quantity of the samples by columns, but not necessarily identifiable by position, from three different time periods (this number involves 20% of the total). The last row shows the total quantities. The meaning of the rightmost numbers shown in red is 1) of the 1562 stamps, 1252 were identifiable by position, 2) 170 pieces from the first printing in 1868 (32% of the total quantity) and 61 pieces (15%) of the green underprint 1873 watermarked issue as well as 80

pieces (13%) of the 1880 issue with brown underprint were identifiable only by column

The statistical analysis shows that the chances of identifying stamps by sheet position from the initial printing are poor. The explanation for this lies in the fact that the positional characteristics did not originate from the master plate but were the results of the fabrication of the printing plates.

Statistics also show that the most problematic areas of the sheet reconstruction are in positions 61 and 91 (indicated in red) from the first column. Certain other positions from which I could not find a singular characteristic even from printing plates made late in the period, may become more readily identifiable with the aid of reconstructed multiples. These positions are in the second column and throughout the right half of the sheet (positions highlighted in orange). Nevertheless, in addition to the sample sheet, we have at least four examples for each position.

Column types

The engraved Francis Joseph postage stamp issues of 1871 are closest in timeframe to the 1868 documentary revenue stamps. Gyula Madarász based his study of the 1871 engraved issue on earlier research and provided us with an exact description of the assembly of the master plate. This process was based on methods learned from the Viennese State Printing Office, the same organization that constructed the master plates for the revenue stamps three years earlier. It is not surprising that the characteristics of the master plate for the 1kr revenue stamp closely resemble those of the plates for the engraved postage stamps.

The original engraving in the case of the postage stamps was a steel die that did not incorporate a numeral of value. This master engraving was then duplicated using a Galvan plastic process. The six different numerals of value were then engraved into these creating the new primary dies for each denomination. The new dies were probably used to make trial prints for the sake of quality control. Then new dies were quite possibly re-engraved to correct problems revealed by the trial prints before they were used to create the 100-subject master plate[49]. In the case of the documentary revenue stamps, there was no need to add the numeral of value to the original die because it was part of the design. The subsequent steps in making the plate were the same as with the postage stamps.

The dot located in the white space surrounding the main design is a characteristic of Galvan plastic duplication (and proves that the first copy was not created by transferring the design from a steel die to a copper plate). This spot is visible on all stamps despite the many variations of printing quality.



Figure 10. 'Engraving mark' found on the 1kr stamp

From its characteristic, it is obvious that it was not a part of the original engraving. Still indirectly it originated from it during the duplication. Consequently, because of its origin, it can be treated as a pseudo-engraving mark.

The sequence of assembly for the first horizontal strip of 10 is east to decipher because it contains flaws that appeared during the fabrication process revealing how it was put together. The column-types resulting from the flaws that occurred in the strip of 10 are repeated in the rows underneath and provide an excellent starting point for the sheet reconstruction. The type characteristics are marked with capital letters in the columns that are labeled with Roman numerals.

[49] Lásd: [2] Mon.-III. 355-357.o.

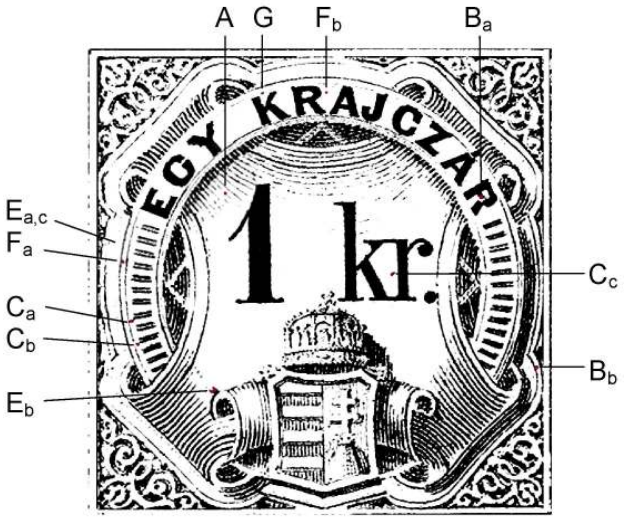


Figure 9. Column identifiers of the 1kr stamp

Description of the column identifiers

A (Columns I-VI): The fifth, mostly broken line, counting from the top of the 1 to the left of the slant ends in a faintly decipherable dot.

B (Columns II-VII.): KRAJCZÁR
a) break in the second R of the word
b) dot on the outer arc (not always visible)

C (Columns III-VIII.)
a) small line to the left of and between the 5th and 6th double lines counting from the bottom (also found on columns V, X)
b) dot to the left of the 4th double line counting from the bottom
c) dot between the letters k and r of 'kr' next to the 'r'

d (Column IV.): all other column identifiers are missing (this columns shows only the paired and sheet position characteristics)

E (Columns V-X.)
a) shading lines in the outer left arc are missing (column V)
b) thick dot at the end of the ribbon to the left of the shield
c) shading lines show repairs along the outer left arc (column X)

F (Column VI.)
a) dot in the middle of the double arc on the left side
b) dot to the right of the first R in KRAJCZÁR

G (Column IX.) dot above the K in KRAJCZÁR

By observing the repeating column types, we can draw conclusions about the duplicating process. The characteristics found on the leftmost five stamps in the strip of ten are repeated without exception on the right half of the sheet along with the addition of the marks for type F and G. This means that the strip of five for the right side was created by duplicating the five images from the left side. It is highly unlike that the process occurred the opposite way to this. The three characteristics of the F and G types, including the very strong Fa mark, would have, most likely, disappeared during duplication. During the galvanic method of copying, some minor marks occasionally disappear; but the disappearance of several observable marks that are quite far from each other and are prominent is highly implausible. So, we can turn our attention to the assembly of the primary five images on the left side. Figure 11 shows the central portion of the first five columns from the sample sheet and a reconstructed set of four rows. The marks are plainly visible when the image is opened from the CD and the figure is viewed on the computer screen. In print format, these marks are seldom visible to the naked eye, so

I'm showing the enlarged type characteristics between the two strips of stamps.

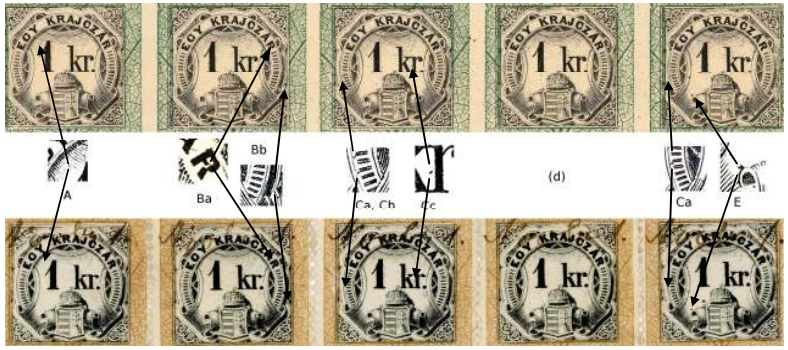


Figure 11.

For postage stamps, a primary die, suitable for printing single images, was created by thickening the back with lead used for making printing type. This was then copied four times and soldered together with the primary die, creating the first strip of five. This is not exactly what happened in the case of the 1kr revenue stamp, otherwise the Ca double column mark could not have shown up in two places. Only the type V stamp image could have been copied from the type III while keeping the Ca mark but not the Cb. Thus, the new 'E' type marks came into existence. In an opposite scenario, we can hypothesize that the 'E' flaw was repaired on the duplicate copy but not on the original and it was not discovered during the secondary duplication, a situation that is unlikely. This mark is very prominent. It can be seen easily with the naked eye. On top of that, it occurs frequently since it can be found on every five stamps. Some collectors were clued in on it even before it was mentioned in the literature.

The question could arise that if the disappearance of the significant identifying characteristics can be excluded for all practical purposes, why wasn't the very strong Cc mark from column III transferred to column V? It is possible that this obvious flaw was discovered during the duplication on the positive image[50] and it was smoothed out. The 'E' mark then originated during the second step of the copying process and there was no opportunity to correct it after it was discovered. Even if had been discovered, it was so widespread that there was no time left to attempt repairs.

By going backwards in the search for the solution of the sequence of duplication, we can determined from the column III image that it was the original die because its marks would have been transferred to the other stamp images. If we are looking for the stamp image with the fewest flaws, then we have to choose column IV. The designator 'd' (lower case letter in parentheses) indicates that this column has no identifiable common characteristics. It can also be surmised that this column's type is characterized by the lack of all other column characteristics. Theoretically, column I could also come into consideration because the type 'A' mark is such a miniscule dot that it could easily disappear when duplicated. The fact that during the duplication of the strip of 5 this dot did not disappear negates this possibility. On the contrary, this mark along with the type 'F' column characteristics can be found together in column VI. Of the two possibilities, the more likely one is that primary die was soldered into place for column IV.

[50] The duplication consisted of two steps because in the first step, a positive 'patrica' image was created that could not be soldered to the recessed 'matrica' negative image. The 'matricas' were used to create working dies that were used to make the trial prints essential to maintaining image quality.

Column I, in showing very few deviations form column IV, obviously originated from it. In other words, two copies were made from the primary die, and these were placed into columns I and III. Following the first duplication, the intent was to preserve the integrity of the primary die. Therefore, the first generation copies were duplicated in order to fill the remaining positions in the strip of five. As a result, columns III and V share the common Ca mark. Most likely, the serious[51] damage to the letter 'R' occurred during the duplication of the column I image. In conclusion, I am illustrating the most probable sequence of duplicating used to create the strip of ten.

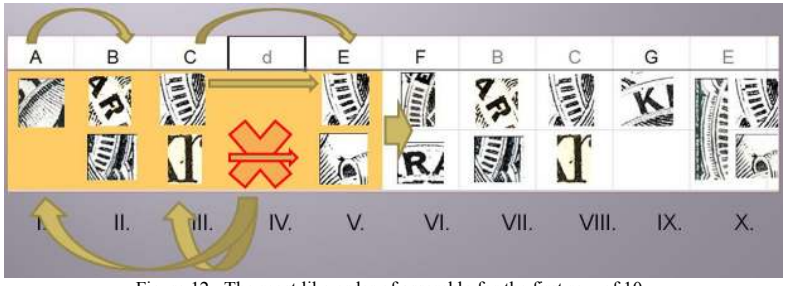


Figure 12. The most like order of assemble for the first row of 10.

In Figure 12, the re-engraving repair of the last image appears in the 10th column. This repair differentiates this column from the column type 'E' found in the fifth position. Since the repairs were performed not on the strip of ten but on the interim plate of 50[52], their description will be discussed later as part of the review of the characteristics of the plate of 50.

[51] Note that despite the gravity of the break, the continuous wear on the plates makes it harder to identify. Even in questionable cases, the joining of the lines in the letter R makes it appear that 'something is not in order.' In such instances, identifying the Bb characteristic helps to determine the accurate column type.

[52] The similarities in the first two rows of 10 led me to believe that they were the results of re-engraving repairs. A closer scrutiny negated this.

Paired indentifying characteristics

The paired identifying characteristics were created during the duplication the 50-subject plate. They are repeated five stamps apart on the upper and lower half-sheets and occur on two stamps in a full sheet. An interesting attribute of the plate, as shown in Figure 13, is that very few such characteristic appear in the last row.

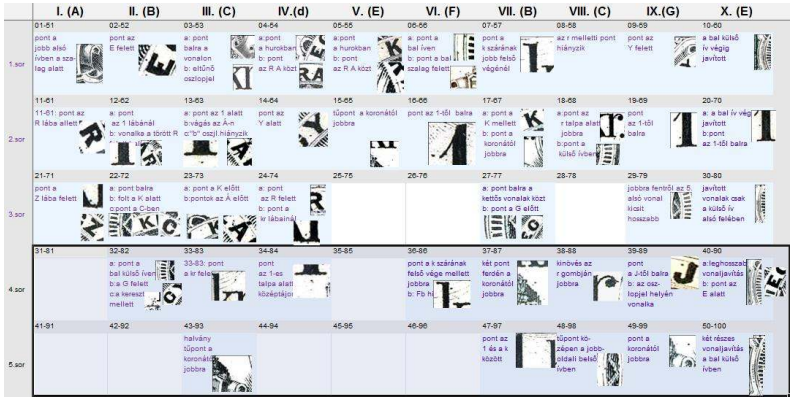


Figure 13. Display of the paired characteristics from the lower half of the sheet.

A second significant attribute is the fact that up until now, no group characteristics, i.e., characteristics that can be found multiple times in a column, have been found. This indicates that every strip of ten was an independent copy made from the a common master. This common master strip could be the bottom row because the other rows contain strong, obvious characteristics that would have been transferred for sure during duplication. For example, note the paired characteristics found in positions 01-51, 13-63, 23-73, 36-86. Contrary to this, in most places, the bottom row does not contain any paired characteristics. If the original master strip became an actual part of the plate, then this has to be the precursor strip since the four tiny, pin prickle size paired

characteristics that are least visible on this row, would have disappeared during the duplication.

I'm continuing with the discussion of the characteristics of the re-engraving repairs from column X that were not on the plate during the duplicating process. The format of these repairs indicates that the shading lines in the white field surrounding the left side of the stamp image were considered too faint after the trial printings were examined. Therefore, the lines were re-engraved on the five images along the right side of the plate.

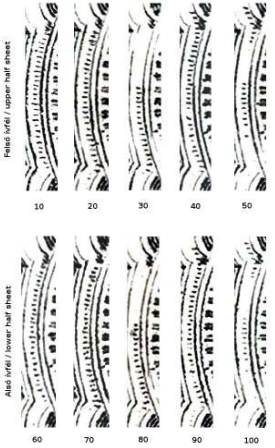
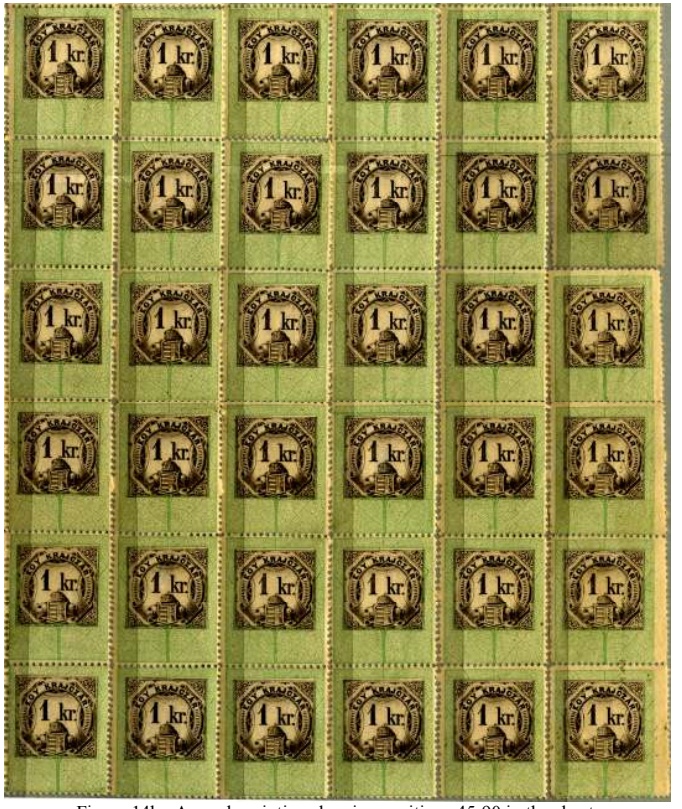


Figure 14a

The repairs did not succeed in achieving uniform depth of the engraving lines. Later printings reveal the differences which indicate that the re-engraving repairs had to have been done not on the strip of ten[53] but on the half plate of 50.

As we can see, the re-engraving repairs on the two halves of the sheet represent paired characteristics. This makes possible the separation of the stamps with the type 'E' mark into positions from columns V and X. On stamps from column V, this field is empty. The shading lines may show up uniformly but faintly on early printings and disappear entirely on later printings.

These differences can be studied from Figure 14b. This illustration shows a partially reconstructed block of 36 from an early printing. The stamps on the left side of the block are from column V. while the ones on the left are from column X.


Figure 14b. An early printing showing positions 45-90 in the sheet.

The construction technique used for the plate of the half sheet explains the peculiarity of the Cc mark from column III. In the top row it appears very faintly; and, depending on the printing

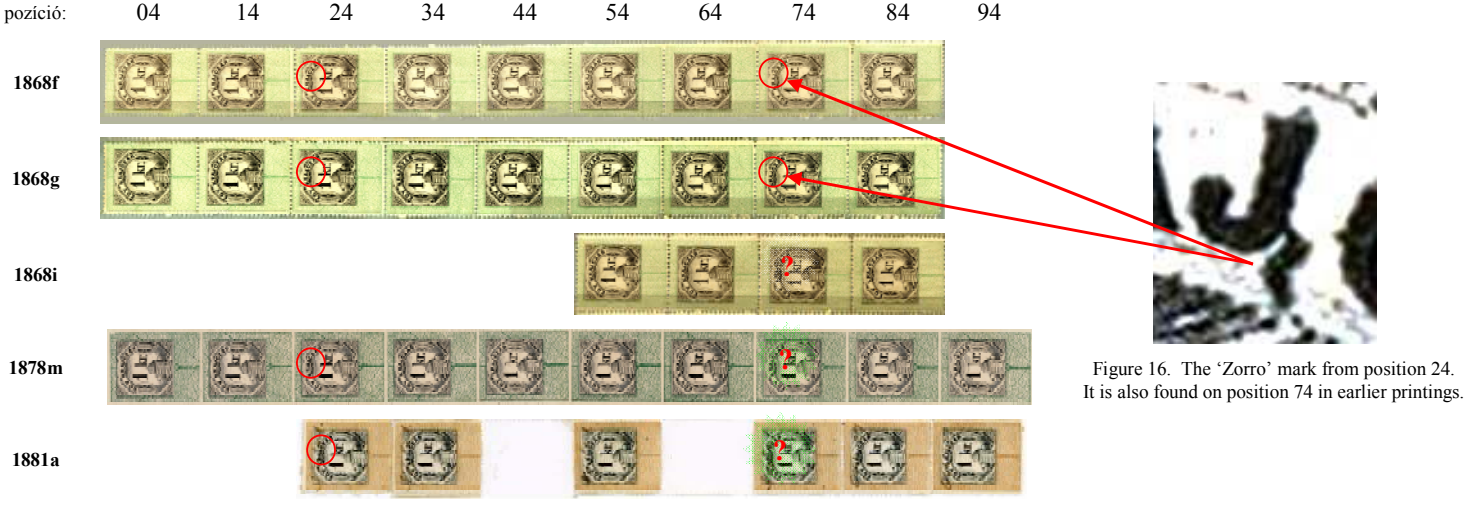
[53] For a long period of time, using a block of 20 as a reference, I assumed that the re-engraving repairs of the first, the second, and the third rows were the results of the plate assembly. A more accurate comparison revealed that the re-engraved lines were created separately..

pressure, it disappears entirely. Under these circumstances, the sheet position can be identifies from the other two column characteristics as well as from the positional paired characteristics. A unintentional, shortened period of galvanization may have contributed to the weaker transfer of the characteristics during duplication.

It is likely that the prime die was used in position 4 of the last row in the half plate of 50. But, is it possible that positions 44 and 94 from each half of the plate contain an earlier die? This question was answered because of a pure coincidence. In Figure 15, I can show three vertical strips from the 1868 issue that are unused originals and are not reconstructed.

On two of these strips, the paired characteristic mark in position 24-74 exists; on the third, it is missing from position 74.These strips that are identified by letters on the larger sheet view can be examined in detail from the file on the CD. The red circles in Figure 15 indicate the location of the 'Z' shaped die break on the stamps. It resembles 'Zorro's fencing mark. The question marks point to the positions in which the mark is missing. The other paired characteristics from positions 24-74 are also circled and confirm that these originated from the same position on the half plate of 50.

The puzzling question to be answered regarding this is how the paired characteristic could have disappeared from one half of the sheet? Especially permanently! On stamps produced in Hungary after 1870, the mark shows up only in position 24. This is confirmed by the stamps from the 1878 and 1880 printings shown in the figure.



Various multiples showing sheet positions 4 through 74 with the two differing versions of the incidence of the 'z' characteristic.

Figure 16. The 'Zorro' mark from position 24.
It is also found on position 74 in earlier printings.

It is obvious from the first two full strips and the third, partial one, that the printing of stamps in Vienna was accomplished using two different plates in order to facilitate the production. The process of making these plates was as follows. More than one copy was made from the first half plate of 50 subjects. At first, the 'Zorro' mark did not appear on the plate. It probably originated when the second copy was made. The second was soldered together with the first to produce the 100-subject master plate. This was not intended to be used to print stamps. Normally, the work schedule would have allowed enough time to produce a 100-subject positive plate ('patrica') which could then be used later to make working plates using galvanic duplication. In the interest of hurrying up the production, the 50-subject positive plate was used to make two copies, each of which included the 'Zorro' mark. These were then assembled for the purpose of starting production.

The upper two strips of stamps originated from the first plate used for printing, and this plate was not a duplicate of the master plate but an interim plate produced from the 50-subject positive ('patrica') plate. The missing 'Zorro' mark for the other plates points to the fact that the lower half plate represents the earlier situation. This leads us to revisit the writings about the assembly of the strips of five and of ten. Given what we know, this situation points to the fact that original master die was incorporated in position 94 of the master plate[54].

Unfortunately, the sheet reconstructions labeled 'f' and 'g' do not include the last row where this stamp would be present. Still, the stamp from position 44 should be very similar because its source was the same on the 50-subject plate. The stamps from these positions, therefore, would approximate the original image most closely.

On sheets produced later, naturally from 100-subject master plates, we find this stamp significantly re-engraved. In the course of assembling the master plate, the images in positions 94 and 95 were altered by deepening the curved lines behind the letters 'kr'. Most likely, the area was found to be too light when inspecting the first trial sheet printed. It would have been better to leave it be. The subsequent results indicate that as the plate was used, the original lines became faint and indecipherable. The improvements lost their intent and the lines became more prominent as can be observed on the two middle stamps shown in Figure 17.



Strip of 4 stamps from the sample sheet.
Engraving repairs can be found on the middle two stamps from positions 93-94.

[54] I reached this conclusion a year and a half after summarizing my writings for this article. In my earlier presentations, I assumed that sheet position 54 was an original mark from the master die. I marked this off as an unsolved problem and used it only as a working hypothesis.

The first column of the master plate also contains two repairs. The slanted cross atop the crown in positions 21 and 71 became damaged during the duplication. The area was repaired on the master plate. Of the two places, the repair of the cross in position 21 was more successful; although, on clearer printing, the base of the cross is noticeable shorter and deviated from that of the other stamps.

In position 71, the cross was coarsely re-engraved, its base became shorter and 'slipped down' into the round part of the crown.

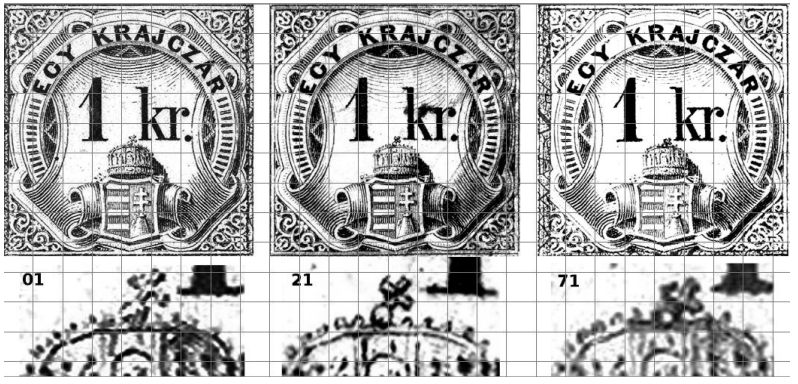


Figure 18. original state of the cross at position 01. and engraving repairs on positions 21. and 71.

Sheet position identifiers

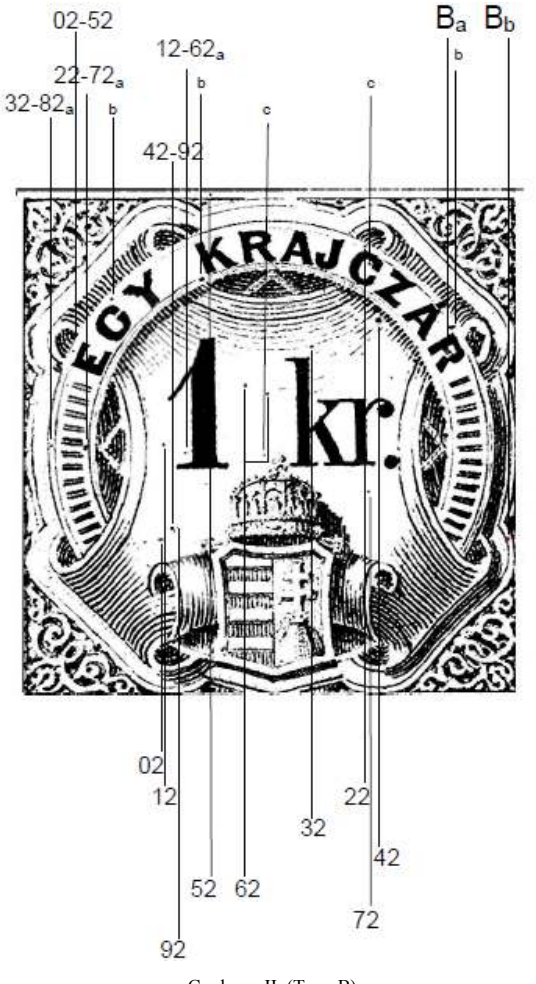
The subsequent figures collectively illustrate the characteristics found in the individual columns. The numbers along the top of the figures show the paired positions; the numbers along the bottom show the individual positions. Inasmuch as the upper, paired characteristics were created during the assembly of the master plate, these can be found on every single stamp from the indicated position and are missing only from stamps printed under unusual circumstance resulting in impaired print quality.

The individual position characteristics are the result of the duplication of the printing plates. If these occur on the transfer plate from which the printing plate is reproduced, then the characteristics can be found; however, it is possible that they disappear after a period of time. Such characteristics that turn up later are referred to as sheet position group characteristics that appear only a particular group of printing plates.

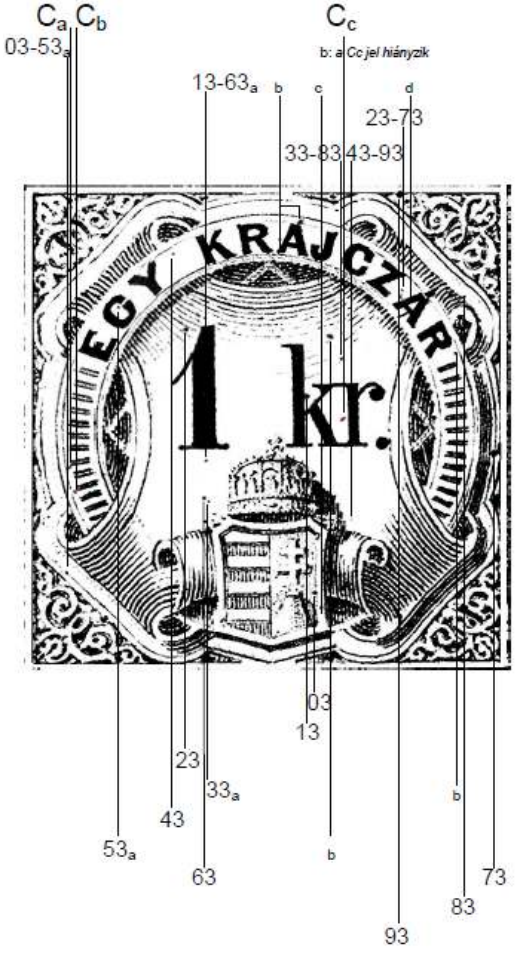
In the current state of my research, I have differentiated, using a '+' sign, between the group characteristics that are identifiable by position and the characteristics that I found on the stamps issued in 1868, assuming that these originated from the master plate. In order to finalize this work, one would need more than the 12 copies that have been located by sheet position. Additional group characteristics need to be identified, given that the total number of printing plates was around 30.



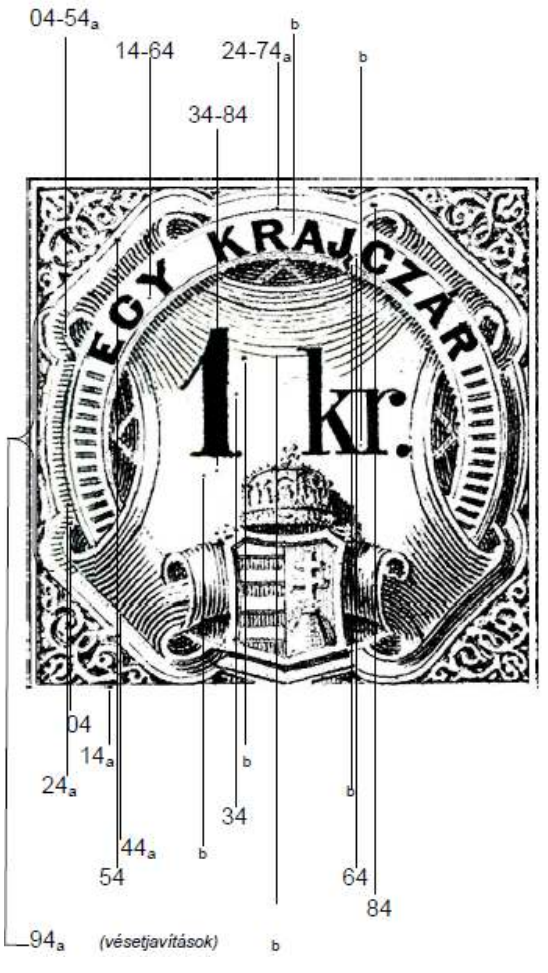
Coulumn I. (Type A)



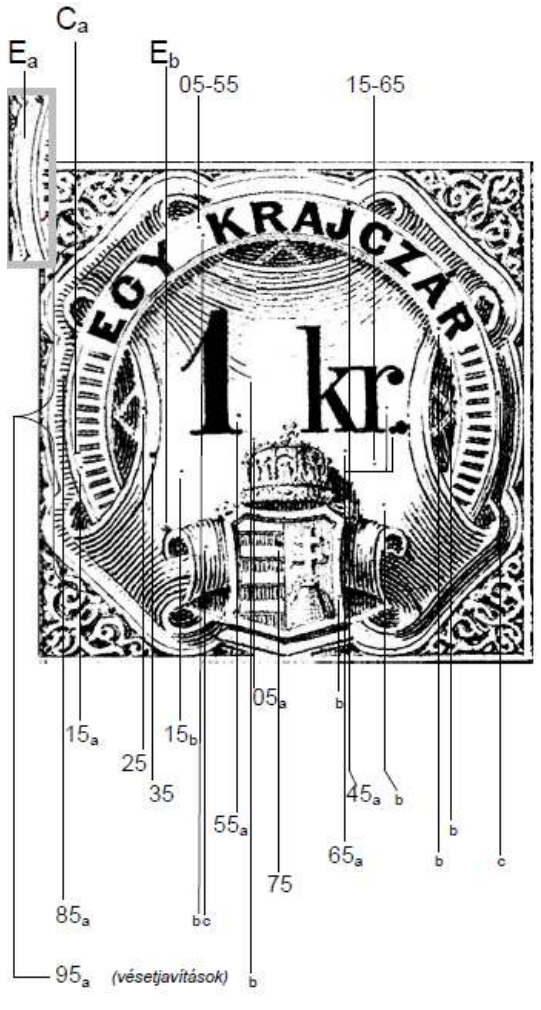
Coulumn II. (Type B)



Column III. (Type C)



Column IV.



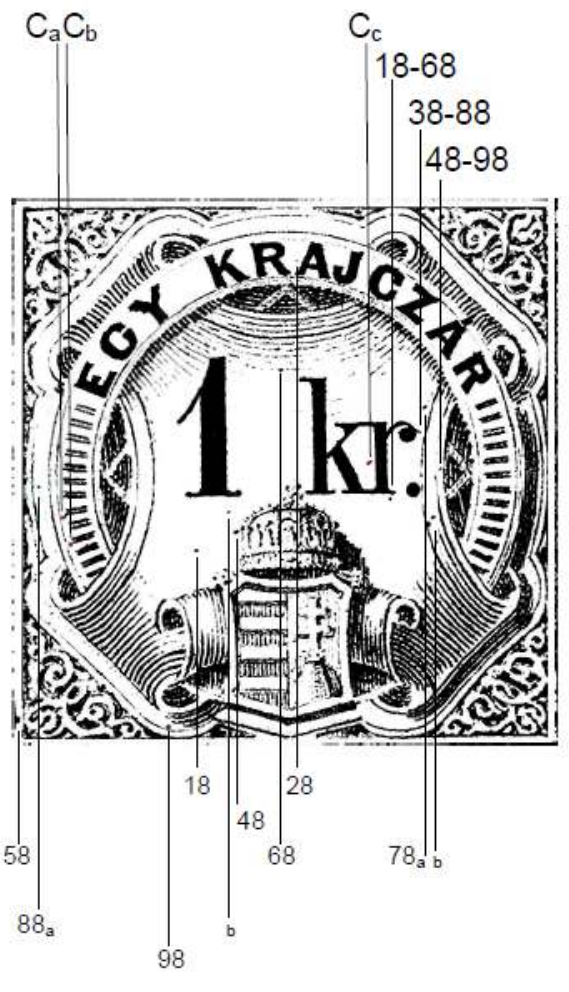
Column V. (Type E)



Column VI. (Type F)



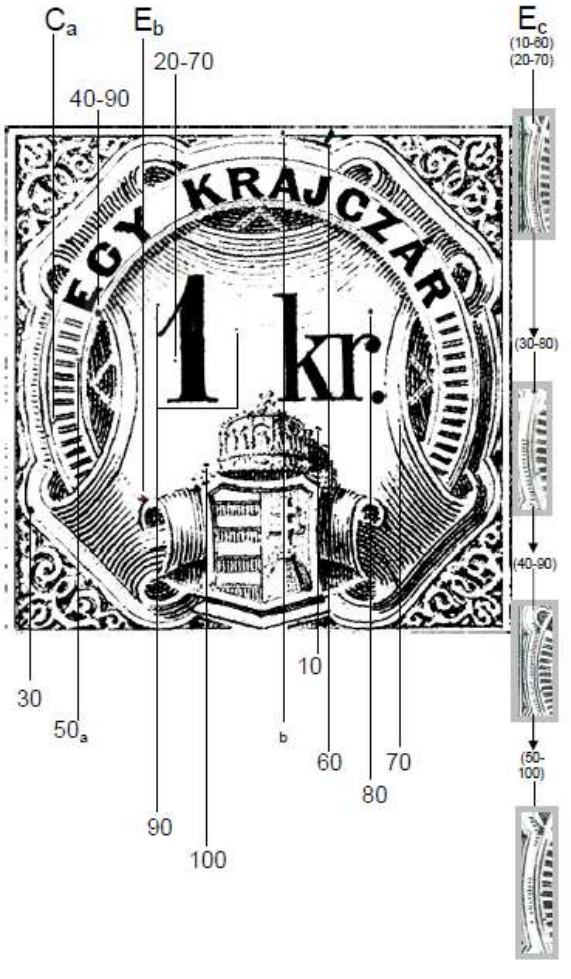
Column VII. (Type B)



Column VIII. (C)



Column IX. (Type G)



Column X.oszlop (Type E)

Lessons learned

I started the work by spreading a large quantity (80 to 100) to stamps on my worktable and then sorting first by column types, then by individual columns. Most of the characteristics are visible under minimal magnification, provided that the ambient lighting is good. The use of a 10x magnifier is required to observe the more minute characteristics. A 200x digital microscopic magnifier can be of enormous help, especially since it can be used to register an image right away.

It is practical to start the sorting with columns E and C because their characteristics are visible to the naked eye. By eliminating these from the pile, column B can be sorted out with the aid of a magnifier. As the pile of stamps diminishes, it becomes an easier task to progress to finding columns F and A. The stamps that have not been identified may present a large group, but there is no need to worry. In the end, about 10 to 20% of the stamps remain unidentifiable independent of the period of production. Types B, C, and E occur in two different columns. These can by sorted by column using the individual sheet position characteristics. After this, using the figures that collectively show the characteristics for each column, examples can be identified by sheet position.

It is highly possible that during this sorting we can concretely identify stamps by their identical cancellations to have originated from the same sheet and thus making possible the restoration of small or large multiples.

In order to promote the continuation of the research work and make it less of a burden to other collectors, there is attaching a digital disk that contains accurate scans of multiples and stamps identified by sheet position along with their characteristics as a hard copy reference.

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3. Pénzügyi bélyegek a Habsburg Birodalomban és Magyarországon. Szerk. Szücs Károly és Kernács György, Budapest, 2007. (PBM)
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5. Orbán Ferenc: Az 1874.évi I. típusú 5 krajcáros. Philatelica 1975/1.
6. Pákozdi László: A magyar levélboríték-rajzú bélyeg centenáriuma. Philatelica 1975/1.

The life of Andor Bér /1909-2010/

JENŐ SZABÓ

Andor Bér was born on the 18th of October 1909 in Basaharc. He finished his studies at the Institute of Economics and Accounting. His interest towards art history has led him, among others, to the deeper studies of stamps and the Italian language. It hasn't been by chance therefore that he turned towards industrial form design. Rising gradually in the hierarchy he reached pension as the director of the Industrial Form Design Institute. Even his office has been connected to stamps, as the stamp designer Laszlo Dudás has also been among his colleagues.

He pursued his hobby from 1938 on in the Hungaria Stamp Collector Circuit. After the war and the liquidation of civil societies he became member of the stamp collector circuit of the II. district of Budapest, of which he first became secretary, then, in the sixties, President. He retained this position for a very long period, he became president emeritus only in the last few years of his life.

He was chosen as member of the board of MABÉOSZ in 1962. He has been an active participant of the Scientific Panel, later as secretary and finally as president. At the foundation of the MABÉOSZ sections the Panel has been transformed into the Postal History Section, of which he became the President. He has been a founding member of the Hungarian Scientific Philatelic Association (MAFITT) in 1989, in which he acted as cashier and board member for several years. In 1995 he became an Honorary Member of MABÉOSZ.

Apart from Hungarian associations the now internationally known collector, exhibitor and specialist also became member of dignified international philatelic societies: he has been a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ungarn. He represented Hungary in the Postal History Section of the FIP for a long period.

His collection of high intellectual and financial value has won national and international awards. His first result has been the bronze medal of the 1956 Tel-Aviv Exhibiton, which has been followed by FIP Gold Medals, among them at the Stockholmia in 1986, the Finlandia in 1988, the Philexfrance in 1989, the Stamp World in 1990 and the Eurofilex in 1992.



The 18th of October has been an illustrious day both in the life of Andor Ber and the Stamp Museum: he donated his most valued treasures, the Papal States prestamp and postal history collection plus the Hungarian pre-stamp covers collection to the Museum. His generosity is recognized by his picture placed on the Wall of Donators.

The Mihaly Gervay Award and the Award for Post, both received on this occasion, has been the crowning of the numerous recognitions of his substantial life path. He himself has founded a challenge award together with MAFITT, which is assigned each year since 2001.

For the reason of his authority and numerous articles he has been invited to the editorial board of the Filatéliai Szemle. The journal had a number of his articles appear, and he has also been an author of Philatelica. The Chechoslowakian Filatelié published his article about the postal history of Slowakia and he held several lectures in Slowakia as well. His work about the history of the Hungarian Post from the beginning to 1850 appeared in the Il Nuovo Corriere Filatelico. He is a co-author of the Stamplexicon and the Handbook on the Pre-stamp frankings and cancellations of the Hungarian Post. He wrote a book about the postal history of Budapest as well.

Andor Ber, during his long life, let it be his relation to the material world or to the human societies, gave a lot both to his contemporaries and succeeding generations. His life and work should serve as an example for all of us!

Repertory for writings of Andor Bér

ANDRÁS DABÓCZY

1 Bélyeg előtti levelek FSz 1971/2 17.
2 A bélyegelőtti levelek postajelzései és viteldíjrendszere Philatelica 1971/2 1.
3 Tudományos munkaközösség FSz 1973/2 21.
4 Magyar gyűjtők nemzetközi kiállításokon FSz 1974/1 5.
5 Koleralevelek FSz 1975/7 10.
6 Bélyegnapi kiállítás FSz 1976/7 28.
7 Érdemes volt? FSz 1976/11 15.
8 A Bélyegmúzeumban FSz 1977/9 33.
9 Szorgalomlevél FSz 1978/4 14.
10 Bélyegelőtti levelek kezelési jelzései FSz 1978/7 12.
11 Postatörténeti gyűjtemények (kutatás) FSz 1978/11 13.
12 Vitassuk meg: Lehet 10 keret? FSz 1979/4 3.
13 A budai kisposta FSz 1979/5 7.
14 Külön-külön igazgatandó (vita) FSz 1979/10 8.
15 Postakezelési jelzések kialakulása M.orsz-on(kutatás) FSz 1981/4 15.
16 Budapest rövid postatörténete 1867-ig FSz 1984/4 13.
17 A magyar kocsiposta kezdete FSz 1984/11 16.
18 Postatörténeti kiállítás FSz 1985/7 9.
19 Modern bélyegek gyűjtése hagyományos módon FSz 1986/12 21.
20 A magyar posta bélyegelőtti bérmentesítéseinek és bélyegzőinek kézikönyve (Bér-Makkai-Surányi) Téka 1986
21 Dolgozzuk fel Magyarország legújabbkori postatörténetét FSz 1987/5 9.
22 Kiállítani! Kiállítani! FSz 1987/9 5.
23 Egy megszűnt állam FSz 1987/12 21.
24 Bélyeglexikon (Bér-Fogarasi-Gazda-Surányi) Gondolat 1988
25 A hagyományos és postatörténeti gyűjtési mód FSz 1989/3 14.
26 Postakezelési jelzések kialakulása M.orsz-on (kutatás) FSz 1989/11 17.
27 A bélyegelőtti levelek gyűjtése FSz 1989/12 13.
28 A gyűjtés propagandája FSz 1991/4 14.
29 A bélyegelőtti levelekről FSz 1992/6 15.
30 Merre tart a filatélia? FSz 1992/12 18.
31 Kiútkeresés ? Bv-FSz 1993/10 7.
32 Filatelista kirándulás Bécsbe Bv-FSz 1994/8 10.
33 Postatörténeti Szakosztály Bv-FSz 1995/4 14.
34 A harmadik infláció gyűjtése Bv-FSz 1996/6 9.
35 A bélyegelőtti levelek gyűjtése Bv-FSz 1996/9 17.
36 A postatörténeti és a hagyományos gyűjtési mód Bv-FSz 1996/12 16.
37 Egy kis történelem Bv-FSz 1997/11 8.
38 Postatörténeti kiállítás [felhívás] Bv-FSz 1997/12 16.
39 Budapest rövid postatörténete a kezdetektől a XIX. század közepéig Bv-FSz 1998/10 20.
40 Budapest rövid postatörténete a kezdetektől a XIX. század közepéig Bv-FSz 1998/11 25.
41 Kiállítási tanulságok Bv-FSz 1998/12 11.
42 Mi lesz veled Filatélia? Bv-FSz 2000/3 6.
43 Gondolatok az ünnepi közgyűlés apropóján Bv-FSz 2002/8 8.
44 Bélyeg előtti levelek gyűjtése Bv-FSz 2003/1 6.
45 Kolera levelek Bv-FSz 2003/2 11.
46 Óbuda, Buda és Pest postatörténete 1850-ig Bv-FSz 2003/8 10.
47 II.Rákóczi Ferenc postái (1.) Bv-FSz 2006/11 15.
48 II.Rákóczi Ferenc postái (2.) Bv-FSz 2006/12 8.
49 A magyarországi hírvivés és a postaszolgálat kialakulása (I.) Bv-FSz 2007/3 16.
50 A magyarországi hírvivés és a postaszolgálat kialakulása (II.) Bv-FSz 2007/4 23.
51 A magyarországi hírvivés és a postaszolgálat kialakulása (III.) Bv-FSz 2007/5 22.

Abbreviations: FSz = Filatéliai Szemle, Bv-FSz = Bélyegvilág- Filatéliai Szemle

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Philatelica

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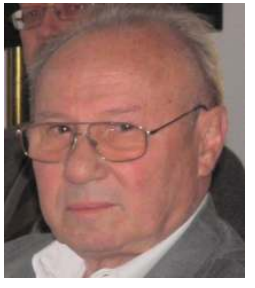
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HISTORY OF THE EMERGENCY TARIFF IN AND AROUND BUDAPEST 2ND MARCH – 1ST MAY 1945



DR. FERENC NAGY, VIENNA

A hopelessly over franked cover (to which a newspaper has been stuck in addition) has drawn my attention at a 2004 auction in Budapest. Thus it did not surprise me that I have been able to acquire the cover at the starting fee of 6,000 Forints, as all normal philatelists treated the item with dislike. But I read the contents of the newspaper, which showed why the letter has been posted on 2 March 1945.



Figure 1. The March 2 cover

You can imagine my surprise, when I read:

„Postal service is going to start in Budapest and surroundings"

The Budapest Postal Headquarters announces the possibility of

posting simple and registered covers and correspondence cards from 2 March on

in Budapest, plus to the territories of Great-Budapest outside the customs border. These items can be posted at the following post offices either personally or via the postal boxes placed outside these offices." They are: Budapest 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 62, 72, 82. Then:

„Postal rates

The rate for local correspondence cards is 30 filler, to places outside the customs border but belonging to Great-Budapest 40 filler. The rate for local covers up to 20 grams is 40 filler, up to 250 grams 80 filler, up to 500 grams 1 Pengo.

For locally posted covers outside the customs border the rates have been: up to 20 grams 60 filler, up to 250 grams 1 Pengo 20 filler and up to 500 grams 1 Pengo 60 filler.

Local registration fee has been 1 Pengo, and registration fee to places belonging to Great-Budapest but outside the customs border has been 1 Pengo 40 fillers.„"

As you can see, the well-known 1944 rates have been drastically raised. Why? Was there inflation? Not at all. The capital city has been in ruins and without any infrastructure such monetary assumptions have been impossible. A totally different fact forced the postal Headquarters to raise the rates. Without a ”higher authority”, midst of a lot of troubles, they had to do something with the problem, that the salary of the personnel could not be produced with the low postal rates. But with the new rates and the expected postage due incomes the balance looked much better.

By posting this cover on the very first day of the renewed postal service at the post office No. 62, our unknown compatriot produced an important document using the cut-out from the newspaper Nepszava of the same day. Some letters from the spring of 1945 caused insurmountable problems to Laszlo Pakozdi, working in the sixties on the applying V. volume of the Monograph of Hungarian Stamps, thus handling a huge amount of inflation letters. These spring covers and correspondence cards, although seemingly correctly franked according to the 1944 fees, have been penalized with postage due. He wrote pencil notes on these covers, e.g.: „120 filler postage due, i(nstead of) 60 filler”. He did not find any explanation.

The restarting of postal services has been a heroic deed. I dug up this number of Nepszava in a library – it shows the restarting life of a bombed down city. The first page brings the war news. „Fights begun at the outskirts of Cologne. 50,000 dead in Berlin. Monchengladbach to be evacuated.” Then, inside the newspaper: „The smallest free spaces in Budapest have to be cultivated. Elisabeth Laskay is looking for her parents. Cinema Corvin brings the first American film after 5 years with Greta Garbo. Roaming on the roof ledge of the Opera House.” No tram service operated in Budapest in March 1945. Anybody with something to arrange had to walk, mostly among the ruins. Bicycling was not recommended, the first Russian soldier would have confiscated the bicycle.

The Postal Headquarters Palace at the Szell Kalman square has been in ruins. This why the above order is missing in the Collection of Postal Orders. People were happy to get home without any serious wounds. This explains the Warrant shown on Figure 2.

These days the custom of the invading Russians has been to capture the younger males trafficking on the streets with the password “malinki rabot” and deported them to the Soviet Union, as “war captives”, thereby also enhancing the fame of Generals Malinowski and Tolbuchin. The survivors of this war captivity could first see their families somewhere around 1955-56. My father has been captured, too, but he was able to sneak under a house gate and wait until the procession vanishes. I know his adventure from him.

This bilingual Warrant has been issued on 27 January 1945 at the Post Office No. 72. In Buda there has been fights still on this day, but Pest has been ”liberated” on January 15. As can be seen, the removal of the ruins of the post and other maintenance activities has already been under way 12 days later.

The validity of the Warrant has been lengthened by handwriting on 5 March, saving its owner from the fatal “malinki rabot”.

The Germans have been ousted from Buda on 13 February, and only 17 days later the postal service has been restarted.

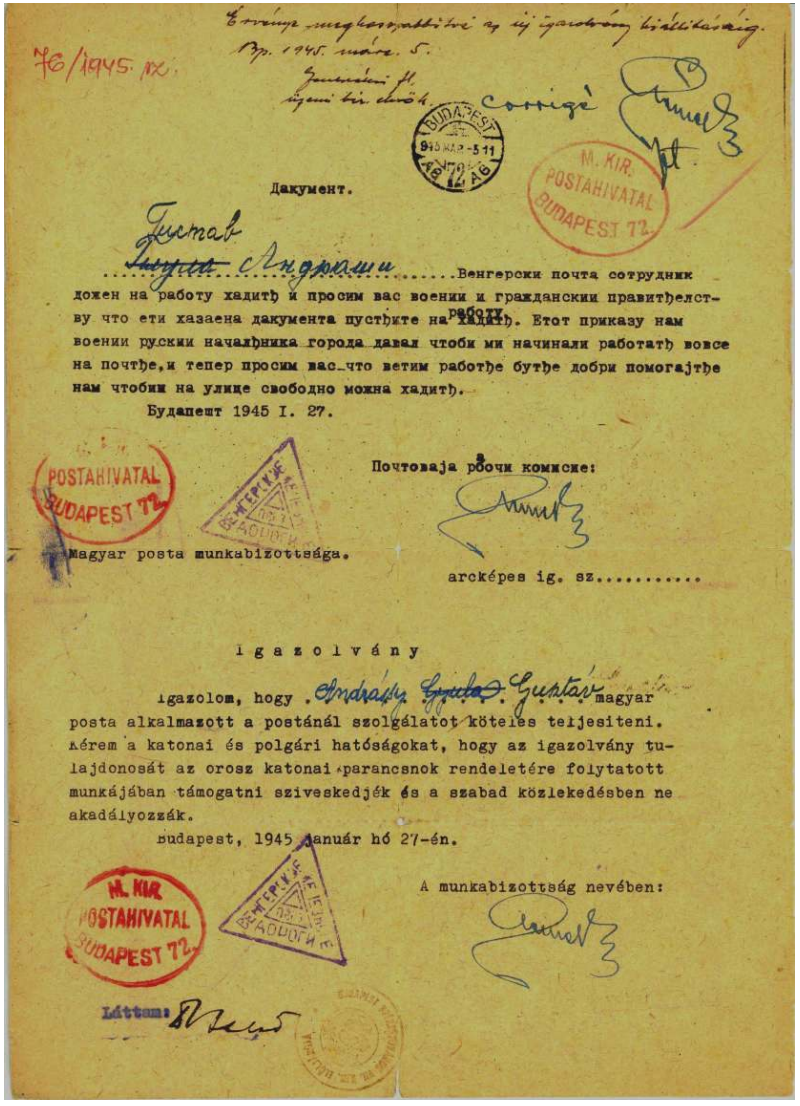


Figure 2. Warrant of a postal clerk of the Post Office No. 72.

To be able to somehow sort the existing /rare/ letter material according to the different rates I suggest the usage of the following categories.

1. Letters and cards posted in the countryside before 2 March to Pest, delivered after 2 March.
2. Local covers and correspondence cards posted in Pest on or after 2 March.
3. Long-distance covers and correspondence cards posted in Pest.
4. Letters and cards posted in the countryside on or after 2 March to Pest
5. Letters and cards from the countryside to the countryside. / e.g. Alag-Vac/
6. The Postage-due provisional of Rakosszentmihaly 1945-46.

GROUP ONE

Let us examine a letter belonging to the first group. The letter has been posted at Galgamacsa (10 kms North to Aszod) on 23 February and shows a beautiful provisional postmark. The cover has been franked with 30 filler Saint Margaret stamp and has been addressed to Budapest. Delivery date is not shown but must be after 2 March. According to the 1944 rate the 30 filler rate has been correct, but on the date of delivery it has not been correct in Budapest any more. No postage due has been applied though, as the new rate has not been valid in Pest on the date of posting! Seemingly these letters or cards have been delivered with the old rate.



Figure 3. Cover from Galgamácsa to Budapest

GROUP TWO

Let us examine a local correspondence card from the second group! This has been thrown into the mailbox before Post Office No. 62 on 26 March, the sender thinking that the 18 filler franking is enough. Not so. 12 fillers missing from the new rate postage due of 2*12=24 filler has been applied. As a matter of fact the card has been written on 27 December but could be posted only in March. The sender did not know about the new rates.

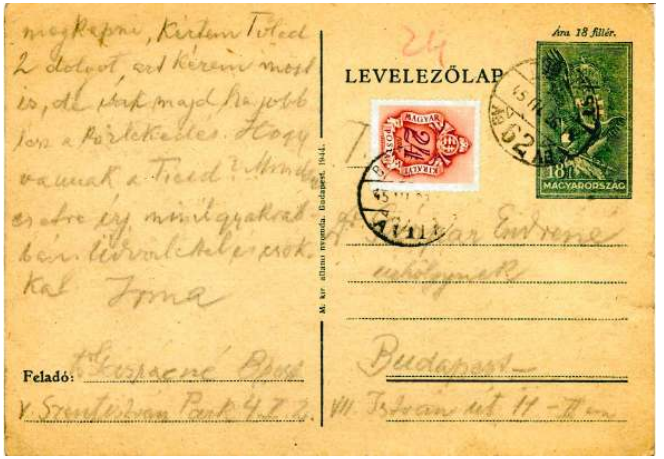


Figure 4. Correspondence card from Budapest 62, on 26 March

The next figure is also worth a look. This card has also been posted in Pest on 30 March, but has been written in Paks a week earlier and sent to Pest by somebody travelling to Budapest. This person franked the card correctly according to the new Budapest-rate with a 30 filler Kossuth-stamp and threw it into the mailbox.



Figure 5. Picture postcard from Paks, Budapest 9, 23/30 March

A local registered cover can be seen on the next figure. It should have been franked with 70 filler according to the old rate (20 filler local rate + 50 filler registration fee). But the new Budapest rate required the double of this sum, 1 Pengo 40 filler (40 filler local rate plus 1 Pengo local registration fee), paid by the pair of 70 filler Lorantffy stamps. The cover has been sent back to the sender, as the recipient (a merchant on the Nagyvasartelep market) "did not function"!



Figure 6. Local registered cover on 7 March at Budapest 62, franked with 1 Pengo 40 filler

The sender of another local cover wasn't so fortunate. The cover with a nice company headline bears the franking of the old 1944 rate, 20 filler, thereby the cover has been penalized by twice the missing 20 filler (the new rate was 40 filler).

As we can see, the calculation of the Post was right, the postage due income has been significant. Never have I seen so many postage due covers from the later period of the inflation, as from these 2 months.



Figure 7. Local cover from Budapest 72. on April 4. 20 filler franking, 40 filler postage due

GROUP THREE

Long-distance covers posted in Budapest.

Doctor Nandor Bilkei Gorzo owned an alimentation factory at these times, thus many people asked for his help because of the famine. But the lot of correspondence caused lot of costs for him. Let us examine such a card on the next figure.

The correspondence card has been posted at the Budapest 114 post office on March 29. By the end of March more and more post offices began to operate, among them the number 114. The card is seemingly correctly franked with the new rate of 30 filler, but, alas, Rakospalota being outside the customs border, a rate of 40 filler was required, hence the postage due of two times the missing 10 filler.



Figure 8. Correspondence card on March 29 to Rakospalota with the cancellation of Budapest 114

I received the next, spectacular item from Gabor Visnyovszki.

It is a card to Budafok, which, interestingly has been accepted by the post for delivery already on 7 March. Though the text says: the sender tried to get to Budafok, but „it was still not possible”. The correct franking on the card is 40 filler + registration fee 1 Pengo 40 filler = 1 Pengo 80 filler!



Figure 9. Registered card on 7 March from Budapest 4.

I would like to mention here that at that time Budapest had only 14 districts, Zuglo being the fourteenth. Great-Budapest has been formed only in 1950 by the attachment of the outer districts.

GROUP FOUR

Letters and cards posted from the countryside to Budapest. Great rarities.

The first such letter is yet again a Bilkei Gorzo item, written in Zebegeny (a resort in the curve of the Danube) and taken by somebody somehow to Ujpest, where it was simply thrown into the mailbox. As the letters from outside the customs border required 60 fillers, the postage due has been the double of this sum.

On the upper left side we can see the notes of Pakozdi: „45.III.9. Tl. (0,30 P.) T 60 fill." As I have mentioned, he did not know about the special Budapest rate this is why he did not understand the 2*60 filler postage due. The functioning of the Ujpest post office already on 9 March is sort of a surprise!

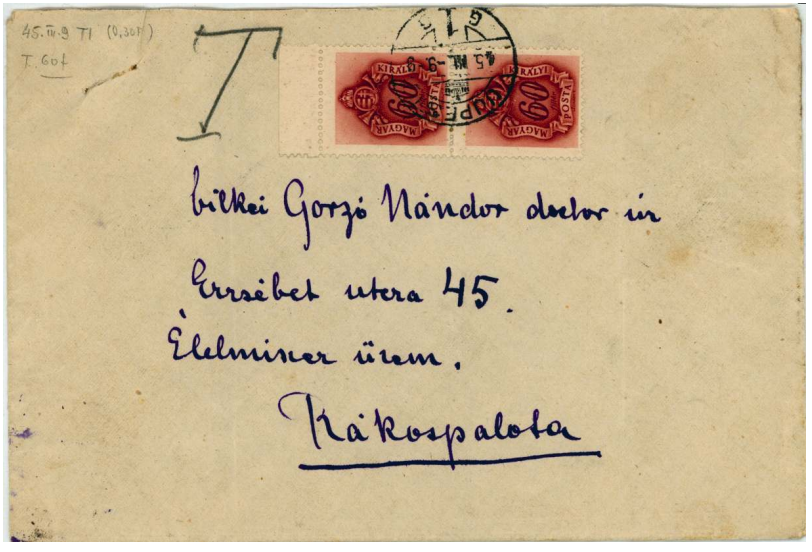


Figure 10. Letter without stamps to Rakospalota on March 9, with 1 Pengo 20 filler postage due

The next card has been posted in Gyomro and exceptionally it shows the correct franking of 40 filler.

At that time mailing has mostly been done on correspondence, sometimes picture cards. People usually stored these at home, while letter sheet and cover was rather an exception at private homes.

It is interesting, that postal service already started in Gyomro by the end of March. The reason can be that the war damages on the countryside have been much lower, than in Budapest, therefore the restarting of the post was rather an organisational issue than more serious issues. The successful new rates were slowly spreading to the East of the capital city.



Figure 11. Correspondence card from Gyomro on 27 March

The below card posted at Szeged contains the 18 filler old rate – still valid at Szeged, – so in Pesterzsebet the double of the missing 22 filler, 44 filler had to be paid as postage due, which has been invalidated with the long canceller of the post office No. 1. of the village. Text up to the left: „Post is already coming in”.



Figure 12. Correspondence card from Szeged 1 on 18 April.

I can also show a letter from Nyiregyhaza as a valuable rarity, sent on April 24 to Budapest, franked with the II. issue of the local Nyiregyhaza stamps according to the correct new Budapest rate. The Nyiregyhaza 1M postmark is known from true covers. A lilac censor mark: text in Cyrillic characters plus the text: „Checked”.

The stamps are not perforated on the upper and on the right side. The stamps of this issue came into circulation in April 1945.

The already raised local Nyiregyhaza rate was 40 fillers, therefore the 60 fillers clearly shows the usage and knowledge of the Budapest local rate. But I have seen other Nyiregyhaza letters to Budapest franked only with 40 filler and still delivered to the recipient.

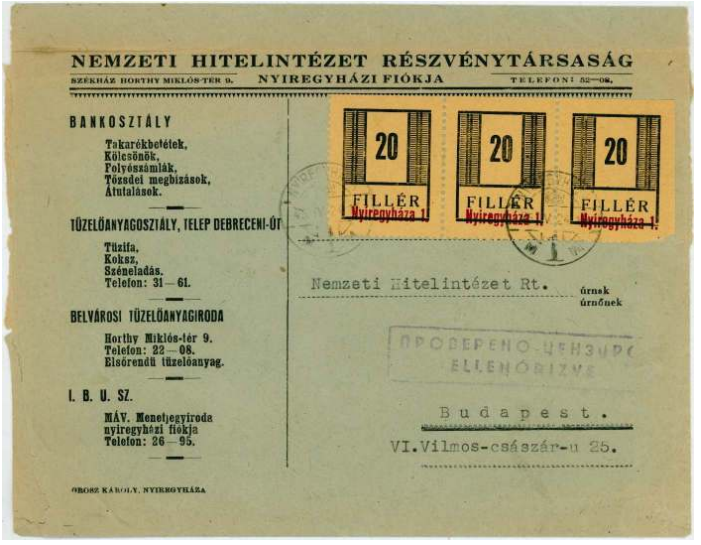


Figure 13. Cover with the stamps
of the local Nyiregyhaza issue on April 24 to Budapest.

GROUP FIVE

Post around Pest, addressed to these localities.

As I have mentioned, postal service has been quickly revived in the post offices of the villages around Pest. The earliest letter I know is from 15 March from Alag (a village famous of it’s turf), franked with the new rate of 60 filler sent to Vac.

The pre-1945 postmaster probably fled with the Germans and took the canceller with him, as the letter is cancelled with a provisional postmark, beside which there is the mark of a red star probably cut out from a cloth. This can be the product of the 120% comrades of the Alag municipality, it can be found on other Alag covers as well. The letters were produced by a toy hand printer set.

Similar red stars can be found on the stamps of the 1944 local Zenta issue.



Figure 14. Letter from Alag, with 60 filler to Vac, from 15 March

The next figure shows another item from Alag, a picture post card showing the village sent to Lengyeltoti, in county Somogy on 10 April, franked according to the Budapest rate with 40 filler.

No village with the name of Alag can be found nowadays, it is part of Dunakeszi now.



Figure 15. Picture post card from Alag, with 40 filler to Lengyeltoti, from 10 April

GOODIES

This picture postcard from a military lager, surviving without deletions is worth our attention, too. It has been posted in Kistelek, where the canceller has also vanished, as the card shows the „P U LEVÉLSZEKRÉNYBŐL“ (From the mailbox after delivery) text, but replaces the normal date-location canceller. How do we know this? From the manuscript text „18 f kp. bermentve, Rozsa“ (18 filler cash paid, Name of the Postmaster). This means the card has been mailed in the office. The refugee postmaster took with him not only the canceller, but the stamps as well.

The card has been mailed on April 20 to Budapest, but no postage due has been prescribed. Why? Because the total mail of the Red Cross and other official organisations had been free of charge. I

have found several such cards with either under franking or no franking – none of them contains a postage due stamp.

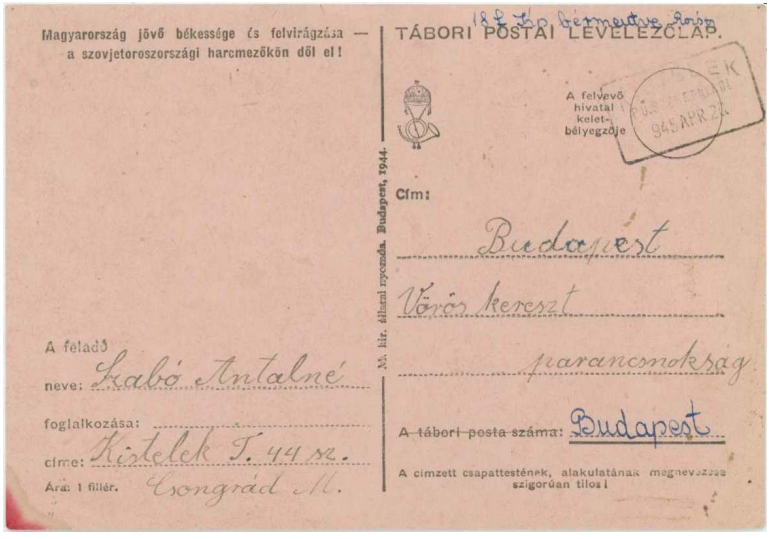
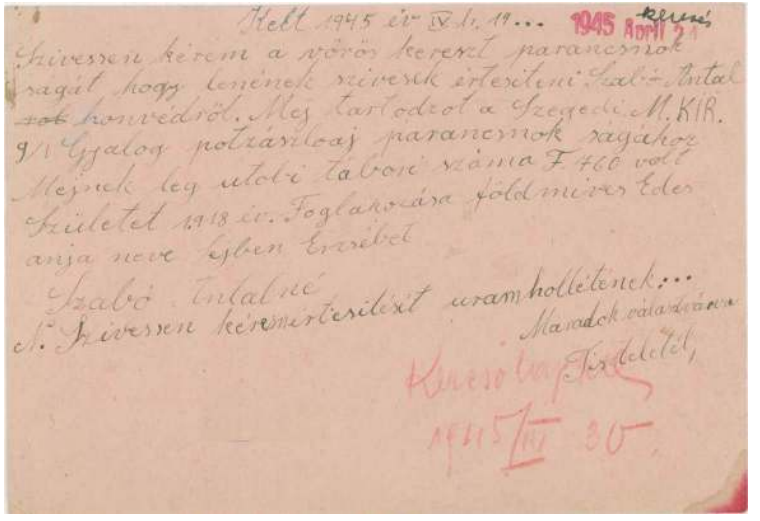


Figure 16. Military lager card from Kistelek on 20 April, to the Red Cross, franked with 18 filler.

The text of the card is written by a worrying wife, asking the Red Cross about the fate of his low-ranked husband: „Please let me know about the whereabouts of my husband…”. It is worth stopping for a moment and think about the worry and fear behind these lines. The Red Cross noted on the back: „Search card 45.4.30.”



The next letter was written in Budapest on 12 April 1945, and was franked according to the valid rate of 60 filler. Alas it has only been posted for some reason on 4 May, when the new first inflation rate has already been introduced, which would require a franking of 1 Pengo. The Post still accepted the franking. Robert Morgan’s book states that officially there has been no patience period at the first inflation rate. Still the clerks accepted the letters franked correctly according to the previous rate for a short period. An extraordinary cover: Budapest rate, first infla-rate, patience period!

The contents show that the sender has been rather right-minded, shown also by the franking: Arpad, Patrona Hungariae, Sacred Crown...



Figure 17. 60 filler franking
from Budapest to Zirc on 4 May.

THE POSTAGE-DUE PROVISIONAL OF RAKOSSZENTMIHALY

Last but not least I show something interesting for postage due collectors. The post office of Rakosszentmihaly did not have any postage due stamps on stock, so they produced them by putting a 20 mm large circle with „Porto" inscription on normal stamps. They used this practice for a fairly long period, as I have seen such solutions from the billion period, nearly a year later, as well

The next figure shows a picture post card franked with 30 filler according to the Budapest rate, but Rakosszentmihaly lying outside the customs border 40 filler would have been required. The postage due of 20 filler has been paid by a 20 filler Sacred Crown stamp with the single circle „Porto" overprint.



Figure 18. Picture post card from Budapest 9, from 24 March.

Here is a letter from Recsk, from 19 March, franked seemingly correctly according to the old 1944 rate of 30 filler. But the new Budapest rate was 60 filler, this is the reason of the 2x30 filler postage due paid with the Sacred Crown stamps with „Porto" overprint.



Figure 19. Letter from Recsk,
with 2*30 filler postage due provisionally.

And finally a last day usage of the Budapest rate, from 2 pm:



Figure 20.

Local registered cover, the correct rate of 1 Pengo 40 filler paid with a spectacular Kossuth-Kinizsi franking. On the front we can see the posting date of 30 April on the canceller of Post Office No. 5, on the back the arrival cancellation of the Post Office No. 112 can be seen from two days later, 2 May.



SUMMARY

67 years had to pass to find out the rationale behind a number of seemingly mysterious frankings and postage dues from March-April 1945. Let me stress, that the reason of the Budapest rate has not been the inflation, but the need for a higher income to pay the clerks' salaries, therefore the 1-27 numbering of the infla periods remains correct.

The new rates have been announced – in the absence of other media – in the March 2 issue of the newspaper Nepszava, no other trace of it can be found.

Let us raise our hats before the heroic work of the postal clerks, who made the impossible possible in the ruined city. I am glad to be able to give an authentic summary to the interested as a then 11 year old eye-witness of those days.

This being the first Hungarian appearance of this study, I am expecting several remarks and notes to it. I ask the help of my fellow collectors in this.

Literature:

Robert. B. Morgan: Hungary´s Hyperinflation 1945-46, Collectors Club, Chicago 2003.

Laszlo Pakozdi: Monograph of Hungarian Stamps, volume V., Budapest 1967.

The articles of Dr. Gabor Bernath in Belyegvilag.

Translation by Geza Homonnay

AIR MAIL DURING THE HYPERINFLATION 1946.



ROBERT B. MORGAN, LOS ANGELES

This is the updated version of the article that appeared in the book *The Hungarian Hyperinflation 1945-1946,* by Robert B. Morgan, Edited by John M. Hotchner, Published in 2003, by The Collectors Club of Chicago. U.S.A.

All Air Mail traffic in Hungary (both domestic and overseas) ceased in early 1944, and the resumption of Air Mail service to foreign countries has a very interesting history worth telling.

Following the cessation of military activities, the major U.S. airlines wanted to make Budapest their stopover hub for their respective routes originating from the Unites States, England and Germany towards their destinations to the Middle-East and Australia.

The puppet Hungarian Government was eager to issue permits, even secured approval from the Soviets, but at the last minute the Soviet High Command in Hungary cancelled the deal.[1] The U.S. airlines considered the negotiations a failure and eventually set up their hub in Vienna. Thanks to the Soviets, there was no civilian air traffic going into or out of Hungary. Even after the military activities ceased, the Postal Department was not allowed to arrange Air Mail with other countries for one full year until May 1, 1946.

The directive establishing the resumption of Air Mail appeared in the P.R.T. April 23, 1946, issue number 24, regulation 216.493/4. It set down a very strictly regulated and controlled system, including the fact that in Hungary only one Post Office, Budapest No.72 (at the Eastern Railroad Terminal) was allowed to accept Air Mail for transmittal.

The fee had to be paid in cash and always at the daily exchange rate of the Gold Franc. The Gold Franc was to be converted to the Pengő currency at the official daily exchange rate posted by the Hungarian National Bank. (See Table 4)

To the named European countries (see Table 2) the weight rate was per 10 grams; to the named countries beyond Europe, the weight rate was per 5 grams, and the accepted weight limit for each letter to all countries was 20 grams. Only letter-mail was allowed. In addition, the above directive states "… only a restricted quantity of consignments will be accepted each day. If that number is reached, the post office will stop accepting that day and will resume accepting Air Mail the next day…"[2].

Although the P.R.T. regulations did not mention it, from other unsubstantiated sources the daily allowed number '200' has came up. If this '200' was for units/day, or for grams /day, we do

[1] 'Between Russia and the West: Hungary and the Illusions of Peacemaking 1945-46' by Stephen D. Kertesz, 1986.

[2] "… Légiküldeményeket egyelöre kizárólag a Budapest 72 sz. Postahivatalnál adhatók fel. Nevezett hivatalnál is csak korlátolt mennyiségben lehet ilyen küldeményeket feladni. Ha a napközben feladott küldemények az arra a napra engedélyezett mennyiséget elérik, a hivatal a felvételt azon a napon beszünteti és csak másnap folytatja…"

not know. We do know for a fact that up to this date of writing (February 2012) the most recorded Air Mail letters posted on one day as well as the highest number of grams/day mailed was on May 17th (15th rate period) with three covers of 32 grams total. Based on the small number of covers recorded and the extremely high cost for mailing such letters the author's guess is that the accepted limit fluctuated daily based on total grams allowed. We are still searching for a definitive answer.

The U.P.U. Convention required payment for Air Mail letters to be settled in (Swiss) Gold Francs. The prescribed Air Mail surcharges in Gold Francs had to be paid in addition to the fees of a foreign letter's regular rate. On May 1, 1946, the exchange rate was 1 Gold Franc = 50 millió Pengő. (See Tables 3 and 5)

As we already mentioned, the regulation called for the sender to pay the rate 'in Pengős' (P), calculated at any given day's exchange rate of the Gold Franc. On July 12, 1946, the Postal Department changed the official money to Adópengő (AP), however (in typical confusion of the times) the daily announced conversion numbers still showed Pengő to Gold Franc. It was not until July 20th that the announced number showed Adópengő to Gold Franc. Therefore Between July 12th and 20th the postal clerks had to perform another calculation to translate the Gold Franc rate to Pengő and then to Adópengő (see Table 4 and 5) (see Figure 9). To perform such calculation was not a small feat! In order to be able to decipher an Air Mail cover, one has to be aware of all these calculations. (See Tables 1, 3, 4 and 5).

The scarcity of these Air Mail covers is demonstrated when after 66 years only 59 are recorded. (See Table 1) A survey listing newly discovered covers is an ongoing project since 1995, when the late Dr. Paul Szilagyi and the writer of this article conducted an international survey among collectors of the Hyperinflation.

All recorded Air Mail covers (except one, see Figure 2) were processed with 'Paid in Cash' markings. All, except one bore the 'LÉGIPOSTA/PAR AVION' air mail etiquette. The red rectangular 'TAXE PERCUE' (postage paid) marking sometimes missing. On all 'Paid in Cash' covers a black 'Légiposta' and a red ''Készpénzzel Fizetve' (paid in cash) circular daystamp appears. The weight of the letter, the Gold Franc and the postage paid is indicated in manuscript together with the postal clerk's signature.

Most of these tattered, unattractive, stamps-less covers probably were not saved by the recipients but thrown away. Also it is worth noting that most Air Mail covers are made from fragile, thin material in an effort to minimize postage charges. These Air Mail covers are eagerly sought and competed for not only by Hungary's collectors of the Hyperinflation but by Hungary's collectors of Postal History and collectors specializing in Air Mail as well. But one thing is for sure, Air Mail covers from the Hyperinflation's last three months are true 'gems'.

Routing. Since there was no direct air connection with the West, it is a challenge for the collectors to figure out the routings of Air Mail letters between the point of origin and the destination. It is still debated which airlines were used and from what foreign cities Hungarian Air Mail was forwarded between May 1, 1946, and June 16, 1946. Until 1997, no definitive proof turned up[3] as we have found no covers that would bear any marking in order to track their routing. At that point one such cover was discovered by this writer that shed light on this important subject. See Figure 1.

It is important that our readers' report any such Air Mail covers that are not yet recorded and be included in the listing: through MAFITT please contact the author or the Mafitt via email.

[3] Victor J. Berecz, Jr., *The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Air Mail, 1996.*



Figure 1.

Discovery Copy.

First Day of Pan Am's Prague-New York Flight
via Vienna, Brussels, London, Limerick (Shannon) Ireland, and Gander, Newfoundland

Budapest, June 14. 1946. Before re-establishment of direct airmail links with North America, airmail routes only now being ascertained. This letter was carried overland from Budapest to Prague. Received Prague-New York cachet (**type F18L**) on June 17, 1946. Flown to NY by Pan Am Airlines. New York datestamp (on reverse) 1:30PM, June 18, 1946. By regulation the allowed maximum weight was up to 20gr.

The cover is addressed to New York and had a circular First Flight marking (June 17, 1946) of Pan Am's[4] flight from Prague to New York. Finally, this document clarified the mystery that these letters had been transferred from Budapest by a surface method (rail or car) to Prague, and then flown by Pan Am to the final destinations.



Figure 1b.

Speculation still persists[5] for what route and which airline(s) (BOAC, QUANTAS, KLM?) carried Hungarian Air Mail from Prague, or Vienna to Sweden, (Figure 2) or Australia/New Zealand. (Figure 3) on the next page.

Foreign Letter ……..... **16,000 Milpengő**

Air Mail Surcharge rate: 1 Gold Franc per 5 g
20 gr / 5 = 4 Gold Franc

4 Gold Francs x 500,000 Milpengő ..... **2,000,000 Milpengő**

Paid rate:…… **2,016,000 Milpengő**

On this day the rate for one Gold Franc was 500,000 Mil(lió) pengős. The rate in Pengős 2,016,000,000,000 (USA: 2 Trillion 16 Billion).

[4] Pan American Airlines
[5] Frank Bowden, *The News of Hungarian Philately, 1996.*



Figure 2.

Budapest, June 9, 1946. 9 gram Air Mail letter to Sweden.

Air Mail surcharge rate to Sweden each 10 gr = 0,10 Gold Franc. The Pengő/Gold Franc conversion rate on June 8-9, 1946. was 100,000,000,000 Pengő = 1 Gold Franc.

Foreign letter rate to 20 gr ….....	**1,600 Milpengő**
Air Mail surcharge 0,1 Gold Franc	**10,000 Milpengő**
Paid rate ….....	**11,600 Milpengő**

(11,600,000,000 Pengő)

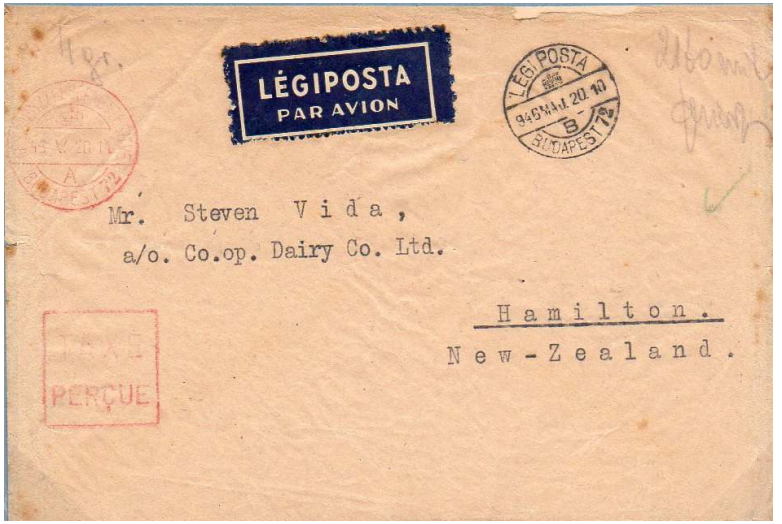


Figure 3.

Air Mail to New Zealand Budapest, May 20, 1946.
Carried by overland from Budapest to Prague, and from there flown to New Zealand probably by KLM.

Air Mail surcharge rate to New Zealand was the highest amount all countries: 2 Gold Franc / 5gr.
The Pengő/Gold Franc conversion rate on May 19-20-21 was 1,000,000,000 Pengő = 1 Gold Franc.

Foreign letter 4 gr ….....	**160,000,000 Pengő**
Air Mail surcharge 2 Gold Francs ...	**2,000,000,000 Pengő**
Paid rate ……..	**2,160,000,000 Pengő**

(USA: 2 Billion 160 Million Pengő)

The earliest known Air Mail date.



Figure 4.

Air Mail Budapest, May 2, 1946, to Los Altos, USA

Air Mail surcharge per 5gr = 1 Gold Franc (GF)
Conversion rate for 1 Gold Franc on May 2, 1946 was
50 milpengő (50,000,000 Pengő)

Foreign letter ……..…….	**8 Milp.**
Air Mail Surcharge for 5½ gr = 2GF	
On May, 1946 …..……	**100 Milp.**
**Paid rate ……..... **	**108 Milp.**
	(108,000,000 Pengő)

Milp = million Pengő
GF = Swiss Gold Franc

Last day of Hyperinflation.

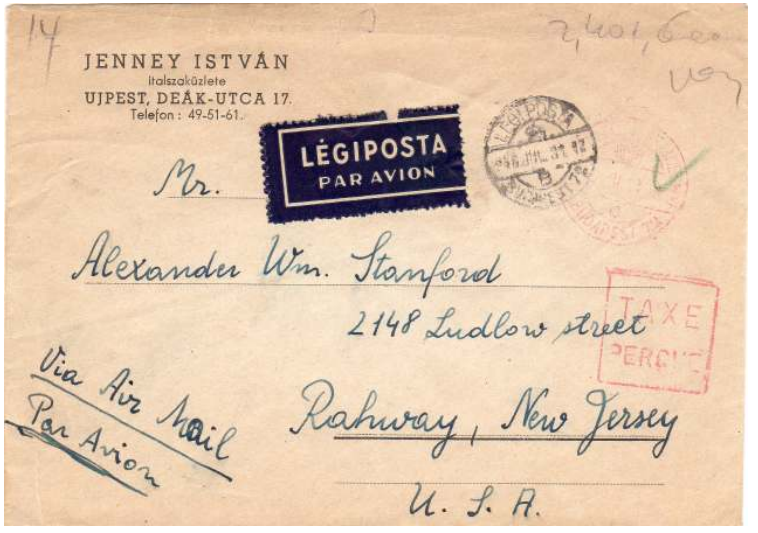


Figure 5.

Air Mail Budapest, July 31, 1946, to New Jersey, USA

Air Mail surcharge to USA: 1 Gold Franc per 5gr
1 Gold Franc on July 31, 1946: 800,000,000 Adópengő (AP)
1 Adópengő = 200×10^{19} Pengő

Letter to Foreign destination …..	**1,600,000 AP**
Air Mail Surcharge on July 31,	
3 Gold Franc for 14gr……	**2,400,000,000 AP**
**Paid rate ……..... **	**2,401,600,000 AP**
(4,803,200,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 Pengő)	

AP = Adópengő = Tax Pengő



Figure 6.

Budapest, July 24, 1946, First Day (of 27th period) Cover

5 F = Marking probably by delivering mailman, as: 5th floor.

Letter to foreign destination 20gr ……..…	**1,600,000 AP**
Air Mail surcharge to USA per 5gr	
1 Gold Franc on July 24, 1946 …	**150,000,000 AP**
Paid rate ……...	**151,600,000 AP**

On this day the conversion rate (Pengő/Adópengő) was $120x10^{18}$

The paid Adó Pengő (Tax Pengő) amount translated into Pengö: 18,192,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 Pengö or USA: 18,192 Octillion Pengö.



Figure 7.

Air Mail Budapest, July 26, 1946, to Los Angeles, USA

Air Mail letters were accepted only at the Budapest 72 P.O. Handwritten 3gr (weight); and "1,-" for 1 Gold Franc.

Note difference two days later

Letter to foreign destination 20gr …	**1,600,000 AP**
Air Mail surcharge to USA per 5gr	
1 Gold Franc on July 26, 1946 …	**450,000,000 AP**
Paid rate ……...	**541,600,000 AP**

On this day the conversion rate (Pengő/Adópengő) was $700x10^{18}$



Figure 8.

Air Mail Budapest, June 19, 1946, to London, England.

Air Mail rate schedule to England called for each 10gr weight the surcharge of 0.10 Gold Franc (10 Gold Centimes)

1 Gold Franc equaled 5 million Milpengő = 5 billió Pengő)

Foreign letter …….....	**80,000 Milpengő**
Registered	**160,000 Milpengő**
Surcharge for double-weight	
Air Mail 0.20 Gold Franc	**1,000,000 Milpengő**
Paid rate ……	**1,240,000 Milpengő**
	(1,240,000,000,000 Pengő)



Figure 9.

Air Mail Budapest, July 15, 1946, to USA

1 Gold Franc on July 15, 1946 equaled 8,890,000 AP) [6]

Foreign letter up to 20 gr …..	**80,000 AP**
Air Mail surcharge to USA per 5gr	
Weight 10gr = 2 Gold Franc	**17,780,000 AP**
Paid rate ……	**17,860,000 AP**
	(241,110,000,000,000,000,000,000 Pengő)

[6] *On July 15, 1946 1 Gold Franc equaled 120,000 trillió Pengő and 1 Adópengő was 135x10[14] Pengő. To calculate how many Adópengő was needed the postal clerk had to divide 120,000 trillió into 13,500 billió, then he was required 'round up' the 8,888,888 to 8,890,000 Adópengő.*

Table 1. The list of Air Mail covers recorded* 59, (updated February 2012) **in chronological order** (*see Legend on Page 25*)

rate period	1946	weight	destination	country	rate paid		
14	May 2	5 ½ grams	Los Altos, CA	USA	108,000,000	Pengő	
14	May 2	12 ½ grams	San Francisco	USA	158,000,000	Pengő	
14	May 4	3 ½ grams	Cleveland	USA	78,000,000	Pengő	
14	May 6	5 grams	New York	USA	108,000,000	Pengő	
14	May 7	5 ½ grams	East Orange, NJ	USA	208,000,000	Pengő	
14	May 8	7 grams	Philadelphia	USA	308,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 10	9 ½ grams	Patterson	USA	340,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 11	4 grams	New York	USA	290,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 11	5 grams	Jackson Heights	USA	290,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 11	8 grams	New York	USA	540,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 12	5½ grams	New York	USA	540,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 16	12 grams	Los Angeles	USA	540,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 17	7 grams	New York	USA	500,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 17	10 grams	Stockholm	Sweden	90,000,000	Pengo	(90 milp)
15	May 17	15 grams**	Jersey City	USA	1,620,000,000	Pengő	
15	May 18	6 grams	Bronx	USA	1,640,000,000	Pengő	
16	May 20	4 grams	Hamilton	New Zealand	2,160,000,000	Pengő	
16	May 20	3½ grams	Arlington	USA	1,160,000,000	Pengő	
16	May 21	8 grams	New York	USA	2,160,000,000	Pengő	
16	May 21	6 grams	Los Altos	USA	2,160,000,000	Pengő	
16	May 22	5 grams	Hollywood	USA	2,160,000,000	Pengő	
16	May 25	4½ grams	Sydney, NSW	Australia	6,160,000,000	Pengő	
17	May 27	5 grams	New York	USA	6,480,000,000	Pengő	
17	May 27	4 grams	New York	USA	6,480,000,000	Pengő	
17	May 29	4 grams	Los Angeles	USA	10,480,000,000	Pengő	
17	May 30	3½ grams	New York	USA	10,480,000,000	Pengő	
18	June 1	5 grams	New York	USA	13,600,000,000	Pengő	
18	June 1	4 grams **	Newark	USA	16,800,000,000	Pengő	
18	June 3	10 grams	Harefield	England	4,100,000,000	Pengő	

rate period	1946	weight	destination	country	rate paid		
18	June 9	9 grams ##	Stockholm	Sweden	11,600,000,000	Pengő	
19	June 11	10½ grams	New York	USA	616,000,000,000	Pengő	
19	June 14	16 grams	New York	USA	2,016,000,000,000	Pengő	
19	June 16	6½ grams	London	England	166,000,000,000	Pengő	
20	June 17	19 grams	London	England	380,000,000,000	Pengő	
20	June 19	7 grams #	Stockholm	Sweden	580,000,000,000	Pengő	
20	June 19	4½ grams	New York	USA	5,080,000,000,000	Pengő	
20	June 19	12 grams **	London	England	1,240,000,000,000	Pengő	
20	June 22	8 grams	New York	USA	20,080,000,000,000	Pengő	
21	June 24	4 grams	New York	USA	21,600,000,000,000	Pengő	=21.6 billió
21	June 24	6 grams	New York	USA	41,600,000,000,000	Pengő	
21	June 26	3 grams	New York	USA	81,600,000,000,000	Pengő	=81.6 “
21	June 27	4½ grams	Hammond	USA	201,600,000,000,000	Pengő	=201.6 “
21	June 29	7 grams	London	England	100,480,000,000,000	Pengő	
23	July 6	5 grams	Melbourne,Vic.	Australia	20,008,000,000,000,000,000	Pengő	= 20 trillió
24	July 11	4 grams ***	New York	USA	2,001,200,000,000,000,000,000	Pengő	= 2001 trillió +
24	July 11	4 grams	Vineland	USA	2,000,400,000,000,000,000,000	Pengő	= 2000 trillió+
25	July 14	5 grams	New York	USA	9,320,000	Adópengő	
25	July 14	3 grams	Sydney, NSW	Australia	13,940,000	Adópengő	
25	July 15	10 grams	Ventnor City	USA	17,860,000	Adópengő	
25	July 16	5 grams	New York	USA	12,580,000	Adópengő	
25	July 17	8 grams	London	England	2,090,000	Adópengő	
26	July 18	7.5 grams	Kosta	Sweden	2,100,000	Adópengő	
26	July 18	4 grams	New York	USA	17,100,000	Adópengő	
26	July 20	5 grams	Newark	USA	30,400,000	Adópengő	
26	July 20	5 grams	Sydney,NSW	Australia	45,400,000	Adópengő	
27	July 24	5 grams	New York	USA	151,600,000	Adópengő	
27	July 25	5 grams	Sydney,NSW	Australia	226,600,000	Adópengő	
27	July 26	3 grams	Los Angeles	USA	451,600,000	Adópengő	
27	July 31	14 grams	Rahway, NJ	USA	2,401,600,000	Adópengő	

Table 2. Resumption of Air Mail with European and Overseas countries and corresponding rates

Australia, (New South Wales only)	each 5 grams	1.50 Gold Franc
Australia, all other points	each 5 grams	2.00 " "
British India	each 5 grams	1.50 " "
Unites States of America	each 5 grams	1.00 " "
North Borneo, (Brunei and Sarawak)	each 5 grams	1.00 " "
Canada	each 5 grams	1.00 " "
New Zealand	each 5 grams	2.00 " "
France	each 10 grams	0.10 " "
Ireland	each 10 grams	0.10 " "
Great Britain	each 10 grams	0.10 " "
Sweden	each 10 grams	0.10 " "
USSR	each 10 grams	0.10 " "

Table 3. Pengő to Gold Franc conversion rate during the end of the Hyperinflation May 1 to July 31,1946. The official exchange rates were posted on the following dates for **1 Gold Franc equals[7]:**

April 28,1946	50,000,000	(50 millió Pengő)
May 3,	70,000,000	
May 5,	100,000,000	(100 millió Pengő)
May 8,	150,000,000	
May 11,	250,000,000	
May 15,	500,000,000	(500 millió or Milpengő)
May 18,	800,000,000	
May 19,	1,000,000,000	(1 thousand Milpengő)
May 22,	2,000,000,000	(2 thousand Milpengő)
May 25,	4,000,000,000	(4 thousand Milpengő)
May 26,	6,000,000,000	(6 thousand Milpengő)
May 28,	10,000,000,000	(10 thousand Milpengő)
May 31,	12,000,000,000	(12 thousand Milpengő)
June 2,	25,000,000,000	(25 thousand Milpengő)
June 6,	40,000,000,000	(40 thousand Milpengő)
June 7,	60,000,000,000	(60 thousand Milpengő)
June 8,	100,000,000,000	(100 thousand Milpengő)
June 11,	200,000,000,000	(200 thousand Milpengő)
June 14,	500,000,000,000	(500 thousand Milpengő)
June 16,	1,500,000,000,000	(1 million 500 thousand Milpengő)
June 19,	5,000,000,000,000	(5 million Milpengő=5 billió)
June 22,	10,000,000,000,000	(10 million Milpengő=10 billió)
June 23,	20,000,000,000,000	(20 million Milpengő=20 billió)
June 25,	30,000,000,000,000	(30 million Milpengő=30 billió)
June 26,	80,000,000,000,000	(80 billió Pengő)
June 27,	200,000,000,000,000	(200 billió Pengő)
June 28,	1,500,000,000,000,000	(1thousand 500 billió Pengő)
June 29,	10,000,000,000,000,000	(10 thousand-billió Pengő)
July 2,	30,000,000,000,000,000	(30 thousand-billió Pengő)
July 3,	200,000,000,000,000,000	(200 thousand-billió Pengő)
July 4,	1,000,000,000,000,000,000	(1 millió-billió = 1 trillió Pengő)
July 5,	2,000,000,000,000,000,000	(2 trillió Pengő)
July 6,	10,000,000,000,000,000,000	(10 trillió Pengő)
July 7,	30,000,000,000,000,000,000	(30 trillió Pengő)
July 9,	100,000,000,000,000,000,000	(100 trillió Pengő)
July 10,	300,000,000,000,000,000,000	(300 trillió Pengő)
July 11,)	2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(2,000 trillió Pengő)
July 12,	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(10,000 trillió Pengő)
July 13,	30,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(30,000 trillió Pengő)
July 15,	120,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(120,000 trillió Pengő)
July 16,	500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(500,000 trillió Pengő)
July 17,	2,500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(2 quadrillió 500 thousand trillió P)
July 18,	6,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(6 quadrillió Pengő)
July 19,	60,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(60 quadrillió Pengő)
July 20,	30,000,000	(30 millió Adópengő (AP) = Tax P)
July 22	40,000,000	(40 millió AP)
July 23	70,000,000	(70 millió AP)
July 24,	150,000,000	(150 millió AP)
July 26,	450,000,000	(450 millió AP)
July 27[8]	1,200,000,000	(1 milliárd 200 millió AP)

[7] Compiled by István Glatz, News of Hungarian Philately, July-September, 1990.

[8] July 31, From evidence (Author) it was 1,200,000,000 (1 billió 200 millió AP).

Table 4. Gold Franc to Pengő Conversion Table.

October 12, **1945**	700	Pengő
October 26,	2,700	
November 1,	3,300	
November 11,	7,000	
November 18,	9,000	
November 24,	14,000	
November 28,	18,000	
December 5,	24,000	
December 11,	30,000	
December 12,	40,000	
December 15,	50,000	
December 23,	36,000	
January 3, **1946**	50,000	
January 4,	60,000	
January 6,	80,000	
January 11,	85,000	
January 17,	90,000	
January 20,	100,000	
January 24,	110,000	
January 27,	125,000	
February 2,	135,000	
February 6,	170,000	
February 9,	190,000	
February 13,	200,000	
February 16,	230,000	
February 17,	260,000	
February 19,	300,000	
February 20,	400,000	
February 23,	500,000	
February 24,	600,000	
March 8,	1,200,000	(1 millió 200 thousand)
March 12,	1,300,000	
March 13,	1,500,000	
March 17,	1,600,000	
March 20,	1,800,000	
March 22,	2,000,000	
March 23,	2,200,000	(2 millió 200 thousand Pengő)
March 27,	2,800,000	
March 29,	3,300,000	
March 30,	3,600,000	
April 3,	5,000,000	
April 7,	6,000,000	
April 9,	7,000,000	
April 10,	9,000,000	(9 millió Pengő)
April 14,	12,000,000	
April 17,	15,000,000	
April 19,	20,000,000	
April 24,	25,000,000	
April 25,	35,000,000	
April 28,	50,000,000	(50 millió Pengő)
May 3,	70,000,000	
May 5,	100,000,000	(100 millió Pengő)
May 8,	150,000,000	
May 11,	250,000,000	
May 15,	500,000,000	(500 millió or **Milpengő**)
May 18,	800,000,000	

May 19,	1,000,000,000	(1 thousand Milpengő = 1 **milliárd**)
May 22,	2,000,000,000	(2 thousand Milpengő)
May 25,	4,000,000,000	(4 thousand Milpengő)
May 26,	6,000,000,000	(6 thousand Milpengő)
May 28,	10,000,000,000	(10 thousand Milpengő)
May 31,	12,000,000,000	(12 thousand Milpengő)
June 2,	25,000,000,000	(25 thousand Milpengő)
June 6,	40,000,000,000	(40 thousand Milpengő)
June 7,	60,000,000,000	(60 thousand Milpengő)
June 8,	100,000,000,000	(100 thousand Milpengő)
June 11,	200,000,000,000	(200 thousand Milpengő)
June 14,	500,000,000,000	(500 thousand Milpengő)
June 16,	1,500,000,000,000	(1 million 500 thousand Milpengő)
June 19,	5,000,000,000,000	(5 million Milpengő=5 **billió**)
June 22,	10,000,000,000,000	(10 million Milpengő=10 billió)
June 23,	20,000,000,000,000	(20 million Milpengő=20 billió)
June 25,	30,000,000,000,000	(30 million Milpengő=30 billió)
June 26,	80,000,000,000,000	(80 billió Pengő)
June 27,	200,000,000,000,000	(200 billió Pengő)
June 28,	1,500,000,000,000,000	(1thousand 500 billió Pengő)
June 29,	10,000,000,000,000,000	(10 thousand billió Pengő)
July 2,	30,000,000,000,000,000	(30 thousand billió Pengő)
July 3,	200,000,000,000,000,000	(200 thousand billió Pengő)

July 4,	1,000,000,000,000,000,000	(1 millió billió = 1 **trillió** P)
July 5,	2,000,000,000,000,000,000	(2 trillió Pengő)
July 6,	10,000,000,000,000,000,000	(10 trillió Pengő)
July 7,	30,000,000,000,000,000,000	(30 trillió Pengő)
July 9,	100,000,000,000,000,000,000	(100 trillió Pengő)
July 10,	300,000,000,000,000,000,000	(300 trillió Pengő)
July 11,)	2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(2,000 trillió Pengő)
July 12,	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(10,000 trillió Pengő)
July 13,	30,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(30,000 trillió Pengő)
July 15,	120,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(120,000 trillió Pengő)
July 16,	500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(500,000 trillió Pengő)
July 17,	2,500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(2 **quadrillió** 500 thousand trillió Pengő)
July 18,	6,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(6 quadrillió Pengő)
July 19,	60,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	(60 quadrillió Pengő)
July 20,	30,000,000	(30 millió **Adópengő (AP) = Tax Pengő**)
July 22	40,000,000	(40 millió AP)
July 23	70,000,000	(70 millió AP)
July 24,	150,000,000	(150 millió AP)
July 26,	450,000,000	(450 millió AP)
July 27,	1,200,000,000	(1 milliárd 200 millió AP)
August 1, 1 Gold Franc = 4 Forints		

Table 5. Pengő to Adópengő Index (July 20-28, 1946) during the end of the Hyperinflation:

July 20, 1946	250×10^{16}
July 21	700×10^{16}
July 22	200×10^{17}
July 23	500×10^{17}
July 24	120×10^{18}
July 25	300×10^{18}
July 26	700×10^{18}
July 27	200×10^{19}
July 28	200×10^{19}

Table 6. Hungarian and U.S. Terminology for Large Numbers

Units	**Hungary**	**USA**	**Exponent**
1,000,000	millió	million	1×10^{6}
1,000,000,000	milliárd	billion	1×10^{9}
1,000,000,000,000	billió	trillion	1×10^{12}
1,000,000,000,000,000	billiárd	quadrillion	1×10^{15}
1,000,000,000,000,000,000	trillió	quintillion	1×10^{18}
1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	-	sextillion	1×10^{21}
1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	quadrillió	septillion	1×10^{24}
1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	-	octillion	1×10^{27}
1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	quintillió	nonillion	1×10^{30}

Legend to the Table 1.

* A few (3) covers we did not see, but responsible reporting occurred and included here.
** Registered
*** Registered, Returned to Sender.
# Front only.
Rate paid with stamps.

USE OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS FOR AIR MAIL, OR AN UNSUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT



DR. GYORGY LOVEI, BUDAPEST

One barrier of the development of air postal service was not only the high air mail fee, but an obligatory express fee had to be paid. The cost of was Korona 10.000 – or later 80 filler.

The payment of the express fee was obligatory from 22.06.1922 to 17.06.1926. The express-fee was equal to the air mail fee, for example in 1922 the basic fee was Korona 6, express fee Korona 12, air mail fee Korona 12, so the total rate was 5 times higher then the basic fee. It is clear that the air mail letters were delivered quicker from the airport to the local post office, normally by car on arrival day. Even so we can constant that the total fee of an air letter was only one third in the case of the incoming air mail letter. (For example in the case of an air mail letter from Czechoslovakia was 3 Kcs =36 filler, while the air mail fee to Prague was Korona 25.000 2 Pengő, in 1925-26, later 52 filler.)

The Hungarian Royal Post introduced a new „service" in August, 1930: the air mail letters arriving from abroad were delivered on the same day to a Budapest addressee for an extra express 80 filler, by the addressee. The Postai Ertesito, the official Journal of the postal service did not published the introduction, as it was written in the Filateliai Kurir, philatelic journal by an unknown author (maybe Janos Örvös, chief redactor) in his short article under the title „A false postal experiment" in January, 1931. The author writes:

The postal service delivered incoming air mail letters experimentally within some hours in Budapest with an additional 80 filler express fee payable with duty stamps. Some addressees, not being happy but paid the „fine" packed in red mantle, while the majority of them refused the payment, saying that it must be paid not by the addressee, but the „mad" sender who had chosen a so stupid form to send greetings from Paris, or Stockholm. The unfortunate postcard or letter was redelivered on the third or fourth day unfortunate postcard and handed over to the addressee with the annulated 80 filler duty stamp, so late as the postcard would have been sent not by air plane, but by „bugaci vicinális"(local train, or horse coach). As the Post received lot of complains it turned out that the special service was introduced as a „bona fidae" attempt, but after getting lot of complaints arrived the post finished this voluntary method of delivery. The Post had to accept that the experiment failed, as who pays instead of 10 öre Swedish air mail fee (Stockholm-Budapest) 80 filler express fee from Budapest to Budapest".

Fortunately the posterior philatelists consider these letters elsewhere as interesting documents of a special experiment. I show two exemplars from my collection to illustrate this experiment.

On the first photo I show a Czechoslovakian postcard. The postal rate was 2.20 Kcs (1,20 Kcs basic, 1,00 Kcs air mail fee), 4,50

stamps was fixed on it and was sent on 24.08.1930 at 12 a.m. from Post Office Brno 2 to Budapest.



Photo 1

The funny sender mocked the post: „This postcard will arrive later then me –Best regards." It's sure the post accepted the challenge: The post fixed 2x 40 filler postage due stamp on the reverse side (MBK 109) and on the same day delivered the postcard to the addressee. It is only an assumption as their is no arrival date on the postcard. The Budapesti Kozponti Tavirohivatal (Budapest Central Telegraphic) cancellation with the letter J was used at the airport as arrival cancellation on air mail letters and postcards.

I show on the second photo a letter sent 10 days later from USA to Budapest, to the addressee is United State Liner. The letter arrived 7 days from USA to Paris, where it got a Paris Gare Par Avion blue cancellation on 11.09.1930 6 am. 2 days later it arrived to Budapest, Mátyásföld airport on 13.11.1930 at 6 am, and was sent further 4 pm to Budapest 72 Post Office, where it received „Légi-postán érkezett" („Arrived by air mail) framed postal cancellation.

The office of the addressee was closed late evening so the 80 filler (MBK 111) stamp was cancelled with x pen symbol. This letter shows the hardness of the express delivery system too, which functioned only during some weeks long, as the post based on the protests (maybe by philatelists) and hardness seized the experimental express delivery.



Photo 2.

Undoubtedly these letters with Hungarian postage due stamps are interesting items with postal historical interest, as they prove the use of the highest value(s) of the postage due set. The Magyar Belyegek Kezikonyve (The Hand Book of Hungarian Philately) evaluates the double use of 40 filler postage due stamp, the use of single 80 filler postage due stamp. According to its 465. page the value in the first case is 250-450 points, while the use of the single 80 filler 80 points are high amounts. (1 point is around 0,25 US Dollar) We can put the question, whether an additional points have to add to the basic price of the air mail letters, as they can have a nice value too. [9]

It's sure we have to add an additional remark to the evaluation of postage due stamps documents: in the case of air mail letters arrived from abroad a surplus is lawful.

[9] Similar letter can be seen in Gabor Visnyovszki collection on www.exponet.com, and an English collector from Finnland showed me a similar Finish letter at Efiro 08.

THE PROVISIONAL SOLUTION OF ENDRED
HANDSTAMP CANCELLER OF A NON-EXISTENT POST OFFICE

JOZSEF VENDEL, KAPOSVAR



In philately, the rarity always attracted the collectors. Special stamps, unusual postal markings, always belonged to the most precious properties of collectors. But what is considered special or curiosity? There is something else precious for every collector, but they all agree in one, that there exist only a few of them.

On a 1994 auction[10] , the enclosed ENDRÉD cancellation turned up from the Ryan collection.

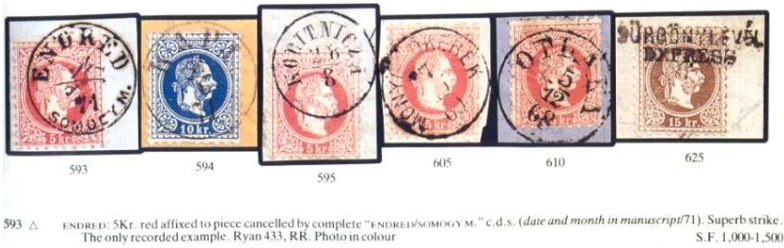


Figure 1: ENDRÉD cancellation from Christie's auction

We do not know the buyer, but we do know that he probably does not even suspect, how valuable an item he got. Since, we did not known of the existence of this cancellation for a long time, for it had not been mentioned in the Monograph[11] nor the Zlatev catalogue or in any other philatelic publication. Gary Ryan had mentioned it for the first time in his catalogue[12] , since at that time he had it in his collection.

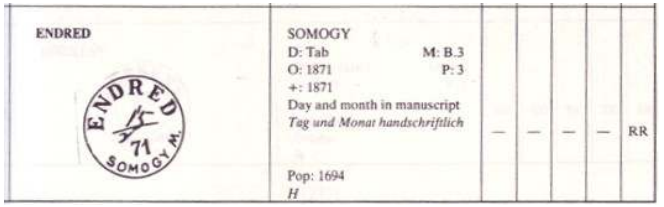


Figure 2: ENDRÉD cancellation from Ryan catalogue

The text of the cancellation shown in the catalogue is in error and missing one hyphen, just as the same error was carried over in all the subsequent buyer's catalogues. This was especially surprising, since the catalogue's Figure has been prepared from the only existing cancellation. On this one, the hyphen on the second letter "E" is clearly visible.

For I collect provincial documents of Somogy, I became aware early on, of this special cancellation, and unknown postal office. Since my plan has always been the full exploration of the post offices of Somogy, it became my definite goal to resolve the mystery of Endred's post office.

[10] Christie's Zürich, 15th of Juni, p.119
[11] Monograph of Hungarian Stamps VI. Bp. 1973, p.97
[12] G.S. Ryan: Cancellations … of Hungary 1867 I-II., p.236



Figure 3: ENDRÉD's only known cancellation

As a result of the follow up research, the reason became gradually clear for why this cancellation and postal office remained out of our sight for so long. It became apparent, that already on August 18, 1870 a posting was issued for the job of a postmaster of Balaton-Endred[13] for the monthly salary of 150 forint. On January 18, 1871, it was announced [14] that this posting was given to Istvan Lauschmann. Surprisingly though, the opening of the post office had not been officially announced, as customary, (that was why, we were not aware of its existence earlier) but based on the above facts, very likely the opening must have been on 1st of February.

The fact that the postal office opening had not been announced made it probable that this was only a temporary, short term solution.

As it was visible on the handstamp-canceller of the Post Office's "ENDRÉD/SOMOGY M." (Type Fa, 24.5mm diameter, letter height 3mm), the day/month was missed, because of the date of 15/3 had been written by hand. From this, we could immediately draw the conclusion that it was a temporary provisional handstamp.

This idea had been confirmed, when I searched the 1871 Officer's List [15] for the Endred post office and its post master. Surprisingly, none of them was listed. However, I have found the name of Istvan Lauschmann's, who was already listed as the postmaster of the Koroshegy post office 5 km away.

This has been a rather striking discovery that I did check right away. Indeed, on 1871 July 25 an announcement was published, [16] regarding the opening of the Koroshegy post office, but without the usual PRT protocol of tender process and post master assignment.

In the case of Endred there was a tender and post master assignment, but there was no announcement of the post office opening published. In the case of Koroshegy, it was exactly the opposite, there were no tender and postmaster assignment, but there was no announcement but the post office opening was published, meaning that the two were closely related and did not happen by chance.

[13] Postai Rendeletek Tára, 1870. number 13.
[14] Postai Rendeletek Tára, 1871. number 1.
[15] Mihók Sándor: MDCCCLXXI. évi Tiszti Névtárak I.
[16] Postai Rendeletek Tára, 1871. number 13.

All these supported the view that Endred was only a temporary, short term solution for the satisfaction of the local postal needs. The final solution was the Koroshegy post office 5 km away. It is conceivable; that by January the construction of the Koroshegy post office had not been completed yet, therefore for 6 months they operated the postal service out of Endred and that was why there was no tender for it in Koroshegy, since it already had a new postmaster assigned. In any case, the overriding concern must have been that it was more sensible and economical to set up a post office in Koroshegy, especially since for the pedestrian postal service, the railway station 2 km away on Szantod, was closer. It had provided a rapid rail transport since 1861. While from Endred, only via Zamardi could the Szantod railway station be reached 10 km away.



Figure 4: Endred – Zamardi – Szantod – Koroshegy

One more interesting fact and evidence that this was only a temporary, short term solution till the opening of the Koroshegy postal office. As it was visible in Figure #5, at the opening of the Koroshegy postal office on July 1, they used stamps issued in 1867. It would have been inconceivable, that a new postal service, on 1 July 1871, received Austrian stamps, made in 1867 for opening stock, when there were Hungarian stamps in use, made in 1871. Also the grace period of the stamps made in1867 were ended in a month. For all this, the explanation is simple, at opening of the postal office on Endred, they started to use up their 1867 stamp stock. Most likely, all of their permanent and rotating stocks had been transferred from Endred to Koroshegy. Simply put, they packed up the postal office, the stamps and the post master all together.

In a final summary, we concluded that The Endred postal office opening has *never been published by the PRT* among its listings for new postal offices. That was the reason why we have not been aware of its existence, nor was it mentioned in earlier catalogues either. It was only mentioned in the quoted postmaster appointment that was in fact referring to the Koroshegy postal office, six months later. This is confirmed by the fact that the same person was appointed there as in Endred earlier.

For this reason we could not consider Endred's postal office and its handstamp was not official, only a provisional solution of a situation, born out of necessity.

The canceller's length of use could also be determined with sufficient precision; since the tender had been issued on August 18, 1870, and on January 18, 1871 István Lauschmann's appointment was announced. From this we could safely conclude that the postal office had been opened on February 1.

The opening of the Koroshegy postal office was announced on July 25, from this we could conclude that it started operating on July 1. This is supported by the cancellation shown on the next picture that was probably made on the opening day, therefore it is a *first day cancellation*.



Figure 5: KŐRÖSHEGY first day cancellation

This means that Endred's temporary postal office had only operated *for 5 months*.

From this cancellation, we have only known to exist the one shown here. Even after 18 years, we have failed to locate another one, so we might be talking about the rarest specimen of all the Hungarian philately.

In 140 years only one specimen has showed up. Who would be the lucky one to locate another one like this? Or perhaps there is another one lurking in your collection? It is worth checking, since in 1994 this specimen fetched a price of 805 SFR. Today a cancellation like this would fetch at least 1000 €, and the value of a letter – if such thing would still exist – might even fetch 3000 €.

Unfortunately, the probability of finding another one is very little, since we know that a small community like Endred's postal traffic around 1871, had been around 500 pieces monthly. This means about 2500 pieces posted letters. If we figure a proportion of two thousandth to survive, then theoretically there could exist five maximum. Another four specimens, other than the one, we already have. Based on this, there is still a small chance of one showing up.

Translated: Janos Szupperits, Unionville, Ontario

THE HUNGARIAN POSTAL SERVICE AND THE GERMAN CENSORSHIP DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

JAN JAAP DE WEERD, VILLIERS-LÈS-NANCY



It is a great honour to stand here before you.[17] I am grateful for your invitation and your trust, and I hope I will not disappoint you. I would like to apologise for my poor German, but I can assure you that in Hungarian it would have been worse!

I would like to dedicate my talk specifically to Mr. Robert Morgan in the United States. We have never met personally, but we have corresponded for a long time, and he has supported me with much advice. Maybe not on the topics I discuss here, but he was nevertheless one of my proposers for membership of Mafitt. Another proposer was Marcel de Jong, a friend since time immemorial. I am also delighted to see many other collector friends here.

Hungarian postal censorship during the Second World War is a very wide-ranging topic so I have limited its scope and I will only deal with the censorship run by the German inspection censor offices. Many other countries also had their own censorship service. I will not discuss their interactions with Hungarian postal items.

During the Second World War the Hungarian Post to and from abroad was monitored by the German censorship office (slide 2). The post examined by the German censors has a great variety of cachets and other markings. Their study gives us how these offices worked.

Before the outbreak of war, the plan was to centralise censorship of postal traffic between Germany and abroad in Berlin.

It very quickly became clear that Berlin could not deal with the large volume of letters and it was decided to set up decentralized censorship authorities. Each Censor Office dealt with the post of a specific geographical sector and was given its own identification letters. To keep the location of these Censors Offices as secret as possible they used a variety of different distinguishing marks on mail items. These letters replaced the place of censorship on the cachets and the sealing strips.

The Foreign Postal Censorship Office (ABP) in Vienna was responsible for Hungary. Given the many experiments and changes made by this large Censor Office at the outset, it is clear that from September 1939 to early 1940 they were looking for the most efficient way of handling the mail. A variety of approaches was rapidly adopted one after another..

This preparation period was followed by a long period during which the methodology remained relatively stable. Only minor changes were made in the use of the various cachets and sealing strips. Towards the end of the war the responsibility of censorship was trans-

[17] This article describes the author's inaugural lecture of Mafitt, at the eighth Mafitt International Symposium of Postal History, Pannonhalma 13 April 2012. It was delivered in German. The numbers in brackets in the text indicate slides. They can be found on our CD-ROM in the corresponding PowerPoint presentation.

ferred to another military organisation with the result that the handling of the material was altered significantly.

The main features of these three periods for each category of censorship tools have been revealed by looking at a large number of letters and postcards. This has enabled me to ascertain beyond doubt the normal route for shipments through the censorship process. On the other hand, it has also shown which letters and postcards received special treatment.

Karl-Heinz Riemer's book, "The examination of foreign correspondence during the Second World War by German authorities," (1979) contains a list of all German censor markings on mail known at that time. It has long been an essential handbook for the researcher of this topic (slide 3).

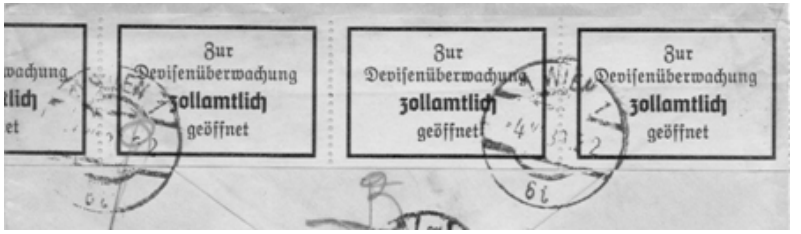
In Germany, the Arge Zensur has been engaged for some years in the task of updating Riemer's directory (slides 4 and 5).

The members of Arge Zensur have discovered a series of markings which Riemer did not know of. Research on a large quantity of mail also allowed verification of the periods of usage of the special censorship marks and determination of their degree of rarity. In 2008, the new catalogue, edited by Horst Landsmann, appeared.

The invasion of Poland took place on the 1st September 1939. The declaration of war by Britain and France on Germany followed on 3 September 1939. The card on slide 6 illustrates the uncertainty of the time: it was first marked *Zurück Postsperre* but this satamping was later crossed through. The card was probably still delivered?

SEALING STRIPS

As the Berlin office was only starting its operations in early September 1939 it had neither handstamps nor sealing strips. Until appropriate censor materials became available gummed tape of the Office of Monetary Control was used. Mail from the Vienna censor office is also known which, as in the ABP Berlin, was sealed with closure strips for foreign exchange control. See here a detail in slide 7.



The OT stamp of the Vienna 1 Post Office was struck on the sealing strip of this letter in October 1939. As the ABP Vienna only came into operation on 1 December 1939 we cannot be sure whether such letters were censored or were only checked for enclosed money.

This office introduced sealing strips in December 1939, a sign of its early organization. The first type of strip was labelled *Geprüft* with alternate inscriptions *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht* in circles. Initially letters were opened from the back with the long edge uppermost, and had no other markings near the sealing strip (see detail from slide 8).



In January 1940 the direct word *Geprüft* had already been replaced by the more neutral term (slide 9).

From March 1940 further variations were used and the identification letter "g" appeared in the circles (slide 10).

It gradually became the practice to open letters at the side, probably because the contents could be removed more easily (slide 11). On this letter the strip is located on the upper side; because the text *Geöffnet* is in the middle of the strip it is not legible on both sides of the letter.

The text *Geöffnet* was alternately above and below the middle of the strip (slide 12). From now on letters were usually open on the left side and the gummed tape then placed half on the front side and half on the back.

The text *Geöffnet* was alternately above and below the middle of the strip (slide 12). From now on letters were usually open on the left side and the gummed tape then placed half on the front side and half on the back.



The new materials for the censor offices were not available until the end of the year and thus were in use only for a few months. The short period of use, coupled with the fact that the postal traffic with foreign countries was very limited at that time, explains why cachets and strips with the new text are fairly difficult to find.

LETTER SEALING DEVICE

A new machine came into use in February 1942 which could at the same time place its own narrow sealing strip on a previously side-opened letter and apply a machine stamping device. The very lightly applied cachet is often very badly struck either because of the embossing of the strip or of an excess or shortage of ink. The devices also wore out rapidly. For these reasons clear cachets are hard to find (slide 14). Here the cachet is struck inverted; the eagles are normally to the left.

A new cachet where the eagle has broad, triangular wings (slide 15).

A new version can be seen with *Ag* on slide 16. The two dots indicate the beginning of tool wear. Later we can clearly make out the imprint of a screw head.

The new stamp of the SS, made with the text *Zensurstelle* (slide 17).



CENSOR HANDSTAMPS

Initially these handstamps were only used on postcards while letters were provided with sealing strips without any additional strike. Later most of the "normal" post was marked by machine. From June 1940 hand stamps were used mainly on registered mail.

The first handstamp appeared in January 1940. During the first month it was in blue or, as here, in purple, and after that in red. They remained in use in slightly different versions until the end of 1944 and all carried the inscription *Geprüft Oberkommando der Wehrmacht*.



The handstamp used on sealing strips (slide 19). The SS version with the cachet *Zensurstelle* (slide 20). There is also an even rarer variant '*Prüfstelle'*.

MACHINE CENSUR STAMPS

ABP Vienna was the first to use a machine cachet. Until now it was known from May 1940 but here one is shown dated 25th April. There are four slightly wavy lines of various lengths. The top line is often not evident giving the impression that the stamp has only three lines (slide 21).

On letters, they served mainly for identification on the sealing strips (slide 22).

There are numerous variations of the basic pattern "circles with eagles" with the inscription of the *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, Geprüft*, connected by parallel lines. The number of lines varies from two to four or six to seven. The distance between the circles and/or the lines is different, but one wonders whether these small differences justify a separate catalogue number. Here is a two-line version with 14 mm spacing, not previously recorded (slide 23).

Specialities: on printed matter without a strip. The letter was sent open and also delivered thus (slide 24).

On slide 25, this seven line strike was not complete so the card was passed through the machine again, this time with a two-line cachet. The machine cachets were also redesigned after the takeover of censorship by the SS. The new inscription comes from *Zensurstelle Geprüft* appears on two machine cachets, with seven or with two lines (slides 26 and 27).



Both types can be seen on this card. It went on 6th October 1944 by air from Budapest to Neu-Oderberg, Germany. At that time the airmail connection with Budapest only worked sporadically, and the fact that the franking was for airmail, or airmail stickers were attached to the card, did not mean necessarily that the card was actually forwarded by air. The airmail cachet *Légiposta* of the Budapest Post Office 4 is also not conclusive proof.

On its way the card passed through the censorship office in Vienna, where the text was checked. Once a machine cachet with seven lines was applied, the card went on to Germany. But the addressee, a Hungarian cadet candidate, could not be identified so the card was

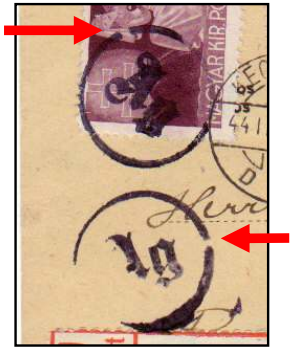
sent back. Again it went through the entire censorship process and received a second decoration of censorship markings, including a two line machine cancel. During one of the censorship processes the chemistry department applied a chemical wash in diagonal lines over the text. This wash was used to reveal any hidden messages written in invisible ink.

'TRANSIT' HANDSTAMPS

As mentioned above, certain classes of mail were not opened in the course of their handling by the censorship office. So that the postal administration was aware that there was no barrier to delivery of these items, they were marked with *'transit' handstamps* specific to the organization. Consular post like this (slide 28) could be forwarded immediately.

It was also not necessary to open correspondence with the Army High Command (slide 29).

Other examples can be found on items of mail that were returned to the sender having already been processed by the censors during their outward journey. On the way back they were only marked with one *'transit' mark* (slide 30). Here you can see notes at the back with an explanation of why it was undeliverable "Adressat abgereist mit Jüd(ischem) Transport " (addressee gone away with Jewish transport).



Three versions of the *'transit' handstamps* are known with different sizes and types of letters. Multiple copies of each version were simultaneously in use. To identify the pieces of mail handled by individual examiners, engraved markings were placed at various locations around the circle enclosing the *Ag*. This "individualization" made it possible to trace each decision to let a letter pass back to the examiner responsible (slide 31). On this card we can see that it was handled by two different examiners. The two *'transit' handstamps* are notched at different locations. Perhaps this is evidence of a system of scrutiny where the examiners were being checked randomly by a supervisor.

Machine-applied *'transit'stamps* was also used. The fact that this card (slide 33) has no examiner marks, no numbering, and no chemical testing is evidence that it had a simple passage through the censor's office.

GESTAPO

In the larger censor offices there was a department which examined foreign newspapers and magazines. This department was part of the secret state police (Gestapo). To identify each of these departments each was assigned another number. The Vienna Department received the number 2 (slide 34). On the hand-stamp the number is barely legible.

A wrapper with roller cachet where the number 2 is easy to read (slide 35). A second variant of the roller cachet on a printed matter cover, not common (slide 36).

MARKS OF CENSORS

Slide 37: The Number 147911. From mid-1941 all incoming items of mail received a six-digit receipt number on the envelope using a numbering device. This was applied to the outside of the cover and to each sheet. Pencilled numbers served to identify the individual examiner. These are mostly found on the lower right corner and inside. The three-and four-digit small numbers in purple gave evidence of the examination to the sender and the recipient.

VARIANTS

As Riemer says in his preface to the ABP Vienna: "The first evidence of a systematic monitoring of the post can be seen in the 100% opening of letters from December 1939". This letter on slide 38, without evidence of examination, would not have been properly delivered.

Letter *to* Holland (slide 39), handled by ABP Cologne, the office that normally handled post *from* The Netherlands. A letter from the Netherlands handled by ABP Vienna (slide 40). If there was a high inflow of mail, one censorship office could send unprocessed mail to another office.

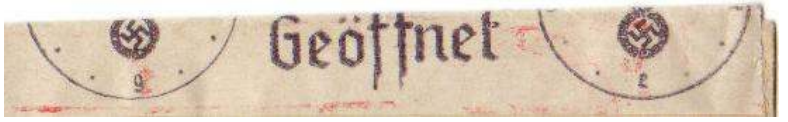
When Germany decided that postal communications with England were no longer possible, the postal administrations in occupied countries were asked to transfer all mail addressed to England to the German authorities. In Paris some postal officials hid all such mail and handed it over only after the war. Apart from the cachet 'DETAINED IN FRANCE DURING GERMAN OCCUPATION' there were no other postal marks on these letters. On 15 April 1945 these items began to arrive in England (slide 41). An arrival stamp shows that this letter was processed the following day.

Letter from Budapest to Budapest with German censorship (slide 42). Internal mail was not normally censored. One possibility is that the envelope was sent abroad in another letter. It only has the sealing strips. The normal three-digit numbering cachet and examiner marks are missing.

To keep the geographical location of the censor office secret the city names were not included in the cachets and each office was - as already mentioned above - identified with a letter. Cachets with city names may in fact have been prepared when the war began but it was decided not to use them. Two versions of cachets custom-made



for ABP Vienna were used in some cases, perhaps when the normal cachets were not available or when there was a particularly large volume of incoming mail (slide 43). One of these cachets with the inscription *Geprüft Auslandsbriefprüfstelle Wien* is shown here. Its use is recorded during July/August 1940..



The letter "e" was assigned to ABP Frankfurt. However this strip (slide 44) could not have come from there. This ABP never used the version with text *Geöffnet* alternatively at the top and bottom. The next slide 45 shows that it is a misprint. The letters "e" and "g" appear together on the same strip.

Slide 46. A *'transit' mark* is applied as a temporary hand-stamping because of a bad strike by the sealing device (slide 46). The characteristic narrow strips of this machine are also found with larger machine or hand examiner cachets. These were often not applied on the sealing strip but to the side of it.

Neutral brown gummed strips were sometimes used, here with a temporary cachet (slide 47).

While other examiner cachets are almost exclusively in red, one finds the *'transit' marks* are usually in blue or blue-black. Here it is in green, a previously unknown colour for *'transit' marks* (slide 48). Slide 49 shows the strips from the sealing machine but with an unusual examiner cachet.

Slide 50 shows closing device cachet with the letter "c", used, as we can see from the other marks, by ABP Vienna.

Letters containing legal material, patents, musical scores and other special topics were sent to the central censorship in Berlin after opening by the de-centralised censor office where the usual censor markings were applied. There they were again run through the "censorship mill" and left with a second series of cachets and censorship-adhesive strips (slide 51).

Slide 52: a registered letter from Germany requiring an acknowledgment of receipt.

The return receipt was also censored, even though it was just a postal form (slide 53).

Companies could hand mail in direct to the censorship office for either normal or rapid processing. This type of mail has the normal inspection markings (slide 54) but can be identified as follows:

- There is no opening cut under the sealing strip, and
- the postage stamp is cancelled by the post office responsible for the ABP (letter ‘f’ for Hamburg), and
- the letter is addressed to a country for which the ABP was not normally responsible (Hamburg oversaw post from and to Norway and Denmark).

Slide 55: To end this presentation, here is an item that was censored three times - in Hungary, Germany and USA.





Translated by: Karoly Szucs (Budapest) with kindly help of Roger Morrell and Bill Hedley (England)

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF POSTAL HISTORY, 2012. PANNONHALMA

The regular biannual postal history meeting, held alternately in Austria and Hungary, after skipping one year, was held in Pannonhalma. This time, participants and presenters arrived from six countries to attend our meeting. So the earlier meetings, limited to two nations, turned into an international symposium. The historical site offered high quality services and many tourist sites for the participants.



Many pictures were made from the meeting and published in our journal's CD enclosure.

Following our pleasant get together on Friday night, the next day the 2012 annual Ber Andor award was presented to dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer, in recognition of the publishing of his popular book the world over. In its 4th volume, he already referred to the first stamp issue of 1867 as a Hungarian one, explaining this fact to the international philatelic community. This was followed by many philatelic lectures, lasting the whole day, assisted for the first time by simultaneous German and Hungarian translations.



In front of the photo are: Peter Csicsay, Andras Jakab, Josef Maj

The pictures of the adresses are found in our journal's CD enclosure. One of these lectures we publish in an article, that will signify the beginning of the regular publishing of the inaugural lectures. At least their pictures would be archived and accessible from now on.

The program guide of the symposium contains a brief summary of the lectures, that would be archived on the Mafitt web page, easily accessible for anyone interested. *(SzK. translated by Janos Szupperits)*

Az 1971-ben indított lap félévente jelenik meg, az 1991-ben kezdődött húsz év szünet után 2011-től párhuzamosan magyar és angol nyelven is.

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Philatelica

Philatelica 2012/2

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Dr. Somogyi Tamás, a Bélyegvilág tiszteleti szerkesztője / honorary editor of the Bélyegvilág

HUNGARIAN POSTAL MANAGEMENT IN DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES TARIFFS OF LETTERS SENT TO ITALY

DR. GÉZA HOMONNAY, BUDAPEST – NORBERT BLISTYAR, WÜRZBURG





The rates of some mail items from Levante are difficult to explain even today. Some of such puzzling pieces come from the period when Hungarian postal administration was in charge (May 1867 – March 1869). Especially the letters destined to Italy belong to this group. The vivid commercial contacts between Romanian and Italian traders resulted in considerable correspondence; one or two dozens of these letters have survived until the present. However, the rates of these mail items raise a range of questions.

For the letters sent to Italy (with the exceptions of letters sent to the Papal State), the rates of the Postal Agreement concluded with Sardinia in 1853 for the period until 1 October 1867 applied (from 1860, they applied for the whole Italy). Article 18 of the Agreement dealt with the correspondence going across or intermediated by Austria; the Appendix listed the cities of Danubian Principalities and the rates applying to them. In case of these cities, the Austrian rate depended on the distance, while the rate of Sardinia was 20 Centesimo notwithstanding the distance. This amount was equal to 8kr (the Kreuzer of 1858). The new Agreement, which was concluded in 1867, provided for the uniform rate of 15kr for the letters sent from Austria to Italy. In case of letters arriving from Levante, naturally, additional postage fee of Levante was added. Even though our readers might be familiar with the content of these agreements, we believe listing these rates in this article useful, because we are going to refer to them several times.

Around the time when the Hungarian postal administration took over the six Romanian post offices, considerable tariff modifications took place. On 1 January 1866, the tariffs within Monarchy were decreased; on 15 October 1866, Levante postage was decreased. On 1 October 1867, the new Austrian-Italian Postal Agreement came into force, which decreased and simplified the mail circulation between the two countries. However, unlike the Agreements with France and Switzerland, the old Agreement of Sardinia stipulated that the modifications concerning mail transit should be transposed into this Agreement too (Article 22). Consequently, the price decrease of Levante exerted influence on the letter tariffs in Italy too. Dr. Ferchenbauer's statement that although on 1 January 1866 uniform tariffs were introduced in the Monarchy, Italian letters continued to fall under the scope of a system based on distance zones is rather confusing for a Levante collector (1, p. 134). According to another very special argument of Dr. Ferchenbauer, at the time of the Hungarian postal administration in charge, the so called 'regular fee' of 23 Soldi applied to the letters sent to Italy (2, p. 624). (Quotation marks also come from the book.)

The letters below, which come from the collection of Géza Homonnay, clearly reveal the range of problems concerning the letters sent to Italy:

	Date	Year	Post. Rate.	Departure	Destination	To whom
1	13 September	1867	31 sld	Galatz (R 2)	Genova	PD Anton Giulia Barrili
2	8 April	1868	23 sld	Galatz (R 3)	Genova	Danovaro Paggi
3	23 April	1868	2x23 sld	Galatz (① Wien)	Genova	PD Danovaro Paggi
4	July	1868	23 sld	Galatz (① Wien)	Genova	PD Anton Giulia Barrili
5	4 August	1868	23 sld	Galatz (R 4)	Genova	PD Fratelli Gatorno
6	7 August	1868	20 sld	Galatz (R 4)	Genova	PD Ludovigo Peirano
7	September	1868	20 sld	Galatz (① Wien)	Genova	PD Ludovigo Peirano
8	7 November	1868	20 sld	Bukarest (R 4)	Palermo Sicily	PD Ed. Deninger
9	26 February	1869	20 sld	Galatz (R 4)	Genova	PD Anton Giulia Barrili
10	29 March	1869	20 sld	Plojestie (R 2)	Cento Ferrara Province	PD Antonio Amadei
11	10 October	1867	18 sld	Bukarest /Rec (O 1) + 10 sld.	Genova	PD Balta Pedemonte
12	25 September	1868	18 sld	Bukarest (R 4)	Genova	PD Pietro Romanengo
13	4 December	1868	18 sld	Giurgevo (R 1)	Messina Sicily	PD Giovani Topali

Note: We have also indicated the type of the postage stamp next to the place of departure.

It may be clearly seen that in the period 1867-1869 (at least) four tariff systems were used for Italian correspondence. In case of the letter 1, there might be two possible explanations for the postage rate of 31sld. According to the first one, 26sld constituted the Austrian-Italian rate pursuant to the Postal Agreement of 1853, while 5sld were the Levante postage rate, which was reduced to this amount in 1866. This assumption matches Dr. Ferchenbauer's statement on the reduced postage in Levante. According to the second explanation, the amount of 23sld was the 'regular rate' from Galatz, on top of which 8sld were charged for the 2nd weight category in Italy. The second explanation seems rather improbable, and does not correspond to the provisions of the Italian Postal Agreement.



Image 1. Letter from Galatz to Genova, September 1867, postage rate 31sld

We will see below that before August 1868 the rate of 23sld was effective for the letters sent from Galatz. This amount, however, cannot be concluded from the content of the effective postal agreements. We believe that the Mayor of Galatz was arbitrarily using the Lloyd rate of 15sld for the Austrian and Levante stretches, to which he added the Italian rate of 8sld. This was what Dr. Ferchenbauer called the 'regular rate'. An example from Galatz is presented here – to this letter, which otherwise belonged to the 2nd weight category, this tariff was applied.



Image 2: Unique letter from Galatz to Genova, April 1868, postage rate 46sld

The rate of 18sld was used in Bucharest between October 1867 and September 1868; in Giurgevo it was used as long as December 1868. This rate was still defined on the basis of the provisions of the Postal Agreement of 1853. The 3 elements of this postage rate (5kr/sld Austrian rate + 5sld Levante of Danubian Principalities + 8kr Italian rate) provide evidence to the fact that the Austrian price reduction of 1 January 1866 and the Levante price reduction of 15 October 1866 was taken into account. Dr. Nagy was the first to draw attention to the postage of 18sld [3].

Later, the postage rate of the Italian letters from Galatz (August 1868), from Bucharest (November 1868), and finally from Ploiesti grew to 20sld. This corresponds to the provisions of the Postal Agreement of 1867, according to which the rate for the Austrian/Italian stretch was 15kr/sld, while for the Levante stretch 5sld. Géza Homonnay, the author of this article, was the first to discover this rate.



Image 3. Letter from Giurgevo to Messina, 4 December 1868, postage rate 18sld

Thus we can see that in Danubian Principalities four rates were applied for the letters sent to Italy over the period of the Hungarian postal administration, which was shorter than 2 years. The postmark PD, produced by an auxiliary hand stamp, was applied to all of these letters to indicate that the postage had been covered completely – the recipient did not have to pay anything.



Image 4. Letter from Ploiesti to Cento, 29 March 1869 (two days before Hungarian Post Offices were closed), postage rate 20sld, one out of the two known letters with red Ploiesti postmark

The rates of 31- and 20sld were in line with the postal agreements effective at that time. The rate of 23sld, which was seemingly used only in Galatz, and which was called 'regular fee' by Dr. Ferchenbauer, was most probably based on individual interpretation of agreements by local postmasters. The rate of 18sld was based on the rate reduction of 1866, and partially contradicts the findings of Dr. Ferchenbauer.

If we scrutinize the data included in the table more closely, we may see that the rates of 23- and 18sld were used for a rather long period, until much later than the time when the Austrian-Italian Postal Agreement had become effective. The rate of 20sld started to be used only one year after the new Postal Agreement entered into force. The fact that the Hungarian postal regulations reached the post offices of Danubian Principalities with long delay may be an explanation to this. On top of this, employees of the post offices there usually did not speak Hungarian. The revulsion against the Hungarian language was in place even then – this is why the German speaking postal employees, who had been recruited in the previous period, remained in their positions.

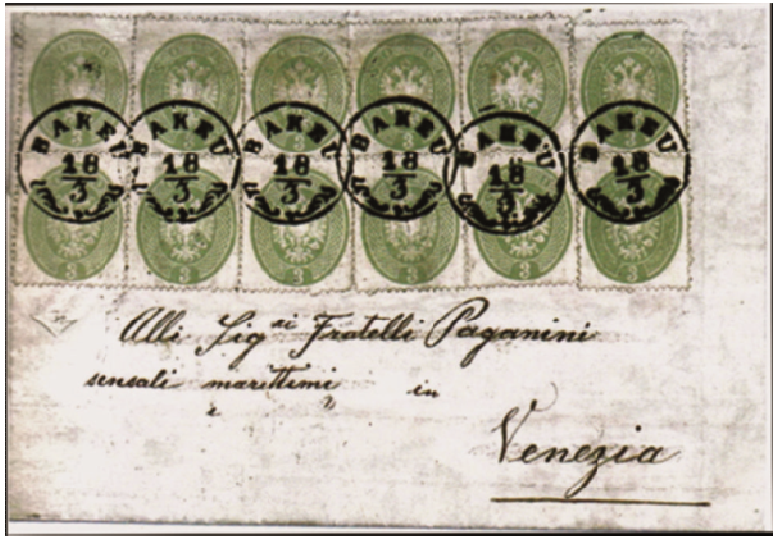


Image 5. Letter from Bakeu (area of Danubian Principalities under Austrian supremacy) to Venice, 1867 or 1868

It would have been useful for the study of different rates to look into the correspondence maintained by those post offices of Moldavia which remained under the supremacy of Austria. However, since the commercial relations of the north of Moldavia with Italy were much poorer than in case of the southern part of the country, hardly any correspondence maintained by these post offices has survived until the present.

However, there exists a fantastic letter charged 18sld, which is part of a reputed Romania expert Fritz Heimbüchler's collection. This obviously unique letter was covered by 12 pieces of 3sld postage stamps [4]. The only possible logical explanation to this postage rate is the fact that it belonged to the 2nd weight category. Unfortunately, the year is missing from the envelope. However, since Venice is situated in the closest zone as in the Sardinia Agreement, the postage of 26+10sld was not possible according to the Postal Agreement of 1853 – in Venice the applicable Austrian-Italian rate was 16kr/sld (image 5).

The postal history of Levante is still full of mysteries. In this article, we have made an attempt to contribute to the solution of one of such mysteries. However, we still have to wait for the final revelation. Hopefully, our fellow collectors will help us with their expertise or further interesting letters.

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1) Ferchenbauer Dr., U.: Österreich 1850-1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Band I. Österreich 1850-1864. Wien, 2008.

2) Ferchenbauer Dr., U.: Österreich 1850-1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Band IV. Ungarn 1867, Österreichische Post im Ausland. Wien, 2008.

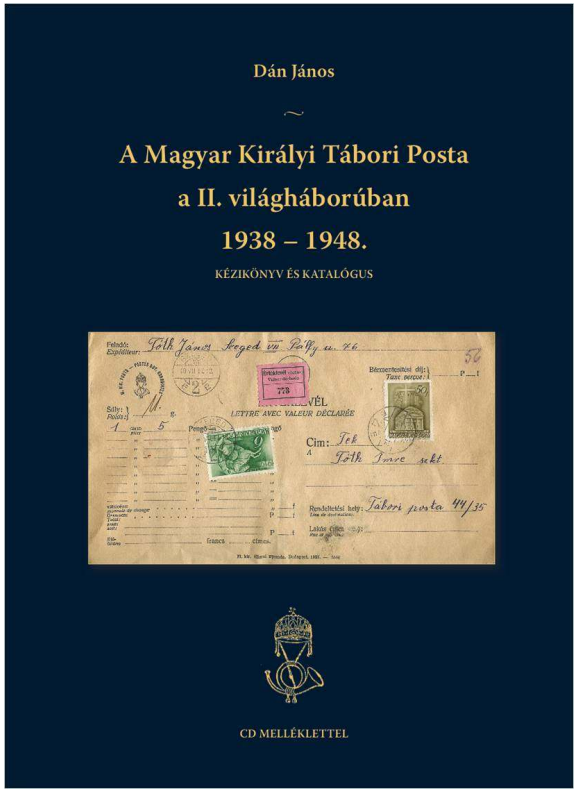
3) Sipos, J. és Nagy Dr., F.: A Magyar Posta függetlenné válásának története és az 1867. évi első magyar bélyegkiadás. A magyar postaigazgatás havasalföldi és moldvai cs. és kir. konzulátusi postaügynökségeinek története és az 1867. évi soldis bélyegkiadás Budapest, 1992.

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HUNGARIAN ROYAL ARMY POST OFFICE IN THE WORLD WAR II 1938-1948



JÁNOS DÁN, BUDAPEST



Slide 1. Book Cover

In this presentation[1] would like to present my book 'HUNGARIAN ROYAL ARMY POST OFFICE IN THE WORLD WAR II 1938-1948'.

It is already the title which suggests contradiction – while speaking about the World War II, the period mentioned is much longer.

The World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945. However, had I stuck strictly to this period of time, I would have had to omit many topics related to the army post offices and the period.

One of these topics is the accession of Felvidék (Highlands) (slide 3). Such important topics belong here as the correspondence of militarily prisoners after the war (slide 2), the Army Post Office of the Democratic Army (slide 4), the means of the Army Post Office, the use of forms in the civil mail circulation (slide 5), the correspondence of different aid organizations and civil refugees (slide 6), as well as the correspondence of the prisoners arrested because of the war (slide 7).

Over the past 70 years, almost nobody has been looking into the army Post Office of the period of the World War II, except for a few short studies not even aiming at comprehensive analysis.

[1] This article is the edited version of the Author's inaugural lecture done for our periodical. It was given in the German language at the 8th International Symposium on the Postal History of Mafitt, on 13 April 2012 in Pannonhalma. The slide numbers referred are those of the PPT presentation on the CD disk attached; the images accompanying this articles were also selected from there

This book is the first comprehensive research into the Hungarian Army Post Office. It has been written for more than 5 years, before which preparation of several decades had taken place.

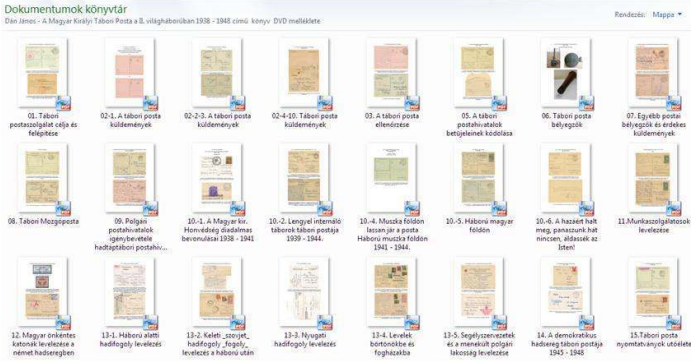
Over the five years, I have been trying to research all sources coming from the period of the war or later. These sources were both Hungarian and international (slide 8). There were many areas on which there were no sources whatsoever; I was the first to find and process them.

Unfortunately, Archives could not provide any significant help for writing this book. Valuable material came from the Post Office Museum, Postage Stamp Museum, and the Museum of Militarily History.

There were two reputed Hungarian philatelists who helped the creation of this book: Andor Hodobay and Gábor Voloncs (slide 9). There were also other collectors who helped my research by providing access to their collections. I am so grateful to all of them!

Before I start the detailed description of the book, I have to say some words about the attached DVD (slide 10). Producing full-color version of the book would have put too much financial load on both readers and the author. This was the reason why I decided to publish this book in black and white, while providing the readers with the possibility to see the mail items dealt with in the book in full colors. Whenever the copyright regulations make it possible, the reader will find the colored image on the enclosed DVD. The images on the DVD are high resolution and very good quality (slide 11). The DVD follows the structure of the book. The inscriptions under the images in the book are there below the images on the DVD. Due to this, the DVD may be used on its own or together with the book.





Slide 12. Folders of the DVD containing images

Since it is easy to enlarge the images, even tiny details may be studied very well (slide 13).

The book contains 512 pages – naturally, the time available will not be sufficient to present the entire content. I have decided to pick a couple of interesting and special parts from the book, and present them in detail. This way I will be able to give you a taste of the book, and you may feel like reading it. Of course, this does not mean that only the parts presented are interesting or special, though in their case I feel personal involvement.

In the course of my presentation, you will see many images and mail items which have not been included in the book. The reason is partly the fact that I managed to acquire them after the book had been published, and partly because it was only after the book had been published that many fellow collectors sent me images of the precious pieces in their possession.

I divided my book into four well separable sections.

- Chapters 1 to 9: Means and Organizational Structure of the Army Post Office.

  In these chapters, I presented the organizational structure of the Army Post Office (slide 14), the mail items handled and forwarded by the Army Post Office (slide 15), the censorship performed by the Army Post Office (slide 16), the Army Post Office codes (slide 17), and the Army Post Office hand stamps (slide 18).

- Chapters 10 to 12: Actual Functioning of the Army Post Office in the War

  In these chapters, I presented the Army Post Offices of the repeatedly accessed parts of the country (slide 19), the Polish deportees (slide 20), the Carpathian group (slide 21), the Hungarian occupation group (slide 22), the second Hungarian army (slide 23), and the Army Post Office in the area of military operations in Hungary (slide 24). The correspondence of forced laborers are also presented here (slide 25), as well as the correspondence of Hungarian volunteer soldiers maintained by the German Army Post Office.



Slide 26. Letters of Hungarian volunteers forwarded by the German Army Post Office

- Chapters 13 to 15: Army Post Office Relations after the War.

  In these chapters, the complete correspondence of militarily prisoners (slide 27), the correspondence of aid organizations (slide 28), the Army Post Office operating in democratic army (slide 29), as well as the postal forms of the Army Post Office produced for the war period but used also later for civil purposes (slide 30) will be presented.

- Chapters 16 to 17: Catalogue of Hand Stamps and the List of Numbers of Soviet Militarily Prisoners' Camps.

  This part of the book embraces the postmark catalogue, which includes 639 date postmarks produced by the Army Post Office. It also contains a table of numbers and geographic locations of 500 Soviet militarily prisoners' camps.



Slide 31. Part of a slide: postmarks of the Army Post Office

Mail Items of Army Post Office

In July 1942, the Army Post Office postcards started to be transported by air, since the period of transportation by other means had increased considerably. However, only a part of postcards was transported this way. On the postcards, there were no signs whatsoever referring to the kind of shipment. The decision as to which postcards should be transported by air was taken on the basis of how much free room was left on airplanes.



Slide 32. Postcard burnt due to air accident

Army Post Office Postcards with Reply Coupons

This situation was remedied by a regulation issued on 17 November 1942. It was then that airmail postcards with reply coupons were introduced (slide 33). This measure was required because on the one hand the amount of mail shipped by planes had to be reduced, while on the other, there was high demand for regular and quick contacts with family members at home.

This measure was designed to lift the military spirit of the soldiers. Airmail postcards could not be purchased. Among those who were in the area of militarily operations, one postcard for a person was distributed by the military command. These postcards had to be sent in a way that the addresses had to be written on the reply coupons too, to prevent sending these postcards to anyone else by recipients.

The postcards were of light grayish blue color; the layout was similar to the postcards with reply coupons used for civilian purposes. They contained two parts: a part for the messages written by the soldiers and a part reserved for the response. They were folded along the perforation line in the middle. These postcards came into use in November 1942, and were used all over the period while military operations were taking place in foreign lands.

Combined Postcards

According to the rules, it was allowed to send any kind of postcards which did not infringe confidentiality. This gave opportunity to the soldiers to find out all kinds of interesting and various postcards (slide 34).

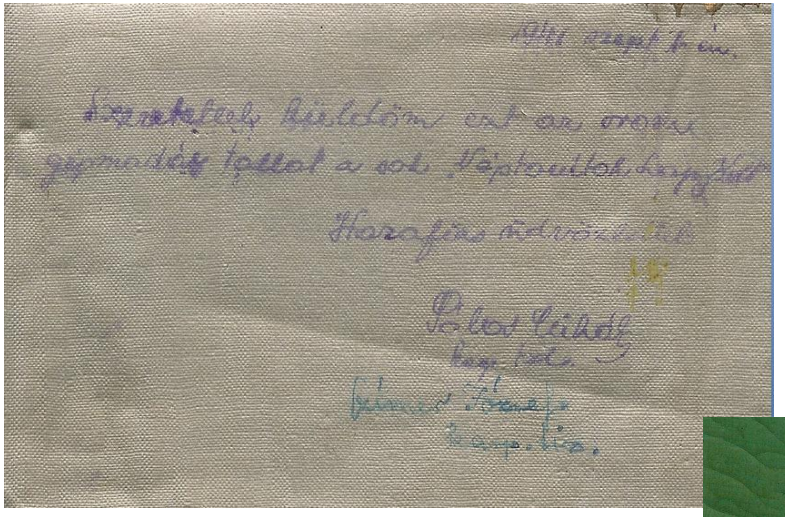


Slide 35. I-15, Rata

Among great rarities, there are postcards cut out from the wing of the Russian plane 'Rata' (Polikarpov I-15 and I-16). This was the fighter jet of the Russians in the first period of the war. It was made of wood, on which waxed textile was

then outspread. Altogether 7000 pieces of these planes were produced. They had already been used in the Spanish Civil War, where they were named ‘Rata’ (rat). This name was later used by the Hungarian soldiers too.

There are several kinds of these ‘home-made’ cards, depending on which part of the plane they had been cut out, or on the kind of the paint used for the plane. Thus, the color of one of the postcard sides was different. Most of the planes were painted with two colors. If a postcard came from the part of the wing close to the stomach of the plane, it was silver; if it came from the upper part of the wing, it was dark green.



Slide 36. Postcard of silver coated airplane wing



Slide 37. Postcard of green coated airplane wing

White (winter disguise paint) and khaki postcards also may exist. Occasionally, there may be parts of the flag seen. The other side of the postcards, where the address was usually written, was usually brownish, rough textile (slides 38, 39).



Slide 39. Postcard with rough brownish rear side

The postcards of this kind were those which were produced from the aluminum coating of the planes.



Slide 40. Front side of an Army Post Office postcard produced from the airplane wing cover

They were cut out from the repair plate or from the plates of fallen planes. Most probably, these aluminum postcards were all actually sent.



Slide 41. Rear side of the postcard

Postmarks of Army Post Office in World War II and their Categorization 1939-1945

Two authentic hand stamps were found.

The first one is in the possession of the Post Office Museum; the letter sign of this hand stamp is '**io**'.

The second hand stamp was shown to me by a private collector; the letter sign of this hand stamp is '**zs**'.

Rubber Hand Stamps for Army Post Office Produced in Szombathely in 1944-1945

By the end of 1944, militarily post office was established also in the hinterland, since by then the area of militarily operations and the hinterland had practically merged. At that time, there was no possibility to produce steel hand stamps, for which rubber hand stamps were manufactured (slide 42). Unfortunately, no data on that production are available today, not even in Savaria Museum or the Archives of Szombathely. The life cycle of these rubber hand stamps was not long, since the ink, which originally had been produced for steel hand stamps, deteriorated rubber (slide 43). It was impossible to acquire the special ink for rubber hand stamps in the war situation. Hand stamp pads would also have had to be exchanged periodically. Today mail items postmarked by such militarily post office rubber hand stamps are extremely rare.

These rubber hand stamps were one-circle ones (slide 44). The inscription read, 'Tábori Postahivatal' (Army Post Office). In the middle, there was the coat of arms with the Crown. In the bottom part, there were the two letters. They were separated from the text and from each other by Maltese crosses.

The Monograph presented this hand stamp, though only the one with the letter combination 'nr'.

Known letter combinations are 'nh', 'nr', and 'rs'.

Rubber Hand Stamps with Arrow Cross for Army Post Office 1944-1945

Apart from a short sentence, nothing has been published about these hand stamps in philatelic literature. This short sentence appeared in 1946. Consequently, in the past 56 years nobody has been dealing with these hand stamps (slide 45).

I managed to find the regulation.

In the circular of 19 December 1944, it was provided that round hand stamps should be modified until 1 February 1945. As a result of this modification, the coat of arms of Hungary had to take place on the Hungarist logo featuring the letter H and an Arrow Cross. The inscription of these round stamps did not change, only the coat of arms in the middle.

The company of Károly Altlechner, which was a contractual supplier to the Army (Budapest IV, 11 Régi Posta St.) undertook this assignment for 1 pengő 40 fillers a piece.

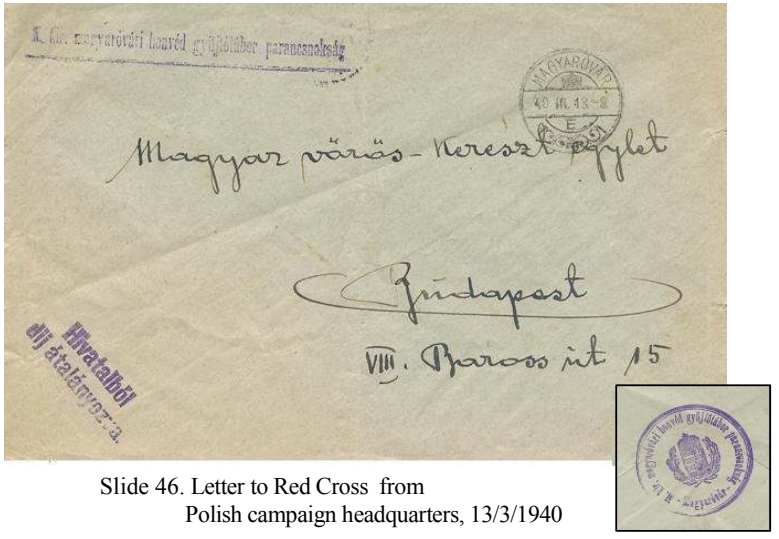
The production of the hand stamps commenced not only because of the regulation, but also because many militarily hand stamps were lost, and because there were many new militarily post offices. Unfortunately, we do not know the number of pieces produced.

I have not seen mail items on which these postmark were cancelled, due to which I cannot confirm that these hand stamps were actually used. However, I still believe that most probably these hand stamps were used.

Two pieces of such hand stamps (with letter combinations 'tt' and 'vm') can be found in the Post Office Museum. Yet another postcard with an impression but not sent is part of my own collection (letter combination 'vk').

Army Post Office of Polish Internment Camps 1939-1944

The topic of this chapter is the correspondence of the soldiers and civilians fleeing from the German occupation of Poland to Hungary, where they were made to live in internment camps.

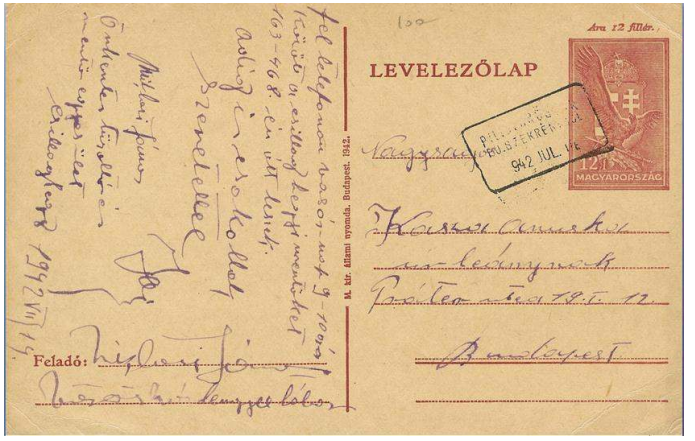


Slide 46. Letter to Red Cross from Polish campaign headquarters, 13/3/1940

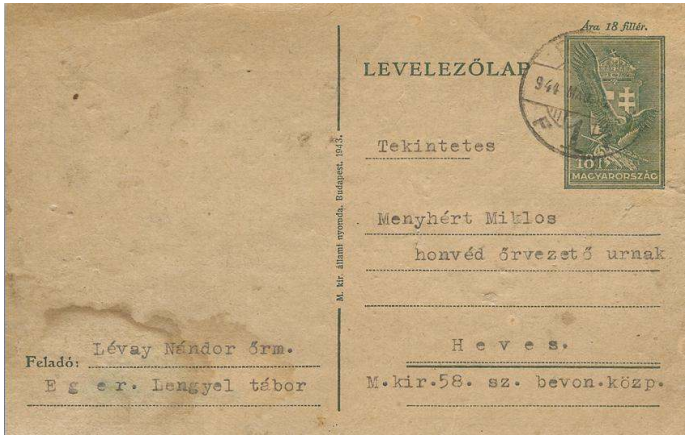
This topic has already been studied and processed in excellent way by István Gazda, in his book. However, his book did not embrace the closely related types of correspondence. Though the latter include items which were not sent by the Polish soldiers staying here, they were still sent from internment camps, due to which they are related to the Army Post Office.

Such correspondence went on between the headquarters of the camps and other official authorities. The line and round hand stamps of the camps were used here too. These mail items also convey much information, just as the mail items sent by Polish soldiers.

Other kind of correspondence went on between the staff of the camps and their relatives. Although these mail items were not official, and were not postmarked by different kinds of hand stamps, they still contain a lot of information on the given army camp because they were not censored.



Slide 47. Postcard written by a guard soldier of Polish camp in Pilisvörösvár



Slide 48. Postcard written by a guard lieutenant of Polish camp in Eger

We may draw conclusions on the life in the camp and its life time on the basis of these mail items.

Temporary Army Post Office Hand Stamps

The postcards below are not included into my book, since I could see them only after it was published – my fellow collector Peter György Laborcz show them to me.

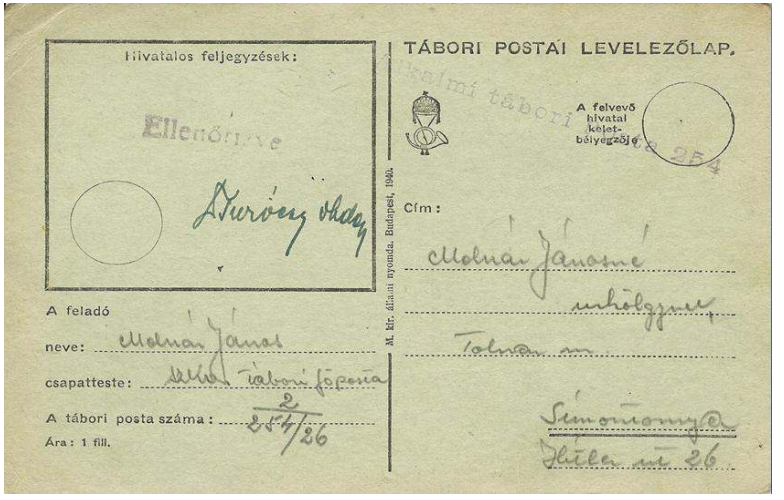


Slide 49.: Enlarged image of rubber hand stamp 'Alkalmi tábori postahivatal 254' (Temporary Army Post Office hand stamp 254)

The 2nd Hungarian Army was mobilized at the beginning of February 1942. The deployment of corps started on 11 April; the 1st corps was the corps no. III. The corps no. IV was deployed to Gomel on 24 June, from where they marched on foot to Don.

The two army postcards I am going to show you were sent by a soldier and a corporal from the corps IV (slide 50). The dates of sending were 3 June 1942 and 28 May 1942.

At that time, the corps IV was sitting on a train running to Gomel, with longer or shorter breaks. Consequently, the postcards were written, sent, and forwarded during the journey.Unfortunately, we do not exactly know why this hand stamp was used.



Slide 51. Postmark produced by temporary rubber hand stamp on an Army Post Office postcard, which was sent and delivered

I can only make assumptions, which are the following:

- The Army Post Office date hand stamp no. 2 had not yet been produced (this version is the most probable);
- The hand stamp had already been produced but was on another train running to Don (there was an Army post office on that train); the hand stamp was used there. However, an Army post office was required on this train too – only a temporary post office was set up on it, using this temporary hand stamp only for this journey;

- During the journey, only temporary post offices operated on trains, since the whole military postal equipment packed and in stock cars.

Correspondence of Forced Laborers 1939-1945

In this chapter, I have described the correspondence of persons on labor service. Postal features of each year have been discussed in detail (slide 52).

I managed to find the regulation which had introduced yellow postcards with reply coupons from 8 June 1944 explicitly for the Jewish crew in the areas involved in militarily operations (slide 53). By this, the purpose of issuing, the exact time, and the fact that it was an officially issued Army postcard with reply coupons were clarified. Before this, these data had not been described by anybody (slide 54).

Based on the regulation, we may safely say that these postcards were officially issued, in spite of the fact that they were printed by the printing house Attila (slide 55).

These postcards actually limited the correspondence of the Jewish crew in the area of militarily operations, since from the adoption of this regulation they could send home only two postcards a month, getting responses only on the coupons attached to these postcards.

Correspondence of Prisoners

This chapter is probably the longest one in the book. In it, I have presented the correspondence of prisoners during the war and after it. When dealing with the correspondence after the war, I have presented also the correspondence of the prisoners imprisoned by western countries and the Soviet Union. When dealing with the correspondence of the prisoners imprisoned in the Soviet Union, I have shown postcards produced both in Hungary and the Soviet Union, as well as the Hungarian postcards returning home; I compiled a catalogue of all these postcards (slide 56).

I would like to present a few rare and interesting postcards sent by prisoners.



Slide 57. Postcard sent from the prisoners' camp in Orank on 25/8/1943

Here we see a Red Cross postcard sent from the prison camp in Orank (Gorkij-Ivanovo) on 25.08.1943. This postcard is a very special one, because practically no life signs could be sent from the Soviet imprisonment. It was postmarked by a military check hand stamp from Moscow (15/M). In Hungary, it was checked by PEKIR, which can be seen from the round postmark with the coat of arms and the censorship number (252).



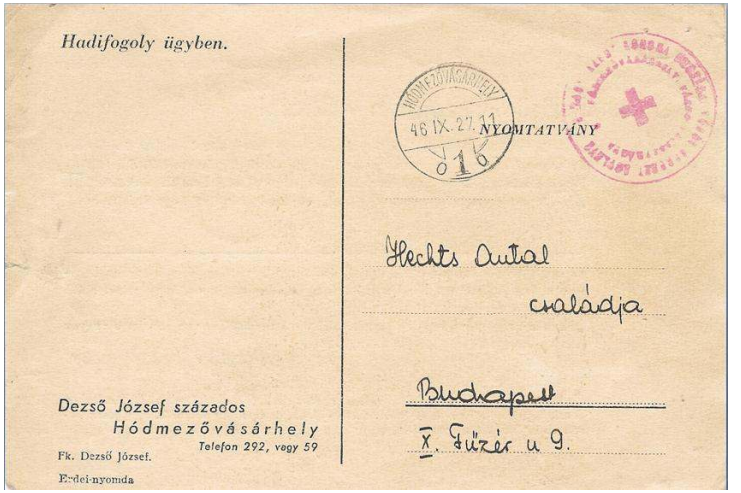
Slide 58. Postcard sent from Tiszaluc to the prisoners' camp in Saratov on 28/9/1947

This postcard was sent on 28/9/1947 from Tiszaluc to Saratov (Volga). It was sent to a wrong sub-camp, due to which it was delivered to several sub-camps before reaching the final destination. This is obvious because of the several postmarks produced at different sub-camps. We may see that the postcard turned up at the sub-camps /1, /3, /10, /11, /9, /8, /20, as well as the hospital. (There is an inscription 'Nicht Lazarett' under the address, which means, 'not in the hospital'.) In certain postmarks of sub-camps, we can see the word 'net', which means 'no'. This postmark is a real rarity, since very few postcards sent to camps returned to Hungary.

This is an early regular postcard (without reply coupon) sent on 15/8/1945 from the camp Javas to Mikepércs (slide 59). It is the rarest kind of postcards, since such postcards were distributed for correspondence to prisoners only in three camps: Javas, Susdal, and a third one, which is unfortunately still unknown to me. There is a postmark produced by the censorship hand stamp of Moscow no. 5. I also presented the rear side of the postcard, where a short message can be found (slide 60). In the right bottom corner there is a printing house sign 'Zak. 715'

Notification Letters of Capitan József Dezső

I have mentioned these interesting mail items at the end of the chapter dealing with the militarily prisoners' correspondence.



Slide 61. Postcard sent by Capitan Dezső on 27/9/1946 in Hódmezővásárhely

In August 1946, József Dezső managed to successfully arrive from the officers' imprisonment camp in Umany, near Moscow. In his pocket, he had 2300 addresses of the prisoners staying behind in the imprisonment camp. His plan was to notify the relatives of his former fellow prisoners on their whereabouts, using the address list in his possession. He had 2300 postcards produced in the printing house Erdei, with pre-printed text on their rear side. He was the publisher himself. After having these postcards produced,

he arranged with the Red Cross office of Hódmezővásárhely that they forward these postcards (ready, with addresses, filled) free of charge. The Red Cross supported the idea, and marked all postcards with a postmark testifying that these mail items were exempt of postage; the hand stamp was the red color local Red Cross one (Hódmezővásárhely).



Hódmezővásárhely, 1946. évi szeptember hó.

Igen Tisztelt Asszonyom — Uram!

A jó Isten különös kegyelme folytán mintegy négy héttel ezelőtt útrakeltem az orosz (Uzmányi, Moszkva, postafiók 95) tiszti fogolytáborból. Sikerült elhoznom mintegy 2300 bajtársam kedvesei részére szeretetteljes üdvözletüket. Amidőn ezt örömmel átadom Önöknek, egyúttal közlöm, hogy bajtársam

Hechts Antal

az adott körülményekhez képest jól érzi magát, jelenleg jó egészségben hagytam a fogolytáborban. Minden gondolata, minden vágya az, hogy minél előbb viszontláthassa szeretteit.
Abban a reményben, hogy bajtársam mielőbb hazakerül, zárom soraim s vagyok

Dezső József szds.

U. i.: *Amennyiben időközben velem együtt hazatért bajtársaim hírt adtak a fenti fogolytáborban lévő hozzátartozójáról és a tábor életéről, úgy jelen sorok azon híreket megerősítik, vagy az általam közölteket kiegészítik.*

Slide 62. Rear side of the postcard with pre-printed text

This way these postcards could be sent free of charge. They were accepted into the mail stream at the post office no. 1 of Hódmezővásárhely, where they were postmarked by a date hand stamp. Unfortunately, I do not know if all postcards were sent at once or in larger portions. These postcards are very rare, since only 2300 pieces were produced; the largest part was destroyed in the past decade.

At the end of my presentation, I would like to tell you the website of my book: www.taboriposta.hu.



Slide 63. Website

The primary task of this site is to present and promote the book. However, the news and details of presentations and lectures related to the book can also be found there (slide 64).

This site also provides me with the possibility to present newest research and such interesting things which have turned up and will turn up after publishing the book, therefore supplementing it (slide 65).

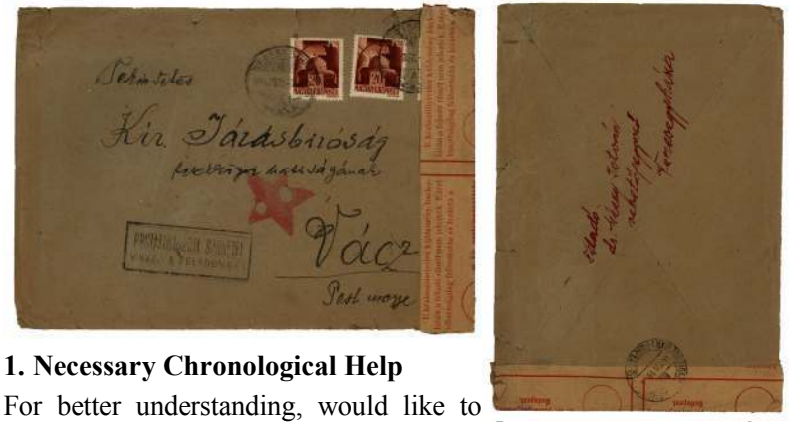
FURTHER DETAILS RELATED TO THE EMERGENCY TARIFF USED IN THE VICINITY OF BUDAPEST



LAJOS HORVÁTH,VERESEGYHÁZ

In the first volume of Philatelica of 2012, Dr. Ferenc Nagy, who lives in Vienna, wrote an exciting article, which dispelled some confusion. At the end of this pioneering piece of writing, he requested his fellow collectors to supplement and help his research.

Since I have had a mail item fitting into his area of research for quite a long period, I would like to attempt to describe it.



1. Necessary Chronological Help

For better understanding, would like to chronological sequence:

7 Dec 1944 According to an unclear date hand stamp, Dr. István Géczy, the chief notary of Veresegyház, sent a letter to Vác to the Royal District Court from the post office of Veresegyház. He did not indicate the sender on the envelope!

8 Dec 1944 Before the midday the latest, the chief notary fled from Veresegyház; so did the postmaster Ernő Bálint. In the evening, the Germans cut the railway rails, ceasing postal railway transportation. Vác was occupied by the Soviet army.

9 Dec 1944 The Soviets reached Erdőváros/Erdőkertes and its railway station.

10 Dec 1944 The Soviets intruded the area of Veresegyház called Cigányvég.

11 Dec 1944 In the course of street fights, the Soviets occupied the area of Veresegyház called Tópart, where the post office was (in Kinizsi Street).

19 Dec 1944 The letter of the chief notary of Veresegyház Dr. István Géczy was opened in Budapest at the Postal Directorate to identify the sender.

26 Dec 1944 The Soviet Army ring closed around Budapest.

2. Analysis of Chief Notary's Letter

On 7 December 1944, the roar of the front line was already well heard from the direction of Hatvan. We do not know what Dr. István Géczy's important issue was which made him send a letter to the land register authority of the Royal District Court in Vác. Besides, the Soviet Army entered Vác on the next day, passing Veresegyház to the north of it.

In any case, the mail item reached Vác before the Soviets, and was even taken to Pest from there. At the Postal Directorate in Pest, it was opened to identify the sender. The name of Dr. István

Géczy was then written in red ink on the rear side of the envelope. Then the latter was closed again with the tape reading, 'On the cover of this mail items the name of the sender was not indicated. Due to this, the Hungarian Royal Postal Directorate, acting by means of a committee, opened, and then closed it'. By that time, the Soviets were already in the outer districts of Pest. To the front side of the envelope, the regular rectangular black postmark was applied. It says, 'MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED. BACK TO SENDER.'!

Nevertheless, the Soviet Army was just then conducting a large scale military operation between Pest and Veresegyház. This operation hindered mail circulation also between Pest and Vác. The letter was still to reach such a zone where the 5-pointed star was a dominant symbol, since at some point a home-made 5-pointed star was applied to the front side of the envelope!



As regards the red star, Dr. Ferenc Nagy assumes that it was the newly born communists of the prefecture of Alag. In our opinion, it is a wrong assumption. It is hard to imagine that it was them who could apply a red star to the mail items sent by the chief notary of Veresegyház. The common feature of the two mail items was the fact that both were sent to the District Court of Vác. The one from Veresegyház was sent on 7 December 1944, while the one from Alag – on 15 March 1945. Was the period between the two dates the one when the red star was being used?! According to Dr. Ferenc Nagy, the type for the red star was cut out from cloth. It was some kind of textile in any case, because its structure is well seen on the envelope from Veresegyház. This feature is absolutely identical to the red star of Dr. Ferenc Nagy seen on the image 14.

3. Tariff Issue

According to Dr. Ferenc Nagy, the emergency tariff was introduced on 2 March 1945 in Budapest, and then in its surroundings. The 5th category of this tariff system refers to the mail items 'sent in the countryside and destined to the countryside'. Veresegyház-Vác was an example which belongs to this category. On 2 March 1945, the rate increased from 40 to 60 filler. But the letter of the notary was covered by 60filler pass stage – three 20filler postage stamps featuring the Holy Crown. One of these is covered by the sealing tape.

It seems therefore, on the basis of the letter of the chief notary of Veresegyház, that the emergency rates were used in the surroundings of Pest months before March 1945. For solving this controversy satisfactorily, further documents have to turn up for further analysis.

COMMENT

JÁNOS DÁN, BUDAPEST

Mr. Horváth presented a very interesting envelope. Please let me describe this envelope in my own interpretation.

Journey of Letter

On 7 December 1944, the chief notary put this envelope into mail stream at Veresegyház, most probably not dropping it into a mailbox but at a post office. The Veresegyház post office of the Hungarian Royal Post Office forwarded the letter to Budapest by mobile post on the same day. Let us stop here for a second.

Mr. Horváth wrote that, 'The letter most probably arrived in Vác before the Soviet occupation; from there it was shipped to Pest.'

Had the post office of Veresegyház forwarded the mail items directly to Vác, the delivering post office of Vác would have delivered this mail item on the next day. It could have happened that the letter had stayed at the post office of Vác because of the Soviet occupation, which took place on the next day (8 December), to be delivered only after the fights were over. Occupying troops occupied Vác from the south, due to which on 8 December trains were already not running to Budapest. We can safely say that at the front line, the mail items of civilians, moreover, Army mail items could not be delivered, in none of the directions. Consequently, the mail item could not have been taken from Vác to Budapest on 8 December. But why would it be taken to Budapest, if it was sent to Vác, and there were no obstacles to delivery?

Consequently, we can say that the letter did not show up in Vác; it actually could not have done that. The letter arrived in Budapest by mobile mail service. It was then put into a mail sack destined to Vác. Before departure, the news arrived that the Red Army had already occupied the railway leading to Vác, and later Vác itself.

The mail sack was taken off the train car of the mobile mail service, staying for a couple of days to wait if the fortune smiled on it and mobile mail might be launched.

This favorable change did not happen, due to which the envelope was opened and the mail item postmarked, 'POSTAFORGALOM SZÜNETEL. VISSZA A FELADÓNAK' (MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED. BACK TO SENDER). Then it was sent back to the sender.

However, the chief notary did not indicate the sender. Nor did the post officer who accepted the letter draw his attention to this - indicating the sender was otherwise required by the censorship provisions. We will talk about this later in more detail. This was the reason why the letter was handed over to the Department investigating addresses, which opened it on 19 December, identified the sender, and indicated his name and address on the rear side of the mail item. Then the envelope was officially closed again, by a sealing tape.

In the meantime, Veresegyház also got occupied by the Soviet Army (11 December), due to which the letter could not be returned to the sender either. It was placed in a storehouse, where it successfully survived the siege of Budapest. In March 1945, after mail circulation restarted, the letter was taken out of the storehouse and sent to Vác. It was then, **in March 1945, that the letter arrived in Vác for the first time.** And it was then that the 5-pointed star postmark was produced on its envelope. Most probably, it was delivered then, though indications referring to this cannot be found on the envelope.

Tariffs

The letter was paid for by 3 pieces of 20filler postage stamps featuring the Holy Crown. Thus the postage was 60 fillers. Unfortunately, the content of the envelope has not survived. On the basis of the postage however, I can safely say that it complied with the effective tariffs.

If we look into the rates effective at the time this letter was sent, we can see that for the letters weighing 20 to 250g 60 fillers were payable. We may assume that the letter was heavier than 20 g, for which 3 pieces of 20filler postage stamps were adhered to it. The weight of an A4 sheet is 4-5 g, which means that if the sender put 3-4 paper sheets in the envelope, its weight definitely exceeded 20 g. Consequently, the postage paid was correct.

On the basis of the above mentioned, we may not talk about the rate increase; instead, the postal officer charged correct postage for this mail item. I may safely state, that this postage had **nothing to do with the emergency tariffs effective in Budapest!**

Censorship Provisions

Regulation K.K.M.217.600/1944 from 12 September 1944 introduced censorship for domestic mail circulation in Hungary. It was required because of the Hungarian military operations. From our point of view, two provisions in the Article 1 of the Regulation are interesting:

- The sender must indicate his name and address on the mail item;
- The maximum size of non-official letters is half a sheet.

As we can see on the envelope, the postal officer of the office where the letter entered mail stream made an error when he accepted the envelopes without the address of the sender; besides other circumstances, this was the main reason why the address had to be investigated later.

According to the second provision, only official letters could exceed half a sheet. The reason why this was required was the intention to prevent censors reading long private letters. Since the envelope in question was an official mail item, both because of its sender and recipient, the content may have exceeded the size of private letters. This also supports the argument that the postage was correct.

Red Star

Let us finally talk about the mystery of the red star. As soon as mail delivery was restored in the area of the country occupied by the Red Army, censorship was set up. To verify that a mail item had passed censorship, various hand stamps were used. In some cities no censorship hand stamps were available at the time when mail circulation commenced. We may say that at the beginning emergency hand stamps had been used, before the final ones were produced. The latter were then used until the end of this censorship period. I do not know when exactly this period ended, though it is certain that in January 1946 the letters were still marked by these censorship hand stamps. After this period was over, mail items continued to be censored, but this measure was not indicated by hand stamps.

On the envelope demonstrated by Mr. Horváth, there is a 5-pointed red star, its impression produced by the type cut out from textile. It was the emergency censorship hand stamp of the city of Vác. The postmark produced by this hand stamp can also be seen on the mail item demonstrated by Mr. Nagy. On the basis of this, we may say that in March 1945 this emergency censorship hand stamp was definitely being used. The fact that the letter presented by Mr. Horváth arrived in Vác in March 1945 also supports this assumption. Moreover, since the mail service restarted in Budapest in March, this letter could not have been forwarded to Vác earlier. Later another, a final hand stamp was used to indicate that mail items passed censorship. It read, ‘Ellenőrizve Vác 1’ (Checked Vác 1).

Based on the above mentioned, we should state that Mr. Horváth found a very interesting and exciting document of the postal history, supplementing the mail item formerly presented by Mr. Nagy. This is why I am saying that the period of the Hungarian military operations is a very interesting, complex, and exciting chapter of the Hungarian postal history, which is full of rarities, but which has not yet been fully studied.

References:

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István Gazda: Postai cenzúra Magyarországon – III. rész A II. világháború alatti cenzúrák Philatelica 1990/1.

RELIEF FIRM MARKS AS PREDECESSORS OF FIRM PERFINS ON THE ENVELOPES OF AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MONARCHY



FRANK SEMMLER, BOCHUM

Highly appreciated ladies and gentlemen, dear attending members of MAFITT. Before giving my inaugural speech, I would like to introduce myself.

My name is Frank Semmler. I was born in 1945. I have known Hungary for more than 40 years. I have been in contact with Hungarian philately since 1970. At first, I was enchanted by Hungarian postage stamps, and later – by Hungarian perfins. I have been fascinated of perfins until today.

I have been editor of the bulletin of the German philatelists' Hungarian task force (ArGe Ungarn) for 24 years; I have been publishing our bulletin in this capacity four times a year.

Quite a few years have passed since I became interested in relief firm signs on Austrian and Hungarian mail items. I consider them as the predecessors of perfins. This is why I have chosen this topic for work my inaugural speech.

1. General Overview of the History of Postage Stamps and Other Postal Items

On 6 May 1840, in the United Kingdom, Sir Rowland Hill introduced the first postage stamp; at the same time, envelopes named after the painter William Mulready were introduced. These envelopes were mail items – they fulfilled the function of both envelopes and letter paper. However, they did not become as popular as postage stamps.



Image 1. Rowland Hill



Image 2. Wiliam Mulready



Image 3. Black Penny



Image 4. Mulready envelope

2. Introduction into Perforated Ownership Indication of Postage Stamps and Other Mail Items

Shortly after postage stamps had appeared in the United Kingdom, a certain Mr. Sloper (he himself was saying he was an engineer) started to think how unlawful use of postage stamps could be prevented. In 1858, he managed to take out a patent (Comment: for 14 years) for a manually operated machine, with which clearly visible letters and other signs could be perforated on paper.

After the first unsuccessful attempt, he finally got the permit to use this equipment for postal purposes on 13 March 1868. The permit was entitled, 'Perforation of Postage Stamps in Great Britain'. After Sloper's patent expired in 1872, many firms started to produce this kind of equipment.



Image 5. Firm Marking by Sloper

The real reason for perforation of postage stamps was the fact that at that time postage stamps were substitutes of money. In Austria, for example, a grilled sausage could be bought for a 2-kreuzer postage stamp, while a bottle of beer – for 3-kreuzer one. To ensure constant stock of postage stamps, companies perforated them, for which they had expensive perforation equipment produced. By this, they prevented thefts. The primary function of perforation was preventing using postage stamps as money.2

[2] Editor's Note: It was not the private use which was in the focus but larger kinds of fraud; especially postal refunds had to be prevented, which were very tempting. See the source of the popular erroneous view on page 460 of the so-called Black Book.

On the initiative of Dr Emanuel Herrmann, the first postcard in the world was issued in 1869. However, there were possibilities to misuse them too. Perforation of postcards was allowed much later (later than perforation of postage stamps).



307

Post-Verordnungsblatt

für das

Verwaltungsgebiet des k. k. Handels-Ministeriums.

(Vorläufig auch giltig für die Militärgränze.)

№ 46. Redigirt im Handels-Ministerium. Montag, den 27. September 1869.

Inhalt: Betreffend die Einführung von Correspondenzkarten im internen Verkehre.

Betreffend die Einführung von Correspondenzkarten im internen Verkehre.

H. Minist. Z. 18916-1832. — R. K. Minist. Z. 6665-Abth. 10.

Im Einvernehmen mit dem königl. ungarischen Handelsministerium werden vom 1. October l. J. an von der Postverwaltung Correspondenzkarten nach den unten folgenden Mustern ausgegeben, mittels welcher kurze schriftliche Mittheilungen nach allen Orten der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie ohne Unterschied der Entfernung gegen eine gleichmäßige Gebühr von zwei (2) Neukreuzer befördert werden können.

Hinsichtlich des Verschleißes, der Ausfertigung und Behandlung derselben werden folgende Bestimmungen festgesetzt:

1. Die gestämpelten Correspondenzkarten sind bei allen Postämtern und Briefmarkenverschleißern um den Preis von zwei (2) Neukreuzer pr. Stück zu beziehen, und sind offen (ohne irgend welchen Verschluß) aufzugeben;

2. dieselben sind so wie Briefe mit einer deutlichen Adresse zu versehen, welche den Vor- und Zunamen des Empfängers, den Bestimmungsort, und wenn sie nicht poste restante lauten, auch die Wohnung des Empfängers genau entnehmen lassen soll.

Der Bestimmungsort ist, falls mehrere Orte gleichen Namens bestehen, durch Beisetzung des Landes und Bezirkes, und wenn er nicht selbst Standort eines Postamtes ist, durch Beisetzung des Postamtes, in dessen Rayon er gehört, näher zu bezeichnen.

Die Adresse ist auf der Vorderseite der Karte anzubringen.

3. Die Rückseite der Karte ist für die schriftlichen Mittheilungen bestimmt.

Dieselben können, sowie die Adresse mit Tinte, Bleistift, farbigem Stift u. s. w. geschrieben sein, doch ist für die Deutlichkeit und Dauerhaftigkeit der Schriftzüge Sorge zu tragen.

P. V. B. 64

Image 6. 1st page of the regulation introducing postcards

4. Die Karten können vorläufig nur nach Orten der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie versendet werden, und sind wie durch Marken frankirte Briefe aufzugeben.

Die Recommandation derselben kann gegen die gewöhnliche Recommandationsgebühr stattfinden, die Marke für die Recommandation ist auf der Rückseite neben den Worten: „Raum für schriftliche Mittheilungen" aufzukleben.

5. Für die Nachsendung einer Correspondenzkarte an einen anderen als den auf der Adresse bezeichneten inländischen Ort, oder für die Rücksendung an den Aufgabsort wird eine weitere Gebühr nicht eingehoben.

6. Für die Zustellung der Karten ist an Orten, an welchen keine ärarischen Briefträger bestellt sind, die Zustellungsgebühr von einem (1) Neukreuzer zu entrichten.

7. Die Postanstalt übernimmt keine Verantwortlichkeit für den Inhalt der Mittheilungen.

Die Postämter sind jedoch angewiesen, in ähnlicher Weise, wie es bezüglich der Briefe mit unstatthaften Beisätzen auf der Adresse mit dem Erlasse vom 8. März 1865, Z. 1771-401 (V. Bl. ex 1865, Seite 57), angeordnet wurde, auch die Correspondenzkarten von der Beförderung, beziehungsweise Zustellung dann auszuschließen, wenn ihnen auffallen sollte, daß hiemit Unanständigkeiten, Ehrenbeleidigungen oder sonst strafbare Handlungen beabsichtigt werden.

8. Der Umtausch von Correspondenzkarten, welche vor ihrer Aufgabe durch Versehen oder Zufall unbrauchbar geworden sind, kann gegen Erlag des Betrages von 1 Nkr. in derselben Weise und unter denselben Bedingungen stattfinden, welche für den Umtausch verdorbener Briefcouverts festgesetzt sind.

9. Die k. k. Postdirectionen haben von der neuen Einrichtung das Publikum durch die Landeszeitungen und durch öffentlichen Anschlag bei den Postämtern in Kenntniß zu setzen.

10. Die k. k. Postämter haben von den vorstehenden Bestimmungen Kenntniß zu nehmen und ihrerseits noch Folgendes zu beobachten:

a) Jedes Postamt hat, sowie jeder Privat-Markenverschleißer, stets einen angemessenen Vorrath von gestämpelten Correspondenzkarten bereit zu halten.

Dieselben werden von den Markendepots in Päcken zu je fünfzig Stück unter Schleife ausgefolgt und sind wie gestämpelte Briefcouverts zu beziehen und zu verrechnen.

Mit dem Verkaufe der Correspondenzkarten an das Publikum ist erst am 1. October l. J. zu beginnen.

b) Die aufgegebenen Karten sind bei der Kartirung, Weiterbeförderung und Abgabe wie durch Marken frankirte Briefe zu behandeln.

Insbesondere ist hinsichtlich der Obliterirung der auf den Karten befindlichen Poststämpel und Marken nach den allgemeinen Vorschriften vorzugehen.

Wenn an ein Postamt mehrere Karten zur Absendung vorkommen, sind dieselben abgesondert von den Briefen rubrikenweise zusammen zu binden; recommandirte Correspondenzkarten sind jedoch selbstverständlich den recommandirten Briefen beizulegen.

Bei der Umkartirung sind die Correspondenzkarten mit keinem Stämpelabdrucke zu versehen; der Abgabsstämpel aber ist auf der Vorderseite der Karten am Rande links gegenüber dem Poststämpel anzubringen.

Image 7. Further pages of the regulation introducing postcards

c) Die Karten sind von den Auf- und Abgabsämtern nur dann zu beanständen, wenn sie aus dem Inhalte die Absicht von Unanständigkeiten, Ehrenbeleidigungen oder sonst strafbaren Handlungen unzweifelhaft entnehmen.

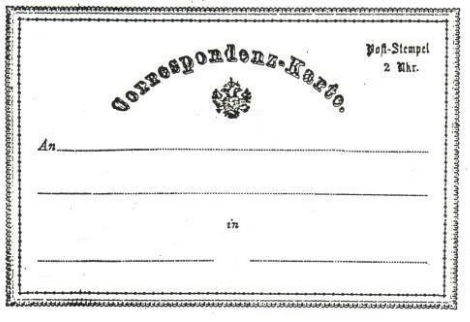
Bei ärarischen Postämtern hat über den Umstand, ob eine Karte von der Beförderung, beziehungsweise Zustellung auszuschließen ist, der Amtsleiter zu entscheiden.

Die zurückgehaltenen Correspondenzkarten sind als unanbringliche Briefe zu behandeln.

Muster

1. der Kartenblanquette, welche im dießseitigen Postgebiete und in der Militärgränze ausgegeben werden.

Vorderseite.



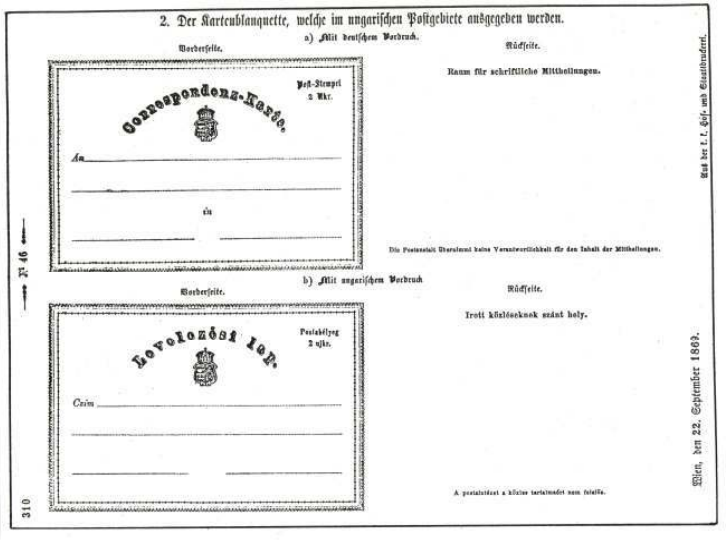
Rückseite.

Raum für schriftliche Mittheilungen.

Die Postanstalt übernimmt keine Verantwortlichkeit für den Inhalt der Mittheilungen.

64*

Image 8. Sample postcard in the regulation



2. Der Kartenblanquette, welche im ungarischen Postgebiete ausgegeben werden.

a) Mit deutschem Vordruck.

Vorderseite. Rückseite.

Correspondenz-Karte. Post-Stempel 2 Nkr.

An

Raum für schriftliche Mittheilungen.

Die Postanstalt übernimmt keine Verantwortlichkeit für den Inhalt der Mittheilungen.

b) Mit ungarischem Vordruck.

Vorderseite. Rückseite.

Levelezőlap 1 kr. Postabélyeg 2 nkr.

Címe

Irott közlésoknak szánt hely.

A postahivatal a közlés tartalmáért nem felelős.

Mit k. k. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei.

Wien, den 22. September 1863.

310

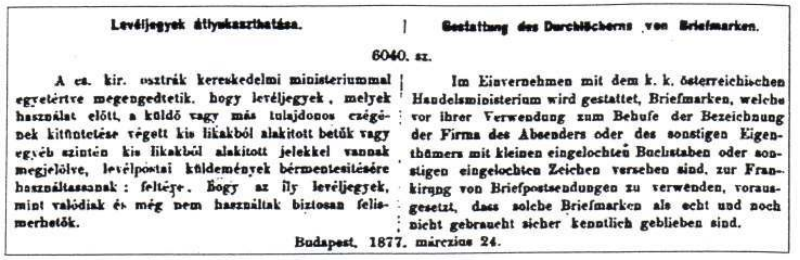
Image 9. Further samples in the regulation

In Hungary, perforation of postage stamps was permitted in the Official Journal no. 6040 of 24 March 1877, while in Austria in the Official Journal no. 23 of 13 April 1877:

'Possibility to perforate postage stamps, 604.

In accordance with the Imperial Royal Austrian Ministry of Commerce, the permit is issued hereby to use the postage stamps of a sender or other owner which were marked before use by letters or other signs formed from tiny holes, in order to distinguish them, for paying postage of mail items, subject to clear identification of the authenticity of these postage stamps and the fact that they were not formerly used.

Budapest, 24 March 1877'



Levéljegyek áthyukaszthatása.

6040. sz.

A cs. kir. osztrák kereskedelmi ministeriummal egyetértve megengedtetik, hogy levéljegyek, melyek használat előtt, a küldő vagy más tulajdonos czégének kitüntetése végett kis likakból alakított betük vagy egyéb szintén kis likakból alakított jelekkel vannak megjelölve, levélpostai küldemények bérmentesitésére használtassanak: feltéve, hogy az ily levéljegyek, mint valódiak és még nem használtak biztosan felismerhetők.

Budapest, 1877. márczius 24.

Gestattung des Durchlöcherns von Briefmarken.

Im Einvernehmen mit dem k. k. österreichischen Handelsministerium wird gestattet, Briefmarken, welche vor ihrer Verwendung zum Behufe der Bezeichnung der Firma des Absenders oder des sonstigen Eigenthümers mit kleinen eingelochten Buchstaben oder sonstigen eingelochten Zeichen versehen sind, zur Frankirung von Briefpostsendungen zu verwenden, vorausgesetzt, dass solche Briefmarken als echt und noch nicht gebraucht sicher kenntlich geblieben sind.

Postverordnungsblatt Nr. 23 vom 13. April 1877

Post-Verordnungsblatt

für das

Verwaltungsgebiet des k. k. Handels-Ministeriums.

№ 23. Redigirt im Handels-Ministerium. Freitag, den 13. April 1877.

Inhalt: Gestattung des Durchlöcherns von Briefmarken zur Bezeichnung des Eigenthums. — Errichtung eines Postamtes zu Ober-Loitsch. — Errichtung eines Postamtes zu Hötzelsdorf und Auflassung des Postamtes Pernegg. — Auflassung der Postämter Kirchberg bei Mattighofen und Pischelsdorf bei Mattighofen. — Postverbindungen zwischen Wien und Constantinopel.

Anhang: Postdistanz-Regulirung in Böhmen. — Concurse. — Berichtigung.

Gestattung des Durchlöcherns von Briefmarken zur Bezeichnung des Eigenthums.

H. Minist. Z. 9510.

Im Einvernehmen mit dem königl. ungarischen Handelsministerium wird gestattet, Briefmarken, welche vor ihrer Verwendung zum Behufe der Bezeichnung der Firma des Absenders oder des sonstigen Eigenthümers mit klein eingelochten Buchstaben oder sonstigen Zeichen versehen sind, zur Frankirung von Briefpostsendungen zu verwenden, vorausgesetzt, daß solche Briefmarken als echt und noch nicht gebraucht, sicher kenntlich geblieben sind.

Wien, den 4. April 1877.

Image 10. Regulations of 1877 allowing for perforation of postage stamps

Marking postal stationaries and other money wares by perforation was permitted, however, only in 1886, as below:

'According to the Regulation no. 6040 published in PRT of 1877, page 40, Royal post offices shall be notified that the permit to produce tiny holes on letter postage stamps in order to identify the owner shall be extended on other mail items, subject to clear identification of the authenticity of these mail items and the fact that they were not formerly used.

Budapest, 3 July 1886'



№ 87. 1886.

Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt

für das

Verwaltungsgebiet des k. k. Handelsministeriums.

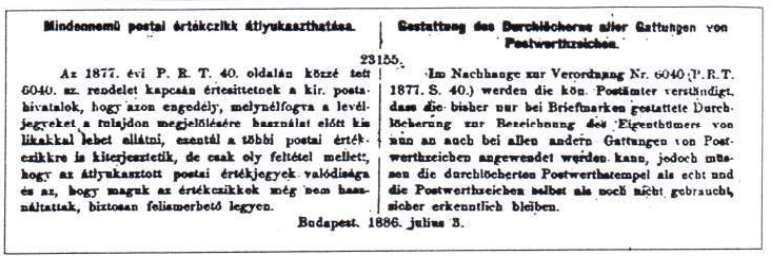
Gestattung der Durchlochung (Perforirung) aller Gattungen von Postwerthzeichen (einschließlich der Begleitadressen) zur Bezeichnung des Eigenthums.

H. Minist. Z. 24171.

Im Einvernehmen mit dem königl. ungarischen Ministerium für öffentliche Arbeiten und Communication, sowie mit dem k. k. Finanzministerium wird gestattet, daß die auf Grund der hierämtlichen Verordnung vom 4. April 1877, Z. 9510 (R. G. Bl. Nr. 23 ex 1877, S. 127), bisher nur bei Briefmarken zulässige Durchlochung (Perforirung) der Papierfläche zur Bezeichnung des Eigenthums, von nun an auch bei allen anderen Gattungen von Postwerthzeichen (einschließlich der Begleitadressen) angewendet werde, jedoch müssen die durchlochten Postwerth-, respective Finanzstempel als echt und die Postwerthzeichen selbst als noch nicht gebraucht sicher kenntlich bleiben.

Wien, den 2. Juli 1886.

Image 10. Austrian regulation allowing for perforation of further mail items



Mindennemű postai értékczikk átlyukaszthatása.

Az 1877. évi P. R. T. 40. oldalán közzé tett 6040. sz. rendelet kapcsán értesittetnek a kir. postahivatalok, hogy azon engedély, melynélfogva a levéljegyeket a tulajdon megjelölésére használat előtt kis likakkal lehet ellátni, ezentúl a többi postai értékczikkre is kiterjesztetik, de csak oly feltétel mellett, hogy az átlyukasztott postai értékjegyek valódisága és az, hogy maguk az értékczikkek még nem használtattak, biztosan felismerhető legyen.

Gestattung des Durchlöcherns aller Gattungen von Postwerthzeichen.

23155.

Im Nachhange zur Verordnung Nr. 6040 (P. R. T. 1877. S. 40.) werden die kön. Postämter verständigt, dass die bisher nur bei Briefmarken gestattete Durchlöcherung zur Bezeichnung des Eigenthümers von nun an auch bei allen andern Gattungen von Postwerthzeichen angewendet werden kann, jedoch müssen die durchlöcherten Postwerthstempel als echt und die Postwerthzeichen selbst als noch nicht gebraucht, sicher erkenntlich bleiben.

Budapest. 1886. julius 3.

Image 11. Hungarian regulation allowing for perforation of further mail items

How did this perforation equipment look like? At the beginning, such equipment was used which perforated postage stamps one by one or folded.



Abb 14 Firmengleiche Lochmuster von Österreich und Ungarn

Image 12. Identical perfin in Austria and Hungary

The diameter of the round holes produced by hollow needles was approximately 0.4-1 mm. The paper circles which were cut out fell into the container below.

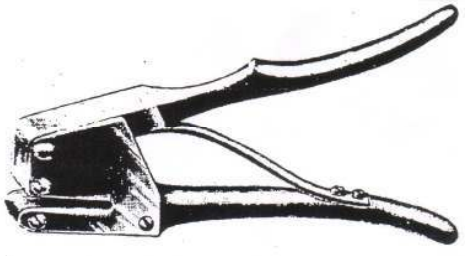


Image 13.Simple perforation machine

Multiple perforation machines contained identical patterns. In the image below, a perforation machine with 5 units can be seen. There were minor differences between perforation heads, especially if the lack of holes was very visible due to broken needles. We also know such a multiple perforation machine which had 10 perforation heads, 5 pieces in both lines.

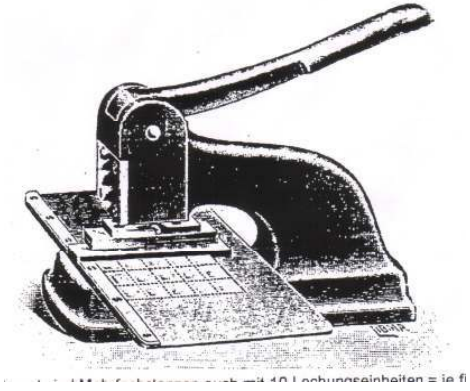


Image 14. Multiple perforation machine

3. Period between Date of Postage Stamp Perforation Permit and Date of Perforation Permit for Other Mail Items

As we saw, in 1877 postage stamp perforation was permitted both in Austria and Hungary; the permit for other mail items, on the other hand, was not issued before 1886. Nine years passed between the two dates, which was the so-called 'unauthorized' period. The question is if there still were marks to indicate ownership.



Image 15. Perforation of the firm IGLER on Austrian envelope and postage stamp



Image 16. Perforation of the firm UNGÁR IGNÁC és FIA on Hungarian envelope and postage stamp.

In this situation, embossed firm marks, which were applied from the rear side of the envelopes, could help. These marks mostly contained the name of the firm and/or the commercial product; a special machine to produce embossed images was used to this end.



Image 17. Manual embossing machine The EZIBOSS / Prov. Patent and embossing machine of the firm Oakbank /Glebnlyon / Pertshire

4. Analysis of Embossed Firm Marks and Conclusions

The appearance of embossed firm marks on Hungarian and Austrian envelopes was similar to this. Produced by special embossing means, embossed marks were pressed from the rear side to appear on the front one.

This method was used already before 1886. There were some firms which continued to use their stock marked this way long after this date.



Image 18. Example of embossed indication of firm:
LADISLAUS BELUS / AGRAM (which is: Belus László / Zagreb)

In Austria, there were attempts to mark letter postage stamps this way too. We know of the two denominations of 1883 presented here (3- and 5kr). In Hungary, this way of marking postage stamps was not introduced.



Image 19. Embossed firm marks on stamps

The fact that shortly after postcards had been introduced, in 1870s, embossed marks were applied on envelopes supports the argument that envelopes with embossed marks were predecessors of perforated firm marks — see the early use from 1870 below, the firm ANTON SCHREIBER.

The most important period though was that between 1877 (approval of perfins on postage stamps) and 1886 (permission to perforate envelopes); see the early use from the end of 1890, the firm MARKUSZ FARBENBLUM/MUNKATS.

In rare cases, pre-cancellation was chosen instead of embossed marks, as for example in case of the firm JOSEF KLEIN/PRÁGA.

To the best of my knowledge, embossed marks were applied only by small and medium-sized businesses. As far as my own research goes, the ratio of embossed marks on postcards to that on envelopes was 95% to 5%, which is 19 to 1. We should not forget that pre-cancellation of envelopes was a very rare but still used method to indicate the ownership. Both systems, the embossed marks and pre-cancellation, were forerunners of perforated firm marks.

Both in Austria and Hungary the lawful nature of embossed marks was not officially confirmed, though the authorities in charge obviously tolerated it. We may explain this toleration by the fact that embossing did not modify envelopes to such extent as perforation, which would have deteriorated the image of the Emperor. It is still very strange that so far we have not come across such a Hungarian or Austrian company which would have switched from embossing to perforation for ownership indication. We may still safely conclude that embossed firm marks should be viewed as predecessors of perfins.

Finally, I have a request: if anybody from the audience has any kind of knowledge or evidence in relation with the transition period between embossed marks to perforations, I would be very grateful if I could get a copy of those.

I would like to thank all of you for your attention and assure you that if you have any questions in relation to this topic, I will be happy to help. But before, I would like to present, as an annex to this presentation, the embossed documents found so far.

Annex:

Exhibition of Envelopes with Embossed Firm Markings[3]

[3] For our periodical, we have selected only few of the images available. The collection demonstrated at the end of the presentation is fully available on the CD enclosed to Philatelica.



Ungarische Correspondenzkarte der Firma :
EISEN SPECEREI
LOIS GRINDL
FÜNFKIRCHEN



Ungarische Postkarte der Firma :
ADOLF GANS
GETREIDE PRODUCKT
COMMISSIONSGESCHÄFT
ST. WEISSENBURG



Ungarische Correspondenzkarte der Firma :
CARL F. HOGL
AGENT
PEST



Ungarische Briefganzsache der Firma :
BLUM & BREUER
PEST



Ungarische Firmenkorrespondenz mit Blindprägung im
Verschlusssiegel der Firma :
FLEISCHER & MEGAY
KASCHAU



Postanweisung deutsch – böhmisch
In dem Feld des Absenders ist die Firmenblindprägung angebracht

ADOLF EISLER

BOSKOWITZ



In seltenen Fällen kam es auch vor , dass Firmen
statt eines Blindprägestempels die Möglichkeit
der Vorausentwertung wählten
wie z. B. die Firma :

JOSEF KLEIN
PRAG



Ungarische Correspondenzkarte der Firma :
MOLDOVÁN KÁLMÁN
NAGY – BÁNYÁN



Ungarische Correspondenzkarte der Firma :
M. MIHAJLA
NADRÁG





Explanation to the last image of the Annex:

The numbered postcard presented here with the embossed inscription ‘A NEMZETI ÁLDOZATKÉSZSÉG SZOBRA’ (National Sacrifice Statue). The postcard was issued by a company with identical name. Although it was private, the objectives were not commercial but historical commemorative.

References:

István Lente: A magyar perfinek katalógusa

Gerhard Sand: Az osztrák perfinek speciálkatalógusa

Frank Semmler: A lyukasztások 125 éve Magyarországon

Magyar Postamúzeum: diverse sourses of regulations

Translation from the German version (which is found on CD) was done by: Károly Szücs

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST HUNGARIAN POSTCARD SHIPPED ON AIRPLANE - IN MEMORY OF GUIDO PRODAM 1912-2012



DR. FERENC NAGY, BÉCS.

1912 was marked not only by sinking of Titanic. Media reported yet another catastrophe, this time in the air, with less victims and damage.

Fiume Evening Paper wrote the following on 18 May 1912:

'Thursday afternoon the great heavy aviator Guido Prodam made a great journey from Fiume to Abbazia and Lovrana. However, when he had to turn back due to stormy winds, his plane broke and fell straight on into the sea.'

We might have finished the story at this point, if it did not start here. Prodam survived the slump.

Prodam comes from an Italian family from Fiume. The town, which was populated by Italians, Croatians, Hungarians, and those whose mother tongue was German, started to develop dramatically after the Compromise. Prodam, however, identified himself so strongly as Hungarian that he moved to Hungary. At first, he did pharmaceutical studies in Kolozsvar, later becoming even an owner of a pharmacy in the countryside. In 1910, having realized that he did not like this profession, she went to Rákosmező.

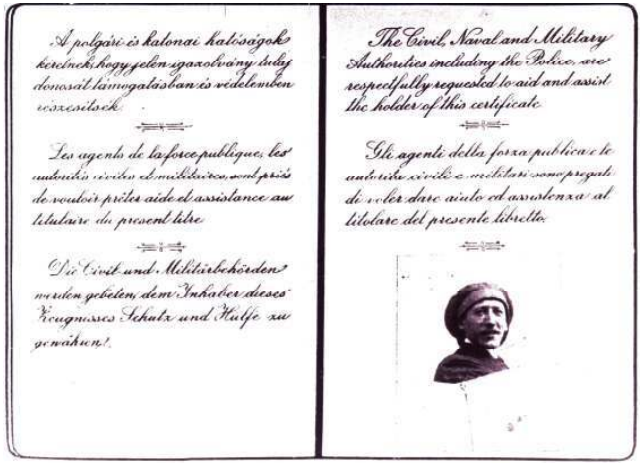
At that time, in the second decade of the 20th century, Rákosmező near Budapest was where the Hungarian air transportation unfolded. The most famous aircraft designers and builders worked there, such as Ernő Horváth, who had designed and built several monoplanes by that time. It was his aircraft on which Prodam took off on 16 May. These aircraft were named after their builders; the name of the builder was followed by a serial number. Prodam's aircraft was 'Horváth III/c' nicknamed 'Fecske' (swallow).

He was the first one to fly over the centre of Budapest in November 1911. The route was the following: Rákosmező-Újpest-Chain Bridge-Castle Hill-Technical University-southern railway bridge-Rákosmező.



Image 1. Horváth III/c monoplane, the 'swallow'. Original photo. Drawing of the plane can be found on the bottom left postage stamp of the Aerofila I block issued in 1967

Prodam passed aviator examination on 30 January 1912. The document certifying this has survived.



A polgári és katonai hatóságok kéretnek, hogy jelen igazolvány tulajdonosát támogatásában és védelmében részesítsék.

Les agents de la force publique, les autorités civiles et militaires sont priés de vouloir prêter aide et assistance au titulaire du présent titre.

Die Civil- und Militärbehörden werden gebeten, dem Inhaber dieses Ausweises Schutz und Hilfe zu gewähren.

The Civil, Naval and Military Authorities including the Police, are respectfully requested to aid and assist the holder of this certificate.

Gli agenti della forza publica e le autorità civile e militari sono pregati di voler dare aiuto ed assistenza al titolare del presente libretto.

Image 2. Pilot certificate in 5 languages,with a photo



Image 4. Aeroplane with inscription “PRODAM MONOPLAN”, type Horváth III/c

Let us read on the Fiume Evening Paper.[4]



Image 4. Prodam in the plane

‘The excellent aviator had mischance again. There was such a strong wind raging in the city that Prodam’s take-off seemed impossible. Windy conditions lasted until 3 p.m. The sky was full of threatening clouds; shower was expected. Dr. Ernő Horváth, the engineer of the airplane, measured that the speed of the wind was 11 m/sec. At 4 p.m., the wind all of sudden stopped. People were very happy to hear that Prodam would attempt a takeoff.

Grandstands were soon full. In the VIP box, there was the secret councilor Count Wickenburg, the governor Dr. Franz Vio and his family, Podesta with his family, Maj. Gen. Count Salis-Sevis, as well as rear-admiral Eugen Chmelarz.

At few minutes after 4:45, the airplane was set up at the end of the oil port. After theengine test, moving images were shot. Prodam took a package with himself in the air; its inscription read, ‘Flight Fiume-Abazia-Lovrana-Cherzo. If you find this package, please open it’

‘Flight Fiume-Abazia-Lovrana-Cherzo.
If you find this package, please open it’

In the package, there were Prodam’s postcards, which came out very well.’

[4] Quotations follow the spelling rules of the time.

On the front side, the inscription reads, '*Prodam Guido aviatikus Quarnero fölötti repülése'* (Aviator Guido Prodam's flying over Quarnero[5]). Next to the inscription, there is the image of the Horváth III aeroplane while flying. Next to the image, there is an optimistic smiling photo of Prodam. The note in pencil says, '*Légi utamról bajtársi üdvözlet. Abbázia, 1912 máj 16-án Prodam Guido*' (Comradely greetings from my air journey. Abbázia, 16 May 1912, Guido Prodam).

Emellett egy felsőszéle-darab 10 filléres portóbélyeg is látható, Budapest 1912 M... /olvashatatlan/ szöveggel lebélyegezve.

On the front side, there is a printed inscription '*Levelezőlap. Cartolina postale*' (postcard) and an inscription in pencil '*Luftpost*', which was twice underlined. On top of these, there was the following (already mentioned in the newspaper article): '*Légiposta*' twice crossed, then 'Fiume-Abazia-Lovrana-Cherzo'. The recipient was Magyar Aero Club (Hungarian Air Club); it was underlined twice; '*Budapest Kígyó tér 1*'.

As a postal marking, there was the postmark 'ABBAZIA 17.v.12 VII' of the Austrian Post Office, and a blue letter 'T', since there was no postage stamp on the card. This was the reason why, in the absence of 5filler postage stamp, the recipient had to pay the fee of 10fillers.

Consequently, the package mentioned in the newspaper article was thrown from the airplane by Prodam when he was over Abbazia, before the accident.

But how many pieces were there in the package? Since they were addressed to Aero Club, and since the way the address was indicated was rather non-official, the style of the handwriting being calm and balanced, I assume that there was 10 to 20 pieces altogether. Besides this postcard, which was actually taken on board of the airplane, I saw an unused postcard without a written text in the last century; I assume there must be one or two pieces still hidden somewhere.



Image 5. Front side of the postcard taken on board

[5] Quarnero is a geographical term referring to the Bay in Fiume including islands of Veglia, Arbe, Cherso, Lussin and Pago, and which reaches as far as the city of Crkvenica. Today it is called Kvarner.

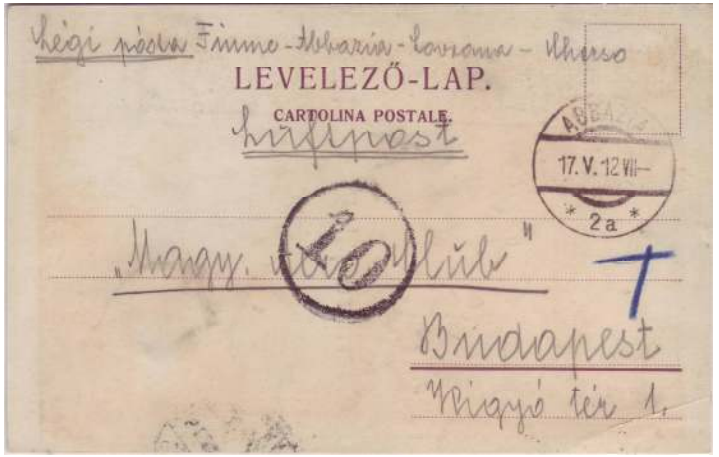


Image 6. Adress-side of the postcard

In the next picture, we can see a historical photo taken only seconds after the takeoff, still only a couple of meters over the ground, with the ship in the oil port in the background. On the rear side of the postcard, the inscription said, '*Prodám Guido a Quarnero felett Horváth III. c. géppe*l' (Guido Prodam over Quarnero on the air-plane Horváth III.c.)

How does the article in the Fiume Evening Paper finish?

'It flew, creating miraculously beautiful curve over the factories, above the cheering crowd. We were soon able to see it near the summit of Monta Maggiore. It was seen with the naked eye that Prodam started gliding near the mountain summit, soon disappearing from the view of spectators. Five minutes passed, but there were no news about Prodam. Professor Horváth, lieutenant Fekete, and Pivny got into the car to provide aid to the disappeared aviator. As the car was rushing on the dusty road, the news about Prodam's accident arrived. He slumped into the sea near Lovarna.'

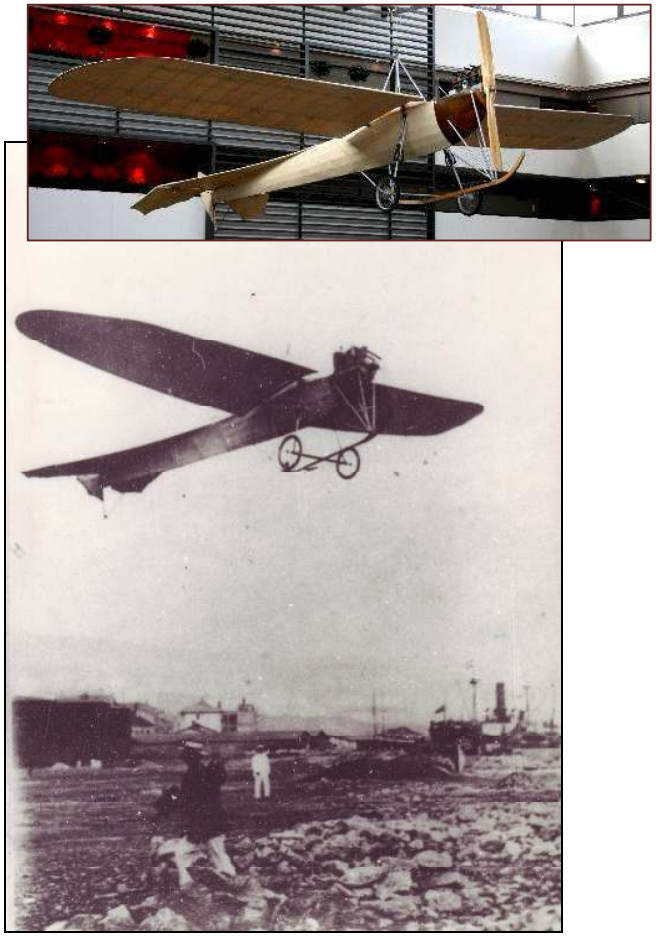


Image 7. Horváth III/c shortly after taking off.

The colour photo on the top was taken of the certified copy which has remained; today it is in the lounge of a hotel in Budapest, in Széchenyi Square.

To the best of our knowledge, Prodam survived the accident, though the airplane sank in the sea. Moreover, he continued to fly in spite of his accident.

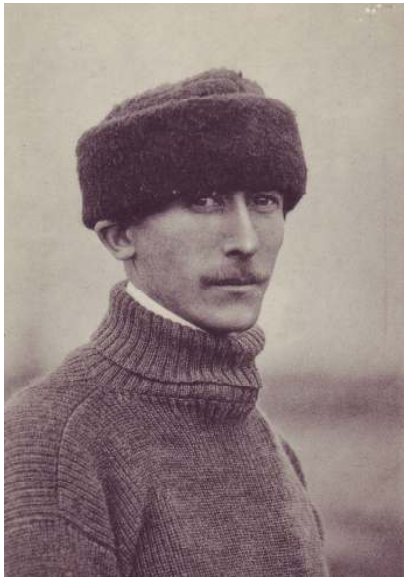


Image 8. Official postcard; printed text on the rear
'Guido Prodam, the 1st aviator to cross Quarnero'

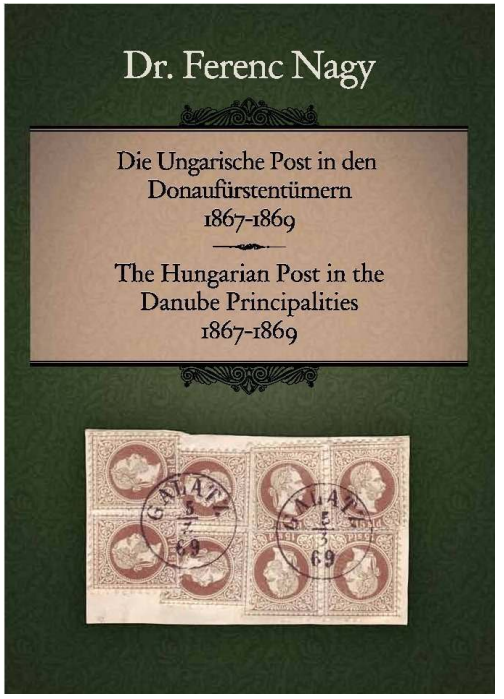
Over the World War I, which started soon, he was severely injured in an air fight in the Italian theatre of war. Since he was looked after in an Italian hospital, he was believed killed. However, in 1919 he returned to Budapest as an invalid, where he lived until 1948. He passed away when he was 66 years old.

In 1960, a street near Rákosmező was named after this great figure of the golden age of the Hungarian aviation. This is the story which this first Hungarian postcard taken on board of an airplane, which is truly a gem of the Austrian-Hungarian aviation philately, tells us.

RELEASED!

Dr. Ferenc Nagy: Die Ungarische Post in der Donaufürstentümern, The Hungarian Post in the Danube Principalities.

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A lap digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról tölthető le: www.mafitt.hu

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XXIII. évfolyam

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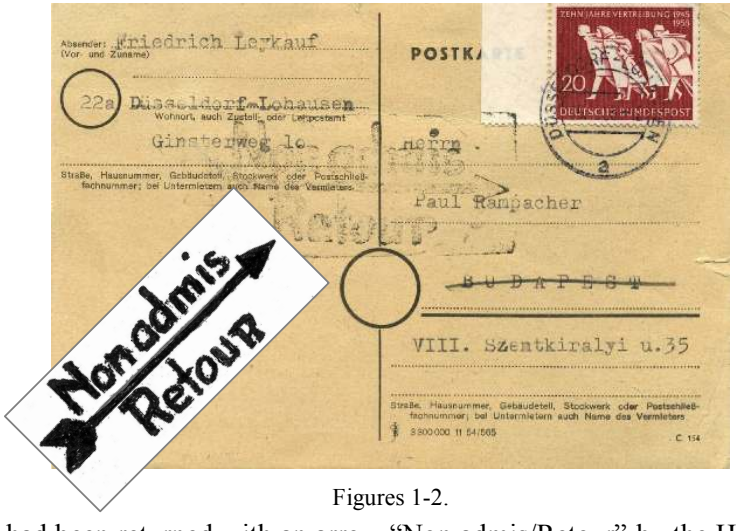
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POSTAL WAR: HUNGARY ALSO WAS INVOLVED

JAN HEIJS, AMSTERDAM

This postcard into Hungary



Figures 1-2.

had been returned with an arrow “Non admis/Retour” by the Hungarian postal authorities in 1955 because of the stamp depicting “Ten years of displaced persons 1945−1955” with a styled civilian refugee family from the East-Bloc countries due to the World War II. This offending stamp was refused by the Hungary, GDR, CSSR and Poland.

And that is called Postal War.

Postal War is defined as measures taken, for political reasons, by competent national authorities against postage stamps issued by the postal authority of another postal area, as well as against postmarks or other postal material, including postal rates, by the same authority. Such measures may be:

1.The refusal of mail bearing such postage stamps or postmarks.
2.The refusal of other postal material.
3.The complete or partial removal or obliteration of either 1 or 2,.
4.The imposition of postage due payments despite the fact that the mail items in question have been properly franked in accordance of the rules of the country of origin.
5.The addition of political propaganda cachets.

In 1955 the Federal Republic of Germany issued a stamp depicting “Ten years of displaced persons 1945−1955” and in 1965 it did the same because of “20 years of dispelled people 1945−1965”. Mail bearing this stamp also has been returned but sometimes the stamp was removed and the letter should have been delivered when it had the correct adress, which was not the case by this letter:



Figure 3.

Was there also a Hungarian stamp that has been refused?

Yes, on 20-6-1933 Hungary issued two airmail stamps which were basically a protest against the lost territory of Slovakia because of the Trianon Agreement. Slovakia became a part of the state "Czechoslovakia" in 1919. The stamp pictures a plane with the words "Justice for Hungary" in Italian and a man Hungarian crying for help in front of a double cross, symbol of Slovakia.. Letters bearing these stamps were refused by the Czechoslovakian postal authorities as of 1/7/1934. This letter has been retuned with a sticker "nepripustné / non admis" "not admitted".

In order to "punish" Czechoslovakia for this, the Hungarian postal authorities returned mail with the 0,25 or 0,30 Kc stamps with the Czechoslovakian armor, which part is the double cross in the coat of.





Figures 4 - 5.

Other stamps of the same set, with exactly the same coat of arms, have not been returned, based on the reciprocity of the diplomatic rules.

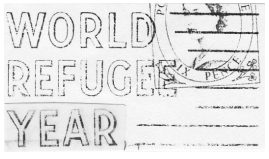
During the cold war Czechoslovakia, Poland, GDR and the Sowjet-Union were very active in returning mail bearing offensive stamps or cancellations: more than 50 in the period 1945−1986. Hungary only returned six during the period 1934−1965.

Even the Austrian overprint stamp "Help Hungarian refugees" never has been returned by Hungary, but Czechoslovakia did it.



Figure 6.

The "World Refugee Year ' in 1959−1960 lead to many postal wars. Hungary did not, but Poland, the Soviet Union and Romania refused letters of 21 countries bearing these stamps.



Picture 7.

In 1960 the Romanian postal authorities blacked the British meter mark "World Refugee Year" of this letter from 22 april 1960.

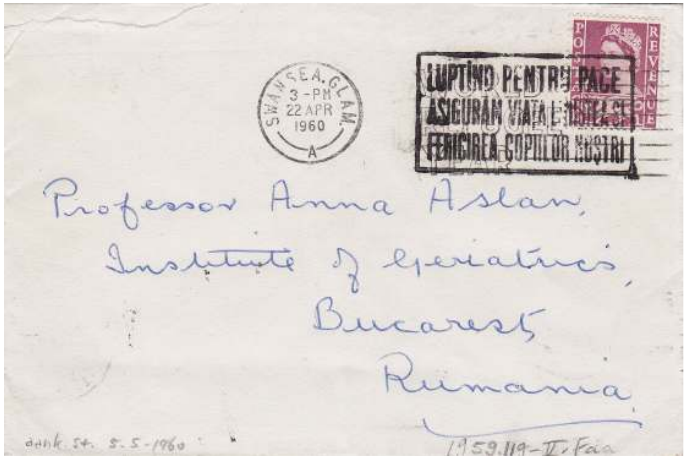


Figure 8.

The blackening was done in a very special way with a Romanian text because of Postal War. The Romanian text means: "Fighting for peace we guarantee the life, tranquility and happiness of our children." It was blackened for political reasons. In 1959/60 about 70 countries issued postage stamps commemorating the UNO "World Refugee Year". But at that time most of the refugees fleed the Eastern Block countries, so many of these countries refused or blacked such stamps and/or meter marks. So did Romania in a special way with a counter text.

The result are measures against correctly franked mail during 290 worldwide Postal Wars from 1870 until 2008. Postal War is known as Postkrieg in Germany because many German postage stamps are involved but also 70 other countries are involved.

And indeed many German stamps are involved. The West-German 1985 stamp on this letter



Figure 9.

is commemorating "40 years of the integration of dislodged German people" . Many East-Block countries refused many stamps during the Cold war including these because they have the opinion that these dislodged German people went to the Allied West Zones after World War II voluntarily. So Poland returned this correct franked letter with a red cachet "Retour, circular BI UPU cf. no. 153/1985" This number refers to the Polish protest by the UPU against this postage stamp. Every postal administration can protest against a stamp at the UPU and they are obliged to inform all members about it by a circular, in this case number 153 in the year 1985. According to the UPU convention, the issue of stamps should contribute to better understanding between nations, their different cultures and to international friendship. (UPU Convention Ottawa 1957, C14). But the UPU cannot declare invalid a stamp issued of a member's postal administration.

Postal wars are still going on after the Cold War. On the 8th of November 1995 the Palestinian Authority (PA) got the right to issue their own postage stamps and Israel would deliver letters with these stamps. Illegal was the use of other currency than "Fils" and/or the name "Palestine". So Arafat was teasing Israel by using the correct name "Palestinian Authority" in very small letters and by putting a stamp on this stamp of the 1948 "British mandate" bearing the forbidden name "Palestine" in big letters



Figure 10.

Mail bearing such stamps was refused by the Israelian postal authorities just as mail with four other stamps. So the PA covered them with white stickers and a cancellation "Palestinian Authority, Postage Paid".



And after that these covers are delivered by Is..... Picture 11.

Arafat did forget one thing: On the British mandate stamp, in the left lower corner, “Yeretz Israel” was written in the Hebrew language, which means “Greater Israel” and this includes the PA territories in Israel itself. So it was also propaganda against the PA.

There even exists a “Catalogue of postal war 1870−2008“ edited by the author of this article* Worldwide about 70 countries were involved in postal wars. A short overview:

1870 Alsace-Lorraine: France − Germany
1924 Mongolia − China
1933-46 Falkland Islands − Argentina
1934 Hungary − Czechoslovakia
1938-45 World War II: 11 Main numbers
1948/49 Berlin Postal War.
1948-86 Postal War items during Cold War
1948-86 Postal Wars between the two Germanys
1959/60 NATO (Italy, France) and 20 countries World Refugee Year
1966 Spain – GDR/Czechoslovakia
1965/70 Rhodesia – Great Britain and others.
1974/84 Turkish Cyprus − Cyprus and others.
1988 China − Taiwan
1989/99 France – Algeria/Lebanon
1995 Palestine Authority − Israel
2000 Macedonia − Greece

Hungary refused two Metermarks. One of the USA in 1957 “Support your crusade for freedom” and one of Switzerland in 1964: “Hilft den Flüchtlingen in der Schweiz” (“do help the refugees in Switzerland”. Copies of letters are known but only in black and white. So no pictures in this article.

And the sixth postal war in which Hungary has been involved was in 1958. When the USA issued the Lajos Kossuth postage stamp, greatest national hero of Hungary, a special First day postmark was used in which the old Hungarian Kossuth coat of arms was used. Because this was not the coat of arms of Hungary in 1956 First day covers with this special postmark heve been refused.



Figure 12.

And so the six Hungarian Postal Wars are all mentioned in this article. A definition and an overview of other Postal Wars are given such as the role of the UPU during Postal Wars.

Postal War is a philatelic item that is useful in many exhibition collections. In a traditional collection of a country it can show special effects. In a thematic or postal history collection it can bring something extra too. The Postal War catalogue includes a topical index.

Political propaganda on postage stamps is not only sometimes offending but also leads to the refusal or surcharging of already prepaid letters. The political propaganda is not done by the sender or addressee. But they are the real victims of Postal War.1 “

[1] Catalogue of postal war 1870-2008“, bilingual German/English, 231 pages, 1100 pictures, edited by Jan Heijs in september 2011. Order at € 34,- plus € 7,20 postage: heijsmo@xs4all.nl , language: German, French or English. The catalogue describes the scenarios in about 100 chapters with 290 main numbers (postage stamps and postmarks) and about 800 sub-numbers (different measures). Each chapter begins with a description of the relevant political and postal environment.



THE PAIR OF STAMPS WITH INSCRIPTION ‘HAZATÉRÉS 1938’

FERENC KOSTYAL, BUDAPEST

As a prelude to World War II in 1938, the European power nations — looking through contemporary glasses — gave back to Hungary the southern zone of ‘Felvidek’ — today part of Slovakia — mainly inhabited by Hungarian population. The region was annexed to Czechoslovakia by the Trianon treaty in 1920.



Figure 1.

To commemorate the restoration of the territory ceded by Czechoslovakia, the Hungarian post issued a pair of stamps with 20 filler and 70 filler face value, overprinted with the words ‘HAZATÉRÉS 1938’. The stamps used the design of the 1938 St. Stephen set, but are printed with different colour than the original ones and are supplemented with the inscription referring to the returning of the land.

The stamps reached the post offices approximately at the time the annexing Hungarian army arrived to the Felvidék, 1st of December, and remained valid till 30 June 1939.



Figure 2.

Proofs of ‘HAZATÉRÉS’ pair of stamps

When designing the proofs, Sandor Legrady used the 20 and 70 filler designs of the 1938 St. Stephen set, keeping the original colours and superposing different inscriptions referring to the territorial revision.

The four 20 filler stamps in the upper row have the inscription 'Hungarians to Hungarians':

'MAGYAROK A MAGYAROKHOZ'

The first two 70 filler ones have 'returning back' and the year:

'1938 VISSZATÉRÉS' ill. 'VISSZATÉRÉS 1938'

The last two ones have the inscripton „liberation" and the year:

'FELSZABADULÁS 1938' ill. '1938 FELSZABADULÁS'

The proofs were made in October 1938, partly coinciding with the approved „RETURNED 1938" postmarks. The final design was the „RETURNING HOME 1938" inscription for both values, but in different colours than the proofs. [2]



Figure 3.

[2] The copies of the proofs are of courtesy of the Stamps Museum Hungary.

The errors during production

The stamps were printed in two and respectively three phases, and were perforated with a comb-perforating machine. The inscriptions and the basic stamps do not show a major dislocation, but the overall aspect of the stamp is influenced by the central displacement relative to the perforation. Both for the 20 fillér and the 70 fillér values, major dislocation of the inscription is very rare. Minor dislocations are shown for both values, futhermore for the 20 fillér value a dislocation to the side is presented, resulting in a real „misprint" category.

Examples for minor dislocations of the 20 fillér value:



Figure 4. Minor positional differences major dislocation

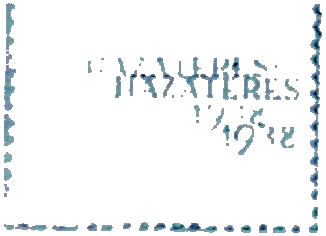


Figure 4a. Comparison of the dislocation of the above fourth stamp with normal ones



Figure 5. Painting mistakes of the letter 'Z' and the number '1'



Figure 6. Text dislocations of the 70 fillér stamp



Figure 7. A jump of the perforating machine caused a huge dislocation on the left sheet side of this 70f stamp.

Shift of perforation on letters



Figure 8. Internal express postcard. The perforation shift is 2 mm to the upper direction and 0,8 mm to the left.

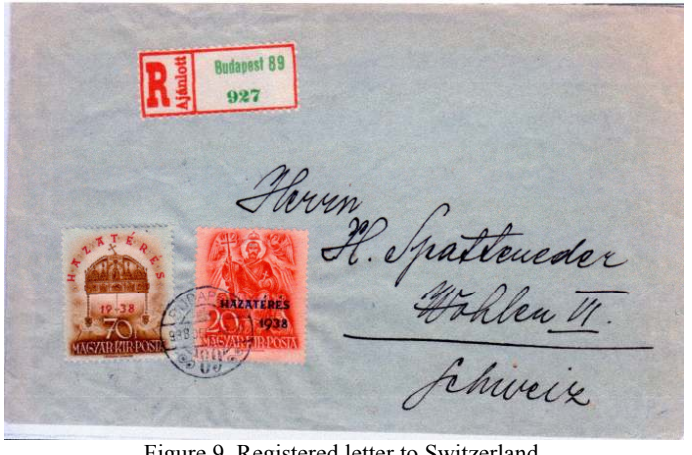


Figure 9. Registered letter to Switzerland.
The shift of perforation of the 70 f stamp is 2,5 mm to the right and on the 20 f stamp 2.8 mm in upper directon, 1,5 mm to the right.

The „Nagymanya" misprint history and publications

According to the census of 1910 Nagymanya is a village with 1304 inhabitants in Bars county, Verebely district. The nationality spread was the following: 1206 Slovakians, 84 Hungarians, 12 Germans.

At the end of 1938, according to the first Vienna Decision, the village was reattached to Hungary.



Figure 10.

It was discovered in May 1939 that there were examples of the 70 fillér value of the "HAZATÉRÉS" set in use at Nagymanya without the red "HAZATÉRÉS" overprint.

The stamps without the red overprint were promptly withdrawn by the Hungarian Royal Post (38 pieces), and they ordered to control the bill of deliveries in May as well. The withdrawn "erroneous" stamps and the returned parcel bills were placed into the Stamp Museum archives. The stamp collectors and stamp traders made extraordinary efforts to acquire the misprint. These more or less successful efforts resulted in 5 pieces gifted to collectors. WW II caused serious damage to Hungarian stamp collections, therefore it is presumable, that two third of the Nagymanya misprints in collections were destroyed. Today, in the Hungarian Stamp Museum, beside one separate stamp and a connected block of 24, a bill of delivery is presented, franked with a stamp with no overprint.

During the socialist regime we know little about the story of these stamps, and with the lack of market lot of them wandered into foreign hands. The remaining pieces were handled almost secretly due to their high value. these rarities appeared in public auctions only in the nineties.

The step by step development of the philatelic market helped the society of Hungarian collectors to process and summarize all knowledge about these legendary misprints.

This article presents — above the research results stated in the list of studies — the most recent philatelic researches, with the pictures of the known examples. The breakthrough in the researches was the article of Jeno Szabo museologist, which appeared in the 2007 yearbook of the Telecommunication Museum Foundation [2008 Budapest]. The sensation of the article has been the presentation of the up to then unknown block of 24 of the Nagymanya misprint. According to philatelic experts, the value of the block can easily be several million USD.

An important event was the HUNFILA 2009 National Stamp Exhibition, where the author presented the tableau of 5 Nagymanya errors of print, among them a registered letter with Nagymanya misprint presented to the public for the first time. The jury honored this exhibit with gold medal.

The "History of Hungarian stamps" (see in literature 4.) knew about two examples on cover – both have been in the property of the author at that time.

Nagymanya errors of print in postal usage

Antecedents: the post office in Nagymanya was founded in 1881 in Bars county, Verebely district and remained a Hungarian post office till 1919, when the Chechoslovak legion army entered the territory.

The money order (Figure 11.) is from the end of this period:



Figure 11. Front and back page of the money order

The money was posted at Budapest to Kismanya, 4th of January 1919 and arrived to Nagymanya as the last post office on 6th of January. The 40 filler franking was correct according to the rates.

It is interesting that the Hungarian Royal Post has not been organized according to counties, since Kismanya belonged to Nyitra county Ersekujvar district, but Nagymanya, at the other side of the river Zsitva belonged to Bars county (8 km distance).

From 1920 till 2nd of November 1938 the Czechoslovak post was in operation, and one day after the signing of the first Vienna Decision signed in the Belvedere palace, the Hungarian Royal Post took action at the post offices of 'Felvidek' to use the "VISSZATERT 1938" postmarks. The Hungarian Royal Post — after having finished the previously described production processes — ordered the market use of the pair of stamps on the 1st of December 1938. The post offices received the sheets by the end of November.

On the 5th of December the management of the post instructed the newly acquired post offices not to order new 20 and 70 filler stamps till the stock of "HAZATÉRÉS 1938" stamps lasts. The first question raised here is, whether the post office of Nagymanya did receive "HAZATÉRÉS 1938" pair of stamps in November or not? Is the origin of misprints the lot delivered in April?



According to my researches, both of the deliveries might be the source of the 100 stamp misprint sheet. To prove this you can find here the 70 filler value of 'HAZATÉRÉS 1938' sealed at noon on the 5th of December 1938 at Nagymanya.

Earliest usage of the Nagymanya misprint

The first usage of the misprint is given by the earliest date of the postmarks on the pieces known up to today. According to the researches, the presented registered letter sent to Leva at 4 o'clock pm on April 26, 1939, (arrived at 8 o'clock on April 27, 1939) is the earliest date of the 17 known used copies of the misprint cancelled at the Nagymanya post office.



Figure 12.

The second earliest example has been cancelled at the Nagymanya post office at 9 am 28th of April 1939, cancelled with the location-date handstamp of the post office.



Figure 13.

Usages of the Nagymanya misprint on covers

Chance is a great organizer, collectors sometimes even do not realize, that the rare, 'hunted' philatelic pieces are interconnected by very interesting links. On this page I can show you a Nagymanya stamp on a cutout from presumably a cover, another misprint used with „Portraits" 16 fillér value on piece of cover and an interesting entire forwarded registered letter. The link between these items is the date of usage, 6th of May. The stamps hunted from different places are now side by side, and they must have been torn off the original sheet within a couple of hours!



Figure 14. 9 am



Figure 15. 10 am.

Figure 16. 4 pm.

Usages of the Nagymanya misprint on parcel-post cards

According to the newest findings, it is very rare to see the Nagymanya misprint on a bill of delivery. This one was used on 12th of May on a bulky package, complemented with a Horthy 1 P stamp.



17. Figure. „Nagymanya" on parcel-post card.

This stamp used on the 11th of May was probably cut out from a registered letter. The print under the 70 fillér stamp is supposedly an official headline. If put under light it is recognizable, that the sender stuck over the headline of the Slovakian local administration with the text: Krajina Slovenska, Obec Velka Mana, Okres Vrable.



Figure 18. An example of usage on letter showing how much story is hidden behind a philatelic object

The following misprint used on 3rd of May 1939 nicely complements, with its complete postmark, the collection of used errors of print.



19. Figure.

Nagymanya errors of print in postal usage

The following table shows the currently known used errors of print in chronological order. Blue text is for the author's collection, green is for the stamp museum collection, black is for other collections.

Date /destination	Type of original postal matter	Actual state
 Fig.21. 16h 26/4/1939 Léva	Long distance registered letter. 3d weight category: over 40 g to 250g.	*Whole cover* with sending and arrival postmarks, with "registered" label. Rate: simple cover 36f, registered mail extra 50f. The earliest usage of the misprint
 Fig.22. 9h 28/4/1939	Registered letter or parcel bill.	Misprint from a postal matter with half postmark.
 Fig.23. 12h 1/5/1939	Long distance registered letter.	Misprint on envelope cutout with half postmark.
 Fig. 24. 15h 3/5/1939	Long distance registered letter or parcel bill.	Misprint on postal matter with complete postmark.

 Fig. 25. 10h 4/5/1939	Parcel bill.	Section of parcel bill with complete postmark. It is rare that the misprint is used with two complementing "Portraits" stamps.
 Fig. 26. 12h 5/5/1939	Long distance registered mail.	Misprint from a postal matter with one stamp with complete postmark.
 Fig. 27. 9h 6/5/1939 Budapest	Long distance registered mail.	*Whole cover* with sending and arrival postmarks, "registered" ticket. The third digit of the registered ticket is in blind print.
 Fig. 28. 10h 6/5/1939	Registered letter. 3d weight category: over 40 g to 250g.	Section of envelope, 70f misprint + 16f "Portraits" stamp with complete postmark.

Date /destination	Type of original postal matter	Actual presentation of the misprint
 Fig. 29. 16h 6/5/1939	Registered letter.	Envelope cutout, misprint with complete postmark.
 Fig. 30. 9h 9/5/1939	Registered letter. 3d weight category: over 40 g to 250g.	Part of envelope, 70f misprint + 16f "Portraits" stamp with complete postmark.
 Fig. 31. 11h 11/5/1939	Registered letter	Part of official Slovakian letter, the misprint placed on embossed seal.
 Fig. 32. 12h 12/5/1939	Parcel bill.	Segment of parcel bill used for payment with 70f misprint + Horthy 1P stamp. Complete postmark.

 Fig. 33. 10h 13/5/1939.	Registered letter or parcel bill.	Misprint on postal matter with 75% postmark.
 Fig. 34. 15h 15/5/1939	Registered letter or parcel bill.	Misprint on postal matter with 60% postmark.
 Fig. 35. 9h 16/5/1939	Registered letter or parcel bill.	Misprint on postal matter with 25% postmark.
 Fig. 36. 15h 17/5/1939 Enying	Parcel Bill.	Complete registry sheet of a parcel bill, with single cancellation of 70f misprint, with sending and arrival postmarks.
 Fig. 37. 9h 20/5/1939	Parcel bill	Section of parcel bill with full postmark. Probably single stamp cancellation. Last known day of the usage of the 70f misprint.

Evaluation of the „Nagymanya" misprint in postal usage

All together 17 pieces of misprints were used in the post office of "Nagymanya" between 26/4/1939 and 20/5/1939. The post office was closed on 30th of April, 7th and 14th of May since it was Sunday. Actual opening days were 22.

The distribution of the originally posted postal matters were:

- 4 parcel bills
- 8 registered letters
- 5 registered letters or parcel bills, not identifiable

Concerning the fullness of the documents, we have the following distribution:

- 2 complete registered letters
- 1 registry sheet of a parcel bill
- 1 cancellation segment of a parcel bill
- 7 sections of postal matters
- 6 stamps from postal matters

Split according to owners:

- Stamp Museum:
  - 1 registry sheet of a parcel bill
- the authors's collection:
  - 2 complete registered letters
  - 1 cancellation segment of a parcel bill
  - 3 sections of postal matters
  - 2 stamps from postal matters
- other collections:
  - 3 sections of postal matters
  - 5 stamps from postal matters

Below we present the already mentioned famous parcel bill with full franking owned by the Stamp Museum Budapest:



Figure 38.

Summary of unused „Nagymanya"misprints

According to stamp auction catalogues of the last 25 years and the archives of the Stamp Museum the unused pieces of "Nagymanya" errors of print are the following:



Figure 39. Block of 24 pieces of the unused "Nagymanya" misprint.
Property of the Stamp Museum Budapest since 21/5/1938



A/ Stamp Museum from 21/5/1939



B/ Profila Bp. 19/6/2004 lot 6273



C/ Profila Bp. 26/9/2005 lot. 4252.



D/ Darabanth Bp. 29/5/2005 lot 12539.



E/ Darabanth Bp. 7/11/2009 lot 4177.



F/ Darabanth Bp. 14/5/2011 lot 1695.



H/



G/ Attest: Orbán (sheet position 90.)

Figures 40-47.[3] The known unused single copies

The direction of the Hungarian Royal Post ordered to promptly withdraw the stock of the misprint from market on 20th of May 1938. The postmaster acted accordingly, and the day after, on 21st of May he sent the remaining 38 pieces to the Stamp Museum. According to our researches we only know the above presented 32 pieces. The misprints sold in auctions are identified by the perforation characteristics as well, therefore we found that some examples have been auctioned several times. The date and auction data presented are the last ones for each stamp.

[3] The colour differences are caused by the different sources from which these pictures have been copied. The last, 47. figure is of correct colour.

Summary

Based on the researches of the author we can state, that there are 49 pieces known out of the original sheet of 100. This article shows all known copies, identified with picture. Out of these pieces the Stamp Museum of Budapest possesses 26 (unused block of 24 + 1 single + 1 parcel bill). The number of known pieces in collectors' hand is 21, 7 unused and 16 used examples.

The author's collection consists of 8 used stamps as follows:

- 2 complete registered letters. (Never presented in auctions. Estimated value is around a couple of hundred thousand USDs).
- 1 cancellation segment of a parcel bill;
- 3 sections of postal matters with full postmark;
- 2 used stamps.

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COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF THE LOCAL ISSUE OF 1944 IN ZENTA



DR. FERENC NAGY, VIENNA

The first mentioning of the locality of Zenta took place in 1216, when it was mentioned as an important crossing point over the river Tisa. In 1506, this locality attained the title of the Royal city from the Ulaszlo II. The name of the city was included into history books in 1697, when the troops Jenő Savoyai defeated the Turkish invaders. The name of this city is so meaningful that in Vienna a street was named after it /Zentagasse, district 5/.



Figure 1 Leter card addressed to Postal Directorate sent from the post office of Zenta, 27.04.1941

As a result of the national disaster of Trianon, Zenta, along with the whole Southern Region, was attached to the states of SHS, where it stayed until 1941. In that year it came again under the protection of the Holy Crown. (Even I remember triumphant singing and crying the names of the towns 'Szabadka, Zombor, Újvidék' as a child.)

I would like to present an outstanding postal document from those days. The inscription on its rear side read, '*A megnyitás utáni első lélekzetvétel alkalmával tiszteletteljes üdvözletét küldi Sátori Dezső postafelügyelő, Zenta*' (Postal supervisor Dezső Sátori from Zenta sends his respectful greetings upon his the first breathing after having opened the mail item) (Figure 1).

The town stayed with Hungary until October 1944. During that period, armored corps stationed in the barracks built at the times of the Imperial and Royal Navy**.** Let us take a look at a document from those times.



Figure 2. Registered letter from the armored barracks in Rétság to those in Zenta, 07.09.1941. At the rear side, relief printing "Páncélos üdvözlettel" (Armored greetings) and Crown with wings

Unfortunately, the new Hungarian period did not last long in the newly attached Southern Region. In the course of the already raging World War, after three and a half years, the Soviet army broke into the region from the north-east direction. Zenta was the first town in Vojvodina to be occupied on 8 October 1944.

Then the Serbs, who were just waiting for the Russians, started an unprecedented slaughter of the Hungarians in Vojvodina. The House of Terror in Budapest opened a special exhibition to document the massacre in 2011 / "Because you are Hungarian..." /. In Zenta, there were 170 victims of the Serbian massacre. 98 from them were identified by name. Altogether, 4000 people were killed in the Southern Region, mostly men, because Serbs who masterminded this diabolical plan wanted to prevent the growth of the Hungarian population. When talking about that period, we need to remember this.

So let us imagine 8 October 1944. Russia's rule was at place, and the Serbian government, which had been waiting for this, started to organize its measures. First of all, the loss of Zenta, its conversion to Senta, and its access to "Democratic Föderatio JUGOSLAVIJA" had to be recorded. Soviet officer Sazanov wished to record all this by having the date of this event, the name of the new governing country, and the five-pointed star (linoleum) printed over the existing Hungarian postage stamps.

Géza Szucs wrote an excellent article on this issue entitled "A Zentai provizórium" (The Zenta provisory) in Philatelic Szemle of 1970. Over the past 43 years, some additional discoveries have been made, so I would like to narrate the story further, using a part of his article.

The issue was produced in the printing house *Unio* in Zenta. At that time, there were still minutes on the overprints stored in the Postal Directorate in Belgrade, which contained the following data on the stock from the post office and tobacco shops:

Generals 1,2,4,5,,8,10,24 fillers and *Church* 24 fillers	1000 pieces
To be paid by recipient 2 fillers	1000 pieces
Generals 3 fillers and 30 fillers *Madonnas*	800 pieces
Church 1 filler	500 pieces
Generals 6, 12, 18, 20, 80 fillers and 1 P	
Madonnas 20,24,50,70,80 fillers and *St Margit* 30 fillers	50 pieces
To be paid by recipient 3, 4, 6 fillers	50 pieces

Thus the number of copies of the first “small series” from 11 denominations was 1000 and 800 pieces. Postage stamps to be paid by recipient were overprinted with new face values:

10 over 2 fillers
20 over 3 fillers
30 over 4 fillers
50 over 6 fillers

From each of the last three denominations, 50 pieces were produced.

Out of the five sheets on stock from 1 filler postage stamps featuring Church, only one sheet was overprinted. The upper 50 pieces were overprinted with the face value 5P (Cyrillic letter), while the bottom 50 pieces – with the face value 2P.

The great Hungarian researchers to study this issue were Péter Néma /Switzerland/ and Gábor Rátai /Sweden, later returned to Hungary/. Unfortunately, both of them passed away too early, leaving their valuable research unfinished ahead of time. In Serbia, it was Prof. Jovan Velickovic and Jovan Reljin to deal in greater depth with this issue. This edition is in high esteem in the south, because it is considered the first Yugoslavian issue after the war. For the “big series” of 28 pieces, more than €3000 is paid.

What should have happened with the overprinted rows? In the first few days, there was no functioning postal service. The Council of People's Liberation created commemorative cards, to which postage stamps were adhered. These postage stamps were postmarked by a red postmark CEHTA with the date 20.X.44. 11 on the top and a postmark SENTA at the bottom.



Figure 3. First page of the commemorative card with 28 postage stamps



Figure 4. The another page

There were 10 sets of the commemorative cards containing “the long set” of 28 denominations. I have to note that this information is not absolutely precise, since Géza Tárkány Szücs presented a set of 27 pieces in his article, 24 filler postage stamp with the image of a church missing from it. The process of compiling commemorative cards must have been very hectic.

Fifty commemorative cards were produced in 11 denominations. These cards could not be acquired by the public, because they were given as presents to high-profile militarily and political personalities.

All the more reason for me to be glad to be able to present a 28-piece commemorative set here. The commemorative card reads “Jugoszláv Föderáció” (Yugoslavian Federation).

Upon the proposal of The Council of People's Liberation, it was decided that from 18 October 1944 the Hungarian postage stamps had to be overprinted with the five-pointed red star, the date of the Soviet troops marching in in black colour, and the inscription "Jugoslavija", in order that these postage stamps continue to be used in postal traffic. The Council of People's Liberation body approved the decision of the Council. The stamps were postmarked with pale red postmarks with the date of 20 October 1944. Other postage stamps which were not included into commemorative cards, their number limited, were handed out among militarily headquarters chiefs.

But what happened with the "short sets"? A part of them was used for the postage of such envelopes which could be used in postal traffic. Most various combinations of the 11 denominations were created to finally get 30 fillers, which was the rate of long-distance letters then. However, there was no mail service at that time. Consequently, these envelopes may have survived only unused, with the red postmark with the date “20. X. 44. 11”.

On these envelopes, 10 filler postage stamp incorporating the fee payable by the recipient was always integrated into the overall postage of 30 fillers, as if part of the postage covered by the sender (probably, it was actually meant this way). The concept was that these stamps would be used as soon as the mail service is launched.

The characteristic feature of the real hand stamps was that the two digits of number ‘44’ were different. The origin of this date was the following: the decision was issued on 18 October; the facilities were produced within a day; the first day of the series was 20 October 1944. Later, this date was explained as “commemoration of the liberation of Belgrade” which was of course only a communist operetta, because it was impossible for the manufacturers of the postage stamps to know in advance when the Russians would march into Belgrade after the 2-week-long fights.

Let us have look at two of these blank envelopes, which are still bearing first-day postmarks.



Figure 5. Unused envelope

The short sets which were not used were then distributed among philatelists. It is difficult to decide if the Post Office windows were open, and the cards were handed out there. The statements are very controversial

Naturally, the temptation to use these envelopes fraudulently was very high. Here is one of these envelopes addressed by machine and sent to Belgrade; on the rare, there is a forged postmark upon arrival with the date of 21 October. Today we know that the Russians arrived in Belgrade only on 20 October, due to which a postmark with the date of 21 October is nonsense.



Figure 6. Subsequently used envelope destined to Belgrade, 30 filler postage,10 fillers out of it (but integrated into it) had to be paid by the recipient. At this time, Belgrade was considered inland…

Not only were envelopes forged to seem used but all denominations of this series were forged too. There was especially one big auction company in Budapest to always sell the forgeries of the rows from Zenta, of course without warranty. Some of the forgeries were so poor that it is well visible that its manufacturers had not even seen the originals. We, however, should see one piece magnified, to be able to study all printing characteristics.



Figure 7. Block of four pieces; 5 fillers; relief printing; well visible characteristic features of letters



Figure 8. Rear side; partial mirror impression of letters; signs of warranty

On the next figure, we can see a proof of a 50-stamp overprint sheet.

According to Prof. Velickovic's attestation, the sheets were over-printed in such a way that they were always fed one row forward under the cliché which had 10 horizontal positions. This and especially the tiny dimensional differences of the star make it possible to identify the positions of the postage stamps from 1 to 10, because they were always the same.

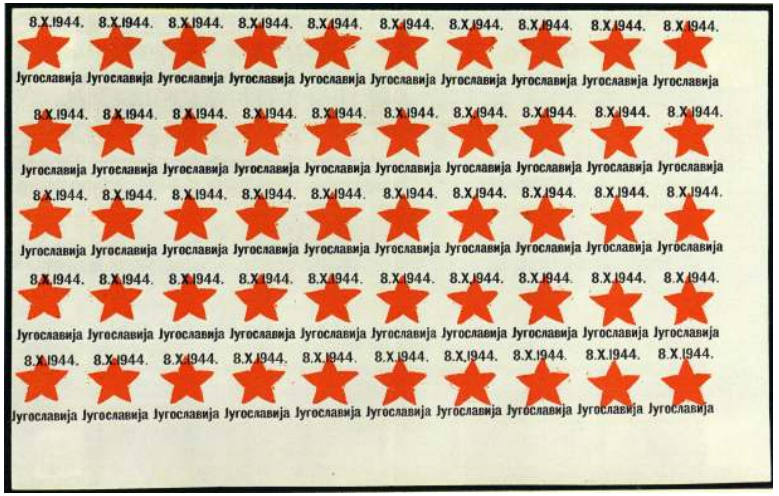


Figure 9. Printing cliché of 50 pieces for overprinting postage stamps

It seems that only the postage stamps with old denominations were printed in two steps.

The situation with 2 P/1 filler and 5 P /1 was different. The new face value was printed over the red star as the third step; letter "P" was Cyrillic. 50 pieces were produced of each postage stamp. In case the stamps were produced in groups of 50 pieces, how could this pair be produced? It could happen in the following well: the upper 50 pieces were printed over 5P, while the bottom 50 pieces — over 2P. Altogether, 100 pieces were produced. This pair, which is considered an absolute rarity, comes from the middle of the sheet, and is a continuous pair. Altogether there were 10 such pairs. This piece comes from the collection of Rátai; there is a check postmark on its rear side.

As in case of all overprinted postage stamps, we come across printing differences here. They, however, do not produce the impression of "mache", if not for anything else then because of the small number of copies. This is why, for example, Prof. Velickovic borrowed some pieces from my collection for his article published in the German publication *Südost Philatelie*, because he did not have any of these.



Figure 10. 2 P and 5 P postage stamps, continuous pair



Figure 11. Possible printing deviations: missing star, shifted overprint extending to the margins and downward

For example, he borrowed a vertical pair of 24 fillers with the image of Church II. In the upper piece of the pair, the red star is missing; it must have fallen out upon subsequent printing.

The other postage stamp is the 20 filler one with the image of Generals, which shifted to the left upon overprinting, due to which both steps of overprinting left impressions on the margin.

On the 5P stamps, the printing slat of the denomination slid, and interfered with the word "Jugoslavija" /third printing step/.

We also know of the spelling mistake: "Jugoslivija" instead of "Jugoslavija". It was corrected right away, due to which only a few pieces with this error exist.

To the 10 filler postage stamp to be covered by the recipient, base printing was applied later (!). This was a philatelic game, of which there are no records in the documents.

Further rare deviations of overprinting /Coll. Marakovic/



12a./ Block of 9 pieces, 4 fillers, largest combination known. Reversed overprinting in the bottom row; spelling mistake (JUGOSLIVIJA) in the 2nd stamp of the upper row. A very special combination.



b./ Görgey, 50 pieces, 12-filler pair; both overprints missing on the right stamp



c./ Madonnas, 50 pieces, 30 fillers, red star missing

Now it is time to deal with Imre Werner, who later became Ing. Mirko Verner. He was of Hungarian origin; his parents were called János Werner and Josefa Nagy. He lived in Zenta. The first signs of his philatelic interest appeared as early as 1934 – it was a List block sent to him.



13. ábra. Liszt-blokk Werner Imrének küldve Zentára.

He must have become a significant personality among local collectors by 1944, because The Council of Liberation commissioned him to do preparation work for the local issue.

By that time his name became Mirko Verner, with a simple 'V', because at that time Hungarians did not get good jobs unless they assimilated into the Serb population. This was the lot of the ethnic minority in the Southern Region.

Postage stamps were done; the overprinting was rather spectacular in the eyes of the Serbs. The distribution took place without any problems. This is why it is absolutely surprising that at the end of 1945, after a full year, Mirko Verner was sued at the regional

court of Zenta. The original copy of the minutes has survived. Mirko Verner was accused of the releasing the edition without the permit of the Post Office, of the selling of the postage stamps etc.

In the decision of 25 December 1945, Mirko was acquitted of all charges because he could prove that he had not sold the postage stamps but handed them out and that the edition had been released upon the decision of The Council of Liberation.

The antecedent of the events described above must have been the decision of the Yugoslavian Postal Directorate in September 1945 declaring the whole issue illegal and ignoring the decision of The Council of Liberation taken one year earlier. However, the latter had had the right to issue the postage stamps, because at that time there had not been other government bodies. Still, this was the reason why the Post Office sued Mirko Verner, the „criminal".

Later in 1947 in his articles in Subotica, and then in 1962 in Novi Sad, he tried to restore the legitimacy of this issue. His efforts were so successful that the issue was again included in the Yugomarka catalogue as the „First Yugoslavian Postage Stamp Issue after Liberation". This is why it now costs over €3000.

Later, the stamps of the issue started to be forged, due to which attestations became necessary, to ensure safety. It was only natural that Ing. Mirko Verner was the best person to do this, since he was the best expert. Later such experts joined in as Dejan Tubinovic and Prof. Jovan Velickovic, whose opinions must be considered.

FURTHER HISTORY OF ISSUE

Since for some reasons the red hand stamp remained in private property, a way for producing some oddities opened up. Thus, a black postmark was produced too, with the date of 26 October. The regulation issued by The Council of Liberation provided that the red hand stamp was used only on 20 October; later the colour had to be black. However, we know of the black hand stamp only beginning from 26 October, on some not used but later postmarked letters.



Figure 14. Black hand stamp on a piece of a letter, 80 fillers

Philatelists' interest in this issue turned very high after the war. There were no sufficient quantities of postage stamps, first-day red postmarks on envelopes, or commemorative cards, due to which a new product was in demand. The producers in Zenta found the new product – postcards. Although there were no minutes produced on this, they started to overprint several hundreds of the still available indented cards of 8 and 18 fillers, as well as a lot of Military Post Office cards. The new denomination was 20 fillers. The 8-filler stamps were brushed up with two pieces of Kinizsi postage stamps. The stamps of 18 fillers were overprinted with the value of 20 fillers. The number of copies was of course not published. The minutes, which do not contain a single word on all this, are deep in the archives of the Postal Directorate of Belgrade.

Michel catalogue, which contains the evaluation of the 28 postage stamps, eliminated postcards from its evaluation exactly for this reason. Used pieces of course do not exist, but there still are „first-

day" pieces postmarked later, which did not cause problems due to the fact that the red hand stamp remained in private property.

I would like to present an overprinted card of 18 fillers. All three cards (8 fillers, 18 fillers, and Military Post Office) were overprinted with the denomination of 20 fillers. All three letter cards exist with first-day postmark too, which means that there are six variations altogether, three postmarked and three non-postmarked.



Figure 15. D.F. JUGOSZLAVIJA /Demokratikus Föderáció Jugoszlávia/, later DOPISZNICA /Letter card/ 6-line grid to cover the word "LEVELEZÖLAP"

The overprint is of a completely different type than that on postage stamps, even the star is black.

The text of the Military Post Office postcards read, "The future peace and blossom of Hungary will be determined on the battlefields of the Soviet Russia" was not covered. Why should it have been – these pieces officially did not exist!

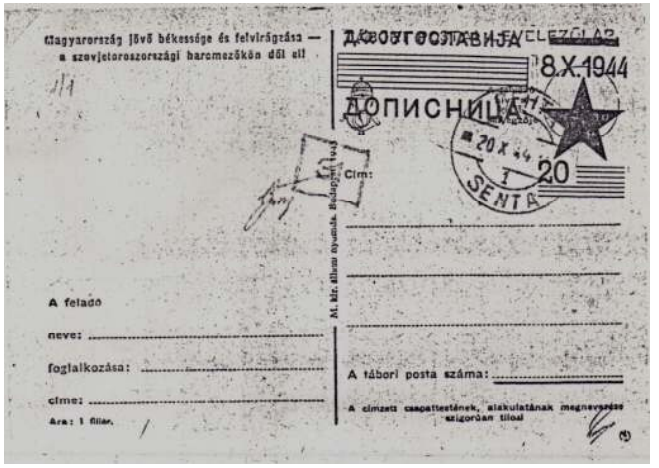


Figure 16. Military Post Office card with black overprint and red "first-day" postmark (Copy)

This was the end of the local issue of Zenta. As in case of all local issues, we see quite a few uncertainties at the end in this case too. All questions will remain unanswered. Does it matter?

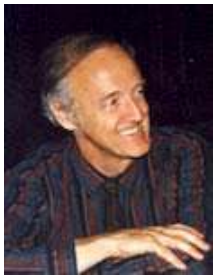
I do not think so. Just as in case of a beautiful woman, we do not need to know all her secrets. If we love her, we will leave some of her secrets hidden. And do we love postage stamps?

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(Translated by Marina Shafit)

FIELD POST IN WORLD WAR 2 — PART ONE



MERVYN BENFORD, SHUTFORD/BANBURY

Just after he published his first book on this subject, my good friend Surányi László helped me understand my then small collection of this material. I bought some of his duplicates. My strongest interest in Hungarian postal history is post involving railways but though we both knew the numbers he could not tell me the routes. He hoped his second book would have such details but he died before he could finish it.

To my surprise I later learned he had asked that his duplicate material should be sent to me. I think he had some faith in my study powers but my Hungarian language is limited. I have had very little chance to take the story further. It is a real blessing that '*Philatelica'* now appears in English. An even greater help is the superb book on this subject recently published by Dán János- "A Magyar Királyi Tábori Posta a II. Világháborúban 1938-1948" published 2011 by Szerzö Saját Kiadása.

This book provides detailed, comprehensive information, well-organised and well-presented. There are many and good illustrations that help to tell the story. It has enabled me to look at the many hundreds of field post cards I hold and make some sense of them. I have done this because I believe my good friend, Laci, left the material to me in trust for Hungarian philately.

Dán János' work allows us to begin understanding the different card issues. I helped another good friend, Simády Béla, when he prepared his postal stationery catalogue; to distinguish the individual issues is the basis of a catalogue. What the field post cards tell us of the postal system, censorship, troop movements and the pattern of the conflict is another part of the story and later chapters deal with this very thoroughly. To collect this material one needs to understand the issues.

When I learned of the book I contacted Dán János on Mozgóposta postmarks. He kindly sent me a reply through my good Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain friend, Gróf László, for translation. What Surányi believed was true. The relevant records had been destroyed in the battle for Budapest. Nothing survived. The Post Museum had told me this. The same news came from another good friend, Angyál Erzsébet in the Stamp Museum, always a great help to philatelic researchers and English-speaking! So we have only the field post cards and their postmarks.

The catalogue gives the author's estimate of the value of the different field postcards issued but only in that respect. There is no attempt to value particular field postmarks or censorship marks for example. In time the market will tell us. In terms of the different card issues my analysis does raise a few questions about the esti-

mates given by the author and I discuss these when I deal with them. Much of what I say may already be in the catalogue so forgive such repetition. I do not read Hungarian well and so cannot always know if something I report is already there in the book.

In starting with 1938 Dán János deals with events from the Visszatért period when returned territory saw troops moving across restored borders to help establish the new arrangements. It is known that there was little, if any, Field Post activity in the first restorations from Czechoslovakia. The 1939 events in Ruthenia were probably not much discussed in public and postal readiness would be limited. The civil post for a long time depended on temporary cancellers. The catalogue reports cards with no date imprint- reflecting the very changing nature of the situation at the time.

The 1940 restorations from Romania were far greater, with many troops involved. Postal preparations were possible but the scale of the operation meant most post offices were given temporary cancellers, either of steel or rubber, until their new permanent ones arrived. Post offices were instructed to ensure the sending office name was put on the item. This was sometimes by hand but also by locally prepared rubber stamp. It was not always done, though!

1941 saw parts of southern Hungary re-claimed and that year Hungary finally joined the war. Again it was a less publicised event and postal preparations were again limited other than a rush of Visszatért postmarks. Hungarian unit locations changed more often. My stamp-collecting friend of 40 years, Moldoványi Gyula, was in charge of units that served in two locations in 1941 where in 1940 he had stayed largely at one. The restored period was much shorter and any used material, especially items with new Hungarian postmarks, is more difficult to find than from 1938/1940.

I have a very few field post cards printed in 1939 and 1941 but they are almost non-existent. Sufficient stocks with 1940 imprint were available. As the following tables show, the great majority of cards were produced in 1942, 1943 and 1944.

Nothing in this article corrects anything in the book. It perhaps adds to the available information. I do suggest that as a result of my findings some of the valuations may need adjusting. For example Card F4, with 1941 imprint, is valued at the same 4 euros as 1940, 1942 and 1943. My evidence suggests it is many times scarcer but it may be that Dán János has many more. My work just opens a discussion that I hope will continue.

There is a particular challenge with estimating scarcity. Many of the cards Surány László had found were whole sets kept by families. Many individuals treasured this regular news from their families- both inward and outward. Often they came from the same dated stock so that may affect the relative balance they represent. Soldiers killed or taken prisoner may have had similar quantities kept close to them and which may have disappeared.

In some cases they are from a single imprint year, especially 1942, though spread over the weeks and months of that year. In many cases they are used in later years than the imprint. I do NOT claim that the balance of numbers I am reporting automatically reflects the true balance of cards printed or used. I just happen to have a very

large number of field post cards. The market will inevitably be distorted by the events of war. The catalogue is a great help in understanding what survives.

The heavy loss of life at the Don River would mean a sudden reduction in the numbers of cards sent. Once Hungary had been invaded by the Soviet armies postal management clearly became affected and that will have seriously affected card production in 1945.

The more interesting family sets are those reflecting personal stories through most of the war years. They often expose the pattern of unit and personnel changes as well as Field Post Office movements. Some of my sets include two-way correspondence and this surely will be an interesting field of historical study for social and military historians even though what could be said was of course limited. I shall donate such documents to one of the national museums and would welcome advice. Post or Army Museum? Perhaps I have enough to give some to each.

I follow the pattern set by Dán János. In English **FPO** = Tábori Posta Hivatal. **TPO** = Mozgóposta. In total I have almost 3800 cards.

1 H series:

Pink cards designed for use *TO* military personnel. The address lines indicate space to enter the Field Post Office concerned. However, I have noted many cases where such cards have been used *BY* soldiers to send to civilian addresses.

Catalogue No.	Date of Imprint	Card Cost	Sent TO soldiers	Sent FROM soldiers
H 1	1938	1f	6	0
H 2	1939	1f	3	1
H 3a	1940	1f	84	32
H 3b	1940	1 fillér	248	42
H 4	1941	1 fillér	8	1
H 5	1942 Nincs jelm.	1 fillér	0	0
H 6	1942 'Inkább' jelm.	1 fillér	24	5
H 7 (6 mint)	1942 'Magyar jövö...'	1 fillér	130	9
H 8a (1 mint)	1943 azonos jelm.	1 fillér	41	4
H 8b (1 mint)	1943 azonos jelm	1 fillér	55	5
H 9a (5mint)	1944 azonos jelm	1 fillér	17	3
H 9b (3 mint)	1944 hiányzó 'j'	1 fillér	4	1
H 10 (2 mint)	1944 'Határaink...'	1 fillér	4	1

Total cards of H type including mint: 728

Some cards seem rather scarce. Perhaps the author knows of many others. His values do show H5 and H9b as relatively higher value but perhaps not enough. H1, H2, H4 and H10 are very low in my set of cards. The 1944 cards do have the central inscription at longer and shorter lengths but my totals are too small to be certain: the majority have the shorter of the two lengths I have found.

Cards with imprint dates 1938 and 1939 (H1 and H2) are scarce-probably because the Field Post service was not used in Czechoslovakia, while undated cards were introduced in the more unexpected events of 1939.

However, I have four cards with 1938 imprint used in April 1939. I have four 1939 cards used in spring 1940. It can be assumed these were at the time of the military action in Ruthenia. The Romanian restoration years were very well covered with cards and these were probably still much available in 1941, explaining the difficulty finding 1941 dated imprints. An April 2013 Darabanth auction had a 1939 dated card for sale.

2 "M Zárolt" Cards

These cards have no date imprint. The speed of military events at the time meant considerable mobility for units and the field posts serving them. The catalogue lists five types:

M1	Standard card price given as 1f.	8 pink 14 buff
M2	Likewise but price given as 1 fill	65
M3	Card title has no full stop	6
M4	Return to 1f. but "*honi színü a papírja*"	? see below
M5	Additional slogan text at top left "*Az akarat....*"	0
Total cards of M type:		93

My first problem is that Dán János begins this section with the heading about green cards. The green cards became almost the standard official issue, though the colour can fade to a more grey shade. However, my 1f. cards (M1) come in either pink, or a buff colour similar to normal civilian stationery postcards. My M2 cards (1 fill.) are also this buff colour. It is very clear from dates used that the M2 cards came before the M1 cards. The pink cards perhaps reflected sudden need for new stocks.

This may be where the Hungarian text was difficult for me. Sometimes I may report things which the catalogue mentions but which I did not see or understand. When this happens please forgive me.

M3 cards have sometimes a very faint mark where the full stop should be. I have very few with absolutely no full stop showing. It is possible it was just a lighter run on the printers? I have several of the normal later cards where the date imprint looks smaller but is probably just too little ink on that pass through the machines.

The M4 type was difficult for me. I have two good modern dictionaries and neither had the word '*honi.'* I have an American dictionary which has '*honi*' and its meaning seems to be about things 'native' or 'home-made'. A good Hungarian philatelic friend had never heard the word but asked a Hungarian visiting him who said that '*honi színü"* would mean the normal civilian card colour. I see a connection " *like the 'home' or 'normal'* card. But this is the colour of most of M1 cards and all my M2 cards. So I am still not sure what M4 has that is different. The card cost is also the same as M1. But the catalogue text may tell the answer.

Dán János also shows these M3 cards with the '1f' cost and that is also the same as the M1 cards. At present I find it difficult to know how an M3 card is different from my 'normal'' card shade (buff) M1. And then there is the problem of the pink M1 cards.

Valuations given are almost the same but my evidence shows M3, 4, 5 very difficult compared to M1 and 2, though my pink M1 are another question.

3 F series: Official Hungarian Printings: dated 1938-1944

F1	1938	22
F2	1939	0
F3	1940	507
	(the great majority are a very strong green colour)	
F4	1941	1
F5a	1942	94
F5b	1942 'Inkabb....'	0
F6a	1942 'A Magyar.....'	57
F6b	type 2	32*see note below
F7	1942 'Magyarország....'	810
F8a	1943 shorter length	356* see note below
F8b	longer length	46*
F8c	'Bud pest'	18
F9	1944 shorter length	498*
F9c	longer length	87*
F10	1944 year date missing	47
	(18 from one soldier!)	

* I divide F6, F8 and F9 into two types. I have enough cards to note clear differences that suggest different printings.

F6a and b

The Exclamation mark (!) at the end of the slogan '*A Magyar Élet*...!' is either directly above (type 1) or to the right of the colon (:) below- type 2.

F8a, 8b, 9a and 9b

There are shorter and longer lengths for the central print and date detail. The range is 1.5 to 2mm but there can be smaller differences that may also reflect different printings.

These differences may be in the text of the book. Because I know little Hungarian, I may sometimes mention something that is already known. *Please forgive me*!

Before leaving the F series I have also found examples of poor cutting. I have one card dated 1942 with the cost at the top! I have a few more where the guillotine went very close.

Card F5b with extra "*Inkabb"* text I have no copies of so I suggest the value may be higher than the catalogue says, even at six times the average value of the normal cards. I have no 1939 cards (F2) and the catalogue recognises this scarcity but I have only one with date 1941 (F4) and suggest this is equally scarce. Dán János may know of many more and have many more of course. I have only 46 of F 10 from more than 2000 F cards.

F 11 Pre-printed Message Cards

They gave no choice to senders. The information was fixed. The catalogue illustrates these and rightly lifts their value. I have only four: all are used but no sender has identified his nationality so I presume all were used by Hungarian military personnel. I suggest they are more difficult to find and the catalogue value can be raised unless the editor knows of many more.

Total F cards: 2579

4 L series Airmail Reply-cards

Surányi and I had discussed the cards issued, it seemed, for airmail use. He said that these were very rare, and flown examples came only with a particular diamond censorship mark. I was puzzled that so many came up in auctions and were described as "*airmail."* Dán

János told me that this was not true. The cards were often used in the same way as normal issues. Mail was of course bundled up for transit and was often flown where this was possible. The challenge remains for collectors to find individual pieces marked as we know airmail items should be. *Meanwhile auction houses and dealers should not describe these cards as airmail in the hope they are worth more.* They are less easy to find than the normal field postcards and this shows in the catalogue valuations.

L 1 I have four complete Mint: also one front half mint and one Reply half prepared for return to soldier but not used. I have two cards still whole but only front half used. I have just three cards used with diamond censorship marks. I wonder what told Surányi to think such cards were actually flown? Did he have some information to that effect? I have eight other items, not field post cards, with cachets of military units linked to aviation.

Outward (front) halves used: 63

Of these 29 have December 1942 or early January 1943 postmarks: 16 have April 1943 postmarks. Four were sent in March 1944. One was used in 1946.

Reply-halves used: 12

One used FROM the soldier TO a civilian address! One used March 1944. One was used after the war.

One matches three front halves (same husband and wife), one of which may be the same original card. At least it is the same width and the two cards perforation closely fit. Dates seem correct

All my cards have the standard official imprint with date 1942. If 45 of my 60 were sent in December or April that may indicate what Dán János told me about mail sometimes being collected up for dispatch by air as those dates coincide with Christmas/New Year and Easter. Perhaps it also reflected the hard times many soldiers were having up at the front on the banks of the River Don. That cards sent by soldiers are many more than those they received may indicate many lost in the destruction of the 2nd. Army at the Don river after Soviet forces crossed over.

Total half-cards 77 and 6 ***whole cards*.**

5 CS series Parcel Cards

I can add little to the catalogue: I have four examples. This confirms the rarity of surviving examples suggested by the catalogue values. It could be higher.

6 D series Reply-cards

The catalogue shows the rarity of these cards issued for war workers units and printed by Attila rather than the State printing office. I have three front halves and three reply halves. I also have a front half and a reply half between the same husband and wife and they seem like the one original card, though divided.

The catalogue values reflect the fact that I have just eight cards. D1 rates 100 euros and D2 at 200. They seem correct estimates for scarce items. But I have only four parcel cards, and only four of F

11, and even fewer of some of the normal cards so this may be a case where the catalogue text has information suggesting more surviving examples than in my numbers suggest.

I also have a reply card (or the separate halves) of a type not in the catalogue (see Illustration 1. in the right.)

Both are used by the same soldier to the same address, a month apart, in April and May 1944. The cards have no official Coat of Arms with post-horn. They have the title only 'TÁBORI LEVELEZÖLAP' and 'TÁBORI VÁLASZLEVELEZÖ-LAP' (not 'POSTAI')



Illustration 1.

I suggest it is a private issue and not another D series card. However it has the same kind of censorship box as the D cards. I discuss it here because there were so few reply-cards and it seems better to treat them together. But if it belongs to the private group it comes after the P series and would probably need a new series number, maybe S1/S2. I suspect they are just as hard to find. The D series were on white card. These are on a card more blue than green.

Private Issues:

These seem to be scarce. I have examples that for some companies add to what the catalogue shows. The catalogue clearly shows varieties when known. Sometimes I have no catalogue types, only my variations. This suggests overall scarcity of surviving examples. Card producers perhaps were in competition with the official postal types and so ordered shorter printing runs. This could produce small changes in card and text format.

A significant factor is the word used to show the military rank of the sender. In some cases it is *'rendfokozata.'* In other cases it is '*csapatteste.*' In the *Hungaria* cards it is '*rangja.'* A few use '*foglalkozása.'* On some cards there is only space for the sender's name. Sometimes the catalogue examples have one form and mine are the other!

P1 Cards with production company identified:

Wiko: The catalogue has four issues:

i Company address just "Kassa." No vertical dividing lines: '*rendfokozata*: I have 0 examples.
ii Longer address: dividing lines: I have 6 cards
iii Shorter address: dividing lines at very top and bottom: I have 0 examples but I have 2 cards with the dividing lines NOT at the very top and bottom but as in other cards, close to the company name and address.
iv Longer address; dividing lines; with card price 1 fill. And 'csapatteste.' I have 7 cards.

I also have a card in green shade, where all my others are buff, with exactly the same details but the space between the price details and the field post number is smaller. This card was used in 1941 where the other 7 are later, most 1943.

Dürer: The catalogue lists one example. It also has the standard patriotic slogan: I have 0 examples.

HUNGARIA: I have 11 cards: as noted above they use '*rangja.*'

KÁRPÁTI István: The catalogue lists two types:

i Only 'neve': company name small capital letters
ii 'neve' and 'rendfokozata': company name in larger capital letters: with slogan:

I have 0 examples of either i or ii

I have three other card types from this company. The first is the same as i above but the card corners are clearly rounded, not square. I have 3 such cards, all used by the same sender in 1944.

I have five cards as type ii above but with '*csapatteste.*' All sender's details are larger print. They do NOT have the patriotic slogan. These also were within one family in early autumn 1942.

Then I have 12 cards, a different soldier but all to his wife, smaller company name, smaller sender's print but with *'csapatteste'* AND a Hungarian Coat of Arms. ...no posthorn as in some other private types. This type also re-arranges the text at the left of the Field Post Office postmark circle. It is still the same text in four lines but not set the same as the catalogue and my other types. So I have none of the catalogue types and the catalogue has none of mine.

Keresztény Nemzeti: The catalogue lists two types, both with small illustrations on the reverse side. The first has the picture top right. The second has the picture top left. I have 0 examples.

However, I have four cards, also with a picture, stamp size, but on the front of the card with address and sender's details. These cards use '*foglalkozása.'*



Illustration 2.

The print is all in black but the picture looks like it is reduced from a postcard showing a building, with a bus outside and a lot of people going from bus to building. There is an indication of location but too difficult to read. The picture is off centre. To its right is this 2-line text: '*Képes levelező-lap Táborba portomentes.*'

These four cards are pink and were sent in autumn 1943. Three went from Csorvás to a soldier in TPO 414, later 515 and the fourth to a different soldier in TPO 380. This one was carried on TPO 125 Kaszaper-Békescsaba (Mozgóposta.) The cards were produced by *Thomay nyomda Orosháza.*

Negyesi Zoltán: The catalogue lists two types: The first has small print company details and '*csapatteste.*' I have five examples, two on a very strong green card shade.

The second has company details in larger print, uses '*foglalkozása*' for sender and has both '*rang'* and '*csapattest*' in addressee's space. I have 0 exanples.

György I. nyomda As the catalogue: I have 4 examples. Two are used by the soldier who received the card sent on the above-mentioned TPO 125. One of his cards is addressed to his wife in Kaszaper, the other, the next day (both in July 1943) to her at a Tótkomlós address. Of the other two cards one was posted in a civilian box in Kecskemét even though his location is indicated on the card.

Standhaft nyomda Miskolc: Cards have no circles for postmarks. I have 0 examples.

Kovács és Szegedi nyomda: As catalogue: most late July 1942 to spring 1943.

I have 16 cards- six from one soldier.

Rábavidék: I have 1 card. This uses rectangles for postmarks and the rectangle in the censorship box has P.H. which means 'Pecsét Helye'.

Zrinyi Nyomda: As catalogue: these cards have rectangles for postmarks, something which happens in some of the cards which are listed as private but have no company production details.

I have 5 cards, all from the same soldier, FPO 19, monthly from September 1942 (two in November.) The catalogue lists four more company name cards but I have none of them.

However, I have a card produced by a company not in the catalogue: VAJDA- a book-printing company in Sátoraljaujhely.

This card has no circles or rectangles for postmarking.



Illustration 3.

The text usually to left of Field Post Office postmark circle is there but the usual lay-out of the four lines is changed. The company details are along the right hand edge, not in the centre. The card has a bold " Ára 1 fillér" fee printed and the title is just "TÁBORI LEVELEZÖLAP" in very large letters. It was posted from OND P.Ü *to* a soldier at Field Post Office 233.

Total P1 cards 81

Cards with no company named. Design differences in sender's details happen again. They explain some of my discoveries. Length and position of the central dividing line can differ. Designs have circles or rectangles (or nothing) for postmarks. Card titles can have sans-serif letters or letters with serifs. Both lower and upper case exist. I have a few cards that almost match catalogue examples but also several that are completely different. Private companies may have issued different cards but with small detail changes.

P2 These cards all have in the design either a Coat of Arms or a post-horn and in some cases both. P2a and P2b have a single post-horn but P2b has a longer dividing line.

P2c has an unusual Coat of Arms with a post-horn and rectangles for postmarks. *"Feladó'* and *'neve'* move to just below the censorship box and central to it.

P2d have a Coat of Arms more recognisably Hungarian, with a very small post-horn and circles for postmarks. '*Feladó neve,'* as in P2c, is below the censorship box and the postmark circle is at bottom right (unusual) in the censorship box. I have a different version with '*Feladó neve'* in the same place but further away from the censorship box. There is a third type which I describe below as it has more changes.

P2e is very similar but uniquely has below the bottom address line a date and another number. The postmark circle in the censorship box is in the more usual bottom left position.

P2f has no post-horn and a more rectangular Crown. It has no circles or rectangles for postmarks.

P2g has just a large post-horn.

P2h has only a crown but with laurel leaves a little like an older stationery design.

P3 These cards all have some form of slogan added to the top of the card, as in later official field post cards. These cards have no Coats of Arms or post-horns and so differences are limited to other features.

P3a to P3e are presented in the catalogue and the differences are very clear. P3c is interesting as it has a circle for the Field Post Office mark but a square with rounded corners for any such mark in the censor box to the left. P3d also has both types but the other way round. P3b and P3e have no circles or rectangles for postmarks. P3b also has no censorship box.

P4 Plain cards: Readers should follow the catalogue types as listed. I give them extra identity P2a to P2i and just add details where my cards differ, including some which are not in any of the catalogue groups. P4e and f print the fee differently. P4h and P4i differ only in colour though in my examples the blue card is larger. P4g not only uses rectangles for postmarks but also abbreviates the sender's rank to '*rendfok.*'

P4 seems to have a wide range of designs. I have found several not listed in the catalogue which I presume to be P4 category and describe below. Some of these are very like catalogue P4 cards but some are not.

P5 The catalogue explains use of thick green card.

P6-7 The catalogue suggests three sub-types for P6. Two cards with the fee in different positions I call P6a and b. At the bottom of page 78 there is a new card, with a shorter title, lighter colour and even smaller postmark circles. It has no fee. The price listing gives P7 as the card at the top of page 79 so this other card I am calling P6c. P7 also has a re-designed left-hand side without censorship box. P5-7 have titles slightly different but all starting with 'ÜZENET....'

P8 The card at the bottom of page 79 also has re-designed left hand side but described as '*Honi levelezölap' but* if this is P8 in the price listing it is there described as '*Grafikával a hatoldalon'* and much more valuable.

Each category the catalogue presents I have given additional identification, for example P2a, P2b etc.

My total cards are as follows:

P2a	0	P3a	4	P4a	2	P5	4
P2b	0	P3b	0	P4b	5	P6(a-c)	0
P2c	1	P3c	3	P4c	0	P7	0
P2d	23	P3(d,e)	0	P4d	2	P8	0
P2e-h	0			P4e	1		
				P4 f	2		
				P4g-i	1 each		

Total catalogue cards 50 : For some of the categories above I have cards with small differences described now below: I use the same list numbering.

I now report examples of cards similar to catalogue types but with some differences in design.

P2d (type with small Coat of Arms and post-horn)- sender is 'Rendfokozata' I have one card with *'Csapatteste'* instead of *'rendfokozata'* in the same green colour as the rest but also this card in a buff or cream shade. I then have the green version with the word '*Csapatteste*' blocked out and replaced with '*Rendfokozata*'.



Illustration 4.

Both are of the '*Felado neve'* type closer to the censorship box. Catalogue versions and the green card colour seem later changes.

P2d I mentioned this above but it has many differences. The Coat of Arms and the post-horn are both larger.

This card has no places for postmarks but in the censorship box at bottom right are the letters 'P.H' (I presume '*Posta Hivatal'* and similar to the Rábavidék card above.....?same company?)



Illustration 5.

The text usually to left of Field Post Office postmark circle remains but is arranged in two lines, not the usual four. Sender's details changed: '*Feladó neve'* below censorship box and central to it. I have nine of these cards.

P3 (type with slogans)- P3a- I have a card with only one difference. The title is capital letters (upper case) where the catalogue example is as normal writing. My card is also rather blue in colour but I cannot tell what the catalogue card colour is.

P3c- I have a card with the same slogan but in two lines, not one. It also has two circles for postmarks, not one with rounded corner square. Mine uses '*rendfokozata'* not '*csapatteste*'

P4 (types with no slogans or post-horns and Coats of Arms)

P4d- I have a card almost identical, including the extra line for the sender's name. This is the only card with this double line for sender's name and the catalogue example follows this with '*A tábori posta száma....'* My card also has '*rendfokozata'* as an extra line but it does NOT have the double dividing line of the catalogue example.

P4f- I have 2 cards like the catalogue example, with no central dividing line, but mine both have circles for postmarks and '*csapatteste*' not '*rendfokozata.'* They also have '**1 fill.**' fee printed at the bottom left.

P4g- This type has rectangles for postmarks I have a Mint example in a light grey shade with card corners clearly rounded. I have a normal example but with a typographic error in the censorship box- *'jeljegyzések'* instead of the normal *'feljegyzések*'.



Illustration 6.

P6b- I have two cards, one light green, one almost white, very like catalogue P6b, with '**2 fillér'** card fee left of centre line. The catalogue example looks very dark in colour.

I have four buff cards with most features normal but the title, TÁBORI POSTAI LEVELEZÖLAP is in smaller letters, as in P5-7 but without 'ÜZENET' and placed immediately right of the central dividing line, so not central to the address side. Then I have a similar card but in thick green card almost like P5. All have larger circles than P5-8. I have another such card but with small circles for postmarks.

My other cards not shown in the catalogue:

MB1- This card has a single link with P4g by using rectangles for postmarks. But several other features are different. It is a light buff card (the other P4g seem to be green) but with '*csapatteste*' instead of '*rendfok'*



Illustration 7.

This card also gives the fee- '*1 fill.*' Unusually it has a different lay-out for the text at the left of the Field Post Office postmark rectangle- same words but different lay-out. This different lay-out possibly confirms my suggestions that cards with no company name may come from the same companies but in modified designs. In this card it is the same as in my VAJDA company private card in P1 above. The Vajda card also gave the fee and used '*csapatteste.*' Perhaps

they also produced this card but without rectangles and company name.

MB2 Grey-green card with large title, capitals with serifs, circles for postmarks, and *'csapatteste'*, though the sender has crossed this out. It seems a very ordinary card but no catalogue example matches it.

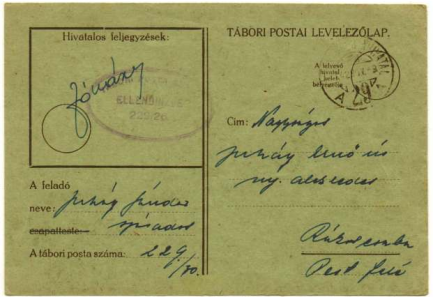


Illustration 8.

MB3 Light grey card with normal censorship box but no circles or squares for postmarks: normal central dividing line and normal sender's details ('*rendfokozata.*') The unusual part is that the title says only *'LEVELEZÖLAP'* There could be a card price but cut badly.

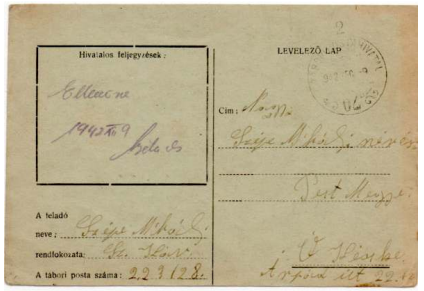


Illustration 9.

MB4 This card is difficult to classify. It looks like a perfectly normal AND official card. It has the normal official Coat of Arms combined with post-horn used on all the normal cards. It has no imprint and date but nor do the *'Zárolt'* cards.



Illustration 10.

There are two special differences. The sender's details are placed in a different It does not have '*A Feladó'* and '*Neve*' in the usual two lines in the usual place at bottom left. It has '*Feladó neve'* directly under and central to the censorship box as in other P2d examples but with larger letters. It also has only one circle for postmarking. This is in the censorship box *but at the bottom right. This happened with the P2d cards and with examples using 'P.H.' for postmarks.*

These four cards probably belong in the private category P series. The last one would belong in P2 because it uses a Coat of Arms and post-horn. Or is it another, unrecorded official card? It was used in 1943 so seems not to be in the '*Zárolt*' period.

I have included in the section treating official reply-cards two which I believe must be private. Here I just add them to my totals**.**

Total private cards not in catalogue: 33. ***Total private cards*** 164.

My 164 private cards is small by comparison with over 3000 official cards. P1-4 rate 10 or 15 euros, the *Üzenet* cards at 40 or 50 and P8 at 100 euros. I would think my low numbers for P1 to P4, and the

examples not in the catalogue, suggest these cards are generally more difficult to find and worth more relative to the normal official issues.

Something Different Way

MB5 I have a card, almost paper, smaller than normal cards Its size reminds me of World War 1 card and the catalogue recognises occasional use of such cards in the second war. Nothing suggests it is a V3 card and I do have a normal World War 1 card used in World War 2.



Illustration 11.

MB6 (see Illustration 12 on the right.) This is more like normal size, also thin paper and so very damaged. I show both sides. It has been censored in the usual way. It was posted in 1944 receiving a Budapest slogan postmark of the time. I have this postmark on other Field post cards. A camp number 26 is indicated though the name does not look Hungarian. Nor does it claim to be a Field Post Camp. It seems to invite good health. Perhaps it is saying the sender is in good health, as the F 11 cards mentioned early in this article. Perhaps it is a prison camp or other internment camp, in 1944.

In my article I have admitted some difficulties with the Hungarian language. I am not surprised if, as I also said in the article, Dán János has better information. He is the expert and I am pleased to have his comments and corrections. We can learn together. I admitted he had already told me that Surány László was wrong about the airmail cards. It is good to have more information but does this mean every airmail card was separated and really flown? With no extra markings? Field post is an important collecting theme. 2014 is the centenary of the start of the first World War but also the 75th. anniversary of the start of the second. Dán János' book is most welcome.

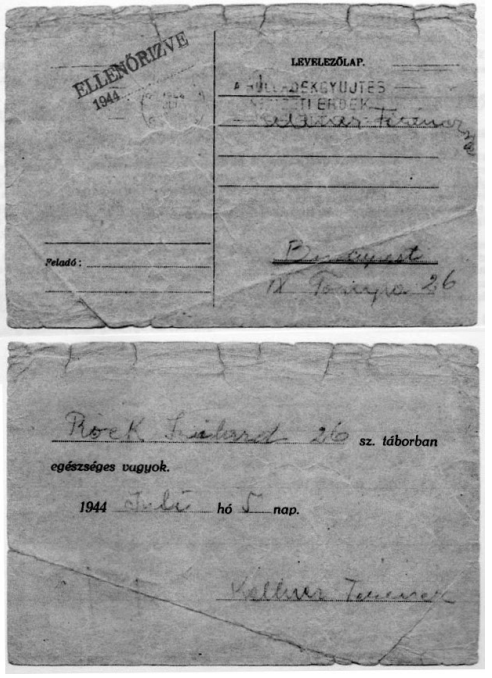


Illustration 12

End of Part One

Part 2 will deal with official and private cards with pictures in the design.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE ARTICLE OF MR. MERVYN BENFORD

JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST

An author is always satisfied when he receives a feedback from the readers. And if this feedback is positive and of the constructive type, the author is doubly satisfied.

When a larger, comprehensive book is published about a philatelic topic, this only triggers the true, detailed processing of the given area. An author may have a fairly big collection, which is the base of his work, eventually he can consult several other collectors of the field, whose collections supplement that of the author, but still this cannot be enough for a complete and thorough process of the area.

This has been one of the reasons I created an internet website (www.taboriposta.hu) to my book, on which it is quickly possible to amend the published book with large materials containing pictures, collected by the author or offered by other collectors since the publishment of the book. As of now 48 amendments to the book and 16 longer articles or exhibits can be seen and read for free. There are some misunderstandings in the article of Mr. Benford, caused most probably by linguistical deficiencies. I would like to clarify and put into their place these.

By way of introduction may I disclose a little secret – originally my book has only been a catalogue, without the evaluation of the items. My two proofreaders, Gabor Voloncs and Andor Hodobay persuaded me to include the evaluations in the book. So this price evaluation has been prepared, which consists of strictly catalogue values, not market values. Well, I have been treated like the Curate with his egg for these prices from some collectors. Prices can be refined in the future, but in my opinion they reflect the rarity factor of the cards quite well, if not their exact values.

Page 28. first column. *Mr. Benford mentions, that the number of issued cards has been reduced drastically in 1945. As far as I know, no field post cards have been issued in 1945 at all. The State Printing House in Budapest has been disassembled already and transported towards the West in train wagons, meaning, there has been no functioning printing house where the cards could have been produced. If Mr. Benford allows me a personal advice regarding donation, the Museum of Military History has a huge collection of field post, but they only examine the content of the cards there, not their postal, field postal or philatelic relations. So once a card is donated to them, it is lost for philately forever. So my humble suggestion would be the Post Museum for the whole collection. On the one part this museum possesses only 2 or 3 field postcards currently, on the second part philatelic researchers could always research it there in the future, on the third part the collection could receive greater publicity there.*

Page 28. second column. *„Pink cards, intended for the military personnel of Travelling Post Offices". Pink cards, similarly to the World War I, were prepared for correspondence from the homeland to the front. That means they were freely sold for the civilians in the homeland as postal matter. The military personnel of the Travelling Post Offices received their same four green postal cards weekly as all the soldiers serving at military corps with field post numbers.*

Page 29. first column. *"M zárolt" cards had been prepared still during peacetimes and had been waiting for their usage in different military warehouses. Being prepared before the war they were not able to correspond to the directives published during the war. This is why pink cards could come up as front types and this explains the khaki or buff coloured cards as well. For the sake of simplicity I only talked about two colours in my book, these two have been mentioned only in official postal and field post decrees and regulations. These two colours are the colours of the pink home („honi") type and the green front type cards. Those interested in the colours can get a good sample of them from the DVD supplement of the book. Unfortunately the long time and the bad handling of the cards the current colours may differ strongly from the original ones. They faded a lot. Therefore the original colour cannot be established at the majority of the cards. The original descriptions of the cards already mention different shades, but it is impossible to establish now, which was which.*

Page 29. second column. *At the M4 card it is the DVD which solves the problem. The difference between M1 and M4 is their colour. The scarce literature mentions front type cards and home type cards. I don't like this latter name, as all cards had been produced here in Hungary, therefore all are of home type. This is why I tried to find a different word, which may not be the best, but up to now the Hungarian readers could understand*

what I wanted to express. The English language sometimes not being so elaborated as our ancient Hungarian language, it will be very difficult to translate it in English so that also Mr. Benford undestands it. The archaical meaning of the noun „hon" is homeland or home country, so the adjective composed from it should mean homeland = hon, from the homeland = honi. Thus the „honi színű" (=homeland coloured) card means the pink field post card. Their true valid name should be „hátországi lap", (=hinterland card), but this is too long.

Page 30. *I am very pleased with the novelties found by Mr. Benford in connection with the front cards and I thank him for having so thoroughly examining his collection.*

Page 30. second column. *I do have significantly more F11 type preprinted message cards, but this does not mean anything, as every collection differs in where it's weights are.*

Page 31. first column. *Airmail cards. I already tried to settle some of the differences in our mail exchange. Mr. Surányi indeed wrote in his book that "Airmail checking mark – a rhombus with a side-length of 2,9 cm, with ELLENŐRIZVE (=checked) inscription in it". But, I am sorry to say, this is a misstatement. This type of rhombus shaped canceller has been the common commanding checking canceller of the headquarters of the 2nd army, used for the checking of all postal matters, not only the airmail ones. It is not the canceller which separates the airmail cards, but the cards themselves. Cards had been delivered by airmail already before the introduction of these cards, but this being sporadic was the reason of the introduction of the field post cards with reply card. Each soldier received one such card per week and all these have been delivered by air. One of the reasons that it is not the rhombus canceller which decides the air mail cards is, that this has been the canceller of the 2nd army, but one could post airmail cards at the 1st army as well, and these cards could not have been delivered to the 2nd army to cancel them. So this statement is not true and lacks logic. The airmail reply cards have been delivered throughout the war by air mail, both from the front to the hinterland and both the reply part back to the front, this is why they are called airmail cards. The cancellers on them are the checking cancellers of the different corps.*

Page 32. Figure 1. *The reply card shown on Figure 1. is a private card, so Mr. Benford correctly classifies it after the P series.*

Pages 32-33-34. *On the above mentioned homepage of the book one can find 9 supplements concerning private cards, containing 24 new findings. This is an unfailing source, my opinion is that there are plenty of them not shown up to now. The cards shown by Mr. Benford supplement this section.*

Page 34. second column. *At the Rábavidék cards „P. H." means: „pecsét helye" (=place of canceller).*

Page 36. first column. *P4. The price of the P8. type cards is valid for cards mentioned up to now WITH a drawing or other graphics on the back side.*

Page 37. Figure 5. *P. H. pecsét helye. I have already shown this card on the home page among the supplements of the book.*

Page 39. Figure 10. *This field post card is an officially issued "M zárolt" one, probably with an early production date. Therefore it's correct place is among the 2. "M Zárolt" cards, possibly M6 ?. Another possibility is that this is a private card, printed with the sign of an official issue without permission. But without seeing more such cards this is very difficult to decide.*

Page 40. Figure 11. *This MB5 card is a private card, based upon a World War I card. It is possible that the printing house still had the printing plate of the World War I card and they just made a reissue during the 2nd World War.*

Figure 12. *This is a card posted from some compound, on which the sender could only write his name before the preprinted text. This is not a field post card. Still, it is very rare and interesting. The prisoner's name is Szilard Röck – there is a street in Budapest with this name, but the prisoner is not the one after whom the street has been named. The date makes it certain that this card is not from a war compound. Maybe a card from a criminal camp or a prisoner camp, possibly from a military criminal camp.*

I am waiting curiously for the continuation of Mr. Benford article!

(Translated by Geza Homonnay)



PLATING OF COLOURED NUMBER KRAJCAR ISSUES

TAMAS T. SEBESTYEN, PARIS — KAROLY SZUCS, BUDAPEST

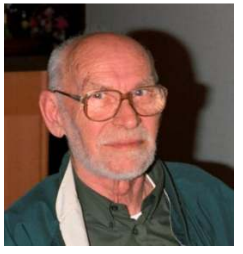
The sheet reconstructions of the envelope design krajcar issue prepared by *Ferenc Orban*, today already of philatelic-historical significance, have been safeguarded and developed by his good friend, co-author of this article, and member of the Mafitt, *Tamás T. Sebestyén*. We are therefore in a position us finally to publish these sheet reconstructions on the CD-supplement of Philatelica.



Tamas T. Sebestyen (to the left) and Karl Endrodi (1937 – 2013)

For those doing deeper philatelic research the significance of the sheet reconstructions is evident. Nevertheless, for many other philatelists it is harder to realise this than actually work on a reconstruction, plating having become a simpler task using the excellent possibilities provided by modern computers. Our diligent predecessors merit great respect for identifying the sheet positions in all mother plates of the coloured number krajcar issues without high-resolution scanners and monitors, using no more sophisticated equipment than a simple magnifying glass.

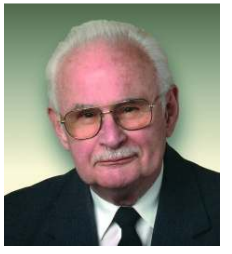
Many still look on this philatelic performance as sacred madness,: a more than hundred year-long work, already begun in the 19th century by *earl Miklos Dessewffy,* continued by *Marcell Biro, Erno Vasvari* and *Sandor Visnya* succeeded by the remarkable *Ferenc Orban, dr. Tivadar Petrovits, dr. Laszlo Pakozdi*, and finally completed by *dr. Andras Lovasz*. We can show the portrait of three of them, unfortunately one of unsatisfactory quality [4].



Ferenc Orban



dr. Laszlo Pakozdi



dr. Andras Lovasz

[4] We thank Gabor Visnyovszki for making these photographs available and would appreciate receiving further picture**s.**

These reconstructions are among the most impressive performances, if not the most impressive, in Hungarian philatelic research. A detailed, exhaustive examination of all details constitutes a very profound analysis, which enables us to unfold, understand, and follow the evolution of the production processes.

The two dozen sheet reconstructions of the coloured number krajcar issue include every plate-, colour- and perforation variation for each denomination. Together they make it easy to follow the technological changes during the first decades of operation of the State Printing House. In addition, the time sequence can be established, using the years indicated on the postmarks. About half of the reconstructions are complete – our CD supplement presents them in a resolution well adapted for further study. We will not stop the work here, as we hope that other sheets will be completed sooner or later and then we will publish these as well. Perhaps we shall receive complete reconstructions from a new source, so that we can add them to our digital archive. This happened with the two reconstructions of the 2nd type of the 10 kr value (the second stemming from Tivadar Petrovits), which complement the other reconstructions returned home from Denmark via France.

It is interesting to compare the modest quality of the illustrations of the article series of Philatelica (restricted by the printing techniques available in the seventies and eighties), with the plate repair pictures, identified for sheet positions, shown in the CD-supplement of the book of Andras Lovasz' 2008 book. Publication showing the sheet position identifiers together with the pictures of the plate repairs would be of great help for the collectors of this attractive area. As a preview we treat two sheet positions (01 and 11) using the Petrovits reconstruction shown above on the right. The continuation is shown in the CD-supplement of our periodical.

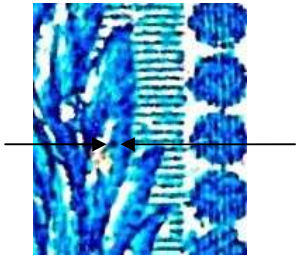


The sheet reconstruction of Petrovits of the 2nd type of the 10 kr

01 sheet position[5]



01a) Needle point on the upper part of the outside 3rd leaf of the right wreath, in the height of the 11th pearl.





M01) Light re-engravings of the inner vertical lines of all four triangles (*several versions*) LA, 30p

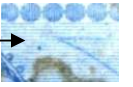


[5] The upper stamp picture is of the corresponding stamp in the Petrovits reconstruction and the sheet position markers. We then list the engraving corrections so far identified and published, marked by a letter M. After the textual description of the corrections we identify the finder by his initials and show the points given to it by Lovasz. The lower stamp picture shows the corrections occuring at this sheet position drawn from the CD supplement of the Lovasz book. To the right, a schematic illustration of the correction.

11th sheet position



11a) Coloured dot between the crown and the vertex of the upper right triangle, in the 8th baseline space, below the right edge of the 14th pearl.



11b) Needle point on the envelope down from the left of the serif of the 1, below the meeting of the 1st and 2nd frontlet discs.

11c) Needle point between the 4th and 5th baseline, under the space between the 17th and 18th upper pearls.

11d) Small coloured dot below on the left hand side of the upper 5th pearl.

11e) Needle point on the left hand side of the envelope, in the middle, 1,2 mm from the numeral.



11f) Needle point to the left of the upper third of the 3rd right pearl.



M11) Light re-engraving of the inner vertical lines of all four triangles. LA, 30p



Literature: Makkai − Visnya: Monograph III. 1968 page 546-635

Ferenc Orban – Tivadar Petrovics: The application of new research methods …. Philatelica 1971/1.

Dr. Andras Lovasz: Coloured numbers krajcar stamps and their engraving corrections 2008

(Translated by Geza Homonnay, revised by Tamás T. Sebestyén)

Those of you who have been regularly visiting our website (www.mafitt.hu) may have experienced over the past years that the site has been changing significantly in its appearance as well as contents. Of the many new items, we would like to highlight just a few with the not-so-secret aim to encourage as many members as possible to participate in our activities, as we cannot manage without their help in the long run.



Fig. 1. The opening pag e of the website

Based on the observations sent by members concerning the website, we attempted to create a more logical menu than the one we had before, while preserving the original contents of the site. During this process, the appearance and colour scheme of the pages have become more suited to our organisation. Most pages are now not only more informative than previously, but information is also better arranged and can be more easily found, as in the case of News, Membership and Shop pages. The Membership page has been extended considerably by including listings of philatelic awards and other recognition, the titles and dates of members' inaugural speeches and — where relevant — reference to members' individual internet pages.

For a while now the News section has only featured the latest items, spanning approximately a year, while older news items are regularly moved to the Archives section. Minutes of our meetings are initially also published in the News section of the website, but older items can be retireved from the Archives section and from the first paragraph of the Mafitt-chronicles.

In line with the ideas of the new presidential committee of 2011, many new pages appeared on our website, which rapidly became popular among philatelists. The first two of these were a page that allowed the viewing and downloading of past issues of Philatelica and the editorial page of the actual upcoming issue. In fact, re-starting Philatelica this way has been our most successful initiative so far. Of all our new activities, this one has attracted the highest number of members. As evident from the list of authors and contributors, our work is being supported in the form of writing and translating articles.

The Monography-project progressed with the creation of a webpage offering downloads of scanned pages of various volumes of the

Monography (full title „A magyar bélyegek monográfiája I-VII" – translator's note). To this site we will keep uploading the digitised and English versions as pdf files – currently we are working on the first three volumes. Helpers and supporters are always much needed and welcome.

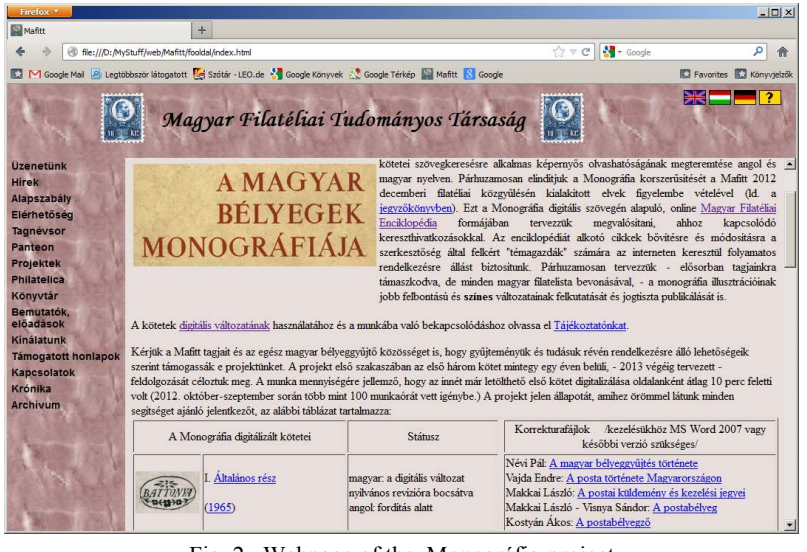


Fig. 2. Webpage of the Monográfia-project
On this page, all scanned volumes of the Monográfia are accessible, among them the first two volumes in searchable pdf format as well.

At the Mafitt annual general meeting in December a concept was outlined to modernise the Monográfia by expanding it into an online encyclopedia while retaining the original text thereby responding to the philatelic requirements of this age.

For this purpose, a three-member editorial committee appointed by the presidency has put in place the technical requirements of the work and outlined its structual content. Work on the web-based „**Ma**gyar **Fi**latéliai Enciklo**pédia"** (Mafipedia) has already started and the results can be reached from the Library and Projects pages. The encyclopedia can also be reached at its own address at: *mafipedia.mafitt.hu*.

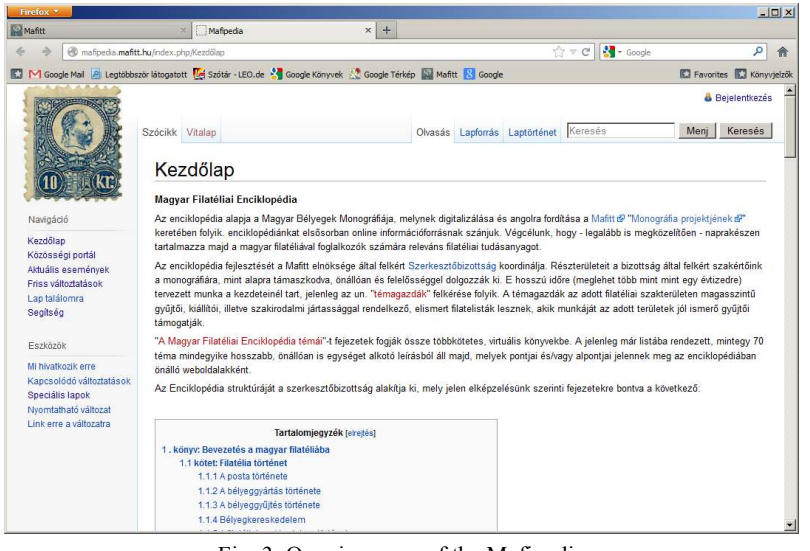


Fig. 3. Opening page of the Mafipedia

We hope that this webpage will be further developed by the best-prepared philatelists in their own field, specialists invited by the editorial board. They will work on their own, taking full responsibility for the factual correctness of their work, involving fellow philatelists as they see fit and as opportunities arise and using as a basis partially digitised texts from the Monográfia and Hungarian and foreign literature concerning philately in Hungary.

(*Translated by Esther Gulacsy*)

Az 1971-ben indított lap félévente jelenik meg, az 1991-2011 közöttit húsz év szünet után színesben nyomtatva, párhuzamosan magyar és angol nyelven is.

A lap digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról tölthető le: www.mafitt.hu

The CD attachment is available on the website of Mafitt at www.mafitt.hu

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13/2

Philatelica

Philatelica 2013/2

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NEW KNOWLEDGE ON THE RED TOWER DISINFECTION STATION

NORBERT BLISTYAR, WUERZBURG

Among the Romanian principalities and Transylvania, there was always lively exchange of goods, as well as passenger and mail traffic related to this exchange. In order to prevent diseases entering from the Ottoman Empire, Austria established military medical lock (t-Sanitätskordon) along its southern and eastern borders, as early as the beginning of the 18th century. Some part of the medical lock ran along the Carpathians, its task being to prevent diseases entering into Transylvania, Banat, and, consequently, the territory of the whole Hungary. In addition, a number of quarantine stations (Contumaz Station) were built – these stations were responsible for the disinfection of the imported goods, as well as letters and books arriving along with these goods. It is also likely that some of these quarantine stations existed already in the 17th century. *Regulation on Quarantine and Overall Clean-Up* (Contumaz und respektive Reinigungsordnung) published in Vienna in 1731 mentioned the borders of Hungary, Transylvania and Wallachia already on the front page.


CONTUMAZ,
Und respective
Reinigungs-
Ordnung/
Wie solche /
Sowol mit denen Personen /
Als
An die Contumaz ankommenden
Waaren / wie auch Briefschaften
gehalten werden solle;
Und der Zeit
Auf denen diesseitig-Kaiserl. Gränzen
in Hungarn / Siebenbürgen / der Wallachey /
Servien / Slavonien / Croaten / und übrigen In. Oe.
Ländern / und Meer-Porten gegen das Türkische Ge
biet / und Venetianische Dalmatien /
gehalten wird.
Wien / gedruckt bey Johann Peter v. Ghelen / Ihrer Röm. Kais.
und Königlich-Catholischen Majestät Hof-Buchdrucken / 1731

Figure 1

The fact that a letter had been disinfected in accordance with the standard procedure had to be verified by a handwritten signature, a military medical stamp (Sanitätstempel), or a wax seal (Wachs—siegel). According to K.F. Meyer, in Zemun (Semlin) a double-headed eagle with the wax seal "Sigill Cons. Sanitatis" was used already in 1733.



Miklos Barabas: Rothen Thurn Strait (1831)
source: hu.wikipedia.org

The major health quarantine station of Transylvanian region was located in Vörösto-rony (referred to as *Rothen Thurn.* in the Regulations). K.F. Meyer pointed out that the trains running from Vienna to Constantinople crossed that station from 1757.

However, he also pointed out that the quarantine postmarks used in Zemun and Vöröstorony are very similar, which make it difficult for many collectors to establish with absolute certainty on which out of these two routes a document was shipped.

As regards the importance of the two routes between Constantinople and the Vienna Court Council, he took the position that it was the Council itself to assign producing of these hand stamps. Nonetheless, to clearly state which quarantine hand stamp was used is often possible only if the name of the location was also recorded.

The collectors and enthusiasts of postal history relics have long endeavoured to find a letter as old as to clearly show the quarantine handling signs of Vöröstorony. Such cases were reported by the German "Rumäniensammler" and then the Romanian "Filetelia".

The last such report came out in the December 2005 – it was Dr. Hedy Faibel in Israel who discovered a letter processed at Vöröstorony and shipped to Constantinople in 1803, which proves the use of the wax seal at that time.

Luck and fortune brought to light a much earlier letter. (Figure 2). It was lying in a Swiss collector's rubbish bin among many rather ugly pieces. My attention was caught by a small pencil note in the Romanian-language, which is obviously the summary of the content. In English it reads, "March 27 1759 - Hagi Voico Jiianu's letter to his son Pătru Lucalá in Sibiu, saying that out of the accumulated goods he sent 45 bales, and in each of 67 bales there were 67 bundles in a bale, 12 leathers in each bundle".

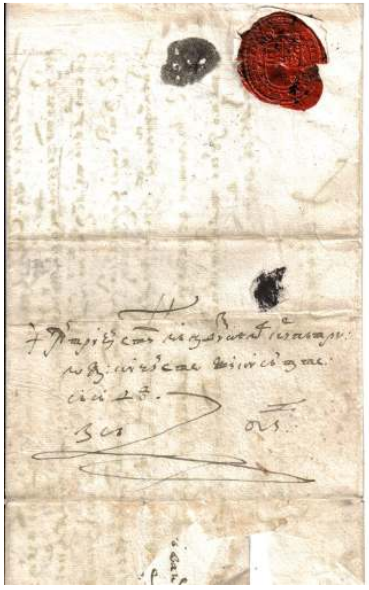


Figure 2

Although I could not understand the text, I got the letter. To check the penciled note, it would be necessary to identify the letters of both the title and the content, as well as to translate the text. Unfortunately, I have not yet managed to have it done, although approached both collectors and the university and the national library.

It was only after I had been rejected several times that I started to study the wax seal on the rear side. (Figure 3).



Figure 3

The seal, which reads, "(C) ONTVMA: RVB: TVRRIS", shows that it was a quarantine postmark; it also constitutes evidence that the letter was really sent in Nagyszeben (Sibiu in Romanian) as it is seen from the pencil note. The year 1759 must also be relevant because unlike all other quarantine postmarks of Vöröstorony known so far, this one has a Hungarian coat of arms in the middle instead of the beheaded eagle. It is possible that this postmark comes from the time preceding the opening of the mail route across the strait of Vöröstorony.

This letter sent to Transylvania from Wallachia probably comes from the time when there had not yet been regular postal traffic across borders. The letter, however, provides evidence of written message exchange and medical treatment provided for on the Hungarian border, due to which it has particular historical significance to us. It probably comes from archives or family correspondence – we really should find out more. Sadly, the title page is missing too, where the date of the letter must have been recorded. Information on animal leather is of minor importance from the point of view of archives, as is the information on a half of a letter. For us, however, as postal historians, finding such a piece means the best luck. It would be great if one of our readers could help in the identification of the letters of the title and understanding and translating the text, because by doing so we will probably be able to find out more.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Dr Geza Homonnay for his help, not only in the translation of the text and reviewing it, but also for his encouragement for describing the postal history overview of this document.

References:

1 Meyer, K. F. "Disinfected Mail – Kansas", 1962
2 Meyer, K. F. "Addenda to the Authoritative Monograph "Disinfected Mail", Postal History Journal, New York, 1971
3 Zeitschrift "Filatelia" /Bukarest – 1966-2010

Translated trough the Hingarian translation by Marina Shafira

THE USE OF THE 25-KREUZER DENOMINATION OF FIRST INDEPENDENT HUNGARIAN POSTAGE STAMP EDITION



DR. FERENC NAGY, VIENNA

1 INTRODUCTION

When we talk about the rarest Hungarian postal stamps, we in the first place talk about the 3 kr litho, the air mail 5 pengo in 1933, or the Great Madonna 10-pengo denomination, forgetting that the modest 25 kr denomination of the release of 1867 also belongs to this illustrious circle. Let me at last time explain, why it is so.

As we know, the last two denominations of the series of 1867 were issued three months later than all other ones: officially they appeared on 1 September 1867, while the other values had appeared on 1 June. However, along with the other denominations, namely 3-, 5-, 10-, and 15 kr, there was yet something to come out on 1 June: 25 kr stamped envelopes. The intruding postage stamp image was similar on each denomination. No problems until this point.

Just when Staatsdruckerei in Vienna wanted to deliver 25- and 50 kr denominations, the biggest surprise for the Hungarians pushing these denominations turned out: in contrast to the planned design, there was Rudolf crown over the Austrian monarch's head on the 50 kr denomination. This unspeakable something overturned exactly that fact which was intended to be demonstrated by this stamp issue – the independence of Hungary.

The Hungarian Post Office Administration got so outraged that the stamps ordered in Vienna were not taken over. Such a thing had not happened before. Someone might say that this is all purely Hungarian reasoning, an operetta in the field of philately. The credibility of this is proven by the fact that the six Hungarian post offices of Danube principalities simply did not take over the subsequently issued face values of 25 and 50 soldi of the soldi edition of this release until these post offices were closed in 1869. The other six Austrian offices did, in demonstrative manner, even though they were allowed to continue to use the release of 1864.

But what happened in Pest-Buda? Austrians could not allow themselves to have such a disgrace.

So, a typical Austrian compromise was concluded with the Hungarians. They swallowed the shame of 25 and 50 soldis. The 25 kr is unlimitedly used at all offices which ordered them. The ominous 50 kr would be only used in Pozsony, Pest, Buda, and not in any other office! This was the condition of the Hungarian Post Office to take over its first consignment at the end of October(!) for the whole year of 1867, the entire amount of 50 kr being 5,000 pieces and of 25 kr being 25,000.

Number of 25 kr delivered in Hungary in 1867 went as follows:

1867:	25,000
1868:	32,000
1869:	17,100
1870:	26,200
1871:	14,000

114,300 pieces all together. The first and probably the only shipment of envelopes contained 9,000 pieces.

These facts were clear for philatelists. However, for the sake of completeness, we need to summarise them once again.

How come that so many pieces of the release of the year 1867, the lithographic and engraved 25 kr, could survive? What is the explanation of their frequent occurrence even today? If the reader carefully imagines the following scenario, he/she will immediately understand the destiny of the 25 kr denomination of these three editions.

After World War II, the Hungarian philately focused onto two areas in particular: local editions and lithographic stamps. This may be explained by the dates. Since the war, quite a few local editions were issued, while at the beginning of the 1920s, the 50th anniversary the legendary lithographic postage stamps took place. In 1921, a very clever stamp dealer from Vienna named Friedl, who had lots of ideas and imagination, bought money orders of the Hungarian post office from 1870 to 1872, believing that those will have plenty of 25 kr lithographic stamps, which were in high demand at that time. The intruding stamps of the orders were of 5 kr, so for higher order prices of 30, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 180kr, denominations of 25, 55, 85, 115, etc. had to be added. The Post Office was also happy that after 50 years it could get rid of so many money orders, which could not be archived after the half-century had passed.

2 THE BARGE ARRIVES

The vast amount of this postal stationery arrived from Hungary in Vienna on a barge. My great knowledgeable master Franz See, back then still a young philatelist, witnessed the scene. Soaking off the postage stamps from the vouchers was carried out not by professionals but washerwomen. To avoid having a lot of paper to ship, soaking off was done right on the barge. The stamps had been stuck to vouchers for a half of a century, and the women's patience was finite, so a lot of postage stamps were damaged in the course of this operation.

But what had to be soaked off? How could the Friedl company explain the difference between lithographic and engraved postage stamps to the simple-minded women? Of course there was no way. The instruction must have been the following: the complete material from 1870 had to be discarded right away, right into the Danube. Although from 1 May 1870 the provision of the Post Office allowing the large money orders up to 5,000 Ft to be taken at larger post offices was effective, lithographic postage stamps could not have occurred on them. On these, on the other hand, the denominations of 25- and 50 kr did not constitute such value – at least at that time - which deserved attention. So: discard into the Danube. Evidence: we cannot find any 25- or 50 kr pieces of 1867 cancelled with the money order postmark in 1870.

The situation with the material of 1871 was different. In that material, 25 kr lithographic pieces already occurred. However, since women were not able to distinguish these pieces from engraved ones, all 25 kr pieces were to be washed off, whether they were lithography or not. Moreover, from January to July also 25- and 50 kr of the year 1867 were stuck to the money orders. What was then their fate? The smarter ones realized that they were not needed, while the less wise soaked these off too. With all above mentioned in mind, the following can be understood:

1/ 25 kr denomination postage stamps of 1867 postmarked in 1870 do not exist;
2/ Although sometimes 25 kr pieces from 1871 with money order postmark turn up, these postage stamps are surprisingly rare as compared to those postmarked with postage stamp hand stamps;.
3/ The 1871 lithographic stamps are very common when postmarked by money order hand stamps as compared to those postmarked with postage stamp hand stamps;
4/ Smaller values of all three releases – the one of 1867, the lithographic one of 1871 and the engraved one of 1871 – hardly

ever occur with the postmarks produced by money order hand stamps.

As I have already mentioned, the whole material for the use in 1870 was destroyed, along with the about half of the money order postmarked stock of 25 kr of 1867. It was the use of eight months in 1870 (1 May 1 to 31 December), as opposed to the seven months of 1871, which remained (from the beginning of the year until July 31, which was the last day of the use of the edition of 1867 in Hungary). In addition to the fact that this stamp was not required to be soaked off, but only if it happened to come off with the rest.

But there were still the 50 kr from 1867, used until 31 July 1871. What about them? At that time, these stamps seemed insignificant, as the fever produced by the lithographic postage stamps completely blinded even the pros. So when soaking off, the postage stamps of the 1867 edition were not much taken into account. If it got accidentally detached, then great, if not, that was fine too. There was a single exception: the washerwomen who were dealing with the material from the Eastern parts of the country took into account these stamps more readily. We can find disproportionately large amount of 50 kr pieces postmarked with money order hand stamps from Arad, Kolozsvar, Temesvar, and Nagyvarad, whereas from Sopron , Győr , Miskolc , or Nyíregyháza only single pieces or nothing has survived. However, my theory according to which during soaking bosses came to the venue and advised not to throw the stamps away since their catalogue value at that time was already somehow increasing seems the most probable. Do not forget that the whole soaking procedure was not possible to estimate in advance. Some things must have been understood only in the meantime, for example the existence and scarcity of 50 kr pieces. Thus, by the time it was the turn of the material from Transylvania and Croatia, the personnel had been informed that these stamps also had to be paid attention to. This is a pretty elegant explanation of the distribution of the remaining material.



To give you a feeling of what mixed instances of franking were destroyed in the course of this action of soaking, let me present to you an accidentally preserved money order cut-out from Temesvár/Temesvar with the inscription PÉNZUTALVÁNY TEMESVÁR 17.07.71, with blue postmark. (Temesvar always blue!) The 25 kr postage stamp of 1867 is accompanied by a 5 kr lithographic postage stamp. This unique piece, which I managed to obtain from Capellaro Collection, is also the only survived cut-out with franking and the only one including the postage stamp of 25 kr. What we may also learn from this cut-out is the following: 25 kr denomination was used all through until the end of July 1871; the amount of these postage stamps was sufficient; lithographic 25 kr denomination was taken in use in many places only after 1 August.

3 NUMBER OF COPIES OF PRESERVED MATERIAL

In the 80s, both me and Dr Jerger, we independently performed the estimation of the remaining material with. Observing the final results, we were surprised to see that our estimates were identical. The number of surviving stamps was estimated at 2000 copies, while the number of the letters was estimated at the relatively high number of 150 pieces. Taken into account my observing the market for more than 30 years, these numbers should be strongly revised downwards. The maximum number of soaked off stamps should be 1.500, while the number of letters should be estimated at 100-120 pieces.

4 USE IN INDIVIDUAL CITIES ON MONEY ORDERS

The 25 kr denomination of 1867 with money order postmarks is very rare. We would not believe it, since these postmarks were absolutely common on both lithographic and engraved 25 kr de-

nomination of 1871. Considering the above mentioned, however, it all becomes clear: half of the money orders of the 1870 was destroyed, and this stamp was not in high demand.

In his superb manual, G. S. Ryan first assessed realistically the money order hand stamps applied to the addition 1867, on the basis of knowledge of his time. Some hand stamps, for example 'Pénz-utalvány Debreczen' or 'Posta-utalvány K. Fehérvár' were given 700-800 points by him – this means that they belong to the rarest Hungarian hand stamps. However, while some hand stamps /e.g. 'Pénz-utalvány Nagyvárad/ are common on 50 kr denomination, they are still absolutely rare on 25 kr domination of 1867.

Below, I present the 50-year yield of the postage stamps postmarked with money order hand stamps. I managed to obtain only 30 pieces, although I bought all which I have come across. Since my collection contains about 100 pieces of 25 kr denomination, I do believe that the remaining 15-20% of the postage stamps are postmarked by money order hand stamps /I did not buy approx. 50 pieces because there are postmark section was PE or PO / 30 pieces out of 150 approximately constitute 15-20%. /



Figure 2. Money order hand stamps on 25 kr denomination, selection of 16 pieces

Short summary of our detailed analysis:

1. PÉNZUTALVANY PEST. Only this single piece turned up at an auction this year in Budapest. On 50 kr postage stamps, however, this is one of the most common postmarks.
2. PÉNZUTALVANY BUDA I have come across two copies of this.
3. PÉNZ-UTALVÁNY ARAD I have come across two copies of this.
4. ASSEGNO POSTALE FIUME /blue/ Two pieces are known.
5. PÉNZ-UTALVÁNY NAGY-KANIZSA /blue/Two copies are known.
6. PÉNZ-UTALVÁNY NAGY-VÁRAD Two copies are known. Very frequent on 50 kr denomination.
7. PÉNZ-UTALVÁNY NAGY-SZEBEN One piece is known.
8. PÉNZUTALVÁNY NYIREGYHÁZA There is one piece. Ryan does not know this hand stamp; this piece turned up after the book had been published.
9. PÉCS PÉNZUTALVÁNY /name of location always above/ There are three pieces. On the first piece out of these two ones, first a blue location/date hand stamp (with large numerals 71 for the year) and then the money order hand stamp was applied, carefully adjusted to the first postmark, with small numerals 71. This is a postmark curiosity, a very unique piece.
10. On the other piece, the ink of the hand stamp was already black – it seems that it was used from the June 1871. There are two pieces of this kind.
11. POSTAUTALVÁNYI PÉNZTÁR SZATMÁR We know of one piece.
12. PÉNZ-UTALVÁNY SZEGED. Used from 26/2/70. As we have learnt in the meantime it was not used in 1870; neither was it an "erroneously set" hand stamp.

What happened was the following: the manufacturer had to deliver the hand stamp urgently, due to which it mistakenly supplied the hand stamps with the following year numbers: 70, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, and 76. However, this was only noticed when the hand stamps

had to be set to 71 in the new year, when it was too late to complain at the manufacturer's. What could be done? The problem was not too big because these hand stamps were used only for internal handling for money orders, while the general public did not see these postmarks. Thus everything remained as it was – the indication 70 was used in 71.

What they could not foresee was the circus which took place 50 years later. The stamp collectors started to buy all lithographic material available in the shop of Friedl. Among those pieces, pieces with that particular postmark SZEGED from 1870 turned up.

Was it a lithographic postage stamp with the postmark from 1870, the latter beyond doubt non-manipulated? We may imagine the sensation. Hungarian philatelists started to assume that there was a "predelivery" of the lithographic postage stamps in 1870. However, gradually, engraved pieces started to turn up, also from Szeged. It was the brilliant Gyula Madarász to solve the mystery of these erroneous money order hand stamps. Let me present to you a series postmarked with this hand stamp, which is a unique collection.



Figure 3. Famous money order hand stamp marked in 1870 from Szeged on 50 kr denomination on lithographic and engraved postage stamps

All of these are ex Friedl, because they cannot come from anywhere else. I would like to draw your attention to the lithograph 5 kr denomination. Money order hand stamps were applied extremely rallied to small amounts.

Let us return to our study of postmarks after this short detour.

13. PÉNZ-UTALVÁNY SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR (blue) We know of one piece.
14. PÉNZ-UTALVANY TEMESVÁR (blue) It is rather frequent – my collection alone includes 6 pieces.
15. K. K. POST-KASSE IN SEMLIN (oval) According to Ryan, it is a 800-point rarity. I found three pieces at a single source, although it is true that I have not come across any more pieces since then.
16. GELD-ANWSNG AGRAM (Zagreb, blue) One piece exists.

5 ABOUT MONEY ORDER HAND STAMPS IN GENERAL

Naturally, all postmarks appearing on 50 kr denomination from the release of 1867 could appear on 25 kr denomination. I do not know of pairs postmarked with money order hand stamps. Capellaro collection included a block of four pieces; currently it is part of a big collection in Budapest.

As it can be seen from this hand stamp selection, money order hand stamps were not uniform. Some were in the German language, while others were in Italian; on the some, the word 'Pénz-utalvány' was written with a hyphen, while on others there was no hyphen; the name of the location could appear at the top or at the bottom; the colour could be either black or blue. Almost all hand stamps were different. The reason for this was the fact that it belonged to the scope of the directorates to order hand stamps from manufacturers – central provisions referred only to very general issues.

It seems that not all money orders had to be postmarked but only those involving large amounts. In case of small amounts, location/date postmarks were sufficient.

6. COLOUR OF 25 kr POSTAGE STAMPS

As we can see, in a few months all known hues from gray to purple occurred. Therefore, their separate evaluation does not make sense. Although the colour shades of the postage stamps were different when they arrived in Hungary from the printing house in Vienna, the degree of how quickly they were used did not depend on the

supplies but the changes of the local demand, due to which the separate assessment of colours would not have been fruitful.
We may point out that postage stamps were initially grey, and later grew purple, while in the year 1871, the purple became the dominant colour. Still, these two colours cannot be separated in such a way as to provide basis for any measurable evaluation.

7 USAGE FOR LETTER MAIL

7/A INDIVIDUAL USERS

As I said, these are more common than those used on money orders. Since virtually every office could claim these postage stamps, it seems that in addition to major cities, smaller places where there was only one point from where heavy inland registered letters were rather frequently sent ordered these postage stamps too. Sometimes, these offices were in surprisingly small settlements, such as Kőhalom, Tisza-Roff, or Helpa, which you would not expect using these postage stamps on letter mail. Most of the hand stamps applied, as expected, came from Pozsony and Pest Council. All other mail postmarks are very rare, and several pieces count as **unique ones**. Below you can see a cavalcade of 25 kr postage stamps with letter mail postmarks which I think are very rare and especially decorative.



Figure 3a. 25 kr postage stamps with letter mail postmarks

Explanation of the selection:

1. I found only one piece of the 'modest' AGRAM.
2. Red KASSA AJÁNLOTT is very rare /there are 2 pieces/. The same piece in black is even rarer – only this single piece is known /!/
3. NYIREGYHÁZA AJÁNLOTT red hand stamp is very rare, ex Rothschild. There is one piece. /Mercury Stamp auction, New York, 1947/
4. Just as is the apparently modest SISSEK, which turned up last year at an auction in Budapest. There are no more of this kind.
5. So far the interesting combination AJÁNLOTT TISZA-ROFF (registered TISZA-ROFF) also remains unique.
6. Just as is M. K. MOZGÓPOSTA HIVATAL, the use of which on 25 kr stamp is an absolute rarity.



Figure 3b. 25 kr denomination with letter mail postmarks

As we see here, during a relatively short period every colour occurred. The earliest use of 25 kr denomination identifiable on 11 November 1867 proves our statements that 25- and 50 kr denominations started to be used relatively late.

When privately used, we find this postage stamp on the registered mail items of weight category 3 sent inland. This is the reason why 25 kr denomination of envelopes did not work out (9,000 pieces were produced in the summer of 1867 in Vienna) - these envelopes were too small for this weight category.

One-Stamp and Multiple Stamp Use of 25 kr Denomination

We know only of two copies of used 25 kr envelopes. In addition, these postage stamps can be found when used for quite a few regular weight mail items sent to France and England. In particular, collections of 1867 contain letters from the Kauser's Paris and Engelhardt's London correspondence.

We can find one copy of this postage stamp on a registered letter written to Italy in the family correspondence of Count Bethlen from Herkulesbad to Milan (4a). Several pieces postmarked in Fiume are known; one piece postmarked by the hand stamp 'Zagreb – Agram' is known (4b). For the use of two pieces in pair, we know of a rare use between Pest and Kunszentmárton on a non-registered mail item belonging to weight category 10 (4g). We may also find two pieces of these stamps on a non-registered letter of double weight addressed to Pozsony. One piece exists at with red postmark 'Kassa ajánlott' (registered Kassa).



Figure 4a. Registered letter from Herkules-Bad to Milan, a correspondence of Bethlen family from January 1870

This post office was open only during the summer bathing season. In addition to the 15-kr Italian postage, 10kr registration fee was collected by way of a single postage stamp.



Figure 4b. Ordinarily Zagreb-Agram letter with the postmark in the Croatian and German languages, to Amiens. To France, even ordinarily letters cost 25 kr.



Figure 4c. One more letter to France with postmark 'Pest Este' addressed to Lyon. For this letter, 25 kreuzers were paid as provided; still there is postmark ', AFF: INSUFF', which means that the postage was insufficient.

What happened was that this letter weighed 1 ounce /17.5g/ in Pest. The French, however, did not use ounces but grams, and the first category included mail which weighed up to 15 grams.

Since this letter was between 15 and 17.5 grams, it would have been sufficient to pay 25 kr, but in France it fell into the second weight category, for which 1fr was payable by the recipient.

So, for an ordinary letter lighter then 1 ounce the amount of 50 kr was payable, which was 10 times the domestic postage.



Figure 4d. Letter from Pest to Békés, registered, weight category 3

We may see from the dimensions of this envelope what weight category 3 looked like and why the small and weak 25 kr produced in 1867 (9000 pieces) did not work out.

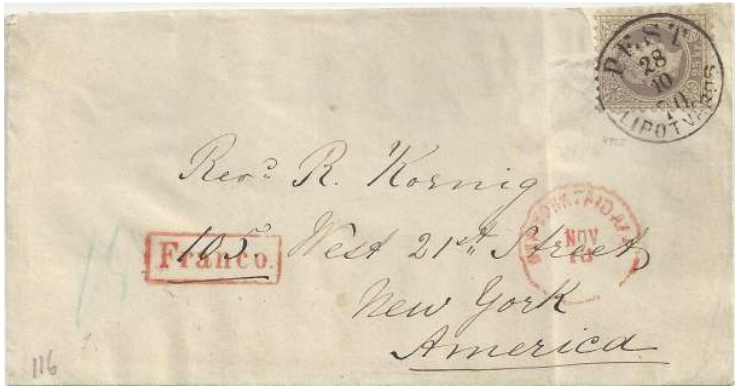


Figure 4e Letter from Pest Lipótváros to New York, Koenig correspondence.

We know of a couple of such letters. The red postmark "New York Paid All" on the front indicates that everything is paid for up to the destination.



Figure 4f. 25 kr letter envelope from 1870, used in Pest and sent to Paris

We know of two envelopes. Interestingly, the envelopes were on sale at post offices throughout the whole period of validity, but there was no demand for them.

Heavy letters usually contained legal papers.



Figure 4g [1] 25 denomination used in pair for weight category 10 /record/, sent within Hungary from Pest to Kun Szt. Márton.



Figure 4h. Letter to Paris, weight category 2, from December 1867, addressed to János Pálffy

7B COLOURED USAGE

We know of a single row of three pieces, which was soaked off and originated from Kőhalom. The single block of four pieces originated from Pest. We know of a letter cut-out containing seven pieces postmarked in Pest.

We know of a registered letter covered by 10+25 kreuzer from Nagy-Szombat to London (5b). It is a very rare amount of postage. Among coloured instances of franking, we may find 25 +5 +10 kreuzer for domestic registered letter of 6th grade, from Budapest to Pécs (5d). We know of a pair of 25 kr+5 kr+10kr on an urgent registered letter from Vacz to Kiskartal. According to Ryan, five pairs are known on letters, 8th weight grade. There is also a 25 +25 +5 kreuzer Semlin-Pest domestic registered letter, 9th grade weight grade.

[1] The two covers shown here are not available in better quality – rather, because of a temporary technical reason all the others are a bit lower quality than usual in Philatelica. Still, we thought it worth while to show them, as they are important and interesting. Each item is shown in a size which is adjusted to the available resolution (Editor)



Figure 5a. This is probably a specific use of 5 kr envelope with protruding postage stamp supplemented by a postage stamp of 25 kr to London

At the bottom left side there is "14" Weit franking in red pencil, as well as a red sign "PD" indicating that all costs were paid; there is also a red inscription "Registered" with the Crown. The black oval postmark "Registered London from Prussia" provides evidence to the fact that the letter came from Pozsony to London in two days - low-cost performance which seems improbable even in today's over-computerised world.



Figure 5b. Further letter from England, 25 +10 kreuzers from Nagyszombat; 25 kreuzers constituted the UK postage, while further 10kr were registered mail fee.

The address is the same as that of the previous letter. This is a truly unique pair of mail!



Figure 5c 35 kr franking, this time on an inland letter, weight category 5, registered mail



Figure 5d. A 40kr letter: 30kr postage due + 10kr on rear side

It was again documents to be sent to the company registration office in Pécs in a letter of weight category 6.



Figure 5e. Registered letter from Miskolc, 35+10 = 45 kr in weight category 7. There is a decorative inkblot in the address panel.



Figure 5f. 46kr franking to France, from correspondence. 25 kr postage fee + 21kr registration fee and insurance /high rate/. All postage stamps are on the front side.



Figure 5g Etienne Pongrátz letter

Etienne Pongratz had always been on the road - we know him from Figures 5a and 5b. This time he was spending time in Paris, where, as we know, 46kr were required for registered mail. This 25 kr postage stamp is the first one we can associate with specific date /See the part on single postage stamps postmarked with carved location hand stamp 'Pest' from the same day/



Figure 5h 55 kr which is very rare on inland registered letter.
45 kr letter of weight category 9 + 10kr registration fee = 55 kr



Figure 5i 65 kr franking: 50 kr +10kr: urgent mail delivery outside the postal area and registered mail fee. Send to Vacz from Kis-Kartal. On the rear side, you can see further 10kr. 55 kr +10kr = 65 kr.



Figure 5j 71kr letter: weight category 2 - 50 kr, registered mail fee 21kr = 71kr.



Figure 5k 75 kr on inland letter. Mixed franking 5x5 lithography + 25 kr postage stamp from 1867, probably 2 pieces!

The visible traces on the rear of the stamp reveal that there was one more 25 kr postage stamp. Weight category 3 – 15 kr; registered mail fee - 10kr; urgent mail fee for the area outside the postal area – 50 kr; totally, 75 kr. This is the only letter known with a combination of a lithographic postage stamps from 1871 and postage stamps of 25 kr of 1867.



Figure 5l Weight category 3, sent to Paris, Pálffy correspondence, December 1867. The record '3' at the left top of the letter defines its weight category



Figure 5m Letter of weight category 5 to Paris, franking of 125 kr, highest rate in Hungary. 5x25 kr = 125 kr.

The 25 kr pair presented over is one out of those two pairs which we know of.

And finally the highest known franking containing 25 kr stamps on a cutout:



Figure 6n. 7x25 = 175 kr.

13 Rue Royale, the house where Count János Pálffy lived, exists also today. My fellow philatelist Tamás Sebestyén took a photo of it for me.

This is all what I could add to the release of 1867.

I am absolutely sure that several of Hungarian collections still hide some rarities, of which we do not know yet. The owners may enjoy their treasures even more.

From the windows of my flat, I can see the flowing Danube. I sometimes ponder how many mixed franking including postage stamps of the release of 1867 was taken away by this flowing water.

As the Scripture says, 'Lord, forgive these people, because they did not know what they were doing'.



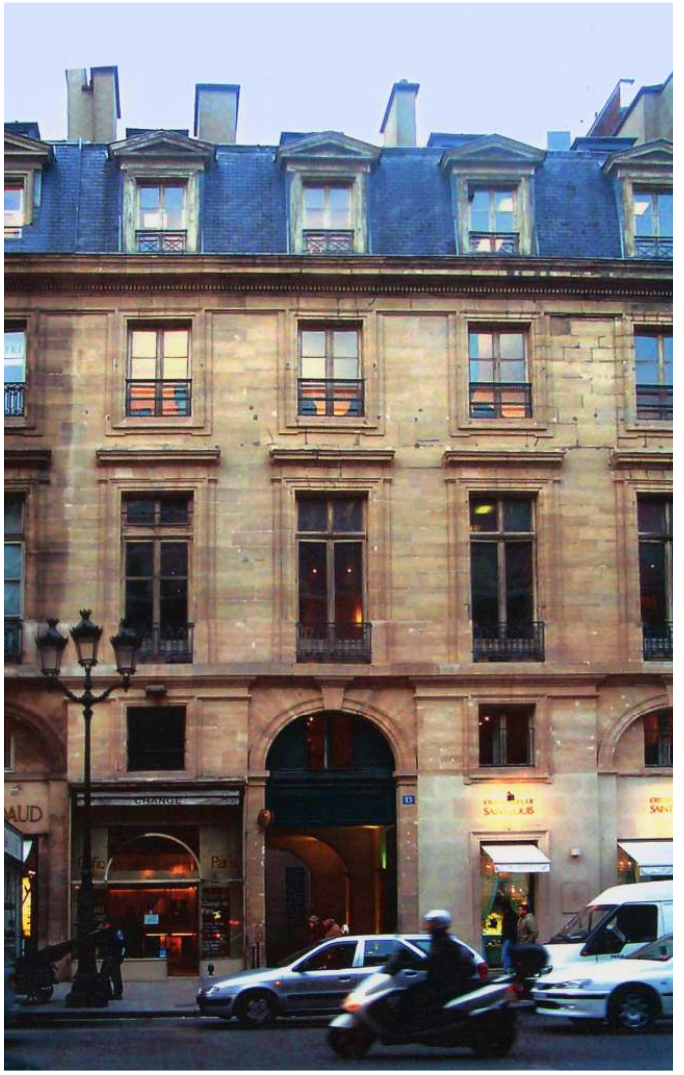
Photo of Count János Pálffy from 1860
(*Source: Vasárnapi újság, 21/10/1900)*

References:

1. Monográfia III. kötet 309. old.
2. 4. Ungarisch-Österreichisches Symposium für Postgeschichte Bad Bük, 2003. Lecture by the author. Editor Czirók.

Most of the letters containing 25 kr stamps shown in the article are in the collections of dr. Geza Homonnay (Budapest,) D.I. Wolfgang König (Salzburg) and the author (Vienna).

Translated from Hingarian by Marina Shafira



13 Rue Royale in Paris

TELEGRAMS IN HUNGARY BETWEEN 1867 AND 1888 /FIRST TWENTY YEARS/



MIHALY VARJASI, NADAP

I Introduction

I got to know postage stamps in the late 1960s, when my grandfather[2] was busy writing the Monograph, and asked me to help him look for and correct errors while he was comparing page proofs. 20 years later, in the mid- 80s, when my sons were born, I began to willingly intensively collect postage stamps and complete mail items. It was then that my uncle introduced me to the exciting world of auctions.

20 years have again passed –I came across an interesting area in the meantime, that of telegrams. I also had to give some form to my collection. So it was my well-known stamp collector and expert friends who introduced me to the exciting world of exhibitions.

There is very little literature about telegrams. Several chapters in different volumes of the Monograph contain some data on telegrams, but only on those from 1867, because the data of the Austrian administration was not available at the time. The situation is especially difficult also because the number of preserved mail items is very scarce. Those telegrams which remained at post offices were handled as waste, while the delivered telegrams contained such short news which were relevant only on that particular day – storing them did not seem necessary.

Therefore, we distinguish *posted* and *delivered* telegrams (as opposed to letters which were all delivered once posted).

Posted telegrams remained in offices for years; the sender received a receipt on this. There was no way for these telegrams to enter collections – they were not interesting because there was no stamp on them. It was the so called cut-outs to first enter philatelists' collections after the telegraph stamps were first introduced (1873). Postage stamps were soaked off these. The majority of the items preserved from after 1888 were closed telegram cards with postage stamp imprinted on them. However, I am going to give presentation on them next time.



Figure 1 Telegram cut-outs with engraved telegram stamps

[2] Editor's remark: Bela Varjasi

So at first the telegraph postage was collected in cash; from 1 August 1873 until 28 February 1879, telegram postage stamps were used for franking; then cash followed again; finally, from 1888 when the Post Office and the Telegram Office merged, postage stamps were introduced for franking telegrams.

We distinguish such telegrams for which postage was paid (public/pre-paid/private) and those which were sent free of charge (public service and public interest / weather, water level report).

When telegrams were sent additional services could be used, for example paid reply, registered mail, paid messenger, or to be delivered with mail.

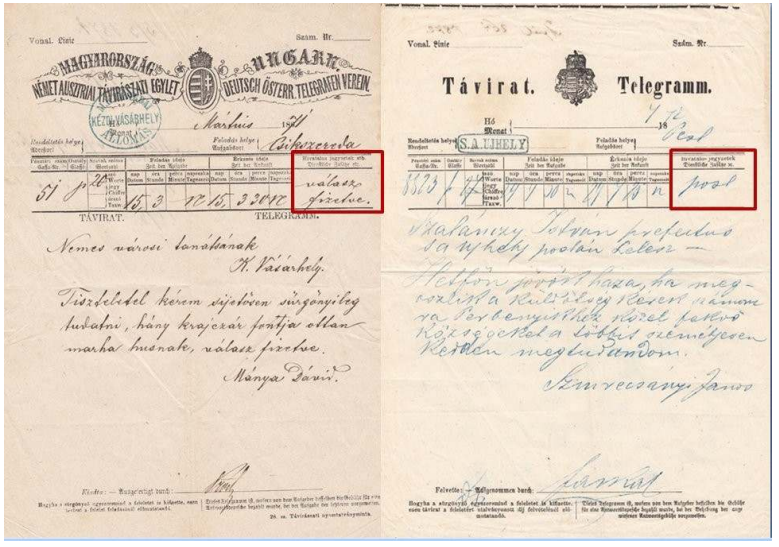


Figure 2 Additional services: paid reply, to be delivered with mail

Delivered telegrams were registered and placed into *envelopes* at the telegraph office which was the closest to the recipient.

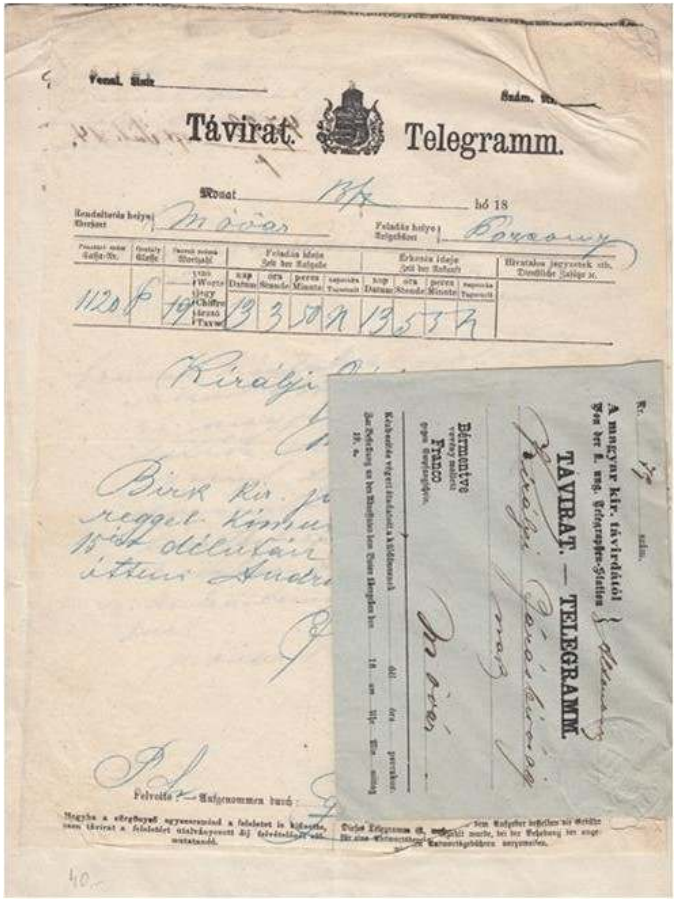


Figure 3 Delivered complete telegram

Later forms were folded and closed.



Figure 4 Delivered complete telegrams with different sealing label

Delivery was done by messengers working in the zone belonging to the respective telegraph offices; for longer distances, special fee was payable, which varied. At the beginning this special fee was payable by the recipient.

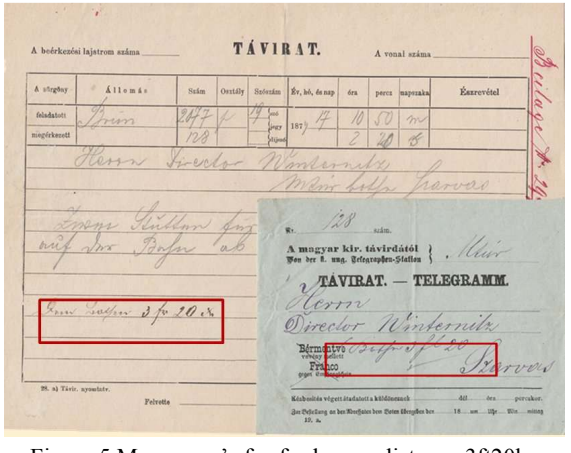


Figure 5 Messenger's fee for longer distance 3ft20kr

For longer distances, mail service could also be used.



Figure 6 Telegram delivered by mail service

II. TELEGRAPH, TELEGRAPH TRAFFIC

The telegraph network in Hungary was built up in the second half of the nineteenth century. We know of a line between Vienna and Pozsony between 1847 and 1849; in 1850 Budapest, while in 1854 Temesvar and Brasov were connected (Anton Jerger's monograph).

The telegraph networks were built mostly in parallel with the railway construction; both operation and revenue belonged the Austrian administration. The Compromise brought a major change in this area, as both the Post Office, and the Telegraph Office were transferred under Hungarian control. In the Monograph, Dr *Ferenc Rend* wrote about telegraphs also in the chapter "Távirdai Értékcikkek" (Telegraph Postage Stamps). He presented a table from 1889, which does not really match the tables I have from

1871 and 1877 which refer to the Statistical Data of State and Railway Telegrams.

According to these, Hungary and Transylvania received 151 public and 113 railways telegraph stations, 890 miles (6,746 km) long line, 367 pieces of Morse equipment and 1 Hughes machine from Austria in May 1867, also taking over 636 employees. On 1 April 1868, Hungary also took over 24 state and 6 railway stations and further 115 miles of line from Croatia and Slavonia; on 1 January 1871, Hungary took over 40 public and 3 railway stations in the Military Border region.

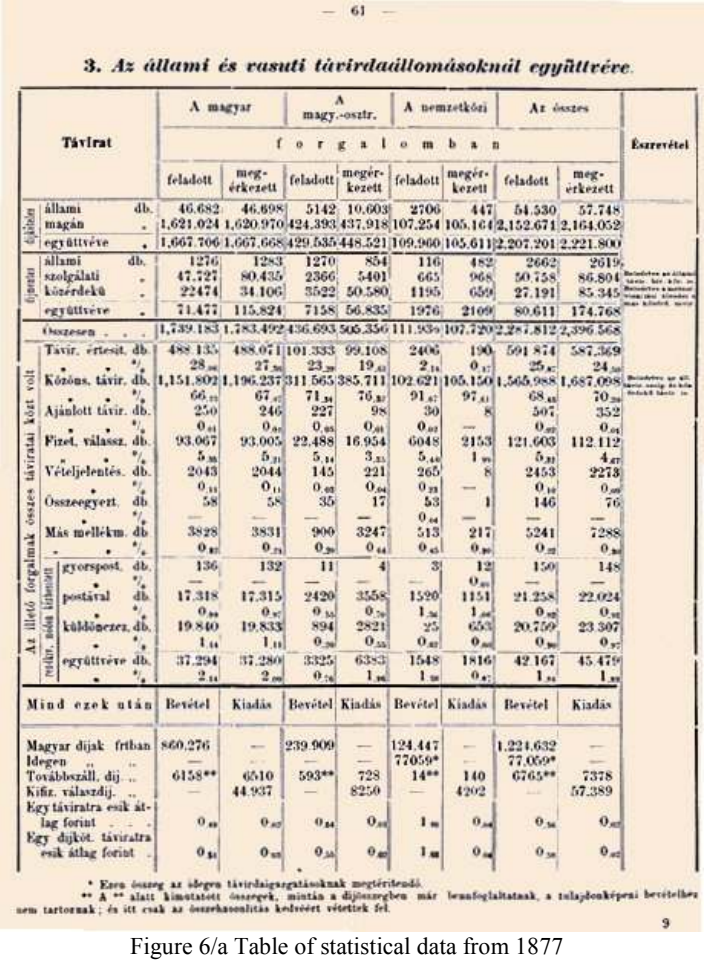
So in 1871 Hungary had 1,618 miles (12,270 km) of line and 650 stations. It means that the length of lines nearly doubled in five years, while the number of stations tripled. Then, in 1877 there were already 14,908 km of line and 931 stations, which shows the steady development of both railways and telegraph in Hungary (see p. 48). The statistical statements of 1877 of the Telegraph Office reveal the quantities of arrived and dispatched telegrams, as well as those delivered in exchange for postage fee and those delivered free of charge; they also reveal the numbers of extraordinary, registered, or reply paid telegrams, as well as those delivered in any extraordinary manner.

According to posting:

Postage fee:	public	54,530 pieces	2.38%
	private	2,152,671 pieces	94.09%
Free of charge:	public	2.662 pieces	0.12%
	other	77,949 pieces	3.41%
Ordinary telegrams		1,565,988 pieces	68.45%
Telegram notifications		591,874 pieces	25.87%
Reply paid		121,603 pieces	5.32%
Registered telegrams		507 pieces	0.02%
Additional service		8,000 pieces	0.32%

Delivery: (within the zone 98%)

By mail	21,000 pieces	0.92%
Messenger	23,300 pieces	0.97%



— 61 —

3. *Az állami és vasuti távirdaállomásoknál együttvéve.*

Táviratok		A magyar forgalomban feladott	A magyar forgalomban megérkezett	A magy.-osztr. forgalomban feladott	A magy.-osztr. forgalomban megérkezett	A nemzetközi forgalomban feladott	A nemzetközi forgalomban megérkezett	Az összes forgalomban feladott	Az összes forgalomban megérkezett	Észrevétel
díjtelen	állami db.	46.682	46.698	5142	10.603	2706	447	54.530	57.748	
	magán „	1,621.024	1,620.970	424.393	437.918	107.254	105.164	2,152.671	2,164.052	
	együttvéve „	1,667.706	1,667.668	429.535	448.521	109.960	105.611	2,207.201	2,221.800	
díjszabás	állami db.	1276	1283	1270	854	116	482	2662	2619	
	szolgálati „	47.727	80.435	2366	5401	665	968	50.758	86.804	
	közérdekü „	22474	34.106	3522	50.580	1195	659	27.191	85.345	
	együttvéve „	71.477	115.824	7158	56.835	1976	2109	80.611	174.768	
Összesen . . .		1,739.183	1,783.492	436.693	505.356	111.936	107.720	2,287.812	2,396.568	
Az illető forgalmak összes táviratai közt volt	Távir. értesít. db.	488.135	488.071	101.333	99.108	2406	190	591.874	587.369	
	„ „ %	28.08	27.38	23.20	19.62	2.16	0.17	25.87	24.50	
	Közönsz. távir. db.	1,151.802	1,196.237	311.565	385.711	102.621	105.150	1,565.988	1,687.098	
	„ „ %	66.23	67.07	71.34	76.32	91.67	97.61	68.44	70.39	
	Ajánlott távir. db.	250	246	227	98	30	8	507	352	
	„ „ %	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.02	—	0.02	0.01	
	Fizet. válassz. db.	93.067	93.005	22.488	16.954	6048	2153	121.603	112.112	
	„ „ %	5.35	5.21	5.14	3.35	5.44	1.90	5.31	4.67	
	Vételjelentés. db.	2043	2044	145	221	265	8	2453	2273	
	„ „ %	0.11	0.11	0.03	0.04	0.23	—	0.10	0.09	
	Összegyezt. db	58	58	35	17	53	1	146	76	
	„ „ %	—	—	—	—	0.04	—	—	—	
	Más mellékm. db	3828	3831	900	3247	513	217	5241	7288	
	„ „ %	0.22	0.21	0.20	0.64	0.45	0.20	0.22	0.30	
	gyorspost. db.	136	132	11	4	3	12	150	148	
	„ „ %	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	
	postával db.	17.318	17.315	2420	3558	1520	1151	21.258	22.024	
	„ „ %	0.99	0.97	0.55	0.70	1.34	1.09	0.92	0.93	
	különözez. db.	19.840	19.833	894	2821	23	653	20.759	23.307	
	„ „ %	1.14	1.11	0.20	0.55	0.02	0.60	0.90	0.97	
	együttvéve db.	37.294	37.280	3325	6383	1548	1816	42.167	45.479	
	„ „ %	2.14	2.09	0.76	1.26	1.36	0.71	1.84	1.89	
Mind ezek után		Bevétel	Kiadás	Bevétel	Kiadás	Bevétel	Kiadás	Bevétel	Kiadás	
Magyar díjak fritban		860.276	—	239.909	—	124.447	—	1.224.632	—	
Idegen „ „		—	—	—	—	—	—	77.059*	—	
Továbbszáll. díj „		6158**	6510	593**	728	14**	140	6765**	7378	
Kifiz. válaszdij. „		—	44.937	—	8250	—	4202	—	57.389	
Egy táviratra esik átlag forint . .		0.48	0.37	0.54	0.32	1.26	0.58	0.56	0.37	
Egy díjköt. táviratra esik átlag forint .		0.51	0.35	0.55	0.37	1.28	0.58	0.59	0.37	

* Ezen összeg az idegen távirdaigazgatásoknak megtérítendő.
** A ** alatt kimutatott összegek, miután a díjösszegben már beszámoltatnak, a tulajdonképeni bevételhez nem tartoznak; és itt csak az összehasonlítás kedvéért vétettek fel.

9

Figure 6/a Table of statistical data from 1877

Based on this table, the probability of occurrence of a free public telegram delivered by Post Office is only 0.002% as compared to all telegrams (see Figure 12).

III About Telegrams as Based on of my Collection Categories

As I mentioned in the introduction, the dispatched telegrams were very rare over this period. My collection also lacks telegrams prepaid by telegram postage stamps.

What you still can find are the receipts, which were preserved – but those covered by telegram postage stamps are also great rarities. A receipt produced for 85 kreuzer for 17 telegrams is a gem of my collection.



Figure 7 Receipt produced for 17 telegrams

The number of **delivered telegrams** is much larger. In my collection, one of such delivered telegrams was sent on 27 May 1867; it was an invitation to the coronation ceremony starting on 6 June.



Figure 8 Invitation to the coronation ceremony, telegram

This form does not yet show that on 1 May the Hungarian public administration took over. It was still the German-Austrian Telegraph Association forms which were used; later, printed telegram cards placed in envelopes in the Hungarian and German languages with different Hungarian coats of arms were sold. Folded Hungarian and Hungarian-Croatian telegrams delivered in envelopes may turn up from the period starting with 1875. After that time, more postage-stamp-paid telegrams delivered by mail service were preserved – you can see some of them in my collection too. These items are precious pieces of every postal history collection, due to which it is quite difficult to obtain them.

On 1 August 1873, telegram postage stamps, telegram postal stationery, 50 kr *telegram post cards*, and 5kr *posting slips* were introduced. The telegram postal stationery had the image identical to that of telegraph stamps. Dr István Zlatev, in MBK[3], provided a professional and concise summary of what has to be known about telegraph stamps and telegram postal stationery. He wrote that even telegram fragments are rare, while when valuing cancelling, he quoted quite low points. For the post cards of 50 kreuzers, both Simády catalogue and MPIK[2] provided only the price of unused pieces.



Figure 9/a Posting slips

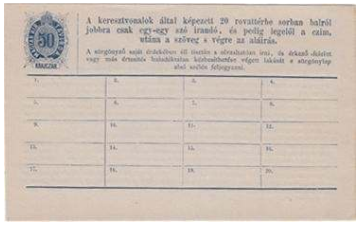


Figure 9/b Telegram card

[3] MBK = Magyar Bélyegek Kézikönyve (Hungarian Postage Stamp Manual, MPIK = Magyar posta- és illetékbélyeg katalógus (Hungarian Postage and Revenue Stamp Catalogue) *(Editor's remark)*

The 5-kreuzer sending slip was produced for a credited telegram.



Figure 10 Posting slip with pre-printed postage of a credited telegram

Among other forms, there is yet a reply paid form. Its rarity is equal to that of posted telegrams, as it could be preserved only because it had not been used.

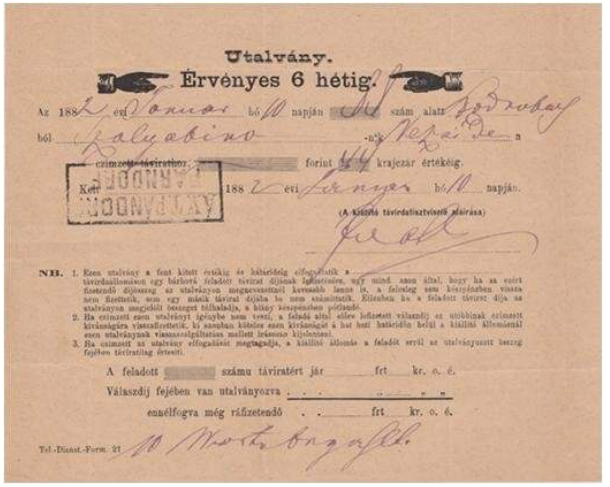


Figure 11 Reply paid form

I will describe and analyze a couple of telegrams on the basis of the statistical statement of the Telegraph Office. One of them is a public telegram sent to Sóvár in 1871. That year, 9,853 private and 164 public telegrams arrived in Eperjes/Presov. Unfortunately, there is no statement from 1871 revealing how many of these telegrams were free of charge, registered, and posted. However, the statement of 1877 reveals that each five-hundredth telegram could be such, which means that out of the 164 pieces of public telegrams arriving in Eperjes/Presov there could not be much more.



Figure 12 Free of charge public telegram is sent as registered letter to Sóvár (up: Eperjes) 114 January 1871

The other envelope from 8 July 1870 is a really interesting piece.



Figure 13

The telegram was addressed to Mr Tarnóczy; it arrived in Nitra-Zsámbokrét first to telegraph office, and then to the Post Office for delivery, because it had to be sent to Laszkár. Laszkár had 185 inhabitants, and belonged to the next post office, the one in Privigye. There, the telegraph office opened only on 12 November 1870. Thus, the Postmaster adhered a 5-kreuzer postage stamp of the release of 1867 to it, then postmarking it. However, the sender did not pay for this stamp, due to which the Postmaster tore it off, postmarked the mail item again, and indicated that 5 kreuzer postage was due. This amount was to be collected from Mr Tarnóczy.

The Telegraph Rules provides that all fees collected from the consignee subsequently be recorded on the envelope (urgent delivery fee, postage fee). Figure 14, which unfortunately is not my property, shows a telegraph envelope delivered by mail service. In 2011, on the Dorotheum auction, it was sold for € 5200 + commission.



Figure 14/a Telegram envelope delivered by mail service



Figure 14/b: Rear side

The economic recovery and the increase of cash flow entailed the growing demand of money orders and voucher options. This resulted in the expansion of the postal and telegraph services. In particular, postal vouchers became more popular, and the transferable amount increased. The importance of the quickness of the service also grew.

It was possible to transfer money by means of telegrams only at major post and telegraph offices. The highest amount was 500 HUF, on top of which 30kr remittance tax was payable in postage stamps, while registered telegram fee and 15kr express fee were payable in cash (in case the mail item was not collected at a post office).

At first, the postal vouchers with pre-printed postage stamps were used, with the inscription "per Telegram". Later, pink forms with the inscription "*postautalvány távirat útján"* (postal vouchers by way of telegram) were introduced, without pre-printed postage stamps.

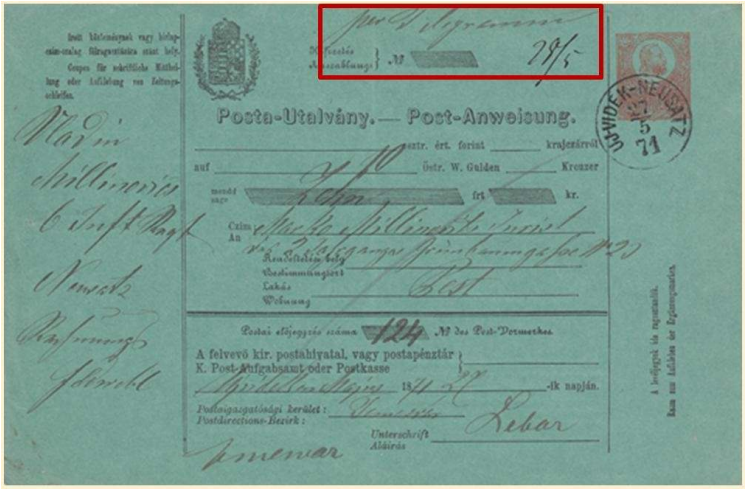


Figure 15 Postal order sent by telegram

In 1879 - I think because of the Bosnian war - there was rise in money order fee: for the amount 300 to 500 HUF it grew to 50 kr. New yellowish white forms were introduced. My collection includes a rare piece – a money order sent by telegram and used in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Figure 16

All other pieces which I have seen (2 or 3 ones) came from the militarily post office Livno XXIX.

IV. Hand Stamps of Telegraph Offices from 1867

The same is the title of the chapter written by Akos Kostyal work in Monograph Volume VI. It is a tremendous work, which involved very large research and background material, but there are a couple of questions where my opinion does not match his. The Post Office and Telegraph Office unification was decided in 1877 – it was completed in 1887. The merge took place in a way that when there was a vacant managerial chair, the corresponding manager of the other agency (Post or Telegraph Office) was appointed. Based on this reasoning, Akos Kostyal assumed that hand stamps were used randomly – telegraph hand stamps on postage stamps or postage hand stamps on telegraph stamps. In my opinion, at the time when Gábor Baross, the "Iron Minister", was in office there was 'iron" discipline.

If there was a postmark applied to a telegram, we may safely say that this telegram was delivered by mail service. On the other hand, I have not yet seen a telegraph postmark on post office postage stamps from the period after the final merge in 1888.

Ákos Kostyán mentioned two stamp designs. The chapter reads, "we may only have assumptions regarding the use of two types of stamps". However, he did not list any assumptions.

One of the designs was a *circular* one, with the state coat of arms with the Crown in the middle, with the Hungarian, Hungarian-German, and Hungarian-Croatian language wording; the other design was *oval*, with the text "M. K. TÁVIRDAI ÁLLOMÁS" HELYNÉV (Hungarian Royal Telegraph Station Location Name), in the Hungarian and the Hungarian-Croatian languages.

As far as my observations go, the circular hand stamps with the coat of arms were most probably used at public telegraph offices for *sealing* the telegram envelopes to be delivered; at first, they were pressed into the ceiling wax; later, they were used dry – in my collection, there are several telegrams with protruding dry postmarks; these hand stamps could also be used with blue or black ink.

Later, these hand stamps were replaced by circular, coloured (purple, blue, green, and yellow) sealing vignettes with Hungarian and Croatian wording on the folded delivered telegrams. It is still to be found out what the role of the colours of these vignettes was.

The other design, which was oval (although rectangular longish shape also occurred), was the general office location stamp; it was blue, greenish blue, or black – such postmarks occur on all kinds of forms. My collection contains a telegram from M.SZIGET, where the officer loved hand stamps so much as to prepare numerals for the date and his own name (see Figure 17 on the next page)

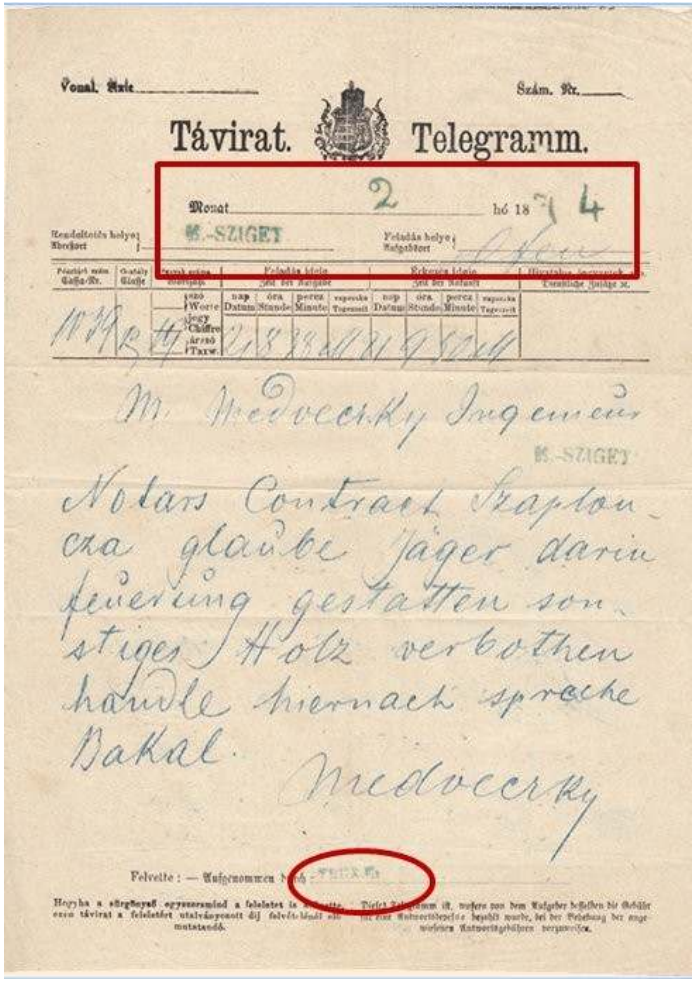


Figure17 Telegram with individually created postmark

The railway telegraph offices did not have separate telegram hand stamps. Their hand stamps were provided to them by the railway company for handling the documents which turned up in the course of the operation of the railway traffic, such as business documents, forms, bills of lading, etc. The rarity of these hand stamps on telegrams is well illustrated by the statistical statement from 1877 showing the number of telegrams which were posted and arrived. At the state telegraph offices this amount was 2.2 million pieces per year, while at the railway offices it was only 180,000 pieces per year, i.e. 8% of the total traffic.

In conclusion, please let me say thank you for the great help, knowledge, expertise, and encouragement which I have received from my stamp collector and stamp-loving friends when putting together this material.

The presented collection "Hungarian Telegraph Administration Telegrams (1867-1888)" includes:

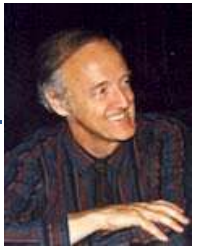
1 Posted telegrams
2 Fee receipts
3 Delivered telegrams, envelopes
4 Fee and other forms
5 Postal money orders executed by telegrams

References:

1 “A Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája” (Monograph of Hungarian Postage Stamps), Budapest, 1964-1986
2 “A Magyar Bélyegek Kézikönyve” (Manual of Hungarian Postage Stamps), Budapest, 1986
3 Simády. “A Magyar Díjjegyes Nyomtatványok Katalógusa” (Catalogue of Hungarian Postal Stationery)
4 Jerger, A. “Monographie der Frankaturen 1850-1867”
5 ”Magyarország Helynévtára” (Pool of Hungary Location Names) 1863.
6 “Állami és Vasúti Távírdák Statistikája 1870. 1871. és 1877-es évekből (Statistics of Public and Railway Telepraph Offices of the Years 1870, 1871, and 1877)”.

Translated from Hingarian by Marina Shafira

FIELD POST OF WORLD WAR 2 - PART TWO



MERVYN BENFORD, SHUTFORD/BANBURY

MAFITT and PHILATELICA are about the scientific study of postal services and postal history. As such the work of authors such as Dán János is very important. In Part 1 of this article I added some additional information to his excellent book. Part 2 examines field post cards with pictorial aspects. These may seem less to do with history as such, except that there were official issues which his book treats as well as a wide range of what he accurately describes as "*Vegyes"* (diverse) issues. Again I add more information and examples from the 4000 cards I have.

Dán János recognises official or other prepared issues produced with additional art work but also describes how soldiers often embellished their messages to friends and family with similar more personal pictorial illustration. Within both dimensions there are often patriotic images. Official issues add to the postal and philatelic story. The more private drawings and paintings add to the story of the communication between soldiers and their families. Of the many in my collection I show only a representative sample.

Proper philatelic study of field post cards involves the card issues, the movements of the military units, the field post offices and the censorship elements. What the soldiers and their families say is not philatelic and so what they paint or draw is not philatelic. But I believe it is a vital part of the story. I began collecting Hungarian stamps in 1954. I joined the Magyar (now Hungarian) Philatelic Society of Great Britain the year it began, 1964, and the 50th. anniversary is in 2014. At that time collectors in Hungary were allowed philatelic partners outside the Soviet countries and that is how I was introduced to Moldoványi Gyula.

We developed a warm, personal and family friendship which became much more about Hungary and Hungarian history than stamps. He had been an officer in the Hungarian army in the 1930s and had led Hungarian troops into Erdély and Yugoslavia during the Visszatért period. His friendship inspired the book I later wrote on the philately of this period for the MPSGB − still some copies available − though my main sources were Surányi and Palotás as well as Simády Béla (very helpful with Kárpatálja.)

He described the field post to me. As an officer he was the first point of censorship. He knew the loneliness of men far from their loved ones and in frightening, uncomfortable situations. He realised how important the post was. He knew how precious those words always were and though it was just emotion the drawings added to the warmth of the feelings involved. I believe that any field post collection needs some evidence of the ways soldiers personalised their communications and I am glad the new expert book includes reference to this part of the story.

For the same reason, when official cards were not available, the men thought it so important that they made and used cards from the bark of trees, usually birch bark, and the book rightly treats this subject also, though I believe they may be among the rarest of all field post cards.

1 Official pictorial field post cards:

The catalogue starts this story on page 47. They are numbered individually from R1 to R26. I have two copies of R1 on the usual green

card sent by soldiers to home and one on the pink card used for communications *to* soldiers. These cards had a Christmas design.

The cards are usually the normal types produced by the Budapest Printing Office with appropriate date but some have the additional imprint of the Army authorities either on the front or the back. I have 2 copies (one Mint) of R10 and one of R11. R10 is an Easter card and rabbits feature in the design of this card and several others.

The catalogue has a separate section for issues produced in 1943. I have a copy of R18 but it has only the normal Budapest Printing Office imprint, nothing indicating the Army. I am not sure if this is also the case for the other listed 1943 examples (R13-21.)

I have a similar card with only Budapest imprint, featuring soldiers and rabbits, dated 1943, which seems to indicate an addition to the series. (Illustration 1)



R22 to R26 are five cards listed in the catalogue as issued in 1944 which have a new Army imprint but produced in association with the Pallas Company in Budapest. The usual imprint running vertically up the centre dividing line is missing but at the very bottom are the two words PALLAS, BUDAPEST. I have 3 copies of R24, one with its Easter pictures hand-coloured by the sender.

I have a Pallas and Army imprint design (Easter) <u>*not*</u> in the catalogue but also another Pallas/Army design with a Christmas scene which was posted in December 1943.



Illustration 2-3

So Pallas were involved before 1944. R26 is on a more white card, and the catalogue reflects this, but the address side has only the Pallas imprint, and now central along the dividing line. The artist is now Kekesi L and I have another such Kekesi card with the same new front design (Illustrations 4 and 5.) Both are dated 1944. My R26 is Mint.

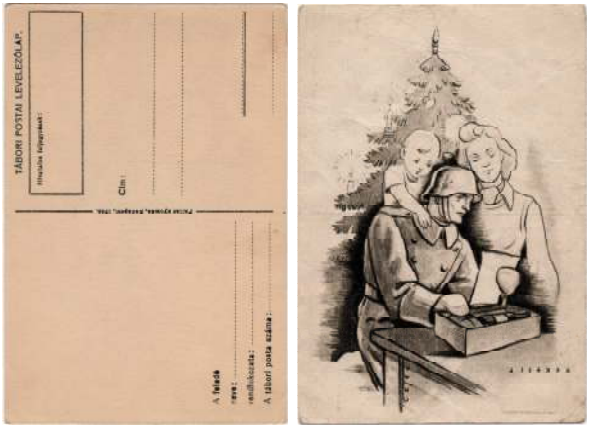


Illustration 4-5

Including my four additional examples the total different designs known rises to 30. The catalogue rates most at 50 euros, with R11 twice as valuable and R22-24 half as valuable. R25 and 26 have 80 euros. I suspect they are not so easy to find. Six come from the collection of specialist expert Voloncs Gábor and one from the Post Museum while four now come from my collection.

2 Diverse (Vegyes) issues

Catalogue page 80 starts this part of the story. Dán János identifies many of them by their production characteristics. Many are hand-drawn. Some have multiple images. Some are coloured or hand-painted. A good number seem to have been produced by a spirit transfer process that seems rather like the early spirit duplicators used in offices and schools after the war. My difficulties with the Hungarian language mean that I have probably not fully understood what the catalogue describes. Here I add only what I know from my own collections and in the types that I can identify even if they do not exactly fit catalogue types.

The tree bark cards are treated in this section (Nyirfa). I find these a remarkable statement of the determination of Hungarian soldiers to be in contact with loved ones at home even when the normal field post cards are for some reason not available. Over 40 years collecting I have found only 12, and I sold one to a young Hungarian student fascinated by such unusual communication. When I think of how rare they are I suspect the catalogue valuation of 20 to 50 Euros is much too low but perhaps in Hungary they are more common. I wonder how many survived their journeys intact, or atmospheric damage since.

The cards were sent as normal cards and received all the usual postal treatment. Some quite remarkably involved detailed illustrations. Illustrations 6 to 12 are from my collection.

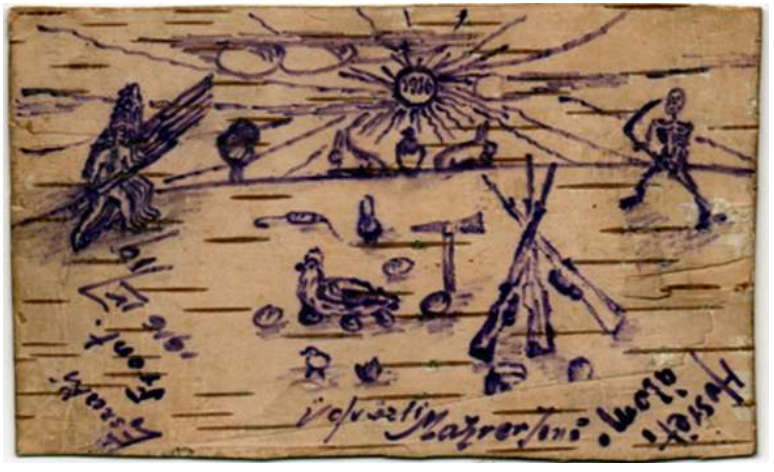


Illustration 6.

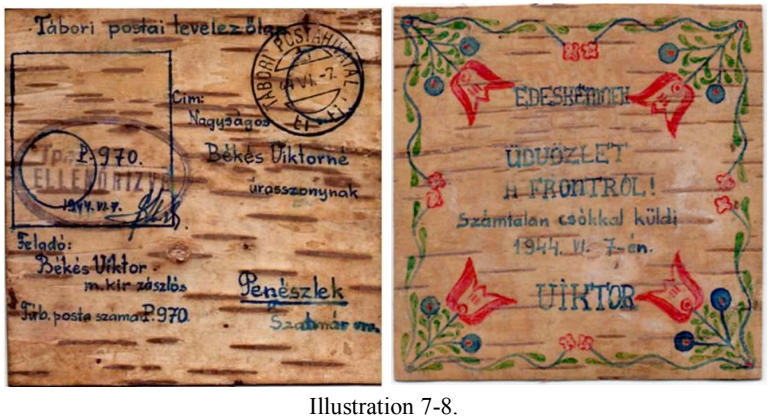


Illustration 7-8.



Illustration 9.

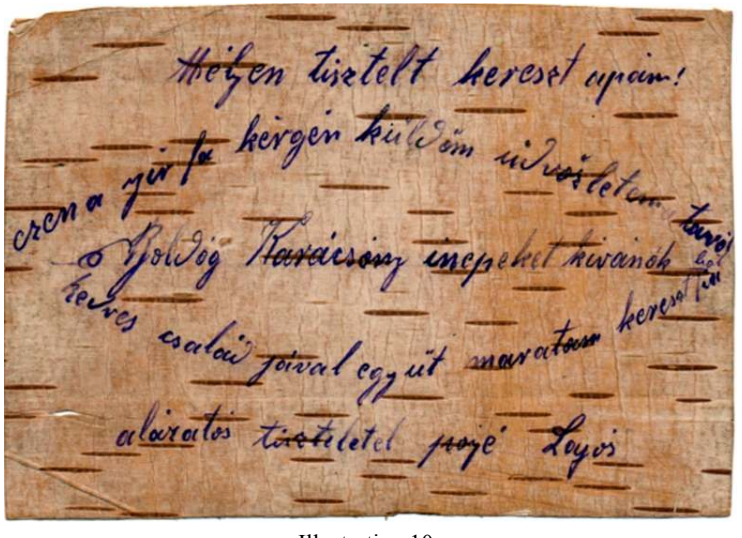


Illustration 10.

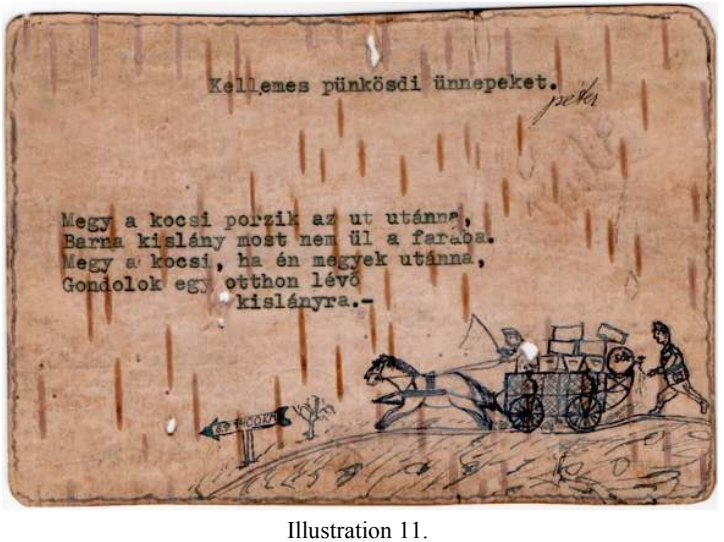


Illustration 11.



Illustration 12.

One has distinctive red and green colouring and another has a drawing in lilac. One used a stamp from the First World War period!

Very rare are First World War cards used in the later war. Again I think they are rarer than the 50 Euros catalogue value. I have only one example but perhaps Dán János knows of more in Hungary. The catalogue example is used in 1944 *from* a soldier but my example is used in 1941 from a soldier's wife at a civilian address to her husband at his unit



Illustration 13.

The illustration on page 43 of a 1942 card existed in the Surányi collection only as a photocopy. But he did fix a photocopy to it of the other side. This has the imprint of M. Kir. Honved Vezérkar Fönöke 31.141 ein. 2. Vkf. Klgs. 1941. Sz. A. Eng.

It also has F k. Székely and BUDAI F....TOLDI..NYOMDA. Whether this means the card is in fact an Army initiative with another printer I am not sure. The front side has the address panel and a Christmas design which includes candles and the word GANZ. The catalogue illustration does not show the name of the writer of the verse at the bottom, namely *Székely István* and the date, 1942.

The two different dates are a problem.[4]

Illustration 14 is a Christmas design with soldier.

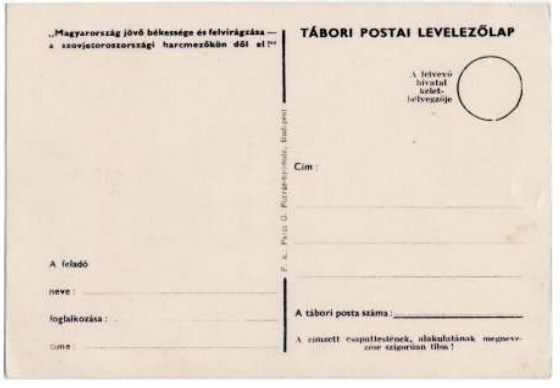


Illustration 14.

The address side has the inscription 'MAGYAR HOLNAP' KÖNYVKIADÓ NEMZETVÉDELMI PROPAGANDA SZOLGÁLATA while the stamp place tells ten words of greeting for 3 fillér.

[4] The date shown on the back side is a date of a permission, which seemingly enabled the printing of this card in the next year (remark of the translator).

The address side also includes F.k. Kálvariás Tamás – UTÁNNYOMÁS TILOS! Fair warning! The card has no reference to being a Field Post Card but has a military design.

3 1942 Christmas card:

This card is similar in style to R1. The design is by *Kolozsvári Béla*. It has the production imprint of Forrás nyomda and at the foot 5 fillér. The card at top left has 'Leventeifjúság honvédkarácsonya' I have 2 copies on buff card. I also have a copy on white card and this time the top left inscription has the '*Magyarország jövö.....'* patriotic slogan used on the normal field postcards. This white card also has 'TÁBORI POSTAI LEVELEZÖLAP which the two buff copies do not have. This white card version is also from Forrás but a longer imprint inscription. It has no price indicated and a different layout for the address panel.

Does the white version, then, belong to the catalogue's 'R' group of cards?

To complicate the story, I have another version of this same basic design but with important differences. It is a little longer and at the bottom has a folded section in the same green colour of the design. On the address side this extra section has 3 pieces, each divided by the words 'Itt Vágyuk be!' I think this means '*Cut here !'* I have two of these cards and one has been cut but not detached. On both cards the left part of these three pieces has the price 1P. These cards, however, have no address panel. Instead there is a long printed text and at the bottom again the printer's name. The text includes references to the Army. Illustrations 14 to 16 show the pictorial design which is the same on all five cards, with the address side of the white card and the text side of the longer cards.

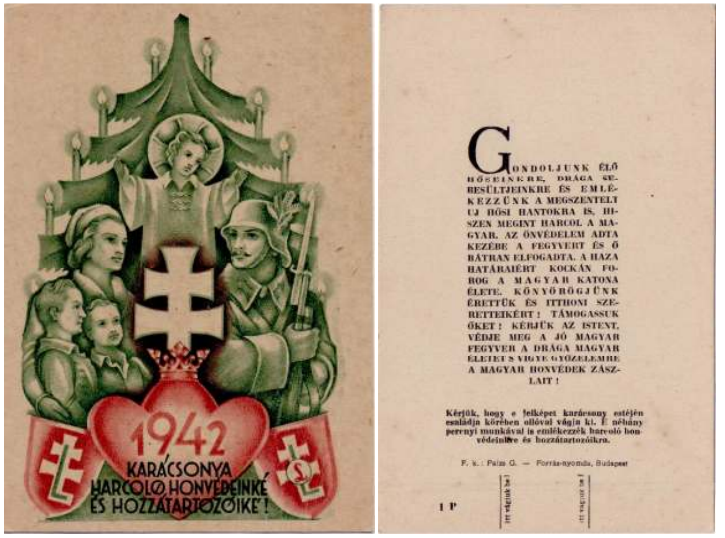


Illustration 15-16.

4 1940 Visszatért celebration Field Post Card designs:

I have this group of cards which all have black printed designs and seem to come from the 1940 period when Érdely returned. I have three cards with mainly text. Three others include reference in the picture to Tábori Posta 11. One, featuring the Mátyás statue in Kolozsvár, has 1.GY.DD also in the design. The final card shows soldier and a road sign indicating Érdely.

Five of these cards are normal green field postcards with the usual Budapest imprint and date 1940. Four have Field Post 11 postmarks The other has Field Post 11 in the design but carries a Romanian stamp cancelled with the NAGYBÁNYA Visszatért mark.

The other three cards are green but not titled as Field Post Cards-just 'LEVELEZÖLAP' However, they are similar in design and have an imprint Völgyi – 1480. This perhaps means they are part of the many cards produced privately and reported earlier in the cata-

logue- but in this case with added pictorial treatment. One of these three cards has the Field Post 11 mark, one has the Nagybanya 'V' mark and one the 'V' mark from Nagykároly. Of these eight cards only five were posted, all to the same soldier's wife in Budapest.

I must assume that one soldier did not commission such cards for himself but that others were available and used. As pictorial cards they seem to be like those 'R' cards that feel official but have no special Army references. They seem more a local initiative at the time. I illustrate 3 of the more interesting designs



Illustrations 17-18.



Illustrations 19.

5 Spirit or Transfer production:

I have 45 normal Field Post Cards but with plain brown or grey-green designs printed on the message side. Sometimes the picture covers the whole side, and sometimes only one or more parts. The senders often write over the pictures if they need the space. The designs are widely varied. Some seem about families and family life. Some are humorous. Some suggest romance. Some feature nature subjects like swans, or farm scenes. I have the occasional landscape including a train on a line. One of my cards features Admiral Horthy himself.

A large group, however, feature aeroplanes or parts of them and the catalogue seems to recognise these as a distinctive group. My language difficulties mean I am not sure how the catalogue separates out the types that it describes and how these 45 fit this list. I illustrate an air design, a humorous design and a family design





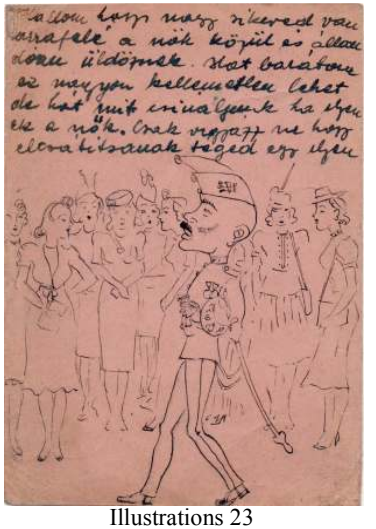
Illustrations 22.



Illustrations 20 to 21.

The air design has its word as in a mirror and this may tell something of the production process.

6 I have many cards in which the senders have used or added their own drawings and other effects to personalise their communications. Illustrations 23 to 25 are typical. The one with shower is beautifully coloured.



Illustrations 23





Illustrations 24 − 25.

7 Finally I have a small collection of Ukraine landscape postcards that soldiers have used as cards home and which received normal Field Post treatment.

From 1939 to 1945 Hungarians were involved in one form or other of military action and the Field Post Cards tell their story. The catalogue provides an extensive treatment of the different types, the Field Post and censorship markings and the movements of the Field Post Offices themselves as well as the different army units.

This article makes the story more personal. In my collection I have many letters that tell the same things. Cards and letters reflect the usual postal system and its regulations. Official forms existed that the military services used. Mail, even a Field Post Card, can be found with registered postage paid. How the Post Office handled mail that could not be delivered can also be seen in my collection and those of others interested in this story.

Treatment of the same material from the First World War has been thorough and exhaustive and it is now time for the second war to be studied to the same degree. We are grateful to Dán János for the considerable help his book will be and if my additional information helps than I am happy to do so.

In the first article I explained that a good many of my cards came from Surányi László following his death, many to help my personal collection of course. I also believed he hoped I would study the bulk of the normal cards in the way the new catalogue does to help complete his second book on the subject. My poor Hungarian made such a prospect unlikely and now we have a fine book anyway.

I said I thought many of these cards should now return to Hungary for future generations to study and on a visit in November I began this process. All the cards that represent large collections between the same individual families or couples have been taken to the Stamp Museum. I shall return more in my planned visits in 2014.

SOVIET OCCUPATION AND POST OFFICE OF VAC WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO OPEN CENSORSHIP IN VAC



LAJOS HORVATH, VERESEGYHAZ

Dr. Ferenc Nagy, who lives in Vienna, published a very interesting gap filling article in Philatelica in 2012. The importance of the article, which primarily dealt with extraordinary tariffs, goes much beyond this topic, as proven by the comments too. János Dán from Budapest published a related article, just as I did – I presented a philatelic document from Veresegyház which helps to clarify many misteries.[1]

Of course, there still are unanswered questions and tasks that require further research. So I decided to check the mail of the first half of 1945 in Vac from the point of view of a local historian, hoping that this approach would contribute to a step further in postal history. I paid special attention to the open cencorship in Vac, its postmark being the five-pointed red star.

1. Necessary Chronological Background

1944 December 8: The Soviet army invaded Vac. From this date, there was definitely no mail traffic in Vac.

1945 January 18: The Soviets had completely taken hold of Budapest.

1945 February 3: Article 'What's up at the Post Office?' was published in Vaci News.

1945 February 5: First worker train started to run between Budapest and Vac.

1945 February 13: Full Soviet occupation of the capital completed. Dr Bela Christopher, the Mayor of Vac, wrote a report on the public conditions in Vac to the sub-prefect, in which he also mentioned the Post Office.

1945th February 15: Article "Mail Traffic Set Out" published in Vaci Napló (Journal of Vac). We may assume that the censorship existed from that day.

1945 March 2: Introduction of extraordinary rates in the surroundings of Budapest and then in Budapest for the period before 1 May.

2. Conditions at Post Office in Vac after Front Swept

The Soviet Army took hold of the town of Vac in fights. The front swept through Vac on 8-9 December 1944. The losses in transport and communication of Vac were enormous. The railroad tracks were torn up by the Germans the day before the Soviets arrived. The post cables were torn and hanging everywhere.

On February 3, 1945, Vaci Hírlap (Newsletter of Vac) reported that the full telephone network was entirely dysfunctional. Rail transport was suspended, and the launch time was unknown to anybody. Two days after the report, on February 5, the first new worker train set out from Budapest to Vac and back.

The postal inspector and office manager reported that there was hope that internal mail traffic would start as soon as possible. According to the circumstances of that time, post office could be revived 50 to 100 kilometres inwards from the front line. Given the

fact that Vac was still attacked by the German air forces and artillery from Transdanubia after 8-9 December 1944, reconstruction was difficult. [2]

3. Reorganizing of Post Office in Vac and Launch of Mail Traffic

It is certain that the mail service in Vac stopped operation on 8 December 1944. Dr Béla Kristóf, the mayor of the town, reported on 13 February 1945 that most of the post office staff in Vac remained on site, obviously expecting to occupy their places of work. The Soviet commandment ceded management of some telephone lines to the Hungarian government – these lines started to operate. The mayor was optimistic on February 13: "We may expect the start of the operation of the postal services soon."

On that Wednesday the selling of mail items, the acceptance of registered and ordinarily mail, and the acceptance and payment of postal orders etc. started. The long-distance phone conversations were made possible from 24 February 1945. We may say that the proper operation of the Post Office of Vac started on 15 February 1945. In other words, there was no operation for more than two months, from 8 December 1944 to 15 February 1945. We cannot expect mail items deriving from that period turn up.

4. Censorship of Civil Correspondence in Vac

The Eastern front of the World War II approached Hungary in September 1944. This fact triggered the censorship of inland civil correspondence, which was canonised in Regulation K.K.M 217.600 effective as of 12 September 1944.

The first paragraph of this regulation provided for the sender of the mail item to write his/her name and address on it. It also stipulated that private mail could be maximum the size of a half a sheet.

Knowing this information, the Veresegyház post master or his wife, who must have been also responsible in the two-person office, made a mistake. They accepted Dr Stephen Géczy senior clerk's envelope, on which there was neither the sender's name nor his address. On the basis of the postage of 60 fillers, we may conclude that this official letter was larger than half a spread sheet.



Figure 1 Official letter from December 1944 from Veresegyház to Vac

Hungarian Royal Postal Directorate investigated the address, concluding on 19 December 1944 that the sender Dr István Géczy was the chief notary of Veresegyház. After this, due to the military operations, the mail item stayed at the Postal Directorate of Budapest. Finally, on 5 February 1945, the real traffic restarted between Vac and Újpest, and further to Nyugati railway station. As the last step, the Post Office opened its doors and windows for the public.



We believe, although direct evidence is not available, that this kind of censorship ser-

vice, in the course of which the already mentioned five-pointed star hand stamp with red ink, which was an emergency solution, was used, applied this hand stamp to mail items until it could exercise open /not hidden/ censorship. The Communist Party of Vac was established at the beginning of January 1945. We believe that the five-pointed star censorship provides evidence to the fact that the Communist Party of Vac included the mail service into its scope and was aware of the political importance of the civil censorship, also as a kind of intelligence. Consequently, we believe that the red-pointed star censorship started in Vac on 15 February 1944; we will stick to this opinion until any contrary direct piece of data turns up.

The mail items sent by the chief notary of Veresegyház was postmarked by the five-pointed star hand stamp and red ink, which was a favourite Communist symbol, on the very first today, on 15 February 1945. Nothing demonstrates the conditions of power better than the fact that on 8 February 1945 Ferenc Blaha, the secretary of the Party, suggested at the meeting of the National Committee that Konstantin Square is named Stalin Square. The suggestion was accepted univocally. /It was still in that same year that the square was again named Konstantin Square/. The mail item which was presented by Dr Ferenc Nagy must have arrived in Vac on 15 March 1945 – the red star censorship hand stamp must have been applied to it then.

At present, we know of four documents postmarked with the red star hand stamp applied at the post office of Vac for censorship. We may hope and expect that further pieces will turn up.

Today it is still not possible to say exactly until what time this censorship hand stamp was in use. Mr Dán János in his presentation expressed his opinion that this censorship hand stamp was in use in the March 1945. Later, two permanent hand stamps started to be used, their text being "Ellenőrizve Vac 1" and "Ellenőrizve Vac 2" . (Checked Vac 1 and Checked Vac 2), instead of the earlier do-it-yourself one.

Notes

1. Dr. Nagy, Ferenc. "A budapesti, majd pestkörnyéki szükségtarifa története, 1945. március 2. - május 1" (History of Emergency Tariff in Budapest and Surroundings, 2 March 1945 – 1 May 1945). Philatelica 2012/l. 1-12., Horváth Lajos. "Adatok a pestkörnyéki szükségtarifa történetéhez" (Data Concerning History of Emergency Tariff in Budapest Surroundings), Philatelica 2012/2. 10-19. and Dán János. "Hozzászólás" (Comments), Philatelica 2012/2. 19-21.
2. "Vaci Történelmi Tár I." (Historic Data Pool of Vac). Compiled by Horváth M. Ferenc and Pintér Tamás. Vac, 1996. 660.
3. "Vac története II." (History or Vac II). Editor: Dr Sápi, Vilmos. Szentendre, 1983. Notes 527. and 151-154.
4. Dán, János. "A Váci vörös csillag rejtélye" (Mistery of Red Star of Vac). Bélyegvilág, 2013/07-08. pp. 24-25.

Translated from Hingarian by Marina Shafira

Congratulation for all the jubilee Hungarian philatelic societies on the **International Philatelic Symposium** in Pinkafeld 2014



www.hpsgb.com [5]

1953



www.arge-ungarn.de

1984



www.mafitt.hu

1999

Our co-orginiser is the **Kärntner Philatelistenclub** in Klagenfurt.
See at our News detailled

[5] The meantime changed actual URL appears in the reprints of Philatelica.

NEWS

AUCTIONS

There is an envelope according to the article about the stamp wars in the latest number of Philatelica.

Note: On November 12, 1959, the Soviet Union circulated a stamp with Manolis Glezos, showing the Acropolis in the background and the inscription "Freedom to the Patnots". For retaliation, Greece circulates the Nagy set. With common agreement, both sets were withdrawn on December 17, 1959.



Fig. 1. Greek mail returned from Hungary with a label on the backside.



Fig. 2. The adhesive label on the backside

The adhesive label on the backside has a blue text: "Retour. Non admis. − The text of the postmark is contrary to Section 2. Article 1. of Chapter 1, of the Universal Postal Convention therefore the Hungarian Post Office has returned the letter to its sender."

The cover went in auction for 765 US$ this Year.

Up to now we knew only letters which were not sent back to Greece, those letters were sent to Hungarian foreign trade (I think Artex) companies. In both cases the sender can be Hungarian too (the name "Österreicher" means Austrian.))

György Lővei

AUCTION-MONITOR

The significant amount of philatelic information appearing for decades in the catalogs of the Hungarian auction houses produced with great efforts based upon a lot of knowledge and experience is not only valued high by us, but we deem it worthwhile to record it, for it may help in the development and evaluation of collections and in the formation of realistic prices. We would like to achieve this goal, which is in the interest of all collector-philatelists, in the frame of the new „auction-monitor" project of Mafitt. The participation of our interested members at this project is essential for the realization of the goal.

We would like to draw our readers'attention that in order to help the understanding of the value changes of the Hungarian philatelic items on sale on auctions, we are providing, for the first time, information on the items on auction this year and, if possible, on their final prices on a CD attachment. In the future, we are planning to provide, with the help of auction houses, the most comprehensive summary in the end-of-year editions

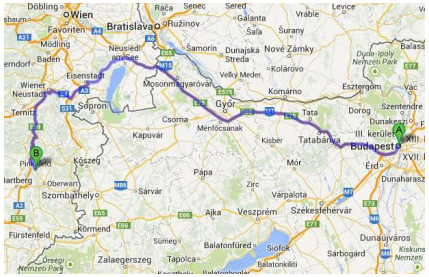
We thank for their contribution to this project by offering their December internet auction material to: Darabanth Auction House, Dunafila Stamp Commerce, Filadepo, Fodor Auction House, Hodobay Auction House, Stampcoin Kft. (Hungarofila auctions).

Next year we will plan to collect all data from the auctions with the hopeful support of the auction houses and will publish the data on the CD supplement of the year-end edition of Philatelica.

PHILATELIC SYMPOSIUM IN PINKAFELD FROM 11TH TO 13TH OF APRIL

Except for the two main organisers (the Kärntner Philatelistenclub and the Mafitt), the following philatelic companies will attend: Arge Ungarn, Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (HPSGB); the Austrians have invited the Slovenian Association, while we have invited the Slovakian Scientific Philatelic Company and other guests.

The costs of the transfer between Budapest and Pinkafő will be covered by a bus of Mafitt. We will pick up those participants who would like to join us while we are on the way, for example those from Győr or Sopron.



The publication, which will be on sale and of which 100 copies are planned to be produced, will be supported and sponsored by Gamax. The price will be approximately 20 euros; it will be 50 to 60 pages.

Mafitt will be represented by the following German-language lecturers: Gábor Nagy, Ferenc Kostyál, Attila Bándi, and Ralph Ebner (the latter will be inaugural; its title will be a "Der Einfluss Napoleon Bonapartes auf das Stempelgefälle in Österreich").

There will be a program for ladies too: an opportunity to see the three most beautiful castles of Burgenland. The Austrian partners will provide the guide, while we will provide the tourist bus.

PHILATELIC MEETING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT YEAR

Even before the International Philatelic meeting in April, we will present the participants and the first achievements of the Mafitt projects aimed at the renewal of the Hungarian philatelic literature at the new philatelic members' meeting, which will follow in the steps of the first such meeting in the Postage Stamp Museum in December 2011. It is expected to be held in early February; the exact date will be communicated shortly on the site News.

PHILATELICA ON POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITIONS

We entered the first three volumes of the new series of Philatelica published in 2011 and 2012 into the literary category of HUNFILA 2013 organized in Székesfehérvár.

Our periodical issued in the Hungarian language, considering also its CD attachment which can be downloaded from our site, won the golden medal of the most prestigious national exhibition.





On the Brasiliana 2013 international stamp exhibition held in Rio de Janeiro between 19 to 25 November with support of FIP, the literary category was assessed in two groups. Philatelica, presented in the English language and along with its CD attachment, ended up among the best in the mid-field. The jury ascribed 78 points to it, with which it won a FIP large silver medal at international level.



Philatelica in literary category of Brasiliana 2013 (see in the middle)

The Palmares of the exhibition is still available on the Internet, where this time the partial evaluation scores of the exhibitors are also published: http://www.brasiliana2013.net.br

Together with the introduction of the medal, the first international recognition of our projects, we would like to express the thanks of the Board to our members for the enthusiastic and magnanimous contribution to Philatelica!

We hope that more and more of our members will join the philatelic projects shown on our homepage – by the realization of these projects the membership of Mafitt could once again turn into a creative working society, similarly to that of the predecessor „Scientific Working Society", which produced Monographia and the high-level articles of the first series of Philatelica. Right now we collect the applications for the ownership of the Encyclopedia themes, where everybody could supply his own knowledge in his favorite field to the modern renewal of Hungarian philatelic literature.



The Large Silver Medal of Brasiliana 2013 for Philatelica

The news were translated from Hingarian by Marina Shafira

Az 1971-ben indított lap félévente jelenik meg, az 1991-ben kezdődött húsz év szünet után 2011-től párhuzamosan magyar és angol nyelven is.

A lap digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról tölthető le: www.mafitt.hu

The CD attachment is available on the website of Mafitt at www.mafitt.hu

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Philatelica

Philatelica 2014/1

Az I. világháború kitörésének 100. évfordulója évében tisztelettel és kegyelettel emlékezünk hőseinkre és az áldozatokra.

In the year of the outbreak of World War I, the 100th anniversary of respect and reverence to remember the heroes and victims.

Tartalom / Content:

Nagy Gábor:	I.Világháborús hadifogoly levelezés 1914-1922. Correspondence of Military Prisoners in the World War I 1914-1922	1.
Nagy Gábor:	Kiegészítés Dr. Palotás Zoltán Tábori postánk megindulása 1914-ben című cikkéhez New Information Complementary to the Article of dr. Zoltán Palotás „Launch of Hungarian Military Mail Serveces in 1914”	25.
Frank Semmler − Gerhard Sand:	Tulajdonvédelemi jelzések az Osztrák-Magyar Monarchia díjjegyesein Property Protection Signs on the Pre-paid Covers of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy	37.
Híreink / News		41.

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	Mervyn Benford, President of The Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain

CORRESPONDENCE OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE WORLD WAR I 1914-1922



GÁBOR NAGY, MISKOLC

The soldier of the enemy falls under the protection of the international law from the moment he loses the capacity to protect himself, and is in need of being treated in humane way.

The Geneva Convention of 1906 and the Hague Convention of 1907 provides that the warring parties treat the prisoners of war humanely. It also needs to be ensured that prisoners of war and their families get in touch by mail.

My presentation[1] is meant to trigger discussion in order to have this rich and interesting area of collection related to the history of the Post Office known to more and more people.

Just as books have their own history, these documents have lived through their own history too – they were carriers of news, to finally survive two world wars until today. Their future depends on whether there will be understanding audience interested in the heritage left to us by our grandfathers.

Though soon their age will surpass 100 years, these pieces are still not only visible at auctions but also in their primary sources – they may still come to light owned by families. Collections containing correspondence of prisoners of war still do not only depend on how much money one has.

In my presentation, I do not intend to provide rigid definitions for any categorisation of the correspondence of the prisoners of war. Moreover, so far nobody has managed to successfully complete this task. Instead, I will only try to find answers to some of the questions below.

What makes a mail item a piece of the correspondence of the prisoners of war? Why should we still collect items of the correspondence of the prisoners of war still available? Where do these items stand in the Post Office history?

The issue has been thoroughly investigated in the foreign expert literature, mainly by German and Austrian authors, whereas there has happened nothing or almost nothing in the Hungarian expert literature[2].

Because the main enemies of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were the Serbian, Russian, and Italian forces, obviously it was on these fronts that most prisoners of war were captured on both sides. Thus, it is mainly this correspondence which constitutes the subject of the studies, while the conflicts with other powers are tackled much more superficially.

His Majesty thought through and considered everything. Flagged trains full of soldiers departed with the music playing loudly. Then, when postcards sent to field post offices came back with the remark "*Missing*" on the rear side, the search system involving a whole lot of different forms took off.

[1] This article is based on the inauguration speech of the author at Mafitt. It was given on 17 October 2013 at an event of the MABÉOSZ Post Office History Department. It is a corrected English version after the 1st publication in 2015.

[2] See the short research by István Gazda on the censorship in the World War I in Philatelica 86/1 and in the Monograph, Volume I, Page 196.

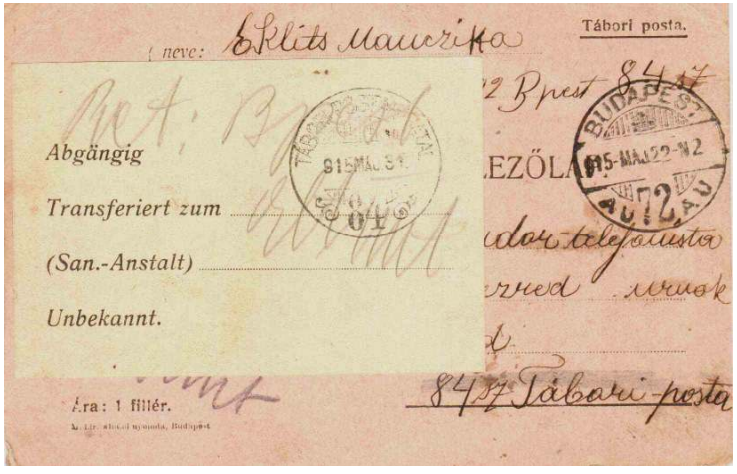


Figure 1 Field postcard mailed at Post Office BUDAPEST 72
915. MÁJ. 22, sent back with indication "missing" from Field Post Office 84



Figure 2 Very early notification sent from the Hungarian Red Cross Correspondent Office
914. SEP. 8 BUDAPEST 4, Postmark upon arrival: Miskolc 914. SEP 11.

According to the postcard, the search has been unsuccessful so far:



Figure 3 Rear side of the postcard above with the "result" of the search;(Information not arrived so far. Keeping in evidence Information office) this wording appears in many versions on different notifications.

The card files were included into the search system, and if there was any valuable information, the families were notified.



Figure 4 Search card used in Vienna in the newly established Gemeinsamen Zentralnachweisbureau, which was subordinate to the Austrian Red Cross

A similar form was also used by the Hungarian Red Cross.



Figure 5 After some time official notifications on where the searched person can be found appeared.

Prisoners of war also tried to send life signs via private correspondence.



Figure 6 Field postcard sent from an Italian prisoner-of-war camp. Mailed on 22/7/1915. Wording: I am in an Italian prisoner-of-war camp; we are treated very well…

Mail items of prisoners of war are those which were sent by or to prisoners of war, including military authorities and service locations, as well as the mail sent between POW camps and across neutral countries. It should be noted that the mail of the staff of POW camps, though sent from the prisoner-of-war camps, certainly cannot be considered prisoner-of-war correspondence. By default, prisoner-of-war correspondence may be classified in four categories.

INCOMING MAIL

1 Mail items from Hungarian soldiers in captivity



Figure 7 Russian bilingual (Russian-French) postcard for prisoners of war. Mailed at the town of Skobelev. Mail postmark: Tashkent 8.6.17 and a censorship postmark of GZNB of Vienna

Due to the poor Russian postal organization, at the beginning of the war (until April 1915), mail was written on anything that was at hand: public and privately published cards or paper torn out from magazines or books and put in envelopes, etc. On 2 January 1915, Russian post office and telegraph authorities instructed the Petrograd chief post office to produce 1,000,000 postcards for the prisoners of war, which were then sold at the price of ½ kopek a piece. By the end of December, the figure grew to 5,247,000. In order to make the censors' job easier, it was provided that messages shall be written only in the Russian, French, or German languages.

2 Mail sent to POWs in Hungary

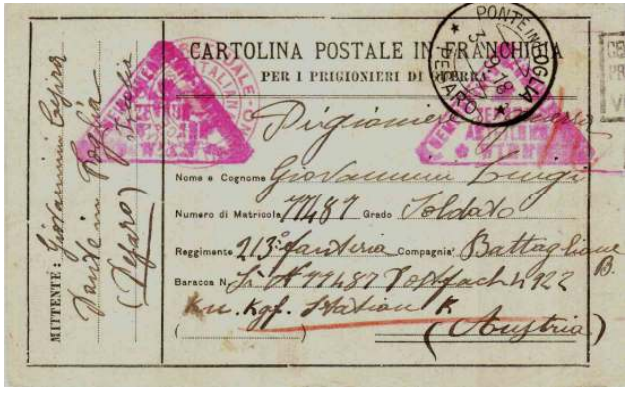


Figure 8 Postcard for an Italian prisoner of war to Austria, mailed PONTE in FOGLIA 3. 9. 1918. Italian Red Cross and GZNB of Vienna censorship

OUTGOING MAIL

3 Mail sent to Hungarian POWs

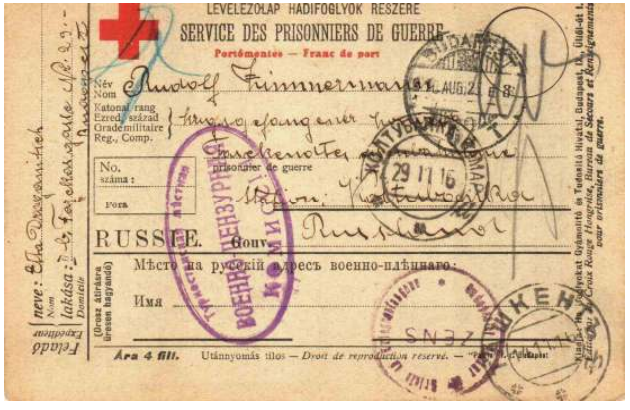


Figure 9 Hungarian Red Cross postcard sent from Budapest on 16 August 1916

Transit postmark: TASKENT 14. 11. 16. Postmark upon arrival: KOLTUBANKA 29. 11. 16. Censorship: BUDAPEST and TASKENT. The postcard was on the way for three months.

4 Mail sent by POWs in Hungary



Figure 10 Hungarian Red Cross postcard sent from the POW camp NEZSIDER on 1 January 1917. Postmark of GZNB Vienna censorship.
This postcard was sent to Serbia, which was occupied by the Monarchy.

POW correspondence between POW camps or mail sent further in the course of address investigation



Figure 11 Japanese postcard sent as prisoner-of-war card with Merry Christmas and happy New Year greetings
Japanese postmark: Kurume 7.12.21.

Ship ***SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth***, which was based in the Far East and on which 434 persons served, sunk herself after the Japanese declaration of war took place on 3 November 1914. The crew of the ship was taken to various Japanese POW camps.

The postcard below was sent from one camp to another. The Japanese postmark means that the mail item was dated in the year following Tenno (Emperor) stepping to the throne, in the 7th year of Taisho era, on 12.21, which is December 21. The postcard was dated in Kurume on December 18, 1918.



Figure 12 Hungarian Red Cross card sent in BUDAPEST 916. NOV. 13. Address: KOLTUBANKA. Censorship: BUDAPEST HADIFOGOLY LEVÉLCENZÚRA (Budapest prisoner-of-war letter censorship); Russian censorship PETROGRÁD. This postcard was re-directed from TOCKOJE prisoner-of-war camp to KOLTUBANKA one, where it arrived on 18/12/1916, within a surprisingly short period of three weeks.

POW mail sent via neutral countries

Postal traffic usually terminated between any given countries from the moment of war declaration. However, there were neutral countries which volunteered to carry out the prisoner-of-war correspondence; in other cases, such countries were asked to do so. At the beginning of the war, the correspondence between the Monarchy and Russia was carried out through the still neutral Romania and Italy, while later Denmark and Sweden joined in. Still later, Switzerland joined in to handle the postal traffic with Serbia and then Italy, after the latter got involved in the war.



Figure 13 POW postcard addressed to Danish Red Cross

PRISONER-OF-WAR CORRESPONDENCE or what makes a mail item a prisoner-of-war correspondence document?

The kind, content, and format of the consignments intended for prisoners of war were determined by the effective postal regulations. In Hungary, they were published in the Royal Hungarian Minister of Trade Affairs' Post and Telegraph Regulations (hereinafter referred to as" PTRT ").

All in all, the hallmarks of POW pieces of correspondence, namely those features which, if all of them present, usually determine if a mail item is a prisoner-of-war mail item, are the following (partially on the basis of what was mentioned above and partially on the basis of the censorship provisions of the respective “other side):

a) Words „Hadifogoly levelezés” (Prisoner-of-war correspondence)

These words most frequently occurred in the German, Russian, Italian, English, Hungarian, Czech etc. languages.



Figure 14 Wording „Hadifogoly levelezés” (prisoner-of-war correspondence)

b) Indications of postage due exemption

Prisoner-of-war correspondence was postage-free, and therefore the indication of this "entitlement" also serves as evidence. Most often it was the military unit guard corps stamp, hospital stamp, or the stamp of the prefect of the locality outside of the camp where the prisoner was made to stay permanently.



Figure 15 Postmarks of Russian Red Cross, Japanese guard service of prisoner camp, Heszon Hospital



Figure 16 Postmarks of Russian prisoner guard service, Mark of Swedish Post Office in the place of postage stamp

c) Censorship postmarks of sending countries produced on documents at different checkpoints:



Figure 17 Russian censorship postmarks

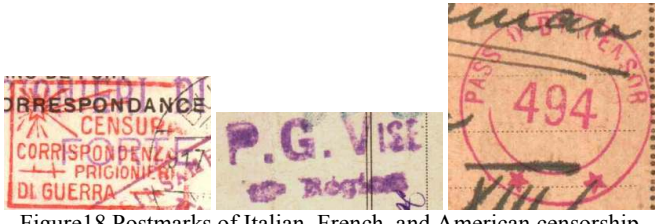


Figure18 Postmarks of Italian, French, and American censorship

d) Censorship postmarks of receiving countries



Figure 19 Austrian and Hungarian censorship postmarks

e) Further primary hallmarks produced when the document was produced:

- the media itself were the pre-printed camp postcards, public, private, Red Cross or other charities' or relief and aid organizations' postcards, letter forms, telegraph, money orders, list letters and any other pieces (those made from birch bark too!) produced for prisoners of war on which text could be written and forwarded by the post office.
- Post handling marks: state, municipal, camp, rail, ship mail marks upon sending, address investigation signs, signs of sending to further destinations and handling check-in signs.
- Postal routes: routes across neutral countries of Europe, Asia, America
- Control, censorship: censorship signs of the authorities of the sending, receiving, or transit countries
- Language of correspondence
- Irregularities and other secondary signs produced on the documents later (collectors' signs)

Why should we collect these items? The trivial answer is because they are so beautiful. According to László Makkai, it is the mail handling marks on the mail items which render those items a subject of philatelic collections. These are the following:

• Franking;

• Date (mostly location/date stamps);

• Specific handling indications.

The handling was essentially warning and control signs, which both alert personnel to comply with postal mail forwarding rules on the one hand, and allow the public and the Post Office to monitor the compliance with the terms and instructions for shipping.

The next item presented is a postcard sent to be forwarded on Trans - Siberian Railway (Via Siberia). It has a Japanese postmark upon sending, the Russian transit postal stamp, and a stamp upon arrival produced in Budapest. These signs also carry information themselves, though little. You can find out the route and how long forwarding took.

Not prisoner of war postal document:



Figure 20 Japanese picture card mailed at NAGASAKI on 4/11/1903

Russian travelling post office transit postmark 25/10/1903 on the line HARBIN-PORT ARTUR Postmark upon arrival: BUDAPEST NOV.26.

Let us compare this postcard, interesting by itself, with the content of another one sent by a prisoner of war and forwarded by the same train roughly about ten years later.



Figure 21 Russian postcard mailed at OMSZK*186*NOVONYIKOLAJEVSZK Railway travelling post office: 11.12.14, postage stamp removed by a Russian censor
Censorship postmarks of Petrograd and Vienna

POW postal documents

It is important to bear in mind that without knowing the background and the events, collecting of these documents is just a meaningless game. The text reveals a lot about the circumstances of the producing of the documents and the life of senders. In many cases, they must be treated as historical documents.

Because of the mandatory censorship, they were public and provided such a degree of insight into the closest privacy which was unprecedented. These documents provide unrivalled historical knowledge.

Censorship also imposed limitation for fair understanding of certain events and circumstances because sensitive information (such as the whereabouts of the internment) was obliterated by the censor or the document was simply not sent.

Usually, these mail items reflect some well-defined historical period or series of events (for example, an unsuccessful battle, such as the surrender of Przemysl fortress where more than a hundred thousand prisoners of war were lost or the ‘misinterpretation’ of the Armistice of Padua). These documents are very rich of information – the only thing important is the capability to "interrogate" them. They do not only contain postal handling signs but much more, including censorship signs.

From the point of view of postal history, these items belong to the category of the so-called "Social philately", which presents social events or phenomena with the help of the philatelic tools.

Despite the fact that the POW mail was free in all belligerent countries, the sender still glued postage stamps to it for some reason (maybe upon demand of the postal employee). This stamp was removed by the Russian censor, because he suspected a secret message to be beneath it. This removal was confirmed by his signature. The card was sent and postmarked at the Russian railway. This postcard was dated in December 1914. Local censorship offices had not yet opened then, due to which the postcard was censored at the censorship office of Petrograd (St. Petersburg). The censorship office operated under Ekszpedicija 1, but Ekszpedicija 6 took place at the Red Cross headquarters, where there had also been a censorship office up to 1916. The Viennese censorship initially also operated in the Red Cross; it used the stamp of censorship office, which was otherwise contrary to the rules.

Information included in POW cards:

- Message itself;
- Printed signs of the card manufacturer: name, language, place of publication, printing house sign, publisher’s sign, price;
- Handwritten signs by the sender: address, date, references to the occurring events in the wording, historic documents;
- Mail handling postmarks which refer to the free of postage handling, guard service cancelling stamp, censorship markings;

- Mail handling postmarks, signs, handwritten marks which comply with the binding postal provisions.

Principal characteristics are those which were produced on the POW certificate in accordance with specific requirements of the given time (the time when the certificate was produced).

Secondary features are those which were produced on the POW certificate later (collection owner, etc.).

Censorship marks were perhaps the most important indications distinguishing the prisoner-of-war correspondence, which was always censored, while normal civilian correspondence was censored only randomly (outgoing correspondence, however, was always censored by the military authorities in Hungary).

Prisoner-of-war correspondence censorship in the Russian Empire

Germany declared war on Russia on 1 August 1914 (July 19, according to the Julian calendar then used in Russia)

Almost immediately, the military censorship in St. Petersburg started (the name of this city on 1 September changed to Petrograd). It was only a coincidence that on the day after the declaration of the war, the Government issued Provisional Regulation on the Military Censorship for the competent authorities and the Post Office.

According to this regulation, full or partial censorship could be applied. Full censorship was in force in the area of military operations, whereas in other areas only partial censorship was applicable (in international traffic, for example).

The article on the letter and telegram traffic censorship provided that the censorship be carried out only in the presence of a military censor and two postal clerks at post and telegram offices.

Initially, the censorship mark often showed the censor's name or initials. At the end of 1915, these names were usually gone and replaced by a number.

In many places, it did not seem that there was any censorship after the October Revolution of 1917, while from 1918, it became very visible. In some places, words "Censorship" and "Censor" were replaced by "Inspector" or "Inspection".

Censorship marks of foreign Russian post offices are of particular interest (Harbin. Manchuria, Pogranicsnaja), just as are those of the Far East allied occupation forces (Japan, USA, etc.).

Prisoner-of-war correspondence censorship in the Monarchy

The 1907 Hague Convention then in force provided for the warring parties that prisoners of war were treated humanely, which included ensuring that prisoners could contact their families by mail.

At the beginning of the war, this task was delegated to the Austrian and Hungarian Red Cross. To do this, a Prisoner Support and Awareness Office was set up in Vienna. However, it was fully against the provisions of the Convention that on top of this task, the Red Cross was also carrying out the censorship and evaluation. Probably because of this "freckle", the prisoner-of-war work team of the Red Cross was moved to the Joint Central Registry and Search Bureau (Gemenisame Zentralnachweisbüreau Auskunftstelle für Kriegsgefangene GZNB) in 1914.

For Hungary, a "POW Mail Censorship Commission" (Budapester Zensur für Briefe an Kriegsgefangene) was set up in Budapest; it started its work already in December 1914.

Prisoner-of-war correspondence censorship in Hungary after the Armistice of 1918

After the defeat, the invasion of Hungary started.

On 28 October 1918, (still during the war), the proclaimed Czechoslovak Republic announced its claim for 16 to 18 counties in the northern Hungary. At the time when the Paris Peace Conference opened on 18 January 1919, the Czech Republic was already in possession of Felvidék.

Transcarpathia was invaded by Czech and Romanian troops according to the contract signed on 10 September 1919 in Saint -Germain en Laye. Podkarpadszka Rus fell under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Transylvania was invaded by Romanians, Vojvodina by Romanians and Serbs, Fiume by Italians, the later Burgenlad by Austrians.

These events have brought along censorship in the occupied areas applied also to the incoming prisoner-of-war correspondence.

On 25November 1919, a memo of the Russian Bolshevik government warned the Hungarian government that the prisoners of war still in Russia were treated as hostages in order to ensure that the Communist leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic are not deprived of their lives.

The Hungarian government assumed responsibility to repatriate prisoners of war before 31 December 1922.

What can a postcard of an Austro-Hungarian prisoner in Russia sent to Budapest, censored by two countries, and bearing a serial number 16 reveal? Let's ask!

Let's ask six classic criminology questions: WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? HOW? WHY?

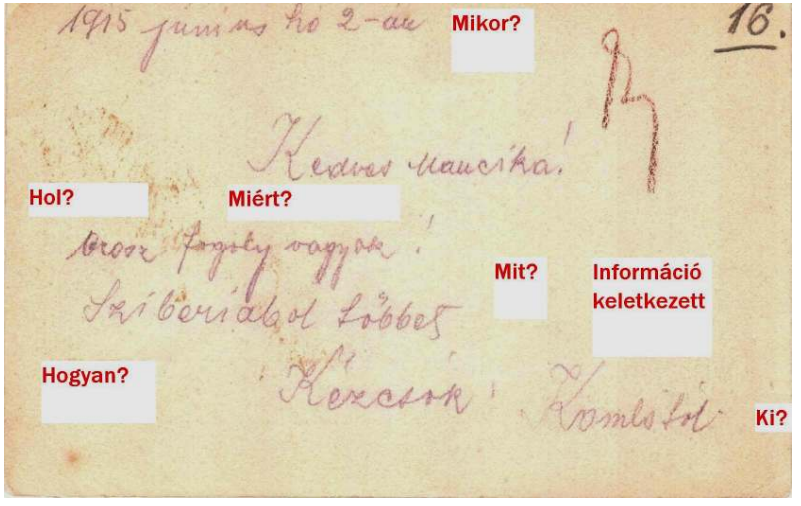


Figure 22 Text: „1915. június hó 2-án. Kedves Mancika!
Orosz fogoly vagyok. Szibériából többet. Kézcsók Komlóstól" (2 July 1915. Dear Mancika! I am a Russian prisoner. More from Siberia. Kiss your hand, Komlós)

WHO? Komlós, the author of the postcard
WHAT (is communicated)? I am a Russian prisoner
WHEN 2 June 1915
WHERE? Russia, Siberia
HOW? By this card
WHY? Because I am a prisoner

This postcard generated a piece of information, its carrier being the card itself. The information carrier was a simple field postcard, which the sender had with him when captured (or received from a friend). At least 15 pieces of notification were sent, since in the upper-right corner number 16 appears.

On the card, the postmark of the Russian censorship and that of the Red Cross located in Vienna appeared:

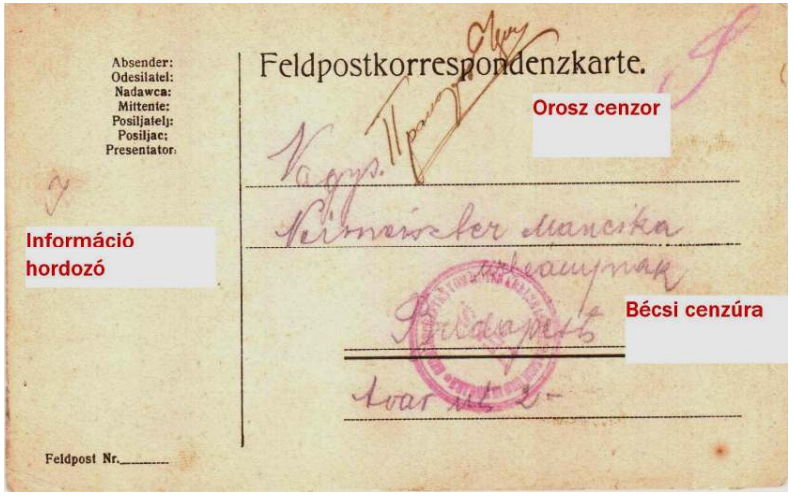


Figure 23

Who may have left records on a POW card?

- The manufacturer of the card, the printer and publisher;
- Sender;
- Guarding staff;
- Postman who picked it up, and the one who forwarded it;
- Censors in both or possibly several countries;
- Forwarding aid organization;
- Postman (receiving) and postman acting in the course of the address search, if any;
- Recipient;
- Collector

WHO? Let's start at the end, with the last item on the card:



Figure 24 Russian postal stationery card mailed at LUHAN, 13. 6. 18. Censorship postmarks: MOSCOW and GZNB of Vienna. Collector's postmark: "KISS LAJOS Budapest …"

WHO? The publisher.

World War 1 began with a devastating impact on the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It entailed that a large number of people turned to the Red Cross for any news about their missing loved ones. The questions were sent on different cards. To be able to handle the questions and answers administratively in a uniform way, and thereby to simplify the processing of the cards, the Red Cross introduced its own enquiry cards, including postal stationery ones. There were two types of pre-printed cards, but we do not have reliable knowledge of the exact location of production to this day. Since neither unused nor used cards can be found today, the obvious conclusion is that these cards were destroyed. Only a few actually and properly used cards have been found, which makes them true rarities.

Probably, the Hungarian pre-printed cards shared the destiny of their Austrian counterparts, namely the mass destruction.

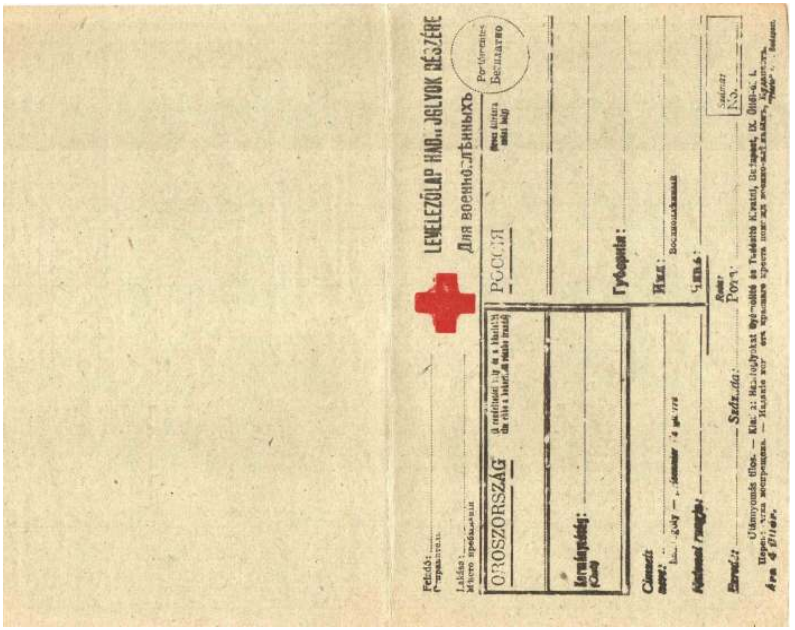


Figure 25 Hungarian Red Cross prisoner-of-war card with space for response

WHO? The typographer

On January 2, 1915, the Russian post office and telegraph authorities instructed the Petrograd chief post office to produce 1,000,000 post-cards for the prisoners of war, which were then sold at ½ kopek.

In the Russian Empire, there were 29 postal directorates, each of them theoretically authorized to produce their own postcards. So far, 18 variants have been identified.



Figure 25 Russian prisoner-of-war card, edition of Petrograd, with postal horn

WHO? The mailman who accepted the mail item and franked it. (The latter did not actually have to take place, since POW mail was postage free)



Figure 26 Russian postcard sent as prisoner-of-war card, with date 13. 4. 16.

Despite indication "POW", the sender was made to pay (DO-PLATIT = ADD PAYMENT) at the railway station mail point PERM Vokzal. Censorship: VJATKA and Vienna GZNB



Figure 27 Prisoner-of-war postcard, its postage regularly covered (5 kopek) as if it were a foreign postcard; mailed at OMSZK*186*NOVONYIKOLAJEVSZK travelling post office, processed on 29/10/1914



Figure 28 Prisoner-of-war card to ORENBURG prisoner camp viewed as a card addressed abroad

The 25-fillér regular register mail fee was paid, despite the fact that prisoners of war could not use registered mail; the basic fee was not charged because POW mail was free of charge. Finally, the Hungarian Royal Mail fulfilled its contractual obligations because the card arrived in Orenburg.

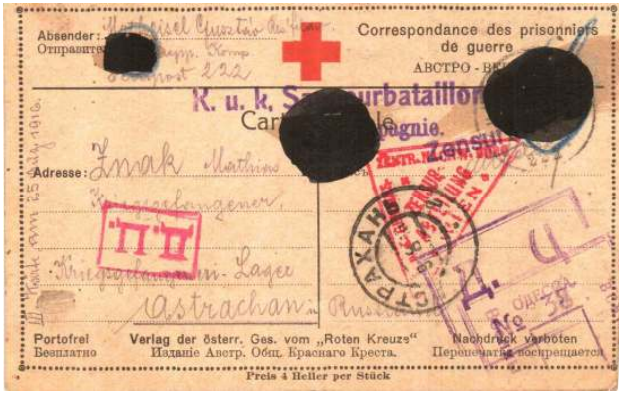


Figure 29 Red Cross card mailed at Austrian-Hungarian Field Post Office 222, forwarded to ASTRAHANY; in-house censor worked on it. Date: 15/6/1916. Censorship: GZNB of Vienna and ODESSA

WHO? Guard's postmark ensured exemption from postage.



Figure 30 Russian postcard for prisoners of war. Troop postmark: TETJUSI KÖRZET KATONAI KORMÁNYZÓSÁG (ARMY HEADQUARTERS OF TETJUSH PROVINCE). Mail postmark: Tetjusi 26/5/1915, Kazan 30/6/1915. Censorship: KAZAN and the Red Cross of Vienna

WHO? The hospital cachet ensured the exemption from postage.



Figure 31 Registered letter for the Budapest office of the Red Cross from army hospital STERNTHAL bei PETTAU; dated on 26/12/1916
Postmark upon arrival: 916.DEC.24.

WHAT? Pre-printed Russian card with (rare) option of supplementation in the German and Hungarian languages

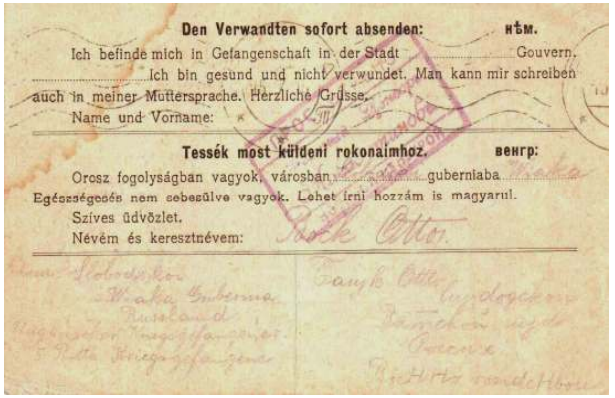


Figure 32 Russian bilingual postmark posted with the possibility of supplementation from camp VJATKA dated on 15/7/1915.

Censorship: the Red Cross of Vienna

WHAT? Card issued by the Russian Red Cross



33 Figure Postcard issued by Russian Red Cross; the sender notified only that he was on the way.

This card did not have to be answered because the address was provided later.

WHAT? Pre-printed card from Russian camp Nikolsk Ussurijsk of 1919



Figure 34 This postcard was overprinted by the commandment of the Japanese camp. Postmarks: Japanese censorship, DK Russian and NEW-YORK *53*American censorship. Forwarded by Hungarian Red Cross

The rear side of the previous card:

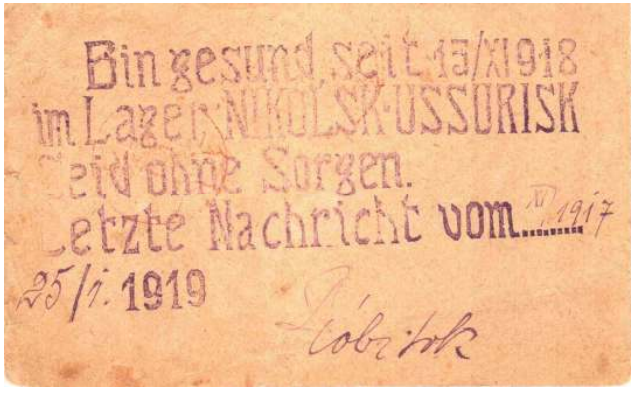


Figure 35 Text: „Egészséges vagyok, 1918.XI.15-óta a Nikolszk Ussurijszki táborban. Ne aggódjatok. Az utolsó hírt 1917.XI. hóban kaptam. 1918.I.25." (I am in good health; in the camp of Nikolsk Ussurijsk since 15/11/1918. I received the last news in 11/1917. 25/1/1918)

WHAT? Painting



Figure 36 Russian postcard for prisoners of war; written on 10/12/1916; sent from the camp in ASTRAHANY on 11/1/1917. Text: "Itt olyan hideg van, hogy a Volga befagyott. Van elég téli ruházatom…." (It is so cold here that Volga is frozen. I have enough clothes...)

WHAT? Photo



Figure 37 Photo sent as prisoner-of-war postcard from Krasnaja Rjechka (near Khabarovsk) camp. Dated on 26 June 1918

The photo was taken a year earlier. Rear side reads, "Nikolo Alekszandrovszka POW garrison 1st Squadron; Censored: Vladivostok (Littoral zone) and Vienna GZNB censorship stamp.

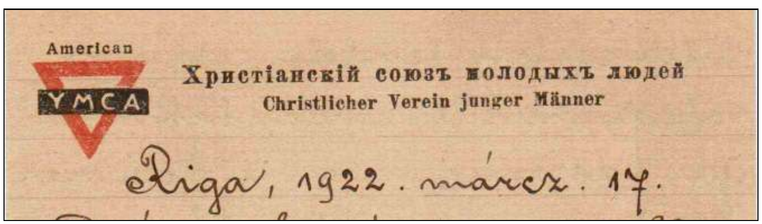
WHAT? Letter on Japanese rice paper from Dauria camp in Eastern Siberia of 1918



Figure 38 Decorated Japanese letter paper from camp Dauria (55 kilometres away from the Chinese border)
Dated on 12/1/1918

Text: „My Dear Small Cinga, you may have got surprised at what Kopeczky ensign wanted. It is simple: today it was his turn to send a letter but he did me a favour and passed it to me."

WHAT? Letter on American YMCA paper from 1922 from Riga



American
YMCA
Христіанскій союзъ молодыхъ людей
Christlicher Verein junger Männer

Riga, 1922. márcz. 17.

Figure 39 Bilingual Russian-German letter paper which was given to the prisoners of war returning home from Russia in Riga. Dated on 17 March 1922

The text reads, "After a long bitter tossing, yesterday afternoon I arrived in Riga, where a letter from my dear brother Gyula written on 20 February was immediately given to me... I have been without any news for long... my letters sent from the Krasnoyarsk prison, unfortunately, remained unanswered ..."

WHAT? Registered letter from Siberia



Figure 40 Russian registered letter 3 Rubels 50 kopeks + 50 kopeks correct postage mailed at Krasnaja Rjechka camp (near Habarovsk)

Mail postmark: NIKOLO ALEKSANDRIOVSKA 1920. 3. 20 Censorship: VLAGYIVOSTOK, American transit mail cancelling stamp, stamp upon arrival BUDAPEST 1920.MÁJ.20 (20/5/1920).

Money to Tashkent via the Russian-Chinese Bank



Получено отъ ... Отдѣленія
РУССКО-КИТАЙСКАГО БАНКА
по порученію
согласно Телеграммы / Письма ... №
за счетъ
Руб.
въ чемъ и дана
сія Квитанція въ ... экземплярахъ, имѣющихъ силу одного.
19 г.
PESTI MAGYAR KERESKEDELMI BANK

Figure 41 Money order via RUSSIAN-CHINESE BANK
To TASHKENT 1916.JAN.26

WHAT? A telegram

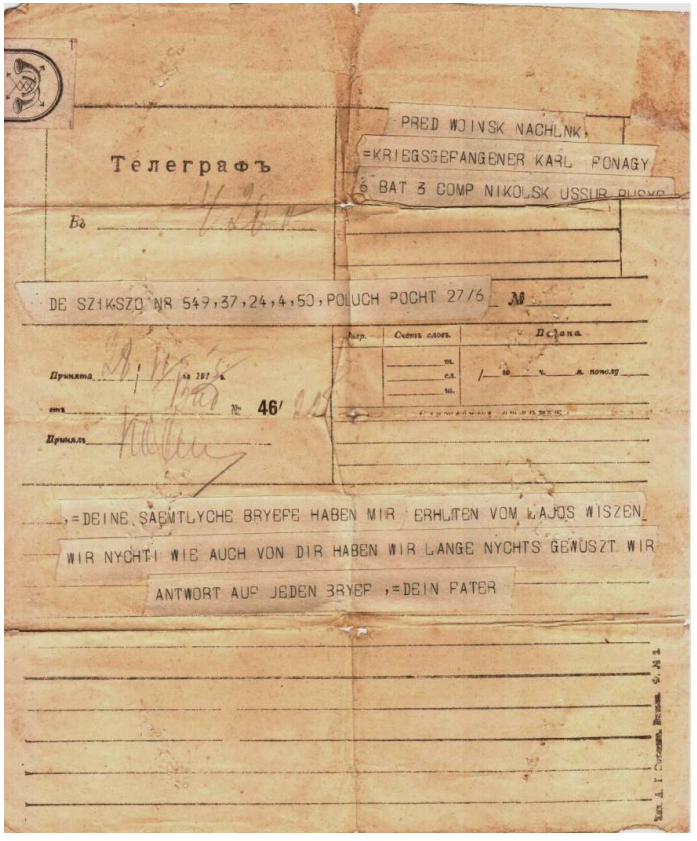


Figure 42 Russian telegram sheet sent to NIKOLSK USSURIJSK. Mailed at SZIKSZÓ (Abaúj County), dated on 28/6/1915

Telegrams, although they were quite rare, were still not unusual in the prisoner-of-war correspondence. Generally, they communicated addresses or acknowledged receipts of money.

During the war, the Monarchy declared war to the following states on the following dates:

Serbia 28/07/1914
Russia 06/08/1914
Japan 08/23/1914
Belgium 28/08/1914

The following countries declared war on Monarchy:
Montenegro 05/08/1914/
France and England 22/08/1914
Italy 23/05/1915
Romania 27/08/1916
Greece 29/06/1917
Brazil 27/7/1917
China 14/ 08/1917
USA 07/12/1917
Cuba 12/10/1917
Panama 16/12/1917
Nicaragua 10/05/1918
Costa Rica 27/5/1918

After the war
Armistice between the Monarchy and
Russia: Brest - Litovsk 05/12/1917
Romania: Foksanyi 09/12/1917
Entente and its allies: 04/12/1918 Padua
Peace between the Monarchy and
Russia 03/03/1918/
Romania and Bucharest 07/05/1918
Entente and Austria 10/09/1919
Peace treaty between Germany and the Entente: 28/06/1919
Armistices between:
Hungary and Entente, Belgrade 13/11/1918
Entente and Hungary, Trianon 04/06/1920
Armistice between Germany and Entente: 11/11/1918

WHEN? During which period of the war?



Figure 43 French postcard dated on 6 November 1918 in Paris, which was after the armistice of Padua but still before the armistice between Germany and Entente countries on 11/11/1918

WHEN? According to which calendar?



Figure 44 Russian postcard dated according to Julian calendar: Tashkent 8. 6. 17, which was 21 June 1917. Julian calendar was in 13 days delay in the 20th century; it was valid until 1 February 1918

WHEN? According to which calendar?



Figure 45 Japanese picture cards sent as prisoner-of-war card with Marry Christmas and happy New Year wishes from camp Kurume to camp Narashino, dated on 20 December 1918

The postmark was dated Kurume Japan on 7.12.21, which was in the 7th year of the Taisho era, which in Europe was December 21, 1918; Purple Japanese censorship stamp read, "Kurume POW camp" (Kurume Fryu Shuya-jo); Japanese red censorship stamp read KEN ETZU-ZUMI (censored)

Since the Boxer Rebellion in 1901, the Austro-Hungarian Empire had a ship stationed in the Far East every year. As it was written soon previously, when the war broke out in 1914, the Austrian-Hungarian ship "SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth" was in the Far East. With the crew of 434 people on board, it sunk itself in Tsingtau Bay after the Japanese declaration of war on November 3, 1914. The crew was taken to various Japanese POW camps. The card was sent from one camp to another.

WHERE? In a POW camp



Figure 46 Russian bilingual prisoner-of-war card from quarantine and distribution camp DARNICA (Kiev); Russian postmark: QUARANTINE AND DISTRIBUTION CAMP

Rare Russian double censorship DARNYICA and PETROGRAD Russians captured the Russian-Polish prisoners near Moscow, while the rest were collected near Kiev in Darnica.

WHERE? In a POW camp

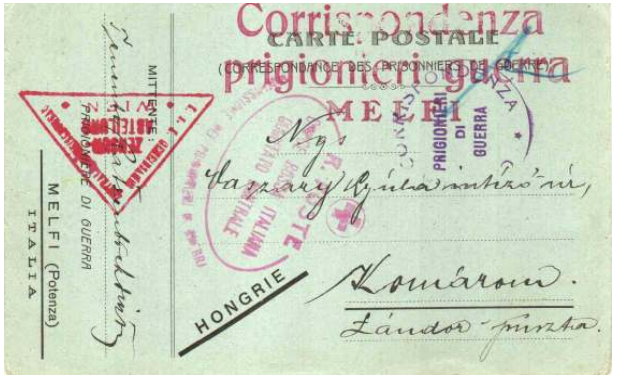


Figure 47 Italian prisoner-of-camp postcards from camp MELFI (Potenza), which was one of the first officer camp. Dated on 10/12/1915. Censorship: Italian Red Cross and GZNB

WHERE? In a POW camp



Figure 48 Postcard sent by a Serbian prisoner from POW camp NEZSIDER dated on Thursday, January 19 17. It was addressed to Belgrade, which was occupied by the Monarchy; censorship: GZNB of Vienna.

WHERE? POW labour company



Figure 49 Austrian Red Cross postcards with their space for response, dated on 30/7/1918. Censorship GZNB of Vienna and Italian PI marks

WHERE? In the mine

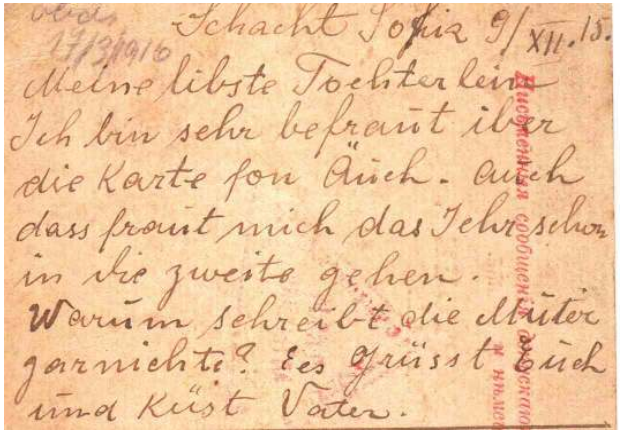


Figure 50 MAKEJEVKA (near Don), from mine SOFIA PIT
Dated on 9/12/1915. Postal cancelling stamp: MAKEJEVKA 28.11.15.
Censorship: PETROGRAD and GZNB of Vienna

HOW? Personal collection

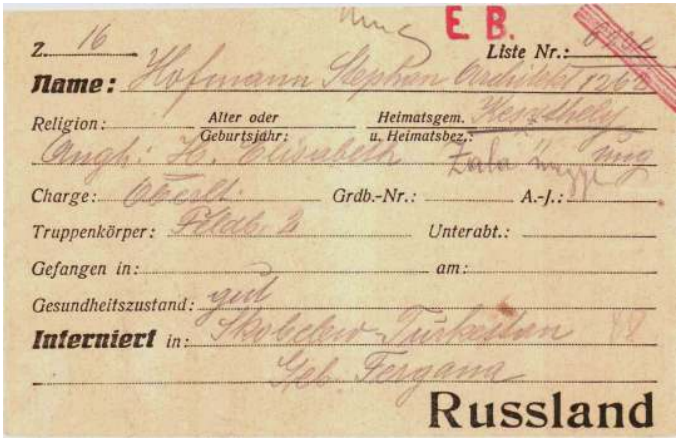


Figure 51 Lieutenant Stefán Hoffman, Keszthely, deported to the city of Skobelev, Turkestan

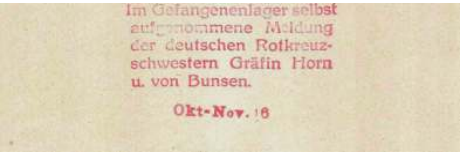


Figure 51/a Translation of the text on the rear side, „On the basis of the report recorded personally by Countess Horn u. von Bunsen in the POW in October-November 1916”

Barely 50 years after its founding, the International Red Cross had to face enormous challenges. On 15 October 1914, the Commission set up its international POW office.

A total of 524 Red Cross delegates visited the prisoner-of-war camps in Europe, in 41 delegations. By the end of the war, about 20 million letters and messages had been sent, as well as 1.9 million packages.

HOW? In a list letter

List letter from Siberia; so far only such have been known which were sent by the Danish Red Cross:

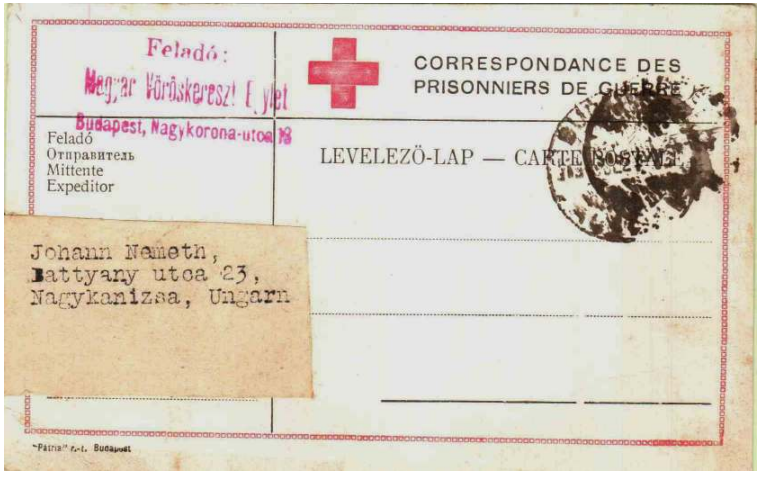


Figure 52 List letter from camp NIKOLSK USSURIJSK 2/2 1919

The "List letters" originated in the following way: when a Red Cross delegation visited a prisoner-of-war camp, prisoners were given the opportunity to send a short message. The collected messages were then handed over to the National Red Cross for delivery.

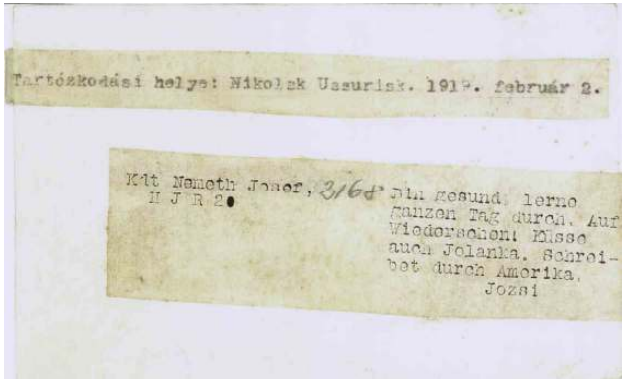


Figure 53 Rear side of the letter with the original band from camp NIKOLSK USSURIJSK 2/2/1919

HOW? Under the postage stamp



Figure 54 Russian card with pre-printed postage 3 kopeks + 2 kopeks supplementation because of the foreign rate; dated on 11/3/1970; sent: KOLIVAN 17/2/1917

The stamp was removed by a Russian censor, because he suspected secret message underneath. This fact was confirmed by the Viennese censorship own stamp.

How? In what language?



Figure 55 Russian postcard for prisoners of war on which messages could be written only in the Russian, German, or French languages

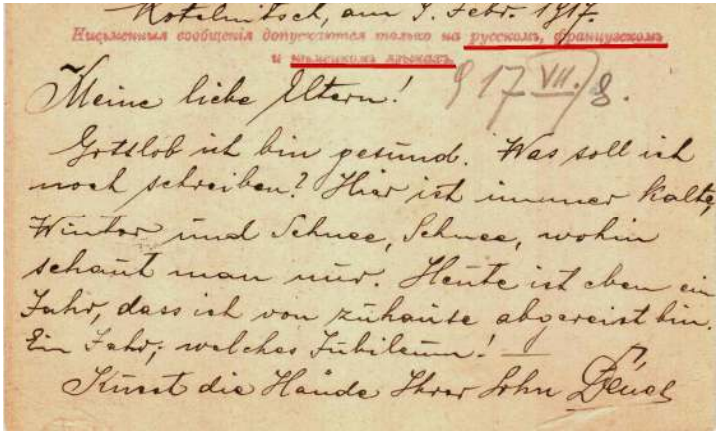
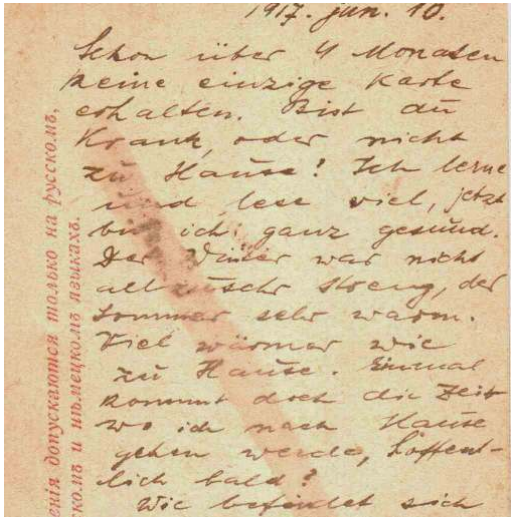


Figure 56 Rear side of the postcard above

HOW? By secret writing

Chemical censorship analysis



57 Figure Traces of search for secret writing

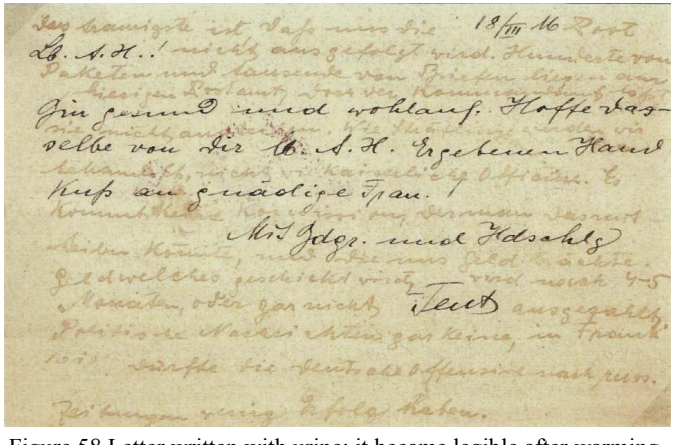


Figure 58 Letter written with urine; it became legible after warming. (Collection of Herbert Robisch)

HOW? On the pre-printed notification card in the Hungarian language.



Figure 59 Russian postcard for prisoners of war with pre-printed notification, 14/12/1915 from TOBOLSK (Tobolsk Regency). Postmark: Tobolsk 15/12/6. A postmark upon arrival: TISZADERZS (Jász-Nagykun –Szolnok County) 916.JAN.20.

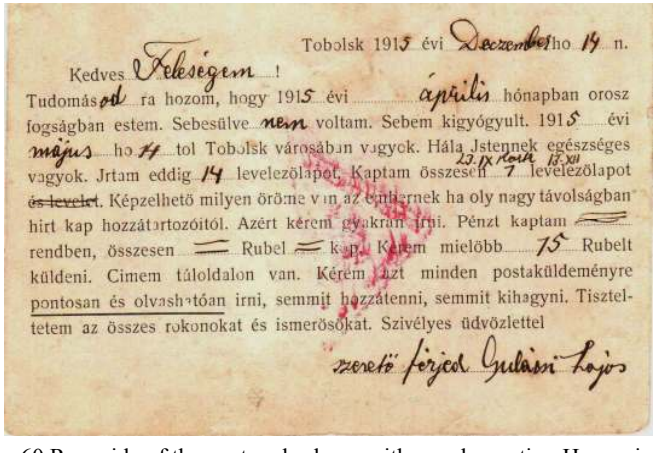


Figure 60 Rear side of the postcards above with supplementing Hungarian text

HOW? On a postcard containing location name



Figure 61 Russian postcard for Hungarian prisoners of war ORENBURG (Orenburg Province), camp Minovoj Dvor. Postal cancelling stamp: Orenburg. Censorship: Russian ORENBURG and GZNB in Vienna.



Figure 62 German-language French postcard sent to German Austria 7/9/1919 French censorship

HOW? On an emergency postcard



Figure 63 Emergency postcard from camp Berezovka (beyond Lake Baikal)

WHY? Did the mail item arrive from Siberia via America?



Figure 64 also Red Cross response postcard from camp KRASZNAJA RJECSKA to Vienna, via America; sent:„AMERICAN POSTAL AGENCY SIBERIA 23.12.1918. Local American censorship; transit American censorship; NEW YORK 494



Figure 65 Front photo of a railway accident caused by the civil war, somewhere in Siberia

WHY? From Italy via Moscow? And the other way round?



66 Figure Bilingual Italian prisoner-of-war postcard dated on 15/6/1917 from camp CASTELLANA. Censorship: MOSCOW and GZNB in Vienna

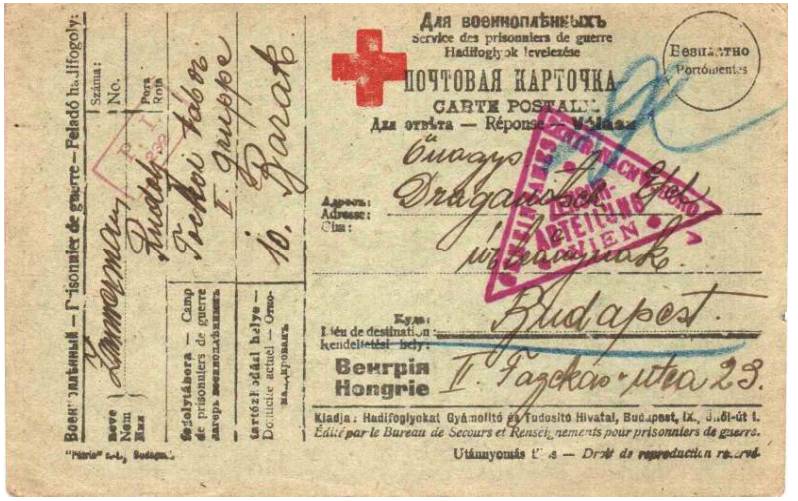


Figure 67 Hungarian Red Cross postcards from camp TOCKOJE (Orenburg Province) dated on 7.5.1918. Blue handwritten Russian censorship; Italian P.I. 239 in a frame and GZNB censorship of Vienna

References:

A Speeckaert, *Russian postal censorship* 1914-1918
A. V. Kiryushkin & P.E. Robinson, *Russian railway postmarks*
Th. Van Dahm, *The Postal History Of The Aef* 1917-1921
Oskar Schilling, *Zivilpostzensur In Österreich-Ungarn*, 1914-1918
Arge Feld Und Zensurpost 1914-1918 Rundbriefe
Miron Lam, *A Classification Of World War 1 Pow Cards*
Own research

NEW INFORMATION COMPLEMENTARY TO THE ARTICLE OF DR. ZOLTÁN PALOTÁS „LAUNCH OF HUNGARIAN ARMY POST OFFICE IN 1914”

GÁBOR NAGY, MISKOLC

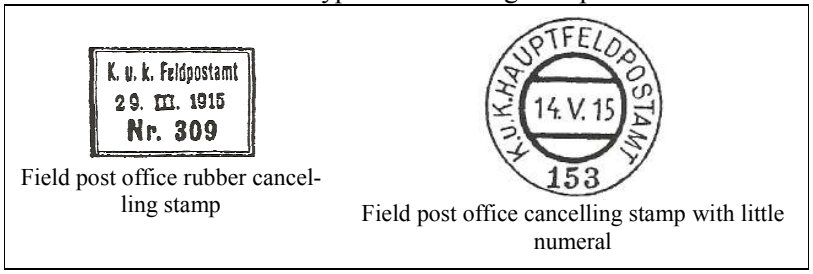
Zoltán Palotas wrote on the subject more than thirty years ago – he was a pioneer in his time. However, his article was caught up in the usual fate: the elapsed time unearthed new findings and documents, which had not been available earlier, and therefore could not be studied. In this light, it is desirable to explore the new knowledge and reveal it to the professional audience interested in this field, preserving of course the values of the original article.

My assumption is that only few people have access to the above mentioned Philatelica issue. I will preserve the logical sequence of the original article going along its main findings; however, I will add new things or correct the obvious mistakes.

Zoltán Palotás writes that, *"the word 'military mail' literally means the own postal apparatus of the Armed Forces sent on military exercise, to camps, or war. In addition, however, the field post office does not only provide service to the mobilised troops but also serves as a link between mobilized troops and those remained at "home" and the non-mobile troops, with the civil authorities and the population, in other words – with the "hinterland". Moreover, it also serves as a link with the territory conquered from the enemy. The Field post office is a military unit, and as such is independent from the traditional "civil" post office, although its technical apparatus and function is tightly linked to the former."* [3]

Dr. Palotas mentioned but did not emphasize enough that the army post office was set up from three postal authorities operating on the territory of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy: the Imperial Royal Austrian, Hungarian, and the Royal Military postal authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We must always take into account that there was only one imperial and royal (K.u.k.) field post office, without any division into Austrian or Hungarian APO or that of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The APOs were represented by cancelling stamps. In one way, Austrian (German) cancelling stamp shape changed significantly during the war – the size of the post office number changed (small or large digit numbers.)

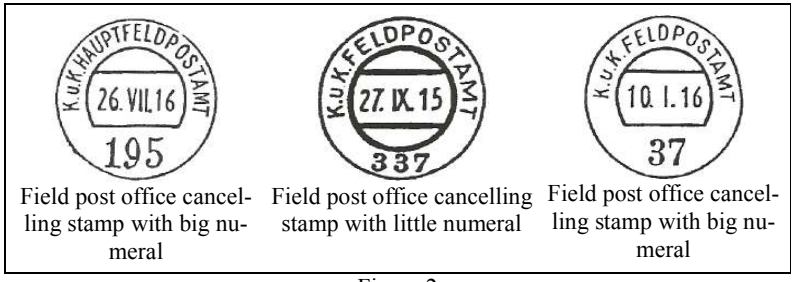
Austrian type of cancelling stamps



Field post office rubber cancelling stamp

Field post office cancelling stamp with little numeral

Figure 1



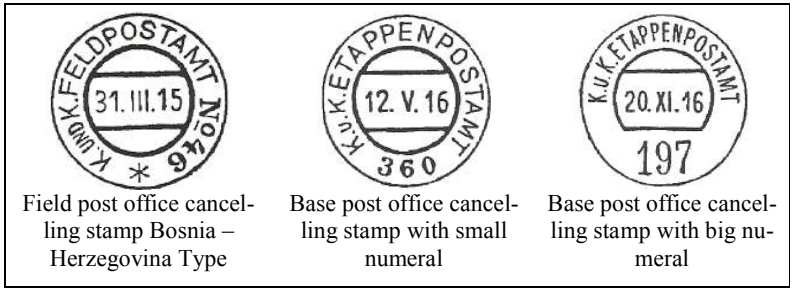
Field post office cancelling stamp with big numeral

Field post office cancelling stamp with little numeral

Field post office cancelling stamp with big numeral

Figure 2

[3] Zoltán, Palotás Dr, Philatelica 81/1, page 22



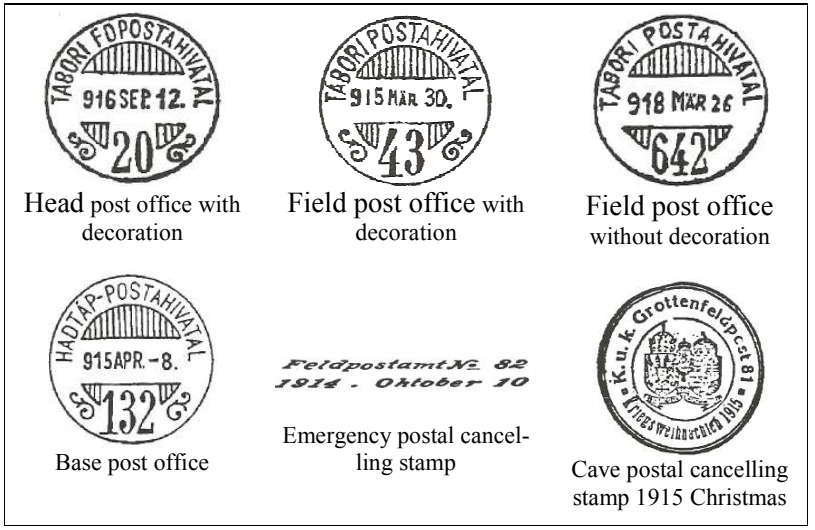
Field post office cancelling stamp Bosnia – Herzegovina Type

Base post office cancelling stamp with small numeral

Base post office cancelling stamp with big numeral

Figure 3

The Hungarian shape remained mostly unchanged; it was the size of the post horn on service cancelling stamps that changed.



Head post office with decoration

Field post office with decoration

Field post office without decoration

Base post office

Emergency postal cancelling stamp

Cave postal cancelling stamp 1915 Christmas

Figure 4

However, some exceptions to these standard stamps still occurred.

At the beginning of the war, and later during the larger military operations which took place on the territory of the Empire, the state Post Office took over the army mail service; however, in order to keep these developments in secret, post offices had to use check stamps of postal money orders or other "dumb" cancelling stamps.



Figure 5 Check cancelling stamps with numerals used in Hungary as "dumb" cancelling stamps

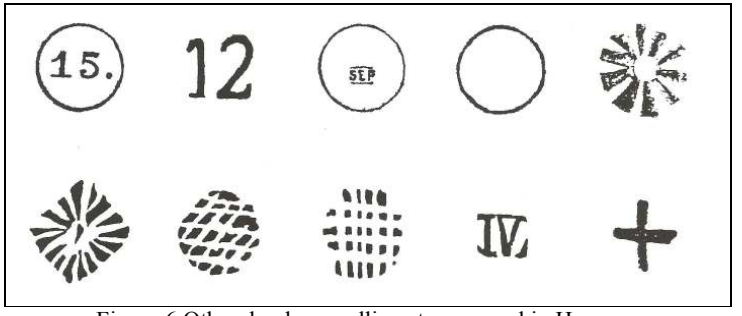


Figure 6 Other dumb cancelling stamps used in Hungary



Figure 7 General postcard with a dumb postmark and censorship postmark *Cs. és kir. Katonai Ellenőrző Bizottság Újvidék* (Imperial and Royal Military Censorship Committee Újvidék). This censorship cancelling stamp was used from the January 1950.

The organizational and operational rules of the APO were recorded in service book E-47 published in 1913. The Hungarian version was published in 1914.

It provided, inter alia, for what kind of service / official (and other / private) mail can be forwarded to the front and from the front, as well as for how it could be forwarded, what mail items were free of postage and which were subject to postage, and finally which mail items and delivery ways were excluded from the scope of the military mail service.

Dr. Palotás made an erroneous statement at this point, "*The **official** rules - including the heartland professional and voluntary health care institutions - transmitted any "letter mail" **postage free** ("letter mail" is a collective name here, and included letters, postcards, printed matter, newspapers, product samples, and "commercial papers", either regular or registered, as well as value letters and - with certain restrictions – parcels, with value evaluation or without it, both to or from the front and in the front ".*

This is an erroneous statement because there were rules set for the mail service. If the recipient did not have entitlement for postage free service, post office involved also had to be paid. This provision can be traced back to the middle of the 19th century for the Imperial and Royal mail service (K.u.k.. Militärpost)

K.u.k.. Militärpost created in Bosnia and Herzegovina was army mail service only in its name; in fact, it essentially fulfilled the functions of a civil post office before the war in the occupied territories where there was no other postal service. During the war, the military post service took over the task again.



Figure 8 Early letter (914.AUG.8.) sent by Imperial and Royal Corps Headquarter 4 at Field post office 58 Újvidék, addressed to a private company; postage regularly covered

For private purposes (usually between military persons and civilians), the following items were sent: ordinary (not registered) army letter cards to the front, plain postcards, printed matter, newspapers, samples and "commercial paper", as well as money orders up to 1000 crowns. From the front, following items were sent: army and other cards, letters (only if sent open), and cash in letters, but only with the permission of the competent military headquarters.

Army postcards, which were distributed free of charge to troops, were postage-free.
Marks required for the postage free treatment were the following:

- Cancelling stamp of the field post office
- Censorship at the troops (manually or stamped) documented by the troop's stamp

Of course, there were exceptions. On many pieces, the mandatory army postmark or the censorship one were missing. At the beginning of the war, these were not always applied due to the specific military circumstances, due to which an order not to charge such items in the area of the Monarchy was issued.



Figure 9 Very early field post office postcard 31. VII. 14.

The above army card, which was sent from Benesov u Prahu to Prague, was already not marked as postage due. In the Czech-language text, the sender referred to the possibility of penalty by the mail service. It reads, "*I am sending my first greetings on this card to you, and I do not know, if you have to pay a penalty. If this is the case, I'll pay the amount to you when I get back...* "

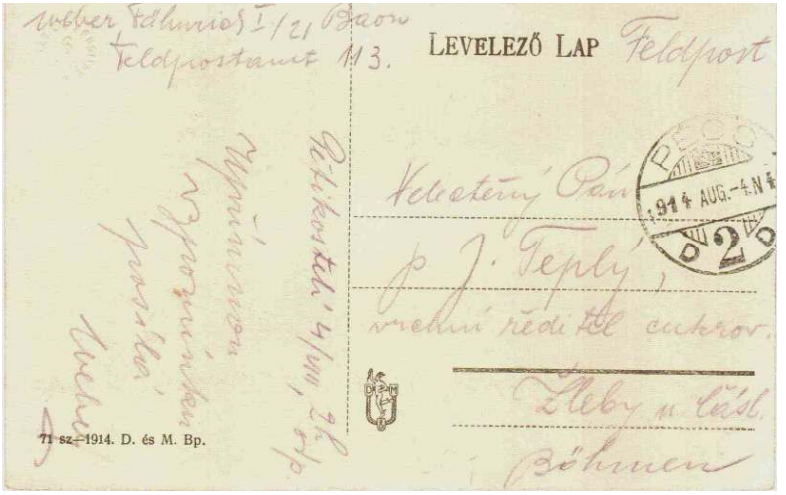


Figure 10 Picture postcard; Feldpost (field post office) text handwritten; mailed at post office PÉCS 2 to Bohemia

The sender specifies the number of corps: Baon I/21 (battalion), as well as the already known Feldpostamt 113, i.e. the number of the APO. The post office rightly did not impose charge upon this item, because the mail of the troops of the Balkan Army Group had been exempted from postage as of 1 August 1914.

The exemption from postage was otherwise a complicated issue. Sometimes, especially in the area of a base post office, people wrote a lot - several cards a day, because it did not cost anything. To overcome this deficiency (also exacerbated by the material shortages during the war), "limited exemption from postage" was introduced. Base troops which were stationed in the territory of the Monarchy and the family of those doing military service could send mail free of charge only on Monday and Tuesday mornings. On other days, mail was subject to postage.

People in the hospitals of the Monarchy enjoyed the exemption

from postage only if the item included the words "Militärpflege" or "Katonai ápolási ügy" (Military care issue). These items were collected by postal officials, and mailed at the state post offices.



Figure 11 Field post office postcard sent on 9/6/1917 in Miskolc. Sender: Imperial and Royal Typhus Hospital, Cholera Department, Miskolc. Militärpflege (Soldier Care) Censored by Command Weiter Leiten (maybe forwarded)

This provision was not generally known, so many complaints occurred. The post office in Kladno (Czech Republic) was appointed to handle the complaints. Officials wrote the reason of the postage in red ink.

In general, for the Hungarian postal authorities, postage free handling was the least favourite child. All opportunities were seized to impose postage, which often led to fights with the Austrian postal authorities.

In the Official Journal (PTRT), Regulation on Excise Offenses Committed by the Misuse of Army Postcards was issued on February 26, 1915.



Figure 12 Field post office postcard sent in BUDAPEST 915. FEB. 28. It seems that this postcard was mailed at very bad time because it was immediately returned for postage.

The money letters had always been subject to postage. They had to be covered by the postage stamps valid at the army post office of the Monarchy or Bosnia Herzegovina in the first place. Money letters appeared after the beginning of the war.



Figure 13 Insured letter sent on 20 August 1914 at an field post office to Temesvár. 48-fillér weight fee was charged for postage, but 6 fillérs for insurance was not charged. It was because of such instances that a warning was published in P.T.R.T. as early as 7 September.

With these money letters, too much cash flowed from the war zone to the hinterland. In order to prevent this, and to reduce the load of the military and financial professionals, in December 1914, the money letters sent to the Army were suspended. From this time, the ensured letters contained mostly postage stamps and documents.

From 28 April 1915, postage had to be covered by army postage stamps. At the beginning, only service letters could be sent as registered. Private letters could be sent as registered only beginning from 1 October 1918. Registered mail adhesive labels were less frequent than postmarks or the generally applied handwriting, which were more economical.



Figure 14 Ensured letter mailed at field post office 346 on 30. XI. 17? to Miskolc

The APO function, just as the civil mail service, was divided into administrative and management service. The former, on the top level, was fulfilled by the Imperial and Royal Army Post Service Chief Directorate („Cs. és kir. Tábori Posta Vezérigazgatóság" K.u.k.. Armeeoberkommando Generalfeldpostdirektion). The units responsible to it were the Imperial and Royal Army Directorates („Cs. és kir. Hadsereg Postaigazgatóságok" (K.u.k.. Armeepostdirektion).

The handling service was fulfilled by the army main and regular post offices, as well as base post offices.

Head post offices usually operated within a military theatre district; several main base post offices or, occasionally, base post offices belonged to them. Field post offices generally operated linked to divisions, mostly units on the move. They forwarded mail to and from military units. Base post offices were also assigned to the

army, but at the beginning of the war they were not put to operation. In August 1914, only about ten base post offices out of the total of 56 operated. The base post offices were set up usually well away from the military theatre or in the territory occupied by the enemy.


K. u. k. Armeeoberkommando.
Generalfeldpostdirektion.
An die
Post- und Telegraphendirektion
K. u. k. Feldpostamt 51 136
Budapest

Figure 15 Registered letter of APO Chief Directorate to Budapest dated K.u.k.. Feldpostamt 51 1. 1. 17

Monarchy APO in numbers:

	1914	1918
APO Chief Directorate	1	1
APO directorates	8	12
Field post offices	118	500
Base post offices	10?	200
Subordinate staff	620	2800

The average staff of Head Post Offices contained: one leader, nine subordinate officers, three drivers, five field post office conductors, five non-commissioned officers (APO staff), further four civilian coachmen (horse-drawn carriage), eight horses and four four-seat vehicles, and three post office cars.

The field post office staff contained: one leader and one junior officer, one field post office conductor, one non-commissioned officer and four train soldiers ("trén") from the troop, one saddle horse and four carriage horses, one carriage pulled by four horses (in which it was possible to work on the way), and one wagon for parcels pulled by two horses. At field post offices of mountain troops there were seven saddle horses (mules) instead of the four train soldiers, four saddle horses instead of one saddle horse, four carriage horses instead of seven mules, and finally mail baskets instead of mail carriages.



Figure 16 Army post "office" somewhere in Europe

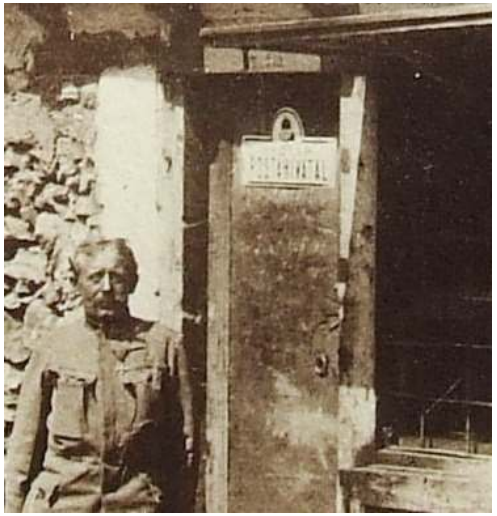


Figure 17 Photo from the front: a field post office in Albania

Concept of Field Post Offices

Dr. Palotás: "*These field post offices, which had very few members of staff, maintained huge traffic.*

At the beginning, solely mail collection centres Budapest 72 and Wien 1 processed hundreds of thousands of mail items daily (later the number of these items exceeded 1 million), most of these being cards. At the entire armed force, the monthly average of distributed cards was approx. 850 million!"

This whole statement is a massive mistake. A simple head count is sufficient to prove it. In the Monarchy, at the beginning of the war about 2 million people were serving in the army. If every person enlisted wrote a card every day of the month and sent it (when would they have fought then?), which otherwise was not like that, partly due to the habits and militarily circumstances, and partly to the limitations− but even in such case there would have been maximum 60 million of pieces of mail written. So why did this error occur?

The original sin was done by those who accepted the faulty data of Clement without criticism.

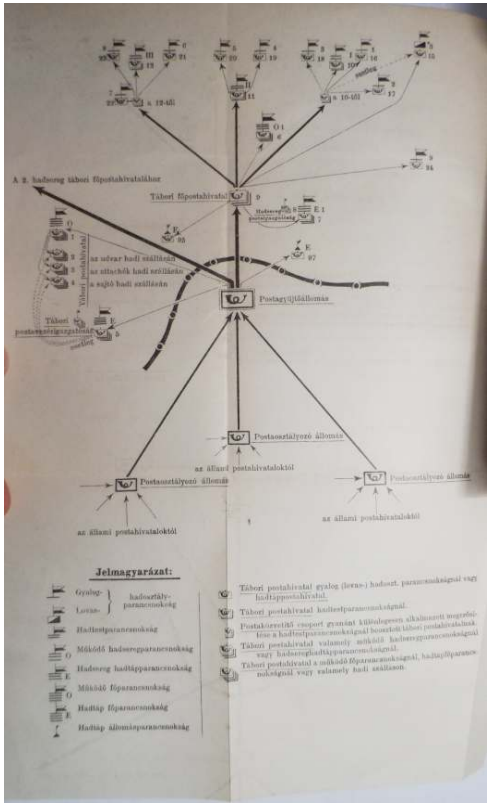
D.I. Herwig Rainer dealt with this issue in 1993 in volume 32 of the newsletter „*ARGE Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-1918*". He came up with the following conclusion,

> It is a fact that section 333 of Clement's Manual writes that officially 830 million military cards were issued monthly, and that on top of those came, as we all know, a large number of private letters and postcards. Let us assume that the number of private letters and cards was only 50% of the official cards–in this case, according to Clement, 1.2 billion military mail items had to be forwarded each month.
>
> However, on pages 559 / 560 of Clement's manual we can read that at the beginning of the war 2 million people out of 51.5 million population of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy were in the army, while in years 1915-1918 this number grew to 4-5 million people.
>
> Let us consider the average number of 4 million. If we divide 1200 million by 4 million, we will get 300 camp mail items per month. Since this figure is not realistic, it is clear that the data given by Clement are not good.
>
> Therefore, I continued my research further, and found the following amounts of army covers in the catalogue of the Christmas postcard exhibition of December 1992 in the Military History Museum issued Dr. Lukan, page 58:

Austrian postcards	655.696.300
Hungarian postcards	171.622.200
Total	827.318.500

This number corresponds to the number referred to by Clement, although not viewed monthly but for the whole period of the war. Let us take this number of the 500 million private letters and cards and the estimated 200 million written by the prisoners of war. We will get 1.5 billion for 50 months of the war (in August 1914, this number was still very low). Consequently, we will get 30 million mail items monthly, which is a gigantic number itself. If we consider 4 million soldiers, the monthly number of mail items would be 7-8 pieces back and forth, which seems a credible number.

According service book E- 47-book, the APO mail scheme was the following:



18 Figure Link between civilian and field post offices

The route of the mail from the hinterland to the front was the following:

- Civilian post office (agency) from where mail was sent
- Sorting station
- Collecting station
- Head Post Office
- Field post office
- Troop

In the opposite direction, i.e. from the front to the hinterland, the route was reverse, with the difference that there was no sorting station.

Launch of field post office

Dr. Palotás: "*The above-mentioned Imperial and Royal Regulation E-47 of the Ministry of Defense provided that in case of war the field post office shall start functioning on 5th day of mobilization.*

In case of Austria-Hungary, the mobilisation of 1914 took place in two phases, namely in the following way:

- *Military operation"Balkan" involved 2/5 of the military force. The first day of the mobilisation was 28 July, while the fifth – 1 of August.*
- *Military operation "Russia" entailed general mobilisation, its first day being 4 August, while the fifth one 8 August. Consequently on 8 August 1914 the launch of the APO had to be ordered to for the whole Austrian-Hungarian army. In reality, this did not take place; the respective regulation was issued with the effect of 11 August."*

This statement should also be corrected. Hans Riedel, in "*Die kuk Feldpost zu Beginn des Weltkrieges first*" published in 2000 edited by "ARGE Militaria Austriaca of issue" provides the following information on the basis of the state archives and research in military archives in Vienna:

> *From the files of the Imperial and Royal Post Office Directorate (Generalfeldpostdirektion):*
>
> ***3/8/1914*** *Army Headquarters / Base Chief Headquarters Op Nr 71 Defence Department VIENNA APO traffic Launch*
>
> *Please take necessary steps to enable the APO traffic start on August 4. Everything should be done in accordance with "War Case B"; the places concerned have already been notified, namely Field Post Offices 32, 48, 65, 73, which belong to the postal collecting point ESZÉK 1; ESZÉK also has to be notified that the mail sent to Field Post Offices 32, 48, 65, and 73, which so far has been directed to ESZÉK, shall be directed to MAMOROSSZIGET[4] mail collection point, in accordance with the instructions on the "Case R ". / To be set up. In addition, each location concerned by "Case B" shall be notified that all mail items sent to Field Post Offices 11, 19 , 31, 39, 51 shall temporarily be directed to WIEN 1 collection point instead of ÚJVIDÉK. Finally, ÚJVIDÉK mail collection point should be notified that all mail sent to Field Post Offices 11, 17, 31, 51 shall be immediately sent to WIEN. , Kanik vörgy .....*
>
> ***08/04/1914*** *In accordance with Department of the Ministry of Defense 5/TB Vienna 2424 10 h 50 5/TB Res. sz., the APO shall start functioning on 08/04/1914. However, pursuant to document 10033/1914, the telegram collection sites, which are not yet in operation, shall start their activities first on 08/08/1914, as the previous telegram reached only the army that have been mobilized in the course of " Case B " / Balkans/.*
>
> ***Report of Militarily Forces Postal Directorate 5 of 8/8/1914 to Field post office Chief Directorate***
>
> *Pursuant to Post Office Headquarters regulation Z/9, I hereby submit the following report.*
>
> *In accordance with the instruction of the superior military authority, I called at Chief Commander of 5th Army with my deputy and the staff of the field post offices to be set up in the Zagreb area of Hungarian Royal Post and Telegraph Directorate area. After introducing ourselves, the clerk of the post office of the military unit 13 ("Trén") took over the*

[4] In Hungarian: Máramarossziget

necessary postal requisites and transportation tools. I received order to travel to the deployment area on the 1 August with the 5th Army. The journey lasted until the Brcko in Bosnia, where we arrived on 2 August. I immediately ensured that the undersigned directorate and the field post office 81 got a location.

On August 4, my deputy and all the staff of the Main Post Office 21 arrived, the means of transport included.

***On August 4, I got the Base Post Office Headquarters / EOK / command to open the Head Post Office No. 21 on that same day, which took place**. On the morning of August 5, **Field Post Office** No. 81 was also operational. I immediately set up the necessary post trips between field post offices and the permanent post office in Brcko, which was the transfer station between ESZÉK 1 and Head Post Office 21 according to the secret instruction, which was received by the above-mentioned male collection point.*

On August 6, Field Post Offices 38 and 40 started to operate, while on 7 August Field Post Office 113. They are located in CELIC /on the road between BRCKO and TUZLA/, AEKO in BRCKO, and PRIBOJ respectively; today one in BJELINÁ opened. We set up trips between Field Post Offices 38, 40 and 113, and the Head Post Office no. 21 immediately.

Probably Dr. Palotas in 1980-81 could not search the Austrian State Archives, so he could only rely on the information which was available, for example, the book of Alfred Clement, which was mentioned above several times. Today, however, we should correct what we can, pointing out that the APO started proper operations in the Serbian theatre on 4 August.

Dr. Palotas's tables became strongly out-of-date in the light of the postal objects found and the research done since – especially the research conducted by Gerrit Matthijssen (Netherlands). Here are some interesting artefacts which nowadays can be viewed as historical documents.

As the mobilization was at first aimed against Serbia, and the military operations were launched on the southern front, it is clear that the early APO documents were produced here.

An "absolutely first-day" army postal document was published by Gerhard Weber in book *Bosnien - Herzegowina 1812 bis 1920 Stempel Kompendium in 2 Bandern*, page 766: "APO No. 85 Type bh , 2. VIII. 14 4/15 Gebirgstraineskadron 7 Geb. Brigade (7th Mountain Brigade) MPAbl. Mesici – Rogatica".

He referred to an army mail number; however, the piece presented in Figure 10 had not yet been processed at a field post office; this card was mailed in Pécs. The card presented below was sent from the north-eastern war theatre from station STRYJ; it was sent as "Tábori posta lev. lap" (Field post office postcard).



Figure 19 Picture card sent as field post office card in Stryj 2. 8.8.14

Here are some interesting earlier-dated documents from the Balkan theatre, from the first week (5 August-11 August 1914) from my own collection and that of Gerrit Matthijssen.

APO	Type	Date	Name of Troops	Larger Unit	Comments

34	bh	5. VIII. 14.	3/49 Infantry battal-	9. Mountain brigade	First day
109	TP	914. AUG. 5.	ion	17 Infantry division	First day
60.	TP	914. AUG. 6.	39. Infantry regiment	34 Infantry division	
45	bh	6. VIII. 14.	96. Infantry regiment	6. Mountain brigade	
38	TP	914. AUG. 7	4/81. Infantry battal-	XIII. Corps	
40.	TP	914. AUG. 8.	ion		
58.	TP	914. AUG. 8.	78. Infantry regiment		Own collection
109	TP	914. AUG. 10.	5. Army command		Own collection
96.	FPA	11. VIII. 14.	4. Army town adju-		Own collection
			tant		
			17. Infantry division		
			29. Infantry division		

TP= APO bh= Bosnia-Hercegovina FPA = Feldpostamt

Some early covers from north-eastern front − Russian theatre, first week:

(8-14 August 1914)

APO	Type	Date	Name of Troops	Larger Unit	Comments
64	FPA	8. VIII. 14.	14. Infantry regiment		First day
57	FPA	9. VIII. 14.	14. Infantry regiment		
100	FPA	14. VIII. 14	14. Infantry regiment		

FPA = Feldpostamt

According to the results of the research on the early period, the August of 1914, based on the presentation of Gerrit Matthijssen on the statistical data held in 2010 in Dubrovnik and published with his consent, a total of 275 documents from 95 different field post offices were found and included in a variety of collections. The distribution of these is the following:

HFPA	Hauptfeldpostamt (Head Post Office)	2
FPA	Feldpostamt (Field Post Office, German-language cancelling stamp)	49
EPA	Etappenpostamt (Base Post Office, German-language cancelling stamp)	-
TFP	Tábori Főpostahivatal (Head Post Office, Hungarian-language cancelling stamp)	2
TP	Tábori Postahivatal (Field Post Office, Hungarian-language cancelling stamp)	30
HP	Hadtáp Postahivatal (Base Post Office, Hungarian-language cancelling stamp)	1
bh	Bosnia-Herzegovina type of cancelling stamp	11
	Total	95

Location:

Army Headquarters, Base Headquarters	2
Balkan theatre /B/with 2nd Army	
Russian theatre / R / without 2nd Army	58

Total 95

Early documents:

First day Balkan	5 August 1914 (bh 34 and APO 109)	2
First week Balkan	5-11 August 1914	26
First day Russian theatre	8 August 1914 (FPA 64)	1
First week Russian theatre	8-14 August 1914	13

In August 1914, post office numbers released ranged from 1 to 214, a total of 214 post offices. Then, the group of 300 came (from

300 to 311). Field post offices with numbers above 215 opened later. 21 field post offices did not open or were not taken in use in August 1914 (1-5, 116-118, 122, 140, 164, 169, 173 és 192-199.). Base post offices were also allocated to the army, but they were not put to operation immediately. Out of 56 base post offices, only 10 were put to operation. Consequently, in August 1914, 137 field post offices (214-21-56) and 10 base post offices opened, the latter with reservation. The 300-group is not taken into account. The material available from the 95 post offices represents 69%. So far, no documents have turned up from the post offices 300 to 309.

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Reference literature

Zoltán, Palotás Dr, *Tábori postánk megindulása 1914-ben*, Philatelica 81/1
D.I. Herwig Rainer, *ARGE österr. Feld-und Zensurpost 1914-1918,* Rundbrief Nr. 32
Alfred Clement, *Handbuch der Feld- und Militärpost in Österreich*
Hans, Riedel, *Die K.u.k.. Feldpost zu Beginn des 1. Weltkrieges*
Gerrit, Matthijssen, *Frühverwendete Feldpostnummern August* 1914 /manuscript

PROPERTY PROTECTION SIGNS ON THE POSTAL STATIONERY OF THE AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN MONARCHY




FRANK SEMMLER AIJP, BOCHUM − GERHARD SAND, HALLEIN

1. Hungary

It is still a controversial issue among collectors if the company embossed signs should be considered as forerunners of company perforation, and if the later company perforation served as property signs to prevent stealing.

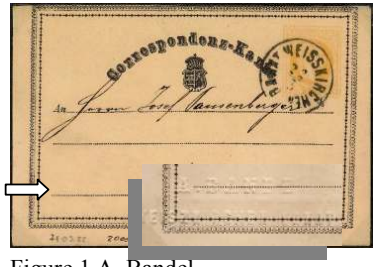


Figure 1 A. Bandel



Figure 2 Fischer Miksa
Weisskirchen / BánátLéva

On the Figure below a manual embossing tool is seen with the inscription *EZIBOSS / Prov. Pat. 13130/81*.



3 Figure Embossing equipment

Pre-paid covers

For the purpose of theft and illegal use prevention, there were more efficient solutions than purchasing an embossing machine. One such widely used inexpensive option was to use company stickers.




Figure 4 SZÉKLER HERMAN / Féri clothes storehouse / KAPOSVÁROTT



Figure 5 LIEKARNA FR. PL. KUBÁNYIA U SISKU / APOTHEKE DES FR. v. KUBÁNYI / SISSEK



Figure 6 HUNYADI JÁNOS KESERŰVÍZ / SAXLEHNER ANDRÁS / BUDAPESTEN

The third version was using company cancelling stamps, their postmarks sometimes appearing on the postage stamps. This also counts

as pre-cancel, as we can clearly see on the example in Figure 8. In case of Josef Klein from Prague, it was this method which was used instead of using embossed logo.



Figure 7 MORITZ WEINBERGER VERBŐ



Figure 8 JOSEF KLEIN / PRAG

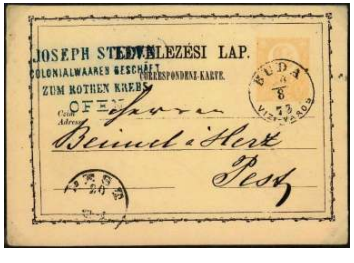


Figure 9 JOSEPH STEDEN COLONIAL-WAARENGESCHÄFT ZUM ROTHEN KREBS



Figure 10 ZIPSER & KÖNIG ZENEMÜKERESKEDÉS

Pre-paid letter envelopes



Figure 11 KÖSZEG1 TAKARÉK PÉNZTÁR GÜNSER SPARCASSE



Figure 12 K.K. OESTERREICHISCHE STAATS-EISENBAHN GESELLSCHAFT SPEDITIONS-BÜREAU PEST

After an Englishman John Sloper constructed a manual device in 1858, he obtained a patent for it in 1868. At the same time, a punching solution was found too for the same purpose, becoming increasingly common not only for postage stamps but pre-paid covers too. The alternative safety and security solutions introduced earlier were pushed back because perforation could be used both for covers and postage stamps.

In Hungary, the possibility of punching was extended to covers only on 3 July 1886, whereas for postage stamps this possibility was approved earlier, on 24 March 1877.

Introducing of company punching on covers

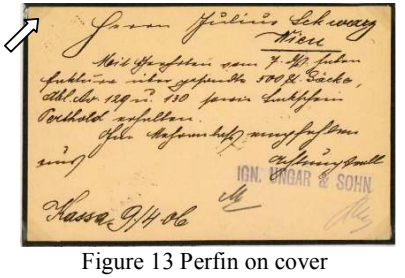


Figure 13 Perfin on cover U.I. és F. UNGAR IGNAZ és FIA

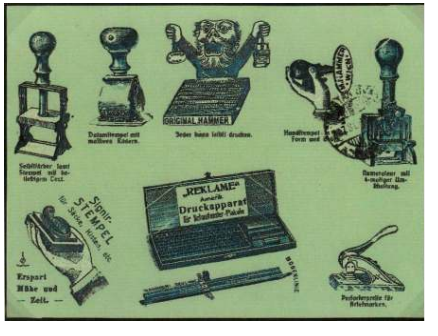


Figure 14 Rear side of M. HAMMER company envelope



Figure 15 Advertisement of postage stamp punching tool of M. Hammer

It was possible that the protection methods presented here at the same time served as advertising tools. A good example is the following bilingual postcard; its company inscription reads as follows,

above: TETTEY NÁNDOR és Tsa. / KÖNVYKERESKEDÉS / BUDAPEST;
below: FERD. TETTEY & Co / BUCHHANDLUNG / BUDAPEST.



16 Figure Mail cover with bilingual company sign, Hungarian and German, for advertising purposes

Gerhard Sand, the publisher of the Austrian perfin catalogue, points out, just as does the second part of this article, that the above-mentioned refer also to Austrian covers. The inaugural speech of Frank Semmler given in September 2012 „*Dombornyomású cégjelzések, mint a céglyukasztás előfutárai az Osztrák-Magyar Monarchia díjjegyesein*"(Embossed company marks as forerunners of company punching on the covers of Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy)[5] contains more detail on the embossed company signs, which is linked to our topic.

2 Austria

While in the UK an engineer called Sloper exerted efforts to obtain permit for punching covers, which then quickly spread around the world, some companies, such as K.u.k. in the Monarchy found simpler and more economical methods.

These were introduced in 1869, and became very popular in particular on postcards. Just like postage stamps, postcards could also be purchased in advance. Their great advantage was that they included postage and everything else needed for a mail item. However, since they were also exposed to the risk of theft, it was advisable to apply some security measures to them as well. In Austria, companies found the following three methods to this end.

The first and also the most expensive method was applying an embossing machine, with which company details could be printed upon both postage stamps and covers. However, the most widely used was the second option – using adhesive company labels. The simplest solution was the third – applying company's cancelling stamps. The items show the three methods, which I became aware of while viewing a large cover collection.

Therefore, the three methods were:

1. Company embossing;
2. Adhesive company label;
3. Company postmark.



Figure 17 M.& J. Mandl / WIEN embossment on postage stamps (1890)

[5] See Philateica 2012/2, Page 22 (Comment of translator)

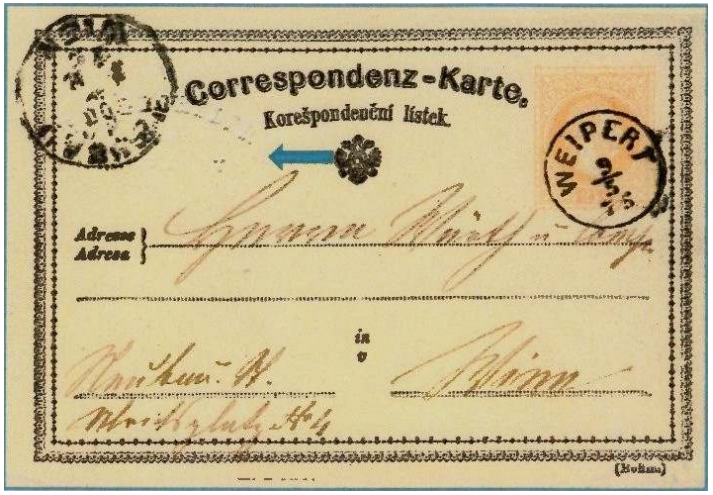


Figure 18 E. Dollorender / Weipert 1875



Figure 19 Julius Kurzhalss / Tetschen 1876



Figure 20 Gustav Gscheider
Hall OÖ 1874



Figure 21 Anton J. Siegl
Brünn



Figure 22 Baumbach'sche Apotheke zum Schwarzen Adler CiIIi Untersteiermark



Figure 23 E.Schiff
Eisenhandel Tarnow



Figure 24 J. Mednger/ Wien



Figure 25 MUSIKALIENHANDLUNG /

The property protection measures presented here were used before introducing private letter cards in 1903. Please send your comments regarding this article to Gerhard Sand at the following email address: gersand@tele2.at

NEWS

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2014, PINKAFELD







In the photo above, in the international group sitting around the table, you can see our new member, Ralph Ebner from Solingen on the right side, who is writing a book on Austrian vignettes of the time of Napoleon. In anticipation, he delivered a high quality inauguration speech dealing with this topic. You can see many photos, and soon also the presentations of this very nice event on our homepage. Symposium lectures were also published in book format in the German language.

HUNFILA 2014, DEBRECEN

This year, the National Award of the high-quality national stamp exhibition of the Stamp Day was won by the founding member Dr Ferenc Nagy, by his gold medallist collection „*Heerführer, Edelfrauen und St. Margarethe - Ungarn 1944-1946*".



The collection presented was evaluated much higher than the old 10 forint denomination shown on the reception of the Mayor of Debrecen. It represented such expertise in processing the relatively modern releases of a short period of time, which constituted very high standards of all aspects of evaluation, not lacking rarities, which is indispensable for reaching such an outstanding result.

We congratulate the winner from all our heart also on behalf of the Mafitt members!

HUNGARIAN PHILATELY SUCCESS IN LONDON

Our older sister organization, The Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (www.hpsgb.com), which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, the Hungarian club of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, organized a Hungarian day presenting Hungarian philately in May. At the "Royal" club house at 41 Devonshire Place, the "Hungarian display" included not only their own collections but the collections of such invited Hungarian philatelists who have performed successfully on the international FIP level recently. The leading edge of the Hungarian collections was represented by Dénes Czirók, András Jakab, Dr. Géza Homonnay, Dr. György Lővei, and Károly Szücs, all of them members of Mafitt. An English language catalogue containing a one-page-long summary of each exhibit has been published.

AUCTION MONITOR

The CD attachment of Philatelica 14/1 provides an overview of the materials with Hungarian relevance collected in the first half of this year. The modern curiosity of the auctions was the erroneous print (*green instead of red*) of the 2-forint documentary stamp release of 1952, which was withdrawn on 20 June 1955, on the second day of its issuing. A small quantity (a sheet?) of these stamps was obtained by collectors. This rarity, which was marked by "R" in the Hungarian financial philatelic specialist book winning the golden medal of FIP in 2007, was sold for a quite modest price just over 30,000 forints. The outstanding luck of the sole bidder (!) may have resulted from the evaluation in the Hungarian catalogue, which only estimated it to 40,000 forints. In the catalogue, the month of the withdrawal was provided mistakenly as July instead of June. In fact, it was the month of the release of the version overprinted with a red stripe on the withdrawn stock for economic reasons. This, unfortunately, conceals the extremely short, 2-day-long sales period.



OUR 25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Mafitt will celebrate its 25th birthday in September. On this occasion, we are planning a festive assembly with the participation of the representatives of our British sister organisation in the Stamp Museum. Our membership stamp of this year also reminds us of this occasion. At the same time, we would like to point out that the limited edition of the series of our membership stamps featuring the beautiful examples of the Hungarian philately may be purchased.

The price of the membership stamps contribute to the costs of the events of this festive year.



MAFITT SALON IV, SEPTEMBER 2014

The last Mafitt Salon was organized exactly ten years ago. In order to celebrate this anniversary, we are inviting and encouraging our members to participate in the display „*A Mafitt tagok gyűjteményeinek gyöngyszemei*" (Gems of Mafitt Members' Collections). We would like to invite *all* our members to bring their favourite pieces on sheets dedicated to the philatelic themes they collect (one sheet per theme), and also write on that same sheet the story why this piece was chosen out of all their favourites. Application is available at the secretary until ***31 July***.

The Salon will opened at the festive assembly, and will stay open in the subsequent weeks at the Stamp Museum. Instead of the jury, it will be the most positive reactions of the audience which will award the title of "The most interesting Hungarian philatelic object of year 2014".

Az 1971-ben indított lap félévente jelenik meg, az 1991-ben kezdődött húsz év szünet után
2011-től a Mafitt tagdíjfizető tagjai számára szükséges mennyiségbenn magyar és párhuzamosan angol nyelven is
(az angol mutáció 50 alatti példányban készül.)

A lap teljes tartalma és digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető: www.mafitt.hu

This paper and the CD attachment is available on the website of Mafitt at www.mafitt.hu

XXV. évfolyam

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Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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Ára: 1.800 Ft

14
2

Philatelica

Philatelica 2014/2

Készült a Mafitt 25. jubileuma alkalmából
Published on the occasion of the 25th year anniversary of Mafitt

Tartalom / Content:

4. Mafitt Szalon –	Gyűjteményeink Gyöngyszemei Pearls of Our Collections	I.
	A Szalon katalógusa The catalog of Parlour	II.
	A kiállítás lapjai The pages of the exhibition	1-68
Hírek / News		V.

Szerkesztő / Editor	Szücs Károly, Mafitt titkár / secretary of Mafitt
Tanácsadók / Consultants	Filep László, bélyegszakértő / philatelic expert
	Dr. Lővei György, a Gervay alapítvány elnöke / president of the Gervay Foundation
	Mervyn Benford, President of The Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain

4. MAFITT SZALON – GYŰJTEMÉNYEINK GYÖNGYSZEMEI

4. MAFITT PARLOUR – PEARLS OF OUR COLLECTIONS

E kiállítás létrejöttéhez Kostyál Ferenc pinkafői szimpóziumunkon elhangzott előadása adta az ötletet, amelyben egyedülállóan gazdag magyar ritkaság-gyűjteményéből mintegy egy évszázad visszavont magyar bélyegkiadásokról adott átfogó képet.

Az ötlet nyomán a Mafitt 25 éves jubileuma alkalmával felkértük tagjainkat, hogy válasszák ki gyűjteményeik számukra legkedvesebb darabjait és egyúttal világítsák meg választásuk motivációit is. Reméljük, hogy ebből nem csak az itt látható sok, általában magyar vonatkozású büszkeség, hanem maguk a filatelisták személyisége is közelebb kerül e rendhagyó bélyegbemutató látogatóihoz.

A legnagyobb magyar ritkaságokat sem nélkülöző lapjaink összképe természetéből fakadóan nem mutathat egységes képet, mert a gyűjtők személyisége és motivációjuk is rendkívül sokrétű. Azt reméljük azonban, hogy épp ebbe a sokszínűségbe való bepillantás is hozzáad valami fontosat az itt látható különlegességek szépségéhez. Időrendbe rendezésük pedig egyben átfogó képet nyújt nem kevesebb, mint két és fél évszázad filatéliai gazdagságáról is.

Nemzetközi társaság lévén, lapjait mindenki azon a nyelven készíthette, ami számára a leginkább kézenfekvő volt. Az olvasók megértését kérjük, hogy a mindössze három hétig nyitva tartó kiállítás alatt készített lapunkat elsősorban a megoldhatatlannak bizonyult szerkesztés-technikai okokból ezúttal nem fordítottuk. Igy talán az is érzékelhető, hogy a Mafitt tagjai a filatélia közös nemzetközi nyelvén milyen jól megértik egymást.

A szerkesztő

The idea of this exhibition grew from the lecture of Ferenc Kostyál at the Pinkafő Symposium back in April, in which he gave us an overall picture of the unpublished or recalled Hungarian stamp editions in his fantastic Hungarian rarity-collection, within a time-span of a century.

Following the idea we asked the members of Mafitt, on the occasion of our 25th year anniversary, to choose their favourite item from their collection for display and to explain this choice. We hope that not only the many treasures shown here, related mostly to Hungarian philately, but also the personalities of the philatelists themselves will reach and be appreciated by the visitors to this unusual stamp exhibition.

The pages, containing some of the greatest rarities of Hungarian philately, are not a uniform presentation as the personalities and the motivations of the collectors are also very diverse. We hope, though, that exactly that variety adds something important to the beauty of these fantastic items. Their chronological order shows a comprehensive picture of the philatelic richness of more than two and a half centuries.

Our society being an international one, each participant was allowed to prepare his exhibit in the most convenient language. We hope our readers will understand that, as this Philatelica has been prepared during the three weeks this exhibition has been open to the public, it would have been an insurmountable task to produce a translated version. We hope that this will well show that philately proves a common language beyond natural language barriers.

The editor

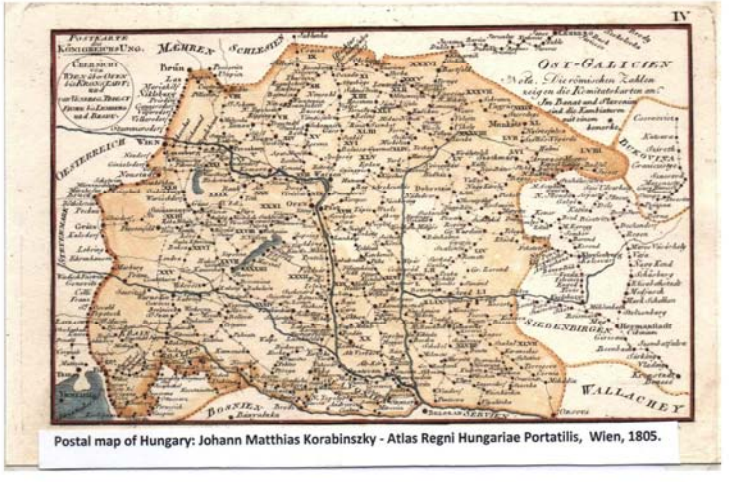
Lap	Név	Év	Title / Cím
--	Bélyegmúzeum (az állandó kiállítás részeként)	1867	A "Kőbánya levél"
1	CSICSAY Péter (Slovakia)	1763	Postmaster's receipts of Northern Hungary
2	PÁLKA MUDr, Juraj (Slovakia)	1773	A BARTFELDT bélyegelőtti bélyegzés
3	ROMPES Drs, Jan (Netherland)	1833	Doppelter, umfreier rekommandierter Ex-Offo Abzugsbrief
4	BRUCKNER Prof. Mag., Walter (Austria)	1844	Neusiedl am See - ein Feldpostbrief
5	FRESACHER dr, Hadmar (Austria)	1849	Dr. Artur von Görgey, sein Exil in Klagenfurt
6	FRESACHER dr, Hadmar (Austria)	1850	Zwei Ungarn-Briefe der 1. Ausgabe 1850
7	HEDLEY, Bill (Great Britain, Mafitt+HPSGB)	1851	A telegram to Pozsony from 1851
8	CSICSAY Péter (Slovakia)	1863	Komárom 1863, Mischfrankaturen
9	KIMMEL-LAMPART, Kurt (Swiss)	1865	Covers with Ceylon 2/-
10	HOMONNAY Géza, dr.	1867	Egy átlagosnak tűnő ajánlott levél
11	EBNER, Ralph (Germany)	1868	Zeitungsstempelmarken der Militärgrenze – Der Entwurf
12	VAS István	1868	Álvegyes bérmentesítés 2kr vörösesbarna hírlapilleték-párral
13	BARABÁSSY, Nikolaus	1871	In Memoriam Voloncs Gábor
14	VATTEPAIN, Pierre (France)	1871	Le 2Kr jaune de 1871, n°1,1a, et 8
15	KŐHALMI, Csaba (USA)	1871	Hogyan vándoroltak ezek ... Amerikába?
16	MÁJ dr, Jozef (Slovakia)	1871	Az 1871-es kiadású levelezőlap második típuscsaládjának X. típusa
17	SEBESTYÉN, Tamás T. (France)	1871	A fordított fogazatú réz 5 krajcáros ívrekonstrukciója
18	WENZL, Josef (Austria)	1871	2x5 Kreuzer Kupferdruck-Marken als Stempelmarken verwendet
19	LEEUW VAN WEENEN Drs, Paul de (Netherland)	1871	Essays für die 1871 Postkarte
20	VAS István	1871	Az egyetlen ismert teljes hírlapbélyeg-ív
21	CZIRÓK Dénes	1875	Magyarország legritkább bélyege – a piros ZSGT
22	BENFORD, Mervyn (Great Britain, Mafitt+HPSGB)	1877	Mozgóposta Care
23	KERNÁCS György	1877	Távirdai sürgöny feladási vény tömbök
24	GIRLICH, Peter (Germany)	187x	A 2 kr-os levelezőlap nyomathibái
25	SZÜCS Károly	1884	Az 1kr-os okmánybélyeg legnagyobb helyreállított összefüggése
26	THORNBURN, Chris. C. (Great Britain - HPSGB)	1888	Joy of discovery
27	HOMONNAY Géza, dr.	188x	Réunion sziget első kiadása levélen
28	LEEUW VAN WEENEN Drs, Paul de (Netherland)	1890	Die schwarze Rekozettel
29	SEMMLER, Frank (Germany)	(1898)	Eine philatelistische "Metamorphose" beim Diebstahlschutz

Lap	Név	Év	Title / Cím
30	VARJASI Mihály	18xx	Távirati díjnyugták
31	LENTE István	1900	Üzleti levelek gyöngyszeme
32	KIMMEL-LAMPART, Kurt (Swiss)	1900	Yunnan - earliest recorded cover from any of imperial post offices in Yunnan
33	SOMOGYI Tamás, dr.	1909	Hirdetéses levelezőlapok kiállítási lapja
34	MORELL, Roger	1916	Budapest, Headquarters of the Kuk Donauflotilla
35	PERNECZKY László, dr.	190x	A Magyar Királyi Takarékpénztár és Posta kétnyelvű ajánlási ragjegyeinek összehasonlítása
36	HOMONNAY Géza, dr.	190x	A legkorábbi ismert "Peterdi-levél"
37	PERNECZKY László, dr.	190x	Ami Floderer ajánlott ragjegy katalógusából kimaradt
38	NAGY Gábor	1914	Magyar katonasors 1914-1922
39	VAS István	1915	Nem az értékszám hanem az alnyomat fordított ...
40	GLATZ István	1917	"S1" Siemens távirat
41	DOBÁK István	1918	Katasztrófa levél, 1918., vagy emlékezzünk hős repülőinkre
42	FILEP László	1919	In Memoriam Cornides Sándor
43	FILEP László	1919	In Memoriam Flasch Dezső
44	FILEP László	1919	Miért ritkák a Magyarországon használt csehszlovák Hradzsin bélyeges levelek?
45	KIRÁLY Tibor	1920	Halálfejes színpróbák
46	THORNBURN, Chris. C. (Great Britain - HPSGB)	1924	Weird and wonderful
47	BENFORD, Mervyn (Great Britain, Mafitt+HPSGB)	1925	Pénztári napló - with a 10000K Madonna sheet
48	TÓTH György	1926	Hogy jutott egy levél 1926-ban Budapestről New Yorkba
49	LŐVEI György, dr.	1927	Egy különleges bérmentestésű légiposta levél, avagy milyen messze van Pozsonytól Rétság
50	DRÖGE, Heribert (Germany)	1934	A LEHE 50 éves jubileuma blokk
51	WEERD, Jan Jaap de	1934	Airmail letter from Budapest to Buenos Aires
52	KOSTYÁL Ferenc	1938	A Nagymánya tévnyomat elsőnapi felhasználása
53	LŐVEI György, dr.	1938	Kassa – Ismét magyarok vagyunk próbanyomat
54	GLATZ István	1939	A Délafrikai Unióba küldött 25 csomag díjhiányjelentése
55	WEERD, Jan Jaap de	1939	Hungarian Postcard censored in Königsberg

Lap	Név	Év	Title / Cím
56	MORGAN, Robert B. (USA)	1945	The Budakeszi Postmaster Provisionals
57	NAGY Ferenc, dr. (Austria)	1945	A Budapesti szükségtarifa 1945. Utolsó napi ajánlott levél
58	RÉVÉSZ Péter, dr.	1945	Zilahi kiadású díjjegyes
59	SOBLE prof, Alan (USA)	1945	A Missing Crown Of St. Stephen
60	SOBLE prof, Alan (USA)	1945	Ujvidék, an Interloper
61	WEISE, Martin (Great Britain, HPSGB)	1952	Vertel Josef design for SZTK revenue 48 ft
62	LEITOLD László	1956	Az 1956-os Sopron kiadás sorcserés tévnyomata
63	BENFORD, Mervyn (Great Britain, Mafitt+HPSGB)	1957	Vasúti and Portó Tri-sects
64	THORNBURN, Chris. C. (Great Britain - HPSGB)	1957	Fifteen points
65	TÓTH György	195x	Mit tesz a postás ha kifogyott a nyomtatványa és bélyege
66	Kissimon Mihály	19xx	Találkozás a magyar falvak postabélyegzőivel
67	LÁNG István professzor	1982	Carte Maximum Deák Ferenc akadémiai íróasztalával
68	SZÜCS Károly	2014	A filatélia örökké élni fog!

Megjegyzés:: a kiállítás megnyitása napján eleredetiben látható volt a Bélyegmúzeumban letétben levő és „Kőbánya levél”. Képe a szakirodalomban már többször megjelent, ezért ismételt publikálását itt nem tartottuk indokoltnak.

Postmaster's receipts of Northern Hungary



Postal map of Hungary: Johann Matthias Korabinszky - Atlas Regni Hungariae Portatilis, Wien, 1805.



RECEPISSE.

Über 15 Pfd. Pfeffer von

so zur Beförderung dem Kaiserl. Königl. Post-Wagen nacher Wien an

Herrn Weidmann übergeben worden.

Preßburg, den 10. Aug. 1763

Kaiserl. Königl. Post-Wagens Expedition.

This preprinted receipt for stage-coach post from 1763 is the earliest known piece used on the Hungarian Kingdom territory.

It was used as a receipt for a consignment posted for 15 kr to Vienna.

There were not yet marked neither validity nor postal charges on first receipts.

1.

A BARTFELDT bélyegelőtti bélyegzés

Sáros vármegye északi részének **Bártfa város (Bartfeld)** gazdasági, kulturális és vallási központja volt. A várost a 13. században alapították német betelepülők. Nagy Lajos magyar király 1376-ban Bártfának adományozta a szabad királyi város jogát. A város a 15. századtól része volt Felső Magyarország keleti területén lévő öt város szövetségének – Pentapolitana.

A posta Bártfán 1773–ban létesült. Egy ével később elkezdték használni az első egykörös bélyegzőt a felső részén lengyel királyi koronával, alsó részén postakürttel díszítve. Használat kezdete hozzákötődik a lengyel nemesség harcaihoz amelynek következménye volt az első Lengyelország feloszlása 1772-ben. Egyidejüleg a 13 szepesi város viszatért a Magyar királysághoz, amelyeket 1412–ben Lengyelországnak zálogba adott Luxemburgi Zsigmond császár. Az első bártfai bélyegző készítője, a vésnök valószínüleg lengyel származású volt, emiatt szerepel rajta a lengyel korona.

A bélyegelőtti bélyegzések között a történelmi Magyarországon ez az egyetlen bélyegzés amelyet korona és postakürt együtttesen díszít. A bélyegzés kitünő minősége és nagy ritkasága arrá késztetett, hogy ez a bélyegzés képviselje a több mint 1000 darabos bélyeg előtti levélgyüjteményemet a MAFITT 2014 évi SZALON rendezvényén.



Magán levél 1775. 01. 31–án Bártfáról Eperjesre. Címoldalán postakezelési jelzés „8", amely jelzi a félportós rendszerben a feladó és a címzett által fizetett 8+8=16 krajcárt az 1 latos levél bérmentesítéseként. A BARTFELDT nagyon ritkán előfordülő bélyegzés, antikva betütípussal, nagybetükkel, lengyel királyi koronával és postakürttel díszítve, használati ideje 1774-1784–ig tartott.

2.

Doppelter, umfreier rekommandierter Ex-Offo Abzugsbrief



Es handelt sich um ein doppelter,unfreier,rekomandierter Ex-offo Abzugsbrief geschrieben am 18.12.1833 in Zagrabia=Agram,heute Zagreb in Kroatien nach Carlostadii=Karlstadt, heute Karlovac in Kroatien. Dort blieb der Brief liegen bis den 29.12.1833 und wurde dann weiter geschickt nach Subrincze-bey Szeverin,heute Severin na Kupi in Kroatien.Am 19.1.1834 also 3 Wochen spaeter,wurde dort festgestellt:befindet sich nun in Agram,wohin der Brief schliesslich zurueck gelaufen ist.

Auf der Vorderseite befinden sich folgende Vermerke:das N.B.Zeichen und Registraturnummer 166 in schwarzer Tinte und P=Pauschalverrechnung plus 4 kr.Rekogebuehr. In Karlstadt wurde in Roetel 1 Loth ab 4 kr. geschrieben, d.h.Zone 1. Entfernung bis 3 Poststationen-Gewicht 1 Loth. Insgesamt 8 kr. vom Empfaenger zu bezahlen.

In Agram wurde der Ortsrekostempel Agram Recommandirt-ein sogenannter Schlangenstempel in Verwendung von 1833-1835 abgeschlagen.Insgesamt gibt es 4 solche aehnliche Stempel und zwar aus Agram, Gospich, Vucinichselo und Zengg alle im heutigen Kroatien.

Nachdem der Brief nicht abgeholt wurde in Szeverin, bekam er dort auf der Rueckseite den roten Langstempel in Antiquaschrift in Verwendung von 1834-1848. Es ist den frueheste bekannte Beleg dieses Stempels von Szeverin.

Insgesamt ein sehr seltener Brief in bezug auf Tarif;Leitweg und Stempel aus meiner Tarifsammlung Vorphilatelie Ungarn.

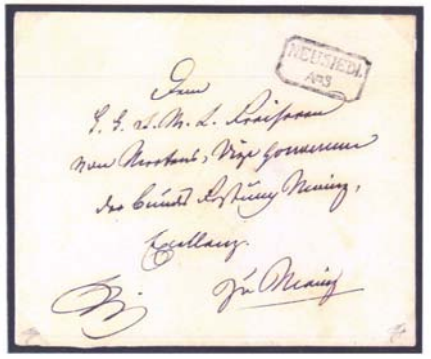
3.

Neusiedl am See - ein Feldpostbrief

Neusiedl am See: ★ : 1.5.1841
(als Briefsammelstelle)

Kasterstempel: NEUSIEDL/A=S : 1844

1844 : Brief von Neusiedl am See ie die Bundesfestung Mainz



4.

Dr. Artur von Görgey, sein Exil in Klagenfurt

Dr. Arthur von Görgey

Dr. Arthur von Görgey, geb.1818, studierte Technik und zeichnete sich im ungarischen Unabhängigkeitskrieg von 1848/49 wiederholt aus, sodaß er am 31.März 1849 zum Oberbefehlshaber der ungarischen Streitkräfte gegen Österreich ernannt wurde . Er eroberte am 21.Mai 1849 Budapest für Ungarn,wurde jedoch am 11.Juli 1849 bei Komarom besiegt. Am 13.August 1849 ergab er sich den vereinigten österreichischen und russischen Truppen bei Villagos, da ein Kampf aussichtslos gewesen wäre.Görgey wurde ins Exil verbannt und lebte ab Herbst 1849 in Viktring bei Klagenfurt, wo er als Techniker in der Tuchfabrik MORO arbeitete. Im Zuge des Ausgleiches mit Ungarn 1867 wurde er begnadigt und kehrte nach Budapest zurück, wo er am 20.Mai 1916 im Alter von 99 Jahren verstarb.



Brief an Dr. von Görgey vom 3.Oktober 1849 aus Nyiregyhaza in sein Exil bei Klagenfurt.Postweg über 30 Postmeilen, daher Porto 12 Kreuzer.



Rekommandierter Brief des Dr.Arthur von Görgey vom 14.November 1864 an den Lehrer seiner Kinder.Dieser Brief wurde in KLAGENFURT (Viktring hatte damals noch kein Postamt) mit 15 Kr. + 10 Kreuzer Rekommandation (rückseitig) für die 3.Entfernungszone frankiert.

Zwei Ungarn-Briefe der 1. Ausgabe 1850

Abstempelungen Ungarn



Briefhülle eines rekommandierten Briefes der 2. Gewichtsstufe von PESTH nach Arad (3. Entfernungszone) vom 18.Mai (vermutlich) 1856. Briefporto 2 x 9 Kreuzer + 6 Kreuzer Rekoporto , entwertet mit sog. Hammerstempel (Müller GF-fh, 12_8 Punkte).



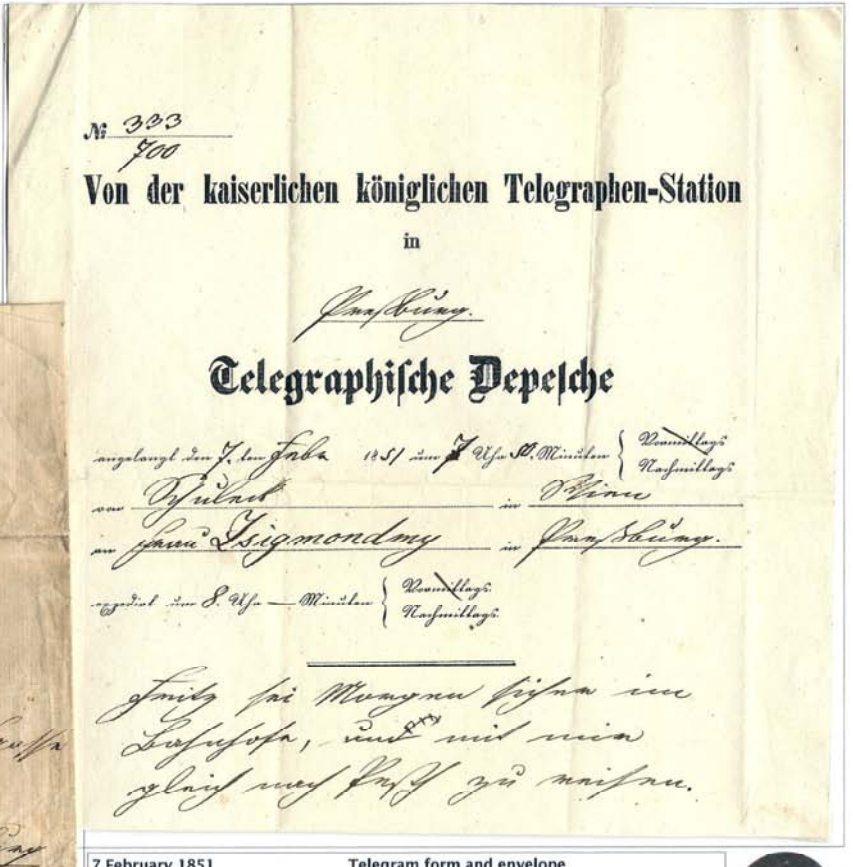
Rekommandierter Brief von APATHIN (Woiwodschaft Serbien) nach Pesth vom 5. Jänner 1854 (3. Entfernungszone).Frankiert mit 9 Kreuzer Type IIIa dunkelblau und 1 Kreuzer Type Ib orange im Sechserblock als Rekogebühr.(Stempel Müller RDb-f 4 Punkte)

A TELEGRAM TO POZSONY FROM 1851

There was a telegraphic service in Hungary from 1847. It developed in parallel with the railways and was treated as a postal service. Apart from some railway companies, private operators were excluded.

The charge for sending a telegram depended on how far it was travelling. From October 1850 to September 1863 there were 10 inland distance zones. A message of up to 20 words cost 60 Kreuzer for each distance zone between the despatching and receiving telegraph offices.





7 February 1851 **Telegram form and envelope**

This telegram was despatched in Vienna at 7.50am and received in Pozsony at 8.00am.

The message was transcribed on a telegram form ***(above)***. It was then sealed in a telegram envelope ***(left)*** with the stamp **'K.K.TELEGRAPHEN BUREAU PRESSBURG'** ***(right)***.

Both documents were marked with the message number 333 / 700.

The recipient was required to sign for delivery of the envelope.



Bill Hedley TV MAFIT Szalon Budapest 2014.09.06-28.

Komárom II.4 Belege der Periode der Briefmarkenausgabe von 1863

Mischfrankaturen



In Sommer 1863 ist eine neue Markenausgabe mit dem österreichischen Wappen in enger Zähnung 14 erschienen. Dieser Brief aus Nov. 1863 trägt eine Mischfrankatur mit 3 Kr. Ausgabe 1860/61 und 2 Kr. Ausgabe 1863 (ex Jerger-cert.)



Obiges Briefstück trägt eine Mischfrankatur folgender drei Ausgaben: 5Kr. 1860/61 +2Kr. 1864 +3 Kr. 1863. Die Marken wurden wahrscheinlich am letzen Tag der Gültigkeit aufgeklebt. Einmaliges posthistorisches Stück.



11.05.1864. Unterfrankierter Brief mit Mischfrankaturen nach Preßburg (Pozsony): 2+3 = 5 Kreuzer. Von Comorn nach Pest, bzw. nach Preßburg gehörten zur zweite Entfernungsstufe (90, bzw. 100 Km), so die richtige Tarif 10 Kreuzer gewesen wäre.

5. Perforated issues by De La Rue (1862-1871)

5.18 Both shades of the TWO SHILLINGS printed by De La Rue on paper with the first CC Wmk Before 1980 not one cover was recorded with any of the Ceylon 2/-. Both have been discovered since.

Sep 2, 1865, GALLE PAID red hs, sent at the double 1/6d via Marseilles rate by PO „Candia" to Suez (Sep 21) and by PO „Ripon" to Marseilles (Sep 28) arriving in Boston Oct 10 where the recipient had to pay 10c. **Mixed franking** of the 2/- steel-blue wmk CC printed by DLR with the 1/- wmk Star printed by PB.



*Ex Hackmey: **The only recorded 2/- steel-blue** with Wmk first CC on cover*

Nov 17, 1868, COLOMBO duplex hs, sent at the triple 10d via Marseilles rate via Galle by PO „Mongolia" to Suez (Dec 3) and by PO „Ceylon" to Marseilles (Dec 11) arriving in Inverness Dec 14, 1868 (arrival hs).



*Ex Hackmey: **The only recorded 2/- deep dull blue** with Wmk first CC on cover*

Egy látszólag egyszerű ajánlott levél

Többszörös nagy aranyérmes 1867-es magyar postatörténeti gyűjteményemben sok izgalmas ritkaság található, ezek között búvik meg ez a látszólag szerény levél, melyet pár éve fedeztem fel egy árverési katalógusban és vásároltam meg olcsó áron.
Az 1867-es kiadásból megmaradt leveleken messze leggyakoribb az egyszerű (azaz első súlyfokozatú) távolsági levél 5 kr-os bérmentesítése. Gyakoriságban ezt követi, de már jóval ritkább az egyszerű ajánlott távolsági levél 15 kr-os bérmentesítése, alapformájában 5 + 10 kr-ral, de mivel ennél a kiadásnál már nem volt előírás az ajánlási díj hátoldalon történő lerovása, gyakori az egybélyeges, 15 kr-os bérmentesítés is. (Érdekes, hogy a nehezebb leveleket, talán azért, mert sokszor jogi jellegűek voltak, gyakrabban küldték ajánlva, mint ajánlás nélkül.)
A 3 kr-os bérmentesítésű helyi levelek már kifejezetten ritkák (úgy 200-300 létezhet), a helyi ajánlott levelekből (szinte mindig 3+5-ral bérmentesítve) pár tíz maradhatott fenn.
Ám első súlyfokozatnál nehezebb helyi levél alig létezik. Gyűjteményemben, melyben az összes általam ismert ilyen levél megtalálható, összesen egy második súlyfokozatú (2*3 kr-ral bérmentesített) és egy második súlyfokozatú ajánlott (2*3 + 5 kr-ral bérmentesített) levél volt található – amíg fel nem bukkant az itt látható levél. Két dologra figyeltem fel rajta: az egyik, hogy Aradról Aradra küldték, a másik a közepén kék irónnal írt 3-as szám, ami általában súlyfokozati jelölés. HOPPÁ! Hát akkor ez egy harmadik súlyfokozatú helyi ajánlott levél kell legyen! Ennek díja 3*3 + 5 = 14 kr lett volna, látszólag valami oknál fogva 1 kr-ral túlbérmentesítették, sima ajánlott levélnek álcázva őt ezzel.
Ez tehát az **egyetlen ismert harmadik súlyfokozatú helyi levél** az első magyar bélyegkiadás érvényességének periódusából, nota bene ajánlva és túlbérmentesítve! Kell ennél izgalmasabb felfedezés egy filatelista életében?



A levél címzettje, Bánidi Béla báró magyar országgyűlési képviselő, újságíró volt, 1865-ben Arad vármegye főjegyzője lett, 1875-ben a Szabadelvű párt képviselője, de 1879-ben ebből kilépve megalakította a Független Szabadelvű Pártot.

10.

Die Zeitungsstempel der Militärgrenze

Der Probedruck, der eigentlich die Entwurfszeichnung ist!



ex Gary Ryan, ex Martin Erler

Dr. Stephan Koczynski hatte bereits in seinem Buch von 1924 aufgeführt, dass 6 Holzschnitte für die Militärgrenze anzufertigen gewesen seien, zwei davon für die Zeitungsstempelmarken. Dieser legendäre angebliche Probedruck hat sich aber als die Originalzeichnung des Künstlers herausgestellt. Angefertigt auf dünnen Transparentpapier, kann man auf der Rückseite alle Linien erkennen, die mit Kohle auf das zu schnitzende Holz übertragen worden sind. Der Holzschnitt sollte in vielen Details abweichen. So vor allem in der Hintergrundschraffur, die hier senkrecht, bei den in blau und orange gedruckten Probestempelmarken aber strahlenförmig verläuft.



Vergrößerung von 300% zeigt deutlich die Hilfslinien und die Freihandzeichnung!

11.

Az én klasszikus gyűjteményem gyöngyszeme az első 5 Kr-os hazai gyártású díjjegyes boríték.

Már akkor, amikor a „Gyűjteményeink Gyöngyszemei", MAFITT Szalon Bélyegparádé felhívását megkaptam elhatároztam, hogy klasszikus bélyeggyűjteményem legszebb darabját állítanám ki, éspedig az első 5 Kr-os hazai gyártású díjjegyes borítékot, egy tanulmánnyal együtt ahol az első 2 Kr bélyeg és levelezőlap, és az 5 Kr postautalvánnyal bemutatnám, azokat a lemezhibákat melyek minden első kiadáson megjelenik.
Legmélyebb megdöbbenésemre azonban ez év augusztus 11-én mindannyiunk elismerését és sokunk tiszteletét bíró, a magyar filatélia egyik legkiemelkedőbb ismerője, kutatója, és felfedezője elhunyt. Az első 5-Kr hazai gyártású díjjegyes borítékot, ami abszolút UNIKÁT ő fedezte fel a saját anyaga között, ezért tervemet megváltoztatva ezt a lapot:

IM MEMORIAM VOLONCS GÁBOR

-nak szentelem. A továbbiakban részletet közlök Voloncs Gábor a SZABOLCSI BÉLYEGÚJSÁG 2006. decemberi számából:



„Mindég kedvenceim közé tartoztak az első magyar gyártású díjjegyesek. Évtizedeken keresztül, ami kezem ügyében került válogatás nélkül beledobáltam egy dobozba. Nemrégiben nekiláttam, hogy névérték és kiadványtípus szerint rendezzem borítékokba.
E rakosgatás közben figyeltem fel rá, erre a rondán nyomtatott és hajtogatott kis csodára. Erre az első gyártású pacás könyvnyomtatással készült 5 Kr-os használatlan borítékra. Hogy ilyen boríték létezett azt jelzi az 1871.január 27-én készült államnyomdai kimutatás 5 kr-os díjjegyesre vonatkozó rovata:
3. Bélyeges boríték: 5 kr csomag (100db) előirányozva 20.500 kinyomtatva 4230 kikészítve 100 (csomag) …
Ez ideáig a forgalomba is kikerült „pötyös Ferencjóska" rossz bélyegkép nyomatú levelezőlapot-postautalványt ismertünk. Valószínű a többi –a posta által el nem fogadott és kinyomtatott mennyiség-, mint gyártási selejt a papírzúzdákba végezte…"



1868

Álvegyes bérmentesítés

Pseudo mixed franking

Szerb újságon 2 kr pár /vörösesbarna/

A szakirodalom szerint 2 kr használt pár, összefüggés nem létezik. A bemutatott darab egyedülálló ritkaság, unikum.

Serbian newspaper - 2 kr pair /reddish-brown/

Special literature: used 2 kr pairs, multiples those of the 1868 issue are practically nonexistent. The exhibited copy unique.



12.

Hongrie

1870 – Premier tirage

Lithographié, Dentelé 9 ½.

Effigie de l'Empereur François-Joseph 1er.

Ce premier tirage, préparé en 1870, ne fut pas mis en vente, n'ayant pas donné entière satisfaction, il fut détruit.

Cependant, quelques feuilles furent retrouvées et mises en vente en 1873 par erreur durant seulement quatre jours et demi :

les 30 et 31 Juillet 1873, le 6 Août,

et le 9 Août 1873 *entre* 10 et 11 Heures,

heure à laquelle la fraude fut découverte, et les quelques exemplaires restants furent définitivement détruits.

On en connaît une vingtaine d'exemplaires dans le monde

1er Tirage de 1870 *Impression grossière et couleur caractéristique*





Tirage de 1871

Emission provisoire



Emission définitive



14.

Kőhalmi Csaba László gyűjteményéből
Indianapolis, IN USA, Mafitt #128, 2001



Hogyan vándoroltak ezek a magyar filatéliai gyöngyszemek Amerikába? / How did these gems of Hungarian philately migrate to America?



'Pöttyös Jóska'
első nyomású 2 krajcáros /
2kr first (flawed) printing
(kb. 20-25 drb ismert /
approx 20-25 copies known







'Utánpótlásunk' feliratú 60f-es
bélyeg futott levélen /
60f stamps with 'Utánpótlásunk'
inscription on postally used cover
(árusításra került 1661 drb /
only 1,661 stamp sold)



kézisajtós Sztálin blokk *elsőnapi*
bélyegzéssel /
Stalin sheet printed on hand press
with first day cancellation
(kb. 1000 drb készült /
approx.1,000 copies printed)

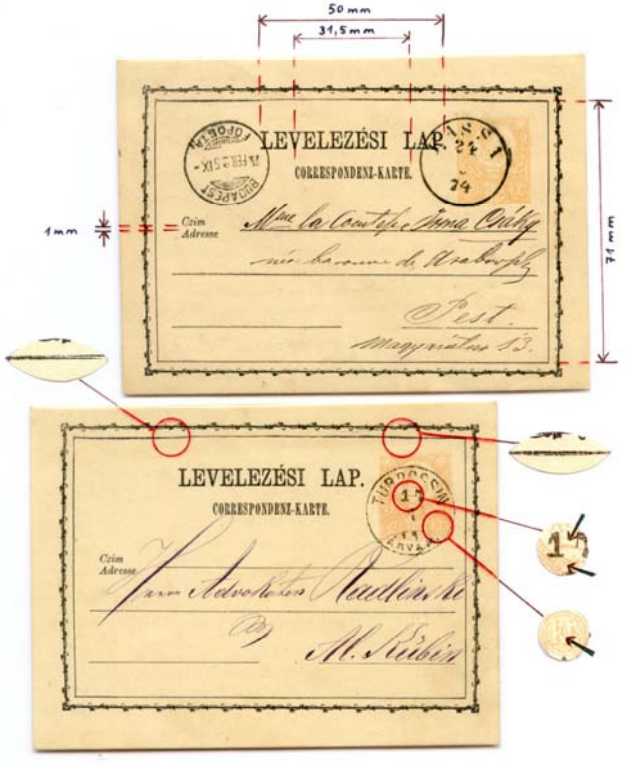


mindegyik példányt indianapolis-i börzéken találtam 1984 és 2013 között /
I found these examples while browsing stamp bourses in Indianapolis between 1984 and 2013

15.

Az 1871-es kiadású levelezőlap
második típuscsaládnak X. típusa.

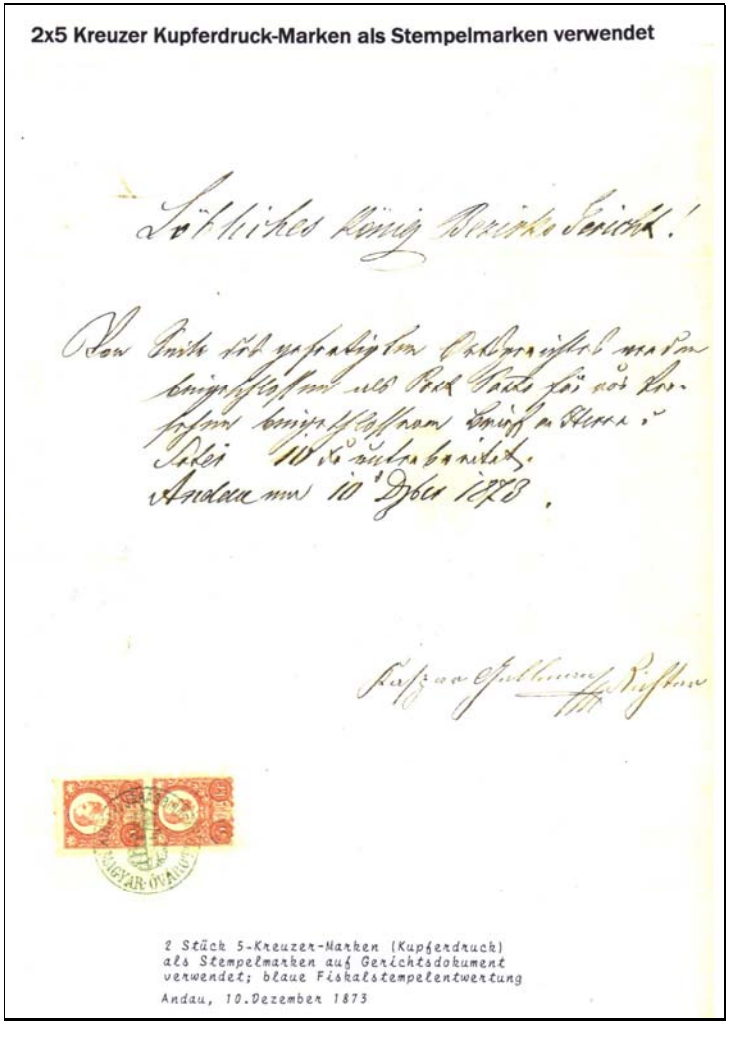
A X. típusú levelezőlap 1874-ben jelenthetett meg. Ezidáig a típusok közül a legkevesebb példányt láttam belőle. A papír színe sötét krómsárga, a levelezőlapra rányomott bélyeg színe narancs. A belső keret mérete 106 x 70,5 – 71 mm. A „LEVELEZÉSI LAP." szöveg hossza 50 mm, a „CORRESPONDENZ – KARTE." szöveg hossza 31,5 mm, az „Adresse" szó hossza 10 mm. Távolság a két szó „Czim" és „ Adresse" közt 1 mm. Egyenlőtlen a belső keretnek a felső vízszintes vonala. A rányomott bélyegképen a nyak hármas alapvonalú, a korona feletti gyöngysor sérült és pont található a „kr" pénznem rövidítés „k" betűjében.



16.


17. SEBESTYÉN, Tamás T. (France): A fordított fogazatú réz 5 krajcáros ívrekonstrukciója

17.


2x5 Kreuzer Kupferdruck-Marken als Stempelmarken verwendet
2 Stück 5-Kreuzer-Marken (Kupferdruck)
als Stempelmarken auf Gerichtsdokument
verwendet; blaue Fiskalstempelentwertung
Andau, 10.Dezember 1873

18.

Essays für die 1871-1874 Postkarten

Von der 1871 Postkarte sind nur sehr wenige Essays bekannt.

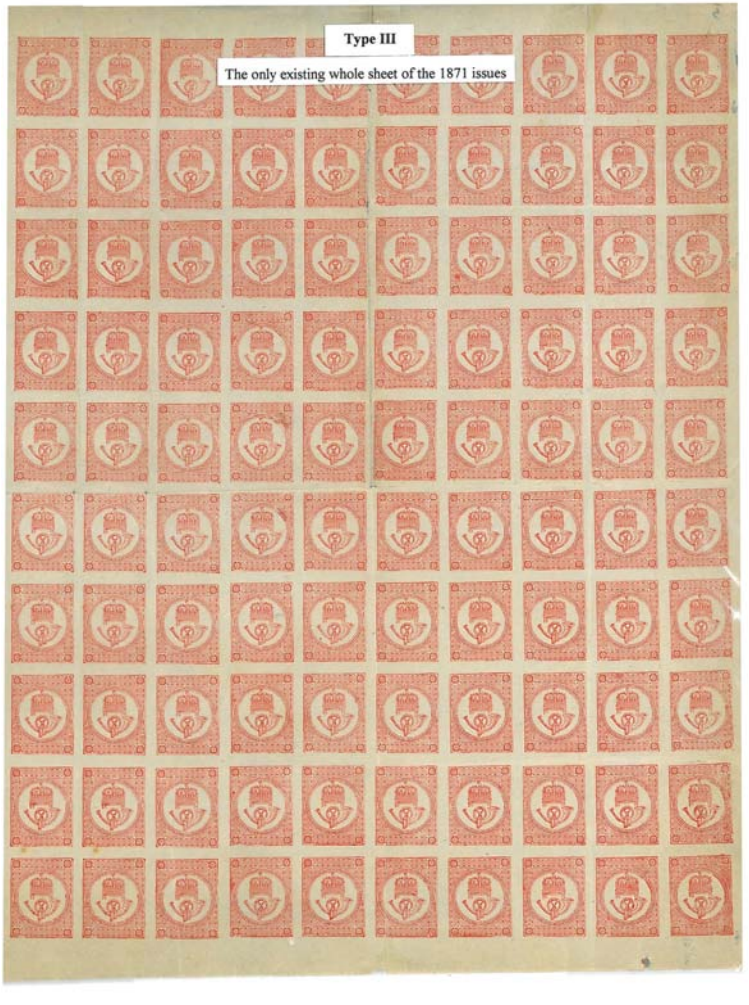


Essay für die 1871 Postkarte? Dieses Essay hat die gleiche Maßen wie die endgültige Postkarten: 92 x 128 mm. Aber die Marken-Eindruck ist Type III. Doch Essay für 1874 Ausgabe?



Essay für die 1874 Postkarte? Format 84 x 140 mm und Text ist mehr wie bei den 1874 Ausgabe. Marken-Eindruck ist Type III, aber ein anderer Druckstock wie oben.

19.



20.

Magyarország legritkább bélyege: a piros ZSGT bélyeg

Melyik bélyeg vajon Magyarország legritkább bélyege? Tán a fordított Madonna, vagy a Nagymánya? Ugyan! Több tucat létezik belőlük! Vagy a piros 3 kr-os? Ugyan! 5 db létezik belőle. A barnáspiros ZSGT bélyegből csak az itt bemutatott 2 db létezik szerte a világon! Ez Magyarország legritkább bélyege!



In den Jahren 1872 - 1875 befuhr die Zala-Somogyer Dampfschifffahrtsgesellschaft in ungarischer Sprache Zala-Somogy Gőzhajózási Társaság (Z.S.G.T.) die Strecke Révfülöp – Boglár auf dem Plattensee (Balaton), um Fracht und Personen im Jahre 1875 auch Briefe zu befördern. Um letztere besser verrechnen zu können, wurden im Juni 1875, analog den DDSG - Marken, Wertzeichen herausgegeben. Sie wurden in Prägedruck hergestellt, weisen drei verschiedene Farben auf, haben aber alle den gleichen Nennwert zu 5 Kreuzer gehabt. Insgesamt wurden bisher 16 Stück registriert, davon 4 Stück im Budapester Briefmarken-Museum (1 Briefstück und 3 Briefe) findet.

BRAUNROTE Marken *(nur diese zwei Exemplare sind bekannt)*



RÉV-FÜLÖP 13/8



RÉV-FÜLÖP 18/8

GRÜNBLAUE Marken (insgesamt sind 8 Exemplare bekannt)



RÉV-FÜLÖP ?/?



RÉV-FÜLÖP 6/10/75



RÉV-FÜLÖP 12/8

GRÜNE Marken (insgesamt sind 6 Exemplare bekannt)



ALSÓ-??? ?/?



RÉV-FÜLÖP 16/10/75
BALATON 16/10



RÉV-FÜLÖP 19/7 (blau)

Literatur:

- Ringström-Tester: The Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World (p. 143-149)
- Rampacher: Zala-Somogyer Steamship Company (The Stamps Lover Dec.1957-Jan.1958)(p.106-107)
- L.N.&M.Williams: Seltene Briefmarken (Stuttgart, 1968) (p.116-120)

Ungarische Post 1875-1900

Verwendung der Privatmarken **Révfülöp**

Als unikales Stück eines Postformulares gibt es ein Postanweisungabschnitt mit 5 Kr Briefmustereindruck frankiert, befördert durch das Schiff „BALATON". Die 2 Stück Z.S.G.T. - Marken dienten nur wahrscheinlich für Geldtransport von Révfülöp bis Boglár. (Weltrarität)

Anweisungsstempel:



KIFIZETETETT
(ausbezahlt)
(Kopie über einem anderen Beleg)



16.07.1875. Postanweisung aus Révfülöp aufgegeben, mit Schiff-Privatpost durch dem Balaton bis zum Boglár geliefert und dorthin mit dem staatlichen Post weiterbefördert, wahrscheinlich nach Budapest. Anweisungsstempel „KIFIZETETETT" wurde größter Teil in Budapest verwendet.
(ex. Klein, Steindler, Jerger dr. Nagy)



Die vergrößerte Kopie zeigt gut die Eigenschaften der „Balaton-Marken" (Untere Marke Papierverformung durch Prägedruck)

Hungarian Railways and the Post



Damaged Mail



2Kr. postal stationery postcard to Temesvár from Versetz (German language still used in southern Transylvania despite Hungarian autonomy.) Damaged in transit, it was repaired using special labels prepared for the purpose and carrying the **individual TPO number** printed in the anonymous-route styling of the auxiliary/emergency cancellers used in later years when normal types were not available. **TPO No. 3** by now ran from Budapest to Báziás (on the Danube east of Belgrade) via Temesvár and Versetz (Hungarian Versec(z).) This was one of two important early main through lines from Vienna to the Balkans, meeting Ottoman territory, still, across the river, with trade links to Turkey and beyond.

It is very exciting to find something that is perhaps the only one that exists. There is often a human story. The Hungarian train post office was sorry to damage a postcard- perhaps important to the people involved. So each train had its own repair system!

1877. Távirdai sürgöny feladóvevények.

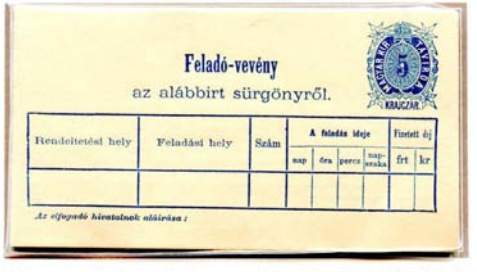
5kr os magyar – horvát nyelvű 50 es tömb, hozzá az eredeti **zárszalagg**al.R!

Alul magyar nyelvű 5kr os 25 ös tömb.



Ein ungarisch-kroatisch sprachige 50-Stück –Telegramm-Aufgabe-schein mit dem Streifen, welcher den Block abschließt.





Telegramm-Aufgabeschein ungarn-Sprachige 25 er stück Block

A legnagyobb visszaállított összefüggés sztorija (67 db)

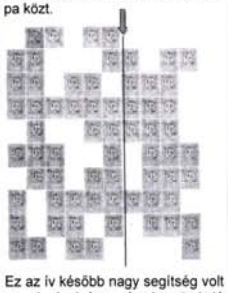
E bélyegek ugyanabból az ívből származnak, melyeket bündlikben találtam 2010-ben.



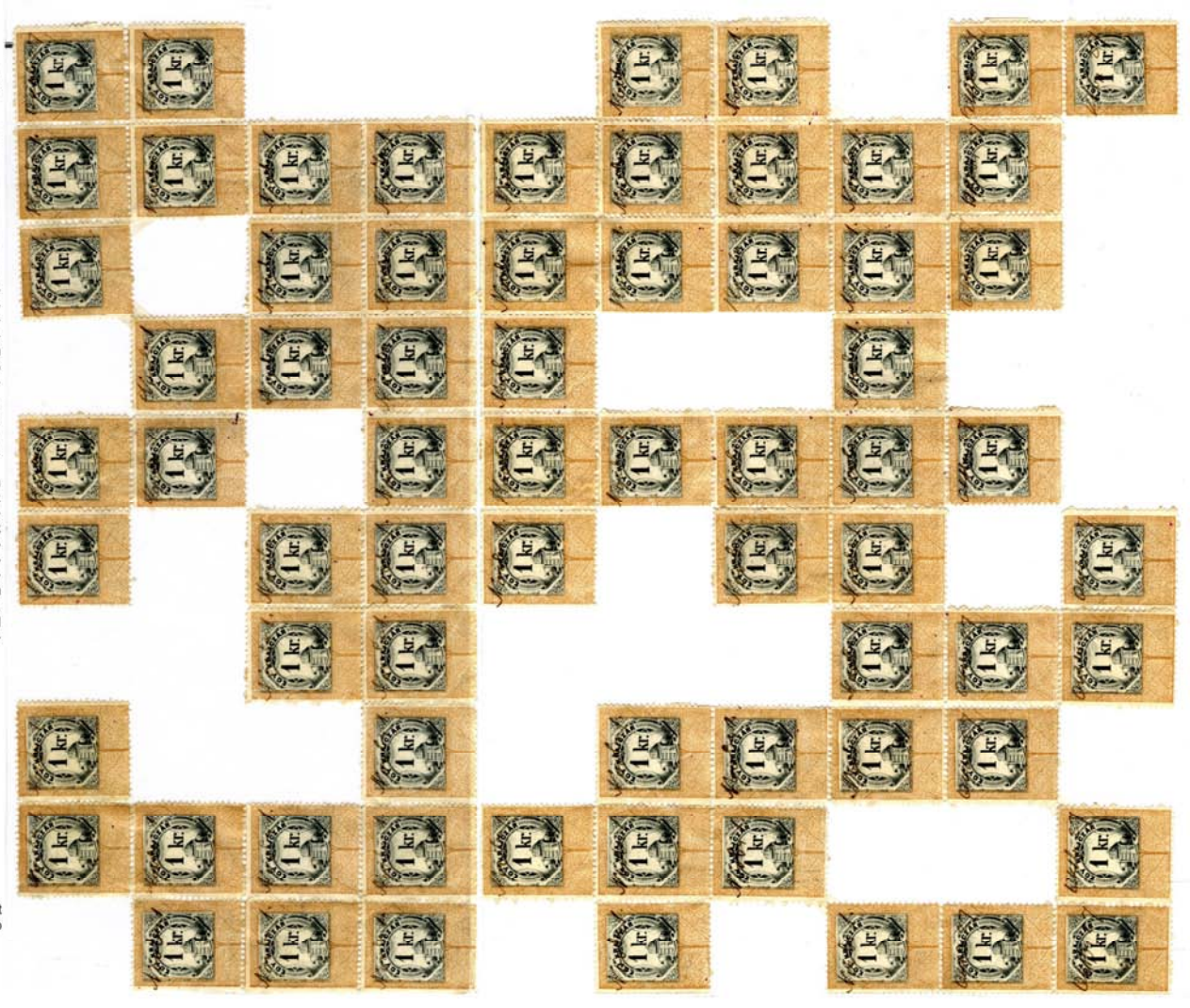
A bündlik bélyegei több tucat filatéliai változatot mutattak. Feltűnően sok közülük azonban ugyanahhoz a változathoz tartozott és azonos kézírásos érvénytelenítésű volt: két egymáshoz közeli nap ("*November 1*" a nyolc felső sorhoz tartozó és "*October 27*") a többi bélyegen. a "kr" nagyszlabosı kr vizjel állása is egyezett.



A vízjel oválisának helyzete és a fogazás adta szabálytalanságok szerint rendezve hamarosan néhány párra bukkantam, melyek fogai pontosan illeszkedtek egymáshoz. Napról napra egyre nagyobb egységeket sikerült összeállítani, melyek pár hét múlva egyetlen egésszé álltak össze. Nagy örömömre még a vízjelszél is előbukkant az ív 6.- és 7. oszlopa közt.

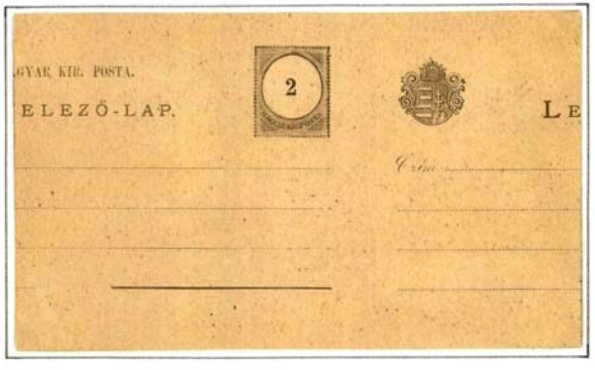


Ez az ív később nagy segítség volt az 1 krajcáros ívrekonstrukció megalkotásához.



25.

Abarten der 2 kr – Ausgabe
Eltérések a 2 kr-os kiadásnál





Die im Bogen gedruckten Postkarten wurden teilweise verschnitten.
Durch Umknicken der Druckplatte entstand dieser Fehldruck. Nach dem „SIMÁDY-Ganzsachenkatalog von1986 sind davon nur vier Karten bekannt.
Az ivben nyomott postai levelezölapok helyenként elszabva.
Hibás nyomás, ami a nyomólap behajtásából ered. „SIMÁDY"- Dijjegyes Katalógusa 1986 szerint ez ideig négy ilyen példány ismert.

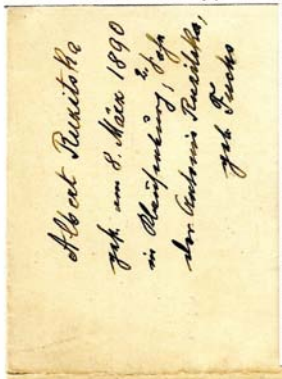
JOY OF DISCOVERY

1k "Envelope" on death notice entire, Koloszvár Mar 9 1890 (year written), concessionary-foreign printed matter to Wien ("Hungary Street"), no receiver. Note the speed of events: Mr Ruzitska died on the 8th; the notice, having had to be printed, was mailed next day; a ceremony on the 10th and the funeral was on the 11th!

Looks ordinary enough – but exactly which 1k is it? Test your skill, identify it exactly!

Diagnosis: (1) Perforation? 11½.

(2) Electro or stereo? Dot 3rd bead TR, thickened lines below S.
6th bead BL obscured by postmark, but dot visible under a good lens.
Notch in 5th bead TL absent (but not always found)
– Indicate electro.



(3) The crucial question, single- or two-plate?
(a) No evidence at all of thickened lines above K.
(b) No space at R of numeral; under a lens, envelope line line appears to continue under it from R and emerge L.
(c) Numeral not exactly central, slightly high and to R
– Indicate two-plate.

(4) Date? MBK has just "1890" for issue of the single-plate, but March 9th, fairly early in the year, may well precede it (Question: Earliest known single-plate use?).

Conclusion: The rare one (MBK 27EB, SG 39 (cat. £150 as used single); This is tied on entire, nicely-centered too.

And the joy? (a) Lucky buy at HPSGB auction 19.10.02;
(b) Evidently postal historians can forget their philately: Looks like the vendor did not appreciate what he had (nor did I till I studied it) as I got it at reserve ... just £2!



Réunion sziget első bélyege levélen

Az elmúlt években a világ országainak első kiadásait gyüjtöm levélen. Rengeteg érdekesség között egyik kedvencem ez a levél. Réunion szigete (a volt angol gyarmat Mauritius szomszédjaként) az Indiai-óceánban helyezkedik el, Madagaszkártól keletre. Franciaország külterülete, gazdaságának alapjai a francia támogatás, a cukornád és a turizmus. Leghíresebb szülöttje Roland Garros francia pilóta.

A sziget, a francia gyarmatbirodalomban rendkívül szokatlan módon, 1852-ben saját bélyegeket adott ki 15 és 30C-es címletekben, melyeket 1859-ig, az általános, sasos francia gyarmati bélyegsorozat megjelenéséig használtak. Bélyegként is ritkák, de levélen kifejezett ritkaságok: a 15C-es bélyeg önállóan 5 levélen ismert, a 30C-es 16 levélen, a két bélyeg együtt pedig 6 levélen. Más, többes vagy vegyes bérmentesítés nem ismert. A bélyegek lelkes gyüjtője Pascal Behr, a jelenlegi legismertebb francia bélyegkereskedő nagyapja volt, aki szinte az összes létező példányt felvásárolta, és csak az elmúlt tíz évben kerültek újra piacra. A 15C-es levelekből 3 volt Pascal Behré, ebből az egyiket vettem meg, a negyedik a Réunion-szigeten található, az ötödik pedig Párizsban egy magángyüjteményben. Hármat küldtek Franciaországba, egyet Madagaszkárra, egyet pedig helyben a szigeten.



1853 július 21-én St. Denis-ből, Réunion-sziget fővárosából a franciaországi Nimes-be küldött levél. A bélyeg Franciaországban nem volt érvényes, ezért a levelet 2C-tel megportózták.

27.

Die schwarze R-Zettel

Die erste R-Zettel in 1890 wurden mit schwarzen Ränder gedruckt für nur wenige kleine Ortschaften.



Rekommandierter Brief von Besenyő, Heves m. mit rückseitig 4 x 5 krajcár am 24. Februar 1890.



Rekommandierter Brief von Czibakháza am 24. April 1890.

28.

Eine philatelistische „ Metamorphose “ diverser Varianten der Eigentumskennzeichnung und des Diebstahlschutzes in Ganzsachen , hin zu firmengelochten Briefmarken , am Beispiel Österreich / Ungarn

Der vorliegende Beleg einer Postkartenganzsache aus Österreich ist ein erster Beweis zur Festigung der These , dass Firmenstempel , Firmenaufkleber und Firmenblindprägungen , verwendet zur Eigentumskennzeichnung und als Diebstahlschutz , als Vorläufer der Perfins beider Länder gelten .
Die abgebildete Postkartenganzsache trägt einen Firmenstempel der Firma : **J. E. B.** - Johann E . Bleckmann / Mürzzuschlag . Hier liegt erstmals ein eindeutiger Nachweis vor , der belegt , dass Firmen von den oben aufgezählten Maßnahmen zur Sicherung gegen Diebstahl auf Firmenlochungen umgestiegen sind , nachdem die amtliche Genehmigung dafür vorlag .
Für mich ist hier ein erstes „ Puzzleteil “ als Übergang von Firmenblindprägungen / Firmenaufklebern und Firmenstempeln hin zu Perfins gefunden .





J.E.B.

Ein ungarisches Pendant dazu ist eine Postkarte der Firma : **S.A. / H.J.** Saxlehner András / Hunyadi János .
Hier belegt durch einen Firmenaufkleber plus Perfin .





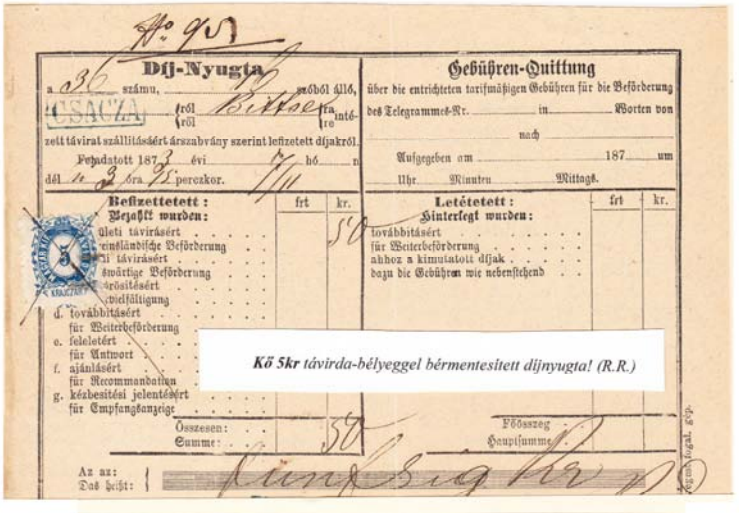
S.A.
H.J.

Frank Semmler

(AIJP , MAFITT)

„Gyüjteményem gyöngyszemei"

Az 1873-tól 1879-ig forgalomban volt ***Távirda-bélyegek*** *mind a teljes táviratokon, mind a díjnyugtákon rendkívül ritkák!*





30.

M 49

Magyar Kereskedelmi Rt
Budapest, V. Váci körút 32. (Ma: Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Endre út)

Vegyes bérmentesítésű, 5. súlyfokozatú, a budapesti 5. sz. Postahivatalnál feladott távolsági ajánlott levél 2x25 filléres Turul (1900) és egy Feketeszámú 50 krajcáros (1898) bélyeggel bérmentesítve.

M.K.R.



A cég 1880 és 1904 között használta ezt a lyukasztót 8 bélyegkiadáson.



31.

3. Foreign Mail via Indochina (Vietnam)

Earliest recorded cover from any of the Chinese Imperial Post Offices in Yunnan

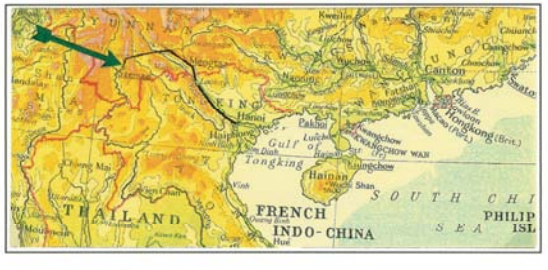
Until this correspondence was discovered, the earliest known cover from SZEMAO dated October 1, 1901. Paul Ke-Shing Chang assumed that the Mengtsz, Szemao and Hokow Chinese Imperial Post Offices were opened to the public as late as October 12, 1901 (Part II page 22). Although several items exist with CIPO handstamps of these offices before that date, so far I have not seen any from these Yunnan offices which are franked with Chinese postage stamps cancelled before October 21, 1901 (see earliest combination cover)

January 4, 1900, sent from **SZEMAO** via MENGTSZ (bs Jan 16) and LAOKAY at the Yunnan-Indochinese border where this letter was franked and cancelled Jan 26 and sent via Hanoi (bs Feb 6) and arrived at Mirande in France March 13, 1900.



Ex Colin Jones

Map showing the route from Szemao via the Red River to Hanoi



WSt.6.G4.





1902 (Aug.) Inland-Postkarte von1900 mit Buchdruckaufdruck diverser Annoncen auf Vorder- und Rückseite. WSt.6. 5 fillér braunoliv *sämisch.*
Zahl und Reihenfolge der Annoncen bis jezt noch nicht erforscht.
Größe 140:90 mm. Gültig bis 31.12.1922. ***(Selten)***

K.u.k. Donauflotille

Headquarters, Budapest

1916, June 17. Hungarian telegram arrival form dated 1915 XI at right. Non-secure telegram received from the *Donauflotillenkommando* in Rousze (Russe/Roustchouk in Bulgaria) addressed to the *Marinedetachement*, Budapest, HQ of the Austro-Hungarian Danube flotilla. Postmarked with a Budapest 3 C datestamp, folded and sealed with a pink sealing label (remains on the reverse). On arrival the cachet of the *K.u.K Marinedetachement in Budapest* was applied, and it was entered into a registry and given a number. The text in German appears to concern a 'delegation' of five sailors who will be enlisted (possibly brought back from the reserve) at the end of June. Transcription errors have had to be interpreted in purple pencil. A snapshot of personnel movement.

Of those mentioned in the telegram text, according to the 1917 edition of the *Marine-Almanach*:

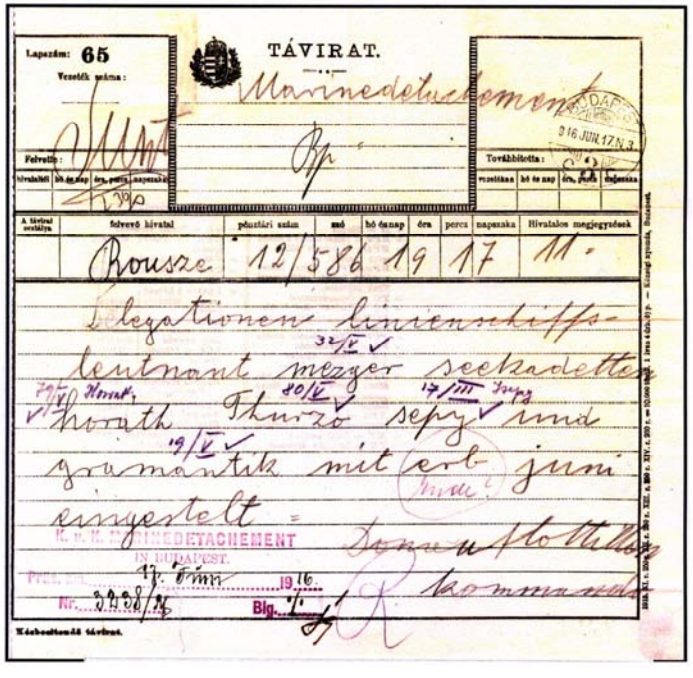
***Linienschiffsleutnant* Otto Metzger** was born in 1872 and was by then in retirement, having served in this rank since 1905.

Seefähnrich (midshipman) **Emmerich Horváth** was born in 1885, joined the Navy on 18 May 1915, was promoted to this rank on 1 November 1916, and was in the marine reserve.

***Seefähnrich* Julius Thurzo** was born in 1882, joined the Navy on 7 April 1904, was promoted to this level (presumably from *Seekadett*) on 1 November 1916, and was in the *Seewehr*, but not on active service.

***Korvettenleutnant* Theodor Isepy** was born in 1892, joined the Navy on 10 October 1912, was promoted to this rank on 1 November 1916, and was in the marine reserve.

***Seefähnrich* Michael Gramantik** was born in 1882, joined the Navy on 1 October 1904, was promoted to this rank on 1 July 1916, and was in the *Seewehr*, but not on active service.



34.

A posta magyar - ruszin kétnyelvű postatakarékpénztári ragjegyeinek és ajánlott ragjegyeinek összehasonlítása

dr. Perneczky László (Budapest)

E lap az 1939 – 1944 között ideiglenesen visszafoglalt Kárpátalján élt ruszinok kultúrtörténetének egy szeletével foglalkozik. Ebben az időszakban kétnyelvű, a cirill betűkkel írt ruszin helységneveket is tartalmazó postai bélyegzők és nyomtatványok voltak forgalomban, így a Magyar Királyi Posta azon ajánlott ragjegyei (továbbiakban AR) is, amelyekről részletes összefoglalást tartalmaz az [1] füzet 7. fejezete. De ugyanez mondható el a Magyar Királyi Posta-takarékpénztár szinte teljesen ismeretlennek tekinthető ragjegyeiről is. Ez adta a lehetőséget a fehér foltot jelentő téma együttes kutatására, a ragjegyeken szereplő ruszin szövegek összehasonlításával. Ez a felismerésem új eredményekhez vezetett, ez áttekinthetővé tette és megkönnyítette a postatakarékpénztári ragjegyek (TR) rendszerezését, a ragjegyeken lévő jelek értelmezését, sőt ez visszahatott az ajánlott ragjegyekről szerzett eddigi ismereteinkre is.

Az új ismeretek áttekintéséhez az Ajánlott Szemle 2011/4 számában megjelent új táblázat szolgál, amelyhez [1]-ből Horváth L. 132 fősoros táblázatát alakítottam át, a latin-betűs fonetikus szöveg helyére a cirill-betűs szöveget írtam be. A jobboldalon egy új oszlopba a TR-eken szereplő számok és jelek kerültek, így a VII. római számhoz tartozó arab számok is, amelyek 1-től 77-ig változnak, mégpedig hiánytalanul. Ez azt jelenti, hogy ezeket a jeleket a 132 postahely közül a kétnyelvű ajánlott ragjegyéről ismert mind a 77 db postahivatal (továbbiakban ph.) Postatakarékpénztára kapta, mégpedig az alfabetikus (ABC) sorrendben.

A postaügynökségek (pü.) TR ragjegyein – az AR-ekkel ellentétben – nem szerepel az erre utaló rövidítés (pü., pügyn., postaügyn.), helyette az ABC szerinti helyüket tekintve az előttük lévő hivatal arab számának *-gal és albetűvel bővített megjelölését kapták. A táblázatban 54 pü. szerepel, VII.-es lila ragjegyek között ezekből 17-et találtam meg, természetesen csillaggal és albetűvel.



Ebből 14-nél ismerjük az AR-et is, de további három azon 22 közül való, amelyeknél ajánlott levél szolgáltatásra eddig nem volt bizonyíték (AR általunk nem ismert), e három között van az a használt 8. VII. Alsószelistye *2/a TR is, (a TR-ek a gyűjtők birtokába – sajnos – zömmel sérülten, hiányosan jutottak), amely ragjegyen lévő nyolcszögletű bélyegző lenyomat egyértelműen bizonyítja, hogy ez a pü. takarékpénztári szolgálattal is működött. Meglepetésre a felvidéki piros VL.-os TR-ek között is találtam kétnyelvű, magyar – ruszin feliratú példányokat is, mégpedig 13 pü.-nél, a már ismert, a kétnyelvűségre utaló csillaggal és albetűvel! Ezek között 11-nél már ismert volt az AR, de kettő olyan TR is van, amely H.L.-nél [1] hiányzó AR-el szerepelt, azaz a pü. működése ezúton lett bizonyított. Mivel végül a táblázatban 25 pü.-nél mind AR, mind TR ismert, és a 77 ph. is ilyen, tehát 102 postahelynél lehetséges a kétféle ragjegy összehasonlítása.

Példák: A ruszin nyelv különlegessége egy ősi betű: Ѣ , amely 1944-ig volt használatban (kiejtésére nincs egyértelmű utalás, leginkább e, vagy i lehet). Ez a betű 9 postahely nevében fordul elő (a postahelyek a továbbiakban a táblázati sorszámukkal kerülnek azonosításra). Azonosan szerepel mind az AR, mind a TR szövegében három postahelyen (5., 49., 108.), előfordul további 3 AR-en, ahol a TR-en cirill i (и) karakter szerepel (6., 10., 15.). Szerepel egy további TR-en (97.) és két AR-en (34., 45.) is, e maradék háromnál azonban nincs összehasonlítási lehetőség, mivel vagy az AR, vagy a TR eddig nem ismert.

Eddig 6 ph. kétnyelvű magyar-ruszin AR-énél volt ismeretes az az eltérés, hogy – ismeretlen okból – a cirill szöveget zárójelbe tették. Most 5 esetben mindkét ragjegyfajtánál azonos a megoldás, tehát mind az AR, mind a TR ragjegyeken szerepel ez a zárójel (1., 68., 92., 117., 128.), csak az AR-en van: 19., csak a TR-en: 26.

A gyöngyszem a 130. VII. Vucskómező *76/a TR, amelyen a község ruszin neve (lásd az AR-en) helyett a latin betűkkel írt szlovák helységnév látható. Ez az egyetlen ismert kétnyelvű magyar – szlovák ragjegy!!

[1] Horváth Lajos: A visszafoglalt Kárpátalja 1939 – 1944. Kárpátaljai postatörténeti füzetek. 8. füzet.

35.

A magyar tengeri posta legkorábbi ismert levele



A Kiegyezés során nagyrészt önállóvá vált Magyarország fokozatosan teremtette meg az önálló működést a különböző gazdasági területeken. Fiume révén saját tengeri kikötővel rendelkezvén logikus volt az igény, hogy az osztrák Lloyd hajótársaság szolgáltatásait legalább részben magyar vállalat vegye át. Végül 1890-ben alakult meg az Adria Tengerhajózási Társaság, mely 1893-ban postaszolgálati jogot kapott a Kereskedelmi minisztériumtól.

Érdekes módon azonban e jogot addig látszólag nem gyakorolta, amíg egyik kapitánya (a Társaságnak mintegy 30 tengerjáró hajója volt), a hobbifilatelistából később megélhetési filatelistává avanzsált Peterdi István, akkor éppen az Andrássy gőzös kapitánya, meg nem kezdte ilyen irányú tevékenységét. Az itt látható, 1897 novemberéből származó levéllel (mely Peterdi saját kezű feljegyzése szerint az adott címzettnek a 2. sorszámú, tehát eredetileg biztosan nem a legelső) kezdődött meg a magyar tengeri posta története, melyet az első években Peterdi – filatéliai körökben meglehetősen kétesnek megítélt, ám rendkívül érdekes – tevékenysége jellemez, de aztán már hagyományosabb mederben is folytatódott. Peterdit magát – aki kétségkívül pénzkereseti célzattal is gyártotta az érdekes bérmentesítésű és bélyegzésű leveleket – egy időre szárazföldi szolgálatra is rendelték büntetésül. A magyar tengerhajózás pedig, mely 1900 körül egy második vállalattal, a Magyar-Horvát (más néven Ungaro-Croatia) hajózási társasággal gyarapodott, az első Világháború során és után, Fiume elvesztésével, csendesen kimúlt.

Peterdi István dedikált önarcképe, melyet 1912-ben adott egy, a Rákóczi-hajón utazó házaspárnak – nem hiszem, hogy minden hajóskapitány osztogatott volna ilyeneket...



Bélyegekkel kiegészített levelezőlap Tarantóból, az Andrássy gőzös fedélzetéről (postára adva Reggio Calabriában), 1897. november 21-én, a szilíziai Goldbergbe. Mivel a levelezőlapon magyar bélyegek vannak, a tengeri posta szabályai szerint ezt magán a hajón adták postára, az ugyanis magyar felségterület volt. A későbbi tengeri-posta leveleken ezt egy „tengeren" bélyegzővel jelezték. A levelezőlap szövege így kezdődik: „Filatéliai üdvözlet No. 2. Máltáról jön najd a harmadik. Stb. Stb." Szerintem ez jól mutatja Peterdi működését...

Ami Dr. Floderer István ajánlott ragjegy katalógusából kimaradt

dr. Perneczky László (Budapest)

Dr. Floderer a katalógusában* „Különleges ragjegyek" fejezetben tárgyalja
- a pályaudvari postahivatalok (A), - a postaügynökségek (B),
- a fiókposták (C) és - a pályaudvarokon lévő postaügynökségek (Bx)
ajánlott ragjegyeit, azonban – 1890 és 1919 között Horvátországban használt – kétnyelvű, horvát-magyar szövegű kiadást csak az A kategóriájú pályaudvari postahivatalok ragjegyeinél említ és ezek szerinte csak az 1-es és 4-es típusnál fordulnak elő. 2-es és 5-ös típusút, illetve B, Bx és C kategóriájú horvát szövegű kiadást nem említ. Fiókpostai, azaz C kategóriájút én sem találtam, de B és Bx létezik.

A. Vasútállomási és pályaudvari posták ragjegyei

Floderer a (többnyire zárójelbe tett) horvát szavak és rövidítések alapján ezeket 4 jelzőszám szerint csoportosítja, de a ragjegyeken lévő magyar rövidítések, (pl. p.u., p.-udv.) változatait nem szerepelteti a magyar jelzőszámukkal:
A-1 „Kolodvor", A-2 „kol.", A-3 „Železnička postaja" és A-4 a csak magyar szövegűek.
Valójában azonban más változatban is léteznek a horvát rövidítések. Floderernél (eddigi ismereteim és saját jelzőszám besorolásom szerint) a következők hiányoznak:
A-5 „Kol.", A-6 „k. d.", A-7 „Kd.", A-8 „K.-dv.", A-9 „kldv." és A-10 „Koldv."



Floderernél nem szerepel 2-es típus, de létezik (!!), mégpedig: **2/A-4**

Floderernél nem szerepel 5-ös típus, de létezik (!!) mégpedig:



1/A-5 1/A-6 1/A-7 4/A-9



A Floderer katalógus további hiányossága, hogy nem tud további horvát szövegű ragjegyekről, így nem szerepel ragjegy a B és Bx kategóriákban. Pedig léteznek ilyenek is, egyelőre
11 db B (ezek közül 9 db 4 és 2 db 5 típusú), illetve 5 db Bx (ezek közül 3 db 4 és 2 db 5 típusú) ilyen ragjegy szerepel az én listámban.

B. Postaügynökségek horvát szövegű kiadásai (p.ü. - poštanski agencija)

A postaügynökségek ragjegyein előforduló horvát szövegek jelzőszámai a következők:
B-1 „poštan. agencija", B-2 „poštan.agencija", B-3 „p.ag.", B-4 „pošt. ag." és B-5 „poš ag.".

4/B-1 4/B-2 4/B-3 5/B-1



Bx Postaügynökségek pályaudvaron - horvát szövegű kiadások (p.u. - p.ü.)

A szövegek jelzőszáma az előző, A és B jelzőszámok kombinációiból valók.

4/Bx-4-1 4/Bx-4-2 5/Bx-9-1 5/Bx-10-4



*Dr. Floderer István: Magyarország ajánlási ragjegyei 1890-1977 (MABÉOSZ kiadás, 1981).

MAGYAR KATONASORS 1914-1922



YMCA levél keltezve RIGA 1922. március 17. érkezési bélyegző BUDAPEST 922. MÁJ. 23. HADIFOGOLY ÜGYBEN PORTÓMENTES

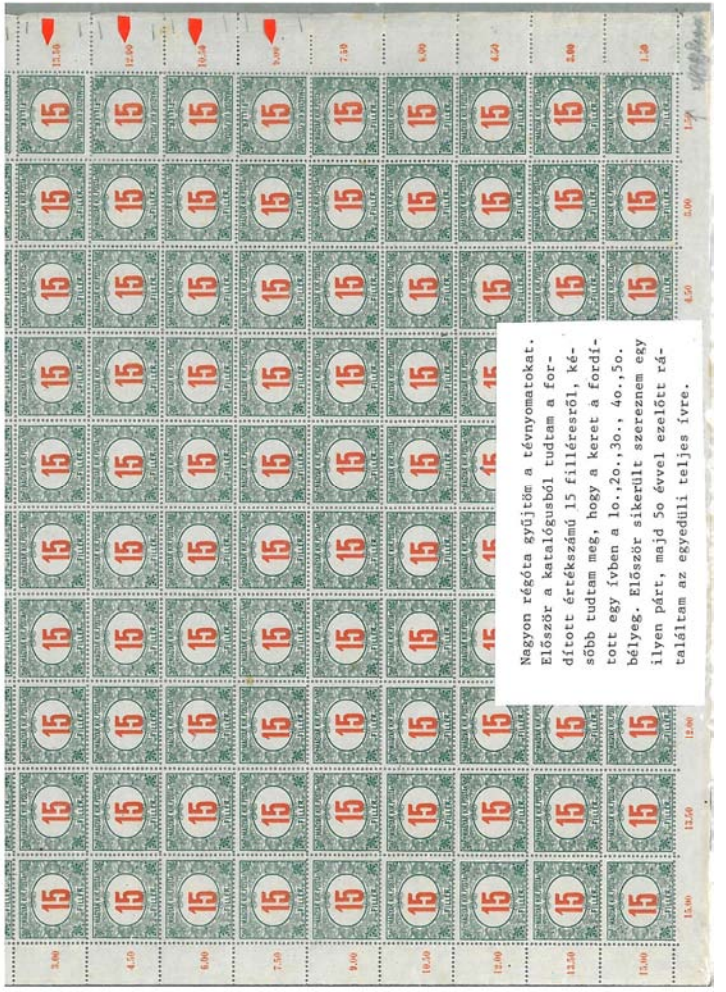
Tábori postai levelezőlap feladva 7.sz Tábori postahivatal 914. SEP. 7. Érkezési postabélyegző MISKOLC 2. 914. SEP. 13. Csapatbélyegző M.K. MISKOLCZI 101K NÉPFÖLKELŐ GYALOGEZRED PARANCSNOKSÁG

Dr. Halmay Béla tartalékos főhadnagy / *később Miskolc város polgármestere* / mint hadnagy századparancsnokként vonult be 1914 augusztusában Sátoraljaújhelyre a miskolci 10. honvéd népfölkelő gyalogezredhez. Részt vett a galiciai harcokban, majd Przemysl várának feladásakor 1915. március 22-én orosz fogságba esett. Szibériában volt hadifogoly, ahol a bolsevikok túszként tartották fogva 1922-ig, amikor Rigán keresztül tért haza.

Részlet a leveléből: *„ Most már túl vagyok Szibérián, túl egész Oroszország átkozott földjén , s bízom a Gondviselésben, hogy annyi keserves hányódás után végre egészségesen eljutok szerető körötökbe. Sok nélkülözésben, sok szenvedésben volt részem, elvesztettem a végtelen hosszú rögös úton legjobb barátaimat, bajtársaimat; vajon vár-e rám otthon a régi szeretet, megelégedés, egyetértés? Az a környezet, amelyben elfelejthetem 8 esztendei számkivetettségem gyötrelmeit, nyomorúságát? Az a környezet, amelynek támogatása mellett zavartalanul nyugodtan szentelhetem minden időmet és erőmet szeretett szülővárosom szolgálatának? Igényem nincs, hiszen esztendőkön át úgyszólván kenyéren, üres levesen éltem, százszor meg százszor összefoltozott ruhában jártam, lealázó, életveszélyes munkákat végeztem, senkinek nem tartozok egy fillérrel sem, s így joggal remélhetem, hogy a lét viharaival otthon is szembeszállhatok."...*

Ó hazatért Szibériából..... Nagyapám nem.

38.



39.



Budapesten, 1917. április 10-én (2. díjszabás) Szófia útirányon át (M.57) Rustschuk-ba feladott 14 szavas sürgős távirat, a szódíj 12 fillér, 14x12=168 f, **sürgős (D) háromszoros díjjal** 3x168= 504 fillér = 5 korona 4 fillér (a szódíjat először tévesen, az 1. díjszabás szerinti 8 fillérrel számolták, majd javították azt). Dekorativ, **5 színű, 11 bélyeges, Turul-Arató vegyes bérmentesítés.** S^{1} 0035 lyukasztó sorszám, „Siemens / 1917. ÁPR. 10. / Özv. Halmos Győzőné" távirat-továbbítói lila gumibélyegző. **Az egyetlen ismert távirat „S^{1}"-perforációval!**

KATASZTRÓFALEVÉL 1918. 07. 13. - EMLÉKEZZÜNK HŐS REPÜLŐINKRE

Tartott az első világháború, amikor a Bécs-Krakkó-Lemberg-Kijev, majd három hónappal később a Budapest-Bécs szakaszon megindították az ún. csatlakozó "repülő posta" járatot. **Az első magyar repülő posta küldeményeinek részbeni bérmentesítésére kibocsátott első légiposta bélyegünk a világon a negyedik.** A repülőposta szolgálatot katonai gépekkel és repülőszemélyzetekkel végezték, mivel a postának nem volt repülési tapasztalata.

A légi úton továbbított küldemények díjszabásai az alábbiak voltak:

a) A hasonló fajú és súlyú postaküldemények rendes szállítási díja
b) A repülőjárat szállítási díja és a küldemény minden 20 grammja után és minden vonalszakaszonként /Budapest-Bécs 1 szakasz, Budapest-Krakkó 2 szakasz, Budapest-Lemberg és Kijev 3 szakasz / 1K 50 fill. repülőposta bélyeggel,
c) Ezen felül 1K közvetítési díjat, gépkocsival való szállításért 60 fillér expressz kézbesítési díjat kellett fizetni.

A repülőjárat Budapestről naponta du. 4-5 között indult Budapestre, Mátyásföldre naponta 7-8 óra között érkezett. A repülőposta bélyegeket kizárólag a postai alkalmazott ragaszthatta fel a küldeményre. Alaki előírás: a címoldal közepére a „Repülő postával" szöveg volt írandó.

Az első légiposta bélyegeinket kizárólag a repülőjárat szállítási díjának lerovására használták. A bélyegeket a forgalomból kivonták 1918. július 23-án. Erre rendeleti intézkedést mindmáig nem találtam. Az irodalomból ismert, hogy Budapestről 23-án indították utoljára a postazárlatot. Bécsből 24-én indult az utolsó postagép Budapestre.

1918. július 4-én megindult a Budapest-Bécs közötti menetrendszerű légiposta-járat, amely azonban csak rövid ideig - 1918. július 23-ig, 20 napig működött. A július 13-i járat gépe 36 közönséges, 97 ajánlott levelet és 500 táviratot tartalmazó zárlatával Mosonmagyaróvár után, az osztrák határ közelében lezuhant. Vargha Emil honvéd repülőfőhadnagy segítője Winger Richárd repülő hadnaggyal együtt életét vesztette. A gép nem gyulladt ki, de a becsapódás következtében a kísérő ülése alatt elhelyezett posta egy része megsérült, de nem semmisült meg. A postát vonattal Bécsbe továbbították, ahová július 14-én éjjel érkezett. A július 21-én indult gép is még Mátyásföldön 150 méter magasból lezuhant. Németh Ferenc honvéd repülő őrmester azonnal, Tomasek Károly repülő főhadnagy másnap a kórházban halt meg. A halálesetek miatt a hadvezetés beszüntette az első magyar repülőposta, ezzel a világ első nemzetközi polgári légiposta repüléseit.

A repülés története és a postarepülések során nagyon sok ember áldozta életét az ember biztonságos repülése érdekében. Az első magyar repülőposta két katasztrófája négy hősi halált, repülőhalált követelt. Az itt bemutatott katasztrófalevél emlékeztessen bennünket a repülés áldozataira, különösen a 100 éve kezdődött első világháború hős pilótáira, akik kezdetleges repülőgépeiken szolgálat teljesítése közben, hősi halált haltak.



KATASZTRÓFALEVÉL: Az első magyar repülőpostán, 1918. július 13-án az osztrák határ közelében lezuhant gépen szállított 4. súlyfokozatú, 8K 20 filléres bérmentesítésű küldemény. Ragjegy száma R 4893. A feladott 97 darab ajánlott küldeményből eddig előkerült, ismertté vált példányok száma: 12 darab.

41.



IN MEMORIAM
CORNIDES SÁNDOR
1925-2004

Cornides Sándor bélyegkereskedő és nagytudású bélyeggyűjtő, aranyérmes kiállító, idén 10 éve hunyt el. A *Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság* alakulásának 25. évfordulója alkalmából rendezett *IV. Mafitt Szalon „Gyűjteményeink gyöngyszemei"* kiállításra ezt az Ő aranyérmes *Podvilk* gyűjteményéből származó darab másolatát hoztam el bemutatásra – mely sohasem volt az én tulajdonomban (és megvallom – nem is tudom, hogy hol van).

Cornides Sándort gyermekkoromtól ismertem – 9 évesen kezdtem bélyeget gyűjteni, s mivel iskolánkban nem volt bélyegszakkör, ezért nagyobbik bátyám a munkahelyén beiratkozott az ottani felnőtt bélyegkörbe – ahová azután én jártam. Szerencsém volt, nagytudású komoly filatelisták közé kerültem, akik sohasem használták ki fiatalságomat, tudatlanságomat. Tőlük tanultam azt is, hogy léteznek bélyegüzletek is és inkább oda kell menni, mintsem pénzt adni az Ápisz semmit nem érő kis színes bélyegcsomagjaiért. Így kerültem a 60'-as évek közepe táján a Teréz (akkor még Lenin) körúti udvarba – és odaszoktam. Nem riasztott el *Cornides Úr* (nekem Ő mindig *'Cornides Úr'* maradt, ahogy neki én, már gyerekként is *'Filep Úr'*) látszólagos mogorvasága – hamar megértettem, hogy miért van Nála sokszor egy-egy, látszólag csak ott üldögélő ember. Később a sors úgy hozta, hogy a családi kötelékek okán választott gyűjtési területem, bizony-bizony itt-ott összeakad az Övével! Nemegyszer megesett, hogy az árverések-en „összeakadtunk" – és hát én csak akkor nyerhettem, ha Ő – rámnézve, bajsza alatt kis fél-mosollyal levette kezét. Utána persze szinte „kötelességszerűen" megnéztük, mit vettünk – sokszor hallottam az általa mintegy *„átengedett"* darabjaimról, hogy: *„Szép, bár nekem van ilyen több is!"* (Igaz, néha – nagyritkán – halhattam: *„Azért az enyémek nem mindegyike ilyen szép!"*



A bélyeggyűjtés már nem csak hobbim volt, hanem foglalkozásom is – néhaném halhattam Tőle egy-egy *'Kalléga Úrat'* is – egyre több kiállításon vettem részt, ekkorra már írogattam is, több írásom is megjelent már a Filatéliai Szemlében és a Csehszlovák Szekció Tájékoztatójában. Ekkorra *Cornides Úr* már nem minden nap nyitotta ki az üzletet – nehezen találtam bent, elvittem megmutatni az első változatát a később *Csehszlovák területi viták Lengyelországgal az I. világháború után* címmel 1994-ben megjelent írásomnak. Átnézte, majd elővett egy csomagszállító-levelet! *„Csak kölcsön!"* – hangzott el egy kis fél-mosoly kíséretében, és: *„Csak az elején, a hátát én fogom megírni!"* – ugyanis a csomagszállító-levél Podvilkba, aranyérmes gyűjteménye tématerületére volt címezve! Hogy a hátoldallal mi lett? Tudomásom szerint soha nem publikálta.

Az írásom valamennyi megjelenésénél ott volt a szállítólevélnél, hogy *„Külön köszönetem Cornides Sándor gyűjtőtársnak a 8. ábra szállítólevelének publikálásra való átengedéséért."*

Ennyi év távlatából sem tudok mást írni: *Köszönöm Cornides Úr!*

Filep László

42.



IN MEMORIAM
FLASCH DEZSŐ
1923-2005

Flasch Dezső, aki – a logopédia területén végzett kimagasló munkája mellett – mint bélyeggyűjtő, a magyar helyi kiadások, az úgynevezett *megszállási bélyegek* nemzetközileg elismert, legnagyobb magyar szakértője volt, és nekem ebben a témában tanítómesterem és atyai barátom, idén csaknem 10 éve hunyt el.

A *Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaságba* való felvételemkor Dezső volt az egyik ajánlóm, és szakértői munkánk során sokszor dolgoztunk együtt – bár közös Szakértői Vélemény csak egyszer készült. A *IV. Mafitt Szalon „Gyűjteményeink gyöngyszemei"* kiállítására ezt a közösen tanúsított darabot hoztam el bemutatásra.

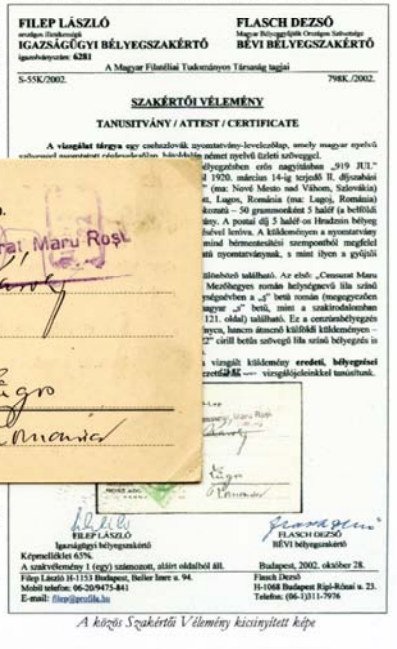
A bemutatott darab *A Csehszlovák Köztársaság postatörténete 1920. március 14-ig* című, az 1986-os bronztól a 2003-as nagy aranyozott ezüstéremig fejlődő kiállítási anyaghoz tartozik: egy csehszlovák nyomtatvány levelezőlap, amely magyar nyelvű szöveggel nyomtatott céglevelezőlap, hátoldalán német nyelvű üzleti szöveggel. A közös Szakértői Vélemény készítésének oka az volt, hogy a különleges küldeményfajtán egy különleges cenzúrabélyegzés is található: az ideiglenes román megszállás alatt lévő Mezőhegyes román helységnevű, lila színű gumibélyegzése. A bélyegző „Maru Roşu" helységnevében a „ş" betű román, nem magyar, mint ahogy a vonatkozó szakirodalomban található.



Ez a típusú cenzúrabélyegzés – különösen nem magyar vagy román küldeményen, hanem átmenő külföldi küldeményen – **rendkívül ritka!**



Vizsgálójeleink a küldemény hátoldalán (nagyítva)



A közös Szakértői Vélemény kicsinyített képe

Miért ritkák a Magyarországon használt csehszlovák Hradzsin bélyeges levelek?

Magyarország (a mai Magyarország) északi részét a Tanácsköztársaság elleni intervenció során szállták meg a Csehszlovák Hadsereg csapatai. Mint tudjuk, ezt a megszállást is – akárcsak a Felvidékét – véglegesnek gondolták, azonban ebben a reményükben több okból is csalatkoztak. A véglegesen elcsatolt területeken már korán átveszi az új hatalom a postaszolgálatot (is) – bár ez ellentétes a még a Monarchiával aláírt fegyverszüneti szerződéssel, mely szerint a megszállt területeken a közigazgatás (így a Posta is!) magyar kézben marad. A megszállt postahivatalokat csehszlovák (de részben magyar nemzetiségű vagy magyarul is tudó) postaszemélyzettel működtetik.

Szerencs postahivatalából is egy ilyen – nagy valószínűséggel magyar nemzetiségű – postásnő küld egy táviratott Nagymihályba (már az új, szlovák nevén Michalovce-be – bár hibásan, magyaros írásmóddal Mihalovcze-nek írva). A távirat feladásakor, május 12-én, már több mint 10 napja megszállás alatt volt Szerencs, és a címbeli kérdésre a távirat szövegében ott a válasz: „... *még levelet nem írhatok*" – tehát még ennyi idő után sincs engedélyezve a levélforgalom!



A Csehszlovák Posta 1918. december 18-tól folyamatosan bocsájtotta forgalomba a Prága várát, a Hradzsint ábrázoló bélyegsorozatát. A megszálló alakulatokkal érkező csehszlovák postaszemélyzet bélyegellátmányt nem hozott, hanem a zsákmányolt értékcikk készleteket használta. Ezért is használták a távirat bérmentesítésére az átmeneti időszakban megjelent és a Csehszlovák Posta 3426-VI-19 számú rendelete által felhasználásra meg nem engedett magyar bélyegeket. Érdekes, hogy ugyanakkor a 2 fillér benyomott értékjelzésű (díjjegyes) táviratlap – a fenti rendelet szerint – egészen 1919. október 14-ig volt felhasználható.

Filep László

Halálfejes színpróbák

Az I. Világháborúban elszenvedett vereség az ország kétharmadának elvesztésével járt és ezért lett otthontalan Magyar Királyi Bányamérnöki és Erdőmérnöki Főiskola a felvidéki Selmecbányán. A főiskolásokat Sopron fogadta be 1919 áprilisában. Két évvel később az antanthatalmak döntése értelmében úgy tűnt, hogy az a város, amely befogadta őket veszélybe került és Ausztriához fog kerülni. A hazafias érzelmű főiskolások akkor elhatározták, hogy ha kell fegyverrel is megvédik azt a várost, ahol otthonra leltek. Így is történt! 1921 szeptemberében az osztrákok, akik átvenni jöttek a várost, Ágfalvánál megfutamították és ezzel megnyílt a lehetőség a később magyar sikerrel zárult népszavazásra Sopron és környéke hovatartozását illetően! Az ágfalvi csatában a főiskolások közül ketten életüket áldozták Sopronért! A város és a főiskola több módon is lerótta tiszteletét és háláját előttük. Így, például az akkor forgalomban lévő postabélyegeket a csatára utaló szöveggel felülnyomták és az elesettekre utalva halálfejet nyomtak a bélyegekre. A halálfej a postabélyeg színéhez legjobban illő színnel – vöröses és kék – került a bélyegekre. A bemutatott filatéliai objektum alapján döntötték el, hogy melyik bélyegre milyen színű halálfejes nyomat kerüljön!



45.

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL!

This is bizarre! At first glance in a dim light, sheet of 20 of the 1924 "Icarus" 5000k air-mail; But even a cursory examination shows it flying too near the Sun in several aspects:

Design, hence the stamps, slightly but significantly too large.

Colour: Frame more or less OK, but center nowhere near the correct mauve.

Registration of frame and center wanders from stamp to stamp, abysmal on some.

Thickness of figure 5 too even.

Paper: Ungummed, about the right thickness (or thin-ness), but "watermark" of 1913 Multiple Crosses printed on in pale brown – greasy ink? so it shows when held up to light. Wrong anyway: pattern incorrect, does not extend over top and bottom margins, sideways on issued stamps; And the 5000K has the 1923 Crosses on Square!

Perforation 12¾-13 (line, varies slightly) compared with genuine 14 (comb).

Sixteen out of the 20 stamps "postmarked", leaving 4 "unused", un-Hungarian mark "Budapest 3 – VII – 26": 4 months after currency revaluation, though "Icarus" valid until March 31st 1927.

Conclusion, there doesn't seem to be anything right! So what on earth could be the point of anyone wanting to produce such a blatantly-wrong crude reproduction (calling it a "forgery" is too flattering), what is to be gained by it, would it deceive anyone for a moment?

Possibly from a get-rich-quick merchant, directed at a gullible market that likes to "invest" its money in "rare" stamps but whose knowledge of philately is NIL?

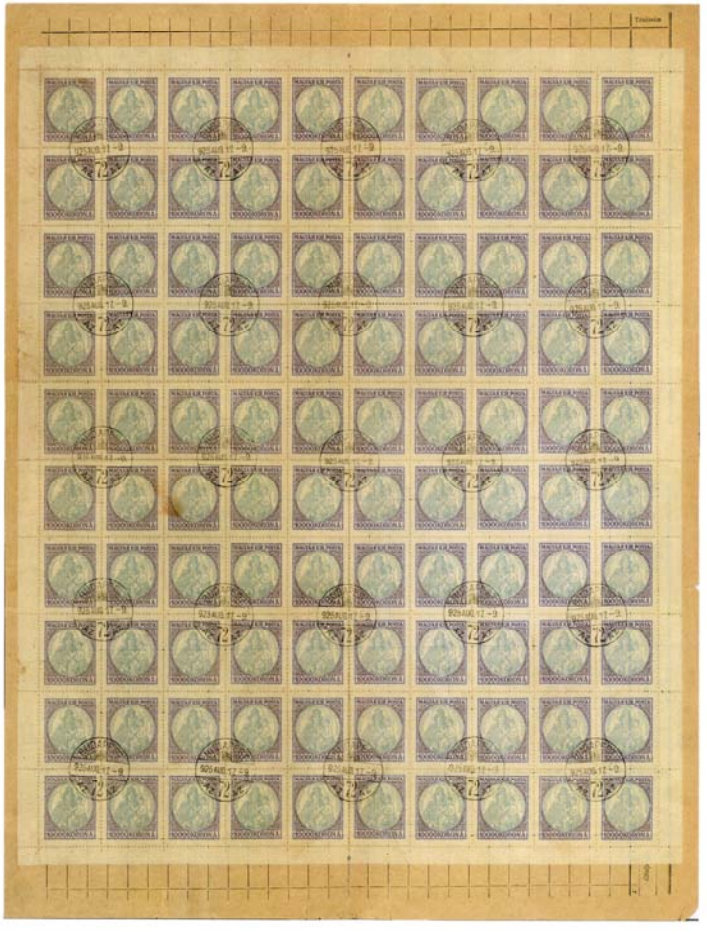


A genuine one for comparison



46.

It is very exciting to find something that is perhaps the only one that exists. There is often a human story. Money always has to be explained in Post Office work. This 1925 payment involved 1 000 000 Korona at a time of high economic inflation. The Post Office found an easy way- a whole sheet of the 10 000 Korona Madonna stamps.



47.

My favorite cover

Early airmail registered letter to New York in 10th November 1926.

The letter Vienna with budapester air stamps has been sent. The letter there is in 11 st November arrived. Thence from plane through Berlin to London travelled. In 13 rd November 1926 was to ship Mauretania, then two weeks arrived in New York in 26 th November 1926. The franking has been 4 stamps issue 16 stamps and 7 colors solved. The airmail fee Ikarusz issue stamps, the registered fee is Madonna issue stamp. The letter fee is filles stamps and Arató stamps.

Letter fee is 40 f
Registered fee: 48 f
Airmail fee: 40 f



48.

Egy különleges bérmentesítésű légiposta levél, avagy milyen messze van Pozsony Rétságtól

1925. július 1-én indult meg Prága-Bécs-Budapest járat, majd 1926. április 26-án a Budapest-Prága közvetlen francia légi járatot CIDNA (Nemzetközi Légitársaság), korábban Román-Francia Légitársaság (CFRNA), később CIDNA, ma Air France) üzemeltetésében. A korabeli rendelkezés szerint Szlovákia területére, illetve onnan Magyarországra küldeményeket feladni tilos volt. Az 1927. július 23-án feladott küldemény egy pici trükkel került meg a tiltást: a levelet előbb Pozsonyból 0,30 Ck belföldi légipostapótdíj megfizetése mellett Prágába küldték, majd onnan előbb repülővel, majd tovább vonattal Rétságra. Így lett a 198 km-es útból 1220 km-es út, 5,50-es tarifából 5,80-as tarifa... (2,00 alapdíj, 2,50 ajánlási díj, 1,00 nemzetközi, 0,30 Ck belföldi légipostapótdíj.

A levél további érdekessége az, hogy Bratislava 1 postahivatala ellátta rózsaszín Letecká posta bélyegzővel, Par Avion piros ceruzás felirattal. A prágai repülőtéren működő Praha Letiste postahivatal 82 b jelű érkezési és keretes kétnyelvű LETECKÁ POSTA – POSTE AÉRIENNE bélyegzővel. (A kék légiposta címkét 1928-ban vezették csak be). A levél hátoldalára került Budapesten a keretes LÉGIPOSTÁVAL ÉRKEZETT bélyegző, Rétság 1927.08.26 érkezési bélyegzője

A szakirodalomból nem ismert levél érdekessége, hogy csak az ebben az időszakban (évben?) fordul elő, különlegessége, hogy a Pozsonyból Budapestre küldött légiposta küldeményeken mindkét repülőtéri postahivatal légiposta jelzőbélyegzője szerepel rajta.

Emiatt gondoltam úgy, hogy a számomra komoly fejtörést okozó,egy budapesti árverésen alacsony áron megvásárolt levelet mutatom be gyűjteményem ékeként és nem egy sokkal értékesebb, de könnyedén értelmezhető küldeményt.



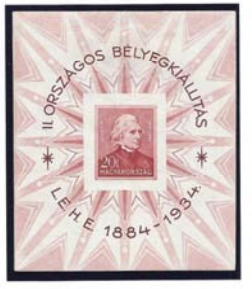
I.Ungarische Blockausgabe

50 Jahre Lehe

Die erste Blockausgabe wurde anlässlich des 50jährigen Bestehens vom Ersten Vaterländischen Briefmarken Verein in einer Auflagezahl von 50.000 Stück in Ungarn am 6.5.1934 verausgabt. Als Motiv verwendete man die Markenausgabe vom 1. Juli 1932 von Ferenc Liszt. Der Block wurde in einem Bogen zu 21 Stück gedruckt und zwar 7 Stück nebeneinander und 3 Stück untereinander. Alle 21 Blocks haben unterschiedliche Fehler und so kann man heute noch erkennen an welcher Stelle ein Block im Bogen gedruckt wurde. Neben den gezähnten Blockausgaben gibt es noch 105 geschnittene Ausgaben die aber sehr selten sind da diese während der Ausstellung (6.5.1934 -13.5.1934) durch die Ungarische Post an Persönlichkeiten verschenkt wurden und somit nie in den Verkauf kamen.



Gezähnte Blockausgabe



Geschnittene Blockausgabe

Heribert Dröge –Mafitt Mitglied-

1934 Airmail letter from Budapest to Buenos Aires franked with Arcképek stamps

Jan Jaap de Weerd

One of my favorites in Hungarian postal history are frankings with the 1932 set of Portraits Famous Hungarians or Arcképek in Hungarian. During the period that these stamps were used, rates did not change, but with the 14 values of the set, numerous combinations are possible on cover and often give a very colorful result. I try to find covers franked with Arcképek stamps exclusively. For a higher franking this becomes difficult. In these cases, the lower values were meant to be used together with the high denomination stamps of the Nagy Madonna set.



The cover I show here is the highest 'pure' *Arcképek* franking I found up till now. Sent by airmail from Budapest 62 on November 15, 1934 to Buenos Aires, the letter arrived in Argentina on November 23 as shown by the arrival handstamp VIA AEREA - BUENOS AIRES.

The front of the cover bears a bleu Hungarian - French LÉGIPOSTA - PAR AVION label as well as a red handstamp DEUTSCHE LUFTPOST - EUROPA-SÜDAMERIKA with two stars on both sides. This was the Airmail confirming handstamp of the Lufthansa company for the post boarded at the Stuttgart airport. The red handstamp was used on Zeppelin mail also, but the two Zeppelin flights that left Germany at the end of 1934 don't fit in with the datestamps on this cover. The *Graf Zeppelin* airship left Friedrichshafen for its 11th South-America Flight on October 27, too early, and the 12th arrived in Recife, Brazil on December 12, too late.
In 1933, Lufthansa had tested a new way of transporting post by the air. An airplane delivered the mail from Germany to a boat waiting on the East coast of Africa. The boat sailed with the mail as well as a small airplane that was catapulted as soon as the airport of Natal, on the extreme eastern point of the South-American coast, was within range. When this service was launched in November 1933, it took four days to transport the mail from Berlin to Rio de Janeiro.
This letter went certainly on one of the regular flights with this scheme. Starting in November 1934, a weekly service was established, and one of the departures was on November 17. After leaving Budapest on November 15, the letter was placed on the plane in Stuttgart on November 17 and reach Rio de Janeiro on November 21. It took another two days to deliver it to Buenos Aires, probably by the German-Brazilian airmail company Condor.

On the front of the cover to the right of the red Lufthansa stamp there is a number that has been crossed out. This number refers to the postage to be paid : 21,68, that is, 21 Pengö and 68 fillér. A foreign letter at this time cost 40f for the first 25 grams and 20f for each supplementary 20 grams, so here it was 40f + 20f for a total of 60f. Airmail surcharge for Argentina was 2P66f for each 5 gram increment. On the extreme left hand side of the front of cover we can decipher the 38gr annotation that was written by the post office clerk with an ink a bit darker shade than the one used by the sender to write the address. For the applicable airmail surcharge, 38 gram means 8 implements of 2,66P for a total of 21,28P. Adding in the 60f letter rate, the grand total came to 21,88P. The 21,68 written on the cover is in the ink of the sender. the postal clerk calculated the correct postage and crossed out the figure. We don't know if the sender or the postal clerk affixed the stamps to the envelope. In this case, thirty 70f and two 50f stamps were used for a total of 22 Pengö. The cover was overfranked by 12f, a small sum when compared to 22 Pengö. Why weren't higher denomination Madonna stamps used? Since the cover was mailed at one of the largest post offices in Budapest (No. 62 located at the Eastern Railway Station) the availability of the stamps would not have been a problem leading to indicate that the clerk at the factory affixed some or all of the stamps. Maybe he didn't have any Madonna stamps or he just wanted to use a stock of lower denomination stamps that was sleeping in a drawer.



The Magyar Wolframlámpa-gyár, a factory of the Orion Radio and Electricity Company, produced light bulbs that were exported all over the world. This letter was sent to Karl Veszprém. Upon arrival, the postman didn't find the recipient at the address written on the envelope, so he applied his circular identification number 1816 and took the letter back to post office. There it was determined that he was an '*abonado*' that meant that he had a sort of post office box. The address on the envelope was changed to 'Al (=to) 8/602' which was the number of his '*abonado*'. Maybe Mr Veszprém was a sales representative of the company who, travelling a lot, used this post-box system in order to receive his mail.

References and acknowledgement:
- **MBK**
- **Sieger Zeppelin Post Catalogue, 2001**
- Erich Haberer, **Katalog über Katapultpost, Teil 2 Südatlantik**
- many thanks to Dr. Andres Schlichter from Argentina for his information about the '*abonado*' and Csaba Kohalmi for his helpful suggestions

„NAGYMÁNYA" printing error on envelope



Registered letter to Léva with mixed franking the earliestworld-famous printing error of NAGYMÁNYA + Arcképek 16 fillér (World Rarity: One of the 2 recorded letter.)

[Cancellation: 26/04/39 Nagymánya. Arrival: 27/04/39. Léva.]



Copy back side with arriving cancellation (100 %)

Az első forgalomba került NAGYMÁNYA tévnyomat levele kedves számomra, mert az e területen végzett gyűjtői és kutatási munkám eredményeként tudtam megállapítani, e híres bélyeg kuriózum tényleges helyzetét. A levél a Lévai Kerületi Betegbiztosító Intézet orvosától kiindulva két gyűjtő kollekcióját megjárva jelentkezett nálam azonosításra,korábbi minden nyilvánosságot megkerülve. (Közel egyévi alkudozás után.) Világrikaságokat tartalmazó NAGYMÁNYA gyűjteményem igazi gyöngyszeme ez a levél.

52.

1938 Kassa
Ismét magyarok vagyunk próbanyomat

Általánosan ismert, hogy a Felvidék visszatérése alkalmából készültek *„1938 Kassa Ismét magyarok vagyunk! 1938. nov. 11."* szövegű magán-felülnyomatok a csehszlovák, a kassai dómot ábrázoló, ívközéprészes bélyegpár ívközéprészére – állítólag 820 példányban. Az ezekkel a bélyegekkel és magyar- vagy csehszlovák bélyegekkel kiegészített bérmentesítésű és postán futtatott leveleket annak idején Abonyi Jenő bélyegkereskedő árusította. A bemutatott levélen azonban a felülnyomat *nem* a kassai dóm bélyeg, hanem a Fügner-bélyeg szelvényén van. Ezt a – tudomásom szerint – eddig még nem publikált változatot próbanyomatnak tekinthetjük.

Dr Lőwei György



53.

25 DB DÉLAFRIKAI UNIÓBA KÜLDÖTT CSOMAG DÍJHIÁNYJELENTÉSE



A DOMUS Bútoripari Kft. Budapest, Rákóczi út 74. sz. alatti üzlete 1939. szeptember 16-án 25 db, egyenként 5 kg-os csomagot adott fel egyidejűleg a Barclays-Syrings- és a Standard Bankok részére a Délafrikai Unióba, Johannesburgba.

A korabeli díjszabás szerint az 5 kg-ig terjedő csomagok díja ebben a desztinációban 13 pengő 75 fillér volt, tehát a 25 db csomag után fizetendő díj **343 pengő 75 fillér lett volna**.

Ezzel szemben a feladáskor a szállítólevélen **csak 195 pengőt rögtön le**, annak köszönhetően, hogy a díj megállapításakor csomagonként csak 7 pengő 80 fillérrel számoltak (25x7,80=195).

Még a csomagok kiküldése előtt, a nemzetközi csomagkicserélő postahivatalban észlelték a díjhiányt és annak rendje-módja szerint be is hajtották azt. A díjhiányjelentést szabályosan és értelemszerűen kitöltötték, azon látható az a számszaki levezetés, amelynek eredménnyeképpen megállapították, hogy a díjszabás szerinti tarifához képest lerótt díj különbözeteként mennyit kell még pótlólag fizetni.

A 25 csomag után, a csomagonkénti 5 pengő 95 fillér különbözetet, együttesen **148 pengő 75 fillért** róttak le. A magas díjat **29 db Horthy 5 pengössel (!!!)** továbbá 1-1 db 2 és 1 pengössel, valamint Arcképek 70 és Templom 5 filléres bélyeggel rótták le, **háromszoros vegyes bérmentesítésként**.

Ez a dokumentum a modern magyar postatörténet rendkívüli ritkasága!



54.

Megj: a kinyitott boríték felső fele a kiállítási lapon felül másolatban, a másik fele alul eredetiben volt bemutatva.

1939 Postcard verified by the Königsberg censor office

Jan Jaap de Weerd

Already before the outbreak of the war, the German government had made plans about the organization of the civil censor service. Initially, the idea was to centralize this service in just one office in Berlin, for all the mail coming into the German Empire as well as all mail sent abroad. There was to be an exception for the mail from and to Eastern Prussia that would be censored in a secondary office in Königsberg. A few days after the start of the war on September 1, 1939, both offices were functioning.

Very rapidly, it became clear that the Berlin office could not handle the huge amount of mail on its own. It was decided to create decentralized censor offices, each of them in charge of a particular geographical zone. The task of censoring the mail exchanged between Hungary and its outland was attributed, amongst others, to the Vienna censor office. This office opened December 1, 1939.

Thus, Hungarian mail has been censored in the Königsberg censor office only during the first three months of the war and only when it was sent to Eastern Prussia.

This typewritten folded business postcard was cancelled in the Budapest 12 post office on August 28, 1939. Sent to Königsberg, it reached its destination after the outbreak of the war and was one of the first items to be handled by the newly installed censor office, before being delivered. All the censor markings on the card are typically those used during the first month of its functioning.

The circular handstamp with the denomination '*Auslandsnachrichtenprüfstelle*/Königsberg (Pr)' (foreign mail verification office) has been in use until February, 1940. But in the color blue it has been used in September, 1939 only.

A small strip of paper with the text '*Auslandsbriefüberwachungsstelle*' (foreign letter surveillance office) was stuck vertically along the left side of the card. This kind of label is only known on mail censored in the first days of functioning of the office. The reason for the application of this second denomination is not clear and apparently its use was considered superfluous since it was abandoned very rapidly.

The one-line handstamp '*Von der Wehrmacht zugelassen*' is also part of the equipment used in the first months only.



55.

THE BUDAKESZI POSTMASTER PROVISIONALS

Rate Period 25. Budakeszi, July 17, 1946.

#1



Paid Foreign letter rate 80,000 AdóPengö

'Insufficient Address' labels overprinted '80,000 ap' (AP) and used as provisional postage stamps. Hungary's postal regulations did not allow for this type of provisional stamp. Improvised home printing set was used to imprint the correct rate, same time it was initialed with red pencil.

#2

Reduced

Rate Period 24.
Budakeszi, July 11, 1946.

The 'Provisional stamps' were pre-prepared (with red daystamp and '112' control number) on July 4th but was posted only on July 11,1946.(see black cds. tying stamps to cover). The needed values were applied on the day of' mailing. (200ezer B. + 400ezer B.)

Paid double-weight foreign letter rate 650,000 Billio Pengö (short paid 50,000 BP)

Certificate



Grundserien **Verwendung in Budapest und Umgebung ab 2. März**

LETZTAGSBRIEF

Mit dem 30. April endete ein spannendes Kapitel, über dessen Existenz bis 2012 (67 Jahren) die Sammlergemeinde nichts gewusst hat. Nach jahrelangen Recherchen (2004. Auftauchen des Ersttagbriefes mit Tarifangaben, 2012 Auftauchen des Letztagsbriefes) habe ich in der PHILATELICA 12/1 anhand der teilweise hier gezeigten Belege eine Quellenarbeit darüber veröffentlicht.



(Kopie über der Rückseite mit Datum)



30.04.1945. Mischfrankatur mit 4x5 Fillér Heerführer und 4x30 Fillér Kossuth Marken

(Richtig frankierter eingeschriebener Ortsbrief aus Budapest mit 4x5+4x30=140 Fillér. Der Brief wurde in den letzten Stunden der Tarifgültigkeit am 30. April 1945 um 14 Uhr aufgegeben beim Postamt Budapest 5.)

1945. Zilahi kiadású díjjegyes

1945. március és május között Észak-Erdélyben , Zilahon adták ki ezt az 1 Pengő névértékű díjjegyes levelezőlapot. (Simády katalógus 1.pótlás,5.sorszám) A lap a Magyar Királyi Tábori Posta un. honi levelezőlapjának a magyar szöveget eltakaró,román nyelvű felülnyomásával és egy bélyegrajzot utánzó kiegészítő ábrával készült. Példányszáma ismeretlen, a szakirodalom – e példányon kívül – mindössze egy másik " futott" példányt említ. (Néma Péter : Szilágysági Posta 1945, ARGE kiadás é.n.) A II. Zilah-i kiadású helyi , 2 Pengős bélyeggel kiegészített levelezőlap ma az egyetlen ismert ajánlott küldemény. Bérmentesítése, feladás- és érkezéskori postai kezelése egyértelmű , egy családi levelezés része. Köznapi jellege vitathatatlan.



MAGYAR FILATÉLIAI TUDOMÁNYOS TÁRSASÁG
MAFITT Szalon, Budapest, 2014.09.06 – 2014.09.28

Exhibit Page by

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A MISSING CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

Egy *eltűnt Szt. István Koronája*

Eine vermisst Krone von St. Stephan

Over the last five years,* I have been studying "surviving" Hungarian postage cancellers which continued to be used in the "lost territories" after November 1918, and even beyond the Treaty of Trianon (signed June 4, 1920; officially in effect, July 31, 1921) into at least 1922. (I have seen a Lugoj survivor dated 1959.) Some cancellers were physically mutilated by the postal workers of the "successor" states that possessed the territories. In the most dramatic mutilation, there was a total excision of the Crown of St. Stephen, which was a standard feature of Hungarian cancellers of type H, J, and K (and the later L–R types).‡ A systematic account of survivors in the lost territories is not included in the **Monográfiája**. These cancellers were no longer legitimately Hungarian, used neither in Hungary nor by the Hungarian post. Information about surviving cancellers and their mutilation can be found, for example, in the Czechoslovakian **Monografie** (16. Díl, II. Svazek), for cancellers used in the post-revolution Slovak and Ukrainian segments of that country. Unearthing surviving Hungarian cancels on the stamps of Fiume, the various regions of S.H.S., the Erdély, Partium, and Bánát in Romania, and Czechoslovakia is rewarding; discovering cancels on these stamps from which the iconic Crown of St. Stephen has been removed (an understandable political tactic in the nationalization of an endogenous post) is especially gratifying. However, cancellers from which the Crown of St. Stephen had been excised were employed in and by Hungary itself throughout the 20th Century. For some early specimens of indigenous Hungarian Crown-excised cancellers (type F_{10}), see Ercsi (1909, 1918, ‡ p. 315), Keszthely (1902, 1912, ‡ p. 320), Pásztó (1912, ‡ p. 327), and Várpalota (1911, ‡ p. 335). But the absolute death-by-excision of the Crown was carried out starting in 1946 (‡ p. 466) by the post-WWII postal administration; see cancels from Nádasd (1957; ‡ image 228), Vác (1953; ‡ p. 215), Bácsbokod (1957; ‡ p. 228), Hatvan (1958; ‡ p. 339), Paks (1960; ‡ p. 374), Budapest (1967; ‡ p. 374), and Homokterenye (1955; ‡ p. 308). Not only was the Crown eliminated, but "Kir." (= Király) as well. Whether the sentiment was anti-monarchical, anti-clerical, pro-democracy, and/or pro-communist is unclear. My "gem" is a surgically disfigured cancel which lost both "Kir." and the Crown (center and right):



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



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



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

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



Excised *Rákosi Shield*, 1956

MAGYAR FILATÉLIAI TUDOMÁNYOS TÁRSASÁG
MAFITT Szalon, Budapest, 2014.09.06 – 2014.09.28

Exhibit Page by

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Ujvidék, an Interloper
Ujvidék, Határsértő
Ujvidék, ein Usurpator

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







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

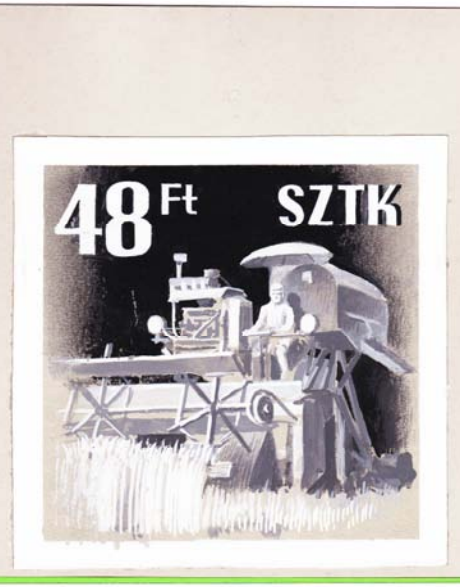
In Visszatért Kolozsvár, "Hitler tér" was the WW2 name of Cluj-Napoca's "Stefan cel Marc" square. Recall the interloperian renaming of "Andrássy út" to "Sztálin út" (1950-1956), then to "Magyar Ifjúság útja," and then to "Népköztársaság út" until 1990.

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

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

60.

Jozsef Vertel has been a celebrated designer of postage stamps throughout the last 40 years of his life. Amongst many other prizes, he won the one for "The Most Beautiful Stamp of the Year" eight times in Hungary between 1966 and 1991. M.W.







In an auction I bought some 18 lots of designs submitted for the SZTK revenues of the 50s, including 10 designs by Vertel J. The one shown seems to have been chosen for the combine harvester "aratogep" depiction on No 27 (48Ft) and No 30 (96Ft) from 1952. (Floderer Revenue Catalogue p354, which also shows the picture) They were overprinted again in the same year with "+20 Ft " as shown here. The artwork is on 125 mm x 125 mm white paper glued onto grey carton 200 mm x 255 mm with the text: VAZLAT VERTEL JOZSEF. On the back of the grey carton in handwriting it says "Szot 4513" M.W.

VÁZLAT

VERTEL JÓZSEF

61.

1956. SOPRONI FELÜLNYOMÁS

Az 1956-os Soproni felülnyomásnak egy jelentős tévnyomata van. A 2,60 Ft-os érték felülnyomásakor a 77, 78, 87, 88-as ívhelyeken a második és a harmadik sort szedéskor felcserélték. A hibát két ív felülnyomása után észrevették és kijavították. Ennek megfelelően egy-egy ívhelyen kettő, mindösszesen 8 tévnyomat keletkezett. A létező 8 példányból egy szép négyestömböt mutatok be a IV. MAFITT-Szalon alkalmából.



Leitold László

Postage Due

1951: New BROWN ISSUE

First Philatelic Tri-sects??

State Railway duty roster notices sent to employees as official post, within Kecskemet, local rate 60f., to be paid by addresses. Seemingly without 60f. dues,, a postal clerk cut out ***one-third divisions*** *of* ***2Ft.*** *. dues.*



It is very exciting to find something that is perhaps the only one that exists. There is often a human story. It was New Year but the trains must run and so the duty rosters must be sent to drivers and other staff. There were no 60f stamps. But someone had 2Ft. Stamps!

FIFTEEN POINTS, AND MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

Part of a somewhat roughly cut-down, part-torn, envelope (obvious looking at the back), doing duty as a newspaper wrapper? Sent from GB, franked 6½d (1: sixp'nce-hayp'ny as we used to say), presumably correct, we have no way of knowing for sure; nor where from, as apart from faint year 57, the postmark (2) is a fragmentary smudge – not so usual in those days.

Once into Hungary … The fun begins as it attracts five rubber-stamps, three labels, a manuscript endorsement, and a 2Ft postage-stamp – and generates questions!

First to go on, perhaps, was the large red B (3: meaning?), as it and the country name (4) are part-covered by the Customs label (5: Vamkezelt = Customs clearance |– / Levél / Áruminta = – / Letter / Sample|); part of its top is missing, maybe torn off on delivery to expose the street name? It imposes a 1Ft 60 charge, plus handling and delivery 1Ft 40 (total 3Ft not filled in), presumably to be paid by the recipient. Was there a tax on imported newspapers?

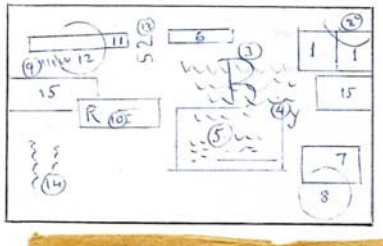
It is Expressed (6), but why? Entering the realms of fantasy: Could conceivably have been applied by the sender if he had acquired a Hungarian label, or if the recipient had sent the pre-prepared wrapper through to Britain! Would the GB 6½d then pay for express plus postage? Seems an unlikely scenario! In fact the 2Ft stamp (7) covers the express fee – but who paid for it? Its postmark (8) is Bp (70?) 57 IV 30; the purple datestamp (9) top left appears to be the same date.

It is also registered (10) at Budapest East (office name rather than just a number), would be 1Ft 40, but (again) why, who paid, and how? Is it the Customs handling and delivery fee?

Which leaves the boxed word (11: VAM...ITES? – to do with Customs?), the illegible purple ring (12), the black 52 (13), and the manuscript (14: ver 24154 IV 9) – what do they all mean?

And why is the stamp-edging (15) there? Does not continue on the back. Presume British as perf 14½; red, so from a 2½d rather than the ½d stamp?

Would have been even better with a sixteenth item, an arrival mark at Zalaegerszeg!





64.



Kedvenc Forint-filléres dokumentumom ez a látszólag semmitmondó papírdarabka.

Mikor megláttam körülbelül 2 napi gondolkodás után vettem meg egy külföldi bélyegbörzén. A látszólag semmitmondó papírdarabka a répcevisi postamester díjhiány jelentése. Csak gondolom a helyi postamesternek nem volt díjhiány jelentés nyomtatványa(kis posta nem látták el ilyen nyomtatvánnyal) Viszont a25.928/1949 belső utasítás miatt 5 forint 60 fillérnyi díjhiányt valamint ennek a 20% büntetőportóját le kellett rónia. Vett egy lapot s a meglévő bélyegekkel elkezdte leróni. 6 forint 70 fillérig ment is postabélyegekkel azonban az utolsó 2 filléres bélyeget 1948 december 31.-ével kivonták a forgalomból. Így élelmes postásunk a meglévő 2 filléres illetékbélyeggel pótolta a hiányt. Így meg lett a 6 forint 72 fillér.

A díjhiány jelentésen minden szükséges rajta van: bélyegek, határozatszám, dátum,aláírás. A korszak talán egyik legritkább különlegessége ez.

65.

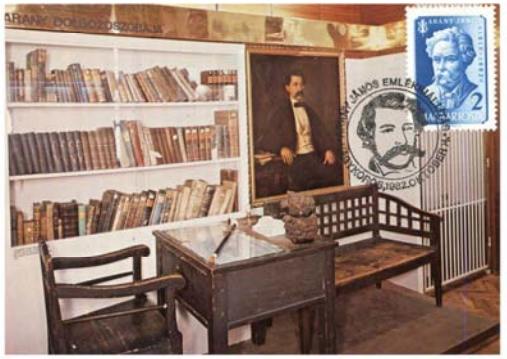
A posta történelem tanulmányozása:

Magába foglalja a postabélyegzőket, a postahivatalok épületeit, a postamesterek neveit és aláírásait, fényképeit, a posta kézbesítők neveit, és a falvak bélyegzőit ahová a postakihordók nap mint nap ellátogattak. A tanulmányozás foglalkozik továbbá az egyes falvak: lakosságával, mennyi ház volt és ki volt a bíró. A bemutatón látható a besztercebányai postahivatal posta kihordó legénye Ruzsinszki János, és egyes falvak bélyegzői, melyeket a bírók használtak. A bemutatkozás éve 1880.



ARANY JÁNOS ÍRÓASZTALA AZ AKADÉMIÁN

E carte-maximum (képeslap, bélyeg és bélyegző hármas egysége) filatéliai szempontból nem képvisel jelentős értéket ám mégis tiszteleti elnökünk, dr. Láng István professzor gyüjteményének legkedvesebb darabja. Professzor úr az MTA főtitkáraként aktív részese volt a Mafitt alapításának, majd 1990 és 2002 közti, 12 évig tartó elnöksége alatt nőtt a Mafitt jelentős létszámú nemzetközi szervezetté. Választását a lap alatt olvasható szöveggel indokolta.



„Arany János (született: 1817) a legnagyobb magyar költő, műfordító, író élete egy bizonyos szakaszában tudományos közéleti szerepet is vállalt. A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia titkára, majd főtitkára volt 1865 és 1879 között. A képen baloldalon az íróasztala látható. Én nagy tisztelettel és alázattal simogattam meg a karosszéket, de sohasem ültem bele."



A Mafitt egyik legfőbb célja elődeink emlékének őrzése és munkásságuk megbecsülése. A fenti választás erre az egyik legszebb példa.

A Mafitt 20 éves fennállása alkalmából készült emlékív mindhárom tiszteleti elnökünk, így Láng István professzor arcképét is tartalmazza.

Egy abszolút friss gyöngyszem

Több mint két és fél évszázad történetét átfogó kiállításunkat egy postán még csak néhány hete érkezett borítékkal zárom, amely modern tarifa-gyűjteményem legfrisebb ékessége.

A levél e kiállítás néhány lapját hozta hozzám Bécsből. Az idén épp száz évvel ezelőtt kitört, tragikus világégés casus bellijét szolgáltató szarajevói merénylet áldozataira emlékező blokk melletti a csodaszép osztrák hímzett bélyegeken levő virágok, és a feladó 80. születésnapjára utaló, az egyik legszebb magyar portó bélyeg motívumaiból remek ízléssel készített privát levélzáró bélyeg teszi a tarifát feledhetetlenné.

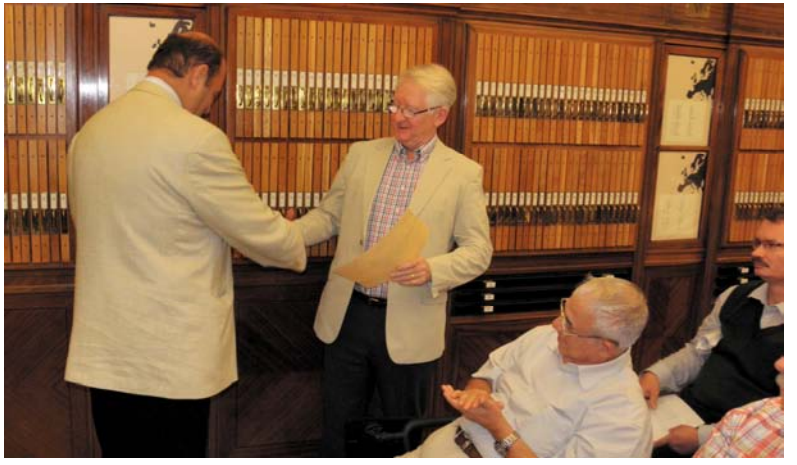
Ez minden ízében a látványos filatéliai alkotás egyik alapító tagunk és kiváló filatelistánk, ***dr. Nagy Ferenc*** játékos remekműve. E szemet gyönyörködtető modern darabbal azt szerettem volna bemutatni, hogy minden korban folyamatosan születnek gyűjteményekbe illő gyöngyszemek, ami azt jelenti, hogy:

a filatélia
örökké élni fog!



JUBILEUMI KÉPEK – PHOTOS OF SILVER JUBILEE








Az 1971-ben indított lap félévente jelenik meg, az 1991-ben kezdődőtt húsz év szünet után 2011-től párhuzamosan magyar és angol nyelven is.

A lap digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról tölthető le: www.mafitt.hu

The CD attachment is available on the website of Mafitt at www.mafitt.hu

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Philatelica

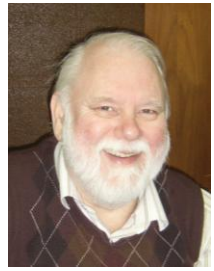
Philatelica 2015/1

Tartalom / Content:

Filep László:	Az 1871-es réznyomású 5 krajcáros próbanyomata The proof of engraved 5 krajcar in 1871	1.
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Hírek / News		54.

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PROOF OF ENGRAVED 5KR OF 1871

LÁSZLÓ FILEP, BUDAPEST

When postage stamps are being manufactured, in the course of printing procedure preparation, the first printing activity is producing proofs, in order to check the already produced printing plates. This did not happen in different way in the past; nor does it happen differently today. By default, these proofs were filed into the printing file of a given postage stamp. The further we go back in time, the greater the possibility that these proofs have entered private collections.

This has been the fate of the piece to be presented here, the *brownish black engraved proof* of 5kr stamp from the definitive issue of 1871. A nice collection of these proofs can be seen in the Stamp Museum, display case no. 41.

The 5kr postage stamp of the "Engraved" series was produced in the Hungarian Royal State Press, using engraving (copper) printing technique, in sheets containing 100 postage stamps, with subsequent framework perforation $9^1/_4$:$9^1/_2$.

At the beginning, the paper of this postage stamp was identical to that of the lithographic ones: type I, produced in Austria, without watermark, average thickness 0.09 mm, uneven texture and white colour. From the end of 1872, the paper of type II was introduced, its producer unknown, without watermark, 0.08-0.09 mm thick, with even texture. The gum at the beginning was identical to that of the lithographic postage stamps: white or slightly yellowish, two quarters of gum Arabic, one quarter of starch and one

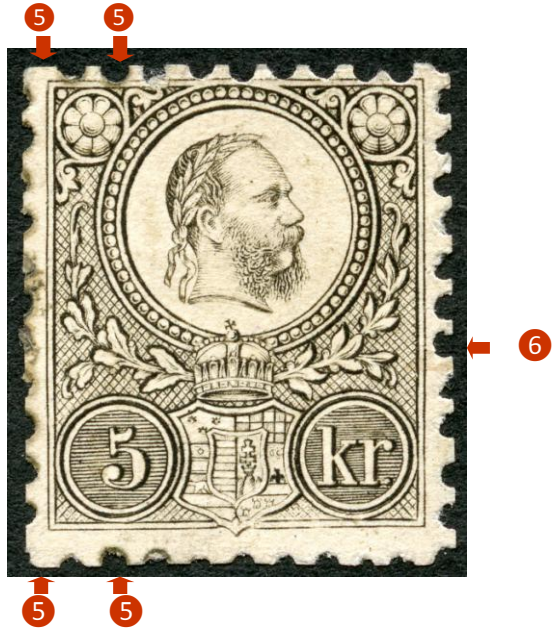


Figure 1 Face side of the proof 1

[1] I hereby express gratitude to Károly Szücs for his consent to publishing the proof submitted for analysing and the piece stored in the display case 41 in the Stamp Museum.

quarter of dextrin; later the quality of the gum changed; beginning from 1875, exclusively animal glue was used.

A regulation introduced this stamp as of May 1, 1871. The image was designed by an employee of the State Printing Works. It was initially produced by lithography and later by engraving. The two forms of impression were not considered as separate issues at the time and they were distinguished only decades later (in 1903) by the renowned philatelist Marcel Biró. In all around 63 million of these stamps were produced and they could be used till December 31, 1876.

Categorizing of the basic stamp: Hungarian Stamps Handbook Volume 10, Hungarian Post Office and Revenue Stamp Catalogue Volume 10; Michel Osteuropa Ungarn Volume 10.

The description of the final design, which had undergone several changes and concepts, in Postal Regulations Journal of 19 April 1871 went as follows, "On the postage stamps, there are amber flowers on the right and oak flowers on the left, surrounding the light-colour circle in which His Majesty Emperor and King's portrait took place; under it, there is the coat of arms with the Crown of the countries belonging to the Hungarian Crown; in the two upper corners of the postage stamp, there are decorations from roses, whereas in the two bottom corners, the face value indication takes place."

Engraved proof: "a black print was produced from the printing plate of 100 images in order to make the repairs on the protruding plate duplicated by galvano process perfectly. It was important that the plate repair always takes place on protruding galvanised plate instead of the mother plate. After this, it is possible to produce from the fixed protruding plate by galvano process a limitless number of printing plates". (Quotation from Gábor Voloncs's article published in *Szabolcsi Bélyegújság* in December 2013)

The presented engraved black proofs have turned up in several shades. This piece is of brownish black colour. Its paper is similar to the lithographic postage stamps, type I, produced in Austria, without watermark, 0.09 mm average thickness, uneven texture, white, without gumming.

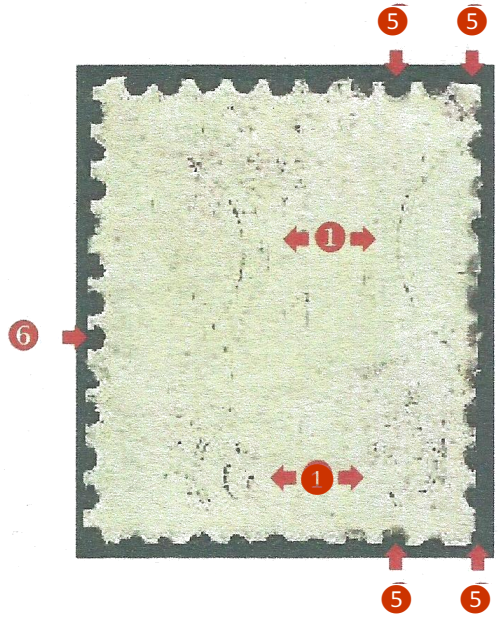


Figure 2 Rear side of the proof

On the rear side, there is sheet offset, namely an intermittent trace of the lines of a part of the image. The perforation is subsequent, frame-work, 9¼ :9½ teeth.

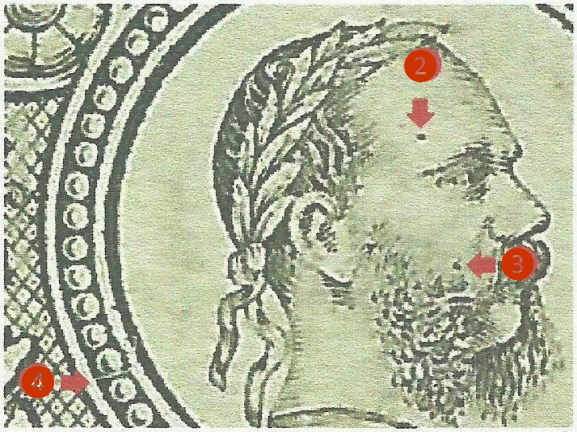


Figure 3 Image defects on the proofs analysed

The dot on the portrait, on the forehead ❷, the coloured dot in the upper angle of the moustache and the beard, ❸and a white line at the left side of the pearl string around the portrait between pearls 8 and 9 from the bottom ❹ were also such three defects which had to be fixed (actually, the repair of these defects took place, since they were not listed among the identifiers of the 5kr postage stamp in the Monograph of the Hungarian Stamps, Volume III, pp. 371-374).

As it was mentioned earlier, a nice collection of the proofs can be seen in the Stamp Museum, in display case 41. Among these, we can find a postage stamp produced after the repair of the mentioned proof, due to which on figures we do not come across the defect ❹; however, defects ❷and ❸are still there.

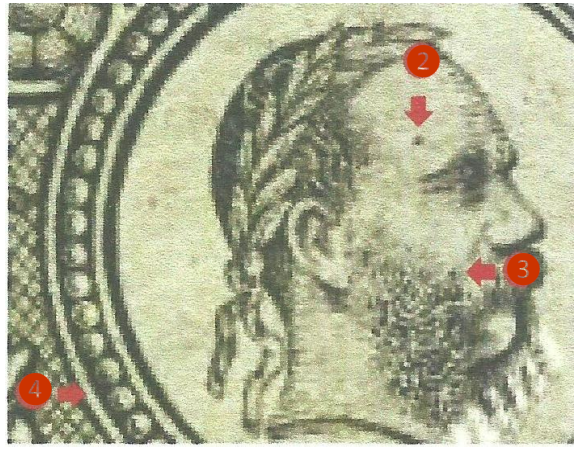


Figure 4 Proof of the Stamp Museum of with defects 2 and 3 but defect 4 missing

Naturally, in a subsequent step, defects ❷and ❸were also fixed on the protruding plate created by galvanoplastic process, as they do not appear among the identifiers of the 5kr postage stamp.

Parameters of the proofs described in the article:

White *paper* without watermarks; thickness measured at four points is 0,08-0,09-0,10-0,09 millimetres (I checked the thickness with a piece of digital measuring equipment Shahe CFCD 6015-10-1 at 4 points, starting from the upper left corner and preceding clockwise) – these data correspond to the average thickness of litho-graphic postage stamps of Type I produced in Austria with even texture.

When scrutinising the rear and the front side of the postage stamp with an ultraviolet analysing lamp EURO-BST-203LS DETECTOR, which is capable of long waves UV-A (315-400 nanometres) and short waves UV-C (100-280 nanometres), a horizontally arranged rectangular lighter part may be seen in the middle of the rear side ❼, in the area *marked by red crosses on the figure below* – I do not find any explanation to this!



Figure 5 The back in UV light

There is no *glue* on the rear side of the postage stamp. It is not possible to see if there had been glue which was later removed, or there was no glue at all. However, the darker colour at the left side and around the bottom and top 2nd perforation holes indicates that there is most probably some glue leftover❺.

Perforation is similar to that of lithographic postage stamps – subsequent framework perforation of 9 ¼ : 9 ½ teeth, its quality worse if compared with lithographic postage stamps, the punctures becoming less perfect. Several times we may come across interventions with the aim of visually improve perforation (for example ❻). However, the authenticity of perforation cannot be challenged.

Apart from the proofs stored in the Museum of Stamps, pieces circulating between collectors turn up *very rarely*.

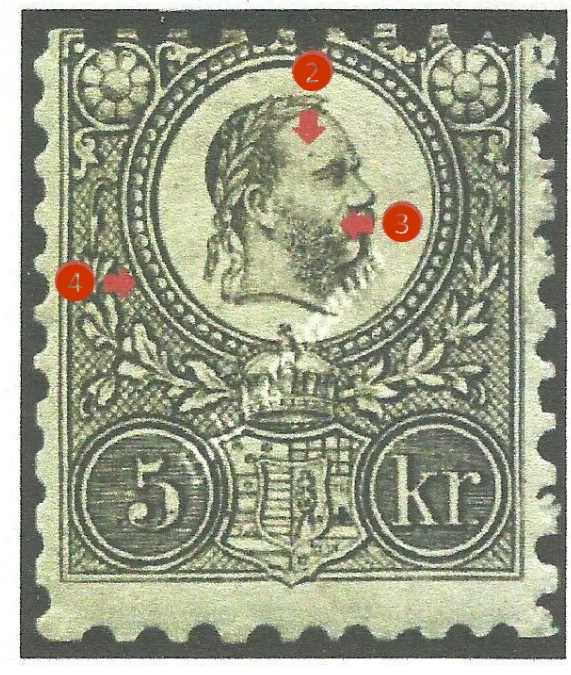


Figure 6 Front of the proof
in the Museum of Stamps



FIRST MOTHER PLATES OF HUNGARIAN FORINT-KREUZER REVENUE STAMPS

KÁROLY SZÜCS, BUDAPEST

1 INTRODUCTION

The significance of the magnificent Hungarian classic adhesive revenue stamp issues is invaluable, as there is not only the first Hungarian adhesive stamp among them, but the rarest centrally issued Hungarian adhesive stamp too. This group of issues embraces the beginning of the Hungarian adhesive stamp production, and due to the common mother plates, should be considered as a *philatelic unity* when explored, notwithstanding the colour variations.

28 revenue stamp mother plates were still produced in Vienna. They were based on the strikingly artistic engravings coming from the world-famous workshop of Jacoby, which were ahead of their age. They were based on sketches of J. Bayer. These plates were used in Vienna for two years, after which, from 1 October 1870, the production was transferred to the State Press in Buda, which in the meantime had been set up and equipped for revenue stamp production with Austrian support. There, revenue stamps were produced from these plates for almost *three decades*. On top of the issues of different colour shades provided for by regulations, our catalogues traditionally distinguish further 14(!) independent issues based on paper, watermark and perforation versions. On top of this, the type of lithographic leaf venation dies changed several times, which also led to outstanding philatelic richness.

The original stamp series was complemented, already in Hungary, by the denomination of 20 kreuzers, due to which the overall number of denominations amounted to the total of 29. Some of the denominations were issued very rarely; strikingly, the amount printed was still very small. Due to this, some denominations were not printed in some issues, while others are very difficult to obtain. Therefore, in the kreuzer period, only 5 Hungarian revenues stamp collections may be complete. The rarest quantities released amounted to only a couple of thousands (!) pieces, by far smaller amounts than those of revenue stamps.

The objective of this article is to provide *the first complete presentation* of the types appearing on the mother plates for more than twice, which have not been unexplored for long[2]. All the results which I achieved this year in this area were obtained due to the existence of the sample albums compiled for the world exhibition held in Paris in 1878. These albums were already used in the pioneering research done by our ingenious

[2] I would hereby like to express gratitude to Gábor Visnyovszki and Ralph Ebner for the inspiration and support given to this research.

predecessors[3] searching for types and other identifiers of kreuzer revenue stamp mother plates.

The present publication of the types and twin marks typical of mother plates make the further research in the characteristic features of the sheet positions possible, which were partly related to the mother plates but partly to the individual printing plates

The sheets are scanned images of 100 pieces; those of forint denomination contain 50 revenue stamp images – the CD attachment contains these. They contain identifiers of the plates for the sample albums, which were produced at the end of 1877 or probably the beginning of 1878. Comparing these images to such units which contain the identifiers published here makes finding the identifiers of individual positions possible.

My objective was to make it possible for the readers interested in philately to join in into the research not yet completed by the present article, since it seems impossible for one person to identify the sheet positions of 1.600 denominations. I know almost 200 such marks for the first three denominations.

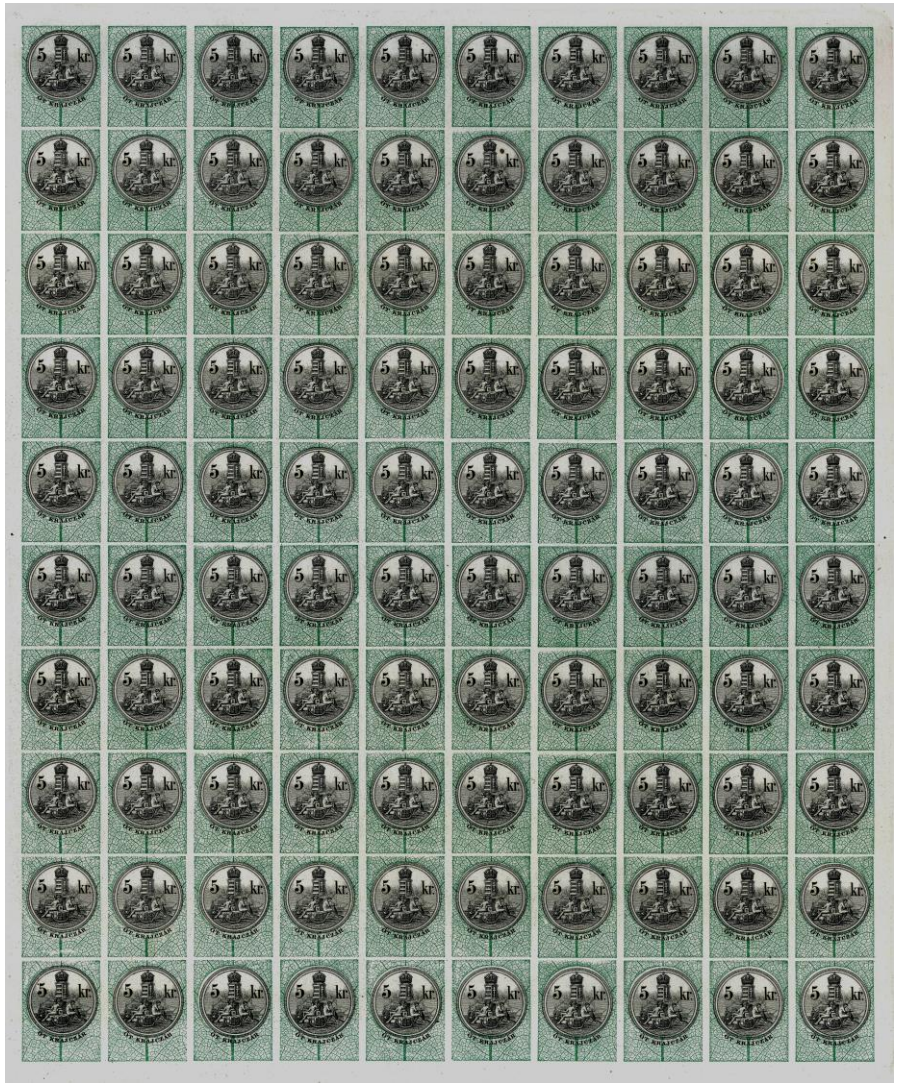


Figure 1 Sample sheet of 5kr denomination, 40% size reduction

[3] In this area, it was Gyula Madarász, Sándor Visnya, Ferenc Orbán, Tivadar Petrovits, László Pákozdi and András Lovász to achieve significant results.

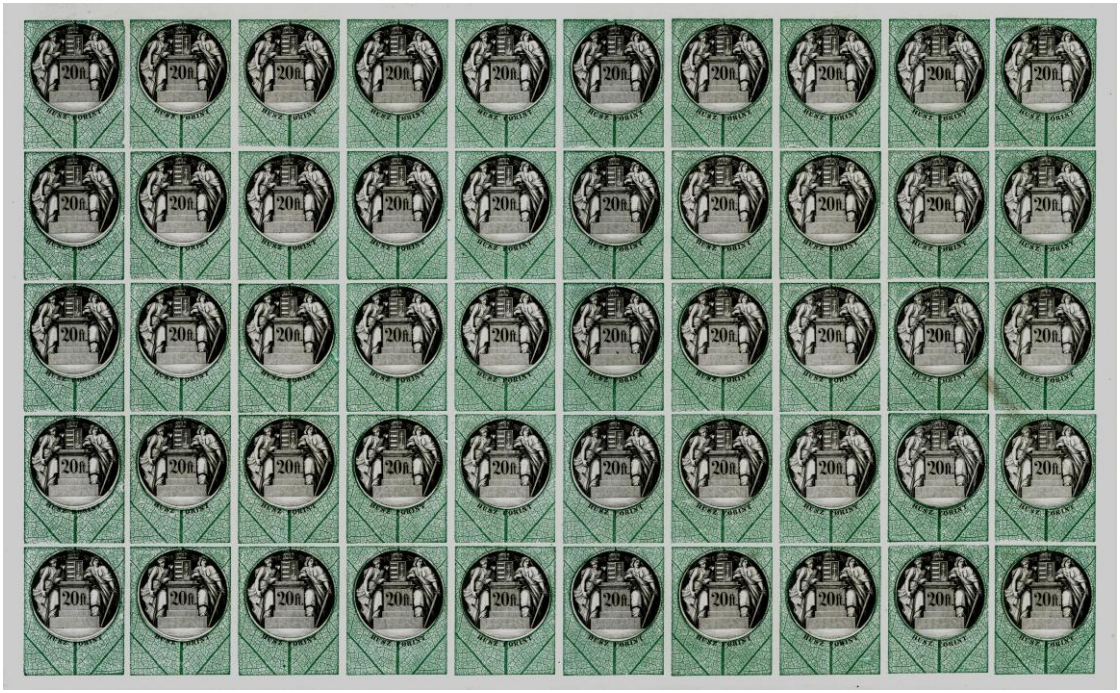


Figure 2 Sample sheet of the highest 20fl denomination, 40% size reduction

On top of this, I know of some positions of some further denominations, which I found almost "occasionally", in spite of systematic research to this end.

TYPES OF KRAJCZAR DENOMINATIONS

The plates containing 100 revenue stamp images of kreuzer denominations were produced by galvanoplastic process, in the course of which the sequence already described by Payer and applied for the issue of 1871 was used. First, a strip of five designs was produced. Then it was welded to its own copy – the result was a strip of 10 images. Then it was used to produce two blocks of 20 pieces, to which the original strip of 10 pieces was welded – this was how half-plate containing 50 revenue stamp images was compiled.

When the strip of 10 pieces was created, types typical of certain columns were produced, which then spread vertically over the plate in the course of multiplication downwards. These were then complemented by the group marks arising when the blocks of 20 pieces were produced and duplicated.

When 50 images were duplicated and the plates of 100 images were produced, considerable number of revenue stamps sharing the so-called twin marks was created, at the distance of approximately five revenue stamp positions.

Types of ½kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	AA*	B_1B_2	C	D_1D_2 D*	05-55	06-56	E	-	-	-
2.	A	B_1,B_2	C	D_1,D_2	-	16-66	E	-	-	-
3.	AA*	B_1,B_2	C	D_1,D_2 D*	25-75	26-78	E	28-38	-	30-80
4.	AA*	B_1,B_2	C	D_1,D_2 D*	-	36-86	E	38-48	39-89	40-90
5.	AA*	B_1,B_2	C	D_1,D_2 D*	-	46-96	E	-	-	50-100

After letter "L", on two sheet positions, an extensive plate defect, a kind of "black tear", appears.



Sheet positions 26-76

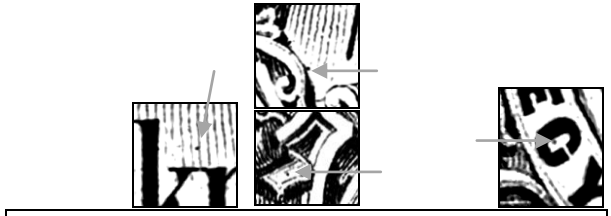
A A*	Above letters „CZÁ", the arc is thick; a repair is seen; between letters "E" and "G" there is a sharp point.
B_1 B_2	Point in the upper frame of the drawing; a line of varying length under letter "r"
C	Point in the snail above letter "J"
D_1 D_2 D*	Point between letters "G" and "Y" Point next to letter "k" Point in the middle of the right frame
G	Point under the slanting lower part of "k"

The identifiers typical of columns can be found only on the left part of the plate, which makes it obvious that these features were created when the strip of five images was duplicated. In the right part of the plate, where there are no identifiers, half of the positions may still be identified with the help of twin marks. However, the rest of the sheet positions may only be identified by units, which are unfortunately rather rare.

It is good to start categorising the revenuee stamps according to types on the basis of the always well visible plate repair "A", then continuing according to the order of visibility with types "B", "E", "D", and "C". After this, it is rather simple to identify the revenue stamps occupying twin position on sheets. In favourable cases the concrete sheet positions may also be identified with the help of the position marks already discovered and seen on the attached CD.

The twin marks presented on the next page are mostly well distinguishable on issues. However, the weak printing and elimination of the value made a significant part of the revenue stamps non-identifiable.

Twin marks*



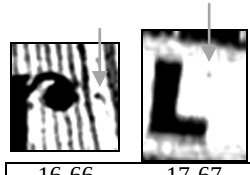
01-51 02-52 03-53 04-54 05-55



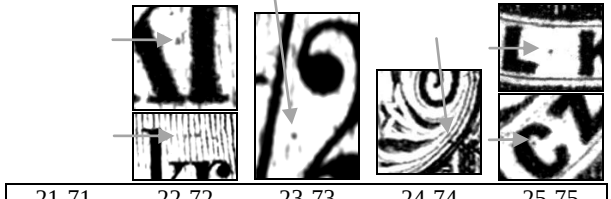
06-56 07-57 08-58 09-59 10-60



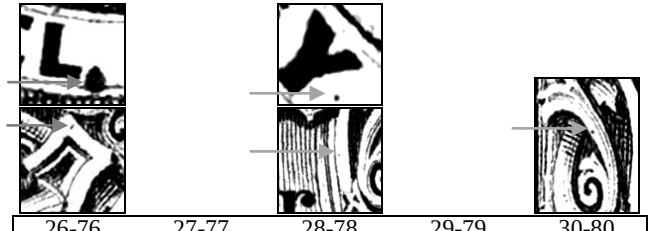
11-61 12-62 13-63 14-64 15-65



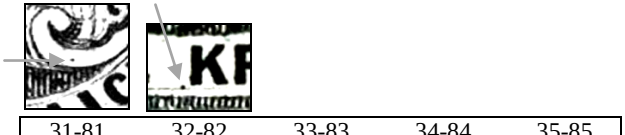
16-66 17-67 18-68 19-69 20-70



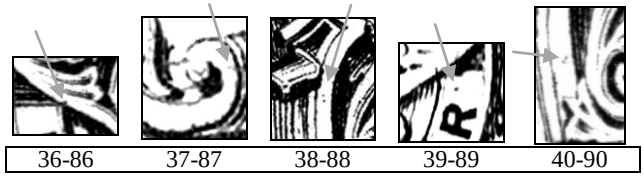
21-71 22-72 23-73 24-74 25-75



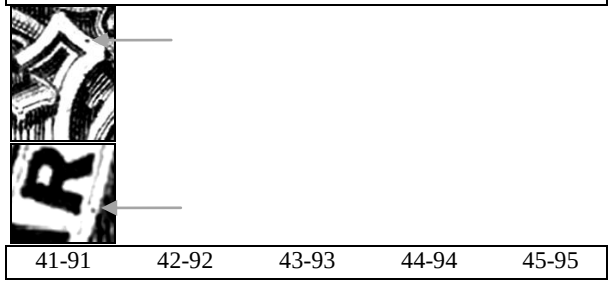
26-76 27-77 28-78 29-79 30-80



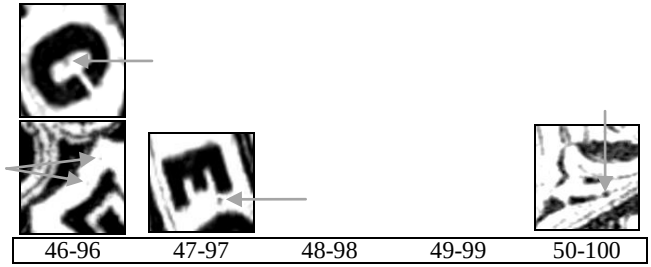
31-81 32-82 33-83 34-84 35-85



36-86 37-87 38-88 39-89 40-90



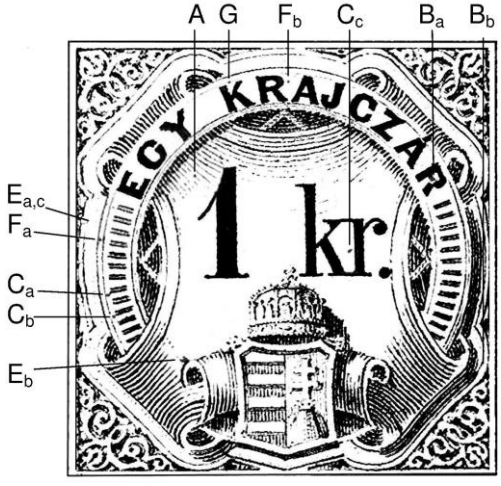
41-91 42-92 43-93 44-94 45-95



46-96 47-97 48-98 49-99 50-100

* Comment: in case of more than two marks only the two most typical are presented.

Types of 1kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A	Ba,b	Ca-c	04-54	Ea,b	Fa-b	Ba,b	Ca-c	G	Eb,c
2.	A	Ba,b	Ca-c	14-64	Ea,b	Fa-b	Ba,b	Ca-c	G	Eb,c
3.	A	Ba,b	Ca-c	24-74	Ea,b	Fa-b	Ba,b	Ca-c	G	Eb,c
4.	A	Ba,b	Ca-c	34-84	Ea,b	Fa-b	Ba,b	Ca-c	G	Eb,c
5.	A	Ba,b	Ca-c	-	Ea,b	Fa-b	Ba,b	Ca-c	G	Eb,c

The information here was already published in 2011 in Philatelica Volume 11/1, in the article discussing in detail the identifiers of the plate; it is not necessary to supplement that information. Although the mark system published then is a little bit different from the new achievements, I do not think it would be sensible to change that system. As for the rest of denominations, the results in the field of type marks have been achieved after that time – the present article is the first comprehensive publication of them.

A	The intermittent line, fifth from the left, starting from the slanting part of "1" ends in a dot, which sometimes is difficult to distinguish.
B	a) Discontinuity in second letter "R" of word KRAJCZÁR; b) A dot on the outer arc on the right side
C	a) A line to the left of the double line 5-6 from the bottom b) A dot to the left of the double line 4 from the bottom c) A dot between letters "k" and "r" next to letter "r"
E	a) Lines missing in the outer arc of the left side (column V) b) Thick dot near the left-hand strip c) Repair in the lines of the outer left-hand arc (column X)
F	a) A dot in the left-hand middle double arc b) A dot to the right of letter "R"
G	A little dot above letter "K" in the intermittent curve

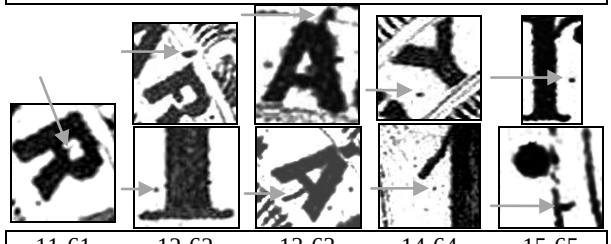
The most striking defect of this plate is a discontinuity near letter "J", the so-called "Zorro Mark". On early plates it used to be a twin mark, whereas on the plates produced in Hungary it occurred only on sheet position 24, which is 1 position out of 100.



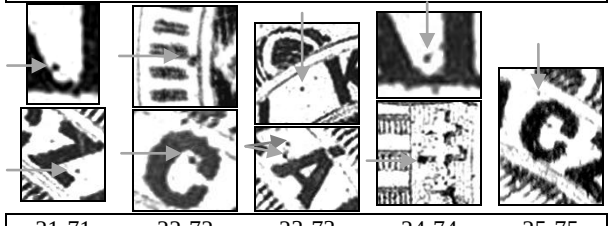
Twin marks



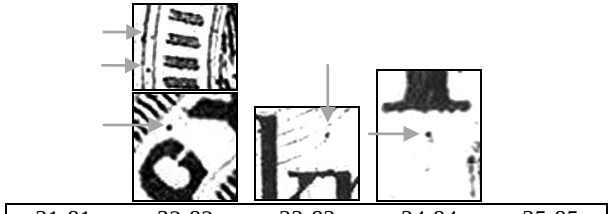
01-51 02-52 03-53 04-54 05-55



11-61 12-62 13-63 14-64 15-65



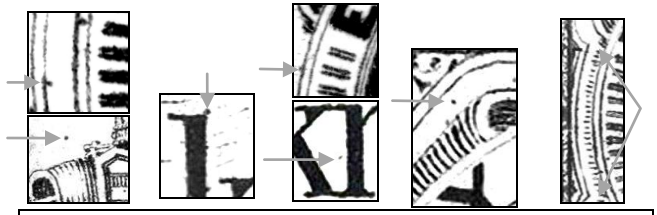
21-71 22-72 23-73 24-74 25-75



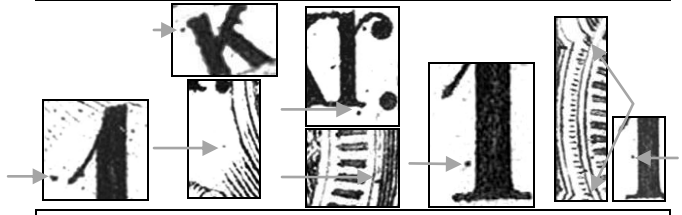
31-81 32-82 33-83 34-84 35-85



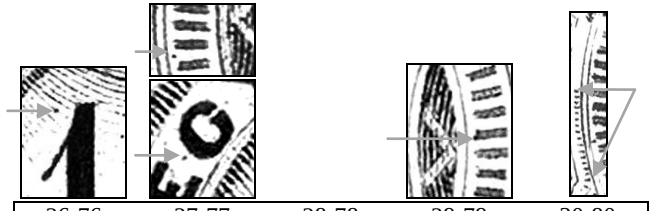
41-91 42-92 43-93 44-94 45-95



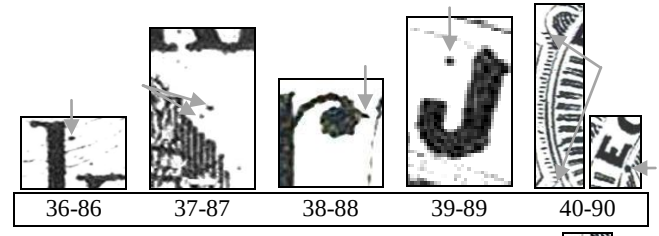
06-56 07-57 08-58 09-59 10-60



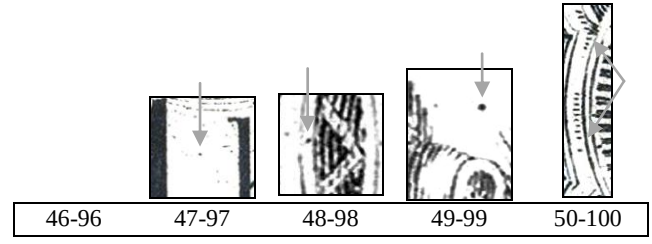
16-66 17-67 18-68 19-69 20-70



26-76 27-77 28-78 29-79 30-80



36-86 37-87 38-88 39-89 40-90



46-96 47-97 48-98 49-99 50-100

Types of 2kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A	B*	C*	D_1* D_2* E	E	F	07-57	H*	D_1* E	E H*
2.	A	B*	C*	D_1* D_2* E	E	F	17-67	H*	D_1* E	E H*
3.	A	B*	C*	D_1* D_2* E	E	F	27-37	H*	D_1* E	E H*
4.	A	B*	C*	D_1* D_2* E	E	F	37-47	H*	D_1* E	E H*
5.	A	-	H*	E	E H*	F	47-97	H*	E	E H*

A*	Fade dot in the upper left corner of the area of the numeral
B*	Pronounced dot under the right bottom part of the letter "**k**"
C*	Dot of different strength between the upper part of "**2**" and "**k**"
D*	Dot on one of the rays in the left bottom quarter of the drawing
E	Fade and hardly noticeable sharp dot in the middle between "**2**" and "**k**"
F	A thick stain connecting the ends of the two rays in the right upper quarter of the drawing at the height of the coat of arms
H*	Sharp dot of different strength and shape, fade dot, or short line under "**2**" in the proximity of the inner frame

Main types "D*"and "F" appearing in several columns at the distance of five revenue stamps may be found in both left and right half of the sheet.

Out of group types, type "H*" re-appears in irregular pattern: in the last rows of two columns of the left-hand sheet quarters; on the other hand, five positions to the right, it may be seen on all positions of the two columns, with the exception of the bottom line of the sheet.

The most striking defect of this plate is an extensive black stain on positions 46-96.



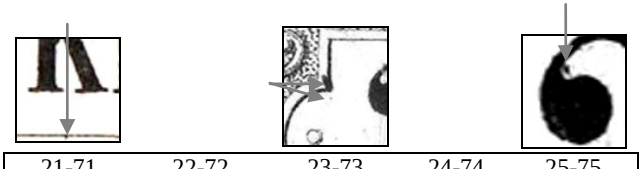
Twin marks



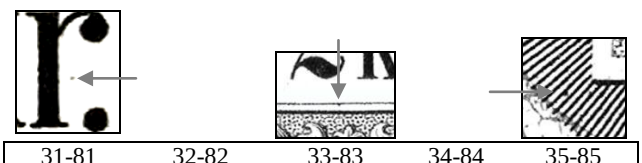
01-51 02-52 03-53 04-54 05-55



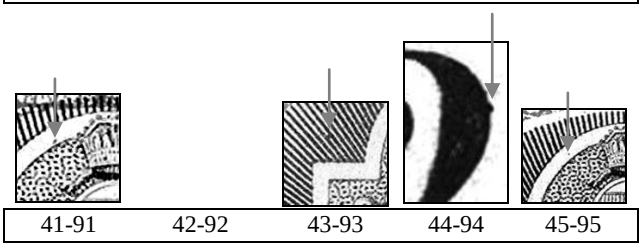
11-61 12-62 13-63 14-64 15-65



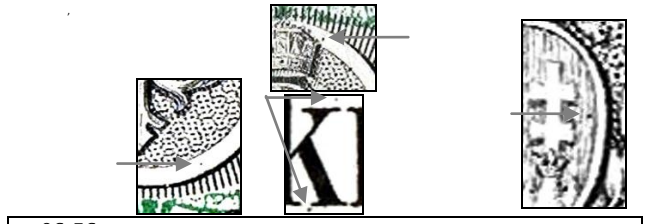
21-71 22-72 23-73 24-74 25-75



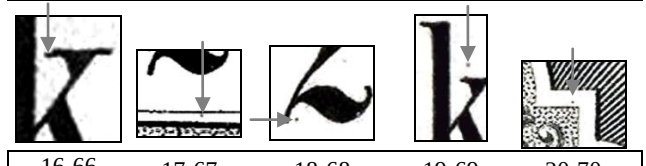
31-81 32-82 33-83 34-84 35-85



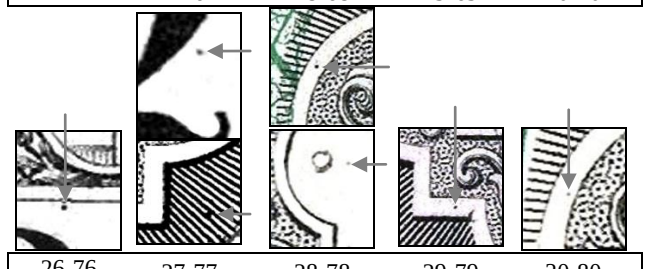
41-91 42-92 43-93 44-94 45-95



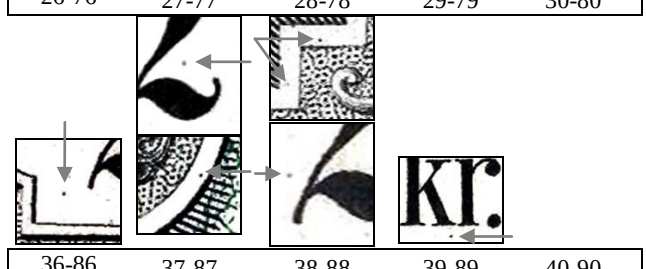
06-56 07-57 08-58 09-59 10-60



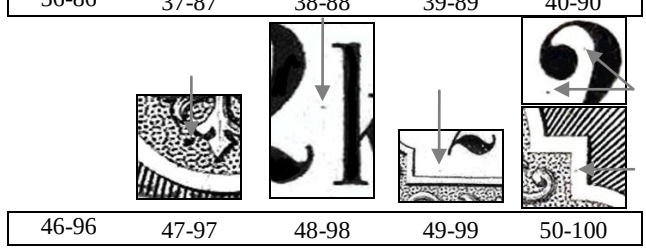
16-66 17-67 18-68 19-69 20-70



26-76 27-77 28-78 29-79 30-80



36-86 37-87 38-88 39-89 40-90



46-96 47-97 48-98 49-99 50-100

Types of 3kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	-	-	-	A*	B*	-	-	-	C*
2.	11-61	-	-	-	A*	B*	-	18-68	-	C*
3.	-	-	-	-	A*	B*	-	-	-	C*
4.	-	-	-	-	A*	B*	-	-	-	C*
5.	-	-	-	-	A*	-	-	-	-	-

A*	Thin, curved-line, pointed white scratch over value numeral "3", reaching down to letter "r"
B*	A dot near the vertical part of letter “r”
C*	A dot in the bottom part of the right-hand frame curve

As some later signs also indicate, we may assume that the plates were produced in the order of value denominations, beginning with the smallest face value. In the course of this work, the growing experience resulted in ever more precise work results. In spite of the excessive drawing of the image, this plate was so perfect that we can find hardly find identifiers.

Only three group type marks of the mother plate may identify columns. Out of these, exceptionally, type mark “A*” is missing in column V in position 75.

For the future discovery of identifiers of individual sheet positions, types and twin marks provide only limited help, since so far only three twin identifiers could be found. Unlike the previous denominations, greater plate defect cannot be found in this case.

Twin marks

01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55



06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60



11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65



16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70

21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75

26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80

31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85

36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90

41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95

46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 4kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	A*	B	A*	B	C, C*	A*	B	A*	B
2.	-	A*	B	A*	B	C, C*	A*	B	A*	B
3.	21-71	A*	B	A*	B	C, C*	A*	B	A*	B
4.	-	A*	B	A*	B	C, C*	A*	B	A*	B
5.	-	A*	B	A*	B	C	A*	B	A*	B

A*	Tiny dot on the bottom band of the wreath at the right side in the middle
B*	Tiny dot under the big dot after letter "r".
C	Loop-shaped damage of the background lines near the upper band of the left side
C*	Tiny dot in the left side of the cross over the Crown

Group type mark "A*" to be found in the four columns can be detected on four positions 32, 52, 64, and 67, which might be the result of non-systematic repair.

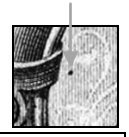
Since type "B" also appears in four columns and the amount of twin marks is small indeed, the reconstruction of the sheet of the denomination is really difficult.

Twin marks



01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55





06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60

11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65

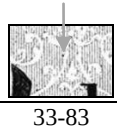
16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70



21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75



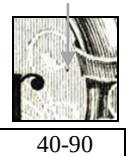
26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80





31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85





36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90

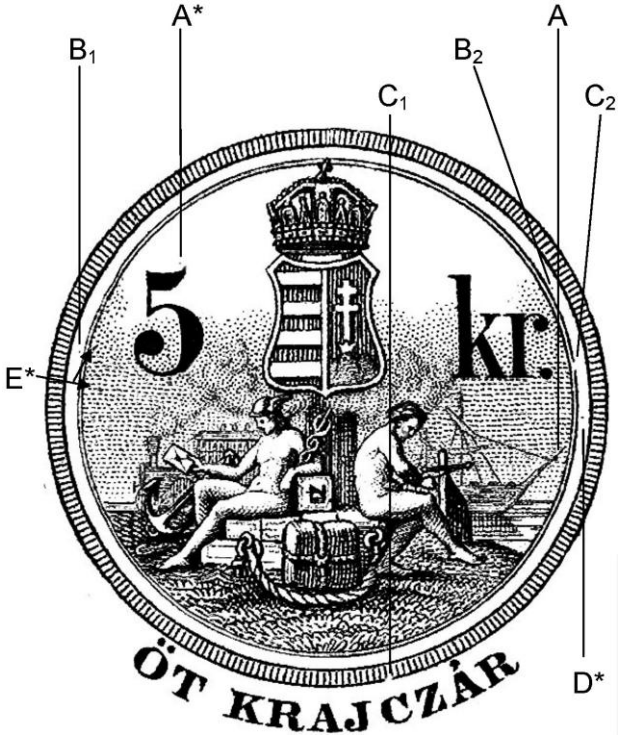
41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95





46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 5kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A	A	B_1,B_2	A	B_1 C_1*	A	A	B_1,D*	A E*	B_1
2.	A A*	A	B_1,B_2	A	B_1 C_1* C_2*	A	A	B_1	A E*	B_1 C_1* C_2*
3.	A	A	B_1,B_2	A	B_1 C_1* C_2*	A	A	B_1,D*	A E*	B_1 C_1* C_2*
4.	A A*	A	B_1,B_2	A	B_1 C_1* C_2*	A	A	B_1,D*	A E*	B_1 C_1* C_2*
5.	A A*	A	B_1,B_2	A	B_1 C_1* C_2*	A	A	B_1	A	B_1 C_1* C_2*

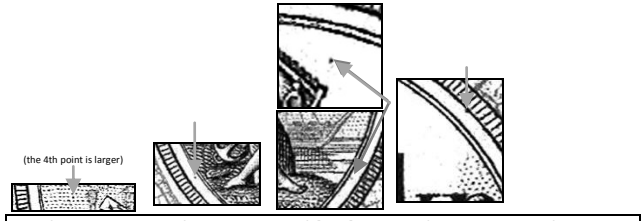
A*	A dot over the upper part of "5"
A	A "lamp" on the rod of the prow
B_1	A dot at the left side of "5" in the curve
B_2	A dot at the right side and over letter "r" in the curve
C_1*	Over letter "C", the outer frame of the line area is discontinuous
C_2*	One line out of the internal double frame line is discontinuous to the right side of the dot
D*	A dot in the curve to the right and above the mast rod of the prow
E*	Due to damage, two dots at the left side of "5" merged; a thicker dot nine point lines below

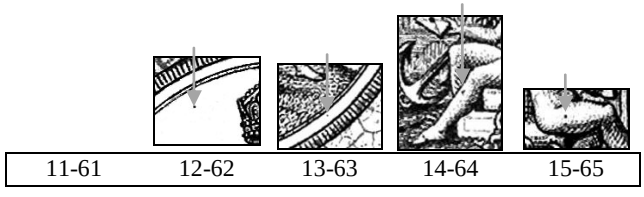
The nine type marks of the 50-piece half-plate present more complicated relations than those included in the table above.

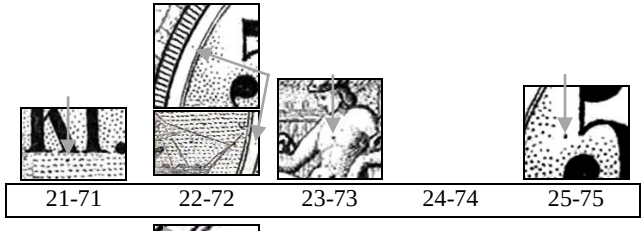
The bottom part of the plate deviates from the upper one, most probably because of repair: on position 55, the curve above letter "C" is not discontinuous (group type mark of group "C_1").

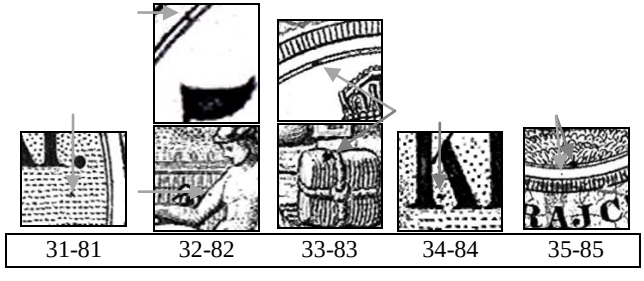
The position of the revenue stamps of column 4, which does not have other identifiers than those of group type "A", can be identified only on the basis of twin marks.

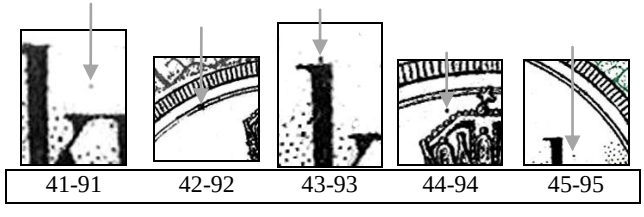
Twin marks

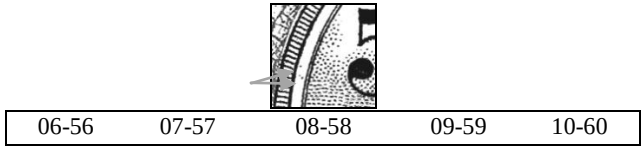

(the 4th point is larger)
01-51
02-52
03-53
04-54
05-55

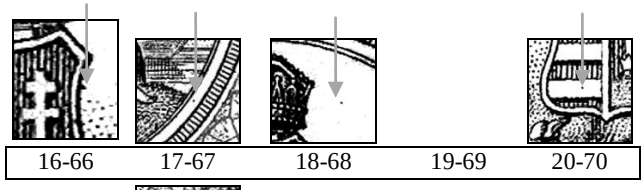

11-61
12-62
13-63
14-64
15-65

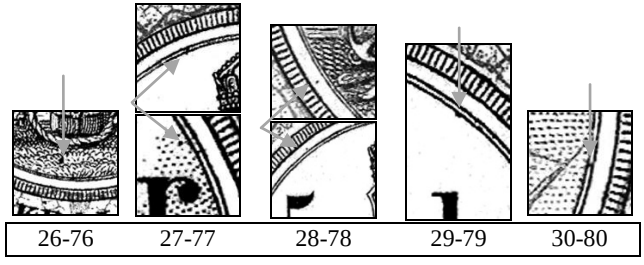

21-71
22-72
23-73
24-74
25-75

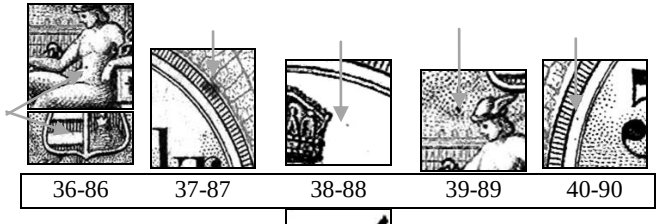

31-81
32-82
33-83
34-84
35-85

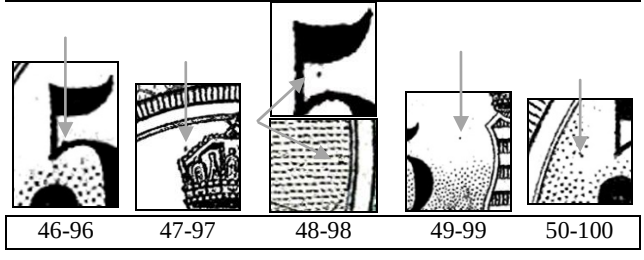

41-91
42-92
43-93
44-94
45-95


06-56
07-57
08-58
09-59
10-60

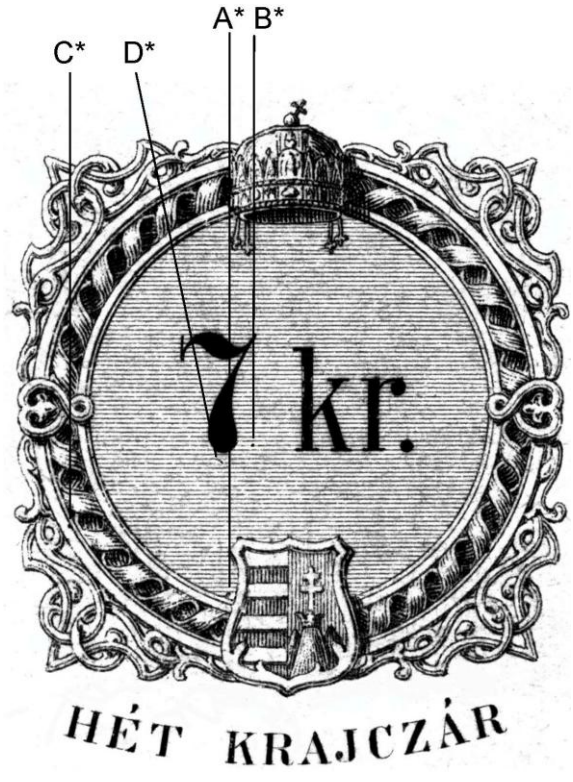

16-66
17-67
18-68
19-69
20-70


26-76
27-77
28-78
29-79
30-80


36-86
37-87
38-88
39-89
40-90


46-96
47-97
48-98
49-99
50-100

Types of 7kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	02-52	-	04-54	-	A*	B*	C*	-	10-60
2.	-	-	-	-	15-65	A*	B*	C*	-	D*
3.	-	-	-	-	-	A*	B*	C*	-	D*
4.	-	32-82	-	-	-	A*	B*	C*	-	D*
5.	41-91	-	-	44-94	-	-	-	48-98	49-99	D*

A*	Stain-like damage of the background lines at the left side of the coat of arms
B*	At the right side of "7", the mostly discontinuous background line ends in a point at its left side.
C*	In the left-hand bottom quarter, there is a point adjacent to the left side of the middle line of the arc.
D*	The background lines 2 and 3 are connected by a point under "7".

The mother plate of 7kr was produced very scrupulously. A group type mark occurring one under the other can only be found in four columns.

To collectors' delight, a rather noticeable defect occurs in case of this plate again: letter "C" of word "KRAJCZÁR" is broken.



Sheet position 08-68

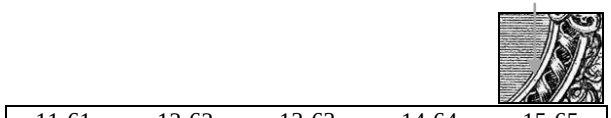
Twin marks



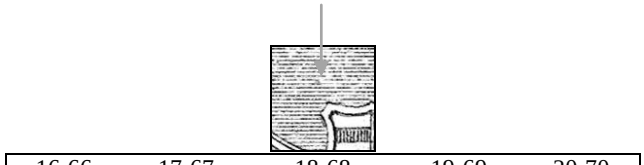
01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55



06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60

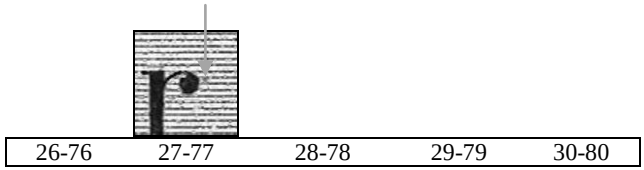


11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65



16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70

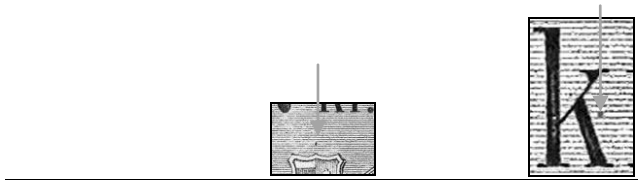
21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75



26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80



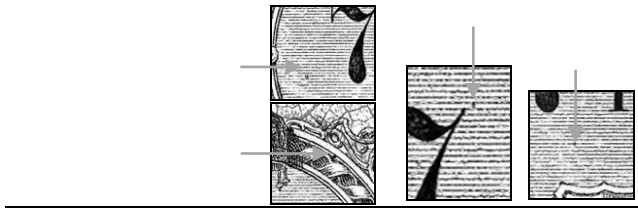
31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85



36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90



41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95



46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 10kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A*	-	-	04-54	B*	C	D*	-	E*	10-60
2.	A*	12-62	-	14-64	B*	C	D*	18-68	E*	20-70
3.	A*	22-72	23-73	-	25-75	C	D*	-	E*	30-80
4.	A*	32-82	-	35-84	B*	C	D*	38-88	E*	40-90
5.	41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	B*	C	-	-	E*	50-100

A*	There is a point in “0”.
B*	There is a point to the left of the decoration element hanging in the middle
C	There is a dot between letters “k” and “r”
D*	There is a dot over the left side of the angel head.
E*	There is a dot under the foot of the right-side angel.
M_1	There is a point to the left of the bottom of the decoration element pending in the middle.
M_2	There is a fade point below and a little bit to the right of the second leaf of the tendril

The engraving marks M_1 M_2, which were already there on the original die, appear on all revenue stamps of the plate, with different strength on different sheet positions and depending on the quality of the prints.

In column IX of group type mark “E*”, probably due to repair, it is missing in irregular way from a single revenue stamp, the one on sheet position 49. In order to make distinction between the five columns without type marks, twin marks have to be used.

Twin marks



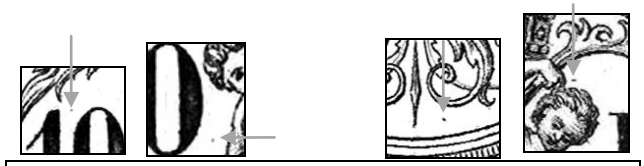
01-51 02-52 03-53 04-54 05-55



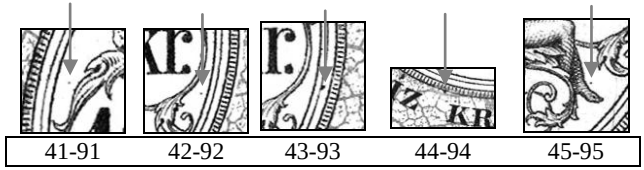
11-61 12-62 13-63 14-64 15-65



21-71 22-72 23-73 24-74 25-75



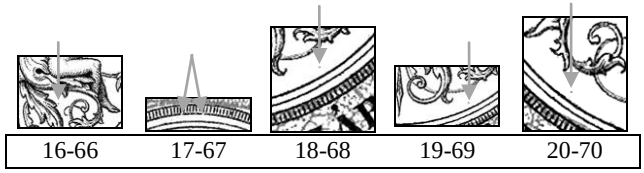
31-81 32-82 33-83 34-84 35-85



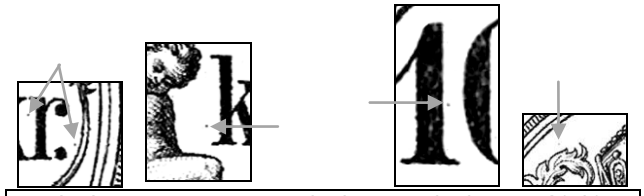
41-91 42-92 43-93 44-94 45-95



06-56 07-57 08-58 09-59 10-60



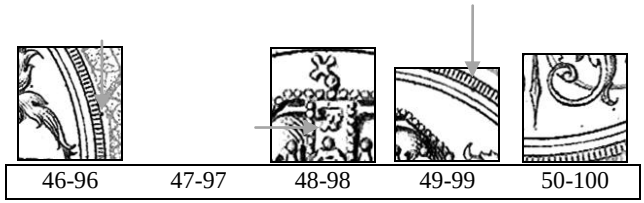
16-66 17-67 18-68 19-69 20-70



26-76 27-77 28-78 29-79 30-80



36-86 37-87 38-88 39-89 40-90



46-96 47-97 48-98 49-99 50-100

Types of 12kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A	02-52	A	04-54	B	A	C*	A	09-59	10-60
2.	A	12-62	A	-	B	A	C*	A	19-69	20-70
3.	A	-	A	24-74	B	A	27-77	A	29-79	30-80
4.	A	32-82	A	-	B	A	C*	A	39-89	-
5.	A	42-92	A	44-94	B	A	C*	A	49-99	50-100

A	A point in the inner band, to the left of the upper corner of the bottom right square.
B	A point to the left of the right octagon
C*	A point in the middle fess

Type “A” may be found in four columns of the mother plate; on top of this, four other columns do not have types. After selection of the revenue stamps belonging to columns V and VII, the rest will belong to these two big groups of columns. They then may be divided into individual columns on the basis of twin marks.

Already in 1930s, a twin plate defect was identified. On the basis of its identifier on 52 sheet positions and since the research done by Endre Szép and published in professional philately periodical OKMÁNYBÉ-LYEG in 1991, we may identify the sheet positions as well.

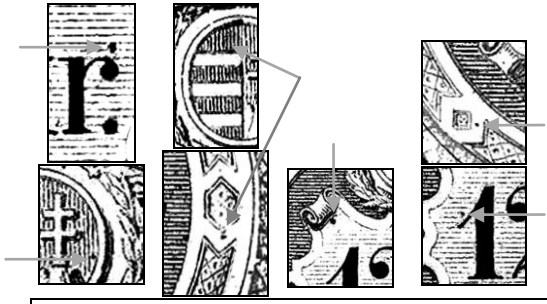


02 52



Two sheet positions of “three fesses” plate defect

Twin marks



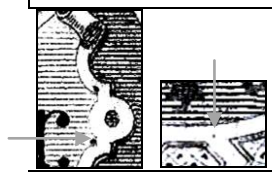
01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55



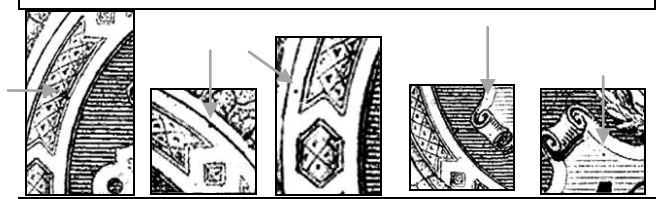
11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65



21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75



31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85



41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95



06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60



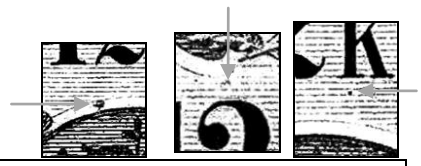
16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70



26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80



36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90



46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 15kr and plate structure

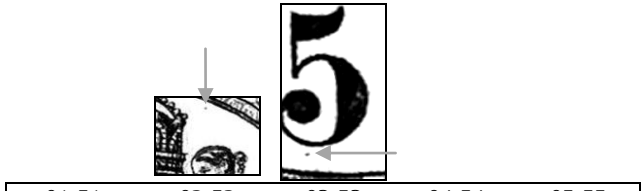


	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	02-52	03-53	-	-	A A_1*	B	08-58	C_1 C_2	D
2.	A_1* 11-61	12-62	-	-	15-65	A A_1*	B	18-68	C_1 C_2	D
3.	A_1*	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75	A A_1*	B	28-78	C_1 C_2	D
4.	31-81	32-82	-	34-84	-	A A_1* A_2*	B	38-88	C_1 C_2	D
5.	A_1*	42-92	-	44-94	45-95	A A_2*	B	-	C_1 C_2	D

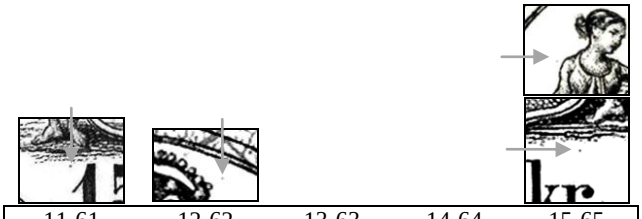
A	A point to the left of the top of "1", under the foot of the figure at the left side
A_1* A_2*	A point in the middle fess A point to the left of the pearls of the Crown
B	A point in the outer strip under letter "r"
C_1 C_2	A point over letter "r" A point under the left foot of the figure on the right
D	A pronounced point near the arc over the head of the figure at the right side

These may be found only in the right part of the plate; there are four types altogether. To separate the six columns without types, twin marks of these columns have to be used.

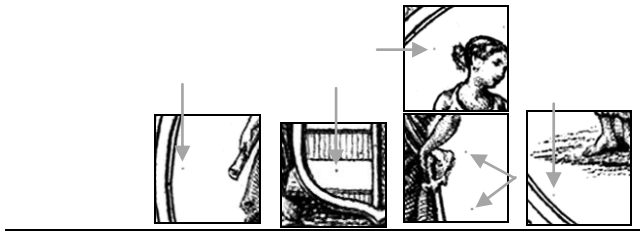
Twin marks



01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55



11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65



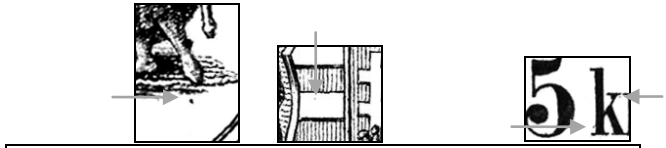
21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75



31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85



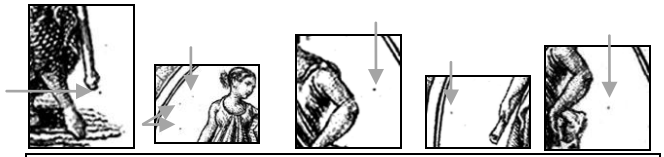
41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95



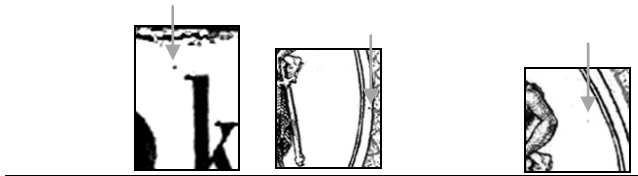
06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60



16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70



26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80



36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90



46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

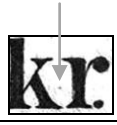
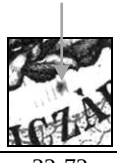
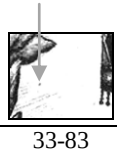
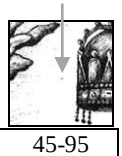
Types of 20kr and plate structure

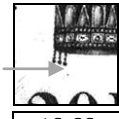
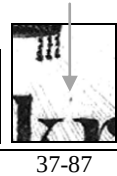


	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	-	A_{1-3}	B	-	-	-	C	B D_{1-3}	E_{1-2}
2.	-	-	A_{1-3}	B	-	16-66	-	C	B D_{1-3}	E_{1-2}
3.	21-71	22-72	A_{1-3}	B	-	-	-	C	B D_{1-3}	E_{1-2}
4.	-	-	A_{1-3}	B	35-85	36-86	37-37	C	B D_{1-3}	E_{1-2}
5.	-	-	A_{1-3}	B	45-95	46-96	-	C	B D_{1-3}	E_{1-2}

A_1	Two points to the left of the cross
A_2	A point at the right side, close to the Crown, at the height of the pendulums
A_3	Two points at the right side under the top acorns
B	A point far from the Crown, at the left side, at the height of the pendulums
C	A point at the left side, near the upper part of letter “k”
D_1	A point near “0”, to the right and in the lower part
D_2	A point between the rays over and right
D_3	A point on a ray to the right
E_1	A stain-like point in the left rays, more or less in the middle
E_2	A point to the left of the base part of the Crown
E_3	A point on one of the rays outside the right-hand wreath

Twin marks

01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55
				
11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65
				
21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75
				
31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85
				
41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95

06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60
				
16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70
26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80
				
36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90
				
46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 25kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	A 02-52	-	-	B	C	-	-	-	B 10-60
2.	-	A 12-60	13-63	14-64	B	C	-	-	-	B
3.	-	A	-	-	B 25-75	C	-	-	-	B
4.	-	A	-	34-84	B 35-85	C	-	38-88	-	B
5.	-	A	-	44-94	B	C	-	-	-	B

A	A point in the third band of the coat of arms if counted from the bottom.
B	A point in the top fess
C	A point in front of the slanting part of “2”, on the left

This mother plate is very precise; it contains only three type marks in four columns.

Due to very few twin marks, the reconstruction of the sheet seems an unrealistic task. Identifying the sheet positions of even larger blocks is only rarely possible, and in case of high-quality prints.

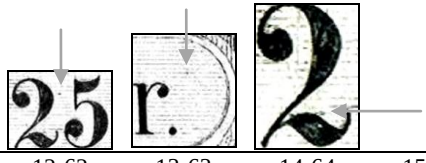
Twin marks



01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55



06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60



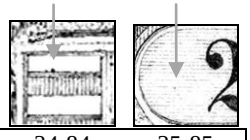
11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65

16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70



21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75

26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80



31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85



36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90



41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95

46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 36kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A*	-	$C_{1,2}$*	D*	-	F*	07-57	$H_{1,2}$*	-	$J_{1,2}$*
2.	A*	12-62	$C_{1,2}$*	D*	15-65	F*	-	$H_{1,2}$*	19-69	$J_{1,2}$*
3.	A*	22-72	$C_{1,2}$*	D*	25-75	F*	-	$H_{1,2}$*	29-79	$J_{1,2}$*
4.	A*	-	$C_{1,2}$*	D*	35-85	F*	-	$H_{1,2}$*	39-89	$J_{1,2}$*
5.	-	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95	-	-	48-98	-	-

A*	A point sitting on the baseline to the left of letter “k”, more or less in the middle
C_1*	A point on the baseline over the vertical part of letter “k”
C_2*	A double point between baselines over the diagonal part of letter “k”, near the edge of the area of the face value
D*	A point over the right upper triangle
F*	A point at the right edge of the top band with lines of the coat of arms
H_1*	A point over the left bottom triangle
H_2*	Two points sitting on baselines to the left of letter “k”
J_1*	A pont right to the “3”
J_2*	A line in the v shape
J_2*	A stain like a little circle in the frame
M	The left end of the bottom baseline thickens in a scratch-like mode

Type marks make it possible to identify many columns of the plate and further columns with oner exception may be well identified by the twin marks.

As regards the remaining column VII without type mark and there is only a single pair mark on the mother plate, due to which the sheet position of the revenue stamps this column may be identified with especially great difficulty.

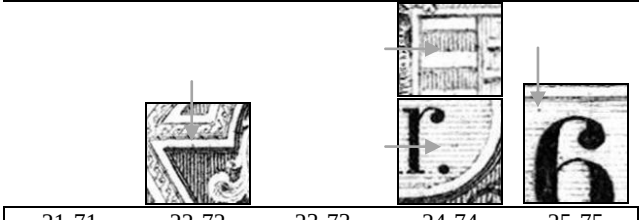
Twin marks



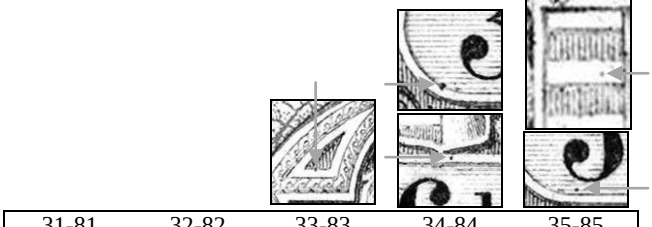
01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55



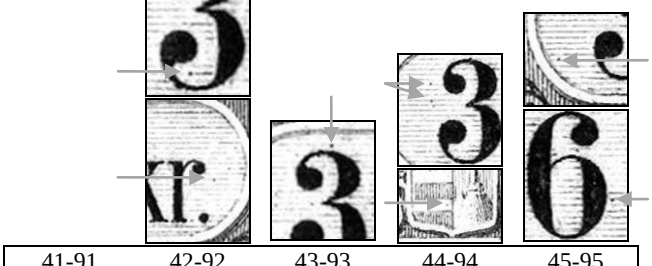
11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65



21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75



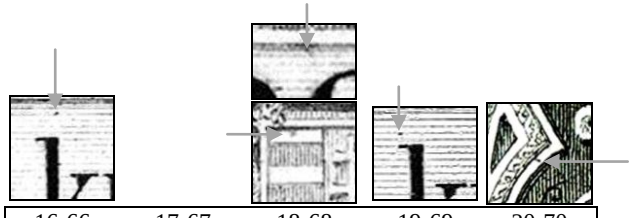
31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85



41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95



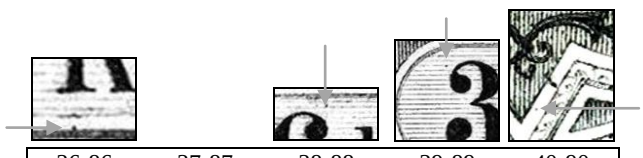
06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60



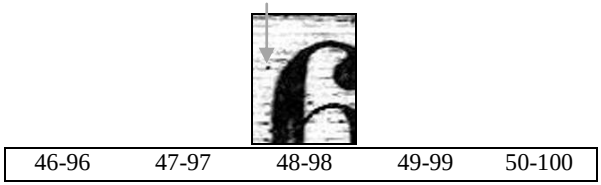
16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70



26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80



36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90



46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 50kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	-	03-53	A+	B+	06-56	C	-	-	-
2.	-	12-62	-	A+	B+	16-66	C	-	-	-
3.	-	-	-	A+	B+	26-76	C	28-78	-	-
4.	-	-	-	A+	B+	-	C	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	44-94	-	-	C	-	49-99	-

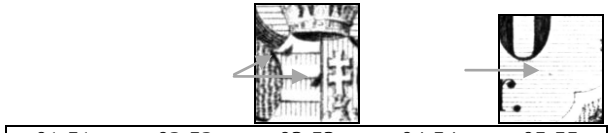
A*	Sharp point adjacent to the bottom part of the baseline over and to the left of the upper part of "5"
B*	Sharp point near and to the left of the frame top in the bottom right-hand quarter
C	Extensive damage consisting of two parts to the left of the right-hand grape leaf

The type marks of this high-quality plate are sufficient to only identify three columns; the number of twin marks is also very scarce as compared to other denominations.

Quite mysteriously, type defect "C" still appears on all revenue stamps of column VII – it remained unrepaired, and constitutes a big and extensive plate defect of unusual dimensions.

This was the reason why this type mark became the first identifier of the revenue stamp columns. At the time of its publication, its sheet position was still unknown (see OKMÁNYBÉLYEG 2002/3).

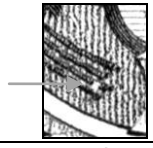
Twin marks



01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55



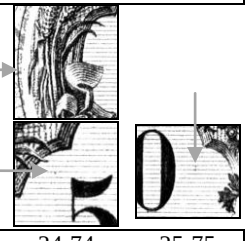
06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60



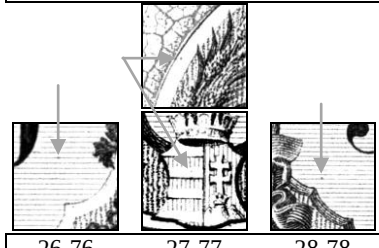
11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65



16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70

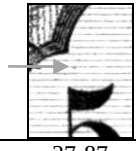


21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75



26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80

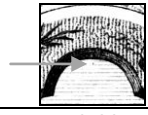
31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85



36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90

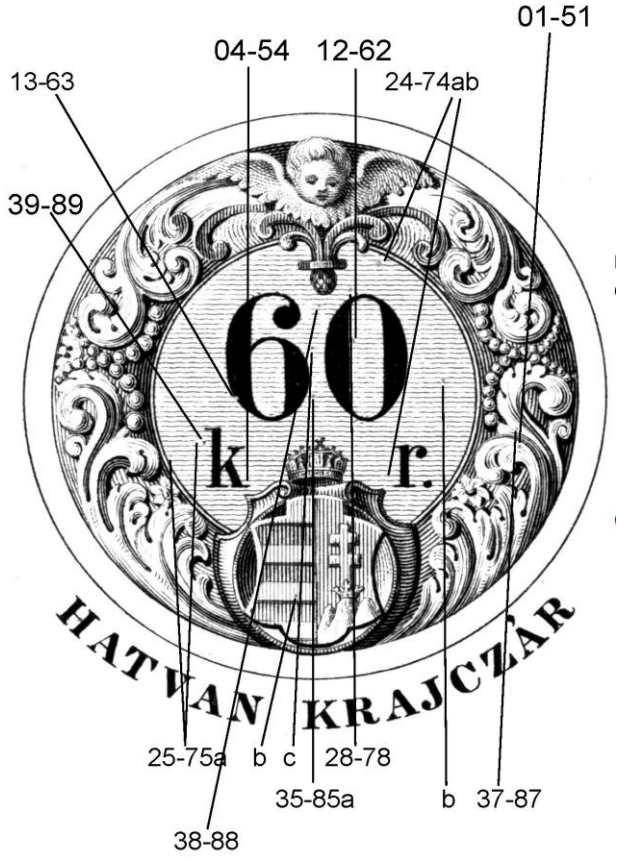


41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95



46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 60kr and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	01-51	-	-	04-54	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	-	-	13-63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	-	-	-	24-74	25-75	-	-	28-78	-	-
4.	-	-	-	-	35-85	-	37-97	38-88	39-89	-
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

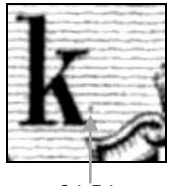
On this plate, there are not any type marks enabling identification of columns; there are only 10 twin marks. Since they occur on each 50th revenue stamp on average, considerable revenue stamp amount, time, energy, and, of course, some luck is necessary to present all versions here.

On top of these, it is possible that individual sheet position identifiers exist, although they have not yet been discovered, which constitutes a significant obstacle in the way of a possible attempt to reconstruct a sheet on the basis of identifiers.

Samples



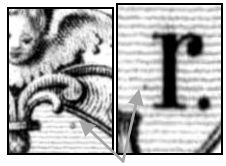
01-51



04-54



13-63



24-74



25-75

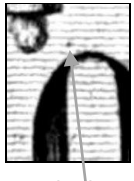




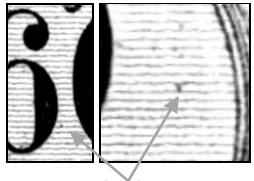








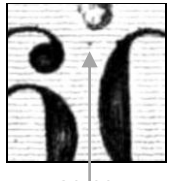
28-78



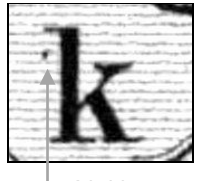
35-85



37-87



38-88



39-89











Types of 75kr and plate structure

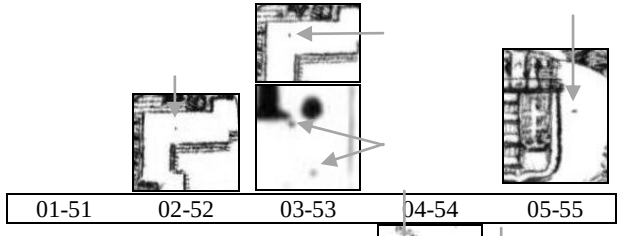


A*	A point in the left upper corner of the frame
B_1*	A point under the shadow of angel
B_2*	A point in the right half of the curved bottom frame
C_1*	A point over "E" outside the arc
C_2*	A point in the middle of the right frame
D	A point at the left side of the cross
E_1*	A point on the line of frame to the right
E_2*	A point in the upper right corner of frame

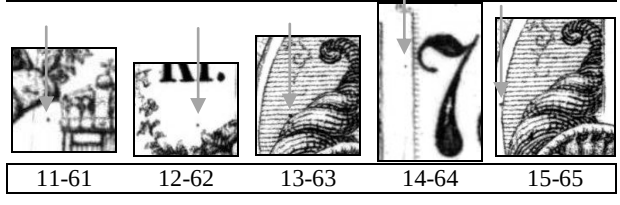
The type marks of the plate make it possible to identify five columns, while the rest may be identified only with the help of the twin marks.

	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	A*	03-53	-	05-55	$B_{1,2}$*	$C_{1,2}$*	-	D	$E_{1,2}$*
2.	11-61	A*	13-63	14.64	15-65	$B_{1,2}$*	$C_{1,2}$*	18-68	D	$E_{1,2}$*
3.	21-71	A*	23-73	24-74	25-75	$B_{1,2}$*	$C_{1,2}$*	28-78	D	$E_{1,2}$*
4.	31-81	A*	-	-	35-85	$B_{1,2}$*	$C_{1,2}$*	38-88	D	$E_{1,2}$*
5.	41-91	-	43-93	-	45-95	46-96	-	48-98	D	-

Twin marks



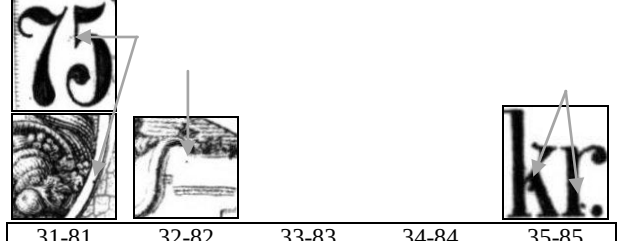
01-51	02-52	03-53	04-54	05-55



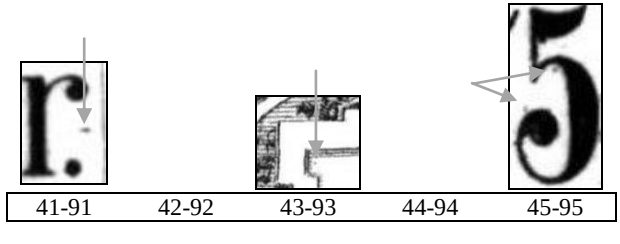
11-61	12-62	13-63	14-64	15-65



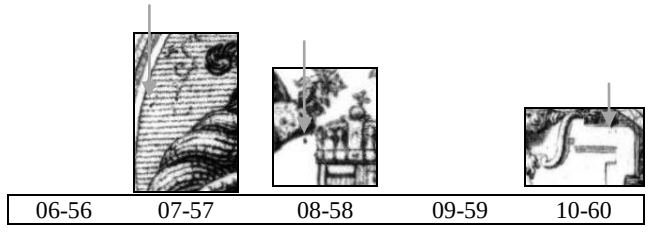
21-71	22-72	23-73	24-74	25-75



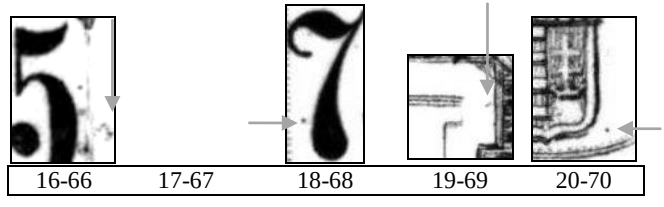
31-81	32-82	33-83	34-84	35-85



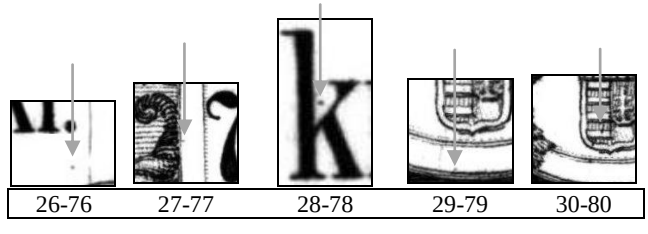
41-91	42-92	43-93	44-94	45-95



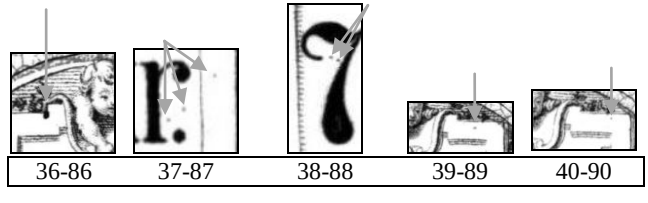
06-56	07-57	08-58	09-59	10-60



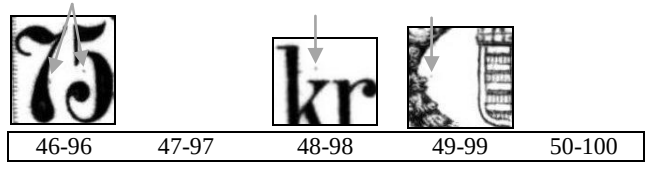
16-66	17-67	18-68	19-69	20-70



26-76	27-77	28-78	29-79	30-80

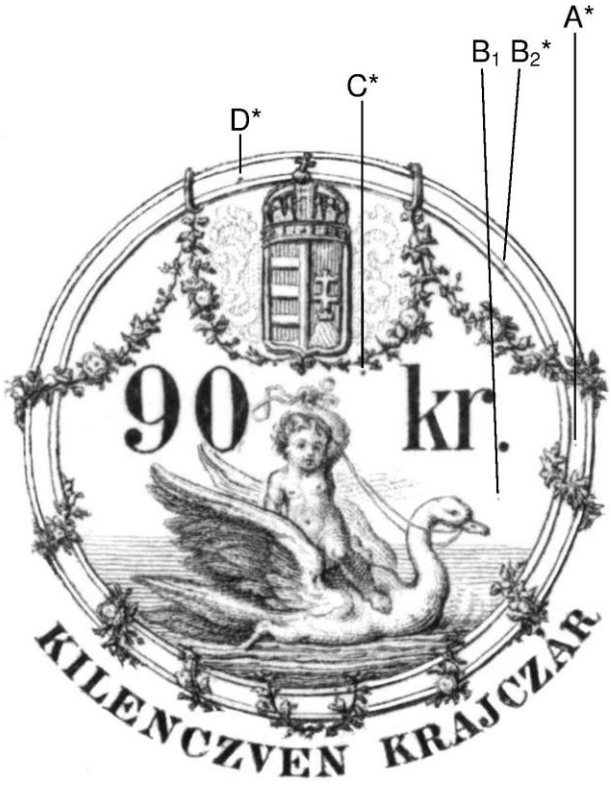


36-86	37-87	38-88	39-89	40-90



46-96	47-97	48-98	49-99	50-100

Types of 90kr and plate structure

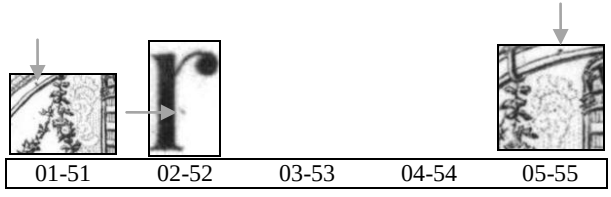


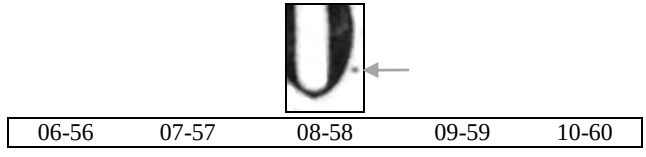
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A*	02-52	B_1,B_2	C*	D*	-	-	B_2*	-	-
2.	A*	-	B_1,B_2	C*	D*	-	-	B_2*	-	-
3.	A*	22-72	B_1,B_2	C*	D*	26-76	27-77	B_2*	29-79	30-80
4.	A*	32-82	B_1,B_2	C*	D*	36-86	37-87	B_2*	39-89	40-90
5.	41-91	-	B_1,B_2	-	45-95	46-96	48-98	B_2*	49-99	50-100

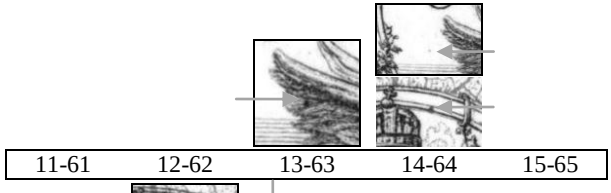
A*	Fade point in the middle of the right-hand cross
B_1	Fade point a little above of the beak of the swan, a little bit to the right
B_2*	In the upper right-hand quarter, the lines of the inner double circular frame thicken in front of each other.
C*	A point under the coat of arms, a little bit to the right, between the leaves of the flower wreath
D*	A point adjacent to the upper line of the inner double circular frame, to the left from the cross

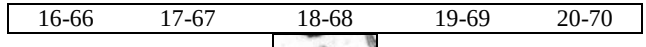
Half of the columns of the plate contain group type marks, while the rest contains only twin marks. Type Mark B_2 is absent on position 68; it might be due to this repair that this type of column III became a group mark for the column VIII.

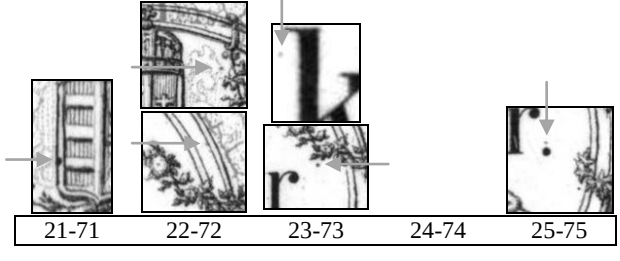
Twin marks

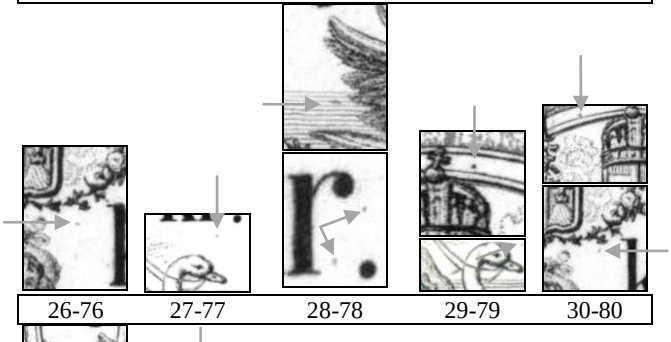

01-51
02-52
03-53
04-54
05-55

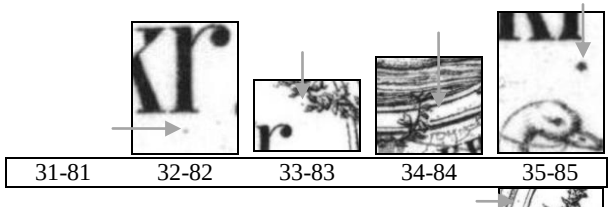

06-56
07-57
08-58
09-59
10-60

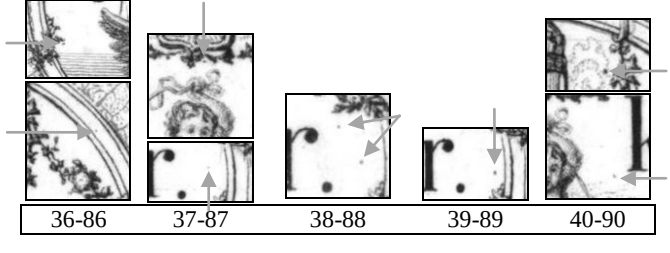

11-61
12-62
13-63
14-64
15-65

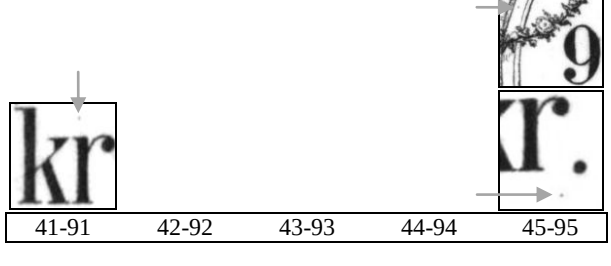

16-66
17-67
18-68
19-69
20-70

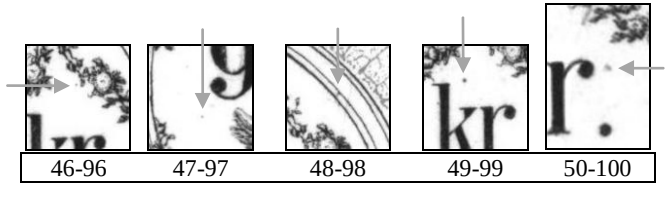

21-71
22-72
23-73
24-74
25-75


26-76
27-77
28-78
29-79
30-80

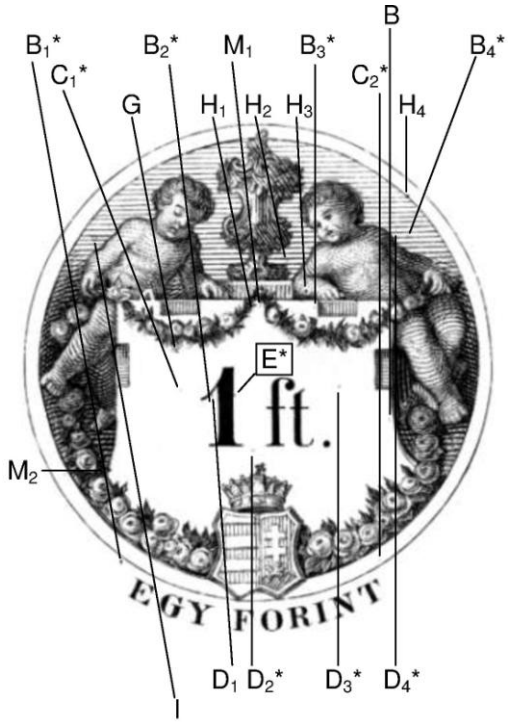

31-81
32-82
33-83
34-84
35-85


36-86
37-87
38-88
39-89
40-90


41-91
42-92
43-93
44-94
45-95


46-96
47-97
48-98
49-99
50-100

Types of 1ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	11	B B_{234}*	C_{12}*	D_1 D_{24}*	E*	-	G	H_{1234}	I	-
2.	-	B B_{134}*	C_{12}*	D_1 D_{34}*	E*	-	G	H_{1234}	I	-
3.	-	B B_{1234}*	C_1*	D_1 D_{234}*	E*	-	G	H_{1234}	I	-
4.	-	B B_{1234}*	C_2*	D_1 D_{234}*	-	-	G	H_{1234}	I	-
5.	-	B	C_1*	D_1 D_4*	-	-	G	H_{123}	I	50

Two drawing defects appearing on all revenue stamps may be considered as an engraving mark ($M_{1\text{-}2}$). Units of group identifiers in columns II-III-IV occasionally may provide sufficient information for identifying the twin sheet position.

B	A point at the right side of the value area
B_{1*}	Damage to the left and downwards letter "E"
B_2*	A fade point near the upper part of "1"
B_3*	A point near the small area, at the left side
B_4*	A point a little further from the shoulder, at the right side
C_1*	A point at the left side from the upper part of "1"
C_2*	A point in the bottom right quarter of the sheet
D_1	A point adjacent to the inner side of the slanting line
D_2*	A point over the Crown
D_3*	A point above and to the right of letter "t"
D_4*	A point near the right shoulder
E*	A point adjacent to "1" at the right side
G	A stain of irregular shape, adjacent to the leaf of the two roses
H_1	A point at the left side of the engraving mark
H_2*	A point at the right side of the vase
H_3*	A point on the right arm of the angel
H_4*	Tiny line in the right part of the arc
I	A circular stain between lines
M1	A point under the wreaths in the middle
M2	A line at the left edge of the numeral area

Types of 2ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	B	-	-	-	-	G*	-	-	-
2.	-	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	-	B	-	-	-	-	G*	-	-	-
4.	-	B	-	-	-	-	G*	-	-	-
5.	-	B	-	-	-	-	G*	-	-	-

B	A point adjacent to the bottom part of the shadow of the sword
G*	A circle connecting the upper tips of the two vertical lines over letter “f”
M	A point between letters “f” and “t”, in the middle

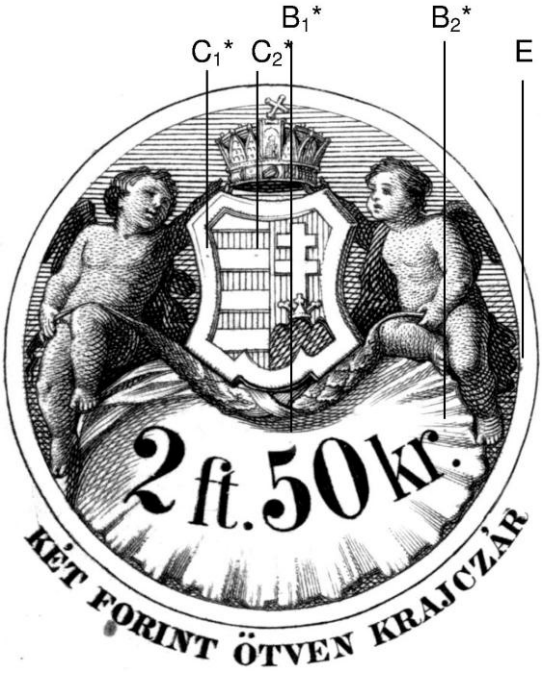
In case of this denomination, strikingly small amount, namely two types may be identified. One of these may be a group type mark, although the area of the printing plate from which the examined sample sheet was produced is rather worn, due to which this statement may not be made with absolute certainty.

The only imaginable explanation for the small number of types is the high probability of mother plates being produced in the order of the face value increase. This may be concluded from the fact that the higher the value, the lower the number of the identifiers on the mother plate.

This is the reason why it is ever more difficult to identify the sheet positions. On top of this, there was no need to duplicate the 50-piece sheets of forint denominations, which was logical. Due to this, no twin marks have been identified, at least so far.

A point appearing in the design of all 2ft and revenue stamps in a very prominent place between letters “f” and “t” was most probably unintentional, and should be considered an engraving mark.

Types of 2,50ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	B_1* B_2*	C_1* C_2*	-	E*	-	-	-	-	-
2.	-	B_1* B_2*	C_1* C_2*	-	E*	-	-	-	-	-
3.	-	B_1* B_2*	C_1* C_2*	-	E*	-	-	-	-	-
4.	-	B_1* B_2*	C_1* C_2*	-	E*	-	-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

B_1*	A point near the top of "5"
B_2*	A point to the right of the upper part of letter "r"
C_1*	A point in the left-hand frame of the coat of arms
C_2*	A point in the right hand part of the third fess if counted from the bottom
E*	A point adjacent to the inner circular frame of design, on the right and approximately in the middle

It is possible to identify the three columns of the mother plate below by group identifiers – it is quite remarkable that all marks can be found only on the left side of the plate. The bottom line is intact, because the type marks are weak, barely visible here. If these type marks were first produced on clichés produced by duplicating, the original strip of five pieces must have occupied the bottom five positions of the right half of the plate.

Types of 3ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	-	C*	D	-	F*	G G_1*	H	I	-
2.	-	-	C*	D	E*	F*	G	H	I	-
3.	-	-	-	D	E*	F*	G G_1*	H	I	-
4.	-	-	C*	D	E*	F*	G	H	I	-
5.	-	-	C*	D	E*	F*	G G_1*	H	-	-

C*	A fade point to the right of the little rod emerging from the little soap dish
D	A point in the edge of the upper right-hand snail shell, approximately in the middle
E*	A hardly visible sharp point under the dot following “ft”
F	A tiny line crossing one of the curved lines in the upper left-hand quarter
G	A point to the left of “3”
H	A point over “t”
I*	A point adjacent to the line in the left-hand bottom quarter

In the upper right-hand quarter, one of the curved background lines thickens – this should be considered as engraving mark. A significant part of columns may be identified by type marks.

The shapes of the three group type marks are especially irregular, since the position of each of them when the type mark is missing is different.

Types of 4ft and plate structure



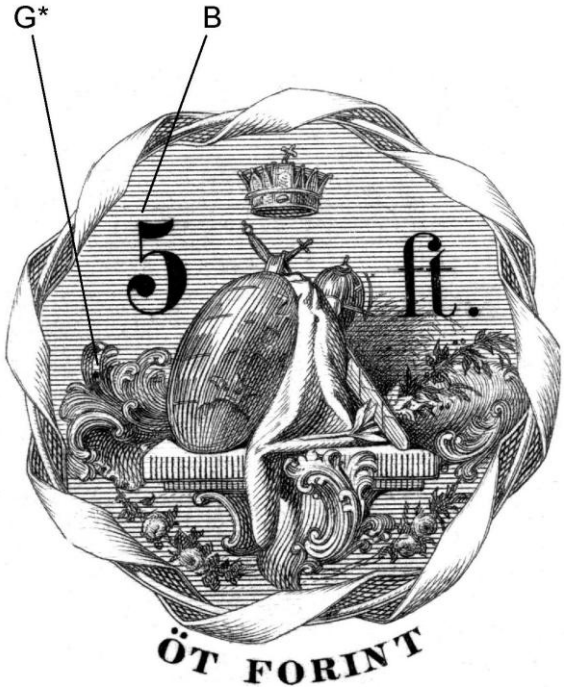
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	-	$C_1 C_2$	-	E*	-	-	$C_2 H$	-	J*
2.	-	-	$C_1 C_2$	-	E*	-	-	$C_2 H$	-	J*
3.	-	-	$C_1 C_2$	-	E*	-	-	$C_2 H$	-	J*
4.	-	-	$C_1 C_2$	-	-	-	-	$C_2 H$	-	-
5.	-	-	$C_1 C_2$	-	-	-	-	$C_2 H$	-	J*

C	An extra point between the three regular points of the background point pattern under “ft”
E	A tiny line at the right side, approximately in the middle of the leaf closest to the shoulder
J*	A drawing defect in the area of background lines: a line perpendicular to the background lines

The repetitive occurrences of main type "C" in the right half of the plate show that a horizontal strip of five pieces also played a role in the creation of this plate. By duplicating this strip of five pieces, a strip of 10 pieces was created.

The fact of the matter is that the two different types “E” and “J*” of columns V and X were produced only on the strips containing this main type twice. They had not existed on the strip of five pieces – otherwise they would have spread horizontally as well, just as “C” did. Any other explanation of the extension of these two type marks vertically would be difficult to accept.

Types of 5ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	B	B	-	-	-	B*	B* H*	-	-
2.	-	B	B	-	-	-	B*	B* H*	-	-
3.	-	B	B	-	-	-	-	B* H*	-	-
4.	-	B	B	-	-	-	B*	B* H*	-	-
5.	-	B	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

B	The left tip of the top of "5" is discontinuous (to different extent).
G*	Two bigger black stains, one under the other, in the left-hand middle leaf bunch

Type mark "B" is the discontinuity of the left-hand tip of "5", which appears sharply in column II, and somehow less sharply in column III. In the right half of the plate, at the distance of five columns, it rather curiously reappears as a group identifier. In column III, there is a further, double and rather extended group type mark. The upper stain out of these two is of circular shape, whereas the bottom one of a wedge shape.

Types of 6ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	03	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3	$F_{1\text{-}2}$*	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	08	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3J*
2.	A	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	13	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3	$F_{1\text{-}2}$*	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	18	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3J*
3.	A	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	23	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3	$F_{1\text{-}2}$*	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	28	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3J*
4.	A	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	33	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3	$F_{1\text{-}2}$*	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	38	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3J*
5.	A	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	43	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3	46	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	48	$B_{1\text{-}3}$	B_3

A	Five instead of three vertically arranged white stains declining to the right side and standing in line
B_1	Double point to the left of "6"
B_2	To the left of "6", two points connected by a third one
B_3	A white point near the upper part of the cross, on the left
F_1*	A point adjacent to the base of the Crown from the left side
F_2*	A point adjacent to the inner curve, at the bottom and to the right from the middle
F_3*	A stain on the plait of the shroud covering the angel on the right
J*	A point connecting the second and the third circular inside lines over the ribbon decoration on the left

Out of the marks identifying the main type "B" of the three columns at the left side of the mother plate, the first two are missing in column V. Due to the duplicating of the strip of 5 pieces, this combination appears again five positions later to the right, where also group identifiers were generated in two columns.

Types of 7ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	-	B_1*	-	B_1*	-	-	B_1*	-	B_1*	-
2.	-	B_1*	-	B_1*	-	-	B_1*	-	B_1*	-
3.	-	B_1*	-	B_1*	-	-	B_1*	-	B_1*	-
4.	-	B_1*	-	B_1*	-	-	B_1*	-	B_1*	-
5.	-	B_2*	-	B_2*	-	-	B_2*	-	B_2*	-

B_1	A dark stain extending to the Crown starting under the bisector line of the coat of arms above the right corner of the bottom fess, which is not visible under the vertical bisector line of the coat of arms, but which diagonally extends to the Crown at its right
B_2	Plate damage over the left nipple of the angel on the right
M	In the plants over "7", a tiny dark grey line

In the left part of the drawing, there is an engraving mark visible on all revenue stamps – a tiny grey line darker than its environment.

Contradicting the extension of the plate damage B_2 in the last line the type mark B_1, which originated due to vertical multiplication, appears on all revenue stamps of four columns.

This could be possible only if the vertical, 5-image strip was multiplied one strip next to the other, and then the 25-image plates were welded together. But in this case, what explains the striking absence of these marks in the uneven columns?

Types of 10ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A*	B_1 B_2	-	D	E	-	B_2	H*	-	E
2.	A*	B_1 B_2	-	D	E	-	B_2	H*	-	E
3.	A*	B_1 B_2	-	D	E	-	B_2	H*	-	E
4.	A*	B_1 B_2	-	D	E	-	B_2	H*	-	E
5.	-	B_1 B_2	-	D	E	-	B_2	-	-	E

A*	A point over "f", a little bit to the left direction
B_1	A point under the left elbow on the plaits of the shroud, a little bit to the left from mark "C" and downwards
B_2	A point on the plaits over the numerals of the value
D	A point on the plaits, a little over and to the left from mark "B_1"
E	A point in the coat of arms, in the left corner of the uppermost fess
H	A point in the shadow of the knee

The majority of columns may be identified by type marks. Out of these, two are such group type marks where the mark is missing in the last line, in almost usual, quite frequent way.

This means that the role of the bottom line might have been special in the process of compilation of the mother plates. I believe that its right part contains the original strip of five pieces.

The left half of the plate usually contains more type marks then the right half. The latter was produced by multiplication of better quality originals. Multiplication always had to embrace two steps, because a positive working copy had to be also produced.

Types of 12ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A_1 A_2	B_1	C_1 C_2	D_1 D_2	E	F	B_1 G*	C_2	D_1 I	J
2.	A_1 A_2	B_1 B_2	C_1 C_2	D_1 D_2	E	F	B_1 G*	C_2	D_1 I	J
3.	-	B_1 B_2	C_1 C_2	D_1 D_2	E	F	B_1 G*	C_2	D_1 I	J
4.	A_1 A_2	B_1 B_2	C_1 C_2	D_1 D_2	E	F	B_1 G*	C_2	D_1 I	J
5.	A_1 A_2	B_1 B_2	C_1 C_2	D_1 D_2	E	F	B_1	C_2	D_1 I	J

This plate stands out from the plates of other forint denominations, as it is very rich in types, which appear in all columns. Out of these types, as many as three are such main types which can be found both on the left and on the right side of the plate.

A_1*	A point adjacent to the vertical part of "t"
A_2*	A point in the double circle
B_1	A point to the right of the slanting part of "2"
B_2*	A point over the bottom part of "2"
C_1	Tiny grey stain in the shell
C_2	A fade sharp point below and to the right of "f"
D_1	A point on the left little toe of the angel
D_2	A point over the point mentioned above, to the right
E	A point on the foot of the angel on the right
F	A fade point in the inner circle
G*	A point on the right knee of the angel on its knees
I	A point adjacent to the upper part of "1", on the right
J	A fade point on the thigh of the angel on the left

The discovery of the type marks of this denomination is to the great extent the merit of *Ralph Ebner* from Solingen. The results of his research are being published for the first time here.

Types of 15ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A*	-	C*	-	E_1* E_2	-	-	-	I*	J
2.	A*	-	C*	-	E_1* E_2	-	-	-	I*	J
3.	A*	-	C*	-	E_1* E_2	-	-	-	I*	J
4.	A*	-	C*	-	E_1* E_2	-	-	-	I*	J
5.	-	-	-	-	E_2	-	-	-	-	J

A*	An extra point in the point pattern of the background
C*	Protrusion adjacent to the circle, under the door of the hive
E_1*	A point to the left of the upper part of "5"
E_2	A point near the upper right corner of the bottom fess of the coat of arms
I*	A point adjacent to the right side of the vertical part of "f", in the middle
J	A point in the middle of the wheat sheaf

Both type marks "E" of column V were discovered by *Ralph Ebner*.

Types of 20ft and plate structure



	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.
1.	A*	B*	-	-	E*	F*	-	H*	I_1* I_2	J*
2.	A*	B*	-	-	E*	F*	-	H*	I_1* I_2	J*
3.	A*	B*	-	-	E*	-	-	H*	I_1* I_2	J*
4.	A*	B*	-	-	-	F*	-	H*	I_1* I_2	J*
5.	-	-	-	-	-	F*	-	-	I_2	-

Group type marks are most frequently missing in the last line. However, the irregular types E*and F* are of irregular arrangement, probably due to the plate repair.

Types A, B, and E were discovered by *Ralph Ebner*.

A*	A point adjacent to the inner frame line of the shield, from above, in the right corner
B*	The left white edge of the shield is connected by a black stain on the top.
E*	A very fade grey point amidst the background lines, at the right side of the cross
F*	A point over "I" in the double circle
H*	A point adjacent to the left edge of the second fess from the top
I_1*	A point in the left corner of the uppermost fess
I_2	A fade point in the middle of the second band from the bottom of the coat of arms

Reference literature

1. Szép, Endre: A 12 kr-os okmánybélyeg (1868-1891) I. nyomólemezének javítása (Repair of Printing Plate I of 12kr Revenue Stamp), OKMÁNYBÉLYEG 1991/1
2. Szücs és társai: "Pénzügyi bélyegek a Habsburg birodalomban és Magyarországon" (Revenue Stamps in Habsburg Empire and Hungary), published by the authors, 2007. Budapest.
3. Szücs, Károly: Sheet Reconstruction of the Hungarian 1 Krajczár Documentary Revenue Stamp, Philatelica 11/1

NEWS

MORE DETAILS ABOUT 50KR TELEGRAM SHEET

Regarding Varjasi Mihály's article about telegrams published in Philatelica 13/2, I would like to mention that I have a used cut-out of 50kr telegram sheet, which is presented on figure 9b, and which I attach hereby. After I had bought it, I asked Karl Endrődi about it, who said that it was the first part of a 50kr form seen by him.



Such forms were mostly destroyed. Until a new one turns up, this piece will remain unique. According to the part of a postmark seen on it " … SSÓ", it was used in Brassó (Brasov).

Drs. Paul de Leeuv van Weenen, Holland

ABOUT STICKER LABELS OF SAVING BANK ACCOUNTS

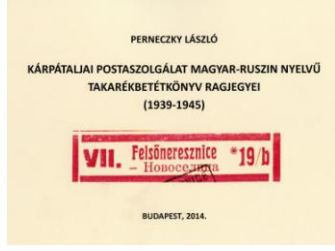
With the support of Mafitt Gervay Foundation, the author published a study of *Dr. László Perneczky* entitled *„Kárpátaljai postaszolgálat magyar-ruszin nyelvű takarékbetétkönyv ragjegyei (1939-1945)" (Sticker labels of saving account booklets of the Hungarian-Ruthenian Post Office, 1939-1945)*

In the period between 1939 and 1944, in the area of Transcarpathia reoccupied by Hungarians, Ruthenians used bilingual, Latin and Cyrillic hand stamps and forms, the language being Hungarian and Ruthenian. This stood for the wording of adhesive labels of the registered mail items of the Hungarian Royal Post Office in the period between the years 1939-1944.

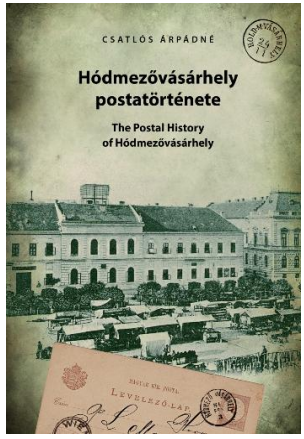
The main source of the present study is a pool of about 200 pieces of *Post Office Savings Bank adhesive bilingual labels* mentioned in the title, which have hardly been published so far, due to which we may consider them unknown. This has provided an opportunity for the research into this topic, which is an overseen area in para philately.

New results were due to the discovery by the author that these labels should be looked into together with the bilingual registered mail item labels from Transcarpathia with the *similar wording* (R), because this approach would allow for categorising the savings bank labels in a more comprehensive way; moreover, this approach was fruitful also for the increasing our knowledge accumulated about the registered mail item labels. This publication basically presents the results of the comparative research of these two kinds of adhesive labels.

In the first part, the author summarises major information on the history of the *Hungarian Royal Post Offices Savings Bank*, and presents the registered mail and savings bank adhesive labels used by the Post Office. *It is possible to compare the Hungarian and Ruthenian wording on two kinds of adhesive labels in case of 102 postal points* – this is the scope of the second part.



BOOK REVIEW



In 2014, Tornyai János Museum and Public Education published the book *„Hódmezővásárhely postatörténete”* (History of *Hódmezővásárhely*) by Csatlós Árpádné, containing about 100 pages, in the Hungarian and English languages. The intention to publish a book in two languages, as well as the implementation of this idea, is such a laudable deed for which the author and the publisher deserve respect and thanks.

The book presents the postal history of Hódmezővásárhely, formerly called Holdmezővásárhely, from 1845, when the first estate postal service was set up. (By 1845, postage stamps had been used for five years in England – Hódmezővásárhely did not even have a post office in that year!). The first line hand stamps had wording “H.M.Vasarhely” on them; it was followed by “Hold-M-vásárhely”; later, from 1883, the year was indicated in full number, and the settlement was referred to as Hódmezővásárhely.

In the city's coat of arms the symbol of the Moon remained, as we can see on a spectacular cinderella for sealing letters. According to others, the prefix “hód” (in Hungarian, “hold”, which may be pronounced “hód”, means “Moon”). Some other people say that prefix “hód” refers to the moon shape of the lake nearby.An interesting feature of the book is that it illustrates the development of the postal service by hand stamps and documents, considering equally important the milestones of the development of the postal service, the history of the building of the post office, and what postal and marko-philatelic documents have recorded the past 170 years of postal history. The author also indicates if she did not look into certain mail items mailed at given post offices.

When describing the postal history of Hódmezővásárhely, the importance of the impact exerted by the development of the railway on postal services does not escape the author’s attention; nor does she forget mentioning where and what number post offices operated and still continue to operate. Probably it is not a coincidence that she has mentioned the importance of the post offices operating in shopping malls: the most recently opened post office operating in Tesco is very busy. The history of the Post Office No. 1 has deserved a separate chapter; even the complications around the small building did not escape the author's attention. The book was intended for the general public, assuming that museum visitors are not familiar with the concepts of postage due mail items or the various types of postal hand stamps. The author’s clear ambition was the dissemination of philatelic knowledge.

The chapter dedicated to the post offices located in small settlements, which presents numerous delivery postmarks, is very exciting. Presentation of the Kunszentmiklós cover commemorating the beginning of the modern delivery in the country is quite remarkable. Collectors living in Budapest do not have a clue where Batida, Erzsébet, Gorzsa, Kardoskút, Kakasszék, Kopáncs, Kútvölgy, Székkutas, Mártély are, the latter famous for its art colony and backwater – today even a person from Budapest would know it. Today it is an independent settlement with its own municipality, so its post office is also an independent entity.

The highlights and special aspects of postal history show that the author does not relinquish publishing interesting articles. In 1929, the Post Office no. 1

opened, in its new building. It was then that the director of the new office published his 19 warnings to the population in the daily morning newspaper Vásárhelyi Reggeli Újság.

Let us look at some of his points:

"11. Mail proxy shall be valid only if produced in front of a postman or a Royal notary.
15. For 8 fillers a day, you may entertain, educate, and teach yourself if you purchase a radio.
17. If anyone reports on a radio listener who does not pay for this service, he will be paid a commission of 5 pengos."

It is in this chapter that the author displays her stamp collector side, when she presents a letter mailed in Poland, Lwow, to Dr. Sándor Grünfeld with Challenge postage stamps and commemorative postmarks on it, or a letter with the marks for further delivery. The author displays profound professional expertise, while providing an overview of the history of the Hungarian post office and the postal history of Hódmezővásárhely, including the years into a table, and juxtaposing the dates and events of the national and local scenes. I think the author deserves to be praised, because the book does not only provide insight into the history of the Post Office but also into that of Hódmezővásárhely and its surroundings.

We may safely say that this recently published book will be followed by a great sequel dedicated to the records of the local stamp collecting, local hand stamps, registered mail item adhesive labels, and revenue stamps. As well as to the museum, which published the book, we shall express our gratitude to the private persons and Gervay Mihály Magyar Postatörténeti Alapítvány (Gervay Mihály Hungarian Foundation for Postal History), which funded the translation of the book to the English language.

Dr. György Lővei
president of the Mafitt's Gervay Foundation

IV. MAFITT SALON In The Museum Of Stamps: Exhibition "Pearls Of Our Collections"

The object most favoured by the public was the first Hungarian lithographic cover presented by Miklós Barabássy. The entire exhibition may be seen on our home page or downloaded as high resolution CD attachment to Philatelica 14/2. With regard to the great success, the project will be continued!

At the closing ceremony of the Salon commemorating the 25th anniversary of Mafitt, we handed over commemoration cards to our founding members attending the event.



Founding and Honoured member Dr. Dezső Soóky at the intimate closing ceremony of the Salon

PHILATELICA ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Our periodical was awarded Second International FIP large silver medal on Exhibition Philakorea 2014, which may be seen on the back cover. We are going to once again nominate the volumes published in 2011-14 of our renewed periodical, with CD attachments, for the London 2015 FEPA exhibition.

Az 1971-ben indított lap félévente jelenik meg, az 1991-ben kezdődött húsz év szünet után
2011-től a Mafitt tagdíjfizető tagjai számára szükséges mennyiségben magyar
és párhuzamosan angol nyelven is
(a nyelvi mutáció 50 alatti példányban készül.)

A lap teljes tartalma és digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető: www.mafitt.hu

This paper and the CD attachment is available on the website of Mafitt at www.mafitt.hu

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2013.



2014

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását a két kiállítás között helyesbítettük
The Mafitt's name in English was corrected these years

15
2

Philatelica

Philatelica 2015/2

Tartalom / Content:

Dr. Nagy Ferenc − Dr. Homonnay Géza − DI. Czirók Dénes:

A magyar tengerhajózás fénykora 1868-1914. 1.
The Golden Age Of Hungarian Sea Navigation 1868-1914.

Peterdi István (1864-2014) születésének 150. évfordulója alkalmából
On The Occasion Of The 150th Birth Anniversary Of Istvan Peterdi

Varjasi Mihály: A díjjegyes zárt Távirat-lapok 1888−1919. között 29.
Closed Telegram Forms with Pre-printed Stamps 1888−1919

Hírek / News 39.

Fordítók / Translators: dr. Homonnay Géza, Komorowitz János és Kozma Zsolt

Szerkesztő / Editor Szücs Károly, Mafitt titkár / secretary of Mafitt

Tanácsadók / Consultants Filep László, bélyegszakértő / philatelic expert

Dr. Lővei György, a Gervay alapítvány elnöke
president of the Gervay Foundation

Mervyn Benford, President of The Hungarian Philatelic Society
in Great Britain

THE GOLDEN AGE OF HUNGARIAN SEA NAVIGATION 1868-1914.



ON THE OCCASION OF THE 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF ISTVAN PETERDI

DR. FERENC NAGY, WIEN – DR. GÉZA HOMONNAY, BUDAPEST – DI.DÉNES CZIRÓK, ZALAEGERSZEG

1. PRELIMINARIES:

When Hungary finally regained it's independence in 1867, neither Croatia and Slavonia, nor Fiume free city has been under Hungarian administration. These territories have been attached to the Hungarian ones only on 1 April 1868, thereby at last providing free access to the sea, thus enabling the country to fulfil the slogan created by Lajos Kossuth himself back in 1846: 'To the sea, Hungarians!'

The problem in 1846 was that we had neither harbours, nor ships and the inhabitants of Fiume were mostly fishing close to the shores. Most of the overseas commerce of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy has been transacted from Triest, a city in Austria – here we could find plenty of flourishing agencies with excellent connections, plus a high capacity commercial fleet.

Poor Hungarians inherited only a fishing port and a few fishing barks – but a really good chance to expand.

Three main activities were needed to establish a well-functioning seaport:

1. To create the infrastructure of the port (piers, wharfs),
2. to professionally and thoroughly drill the ship personnel,
3. and to create and operate shipping companies.

Let's see, how the Hungarians coped with the tasks of these, up to then totally uncharted waters:

1. Not long after the Hungarian-Croatian Compromise of 1868 they began to build the wharfs able to accept even bigger sea ships in Fiume. The gradual shifting of the citiscape caused the slow, undisturbed tempo of the sleepy small town to change into a lively, bustling life. New palaces have beeen erected on the shore for the new companies, the first one, that of the Hungarian Royal Nautical Authority has been opened in 1871.
2. Exactly this Nautical Authority Palace has been the new location for the Fiume Commercial Shipping School (Collegio Nautico Commerciale), founded in 1774(!), functioning previously in the Jesuite monastic quarters by the SanVito church. This school, albeit with name changes and suspensions, outlived the Monarchy itself, proving the high level of work performed within it's walls.

It has been founded by Maria Theresia in 1774 first in Triest, then soon it was relocated to Fiume. The Hungarian version of this article contains a part of the law establishing the school, but only for grammatical reasons, as it's language is very funny today – no translation is possible for it.

' A` rendszerént való kormányosnak gondja légyen arra, hogy Tengeri Compasst, Föld golyóbissat, Tsillag nézö szerszámokat és tengeri mappákat, kiváltképen pedig olyanokat szerezzenek melyek hasznosak és szükségesek arra, hogy a Tengernek mélységét, melyek az égi grádits alatt való lételét a` hajónak, a´ még hátra lévö utnak hosszasságát, az utban levö köziklákat, homok fenekeket megtudhassák.
A Kormányszék pedig gondoskodjon arról: hogy a Hajókázás /sic!/ Tanitójának rendelésünk szerint megparantsollya, hogy a´ hozzá utasitott hajós Kapitányoknak szükséges oktatásokat adjon, és ha ugy kivántatik mappákat és egyéb eszközöket is beszerezzen, hogy ezek segedelmével annál bizonyosabban utazzanak.'

2. THE LIFE OF ISTVAN PETERDI

This above school was later renamed first to Hungarian Royal Nautical Magisteriat (R. Scuola Nautica Principale), then to Hungarian Royal Nautical Academy (Regia Ungarica Accademia Nautica). The list of the students, the names of the teachers, and some or a lot of the life facts of these subsist even today, as one can read in the book titled 'Nautica' written by Captain Jozsef Horvath. E.g. under the name of 'Istvan Peterdi' we can find:

'born 1864 May, Budapest, +Fiume?/: in 1879 student at Nautica. His service began as a cadet on the bark ship named Fiume E. From June 1884 sailor lieutenant, serving two years on a dalmatian sailboat. From December 1887 long-distance captain.'

It is necessary to note here, that dr. Gabor Zsigmond, during his new researches has found the school report cards of Istvan Peterdi. These spell the name always as Peterdy, with a y at the end, and the place of birth is unequivocally Vienna. The researcher thinks that Peterdi was born in Vienna and after the early death of his father he moved to Pest with her mother, attending schools here.

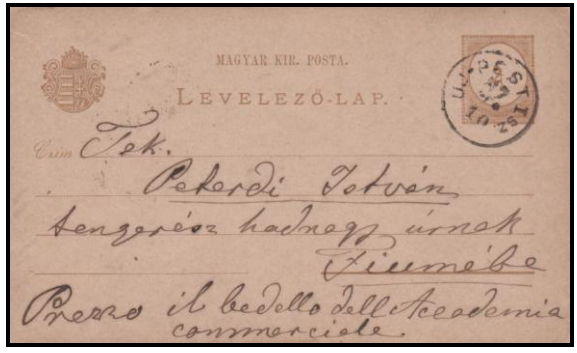

MAGYAR KIR. POSTA.
LEVELEZŐ-LAP.
Tek.
Peterdi István
tengerész hadnagy úrnak
Fiumébe
Presso il bedello dell'Accademia commerciale.

Figure 1 Postcard written by Anna Peterdi, the mother of the lieutenant to his son from Ujpest on 8 September 1887, addressed to the Academy in Fiume to the hands of the janitor, as his son has been travelling constantly. '...I don't sleep well. If I learn about the result of the examination, I will write longer...' She worried about the 'long-distance captain' examination, which, as we know, was successfully accomplished by Peterdi a bit later. This meant a licence for the oceans. /3/

'As employee of Adria Inc. second officer in 1890, first officer in 1892.' writes the list of

'Nautica' his biography further. Let us stop for a moment here. There exists a letter to the address of Emma Peterdi (the wife of Istvan) from 1892, from Walker to Susak (not far from Fiume). If we study the list of ships ordered by the Adria company we can tumble on the interesting fact that most of them has been manufactured in 1892 in the shipyard of Low-Walker (today: Walker), close to Newcastle – 7 ships in all. It is a fair deduction that Istvan Peterdi, the talented long-distance captain and first officer has been entrusted to bring home one or more new ships to Fiume!

He wrote his wife from here, narrating his adventures on an English 2,5 penny postal stationary. This newly discovered letter is the earliest known letter written by Peterdi, which does not contain the later trademarks of Paquebot covers, as it has been forwarded by 'normal' postal routes.



Figure 2. Letter of Istvan Peterdi to his wife Emma from Walker, England to Susak in 1892 /3/

Let's read on his biography: in 1898, as captain of Árpád he saves the passangers and personnel of the Italian steamship Umberto for which the King of Italy decorates him with a golden cronometer. He also served on the following ships: Zichy, Carola, Adria, Tisza, Szapáry, Buda, Széchenyi, Andrássy, Mátyás király, Petőfi. In 1903 the captain of Zrínyi, in 1906 we find him on the steamship Szent László. From February 1910 to January 1914 he commanded the Rákóczi, then from March 1914 to August 1915 he worked on the steamship Szeged. The last entry about him in the records of Adria Inc is from 1916.

After this introduction let's tackle the next topic:

3. ORGANIZATION OF SHIPPING COMPANIES

The Hungarian state contributed significant sums to the kick-off of the sea navigation. First of all the Adria Incorporated has been founded in 1882, as a successor of the private Adria Steamship Company, founded in 1879, owning 7 steamships and going bankrupt in 1882. All ships have been built in English shipyards. The task of the Company has been to frequent the ports of the Western Mediterranean area, plus later, using the Strait of Gibraltar, the French, Belgian, Dutch and British ports as well.

Another reorganisation took place in 1891. The Adria received an enhanced subsidy from the ministry led by Gabor Baross, a yearly sum of 570.000 Forints. The name of the company has

been changed to Adria Hungarian Royal Sea Navigation Incorporated.



Figure 3 Part of the 'Szapáry-wharf' in Fiume, to the right the tallest building the Adria-palace, to the left the ship Gödöllő of the Ungaro-Croata /3/

By this time a second company has already been functioning in Fiume, the Hungarian-Croatian Sea Steamship Inc – shortly Ungaro-Croata – has been founded (also on the ruins of two other existing companies) with the task to supply the ports of the Dalmatian shore of the Adria sea down to Ragusa (today: Dubrovnik). The capital of the company has been 1 million Forints, and it received a yearly subsidy of 166.000 Huf from the Hungarian government. This 'cast' is reflected in the size of the ships of the two companies: while the Ungaro-Croata used smaller ships up to 70 meters length, the ships of Adria began at 70 meters, the largest being 111 meters long. Several smaller companies were started later (Atlantica, Levante, etc), but we don't deal here with these. The number of ships has been in the last peace-year of 1914: 31 ships at Adria, 45 ships at Ungaro-Croata.

From now on we will concentrate exclusively on the origin, the types and the cancellations of the so-called Peterdi-letters carried by the ships of the Adria Hungarian Royal Sea Navigation Incorporated. It is not the goal of this article to analyze the letters and their cancellations carried by other companies, e.g. the Ungaro-Croata.

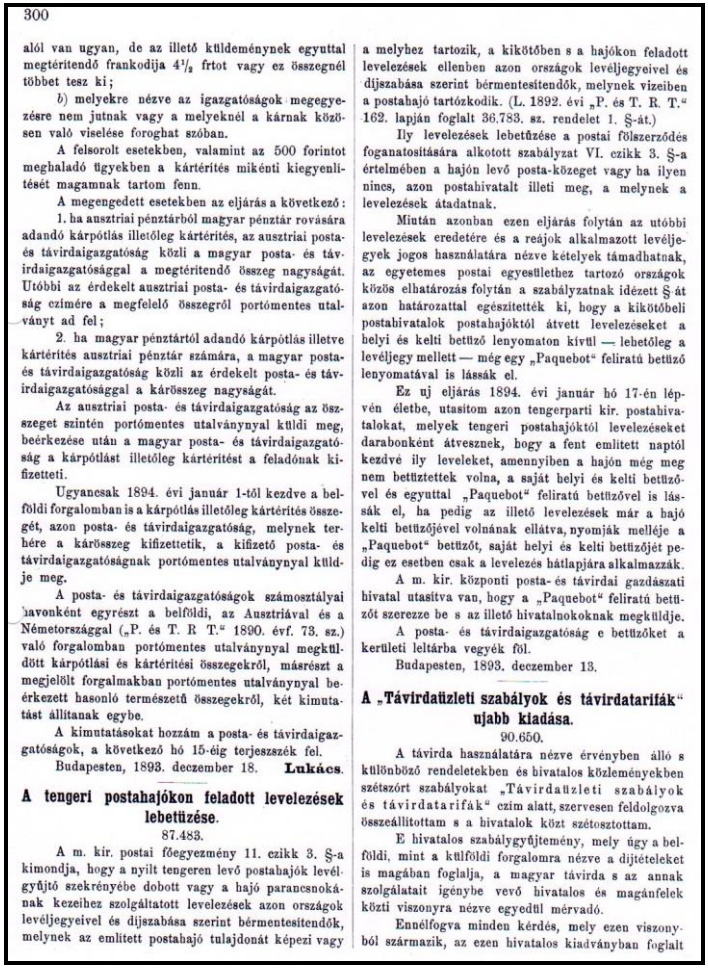
4. THE POSTAL CONTRACT

An important event (at least for us) happened in 1892: a state contract has been signed with the Adria. The freight ships will be able to offer postal services, the circumstances of this are discussed in this contract.

So the contract states, that if a letter is handed over to the designated postal clerk of the ship on the open sea, than the letter should be treated – as the territory of the ship was Hungarian territory – as a normal Hungarian letter, franked with Hungarian stamps according to Hungarian rates.

But if the ship was stationing in a port when the letter was handed over, than the local stamps of the country of the port had to be used, with the corresponding rates. To differentiate the sea post letters, the usage of 'Paquebot' handstamps has been ordered. The word 'Paquebot' means 'passenger boat on the sea' in French, coming from the English term packet-boat, meaning originally a ship carrying parcels.

It's first postal occurence is from 1894, the UPU recognised it's general usage in 1897. The Hungarian decree appeared on 13 December 1893 and took effect on 17 January 1894.



300

alól van ugyan, de az illető küldeménynek egyuttal megtérítendő frankodija 4½ frtot vagy ez összegnél többet tesz ki;

b) melyekre nézve az igazgatóságok megegyezésre nem jutnak vagy a melyeknél a kárnak közösen való viselése foroghat szóban.

A felsorolt esetekben, valamint az 500 forintot meghaladó ügyekben a kártérítés mikénti kiegyenlitését magamnak tartom fenn.

A megengedett esetekben az eljárás a következő:

1. ha ausztriai pénztárból magyar pénztár rovására adandó kárpótlás illetőleg kártérités, az ausztriai posta- és távirdaigazgatóság közli a magyar posta- és távirdaigazgatósággal a megtérítendő összeg nagyságát. Utóbbi az érdekelt ausztriai posta- és távirdaigazgatóság czimére a megfelelő összegről portómentes utalványt ad fel;

2. ha magyar pénztártól adandó kárpótlás illetve kártérités ausztriai pénztár számára, a magyar posta- és távirdaigazgatóság közli az érdekelt posta- és távirdaigazgatósággal a kárösszeg nagyságát.

Az ausztriai posta- és távirdaigazgatóság az összeget szintén portómentes utalványnyal küldi meg, beérkezése után a magyar posta- és távirdaigazgatóság a kárpótlást illetőleg kártérítést a feladónak kifizetteti.

Ugyancsak 1894. évi január 1-től kezdve a belföldi forgalomban is a kárpótlás illetőleg kártérítés összegét, azon posta- és távirdaigazgatóság, melynek terhére a károsszeg kifizettetik, a kifizető posta- és távirdaigazgatóságnak portómentes utalványnyal küldje meg.

A posta- és távirdaigazgatóságok számosztályai havonként egyrészt a belföldi, az Ausztriával és a Németországgal („P. és T. R T.“ 1890. évf. 73. sz.) való forgalomban portómentes utalványnyal megküldött kárpótlási és kártérítési összegekről, másrészt a megjelölt forgalmakban portómentes utalványnyal beérkezett hasonló természetű összegekről, két kimutatást állitanak egybe.

A kimutatásokat hozzám a posta- és távirdaigazgatóságok, a következő hó 15-éig terjeszszék fel.

Budapesten, 1893. deczember 18. **Lukács.**

A tengeri postahajókon feladott levelezések lebetüzése.

87.483.

A m. kir. postai főegyezmény 11. czikk 3. §-a kimondja, hogy a nyilt tengeren levő postahajók levélgyűjtő szekrényébe dobott vagy a hajó parancsnokának kezeihez szolgáltatott levelezések azon országok levéljegyeivel és díjszabása szerint bérmentesitendők, melynek az emlitett postahajó tulajdonát képezi vagy a melyhez tartozik, a kikötőben s a hajókon feladott levelezések ellenben azon országok levéljegyeivel és díjszabása szerint bérmentesitendők, melynek vizeiben a postahajó tartózkodik. (L. 1892. évi „P. és T. R. T.“ 162. lapján foglalt 36.783. sz. rendelet 1. §-át.)

Ily levelezések lebetüzése a postai fölszerződés foganatositására alkotott szabályzat VI. czikk 3. §-a értelmében a hajón levő posta-közeget vagy ha ilyen nincs, azon postahivatalt illeti meg, a melynek a levelezések átadatnak.

Miután azonban ezen eljárás folytán az utóbbi levelezések eredetére és a reájok alkalmazott levéljegyek jogos használatára nézve kételyek támadhatnak, az egyetemes postai egyesülethez tartozó országok közös elhatározás folytán a szabályzatnak idézett § át azon határozattal egészitették ki, hogy a kikötőbeli postahivatalok postahajóktól átvett levelezéseket a belyi és kelti betüző lenyomaton kivül — lehetőleg a levéljegy mellett — még egy „Paquebot“ feliratú betüző lenyomatával is lássák el.

Ez uj eljárás 1894. évi január hó 17-én lépvén életbe, utasitom azon tengerparti kir. postahivatalokat, melyek tengeri postahajóktól levelezéseket darabonként átvesznek, hogy a fent emlitett naptól kezdvé ily leveleket, amennyiben a hajón még meg nem betüztettek volna, a saját belyi és kelti betüzővel és egyuttal „Paquebot“ feliratú betüzővel is lássák el, ha pedig az illető levelezések már a hajó kelti betüzőjével volnának ellátva, nyomják melléje a „Paquebot“ betüzőt, saját belyi és kelti betüzőjét pedig ez esetben csak a levelezés hátlapjára alkalmazzák.

A m. kir. központi posta- és távirdai gazdászati hivatal utasitva van, hogy a „Paquebot“ feliratú betüzőt szerezze be s az illető hivatalnokoknak megküldje.

A posta- és távirdaigazgatóság e betüzőket a kerületi leltárba vegyék föl.

Budapesten, 1893. deczember 13.

A „Távirdaüzleti szabályok és távirdatarifák“ ujabb kiadása.

90.650.

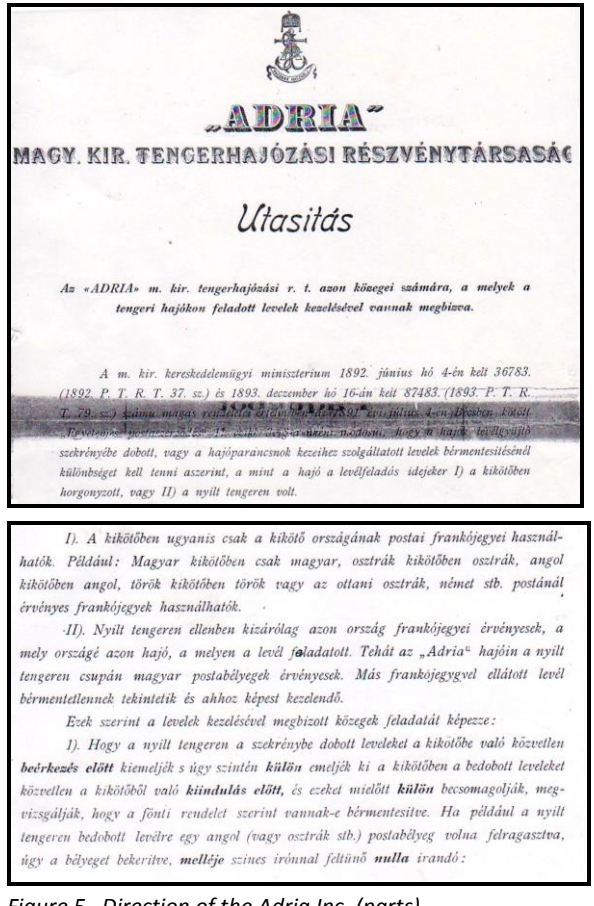
A távirda használatára nézve érvényben álló s különböző rendeletekben és hivatalos közleményekben szétszórt szabályokat „Távirdaüzleti szabályok és távirdatarifák“ czim alatt, szervesen feldolgozva összeállitottam s a hivatalok közt szétosztottam.

E hivatalos szabálygyűjtemény, mely úgy a belföldi, mint a külföldi forgalomra nézve a dijtételeket is magában foglalja, a magyar távirda s az annak szolgálatait igénybe vevő hivatalos és magánfelek közti viszonyra nézve egyedül mérvadó.

Ennélfogva minden kérdés, mely ezen viszonyból származik, az ezen hivatalos kiadványban foglalt

Figure 4 The decree concerning the forwarding of letters

The Adria company issued a direction for it's employees, which has been more detailed than the state decree, with explaining text. (We show it in two parts because of technical reasons).



„ADRIA“

MAGY. KIR. TENGERHAJÓZÁSI RÉSZVÉNYTÁRSASÁG

Utasitás

Az «ADRIA» m. kir. tengerhajózási r. t. azon közegei számára, a melyek a tengeri hajókon feladott levelek kezelésével vannak megbizva.

A m. kir. kereskedelemügyi minisztérium 1892. június hó 4-én kelt 36783. (1892. P. T. R. T. 37. sz.) és 1893. deczember hó 16-án kelt 87483. (1893. P. T. R. T. 79. sz.) számu magas rendelete alapján [illegible] évi julius 4-én Desben kötött [illegible] szerződés 17. czikk 3. §-a értelmében rendeli, hogy a hajók levélgyüjtő szekrényébe dobott, vagy a hajóparancsnok kezeihez szolgáltatott levelek bérmentesitésénél különbséget kell tenni aszerint, a mint a hajó a levélfeladás idejeker I) a kikötőben horgonyzott, vagy II) a nyilt tengeren volt.

I). A kikötőben ugyanis csak a kikötő országának postai frankójegyei használhatók. Például: Magyar kikötőben csak magyar, osztrák kikötőben osztrák, angol kikötőben angol, török kikötőben török vagy az ottani osztrák, német stb. postánál érvényes frankójegyek használhatók.

II). Nyilt tengeren ellenben kizárólag azon ország frankójegyei érvényesek, a mely országé azon hajó, a melyen a levél feladatott. Tehát az „Adria“ hajóin a nyilt tengeren csupán magyar postabélyegek érvényesek. Más frankójegygyel ellátott levél bérmentellennek tekintetik és ahhoz képest kezelendő.

Ezek szerint a levelek kezelésével megbizott közegek feladatát képezze:

*1). Hogy a nyilt tengeren a szekrénybe dobott leveleket a kikötőbe való közvetlen **beérkezés előtt** kiemeljék s úgy szintén **külön** emeljék ki a kikötőben a bedobott leveleket közvetlen a kikötőből való **kiindulás előtt**, és ezeket mielőtt **külön** becsomagolják, megvizsgálják, hogy a főnti rendelet szerint vannak-e bérmentesitve. Ha például a nyilt tengeren bedobott levélre egy angol (vagy osztrák stb.) postabélyeg volna felragasztva, úgy a bélyeget bekeritve, **melléje** szines irónnal feltünő **nulla** irandó:*

Figure 5 Direction of the Adria Inc, (parts).

5. SOURCES

This is the first occasion of a comparative processing of the Peterdi letters. The authors complemented their own collections with the more interesting pieces of the Stamp Museum, plus with other sources, meaning a quantity of nearly 450 pieces for the analysis. It proved to be nearly

impossible to sort the letters according to cancellers or frankings – the material is too diversified and colourful, which is not a disadvantage. The most practical sorting respect proved to be the date of the letters, so this was chosen. The examined material is stemming from four sources:

1. The huge seapost material of the Stamp Museum, of which origin there has not been any kind of note. The letters are glued to contemporary, A3 size cardboards with flour-paste, but regretfully only the fronts. So they are of diminished value for today's collector

   The Mafitt delegation – the authors of this article – upon examining this material discovered with great surprise that the analysis of handwriting proved Captain Peterdi as the author of the subscriptions of the album – we can deduct that it was his collection and he himself put the album together. This source will be marked **as /1/** in the following.

2. Dr. Pál Szilágyi, a serious, knowledgable philatelist living in the USA (1936-2007) collected this area and published several articles in English language about the Peterdi letters. His collection of around 120 covers has been auctioned in Budapest in 2002, but only few items have been sold. The remaining cca 100 letters remained together and this remaining collection was sold to a collector in Budapest, who bought a handful of other letters since then. This source will be marked **as /2/** in the following.

3. Another serious, knowledgable philatelist, living in Austria also has a nice collection of this area. This source will be marked **as /3/**.

4. And of course there are other collections and auction data. This source will be marked **as /4/.**

6. THE BEGINNING (THE YEAR OF 1897)

As we have seen, in 1894, when the State Contract and the Adria Decree took effect, Istvan Peterdi has been a first class captain, and the Adria company had 15 functioning ships. But we can search hard and still no letters can be found.

The first known letter or rather a correspondence card with the handwriting of Peterdi and bearing the 'Paquebot' handstamp stems from Reggio Calabria dated 22 November 1897. It is addressed to Austria.



Figure 6 First known postal item, a correspondence card written by captain Peterdi and bearing the Paquebot postmark, with a regular 5 kr franking, addressed to the well-known seapost collector of the era, Dr. Knopf. The franking proves that it has been written, or rather mailed at sea. Peterdi writes on the card that a next one will arrive from Malta. According to the decree the colour of the Paquebot stamping is violet. One can see already the 'S.S ANDRÁSSY' side handstamp, which was neither allowed, nor prohibited. /2/

The next, very early Peterdi letter has been written only 3 days later to his wife Emma, to Fiume, with 2*5 kr black numeral stamps, as a Hungarian rate to abroad. The cover shows two violet 'Paquebot' handstamps, plus another, 'Paquebots' handstamp right three times in black colour (two of them faint), directly on the stamp as cancellation.

The back of the cover is even more interesting. First of all a 'Catania Ferrovia' postmark, but next to it an interesting Italian language remark, as an explanation to the unusual franking, how the Hungarian stamp got to Sicily: 'Arrived to Sicily with the correspondence of a Hungarian steamship'. The letter arrived to Fiume two days later, on 27 November 1897.

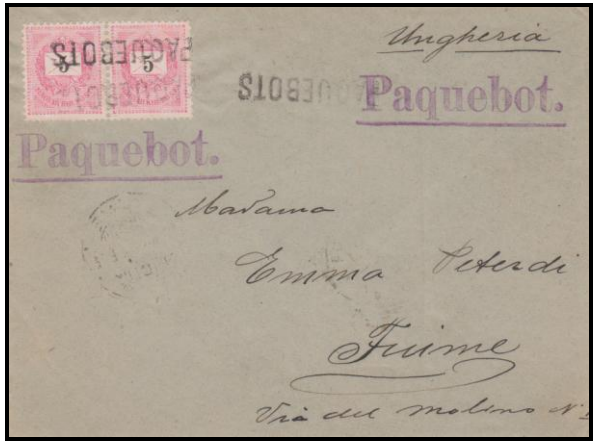


Figure 7 The first known Peterdi LETTER with violet and black 'Paquebot' and 'PAQUEBOTS' hand-stamps from Catania to Fiume on 25 November 1897. Purists, as we have already mentioned, do not acknowledge this 'Paquebots' handstamp, with an 's' at the end, as regular /3/



Figure 8 Back of the letter with the explaining text of the post office and the arrival postmark of Fiume (it always contains the 'c' at the back of the letters, as this has been the seaport post office). No ship name can be found on this cover. /3/

7. THE YEAR OF 1898

The deluge of letters start from January 1898. Currently we know more than 100 covers from this year. The captain cruises the Mediterranean sea like a flying dutchman – we meet the cancellations of Malta, Messina, Catania, Siracusa, Molfetta, Riposto, Reggio Calabria, Bari, Maurizio, Almeria, Ancona, Napoli, Genova, Patras, Trieste, Marseille, Le Havre, Valletta, then Gibraltar, Rotterdam, Algier és Greenock (Scotland).

But even these letters are not boring, all of them enters joy into the heart of hundreds of enthusiastic philatelists with colourful frankings, combinations, cancellations. Even the placement of the stamps shows fantastic creativity. Probably

these are the nicest items of Hungarian postal history, maybe the better pieces of the 2nd inflation come close, but seemingly in our case we can see the creative art of a single person.

Probably right at the beginning, upon discovering his own creativity, the captain got into a state of intoxication. Let us show you two covers as a proof of his wit, speaking for themselves.

The first one has been sent on 8 January 1898 from Bari to Siracusa, a franking of 10 kr was needed according to the Hungarian rate abroad. Peterdi franked the cover correctly, but how? A bisected 15 kr stamp (= 7,5 kr) + a bisected 5 kr one (= 2,5 kr) = 10 kr. Did the post office in Bari accept this? Sure enough! Maybe the bisects are a national custom in Hungary…



Figure 9 The earliest cover showing bisected stamps making up the fee of 10kr from January 1898, from Bari to Siracusa. The post office accepted the bisects and forwarded the cover /2/

The letter shows an Italian explanatory text stating that the stamps had been bisected officially by the captain of the Hungarian steamship. How exciting it is to find the other half of this bisected 15 kr stamp on a letter written two days later! Back homewards from Bari, before calling at the port of Fiume another letter has been mailed to a Fiume address, once again franked with 10 kr, this time with the 'leftover' half 15kr as 7,5 kr, plus 1+1+1/2 kr as 2,5 kr = 10 kr.



Figure 10 Experiment for a 10 kr franking with bisected stamps, not accepted, as opposed to Bari, in Fiume, so an extra 8 kr had to be added /3/

Above the stamp we can find the inscription: 'Officially bisected stamps'. Well, but in Fiume they new, that this is not Hungarian folklore, but just a game, so they added: 'Arrived from the sea with posteriorly added stamps' and asked for another 8 kr from the sender. Both covers has a 'Fiume, 98. Jan. 10.' postmark on the back. The 8 kr extra fee has been noted on the front with blue pencil.

The captain seemingly did not find pleasure in the bisects any more, which have been too complicated anyhow, so only a few covers with bisects are known, all from 1898. We don't have to wait long for the next Peterdi-action, he wrote several correspondence cards with reply cards in March 1898. His only problem has been the address, as the recipient, like him, did not have a valid address at the destination. Therefore we can always find resident companies as recipients of these cards, like on the item shown below: in Napoli, at the company Holme and Co., to the hands of a fellow captain: 'Cap. G. Buriello'.

The 52 mm long 'Paquebot' handstamp is green this time, the same colour as that of the ship name designation: Magyar Királyi 'Adria' Gőzös (Hungarian Royal 'Adria' steamship). The colour of the 'irregular' 'PAQUEBOTS' handstamp on the stamp is black. The imprinted 2kr of the card, meant for the inland rate, has been completed to 5 kr, the correct rate abroad. On the back of the card: 'Per mare' and date, signature: Peterdi. Postal cancellation: Catania Ferrovia, 17. 3. 98.



Figure 11 The front page of the correspondence card with reply card /3/

The answer did not take long, Buriello answered four days later, also at sea, 'per mare', knowing that Peterdi will have arrived to Marseille by then, once again to the address of a local company. The colour of the 'Paquebot' handstamp is grey this time, under it the 'S.S. Andrassy' handstamp, with a postal cancellation of Porto Maurizio from 21. 3. 1898, arriving to Marseille the next day already.

The two different colours of the 52 mm handstamps on the two parts of the same correspondence card with reply card suggest the theory, that the so-called Peterdi covers have not all been treated by him – the complementing handstamps have been used at several other larger ships as well.

From this year we can find not only the 'S.S.ANDRASSY' and the Hungarian Royal Adria Steamship handstamps, but also the 'Piroscafo Buda' and the 'Piroscafo Tisza' ship name handstamps. These two ships also belonged to the fleet of the company Adria.



12. ábra. A levelezőlap másik oldala /3/

The captain meticuluosly used correct frankings only, despite the fact that the items have been

forwarded abroad, where probably no one had the faintest idea of the rates.

Let us examine a beautiful cover, rich with contrasts, mailed on the S.S. Andrassy on 14 February 1898 to Malta, to the hands of the Austro-Hungarian consul for forwarding.

The item is franked with 5 kr, which is not enough for a letter. But examining the item we can find that it is open both on the upper and the lower side, meaning this is a newspaper wrapper, so the 5kr fee is correct.



Figure 13 Newspaper wrapper to Malta /3/

The April of 1898 brought a new handstamp creation, a big sailboat with the size of 55x60 mm.

It exists in violet and green colour, considering of course the fact that the colours are usually not clean, they contain a little of this and a little of that.

These sailboat handstamps are often blurry, but an exception is the earliest one, stemming from 20 April 1898. No quarrel with the colours here, as there are 4 very clear stampings, with 4 different colours.



Figure 14. Printed matter sent on April 20 1898 from the port of Maurizio (a small port in the vicinity of San Remo) to Marseille with the correct franking of 3 kr, with a green 'Paquebot', a red 'Magyar Királyi Adria Gőzös', a black 'Porto Maurizio' and a blue 'Sailboat' stamping /4/

Peterdi himself new well that just a few pieces exist with this sailboat handstamp, therefore he noted in the lower left corner of the piece in the Stamp Museum collection assembled by him: 'RRR'.



Figure 15. The same sailboat handstamp from the same time period, with the 'RRR' marking in the lower left corner /1/

We should nail down an important fact here. The critics of the Peterdi-letters always repeat loudly that except for the 52 mm long 'Paquebot' handstamp all the other handstamps used by him are irregular, even prohibited. But if so, why did the post offices of nearly all of the European ports during many years accept these letters without any penalty? Apart from a very short period in Reggio Calabria, WE DON'T KNOW ANY HUNGARIAN SEAPOST COVER WITH A POSTAGE DUE!

The cover shown below is very interesting, as it shows an attempt for such a postage due. On 15 March 1898, at the post office of Reggio Calabria the postal clerk found fault with one letter, because it has been franked with 3 kr only. We can see a scored zero above the stamps, showing that he deemed the stamps invalid. Next to the franking there is a letter 'T' and below it, to the right, the sum of the postage due: 9. But then both postage due markings have been withdrawn with nullifying pen markings.

What could happen? We think that the 3 kr franking has been correct, the fee of an openly posted printed matter. We know a number of such seapost letters up to 1900, when the rate has been raised. The cancellation on the stamps, S.S. Andrássy, shows the name of the ship.

Why the clerk wanted to prescribe the postage due, we cannot fathom. Most probably the still present Hungarian sailor could persuade him not to do it, so the clerk decided to allow the letter through, proven by the arrival postmark on the back of the cover.



Figure 16 Printed matter franked with 2+1 kr from Reggio Calabria to Messina, with withdrawn postage due /2/

On another letter (owned by the Stamp Museum), mailed also from Reggio Calabria, this time to Fiume and on train, with a high 35 kr franking, the franking has not been accepted by the clerk in Reggio, because it was a heavy, 45g letter. The clerk tells of the reception of the letter in italian language. Of course in Fiume the 'T' sign has been ignored.



17. ábra. Túlsúlyos levél Reggio Calabriából Fiumeba és megportózva. /1/

Apart from these two items we don't know any Hungarian seapost covers with postage due!

On the previous letter we can see a green side handstamp: 'S.S Andrássy'. Such side handstamps (on-board cancellers) are usually (but not always) on the cover, but not on the stamps themselves, on covers mailed at sea.

From this period we know these ones:

- 'Magyar Királyi Adria Gőzös' (in two rows)
- 'S.S. Tisza', (with a comet at both ends)
- 'M. K. Adria' (with comet)
- 'Reg Ung. Societa Navigaziona Adria'
- 'S/S Adria'
- 'Piroscafo BUDA'
- The word 'MALTA' among 5 lines.

Usually in the same colour as the always present 'Paquebot' handstamp.

From this period we know a cover sent to Fiume, addressed to the wife of the Captain, Emma Peterdi, franked with a single 50kr stamp, with greyish handstamps 'Paquebot' and 'S.S. Andrássy'. The reason for the exceptionally high single-stamp franking can be seen on the left side of the cover: 'Expresse.' 'Sürgős' (Urgent). A fantastic rarity, no other such frankings are known, not even in the material of the Stamp Museum. It is very interesting that they kept stamps with such a high value on stock on board of the ship! A side remark: the 'Paquebot' and 'S.S. Andrássy' handstamps are separate ones and has been used in such a seemingly cohesive way only on a few occasions.



Figure 18 Express cover from Marseille to Fiume on 24 March 1898 /2/

Up to now we have seen only Hungarian stamps on the covers. But even these frankings suggest a really breathtaking mind.

THERE ARE NO TWO COVERS WITH THE SAME FRANKINGS!

The placement of the stamps on the envelope, the joint usage of black-numeral and coloured numeral stamps, the variations with multiple similar stamps and the colours of the cancellations produce such an infinite number of varieties, that each Hungarian seapost cover is a visual event in itself. Hungary is the only European country with such creative seapost covers.

We should note here, that the different ship names and different handwritings show that not all the covers have been created by Peterdi.

Seapost covers with foreign stamps used in the ports can be found from the spring of 1898 onwards. For example there are Maltese stamps (2

+ ½ penny) on the cover below. The letter has been posted in the harbour, therefore there are no Hungarian stamps on it, only the handstamp cancelling the stamps: 'M.K. ADRIA' (with comet), below it 'Paquebot', both in violet colour. The Maltese post seemingly accepted the cancellation and forwarded the cover (by ship) to Marseille, where they striked the arrival postmark on the back of the letter: 18. AVR. 98.



Figure 19 Early letter from Malta to Marseille, with stamps of a foreign country. /3/

The first 'Tengeren' (at sea) and 'Kikötőben' (at port) side handstamps appear also at about this time, showing the origin of the cover. The colour of these side handstamps usually match with the colour of the other handstamps on the letter. In the early period there were no such handstamps on the covers and they haven't been mandatory even later, but with time their occurence became more frequent.

The already mentioned 'Big sailboat' handstamp has only been used in the spring of 1898. It is very rare, currently there are 11 items known, either in violet or in green colour. Let us show two more covers with this philatelic tidbit.

The first letter is franked according to the Italian reduced rate of 5 Centesimi, most probably from an Italian harbour. To make it even more spectacular, they used a very wide paper sheet margin, with part of the summing text 'LIRE 4' plus an ornament. This has been stamped twice in green colour with the big sailboat, in red colour with the 'Paquebot' and in violet the 'S.S. Andrássy' handstamps. The letter has been sent to a passenger of the ship Adria: Monsieur F. Cheylan has been a 'Passager á bord du N/avigatione/ C/ompania/ Adria' on the address of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy. Thus a letter has been mailed on the ship Andrássy to a passenger arriving on the ship Adria to Malta. On the back of the letter the arrival postmark MALTA MY.1. 98. A beautiful seapost cover, crafted seemingly with all the fantasy of the sender.

(A commercial note: The reason for the fairly large number of Maltese relations was that the ships of the Adria carried large quantities of wood to Malta for construction purposes.)



Figure 20 A franking of 2 + 3x1 Centesimi on a cover addressed to the capital of Malta, La Valetta, on 1 May 1898 /3/

But for every nicest cover there is an even nicer somewhere. The same day another cover has been mailed at the same place, this time with the whole 25 Centesimi foreign franking for a letter, to compeer Captain Duimich, also at the address of the consul, A. Kohen.

The 25 Centesimi rate is made up of 7x2 + 1 C on the front plus 10x1 C on the back, once again cancelled in three different colours. On the back we can find the 5-lined MALTA handstamp. Sheet margins have also been used here to increase the attraction. For a better predominance of the text on the sheet margins the stamps have been placed upside down on the letter, which is not disturbing, as the cross in the stamp picture has a neutral stance, while the part of the word MEZZO nicely enlivens the left side of the cover. The dear Reader can see thus, how much love and delight have been used while composing these letters – which have always been always franked correctly and have run through the entire postal route.



Figure 21a Letter from an Italian port to Malta, with a mass franking of 25 Centesimi and the 'Big Sailboat' handstamp, in use only for 14 days. /2/

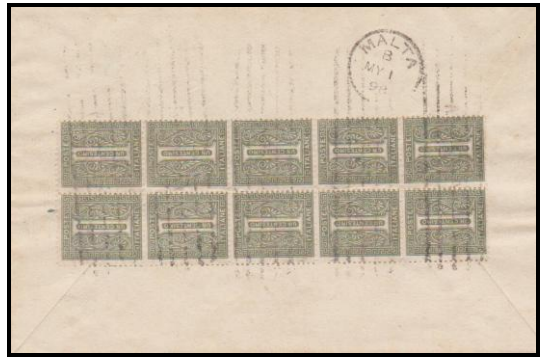


Figure 21b Back side of the letter with arrival postmark.

The month of April 1898 shows extraordinary fertility. One of the collections analysed in this article contains 16 items in itself, which is unproportionally high with regard of other months, where the highest number is 5. How come? If we analyze the Hungarian seapost material, we can see, that this is the first month when letters have been mailed beyond Gibraltar.

There are two reasons for this. Firstly the Adria company signed the necessary disembarking contracts with these countries, secondly Captain Peterdi successfully passed the French pilot examination, significantly simplifying the navigation in these ports.

The hint on the first crossing of the Gibraltar strait can be found on the following letter. The recipient's address is a private one in Gorizia, never repeated on later letters, as opposed to most addresses. The reason is that this letter has not been written by Captain Peterdi, but another sailor on the ship. The letter is franked correctly with 10 kr, in the form of 5+2 kr black numeral

stamps plus a 3 kr coloured numeral stamp, together with a grey 'Paquebot' plus a smaller, black italic 'PAQUEBOT' handstamp, also a 'Tengeren' (at sea) handstamp hinting at the place of mailing. The stamps are cancelled with a 'Gibraltar MY 27 98' + an 'A26' so-called meter handstamping.



Figure 22 Letter posted on 27 May 1898 from Gibraltar to Gorizia, on the back with '2.6.98. Görz' Austrian ruled arrival postmark /2/

This spectacular item is really important, because it is the first in a row of seapost covers mailed in the harbours of Western-Europe, like: Spanish, Belgian, Dutch, English, Scottish ports, plus later Algerian and Greek ones, all still in the year of 1898!

How do we know this? The analysis of these seapost collections keeps such surprises that can throw into a fever even the most experienced philatelists! This is the first time we can reconstruct the movement of ships in certain cases based on seapost covers. Soon after the contracts became valid the ship Adria anchored in Gibraltar on 27 May 1898, but we can follow it's route to Le Havre, France on 4 June, then to Rotterdam, the Netherlands on 11 June.

This route and these dates seem completely realistic, as they had to unload the ship during the voyage – the modern container methods not even having been dreamt of at that time. The letters of this route stem certainly from the same ship, as all the letters contain the 'M.K.A.' ship handstamp, plus the 5-lined 'M.K.A. and anchor' handstamp.

This cca. 55 mm long handstamp contains a horizontal anchor at both ends. It has only been shown in drawn version in different articles, this is the first time we can show it on an original cover.



Figure 23. Letter sent from the port of Le Havre to Fiume on 4 June 1898 to Peterdi's wife, with a mixed franking of black and coloured numeral stamps making up the rate of 10 kr. All side handstamps: MKA with anchor, Paquebot and Tengeren in violet colour. Dispatching postmark of Le Havre 4. June 98. On the back a Fiume, 98. June 7 arrival postmark /2/

This ‘anchor’ handstamp is one of the rarest, we know 6 items, one in violet, one in red and four in green colour. Three of them are in private hands, three in the Stamp Museum. The letter bearing the red one is beyond doubt one of the most beautiful covers.



24. ábra. 1898. június 4-én Le Havre-ból Párizsba feladott 25 centes levél, piros MKA szigonyos bélyegzéssel, a jobb alsó sarokban Peterdi kapitány ‘R.R.R.’ jelölésével /1/

The genius of Captain Peterdi resulted in two more innovations in 1898:

He realized that the meagre space on the letters can be overcome by gluing the stamps on each other, resulting in very spectacular solutions. Some compositions of solo stamps glued on a block of four with lightish colours are worth a work of graphic arts.

His other innovation has been to produce the ‘Paquebot’ handstamp, already used in different colours now in bicolour format. The below cover shows both innovations together:



Figure 25 Letter sent on 13 November 1898 from Gibraltar to Glasgow with stamps spectacularly glued on each other, with the correct 20 kr franking for a letter of the second weight-class and with a bicoloured (violet-green) Paquebot handstamp /3/

8. THE YEAR OF 1899

The Captain continued his extremely diversified activity in this year as well, there are more than 70 covers known from this year.

He began the year with a British shipment, transporting corn. He wrote the below letter on January 26 to his wife Emma from Scotland. He must have had a lot to say about the stormy journey, as the franking of the cover corresponds to the second weight-class.



Figure 26 Double-weight cover mailed from Greenock, Scotland on 26 January 1899 to Fiume, with 'Paquebot' and 'Tengeren' (at sea) handstamps of different colors /2/

Today we know that upon his arrival to a port the captain usually mailed not only one but several letters and he carefully avoided similarity among them.



Figure 27 Printed matter mailed the same day from Greenock addressed to his then only 6-year-old son Karoly (Charles) Peterdi /3/

We also know that the captain moved in the Mediterranean area in February and March - the latest known letter from this period stems from March 16. Generally we could trace his movements almost from week to week partly on the Mediterrenean Sea, partly at the Spanish, Portuguese, French and British shores of the Atlantic Ocean.

But in the second half of March his ship suddenly vanished for two weeks, and the next items we can find are two printed matters franked with 3 kr, with arrival stamps of PERNAMBUCO on the back. Where is this port with this very Spanish sounding, musical name? Well, this province and port is the Easternmost point of Brazil, the closest to Africa – meaning the ship cast the anchor in Brazil!

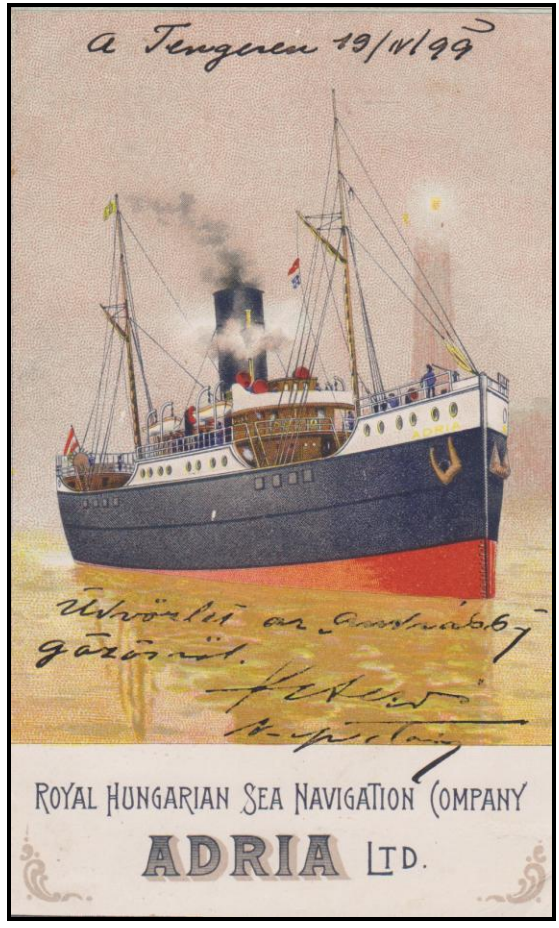
Just stop here for a moment – we can wonder how many ships captained by a Hungarian sailor reached the shores of Brazil prior to 1899 with the contemporary shipping knowledge and instruments? Certainly very few, but most probably Peterdi has been the first! Most probably no one has seen Hungarian stamps in Pernambuco until then, neither was the Paquebot handstamp well-known, therefore the printed matters have only been cancelled on the back. The genuineness of the item is beyond doubt, proven by the Lisboa postmark on the back dated two weeks later.

So the item has been transported through the Atlantic Ocean to Europe by a normal postship in two weeks. Then it has been forwarded through Vienna to Fiume.



Figure 28 Printed matter mailed from Pernambuco, Brazil on 30 March 1899. It has arrived on 12 April to Lisboa, then on April 16 to Vienna and the next day to Fiume. One of the South-American gems of Hungarian philately! /3/

Upon returning to Europe Peterdi navigated the waters between Malta and Siracusa, his usual haunt. He checked in on April 19 from the steamship Andrássy. This has been a much larger and younger ship than the Adria and Peterdi performed the Brazilian trip already with this ship.



29. ábra. 1899. április 19-én ismét már Siracusa körül volt valahol a 'tengeren' /3/

Figure 29 He navigated once again around Siracusa, somewhere 'at sea', on 19 April 1899 /3/

Up to then Peterdi has been moving mostly to the West of the heel of the Italian boot, in Malta, Sicily, Naples, Genova, Marseille, Gibraltar and the Atlantic Ocean. This May though he stopped in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean sea for the first time – according to the four known covers he harboured in the Greek island of Corfu.



Figure 30 On May 30 1899 Captain Peterdi checked in from the Greek shores, from the island of Corfu (Kerkyra), where they used Turkish stamps at that time. /3/

The Captain of course knew that he can also buy Austrian stamps in the Austrian Levante Post office:



Figure 31 Cover mailed on the same day, franked with Austrian Levante stamps abroad /3/

In a week he was once again at the sole of the 'boot', in the city of Barletta just above Bari, then the next day in the city of Valona (today: Vlore in Albania), where he found the Austrian post office yet again and produced a gem unmatched till today: a Valona Austrian postmark on a Hungarian krajczar stamp!



Figure 32 Printed matter mailed from Valona (but written 'at sea') on 7 June 1899 with a 3 kr stamp and Austrian postmark /2/

The introduced material certainly proves that Peterdi has been a true Hungarian, writing letters willingly in Hungarian (although he spoke 3-4 other languages as well) and his heart always brought him home. As a manifestation of his feelings he began to use a new on-board handstamp, bearing along the returning motive of his handstamps, the anchor, the inscript: 'HAZÁNAK HASZNÁLJ' ('Be useful to your homeland' – with small, sometimes illegible lettters).

It is not difficult to find out what was his source for this theme. We can find it in the logo of the Adria Inc, as can be followed through on the letter closing vignettes of the company. (This has already been the slogan of the original private Adria company in 1879, taken over by the state-owned company.) By using the handstamp he proved his loyalty to his company and his homeland. At least 65 items are known today with this handstamp in 4 colours (black, red, blue and green), the green of course being the rarest. Peterdi used this handstamp till June 1901. The most impressive is of course the red coloured-one:



33. ábra 'Hazának használj' lenyomata bélyegen és a társaság levélzárójá-



34. ábra. 1899. december 25-én (Karácsony) a belgiumi Anvers-ből (ma Antwerpen) feladott levél haza a családnak a piros horgonyos 'HAZÁNAK HASZNÁLJ' bélyegzéssel. Bizonyára részletes beszámolót küldött, mivel a levél, díjszabása szerint, második súlyfokozatú volt. /2/

9. THE YEAR 1900 AND THE SECOND BRAZILIAN VOYAGE

Peterdi has been well aware that a new currency has been introduced in Hungary from 1 January 1900 and with it the postal rates have been changed as well. Already in January he applied the Turul stamps on his covers and later correctly used the necessary calculations for the Krajczar-Turul mixed frankings.

Some 10 covers are known with these mixed frankings, the below one, showing the dotted small anchor handstamp, emerges from them with it's beauty. This handstamp has been used by him on some 40 covers between the autumn of 1898 and the spring of 1900 (see e.g. Figure 17).



Figure 35 The currently known earliest Krajczar-Turul mixed franking on a Peterdi letter, with arrival stamp of Vienna on 9 March 1900, addressed to the respected stamp dealer of Central-Europe, Rudolf Friedl. One of the latest known dotted small anchor handstamps, with correct 25 kr franking and the circle handstamp of the Szapary steamer on the back /2/

This has also been a productive year, more than 50 covers are known from 1900. The most interesting ones are certainly those of the second Brazilian voyage.

During the second Brazilian voyage we can suppose that the company already had branch offices or agents in Rio de Janeiro and Santos. The ships of Adria carried coffee and cotton from Brazil. Peterdi sent covers to these agents using a special handstamp prepared for this occasion containing a large anchor and showing the inscription 'TENGERENTÚL' (Overseas) with finely crafted letters. Captain Peterdi received the second largest ship of the company, the Petőfi (built in 1893) for this voyage.



Figure 36 Letter sent from Trieste to the branch-office of Adria in Rio de Janeiro, with a 5 Heller franking and a violet coloured large anchor handstamp, forwarded to Santos. According to the postmarks on the back of the cover it has arrived to Pernambuco on 8 August and to Santos on 14 August /2/

He spent almost the whole month of August in Brazil, carrying local shipments from one port to the other. Proofs for this activity are the letters with domestic frankings, sent from one Brazilian city to another. Letters mailed from Brazil to Europe belong also to the greatest rarities.



Figure 37 Domestic letter mailed from the Brazilian city of Bahia to Santos, with the usual Paquebot and S.S. PETŐFI handstamps plus four black large anchor handstamps. The postmark on the back of the letter show the arrival date: 18 August /1/

The large anchor 'TENGERENTÚL' handstamp, used exclusively on this voyage, can of course be found on covers with Hungarian stamps. The most beautiful ones are those applied on Turul stamps with lighter shaded colours.



Figure 38 Cover mailed from Brazil to the stamp dealer Pückler in Budapest, with a black large anchor handstamp. The postmarks on the back of the cover show that it has arrived to Algier on 28 September 1900 and to Budapest on 4 October /3/



Figure 39 Printed matter mailed at sea on 8 August 1900 from Pernambuco to Santos with the correct franking of 2+3=5 Fillér, and handstamps 'PAQUEBOT', 'S.S. PETŐFI' and the large anchor 'TENGERENTÚL' /3/

During the remaining months of the year he kept on producing beautiful covers, either 'at sea' or 'in port'.



Figure 40 Closed correspondence card written 'at sea' and mailed from Bari on 13 December 1900 to Marseille, with the correct 25 filler franking and the on-board 'Hazának használj' handstamp. It took two days for the card to arrive to Marseille /2/



Figure 41 Letter mailed at the end of 1900 from Belgium (in port) to Pécs, Hungary with a black on-board handstamp 'HAZÁNAK HASZNÁLJ' /2/

10. THE YEARS FROM 1901 TO 1914

During these years the number of letters decreases significantly. This is our current knowledge about the number of items from the individual years:

1901:	58 pieces
1902:	11 pieces
1903:	8 pieces
1904:	4 pieces
1905:	2 pieces
1906:	6 pieces
1907:	1 pieces
1908:	3 pieces
1909:	1 pieces
1910:	3 pieces
1911:	2 pieces
1912:	1 pieces
1913:	6 pieces
1914:	3 pieces

In between Captain Peterdi served on smaller ships like Almássy, Rákóczy, Szeged, Zichy, Zrinyi.

His genius and power of conception did not falter in this period and using some new handstamps he produced a number of beautiful items. Let's see some typical ones!

He produced the so-called two-rowed Adria Ungerese handstamp during this period. Only 4 items are known with it currently.



Figure 42 Letter written 'at sea' and mailed from Bari on 3 September 1901 with the correct franking of 25 Filler, with 4 red strikes of the two-rowed Adria Ungherese handstamp to Fiume. The cover reached it's destination on 5 September /3/

The so-called large-circled Adria Ungherese handstamp has been used from the November of 1901 to the end of November of 1903. Some 20 letters are known with it in black, blue and red colours.



Figure 43 Cover written 'at sea' but mailed in the port of Riposto on 18 November 1901, addressed to Pécs, Hungary, with the correct franking of 25 Filler and five strikes of the large-circled ADRIA/UNGHERESE handstamp in red /2/

The Captain often used larger blocks in this period.

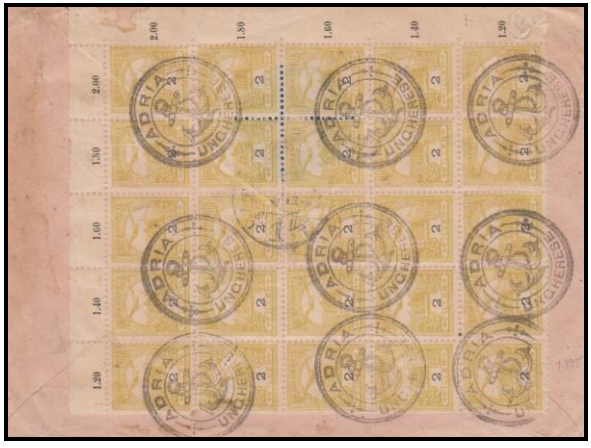


Figure 44 Back of a double-weight cover mailed somewhere 'at sea', franked correctly with 50 Filler, arriving to Fiume on 8 January 1902 /2/

There exists also a so-called 'small-circled ADRIA UNGHERESE with anchor' handstamp, used between October 1904 and December 1913 in black, violet, red and green colours. Some 20 items are known with it.

We also know another 'ADRIA UNGHERESE' handstamp in black, blue and red colours, which is rectangular. Only 4 items are known with it, from the period between the November of 1904 and the August of 1913.



Figure 45 Correspondence card written on the steamer RÁKÓCZY 'at sea' and mailed in the port of Molfetta on 3 May 1908 to Rome with the correct franking of 10 Filler, and three strikes of the small-circled ADRIA UNGHERESE handstamp in green /2/



Figure 46 Letter written somewhere 'at sea', franked correctly with 25 kr and bearing the rectangular handstamp with the ADRIA/UNGHERESE text and handwritten date: 'mare (at sea) 4/XI/04' in blue. It is addressed to Bela Fazekas, the director of the Adria Inc, and has arrived to Fiume on 8 November /2/

Captain Peterdi's voyages often took him to the shores of Africa as well.



Figure 47 Letter mailed from Gibraltar to Trieste on 9 August 1913, franked with 5x2+15 Cent Spanish-Moroccan stamps (the text of the overprint: Correo Espanol Marruecos) and with the rectangular ADRIA UNGHERESE handstamp in black. The right sheet margin showing the fixing rivet head makes the item even more interesting /3/

There exists a variation of this rectangular Adria/Ungherese handstamp which bears a serial number as well.



Figure 48 Adria Ungherese 3 /4/

According to the Monography of Hungarian Stamps (Band VI. page 820) this serial number can be from 1 to 4 and they mark the serial number of the ships qualified for postal handling. Period of their usage: from September 1892 to September 1905.

In this chapters we tried to show the typical covers and their extraodinary handstamps invented genially and produced with disciplined consistency by Captain Istvan Peterdi. The large quantity of covers known by the authors made it possible to show examples for each of them.

11. THE LOGISTICAL AND PHILATELICAL ACTIVITY OF CAPTAIN PETERDI

It is an undisputable fact that the Captain has been a philatelic genius, so he certainly deserves the wreath composed of stamps which he donated to himself on the picture below.

It is also evident that he has been a competent stamp collector. During his stays in the ports he walked with open eyes, searched for connections and talked to the local collectors and dealers. An excellent example is the text of his correspondence card written to the famous Hungarian collector of the early XX. Century, Miklós Rédey (excerpts):

.. I have received your consignment. As soon as I will have time I will put together my seapost data .... I have seen a beautiful pair of Hungarian stamps in Naples – drawing – dark green stamps, the price is 65 Lire, but I think they can be obtained for 60. If you are interested please write with return mail to this address and maybe I will acquire them for you ...

(Apparently this has been an engraved (or maybe a litho) 3 kr pair.)

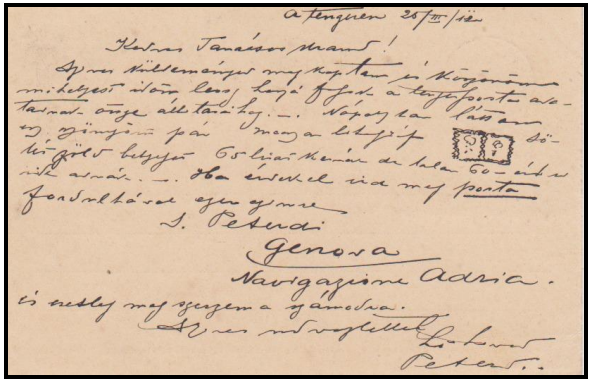


Figure 50 Letter of Peterdi on 25 March 1912 to the famous Hungarian stamp collector Miklós Rédey /3/

Thus Peterdi has known the most famous collectors and dealers of the era, he corresponded with them and most probably supplied them with nice and even nicer creations. Observing the addresses of his correspondence we can separate four groups:

1. **<u>Family correspondence</u>**, mainly to Fiume. This is around 25% of the whole known quantity. Obviously the family members have been briefed how to open and store the arriving envelopes.
2. **<u>Official correspondence,</u>** with the headquarters of the Adria Incorporated. These have been mailed usually in pre-addressed brown envelopes (see Figure 16). They compose about 10% of the examined quantity. Most probably the personnel of the headquarters also knew that these envelopes are to be opened carefully and handed over to the Captain.
3. **<u>Philatelic correspondence.</u>** We have seen some examples for this type of covers. Obviously they haven't gotten back to the sender, but have been sent by the Captain as exchange, for money or just as an act of grace. Then they began their waltz in the philatelic circles for the past hundred years and going.
4. **<u>The agent network.</u>** The Captain carefully devised and religiously cultivated this system. The nucleus of the system has been composed of the agents of the shipping company present at teach significant port handling the matters of the company. The Captain has sent his letters to these agents, of course educating them to open the envelopes carefully and safeguard them until their next encounter. Such agents have been for example:

Bariban:	Milella
Cataniá-ban:	Ucelli
Genová-ban:	Saviotti
Marseille-ben:	Gardone
Messiná-ban:	Rupnik
Nápolyban:	Buriello
Palermoban:	Kuner
Triest-ben:	Clescovich

He carefully scheduled his letters by writing them to the agents whom he planned to visit in the following 3-4 days according to the route of

his ship. E.g. he wrote to Genova while leaving Naples, wrote to Marseille from Genova etc.

The letters addressed to these agents have also been maintained in good condition, and even more significantly got back to the sender, thereby enabling him to sell, exchange or present them to other collectors. This must be the reason for the fairly high number of still existing letters. The Captain not only wrote the letters with careful love but also took care of them by passing them to connoisseur hands, thereby also erecting a virtual monument for himself for the future.

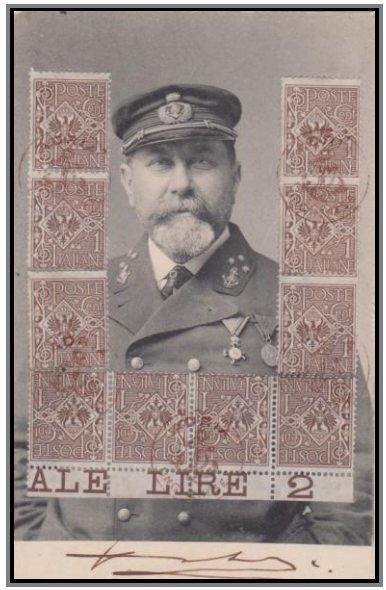


Figure 49 The photo of Captain Peterdi surrounded by a wreath of stamps /3/

Unfortunately the Captain got seriously ill in 1916, at the age of 52, so has been dismissed from the Adria Inc. This is the last entry about him in the logs of the company. Nothing can be found about him after this date. Like a comet, suddenly shining on the sky and then equally suddenly vanishing in the darkness of the space. He disappeared completely. Did he foresee his fate? Maybe this was the reason for the 'MKA + comet' handstamp? But we, philatelists of today, don't forget him, we think of him and thank him for the pleasures caused by his letters to us.

12. THE PHILATELIC EVALUATION OF THE 'PETERDI-COVERS'

1. As we have seen, a significant part of the letters have been sent in the preaddressed envelopes of the 'Adria' company, sent to the headquarters in Fiume. Most probably with dispatching contents, this being the cheapest and safest way of communication of this era. These envelopes were to be seen by everybody at the headquarters.
2. Had the company had even the smallest objection with regard of the appearance of the seapost letters, they could have told so directly, with return post, the crew of the ship. This is out of question. Traces of the correspondence can be observed up to 1914, UNALTERED.
3. No seapost researchers, not even the very thorough, non-philatelic researcher dr. Gabor Zsigmond COULD CONFIRM the statement that Captain Peterdi has been punished in some way for the many beautiful handstamps. This rumour has been invented by some acrimonious person and then has been copied, usually word by word by a number of 'authors'.

4. Can it be possible, that on one hand Captain Peterdi has been a disgraced, ridden person, while upon the proposal of the Adria company the Emperor I. Franz Joseph decorated him (together with a fellow captain) with golden honours? THIS, HOWEVER, IS A FACT!
5. We would like to ask now the purists sniffing at the Peterdi handstamps the following questions:
   a. What would have happened had one marked e.g. the 'Tengeren', 'Kikötőben', 'MKA', 'M.K. Adria' texts on the envelopes by handwriting, instead of the handstamps? Would they deem them correct? And if yes, then the problem is exclusively the usage of the handstamps? How is this?
   b. All the seashore post offices, inclusive the Brazilian ones accepted and forwarded these covers without any problems. Out of the half thousand examined covers from the period of 1897-1914 we have only found one Hungarian seapost cover with a postage due!

We think that the undisputable facts of the recent researches summarized and evaluated above validate the statement that THESE SEAPOST COVERS ARE TO BE REGARDED AS THE GEMS OF THE HUNGARIAN POSTAL HISTORY.

With this summarizing article presented in the Philatelica the Mafitt salutes the philatelic activity of Captain Istvan Peterdi and his fellow sailors. This way, on the occasion of his 150th birthday, we wanted to pay tribute to the spirit of the great sailor and great patriot.

translated by dr. Geza Homonnay

IRODALOMJEGYZÉK:

[1] Die Ungarische Seepost (Donaupost 1928. dec. 5.)
[2] Monography of Hungarian Stamps, Bands I,VI.
[3] Mervyn Benford: Captain Peterdi (Stamps of Hungary 1983 March)
[4] Dick Frost: Turuls, PAQUEBOTS and Peterdi (Stamps of Hungary 1992 June)
[5] Dick Frost: More on Captain Peterdi (Stamps of Hungary 1998 December)
[6] Dick Frost: Even More on Peterdi (Stamps of Hungary 1999 March)
[7] Jozsef Horváth: The 'Nautica' (History of the Naval Academy of Fiume) (1999)
[8] Dr. Paul J. Szilagyi: Notes on the Hungarian Sea Mail (1) (Stamps of Hungary 1999 December)
[9] Dr. Paul J. Szilagyi: Notes on the Hungarian Sea Mail (2) (Stamps of Hungary 2000 March)
[10] Dr. Paul J. Szilagyi – Alfred Pirotte: Notes on the Hungarian Sea Mail (3) (Stamps of Hungary 2000 June)
[11] D. Nagy: Further Notes on Captain Peterdi (Stamps of Hungary 2000 September)
[12] Csaba L. Kohalmi: 'Kikötőben' Marking on a German South West Africa Colonial Cover (The News of Hungarian Philately (2001 April-June)
[13] Dr. Paul J. Szilagyi – Alfred Pirotte: Notes on the Hungarian Sea Mail (4) (Stamps of Hungary 2001 December)
[14] John Gilbert: The Adria Sea Navigation Co. Fiume – a Brochure of 1929 (Stamps of Hungary 2007 September)
[15] The researches of Dr. Gabor Zsigmond about the life of Peterdi, yet unpublished, plus his Ph. D. thesis about the Hungarian commercial shipping.

CLOSED TELEGRAM FORMS WITH PRE-PRINTED STAMPS 1888–1919



MIHÁLY VARJASI, NADAP

Published also as an article in 13/2 of Philatelica, in my Mafitt inaugural lecture I attempted to provide an overview of telegrams by way of presenting my collection. There I discussed dispatched and delivered telegrams.

Now, I would like to add to that a presentation of closed telegram forms with pre-printed stamps in circulation between 1888 and 1919. This type of telegram forms facilitated sending telegrams to a great extent.







(see illustrations continously on the following page)

1ST JUNE, 1888: POSTAGE WITH FRANKING STAMPS

Under the 'Iron Minister' Gábor Baross's decree, the Postal Service, the Carriage Postal Service and the Telegraph Offices were merged, and new franking stamps were issued (krajczar tickets with numbers) on 1st June, 1888, franking stamps coming to replace postage paid in cash; this was called the 'franking obligation' (franko-kényszer). This kind of payment was made mandatory for telegrams too if their postage did not exceed HUF 10 (under the decree).



Figure 1. New franking stamps used on telegrams

1ST JULY, 1888: THE INTRODUCTION OF CLOSED TELEGRAM FORMS

Effective just a month later, 1st July, 1888, sending telegrams became possible at post offices where there was no telegraph office. A pioneering Hungarian innovation was used for this purpose: following the already existing model of closed postcards, the 35 krajczar closed 'telegram form' was introduced.

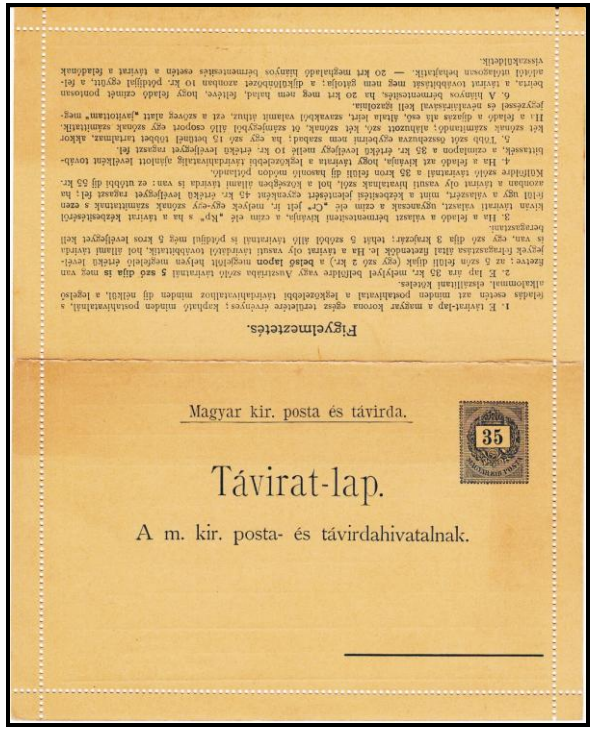


Figure 2. 35 krajczar closed telegram form

This form could be used for sending telegrams at the post office or from mailboxes. The fee was included in the telegraph fee, and the forms were to be dispatched as an express letter, free of any further charges, to the nearest state or railway telegraph station, and from there the telegram was sent to its destination.

The 35-krajczar franking stamp included the 24 krajczar basic telegram fee, 1 krajczar form fee and five words for two krajczars a word (including the address), that is, 10 krajczars.

On top of that, extra 2 krajczars were charged for every word of up to 15 letters or 5 digits. The extra fees were to be paid in franking stamps, which were to be placed on the designated part of the telegram form. For example, a six-word telegram cost 37 krajczars because of the one extra word on top of those included in the basic fee.

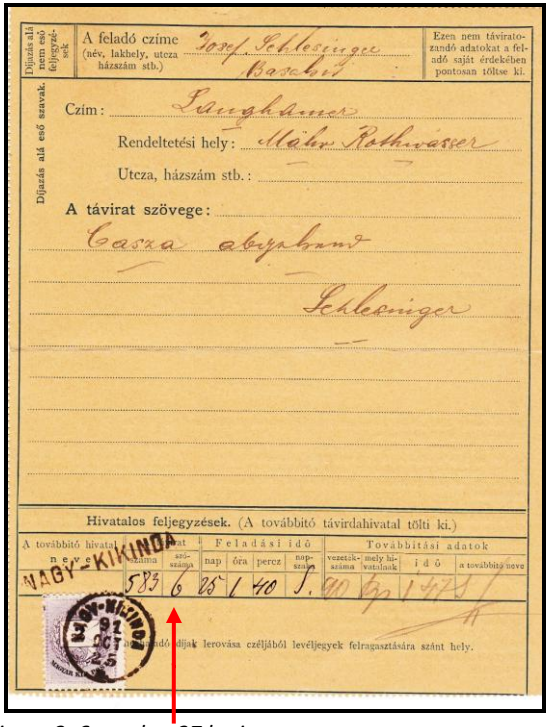


Figure 3. 6 words = 37 krajczars

The basic fee for sending telegrams abroad was 30 krajczars, on top of the 1 krajczar form fee, and here the basic fee did not include the first five words. The fee to be paid per word changed by country; to Germany, for example, it was 4 krajczars.

The price of the 12-word telegram below was 30+1+12×4=79 krajczars. This meant 44 krajczars extra on top of the 35 krajczar telegram form, however, due probably to the absence of stamps of smaller denomination, nine 5 krajczar stamps were used, that is, the sender paid 1 krajczar more than would have been necessary.

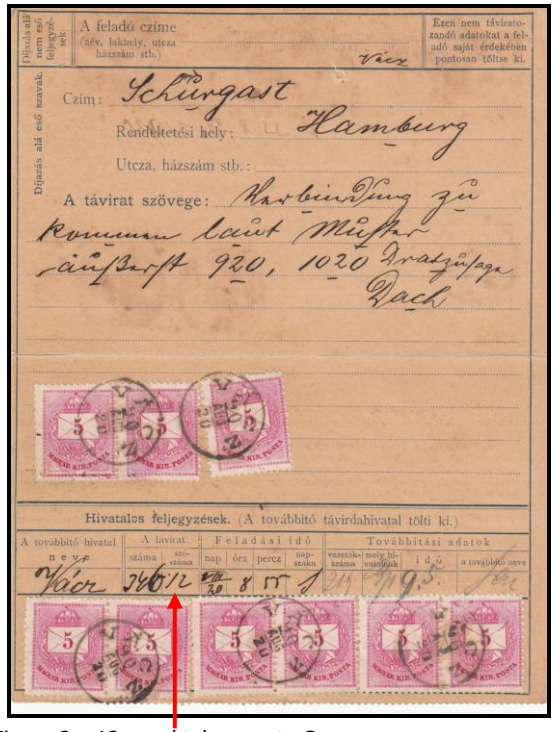


Figure 3a. 12-word telegram to Germany

The decree also made it possible to send special telegrams, such as ones with pre-paid reply (RP), urgent (D), and to be delivered by courier to outside the postal service area (XP). The default

pre-paid reply contained 10 words, for a total fee of 45 krajczars, while urgent telegrams cost three times the basic telegram fee. Customers also had the option to combine the services, using, for example, 'pre-paid urgent reply' (RPD)

A much more complicated system was used to calculate fees for courier telegrams due to the difference between state and railway telegraph stations. State telegraph stations were mostly in the cities, predominantly in the same building as the postal service, while the railway stations were more remote, at the city limits, or sometimes several kilometres from the towns or villages. Several villages, manors or castles belonged to a railway station's service area. For example, telegrams were dispatched from the Aszód railway station for 2 forints and 50 krajczars.

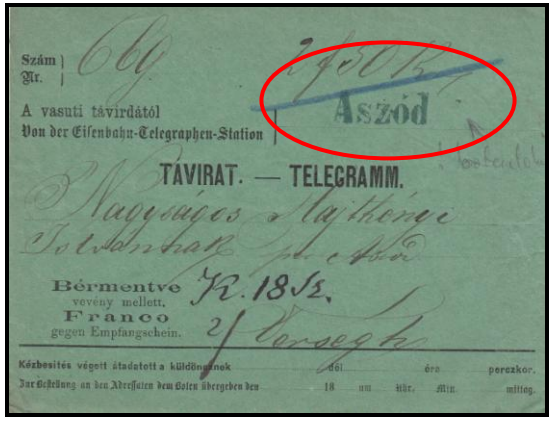

Szám / Nr.
A vasuti távirdától
Von der Eisenbahn-Telegraphen-Station
Aszód
TÁVIRAT. — TELEGRAMM.
Bérmentve vevény mellett.
Franco gegen Empfangschein.
Kézbesítés végett átadatott a küldönc(nek)
Zur Bestellung an den Adressaten dem Boten übergeben den

Figure 4. Aszód-Versegh telegram delivered

As the courier fee depended on the distance and the part of the day too, it was not subject to the franking obligation. Therefore, it was usually paid by the recipient[1], and the only note on the telegram was that it was to be delivered by a courier (the German term 'Bote' was also used to indicate that).

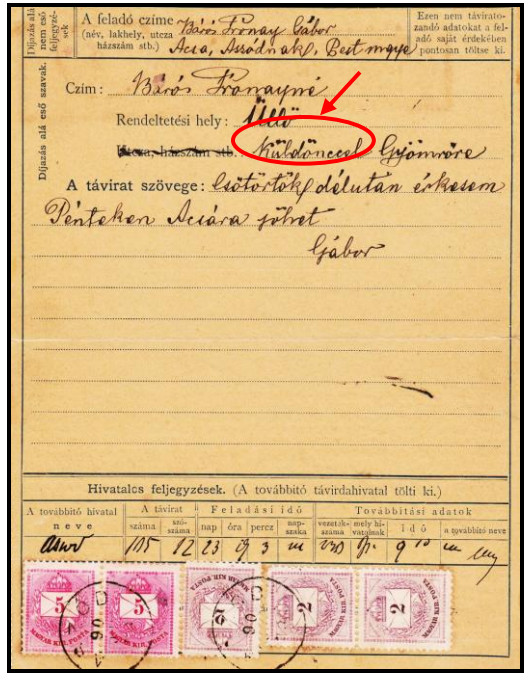

A feladó címe (név, lakhely, uteza házszám stb.)
Díjazás alá eső szavak:
Cím:
Rendeltetési hely:
Küldönccel
A távirat szövege:
Hivatalos feljegyzések. (A továbbító távirdahivatal tölti ki.)
A továbbító hivatal neve
A távirat száma
Feladási idő
Továbbítási adatok

Figure 5. To be delivered by courier[2]

[1] In the more rarer cases when the courier's fee was pre-paid, it was deducted from the money deposited at the time of sending the telegram. The payment was effectuated on the basis of the 'delivery report' following the delivery. In such cases, a courier fee certificate was issued as proof of payment.

[2] Editor's note: this telegram form is overpaid by two krajczars. The extra two-krajczar stamp placed on it by the sender was not cancelled because it was not due to the postal service, and its price could even be reclaimed.

When a telegram was sent to a place where there was only a railway telegraph station, and it was to be delivered to an address in the village or town, then an extra krajczar of 'railway courier fee' was charged per word.

1ST JUNE, 1891: COURIER FEES STANDARDISED

The overcomplexity of the system was eliminated by way of standardising courier fees as of 1st July, 1891. Regardless of the part of day, a courier fee (XP) of 40 krajczars was to be paid in advance by the sender *(figure 6.)*

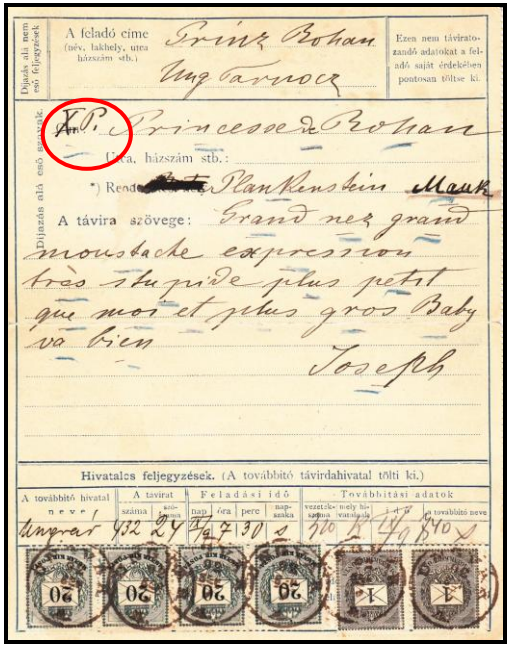


Figure 6. XP: courier fee pre-paid

The railway courier fee became 15 krajczars *(figure 7.)*

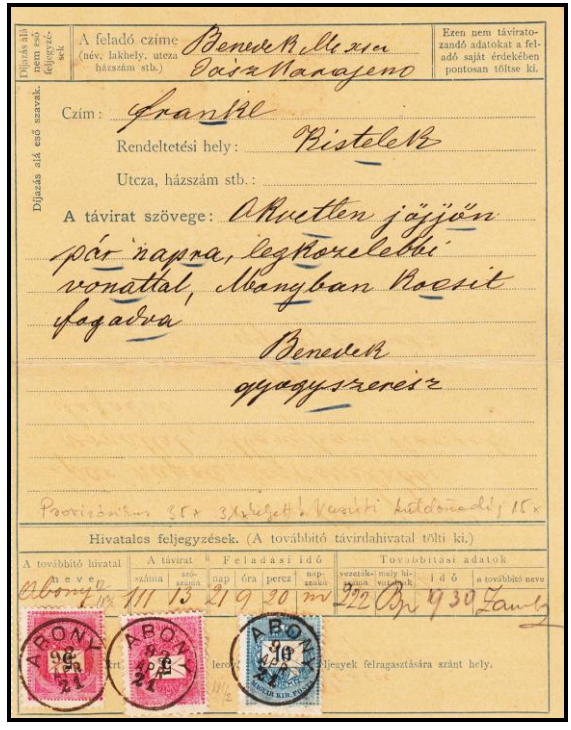
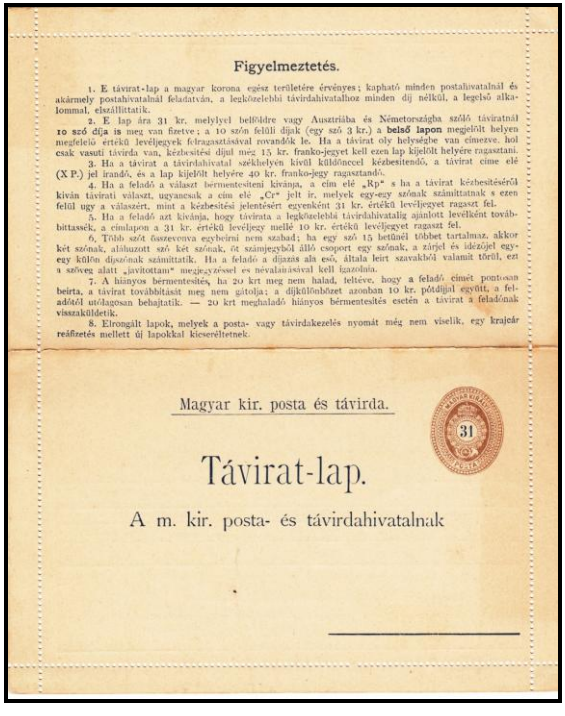


Figure 7. Telegram sent on 21st April, 1892

Figure 7 shows a telegram on a 35 krajczar form but franked in the 3 krajczar/word system introduced in 1892. Originally, it was taken to the postal service with the 5 krajczar comb-perforated stamp to bring the total up to 40 krajczars. It was there at the post office that the sender found out about the necessity to pay a courier fee, and bought stamps for an additional 15 krajczars, including a linearly perforated 5 krajczar stamp.

Effective 1st January, 1892[3] telegrams of less than 24 words became cheaper as the 24 krajczar basic price was abolished, while the fee per word was raised to 3 krajczars. In line with that, a closed telegram form with a 31 krajczar franking stamp was issued. This amount included the fee for sending 10 words and the 1 krajczar for the form.



Figyelmeztetés.

1. E távirat-lap a magyar korona egész területére érvényes; kapható minden postahivatalnál és akármely postahivatalnál feladatván, a legközelebbi távirdahivatalhoz minden díj nélkül, a legelső alkalommal, elszállíttatik.
2. E lap ára 31 kr. melylyel belföldre vagy Ausztriába és Németországba szóló táviratnál **10 szó díja is** meg van fizetve; a 10 szón felüli díjak (egy szó 3 kr.) a **belső lapon** megjelölt helyen megfelelő értékű levéljegyek felragasztásával rovandók le. Ha a távirat oly helységbe van címezve, hol csak vasuti távirda van, kézbesítési díjul még 15 kr. franko-jegyet kell ezen lap kijelölt helyére ragasztani.
3. Ha a távirat a távirdahivatal székhelyén kívül különöccel kézbesítendő, a távirat címe elé (X P.) jel irandó, és a lap kijelölt helyére 40 kr. franko-jegy ragasztandó.
4. Ha a feladó a választ bérmentesíteni kívánja, a cím elé „Rp" s ha a távirat kézbesítésérőli kíván táviratilag választ, ugyancsak a cím elé „Cr" jelt ir, melyek egy-egy szónak számíttatnak s ezen felül úgy a választ, mint a kézbesítési jelentésért egyenként 31 kr. értékű levéljegyet ragaszt fel.
5. Ha a feladó azt kívánja, hogy távirata a legközelebbi távirdahivatalig ajánlott levélként továbbittassék, a címlapon a 31 kr. értékű levéljegy mellé 10 kr. értékű levéljegyet ragaszt fel.
6. Több szót összevonva egybeirni nem szabad; ha egy szó 15 betűnél többet tartalmaz, akkor két szónak, alóluzott szó két szónak, öt számjegyből álló csoport egy szónak, a zárjel és idézőjel egy-egy külön díjszónak számíttatik. Ha a feladó a díjazás ala eső, általa leirt szavakból valamit töröl, ezt a szöveg alatt „javítottam" megjegyzéssel és névaláirásával kell igazolnia.
7. A hiányos bérmentesítés, ha 20 krt meg nem halad, telteve, hogy a feladó címét pontosan beirta, a távirat továbbitását meg nem gátolja; a díjkülönbözet azonban 10 kr. pótdijjal együtt, a feladótól utólagosan behajtatik. — 20 krt meghaladó hiányos bérmentesítés esetén a távirat a feladónak visszaküldetik.
8. Elrongált lapok, melyek a posta- vagy távirdakezelés nyomát még nem viselik, egy krajcár reáfizetés mellett új lapokkal kicseréltetnek.

Magyar kir. posta és távirda.

31

Távirat-lap.

A m. kir. posta- és távirdahivatalnak

Figure 8. Unused 31 krajczar telegram form

As the offices still had stocks of closed telegram forms with 35 krajczar franking stamps, this type of form was kept in circulation until 1896.[4]. This is the reason why we can find 35 krajczar forms from after 1892, with the postage paid according to the new tariff sytem.

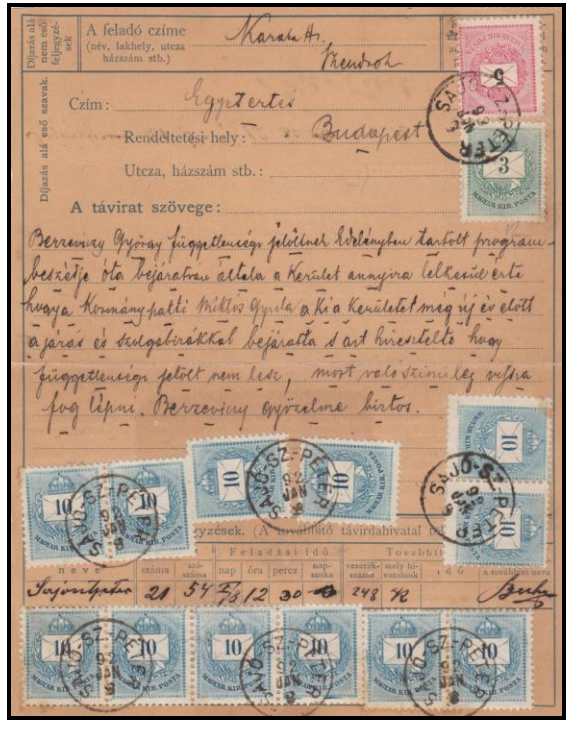


Figure 9. Szendrő-Lád, 8th January, 1892

[3] Editor's note: This was also the date of the introduction of the gold-based crown-filler currency, to be used simultaneously with the silver-based forint-filler system. It took another 8 years, until 1900, for the silver-based currency to be fully withdrawn from circulation.

[4] This is why such forms were used noticeably more frequently after 1892, close to the time of their withdrawal from circulation in 1896.

With the currency reform in progress for eight years by that time, at the final transition to the korona-filler currency effective 1st January, 1900, the only change that took place was that the 31 krajczar franking stamps were replaced by 62-filler ones, and the fee per word changed from 3 krajczars to 6 fillers, which was equivalent in value.



Figure 9a. Proof of the 62-filler telegram form

The change of currency brought beautiful mixed postages in the case of closed telegram forms too: we can find ones with 31 krajczar forms with '*Turul*' stamps, and 62-filler forms with krajczar stamps.

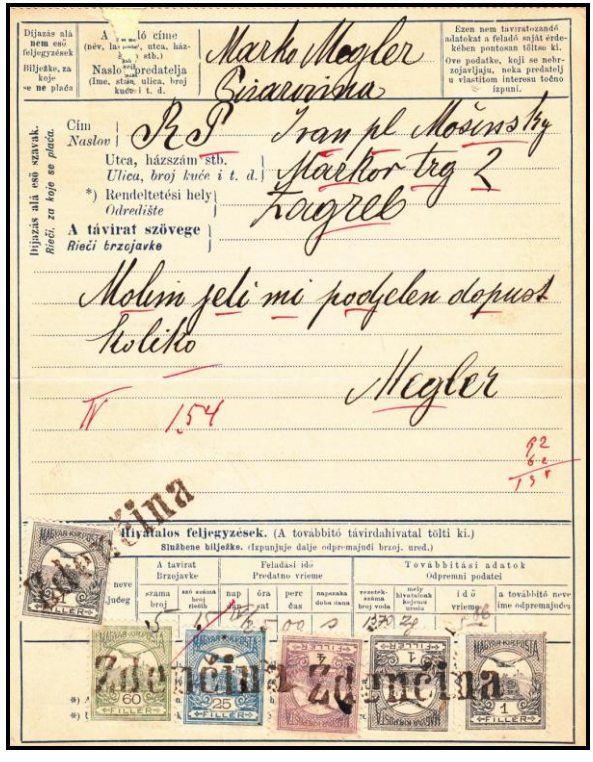


Figure 10. 31 krajczar form used in combination with 'Turul' filler denominations

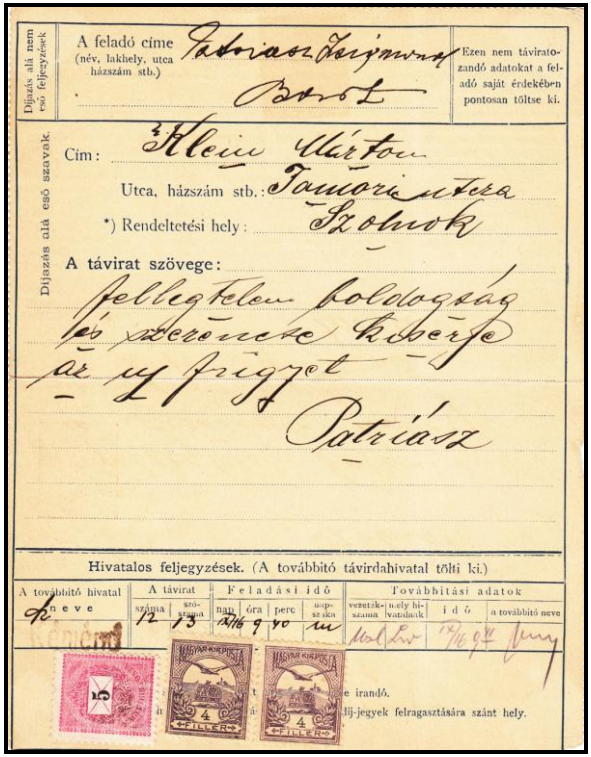


Figure 11. 62 filler form, with additional combination of krajczar and filler[5]

The blessed years of peace lasted 15 years after that, and during that time only small, unimportant changes took place.

Fees grew significantly during the war, effective 15th August, 1916. The fee per word increased from 6 to 8 fillers, with the minimum fee growing to100 fillers. In line with that, pre-printed closed telegram forms with 102-filler stamps were issued.

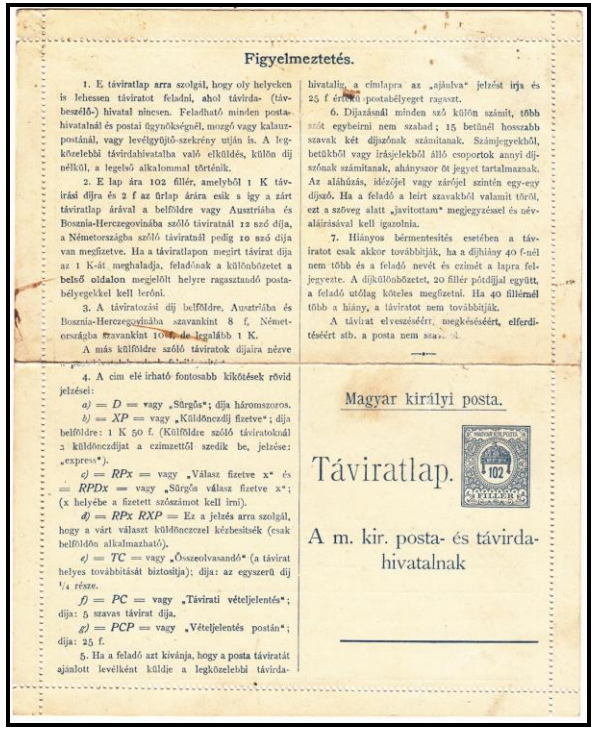
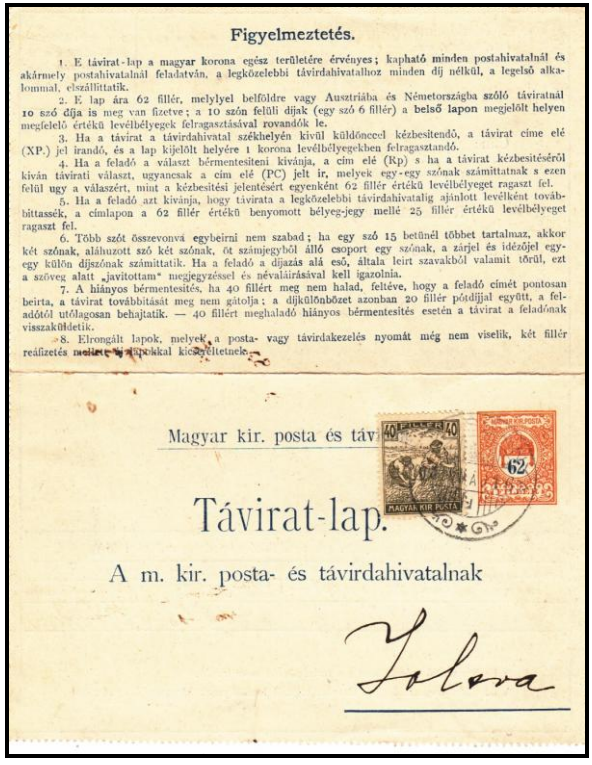


Figure 12. 102-filler telegram form

However, I have never seen a used telegram form of this kind. My collection includes only one form with this tariff – it is a 62-filler form with 40 fillers added, correctly, on the verso.

[5] The last monthly use of the red 5-krajczar on 16th September, 1900. It is not cancelled; telegrams sent from railway stations were sometimes not cancelled, which was a violation of the relevant rules.



Figyelmeztetés.

1. E távirat-lap a magyar korona egész területére érvényes; kapható minden postahivatalnál és akármely postahivatalnál feladatván, a legközelebbi távirdahivatalhoz minden díj nélkül, a legelső alkalommal, elszállíttatik.

2. E lap ára 62 fillér, melylyel belföldre vagy Ausztriába és Németországba szóló táviratnál 10 szó díja is meg van fizetve; a 10 szón felüli díjak (egy szó 6 fillér) a **belső lapon** megjelölt helyen megfelelő értékű levélbélyegek felragasztásával rovandók le.

3. Ha a távirat a távirdahivatal székhelyén kívül küldönccel kézbesitendő, a távirat címe elé (XP.) jel irandó, és a lap kijelölt helyére 1 korona levélbélyegekben felragasztandó.

4. Ha a feladó a választ bérmentesíteni kívánja, a cím elé (Rp) s ha a távirat kézbesítéséről kiván távirati választ, ugyancsak a cím elé (PC) jelt ir, melyek egy-egy szónak számittatnak s ezen felül ugy a válaszért, mint a kézbesitési jelentésért egyenként 62 fillér értékü levélbélyeget ragaszt fel.

5. Ha a feladó azt kivánja, hogy távirata a legközelebbi távirdahivatalig ajánlott levélként továbbittassék, a címlapon a 62 fillér értékü benyomott bélyeg-jegy mellé 25 fillér értékü levélbélyeget ragaszt fel.

6. Több szót összevonva egybeirni nem szabad; ha egy szó 15 betünél többet tartalmaz, akkor két szónak, aláhuzott szó két szónak, öt számjegyből álló csoport egy szónak, a zárjel és idézőjel egy-egy külön díjszónak számittatik. Ha a feladó a díjazás alá eső, általa leirt szavakból valamit törül, ezt a szöveg alatt „javitottam" megjegyzéssel és névaláirásával kell igazolnia.

7. A hiányos bérmentesítés, ha 40 fillért meg nem halad, feltéve, hogy a feladó címét pontosan beirta, a távirat továbbitását meg nem gátolja; a díjkülönbözet azonban 20 fillér pótdijjal együtt, a feladótól utólagosan behajtatik. — 40 fillért meghaladó hiányos bérmentesítés esetén a távirat a feladónak visszaküldetik.

8. Elrongált lapok, melyek a posta- vagy távirdakezelés nyomát még nem viselik, két fillér reáfizetés mellett uj lapokkal kicseréltetnek.

Magyar kir. posta és táv

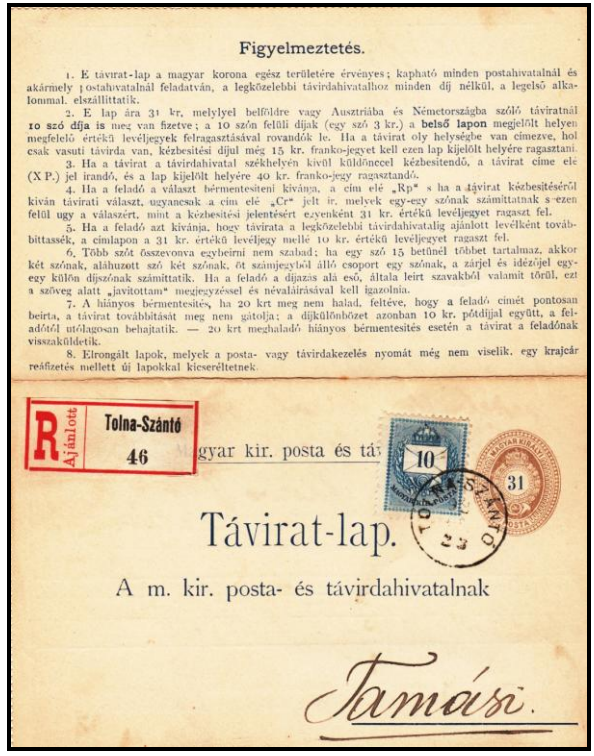
Távirat-lap.

A m. kir. posta- és távirdahivatalnak

Tolna

Figure 13. Correct supplement on the verso to 102 fillers

Telegram fee stamps were to be placed by the sender on the inner side of the telegram form. Postage (registration) stamps and surcharge fee stamps for insufficient franking were to be placed on the verso.



Figyelmeztetés.

1. E távirat-lap a magyar korona egész területére érvényes; kapható minden postahivatalnál és akármely postahivatalnál feladatván, a legközelebbi távirdahivatalhoz minden díj nélkül, a legelső alkalommal, elszállíttatik.

2. E lap ára 31 kr, melylyel belföldre vagy Ausztriába és Németországba szóló táviratnál 10 szó díja is meg van fizetve; a 10 szón felüli díjak (egy szó 3 kr.) a **belső lapon** megjelölt helyen megfelelő értékü levéljegyek felragasztásával rovandók le. Ha a távirat oly helységbe van cimezve, hol csak vasuti távirda van, kézbesitési dijul még 15 kr. franko-jegyet kell ezen lap kijelölt helyére ragasztani.

3. Ha a távirat a távirdahivatal székhelyén kivül küldönccel kézbesitendő, a távirat címe elé (X P.) jel irandó, és a lap kijelölt helyére 40 kr. franko-jegy ragasztandó.

4. Ha a feladó a választ bérmentesiteni kívánja, a cím elé „Rp" s ha a táviratot kézbesítéséről kiván távirati választ, ugyancsak a cím elé „Cr" jelt ir, melyek egy-egy szónak számittatnak s ezen felül ugy a válaszért, mint a kézbesitési jelentésért egyenként 31 kr. értékü levéljegyet ragaszt fel.

5. Ha a feladó azt kivánja, hogy távirata a legközelebbi távirdahivatalig ajánlott levélként továbbittassék, a címlapon a 31 kr. értékü levéljegy mellé 10 kr. értékü levéljegyet ragaszt fel.

6. Több szót összevonva egybeirni nem szabad; ha egy szó 15 betünél többet tartalmaz, akkor két szónak, aláhuzott szó két szónak, öt számjegyből álló csoport egy szónak, a zárjel és idézőjel egy-egy külön díjszónak számittatik. Ha a feladó a díjazás alá eső, általa leirt szavakból valamit törül, ezt a szöveg alatt „javitottam" megjegyzéssel és névaláirásával kell igazolnia.

7. A hiányos bérmentesítés, ha 20 krt meg nem halad, feltéve, hogy a feladó címét pontosan beirta, a távirat továbbitását meg nem gátolja; a díjkülönbözet azonban 10 kr. pótdijjal együtt, a feladótól utólagosan behajtatik. — 20 krt meghaladó hiányos bérmentesítés esetén a távirat a feladónak visszaküldetik.

8. Elrongált lapok, melyek a posta- vagy távirdakezelés nyomát még nem viselik, egy krajcár reáfizetés mellett új lapokkal kicseréltetnek.

R Ajánlott Tolna-Szántó 46

gyar kir. posta és tá

Távirat-lap.

A m. kir. posta- és távirdahivatalnak

Tamási.

Figure 14. Telegram form registered at a post office



Figyelmeztetes.

1. E távirat-lap a magyar korona egész területére érvényes; kapható minden postahivatalnál és akármely postahivatalnál feladatván, a legközelebbi távirdahivatalhoz minden díj nélkül, a legelső alkalommal, elszállíttatik.

2. E lap ára 31 kr, melylyel belföldre vagy Ausztriába és Németországba szóló táviratnál **10 szó díja** is meg van fizetve; a 10 szón felüli díjak (egy szó 3 kr.) a **belső lapon** megjelölt helyen megfelelő értékű levéljegyek felragasztásával rovandók le. Ha a távirat oly helységbe van címezve, hol csak vasuti távirda van, kézbesitési díjul még 15 kr. franko-jegyet kell ezen lap kijelölt helyére ragasztani.

3. Ha a távirat a "távirdahivatal székhelyén kivül küldöncczel kézbesitendő, a távirat címe elé (X P.) jel irandó, és a lap kijelölt helyére 40 kr. franko-jegy ragasztandó.

4. Ha a feladó a választ bérmentesiteni kivánja, a cím elé „Rp" s ha a távirat kézbesitéséről kiván távirati választ, ugyancsak a cím elé „Cr" jelt ir, melyek egy-egy szónak számittatnak s ezen felül ugy a választért, mint a kézbesitési jelentésért egyenként 31 kr. értékü levéljegyet ragaszt fel.

5. Ha a feladó azt kivánja, hogy távirata a legközelebbi távirdahivatalig ajánlott levélként továbbittassék, a címlapon a 31 kr. értékü levéljegy mellé 10 kr. értékü levéljegyet ragaszt fel.

6. Több szót összevonva egybeirni nem szabad; ha egy szó 15 betünél többet tartalmaz, akkor két szónak, aláhuzott szó két szónak, öt számjegyből álló csoport egy szónak, a zárjel és idézőjel egy-egy külön díjszónak számittatik. Ha a feladó a díjazás alá eső, általa leirt szavakból valamit törül, ezt a szöveg alatt „javitottam" megjegyzéssel és névaláirásával kell igazolnia.

7. A hiányos bérmentesités, ha 20 krt meg nem halad, feltéve, hogy a feladó czimét pontosan beirta, a távirat továbbitását meg nem gátolja; a díjkülönbözet azonban 10 kr. pótdijjal együtt, a feladótól utólagosan behajtatik. — 20 krt meghaladó hiányos bérmentesités esetén a távirat a feladónak visszaküldetik.

8. Elrongált lapok, melyek a posta- vagy távirdakezelés nyomát még nem viselik, egy krajcár reáfizetés mellett úi lapokkal kicseréltetnek.

Magyar kir. posta és távirda.

Távirat-lap.

A m. kir. posta- és távirdahivatalnak

Dijazás alá nem eső feljegyzések

A feladó címe (név, lakhely, utca házszám stb.) Dr. Schön Mór Budán

Ezen nem táviratozandó adatokat a feladó saját érdekében pontosan töltse ki.

Dijazás alá eső szavak.

Cim: Steiner

Utca, házszám stb.: Ujvidék

*) Rendeltetési hely:

A távirat szövege: Sok szerencsét boldogságot az uj házasparnak Kivan Dr Schön és neje

Hivatalos feljegyzések. (A továbbitó távirdahivatal tölti ki.)

A továbbitó hivatal neve	A távirat száma	szó-száma	Feladási idő nap	óra	perre	Továbbitási adatok vezeték-száma	mely hivatalnak	idő	a továbbitó neve
Nyiregyh	72	13	4	1	5	364	u	7½	6 8

ragasztására szant hely

Figure 15. 10-filler surcharge stamping for insufficient franking on the verso. The remaining 3 krajczars are on the inner side

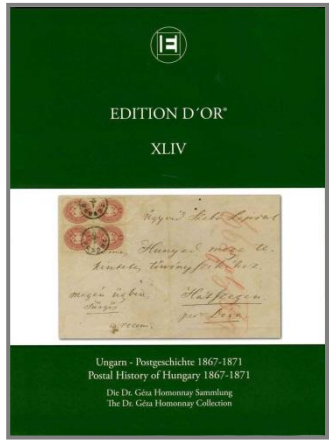
Closed telegram forms were used mostly until 1917–18. Unfortunately, research has failed so far at establishing when exactly they went out of use. Therefore, any telegram forms with postage dating from later than those years may provide us with important new philatelic data.

The 30 years discussed above brought a large number of unique postages on closed telegram forms, whose deciphering is very difficult sometimes. This is what makes the challenge even more interesting!

translated by Kozma Zsolt

NEWS

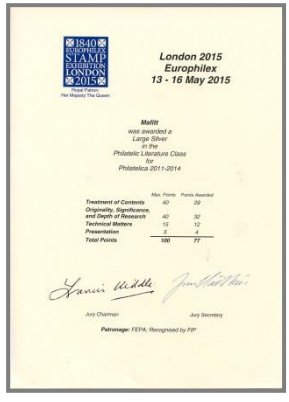
ANOTHER SUCCESS: EDITION D'OR XLIV



The auction house Corinphila has published in its series documenting the most outstanding collections of our age the 44th volume. This beautifully shows the '67 issue postal history collection of Dr Géza Homonnay, which reached this year the Championship Class of the FIP level exhibitions.

The importance of this volume and the collection itself is, that it presents conclusive evidence that the '67 issue is the first Hungarian stamp issue. Thus closing the decades long international debate on the subject. Following this publication, Corinfila will start the Hungarian sections in its auction catalogues with the '67 issue. Hopefully this practice sooner or later will be followed also by the catalogues internationally.

PHILATELICA IS EVALUATED AT EXHIBITIONS



Our paper has won large silver medal in Literature Class third time on international exhibitions. Most recently in London at the 2015 FEPA exhibition. For the benefit of our authors, we consider it useful to publish the details of the jury's evaluation. The jurors found improvement opportunities primarily in the content.

At this point not only the content itself, but also the clear layout and wording, the illustrations and multilingual options are evaluated. Considering the CD attachment, the content is high quality in many aspects, so improvement could be achieved probably with expanding the volume of material presented from the current '40 pages twice a year' level.

Luckily we receive more and more articles. You can see on our *editorial web page*, that while we are still working on the current volume, the building up of the following volume is already in preparation.



The major hindrance to produce greater volume is now the lack of sufficient and proper translator capacity, which is relatively thin compared to the membership numbers.

Happily, our young – or despite their age still youthful – helpers are the most active. In the name of our community, I express our thanks for their efforts!

NEW FEATURES OF THE MAFITT WEBSITE

The changes of the recent period are reflected in the improvements of our website.



Not the most important, but perhaps the most visible change is the Visitor Statistics window with dark green background on the upper right side. Here you can see that we have 30-40 visitors per day from 10 countries, surprisingly after Hungary and Slovakia Brazil is on the 3rd place. Despite this outstanding interest, so far we have not got any contact with South Americans interested in Hungarian philately. But responding to the signal of the counter, we will make efforts to reach them somehow.

Left to the title you can see a detail of our new blue logo. On the right, clicking on the Philatelica front page image you can find the issues already published. Clicking on the rotating baseball image with the inscription 'New' you can find the multi-language editor page of the forthcoming issues under edition.

The most important development is, that with the help of Kőhalmi Csaba, all news of this year is available in English too. To publish the news also in proper German, we still need to find volunteers.

NEWS FROM OUT WEBSITE

I get questions frequently, where the answer could be found on our website. Most of the enquires are about the payment of our membership fee, although everything is written on the 'Membership' page of our website. Hoping that more members start using our website, I list the titles of our articles published this year:



Autumn events, including: inaugural lecture of Lyman Caswell in September presented by János Komorowicz *(2015.8.21./9.26, see photo.)*

Fake pre-stamp period letters (*2015.7.4.*)

Mafitt members on the "HUNFILA 2015 Tata" exhibition *2015.6.24. / 7.7.*)

June meeting of the Mafitt Board of Presidency *(2015.6.20.*)

Mafitt 2015. annual meeting (minutes, modified statutes (*2015.5. / 6.3*)

Philatelica 15/1 issue (*2015.05.01*)

Invitation to 2015. annual meeting of Mafitt (*2015.4.5*)

Inaugural lecture of Helmut Kobelbauer in the Museum of Philately (*2015.4.9*)

The Mafitt membership stamp for 2015, membership fee payment *(2015.1.11)* (*The editor)*

translated by János Komorowicz

Az 1971-ben indított lap félévente jelenik meg, az 1991-ben kezdődőtt húsz év szünet után
2011-től a Mafitt tagdíjfizető tagjai számára szükséges mennyiségbenn magyar és párhuzamosan angol nyelven is
(az angol mutáció 50 alatti példányban készül.)

A lap teljes tartalma és digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető: www.mafitt.hu

This paper and the CD attachment is available on the website of Mafitt at www.mafitt.hu

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2013. 2014 2015

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását e kiállítások között helyesbítettük
The Mafitt’s name in English were corrected between this exhibits