16
1

Philatelica

Philatelica 2016/1

Tartalom / Content:

Dr. Nagy Ferenc:	Egy szerb falu Magyarországon. Bavaniste-Homokbálványos postatörténete, 1868-1920 − A serbian village in Hungary. Postal history of Bavaniste- Homokbálványos 1868-1920.	1.
Mervyn Benford:	Magyarország új pénznemű kiadásai 1926-33 (díjjegyes 1936-ig) a magyar filatélia jövőbeni gyöngyszemei New Currency Issues Of Hungary 1926-33 (stationery 1936) Future Gems of Hungarian Philately	14.
Dán János:	Legújabb felfedezések a váci vörös csillaggal kapcsolatban. 1945. február−április New discoveries about the red pentagrams from Vác. February –April 1945	22.
Lyman R. Caswell:	A portóbélyegek 1953. évi emlékkiadása The 1953 Commemorative Postage Due Stamps	25.
Dr. Lővei György:	Modern postatörténet Modern Postal History	31.
Hírek / News		34.

Fordítók / Translators: dr. Homonnay Géza, Komorowicz János, dr. Nemes Szilárd
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

A SERBIAN VILLAGE IN HUNGARY. POSTAL HISTORY OF BAVANISTE-HOMOKBÁLVÁNYOS 1868-1920.



DR. FERENC NAGY, VIENNA

Dr. László Ettre, our fellow sufferer who lived in the USA, an excellent philatelist, published a really interesting study in the 80/1 edition of PHILATELICA with the title "The postage due provisional of Homokbálványos". This work impressed me so greatly that I have been watching the market of these stamps ever since. This activity, plus the purchased cards and covers are the base of this article. My aim is to refresh and expand the work of dr. Ettre, thereby also paying tribute to the great postal history researcher, who sadly passed away in between.

1. THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

It would be difficult to find a locality in Hungary with a more interesting and colourful history than that of Homokbálványos. It would of course be easy to dismiss it by quoting the small size of the village, but maybe after reading this work this opinion will change a bit.

Let us have a look at the map and search for Homokbálványos. In vain – it is not shown. This of course is the case of countless Hungarian localities, as after the separation of 1918 these localities received for us foreign names, but down below, to the right of Belgrade we can find the village of Bavaniste. This has been the original name of the village from the beginnings to 1911, when it has been Hungarianized into Homokbálványos (what a beautiful word, pleasant to pronounce, it simply melts on our tongue. The meaning of the name in English is something like Sandidoly).

Thumbing through the book of Gary Ryan we can find at Bavaniste that the post office has been opened on 18 September 1868 and the handstamp belongs to the so called thimble handstamps, similarly to those of many post offices in the military border districts. The point value is 700-800. This means that the handstamp is "specifically desirable and extraordinarily rare" (with regard to the 1867 issue). This seems to be the case indeed, as during 35 years of searching I have only found 3 stamps and one cover from this issue. How is this possible? Let us examine the population of the village!

According to the census of 1910 the village had 194 Hungarian, 385 German, 133 Gipsy and 6115 Serbian inhabitants. Thus we can suppose some 700-800 writers (coincidentally corresponding to the Ryan-points…) This can explain the fact that I could not find any postal pieces from the seventies and eighties from this post office.

One can find though a barrack-room in the village, hosting the Bavaniste company of the 12. German-Banatian Cohort, under the command of Temesvár. Possibly several staff sergeants worked

there, but most of the letters have been sent “ex offo”, without a stamp, so no example be left over.

The first letter I have found (apart from the 1869 cover already mentioned) stems from 1895, a 3 krajcar letter card with extra 2*1 kr franking, in the case of the credit prolongation of a Serbian ctizen to Fehértemplom. Not an everyday piece, with extra franking from a small village.



Figure 1. A 5 kr 1867 stamp with the thimble handstamp of Bavaniste, on a cutout. Gudlin: this handstamp has been used between 1868 and 1887



Figure 2. Letter card to Fehértemplom, with arrival postmark of 23 December 1895 on the back



Figure 3. Two further “peers”: a block of four 3 krajcar stamps, plus a rare 24 krajcar stamp from a money order. Both seen rarely.

I have found the next postal piece from 1896 – and what a piece! The subject is a newspaper order, signed by a local inhabitant, dr. Arpad Groó – as we will see later, a philatelist!

The card has been sent to Germany, to the city of Hemer. Two krajcars have been sufficient for the franking.



Figure 4. Card to Westphalia, to the city of Hemer on 6 May 1896

I simply cannot omit a beautiful registered cover sent by Karoly Peros (pharmacist in three languages) – each component is so perfect!



Figure 5. Registered cover to Pancsova with a 35f (25+10f) single franking. The cyrillic text: Lekárnica kod Szveta Duha.

These single circle handstamps have a diameter of 22 mm. According to Gudlin they have been used from 1887 to 1907. We can see yet another handstamp on the next correspondence card, a 30 mm one with crown, the double-circle type. Still with the name of Bavaniste. It has been written in 1908, containing New Year Wishes.



Figure 6. A short-lived handstamp with crown, still with the Serbian name, Bavaniste, 31 December 1908, once again to Pancsova.

This double-circle handstamp with a crown and the name of "BAVANISTE" has been in usage from 1907 to 1910!

Well, if the kind Reader is of the opinion that up to now this article has been boring, he is totally right. But the next 7-8 years contain so many gems, that the patience has been worthwhile.

First of all the village has received a new, Hungarian name – it became Homokbálványos from Bavaniste. The origin of the name can be discovered on a picture postcard written in the early "new-name" months. The sender writes on the card cancelled by the HOMOKBÁLVÁNYOS 18. JULY 1911, "N"-lettered postmark: "Sand we have plenty in the sandsea of Homokbálványos, but idols are so non-existent here that we have to travel home on Saturday evening." This humorous text shows, that there must have been quite a lot of sand there. So much so that we can find another village some kilometres to the North: HOMOKOS (Sandy, in Serbian: MRAMORAK). These names most probably commemorate the numerous sandhills that can be found in the Danube-valley.

On the front of the card there are several pictures about the village, among others, in the top left corner, the picture of an animal drinking-trough in the centre of the village.



Figures 7 and 8. Front and back sides of the 1911 picture postcard



2. OUTBREAK OF THE WORLD WAR

The joy of the people of the village for having such a nice name has been soon overshadowed by the World War, bringing different problems with it. In vain do we search a postmark containing the village name on the next cover, we can only find a number cancellation showing the number 8206. It is a known fact from the literature that in the autumn of 1914 the usage of the handstamps showing the name and date has been abandoned in the Southern part of Hungary for such number handstamps, so that the enemy, eventually capturing the post, wouldn't know, where the letters had been posted. The order contains the assignment of the 8206 number to Homokbálványos. But if the enemy did not know the order, they could read the place of the postage in the top left corner. Therefore this absurd order has been withdrawn already in the beginning of 1915. The recipient of the letter has been the company Zwack and partners, functioning even today (best known for the famous bitters UNICUM).



Figure 9. Number postmark as "masking postmark" on a cover from Homokbálványos to Budapest in the autumn of 1914

On a registered cover from 1915 we can once again find the Homokbálványos postmark, plus a black "KATONAI ELLENŐRZŐ BIZOTTSÁG" (Military Inspection Committee) handstamp, most probably stuck at the place of postage.



Figure 10. Registered cover to the already mentioned Karl Meyer company to Pancsova on 9 August 1915

The year 1918 enriched the postal history of the village with several interesting items. Multiple increases of the postage due fees caused the postage due stamps to be in short supply in the whole country. Therefore the Postal Directorates allowed the postage due usage of normal postal stamps by overprinting them with a "P" or "T". But while the number of philatelic usages for these stamps is fairly high, the real workaday usages are extremely rare.

So it is even more interesting that I have found 4 postal items from this small village, which seems to be a huge quantity. Their workaday status is unquestionable, all of them have Serbian addresses and Serbian content.

On the first card, sent to Temesvár on 19 June 1918, the imprinted 8 filler stamp has been supplemented with a 2 filler Harvester stamp to 10 filler. According to the postage due fees the double of this fee should have been used, which for some reason has been omitted. So in this case we can only speak about a "postage due supplement".

The postal order allowing the usage of these provisional postage due stamps came into force on 15 June 1918 and remained valid until mid-November.



Figure 11. Correspondence card from Temesvar with imprinted 8 filler and 2 filler postage due stamp

Nota bene. During the collation this article it turned out that regarding the 1918 Hungarian porto-provisional cards, all these similar – i.e. not postage dued, but just complemented by 2 fillers – items stem from summer 1918. There has been a „grace period" till end of June[1]. But both the collections of Gabor Visnyovszki and the well-known British collector Mervyn Benford contain such items, all of them from that time – our Homokbálványos card fits well to these ones. The seven items of the Benford collection are especially important.

This could mean that the notion of „grace period" is not an invention of the II. Inflation period, but has already been used in 1918.

[1] Monograph of Hungarian Stamps IV. p243.

The next card has been posted in Pancsova two days later, on 21 June, without stamps. The missing 10 filler have been made up the next day in Homokbálványos with 4*5 filler Harvester postage due stamps. Let us observe the contrast-rich postage due stamps! The carefully mounted, green-red stamps are in themselves a rarity as a strip. The composition makes the whole item even rarer. And the portrait of the 4 allied commanders adds an extra flavour to the item.



*Figure 12. Portrait of the Emperors from Pancsova, with 4*5 filler Harvester postage due stamps*

The third card has been sent from Szeged on 22 June, to Darika Todorov, stampless, as the soldiers were accustomed to send letters free of charge, but for some reason in the last days of the war they did not receive field post cards any more.

This item contains 2*10 filler Harvester postage due stamps. The careful mounting is also visible here. Most of the postage due covers from the whole country show careless, seemingly accidental mounting of the postage due stamps, covering important texts or other information. The opposite is true here.



Figure 13. The card of Dárika Todorov from Szeged, stampless, therefore with a postage due of 2x10 fillér

The fourth and last letter has been sent from Komárom to Saza Zsivkov, also on June 21 1918, also without stamps.

The recipient had to pay 35 filler surcharge, misteriously, as the correct surcharge would have been 40 filler. But the missing 5 filler is amply recouped by the “mixed” franking of the postage due stamps, which is a unique solution!



Figure 14. Unfranked letter from Komárom, overprinted there with a “P”. (Both the “P” and the “T” letters have been allowed.) Unique mixed postage due franking: 30 filler red-numbered green postage due and 5 filler provisional.

While the very similar date of the posting of these letters may be notable at first sight, taking into account the travelling and communication possibilities of that era a centralized action has almost been impossible. Especially as the same dates wouldn't have been necessary, as the "T"-letter order did not contain a terminating date at the promulgation.

The feasible explanation is that the postal clerk called Graf has taken his task seriously and did not leave any filler at the clients from the fees due to the post. This is how the critical year of 1918 has passed, in which our country became the prey of our neighbours and the county Temes became a southern Slavic territory. Therefore the poor postal clerk of Homokbálványos, when running out of postage due stamps, did not know, whom to turn to. The Hungarian order for the "T" and "P" overprints being already invalid, he turned to the Postal Directorate of Temesvár with his demand in July 1919. But this institution did not want to deal with the "Serbian" part of the county, being aware that this part will be annexed away and they themselves will fall under Romanian direction after the period of 27 July-17 August 1919. So the demand has been left unanswered.

In the meantime Mr. Graf found out that his office now belongs to the Directorate of Nagybecskerek. He demanded supply twice in August, then sent yet another letter on 7 September to the Nagybecskerek directorate. The text of this letter has been published in detail in the September 1921 edition of PHILATELIA by dr. Arpad Groó.

This is the same dr. Groó who wrote the correspondence card to Hemer shown on Figure 4 of this article. This is how the strings of history meet! Dr. Groó turned into a true philatelist who published the local story of these stormy times in 1921. This publication contains the text of the exchange of letters, which plays a deciding role at the summing up of this edition. Citation from the letter of postal clerk Graf sent to the Nagybecskerek Directorate on 7 September: "I completely ran out of postage due stamps, so I will be forced to use some denominations of my still existing slim franco-stamp supply as postage due stamps in the necessary quantity, by overprinting them according to the attached sample and thereby differentiate them from the franco stamps."

And finally a reply from Nagybecskerek, dated 11 October: "The items ordered on 2 August have been dispatched today… Currently we do not have postage due stamps on stock. Therefore we send more franco stamps, which can be used as postage due stamps with the appropriate and shown modification."

Clear words. The Postal Directorate of Nagybecskerek expressis verbis empowered the postal clerk of Homokbálványos to produce postage due stamps by overprinting the postal stamps!

There's just one small snag. Mr. Graf did not want to wait for the who-knows-when-it-will-come reply from Nagybecskerek and he began to produce the postage due stamps, with the method described in his petition, already in September.

But this is more than understandable. By the postage due stamps he was able to produce a not too significant, but still existing income for his small, poor post office.

3. THE POSTAGE DUE PROVISIONALS OF HOMOKBÁLVÁNYOS

Thus, from this date, he overprinted the currently valid stamps, producing in all, taking into account all overprint types, 2500 copies. We can differentiate four types:

- Type A: horizontal PORTO overprint in the middle of the stamps.
- Type B: the PORTO overprint on the upper part of the stamps.
- Type C: diagonal PORTO overprint
- Type D: PORTO overprint, above and under it with the new value

At this point I will have to ask the Dear Reader to have a look at the thorough, detailed summarizing article of dr. Laszlo Ettre on the homepage of the Mafitt under the address: www.mafitt.hu — Philatelica—80/1—dr. Ettre..[2] It is impossible to even sketchily quote this detailed article here. In one sentence, the 2 filler to 1 korona stamps available to postal clerk Graf have been overprinted in the above mentioned types.

According to the literature the stamps haven't been overprinted for stock, but one by one when needed. This is the reason why, with the exception of some pieces, NO UNUSED STAMPS EXIST, as opposed to other local stamp issues.

It is possible, that dr. Arpad Groó, the philatelist living in Homokbálványos helped postal clerk Graf to devise and produce this issue. The small village post office certainly did not have any other personnel and the production of these stamps needed a lot of work. Dr. Groó would have been a dumb donkey not to use such an opportunity to be actively present at the birth of a local edition.

So we can divide the existing very small number of cards and letters into two groups: cards addressed to dr Arpad Groó, nicely written, in Hungarian language or at least with Hungarian address. These cards always ran through the entire postal route and if a postage due has been just, then the postage due has always been established and mounted correctly.

The other group consists of cards and letters written in Serbian language, with rather simple handwriting, seemingly written by ex-soldiers to their old garrison. They were accustomed to write letters free of charge. The peace ended this custom, but during the interregnum there has been a void of stamps at many places also, so these letters have simply been thrown into the mailboxes without franking.

In the county of Temes in 1919 the fee-increases resulted in a fee of 30 filler for a correspondence card and 50 filler for a letter.

Let us have a representative cross-sectional view of the porto provisional of Homokbálványos!

It took the letter posted in the middle of September in Vinkovci, to the West of Vukovar, four days to reach Homokbálványos. This letter is earlier than the agreed reply of the Nagybecskerek Postal Directorate to the invention of postal clerk Graf, so the overprinted postage due stamps are sort of illegal.

The black "T" letter has been stamped on the cover in Vinkovci. Fee for the cover: 50 filler. Postage due: 1 korona. According to dr. Ettre the 1 korona Parliament stamp has been overprinted in 100 copies.

[2] See in www.mafitt.hu page Philatelica, number 80/1.



Figure 15. Letter from Vinkovci to Homokbálványos. The sender of the letter did not speak Hungarian, he writes both Bavaniste and HOMOKBÁBÁHOM, the last syllable already in Serbian. Seemingly the village has been rechristened to Bavaniste by this date.

We can find an extremely interesting stamp on the next card: this printed matter has only been franked with 5 filler in Versecz. This would have been sufficient until 15 May 1919, but on this date the Serbians doubled this fee on the territory of the Temesvar Directorate, so 5 filler has been missing. The I. local issue of Temesvar, overprinted by 10 filler, has once again been overprinted in Homokbalvanyos with the PORTO text, so the twice imprinted stamp has been used as a 10 filler postage due stamp. Great rarity, I only know two pieces.



Figure 15A. Printed matter from Versecz from September 1919, with the Serbian Occupation of Temesvar I. local overprinted issue 10 filler stamp, overprinted in Homokbálványos yet again, with: PORTO.

The next card is addressed to dr. Arpad Groó. Actually so much so that the address is in his own handwriting. I found this out by comparing the writing with that of the Hemer card shown on figure 4 – they are the same! Posted unfranked in Szabadka, on 13 October. A violet censure marking at the place of postage: Pregledano. Number of postage due stamps issued: Harvester 25 fillér: 50, Carl-Zita 10 fillér: 100, Carl-Zita 25 fillér: 80.



Figure 16. Field-post card addressed to dr. Groó with Hungarian text from Szabadka on 13 Oct. to Homokbálványos. Correspondence card: 30 fillér, postage due: 60 fillér

Similar writing can be found on the next card (please compare the characteristics of the word Homokbálványos on this and the previous card), so it has yet again been written by dr. Groó, this time to Gosp. (Mr.) Kosta Radanov, in Serbian language! Posted at Pancsova, with that place "PORTO" stamping, on a field post card from 2. October.

The 60 filler postage due has been mounted very carefully: 50-2-2-6 filler. The overprinted number of these stamps is fairly low: Parliament 50 fillér: 10, Sürgős 2 fillér: 10, Harvester 6 fillér: 20.



Figure 17. Field post card sent from Pancsova to Homokbálványos on 2 October

The next card has appeared only some weeks ago at an auction in Ljubljana. The card has been written on the 14 of December and posted on 16 December in Brcko, Bosnia, with a 10 vinar chain-tearing stamp, but the card required 15 vinar, which did not escape the observation of the stern postal clerk Graf, who prescribed 10 filler postage due for it. The overprint of the postage due stamp is violet, unknown by dr. Ettre.



Figure 18. Correspondence card from Brcko wtih a 10 vinar chain-breaker stamp to Bavaniste, where a 10 filler postage due stamp has been fixed on it. The postal route of the card lasted 11 days.

Nota bene. We can find a collector's note written with red pencil on the lower part of the letter to the right: N29. This stems from a collection in England, the most complete collection ever known, using these numbers in the order of purchase, up to 39.

English collectors fancy these unusual territories, and the Homokbálványos issue, as opposed to Hungary, has a great cult in England, it even has literature.

The total all world stock of the remaining Homokbálványos items can be estimated at around 100 pieces.

The next letter has been posted in Törökbecse, upon the river Tisza, to the South of Ada, on 1 January 1920. The Serbian address is once again Bavaniste. The cover needed a franking of 50 filler, so the postage due has been 100 filler. We see a newspaper stamp overprinted in red, a colour unknown at dr. Ettre.



Figure 19. Unfranked cover from Törökbecse to Bavaniste. 100 filler postage due stamp overprinted in red.



Figure 20. Unfranked letter from the city of Prilip, Macedonia to Bavaniste, from 4 January 1920

The next Serbian letter (Figure 20) has been posted at Prilip, with the address Bavaniste, Banat (the county-name), once again unfranked. This locality is in Macedonia, so the letter travelled for 9 days. The 60 filler and 40 filler postage due stamps fixed on the letter for the 100 filler postage due are overprinted with black, respectively violet. These colours are known at dr. Ettre, but no data is known about the number of their copies.

Great rarities are those postage due stamps that have been used not in Homokbálványos. During several decades I could find two such letters. The first one has been posted at Kevevára on 5 January 1920 and its Serbian address is Mramorak. The Hungarian name of this village, Homokos is also shown with smaller letters.



Figure 21. Stampless letter from Kevevára to Homokos, with an overprinted 100/3 filler postage due stamp.

The missing 50 filler franking necessitated the usage of a postage due stamp, a Harvester 3 filler stamp with 100 filler overprint.

I simply cannot resist the temptation to introduce here a picture postcard, posted at Homokos and showing the post office, recalling the spirit of those old days. I ask the Dear Reader to examine the picture carefully and imagine himself walking past this building…



Figure 22. The post office of Homokos on a 1917 picture postcard sent to Vienna

The other letter has been posted in Homokbálványos/!/, on 12 January 1920, franked with a 25 filler stamp instead of 50 filler. The missing 25 filler caused 50 filler postage due in Székelykeve, where it has been fixed with 40+10 filler postage due stamps.

This item is the non plus ultra of this issue, even shown in the Handbook of Hungarian Stamps on page 529, at the review of this issue. And it also contains the already known red collector's serial number, N24.

How did the Homokbálványos postage due stamps get into neighbouring villages? It is conceivable that the postmasters of those villages also wanted to profit from the postage due incomes, having very few other types of incomes. Please don't forget that the area has slumped into chaos at those times.

For better overview let me show you a map detail representing the villages using the postage due stamps.



The southern part of the Temes county - map taken from [Lelkes].

Figure 23. Map showing the southern part of county Temes



Figure 24. Letter from Bavaniste to Kevevára on 12 January 1920 with provisional postage due stamps.

Towards the end of January 1920 the Postal Directorate of Nagybecskerek became able to supply the post office of Homokbálványos with postage due stamps, so the usage of the provisional ones has been abandoned by the end of this month. I have been able to acquire a unique document perpetuating this date. This is the only cover bearing

some stamps of the provisional issue but did not actually run, as its character is documentary.



Figure 25. Last day of usage of the Homokbálványos provisional postage due stamps, 31 January 1920

It is striking that the overprint angle of the stamps is always nearly the same. Neither Groó, nor Ettre mentions that the overprints would have been produced in a printing house. The number of overprinted stamps though is always round (e.g. 10, 30, 40) which speaks against piecemeal overprinting procedure.

As opposed to this, had the numbers been really such round numbers, then one would expect some pieces to remain unused from a stock of say 100 copies, as written by dr. Ettre and dr. Groó. Still, apart from the English collection no unused example of the Homokbálványos issue is to be found!

Meaning, that some unsolved questions still remain ...

4. SUMMARY

The Homokbálványos postage due provisional issue stems from a necessity, was authorized by the principal authority and has only been used until the end of the emergency period.

All of the existing items ran through the postal route and have a correct postage due fee fixed on them.

It would be a philatelic blindness to deny the postal historical justification of this. The fact that the stamps of this issue have also been used for philatelic purposes is not an argument. 100% of the Zeppelin stamps have been used for philatelic purposes, so accepting this argument one should delete these stamps from the catalogize!

No issue exists which hasn't been used for philatelic purposes to some extent. So, to reproach the collectors for this is at least courageous. Nearly all other countries catalogize all existing issues and then entrust the collectors to choose their collecting field. The official Hungarian catalogue does not even mention this issue.

It explains the omission with this text in the foreword: 'Our catalogue only shows the stamps of those overprinted issues for which their belonging to philately has already been clarified.'

Quod erat demonstrandum. (Now it is proven.)

Translated from Hungarian
by dr. Homonnay Géza

NEW CURRENCY ISSUES OF HUNGARY 1926-33 (STATIONERY 1936) FUTURE GEMS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY



MERVYN BENFORD, LONDON

I am encouraged by the 2014 MAFITT anniversary exhibition and now again by the 2015 autumn edition of PHILATELICA to consider the concept of Postal History gems more closely. I began collecting Hungarian stamps 61 years ago and moved to postal history by discovering Gary Ryan and his method of collecting stamps after their use on actual posted items. That use was of course especially remarkable and I have since seen similar quality in Géza Homonnay's superb 1867 collection. My good friend Gábor Visnyovszki and I have discussed more recent rarities and his book says all that needs to be said. Rarities exist across the entire story and I do not just mean printing and other production errors.

I have had a strong interest in the first inflation period which ended with dual usage in the early part of the 1926 new currency issues and I have, as a result, had a long interest in those new currency issues, both the stamps and the stationery. There is potential for some postal historical gems. Gems in geology vary in quality but all are desirable. Collecting these issues on card, cover and other postal documents opens many desirable opportunities for postal history collectors.

Mixed frankings with old and new currency stamps- permitted until 1st. March 1927- introduce the story. Then, in 1928, the series was reissued with a new watermark, new colours for some stamps, amendments to the design of the Castle stamps and dropping the 70f. Both issues saw two colour versions of the 16f, lilac and violet. Both issues involved two different perforations for the lower values: Perforation 15 (A) or 14 x 14 ¼ (B): The higher values with Castle design have just 14 ¼ x 14. There are some rather scarce stamps in both 1926 and 1928 lower values with the 'B' perforation.

Validity of the 1926 stamps was in some cases 31st. December 1932 but the others, and all the later issues, were valid until the end of 1933. Three times in later years, 1931, 1932 and 1933 the need for new denominations or new versions of older ones as rates changed saw a few of the stamps overprinted in every case with a lower cost. In one such case involving both 1926 and 1928 versions the 1926 is much scarcer. The 20f on 25f is not often found. I have one example in my 162 item collection, a registered letter to the UK at 40f + 50f, the 40f paid by a pair of the OP20f on 25f, the registration by a single 50f

Castle. I have just two examples of the 10f on 70f (the Castle issued only in 1926) that arrived on 15th. April 1933 and so had a very short life.



Illustrations 1a and 1b

The 2f on the already overprinted 6f/8f came in June 1932- valid just 18 months. None were valid more than two years. The postal stationery, however, was valid until 31 12 36. Forgeries also exist to complicate matters, including reference to a major Hungarian bank in respect of known forgeries of the 8f and 16f. The 6f overprint on 8f with Perforation 'B' is also known forged- a very scarce stamp that would appeal to a forger perhaps! Use of higher denomination stamps for single franking of particular rates is possible but not found too often. Combining low values often occurred. When one then links the covers with the postage rates the story and the frankings can be exciting!

1. POSTAGE DUE

Matching the definitive series came the postage dues- bright red and often themselves with intriguing frankings on underpaid letters from abroad. They also have the two perforations- only in 1926 and Perforation 'B' much less common. The new watermark came a year later than the stamps, namely 1929 but just Perforation 'A'. The 5f was only in the 1926 issue and is rather more highly rated in the catalogues- with both perforations. At times a cover with a definitive of this period or a stationery card was itself insufficient and the penalty was paid in the dues of the issue. The dues also had emergency overprinted surcharges to create new denominations needed. The 2f and the 4f definitives are known with respectively a 'T' and a 'PORTO' overprint indicating use of these definitives as dues. I hope my readers can see the great variety of postally historical items these production details create.

2. POSTAL STATIONERY

The new currency era also brought new postal stationery- adding further possible variety. In 1926 two postcards appeared at 4f (violet) and 8f (green) with 16f (dark blue) in 1929 and 10f (brown) in 1930. Postcards also had a dated imprint for year of production along the right hand side so there are 4 x 4f and 5 x 8f cards with dif-

ferent date imprints in the 1926 issues alone. In 1929 the 4f and 8f appeared with an extra title line and text at the bottom- also year imprint dates again. These are not so common. I have just two at 8f- none at 4f.

In 1930 the 10f and 16f were joined by a 6f (lighter green) also imprint dated, but all three were new in having a basic card cost of 1f added to the charge and this detail recorded on them and so making them different items to look at. These cards had notes at the bottom as normal. 1930 also saw the 4f and 8f of both 1926 and 1929 versions up-rated by a red meter-style boxed 2f to meet changing rates and usage.

Simády recorded as Number 81 a very rare D-levél ("Dömjén") card issued in 1930 (I have never seen one.) In 1931 the series of A and B, red and blue *illustrated* postcards at 16f and 20f used the still standard design but I do not treat them in this article. Some later overprinting again comes to these cards too. These illustrated cards have an additional title in French 'CARTE POSTALE' for international use.

However, I have a 16f plain card with dark blue print and stamp and the same extra French title and references to foreign countries at the bottom. I am not clear if this is Simády's 69, or 76, or an uncatalogued card. The only illustration in my 1983 catalogue shows the 8f card with a single line title. The much older Higgins and Gage international catalogue mentions two lines at the bottom so it probably is Simády's 69 or 76. Higgins and Gage mention only the 1929 (Simády 69) version and do not include it as a card that had an extra price fee noted (Simády 76.) Mine does not have that 17f total cost shown so it must be Simády 69. I have only the one example- used appropriately to Vienna.

Hungarian stationery had long included reply-paid postcards and in 1926 an 8f version was issued and in 1930 a 10f. The version showing card price i.e 22f for the double 10f card also came as well as the up-rated 8f card using the red 2f meter mark but on both outward and reply halves. Hungary also had letter-cards and in 1926 a 16f one was issued serving the Convention foreign rate- and as usual dated imprints. As with other stationery the 16f had a red meter up-rating, but at 4f- the new letter rate was 20f



Illustration 2.

In due time a new 20f letter-card met his need but only the version giving the total cost price (22f.) All these reply-cards and letter-cards are very difficult to find used. I have just one. Mint are not easy to find anyway. In 1930 another extremely rare, never seen by me, 10f letter-card was issued with a coupon element. Stationery output was significant yet no envelopes came with the first use of the new currency.

Other lesser-used postal stationery covered a range of services such as Customs declaration forms and forms used for telegrams. Few are commonly found and Mint can be as scarce as new. Many related to money transactions such as Tax collection, COD *(utánvételi*), Money Order

(*utalvány*), *Fedezeti-lap* and the *Megbizási-lap* system for collecting charges- often legal costs. In the majority of cases, unless used as direct communication, the forms carried the very low 1f stamp. The international money order unusually had the stamp on the counterfoil.





Illustrations 3a and 3b

When one adds in parcel post and declared value letters the possibility becomes clear of some distinctively franked covers. The Tax (*Adóintes*) and *Megbizási* cards are studies in themselves- including rate changes.

3. Currency and rates

The new currency began on 26th. March 1926, 1000 old korona becoming 8 new filler. On 1st. January 1927 new rates arrived but only for registration including foreign, and Express within Hungary. The replaced rates were valid a bare nine months. Then on 15th. November 1930 came new rates within Hungary, including an extension of the special local city express rate introduced in 1923. At that time inflation was making such delivery just too expensive at the then rates of increase. I have a local city rate express cover from the new currency period still fully paid in Inflation adhesives. Only the word "*Sürgös*" and the higher than usual letter rate charge show this. The specialist book (*Kezikönyv)* gives rates and their changes from the arrival of the new currency, including those from 24th. April 1928 and then 7th. July 1931- including the Zeppelin visit and flights and in 1932 a catapult delivery rate.

Foreign mail owned just the 1926 and 1927 rate change dates though calculation in korona was still tolerated up to 28.2.27. They were often used for part of the charge such as registration or amounts that did not convert easily. The inflation period had continued the use of cheaper foreign rates for a favoured group of usually nearby countries. Austria and Germany were the main beneficiaries. The Inflation years had seen others included for particular periods. Though the basic letter rate of 32f and postcard rate of 16f applied in all cases there were small but significant differences in calculation of weight steps. Some were at 16f, most at 20f and only Austria had a second weight step reaching 250g. Weight steps in all other cases were 20g limits.

Printed matter, with 8 weight steps and then 1f for every added kilogram, was set on 1st. January 1927 and changed as the other inland rates on 15th. November 1930. That change saw the first weight step raised from 10g to 20g but at the same 2f. cost. Foreign printed matter is less easy from my collection. I have examples seemingly sent as printed matter franked at 6f (2) and 8f. I need more work on this factor.

4. MIXED FRANKING

Some intriguing rates were paid with mixed franking using denominations from other issues of the period such as the Inflation Madonnas, 1927 airs, the Keskény Madonnas, the two St. Stephen sets, the Famous Men definitives, the St. Elizabeth set and the Szent Imre commemoratives. A brief six-month overlap with the 1933 Airs and Scouts was possible.

The longer validity of postal stationery means even more opportunities for mixed franking with other commemorative issues pre-1937 but the next stationery series itself had arrived in 1933 and also in use. The new currency affected the revenue element of the parcel service (1f imprinted stamp fee replacing the former inflation korona fee.) I have a parcel form with the earlier 100P inflation revenue stamp used in 1927 to Zagreb with 2 x 1P Madonnas and a 20f 1926 definitive and a nice strip of three Croatian adhesives on the back- with the manuscript overwriting it surely is a fine postal history document



Illustration 4.

The search can be invigorating. The different ways basic letter charges and postcard rates could be met (4f, 8f, 16f. and 20f.) can be surprisingly varied- not least once the overprints could also be used. 8f can use 2 x 4f or a single 8f and I have a cover with 4 x 2f but 6f + 2 f I have not. I have a postcard sent as printed matter to Holland franked 1f + 3f + 4f. 16f has a range of possible combinations using 4f, 8f and 16f itself, and of course the lower denominations. One of my postcards pays 16f to Austria with overprinted 6f on 8f and 10f on 16f to make a novel franking.

Moving to 20f I have another postcard at full 20f rate franked 4f+6f+10f. The use of the 6f is not so common and usually interesting. 2 x 10f seems a ready combination but I also have 10 x 2f. My 2 x 10f is useful with margin intact containing text detail. The 20f stamp used singly served the international postcard rate but I have an example

used with 3f to pay the usually scarce 8f + 15f (23f) local registered letter rate



Illustration 5.

32f was the concessionary foreign letter rate to that small local group of countries. The 32f Castle serving that rate singly is less common than combinations of the 4f, 8f and 16f. My impression is that postal clerks more usually did that. Perhaps in smaller offices they did not have so many of the higher denomination stamps. Perhaps after years of big numbers they rejoiced in using smaller ones again! The Castle denominations, especially the unusual rates of 32f and 46f, seem effectively used in rates involving extras such as registration and express. 88f, 90f, 96f and 1.12P all fit this concept though I have 14 x 8f also paying a 1.12P charge (which needed 1.16P and drew postal intervention) and 7 x 16f paying 1.12P of a 1.16P charge + 4f for the right rate. Postal stationery at 4f and 8f can have interesting stamp combinations for higher rates. Both can meet exact rates as single franking, as can the original 1926 70f, and these are especially pleasing. Covers mixing just the lower values for basic rates seem to be more usual.

Mixed frankings with the Castles are more interesting. 32f and 40f were the two foreign letter rates mainly in use so single frankings can occur and they are rather good to have as such. 40f was the full international rate and I have a single franking but also a block of 4 x 10f and a 32f Castle with 8f as well as one with 3 x 6f + 2f + 4f with 2 x 8f. The 46f and 70f Castles can also occur as single frankings but also as part of higher charges. I am pleased to have single frankings of the 46f in both its issues and colours. 50f is possible but only for 4th letter weight step in the later charge period, that step being 40f initially in 1926. 70f would pay a 500g inland letter (40f) in the short period registration was 30f. More usually it paid the 1930 basic national letter rate of 20f if registered (50f) or even the then express postcard rate of 10f+60f. I have no such item! There is much still to look for!

Airmail had not long arrived and early covers have interesting franking at times! A 2f internal flight card seems very cheap. A flown registered express cover to Paris, with two arrival marks, in 1929 curiously uses a rather wrongly coloured (lilac/blue, rather than lilac/brown) 50K Petöfi from the inflation era 1923 series. In 1929 even if valid it would have been a twentieth of 8f. I have two covers from Zeppelin flights that included new currency adhesives in the frankings. I have a normal postcard to Germany by air franked with a pair of 6f plus the 40f Famous Men adhesive.

I have a letter to Switzerland with 27 stamps, just one at 8f and the rest all smaller denominations, total charge 90f (40f + 50f registration.) Another

to Sweden has the 30f Castle (green) two pairs of the 10f, and a 25f pair to say nothing of five 6f including a block of four to pay 40f rate, 50f registration and 3 x 20f weight steps



Illustrations 6a and 6b.

I have more 6f in these two covers than elsewhere in the 162. I have no cover at 88f- full foreign in the nine months of 1926 when registration was just 48f but I have a heavier item where the 88f is the basic charge before weight steps.

Hungarian postal history between 1926 and 1933 has much to offer just within these first new currency issues. It can certainly be colourful. Many of the examples I mention or describe can be seen, for their time and age, as gems of Hungarian postal history. Yet most of the material is relatively available in dealers' stocks or auction lot often at rather reasonable prices.

5. THE COLLECTION

My 162 items involve most of the features described above. I do not have those very rare items. I note that, like the overprinted 20f on 25f, the normal 25f, 30f and the 6f. original value are less usually found. The tables do not identify watermark or perforations. I realise I could have checked the perforations but the collection has only ever been a secondary interest- until more recently. So I have some work still to do!

Watermarks are more difficult but other details can help in some cases. I indicate with 1 to 7 stars my estimate of quality. I am not an expert and these stars reflect only my best guess from the 162 items in the collection. Readers with more experience may disagree with me. Greater rarity would always obtain if Perforation 'B' was involved. Postal stationery forms are seen so rarely used that valuation is very difficult.

This article does not include MINT examples of the stationery. I have examples of most.

I list the items in groups: Local, National, Foreign Convention, Full Foreign, Printed matter and Other.

Muster to the table of collection:

Abbreviations used:

(26)	1926 issue
(29)	1929 issue
ltr	Letter
pc	Postcard
Nat	National inland item
Reg	Registration
Ex/Exp	Express
PD	Postage Due issue of the period
PS	Postal Stationery of the period
L	lilac 16f
V	violet 16f
up	up-rated postal stationery
wt	weight step
OP	overprinted with reduced face value
FC	Foreign rate for Convention concession countries
FF	Full foreign rate
For	Foreign
A	Austria
C	Czechoslovakia
G	Germany
Y	Yugoslavia
I	Italy
P	Poland
R	Romania

Type	**Date**	**Rate**	**Paid**	**Franking**	**Quality**
Local ltr Reg	1927	8+15f (after 1.1.27)	23f	16V (*forged on bank ltr*) + 3f + 4f	*******
Local ltr	1928	8f	8f	4 x 2f	**
Local ltr Reg	1928	8+15f (after 1.1.27)	23f	3f + 20f	******
Local ltr	1928	12f (2nd. wt)	12f	4f + *St. Stephen 8f*	****
Local ltr	1930	8f	8f	8f (*NOT Budapest but in Pécs!)*	***
Local pc	1930	6f (from 15 11 30)	6f	3 x 2f	**
Local pc	1931	4f (April 1931)	4f	Strip 3 + 1 x 1f	****
Local pc	1931	6f	6f	PS6f *(1930 with card fee)*	**
Local pc	1931	6f	6f	OP6f/8f *(the overprint for the rate*)	**
Local pc	1932	6f	6f	OP6f/8f	**
Local pc	1934	6f	6f	PS6f (*1930 with card fee)*	**
Nat pc	1929	8f	4f	4 f + PD8f	**
Nat pc	1928	8f	4f	PS4f + PD8f	**
…					

The complete table in 8 pages can be found in the CD attachment to the article.

NEW DISCOVERIES ABOUT THE RED PENTAGRAMS FROM VÁC. FEBRUARY –APRIL 1945



JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST

In 2102 and 2013 Mr Lajos Horváth and I, independently from each other published a few articles about the red pentagrams censor cancels from Vác (see the references).

The articles vividly illustrated what we knew about censor cancels from Vác at the given time. In the course of the past two years new letters came to our attention that prompted a revaluation of past information and conclusions.

The current article presents two letters with red pentagram censor cancels that deviate genuinely from the ones previously presented. Both letters have been mailed at the beginning of December 1944 (2 of December and 4th of December, respectively).



Figure 1. A letter sent to Vác on the 2nd. December, 1944 from Szentkirályszabad (from the collection of Mr. István Dobák)

However, the Red Army occupied Vác on 8th of December 1944 and none of these two letters reached their destinations prior to the occupation. How and where these letters survived the frontline, we cannot tell due to the lack of postal markings. However, we can tell from the date of the postal cancel applied at the departure location, that likely the letters were already expected at Vác.

Letters lingering at the postal offices in Budapest were sent off to Vác only in March, when the post resumed its duties. Nevertheless, on these letters the censors used the known Type 2 red pentagons to denote that the letter passed the censoring process.

Thus, it is almost certain that these letters were delivered at the early stages of the restart of postal services at Vác (1945 February 15). As the two presented letters exhibit censor cancels other than the previously known types I can conclude that the censoring office at Vác at the beginning of the restart of postal services used a red pentagram handstamp previously unknown to us.

Unfortunately, as the two presented letters lack arrival cancels I cannot tell how long this censor handstamps was used. Similarly, I cannot infer when the transition from this new type to the previously known Type 2 cancel took place.

We can tell from the postal cancel that the letter was mailed by the "M. kir. 203. honved ….. műszaki zaszloalj / Parancsnoksag", headquarters of the 203 engineering battalion of the Royal Hungarian Army. This envelope, as all other envelopes known up-to-date, were addressed to the district court.



Figure 2. A letter sent to Vác on the 4th of December, 1944 from Felsőgödör (from the collection of Mr. István Dobák)

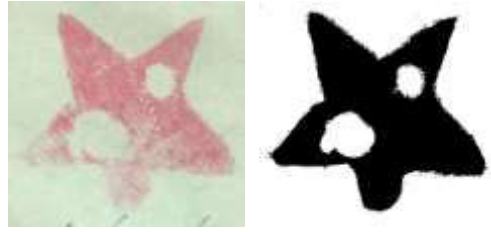
The Type 1 red pentagon censor cancel is less visible on the envelope.



Figures 3-5. The magnified image of red pentagram censor cancels from the two letters and the imprint of the reconstructed handstamp

The Type 1 censor cancels lack the imprints left by the fixation nails, which are present on the Type 2 cancels. Moreover the handstamp of Type 1 is smaller than Type 2, and it could be placed in a circle with diameter of 21 mm. Also, the handstamp left a small red stain, over the upper arm of the star. This could be due improper usage, of faulty handstamp.

After the publication of the original article we managed to identify the materials used for the fabrication of the Type 2 red pentagram censor handstamps. Up till now, we assumed that some kind of woven fabric was used. However, now we almost certain it is a cut-out from a piece of linoleum. The grind structure likely is imprint from the back of a linoleum handstamp that facilitates adhesion. This grind texture is visible on the censor cancels as well!



Figures 6-7. The magnified image of Type 2 red pentagram censor cancel and the imprint of the reconstructed handstamp

The reader can easily see the grind texture of the back of the linoleum cut-out on the first picture. Moreover, the dents left by the head of the two nails used for fixing the linoleum on the handle are characteristic features of this of these censor cancels.

The handstamp could be placed in a circle with diameter of 31 mm, significantly larger than the previous one.

As I had access to a rather limited material the previous articles contain errors. The inscription of the Type 3 censor cancel from Vác is incorrect. During the past years I had the opportunity to examine a few letters with such cancels. Now with certainty I can conclude that the inscription of the Type 3 censor mark from Vác stands as "Ellenőrizve Vác 1". I have no indication to assume that censor mark with the inscription "Ellenőrizve Vác 2" have been used.



Figure 8. Inscription of the Type 3 censor handstamp from Vác

As we stand today we cannot pinpoint the exact period when these censor cancels have been in use. This due to the rather limited number of letters that is at our disposal. Nevertheless, we can conclude the Type 1 censor cancels were applied from the restart of the postal services at Vác in 1945.02.15. Because of postal service at this date have not been restored in Budapest and only a small number of letters, postcards were received at Vác. As a result Type 1 censor cancels are rare.

The Type 2 censor cancels can be seen on letters sent to Vác after the restart of the postal services in Budapest on 1945.03.02. Postal materials for the period indicate that these censor handstamps have been in use in April as well.

The Type 3 censor mark was in use in July-August, 1945 according to the postal material at our disposal. Most likely censor handstamps have been used in May and June as well, but we cannot tell its type. Hopefully, new materials from this period will resurface and further research on the subject will elucidate this question.

I would like to express my gratitude towards István Dobák for the permission to present this two letters.

Literature

[1] Lajos Horvath: Adatok a pestkörnyéki szükségtarifa történetéhez, Philatelica 2012/02.

[2] Janos Dan: Hozzászólás Horváth Lajos cikkéhez Philatelica, 2012/02.

[3] Janos Dan: A váci vörös csillag rejtélye, Bélyegvilág 2013/07-08.

[4] Lajos Horvath: Vác szovjet megszállása és a posta különös tekintettel a váci nyílt cenzúrára, Philatelica 2013/02.

[5] Vilmos Sapi: Vác története II., Szentendre 1983.

[6] Váci Napló 39. évfolyam 3. Szám "Megindult a postaforgalom!"

Translated from Hungarian by dr. Nemes Szilárd



THE 1953 COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

LYMAN R. CASWELL, TACOMA, WASHINGTON

1. INTRODUCTION

The Hungarian postage due stamps issued 8 August 1953 were designed to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first issue of Hungarian postage due stamps, which was made on 1 November 1903. The commemorative issue showed the design of the original stamps with one exception, in which the abbreviation Kir. for Király was replaced by the hammer and wheat ear crest of Magyar Népköztársaság. The design of the 1903 stamps consisted of a green frame with an elliptical center containing a black numeral of value. It was created by Rezső Herr, the director of Állami Nyomda at the time. The frame was filled with an arrangement of intertwined tendrils in Art Nouveau style. At the top was the inscription Magyar Kir. Posta, and at the bottom was the unit of value, fillér.

In the commemorative issue, above the design of the first stamps were the dates 1903/1953. On the other three sides of the design was a ribbon inscribed at the sides 'Ötven Éves a / Portó Bélyeg', and 'Magyar Posta' at the bottom. Ferenc Gáll designed the commemorative stamps. The designs of the 1903 and the 1953 stamps are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. 1903 and 1953 stamps.

Like the stamps of the 1903 issue, the 1953 stamps were printed in two steps, the green frame by photogravure, followed by the black numeral of value by typography. The 1953 stamps were initially printed on white paper with the multiple large stars watermark, and comb perforated 15. Later printings were on paper with the multiple small stars watermark. Állami Nyomda printed them in press sheets of two hundred subjects. They were issued in post office panes of one hundred stamps. The only marginal markings were a semicircle of dots at the top and bottom of each press sheet. There were eighteen denominations in the set (4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80 fillér, and 1.20 and 2 Forint), the longest set of postage due stamps issued up to that time. The quantities printed ranged from 434,200 of the 36 fillér to 18,710,700 of the 1.20 Forint stamps. Imperforate sets were produced, but their number was not recorded. The imperforates were not released to post offices. The stamps,

both perforated and imperforate, were available for sale to the public only at Magyar Filatélia Vállalat.

2. VARIETIES

Numerous production varieties of the commemorative issue occurred. All of them involved, in some way, the denominations of the stamps. They occurred in the second step of the printing.

The best known variety is the 'small 2 Forint', in which the numeral '2' is the 3.2 mm height of the 2 in the 12 fillér denomination, instead of the 4.5 mm height in the 2 Forint stamp.



Figure 2. Normal (left) and small (right) 2 Forint.

This error was discovered in the autumn of 1954. An additional quantity of the small 2 Forint stamps was printed on paper with the multiple small stars watermark to suppress speculation in the error, and respond to collectors' desire to own them. They were issued in December 1954.

Spacing differences between pairs of numerals occurred in four denominations. The 10, 12, and 14 fillér, and the 1.20 Forint denominations each were issued in two different varieties



Figure 3. Wide (left) and narrow (right) spacing.

The two spacing varieties of each denomination were printed in approximately equal amounts.

The most unusual printing variety is the 'inverted 8' error.



Figure 4. Inverted 8 error.

Only one example of this error is currently known (Glatz attest). If it was produced by upside down insertion of a press sheet into the press to receive the numeral, then two hundred of them should have been printed. It could also have been made by a single 8 type upside down in the press. No other inverted numeral stamps have been observed for the commemorative postage due issue.

Stamps with missing denominations are known. At least one press sheet did not go through the second step of the printing



Figure 5. Missing denomination.

Off-centre numerals were caused by 'partial plate shiftings' that occurred because the locking rods which kept the numeral types in place had moved and the types got out of their central positions. Figure 6 displays examples of these shifted numerals.



Figure 6. Shifted numerals.

Figure 7 shows a 12 fillér stamp with double-printed numerals.



Figure 7. Double printed numeral.

Damaged types resulted in incomplete impression of numerals. The "pressed-in 6" variety of the 36 fillér stamp



Figure 8. Pressed-in 6 variety.

in which the top of the number 6 was slightly flattened, occurred at position 10 in the pane of a hundred stamps. The 24 fillér stamp with a "chip" missing from the top of the 4 has also been observed



Figure 9. Chipped 4 with enlargement.

3. USAGE

The principal use of the commemorative postage due stamps was the same as that of all postage due stamps, namely, to indicate the amount that the recipient needed to pay for unfranked or underfranked mail pieces. These uses can be unfranked or underfranked private correspondence, official correspondence, and business reply mail. In addition, postage due stamps were used to charge customs fees and mandatory registration fees if the mail piece contained valuable materials.

For private correspondence that was unfranked or underfranked, the postage due was double the franking deficiency. A typical example is shown in Figure 10,



Figure 10. Postage due on underfranked card.

in which the 20 fillér postcard paid the local postcard rate, but the inter-city postcard rate was 40 fillér. The franking deficiency is 20 fillér, yielding a postage due of 40 fillér.

Official correspondence was posted without franking, and the recipient was charged postage due at the rate for the mail piece without doubling. Official correspondence had the inscription Hivatalból Portóköteles on the lower left corner of the mail piece. Documents mailed unfranked with the label Illetékmentes were also treated as official correspondence. The document shown in Figure 11 was charged the local letter rate, 30 fillér without doubling.



Figure 11. Official document.

Business reply mail (Üzleti Válaszlevél) was posted without franking. Postage due stamps were added for the correct rate, plus a 14 fillér postage due stamp to pay the business reply letter delivery fee. Figure 12 shows an example.



Figure 12. Business reply mail.

Most of the 14 fillér postage due stamps were used for this purpose.

Customs fees charged with postage due stamps were assessed to mail items from other countries containing dutiable material. The pair of 80 fillér stamps on the cover from Austria shown in Figure 13 indicates a customs fee of 1.60 Forint on the contents. The Austrian postal charge of 1240 groschen paid the Austrian postal rate to Hungary and the registration and express delivery fees.



Figure 13. Customs fee.

Mandatory registration was charged with postage due stamps on mail items from other countries containing valuable but nondutiable materials. Figure 14 shows a cover from Chile franked with stamps totalling 58 Pesos, the correct international airmail rate, with the Hungarian registration fee of 1.40 Forint because of its contents. According to note in the cover, a packet of stamps was contained in the cover.



Figure 14. Mandatory registration.

The commemorative dues were used during the first rate period after the end of the post-war hyperinflation. Within this rate schedule , there was little need for the 4, 6, 10, 36, 50, and 70 fillér denominations in this set. No postal rates at the time called for their use. The low value dues found use in combination with higher values on underfranked mail from other countries.

Figure 15 shows an example, the 4 fillér stamp in combination with a 30 fillér stamp on a postcard from Great Britain that was one penny short of the British international postcard rate.



Figure 15. Use of a 4 fillér due.

The commemorative postage due stamps were invalidated 31 December 1958. Many of the remaining invalidated Forint-fillér denominated stamps, including the commemorative postage issue, were revalidated 1 September 1971. The imperforate stamps were also validated for postal use at this time. Figure 16 shows the use of an imperforate pair of 12 fillér commemorative dues used with a 16 fillér stamp of the 1958 red / black due issue to indicate the 40 fillér postage due on a letter from Czechoslovakia posted 3 December 1973, and underfranked by 30 halérů. There was no additional fee for the poste restante mail.



Figure 16. Imperforate use.

The issuing of postage due stamps to commemorate a historical event is quite unusual in the history of philately. Only eleven countries, including Hungary, have done this, and Hungary is the only such country to issue a commemorative postage due set to commemorate an earlier issue of postage due stamps.

Resources

[1] A magyar bélyegek monográfiája V. Magyar postabélyegek és postai bérmentesítés a felszabadulás után (1945-1961). Közlekedési Dokumentációs Vállalat, Budapest, 1967. Pp.753-758.

[2] A magyar bélyegek kézikönyve. Gondolat, Budapest, 1986. Pp. 473-474.

MODERN POSTAL HISTORY



DR. GYÖRGY LŐVEI, BUDAPEST

I don't have to ask if we can achieve good results with modern postal history material. The answer is straightforward: it is possible! The 85 points Large Vermeil award obtained at Australia 2013 exhibition proves that. These 85 points also illustrated the upper bound that a modern post 1950 material can achieve[3].

We should look at the way postal material are judged for reason:

1.	Threatment (20) and philatelic importance (10)	30
2.	Philatelic knowledge and Personal study	35
3.	Condition (10) and rarity (20)	30
4.	Display	5
	Total	100

If the exhibitor links the postal material to a social event, then the philatelic importance is split in two. Five points goes to philatelic importance while 5 points rates the social event at hand.

Why this is a problem? The condition of the items, perhaps excepting large size envelopes that are prone for damages or items littered with stamps, gains 8-9 points. How about the rarities? This is a serious question, as absolute rarities – not misprints! – are very rare in modern postal history. Can we consider as a rarity when 13 pieces of 10 Ft castles stamps appears on the front of contemporary air mail containing a book, shipped to USA?

The value of a modern postal history material can range from a meagre few hundred thousand forints to one or two millions. At the same time a letter with the Braille writing system with the most minimal postage tariff is not an everyday piece.

For this reason I would transfer 10 points for the Rarities category, 5 points to presentation and 5 point to philatelic and subject related knowledge, research. Thus, lack of absolute rarities will not hinder achieving 90 points.

Concomitantly, we should rethink if the current three-way division of the postal history periods is correct or not

- Up to 1875 (pre-UPU period)
- 1875-1945
- Post 1945

Personally I would end the second period at 1950.

[3] I should note that further developing the material presenting the letters of the Czechoslovak fiscal reform period is only possible with the inclusion of philatelic covers, thus diluting the presentation

Why one might ask? Take Hungary as an example. Up to 1946 August 1 the currency was 'pengö' with the world's biggest hyperinflation. The collection by Robert Morgan worth a gold medal, together with a collection presenting the period 45-47 of the Austrian history. The Peoples Republic of China was founded in 1949 October 1, India gained independence in 1947, namely by 1950 the bipolar word too shape, the two Germany and Indonesia become independent, several currency reforms took place – excepting the Polish and Czechoslovak ones – all important from a philatelic point of view. At the same time mass production of the thematic stamps did not started yet and the postal definitive stamps still had major importance.

The question is what is left to the post 1950 postal history?

A few events still remain: the 1953 Czechoslovak, the 1960 Soviet and Bulgarian currency reforms, the Polish state of emergency, worldwide inflation after 1974 that resulted in frequent changes in postal rates. Beside modern history witnessed wars, the birth of Bangladesh, civil war in Algeria, the Yugoslavian breakup, the crisis on Cyprus, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, Czechoslovak spit-up in two countries, reunification of Germany, the hyperinflation in Romania, Poland, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Israel, Zimbabwe, Bolivia, Peru and Argentina; the independence of former Soviet Republics.

So, there is plenty to collect!

With all this, these collections have low monetary value. Few paid attention to this period, thus researchers have plenty to do. A new independent pointing system would be beneficial and it should minimize the points allocated to value.

Postal history deals with mailed documents. Collecting and presenting Hungarian stamps of the period after 1950 is not an easy task. Some more interesting postal rates, such as presenting 1.10 forints on postcards with 1.10 Ft air mail stamps or researching the rates of registered parcels can a more daunting task than presentation of the well-researched pre-UPN letters.

A possible new pointing system might attract collectors with more limited financial possibilities. Additionally, new interesting topics might surface, such and the administrative postal rates used by the administration (local and central) in the last 5-6 years presented by Fülöp Sándor. This administrative rate is lower than postal rates as the recorded deliveries are not insured by the post.

At the same time most postal documents vanished, perhaps with the exception a few interesting periods. As a results materials presenting for example the Romanian inflation are rare and few can think working on collection with topics as the currency reform in Germany or the stamp war in Berlin. And I cannot agree more with them: only an exceptional collection can achieve gold medal, and no such collection appeared so far!

This can be due to the small number of such collections, the exhibition at Melbourne had 5-6 such collections, interestingly two from Hungary

(György Tóth: 'The Forint-fillér postal rates' and the '1953 currency reform').

With all this I encourage the readers collect and research modern postal material even as adults, it can bring lots of joy and it is budget friendly. Of course this does not mean that one just should follow any trends that come by. But don not get discouraged to prepare a material presenting the Euro or explore the barely mentioned modern postal rates (See the exhibit by Szücs Károly from experimental philately class at Braziliana 2013 presenting the 2010 postal rates of Hungary)[4]

To conclude the article I present to the reader a few letters to illustrate colourfulness of such a collection.



Figure 1. II grade long distance recommended express letter, June 1953



Figure 2. Recommended philatelic letter with the right postage rate sent to Indonesia (130 Ck -26 stamps)

Translated from Hungarian by dr. Nemes Szilárd

[4] This exhibit can be viewed in its entirety on Mafitt's website at the "Displays" and in the CD attachement to this number of Philatelica.

NEWS

Due to spatial constrains we present the readers with close-ups of the embossed letterheads and the interested reader can consult the CD appendix. This appendix holds high resolution zoom-able images of both sides of the letters. The first item is a registered form with acknowledgement of receipt sent by a public notary from Wien to Budapest.



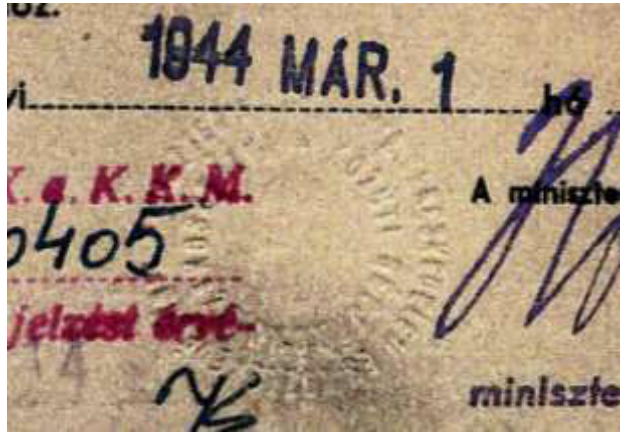
1a-b. ábra: Dr. IGNAZ KAISER / KK. NOTAR / IN WIEN / Stadt Koellnerhofgasse N°. 4

The second is a rare Swiss recommended postcard from 1885, by the Austrian consulate from St. Gallen.



2. ábra: K.u.k österreich.-ungar. / CONSULAT / ST.GALLEN

The third is a modern official letter form 1944.



3. ábra: "M.KIR. KERESKEDELEM ÉS KÖZLEKEDÉSÜGYI MINISZTÉRIUM KÖZÚTI GÉPJÁRMŰSZAKOSZTÁLY"

SEMINARS AT THE STAMP MUSEUM

The lecture given by Dr. Homonnay Géza last October was not only a rather interesting summary, but it augmented with interesting insights the latest issue of journal.

The lecture was first given in Hungarian in conjunction with an exhibition of the Petredi letters, then in English at the FEPA's juror-training organized at Budapest which was attended by numerous illustrious philatelists.



From the questions and observations raised by the audience an interesting aspect emerged that shed light over the circumstances surroundings the origin and motivations behind the letters. Seemingly, the Capitan used his vast philatelic knowledge and good relationships with influential philatelists and prominent stamp dealers to create these philatelic letters. Capitan Petredi's motivations might have been to complement his low salary to support his deprived family and ill mother.

NEW BOOK

With the help of the Maftitt Grevay foundation a new book have been published, penned by one the founding members of Mafitt, the late Gazda István Sr. The posthumous publication was possible due to son of the author dr Gazda István Jr, a science historian whom took care of the editing.



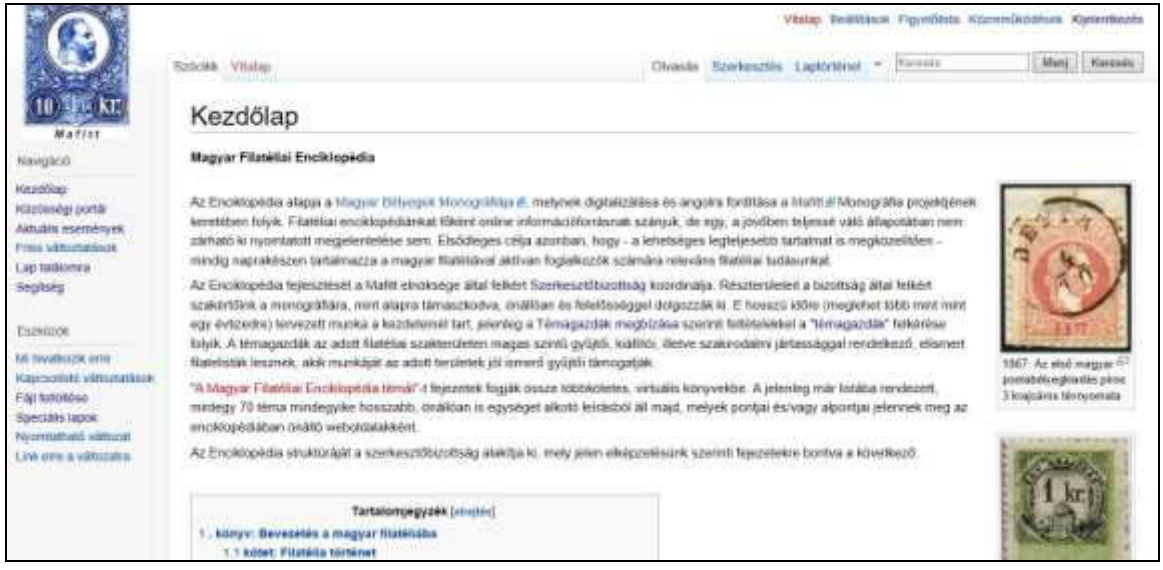
The black and white book contains no images and is purchasable at rather advantageous price. The CD accompanying the book contains a rich visual material with better resolution and quality than any printed material could offer. These images can be even transferred to mobile devices and by zooming on the fine details it can genuinely aid the understanding of book.

MAFIPÉDIA

The Mafitt's Encyclopaedia that started 2 years ago have reached the stage of materialization. True, so far only one thematic editor signed with Mafitt. However, more and more fragments form the first three parts of the Hungarian Philatelic Monograph are getting published taking advantage of the infrastructure of the 'Hungarian Philatelic Encyclopaedia'. The content of the Book Review section of our website have been moved to the Encyclopaedia and consequently renamed and now links to the literature section of the Encyclopaedia.

The Encyclopaedia has its own web address "*mafipedia.mafitt.hu*" On the right side of the start page the visitors are greeted by the images of the five most notable items from the dawn of the Hungarian philately: images the first and rarest Hungarian stamps.

The Encyclopaedia encompasses 5 virtual books divided in parts and chapters, thus offering the readers an easy to use structure and covers most aspects that today's internet savvy philatelists might need.



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 (e nyelvi mutáció 50 alatti példányszámban.)

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

ISSN 0324–4806

Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság
Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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

A Philatelica nyomdai kivitezéséhez a **Gervay Mihály Magyar Postatörténeti Alapítvány** nyújt támogatást-

Ára: 1.800 Ft

A Philatelica díjai − Awards of Philatelica



2013.
LS





2014.
LS





2015.
LS

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását e kiállítások között helyesbítettük
The Mafitt's name in English was corrected these years

16/2

Philatelica

Philatelica 2016/2

Tartalom / Content:

Vas István:	Kiegészítések az 1871-es kiadású újságbélyegek irodalmához (kő- és könyvnyomás) Supplement to the Literature of the Newspaper Stamps Issued in 1871 (Lithographed and Typographed)	1.
Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer:	Cenzúra Magyarország határain belül és kívül az első világháború után Censorship Inside and Outside af Hungary's Borders Following World War I	7.
Dr. Nagy Ferenc:	A budapesti, majd pestkörnyéki szükségtarifa története 1945. március 2.- május 1. 2. rész History of the Budapest, Later Pest Environs Provisional Postal Tariffs. 2 March 1945 – 1 May 1945. Part 2	23.
Hírek / News		40.

Fordítók / Translators: Kőhalmi Csaba, Manz János
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

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LITERATURE OF THE NEWSPAPER STAMPS ISSUED IN 1871 (LITHOGRAPHED AND TYPOGRAPHED)



ISTVAN VAS, SZIGETVAR

I have been collecting the stamps issued in 1871, including the newspaper stamps, for a long time. When Volume III of the Monograph appeared, I immediately re-examined my material. It appeared to me that the discussion of the newspaper stamps contained obvious omissions inasmuch as I was unable to figure out how to deal with some of my stamps. My available items, especially the typographic ones, showed significant deviation from the identifying characteristics that I could not find in the monograph. The article published in Philatelica 1977/1 written by Ferenc Orban rectified many uncertainties. Still, unresolved questions remained for me. In the meantime, my collection expanded; and, based on this accumulation, I would like to present my supplemental and corrective findings.

1. THE LITHOGRAPHED NEWSPAPER STAMP

Ferenc Orban correctly identified the fact that two printing stones were used for the production of the lithographed newspaper stamp. He referred to these as "A" and "B" stones, something that Gyula Madarasz only speculated about. Orban identified the major distinguishing marks and attempted to identify the sub-types. I am using the expression "attempted" because in many instances he could not point to the sub-type identifiers in the case of examining multiple stamps.

My conclusions are as follows: I have 56 stamps in my collection that are fewer than the quantity used by Ferenc Orban, but still sufficient to provide a basis for research. I have determined that every stamp shows the most significant identifying marks of the "A" printing stone: on the left side, of the three lines flowing down from the crown, the outside left one touches the postal horn, a mark that Ferenc Orban classified only as a sub-type. On every stamp, the 22nd bead to the right the mouthpiece of the horn is white. Furthermore, there is a colored dot in the lower part of the ornament located in the second to the right in the bottom part of most stamps. Also, a bulge in the lower right corner is an obvious mark found on many stamps. I have not been able to identify the two marks mentioned by Ferenc Orban – found in the upper and lower rosettes on the left side.

I'm showing these stamps below both in unused and used condition as well as in multiples.

The type "A" stone was the first used, from which the earliest printings were over-inked as described by Ferenc Orban: "*The printing block used to construct the first printing stone caused a spotted image transfer to the paper, and this is the reason for the poor quality of the stamps*

made with this stone." Later, the basic printing block was repaired with a cleaner image of the stamp showing better details.



sheet margin: 10 mm



The Monograph mentions the following: "*Marginal copies of the typographic newspaper stamps are rare, but stamps with wider margins than the lithographed ones are known*." The stamps shown on page 443 of the Monograph have 13 mm wide margin. This is also true of the typographic stamps from my collection, but the margins of two lithographed stamps shown here measure 16 mm and 17.5mm.

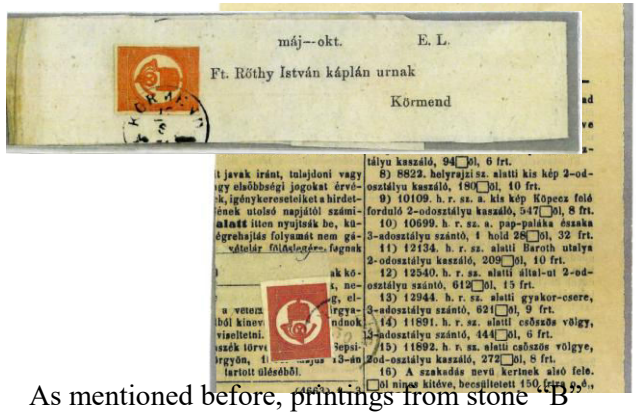


Again quoting from the Monograph: "*As a rarity, newspaper stamps are known with reverse side (partial) machine transfer printing*." The stamps shown there have about a 20% machine color transfer. and it is very faint. One of the two stamps shown here has an 80% transfer, while the other is full image and strong.

Regarding oily printing: "*The transparency can approach the intensity of the stamps picture side but this is an exceptional rarity*."



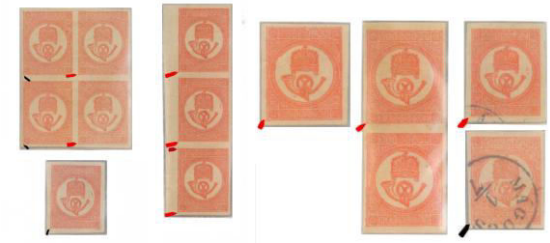
Stamps shown here are from printing stone "A" used on a newspaper wrapper and an entire newspaper.



As mentioned before, printings from stone "B" are clearer and show more detail. Ferenc Orban assumed that more perfect printing block had been prepared to make this stone. He identified and showed the B type characteristic marks.

I have found stamps in my collection that do not show these marks.

In the following illustrations, I would like to show the stamps in question, both unused and used, and in multiples. I marked in red the areas where the characteristics identified by Ferenc Orban should be and in black the areas where these are missing. To me, this becomes the question, is it possible that in actuality only one printing block was used to create the printing stone? In addition, I found characteristics that are not found on the "B" type stamps. These may be sub-types, and I highlighted them in violet color.



Damage to the printing stone can be seen on the right side of the lower stamp in the pair shown below.



The postmaster of Retsag cut the stamps from the sheet of 100 in such a way that he gained probably ten extra copies that contributed a small supplement to his income.

Printings showing ink splotches were the result of damage to printing stone resulting in inking problems. The over-inked copies shown below are all from the "A" printing stone.



Finally, I'm showing a complete wrapper, the cancellation on which is recorded in Gudlin only through 1870 and is marked with a question mark.



The cancellation reads M. K. POST: H-IRL: KIADOHIV: PEST. The stamp is "B" type; the date of the cancellation is 7/24. It has no year in the date.

2. TYPOGRAPHED STAMPS

In the Monograph, Gyula Madarasz theorized the existence of two different sheets of 100 based on the spacing between the stamps. Research done by Ferenc Orban reveals the existence of three different printing plates (Types I, II, and III); thus, the con-



tradictions have now been put into place.

The three types that he determined also show a timeline. To illustrate this, I am showing a trial print on thicker paper that exactly points out the characteristics that Ferenc Orban labeled Type I:

Ferenc Orban's illustration of the first type needs a small modification. In the upper left corner, the lines of the design come together in a colored dot. The small colored dot to the right of the cross does not appear on every stamp.



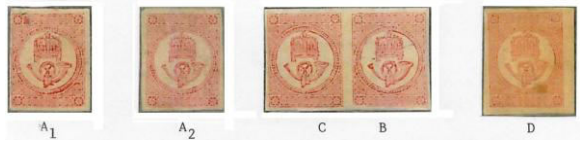
Type I.



Type II.



Ferenc Orban regards the Type II as an electrotype variety. He used 92 examples in his research which is an inadequate number for drawing final conclusions. Based on the characteristics, he assumes that the sub-types vary by column. On the other hand, I found such multiples /block of four and a vertical pair/ where the stamps belong in two different sub-types.





B D
B D



B D
B C



A1



A2



B





C



D

A2 C



C

sheet margin: 13 mm



C A1

Orban's earliest used Type II was cancelled on 12 May 1872. The cancel in this pair is 7 March 1872 /although it is hard to see, especially the month/

Type III is the last type and represents the largest number of stamps. The sub-types are repeated by column. Here, electrotype is a certainty; this plate was used to print the presentation albums kept in the Stamp Museum as well as the sheets of the reprints.

Catalogs mention the existence of stamps printed on grayish paper that is referred to as early printings. This is erroneous because stamps of this type these happen to be the latest printings.



Grayish paper:



Cancellations that are not mentioned in philatelic literature,





and sheet margins:





13 mm *10/14 mm*

Inking flaws or printing errors due to shifting paper resulting in pseudo-double prints:



As it is with the lithographed stamps, machine color transfer is a great rarity also with these stamps. The two copies shown below show the transfer for the entire design. On one stamp, it is faint; on the other, more prominent.

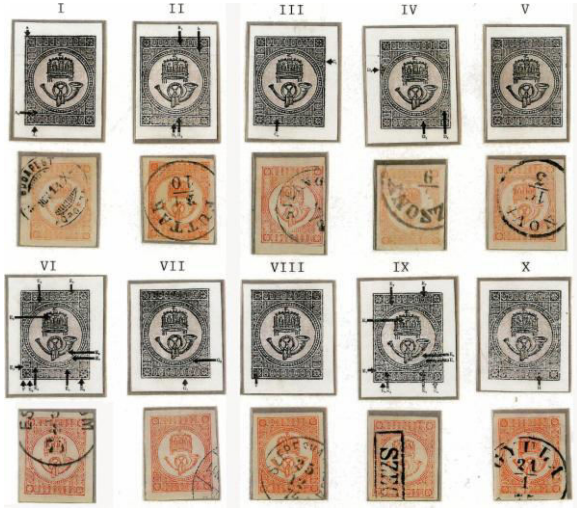
Plate flaws and inking flaws:



Below I am showing a wrapper with a hitherto unknown cancellation. Gudlin values a similar cancellation highly /R/; in this cancellation there is no date shown. The text of the cancellation reads M.K. POSTA HIRLAP KIADO HIVATAL PEST:



As mentioned before, the printing was electrotype showing similar characteristics in each vertical column. Below I am showing a treatment of the characteristics by columns. Finally I will show a complete sheet of 100; the only one of its kind.





In literature, the block of 18 /with Keszthely cancellation/ is regarded as the largest known used multiple. Below I am showing a block of 20, also cancelled at Keszthely.



The next items is a complete newspaper wrapper franked with a nice vertical strip of three stamps /a genuine rarity/.



Literature emphasizes the fact that frankings with multiples are scarce. The Monograph show the largest know multiple. Here I am presenting a gem from my collection.



Translated by Csaba Kohalmi



CENSORSHIP INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF HUNGARY'S BORDERS FOLLOWING WORLD WAR I

DR. HELMUT KOBELBAUER, SINABELKIRCHEN

1. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The defeat of the central powers, as finalized by the surrender signed at Padua on 3 November 1918, also signalled the end of Hungary within her "historical" borders.



Map 1. Source: www.wikipedia.de, article about Austria-Hungary

The peace treaty dictated at Trianon (4 June 1920) compressed Hungary to borders that define its current territory. Any and every attempt to restore the 1914 borders, either militarily or politically, proved futile.

Immediately on 30 October 1918, Croatia expressed her desire to severe relations with the Kingdom of Hungary; then, Croatia and Slavonia merged into the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes that was proclaimed in Belgrade in the beginning of December 1918.

By the end of October 1918, Hungary declared the dissolution of the Hapsburg Dual monarchy, so she did not feel obligated to meet the terms and demands of the Padua surrender agreement. The government of the newly formed Republic of Hungary wanted to negotiate their own terms for laying down their arms. Consequently, Hungarian representatives met in Belgrade on 18 November 1918 with the commander of the Salonika front, French General Louis Franchet d'Esperey.

There, the following military agreement was born but it was later refused:

I. Troops of the Hungarian government will withdraw to the upper flow of the Nagy-Szamos – Beszterce – Maros(falu) – Maros River's confluence with the Tisza – Szabadka – Baja – Pecs (no Hungarian units stationed in these towns) – north of the confluence of the Drava Slavonia Croatia border. The evacuation to be completed within eight days.

The evacuated areas will be occupied with full authority by the allies in accordance with the conditions established by the commander of the armies. Civilian administration in these territories will remain in the hands of the current government.

II. Only the absolutely necessary police and gendarme units may remain in the evacuated territories required to keep order as well as those assigned to secure railroad lines/

The Hungarian army, land troops and marines, will be demobilized; six infantry and two cavalry divisions necessary to maintain internal order as well as the police units mentioned in section 1 are exceptions to the demobilization.

III. The allies have the right to occupation of every settlement and strategic point belongs under the jurisdiction of the commander of the allied armies and is continuously determined by him.

Allied troops shall have free passage through the entire territory of Hungary and may be stationed there. Allies have a standing claim to requisition all of the transportation, railway and shipping resources belonging to the state as well as to the private individuals living in Hungary for military purposes. Similarly, yoke and pack animals.

IV. The personal and rolling stock required to maintain normal railroad transportation in the occupied areas (see section 1) will remain in place; over and beyond this, in order to provide for the needs of the allied troops and to compensate for the loss of rolling stock in Serbia due to the war, the following must be turned over to the high command within one month: 2000 standard gauge railroad cars and 100 locomotives, as well as 600 narrow gauge railroad cars and 50 locomotives. This railroad stock may be partially charged to Austria. The numbers are approximate.

V. The personnel and shipping resources required to maintain normal shipping traffic will remain in place.

In addition, six monitors must be surrendered to the allies in Belgrade immediately.

The remainder of the Danube flotilla, after disarming, will be ordered to assemble at a Danube harbor to be determined later by the high command. For the needs of the allied armies as well as to compensate Serbia for the lost shipping assets during the war, the following shall be provided from the flotilla within the shortest time: 10 passenger steamers, 10 tugboats and 60 barges. The numbers are approximate.

VI. Within two weeks, one railway formation of three thousand men, properly equipped, will be provided to the high command for the purpose of repairing railroad lines in Serbia. The numbers are approximate.

VII. Within two weeks, telegraph formation, properly equipped, will be provided to the high command in order to repair telephone and telegraph lines in Serbia.

VIII. Within one month, 25,000 horses and the necessary wagons, the number of which to be determined, shall be provided to the high command. The numbers are approximate.

IX. Armaments and war materiel shall be collected at a location designated by the high com-

mand. This material shall be utilized to equip units at the discretion of the high command.

X. Allied prisoners of war and interned civilians shall be released immediately and shall be assembled in a timely manner for transportation at suitable points, from where they will transported home quickly through exit points determined by the high command. Hungarian prisoners of war will remain in captivity for the time being.

XI. Fifteen days are available for the passage and temporary stationing of German troops through Hungary starting with the day that the cease fire agreement was signed with General Diaz (November 4th, 1500 hours).

Postal and telegraph traffic with Germany may be conducted only under the military supervision of the allies. The Hungarian government obligates itself to prevent all military telegraph traffic with Germany.

XII. Hungary will support the provisioning of the allied occupation troops. Requisitions – inasmuch as they are not voluntary – are permitted. Compensation will be at the going rate.

XIII. All Danube and Black Sea areas mined by the Austro-Hungarians shall be identified without delay to the high command. In addition, the Hungarian government obligates itself to collect all floating mines that were thrown into the Danube in its own waters as well as beyond the Hungarian border in the territory of Austria.

XIV. Allies will supervise all Hungarian post, radio service, telephone, telegraph and railroad services.

XV. An allied representative will be assigned to the minister in charge of provision in order to insure that the interest of the allies are enforced.

XVI. Hungary is obligated to sever all ties with Germany and is forbidden to transport troops and war materiel with the exception of transportation specially permitted by the high command for German troops in Romania.

XVII. Allies will not interfere in the conduct of internal affairs of the Hungarian state.

XVIII. Hostilities between the allies and Hungary will cease.

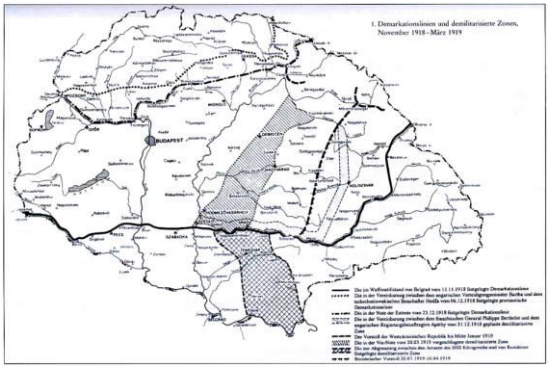
Two copies prepared on 13 November 1918 at 23 hours 15 minutes in Belgrade, with modifications made in the title and sections XI and XVIII.

for the allies representatives of the high command:

Voivode Mišić signature General Henrys signature

on behalf of Hungary the Hungarian government's representative: Bela Linder signature

The following map shows the assigned demarcation lines:



Map 2. Source: Aniko Kovacs-Bertrand, A magyar revisionizmus as elso vilaghaboru utan (Munchen, 1997) p. 41

Serbian and Romanian troops advanced up to the entire demarcation line (and at times, beyond). Slovakia separated along the northern line and then in November 1918 united with the Czech-Moravian lands under the name of Czechoslovakia. Similarly, Subcarpathia separated, and then was conquered by Czech and Romanian troops. In a parallel move, Greater Romania annexed Transylvania.

In Budapest, Hungarian communist groups took control on 21 March 1919. Following this, violent fighting erupted in the areas of the country's new borders: successes followed setbacks, setbacks became successes. In the end, the government was forced depart on August 2nd because of internal and external conflict. Romanian troops entered Budapest on August 6th. Miklos Horthy put an end to this status quo in November 1919. The kingdom was re-established in February 1920; however, the restoration attempts by the former King Karoly IV were frustrated.

The victorious nations of Romania and Serbia came into conflict with each other because of the division of the Banat region. The conflict that resulted in bloody fighting was terminated by a French occupation – first in Arad and then in Szeged.

In 1921, the victorious powers decided to award a western strip of Hungary to the Austrian Republic (this area was incorporated into the new republic under the name of Burgenland). With this, the partitioning of territories was concluded; and Hungary was left with only one-third of its old land area.

2. CENZORSHIP IN HUNGARY

Here, through a few interesting pieces, I would like to review the operation of the censorship or the lack thereof in the new Hungarian territory.

2.1 THE HUNGARIAN REPUBLIC (16 NOVEMBER 1918 – 11 MARCH 1919)

We cannot determine exactly the moment that the censorship conducted by the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy collapsed. This may coincide approximately with the collapse of the monarchy in the closing days of October or in the early days of November.

Out of necessity, postal censorship was not functioning in Hungary or in the detached regions during the time of the Republic. Other postal operations continued unimpeded for a time after

the defeat in the war. (There was a voluntary curtailment of postal service with Russia though.)

Sending money orders became the first casualty of the cessation of postal traffic. Changes in currency that happened in the middle of February 1919 in Czechoslovakia and in the territory of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes were connected to this since in the newly formed countries, the post office exercised a monopoly in this area until 1920. Similarly, mail and parcel traffic was suspended for three entire weeks.

I would like to show a couple of mailings that were forwarded without censorship from the November 1918 – March 1919 period,



Figure 1. Picture postcard sent from Beregszasz on 26 November 1918 to Eperjes. Afterwards, both towns were occupied by the Czechoslovak army.

Istvan Gazda showed a couple of letters from this time that were censored. These may be connected to military censorship. Unfortunately, I did not get the opportunity to examine these covers extensively.



Figure 2. Commercial letter without censorship sent from Upice on 21 January 1919 to Budapest.



Figure 3. Letter without censorship sent from Budapest on 22 January 1919 to Ljubljana. Dr. Dereani was a noted philatelist at that time.



Figure 4. Commercial letter without censorship mailed from Budapest on 19 March 1919 to Switzerland.

2.2 HUNGARIAN SOVIET REPUBLIC 31 MARCH 1919 – 2 AUGUST 1919.

We do not have any official directive from this period regarding censoring civilian mail traffic. There are signs of censor markings on most of the mailings of which we are aware.

Mailings destined abroad in this period are fairly scarce; but, again, we cannot find any Hungarian censorship. The Red Army's fieldpost censorship on letters directed to the front lines are more frequently found than on the mailings sent in the other direction (in part, these perpetuate the use of cancellers from the days of the Monarchy).



Figure 5. Picture postcard sent from Szombathely on 9 June 1919 to Szaszvar with red "engedelyezzuk = we permit it" handstamp.



Figure 6. Picture postcard send from Cegled on 10 June 1919 to Budapest with reddish-brown "Felulvizsgala. Tovabbithato = Inspected. May be forwarded" censor stamp.

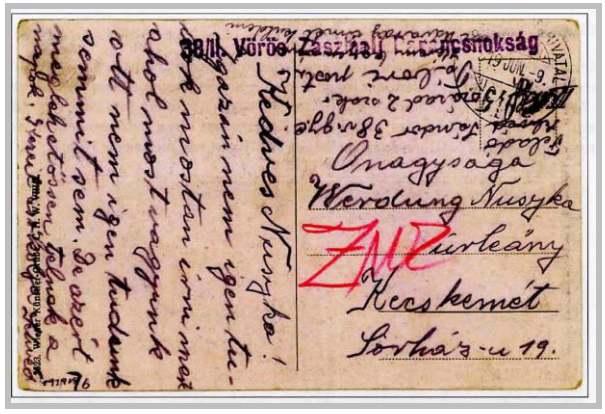


Figure 7. Fieldpost card sent to Kecskemet on 9 June 1919 rubber stamped with unit and manuscript censor marking.

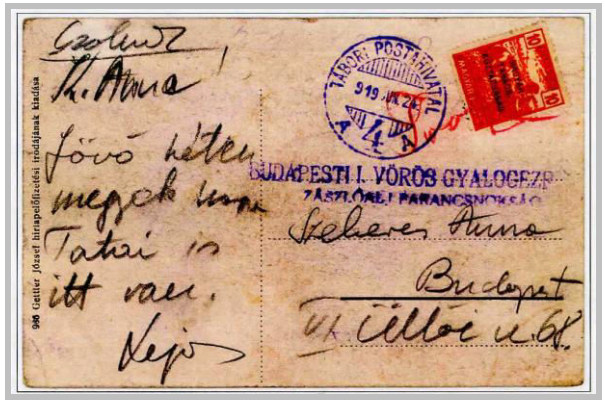


Figure 8. Picture postcard send via fieldpost mailed from Szolnok on 24 June 1919 sent to Budapest with rubber stamped unit and manuscript censor marking.

It seems ironic from the perspective of history that the red regime in Hungary tried every available resource (even military) to recapture the lands of the Holy Crown, without lasting successes that led to its eventual demise.

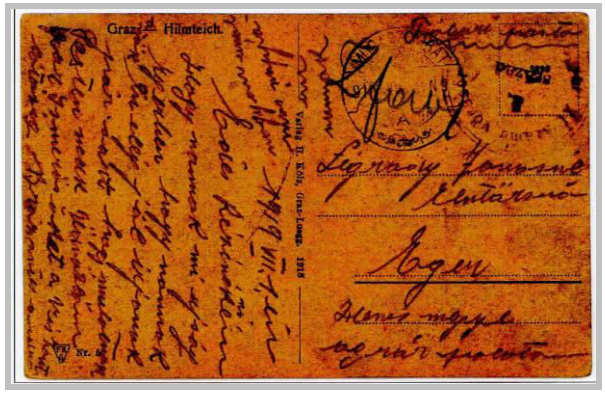


Figure 9. Picture postcard sent via fieldpost from Muraszombat on 1 July 1919 to Eger. The Slovenian forces occupied the Mura region in early August with the blessing of the entente powers.



Figure 10. Picture postcard sent from Tata on 1 April 1919 to Klagenfurt. The card shows the censor marking from Klagenfurt (red, dual circle stamping with the text: Briefzensurstelle Klagenfurt) but no Hungarian markings.

2.3 TRANSITIONAL PERIOD (AUGUST 1919 – MID-NOVEMBER 1919)

Following the collapse of the Soviet Republic, there was no officially recognized "regime" in Hungary. There is no official documentation from this period about the censorship in Hungary; still, authorities in a few localities exercised the right of censorship.



Figure 11. Letter sent from Tata to Budapest with "Tatai Posta/CenZor=Tata Post /Censor" local censorship stamping.

Istvan Gazda maintained that this letter originated from that period (although the posting date is not known, unfortunately. Still, it is possible that it is from the Horthy period.)

2.4 HUNGARY IN THE REGENCY OF MIKLOS HORTHY

Horthy was an admiral in the monarchy's navy, and he was deemed a hero by the Hungarians. He was to serve as the minister of defence in the counter-revolutionary government established in Szeged; but it didn't turn out that way. He exercised great influence with the "white" forces and became their undisputed leader when he marched into Budapest that had been occupied by the Romanians. When the kingdom was re-established in Hungary on 1 February 1920, the Hapsburg restoration was totally out of question politically. Admiral Horthy became regent of the kingless kingdom.

At this time, several places established censorship even though there is no official directive regarding this. Some letters can be found sealed with tape that alludes to the year 1912 directive defining censorship. We can date the start of the censorship to the end of 1919 or early 1920. The censorship of inland letters continued until 1923 while letters arriving from abroad were censored into 1924.

Istvan Gazda sorted the censorship by regions: north and northeast; east and southeast; near the Danube; and Budapest.



Figure 12. Letter mailed in Veszprem on 20 November 1919 with blue "CENZURA" stamp. Example of an early Horthy-era censorship.

We will continue to follow this regionalization. Due to the fact that the mailings consist of many varieties, we can provide only a glimpse into this period.

Supplementing his work, we had assembled a list of known places where censorship was in effect as well as the text of the censor markings in order to provide an opportunity for review and further research.



Figure 13. Picture postcard mailed to Budapest on 25 September 1920 with brownish-red "CENZURA | BALASSAGYARMAT" inspection stamp.

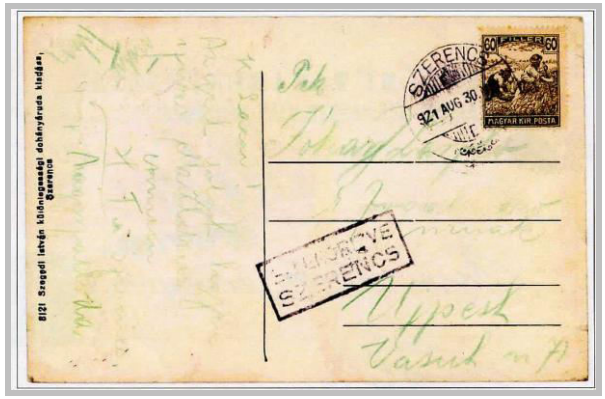


Figure 14. Picture postcard mailed from Szerencs on 30 August 1921 with boxed "ELLENORIZVE | SZERENCS" stamp.



Figure 15. Registered letter sent from Satoraljaujhely on 19 January 1920 to Budapest with a boxed, black "SAUJHELY | CENZURA" stamp.

The following mailings are from Hungary's eastern and southeastern regions:



Figure 16. Picture postcard mailed in Gyula on 16 February 1921 with circular, violet "MAGY. KIR. KATONAI LEVEL CENZURA | BEKESCSABA" stamp.

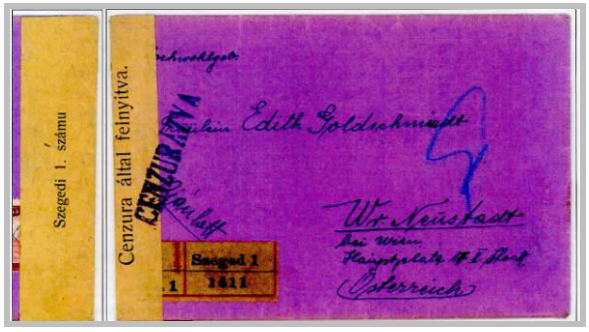


Figure 17. Registered letter mailed from Szeged on 15 March 1921 to Vienna franked on the reverse side. Violet "CENZURAZVA" stamp is on the front side and the envelope is sealed with locally used tape "Cenzura altal felbontva."

It should be noted that the use of sealing tape in this period is fairly scarce; and the few examples that can be found are highly prized by the collectors specializing in this topic. This is also true for sealing tape used in the occupied areas as well as in the successor states.

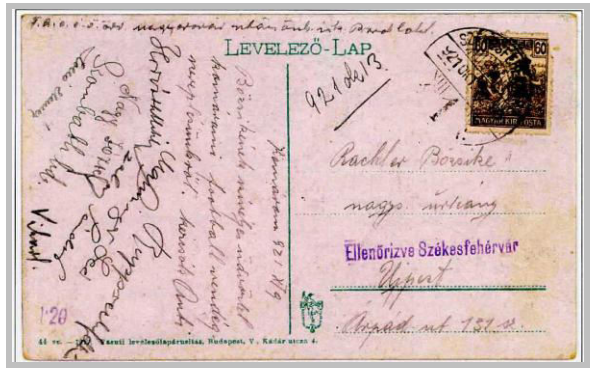


Figure 18. Letter mailed from Szekesfehervar on 12 October 1921 stamped with violet "Ellenorizve Szekesfehervar" local censor marking.

Next, I would like to show the following mailings from the Danube region and the western part of Hungary:



Figure 19. Picture postcard sent from Venice stamped with a circular "KATONAI CENZURA SZOMBATHELY" marking.

In 1921, the entente powers forced Hungary to cede a part of its remaining territory to the Austrian Republic (later to be known as Burgenland). Only the country seat, the town of Sopron, was allowed to remain following a plebiscite conducted between December 14th and 16th.

Only a few items remain known sent from Budapest bearing the signs of censorship that was in place there. The following sealing tape referring to the 1912 law establishing censorship.

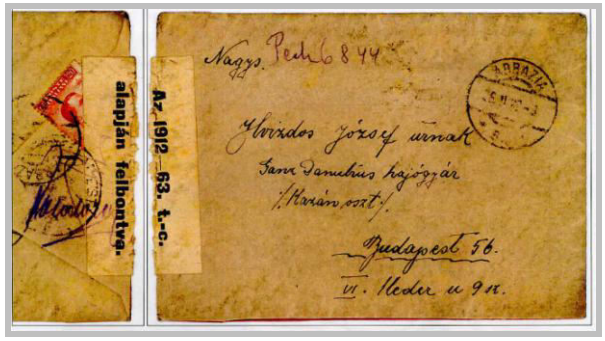


Figure 20. Letter sent from Abazzia on 16 February 1922 to Budapest with manuscript marking and sealing tape ("Az 1912-63. t.-c. alapjan felbontva.")

To conclude this section, we will show a slightly obvious registered letter.



Figure 21. Letter mailed from Tardosked on 2 December 1922 to Szombathely. Marked with a violet "C" in an oval frame. A late piece.

3. CENSORSHIP IN THE CAPTURED TERRITORIES

For this section, we also rely on Istvan Gazda's partitioning, which, in his writings, give an exhaustive explanation as to why these mailings up to 4 June 1920 from the area of historical Hungary (at least in part) belong under Hungarian postal history.

We would like to show the significance of the territorial changes using this propaganda map from the 1930s:

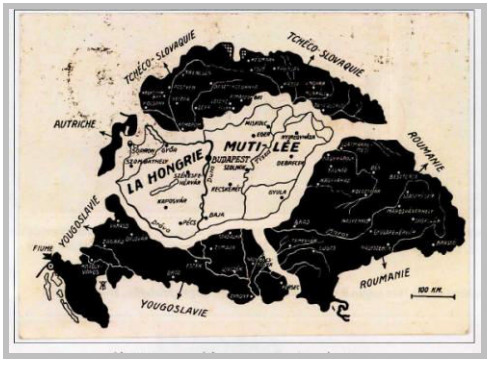


Figure 22. Propaganda map – Hungary torn apart

Based on this, we separated the censorship into the following areas:

- Czechoslovak
- Romanian
- South Slav
- French (in Arad and Szeged)

Mail posted after 30 October 1918 in Croatia and Slavonia is relegated to the postal history of the Kingdom or Serbs, Croats and Slovenes by Istvan Gazda, who does not consider this as a part of the postal history of Hungary. This opinion also applies to the postal history of Fiume. We are in agreement with these points of view.

Initially, only a small portion of this area occupied by Serbian troops returned to Hungary in August of 1921: most of Baranya including the city of Pecs. This return is a unique example of the reversing of the annexation originally established by the entente powers. The Slav censors operating in his area are discussed in detail in a book by Hermann Dietz.

3.1 CZECHOSLOVAK CENSORSHIP IN UPPER HUNGARY

The philatelic literature relative to this area is woefully inadequate in dealing with the Czechoslovak censorship. The internet page by Petr Gebaur [3] has not been updated in over a year, but still shows a few mailings with Czechoslovak censorship. Nevertheless, official documentation is non-existent.

Postal traffic with Hungary – until it was completely disrupted by the fighting in the spring-summer of 1919 – was censored, probably by late August. We are sure that Pozsony was established as a censorship site as well as other sites in smaller settlements.



Figure 23. Letter sent from Vienna on 20 March 1920 to Pelsocz, manuscript endorsed "Tartalmaz egy levelet Magyarorszagrol. Nem tovabbithato! = Contains a letter from Hungary. May not be forwarded!" with censorship stamps "censurovano" and "Vojneska postovni kontrola v Bratislave."

It is an open question as to whether Austrian or Slovak authorities are responsible for the handwritten comment. In the end, the letter was not

forwarded but returned to Vienna. This is documented by the arrival cancellation date March 22nd.

There are few examples of such postal censorship to provide similar evidence. Still, the existence of the military censorship of Pozsony is validated.



Figure 24. Express letter mailed from Budapest on 2 February 1921 to Brno with red "Cenzurovano" stamp.



Figure 25. Letter mailed from Kiralyfitarcsa on 28 June 1922 to Budapest with "Censurovano" stamp.



Figure 26. Registered letter mailed on 8 April 1921 for Debrecen sent to Prague. Stamped with Hungarian "CENZURAZVA" and Czechoslovakian "CENSUROVANE" stamps.

3.2 ROMANIAN CENSORSHIP FROM SUBCARPATHIA AND TRANSYLVANIA

While Romanian censorship is well-documented in Calin Marinescu's book, after many years of research, we found only a single example of a mailing from Subcarpathia with Romanian censorship.



Figure 27. Picture postcard mailed from Tecso on 1 July 1919 sent to Debrecen, censored locally with "RUMANIA COMENDUARA PIETEI [garrison]" local Romania censor stamp.

The southern and eastern regions of Subcarpathia were under Romania occupation between April 1919 and October 1920. From this period, exactly two mailings to the States have been documented, of which we are showing this letter.



Figure 28. Unfranked letter mailed from Feketeardo on 11 November 1919 sent to the United States. It is stamped with the Romanian "Censura romana | Satu Mare" and was assessed 10 cents postage due. From the collection of Andrew Cronin.

Letters mailed in Subcarpathia were likely to be inspected in Maramarossziget and Szatmatnemeti. The author's article that appeared in The Subcarpathian Messenger English-language periodical discussed in detail the data of the Maramaros censorship and illustrated a few examples originating from there.



Figure 29. Picture postcard mailed in Debrecen on 29 August 1919 sent to Kisujszallas stamped with the Romanian military unit number and over Romania censor "Censura Romana/Debretin."



Figure 30. Envelope sent from Medgyes on 13 April 1920 to Kolozsvar stamped with the Romanian censor mark "Censura Sighisoara."



Figure 31. Hungarian fieldpost card overprinted as a 10 Bani Romanian postcard sent on 21 April 1920 to Kovaszna with violet circular stamp "Censura Romana | Cluj."

3.3 SOUTHERN SLAV CENSORSHIP IN SOUTH HUNGARY

The southern regions of Banat, Bacska, Syrmia, and Baranya were occupied by Serbian troops in November 1918 and instituted civilian mail censorship under their control.



Figure 32. Registered letter sent from Csak on 13 February 1919 with manuscript marking and red censor stamp from Temesvar.



Figure 33. Internal postal correspondence mailed from Torokbecse on 3 December 1918 to Budapest with the local Serbian censor stamp.



Figure 34. Picture postcard send from Tiszakalmanfalva on 12 February 1919 to Lipotujvar stamped with the oval Serbian military censor mark (Katy) and the civilian censor stamp of Ujvidek.



Figure 35. Postcard with supplemental postage mailed on 5 August 1921 from Czechoslovakia to the well-known stamp dealer in Pecs, Julius Miertl. Shows an oval Serbian military censor stamp. Censored shortly before the return of the area to Hungary.

3.4 FRENCH CENSORSHIP IN ARAD AND SZEGED

Similarly to Serbia, Romania considered herself as a victorious nation; and both were striving to enlarge their territories as much as possible. The entente put up with the two nations bellicose behaviour only until its interests were not threatened.

A serious situation arose in the partitioning of the Banat region in 1918 that prompted the French government to intervene. Troops were directed to Arad to put pressure on Belgrade in order to renounce a part of Banat in favor of Romania.

In June 1919 an exchange of territory occurred: Serbian troops evacuated Temesvar and its environs, which were then entered by Romanian forces on 3 August 1919.



Figure 36. Picture postcard mailed from Arad on 3 July 1919 sent to Szeged with triple censorship: circular stamp of the French authorities "CENSURE FRANCAISE | ARAD"; Romanian stamp "CENZURAT ARAD"; and the Serbian military censor stamp of Temesvar.

Literature references used:

[1] Gazda lstvan: „Postai cenzura Magyarorszagon — II. resz: az 1. vilaghaboru utani idoszak". Budapest, Philatelica 87/2, 1-13. old.

[2] Gazda lstvan: „Die Postzensur in Ungarn nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg". translated by Bajna Zsuzsa, 1994.

[3] Petr Gebauer: „Censorship after WWI (1918-1921)" website, http://phist.webpark.cz/cen/cen2.htm, last update 4 April 2000

[4] Cälin Marinescu: „Cenzura Postalä Militarä in Romnia 1914-1940". Bukarest, 2004.

[5] Hermann Dietz, Helmut Kobelbauer: „Die jugoslawische Postzensur von 1918 bis 1921". Author's publication, 2012.

[6] Wafter Bruckner: Albumblätter zur ungarischen Zensur im Burgenland. Private message.

[7] Helmut Kobelbauer: „Censorship during the Romanian Occupation 1919 and 1920". „The Sub-Carpathian Messenger" #006 (Juli 2009), p6-12.

Translated from the German original by Janos Manz after that by Csaba Kohalmi to English

HISTORY OF THE BUDAPEST, LATER PEST ENVIRONS PROVISIONAL POSTAL TARIFFS. 2 MARCH 1945 – 1 MAY 1945. PART 2



DR. FERENC NAGY, VIENNA

In our periodical's 12/1 issue, I highlighted the background of the hitherto relatively unknown Budapest postal tariffs and the postal history documents that have been discovered up to that time.

In the four years that have passed, several interesting items have turned up on the philatelic marketplace; but, quite honestly, only a few. The reason for this is probably because these items are much scarcer than the inflationary material, or the owners are happy to possess these postal history documents and are holding back selling them.

Despite all this, I was able to secure a few items for relatively low cost through auctions in Budapest. This is probably due to the fact that the workers describing the lots for the auction houses had not read my 12/1 article; and, as a result, there was not much competition for these mailings. In listing them below, I am following my categorization like it was in the 12/1 article.

1. MAILINGS POSTED BEFORE MARCH 2ND POSTED IN THE PROVINCIAL AREAS SENT TO BUDAPEST BUT DELIVERED AFTER MARCH 2ND

These mailings have been determined to be quite rare, almost as rare as a proverbial white raven. In the past 4-5 years, I was able to acquire only two items, one of which I'm showing here.

The necessity post card cut from a piece of cardboard was written on 15 February 1945 in Mailathgardony, last post office Nogradmarcal, and was carried to the post office of Balassagyarmat, which evidently was operational by that time.

The card was franked with an 18 filler stamp that was in accordance with the correct rate and was cancelled on February 21st. Delivery in Budapest was possible only after March 2nd, at which time the special Budapest tariff was in effect. Despite that, it was not accessed postage due because, as I stipulated in my writing, the new tariff was not in effect at the time of posting.



Figure 1. Postcard with Balassagyarmat cancel dated 21 February 1945 sent to Budapest and delivered after the restart of the postal service on March 2nd.

- As a refresher, let me show again a brief summary of the new, Budapest tariff introduced as of March 2nd.
- Local postcard: 30 filler; the same sent to Greater Budapest, outside the customs border: 40 filler
- Local letter: 40 filler; the same outside the customs border 60 filler for up to 20 grams weight, 1 P 60 filler for up to 250 grams
- Local registration: 1 Pengo, outside the customs border to suburbs belonging to Greater Budapest: 1 P 40 filler

As we can observe, the directive specified "Greater Budapest" and "customs border" without mentioning mail to be sent beyond to the provinces. Calculating the cost for such letters was not possible because the postal system was lacking means of transportation. Nevertheless, postal service was restarted quicker than anticipated because, within a span of a few weeks, postal employees were able to assemble a relatively slow, but secure transportation network. As the traffic expanded to the north, east, and south, the Budapest and the Pest environs tariff became effective. The postal service could not reach westward because active military and residual action continued there until April 4th. There are no written directives indicating the extent and timing of this expansion. All of this was a result of constant improvisation, as was everything at that time!

2. LOCAL MAILINGS POSTED IN BUDAPEST AFTER MARCH 2ND

Let's examine an item mailed in Budapest franked correctly with 30 filler in accordance with the new local tariff.

A legal office sent a notice that it had resumed operation. The address is non-specific "Andrassy Street." The conscientious delivery person supplemented this with "corner of Liszt Ferenc Square." Then the manuscript 'Benczur u. 49' was added to the card. Still another sticker with "Delivery notice: Arthur Fuchs at Benczur u. 49 in not known." The distribution office added another "Delivery notice": "Return to Fo u. 79."

An ordinary, everyday postcard received all of this careful handling. Let us visualize a poor, hungry postal carrier hauling around a delivery bag sporting many holes meandering through the rubble filled streets and paying careful attention to fulfill his appointed task diligently and conscientiously. It's almost unbelievable.

Here is an interesting postal history item from those times.



Figure 2. Local postcard mailed in Budapest on 17 April 1945 franked with 30 filler according to the increased tariff returned to sender.

The next is a similarly interesting item on which a co-owner of the a company notifies the trade organization addressed as "organs of authority" that he, together with his wife, is unable walk on foot to appear for verification purposes as summoned. This procedure was required to verify that the individual was not a war criminal or an extreme right-wing leaning person. Those who could not certify this were placed on the "B" list resulting in recriminations that threatened their very existence and livelihood.

Yes, we learn from the card that the trams were not running and the person asked that his case be suspended until "the trams start operating again."

This is not just postal history; this is our history…!



Figure 3. Mr. Henczik's petition to the trade organization on this scenic card sent on 20 April 1945. Cards with commercial heading from that time are rare.

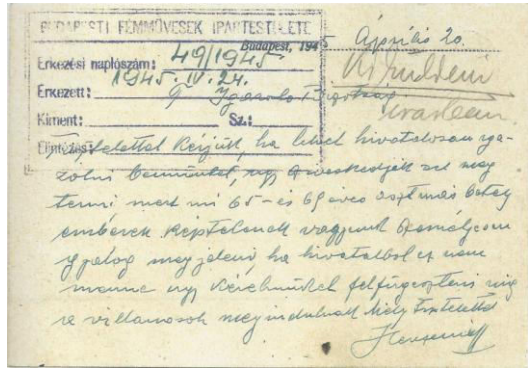


Figure 3a. Reverse side of the card annotated with business dispositions.

REGISTERED LETTERS FROM BUDAPEST

These can be found only infrequently because very few envelopes and little writing paper remained in private hands until public life resumed.

Postal tariff: Local letter 40 filler + registration 1P = 1 P 40 filler

These mailings are always franked correctly because they had to be posted in person at a clerk's window. In the first mailing, the Stamp Dealers' Organization is corresponding with one of its members. The desire for philatelists to pursue their avocation has always been strong and this proves that by April 25th they were ready to organize. The envelope was franked with the 24 filler Patrona Hungariae stamp in a multiple of 6. Although this meant that the mailing was overfranked by 4 filler, it is a unique example that hastens the heartbeat of any philatelist.



Figure 4. Local registered letter with 1,44P franking cancelled at the Budapest 71 post office.

The registered letter from the Dreher-Haggenmacher beer brewery demonstrates a well-organized application of stamps.

We see an example of 1 P 40 filler franking. Larger companies utilized dedicated employees to handle the mail; and they, being aware of the postal tariffs, pre-franked the outgoing letters. Harried postal clerks would not have had the time to apply the stamps so orderly in a row!



Figure 5. Registered letter regarding a personnel matter sent from post office no. 10 on 3 April 1945 to the not-so-distant Jaszberenyi Street. The company was re-organizing; production had not started.

3. MAILINGS FROM BUDAPEST TO THE PROVINCES

Mailings in this category are relatively rare. The population of Budapest could not have known where postal service was functioning and where it wasn't. Every such sending was like an experimental balloon. The card shown here was initially addressed to the village of Romand from where it was sent to the neighboring village of Gic. These two villages are located about 15km to the south of Pannonhalma in the Bakony Mountains. The message on the reverse side is an almost standardized text of the times:

"I don't know if the post is operating in that area, I will try to write nevertheless… We lived in the cellar for two months, but managed to survive…"



Figure 6. Postal card sent to Romand and forwarded to Gic. 40 filler correct franking.

4. MAILINGS FROM THE PROVINCES SENT TO BUDAPEST

These are not exceptionally rare since people had the perception "where would the mail not work if not in the capital city?"

If we want to proceed along the correct timeline, then we need to start with examining this cover from Tinnye. Please read the article "Breakout from Festung Budapest" that was published in the April 2016 issue of Belyegvilag on page 6. This piece deals with the events of 11 February 1945 and relives the dramatic hours that only a small number of participating soldiers survived. The name of Tinnye village is mentioned; Tinnye was already under Russian control. Thus, it is easier to comprehend that its post office was already open on March 6th, but it could not handle letters because service was impossible. Its communication with the Budapest Postal Directorate did not exist; and, henceforth, it was not aware of the new Budapest tariffs. The letter was handled 17 days later at the no. 741 post office. Evidence indicates that this office processed the mail arriving from the parts of the country occupied by the Russians. (Still, this requires further research.)



Figure 7. Letter sent from Tinnye on 6 March 1945 franked with 30 filler in lieu of the 60 filler Budapest tariff. The missing 30 filler assessed 2 x 30 filler postage due that was collected with an affixed pair and a single 20 filler postage due stamps.

The envelope is marked "T 60f" in blue crayon as well as "nybol" marking that I interpret is an abbreviation of "nyugatbol" showing that the letter was received in a package arriving from the west.

SO FAR, I FOUND ONLY THIS LETTER THAT ARRIVED FROM THE WEST. PROBABLY A SIGNIFICANT RARITY OF THE ERA.

On the next card, history strikes another blow to our head.

The text: "*We've been in SA. Ujhely for a week. We and several other Hungarians were expelled from Kassa by the Czechoslovaks in such haste that we had only a few hours to leave the city. Yes, all of our belongings were left behind and we have become beggars.*"



Figure 8. The postcard from Satoraljaujhely relating the dramatic events from Kassa with the return address of the Elisabeth Hospital in Ujhely sent on 10 April 1945. It was franked 18 filler in accordance with the old postal tariff. In Budapest, it was assessed 44 filler postage due.

We have already mentioned the unbroken desire of keeping philatelic life going. This is the newest example: on 23 April 1945, after expressing thanks for the information received, a collector inquired about the cost of wartime issues from the well-known stamp dealer, Sandor Szekely!

"A lawyer cannot be clubbed to death" go the lyrics of a song – the same goes for a philatelist!



Figure 9. An 18 filler, printed indicium postcard sent from Kunhegyes to Budapest.

A nice example of a last day 44 filler postage due assessment.

The next mailing is a very simple envelope from Sarszentlorinc to Budapest addressed to the Red Cross information office. The letter was mailed in the neighbouring village of Nagydorog – along the Sarbogard-Szekszard line – where most likely there was a functioning post office. Stamps worth 36 fillers were affixed to the envelope, probably because only such stamps were available. The denomination was utilized as the old postcard rate. The stamps show the oval NAGYDOROG cancellation with a manuscript date: 45. IV. 2.

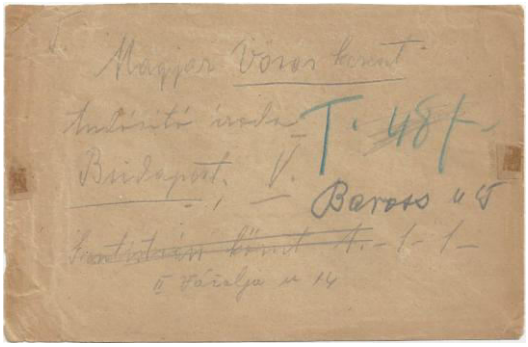


Figure 10. Letter addressed to the Red Cross from Sarszentlorinc mailed in Nagydorog, Tolna County. Offices of the aid service operated at several sites in Budapest. The letter was forwarded several times until the correct office was located.

The front of the envelope is marked "T 48" indicating postage due (short paid 24 filler x 2 = 48 filler), an amount that was not collected from the Red Cross because the organizations incoming and outgoing mail was entirely postage free.



Figure 11. The reverse side of the envelope with the oval Nagydorog, auxiliary cancellation. The date is handwritten: 1945 IV. 2.



Figure 12. Postcard sent from Irsa to Kispest on 26 February 1945 cancelled with an auxiliary oval device.

As long as we're on the subject of using oval 'necessity' cancellers, let's look at another item that was not sent to Budapest but to Kispest. This is what makes it interesting. The date clearly shows II. 26. Again, an oval 'necessity' canceller was used: IRSA, PESTCOUNTY. It is, therefore, evident that postal service was functioning before the start of the Budapest service (on March 2nd). Back then, Kispest was not a part of Budapest – it was annexed to Greater Budapest in 1950 – but it is obvious that with the cessation of military operations (9 January 1945), postal service could be restarted without a directive from central authorities.

Since the Budapest tariffs were not introduced yet, mail service was handled using the old rates; thus, 18 filler was the postcard rate and no postage due was assessed.

Unfortunately, I am not familiar with the use of the oval canceller. I assume that it belonged to some civilian office and then was pressed into

service as a postal canceller when the post office devices went missing following the passing of the front line through the area.

I found the next item in the stock of the Hoboday Company. The use of a 2 Pengo Horthy stamp caught my attention. From this time period, I had not seen this stamp being used despite the fact that the face value was exactly right /letter rate of 60 filler, registration rate of 1,40P = 2 P/. The cancelling devices disappeared in Aszod due to the war. There were no postal cancellers or registry labels. An improvised label was made out of a piece of paper marked with an "R" and the "ASZOD P.U." MAV-railroad station canceller was used. The date was entered by hand: 1945 IV. 27.



Figure 13. Letter cancelled ASZOD P.U. device sent to the National Archives in Budapest.

On the reverse side, there is a Budapest 2 arrival cancellation dated V. 2. Also, there is an annotation made by a bewildered previous collector trying to explain the franking – overweight, in lieu of 3 P, 2 P etc. From this we can judge the importance of the article from the 2012/1 Philatelica that summarized the Budapest tariffs.

For quite some time, I was debating whether to show the next letter. It's not fitting to show such a worn and torn piece. True philatelists who care for such abused letters, especially when they are scarce or unique, should examine this ugly mailing along with me.

The frequently mentioned "first day" letter that was made famous by the attached newspaper clipping that listed the revised tariffs effective 2 March 1945 also listed the cost of overweight mailings.4 We can see that mail addressed to outside the capital's boundaries was 60 filler for up to 20 gm; 1 P 20 filler for up to 250 gm; and 1 P 60 filler for up to 500 gm.

I did not consider the weight categories very important since such heavier letters don't exist or can't be found. I was pleasantly surprised when, by chance, I did discover an overweight mailing. This was a banking correspondence sent by the General Credit Bank to the Credit Bank of Papa. Since a proper size envelope was not available, the mailing was improvised with the help of sealing tape to which the banks' letter seal vignette was attached.

It started its journey on the next to last day while the Budapest tariffs were in effect from Ujpest to Papa franked with 30 of the 4 filler Military Leaders stamps; creating a most interesting document for this era



Figure 14. Bank letter from Ujpest to Papa, sent on 45. IV. 29, franked with 30 x 4f Janos Hunyadi stamps.

Ujpest provides another nice mailing for us. Let's look at the next one.

We have a letter addressed to Mezobereny franked with 50 filler. Such a rate did not exist; it should have been 60 filler. This is confirmed by the "T" postage due marking applied in Ujpest. But, in Mezobereny which is located near Bekescsaba there was no awareness of the Budapest tariffs, the letter was considered overfranked – 50 filler in lieu of 30 filler – so why was there a postage due marking?



Figure 15. Letter sent for Ujpest to Mezobereny on 45. IV. 27. franked insufficiently with 50 filler. The black "T" marking was applied at the time of mailing but postage due was not collected in Mezobereny.

LAST DAY POSTCARDS FROM JASZ COUNTRY

We can only surmise the exact spread of the Budapest tariff area by looking at existing mailings. No written directives exist from this time. The postcard from Jaszszentlaszlo is surprising. This settlement lies along the Kiskunmajsa-Kisteleki railroad line, a fair distance away from the capital city. Nevertheless, it is franked in accordance with the Budapest tariff of 40 filler. (The post office only had stock of paid reply postcards, which were halved and sold for 18 filler!) We should not preclude that old tariffs were utilized for local postal traffic, only cards addressed to Budapest were franked with 40 filler so the recipients would not have to pay postage due.



Figure 16. Postcard cancelled with JASZSZENTLASZLO P.U. LEVELSZEKRENYBOL 45 IV. 30. sent to Budapest.

The next card was mailed from Jaszkohalma also on the last day of the tariffs, April 30th. It's manuscript endorsed "Paid, Jaszkohalma, IV. 30." This settlement is near Jaszbereny, and the card went to Pestszentlorinc. The two cards make a nice pair together.



Figure 17. Card mailed to Pestszentlorinc. The 18 filler indicium is supplemented with stamps to make up the 40 filler Budapest tariff rate.

MAILINGS POSTED IN THE PROVINCES AND SENT TO ANOTHER PROVINCIAL ADDRESS FRANKED ACCORDING TO THE BUDAPEST TARIFFS

Mailings are known sent from areas around Budapest that were franked according to the increased tariff rate even though they did not involve Budapest destinations. From this, we can see how quickly the utilization of the tariffs expanded. I must mention that these mailings were always correctly franked. Contrary to the Budapest examples, I have not seen any of these mailings serviced with postage due stamps. The reason for this may be that the practice of posting mailings in letter boxes in the countryside is not customary. Even everyday, ordinary mailings were sent from a clerk's window at the post office. The next figure shows a postcard sent from Szentendre franked with 40 filler. Again, the post office there did not have a stock of 18 filler postcards, so it used separated halves of paid reply cards.



Figure 18. The front half of a reply card supplemented with stamps sent to Nogradveroce on 14 April 1945.

The next letter, franked correctly with 60 filler according to the new tariff, went from Dunakeszi to Kisigmand. The cancellation provides an interesting example of something hand assembled using letters and numbers form a child's toy "printing press." Up until now, I was aware of only one other such provisional canceller used in Alag. The cancel here read "DUNAKESZI 1. 1945. III." without the day of the month.

The two settlements were eventually merged, but even back then, its post offices cooperated in assembling the provisional cancellers.



Figure 19. Letter from Dunakeszi to Kisigmand franked with 60 filler from March 1945.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE RETURNED AND THEN SEPARATED TERRITORIES (UPPER HUNGARY, SUBCARPATHIA, TRANSYLVANIA)

Mailings originating from here probably do not belong 100% in the discussion of the Budapest tariff; however, they are rare witnesses to the history of the time. In addition, I think that the arriving mail does have a connection to the postal history of Budapest. These, by far, exceed the scarcity of the so-called classical items since the items shown here are probably unique!

The following card, for lack of anything else, was made from a library stock of "Literatur-Kartei" in Rozsnyo. Its franking consists of two examples of the town's local issue of 18 stamps overprinted CSP that appeared on 15 February 1945 serving as 18 filler postage – unchanged from the old rates. (Thirteen different postage due stamps were also overprinted in quantities of 100-200, but these were not issued.) The overprinted stamps were valid until the end of March, barely six weeks. The sender Jozsef Dovala was a true philatelist who did not forget to ask that his mailing be returned to him even in those turbulent times.

It is interesting to read the text of the message that also included return instructions. This is the only card I am aware of sent with the Rozsnyo local overprints to Ujpest during the effectivity of the Budapest tariffs.



Figure 20. Postcard sent from Rozsnyo to Ujpest on 45. III. 6. franked 18 filler with the two value of the local issue. It was not assessed postage due upon arrival in Ujpest even though it would have totaled 44 filler!

The 2 March 1945 directive did not deal specifically with arriving from the separated territories. Later on, the need for such specifics was amended since such mail was not too infrequent.

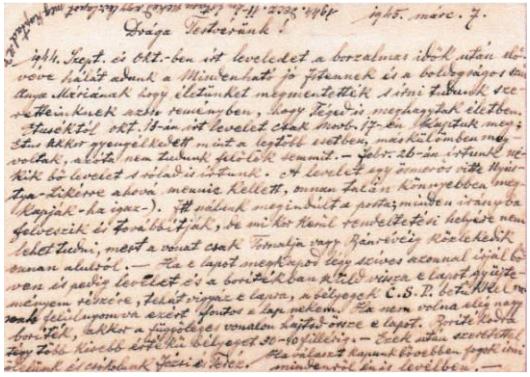


Figure 21. The reverse side of the card with return instructions.

Next is a fieldpost card that is very interesting. In Huszt, the short-lived Czechoslovak postal administration in Subcarpathia – 8 November 1944 to 17 January 1945 – overprinted 500 originally free franking cards with the text "Ceskoslovenska Posta 18 f." and bars covering up the Hungarian text. Not all of these cards were utilized during the short CSP era, so an unknown number of remainders were overprinted again by the Soviet-Russian postal administration of Subcarpathia.

This time the text "Zakarpatszka Ukraina" covered up the "18 f." valuation. Bars covering the Czech text and a new value "40" was also added. This overprint was prepared in Munkacs.

The card mailed from Tiszujlak (Vylok) sent to Budapest required 1 Pengo franking according to tariff in effect in Subcarpathia. The franking was supplemented with a 60 filler stamps from the 2nd issue of Ungvar. This stamp was relatively plentiful – 7,078 copies were made out of total number of 42,264 stamps.

A cancelling device did not exist in Tiszaujlak, so the card was manuscript endorsed, including the date: 14. III. 45.



Figure 22. Postcard sent from Vylok (Tiszaujlak) to Budapest on 14 March 1945 with handwritten marking. The card was initially overprinted in Huszt to 18 filler and then revalued to 40 filler in Munkacs. Franking was supplements to 1 P.

The next card is just as interesting. The 18 filler card was overprinted in Beregeszasz to 40 filler. (The almost vertical typesetting shows a Russian variation of the word "Ukaine" with a Cyrillic 'i'.) It was posted in Munkacs, supplemented with a 60 filler stamp, and sent to Budapest. The card contained private correspondence that was dated "27-II. 945" that indicates it must have arrived in the capital city around the time of the re-start of postal service. The text of the large format, standardized Subcarpathian canceller reads "Zakarpatszka Ukraina Munkacsevo" utilized violet-black ink, while the censor stamp on the left side was violet in color.

The 60/20 filler stamp was from the 2nd Ungvar issue of which 1,462 copies were made.

So let us look: the card was overprinted in Beregszasz; the stamp, in Ungvar, and the posting in was Munkacs.



Figure 23. Postal card (Otkritka) revalued to 40 filler sent to Budapest with additional 60 filler postage.

The third postcard has the characteristics of the second overprinting in Munkacs according to the information from Dr. Simady. They are the following:

1. Paid reply card – of which more were left over in stores – overprinted after separating.
2. The color of the overprint in red.
3. New value 1.- (Pengo)
4. The "i" in "Zakarpatszka Ukraina" is not Cyrillic but a Ukrainian-style "i" with 2 dots.

The card sent to Budapest on 16 April 1945 is from the correspondence of Dr. Gyorffy. The color of the cancellation is violet; the censor mark is green.

N.B. Until 15 November 1945, the currency of Subcarpathia remained Hungarian. Banknotes up to 100 P were used alongside coins.

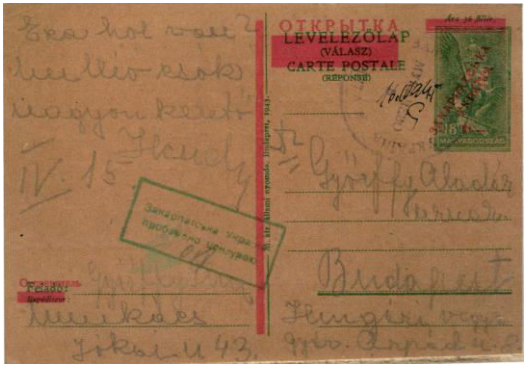


Figure 24. Locally prepared postcard with red OTKPbITKA overprint sent from Munkacs to Budapest. This is a single know example.

Dear Collectors! Having studied the most extensive collections of Subcarpathia for the past 45 years – from the perspective of Subcarpathia-Budapest correspondence – I can vouch for the fact that no more than 6 mailings are known to have arrived in Budapest during the Budapest tariffs period. Readers can feel satisfied that they can view half of the world's stock of these items here.

Continuing geographically, let's review three mailings to and from Transylvania.

First of all, a postally used cover to Transylvania spurred my interest. The Red Cross cancellation in the upper left creates the impression of an official mailing, but we know that it is not. We know it would have been postage free. In this example, we see the private correspondence of two individuals. The rubber stamped envelope came from the office but it was franked in accordance with the Budapest tariffs on March 30th. The other interesting fact is that the sender, although he lived on Kassai Street 32 in the XIVth District, did not mail the letter within the city but took it outside to Ujpest. In Figures 14 and 15 we have seen other mailings posted in Ujpest and sent to Papa and Mezobereny, respectively. From this I could conclude that the inhabitants – perhaps from newspapers? – became aware that letters could be mailed from Ujpest, a part of town where the train station had suffered less damage that allowed special trains to run. Of course, back then there was no such thing as regularly scheduled train service.



Figure 25. Letter bundle wrapper made from the military newspaper from the post office in Cegled subsequently to the end of the fighting on 18 December 1944. It is an especially valuable but unappreciated piece of postal history.

The forwarding of letters occurred as the "Levelzarlat" wrapper sent by the Cegled post office to Alberti-Irsa from 18 December 1944 documented transportation possibilities. Irsa is the place from where the postcard sent to Kispest shown in Figure 12 originated. Now we know how it was able to get there!

Let us examine the travel route of the Transylvania letter. - Our eyes catch the coincidental nuances of the address: together with Mrs. Szilagyi's letters in Szilagy County, attention Mrs. Zilah… - Next after the March 30th Ujpest canceller we find the transit mark of the Romanian version of the Nagyvarad cancel with the text OFICIUL P.T.T. ORADEA 1. 15 APR. 1945.



Figure 26. Letter from Budapest mailed in Ujpest on 30 March 1945 sent to Kemer in he recently detached part of Transylvania franked with 60 filler in accordance with the Budapest tariff distance letter rate.

The reverse side shows another transit strikes of SIMLEUL SILVANIEI 21. APR. 45 (Szilagysomlyo) and MARGITTA 45. IV. Hungarian survivor. Kemer – Camar in Romanian – did not have a post office at that time. It is worthwhile to mention the unbelievable fact that I know of no other letters sent to Transylvania during this time…

I will repeat myself that the post office did not specify a foreign letter rate when it promulgated the Budapest tariff. It is possible that this was overlooked because of the turbulent times. Still, it may not have been necessary because of the miniscule number of incoming and outgoing letters. This situation was changed only in the 2nd (!) rate period of the inflation – starting on July 2nd. Until that date, there was no official letter traffic with foreign countries.

Let me show another item sent to Budapest from Nagyvarad on 21 February 1945. The letter bore 3 P 30 filler franking. This was the result of the local, increased, and slightly complicated rate structure:

- *Letter rate* according to the old rate structure: 30 filler. - Postcard with imprinted 18 filler indicia were accepted for use. – These needed to be supplemented with old stamps without overprinting.

- *Local tariff surcharge* per item: 1 Pengo (independent of whether it was a postcard or a letter.) This was to be paid with new, overprinted stamps.

- *Registration fee:* 2 Pengo, which, again, needed to be paid with overprinted stamps.

The letter was addressed to the technical director of the Post at the Budapest Postal Directorate. Since it does not show any more specific street address, the sender must have been aware of the grave situation in Budapest.



Figure 27. Registered letter sent to Budapest from Nagyvarad on 21 February 1945 addressed to the technical director. It was franked with 3,30 P in accordance with the local tariff effective in Nagyvarad.

The next figure shows a postcard from Nagykaroly where the Nagyvarad tariff was in effect. The card does not have a cancellation from the time of posting nor is it franked with any locally issued Nagyvarad stamps.



Figure 28. Postcard sent to Budapest from Nagykaroly franked with 1,18 P in accordance with the Nagyvarad tariff. Stamps were cancelled upon transit through Kolozsvar on 15 March 1945. Card shows a bi-lingual censor handstamp.

The postal worker made up the required 1 pengo surcharge by using old stamps but did not cancel them. This was done in Kolozsvar when the card transited through the post office there.

I acquired one on the most spectacular Transylvania covers from stamp dealer Laszlo Lacza back in the late 1980s. The second weight class letter from the Providentia insurance company sent to Budapest shows a franking of 3,64 pengo. This amount can be analyzed as such:

- Overweight letter 60 filler in lieu of 30 filler. Because of a slight oversight, an extra 4 filler was applied; hence, the amount became 64 filler. Old stamps could be used for this.
- Local tariff surcharge per piece: 1 pengo. Overprinted stamps needed to be used.
- Registration independently of everything else: 2 Pengo. Overprinted stamps needed to be used.

From Gabor Voloncs's very exacting article published in the "Szabolcsi Belyegujsag" volume 13, number 3-4 we find that only two such letters sent from Transylvania exist. (Luckily, I visited Lacza one more time…)



Figure 29. Second weight class letter with intra-company correspondence sent from Nagyvarad on 15 March 1945 to Budapest. The envelope was franked with an extra 4 filler stamp. (Total franking: 3,64 P in lieu of the required 3,60 P.)

V In conclusion, I'd like to show a curiosity. The letter addressed to the Red Cross in Budapest was sent from Nagyszalonta, Transylvania. Gabor Voloncs's research identified that a post office was functioning there and mailings are known but only in small numbers. How this letter got to Budapest without being cancelled upon posting or in transit is impossible to ascertain. Most likely it was carried to Budapest by a traveling soldier. Civilians were not authorized to travel such a distance back then. The fact is that the letter was correctly franked with 1,30 Pengo in accordance with the Nagyvarad tariff. The 1P/1f Arpad stamp overprinted at Nagyvarad was not recognized by the delivering post office, so the letter was forwarded to the Main Post Office. There it was recognized as postage free mail to the Red Cross, cancelled with the Budapest 4 device and delivered.



Figure 30. Letter from Nagyszalonta franked correctly in accordance with the local tariff with 1,30 Pengo. The letter most likely was mailed in Budapest where it was cancelled on 19 March 1945. There is a manuscript processing annotation on the envelope two days later: "Detailed information requested. 945. III. 21."

Hopefully, in the future, additional interesting mailings from this period will be found. Due to the scarcity of these pieces, this work is very preliminary. Thank you for your interest.

Translation by Csaba Kohalmi

Mafitt-members with Gold awards in the World Stamp Show New York 2016



Bob Morgan (US) and Ralph Ebner (D)





Bill Hedley (GB) and Szucs Karoly (H)

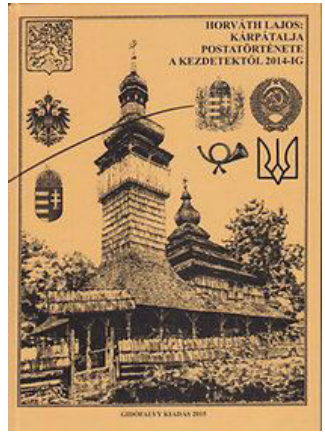
NEWS

2016 was a very successful year for the Mafitt membership. Starting in May, ***Karoly Szucs*** won the Grand Prize at the Alpok-Adria International Stamp Exhibition with his exhibit titled „Documentary Revenue Cancellations in the Hapsburg Empire 1686-1858" (see it on our home page).

At the same show, ***Peter Gidofalvy*** acepted the FEPA 2015 literature prize on behalf of ***Lajos Horvath***, who was unable to attend. Gidofalvy edited and published Horvath's book, in translation of the Hungarian Title „The Postal History of Subcarpathia from the Beginning to 2014." Both of these indivduals are Mafitt members.

The HUNFILA exhibition held at Szombathely involved international participants. The International Grand Prize was awarded to ***Hadmar Fresacher*** for his exhibit titled „The Postal History of Carinthia to 1883." The National Grand Prize went to ***Denes Czirok*** to the exhibit titled „The Expansion of Mail Traffic in Hungary 1750-1817." These two individuals are also Mafitt members.

NEW PHILATELIC LITERATURE





These books are available at the authors, but Mafitt supports the circulation also.

The following exhibits of our members were awarded with gold medal in the World Stamp Show in New York this year:

Geza Homonnay	Postal History of Hungary 1867-1871, Championship class	LG
Ralph Ebner	The leave underprint revenues from Austrian Empire and its countries 1854-1875, REV Class	LG
Bill Hedley	Postal Services in the Hapsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1900, Postal History	Gold
Robert Morgan	Hungary: The Hyperinflation 1945-1946 , Postal History class	Gold
Szucs Karoly	Hungary's First Documentary Revenues During the Forint-Krajczar Currency Period 1868-1898, REV	Gold

Hopefully, reinforcement is on its way through ***Janos Manz***, who won a Large Vermeil medal in the oldest junior exhibitor group with his presentation of World War II fieldpost. He was excepted into our membership this year. The above listed outstanding successes of our members contributed greatly to accomplishing the goals laid out in our by-laws of advancing Hungarian philately and promoting the ever-increasing international reputation of Mafitt. In the name of our collective membership, we would like to thank all of them for their tireless efforts in achieving such brilliant accomplishments!

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.)

Újságunk teljes tartalma és digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető.

www.mafitt.hu

The numbers of this journal are given on our website.
With our authors' permission the contents are listed there.

XXVII. évfolyam

ISSN 0324–4806

Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság
Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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

A Philatelica nyomdai kivitezéséhez a **Gervay Mihály Magyar Postatörténeti Alapítvány** nyújt támogatást-

Ára: 1.800 Ft

A Philatelica díjai − Awards of Philatelica



2013.
LS





2014.
LS





2015.
LS

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását e kiállítások között helyesbítettük
The Mafitt's name in English were corrected among this exhibits

17
1

Philatelica

Philatelica 2017/1

Tartalom / Content:

Martin Rhein:	Művész vagy csaló? Jean de Sperati hatása a magyar filatéliára Artist or Forger? Tracing the impact of Jean de Sperati for the Hungarian Philately	1.
Mervyn Benford:	Magyarország új pénznemű kiadásai 1928, a magyar filatélia jövőbeni gyöngyszemei − 2. rész 1928 New Currency Issues Future Gems of Hungarian Postal History − Part 2	9.
Vas István:	Nyomási eltérések magyar bélyegeken Printing Irregularities on Hungarian Stamps	15.
Horváth Lajos:	A Szlovénia számára kiadott postabélyegek szerb ellátmánykénti elterjedése Dél-Magyarországon 1919-1921-ben The General Use of Postage Stamps Issued for Slovenia as a Result of Serbian Distribution in Southern Hungary in 1919-1921	27.
Dr. Nemes Szilárd − Kállai László:	Az enesei provizórikus bélyegző The Provisional Canceller of Enese	36.
Hírek / News		38.

Szerkesztő / Editor	Szücs Károly, Mafitt titkár / secretary of Mafitt
Fordítók / Translators:	dr. Homonnay Géza, Kőhalmi Csaba
Tanácsadók / Consultants	Filep László, bélyegszakértő / philatelic expert Dr. Lővei György, a Gervay alapítvány elnöke president of the Gervay Foundation Sebestyén T. Tamás, a Mafitt tagja / member of Mafitt Mervyn Benford, President of The Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain

ARTIST OR FORGER? TRACING THE IMPACT OF JEAN DE SPERATI FOR THE HUNGARIAN PHILATELY



MARTIN RHEIN - LUZARCHES, FRANCE

Classical Hungarian philately, until about 1900, contains a number of forgeries that are not considered very dangerous. With only a few comparable stamps and well founded knowledge most of the fakes can easily be identified. The ArGe "Hungary" shows on their homepage a number of images for all who are interested in this subject matter[1]. In addition several sources in literature[2] will be helpful as well.

A peculiarity of forgeries of Jean de Sperati, due to is very high quality following, these forgeries and their creator shall therefore be discussed in depth.



Figure 1: Jean de Sperati with his wife Louise[3]

Jean de Sperati was born October 14, 1884 in Pistoia (Tuscany region) as Giovanni Sperati. He was the fourth son of the family and probably the activities of his brothers led him to become one of the greatest forgers in philatelic history.



Figure 2: Image of Sperati at his work

His oldest brother Massimo made his income as a stamp dealer while Mariano was working as a photographer. He was the one who taught him the secrets of photography, development of the pictures and the correlation of the chemical substances used in photography. His work at his cousin's paper mill during his school breaks allowed him to gain special knowledge regarding the production of paper. During this time he presumably built up his import and paper stock

[1] See under: http://www.arge-ungarn.de/forgeries.htm
[2] See also: Visnyovszki, G : Fakes Forgeries Experts No 4.
[3] Image 1: Blanc-Girardet, Lucette: Jean de Sperati, L'homme qui copiait les timbres, Mouxy 2003, page 32

that would become of great importance in his later career.

In 1909 the Sperati family was already recognized as forgers when the police unveiled their activities in their workshops in Turin and Pisa. During the subsequent trials[4] their activities were made public to the larger philatelic public. By the way, during their appeal hearing[5], all accusations were dropped and they were acquitted. One interesting detail of the trial is the fact that one of the experts invited was Erasmo Oneglia, one of the most famous forgers of classical stamps at the beginning of the 20th century.

In 1910 Giovanni Sperati leaves Italy for France where he also changes his name to Jean de Sperati and gets married. In the beginning of his time in Paris he works for his brother Massimo.



Figure 3: The Hungarian Stamps of Sperati[6]

In 1930 he opens his own studio in Aix-les-Bains and moves in one year later into the Villa „Claire de Lune“.

His "creative" period lasted until the early 1950's during which he is believed to have forged over 450 different stamps from almost 100 different countries, including the matching cancellations. Only some of his "imitations" were signed by him.



Figure 4: Page of the samples of stamps submitted by Sperati for examination to the BPA, including a 2 kr litho printed stamp in the center of the lower row. [7]

Sperati also forged, of course, stamps from Hungary. Within the stock of Sperati, which were in October 1952 handed over to the British Philatelic Association the so-called "livre d'or".

The Golden Book was found. This book contained all the stamps which had been considered genuine by the philatelic experts of that time and Sperati had preserved. In the "livre d'or" two lithographic prints of the 2 Kreuzer were found as well that had been signed by two German philatelic experts[8]. At present forgeries of the 2 Kreuzer, 3 Kreuzer, 10 Kreuzer[9] and 15 Kreuzer are known. The number of produced

4 Blanc-Girardet, Lucette: Jean de Sperati, o.o.A., psge 48

5 Blanc-Girardet, Lucette: Jean de Sperati, o.o.A., psge 24

6 Image 3: all stamps (except for the 10 kr) from the collection of the author.

7 The shipment of proofs contained a total of 6 pages. Compare: Lowe, Robson, Walske, Carl: The Work of Jean de Sperati II London 2001, page. 193 ff

8 The Work of Jean de Sperati Part I + II – The Text, published by BPA, London 1955, page 165

9 The 10 kr is a new discovery mentioned for the first time in : "The Work of Jean de Sperati II". So far only the stamp shown in that publication is known.

stamps cannot be determined anymore. It can be assumed that several collections still contain a number of Sperati forgeries.

Sperati also produced and marketed so-called print samples. The different characteristics of the forgeries will be presented as well as their identification.

The forgeries of Hungarian stamps known to the author are either signed by Sperati or marked with the hand cancel of the British Philatelic Association "SPERATI REPRODUCTION"[10].

Since the entire stock that had been purchased in 1953 was also cancelled with the cancel of the British Philatelic Association, it can be assumed that the other stamps had been sold by Sperati before that date.



Figure 5: 2 kr litho print with the pencil signature of Sperati & Figure 6: 15 kr litho print with the cancel of the British Philatelic Association[10- 11]

The forgeries were produced by the so-called photolithographic process which enabled the forger to produce stamps very close to the originals, produced by the lithographic process.

The used cancels are original which can be explained through the use of "worthless" original stamps, like the 5 Kreuzer or the 1867 issue. Sperati replaced the original image of the stamp by his prints.

Interesting enough, Sperati also offered in his catalogue used Franz-Josef-Stamps which have not been detected yet. He also seems - in contrast to his usual procedure - not have produced any cover forgeries.



Figure 7: Section of the price list Sperati with top left offer of unused and used stamps of the 1871 Edition of Hungary [11]

The specific features of identification of the 2 kr, 3 kr and 15 kr values have been made available to the public in the already mentioned publication of the BPA " The Work of Jean de Sperati". This publication also indicates that only one cliche for the Hungarian stamps was produced, which carried the following dates: 2 kr 1953, 3 kr 1940, 15 kr 1947.

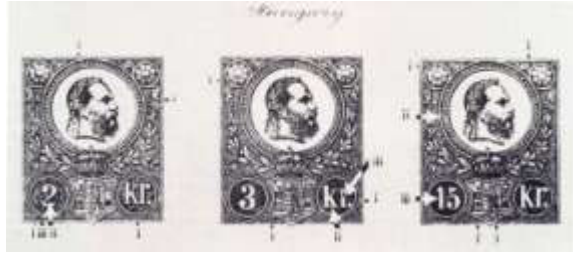


Figure 8: The representation of the types from: The Work of Jean de Sperati Part II – The Plates

[10-11] Image(s) from the collection of the author

[11] Image taken from: BPA The Work of Jean de Sperati, London 1955, .o.A., Plate J

It can be assumed that these dates were only used for archival reasons, since all forgeries had been in circulation before these dates. The BPA mentions that the photographic negative for the 2 kr stamp had been dated December 8th 1914. Unfortunately the glass negatives for the Hungarian Stamps must have been lost, since they were nowhere to be found in the French Postal Museum during the visit of the author in May of 2009.

Based on the original forgeries the individual characteristics indicated in the publication of the BPA "The Work of Jean de Sperati" will be presented and tested for their "reliability". The "i" (please see image 8) of the BPA -types will be replaced by numbers for simplification.

Characteristics newly discovered by the author will be indicated with capital letters (A...). For a clear orientation the stamp in image 9 is shown with a measuring grid in Millimeters.

No detailed description is given of the 10 kr value as only unused examples are known[12].

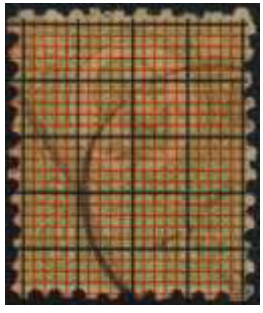


Figure 9: 3 kr stamp with an overlaid grid in millimeters

[12] Compare: www.belyegmuzeum.hu/1871/0015-001.html

2 kr Orange

1. Fractures in the lines of the outer frame:
   a. top frame: 8 mm measured from the left frame;
   b. left frame: 6 mm measured from the upper frame;
   c. bottom frame: 1.5 mm measured from the left frame;
   d. bottom frame: 3.5 mm measured from the right frame.
2. White dot upper the foot of the “2”.
3. Black dot just above the bottom frame, 3.5 mm measured from the right frame.



Figure 10: Locations of the BPA-characteristics (1-3), new characteristics (A), (B)

The author has examined five 2 kr stamps that either carry the Sperati signature or the stamp of the British Philatelic Association. Besides two new definitive characteristics (A) and (B) it is significant that all Sperati - samples show the distinct characteristics of the type VIII of the 2 kr litho printed stamps. It can be assumed that Sperati used the type VIII as his sample.



Figure 11: The genuine Type VIII 2 kr compared to the Sperati design ; for easier identification I do not show characteristics 3 and 4 separately.



Figure 12: Black "Sample“ signed by Sperati from the Sir Gawaine Baillie-Collection (Sotheby's 2010)

Figure 13: The "Sample Print" shown here was sold at H. Kohler (Wiesbaden - Deutschland) in September 2012 shows the characteristics of the type VIII as well as the characteristics A and B.

Enlarged representation of the different types using 3 stamps as a sample:



3 kr Green

1. Fractures in the outer frame lines:
   a. left frame: measured 3.5 mm from the upper frame;
   b. right side frame: Weak areas in the corner area;
   c. lower frame: measured 12.5 mm from the left frame[13].
2. White connection between the serif of the left foot and the right leg of the k.

[13] In The Work of Jean de Sperati, Part I o.o.A. 1953 in p.165, is supposed to be some pieces manually retouched

3. Green dot in the letter r at mid-height, as in lithography type IV.



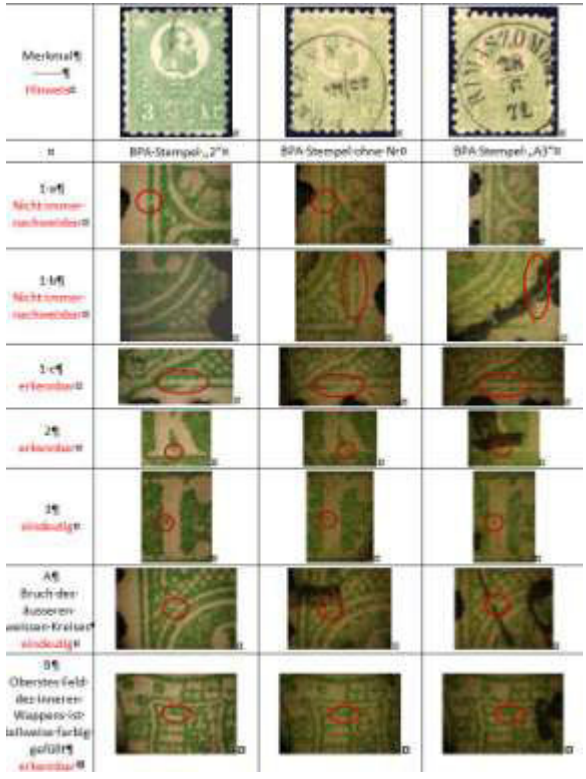
Figure 14: Location of the BPA-characteristics (1-3) new characteristics (A), (B)

New characteristics (A), (B)

Ten different stamps were examined marked with either the Sperati signature or the stamp of the British Philatelic Association. Unlike the 2 kr value none of the existing original stamps could be identified as the "template" for his forgeries.



Figure 15 + 16: These "Proofs" were auctioned in September 2010 by H. Koehler (Wiesbaden - Germany) and show the characteristics A and B.



15 kr Brown

1. Fractures the outer frame:
   - a: frame at the top: 5 mm measured from the right edge
   - b: left frame: 1 mm measured from the upper edge
   - c: lower frame: 8 mm measured from the left margin
   - d: lower frame: notch 11 mm measured from the left margin

2. Beads 16 and 17 on the right side (counted from top centre) are connected and form an E

3. irregularities on the left edge of the 1 slightly below the centre



Figure 17: Location of the BPA-characteristics (1-3) new characteristics (A), (B)

Unfortunately the author was able to examine only four copies of 15 kr forgeries. One of the copies has the Sperati signature on its back, the two others are marked with the stamp of the British Philatelic Association. Since all stamps and the coloured proofs have the type V characteristics of the original, it can be assumed that such a type V served Sperati as a template.



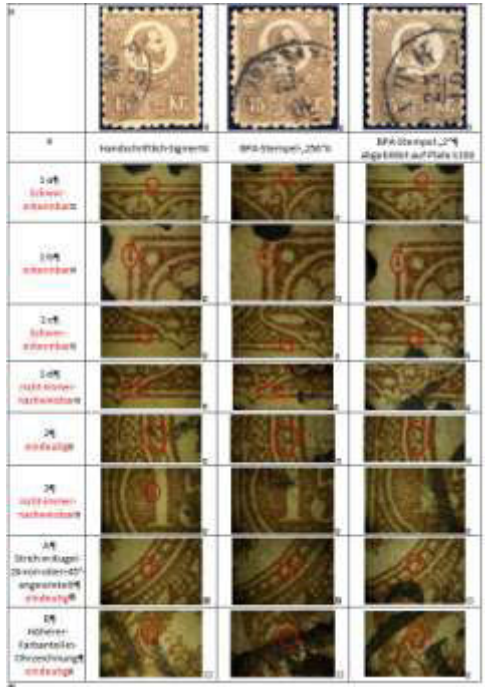
Figure 18: The 15 kr original stamp as type V 14[14] in comparison with the cutouts of the Sperati.

[14] see: www.belyegmuzeum.hu/1871/0046-001.html



Figure 19: "Specimen" from the Sir Gawaine Baillie-Collection (Sotheby's 2010)

Figure 20: This "Trail Print" was auctioned in 2010 by H. Koehler (Wiesbaden - Germany) and shows the characteristics of the type V of the original as well as the characteristic A.



The research results presented here will have multiple meanings for Hungarian philately. On one hand the detailed description of the characteristics of Sperati Forgeries allow an unambiguous recognition. This will deprive the "providers" of their "business model", offering cheap counterfeit or damaged originals as a supposedly better Sperati forgery. In the light of the recent years that showed prices of 50 € - 80 € for a perforated example and an easy to reproduce handwritten signature it is easy to imagine the lure.

In addition, Jean de Sperati initially sold his "artwork" unsigned, so that in one or the other collection an undetected "Sperati" could be hidden. Finally the works of Jean de Sperati should be mentioned, 3 copies (No 2) , titled "Philately D'ART LES Jean-de- SPERATI" of which one was auctioned in 2011.



Figure 21: Two original pages of the "PHILATELIE D'ART LES JEAN-DE-SPERATI" that was sold in 2011 at the Auction house Gärtner (Lot 13724) containing the 225 "Epreuve" including on page XV the three Hungarian examples. The foreword mentions that it is the 3rd edition "en 3 (trois)".

Additionally the author encourages others to complete these results. It remains unclear why an original stamp type could be identified for the 2 kr and 15 kr values but not for the 3 kr. And what about the 10 kr? Is it really an "original" from Sperati? Any attempt to clarify this became more complicated by the fact that the collection of the French Postal Museum, that had received all glass panels from the Sperati inventory, not one seems to be in existence.

Used literature:

[1] Blanc-Girardet, Lucette: Jean de Sperati, L'homme qui copiait les timbres, Mouxy 2003

[2] British Philatelic Association (Hrsg:) The Work of Jean de Sperati, London 1955

[3] Lowe, Robson, Walske, Carl: The Work of Jean de Sperati II, London 2001

[4] Visnyovszki, Gabor: The forgeries of the classic stamps of Hungary, in: Fakes, Forgeries & Experts Journal Nr 4, Castagnola 2001, 13.o.

[5] The website of Hungarian Stamp Museum: www.belyegmuzeum.hu/1871

Used auction catalogues:

[6] The Sir Gawaine BailileCollection,Volume X auctioned by Sotheby's London 17-19.1.2007

[7] 18. Gärtner – Auktion 6.-10. Juni 2011.

[8] 341. Heinrich Kohler Auktion 18.-24.9.2010 Wiesbaden

Translated from German[15]: the Author and revised by Tamas Sebestyen (Paris)

[15] The original script in German can be found on the CD attachment. *The Editor.*

1928 NEW CURRENCY ISSUES
FUTURE GEMS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY – PART 2



MERVYN BENFORD, LONDON

In the first part I described just how interesting is the postal history of the 1926 new currency issues. It concerned watermarks, perforations, design changes, postage rates served and their changes. In the tables I showed just how many and different examples the enthusiastic collector can find. The series of overprinted face values- in most postal administrations usually higher- are especially exciting because these all had lower than original values. The Post Office needed additional smaller denominations to serve new situations. Mixed franking become a major collecting interest and challenge.

I mentioned the parallel postage due issues and they have a longer story than in my previous article. This present article reflects postage due aspects. It will be mainly in the illustrations as the story of postage due itself is well-known- unpaid mail, under-paid mail, the calculation of postage due- including special Hungarian situations, and of course international conversion where foreign mail is concerned. In Hungary postage for mail from official sources was very often paid for by the recipient- and postage due stamps were used. No penalty was applied, though, just the normal postage rate for the item.

As with the definitive issues the new overprinted stamps were soon required- as early as 1927. Icarus airmail stamps of the Inflation period were used. The 500, 1000, 2000, 5000 and 10 000 airmail stamps became respectively 1,2,3.5 and 10f. Inflation period stamps themselves remained valid for dual use- but only until 31 March 1927. Other inflation issues had slightly different end dates for dual use- all in 1927.

The collector can find NC period mail franked entirely still with inflation issues or with mixed franking. Postage due has the same fascinating examples.

Illustration 1 shows a Croatian language parcel return form processed in Szeged on June 22 on its way back to a sender in Stari Becej (former Hungarian Obecse-lost at Trianon.) There is a bold manuscript reference dated the day of the Szeged postmark and postage due charge referring to the fact the "*l'expediteur"* had a problem with the parcel and wanted it sent back to the originating office! I am



Illustration 1

not sure if "*l'expediteur"* is the original sender deciding not to send it after all or the recipient for some refusing and so becoming the technical 'sender' of the returning parcel. Either way the Szeged post office calculated 80f fee and though new currency stamps had arrived found it convenient to use up a pair of over-printed 5000K on 5K inflation postage dues still worth 8f per 1000K. The back of the form is blank but has more manuscript explanation.



Illustrations 2 es 3

Illustrations 2 and 3 are examples of the Hungarian system of charging Postage Due for storage of parcels not collected with due notified time. On the backs of both forms, where any charges were usually recorded and the stamps affixed, someone has explained in writing why the charge has been made. In the first example 29 days were overdue and charged the equivalent of 24 000K old money.

However the new currency stamps had arrived during the period of storage so could have been used on April 20th. if the post office had them. They probably preferred to use up old stocks of the overprinted inflation postage dues- in this case strips of 4 x 1000K and 5 x 5000k respectively. In new currency terms (1000K = 8f) this was a heavy charge- 2.32Pengo! The second cost less, effectively 88f, paid with 11 000K in inflation postage dues- 11 days overdue.



Illustration 4

Illustration 4 shows an under-paid postcard from Austria charged 12f postage due paid with new 8f + 500K (=4f) from the inflation postage due stamps. Later, I show another item from Austria with 12f charge paid with the very little

used 12f on 50f overprinted postage due issue. Perhaps 12 f was useful on under-paid Austrian mail!



Illustration 5

Next I show a special novelty- from 1936, *(Illustration 5*) an under-paid foreign postcard with 6f calculated extra to pay: a small slip of official paper has been affixed to the postcard rather than any writing. Was this so the recipient could still read it? And enjoy the picture? If so it was a very thoughtful act by the postal clerk involved! On the slip of paper he fixed two x 1f overprinted Icarus postage dues and a 3f Icarus but had to stick the third 1f on the back! These 1927 stamps remained valid until the end of 1936 but they do not come up for sale on original mail too often.



Illustration 6

Blocks might be used- for example 4 x 1f *(Illustration 6)* when a normal 4f stamp existed. In this case the 4f comes with a pair of new currency 8f to make the 20f postage due charge on a Customs Department letter that needed re-addressing.

1929, not 1928 as with the normal stamps, saw the second postage due issue- the first postage issues with the new watermark. Face values were also changed: now only 2,4, 8,10, 16, 20 and 40f denominations. They are all even numbers with emphasis on multiples of 2 and 10. Less used 1926 issues- 5f, 50f and 80f – were dropped, though remaining valid. The choice of some of these stamps for later overprinting tells of plenty of spare stocks.

On 1st. January 1931 appeared some of these new overprinted stamps- this time using new currency Porto issues- 4f on 5f, 10f on 16f and on 80f, 12f on 50f and 20f on 32f. It does seem from the overall pattern of all stamp issues, normal and Porto, that a need for a 10f denomination, and multiples of ten, seemed important, with smaller denominations for the sometimes odd charges that particular postage rates involved, especially with weight steps and registration/express- such as 1.12P.

Postage due always had the problem of the calculations arising from unpaid or under–paid foreign mail needing unusual face values. The 4/5f and 10/16f came with both perforations and all four versions are catalogued more highly than the rest. The 12f on 50f is not easy to find used.



Illustration 7

I have just one (*Illustration 7*) an under-paid postcard from Austria. An under-paid letter from Chile produced a heavy charge of 78f involving the two higher value normal postage dues, 32f and 40f, but also a pair of the 3f. overprinted Icarus stamps (*Illustration 8.)*



Illustration 8



Illustration 9

The addressee to pay system produced another intriguing item in my collection (*Illustration 9)*- a letter sent at local rates but also registered and still requiring the payment on receipt. It meant a payment of 23f (8f + 15f registration) paid using a pair of 10f on 10 000K and 3f on 200k overprinted Icarus Porto issues.



Illustration 10

Illustration 10 is another unusual example. An under-paid Czechoslovak postcard arrived at Miskolc station post office and though on its way to Putnok 22f postage due was calculated

and stamps affixed, 4f and pair of 8f normal Porto and the 2f overprinted Icarus stamp. In Putnok this was changed to 20f and those Miskolc stamps invalidated and replaced by 16f normal Porto and a pair of the same Icarus overprints.



Illustration 11

A straight example is a letter posted at 10f when the national rate was 20f. 20f Porto was therefore charged and paid with a rather useful block of 4 of the 5f on 5000K Icarus stamps, the most difficult of the series to find used (*Illustration 11.)*



Illustration 12

An underpaid letter from England received a lot of postal attention as the state of the envelope shows. Two delivery attempts were made, each with a 32f charge and each ultimately invalidated as the letter finally went back to England. In the process a block of 4 x 8f and a 2f + 10f + the less used 20f normal Porto all became used in vain (*Illustration 12.)*



Illustrations 13 - 14

Illustrations 13 and 14 feature postal stationery. The first is a "megbizasi lap" document where the payment was refused. A 10f on 80f overprinted stamp was used. The second is a parcel form- sadly only the stamped portion- showing a charge of 1.20P paid with a pair, block of four and block of six 10f on 80f overprinted stamps. Recently a similar document with 20 x 6f on 8f charge was sold at the excellent Darabanth auctions for 16 000Ft. If it was Perforation B it was a bargain! These were the normal definitive overprinted stamps and presumably it was easier to place so many paying the normal parcel charge on the back. Mine used postage due overprints so the charge was probably due for storage and late collection. It is much lower catalogue value but how many others do readers imagine exist used in this way?

Finally two under-paid foreign postcards (Illustrations 15 and 16.)



Illustration 15

That from Austria needing 12f fee failed first time- the stamps, a scarce combination of 8f + OP4f/5f, cancelled and a more obvious 10f +2f used for the successful delivery.

The second with an SHS stamp was charged 32f- 20f and the rather scarce OP10f/16f. The New Currency period indeed has much to offer.



Illustration 16



PRINTING IRREGULARITIES ON HUNGARIAN STAMPS

ISTVAN VAS, SZIGETVAR

I am using the term 'printing irregularities' because it is more encompassing than the terms 'printing error' or 'plate flaw.' As you know, the Children stamp with different inscription is called an 'error print' albeit it is not an error in printing; the stamps were withdrawn. Similarly, in the case of the KELETU, the error is a flaw in the plate.

On the ensuing pages, I will show stamps that are either unlisted in literature or catalogues or are so scarce that they are seldom encountered.

First of all, I will review a quite scarce and very interesting example of the black numeral krajcar-denominated stamp. According to the Monograph, a trial printing were prepared in 1897: "The trial printings prepared in 1897 of the 2, 3, 10 and 20 kr values, only the trial printing on original stamp paper of the 10 kr is known in blue colour with light blue or black surface printing."

Illustrated below are the stamps issued in original colours as well as the trial printings (3, 10, 12 kr) in different colours. The additional oddity is that these trail prints have been invalidated by the postal cancellation: M.KIR. Postaszer/vezet/ KOZPONTI RAKTARA BUDAPEST 97 jun 2.

The positioning of the cancellation is almost uniform which leads to the question of were individual stamps cancelled or possibly an entire sheet of stamps? Most likely, it is the former since other examples of these stamps are not known, although unused examples of the 3 and 10 kr values have surfaced. The stamps are perforated 11.5 and are printed on thin, parchment-like paper with watermark I.



Figure 1

Continuing, I will review the other special variations of the black numeral krajcar issues.



Figure 2. The 5 krajcar with double numeral of value (as shown in Gabor Visnyovszki's Belyegkonyv) as well as an inverted numeral (used copy, not from the Szecsodi examples)



Figure 3

15 krajcar vertical pair: the numeral '5' is missing from the upper stamp. On the 1 ft stamp, the surface printing is significantly shifted. One other such copy is known.



Figure 4. Stamps without numerals of value

The missing numeral of value on the turul stamps represents a major error. This was caused when the printing element fell out of the plate from a specific position. Only one copy of the 1 filler stamp is known, and the example is damaged.

Ban mentions the 1 korona stamp. I know of 4 copies, including one used one, although all are damaged.



Figure 5. Blocks of stamps with an example of a missing numeral

The 3 filler is mentioned in the 10-11 1917 issue of the Senfjournal. Five sheets were located in Újvidek on which the numeral was missing from the stamp in position 42. The Monograph, based on report from Dr. Weinert, stated that such stamps had not been observed by anyone and that they have not been able to find any collector who possessed such a copy. In addition to the block shown, I am aware of the existence of another such example.

The 70 filler was discovered in Fiume. According to Imre Hamza, 8 to 10 such sheets could have existed. One stamp is used, one is in an unused pair, and one is in a block of 9 indicating that the missing numeral is from position 90. The block is unique.



Figure 6. Harvesters stamps with missing numerals

Missing numerals of value on the Harvesters-Parliament stamps were caused by flaws in the printing plate or poor inking. Dr. Weinert classified the 2 filler value as a great rarity. The picture of the 5 filler stamp with KOZTARSASAG overprint is illustrated in the catalog; however, no other expert or philatelist knows about the existence of other copies.



Figure 7. The 10 korona value is considered unique (blind printing on the right side numeral of value)

Sometimes, luck plays a role in stamp collecting. It is lucky that two upper right corner blocks of four survived of the 50 filler inverted numeral of value with inverted overprint stamp. This indicates that two such sheets existed, and it is the philatelist's luck that both ended up in the same hands.



Figure 8



Figure 9

Here two interesting can be seen: a nice double print of the frame and a pair on which the upper numeral of value is 120 while the lower one is 200. The Monograph states conflicting opinions about it; however, I have an attest from Gyula Madarasz in my possession.



Figure 10

The 3 filler stamp with missing KOZTARSASAG overprint came from complete sheets on which the overprint was omitted. On this block of four, only one stamp is missing the overprint.

The greatest rarity of this issue is a complete sheet of the 15 filler value on which the frame is inverted in positions 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 (and not the numeral of value as indicated in the catalogues). This is the one and only complete sheet.

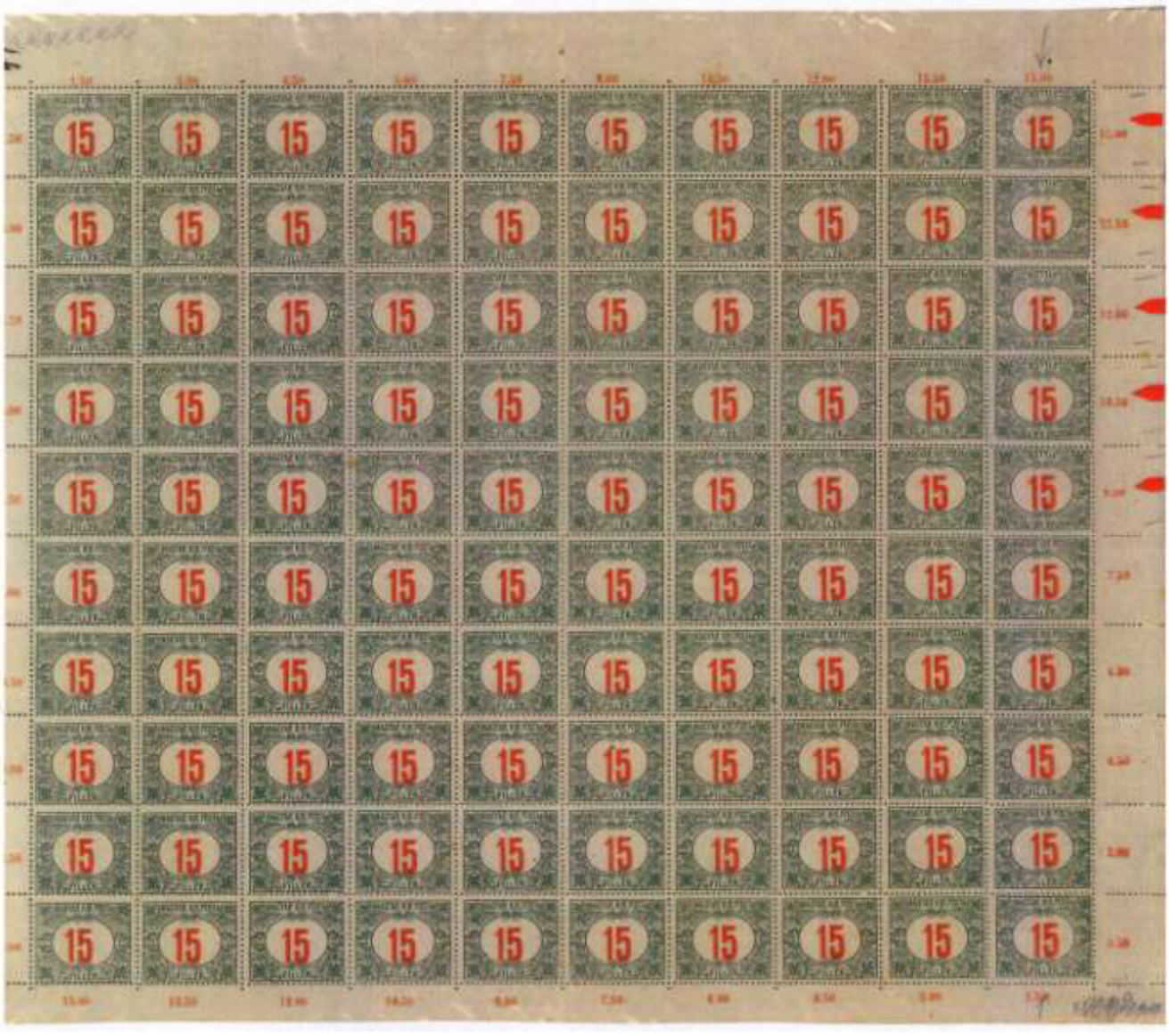


Figure 11. Stamps with inverted frame in the upper right corner of the sheet



Figure 12:

Pair of 15 filler stamps with the numeral of value missing from the stamp on the left (a result of a fold in the sheet) is another great rarity from this issue.



Figure 13:

Another great rarity is this block of 4 overprinted KOZTARSASAG with the upper left stamp missing the numeral of value (it probably fell out of the printing plate). Each of the two items is unique.



Figure 14

The existence of the so-called inverted HIVATALOS stamp has been known for a long time. I am showing this because only used copies turned up in auctions in the past years (three copies, however, I was unable to examine them to detect any similarities based on the cancellations). I identified this mint copy to be from sheet position 85 in an earlier article of mine (Belyegvilag, July 2005 issue). A small gap in the line of the frame is visible on this stamp.

The post-1945 issues offer a plethora of printing irregularities. Since these irregularities from the inflation era have been well publicized, I am going to illustrate only two. Neither is listed in the catalogs.



Figure 15

The first is an inverted 30 filler overprint on a Saint Margaret stamp. Dr. Bernath wrote a review of this in the February 2009 issue of Belyegvilag. The pair illustrated in that article and this example are the only known copies, which were cancelled at Dunaszentgyorgy. Most likely, the rest of the stamps from the sheet were used there and were later destroyed.



Figure 16:

The second is a pair of 20 filler stamp surcharged to 8 pengo with double “Helyi lev-lap” overprint.



Figure 17. Double overprint



Figure 18. Alj. error overprint instead of the correct Ajl.

The complete sheet of "Hl. I." overprint has a double overprint in positions 90 and 100. I have in my possession the logbook from the State Printing Office which states that the overprint occurred on a damaged sheet that stuck together with an undamaged sheet. The damaged sheet had two stamps missing from the indicated positions. When the two sheets were separated, the undamaged bottom sheet was overprinted resulting in a double overprint in the two positions.

Shown above is a sheet of Ajl. I overprinted stamps. In position 54, typesetting Alj. I. was made by mistake. The post office discovered the error and removed the error stamp, either as a single or in blocks of 9. The warehouse of the Philatelia Hungarica Company yielded three complete sheets with the error as well as two sheets on which the typesetting in position 54 was correct. The Monograph made the erroneous determination that these sheets were obtained illegally. Currently, the know numbers of error sheets is three; of the non-error sheets, it's two.

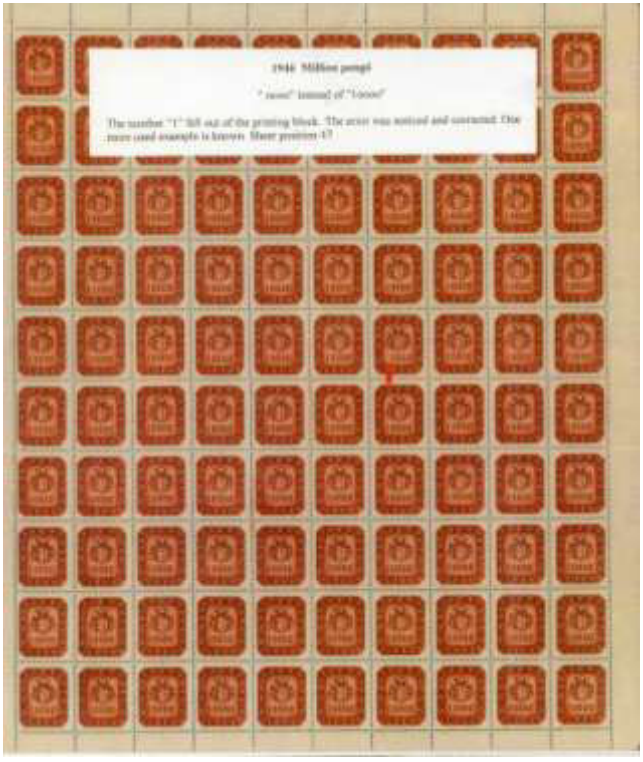


Figure 19

Countless shifted numerals are known to exist for the Milpengo stamps; however, only one copy (from a complete sheet) is known to show ‘0000’ for the numeral of value in lieu of ‘10000’ in position 47. The number ‘1’ is missing, probably because of the error in the printing plate.



Figure 20.

The 4 P/4 f value from the BEKE I. series is frequently encountered with a mirror image of the letter ‘N’ in the word NEPFOISKOLAKERT (it’s called a Cyrillic ‘I’ according to some). A similar typesetting on the 10 P/30f stamp is a presently unique rarity from this series. Its authenticity is confirmed by the dimensions of the letter, the greenish-black colour and the slight relief on the reverse side of the overprint.

Partial overprints and positive reverse side overprints are shown below. These are the results of partially folded or torn sheets. These are mentioned in the Monograph.





Figure 21



Figure 22

1951 Provisional postage due. Double overprints were discovered only in recent years.



Figure 23

In figure 23 the numeral of value is missing due to a flaw in the printing plate. The block of stamps shown were original in one piece but were separated. These are the only examples with which I am familiar.



Figure 24

1954 Fruits series 50 f value is missing the red colour (this has not been recorded in literature).



Figure 25

1959 Joseph Haydn and Friedrich Schiller. Shifted colour printing can be observed on the 1 Ft Haydn and the 1 Ft Schiller stamps (unknown in literature).



Figure 26

1960. Rome Olympics. Inverted red printing on the souvenir sheet (the catalog does not mention this, but the Handbook of Hungarian Stamps does).



Figure 27

1963. New Year (I). The silver printing is missing for this 20 filler value. On the basis of the width of the margin, this copy is most likely from a booklet and quite possibly most of the other copies were destroyed. Up until now, only this one example is known. It has not been mentioned in literature.



Figure 28

1963. Garden Flowers. On the stamps shown, the background colour is noticeably different. According to an attest from Gabor Visnyovszki, this is either a trial printing or a printing made using different colours for the background. Alterations using chemical agents or exposure to light has been excluded.



1971. Illuminated Chronicles. One of the error prints from this series is the 1 Ft value printed without the denomination. The stamp shown here was previously unrecorded with a double printing of the numeral of value.

Figure 29



Figure 30

1970. Paintings /VII/ with missing gold colour. It is unknown in literature.



Figure 31

1974. Exploration of Mars. A horizontal, cancelled-to-order pair with the stamp on the right missing the denomination and the inscription. There is nothing in the literature about this.



Figure 32

1972. European Soccer Championships. Due to incomplete inking (gold colour), the denomination is missing from the bottom two stamps in the sheetlet. Literature has not acknowledged this.

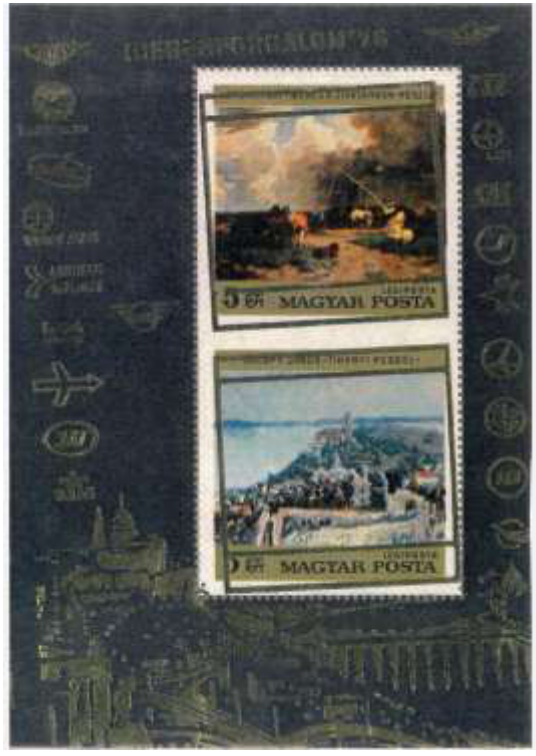


Figure 33

1976. Paintings (XV) – Tourism (I) souvenir sheet. The gold printing /frame, text/ is significantly shifted on this souvenir sheet. It does not appear in literature.



Figure 34

1981. Alexander Fleming. The silver colour is missing from the stamp. This stamp was used on a mailing sent to youth stamp clubs announcing the release of this stamp. It's anyone's guess as to what happened to the others. Most likely, they were destroyed because the omitted colour was not detected. Literature is not aware of this.



Figure 35

1982. Day of Stamp (55.) Omitted silver colour, isn't mentioned in the literature.

1987. The Jessze-altar of Gyongyospata. The stamp with attached label was issued in sheets of 25. The original colouring is brownish that was the result of reddish-brown colour printed on top of greenish base colour. According to my sources, two sheets exist without the second, reddish-brown colour. As a result, the background remained green. The sheets were sent to a regional club for new issue distribution. Stamps were separated from one sheet, while the second remained intact and is shown here.



36. abra

Translation by Csaba Kohalmi, Indianapolis

THE GENERAL USE OF POSTAGE STAMPS ISSUED FOR SLOVENIA AS A RESULT OF SERBIAN DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTHERN HUNGARY IN 1919-1921



LAJOS HORVATH, VERESEGYHAZ

French general Franchet d'Esperey, the commander of the Armee d'Orient, presented an 18-point cease fire agreement to Hungarian Prime Minister Mihaly Karolyi on 7 November 1918. The Hungarian delegation deemed the terms to be unacceptable and did not sign the agreement. Nevertheless, Bela Linder, a minister without portfolio, eventually acceded and signed it on November 13th after receiving instructions from the government.

It was unnecessary to deceive Hungarian diplomacy using such devious tactics since the fate of the Banat region had already been determined via secret negotiations conducted in 1916 while the war was still in progress. Also, prior to the November 13th cessation of hostilities agreement and two days before prime minister Mihaly Karolyi's November 7th trip to Belgrade, the units of the 1st and 2nd Serbian armies received orders to "In the north, occupy a line ten kilometers to the east of Fehertemplom-Versec-Temesvar-Arad. In the Bacska region, they are to occupy the line from Szeged-Szabadka-Baja. Westward, they are to extend the action across the entire areas of Smyrnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Hercegovina and Dalmatia."

On November 13th, the Morava division of the Serbian army crossed the Danube at Újvidek and occupied the towns of Zombor, Szabadka, and Baja. The Drina division crossed the Drava at Eszek and on November 15th took possession of the town of Pecs. A company each of its soldiers was ordered to Mohacs and Barcs. The Danube division advanced through the Banat and occupied Lugos, Versec, Nagykikinda, Temesvar, Resicabanya, and Nagybecskerek. Serb cavalry established itself in Lippa, Arad, Nagyszentmiklos, and Szoreg.

The 17th paragraph of the Belgrade convention stipulated that Hungarian administration was to remain in place in the areas occupied by the entente forces. Nevertheless, the Skupština (assembly) of Vojvodina met at Újvidek on November 25th and adopted two resolutions. First, it voted to join the Serbian Kingdom. Second, it declared the southern region's /Vojvodina/ separation from Hungary.[1]

1. SERBIAN-ROMANIAN MINI-WAR IN THE BANAT

Tensions increased between the Serbian and Romanian occupying forces in the Banat. By December, an actual mini-war broke out in the seized land. The Serbs and the Romanians both demanded the same territory. In order to keep the conflict from escalating, the French sent troops to separate the two sides. They arrived in Szeged and Arad on January 2nd and extended

control to the regions around Temesvar, Lugos, and Versec.2

By March, the 76th French division was based in Szeged while the 214th French division was located in Arad in order to separate the SHS Morava division ensconced in the Temesvar region from the 1-2 Romanian regiments centered on Deva and Brad. The easternmost region of the SHS occupation extended east of Temesvar along the Temes River.

The situation of the hostile armies on 16 April 1919.



Map 1. S.H.S. Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes

Other sources indicate the French soldiers /colonials/ arrived in Szeged on 10 December 1918 and established a command center at the railway station on December 15th. The town itself was not occupied until December 30th. Újszeged had been under Serb occupation as of 24 November 1918.

The advance of French, Southern Slav, and Romanian troops, November 1918 – March 1919



Map 2.

Situation of the hostile armies, 16 April 1919.



Map 3.

Arad was occupied by Serb forces on 21 November 1918 and then was occupied by the French on December 31st. The Hungarian town of Arad's connection with Budapest was severed. Only the French were able to maintain telephone and telegraph connections with their censorship office in Budapest.

Temesvar was occupied by the Serbs on 17 November 1918.[3]

Serb-Romanian mini-war in the Banat in 1919



Map 4.

According to the entente decision, the Serbs were to evacuate Banat by 2 August 1919. The withdrawal started on 27 July 1919 when the Serbs evacuated Temesvar. On that same day, Romanian civilian officials started to arrive; then, the Romanian army came on August 4th.[4]

Stamps issued for Slovenia used in 1920-1921



Map 5.

2. THE OVERPRINTING OF HUNGARIAN STAMPS IN SOUTHERN HUNGARY

The Belgrade convention left in place the Hungarian administration in the occupied territories. The Hungarian postal service was in agreement with this decision. This agreement had a sedating /paralyzing/ effect on the Hungarian government. Consequently, the Hungarian Post remained in place, at least in the beginning. This is supported by the fact that at the time of the Serbian occupation, Hungarian stamps were overprinted in Temesvar with Hungarian text. The postal directorate of Temesvar consisted of the following counties: Bacs-Bodrog, Krasso-Szoreny, Temes, and Torontal. The stamps overprinted on 1 May 1919 were placed in use there. The reason given for this had to do with the fact that the diminishing supply could not be replenished from Budapest.

Temesvar came under Romanian occupation on 20 August 1919. Romanian overprinting followed.

In between, the Temesvar postal directorate issued a second set of overprinted stamps which

we call the Banat-Bacska series. In order to produce these, not only the entire stock of stamps from the storage warehouse of the postal directorate was overprinted, but also the stock collected from the offices in the directorate's jurisdiction. As a result, the Temesvar postal district was emptied of all stamps. In addition, no request was made for approval to issue the stamps promulgated under directive 28.955 on 10 July 1919, and the overprinting was not sanctioned by the Hungarian Post.

The individual post offices in the district did not receive the stamps until 27 July 1919, as which time they started to sell them to the public. They received stamp only from the larger quantities of overprinted denominations while the central office retained the scarcer stamps and sold them to collectors and dealers at a premium.

The Serbian occupation of Temesvar and its associated postal history ended in August of 1919. This was followed by the Romanian rule, with which I will not deal at this time.

In the area between the Danube and the Tisza rivers, there appeared a set overprinted with the Serbian coat-of-arms. Supposedly, a Serb commander ordered this issue. It saw circulation in the post offices of Pancsova, Petervarad, Temesvar, Titel, Újvidek, and Zimony obliterated with the surviving Hungarian place and date cancellers.

The earliest known postage cancellation of PANCSOVA 1919. FEBR. 14. N. 12.[5]

The supply of stamps of the postal directorate of Pecs was exhausted by 11 January 1919 while Mihaly Karolyi's government was still in power. Since the directorate could not receive additional supplies from Budapest, the officials asked for and received permission to overprint and surcharge to a higher denomination all available stamps from the securities warehouse. The approval for this request was provided by directive number 7155 dated 30 March 1919 and was promulgated in the Hungarian Soviet Republic's Post and Telegraph Notification of Postal Matters dated 30 April 1919.[6]

"I authorize the Postal and Telegraph Directorate of Pecs to overprint with the text 'Dunantúli megszallas 1919' /Transdanubian occupation/ its stock of 2 filler stamps surcharged to 105 filler, the 5 and 15 filler stamps surcharged to 45f, and the 2 filler postage due stamps to become 40 filler, as well as the 6, 50, 60, 70, and 80 filler turul-design stamps which have been invalidated earlier, still similarly with 'Dunantúli megszallas' text to be reused at full face value."

As can be seen, the directive did not authorize the use of Baranya for the overprinting. It did not call for a large scale increase in postal tariffs, and provided permission to place the turul stamps into circulation again. Lajos Solti, the postal director of Pecs used great latitude in implementing the permission received from the central postal authorities. He intended to utilize the entire stock of stamps available lest the Serbian authorities expropriate it and apply and SHS overprint to them. He did not like the text 'Dunantúli megszallas' that was authorized by the communists, who had taken over the Budapest postal directorate, since the text would have de facto recognized the existence of a foreign occupation. Thus, the use of Baranya in the overprinting provided a good alternative solution.

The postal directorate of Budapest received notice of these developments after the fact and had no

other choice but to accept them. Directive number 13.171 dated on June 7th was published in the official notifications dated 14 June 1919.

"Pursuant to my directive number 7155 that appeared in the current year's 'P. es T. R. T.' I am instructing the post offices that the directors of the post, telegraph and telephone of Pecs, instead of the overprinting stamps with the authorized 'Dunantúli megszallas 1919' text, brought the following stamps into service on May 5th of the current years with 'Baranya 1919' overprint without changing the face value: 2, 3, 5, 6, 15, 35, 40 filler harvesters; 6, 50, 60, 70, and 80 filler turul; 10, 20, 25 filler portrait of King Karoly, 40 filler Zita; 50 75, 80 filler and 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 korona parliament; 10, 15, and 50 filler war aid postage stamps; and, finally, 2, 10, and 20 filler postage due stamps. A part of the 5 and 15 filler as well as the 2 filler harvesters postage stamps were overprinted 45 filler."

The stamps overprinted during the Serbian occupation are classified as circulated Hungarian stamps by the catalog. This is quite possibly an approximation. The Temesvar I-II issue and the Banat-Bacska were valid until *15 March 1920;* the Baranya I-II use extended until *21 August 1921*. I feel the need to mention this. A more thorough examination could yield more exact and detailed results.

3. POSTAGE STAMPS ISSUED FOR SLOVENIA

The Michel catalog leads into the listing of Jugoslav stamps by starting with three entities. In the years 1918-1920, the issues for Bosnia, Croatia, and Slovenia were created mostly by overprinting Bosnian and Hungarian stamps. It lists Serbian issues starting from 1866 and concluding in 1919 separately. Still, we have to group these with the previous issues so that they would be together with the postage stamps of the SHS Kingdom, which then became Jugoslavia.[7]

The earliest manifestation of the SHS monogram appeared on Hungarian stamps overprinted for Croatia. The use of stamps of original designs issued for Slovenia in 1919-1920 is characterized by a west to the east expansion along with the 1918-1919 SHS stamps in Slavonia, Smyrnia, the region between the Danube and Tisza rivers, in the Banat up to the Temes River. This is typical of the stamps with new designs issued for Slovenia that were put into service in 1919-1920 in the Banat along the lower reaches of the Temes River.

The utilization of these is striking in that the aftermentioned area occupied by the Serbs and in the Voijvodina region of southern Hungary that was later attached to Serbia, the postage stamps picturing the rulers of the Kingdom of Serbia issued in 1918-1919 were not introduced. But, the region was blanketed with the stamps produced for Slovenia. There are possibly many reasons for this process.

The earliest cancellation in my collection is one from Szabadka used on 18 May 1920. This really looks like it follows[16] the March 15th 1920. I can also mention one from Újvidek from September 1920. A late usage worthy of attention from Madaras on 21 May 1921.

[16] Compare: „The Temesvar I-II issue and the Banat-Bacska were valid until *15 March 1920*". (Editor.)

Stamps issued for Slovenia cancelled with surviving Hungarian place-date cancellers.

1. MAGYA/RCSERNYE? N.20. N.7. Torontal County, Zsombolya Township Mi 113.



Magyarcsernye

Comment: The stamp was issued on 15 May 1920. Currently Serbia.

2. MADARAS 1921 MAJ 21. Mi 106.



Madaras

Comment: Known as Bacsmadaras until 1904. Currently Hungary.

3. POZEGA ? NOV. 3. N. Mi 103.



Požega

Comment: West of Eszek between the Drava and Sava Rivers.

Currently Croatia.

4. SZABA/DKA 1920. MAJ. 18. N. 9 Mi 100.



Szabadka

Comment: Currently Serbia.

5. SZLAT/INA 920. ? Mi 105. Krasso-Szoreny County, Teregova Township. Temesszaltina.



Szlatina

Comment: Currently Romania.

6. TEMES/SZECSANY ? Temes County, Vinga Township. Mi 103.



Temesszecsany

Comment: Currently Romania.

7. UJVIDE/K 920. SEP/T. ? Mi 103, 120.



Ujvidek

8. VUK/OVAR ? Mi 104. A Szeremsegben a Duna jobbpartjan.



Vukovar

Comment: Formerly part of the Krajina Serb Republic. Currently Croatia.

9. DARUVAR 920. MAJ. 3. Mi 107. Pozsega County.



Daruvar

Commnet: Sent to Graz-Waltendorf. Lot 40 from DUNAFILA 33 Auction, 28 Feb. 2016.

Currently Croatia.

10-11. BATASZEK 920. JAN. 20 es 29. Tolna County. Sent to Pecs, Hungary. Lot 1650-1651, Darabanth 3 Auction, 3 June 2006.





Bataszek

We can also add nine cancellations from which the town name is missing to our collection. These may provide some supplemental data. Using only the stamp bearing town names, the following were used: Michel 100, 103, 104, 106, 107, 109, 113. Adding this without town names: Michel 101, 102, 107, 109, 115, 120. This data, despite its shortcomings, represent the fact the stamps issued for Slovenia did not reach Southern Hungary by accident but were supplied there on purpose. With this observation, we can open a new topic in the area of occupation issues, something that may create more surprises.

The first postage stamp that was valid for the whole area of the SHS Kingdom appeared on 16 January 1921 /Michel 145/. With this issue, a new chapter started in the postal history of the South Slav people. The design, production, and issuance of the first SHS stamps occurred in Croatia. The postal utilization of these shared stamps was authorized the regulation from the minister of posts /42849 from 1920. XII. 15./, and permission was granted by King Petar I Karađorđević /1905-1921/ and Regent Alexander /1914-1921/. Both of them are depicted on the first stamps of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats,

and Slovenes which became knowns as the Kingdom of Jugoslavia in 1929[8]

This topic as discussed here touched upon the postal history of Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, and Romania. The French military intervention was not discussed as a part of Hungarian postal history.

Lajos Horvath
Retired technical advisor
to the office of the National Assembly,
holder of the Gervay Prize and medal,
the 2nd place recipient
of the FEPA Medal for Exceptional
Philatelic Study and Research in 2015

Notes

1. Suranyi Laszlo: A temesvari helyi kiadasok 1919. Philatelica 83/1. 1-14.
2. Magyarorszag hadtortenete Foszerk.: Liptai Ervin. Bp., 1985. 198, 202 es 218 terkep. Cserni Gyorgy: A temesvari belyegkiadasok hovatartozasa es bermentesitesei 1919-1920. Belyegvilag - filateliai szemle 2007/4. 6-9. Cserni Gyorgy: Francia megszallas Aradon - "Francia megszallas felulnyomat" /I-II. resz/ Belyegvilag - filateliai szemle 2011/8-9. 24-25 es 26-27.
3. Dr. Kelemen Bela: Adatok a szegedi ellenforradalom es a szegedi kormany tortenetehez. Szeged, 1923. 37, 215, 217 es 220.
4. Slobodan Bajić: Marke izdate u Temišvaru u vreme srpske uprave 1919. Beograd, 1998.
5. Jaszai Emanuel Janos: A magyar belyegek katalogusa. Bp. 1927. 155-156. es Dr. Bodor Mihaly gyujtemenyenek darabjai.
6. Jaszai i. m. 141-145.
7. Michel Sudeuropa 2001/2002. 809-814. 1256-1257.
8. A horvat belyegkatalogus 2007. evi kotetenek eloszavabol. Forditotta Dr. Bodor Mihaly.

Maps

1. Area of the Temesvar Postal Directorate – Suranyi i.m. 2.
3. Advance of the Serbian, French, and Romanian troops, November 1918 – March 1919.
Magyarorszag hadtortenete 2, 197.
4. Deployment of the hostile forces on 16 April 1919. 218.
5. The 1919 Serbian-Romanian mini-war in the Banat. A magyar belyegek kezikonyve, Bp. 1968. 524.
6. The utilization of stamps issued for Slovenia. Designed by LH.

Tranlation by Csaba Kohalmi, Indianapolis



THE PROVISIONAL CANCELLER OF ENESE

DR. SZILARD NEMES – LASZLO KALLAI

The many decades of the history of the Hungarian Post encompasses countless examples of interesting, temporary, provisional solutions. This is especially true regarding the use of cancellers.

Over the years, several thousand cancellers were used. In the beginning, post offices and post master enjoyed free reign in preparing and designing cancelling devices. This initial chaotic environment was soon replaced with centrally controlled regulations governing the form, the text, and the graphic contents of the cancellers.

Immediate need, nevertheless, disregarded regulation; and, consequently, philatelic literature lists many such provisional solutions.

One outstanding example is the "Endred" cancellation (1). The canceller of this non-existent post office was used briefly until the post office of Koroshegy, 5 km from Endred, was opened. The provisional canceller of Endred happens to be the scarcest example of Hungarian philatelic markings.

The cancellation shown here probably resulted from such solution born out of necessity. The device was used on 4 September 1906 as an arrival canceller on a 2 filler newspaper stamp (1904 issue watermarked VI). In the village of Enese, the cancelling device E 3.201 (F1 y2 and y32) was is use between 29 January 1892 and 17 April 1917.



Figure 1. Arrival cancellation used in the post office of Enese on the newspaper stamp

According to the commonly accepted principle, cancelling devices that contain similar style lettering and design elements constitute, as a group, a certain type. This cancellation corresponds to the description of the E 3.20 (Fly3) type when viewing the style of the letters for the settlement name, the numbers of the year and date. Still, the usual format of using three letters to indicate the month was exchanged with a numeral. Also, the style of the number indicating the month is different from the style of numbers for the year and day of the month. Comparative

analysis reveals that an insert was used temporarily that was originally intended for the day of the month. The numbers 9 indicating the century as well as the month differ substantially (Figure 2.). The numeral for the century is significantly higher and narrower than the number 9 designating the month of September.



Figure 2. The numeral 9 indicating the century and the month from the cancellation shown in Figure 1.

This is in agreement with other E 3.20 (F1y3) cancellations (Figure 3).



Figure 3. E 3.20 (F1y3) cancellations

On these four cancellations, the numeral 9 indicating the century corresponds to the numeral 9 of the century shown in Figure 1. The numerals 9 indicating the day of the month, however, correspond with the numeral for the month in the cancellation shown in Figure 1.

The type F cancellers represent the most widely used type of cancellation group. Thus, deviations from the norm can be anticipated. Volume VI of the Monograph of Hungarian Stamps (3) mentions that such occurrences are sporadic but have happened, such as the year being indicated with a single numeral. The loss or damage to the inserts is the most likely explanation. The missing or damaged inserts usually were replaced quickly. On this cancellation, it is not the numeral of the year that represents a deviation, but the fact that the month was replaced with a numeric insert. This provisional solution, most likely, was in use for a few days, until October 1906 at the latest.

Naturally, the fact that faking occurred cannot be ruled out. Counterfeiting of entire philatelic objects and cancellations is a known fact. (4,5).

Literature

1. Vendel Jozsef. Az Endredi provizorium. Egy nem letezo postahivatal belyegzoje. Philatelica 2012 (1): 28-33.
2. Gudlin Tamas. Magyarorszag klasszikus postabelyegzoi: helyhez kotott postahivatalok fobelyegzoi. 2004
3. Kostyan Akos. A magyar postaigazgatas belyegzoi (1867-1967). Magyar Belyegek Monografiaja VI.
4. Suranyi Laszlo. Hamisitott belyegzesek klasszikus belyegeken. Philatelica 1980 (2): 16-21
5. Cornides Sandor. Modern belyegzeshamisitvanyok. Philatelica 1989 (1): 36-39.

Tranlation by Csaba Kohalmi, Indianapolis

International philatelic Symposium in Sopron

We are announcing that our international symposium, originally planned for the fall, will be held May 5-7, 2017 (due to conflicts with the programs of our international partners). The site will be the visitor centre of the Faculty of Forestry Engineering of the University in Sopron in the beautiful nature setting of Loverek.



By the way, the theme of the symposium and the focus of the presentations will the 150th anniversary of the first stamp issue in 1867 by the independent Hungarian Post.



The greatest and most sought after rarity of this issue is the red 3kr that is reproduced on the annual Mafitt membership stamp. It is advantageous to pay the annual dues, especially if you had not done it already.☺

In order to make arrangements ahead of time required by the configuration of the meeting room and the need for synchronized translation services, it is necessary to pre-register. Our members may do so electronically or via postal letter.

The agenda and program was promulgated in detail in the invitation:

Friday, May 5: arrival in the afternoon

Gathering in the Hotel Lover between 6 and 9 P.M. for the purpose of conversation, philatelic exchange, and a get-acquainted dinner.

Saturday, May 6: 9:30A.M. to 4:30P.M.:

Symposium presentations with simultaneous German/Hungarian translation in the "Ligneum" conference hall of the University in Sopron. Address: Bajcsy Zsilinszki Street 4.

We are organizing a city tour for the companions of the attendees.

7:00P.M. to 9:00P.M. Mafitt dinner at the Hotel Lover restaurant.

Sunday, May 7:

9:30A.M. to 11:00A.M. Mafitt customary general and commemorative meeting.

* * *

The topics of the presentations made during the symposium will illuminate the philatelic connections and historical back ground of the time frame that the Hungarian Post's first stamps were issued 150 year ago.

9:30A.M. Dr. habil Csaba Borsodi: Development of the new governing methods and technical management after 1867

10:15A.M. Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer: The sociological and military history of Austria between 1849 and 1867

11:30A.M. Dr. Geza Homonnay: The postal history of the 1867 Hungarian stamp issue

12:25P.M. Karoly Szucs: The fiscal stamps associated with the first Hungarian postage stamp issue

15:45P.M. Ing. Werner Schindler: Historical letters with storied from the Austrian Levant

16:30P.M. Appraisal and the conclusion of the symposium

* * *

A small exhibition on-site will display a selection from the entries that proved most successful in recent years in international exhibitions as well as examples, many of them great rarities, from the first Hungarian postage and fiscal stamp issues.







Calling for presentations for the "150th anniversary of the independent Hungarian postal administration and the Hungarian stamp"

In 2017, the independent Hungarian Post and the appearance of the first Hungarian stamp will celebrate their 150th anniversary. The Stamp Museum, the Hungarian Post, Ltd., the Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research (Mafitt), the National Organization of Hungarian Stamp Collectors (MABEOSZ), and the Internet Stamp Collecting Club (IBK) are announcing call for presentations the winner of which will be determined by a joint judging committee. The results will be announce this coming summer during a commemorative celebration at the Stamp Museum.

The application form was available for submission via the internet, or email or by postal mail up until February 18th. The subject of the presentation could be any one of the following categories:

1) Exhibition: the theme of "150th anniversary of the Hungarian stamp" or "the independent Hungarian Post is 150 years old" presented as an exhibit of stamps, postally used mailings or postal history.

2) Dissertation: A synopsis of the results of the philatelic and postal history research of the subject.

3) Film: Production of a film by an amateur on the subject of "150 years of the Hungarian Post".

4) Historical research: The results of an independent research titled "My dear mother's letters" containing personal finding from letters and postal mailings and revelations of family stories in any format (exhibition, dissertation, novel, film, animation, photographs, pictorial essay, etc.)

Remembering Professor Istvan Lang



We are saddened to have to inform our members that Professor Istvan Lang passed away on December 17th following a lengthy, serious illness at age 85. He was Mafitt's first president and later, its honorary president.

He completed his education at the Agricultural University of Ivanovo between 1950 and 1955. Between 1955 and 1963, he conducted research at the Soil Sciences and Agricultural Chemistry Research Institute. He worked in the secretariat of the Hungarian Academy of Science between 1963 and 1993 first as a scientific secretary, then as an assistant chief scientific secretary, and finally, as head secretary. After 1993 he was the chief advisor to the presidency as well as a research professor.

He became acquainted with stamp collecting during his early school years. After a hiatus, he resumed actively collecting topicals: birds, fish, space exploration, and Nobel-prize winners on stamps. He was considered an expert in the last topic. He was invited by the Swedish Academy of Science to Stockholm in 1988 as part of the academy's 250th anniversary to make a presentation on the topic of "Nobel Prize winners on worldwide stamps." He also organized a thematic presentation of Nobel Prize winners for the World Science Conference held in Budapest in 1999.

As a part of his academic activities, he eared kudos for his enthusiastic efforts in bringing about the Mafitt organization and assuming its presidency. He held this position for a long time and conducted the organization's affairs well. He contributed greatly to establishing international connections.



His contribution to Mafitt's 2014 „Gems of our collections" salon can be considered his farewell testament. It contains a message of honour and love that can be viewed at: http://www.mafitt.hu/kepek/bemutatok/szalon4/67.pdf

The Hungarian Academy of Science placed the honoured professor to rest as its own deceased member in the Fiume Graveyard, where, among others, Mafitt laid a wreath to pay our respects.





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 (e nyelvi mutáció 50 alatti példányszámban.)

Újságunk teljes tartalma és digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető.

www.mafitt.hu

The numbers of this journal are given on our website.
With our authors' permission the contents are listed there.

XXVIII. évfolyam

ISSN 0324–4806

Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság
Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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

Ára: 1.800 Ft

A Philatelica díjai − Awards of Philatelica



2013.
LS





2014.
LS





2015.
LS

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását ebben az időszakban helyesbítettük
During this period Mafitt's name in English was changed

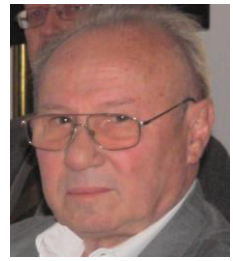
A Philatelica nyomdai kivitelezéséhez a **Gervay Mihály Magyar Postatörténeti Alapítvány** nyújt támogatást-

17
2

1867-2017

Philatelica

Philatelica 2017/2



A magyar bélyeg születésének 150. évfordulójára emlékező jelen lapszámunk cikkeit dr. Nagy Ferenc (Bécs) írta

The articles of this commemorative issue of the 150th anniversary of first Hungarian stamps have been written by dr. Ferenc Nagy (Vienna)

Tartalom / Content:

Szerzőnkről − About Our Author	1.
Patrióta bérmentesítések − Patriot Frankings	2.
Magyarországi felezések 1850-1867 között − Bisects in Hungary from 1850 to 1867	5.
Az utolsó mohikán − The last of the Mohicans	9.
Az 1945-46-os Újjáépítés-kiadás története − The story of the Rebuilding issue of 1945-46	12.

Szerkesztők / Editors Czirók Dénes és Szücs Károly

Fordítók / Translators dr. Homonnay Géza, Kőhalmi Csaba, Sebestyén T. Tamás

Tanácsadók / Consultants Filep László, bélyegszakértő / philatelic expert

Dr. Lővei György, a Gervay alapítvány elnöke
president of the Gervay Foundation

Mervyn Benford, a Nagy Britanniai Magyar Filatéliai Társaság elnöke
President of The Hungarian Philatelic Society
in Great Britain

About Our Author

Dr. Ferenc Nagy is one of the outstanding figures of Hungarian philately in the second half of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st centuries. He was born in Budapest on the 2nd March 1934 and was caught up in the welter of philately from his childhood. His father, who reached the age of 99 in remarkable form, was himself a celebrated stamp collector: even in his last years he took a very active part in Hungarian and foreign events. As he writes in his article about the Reconstruction series, at the age of 11-12, he queued to buy new issues on the date of release. After school, he was drafted for the usual military service and he a was a soldier at the outbreak of the 1956 revolution. With youthful enthusiasm, he chose the obvious path of joining the revolted youth and helping it to obtain arms. After the crushing of the revolution he had to leave Hungary and settled in neighbouring Austria, in Vienna. He studied at the Vienna Medical School and thereafter for decades practised as a General Practioner in the Vienna area with specialist skills in psychosomatic medicine.

His passion for stamps was reborn in the 1960s and he collected Hungarian stamps with enthusiasm. He brought a logical mind and a rare philatelic instinct to the discovery of specialities. He was among the first to start to collect the cancellations and franked letters of the 1867 issue. He published an article as early as 1974 on the use of the 1867 50 kr value and later of the 25 kr value. He was at the origin of declaration which appeared in the 83/2 edition of Philatelica, signed by the most eminent Hungarian and foreign philatelists. It was in view of this centre of interest that he was invited by the presidency of MAFITT to be the author of the articles of the present special edition to honour the 150th anniversary of the 1867 edition of the first Hungarian stamps.

In addition to his detailed analysis of the usage of the 1867 edition, Dr. Ferenc Nagy also researched a wide variety of other topics in Hungarian philately. For instance he took an interest in the 1945 Budapest postal tariffs, the emergency postage due issue of Homokbálványos, the early 20th century postal traffic from ships with special reference to the career of Captain Peterdi, stamps issued by the Zala Somogy Steamship Company, those issued by Transylvanian hotels, the occupation stamps of 1945/46 and the Hungarian post offices in Romania (he published a German/English book on the subject). In all these areas we can say that they were brought to life because of his work or rather with the insight his work produced. He applied the methodology he had used for the study of the 1867 issue to the research of more recent issues and this is one of the keys to his success.

In the past 40 years he has published innumerable articles in the Filatéliai Szemle/Bélyegvilág, at a time when Hungarian readers had no access to Western philatelic writings. He reported regularly on philatelic events in Vienna. Later, he wrote numerous articles for Philatelica about his various discoveries. The style of his writing is so personal that the reader immediately recognises the author. He is a unique star on the firmament of Hungarian philately.

March 2017 *Dénes Czirók*

PATRIOTIC FRANKINGS

When looking through foreign auction catalogues, it is a great pleasure to admire the beautiful black/orange letter frankings even though their price makes them unattainable in general for the average collector. These items, franked with 1 and 2 Kreuzer stamps often receive the remark "patriotische Frankatur" or patriotic franking in English in the item description.

The colours of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy were black and golden yellow. The flag contained these colours as did all coloured objects connected with the Imperial court.

The first two Austrian stamp issues both comprised five face values. These were chosen to constitute the most common tariffs, with a single stamp whenever possible. The lowest face value in the 1850 issue was the yellow 1 kr This was the postal tariff for printed matter of 1 lat weight within the empire. Next was the black 2 kr value, the tariff for local letters. The 3, 6 and 9 kr values were needed to frank letters to addresses 10 or 20 or more miles away.

The stamps of Lombardy Veneto were of the same colours but values were expressed in centesimi, five times those of the general kr issue.

In 1858 a new currency was introduced without a change of name. Postal tariffs therefore had to be modified. The tariff for printed matter was increased to 2 kr paid for by a 2 kr stamp now yellow. The tariff for a local letter was raised from 2 to 3 kr, the corresponding stamp was black. The other tariffs based on distance became 5, 10 and 15 kr (We need not go into the types in this issue here.)

Let us take as an example the village of Istvándy in Somogy county: population around 1246 in 1850. How many pieces of printed matter could have been sent each year and how many local letters were posted? How many of these items are still in existence?

We know of none. Therefore this reasoning is mistaken. We know numerous long distance letters posted there, many franked with black/gold stamps to make up the 6 or 9 kr fee.

The inhabitants did not bother to post local letters. If they had information to impart to one another, they simply strolled from one street to the next. Centralised distribution of stamps ensured that every post office and agency received stamps of every value. The black 2 kr stamps remained in stock, unsold, But there was no printed matter traffic either in Istvándy. There was no large industrial or commercial undertaking whose functioning would have required sending printed matter. Local deaths did not have to be announced in writing, the news spread within minutes all over the village. Through absence of printed matter traffic, the 1 kr yellow stamp shared the fate of the black 2 kr and both remained in the Post Office stock.



*Figure 1. 2*1+2*2 kr franking from Istvándy to Warasdin (Corinphila auction catalogue 21 May 2005)*

1853: Faltbrief mit Inhalt frankiert mit zwei Werten 1 Kr. gelbocker (Type Ia) + zwei Werten 2 Kr. schwarz (Type Ia - rechte Marke mit Plattenfehler oben: Rahmenbruch) alternierend geklebt als sog „Patriotische Frankatur" in leuchtend tiefen frischen Farben und allseits breit gerandet (linke Marke Randlinie links unten minimal touchiert), jeder Wert zentrisch und übergehend entwertet mit Zweikreisstempel „Istvandy 12/6", nach Warasdin mit rückseitigem Übergangsstempel von Nagy Kanisa sowie Ankunftsstempel. Dekorative Frankatur für den Spezialisten. Attest Ferchenbauer

Figure 2. The description of the item in the auction catalogue

The story told by various authors is that stamp distribution was always tailored to local needs. Yet the above disproportion must have been noticed not only in Istvándy but in every small post office in Hungary and they requested deliveries corresponding to local demand. If so, who failed to take account of this demand? Why did they do away with an inflexible system only some 17 years later?

The problem remained unsolved till the introduction of the 1867 issue. However, colours for different values were changed in 1864 and the question of the "patriotic frankings" became irrelevant.

The post offices in small villages continued to receive large quantities of the black/yellow stamps, whether there was a need for them or not. Adjusting supply to local demand was not even considered. Stamp deliveries took no account of local needs until the appearance of the 1867 issue. Why? What could have been the reason?

To my mind the reason is to be found in the ill-will of imperial bureaucrats in the central administration of the Post. You find that hard to believe, dear reader? I did not believe it myself until I started looking more closely at the question.

On June 1st 1850, the first stamps valid for the whole territory of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy are issued. When exactly? In June 1850. Every good philatelist will immediately start to think of first-day covers and their philatelic importance. This philatelic strain of thought does not leave room for a more general historical approach. We do not pay attention to the fact that all this happened only 9 months after the surrender of Világos which put an end to a war fought by a plucky little nation against the armies of the Tsar and the Emperor. Had the Russians not helped Austria, the outcome would have been doubtful and had Austria lost the war, it would have meant the end of the Monarchy and of the House of Habsburg.

After the failure of the 1848 War on Independence, Bach, Minister of the Interior, took revenge on the Hungarian nation by a long series of measures. Their mere enumeration would exceed the limits of this article but a question arises: Why would imperial bureaucrats appointed in 1849 to direct public affairs in Hungary have any interest in the smooth functioning of any public service? Or is it more likely that their attitude was the Austrian "Friss oder sterb" (Gobble or Drop Dead), with an interest in hindering progress? Why would they have had for instance interest in an efficient postal service?

This attitude did not of course dominate every section of the administration but it seems logical that it was fairly wide-spread. This is my explanation of the black/gold frankings from Istvándy and many similar small villages. Patriotism, just after Világos?

I understand that this will stir up many arguments and debates. I ask the reader a little patience: My next study "Bisects in Hungary from 1850 to 1867" will be relevant to this problem.

Our eyes will then be opened....

DECLARATION!

After the tragic events in 1956 I was forced to flee my native land, as my life was in jeopardy. I had taken part irresponsibly in the revolution in military uniform, forgetting that a revolution can be put down. In November, we had been defeated and the arrest of my fellow-soldiers began – I had no intention of being caught. I had to leave my much-loved Budapest.

Austria welcomed me with great understanding and did everything to enable me to reconstruct my life there. They considered me as one of a brother nation and my complete and successful integration suffered no difficulty. I shall be eternally grateful to the republic of Austria and its people and assure them of my unconditional loyalty.

This is not an obstacle, however, to the analysis, research and publication of certain historical grievances. In every friendly relationship it is better to discuss and throw light on them rather than sweep them under the carpet.

Please read the remarks that follow in this spirit. They examine a situation following a conflict. No more and no less. They do not damage our friendship, but help the mutual understanding of each others' problems.

THOUGHTS ON THE REASONS FOR USE OF BISECTED STAMPS FROM 1850 TO 1867.

Collecting frankings of bisected stamps of the first and second Austrian issues (there are very few later) arouse great interest, even though they are only accessible to more affluent collectors. In spite of the chore of learning the names of many Hungarian villages.

For a large proportion of these letters originated in Hungary. This was clear from Mr. Jerger's list who to my knowledge was the first to take stock of the bisects than known. (Frankaturen, 1983, page 303). He had already published a part of his findings in 1965, in the 82nd issue of Briefmarke.

Dr. Jerger (quite rightly to my mind) attributes these "splits" (Briemarkenteilungen), bisects and trisects, to a shortage of stamps of appropriate face values. This practice was neither officially authorised nor forbidden.

The local postmaster could decide whether to accept the franking or demand postage due because of "invalid" stamps. The bulk of the letters franked with split stamps (about 80% of the known examples) reached the addressee without penalty.

In the following we shall use the expression 'bisect' for ease of comprehension.

The fraudulent use of bisects by using them a second time, is mentioned by dr. Jerger but he dismisses it as unprovable.

His list contains 96 bisected frankings of which only nine were not from Hungary. In fact only eight as one of the letters originated from Eperjes though posted from Vienna to save on postage

Dr. Jerger makes no comment on the fact that 90% of these letters were posted in Hungary. But he must have suspected something – he commented on every small detail but not on this fact! We know that he was many things but no friend of Hungary.

There was a gap until 2000 when Rolf Rohlfs presented a particularly thorough book on 'Ungarn-Halbierungen' on the occasion of a MAFITT international conference.

In this study covering the subject completely, in depth and detail, Rohlfs mentions 105 letters or fragments originating in Hungary for the 1850/58 period alone. New discoveries had been made since dr. Jerger's book. 112 items registered in all – therefore there were only 7 items used outside Hungary.

A most interesting map is included, showing the origin of each item. Though Rohlfs devotes some 20 pages to a discussion of the causes without arriving at a satisfactory conclusion, I have to admit that the map suggested the explanation to me.

It shows that

- all bisects originate from the Hungarian postal territory,
- with one or two exceptions (for instance Dugoszello), the bisects do not originate from the Croatia-Slavonia post offices,
- only a single occurrence is known originating from Transylvania (Szilágysomló).



A three Kreuzer franking consisting of a whole and a bisected 2 Kr; from Mohács (A.B. Collection)

My second clue was a list of dates which I prepared as I had not seen one. Quite simply, I noted the day of the month for each known franking in order to shed light on their cause.

Here is the result:

1.	6 pc		11.	5 pc		21.	2 pc		31.	3 pc	
2.	5 pc		12.	4 pc		22.	-				
3.	4 pc		13.	4 pc		23.	4 pc				
4.	5 pc		14.	1 pc		24.	4 pc				
5.	6 pc		15.	3 pc		25.	4 pc				
6.	4 pc		16.	5 pc		26.	1 pc				
7.	6 pc		17.	3 pc		27.	5 pc				
8.	3 pc		18.	-		28.	4 pc				
9.	3 pc		19.	-		29.	2 pc				
10.	2 pc		20.	1 pc		30.	3 pc				

It can be seen that towards the middle of the month bisects practically disappear. They increase in number towards the last days of the month and the first days of the following month.

We can therefore establish that

- in the 1850-1858 period 90% of bisects originate from the Hungarian postal territory,
- practically no bisects are known from Croatia-Slavonia or Transylvania.
- The date list clearly shows, that upon receipt of the monthly supply the bisects vanished, then they start again in az equal distribution. This is where we should search the grounds for the bisects.

We may dismiss the possibility that postmasters re-used bisects as nothing in the study of surviving letters shows any trace of previous use.

Bisects originating in other countries of the Monarchy do show signs of previous use but the bisects originating in Hungary show no sign of this. This agrees with dr. Jerger's conclusions.

I asked for a discussion of the subject with foremost experts in Austrian philately. I found the discussion astonishing and disappointing.

They all explained the Hungarian bisects to be a fraudulent use of the stamps. When I pointed out that this "fraud" stopped at the Hungarian border, I received no answer.

Nor to the argument that in Lombardy-Veneto where they went as far as to produce complete forgeries they did not avail themselves of the apparently very profitable bisections.

The discussion produced no information.

The bulk of the bisects concern the brown 6 kr value of the 1850 edition. It would seem that the supply of 3 kr stamps was inadequate whereas the majority of correspondence was addressed to the first postal zone.

No effort seems to have been made to correct this imbalance. Theoretically, deliveries were calculated to fit demand, facts do not support this; The 3 kr stamp was never shipped in adequate quantities. Hence the use of 6 kr bisects.

The 6 kr bisects before 1858 appear evenly during each month. Rohlfs makes a very interesting and important point. Many frankings were destroyed by soaking the stamps from the cover. Bisects were recognised as worthless (which they really were once removed) and therefore simply destroyed,

This is where this subject connects with the study of the so-called "patriotic frankings" Those were the consequence of an over-supply of 1 and 2 kr stamps.

They could thus use the excedent for a 3 kr franking. This was the true reason for these frankings and not a patriotic fervour for the Emperor in 1850, just after the defeat of the War of Independence!

It is true that 40% of postal workers in Hungary were Austrians. It is logical to assume, however, that they were sent to largely German-speaking areas.

Pest is a case in point as the middle classes principally spoke German. So is Transylvania with its large German settlements or Sopron where many

German speakers lived. It was unlikely that the village of Istvándy from where several handsome black/gold frankings have survived fell into one of these categories: the 1 and 2 kr stamps were simply not needed for their normal use.

No local letters and no printed matter were sent. That is why the 1 and 2 kr stamps were frequently used to make up the 3 kr tariff. In larger settlements where there was a demand for 1 and 2 kr stamps for their normal use, bisects covered the shortage of 3 kr stamps.

Let us draw our conclusions!

Please imagine the following scene: At the local postal headquarters an imperial bureaucrat is responsible for stamp supply. Understandably, he is no great friend of Hungarians as they are "the enemy". Not so the Croatians. Under the leadership of their chief Jellasits, they fought for the survival of the Monarchy – in the hope of their own independence. They were therefore OK. Transylvania, with its numerous large German settlements was also considered a friendly land.

But the rest of the country, from which the bisects listed by Rohls in his book originated, was the land of the hated Hungarians. This was the people which had to be taught who was the boss in the Monarchy. This was the people which was defeated 9 months earlier at Világos by the Russians (with Austrian assistance).

Did these people deserve any help? Or rather should they be frustrated whenever possible? The imperial postal employee did what he could: he blocked the suitable distribution of the required mix of stamps thus hindering the work of hundreds of postmasters for many years. The ice finally began to melt in the middle of the 1860s and the gradual improvement of relations led to the 1867 Compromise.

This is my view after 70 years of philatelic experience. It is not always pleasant to face the truth. Easier to promote adventurous theories or to lie. I am not capable of either.

I try to imagine living in the period, talking to the officials, walking along the main street; reading the almost incomprehensible rules and sniff the odour of the post office.

I post a letter in Istvándy and hear the postmaster explain that he has no 3 kr but only 1 and 2 kr stamps. I accept but tell him I am no friend of Francis Joseph. We have a good laugh when he predicts that in a 100 years' time these probably will be known as "patriotic frankings"

This is what is called "immersion". It makes many things clear and comprehensible. Pleasing.

Dear Reader! These are not perhaps popular thoughts but they merit reflection.

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS –

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1867 ISSUE

The birth of the self standing Hungarian stamp issue may have been the zenith of the Austro-Hungarian Compromise. The fairly unpopular Habsburg-eagle vanished from the stamp, bearing "only" the portrait of the common ruler, as a result of the famous Austrian ability for compromise. Our brother-in-laws have always been very proud of this ability for compromises. Indeed, it is nice to have it, as it makes the otherwise difficult and conflicted life simpler and more peaceful.

Well, the compromise has been that the issue has also been introduced in Austria, although there has been absolutely no need for it. The 1864 issue, with the Habsburg-eagle, has been available in ample quantities, but this way they could prove for the neighbouring countries, that the issue, born at Hungarian request, is rather "mutual". This notion has been valid exclusively for a hundred years, when we began the extremely difficult missionary work with Gary Ryan throughout the world. It took nearly 50 years to hammer into the head of the philatelists that this is NOT an Austrian issue also introduced in Hungary, but conversely, the stamps released immediately, exclusively in Hungary have ALSO been released by Austria, some weeks later, and originally mostly in Vienna.

Some international auction houses did not realize this even to this date…



Figure 1: 04.12.71.

But to definitely prove the existence of the independent Hungarian postal authority the country needed an own, absolutely independent issue (the stamps of the 1867 issue have still been printed in Vienna).

Finally, in February 1871 it became possible to print first the money-order forms in Pest, followed by

the correspondence cards, and then, early in May 1871 at least provisionally, the lithographed issue has been issued.

A transition period of 3 month has been set during which the remaining 1867 stock could be used up, frequently in mixed frankings with the stamps of the 1871 issue.

Thus the stamps of the 1867 issue have still been valid until 31 July 1871. The stamps stored in the drawers of the public lost their validity after this date. Out of the remaining stock of the post offices, sent back to the headquarters, the partial sheets have been annihilated, the full sheets though have been sent up to the 'Postökonomieverwaltung' in Vienna, entrusted with the clearing, at a price of 4 kr per sheet. According to the subsisting correspondence this process passed off fairly smoothly.

That was my belief as well until the appearance of the above stamp. The date of the cancellation: 4 December 1871! I showed it excitedly to the members of my Vienna society, but they only slapped on my back that the day and the month were transposed, and properly speaking the cancellation should read 12 April 1871, meaning a usage in the validity period.

I became suspicious only much later, when being obsessed with the 50 kr stamp and buying up every available one, I suddenly stumbled into a piece with the date 12 September 1871.



Figure 2: 12.9.71

And then came the others…. (During 40 years...)

Currently we know the following items:



16.9.71.



23.9.71



?.9.71



26.10.71



28.10.71

The last one with upturned month. Below is a litho 15 kr with the same date!



28.10.71

Of key importance is the item with the 11 November date, proving the theorem of the transposed day and month invalid.



11.11.71

All items have been used in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca).

Let's try to find out, what could happen? The delivery period of the remaining stock of stamps has been closed down sometime after 31 July 1871. The post offices began to use the litho, then the engraved stamps. But suddenly − what a shock − a clerk found a lot of 1867 50 kr stamps in a drawer. We can place the date of the finding sometime about the end of August.

This was a serious problem, as the face value of the stamps was fairly high – just one sheet of eighty stamps was worth 40 Forints. Telegrams flew back and forth between Kolozsvár and Pest-Buda contemplating what to do? The executive committee of the Post finally came up with a wise decision probably, namely:

1. It was forbidden to use these stamps for letters
2. In contrast, it was allowed to use them on money order forms, as the public never touched these forms, they remained internal documents within the Post and only the postal clerks could see them.

This is how a significant quantity of obsolete 50 kr stamps has been used up during the autumn of 1871, on the higher value money order forms, legalized by the headquarters. Among them the latest known such usage is the above shown stamp from 4 December 1871, thus being an interesting item of the Hungarian postal history.

The last of the Mohicans...

I would like to greet this great anniversary of the 1867 issue with this little browsing.

THE HISTORY OF THE 1945-46 RECONSTRUCTION ISSUE – REMEMBERING 70 YEARS LATER (1946-2016)

During the winter of 1945-46, the situation of the inhabitants of the capital city was dire. The rubble from the house-to-house fighting and the bombings had been more or less cleared from the streets, there was electricity and bread although rationed. Life was slowly starting to resume but it could not be called normal since it consisted of hunger, walking on foot, and being cold. The newly restored life gained momentum slowly.

The "Ancient Hungarian Funeral Sermon and Prayer" comes to my mind when I remember those months: "Látjátuk feleim szümtükhel, mik vogymuk: isà, por ës homou vogymuk..." *[Fellow brethren you can see with your eyes what we are, behold, we are dust and ashes...]*

Who would have thought back then about dealing with stamps or had money or energy to do so? Still, as I have discussed previously in a two-part dissertation the Budapest tariffs, there were such "possessed" persons.

What was doled out to stamps collector up to that time following the end of the war?

1. The Liberation set issued on May 1st in an edition of 50,000 sets, but the 100 pengő face value deterred most purchasers. Still, it was fortunate since each collector standing in line was allowed to purchase only a single set. However there weren't that many of us and we could return to the queue three or even four times… We kept one set and sold the others for a premium at school during recess. The set was not used for postage since with the exception of three or four stamps, the face value did not represent an appropriate rate. This was good reason for not breaking a set.
2. The Bajcsy-Zsilinszky stamp was issued at the end of May. Even though the number of copies was high (500,000 stamps), the stamp is very rare on postally used covers, as the number of copies was not publicized well, therefore the collectors were reluctant to use the stamp on letters. Let's not forget that at that time there was little focus on covers; the most important goal was to have "unused" copies. Most of the philatelists were not "organized," therefore, the information about issues was not well promulgated.
3. The distribution formula can be found on page 143 of Volume V of the Monograph. The text reveals that only 2,000 stamps were allocated for sale to us standing in the line. The rest of the printing quantity was distributed through various channels. As I had mentioned before, one purchaser left the field of battle with for sale to us standing in the line.
4. This was followed by three provisional sets which were almost always used on letters; and these, therefore, were considered "worthless."
5. Then the Peace set appeared in a quarter-million edition but purchasers were allowed to buy only a single set, as before. Because of the high charity surcharge

(such as 30 pengő on top of the 10 pengő face value), these stamps were also not used on letters.

6. This was followed by the Trade Union and Martyrs sets. The first was issued in 50,000 copies; the second in 100,000. The controlled distribution continued with these, as well (the second set also carried a surcharge).

Then, finally, came the first non-overprinted issue that, as we heard, would have unrestricted sales! We, small fry stamp collectors, found ourselves in Paradise on November 9th 1945. Happy and excited, we hurried to the Budapest 4 Post Office that symbolized the center for stamp collectors in the capital city. Although sets were not sold exclusively there but also in ten other places in Budapest, the Petőfi Street entrance to the Main Post Office was the site of a singular stamp collecting subculture. (I am avoiding using the term 'philatelist' on purpose because back then we considered ourselves to be mere "stamp collectors" in the strictest sense of the words.)

There we gladly and willingly got into the line that never seemed to get shorter. We exchanged gossip because it was the only source of news for small fry stamp collectors who had no access to any other media for news. We were witnesses to the sensational news flash on November 9th 1945 that the stamp called "Reconstruction" would be the first Hungarian stamp to be printed such that half of the sheet is upside down with respect to the other half.

Therefore, there was a pair of tête-bêche stamps in the middle. At first, everyone received only a single strip of 10 stamps so we could feast our eyes on the inverted pair. Individual tête-bêche pair were not available. We also learned that the set would include several stamps to be issued later. Later, when the purchasing power and the demand were re-evaluated, entire sheets of the single stamps were made available for purchase.

Single stamp? Isn't that what it was about? Yes, but the set that eventually included 15 stamps was issued on 12 separate days! So, by the time the set was completed, the calendar showed February 5, 1946; therefore, the completion of the Reconstruction series involved three months.

On the other hand, we can discover multiple contradictions in more closely analyzing this set. The "Monograph" states that a contest was initiated to design the definitive series to symbolize "reconstruction." Despite the deadline extension provided, it remained futile. In the end, a quasi-stopgap arrangement was used to issue the stamps. Taking another look at this, my opinion is that the design attributed to the genius György Konecsni does not create an impression of a stopgap design effort. On the contrary, it captures the spirit of the time with its physically strong figure breaking its chains, the destroyed Chain Bridge, its gaze delivering a message in dreaming about the future, the Budapest crest broken into two and shifted apart. In thusly symbolizing destruction, he found such a splendid solution for the stamp that delighted us. This was all encompassing and definitely not a stopgap design effort!

The Monograph later writes: "*They were placed into circulation… to align with the postal tariffs introduced in the meantime.*" However, immediately with the appearance of the first, 20 pengő value and the others afterwards, the stamp was not usable for single franking.

The tête-bêche pairs in the middle were produced by printing 50 stamps first and then simply inverting the sheet in the press to produce the next 50 upside down. It was discovered that with this printing operation, the two stamp images could be displaced 1 or 2 millime-

ters with respect to each other. While this did not disturb the general impression; nevertheless, it caused near panic at the State Printing Office. Usually, small shifts were tolerated, but full sheets showing greater than 1 mm resulted in the sheets being separated and delivered to the post offices as sheets of 50 stamps. Additional printings were done with cylinders of 100 subjects in order to correct the minor asymmetry. We do not know the quantities of tête-bêche pairs that were printed "on the same level," but the two variations are explained in the Monograph, Volume V. p.152.

We "small fry stamp collectors" were not aware of this at the time. We happily stood in line at the No. 4 Post Office holding a strip of 10 of the 20 pengő stamp that contained an inverted pair in the middle. The Petőfi Street entrance to the No. 4 Post Office operated a separate window to serve the stamp collectors. It wasn't obvious to us at the time that there was hardly any traffic at the "regular" windows that conducted the business of accepting mail.

In the following, I, as the serial narrator, will deal with the individual stamps in the chronological order as they were issued. Any other approach would lead to chaos.



Figure 1. The 20 pengő stamp issued on November 9th 1945. Printed quantity: 1,815,000 stamps

On the date of issue, the 4th rate period of the inflation was in effect (November 1, 1945 – November 15) and the newly issued stamp was not suitable for use as single franking for any kind of mailing. I must admit, however, that the post office was not at fault for this. The Reconstruction set was planned as a philatelic event with appropriate advance notice. By the time the State Printing Office, still trying to overcome the wounds caused by the war, started working on this, the quickened pace of inflation defeated all advanced planning. A large part of the stamp denominations were no longer timely and could be used only together with others. This was true for the 20 pengő stamp as well.



Figure 2. A local letter mailed on November 16, 1945 franked with two 20 pengő stamps. This was the first day of the 5th rate period when the rate for a local letter would have already been 80 pengő. We find only 40 pengő on this letter in accordance with the rate under the 4th period. For several days, mailings were accepted at the previous rate under the so-called "grace period" rule.

We find very few uses of the 20 pengő stamp during the 4th rate period because by the time the supply of stamps reached the users (and the post offices), the

validity of the rate period quickly expired (a mere two weeks). The next cover with printed return address, also a local letter, is from the 5th rate period (November 16, 1945 – January 13, 1946). The local letter rate was 80 pengő.

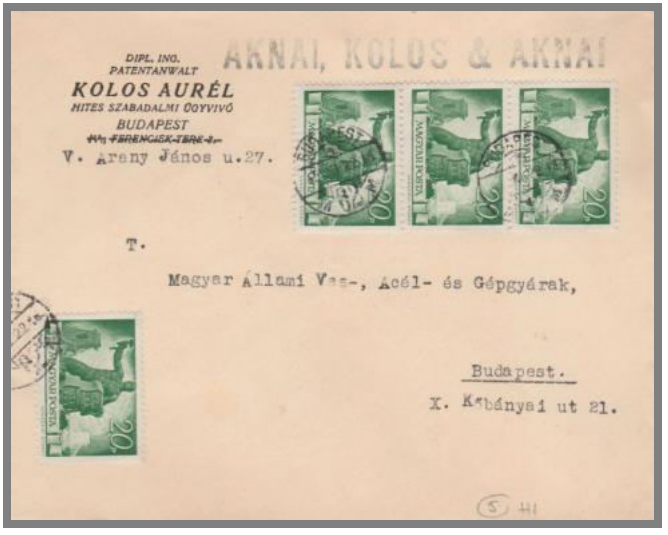


Figure 3. Local letter mailed on November 22, 1945 franked with 4x20 pengő stamps from the 5th rate period.

The next stamp of the set was issued on November 16th 1945.



Figure 4. 30 pengő stamp issued on November 16th 1945. Printed quantity: 2,360,000 stamps

The issue date of the stamp was also the first day of the inflation's 5th rate period. As a single franking, the stamp was usable for mailing the first weight class printed matter. This is not a common type of mailing although it was frequently sent in those days; but, because of its nature, was not preserved for posterity. Also, an alternative use of stamps from the third Provisional set 10+20 pengő values was possible. These were available in unlimited quantities. As a result, franking with the 30 pengő Reconstruction stamp is seldom found.



Figure 5. Local printed matter mailed on January 10, 1946 correctly franked with a single 30 pengő stamp

The next fancy envelope, mailed on the last day of the year during the 5th rate period, serves as a curiosity. As a local letter, it would have needed 80 pengő franking, but the sender affixed 90 pengős' worth of stamps out of convenience. Here we can observe an interesting phenomenon. Because the wide format stamps were hard to separate from the sheet along the long axis, we encounter mostly used vertical strips from this series separated along the short side.



Figure 6. Local letter mailed on December 31, 1945 franked with 3x30 pengő stamps in lieu of 80 pengő

On the next domestic cover we find the correct franking of 120 pengő in accordance with the 5th rate period. The 120 pengő face value stamp was issued only on December 12th, so this letter had to be posted with multiples, thus the 4x30 pengős franking. The letter was "postillon d'amour," or sent from a poste restante address to a similar poste restante address…



Figure 7. A long-distance letter mailed on November 26, 1945 correctly franked with a block of 4 (scarce) 30 pengő stamps

I am leaving a philatelic mailing for last, but not because of its franking but because of its contents. The invitation to the Pannonia Stamp Society's (sic!) December 15th 1945 meeting shows the first two values of the Reconstruction set utilized for the 50 pengő correct franking of the mailing. The society's special postcard, originally printed in 1942, was used to send out the invitation.



Figure 8. Local postcard mailed on December 7, 1945 correctly franked with the 20+30 pengő stamps

Below, I would like to share a few thoughts with you, dear readers. The first time I tried to show these stamps created a quandary for me as to what methodology I should use to present them. As I stated before, the second and third provisional overprints sets as well as the service designator letter overprints were in use simultaneously with these stamps. These were available for use without restrictions in any quantity, so there was no real need for the stamps of the Reconstruction series.

As a result, the previously mentioned stamps are oftentimes used for mixed frankings as needed by the postage tariffs. In presenting this subject topic, these

would muddle the picture; so, therefore, I chose the solution to show strictly Reconstruction frankings with the exception of a few unavoidable instances.

Naturally, as a result, the quantity material becomes more restricted and harder to find. I exchanged this difficulty with the possibility of putting together a historically correct and visually unified presentation so that it may be interesting enough to read even for those who are not especially fond of this topic.

The next stamp to be issued six days after the previous one was the 500 pengő value that represented a large jump with its the high denomination. The increase was so large over and above the previous two values that the tariffs were now lagging the stamp's face value. The earlier ones were semi-obsolete, but now the 500 pengő anticipated a future life.



Figure 9. A misperforated example of the 500 pengő stamp issued on November 22nd 1945. Printed quantity: 2,260,000 stamps

The 500 pengő stamp by itself could be used to frank a foreign letter or a 3,000 gm (!) domestic printed matter. The following mailing shows a foreign letter addressed to a refugee military officer living in a suburb of Graz.



Figure 10. Foreign letter mailed on January 1, 1946 correctly franked with a single 500 pengő stamp. The No. 72 Post Office accepting this letter was open on January 1st, New Year's Day.

Up until now, all of the postings originated in Budapest. Apparently, the first stamp issues were not distributed to the rural areas sufficiently to be able to utilize them for franking. Even in the capital city there were certain reservations about using them in the early days in anticipation of possible increase in their value.

Later on we'll encounter the 500 pengő stamp but by then it's used in multiples, such as the letter sent from Szeged supplemented, as an exception, with a first issue, service designator letter stamp. (I am asking you to look at the name of the sender closely. My

current state of heath completely agrees with the annotation indicated in red under the name. ☺)



*Registered letter sent from Szeged to Budapest on 14. February 1946, franked, according to the 7th rate period, with 6*500 pengő = 3000 pengő, plus a Package I. stamp in the value of 6.000 pengő, altogether with 9.000 pengő.*

Eight days later, on November 30, 1945, two additional stamps saw the light of day: the 200 pengő and 1,000 pengő values. I am not going to say anything new by mentioning that, despite all of the miscellaneous postal tariffs, there was no need for these stamps. Perhaps the 1,000 pengő stamp could be figured in to pay the foreign registration rate, but these could be utilized only as multiples or multi-colour frankings.



Figures 12a, 12b. 200 and 1,000 pengő stamps issued on November 30th 1945. Printed quantities: 1,503,000 and 2,014,000 stamps, respectively.

These stamps were also not suitable for single frankings. Notice how much the printed quantities vary for each stamp!

There was one possible use for the 200 pengő stamp during the 6th rate period (January 14, 1945 to January 31) to frank long-distance postcards using two stamps. Foreign postcards could also be franked using multiples.



Figure 13. Distance postcard sent from Pest on January 30, 1946 correctly franked with 400 pengő in accordance with the 6th rate period. The sender used a field postcard.



Figure 14. Foreign postcard (addressed to Óbecse/Yugoslavia) sent from Szarvas on January 17, 1946 correctly franked with 1,800 pengő in accordance with the 6th rate period. The sender used a field postcard printed locally in Szarvas.

Here[1] I would like to show one of the most interesting and valuable pieces from the second inflation. It is a New Year's greetings telegram sent from Tótkomlós to Alsólendva (Dolnja Lendava/Yugoslavia).

The 15-word contents of this extraordinary dispatch presented a huge problem for the post office of Tótkomlós. First of all, the small format of the telegram form caused a problem. Because of this, the form was attached to another, blue color, blank postal form; then the clerk proceeded to solve the franking situation.

In accordance with the tariffs, a total of 46,500 pengős' worth of stamps were affixed at 8.20 pm on the eve of December 29th 1945. The stamps included 86x500 pengő denomination, 17x200 pengő as well as single copies of the 40 and 60 pengő stamps from the 3rd provisional series.

On the next day when the the telegram was reviewed, the clerk discovered that the sender, who was known by name, naturally, at the small post office, was undercharged by 30,000 pengő. This is why the word "Rontott=Spoiled" was written in red on the upper right corner of the telegram form.

[1] See the next page. The editor.



Figure 15. Telegram sent from Tótkomlós to Alsólendva in Yugoslavia on December 29-31, 1945 franked with a total of 255 stamps, including 23 tête bêche pairs.



Figure 16. (the reverse side of the telegram shown on the left side)

The sender was called by telephone or was asked via a messenger to return to the post office and to make up the difference. This happened since the already oversized form that was still at the post office was lengthened by attaching a yellowish, blank postal form. A full sheet and an additional 50 copies of the 200 pengő stamps were affixed to this for a total of 30,000 pengős.

Thus, the saga of the now correctly calculated 76,500 pengő paid with 255 stamps came to an end. The stamps were cancelled after the fact two days later on December 31st.

We are aware of the use of full sheets of stamps on letters from the period of the inflation, but this foreign telegram with Reconstruction stamps is a unique piece, a genuine philatelic curiosity!

As I mentioned earlier, at the time it was issued, the 1,000 pengő stamp covered only the cost of registration on foreign letters. Correspondence with foreign countries was in its infant stages during these months; therefore, these letters are not encountered often. Let us look at a couple of them!

In order to send a letter addressed to Nagyszeben according to the tariffs of the 5th rate period, it needed 1,500 pengős' worth of stamps to be affixed. The sender who lived on Baross Street made an effort to visit the No. 4 Post Office on December 6th 1945, bolstered by the knowledge that he could get certain

stamps there. There the clerk affixed 500+1,000 pengő Reconstruction stamps to his envelope at the sight of which his eyes probably got big: are there any other values of these stamps? The postal clerk replied with a 'yes' and added 20 and 30 pengő stamps to the envelope that were inconsequential compared to the 1,500 pengős. Thus, the envelope was enhanced and the stamps duly cancelled. (The random attachment of the stamps is a typical example to the window clerk's work.) The letter was processed in the evening on the same day (!) at the No. 72 Post Office that was responsible for forwarding foreign mail. It was forwarded to the addressee in Nagyszeben by rail. The fact that the Romanians needed six weeks to deliver the letter to Nagyszeben belongs in another discussion (arrival cancellation on the reverse side: Sibiu, 20.1.946). The envelope tells a tale…



Figure 17. Registered letter mailed from Budapest on December 6, 1945 to Nagyszeben slightly overfranked with 1,550 pengő. Foreign letter: 500 pengő; foreign registration: 1,000 pengő; 20+30 pengő added as 'decoration.'

The next letter that was sent to Prague was mailed in the evening on December 17th at the No. 4 Post Office from where it went to the No. 72 on the next day and was delivered to the addressee in three days (Praha 21.XII.45). Considering the railroad situation of the time, this was a remarkable achievement.



Figure 18. Registered letter sent to Prague from Budapest on December 17, 1945 correctly franked with 1,500 pengő.

The 100 pengő stamp was issued the day after the appearance of the 200 and 1,500 pengő stamps on November 30th. Finally we the "small fry stamp collectors" realized that these stamps purchased at the post office window were no longer philatelic specialities. The stamps were available for purchase by the sheet, and they represented junk issues that were designed to soak up surplus purchasing power. The tête bêche pairs lost their allure, and the unlimited quantities destroyed their philatelic value.



Figure 19. The 100 pengő stamp issued on December 1st 1945. Printed quantity: 1,522,000 stamps

The speed of this issue was the reason that the use of this stamp on letters, even if somewhat controlled, became more frequent. The use showed up in the provinces as well as in Budapest. It may be superfluous for me to mention that the appearance of this stamp was not determined by the need to satisfy a postal tariff.

On the next postcard we find an apparent single 100 pengő stamp used for franking; however, when the card was mailed, the 5th rate period tariffs were in effect and the rate for a local postcard was 50 pengő. Most likely, such a stamp was not available, so a 100 pengő stamp was affixed. Insufficient frankings form the period of the inflation are common, overfrankings are a kind of Scoth mist.



Figure 20. Local postcard mailed in Budapest on January 7, 1946 with single franking. The postal tariff in effect indicated that a 50 pengő stamp would have been sufficient.

The next item is worth studying. The 18 fillér postcard was obsolete. It was upgraded with 6 pengő stamps during the 3rd rate period that corresponded with the tariff required for a distance postcard. The card was not used for three months; by that time it required a postage of 400 pengő. It was mailed from Pusztagyenda (Heves County) and cancelled with an auxiliary device.



Figure 21. Distance postcard mailed from Pusztagyenda to Budapest on January 28, 1946 cancelled with a provisional device and endorsed with a manuscript date.

As long as we are discussing items worth studying, the following parcel slips also needs to be shown. Postal employees were allowed to mail parcels at a greatly discounted rate. On February 22nd 1946 the cost of mailing a 10 kg parcel was 15,000 pengő. Postal employees were allowed to do the same for 100 pengő. The basic cost of the parcel slip was 460 pengő, but there was no employee discount for this since the fee was collected by the Ministry of Finance.



Figure 22a. Reverse side of a parcel slip mailed from Siófok to Budapest on February 22, 1946 showing the permit marking for the discounted rate.



Figure 22b. The parcel slip sent from Siófok to Budapest on February 22, 1946 showing the discounted rate for postal employees of 100 pengő in lieu of the regular rate of 15,000 pengő. The documentary revenue fee for the form was 460 pengő.

The next item shows a rare provisional cancellation on an "orange" colour letter sent from Sárrétudvari (Bihar County, along the line from Püspökladány-Szeghalom) franked with 3,000 pengő in accordance with the 6th rate period.



Figure 23a. The orange-colour reverse side of the distance letter sent from Sárrétudvari to Budapest on February 9, 1946



Figure 23b. The front side of the letter sent from Sárrétudvari to Budapest on February 9, 1946 cancelled with a provisional device and manuscript date. The letter shows 2xTI.I. service designator stamps worth 1,200 pengő + 18x100=1,800 pengő making up the 3,000 pengő required for a distance letter in the 6th rate period.

Four days later, the next stamp to be issued was the 300 pengő value. I'm not going to tell you anything new; this stamp wasn't good for anything, either.



Figure 24. 300 pengő stamp issued on December 5th 1945. Printed quantity: 1,943,000 stamps

Although I stated that at the time the 300 pengő stamp was issued it could not be used for single franking, there does happen to be a case to the contrary.



Figure 25. Second weight class (20-100 gram) local printed matter with business imprint posted in Budapest on February 2, 1946 during the grace period of the 6th rate period franked with a single 300 pengő stamp

The 2nd weight class printer matter item is from a period two months later, from February 2nd 1946. Although the tariff would have been 1,000 pengő in accordance with the 7th rate period, the post office accepted the item franked according to the tariff of the 6th rate period under the "grace period" allowance.

The next letter doesn't reveal much beyond the nice-looking 400 pengő Reconstruction franking. However, if we look at it more closely, we can see that it was intended for "Express" mailing. When the sender discovered that the service would cost 2,000 pengős more, then he quickly crossed out the word. The Horticultural Association needed to conserve financial resources also. So, sending the letter from one end of Rákoczi Street (the No. 72 Post Office was located at the Eastern Railway Station) to the other end (near the Astoria Hotel) could be accomplished for 400 pengő.



Figure 26. Local letter mailed in Budapest on January 16, 1946 franked with 400 pengő in accordance with the 6th rate period

Previously, along with the 500 and 1,000 pengő stamps, I showed two foreign covers. An additional two follows, not often seen, early ones to Switzerland and the USA.

We can see the franking of 2,600 pengő on the first one addressed to Switzerland, posted on February 1, 1946 when the Republic commemorative cancellation was used (frequently seen!) The fee for the letter posted on the first day of the 7th rate period (February 1, 1946 – February 28) would have been 15,000 pengő; but, quite possibly, the grace period was taken into consideration as with the previous letter. Another look at the postage, however, reveals that in the 6th rate period, it should have been 3,000 pengő. My explanation is that the letter was not mailed at a post office window but deposited in a letter collection box. The postman noticed the underfranking, but decided against applying a "T" marking since it would not have meant much in Switzerland and allowed the letter to pass for a "cheaper" price.



Figure 27. Letter sent to Switzerland from Budapest No. 72 Post Office on February 1, 1946 franked with 2,600 pengő in lieu of the 15,000 pengő rate (first day of the 7th rate period)

A The second, well-travelled letter made the trip across the Atlantic Ocean twice. It was addressed to the Hungarian Consulate in New York (the embassy was located in Washington, D.C.). The letter that started its journey on February 7, 1946 could not be delivered; and, judging by the cancellations, it was still in limbo on April 3rd. The letter was correctly franked with 15,000 pengő in accordance with the tariff of the 7th rate period that was paid with 15 copies of the 1,000 pengő stamp. (At that time, there was no airmail service with Hungary.)



Figure 28a. The reverse side of the letter sent to the USA from Budapest on February 7, 1946.



Figure 28b. Letter sent to the USA from Budapest on February 7, 1946 correctly franked with 15,000 pengő

As we had seen earlier, the stamp was usable "piecemeal," for example, local letter 80 pengő + domestic registration 240 pengő, for a total of 320 pengő. We can see an example of this in the next illustration; a registered local letter with "pure" Reconstruction franking that is surprisingly scarce. (Let us not forget that the provisional overprints were available in unlimited quantities and their small format afforded easier placement on the envelopes!)

The contemporary letters of attorney Dr. János Sprunk (Sprung) have been preserved for posterity much to the delight of philatelists. The following registered local letter with printed business heading mailed on January 7, 1946 is from this grouping.



Figure 29. Registered local letter mailed in Budapest on January 7. 1946 correctly franked with 320 pengő (local letter: 80 pengő, registration: 240 pengő)

Looks like the post office exerted extra pressure to be able to issue all of the stamps of Reconstruction set in the then current year. With near breathless frequency, stamps were thrown into the marketplace whether they were needed or not. Thus the 40 pengő value appeared on December 11, 1945.



Figure 30. The 40 pengő stamp issued on December 11th 1945. Printed quantity: 1,411,000 stamps.

This stamp was not usable for single franking either (again, with the exception of 2nd weight class printed matter. but I have not found such a mailing), but a pair of them could be used on a local letter whose tariff was 80 pengő. Let us look for such a letter! There is none! The stamp saw use only in mixed frankings that followed later tariff increases. The issue date of this stamp right before the "first Christmas in peacetime" was not ideal from a stamp collector's viewpoint since there was no time or patience for this. The signs indicated that the post office would lift all restrictions following the New Year and that the stamps would be distributed to all post offices. Still, why weren't they available? Even in the most extensive collections of inflation material such covers are seldom found!

I have two examples on a parcel slip, again only on a mailing with a discounted tariff.



Figure 31a. The reverse side of the parcel slip marked with discounted tariff cancellation mailed from Győr to Budapest on February 19, 1946



Figure 31b. The front side of the discounted tariff parcel slip mailed from Győr to Budapest on February 19, 1946 franked with two 40 pengő stamps

The documentary revenue stamps (340 P.) represented a larger amount that the cost of the parcel. This should have been 100 pengő according to the 7th rate period tariff. Another earthly human being would have had to pay 15,000 pengő for this service, but the sender didn't even have to pay the 100 pengő but only 80! Thus, the two 40 pengő stamps were affixed to the parcel slip!

Although the next piece shows a fair amount of wear, it is a unique item! The 15 copies of the 40 pengő stamps cover the 600 pengő letter tariff in accordance with the 6th rate period; the Alj. 1 stamp was used as intended to pay the registration fee of 1,200 pengő.



Figure 32. Registered letter sent from Budapest to Dunaföldvár on January 26, 1946 correctly franked with 15 x 40 = 600 pengő + one Alj. 1. stamp worth 1,200 pengő

On the next day, December 12th, the 120 pengő stamp was issued in a quantity of 4,972,000 copies. This printing quantity was the largest for any stamp in the series!



33. ábra: Az 1945. dec. 12-én kiadott 120 pengős bélyeg. Példányszáma:4.972.000 db (!)

This stamp could be used to correctly frank distance letters, 3rd weight class (250-500 gram) local letters, and 5th weight class printed matter (250-500 gram). Contrary to the other denominations, this stamp was the first to be placed in unlimited use in Budapest and the provinces. The initial reservations, the need to save tête bêche pairs were over since, finally, there was a definitive stamp available in large quantities. Nevertheless, very few single frankings using this stamp survived.



Figure 34. Distance letter mailed from Budapest to Sárospatak on January 5, 1946 correctly franked with 120 pengő. It was forwarded several times and finally arrived in Győr on March 15th.

The next distance letter with 120 pengő stamps was franked in accordance with the 7th rate period tariff. The fee then was 3,000 pengő. The franking on the apparently commercial, non-philatelic letter consisted of 25 copies of the 120 pengő stamps. This made up the 3,000 pengő tariff accurately. The block of 18 on the reverse side contains 6 tête bêche pairs on the right side, which is extraordinary! Such a multiple usage of tête bêche pairs is scarce. Occasionally, 1 or 2 pairs can be found, mostly on philatelic letters, but I have not encountered another such spectacular piece. The postmistress of Csongrád must have had a good day on February 23rd, 1946...



Figure 35a. The reverse side of the distance letter sent from Csongrád to Budapest on February 23, 1946 with 6 tête bêche pairs



Figure 35b. Distance letter sent from Csongrád to Budapest on February 23, 1946 correctly franked in accordance with the 7th rate period tariff of 3,000 pengő (25 x 120 = 3,000)

The last stamp to be issued in 1945, the 60 pengő denomination, was issued 10 days later, a few days before Christmas on December 22nd.



Figure 36. The 60 pengő stamp issued on December 22nd 1945. Printed quantity: 1,320,000 stamps.

On the day of issue, the 5th rate period tariffs (November 16, 1945 – January 4, 1946) were still in effect. A single franking usage was possible only on the 2nd weight class (50-100 gm) printed matter or for mailing a parcel up to 5 kg. The stamp mostly saw use in multiple frankings with other value, as, for example, the postcard shown below. I am making an exception from my earlier promise of showing examples franked strictly with Reconstruction stamps in illustrating this card which is so impressive that it's worth making an exception.

Originally, the 12 fillér card was franked with an additional 28 fillér stamp for use during the 1st rate period as 40 fillérs; however, it was not used. We find other such examples of this from that time period. When the card was finally used, the 6th rate period was in effect and the tariff was 400 pengő for a distance postcard. The fee was paid with stamps from four different issues for a total of 400 pengő 20 fillér, but this did not count the original 40 fillérs. Embedded amongst the stamps is a 60 pengő Reconstruction stamp. Using a Viennese expression: "it's an absolute requirement."



Figure 37. Distance postcard sent from Budapest to Salgótarján on January 29, 1946 correctly franked in accordance with the 6th rate tariff: 400 pengő (+ 20 fillér that was an insignificant sum back then)

The next letter that was posted from Zalaegerszeg to Kőszeg on February 5, 1946, was probably sent by a stamp enthusiast, but it was correctly franked. The 7th rate period required 3,000 pengő postage on a distance letter. This was accomplished using a tête bêche pair plus a five-colored franking amongst which was a 60 pengő denomination as well.



Figure 38. Distance letter sent from Zalaegerszeg to Kőszeg on February 5, 1946 correctly franked in accordance with the 7th rate period tariff: 3,000 pengő

From the next letter, the letterhead of the Stamp Marketing Office grins at us. These were used to send new issues to collectors in the provinces. The number of these sending must have been fairly limited because bold, nice handwriting of the same person can be seen on all envelopes from this era. So, one person could handle at the shipments to all of the stamp collectors in the provinces! They paid careful attention to the franking and knew exactly what kind of stamps to affix to the envelopes. Thus, the extraordinarily scarce use of a block of four 60 pengő stamp was created.



Figure 39. Registered distance letter sent from Budapest to Szeged on January 12, 1946 correctly franked in accordance with the 5th rate period tariff: 300 pengő (120 pengő for the 3rd weight class letter + 240 pengő for registration)

We have to be grateful for the orangish-brown 60 pengő stamp for providing the most spectacular and valuable combinations. One such, for example, is the registered letter mailed locally in Kiskunhalas on January 15, 1946 during the 6th rate period. Our fellow collector spared no effort in assembling the franking with all specialties that he could muster.

1. 100 pengő tête bêche pair plus the scarce 60 pengő stamp

2. 10P/2f stamp partially missing overprint. This stamp was not valid to use on letters!
3. 10P/2f stamp with INVERTED overprint. Only a single copy is known to have been used on mail up until now!
4. A block of four 3P/3f stamps, one stamp with incomplete printing that was overprinted nevertheless. A unique item!
5. The letter was posted on the 2nd day of the 6th rate period.

Obviously, the stamps were not applied to the envelope at the post office but rather at home. The letter was handled during the grace period. Instead of the required 1,600 pengő, it was accepted at the 320 pengő rate despite the fact that stamps added up to only 312 pengős. (The genuineness of the letter and the stamps have been confirmed in writing by two experts specializing in the inflation period.)



Figure 40. Local registered letter mailed in Kiskunhalas on January 5, 1946 franked with, among others, a 60 pengő stamp, as well as a single 10P/2f provisional stamp with inverted overprint. A most valuable, perhaps unsurpassable piece from the Second Inflation..

The Christmas holiday was barely over when the presses of the State Printing Office started up again. The next stamp, face value 240 pengő, appeared on January 7th 1946 in a relatively small edition of only 992,000 stamps.

My Dear Readers, you may have noticed that despite the large printing quantities, error printings are seldom encountered. The misperforation shown below is one of only a few irregularities that have surface so far.



Figure 41. Block of four of the 240 pengő stamp issued on January 7th 1946 with significant misperforation.

Printed quantity: 992,000 stamps

The single use possibilities here are also exotic: it could be used for the 3rd weight class distance letter (250-500 gram) or a 6th weight class (500-1,000 gram) printed matter. Appropriately, this is a scarce stamp. I can show one multicolored franking that is also interesting. The person responsible for processing mail at the Hungarian Mortgage Credit Bank (every large corporation had a dedicated employee to handle incoming and outgoing mail) endorsed the envelope with "*I am asking for the stamps please / Thank you*" as a request for the return of the stamps that were showy and valuable. Almost two months transpired between the appearance of the 20 pengő and the 240 pengő stamps. The distance letter with 3,000 pengő, five-color franking was showy and it had the 240 pengő stamp embedded on it. (Many such "return requested" envelopes are known to exist.)



Figure 42. Distance letter franked with five-color denominations sent from Budapest to Pestszenterzsébet (back then it was not a part of Greater Budapest) on February 15, 1946 correctly franked with 3,000 pengő in accordance with the 7th rate tariff

The next big sensational event that happened three days later was totally unexpected and unnerving. It created unprecedented excitement amongst us, small fry stamp collectors, who were not among the insiders. Three stamps were issued at the same time, still a part of the Reconstruction set, with face values of 12, 24, and 140 pengő, supposedly printed in small quantities. Our enthusiasm was rekindled following the

mass release of stamps in December snapping us out of our lethargy.



Figure 43. The 12, 24, and 140 pengő stamps issued on January 10th 1946. Printed quantities: 510,000, 500,000, and 490,000 stamps, respectively.

The flea market at the stamp window of the No. 4 Post Office came to life. We happily carted sheets of stamps home tucked safely into our school portfolios, sheets of stamps that were now freely obtainable and which we had hoped would become the ultimate rarities. We never thought about the fact that if they were so rare, why were they available in unlimited quantities? And again, what were they good for anyway? Advanced collectors may have pondered this last question internally, especially since feeling the effects of the inflation, there was not much need for the 12 pengő value.

We now know that these stamps needed to be printed and issued after all because these denominations already had been reported to the UPU. They were issued in quantities of only half million copies in anticipation of the probable speculation. Postal use of them is practically nonexistent. Let's not forget that back then postally used covers were not collected; everyone saved "unused" stamps. We can thank the lucky happenstance that one or two such covers exist. Let me show a letter that is a nearly unique item. The stamps used for franking totaled 316 pengő. The applicable tariff on February 8, 1946 under the 7th rate for a registered distance letter was 9,000 pengő (distance letter 3,000 + registration 6,000 = 9,000 pengő). The "collected fee" paid in cash was 8,684 pengő. The cover is from the private correspondence of the town's notary and was endorsed at the post office of Nagyrécse. This is not a philatelic mailing!

The sender must have received his supply of stamps from the Stamp Marketing Office and lacking any information about the new issue decided to utilize the surplus stamps that seemingly had little value. Gábor Visnyovszki passed this great rarity to me about twenty years ago. Over the span of many decades, he found only this one. From the perspective of its scarcity, this speaks for itself. I am also happy that I can show it as the highlight of my gleanings.



Figure 44. Registered letter send from Nagyrécse to Kecskemét of February 8, 1946 franked with 316 pengő in stamps and cash payment of 8,684 pengő for a total on 9,000 pengő in accordance with the tariff of the 7th rate period.

In instances such as this, the post office's four-digit control number was struck next to the manuscript cash payment annotation. The postal clerk verified this with his/her initials and then applied the circular place-date stamp to complete the procedure. The clerk at the small town post office dutifully complied with these tasks. The reverse side shows the arrival cancellation of the Kecskemét post office: 46. feb. 10.

After being disappointed in not becoming wealthier as a result of the stamp acquisitions, we abandoned the effort to buy the Reconstruction stamps. It seemed that after a two-month, rapid fire release, and the post office stopped issuing stamps for the set. The traffic at the stamp window of the No. 4 Post Office returned to normal, only one or two collectors strolled in its direction.

After nearly a month passed, on February 5, 1946, we heard in disbelief that the post office issued another stamp, in my opinion unplanned, in the denomination of 3,000 pengő. This stamp was completely irregular with respect to the other Reconstruction stamps.

1. The stamp was usable! A single stamp paid the rate for a domestic distance letter, two stamps could be used for registration (6,000 pengő), and a strip of five was good on foreign letters (15,000 pengő)
2. The sheets were printed simply in 100 subjects; namely, it did not contain the upside-down half sheet of 50.

This caused confusion among the collectors, who complained about the lack of tête bêche pairs for the 3,000 pengő stamp, and who could not understand why they could not purchase those. The hair of a whole generation of stamp dealers grew gray because of this stamp.



Figure 45. The 3,000 pengő stamp issued on February 5th 1946. Printed quantity: 2,989,000 stamps.

Since the stamp was devoid of philatelic interest, it saw unrestricted, mass usage for frankings, some of which were showy. Let me show one such letter sent abroad with 15x3,000 = 45,000 pengő multiple franking. There is a blue cross-shaped marking on the front of the envelope that was required on all registered

letters sent to England in order to make them distinguishable.



Figure 46. Registered letter sent from Budapest to London on February 9, 1946. Franking: foreign letter fee 15,000, registration 30,000 = 45,000 pengő

The next postcard is interesting because it was franked (15,000 pengő) in accordance with the 8th rate period even though it was mailed on the first day of the 9th rate period when it would have required twice the amount of stamps. Since the stamps had been affixed to the card (in anticipation of leaving space for the text), it was probably deposited in a letter collection box. The post office accepted such mailings on the next day (grace period).



Figure 47. Postcard sent from Kecskemét to Miskolc on March 16, 1946 franked in accordance with the 8th rate period mailed on the first day of the 9th rate period

We are slowly approaching the natural boundaries of the possible utilization of this stamp. One of the final letters is shown below. The registered distance letter shows an example of the maximum possible utilization of franking with the Reconstruction stamp. The postage for the letter was 20,000 pengő and with the registration of 40,000 pengő, it totalled 60,000 pengő. The sender solved the problem by affixing a block of 20 3,000 pengő stamps to the reverse side of the envelope. I am not aware of any higher value franking using only Reconstruction stamps. Higher frankings than this can exist only with stamps from the Post Rider and subsequently issued sets.



Figure 48. The reverse side of a registered letter sent from Nagykanizsa to Pécs on March 2, 1946. According to the postal tariff, the rate for the letter was 20,000 pengő and registration cost 40,000 pengő. This is the highest value franking using only Reconstruction stamps known by the author..

Dear fellow Collectors, Dear Readers!

To my knowledge, this is the first time that a treatise dealing with the Reconstruction stamps had appeared in which I tried to present an answer to every aspect of the issue. This was a new task for me and provided a lot of excitement to look at a "modern" (70 year old) topic with the eyes and experience of a collector of classical issue. Reliving the adventures of a then 12 year-old and remembering the conclusions reached back then provided an interesting combination for me.

My observations regarding this issue should not be seen as criticism in connection with the Post Office or the Monograph. Quite on the contrary, we owe a debt of gratitude to every postal employee who lived and worked at that time. They, starting with the workers at the State Printing Office to the letter carriers, performed with nearly superhuman effort under terrible conditions. Thanks to them!

The editors of the Monograph were in a bad situation in the 1960s. Although they had access to almost every information about the stamps, they did not have an encompassing vision about postally used letters. The credit for the primary evaluation of postally used material belongs by Gábor Visnyovszki, who accomplished this in the Handbook of Hungarian Stamps, published in 1986 which is still valid today. The Reconstruction stamps were available for use during from the 5th rate period to theoretically the 11th, but practically only through the 9th.

This issue can be looked at from other angles. First day usage in a rate period, grace periods, frankings for each class of mail, mixed frankings with other issues, domestic and foreign correspondence, etc. I consider the solution that I chose to be the most illuminative, informative, historically correct, and readable. I hope that my Dear Readers find it (found it) to be true.

EPILOGUE

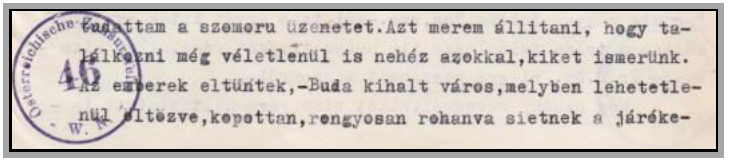
I could not pass up the opportunity to show one of my favorite pieces from his issue. It is a first-rate historical document. The correspondence of the Pálffy family from the 1945-46 period was auctioned off in a shoe box by the Dorotheum in Vienna. Because the Pálffy correspondence using 50kr stamps from the 1867 issue cause feverish excitement in me, I bought the lot that included the following letter. It documents the fate of the family's descendants who lived in the Pozsony region in the time right after the war. First, they fled to Heidenreichstein in northern Austria, then to Kitzbühel in Tyrol where they were employed by French troops. The letter was franked with only 13,000 pengő in lieu of the 15,000 pengő.

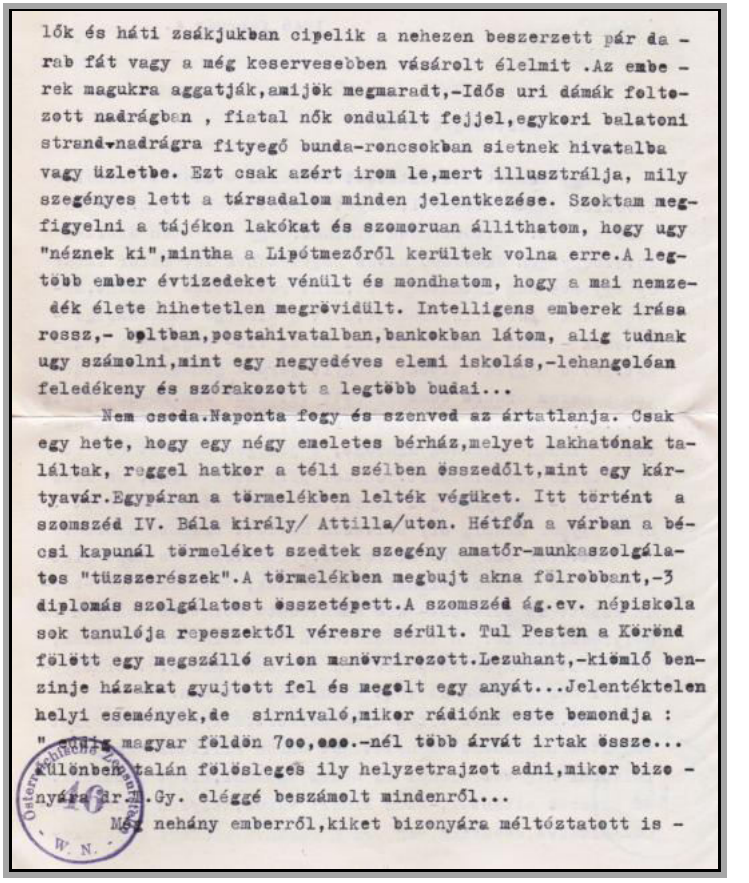
Most likely, the number of 1,000 pengő stamps was miscounted creating a rare postage due letter using Reconstruction stamps. (The sender was the Count Pálffy family's lawyer living in Pest. He was an exceptionally correct individual!)



Figure 49. Letter sent from Budapest to Austria on February 5, 1946 ranked with 13,000 pengő in lieu of the correct 15,000 fee (there are 10 1,000 pengő stamps affixed on the reverse side). The letter was assessed postage due in Austria with two 40 pfenning stamps. (As this is a Reconstruction mailing with postage due makes it an extraordinary philatelic gem)

In addition, I wanted to show two small parts of the pessimistic tone of the letter sent to Count Pálffy found inside the envelope. In parting, I am asking the Respected Reader to read it (I am showing excerpts from the four-page letter, pages one and two, the other two pages are about personal matters). It is not often that we find such poignant description of the social situation in 1946. This helps us to understand the era.


tagattam a szomoru üzenetet.Azt merem állitani, hogy találkozni még véletlenül is nehéz azokkal,kiket ismerünk. Az emberek eltüntek,-Buda kihalt város,melyben lehetetlenül öltözve,kopottan,rongyosan rohanva sietnek a járóke-


lók és háti zsákjukban cipelik a nehezen beszerzett pár darab fát vagy a még keservesebben vásárolt élelmit .Az emberek magukra aggatják,amijök megmaradt,-Idős uri dámák foltozott nadrágban , fiatal nők ondulált fejjel,egykori balatoni strand-nadrágra fityegő bunda-roncsokban sietnek hivatalba vagy üzletbe. Ezt csak azért irom le,mert illusztrálja, mily szegényes lett a társadalom minden jelentkezése. Szoktam megfigyelni a tájékon lakókat és szomoruan állithatom, hogy ugy "néznek ki",mintha a Lipótmezőről kerültek volna erre.A legtöbb ember évtizedeket vénült és mondhatom, hogy a mai nemzedék élete hihetetlen megrövidült. Intelligens emberek irása rossz,- boltban,postahivatalban,bankokban látom, alig tudnak ugy számolni,mint egy negyedéves elemi iskolás,-lehangolóan feledékeny és szórakozott a legtöbb budai...

Nem csoda.Naponta fogy és szenved az ártatlanja. Csak egy hete, hogy egy négy emeletes bérház,melyet lakhatónak találtak, reggel hatkor a téli szélben összedőlt,mint egy kártyavár.Egypáran a törmelékben lelték végüket. Itt történt a szomszéd IV. Béla király/ Attilla/uton. Hétfőn a várban a bécsi kapunál törmeléket szedtek szegény amatőr-munkaszolgálatos "tüzszerészek".A törmelékben megbujt akna felrobbant,-3 diplomás szolgálatost összetépett.A szomszéd ág.ev. népiskola sok tanulója repeszektől véresre sérült. Tul Pesten a Körönd fölött egy megszálló avion manövrirozott.Lezuhant,-kiömlő benzinje házakat gyujtott fel és megölt egy anyát...Jelentéktelen helyi események,de sirnivaló,mikor rádiónk este bemondja : "Budán magyar földön 7oo,ooo.-nél több árvát irtak össze... Különben talán fölösleges ily helyzetrajzot adni,mikor bizonyára dr.Gy. eléggé beszámolt mindenről...

Még nehány emberről,kiket bizonyára méltóztatott is -

Let us remember our predecessors…

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 (e nyelvi mutáció 50 alatti példányszámban.)

Újságunk teljes tartalma és digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető.

www.mafitt.hu

The full contents and the digital supplements of the back issues of this journal are available

at the website of Mafitt..

XXVIII. évfolyam

_____

ISSN 0324–4806

Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság
Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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

Ára: 1.800 Ft

A Philatelica díjai − Awards of Philatelica



2013.
LS





2014.
LS





2015.
LS

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását e kiállítások idején helyesbítettük.
The Mafitt's name in English was corrected these years.

A Philatelica nyomdai kivitelezéséhez a **Gervay Mihály Magyar Postatörténeti Alapítvány** nyújt támogatást.
Printing of the PHILATELICA is supported by the Mihaly Gervay Postal History Foundation.

17
3

Philatelica

Philatelica 2017/3

Tartalom / Content:

Severin Péter Czirók Dénes-:	Különlegességek a Meczenzéf-i posta működéséből Pecularities about the Operation Of the Meczenzéf Post Office	1.
Vas István	Magyarország Hírlapilleték bélyegei (1868–1889) Newspaper Tax Stamps of Hungary (1868–1889)	8.
Tóth György:	Kiegészítés a Pengő-fillér kiadásról megjelent cikkhez Addition to the Article of Pengo-filler issue	20.
Kőhalmi Csaba:	Bélyegfüzetek az egyetemes postaegyesület (UPU) 75. évfordulója alkalmából Stamp Booklets Issued for the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union	25.
Bob Morgan:	Bevezetés Magyarország vágott bélyegekkel bérmentesített elsőnapi leveleibe Introduction to Hungary's Promotional FDCs with Imperforate Stamps	33.
Hírek / News		40.

Szerkesztő / Editor	Szücs Károly, Mafitt titkár / secretary of Mafitt
Fordítók / Translators:	Dr. Homonnay Géza, Kőhalmi Csaba, Szücs Károly.
Tanácsadók / Consultants	Filep László, bélyegszakértő / philatelic expert Dr. Lővei György, a Gervay Alapítvány elnöke President of the Gervay Foundation Sebestyén T. Tamás, a Mafitt tagja / member of Mafitt Mervyn Benford, former President of The Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain

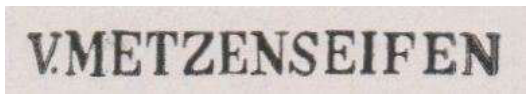



PECULARITIES ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE MECZENZEF POST OFFICE

PETER SEVERIN (PRAGUE) – DENES CZIROK (ZALAEGERSZEG)

In 1135 Countess Mätzen established a settlement near the site of today's Mecenzef. The countess's name was probably the reason the settlement was called Metzenseifen which later became known as the Village of Meczenczef. Its first mention as a mining settlement dates from 1359 in connection with the construction of an iron foundry. In addition to the mine and the foundry, blacksmiths produced tools for use in agriculture. Shoemakers, locksmiths, carpenters, and last but not least, agricultural workers made up the local economy. The village is located in Abauj-Torna County, about halfway along the postal route between the towns of Rozsnyo and Kassa.

The first mention of a post office is from 1787, and its first cancellation according to research conducted by Bela Terfi dates from 1825.



Unfortunately, only a single copy of this cancellation is known to date. The example can be found in the Stamp Museum; therefore, no cancellation is in private hands.

The next, better known oval cancellation probably existed in 1825 and was used in the pre-stamp era until 1847.



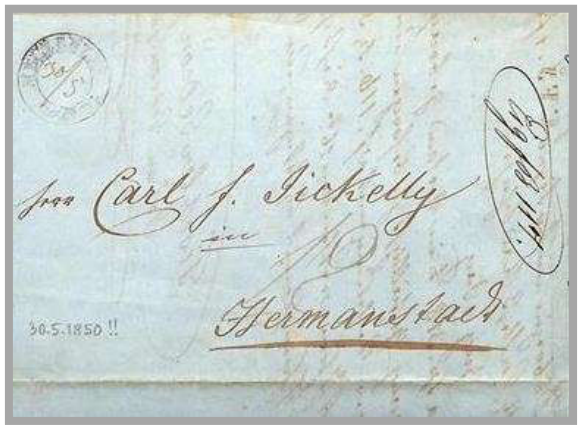
Franco-letter with METZENSEIFFEN cancellation from 1841 (Dr. H.K. collection.)

The third cancellation of the Meczenzef post-office was the centrally produced double-circle type one, the usage has begun in 1847.



Postage-due letter from 1847with the double-circle type MECZENZEF cancellation (Dr. J.R. collection)

This double-circle cancellation worked flawlessly during 1847-48-49, but in May 1850 the inside date inlay broke down. Therefore on the last day of the pre-stamp period (May 30) we can witness the date handwritten by the postmaster into the cancellation.



Postage due letter with double-circle type MECZENZEF cancellation, with handwritten date (ex.Dirnberger)

On June 1 the Austrian postal authority issued its own first stamps. The post office of Meczenzef continued to use the pre-stamp double-circle type cancellation with date inlay. The problems with the date inlay continued even after the issuing of the stamps. Thanks to the extensive postal correspondence it is possible to reconstruct the period of the next months and years.

The database for the period of the usage of the I. issue (1 June 1850 – 31 December 1858), constructed over 35 years, contains 31 covers posted in Meczenzef, 6 of them bearing hand-written date or a different type of handwritten cancellation.



Registered letter (front side registration!) from 7 June 1850, with hand-written date (2007 Dunafila auction)

The earliest known cover of the stamp period with hand-written date designation stems from 7 June 1850. This letter is also a clean-cut example of the broken down date inlay of the cancellation, which resulted in the hand-written date designation of the postmaster as the simplest way of solving this problem.

The next letter in the database stems from 14 July 1850:



The content of the letter clearly shows the postage day of 14 July 1850 and the postage place of Meczenzef.



Long-distance letter from Meczenzef on 14 July 1850

The above letter supports the assumption that the Post tried to correct the problem of the cancellation and therefore the canceller has probably been sent for repair, thereby leaving the post office without a stamping. Thus the above letter has been pen-cancelled.

This hypothesis is also supported by the next cover from 28 August 1850, which has been cancelled by the old pre-stamp stamp, probably because of the lack of any other device.



Long-distance cover sent on 28 August 1850, cancelled by the oval stamp used in the pre-stamp period

The next cover has been posted on 30 October 1850. The double-circle canceller was clearly avail-able again, but in the original, unrepaired state.



Long-distance cover sent on 30 October 1850, yet again with handwritten date

The last similar cover, according to the database, stems from 24 December 1850.



Postage due letter with double-circle type MECZENZEF cancellation, with handwritten date (ex.Dirnberger)

The next cover is known from 29 March 1851, showing the original double-circle type cancellation without the date inlay problem (the quality of the picture is extremely bad, not presentable).

What could have happened? In the first half of the 19th century the date and time had to be shown along with the place of the postage. This order resulted in the production of such postal canceller in which a part has been left out for the date inlay.

The date inlay has been lifted out of the canceller each day, and after the correct setting it has been placed back. For the lifting of the inlay a fixing screw had to be removed. This could be the cause of the problem in the Meczenzef post office. Locally irreparable they have sent it for repair. (See the above shown covers between 14 July and 28 August, when the post office was physically missing the canceller.)

Seemingly the service did not repair the canceller and sent it back with the problem still existing. During this period the post office ordered the cancellers s not directly from the producer, but indirectly from the higher postal authority, which had contracted vendors working for it. The old, malfunctioning canceller has probably been exchanged for a new, similar one in the first quarter of 1851 or maybe they could repair it by then? There must have been several smaller manufactures in the village employing skilful technicians…

The post office of Meczenzef has another speciality though, making it famous among the collectors, i.e. the „stair-type franking". It is very difficult to find out who was the first in the Monarchy to apply the cancellers over one another, but one thing is certain – the postmaster of Meczenzef has been practising this for the longest period of time.

The first such item stems from January 1861 in the database and connects well to the previous topic, as half of the date inlay can be seen on the letter, but the other half is clearly missing.



Long-distance cover posted in Mecenzef in January 1851 with „stair-type" franking „January" date inlay (ex.Dirnberger)

As can be seen on this letter, in the beginning the coverage of the lower stamp has not been significant, but later the postmaster perfected the method until the lower stamp was barely visible.



Letter sent on 25 April 1868 with „stair-type" franking (ex. Wittenberg)

The method is even more striking at multiple frankings:



Long-distance cover sent on 4 October 1853 with „stair-type" franking (ex.Capellaro)



Registered cover in the 8th weight-class with „stair-type" franking (ex.Jerger)

Seemingly this is not a unique case, the postmaster applied this method fairly consequently, witness the below letter:



Letter sent on 25 August 1857 franked „stair-type" with 9 pieces of 1 kr stamps

On closer inspection of the above letter we can state that there still has been some problem with the date inlay, as the number 8 representing the month of August has been placed upside down into the inlay. There is another letter from the same day (and to the same city), and yet again with „stair-type" franking:



Letter sent once again on 25 August 1857 franked „stair-type" with 9 pieces of 1 kr stamps (A.B. collection)

The practise of the „stair-type" franking continued after 1858 with the other Austrian issues as well:



Cover with „stair-type" franking from Meczenzef (Dr.U.F.coll.)

They used the method for several more years, one of the last Mohicans stems from 1865:



Long-distance cover with „stair-type" franking sent on 24 May 1865

As an interesting observation we can see that the „stair-type" frankings consisting of 2 stamps are cancelled once, those of 5 stamps are cancelled twice and those with 9 stamps are cancelled thrice. So the „stair-type" franking spared a lot of

work for the postmaster on one hand, and diminished the wearing of the canceller on the other

Let us ask the question then, whether the experience gathered in the early 1850's regarding the wearing down of the canceller could play a role in the decision of the postmaster to apply the „stair-type" franking practise well into the 1860's?

Let us quote the famous song of Bob Dylan: „*The Answer Is Blowin' In The Wind*"

Translated by Dr. Geza Homonnay

* * * * * * * * *

The editor's comments about the following article by Istvan Vas on the subject of newspaper tax stamps. We received the manuscript of this article with colour photographs of the illustrations glued to the paper while the author was still alive. The quality of the photos was less than ideal, so we planned to re-scan the pictures with joint effort in order to improve the resolution. Unfortunately, this did not happen because of the author's untimely death.

Since then, his collection has been scattered to the four winds and the project could not be completed. I was fortunate to acquire the scanned pages of the original collection due to the efforts of Denes Czirok. From this, I was able to replace the more important illustrations with more acceptable, better quality images although it was not possible to get each and every one.

The article does not mention this, but the CD supplement with the scans of the Vas collection includes the image of another copy of the Military Border District newspaper tax stamp. In conjunction with this, I would like to direct the attention of those interested in this topic to the article featured in the 2016/3 issue of OKMANYBELYEG titled "The Known Copies of the 1 Krajczar Military Border District Newspaper Tax Stamp." This article complements the author's study. This is also available on the internet. Vas's example is stamp number 4 that was sold at Profila auction in 2006. Since then, the general consensus evolved based on the discrepancies in the image that the stamp shown as number 5 in the article and sold at a 2011 Darabanth auction is a fake! The stamp shown below, photographed this year in the British Library's Tapling Collection can replace it as a genuine, unused specimen. In addition to the 9 known genuine examples, perhaps we may encounter 4 other hidden, lurking examples.[1]

Notably, an ink drawing of this issue was a part of the 4th Mafitt Salon, and the monograph mentions the existence of several black prints. If anyone has access to the latter, please send in a picture so that we may show it subsequently. [2]



The Tapling example



Ink drawings of the issue

Translated by Csaba Kohalmi

[1] see: Monograph III. p. 749.
[2] Monograph III. p. 74.



HUNGARY'S NEWSPAPER TAX STAMPS (1868–1898)

VAS ISTVAN, SZIGETVAR

The newspaper tax stamps from Hungary actually belong with the fiscal revenue stamps. Still, the vast majority of them were handled postally. The ones cancelled by the customs offices are very few; therefore, the catalogues always list them amongst the collectible Hungarian stamps.

The Monograph wrote in detail about the newspaper tax stamps. They are a part of the Handbook of Hungarian Stamps as well as Gabor Visnyovszki's Stamp Book; and, naturally, in all of the catalogues. Their most detailed analysis was prepared for the Monograph by Dr. Ferenc Rend, who had access to the material in the archives and was able to exhaust all information in writing up the history of this issue. Yet, he had little knowledge of what was locked away in collections even though he expressed gratitude to 15 noted collectors for their contributions. Knowing this, the gaps in the information provided is still surprising, especially in the area of multiple stamps. I will try to fill in the gaps using my personal collection and to make corrections to the information provided in the Monograph.

The stamps /1 krajcar/ were printed together in four, 100-subject sheets. Edge bars along the top and bottom were used to secure the paper from moving. This resulted in a colour imprint that can be seen above the top row of stamps and below the one in the bottom row, especially on multiples cut from the sheet. Literature does not mention the fact that later printings were made using 100-subject sheets on which the imprint of the edge bars is missing. I am showing multiples with edge bar imprints among which is a world class rarity, a block of 40. Also, I am showing a complete sheet of 100 without the edge bar imprint. This is complemented by another rarity, a used block of 40 (two such examples are known, one is in the Stamp Museum, the other is shown here) which is also missing the edge bar imprint. The cancellation is from 1887 which indicates that preparations were in progress for the 1888 issue at that time /that issue was printed only in 100-subject sheets/.

This discussion leads us to the subject of multiples. A quote from the Monograph: "A large quantity from the first issue of the Hungarian newspaper tax stamps did not survive unused; buy, despite this, large multiples exist. For example, a full sheet is known to exist of the copper-red 2 krajcar stamp. Also, an unused block of 198 stamps exists for the 1 krajcar value. The next largest known multiple of the 2 krajcar stamp is a block of 6. We are not aware of the existence of unused pairs, strips or small blocks." My comment is that both of the mentioned objects are property of the Stamp Museum.

The 1 krajcar value

In the following, I will deal with the question as to why Dr. Ferenc Rend did not mention that his observation applied to the 1 krajcar value, also. I am illustrating the block of 1 krajcar stamps that I wrote about earlier.



Figure 1

A rare example of this issue is the block of 40 with the imprints of the edge bar.



Figure 2



Figure 3

In order to supplement the gaps in the Monograph, I am showing several larger multiples[3] The Handbook of Hungarian stamps that was published much later, provides valuations of multiples of the 1 krajcar stamp for up to and including blocks of 4.



Figure 4

[3] Three additional blocks of 4 can be found on the CD-ROM appendix



Figure 5

The block of 20 shown below can be seen in the Stamp Museum.



Figure 6

Next, I am showing a selection of various 1 krajcar stamps: colours, cancellations, and interesting varieties



Figure 7: colours



Figure 8: cancellations

Customs office cancellations that have not been publicized in literature:



Figure 9: M.K. POSTA HIRLAP KIADO HIVATALA SOPRON



Figure 10: M.KIR. POSTAHIVATAL HOMONNA



Figure 11: M.K. HIRLAPKEZELO POSTAHIVATAL POZSONY (R)

The date 1881 (on the stamp the correct representation should have been 81) is indicated with an inverted 18.



Figure 12: misdating paper fold and sheet colour transfer

Pairs of used stamps can be found fairly regularly; however, larger used multiples are scarce. The largest know used multiple is the vertical block of 20 shown earlier, although blocks of 4, 6, and 8 are known.



Figure 13

The blocks of 4 and 6 illustrated here probably originated from the same sheet that was the source of vertical block of 20 /based on the cancellations/.

The 2 krajcar value

Its colours provide quite diversity. In addition to the several shades of brown, reddish-brown shades exist. The scarcest is the brownish-red /copper-red/ colour.



Figure 14-16:
chocolate-brown *brown* *coffee-brown*



Figure 17-19: reddish-brown

Reddish-brown with phantom printing in the area of the numeral of value:

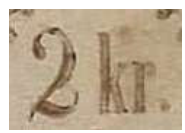


Figure 20



Figure 21: brownish-red (copper red)

It was mentioned earlier that a complete sheet of 100 of the 2 krajcar brownish-red /copper red/ value is in the Stamp Museum. This sheet shows the imprint on the edge bar along the top and the bottom, so it was most likely printed as a single sheet of 100.

The edge bars were changed several times, and I can show three different versions (something that was also mentioned in the Monograph).



Figure 22

Multiples were also mentioned before. The ones shown here represent every variety of colour, amongst them such scarce examples as the block of 10 and 50 in brown shade, two scarcer reddish-brown block of 4 /in a slightly different shade/, as well as a block of 9 in brownish-red /copper red/ colour.



Figure 23a: units in brown



Figures 23f-25: units in brown



Figure 26: reddish-brown



Figure 27: brownish-red

The frankings of the 1868 issue are scarce, especially the so-called pseudo-mixed frankings. These came into existence on items mailed from another country with that country's stamps. The mail was then affixed with the appropriate newspaper tax stamps upon arrival in Hungary.

The first item shown was mailed from Belgrade using an office of the Austrian Post; hence, it was franked with an Austrian stamp. The newspaper tax stamp was applied in our country (SEMLIN).



Figure 28

The next newspaper was posted in Jerusalem that was under Turkish administration then. First, a Turkish revenue stamp was affixed to it which was then pre-cancelled /using a printed text/. Upon arrival in Hungary, it received a brownish-red /copper red/ stamp.



Figures 29-30

In conclusion, it's showing a unique rarity. Philatelic literature unvaryingly declares that a pair of 2 krajcar values properly used in not known.



Figures 31-32

The posting is truly unique, namely the newspapers sent from Belgrade (originally there were two copies) were taxed by applying a pair of 2 krajcar stamps. The fact that there had to have been two papers originally is supported by the Serbian stamp used to pay the inland postage. Therefore, the fact that a used pair of 2 krajcar stamps is not known needs to be modified.

The 1888 issue

For a long time, the 1888 issue was listed with the issue date of 1889. Gabor Voloncs clarified the mistake and correctly identified the date as 1888. The earliest known cancellation is May 26, 1888.



Figure 34

Reprints of the issue on cardboard paper [4]



Figure 35

Initially, many collectors assumed that the 1888 date was a mistake in setting the year in the canceller. The attached illustration of a newspaper should settle the issue since the publication date was October 20, 1888 and the arrival (delivery) date was October 22, 1888.



Figure

This issue was printed on watermarked paper /kr/ but the letter 'k' in the design was different. Note that the watermark already came into use with the 1881 series.

Next, I'm going to give some examples of colour shades, cancellation and other peculiarities for this issue.



Figures 39a-c: dark blue shades



Figure 39d: light blue

[4] The author originally wrote 'trial printing.' Unfortunately, this could not be cleared up because he passed away. The editor.



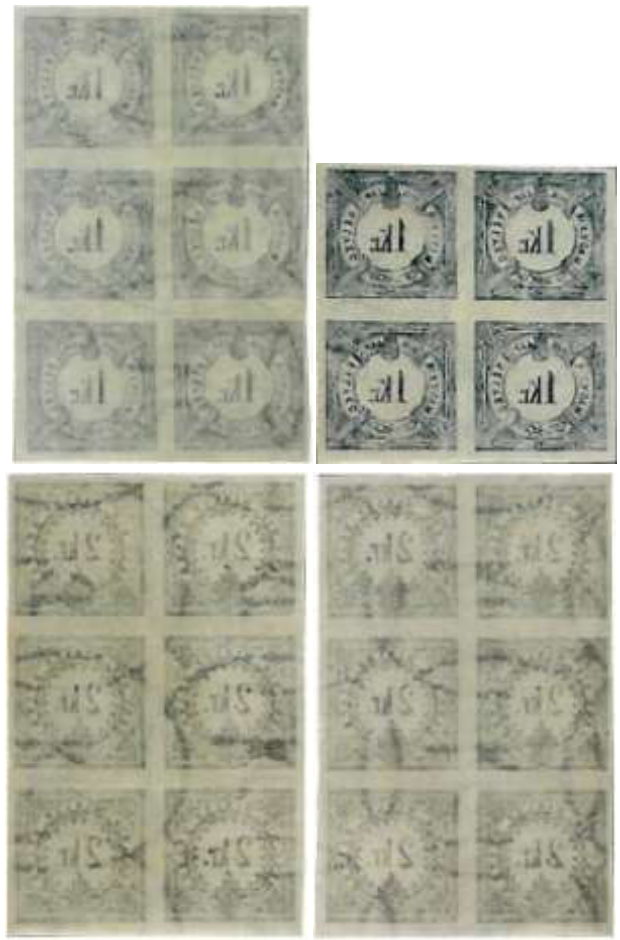
40.abra: customs office cancellations



41.abra: cancellation using an ink pen



Figures 42-48: colour transfer to the reverse side



Figures 49-51: colour transfer (continued)

Quote from the monograph: "Used multiples of this issue can be considered fairly scarce. We are now aware of multiples larger than pair of the 1 krajcar value." This last statement is erroneous since the Handbook of Hungarian Stamps provided valuations for strips of three and four. I'm illustrating a few larger multiples.





52-53.abra

The above cancellations are especially scarce. I'm not deciphering the first one since it's legible. The second one is BUDAPEST KIALLITAS 1.SZ.

Note: four of the following multiples illustrated are cancelled NAGYVARAD. It is possible that these were squirreled away with one collector and their existence was not known.





Figure 54





55-56.abra

Finally, the scarcest example of this issue is a used block of 30 (with MAKO cancellation). It is the largest known used multiple of the Hungarian newspaper tax stamps.



Figure 57

There are two prominent colour shades of the 2 krajcar stamp: one is a lighter while the other is a darker, slightly blackish, brown shade. Based on the cancellations found on used copies, the lighter shades are from earlier printings while the darker ones were produced later.



Figure 58

A quote from the Monograph: "…we are aware of only a few blocks of 4 from the 2 krajcar value always cancelled with a travelling post office device." What constitutes a 'few' is totally uncertain. One is in the Stamp Museum making the total of 7 pieces. There also exists a block of 6 with an attest written by Ferenc Orban in 1993. He stipulated that this was a unique example, the largest known multiple. Since then, we discovered six different blocks of 6; moreover, two blocks of 12 have turned up. Presently, these constitute the largest known multiples of the used 2 krajcar stamp. The Handbook of Hungarian Stamps places a value on strips of 3 only.



Figure 59



Figures 60-63a-b

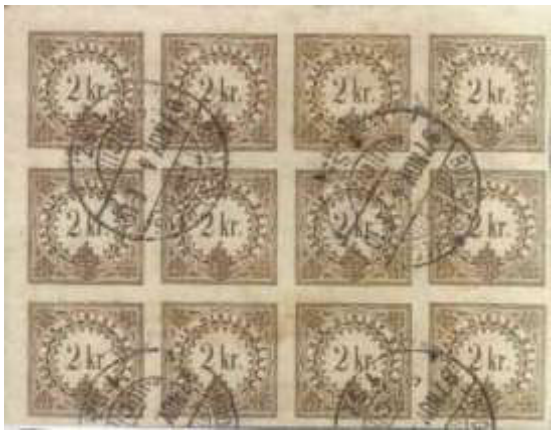


Figure 64



Figure 65

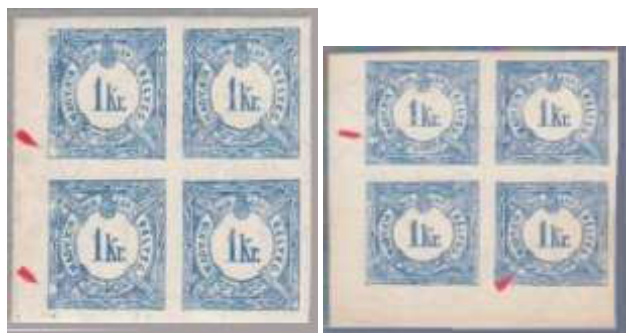
Pseudo mixed franking: A wrapper from Argentina with a printed 4 centavo stamp visibly marked for Austria but in the address the word 'Ungarn' appears at the bottom. Evidently that is why only a 1 krajcar stamp is affixed in lieu of the proper 2 krajcar fee.



Figure 66

The 1898 issue

The image of the stamp remained unchanged but the watermark became the large crown (II). This issue does not require any additional comments or corrections. I am showing unused multiples showing the same flaws confirming that the printing plate remained unchanged.



Figures 67b-c



Figure 67a



Figure 67d

In conclusion, I am attaching two frankings. One is a philatelic letter addressed to Lajos Richter, a well-known collector from that era, who most likely mailed the letter to himself franked with three 1 krajcar stamps whose period of validity had already expired. The correct franking would have been 5 filler. The 3 newspaper tax revenue stamps would have been converted to 6 filler. Therefore, the letter was over-franked, but the vertical strip of 3 is scarce for this issue.



Figure 68

The last item is a pseudo-mixed franking. The wrapper from France has a French stamp affixed along with a very nice corner copy of a pair of newspaper tax stamps. The reason why a pair was used is because in 1898, the 2 krajcar value was not issued, so only 1 krajcar stamps could be utilized.



Figure 69

Translated by Csaba Kohalmi

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE PENGO-FILLER ISSUE



GYORGY TOTH, BEKESCSABA

Mervyn Benford wrote two articles published in previous issues of Philatelica containing substantial information about the Pengo-filler issue. Based on postal history documents that I possess, I agree that this period contains significant postal history material that has yet to be discovered. I would like to contribute supplemental information and documents for this purpose.

In my opinion, the translation of the article into Hungarian utilized a few expressions that seemed to have caused conceptual confusion. Because of the confusing translation I would describe the values of this set higher than 25 filler as depicting the Castle of Buda. I would attribute the source of the counterfeited stamps from the set to the tobacco store of Dorottya Street since it sold the fake 8 and 16 filler stamps. The Commerce Bank of Pest was not the only institution that used these fakes.



Figure 1a. A counterfeit 8 filler stamp that is not on a letter associated with the PMKB.

I would not consider the postal stationery associated with this issue as being scarce. I have multiple examples of the local rate 4 filler and the distance rate 8 filler stationery in my collection. In 1930, the Post Office supplemented the 4 and 8 filler postal cards stored in the warehouse with a 2 filler machine imprint in order to revalue them according to the new postal tariffs. These cards are scarcer than the original 4 and 8 filler values.

First, I'm illustrating a letter sent to the Canal Zone on which a pair of 20/25 filler overprinted were used.



Figure 1b

Currency and tariffs

It is incorrect to state that only the foreign registry and the domestic express rates changed on January 1, 1927.

In addition to these, the domestic registry changed as shown on the subsequent local, 1st weight increment letter…



Figure 2

… as well as a 2nd weight increment registered local letter with 12 filler registry fee ...



Figure 3

… furthermore, a 3rd weight increment letter from 1927 with mixed franking paying the 15 filler registry fee.



Figure 4

The PRT directed that in converting the Korona currency into filler, the postal tariffs needed to be specified in Korona currency through December 31, 1926. As of January 1, 1927, the tariffs were specified in Pengo-filler currency.

Special discounted rates applied to the countries listed as well as to Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Italy.

The printed matter fee to the treaty-rate countries was 4 filler. The basic fee for other countries was raised by 2 filler for each 20 gram weight increment.

Mixed frankings

I would consider as mixed frankings only first Pengo-filler stamps used with Korona issues. This period that lasted one year is full of countless scarce examples.

I am illustrating three interesting specimens from this period.

Figure 5 shows an early airmail letter sent the USA franked with Madonna, Icarus, Harvesters and Pengo-filler stamps. The next one is an air-mail postcard showing mixed franking.



Figure 5



Figure 6

9th weight class registered letter to Switzerland with mixed franking:



Figure 7

Regarding the parcel post letter of transit franked with 10 Pengo 20 filler shown on page 18 of the 16/1 issue of Philatelica, I would like to note that the imprinted documentary indicium is 100 *Korona* and is not denominated in Pengos. 100 Pengo would have been a large sum in 1927. As the popular song at the time noted, a person with a fixed salary of 200 Pengos could lead a carefree, easy life.

The single use of a 50 filler stamp depicting the Castle of Buda was the same as after November 15, 1930 paying for the local express letter rate. I am attaching one such local letter.



Figure 8

It is incorrect to state that the domestic airmail surcharge was 2 filler. This applied to mailing newspapers only. The airmail surcharge for letters was 4 filler per 20 gram increment.

Everyday letters mailed along the Pecs-Kaposvar-Budapest airmail route are the ones most commonly encountered from this period. The everyday letters mailed along the Nyiregyhaza airmail route are orders of magnitude scarcer. Mailings sent on the first flight can be found, but anything later is especially scarce.



Figure 9

I am attaching three additional illustrations. Two of the letters used 8 filler stamps that made them mixed Korona-Pengo frankings (Figures 10-11)



Figure 10



Figure 11

The final illustration is a festive envelope on which can be found the following stamps from the 1926 set: the 1, 4, and 16 filler in both colours as well as the 8 and 40 filler values from the 1928 set, all cancelled on December 13 1928.



Figure 12



Figure 13. 2nd weight increment registered letter, 8 stamps 8 colour mixed franking.

One of the rarest and less known mixed franking:



Figure 14. Local express letter on Budapest 20 filler mixed franking in 1926.

Based on the results of auctions in recent years and stamp bourses abroad, I can ascertain that collecting examples from this period has become more and more fashionable. Scarcer mailings are hard to find and are more expensive to buy.

Naturally, these cannot compete in value with the scarce examples from the classical period. Still, this area has shown significant escalation of prices from the past into the current 100 to 1000 euro range.

Translated by Csaba Kohalmi

STAMP BOOKLETS ISSUED FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU)



CSABA L. KOHALMI, INDIANAPOLIS

The Monograph contains a detailed description of the three-value stamp set issued for the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. The stamps were placed on sale in various formats: fully perforated, imperforate, and imperforate on one or three sides. In addition, six types of booklets with different contents appeared. The Monograph and the Handbook mention the existence of only two types of stamp booklets. The Catalogue does mention a third type, the so-called special booklet. Emmerich Vamos's article that was published in 2004 accounts for four types of booklets with different contents. The latest data reveals the existence of two booklets with new contents in the hands of collectors. Therefore, the number of different varieties is increased to six.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100. Over the years, the reported quantities printed have decreased, possibly because surplus stamps in storage were destroyed. The number of complete sheets from various reference is as follows:

	perforated	imperforate	special
Monograph	2,225	814	1,706
Handbook	1,308	598	946
Catalogue	1,607	598	1,051

(The Monograph was published in 1967, the Handbook in 1986, and the Catalogue in my possession in 2003.)

The subject of the perforated and imperforate stamps (*Figure 1.)* does not require special analysis. Stamps cut from imperforate sheets could be used for postage even though the authorization for the issue did not stipulate this directly according to the Monograph. I would like to mention an interesting fact that these stamps in imperforate condition were the first stamps valid for postage since the imperforate newspaper stamp issues of 1871-1922. (The imperforate versions of the 1939 Protestant and the 1949 Pushkin souvenir sheets serve as exceptions.)



Figure 1. 1Ft perforated & imperforate UPU stamps.

The description of the specially perforated sheets of 100 stamps can be found on page 321 of the Monograph. The stamps imperforate on one or three sides shown in *Figure 2* were put into circulation from these sheets..



Figure 2. Imperforate on one or three sides

In Figure 3 I'm illustrating a block of 10 that constituted part of the top two rows of these sheets.



Figure 3. 10 x 1Ft stamps from the left corner of the top two rows of the specially perforated sheets.

The stamp booklets were assembled from these sheets. In chronological order, the first booklets to be sold for 23 forints (21.60Ft face value stamps plus 1.60Ft handling fee) contained blocks of 6 stamps imperforate on two sides. This is the 'A' variety. The blocks of 6 were removed from the bottom 3 rows of the sheets, probably cut apart with scissors, and fastened between the front and back covers with two metal staples. Five such blocks could be extracted from every sheet in order to assemble the booklets. In *Figure 4*, one such position is marked with the letter 'A'.

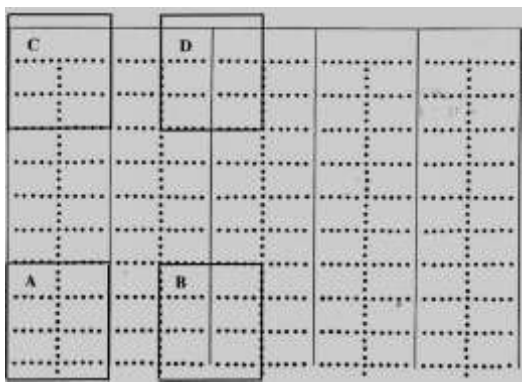


Figure 4. A schematic of the specially perforated sheets. The continuous lines indicate imperforate rows or columns.

The 'B' variety booklets containing blocks of 6 imperforate in the middle were marketed only after the stamps were withdrawn from postal use. In Figure 4 one such position is marked with the letter 'B'. This variety is more sought after than the first edition. Mathematically this is correct since only 4 such blocks could be used from the bottom three rows of the specially perforated sheets in order to assemble the booklets. Due to the lack of actual data, I can only hypothesize about the quantities of the type A and type B booklets.

If we assume that in the years 1949-1950 1,706 special sheets were available to manufacture booklets (this is the quantity published in the Monograph),

then the maximum quantity of the A variety could be 8,530 booklets. But, because the B variety was also made from these sheets, then this number is not acceptable. According to the catalogue, 1,051 sheets were printed. These could support the production of 5,255 booklets. Therefore, the possible number of booklets lies between 5,255 and 8,530.

The numbers above do not correspond to reality because these sheets were also the source for the B variety booklets. The catalogue value of the B variety is twice that of the A, so we can assume that twice as many a booklets were issued as the B. The quantities then change to between 3,500 and 5,650 for the type A booklet and between 1,750 and 2,840 for the type B. (I did not take into consideration the 946 sheets indicated in the Handbook. This data would further reduce the quantities of the booklets.)

The average number of the A variety booklets is approximately 4,500 ([5650 + 3500] / 2 = 4575). Similarly, the average number of the B variety is 2,250 ([2,840 + 1750] / 2 = 2295). These numbers are valid only if every printed sheet was used to make booklets. My visualization is that the A booklets continued to be produced as long as there was a demand for them. The stamps with special perforations show in *Figure 2*, the pairs in Figures *7, 8, and 9*, as well as the blocks in *Figure 3* were also derived from these sheets. A part of the remainders were scrapped or destroyed. Hence, the official numbers of the stamps printed continued to change. Before the conclusion of my article, I will point out the fact that not all of the printed sheets were utilized to make the types A and B booklets.

I believe that the realistic number of the A variety stamp booklets is about 3,500. The production of these would have used up 700 sheets of stamps. The remaining 500 sheets were utilized to fabricate about 2,000 type B variety booklets.



Figure 5. The fronts cover of the type A and B booklets.

The top two rows of the special sheets were marketed in part as shown by the block of 10 illustrated in *Figure 3* and the various format stamp pairs. Theoretically, approximately 5-8,000 pairs of stamps imperforate on three sides (*Figure 7*) could be lifted out from the special sheets, but this number is not likely because larger multiples exist; and the sheets were also utilized in 1950 to make the C and D variety booklets. From the remaining four rows of stamps (rows 3-6 of the sheets) a maximum of 34,000 pairs of stamps imperforate on two sides (*Figures 8* and *9*) or 27,000 pairs imperforate in the middle (*Figure 10*) could be made available for marketing purposes.



Figure 6. Left: block of 6 stamp imperforate on two sides from the A variety booklet. Right: block of 6 imperforate in the middle from the B variety booklet.



Figure 7. Pair of stamps perforated on one side only from the top row of the special sheet.



Figure 8. Pair of stamps imperforate on two sides.



Figure 9. Block of 4 imperforate on two sides.



Figure 10. Pair of stamps imperforate in the middle.

The 3Ft UPU stamp was issued in 1950 in sheets of 4 both perforated (14,000 sheets) and imperforate (10,000 sheets). Possibly because of the marketing success of the sheet (almost every sheet and stamp removed from the sheet saw philatelic use), the post office was inspired to create new booklets. The cover of the booklets was imprinted with the year 1950 (*Figures 11* and *12*). These booklets contained stamps from the top three rows of the available, intact special sheets. The stamps in the block of 6 labelled as the 'C' variety (*Figure 13*) are imperforate on the right and left sides. I marked their location is marked with a 'C' in *Figure 4*. The 'D' variety (*Figure 14*) contains stamps that are perforated on the two sides,

but every pair of stamps is imperforate in the middle (see the letter 'D' in *Figure 4*). The question resembling the *Gordian knot* is: how many of these booklets were prepared? It is conceivable that only a small quantity of intact sheets or partial ones remained available in 1950. In my opinion, fewer than 500 pairs of such booklets exist with the C and D versions in roughly equal quantity.

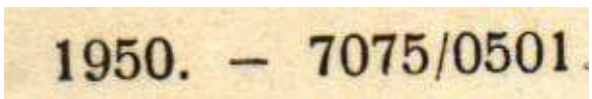


Figure 11. The year and numbers from the cover of the 1950 booklets. I don't have any information about the significance of the numbers.



Figure 12. The front cover of the type C and D booklets.



Figure 13. Block of 6 stamps imperforate on two sides from the C variety booklet.



Figure 14. Block of 6 stamps imperforate in the middle from the D variety booklet.



Figure 15. The front cover of the type E and F booklets.

Towards the end of last year, two hitherto unknown varieties that I am calling E and F surfaced. A member of the Society for Hungarian Philately, who lives in Russia, showed them to me. He acquired them from a seller called NYStamps through an auction on eBay. The cover of the two booklets is the same as that of the C and D varieties (*Figure 15*) but the contents are the same as the A and B variety panes of 6 (*Figure 16*). Another interesting difference is that the panes were fastened inside the cover with a single staple in the middle. All of the other booklet types A-B-C-D are fastened with two staples.



Figure 17. Left: F variety pane imperforate in the middle. Right: E variety pane imperforate on the two sides.

While it's only a guess, I think that the supply of blocks from the top rows of the special sheets ran out, and these booklets were assembled using blocks from the bottom three rows since there was a surplus of front and back covers. How many such booklets were made? The quantity is probably very small.

I am returning to the analysis of the number of stamp pair perforated only on one side. If I look at the number of sheets reported, then the larger number possible is about 8,500 of such pairs of stamps (5 pairs from each of 1,706 sheets). Looking at the

smaller number of 1,051 sheets, then only about 5,200 such pairs existed. By the middle of 1950, it is conceivable that 50-60 percent of this quantity was sold. Therefore, only 500-800 booklets could have been assembled using the remaining sheets or partial sheets.

There is another interesting facet regarding the 1950 UPU stamp. The May 1976 issue of the Filateliai Szemle published a short announcement about this. The magazine showed the image of a stamp on which the date '1949' was replaced with '1950.' Emmerich Vamos acquired a copy of such a stamp that he sold on eBay to a member of the Society for Hungarian Philately living in the United States. I inquired from Emmerich as to the origins of this stamp. The only information that he was willing to divulge was that it was made at the request of 'Comrade K' and only 5-6 copies existed. (Comrade 'K' was Istvan Kossa. who was the president of MABEOSZ for a short time.) The colour of the stamp is radically different that the normal 1950 issue (*Figure 17*).



17. abra. 3Ft-os UPU belyeg 1874-1949 es 1874-1950 evszammal.

L. Halasz was an active stamp dealer in the 1940s. A lot of the first day covers he mailed abroad still exist; many of them were addressed to stamp dealers in the United States. Prior to the establishment of Philatelia Hungarica, such private enterprise was not illegal. It is interesting to study his letter offering UPU stamps for sale (*Figure 18*). He was offering large quantities of perforated, imperforate, and booklet versions of the UPU stamps to a well-known stamp dealer in the USA. (Back in those days, New York's Nassau Street was the epicentre of the stamp trade in America.)

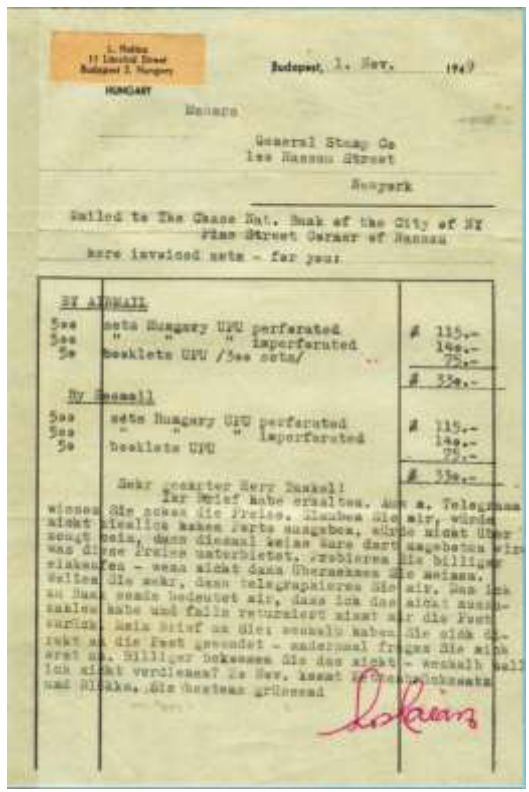


Figure 18. Halasz's letter offering UPU stamps to the General Stamp Company from 1949.

The face value of 500 sets of perforated/imperforate sets was 1,800Ft, for which he was asking $115-140, postage included. For 50 stamp booklets (these were most likely the A variety) that had a face value of 1,150Ft, he asked $75. The wares totalling about

4,800Ft (the face value of the stamps plus his actual postage cost estimated at 50Ft), would have netted him $330, which meant that he calculated the conversion of 14,55Ft per US dollar.

On August 1, 1946 at the introduction of the forint currency, the conversion rate for the dollar was 11.74Ft. I could not find any historical data indicating any changes to this rate at the end of 1949. (Later, when the 5 Year Plan was introduced and the economy was nationalized, the forint was no longer convertible. Its rate of exchange varied whether the foreign trade was enacted with capitalist or socialist countries.)

Returning to Mr. Halasz's letter, I concluded that he sought a profit of 3 forints per one dollar conversion. I don't know if he succeeded in this business.



Figure 19. First day of issue cover with perforated and imperforate stamps. The addressee Earl F. Blinn was a stamp dealer and a long-time member of the Society for Hungarian Philately.

In conclusion, I would like to show three philatelic inspired, postally used covers franked with the 1949 UPU stamps (*Figures 19-21*).



Figure 20. First day cover using stamps imperforate on the right side.



Figure 21. Pair of stamps perforated only on one side from the top row of the special sheets used on cover.

Literature references:

Handbook = A magyar belyegek kezikonyve, pages 323/331

Monograph = A magyar belyegek monografiaja, Volume V, pages 319-323/383-385

Catalog = Magyar posta- es illetekbelyeg katalogus. 2003 edition, pages 80/83

Emmerich Vamos, *The 1949 UPU Booklets*, The News of Hungarian Philately, Vol. 35, No. 1, October-December 2004

INTRODUCTION TO HUNGARY'S PROMOTIONAL FDCs WITH IMPERFORATE STAMPS



ROBERT B. MORGAN, LOS ANGELES

After 15 years of collecting Hungary's imperforate stamps, by chance in 1985, I ventured into collecting 1945-1946 hyperinflation mail and with that move I was introduced to postal history. I did not know it at the time, but as it turns out, from that point on it became my lifetime collecting/exhibiting journey. A couple of years later, I remembered having a FDC (First Day Cover) with imperforate stamps and experienced the 'aha' moment. This is where the combination of postal history and imperforate stamps intersect. It fuses the scarcity of imperforate stamps with the even more scarce *mailed FDCs* with imperforate stamps. I knew in that instant that I will like collecting those covers and it became my second collecting interest. I have started on yet another pioneering collecting field that has given me challenges and great satisfaction. I have learned to be patient and perseverant. As my collection grew so did my knowledge and since then I have enjoyed every minute of hunting for these elusive covers.

I'd like to share with you what I've learned up to now. This work by far is not complete; it is wide open for future research.

As we know, prior to 1958, there were a limited number of Hungarian stamps that were issued imperforate for postal purposes. These include the 1939 Protestant Day souvenir sheet, the 1941 'Aid to Artists' (Muveszetert) souvenir sheet, the 1949 Pushkin souvenir sheet, the 1949 stamp sets marking the 75th Anniversary of the Postal Union, the Centenary of the Chain Bridge and Stalin's 70th Birthday, as well as the 1950 souvenir sheet commemorating the death of General Bem. From 1958, all of Hungary's imperforate ('imp', 'imperf' or 'imperforate') stamps were valid for postal use (postal regulation 180.633/8.B.) yet because of the very limited quantities issued and for much higher selling costs (4-10x higher than perforated stamps), they were rarely used on contemporary commercial or private mail. Although imperforate stamps exist for practically all issues of Hungary, FDCs with FD (First Day) markings could exist only for 44 years: from March 5, 1947, until December 6, 1991.A few of the imperforate stamp sets were used on *Promotional FDCs* by the Hungarian Post to promote Hungarian stamps in foreign countries. In 1980, it was allowed for individual stamp collectors to *order mailed FDCs with imperforate stamps* on a prepaid subscription basis. I believe those covers are very scarce and they are an integral part of my collection.

There were some earlier (pre-1947) imperforate issues posted with *commemorative* FD cancella-

tions, those we could consider 'forerunners' to the officially designated FD markings. My earliest 'forerunner' FDC with an imperforate stamp is the "Aid to Artists" (Muveszetert) issued only as imperforate souvenir sheet on January 5, 1941. In contrast, the stamp set with the same design but in different colours was issued earlier, on December 31, 1940, in perforated and imperforate varieties but FDCs known only with perforated variety.



Forerunner FDC. Scott B130. January 5. 1941. Special green First Day commemorative cancellation. The souvenir sheet was valid for postage only as an undivided whole sheet.

While the promotional FDCs with perforated stamps were widely distributed, the ones with *imperforate* stamps were sent only to select 'target' people/companies to promote Hungarian stamp sales for the Post. The same cacheted envelops were used for perforated and imperforate mailings.



Rhomboid Type First Day marking. November 1, 1949. Scott 859-60, C63. Note on the Registry label the blacked out 'Kir ' (Royal) word



Rhomboid Type First Day marking December 10, 1950. Scott C80.

There is so much yet to find out – for example when did the mailings of promotional FDCs with imperforate stamps begin? My earliest such cover is November 1, 1949, commemorating the Universal Postal Union's 75th anniversary.



Rhomboid Type First Day marking. December 21, 1949.

Mail sent by Dr. Szoke Andras to Bela Bauer, father of present SHP President Alan Bauer



Rhomboid Type First Day marking. November 4, 1951. Scott 974-78.



Rhomboid (with post horn) Type First Day marking. February 22, 1958. Scott 1181.



Rhomboid Type First Day marking.August 12, 1956. Scott 158b. Imperf in-between variety

I find it unexplainable that the directive making imperf stamps valid for mailing was proclaimed in 1958, yet I have mailed imperf FDCs dating back to November 1, 1949, (U.P.U.); November 20, 1949, (Chain Bridge); December 21, 1949, (Stalin).[5] Some of these, according to the affixed Registry labels, were mailed by the Magyar Posta Ertekcikkraktara to an address in the USA and one to Switzerland.

[5] Reviser note: these sets were issued perforated and imperforated and both were valid for postal purposes.

The Evolution of the Rhomboid and Circle FD Markings.

The many major and minor variations for both types (rhomboid and circle) were scholarly written up by Sandor Vargha[6]. The collected data in two volume books end in July 1983, but the practice of using FD markings continued for another eight years to December, 1991.



March 5. 1947 – August 14, 1949
August 20, 1949 – October 7,1956
January 31, 1957 – September 16, 1966

The *rhomboid type* FD marking began on March 5, 1947, is not dated – includes no postmark. The marking was placed separately on the covers and has never been used for cancellation.



First Day of Circle Type marking. October 17, 1966. Part of Scott C262-74.



This type was used on all FDCs until December 29, 1966, (except June 8, 1947, the Esperanto mark). During the first years of the promotional FDC mailings with imperforate stamps were sporadic.

The rhomboid type changed to *circle type* FD marking on October 17, 1966. The circle type included a postmark and a separate placement was in order, but rarely was used for cancellation. All the following FDCs were processed with the circle type markings until December 6, 1991, when the Post discontinued the imperforate stamp program and put an end to our collection.



Circle Type FD marking on the Last Day for any FD markings. December 6, 1991. Scott 3330.

This study's focus solely on actually mailed FDCs with imperforate stamps. This is not the modern unaddressed FDC collection where every cover is expected to be pristine. In deference, these covers saw postal duty and passed through the mail system bearing the auxiliary postal markings as

6 Vargha Sandor: "Katalogus az Elsonapi belyegzok lenyomatairol /1947.III.5-tol – 1983.X.7-ig/» Chapter I. and II.

well as the scuffing endured while in transit. These covers have every aspect of postal history.

FDCs with imperforate stamps were used to promote Hungarian stamp sales abroad that 'targeted' stamp dealers, writers of stamp columns, catalogue publishers and only rarely were sent to influential VIPs around the world. As an observation, most 'targets' received promotional FDCs with perforated stamps. Only a few larger stamp dealers received FDCs franked with imperforate stamps. A few very large dealers received both the perforated and imperforate mailings. Mailings to each address were continued for a limited time period with varied time lengths. I have no knowledge of any record of who(m) were in charge to select the 'target' names and do not know if any record was kept of the quantities mailed of each imperforate issue.

The promotional FDCs with imperforate stamp mailings were posted by:

(I have samples and dates:)

1. A Posta Ertekcikkraktara es Belyegirodaja / Budapest 62. (1949.11.20)
2. Philatelia Hungarica (1951.09.04.)
3. Magyar Filatelia/Budapest,VI.,November-ter 3 (1958.08.30.)
4. Philatelia Hungarica, (1958.10.26)
5. Philatelia Hungarica, P.O.B. 20, Budapest 5, Hungary. (1958.12.31, to 1964)
6. Magyar Belyeggyűjtok Orszagos Szov./ Titkarsag / Budapest 5, Postafiok 164. (1965.08.20)
7. Magyar Belyeggyűjtok Orszagos Szovetsege /Titkarsag /Budapest 53. Postafiok 164 (1959.09.20; 1965.) MABEOSZ/ Bp.5.Pf.184. (1967.03.21; 10.31; 11.21)
8. Posta Ertekcikkhivatal/Budapest XIII, Vaci út 17, (to VIPs 1970.03.7; 1974)
9. Magyar Belyeggyűjtok/ Orszagos Szovetsege / Postacim:1387 Bp.Pf4:/laszam:OTP VI.ker. 509-95 (1979.11.20) Philatelia Hungarica/ P.O.B. 600/Budapest 5/Hungary. (1947.07 07, to 1980)
10. Philatelia Hungarica,/P.O.B.600/Budapest,5, Hungary (1947.07.07, to 1980)
11. Philatelia Hungarica, Public Relations, P.O.B.600,Budapest,5, Hungary (1988.04.20)
12. Philatelia Hungarica/H-1373. Budapest / P.O.B.600. (1968 to 1989)
13. FDC/Magyar Belyeggyűjtok/ Orszagos Szovetsege/Budapest, Pf.4./1387 (1981-1991)
14. FDC/Magyar Belyeggyűjtok/ Orszagos Szovetsege/Budapest 62.Pf.4./1387 (1991.12.06)

Philatelia Hungarica = was/is the stamp marketing arm of the Hungarian Post.

MABEOSZ (Magyar Belyeggyűjtok Orszagos Szovetsege) = the contract arrangement for this service between the Hungarian Post and MABEOSZ were time-to-time extended from 1 to 5 years. For the responsibility and processing work *MABEOSZ* received a 6% discount/commission. The same 6% discount was given to tobacco shops for handling/selling postal stamps, postal cards, etc.

Enclosures

The promotional enclosures/inserts included in FDCs evolved over time. In the beginning, the

postal service's announcement of the new issue with the description and ordering costs were included. Later, the mailed FDCs had inserts with the description and a black and white (reduced) photo of the new issue. As stiffening filler, many times only a card with a greeting message or a cut-to-size from a playing card sheet was used. And even later, the description of the new issue with a de-validated example was included. Most of the time, these enclosures were removed from the covers by the recipients. I believe the timeline story of these inserts during the 44 years of FDCs existence could be another fascinating subject to document.



Stiffener/filler and various promotional enclosures



Promotional FDCs with imperforate stamps known to exist in the following categories:

a) The 'forerunners' period with First Day-dated commemorative cancellations,

b) Actually mailed 'promotional' FDCs with FD and postal markings,

c) Actually mailed pre-ordered FDCs with FD and postal markings,

d) Privately mailed FDCs with FD and postal markings,

e) CTOs (Canceled To Order) with FD markings but not mailed,

f) CTOs with FD marking, privately addressed, not mailed or mailed with later day cancellation,

g) Perforated-stamp FDCs when payment for the residual mailing cost (placed on the reverse side) with earlier issued imperforate stamp(s).

I have to assume that all imperforate issues after 1958 with FD markings exist as mailed/posted promotional FDCs, however in 35+ years of collecting them, there are still many that I don't have or have never seen a sample yet.

From my collecting experience, I have observed that with each issue, the actually posted promotional FDCs with imperforate stamps were mailed only to a very small number (5-30) of 'targets'. To my knowledge there is no record of how many such promotional mailings were sent out of each issue and to how many 'targets'. As far as the not-mailed CTO FDCs (ordered by dealers for resale) are concerned, it is anybody's guess how many exists. I have also observed that each 'target' received these mailings only for a limited period of time.

Covering the 44 years when FD markings were in force, I have 201 different name examples (not counting the same name with different addresses) of the 'target' recipients. I have examples of these promotional FDCs mailed to 26 different countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, England/ U.K., France, Germany/Bundesrepublic, Germany/West, Gibraltar, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands/Holland, Palestine, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, U.S.A., and Venezuela.

To summarize: We have FD marked covers with *finite-dated start and ending, franked with limited quantity imperforate stamps, mailed to limited number of 'targets' and with limited number of mailings.* It is a formidable and rewarding collecting challenge!

I am contemplating the idea of working up an exhibit with this exciting material. To my knowledge none have been done before. If made, it would be admitted in the FDC or Postal History Division (depending how the exhibit pages written up) of all USA National (WSP), International (FIP) and I assume in Europe's (FEPA) philatelic exhibits.

I have duplicate imperf FDCs of some issues and I am open to do exchanges with interested collectors. Bobm2@roadrunner.com

Finally, I would like to present the most elusive FDCs: The 1951 Lilac perforated and imperforate block-pair mailed by the Filatelia Hungarica to a New York dealer. These were issued for the 1951 International Stamp Exhibition held in Budapest and presented to the officials and exhibitors only. The souvenir sheet pair was valid for mailing only for 16 days, between October 6 to 21, 1951. By the time the Lilac pair was handed out on October 14th, it was no longer possible for the recipients to post FDCs.







NEWS

Group photo taken last May at the international symposium held in Sopron in honour of the 150th anniversary of the Hungarian stamp.



During the Finlandia 2017 FEPA exhibition held in September, our members exhibited Hungarian-themed collections and won the following awards: a large gold went to Adriano Bergamini while Bob Morgan, Andras Nagy, Karoly Szucs, and Peter Severin won golds. Congratulations to our exhibitors! During the Stampex Autumn 2017 exhibition in London, the judges deemed the exhibit of Habsburg documentary signets by Karoly Szucs worthy of the large gold medal in the revenue stamp class. The collection is available for viewing on our home page.

Adriano Bergamini, Denes Czirok, Peter Dunai, dr. Geza Homonnay, Andras Jakab, dr. Gyorgy Lovei, and Karoly Szucs exhibited in the Court of Honor during the HUNFILA 2017 salon. The international grand prize at this year's HUNFILA was won by our member Ferenc Kostyal with his large gold-winning exhibit of the 1871 issues.

The awards in the postal history class went to the following: large gold to Istvan Glatz, gold to Peter Csicsay, Eugen Lancz, dr. Gyorgy Lovei, dr. Ferenc Nagy, Gabor Nagy, and Mihaly Varjasi. In addition, 11 other members received large vermeil and vermeil medals..

At the suggestion of MABEOSZ, we entered and received the 'The Best European Philatelic Club of the Year 2016" certificate given by FEPA. The certificate shown on the left was presented to our secretary at the FINLANDIA 2017 FEPA exhibit and congress by FEPA President Jose Ramon Moreno.


FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO CONGRATULATE THE

Hungarian Scientific Society for Philatelic Research, MAFITT, Budapest (Hungary)



Presentation of the certificate in Tampere in September 2017.

Left to right be the members of the FEPA board: Birhte Kind, Nicos Rangos, Secretary Bojan Bracic, President Jose Ramon Moreno, as well as Karoly Szucs accepting the certificate. (Photo: Lovei)

A 2011-ben húszéves szünet után újraindított, digitálisan szerkesztett Philatelica elsősorban a Mafitt tagdíjfizetői számára készül, magyar és párhuzamosan angol nyelvű mutációban is, mintegy kétszer annyi magyar, mint angol, együtt 100 körüli példányban.

Újságunk 1971-tól kezdődő minden évfolyama és aktuális CD melléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető.

www.mafitt.hu

The numbers of this journal from 1971 and the current CD attachment are given on our website. With our authors' permission the contents are listed there.

XXVIII. évfolyam

ISSN 0324–4806

Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság
Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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

Ára: 1.800 Ft

A Philatelica díjai − Awards of Philatelica



2013.
LS





2014.
LS





2015.
LS

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását ebben az időszakban helyesbítettük
During this period Mafitt's name in English was changed.

A Philatelica nyomdai kivitelezéséhez a **Gervay Mihály Magyar Postatörténeti Alapítvány** nyújt támogatást.

18
1

Philatelica

Philatelica 2018/1

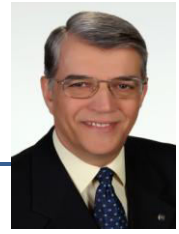
Tartalom / Content:

Czirók Dénes:	A kék színű, 1868-as kiadású magyar postautalványok típusai The Types of the Blue Coloured Hungarian Money Order Forms Issued in 1868	1.
Dr. Nagy Ferenc:	A Délvidék 1918-1920-as postatörténete az első temesvári helyi kiadás bélyegei tükrében The 1918-1920 Postal History of the South Region as Reflected in the First Temesvar Local Issue Stamps	13.
Hírek / News		39..

Szerkesztő / Editor Szücs Károly, Mafitt titkár / secretary of Mafitt
Fordítók / Translators: dr. Homonnay Géza, Kőhalmi Csaba

Tanácsadók / Consultants Dr. Lővei György, a Gervay alapítvány elnöke
president of the Gervay Foundation
Sebestyén T. Tamás, a Mafitt tagja / member of Mafitt
Mervyn Benford, member of The Hungarian Philatelic Society
in Great Britain

THE TYPES OF THE BLUE COLOURED HUNGARIAN MONEY ORDER FORMS ISSUED IN 1868



DENES CZIROK (ZALAEGERSZEG)

1. Literature antecedents

When a collector begins to study a new theme or field, the first step should always be to review the literature antecedents. A detailed knowledge of the sometimes tiresome work of our predecessors is very important. It is worth to know, what novelties or what kind of correspondences they have found.

The existence of a seven volume Monography is one of the most important advantages and treasures of the Hungarian Philately. Although it is used by many collectors, one can often notice that it's contents are not known deeply enough by many of them. Dr. Ferenc Rend has dealt with the standardization of the blue coloured money order forms through ten pages (91-100) of the III. volume of the Monography. He named these forms „postal-commodity-replacement-forerunners", which is certainly true, still, today it is much easier to call these forms money order forms. In his study he found two main types and 2 subtypes of each of the Hungarian language form, plus two types of the German language one, 6 different variations in all.

Tamas Banfalvy, the renowned philatelist living in Sweden, who has obtained enormous merits in the research of the printed matters also dealt with this topic. His summarizing study has appeared in the 75/2 issue of the Philatelica through nine pages. He also called these printed matters „postal-commodity-replacement-forerunners" in the main title, but already in the subtitle he wrote „The money order form of 1868". The base of his standardization has been the crown-shield in the upper part of the money order forms, but of course he observed several other differences on the front and back page of these printed matters. Accordingly he distinguished 4 Hungarian-language variations and three German-language ones, seven types in all.

Karl Endrődi, the distinguished postal history researcher who lived in Austria has dealt with this topic in the book issued by the Vindonona Philatelist Club in German language „The 125 years of the Austrian Philatelist Club Vindobona". His ten page long study which used the background provided by the modern informatics as well, summarizes the situation up until the appearance of the printed matter money order forms issued in 1871. This article showed for the first time the exceedingly rare yellow-coloured and Hungarian-shielded money order forms, both existing in one copy only. He also covers the Banfalvy-types of the blue money order forms, indicating that these are more detailed than those shown in the 75/2 Philatelica, but he did not produce another standardization. I have to add – being in the fortunate position of having been able to work with Endrődi through tens of years – that his aspect has always been that of the postal history, of which he has been an outstanding scholar.

2. Postal history antecedents

The institution of sending money by the aid of money order forms has been introduced by the Austrian postal authority already on 1 October 1850, but because of its complicacy it hasn't spread expansively. Just as an indication, 4,586 money order forms have been used in the whole territory of Hungary in 1852, and this number has only increased to 26,049 for 1864.

No existing copy has been found up to today of a really used money order form from this period.

The breakthrough in the field of money ordering has been the new order issued on 26 February 1867, valid from 15 March 1867. This order declared that up to the value of 25 Ft, money order forms can be sent from any post office to any other post office. The supplement of the order also contained a template of the obligatory new form, which has soon been printed and distributed to the post offices. This printed matter has been in German language, with the Austrian double-eagled shield, without an imprinted stamp.


Post-Anweisung
Pest.
Pest.

Figure 1. The earliest known Hungarian money order form from 19 March 1868

No such form has been found from the year of the introduction up to now, the earliest known copy is from 19 March 1868 (it graced the former Ryan-collection, Figure 1.).

Two additional similar, yellow-coloured money order forms with Austrian shield are known from 1868. Being at the topic of 1868 usages it has to be mentioned that 6 copies of the blue money order forms issued in 1868 are known from this year, meaning we know in all of 9 items from 1868. According to the official statistics around 55,000 money order forms has been posted in Hungary in 1868, thus we can estimate one remaining copy after every 6,000 usages.

These data are the result of a 30 year long data collection process, during which I could store the data and picture of 270 money order forms used in Hungary. Of these 182 belong to the topic of our current article, the blue money order forms, the rest are the yellow-coloured money order forms with or without imprinted stamps.

Let's return to the history – in the spring of 1867 came the Compromise with Austria, then on 1 May 1867 the independent Hungarian postal authority came into existence headed by Mihaly Gervay. Evidently the Hungarian management did not like the yellow money order form showing the Austrian eagle, but of course this hasn't been the most important issue.

The Austrian and Hungarian postal authorities jointly decided to raise the upper limit of transferrable sums from the previous 25 Ft to 50 Ft on 1 January 1868. This has been announced by the

Hungarian organization in an order issued on 19 December 1867 (PRT 20/28 December 1867).

A pénzutalványozási üzlet kiterjesztése 50 frt erejeig az összes cs. k. és m. k. postahivatalokra.

11,944/3061.

A bécsi cs. kir. kereskedelmi ministeriummal létrejött egyezmény következtében 1868. januárhó 1-jétől kezdve a pénzutalványozásokat illetőleg az 1867. január 21- és febr. 27-én 1431/150 és 3614/440. sz. a. (Rend. lap. 1867. 23 és 55. l.) kelt kibocsátványokban foglalt határozatok, valamint az erre vonatkozó utasitás szabályai a következőleg módositatnak.

A belföld mindazon helyein, hol cs. k. és m. kir. postaintézetek léteznek, valamint a belgrádi aust. cs. k. postaexpeditionál jövendőben ötven (50) o. é. frt erejeig terjedő pénzösszletek utalványozhatók kifizetés végett az összes, fenebb emlitett postahelyekre.

Ausdehnung des Geldanweisungs-Geschäftes bis zum Betrage von 50 fl. auf alle kön. ung. und k. k. Postämter.

11,944/3061.

In Folge Vereinbarung mit dem k. k. Handelsministerium werden vom 1. Jänner 1868 ab, die mit dem Erlasse von 21. Jänner und 26. Februar 1867, Z. Z. 1431/150 und 3514/440 (Verordnungs-Blatt ex 1867, Seite 23 und 55) hinausgegebenen Bestimmungen über Geldanweisungen, so wie die Bestimmungen des bezüglichen Unterrichtes in folgender Weise abgeändert:

An allen Orten des Inlandes, wo sich kön. ungar. und k. k. Postanstalten befinden, so wie bei der k. k. österr. Post-Expedition in Belgrad können künftig Geldbeträge bis einschliesslich Fünfzig (50 fl.) Gulden ö. W. zur Zahlung an allen andern oben bezeichneten Postorten angewiesen werden.

Figure 2. The introductory part of the order issued on 19 December 1867

Regarding our topic let us draw attention to the last paragraph of the 3 page order, beginning with „Until the printing of new order blanquettes…”

d) Uj utalványozási blanquette-k nyomtatásáig a mostani blanquette-k előlapján, „a levéljegyek felragasztása stb.“ helyén, továbbá a hátlapon a „tudnivalók“ 2-ik pontja alatt a „25 frt“ összeg a blanquette kiszolgáltatása előtt tollal „50 frt“-ra kiigazitandó.

Pest, dec. 19. 1867.

d) Bis zur Auflage neuer Anweisungs-Blanquetten ist in der, in den bisherigen Blanquetten auf der Vorderseite an der Stelle „Zum Aufkleben der Briefmarke &c“, dann auf der Rückseite bei den Bemerkungen im Punkte 2 angesetzte Betrag „25 fl.“ vor der Auseolgung des Blanquettes an die Partei, mit der Feder in „50 fl.“ umzuändern.

Pest, den 19. Dezember 1867.

Figure 3. The last paragraph of the order

Thus already by the end of 1867 the plan existed to replace the Austrian-shielded forms with Hungarian ones. The question remains, when?

On 3 March 1868 a new order (PRT 6/5 March 1868) appeared about the correct way of describing the transferred sum. The second paragraph is important for our topic:

A pénzöszlet bejegyzése a feladási nyugtákban az 50 o. é. frtot meghaladó postai utalványozásoknál.

A pénzutalványozások feladási nyugtáin az 50 frton felül utalványozott pénzöszlet a postapénztárak által ezentul nem betükkel, hanem csak számokkal lesz kiirandó.

Az illető nyomtatvány uj kiállitása alkalmával e körülmény figyelembe fog vétetni; addig is a mostani nyomtatványon a betüszerinti beirásra szánt hézag vonallal kitöltendő.

A pénzutalványi blanquette-ken az utalványozott öszlet — csak ugy mint eddig — maga az elküldő által először számokkal, aztán ismételve a vonalozott helyen a forintok betükkel losznek bejegyzendők.

Post mart. 3. 1868.

Einzeichnung des Geldbetrages in den Aufgabsscheinen für Postanweisungen auf mehr als 50 fl. ö. W.

3056/791.

In Zukunft haben die Postcassen in die Aufgabsscheine über Geldanweisungen auf mehr als 50 fl. ö. W. den angewiesenen Geldbetrag nur mit Ziffern und nicht mehr mit Buchstaben einzustellen.

Bei der Wiederauflage der betreffenden Drucksorte wird hierauf entsprechend Bedacht genommen werden; in der bisherigen Drucksorte ist der für die Eintragung mit Buchstaben bestimmte Raum mit einem Striche auszufüllen.

In dem Geldanweisungsblanquette selbst ist der angewiesene Betrag wie bisher, vom Absender zuerst in Ziffern und dann in straffirten Stelle wiederholt, u. z. die Gulden in Buchstaben einzusetzen.

Pest, am 3. März 1868.

Figure 4. The order of March 3 1868

It says: „The new type of related document will take this into account. Until then, the current forms….”. This means that in the beginning of March 1868, the new, Hungarian-shielded forms still did not exist, the old ones were to be used.

An epoch-making innovation has been announced on 20 April 1868 (PRT 11/25 April 1868), valid from 20 May 1868, by allowing the money order forms to be sent by telegraph. The 9 page long order is very detailed, plus it announces the pictures of the new money order forms:

A távirda közvetitésével eszközlött pénzutalványozások.

5083/1426.

A cs. kir. kereskedelmi ministeriummal létrejött egyezmény alapján f. évi május 20-kától kezdve a belföldi forgalomnál a postai utalványozás végett befizetett összeget kifizetésére a rendeltetési hely postahivatala — ha a feladó ugy kivánja — táviratilag is utasitni fog; ha t. i. a feladási és rendeltetési hely közt távirdai összeköttetés létezik, a az utalványozandó összeg az összes o. é. forintot meg nem haladja.

Vermittlung von Geldanweisungen im telegraphischen Wege.

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

Figure 5. First part of the order dated 20 April 1868

The seventh page of the long order deals in great details with the forms to be used for money orders.

1) Az A) minta szerint az utalványblanquette-k, valamint a B) és C) minta szerint, összeg-különbség nélkül valamenyi postautalványozások részére uj fölvételi s leadási lapok fognak nyomatni.

Folyó évi maj. 20-kától kezdve az egyszerü és távirati utalványozásokra egyiránt az uj utalvány-blanquettek használandók, s a régiek a postahivatalok(pénztárak)nál netán meglevő készlete az orsz. postagazdászathoz küldendő.

1) Es werden neue Postanweisungsblanketten nach Formulare A. dann für alle Postanweisungen ohne Unterschied des Betrages neue Auf- und Abgabsscheine nach Formulare B. und C. in Druck gelegt.

Die neuen Postanweisungsblanquetten sind vom 1. Mai l. J. an sowohl für gewöhnliche als für telegrafische Anweisungen in Verwendung zu nehmen und die bei den Postämtern (Postkassen) derzeit befindlichen Vorräthe der bisherigen Drucksorte an das Postockonomat einzusenden.

Figure 6. According to the order the post offices have to be supplied with the new forms by May 20 1868

The order writes: „From 20 May of the current year the new money order-blanquettes should be used for both the simple and telegraphed money orders,…”.

This means that the new, blue coloured money order forms have officially appeared on 20 May 1868!

The usage of the old money order forms was allowed until the old stock runs out, but not for the

telegraphed money orders, where the new form had to be used exclusively.

Az elébbi modoru feladási lapok a meglevő készlet elfogytáig a postapénztárak által közönséges utalványokná ezentul is használandók ; a távirati utalványokhoz pedig azonnal az uj nyomtatásu feladási vevények alkalmaztassanak.

Die Postkassen haben Aufgabsscheine der früheren Drucksorte bis zur Erschöpfung des vorhandenen Vorrathes zu den gewöhnlichen Postanweisungen, für telegrafische Anweisungen hingegen sogleich Aufgabsscheine der neuen Auflage zu verwenden.

Figure 7. The order allowed the usage of the old forms for simple transfers

The last paragraph of the order states that the colour of the new forms will be green for the territory of the Hungarian postal authority (this changed to blue for some unknown reason!)

Az uj nyomtatványokra nézve megjegyeztetik, hogy az utalványok blanquettjei valamint az expresslevelek kisérőiratai megkülönböztetés végett a cs. k. postaigazgatás részére rózsa-, a magy. kir. postaigazgatás részére zöldszinü papiron, ez utóbbiak a magyar és német szöveg szerint külön fognak kiállitatni. — A német szövegü kisérő iratok a német-szláv koronatartományokba vagy Horvát-Tótországba és a határőrvidékre intézett levelekhez használandók. A magyar vagy német szövegü utalványblanquette-k megválasztása a feladó tetszésére bizatik.

Pest, apr. 20. 1868.

Hinsichlich der neuen Drucksorten wird bemerkt, dass zur leichteren Unterscheidung die Anweisungsblanquetten und Expressbriefbegleitscheine von der k. k. Postverwaltung auf rothem Papier, von der k. ung. Postverwaltung aber in abgesondertem ungarischen und deutschen Texte auf grünem Papier ausgegeben werden.

Die Drucksorten mit deutschem Texte sind für die, nach den deutsch-slavischen Kronländern, dann nach Kroatien, Slavonien und der Militärgrenze lautenden Briefe, jene mit ungarischem Texte nach der Wahl des Aufgebers im innern Verkehre Ungarns zu verwenden.

Post, am 20. April 1868.

Figure 8. According to the order the colour of the new forms should be green

The last sentence of the order is also very exciting, allowing the user to choose between the Hungarian and the German version („Choosing either Hungarian or German order blanquette is the option of the sender"). The senders exercised their option indeed, as out of the 182 examined, used money order form there are 95 Hungarian and 87 German language ones, showing a good balance between the two languages.

The supplement of the order shows the front and back pages of four different printed matters in all. In this article we are interested in the front page of the Hungarian and German language money order forms:


A minta. (Előlap.)

Postautalvány.

Formulare A. (Vorderseite.)

Postanweisung.

Figures 9-10. The Hungarian and the German version

I draw the attention already now to the suggested shield on these pictures, which is asymmetric, the left side is a looser olive branch, the right side a bulkier oak branch. And the year number is of „186." format.



Figure 11. Oil branch to the left, oak branch to the right

While the independent Hungarian postal authority was constrained to order the first, on 1 June 1867 issued stamps from the Vienna state printing house, this money order forms were already produced in Hungary, at the Royal University Printing House in Buda, with letterpress printing pro-

cedure, on 0,18-0,20 mm thick machine paper without watermark. No evidence has been found up to now, why the green colour described in the order became blue, evidently it had to do with some technical cause. Anyway, three years later the 1871 issue money order forms have already been printed on green paper.

3. Criteria to watch during standardization

As we have already seen, our illustrious predecessors differentiated several subtypes of both main types. During their works they measured different parts of the items and these measures also played a role in the grouping. Such measures were e.g. the size of the whole money order form, the length of the lines on the different forms, the total length of the Hungarian or the German inscription. More information could be obtained by measuring the back side of the forms as well.

A modern standardization should use criteria that can be determined from a simple, miniaturized or enhanced copy without any measurements. This is important because the auction houses not always show the back side of the form, also sometimes the picture of the front side is not of exact measure or is not suitable for the determination of the sizes, still we have to decide somehow, which type the given form belongs to. It can be proven for all types of course that the numerical geometrical measures set by our predecessors are correct and show the characteristics of the given type, but the below standardization uses different, better recognizable marks.

Another important factor during the standardization is the date of usage. It is statistically evident that if more 1868 items exist from a given type, it has been used earlier than another one of which only 1871 usages are known. Another fact is, that if a form contains „186." for the date, it was used earlier than another one containing „187.". These thoughts can be used for determining the succession of the different types and subtypes.

The standardization characteristics apply to the whole money order form, containing on the left side the „Coupon" part. If the coupon is missing, the standardization is still possible, but much more difficult.

During the standardization we did not „develop further" the system invented by our predecessors, as it was much simpler to set up a new system, with new numbering. Still, the thought of Tamas Banfalvy, that the shield on the upper side is determining the main types, is used in our system as well, but not in the same order. During the standardization process the Hungarian language forms are denoted with the letter „A", and the German ones with „B".

4. The types of the Hungarian language forms

We could examine 95 money order forms, of which 7 did not have a sufficiently good copy (e.g. the auction house catalogue only showed part of the form). During the standardization we will inform the reader of the number of forms belonging to the given type out of the 88 items. This should be a good indicator of the frequency of the given type.

Type A.1.1.a



Figure 12. Type A.1.1.a with the cancellation of Magyar-Cserna

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown
- Form Number: „379. sz. nyomtatvány” (Form No. 379), underlined
- No text under the word „Szelvény” (Coupon)
- In the 2. row containing the sum we can find the word „iratik” (is to be written)
- In the Coupon we can find the following text: „A címzett neve és lakhelye” (Name and address of the recipient)
- Year in the form : „186.”

Usage period: December 1868 – January 1872 (one copy is known from 1874).

Number of items known out of the 88: 10.

Type A.1.1.b



Figure 13. Type A.1.1.b with the cancellation of Roman-Bogschan

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown
- Form Number: „379. sz. nyomtatvány” (Form No. 379), underlined
- A five-line text under the word „Szelvény” (Coupon). (This is the main difference in contrast to the previous type!)
- In the 2. row containing the sum we can find the word „iratik” (is to be written)
- In the Coupon we can find the following text: „A címzett neve és lakhelye” (Name and address of the recipient)
- Year in the form : „186.”

Usage period: June 1869 – October 1869

Number of items known out of the 88: 8 (the second rarest).

Type A.1.2



Figure 14. Type A.1.2 with the cancellation of Roman-Bogschan

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown
- Form Number: „379. sz. nyomtatvány” (Form No. 379), NOT underlined
- A five-line text under the word „Szelvény” (Coupon).
- In the 2. row containing the sum we can find the word „iratnak” (are to be written)
- In the Coupon we can find the following text: „A föladó neve és lakhelye” (Name and address of the sender)
- Year in the form : „186.”

Usage period: November 1869

Number of items known out of the 88: 5 (the rarest).

Type A.1.3

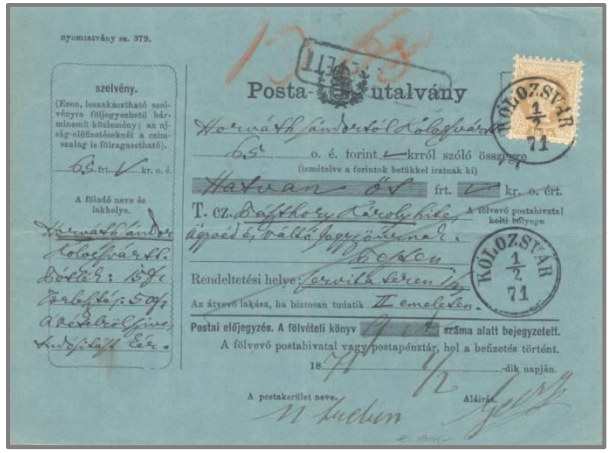


Figure 15. Type A.1.3 with the cancellation of Kolozsvar

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown
- Form Number: „nyomtatvány sz. 379.” (Form No. 379), (small „n”)
- A five-line text under the word „Szelvény” (Coupon).
- In the 2. row containing the sum we can find the word „iratnak” (are to be written)
- In the Coupon we can find the following text: „A föladó neve és lakhelye” (Name and address of the sender)
- Year in the form : „18.”

Usage period: February 1870 – June 1871 (but a copy is known from March 1875)

Number of items known out of the 88: 30 (the most frequent).

Type A.1.4

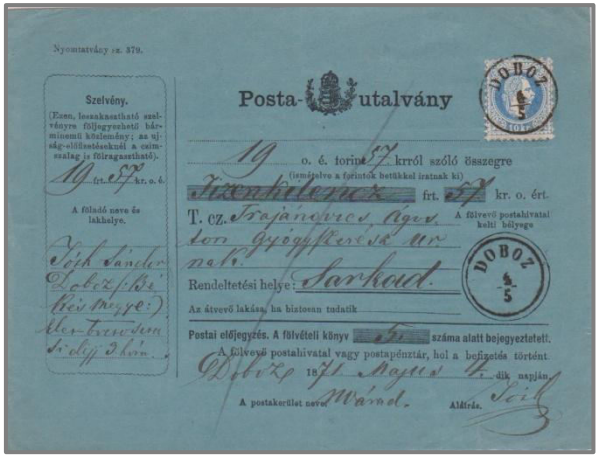


Figure 16. Type A.1.4 with the cancellation of Doboz

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown
- Form Number: „Nyomtatvány sz. 379.” (Form No. 379), (capital „N”)
- A five-line text under the word „Szelvény” (Coupon).
- In the 2. row containing the sum we can find the word „iratnak” (are to be written)
- In the Coupon we can find the following text: „A föladó neve és lakhelye” (Name and address of the sender)
- Year in the form : „18.”

Usage period: February 1871 – August 1871

Number of items known out of the 88: 15

Type A.2



Figure 17. Type A.2 with the cancellation of Duna-Földvar

Characteristics of the type:

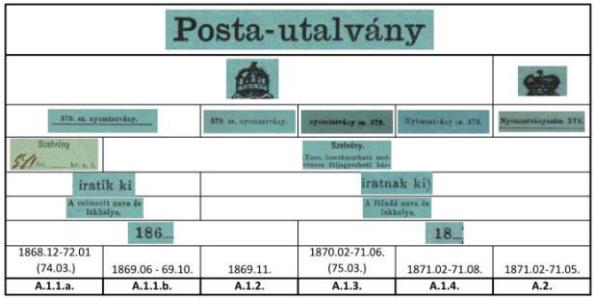
- Crown: The Habsburg Crown (striking at once)
- Form Number: „Nyomtatványszám 379.” (Form No. 379), (capital „N”)
- A five-line text under the word „Szelvény” (Coupon).
- In the 2. row containing the sum we can find the word „iratnak” (are to be written)
- In the Coupon we can find the following text: „A föladó neve és lakhelye” (Name and address of the sender)
- Year in the form : „18.”

Usage period: February 1871 – May 1871

Number of items known out of the 88: 20 (The second most frequent)

Summary of the Hungarian types

Thus our examination could differentiate 6 types of the Hungarian language forms. The following table helps their standardization:



18. ábra: A magyar nyelvű postautalványok típusai

Figure 18. Types of the Hungarian language money order forms

5. Types of the German language money order forms

During the process we could examine 87 forms, 6 of them not having a good copy enough for the standardization. During the standardization we will inform the reader, how many of the usable 81 items belong to the given type, which can be an indication of the frequency of the type. In this case it is more important to observe the vegetation around the shield. The right hand side vegetation is usually the same: the stylized oak branch. On the left hand side we can differentiate three variations:

- loose olive branch
- bushy olive branch
- stylized olive branch

Type B.1



Figure 19. Type B.1 with the cancellation of Roman-Bogschan

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown (loose oil branch on the left hand side)
- No text under the word „Coupon”
- Frame of the Coupon is bent
- Year in the form : „186.”

Usage period: December 1868 – December 1869

Number of items known out of the 81: 12

5.2. Type B.2



Figure 20. Type B.2 with the cancellation of Dolni Miholjac

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown (bushy oil branch on the left hand side)
- 7-line text under the word „Coupon”
- Frame of the Coupon is angled
- Year in the form : „18.”

Usage period: September 1868 – February 1872

Number of items known out of the 81: 9 (the second rarest)

5.3. Type B.3.1



Figure 21. Type B.3.1 with the cancellation of Szerb Szt Peter

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown (stylized oil branch on the left hand side)
- 7-line text under the word „Coupon”
- Frame of the Coupon is bent
- Year in the form : „186.” (interestingly the digit „8” is of bigger size)

Usage period: March 1869 – February 1871

Number of items known out of the 81: 8 (the rarest)

Type B.3.2



Figure 22. Type B.3.2 with the cancellation of Magocs

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown (bushy oil branch on the left hand side)
- 7-line text under the word „Coupon”
- Frame of the Coupon is angled
- Year in the form : „187.”

Usage period: January 1871 – November 1871

Number of items known out of the 81: 43 (the most frequent)

It is important to remark in the case of the above money order form, that on the left hand side of the form the back side of another form can be seen, which unequivocally means that the money order forms have been printed in a bigger sheet, placed next to each other. Beside a front page there has been a back page, thus during the cut after the bending the right sequence came into existence.

Type B.3.3



Figure 23. Type B.3.3 with the cancellation of Deda

Characteristics of the type:

- Crown: The St. Stephen Crown (stylized oil branch on the left hand side)
- 7-line text under the word „Coupon”
- Frame of the Coupon is bent
- Year in the form : „18.”

Usage period: January 1871 – July 1871

Number of items known out of the 81: 9 (the second rarest in a tie)

Summary of the German language types

Thus our examination could differentiate 5 types of the German language forms. The following table helps their standardization

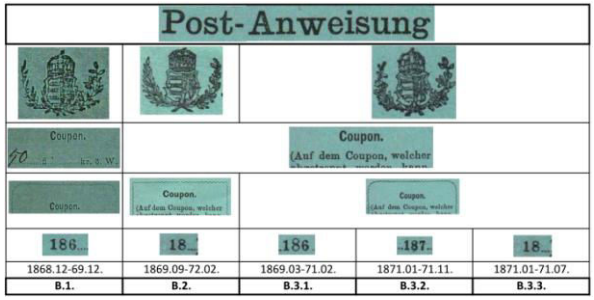


Figure 24. Types of the German language money order forms

6. Summary

Collecting the money order forms bearing 1867 postage stamps is a very popular field. The collectors like the different frankings plus the nice and sometime rare cancellations. I hope that this standardization will make the collection of this field even more popular.

I would like to thank for the help of the collectors and auction houses enabling me to gather plenty of copies and thereby a lot of new information. Extra thanks for the permission to use the pictures in this article to Adriano Bergamini (Figures No 12, 14, 19 and 20) and Dr. Geza Homonnay (Figures No. 16 and 21). All other pictures are from the collection of the author.

Literature:

Postal Orders of 1867 and 1868

(http://apps.arcanum.hu/app/postamuzeum/)

The Monography of Hungarian Stamps III (1968)

Tamas Banfalvy: The first Hungarian postal-commodity-replacement-forerunners (Philatelica 75/2, 1975)

Karl Endrődi: Von der ungarischen Postverwaltung verwendete Postanweisungs-Formulare von der Ausgabe der ersten Postanweisungs-Ganzsache (125 Jahre Öster-reichsicher Philatelistenclub Vindobona 1880-2005) (2005)

THE 1918-1920 POSTAL HISTORY OF THE SOUTH REGION AS REFLECTED IN THE FIRST TEMESVAR LOCAL ISSUE STAMPS



DR. NAGY FERENC (BÉCS)

While hunting for a peripheral area that is not preferred in Hungary and whose stamps are relatively easy and cheap to acquire, I discovered the first 1919 local issue from Temesvar. Considering that these are relatively inexpensive stamps, one would think that we could acquire numerous postally used covers on which these stamps could be found. The cost to buy should be reasonable since, according to the catalogue, 1,000,000 copies of the 10 filler stamp were produced by overprinting the 2 filler Harvesters issue. The other, the 45 filler overprint on the 10 filler War Aid III stamp, can be considered a mass-produced item made in a quantity of 500,000 copies. We should be able to account for numerous postally used letters franked with this common stamp.

Dear Reader, you are not going to believe that in the past 30 years I found a mere 35 genuine covers amongst which, luckily, several turned out to be extraordinary rarities. Permit me to show the nicest example from these findings along with an outline of the accompanying military history.

The Serbian Occupation of Southern Hungary, 25 November 1918

During course of the 1918-19 bickering, the newly formed SHS state – comprised of Serbs, Croatians Slovenians but for all practical purposes dominated by Serbia – wanted to permanently acquire four counties as booty from Hungary: Bacs-Bodrog, Torontal, Temes, and Krasso-Szoreny. I am not going to discuss the transitional occupation of Baranya at this time. All four of these counties belonged to the Temesvar Postal Directorate.

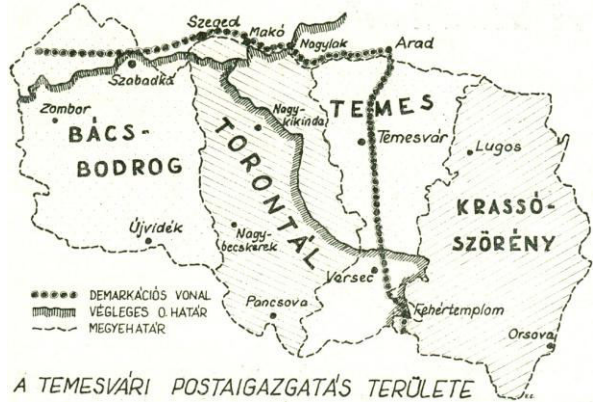


Figure 1. The situation in the south at the end of World War I.

Serbian troops occupied this area by 25 November 1919, and under the guise of the so-called "declaration of Ujvidék," planned to attach this southern region to the SHS state. French troops supervised the whole process. These troops were stationed in the Szeged-Arad-Temesvar-Ujvidek environs. Their philatelic legacy can be found in the local issues of Arad and Szeged: the "Occupa-

tion française" overprint was issued in Arad on 4-5 May 1919 while the "Magyar Nemzeti Kormany Szeged" was issued on 26 June 1919. Occasionally, picture postcards sent to France by these soldiers appear in auctions. These were not elite troops. Although the officers were French, most of the regular troops came from colonies in Asia and Africa; therefore, their correspondence is as rare as a white raven.

I found one French field post registered letter that I'm illustrating below. Such a registered letter must be a great rarity since I have not seen any other.



Figure 2. Registered letter send via the fieldpost of the occupation troops ("FM") from the Szeged garrison to Lyon. The registry label: "Tresor et postes."Figure 2a

Another rarity is a 10 filler Hungarian stamped envelope (Simády 34b) sent home on 14 January 1919 by a French officer via field post. The envelope was endorsed "FM" (Forces Militares = Army) by hand. The sender identified his location as "Territoriale de Szegedin."



Figure 3. Envelope with "Tresor et Postes" fieldpost cancellation from the time of the French occupation, 14 January 1919.

Another Temesvar letter that I found in a Budapest auction originating from a French sender. Evidently nobody wanted this item since it was grossly over franked. However, if we inspect it more closely, the cover reveals the following. It was created by a French officer who wanted to document the crazy times that he experience in Hungary:



Figures 4. Letter from Temesvar sent via courier to France, 23 July 1919.

- First, he wanted to send examples of the Arad French occupation stamps that appeared eight weeks prior,
- Then, he affixed copies of both of the first Temesvar issue,
- Furthermore, he added a few copies of the Hungarian stamps with Köztársaság overprint that were still valid for use. These stamps documented nicely the then current situation.
- After he had a postal clerk cancel the stamps, he asked that it be handed back to him (since it was not registered but was an ordinary letter!) then he had it forwarded home via the French field post. See the "FM" marked in red and then the endorsement "Courier" in the upper left corner.
- The date of the cancellation is July 23rd which makes it the earliest known use of the 45 filler stamp.

I am showing these items because mailings from the French field post are seldom seen in Hungary. I found only these examples in the past 20-30 years of searching.

This letter jumps ahead in time a bit, but it was necessary to include it here so that all three French mailings can be shown together.

Ore Tonnes was a Norwegian philatelist and postal historian who also specialised in the history of the changes in Hungary's territory. His collection was auctioned off by the Darabanth organization in Budapest. It included a single letter sent from Temesvar with French occupation stamps. It would be the second such known item.

N.B.: Arad did not belong to the postal directorate discussed here; the linkage here is the French occupation.

Mailings from this area at this time are hard to find; they are seldom available in auction offerings. I can only guess why this is so. Since letters were subjected to censorship, collectors focused primarily on such mail may have bought up the material. Or, there really was hardly any mail volume. Also, after the Serbian army marched

into the area, the soldiers methodically looted the stock of the post offices with the exception of the Temesvar postal headquarters. Thus, the stamp stocks were depleted. This could have also contributed to the scarcity of mailings from the period of late 1918 to May 1919. Technical difficulties could have played a role. Post offices were short on ink and the cancellations struck on envelopes are barely legible making it difficult to correctly identify mailings.

It is interesting to note that we can find Köztársaság and Magyar Posta stamps on some mailings from the four counties. These stamps were issued at the end of 1918 and in the beginning of 1919; and their availability confirms that the Budapest General Postal Directorate dutifully sent supplies of stamps after the war had ended to these critical areas through the spring of 1919.

To my knowledge, the covers with the first issue from Temesvar have not been exhibited as a postal history topic. Therefore, I find it important to make these known as written witnesses to the time. Every cover to be shown here is genuine and postally used.

The pertinent literature is usual limited and not of the highest standard. For example, a well-known Romanian "expert" of this area published a short article a few years ago in the journal of our fellow stamp collectors' club of Great Britain. He gave the 1919(!) currency conversion rate of 1 Leu = 2 Forint(!) multiple times in the article. It is understandable why his information should be treated with caution…

The First Temesvar Issue under Serb Occupation. The 10 and 45 Filler Stamps in May 1919.

We have reached the spring of 1919; the Serbian occupation is an accomplished fact. The Hungarian directors at the Temesvar post office were well aware of the shortage of stamps and of the fact that their connection with the Budapest General Postal Directorate has been severed. The cash registers were empty; no funds were available to pay the employees. The post office still possessed large quantities of t he obsolete, 2 filler value Harvesters stamps as well as the 10 filler War Aid III stamps. A plan was formulated to overprint these at five times face value in order to both ease the shortage of stamps and to generate revenue for the post office. Thus, the 10 filler new value appeared on the 2 filler Harvesters stamp, and the 45 filler overprint was applied to the 10 filler War Aid III stamp. Both overprints were in blue colour. As I mentioned before, the quantity was huge: 1,000,000 (10,000 sheets) of the 10 filler stamp; 500,000 (5,000 sheets) of the 45 filler stamp were prepared.

I suggest that the details of this overprint be reviewed from the 83/1 PHILATELICA magazine found on the Mafitt website. Duplicating this would exceed the purpose of this article. László Surányi did an excellent and thorough job in presenting this. I would like to concentrate on discussing postally used examples, something that was not included in Surányi's article. The face value of the aforementioned two stamps corresponded to the then current postal tariff in Hungary(!): postal cards at 10 filler, registered inland letter at 20 + 25 = 45 filler.

The two stamps were not issued simultaneously. The small local printing office was not capable of producing the stamps all at once. The 10 filler value was put on sale on 15 May 1919 while the 45 filler value was made available towards the end of the month.



Figure 5. The 10 and 45 f values of the first Temesvar issue



Figure 6. A contemporary picture of the elegant offices of the Temesvar Postal Directorate

20,000 copies of the 10 filler stamp were overprinted with black ink due to technical problems. During the course of the overprinting, the printer reset the press to use black ink in order to print a funeral notice but then continued with the overprinting of the stamps. Laszlo Kallai wrote an excellent article on this variety on the pages of the Romanian PHILATELICA magazine.

Initially, smaller post offices in the region received the 10 filler stamp because they were the ones that had been looted the worst. According to some sources, the 45 filler stamp was not distributed at all to these offices. Initially, only the Temesvar post offices supplied small quantities on request.

Manó Leipnik was an ethnic German resident of Temesvar who recorded the philatelic chronicle of the times. He wrote the postcard that provided a testament to the events, and I was able to acquire it through sheer luck.

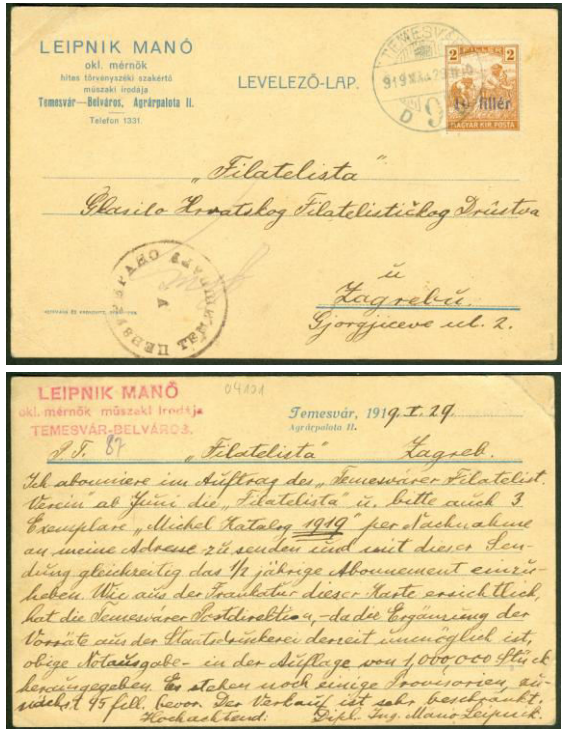


Figure 7. Manó Leipnik's postcard sent the Zagreb on 29 May 1919

Mr. Leipnik wrote in German on the card that bore his pre-printed business address. The card was correctly addressed to Zagreb in Croatia. This multi-ethnicity was not a problem in Temesvar! Citizens living there at the time communicated in Hungarian, German, Serbo-Croatian, Romanian, and Hebrew languages even if not always perfectly.

On the postcard that was addressed to the Croatian Philatelic Society, Mr. Leipnik ordered a Michel catalogue. Then, he provided the information that the Temesvar Postal Directorate issued a provisional postage stamp in an edition of 1,000,000 copies, one of which he used for franking, because its stamp supplies could not be replenished from the State Printing Office (in Budapest.) "A further provisional issue is anticipated with a face value of 45 filler. The sale is very restricted!"

From my perspective, I have no idea why the sale had to be restricted since available supplies numbered over one million, but it was so. It is conceivable that the Postal Directorate assumed that because of the occupation-hype, future sales could become more lucrative.

The then current Serbian circular censor stamp is visible on the card. To my knowledge, this is the EARLIEST known postal use of the Temesvar stamp on a postcard. It is an excellent postal history document.

New Tariffs and Issue

Introduced by the Temesvar Postal Directorate within its jurisdiction, 1 July 1919 and the second Temesvar local issue (still under Serbian rule).

Because of the generally increasing prices and the lack of postal funds, new tariffs were introduced on 1 July 1919 within the jurisdiction of the Temesvar Postal Directorate. These are the changes that are of interest to us:

1. Printed matter: 10 fill.
2. Postcards: 30 fill.
3. Letters: 50 fill.
4. Registration: 1 Korona.
5. Express: 2 Korona.

New, locally issued stamps that were not valid anywhere else were needed to satisfy the new tariffs. Thus, the Temesvar II issue consisting of 4 regular and 3 postage due stamps was prepared. It was issued on the SAME day that the new tariffs took effect, 1 July 1919.



Figure 8. Stamps of the second Temesvar issue.

While this issue is not a part of our current topic, I have to show it because the stamps appear in mixed frankings with the first issue.

We can observe an interesting facts with this issue, the quantity of which ranged from 50,000 (for the postage due stamp) to 600,000 (for the 50/20 filler King Karoly stamps). The Temesvar Postal

Directorate officially announced that the stamps would be distributed to the postal employees in lieu of salary. But what would the value of an emission in a quantity of 100,000 be if there would be no buyers for it? This would be dead investment. From this point on, we can find letters sent to Germany and Switzerland. The senders were mostly stamp dealers who were approached by the desperate postal workers to help them sell the stamps. Private individuals also sent offers to sell "at especially advantageous prices."

All of this occurred while the Serbian occupation continued. Nevertheless, the Serbs "presented the bill without consulting the hosts." The Romanians also pressed their claim for Hungarian territory where Romanians ALSO lived.

For example, the population of Temesvar in 1920 was 86,000 residents. Of these, the ethnicities were as follows:

- German: 32,000
- Hungarian: 27,000
- Romanian: 16,000
- Jewish: 8,300
- Serbian: 2.500 (!)
- Other: (negligible)

The statistics speak for themselves. There was no legal justification for either Romanian or Serbian occupation. Nevertheless, the Entente Powers promised about half of the four counties to the Romanians during a secret conference held in Ujvidek in 1916. (See the map in Figure 1 and the final international border.) Consequently, the Entente asked the Serbs to leave the area that they occupied way too quickly. The withdrawal from the Banat occurred on 27 July 1919 creating a brief interregnum in the area. This ended with the entry of the Romanian troops on August 20th. As a result, the Temesvar Postal Directorate was nominally "independent" from July 27th to August 20th, 1919.

According to Ore Tonnes, whose excellent research work I have to bring up again, this period actually lasted only until August 3rd, but this date probably applied to the city of Temesvar only. All other sources cite August 20th as the assumption of civil control in the area and the completion of the Romanian occupation.

The Third Local Issue of Temesvar During the Interregnum, 28 July 1919.

The Serbian withdrawal was an ill-kept secret with the Temesvar Postal Directorate. The 3rd issue was prepared in secret and was issued on July 28th, the day after the Serbian withdrawal was completed. The story of this series reads like a Wild West novel. In order to keep the preparations a secret, the printing stones were prepared in the middle of the night. The printing was not entrusted to the Csendes Brothers printing plant that was well-known in town but to Janos Preger's lithograph workshop. The finished sheets were not stored in the directorate's vaults but were held in a secret hiding place. This way, the entire quantity was kept from being expropriated by the retreating brigand Serbs and issued on the day after their withdrawal.

"Banat, Bacska 1919" was the text of the overprint. As we can read in the announcement from the Directorate:

a/ indicate the validity of the series to a confined area and

b/ create a memorial to the political situation at the time,

The sale of the stamps was primarily intended to generate revenue. The series consisted of 54 values. Of this number, a so-called short set of 33 (in an edition of approx. 10,000) was selected to be sold at the post offices. Each buyer could acquire five sets. The key value of which smaller quantities were printed (200-1,000 stamps) were marketed through various, unorthodox ways. (The stamps of the third Temesvar series have detailed information in the catalogues as well as in the literature referenced at the end of this article.)

These stamps were not used for mailings. Nobody was crazy enough to break a set of 33 stamps to take out one or two for mailing a letter even though the stamps were valid and useable as such. Let's not forget that back then "unused" and "complete set" were the benchmarks for stamp collecting. Stamps stuck to an envelope were "used," ergo, with not much value! (It's hard to visualize this today!)

The Directorate accumulated the stamps for the overprinting from various sources. As a result, some stamps from the 1st and 2nd Temesvar issue were again overprinted in quantities of 10,000, such as the 10 fill/2 fill and the 45 fill/10 fill values from the 1st issue. I find these doubly overprinted local stamps to be fascinating. They represent the apex of the occupation-era philately.

I am especially pleased – and ask you to share my joy – that I can show one example of the few known, postally used letters. It is somewhat over franked but the twice overprinted 2 filler Harvester stamps are affixed to it now as the 3rd issue "Banat, Bacska 1919" overprint.

The Temesvar cancellation was poorly inked but it indicates the number 1 post office and the date 31 July 1919; hence, it's the correct time fame. The reverse side is cancelled on arrival at Zagreb, on 3 August 1919. It was addressed to the post office box of the Yugoslav Philatelic News.

The sender identified himself on the front of the envelope as our fellow collector Menzel, who did not fabricate such mailings, so the authenticity of the piece is indisputable. (We will encounter him later!) This envelope is one of the outstanding pieces of the philately of Temesvar.



Figure 9. Postally used registered letter from Temesvar to Zagreb from 31 July 1919 with stamps from the 3rd series. (ex Ore Tonnes)/

Normally, philatelist interested in this area would be happy to find one or two genuine, postally used covers from Banat-Bacska in their lifetime since the are so scarce. Let me show another used example that is only the front of a

cover; but since it is a first day of use and correctly franked, it deserves mentioning. Why doesn't it have censor marking? That's because during the interregnum, neither Serbian nor Romania censorship functioned.



Figure 10. Front of a correctly franked, first day local letter mailing, 50 filler/10fillér letter rate and 1 korona registration sent from the Temesvar 3 post office to the No. 2 post office /at the main railway station/ on 28 July 1919.

Collectors specializing in this area have been aware of the following information. Nevertheless, i think that it would be timely to refresh this while being *grateful for our predecessors' research work*.

Following this review, let us look at a few letters from the Serbian occupation zone with the stamps indicated in the title of this article.

I would like to spice up the topic with one or two contemporary picture postcards so that our readers can get a feel for how the settlements looked like back then.

Stamps of The First Temesvar Issue Used on Mailings During the Serbian Occupation.

The sender of the registered letter from Pinczéd to Zagreb was the "Pharmacy to the Redeemer." The letter was franked in accordance with the new tariffs introduced in Temesvar on 1 July 1919: letter fee 50 filler, registration 1 korona. The envelope used for the mailing was a Hungarian stamped envelope with a 15 filler imprinted indicium that was calculated into the franking. The envelope was posted unsealed so that the censor would not have to open it. The text of the censor marking: "Kralj Srpska Vojna Cenzura, Novi Sad" / Royal Serbian Military Censorship, Ujvidek /. Pinczéd was a Slovak-inhabited village in Bacs-Bodrog County, 33km north of Palanka in the Hodsag Township.

(Why Slovak? Following the expulsion of the Turks, Maria Theresa indiscriminately settled different ethnic groups into the depopulated region. Thus the Slovaks came for the north.)



Figures 11a and b. Registered letter from Pinczéd sent on 25 August 1919 to Zagreb with 1.50 korona, spectacular franking on the front and the reverse side. The letter was overfranked by 1 filler due to the lack of an odd value stamp.

The next letter also went to Zagreb from Cservenka. As we know, the German name for Zagreb is Agram. Cservenka was also located in Bacs-Bodrog County in the Kula Township. The postage again was 1 korona 50 filler, and it was paid with a 1 korona Parliament-Koztarsasag stamp, two 20 filler Karoly stamps along with the 10 filler Temesvar issue. The cover has two censor markings. One is the oval marking from Ujvidek; the second is a smaller "Cenzor 9" stamp in Cyrillic characters. The double inspection is known only from there. I do not know the reason for it.



Figure 12. Registered, bi-lingual business envelope from Cservenka sent to Zagreb. The date is illegible.

The next letter is from Topolya in Bacs-Bodrog County written by the local Mutual Savings Bank, Ltd. to Szabadka. I found this excellent cover in the fall 2016 auction of Dunafila.

The letter was franked with 7 20f Karoly stamps and one 10 filler Temesvar issue for a total postage paid of 1 korona 50 filler. The envelope was posted unsealed. It shows the "Pregledano 33" censor stamp from Szabadka. The arrival cancellation is Szabadka, 29 September 1919.



Figure 13. Registered letter cancelled TOPOLYA BÁCS-BODROG VM on 27 September 1919.

The letter was posted unsealed so the flap is intact along the top of the envelope, and it doesn't show up in photo.

Express letter from small settlements are rare. The one shown here is from the village of Nagygaj sent to Tamasfalva, another village in the same county. The Magyar Posta stamps that were issued in January 1919 and were mentioned in an earlier paragraph show up in the franking. This confirms that in early 1919. The Budapest General Postal Directorate was able to supply stamps to the areas occupied by foreign powers. Alongside the 2 20 filler Magyar Posta stamps we find 10 filler stamp from the first Temesvar issue as well as 2 1K50f/15 filler Harvesters stamp from the 2nd issue. So, both Temesvar issues were used on one envelope.



Figure 14. Registered letter franked with 3 korona 50 filler stamps from 30 November 1919. The basic letter fee was 50 filler; registration, 1 korona; express, 2 korona. The arrival cancellation is from Tamasfalva Torontal vm.

This letter is also interesting because the village of Nagygaj was part of a border adjustment from 1923. Along with several other settlements, it was detached from Romania and transferred to the SHS state in a complete disregard of human values.

After this, let us look at a couple interesting postage due mailings from this era. The first item is a postcard from Cservanka that was franked with a single 10 filler Temesvar stamp. Despite all of our sympathies, this was insufficient since after 1 July 1919, the card needed 30 filler postage. The missing 20 filler double to 40 filler postage due was collected using 2 Hungarian postage due stamps cancelled on 23 September 1919. The card was censored at Ujvidek while in transit before the psotage due stamps were affixed. Postage due mail from this era is very rare. The 4 pieces shown here are the fruits of many decades of searching /hopefully, not exclusive/!



Figure 15. Hungarian-language picture postcard send from Cservanka to Zombor on 19 September 1919. It was assessed postage due in Zombor because it lacked 20 filler postage.

The franking on the following picture postcard is correct, 30 filler, in which we can again see the 10 filler stamp. Where was this card sent? To the village of Bavaniste. The regular readers of the PHILATELICA are familiar with the story of the postage due provisionals of Homokbalvanyos. Bavaniste is the Serbian name for the same place. The date on the postcard is 7 September 1919, a time when the postage due provisionals were already in use. Since the card was franked correctly, it was not assessed postage due.

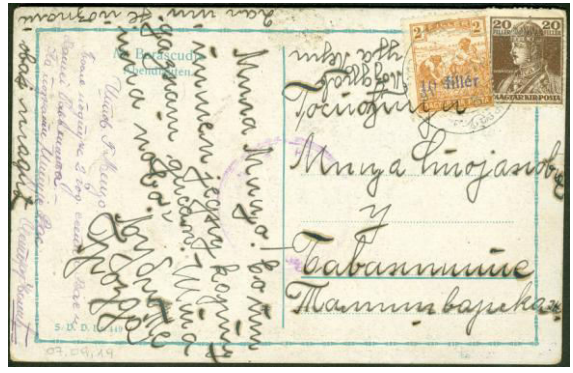


Figure 16. Picture postcard sent from the village of Torontálsziget to Homokbálványos on 7 September 1919.

The card was correctly franked with 30 filler. I am showing it to prove that postage due was NOT collected on all mail sent to Homokbálványos.

The next card with a printed business address was mailed from Versecz by an egg wholesaler with his price offerings. It also went to Homokbalvanyos but it was franked according to the old Hungarian postal rate of 5 filler for printed matter. Thus, upon arrival, it was marked in blue crayon: "T 10." The card was censored at the original mailing site with the large format VRSAC stamp.

The card did not escape the strict scrutiny of Postmaster Graf at Homokbálványos who affixed a 10 filler postage due stamp to it. With this one action, he created another philatelic gem from the Temesvar occupation era. By overprinting the 10 filler Temesvar stamp with the word PORTO, he created a double overprint but this time it was from two totally different localities!



Figure 17a and b. Printed matter sent from Versecz to Homokbálványos on 3 September 1919. There it was assessed postage due with a doubly overprinted stamp on 15 September 1919. Picture postcard: contemporary view of Versecz.

The first overprinting was a postage stamp; the second, a postage due stamp! The first is TEMESVAR, the second is HOMOKBALVANYOS. This is an extraordinary rarity since I am aware of only 2-3 postcards with this stamp and a couple of single stamps from a collection in England.

Since we are discussing Homokbalvanyos, let me show a well-worn envelope sent to Vienna correctly franked with 1 K 50 filler. The address has been obliterated and the ink had damaged the paper, but still, the envelope had both of the Temesvar stamps on it. Up until now I have not seen the 45 filler stamp in a strip of three. The stamps were affixed in a haphazard fashion indicating that this was a commercial letter. Initially, the Temesvar Postal Directorate withheld the distribution of the 45 filler stamp that was issued in May /for speculative reasons? / and started wider distribution only in the fall of 1919. Earlier, only the 10 filler stamps were used widely on mailings. This franking is unique: 3 x 45 fill., + 10 fill. Temesvar I. + 5 fill. Harvesters = 150 filler.



Figure 17. c. Letter from Homokbálványos to Vienna sent on 15 September 1919

See the article, A Serbian Village in Hungary, in PHILATELICA 16/1 written by this author for more on this topic.

I am going to show a philatelic creation that includes all local information as the fourth and last postage due mailing.

The unsealed envelope has the second stamp from the Temesvar I issue on it. The 45 filler stamp was originally intended to be used to mail registered letters /20+25 fill. /, but by the time it was used to mail this envelope, it barely served as ordinary postage only. The letter was mailed from Brezdán on 25 November 1919, and since it had only the 45 filler stamp on it in lieu of the required 50 filler postage, it was marked with a "T." Upon arrival in Zombor, it was marked with the "KRALJ SRPSKA VOJNA CENZURA U SOBORU" censor stamp. The postage due was assessed at the post office, and it's indicated with blue crayon: "P-10"; however, no postage due stamps were available. Thus, a Zombor provisional one was created by affixing a Temesvar 10 filler stamp to the reverse side and marking it with a "PORTO" overprint. WE can now observe that the basic stamp, a Temesvar issue 10 filler value was used as a provisional postage due stamp in Zombor.

In early fall, the main post office of Temesvar still withheld the 45 filler stamp from general sale, so the only examples were in the hands of collectors. With the exception of one or two letters, there is no evidence of their widespread use!

I am aware of a few letters addressed to Meszaros that were postally used. All were assessed the exact postage due that was charged with postage stamps overprinted "PORTO" and affixed to the reverse side of the envelopes. Other places used provisional postage dues at this time; for example, Vukovar, Homokbalvanyos, Zagreb, and Varasd.

(I've always wondered about the "experts" who disdain these as "philatelic mailings" – aren't we all philatelists?)

At any rate, I consider this letter as a full value mailing since it was franked, postally used, censored, marked as postage due and affixed with a provisional postage due stamp. For me, it is extraordinarily interesting that someone thought about using both stamps from the 1st Temesvar issue! It is one of my favourites! So there! /Perhaps it is understandable. /



Figure 18a. Commercial letter sent within Bács-Bodrog County from Bezdán to Zombor on 25 November 1919.

The letter was franked with one copy of the 45 filler Temesvar stamp. In Zombor, the 10 filler Temesvar local issue was used as provisional postage due.



Figure 18b. Contemporary view of Zombor.

The following postcard was sent from Zenta to Budapest by now in 1920. It is interesting to note that Budapest was a scarce destination. The card has a lot of stories to tell. Let's go one by one:

1. The imprinted 10 filler indicium was not calculated into the franking yet it was cancelled.
2. There is a large provisional stamped registry marking instead of the usual paper label.
3. There is an oval censor marking used in Ujvidek.
4. Surprisingly, there is a bi-lingual Serbian-French "Belgrade" cancellation indicating that postal traffic between Serbia and Hungary did not go smoothly and that letters sometimes took a less-than-direct route.
5. The card has mixed franking with stamps from the 1st and 2nd Temesvar issues for a total of 1 korona 30 filler that was the correct tariff for a registered inland postcard.
6. The local issues of Temesvar lost their postal validity on 15 March 1920. Since this card was mailed 9 days earlier, it almost qualifies for a "last day" of use!



Figure 19. Registered postcard sent from Zenta to Budapest on 6 March 192.0 The imprinted 10 filler indicium of the card was not figured into the 1.30 K postage. Franking included three 10 filler Temesvar stamps from the first issue plus two 50 fill/20 filler from the second issue. /Ex Ore Tonnes. /

I would like to show one more postcard to you, not because of its franking which is respectable, but because the picture side shows a cheerful photo of Pancsova as issued by Samu Kohn in 1916. Come with me and let us promenade the length of Rákóczi Street and mellow out in the atmosphere of the times. A horse-drawn wagon on the street. It is November and the leaves have fallen off the trees, but there's no need for a heavy overcoat yet. We are farther south… Dear Reader! Thank you for accompanying me…

Let us proceed. The card written in German is from the Giljum letters and was sent to Vienna. Several such cards are known on which the text does not include a salutation but the narrative is continu-

ous. The cards were franked by the sender with 20 filler in lieu of 30 filler and were dropped into a letter collection box instead of being handed to a clerk at a window. The post office did not know what to do about the 10 filler shortage and forwarded the cards that were censored in Pancsova.

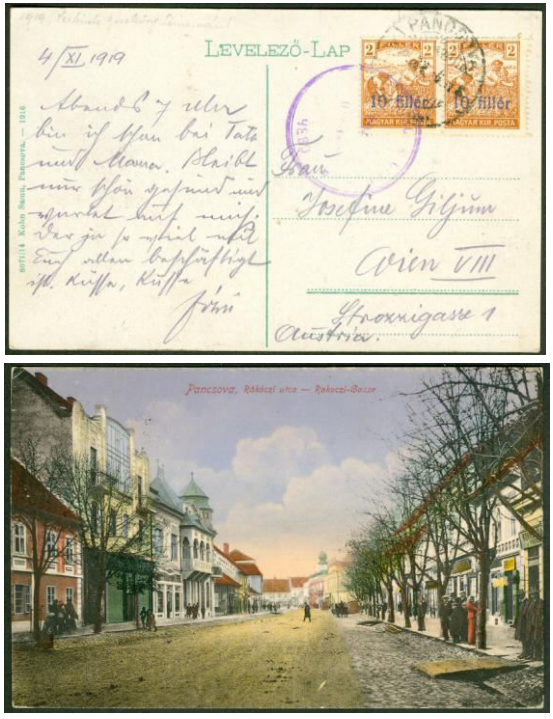


Figure 20a and b. Picture postcard sent from Pancsova to Vienna on 4 November 1919 insufficiently franked with 20 filler.

Let us look at two letters that has been sent outside of the borders of the Monarchy. The first is a letter from a bank. The sender was the Srpska Zadruzsna Banka of Ujvidek as shown by the printed business envelope.



Figure 21a. Registered letter sent from Ujvidék to Sarajevo on 16 December 1919 with interesting 1.50 K franking. SARAJEVO 23.XII.19. Arrival cancellation on the reverse side. /Ex Ore Tonnes/

Again, we see 1 Korona 50 filler franking on the envelope that was the tariff for a registered letter. How was this paid??? First, there are 3 15 filler and one 5 filler Harvesters for a total of 50 filler. Then comes 40 filler Zita stamp. Next to it is a cinnabar Croatian stamp with the inscription "Drzsava Posta Hrvatska" / Croatian State Post / and a numeral of value 10 "whatever." This stamp from a 3-value set was issued in Zagreb in January 1919; and, in the beginning, was valid only in CROATIAN TERRITORY but not in the Serbian occupation zone! /But, it was accepted! / This stamp shows the figure of a sailor holding a flag with one hand and a falcon on the other. The 10 "whatever" in this case means 10 filir that indicates the continuation of the Hungarian filler. Therefore, the 40 filler Zita and the 10 filler Sailor adds up to 50 filler making the total of 1 Korona. Five 10 filler Temesvar stamps were used to make up missing 50 filler. Their use makes it the larg-

est numbers of such stamps that can be found on one letter!

Thus, a five-colour franking was created using stamps from two countries on 16 December 1919 in Ujvidek.

The six stamps in the upper right corner, most likely, were affixed by a clerk at the bank responsible for mailings and were accepted at the post office. The missing 50 filler was added by a postal clerk whose technique of slapping stamps to the envelope randomly proves it. Through this sequence of events, a Croatian stamp happened to be used on the envelope. It could not have been placed there at the post office since there were no such stamps there!

Again, and extraordinary, unique piece



Figure 21.b. Contemporary view of Ujvidek.

The second foreign letter was written by a postal employee in Szabadka to a well-known stamp dealer in Bern. The topic, most likely, was stamps. The poor postal employees were reduced to having to market stamps in order to survive financially! Again, were can see stamps from two countries.

There is a 20 filler King Karoly, the 10 filler issue from Temesvar, and two 5 vinar Chainbreaker stamps from Slovenia that were issued in Ljubljana on 3 January 1919. We can surmise from the letter that there was no special tariff for foreign letters. This franking totals only 40 filler instead of 50 filler.



Figure 22. Commercial letter to Bern franked with 40 filler sent on 15 January 1920.

It is conceivable that the Slovenian vinar was counted at the ratio of 1:2 to the filler, but the official conversion rate was 1:1.

Next is an unusual item. The postcard mailed in Pancsova and sent to Tuzla in Bosnia has, among others, both stamps from the first Temesvar issue alongside the 50/20 filler Karoly from the second issue. From the text on the reverse side, we learn that the sender was fortunate to acquire a quantity of Temesvar overprints and would be happy to share them with the chief of the post and telegraph office of Tuzla. The German-ethnic hardware dealer from Pancsova announced that he came

into the possession of 100 10 filler stamps, 60 45 filler, and 40 of the 50 filler Temesvar overprints, half of which he was going to send to Mr. Boskovits in Tuzla.

One copy of each of the acquired Temesvar overprints was used to make up the total of 1 K 30 filler franking required for the postcard. This is quite a rarity on an "as required" item. Although the content of the text on the card is philatelic, it is not a philatelic mailing. The text sheds light on the situation at the time facing collectors and the difficulty of finding stamps. With such franking, this is a very scarce piece. /Ex SFK auction house, Belgrade/. All markings on the card are Hungarian except the Serbia censor mark from Pancsova



Figure 23. Registered postcard sent from Pancsova to Tuzla on 9 October 1919 franked with 1.35 filler, overfranked by 5 filler. The Sürgös=Special Delivery stamp in this situation is considered simply as an ornamental addition.

With this, we should be able to conclude the listing of mail from the Serbian occupation zone; nevertheless, let me show one more item that will reveal a problem.

It is also a letter from a bank in Kevevara. The cancellation is hard to read due to poor inking and I can only guess at the date. Again, we can see a censor stamp from Versecz, since the censor had plenty of ink to use! According to the barely legible date, the letter was mailed before the new tariffs set in Temesvar by the Serbs since it was franked in accordance with the old Hungarian tariff rate. I read the date on the cancellation as 17 June 1919. This would be confirmed by the 45 filler postage. /20 fill. Letter rate + 25 fill. registration. / Therefore, the letter was posted before the new Serbian tariff of 1 July 1919.

This is contradicted by the /legible/ arrival cancellation from Zagreb that is unquestionably 17 July 1919. How would this letter have been delayed for a month? We don't have to answer this, but it does illustrate a problem..



Figure 24. Letter from a bank a Kevevára sent to Zagreb on 17 /? / June 1919 franked with 45 filler in accordance with the old Hungarian tariffs.

Other Mailings From the Serbian Zone

Mailings from this area that are not letters, such as money orders and parcel slips (cut-outs,) are interesting and rare. These can be found dated from the late 1919 to the early 1920 timeframe. Data indicates that as the Hungarian stamps were used up, they were supplanted by stamps from Slovenia in the occupied areas. We can see two cut-outs here with mixed Slovene-Temesvar franking. One is from Borocz; the other from Cservenka. The latter is interesting because the local issues of Temesvar lost their postal validity on 15 March 1920 but this one was used on internal mail on 22 March 1920. An extraordinarily rare piece!



Figure 25. Two cut-outs from money orders, both franked with the 10 filler Temesvar stamp used in mixed franking with the first /25 vinar/ issue from Slovenia.

Recently, I was able to purchase a complete money order from an auction in Ljubljana. Luckily, the item escaped the attention and the scissors of previous owners. It was franked mixed with a 10 filler Temesvar stamp and 3 50 vinar Slovenian stamps. The money order was sent from Pancsova to Zagreb on 14 January 1920.



Figure 26. a and b. Money order from Pancsova to Zagreb, 1 K 60 filler franking that was paid using 3 50 vinar Slovenian stamps and one 10 filler Temesvar stamp.

The following parcel slip cut-out from the village of Tiszahegyes is very rare. The 5 K 32 fill. Postage was paid using five 1 krajcar Slovenian stamps and one 45 filler Temesvar stamp. As I mentioned before, the 45 filler stamps were sent from Temesvar to the smaller post offices only at the end of January 1920. During the remaining 3-4 months of validity /until 15 March 1920/ they were seldom used and even fewer survived.



Figure 27.a. Parcel slip cut-out from Tiszahegyes sent on 5 January 1920 using a 45 filler Temesvar stamp.

The franking of 12 Korona 60 filler on the next cut-out is fairly high. It was made up of six 2 korona Parliament stamps, one 50 vinar Slovenian stamp, and a single 10 filler Temesvar stamp.



Figure 27.b. Parcel slip cut-out from Pancsova on 16 December 1919.

Even though this doesn't quite belong here, let me show a magnificent parcel slip cut-out which not only has the 10 filler 1st issue Temesvar stamp but also the 50/20 fill. stamp from the 2nd issue. To me, it's intense, deep black cancellation cries

out “Don’t leave us!!!” Szenttamas Bacs-Bodrog VM./ The Good Lord heard the cry for help and Szenttamas “Returned” in 1941./



Figure 28. a and b. Parcel slip cut-out with Hungarian, Temesvar, and Slovenian stamps from Bácsszenttamás on 17 February 1920.

N.B. After the Romanians occupied Temes County and environs between August 3rd and 20th and the Entente Powers looked favourably on this dastardly action, the opportunity to expand the occupation presented itself. Following the terror of the Commune of 1919, Hungary’s capital city, Budapest, was defenceless and became a victim to the Romanian armies flush with victory after having captured all of eastern Hungary up to the Danube.

Censorship was established in Budapest indicating the intention to settle in for a long occupation. Let me show a letter with such a censor stamp, something that is so rare that I have been to find only a description of it but no illustration in philatelic literature. /Telegut-Thielk, 1987/ The 20 filler franking was the correct tariff for an inland letter. The envelope is stamped with the Romanian circular “CENSURAT POSTAL BUDAPESTA” cancel. /Straight-line cancellation is also known; it is more frequent/..



Figure 29. Inland letter from the fall of 1919 mailed in Budapest with the Romanian censor stamp.

The Romanian occupation of Budapest lasted from 4 August 1919 until November 13th. The occupiers did not leave for humanitarian reasons, but withdrew as Miklós Horthy’s armies, having moved from Szeged, recaptured the capital city. Philatelic relic is the set with the overprint: “A Nemzeti Hadsereg Bevonulása, 1919. XI. 16.”

Reconstruction follows about the Romanian occupation of Temesvar and the Temes region in the Banat from 20 August 1919 Continuing under the Temesvar Postal Directorate

Up until now, we have examined only the postally used letters from the time of the Serbian occupation of the 4 counties. The Romanians did not acquiesce to the Serbs taking control of this area but initiated diplomatic moves to push them out of the eastern areas of the four counties. /See map in Figure 1./ Let's not forget that this was a fertile region and the prize was very alluring. After various chess game-like moves, the listing of which exceeds the scope of this work, by the end of July the Serbs bowed out of the eastern area. Following the aforementioned interregnum, Romanian troops occupied the Banat. French troops supervised adherence to international agreements. Thus the rich regions around the towns of Temesvar, Lippa, Lugos, Karansebes, Resica, Oravica, Herkulesfurdo, and Orsova came under Romanian administration. Consequently, postal affairs also became Romanian. The introduction of the new currency /leu, pl. lei/ mandated new postal tariffs that replaced the ones promulgated of 1 July 1919 for the area which meant that these rates were in effect for one month + three weeks only. *However, those rates continued to remain in effect in the western serb zone!* If we don't keep this in sight, we're going to get confused in analyzing certain mailings. If we take note of this, then the examination of postally used letters can become instantly clear.

Details of the new tariffs announced in the eastern *Romanian administered* zone as of 20 August 1920:

- Internal postcard: 10 bani = 20 filler
- Ordinary letter: 15 bani = 30 filler
- Foreign letter: 25 bani = 50 filler
- Registration for both inland and abroad: 25 bani = 50 filler

For The Entire Area Of The Four Counties, Up Until 20 August 1920, The Serbian Tariffs Announced On 1 July 1919 Were In Effect. These Tariffs Continued To Be In Effect For The Western Portion Of The Counties Still Under Serbian Control. The Western Area Was Now Under The Nagybecskerek Postal Directorate.

After 20 August 1920, The Cheaper Postal Tariffs Announced By The Romanians Were In Effect In The Eastern Parts Of The Four Counties.



A Nagybecskerek Postal Directorate

The notice of the new tariffs does not provide information on the rates for various mailing types such as printed matter. Therefore, the advertisement sent by the Stamp Export-import Company of Urmeny to Berlin was sent with 10 filler frank-

ing because the new tariff structure did not specify this type of mailing. Postage was paid in accordance with the "old," valid for barely 2 months, Temesvar tariff used under the Serbian occupation (printer matter = 10 filler). A keen eyed reader probably saw that the postcard was printed in the office of the Csendes Brothers, the same outfit that overprinted the stamps of the 2nd Temesvar issue! (See note below.) The printed matter was addressed to a stamp dealer's business and again contained offers of new issues for sale.

We can see a lilac Romanian "Censura Romana Timisoara" censor stamp instead of the Serbian.



Figure 30. Printed matter sent from Temesvar to Berlin on 25 October 1919 franked with 10 filler.

We can see a 20 filler franking on the next postcard that was mailed in Temesvar on 20 September 1919. On the card that was addressed to Vienna, a publishing house sent an inquiry about trying to replenish supplies of material. This is one of a few example of business mail from that time. The card was franked with 20 filler in accordance with the inland tariffs. Vienna was considered to be "inland."



Figure 31. A scarce example of business postcard sent to Vienna on 20 September 1919 with supplemental franking using a 10 filler Temesvar stamp. Romanian censorship.

Next, we see a local postcard with written family news. This is interesting because, in addition to the 2 x 10 filler Temesvar stamps procured at the post office, someone whimsically affixed a 15 filler, white-numeral Harvesters stamp, for whatever reason, I don't know.



Figure 32. Local postcard 2 x 10 + 15 filler postage paid. Romanian censorship. /Ex Ore Tonnes/

The following mailing under Romanian administration was also sent to Vienna. The cancellation is barely visible, maybe from 16 September 1919. The card was mailed with 70 filler franking that can be calculated as 20 filler to Vienna since it

was still considered inland plus registration of 50 filler. The cost of the card was paid with a pair of 10 filler stamps; that of the registration with a pair of 25 filler King Karoly stamps. The offer on this card was for selling Temesvar issues in various combination and quantities.

The other thing that makes this card interesting is the fact that the sender was our active fellow collector Menzel. We know him from sending the Banat-Bacska letter shown in Figure 8 supporting the authenticity of that item. We see the Romanian censor marking on this card, also.



Figure 33. Registered postcard sent to Vienna with 70 filler franking from Temesvar on 16 September 1919. Romanian censorship.

The next registered postcard is very interesting. First of all, look at the franking. We see that it is 80 filler. We know that the registration is 50 filler, but what about the 30 filler? The new Romanian tariff did not specify a foreign postcard rate, but the 30 filler could have applied due to the size of the postcard. The references available to me do not provide an answer. The mixed franking with 1st and 2nd issue Temesvar stamps also adds to the interest as well as the two colours of the over-printed 2 filler stamps.

The notoriety of the sender, who was none other than philatelist Wilhelm Krizsany from Herkules-fürdő, also adds to the cachet of the card. Until now, very few examples of such Herkulesfurdo provisional postcards have turned up that the professionals have been aware. All originated from Krizsány.

Mr. Krizsany also offered to sell stamps at the lowest daily prices on the card sent to Breslau of 5 February 1920. The card struggled for three weeks before it arrived in Dresden and finally reached its destination on March 1st.



Figure 34. Registered postcard send to Breslau of 5 February 1920 censored at Kolozsvár. Franking in used stamps from the 1st and 2nd Temesvar issue.

In conclusion let us look at two letters from Temesvar. We see 50 filler franking on one that is hard to comprehend since 30 filler would have been enough. It is not a registered mailing /despite the blue crayon marking/; 80 filler would have been needed. Lugos is also inland, so 80 filler would not have been required, either. Most likely, this was a 2nd weight class letter requiring 50 filler instead of 30 filler.



Figure 35. Commercial letter sent to Lugos on 20 September 1919. Lilac Romanian censor stamp. Temesvar No. 2 post office arrival cancellation /Post office at the railway station. /

The commercial letter sent to Geneva, Switzerland involved dealing in stamps. It was franked with the same colour stamps from the 1st and 2nd issue on a nicely printed business envelope.



Figure 36. Letter to Switzerland send on 8 October 1919 correctly franked with stamps from the Temesvát I and II issue. Blue censor stamp.

I left this contemporary card for last. It originated at Lippa in early 1920. The date of the canneller was modified according to the Romanian convention "16. JAN 1920" but everything else on it is Hungarian. The card was sent to Vienna that was considered an inland destination. Every stamp on it is inscribed M. Kir. Posta, not Koztarsasag, not Magyar Posta. There is an interesting, violet colour, large circular censor stamp from Mariaradna. We no longer find this pilgrimage site to the Blessed Virgin on the map today. Radna has been incorporated into a larger city. (Mariaradna wikipedia.hu.) The card is a rare, late testament from 1920 to having been Hungarian.



Figure 37. Postcard from Lippa sent on 20 January 1920, with purely Hungarian, 70 filler franking. Postcard rate of 20 filler, registration 50 filler. Romanian censor stamp from Máriaradna.

Dear Readers! There has been a lot written about this subject at home and abroad by writers more noted than myself. Still, I have not seen anything written in Hungary that illustrated postally used items for the readers and drew conclusions from analyzing them. Such letters do not allow for mistakes and do not lie.

In my opinion, the 20 August 1919 announcement of the end of the Temesvar occupation and the invalidation of Hungarian stamps on 15 March 1920 did not occur by chance. The insult delivered to two of our great national holidays must have been satisfying to the occupiers. They were able to kick the Hungarians who have already been crushed to the ground by the lost war.

Those were terrible times. Millions of our brethren were torn from the mother country; the endless suffering and grief affected them as well as all of us. The trauma is still with us today. I wanted to illuminate the philately of this small area, even though it was an unpleasant exercise. Yet, it's still a small area but it has lots of stories to tell through the mailings.

The happenings are hard to comprehend even after 100 years. It is even harder to acknowledge.



Figure 38. The offices of the Temesvar Postal Directorate today. Even after 100 years, the sturdy building stands strong! Photo: Mag. Wolfgang Schubert, Vindabona, December 2017.

References:

Suranyi Laszlo: A Temesvari helyi kiadasok, Philatelica 1983/1

Ore Tonnes: Banat and Backa. Jugoposta, published by the Yugoslavia Study Group, March 2006.

Dr. Nagy Ferenc: A serbian village in Hungary. Postal history of Bavaniste - Homokbalvanyos, 1868-1920. PHILATELICA 16/1.

Kallai Laszlo: Az 1919-es Temesvari helyi kiadás 10 filléres tipusai. /philatelica.ro/

Horvath Lajos: A Szlovenia számára kiadott postabelyegek szerb ellatmanykenti elterjedése Del-Magyarorszagon 1919-1921-ben. Philatelica 17/1.

The items shown in this work are from the collection of the author.

NEWS

Two of our members, who reside abroad and who have completed the stamp expertizing exam, established the Hungarian Stamp Expertizing Speciality Division that will function fully independently under the aegis of Mafitt. Anyone, who accepts the rules and can comply with the terms of admission, may join this group. The organization currently has five members.

Mafitt is providing background support for the functioning of this group. For example, we added a menu option to the Mafitt home page in order to establish their internet presence. There, the rules for joining, the list of individuals with areas of expertise, forms, and additional useful information can be found.



MABÉOSZ is also providing support for their operation through its own resources. The group will hold regularly seminars that are free and open to collectors in the MABÉOSZ headquarters building.

The general meeting of Mafitt held in the Stamp Museum last May accepted the report of Presidency.

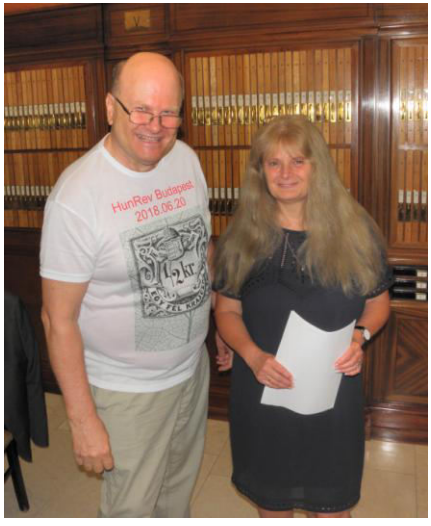


This year's awards: the Andor Ber travelling award went to Karoly Szücs while Denes Czirok received the Gervay award. We welcome our new member Tibor Kiraly, Jr., who is the president of the Hungarian Perfins Club.



Mafitt secretary Karoly Szucs and president dr. Geza Homonnay. On the table in front of them is the Andor Ber travelling trophy.

The collectors of documentary revenue stamps commemorated the stamps' 150th anniversary on June 20th in the Stamp Museum. Members, together with the support via Facebook of the Circle of Friends of Revenue Stamps, took part in a high level philatelic event fitting the occasion. Three members who are specialists in this area made presentations.



The organizer of the HunRev 2018 symposium, Mafitt secretary Karoly Szucs, together with the patron of the event, Gabriella Nikodem, the director of the Stamp Museum and a member of the Mafitt Presidency.

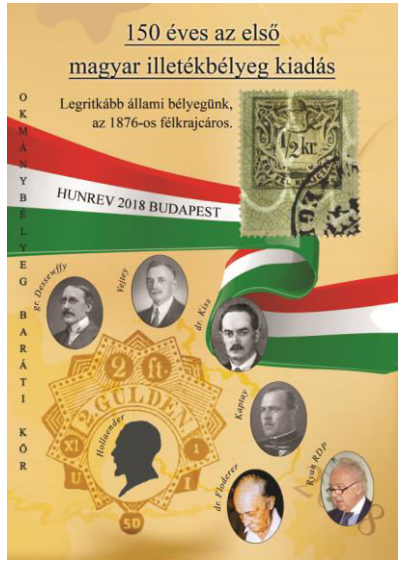
The first presentation reviewed philatelic literature of the Hungarian fiscal issues. This was followed by a review showing the origins of the classical era revenue stamps from a philatelic as well as a printing perspective. The presentations relied on not just the personal research of the authors but also on recent translation of a 1924, German-language study that appeared nearly 100 years ago.



Participants of the symposium wearing t-shirts depicting the images of the first Hungarian revenue stamps holding a copy of the commemorative sheet issued for the occasion.

The presentations can be read here:

http://www.mabeosz.hu/org/groups/fiscal/exhibit/hunrev2018/index_en.html



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 (e nyelvi mutáció 50 alatti példányszámban.)

Újságunk teljes tartalma és digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető.

www.mafitt.hu

The numbers of this journal are given on our website.
With our authors' permission the contents are listed there.

XXIX. évfolyam

ISSN 0324–4806

Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság
Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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

Ára: 1.800 Ft

A Philatelica díjai − Awards of Philatelica



2013.
LS





2014.
LS





2015.
LS

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását ebben az időszakban helyesbítettük
During this period Mafitt's name in English was changed

A Philatelica nyomdai kivitelezéséhez a **Gervay Mihály Magyar Postatörténeti Alapítvány** nyújt támogatást-

18
2

Philatelica

Philatelica 2018/2

Tartalom / Content:

Horváth Lajos:	Fila-történeti földrajz - Balkán	1.
Alan Soble:	Átvésett magyar túlélő bélyegzők Lugoson Wounded But Persistent Magyar Survivors In Lugoj	9.
Dr. Nagy Ferenc:	Négy ritka 1945-ös felhasználású 18 filléres levelezőlap	17.
Borda Lőrinc:	Nyugat-Magyarország IX. kiadás fenyőfa nélküli (II.) típusa "Ülő sas sugárzó apostoli kettőskereszttel."	21.
Mervyn Benford:	Ahol a posta és a vasút találkozik Where Post and Railways Cross	23.
Hírek / News		40.

Szerkesztő / Editor Szücs Károly, Mafitt titkár / secretary of Mafitt
Fordítók / Translators: Kőhalmi Csaba, Marina Shafit

Tanácsadók /Consultants Dr. Lővei György, a Gervay alapítvány elnöke
president of the Gervay Foundation
Sebestyén T. Tamás, a Mafitt tagja / member of Mafitt
Mervyn Benford, member of The Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain

PHILATELIC-HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY – BALKANS



LAJOS HORVATH (VERESEGYHAZ)

It is not empty boasting to note that in the past quarter century a lot of us have taken steps towards making philately an auxiliary historical science. Although some may take exception to the expression of auxiliary, I find nothing objectionable about it. After all, what is happening in our presence?

Laszlo Hrabal pursued and cultivated this auxiliary science until his death on 3 December 2000. The year 2000 was both a conclusion and a beginning of something for a lot of us. Up until then and since then the philatelic knowledge that we admire and cultivate continues to grow, deepen, becomes systematized, specialized, collectivized and dissected, etc.

We are a large group whose definite trend to specialization, evolution towards "specialty addiction" has been noticeable in the past decade. I am not mentioning names on purpose because I don't want anyone's feeling to get hurt because someone was left out of the list or fret about why someone was included or not included or why someone was mentioned ahead of someone else, etc. However, we can recognize them if we name their area of specialization or their profession. Let us pay attention: new issues, art history, philatelic numismatics, Hungarica, occupations, documentary revenue stamps, paper watermarks, pre-stamp letters, postal rates, postage dues, postal labels, stamped stationery, forgeries, stamp wars, history as told on stamps, education in philately, youth philately, airmail, etc.

These philatelic specialities and others not listed, confirm that these auxiliary sciences of philately, can evolve into a true science. While in its entirety it is not there yet, in part it is.

Let us progress further. I heard this first during a lecture by Borbala Bak at the ELTE, and it really looks like I also learned it, historical geography. This is something that must have been hidden inside of me already. The subject grabbed me, obviously from the professor's presentation, so that a whole world opened up for me as a result. Therefore, philatelic historical geography is a discipline that deals with both state and private postage stamps, the expansion of postal service territory, legal and illegal expansion, economic and topical geography, etc. We can accumulate a surprising variety of information if we scrutinize stamps of the entities that issued them, the foreign powers that overprinted them when they usurped power from the perspective of philatelic historical geography. The latter is usually an act of forced acquisition of territory.

There have been instances when authority changes frequently over a conquered territory. The postal directorate of Temesvar (Bacs-Bodrog, Krasso-Szoreny, Temes, and Torontal Counties first came under Serbian occupation in 1919 and then reverted to Romanians). We can also mention the stamps of original design issued in 1919 intended for use in Slovenia. Naturally, these were used in Slovenia but then flooded across the southern part of Hungary as well.

Upon a closer examination, we can reach more honest, correct, secure, and more profound facts. We can state up front that the philatelic historical geographic arrangement of the Michel catalogue is not correct in every instance. The time is right for a revision. We have chosen the Balkans area for one such examination.

THE PHILATELIC HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE BALKAN STATES

Albania

1913 autonomous administration, 1914 principality, 1919 Austro-Hungarian administration in the north, 1920 regency council, 1922 republic, 1928 kingdom, 1939 personal union with Italy, 1944 democratic republic, 1946 people's republic, 1991 republic.

Appendix:

1921 Mirdite Republic, 1940 Greek occupation.



Figure 1. Stamp of the Mirdite Republic, a puppet state of Serbia, from 1921.

Bosnia and Hercegovina

In 1878 the Congress of Berlin authorized Austro-Hungarian Monarchy to occupy Bosnia and Hercegovina. The Ottoman sultan's sovereignty remained in effect, but the actual authority belonged to the army commanded by the joint ministry of war of the Monarchy.

1879 Between January 9 and June 30, Austrian and Hungarian stamps were used.

1879-1899 stamps of original design valued in krajcar were used.

1900-1918 stamps valued in korona and filler were used.

1908 the Monarchy annexed both provinces.

Appendix:

1881-1895 Bosnian post in Turkey, Pljevlje.

Bulgaria

1879 principality, 1909 monarchy, 1946 people's republic, 1990 republic.

Appendix:

1916 Bulgarian occupation in Romania.

Fiume

1918 October 30. Declared its union with Italy resulting in the Croatians entering the city.

1918 Between November 1 and November 10 stamps overprinted SHS were used.

1918 November 17. D'Annunzio's legionnaires captured the city in the name of Italy.

Only after this date were the FIUME overprints on Hungarian stamps produced. These were used between 18 November 1918 and 15 April 1919.

1919 January 30. Stamps of original design issued.

1919 October 10. Free city-state.

1924 February 22. Italian overprint on Fiume stamps.

1924 March 1. Fiume joins the Kingdom of Italy.

Appendix:

1920 Occupation of the Carnaro Islands.

Occupation of Arbe.

Occupation of Veglia.

1941 May 16. Zona Fiumano-Kupa Italian overprint on Yugoslav stamps 1942.

1945 May 3. FIUME RIJEKA overprint on Italian stamps /Now in Yugoslavia/.

SUMMARY OF STATES UNDER THE SHS AND JUGOSLAV NAME

1. Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes /SHS/

On 29 October 1918, the Croatian National Assembly /Sabor/ dissolved all formal relations and bonds that the Kingdom of Croatia, Slavonia, and Dalmatia had with the Kingdom of Hungary and the Austrian Empire and declared an independent state. In this same declaration, it declared its union in a common state with the Serbs and the Slovenes.

As of October 29th, the SHS state included Croatia, Slavonia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina until November 25th when it was joined to the Kingdom of Serbia.

The Entente powers did not recognize the SHS state. They did recognize the Kingdom of Serbia as of 8 November 1918. Only after that did the association of Serbia and Montenegro /Crna Gora/ happen. Alexander II, who arbitrarily assumed the title of regent, declared the unification and the establishment of the SHS Kingdom on 1 December 1919. The Hungarian area of Vojvodina "joined" Serbia on 25 November 1918.

The SHS state overprinted Hungarian stamps and put them into circulation on 18 November 1918. The first stamps of original design for Croatia were issued on 29 November 1918 and 15 January 1919. The postal directive for the design, production, and circulation of the stamps was number 42849 1920 XII. 15. The regent's and King Peter's authorization was required for these stamps to be useable throughout the joint state. It was granted on 16 January 1921. Postal authorities withdrew all stamps issued earlier as of 15 April 1921.

1929. The Kingdom of Yugoslavia came into existence.

2. Serbia

1866 Principality, 1882-1919 kingdom, 1918-1921 Serbian occupation in southern Hungary.

Appendix:

Mirdite post 1921.

3. For Croatia

1918 November 18. SHS overprint on Hungarian stamps, 1918 November 29. stamps of original design, 1919 January 15, 2nd set of stamps of original design.

4. For Slovenia

1919-1921 stamps of original design, 1991 republic.



Figure 2. SHS stamp issued for Slovenia postally used in 1921 in Madaras, Hungary /Bacsalmas Township/.

Appendix:

1920-1921 Slovenian stamps supplied for use in southern Hungary.

5. For Bosnia-Hercegovina

1918-1919 Austro-Hungarian stamps for Bosnia-Hercegovina overprinted and stamps of new design. 1944-1945 Croatian stamps overprinted.



Figure 3. Fortress of Jajce on a stamp of Bosnia and Hercegovina overprinted in 1918 by the SHS state.

6. Montenegro, Crna Gora

1874 principality, 1910 kingdom, 1918 Serbian occupation and merger with Serbia.

Appendix:

1917 Austro-Hungarian occupation, overprint on Austro-Hungarian military stamps.

1916 Government-in-exile overprint on French stamps in Bordeaux /France/.

7. Macedonia

1902, 1906 Macedonian Revolutionary Council /operating out of Bulgaria/, stamps of original design. Statehood was not successful. 1992 republic.



Figure 4. Issue of the Macedonian Revolutionary Council in Bulgaria from 1910 inscribed Kraljevsto Makedonia.

8. Italy

1918 Austro-Hungarian occupation, overprint on Austro-Hungarian military stamps and Bosnian stamps.

9. Yugoslavia

1929-1941 Yugoslavia /kingdom/.

Appendix:

1941-1943 German occupation, stamps of original design, government-in-exile in London 1943-1944. Home army of Draža Mihailović, royalist 1944, Italian occupation 1941-1945.



Figure 5. German occupation in Yugoslavia, stamp from 1941.



Figure 6. Stamp from the German occupation of Serbia overprinted with the text Yugoslav Democratic Federation from 1944-1945.

10. Dalmatia 1918-1919 continued to use the then current stamps of Austria.

STATES OF THE DISINTEGRATED JUGOSLAVIA

1. Serbia

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia /rump-Yugoslavia/ 1992-2004

Serbia-Crna Gora 2003-2004

Serbia and Crna Gora 2004-2006

Republic of Serbia 2006-

Serbian Republic /in Bosnia/ 1992-2002, Yugoslav stamps overprinted, also stamps of original design.

Krajina Serbian Republic /in Croatia/ 1993-1997, Yugoslav stamps overprinted, also stamps of original design.

Appendix:

Republic of Vojvodina overprint on Yugoslav stamps /Republic overprint in Hungarian language/.

Syrmia-Baranya district /oblast/ 1995 UNO Protectorate, BANAT REGATUL ROMANIE overprint on Yugoslav stamps.

2. Croatia

1941 overprint on Yugoslav stamps, 1941-1945 stamps of original design, 1991 republic overprint on Yugoslav stamps, stamps of original design.



Figure 7. Yugoslav stamp depicting Tito's portrait with Koztarsasag /in Hungarian!/ Vojvodina overprint from the early 1990s..



Figure 8a & b. Stamp of the Krajina Serbian Republic within Croatia showing its "capital city" of Knin. The same stamp overprinted with the Croatian coat-of-arms following the Croatian military victory in the first half of the 1990s.

Melleklet:

Appendix:

Vojvodina Croatian Republic overprint on Yugoslav stamps, stamps of original design.



Figure 9. Yugoslav stamp from the early 1990s overprinted Croatian Republic Vojvodina.

Croatian coat-of-arms overprint on Krajina Serbian Republic stamps of original design.

UNO overprint on Yugoslav stamps for Eastern and Western Slavonia.

West Syrmia /together in one sheet with the Baranya protectorate/ overprint on Yugoslav stamps.

3. Slovenia

1945 overprint on Yugoslav stamps, overprint on Hitler-portrait stamps /Maribor/, overprint on Hungarian stamps /Muraszombat/, republic after 1991, stamps of original design.

4. Bosnia-Hercegovina

1993 Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina /Islamic/.

1993 Herceg-Bosna Croatian Republic.

Appendix:

1994 East Mostar.

1992 Bosnia-Hercegovina Serbian Republic.

Appendix:

1994 Doboj.

5. Montenegro

2003 Serbia-Crna Gora

2004 Serbia and Crna Gora

2005 Crna Gora Montenegro

1941-1943 Italian occupation overprints on Yugoslav stamps, stamps of original design.

6. Macedonia

1991- Official name "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

1992 Republic, stamps of original design.

7. Kosovo

1991 Provincial parliament declared independence within Yugoslavia.

1992 The new constitution of the Republic of Serbia denied independence.

1999 Europa CEPT stamps issued.

2000 continuing stamp issue "Peace in Kosovo" set of 5, currency is the Deutschmark.

8. Istria and the Slovene Coast

1945-1946 overprint on Italian stamps, also stamps of original design.

9. Yugoslavia

1944-1945 Democratic Federation of Yugoslavia, 1945 Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, until 2003 Yugoslavia, until 2004 rump-Yugoslavia.

Appendix:

1944 overprint on Hungarian stamps.

ROMANIA

1858 Principality of Moldavia, 1862 Principality of Romania, 1881 Kingdom of Romania, 1948 people's republic, 1992 republic.

Appendix:

1857-1882 French post office in Galatz /Moldavia/.

1862-1875 French post office in Ibrailia /Walachia/.

1896 Romanian post office in Levant.

1917-1921 Moldova.

1919 Romanian post office in Constantinople.

1919 Debrecen I. Romanian overprint on Hungarian stamps.

1919 Debrecen II. Romanian overprint on stamps of original design.

1919 Kolomea I. Ukrainian overprint on Austrian stamps.

1943 Odessa III. Overprint on Soviet stamps.

1917 German occupation of Romania until 1918.

1917 Austro-Hungarian occupation of Romania until 1918. Overprints on Austro-Hungarian military stamps.

1917 Bulgarian occupation in Romania.

GREECE

Monarchy from 1833, stamps issued starting in 1861, 1924-1935 republic, 1934-1973 monarchy, 1973- republic.

Selection of Greek post offices abroad: 1834 Constantinople, 1835 Thessalonica, 1857 Braila /Ibrailia/ 1843 Bucharest, 1859 Galacz, 1871-1875 Sulina, etc.

Areas of Turkey occupied by Greece: overprints on Greek stamps, 1912-1914.

Local issues: 1912-1913 Island of Lemnos, 1940-1941 Northern Epirus /South-Albania/ and Dodecanese, 1912-1913 Icaria, Ionian Islands, 1959 British occupation, 1923 Italian occupation of Corfu, 1941 Italian and Greek stamps overprinted during the Italian occupation, etc.

Appendix:

Ionian Islands

Group of islands along the southwest shores of Greece.

1859 British issue with the portrait of Queen Victoria. Greek text! 1864 Greece.

1929-1934 Italian occupation, overprint on Italian stamps.

1941 Airmail, overprint on Italian stamps.

Corfu 1799-1807 Russia, 1807-1814 France, 1815-1863 British protectorate. From 1863 Greece.

In 1915 the Serbian army retreated to Corfu. 1923 Italian occupation, overprints on Italian stamps. 1941 overprint on Greek stamps.

TURKEY

1863-1921 Ottoman Sultanate, 1920-2016 Republic of Turkey.



Figure 10. Sultan Mehmet V /1909-1918/ and the map of the Dardanelles on a Turkish stamp

Local Issues: 1867 Constanta and Cernavoda /Romania/

1880 Monastic Republic of Athos /Greece/

1890-1892 Baghdad /Iraq/

1898 Thessaloniki /Greece/

1909 Jaffa /Palestine/

1917 Gaza /Palestine/



Figure 11. Turkish stamp showing the tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II /1876-1909/ and the bridge of Larissa issued for Thessaly.

Appendix:

Greek Cyprus

1974-1983 Turkish Federal State of Cyprus.

1984- Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.



Figure 12. Turkish Cypriot stamp issued in 1975 picturing the mosque of Pasha Lala-Mustafa.

THRACE

1913 Greek occupation, overprints on Turkish stamps, 1913 autonomous government, Turkish inscription overprint, 1919-1920 occupation by the Entente powers, 1920 Greek occupation, overprint on Greek stamps.

TRIEST

Zone A 1943-1954 occupation by the US, Great Britain, and New Zealand, overprint on Italian stamps, stamps of original design.

Zone B 1848-1953 stamps of original design, few overprints, and Yugoslav occupation.

CYPRUS

1880 British Colony, overprint on stamps of Great Britain, stamps of original design. 1960 Republic.

LEVANT

Wide expanse of the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. For all practical purposes, the conquest of the "east" by Italy. Various authorities established offices in the area. The stamps utilized were predominantly overprints but a few stamps of original design were printed.

The offices are as follows: 1863-1919 Russian, 1867-1914 Austrian, 1867 Romanian, 1884-1908 German, 1885-1921 British, 1885-1942 French, 1902-1923 Italian, 1919-1921 Polish and Ukrainian.

Vrangel's army in Gallipoli /Levant/ and Crimea. Dispersed in 1921: Constantinople, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Tunisia /Bizerte/.

Local issues: Italian in Constantinople and Valona, Russian in Constantinople, Smyrna, Beirut, Dardanelles, Jerusalem, Jaffa, Mytilene, Mount Athos, Salonika, Trabzon, etc. Ukrainian symbol: Odessa, Kharkov, Yekaterinoslav.



WOUNDED BUT PERSISTENT MAGYAR SURVIVORS IN LUGOJ

ALAN SOBLE (PHILADELPHIA)



I. SURVIVING CANCELLERS: "SURVIVORS"

Upon the military collapse of the Kingdom of Hungary (and the rest of the Empire) at the end of World War I, post offices throughout Middle and Eastern Europe were in limbo. The mail system, for important commercial, educational, journalistic, and personal purposes, had to be sustained. Yet the old regimes were withdrawing from lost territories and their administrative offices and the ascendant regimes were not altogether prepared to assume all the required institutional tasks and roles. It did not take many weeks after Armistice for new political-ethnic organizations to design and produce their own postage stamps, complete with idiosyncratic symbols. But cancellers, postal technology which was employed to mark the date and place of posting and to obliterate postage stamps to prevent re-use, were too sophisticated to be created quickly de novo. Hence cancellers of the old regimes ("survivors") were retained by the post offices of the new regimes in the lost territories. The plan was to use them only temporarily as "provisionals" during the process of the "nationalization of the post."

Cancellers surviving from the Kingdom of Hungary were used in the post offices of Slovakia (*Figure 1*), Croatia (soon to be part of the S.H.S. Kingdom; *Figure 2*), Fiume, Romania (Transylvania, the Banat; *Figure 3*), and elsewhere. In some places, or sometimes, survivors were used in their "normal" unchanged state, as they had been

used pre-Armistice; in other places or other times, survivors were modified for the sake of "nationalization." Postal personnel (or their surrogates, in case the necessary mechanical work was farmed out) made alterations to the town name, replacing the Hungarian with the local endonym; or the Magyar "big-endian" date format (yy/mm/dd, yyy/mm/dd) was changed to the "little-endian" local format (dd/mm/yy, dd/mm/yyy); and/or the Szent Istvan Korona was defaced or eliminated.



Figure 1. Survivors used in Slovakia on Czechoslovakia Hradčany stamps.

Left: Sztropko (Stropkov) J/A, date line changed to local format (the year, [19]19, is last). Right: Nemso (Nemšova) K/B, [1]920, date line is Hungarian. ("J/A" means the cancel type is J and the canceller identifier is A.)



Figure 2. Survivors used in the S.H.S. Kingdom on Croatian and Slovenian stamps.

Left: Mitrovica (Sremska Mitrovica, Vojvodina; Magyar: Szavaszentdemeter), K/E, [1]919, Hungarian date line. Right: Vukovar (Hungarian: Vukovar), [1]920, local date line format. The Crown (under the "O") has been chiselled away and replaced with the vertical lines of a grille.



Figure 3. Survivors used in Romania on King Ferdinand stamps.

Left: Kolozsvar (Cluj), K, [1]920, Hungarian date line. Right: Buzias-Furdo (Buziaş), K/A, [1]921, local date line format. Crowns intact.

Unchanged survivors were used in a given lost territory town immediately after Armistice. When were modifications made to these survivors, and what kinds of alterations were made? What was their last date of use? What was the date on which a new indigenous canceller was used in that post office? Some survivors ceased to be employed soon after the end of the War, well before the Treaty of Trianon, while other survivors were used into 1922 (which is, with few exceptions, the latest date). Many newly-made indigenous cancellers were in use in 1919 and early 1920. As a result, some post offices employed both survivors and indigenous cancellers at the same time. "Overlapping use" periods show that there was no firm connection between the appearance of indigenous cancellers and the disposal of survivors.

II. LUGOS/LUGOJ

Lugos, in the Kingdom's 1910 census, was nearly equally composed of Romanians, Germans, and Hungarians (*Figure 4*). It was not located in the densely Magyar region of Romania, the "Erdely" (Transylvania), but in a Swabian-German area of the Banat (*Figure 5*).

According to *Wikipedia*, in August 1849 Lugos was "the last seat of the Hungarian revolutionary government. It served as the last refuge of Lajos Kossuth and several other leaders of the Revolution prior to their escape to the Ottoman Empire."

Year	Population	Romanian	Hungarian	German
1880	12,389	46.8%	11.6%	36.9%
1890	13,548	46%	13.8%	38.3%
1900	17,486	37.9%	22.7%	35.9%
1910	20,962	**34.9%**	**32.9%**	**29.5%**

Figure 4. Demographics of Lugos.



Figure 5. Top: Hungarian Banat, pre-Armistice. Bottom: Contemporary Banat.

Lugoj is the city which manifests the supreme persistence of Hungarian survivors. This fact is striking and inexplicable, because the town did not have a Magyar majority. The cancellers that had been the residents of the main post office underwent a change in name (by one letter, "S" to "J"); the format of the date line was changed to little-endian; and the Crown received its own appropriate attention. The "temporary" or provisional use of survivors persisted while the post in Lugoj was otherwise nationalized.

The use of Kingdom of Hungary survivors throughout Romania does not correlate with any obvious independent variables: neither the size of a town (small vs. large), nor its distance (short vs. long) from Romanian civilization (say, Brasso or Bucharest), nor the proportion of its Magyar population (low vs. high), predicts for how long or in what condition survivors were used. Lugoj has no special claim to be the Romanian home of Hungarian loyalty or irredentist sentiment and not a place which out of mere poverty would nurse pieces of postal machinery from their birth in the 1910s until, exhausted, they absolutely, decades later, could no longer be used.

My favorite speculation: the responsible personnel of the Lugos/Lugoj Fo Posta were transgenerational members of the same extended Magyar family.

This hypothesis, which can be rigorously tested, would explain why Lugoj is singular among Romanian cities in its use of Hungarian survivors not only through the 1930s, by which time all other lost territories, in and outside Romania, had tossed their survivors and replaced them with indigenous cancellers, but into the 1950s, the period of the reign of the Soviet Union and Communism in Middle/Central and Eastern Europe.

III. A PARADE OF CANCELLATIONS FROM THE MAIN POST OFFICE

In the remainder, philatelic materials which are observationally fundamental for any theorizing about survivors will be exhibited. The captions tell the story. Three unmodified Lugos cancels are shown in *Figures 6* and *14*. Modified Lugos survivors are shown in *Figures 7–13* and *15–18.*



Figure 6.

Two pre-Armistice unmodified Kingdom of Hungary Lugos cancels. Left: [1]911 DEC. 18, K/B, on a 50-filler Turul. Right: [1]918 JUL. 22, K/1F, on a 10-filler Harvester. Note the Magyar "N" for "Nappal."



Figure 7.

Romanian postal card, to the Netherlands, uprated with Charles II definitives. K/1A. See details, Figure 8.



Figure 8. Details of Figure 7.

Cancelled by a Lugos K/1A survivor. Modifications: the date, 21 IAN. [1]936, is little-endian; Lugos is Lugoj; the Crown has been refashioned into vertical grille lines (under the "G").



Figure 9.

Another K/1A cover, posted (to Baja) three days after Figure 7. Same handwriting. See details, Figure 10.



Figure 10. Details of Figure 9; compare with Figure 8.

Cancelled by the Lugos K/1A survivor. Modifications: the date, 24 IAN. [1]936, is Romanian; "S" became "J"; examine the grille, under the "G," in the Crown position.



Figure 11.

1933 Romanian cover to New Jersey, USA. K/1B survivor cancel. See details, Figure 12 (top).



Figure 12.

Three Lugos survivor K/1B cancels. Top: Two 22 NOV. [1]933 little-endian cancels from Figure 11. The Crown-grille area under the "G" reveals damage. Bottom: One complete 11 APR. [19]22 little-endian cancel, on a strip of three Ferdinands, on piece. Compare with the top figure: "9" in the year date has not (yet) been inserted; the "B" in the identifier is backwards.



Figure 13.

Back side of a registered cover sent from Lugoj to Miami, Florida, USA. Cancel: modified K/1J with a little-endian date line (inferred from 3 strikes), 20 MAR 1956; there's a straggling "6" in the year. Compare the awkwardly fashioned grille of 1956 with the neat grille and Crown assembly of 1917, Figure 14. (Note that in this 1956 modified survivor, the accent was left over the "A" in "MAR" – the abbreviation is Hungarian, not Roman.)



Figure 14. Unmodified Lugos K/1J cancel, Hungarian date format [1]917 MAR 29.



Figure 15.

Vicissitudes of the Lugos K/1K canceller. Left: Unmodified, Hungarian date [1]917 AUG. 23. (The digit between 9 and 7 appears to be an inverted 4.) Center: Modified, Crown-less, little-endian date 28 OCT. 1937. (The month abbreviation is the Roman "OCT," not the Magyar "OKT.") Right: Wounded survivor, dated 21 FEB. [1]944. The grilles, top and bottom, have degenerated. The two "K"s and the "1" in the identifier have been replaced or chiselled. The date line has fallen apart; note that the two "4"s in the year are not the same font. The Magyar "N" is missing from the two survivors.



Figure 16.

A Romanian Ferdinand postal card uprated with two Ferdinard definitives, sent to Germany. K/1U survivor. See details, Figure 17.



Figure 17.

Two Lugos survivor K/1U cancels from the postal card in Figure 16. The date line, 3 AUG. [1]926, is little-endian. The canceller identifier is in good shape, but the town name, upper grille, and Crown have been severely wounded. The Magyar "N" remains.



Figure 18.

Cancels, cropped, from Figures 7, 12-Top, and 12-Bottom. The "J" that replaces "S" in the town name is lame – small and misshapen. It may even retain a hint of the "S." Examine the "J" in other survivors.

NOTE

For the results of my initial research concerning Lugos/Lugoj cancellers, see "Persistent Survivors in Lugos/Lugoj," *The News of Hungarian Philately* 45:4 (Oct.–Dec., 2014), 10–19.

All the illustrations of philatelic material in the present article are images of new material, i.e., items not presented in *The News*. All the philatelic items exhibited herein are housed in my collections.

For pertinent background information about survivors, see my articles

"Post-Trianon Hungarian Survivors in the Successor States," *The News of Hungarian Philately* 43:1 (Jan.–Mar., 2012), 14–29;

"Obliterations and Their Absence (Part 4)," *The News of Hungarian Philately* 41:4 (Oct.–Dec., 2010), 3–24; and

"Obliterations and Their Absence (Part 6)," *The News of Hungarian Philately* 42:2 (April–June, 2011), 14–37.

Lists of Lugos cancellers, details about them (e.g., dates of use), and illustrations of cancellation styles can be found in **Monograph VI** (Kostyan Akos), pp. 123, 219, 264, 322, and 351.

For the history of Lugos/Lugoj and some fascinating gossip, see

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lugoj.

FOUR SCARCE 18 FILLER POSTAL CARDS USED IN 1945



DR. FERENC NAGY (VIENNA)

A person can forget or does not think about the fact that "modern" philately can have highly regarded rarities. While browsing through material acquired in the past few years, I found a few 18 filler postal cards. I stopped and wondered when I had seen one such item. I was amazed when I realized that I hadn't seen many.

Allow me to show to the Dear Readers four of the scarcest items from this material, of the 18 filler postal card that was in circulation near the end of the war. Normally, these would be unimpressive, common items; but, in this context, they merit some attention.



Figure 1.

1: The first card was used in March of 1945 during the time when the Budapest tariffs were in effect. At that time, the tariff for a registered local post card was boosted from 18+50 filler to 30f+1P resulting in an increase from 68 filler to 1.30P. Such cards are hard to find in the first place since most cards were mailed as ordinary mail. This card was uprated using a pair of Churches stamps. These stamps were valid through 15 August 1945 although postal stock had been depleted already.

What could have happened? The sender took the original correctly franked card to the post office and presented it to a clerk at the window. He may have asked if an additional 1 pengo was required since that is what he had heard. He brought along the stamps with him in order to cash them since he had kept them at home for years. The clerk confirmed this amount and the sender handed over the stamps. The clerk took them as they were handed him – upside down - and affixed them to the card. This is why the Basilica of Esztergom is standing on its head. Thus, the carefully addressed, nicely written card was marred at the post office despite Mr. Szegho's best efforts to maintain a nice appearance.

On the contrary, a great rarity was created with the use of these stamps. These stamp depicting Churches, Saints or Patrona Hungariae, despite still being valid for postage, did not conform to the ideology of the occupying Soviets and were withdrawn relatively quickly on 15 August 1945,

just in case if any were still around to be useable. This happened to the 1943 Churches stamps. I know of ONLY TWO mailings from 1945 on which the Churches stamps were used. My second mailing using Churches stamps is on a letter from August. This letter is so scarce that it was featured in the Monograph (Vol. V, p. 235). These are all that I know about!

A modest modern rarity.

2: The next "greenie" /green 18 filler card/ was mailed from Ungvar to Budateteny on 5 March 1945. The card is especially well decorated and deserves closer scrutiny.



Figure 2.

This Russian /not Ukrainian! / overprint was made in Beregszasz. It is characterized by the fact in the overprinted text "Zakarpatszka Ukraina – 40 fill." the letter "I" in the word Ukraina is a Cyrillic "I" and not a Ukrainian "ï". The angle of the overprint in also different.

The words "Otkritka = Postcard" and "Opravityel = Sender" also were overprinted.

The Hungarian text was carefully covered with black bars.

Back then, the tariff for the card sent to Hungarian territory was 1 pengo. Therefore, an additional 60 filler was needed for the card that had been revalued from 18 to 40 filler.

Having examined the text of the overprint, now attention needs to be paid to the franking. There are three 18 filler Patrona Hungariae stamps overprinted at Ungvar, revalued to 60 filler, for a total value of 1.80 P. Together, with the face value of the card, the franking came to 2.20 pengo. For an ordinary postcard, this was too much. It was unnecessary. Most likely, the card was intended to be sent to the Budapest environs as registered mail and was franked as such. However, registration was available only within the locality of Carpatho-Ukraine. Thus, the card franked as registered started its trip to Budateteny as ordinary mail. The card was cancelled with three very nice strikes of "Zakarpatszka Ukraina Posta Uzsgorod" stamps. The left side of the card has the required censor marking. The date cancellation is very interesting. It was made from a disassembled Hungarian date-place stamp with the date-time digits in reverse order: 5. III. 45. 13.

Since the required tariff for a postcard to Hungary was 1 pengo, normally only one stamp would be required as additional postage on 40 filler overprinted postcard. So, this card with three-stamp additional franking, cancelled nicely upon posting may be the finest item of the 10-15 postally used pieces sent to the mother country, on top of that during the effective period of the Budapest tariffs. Upon the delivery attempt, it was discovered that the addressee was "unknown." The card was initially endorsed "return to Bpest" and then sent back to Ungvar.

The combination of Carpatho-Ukrainian philately and Budapest tariffs postal history makes this card an extraordinarily beautiful and valuable item.

3: The next card originated in Northern Transylvania. It was from a Hungarian family's correspondence sent from Maramarossziget to Brasso on 10 March 1945 mailed according to the new tariff of 60 filler. The locally issued card bears the overprint: POSTA ROMANA 1944. We know that the locally overprinted stamps were issued in a quantity of 150-250 copies making them the scarcest issues from Northern Transylvania. There is no data, however, concerning the 18 filler postal cards. We had not seen any in Hungary in the past 40 years. Thus, this is a unique example, for now.



Figure 3.

There is a rectangular stamp next to the 18 filler indicium: "TAXA INCASATA IN NUMERAR …P …fill" in which a manuscript numeral "42" was inscribed. Therefore, the card was uprated to 60 filler paid in cash and not with postage stamps.

The post office's provisional, single circle handstamp was struck alongside the revaluation: OFICIUL POSTAL SIGHET with a Hungarian date stamp next to it: 1945 MARC. 10.

The card arrived in Kolozsvar after two weeks as indicated by the dual-circle postal cancellation: CLUJ 24. MAR 45. After undergoing censorship in Torda, the card reached Brasso after three weeks. Mail was not collected from offices on a daily basis, and transportation was very slow since only secondary rail lines were available for this service.

An interesting feature of this is that all of the stamped markings are on the front side providing an optical delight for their study. This card is a prime example. Despite the scarcity of the card, it is featured in the Simady catalog under the issues for Northern Transylvania. /2nd supplement, 2nd edition, p. 183/

4: An 18 filler postal card from 1944 created great excitement in the 2008 summer auction held by Profila. With a starting price of 46,000 Forint, the item underwent spirited bidding and was sold to a new owner for 326,000 (plus buyer's premium) that was the equivalent of more than 1,000 euros.



Figure 4.

We are accustomed to questioning a buyer's sanity at times in auctions when encountering such high prices as this "greenie" that would normally be considered mundane material. Still, it commanded a premium price. But why? Let us look at this fine item.

The card was written on 16 March 1945 in the village of Tasnad located along the Nagykaroly-Zilah railway line in Northern Transylvania. It has no stamp on it since all stamps had to be surrendered to the post office of Zilah so they could be overprinted with the text POSTA SALAJULUI plus a new value. A local issue consisting of 46 values was released on 12 February 1945.

Postal cards, however, did not have to be turned in (or did the sender just retain one?) so a message could be composed on it from Tasnad in those dire times. The card was stamped with the cancellation of the postal district of Zilah: POSTA SALAJULUI OT PTT.TASNAD 1945. (In Romanian Zilah is Salaj.) The stipulated postal rate at the time was 1 pengo for postcards and 2 pengo for letters. There was no other service available. A rectangular boxed stamp was used to indicate postage paid due to the lack of stamps: "TASNAD KESZP. BERMENTESITVE …P …f." Therefore, this card cost 1 pengo to mail. Despite the fact that the indicium was cancelled, it was not counted towards the tariff. This stamping, unfortunately, is half covered by the postage due stamps; but from other mailings, we can verify the correctness of the assertions.

Eventually, the Zilah post office revalued the 18 filler postal cards in March 1945. It also issued a set of permanent stamps as well as a new postal card with imprinted indicium. These rarities, however, are not the subject of this discussion.

The postal card was forwarded in the direction of Budapest at some available opportunity. I did not write to Budapest on purpose, because it arrived there one month later on 13 April 1945. The Budapest necessity tariffs were in effect there at that time. The volume of incoming mail presented a heavy workload for the postal employees. If the postcards did not carry supplemental stamps, then they were assessed postage due automatically because there was not enough time to evaluate them to find out where they came from and what kind of stampings were on them. As I had written earlier about the Budapest tariffs, there were no special provisions in place for handling mail coming from the newly detached territories. Thus, the card that had been posted with an increased tariff (1 pengo) already but was seemingly worth only 18 filler was annotated "44 fill." and affixed with 40+4 filler postage due stamps.

After the attempted delivery, it was discovered that the addressee had moved from District XIII to Zsigmond Square; thus, the postage due stamps were invalidated with a pen stroke. The card was then forwarded from District XIII to post office no. 2 located on Zsigmond Square in Buda where the 18+18+8 filler postage due stamps were affixed again. Finally, after floundering for a month, the card was delivered.

It is an exceptionally lucky thing that the recipient did not throw away the card but kept it so to provide future generations a scarce postal history relic.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Railroad Engineer!

These would be the four scarcest "greenies," 18 filler green postal cards. I hope that the Dear Readers enjoyed this work as much as I enjoyed feasting my eyes on these items.

WESTERN HUNGARY'S 9TH ISSUE "SEATED EAGLE WITH RADIATING APOSTOLIC CROSS" TYPE II VARIETY MISSING THE PINE TREES"

BORDA LORINC

Surprisingly, 97 years needed to pass before a fundamental printing variety from this issue was discovered. The scarcity of this series and the fact that a significant quantity of the stamps ended up abroad played a role in this. During the years of communism, this series was not within the reach of Hungarian collectors and researchers; and, consequently, very few individuals dealt with it.

According to Weinert's description, the stamp design is "a tasteful depiction of a majestic, seated eagle with a dual, apostolic cross radiating in the background along with **pine trees** and a castle tower." The above description does not apply to all of the stamps in the sheet because one stamp appears without the pine trees.

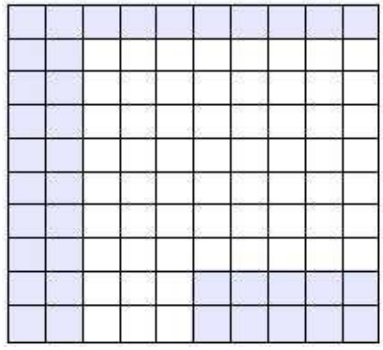


Strip of three 1.50 Korona stamps, Types I-I-II

During my investigation I was able to look through a limited number of approximately 300 stamps. Altogether, I found two copies missing the pine trees.

Positioning in the complete sheet: I am not aware of a complete sheet of these stamps, so I cannot determine the position of the variety in the sheet. I can, however, eliminate a few sheet positions (assuming that the variety exists on every sheet that was printed) with the help of a corner block of ten and the accompanying multiples.

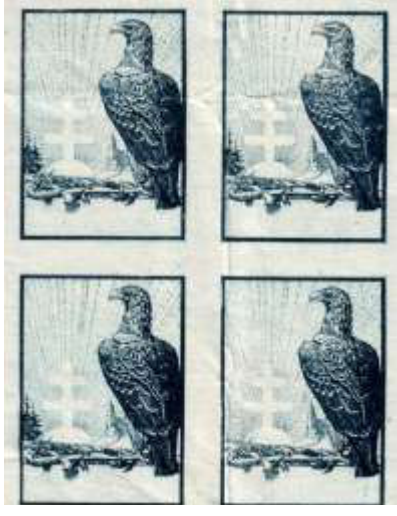
All of the positions in the first row and in columns 1 and 2 can be excluded as well as positions 86 through **90 and 96 through 100. The remaining positions await further evaluation.**



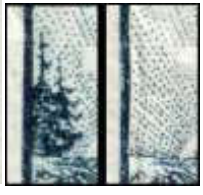
The excluded sheet positions are highlighted in grayish-blue

Printed quantity: 6000 copies survived the contemporary destruction of the printed stamps. These were printed with numerals of value. An unknown quantity of stamp without numerals of value (most likely much smaller) also survived.

I am assuming that the stamps were printed in sheets of 100, although I had not found concrete information regarding this in the literature. Also, we don't know if the design missing the pine trees originally looked like this or it was the result of damage incurred during the production and then repaired. With these reservations in mind, I can state with great certainty that 60 copies of the Type II stamps exist for each value printed with numerals. Naturally, a number of these could have been destroyed over the years.



A block of four, types I-I/I-II, without the printed numeral of value



Comparison picture of the two types

The origin of the modified image has to be investigated according to the following two possibilities:

1. The original design did not feature the pine trees that were added to the image later. One location retained the original design image.

2. The pine trees disappeared as a result of damage or because of a repair.

We should accept the second option to be the correct one from these two possibilities:

The rays of the rising sun in the lower part of the stamp are made up using uniform dots except in place where the pine trees were. Here, short lines are used to depict the sun's rays.

The frame of the design shows signs of repair next to the where the pine trees were. A similar repair on the frame of the stamp can be found from position 98 where a slanting line attests to the repair without a doubt.

Classification: On the basis of the facts presented, I recommend including the missing pine trees variety II in the catalogues. Based on our current knowledge, a maximum of 60 copies were printed. On stamps printed without a numeral of value, this variety would be about 10 fewer if every colour variety that was printed survived.

In conclusion, the quantity of type I stamps needs to be modified to 5940 because of the 60 scarce type II stamps. The type II stamps without numerals of value are very rare. Multiples showing a combination of these two types are the greatest rarities of which maybe 1 or 2 examples exist.

LITERATURE REFERENCE:

Kiraly Tibor: A nyugat-magyarorszagi felkeloharcoktol a Civitas Fidelissima-ig

-

WHERE POST AND RAILWAYS CROSS



MERVYN BENFORD (SHUTFORD/BANBURY)

Mail travelling and sorted on trains has long attracted collectors around the world. Interest can grow via collecting postcards of railways scenes, not least stations, and especially with trains in the picture!

Hungary was early with Austria in developing both railways and a travelling post office (TPO) service (Mozgoposta.) Trains for many years carried bags of mail, sorted or unsorted, for delivery to towns and cities, likewise collecting bags of such mail for onward travel. Hungary's involvement in World War 1 brought a 70% loss of territory under the Versailles/Trianon decisions. Routes, stations and rolling stock were lost, with further changes between 1938 and 1941 when some of these territories returned and again when, being on the wrong side in World War 2, the borders returned to 1920 Trianon decisions.

My eventual book will deal with the entire story more fully. In this article I wish to show just how fascinating the railway theme can be by focusing on one Hungarian town- Dombovar.

Trains with mail duties and sorting carriages had TPO numbers which should not be confused with other rail operating numbers. TPO routes were their own priority and not always using normal passenger routes. Mail on an early morning branch train, around four or five o'clock, and sorted, could be delivered on arriving at a terminus in a small town the same day. Official postal lists began later in the 1940s to give timings.

Some collectors focus on TPO numbers and look for routes that had that number. Others focus on routes and find which TPOs worked them. The Monograph records them within standard postmark types used by the Post Office and that changed for usually good reasons- as a philatelist I collect by postmarks as recorded in Monograph Volume VI. A TPO number can serve the same route across postmark changes.

Sadly editor Akos Kostyan died before completing his work. He had distinguished often tiny differences in marks otherwise looking identical. Those recruited to complete the later years were less detailed. In 1943 a major change saw postmarks giving number of TPO and route without identifying names. Many records were also lost during the battles within Hungary.

The 1920 Trianon Treaty saw Hungary lose 70% of its territory- including railways, stations and rolling

stock. Recovery after Trianon was slow. Successive government changes and six years of economic inflation were more pressing problems bur the radical increase in new foreign borders obliged some attention. From 1927 a new list emerged of what was left and possible. However, from 1938-41, under German and Italian priorities, some lost territory was restored and that list had to expand. Defeat in 1945 saw borders restored. TPO management with a war going on, including invading armies, could not have been easy. Those later trying to make sense of the situation for Volume VI after the working expert of the time died must have had considerable difficulties- even Kostyan might have struggled to find 100% reliable evidence.

The decision in 1943 to change the system yet again- away from named routes- may well have reflected a situation on the ground where stations and routes were no longer certain. For my focus on Dombovar I have been able to compare TPOs recorded in Volume VI with the regular official postal listings of TPOs. For the entire TPO network some differences of detail emerge- routes for which no TPO number can be found, TPO numbers not in the official lists, TPO numbers serving different routes or part of the stated routes. Some TPO destinations seem not to have been towns as such but a significant junction with a TPO siding and some parking. TPO evidence in general is rarely a case of a new postmark overnight replacing the previous ones. The working principle has long seemed to be to keep cancellers until new ones were needed- for whatever reason. A dated list of routes does not mean all using the same postmark type. The period 1937-45 needs much more study and that will be most helped by postal evidence.

I chose Dombovar because it was an important junction for long-distance traffic as well as useful for its local access to the Great Hungarian Plain and with good connections to major rail centres like Nagykanizsa. By studying what official lists tell and what Volume VI offers as postmark evidence, I expose just how complicated the story can become, as well as how TPO practices and priorities changed.

DOMBOVAR

Dombovar is a town in Tolna county.







Illustrations 1 and 2 show the station and bridges.
Illustration 3: Type 11 postmark- see Page 26.

It has rail access east to the Danube at Baja, a major Danube river crossing, and to the west at Kaposvar. It lay on a natural line south-west from Budapest and early TPOs served train routes in that direction via Kaposvar and thence to Zagreb and Fiume. Nagykanizsa west of Kaposvar, was early with rail access- when names were still in German, and postmarks gave 'Bahnhof'. South-eastward via Bataszek, crossing the Danube at Baja, rail travel continued with some direct timings to Szeged, Arad and Szabadka- the latter both then Hungarian and pre-Trianon.

Pecs could be reached from Budapest via Bataszek but the final section was slow, with many curves. In 1882 a new route to Pecs began using fast services to Dombovar but that meant entering the station and then reversing. The first station had been built in 1872, today called "Dombovar also." To enable faster through running a new station was built about a kilometre east which itself became the focus for the development of a new town, Ujdombovar, as a rail centre and the station is today the main Dombovar station. The two places have since 1946 become just one- Dombovar. Philately via postmarks, and especially rail postmarks, must recognise both- as did George Bradshaw's Continental timetables in 1914.

Just north of the new station rails branch north-west giving access to Veszprem, Gyor, as well as Balaton.

The eventual railway maps effectively showed two major routes, NE to SW and NW to SE, converging like a cross on the town literally to cross the Kapos river.

Predictable industrial and commercial development brought growing population and improving communications. Local rail services and TPOs were introduced to more centres like Komlo, Kiskunhalas and Kiskunfelegyhaza, the last two being useful rail junctions. Bataszek was also significant for travellers needing train connections to Ujdombovar when direct services were not available- though pre-war timetables showed connection times varied.

19th. Century postmarks sometimes had time of franking and one can almost follow the letter from door to door.



Illustration 4: Early Type 7 postmark for Komlo TPO route
(see Text Page 32)

My postcard in 1911 from Fiume showing Type 11 TPO 402 cancellation FIUME-UJDOMBOVAR-BUDAPEST for 6.00 in the evening could have been on the 18.15 train arriving Buda 07.00 (Kelenfold 06.44) and been delivered in Budakeszi that morning. In 1914 five direct Budapest-Fiume services ran that route- the slowest, stopping everywhere, took 30 hours, the fastest in 24 to 25 hours. Both Ujdombovar and Dombovar featured in the timings, with usually a rather longer stop at the newer station. Refreshment cars were put on at either, but mostly at the original station.

Bradshaw's whole Europe timetable in 1913 has a MAV service to/from Fiume from Zakany via Zagreb and Karolyvaros- one journey a day each way with a shorter second service to Karolyvaros. Zagreb to Fiume took just under 12 hours, the return a little over ten. Budapest-Fiume took around 24 hours. There were connections at Zakany for Nagykanizsa, Mohacs and Bataszek. Bradshaw also shows a service- Zakany to Bataszek via Dombovar on the Donau-Drau Eisenbahn, two trains each way daily, both connecting with Nagykanizsa, but just one to Budapest or Zagreb. Might this reflect my postcard's journey?

By 1941 a postcard from Budapest to Fiume on the faster services via Ujdombovar crossed the Drava at Gyekenyes and could reach Zagreb in 9 hours or better. Fiume is an onward destination but no timings given. The 08.30 from Budapest Keleti reached Ujdombovar at 13.23, Gyekenyes at 17.03. The

15.45 service reached Ujdombovar by 18.38, two hours faster, and Gyekenyes by 20.40. A second slow service left Budapest at 20.55, Ujdombovar at 04.03, Gyekenyes at 08.16 timed to Zagreb by 17.00. A train started in Ujdombovar at 18.56, at Gyekenyes 21.45 and by 06.05 in Zagreb. Postal services no doubt had options for both basic mail transit and TPO services. I have limited knowledge of rail in Hungary. Readers who know more perhaps can show faster mail travel using helpful route connections.

Postal Detail:

TPO routes involving this town: 29, 43, 44, 60, 143, 144 (only briefly,) 187, 208, 226, 402 and 406- the two last being long-distance routes lost at Trianon. All routes up and down- M/T- unless indicated otherwise: numbers disappear and sometimes reappear- changed in detail to reflect route management changes.

I have access to postal lists published 1911, 1925, 1931, 1937, 1939, May 1940, November 1940, January 1941, October 1941, May 1942, September 1942, December 1942, May 1943, June 1944, August 1945, January 1946, May 1946 and May 1950. Beyond that I have post-war postal maps that conveniently identify TPOs operating in the region. I also have a personal A4 notebook from a postmark collector whose evidence helps but at times conflicts with the official information but takes my story into the 1970s.

1911	**1925**
144:- Szabadka-Baja-Ujdombovar 226:- early 20th. Century:- Dombovar-Gyor (the original station.) 402:- Budapest-Ujdombovar-Fiume 406:- Budapest-Ujdombovar-Zagreb	29: Gyekenyes-Ujdombovar-Budapest NOT in PTT lists, nor Monograph; but known used 43: Ujdombovar-Baja just 92km replaces 144 44:- Nagykanizsa-Ujdombovar-Kiskunhalas 144: lost to Eger-Putnok 208: Ujdombovar-Komlo Small rural branch surviving into modern era. 226: Ujdombovar-Veszprem Sometimes Veszprem Kulso 402 and 406 had ended (pre-Trianon routes)

1931 Pre-war cancellers still in some cases in use.	**1937**
29: Nagykanizsa-Ujdombovar 43: Ujdombovar-Baja 44: Nagykanizsa-Ujdombovar 208: Bakoca-Godisa-Komlo 20 km branch off main Ujdombovar line 226 - as 1925	29: as 1931 43: as 1931 44: now Gyekenyes-Ujdombovar 60: Ujdombovar-Baja-one-way joins TPO 43 on the route 208: Ujdombovar-Komlo Full 38 km route again 226: as 1931

1939	**May 1940**
29: as 1931/1937 43: as 1931/1937 44: as 1937 60: as 1937 208: as 1937 226: Veszprem-Ujdombovar route direction priority reversed	29: as 1931/1937/1939/May 1940 43: as 1931/1937/1939/May 1940 44: now Ujdombovar-Gyekenyes Another one-way TPO service 60: as 1937/1939/May1940 208: as 1937/1939/May1940 225: Veszprem- Ujdombovar Route new- taking over 226 direction priority 226: Ujdombovar- as original 1925 route direction

November 1940	**January 1941**
29: as since 1931 43: as since 1931 44: now Kaposvar-Gyekenyes: HQ PO Ujdombovar 60: as since 1937 but now two-way 208: as since 1937 226: as since May 1940 Note 225 not now listed	29: Gyekenyes-Ujdombovar- Yugoslavia priority? 30: Ujdombovar-Pecs: new and not in Monograph 43: as since 1931: experimental Type 16 canceller 44: Keszohidegkut-Gyonk-Gyekenyes main line branch: later Ujdombovar TPO link

	Gyonk connected only in 1882 to main line 60: as November 1940 208: as since 1937 226: as since May/November 1940

October 1941	**May 1942**
29: as January 1941 32: Budapest- Ujdombovar: not a Monograph 43: Ujdombovar-Szeged-Rokus: near Szeged 44: Gyekenyes-Ujdombovar: TPO 44 changed- more focus on Drava border bridge 60: Ujdombovar-Keszohidegkut-Gyonk 187: Ujdombovar-Bataszek-Pecs: Monograph has Pecs-Ujdombovar: earlier Pecs-Beremend: 208:- as since 1937 226:- as since May/November 1940	29: Budapest-Gyekenyes: via Ujdombovar 43: as October 1941 44: Kaposvar-Gyekenyes: not via Ujdombovar and Monograph gives Budapest-Wien 60: Kaposvar-Keszohidegkut-Gyonk: Probably via Ujdombovar- connection with 44? 143: Baja-Szeged Rokus-1943- had been Szabadka- Ujdombovar- war situation? 187: Ujdombovar-Pecs: no Bataszek 208: as since 1937 226: as since May/November 1940: Monograph has as earlier 225 but later as 226.

September 1942	**December 1942**
29: as May 1942 43: as October **1941/May 1942** 44: still as May 1942 60: as May 1942 208: as since 1937 226: as since /November 1940	32: Budapest-Ujdombovar: listed but not in Vol.VI 43: Ujdombovar-Szeged 44: Ujdombovar-Gyekenyes: full route again 60: as May/September 1942 187: Ujdombovar-Pecs: omitted in September list? 208: as since 1937 226: as since May/November 1940: no 225 now

May 1943	
43: as December 1942 44: as December 1942 60: as December 1942 143: Ujdombovar-Szabadka: Return only to Baja 208: as since 1937 225: Ujdombovar-Veszprem: 226: Ujdombovar-Veszprem	

Re-organised Anonymous System- during 1943

No route names: TPO number and date in full central panel: variations of MAGYAR KIRALY MOZGOPOSTA – most abbreviated- around the edge of double ring circle postmarks: by the arrival of the 1946 Republic these removed Crown and any references to former royalty. The new system was based on geographical regions.

November 1943 Former numbers in brackets In two cases familiar routes with or without former numbers filled gaps in new lists perhaps to flow more naturally.	June 1944: as November 1943 but 351 and 352 route directions reversed August 1945 fewer immediate post-war routes
350 (43) Ujdombovar-Szeged 351 (-) Ujdombovar-Baja 352 (187) Pecs-Ujdombovar 354 (208) Ujdombovar-Komlo 370 (44) Ujdombovar-Gyekenyes 371 (-) Ujdombovar-Kaposvar 372 (226) Ujdombovar-Veszprem 385 (225) Veszprem-Ujdombovar 390 (60) Ujdombovar-Keszohidegkut-Gyonk	350 Kaposvar-Bataszek-Ujdombovar 352 as June 1944 354 as June 1944 370 Nagykanizsa-Ujdombovar 372 Ujdombovar-Veszprem 390 Ujdombovar-Tolnanemedi Further up main line- ignoring Gyonk?

January 1946 same reduced route coverage	May 1946 350 as January 1946

350 Ujdombovar-Bataszek 352 as August 1945 354 as August 1945 370 as August 1945 372 as August 1945 390 as August 1945	352 as January 1946 354 as January 1946 370 as January 1946 371 Ujdombovar-Bataszek 372 as January 1946

May 1950 350 Dombovar-Porboly 351 Dombovar-Bataszek 354 Dombovar-Komlo 370 Nagykanizsa-Dombovar 371 Dombovar-Gyekenyes 372 Dombovar-Veszprem Kulso	My PTT lists go no further but I have some official postal regional maps that include lists of TPOs and lesser mail services. The two stations merged in 1946 and finally the postal references revert to the original name.

MAP SERIES DATED 1956

From official regional postal maps that list TPOs: the maps can slightly differ in detail as Dombovar appears on maps of five postal regions. Thus one map provides evidence of brand new numbers, 56 and 57, but 59 appears on a different map. Another map numbers the new route 54 and 55 but gives 59 to elsewhere in the country. Yet another map confirms 56 and 57 but omits Dombovar as a named transit station. Familiar pre-war names return. Similarly two maps mention 370 but one includes Gyekenyes in the route detail. How individual maps list routes can have been open to local interpretation and as no names appear in the postmarks such minor differences may not be critical.

Routes do not always reflect the way passengers would travel. Simondunahid was a station just before Baja but the name reflects a bridge over the Danube, either historic or present. Was this new service related to 350 having two termini given, the one at Baja, a regular river crossing perhaps overtaken by 351? That would allow 350 to turn north at Bataszek rather than straight on to Baja. I cannot be sure.

56 Budapest-Dombovar-Pecs 57 Budapest-Dombovar-Pecs 59 Budapest-Dombovar-Pecs cited as a newspaper service 350 Dombovar-Bataszek-Sarbogard another map gives Dombovar-Baja	1st. August 1963 From a further set of maps- actual postal routes- published 53 Nagykanizsa-Dombovar-Budapest 350 Dombovar-Baja-Kiskunhalas 352 Dombovar-Godisa-Komlo 354 Dombovar-Godisa-Komlo 371 Dombovar-

351 Dombovar-Simondunahid just before Baja- name refers to a bridge 354 Dombovar-Bakoca Godisa-Komlo 370 as May1950 371 as May 1950 372 as May 1950 374 Dombovar-Keszohidegkut-Gyonk	Gyekenyes 372 Dombovar-Veszprem another map has Lepseny as a transit stop TPOs 55, 56, 57 and 59 still serve Budapest-Pecs and one assumes they went through Dombovar as previously.

The information seems to reflect significant development- for example the route to Komlo, hitherto a short branch faithfully maintained, now has two TPOs shown and Bakoca-Godisa is now just Godisa. Bakoca was west of Godisa and the station probably served both. Trains from Ujdombovar might always have had to reverse to reach Komlo, unless through track with a postal siding existed. Post-war, Komlo region coal became very important and second in national production only to Tatabanya. Modern timetables show still a railway line but changing at Sasd. Modern maps show the town now has a UK TESCO hyper-market!!

My final references come from a collector's record book- sources unknown. Route given in ink as 23 May 1971 but a few 26 May 1971 or 22 May 1977 (usually changes.) Earlier pre-war routes entered in pencil. under their original numbers. Services to Pecs were from Budapest Deli (South) station. They probably still travelled through Dombovar. Other TPOs served Pecs but probably alternative routes.

Final Table! The collector's book!

52 Pecs-Budapest
53 As 1963 but Budapest-Szolnok – apparently one-way only by 1977.
55 Pecs-Budapest (one-way)
56 Budapest-Pecs in 1974 Bekescsaba-Budapest
57 Budapest- in 1974 Budapest-Bekescsaba but from Budapest Nyugati (West) station.
by 1977. 350 Dombovar-Baja
352 Dombovar-Komlo almost certainly still via Bakoca-Godisa even if not stopping there
354 Dombovar-Komlo both TPOs still there!
371 Gyekenyes-Dombovar by 1977 Miskolc-Tornanadaska
372 Dombovar-Veszprem

That is as far as I can take the story. Progressive reduction of service such as that change in 371 route in 1977 would no doubt reflect improved road and air services and the TPO network has finally closed down.

Readers will have noticed that from well before World War 2 one route has been almost 100% active- the short branch south from Ujdombovar to Komlo via Bakoca-Godisa. In modern times it even gained a second TPO service. Once a rural village, during the post-war Soviet Republic it was exploited for its coal deposits, becoming the second biggest coal-mine after Tatabanya. The mine finally closed in 2000. Checking maps today it seems to be a small station with a few sidings.

THE POSTMARKS

The postmarks are the official philatelic record. They should reflect route and route changes but should still be studied in their own right as evidence checked against route evidence. Type 7, introduced 1880, is the first featuring Dombovar- but this was TPO 208, a short branch Ujdombovar-Komlo, created under Trianon re-organisation but given this much older type of canceller in 1924 as the eventual new period Type 15 was not yet issued. This was an impressively large single-ring circular mark with route and numbers in the 19th. Century reaching three figures Komlo was reached via a junction at Bakoca-Godisa, 18km south of Ujdombovar, in 20 or 30 minutes depending on fast or slow service. In 1941 the rest of the journey at best took 50 minutes.

After Trianon in 1920 many earlier TPO numbers became redundant and were re-issued to a re-organised route. 208 had earlier been used in northern Transylvania (Hungarian Erdely, lost to Romania.) In 1941 four trains a day worked the route and the 1848 reaching Komlo at 20.37 probably carried the mail for next day delivery along with passengers who had left Budapest at 15.45. The journey to Budapest arriving 11.40 left Komlo at 04.48- an early steaming for a small rural terminus. However, the connection at Godisa for Ujdombovar arrived there 06.30 in

good time for prompt deliveries if sorted on TPO 208. The 17.13 arriving Ujdombovar 20. 33 may also have been used for mail.

Types 9- 12 in effect reflected different design features and progressive route development. Date panels were either full or partial: TPO numbers were either small, with 'sz' (= number) or large; route expansion often involved additional TPO counters while new routes themselves also arrived. All such developments took the canceller prevalent at the time while unaffected, existing TPOs continued use of whatever canceller they had until loss or damage obliged replacement. Type 9c introduced the Hungarian Crown, a feature surviving uninterrupted apart from the brief Republican years around the end of World War 1 and lost completely after World War 2.

TPO numbers did not always run consecutively though; gaps allowed later additions for a route. Earlier ones could and did continue even if newer types came to the same route. Types 15 to 18 detailing post-Trianon re-organisation come close to overall replacement as they reflect significant changes of territory but even then some pre-war cancellers survived in use. Type 10s appear from 1892, 11 from 1899 and 12 from 1911. All reflected changing route development or simply new canceller designs. This random or perhaps pragmatic policy means that the same route and TPO number can be found under one or more of these and earlier types. To a good degree collecting by postmarks helps shape a time-line for the development of postal railway services and practices. The territorial complications encourage wider interest in collecting, perhaps, than just by TPO number or route.

From 1895 an early Type 10 canceller for TPO 226 served Dombovar-Gyor and return- the original station. The card shows the new station: the post clerk seeing the canceller uses the original station helps everyone by ensuring the facts are known. By 1910, when the Type 10 canceller was needed for a new service from Budapest to Zagreb, with TPO number 406, Ujdombovar was named as a transit point in a 3-name route and became the station used for all later postmarks. Initially Zagrab as Hungarian, in 1914 new ones still Type 10 had 'Zagreb.' The same year a new canceller for the 'D' counter was issued but by then was the Type 12 format though only the wider date panel would show it as both Types used the larger digit. The Type 10 TPO 406 arrived only in 1910, a year before Type 12 became available Volume VI records changes affecting this TPO in 1914 involving little more than counter letters- a detail only date evidence can establish. It is the measure of the editor's determined attention to detail.

TPO 406 did change to a Type 12 format but only under those later re-organisations- in 1941. The Zagreb service was lost at Trianon, likewise Szabadka, but this town came back in the 1938-1941 Visszatert period and the number was allocated for its service to Cservenka. By 1941 Types 15-18 had been long in-

troduced but the postal authorities went back to an old Type 12 still in stock presumably.

Type 11 saw a new service in 1909 from Budapest to Fiume and return again citing Ujdombovar as an intermediate location. Kostyan recorded A, B and C counters with D arriving in 1910. It was given TPO 402, another high number reflecting route and service growth



Illustrations 5 and 6:
top: postmark with JUTAS: bottom: postmark after Trianon

Type 12 sees Ujdombovar featured in two earlier lower numbers, 43 and 44. Both had been used from 1893 with Type 10 cancellers on the Battaszek-Zakany route and before that with Type 7 cancellers from 1882 (Volume VI records the double 'T' spelling for them.) Now in 1912 they served Nagykanizsa-Ujdombovar and return. The 'C' canceller came first and 'A' and 'B' only four days later but for the return journey all three came on the later date. It seems the TPO was one-way for four days. In post-Trianon reorganisation 43 became used for Ujdombovar-Baja and return.

44 followed the same pattern as 43 for Nagykanizsa-Ujdombovar and return but in 1926 reorganisation saw it assigned to Nagykanizsa-Ujdombovar-Kiskunhalas.

TPOs 143 and 144 had Type 12 cancellers. Both began in 1911 though initially for the Szabadka-Bataszek route but a year later with cancellers showing Szabadka-Baja-Ujdombovar, still via Bataszek- and again for both up and down lines. 144 became reassigned post-Trianon in 1926 for Putnok-Eger. In 1912 Volume VI records a new route Ujdombovar-Jutas. Neither my 1940 detailed military map nor my excellent modern Railway History atlas show JUTAS, but the atlas shows a station at a four-way rail crossroads just north of Veszprem where my fine 1895 whole-Europe atlas places Jutas. Perhaps it was a station more significant for TPOs. Veszprem, like Szeged, had suburban stations at times used as TPO termini.

I have a cover with the postmark though and the 1914 European Bradshaw has a timetable! Ujdombovar-Gyor, an early TPO (Type 10, 226,) went

north-west via Lepseny, not far from Balaton's northern shores, arriving Jutas after five and a half hours. There it connected with a separate onward service to Gyor via Veszprem, another three to four hours.

Our story picks up with ***Type 15,*** the mark of the final re-organised system introduced progressively from 1927. Re-organisation was not easy. The national economy was also enduring significant inflation. New postmarks but older ones might still be found on routes not affected by border changes. Nagykanizsa-Budapest remained TPO 8 a very long time and its Type 10 postmark remained long in use after 1920.

The number of international borders dramatically increased. Postal operations changed. These I shall reflect in my eventual book. Type 15 was still a smaller double ring cds but with partial date panel, much as Types 10 and 12- large TPO numbers at the bottom. There are one or two oddities but it is a significant postal change producing a new list with TPO numbers from Nos. 4 to 417 but in total only 75 TPOs- a much smaller country.

43 and 44 do not appear: 143 survives in 1930 as Kiskunhalas-Ujdombovar but in 1933 becoming Baja-Ujdombovar just for a year with a further change as TPO to Kiskunfelegyhaza from 1934. Whether these route changes tie strictly to the Volume VI datings needs examples to confirm. If the Baja cancellers were literally in action just a year that is a scarcity factor of interest. Up and down routes apply in each case. 226- the above-mentioned route to Jutas- changes to become Ujdombovar to Veszprem and return, an entirely new service in 1937.

I report above the route Ujdombovar-Komlo introduced early in post-Trianon organisation and being given the old Type 7 canceller form. Now in 1937 it gains a Type 15 version. Only dates of use can establish if the original ones stayed in use alongside.

More design experimentation saw ***Type 16*** as a larger double circle, Crown but no hatching, and full date panel to accommodate a different way of recording the date to show departure and arrival date- usually the same day but not always. A similar but anonymous, just M.KIR.MOZGOPOSTA, existed as an emergency canceller with TPO number in the date panel. Type 16 still indicated the TPO number in the route details. However, unlike Type 15, it gave the date as three year digits with Roman letters for month.

Only 12 TPOs had this canceller type but two involved Ujdombovar, including use of No.29 (previously Szeged-Eszek) for a new direct route from, but not to, Nagykanizsa and No.43 to Baja and return No.43 therefore returns to the town's railways. Now and again Volume VI shows a canceller operating in only one direction and one assumes the return route happened to have a still serviceable early type. But in this case No. 29 did not exist working from Ujdom-

bovar so perhaps it returned as a normal passenger service only.

1938 saw the start of significant amounts of territory lost at Trianon returning- the Visszatert period. It began in Czechoslovakia in 1938, extended to Ruthenia/Karpatalja in 1939, Romania in 1940 and Yugoslavia in 1941. Postal matters returned to Hungarian sovereignty and management, including stations, rolling stock, track and TPOs. The whole resulted in an enlarged route network restored or with re-shaped routes, especially across what had been Trianon borders, and a new postmark: ***Type 17***. It was identical to Type 15 except changing to Roman numerals instead of Type 15 which used letters for the month.

Considerably more TPOs were running. New track and even stations were sometimes needed to enable a restored line to avoid a stretch of track still in the other country. The celebrated Hungarian philatelic researcher, Ferenc Orban, told me that as a young soldier he had helped build a station at Marosfo. 1941/42 saw a completely new line, Szeretfalva-Deda, built in Erdely. Its workers received a lot of parcels!

Under Type 17 in 1942 TPO 43 changes to Ujdombovar-Szeged and return. The new Veszprem route, TPO 226, is not mentioned under Type 17 but a previously unused TPO number, 225, is shown. I have examples of TPOs either not listed in this period or with numbers recorded for other routes. Route changes and service needs could bring such changes and this was the period being written by replacements as the Monograph editor had died. In 1941 military events brought changed priorities.

TPO 143 survives but with a range of versions perhaps typical of the new war years. In 1939 it covered Baja-Kiskunfelegyhaza, in 1942 became Szabadka-Ujdombovar (Szabadka had been restored in 1941) but just a year later Szeged-Baja. Cancellers are listed as usual for outward and return directions. It again asks the question- did more than one operating route use the same TPO number or were these changes sequential and singular? Did war years complicate routine systems? Between 1939 might all three TPO 143 cancellers have been in use on the particular routes? Volume VI shows some routes ran for very short periods before such changes.

The Type 16 experimental design clearly appealed and a new version was issued as ***Type 18***. The only change was two year digits instead of three. Fifteen TPOs had these types, three being just one-way. Most involved restored territory so not affecting the area covered in this article.

The system went into total anonymity in late 1943- until which normal practice continued. TPOs 43 and 44 continued to serve the town- to Szeged and Gyekenyes respectively. 143 covered the route to Szabadka but returned only as far as Baja. 144 remained lost to Eger-Putnok and with no return service. A

first-time use of 187 and a direct service from Pecs came in 1943. TPO 208 (Komlo) continued and now with both 225 and 226 working to Veszprem and back. 402 and 406 became confined to restored Visszatert routes.

The new large size circular marks later in the year- with all the information including TPO number in the date panel- had no route names. The narrow space for date panel information is not always clear but TPO use continued until distinctive new designs- still anonymous- emerged but sorted by geographical region.

THE CONDUCTOR POSTS

Smaller routes without Mozgoposta carriages saw mail handled by a postal employee travelling on trains that generally were small local branches. Volume VI lists these as well as all the types referred to in the article.



Illustration 7: conductor post mark with 'km'

Illustration 7 shows a cover with the postmark of the Gyekenyes-Ujdombovar route with the less used 'km' mark, despite, by 1944, the majority having the then regular 'jm' marks. Ujdombovar-Veszprem was a typical 'jm' route. Illustration 8 is an example of marks used in the early period of railway posts.



Illustration 8

THE NEW ANONYMOUS SYSTEM- A SUMMARY

Initial arrangements show 43 re-numbered as 350 , still to Szeged, but a completely new service TPO 351, Ujdombovar-Baja and back, but connecting with onward trains to Szabadka. TPO 44 becomes 370, still to Gyekenyes, 143 became 326 Baja-Ujdombovar-Szabadka but placing our town in the middle seems curious routing. The two Veszprem routes (225/226) survived as 385 and 372, the new 187 Pecs service is re-numbered 352, Komlo's TPO 208 becomes 354. (*Illustration 9*).



Illustration 9 Postmarks under anonymous system

A completely new TPO 371 (no former number) ran between Ujdombovar and Kaposvar and return. They all start with '3' reflecting all services in that region- based on Szeged, Ujvidek, Pecs and Kaposvar groupings.

June 1944 found TPO 350 extended to Szabadka effectively replacing 326 (the old original 143) running direct between Baja and Szabadka and perhaps suggesting list error in the first changes.

August 1945 brings the first post-war outcomes. 350 serves a different route in the same region. 351 ends. 352 and 354 continue. TPO 370 continues but rather than south to the Drava at Gyekenyes- once again a likely restored Trianon border- the route switches north to Nagykanizsa. 371 ends. 372 (Veszprem) continues but the second route under regional number 385, the mysterious Monograph TPO 225, had ended before the war ended. A new TPO-390- ran between Ujdombovar and Tolnanemedi.

In January 1946 further re-organisation is evident. 350 is back for Ujdombovar to Bataszek. 371 brings a TPO back for the one lost in 1944. The new 390 changes from Tolnanemedi to become Ujdombovar-Keszhidegkut-Gyonk. The others remain as before. Yet by June 350 extends beyond Bataszek to Sarbogard but 352 has ended. The service to Komlo still survives as 354- likewise 370 to Nagykanizsa and 372 to Veszprem. 371, just restored between Ujdombovar and Kaposvar, moves again, this time restoring a route to Gyekenyes, now re-established as the international border.

Total TPO numbers are generally reducing. Likewise my access to post-war information becomes ever more difficult. By 1950 I find 350 now Dombovar-Porboly, 351 returns as Dombovar-Bataszek, Komlo (354) still working, 371 and 372 as in 1946, One notices that as noted at the outset the two towns

and stations exist and the name returns as just the original Dombovar.

The maps and the collector's notebook show that these basic TPOs continued at least until the 1970s. 352 returned as a second service for Komlo- coal surely! That its station had a Post Office and survived at least until 1962. A town's No.2 office was traditionally from the outset at the railway station. I hope this story helps collectors identify the connections between postal and philatelic stories as well as some of the post-1945 geography. I believe it supports my conviction that studying the marks by their postmark types, along with official route records, gives a stronger sense of the service and its history.

The study is more a lesser theme in a general study of TPOs and railway post evidence but it has been fascinating to do. It is more than collecting and studying a single TPO or route. I could have chosen any major rail centre in Hungary. Some like Debrecen or Szeged would have interesting stories about trains and borders. To me collecting railway material confirms the sheer fascination of the challenge of collecting the postal history of a country so severely treated by politics of the period.

Corrigenda

A 18/1 lapszam - szerkesztonk nyari munkatorlodasa miatt idoben javitani mar nem sikerult - alabbi hibaiert a Kedves Olvaso elnezeset kerjuk:

- **Ore Tonnes norveg filatelistakutato neve mindenutt tevesen, Tonnes-kent jelent meg.**
- **A 32.-ik oldalon a szloven belyegek nem 1 krajcarosok, hanem 1 krunasok (korona.)**
- **A 33-ik oldalon a roman cenzurabelyegzo szovege nem "Censurat Postal", hanem "Postul".**

NEWS

FEPA RECOGNITION

At FEPA's convention in Prague, we were pleased to accept the certificate of distinction awarded to our members Tamas Gudlin and Arpad Csatlos for their jointly published book. We congratulate the editors for this recognition!







The authors in Sindelfingen

The book may be purchased in the stores.

CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MABEOSZ

The election of new officers, originally scheduled for May, was held on September 22nd. Dr. Geza Homonnay, Mafitt's current president, was elected president of the Hungarian Stamp Collectors' National Federation by the delegates.



dr. Homonnay Geza president of Mafitt and MABEOSZ

Two members of Mafitt, Janos Dan and Laszlo Leitold, were also voted into the seven-member MABEOSZ presidency. Karoly Szucs has been responsible since January for the management of the federation's business.

Several of the MABEOSZ committees are also headed up by Mafitt members. Miklos Barabassy is in charge of the ethics committee; Denes Czirok, the jury committee; Istvan Glatz, the committees for exhibitions and international relations.

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 (e nyelvi mutáció 50 alatti példányszámban.)

Újságunk teljes tartalma és digitális lemezmelléklete a Mafitt honlapjáról letölthető.

www.mafitt.hu

The numbers of this journal are given on our website.
With our authors' permission the contents are listed there.

XXIX. évfolyam

ISSN 0324–4806

Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság
Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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

Ára: 1.800 Ft

A Philatelica díjai − Awards of Philatelica



2013.
LS



2014.
LS



2015.
LS

A Mafitt nevének angol fordítását ebben az időszakban helyesbítettük
During this period Mafitt's name in English was changed

A Philatelica nyomdai kivitelezéséhez a **Gervay Mihály Magyar Postatörténeti Alapítvány** nyújt támogatást-

19
1

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2019/1

Content:

Dr. Ferenc Nagy:	Homokbalvanyos – New Discoveries in the 1918-1920 Postal History of the Southern Region	1
Dr. Ferenc Nagy:	Once Upon a Time ... Predeal	10
Lajos Horvath :	Philatelic Historical Geography – The Baltics	27
Attila Bandi:	Supplement to Lorinc Borda's Article	32
News		35

Editor: Karoly Szucs, secretary of Mafitt
Translators: dr. Geza Homonnay and Csaba Kohalmi

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



HOMOKBALVANYOS – NEW DISCOVERIES IN THE 1918-1920 POSTAL HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN REGION

DR. FERENC NAGY (VIENNA)

PART ONE

A Homokbalvanyos letter franked with a Hungarian stamp that we searched for unsuccessfully in the catalogues appeared in a late-2017 auction from Belgrade.

The letter was actually transported from Homokbalvanyos on 5 January 1920 through Pancsova, then Belgrade in Serbia to the settlement of Gornji Milanovac 80 kilometres away and then returned via the same route.

The front side of the registered letter has stamps worth 50 filler as part of the 1.50 korona postal tariff. Next to the imprinted 15 filler indicium of the envelope is a 25 filler Karoly stamp along with a previously unknown 10 filler postage due stamp used as a postage stamp with the diagonal overprint FRANCO. On the reverse side, a pair of the first issue Temesvar 45 filler overprint on the 10 filler value of the 3rd War Aid stamp was used along with two 5 filler Harvesters to pay the 1 korona registration fee. Thus, the 1.50 korona tariff was made up with the help of using 7 stamps.

The 45 filler first issue Temesvar stamps were available for unrestricted use mostly in the areas that came under permanent Serbian occupation. (See PHILATELICA 18/1)



Figure 1.a. Letter from HOMOKBALVANYOS sent to Gornji Milanovac on 5 January 1920 returned to the sender. Front side: 50 filler postage including a previously unknown 10 filler FRANKO stamp.

The Pancsova cancellations on the letter indicate that it transited thought the town in both directions. The unusual 'FRANKO' stamp was accepted as a postage stamp without any problems both times even though it was originally intended as postage due stamp. THUS IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTTERED EARLIER AND RECOGNIZED!

We, however, had not seen a postally used letter with this stamp up until now.



Figure 1.b. The reverse side of the letter: 1 korona registration fee, with the pair of Temesvar local issue 45/10 filler stamps.

1. LARRY'S HOARD

The solution to the puzzle is in a stamp hoard found in England in 2011. A fellow collector who lives there and is a member of the 'Hungarian Philatelic Society' found, by chance, a significant collection of HOMOKBALVANYOS material in an auction. As I mentioned before, this topic is treated with more interest and enthusiasm in England than in Hungary. (The Hungarian stamp catalogue does not even mention this issue that was in use for 5 months.) The large number of letters and cutouts with 'PORTO' overprints in the auction lot dazzled the individual.

On one large piece of an envelope we can find a 50 filler black numeral postage due stamp overprinted 'FRANKO' in PURPLE colour next to two 4 filler Harvesters Koztarsasag stamps. The cancellation is hard to make out, but it is identical to one made by the Homokbalvanyos device. The marking 'N 21' left by a previous collector can be found on the piece. (My work that is pertinent to this topic can be found in the 16/1 issue of our publication.)

In addition to this, there was a piece of paper in the lot to which 8 postage due stamps with black 'FRANKO' overprint in lieu of PORTO were affixed for illustration purposes. Every used example showed a partial HOMOKBALVANYOS cancellation. A manuscript 'BELA CRKVA, VOJVODINA' was found at the top of the paper. This was the Serbian name for the town of Fehertemplom (Banat-Weisskirchen in German). There isn't sufficient explanation for the handwritten numbers annotated alongside each stamp.

Our fellow collector Roger Morrell publicized this in an issue of the 'Stamp of Hungary' from 2011. He assigned the moniker 'Larry's hoard' to the lot. Up until then the 'FRANKO' overprints received scant attention because until now the overwhelming quantity of Homokbalvanyos stamps were known only with 'PORTO' overprint.

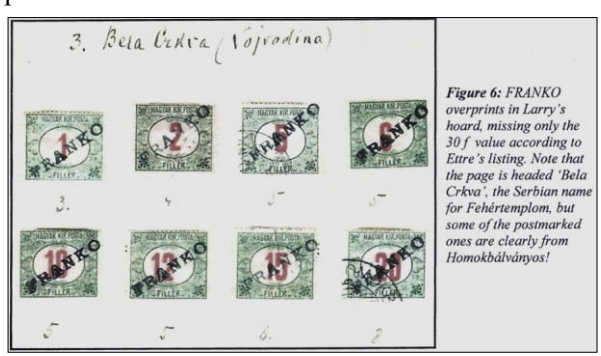


Figure 6: *FRANKO overprints in Larry's hoard, missing only the 30 f value according to Ettre's listing. Note that the page is headed 'Bela Crkva', the Serbian name for Fehértemplom, but some of the postmarked ones are clearly from Homokbálványos!*

Figure 2a. Illustration from the 185th issue, June 2011 of the 'Stamps of Hungary'



Figure 2b. Illustration from the 185th issue, June 2011 of the 'Stamps of Hungary'

The 9th stamp in the 'rearranged' picture of a similar illustration shows the added 50 filler stamp!



Figure 3. To date, the only known cutout showing the 50 filler stamp with FRANKO overprint. from Homokbalvanyos, 15 December 1919.

While it did not present a problem to list the Homokbalvanyos PORTO stamps and posted letters amongst the known items, there was no easy explanation for the sheet of paper with the FRANKO stamps annotated with Bela Crkva. Therefore, based on this inscription, these became recorded as the 'Fehertemplom-issue' in the small circle of interested collectors.

I hope to be able to dwell deeper into this topic based on the letter shown in Figure 1 continuing the work began by dr. Leslie Ettre, Roger Morrell, and Larry Peer. At the same time, I hope to be able to afford them the proper respect.

First of all, let's examine the overprint on the 10 filler stamp. It is 25mm wide. It's immediately noticeable that the lower foot of the letter 'R' in 'FRANKO' curls upwards. This is similar to the Homokbalvanyos stamps with 'PORTO' overprints in which the characteristics of the letter 'R' and 'O' correspond to the overprint on our piece. This indicates that both overprints were prepared using the same letter stock. Not just the already well-known Homokbalvanyos PORTO but also the so-called 'Fehertemplom' FRANKO printings were prepared in THE SAME PLACE!

This letter cutout as well as the 4 cancelled examples from England was used in Homokbalvanyos exclusively. It appears that Fehertemplom located 50km to the east did not have any connection to this. Nevertheless, there has to be a reason for the annotation made 100 years ago to exist!

The name Bela Cvrka came into use after the Serbian sovereignty. Up until then the only name variant used besides the Hungarian name was the

German Banat-Weisskirchen. Therefore, the piece of paper was authored at a later time by someone whose mother tongue was Serbo-Croatian.

Let's imagine the following situation. The exceptionally talented, smart, and energetic postmaster of Homokbalvanyos, Mr. Graf – who, like his many other Hungarian brethren – could not acquiesce to the impending loss of the 4 counties. He used every opportunity to underscore and present testimony to the Hungarian nature of the area. That which we know as history today – reading about it in our easy chair – was EVOLVING at the time! The inhabitants of small settlements could not have known about the dubious machinations of the Entente powers! Mr. Graf could only show that 'here the HUNGARIAN post was functioning, using HUNGARIAN stamps and the name of the place was HOMOKBALVANYOS.' Mr. Graf fought for this as much as it was possible for him to do so.

There was only one problem. The supply of locally overprinted provisional postage due stamps issued in September 1919 was nearly exhausted leaving very few not overprinted stamps in stock. Mainly, the 1 korona Parliament stamp needed for registered letter was unavailable. He could not request a resupply from the Nagybecskerek Postal Directorate because, most likely, he would have received the 'chain breaker' Slovenian stamps that were valid there. He came up with an idea to ask his colleague from Fehertemplom about the possibility of getting Hungarian stamps from him. He must have received a reply that only postage due stamps were available. The colleague must have sent some to Mr. Graf since the postmaster at Fehertemplom was more industrious about collecting postage due.

This may be the only explanation for the issues' connection to Fehertemplom.

But there may have been another problem. The stamps were not needed for collecting postage due but for paying postal tariff! The postmaster most like included dr. Groó Arpad, a known collector, in the discussion that could have gone as follows:

a) The small hand-press still exists that was used to make the Homokbalvanyos overprint. The inscription 'FRANKO' can be re-set from the 'PORTO' letter-type and thus the postage due stamps would become postage stamps.
b) Since the Postal Directorate of Nagybecskerek (as ascertained from previous correspondence) did not object to the 'PORTO' overprinting on postage stamps, then it would have no objections to opposite either, 'FRANKO' overprinting on postage due stamps.

Since the postage due stamps had a large red numeral of value, they were not suitable for overprinting with a new face value. So, the old numeral remained as is, only the new text 'FRANKO' was applied over them.

Dr. Leslie Ettre, who was a great expert of these issues, mentions these stamps on page 9 of the October 1972 issue of the News of Hungarian Philately published in America. He stated that he found this data in only one source and that he never saw any such stamps.

How many stamps were overprinted? The following is according to dr. Ettre's data:

On RED NUMERAL GREEN POSTAGE DUE stamps (in black colour)

1 fill.	500 pieces
2 fill.	500 pieces
5 fill.	100 pieces
6 fill.	54 pieces
10 fill.	200 pieces
12 fill.	30 pieces
15 fill.	70 pieces
20 fill.	140 pieces
30 fill.	76 pieces

On BLACK NUMERAL GREEN POSTAGE DUE stamps (in purple colour)

20 fill.	VIIa watermark	47 pieces
50 fill.	VII watermark	18 pieces
50 fill.	VIIa watermark	84 pieces

IN MY OPINION WE CAN CALL THESE THE 'HOMKBALVANYOS II.' LOCAL ISSUE BASED ON THESE QUANTITIES.

Ettre does not mention the colour of the overprints. On the red numeral stamps the black color is easy to see; on the black numeral ones, the purple colour gives good contrast.

When were these stamps used? On the cutout with the black numeral 50 filler stamp, we can observe the date of December 15th; on the letter, it's January 5, 1920. In the occupied areas, Hungarian stamps lost their postal validity on 15 March 1920.

Therefore, the 'FRANKO' overprinted postage due stamps could have been in use for two more months. Still, where are they? If more than 1500 pieces of FRANKO postage stamps were made, then more than just a few letters or cutouts or even unused stamps should have surfaced.

The stock available to us does not include any. Most likely, they are ferreted away in Serbia, even if in small quantities, proving the above statements. The postman came while I was writing these lines and brought my latest auction acquisitions from Belgrade: 3 FRANKO overprints on unused stamps!

Don't think that this is a frequent event. I have such stamps in my hand for the first time in my life! The fact that this lot was presented to me as a gift from Heaven after a 30-40 year search seems like incomprehensible luck.



Figure 4. Homokbalvanyos II issue 6, 10, 12 filler stamp with FRANKO overprint in lieu of PORTO.

A fellow collector from America who found this cutout about two years ago had even greater luck. The pair of 10 filler postage stamps agree with Ettre's information; the date of the cancellations agrees with my data /used in January of 1920/.

This pair of stamps is a singular, unique item. It gives me great pleasure to present to the Dear Readers these Homokbalvanyos II stamps as if they were single strands of flowers that eventually make up a bouquet.



Figure 4.a. Cutout with a pair of 10 filler Homokbalvanyos postage stamps cancelled on 21 January 1920. According to Ettre's tabulation from 1972, 200 examples were made.

These were no Hungarian stamps available for franking letters in the town of Fehertemplom by the end of December 1919. The letter that I luckily happened upon in 2018 from the 'helytortenet.com' store of a business in Budapest attests that strictly Slovenian stamps were used by then. Hungarian (postage due) stamps with FRANKO overprints from Fehertemplom are not known to me! Bela Crkva mute nyista!

Therefore, the Fehertemplom connection on the piece of paper from Larry's hoard cannot be proven. It may be possible that these stamps were physically located there at one time.



Figure 5. 29 December 1919 letter from Fehertemplom with 50 vinar and 1 krona stamps from Slovenia's first and second issue. The registry label and cancellation are still Hungarian. Transit through Pancsova on December 31st, then Belgrade, and cancelled upon arrival in Esztergom on 12 January 1920.



Figure 6. Contemporary view of Fehertemplom.

2. What happened to the stamps from the HOMOKBALVANYOS II. issue?

This is my theory:

The Serb rulers reprimanded the postmaster of Homokbalvanyos about 'what right did he have to use unknown Hungarian stamps when sufficient quantities of stamps of the Slovene state were available?' They prohibited the further utilization and confiscated the remainders. Quite possibly, these were then destroyed inasmuch as there was no further need for Hungarian stamps. For this reason, we cannot find additional postally used example even though several more should exist based on the quantities reported by Ettre. It's futile to look for written documentation relating to this small, localized wrangling; its impacts were way too small.

Therefore, to date, it's most likely that this letter is a UNIQUE piece that survived the difficult and turbulent times. Let's not grimace that this is a 'fabrication' because it is not. It is a testament to the catastrophic times during which our predecessors tried everything to be able to remain as a part of the motherland. They should be commended for this and not doubted. If this letter were, for example, Italian or French, we would be celebrating it as a valuable resistance document, and it would have a 5-digit price in euros.

This is my analysis of the stamps and the letter.

I'm afraid that in Hungary this would elicit only a shrug and disparagement of the efforts of our kin living in the face of overwhelming opposition.

SECOND PART

After mounting the above letter that I won in the Belgrade auction in my Homokbalvanyos collection, I made an exciting discovery. Comparing it to the other material that was already there, I discovered another letter (Figure 7) that was mailed not only on the same day (January 5th) but also that the two letters were accepted at the post office one after another from two different senders! One went to Serbia; one went to Croatia.

The sequence numbers of the registry labels are 851 and 852! It is quite an unusual happening that the two letters sent from such a small settlement ended up in the hands of one collector. (I can safely say, once in a lifetime…)

Why is this chance happening important? Because the placement of the stamps on BOTH envelopes is identical!

1. A 15 filler envelope with printed indicium was used,
2. The front side was franked with 50 filler for an ordinary letter,

3. The reverse side was franked with 1 korona stamps required by the registration made UP OUT OF NECESSITY using multiple stamps.



Figure 7. The letter that followed the previous one mailed to Zagreb with registry number 852. The date was 5 January 1920; the Zagreb arrival cancellation was 12 January 1920.

Both letters give the impression that they are not philatelic mailings, but represent ordinary letters; therefore, genuine 'bedarf=requisite' as they say in Vienna. Karoly Peros was a pharmacist in Homokbalvanyos. He was most likely of Croatian descent; hence, he wrote the letter to his relatives in Zagreb (see PHILATELICA 16/1. Page 3, figure 5 that shows a Peros letter from 1904 franked with turul stamps sent to Pancsova).

We can see a pair of Temesvar I. local issue 45 filler stamps on the FIRST letter with the 851 registry label. These stamps were issued at the end of May; and, as I stated in my previous article (PHILATELICA 18/1) were first available to collectors in Temesvar. The Postal Directorate of Nagybecskerek delayed their distribution to its smaller post offices until the fall of 1919. Since these 45 filler stamps are practically unknown to have been used in the areas that permanently remained under Romanian control, it appears that the Serbian authorities confiscated the stamp stocks when they evacuated Temesvar in August of 1919 and eventually turned them over to the Postal Directorate of Nagybecskerek in the fall. Pairs or strips of these stamps on mailing are scarce items! The use of two local issues (Temesvar, Homokbalvanyos) on one letter is unique.

We can see dr. Arpad Groó's violet handstamp on the reverse side. I can almost hear the sceptics' cries 'so there!'. This stamping was not applied to the back side of the letter at the time it was mailed. If so, it would have been in the middle along the top. It represents a collector's property marking that dr. Groó struck in an available space AFTER the letter was returned. There was very little space left after the 9 (!) strikes of various cancellers. The handwriting in the address is not Groó's, either. It

is conceivable that the active philatelic requested the letter from its owner. In the case if our fellow collector Groó had mailed the letter himself, he would have likely sent it to a neighbouring village and not to Serbia!

The fact that the clever dr. Arpad Groó did not put away a few unused examples for himself and thus preserve them from being expropriated can be explained by the fact that the confiscation must have occurred as a surprise raid. It may have happened shortly after the overprints were prepared and their loss was not foreseen.

The 'appearance' of the SECOND letter with the 852 registry number is similar to the prior one. Its front side has a 30 vinar Slovenian stamp used as a makeup for the 50 filler franking. (Lesson 1.1) Similarly, we can find the 25 filler Karoly stamp used as well as the 5 filler Harvesters as on the letter shown in Figure 1.

The Zagreb arrival cancellation is on the reverse side.

It's obvious with both letters that the stamps were not affixed to the envelope with the care philatelist would have used in placing them. The arrangement by a postal employee ('what is important is that the tariff be correct' mentality) shows a somewhat careless placement to achieve the correct tariff. With this I hope to have satisfactorily answered most questions. In general, we can respond to everything using our current knowledge.

Speculation? Yes, but we don't have any other sources; so let us strain our one organ that the Creator endowed us with, our brains.

The 'unknown' 10 filler red postage due 'FRANKO' stamp, along with the Temesvar local issue of the back side, is a unique philatelic and historical document.

The complementary letter to Zagreb which shows the contemporary franking conventions is a wonderful pairing of the postal history of the southern regions.

The unused stamps that surfaced at the end of 2018 are nicely round out the English material, 'Larry's loot.'

With this I'm concluding the gleanings of the Southern region, Homokbalvanyos. I'm praising the good Lord for helping me return this letter home for the philatelist from abroad. (And, Dear Reader, maybe I have given you a pleasant half hour's worth of reading.)

LITERATURE

Stamps of Hungary, No. 185, June 2011. On the 1919 overprint trail. Part 8: Homokbalvanyos.
Horvath Lajos, PHILATELICA 17/1.
Dr. Nagy Ferenc: Egy szerb falu Magyarorszagon. Bavaniste-Homokbalvanyos postatortenete 1868-1920. PHILATELICA 16/1.

Consultants: Special thanks to Roger Morrell, Larry Peer, (England) to whom I'm indebted for their valuable assistance and documents. I would also like to thank Denes Czirók for his help in editing this article.

translated by Csaba Kohalmi



ONCE UPON A TIME ... PREDEAL

DR. FERENC NAGY (VIENNA)

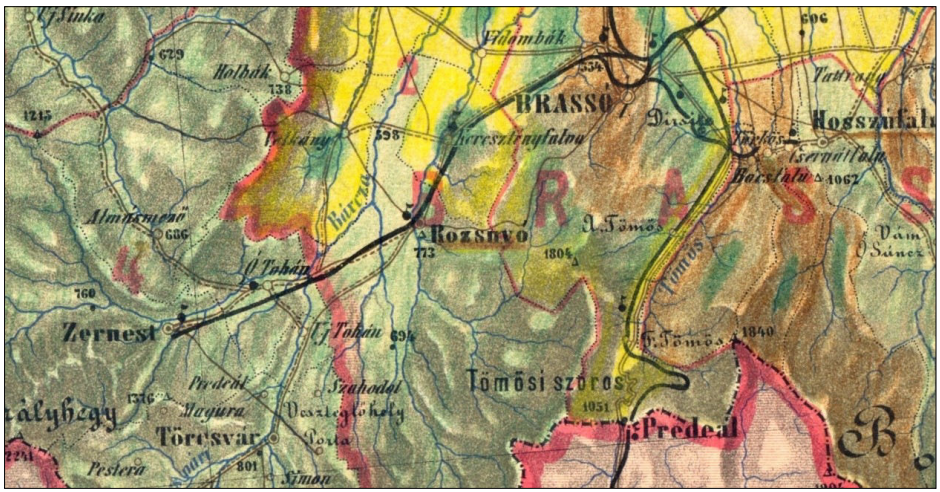


Figure 1. Map showing the border station Predeal, the settlement Felsőtömös and the city of Brasov. The railway line is shown by the black line. Well visible is the big curve of the line after Predeal, sloping down through the mountains to Felsőtömös. The road was built a bit lower, but there was no space for the railway line there.

My interest in the topic 'Hungarian Post in Romania' was first aroused some 45 years ago and I began to look for the – at that time – very meager material. Thus I came across on page 519 of the VI. volume of the Monograph, under the title 'Post offices functioning abroad', next to the Galatz canceller made in Hungary, the short description of another, for me then unknown canceller, with the text 'M. K. POSTAHIVATAL PREDEAL' (Royal Hungarian Post Office of Predeal). I thought I will buy such covers upon occasion.

Now, after 45 years, looking for material for a new article, I looked up in my albums and was shocked to find myself very poor in this regard. No problem, I thought, I will ask my many philatelist friends, some of them will surely be in possession of a rich material or at least some good covers.

The bland reader, together with me, will surely not believe it – I have found nearly nothing. The existing material is so meager, that it is not worth an article, I said, so I put down the pencil. But my friends heard about the topic and encouraged me

not to quit. So I will try to reconstruct the story based upon this small material.

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The settlement of Predeal lies in the Carpathian mountains, on the Bucharest-Ploieşti-Brasov-Oradea-Budapest railway line, exactly on the pre-world-war Romanian-Hungarian border (the meaning of the Romanian word Predlea is 'border'). At 1100m it has been the highest lying settlement of Romania. As the summer villa of the Romanian king has been nearby (the Peles castle in Sinaia), and also because of the clean air and good accessibility, the originally small settlement became very fashionable in the 1880's.

Quite a few Romanian bankers, politicians and industrialists had the local craftsman build a small castle at the settlement, which counted as 'mundane' at that time. Private villas and smaller sanatoriums were also built, so the tourists with thin wallets were also able to spend some days in Predeal, slowly enlivening the not too important settlement, functioning up to then only as a border station. But the new importance was restricted only to the railway. At the road border a single beam reached toward the sky and a sole bored sentinel was sitting next to it, as the traffic on the dusty road was nearly nonexistent.

2. POSTAL HISTORY

The Romanian Post operated an office in Predeal, because of the geographical position of the settlement. This handled the mail arriving from Romania, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire and handed them over to the Hungarian Post.

If it had been there. But it wasn't!

The quickly built railway lines, and the transfer of the postal traffic from the road border station at Felsőtömös into the mountains, to Predeal, has been a sensitive issue for the Hungarians. No settlement existed on the Hungarian side which could provide an infrastructure to host the postmen, the railway or the customs personnel. But the waggish Hungarians were not diturbed – they created a provisorium that successfully functioned for 23 years!

They made an arrangement with the Romanians that all the above mentioned personnel will live and work on the Romanian side. This solution was practical also from the point of view of work organization. The Romanians had good experience with the Hungarian post, so they obliged.

Thus, 12 years after the postal history episode of the 'Hungarian Post in the Danube Principalities 1867-1869', yet another Hungarian post office was opened on Romanian territory!

Most probably the Hungarian employees lived at the staff apartments of the station building. It took more than 20 years to build a functional settlement on the Hungarian side, meaning the opening of the post office bearing the name PREDEÁLTELEP ('Telep' means 'site' in Hungarian) happened only in 1904.

Paying a visit to Gábor Visnyovszky some 25 years ago, I found in his vast material the sheet visible below, showing all cancellers with the name PREDEAL. He saw my enthusiasm and with his fantastic philatelic people skill he gave

the sheet to me, sensing that if anybody, I will be dealing with this topic. Thus I received – as it later turned out – the original documentation of the Klassohn stamp manufacturing factory, today being invaluable. I will be grateful to Gabor for this, until I die.



Figure 2. The prints of all cancellers ordered by the Hungarian Post bearing the text PREDEAL on cut-outs (ex Klassohn).

This sheet shows all manufactured cancellers. As we will see, not all has been used in practice, or maybe the existing material does not contain the print of some.

3. HUNGARIAN POST IN ROMANIA – 2: PREDEAL (BEING A ROMANIAN NAME, NO ACCENT ON THE LETTER 'A')

Let us imagine, that the year is 1880, the railway traffic through Predeal coming from the Balkans is more and more livelier, passengers, packages and newpapers are delivered. The customs handling of the incoming packages was only possible in Brasov, the next big city, as there was literally nothing on the Hungarian side of the border (this is the reason we can find so many newspaper tax stamps with Brasov cancellation). So the Hungarian Postal Administration initiated talks with the Romanian one to house the Hungarian post personnel temporarily in Romanian buildings until a Hungarian settlement will be built on the other side of the border. As I have mentioned, the good relations stemmed from the post offices operating under Hungarian management in Bucharest and 5 other cities (Galatz, Ibraila, Giurgevo, Ploieşti and Fokschan). At least no complaints can be found in the available documents. As a result of the successful negotiations the postal traffic from the East-Balkans has started on 25 February 1881 (the date is known as the company Klassohn always used the first day of operation in the canceller-archive).

The Hungarian Postal Authority declared the official opening for 1 April 1881, attested by the below order:



Predeálban (Románia) m. k. postahivatal felállítása.

13462.

A nemzetközi predeáli pályaudvarban (Romániában) folyó évi april 1-jén kincstárilag kezelt m. kir. postahivatal állíttatott fel, mely a Romániá, Törökország és Bulgáriába szóló és onnan érkező levél- és kocsipostai küldemények átvonatolásával, továbbá a hivatalos küldemények felvételével és kézbesítésével foglalkozik.

Predeálba szóló magánküldemények a predeáli román postahivatalhoz utalandók, a mennél fogva a Románia részére fennálló tarifa szerint díjazandók.

Budapest, 1881. május 24.

Aufstellung eines kön. ung. Postamtes in Predeal (Rumänien).

In dem internationalen Bahnhofe zu Predeal (Rumänien) wurde am 1-ten April l. J. ein kön. ung. Aerarial-Postamt aufgestellt, welches sich blos mit der Umkartirung der nach Rumänien, der Türkei und Bulgarien lautenden und von dort einlangenden Brief- und Fahrpostsendungen, ferner mit der Aufnahme und Zustellung von Amtscorrespondenzen zu befassen hat.

Nach Predeal lautende Privatsendungen sind an das rumänische Postamt zu leiten; daher nach dem für Rumänien bestehenden Tarife zu taxiren.

Figure 3. The 15. issue of 1881 of the PRT (Collection of Postal Orders), issued on 1 June 1881, with the opening date of the PREDEAL post office on 1 April 1881.

The order clearly states that the Hungarian post office has been created on Romanian territory. Incoming letters addressed to Hungarian territory were cancelled either by the M. KIR. POSTAHIVATAL PREDEAL or the M. K. POSTAHIVATAL PREDEAL A. text. Seemingly the two cancellers were used parallelly.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING MATERIAL (25 FEBRUARY 1881 – 28 APRIL 1904)

The earliest mail I know from this territory is an international money order form, sent on 25 August 1882 from Medgyes (Mediasch) in Transylvania to a Hungarian person staying in Bucharest. The form has only been handled on 7 September in Predeal, as it was first taken to Budapest, where the sent sum was converted to Golden Francs (with red ink). This was the case with all international money orders, to facilitate the conversion between different currencies. The 200 Gulden was converted to 423 Francs and 28 Centimes. The fee of the order was fairly high, 200 Kreutzer meaning 2 Guldens.

This nice item has been auctioned at the company Profila many years ago and the buyer was the famous Austrian collector Karl Endrődi. This is the highest known money order fee from this period.

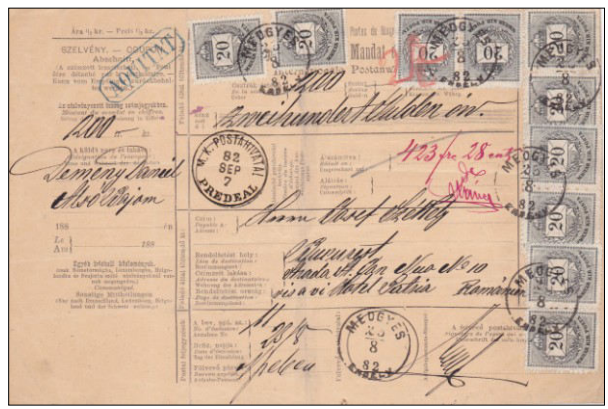


Figure 4. Money order form sent from Medgyes to Bucharest on 25 August 1882 with M.K. POSTAHIVATAL PREDEAL cancellation.

The next letter is only ten days younger, sent in the opposite direction, from Craiova in Romania to the Lutheran Pastoral Office of Heltau (Nagydisznód) in Transylvania on 16 September 1882. Already the next day the letter has been in Ploieşti, then the same day (!) it was handled at the Hungarian Post in Predeal. On 18 September it was in Nagyszeben and the same day (!) it arrived to the recipient in Nagydisznód. What a speed! (Currently the letter lies low in a big collection in Vienna.)



Figure 5a. Front of the letter with the 15 Bani stamp from Craiova to Heltau (Nagydisznód)

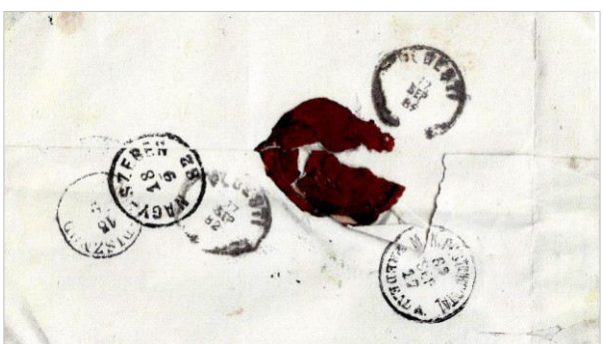


Figure 5b. Back side of the letter: Ploieşti 17. SEP, M.K. Postahivatal Predeal A. Sep 17, Nagyszeben 18.9., Nagy-Disznód 18.9 cancellations

As I have mentioned, the incoming newspapers formed a significant part of the traffic of the border post office. An important (also) Romanian speaking population lived in Transylvania and they were eager to read the news, so they subscribed to Romanian daily and weekly newspapers. For all foreign newspapers a newspaper tax fee of 2 kr had to be paid, which was handled at the border.

Alas just before the opening of the Predeal post office the 2 kr brown newspaper stamps were withdrawn after 12 years (1868-1880) of usage, therefore they were not available in 1881. Thus the blue 1 kr stamps were used in pairs. During 40 years I was able to acquire three such pairs, a good performance in this difficult area. They too demonstrate the parallel usage of the two types of cancellers. Another typical feature is the nice quality of the cancellations on all of these newpaper tax stamps.

It is to be mentioned that the Predeal post office only used the first type of these stamps, issued in 1868, where the height of the 'kr' letters is equal. I estimate the number of such remaining pairs from Predeal at 20.



Figure 6. 3 newspaper tax stamp pairs from 1883 with PREDEAL and PREDEAL A. cancellations

All other stamps of this period are extremely rare with these cancellations. I have found two newspaper stamps of the 1881 issue with watermark I.



Figure 7. Two 1 kr newspaper stamps with PREDEAL A and PREDEAL cancellation

Before somebody would suppose that only I am inept to find more examples, I mention that the Stamp Museum gave me the information that they possess all in all ONE PIECE of newpaper stamps with PREDEAL cancellation.

Therefore the next 3 kr stamp, used on 26 February 1896 is an exceptional rarity. As I have mentioned, the Predeal post office was mainly handling transit. Very few Hungarian letters have been posted at the post office, resulting in a very low quantity of Hungarian stamps used there. Any item is to be appreciated.



Figure 8. 3 kr stamp with PREDEAL A. cancellation

The two cancellations shown up to now were used from 1881 to 1895. From then on a new, standard crown-strap type canceller was used with the inscription M. KIR. POSTA PREDEÁL (now with accent on the letter 'A'), and differentiating letters A and B. According to the Monograph this was used until the closure of the Predeal post office in Romanian territory, 1904. This is a much rarer cancellation, I only know one item, on a cut-out from 1900.



Figure 9. Cut-out from a picture postcard with 5 filler Turul stamp and M. KIR. POSTA PREDEÁL 'B' cancellation

Getting back to covers, it is specific to the difficulties of this topic that one has to wait another 10 years before the next known letter was written. But is worth the waiting, as we can see a very interesting postal history rarity.

Dumitru B. Comsia trader (commerciant in Romanian) sent home 2.000 Leis to his wife in Szelistye, close to Nagyszeben, in a money letter. This was a huge sum at that time, and even if Mr. Comsia had kept so much money at home, it was contraindicated to rafting with so much money on the river Zsil. Therefore he put it into an envelope in the Romanian settlement of Tirgu Jiu (it even has a Hungarian name: Zsilvásárhely) with the declared value of 'Valorea 2000 Lei'. The post office weighted the money at 70 grams and for 70 Banies they delivered the letter to Mrs. Doamnei Paraschiva Comsia in Szelistye. On the back of the envelope we can see the serial number '26' with the handwriting of the sender, documenting the well running business. The back also contains the 'Bucuresci' transit cancellations from the next

day, 31 December, plus the January 1 dated cancellation of M.K. POSTAHIVATAL PREDEAL A. And also 9 (!) wax stamp of the sender.



Figure 10a. Front of the money letter



Figure 10b. Back of the money letter with the PREDEAL A cancellation from 1893

The next figure shows a curiosum, a Hungarian 1 krajcár newspaper stamp with the blue Romanian cancellation PREDEAL 96 nov 16. How is this possible? The answer is that the two post offices functioning under the same roof decided to accept each other's stamps if needed, without a penalty fee.



Figure 11. Hungarian 1 krajcár newspaper stamp with blue Romanian PREDEAL cancellation from 1896.

The next items does not originate from the Hungarian period, but they are non the less interesting. First I would like to show my favourite one. This is a Hungarian 10 filler correspondence card sent abroad, already after the closing of the Hungarian post office, in 1911. The Belgian tourist writes from the Villa Buzuatu, that with his bride and the bride's family (!) 'je suis maintenant dans une localité balneaire roumaine, qui se trouve à la frontière Hongroise'. So the whole family spends the time at a small Romanian bath, close to the Hungarian border. He threw this Hungarian postcard into the mailbox of the Romanian Post, which accepted it without problem based upon the good neighbourhood. Not an everyday destination: Predeal-Antwerp….



Figure 12. Hungarian postcard from 3 October 1911, with Romanian cancellation PREDEAL to Antwerp, arriving there on 6 October

I would like to show here, how this desolated border looked like. No cars 120 years ago. For carts the slope was too steep. Therefore only a few walking tourists at nice weather. So we can see some border sentinels in uniforms plus women in long rocks with 1-2 children. The opened border beam stares at the sky. By the technics of the photo we can estimate this card to cca. 1900, the text is Romanian (Carta postala, Roumania).



Figure 13. The border station from the Romanian side at around 1900

A picture from around 10 years later shows a different view from the same perspective. The great beam was changed to a stronger grid, the guarding headcount was reduced to two. The well groomed Hungarian soldier stands next to the Romanian colleague in his long coat and they both try to discourage the passers-by. There are some new buildings, but we cannot see any transit traffic. The editor of both cards are the same, from Bucharest. The card was written by a Romanian traveller to Geneva in 1909, but he only mailed it in Ploieşti, on his way to Bucharest.

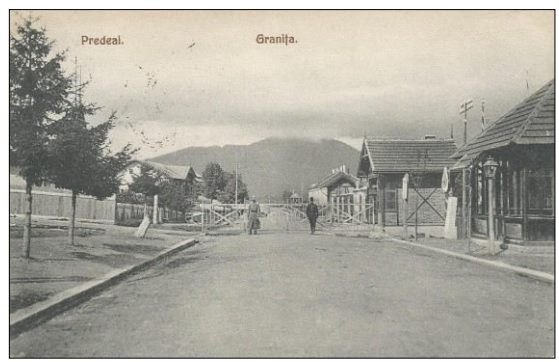


Figure 14a. The new border fence on a postcard from 1909



Figure 14b. Back of the postcard with mailing in Ploieşti

Quite a number of postcards exist. I chose the following one, as it shows the main attraction of the village: the railway station, where all the above mentioned activities happened. All of the postcards are of Romanian origin, the small stamp of the selling agent in the top left corner is: Stavarachescu, Predeal. For the guests vacationing on the Hungarian side it was great excitement to cross the border and take a few steps on Romanian soil, this is what the text tells us.



Figure 15a. Picture post card with the generous rail substance of the railway station



Figure 15b. Back of the card with the date 24 April 1907: 'Greetings from Romania'

As I have mentioned, the post personnel wasn't alone working in Romania: they were joined by the customs and the railway staff as well. For the sake of our revenue stamp collector friends let me show a rare Hungarian customs handling stamp from the era when PREDEAL TELEP was still nonexistent.



Figure 16. Customs handling stamp from Predeal, before 1904: 'Vámkezeltetett M. Kir. fővámhivatal Predeal (handled by the custom office, Royal Hungarian Main Custom Office at Predeal)'



Figure 17a. Package delivery form from Bucharest to the American Embassy in Vienna, with customs handling on 25 August 1916 in Brasov and routing instruction 'Via Predeal'

Although it does not belong strictly to our topic, I cannot withstand the temptation to introduce this package handling form (Figure 17a), documenting the final hours of the peaceful Hungarian-Romanian relationship. The package addressed to Vienna was handled in Brasov, just 2 days before Romania declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and it's allies. Handwriting at the top: 'via Predeal cu decl. No… 1347.', on the back the Romanian Predeal stamp. This is when we, philatelists, feel the wind of history as well.

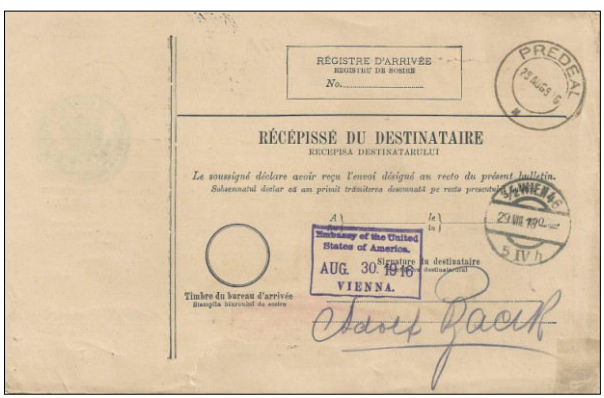


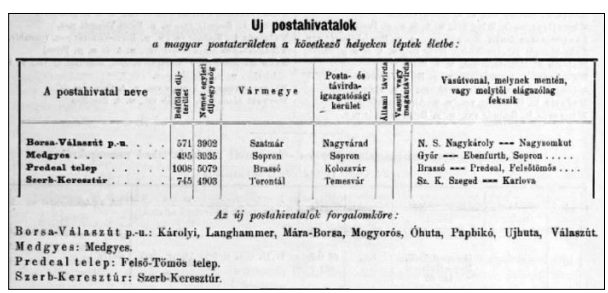
Figure 17b. Back of the form with Romanian PREDEAL stamp

And this is where we finish the analysis of the documents stemming from the Romanian Predeal and are for some reason interesting to us. The philatelists of four countries helped me let down the water from the Carpathian basin and fish out the remaining Predeal documents, but this is all we could find. At least the proud owners of these items can be very happy!

Luckily we still have Predeál telep to indemnify us in the next chapter.

5. PREDEAL TELEP 1904-1916

As we have mentioned, the Hungarian Postal Authority did not deem the guest starring in the Romanian Predeal as a final solution. The goal was to resettle the post office plus the customs and railway staff to a Hungarian border settlement. The problem was, such a settlement cannot be conjured out of a cylinder in a flash, it takes a long time to build it. Still, slowly slowly a mountain village with functioning infrastructure emerged and as an extension of the neighbouring Romanian settlement it received the name PREDEÁL TELEP. As we will see, this naming was not the best solution, causing a lot of misunderstanding. Still, after 23 years the Hungarian post office functioning on Romanian soil ceased to operate and in the 19. issue of the PTRT (Collection of Postal and Telegraph Orders), on 28 April 1904 the proud news appeared that a Hungarian post office was opened in Predeál telep, county Brasov, under the Kolozsvár Directorate.



Uj postahivatalok

a magyar postaterületen a következő helyeken léptek életbe:

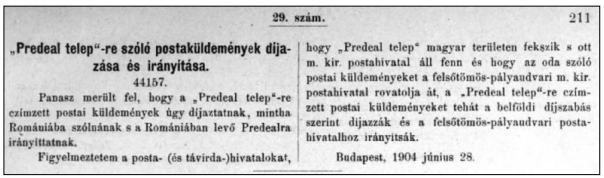
A postahivatal neve	Belföldi díjtételi övezet	Vonat szerinti díjmegyeség	Vármegye	Posta- és távirda-igazgatósági kerület	Állami távíróval	Vonat nagy magasságban	Vasútvonal, melynek mentén, vagy melyről elágazólag fekszik
Borsa-Válaszút p.-u.	571	3902	Szatmár	Nagyvárad			N. S. Nagykároly --- Nagysomkut
Medgyes	405	3035	Sopron	Sopron			Győr --- Ebenfurth, Sopron
Predeal telep	1008	5079	Brassó	Kolozsvár			Brassó --- Predeal, Felsőtömös
Szerb-Keresztúr	745	4903	Torontál	Temesvár			Sz. K. Szeged --- Karlova

Az új postahivatalok forgalomköre:

Borsa-Válaszút p.-u.: Károlyi, Langhammer, Mára-Borsa, Mogyorós, Óhuta, Papbikó, Ujhuta, Válaszút.
Medgyes: Medgyes.
Predeal telep: Felső-Tömös telep.
Szerb-Keresztúr: Szerb-Keresztúr.

Figure 18. The news in the 19/1904. issue of the PTRT (Collection of Postal and Telegraph Orders), about the opening of the Predeál telep post office.

The resettling lasted into July. Two month later we can read yet another news in the PTRT (PTRT 29/21 July 1904).



29. szám. 211

„Predeal telep"-re szóló postaküldemények díjazása és irányítása.

44157.

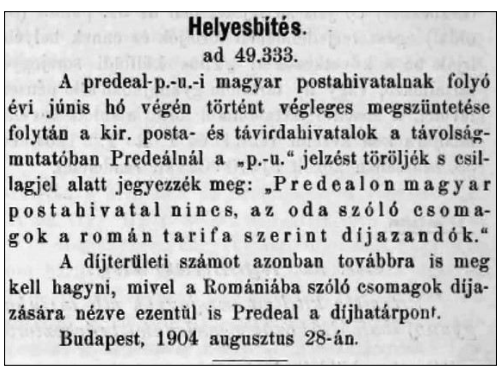
Panasz merült fel, hogy a „Predeal telep"-re címzett postai küldemények úgy díjaztatnak, mintha Romániába szólnának s a Romániában levő Predealra irányíttatnak.

Figyelmeztetem a posta- (és távirda-)hivatalokat, hogy „Predeal telep" magyar területen fekszik s ott m. kir. postahivatal áll fenn és hogy az oda szóló postai küldeményeket a felsőtömös-pályaudvari m. kir. postahivatal rovatolja át, a „Predeal telep"-re címzett postai küldeményeket tehát a belföldi díjszabás szerint díjazzák és a felsőtömös-pályaudvari postahivatalhoz irányítsák.

Budapest, 1904 június 28.

Figure 19. The order that appeared in the PTRT

Still this was not enough.Two month later Predeál telep once again appears in the PTRT. The nearly quarter century long operation in the Romanian Predeal left it's traces, so the Post had to issue one more 'correction', that there is no Hungarian post office functioning in Predeal, therefore letters or other consignments addressed to Predeal should be franked according to the Romanian tariffs.



Helyesbítés.

ad 49.333.

A predeal-p.-u.-i magyar postahivatalnak folyó évi június hó végén történt végleges megszüntetése folytán a kir. posta- és távirdahivatalok a távolságmutatóban Predeálnál a „p.-u." jelzést töröljék s csillagjel alatt jegyezzék meg: „Predealon magyar postahivatal nincs, az oda szóló csomagok a román tarifa szerint díjazandók."

A díjterületi számot azonban továbbra is meg kell hagyni, mivel a Romániába szóló csomagok díjazására nézve ezentúl is Predeal a díjhatárpont.

Budapest, 1904 augusztus 28-án.

Figure 20. Correction in the 35/15. September 1904 issue of the PTRT

No other post office caused so many initial problems!

Predeál telep used the stamps we can find in the lower part of the Klassohn collection showed on Figure 2. My opinion is that the oval and the framed line stamp was only used internally – we don't know their usage currently. The lowermost, crown-strap type canceller is with the letter 'E', but the final ones were prepared with the letter 'N' (N = Nappal (daytime), E = Este (Evening)).

Let us examine a very early card with the new, Hungarian 'Predeál telep' cancellation. More than 50 picture post cards are known today from Predeál telep, and the earliest date, at least known today, is on the below shown card, being the 'first day' of the Predeál telep post office (of course earlier dates are still possible),

Our enthusiastic predecessors flenched the stamp also from this card, so for optical reasons I photoshopped a correct stamp on it.

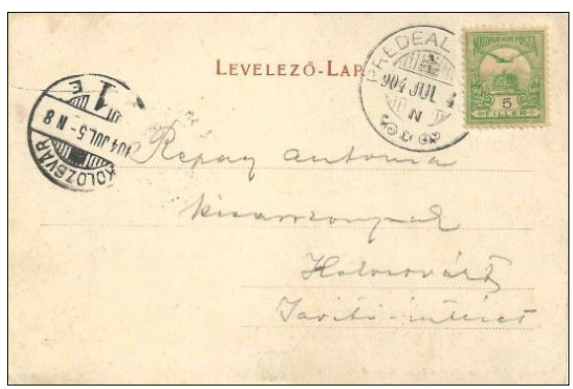


Figure 21. Picture post card with 'PREDEAL (TELEP) N' cancellation from 4 July 1904 (The 5 fillér Turul stamp symbolizes a stamp removed earlier).

.

The next card is also interesting, on one hand the date of the cancellation is 24 December, and on the other hand there is a misprinting in the top left corner: the correct 'universelle' word is misspelled as 'universlele'. Both these cards are of Hungarian edition, from Brasov.

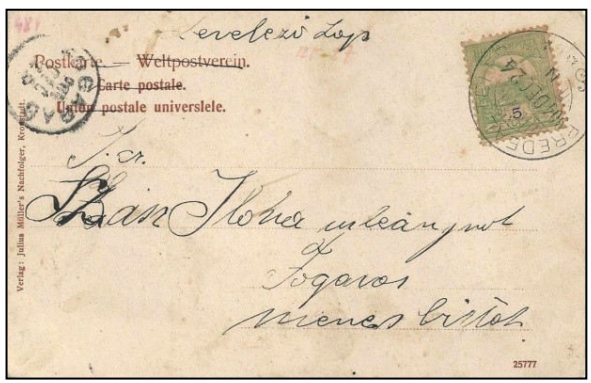


Figure 22a. Picture post card with PREDEAL TELEP N cancellation, with 24 December 1904 date.

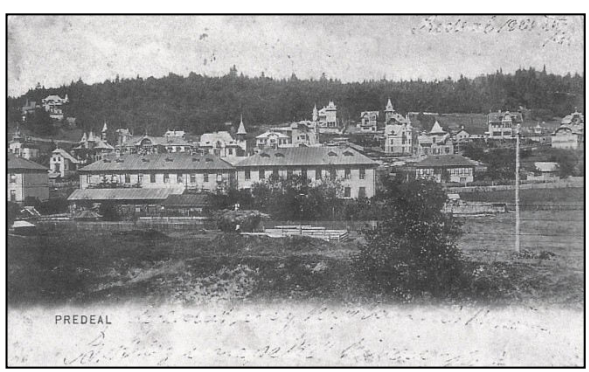


Figure 22b. The front of the card

It is interesting to observe that both cards represent the Romanian Predeal! I have never seen a picture post card representing the Hungarian Predeál telep! Although more and more Hungarian tourists visit Predeál telep, they have to be contented with the picture post cards showing the Romanian Predeal. The only difference is the stamp on them: not the Romanian 10 bani stamps for the tariff abroad, but the Hungarian Turul 5 fillér ones, for the inland tariff.

On a card from 1906 a certain Ilonka reproaches Miss Popescu in Bárányos, near Pancsova, that she does not write her. The address: Predeál, villa Predeál. Seemingly there was not a great selection of villas in 1906…



Figure 23. Picture post card with PREDEAL TELEP N cancellation, with 27 July 1906 date, to Bárányos.

Much rarer than the inland cards are the picture post cards sent abroad with a 10 kr tariff. First we will see a card addressed to Berlin, franked with a red Turul 10 fillér stamp. Very rare, as almost all the cards were sent inland.

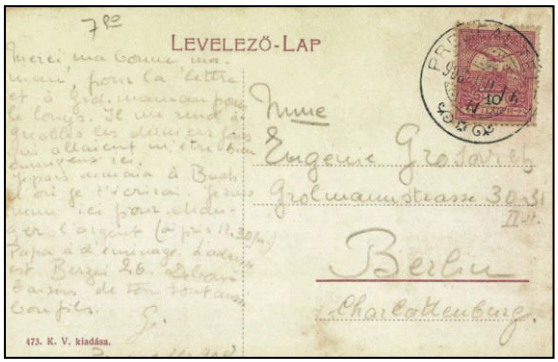


Figure 24. Picture post card with PREDEAL TELEP N cancellation, with 16 July 1908 date, to Berlin

Finally we will see a nice 1910 picture post card representing a goose lake to the Italian consul in Ibraila, Romania (see right).

The horribly boring motif of the card is made up by the very rare franking of 3+3+4 fillér stamps.



Figure 25a. Picture post card with PREDEAL TELEP N cancellation, with 4 September 1910 date, to Braila

With these not very spectacular postcards I would like to close the description of the 1904-1914 peace decade of Predeál telep.

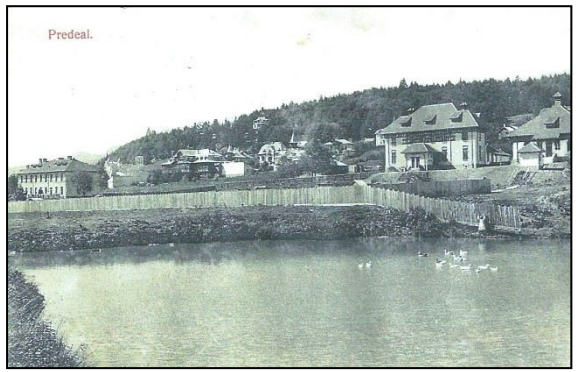


Figure 25b. Front of the card, with the goose lake

The picture changes drastically from 1914. Hungary entering into the war made the Romanian border region a strategically important territory. Hungarian, Austrian and allied troops were lodged here. Their traces can be found for example on a really nice money letter, with very early date, to the Military Group Directorate with camp address. This is one of the pearls of Predeál telep-philately (ex Visnyovszky).



Figure 26. Money letter with PREDEAL TELEP N

cancellation to a military camp address.

From 1915 on, from the surroundings of Brasov we can find more and more consignments with the blue, circle-shaped military censorship stamp with the long, tongue-twister text 'K.u.K. MILITÄR–BRIEF–ZENSURKOMMISSION *BRASSÓ*' plus the line stamp 'ÜBERPRÜFT'. Such a nice and rare (being not a card, but a letter) item can be seen below with a 10 fillér War Aid stamp, sent to Germany at a reduced tariff.



Figure 27. Letter sent to Germany with PREDEAL TELEP N cancellation and Brasov censorship from 15 May 1915.

A picture post card, also from May 1915 shows an interesting combination. 'We are revelling at the place shown on this card' writes a soldier to his friend, Feldwebel (Sergeant) Győző Ferencz to the Josef-barrack is Prague. The card shows a nice, Carpathian-style wooden building in Predeal, Romania, where the thirsty guests are awaited by laid tables. The card makes us think, as today it would have to go through 4 countries to reach the recipient (Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic). In 1915 Romania was still a neutral country, therefore one could just walk over the border!



Figure 28a. Picture post card sent to Prague with 5 fillér War Aid stamp and PREDEAL TELEP N cancellation and Brasov censorship from 31 May 1915

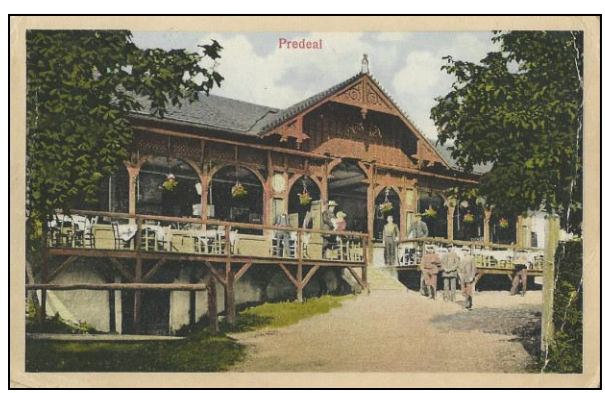


Figure 28b. Front of the card: Guests are awaited by laid tables

The June of 1915 is still vacation season with tourists. The last peaceful season. The next card is franked with a 5 fillér stamp with perfin, sent to Nagykanizsa. The thrifty bank employee franked the card with a PMKB perfin stamp brought from

home. So he was the employee of the PMKB (Pesti Magyar Kereskedelmi Bank, Pest Hungarian Commercial Bank). We can also see the violet 'ÜBERPRÜFT' censorship stamp on the card.



Figure 29. Picture post card sent to Nagykanizsa with PREDEAL TELEP N cancellation with a perfin stamp of a bank.

The latest (at least by my knowledge) (Romanian) picture post card was written by an officer to Miskolc. He writes that although he will be off-duty at the year-end, he will not be able to travel home, as he is only allowed to travel to Brasov. The interesting feautere is the FELSŐ-TÖMÖS P.U. cancellation instead of the PREDEAL TELEP one, next to the usual Brasov censorship stamps. What does this mean? Maybe the Predeál telep post office ceased to function? This question can only be answered in the future by my philatelist friends, if they find some more letters or cards from 1916. A life of a man is too short to give a meaningful answer to this question.

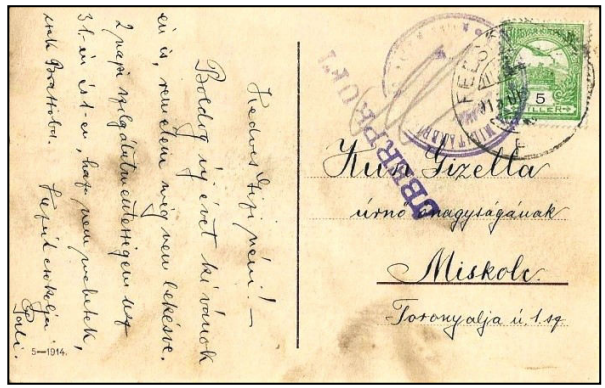


Figure 29. Romanian picture post card sent to Miskolc from the end of December of 1915 with FELSŐTÖMÖS P.U. cancellation instead of the PREDEAL TELEP N one, with Brasov censorship

I would like to show one more interesting item. As I have never seen any registered letter from Predeál (although some should exist somewhere), I don't know a registry label used on letter. But I have found the following item at a philatelist friend in Transylvania, an enormous rarity, at least in the Predeal relation. I am happy to be able to show it to the Dear Reader (2 pieces are known).



Figure 31. Registry label with Predeáltelep text (Brassó vm = Brasov county).

To understand the postal history of this border region we have to know the role of Romania in World War I. To avoid being portrayed as a frothy chauvinistic, I will quote the international web page of the Wikipedia, which is usually accepted as a neutral source.

King Carol, being of German origin (the Hohenzollern-House) wanted to enter the war on the side of the Triple Alliance (Austria-Hungary, Italy and Germany) in 1914. But he deceased in the same year and his successor, Ferdinand sympathized with the opponents. So with his aid Romania declared war on the Triple Alliance, including Hungary, on 27 August 1916. The reason for this was that the states of the Entente promised him in advance Transylvania and a bigger part of the Banat in the Bucharest Treaty of 1916. His main supporters to join the Entente were the French, with Joseph Joffre commander-in-chief.

Such a big territory was worth the risk, so the Romanian army crossed the Hungarian border at the end of August 1916 in the region of Nagyszeben (Sibiu). But just before the siege began, as the Romanians were unable to provide resupply (!) through the Carpathian mountains for the huge army consisting of 420.000 soldiers (opposed by 37.000 soldiers of the Monarchy), this idle army of mainly illiterate (sorry…) people left the Hungarian territory in October 1916 after the battle of Brasov and the successful Hungarian defence of the Törcsvár-pass and Predeal.

As a consequence the Hungarian army aided by the German troops pursued them through the territory of Walachei to Craiova and then on to the capital city of Bucharest, which was captured by the Central troops on 6 December 1916, the day of Santa Claus. The king and the government fled to the North, to Jászvásár (in Romanian: Iasi).

After this historical lesson let's get back to Predeál telep. Being directly on the border it was already strengthened in 1915. Soldiers took over the place of the tourists. As we have seen, after the Romanian declaration of war their troops tried to invade Transylvania at once and began to fight with the Central troops.

After they were pushed back to Romanian territory, they left behind ruined buildings. Serious battles were fought both in Predeal and Predeál telep. The below picture shows the same location we have already seen on Figure 13 and 14, then in idyllic surroundings. On this picture the houses show shot traces, the tiles are fallen down – the border station mopes alone.



Figure 32. The Predeal border station at the end of 1916, after the retreat of the Romanians.

This picture is already Hungarian, of Brasov edition!

The railway station, also the location of battles, was not closed down, just the control was taken over by Austro-Hungarian military forces. I could find a postcard showing the railway station before

the war, but already with a violet line canceller: 'K.u.K. Bahnhofkommando in PREDEAL.'

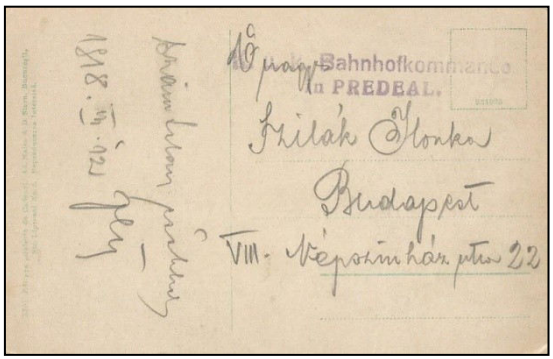


Figure 33. Picture post card from 12 March 1918 to Budapest, forwarded by field post, with the cancellation K.u.K. Bahnhofkommando in PREDEAL.

Romania was forced to conclusion of peace in May 1918. But when in November 1918 it became obviouos that the German Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy lost the war, Romania collected itself together and once again declared war. So they could fulfil the 1916 contract with the allied powers of the Entente and occupy Transylvania and the Banat as a war prey.

Although very improbable, I could find a picture post card documenting these events, bought on the Brasov railway station by a guy who franked it with the still valid (up to 15 March 1920) Hungarian stamps and on his way to Ploieşti he wrote it on the train and mailed it in Predeal.

With this I close my experiment of reconstructing the postal history of Predeal and Predeál telep. An interesting, varied and sad story, similar to the whole history of our nation.



Figure 34a. The picture post card with PREDEAL Romanian cancellation sent to Bucharest on 28. April 1919.



Figure 34b. Front of the card, showing the Brasov railway station with a chugging locomotive citing the mood of good-bye.

I would like to express my thanks to Attila Bandi, Franz Hochleutner, Herbert Kotal, Laszlo Florkievitz and several Hungarian philatelists, mainly to Gabor Visnyovszky for helping me to write this article and Denes Czirok for helping me to edit it.

translated by dr. Geza Homonnay

PHILATELIC HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY – THE BALTICS



LAJOS HORVATH (VERESEGYHAZ)

I published a philatelic-historical work in the No. 2 issue of the 2018 Philatelica. I stepped into a new area, a terra incognita. The article begs to be continued, naturally. It's nothing less than furthering a new era to support philatelic studies.

The previous work was centered on the exciting region of the Balkan, an area that was easily defined geographically. We can continue our philatelic geographical exploration into other such definable geographical units.

The Baltics is also an area that can be grasped, analyzed, and introduced according to our methods. Similarly, it is not any less complicated area than the Balkans.

In the 19th century the conflict between the Germanic and Slavic forces influenced the area. Strictly speaking, the northern part of Central Europe is also a part of the Baltics. It is bound tightly to it. At times, the invasions from tsarist Russian or the German area flowed over into the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian fields, the effect of which then felt in the land of Belarus.

In the 20th century, Soviet rule or imperial German suzerainty sought to re-order the sphere of influence in this area, many times without any regard as to how the inhabitants wanted to live. These experiments resulted in extensive suffering and even genocide. By the early 21st century, these nationalities were finally able to have some voice in their own affairs.

This is the introduction to the basic premise of philatelic geography. Let me be clear on this before the dear reader assumes another motivation. As a historian, I have to assume that every aspect of philately and postal history follows a common path with general history and its nuances. Similarly to the path used in the first philatelic geographical article, I will now try to introduce the Baltics.

I. BELARUS / WHITE RUSSIA

During its history, its land belonged to Poland, Lithuania, and Russia. An independent state did not exist.

1918 Lithographed stamps of original design were prepared by a printer in Minsk.

1920 Stamps with new designs prepared in the Latvian State Printing Office. BPR /Belarus Peoples Republic/

From 1921 Member republic of the Soviet Union, no independent stamp issues.

1992 March 20. Declaration of the Belarus Republic, stamps with new designs.



Figure 1. Soviet stamp showing the Soviet-style coat-of-arms of the Belarus Soviet Socialist Republic



Figure 2. Map of Belarus and the arms of its six cities on an imprinted, stamped envelope from the Soviet era.



Figure 3. Stamp issued independently by Belarus showing a crest with a Lithuanian knight's image. Later, the Lithuanian knight's image had to be abandoned since justifiably it belonged entirely to Lithuania.

II. ESTONIA

From 1721 Part of the Russian Empire

November 1918 – 1940 Civilian republic, stamps of original design

July 1940 Soviet Socialist Republic, stamps with new designs

1941 German occupation, overprinted stamps and stamps with new designs

Since 1991 Republic of Estonia, stamps with new designs

Addendum: local issues

1918/19 Rakwere /Wesenberg/

1919 Tallin /Reval/

1941 Elwa, etc.



Figure 4. The three-lion emblem of Estonia dates back to the time of the Danish conquest, but now it symbolizes Estonian identity.



Figure 5. The Viking dragon-ship is another tradition expressed on an Estonian stamp..

III. LATVIA

Earlier, it was part of the Russian Empire.

December 1918 – 1940 Civilian republic. Stamps of original design.

1940 Soviet Socialist Republic

1941 Soviet stamps overprinted during the German occupation.

13 October 1944 Riga occupied by the Soviet army.

1944-1991 A member republic of the Soviet Union

October 1991 Republic of Latvia. Stamps with new designs.



Figure 6. A heroic Latvian fighting with the black dragon on a stamp issued in 1919.



Figure 7. Ancient Indian swastika symbol superimposed on a solar disk on an airmail stamp issued in 1933. Few are aware that this is the origin of the swastika.



Figure 8. The paper of the Latvian set issued in 1921 has a swastika watermark. At that time this represented life. Front and reverse sides of the stamp.



Figure 9. Overprinted Soviet stamp from the time the Germany army drove out the Soviets from Latvia.

Addendum: local issues

1919. Eleja /Kurland/

1919. Smilten /Livland/

IV. LITHUANIA

1762-1796 Conquered by the Russian Empire

December 1918 – 1940 Civilian republic, coupons, stamps of original design

15 June 1940. Soviet army occupied Lithuania. Overprinted stamps.

22 June 1941. Germany attacked the Soviet Union. Overprints on Soviet stamps.

July 1944. The Soviet army crossed Lithuania's eastern border. Civilian state ceased to exist. Lithuania becomes a Soviet republic and part of the Soviet Union.

7 October 1990. First stamps with new designs of the Republic of Lithuania.



Figure 10. 1000th anniversary of Lithuania. Painting by Janas Matelka from 1878.

Addendum: local issues

1919 Rossingen

1919 Grodno (South Lithuania)

1920 Telschai

1941 Rokiskis

1. Central Lithuania /Srodkowa Litwa/

Occupied by Polish General Zeligowski in favor of Poland. Stamps of original design as well as overprints.



Figure 11. Misperforated stamps Central Lithuania showing the Polish eagle and the Lithuanian knight in the design.

March 1923 Overprints.

Restored to civilian Lithuania. Independent stamp issues cease.

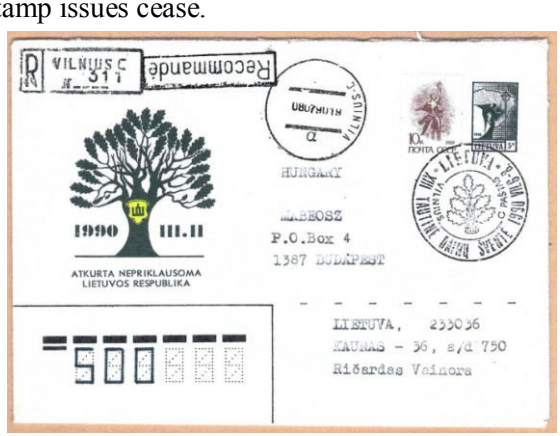


Figure 12. Stamped envelope from Lithuania with Soviet stamp used for supplemental postage. All of this to illustrate the restoration of Lithuania, the date of which was 2 March 1990.

2. Memelgebeit/Klaipeda

The Berlin Congress of 1871 awarded the Memelgebeit area to Germany. French occupation in 1920, overprinted French stamps.

1923 Lithuanian occupation, Lithuanian overprints. Stamps of new design inscribed Klaipeda. This is its Lithuanian name.

Until January 1944, Klaipeda was in German hands.



Figure 13. Stamp of Klaipeda or Memelgebeit similarly showing the Lithuanian knight.

Addendum: local issues

23 March 1939 'Memelland ist frei' overprint

V. ORGANIC UNITS OF THE GERMAN REICH

1. Kurland

Can be found to the west of Riga.

22 June 1941. Germany attacked the Soviet Union and within three days pushed the Soviets out of the Baltics.

1945. Stamps with Hitler's portrait overprinted with the text KURLAND.

October 1945. Only Kurland was not captured by the Soviet army.

2. Ostland

28 July 1941. The German established Ostland from the territory of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Belarus.

4 November 1941. OSTLAND overprint on stamps with Hitler's portrait.

1943. Overprinted stamps.

20 January 1944. The Soviets again enter the area of the Baltics at Narva.

Chronology of the Baltics

23 August 1939. Molotov-Ribbentrop pact protocols:

Estonia, Latvia to the Soviet Union; Lithuania to Germany. Modified after the collapse of Poland: larger part of Lithuania also becomes a part of the Soviet Union.

28 September 1939. Estonia compelled to sign a mutual non-aggression and support treaty with the Soviet Union. 5 October 1939. Latvia forced to sign the same.

10 October 1939. Lithuania also forced to sign the same.

15 June 1940. The Red Army flooded Lithuania! /This was at the same time that the Germans marched into Paris./

17 June 1940. Soviet troops marched into Estonia and Latvia.

21 July 1940. A 'people's national congress' assembled in all 3 countries and requested admission to the Soviet Union.

22 June 1941. Germany attacked the Soviet Union and pushed the Soviet out of the Baltics within three days.

28 July 1941. The Germans establish Ostland from the 3 Baltic countries and Belarus.

20 January 1944. The Soviet army again enters the Baltics at Narva. July 1944. The Soviet army crosses the border of Lithuania.

13 October 1944. The Soviet army occupies Riga.

Through January 1945 Klaipeda remains in German hands.

Though October 1944 the Soviet Army captures everything except Kurland.

translated by Csaba Kohalmi



SUPPLEMENT TO LORINC BORDA'S ARTICLE

ATTILA BANDI (VIENNA)

I found an interesting article on the Mafitt website inside the 18/2 issue of Philatelica (by Lorinc Borda). I would like to contribute my knowledge to this especially interesting article. In my opinion, this is the best way to acquaint others with a topic that has sunk into oblivion after almost 100 years.

First, the encyclopedic data:

	1921	Sommer	September	Oktober	November	Dezember
1	**Westungarn** *- wiener Propagandaausgabe*	..... im Sommer(Wien)				~Volksabstimmung 14 - 15 Dezember~
2	**1.Ausgabe** *Felkelő magyarok által megszállt NyMo.*		+----------> ab ~5.Sept.			
3	**Jennersdorf** *Gendarmerie Gedenkausgabe*		+ am 4.Sept.			
4	**2.Ausgabe** *Gedenkausgabe mit Totenkopf*		+---------- ab 20.Sept.	-------->		
5	**3.Ausgabe** *Lajtabánság-posta*			+---------- ab 10.Okt.	---->	
6	**4.Ausgabe** *Nyugatmagyarország népe nem nem soha*			+---------- ab 16.Okt.	---->	
7	**Burgen Land** *- wiener Propagandaausgabe*			..... im Okt.(Wien)		
8	**Burgenlands Befreiung** *Zemendorfer Gedenkausgabe*			+ am 17.Okt.		
9	**5.Ausgabe** *Felkelő Magyarok Északi Hadserege*			+---------- ab 11.Okt.	---->	
10	**6.Ausgabe** *Westungarn Orgland*			+------+ 13 - 20.Okt.		
11	**7.Ausgabe** *Prónay Ausgabe*				+----------+ ab 11 - 24.Nov.	
12	**8.Ausgabe** *Volksabstimmung - December 14-15*				..... im Nov.(Oberwart)	
13	**9.Ausgabe** *Adler und Kreutz*					..... ende Dez.(Wien?)

Comment to the table: the date shown on existing cancellations is often backdated!

- This set, consisting of six value, is known officially by the number IX (Hungarian) and is also identified as an unissued series;

- the entire design was the work of engineer Gyozo Martiny (as with Series VII);

- the set was prepared in the shop of Paulussen and Partners printers in Vienna and was ssued sometime at the end of December 1921. This was after the Sopron (Western Hungary) Plebiscite (14 December 1921);

- the intended purpose of the set after the complete success from the Hungarian perspective of the plebiscite was to provide a bi-lingual acknowledgement to those who participated and were sympathetic;

- in 1924, the publication 'Die Postmarke' indicated that supposedly 6000 sets were printed (see the end of this article). Most likely, this information originated from Gyorgy Hir, who sought to publicize marketing the stamps.

I have never encountered a full sheet of these stamps in my long stamp collecting past. Because relatively few copies of the stamps exist, it would be hard, consequently, to even reconstruct a sheet (on my part, I have doubts about the official quantity count of 6 x 6,000!).

In my opinion, perhaps 10%, about 600 examples, could have survived from the total quantity of 6,000 (6 x 1,000) stamps. The largest multiple known to me is block of 12 of the 6 korona value. For example, I am not aware of the mentioned corner block of 10. Noticeably, many examples of trial or phase prints are in existence; however, the colors of these do not deviate from the stamps in the set.

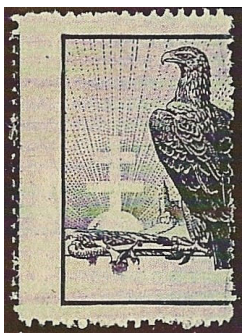


These are known printed with no value or different numerals of value since the values were printed on the stamps in a second operation. The ink on trial prints is oftentimes smeared and these prints are not perforated (see photo).

This error print first came to light in a Dunafila auction. Even though I had collected several hundred photographs of this series, I had not noticed the missing tree. I can excuse on this omission by stating that I haven't had the luck to procure such an example.



After re-examining my collection of photos, I was able to identify 3 + 2 (!) additional examples.

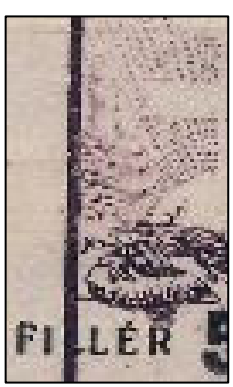


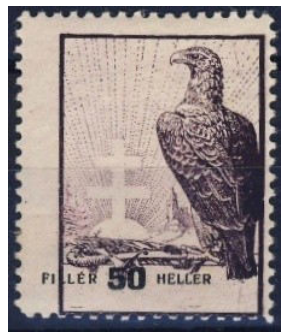
Lilac trial print in the color of the 50 heller stamp





What is even more interesting is the fact that a 3rd type (!) surfaced. In addition to the normal, complete pine tree and the ones missing the tree, this example show a rudimentary, partial or retouched tree!







Its scarcity is probably due to the fact that these varieties occur in a certain position only once in a sheet. Or, as surmised by Lorinc Borda, came into existence one after another as a result of retouching? In such a case, no logical conclusions can be derived.

Having been printed in sheets of 100 (or 60), only a small number of these remain in existence given the 10% survival rate. Along with my photos, the number of known examples is now 7.

translated by Csaba Kohalmi

ostmarke“ Nr. 68, 22. März 1924

Phantasieausgaben.

Westungarn. Mit einer Verspätung von mehr als zwei Jahren taucht nun noch eine Ausgabe dieses philatelistisch so anrüchigen Landes auf. Es sind sechs, in Kupferdruck ausgeführte Werte, zu 50 Filler, 1·50, 2·50, 4, 6 und 10 Korona, die alle in der gleichen Zeichnung das ungarische Doppelkreuz vor der aufgehenden Sonne, rechts im Vordergrunde den Vogel Turul, zeigen. Zur Entstehungsgeschichte dieser „Marken“ erzählt man uns, daß nach der Besetzung durch Oesterreich ein zweiter Einfall durch ungarische Banden geplant war. Die Drahtzieher dieser Banden bestellten in Wien, bei der gleichen Druckerei, die auch die letzte westungarische Bilderserie anfertigte, eine Markenserie, die zur Ausgabe in Westungarn bestimmt war. Der Plan des Einfalls wurde jedoch entdeckt und die Rädelsführer verhaftet; die Marken kommen nun in angeblich nur 6000 Sätzen auf den Markt. Von anderer Seite sagt man uns hingegen, daß zuerst die Marken und dann erst der Einfall geplant war, also eine kleine Revolution zur Verwirklichung spekulativ-philatelistischer Ziele, ein Vorgang, der auch bei allen „verausgabten“ Westungarn-Marken geübt wurde. Es ist nur bedauerlich, daß die ansprechende Zeichnung dieser Marken zu keinem besseren Zweck Verwendung gefunden hat.

NEWS

STOCKHOLMIA 2019

The undoubtedly largest European exhibition of this year was organized between May 29th and June 2nd in Stockholm in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society. The 'Royal' is the world's oldest established stamp club that was founded in 1869 in London and has 2400 members from literally every country in the world. Acceptance to the society requires the nomination by two members. The application is then decided by the presidency. Currently, there are five members of the organization from Hungary.

Naturally, it is right to question why the event was held in Stockholm instead of London. The answer is simple: the well-known Jonas Hällstrom, the chairman of the Scandinavian organizing committee, presented such a convincing plan that it won over the decision of the Royal governors who were assigned to make the decision. The high level plan was successfully implemented step by step.

The largest floor space of the event was occupies by the exhibits in the imposing building of the Waterfront Congress Center located in the heart of Stockholm. The exhibit was housed on three floors and contained 2000 competitive frames of 16 pages each. Postal history represented the largest portion of the exhibits that included 762 frames. The next large group was the traditional class with 538 frames. In addition, there were postal stationery, thematic, revenue, airmail, and open classes as well as a picture postcard one.

The exhibition had two patrons, Elizabeth II British monarch and King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden. The latter attended the opening of the exhibit with noble simplicity, without any ceremony or escort.



Picture 1. King Carl XVI Gustav (right) at the opening, next to him on the far left is Jonas Hällstrom, the director in charge of the exhibition, and in the middle is Gustav Douglas, an ardent supporter of the exhibition (as well as the owner of the 3 skillings color error stamp from Sweden). (Photo: T. Gudlin)

Since attendance at the exhibition required the wearing a name tag around the visitors' neck, it was quite easy to count attendance. A total of 7832 visitors from 51 countries came during the five day event. Amongst them were the four of us from Hungary, Ferenc Kostyal and his partner, dr. Laszló Perneczky, and myself. Seems like every minute we would run into acquaintances, among other Laszlo Florkievitz from Transylvania and Tamas Gudlin from Germany.

In the competitive classes, 294 collections participated in the exhibition with 1702 frames and 27,232 pages. The 26 member jury awarded 70 large gold medals and 96 gold medals attesting to the high level of the exhibits. In addition, it's important to mention that 9 collections from the 70 that received a large gold medal scored 98 point, a feat that has not been achieved before at a world exhibition. It's not by chance that collectors brought their exhibit here, something that they would not be showing in a Far East exhibit.

Hungary was represented by Ferenc Kostyal's 8-frame exhibit titled 'Hungary – 1871' that showed Hungary's first domestically produced lithographed and engraved stamp issues in the traditional class. His exhibited material included exceptional rarities; and, eventually in a very strong field, received 92 points and a gold medal. My personal opinion is the British jury was not entirely clear about the value of the material. This was evident in the judging of other, non-British material.



Picture 2. Selection from Ferenc Kostyal's gold medal winning material ('Sissi-letter')

I am happy to observe that there was another Hungarian-related collection at the exhibit. Tamas Gudlin showed his 'From Roller to Flyer' material for the first time in an international exhibit. With the precision of an engineer, he demonstrated the evolution of machine cancels used by the various post offices around the world. The well-researched material that included cancellation rarities was highly valued by the jury and received a well-deserved gold medal.



Picture 3. Selection from Tamas Gudlin's gold medal winning material.

The "Court of Honour" class was outside of the competitive exhibits. There, collectors could admire the famous large collections such as one belonging to the Queen of Great Britain, the famous Mauritius letter, or the 200 frames belonging to the members of the jury and the efforts of other illustrious exhibitors. This class occupied its own floor in the exhibition hall, and it attracted long lines for all to see.

Special programs were offered during the five days providing continuous technical presentations in 10 rooms including demonstrations, viewings, collectors' meeting, and auctions. Attendees had to make hard choices on how to spend their time and which interesting program to attend.

I participated in many unforgettable international exhibitions in the past 2-3 decades, but the Stockholm event surpassed them all in its standard, organization, and complexity. It presented an experience that will require a long time to assimilate. The only option is to congratulate the organizers!

(CzD, translation: Csaba Kohalmi)

CHINA 2019 Wuhan

Exhibited collections of Mafitt member (jury result in parentheses)

Artur Banas: One of the most popular winter sports – Alpine Skiing (V)

Denes Czirok: The Development of the Mail in Hungary 1750-1850 (LG)

Geza Homonnay: The 1867 Issue of Hungary (G)

Ferenc Kostyál : Hungary 1871 (G)

Gabor Nagy: On Grandfather's Trail – Railway Postmarks on Austro-Hungarian POW Correspondence from Trans-Siberian Line in WWI (single frame, 80 points)

Karoly Szucs: Fiscal Philately of Hungary (Literature, LV)

Gyorgy Toth: Korona-Pengo Mixed Franking on Postal Objects sent abroad from 26 March 1926 to 31 March 1927 (single frame, 80 points)

Gyorgy Toth: Hungary: The Postal History of the Pengo-Filler Period 01.04.1926-14.09.1941 (LS)

Congratulations to our members for the magnificent successes!



Right: Ferenc Kostyal in the Palmares

Free for members of Mafitt

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

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

www.mafitt.hu

2014



2015



Volume XXX

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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches
H-1074 Budapest, Harsfa u. 47 Belyegmuzeum, Mafitt
e-mail: **info@mafitt.hu**

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation

19
2

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2019/2

Content:

Denes Czirok FRPSL, Luis Frazao RDP FRPSL, Dr Geza Homonnay FRPSL:
The Laszlo Magyar Correspondence Between Angola and Hungary 1.

Adriano Bergamini, FPRSL, Denes Czirok FRPSL:
Problems with the use of cancellers in Hungary on the first Austrian stamp issue, 1850-1858 13.

Mervyn Benford:
Hungary's Intriguing First Postal Inflation + Kézikönyv Revisions 24.

Hírek / News 36.

Editor: Karoly Szucs, Secretary of Mafitt
Translators: Denes Czirok, Csaba Kohalmi and dr. Geza Homonnay

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

THE LASZLO MAGYAR CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ANGOLA AND HUNGARY *



DENES CZIROK FRPSL, LUIS FRAZAO RDP FRPSL, GEZA HOMONNAY FRPSL

Six letters, discovered in the archives of the Hungarian Scientific Academy, constitute a sensational postal historical trove. They relate to the travels in Angola of the enigmatic Hungarian explorer Laszlo Magyar (1818-1864). Laszlo was the illegitimate son of Imre Magyar, a wealthy landowner who never acknowledged him as his son. He studied at the naval academy in Fiume and arrived in Portuguese Angola in 1848 after several adventures in Africa and America which almost cost his life. Here he married the daughter of the king of Bié and travelled extensively in the territory, making geographical and ethnographical researches and living on the ivory trade with the coastal dealers of Benguela[1]. After the murder of his father-in-law he had to escape to the coastal region of Angola where he died of malaria after some years producing rubber.

THE FASCINATING STORY OF LASZLO MAGYAR

Laszlo Magyar was born in 1818 in Steinamanger, now Szombathely in Western Hungary. He was the third, illegitimate child of the wealthy Estate Factor Imre Magyar, but was never officially acknowledged by his father. This was probably the reason why, after finishing secondary school in 1843, he went to the newly established Naval Academy of Fiume (now Rijeka in Croatia) and boarded an Austrian ship. He never returned to Europe again.

The first stop of his world tour was in Brazil. From there he went to Argentina where he participated in the war against Uruguay as an ensign. He then proceeded to Africa and spent two years as Commander of the fleet of the Obong (the ruler) of Calabar (now part of Nigeria). In 1848 he travelled to the Congo because of health problems, and this initiated his exploring life. He visited the slave camps on the River Congo and then went south to Angola, where interestingly he did not remain in Benguela on the coast but joined a caravan heading into the interior, arriving at Bié in 1849. Here, he married the daughter of a local chief and settled down. He had children, and with the slaves received from his father-in-law he began his travels and explorations. In 1857 his father-in-law was killed in a fight for the throne and Magyar had to escape. This time he settled in the coastal town (?) of Lucira and began to produce archil, a plant producing a violet dye popular at that time in Europe. However, most of the profit was retained by the Portuguese Commercial House exporting the product so he also began to collect natural rubber. None of these activities made him rich and he grew more and more homesick and fell out of love with life. In 1864 he died from chronic malaria.

[1] More on Laszlo Magyar's story can be found in OPUS XVIII, 2018, pages 47/56, by L. Frazao and Eva Sebestyén.

* The original article appeared in the May 2019 issue of London Philatelist in English.
The editorial staff thanks the London Philatelist for permission to reprint the article.

LASZLO MAGYAR'S ANGOLA EXPEDITIONS

Laszlo Magyar arrived in Angola from Brazil in 1848, having probably been induced to travel by the slave trade between Angola and Brazil which had been a thriving business. At that time the country was mostly unexplored as the Portuguese colonists only controlled the coastal region. Magyar made several expeditions into undiscovered territories and sent reports on his travels and findings, in the Hungarian language, to his father and later to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences where in 1858 he became a "correspondence member". Starting in 1848 the indefatigable Magyar organized seven expeditions into the interior of Angola over the next ten years:



Figure 1

1st expedition: By ship up the River Congo, when he mapped the slave camps along the river (1848)
2nd expedition: From Benguela to Bié (1849). On this expedition he married the daughter of the local king.
3rd expedition: From Bié to the Lunda and Lobal empires. They found the source of the River Kwanza. (1850-1851)
4th expedition: To the Kamba and Kuanyama empires. They found the source of the River Kunene. (1852)
5th expedition: To the territories between the Rivers Kunene and Kubango (1853)
6th expedition: Second journey from Bié to the Lunda and Lobal empires. (1855)
7th expedition: To Munda-Evámbo, Lunda and Kapota regions (1859-1862).

During these expeditions, some of which were sponsored by the Portuguese governors, he made important geographical, ethnographical, astrophysical and industrial discoveries. It must have been quite difficult to send any letter from Angola at that time as there were only three post offices: Luanda, Benguela and Mossamedes! Even so Laszlo Magyar succeeded in sending several letters and was quite knowledgeable about postal fees and treaties, as is shown in the way he addressed covers as well as in the remarks he made to his father on how to prepay postal fees in Lisbon.

POSTAL ROUTES AND FEES BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND AUSTRIA.

Between 1848 and 1866, the period of interest to us, there was no postal agreement between Portugal and Austria. This meant that postal charges on letters between the two countries had to be paid by the sender for the Portuguese part and by the recipient for the remainder of the route. As the first Austrian stamps were issued in 1850 and the first Portuguese ones in 1853 it would theoretically have been possible for the stamps of both countries to be used simultaneously on later covers, but in fact this is not the case. Even the usage of Portuguese stamps is restricted to one cover. But what a cover!

Letters from Angola arrived in Lisbon by ship. The fee applied in Angola was for the postal route as far as Lisbon. The Portuguese and Spanish parts of the route constituted one unit so, if the cover was transported by land, the fee paid in Lisbon took the letter to the Spanish/French border. If it was transported by sea it arrived in the port of St. Jean de Luz, not crossing any Spanish territory, but still paid to the French border.

From here the cover usually went to the „German" border. Germany did not exist at that time in today's sense but from 1 July 1850 the German States progressively entered into a Treaty with Austria (German-Austrian Postal Union – GAPU) over 18 months – Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Schleswig-Holstein in 1850; Thurn & Taxis, Baden, Hannover, Württemberg, Hessen, Nassau, and Bremen in 1851, and Luxembourg, Braunschweig, Lübeck and Oldenburg in 1852. Under this agreement letters could be transported through any route in these states straight to Vienna at uniform fees.

The whole GAPU applied a unified table of charges (in different monetary units!) with the fees depending on distance and weight (a simple letter sent a short distance cost 3 Austrian Kreuzer). As letters sent to Hungarian territories from the West crossed the whole of Austria, they fell into the highest category for charges (a distance of more than 20 Austrian miles) which set a rate of 9 Austrian Kreuzer for each loth (1 loth = 17,5 grams). This rate applied until October 31st 1858 when the rates changed following Austrian monetary reform.

In this period the fee for transit of France was 20 Austrian Kreuzer for 0,5 loth (30 Kr for 0,75 loth, 40 Kr for 1 Loth, etc.)

Five of the six covers shown below fell into the GAPU period but one from 1849 precedes it. From 1st April 1844 Austria lifted the "Franco-compulsion" for foreign correspondence and set the transit fees to different destinations as follows:

4. Die fremden Porto- und Transito-Gebühren für die unfrankirt einlangende Correspondenz sind, wie folgt, festgesetzt:

a)	aus Frankreich und Algier mit	20 kr.
b)	" Großbritannien	26 "
c)	" den englischen Besitzungen und Colonien	47 "
d)	" den andern überseeischen Ländern und Colonien	43 "
e)	" Spanien, Portugal und Gibraltar	20 "
f)	" Belgien und Luxemburg	20 "

Figure 2

Thus, the basic rate for transit of France *en route* from Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar was 20 Austrian Kreuzer.

THE COVERS OF THE MAGYAR CORRESPONDENCE

We present the covers sorted by date.



Figure 3a: laszlo Magyar (source: www.szombathely.hu)

Letter No. 1 from 1849



Figure 3b

The letter is addressed to Imre Magyar, father of Laszlo Magyar (Monsieur Americo Magyar, Chavallier d'Ötömös). It was posted on 5th September, 1849 at the Correio Geral de Loanda (General Post Office of Luanda), with a fee of 80 Reis stamped on it in blue, to be paid by the recipient. This fee only covered the maritime part of the route (from Angola to Lisbon). It arrived in Lisbon two months later, on 4th November. The ABATIDA stamp on the rear showed that the 80 Reis fee to be paid for the journey from Lisbon to Hungary via Spain was not collectable by the Portuguese post and was, therefore deleted (Abatida) from the Lisbon P.O accounts.

The fee for the rest of the postal route (see in violet in the middle, enlarged on the right) was 30 + 18 Kr:

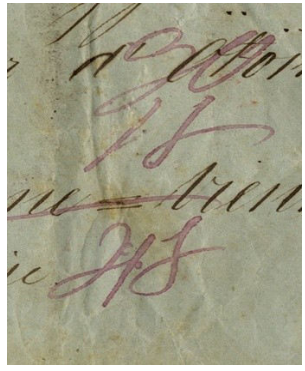


Figure 3c

Transit France:	
20 Kr x 1,5 (2nd weight step)	30 Kr
Rate for Austria (3/4 loth, over 30 miles)	
Inland tariff after 1st April 1849	18 Kr
Total:	48 Kr

Letter No. 2 from 1851



Figure 4

Once again the letter was addressed to Laszlo's father, this time named as Amerigo Magyar d'Ötömös, and was posted in Luanda for the same 80 Reis fee. In Lisbon the letter was weighed again and the 80 Reis fee was corrected to 160 Reis. The "LEY De 20/4-5 Reis" oval pink stamp was also applied, indicating that a 5 Reis surcharge would be collected for the benefit of the Banco de Lisboa. As no postal agreement existed between Portugal and Austria, neither the 160 Reis nor the 5 Reis were collectable in Lisbon, so the claim has been erased and again the ABATIDA stamp was applied. In Lisbon the letter was put into the postal packet to France, and when the packet was opened in St. Jean de Luz it received the French stamp "Espagne/par St. Jean de Luz".

In this letter it is interesting to note Laszlo Magyar's knowledge of postal routes through Europe, as he listed the transit stations on the front:

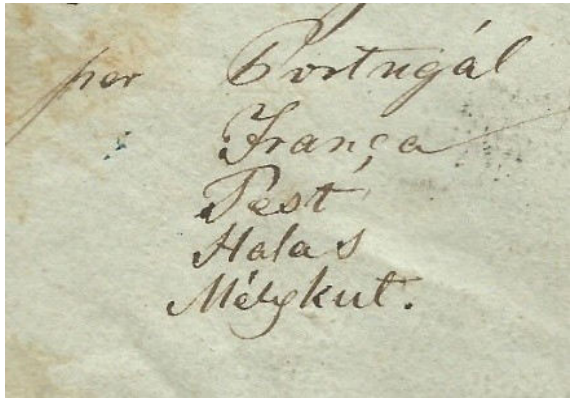


Figure 5

Once it crossed the frontier from France the letter was carried to Hungary at the basic GAPU charge:

Transit France: (1st weight class)	20 Kr
Rate for Austria (1/2 loth, over 30 miles)	
Inland tariff after 1st April 1849	9 Kr
Total:	29 Kr

This charge is shown with the brown pencil mark written on the letter by a German postal clerk.

Letter No. 3 from 1854



Figure 6

The addressee is once again the father but this cover bears stamps, and what stamps! Two high denominations of the first Portuguese "Dona Maria" issue. The highest denomination, the 100 Reis stamp, is a great rarity on cover and a letter with two of them is a real gem. No more than a dozen covers exist franked with the 100 Reis Maria stamp and this cover is without doubt one of the most precious items of Portuguese philately, made even more valuable by its extraordinary destination.

We have not seen the rear of the cover although we know that it is marked with two date-stamps - of Pesth and Theresiopel. (It is the only cover that is not part of the Hungarian Academy's archive.)

There are no Angolan postal markings on the cover so it must have been brought to Lisbon by private courier, possibly a friend of Laszlo Magyar, where it was handed into the post office on 7th July 1854 as is shown by the Lisbon blue date stamp.

However, we are certain that it originated in Angola from the content of the letter which was written in Cha Quilembe (in the Luna area, 60 days caravan distance from Luanda) on December 1852 and relates stories of Magyar's travels in Angola.

Lisbon was the beginning of the official postal route and, in accordance with the Portuguese decree of 1853, outgoing letters to countries beyond Spain had to franked with stamps, paying the fee up to the Spanish border. For this reason it was stamped which was very fortunate considering the rarity of both the stamps and the cover. No stamps were used in Angola at that time; the first usage known there was in 1876. According to Portuguese rates of that period a fee of 225 Reis would point to a cover of the 9th weight class, around 88 grams. It was not surprising that it was quite a heavy letter as it contained two travel reports of around 30 pages plus a private letter to his father.

Calculation of the fee for the French/German-/Austrian part of the route was also a complex task because of different weight units. An overall charge of 3 Ft 46 Kr, payable by the recipient, was written in brown pencil on the front of the cover; this equated to 226 Kreuzer (at that time 60 Kreuzer made up 1 Austrian Forint (or Gulden)).

Let us see how the weight indicated by the Portuguese fee led to a charge of 226 Kr. At this time letters from Spain to Austria were sent in transit through France, Belgium and Prussia, passing through the Köln-Verviers Exchange Post Office and the transit fee of 20 Kr per 10 grams was divided between France (12 Kr) and Prussia (8 Kr). Thus, the charge was made up as follows:

Transit France and Belgium: 9x20 Austrian Kr (88 gram - 9th weight step) 180 Kr

In GAPU: 9 Austrian Kr (inland rate for more than 20 miles)x5 (88 gram/17,5 = 5 loth) 45 Kr

Total: 225 Kr (+1 Kr error)

(We would like to thank and remember the late Mr. Herman Hader, an excellent Austrian philatelist who was the first to analyse this letter.)

Letter No. 4 from 1856

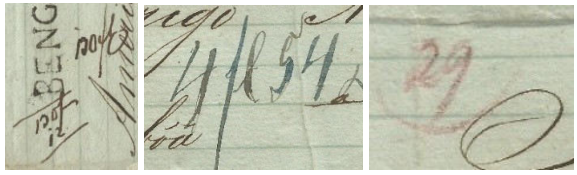


Figure 7

This letter was written in Bié and posted at Benguela on the coast south of Luanda (see map above). It arrived in Lisbon in January 1857. The 240 Reis fee was inscribed in Angola for the postal route to Lisbon.

As it was not posted in Lisbon, the letter did not need to have postage stamps added to it, as was the case with Letter 3. After being reweighed, the Lisbon Post office calculated a fee of 600 Reis which indicates a weight of 114 grams.

The Austrian calculation for carriage beyond Spain (*shown below*) shows a fee to be paid by the recipient that was the rate for a letter of 120 grams, reasonably close to the Portuguese calculation.



Figures 8a-c

The charge to the addressee for this letter was 4 Gulden 54 Kr, calculated as follows:

Transit France and Belgium: 12x20 Austrian Kr (114 gram - 12th weight step)	240 Kr
In GAPU: 9 Austrian Kr x 6 (114 gram/17,5 = about 6 loth)	54 Kr
Total:	294 Kr = 4G 54 Kr

Letter No. 5 from 1859



Figure 9

This letter was posted in Luanda for a fee of 40 Reis according to new rates that came into force in 1859. This paid the maritime rate to Lisbon where it arrived on 26th June 1859. It was stamped the next day in Badajoz on the Portuguese/Spanish border.

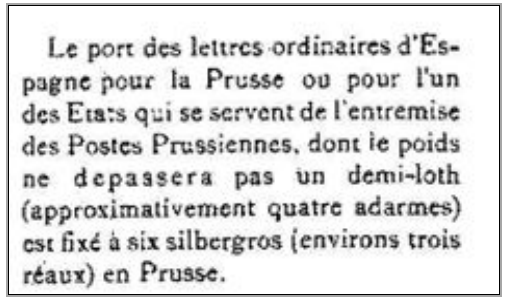


Figures 10a-d

From Badajoz it was taken in a closed postal bag through Irun to Verviers (close to Aachen in Prussia) where it crossed the Prussian border. At Cologne the bag was opened and given a route designation (1.7) and the "Spanien" stamp to show where it had come from.

At the Railway Post Office on the border a charge of 35 Neukreuzer were written on the cover in blue ink (the Neukreuzer currency was introduced in Austria in 1858 as a means of moving to a decimal system). In the new currency 1 Forint contained 100 Neukreutzer and Austrian charges were changed accordingly with new stamps issued to meet the revised rates. The 35 NKr rate was equivalent to 7 German Silbergroschen which was the fee for this part of the route in the German-Austrian Postal Union. The letter travelled through Szeged to Szabadka (today: Novi Sad in Serbia) on 7 July 1859.

According to the 1st paragraph of the Prussian-Spanish postal treaty of 19 January 1852 the fee for letters not weighing more than 7,5 grams to countries in the German- Austrian Postal Union was 6 Silbergroschen.



Le port des lettres ordinaires d'Espagne pour la Prusse ou pour l'un des Etats qui se servent de l'entremise des Postes Prussiennes, dont le poids ne dépassera pas un demi-loth (approximativement quatre adarmes) est fixé à six silbergros (environs trois réaux) en Prusse.

Figure 11

However, the Amtsblatt No 16 of 15 July 1852 stated the following: '*According to the agreement with the Spanish Post the postal border crossing between Saarbrücken and Irun/La Junqueira will cease to exist, and instead, from 1 August 1852, Aachen will be the place for it operating the railway post No 10*.'

As the postal route was through Belgium, the fee for letters in transit was increased by 1 Silbergroschen, to 7 Silbergroschen. The equivalent 35 Neukreuzer was written on our cover in the Verviers-Aachen travelling post office.

Letter No. 6 from 1862



Figure 12

A fee of 40 Reis was written on the letter in Benguela. When it arrived in Lisbon on 8th August 1862 the charge was corrected to 100 Reis by stamping this on top of the handwritten '40'. Further cancellations were applied to the letter *en route* at Badajoz, Vienna, Szeged and Szabadka (17th August). The journey from Lisbon to Szabadka took 9 days.



Figure 13a-d

The fee for the French/German/Austrian part of the route was 36+26 = 62 Neukreuzer.

According the tariff of November 1858 the rate via France was 13 Neukreuzer per 10 gram + 18 Neukreuzer per 7,5 gram (transit + domestic fee).

Since this letter weighed 15 grams (upper left corner) the total rate was 2 x 13 + 2 x 18 = 26 + 36 = 62 Neukreuzer – as written on the cover – to be paid by the addressee.

Letter 7 from 1864



Figures 14a-b. Front and rear

This letter was written by Imre Magyar to his son in Lisbon. Thus, it travelled in the opposite direction to the previous letters and raises an interesting problem. It was posted and registered in Szabadka (MariaTheresiopel in German, Subotica in Serbian) on 4th April. The sender paid 26 Kreuzer for the letter rate (13 Kr/10 gram – 2nd weight step) + 10 Kreuzer for registration, leading to a total charge of 36 Kreuzer, noted in the upper right corner. It went through Pesth on 26th April and reached Vienna, as indicated by the TPO postmark "K.K. Fahrendes Postamt No. 7". In Vienna, however, it was returned to the sender for the reason given in blue German text on the lower left side of the cover:

"Unvollständige Frankatur, Recommandation nach ~~Frankreich~~ Spanien & Portugal unzulässig"

In English: "Insufficient franking so registration to Spain & Portugal is not authorised."

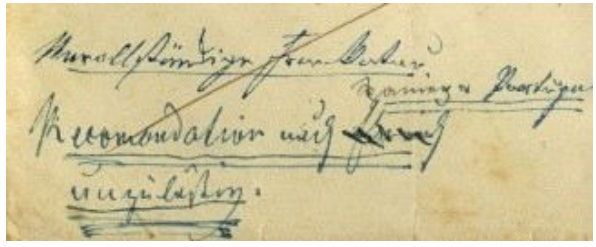


Figure 14c

Consequently the address was crossed out at the Vienna Post Office and "Theresiopel" written in its place. On the return route the letter went through Szeged and Nagykikinda, arriving in Szabadka 5 days later, on 29th April.

The long French text on the rear was written by the sender. It asks the Lisbon post office to deliver the letter to the Austrian consulate in Lisbon, "to be collected there by Laszlo Magyar, arriving from Angola"[2].

[2] This never happened, as Laszlo died in Angola in 1864.

THE EARLIEST KNOWN LETTER FROM HUNGARY TO PORTUGAL

Both Portuguese and Hungarian experts in postal history have been overjoyed to find this sensational correspondence as only one(!) letter travelling between Hungary and Portugal in the pre-UPU era was previously known. That is also a very interesting letter that deserves a comment. Written on 25 January 1845 in Pest in the name of the newly-founded Hungarian Commercial Society, Lajos Kossuth – legendary leader of the later Hungarian Revolution and War of Liberation – is among its signatories.

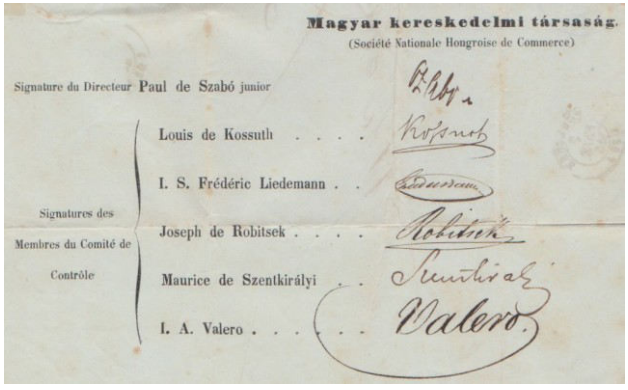


Figure 15a

The cover was addressed to the Portuguese Commercial Society and in the letter the Hungarian Society notified its Portuguese counterpart of its foundation.



Figure 15b

The markings on the rear indicate that the sender paid the postage fee to the French border. This is also apparent from the diagonal cross on front. The charges were:

– 12 Kreuzer inland postage to the Austrian border,

– 20 Kreuzer transit fee to the French border.

The cover was validated in Huningue (Exchange Post Office at the French border) first with the "7/A.E.D." red stamp (JvL: 3279) and then, as a correction, with the "7/A.E./J.F" red stamp (JvL: 3281).

The postal route for this letter was through Vienna, Berlin, Huningue (31st Jan), Paris, Perpignan (6th Feb), Toulouse (7th Feb), Bayonne (8th Feb) and Madrid (14th Feb) arriving in Lisbon on 17th February. The inland tariff chargeable to the recipient for a letter originating beyond Spain and weighing between (1½ and 2)/8 ounces (5,4 to 7,1 grams) was 480 Reis.



Figure 15c

Reméljük, hogy a Tisztelt Olvasó élvezte ezt a térbeli és időbeli utazást. Bízunk abban, hogy a jövőben még találunk több „Magyar levelet”; és ha igen, akkor újból beszámolhatunk azokról.

We hope that the reader enjoyed this travel through space and time. We have some hopes of finding more Magyar letters; if any turn up we will report again on them.

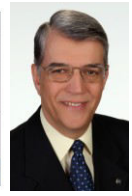
Many thanks to Paul Wijnants and James van der Linden for the exact understanding of the fees, plus Bill Hedley FRPSL for helping to produce an understandable English translation.

References

1. Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer: Handbuch und Spezialkatalog Österreich 1850-1864
2. James Van der Linden: Catalogue Marques de Passage – Katalog Postvertrags Stempel

Translated by dr. Geza Homonnay

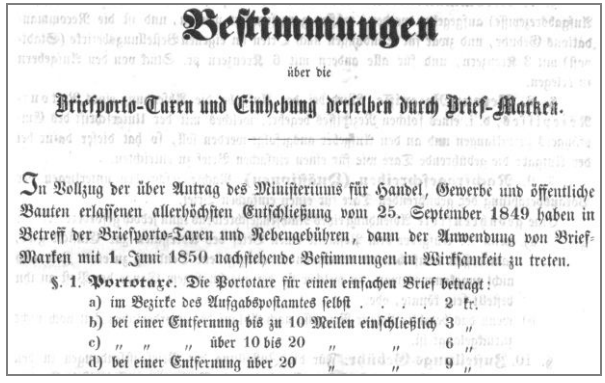
PROBLEMS WITH THE USE OF CANCELLERS IN HUNGARY ON THE FIRST AUSTRIAN STAMP ISSUE, 1850-1858*

ADRIANO BERGAMINI FRPSL (PREGASSONA) – DENES CZIROK FRPSL (ZALAEGERSZEG)

In April 1850 a treaty was concluded between the Austrian Empire and Prussia to set up a Postal Union. It created a common postal area between the signatories and most other German States added their signatures to the treaty within 2-3 years. As part of the process of implementing the treaty, which laid down a common tariff for the letter post and stipulated that postage should in future normally be pre-paid, Austria introduced the new tariff on 1 June 1850 together with postage stamps in five values. The treaty actually came into effect on 1 July 1850 with an initial duration of 10 years and was a landmark in the postal history of Central Europe.

In preparation for the treaty to come into effect the Austrian Government issued a Decree on 26 March 1850 announcing the changes that were needed to the postal system throughout the Empire. These represented a major shift from what had gone before, especially regarding the arrangements for payment. Consequently, the new regulations had to give instructions and guidance on many questions including the new tariff, the use of postage stamps and their cancellation. Although this Decree appeared more than 2 months before the changes came into effect, the time available for them to be absorbed and understood was very short.



Bestimmungen

über die

Briefporto-Taxen und Einhebung derselben durch Brief-Marken.

In Vollzug der über Antrag des Ministeriums für Handel, Gewerbe und öffentliche Bauten erlassenen allerhöchsten Entschließung vom 25. September 1849 haben in Betreff der Briefporto-Taxen und Nebengebühren, dann der Anwendung von Brief-Marken mit 1. Juni 1850 nachstehende Bestimmungen in Wirksamkeit zu treten.

§. 1. **Portotaxe.** Die Portotare für einen einfachen Brief beträgt:

a) im Bezirke des Aufgabspostamtes selbst . . . . 2 kr.
b) bei einer Entfernung bis zu 10 Meilen einschließlich 3 „
c) „ „ „ über 10 bis 20 „ „ 6 „
d) bei einer Entfernung über 20 „ „ 9 „

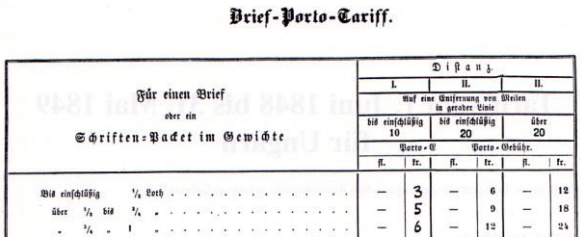
Fig.1. The first part of the Decree issued on March 26, 1850

This article describes the problems that postmasters and the public had in interpreting and applying the new regulations during the early months after the treaty came into effect, and the inventive approach they took to finding solutions for them.

1. POSTAL SYSTEM BEFORE 1 JUNE 1850

Before stamps were issued the postal system in Austria, including Hungary, permitted the sender to choose whether to pay the delivery fee (in which case the letter was carried 'Franco') or to pass it on to the recipient ('Porto'). In either case the fee was the same, in accordance with the tariff promulgated in the Decree of 1 April 1849.

* The original article appeared in the September 2019 issue of London Philatelist in English.
The editorial staff thanks the London Philatelist for permission to reprint the article.



Brief-Porto-Tariff.

Für einen Brief oder ein Schriften-Packet im Gewichte	Distanz I. Auf eine Entfernung von Meilen in gerader Linie bis einschlüßig 10		Distanz II. über 20	
	Porto-Gebühr.		Porto-Gebühr.	
	fl.	kr.	fl.	kr.
Bis einschlüßig ½ Loth	–	3	–	6
über ½ bis ¾	–	5	–	9
„ ¾ „ 1	–	6	–	12

Bis einschlüßig	½ Loth	–	3	–	6	– 12
über ½ bis	¾	–	5	–	9	– 18
„ ¾ „	1	–	6	–	12	– 24

Fig 2. Postal tariff valid from 1 April 1849

The 1849 Decree set the cost of sending a ½ Loth letter at 3 Kreuzer for distances up to 10 miles, 6 Kr for distances between 10 and 20 miles and 12 Kr for more than 20 miles.



Fig 3. Letter dated March 27, 1850 from Fiume to Vienna. The fee was 12 Kreuzer, payable by the recipient.

2. POSTAL SYSTEM AFTER 1 JUNE 1850

The new tariff reduced the fee for a ½ Loth letter travelling more than 20 miles to 9Kr, but the most important change was a new requirement that charges should normally be paid by the sender and that letters should be stamped to show that payment had been made. The treaty still permitted fees to be recovered from the recipient, but in that case an additional fee of 3 Kr per Loth was payable. However, fewer people have used this opportunity since the stamp was introduced.

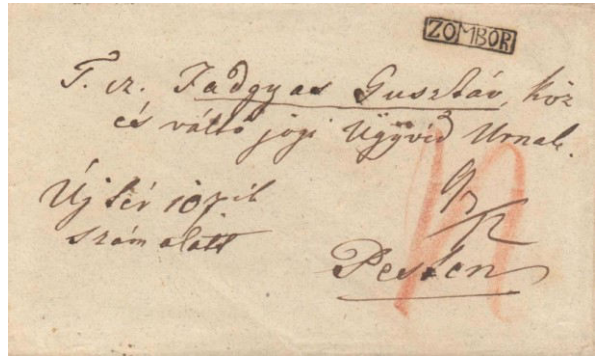
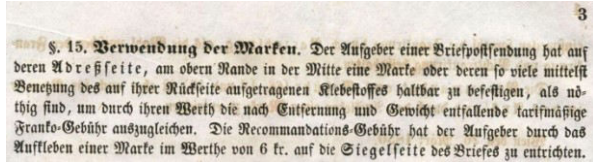


Fig 4. Letter sent to Pest from Zombor on November 17, 1850 with the fee not paid on despatch. The recipient had to pay 9 + 3 = 12 Kr.

Having once introduced postage stamps, it was then necessary to educate the population on how to use them. Paragraph 15 of the Decree laid down some rules.



3

§. 15. **Verwendung der Marken.** Der Aufgeber einer Briefpostsendung hat auf deren Adreßseite, am obern Rande in der Mitte eine Marke oder deren so viele mittelst Benetzung des auf ihrer Rückseite aufgetragenen Klebestoffes haltbar zu befestigen, als nöthig sind, um durch ihren Werth die nach Entfernung und Gewicht entfallende tarifmäßige Franko-Gebühr auszugleichen. Die Recommandations-Gebühr hat der Aufgeber durch das Aufkleben einer Marke im Werthe von 6 kr. auf die Siegelseite des Briefes zu entrichten.

Fig 5. Paragraph 15 of the Decree, concerning the correct use of stamps.

According to this, stamps for postage had to be placed on the upper part of the front of the letter in the middle. A 6 Kr stamp added for payment of a registration fee was, however, to be attached to the rear.

The evidence from surviving covers shows that this instruction was largely ignored, in Hungary at least. As late as the 8th year of the 1850 issue, stamps were placed on the top centre of the front

as specified on only 11% of covers. We have collected data on around 6,000 letters with Hungarian usage over 35 years and have found that the most popular space on which to place the stamp was the upper left corner of the letter, with the lower left corner in second place.

44%	11%	16%
3%	0%	1%
22%	2%	1%

Fig 6. Analysis of where stamps of the 1850 issue were positioned on Hungarian letters.

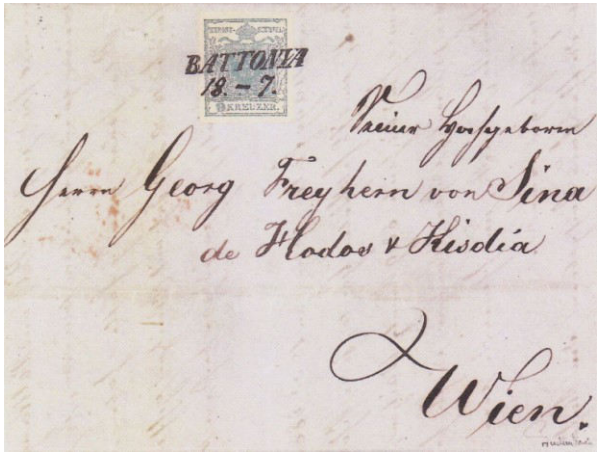


Fig 7. Letter sent from Battonya to Vienna on 18 July 1850. The stamp was placed in the top centre in accordance with the regulations.

In considering the question of where the stamp was placed, we have to take account of habits formed over decades and of the prevailing culture on how a letter should be addressed. In Austria and Hungary it was customary at that time to write different titles, ranks and addresses as well as the destination on the outside of the letter and usually to start writing the title in the middle. Thus, it was only possible to place the stamp in the middle by covering these addresses. This explains why, despite the regulations, the stamp was usually placed to the left or right of the addresses.



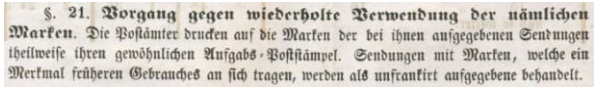
Fig 8. Letter sent from Tyrnau to Pressburg on 24 August 1850 franked with 1Kr + 2 Kr stamps. Lack of alternative space for addresses meant the stamps were placed on the top right corner.

3. CANCELLERS AND POSTMARKS IN JUNE 1850.

By 1 June 1850 approximately 550 post offices in Hungary used some form of canceller. The first postmark known in Hungary was used in Tyrnau on 16 January 1752. It was followed by Debreczin, Tokay, Pressburg, Buda and other towns. The early 18th Century postmarks were single-line town marks without a date, but these were followed by cancellers with different shapes and variations. From 1817 onwards the postal regulations required the date to be shown on the front of a letter alongside the place of dispatch.

From the 1820s, therefore, the use of date cancellers was widespread. Drawing on foreign designs the Austrian Post Office introduced centrally produced double-circle place and date cancellers at Oedenburg in 1837 and Agram in 1840. A simpler version of this, the so-called palmettic double-circle canceller, began to spread in Hungarian post offices in 1846-47. By 1850 when stamps first appeared there appear to have been c.305 of these cancellers in use. The implication was that 245 post offices were still using the old 'postmaster' cancellers. Of course, most post offices had additional cancellers on the table or in the drawer as a reserve reflecting the fact that, when new cancellers arrived, the old ones were usually not destroyed.

Paragraph 21 of the 1850 Decree drew the attention of postmasters to the need to cancel all postage stamps and, if they were found to have been reused, to treat them as invalid and charge postage due.



§. 21. **Vorgang gegen wiederholte Verwendung der nämlichen Marken.** Die Postämter drucken auf die Marken der bei ihnen aufgegebenen Sendungen theilweise ihren gewöhnlichen Aufgabs-Poststämpel. Sendungen mit Marken, welche ein Merkmal früheren Gebrauches an sich tragen, werden als unfrankirt aufgegebene behandelt.

Fig 9. Paragraph 21 of the Decree regarding cancellation of stamps.

4. IRREGULAR OR ABNORMAL USAGES AFTER 1 JUNE 1850

Although the Decree clearly set out the requirements, they were interpreted differently in different post offices and there was no common understanding on points of detail. This resulted in many interesting usages in the first months after postage stamps came into use.

4.1. Hand cancellations.

Allibunar, now in Serbia, was a small post office in southern Hungary between Pancsova and Temesvár. During the first few months after stamps were introduced the postmaster did not receive a new canceller so he wrote the place name on the stamps by hand.



Fig 10. Registered letter sent from Allibunar to Pest on November 24, 1850. Both stamps were invalidated manually.

4.2. Date added manually beside the postmark.

Many post offices only had a canceller that showed the place name. Here the date was often written by hand on either the letter or the stamp. An example was the post office in Karánsebes in southern Hungary which did not receive its new single-circle canceller until the beginning of 1851. Consequently the postmaster continued to use its 25 year old canceller until the end of 1850, adding the date by hand and thereby sticking to the rules.



Fig 11. Letter from Caránsebes to Temesvár of 6 June 1850 with the date marked manually ("6/6.50" in the upper right corner).

Not far from Karánsebes is Lippa where the same method was used.

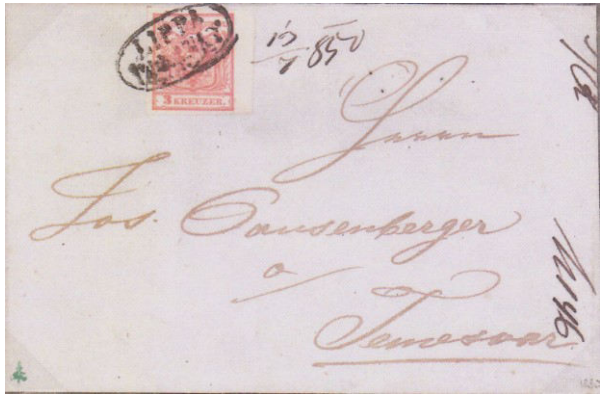


Fig 12. Letter from Lippa to Temesvár of 13 July 1850 with the date added by hand ("13/7.850").

Korotnok (now in Slovakia) was in Northern Hungary, east of Lőcse. Its new one-circle canceller only arrived at the end of 1850. Until then the 32-year-old canceller was used with the date written next to it by hand.



Fig 13. Letter posted from Korotnok to Torna on 2 December 1850 with the date marked manually ("2/12").

Sárkeresztúr is a tiny village in the middle of Transdanubia, but it is known for its unusual special postmark. In this extremely rare example the date was also entered separately by hand.



Fig 14. Letter from Sárkeresztúr to Pest dated 8 July 1850. The stamp is cancelled with a posthorn postmark of 1848, with the date added by hand.

4.3. Use of separate date canceller

A lot of negative postmarks were used in Transylvania and the requirement to show the date was met by using a separate date canceller beside

the postmark. This led to an increase in the number of possible variants depending on where the postmaster decided to put the date mark. Normally the negative postmark and date mark were both placed on the stamp as, for example, at Fogaras.



Fig 15. Letter sent from Fogaras to Hermannstadt on July 25, 1850. The stamp was cancelled separately with a negative town mark and a date mark.

A quicker solution was adopted in Alsóucsa:



Fig 16., Letter sent from A(lsó)-Utsa to Hermannstadt on 26 June 1850. The stamp was cancelled with a date canceller and a negative town mark was placed alongside.

4.4. The use of the prephilatelic canceller

Neutra was a large town that had many cancellers before 1850 including a straight-line mark showing the place-name and date. It was still in use as late as the summer of 1851.

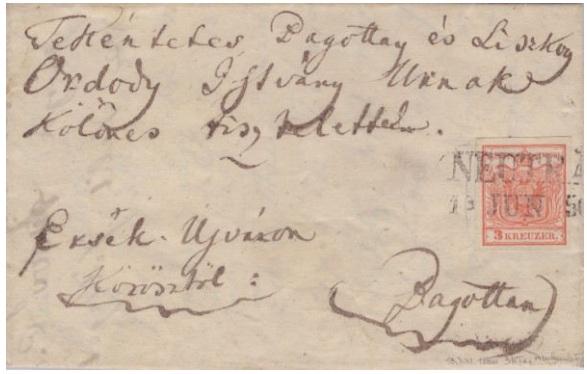


Fig.17. Letter from Nyitra to Bagotta of 13 June 1850 showing a two-line date canceller from before 1850. It illustrates well how the stamp could not be placed on the top line because the address was there.

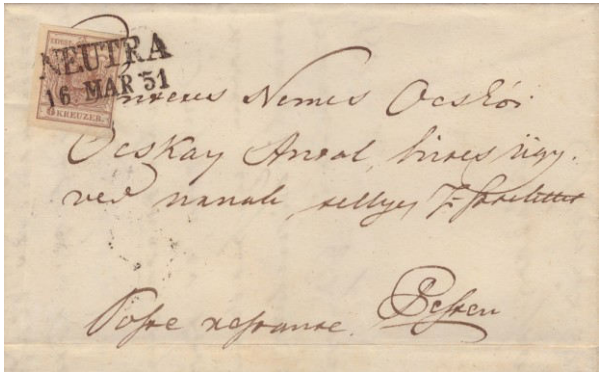


Fig 18. The postmark was also used in 1851.

Kaposvár was a small town at that time. The attractive oval stamp of 1842 was also used in 1850-51.



Fig 19. Letter from Kaposvár to Vienna of 10 September 1850. It shows that the oval postmaster postmark of 1842 was still in use.

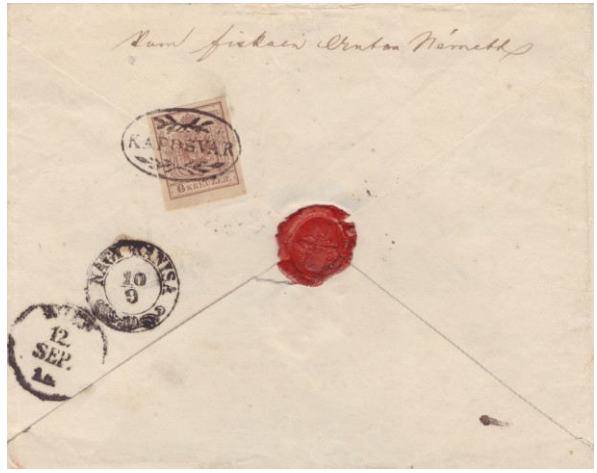


Fig. 20 The rear of the letter with the KAPOSVÁR postmaster postmark

4.5. Double use of cancellers

In some post offices in the early months after the new regulations came into effect the postmaster canceller from the period before stamps were introduced was still in use alongside the new double-circle canceller. The Decree did not stipulate which of the two should be used henceforth. Such was the case in Dunaföldvár (about 100 km south of Budapest).



Fig 21. Letter from D(una) Földvár via Pécs (Fünfkirchen) to Dombóvár dated 16 December 1850.

The postman could not decide which canceller to use to invalidate the stamp, so he used both.

A similar situation faced the postmaster of Győr, and he tried to put both postmarks on the stamp.



Fig 22. Letter from Győr to Pest of 5 September 1850 with two postmarks. The Semlin Postmaster was also uncertain which canceller to use.



Fig 23. Letter from Semlin to Sisseck of 2 December 1850. It was cancelled with two postmarks, both dating from before 1850.

4.6. The use of "Too late" („Nach Abgang..") postmarks.

"Too late" cancellers were introduced to enable the despatching post office to explain any delay to the recipient by indicating that the letter was handed in after the coach had left. Interestingly, this method is still in use today. After stamps were issued it was not clear to everyone where this postmark was to be applied, so in several places it was placed on the stamp.



Fig 24., Letter sent from Pest to Temesvár on June 5, 1850. It was put into the mailbox after the mail coach had departed. The "Too late" mark was placed on the stamp with the place-time postmark at its side.

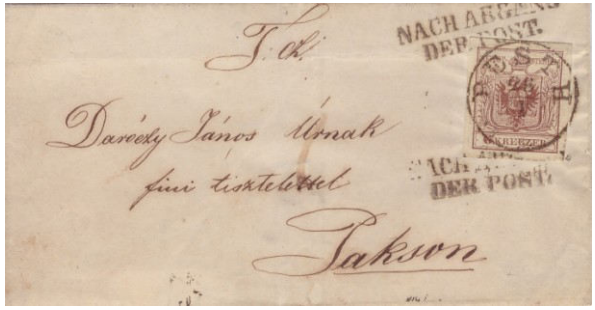


Fig 25. As late as 26 January 1851 the two cancellers were used side-by-side in this way.

4.7. Use of postmark and "Feather-crossing" together

The postal clerks also questions about what to do if there was more than one stamp on a letter. Should all the stamps be cancelled with the post-mark or just one? As an example, the postal clerks in the Karánsebes post office found a novel way of dealing with it.



Fig 26. Letter from Karánsebes to Hermannstadt of 16 June 1850. The postmaster cancelled one stamp with his pre-1850 handstamp, and the other two with "feather-crossing".

The Brood Postmaster also adopted a special approach, cancelling one stamp with a postmark and crossing out the other one smoothly by hand.



Fig 27. Letter from Brood to Trieste on 13 June 1850, where one stamp is cancelled with a feather-crossing.

A similar question arose when deciding whether to use a postmark to cancel stamps on both the front and rear of a letter. The postman at Lippa decided to solve it with a feather crossing on the rear.

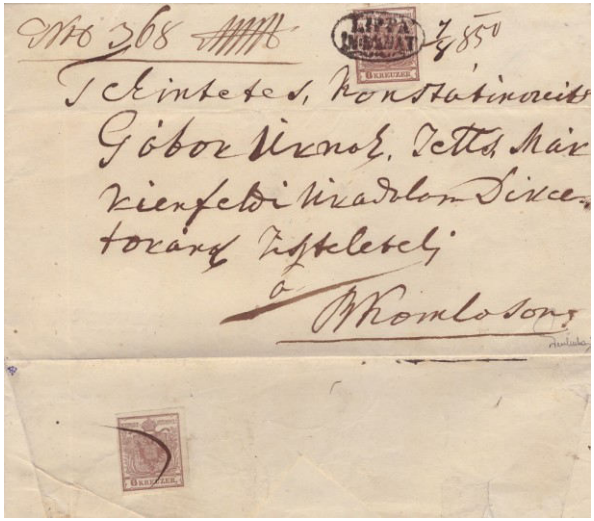


Fig 28., A registered letter from Lippa to B(ánát)-Komlós on 7 August 1850. The stamp on front was cancelled with a pre-1850 postmaster canceller, while the registered stamp on the rear was cancelled with a feather-crossing.

4.8. Use of different postmarks on registered letters

The previous example showed that the rules on the use of cancellers on registered mail were not clear. The postmaster of Letenye had two cancellers and decided to use both of them on registered letters.

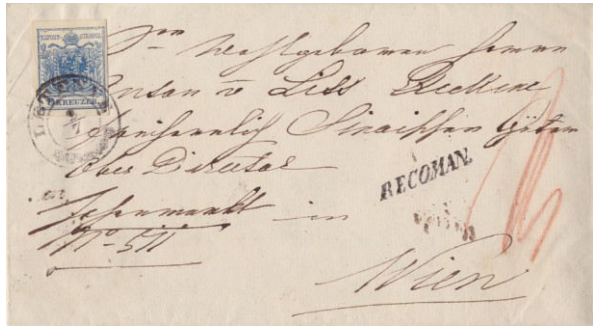


Fig 29. Registered Letter from Letenye to Vienna on 2 July 1850. The stamp on front was stamped with a double-circle canceller…



Fig 30. .., while the stamp on the rear was cancelled with a postmaster canceller from before 1850.

Most post offices also had a special 'RECOM' *(Registered)* instructional mark which provided another means of cancelling stamps on registered letters. It was perhaps not surprising if the postal clerk was uncertain which handstamp to use, and consequently used all of them.

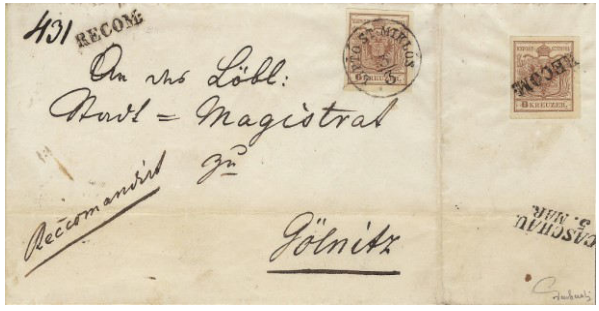


Fig 31. Registered letter sent from Liptó St. Miklós to Göllnitz on 3 March 1851. The stamp on front was cancelled with the normal place-date canceller while the RECOM mark was applied as a canceller to the stamp on the rear.

The postmaster repeated this approach a few months later.



Fig 32. The rear of a registered letter posted on 5 June 1851, also from Liptó St. Miklós. Again it shows the 'RECOM' registration mark being used to cancel the registration stamp.

5. Summary

The changes brought about by the German-Austrian Postal Union treaty amounted to a revolution in the postal history of Central Europe. It was not surprising that it took some time for them to settle down and for people to become accustomed to new ways of working and through these examples we wanted to illustrate the transitional difficulties that the introduction of postage stamps on 1 June 1850 created in Hungary. We also hope that we have introduced you, Dear Reader, to this wonderful world which still offers many new opportunities for discoveries to the in-depth researchers.

REFERENCES

The decrees and the letters shown are in the collections of the authors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Many thanks to Bill Hedley FRPSL for advice on language and style in this article.

HUNGARY'S INTRIGUING FIRST POSTAL INFLATION + KÉZIKÖNYV REVISIONS



MERVYN BENFORD (SHUTFORD/BANBURY)

My original Mafitt lecture[3] argued for a new period structure for the First Inflation (1920-27.) In this article I add new information. When I write I always accept I can be wrong and I welcome correction of facts and differences of opinion. When I gave my talk, I spoke afterwards with both Visnyovszki Gábor and Surány László and both agreed there was a need for review of how we understand this period.

The tables in the Hungarian Black Book (Kézikönyv) treat the rate changes as if they all happened at the same time- as in 1945/46. This was not the case. on 5th. October 1922 only foreign rates changed. Domestic rates changed on 1st. November 1922. Period 5 is not the same for both classes of mail. Foreign rates lasted slightly longer under Period 5 so I called the domestic changes in November Period 5a. The Black book and most dealers have the second as Period 6 but foreign rates did not change on that date so foreign rates had no new period 6. For me Period 6 for both classes of mail began on 16th. April 1923.

Rates then changed together, all increasing on each of the dates I have for my periods 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 (Black Book has these as 8 to 12.) My period 12 starts on 11th. April 1924 (Black Book period 13.) Now, again, not all rates changed, though most did, and higher! On 1st. June one of the rates not increased in April did now increase but not the other- which remained at the 21st. February rate. Three other rates did not increase on 1st. June. I call this a separate rate period, my Period 13 (Black Book Period 14.) On 1st. January 1925 two rates increased but printed matter rates reduced. On 1st.October 1925, one rate increased (not in the Black Book,) three rates reduced and airmail rates increased.

These cannot be seen as separate rate periods. Not all rates were affected. The value of philatelic material is affected by how long it was available. For me 11th. April 1924 is almost a full period since only two 2nd. weight steps did not change. But changes on 1st. June 1924 (my Period 13) start 10 months of greater stability, only small changes, even reductions. They cannot be numbered as whole periods. I call 1st. January 1925 my Period 13a and those of 1st. October Period 13b (Black Book periods 14 and 15.) The new currency change to Pengó/Fillér on 1.4.26 is for me Period 14 (Black Book period 16.)

Airmail began on 22nd. June 1922 as a new category with other rates not changed so I give that my Period 3a.

New currency airmail rates changed on 17th. May 1926 but still listed in Korona and I call this

[3] The Hungarian translation of the author's lecturer was completed, but it could not be published in Philatelica, which had been suspended for a long time. The Editor.

Period 14a. On 1.1.27- (still within the period of grace when old inflation era stamps could be used,) these were converted to new currency- and I call it Period 14b. Normal registration and express rates also rose on 1st. January 1927 (except International Express.) After just nine months these initial rates are not easy to find reflected on covers.

THE KÉZIKÖNYV (BLACK BOOK) PROBLEM

This is at the heart of my proposal for a new period structure. The Black Book needs revision because it has two inaccuracies and misses two other related factors.

THE JOHN WHITESIDE EVIDENCE

Knowing my interest in this period and my extensive collection particularly of covers using the short-lived Official stamps, John Whiteside, sadly now deceased, one of the most highly respected experts in the UK and especially on international postal rates and UPU conversion calculations, shared his research with me now and again.

1 Weight step problem

John saw a problem with the 1.10.25 rates in the Black Book for second weight step for letters to countries with concessionary lower rates- mainly Austria and Germany- (but the Trianon changes saw more.) The Black book second weight step on 1.10.25 for Austria was 2000K Austria- *reduced* from 2500K on 1.6.24 and for all the other countries it just states '*lásd- Ausztria*.' John believed that this was not the case.

Under the 1926 new currency the Black book shows 16f for both Austria and Germany (=2000K) but 20f for Poland, Italy, Czechoslovakia and Romania. SHS rates had been as Austria but only until the end of 1921 anyway. John believed this means the reduction to 2000K on 1.10.25 was *only* for Austria and Germany and the other countries would stay at the 2500K 1.6.24 rate. Our evidence suggests this was the case and the rate was 2500K on 1.10.25, converted- as for other rates at 1000K = 8f- and so 20f under new currency.

The alternative is that those rates stayed as Austria but were then increased under new currency on 1.4.26 we believe this not likely. We need more examples from other Convention concession countries but the Black Book confirms only 2000K for Austria and Germany from 1.10.25.

Mail to foreign countries during the inflation period and into the new currency era is rather intriguing and worth studying in its own right.

2 Change of rate:

Looking at the tables in the Black Book he was puzzled that when the new currency arrived in April 1926 all rates except two converted auto-

matically at the agreed rate of 1000 Korona to 8 fillér.

For international registration the Black Book still had 5000K, which would convert to 40f, but in fact became 48f. He became convinced that the international registration rate had increased to 6000K. This converts to 48f. We have found examples before the new currency and afterwards. We both had examples that made sense only with registration 6000K.

Illustration 1 is a cover posted to Holland where the cost also includes Térti-Vevény. Full foreign letter rate was 5000K. Total cost 17000K. Registration and Advice of Delivery cost 12000K. This shows foreign registration did increase by November 13th. to 6000K.



Illustration 1 Cover to Holland registered (new 6000K rate) and advice of delivery so 2 x 6000K + 5000K basic rate.

Illustration 2 is a registered cover to France sent with a charge of 13,500K: 5000K full foreign letter-rate, 2500K weight step and the registration again by then 6000K. The UK Specialist Society has been able to confirm using PTRT tables that this international registration change, like the weight step changes, came on 1.10.25.



Illustration 2 is a registered cover to France sent with a charge of 13,500K: 5000K full foreign letter-rate, 2500K weight step and the registration again by then 6000K.

Illustration 3 is an example where the total cost includes 3 x 2000K reduced weight steps as in the Black Book- *but only for Austria/Germany,* not all the countries enjoying cheaper rates.



Illustration 3 is an example where the total cost includes 3 x 2000K weight steps as in the Black Book but only for Austria/Germany. This letter paid 16000K (see pencil mark at top)- 4000K basic rate, the very new 6000K registration and 6000K weight steps.

3 National Express:



Illustration 4 Express letter to Kaposvár in early New Currency period but still paid in Inflation korona: 7000K = 56F. 16f. basic rate (2000k) + 40f express (shows <u>new 5000K national express rate</u>.)

John and I also noted that the national express rate of 6000K at the end of the inflation period did not convert to the new currency 40f on 1.4.26. We believed that this rate had been reduced to 5000K but we have no examples before 1.4.26. We have examples after that date and the Hungarian Society has also been able to confirm that the national express rate changed with the new currency.

Illustration 4 shows an express letter sent in 1926 to Kaposvár at national letter rate 16f + 40f express- total 56f and still paid in old currency (7000K.)

OTHER FEATURES OF THE PERIOD:

Interest in the inflation period goes beyond the tables, rates, dates and values the Black Book tells. I have a January 1922 registered cover to Kieferstädtel that should not have cost more than 12k, maybe 20K with weight steps, but has been paid 150K. At the top of the envelope in what looks like the sender's hand is written '*Tulfrankírozva 150K .'* I have no idea what this charge was for!

1 Local City Express

These rates became the subject of special concern. The increases through the 1st. Inflation years at a proportional rate had by August 1923 made local city express rather higher than the cost of doing it. The Black Book specifically states it applied in Budapest. It would be interesting to find the rate used in other towns and cities.

The Black Book tables do not show the change in the local city express rate on 13.8.23. They explain it in a separate short paragraph near the end of page 427 Surprisingly these special rates, which became called 'Sürgös' (special delivery) continued to 1945. This rate was for daytime deliveries only. It would be good to find one delivered during the night and charged the normal rate!

The Black Book gives this information- but not in the rate tables. At the end of page 427 it describes the system but explains that it continued into the new currency period and existed, sometimes slightly different minimum rates, possibly to 1948.

I have five examples based on the special charge during the remaining inflation years of three times the normal rate for the item. There was a minimum level for the total final charge- in 1923 it had to be more than the basic national letter rate, then 200K. The local letter rate was 100K + then normal local Express 500K, total 600K. So paying just 3 x 100K meant half-price. Slight changes in calculation and minimum charge came in 1930, 1940 and 1945 and this makes another interesting collecting challenge worthy of close study.



Illustration 5

Illustration 5 shows the manuscript "*Surgös"* that indicated it was only special delivery and with local letter rate in August 1924 1000K and normal express 6000K, normal total 7000K. Under the new system only 3 x normal local rate for the weight was paid, in this case 3 x 1000K, plus normal, local 1500 registration, total charge was 4500K, 2500K cheaper for the same express service.



Illustration 6

Illustration 6 has problems for me. I would welcome clarification. It is a local registered letter in June 1924- rate 1000K + 1500K registration. 4500K has been paid and a different hand has written '*Sürgös*' on the envelope. Did a post official think it was local express? As local express it would need 3 x 1000K + 1500K registration- total 4500K. Was the sender looking for express service?

Under the stamps there is a two-line rectangular boxed cachet but I cannot read all of it. It starts AZ EXPRESS KÉZBESITÉS MEG--- ERKEZETT--- BUDAPEST 19 and in pencil 24 but with more at the end including what looks like 28. The stamp postmarks are June 27. The '*Sürgös*' has been crossed out! On most EXPRESS mail- including this local express service- the circular 'M. KIR. KÖZPONTI TAVIRÓHIVATAL BUDAPEST' cachet appears somewhere, usually on the back. I assume it indicates where the item was processed, but it is not on this envelope. What has happened to this letter? Suggestions welcome!

It all makes interesting postal history to collect. The inflation period itself has far more interest than the inflation after world war 2. The stamps with triangular perforation, the official covers, the city express arrangements are all interesting studies within the period and continuing into the new currency in 1926 when, even then, there was a period of grace until 1.4.27 when inflation stamps could still be used- more collecting potential!

2 Official Mail

New, special stamps were issued on 1st. July 1921 for use on official mail. Existing regulations became affected, not least regarding who paid the postage. There are often printed indications on cards, forms and letters that explain whether the official department pays or the addressee.

If the addressee paid (for example '*Portoköteles*') the cost was only the normal postage rate but the stamps used were from postage due series. '*Portomentes*', however, meant post-free. Mail between official departments tended to have just '*Hivatalból*' or something similar indicating official status and usually cost-free but the arrival of official stamps introduces a time of special cost regulations and brings new questions for collectors and students. Under my logic that becomes my Period 2a.

John Whiteside saw the new system as a Post Office wanting to monitor and evaluate just how much official mail was being sent- and maybe the circumstances, perhaps aspects of security. The stamps of the Harvester/Parliament issues at some time began to appear with the two central rows with three dots as a triangular perforation. I was told twice this reflected a concern for security. Yet it continued with the official stamps so if concerns existed among the general population they obviously also applied to civil officials and their departments!

These new stamps reflect a period of real change in such matters. They were issued at a 10% surcharge on face value. The incentive to use them lay in the basic first weight step being 100g rather than 20g. This was irrelevant to mailing a simple card or paper folded form and in fact the official rates almost exclusively seemed designed for letters. For other mail it was actually cheaper to use the normal rates paid by the general public- though what was seen as postcard and what was seen as printed matter seems to have been open to local decision!



Illustration 7 Album page showing almost same official form sent almost at the same time at three different official rates

Illustration 7 is an album page showing the same form sent at three different rates including full letter rate as per the new system.

Rate changes followed those for civil mail, and stamp denominations climbed rapidly from filler to korona similarly. There came the same urgent need for overprinted denominations because of inflation. Mail from the shorter periods is less easy to find. Periods 2 and 5 are more common.

After just three years the system was ended. New regulations from 1.7.24 applied to future official mail, including a special way by which mail to official departments could be free for the sender if the words '*Hivatalos felszólításra'* or similar were on the envelope- in which case the receiving official department had to pay the postage rate. I am not sure what the procedure was but presume a formal accounting system within the budgets of the departments. Official mail and regulations continue to have good potential for study and collection.

This short period of three years offers the chance to collect in a concentrated way with a clear start and end. Roger Morrell (UK society editor) and I have discussed the '*registration*' of official mail as a result of earlier information from Ferenc Orbán on which he used the word '*ajánlott*' seemingly '*posta*l' registration, but Roger has discovered that that Hungarian word can have another meaning. The use of '*Tértivevény'* to confirm advice of delivery in many cases, for example legal documents, is part of the same question- the fee being the equivalent of registration.

Orbán may have mis-translated some relevant German sources. He had said <u>*postal*</u> registration of official mail was obligatory- a 200-year-old rule- but the majority of official mail was *not* registered. Individual items had to be entered in a record book and given an official number. That can in English mean a way to record an item, but not <u>*postal*</u> registration. The UK society also thinks more information can explain who paid postal registration when it <u>*was*</u> used. Security was in the department's interest! When '*Portoköteles*' was necessary did it include registration?



Illustration 8

Illustration 8. I have a cover sent from a Székesfehérvár department, postally registered, but from Varoshidveg. Only official departments had the stamps. The delivery post office did not have them! In the 135 covers John and I have bearing official stamps, only nine involve postage due adhesives.

Orbán also said that official mail had to be taken to a post office, and recorded in a book, but if dropped into a letter-box in the street should have double the normal charge. Postal regulations did

address mail posted in a letter-box and a special cachet is known. It seems more to do with avoiding the need for every item to pass through a post office and be recorded in a book. Registered items must go via a post office.



Illustration 9 is an official letter paid at 600K, precisely double the rate: is it an example of posted in a letter box and rate doubled for the extra work for postal staff? It has no normal letter-box cachet. Was it just a mistake or a rare example of Orban's translation of regulation about paying double if posted in a letter-box needing special effort to enter it the log.

Illustration 9 is an official letter paid at double the normal rate. It has no cachet. Does it reflect a rule known to Orbán? Or was he mistaken again? He had a huge philatelic library. We need more study and evidence.

Official departments also sent money-orders and parcels- and official stamps cancelled by the department show this. However, parcel forms always included a printed revenue, not postal, stamp including a charge for the card itself and, during the period, on the back of parcel forms, one finds official stamps at a rate of 30f and later increasing to 70f which John believed was an increase in the rates printed on the front of the cards themselves.



Illustration 10 Example of later 70f card cost rate increase- a non-postal charge using official stamps on the back

Illustration 10 is a parcel card with the later 70f rate for the card fee. Both 60f and 10f in this example have triangular perforations.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Visnyovszki did not think airmail rates should be included in a new set of tables. To me they give their own inflation evidence. On 17.5.26 these rates were halved, and the compulsory, additional use of the EXPRESS service ended. I have a cover sent four months later where the sender had included or been charged the now abolished EXPRESS fee- 10 000K. The full inflation story often shows some confusion, not least mistakes from rapid rate changes and stamp shortages.

Use of multiples of smaller denominations is attractive in a collection or display. The re-emergence of Harvester and Parliament stamps after the Republican politics along with a fine Madonna set add colour. Early commemorative stamps were used, at times in mixed frankings. The three Jokai stamps were valid only in February 1925. 500K and 1000K appeared also with the next watermark. The 20f is known with the word 'HIVATALOS' reversed- one of the great rarities of Hungarian philately.

As larger face values became necessary, earlier issues became progressively invalidated- another potential valuation factor. Even within the short three-year period of official stamps, some lost validity in 1923, most on 31.1.25 and a few only on 30.6.25. The 30.6.24 end date of the system make the rate change on 1.6.24 seem short but the stamps remained valid a further year and I have a cover posted in 1927 using a block of 4 x 3000K!

I was not able to include Money Order, Parcel and some other rates. These could be calculated- even if complex- and included in any future agreed analysis. I made the proposal at the start of my membership. Now I try to open further discussion as a result of my own later learning. I hope that when valuing such philatelic material, the actual time a rate was valid may be better understood- and other often very interesting matters more recognised and appreciated.

POSTAI DIJAK 1920-1927

IDŐSZAK	1	2	2a	3	3a	3b	4	4a	5	5a	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13a	13b	14	14a	14b
ÉV	1920		1921	1922							1923				1924				1925		1926		1927
HÓ/NAP	1.1.	6.1.	7.1.	1.1.	6.22.	7.28.	8.1.	9.15.	10.5.	11.1.	4.16.	7.1.	8.13.	10.1.	1.1.	2.21.	4.11.	6.1.	1.1.	10.1.	4.1.	5.17.	1.1.
LEVÉL																							
Helyi																							
20g	60f	1k		2k			4k			15k	25k	40k	100k	150k	300k	600k	1000k				8f		
+20g	20f	20f		50f			1k			10k	15k	40k	100k	150k	250k	500k							
40g																					12f		
250g																					16f		
500g																					24f		
+20g	60f	1k		2,5k			5k			25k	40k	80k	200k	350k	500k	1000k	1500k	1800k	2000k		16f		
+20g	20f	20f		50f			1k			10k	15k	40k	100k	150k	250k	500k	500k	1000k					
40g																					24f		
250g																					28f		
500g																					40f		

IDŐSZAK	1	2	2a	3	3a	3b	4	4a	5	5a	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13a	13b	14	14a	14b
ÉV	1920		1921	1922							1923				1924				1925		1926		1927
HÓ/NAP	1.1.	6.1.	7.1.	1.1.	6.22.	7.28.	8.1.	9.15.	10.5.	11.1.	4.16.	7.1.	8.13.	10.1.	1.1.	2.21.	4.11.	6.1.	1.1.	10.1.	4.1.	5.17.	1.1.
Külföldi																							
Egyezm.																							
20g	60f	1k		4,5k			9k		40k		75k	175k	350k	600k	1000k	1800k	3000k	4000k			32f		
+20g	20f	20f		3k			6k		25k		50k	125k	250k	400k	750k	1200k	2000k	2500k		2000k	16f		
Teljes																							
20g	1k	2,5k		6k			12k		50k		100k	250k	500k	800k	1400k	2500k	4000k	5000k			40f		
+20g	60f	1,5k		3k			6k		25k		50k	125k	250k	400k	700k	1200k	2000k	2500k			20f		
LEVELEZŐLAP																							
Helyi	40f	60f		1,5k			2k			6k	10k	20k	50k	90k	200k	400k	600k				4f		
Orsz.	40f	60f		1,5k			2k			10k	20k	40k	100k	150k	300k	600k	1000k				8f		
Külf.																							
Egyezm.	40f	60f		3k			5k		22k		45k	110k	220k	350k	600k	1100k	1800k	2400k		2000k	16f		
Teljes	40f	1k		4k			7k		30k		60k	150k	300k	500k	800k	1500k	2400k	3000k		2500k	20f		
AJÁNLÁS																							
Helyi	1k	2,5k		6k			12k		50k		25k	50k	100k	150k	300k	600k	1000k	1500k			12f	15f	
Orsz.	1k	2,5k		6k			12k		50k			100k	200k	300k	500k	1000k	1500k	2200k	2500k		20f	30f	
Külf.	1k	2,5k		6k			12k		50k		100k	250k	500k	800k	1400k	2500k	4000k	5000k			48f	50f	
EXPRESSZ																							
Orsz.	1,20k	3k		12k			24k		100k		200k	250k	500k	800k	1500k	2500k	4500k	6000k			40f		50f
Külf.	1,20k	3k		12k			24k		100k		200k	500k	1000k	1600k	2800k	5000k	8000k	10000k			80f		
NYOMTATVÁNY																							
a. Kis bor.																							
10g							50f																
b. Minden																							
50g	15f	20f		50f			1k																
10g										1k	2k	5k	10k	20k	50k	100k	200k	300k	200k				2f
50g										2k	4k	10k	20k	40k	100k	200k	400k	500k	400k				3f
+50g										2k	4k	10k	20k	40k	100k	200k	400k	500k	400k	300k			
100g																							6f
250g																							12f
500g																							20f
1kg																							40f
2kg																							70f
3kg																							1P
HIVATALOS																							
Levél																							
Helyi																							
/mind/		*	1k	2k			4k			15k	25k	40k	100k	150k	300k	600k	1000k						
Orsz.																							
100g			1k	2,5k			5k			25k	40k	80k	200k	350k	500k	1000k	1500k	1800k	**				
Nyomtatv.																							
100g												5k	10k	20k	50k	100k	200k	300k					
+100g												10k	20k	40k	100k	200k	400k	500k					

NEWS

HUNFILA 2019 BUDAPEST

The site of this year's HUNFILA was the Stefánia Palace – Hungarian Army Cultural Center in Budapest. During this exhibition we remembered the 150th anniversary of the appearance of the world's first official postal card.

In addition to the Hungarian exhibitors, collectors from Austria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland, Great Britain, Germany, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, and Slovenia participated in our exhibit.

Besides of all of the competitive FIP classes, Mafitt's most successful Hungarian and foreign exhibitors from the past few years showed their collections in a non-competitive, honors category. The Palmares can be seen here:

http://www.mabeosz.hu/hunfila-2019-temafila

The collections were judged by an international jury that included 5 FIP judges among whom were two Hungarians, Dénes Czirók and István Glatz. From our Mafitt membership, Artur Banas, Peter Dunai (FEPA), Sandor Fulop, Karoly Szucs, and Jozsef Vendel were also members of the jury.

Herbert Kotal, an exhibitor from Austria, won the National Grand Prize awarded to the best Hungarian-themed exhibit with his collection titled 'Ungarn 1867–1887; Die Briefmarken-Ausgaben der ungarischen Postverwaltung, die ersten zwanzig Jahre'. The award included a beautiful Herend porcelain vase.

Our philatelic diplomacy achieved great success as evidenced by the visit of Bernard Beston of Australia who was elected president of FIP last year and whom we invited to come to our country. Also present were Yigal Nathaniel, the European director of FIP as well as Bojan Bračič, the secretary of FEPA who represented FEPA president Jose Ramon Moreno.

Istvan Glatz, Chairman of Organizing Committee



The international jury with the FIP president and FIP director [left to right Karoly Szucs, Vojtech Jankovič (FIP-Slovakia), Dr. Bedřich Helm (FIP-Czech Republic), Bernard Beston (FIP president), Denes Czirok (FIP), Istvan Glatz (FIP), Yigal Nathaniel (FIP director), Adriano Bergamini (FIP-Swiss), Jozsef Vendel, Sandor Fülöp, Loránd Urmos (consultants)

ATLANTIC ALPEN–ADRIA 2019

Between the dates 2-6 October 2019, the sports arena in Portugal's Viana do Castello near the Atlantic Ocean was the site of the international exhibition attended by the members of the Alps Adria cooperative. The international jury's work was aided by José Ramon Moreno, FEPA's retiring president, who was the honorary chairman of the jury. He also personally directed the activities of the literature working group.

It was interesting to see that my Portuguese counterparts did not bother with appearances (everyone was given 5 points), but the judging was conducted without discussion about merit and the final tallying was also without bloody arguments. Two grand prizes were awarded and both went to Portuguese collectors. According to the system abroad, the best in class winner may participate only in the championship class for the next 5 years. This is the reason why there is always a championship class at international exhibits. Here are the results of the Hungarian exhibitors:

Dénes Czirók: Postal History of Hungary 1750-1850
95 points – LG + Best in Class

István Glatz: Mailings Directed Abroad 1900-1916
88 points – G

Gábor Nagy: Civilian Mail in the Service of the War Effort **85 points** (single frame) – G

Károly Szücs: The World of Signets by Hungarian Eyes
87 points – G + Best in Class

Szücs Károly: Fiscal Philately of Hungary
96 points – LG + Best in Class

Inasmuch as our exhibitors turned out to be the best in several classes (PH, REV, LIT) I came home with three artistic, gold-plated pendants that were awarded as a special prize.

Congratulations to the Hungarian exhibitors who are also our members for their excellent achievements that furthered the good reputation of Mafitt.

Any member of the jury had the opportunity to make a recommendation without reservation for the additional, extra awards. I find this to be a smart innovation because a novice exhibitor can be awarded a special prize even though his numerical score may be too low but who may have presented an exciting and interesting display, especially from recent years.

The organizers headed by president Pedro Vaz Periera expended a lot of effort in staging the exhibit.

A printed copy of the Palmares was not prepared. We received it via the internet, where it can be seen on the FEPA News website.

Dr. György L*ő*vei
Hungarian commissioner and judge



„Best in Class" awards won by our members

Free for members of Mafitt

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

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

www.mafitt.hu

2014



Volume XXX

2015



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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches
H-1074 Budapest, Harsfa u. 47 Belyegmuzeum, Mafitt
e-mail: **info@mafitt.hu**

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation

20
1

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2020/1

Content:

Denes Czirok FRPSL:

Telegraphic Money Order: Their Introduction and Types of Forms1868-1900 1.

Dr. Ferenc Nagy:

Philatelic Varietes From the End of War 1944 – 1945– Part One 24.

News 40.

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

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



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

DENES CZIROK FRPSL (ZALAEGERSZEG)

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

1. PRIOR LITERATURE

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

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

2. POSTAL HISTORY ANTECEDENTS

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

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



Verordnungen

für die

Oesterreichischen Post-Aemter.

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

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

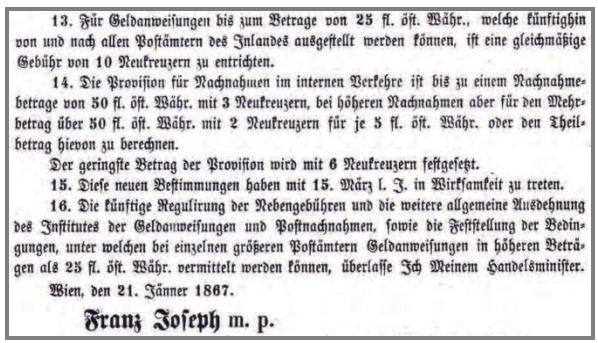
Kaiserliche Verordnung vom 21. Jänner 1867,

wegen Ermäßigung der inländischen Fahrpost-Gebühren.

Giltig für das ganze Reich.

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

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



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

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

Der geringste Betrag der Provision wird mit 6 Neukreuzern festgesetzt.

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

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

Wien, den 21. Jänner 1867.

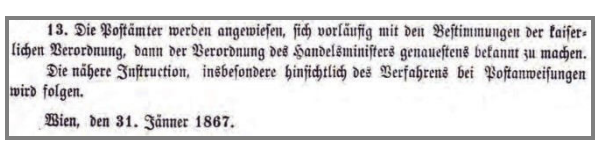
Franz Joseph m. p.

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

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

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

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



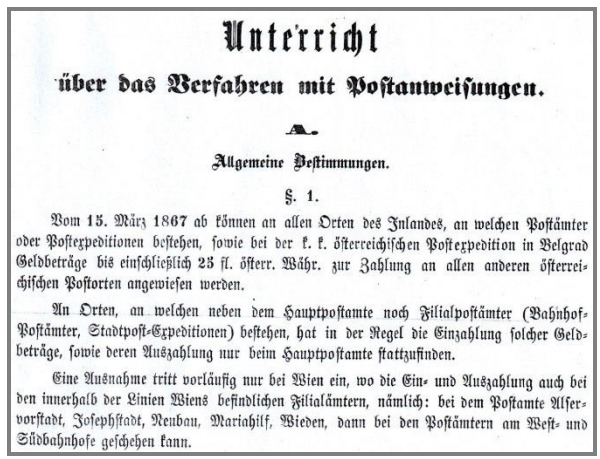
13. Die Postämter werden angewiesen, sich vorläufig mit den Bestimmungen der kaiserlichen Verordnung, dann der Verordnung des Handelsministers genauestens bekannt zu machen.

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

Wien, den 31. Jänner 1867.

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

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



Unterricht

über das Verfahren mit Postanweisungen.

A.

Allgemeine Bestimmungen.

§. 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. THE ORDER OF 20 APRIL 1868



RENDELVENYEK

A

MAGYAR POSTA-HIVATALOK SZÁMÁRA.

Közrebocsátja a kereskedelmi ministerium.

11. sz. Pest, april 25-én 1868.

Tartalom.

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

Inhalt.

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

A távirda közvetítésével eszközlött pénzutalványozások.

Vermittlung von Geldanweisungen im telegraphischen Wege.

5083/1426.

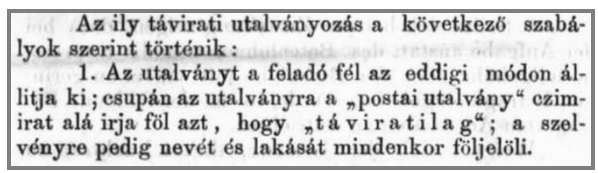
A cs. kir. kereskedelmi ministeriummal létrejött egyezmény alapján f. évi május 20-kától kezdve a belföldi forgalomnál a postai utalványozás végett befizetett összetek kifizetésére a rendeltetési hely postahivatala — ha a feladó ugy kivánja — táviratilag is utasitatni fog; ha t. i. a feladási és rendeltetési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

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

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

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

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



Az ily távirati utalványozás a következő szabályok szerint történik:

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

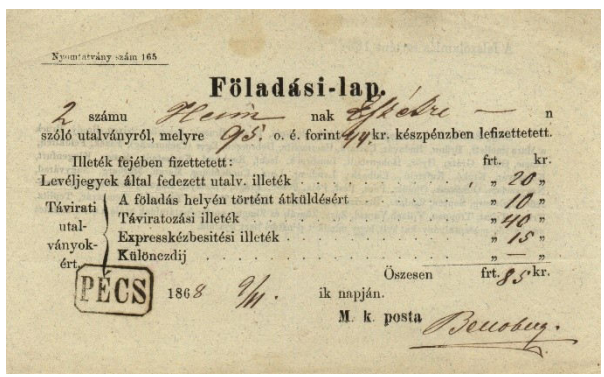
b) A feladási helytől a rendeltetési helyig táviratozott sürgöny illetéke, és pedig a 200 fton felül 500 fttig terjedő összletektől az ajánlatozott táviratok illetéke, vagy is még egyszer anyi, menyi a közönséges táviratért fizettetik.

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

Figure 9. The fees to be paid

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

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


Nyomtatvány szám 165

Föladási-lap.

2 számu Pécs nak Eszékre — n

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

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

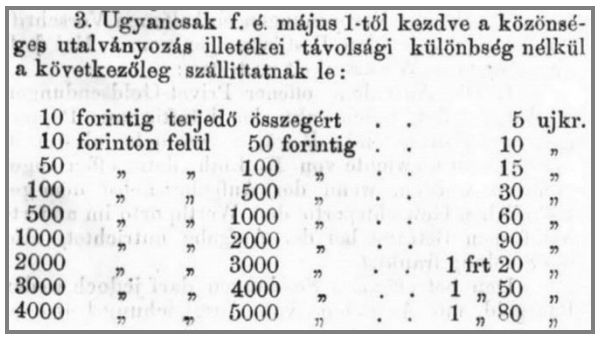
PÉCS 1868 9/11. ik napján.

M. k. posta Beneday.

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

4. THE ORDER OF 15 APRIL 1870

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



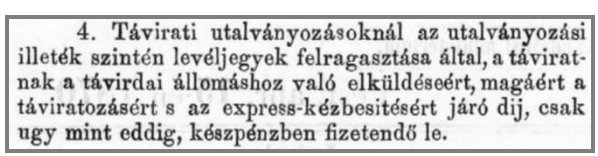
3. Ugyancsak f. é. május 1-től kezdve a közönséges utalványozás illetékei távolsági különbség nélkül a következőleg szállittatnak le:

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

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

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

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



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

Figure 12. Extra fees to be paid

5. „FORERUNNERS" OF THE TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER FORMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let us see one example of each type:

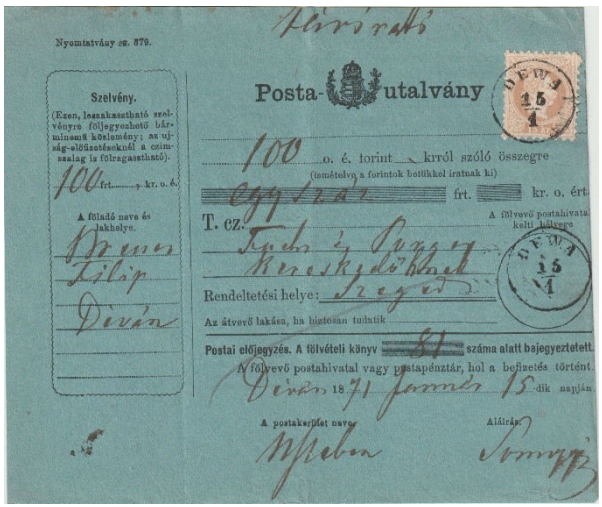


Figure 13. Blue coloured Hungarian language telegraphic postal money order form from Dewa to Szeged on 15 January 1871

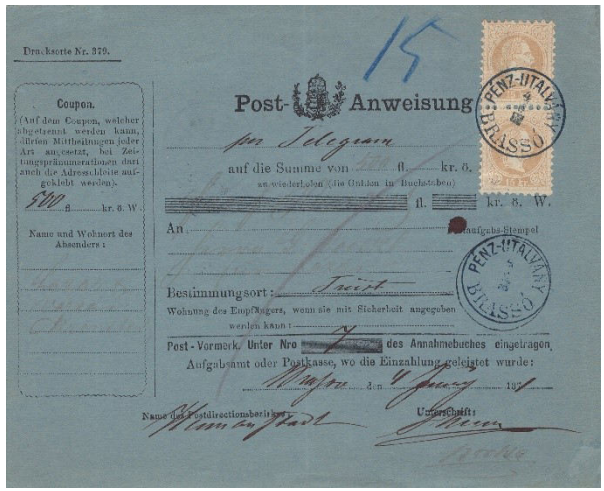


Figure 14. Blue coloured German language telegraphic postal money order form from Brasso to Trieste on 4 June 1871

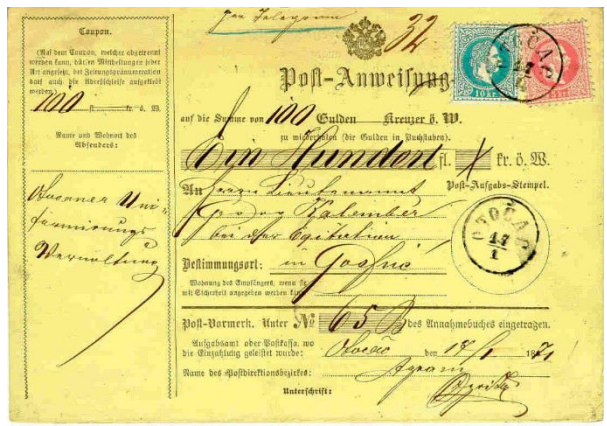


Figure 15. Yellow coloured German language postal money order form from Otocac to Gospic on 17 January 1871

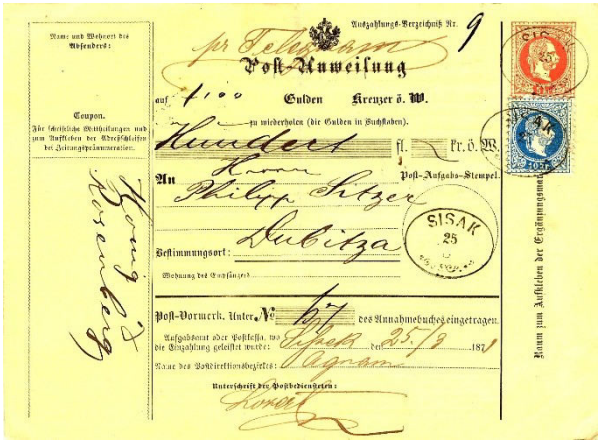


Figure 16. Yellow coloured telegraphic money order form with preprinted stamp from Sisak to Dubica on 25 March 1871

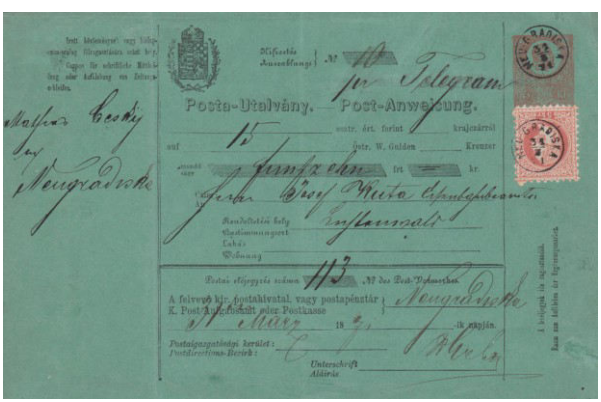


Figure 17. Green coloured telegraphic money order form from Neu-Gradisca on 31 March 1871

6. INTRODUCTION OF THE TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER FORMS

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


POSTAI

RENDELETEK TÁRA.

Közrebocsátja a kereskedelmi ministerium.

20. sz. Pest, julius 24. 1872.

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

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

Külön úrlapok használata a távirati utalványozásoknál.

Einführung eigener Blanquetten für telegrafische Postanweisungen.

7780/902

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

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

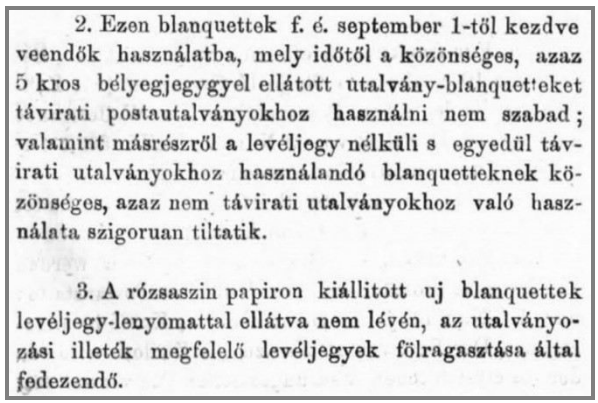
A távirati utalványok fedezetéül szolgáló utalványlapok szabálytalan kiállításából eredő gyakori viszszásságok elháritása czéljából a cs. k. osztrák kereskedelmi ministeriummal egyetértőleg rendeltetik, mint következik:

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

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

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

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



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

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

Figure 20. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the order

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



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

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

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

7.1. Characteristics of type 1:

Hungarian-German text with „big Hungarian" shield.



Figure 22a.

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

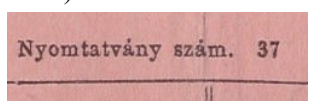


Figure 22b.

Upper text field with 12 rows, lower with 8 rows

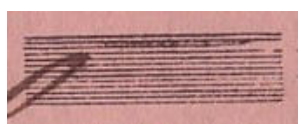


Figure 22c.



Figure 22d.

Colour: pink – brownish purple.

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

7.2. Characteristics of type 2.a.:

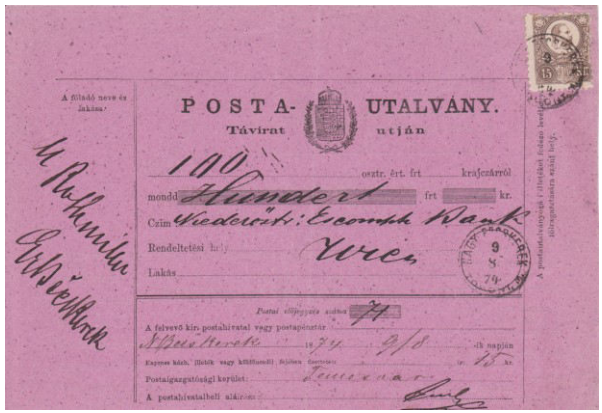


Figure 23. Telegraphic money order form type 2a

Hungarian text with „big Hungarian” shield.



Figure 24a.

No form number in the upper left corner.

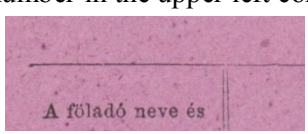


Figure 24b.

Upper text field with 14 rows, lower with 11 rows

.



Figure 24c.

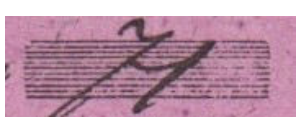


Figure 24d.

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

7.3. Characteristics of type 2.b.:

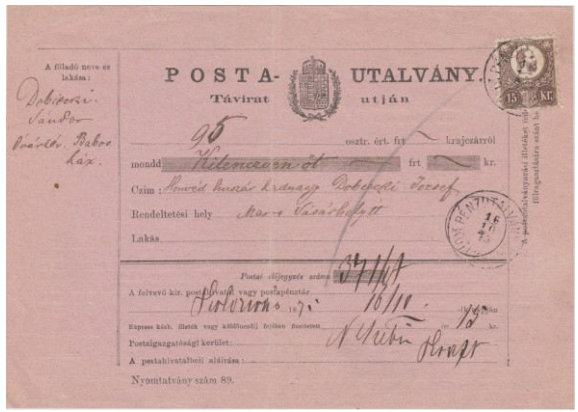


Figure 25. Telegraphic money order form type 2b from Kolozsvár

Hungarian text with „big Hungarian” shield.



Figure 26a.

No form number in the upper left corner.

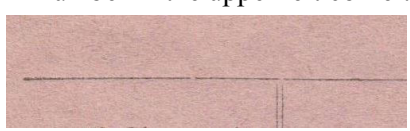


Figure 26b.

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

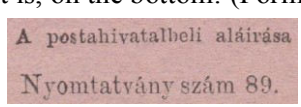


Figure 26c.

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

7.4. Characteristics of type 3.:

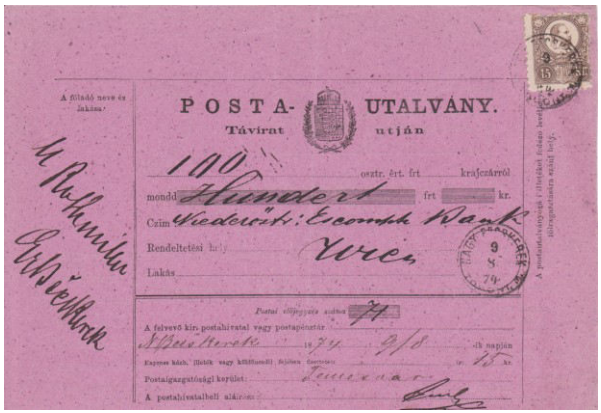


Figure 27. Telegraphic money order form type 3

Hungarian-Italian text with „big Hungarian" shield.



Figure 28a.

No form number in the upper left corner.

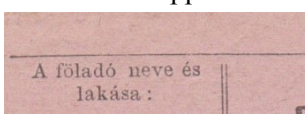


Figure 28b.

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

Colour: pink – brownish purple.

Period of usage: 23.06.1877. – 03.03.1878.

7.5. Characteristics of type 4.a.:

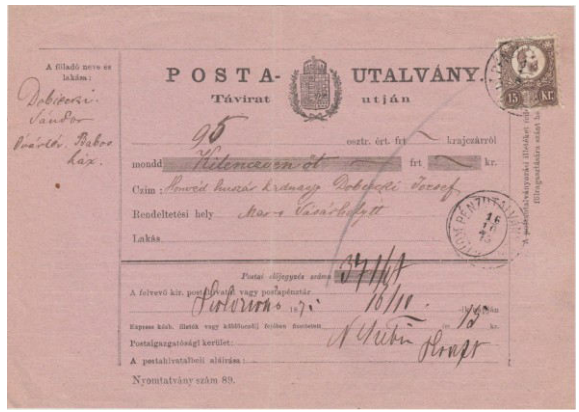


Figure 29. Telegraphic money order form type 4a

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



Figure 30a.

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

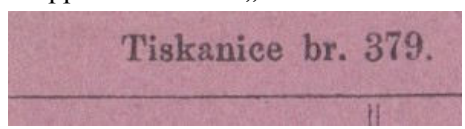


Figure 30b.

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

Colour: brownish purple.

Period of usage: 04.03.1874. – 04.04.1878.

7.6. Characteristics of type 4.b.:



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

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



Figure 32a.

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

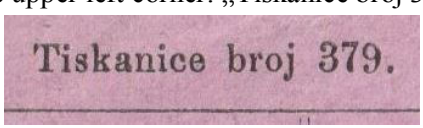


Figure 32b.

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

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

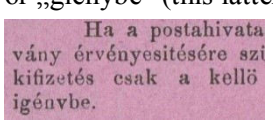


Figure 32c

Figure 32d.

Colour: brownish purple.

Period of usage: 21.07.1874. – 17.05.1876.

7.7. Characteristics of type 4.c.:

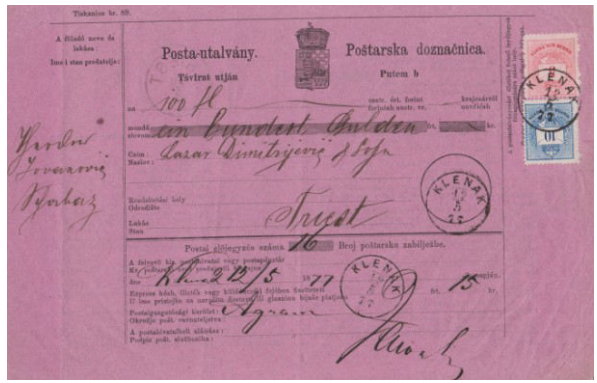


Figure 33. Telegraphic money order form type 4.c.

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

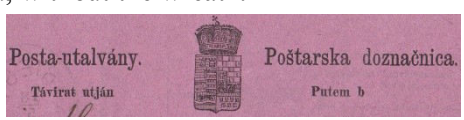


Figure 34a.

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

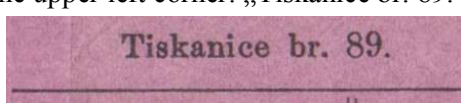


Figure 34b.

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

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

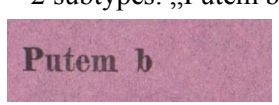


Figure 34c

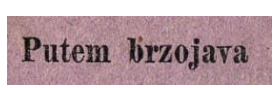


Figure 34d.

Colour: brownish purple.

Period of usage: 10.08.1876. – 12.05.1877.

7.8. Characteristics of type 4.d.:



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

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



Figure 36a.

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

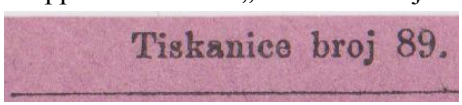


Figure 36b.

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

Colour: brownish purple.

Period of usage: 05.05.1875. – 03.05.1877.

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

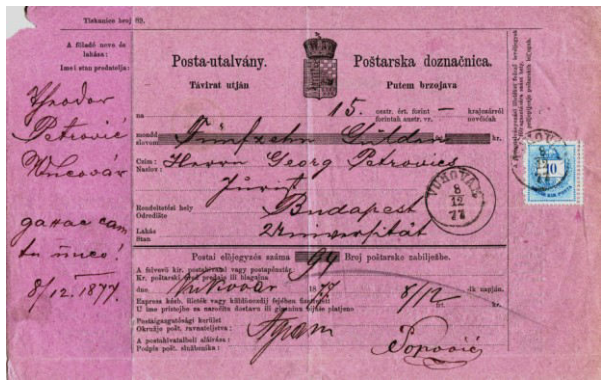


Figure 36c.

7.9. Summary of the types shown up to now

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

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

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

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

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

Figure 37a.

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



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

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

7.10. Characteristics of type 5.:



Figure 38. Telegraphic money order form type 5

Hungarian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn.



Figure 39a.

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

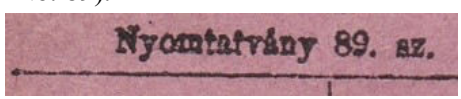


Figure 39b

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

Colour: Purple.

Period of usage: 02.12.1876. – 27.09.1878.

7.11. Characteristics of type 6.a.:

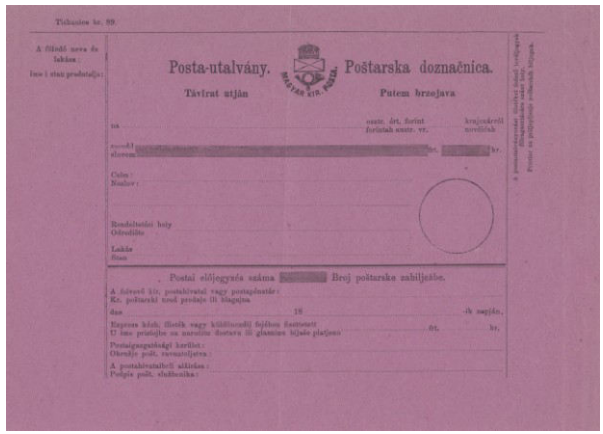


Figure 40. Telegraphic money order form type 6a

Hungarian - Croatian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn.



Figure 41a.

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

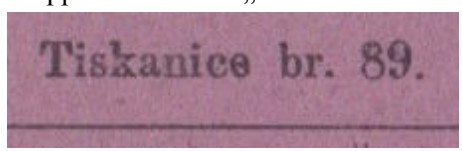


Figure 41b.

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

Colour: Purple.

Period of usage: 10.11.1877. – 26.08.1878.

7.12. Characteristics of type 6.b.:

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

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

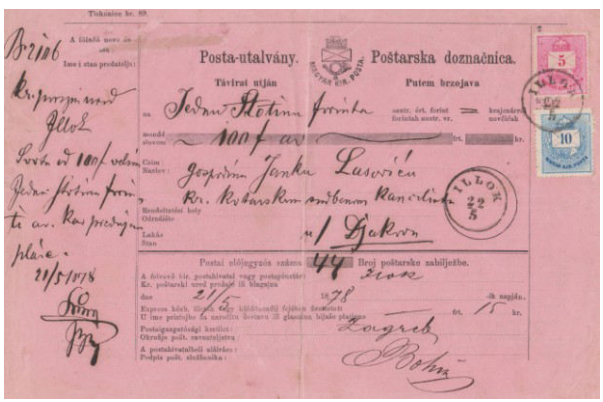


Figure 42. Telegraphic money order form type 6.b

Hungarian - Croatian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn.

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

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

Colour: Pinkish-purple.

Period of usage: 22.05.1878. – 13.11.1878.

7.13. Characteristics of type 6.c.:

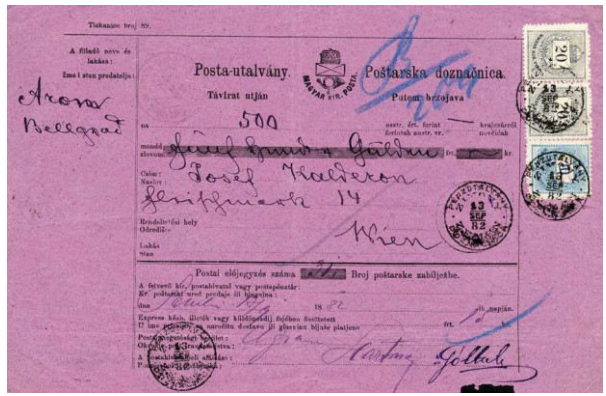


Figure 43. Telegraphic money order form type 6.c.

Hungarian - Croatian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn

See the previous one.

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

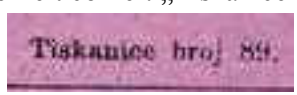


Figure 44.

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

Colour: Purple.

Period of usage: 13.09.1882.

7.14. Characteristics of type 6.d.:

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



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

Hungarian - Croatian text.

Instead of shield: Crown + envelope + post horn.

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

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

Colour: Pinkish-purple.

Period of usage: 27.12.1877.

7.15. Characteristics of type 7.:



Figure 46. Telegraphic money order form type 7.

Hungarian text.

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



Figure 47.

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

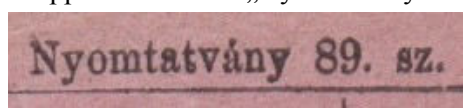


Figure 48.

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

Colour: Purple.

Period of usage: 19.12.1877. – 15.09.1884.

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

8. MORE ORDERS

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



POSTAI

RENDELETEK TÁRA.

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

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

Tartalom:

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

Inhalt:

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

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

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

24811.

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

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

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

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

Figure 50. The new money transfer fees

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

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

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

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

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

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

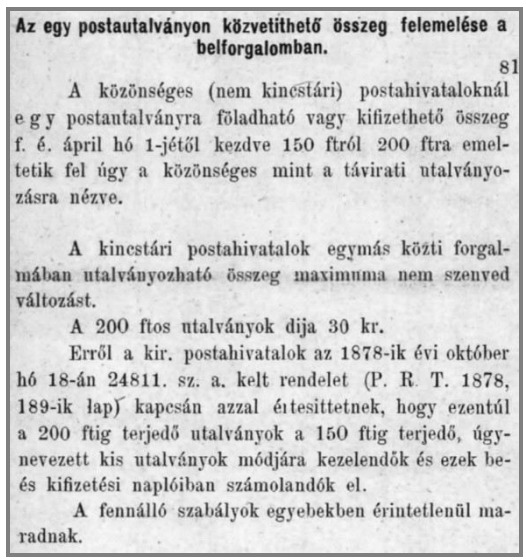
Higher sums (up to 1000 Ft) were only transferrable, as previously, among „treasury" post offices. The exceptions were Budapest and Vienna, which were able to accept transfers up to 5000 Ft.

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

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

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

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



Az egy postautalványon közvetithető összeg felemelése a belforgalomban.

81

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

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

A 200 ftos utalványok dija 30 kr.

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

A fennálló szabályok egyebekben érintetlenül maradnak.

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

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

9.1. Characteristics of type 8.a.:

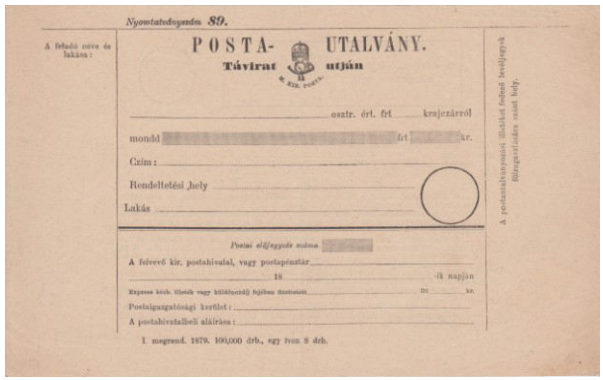


Figure 53.Telegraphic money order form type 8.a.

Hungarian text.

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



Figure 54a.

In the upper left corner: „Nyomtatványszám 89.”

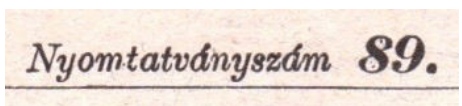


Figure 54b.

Order no:

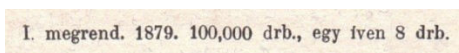


Figure 54c.

Upper text field with 12 rows, but dotted.



Figure 55a.

Lower text field with 12 rows, but dotted.



Figure 55b.

Colour: white.

Period of usage: 09.07.1883. – 25.08.1883.

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

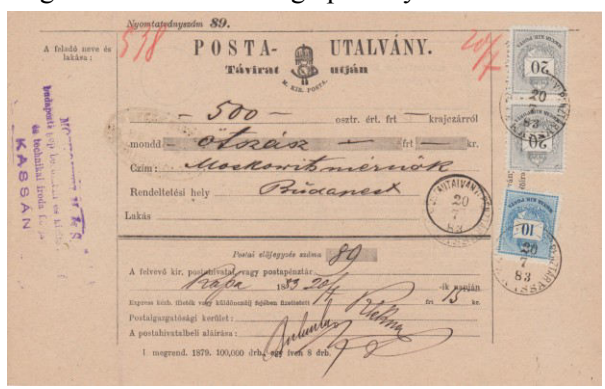


Figure 56. Telegraphic money order form type 8.a sent to engineer Moskowitz from Kassa to Pest

9.2. Characteristics of type 8.b.:

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

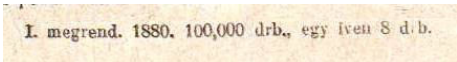


Figure 57. The different order number



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

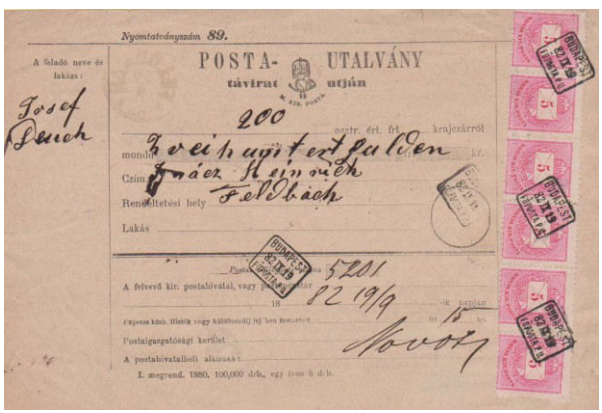


Figure 58b.The telegraphic money order form type 8.b.

Period of usage: 19.02.1882. – 16.08.1883.

9.3. Characteristics of type 8.c.:

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



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

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

9.4. Characteristics of type 9.a.:

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

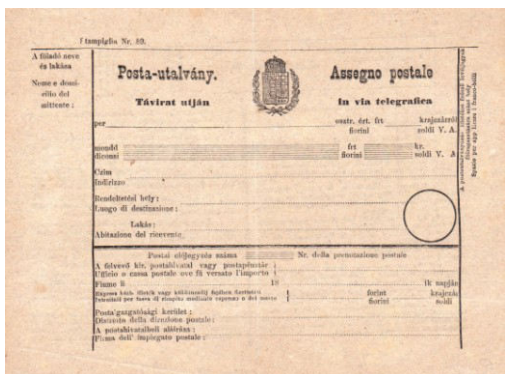


Figure 60. Telegraphic money order form type 9.a.

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



Figure 61a.

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

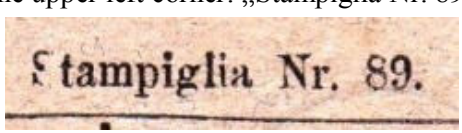


Figure 61b.

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

9.5. Characteristics of type 9.b.:

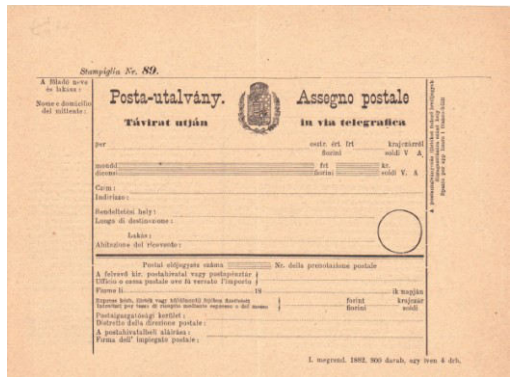


Figure 62. Telegraphic money order form type 9.b.

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



Figure 63a.

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

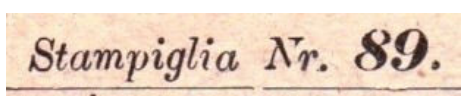


Figure 63b.

Order number:

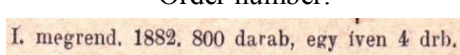


Figure 63c.

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

.

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

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

Figure 64. Summarizing table of types 5-9.

10. FREQUENCY OF TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER FORMS

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

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

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

Forms with 1871 stamps: 59 items

Forms with 1871-1874 stamps: 13 items

Forms with 1874 stamps: 119 items

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

11. FURHTER RESEARCH TASKS

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



Figure 65.

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

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

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

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

Literature used:

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

MBSZ
Magyar Bélyegvizsgáló Szakcsoport

In doubt? Have the experts of the

HUNGARIAN EXPERT COMMITTEE

examine your letters and stamps!

More information on the website of Mafitt:
www.mafitt.hu – menu item Stamp Examination



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

DR. FERENC NAGY (VIENNA)

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

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

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

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

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

Let me show a sheet with such a date.



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.1. USE IN DECEMBER 1944

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Knowing this situation, my VISUALIZATION is as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

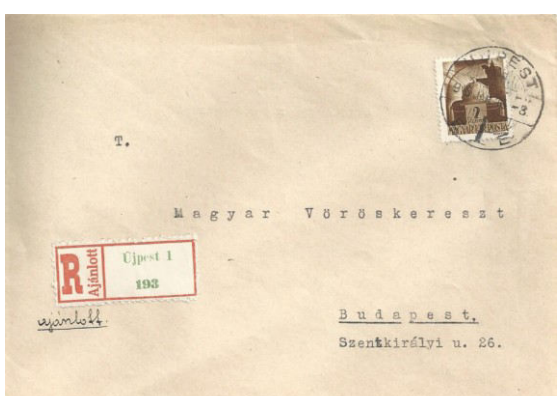


Figure 6. Registered letter mailed from Újpest on March 16, 1945 franked with a 2 Pengo stamp according to the "Budapest local emergency tariffs."

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

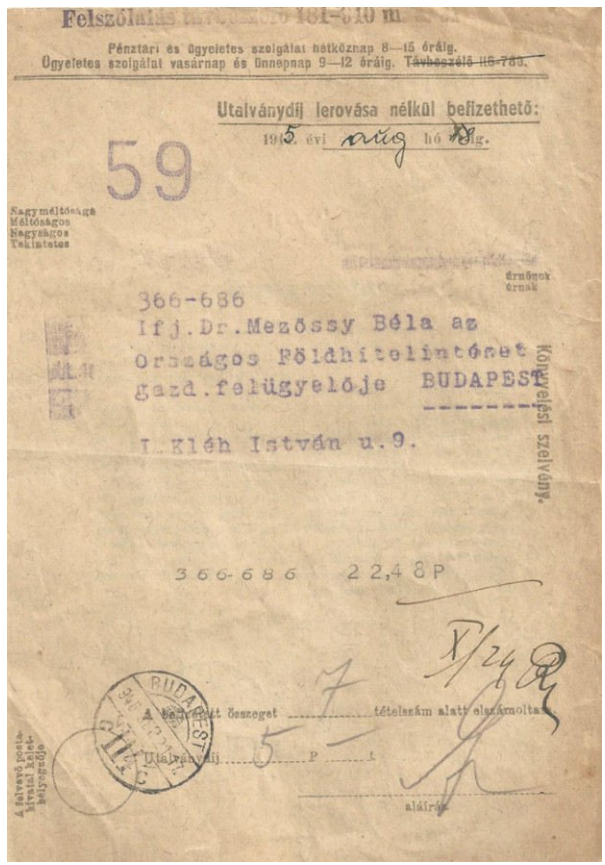


Figure 9a. 5 Pengo late fee paid on a telephone statement from the Budapest 114 post office (front side)



Tájékoztató.

A számla két elválasztott részből áll.

A jobboldal a könyvelési szelvény, amelyen az előfizető neve és a címe, továbbá az állomás száma és a fizetendő összeg van feltüntetve. Ez a könyvelési szelvény az összeg befizetésekor a postahivatalban marad.

A baloldali részen az összes esedékes díjak fel vannak sorolva. Tehát a ténylegesen folytatott s az esetleg a kötelező számból hiányzó helyi beszélgetések száma és díja, az alapdíj, stb., stb. Ezen az oldalon igazolja a postahivatal a befizetett összeg átvételét. Ez a lap postai befizetés esetében nyugtaként szerepel s ezért megőrzése ajánlatos.

A különböző díjtételek megjelölésére egy, illetőleg két betűből álló jelek szolgálnak, a lap felső részén lévő »Jelmagyarázat« szerint. Az előfizető javára eső összegek piros színnel vannak feltüntetve. A dőlt hatszámjegyű szám a kapcsolási számot jelenti. Ugyancsak dőlt, egy- vagy kétjegyű számmal van feltüntetve a kötelező számból hiányzó beszélgetések száma is.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

Good luck! (To be continued!)

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

NEWS

Tamas T. Sebestyen and the Dream Car

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

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

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

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

Karoly Szucs





In memoriam Leslie Grof /1933-2020/

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

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

www.mafitt.hu/pantheon



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

Free for members of Mafitt

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

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

www.mafitt.hu

2014



Volume XXXI

2015



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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches

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

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation

20
2

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2020/2

Content:

Dr. Geza Homonnay:

Hungary's Rarest Stamps 1.

Karoly Szucs:

Hungarian Revenue Stamp Rarities 19.

Dr. Ferenc Nagy:

Interesting Things About The 1945 Provisional Stamps 29.

News 36.

Editor Karoly Szucs, Secretary of Mafitt
Translation from Hungarian by Csaba Kohalmi

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



HUNGARY'S RAREST STAMPS

DR. GÉZA HOMONNAY (BUDAPEST)

The collector's fantasy is always attracted by scarcity the most. Stamp collectors are not an exception to this either…

There are many known Hungarian rarities, but I've never seen them grouped together, so I thought that it would be interesting to present them as a collection. Obviously, every such list is subjective because there doesn't seem to be sufficient data to be fully accurate. Nevertheless, in the past 25 years we have uncovered so much significant amount of information thanks to the internet that gross errors are no longer probable.

The author welcomes all kinds of data, comments, and possible corrections in order to be able to put together a more accurate, better listing based on "collective knowledge". We can also debate whether the APH newspaper stamps belong in this listing or whether it applies to the 2 kr and even the 1 kr newspaper tax stamps from the Military Frontier having been trial printings only. In summing up, they are still most likely to make it into the list of 20 + 1 entries great rarities.

In addition to giving a description and illustration of each entry, we will also note the valuations from 4 catalogues that price the given items. The Magyar Bélyegek Kézikönyve (the so-called Black Book) presents the best insight on the existing material, although in the 35 years that have elapsed there have been certain changes. The Black Book does not give prices but uses a point scale, thus fends off the effects of inflation. Let's say that in 2020 1 point is valued at 100Ft or ¾ Euro. We wish you good browsing!

We're going to present the items in chronological order and not on a scale of scarcity or value. Currently, the 1889 Black numeral 8 kr stamp without the numeral of value is considered to be the rarest Hungarian stamp of which 1, perhaps 2 copies are known. The most valuable one is the red 3 kr stamp from the 1867 issue.



Figure 1. Unused copies of the planned 1868 newspaper tax stamp for the Military Border District, which, as the article will state, are trial printings that were never placed into circulation. Gems from the Bergamini collection (enlargement).

1. THE YELLOW "MERCURY" NEWSPAPER STAMP 1851

Copies known: 45-50 (with Hungarian cancellation).

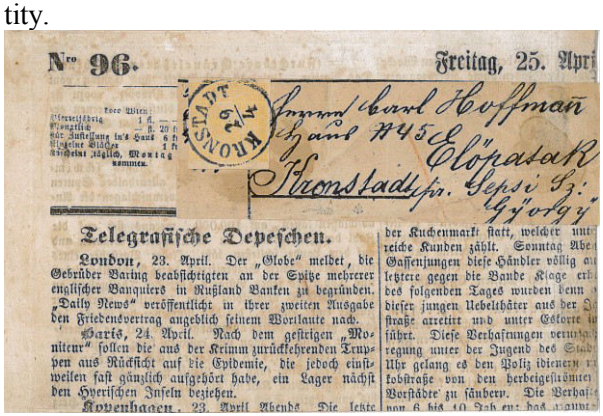
The scarcest postage stamps of the APH (Austrian Post in Hungary, June 1, 1850 to April 30, 1867) are the higher denominations of the Mer-

cury-head newspaper stamps of first series issued in 1851. (Actually the early newspaper tax stamps are rarer, but less valuable.)

Since the unused copies of the Austrian stamps from the APH era do not belong in a Hungarian collection, the scarcest being the cinnabar red newspaper stamp, of which only 300 sheets were printed and were never placed in use in Hungary, this stamp is not a Hungarian but an Austrian rarity.

Originally, the yellow newspaper stamp's face value was 6 kr and it was intended to be used to mail 10 copies of a newspaper. Since it did not see frequent use, the stamp's face value was reduced to 0.6 kr in 1856 in order to use up the exiting stock in mailing single copies of a newspaper. In this format, a small quantity of the stamp saw use in Hungary. (We know of one usage with the original face value.)

Unused copies survived in very small quantity.


Nro 96. Freitag, 25. Apri

Telegrafische Depeschen.

London, 23. April. Der „Globe" meldet, die Gebrüder Baring beabsichtigten an der Spitze mehrerer englischer Banquiers in Rußland Banken zu begründen. „Daily News" veröffentlicht in ihrer zweiten Ausgabe den Friedensvertrag angeblich seinem Wortlaute nach.

Paris, 24. April. Nach dem gestrigen „Moniteur" sollen die aus der Krimm zurückkehrenden Truppen aus Rücksicht auf die Epidemie, die jedoch einstweilen fast gänzlich aufgehört habe, ein Lager nächst den Hyerischen Inseln beziehen.

Kopenhagen, 23. April Abends. Die letzte

der Kuchenmarkt statt, welcher unt... reiche Kunden zählt. Sonntag Abe... Gassenjungen diese Händler völlig a... letztere gegen die Bande Klage erh... des folgenden Tages wurden denn ... dieser jungen Uebelthäter aus der ... straße arretirt und unter Eskorte in... führt. Diese Verhaftungen verur... regung unter der Jugend des Stadt... Uhr gelang es den Polizeidienern ... kobstraße von den herbeigeströmten ... Vorstädte zu säubern. Die Verhaf... von 6 bis 10 Jah en; das ...

Figure 2. Yellow Mercury-head with Kronstadt (Brassó) cancellation used on a large piece of the Wiener Telegraf newspaper dated April 25, 1856.

The stamp was affixed to the address label in Vienna; but, according to regulations, it was cancelled upon arrival at the destination – therefore, it is considered Hungarian, which is incorrect in my opinion (a hypothetical example: if a letter would arrive from Paris franked with French stamps, would we consider that to be Hungarian???).

MK (Magyar Bélyegek Katalógusa): used 1,000,000, on newspaper wrapper 3,000,000

Black Book (Black Book): used E9-E10 (=40,000 points), on newspaper wrapper R1 (=80,000 points)

2. ROSE-COLOURED "MERCURY" NEWSPAPER STAMP 1851

Copies known: 15-20 (with Hungarian cancellation).

The higher denominations of the 1851 series Mercury-head newspaper stamps, as already mentioned, are great rarities. In Hungarian relation the rarest one is the so-called "rose Mercury".

Originally, the rose-coloured newspaper stamp's face value was 30 kr and it was intended to be used to mail 50 copies of a newspaper. Since it did not see frequent use, the stamp's face value was reduced to 0.6 kr at the end of 1852 in order to use up the existing stock in mailing single copies of a newspaper. In this format, a small quantity of the stamp saw use in Hungary (to be precise, as these stamps were cancelled at the destination post offices, these stamps were on newspapers sent to Hungary, but most probably these were posted in Austria, according to the opinion of the author the Hungarian post offices did not receive any stock of this stamp). Very few unused copies survived.



Figure 3. A luxury copy of a nicely centred rose-coloured Mercury stamp with a wide margin and Pest cancellation.

MK: used copy 3,000,000, on newspaper wrapper 5,500,000

Black Book: used E10 (=50,000 points), on newspaper wrapper R1-R2 (=120,000 points)

3. THE 3 KR COLOUR ERROR OF THE 1867 ISSUE

Copies known: 6

The 1867 series was Hungary's first stamp issue. The circumstances around this issue are known. The stamps were printed in Vienna and were also used by the Austrian post; hence, they are catalogued under the term "Austro-Hungarian common issue." Nevertheless, our current knowledge dictates that these stamps with identical designs are separate Hungarian and Austrian issues.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100, for each denomination using a separate printing base upon which 100 dies were placed kept together with a frame. An error occurred sometime in the summer of 1867 during the printing of the 5 kr: a block intended for the 3 kr value replaced one of the 100 5 kr blocks in the plate. Thus, for every sheet of 100, one 3 kr value was printed alongside of the other 99 5 kr stamps. This became the 3 kr stamp printed in red. The sheets from this printing were shipped to Hungary. The error was discovered relatively quickly, so the faulty sheets were on sale for only 2 months, and since hardly anybody looked at the denomination on the stamp, countless seemingly uninteresting copies were relegated to the wastebasket.

Currently, 6 copies of this error exist, 2 on cover, 1 on a cutout, and 3 stamps. All three of the individual stamps are slightly damaged. The two letters are from identical mailings. István Gaál, a Hungarian collector, purchased the correspondence of the Pfeiffer Company in the late 1930s and discovered these printing errors. He then sold them to another Hungarian collector, László Pákozdy. In the late 1990s, one cover from Pákozdy's estate was sold in the Hungarofila auction. Pákozdy had sold the second cover earlier to Anton Jerger, an Austrian collector, whose estate was auctioned off by the Swiss Corinphila house in 2005.

There is a copy cancelled in Nagybecskerek in the author's collection that was purchased from the Swiss stamp dealer Bach in 2000. Originally, the stamp had attest stating that the stamp was once in the collection of King Michael of Romania and that it found its way to America in the late 1940s. Unfortunately, the original attest had been lost along the way.

Note: The Monograph mentions a copy with a Kecskemét cancellation, but this is in error since the October 2nd Nagybecskerek cancellation can easily be misread for Kecskemét…

The 6 known copies:



Figure 4. September 8, 1867 letter from Kőbánya to Vienna

This was auctioned off in Budapest in 1997 for 38 million forints (DM320,000) + auction commission (it became Hungarian property and it's stored in the Stamp Museum).

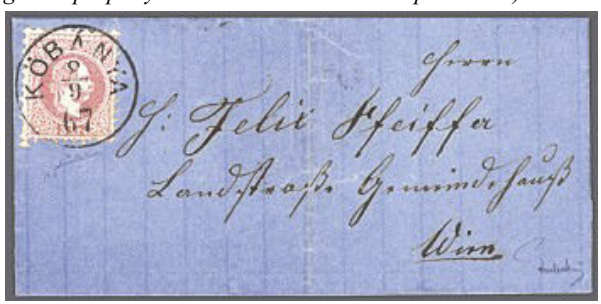


Figure 5. August 25, 1867 letter from Kőbánya to Vienna

This was auctioned in 2005 by Corinphila for the hammer price of CHF500,000 (about 100 million forints including the auction commission). It was purchased by an Italian. The cover originated from the Jerger collection.



Figure 6. Stamp cancelled Nagybecskerek, October 1, 1867. From Ryan and Wittenberg, presently in Hungary.

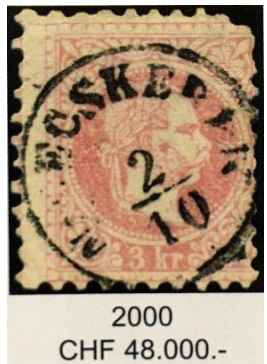


Figure 7. Stamp cancelled Nagybecskerek, October 2, 1867. From the author's collection.



Figure 8. Cutout with Detta cancellation, October 4, 1867. From Rothschild and Zgonc.



Figure 9. Stamp cancelled Brukenau, September 24, 1867. Sold in 2006 for €105,000.

MK 2020 A3 error print, used 20,000,000, on cover, 100,000,000

Black Book III 3kr red, used or on cutout R2 (=150.000 points), on cover R3 (250,000 points)

Yvert 2005 1ca 3kr red, used €40,000, on cover €175,000

4. **Newspaper Tax Stamps of the Military Border District 1868. - 1 Krajcár**

Copies known: 15-20 (probably trial printings, used copies are with fake cancellations or fake precancellations).

At the time of the Compromise of 1867, the Military Border District, a buffer strip between the Monarchy and the Turkish Empire remained under Austrian control along with Croatia and Slavonia. On April 1, 1868, the postal administration of the civilian area of Croatia-Slavonia became Hungarian while the Military Border District came under the jurisdiction of the joint Imperial and Royal Ministry of Defence. A postal directorate was established in Zimony (Semlin) in order to support this. Eventually, all of the post offices in the entire region came under Hungarian control on January 1, 1871. Previously, the Compromise of 1867 stipulated that all of the revenue collected in the Military Border District belonged to the Hungarian State Treasury. (Note: the newspaper tax revenue did not constitute postal income.)

In 1868, Hungary issued new newspaper tax stamps for its own use; however, Austria did not allow these to be used in the Military Border District unless they were overprinted with imperial insignia. Since the corners of the design on the Hungarian newspaper tax stamps were full of ornaments, an overprint of the imperial eagle would not have shown up well. Therefore, the two designs were redrawn; the India ink sketch of which survives (it was last exhibited during the Mafitt Salon in 2004 held in the Stamp Museum. The unique object can be seen on page 10 of the Philatelic 2014/2 magazine).

László Surányi wrote an article in the Philatelica 84/2 issue analyzing this stamp. His conclusion based on many logical arguments and facts was that this stamp was never placed into circulation. Most probably, it exists only in trial printing format. A number of the existing copies have been obliterated with illegible cancellations or pen markings – these are fake cancellations.

A few copies exist with so-called partial precancellations (five are known, all from the same source). According to Surányi, these fakes were prepared for the collection of Count Ferrari at the time of World War I (at times, the newspaper tax stamps were affixed to sheets of paper prior to printing so the text of the newsprint appears on the stamp; therefore, it is possible that such a stamp could exist).

Despite all of this, the stamp is popular in collecting circles and sells for high prices in auction. Probably the nicest copy sold for the hammer price of US$42,500 in a 2016 Siegel auction which is a startling result.



Figure 10. One of the finest unused copies with original gum

MK 2018/II	*13.000.000 Ft*	*9.000.000 Ft*
Black Book	*E10 (= 40.000 points)*	
Scott Classic	*9.500 USD*	*6.000 USD*
Yvert 2005	*25.000 EUR*	*18.000 EUR*

Both Scott and Yvert consider this stamp to be genuine because they mention that a 2 kr value was not issued. So this proves it?

5. Military Border District Newspaper Tax Stamp 1868 – 2 Krajcár

Copies known: 3-5 (trial prints)

The details concerning the 1 kr value were listed previously. From these we know that the 1 kr value was never placed into circulation. The unused copies are either from trial printing or from a printing that was never placed on sale, and the used examples are forgeries. The situation concerning the 2 kr value is simpler. The few existing copies are most certainly trial printings on thicker, cardboard paper. The Stamp Museum purchased a copy from Mirko Poppovits, whose accumulation served as the basis for the Stamp Museum's collection. There are two, maybe three other copies in existence. The examples in the Homonnay and Bergamini collections are identical in every aspect to the copy in the Stamp Museum.



Figure 11 Example from the author's collection

MK 2018/11 *RRR*
Black Book *6,000 points (an obvious undervaluation, if so, it's because of its trial printing pedigree)*
Not listed in Scott Classic and Yvert

6. Lithographed First Issue 2 kr ("Pockmarked Joe")

Copies known: 34 (all used)

After the State Printing Office finally received the presses suitable for printing stamps, the Hungarian Post happily ordered its first, printed in Hungary postage stamps. Because the engraved plates to be used on the appropriate press could not be prepared in time for the designated deadline, lithograph technology was decided upon as an interim solution to stamp production. This was the origin of the Lithograph series that was issued on the first of May 1867 (actually a few days later).

A quote from the Monograph: "*It is known from the history of the 1871 issue that the postal directors voided the first stamps and imprinted stationery items produced by the state printers in January 1871 because of their ugly appearance. The postal cards and postal money orders were released for circulation out of necessity. With this decision, the post ordered the destruction of 7,820,000 printed stamps and 360,000 finished stamps. The finished stamps – gummed and perforated – consisted of the 2 and 5 krajcár denominations, from which a few sheets of the 2 krajcár value escaped their fate. After two years, these were used for franking.*

Today it is impossible to find out neither to what luck their survival can be attributed nor the circumstances in which they were placed into circulation. It's only possible to make assumptions regarding this. It is possible that sample sheets were kept at the postal directorate. When they

came to light later, they were placed into circulation rather than destroying them.

It is also possible that the sample sheets were returned to the state printing office, a few sheets of the 2 kr were left out of the material destined to be destroyed and thus a small quantity remained. Later, these sheets were included with the engraved stamps and were shipped out. This 2 kr stamp printed lithographically was the first postage stamp produced in Hungary. It owes its origins and eventual survival to these unusual circumstances.

Basically, every stamp of the 1871 issue showing the portrait of Francis Joseph is uniform; however, the lines on the original engraved picture were reproduced imperfectly with extensive distortion on the first 2 kr stamp. On the stamp, the coloured lines of the picture are usually thicker thus making the white areas smaller resulting in changing the form of the original image. This stamp resembles the imprinted indicium found on early postal cards rather than on the lithographed and engraved stamps that followed later. The first sight of the pockmarked printing shows its similarity with the 2 kr imprint on the postal card. The resemblance of the two images to each other shows characteristics that are missing from the lithographed and engraved copies.

The origins of these deviations and the resulting unfavourable appearance of the first 2 kr stamp can be attributed to the method of preparation of the printing stone. The similarities between the 2kr stamp and the postal card imprint shows that the printing stone of the first 2 kr and the printing block of the postal card must have had the same origins. This means that image of the first postage stamp was transferred from a typographic printing block to the printing stone. This was the basic reason for the objections to the stamp. It is also possible that the preparation of the printing stone was not adequate and it contributed to the fact that the quality of the printed product did not meet expectations.

The use of the first 2 kr stamps (which were chrome-yellow as opposed to the colour of the later ones) occurred when the engraved version of this value was in use for a period of time. The copies known to date were all used at the Budapest main post office; and, judging from the dates on the cancellations, their use was limited to a few days. The assumptions based on these cancellations are in accordance with the scarcity of the stamp.

At this time, two types of cancellations are known. The first, dated on the 30th or the 31st, is a daytime cancellation missing the month and the year. The dating on the second type of cancellation is the evening of August 9, 1873, between 10-11. Most likely, the daytime cancellation is also from 1873, possibly from the months of July or August.

Up until now, the first 2 kr stamp was used to frank printed matter exclusively, and it is possible that in this short period, the entire available stock was used up at the main post office. This stamp surviving on an entire mailing or cutout has a value many times that of the normal 2 kr on a similar cover. Multiples are completely unknown. Similarly, unused copies are not known."

Since this publication, cancellations with 10 different dates have become known. Two complete pieces of printed matter mailings exist. One is in the Stamp Museum; the other, in the Bergamini collection. Pairs or strips of three could be assembled; unfortunately, the individual pieces are not in the same location.



Figure 12. First issue 1871 2 kr used on printed matter (Bergamini collection). 2 copies are known.



Figure 13. The same on a significantly enlarged single stamp

	Used	*On cutout*	*On printed matter*
MK	*1.800.000*	*60.000.000*	
Black Book	*40.000 pts*	*60.000 pts*	*R2 (=150.000 pts)*
Yvert	*9.000 EUR*		
Scott	*3.500 USD*		

7. COLOURED NUMERAL KRAJCÁR 1874. 3 KR – 9 ¼:9½ HARROW PERFORATION

Copies known: 7-10 (2 unused)

The coloured-numeral krajcár set was issued on the first of October 1874 and, along with its black-numeral cousin, remained in use for 26 years until September 30, 1900. Of this span, 23 years exclusively! Because of this, they are fairly common stamps; but, naturally, rarities can be found amongst them also. Thus, the scarcest variety is the 3 kr with harrow perforations. These were produced early in the life of this issue when the perforations were switched over from the $9^1/_4$:$9^1/_2$ gauge used for the engraved 1871 issue to the new gauge of 13. For a short period, the old equipment remained in use. According to the literature, genuine copies exist only of the 3 kr value. All existing copies of the 5 kr value and many copies of the 3 kr value are forgeries. In theory, 13:$9^1/_2$ mixed perforations could exist because line perforation was utilized, but no such genuine stamp is known.

According to the Black Book, unused copies do not exist. The Magyar Bélyegek Katalógusa gives a price, because there has been one item at the Ryan-auction in the 1990's and there is another in the Tapling-collection. The Stamp Museum possesses two used copies and there have been tow other ones at the Ryan-auction, one with Vácz, the

other with "Holdmezővásárhely" cancellation, the latter on a money order form.



Figure 14. The unused copy sold at the Ryan-auction

	Unused	*Used*	*On cutout*	*On cover*
MK	*1.500.000*	*500.000*	*800.000*	*3.000.000*
Black Book	*E7*	*E8*		
	(= 10.000 pts)	*(=20.000 pts)*		
Yvert	*5.000 EUR*	*1.800 EUR*	*7.500 EUR*	
Scott	*3.000 USD*	*2.000 USD*		

The catalogue valuations are not realistic considering the extreme scarcity of the stamp.

8.-10. COLOURED NUMERAL KRAJCÁR SET 1874, FIRST PRINTINGS

Copies known: 5-10 for each denomination (all unused)

In addition to the previously discussed perforation variety, the so-called first printing or otherwise known as Type 0 examples of the 2, 3, and 10 kr denominations are rare.

The stamps, with the denomination having the same colour as the stamp, were printed using the intaglio method and copper-engraved plates in one operation. The printing plates, made using Galvan plastic (electrotype) duplicating method, gave weak impressions of the fine lines in the stamp design. They wore out quickly and needed continuous repairs. The first printings were so poor that with the exception of the 5 kr value none of the others were issued. (The 5 kr value was used because the supply of 1871 5 kr engraved was exhausted.) The stamps printed in this first phase are called Type 0 or first printings. Their distinguishing mark is the lack of contour lines around the corner triangles.

The figure below illustrates this typical characteristic that applies to all 4 corner triangles:



Figure15. first printing – final plate



Figure 15a. Surviving denominations of the first printing

	2 kr	*3 kr*	*10 kr*
MK	*300.000*	*280.000*	*250.000*
Black Book	*20.000 pts*	*20.000 pts*	*20.000 pts*

This variety is not listed in international catalogues.

According to the experts, the 2 kr value is harder to find on the market than the other two denominates. Yet, there are 7 copies of this in the Stamp Museum, two of the 3 kr, and 4 of the 10 kr. The Black Book shows a very high valuation (R1=80,000 points) for used copies, but certified used copies are not known.

Catalogue prices are unrealistic since the stamps are extremely rare.

11. Black Numeral Krajcár 1888 – 8 Krajcár Without the Numeral of Value

Copies known: 1 or 2.

Three versions of the black-numeral krajcár issue that appeared in 1888 exist. In the beginning, a few denominations were issued printed using the so-called stereotype method. These are scarcer. Next, all 12 values were printed using the so-called electrotype method. Occasionally, the standard 12:11½ perforations for this issue were supplemented with 11½ perforations used on an auxiliary basis. These are also scarce. For several denominations such as the 10 and 20 kr values they are so scarce that they could fit into a listing demonstrating the scarcest Hungarian stamps.

I'd like to note that the black-numeral krajcár stamps also come with two distinct watermarks (the 1898 and the 1899 versions) as well as 11½auxiliary perforations. These are exceptionally scarce denominations almost all of which are hard to find. The catalogues do not reflect their relative scarcity. The 24 kr value with the 1899 watermark is scarce even with the standard perforations. With the auxiliary perforations, it hardly exists.

But the truly rare variety from the black-numeral krajcár series is the 8 kr value, electrotype printing from 1888 with the traditional perforations missing the numeral of value. This may be the scarcest Hungarian error print. Two sheets may have been stuck together during the printing of the denomination, so the bottom sheet did not receive the printing. This means that 100 such stamps may have been made, but today we know only one example. Folklore has it that there may be another one…



Figure 16. An example from the author's collection

This error print has not been listed in the catalogues.

12. 1900 First Turul Issue – 3 Korona 11½ Perforations

Copies known: 3 (all used)

The series of stamps issued on January 1, 1900 depicting the turul bird resulted of from the korona-fillér currency reform. This series ruled the Hungarian stamp scene for 14 years. Over the years, 5 series that varied from each other because of the watermarks, from III to VII, were issued. In the case of the first, 1900 issue, the then current

perforation, similar to the krajcár stamp, was 12:11¾. Occasionally, a supplemental 11½ gauge perforating bar was used. (In the case of the 1904 issue, this was utilized only on the 2 Korona value, the 11½perforation of which on an unused copy is a serious rarity.) Obviously, this case with every denomination makes the stamp scarcer than one with the basic perforation. The Magyar Bélyegek Katalógusa does not list prices for unused copies. With one exception, the Black Book and the foreign catalogues do price unused stamps. The exception is the 3 Korona denomination. This was not a successful choice for a denomination because practically there was no need for it. It was not included in the later series. Thus, the denomination was removed from service on March 31, 1901 and was relegated for use internally on parcel slips and telegrams according to the catalogue. Based on these facts, it appears that a total of 1-2 sheets could have been produced with 11½perforation. These sheets were then used in Trencsén. (Obviously, the whole sheet or sheets were used up, so unused copies do not exist.)

In 1971, the Monograph wrote the following about the stamp: "*Used stamps with 11½ perforation are scarce; most denominations of unused stamps are even scarcer. For example, only two examples of the 3 korona are known, both with Trencsén cancellation (from the collections of Schäffling and Szepes).*"

Well now, in the 50 years since then, only one additional copy surfaced making it three altogether:



Figure 17. Trencsén? Darabanth auction June 2011



Figure 18. Trencsén, September 27, 1901

Köhler auction, June 2020



Figure 19. Trencsén, October 1901
Example from the author's collection

	Unused	*Used*
MK	*1.500.000 Ft*	*820.000*
The Black Book questions its authenticity, does not give a valuation		
Yvert 2005	*-*	*3.000 EUR*
Scott 2010	*3.000 USD*	*1.500 USD*

13. GREEN POSTAGE DUE 1905 – 20 FILLÉR INVERTED DENOMINATION

Copies known: 6

The first Hungarian postage due series, the so-called green postage due set, was issued in 1903; and like the turul series, it was followed by 4 other series, each time with new watermarks from III to VII. The first and second postage due series was produced with two types of perforations. The fifth series is listed in the catalogues with two types of watermarks: VII (vertical) and VIIa (horizontal). These postage due stamps were valid for use until December 31, 1927.

The 20 fillér value from the second green postage due set issued in 1905 exists with an inverted denomination. The Monograph references the December 1927 edition of the Donaupost newspaper. This is the translation of the pertinent text from the article:

"*Three copies of the 20 fillér postage due stamps are known with the denomination printed inverted; and as the discoverer of one copy, who lives in Varasd, reported at the time that only one stamp in the sheet had an inverted numeral. A second copy is in the possession of a collector from Prague. It was cancelled in Varasd on June 15, 1907. A third used copy, similar to the first, was bought for 2100 francs in the auction of the Ferrari collection. The question was finally resolved when a complete sheet surfaced from abroad in the 1930s (Tivadar Schatz collection). The position of the error print based on this sheet is II.10, but it is unclear at this time if it occurred on sheet A or B.*"

The 20 fillér postage due stamp was printed in 2 x 100 sheets in two operations. The error occurred when one block for the numeral was placed upside down into the printing plate (the frame of the stamps was printed in the first operation, so these half-printed sheets went into the press to receive the denomination number).

The Monograph, as stated before, mentions the existence of 3 unused and one used copy. There is also an example on a cover (!) with Varasd, July 1, 1907 cancellation from the Bergamini collection as well as a sixth copy from the author's collection. Two are shown below:



Figure 20. 1905 inverted 20 fillér green postage due on a cover sent from Olmütz to Varasd, July 1, 1907.



Figure 21. 1905 inverted numeral 20 fillér green postage due with July 28 Draganic u Petakih cancellation

	Unused	*Used*
MK	*2.000.000*	*2.000.000*
Black Book	*R1 (=80.000 pts)*	*R1 (=80.000 pts)*
Yvert 2005	*4.000 EUR*	*3.000 EUR*
Scott 2010	*9.000 USD*	*9.000 USD*

Draganic is a small town in today's Croatia between Zagreb and Karlovac. Its name for a while was Draganic u Petakih, Petakih being a district of the town.

14. TURUL 1906 – 10 FILLÉR WITH "AUT." PERFIN

Known copies: 30-40 (one of these is unused)

The Hungarian Post, on May 1st 1906 (regulation 13.041/906 promulgated in the 1906 no. 17 edition of the PTRT) put in place two "automatic machines," one each at the Budapest 4 and Budapest 6 post offices, for the purpose of posting registered letters. First, the machine printed a registry label on the letter. Then, a postal employee affixed a 10 fillér stamp that was perforated "AUT." on the mailing. These stamps with the "AUT." perfin were not sold to the general public and could not be used for any other purpose. Therefore, these stamps were considered to be internal registry stamps. The automatic machine then provided a receipt for the deposited letter.

The machines that operated with a 10-fillér coin were removed at the beginning of July 1907 because they required complicated operation and were prone to failure. With the shutting down of the experiment, the function of the "AUT." stamps ceased since they could not be used for anything else. The left over stock was probably destroyed. In the past 40 years, only one unused stamp appeared within the sight of collectors:



Figure 22.



Figure 23.

Six or seven copies are known on cover mostly on local letters addressed to Budapest but two were sent domestically to Bia. An interesting additional aspect of one of these is that the perfin is upside down making this letter probably the most interesting item of all of the "AUT." covers (it can be found in the Kostyál collection).

	Unused	*Used*	*On piece*	*On cover*
MK	*950.000*	*200.000*	*400.000*	*2.500.000*
Black Book	*EÉ*	*400 pts*	*1.500 pts*	*4.500 pts*

The Yvert and Scott catalogues do not list this.

15. GREEN POSTAGE DUE 1908 – 20 FILLÉR INVERTED DENOMINATION

Copies known: 4

The third green postage due series also has an inverted numeral printing error similar to the one from the second series. Presumably, the upside down printing block was not discovered, and the printing continued with the third series resulting in an inverted denomination in one position. The Monograph describes it so: "*Inverted denomination. Similarly to the 1907 series, this occurred on the 20 fillér value that resulted from the previously discussed printing of the postage due stamps. Based on used copies, these were used in Szeged. Naturally, the sheet position is the same as in the 1907 series – II.10.*

Rédey does not mention these, but Payer, who was not aware of the 1907 inverts, knew about two copies: one was unused originally from the auctioned-off Ferrari collection, the other was used - (cancelled Szeged 1, November 1909, with the day of the month hardly visible, but most likely from the end of the month) – from the collection of Mirkó Poppovits. The third example, cancelled Szeged 1, December 9, 1909, was found by Móric Székely, a collector from Szeged, in 1928. "

It is unclear why the Monograph refers to 1907 when the second series was issued in 1905 even though the printing of some of the stamps occurred later. In any event, there exists still another copy not mentioned in the Monograph:



Figure 24. 1908 green postage due with inverted denomination cancelled Zengg, May 27, 1910

MK	*2.000.000*	*2.000.000*
Black Book	*R1 (=80.000 pts)*	*R1 (=80.000 pts)*
Yvert 2005	*-*	*3.000 EUR*
Scott 2010	*9.000 USD*	*9.000 USD*

16. "RED-NUMERAL POSTAGE DUE" 1915-1920 – 120 FILLÉR AND 200 FILLÉR IN A VERTICAL PAIR

Copies known: 2 or 3

This was followed by the red numeral postage due series issued in 1915. Five new values were added in 1920. One of the most interesting Hungarian varieties is associated with this series; that is, two differently denominated stamps a pair (such a variety occurred in a few other error prints, for example, the 1913 35/50 fillér or the 600/800 korona Harvester, but both stamps in this joined pair of postage due stamps is a normal stamp and not an error print). The Monograph describes it this way:

"*<u>Special printing.</u> A block of four with a margin on the left side surfaced on the philatelic market in 1928 on which the denomination on the upper*

two stamps was 120 fillér while the lower two were denominated 200 fillér. The investigation regarding this conducted by the State Printing Office concluded that the pairs were glued together. The opinion of the federation's expert committee and the Technical University's special examiners was the block was a genuine, intact, phase printing partial sheet (imperforate with printed stamp design) that received the genuine value imprint of the state printers. This was then perforated but the gum and the marginal tallying numbers were missing."

In other words, according to the experts, the block of four was created under normal circumstances at the State Printing Office. (On the other hand, this series also has stamps with inverted denomination. The 15 and 50 fillér values exist in this condition, but they are not scarce.)



Figure 25. Example from the author's collection – good probability that it is one of the two pairs from the block of four, but it is also possible that it is a third example.

MK 800.000

17. "MAGYAR POSTA" POSTAGE DUE 1920 – 2 FILLÉR WITH INVERTED DENOMINATION

Copies known: maximum 17

In 1919, the "Köztársaság" overprinted postage due stamps were issued. Up until now, every issue was inscribed "Magyar Kir. Posta." Since the last Hungarian king, Habsburg Károly abdicated in 1918, the new postage due stamps issued in 1920

were different than the previous issues. Their inscription was "Magyar Posta."

Just like the 20 fillér stamp from the 1905 and the 1908 green postage due series, this series also has a value with inverted denomination, this time the 2 filler value. This also differs from the other two series because only unused examples are known. The Monograph wrote this about it: *"The 2 fillér is known with an inverted denomination. It was discovered in Vienna from a packet of 150 stamps. Seventeen pieces turned up in the packet of 150 stamps. The error resulted from the stamps being printed in two operations. As a result, a printer's sheet of 2x100 must have been produced. We had not seen it on a mailing*."

The obvious question is how many of the 17 examples survived after nearly 100 years had passed. It's a good chance that a large percentage of them survived since they were known to be great rarities when they were discovered.



Figure 26. Example from the author's collection

	Unused	*Hinged*
MK	*1.000.000*	*700.000*
Black Book	*E6 (= 6.000 pts)*	
Yvert	*1.200 EUR*	
Scott	*3.000 USD*	*2.000 USD*

18. THE "INVERTED" MADONNA

Copies known: about 20 unused and 20 used

The Crowned Madonna series of 10 stamps was issued during the period of the korona inflation between 1921 and 1925. The stamps were printed in two operations: first, the frame of the stamp; second, the centre design. One sheet of the 5000 korona value that was issued in December of 1923 was placed upside down into the press for the second printing operation resulting in an inverted (and slightly off centre) central design.

Its existence was discovered in January 1925 at the Budapest Workers' Insurance Institute (currently the ONYF located on Fiume Street). The stamps were sold at a nearby tobacco shop. When the error was recalled, 80 stamps had already been sold. A smaller quantity of these were used at the Budapest 72 (Keleti main post office), while the larger quantity originated from the Budapest 85 post office (44 Orczy Street).



Figures 27-28. Unused stamp and pair

	Unused	*Hinged*	*Used*	*On cutout*
MK: 405.	*6.000.000*	*4.500.000*	*4.000.000*	*5.000.000*
Black Book:	*40.000 pts*	*40.000 pts*		
Scott	*17.500 USD*	*15.000 USD*	*8.000 USD*	
Yvert	*12.000 EUR*		*10.000 EUR*	

This is frequently seen in auction and sells for a price of about 10,000 dollars.

19. THE "NAGYMÁNYA" 70 FILLÉR (WITHOUT THE "HAZATÉRÉS 1938" OVERPRINT)

Copies known: 32 unused (25 in the Stamp Museum), 17 used (1 in the Stamp Museum)

A set of two stamps were issued on the eve of World War II to commemorate the return of the first returned territory that was detached by Trianon. The 20 fillér and 70 fillér stamps from the 1938 Saint Stephen set were modified by reprinting in different colours. The 20 fillér stamp received a black and the 70 fillér stamp a red overprint of the text "Hazatérés 1938." Theoretically, these stamps could not have existed without the overprint. Nevertheless, the printers missed the overprint from one sheet of the 70 fillér stamp. The sheet was delivered to the post office of the village of Nagymánya in Upper Hungary. There, 62 copies were sold before the post office discovered the error and recalled the stamps. From the remaining irregular stamps, the Stamp Museum received a block of 24 and one single stamp. The other stamps that went into circulation were used between April 26th and May 20th, 1939.



Figure 29. Hazatérés1938 70f "Nagymánya" error print without the overprint

	Unused	*Hinged*	*Used*	*On cover*
MK: 625.Tny.	*4.500.000*		*3.000.000*	*7.500.000*
Black Book:	*30.000*	*28.000*	*40.000*	*70.000*
Yvert 2005	*9.000 EUR*		*10.000 EUR*	

Half of the used copies, including two covers, can be found in the collection of the late Ferenc Kostyál. He wrote a detailed article about this error in the Philatelica 13/1 issue.

20. RAILROAD ANNIVERSARY 1945 – 40,000 ADÓPENGŐ MISSING NUMERAL OF VALUE

Copies known: 100

Let the error print from 1946 Railroad anniversary set be the modern candidate in the list of Hungarian rarities. Hungary's first railway line was between Budapest and Vác. The first train puffed its way on this, Europe's 11th line, on July 15, 1846. Among its passengers were Palatine József and his family. The post issued a set of 4 stamps to commemorate this momentous anniversary. Since the country was at the apex of the hyperinflation, the stamps were denominated in adópengő (tax pengő). The conversion rate of one adópengő was worth about 1 sextillion (one followed by 21 zeros) regular pengő.

During the printing of the highest denomination, the 40,000 adópengő stamp, (that occurred in two operations: first, the image of the stamp, then the denomination) one sheet stuck to the bottom of another and did not receive the denomination. This error was not discovered either during the gumming or during the perforating. The sheet without the denomination was distributed by the Federation to the stamp collectors' group of Athletic Club of Terézváros. It continued to escape discovery even after a large quantity was distributed amongst the members. Today it is one of the most sought-after Hungarian printing errors (perhaps the 1959 Moon Rocket printing error is in the same category).



Figure 30. Marginal copy from a Darabanth auction

MK: 800.000 Black Book: 7.500 pts

+1. THE BALATON STAMPS – THE FIRST HUNGARIAN PRIVATE POSTAGE STAMPS

Copies known: 8 green, 7 blue, 2 red

In some instances, private individuals assumed the delivery of letters to the nearest post office from settlements where the Hungarian Post did not establish a post office. Special permission for this activity needed to be given by the Hungarian Royal Post because of its monopoly on mail delivery. As a result of this, we consider private posts to be official. These private individuals collected a fee for their activity. Occasionally, they issued their own stamps in order to facilitate accounting, similarly to the state post office. We call these stamps private postage stamps. The best known Hungarian private postage stamps are the ones used in Hohe Rinne (the resort located on High Mountain in Transylvania) between 1896 and 1918. These, however, were preceded both in time and rarity by the so-called Balaton stamps.

These stamps were printed in 1875 in a quantity of 500 by the Zala-Somogy Steamship Company that operated a ship on the Balaton between Révfülöp and Boglár. The stamps were in use for

only three months during the second half of the season in 1875. The ship providing the service was named Balaton; hence, the stamps got their name not from the lake but from the ship. The company operating the ship went bankrupt in the following year (perhaps they did not print enough stamps…), and the ship was transferred for service on the Danube.

Research indicates that the three stamps printed in different colours all had the same, 5 krajcár face value. Unused copies did not survive. We heard of one unused copy that survived. Fifty percent of all of the stamps in private hands are in the Czirók collection; the others are scattered about, mostly in the large ship-mail collections all over the world.

The source of this information is an article by Dr. Ferenc Nagy published in the Philatelica 79/1.



Figure 30. Marginal copy from a Darabanth auction

Black Book: *green E10 (= 40.000 pts)*
blue R1 (= 70.000 pts)
red R2 (= 150.000 pts)

The Magyar Bélyegek Katalógusa does not price these stamps but notes that they are world class rarities.

I would like to express my thanks to Attila Bándi, Dénes Czirók and Károly Szűcs for the valuable help provided for the birth of this article.



HUNGARIAN REVENUE STAMP RARITIES

KÁROLY SZÜCS (BUDAPEST)

One of our revenue stamps has a good reason to be listed among the greatest philatelic rarities. This was discussed in the previous article. In the catalogues, it is listed together with the postage stamps because it was cancelled on arrival of the newspapers. The Philatelica's current issue would not be complete for me without discussing our similarly rare revenue stamps that have been included in the "Revenues" exhibition class in international FIP exhibitions since the 90s courtesy of the efforts by Gary S. Ryan, who was of Hungarian descent.

I would like to emphasize that the demand and the market value in exclusive international auctions for the greatest treasures of fiscal philately usually cannot be compared to that of the star pieces of the postage stamps shown on the preceding pages. In every era, interest in this collecting speciality was limited to a few, well-heeled collectors, who were familiar with larger collections and knew where these curiosities could be found. This made it possible for the few surviving examples to find new owners directly outside of auctions.

Examples of these, with the exception of the Military Border District issues, seldom or never appear in auctions. We should not disregard the fact that 30 years ago, revenue stamps could not be exhibited. It is understandable, that it is natural for interest to increase only slowly in this long-neglected speciality. Compared to the prices realized for similarly scarce postage stamps, the hammer prices for revenue rarities, as a rule, are still an order of magnitude less today.

Because only three decades have elapsed since fiscal stamps made their appearance in FIP exhibitions, we don't have the well-entrenched information about them as we do about postage stamps. These have been researched by many more collectors for a much longer period of time. This article is to fill the gap with examples that I have encountered in my more than a half century of collecting experience. I am using this information to base my estimate of the quantities. The contents of a number of large collections has come to light in the past decades as a result of the definite increased collecting and research activity on the international level. This is probably our best fountain of knowledge available to us presently.

The catalogues that list the revenue stamps from the era of the Austrian Fiscal Administration – abbreviated as AFA as APH is customary in postage philately – preceding the appearance of the independent Hungarian revenue stamps in 1868 show a goodly number of classical rarities. A couple of such example from 1854 are the inverted 2 Gulden and the 16 Gulden with transposed base printing. Also included are three denominations from the 1858 series with inverted centres, the 8 Gulden on blue paper from 1859, the 1 kreuzer from 1863 with provisional perforations as well as several advertising and almanac stamps from different years. I have definite knowledge of only two that had Hungarian usage. Since our knowledge in this area can never be all inclusive, I would be grateful if readers of this article would share information about other Hun-

garian usages of the aforementioned AFA stamps and point it out to me.

1. 10 Krajcár Documentary Revenue Stamp From 1858 With Inveerted Denomination

Only one example is known with Hungarian usage:

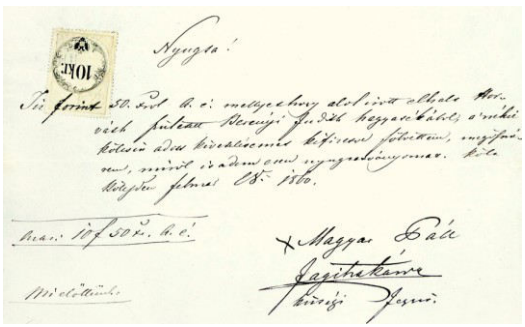


Figure 1. Picture from a Hungarian auction catalogue from around the turn of the millennium. According to a written statement from the auctioneer, the lot sold for one million forints.

Catalogue valuations: Kaptay: RR; Fl: 10,000 points; PF: RRR; MK: EÉ (the abbreviations are explained in the list of the referenced literature).

2. Engraved-Numeral Two Krajcár Advertising Stamp From 1859

The history of the stamp is tied to the printer's workload being pressed for time due to the slowness of the bureaucracy during the monetary reform of 1858. Only a few weeks remained for the task completion following the finalization of the decree. New denominations were required because of the monetary reform of November 1, 1858, so the images of the stamps were provisionally altered by excising the numerals and printing new values typographically in a second operation. The image of the alteration diverges slightly from that printed using engraving. This is most noticeable on the base of the numeral 2.

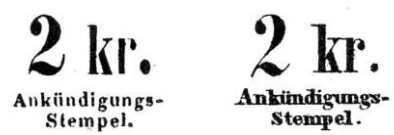


Figure 2. Typographic and engraved printings

The printers dealt with the overload phase of this work incrementally. During the following year, they engraved the numerals one at a time into each position of the master plates denomination by denomination.

Inasmuch as the 2 krajcár advertising stamp was practically never used, the supply of typographed printing lasted a long time. There was virtually little need to use the printing plate with the engraved numeral. After the initial testing of the plate, it was occasionally put into use during the remaining few years of the AFA era whenever the supply needed to be replenished.

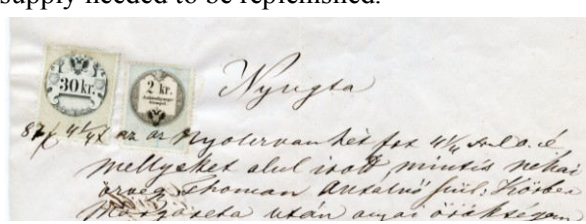


Figure 3. Engraved numeral 2 krajcár advertising stamp on a Hungarian receipt from 1863, the author's specimen (detail)

Kaptay: R; Fl: 5,000 points; PF: R; MK: 280,000 Ft

Copies of these stamps soaked off paper may exist. It could be possible to confirm the Hungarian usage of these based on the handwritten obliteration. Unfortunately, we have not encountered such examples.

3. Scarce Values From The Military Border District 1868 Series

The Military Border District was under the fiscal control of the joint Ministry of Defence. The special revenue stamps used there until March 31, 1873 represent a transition from the AFA to the independent Hungarian issues. Here, versions of Hungarian stamps overprinted with the imperial eagle in gold colour were used to collect the revenue that benefitted the Hungarian state treasury. The 6, 7, 12, and 15 forint values stand out from the 28 denomination set since barely a dozen examples survive from each variety.



Figure 4-7. The scarcest stamps from the Military Border District revenue series from the author's collection

Kaptay: RR, Fl 2,000-8,000 points

PF: R-RR, MK: 325,000-RR (the 6 forint stamp is undervalued by two catalogues)

4. The 1868 Purchase Tax Revenue Stamps Of The Military Border District

Every denomination of the revenue stamps, collectively called "purchase duty stamps" (that were in reality a tax) required to be used on advertisements, almanacs, and newspapers, issued for the Military Border District is a rarity. Only three copies of the one krajcár and one each of the two and six krajcár stamp are known to exist.



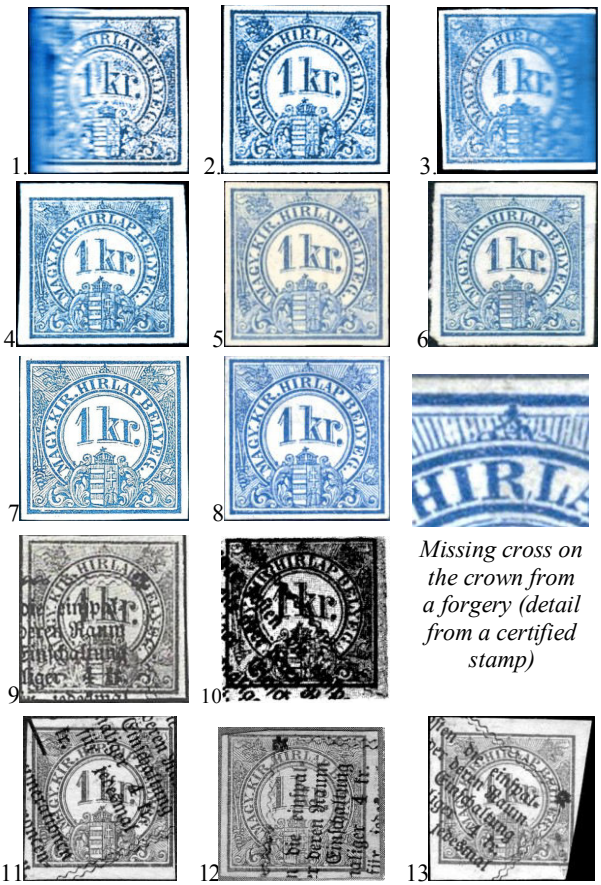
Figures 8-10. 1, 2, and 6 krajcár values of purchase duty stamps

Kaptay: RR, Floderer: 5,000 points, PF: €650-R, MK: 1kr 50,000, the others 200,000 Ft (the MK valuations are too low)

As can be seen from the illustration the white margins of the one krajcár stamp are unusual and much wider than those on the other two because the spacing on the master plate was wrong. It was not aligned with the 21x28 mm size of the regular revenue stamps but rather with the few millimetres larger underprinting of the documentary revenue stamps.

The often-mentioned Military Border District newspaper tax stamp belongs in this group. It is discussed in detail in the preceding article. To complement this, I have the opportunity to show eight stamps from auctions, identifying and matching them by using the smaller-large irregularities in the cuttings. Furthermore, I'm showing five copies of "ferraritas" with faked precancellations - probably made to satisfy Count Ferrary's, who was considered a very good customer, high expectations for authenticity by the Viennese

stamp dealer Friedl – and also one copy with an imitation cancellation.[1]



Missing cross on the crown from a forgery (detail from a certified stamp)

Figures 11-24. Colour-corrected images from various auction catalogues; black and white images of copies with fake precancellations. Example 11 is from the author's collection. Floderer: EÉ; PF: approx. €40/30,000, MK: 13/9 million Ft

[1] Five additional examples to the ones shown in the number 2016/3 edition of the OKMÁNYBÉYEG newspaper.



Figure 25. Detail from a stamp featured in a 2011 auction. The stamp design significantly deviates from the original in several places: e.g., the cross connecting the two frame lines is missing, the letter R is narrower, the frame line is doubly wide, etc.

5. Inverted ½ and 1 Krajcár From 1868

Two values from our first revenue series issued in 1868 and printed in Vienna occur with inverted centres. The half-krajcár stamp that was printed in great haste using three different paper stocks can be found with inverted centre on two different papers. Besides the two shown here, only one other copy is known. We are aware of the one krajcár only from the catalogues, for sure.



Figures 26. Inverted centre half-krajcár stamps on yellowish and white paper from the author's collection (the sizes of the stamps are different due to line perforations)

½ kr: Kaptay: R, Floderer: 2,000 points, PF: R, MK: 600,000 Ft
1 kr: Kaptay: RR. Floderer: 3,000 points, PF: R, MK: 800,000 Ft

6. Inverted 3, 5, and 10 Krajcár 1870

The State Printing Office, on October 1, 1870, prepared to continue the printing of the revenue stamps with green underprinting using the original printing plates that were made initially for Hungarian stamp orders. From this printing, three values turned up with inverted centres.

Because of their great scarcity, I am able to show only one denomination, three examples, one of which has rough perforations. We know of one copy of the 5 krajcár value; and, for now, we are aware of the 3 krajcár only from the catalogues.



Figure 27. (Reduced image) The known copies of the 1870 10 krajcár value with inverted centre printed on unwatermarked pelure paper. The first one is an item from the author's collection.

Any denomination (3, 5, and 10 kr): Kaptay: RR, Floderer: 2-3,000 points, PF: R-RR, MK: 800,000 Ft

7. The Advertising And Almanac Stamps From The Forint-Krajcár Period 1873-1891

The colour of the supplementary duty stamps that complemented the regular revenue stamps series in the forint-krajcár era until the end of the century changed often. The colour changes did not necessarily coincide with the use of the different paper types to print the stamps or the watermark modifications. Consequently, this resulted in watermark varieties. While today more examples exist for a few colours; only a few are known in the case of the newspaper tax stamps made for the Military Border District.

Our knowledge about their existence is based on the catalogues that serve as reliable sources. Because of this, the illustrations below do not show desirable copies from my collection but show stamps with correct colours and the possible watermark varieties.



Figure 28. Picture of the rose-coloured 2 krajcár advertising stamp and the 1873 double-lines rhombus sheet watermark greatly reduced

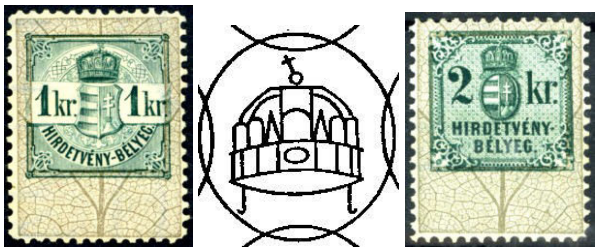
Kaptay: RR, Fl: 5,000 points, PF: RRR, MK: EÉ

Possible copies: 3



Figures 29-30. The brown 1 and 2 krajcár values from the 1880 series can occur on the rhombus watermarked paper as shown previously

1 kr Kaptay: RR, PF: RR, MK: 48,000 Ft
2 kr Kaptay: RR, PF: RR, MK: 60,000 Ft
Possible copies: 5 each



Figures 31-32. Last issue of the advertising stamps with watermark II.

1 kr Kaptay: RR, Fl: 5,000 points, PF: R, MK: 45,000 Ft
2 kr Kaptay: RR, Fl: 5,000 points, PF: R, MK: 60,000 Ft
Possible copies: 10 each



*Figure 33. According to Kaptay, the almanac stamp from 1891 exists with **inverted centre** (generated image)*

Kaptay: RR, MK: 100,000 Ft
Possible copies: 3

8. The 15 Forint Value With Rhombus Watermark

The supply of the 15 forint revenue stamps printed in Vienna in 1868 with perforation gauge 12 lasted for many years. Printing of this stamp in Hungary occurred only once, possibly between 1873-76. It was printed on the rhombus watermarked paper used for the forint value and was perforated 13. I estimate that the copies remaining number only 8. One of these can be seen here on a complete document.



Figure 34. Detail of the document with the scarcest 15 forint revenue stamp from the author's collection.

Kaptay: 50, Fl: 4,000 points, PF: R, MK: 180,000 Ft

9. The ½ Krajcár With Hungarian Watermark 1876

The order placed for the half-krajcár revenue stamp when it was first issued in 1868 was too large. As a result, a large quantity was still around when it was invalidated at the time the colour was changed to brown in 1880. Many sheets, no longer usable, remained. A small part of these escaped destruction as confirmed by the existence of strips of 9.

At the time that ten presentation albums were prepared for the 1878 Paris World's Fair – possibly to try out the plate that has not been used in a long time – the green half-krajcár was reprinted on cheaper stamp paper rather than using carton paper. Given its extreme scarcity, probably only one sheet was printed. Since the paper and printing needed to be strictly accounted for, the gummed sheet was sent to the securities stores and mixed in with the stock of the other, 1868 issue half-krajcár stamps. Based on the invalidations

found on known copies, the sheet was later used in the Sopron environs.

In his 1966 edition of the catalogue, Kaptay mentions five examples. Unfortunately, the stock of classical revenue stamps is ever diminishing. Most of the estates end up in uninitiated hands where they languish for decades because the heirs don't know what to do with them. The eventual fate of these collections is annihilation because instead of releasing them into auctions, they are stored under inadequate conditions. They are ruined after being exposed to poor ventilation; or, when changing residence, it's possible that they are thrown out with other junk.

It is easy to imagine that this could have been the fate of two of the five stamps mentioned by Kaptay since we know of only three remaining copies located in well-known collections.



Figure 35. The ½ krajcár stamp with the 1873 watermark from the author's collection

Kaptay: RR, Fl: 10,000 points, PF: RRR, MK: R

10. The Brown 50 Krajcár With Incorrect Watermark 1880

The green colour of the leaf veins on the revenue stamps was changed to brown in 1880 because of counterfeiting discovered in the late 1870s. The measure proved ineffective because the old plates were reused and the counterfeiters easily changed the colour. The easiest way to detect the counterfeits is by the lack of a watermark. In case a stamp is on a document and cannot be removed, counterfeits can be detected by the colour, the perforation, and the differences in the design. Still, counterfeits are scarce on documents. However, there is a truly scarce watermark variety associated with this stamp.

At the start of the printing of the brown stamps, there was on hand a large quantity of the 1873 rhombus watermarked paper available along with the KRAJCZÁR watermarked variety that was introduced in 1873. Because of an obvious economic advantage, the remaining paper stock was not destroyed but was used up during the early printing of the brown stamps – with official permission (Figure 36). The paper supply must have been exhausted as the printing of the 50 krajcár stamp started; and thus, a rare variety came to be. In my estimation, no more than 7 copies survive.



Figure 36. An 1880 50 krajcár stamp (unfortunately, not a rare variety but only an illustration) and the rhombus watermark.

Kaptay: RR, Fl: 4,000 points, PF €300, MK: 80,000 Ft

11. The 24 Korona Value With Vi. Watermark 1909

The 24 korona value corresponded to the scarcest value from the forint-krajcár era, the 12 forint revenue stamp. During the last seven-year period

of use of this series, three different watermarks were used. This stamp, however, exists with only one watermark, and only 6 copies survive.



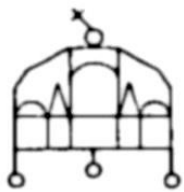


Figure 37. The scarcest watermark of the 24 K value (the picture is simply an illustration)

According to Kaptay's manuscript the original valuation was 20 Ft, Fl: 10,000 points, PF: RRR, MK: 400,000 Ft

12. The Last Issue Of The Securities Sales Tax Stamp 1947

From 1900 to the end of 1948, a tax on the sales of securities was collected replacing the previous sales stamp duty.

In the atmosphere of political threats and forced nationalization, the 20 forint value, issued one-and one-half year earlier, saw very limited use before the tax category was abolished. At the most, 10 copies have survived.



Figure 38. For sake of completeness, a perforated colour trial print, still missing the blue 20 Ft denomination. The author's copy.

Kaptay: 30 Ft, Fl: 1.000 points, PF: R, MK: R

13. Luxury Sales Tax 1949

This last issue with the Rákosi coat-of-arms following the Kossuth-crest series; scarce because the tax category was abolished.



Figure 39. Used copy

*Kaptay: 30 f, Fl: R, PF: R, MK: **RR, *R*

Known copies: 2, possible: 10 altogether

14. The 50 Fillér With Kossuth Crest 1957

The displays of the Rákosi coat-of-arms represented the oppression. It became one of the targets of the 1956 uprising against Soviet occupation. During the fighting, the symbol was even excised from the Hungarian flag. The Kossuth-crest became the country's coat-of-arms symbolizing national independence. The production got under way of a 50 fillér stamp carmine stamp with blue underprinting incorporating this crest. Following the consolidation of control, a new coat-of-arms was introduced. Consequently, the entire printed quantity was destroyed.

A few copies were "rescued" by the printers and these found their way to collectors in the subsequent decades. Incorrect storage caused a majority of them to acquire rust stains. Pristine copies suitable for exhibiting are fairly hard to find.



Figure 40. Unissued stamp with Kossuth-crest (author's collection)

Kaptay: R, Floderer: 1,500 points, PF: RR (with stains R), MK: 80,000 Ft

REVENUE STAMPS WITH LOCAL VALIDITY

In separating the seemingly greatest rarities from the others, the boundaries of the selection are, naturally, self-imposed. I omitted several stamp issues of state institutions that are considered modern because not enough time had passed since their inclusion in the catalogues for the possibility that other, latent stocks would turn up before the collectors' eyes.

Of the more than eighty issues of various scarcity, I chose only the ones that exist in numbers similar to those of the one-krajcár blue newspaper tax stamp from the Military Border District. Also, I sought to make this selection supportable from the perspective of catalogue pricing as well as from collecting experience despite the fact that oftentimes the pricing is significantly lower.

It's important to note that given the limited regional validity, the stamps of the Military Border District are considered *local issues*. Nevertheless, they were issued by a central government authority, the monarchy's joint Ministry of Defence, for the purpose of supporting the military administration in the area. Similar situations have occurred many times and were not limited to military occupations or territorial changes. The stamp below is one such item that came about many years prior to the issue of the first consular and visa stamps. It is a stamp with special wording, and we hardly know of any others in existence.

15. 25 KORONA COUNTERSIGNING FEE STAMP FROM THE GRAZ PASSPORT OFFICE 1921

A provisional stamp used by a government agency that is a rare example of a transitional revenue stamp between a central and local releases. Currently, the whereabouts of only two copies are known; based on the data from the catalogues, a total of 5 probably survived.



Figure 41. Special wording stamp authenticated with the official cancellation from the author's collection

Kaptay: R, Floderer: 2,000 points, PF: R, MK: 20,000 Ft (the valuation is in error for this rarity)

Also, there are a lot of rarities amongst the locally issued revenue stamps. The vast majority of them were prepared by local printing places; and because of the limited control of the condition required for stamp production, varieties were created frequently. Despite the low demand for these, the existence of latent supplies cannot be excluded. The valuation of these supposed "rarities" is not reliable.

I would like to call attention to the fact that despite what my Hungarian fiscal collection compiled after many decades is construed to be as complete as possible, it still lacks dozens of local revenue stamps. At the same time, they are not known in otherwise significant collections as well. These may not have been printed or used in the first place or all of them were destroyed. Furthermore, even though the production of the local issues was tied to permits from the Ministry of Interior, in many cases, their existence has philatelic overtones (for example, Sarkad, Szentes).

Given the uncertainties mentioned above, every age had philatelists who considered the collecting of local revenue stamps to be insignificant and not worthwhile. They were not correct. To refute this, here stands the mate to the singularly famous

5,000 korona postage stamp, the "Inverted Madonna." Who would not welcome such an addition to his collection?

16. The Inverted Centre Municipal Stamp From Pécs 1908

The State Printing Office was entrusted to prepare the municipal stamps for Pécs. The stamp was printed in sheets of 40 using two operations for the different colours. On one sheet, the blue centre was printed inverted, something that happened on one occasion with regular stamps 15 years later. Of the copies that may have survived, one is known to exist on a municipal document from the city of Pécs.



Figure 42. Known copy from a document

PF: RR, MK: RRR

In this collecting area that is cultivated by only a few but now undergoing increased attention, the best estimate for copies remaining: 5.

Finally, concerning the valuations: hopefully nobody has been led astray by the order of magnitude lower pricing for fiscal stamps in the catalogues despite the effort to truly reflect demand. In each case, naturally, these values are far below the postage stamps with the same relative scarcity for which there is more demand. The trend indicates that since the implementation of the opportunity to exhibit at the FIP level, the world is changing; and, in the long run, it would turn out to be an excellent investment to acquire these in a timely manner.

List Of Literature And Explanation Of Abbreviations:

1. Kaptay = Antal Kaptay, Magyar okmánybélyegek katalógusa, MABÉOSZ, 1966 Budapest, 2020 digital variant without the unwarranted critiques. It can be reached amongst the files of the closed facebook group "*Okmánybélyeg baráti kör*."
2. Fl: = Dr. István Floderer: Magyar okmánybélyegek katalógusa, Confide Global, 1991 Zürich.
3. PF: = Károly Szücs: Pénzügyi filatélia – kézikönyv és bélyegkatalógus, author's edition 2017, Budapest, digital version under continuous expansion and revision, v5.25 (2020.08.20)
4. MK = A magyar bélyegek katalógusa 2018/II. Philatelia Hungarica Kft. 2018. Budapest.

Naturally, it was not possible to show all examples from the author's possession for such an article. I would like to express my gratitude to Attila Bándi, Ralph Ebner, the late Zoltán Farkas, and Andor Hoboday for giving permission for me to use the illustrations of some of the rarities.



INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THE 1945 PROVISIONAL STAMPS

DR. FERENC NAGY (VIENNA)

1. THE USE OF THE INVERTED OVERPRINT 10 FILL./4 FILL. JÁNOS HUNYADI STAMP

Whoever wants to present something new in this area really has to get his act together. Even though a lot has been presented in the past 75 years, I will try to continue our gleanings in this post-war period.

At that time, every small and large company had an assigned person who was responsible for the mail and handled all of incoming and outgoing letters. This task involved, among other things, making sure that the outgoing mailings were properly franked, ready to go into the mail, so that the courier taking them to post office simply had to hand them over unless they were registered. At that time, mail collection from a letter box did not exist!

Naturally, this activity required that supply of stamps be procured beforehand with the knowledge of the existing postal tariffs. This was the situation at the Hungária Guttapercha and Rubber Factory's office located in the Vth District where stamps were needed for mailing out printed matter at the 40 fillér tariff rate. On August 18, 1945, a large quantity of printed matter was posted at this rate to their customers. The sheets of stamps were procured from the post office; in this case, a 40 fillér stamp was not available, so sheets of 30 and 10 fillér values were purchased. The fact that the new value overprint on the 4 fillér was "standing on its head" seemed "funny" to the office staff, who, nevertheless, thought that everything was in order since the post office distributed these. The staff at post office No. 53 had other problems than to try to ferret out how the overprint was positioned on the newfangled stamps. When the Hungária company's familiar messenger came with the bundle, the postal staff quickly cancelled the mail since a holiday weekend /August 20!) awaited them.



Figure 1. Printed matter cancelled at the No. 53 post office on Friday, August 18, 1945 franked with an inverted overprint 10 fillér stamp

Unfortunately, the staff at the company did not finish addressing all of the mailings on that day, so they continued the work on Monday, August 21st. The rubber factory's messenger may have had some other errands on that day because he did not take the day's mail to the No. 53 office (where the company's post office box was located) but took it to the No. 62. Monday was always a busy day at that office, so the staff did not notice the inverted overprints of the stamps. And even if

they did, what would they have done? Nothing! The people working in the office had other things to worry about than inverted overprints!

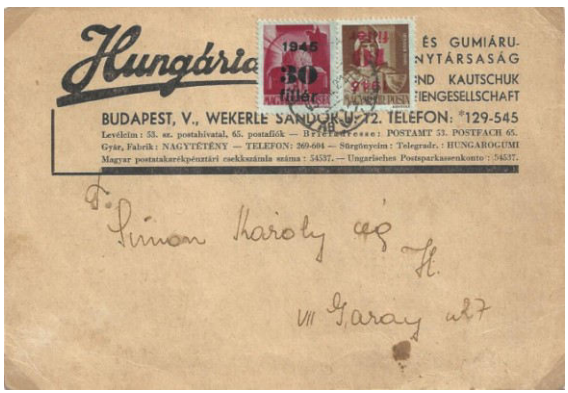


Figure 2. Printed matter posted at the No. 62 post office on Monday, August 21, 1945 franked with an inverted overprint 10 fillér stamp.

The postal use of stamps with inverted overprints from this provisional series is seldom seen. One or two other letters with similar dates may exist. My understanding is that all of such printed matter mailings originated from the Hungária Company on the same dates.

2. THE PÉCEL POST OFFICE'S PROBLEMS WITH THE 80 FILLÉR FIRST PHASE PRINTING

Despite the conditions at the time, the quality control of the 1945 overprinted stamps was very conscientious. Not much faulty product came out of the printers. Naturally, shifted overprints occurred, but these were not considered as rejects at the time.

The situation was different if the overprint was missing and the stamp showed only the tinting colour. Namely, the overprinting of the stamps was a two-phase operation. First, the blue or yellow tinting was applied to the surface of the stamps, then, in the second operation, the black or red overprint. What probably happened to our ominous stamp was that following the first phase printing, two sheets, having already received the tinting, became stuck together when going into the press for the second overprint. Thus, the red 1 pengő overprint was left off the sheet that was hidden away with the stamps delivered to Pécel in mid-1945.

By the time it was discovered, the receipt acknowledging the delivery was signed and on its way back to Budapest. The sitting postmaster must have been annoyed since he received a sheet of 80 fillér stamps with blue surface tinting from which the 1 P overprint was missing. His office was debited for the full value of the sheet as 100 pengős instead of 80 pengős as if the new value had been printed on the sheet. (Most likely, he grumbled about the sloppy work of the bureaucrats, but the loss was already there. Not much, but still a loss.)

The loss was not high enough to make the effort in conducting a time-consuming exchange of letters with his superiors worthwhile. He decided to replace the missing overprint by drawing it on the stamps by hand. Thus, he could transform them to 1 pengő stamps.

When a person employed by the village of Pécel came in to mail a letter to Budapest, he decided to pass-off one of these "over-written" stamps since official letters were not inspected carefully.

The postal tariff in August 1945 for a second weight class letter was 4 pengő. He applied a manuscript-altered "1P" stamp next to the five 60 fillér provisional Rákóczi stamps, thus creating this remarkable item of the time.



Figure 3. 2nd weight class letter sent from Pécel on August 27, 1945 to Budapest franked with the missing overprint 80 fillér stamp over-written to "1P"



Figure 4. A "normal" stamp (left), stamp without an overprint (centre), Pécel "provisional" marked "1P" in ink-pencil (right)

I know, Dear Reader, that this is not a monumental rarity, but these "discoveries" that delight the eye make the life of a philatelist more pleasant. And, knowing that the postmaster of Pécel slept well that night.

3. The Fate Of The 10 Pengő Stamp From The First Porivisional Issue

In closely observing the first stamp issue following the war, the Liberation set, we can observe the following: the 13 basic stamps, tinted with two colours (blue and yellow), were overprinted using stamps from the War Leaders series. In this series alongside the war leader personalities are stamps depicting the Holy Crown (20, 50, 80 fill. and 1 P) and Patrona Hungariae (18 and 24 fill.). These six stamps were no longer acceptable according to the new ideology, yet they were issued.

I wonder why? I think that it was because no other stamps were available.

The problem was not any smaller one month later when the Provisional I. /IV./ series was issued. In this series, even saints were pictured on the basic stamps: Saint Margit (twice!), Saint Erzsébet and (horrible to say!) King Saint László. While the stamps depicting women (bárisnya=Russian word for noble lady) even one holding a lily symbolizing innocence can be argued away somehow, but the orange-red coloured overprinted King Saint László 10 P. stamp showing a crown adorning the king's head was too much. The stamp even showed a small format equestrian image of the king in which the crown was surrounded by an aura referring to his saint-hood. This was too much for the Soviet "advisors" ("tadó" using the slang expression at that time) who supervised the stamp issue. They prohibited the release of the 1,500,000 overprinted stamps into circulation.

This fact is underscored by the way the Monograph describes the 10 P. stamp (Monograph V, pp. 40-41) as opposed to the way it devotes 80 pages in going out of its way to describe all of the technical aspects of this issue in great detail:

"Stamps from the series with the exception of the 10 P / 2f H. value were sold in post offices, by vendors of stamps as well as by the stamp sales office established by the post office on August 1, 1945. In accordance with the directive no.

190.476 /A/ 4. (P.R.T. 1945, no. 12) the stamp sales office is not selling the 10 P /2f. H value "temporarily". A large portion of the supply was purchased by the general public as the currency lost it purchasing power, and these were later marketed commercially."

Later on, the description continues on page 118 under the heading "Frankings": "*We can note now that the post office did not sell the 10 P/ 2f. denomination. Thus, it was seldom used for franking by collectors or the public. A genuine, postally used letter with this value is not known. Cancelled examples in collectors' circles are examples of favour cancellations made afterwards."*

The oracle is wisely quiet on the reason why the stamps were not placed on sale. We know that the Monograph was published in 1966 when truth was relative, but I will not fault my fellow editors because the times were like that, then.

The Handbook, published in 1986, writes the following: *"The stamp was on sale by the Stamp Sales Office for a few days, then the sales were suspended… Its postal use on letters is theoretically possible using the stamps purchased during the first few days of sale."*

Moreover, it was strictly forbidden to use them on letters.

The stamp collectors' and dealers' community did not constitute large numbers at that time. It's beyond comparison to the quantity of letters that could have been sent if the use of the stamp had been permitted. This way, "hiding" the stamp from the public proved successful.

So much for the situation back then, something that's impossible to reconstruct exactly today.



Figure 5. The discussed stamp with upright and inverted overprint

Since these stamps with inverted overprint are counterfeited with great enthusiasm today, it is advisable to seek expert opinion.



Figure 6. MBSZ attest for the genuineness of a stamp with inverted overprint

Ferenc Bacsó, a ministerial counsellor, was a modest, yet knowledgeable philatelist back in those days. While 99% of stamp collectors were occupied with the accumulation of unused sets (certainly I was one of them!), he realized that the use of commemorative stamps on letters was uncommon. Practically all of the Peace sets used on cover were the result of his handiwork. It happened that he bought the 10 pengő stamps during the first, brief opportunity, but he did not place them with his other album treasures. He had the premonition to "use" them. He didn't simply use them, but paid attention to franking his letters correctly!

Let me show one of these "nonexistent" items that turned up in the last 55 years. It's a genuine, postally used, and correctly franked with 26 pengő including the 10 pengő stamp. The rate paid was for a local registered letter. We can see the 2 / +2/P and the 4 / +4/P values from the Martyrs set issued on October 6, 1945. Their use on a letter represents a fantastic rarity. A few envelopes with complete sets may exist, but individual values on correctly franked mailings exist solely from letter posted by Bacsó (as far as I know). Since the set's face value had a surcharge (100 + 100 P), the then current stamp collecting concepts considered it madness to break a set to use on a letter. Only people with large resources could afford this luxury, and ones with keen insight.



Figure 7. Local registered letter mailed on October 17, 1945 from the Budapest No. 28 post office correctly franked with 26 pengő franking including the invalid 10 pengő stamp and two on envelope very scarce stamps from the Martyrs set

The No. 28 post office was near the residence of the councellor, and the clerks knew him well. His letter bearing the prohibited 10 pengő stamp was accepted without question. Who would have dared to refuse an employee of the Ministry of Justice such a simple request? He who casts the first stone, …

The reverse side of the envelope has the arrival cancellation of the Budapest No. 2 post office from the next day. To prove that this was not a "favour" cancellation but an authentic postally used letter, I'm showing the original receipt of posting.



Figure 8. Original receipt of posting for the letter

What happened to the countless stamps that was kept from being absorbed by the philatelic marketplace that knew no limits? Let's remember: the Monograph stated a quantity of 1 million 480,000 for the stamp while 25 years later, the Handbook talks about 162,000 copies! We can conclude, therefore, that between 1945 and 1986 approximately 1 million 300,000 copies of the already printed and ready-for-use stamp was destroyed!

When listing the quantities for the other stamp, the Monograph notes the following: "*Printed quantity! Reassuring data about destroyed quantity does not exist with the exception of the 10 pengő stamp!*"

We know about a similar case of insanity regarding the Any. 2, Cs. 5-2, and Cs. 10-2 overprinted stamps, in which case similar quantities of stamps were destroyed.

Since the Stamp Sales Office sold these stamps individually, larger multiples are hardly known. Because of this, I was thrilled to acquire in 1990 with some luck a complete sheet. For good measure, I am showing it below. I had not seen another one since then and assume that there can't be too many of them.



Figure 9. Complete sheet of the 10 pengő overprinted stamp

With this, I could have closed the subject of the 10 pengő stamp except that I found two other cover fronts that are unique. With these, we have stretched the "extreme limits" of the inflation issues. The first one slumbered away the time in a large collection for 50 years; the second was sold in the fall of 2019 by a leading auction house in Budapest. I acquired this one relatively cheaply. The 10 pengő stamp is on both pieces, so I have to show them here:



Figure 10. Registered local letter from Kiskunhalas with registry etiquette no. 540.



Figure 11. Registered local letter from Kiskunhalas with registry etiquette no. 541

What transpired? The best experts of the inflation independently arrived at this explanation: a person employed at the Atheneum Printing Office who was interested in stamps but was not well known as a collector at the time (his name was István Imre) retrieved a few stamps from the printer's waste that were destined for destruction. He hid his treasures for several months and took them with him when he was allowed leave to visit Kiskunhalas. The postmaster, who was a friend of his, turned a blind eye to the motley arrangement that his friend from Pest stuck on the envelopes. He must have known that this stamp was "authentic" only when used postally. When mailing the envelopes, he may have stated that the grouping of stamps was "discarded junk" that still could be used for franking.

On January 15, 1946, the 6th rate period of the inflation was in effect. According to it, rate for a local registered letter was 1600 pengő. But, if we consider that the letter with the registry number 540 that was mailed one day after the rate increase during the "grace period," the rate would have been 320 pengő in accordance with the previous, 5th rate period. This letter, however is franked with 312 pengő; therefore, short paid by 8 pengő.

On the other letter that has the label number 541, the franking is 353.30 pengő, more than making up for the missing 8 pengő on the first letter. Thus, the sender may have commented that the post was "not shorted."

Let us examine the specialty stamps on these envelopes!

1. On the first one, the 10 pengő stamp with inverted overprint catches the eye right away. It was not permitted to use the 10 pengő, much less one with an inverted overprint, on any kind of mailing. In my opinion, only this piece is in existence with an inverted overprint.
2. The cover has another 10 pengő stamp with a partially inked overprint.
3. There is a block of four 3 pengő stamps in the lower right corner of the envelope. We also observe that the upper left stamp of the block has a partial printing flaw in addition to the incomplete overprint. This flaw on the basic stamp can be found on other 3 pengő stamps.
4. The second cover has a 3 pengő stamp with inverted overprint. Such a stamp on cover has not been known prior to this.
5. I discussed the imperforate 30 fillér War Leaders stamp in my previous article. There is a copy of it on the cover.
6. A unique pair of 10 pengő stamps: the left stamp has an original printing flaw but a complete overprint. The other stamp in the pair is faultless. Another such example on cover does not exist.

I am glad that I can show these to the Dear Readers. Don't frown on these as being "modern." These are a part of our postal history from 75 years ago; they are an integral part of it. And, put your hand over your heart; who would say to a 75-year old man that he is "too young"?

NEWS

IN MEMORIAM FERENC KOSTYÁL

Only a few months ago Ferenc Kostyál, a member of Mafitt, decided to donate a 12-page part of his 1944-45 Nyíregyháza local issue collection containing great rarities to the Stamp Museum. His illness that took a turn for the worse prevented him from making the donation in person. His heirs fulfilled his wishes.

The placement of his portrait on the Wall of Donors took place of June 17, 2020 at 10 o'clock in the morning. On this occasion, the president of Mafitt eulogized Ferenc Kostyál's philatelic legacy. Following this, István Glatz conducted a presentation using color slides and discussed the highlights of the donated collection. The slides can be viewed on the home page of MABÉOSZ.



Dr. Géza Homonnay and the sons of Ferenc Kostyál in front of their father's portrait in the Stamp Museum

We are grateful to Ferenc Kostyál, an expert author who wrote about the known copies of the Nagymánya stamp in the Philatelica 2013/1 issue. We say goodbye to him with this photograph depicting our philatelic relationships that transcend national boundaries. The picture was snapped during our conversation about his exhibit in China by a sharp-eyed photographer unknown to us where our dear friend won his third FIP gold medal, an award that brought him great joy.

In the name of all Hungarian stamp collectors, Mafitt and MABÉOSZ jointly placed a wreath on his bier on the following afternoon of the memorial event in the museum..



China 2019 World Stamp Show, June 27, 2019. Ferenc Kostyál, Károly Szücs, and Eli Weber, the president of the Israeli philatelic federation

A múzeumi megemlékezés délutánján a magyar bélyeggyűjtők nevében ravatalán a Mafitt és a MABÉOSZ közös koszorút helyezett el.

NOTICE

The Presidency decided that the Mafitt general meeting for 2020 will not be conducted due to the vis-major event caused by the corona virus. Details can be found on our home page.

Free for members of Mafitt

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

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

www.mafitt.hu

2014



Volume XXXI

2015



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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Researches
H-1074 Budapest, Harsfa u. 47 Belyegmuzeum, Mafitt
e-mail: **info@mafitt.hu**

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation