21
1

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2021/1

Content:

Denes Czirok FRPSL:	Decorated Letters (Zierbriefe) from Hungary	1
Dr. Ferenc Nagy:	On the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of World Famous Hungarian Inflation's Adopengo Era	16
In Memoriam dr. Somogyi Tamás		45

Editor: Karoly Szucs, secretary of Mafittt
Translator: Csaba Kohalmi member of Mafitt and Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP)

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



DECORATED LETTERS (ZIERBRIEFE) FROM HUNGARY

DÉNES CZIRÓK FRPSL (ZALAEGERSZEG)

I started writing my current article around Christmas when a person is more sentimental about refined, nice things. Such looking for beauty and goodness can shine through to our favourite hobby, philately. This is what gave me the final push to summarize the history of the decorated letters in Hungary up until 1900.

1. THE PRECEDENTS

Many hundreds of years ago, writing was a privilege restricted to selected individuals, who cultivated it and learned the art of writing in special schools over the course of many years until it finally achieved the expected results. Any one such letter was a wonderful work of art, an individually hand-crafted production that also exhibited the typical characteristics of the age.



Figure 1: Official letter sent from Bajmócz to Körmöczbánya in 1621 (four multiples of the „Cito" inscription)

The letter illustrated above was written in 1621 and shows that attention was paid to writing each letter with great care.

Naturally, the scribes – whether they worked in civil administration or in an ecclesiastical area – developed a personal style in the course of performing their duties. This style also reflected either a century or respective branch of authority. One typical school from the time of Maria Theresia was the chancellery of Pozsony. Its style of exaggerated circular decorative elements could be detected from afar.

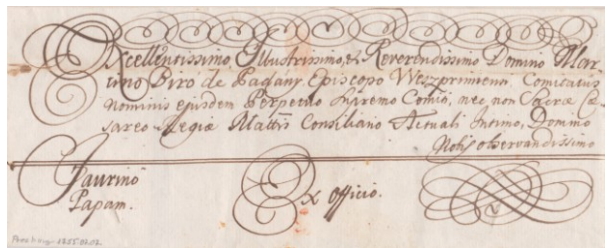
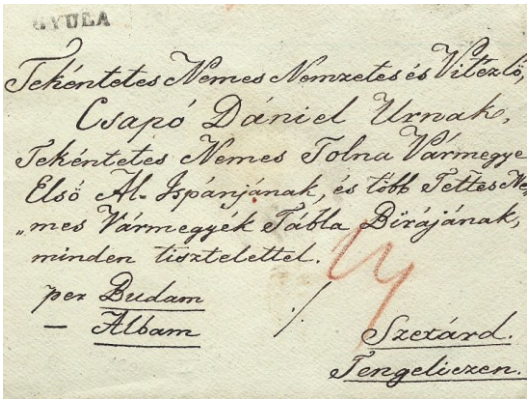


Figure 2: Official letter sent from Pozsony in 1755 to Bishop Márton Padányi Bíró, who was responsible for erecting countless beautiful churches (among many, the one in Zalaegerszeg).

This official penmanship style became fashionable with personal letters, and by the first half of the 1800s we can find it on countless letters. Each of them is a small masterpiece.


GYULA

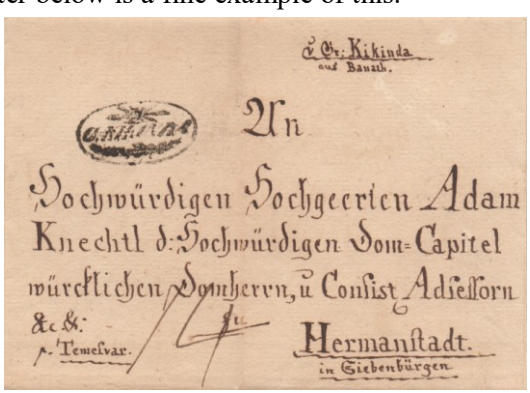
Tekéntetes Nemes Nemzetes és Vitézlő
Csapó Dániel Urnak,
Tekéntetes Nemes Tolna Vármegye
Első Al-Ispánjának, és több Tettes Nemes Vármegyék Táblai Bírájának,
minden tiszteletteel.

per Budam
— Albam

Szekszárd.
Tengelicsen.

Figure 3: Personal letter from 1828 sent from Gyula to Tengelicz near Szekszárd to Dániel Csapó, a well-known rural member of parliament in the reform era.

Large numbers of Schwabians settled in Hungary, mostly in the southern part, following the end of the Ottoman conquest. (These were the areas where the Turkish occupation caused the greatest harm.) They brought with them the characeristic German calligraphy culture. The letter below is a fine example of this.


N. Gr. Kikinda
aus Banath.

An
Hochwürdigen Hochgeehrten Adam
Knechtl d: Hochwürdigen Dom-Capitel
würcklichen Domherrn, u Consist Adiesorn
&c &:
p. Temesvar.
Hermanstadt.
in Siebenbürgen

Figure 4: Personal letter from 1835 sent from Nagykikinda to Nagyszeben (Hermannstadt) in Transylvania using Gothic calligraphy writing.

2. DECORATED LETTERS FROM THE PRE-STAMP ERA

The expansion of the domestic paper industry was influenced by the growth in the letter traffic in the 1830s and 1840s. This manifested itself by a changeover from the thicker, hand-made letter writing sheets to thinner, machine-made paper. Also, the introduction of manufactured envelopes supplanted the culture of folding letter sheets. Naturally, these trends took decades to take root, and we still find folded letters from the 1880s and 1890s.

By the 1840s, the technical achievements joined up with the aspirations of the reform era, and this influenced the appearance of the first decorated envelopes in Hungary. We call these letters „Zierbrief" using the commonly accepted German terminology.

Figure 5 shows its earliest known example from 1840. While it utilized machine-made paper, it was still folded in such a methodical, artful fashion that it formed a closed envelope in the end. It's important to know that the addressee was a retired head physician from Pécs and not the typical member of the young generation in love.



Figure 5: The first known domestic decorated envelope from 1840 sent from Kőszeg (Güns) to Pécs (Fünfkirchen)

The content was even nicer highlighting a daring printing innovation of a design with flowers, birds, and garlands.

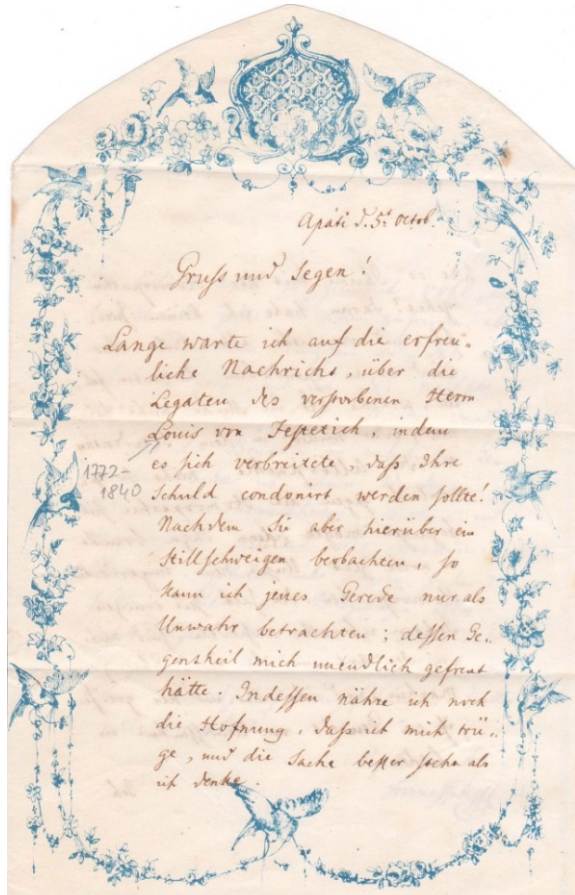


Figure 6: The contents

The next letter, chronologically, is from 1842 representing the apex of Hungarian pre-stamp philately (a few years ago its price was already sky-high). It is a masterpiece: gilded graphic elements with flowers, birds, angels as well as a lady in a modest pose accepting the attentions of a gallant gentleman.



Figure 7: The most beautiful Hungarian decorated envelope from the pre-stamp era sent from Miskolcz to Eger (Erlau) in 1842 (front and reverse sides)

The next letter in the series is from 1843. This is also richly gilded, but it shows only flowers, plant leaves and vine designs.



Figure 8: Decorated envelope from 1843 sent from Gyöngyös to Péchiújfalu (located north of Eperjes).

Generally speaking, the dominant design element of decorated letters was gold that was considered the symbol of wealth and social rank. The next envelope from 1844 is richly decorated with gilded graphic elements that conjure up the style of upper class residences. (The wax seal with a „crown" on reverse side also alludes to this.)



Figure 9: Decorated envelope from 1844 sent from Nagyszeben (Hermannstadt) to Kolozsvár (Clausenburg)

Envelopes with embossed-printed designs appeared toward the end of the 1840s in parallel with the advancement of printing technology. The letter below is considered special in this group. In addition to the embossed printing, the design also received a gilded overlay that was specially highlighted by the green frame.



Figure 10: Decorated envelope from 1848 covered with gilding and embossed-printed leaf pattern sent from Nagykanizsa to Székesfehérvár

Many times there are surprises hidden behind average-looking addressing. This is what happened on the letter below sent from Pesth to Württemberg. The external appearance of the letter is completely ordinary. The front side shows the franking markings that were typical from the era for a letter going to Württemberg.

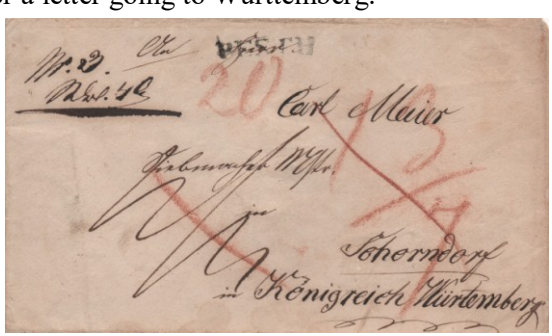


Figure 11: An ordinary letter sent from Pesth to Württemberg in November 1845

We are in for a big surprise after opening the letter since the first page of the multi page letter shows a contemporary engraving of the Chain Bridge during construction.

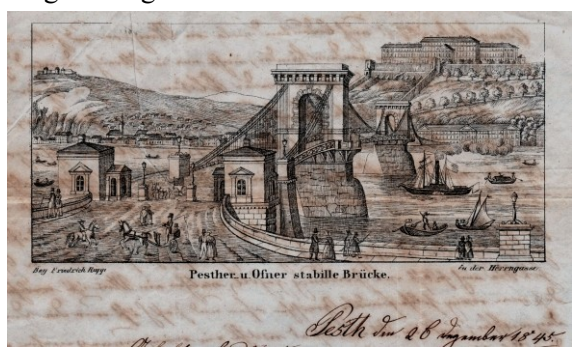


Figure 12: Engraving of the Chain Brige under construction on the heading of the enclosure

The term „under construction" is correct because at the time the letter was written in November 1845, the construction of the bridge was in its mid phase; it was inaugurated only in 1849.

3. DECORATED LETTERS IN TIME OF AUSTRIAN POST IN HUNGARY (1850-1867)

With the appearance of postage stamps on July 1st 1850, the letter writing culture continued its advancement. The introduction of postage stamps simplified the sending of letters. As a result, more and more letters were sent by post every year. This trend also increased the use of decorated letters. While currently we know of 15 such letters from the time between 1840 and 1850, the number of these from 1850 to 1858 (1st series) is at least 40.

Massive quantities of manufactured embossed printed envelopes appeared in commerce, including embossed printed letter sheets (a large per-

centage of these are not around today). The most popular version of these can be seen below.

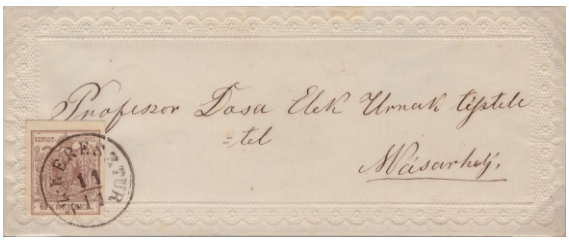


Figure 13: Embossed printed envelope from around 1855-58 sent from Sz(itás)-Keresztúr to Marosvásárhely franked with a 6 krajcár stamp.

There was also a more elegant (dainty) version of these embossed printed envelopes on which the embossing was not limited to the outer frame of the envelope but covered a larger area. In many cases, these envelopes were used by well-to-do families. (The addressee, the young Countess Khevenhüller was a member of one of Austria's wealthiest princely families, who owned countless castles and manor houses, mostly in Carinthia.)

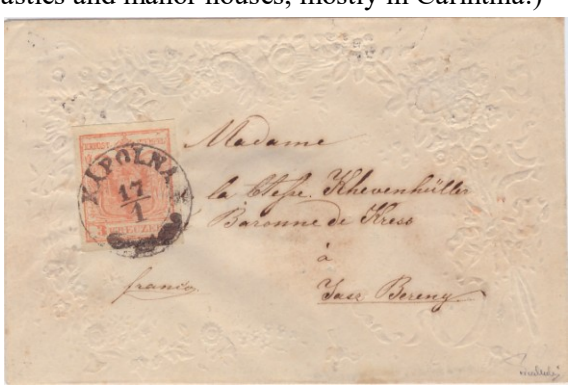


Figure 14: Embossed printed envelope sent from Kápolna to Jászberény with a 3 krajcár stamp

Golden coloured designs on decorated envelopes continued to enjoy great popularity. It's imaginable that they were made by the young ladies with talented hands while indulging themselves in fantasies.



Figure 15: Envelope with gilded-design decorations sent from Tállya to Debrecen with a 6 krajcár stamp

An envelope with completely similar characteristics as the previous one was found from Temesvár with the mere difference being the 9-pointed star instead of the 7-pointed one on the previous one. In this case, it's probable that sender added the decoration by hand. (It is also obvious that the addessee, Colonel Alfonz, a member of the noble Mensdorff-Pully family, who received this while in service near Brünn, was proud of the nice envelope and kept it safe for future generation.)

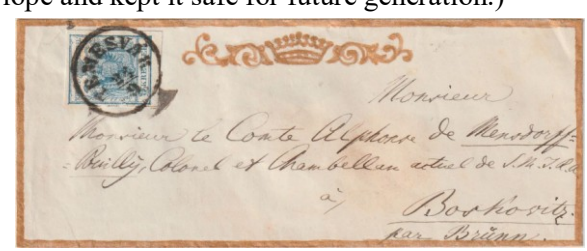


Figure 16: Envelope with gilded decoration sent from Temesvár to Boskowitz with a 9 krajcár stamp

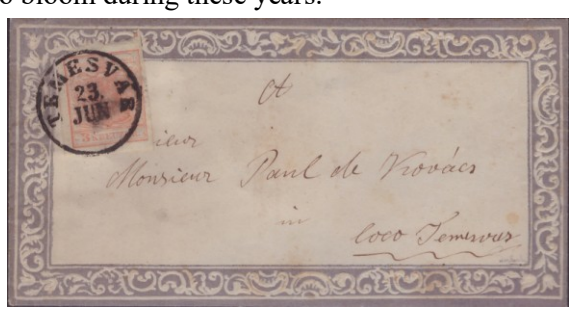
Dear Reader, please allow me to diverge within this topic. Previously, I showed two nice envelopes and stated that the sender hand-painted them. Was this perhaps a lot of effort back in that

time? Absolutely not! During that time, this, including the making of similar design elements, was an integral part of drawing instruction in school. To prove my point, let me show one of the many dozens of drawings that survived amongst my family documents. My grandfather prepared this in school during a drawing class when he was about 13-14 years old. The patterns are identical to the ones from the mid-1850s.



Figure 17: My stamp collecting grandfather's illustration from 1914

Let's return to the original topic, the envelopes with printed decorations, whose culture continued to bloom during these years.



18 Figure 18. An elegant colour-composition embossed printed envelope sent from Temesvár as an overfranked local letter

It is interesting to note that about half of the surviving envelopes originated from Transylvania. The next one is also from there, and it immediately captivates the looker with its profound elegance.

Envelopes with colourful flowers and bird motifs that resemble similar elements from the 1840s can also be found from this time.



Figure 19a: The front side of an envelope decorated with flowers and birds-of-paradise sent from Baja to Karlsbad



Figure 19b: The reverse side of the envelope with flowers and butterflies

A more cheerful variant of the flower-motifs envelopes is this one, again, most probably, hand painted, with clusters of grapes.



Figure 20: Envelope with clusters of grapes sent from Pesth to Czegléd in 1860 with a 5 krajcár stamp

One of the nicest decorated envelopes also originated in Transylvania, in Nagyszeben (Hermannstadt). Both sides of it are richly decorated with flower motifs.



Figure 21: The front and back of a registered letter sent from Nagyszeben to Perchtoldsdorf, near Vienna.

Fewer decorated envelopes are left over for posterity from the 1860s. Most of these are embossed printed, such as the lovely one from Lugos shown next.

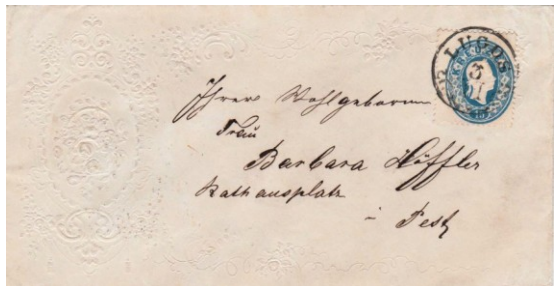


Figure 22: Embossed printed envelope sent from Lugos to Pesth with a 15 krajcár stamp issued in 1861

As I mentioned before, the enclosed letters, most of which were also specially decorated, contained in the decorated envelopes, with a few exceptions, rarely survived. Nevertheless, the enclosure of an envelope shown below did survive!



Figure 23a: Embossed printed envelope sent from Balatonfüred to Esztergom with a 10 krajcár, 1864-issue stamp

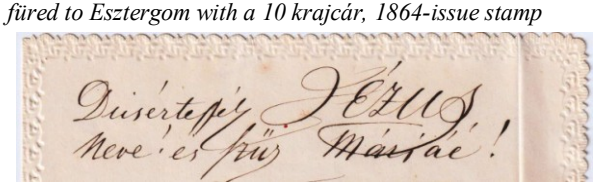


Figure 23b: The content is decorated with the same motifs as the outer envelope

4. DECORATED LETTERS FROM THE START OF HUNGARIAN POST TO ESTABLISHMENT OF UPU (1867-1875)

Afer the Compromise of 1867, as we know, the post offices came under Hungarian administration on May 1st 1867, and the new Hungarian stamps were issued on June 1st 1867. The old, double-headed eagle stamps of Austria could be used for two more weeks, until June 15th 1867.

The sender of the letter shown below from Zilah was not aware of this and dropped his decorated letter into a post office box on June 17th. The town's postmaster, however, knew the regulation and did not cancel the stamp but applied the cancellation to the space above it. He also assessed a penalty postage due of 10 krajcár that the addressee in Ákos was obligated to pay. The result was this wonderful, postage due Zierbrief from the first days of the Hungarian postal administration.



Figure 24: Decorated letter posted from Zilah to Ákos on June 17th 1867 with an old 5 krajcár stamp assessed postage due of 10 krajcár

Our sender from Zilah learned his lesson from this experience and sent a nice letter addressed to Eperjes franked with a new stamp a few months later in February of 1868. (We know of several letters from this correspondence.)



Figure 25: Decorated letter sent from Zilah to Eperjes during February 1868 with a 5 krajcár stamp

Obviously, the senders posted many-many decorated letters during the 4 years of validity of the 1867 issue; but, today, we know of only 8 copies. The one shown below is probably the most beautiful of these, a local letter from Debrecen that graced the Wittenberg collection at one time.

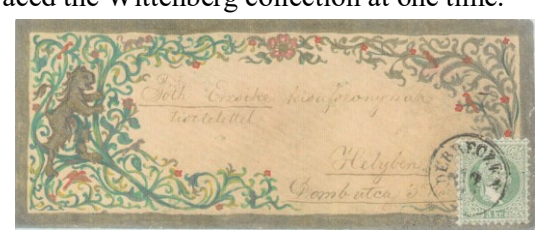


Figure 26: Hand-painted decorated letter from Debrecen with a 3 krajcár stamp

Letters from administrative authorities, commercial businesses, even military units with any kind of printing on the front side such as overprinting or pre-printed addressess belong in this grouping. An excellent example of this last category is this pre-printed envelope from the „3rd Company of the Uhlan Regiment named after the Russian Czar Alexander II" stationed in Kismarton that also showed the regiment's military uniform and armament. (The „uhlans" were mounted soldiers armed with a long, double-edged spear.)



Figure 27: Pre-printed envelope of the „3rd Company of the Uhlan Regiment named after the Russian Czar Alexander II"from 1869 sent from Kismarton to Vienna with a 5 krajcár stamp

To date, we have not found any decorated letters franked with the lithographed stamps issued in 1871. Only two such letters franked with the engraved stamps are known.



Figure 28: Embossed printed envelope sent from Kassa to Vienna with an engraved 5 krajcár stamp

We have to take a deep breath before looking at the second example that used an engraved stamp, and observe it in silent admiration since, in my opinion, it is the most beautiful of all Hungarian decorated letter. The paper is finely scalloped both on the front and on the back. The local leter was sent from Pest to the young lady Matild.

It is worthwhile to look at the pattern very closely; it's as if it had been made using actual lace rather than just paper.



Figure 29: The upper part of the envelope with a delicate lace pattern



Figure 30: Embossed printed, scalloped envelope sent as a local letter from Pest on October 31st 1872 with a 3 krajcár stamp

5. DECORATED LETTERS FROM THE PERIOD OF ESTABLISHEMENT OF UPU UNTIL 1900 (1875-1900)

We call this period the era of the krajcár postage stamps during which the postal services were unified as well as expanded. The post was enmeshed into all facets of everyday life. Post offices opened up in almost every village and connected them to the telegraph network.

It is interesting that the earlier envelopes with embossed printed or hand painted front sides even the ones with colourful flower motifs disappeared as new customs came into use. These new styles were now on the back of the envelopes. One of the most prominent styles was the printing of the sender's monogram on the back of the envelope. (Since the front side of the envelopes no longer presents a special philatelic interest; in the future, we will refrain from showing them in most case.)



Figure 31: Embossed printed monogram from 1884 on the back side of an envelope sent from Galánta to Boskowitz.



Figure 32: Embossed printed monogram from 1883 on the back of an envelope sent from Galánta to Boskowitz.

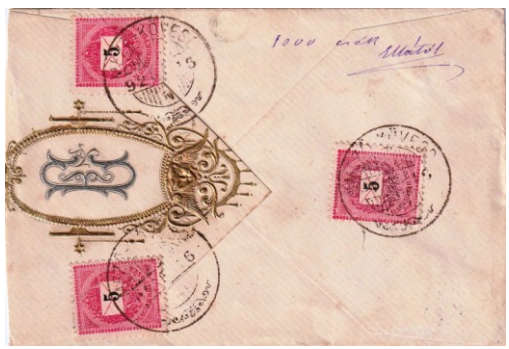


Figure 33: Embossed printed gilded monogram from 1892 on the back of a registered letter sent from Mező-Kövesd to Domoszló

Flower motifs continued to be popular decorations on envelopes.



Figure 34: A bouquet of violets on the back of a letter sent in 1881 from Pozsony to Budapest



Figure 35: Embossed printed butterfly on a cluster of flowers on the back of a letter sent in 1886 from Pozsonty to Budapest

Naturally, various animals also appeared alongside of flowers.



Figure 36: Embossed printed pair of birds on the back of a letter sent in 1887 from Pozsony to Budapest



Figure 37. Embossed-printed „Dragon-slayer Saint George"motif on the back of a letter sent in 1884 from Pozsony to Budapest

In many instances, words of wisdom or humorous thoughts were writen on the back of letters.



Figure 38: Good advice on the back side of an envelope sent in 1883 from Galánta to Boskowitz: „Erst besinnen/Dann beginnen" – „First to think/Then to start"



Figure 39: Embossed printed text „Telegramm/In Eile" – „Telegramme/In a hurry" on the back of a letter sent in 1889 from Pozsony to Budapest

Decorated envelopes with identical content or similar design motifs to what was on the backs also appeared at this time.



Figure 40: Pastoral idyll on the back of an envelope sent in 1893 from Árokszállás to Szeged



Figure 41: The same scene from the heading of the contents



Figure 42: Embossed printed picture of edelweiss on a letter sent in 1899 from Budapest to Pécs

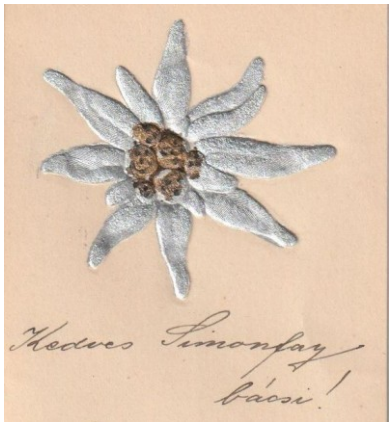


Figure 43: The same motif on the heading of the contents



Figure 44: Embossed printed picture of the little boy carrying a letter on the back of a letter sent in 1886 from Tengelicz to Szeged



Figure 45: The same motif on the heading of the contents

The production of picture postcards took off at this time, but their discussion does not belong to the topic of this article. One nice picture postcard, however, does beg to be included in conjunction with the decorated letter. A pink ribbon is woven around the four sides of the card for decoration. Such a card could be purchased commercially; similar types of cards are known to have been used in other cities.



Figure 46: Picture postcard decorated with a ribbon sent as a local registered mailing in 1899 from Pécs



Figure 47: Front side of the card

Unsurprisingly, firms saw the possibility of making use of this kind of correspondence for advertising. The 1880s saw a proliferation of pre-printed envelopes with commercial headings

showing the name and address of firms. These also do not belong to this current topic unless pictures are incorporated into the heading. In that case, it's worthwhile to pay attention to them.



Figure 48: A 2nd weight class printed matter wrapper sent from Budapest to Nagykanizsa with a commercial heading. (The licence may have been relegated to oblivion, but the ornamental heading remained.)

Hotels soon joined in and provided envelopes with heading to their guest who would send them to their acquaintances as free advertising for the hotel's reputation. Not only hotels, but 'good wines need a signboard.'

I would like to thank the following fellow collectors for allowing me to show pictures of their envelopes: György Pálka (8), Adriano Bergamini (14, 18, 21), András Jakab (16, 22), Dorothea Haslauer (11, 19), ex. Edward G. Wittenberg (20, 26), Wolfgang König (24, 25, 27). The other items are from the author's collection.



Figure 49. Hotel Pannonia envelope with an ornamental picture sent in 1892 from Budapest to Süttő

I would like to close my summary for my Faithful Readers by showing the ornamental envelope from the 'most faithful city.' Hopefully, I was able to give a small sample of these lesser known beauties of Hungarian philately.



Figure 50. Ornamental envelope sent in 1897 from Sopron to Zürich .

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD FAMOUS HUNGARIAN INFLATION'S ADOPENGO ERA



DR. FERENC NAGY (BÉCS)

PROLOGUE

Many internationally significant inventions and achievements are identified with our nation, but I would gladly relinquish that which I am about to commemorate. Tied to our name is all-time greatest and the most thorough destruction of a currency through inflation that annihilated the wealth of an entire nation, reducing it to a value of 4 US cents in a record 15 months' time.

This all started out as you would expect to happen after a war. The lack of food stuffs and everyday necessities depressed the value of money with respect to the available goods. According to monetary rules, this always brings about an inflationary cycle. The price of something that was in the magnitude of ten rose to the magnitude of a hundred in a short time.

Up until now everything is understandable.

Please allow me, my philatelic friends, to offer up some gleanings of fiscal history because these facts may not be obvious to everyone. It won't harm a philatelic article to analyze a bit of monetary history where the two areas intersect. I am not aware of a domestically published philatelic article that discussed the then current banknotes in conjunction with the timeline of postal history so the readers can get a comprehensive picture of this era.



P1. The 10, 50, and 100 pengo banknotes issued prior to the war that were still circulating in 1945. Note the nice and elegant execution!

The pengo banknotes issued by the National Bank were not the only currency in circulation. Quite literally, the Red army also issued paper money. The 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000 pengo banknotes represented a parallel cur-

rency, the acceptance of which was mandatory. Still, while the 'Hungarian' money had some kind of backing such as the gold reserves wandering in the west, national productivity from work performed, or the phantom consumer goods, the 'Russian' money had no backing. Its compulsory acceptance was enforced in the occupied area in the eastern half of the country starting in the fall of 1944, then in Budapest from February 1945, and the western half as the military situation allowed. Therefore, let us look at a few examples of the circulating banknotes.



P2. Samples from the Red Army currency: 2, 5, 50, and 100 pengo banknotes. Only paper money was available, not coins!

Note the year of issue (1944) as well as the annotation: 'Acceptance is mandatory for every transaction.'

It is small wonder that anyone who possessed such currency wanted to be rid of it as soon as possible. Naturally, this quickened the rate of turnover of the currency, the 'sucker' who had to sell something tried quickly to buy anything for the 'Russian' money.

MONETARY HISTORY RECAPITULATION

When I went off to the Boy Scout camp in Zalabér as a 12-year-old youth during the spring of 1946, my thoughtful parents gave me 10,000 pengo so I could have some spending money just in case I needed something. I felt like a well-heeled kid and since I was always thrifty with my money, I saved the much appreciated yellowish banknote for a better occasion. All the more, I had scant opportunity to spend the money in the woods of Zala. When the train arrived with us at the Eastern Railway Station after the two-week camping trip, I needed to take tram no. 44 for two stops to the Nemzeti to get home. I proudly handed over the 10,000 pengo banknote to the conductor for the fare and anticipated receiving sizeable change in return. Noticing my outstretched hand, he informed me the note covered my exact fare. The two weeks that I was away meant that there was no change in return. This was my key experience at the time, something that stayed with me ever since.

I've been pondering how such a massive inflation could break out when, in the beginning, it did not look like it was going to be a world record holder.

In early 1945, the public in Budapest was startled to notice that the change returned by mer-

chants for purchases was not just Hungarian money, but more and more frequently it was the unfamiliar Russian money that bore Hungarian writing as well as the inscription 'command of the Red Army.' The uncontrolled use of these banknotes in the Hungarian marketplace greatly endangered the traffic in goods. These 'printed products' had zero backing and sucked the slowly resurgent commodity production from the marketplace. The Red Army did not have to give accounting to anyone about the volume of banknotes it released for circulation.

What could be done against this?

It is possible to visualize the following scenario: Hungarian monetary officials held a meeting to discuss possible ways to control the Russian money taking into consideration that the available options are extremely limited.

It is possible that they decided the following: since the printing of the Soviet-Russian money can be more difficult than the Hungarian production, the inflation that was slowly gathering steam can be fired up so that the Russians cannot keep up with it. The largest face value Soviet banknote was 1,000 pengo, and it could lose its value in a couple of weeks. This is what happened and while I was playing a numbers war game in the forests of Zala, an enormous mechanism sprang into action.

Within weeks, numbers in the millions appeared on the street, and the Russian money disappeared without a trace. The experts thought that this would not be a problem because there was a similar situation in 1923 in the German Reich. It did not create a huge crisis there; they were able to help themselves get out of it. The famous, great German inflation with its notional prices in the billions exhausted itself and eventually ended with the introduction of a new currency. This is what we are going to do, the experts thought. Well, let's examine a few contemporary banknotes.



P3. 500 and 1,000 pengo banknotes produced by the relaunched National Bank after the war.

If we spend some time dealing with the history of the inflation, we encounter banknotes that have stamps picturing the initials MNB in the upper right corner indicating that they were issued by the Hungarian National Bank.

The all-time greatest theft of currency is behind these stamps. On a fine winter day, exactly on December 19th 1945, the edict was promulgated that the 1,000, 10,000, and 100,000 pengo banknotes in circulation would remain valid only if red, brown, and green stamps purchased from the MNB for 3,000, 30,000, and 300,000 pengo respectively, were affixed to them. The act was officially called a 'capital levy,' while in reality it was wealth expropriation. The stamps were on sale until January 5th 1946. Banknotes without stamps became worthless after December 31, 1945.



P4. Stamped examples of the 1,000 and the 10,000 banknotes that remained valid at face value.

This meant that ¾ of the currency in circulation disappeared, no matter how much nates were in our pockets. While writing these lines I got curious and looked up the meaning of 'capital levy' in German. It's 'Zehent'! The word comes from the medieval 'Zehntel' meaning one-tenth. In the Middle Ages peasant revolts were started because of such 10% levies; something that we could only dream about when it came to the 75% levy. A triviality to ponder…

But not everybody had enough money to purchase the stamps, so a tremendous quantity of banknotes remained unstamped. Therefore, their value by decree became zero after two weeks. Therefore, a quantity of stamps remained on hand unused. These were overprinted and put into circulation as postage due stamps of the Hungarian Post with a face value of 8, 10, and 12 fillér. Their official period of use was from January 8th to January 31st 1951, a period that indicates that no serious thought was given to their actual usage. It turned out to be that because the ranks of the philatelic collecting community were growing, so they purchased the available stock. In today's catalogue, these stamps are 'worth' 50 forint unused, but 20,000 on cover. (If such exist… given their short period of validity, covers simply don't exist.) In this way, the authorities got rid of the large quantity of bank-stamps and closed their sad history – something that not everyone knows about.

My Dear Readers! You might have noticed that monetary history received an unusually large emphasis in my work. I planned it this way. It is imperative become acquainted with the banknotes and the basic concepts of their history when pursuing the study with the inflation.

I am advising my friends who might think 'we already knew this' to think about our readers abroad, who would not necessarily be familiar with these facts.

I'm asking for your continued patience. It might be worth it.

The inflation that was (probably) designed to squeeze out the Soviet money became completely independent on its own. December's capital levy had a brief effect, but the money in circulation again increased within a short period of time. The production of goods could not keep up the pace, and the gap between supply and demand quickly escalated.

The 1 million banknote appeared on February 28th 1946, followed by the 10 million on April 2nd,

the 100 million on April 30th, and the 1 billion on May 13th. On the last one, the usual historical figures were replaced by the portrait of the beauty from Székesfehérvár, Lucia Lendvay. It is interesting to note that attention was paid to record this information for the future even in those turbulent times.



P5. Portrait of Lucia Lendvay from the 1 billion milpengo banknote.

'On May 10th 1946, the Government of the Hungarian Republic decreed that as of May 27th, in order to simplify the calculations made with pengos and to make it easier to pay with banknotes issued by the Hungarian National Bank, the millions multiplier of pengo will be marked with the term MILPENGO.' – is what we read back then. New banknotes were printed on which the old 10,000 pengo denomination was replaced with 10,000 milpengo. The 100,000 pengo became the new denomination of 100,000 milpengo continuing to the 1 billion milpengo note that entered circulation on June 27th 1946.



P6. The 10 million, the 1 million milpengo, and the 1 billion milpengo banknotes.

Philatelically, we're at the time that the reddish-brown 'milpengo' set was in use (issued on May 24th), while the 3 values of the 'milliárd' set appeared on June 27th. Even its highest value, the 500 milliard [English: billion] could keep up the fight only for a week until June 3rd when the 'billions' [English: trillion] set was issued.

The Government of the Hungarian Republic reconvened a month later and decided that '*in order*

to ease payments, the billions multiplier of the pengo will be named B.-PENGO' [1]. June 1st 1946 was directed to be the start of the billions [English: trillion] era. The 10,000 pengo banknote was re-released on the same day but with a 10,000 billion face value. We can best picture the rampant madness of this period by observing the date of issue of the following banknotes:

July 1:	10.000 B.-pengo
July 2:	100.000 B.-pengo
July 4:	1.000.000 B.-pengo
July 8:	10.000.000 B.-pengo
July 11:	100.000.000 B.-pengo
	(hundred million billion pengo[1]).



P7a. Banknotes in billions: 10,000 and 100,000 B.-pengo

[1] The „billion" in Hungary is the name of English trillion. The English translation uses the original Hungarian name convention. (*Editor's remark*)



P7b. The 1 million B.pengo banknote.

There is one banknote amongst the usually low-priced ones that appears maybe every six months and finds a new owner at a high price. The reference books describe it thus '*it was printed but was not placed into circulation.*' This banknote's face value is almost incomprehensible:

'one milliard billion pengo' = 1 trilliard.

The number represents 1 followed by 7x3 or 21 zeroes!



P8. The 1 milliard billion, printed but unissued highest face value banknote.

Sheets of the printed but unissued note because of their good quality were used as wrapping paper during the critical paper shortage years of the 1950s. This banknote is a highlight of my current article. I found it in a Czech auction about 20 years ago.

One more small detail: this final banknote was not graced with the portrait of a hero of freedom, or a great poet or war leader but with the image of the well-known lady from Székesfehérvár, Lucia Lendvay. Perhaps I can be considered to be sentimental about this elegant Hungarian symbology, if we must perish, let us go in the company of a beautiful woman… Philatelically, we are in the time of the 'Dove' stamp issue.

THE TAX PENGO, JANUARY 1, 1946.

Since the capital levy imposed at the end of 1945 did not bring about the anticipated result because it did not result in stabilizing the pengo nor did it help to balance the state budget, it was decided to introduce a new 'currency' namely, the tax pengo. A daily conversion rate was published based on the calculations performed by the Hungarian Economics Research Institute using a sample of consumer prices. Taxes were assessed in tax pengo but needed to be paid in pengo based on the daily tax pengo index. In addition, invoicing between companies, bank balances and valuation of loans was conducted in tax pengo. On January 1, 1946, the day of its introduction, the value of 1 tax pengo = 1 pengo. From thereon, the daily conversion rates were broadcast on the radio.

The tax pengo was not a Hungarian invention. It was used earlier for a short duration in Austria, Switzerland, and the USA. In our situation, the system worked, more or less, for 3 months, but starting in April the relationship between the two currencies diverged greatly. At the end of that month, the tax pengo required for 400 'plain' pengos, 600 a few days later.



P9. Two tax pengo paper notes: 7 different ones were issued.

While the tax pengo started out as an imaginary conversion concept, the decision was made in May to issue pseudo-banknotes. Originally, these were not intended to be circulating money since they had no backing. After a while, however, the public started paying with tax pengo certificates. The so-called 'plain' pengo was slowly squeezed out of circulation and became completely worthless. In philately, the last signs of life of the billions era were the 10,000, 50,000, and 100,000 billion face value postage stamps issued on June 13th 1946. However, these did not see much use.

Visualize this, my Dear Readers: the masses of mostly uneducated people had to learn, in a span of 15 months, the differences in the following concepts: pengo, Russian pengo, plain-pengo, milpengo, B.-pengo, tax pengo. In addition, some-

thing with which they never had to struggle with, such as 100 milliard or 50 billion… This was in addition to the ponderous, everyday struggles…

10,000 AP. issued: June 13, 1946,
50,000 AP. issued: May 21, 1946,
100,000 AP. issued: June 13, 1946,
500,000 AP. issued: May 21, 1946
1,000,000 AP. issued: May 21, 1946,
10,000,000 AP. issued: July 18, 1946,
100,000,000 AP. issued: July 25, 1946.
(6 days prior to the end of the inflation)



P10. The 10 million tax pengo banknote.



P11. The one hundred million tax pengo in an uncut block of four

Plans were in place for a one milliard face value tax pengo note, but it was not issued.

Dear Reader! With this we are concluding the review of the inflationary banknotes. This was the minimum that was needed in the order to deal with Hungarian postal history after the war. Given the space limitations here, naturally, we could not go into more precise details, but this meets our philatelic goals.

PHILATELIC MEMENTOS

On the occasion of our retrospective, it is not possible to show the entire course of the inflation even using a 'fast forward' approach. Therefore, I decided to review the last 6 weeks of the inflation but still show a couple of interesting items from the 'tax pengo' era. I am aware that this will be the first opportunity for my collector friends to see these mailings. These have origins in the mil-pengo, bilpengo, and tax pengo era.



Figure 1. The milpengo set, from 100 million to 50,000 million = 50 trillion pengo.

For starters, let's look at this commercial, registered, domestic letter with 12,000 milpengo franking. The tariff according to the 19th rate period was 4,000 milpengo for a domestic letter, 8,000 for registration = 12,000 milpengo.

The most interesting feature of this cover is that I personally mailed it at the time at the number 62 post office located near the Western Railway Station. One of the Stern siblings, Simon Stern was my uncle, his wife, my aunt, was employed in their office. At that time we lived at Akácfa Street number 20, and my chore at age 12 was to go over to house number 37 at 6:00PM to take the daily letters for mailing over to the 62 post office. I received a small tip for this service. Since my aunt tipped well, I could hardly wait for 6 o'clock and every day I stood straight as a rod in front of the office.

It's hard to imagine the feeling I had when I caught a glimpse of this cover 65 years later in a listing from a leading auction house and was able to 'repurchase' it.



Figure 2. Domestic letter franked with 12,000 milpengo according to the 19th rate period sent to Pápa on June 12, 1946.

The next letter went 10 days later from Nyékládháza to Péterréve. /Its name today: Backo Petrovoselo./ I chose to show this letter because such a destination is impossible to find… Then, the 20th rate period was in effect and the rate for an ordinary letter sent abroad was 80,000 milpengo.



Figure 3. 'Foreign' letter /to Bácska/ with Hungarian address, 20th rate period tariff.

Dealing with foreign letters from this time is very insightful. Because of the high tariffs and the lack of proper stamps, we find that these are frequently underfranked or less frequently, overfranked.

For example, the following ordinary letter was sent to Neunkirchen, Lower Austria on the first day of the 21st rate period. It required, according to the table, 1,600 milliard [English: billion] pengo franking, that is, 1 billion 600 milliard [English: 1 trillion 600 billion] pengo. This would have needed a quantity of 32 50,000 milpengo stamps. There are 'only' 27 of them on the letter. (By chance…?)



4 Figure 4. Letter to Neunkirchen during the 21st rate period, missing 250 milliard pengo = 5 50,000 milpengo stamps are missing

Many of us collect parcel slip with great enthusiasm, so I'm going to show a nice piece here sent from Bánk to Lajosmizse from the time of the 21st rate period. A parcel up to 5 kg required 1,200 milliard pengos. The documentary revenue fee was paid in cash; this was 500 tax pengo. One stamp is missing here, also, in this barely decipherable mess. Of the 24 50,000 milpengo required stamps, there are only 23. Instead, there are 2 10,000 milpengo stamps, so the postal employee probably pocketed 30,000 milpengo (it's valid to presume innocence…)

So what was the contents of this package valued at 1 billion 200 milliard [English: 1 trillion 200 billion]? Used clothing…



Figure 5. Parcel slip from June 25th 1946, weight up to 5 kg, franked with 1,170 milliard in lieu of 1,200 milliard.



Figure 6. Reverse side of the parcel slip.

After a break of ten days, a new issue was required, this time with milliard designation, but immediately with face values of 100, 200, and 500 milliards. The set was issued on June 27th. The highest face value of the previous set was 50,000 milpengo (50 milliard), so the 100 milliard value of the new set complemented the previous one without a gap.



7 Figure 7. Stamps of the milliards issue.

When studying the use of these stamps, I recommend foreign letters only.

On the first one, we see a letter addressed to Perchtoldsdorf. During the war, this was District 25, a part of Gross-Wien (Greater Vienna). After the war it was detached along with other peripheral towns and returned to the jurisdiction of Lower Austria. So while Budapest expanded (in 1950), Vienna was reduced in size.

The 21st rate period was still in effect, so an ordinary letter, as we have seen with the previous one, was 1,600 milliard pengo or 1 billion 600 milliard [English: 1 trillion 600 billion]. This amount is on the letter using easier to decipher denominations. But, we see a brick-red 50,000 milpengo stamp that was totally unnecessary. Could it be that it was intended as a tip for the Austrian censors who cancelled it?



Figure 8. Letter sent from Budapest to Vienna on June 29, 1946 with 1,600 milliard franking (overfranked by 50,000 milpengo)

Next, we see an Újpest-Zürich letter, still franked according to the 21st rate period: 1,600 milliard foreign letter and 3,200 milliard foreign registration = 4,800 milliard.

A provisional Újpest registry label was used. Mailed on the first day of issue (June 27). The 200 milliard stamp on the lower right is considerably misperforated.

The statement 'if the letter could even sing the anthem, then it would be all-knowing…' applies to here…☺



Figure 9. FDC letter sent to Zürich on June 27, 1946 with 4,800 milliard franking. The letter en route for 9 days.

Only six days passed before the next stamp issue appeared, the highly sought after and most valuable billions. These were issued in piecemeal fashion starting on July 3rd through July 13th, 1 billion to 500,000 billion. (They are known as the 'Dove issue' colloquially.)

Only the smaller denominations turn up on genuinely used letters (up to the 50 billion face values). Occasionally, a franking with 100,000 billion stamps can be found used on the last day (July 11th). Expert opinion about every 'billions' letter is absolutely necessary!



Figure 10. Stamps from the 'Dove' issue. July 3-13, 1946.

Let's examine a few billions letters.

The next tariff rate period was the 22nd, effective from July 1st. The 1, 2, 5, and 10 billion stamps were not issued until July 3rd. Therefore, genuine letters can exist only as of this later date. However, the tariff was changed on the next day; the 23th rate period came on July 4th increasing the cost of a domestic letter from 40 billion to 2,000 billion!

But we're still in the 22nd period. Is it possible that a genuine letter exists from that single day? Yes.

We have a domestic letter sent from the Budapest No. 72 post office to Kisújszállás mailed on July 3rd and franked with 20 2 billion Dove stamps for the required tariff of 40 billion. It is a spectacular piece with a 20-stamp franking and without a doubt it is a valuable, interesting item.



Figure 11. 40 billion letter sent from Budapest to the provinces on July 3rd.

The next spectacular piece is my article's second highlight.

Count Károly Pálffy, who was living on his estate near Pozsony, descended from the northern Hungarian branch of the Pálffy family. With the advance of the Russians in 1944, he was forced to flee. His flight took him to Heidenreichstein in Lower Austria, to the Kremsegg Castle near Kremsmüster in Upper Austria, and finally to Kitzbühel in Tirol.

His lawyers lived in Budapest, and a letter from one of them originated on the single possible day, July 3rd. Originally, the letter was sent to Heidenreichstein from where it was forwarded to his second known location in Kremsmünster.



12. ábra. 160 billion letter sent abroad during the 22nd rate period cancelled at 8:00PM on July 3rd 1946 at the Budapest 62 post office.

The tariff for a foreign letter was 160 billion; and, indeed, 32 5 billion stamps can be found on the two sides of the envelope adding up to the correct sum. Only the stamps on the reverse side are cancelled.

If we look at the letter closely, we can observe that it was intended to be mailed registered. Left and above the violet censor stamp one can see the typewritten word 'rec.' When told at the post office that this would cost an additional 320 billion, the sender declined and crossed out the word. Naturally, there would not have been enough space on the envelope for all of the stamps… Thus, this exceptionally nice inflation-era gem came about.

The 23rd rate period came into effect on the next day, July 4th 1946; and the cost of a domestic letter rose to 2,000 billion.



Figure 13. Letter sent from Budapest to Pécs on July 4th during the 23rd rate period taking advantage of the one-day grace period, franked according to the tariff of the 22nd rate period.

You can imagine how alarmed Mr. Selmeczi's messenger became when he heard this 'Hiob'[2] news that as of today, the letter would cost 2,000 billion, the letter that his boss tasked him to mail for the for 40 billion cash that he provided.

The postal clerk noticed the messenger's despair and offered to help. He affixed stamps according the cheaper, previous day's tariff of 40 billion but did not cancel them. He instructed the messenger to take the letter outside and deposit it in the letter collection box. This way, the one day grace period would come into play allowing for the acceptance of the letter at the previous rate such as one that would be found in a letter box.

How do I know this? I don't; I imagined it because at that time, nobody kept a stock of billion stamp issues at home given their circumstances. On the other hand, underfranked letters were not accepted at a postal window…

I used to have another Pálffy letter franked with the billions stamps; but, sadly, I had to part with it and can't reconstruct it. Altogether, I know of only 3 foreign letters from this time!

Starting with July 3rd when the first stamps appeared, the billion issue was useable for only a few days, until July 12th. The last stamps, the 10,000, 50,000, and the 500,000 billion denominations were no longer necessary.

The pengo-era ended with the billion-dove issue; it impressed its mark on the country's face for 20 years. Rather, it was the end of the 'plain' pengo.

[2] Hiob-news = bad news, reference to the biblical story of Job (*Editor*)

Our poor currency carried this name until the 'mil' and the 'bil' modifiers were added. In the second half of June, a 'new' currency came into use, 1 tax pengo [abbreviated: AP] = 2 x 10^{21} plain pengo, in other words, 2 thousand quintillion pengo. Only one tax pengo! But the lowest face value banknote started with 10,000 AP! Go ahead, multiply 10,000 with 2 thousand quintillion, and what do you get? Even I don't know…

And, do we remember? When the tax pengo was introduced on January 1st, the conversion rate was 1:1!!

THE LAST TWO WEEKS – STORY OF THE TAX PENGO STAMP ISSUE, JUNE 15TH TO JULY 31ST 1946

As I was working on this article, my optimistic fellow collectors were planning various events in 2021 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the tax pengo stamps. Whether they will succeed will be decided by the virus, and today that cannot be taken for granted. 'Für alle Fälle' (in all cases) let this dissertation be a start that shows off their usage with illustrations for the first time in our country. It's high time after all. I conducted a census of the available material, naturally it was not 100% but it does present a good cross section. This will show selected items from the 4 largest and best known collections of tax pengo material (Bernáth†, Morgan, Glatz, Nagy). (Unfortunately, I was not able to show items from those who did not communicate with me…) A few of these pieces have been seen only by those fortunate to attend international stamp exhibitions. The Dear Reader can now enjoy these in comfortable surroundings while sitting in a reclining chair.

Therefore, we are now on July 15th in the calendar and the philatelic tax pengo era begins. July 16th was the start of the issue of the tax pengo stamps. Is this in error? No, because the 'Railway' jubilee set, denominated in tax pengo, had been issued on the previous day. The 4 values were a well-executed set, again designed by Konecsni and issued for the 100th anniversary of the start of the Pest-Vác steam-powered railway service. The stamps were very infrequently used on letters with the exception of a few sets. By then, the imminent arrival of the new currency was in the news, and philatelists did not have a large playing field at the time. Everybody was focused on how to preserve and transfer whatever small assets they had into the world of the forint.



Figure 14. The tax pengo-denominated Railway Jubilee issue from July 15th 1946.

But, on the next day, the first two values of the tax pengo definitive series appeared, green stamps with the face value of 5,000 and 10,000 tax pengo. If we examine these stamps closely, we notice that they were not printed with a new plate but with the one used for the milliard set issued on June 27th. Instead of being in olive colour, they were printed in green, and the 'MILLIÁRD P' text was overprinted with the word 'adópengo' (AP). There was not enough time to design a new stamp.



Figure 15. Stamps of the tax pengo set.

At the time of the issue, the 25th rate period, starting on July 12th through July 17th, was in effect. Then, the cost of mailing a local letter was 10,000 AP; a domestic letter, 20,000 AP; a foreign letter, 80,000 AP; domestic registration, 40,000 AP; foreign registration, 160,000 AP. Here, again, I prefer to show foreign letters because they are scarcer and more spectacular.

The first one is a letter addressed in the Slovak language and sent to Ó-Túra in Northern Hungary. It was sent on July 16th and bears an express label with the franking of 230,000 AP. The tariff for a foreign letter was 80,000 AP, then 150,000 AP was left over for the express handling. Only we can't find this in the tariffs table…!



Figure 16a. The address side of the express letter to O-Tura.



Figure 16b. Reverse side of the express letter for the 25th rate period. 80,000 AP is the fee for the letter, 150,000 AP the tariff for express handling abroad (?). Hopefully, the clerks at the No. 72 knew what they were doing…

The following registered letter was sent to Vienna with a total of 240,000 AP franking on the last day of the 25th rate period. Here, again, the foreign letter rate was 80,000 AP and registration was 160,000 AP. The 20,000 and 50,000 AP face vale stamps, issued on the same day, probably had not arrived at the post offices yet, so a lot of stamps were required for the franking.



Figure 17. Registered letter sent to Vienna on the last day of the 25th rate period. The reverse side has the correct franking of 240,000 AP. Sent from the low traffic volume Budapest 30 post office.

Again, a new tariff rate followed. Starting on July 18th through the 23rd, the 26th rate period became effective. The letter shown below must have been overweight, so the franking was solved thus: foreign letter, 400,000 AP, the next weight increment of 20 gr, 250,000 AP; foreign registration, 800,000 AP, for a total of 1 million 450,000 AP.

But, 1,500,000 AP was affixed. Who lost out?

I had thoughts about this letter: what kind of mixed emotional impact was it to write a letter to the Marosvásárhely Register's Office in Hungarian and address it to Targumures, Judentul Targumures. Romania?



Figure 18. 2nd weight class letter to Marosvásárhely sent from the Budapest 64 post office on July 22nd 1946 franked with 1,500,000 AP, overfranked by 50,000 AP.

Dear Reader! We have reached the apex of the inflation from all perspectives. The legendary 27th rate period was in effect from July 24th for one week, to July 31st. It harbours exceptional rarities.

The last two values of the tax pengo set were released on July 26th. These were the 1 and 5 million tax pengo values printed in red colour symbolically signalling the end of the inflation: 'Stop!' Mailings with these red stamps are exceptionally scarce and sought after.

I am both happy and proud to be able to show a few rare letters, many of which nobody in Hungary has seen before, perhaps with the exception of one or two.

Let's look at the letter below, for example. The first impression is the sight of the many green stamps on it. The sender was from Jászszentlászló but for some reason the registered letter was posted at Szank, some 7 km away. On that day, the red stamps had not been issued yet, so the letter glows in green.

If we count the stamps, we see that in addition to the 40 100,000 tax pengo stamps, there are 10 80,000 tax pengo stamps, also. The total franking adds up to 4 million 800,000 AP. This was the tariff for a registered FOREIGN letter. But this was a DOMESTIC letter, which would have required 'only' 400,000 + 800,000 AP.

The unlucky customer happened to pick a bad day. The young lady behind the post office window may not have been clear about the new situation or may have been cross because her evening rendezvous had been called off and her head was not in the transaction, so she collected 4 times the necessary tariff from Mr. Görög. Thus came about the domestic letter bearing the greatest number of green stamps, a hair-raising 50 stamps!

This is the finest green letter that I had ever seen!



Figure 19. Domestic registered letter, sent from Szank to Budapest on July 24th, the first day of the 27th rate period. It was judged to be foreign in error and franked with 50 stamps totalling 4,800,000 AP instead of 1,200,000.

THE RED 1 MILLION TAX PENGO STAMP

We can find the red 1 million tax pengo stamp on the next ordinary letter. The tariff for a domestic letter during the 27th rate period was 400,000 AP. Why was this letter franked with more than twice the fee? Perhaps the sender wanted to mail it registered but did not have enough money (+800,000 AP) for this service. He was late in telling this to the young lady clerk, who had already stuck a red stamp to the envelope. In any case, this ordinary mailing with a single 1 million tax pengo stamp is a great rarity.



Figure 20. Domestic letter sent from Dunaföldvár to Budapest on July 30th franked with a 1 million AP stamp instead of 400,000 AP.

On this postcard we can see what actually cost 1 million. The sender from Viszló in Borsod County (last post office Rakaca) mailed the card. But from where? From Miskolc, a good 50 km away. The sender did not trust the small post office with handing the important, official business post card, and took it to Miskolc for mailing on the last day of the inflation. The fee of 200,000 AP for the domestic postcard + 800,000 AP for registration equalled exactly 1 million AP. Mailings with a single red stamp are very rare!



Figure 21. Domestic registered postcard mailed from Miskolc to Budapest of the last day on the 27th rate period franked with a single 1 million AP stamp.

Such rarities deserve that we look at two more of them closely. Take for example the local registered letter mailed in Tata. It's not hard to postulate its philatelic nature of having been handled within the bosom of the local number 2 post office, but it's still an interesting local novelty. The fee for a local letter was 200,000 AP; registration, 800,000 AP for a total of 1 million. I am not aware of any other local registered letter franked with a 1 million stamp (except for Budapest).



Figure 22. 1 million on a local registered letter posted on July 31st.

I cannot resist, I have to show another interesting piece. Back then, the post office delivered a local registered letter, for example, from one street to another in Tata for the same fee as delivering a post card to, say, Hawaii: for 1 million.

The proof: if a Hungarian individual received a CARE package from the USA, the American Express Company requested the return of the attached POST-CARD with information about the addressee in order to verify the correct delivery.

The cost of foreign post card was 1 million AP, independent of the destination, whether it was to Vienna or to Honolulu.

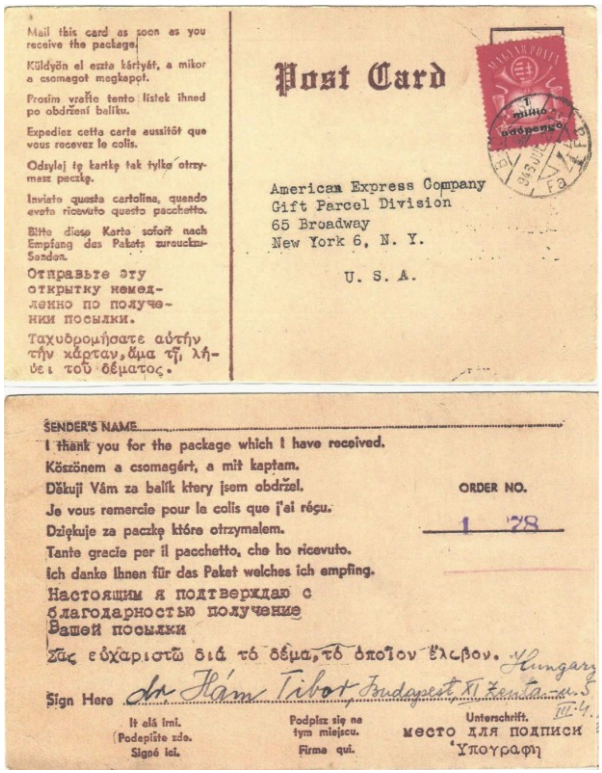


Figure 23. The front and back of the response card sent to New York for a CARE package. Note the careless composition of the Hungarian text.

A domestic registered letter cost one million 200,000 AP; 400,000 AP for the letter fee, and 800,000 AP for registration. The existence of several contemporary treasures can be credited to a vigilant philatelist who salvaged them when the archives of the Public Supply Ministry's Threshing Registry Division was liquidated (also see Fig. 19!). The nice letter from Pápa from July 30th came from this large find.



Figure 24. Registered letter from Pápa to Budapest franked with 1,200,000 AP sent on the next to last day, July 30th.

While most of the domestic letters, because of the high tariffs, were for official business, the situation was different with mail to foreign destinations. There a 1,600,000 AP tariff was in effect for an ordinary letter. Let's look at a couple sent to Switzerland.

The first one from July 26th has a 1 million red tax pengo stamp on it used on the first day of issue. It's not a sky high sensation, but by the end of the inflation, the air was no longer thick and such documents have become sparser.

By the way, the air. The sender lived in Buda in the XIIth District. People who had foreign contacts back then usually did not breathe the smoky air of Pest but that of the ozone-rich air of Buda…

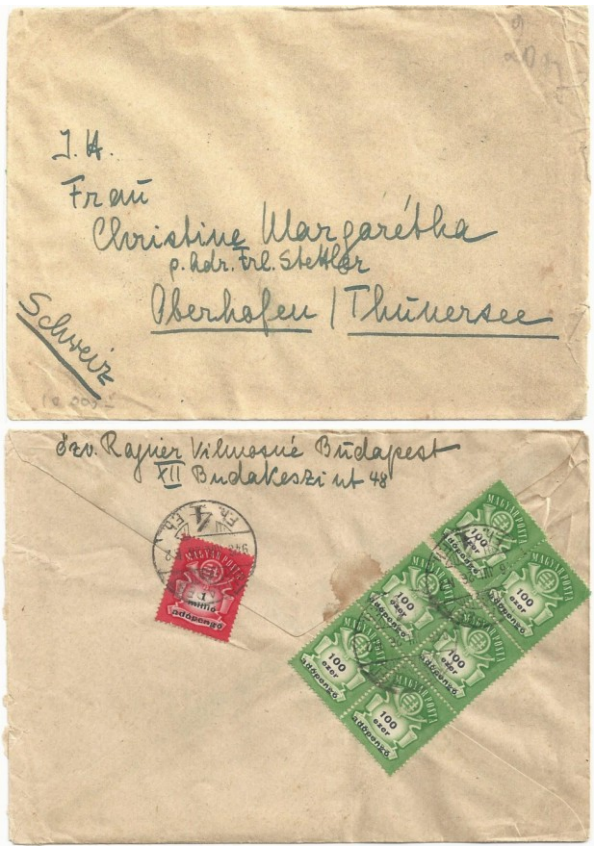


Figure 25. Ordinary letter from Budapest to Oberhofen, Switzerland sent on July 26th, the first day of issue of the red tax pengo stamps.

The next, similar letter was also sent to Switzerland franked with three stamps. This represents a separate collecting sub-specialty: franking with fewest possible stamps. This sender also lived in the XIIth District on Torbágyi Street. Nevertheless, the letter was posted from the Budapest 4 post office, just to be sure…



Figure 26. Swiss letter with 1,600,000 AP franking from July 29th.

The most expensive tariff increment was 4,800,000 AP, the cost to mail a registered letter abroad. The letter fee was 1,600,000 AP; registration, 3,200,000 AP. Let me show such a mailing sent to Denver, Colorado. Stamps for this kind of franking were always placed on the reverse side because a minimum of 8 stamps were required.



Figure 27. Registered letter sent to Denver with 4,800,000 AP franking.

Let another Count Pálffy letter be the conclusion for this section. This was sent on the last day of the inflation from Kiszombor that is located near the Romanian border between Szeged and Makó. Instead of a 1,600,000 AP, the letter was franked with 2,000,000. Most likely, the post office in the small settlement did not have the correct denomination stamps on the last day.



Figure 28. Letter sent from Kiszombor on July 31st to Kremsegg bei Kremsmünster to Count Pálffy. Instead of the correct 1,600,000 it was overfranked with 2,000,000 AP.

Dear Reader! With this, we have arrived at our last station!

THE 5 MILLION TAX PENGO LETTERS

The highest franking paid with the1 million stamp was 4 million 800,000 AP, which was the fee for a registered foreign letter. We can encounter these occasionally, there are a few of them around. From this perspective, we have already seen that there was no need for a 5 million AP stamp.

While there was no need, the fact is that they exist. The collecting community may have never seen these letters and may not see them again. These are the guarded treasures locked away in safes. This just increases my joy that I can show the Dear Readers five examples of these rarities. Such has not happened before in our country.

The first one is a registered letter sent to Austria franked with a single 5 million stamp. The addressee is *Franz See*, who lived in Seewalchen am Attsersee, Upper Austria. As we know, the letter is not franked correctly but overfranked by 200,000 AP. Instead of the correct 4 million 800,000 AP, 5 million stamp was used for postage.

Who was Franz See? He was an Austrian philatelist, good friend of the Hungarians, and who deserves to be remembered with a few sentences.

Between the two wars, he was the director of the Austrian-Bulgarian Tobacco Works in Sofia. There, he tapped into the local sources and lived out his philatelic dream by collecting large quantities of Austrian Post in the Levant, Hungarian private (hotel) posts in Transylvania (Hohe Rinne, Magura, Bistra), Hungarian stamps postally used on cover, Bulgarian entires, just to name a few. As a well-paid factory director, he could allow himself to spend freely especially since the prices in Bulgaria were inexpensive. (A Hungarian would say ‘cheap as the price of a bagó=ciggie,’ the pun being that he worked for a tobacco manufacturer.)

When the collapse came in 1944, he had to flee back to Austria, settling first in Seewalchen. Even in these difficult times, he was interested in modern mailings. In 1955 when the Soviet troops withdrew from Austria, he was allowed to return to Vienna where he applied for retirement and was assigned a company apartment by the Austrian Tobacco firm.

I became acquainted with him in 1970 and used to meet him on Sunday mornings at the Viennese stamp club gatherings. He soon realized that I was interested in the Hohe Rinne and the Hungarian post office in Wallachia and Moldavia between 1867 and 1869. About once a month, he asked me if an item or two interested me, and then gave them to me with a smile. Back then I didn't know much about these areas, and he was always willing to point out to me the interesting facets of these letters. Back then, the value of letters from the Hungarian post offices in Romania was on par with letters from Constantinople or Smyrna. Herr See, nevertheless, knew the facts and in his nonchalant modesty, let me have these rarities at a nominal price.

I am grateful to him for being able to assemble my 'Hungarian Post in Romania 1867-1869' that was a first and stand-alone accomplishment that won a total of 9 gold medals in FIP exhibitions.

Similarly, I built up my Hungarian private posts collection. So, between 1984 and 2000 I exhibited this Hungarian material, and it was judged to receive Large Vermeil awards in FIP exhibitions in the shadow of the tremendous Gary S. Ryan collections that consistently received large gold awards.

Without the magnanimous nature of Herr Franz See, these collections would never have materialized. In this way, large quantities of both materials came into Hungarian hands. This was the historical merit of Franz See.

Later in life, Herr See became my patient and I was able to accompany him through the journey of life until the Good Lord called him to Himself. He closed his eyes at home in the midst of his beloved stamps as was his last request.

This is the background of the 5 million tax pengo letter. I needed to tell this. Such slight overfranking is not a big deal with such a letter. According to Bob Morgan (USA), who is an outstanding expert of the inflation period, only 4 examples of letters with single 5 million franking exist.



Figure 29. 5 million AP single stamp franking sent from the Budapest 114 post office to Seewalchen, Austria on the last day, July 31st.

On the next registered letter, we see a 5 million stamp accompanied by 800,000 AP in green stamps. As I wrote before, a registered foreign letter costs 4,800,000 AP, so is this in error? Or, was this letter overfranked?

If we examine that table of tariffs for the 27th rate period, we find that 5,800,000 AP was needed for a 2nd weight class item, so the letter to Sweden was correctly franked. The 5 million stamp is properly used on the envelope; and, in this combination, created a unique item that stands out from all of the inflationary mailings. In addition, the red stamp was used on the first day.



Figure 30. 2nd weight class registered business letter to Stockholm, Sweden sent from the Budapest 4 post office on July 26th franked with 5,800,000 AP.

I'd like to show a similar 5 million 800,000 AP franked letter. On this letter both red stamps were used. This resulted in a 200,000 AP overfranking that could be easily overlooked. We know of two such letters sent to Belgium with this franking. Naturally, stamp dealer Sándor Székely's customer paid for the slight overfranking. The letter is a fantastic rarity.

Naming summary for big numbers

	Hungarian	English
10^6	millió	million
10^9	millárd	billion
10^{12}	billió	trillion
10^{21}	trilliárd	sextillion
10^{24}	kvadrillió	septillion
10^{27}	kvadrilliárd	octillion

Names on Inflation-Banknotes in Hungary

milpengo = million pengo

B.-pengo = trillion pengo



Figure 31. 2nd weight class letter sent to Antwerp on July 27th from post office no. 7 with 6 million AP franking instead of 5,800,000 AP. Registered letter abroad: 4,800,000 AP, fee for the extra weight: + 1 million, total fee required: 5,800,000 AP.

With our July 31st 1946 letters, we have arrived at the end of the inflation. The tax pengo era ended with the introduction of the forint. Yes? Absolutely not!

The distribution of the new currency throughout all of the country's settlements was a grand plan, but it was impossible, so the tax pengo banknotes and stamps continued to play a big role in the monetary circulation.

First of all, we have to state that the tax pengo banknotes continued to be valid until the end of September! This applied to stamps also because of the lack of small change. For example, the new value of the 5 million stamp was 2 ½ filler, so two of these stamps would be accepted in return for 5 fillér in change.

What was it like on the stamp front?

I am exceedingly happy that I can show two beautiful, singularly rare items before concluding.

The July 29th issue of the Postal Directives Bulletin (Postai Rendeletek Tára, P.R.T.) decreed the following:

'Starting on August 1st of this year, post offices are obligated to calculate all fees published in this issue of the P.R.T. in forints… As of July 31st of this year, I withdraw from circulation all currently circulating postage stamps that are denominated in tax pengo…'

Two days later, from the August 1st issue:

'… Because of various reasons sufficient stamp stock necessary for business traffic can be prepared only gradually; therefore, I am calling the post offices' attention to refrain from giving out stamps in large quantities…'

This directive drafted in typical Hungarian bureaucratic style did not account for situations when the advertised supply of postage did not arrive on time.

Up until then, the stamp distribution served only to *supplement* the existing stocks. This did not require an exact strategy. Now, the entire country needed to be supplied with a new issue in one fell swoop. As a minimum, the 4 values of the Forint-fillér issue: denominations of 20, 30, 60 fillér, and 1 Ft, had to be made available everywhere on the first day. If this was not achieved 100%, then clear instructions should have been made about the possible alternatives.

For example, first of all, the 60 fillér stamps required for domestic letters should have been made available to small villages. That's what they required most frequently. Villagers seldom wrote local or foreign letters. (Local postcard was 20; local letter, 30 fillér; foreign letter, 1 Ft)

What could the poor postal clerks do in an emergency? There were no directives given. Payment in cash? Small change was in short supply. Accept the 'withdrawn' banknotes? Risky…

So on August 4, 1946 Béla Kun Szabó, a resident of Apátfalva located near the Romanian border, went to the village's lonely post office with an ordinary letter that he wanted to mail to Graz to a countryman of his. He had a 1 forint coin in his hand.

With his actions, he wrote himself into the big book of the Hungarian inflation.

Let's look at the letter in question. Sixteen 5 million tax pengo stamps are affixed to both sides of the envelope alongside a new 60 fillér stamp. How could this have happened? The 60 fillér stamp was already valid for four days and the tax pengo stamps were presumably invalid for the same time. The fee for an ordinary foreign letter was 1 forint, so with the 60 fillér stamp, an additional 40 fillér would have been needed. But, no such denomination had been delivered, yet. Also, there was no change available to make up the difference in cash. But, there were a few 5 million tax pengo stamps around for which there was no more use in the village. What would happen if I used these to make up the 40 fillér? - so thought the postal official… The letter was going abroad, to Graz anyway. Nobody pays attention to these matters there.



Figure 32. Ordinary letter sent from Apátfalva to Graz on August 4th 1946 franked with a "Worker" stamp, a block of 10 and two strips of 3 of the 5 million tax pengo stamps that, when converted to forints, correctly paid the 1 forint tariff.

So 80 million tax pengos? 16 5 million stamps for supplemental postage? Instinctively, this is a large number, but it can be calculated as such: one 5 million stamp was worth exactly 2 ½ filler. 16 stamps were required to add up to 40 fillér (16x2.5 fillér = 40 fillér). Thus the postal clerk got rid of the withdrawn stamps and the letter could start its trip to Graz unimpeded. In this way, the wonderful, colourful unique mixed franking cover came about. It is a gem of Hungarian philately from the post-war period.

The British civilian censorship examined the letter twice in Graz as attested by the red and the violet stamps, the two censor tapes, and the two different censor serial numbers. The letter has been in Bob Morgan's large specialist collection for over 20 years. Since it's in America, it is not familiar to collectors in Hungary.

Such examples can be found from other settlements, only collectors have not paid much attention to the dates in the cancellations. For example, I have another letter in my collection that was mailed to Budapest from The Mayor's Office in Túrkeve on August 6th. It is franked with a 500,000 AP stamp and was forwarded without a problem. Nevertheless, they did not recalculate the new postal tariff, because the correct conversion for 60 fillér would have required affixing 25 each of the 5 million red tax pengo stamps (if a 5 million AP stamp = 2 ½ filler, then 60 fillér requires 25 x 5 million stamps). The letter was still franked according to the old tariff (400,000 AP), and with the slight tip in overfranking by 100,000 AP, it was delivered. I'm mentioning this in passing since the letter is not decorative enough to

illustrate and would only demean the calibre of the other illustrations.

With the last of the 'green' tax pengo letters we saw one that was completely covered with 4,800,000 AP's worth of stamps, a fee that was charged in error. In the next picture, we see one that glowing in red.

On the first day of the forint, August 1st 1946, someone in the small Hungarian village named POLGÁR located in the eastern part of the country (near Tiszaújváros) wanted to send a registered letter to the Hungarian Central Pay Office of the National Defence Group located in the Buda Castle on Fortuna Lane no. 2. However, the forint stamps, not even the 60 fillér values, have not yet arrived at the post office. The option of payment in cash was not utilized for some reason. What should be done? The same thing as in Apátfalva. The poor postal clerk resorted to the unusable 5 million AP stamp lying around. This time many more, 40 pieces were used!

Visualize this: 1 tax pengo was 'worth' 2 sextillion pengos. This number is a 2 followed by 21 zeros. The letter had 40 each of the 5 million AP stamps = 200 million tax pengos which was worth 400 followed by 27 zeros in pengos. Written out, the number is four-hundred-octillion pengos. With this franking the letter established a numerical world record that I don't think can be surpassed by any possible higher value franking glued on an envelope.

By the way, gluing. Sharp eyed philatelists probably noticed that this 200 million tax pengo sum was insufficient franking for a registered letter. Its tariff should have been: domestic letter at 60 fillér, registration at 1,40 forint = 2 forint which would have been 400 million AP. Therefore the letter was underfranked. Whether we believe it or not, 1 forint is missing, so 80 and not 40 5 million AP should have been used! Today, we are not in a position to reconstruct the reason for this omission. Most likely, the postal clerk, being on the borderline of insanity, simply threw in the towel.

This letter was also unknown in our country until 2019. As far as I know, it was exhibited once in America from the legendary collection of Professor Bernáth. Since I've acquired the letter, I can show it now as the third and last highlight of the collection.



Figure 33. WORLD RECORD LETTER with 40x5 million AP franking sent from Polgár to Budapest on August 1st 1946. (by English naming) 400 octillion pengo franking. Paying fee with highest number in the world with postage stamps.

As we can see, the tax pengo era did not end on July 31st as the 'experts' maintain. Switching over to the forint required a great effort that was finally concluded on September 30th 1946.

Only then were the tax pengo notes retired. Up until then the general public had to come up with countless improvisations that they endured in the hope of a better future. Accepting the tax pengo notes continued to be mandatory.

I received an aluminum 1 forint coin in trade for my last 2 'salvaged' 100 million tax pengo notes. My dear God, how happy I was…

EPILOGUE

While sorting out the covers for publication in this article, I received a correspondence from our fellow collector Bob Morgan. The first glance took my breath away as happened several times during this project. It was a wonderful, colourful letter of value with a terrific 52,400,000 AP franking using a mix of 1 and 5 million stamps, correctly affixed individually according to regulations, with the pink 'Értéklevél / Valeur déclarée' label (according to Bob two examples exist, see the Székely letter sent to Antwerp), miraculously used in the last hours of the last day!

The declared contents of the letter were 100 pieces of 100 million tax pengo notes for a total value of 100 billion. The tariff was figured in this way:

3rd weight class local letter 600,000 AP

Registrations 800,000 AP

Insurance based on the declaration of the contents: 51,000,000 AP

Total 52,400,000 tax pengo. The 21 affixed stamps amount to exactly that.

But, a second look reveals why this mailing ended up in the 'Epilogue' section: the letter of value was 'posted' by a clerk and addressed to a colleague (the posting cancellation has the control letter N), who received the letter in the same hour as indicated by the 'arrival cancellation'. (The control letter on the arrival cancellation is 'J.') Therefore, the letter did not leave the post office building. This is my theory: (again, but most often they prove to be correct ☺)

The handling of inflationary letters required superhuman efforts from the postal personnel. They, who were not well versed in higher mathematics had daily struggles with the constantly changing problems. It is understandable if there was celebration in the post offices when these difficult times ended. Perhaps in the last hour before closing or shortly thereafter, a few shots of apricot brandy served to commemorate the struggles they enure in surviving the trying times.

In the meantime, the sender's employment at the post office in 1946 was confirmed. Sadly, he passed away at an early age (he was 35).

Let this be a memorial to the postal official, Gyula Zsóka.



The question is, is it permissible to include such a letter into our postal history work? Or, should we turn up our nose at such a philatelic fabrication?



Figure 34. The letter of value from Zalaegerszeg with 52,400,000 AP franking.

Now, Dear Reader, I included the letter at the end of my article because this is a true piece of „postal history" when the postal clerk created memorials to an era. In my opinion, this is a singular and valuable item, and it deserves that we respect and remember it.

I would be very happy if you would think like I do that the thorough analysis of this area requires inevitable and necessary compromises. I am dedicating my work to the participants of the planned symposium in 2021. I am grateful for the help Bob Morgan, a fellow Hungarian collector from America, provided without which his work would not have been possible.

LITERATURE

Leányfalusi-Nagy: A pengo pénzrendszer 1926-1946. Kecskemét, 1986.

At the end of 2020 MABÉOSZ signed a contract with the Stamp World Federation (FIP) and its representative Yigal Nathanniel to organize an FIP exhibition in Budapest. Bálna, the site in the original plan, is scheduled to undergo roof repairs in 2022, so, tentatively, the site has been changed to one of the exhibition halls of the Millenáris.

The orginisational work is under way, and in the first week of January every FIP member's national association will be asked to participate, to assign commissioners, and to start accepting exhibits.

The deadline for signing up to exhibit June 30, 2021.

HUNfilex 2022 BUDAPEST

honlap: hunfilex2022.com

IN MEMORIAM DR. TAMAS SOMOGYI /1925-2020/

Between 1990-94, Dr. Tamás Somogyi was a representative in the national assembly; between 1991-94, he was the vice-president of MABÉOSZ; starting in 1992, he was the editor of Bélyegvilág for ten years, and was the publication's editor emeritus until his passing. He was also an honorary member of MABÉOSZ and Mafitt. We pay our respect to his pleasant, modest, and captivating personality as well as his selfless philatelic work. He wrote his philatelic autobiography for the Hungarian Philatelic Pantheon that may be read by clicking on his name in the eternal list of Mafitt.

www.mafitt.hu/pantheon





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 XXXII

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

21
2

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2021/2

Content:

Florent Tricot:	Postage Due During the Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946: End of the 1941 Issues Using	1
Ute Dorr, FRPSL – Dr. Elmar Dorr, FRPSL:	Findings on the Postmark of the Budapest Main Post Office	17
Dr. Gyorgy Lovei:	The Use of Special Cancellers on Airmail Letters and Other Varieties	21
Dr. Peter Revesz:	Molnár Józsi/Péter or a Playful Philatelist	27
Janos Dan:	The Story of a Censor Canceller from Miskolc	28
Lajos Horvath:	Activities of the Taxis Family in Hungary, the First Postal Service	32
In Memoriam	Filep László (1925-2020)	35
News		37

Editor: Karoly Szucs, curator of the Gervay Foundation

Translator: Csaba Kohalmi member of presidency of Mafitt and member of Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP)

Consultants:

Mervyn Benford, member of Mafitt and Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain (HPSGB)

Dr. Gyorgy Lovei, president of Mafitt

POSTAGE DUE DURING THE HUNGARIAN HYPERINFLATION OF 1945-1946: END OF THE 1941 ISSUES USING



BY FLORENT TRICOT (FRANCE)

1-INTRODUCTION

From 1943 January 1 until 1945 May 31, the brown postage due stamps from the two 1941 issues were used exclusively on postage due mails. Significant quantities of these postage due stamps were issued, and even after the destruction following the fighting between the Red Army and the Nazi Army, a number of values were still available in Hungarian post offices.

The Hungarian Post considered that the stocks on hand were still sufficient when the period 1 of Hyperinflation began, as it was still a month before any new figures were issued, on 1945 June 1.

Nevertheless, from the period 1 of Hyperinflation, we see in some post offices instead of postage due stamps using, the using of postage stamps, revenue stamps, local vignettes, provisional postage due stamps and due amounts simply handwritten on the mail, this replacing the use of these brown postage due stamps, proof that the stocks available were certainly not identical depending on the location.

Conversely, in other post offices, towards the end of the use of these postage due stamps in period 3, some values were still used, this time in a massive way, the differential between their face value and the postal rates having become very large.

This article aims to present the latest uses of the 2 series of the 1941 brown postage due stamps.

2- TRANSITION BETWEEN THE BET AND HYPERINFLATION

The transition period (Budapest Emergency Tariff = BET) ended on 1945 April 30. As the first postage due calculation is made in the dispatching post office, the result of the calculation of the amount due being handwritten on the mail, and that the confirmation of this amount is made in the delivering post office with affixed postage due stamps, the first hyperinflation postage due mails were sent during the BET and the postage due stamps were cancelled in May 1945.

Normally, the amount due should be confirmed in the delivering post office, so the amounts franked in postage due stamps on such mails correspond to a calculation made according to the BET's postal rates.

However, if this post office does not have the appropriate values in postage due stamps, or if it is decided that the amount to be collected is not suitable, then the amount due may be amended or rounded up. Note that the rounding in period 1

was done to within 10f often above the sum due initially established.

In the end, very few postage due mails sent during the BET are known with a claiming in period 1 (*see fig. 1 and 3*).



Fig.1- Domestic postcard insufficiently franked at 18f (nominal value printed on the postcard), written in Sárvár (but no post office datestamp) for Budapest, handled on arrival in office 72 EL on 1945 April 30 (last day of the BET period).

The sender should have franked his postcard according to a rate of 40f. The postage due calculation is 2x(40f-18f)=44f. « 44 » is handwritten in Sárvár (bellow the 10f brown postage due stamp on the top).

The postcard is sent to the indicated address depending on the 4K post office, 2 brown postage due stamps at 10f and one at 24f are affixed there on 1945 May 3 before collecting of the sum from the recipient.

To this day, the date of 1945 May 3 is the earliest that I know of on brown postage due stamps used during the period 1: in principle, this date could be improved.

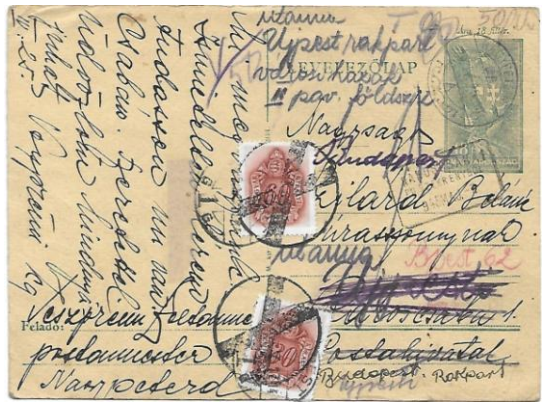


Fig. 2- Domestic postcard insufficiently franked at 18f (nominal value printed on the postcard) from Nagypeterd, sent by its Post Office Director on 1945 April 25 for a staff member from the post office in Rakoscsaba (eastern suburb of Budapest).

The sender should have franked his postcard according to a rate of 40f. A first sum of 50f is claimed, handwritten "50 fill" at the top right. This results from the calculation 2x(40f-18f)= 44f up rounded to 50f. The rounding recalls a postage due amount decided during the period 1.

Arrival in Rakoscsaba (rectangular postal agency datestamp) on 1945 May 7, or the management of the following postal process is only done on that date. The recipient does not work in this post office, the postcard is then forwarded to Ujpest (North of Budapest), "Utána Ujpest" is handwritten in purple at the bottom.

The postage due amount was changed in the post office of Ujpest 1, it corresponds to a penalty for incorrect address: use of the period 1 domestic postal rate of 60f, the calculation is then 2x(60f-18f)= 84f up rounded to 90f. "T 90" is handwritten at the top of the postcard. 2 brown postage due stamps are affixed on May 17. Finally, the recipient does not depend on this post office either. The brown postage due stamps are then invalidated with the X in a circle marking.

The postcard is forwarded once more, this time to Ujpesti Rakpart, a district of Budapest: “Utána Ujpest” crossed in pencil and exact address handwritten at the top. At the bottom is also noted “Budapest Rakparl” in pen but finally modified “Ujpesti”.

The 90f must have been claimed at this last address, but 2 last marks indicate that the recipient refused to pay it: "T 90" is crossed out at the top, an arrow to the down and "50" are handwritten by lila ink pencil on the left of the last address. This indicates that the postcard is being returned to the sender and that in the end, it is claimed the 50f initially established.

Here is therefore a very rich postal process and the coexistence of rates from 2 different periods on the same mail.

The visible treatment of this postcard ultimately shows a good part of the main elements of the postage due calculations made in period 1: double of the deficiency, rounding, forwarding, annulation, and return to sender.



Fig.3- Cover sent unclosed and unfranked, originally from Budapest, but no datestamp there, finally managed on 1945 May 3 in Hódmezővásárhely, in the delivering post office. Since the cover is sent open (gum part of the flap not glued), the single deficiency is charged.

If the sender had sent his mail in period 1, the calculation for the amount due would have been 1P-0f = 1P. "60f" is handwritten at the top of the cover. This tells us that the cover was sent during the BET, that the amount due was established there in Budapest and that the calculation was 60f-0f = 60f.

Note that the first datestamp affixed here indicates "945 MAJ-3 É8", É = éjjel = night. This is an error by the post office worker, corrected on the brown postage due stamps with a datestamp with "945 MAJ-3 N8", N = nappal = day. Thus, two 30fbrown postage due stamps are affixed on the cover.

3-THE MONTH OF MAY 1945

a) The new postal rates from the period 1 and the postage due

Postal regulations in the PRT have not yet been found for May 1945 (they are not known until 1945 June 9). However, we know the postal rates, and they have increased since 1945 May 1, others have been created (for printed matters and the express rate):

Type of mail	Weight level	BET rates	Period 1 rates
Local cover	Up to 20g 21/250g 251/500g	40f 80f 1P	50f 1P 1P50f
Local postcard		30f	40f
Local registration		1P	1P50f
Local express		-	1P50f
Domestic cover	Up to 20g 21/250g 251/500g	60f 1P20f 1P60f	1P 2P 3P
Domestic postcard		40f	60f
Domestic registration		1P40f	2P
Domestic express		-	3P
Printed matter	Up to 20g 21/100g 101/500g 501/1000g 1001/2000g 2001/3000g	- - - - - -	10f 1P 1P50f 2P50f 7P50f 10P

All postage due mail sent during May 1945 (the first month of the period 1) had to include a claiming of the amount due in May in using brown postage due stamps, at least if the delivering post office had them. The calculations were based on the period 1 postal rates. As regards the methods of postage due calculations, except for the calculation of double the deficiency established in the 19th century, the Hungarian postal regulations are generally not known.

We see mainly a postage due as a penalty, but a part of the postal situations generate a penalty and other only the result of a service (as inside a parcel sending or the Business Reply-Paid matters for example). The penalty is when there is originally a lack in the sender's franking.

A statistical study of the mails listed over the period 1 nevertheless makes it possible to define the following categories:

- Double of the deficiency for any insufficiently franked mail, which becomes double of the initial rate if the mail is not prepaid (*see fig*. 4 *and 5*), except in the following cases:
- If the mail is unclosed : the single deficiency calculation (*see fig. 3*)
- For official mail sent to a non administrative recipient: the single postage is due if the mail bears the words "hivatalból portóköteles" (*see fig. 13 and 14*). Special arrangements are established depending on the type of Administration: for example, for district court notices, the single deficiency if it is sent partially franked or the postage is claimed without the presence of these 2 words. The study of all these differences is still to deepen. The lack of the postage franking is here fully decided by the administrative sender because the postal regulations permit that, it is like a penalty for the recipient, but only on the single rate.
- If the amount of the postage due is less than 20f: a minimum of 20f postage due is charged – even on first class official printed matter where only

10f should be collected from the not administrative recipient (*see fig. 6 and 13*)

- Rounding of the sum due to the nearest 10f for amounts due not a multiple of 10f. But if the delivering post office can confirm the exact sum due using its available values in postage due stamps, the not rounded initial sum due could be claimed. (*see fig. 2, 7 and 11*)
- During the forwarding of postage due mail (such as with an incorrect address), an additional postage due of 10f can be claimed from the recipient, by default from the sender in the event of a return. If not, in most situations, the amount due is rolled over to the new address without further penalty. (*see fig. 8*)
- For mail returned to the sender, the amount due initially claimed from the recipient is claimed from the sender (*see fig. 4-9*). This mode of complaint changed around the period 3.



Fig.4. Domestic postcard written on 1945 April 19, during the transition period, but finally sent unfranked from Budapest on 1945 May 1 (first day of the period 1) for Székesfehérvár.

The rate for a domestic postcard is 60f in period 1. The calculation of the amount due is 2x60f = 120f = 1P20f. In Budapest, the post office worker handwrote "T 120f", this sum was crossed out by Székesfehérvár's, who mistakenly changed it to 36f (= 2x18f, a rate during WWII).

Finally, the amount of 120f was charged again by the supervisor who handwrote "1.20" with his signature, two 60f brown postage due stamps are canceled on May 8 next to a T postage due marking.



Fig.5- Domestic cover insufficiently franked at 2x30f = 60f from Budapest, sent on 1945 May 26 for Gyöngyős.

In fact, in period 1, the rate for a domestic cover is 1P up to 20g. The calculation of the sum due is 2x(1P-60f)= 80f. Arrival on May 29 in Gyöngyős, two 40f brown postage due stamps are affixed.



Fig.6- Local printed postcard sent insufficiently franked at 5f + 4f (red rubber stamp) = 9f from Budapest4 on 1945 May 1 (first day of period 1).

The rate for a printed matter is 10f up to 20g. The calculation of the amount due is 2x(10-9) = 2f. On May 4, at office 741b, a 20f brown postage due stamp is affixed but the recipient is unknown at the indicated address (Ismeretlen/Unknown sticker). Back in this post office, the new address is sought and then found (written in green, the sticker is then crossed out) and a new 20f amount due (handwritten under the sticker) is charged on July 7 at the 741co office.



Fig.7- Domestic cover insufficiently franked at 2x12f + 18f = 42f from Ujpest sent on 1945 May 25 for Gyöngyős.

The postage due calculation is therefore 2x(100f-42f)= 116f, and the amount should be up rounded to 120f. In Gyöngyős on May 29, the post office worker affixed exactly 116f using brown postage due stamps: two at 40f and two at 18f, and 2x40 + 2x18 = 116. The amount due was not rounded because the delivering post office had the correct postage stamps for the whole amount due.

This English edition is welcomed around the world by collectors of Hungarian philately and postal history. Contributions from experts on the stamps and stationery of Hungary, and their story, come from many countries.

Some of them come from American writers who use a slightly different version of English spelling from that taught and learned around the world. We respect their work and thank them for it. However, our mother language consultant in the editing process changes these spellings to British English. Authors please understand we are looking for a consistent appearance for Philatelica.



Fig.8- (ex-Visnyovszki) Domestic postcard insufficiently franked at 18f (nominal value printed on the postcard) from Bonyhád in May 1945 for Budapest.

The rate for a domestic postcard is 60f. The calculation of the amount due is 2x(60-18)= 84f up rounded to the nearest 10f in 90f.

In Budapest, two 40f and one 10f brown postage due stamps are affixed to claim 90f from the recipient. This one is deceased (meghalt handwritten by pencil), the postage due stamps are invalidated with an ERVÉNYTELEN marking.

The postcard is then returned to the sender. Arrival in Bonyhád on June 1, new brown postage due stamps are affixed: seven 12f and two 3f, which make 90f, claimed this time from the sender.

b) Differences with the arrival dates of the postal rates in post offices

It turns out that the means to notify the various post offices were still very different at the beginning of the period 1, and so some did not receive them immediately. For others, while the new rates were received, some post office workers confused by the previous rates. So we can see some postage due mails, sent during the period 1, whose calculation of the amount due is based on BET rates. These confusions are still seen during the second week of May 1945 (*see fig. 9 and 10).*

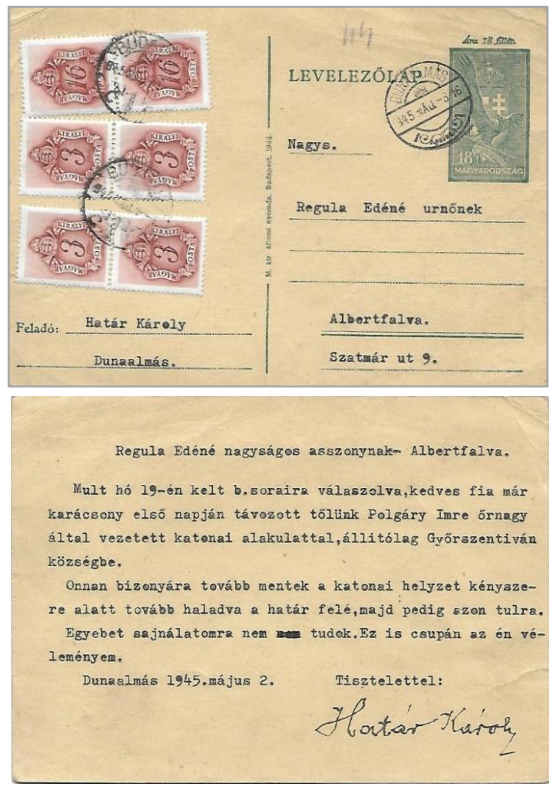


Fig.9- Domestic postcard sent insufficiently franked at 18f (nominal value printed on the postcard) from Dunaalmás on 1945 May 3 for Albertfalva. The rate for a domestic postcard in period 1 is 60f.

On the other hand, the postage due amount is 44f which, taking into account the postage, comes from the calculation 2x(40-18)= 44f. Thus, the post office worker in Dunaalmás did not receive the new postal rates by May 3, he applied a transi-

tion period rate: 40f for a domestic postcard. Then on May 11 in Budafok, adjoining town of Albertfalva, 6 brown postage due stamps are affixed, two 16f and four 3f, confirming the amount due previously calculated.



Fig.10- Domestic cover insufficiently franked at 30f from Bonyhád (provisional datestamp) sent on 1945 May 9 (period 1) for Budapest.

In period 1, the rate for a domestic cover is 1P up to 20g.However, 2 brown postage due stamps were affixed in Budapest office 2T on May 11, one 20f and one 40f.

As 30f + 60f = 90f does not correspond to any postal rate in period 1, the 60f results from the calculation 2x30f = 60f, therefore from 2x(60f-30f)= 60f taking into account the postage.

This means that the post office worker who made this calculation took as a basis 60f, the 20g domestic cover rate applied during the transition period. The recipient is ultimately not found at the written address, the cover is forwarded to Rákosliget: without any further marking on the cover, the same amount due had to be claimed at the new address.

4- THE REMAINDER OF PERIOD 1 (1945 JUNE 1 – JULY 1)

During the period 1, what differs between the month of May and the remainder of the period is the arrival on 1945 June 1 of a new set of postage due stamps, this time with nominal values more in line with the amounts of the period 1 postal rates. For lack of funds, the same printing of the brown postage due stamps was used, this time printed on bluish paper, then "1945 ... fillér" or "1945 ... Pengő" overprinted in red, from 10f to 2P.

The remaining brown postage due stamps continue to be used, but this time they can be used mixed with overprinted postage due stamps. Such mixed compositions are much scarcer than combinations of postage due stamps in the same issue. But little by little, the combinations of brown postage due stamps in different values are less and less seen (*see fig. 11-14*).



Fig.11- Local postcard insufficiently franked at 18f (nominal value printed on the postcard) from Budapest 62 on 1945 June 7. The rate for a local postcard is 40f.

The calculation of the amount to be collected is 2x(40-18)= 44f. This sum was up rounded in Budapest 62 to 50f and a T in circle postage due marking is affixed on the postcard. Upon arrival at post office 112 on June 11, one 50f brown postage due stamp is affixed.



Fig.12- Similar postcard to fig. 11, from Budapest 72 sent on 1945 June 13.

The first amount due entered in blue at office72 is 44f. This sum was corrected in pencil and up rounded in Budapest 741 to 50f. Then, on June 18, one 10f brown postage stamp and one overprinted 40f /*12f* postage due stamp are affixed.



Fig.13- Folded printed leaf from the Reforming Church of Darány, sent unfranked from Darány on 1945 June 19 for the religious school of Istvándi.

While for most Administrations, their internal mail is free, religious official mails do not follow the same rules. If it is unpaid and bears the word "Portóköteles", the single rate is due by the recipient, even if it comes from another religious administration.

But, on this item, instead of writing the sum of 10f for sending such a form, "T 20 fill" is handwritten in Darány. The minimum of postage due for period 1 has been charged. In Istvándi, two 10f brown postage due stamps are affixed on the same day.



Fig.14- Free inter-administrative cover (Hivatalból Díj átalányozva) from Pápa, sent 1945 May 27 for Marczaltő.

It was then opened and returned to be sent unfranked from Marczaltő on 1945 June 6 for a non administrative recipient in Veszprém, handwritten words "hivatalból portóköteles" on the cover. The rate for a domestic cover is 1P up to 20g.

Arrival in Veszprém on June 11, twenty 3f brown postage due stamps and one 40f are affixed on the back of the cover. The recipient refused to pay the amount due, "Nem Fogadta El" (refused) and "vissza" (return) handwritten in pencil by the postman on the front, the postage due stamps are invalidated and the post office worker in Veszprém handwrote "T 1P "in green pencil. This is the amount that the Administration of Marczaltő owes to the Post.

5- SPECIAL CASE OF MAILS TO FOREIGN

During period 1, postal traffic to Abroad is closed, so there is no possibility that the Post will send any mail to its abroad destination. There are nevertheless 4 possible situations for this type of mail in period 1:

(1) a mail is destined to abroad and the address of the sender is noted. If the mail is deposited in a mailbox, then it is returned to the sender immediately with a mark "Vissza Forgalom szünetel" (returned, pause traffic). If the sender brings the mail to the post office, it is given immediately back to the sender.

(2) a mail is destined for abroad, but the sender's address is not noted, such mail deposited in a mailbox is kept by the post office awaiting the reopening of traffic, and then routed to the targeted country.

(3) a mail is not initially destined for abroad, but the recipient is finally found to live in a for-

eign country, then the treatment is identical to the case (2). (*see fig. 15*)

(4) a mail is taken by someone who could cross the border and deposit the mail inside a mailbox in that country, then that mail is treated as a domestic mail, or a local mail depending on the address, in that country.

In case (3), if the mail is not franked or partially franked by the sender, if there was a first postage due calculation made in Hungary, it will finally be invalidated, then a new amount due is requested in the foreign country, the amount of which depends on the postage due regulations in that country.

Note that the date of reopening of postal traffic depended on the countries: it was for Yugoslavia in period 2, for Czechoslovakia in period 3, other countries between period5 and period 24. The postal traffic to Germany was not reopened during Hyperinflation (*see fig. 15*).



Fig.15- The above cover had 2 lives in postage due way:

First, it is an unfranked first class local cover from Budapest 62, with a postage due made on 1945 June 4 (period 1) at 2x50f= 1P. One 40f and one 60f brown postage due stamps are affixed in the 62Ka office. The addressee is not found by the postman, the postage due stamps are invalidated by the ERVÉNYTELEN marking upon return to the post office.

Next, the recipient's new address is searched and found in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) in Romania. The cover arrived in Bucharest in January 1946 (therefore after the reopening of postal traffic with Romania on 1945 November 17) where it was charged with the amount of 160 Lei (handwritten in red), i.e. double the Romanian domestic rate (80P) for a first class cover. Arriving in Târgu Mureș on 1946 January 25, the post office worker affixed Romanian postage due stamps: three at 50 Lei, two at 2 Lei and one at 6 Lei (which was used again on this cover) before claiming 160 Lei at the recipient's new home.

6-PERIOD 2 (1945 JULY 2 – SEPTEMBER15)

On 1945 July 2, postal rates increased, see table below:

Type of mail	Weight level	Period 2 rates
Local cover	Up to 20g 21/250g 251/500g	2P 3P 4P
Locale postcard		1P60f
Domestic cover	Up to 20g 21/250g 251/500g	3P 4P 5P
Domestic postcard		2P
Registration		5P
Express		10P
Printed matter	Up to 20g 21/100g 101/500g 501/1000g 1001/2000g 2001/3000g	40f 1P60f 3P 5P 10P 14P
Cover to Yugoslavia	Up to 20g each 20g more	20P 12P
Registration for Yugoslavia		20P
Postcard to Yugoslavia		12P

There is also the reopening of the parcel service, with special rates depending on weight and areas around the dispatching post office. It would be possible to see brown postage due stamps on parcel cards if there is a storage charge for packages collected with a delay of more than 7 days (claim with postage due stamps, 1P per day in period 2). Such parcel cards are very scarce, and the only ones I know are with overprinted postage due stamps.

For other mails, as the nominal values of brown postage due stamps, from 2f to 60f, are small in comparison with the period 2 postal rates, their use is either in addition with overprinted postage due stamps (*see fig. 16-18*), or in massive use (see docs 19 and 20). The minimum of postage due is now 40f (PRT 1945 page37 A) 2., published on June 21), the roundings are always done to the nearest 10f. (*see fig. 16-20*):



Fig.16- Domestic postcard insufficiently franked at 30f from Külsővat in the first days of period 2 (dated 1945 July 1) for Eger.

The rate (PRT 105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x(2P-30f)= 3P40f. In Külsővat, the post office worker handwrote "T 3P40" (which has been covered by 2 postage due stamps). In Eger, one 40f brown postage due stamp and 2 overprinted postage due stamps, one 1P/*40f* and one 2P/*20f* are cancelled with a "P" by pen (surely by the postman).



Fig.17- Domestic cover sent unfranked from Budapest on 1945 September 10 (period 2) for Szekszárd.

The rate (PRT 127.000/A.4) for a domestic cover is 3P up to 20g. The calculation of the amount due is 2x3P = 6P, a T in a circle postage due marking and "6P" have been affixed to the cover in Budapest. One 20f brown postage due stamp, five overprinted 1P/*10f* postage due stamps and above all, one blue 80f postage due stamp were affixed on September 12. The blue postage due stamps were withdrawn on 1942 December 31.

If the presence of 2 different issues is already a rarity in itself, how can we talk about 3 issues? Anyway, I have no other reference than this cover with the use of a blue postage due stamp during Hyperinflation. Perhaps this 80f should be stuck between 2 pages of the postage stamps binder at Szekszárd's post office for 3 years without anyone noticing it until 1945 September 12.



Fig.18- Inter Religious Administrations cover (from the bishop of Pécs for parish office) from Pécs, sent on 1945 July 3 for Magyarszék.

The words “hivatalból vallási ügyben” (Administration, religious affairs) and “hivatalból portóköteles” (official, postage due) written on the cover.

3P is claimed from the addressee ("T 3" on front), the postal rate for a first class domestic cover in period 2; arrival in Magyarszék on July 5, five 20f brown postage due stamps and five overprinted 40f/*12f* postage due stamps are affixed on the back.



Fig.19- Domestic cover insufficiently franked at 30f, sent from Ráckeve on 1945 July 12 for Tököl.

Indeed, this first class cover should have been franked at 3P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x(3P-30f)= 5P40f. When the cover arrived in Tököl on July 15, forty-five brown postage due stamps were affixed: nine of 2f, four of 4f, eleven of 10f and twenty-two of 18f. 9x2 + 4x4 + 11x10 + 22x18 = 540.



Fig.20- Local cover sent unfranked from Budapest62 on 1945 September 15 (last day of period 2).

The rate (PRT 105.037/A.4) for a first class local cover is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x2P = 4P, the amount due is handwritten "4.-" next to a T in a circle postage due marking. Fifty 8f brown postage stamps are cancelled on September 17 (period 3) at office 741.

7-USING IN PERIOD 3 (1945 SEPTEMBER 16 – OCTOBER 24)

Period 3 is the last period when the brown postage due stamps were used. Regardless of the ever increasing amounts of postal rates (see table below), and now a differential with their nominal value opening the obligation in their use massively, there are fewer and fewer of these stamps left in the post offices. Very few postage due mails from the period 3 exist with brown postage due stamps.

On 1945 October 22 was decided by the Ministry of Finance, registered in the PRT 1945 (regulation 134.910/A4), to abandon the sums in fillér in the accounts and payments, the sums having now to be expressed entirely in Pengő.

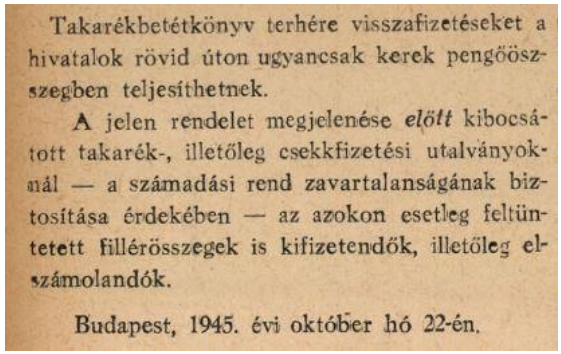
Fillérösszegek számításának elhagyása a postatakarékpénztári közvetítő szolgálatban.

134.910/A. 4.

A postatakarékpénztár — a pénzügyminiszter úr jóváhagyásával — a fillérösszegekkel való kezelést összes üzletágaiban azonnali hatállyal megszüntette.

Ehhez képest a postahivatalok e rendelet megjelenésének időpontjától kezdve fillérösszegekről is szóló takarékbetéteket ne fogadjanak el, hanem a feleket minden esetben szólítsák fel a fillérösszeg elhagyására, vagy egész pengőre való kikerekítésére.

Csekkbefizetéseknél, amennyiben a befizetési lapokon fillérösszegek is szerepelnek, azokat a befizetési lap mindhárom részén olvashatóan húzzák át és befizetésként csak kerek pengőösszegeket fogadjanak el.



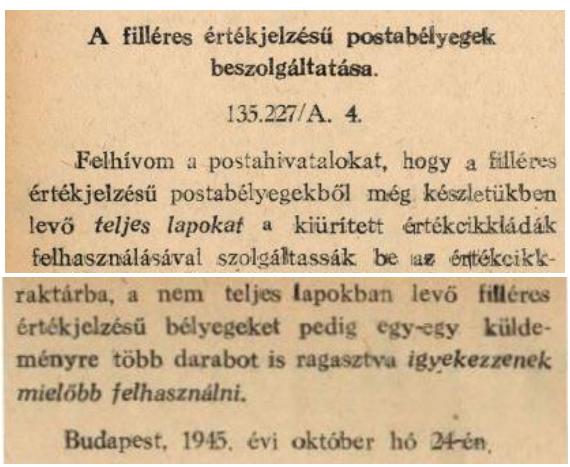
Takarékbetétkönyv terhére visszafizetéseket a hivatalok rövid úton ugyancsak kerek pengőösszegben teljesíthetnek.

A jelen rendelet megjelenése *előtt* kibocsátott takarék-, illetőleg csekkfizetési utalványoknál — a számadási rend zavartalanságának biztosítása érdekében — az azokon esetleg feltüntetett fillérösszegek is kifizetendők, illetőleg elszámolandók.

Budapest, 1945. évi október hó 22-én.

On 1945 October 24 (regulation 135.227/A.4) requires post offices to return unused sheets of postage stamps in fillér, and to quickly and massively use postage stamps from already partly used sheets.

In fact, the postage due stamps present in the post offices expressed in fillér had necessarily to follow this directive, we can therefore consider that, automatically, the very last brown postage due stamps were then either withdrawn by whole sheets definitively from the post offices, perhaps a few rare last ones used massively at the end of October on few mails.



A filléres értékjelzésű postabélyegek beszolgáltatása.

135.227/A. 4.

Felhívom a postahivatalokat, hogy a filléres értékjelzésű postabélyegekből még készletükben levő *teljes lapokat* a kiürített értékcikkládák felhasználásával szolgáltassák be az értékcikk-raktárba, a nem teljes lapokban levő filléres értékjelzésű bélyegeket pedig egy-egy küldeményre több darabot is ragasztva *igyekezzenek mielőbb felhasználni.*

Budapest, 1945. évi október hó 24-én.

At the sight of the postage due mails with an amount due on postage due stamps affixed after 1945 October 24 brought to my knowledge, none more has a postage due stamp in filler. The earliest date that I know being 1945 October 20 (Ten 60f overprinted postage stamps).

During period 3, new amounts are used:

Type of mail	Weight level	Period 3 rates
Local cover	Up to 20g 21/250g 251/500g	6P 8P 10P
Local postcard		4P
Domestic cover	Up to 20g 21/250g 251/500g	10P 15P 20P
Domestic postcard		6P
registration		20P
Express		30P
Printed matter	Up to 20g 21/100g 101/500g 501/1000g 1001/2000g 2001/3000g	2P 5P 10P 20P 30P 40P
Cover to abroad	Up to 20g For each 20g more	40P 24P
Registration for abroad		80P
Postcard to abroad		24P

The minimum of postage due is now 1P (PRT 1945 page140 A) 2. published on September 10) and the rounding is to the nearest 1P (*see fig. 21*) :

The rate (PRT 127.000/A.4) for a registered domestic cover is 15P + 20P = 35P between 21 and 250g. The sales office clerk handwrote “hivatalból portóköteles Ajanlott”, “B” in upper case cursive and “P.35-p-” in blue pencil. The post office worker who managed the cover wrote another "B" in upper case cursive. In Győr, on October 5, fifty 50f brown postage due stamps and five 2P/*50f* overprinted postage due stamps in state printing are affixed. The mixed use of brown and

overprinted postage due stamps is scarce, this is increased by the presence of State printings.



Fig.21- Registered official unfranked cover (postabélyegértékesítő iroda Budapest 7,) postage stamp sales office 7, office opened on 1945 August 1 sent from Budapest on 1945 October 3 (period 3) for Győr.

8-CONCLUSION

The brown postage due stamps adorned the mails for much of the Second World War, then the post-war mails until giving way to the overprinted postage stamps during the beginning of Hyperinflation, which were not used only up to three months after removal of browns.

These figurines are a priori very common since they were issued in large quantities during the War (quantities between 1,060,000 and 11,302,400), they are still quite easily found in whole sheets and the war postage due mails are very common. This fact has long confused the collector, who might think that any mail with these postage due stamps is under little interest.

But their more or less slow disappearance from post offices and the larger difference between the amounts of the postal rates and their nominal values has gradually made them passed to rarities on mail.

They witnessed the destruction and the start of the worst inflation, but also the beginning of the reconstruction of Hungarian postal traffic. In the end, these are the witnesses of times as dark for Hungary as rich toward the philately.

Florent Tricot

REFERENCES

« The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946 » by Robert Morgan, edited in 2003, pages : 15, 35-36, 45, 92-93, 146-149, 159-161, 212, 223-225

« A Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája » volume IV, edited in 1971, pages 512-513. Volume V, by Pákozdi László edited in 1966, pages 691-726

« History of the Emergency Tariff and Around Budapest 2nd March-1st May 1945 » by Nagy Ferenc, Philatelica magazine 12/1 in 2011, pages 1-12

PRT 1945

Compilation of articles (SHP, HPSBG) on the postage due topic, my personal researchs on statistics for existing postage due mails.

Mails from my own collection.

FINDINGS ON THE POSTMARK OF THE BUDAPEST MAIN POST OFFICE

BY UTE DORR, FRPSL AND DR. ELMAR DORR, FRPSL (GERMANY)





One of the more interesting Hungarian postmarks is the single-circle postmark of the Budapest Main Post Office in the fourth district (Belváros). Since 26 November 1897, the numbering of post offices in Budapest has been generally introduced by Decree No. 51.649 (PTRT 1897.XII.10., No. 33). Postmarks from this Budapest district have had a 4 in the postmark image since late November 1897.

A single "4" in the stamp image replaced the inscription "Főposta" and stood for the Budapest Main Post Office. The Main Post Office was assigned the number 4 in 1898. We also know post offices with the numbers "40", "41" and "42" for the fourth district. The "40" appears in the postmark picture in 1898, the "41" in 1902 and the "42" in 1912. All these postmarks were in use until the end of the Danube monarchy.

In addition to the "4", the stamp has an A or B capital letter at the bottom of the stamp image. This postage stamp is the focus of this article.



Fig. 1: Hungarian postmark of the Main Post Office with the number 4 and the letter A and B in the postmark image

Both stamps were only used in the Budapest Main Post Office. There most probably in the years 1901 to 1903, i.e. until the Hungarian postage stamps were in use. The identification letters "A" and "B" were probably necessary because there were two workplaces for the subsequent stamping in the main post office.

MAIL HANDLED WITHIN HUNGARY

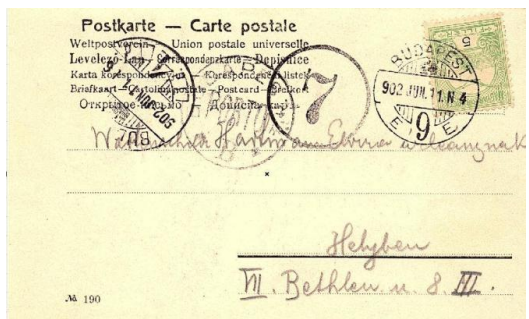


Fig. 2a: Postcard posted on 11 June 1902 in Budapest at Post Office 9 to Budapest/Helyben. (Elmar Dorr Collection)

The franking with 5 filler was sufficient for one postcard according to the tariff of 11 January 1902. A local letter in the second weight category up to 250 g would have cost the sender 12 filler. However, this cannot be the explanation.

The explanation can be found in the Hungarian decree of 29 March 1886. Until 1899, the regulations in Hungary were bilingual. Paragraph b) states that postcards produced by private industry must bear the designation "correspondence card" in Hungarian and Croatian language respectively. Postcards to foreign countries (except Germany)

shall bear the designation "Carte postale, Union postale universelle".



81

POSTAI

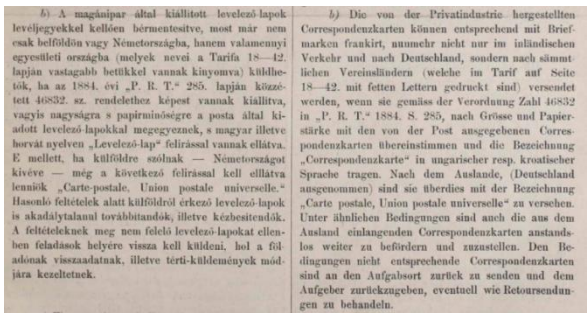
RENDELETEK TÁRA.

Kiadja a közmunka- és közlekedési m. k. Ministerium.

Budapest. *16. szám.* *Márczius 29. 1886.*

Tartalom.	Inhalt.
Változások a levélposta-tarifában. Kocsipostai küldemények a helyi forgalomban.	Aenderungen im Briefposttarife. Fahrpostsendungen im Localverkehr.
Változások a levélposta-tarifában a lissaboni postacongressus határozatai folytán.	**Aenderungen im Briefposttarife aus Anlass der Beschlüsse des Lissaboner Postcongresses.**

Fig. 2b: Hungarian decree of 29 March 1886 (Header)



b) A magánipar által kiállított levelező-lapok levéljegyekkel kellően bérmentesitve, most már nem csak belföldön vagy Németországba, hanem valamennyi egyesülleti országba (melyek nevei a Tarifa 18—42. lapján vastagabb betükkel vannak kinyomva) küldhetők, ha az 1884. évi „P. R. T." 285. lapján közzétett 46832. sz. rendelethez képest vannak kiállitva, vagyis nagyságra s papirminőségre a posta által kiadott levelező-lapokkal megegyeznek, s magyar illetve horvát nyelven „Levelező-lap" felirással vannak ellátva. E mellett, ha külföldre szólnak — Németországot kivéve — még a következő felirással kell elláttva lenniök „Carte-postale, Union postale universelle." Hasonló feltételek alatt külföldről érkező levelező-lapok is akadálytalanul továbbitandók, illetve kézbesitendők. A feltételeknek meg nem felelő levelező-lapokat ellenben feladások helyére vissza kell küldeni, hol a feladónak visszaadatnak, illetve térti-küldemények módjára kezelteinek.

b) Die von der Privatindustrie hergestellten Correspondenzkarten können entsprechend mit Briefmarken frankirt, nunmehr nicht nur im inländischen Verkehr und nach Deutschland, sondern nach sämmtlichen Vereinsländern (welche im Tarif auf Seite 18—42. mit fetten Lettern gedruckt sind) versendet werden, wenn sie gemäss der Verordnung Zahl 46832 in „P. R. T." 1884. S. 285, nach Grösse und Papierstärke mit den von der Post ausgegebenen Correspondenzkarten übereinstimmen und die Bezeichnung „Correspondenzkarte" in ungarischer resp. kroatischer Sprache tragen. Nach dem Auslande, (Deutschland ausgenommen) sind sie überdies mit der Bezeichnung „Carte postale, Union postale universelle" zu versehen. Unter ähnlichen Bedingungen sind auch die aus dem Ausland einlangenden Correspondenzkarten anstandslos weiter zu befördern und zuzustellen. Den Bedingungen nicht entsprechende Correspondenzkarten sind an den Aufgabsort zurück zu senden und dem Aufgeber zurückzugeben, eventuell wie Retoursendungen zu behandeln.

Fig. 2c: Paragraph b) of the decree

This is obviously not the case in the example shown above! The Hungarian Post Office recognized this and handled the postcard like a local letter within Budapest in the first weight category up to 20g: 1 filler (deficiency amount for a local letter of the first weight category) + 6 filler (for a local letter of first weight category) = 7 filler postage due.

Tamas Gudlin has documented the same case in his collection, so that for a postcard within Budapest 12 filler are required. It is interesting to note that in this example too, the postcard was posted at Post Office 9 (district: Ferencváros), but about a year later.



Fig.3: Postcard of 13 January 1903 posted at Post Office 9 and processed at Main Post Office (Post Office 4. Tamas Gudlin Collection)

The next example is also from the collection of Tamas Gudlin and shows a postcard from Kolozsvar, which was run within Hungary.



Fig. 4: Postcard posted on 2 April 1902 at post office 1 in Kolozsvár with destination Budapest. (Tamas Gudlin Collection)

5 filler was sufficient for a postcard according to the tariff of 11 January 1902.

In addition, the decree of 29 March 1886 leads to the correct interpretation. The German term "Correspondenz-Karte" was not permitted for Hungarian domestic mail. The postcard was handled by the Hungarian Post Office as a domestic letter in the first weight category. 5 filler (defi-

ciency amount for the first weight category) + 10 filler (for a letter in first weight category).

EXAMPLES OF MAIL FROM ABROAD

As a first example of the Budapest Porto stamp A, the author would like to present an example from the USA to Budapest.

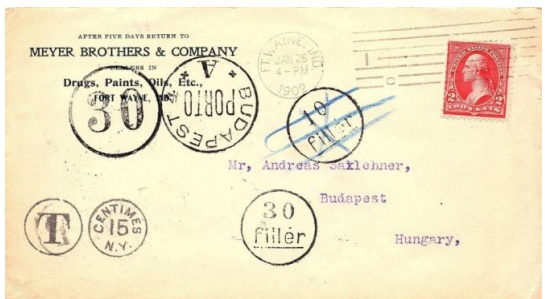


Fig. 5a: Letter of 26 January 1902 from Fort Wayne in Indiana to Budapest. (Elmar Dorr Collection)



Fig. 5b: The reverse side documents the arrival at the Main Post Office (number 4) in Budapest.

The letter would have had to be franked with 5 Cents according to the US tariff of 1 July 1892. In New York, the deficiency amount was noticed on 27 January (arrival stamp on the reverse side) and the singularly deficiency amount of 15 Centimes (= 3 Cents) was stamped together with the US postmark T. The letter reached Budapest on February 1, 1902, where the double deficiency amount (30 filler = 30 Centimes = 6 Cents) was stamped. Previously, 10 filler (= 2 Cents) had been erroneously stamped. In addition, the Budapest postage stamp with A was applied.

The next example is a postcard from Henley-in-Arden (also known as simply Henley) a town in Warwickshire, England.



Fig. 6: Postcard from Henley-in-Arden dated 2 March 1903 to Budapest. (Elmar Dorr Collection)

The tariff for UK of 25 December 1898 was 1d (= 10 Centimes) for postcards. The British Post Office charged 15 Centimes postage due for the card, which suggests that the card was considered as a letter in the first weight category. At the Budapest Main Post Office, the postage due was then indicated as 30 filler (2x15 Centimes = 30 filler) and the Budapest postage due stamp with the letter B was used.

1902 "divided postcards" (right side for the address and left side for the text) were introduced in the UK. But it was not until the UPU Congress in Rome (which came into force on 1 October 1907) that these postcards were accepted for international mail. So, we find for the time between 1902 and 1907 this typical treatment of these postcards as a letter (25 Centimes) in many countries.

The last example comes from the German Post Office in Tsingtau/Kiautschou with destination Budapest.



Fig. 7a: Letter of 23 April 1902 from Tsingtau/Kiautschou to Budapest. (Elmar Dorr Collection)

The letter was franked with 10 Pf. From the tariff of July 1, 1875, a simple letter would have cost 20 Pf. The deficit amount of 10 Pf. corresponded to 12.5 Centimes in the Gold Franc currency of the Universal Postal Union. The Deutsche Post noticed this and noted the singularly deficit amount of 12.5 Centimes by hand. In Budapest, however, the UPU regulations required the double deficit amount of 25 filler (= 25 Centimes) handwritten together with T and stamped filler in box form.



Fig. 7b: Reverse side with the arrival stamp of the Budapest Main Post Office and the Budapest postage due stamp with A.

Finally, the author would like to present an example of the illegally used Budapest postage due stamp. In the period between 15 June and 15 November 1918, the lack of postage stamps in Hungary led to the use of traditional stamps with postage due stamping, which were used as postage due stamps. However, the two Budapest postmarks with A and B presented here were no longer in postal use at that time. The postmark was stamped on the stamp in the Budapest Main Post Office as a favour to collectors, probably because the postage due postmarks were still accessible and because of their appeal to collectors. Right side: an illegally used version of the stamp. The cancellation should not appear on such a late edition.



Fig. 8: Left side: the well-known stamp example from above. (Elmar Dorr Collection)

This article is one of the results of the continuous exchange and discussions on various topics of Hungarian philately with Tamas Gudlin. The author would like to take this to thank him most sincerely.

LITERATURE

Surányi László, Visnyovszki Gábor, A Magyar bélyegek kézikönyve, Budapest 1986

Árpád Márfai and Endre Szép, The Postmarks of the Hungarian Post Offices and Postal Agencies (1871-1920), Budapest 1975

Michael Furie, International Postage Rates 1890s - 1957, Ashford Midddlesex TW15 2PN, 2010

Per Gustafson, Divided Postcards with Postage Due 1902-1907, London Philatelist, June 2015.



THE USE OF SPECIAL CANCELLERS ON AIRMAIL LETTERS AND OTHER VARIETIES

DR. GYORGY LOVEI (BUDAPEST)

Even back in 1870, the first airmail envelope that was specially printed on thin paper showed Par Ballon Monté to indicate that its transportation was via a balloon. It was perhaps a reflection of an awakening philatelic mentality or the demonstration of a special situation. The use of the special Jänner Przemysl 1915, Ballonpost Przemysl 1915 cancellation in Przemysl during the encirclement by the Russians also belongs in this group.

More importantly, the sender was obligated to write the required word Repülőposta (later: Légiposta) on the mailings starting with the first regular airmail service.



Figure 1. Letter from Budapest to Prague franked with 19,000 korona (4000 K letter tariff + 5,000 K express fee + 10,000 K airmail surcharge) with the word Wien corrected to Praha

With directive number 8.660 issued on 17 April 1926, the Hungarian Royal Post standardized the use of a yellow-black airmail label. On 1 December 1927 directive number 36.077 introduced a new etiquette printed in white on a blue background as agreed to at the international airmail conference in The Hague in September 1927. With this, the colour of the airmail label was standardized throughout the world. Otherwise, the first airmail labels that were offered for sale were in Czechoslovakia in 1920. Four labels could be purchased for 5 h.

When the regular airmail service with other countries was established in Hungary in 1922, the Hungarian Royal Post's regulation number 19.253 stipulated, amongst other things, what type of cancellers to be used for letters transported by air. In addition to the pink coloured "Légipósta/Par Avon" cancellations, a rectangular framed "Légipostával érkezett" canceller was placed into regular use on letters arriving by airmail. A handwritten endorsement inside the pink cancellation indicated the terminus of the air route, beyond which the mailings went by train. The manuscript "jusq'a Strasbourg" indicated the terminus of the air routing for letters sent to Alsace, Belgium, Holland or Switzerland.

The use of the so-called biplane canceller showing the destination of the flights was an innovation by the Hungarian post and replaced the earlier

airmail cancellers. Initially, it was used in conjunction with a special philatelic week flight, but was then expanded for use on the Budapest-Wien, Budapest-Strasbourg, Budapest-Paris airmail flights starting on 30 May 1924. It remained in use until 30 April 1928 alongside the yellow and black airmail labels.

In my article that appeared in the Philatelica 2011/1 issue, I did not mention the letters shown below on which the name of the destination was crossed out and a different name was inserted. For the Budapest-Graz first flight, the name Wien was changed by hand to Graz (the cover is shown in Berecz's book on page 4-39)1. The other two occurrences were not known until now: the word Wien was corrected to Praha, while München was changed to Stuttgart. (Figure 1)



Figure 2. Red arrival cancellation

Prior to the start of a direct flight on 20 April 1926, the postal clerk felt compelled to endorse the Budapest-Wien cancellation by hand to "Praha" (Figure 1). The same thing happened on 7 November 1927 when the name Stuttgart was written above the Budapest-München cancellation, but this probably happened in Germany not here.

The directive from 1922 did not stipulate the colour of the cancellation, so we don't know why a red Légipostával érkezett cancellation was used on letter arriving from Austria on 25 November 1927. (Figure 2)

Although my article is predominantly about the use of Hungarian airmail cancellations, I cannot resist mentioning a few unusual cancellations used by the Czechoslovak post.

The letter was mailed in 1922 from Pozsony to Strasbourg. There was an airmail connection between Pozsony and Prague, so the letter was handled as it arrived in Prague cancelled with the bilingual "Letecká Posta/Par Avion" cancellation and forwarded to Strasbourg.



Figure 3. Letter from Pozsony to Strasbourg via Prague cancelled with the arrival cancellation used in Prague as well as the bilingual airmail cancellation from there

The letter mailed from Budapest to Brno on 27 July 1927 is even more interesting. It received the "Letecká Posta" cancellation there indicating that

[1] Victor G. Berecz, Jr: The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Air mail

it was sent by air from Prague to Brno (or, perhaps, it was intended to be sent that way).



Figure 4a. The Budapest-Brno letter send though Prague posted with regular stamps for the lack of airmail stamps.



4b The front of letter. The fact that it was transferred in Prague is indicated by the two airmail cancellations

One of the interesting aspect of this letter is the fact that only regular stamps were affixed to it. The airmail series was issued three days later. The existence of this five month provisional period (between 1 April 1927 and 31 July 1927) is not even mentioned in the literature.

Perhaps it is known that it was illegal to send airmail letters (or receive them from) to Pozsony or to any part of today's Slovakia until 1930.

Despite this, we know about two interesting letters: one was sent in 1924 before the start of regular service to Prague and arrived by air in Pozsony via Vienna. The other was sent from Pozsony to Rétság and arrived at its destination that is only 260 km from there by travelling an 1100 km route via Prague and Budapest.



Figure 5. Letter between Pozsony and Rétság sent through Prague. The 30 h domestic airmail surcharge was properly paid (shown in the MAFITT exhibit titled 'my favourite letters' in the Stamp Museum)



Figure 6. Vienna-Budapest first flight bearing the cancellation Flug Ausgeflogen - flight postponed

The supplemental surcharge of 30 h (domestic airmail surcharge) makes this previous letter interesting along with the two types of airmail cancellations from Pozsony and Prague. Their use together along with the special tariff paid is not

mentioned in either the Czech of the Slovak philatelic literature.

There exist cancellations that occur only on airmail letters. The reason for this is that certain letters were not delivered by air to the addressees (they were delivered by train because the air transportation was cancelled due to bad weather or the letters were insufficiently franked).



Figure 7. Because of insufficient franking, the letter was transported by train. The cancellation was necessary because an airmail stamp was used and rules penalized the use of airmail stamps on regular letters



Figure 8. Transported by train because of bad weather



Figure 9. Par Avion Cidna - The capacity to transport letters by air was so great despite the increased volume that this ordinary letter was sent by air from Prague to Paris

The special "Par Avion CIDNA" cancellation was used in Prague to indicate the transportation by air of ordinary letters that lacked the airmail surcharge.



Figure 10. Via Budapest New York Marseille - the use of the cancellation was necessary because Marseille was not the route of airmail letters to New York (correct franking: 40 f basic foreign letter rate + 50 f registration + 2 P airmail surcharge)

At the same time the jusq'á ..... cancellation continued to be used: the letter from 1929 went to Marseille by air and was sent from there by ship to the USA while the letter to Shanghai went by

air "only" to Saigon and went the rest of the way by surface transportation. I have in my possession a postcard that went by air to Karachi and then on to Sydney by ship.

Collectors continued to use the cheaper European tariff to send letters to the USA; and in these instances, the post office verified this with the use of the jusq'á cancellation and a handwritten annotation.

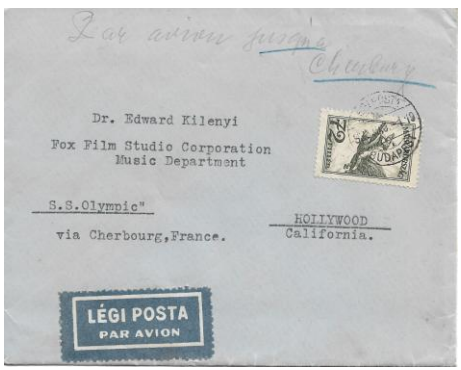


Figure 11. Sent by air to Cherbourg - ships equipped with the German catapult system sailed from this French port (40 f foreign letter tariff + 32 f airmail surcharge)



Figure 12. A self-contradicting cancellation: routed by air to New York while the 20f postcard rate + 32 f airmail surcharge paid for air transportation only in Europe



Figure 13. By air to Saigon and then by train to Shanghai. On the reverse side: 40 f foreign letter rate + 2,50 P airmail surcharge

In cases were the destination was Romania, the airmail letters arriving from Switzerland and Germany were marked with the "légipostával érkezett" cancellation. In cases where Turkey was the destination, the letters were marked with the Budapest-Stamboul cancellation to indicate whether the letters transported to Mátyásföld by Ad Astra or Deutsche Luft-Hansa AG were forwarded to Istanbul by the airplanes of the CIDNA company.



Figure 14. Airmail letter to Temesvár bearing the Légipostával érkezett cancellation from Budapest



Figure 15. Letter to Temesvár with a different type of Légipostával érkezett cancellation



Figure 16. Letter from München to Constantinople (Istanbul) with the Hungarian post's Budapest-Constantinople directional cancellation. The letters were transferred from the DLH flight to CIDNA



Figure 17. Letter from Switzerland to Istanbul bearing a black directional cancellation



Figure 18. Letter from Switzerland to Istanbul bearing a red directional cancellation



MOLNÁR JÓZSI/PÉTER OR A PLAYFUL PHILATELIST

BY DR. PÉTER RÉVÉSZ (BUDAPEST)

I always read Dr. Ferenc Nagy's interesting articles with sincere admiration. He is a friend with deep knowledge. His exciting article about the special philatelic discoveries from the end of the war in 1944/45 appeared in the 20/1 issue of Philatelica. In this 25-page article he showed an example of a 30 fillér War Leaders phase printing imperforate block of four (dear Feri, pardon me, this is a multiple /block/ and not a "blokk" that we call souvenir sheets) as a one and only known postally used philatelic mailing. These "spunky" philatelists of the time took great care to make sure that that such nice frankings would not remain unique. Also, there is no need for lengthy investigation to find out who the philatelist was who supposedly prepared this extraordinary item in multiple copies. In my opinion, the "culprit" was József (maybe Péter) Molnár whose residence was Budapest VI, Liszt Ferenc Square 10. I'm attaching my "proof"!



Figure 1. Address side with a fictitious name of the sender

He sent the copy that I own to his own address and although he indicated the sender as Victor Cugnet at Városház Street 14, on the reverse side he wrote the salutation "Dear Péter" and signed it Józsi.

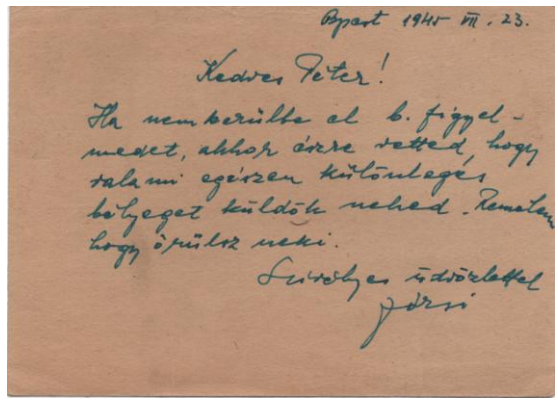


Figure 2. The text on the postcard with the salutation that is different than the given name of the addressee

On the copy shown in the Philatelica, the sender is Péter Molnár, the resident at Liszt Ferenc Square 10. From this the following conclusion can be drawn. Enthusiastic philatelist József/Péter Molnár prepared several copies of what turned out to be a truly scarce mailing and sent them to several acquaintances as well as to himself to ensure getting multiple examples.

To heck with it that only two survived!

THE STORY OF A CENSOR CANCELLER FROM MISKOLC



BY JÁNOS DÁN (BUDAPEST)

I'm going to clarify right off the bat that this story is not about one but two censor cancellers from Miskolc. This statement will become clearer, but let's start at the beginning. A directive (number 1912. LXIII. regarding "the state of emergency activities in case of war") appeared in 1912 prior to the start of World War I. It offered an opportunity to establish censorship during and after a military conflict.

After the end of the war and a bit of a communist detour as well the Romania occupation, the situation in the entire country started to normalize. Horthy was elected regent and the domestic situation began to stabilize. Primarily because of the communist menace, fearing the many communists and social democrats who were active participants in the dictatorship of the proletariat but were now lurking underground, censorship of civilian letters was introduced in the country at the end of 1919.

At first, it was introduced as a military censorship, but was mitigated to a simple censorship since the undercover communists and social democrats have been either captured or have escaped to Austria and Germany on their way to Russia.

In the beginning, the word "military" indicating the type of censorship appeared on the censor markings on the mailings but then disappeared later.

Of the many used in different localities I would like to discuss the censor cancellers from Miskolc.

Near the end of 1919 when the censoring was introduced, a censor canceller was not put into use in Miskolc; instead, manuscript markings of censor were made on the mailings. The abbreviations "Cenz" or "C" were usually marked with blue or red postal pencil. The first censorship canceller made its appearance in Miskolc after a lapse of almost one year since the introduction of censorship. This was a two-line, unframed device with the inscription "KATONAI CENZURA /MISKOLCZ". This canceller was used until the end of 1920.

In January of 1921, the censors started using a new canceller. The rectangular-shaped device included the two-line text: "KATONAI CENZURA/MISKOLCZ".



Figure 1. Reconstructed image of the canceller introduced in Miskolc in January 1921

The censors kept up their industrious work, keeping busy inspecting the mailings and making cancellations with the cancellers. The volume of mailings increased steadily due to consolidation; thus, the introduction of a second canceller became necessary by March of 1921 in order to expedite the work. It is quite possible that the number of censors employed by the censorship office was also increased.



Figure 2. Reconstructed image of the canceller used in Miskolc starting in March 1921

Let's stop for an instant in this story. Up until now, I have not read any writings about this and to my knowledge, nobody published anything about the fact that, at this time, two slightly different censor cancellers with identical wording were used in Miskolc. All articles dealing with censorship from this time mention a single canceller, not differentiating between them. So, this article will show for the first time the fact (this is the first publication) that two cancellers with identical text but with slight differences were used in Miskolc. This statement is based on my original research.

At first sight, the two cancellers are identical, but if we look at them closely, we can notice the differences.



Figures 3-4. The most obvious differences between the cancellers introduced in January and in March

There is a slight variation in the size of the cancellers, but it's not obvious to the naked eye. The one introduced in January measures 57x19 mm; the one introduced in March measures 58x20 mm. The differences that are more easily visible are shown in Figure 3-4. Looking at the alignment of the letters with respect to each other helps to identify which of the two cancellers we are looking at.

Both cancellers were in use until the end of May in this configuration. The military censorship ceased in our country at the end of May 1921 and was replaced with a less obvious, simple censorship. This also meant that, among other things, the censorship operating at many smaller locations stopped. The work of these offices in a specific area was consolidated with the offices that functioned in larger towns. This also resulted in reducing the volume of mailings that were censored. By this time, the censors' work was focused on mail sent abroad or received from there.

At this time (May-June) new cancellers were introduced in many locations. The word "military" disappeared from these devices. A new canceller was not prepared right away in Miskolc. Instead, the word "katonai" was excised. Since the cancellers were made of rubber, the removal work was not difficult. The modified cancellers were used only during June, so their occurrences are minimal compared to the original versions. As a result, in an older issue of Bélyegvilág, the author mistakenly stated that the word "katonai' was cut from the canceller in 1945. On the illustrated mailings it is clearly visible that the mutilation occurred in 1921.



Figures 5-6. The cancellers introduced in January and March with the word "KATONAI" removed

The canceller was made out of rubber, so it wasn't hard work. The mutilated cancellers were used only during June, so their occurance is infrequent compared to the unmodified ones. An author of an article from a previous Bélyegvilág issue erroneously made the assertion that the word katonai was excised in 1945.

It is clearly obvious from the illustrated mailing that the mutilation was already performed in 1921.



Figure 7. Use of the canceller introduced in January on a postcard from February 1921



Figure 8. The mutilated censor canceller originally introduced in January used on a picture postcard from June 1921



Figure 9. The use of a canceller introduced in March on a letter mailed in May 1921

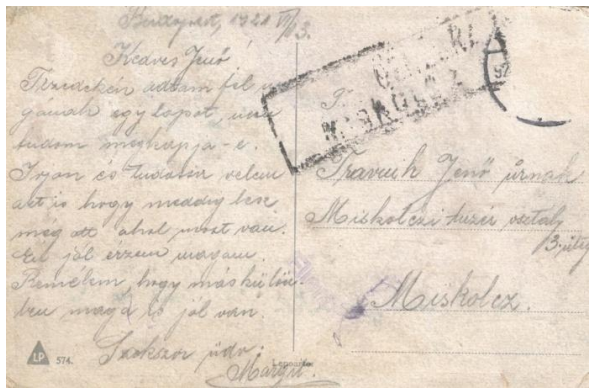


Figure 10. The use of the mutilated canceller originally introduced in March on a picture postcard from June 1921

At the end of June 1921, both cancellers were withdrawn from use and two different types of cancellers came into use. We do not know what happened to the cancellers that were withdrawn. It's almost certain that the device introduced in January disappeared from sight forever.

The story could have ended here, but the wheels of history turned and there is a follow-up.

We are now writing 1945. The postal service re-started in Miskolc, the town having been captured by the Red Army in December 1944. In the light of the continuing Nazi menace, censorship was reinstituted having been ordered by the Soviet advisors. Old and new censors started their work again. At that time, the Communist party did not have as great an influence so that it could conduct censorship by itself and in secret, so here was open censorship. The inspected mailings were duly marked with a cancellation by the inspectors. But, what kind of cancellation should they use? Somehow, the canceller used for censor markings in 1921 turned up.

Thus, the canceller used previously in Miskolc after the war was reused. Unfortunately, it is not known how and where the device survived for 24 years. I am assuming that it rested in the drawer of an old censor who kept as a memento. Since there was a shortage of everything after the war, the previously used canceller came in handy. If we look at censored mailing from 1945 posted in Miskolc, we can determine right away that the (second) canceller placed into use in March 1921 was put back into use. This canceller was used continuous for almost a year (from February to November), a period that was longer than the original usage because back then, it was used for only four months (March-June 1921).

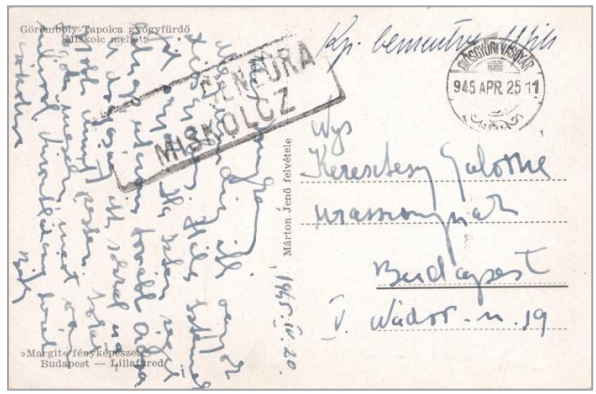


Figure 11. Censored mailing from Miskolc in April 1945.

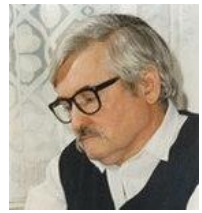
The canceller was again withdrawn from use in November of 1945 since the communists succeeded in instituting secret censorship in Miskolc. With this, it disappeared from view completely.

I still hold out hope that the canceller is still hiding in a drawer awaiting to be found again. I hope this not so it would be put to use again but that it would become an exhibit in a museum to help us remember the events of the two distinct eras.

It is obvious from this article that despite the passing of nearly one hundred years, there are always things that can be discovered even though we might think that the amount of time as enough to discover everything interesting.

Therefore, let us keep our eyes open, because interesting and usual things awaiting discovery are still be residing in our albums.

ACTIVITIES OF THE TAXIS FAMILY IN HUNGARY, THE FIRST POSTAL SERVICE



BY LAJOS HORVÁTH (VERESEGYHÁZA)

The earliest members of the Taxis family, who are noted in postal history, have a continuous presence in Italy starting from 1237. They were mayors of Milan. Initially, they used the name Tassis, but later changed it to the German-sounding Taxis.

The Taxis family's connection with the post and the dispatch of news started in 1451 when the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick III tasked Roger Taxis to organize a postal service between Vienna and Rome on for the occasion of his coronation in Rome. Roger was the head huntsman for the county of Tirol. In 1460, the Taxis family's scion in Italy was Gabriel del Tasso, who headed up the post for the Papal States.

While the Vienna-Rome postal route was short lived, the organized postal service did not disintegrate, but continued to evolve based on the social needs. The imperial coronation occurred on 1 March 1452 but the pompous ceremony was followed by a reality check. Frederick III returned to Wiener Neustadt where he came under siege. Ulrich, Count of Celje was murdered on 9 November 1456. Since he did not have any heirs, a large part of his inheritance reverted to the emperor.

Throughout all of this conflict, the Taxis postal organization remained intact proving its usefulness and profitability to the emperor as well as to the Taxis family. The family persevered in getting a grant from the emperor for the right to organize and continue to operate the postal service. In 1493, Maximillian I appointed Johan Taxis as postal leader of the court, presenting a significant step towards this goal.[1]

Engelbert II of Nassau, the governor-general of the Low Countries, promoted Johan Taxis as postmaster on 1 March 1501. On 18 January 1505, he signed a contract with him to organize a postal service serving the courts of Germany, France and Spain using his own income from his postmaster's position. This new dispatch of the news service was given the name "post" from the French language. (It must be noted that back in 1235 the great "kurultaj" (gathering of nomadic people) of the Mongolian empire discussed the necessary improvements to the postal service. European evolvement in this area lagged behind.)

1. POSTAL SERVICE IN HUNGARY

In 1590 Franz Taxis organized a military dispatch service emanating from Vienna. This was the first such service known inside the Hungarian state. This postal route between Vienna and Buda must have been successful because on 12 November 1516, Emperor Charles V contracted with Franz Taxis and his cousin Baptiste to expand the

postal routes. In the same year, Franz Taxis was named postmaster for the Low Countries.

At home, the temporary postal routes were made permanent after 1526. In December of 1526, Habsburg Prince Ferdinand took up residence in Pozsony to attend his election and coronation as king. He instructed Mathias Taxis, the son of Anton Taxis, his court's postmaster general, to expand the postal routes already functioning in Austria into Hungary. The post operating between Vienna and Pozsony became unnecessary. Mathias Taxis bore the title of postmaster general in Hungary until his death in 1558 although his exact title kept changing. Postmaster general Mathias Taxis served in that capacity for 31 years, from 1527 until 1558./2/

A request from Buda dated 19 May 1528 painted a dire picture of the postal organization. The postmasters of the stations set up between Buda and Vienna were petitioning King Ferdinand (1526-1564) for their pay by at least the end of the month. Otherwise, they will be forced to sell their horses and close up their stations.

Nevertheless, in the areas under the reign of the Habsburgs, the postal routes using horse-relays were expanded despite great hardships.

Mathias Taxis transplanted to post from foreign soil into Hungary. The official language was either German or Latin. Only the postal lads were employed from Hungary since they knew how to handle horses and had excellent familiarity with the local conditions.

The Taxis-post operated on a fixed schedule. The times of arrival and departure were published. Under the previous courier system, the consignments and passengers were transported using horses and wagons provided by the villages along the route. The courier only changed the horses, he was not relieved. Naturally, he had to get some rest sometime and somewhere. And, it is important to note that the Habsburg post, whether in Austria or in the Hungarian Kingdom, operated using state funds as a public institution.

Peter Paar, as postmaster of Pozsony, assumed control over the main postal route in Upper Hungary and along the Danube on 1 October 1558. Thus, the much heralded role of the Taxis family in Hungarian postal history came to an end.

2. FRANZ TAXIS'S ACTIVITIES IN HABSBURG-HUNGARY

Franz Taxis, who lived between 1450 and 1517, was a notable member of the Taxis family. In 1509, he organized a series of military postal routes emanating from Vienna. In 1516, Emperor Charles V named him the postmaster general of the Low Countries that is Holland. During his tenure, the organization assumed the title post from the French. The French post office issued a stamp in 1956 bearing his portrait. It's listed in the Yvert catalogue as number 1054, and was printed in green and brownish-lilac colour./3/



Figure 1. Franz Taxis on a French stamp (Yvert 1054.)

We can find the same stamps issued by the then French colony of Algeria, also in 1956. The catalogue number is 333 for the 12+3 franc stamp printed in blue and red. It also exists in imperforate version.



Figure 2. Franz Taxis on an Algerian stamp (Yvert 333)

Tunisia was an "independent kingdom" in 1956-57. Another Francois de Tassis stamps appeared during this short period in bluish-green colour (Yvert catalogue number 419).

Franz Taxis's activities in the 15th-16th centuries were spread over a large French, Austrian, Dutch, Germans, etc. area. For us, naturally, the most important and interesting part is his work on Hungarian soil, which can then be considered as Hungarica. It can be nicely discussed as a part of our history during the turn of the two centuries, the 15th and the 16th. Together, it can also be a part of the discussion of collections with focus on other nations.

FOOTNOTES

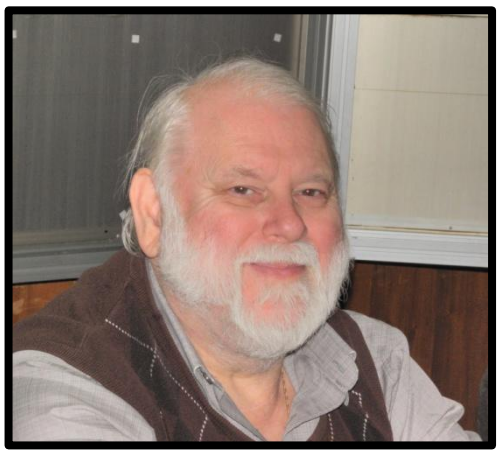
1. Bélyeglexikon,
Budapest 1988 (609, 618-619)

2. A Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája I,
Budapest 1965 (148-150)

3. The Habsburg rulers can be wield to profit
Brigitte Haimann Habsburg Lexikon, Wien
1988 (Hungarian translation)

4. Yvert 1961 katalógus
(for identication of stamps)

IN MEMORIAM FILEP LÁSZLÓ /1953-2021/



He became Mafitt's 132nd member in 2001 after many decades of philatelic activity. Mafitt acknowledged his efforts with the Gervay award in 2013.

He was Dr. Dezső Soóky's direct partner in the Foreign Stamp Collectors' Section of MABÉOSZ, and until the end, the secretary of the Slovak-Czech subsection. He introduced and organized auctions for the section that were eventually abolished because of legal issues. Many scarce and interesting items were listed in these auctions. He was also the secretary of the Airmail Section. He edited and wrote articles for the newsletters for both sections, the ORBIS PICTUS and the Légiposta.

He was an expert and a researcher of the 1918 Repülőposta stamps. He compiled a list of the special registry labels associated with these stamps and drew lasting conclusions from this study. In addition, he was an active member of the community; without him there would not have been Mafitt general meetings. There was never an event that he didn't add something to the discussion of any timely topics. He had an opinion about everything, and he participated in the three-member committee headed by Dr. Péter Révész that last updated the Mafitt by-laws.

For more than 20 years he was considered a legal stamp expert. Law courts regularly sought out his expert opinion in cases of either civil or criminal proceedings. His philatelic expertizations made interesting reading. As Zoltán Koleszár once said, he regularly asked him for an attest because he enjoyed the way he described the documents presented to him. Doubts about his attests or expert opinions were never raised during his life or afterwards. He did not join the Stamp Expertising Section (MBSZ) established in the past year with Mafitt support because having the legal expert title meant more to him than membership in that working group.

He was among the few who pursued every aspect of philately: he collected and exhibited (mostly Czechoslovak-related material). In the FIP exhibition in Malaga, his exhibit of Imprinted postal cards supplemented with Hradcany stamps achieved 90 points, the only Hungarian collector to reach that level. Later, he documented the late-use of Millenium postal cards in an exhibit. His

inaugural presentation on the Kocsiposta started a serious discussion. Zoltán Horváth, after keeping his silence for decades, gave a lively presentation in connection with this topic in the Stamp Museum.

He had a job at PROFILA Kft. and was among the few of us who were able to use the hobby to provide enough income to live on. In addition to his expetising, he was an editor of publications. He designed souvenir sheets, published a catalogue of souvenir sheets, conducted auctions under the aegis of PROFILA Kft. and his activities at one time included being the chief editor of Bélyegvilág.

He assisted many collectors. The writer of these lines worked alongside him for more than 30 years. He was my close partner in the Slovak-Czech Section as well as in the Airmail Section. We travelled abroad together many times, often to Czechoslovak-related events in Prague, Münich and even to the WIPA exhibition in 2010.

For me, his last public participation was also connected to an exhibition activity: during a meeting of the Postal History Section he gave a sneak preview of the exhibit he was preparing about the postal history of the 1938 Returned period. We discussed how to shape the three-part material. Our last meeting was during a gathering of the Internet Stamp Collectors' Club (IBK). His sudden, early passing was due to the COVID epidemic.

The task of preparing a bibliography of his multi-faceted work and countless articles must be the joint responsibility of MABÉOSZ, IBK, and Mafitt.

(Gy.L.)



László Filep conducting an auction during the IBK meeting in 2009

NEWS

MAFITT'S NEW OFFICERS 2021

Our general meeting conducted in the MABÉOSZ headquarters in September approved the presentations, confirmed the Presidency's decision from May to accept the financial statement, elected the officers for the next five years, accepted the Presidency's recommendation for changing the membership format for certain individuals, and confirmed accepting the application for Mafitt membership from two new members, Dr. Zsolt Bodnar and Florent Tricot. The draft minutes of the general meeting are currently being certified and can be read here.

The new members of the Presidency:

- D.I. Attila Bandi (Austria, Vienna)
- Dr. Mihaly Bodor (Pecs)
- Janos Dan (Budapest)
- Tamas Gudlin (Germany, Braunschweig)
- Csaba Kohalmi (USA, Indianapolis)
- Laszlo Leitold (Veszprem)
- Dr. Gyorgy Lovei (Budapest)

Mafitt controller: Sandor Fulop

Inasmuch as half of the presidency's members reside abroad, the presidency's meetings will remain unchanged but will be conducted via video conferencing. We hope that with this „revolutionary" new approach Mafitt's currently good international relations will be further strengthened. This carries with it the possibility that in the future our organization will grow in membership, and that it will expand on its capacity to represent its interest even more than today by evolving into an important international philatelic organization from the world philatelic perspective. Many attendees at the general meeting emphasized that next year's HUNFILEX 2022 World Stamp Exhibition in the Bálna will present an especially good opportunity for this.

Exploiting these possibilities will not be possible without the supporting volunteer effort from every one of our members! We await offers for volunteer work at our email address, info@mafitt.hu. In this way, you can personally support the organizational efforts of the new presidency.

During their inaugural meeting held on October 22nd, the new members of the presidency elected a president, two vice-presidents, and a secretary from amongst their members and fulfilled the appropriate requirements of the by-laws. Their term is for 5 years. The minutes of the meeting have been prepared, and every Mafitt member who requests to review this is guaranteed access under the provisions of the by-laws.

The president of Mafitt: Dr. Gyorgy Lovei

- domestic vice-president: Janos Dan
- foreign vice-president: Tamas Gudlin
- secretary: Dr. Mihaly Bodor.

Dr. Gyorgy Lovei resigned as curator of the Gervay Foundation due to the incompatibility of that role with his new position as Mafitt president. The presidency asked Karoly Szucs to be curator, and he accepted the post for the same five-year duration as the presidency members.

Dr. Geza Homonnay, Mafitt's former president, was invited to participate in the meeting of the presidency. He summarized the achievements accomplished during his term as president and outlined the timely tasks that can be realized in the near future. He emphasized the opportunities for Mafitt's participation in the HUNFILEX 2022 international stamp exhibition. He, as the president of MABÉOSZ, assured his continued support for the new presidency.



website: hunfilex2022.com

Free for foreign 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



FIP exhibition award in 2014

Volume XXXI



FIP exhibition award in 2015

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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research

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

Printing regularly supported by the Gervay Mihaly Hungarian Postal History Foundation

22
1

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2022/1

Content:

Christopher Brainard and Csaba L. Kohalmi: New Insights Into the 1919 Szeged National Government Overprint Issue 1

Dr. Ferenc Nagy: Start Of Postal Traffic In Buda In 1945 According To the Documents Available, During the Emergency Tariff Of Budapest, March 2 And May 1, 1945 1 26

Mervyn Benford: English Language Catalogues of Hungary For Collectors 35

News 37

Editor: Karoly Szucs, member of Mafitt and curator of the Gervay Foundation

Translator: Csaba Kohalmi member of Mafitt-presidency and Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) and dr. Geza Homonnay former president of Mafitt

Consultants:

Mervyn Benford, member of Mafitt and Hungarian Philatelic Society in Great Britain (HPSGB)

Dr. Gyorgy Lovei, president of the Mafitt



Congratulations: Denes Czirok became the third Hungarian signer of the "Roll" on February 21, 2022. We extend our congratulations to him in this manner in the name of the Mafitt membership. His name that is currently followed by the initials FRPSL (Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London) from now on will be complemented by "RDP" (Roll of Distinguished Philatelists) as used in international philatelic circles to commemorate this event. Previously, this high level international recognition was attained in 1993 by the distinguished Hungarian philatelists Gary S. Ryan and Istvan Gazda.

Correction: In the obituary for Laszlo Filep from the 21/2 issue, the correct year of death was 2021.

NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE 1919 SZEGED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OVERPRINT ISSUE



BY CHRISTOPHER BRAINARD AND CSABA L. KOHALMI (USA)

More than two decades have passed since the last English-language article penned by Dr. Szilagyi appeared on the subject of the Szeged *Magyar Nemzeti Kormány* overprints. Previously, in 1972, Dr. Ettre synopsized this issue of the pages of our newsletter back when it was a mere five or six folded pages thick. Neither article delved into the historical and technical details that Laszlo Suranyi explored in 1982. But, Suranyi's article appeared in Hungary when the country was run by a communist government, so his self-censored writings reflected the politically correct perspective of 1982 and not necessarily what was factual in 1919.

Nevertheless, Suranyi deserves credit for researching all of the available, but woefully scarce documents for this issue. His article stood the test of time and continues to be the primary source of information. Most of us know about the printers' strike and how two print shops were utilized to overprint the stamps; but with limited access to other sources, analyzing existing blocks and sheets of stamps is the only way to try to second guess the secrets of this issue hidden between the written lines. This is what we have set out to do.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On 31 October 1918, citizens and soldiers seized the public building in Budapest, assassinated the wartime Prime Minister Tisza, holding him accountable for the debacle of the war, and forced the Wekerle government to resign. By the end of the day, King Karoly IV recognized the 'Őszirózsás=Aster' Revolution (the aster or chrysanthemum flower became the symbol of the revolution), and appointed Count Mihaly Karolyi as prime minister. The election fell to Karolyi because he was the founder of the movement called the Hungarian National Council advocating the dissolution of the Dual Monarchy.



***Figure 1**. Citizens and soldiers of the 'Aster Revolution' wearing flowers in their lapels and caps.*

The Serbian and French armies advancing from Greece through Bulgaria liberated Belgrade on 1 November 1918. The forces continued their

northward march threatening the heartland of Hungary as the 11 November 1918 armistice was signed on the Western Front. King Karoly IV abdicated on the same day. Two days later, Karolyi's Hungarian government was invited to Belgrade by Entente General Louis Franchet d'Esperey, who compelled him to sign the Armistice of Belgrade. The armistice stipulated the demarcation line (solid red line in the *Figure 2* below) between Hungarian and French/Serbian/Romanian forces in the southern part of Hungary. (The French did not hide their disdain for the Hungarians.)

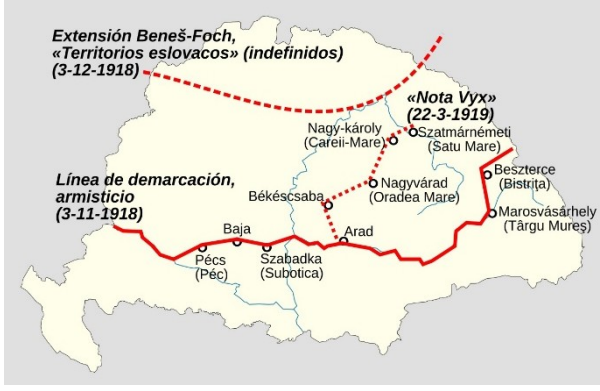


***Figure 2**. Map of Hungary showing the 3 November 1918 demarcation line (solid red line) stipulated by the Armistice of Belgrade, the Beneš-Foch claim to Slovakia made on 3 December 1918 (dashed red line), and the withdrawal in favour of the Romanians stipulated by the Vix Memorandum of 20 March 1919 (dotted red line).*

On 16 November 1918, the government declared the end of the monarchy by establishing the Hungarian People's Republic. Republican revolutionary fervour swept throughout the country, and a local National Council was established in Szeged. Immediately, the leftist-leaning council petitioned the Budapest government for the withdrawal of its military units from the city in order to establish total civilian control.

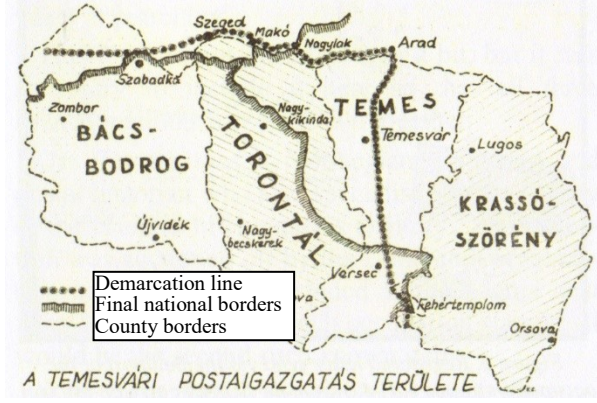


***Figure 3**. Map of the four county area of the Temesvar Postal Directorate showing the demarcation line established by the French between the Serbian and the Romanian armies as well as the final national borders.*

Map reproduced from Dr. Ferenc Nagy's article

About this time, the mission of the French forces (the troops were mostly African colonial soldiers commanded by French officers) changed. They continued their push northwards in order to separate the Serbian and the Romanian armies that were facing each other in the Banat region of Hungary. Both entities laid claim to the region with the Serbians occupying the area beyond Temesvar as far as Lugos by 25 November 1918. In order to prevent a shooting war between these Entente allies, the French were forced to drive a wedge between them by seizing the region between Arad and Szeged.

The French forces arrived in Szeged as peacekeepers on 10 December 1918. They had no intention of interfering with the civilian government. Note the location of the towns of Arad and Szeged

on the map in *Figure 3*. The French forces were deployed in this general area. Also keep in mind that the area north of the French occupation zone was occupied by Romanian forces.

In Budapest, the Karolyi government proved ineffective in dealing with the external pressures to the territorial integrity of Hungary. On 20 March 1919, the French Entente representative in Belgrade, Lieutenant Colonel Ferdinand Vix presented a note to the Hungarian government demanding further withdrawals (see the "Nota Vix" dashed line in *Figure* 2). Karolyi could neither accept nor reject this demand, so he resigned and assigned the formation of a new government to the socialists, who had the next largest representation in parliament. Unknown to him, however, was the fact that the socialist party merged with the recently founded communist party led by Bela Kun.

On 21 March 1919, the newly enlarged Hungarian Socialist Party, dominated by Kun's communists, declared the Hungarian Soviet Republic. The news of the coup reached Szeged on the next day and was well received by the working classes. Along with establishing a Red Guard militia, the city's National Council demanded the departure of the French occupiers. In response, the French named Colonel Betrix, the commander of the French forces in Hungary, as the military commander of Szeged. On the 26th of March, Betrix issued an 8-point ultimatum to the National Council that included demands to disarm the soldiers and the Red Guard militia in the city. Instead of complying, the members of the council fled the city overnight.

Meanwhile, in French-occupied Arad, former members of the Karolyi government as well as high ranking war veterans came together to form a right-wing national government opposed to the one in Budapest. These officials were forced to evacuate Arad on 5 May 1919 when the French, having pacified the area, turned the city over to the Romanians. In turn, the Romanians interred the Hungarians for two weeks at Mezohegyes. The group eventually reached Szeged by the end of May and took advantage of the existing power vacuum. Also, by this time, like- minded war veterans started to flock to Szeged. The French gave enthusiastic approval to the activity because of their fundamental aversion to the 'Bolshevik menace.'

As announced publicly on 7 June 1919, the so-called National Government was formed headed by Count Gyula Karolyi. Among its notable members were Count Pal Teleki (foreign minister), Admiral Miklos Horthy (Minister of Defence), and Lajos Varjassy (Minister of Commerce). By then, French General Goudrecourt had arrived from Arad to take over the command from Colonel Betrix. (Varjassy and Goudrecourt were both involved in the *Occupation franqaise* overprints issued in Arad!)

Despite the right-wing elements moving into the city, the industrial, working class citizens of Szeged continued to sympathize with the socialist ideals permeating from Budapest, and went on strike to protest the presence of the members of the old regime. At first, the newspaper writers and printers went on strike (on June 6th); then they were joined by everyone in a city-wide, general strike on June 16th. The strikes were relatively short duration and ended by June 23rd. These dates are important because the *Magyar Nemzeti Kormány* overprints were prepared during this time.

Contemporary documentation is missing from the municipal archives of Szeged as to the origins

of the overprint. Some information came to light in 1920 because of a lawsuit filed by the Hungarian Stamp Collectors Association of Szeged against forgers of the stamps. In the suit, the purpose of the overprinting was publicly acknowledged: it was to generate revenue for the local post office since all fiscal transactions with the central authorities had been interrupted by the embargos due to the various occupation authorities. In the case of the similar situation in Arad, General Goudrecourt made the same admission in an interview published in the 1938 No. 12 issue of the **Journal Philatelique Suisse**. He attested supporting the overprinting of the stamps in Arad in order to provide a monetary income source for the besieged city. He authorized Messrs. Varjassy and Sarkany with carrying out the task. Varjassy was now in Szeged and sought out Goudrecourt in order to receive permission for a new overprinting. He enlisted Chief Postal Director Kohl in making the preparations for the task and assigned Ignacz Szekely, Chief Postal Comptroller, to carry it out.

Because of the printers' strike that started on June 6th, no one with experience was available to the work at the Konig press shop, so postal officials and junior military officers took part in preparing the plates and overprinting the stamp stock of the No. 1 post office. By June 16th the printers' strike had become a city-wide general strike. The owner of the Konig shop did not want to risk the wrath of the strikers, so he evicted the 'scabs' who took their work to another, unnamed shop. Their job was still not completed there when they moved back to the Konig shop because the strikes had ended after June 23rd.

[As an aside, we tried to visualize the movement of the overprinting operation from shop 1 to shop 2 (and back to shop 1). Stacks of sheets were put into a wooden trunk (7,000+ sheets of 100 stamps!) or a large leather suitcase. We assumed that the entire operation was relocated, including the completely overprinted sheets (the surcharged Harvesters, 2f & 3f Harvesters, 10+2f War Aid = 2,100+ sheets) since the operators could not foresee the end of the strike or if they could move back to shop 1. The printing form was packaged up, perhaps carelessly because the movers were inexperienced postal employees and military personnel. Perhaps the move was by automobile or truck or even a horse-drawn wagon (the Hungarian post used horse-drawn wagons for rural delivery well into the 1950s!) over (most likely) unpaved or poorly paved streets. The jarring travel could have had some effect on the integrity of the printing form.]

TECHNICAL DETAILS

The text of the overprint was set up using Romana Antiqua nonpareille (6 point) lead type manufactured by the First Hungarian Letter Casters, Ltd. into individual fixtures that were used to make up of the final, 5 x 10 image format. The information available to us does not specify how many of these were made as is speculated in philatelic literature given that stamps of three different sizes and orientations were overprinted along with various surcharges that required a second printing operation. In addition, the Express–Surgos' stamp was overprinted for use as a postage due stamp with a modified text. As we will explain later, we can safely say the overprinting was performed using these characters directly; they were not used to create another printing

plate. In this article, we call this fixture holding the letter type the *printing form.*

Both print shops owned an 'American foot pedal' press described in the Muller, Kohalmi, Brainard article about the printing presses of Baranya. On such a press, the flat 'plate' was set vertically and the paper (sheets of stamps) was applied to the plate via a movable arm activated by a foot pedal. The printing 'plate' was inked via roller. The finished printing resulted in lettering that was not uniform in colour but exhibited a 'squeeze' of ink around the outside edges of the characters.

The inexperienced operators observed that at times the overprinting caused excessive amounts of ink to be applied to the stamps, so they experimented with various hardnesses for the sheet underlay. The more firm the underlay was, the crisper the lettering turned out to be. The trial printing revealed flaws that further underscore the operators' lack of experience. As a result, the printing form had to be reset several times in order to arrive at the proper spacing. This involved proof prints on several sheets of the Harvester stamps. Only single proof sheets done on a Parliament-type stamp and Postage due stamp exist.

Since the printing process involved overprinting half sheets of stamps at a time, we tried to speculate about the most efficient method used by the operators of the printing press. We know that the printing form was placed in the press in a fixed, unmovable position so as to keep the letter type intact. The sheet of stamps to be overprinted was placed on the movable arm held in place with guides somehow. After the initial overprinting on the top half, the sheet was removed and replaced with an unoverprinted sheet. The process continued until the stock of sheets was finished. Next, the printing form was repositioned in the press so as to make contact with the bottom half of the sheet. The process was repeated resulting in completely overprinted sheets of stamps. Because of the two-step process, oftentimes there is a significant misalignment of the overprint between rows 5 and 6 on a sheet of stamps.



Left: Postage due pair from positions 45/55.

Right: Zita pair from positions 50/60. Top stamp was overprinted in shop1; bottom stamp in shop2

Below: Block of 4 War Aid stamps. Note the misaligned vertical stamp images due to poor quality control at the State Printing Office because of wartime conditions



Figure 4. *Examples of misaligned overprints from rows 5 and 6*

The original face value of the stamps requisitioned from the Szeged 1 Post Office was 140,793 korona. Following the overprinting of five values with a surcharge, the final face value became 238,360 korona. The distribution of the overprinted stamps by face value was as follows:

- Szeged 1 post office sale offer: 46,337 korona
- Hungarian Territorial Integrity Defence League purchased: 150,000 korona
- The French military mission purchased: 34,952 korona
- Ministry officials purchased: 4,388 korona
- The secretary kept for himself: 2,683 korona

The selection of stamps sold by the No. 1 post office was mostly from largest quantity overprints. The post office's stock sold out in a few days. Of these, only a few stamps were actually used on philatelic mailings; commercial letters with overprinted stamps are nearly impossible to find. Suranyi showed the Stamp Museum's single example of a newspaper wrapper that was acquired from Jeno Acs. It was sent to a relative of his, Karoly Acs in Szabadka. (It is interesting to note that non-overprinted postage stamps were available for use for normal postal traffic during this time, so the town's entire stamp stock was not overprinted.) The consortium intended to market these stamps abroad for a profit, so based on the korona amounts for the purchases by the consortium and the French mission, more than 75% of the stamps left Hungary almost immediately.

CSI SZEGED

Therefore, with very few historical records to go on, we had to take a new approach to understanding how the Szeged overprints were actually overprinted. Much like a modern day Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) we needed to turn to the only evidence available, the overprinted stamps themselves. We started the stamp scene investigation (SSI) of the Szeged overprints using complete sheets of the Newspaper, Harvesters, Surcharged Harvesters, Karoly/Zita, Parliament, and Postage due sized sheets.

One by one, we studied every stamp in each full sheet of 100 overprinted stamps we had in our possession to discover any varieties. We noted each discrepancy from the normal overprint, such as missing letters, broken letters, wrong letter type, etc. We kept a separate listing of the noted varieties for each of the different sheet types. We paid special attention to see if noted varieties appeared on both the top and on the bottom half of the sheets. Then, we laid out all of the observed varieties by sheet type in hopes that this information would lead us to the answer of the big question: 'in what order were the Szeged overprints printed?' Fortunately, the evidence we collected did not fail to deliver a plausible explanation.

In his definitive article from the 1982/1 issues of **Philatelica**, Suranyi wrote about 'countless errors' in the overprint found on these stamps. Other philatelic literature, even the **MPIK** refers to countless typesetting errors (see *Note* below). We started out by categorizing these 'anomalies' to find their origins and to help in establishing a timeline in the overprinting cycle. We concluded that there were only two actual typesetting errors in the printing form among the myriad of missing or incomplete letters and numerals that appeared on our overprinted samples, which turned out to be progressive printing errors. The first one was a primary and true 'error.' Later, it helped us to

confirm the use of a single printing form throughout the overprinting as well as the overprinting sequence. In the original typesetting of the printing form, a numeral '1' was used instead of a letter 'I' in 'NEMZETI.' This error is shown in *Figure 5,* and it is constant throughout all of the overprinted sheets. It is found on all four sheet formats in exactly the same sheet positions 33, 42, 44 (top half of sheet) and again in positions 83, 92, 94 (bottom half of sheet). The second true 'error' was the use of a letter 'v' to replace the first 'e' of 'Szeged' (see *Figure* 6). The origins and reason for this error are unknown. This error occurred only on the Postage due stamps in sheet positions 10 and 60. [1]



***Figure 5**. Error #1: Numeral '1' instead of a letter 'I' in 'NEMZETI'*



***Figure 6.** Error #2: The letter 'v' replaced the first 'e' in 'Szeged'*

We also confirmed that three other constant 'anomalies' existed on the printing form and show up on all of the overprinted sheets. The first is the 'Y' in 'MAGYAR' (see *Figure 7)* in a slightly raised position with respect to the neighbouring letters (seen in sheet in positions 16 and 66); the second is a partially missing top of the letter 'G' in 'MAGYAR' (see *Figure 8)* in sheet positions 26 and 76; the third is the broken left leg of the letter 'A' in 'KORMANY' (see *Figure 9)* in sheet positions 47 and 97. These three constant anomalies were the result of faulty typesetting or the use of damaged letter type and are not 'errors' in the sense that mistakes were made in preparing the printing form.

Note: A nyomdászsztrájk miatt laikusok végzték a munkálatokat, ezért ***szedési hibákban*** bővelkedik a felülnyomás. /Because of the printers' strike, nonprofessionals perfomed the work. As a result, this overprint has plenty of ***typesetting*** errors.



***Figure 7.** Anomaly #1: The letter 'Y' in 'MAGYAR' is raised slightly*



***Figure 8.** Anomaly #2: The top of the letter 'G' in 'MAGYAR' is missing*



***Figure 9.** Anomaly #3: The left leg of the 'Á' in 'KORMÁNY' is broken (image rotated CCW)*

Based on the recurrence of the 'NEMZET1 error and the fact that the three anomalies are found on ALL sheets types, our first major conclusion was

[1] **Note:** Due to the printer's strike, the work was done by laymen, so the overprint is full of **typographical errors.**.

that a single printing form was assembled, and this one form was used to overprint the entire Szeged issue directly. No individual metal printing plates were made. The master printing form was assembled at the Konig shop; and, initially, it was sized to overprint the first sheet type (Harvesters-sized stamps). Consequently, all of the Harvesters, Karoly/Zita, and War Aid III and Newspaper sheets were the first to be overprinted because the printing form was the right size for these stamps.

As mentioned before, we found many anomalies, the most common of which were missing or partially missing letters and numerals. The manifestations of these errors seemed to have progressed during the overprinting. While the printing form may have been intact at the start of the operation (lettering is neat and nearly complete on all Harvester-type stamps from the initial printing at the Konig shop), parts of letters and numerals 'disappeared' with use. We noted an occasional positional shifting between the words in the overprint on some Parliament and Postage due stamps. We also noticed that the printing form became damaged in the three rightmost positions of the second row. The damage showed up as deformed letters in the overprint (see *Figures 10* & 11). This was a significant observation since the damage is found only on overprints from shop 2. It also helped us to establish a timeline for the overprinting.



***Figure 10**. Enlargement of positions 68-70 with the faulty overprint due to damage to the printing form*



***Figure 11**. Block of 9 stamps from positions 58-60, 68-70, 78-80, top: 25f Magyar Posta Harvester, bottom: Newspaper stamp printed in shop 2. Note the deterioration of the overprint in positions 69-70 on the Newspaper stamps and the ink splotches in the margin of the Harvesters stamps.*

The final major anomalies that we noted were that several of the letter types were different in the upper right corner section of the printing form. In positions 10 and 60, the 'N' of 'NEMZETI' and the 'K' of 'KORMANY' had no serifs (see *Figure 12).* At sheet positions 18, 19, 68, and 69, just the 'K' of 'KORMANY' had no serifs (see *Figure 13).* When we realized that these final anomalies occurred in the exact same place in the form where the major damage was found, the final pieces to the puzzle fell into place.



***Figure 12.** No-serifs versions of the letters 'N' in 'NEMZETI' and the 'K' in 'KORMÁNY'*



***Figure 13**. No-serifs version of only the letter 'K' in 'KORMÁNY'*

We now had all the evidence needed to figure out the chronological printing order for the stamps at the two different printing locations.

We know the overprint work began at the Konig print shop, then moved to a second, unnamed print shop, and subsequently returned to the Konig shop. We also know the overprinting was done half sheet at a time (5x10), top half of the sheets first and then the bottom half. Our next major clue came while studying the 'NEMZET**1**' varieties with a '1' instead of an "I" from sheet positions 33 and 83. We noticed that the upper left corner on the 'N' in 'NEMZET1' (see *Figure 14)* was clipped on some sheets but not on others. The 'N' at both position 33 and 83 was not clipped on our surcharged Harvesters, the 2f & 3f Harvesters, and 10+2f War Aid sheets. All these sheets were overprinted entirely at the Konig shop.



Figure 14. *The upper left corner of the 'N' in 'NEMZET1' is clipped*

On other Harvester-sized sheets overprinted at both shop 1 (top half) and shop 2 (bottom half), we found the top half of the sheet done at shop 1 with no clipped 'N' at position 33 while on the bottom half of the sheet done at shop 2 with a clipped 'N' at position 83. Furthermore, our Newspaper, Express/*'surgos,* Parliament and Postage due sheets all had the clipped 'N' in BOTH position 33 and 83. What this evidence was telling us is that since all of the stamps overprinted at shop 2 illustrated the clipped 'N' variety, the 'N' of 'NEMZETI' must have been damaged during the overprinting at shop 2. Therefore, all of the overprints done at shop 1 with the clipped 'N' in both position 33 and 83 must have been overprinted AFTER the printing form was returned from being used at shop 2. Since the *Express/surgos,* Parliament and Postage due sheets all have the clipped 'N' at both positions, these stamps must have been overprinted after the work returned to the Konig shop.

Understanding the sequence of the overprinting was beginning to fall into place. The surcharged Harvesters were the first stamps to be overprinted. The total quantity of the surcharged Harvester overprints with small diamonds in the upper left and right corners (intended to obliterate the old denomination, see the trial proof print in *Figure 38)* was completed at the Konig print shop. On these sheets, the clipped "N' variety does not exist at either position 33 or 83. Next, the diamonds were removed from the upper corners of each image in the printing form and work continued on overprinting the Harvester, Karoly/Zita and War Aid stamps. Some of these sheets were completely overprinted, top and bottom halves. On others, only the top half of the sheets were completed when the general strike happened. The work was moved to the second print shop using the same inexperienced operators. During transport to shop 2 or during the initial phase of work at stop 2, the 'N' in 'NEMZET1' became clipped, and the printing form suffered major damage to a group of three images at positions 68, 69, 70 (shown in *Figure 10).* All the sheets overprinted at shop 2 have these two errors.

While at shop 2, the top halves of the remaining Harvester sized sheets were overprinted followed by the overprinting of the remaining bottom half of the sheets. Upon completing the overprinting of the Harvester-sized sheets, the printing form was

slightly reconfigured and the entire stock of Newspaper stamps was overprinted. The clipped 'N' is found at both positions 33 and 83 as is the major damage to the print form.

This order of printing also ties in with the existence of the best known printing error of the Szeged issues, the downward reading 'MAGYAR' at position 41 on the Newspaper sheets. This error is also found on the 3f Harvester/Koztarsasag. It appears that while overprinting the last of the Harvester-sized sheets, the word 'MAGYAR' was damaged or fell out of the lower left corner of the printing form. When the fixture holding the letters was put back into the form, 'MAGYAR' was rotated 180° and was reading down instead of up (see *Figure 15).* This new problem was not noticed when the printing form was used to overprint the Newspaper stamps.



Figure 15. *'MAGYAR' reading down in position 41 on the Newspaper and the 3f Harvester/Köztársaság stamps*

The error remained during the overprinting of the top half of the Newspaper sheets, but was eventually noticed and corrected when the printing of the bottom half of the Newspaper sheets commenced; and, therefore, it is not found on the bottom halves.

The duration of the workers' general strike that started on June 16th in Szeged was 6-7 days. The printers' strike started 10 days earlier but the Konig shop remained open, and the *ad hoc* staff of postal and military personnel continued the overprinting. According to Suranyi, the owner of the Konig shop was reluctant to allow the work to continue after June 16th, so it was moved to shop 2. Assuming that the logistics to move from shop 1 to shop 2 took one day, the staff would have had about a week to work on overprinting the unprinted or half-printed Harvester-sized stamps plus all of the Newspaper stamps at shop 2 before the end of the strike on June 23rd allowed the return to the Konig shop. To us, this period at shop 2 represents the bulk of the overprinting work. Out of the 7,000+ sheets involved, an estimated 2,171 had been completely overprinted at the Konig shop. The entire stock of stamps, along with an unknown number partially overprinted sheets was then moved to shop 2. An unscientific survey of surplus stamps in our possession revealed that most values were pretty evenly divided between the two printing shops (half printed sheet from shop 1 finished at shop 2) although several stamps (20f Karoly / 15 + 2f War Aid III) originated predominantly from shop 2 (both halves of the sheets were overprinted at shop 2). In the final phase of this project, 1,353 sheets were overprinted when the work returned to shop 1. As the strikes ended, the workers would have welcomed the move back to the Konig shop because it probably offered better facilities; and the work could be completed by professional printers, whose first task was to repair the damage printing form. As mentioned earlier, the damage to the print form (shown in *Figure 10)* was in the exact same area were the new font letter anomalies are (see *Figures 12 & 13).* It would seem that there was an insufficient quantity of Ns and Ks of the

Romana Antiqua type to make the repair, so letter type with 'no serifs' was used.

Following the repairs, the printing form was further modified for printing the postage due surcharged Express*/'surgos* stamps by adding a line for *50 (100) Porto 50 (100)* above the word 'NEMZETI.' The surcharged Express*/'surgos* stamps were the next overprints to be done because they were similar in size to the Newspaper stamps. After the Express*/'surgos* sheets were finished, the printing form was reconfigured to a horizontal orientation to overprint the Parliament sheets, (some Parliament sheets were the surcharged later from this batch), and, finally, after another reconfiguration, the Postage due sheets. These last three sheet types all had the clipped 'N' of 'NEMZETT1' (shown in *Figure 14)* at both position 33 and 83, no serifs on the 'N' and 'K' at position 10 and 60 (shown in *Figure 12)* and no serif on the 'K' at positions 18, 19, 68, 69 (shown in *Figure 13).* These stamps were the result of the work at the Konig shop.

The recorded issue date of the overprints is June 28th. To be sure, this means that some stamps were available for sale at the Szeged 1 post office on that date. Whether the entire allotment of 46,337 korona value stamps had been delivered is mere conjecture.

Most likely, the stamps for sale included only the Harvesters and surcharged Harvesters that were printed in large quantities of several hundred sheets. The point that we are trying to make here is that if the overprinting operation resumed at the Konig shop AFTER the general strike ended on June 23rd, then the printers made quick work of repairing the printing form and overprinting the remaining 1,353 sheets of stamps (Express*/'surgos,* Parliament, and Postage due) while modifying the printing form three times (repositioning and adding text for the surcharged postage due, repositioning again, once for the Parliament format and once more for the Postage due format sheets). Granted, the Konig operators were experienced printers, so they could have accomplished this in the four days between the 23rd and the 27th of June. In the end, it is also plausible that the entire overprinted lot was delivered to the No. 1 post office by June 28th so that fiscal accounting could be made for the sales to Defence League, the French military mission, and so forth.

Thus, after the review of all of our printing form and stamp evidence as well as through process of elimination, we concluded that following is the timeline for the printing order of the Szeged overprints:

Work begins at the Konig Press Shop (shop 1):

- Harvester sheets overprinted with surcharge (see below for more on the topic of the surcharge overprint)
- Surcharged Harvester sheets overprinted (top and bottom halves)
- Harvester, Karl/Zita and War Aid sheets overprinting begins (top and bottom half of the 2f & 3f Harvester, 10+2f War Aid, top half on others)
- Work is moved to Print Shop 2:
- Harvester, Karl/Zita and War Aid sheets overprinting finishes (bottom half of sheets brought over from the Konig shop, both halves on sheets that weren't started there)
- Newspaper sheets overprinted (top and bottom halves)

Work returns to the Konig Press Shop for the remaining stock (top and bottom halves of all the following sheets):

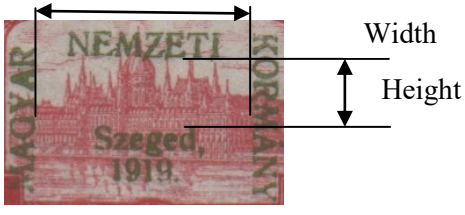
- Surcharged Express/*sürgős* sheets overprinted
- Parliament sheets overprinted
- Parliament sheets overprinted with surcharge
- Postage due sheets overprinted

RECONFIGURING THE PRINTING FORM:

As we mentioned, each time a different sized sheet was to be overprinted, the forms holding letter type needed to be repositioned. Actually, this was not as big a job as you might think. Below is a table of width and height dimensions of the overprint for the five different sheet types: Width = inside spacing between 'MAGYAR' and 'KORMANY' in mm; Height = inside spacing between 'NEMZETI' and 'Szeged' in millimeters:

Table 1.

	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
Harvester	14.5	10.0
Newspaper	14.5	10.0
Express	14.5	5.5
Parliament	16.0	5.5
Postage Due	16.0	10.0



From an individual overprint perspective, nothing needed to be done to overprint the Newspaper stamps after finishing the Harvester, Karoly/Zita and War Aid stamps. To overprint the Express/*'sürgős* stamps, the word NEMZETI needed to be dropped down 4.5 mm in order to add the word "Porto" and the surcharge numbers "50" and "100." To overprint the Parliament stamps the words MAGYAR / KORMANY needed to be moved 1.5 mm farther apart. To overprint the Postage due stamps, the words NEMZETI / Szeged needed to be moved back apart by 4.5 mm to the original 10 mm separation.

Most of the work to reconfigure the printing form involved changing the spacing of the rows and columns of the individual overprint settings with respect to each other. Below is a table of the overall width and height measurements for the entire printing form. The spacing between the stamps both vertically and horizontally on the Szeged sheets was not perfectly set and varied by a small amount. Reconfiguring the printing form to move from the overprinting of the Harvester, Karoly/Zita and War Aid stamps to overprinting the Newspaper stamps required the spacing of the columns of individual overprints to increase by just under 0.5 mm. To overprint the Express/*surgos* stamps the columns of printing form needed to be moved back together again by approximately 0.5 mm. The biggest reconfiguration needed to be performed when the printing form needed to be made much wider and shorter in order to print the Parliament and Postage due stamps. To overprint the Parliament stamps the spacing between columns widened by an average 11.3 mm and the spacing between rows became 5.25 mm closer. The last reconfiguration to overprint the Postage due stamps saw the columns move 7.2 mm closer again and rows 1.0 mm further apart. The spacing between the columns and the rows was somewhat irregular as shown in the table below.

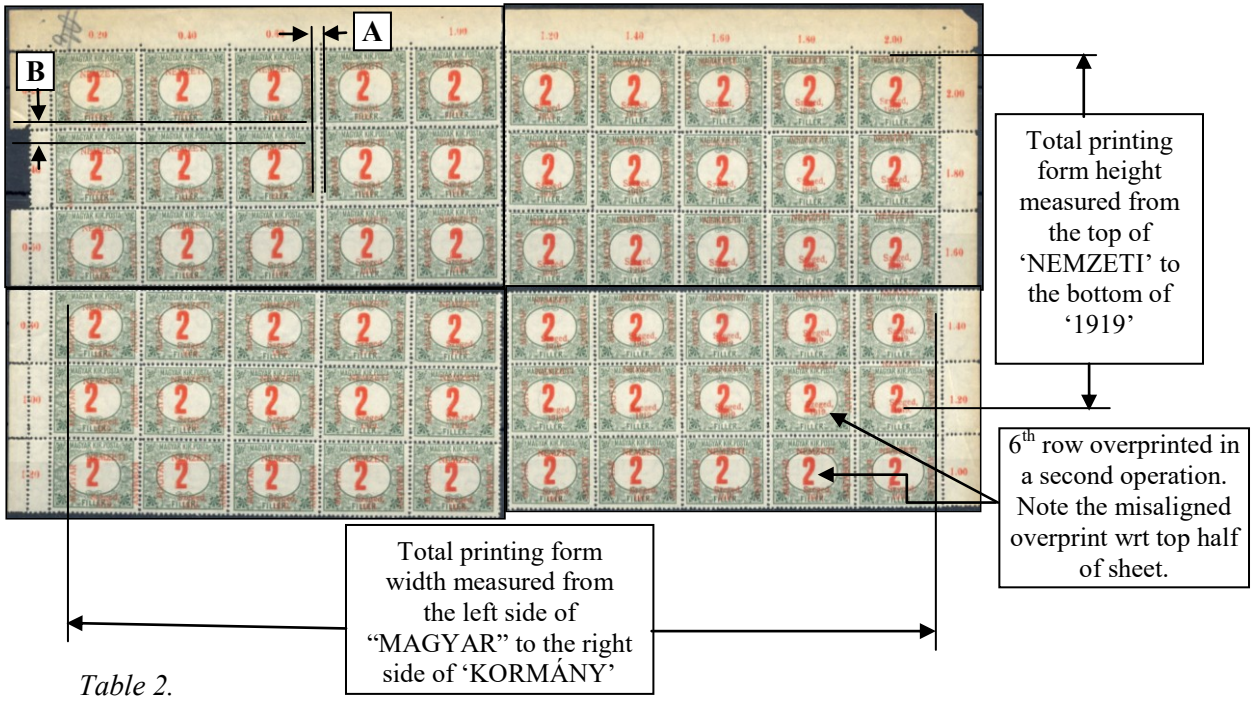


Table 2.

	Spacing between overprint columns (A)	Spacing between overprint rows (B)	Total printing form width
Harvesters/W ar Aid	3.00 - 3.50 mm	10.00 mm	211 mm
Karoly/Zita	3.00 - 3.50 mm	10.00 mm	211 mm
Newspaper	3.50 - 4.50 mm	10.00 - 10.50 mm	216 mm
Express	3.00 mm	9.00 mm	210 mm
Parliament	12.50 - 13.25 mm	10.50 mm	312 mm
Postage Due	5.25 - 5.75 mm	5.50 mm	247 mm

To the casual observer, the white space between the horizontal rows and vertical columns of the stamps in a sheet of Harvesters-sized stamps (Harvesters, Karoly/Zita, War Aid III, Newspaper, and Express) may appear to be the same, but there are measurable differences in the spacings (± 0.5mm). Furthermore, the spacing on the original sheets of stamps was not tightly controlled at the State Printing Office since we detected a variation of ± 0.5 mm within the same sheet from this era.

These variations also contributed to the Szeged overprint being applied to a slightly different (but observable) position on the design of the original stamp. These variations were deemed an acceptable tolerance by the printers.

[Both the horizontal and vertical spacing between the Newspaper stamps is approximately 4.0 mm. The horizontal spacing between Harvester-sized stamps is ~3.5 mm while the vertical spacing is ~2 mm. An example of how this minor size difference affected the location of the overprint is shown in *Figure 16.* There is a noticeable difference -were the word 'KORMANY' ended up on the adjacent stamps.]



Figure 16. *The normal, wider white spacing between the stamps had a small but noticeable effect on where the overprint was applied on the stamp design*

VARIETIES CAUSED BY THE RECONFIGURATION:

The relative position of all the words in the individual overprint for all 50 stamps in the original print type form was very constant. When the printing form was reconfigured to overprint the Parliament stamps, this constant relationship broke down. This breakdown can be best seen in the word 'MAGYAR.' On some values of the Parliament stamps the right side of the word 'MAGYAR' can be as high as the top of the word 'NEMZETI.' On other values it can be 1.0 - 2.0 mm lower. At positions 38 and 88 on the full Parliament sheets the spacing between 'NEMZETI' and 'Szeged' is 10 mm instead of the normal 5.5 mm (see *Figure 17).* This mistake was fixed as on some sheets the spacing is correct on the bottom half of the sheet at position 88. The position of the word 'MAGYAR' on the Postage due stamps can also vary and at sheet positions 11 and 61 is shifted down so low that the left side of 'MAGYAR' is 1.0 mm lower than the bottom of '1919' (see *Figure 18).* At position 15 and 65 the 'ZETI' of 'NEMZETI' is lower than the 'NEM' (see *Figure 19).* Finally at position 10 and 60, the word Szeged is spelled 'Szvged' (as shown in Figure 6).

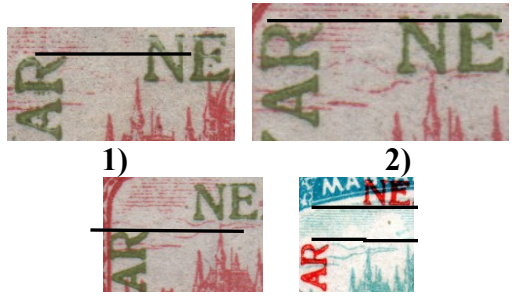


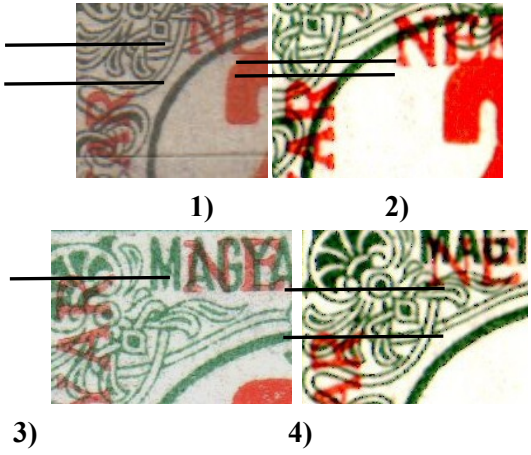
Figure 17. *Alignment of the 'R' in 'MAGYAR' with respect to the 'N' in 'NEMZETI' on the Parliament sheets (from left to right):* ***1)*** *most common spacing,*
2) *2nd most frequent spacing,*
3) *spacing in positions 14/64,*
4) *radically different spacing from positions 38/88.*

Table 3

1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2
1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
1	*	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2
1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4 (3)	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2

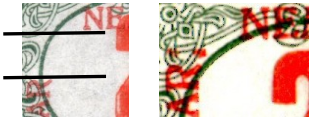
Table 3 shows the arrangement of the four types of alignments shown in *Figure 17* for the sheet of Parliament stamps. The alignment in position 62 marked with an '*' is not exactly like 1 or 2, but looks like a 'hybrid' that is not significantly different enough to make it another type. In our small sample of two reconstructed sheets (75f and 1K), alignment 4 shows up in positions 38 and 88 on the 75f value, but on the 1K value it was changed to a 3 in position 88 indicating that the printing form was reconfigured during the printing the bottom half sheets.

A similar scenario happened when the printing form was reconfigured (for the last time) for overprintingthe Postage due stamps. The uniform, careful alignment of the words MAGYAR and NEMZETI that we observed on the Harvester-sized overprints was no longer true. Just like with the Parliament stamps, we noted four different spacings between the 'R' of 'MAGYAR' and the 'N' of 'NEMZETI' as shown in *Figure 18.*



1) **2)**

3) **4)**



5) Position 67

Figure 18. *Alignment of the 'R' in 'MAGYAR' with respect to the 'N' in 'NEMZETI' on the Postage due sheets (from left to right):* **1)** *most common spacing,* **2)** *narrow spacing (0.5 mm),* **3)** *overlapping spacing in positions 40/90,* **4)** *wider spacing (2.75 mm),* **5)** *radically different spacing (4.0 mm) from positions 11/61.*

For alignment **1)**, the vertical distance between the left side of the 'R' and the bottom of the 'N' varies between 0.8 to 1.5 mm. We did not differentiate between these spacings since eyeballing an exact measurement with a ±0.5 mm tolerance is inexact. The narrower spacing in **2)** is obviously different from the wider spacing in **1)**. Position 67 (shown as a red 1 in *Table* 4) shows a printer's mark after the 'R.' The mark is much less prominent in position 17. The loss of the precise, uniform spacing can be attributed to the pressure placed on the printers to finish the work.

Table 4

1	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
5	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
1	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**1**
1	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**3**
1	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**
1	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
5	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
1	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**1**
1	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**3**
1	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**



Figure 19. *Misalignment between 'NEM' and 'ZETI' in 'NEMZETI' from positions 15 and 65 on the Postage due sheets*

SURCHARGE:

Two of the Harvester stamp sheets were surcharged prior to the overprinting (in our opinion, see *Figure 20).*

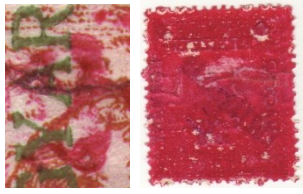


Figure 20. *Freak surcharged stamp fully inked on the reverse side. Note that the green lettering of '(MA)GYAR' overprint is on top of the carmine '2' (best seen when looking at the letter 'Y')*

Approximately 500 sheets each of the 3f Harvester and the 2f Harvester with Koztarsasag overprint were produced. In addition, 50 sheets of the 1 korona value Parliament stamp were surcharged (probably) after overprinting. Only one of the three surcharges created a typesetting variety: the numeral '45' on the 3f Harvester sheets.

An open '4' variety can be found on the 45f surcharge on 3f Harvester stamps at sheet positions 9, 10 and again at positions 71, 72 and 73 (see *Figure 21).* The vertical stroke of the '4' is clearly broken while the downward sloping left stroke of the '4' is much thicker than the normal '4' as seen in *Figure 22.* The fact that the two types of '4' on the 45f surcharge do not occur at the same positions on the top and bottom half of the sheets and that there are no discernible shifts between the surcharges found in rows 5 and 6 on the full sheet, the surcharges must have been applied in a 10 x 10 format to a full sheet. Given that a large quantity of sheets needed to be surcharged, the printers' work was not exacting. The location of the surcharged numerals varies greatly from sheet to sheet. *Figure 24* shows this difference in the surcharge.



Figure 21. (left) *Open '4' variety in the surcharge*
Figure 22. (right) *Closed '4' variety in the surcharge*



Figure 23. *Surcharged numerals from positions 8-9-10. The 'flag' part of the '5' from position 8 is a thin line. The 'flag' part from position 9 is partially missing.*



Figure 24. *Three different colour shades for the '20' surcharge: (l to r) carmine, red, brick red. Also note that the surcharge falls on a different area of the stamp design in each case.*

EXPRESS/*SÜRGŐS* POSTAGE DUE SURCHARGE:

This overprint needs to be treated separately from the next section on missing letters/numerals because the one-line surcharge exhibited discrete, unique varieties.

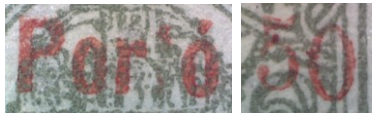


Figure 25. *(left) Almost completely missing 't'*
Figure 26. *(right) The '0' in '50' is shifted down*



Figure 27. *The '5' in '50' is shifted down*

The 'T' of 'Porto' is almost completely missing in position 4, 54, 35, and 85 on the 50f surcharged 2f Express/*'sürgős* stamps (see *Figure* 25). On the same stamp, the numerals of the surcharge are uneven in positions 1, 51 where the '0' on the right surcharge is shifted down (see *Figure 26).* In position 37, 87 the '5' on the left surcharge is shifted down (see *Figure 27).*

On the 100f surcharged 2f Express/*'sürgős* stamps, the numerals of the surcharge are uneven in positions 6, 56 where the '0' on the right surcharge is shifted down (see *Figure 28).* Also, the printing form used to overprint these stamps appears to have been poorly set in column 3. On our reference block of 25 from the upper left corner of the sheet, every stamp in column 3 has an extremely light or nearly missing '100 Porto 100' overprint (see *Figure 29.).*



Figure 28. *Downward shifted '0' in '100'*



Figure 29. *Faint impression of '100 Portó 100' on the stamps in the third column*

MISSING LETTER AND NUMERAL ERRORS:

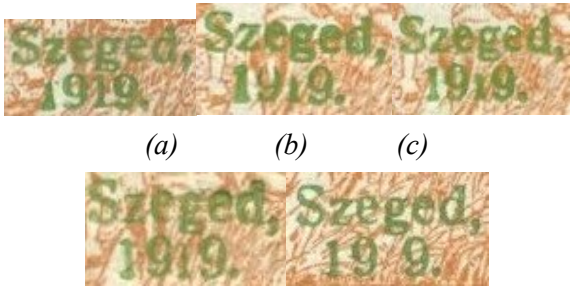
Missing or partially missing letters and numerals affect many stamps in the 5x10 printing form. Most of these errors show up in the word 'Szeged' and the date '1919.' No letters or numerals were missing at the beginning of the overprinting as exhibited in the nearly flawless overprints from the König shop. A few individual letters were poorly worked into the original form of 5 x 10 overprints, but many more became problematic as the overprinting progressed. Thus, all these missing letters and numerals can be considered progressive errors that started out correct but went bad as the printing progressed.

MISSING NUMERALS FROM '1919'

- 1919: The top half of the first '1' started off missing at positions 48 and 98. Prob-

lem progressed to totally missing. (See **'*a*'** in *Figure 30* below.)

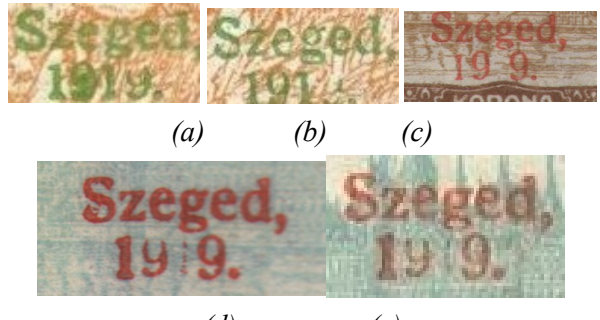
- 1919: The top half of the '91' missing at positions 33 and 83 (See **'*b*'** in *Figure 30* below.)
- 1919: The top half of the second '1' is missing at positions 36, 86 (see **'*c*'** in *Figure 30* below). This numeral is also partially missing at position 5 (See **'*d*'** in *Figure 30* below) progressing to fully missing at position 55 (see **'*e*'** in *Figure 30* below).



(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)

Figure 30. *Missing numerals from '1919.'*

- 1919: The second '9' started off very weak at positions 7 and 57 (see **'*a*'** in Figure 31) and progressed to fully missing (see **'*b*'** in *Figure 31* below).
- Missing numerals from the '1919' mainly affected only the Harvester and Newspaper stamps. On the Parliament stamps the only missing numeral is the '1' of '1919' at positions 5 (see **'*c*'** in *Figure 31* below) and 55 (see **'*d*'** in *Figure 31* below) and is also weak at positions 34, 84 (see **'*e*'** in *Figure 31* below).
- The '1919' is pretty much intact on the Postage Due stamps.



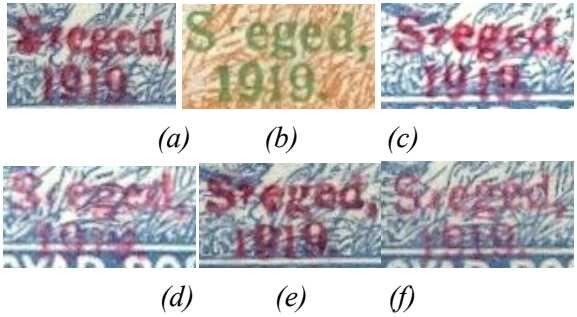
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)

Figure 31. *More missing numerals from '1919'*

MISSING LETTERS FROM 'SZEGED,'

Missing letters from 'Szeged,' also mainly show up on the Harvester and Newspaper stamps.

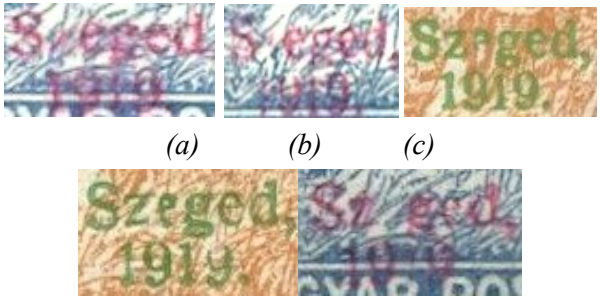
- Szeged: The 'z' in 'Szeged' is partially missing (see **'*a*'** in *Figure 32* below) and, eventually, completely missing in positions 38, 88 (see **'*b*'** in *Figure 32* below).
- The 'z' is weak in positions 23, 30 (see **'*c*'** in Figure 32 below) while the 'z' is nearly missing in positions 73, 80 (see **'*d*'** in *Figure 32* below).
- The 'z' is partially missing in positions 39 (see **'*e*'** in *Figure 32* below) and mostly missing in position 89 (see **'*f*'** in *Figure 32* below).



(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)

Figure 32. *Missing letters in 'Szeged,'*

- The final two places where the 'z' is nearly/mostly missing are found only on the lower half of the sheet in positions 75, 91 (see **'*a*'** and **'*b*'** in *Figure 33* below).
- Szeged: The first 'e' of 'Szeged' is nearly missing in positions 28, 78 (see **'*c*'** and **'*d*'** in *Figure 33* below).
- Two more places again found on the lower half of sheets show a mostly missing 'e' in position 56 and is completely missing in position 96 (see **'*e*'** in *Figure 33* below).

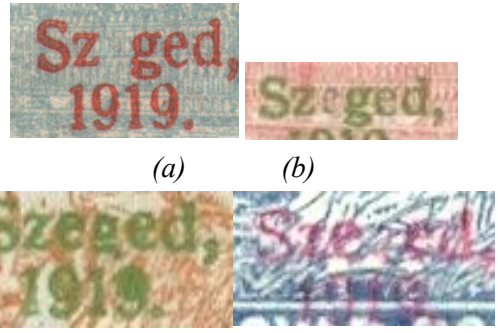


(a) *(b)* *(c)*

(d) *(e)*

Figure 33. *More missing lettesr in 'Szeged,'*

- Szeged on the Parliament stamps: A fully missing 'e' at position 6 (see **'*a*'** in Figure 34 below), and partially missing 'e' at position 56 (see **'*b*'** in *Figure 34* below).
- Szeged on the Harvesters stamps: The 'g' of 'Szeged' is partially missing in position 45 (see **'*c*'** in Figure 34 below) and mostly missing in position 95 (see **'*d*'** in *Figure 34* below).



(a) *(b)*

(c) *(d)*

Figure 34. *Missing letters in 'Szeged,'*

MISSING LETTERS FROM 'NEMZETI' AND 'KORMÁNY'

- NEMZETI: The 'M' in 'NEMZETI' is partially missing in pos. 71 on the Harvesters stamps (see **'*a*'** in *Figure 35* below).
- NEMZETI: The second 'E' in 'NEMZETI' is nearly missing in pos. 82 on the Harvesters stamps (see **'*b*'** in *Figure 35* below).
- NEMZETI: The 'I' of 'NEMZETI' is shifted down in pos. 32, 82 on the Parliament stamps (see **'*c*'** in *Figure 35* below).
- NEMZETI: The 'T' of 'NEMZETI' is slightly raised in pos. 34, 84 on the Parliament stamps (see **'*d*'** in *Figure 35* below).
- KORMANY: The 'R' of 'KORMANY' is missing/completely missing in pos. 39, 89 on the Parliament and Postage Due stamps (see **'*e*'** in *Figure 35* below).

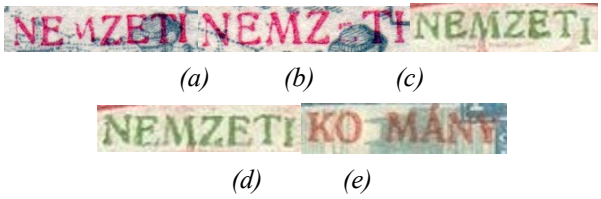


Figure 35. *Missing letters in 'NEMZETI' and 'KORMÁNY'*

All of the above listed missing letters or numerals are far more common as a weakly printed, partially missing or nearly missing letter. If only a minor part of a letter is seen, it is a mostly missing letter. A 100% missing letter is the least common error type.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE MISSING OR PARTIALLY MISSING LETTER AND NUMERALS IN THE OVERPRINTS

The progression of the manifestation of these 'anomalies' increased greatly with the utilization of the printing form, especially at shop 2. The most frequent occurrence is on the Newspaper stamps that were the last to be overprinted at shop 2. When the work was returned to the Konig shop, the printing form was repaired as discussed before. At the same time, settings of the letter type were corrected so all characters would print properly. The printing form was next used to overprint Express/*sürgős* 'porto' surcharges; and, other than the characteristic flaws in typesetting the numerals, missing characters are pretty much absent from these stamps. We no longer find the frequent partial/missing letters in the positions noted for the Harvester-sized stamps. When the printing form was next reconfigured for the Parliament stamps, a unique missing letter variety was introduced ('KO_MÁNY') for reasons unknown, and this variety was repeated on the Postage due overprints. Perhaps it was not noticed because the rush was on to finish the work by a target date, say June 28th when the stamps were placed on sale. Still, the Parliament stamps do have missing or partially missing characters in a few positions.

EPILOGUE

The Post Office Directive No. 11 issued on 20 February 1920 stipulated that all overprinted stamps issued in the occupied areas of the country without the approval of the Hungarian Post were not valid for franking. (The one exception was the Baranya I issue that was sanctioned from Budapest.) The Szeged overprints fell into this grouping even though they were the legitimate issue of a government that should have been considered as the precursor of the government in power in 1920! However, in 1919, the Soviet government residing in Budapest was the legal government and its postal directorate did not authorize the overprints. The legal wrangling went on for years until 9 November 1923, when the Council of Ministers retroactively legitimized the issue. But, as Dr. Ettre concluded in his April 1972 article, this decision was never officially published as part of a postal directive, so its pedigree is still in limbo.

As a follow-up to this decision, the Postal Directorate ordered the Szeged post office to procure a set of overprints for the future stamp museum. Ignacz Szekely, the previously mentioned Postal Comptroller of Szeged, expressed helplessness and responded that almost all stamps available in the marketplace are fakes since only 300 possible complete sets were made. He did contact an owner of 41 genuine stamps who was willing to

make a trade for two sheets of the 35/50 Turul error, four sheets of the 600/800 Harvesters error, a complete set of sheets of the War Aid I issue, and 500kg of unsorted parcel slips from 1901-1915! The trade offer was shelved after Jeno Acs sold his specialized collection to the Stamp Museum in May, 1925.

Early in 1920, a sufficient quantity of letter type was stolen from the Konig press shop by Henrik Heine and Endre Molnar in order to produce counterfeits. Their conspiracy resulted in 3,200 counterfeit stamps being made. These became the target of the lawsuit started by the local collectors' association. The verdict of February 1925 stipulated that the seized counterfeit stamps be destroyed. Whether this was carried out or not is unknown. What is known, according to Suranyi, is that the names of Szekely and Acs appeared in the list of buyers of the fake stamps. Both have claimed to be experts in recognizing forgeries. It is also highly probable that fake overprints were among the stamps Acs sold to the Stamp Museum.



Figure 36. *Cursive expertizing marks used by Mór Székely (Sz) and Jenő Ács (ÁcsJenő)*

Suranyi also referenced a publication by Acs: Katalog und Beschreibung der ungarischen Briefmarken "Magyar Nemzeti Kormany Szeged 1919" published by the Magyar Bélyeggyűjtőegyesület Szeged, in 1930.

FORGERIES:

Lyman Caswell, in his two articles listed in the references, analyzed the overprints from the perspective of dimensions and the colour spectrum analysis of the overprint. His source material came from forgeries produced by Geza Tarjan as well as other forgers identified by Varro Tyler. According to Lyman, Tarjan's fakes were so good that they had to have been produced using the original lettertype. Whether Tarjan actually made these fakes or marketed the lot salvaged from that fabricated by Heine and Molnar is mere speculation. [The authors do believe that more than the 3,200 stamps mentioned in the Epilogue may have been produced given the large quantity of 'good-looking' fakes in the philatelic marketplace.]

In the *Evaluation of Forensic Methods for Overprint Analysis* article, Lyman writes about Heinz Pape: "The mark 'PAPE' of Geza Tarjan's temporary associate German stamp dealer Heinz Pape represents a special case. The 'Good Pape' mark, indicating a genuine stamp, is clean-cut and neat with all letters very clear, made with a fine, metal stamp which cut into the paper, and was usually applied at the lower left corner of the stamp. Its dimensions are 1.25 x 2.5 mm. The 'Bad Pape' marks may appear on both counterfeit and genuine stamps. They have either broken letters or smearing, or both. They are believed to have been made with rubber stamps and are of variable size. According to Kock *[Philatelic Experts,* http://www.filatelia.fi.experts], some of the 'Bad Pape' marks are forgeries made by Tarjan after the two dealers ended their business arrangement in 1921." Examples are shown below.



Figure 37. *Above: 'Good PAPE' mark on a genuine stamp. Below: 'Bad PAPE' mark on a forged stamp*



Of course, there were other forgers of Szeged overprints. Lyman's description of the alignment of the letters in 'Szeged, / 1919.' With respect to each other serves as an essential 'tool' in identifying genuine overprints: "Some of the forged Szeged overprints are, however, easily distinguishable by the placement of the date '1919.' In the genuine overprints, the second '1' of '1919 is below the left edge of the 'g' of 'Szeged.' In the counterfeits, the date is shifted to the right, so that the second '1' of '1919' is below the center of the 'g.'" (Note the correct alignment in the trial proof print [courtesy of the late Dr. Paul Szilagyi] in *Figure 38* on the left and see the difference in the alignment from the forgery shown in *Figure 39).*

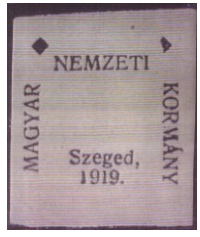


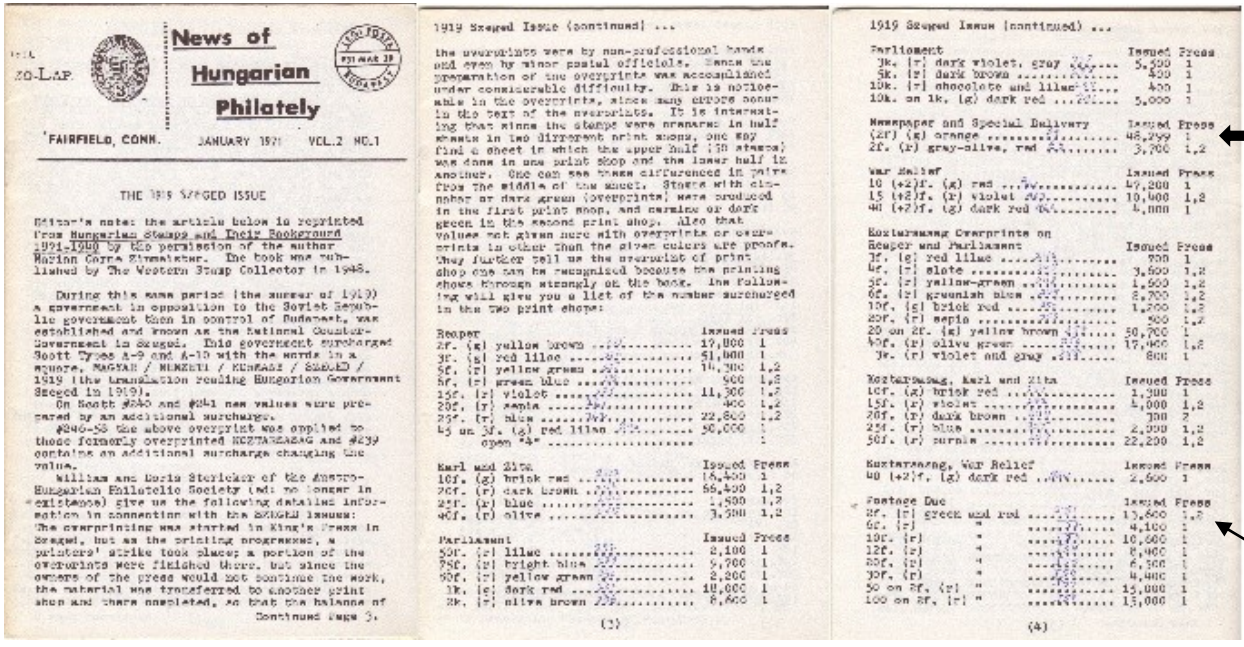
Figure 38. *Trial proof print*

Lyman continued his forensic study by analyzing the measurements of the overprint, similarly to what the authors did in *Table 1.* He found that counterfeit Harvesters-design stamps could not be differentiated by overprint measurements. However, the vertical distance on the counterfeit Parliament stamps was almost double the distance of the genuine ones. He concluded that the Harvesters setting for the overprint was used in counterfeiting the Parliament overprints. In addition, the horizontal distance of counterfeit overprints on the postage dues was significantly smaller than the genuine overprints. The counterfeiters did not use correct distances. The stamps with wrong dimensions also showed a significant colour difference from the genuine ones.



Figure 39. *Forgery made using the original lettertype. One genuine sheet of the inverted overprint on the 6f Harvester/Köztársaság stamp exists from shop 2. The enlargement of 'Szeged, / 1919.' above shows that the second '1' in '1919.' aligns with the middle of the 'g' in 'Szeged,' indicating forgery as described by Lyman Caswell.*

ZINMEISTER LISTING OF THE OVERPRINTS:



News of Hungarian Philately

FAIRFIELD, CONN. JANUARY 1971 VOL.2 NO.1

THE 1919 SZEGED ISSUE

Editor's note: the article below is reprinted from Hungarian Stamps and Their Background 1914-1940 by the permission of the author Marion Corra Zinmeister. The book was published by The Western Stamp Collector in 1948.

During this same period (the summer of 1919) a government in opposition to the Soviet Republic government then in control of Budapest, was established and known as the National Counter-government in Szeged. This government surcharged Scott Types A-9 and A-10 with the words in a square, MAGYAR / NEMZETI / KORMANY / SZEGED / 1919 (the translation reading Hungarian Government Szeged in 1919).

On Scott #240 and #241 new values were prepared by an additional surcharge.

#240-55 the above overprint was applied to those formerly overprinted KORTARSASAG and #239 contains an additional surcharge changing the value.

William and Boris Sterkeaar of the Austro-Hungarian Philatelic Society (all no longer in existence) give us the following detailed information in connection with the SZEGED issues:

The overprinting was started in King's Press in Szeged, but as the printing progressed, a printers' strike took place; a portion of the overprints were finished there, but since the owners of the press would not continue the work, the material was transferred to another print shop and there completed, so that the balance of

Continued Page 3.

1919 Szeged Issue (continued) ...

the overprints were by non-professional hands and even by minor postal officials. Hence the preparation of the overprints was accomplished under considerable difficulty. This is noticeable in the overprints, since many errors occur in the text of the overprints. It is interesting that since the stamps were prepared in half sheets in two different print shops, one may find a sheet in which the upper half (50 stamps) was done in one print shop and the lower half in another. One can see these differences in pairs from the middle of the sheet. Stamps with cinnabar or dark green (overprints) were produced in the first print shop, and carmine or dark green in the second print shop. Also that values not given here with overprints or overprints in other than the given colors are proofs. They rarely sell as the overprint of print shop one can be recognized because the printing shows through strongly on the back. The following will give you a list of the number surcharged in the two print shops:

Reaper	Issued	Press
2f. (g) yellow brown	12,000	1
3f. (g) red lilac	61,000	1
5f. (r) yellow green	14,300	1,2
8f. (r) green blue	500	1,2
15f. (r) violet	11,300	1,2
20f. (r) sepia	400	1,2
25f. (r) blue	22,800	1,2
45 on 3f. (g) red lilac	30,000	1
open "A"		1

Karl and Zita	Issued	Press
10f. (g) brick red	16,400	1
20f. (r) dark brown	66,400	1,2
25f. (r) blue	1,800	1,2
40f. (r) olive	3,300	1,2

Parliament	Issued	Press
50f. (r) lilac	2,100	1
75f. (r) bright blue	5,700	1
90f. (r) yellow green	2,200	1
1k. (r) dark red	10,000	1
2k. (r) olive brown	8,600	1

(3)

1919 Szeged Issue (continued) ...

Parliament	Issued	Press
3k. (r) dark violet, gray	5,500	1
5k. (r) dark brown	500	1
10k. (r) chocolate and lilac	400	1
10k. on 1k. (g) dark red	5,000	1

Newspaper and Special Delivery	Issued	Press
(2f) (g) orange	48,299	1
2f. (r) gray-olive, red	3,700	1,2

War Relief	Issued	Press
10 (+2)f. (g) red	49,200	1
15 (+2)f. (r) violet	10,400	1,2
40 (+2)f. (g) dark red	4,000	1

Kortarsasag Overprints on Reaper and Parliament	Issued	Press
3f. (g) red lilac	700	1
4f. (r) slate	3,600	1,2
5f. (r) yellow-green	1,600	1,2
8f. (r) greenish blue	8,700	1,2
15f. (g) brick red	1,200	1,2
20f. (r) sepia	900	1,2
20 on 2f. (g) yellow brown	50,700	1
45f. (r) olive green	17,400	1,2
3k. (r) violet and gray	800	1

Kortarsasag, Karl and Zita	Issued	Press
10f. (g) brick red	1,300	1
15f. (r) violet	4,000	1,2
20f. (r) dark brown	300	2
25f. (r) blue	2,000	1,2
50f. (r) sienna	22,200	1,2

Kortarsasag, War Relief	Issued	Press
40 (+2)f. (g) dark red	2,600	1

Postage Due	Issued	Press
2f. (r) green and red	13,600	1,2
6f. (r) "	4,100	1
10f. (r) "	10,600	1
12f. (r) "	8,400	1
25f. (r) "	6,300	1
30f. (r) "	4,400	1
50 on 2f. (r) "	15,000	1
100 on 2f. (r) "	15,000	1

(4)

Zinmeister's article, reproduced from the January 1971 issue of the **News of Hungarian Philately**, indicated that the 2f postage due stamp was also overprinted in shop 2. The authors suspect that this is bad data since the postage due stamps were the last to be overprinted back in shop 1. By that time, the printing form had been returned to the Konig shop that did not use the carmine colour ink. The listing also shows the (2f) Newspaper stamp overprint as originating from shop 1 (see <=). This is also wrong since all these stamps were overprinted in shop 2.

COLOUR PROOFS:

Since only one printing form was used to print the entire Szeged overprint issue and all sheets of similar size were overprinted completely before the next sized sheets were printed, how and why were the colour overprints proofs created? It could be that when the overprinting began, it was planned to use only green ink for the overprint color. Both surcharged Harvester stamps looked fine with a green overprint. It was not until the printers got to the other Harvester values that they realized that green ink would not work well on some of the stamps. They tried a green ink overprint on the 5f, 15f Harvester, 25f Magyar Posta Harvester and the 20f Karl stamps. When the trial

didn't produce an acceptable overprint, red ink was used to overprint these issues. When it came to do the Parliament stamps they checked to see if green worked with the violet 50f value. A green overprint was also tested on the Postage Due stamps. Proof printings exist on only a single sheet of Parliament and one sheet of the Postage due stamp.



Figure 40. *Red and green trial prints demonstrating that these colors did not work well with some stamps*

FINAL NOTE ON THE COLOUR OF THE OVERPRINTS:

In general, there is no discernible difference between the two printing shops using the green colour for the overprints. The difference occurs in the red overprints. The König shop used red/brick red ink while shop 2 used carmine-shade red ink (see *Figures 41a and b*).



Figure 41a.

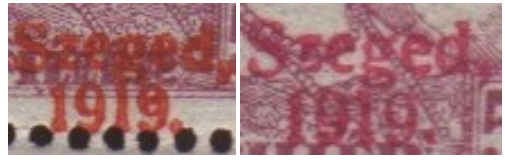


Figure 41b. *Comparison of the red colour (left & top) used at the König shop and carmine colour (right & bottom) used at shop 2 on the 40f & 50f Zita stamps*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Credit for the research behind this article belongs to Chris Brainard, who painstakingly looked over dozens of sheets, examining each character in each overprint before arriving at the 'eureka' moment that led to the realization as to the sequence of the overprinting. Csaba Kohalmi provided the historical background, formatted the illustrations, and did the wordsmithing. In between, the two of them exchanged countless emails and spent hours via Skype hashing out their theories until they arrived at the consensus presented in this article.

REFERENCES:

Brainard, Christopher E., Catalog of Hungarian Occupation Issues 1918-1921**,** Cherry Hill, NJ, 2006, published by the author

Caswell, Lyman R., *Reflectance Spectroscopy of Colored Overprints,* Smithsonian Contributions to History and Technology, Number 107

Caswell, Lyman R., Evaluation of Forensic Methods for Overprint Analysis, *Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 91, No. 1., January-February 2012 Ettre, Dr. Leslie,* Part XII of the Series on Hungarica: Overprints of the National Government in Szeged*,* ***News of Hungarian Philately****, March 1972.*

Ettre, Dr. Leslie, Part XIII of the Series on Hungarica: Overprints of the National Government in Szeged (continued), ***News of Hungarian Philately**, April 1972.*

Muller, A. B., Kohalmi, Csaba, Brainard, Chris, *The Printing Presses of Baranya,* **The News of Hungarian Philately**, Jan-Mar 2001.

Nagy, Dr. Ferenc, The 1918-1920 Postal History of the Southern Region as Reflected in the First Temesvar Local Issue Stamps, ***Philatelica 18/1** (2018)*

Philatelia Hungarica, Magyar Posta- es Illetekbelyeg Katalogus **(**MPIK**),**

Budapest, 2003, p. 325.

Szilagyi, Dr. Paul J., Stamps of the Hungarian National Government, ***The News of Hungarian Philately**, Jul-Sep 2000.*

Suranyi, Laszlo, Az 1919-es szegedi belyegkiadas, ***Philatelica 82/1** (1982)*

Tyler, V. E., ***Philatelic Forgers: Their Lives and Works**. Sidney, Ohio, Amos Press, 1991*

Zinmeister, Marian Carne, The 1919 Szeged Issue published in the ***Hungarian Stamps and Their Background 1871-1940**, Western Stamp Collector, 1940. The article was reprinted with the permission of the author in the January 1971 issue of the* ***News of Hungarian Philately**.*

BASED ON DISCOVERABLE DOCUMENTS, THE START OF POSTAL SERVICE IN BUDA IN 1945 DURING THE TIME ON THE BUDAPEST PROVISIONAL TARIFFS, MARCH 2ND TO MAY 1ST, 1945



DR. FERENC NAGY (VIENNA)

In January of 1945, the retreating German units along with the remnants of the Hungarian troops defending the capital detonated the beautiful Danube bridges that served as gems for the city. Months earlier, during an afternoon of a day in November 1944, the Margaret Bridge flew into the air at a time when it was serving its designed purpose fully loaded with pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Preparations had been under way for the destruction of the bridge although the timing of it was still indeterminate. Because of a mistake by the bomb squad, as many as 600 Hungarian citizens lost their lives. The sound of the detonation could be heard in the entire city. I was going somewhere, heard the loud bang and ran towards its direction. The chaos on the St. Stephen Ring was unimaginable. Because of the mass of people, we got stuck near the 'Vigszinhaz' Theatre and could not go near the site of the accident. The news that the bridge had exploded reached us quickly. The concept of the "spreading news" was a way of communicating by means of word-of-mouth that was

oftentimes spiked with rumours at the time. As I mentioned before, the other bridges were demolished in January 1945 without the loss of life.

On February 13, 1945, the fight for Buda ended in the tragic breakout of the last defenders from the Castle in a northwesterly direction across the cauldron of death waiting for them near the Széll Kálmán Square. In the end, the Russians slaughtered 90% of them, had it been possible to speak of such things back then at all.

We, philatelists, need to know this much about the sad military fate of Buda.

Shortly after the sound of guns subsided in Buda in February, Soviet-Russian pontoniers undertook provisional efforts to reconnect the two sides of city. Between February 13th and March 17th, only motorboat traffic was available across the Danube, but it was almost exclusively for military purposes. Civilians with appropriate papers could be transported occasionally.



Figure 1. The pontoon bridge at Eskü Square in the spring of 1945. From the estate of Antal Kotnyek /1921-1990/, photo reporter from Budapest. Property of the author.

The first pontoon bridge was opened on March 17th using the remnants of the Margaret Bridge support columns. It was available for restricted traffic only. A few civilians were allowed to cross after a strict identity check and questioning by machine-gun toting Russian soldiers dressed in down-filled winter gear (in Russian: kuda igyos? = where are you going?).

In the next few weeks, two additional pontoon bridges were built between Pest-Buda, but strict identity checks continued to restrict the traffic. (See the text on the back of the postcard in figure 4.)

My dear readers! I am writing these lines based on conclusions that I drew from the two most extensive collections of the Budapest provisional tariff mail from March-April, 1945. The first one was a collection accumulated by the noted Professor Bernáth that I purchased and expanded. The second part is a collection that I acquired through 25 years of philatelic activity, so I'm looking at a total of about 120 items. My statements are based on the study of these letters.

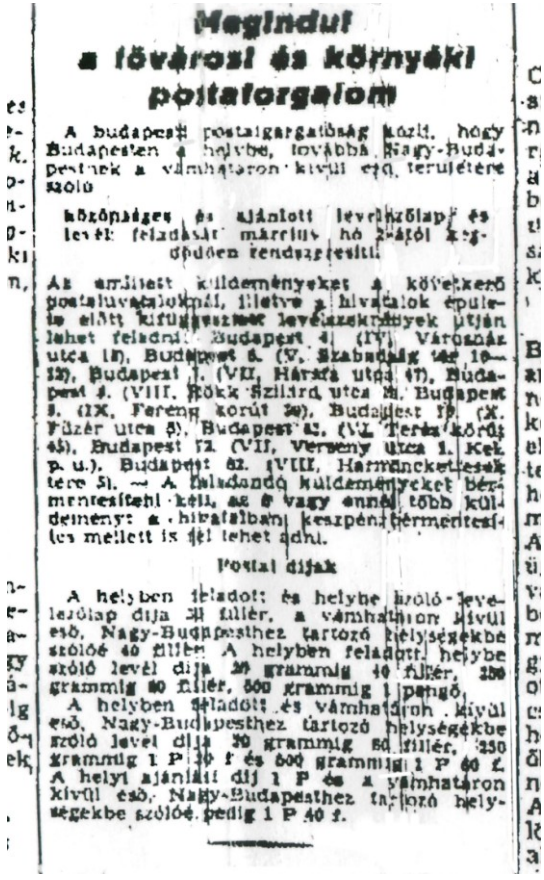
There are only 25 pieces in this collection of 120 mailings that were sent to the Buda side or was mailed from there. I plan to show 12 items here from these 25 pieces. These are a representative cross-section for the start of postal service in Buda.

Why are they so rare? This will be obvious quickly. The destruction on the Buda side continued for an additional month, thus affecting the postal infrastructure as well. On March 2nd, the official date of the start of the postal service, only a few post offices were sufficiently undamaged to provide service on the Pest side. On that date, a brief article published in the Népszava listed these

post offices: Budapest 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 62, 72, and 82, all of which, understandably, were on the Pest side.

The most important tariffs: local postcard 30 f, letter 40 f, registration 1 pengő. Distance postcard 40 f, letter 60 f, registration 1,40 pengő.

The article discussed the service only for Budapest and Greater Budapest. Service with the provinces and abroad was not possible at the time!



Megindul a fővárosi és környéki postaforgalom

A budapesti postaigazgatóság közli, hogy Budapesten a helybe, továbbá Nagy-Budapestnek a vámhatáron kívül eső területére szóló

közönséges és ajánlott levelezőlap és levél feladását március hó 2-ától kezdődően rendszeresíti.

Az említett küldeményeket a következő postahivatalokból, illetve a hivatalok épülete előtt kifüggesztett levélszekrények útján lehet feladni: Budapest 4. (IV. Városház utca 11), Budapest 5. (V. Szabadság tér 10—12), Budapest 7. (VII. Hársfa utca 47), Budapest 9. (VIII. Kőkk Szilárd utca 31. Budapest 9. (IX. Ferenc körút 39), Budapest 10. (X. Füzér utca 5), Budapest 62. (VI. Teréz körút 45), Budapest 72. (VII. Verseny utca 1. Kék p. u.), Budapest 82. (VIII. Harmincketesek tere 5). — A feladandó küldeményeket bérmentesíteni kell, az 5 vagy annál több küldeményt a hivatalban készpénzbérmentesítés mellett is fel lehet adni.

Postai díjak

A helyben feladott és helybe szóló levelezőlap díja 30 fillér, a vámhatáron kívül eső, Nagy-Budapesthez tartozó helységekbe szóló 40 fillér. A helyben feladott helybe szóló levél díja 20 grammig 40 fillér, 250 grammig 80 fillér, 500 grammig 1 pengő.

A helyben feladott és vámhatáron kívül eső, Nagy-Budapesthez tartozó helységekbe szóló levél díja 20 grammig 80 fillér, 250 grammig 1 P 20 f és 500 grammig 1 P 60 f. A helyi ajánlási díj 1 P és a vámhatáron kívül eső, Nagy-Budapesthez tartozó helységekbe szóló pedig 1 P 40 f.

Figure 2. Article from the Népszava announcing the restart of the postal service in Budapest on March 2, 1945.

MAILINGS FROM BUDA TO PEST OR BEYOND

The earliest postcard is from March 26, 1945 from a sender living in District I on Apród Street. He wrote the postcard on the 24th. The writer was inquiring from a trade organization about getting a permit that would allow him to cross over to Pest. He wrote that it should come supposedly with "a Russian VI. stamping."

From this we can see that the previously mentioned difficulties associated with crossing from one side to the other were not imaginary.

The annotation "In the meantime we have personally arranged this" appears next to the trade organization's arrival stamping dated April 9th.

The postcard was franked in accordance with the Budapest provisional tariffs: local postcard 30 fillér.



Figure 3. Postcard cancelled on March 26, 1945 at the Buda 2 post office sent to Irányi Street in the inner city of Pest. The address of the Number 2 post office was Fő Street, number 4.

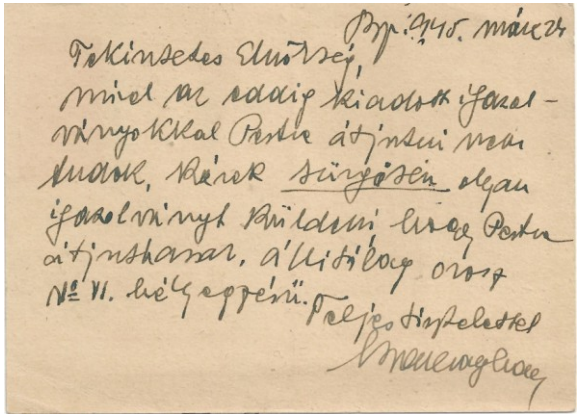


Figure 4. The reverse side of the postcard

Another, especially interesting card originated on the same day. This was cancelled at the Number 114 post office also on March 26, 1945. This post office was located on Krisztina Ring number 12, an address that identifies it as the building of the Postal Directorate visible from Széll Kálmán Square. The building suffered terrible damage during the siege. The addressee was Dr. Nándor Gorzó of Bilke, who owned a food warehouse in Rákospalota at the time. The poor recipient had to deal with two problems: first, Rákospalota was not a part of Budapest then, but was located outside of the so-called "customs border," so it was out of range of the 30 fillér local tariff.

Cards sent to such settlements required 40 fillér. Very few people were aware of this. As a result, the cards addressed to him were assessed 44 fillér postage due if they were the old, 18 fillér denominated ones. Or, they were assessed 20 fillér postage due as this card was since it was franked with 30 fillér which was 10 fillér short resulting in the 20 fillér postage due charged in Újpest. Újpest came into play because the post office of Rákospalota was not functioning and all postal service was transacted through Újpest.

His second problem was that almost all of the mail sent to him was about one topic: can he provide any foodstuffs for the sender from his stores /lard, flour were the most sought after items/.

Both cards were written on March 24th and cancelled on March 26th.

MAILINGS FROM BUDA ANY EARLIER THAN ON THIS DATE HAVE NOT TURNED UP IN THE ELAPSED 77 YEARS. AS A RESULT, I DARE TO STATE THE FACT THAT WITH THESE TWO MAILINGS WE HOLD THE DOCUMENTS IN HAND THAT REPRESENT THE START OF POSTAL SERVICE IN BUDA.

Both mailings were posted in accordance with the Budapest provisional tariffs. This shows that the post office was in desperate need of every fillér in order to solve the enormous burden expected of it.



Figure 5. Postal card also with the March 26 cancellation as on the previous mailing. This was sent from post office 114 to Rákospalota outside of the customs border but franked according to the applicable local tariff. Assessed 20 fillér postage due in Újpest.

Professor Bernáth used to describe such items as ‘festive’ pieces!



Figure 6. Postcard mailed from Budapest 112 on April 3, 1945 to Sajószentpéter not using the Budapest provisional tariff franking. This post office operated on Fehérvári Street near Móricz Zsigmond Square.

The sender’s address on the third postcard was on Fadrusz Street in District XI. It was addressed to Sajószentpéter and mailed on April 3rd. The 18 fillér postcard was not franked according to the Budapest provisional tariff that would have required a 40 fillér franking. At the time, the post was clearly aware that its service could not reach all of the provincial post offices. Thus, they would not have known about the Budapest tariffs. In order to prevent unproductive arguments with the addressee, this mailing, franked according to the old rate, was accepted as posted in a letter collection box.

The topic of the message - you guessed it Dear Reader! - “how can I obtain foodstuffs, perhaps through barter?”

The next card was dated 3 days later from the same post office number 112. At first sight, it is a postcard franked according to the Budapest tariff with typical postage due assessed. Nevertheless, if we examine it closely, we find the following:

The card was written in Esztergom on March 27th. From there, it was hand-carried to Pest by someone travelling. Back then, this was a frequently used means of transportation from the provinces since postal service was sporadic or tardy. Naturally, an 18 fillér card was used. Inasmuch as Esztergom lies on the right bank of the Danube, travellers to Budapest arrived on the Buda side since the Danube bridges were missing. So, the card was dropped into the letter collection box at the number 112 post office.

There, the 12 fillér underfranking of the local card was noted with a “T 24” marking in blue, and the card was forwarded to the destination number 2 post office on Attila Street. For some reason, the postage due annotation was somehow misread; and the postage due for the missing franking was determined to be 2 fillér. The appropriate stamp was affixed, which, of course, is nonsense.

My Dear Readers! This card demonstrates how interesting and diversified the exploration of mailings that used the Budapest provisional tariffs can be. There are barely two identical mailings, lots of errors, ignorance, leniency, lack of postage stamps and similar anomalies make this area extremely interesting. A person could not even visualize the possibilities...

The frequency of use of postal cards can be explained by the fact that by the end of the war, letter writing paper could hardly be found in private hands. Therefore, the general public had to

rely on postal cards that were readily available and in good supply at the post offices. Before the siege, the 12 fillér reddish-brown cards were for local use; the 18 fillér green ones were for distance use.

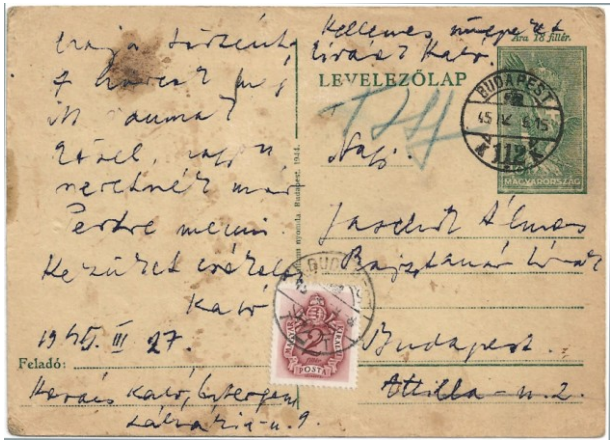


Figure 7. Postcard written in Esztergom on March 27th, carried by a traveller and posted in Buda on April 6th at the number 114 post office of Fehérvári Street, assessed 2 fillér postage due by mistake at the number 2 office on April 9th.

The fifth card was written on April 6th by a poor elderly woman living on Rózsa Street in Pesthidegkút to the Szabolcs County sheriff in Nyíregyháza because she hadn't received a pension payment in over half a year. It took six days before she found someone to take the card to the far-away post office on Fő Street.

Because a poor person doesn't get a break, the card was treated, in error, as a letter by the number 2 post office and assessed the infrequently used tariff of 60 fillér for a distance letter instead of the correct 40 fillér rate for a postcard.



Figure 8. Postcard sent to Nyíregyháza with 60 fillér letter tariff on April 12th from the number 2 post office of Buda. Marked with the censor stamp used in Debrecen made using peculiar letter type including the characteristic reversed 'z'. The local sheriff's office arrival certification stamp is dated April 17th.

Finally, let's acknowledge a correctly franked distance postcard with 40 fillérs' worth of stamps affixed because it is a card that was correctly franked prior to being purchased at the number 114 post office. This was possible because the Lövőház Street was in the vicinity of the post office located on Széll Kálmán Square. It is obvious from the space that was left open for writing that the stamps were affixed to the card prior to its sale.

The situation that the people of Buda endured becomes clear from the text.

"We endured terrible sufferings, for two months we lived in the cellar, but we survived. Mária spent three months in the shelter, their house was reduced to rubble. The roof is missing from over one part of our residence, so we are very afraid of the rainy weather" wrote Mrs. Sprenger's son to her in Románd, Veszprém County. The card was forwarded to her to in the next village, Gic.



Figure 9. Postcard sent to Románd on April 10th from the number 114 post office with the correct 40 fillér distance Budapest tariff.

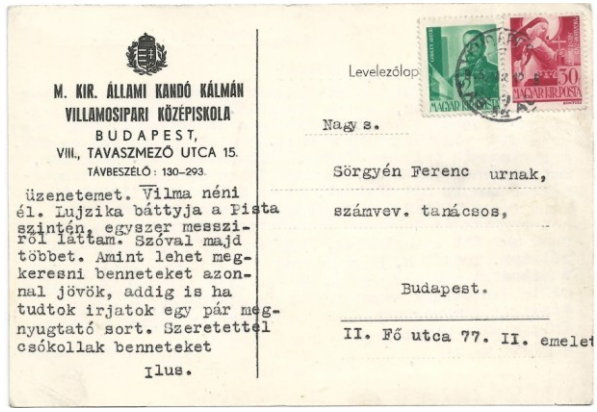


Figure 10. Preprinted postcard addressed to a Fő Street address franked by mistake with 42 fillér mailed at the number 72 post office on March 12th. This is the earliest known mailing intended for Buda.

MAILINGS SENT FROM THE PEST SIDE TO BUDA IN MARCH-APRIL 1945

Mailings going in the other direction exhibit the same colourful picture.

The sender wrote the first one, which is the earliest, on March 8th and consigned it to the number 72 post office on March 12th. He affixed a 30 fillér stamp that was the correct rate for a local card prescribed by the Budapest tariffs. Then, as insurance, he attached an extra 12 fillér stamp that paid the rate for a local postcard prior to the siege.

On March 12th, the Manci pontoon bridge that became the substitute little sister to the Margaret Bridge had not yet been opened, so the post office held onto the card for a few days. There is no marking on it to indicate any anticipated long delay (such as “Service suspended”).

Let me remind all that, in my opinion, postal service between the two parts of the city probably started only on March 26th. There is no postal documentation for this, only practical evidence. Back then, it was a different world. The Directory of Postal Regulations was not the centre of universe. Improvisations born out of necessity characterized the situation. Therefore, our conclusions need to be drawn from surviving material and not to try to look for non-existent postal regulations. I’ll admit honestly, it is more exciting for me this way...

The next card is a good example. It was also sent to Ferenc Sörgyén living on Fő Street. The sender wrote that the card needed to be dropped in the box with “2 postages,” that is, two stamps for a total of 30 fillér. The cancellation on the card mailed at the number 62 post office (Western Railway Station) shows the ominous date of March 26th! Therefore, this is another piece of evidence that the date could mean something!



Figure 11. Postcard mailed at the number 62 post office on March 26th sent to the same Fő Street address with /correct/ 30 fillér franking

The next card was written in Kispest on April 9th and sent to Laktanya Street in District III of Ó-Buda. The franking was affixed at the post office after the card was written /a stamp covers part of the writing/. The postage on the card is 50 fillér in lieu of 40 fillér because the office did not have any 10 fillér stamps. As I mentioned before, I am showing this item because there are hardly any two identical items from the time of the Budapest tariffs. This card underscores my assertion. In addition, the card presents a sign of life from the number 3 post office in Buda /see below/.



Figure 12. Postcard sent from Kispest on April 9th to Ó-Buda with inaccurate 50 fillér franking.

The next card is not interesting because of its franking but because its content is informative. It sheds a light on the contemporary postal conditions. The card was written on April 5th.

"A young man who was thought to have been missing arrived today and will return to Pest tomorrow morning. He will take with him countless letters that will be forwarded there." The card was written in Fertőszentmiklós, and you can imagine the excitement that swept the small place when the news arrived that letters could be sent to Pest. Many must have started to write right away by the light of kerosene lamps so as to have a mailing by the time the carrier was ready to leave.

After four days, he arrived in Pest and kept his promise. He mailed the bundle on April 9th at the number 72 /Eastern Railway Station/ post office that was the "prime" office with a very good reputation for not losing mailings, being open all of the time, and having clerks who worked with precision. Thus, the card from Fertőszentmiklós arrived on the Margit Quay of Buda without mishap.

Anyway, these letters carried by travellers as a favour became consignments of honour. Their quick and accurate transportation and forwarding was in everyone's best interest. In many instances, these mailings contained the much sought after signs of life eagerly awaited by the recipients.

'We good through the siege of Szentmiklós that occurred on Good Friday in the cellar. With God's help, we survived. There was no resistance, so there was not as much damage as in other places.'



Figure 13. Postcard from Fertőszentmiklós in Sopron County sent to Buda in the lower part of town on Margit Quay. It was posted with 30 fillér franking for a local postcard at the Budapest 72 post office on April 9th.



Figure 14. Registered letter sent from Esztergom on April 17, 1945 to Fillér Street in Buda via the number 2 post office. The 2 Pengő 20 fillér represents an overpayment of the postal tariff. Provisional registry label.

The next mailing is a rare registered letter sent from Esztergom on April 17th to Fillér Street in Buda. The tariff is as follows: distance letter 60 fillér, distance registration 1,40 pengő for a total of 2 pengő.

The sender affixed an additional 20 fillér Kossuth stamp to the front of the envelope to be sure as well as two 4 fillér Christmas stamps to seal the back side. The Christmas stamps were no longer valid (their postal validity expired on June 30, 1944). The letter outfitted in this fashion was not entrusted to a messenger but was transmitted by a functioning postal service as pointed out by the use of the provisional registry label.

Since this was a piece of registered mail, there is an arrival cancellation on the back side. The number 2 post office of Buda processed the letter on April 20th.

The last letter also did not originate in Budapest. It was written in Győr and carried to Pest by a messenger, who deposited it in the letter collection box at the number 72 post office on April 18th. The sender affixed only 2x10 fillér stamps to the envelope since this was the tariff for a local letter before the siege. However, 40 fillér was required by the Budapest provisional tariffs. The missing 20 fillér postage would have meant 40 fillér postage due. The clerk handling the letter annotated only the missing postage: “T 20 f”. The receiving number 3 post office in Buda, using the Wisdom of Solomon, chose a middle road and assessed on 30 fillér postage due for the letter.

Of the 120 letters I have, there is no other one originating from Győr. Győr was “liberated” only on March 28th and the main railroad line towards Budapest suffered such extensive damage that its repairs required a considerable amount of time. Thus, no postal service worth mentioning was available from there during the time of the Budapest tariffs.



Figure 15. Letter written in Győr and mailed in Budapest on April 18th franked in accordance with the old tariff. The 30 fillér postage due is inaccurate.

Dear Reader! These happened to be the mailings from which I was able to reconstruct the start of postal service on the Buda side. The items are not only valuable but also showy with a good variety of motley frankings. With this, my current work, I tried to show not only the postal history but also to recreate the mood of the time. We can establish that in the early spring of 1945, from the end of March through April, the following post offices were already operating in Buda: 2, 3, 112, and 114. Although, only a few eyewitnesses remain alive today, there are even fewer whose mental capacity allows them to talk about those times. In place of those who are unable to raise their voices, please accept this small epistle that I fondly wrote for you.

Since your kind patience allows, let me also show you a "modern" contemporary unique rarity. The registered letter was mailed from Aszód, where neither a registry label nor a location-date canceller was available at that time. The stamp was probably retrieved from home. As a result, an unusual mailing came to be created and sent to the National Archives with a provisional registry label, a surviving "ASZÓD P.U." railway station cancellation, manuscript date /IV. 27./, and, what is most interesting, single franking with a 2 pengő Horthy stamp paying the tariff of 60 fillér for a distance letter and 1,40 pengő for registration. This correctly franked letter with single stamp franking is the one and only such item that I am familiar with from this time.



Figure 16. Registered letter sent from Aszód on April 27th to Buda with provisional registration label and cancellation. The 2 pengő Horthy stamp paid the correct rate with a single stamp.

The back side has the arrival cancellation of May 2nd from the number 2 post office of Buda. The first hyperinflationary rate period that we all know so well began then end the era of the Budapest provisional tariffs ended. Also in Buda.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CATALOGUES OF HUNGARY FOR COLLECTORS

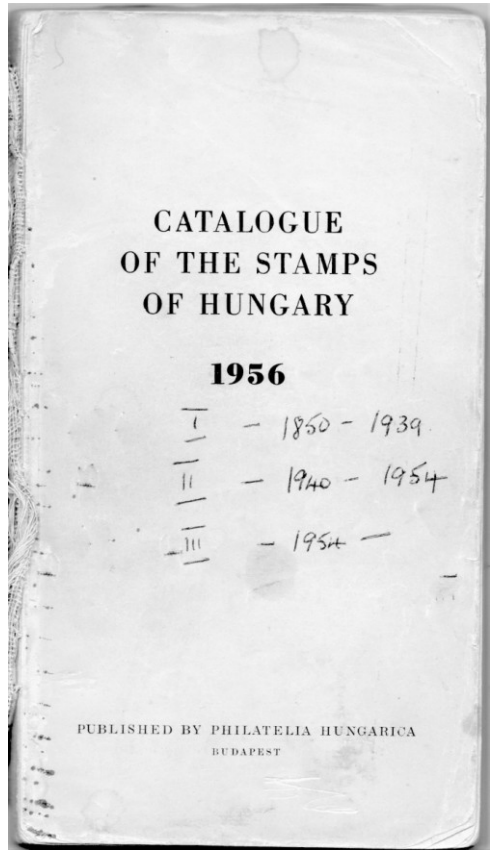


MERVYN BENFORD (NAGYBRITANNIA)

In 1971, the celebration planned for the Centenary of what was at the time still regarded as the first stamps of Hungary, included a catalogue in English. In fact, as Gary Ryan's superb research showed, Hungary first ordered stamps in 1867 but the celebration planners were not to know that. International catalogues regarded it as a shared Austrian issue when Austria merely decided later to use it as well. The question was ultimately decided over lengthy debates led by Gary Ryan, FRPSL RDP.

Nor does the 1871 catalogue mention that it was not the first. An English version had first appeared in 1956 as the world market was opening up to the abundance of colour ful historical and commemorative issues to which stamp issues could be put-not least raising revenue for the State. Philately and postal history had opened up a market place as we know it today early into the 20th. Century but after World War II it took off dramatically and largely world-wide.

The English language catalogue was most welcome. Readers will sense from Illustration 1 that mine has long lost its original covers through intensive use! The prices/valuations were given in US dollars! It was published by PHILATELIA HUNGARICA in Budapest. The printed text uses American English.



It describes its purpose as providing collectors with "*as clear and true a picture as possible for this interesting field of collection*." It describes the 1867 stamps as not the same status as Austrian stamps – earlier the only available for use in Hun-

gary and therefore valued according to date and place used. Austrian stamps used in Hungary until 1867 were an "introductory" part of collecting Hungary. The 1867 stamps were an "integral" part of it. It distinguished the different qualities of the Mint stamp portraits and declares fewer Hungarian versions used than Austrian and resulting higher valuations. Printing in Austria and shared use were explained as "emergency" situations. The 1871 issue was only the first "made" in Hungary. The debate raged at the time till the Ryan research backed by his splendid catalogues based on his highly and consistently F.I.P "Prix D'Honneur" collections put the issue to rest.



These two English language catalogues very much helped the collector struggling with Hungarian and dependent on what such as Gibbons and Michel pronounced with Higgins & Gage recording stationery.

It was possible to evaluate scarcity in terms one understood. It was possible to evaluate the parallel issue of imperforate versions of most issues once that became policy. Explanations of watermarks and their history and types became clearer alongside the graphics that Magyar language catalogues used. It certainly enabled the finer points of collecting Perfins, Portó and historical themes like Inflation to have balance and shape in displays and on album pages.

Very few experts could publish in English. MAFITT, founded to conduct systematic research into things philatelic and postally historic, published its first magazines in Hungarian but gave short summaries of the contents in French, German and English for guidance. Its current work includes aversion translated into English. This reflects enterprising leadership and organisation to share collector knowledge. It also reflects a long commitment in Hungary to philatelic study. Mafitt has worked on translating into English the amazing volumes of the Monografia- a substantial, scholarly statement of the postal and philatelic life of one, small, country. The English language versions were international masterpieces of philatelic information, capable of attracting both new study and new collectors around the world.

Mafitt and I discuss the true English known and taught around the world and the 'different' US version. It causes confusion in spelling but is our audience international or American? If both, a strict policy is needed.[2]

[2] In Mafitt's English translations, we prefer British English, but manuscripts that come to us in English are published in the original, so sometimes other versions of English may also appear. (Editor remark)

HUNFILEX 2022 Budapest

The three exhibitors who were qualified for the international grand award were all Mafitt members. Of these, Adriano Bergamini was able to take home the award. Mafitt members entered 36 exhibits and won a total of 12 gold or large gold awards. (Due to space constraints here, the other results can be found on our organization's website.).

Class		Érem + díj	
	Adriano Bergamini		
CH	Postal Relations between Ticino and Foreign Countries before the UPU	LG	
PH	The Austrian Post in Hungary 1850-1867	LG	GPN
PH	The Postal History of Croatia 1850-1875	G	SP
	Czirók Dénes		
PH	The Development of the Mail in Hungary 1750-1850	LG	
	Ralph Ebner		
CH	The Leave Underprinted Revenue Stamps from Austria 1854 to 1870	LG	
	Gudlin Tamás		
PH	From Roller to Flyer: Early Milestone - Innovations in Postmarking 1851-1890	G	FEL
	Jakab András		
CH	The use of Austrian Stamps in Hungary 1850-1867	LG	
PH	The independent Hungarian Post up to the UPU 1867-1875	G	
	Dr. Homonnay Géza		
TR	Hungary - 1867 (Prev: The 1867 Issue of Hungary)	LG	
PH	Hungarian Consular Post Offices in Romania 1 May 1867 - 31 March 1869	G	FEL
	Severin Péter		
PH	Postmarks and Cancellations of Slovakia Post Offices in the Period 1850-1867	G	
	Szücs Károly		
REV	Hungary's First Adhesive Revenues during the Forint-Krajczar Currency Period 1868-1898	LG	
LIT	Fiscal Philately of Hungary	G	SP

The HELVETIA 2022 FIP exhibition was held in Lugano soon thereafter. Three additional gold medals were awarded to: Dr. Géza Homonnai's exhibit that was shown at HUNFILEX (it received a grade two points higher and approached the level for a large gold), István Glatz "Foreign Frankings from Hungary 1900-1918" and Bill Hedley "Postal Service Development in Pozsony and Its Environs during the Habsburg Era to 1900".

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





Volume XXXIII

2014





2015

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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research
H-1074 Budapest, Harsfa u. 47 Belyegmuzeum, Mafitt
e-mail: **info@mafitt.hu**

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation.

22
2

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2022/2

Content:

Florent Tricot	Rounding and Minimum of Postage Due on the Inland Mails During the Hyperinflation	1
Janos Dan	Tarif of Pest –2 March – 30 April 1945	12
Mervyn Benford	Modern Postal History – The 1994 'NEPMUVESZET' Issues	33
News		39

Editor: Karoly Szucs, member of Mafitt and curator of the Gervay Foundation
Translator: Csaba Kohalmi member of Mafitt-presidency and Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP)

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

ROUNDING AND MINIMUM OF POSTAGE DUE ON THE INLAND MAILS DURING THE HYPERINFLATION



BY FLORENT TRICOT, FRANCE

I- INTRODUCTION

The postage stamps issued by the Hungarian Post Office during hyperinflation all had a fixed facial value. With pengo inflation, and therefore postal rates, these facial values all quickly became too small for franking in the post-issuance periods. Massive postage followed, not always covering the rate. In addition, misery growing and out of spite, people tended to use their remaining postage stamps for their mail, even if their total only partially covers the rate.

Like postage stamps, postage due stamps have obviously suffered the same problems, which poses a logistical concern for the supply of post offices. This led the Hungarian Post Office to stop using postage due stamps and favour handwritten markings, and sometimes the use of postage stamps for postage due purposes.

To avoid carrying out postage due calculations involving too small values, the Hungarian Post Office implemented two methods: the postage due rounding and the minimum of postage due, their amounts depending on the periods. I will confine myself here to Hungary's inland mails (covers and postcards) excluding parcels cards; for the difficult subject of foreign mails, this will be the subject of a future article.

II- ROUNDING DURING THE HYPERINFLATION

1. Rounding compared to the postal regulations

Regarding rounding, they were ordered by the scale of the rates and above all the reasonable minimum face values available in post offices during each period.

Postal texts approach the subject of rounding in a very disparate way, and this only for the rounding of the postage due in adopengo (aP) to be converted into pengo on the parcel cards. The adopengo currency was put in place on January 1, 1946 and it was withdrawn on the last day of hyperinflation (July 31, 1946), its exchange was made daily and as the postage due amounts were fixed in aP there was a need to round the amounts in pengo to hope to frank them. The Hungarian Post Office decided to issue its rates and postage stamp's facial values in aP only between July 12 and July 31, 1946. It may be thought that these rounding's were the same as those made on postage due items, but the only documents as far as I know who's the postage due was rounded up during the aP period came largely from January and February 1946, therefore we cannot definitely conclude.

What is certain is that at the height of hyperinflation until July 11, 1946, the aP/P conversion rate advanced at an insane pace during the same period when the postal rates were themselves

fixed, therefore the rounding on parcel cards and on postage due mails should not correspond. In addition, the revenue due to be paid on the parcel cards were 100 aP until April 30, 1946 and 500 aP after, these sums converted into pengo did not have the same importance according to the days, and according to the periods, it ranged from small amounts almost negligible up to sums comparable to the postal rate used.

For the first periods of hyperinflation, the only reference in the postal texts indicates that from October 24, 1945, the filler is no longer used in the calculations, and the postage stamps expressed in this sub-currency (1Pengo = 100filler) are then removed. We can then think that on this date, the rounding was then done to the nearest 1 P.

Thus, here too, only a statistical study can give a glimpse of what was done at the time when a postal employee was required to round up the amount to be collected from the recipient. I tried to conduct this study and I am therefore reporting my findings to you now.

Legal rounding from period1 to period7 (May1, 1945 –February18, 1946):

First, rounding can be done by excess (use of a value greater than the number considered) or by default (lower value), it is always done according to an imposed precision. For example, the number 1.5 rounded up to the nearest unit gives 2, this gives 1 by default. To give an example in currency, the value 1.75P rounded to the nearest 10f by excess gives 1.80P, while by default, this gives 1.70P. Almost all of the postage due rounding cases I have seen showing that these rounding was done by excess, very little by default.

They were made on the result of the postage due calculation, both of the deficiency. In rare cases, the deficiency was rounded off before being doubled, an exception that proves the rule.

Over a period, if the majority of rounded postage due cases are carried out in the same way, it can be said that they are made according to an established regulation known at the time. From period1 to period7, I made this comparison and I can say that the rounding calculations over a period were the same in terms of precision. It remains just to find the postal texts that speak of it. I call these rounding, the “legal rounding”.

Apart from these legal rounding, there are the rounding of convenience, to see in II-4 of my article.

There is a trigger for legal rounding only if the amount due is not given in the legal precision: for example, if the precision of a rounding is 1P, the amount to be collected must be rounded if it does not is not a multiple of 1P, such as 4.80P for example.

Rounding in the postage due calculation was made either by an employee in the shipping post office, or by one in the distribution office if the former had forgotten to do it. The unrounded amount owed from the first was then simply crossed out and readjusted by the second.

Here is the list of legal rounding:

period 1 and period 2 (May 1 to September 15, 1945): rounded to the nearest 10f period 3: (September 16 to October 31, 1945): rounded to the nearest 1P period 4 and period 5 (November 1, 1945 to January 13, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10P period 6 and period 7 (January 14 to February 28, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100P.

Illustrating documents (01 to 06):



1. 18f stationery postcard sent from Csomor on June 27, 1945 (period 1) to Szekesfehervar. The rate for a domestic postcard is 60f. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (60-18) = 84f.

The Csomor post office employee wrote “84” on the postcard (partially covered by the postage due stamps) with a T postage due marking. In Szekesfehervar, the amount of the postage due has been changed; it has been rounded off 10f by excess to 90f, handwritten "90 filler" in pencil. Then, 30f and 60f brown postage due stamps were affixed on June 29.



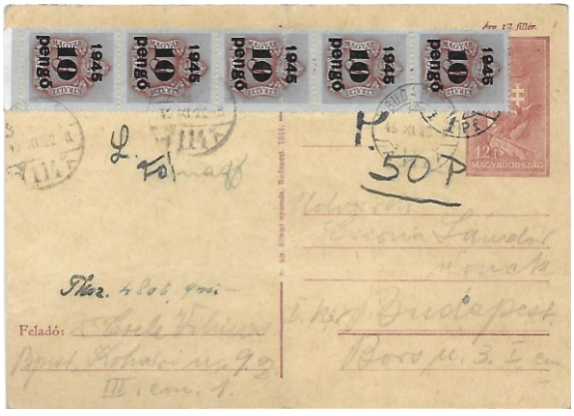
2. Postcard sent stamped at 2.03P with two 18f postage stamps demonetized on August 15, from Szekszard on September 4, 1945 (period2) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200-(203-36)) = 66f rounded to the nearest 10f by excess to 70f. In Szekszard the post office employee circled the 18f postage stamps and handwrote "70 fil"; in Budapest the overprinted postage due stamps 10f /*8 f*, 20f /*4f* and 40f /*18f* have been affixed.



3. Local 18f stationery postcard, insufficiently stamped with 18f (postcard facial)+50f+1P = 1.68P, sent from Budapest on September 30, 1945 (period3).

The rate (PRT127.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 4P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (4-1.68) = 4.64P rounded to the nearest 1P by excess to 5P. In Budapest2, the post office employee affixed the overprinted postage due stamps on October 9: one at 1P /*10f* and two at 2P /*60f* (offset printing variety).



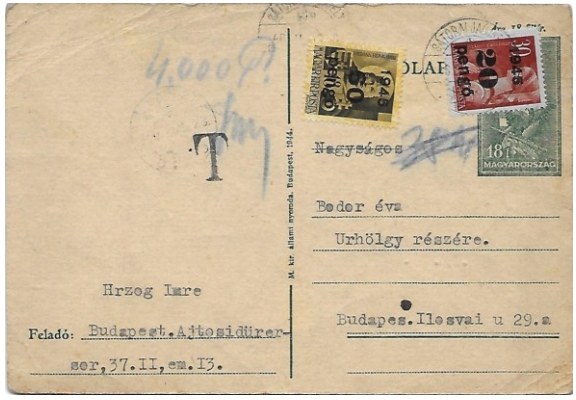
4. Local postcard (12f worthless at this date) sent unpaid from Budapest4 on November 12, 1945 (period4). The rate (PRT134.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 24P.

The calculation of the amount due is 2x24 = 48P rounded to the nearest 10P by excess to 50P. The Budapest4 post office employee wrote 50P on the postcard with a P postage due marking. In Budapest114, the post office employee affixed 5 overprinted postage due stamps 10P/*3f* on November 22 (period5).



5. Local postcard (18f worthless) insufficiently stamped with 5P + 3x30f = 5.90P, sent from Budapest on December 4, 1945 (period5).

The rate (PRT138.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 50P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (50-5.9) = 88.2P rounded to the nearest 10P by excess to 90P, "90P" was handwritten in blue pencil. On December 5, a red postage due rubberstamp is filled in “90”.



6. Postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 20P+60P=80P from Satoraljaujhely on February 17, 1946 (period7) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT204.800/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2,000P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (2.000-80) = 3.840P, a T postage due marking is struck and "3840" has been written on the card in Satoraljaujhely. In Budapest on February 22, “3840” is cancelled and replaced by “4.000P” accompanied by the signature of the post office employee, the rounding here was done **on the deficiency**: 2.000-80 = 1920P rounded to the nearest 100P by excess at 2,000P, and 2x2,000 = 4,000P.

2. Legal rounding from the period8 (March1 to July31, 1946)

For this part, the examples of rounding the postage due are obviously extremely few. From the documents I know, I can just say that:

period 13 (April 23 to 30, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000P;

period 25 (July 12 to 17, 1946): rounded to 5,000 aP (adopengo).

For the other periods, we can try to take into account what had been done elsewhere and the amounts of the postal rates for each, this would give:

periods 8 to 12 (March 1 to April 22, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000P;

period 14 (May 1 to 9, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000P;

period s15 to 17 (May 10 to 31, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000P (1 million);

period 18 (June 1 to 10, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000,000P (10 million);

period 19 (June 11 to 16, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000 P (100 million);

period 20 (June 17 to 23, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000 P (1 billion);

period 21 (June 24-30, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000,000,000P (10 billion);

period 22 (July 1 to 3, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000,000P (1 trillion);

period 23 (July 4 to 7, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000,000,000P (100 trillion);

period 24 (July 8 to 11, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000,000,000P (1 quadrillion);

period 26 (July 12 to 23, 1946): rounded up to 5,000AP or 10,000 aP? near;

period 27 (July 24 to 31, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000 aP.

These numbers are just speculation, perhaps (or surely) that some readers will be able to provide examples that will confirm or refute them.

Illustrating document (07) :



7. 07- Insufficiently stamped local postcard with 50eP +15eP = 65eP (= 65,000P) covering an unaccounted postage (2x TI.2. + Tlp.2. = 8,000P) from Budapest on April 23, 1946 (first day period 13).

The rate (PRT220.600 / 4.) for a local postcard is 200,000P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200,000-65,000) = 270,000P, however the amount to be collected is handwritten on April 24 "280,000" accompanied by the T handwritten and a signature. Note that the amount had to be written in 2 times, first "80,000", then the "2".

Rounding here has been done **on the deficiency**: 200,000-65,000 = 135,000P rounded to the nearest 10,000P by excess in 140,000P, then 2x140,000 = 280,000.

3. Convenience rounding

A convenience rounding is a rounding done despite the calculation rule used, it is obviously applied to use the stamps available in a post office. These cases are apparently few in number and should not be considered as miscalculations depreciating the mails, they testify to a specific constraint such as for example the shortage of stamps in a post office.

Illustrating documents (08 and 09) :



8. Postcard insufficiently franked at 18f (facial) sent from Cegled on September 11, 1945 (period 2) to Irsa.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x(2-0.18)=3.64P. A postage due stamp overprinted 1P/10f, a 2P/60f and a bisected 80f/30f to make 40f are affixed in Alberti-Irsa post office on September 12.

The total of these postage due stamps is 3.40P. The legal rounding in period 2 of 3.64P should have been 3.6P or 3.7P, these postage due stamps were affixed for convenience and the amount to be collected was determined by this convenience.

We are here faced with a shortage of postage due stamps with filler denomination, certainly up to 60f, in the Irsa post office around mid-September 1945. This shortage also exists in other post offices: at least one other cover is known with the use of a bisected 80f in the Hajduboszormeny post office on September 13 (Dan Janos collection). We are probably just before the arrival of the postage due stamps with overprints from the State Printing Workshops (which followed the overprints made in the Athenaeum Printing Workshops since June 1, 1945): while waiting for their arrival, it was necessary to com-

pensate for the lack of facial values with, for example, the use of stamp cuttings for part of their value.



9. Postcard (18f stationery worthless at this date) insufficiently stamped with 4f + 18f + 8x20f = 1.82P, sent from Balatonszemes to Budapest on October 20,

The rate of period 3 (PRT127.000/A.4) is 6P for a domestic postcard. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (6-1.82) = 8.36P. "8P", the default rounding to 1P near 8.36P, was handwritten in Balatonszemes near the 18f postage stamp. In Budapest, the handwritten postage due is covered on October 24 with a "10" and an overprinted 10P /*3f* postage stamp is affixed. The legal rounding is to within 1P during the period 3; the number 10 does not therefore result from a rounding of 8.36P to the nearest 1P. The explanation is that only the minimum face value of 10P for a postage due stamp should be available at this post office, so it was used for convenience.

III- MINIMUM OF POSTAGE DUE DURING HYPERINFLATION

The principle of the "minimum of postage due" is that the sum due by the recipient must not be less than a regulatory sum. So, the Post will therefore charge no less. During hyperinflation, the amount of this minimum depended on the periods the postal regulations approach it regularly.

4. Minimum amounts for inland mails in relation to regulations, period 2 / period 27

As the postal texts (PRT = Postai Rendeletek Tara = The Gazette of Postal Regulations) were not known until June 9, 1945, it does not indicate what applied to period 1 (May 1 to July 1, 1945), but I will discuss them in part III-4.

For the other period s, the amounts are known. You just have to indicate that for some periods (9 to 13), there was no any regulation relating to the minimum of postage due. See the table below:

period	amount	period	amount	period	amount
2	40f	10	No regulation	19	800 millionP
3	1P	11	No regulation	20	4 billionP
4	10P	12	No regulation	21	80 billionP
5	20P	13	No regulation	22	8 trillionP
6	100P	14	400,000P	23	400 trillionP
7	500P	15	2,000,000P	24	20,000 trillionP
8	3,000P	16	8 millionP	25	5,000 AP (Adópengő)
9	No regulation	17	24 millionP	26	25,000AP
		18	80 millionP	27	100,000AP

For first due le

Forced to note that there are very few mails on which a minimum of postage due has been applied. The majority of them do carry an amount due to the minimum of collection, but because the calculation of the amount due does exactly this minimum. The interest is increased when the calculation of the sum due gives a sum below the minimum of postage due, then we can see the real effect of this minimum.

5. Postage due mails with exactly the amount of the minimum of postage due

Here are first some mails whose calculation of the amount due does exactly the minimum of postage due:

Illustrating documents (10 to 13) :



10. Postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 80f+1P = 1.80P, from Gyongyos on July 3, 1945 (period 2) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200-180) = 40f. In Gyongyos is handwritten "P 40 f ", in Budapest a 40f /*12f* overprinted postage due stamp is affixed. 40f is the minimum of postage due for the period 2.



11. Official folded form (correspondence between religious offices) with the rate payable by the addressee (Hivatalbol portokoteles) from Magyarszek on August 1, 1945 (period 2) to Mecsekjanosi.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a printed matter is 40f at the first class. In Magyarszek is handwritten “T 40”, in Komlo (post office near Mecsekjanosi) are affixed 4 overprinted 10f /*2f* postage due stamps on August 4.



12. Postcard insufficiently franked at 200mP (200,000,000P), sent from Budapest on June 10, 1946 (period 18) to Karcag.

The rate (PRT231.500/4) for a domestic postcard is 240 mP. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (240-200) = 80 mP. In Budapest is handwritten "T.80mil. ", The postage due was followed up to Karcag without further addition. 80 mP is the minimum of postage due for the period 18.



13. Local letter in printed matter rate ('Nyomtatvany' mention handwritten under the research coupon and not unsealed envelope), sent from Budapest on July 1, 1946 (first day period 22), insufficiently stamped 20,000mP + 30,000mP =50mrdP instead of 8bP (=8,000 mrdP) for 20g (PRT237.500/4).

The postage is neglectible and since the cover is not closed, the postman changed it with the single deficiency 8bP-50bP (= 0) = 8bP. The amount to be paid is handwritten "8 billio" in a red postage due rubberstamp. The minimum of postage due for the period 22 is 8bP (= 8,000,000,000,000P).

6. Mails whose the postage due is raised to the minimum of postage due

The function of the minimum of postage due is for the postal employee not to use too small sums for the application of a postage due. So if the calculated postage due amount is less than the minimum, the minimum was applied:

Illustrating documents (14 and 15) :



14. Local postcard sent insufficiently stamped to 4x30f+10f+20f=1.50P from Budapest on August 11, 1945 (period 2).

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a local postcard is 1.60P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (160-150) = 20f, 20f is less than the 40f minimum of postage due for the period 2, so 40f is applied. "40" is handwritten and an overprinted 40f /*18f* postage stamp is affixed on August 12.



15. Postcard (12f worthless) franked with 18f+2x20f+30f+2x60f+2x1P+2P=6.08P with a 18f

postage stamp demonetized on August 15, sent from Budapest on October 5, 1945 (period 3) to Szeged.

The rate (PRT127.000/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 6P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (6- (6.08-0.18)) = 0.2P. 20f is less than the minimum collection of 1P for the period 3, so 1P is charged. "1 P" is entered in green pencil, amount followed in Szeged without further addition.

7. The period 1

Without a written reference in the postal regulations, only the search for a maximum of mails whose situation is similar to an application of a minimum of postage due can show us its reality. After seeing several of these documents, I take it upon myself to affirm that there was indeed a minimum of postage due in period 1, and that it was 20f.

The 2 mails below carry a 20f postage due while the calculation of their amount due gives lower sums:

Illustrating documents (16 and 17) :



*16. Local printed matter postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 5f+4f(red meter stamp)=9f from Budapest4 on May 1, 1945 (**first day of period 1**).*

The rate for a first level printed matter is 10f. The calculation of the sum due is 2x (10-9) = 2f. On May 4, at office 741b, a 20f brown postage due stamp is pasted but the recipient is unknown at the address indicated (Ismeretlen / INCONNU.=Unknown sticker). Back in this post office, the new address is researched and then found (written in green, the sticker is then crossed out) and a new 20f postage due (handwritten under the sticker) is charged on July 7 at office 741co.



17. Cover sent insufficiently stamped with 2x18f+2x30f=96f from Budapest on June 9, 1945 (period 1) to Debrecen.

The rate for a domestic letter is 1P at the first weight level. The calculation of the amount due is

2x (100-96) = 8f. However, the amount charged is 20f, handwritten in blue next to a P postage due marking. The postage due is followed at Debrecen without further addition.

The fact that the 20f postage due amount is handwritten prove that it was not applied for convenience, such as for example to orient the amount due to use an available postage due stamp. It results from a postal regulation. It remains to find the postal regulation that addressed it.

IV- CONCLUSION

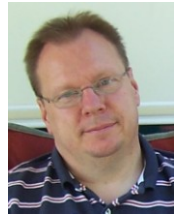
It's remaining a case to be found: an official item payable by the addressee, in printed matter first class rate, sent in period 1. This rate is 10f for 20g, but the minimum of postage due would be 20f : who won so?

It can be seen that determining a sum due during hyperinflation sometimes required juggling with rounding calculations and changing regulations over time. Calculations to be made and sometimes decision-making according to the constraints of the moment, post office workers at the time had to curse this kind of correspondence. This is ultimately one aspect of postage due area during Hungarian hyperinflation which highlights the richness and above all the complexity of its study.

USED LITERATURE

- «The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946» by Robert Morgan in 2003, pages15 to 18, pages91 to 93, page 146
- PRT 1945 and 1946
- Sharing information and scans with other collectors
- Own studies and postal items from my collection.

TARIF OF PEST –2 MARCH – 30 APRIL 1945



BY JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST

Researching and collecting the raised tariffs of the restarted postal service following the military operations that included the siege of Budapest had been an important and favourite collecting area of mine.

I've been composing his article for at least 15 years because I wanted to write a study about this topic that used source material containing actual facts and not just suppositions and hypotheses.

For the most part, the lack of information impeded my work. This has changed little; but, with time, the increasing number of source that have come to light provided the needed stimulus for this work. I have composed several versions of this article about the topic, but none of these have been published yet. As I became aware of a steady stream of new sources, I continued to re-write my article several times in order for it to be current. Perhaps now, my writing contains much new, and hitherto unknown information entitling me with an opportunity to share this data with fellow collectors. I am striving to be accurate and to correct some of the misconceptions and conclusions that have cropped up in the meantime. Many of these incorrect bits of information came about because of the lack accurate sources.

SOURCES

Information needed to be gathered little bits at a time because many times we're lucky to find a single sentence dealing with the postal service buried in 4-500 pages of available literature. As part of my research in order to get the best, most accurate picture, I looked over every daily newspaper that appeared in Budapest during this time looking for relevant announcements about the postal service. These were the Nepszava (People's Word), the Szabad Szo (Free Speech) and the Szabadsag (Liberty) newspapers, on the pages of which I succeeded in finding a few interesting, previously unpublished acts.

The greatest breakthrough for me came in finding a manuscript in the library of the Postal Museum a few years ago. I attribute the finding of this manuscript to a lucky accident. While reading an article that had nothing to do with postal history, I noticed a footnote in which the author referenced a manuscript. Its location was not noted except for the name of title and the author. I proceeded to look for this manuscript and was able to find it in the library of the Postal Museum. I would like to emphasize that this was a manuscript that existed as a single copy that was never duplicated or published as a book. Up to that time, nobody had used the manuscript as a reference work with the exception of the one use in the footnote in the aforementioned work. Thus, the orphaned manuscript collected dust in the library despite the fact that it was an unrivalled source of information for research about the postal history of Budapest following the siege. This previously unknown writing contained authentic facts because the two authors of the manuscript were active participants in the events.

The manuscript was prepared to the 25th anniversary of our liberation in 1970. It contains the

reminiscences of the two authors, who were probably prompted to do so. Despite this, it was not published, the reasons for which is not known. References to criticizing the past postal officials for not rewarding the employees who participated in the rebuilding effort are sprinkled throughout the manuscript. It is possible that this was the reason why it was never published.

The condition of the 253 typewritten pages with actual photographs pasted into it, bound together, is in excellent shape; and, apparently, it has never been read. Perhaps this is the copy that was submitted for approval. There are no other copies in the library and no one is aware of any others. It is possible that the authors retained a similar, bound copy.

The manuscript deals with the first three years of the post office following the liberation. Its title is "Dr. Odon Pazmany & Dr. Albert Tarnai, The History of the Hungarian Post after the Liberation, 1945-1948."

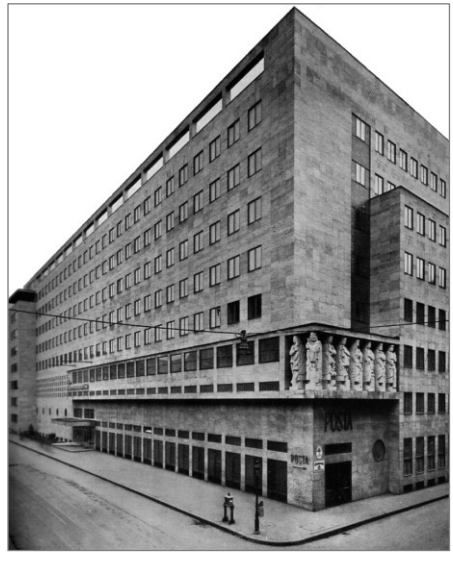
The history of the Pest side was written by Dr. Odon Pazmany (postal director). Pazmany survived the siege while sheltering in the basement of the headquarters of the Federation of Postal Department Associations located on Benczur Street together with many other postal employees from Pest and environs. Today, the building houses the Postal Museum. Before the war, he authored the book "The Organization and Management of the Hungarian Royal Post." After the war, he wrote the publication, "The Postal Handbook." Before and after the war, Pazmany was also responsible for editing the monthly magazine, "Magyar Post."

Dr. Albert Tarnai (vice-secretary and later the head director of the Post) wrote about the happenings on the Buda side. Unfortunately, I could not find any additional information about him.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE POST ON THE PEST SIDE? JANUARY-MAY, 1945

On **January 15th**, the first Russian soldier appeared in the yard of the headquarters building on Benczur Street. The postal employees in the basement shelter were free to go about their business as of that day. They survived the siege well-provisioned because a large quantity of foodstuffs were stored in the building assuring them of three meals a day, providing them with pseudo-royal treatment.

On **January 22nd**, the personnel were able to venture from Benczur Street to the directorate located on Dob Street. They found other postal employees in the shelter there. Together they established the impromptu Hungarian Postal Employees Workers' Council. They requisitioned a more or less intact office in the building for their use.



1. The building of the Postal Directorate on Dob Street from 1939 Source: internet

On January 23rd, they reported to the Russian commander of the city headquartered in the Fire fighters' Barracks on Kun Street. They advised Major General Chernyshov that they intended to restart the operation of the Hungarian Post in Pest. This pleased the commandant and he gave his permission for the postal activity, but he asked to be given a battery operated radio. Of course, this did not mean that actual work was about to start. Preliminary tasks involved notifying the workers, assessing the damage to the postal buildings, repairing the offices, collecting the postal equipment, acquiring replacements as well as inventorying and re-allocating the surviving gear.

On January 24th, the postal workers who were returning to work received their assignments. Those who worked at the directorate were told to stay in place. Those who worked at specific post offices were told to report their individual post offices and await further instructions. The removal of the debris from the Dob Street building also got under way. The Workers' Council drafted decrees number 1 and 2.

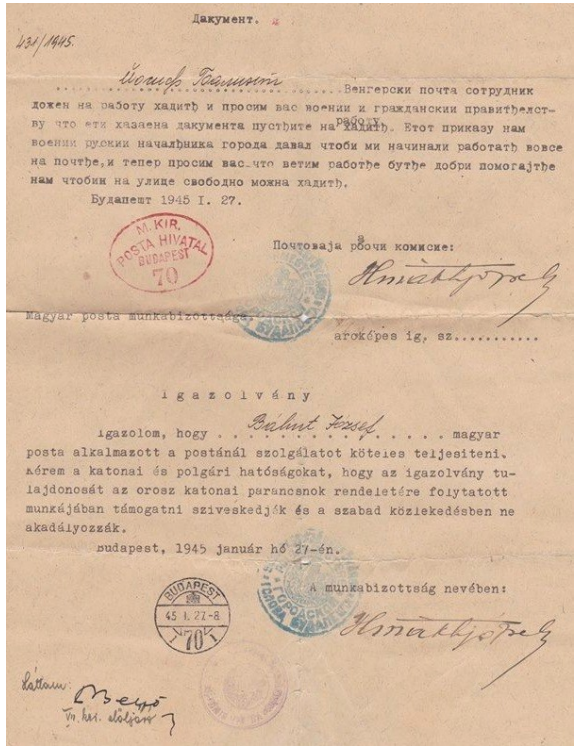
The opening line of decree no. 1 stated: "According to the No. 1 order from the military commander of Budapest: 1. Every official is required to continue performing their duty."

Point 3/f of the decree no. 2 was: "in order to restart the postal traffic as soon as possible, preparations need to be made to identify letter collection boxes; to repair equipment and installations necessary for the collection and delivery of letters, etc."

Point 4: Service working hours will be 9 to 13 hours long because of the current conditions.

On January 25th, the Workers' Council issued decrees no. 3, 4, and 5. Decree no. P/5/Mb/1945 identified the need to secure all mailings located in the post offices. It stipulated that the items of value and cash on hand at postal installations must be examined and sequestered.

Workers were provided with a bi-lingual identification document to ensure their free movement.


Дакумент.

Венгерски почта сотрудник дожен на работу ходить и просим вас военни и гражданскии правительству что эти указана дакумента пустите на работу. Етот приказу нам военни русскии начальника города давал чтоби ми начинали работать вовсе на почтье,и тепер просим вас что ветим работье бутье добри помогайте нам чтобин на улице свободно можна ходить.

Будапешт 1945 I. 27.

M. KIR. POSTA HIVATAL BUDAPEST 70

Почтоваја рбочи комиске:

Magyar posta munkabizottsága

aroképes ig, sz.....

igazolvány

Igazolom, hogy . . . . . magyar posta alkalmazott a postánál szolgálatot köteles teljesiteni. Kérem a katonai és polgári hatóságokat, hogy az igazolvány tulajdonosát az orosz katonai parancsnok rendeletére folytatott munkájában támogatni szíveskedjék és a szabad közlekedésben ne akadályozzák.

Budapest, 1945 január hó 27-én.

A munkabizottság nevében:

BUDAPEST 45 I. 27-8 70

2. An identification certificate written in two languages provided to an employee at the Budapest 70 post office by the Hungarian Postal Worker's Council dated January 27, 1945 (from the collection of Laszlo Littvay)

The Workers' Council received an assessment of the condition of the individual post office buildings.

Budapest No. 4 Main Post Office: For the most part, it is in total ruin, completely unusable. The money order section is usable to satisfy civilian traffic. The main cashier's office is intact.

Budapest No. 62 Post Office: Generally, it's not a total loss. The furnishing bears the mark of extensive looting. The printed matter storage in the basement is burnt.

Budapest No. 70 Post Office (parcel post processing office, District VII. Verseny Street 3.) Completely looted. Parcels held in storage were all taken. The building is occupied by Romanian troops.

Budapest No. 72 Post Office: There are no windows, but for the most part it did not suffer great damage. The lecture room will support low volume traffic.

Budapest No. 741 Post Office (letter delivery office, District VII. Verseny Street 3.) Did not suffer extensive damage, but there are no windows. The room with the post office boxes will support low volume traffic.

Securities Warehouse (District VI, Vaci Street 17.) Can be restored in a few days. Its well-secured securities supply did not suffer much damage.

It is possible that the entire supply of postal securities that was stored in the warehouse survived. Consequently, we cannot speak of a shortage of stamps for the postal traffic in Pest.

In order to pay for the restoration work and other expenses, the Workers' Council directed the officials of the Budapest postal directorate as well as the leaders of the telegraph and telephone office to set up a cashier responsible for appropriations. For each of these purposes, 1 million pengos were set aside.

January 27. The officials of District VII will provide, starting on that day, daily 100 meals to the postal officials in the Dob Street building. (Let's not forget, there was starvation in the city.)



3. The public room for accepting money orders at the Budapest 4 Main Post Office. In the beginning, it was here that letters could be mailed after the siege. The other rooms in the main post office building were not usable for business transactions. (Postal Museum)

January 29. The Dob Street building receives Soviet soldiers to guard the entrance. This is a result of a request made using a typewriter with Cyril characters. The typewriter was purchased by the directorate after the occupation of Carpatho Ukraine. On the next day, the Soviet commander of the district appeared on the pretext of inspecting the guards. He inquired about the typewriter with the Cyril characters. When it was shown to him, he stroked it gently and placed it in his briefcase. He said a polite goodbye and assured everyone that he would gladly come back to help out in the future, also.

January 31. The other post offices and agencies also receive military guards.

January 31. The Russian commander wants to the introduce Moscow time in Pest. The announcement was made, but luckily it was not implemented.

February 2. Telephone connection is established between the Fire fighters' Barracks on Kun

Street (headquarters of the Soviet military command) and the mayor's office.

February 4. The first passenger train leaves Budapest Western railway station for Szolnok. The train consists of 25 carriages, with 1123 seats. 1825 passengers travelled on the train.

February 5. The first train to Vac leaves the Western railway station.

February 6. The Pestszentlorinc no. 1 post office forwards a bag of mail to Debrecen.

The first movie theatre opens in Pest.

February 7. Advertisement from the Szabadsag newspaper: "I am travelling to Romania tomorrow. I am undertaking carrying mail (even domestic), acquiring documents, and other tasks." Many travellers took letters with them in their pockets since postal traffic was very primitive.

February 8. The 27 member Budapest Postal Directorate is formed. Fighting in Buda is still continuing.

On this day, three postal delivery employees walked to the Pestszentlorinc post office because it had already received mail from east of the Tisza River. Their return trip was on a Soviet military Jeep, and they brought back the first bag of mail to central Pest. The letters that arrived were delivered within days as best as the situation permitted. The first delivered letter arrived from Szeged to Pest.

The first tram to resume operation was the service on line 55 along the Ujpest-Angyalfold, Forgacs Street route.

February 10. According to an article in the Nepszabadsag, the Pestszenterzsebet no. 1 post office received the first mail delivery from Soroksar. After this, postal service became regular. The arrived mail is sent out for delivery immediately. Mail accepted at the post offices is sent by designated courier to the nearby towns and to the Budapest 62 post office. The no. 62 post office located next to the Western railway station is receiving mail shipments regularly.

February 11. Courier arrived from Miskolc and gave a report on the situation in Miskolc and the progress of the reconstruction. The primary mission of the courier was to establish contact with the Union of Postal Employees and to receive documents and directives about work. He did not bring or take back a mailbag with him since his trip was not about establishing postal service.

February 12. During the siege, the letter collection boxes were not emptied. The decision was made to remedy this situation. The directive contains the following contents: the mailings have to be secured and cancelled. *Missing or incorrect franking have to be disregarded.* Letter delivery teams need to be organized so that the postings left over in the offices and collected from the letter boxes can be delivered. Postings from Pest that cannot be forwarded need to be returned to the sender, if possible.



4. Erzsebet Boulevard in 1945. A letter collection box that survived the siege is visible in the background on the right at the edge of the sidewalk. Source: Fortepan / 32045

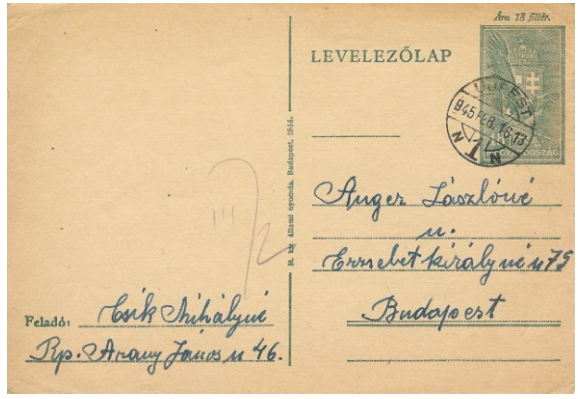
February 13. Postal business started in some post offices in Pest. A few offices started independent activity prior to the official start of business on March 2nd. These offices accepted postings, collected and delivered letters from letter boxes, accepted and transmitted bags of mail.

The Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, The Smallholders' Party, the National Peasant Party, the State Police Depart, and the Office of the Mayor all identified with which organizations they intended to conduct correspondence. This limited correspondence system was immediately organized.

February 14. Mail courier service was started from Budapest to Debrecen and in the return direction using the Budapest-Szolnok railway line transported by train no. 628 that connected to another train from Szolnok to Debrecen. The 628 train ran on even number days and transported the courier mail on February 14, 16, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28. There was no train service on February 18th. The courier's report acknowledges that the courier mail service was full of incidents. The train departed the Western railway station after midnight on February 14th. It arrived in Debrecen on February 17th at 6:30PM. There was a curfew starting at 7:00PM in Debrecen, so the courier could not report to the appropriate government office until the next day, the 18th. The train was able to leave Debrecen only on the 19th at 9:40PM and arrived back in Budapest at 9:00AM on the 22nd. The courier service carried the official correspondence to and from the Hungarian national government for free, without charging a fee. A messenger at the Budapest 62 post office collected and delivered such correspondence daily. The messenger usually sent an average of 10-15 letters and a single bundle of newspapers collected by the Soviet military command to Debrecen. Under these circumstances, there was no other postal service at the time. The courier service functioned this way until the end of March. In early April, the government moved to Budapest.

February 16. In the early morning hours, the first telegram sent and received normally arrived in Budapest. The telegram was sent by the mayor of Kisujszallas to the mayor of Budapest. He advised that 14 wagonloads of foodstuffs were dispatched from Kisujszallas for the starving population of Budapest.

The Ujpest no. 1 post office accepted and dispatched mailings as of this day.



5. Postcard mailed from Ujpest on February 16, 1945. Most likely, it was delivered after March 2nd.

February 17. The Budapest 62 post office dispatches mail bag to Pilis. It arrived around the 20th and then it was forwarded to the post office of Albert-Irsa on the 22nd.

This advertisement appeared in the Szabadsag newspaper: while reporting for postal duty on January 21st, Kalman Kovacs, Jr. disappeared. His worried wife and children seek information.

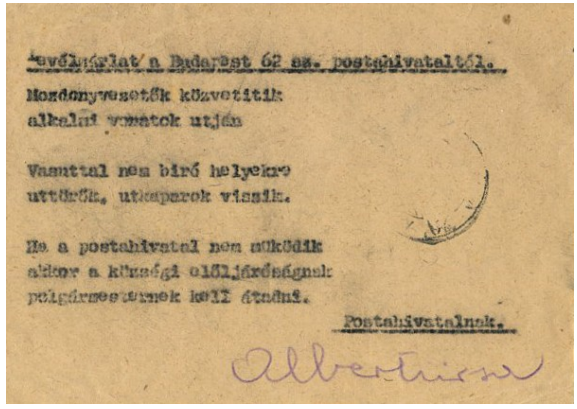
The unfortunate postal employee was probably detained and already held captive in a sealed rail-

way wagon awaiting transportation to a prisoner-of-war camp in Hungary and eventually to the Soviet Union. The occupying army was hunting down civilians on the street in order to meet its quota of prisoners-of-war. They were partial to gathering anybody who was wearing a uniform. The uniform was important to the Russians, but they could not tell the difference between an army uniform and a postal service uniform. In such instances, even a bi-lingual identification card was of not much help. Consequently, a lot of postmen ended up as captives in the transports. Later, the lack of trained workers forced the ministry and party functionaries to try to get them released. These efforts met with limited success. Similarly, policemen, conductors (BESzKRt.), firemen, other wearers of uniforms and even street sweepers did not escape this fate.

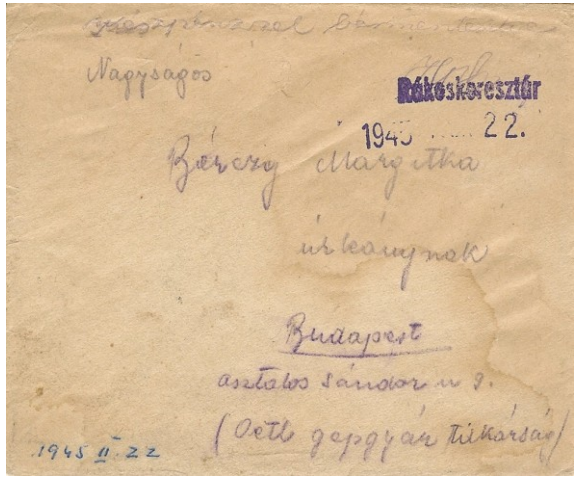
On this day, the first passenger train left the Eastern railway station bound for Godollo.

February 20. The first bus line starts operating on the Pest side.

February 22. The post offices of Kispest and Rakoskeresztur are functioning.


Levélzárólat a Budapest 62 sz. postahivataltól.
Mozdonyvesetők közvetítik
alkalmi vonatok utján
Vasuttal nem biró helyekre
utitörők, utkeparok visznik.
Ha a postahivatal nem működik
akkor a katonai elöljáróságnak
polgármesternek kell átadni.
Postahivatalnak.

6. Mail bag closure from the Budapest 62 post office to Albertiirsa. Unfortunately, the cancellation is illegible but it's presumable from a dispatch sent in February because this closure slip was typewritten. Later dispatches used slips that were printed.


Nagyságos
Rákoskeresztúr
1945 ..... 22.
Budapest
1945 II. 22

7. Letter mailed from Rakoskeresztur to Budapest on February 22, 1945. The Rakoskeresztur cancellation made with a provisional rubber stamp.

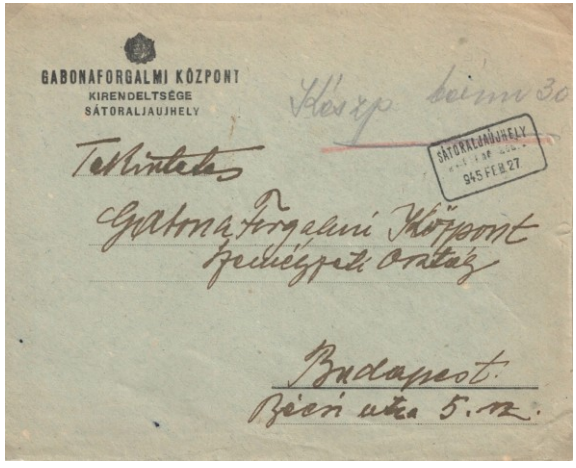
February 26. The Director of Post advises the Budapest postal officials that "the permission granted by the capital's Russian military command...allows for the delivery of letters received

in mail dispatches sent to Budapest henceforth." (Bp. 1. archives Bp. PI Nr. 149./1945.)

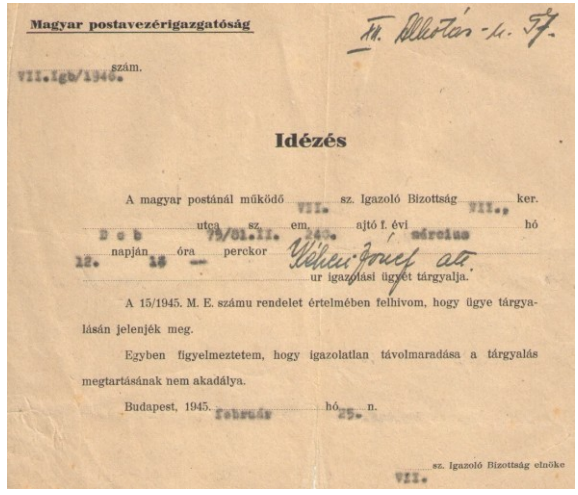


Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 210526

8. A letter collection box from 1945 that survived the siege at the corner of Jozsef Boulevard and Baross Street.



9. A letter mailed from Satoraljaujhely to Budapest on February 27, 1945. No postage due was assessed despite the lack of franking.


Magyar postavezérigazgatóság

VII.Igb/1946. szám.

Idézés

A magyar postánál működő VII. sz. Igazoló Bizottság VII. ker. utca sz. em. ajtó I. évi március hó napján 12. óra perckor ur igazolási ügyét tárgyalja.

A 15/1945. M. E. számu rendelet értelmében felhivom, hogy ügye tárgyalásán jelenjék meg.

Egyben figyelmeztetem, hogy igazolatlan távolmaradása a tárgyalás megtartásának nem akadálya.

Budapest, 1945. február hó 25. n.

sz. Igazoló Bizottság elnöke

VII.

10. The verification committees in the post began functioning quickly. Here is a citation with a date from February 25, 1945.

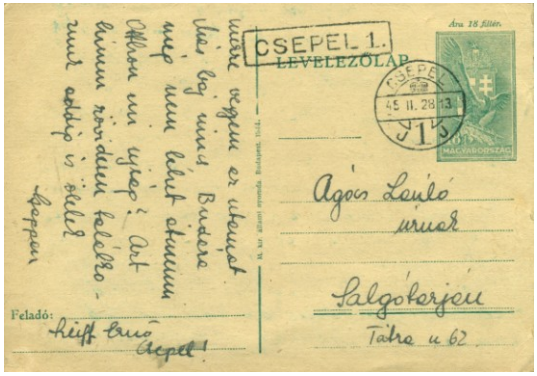
February 27. On this day, ordinary letters addressed to Budapest are accepted for forwarding from Pecs.

On this date, the first train is dispatched from Budapest to Miskolc arriving at the Tisza railway yard on the following day.

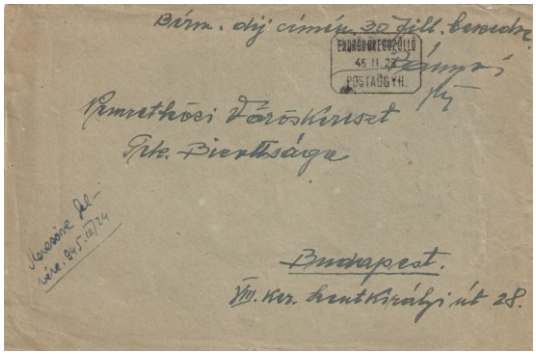
February 28. The Budapest Chamber of Commerce proposes to the Ministry of Commerce that a postal service clearing system be established. Years ago one was in effect and worked very well and effectively. The main point of the proposal was so manufacturing and trading companies that had a large volume of correspondence, could take this to a central post office where it would be presorted according to the addresses. At the same time, they could retrieve the mail addressed to them right away. Thus, the post office would be relieved of some transportation issues. Because of the lack of additional information, it is not known if such a letter clearing system was ever implemented.

On this day, the Csepel 1 post office starts to operate.

At the end of February, a new commandant was appointed for Budapest. Major General Zamercev took command and served in this capacity until 1948.



11. A postcard sent from the Csepel 1 post office to Salgotarjan on February 28, 1945. /from the collection of Antal Pukler/



12. A letter addressed to the Red Cross in Budapest sent from the postal agency in Endrod-Oregszollo on February 28, 1945. For part of the distance, the letter was carried by the courier service of the Gyula highway guards. It arrived intact in Budapest on March 24th as confirmed by the Red Cross posting of the person named in the inquiry on its list of searches. Despite the lack of franking, the mailing was not assessed postage due.

In **March**, the letter censors begin their work in the Budapest 72 and 62 post offices.

March 1. The Budapest 62 post office dispatches a 'jegyzekelo menet' (a postal or railroad employee authorized to accept and deliver mail and officially record each transaction) along the Budapest - Cegled - Abony - Szolnok railroad line.

March 2. This is the day of the official start of the mail service in Pest.

The Postal Directorate authorized the post offices to accept unsealed letters mailed at the post offices or placed into a letter collection boxes. Unsealed envelopes were necessary because of the required censorship. This directive was withdrawn by the post only in September of 1945 although in practice it ceased to be a requirement for letters placed in collection boxes much earlier.

The day's editions of the Nepszava, Szabad Szo and Szabadsag newspapers advised which nine post offices were officially opened on that day to accept ordinary and registered postcard sand letters. One thing is certain, several of the nine post offices had already began to accept postings much sooner which were then forwarded in sealed mail bags.

All nine post offices can be found on the Pest side:

Bp. 4 Main Post Office, IV. Varoshaz Street 18.

Bp. 5. V. Szabadsag Square 10-12.

Bp. 7. VII. Harsfa Street 47.

Bp. 8. VIII. Rok Szilard Street 2. (Corvin Department Store)

Bp. 9. IX. Ferenc Boulevard 39. (corner of Tuzolto Street & Ferenc Boulevard)

Bp. 10. X. Fuzer Street 5 (the building has been demolished since)

Bp. 62. VI. Terez Boulevard 45. Western Railway Station

Bp. 72. VII. Verseny Street 1, Eastern Railway Station

Bp. 82. VIII. Baross Street 59.

The post introduced a new tariff structure on this day that was in effect for the Pest side only.

The first later mention of the Pest tariffs that was promulgated in the daily papers of that day occurred in the year 1963. It was on page 706 of Agnes Rozsnyoi's essay, The Weekdays of Budapest Following the Liberation. The work was contained in one of the volumes of the Studies of the Budapest's Past, 1945. The first philatelic acknowledgement was published in the 1968/5 issue of Filatelia Szemle in an article titled "May 1st, 23 Years" written by Dr. Gyula Kadocsa.

	Budapesti	szükségtarifa	táblázat
		Súly	Díj
Levlap	Helyi		30 fillér
	Nagy-Budapest		40 fillér
Levél	Helyi	20 grammig	40 fillér
		250 grammig	80 fillér
		500 grammig	1 pengő
	Vámhatáron kívül eső helységek	20 grammig	60 fillér
		250 grammig	1 P 20 fillér
		500 grammig	1 P 60 fillér
Ajánlási díj	Helyi		1 Pengő
	Nagy-Budapest		1 P 40 fillér

13. Table of arbitrary Pest tariffs that was in effect between March 2nd and April 30th 1945 in Pest and certain localities in Greater Budapest

The same article in the Nepszava also publicized the request from the post that anyone possessing furnishings or equipment representing the property of the post to turn such items into the nearest post office. Those who fail to do this will have legal proceeding initiated against them. Inasmuch as there was a scarcity of everything, the post attempted to collect every possible item in order to perform its function better and more effectively.

March 10. The post offices functioning in Szeged and Csongrad County started to accept letters destined for Budapest.

March 17. A temporary pile bridge was constructed alongside the destroyed Margit Bridge. This was called the Manci Pile Bridge. This was also the first connection between Pest and Buda. In January 1946, the bridge was swept away by ice floes. Subsequently, it was reconstructed as the Manci Pontoon Bridge in March.



14. The part of the Manci Pile Bridge between Buda and Margit Island Fortepan / Dr. Istvan Kramer / 52105



15. A letter mailed at the main post office on March 20, 1945 correctly franked in accordance with the Pest tariffs

March 19. The first Hansom cab carriage starts operation.

March 21. The temporary pontoon bridge build on wreck of the Ferenc Jozsef (now called Liberty) Bridge opens to traffic.

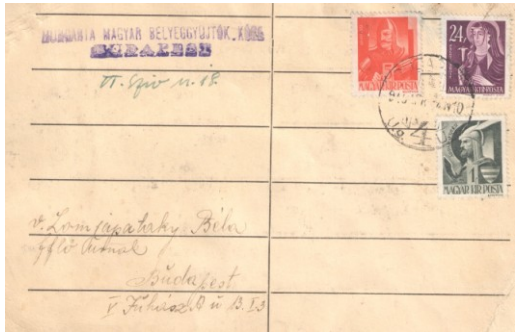


16. The temporary pontoon bridge structure using the wrecked Ferenc Jozsef (Liberty) Bridge.

Fortepan / Marton Kurucz / 24687



17. It was easier to move the mail from Buda to Pest using the bridges as opposed to boats. Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 175139



18. Local postcard mailed at the main post office on April 7, 1945 with multicolor, correct franking according to the Pest tariffs.

April 11. An additional 14 post offices start to function, still only on the Pest side. This was discovered on the pages of the Szabad Szo newspaper published on the following day.

Bp. 55. V. Kossuth L. Square 11.

In the building of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Bp. 67. XIV. Erzsebet kiralyne Street 98.

Bp. 71. VII. Vilmos kiralyne Street 1. (City Park Grove)

Bp. 76. VII. Arena Street 68.

Bp. 79. XIV. Gizellla Street 45.

Bp. 80. VIII. Szentkiralyi Street 28/A.

Bp. 89. X. Ciprus Street 2.

Bp. 91. IX. Lonyai Street 77.

Bp. 94. IX. Ken Street 5.

Bp. 98. IX. Erno Street 24.

Bp. 100. XIV. Sarkantyu Street 3.

Bp. 500. V. Tatra Street 5/D (now Sallai Imre Strt)

Bp. 702. VII. Peterdy Street 10.

Bp. 703. XIV. Hungaria Boulevard 52.

April 13. New Hungarian municipal commander, Colonel Kalman Gal.

April 18. Today's edition of the Szabad Szo newspaper reports that large quantities of letters and postcards from the provinces arrive regularly to Pest. Letter carriers pay visits to the residences more frequently. Mailings even from Romania are arriving in the capital city.



19. Local registered mailed on April 19, 1945 with franking corresponding to the Pest tariffs. Local registered letters are scarce.

April 21. Starting with this date, a jegyzekelo menet operated on every even numbered day between Budapest and Miskolc and Miskolc - Budapest. (BAZmL. MPL. Nr. 4527/1945.)

April 23. An additional 8 post offices opened, again on the Pest side. This information was found in the Szabadsag newspaper.

Bp. 44. V. Pozsonyi Street 44-46.

Bp. 49. XIV. Mogyorodi Street 124/B.

Bp. 65. Szent Laszlo Street 51.

Bp. 75. XIV. Nagy Lajos kiraly Street 131.

Bp. 87. VIII. Prater Street 46.

Bp. 102. X. Orczy Street 45.

Bp. 103. X. Cserkesz Street 66/C.

Bp. 507. V. Jozsef Nador Square 2. Hungarian General Credit Bank

April 24. According to an article in Nepszava, 15 million pengos were found hidden at the Budapest no. 72 post office.

April 25. Starting on May 1st, general postal traffic will start in the entire country with the exception of Transdanubia. Local telegrams and express letters can be posted in Budapest. This was information gleaned from the Szabad Nep published on that date.



20. Overfranked postcard mailed from the Budapest no. 82 post office sent to Pestszenterzsebet on April 23, 1945. The addressee had moved away and the card was returned to the sender.

April 26. According to the Szabad Szo, as of the previous day, the letter collection boxes on the Pest side are being emptied corresponding to the time of day shown on the boxes.

May 1. The stamps with Felszabadulas=Liberation overprint are placed into circulation.

From the directive 1945 72. VI. K.K.M. of the Ministry of Commerce and Transportation:

Stamps in complete sets only can be acquired from the following post offices starting on May 1, 1945:

Budapest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9. 10, 53, 62, 72, 112, 114, Budafok 1, Csepel 1, Kispest 1, Pestszentlorinc 1, Pestszenterzsebet 1, Ujpest 1, Debrecen 1, Miskolc 1, Pecs 1, Sopron 1, Szeged 1.

Signed: Bp. 1945. IV. 27. Gabor Jozsef s.k. Ker. es Kozl. Min.

The directive reveals that still another post office started functioning on the Pest side as of May 1st: Bp. 53. V. Bajcsy Zsilinszki Street 16.

May 17. The Budapest 70 post office auctioned off the items contained in parcels that could not be delivered.

June 1. The office for marketing stamps reopened inside the Budapest 4 post office.



21. The post office's first truck to resume work on May 1, 1945 shows how the frequent problems with either the engine or the tires caused delays. Here we see the work of changing a flat tire. (Postal Museum, illustration from the manuscript)



22. The dedication of the repaired Budapest 72 post office (Eastern railway station) (Postal Museum, illustration from the manuscript)

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE POST IN BUDA? FEBRUARY - MAY 1945

The history of the Buda side is substantially shorter since the buildings there were not as lucky as their companions on the Pest side. Here, the destruction was much greater, not only in the structures but also in the postal furnishings. Consequently, the restoration work required more time. As a result, actual postal service could start only in May.

Buda was liberated on February 13th.

On February 15th, the postal employees started to organize and to clear the ruins. They used one of the relatively intact rooms of the Postal Palace for their central office. Work tasks were issued from here daily to the employees who reported for work. Groups were organized according to clearing or accruing activities. The clearing group was tasked to make the building usable as much as possible. The accruing group tried to collect items that were deemed usable. They even acquired a horse that could barely stand on its legs because of hunger. The animal received all of the dried bread found in the building. The Budapest 114 post office's burnt out lobby became its stable.

On February 17th, the postal workers secured a dish of food each for the staff of 50 from the district authorities. This service became a staple for them on a daily basis.

Delegations were sent to every nearby, accessible office in order to conduct an inventory and to collect the cash that was found there and deliver it to the directorate.

An insight into the fiscal situation revealed that banknotes worth 7 million pengos had disappeared from the Budapest 114 post office. Similarly, 150 million pengos' worth of banknotes disappeared from the Castle Hill branch of the Hungarian National Bank. Approximately another 200 million pengos were missing from the other post offices.

On the last business day before the siege (December 23, 1944) Lajos Szalay, the chief superintendent, locked 13,600 pengos' worth of coins in the Wertheim safe at the Budapest 114 post office. This was found in full after the siege.

On February 20th, Dr. Albert Tarnai decided to personally establish contact with postal workers on the Pest side. He went on foot to Obuda where he found post office no. 3 nearly undamaged. There was no serious damage on the inside to the furnishings. Tarnai discussed the need to maintain daily contact with the office manager. To do so, it was agreed that an employee would travel on foot to the building of the directorate to receive instructions. After this, Tarnai walked to the Hajogyar Island where he got in at the end of a long line awaiting crossing by boat. His armband that identified him as a postal worker together with his bi-lingual identification papers helped him get to the head of the queue and get into a boat. Almost instantly 20 people crowded into the boat that had a normal capacity of six passengers. The edge of the boat was barely above the water. After about a twenty minute trip, he exited the boat at the Dagaly Baths. There, the Soviet soldiers doing identity checks allowed him to pass only after a long argument despite his bi-lingual identity papers. After this, he walked for an hour and a half to reach Dob Street where the postal directorate organized in Pest had its headquarters. He held discussions about the agenda. Tarnai received all of the Workers' Council's recently issued directives. Together, they established the Budapest office of the Postal Directorate. After some minor hardships, he managed to get back to Buda before dark.



23. The ruined Postal Palace with fire and shelling damage. During the siege, the building was the scene of intense floor-by-floor fighting. (Postal Museum CC BY-NC-SA 676782)

On **March 10th**, a Soviet motor vehicle pulled up in front of the Postal Palace. Three officers stepped out, including Colonel Kondratov, the Soviet commander of Buda. He wanted to inspect the telephone switching exchange. When he was shown the totally burned out room that was set on fire by the Germans, he became very agitated. By that time, 5 smaller capacity switching exchanges had been placed into service. He was shown these, also. He became even more agitated and ordered Tarnai that he wanted to see a 50 switchgear telephone exchange by the next day; otherwise, he will make Tarnai disappear.

Everyone was quite frightened by this. The technicians tried to create some calm by stating that they were aware of a useable 50 switchgear system at the Janos hospital. They managed to bring the equipment over and spent the night installing it by candlelight. Finally, this seemingly impossible task was completed. When the Soviet officer arrived on the next day, he was satisfied to see a working switching system and promised that he would help out in future in any way he could.

Between the end of March and the middle of April, the surviving letter collection boxes were found and emptied. The letters collected were sorted into four groups by destination: foreign, provinces, Pest, and Buda. The items in the first three groups were transferred by boat to the Pest side. The items destined for Buda were secured in warehouses and retained until actual postal service could start.



24. Abandoned horse drawn postal wagons used to deliver parcels litter Hajnocy Street following the siege (box carts). Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 217768

These horse drawn delivery wagons were used by the post in Budapest until the end of the 1950s. It is most likely that these delivery wagons were taken from the yard of the Budapest 114 delivery handling office located in the Postal Palace and placed along this street that runs parallel to Krisztina Boulevard. These and similar post office possessions were collected by the postal workers in the interest of restarting postal services as quickly as possible.



25 - 26 Bi-lingual identity certificate issued by the Hungarian State Postal Directorate



27 - 28 Enlarged picture of the two rubber stamps. The word 'kir' had already been excised from the stamp of the Postal Directorate. The other, bi-lingual stamp from the certificate belongs to the Buda agency of postal management.

As far as Buda was concerned, the restart of postal service was planned for May 2nd.

Only on **May 2nd** does the delivery of mail start at four distribution offices (Budapest 2, 3, 112, and 114). On that same day, mailings are also accepted for delivery at these post offices on the Buda side. Consequently, this date can be considered as the actual start of postal service on the Buda side. The manuscript emphasizes this. The "Felszabadulas=Liberation" stamps arrive at the post offices on this day and this generates receipts for the offices. In the previously mentioned directive we learned exactly which five post offices started to function on this day on the Buda side. Of the five, four were the Buda distribution offices:

Budapest 1. I. Disz Square 16.

Budapest 2. II. Fo Street 6.

Budapest 3. III. Kiscelli Street 9.

Budapest 112. XI. Vasarhelyi P. Street 4-6.

Budapest 114. XII. Krisztina Boulevard 12.

Technical workers started to remove or repair the destroyed or damaged letter collection boxes during the month of May. The reattachment of repaired boxes was not an easy task because of the structural damage to the buildings.

The mailings sent to other offices were transported on foot. This was a burdensome task because the distance between post offices no. 112 and no. 3 was 8 km. as the crow flies. The problem was solved by having one office send a courier on one day and another office send one on the

next day. All of the couriers stopped at the Budapest 114 office every day.



29. Mailing cancelled at the Budapest 114 (XII. Krisztina Boulevard 12.) post office on April 12, 1945. This arrived in the post office by way of a letter collection box as confirmed by the 40 filler franking that was the rate for a postcard according the Greater Budapest tariffs. If the card had been mailed at the no. 114 post office, then 30 filler franking would have been sufficient and it's most certain that the clerk would not have erred there to the detriment of the sender.

BUDAPEST OR PEST TARIFFS?

The fact that between February and April the postal service functioned only on the Pest side can be ascertained from the discovered manuscript. It's not only the manuscript that maintains this, there is no mention in the daily newspapers during this period of any news that any post office on the Buda side had been opened for use by the public. Quite on the contrary, the opening of post offices on the Pest side was regularly featured in the newspapers. On the Pest side, there was regular dispatch and receipt of mail bags, mail was collected from letter boxes, and the post offices functioned. Customers could go into a post office and use the windows to post letters. On the Buda side, only the letter collection boxes were emptied and the mail not addressed to Buda was forwarded to Pest. So, the mail was dispatched but incoming mail was not accepted. Mail with Buda destinations was placed into storage, and only after the start of delivery on May 2nd was the accumulated mail handed over to the respective addressees.

Postal service on the Buda side restarted as the 1st inflationary postal rate went into effect. Only then was it possible to establish the necessary conditions for this. This means that the arbitrarily increased tariffs could not have been in effect on the Buda side because there were no post offices serving the public that would utilize it. This also applies to other localities of Greater Budapest that were on the Buda side.

Naturally, there are mailings with cancellations from post office on the Buda side before May 2nd. These were collected from letter boxes and found their way into one of the four dispatch offices (Budapest 2, 3, 112, 114) where they were cancelled. Cancellations from any other Buda post office up to April 30th are not known.

As a result, we can establish that the so-called Budapest tariffs that arbitrarily raised postage rates between March 2nd and April 30th were in effect only in Pest and a few localities of Greater Budapest on the Pest side. As we have seen, only post offices on the Pest side were open during this time. From this, we can logically conclude that the name is not accurate and is misleading. Calling it correctly as the Pest tariff is accurate since it was implemented only in the area of Pest and not in the entire capital city or in the area of Greater Budapest. I suggest that in the future the new and more accurate naming be used.

To date, these facts have not been published by any philatelic researcher. Based on existing mailings, the assumption had been that postal service

had resumed on the Buda side during the period of the Pest tariffs. Naturally, the source of this misconception is the lack of source material. The lesson in this is that it is not possible all of the time to completely and accurate reconstruct the events. Full knowledge of source materials is essential.

THE GAZETTE OF POSTAL REGULATIONS DURING THE TIME OF THE PEST TARIFFS

The post operates under postal rules, regulations, and directives. This had always been and it was also unchanged during those trying times. A postmen could act only in accordance with what they were authorized to do or what the directives required of them. They had no opportunity for personal solutions or improvisations and such was the case during this time.

It was not known until now that general directives were published during the time of the Pest tariffs. As early as January 24th, the Workers' Council drew up directives 1 and 2. Later, four additional directives were issued. The entire text of directives 1, 2, and 3 can be found in the manuscript as well as a summary of directives 5 and 6. The manuscript makes no mention of directive 4. Only the manuscript mentions the existence of these directives. They did not survive outside of the manuscript. Thus, the manuscript is a unique document.

ARBITRARY RATE INCREASE - THE PEST TARIFFS

Unfortunately, the manuscript does not shed light on the real reason for the rate increase. It fails to even acknowledge that the rates were actually increased and that the official rates in had effect since 1943 were not being utilized.

According to another author who dwelled into this time period, the rate increase was needed to insure the post's ability to pay the workers' salaries. He even labelled the tariffs as "necessity tariffs."

The manuscript contradicts this completely. Completely untouched stashes of cash were recovered from the ruins in many places. The manuscript also gives lots of evidence that the postal directorate was in good shape financially.

On January 25th, 2 million pengos were allocated for the restoration of buildings.

On January 29th, Dr. Gyula Ortutay (academic, vice-president of MABÉOSZ in the 1970s) paid a visit to the post. Since he was the director of the Hungarian Radio, he asked that the post to pay him the radio fees that had already been collected in November and December 1944 but had not been paid to the radio. Ortutay was tasked by the government to restore radio broadcasts. The postal officials investigated whether the fees for the two months had actually been turned over and could not find evidence that they had been. They agreed that the 2 million pengos collected for radio fees would be paid out and on the 31st post office no. 7 paid the sum to Ortutay, who, along with two colleagues, took the money stuffed in their briefcases. The Hungarian Radio resumed its broadcasts after the siege using the 2 million pengos.



30. Szentharomsag Street looking towards the Matyas Church. There are piles of rubble everywhere although the street has been nicely swept. (family photo)

Another similar occurrence from the manuscript happened on February 7th. On that day, visitors arrived from the government in Debrecen. Jozsef Gabor, the minister of commerce and transportation, visited the directorate at the Dob Street headquarters. He arrived by automobile accompanied by his secretary and a Russian major. Immediately, the minister questioned the director in charge as to what authority they had to organize the postal service in Budapest. Pazmany's reply was short: "By my independent action because I love my occupation." Furthermore, they reported to the minister that they had the support and encouragement of the Soviet municipal commander and the Budapest National Council. After this short theatrical exchange, the minister presented the real purpose of his visit. The Provisional Government in Debrecen had exhausted all of the funds they collected in the liberated areas. They were advised that there is postal management in Budapest and thought that they might have some cash on hand. There was a large sum of cash at the Budapest no. 7 post office. The minister and the government in Debrecen were offered 7 million pengos. The minister was very happy with this offer and with the aid of his secretary and the Soviet officer immediately grabbed up the wads of banknotes and threw them on the floor and on the seats of their automobile since they did not have attache cases with them. Surrounded by banknotes, the Soviet major and the minister departed satisfied. The money and the passengers arrived safely in Debrecen, and the Provisional National Government had funds thanks to the generosity of the postal workers of Pest.

So, the postal people of Pest were able to pay out 11 million pengos in cash easily. Let's not forget that inflation has not kicked into gear yet, and this was an enormous sum. At that time, the postal system still did not have an income stream from the users of the postal service.

Naturally, the postal workers did not turn over all of their ready cash. They were able to easily cover expenses and payroll. After the liberation of the Buda side, they became aware that no cash could be found there, so they covered the pay of the postal workers of Buda as well. Again, there was no income for the postal system at this time, only expenses. The manuscript emphasizes this fact many times.

All postal workers reporting for duty regularly received their pay starting on February 1st.

Based on these facts, we can ascertain that the postal system was not in need of immediate income because they could afford to pay expenses out of available cash.

Therefore, we can continue to guess at the reason why there was a need for the arbitrary raising of the tariffs. In my opinion, the key to solving this is has to be an economic reason. The existing tariffs did not cover the operating costs at the time, especially the cost of transportation. The existing tariffs were based on normal operations, for example transportation using a truck as opposed to on foot now. In April, the post in Budapest had two horses and eight bicycles. They did not have any motor vehicles; their first one went into service on May 1st. As a result, after the siege, the post could not complete is operation as effectively as before the siege. Greater energy input was required to operate than before. Also, the price of the materials needed to function was beginning to increase and the old tariffs did not meet management needs. The post was a commercial entity that could not operate with a loss, so it required proper management. It had reserves, but these would be expended in a short time. In addition, the Pest side needed to support the Buda side because post offices did not function there, yet, and did not have income. They couldn't think of anything else to do but raise the rates in order to finance operations.

Therefore, the tariffs were increased to cover the increased cost of operation.

The expansive manuscript further discusses the restart of the post in our capital city through 1948 on subsequent pages. For us, however, the history of the first months are the most exciting and interesting because the history of this period had not been published anywhere else.

Starting on June 1, 1945, the Gazette of Postal Directives begins publication and the directives can be tracked easily.

After June 20, 1945, postal service is expanded to take in the entire country. This is, therefore, the date that postal service is fully restored following the war.

I'd like to thank the Postal Museum for the help in allowing me to do research in the library and for the use of the illustrations.

I'd also like to thank my fellow collector Laszlo Littvay for letting me illustrate the Budapest no. 70 identity certificate from his collection.

Also, I'd like to thank my fellow collector Antal Pukler for allowing me to show the postcard mailed from the Csepel no. 1 post office from his collection.

LITERATURE AND SOURCE REFERENCES

Dr. Bernath Gabor: Az 1945. evi tavaszi "Budapesti tarifa" es a korabeli onkenyes dijszabasok. I. es II. resz Belyegvilag 2004/7 – 8. es 2004/9.

Dr. Bernath Gabor: Levelzarlatok 1944. november – 1945. marcius. MABÉOSZ palyazatra beadott palyamu

Dan Janos: Budapesti es Nagy-Budapesti helyi dijszabasemeles 1945. marcius 2 – aprilis 30.

Gaspar Ferenc: Forrasok Budapest tortenetehez 1945 – 1950. Kossuth ny. 1973.

Horvath Attila: A magyar kozlekedesi rendszert ert haborus karok es a helyreallitas tapasztalatai 1944-1948

Kamondy Miklos: Észak-Magyarorszag hirkozlesenek tortenete. Hermann Otto Muzeum Miskolc, 1985

Nepszava, Szabad Szo es Szabadsag ujsagok relevans szamai 1945.

Dr. Pazmany Odon es Dr. Tarnai Albert: A magyar posta tortenete a felszabadulas utan 1945 – 1948 kezirat

Peterffy Gergely: Szarazfoldi Odusszeia – A II. vilaghaboru utani vasuti utazas – a forrastipusok tukreben / publikacio.uni.eszterhazy.hu

Rozsnyoi Agnes: Budapest hetkoznapjai a felszabadulas utan. Tanulmanyok Budapest multjabol 15/1963.

Szabo Jozsef: Kezbesitik az elso levelet. Magyar Nemzet 1965. 02. 09.

Sugar Istvan: Adatok Hajdu-Bihar megye felszabadulas utani postatortenetehez. Debrecen, Dery Muzeum Évkonyve 48. sz. 1965.

Ungvary Krisztian: Budapest ostroma. Corvina 2013.

Mafitt supports the appearance of the Hungarian Stamp Inspection Group on the Internet:



www.mafitt.hu/mbsz



MODERN POSTAL HISTORY – THE 1994 'NEPMUVESZET' ISSUES

BY MERVYN BENFORD, GREAT BRITAIN

In 1994 the first seven values of what was to be a longer definitive series under the heading Magyar Culture were issued: 11, 12, 19, 32, 35, 40 and 50Ft. It was a time of gathering, fairly fast inflation. A year later, almost as an after-thought a 1Ft. version appeared. Once a significant denomination, this was clearly something now to do with making-up unusual rates and its use on cover is interesting. The same year, though, saw a further six, including low values 2 and 3Ft., as well as 9, 14, 22 and 38Ft. Subtle rate changes? 1996 arrives and in July six more: 13, 16, 17, 24, 75, 80Ft. This reflects a growing, still slow rise in living costs. By September though, 300 and 500Ft. values appear. Then in March 1997 comes a 27Ft. single issue followed in July by a 60Ft. version but not a new design- a 60Ft. overprint on the existing 24 Ft. Both must reflect rate changes but I have just one cover single-franked as the rate. Otherwise, my examples are in stamp combinations. 24Ft. had presumably lapsed as a working rate? In 1998, we have a very modest 5Ft. and another single issue, 200Ft.

In 1999 came a re-designed 24Ft with a 65 and 90Ft. The 11th. issue still in 1999 brought two more- a most curious 79Ft. denomination with a more conventional 100Ft. Readers may enjoy the challenge and an intriguing pursuit of Hungary's 3rd. Inflation by connecting stamp issues with actual real and rapidly changing rates. The inflationary impact can also be seen in postal stationery from the humble postcard through to airmail.

It is interesting that it took eleven separate issues before a stamp of 100 Forint was needed! The series is distinctive in having some intriguing denominations as well as the overprint.

In all, to mid-1999- it embraces 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14,16, 22, 17, 19, 24 (+ re-designed version,) 27, 32, 35, 38, 40, 60 (overprint,) 65, 75, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300 and 500Ft. stamps.

Those years were a time of moderate economic inflation and all rates were open to changes. This may explain why stamps with unusual denominations such as 32Ft. and 79Ft. were produced and found used singly on covers. This may not reflect an actual rate: with rates changing and unusual face values, a 32Ft stamp may be a 30Ft. item but a little overpaid- as can happen with inflation effects. The same applies to total cost of an item: for example, 102Ft. could pay for a 100Ft. item. But two at 102Ft., one at 104Ft. and another at 107Ft. suggest exact rate calculation. I have several with 1Ft. which were surely part of a precise total calculation. Some unusual total fees appear in my tables, not least with low values such as 1Ft. and 2Ft., 3Ft. and 4Ft., which seem used to make those rates.

The unusual denominations make some interesting franking and intriguing postal history. The tables below do show total costs of items- often

the same total for a well-used service. For example, 65Ft. was a rate for a time for letters to Europe. Many of my covers are from a society member who was collecting the 3rd. inflation but had to stop. Rates to Europe are the majority and explain why I have more, but also reflect rate changes and weight steps. A full study of these years is not yet available so some rates perhaps did not all change every time and some changes came more quickly than others.

Dealers and auctioneers when sending items often use stamps from many series to please a collector! My one example has just the 1Ft. but that stamp was a necessary part of the total cost.

Stamps from this series shown in italics: Additional stamps from other series are given after the *italicised* Nepmuveszet series stamps and introduced by **code &***

Valuation

1 is lowest and 5 highest. My valuations are arbitrary. It is my best estimate using my interest in the series and my philatelic experience. I find lower rates less often. Some denominations reflect economic inflation. Would one ever have imagined stamps 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 even 19Ft. stamps? And what of 27, 32, 38 and 79Ft.? And two different 24Ft. stamps? I have not seen the second one used. The first one has the 60Ft. overprinted higher rate but not too common in its original form used.

Some of these are not very much found in my 144 covers- but do tell the story of the item! In times of rapid price rises stamps used singly for the rate can be few. In my 144 items there are just five. Pairs and strips likewise appeal and multiples used from the series are good to have. Use of the low values to make up rates is very interesting. Unusual postage items or rates add value. Used on stationery earns a premium.

My 114 covers reflect only the classes of mail I have. I argue their worth as modern postal history- some just as rare! Even in these 144 covers the 50Ft. is much used and the 40Ft., 60Ft. and 80Ft. often- easy to calculate perhaps- and surprisingly the unusual 22Ft. stamp, in strips- easy to count! Two 110Ft. items used five single 22Ft. stamps- more variety! Yet the 100Ft. is less used than the 1987 Castle version. For such an obvious face value, that stamp arrived rather late. Use of the separately issued 5Ft, 200Ft., and 27Ft. add to the story.

That 1987 definitive series is often used in total franking and often combined with random commemoratives make attractive covers. I indicate these with a large black '**C**'. Some go back 1972 and even a 60f stamp. I value covers using combinations of only the **NÉPMÜVÉSZET** series. (***Illustration 1)*** is probably philatelically unique- airmail registered to Canada, five denominations including a pair and a strip- total cost 244Ft. Find me another!



Illustration 1

These valuations are personal but reflect normal postal history aspects. Stamps used also with postage meter payments or for registration and express, printed matter, airmail or using postal stationery, or with delivery problems, or interesting destinations all add value. I have many at Europe letter rate but that helps track the rate period changes. Rates change during inflation- some shorter than others. I am open to other opinions and new information, about rate and date changes. I do not study this modern inflation. I believe it deserves research attention as much as 1920-26 and 1945-46.

In my 144 examples the majority were given me by a UK society member with Hungarian family and friends who, briefly, was interested in the inflation story. I do not know if weight steps but larger envelopes suggest it where envelopes were not marked "Nyomtatvany". This is not an inflation study as such but total item costs help track rate periods. More study is needed. I hope it raises interest.

My valuations are limited estimates. Readers know how often these stamps were used for other classes of mail- especially local and national rates. Perhaps we can start a debate about individual issues, rates or combinations seen less often. I clearly value cases covering the less common postal history items, including single franking and multiples.

The other stamps used raise further interest and which at times lend further value to the story (note Elvis! (***Illustration 2***.)



Illustration 2

95Ft. was a well-used rate but how many have that combination? The single issue 1Ft. and 5Ft. and later the 27Ft. and the re-designed 24Ft. and low denominations seem to justify a premium used as they surely reflect aspects of rates of the

day. The 79Ft. is so novel and being used adds to the impact! The 1999 Batthyany 27Ft. and the 2000 Duna-Drava National Park 34Ft. with the 79Ft. stamp makes a most unusual rate combination for 1.40Ft. letter rate to UK (***Illustration 3***.)



Illustration 3

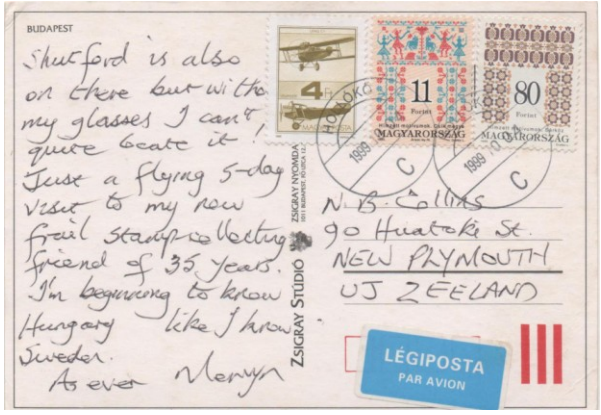


Illustration 4

Illustration 4 is a postcard of Budapest sent airmail to New Zealand from Holloko also at 95Ft. using a particularly impressive canceller (Illustration 4.) The 95Ft. rate paying the Elvis cover was a rate to Europe and my tables record four other examples each made up in different ways! The modern periods have much postal history interest.

My 2000 Hungarian catalogue values used at around a third of Mint or in the single issues a half. But the later issues, 200Ft., re-designed 24Ft., 65 Ft. 90Ft., 79Ft. and 100Ft. have used and mint equal- perhaps thinking less use by then likely, as for the other two issues that year- 1999. Is awareness dawning that used examples may be fewer? And on cover probably relatively scarce! The 11 issues over time played with perforations but the last issue returned to the first.



Illustration 5 (see explanation later on page 38)

I list below my 144 covers and an estimate of possible scarcity.

#	Description	Total	
1	Large letter Europe : 1998: strip 4 x 1Ft.: grossly under-franked noted: no PD	4 Ft	5
2	Large letter/packet Europe: 21.12.98: strip 3 x 3Ft.	9 Ft	5
3	Local Postcard Budapest: 24.6.95: 1Ft. &* 11Ft. stationery postcard	12 Ft	5
4	Letter Europe7.4.97: pair 9Ft.	18 Ft	5
5	Letter Europe 7.4.99: single 22Ft.	22 Ft	5
6	Letter Europe: 9.4.99: 3Ft. &* 20f	23 Ft	5
7	Letter within Hungary: Nov. 1998 : 2Ft. &* Stationery 22Ft. envelope:	24 Ft	5
8	Letter Europe: 1.7.96: 2Ft. &* Stationery 22Ft. envelope:	24 Ft	5
9	Postcard within Hungary: no date: pair 1Ft. &* 17Ft. stationery postcard + 5Ft.	24 Ft	5
10	Letter Europe 1997: pair 9Ft. &* 10Ft.	28 Ft	5
11	Letter Local Budapest: 8.2.98: pair 12Ft. &* 6Ft.	30 Ft	5
12	Letter within Hungary: 16.12.98: 3Ft. &* Stationery 27Ft. envelope:	30 Ft	5
13	Letter Europe: 14.12.02: single 32f	32 Ft	5
14	Letter Europe: 10.2.98: 16f &* 20f	36 Ft	4
15	Letter Europe: 1997: 14Ft. + 22Ft	36 Ft	5
16	Letter Europe: 11.7.95: pair 11Ft. &* 10Ft. + 4Ft.	36 Ft	5
17	Local printed Matter: date unclear: strip 3 x14Ft. &*invalid 1.50Ft.C + 60f C	4 410 Ft	5
18	Letter Europe: Dec. 1997: Overprinted 60Ft. used singly	60 Ft	5
19	Letter Europe: date unclear: 3Ft. &*22Ft.C &* 35Ft.C	60 Ft	5
20	Postcard Europe: July/Aug 1996: 50Ft. &* 10Ft. stationery postcard	60 Ft	5
21	Strip from large packet to Europe: 15.12.95: 2 x 11Ft. &* 5 x 4Ft. + 4 x 5Ft.	62 Ft	4
22	Postcard Europe: 4.2.98: 50Ft. &* 3Ft. stationery postcard + 4Ft. + 8Ft.	65 Ft	5
23	Postcard Europe: 5.7.98: Overprinted 60Ft &*5Ft.	65 Ft	4
24	Letter Europe: 15.12.99: Overprinted 60Ft. &*5Ft.	65 Ft	4
25	Letter Europe: 15.12.99: Overprinted 60Ft. + 5Ft.	65 Ft	4
26	Letter Europe: 15.11.95: strip 3 x 22Ft.	66 Ft	3
27	Large letter Europe: ? year: 50Ft. + 22Ft. much used stamps but my one 72Ft.	72 Ft	3
28	Letter Europe: 10.12.01: pair 38Ft.	76 Ft	4
29	Postcard Europe: 1.9.98: Overprinted 60Ft. &* 20Ft.	80 Ft	4
30	Postcard Europe: 31.7.2000: 80Ft.	80 Ft	4
31	Letter Europe: 9.12.96: pair 40Ft (5Ft. overpaid)	80 Ft	3
32	Letter Europe: 15.12.00 single 80Ft.	80 Ft	4
33	Letter Europe: Dec. 1996: 50Ft. &* 30Ft.	80 Ft	2
34	Letter Europe: 27.10.96: pair 40Ft. &* 5Ft.	85 Ft	3
35	Letter reg: within Hungary 26.6.96: pair 40Ft. &* 5Ft.	85 Ft	4
36	Letter Europe: 12.2.96: 50Ft.+ 2 x 2Ft. &*20Ft. &*10Ft. +*1Ft.	85 Ft	4
37	Letter Europe: 8.12.97: 80Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
38	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: pair 40Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
39	Letter Europe: 11.2.99: pair 40Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
40	Letter Europe: 1998(?): 22Ft. + 19Ft. + 2 x 12 Ft. + 14Ft. +11Ft.	90 Ft	5*
41	Letter Europe: 15.12.97: Overprinted 60Ft. &*10Ft. &* 20Ft.	90 Ft	3
42	Letter Europe: 5.12.97: 80Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	3
43	Letter Europe: 22.12.97: 50Ft. &* pair 20Ft.	90 Ft	2
44	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: 40Ft. + 50Ft.	90 Ft	4
45	Brochure Europe printed paper 9.9.92: single 2Ft &* 90Ft.	92 Ft	4
46	Newspaper Europe: printed paper date unclear: single 2Ft &* 90Ft.	92 Ft	4
47	Postcard New Zealand 4.10.99: 80Ft. + 11Ft. &* 4Ft.	95 Ft	5
48	Letter Europe: 8.1.96: strip 3 x 22Ft.+ 9Ft. &*20Ft.	95 Ft	4
49	Letter Europe: 21. 10.96: strip 4 x 22Ft. &*4Ft.&*3Ft.	95 Ft	2
50	Letter Europe: 22Ft. &* 4Ft. + 12Ft. + strip 3 x 19Ft. US soccer 1994(Elvis!)	95 Ft	5
51	Letter Europe: 19.9.96: strip of 4 x 22Ft. &* 7Ft.	95 Ft	2
52	Letter Europe: 18.1. 95: 50Ft. &* 10Ft. + 15Ft. + 20Ft.	95 Ft	2
53	Letter Europe: 1996: 75Ft. &* 20Ft.	95 Ft	5
54	Letter Europe: 18.10.96: pair 22Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft. + 1Ft.	95 Ft	3
55	Letter Europe: 1998: 40Ft. + 50Ft. &* 5Ft.	95 Ft	3
56	Letter Europe: 7.02.96: 50Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft.	100 Ft	2
57	Magyar Posta letter Europe: 27.4.99: pair 50Ft.	100 Ft	1
58	Magyar Posta letter Europe: 27.4.99: 2 x 50Ft:	100 Ft	1

#	Description	Total	
59	Letter Europe: 30.4.97: pair 50Ft.	100 Ft	1
60	Postcard Europe: 1.9.99: single 100Ft.	100 Ft	3
61	Postcard Europe: 1999: single 100Ft.	100 Ft	3
62	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: pair 50Ft. + 2Ft.	102 Ft	3
63	Letter Europe: 10.12.92 or 97: 2Ft. &* 100Ft.	102 Ft	4
64	Letter Europe: 10.12.02: pair 38Ft. &* 28Ft. red meter	104 Ft	5
65	Postcard Europe: 27.11.01: 100Ft. &* 7Ft.	107 Ft	4
66	Letter Europe: 22.5.96: 5 x 22Ft. all single stamps!	110 Ft	2
67	Letter Europe: 18.3. 96: 5 x 22Ft. all single stamps!	110 Ft	2
68	Letter Europe: date unclear: 2Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft.	112 Ft	4
69	Letter Europe: 22.1.97: 14Ft. + pair 50Ft.	114 Ft	4
70	Letter Europe: 23.3.99: 5Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft.	115 Ft	4
71	Letter Europe: date unclear: 1Ft., &* 100Ft.C + 12Ft.C + 7Ft.	120 Ft	5
72	Letter Europe: 13.10.97: 2Ft. + 35Ft. +75Ft. &* 16Ft.C	128 Ft	5
73	Letter Europe: date unclear: 50Ft. + 80Ft.	130 Ft	3
74	Letter Europe: 16.2.99: 80Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft + 10Ft.	130 Ft	2
75	Letter Europe: 16.2.99: 80Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft.	130 Ft	2
76	Letter Europe: 25.1.99: pair 5Ft. &* pair 60Ft.C was forwarded	130 Ft	5
77	Letter Europe: 31.3.2001: 100Ft. &* 40Ft.C	140 Ft	3
78	Letter Europe: 29.10.01: 79Ft. &* 27Ft.C + 34Ft.C	140 Ft	5
79	Letter Europe: 19.10.98: Overprinted 60Ft. + 80Ft.	140 Ft	4
80	Letter Europe: 14.10.02: 40Ft &* 28Ft.C + 2Ft.C (from 1981) + 70Ft.	140 Ft	3
81	Letter Europe: 5.12.99: strip 3 x 50Ft.	150 Ft	2
82	Letter Europe: 16.4.02: 50Ft. + 100Ft.	150 Ft	4
83	Letter Europe 11.11.02: Overprinted 60Ft. &* 90Ft.C	150 Ft	3
84	Letter Europe: 2.5.17: 38Ft. &*red meter 112Ft.	150 Ft	5
85	Letter Europe: 4.4.06: 100Ft. & *1Ft.C (from 1979) + 49Ft. Postal label	150 Ft	5
86	Letter Europe: date unclear: 50Ft. &* 5Ft. + 100Ft.: maybe weight step	155 Ft	4
87	Letter Europe: 13.1.01: pair 80Ft. + 1Ft. &* pair 3Ft.C (1Ft.needed!)	167 Ft	5
88	Printed Matter Europe: 20.12.99: 5Ft. &* pair 50Ft.C + 70Ft.C	175 Ft	5
89	Letter Europe: date unclear: pair 40Ft. &* 100Ft. large env.	180 Ft	3
90	Letter Europe: 13.6.97 same sender: maybe printed matter: 80Ft. &* 100Ft.	180 Ft	3
91	Letter Europe: re-addressed: 13.9.97: 2 x 40Ft. &* 100Ft.	180 Ft	3
92	Booklet Europe: printed paper: 2Ft. &* pair 90Ft.	182 Ft	5
93	Letter Europe: 17.3.98: 40Ft. + 50Ft. &* 100Ft. maybe printed matter	190 Ft	4
94	Letter Europe: 18.12.05: 100Ft. &*50Ft.C + 48Ft.C	198 Ft	4
95	Letter Europe: 2001: postmark with SB: single 200Ft.	200 Ft	5
96	Large Letter: Europe: re-addressed: pair 5Ft. &* pair 100Ft.	210 Ft	5
97	Large letter: Europe: 50Ft. &* 2 x 30Ft. + 100Ft.	210 Ft	4
98	Large Letter: Europe: 18.12.98: strip 4 x 50Ft. &* 20Ft.	220 Ft	3
99	Letter Europe: 13.6.97: 3Ft. &* 16Ft. stationery envelope + 4Ft., + 15Ft.+ 1Ft.C + 2Ft.C + pair 90Ft.C	221 Ft	5
100	Letter Europe: 16.10.98: 2Ft. &* pair 100Ft. + 30Ft.	232 Ft	4
101	Letter Europe: 19.2.96: strip 4 x 50Ft. + single 50Ft.	250 Ft	2
102	Letter Europe: 22.12.98: pair 100Ft. &* 50Ft.	250 Ft	4
103	Letter reg. air Canada: 20.2.97: strip 3 x 50Ft +50Ft.&* 2x 12Ft.+19Ft.+1Ft.	244 Ft	5*
104	Large letter Europe: 10.12.97: 50Ft. + 14Ft. &* pair 100Ft.	264 Ft	4
105	Express letter UK: 17.12.98: 200Ft. + 80Ft. + 5Ft. &* 4Ft	289 Ft	5
106	Very Large Env. Europe: 10.4.98: strip 4 x 50Ft + strip 3 x 50Ft.? printed paper	350 Ft	5
107	Very Large letter Europe: 4.3.96: strip 5 x 50Ft +pair 2 x 50Ft.? printed paper	350 Ft	5
108	Reg. letter UK: 17.5.98: 200Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft. + pair 30Ft.	377 Ft	5
109	Printed paper large: 3.6.99: pair 200Ft. &*50Ft.	450 Ft	5
110	Large letter: Europe: 1997: 1Ft. + 75Ft. &* strip 5 x 100Ft. ? pr. matter	576 Ft	5
111	Large letter reg. UK: 24.4.98: pair 300Ft. + 50Ft.	650 Ft	5
112	Registered letter Europe: pair 500Ft. &* 300Ft.C	1 300 Ft	5
113	Registered large letter Europe: 18.12.15: pair 300Ft. + pair 500Ft.	1 600 Ft	5*
114	Very large letter Special Delivery Europe: 1Ft. &* 5Ft. + 2 x 27Ft.C +14 x 200Ft.C+ 7 x 1000Ft.C with POSTAI LEZÁROS postmarks. It needed the 1Ft. to make Total 9860Ft.	9 860 Ft	5*

The artist, Dudas Laszlo, was born in 1935 and died in 2014, age 79. 227 stamps bear his name.

From Wikipedia we learn that he became friends with computer design early on. He considered computer knowledge to be so important in graphic work that he also organized a solo thematic exhibition on it in 1996. He presented the results of his own experiences to visitors, for example in making the symmetry of the Folk Art line. This definitive series has pattern at its heart.

He believed stamps were objects of everyday use and it did not matter what they looked like. They disseminated knowledge in particular, almost subconsciously- giving a lot of interesting information without intentionally wanting to learn from it. In 1990 he received the Munkacsy Prize. The most beautiful stamp of the year was awarded the King Matthias Mass Book Block in 1993. He received the Hungarian Post's Art Prize in 1992 and 2004 as well.

He began as an industrial designer by designing hydrofoils on the Danube. He later worked on advertising graphics, thanks in part to the Volan logo and image, and made his mark. After it turned out that he had the indispensable special vision needed for this miniature creation, stamp design became a significant part of his work from the 1970s.

I hope this study reflects my belief that the future of philately is secure- postal history, stamps, why issued, rates and their journeys. Of the 144 examples, 71 had been sent to the one person- who kept them! 9 were to me- also kept! Just 31 went elsewhere. There will be others maybe using stamps issued after my 2000 catalogue- but how many? They will change my valuations. I give some more illustrations which I think important as postal history ***(Illustrations 5-7***). How many similar exist? How many at the rates in my table still exist? What new information can readers give me?

Many of the additional stamps from other series were from other basic definitive series. Their use is worth similar study. Can we interest collectors today in these later stamps? In 100 years' time, when 1867 and 1871 lithograph and their like and postal history of the spring of 1945 will need good bank accounts to collect, these now modern issues may be the last stamps ever issued as technology takes over world communication.



Illustration 6-7

NEWS

During the second half of the year, several members of Mafitt participated in two international exhibitions. Their highest award as a large vermeil LV) medal, for which we congratulate three of them.



FEPA and FIP medals of the period

LIBEREC 2022 FEPA EXHIBITION 13-16 OCTOBER

Class	Exhibition results of *Mafitt members*	**Awards**
	Peter Csicsay	
PH	The Postal History of Kingdom of Hungary 1900-1918	**LV**
	Ute & Elmar Dorr	
PH	The Orient Express 1883-1914	**LV**
	Elmar Dorr	
PH	Historical Forays through the Postal History of the Town of Neustadt an der Haardt	**V**
	Ladislav Fekete	
PH	The Austrian imperial and Royal Navy in the World War I.	**V**
	Gyorgy Lovei	
1FR	Interim Use of the Czechoslovakian Air Mail Stamps during the Interim period of the Czechoslovakian Currency Reform (01.06.1953-18.06.1953)	**85p**
	Gyorgy Toth	
PH	Forint-filler	**V**
	Karoly Szucs	
TR	On the Rough Road of Independence – Beginning of the domestic stamp production in Hungary	**V**

POLAR SALON

	Zsolt Bodnar	
PH	Philately of Franz Josef Land	**LS**

CAPE TOWN 2022 FIP EXHIBIT 8-12 NOVEMBER

Class	Exhibition results of *Mafitt members*	Awards
	Artur Banas	
1FR	A miracle of a great discovery, the Victoria falls	**82p**
	Gyorgy Lovei	
AE	Postal documents of the international air mail service to and from Hungary till 31.12.1933	**V**
1FR	Interim use of Czechoslovakian stamps during the monetary reform period (01.06-18.06.1953)	**78p**
	Karoly Szucs	
REV	Spreading the stamping of documents in the Habsburg Empire by Hungarian eyes	**LV**
LIT	100 years of MABEOSZ/MABÉOSZ 1922-2022	**V**



The award ceremony for exhibitors who won large golds at the Cape Town 2022 exhibition

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 XXXIII





2015

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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research
H-1074 Budapest, Harsfa u. 47 Belyegmuzeum, Mafitt
e-mail: **info@mafitt.hu**

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation.

23
1

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2023/1

Content:

Florent Tricot	Rounding and Minimum of Postage Due on the Inland Mails During the Hyperinflation	1
Janos Dan	Tarif of Pest –2 March – 30 April 1945	12
Mervyn Benford	Modern Postal History – The 1994 ‘NEPMUVESZET’ Issues	33
News		39

Editor: Karoly Szucs, member of Mafitt and curator of the Gervay Foundation
Translator: Csaba Kohalmi member of Mafitt-presidency and Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) and dr. Gyorgy Lovei

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

ROUNDING AND MINIMUM OF POSTAGE DUE ON THE INLAND MAILS DURING THE HYPERINFLATION



BY FLORENT TRICOT, FRANCE

I- INTRODUCTION

The postage stamps issued by the Hungarian Post Office during hyperinflation all had a fixed facial value. With pengo inflation, and therefore postal rates, these facial values all quickly became too small for franking in the post-issuance periods. Massive postage followed, not always covering the rate. In addition, misery growing and out of spite, people tended to use their remaining postage stamps for their mail, even if their total only partially covers the rate.

Like postage stamps, postage due stamps have obviously suffered the same problems, which poses a logistical concern for the supply of post offices. This led the Hungarian Post Office to stop using postage due stamps and favour handwritten markings, and sometimes the use of postage stamps for postage due purposes.

To avoid carrying out postage due calculations involving too small values, the Hungarian Post Office implemented two methods: the postage due rounding and the minimum of postage due, their amounts depending on the periods. I will confine myself here to Hungary's inland mails (covers and postcards) excluding parcels cards; for the difficult subject of foreign mails, this will be the subject of a future article.

II- ROUNDING DURING THE HYPERINFLATION

1. Rounding compared to the postal regulations

Regarding rounding, they were ordered by the scale of the rates and above all the reasonable minimum face values available in post offices during each period.

Postal texts approach the subject of rounding in a very disparate way, and this only for the rounding of the postage due in adopengo (aP) to be converted into pengo on the parcel cards. The adopengo currency was put in place on January 1, 1946 and it was withdrawn on the last day of hyperinflation (July 31, 1946), its exchange was made daily and as the postage due amounts were fixed in aP there was a need to round the amounts in pengo to hope to frank them. The Hungarian Post Office decided to issue its rates and postage stamp's facial values in aP only between July 12 and July 31, 1946. It may be thought that these rounding's were the same as those made on postage due items, but the only documents as far as I know who's the postage due was rounded up during the aP period came largely from January and February 1946, therefore we cannot definitely conclude.

What is certain is that at the height of hyperinflation until July 11, 1946, the aP/P conversion rate advanced at an insane pace during the same period when the postal rates were themselves

fixed, therefore the rounding on parcel cards and on postage due mails should not correspond. In addition, the revenue due to be paid on the parcel cards were 100 aP until April 30, 1946 and 500 aP after, these sums converted into pengo did not have the same importance according to the days, and according to the periods, it ranged from small amounts almost negligible up to sums comparable to the postal rate used.

For the first periods of hyperinflation, the only reference in the postal texts indicates that from October 24, 1945, the filler is no longer used in the calculations, and the postage stamps expressed in this sub-currency (1Pengo = 100filler) are then removed. We can then think that on this date, the rounding was then done to the nearest 1 P.

Thus, here too, only a statistical study can give a glimpse of what was done at the time when a postal employee was required to round up the amount to be collected from the recipient. I tried to conduct this study and I am therefore reporting my findings to you now.

Legal rounding from period1 to period7 (May1, 1945 –February18, 1946):

First, rounding can be done by excess (use of a value greater than the number considered) or by default (lower value), it is always done according to an imposed precision. For example, the number 1.5 rounded up to the nearest unit gives 2, this gives 1 by default. To give an example in currency, the value 1.75P rounded to the nearest 10f by excess gives 1.80P, while by default, this gives 1.70P. Almost all of the postage due rounding cases I have seen showing that these rounding was done by excess, very little by default.

They were made on the result of the postage due calculation, both of the deficiency. In rare cases, the deficiency was rounded off before being doubled, an exception that proves the rule.

Over a period, if the majority of rounded postage due cases are carried out in the same way, it can be said that they are made according to an established regulation known at the time. From period1 to period7, I made this comparison and I can say that the rounding calculations over a period were the same in terms of precision. It remains just to find the postal texts that speak of it. I call these rounding, the “legal rounding”.

Apart from these legal rounding, there are the rounding of convenience, to see in II-4 of my article.

There is a trigger for legal rounding only if the amount due is not given in the legal precision: for example, if the precision of a rounding is 1P, the amount to be collected must be rounded if it does not is not a multiple of 1P, such as 4.80P for example.

Rounding in the postage due calculation was made either by an employee in the shipping post office, or by one in the distribution office if the former had forgotten to do it. The unrounded amount owed from the first was then simply crossed out and readjusted by the second.

Here is the list of legal rounding:

period 1 and period 2 (May 1 to September 15, 1945): rounded to the nearest 10f period 3: (September 16 to October 31, 1945): rounded to the nearest 1P period 4 and period 5 (November 1, 1945 to January 13, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10P period 6 and period 7 (January 14 to February 28, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100P.

Illustrating documents (01 to 06):



1. 18f stationery postcard sent from Csomor on June 27, 1945 (period 1) to Szekesfehervar. The rate for a domestic postcard is 60f. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (60-18) = 84f.

The Csomor post office employee wrote “84” on the postcard (partially covered by the postage due stamps) with a T postage due marking. In Szekesfehervar, the amount of the postage due has been changed; it has been rounded off 10f by excess to 90f, handwritten "90 filler" in pencil. Then, 30f and 60f brown postage due stamps were affixed on June 29.



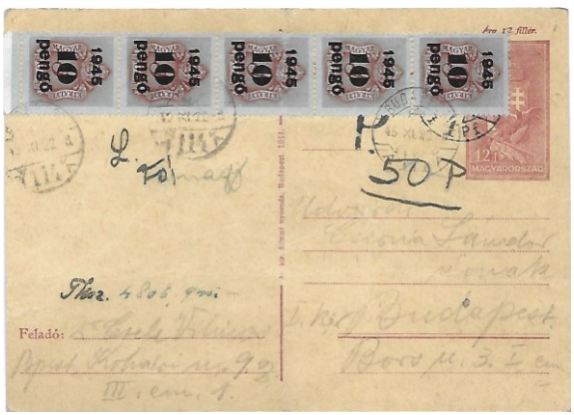
2. Postcard sent stamped at 2.03P with two 18f postage stamps demonetized on August 15, from Szekszard on Sept.r 4, 1945 (period2) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200-(203-36)) = 66f rounded to the nearest 10f by excess to 70f. In Szekszard the post office employee circled the 18f postage stamps and handwrote "70 fil"; in Budapest the overprinted postage due stamps 10f /*8 f*, 20f /*4f* and 40f /*18f* have been affixed.



3. Local 18f stationery postcard, insufficiently stamped with 18f (postcard facial)+50f+1P = 1.68P, sent from Budapest on September 30, 1945 (period3).

The rate (PRT127.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 4P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (4-1.68) = 4.64P rounded to the nearest 1P by excess to 5P. In Budapest2, the post office employee affixed the overprinted postage due stamps on October 9: one at 1P /*10f* and two at 2P /*60f* (offset printing variety).



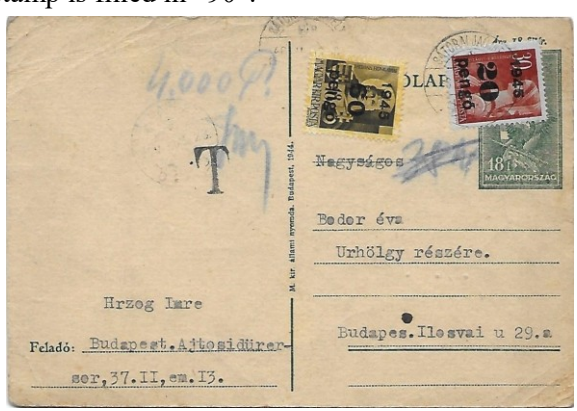
4. Local postcard (12f worthless at this date) sent unpaid from Budapest4 on November 12, 1945 (period4). The rate (PRT134.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 24P.

The calculation of the amount due is 2x24 = 48P rounded to the nearest 10P by excess to 50P. The Budapest4 post office employee wrote 50P on the postcard with a P postage due marking. In Budapest114, the post office employee affixed 5 overprinted postage due stamps 10P/*3f* on November 22 (period5).



5. Local postcard (18f worthless) insufficiently stamped with 5P + 3x30f = 5.90P, sent from Budapest on December 4, 1945 (period5).

The rate (PRT138.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 50P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (50-5.9) = 88.2P rounded to the nearest 10P by excess to 90P, "90P" was handwritten in blue pencil. On December 5, a red postage due rubberstamp is filled in “90”.



6. Postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 20P+60P=80P from Satoraljaujhely on February 17, 1946 (period7) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT204.800/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2,000P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (2.000-80) = 3.840P, a T postage due marking is struck and "3840" has been written on the card in Satoraljaujhely. In Budapest on February 22, “3840” is cancelled and replaced by “4.000P” accompanied by the signature of the post office employee, the rounding here was done **on the deficiency**: 2.000-80 = 1920P rounded to the nearest 100P by excess at 2,000P, and 2x2,000 = 4,000P.

2. Legal rounding from the period8 (March1 to July31, 1946)

For this part, the examples of rounding the postage due are obviously extremely few. From the documents I know, I can just say that:

period 13 (April 23 to 30, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000P;

period 25 (July 12 to 17, 1946): rounded to 5,000 aP (adopengo).

For the other periods, we can try to take into account what had been done elsewhere and the amounts of the postal rates for each, this would give:

periods 8 to 12 (March 1 to April 22, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000P;

period 14 (May 1 to 9, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000P;

period s15 to 17 (May 10 to 31, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000P (1 million);

period 18 (June 1 to 10, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000,000P (10 million);

period 19 (June 11 to 16, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000 P (100 million);

period 20 (June 17 to 23, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000 P (1 billion);

period 21 (June 24-30, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000,000,000P (10 billion);

period 22 (July 1 to 3, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000,000P (1 trillion);

period 23 (July 4 to 7, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000,000,000P (100 trillion);

period 24 (July 8 to 11, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000,000,000P (1 quadrillion);

period 26 (July 12 to 23, 1946): rounded up to 5,000AP or 10,000 aP? near;

period 27 (July 24 to 31, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000 aP.

These numbers are just speculation, perhaps (or surely) that some readers will be able to provide examples that will confirm or refute them.

Illustrating document (07) :



7. 07- Insufficiently stamped local postcard with 50eP +15eP = 65eP (= 65,000P) covering an unaccounted postage (2x TI.2. + Tlp.2. = 8,000P) from Budapest on April 23, 1946 (first day period 13).

The rate (PRT220.600 / 4.) for a local postcard is 200,000P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200,000-65,000) = 270,000P, however the amount to be collected is handwritten on April 24 "280,000" accompanied by the T handwritten and

a signature. Note that the amount had to be written in 2 times, first "80,000", then the "2".

Rounding here has been done **on the deficiency**: 200,000-65,000 = 135,000P rounded to the nearest 10,000P by excess in 140,000P, then 2x140,000 = 280,000.

3. Convenience rounding

A convenience rounding is a rounding done despite the calculation rule used, it is obviously applied to use the stamps available in a post office. These cases are apparently few in number and should not be considered as miscalculations depreciating the mails, they testify to a specific constraint such as for example the shortage of stamps in a post office.

Illustrating documents (08 and 09) :



8. Postcard insufficiently franked at 18f (facial) sent from Cegled on September 11, 1945 (period 2) to Irsa.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x(2-0.18)=3.64P. A postage due stamp overprinted 1P/10f, a 2P/60f and a bisected 80f/30f to make 40f are affixed in Alberti-Irsa post office on September 12.

The total of these postage due stamps is 3.40P. The legal rounding in period 2 of 3.64P should have been 3.6P or 3.7P, these postage due stamps were affixed for convenience and the amount to be collected was determined by this convenience.

We are here faced with a shortage of postage due stamps with filler denomination, certainly up to 60f, in the Irsa post office around mid-September 1945. This shortage also exists in other post offices: at least one other cover is known with the use of a bisected 80f in the Hajduboszormeny post office on September 13 (Dan Janos collection). We are probably just before the arrival of the postage due stamps with overprints from the State Printing Workshops (which followed the overprints made in the Athenaeum Printing Workshops since June 1, 1945): while waiting for their arrival, it was necessary to compensate for the lack of facial values with, for example, the use of stamp cuttings for part of their value.



9. Postcard (18f stationery worthless at this date) insufficiently stamped with 4f + 18f + 8x20f = 1.82P, sent from Balatonszemes to Budapest on October 20,

The rate of period 3 (PRT127.000/A.4) is 6P for a domestic postcard. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (6-1.82) = 8.36P. "8P", the default rounding to 1P near 8.36P, was handwritten

in Balatonszemes near the 18f postage stamp. In Budapest, the handwritten postage due is covered on October 24 with a "10" and an overprinted 10P /*3f* postage stamp is affixed. The legal rounding is to within 1P during the period 3; the number 10 does not therefore result from a rounding of 8.36P to the nearest 1P. The explanation is that only the minimum face value of 10P for a postage due stamp should be available at this post office, so it was used for convenience.

III- MINIMUM OF POSTAGE DUE DURING HYPERINFLATION

The principle of the "minimum of postage due" is that the sum due by the recipient must not be less than a regulatory sum. So, the Post will therefore charge no less. During hyperinflation, the amount of this minimum depended on the periods the postal regulations approach it regularly.

4. Minimum amounts for inland mails in relation to regulations, period 2 / period 27

As the postal texts (PRT = Postai Rendeletek Tara = The Gazette of Postal Regulations) were not known until June 9, 1945, it does not indicate what applied to period 1 (May 1 to July 1, 1945), but I will discuss them in part III-4.

For the other period s, the amounts are known. You just have to indicate that for some periods (9 to 13), there was no any regulation relating to the minimum of postage due. See the table below:

period	amount	period	amount	period	amount
		10	No regulation	19	800 millionP
2	40f	11	No regulation	20	4 billionP
3	1P	12	No regulation	21	80 billionP
4	10P	13	No regulation	22	8 trillionP
5	20P	14	400,000P	23	400 trillionP
6	100P	15	2,000,000P	24	20,000 trillionP
7	500P	16	8 millionP	25	5,000 AP (Adópengő)
8	3,000P	17	24 millionP	26	25,000AP
9	No regulation	18	80 millionP	27	100,000AP

From the Period 14, the minimum of postage due legally corresponds to half the rate for a local postcard, this also equals to the rate for a first level (up to 20g) printed matter.

Forced to note that there are very few mails on which a minimum of postage due has been applied. The majority of them do carry an amount due to the minimum of collection, but because the calculation of the amount due does exactly this minimum. The interest is increased when the calculation of the sum due gives a sum below the minimum of postage due, then we can see the real effect of this minimum.

5. Postage due mails with exactly the amount of the minimum of postage due

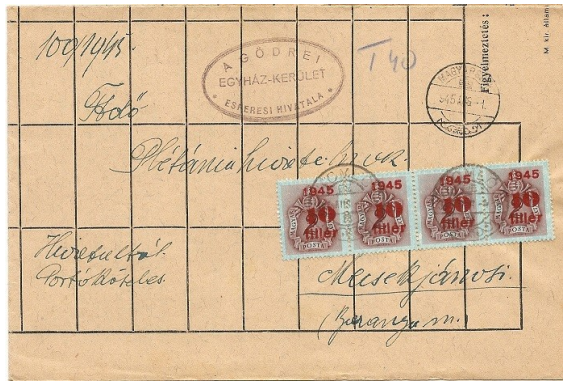
Here are first some mails whose calculation of the amount due does exactly the minimum of postage due:

Illustrating documents (10 to 13) :



10. Postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 80f+1P = 1.80P, from Gyongyos on July 3, 1945 (period 2) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200-180) = 40f. In Gyongyos is handwritten "P 40 f ", in Budapest a 40f /*12f* overprinted postage due stamp is affixed. 40f is the minimum of postage due for the period 2.



11. Official folded form (correspondence between religious offices) with the rate payable by the addressee (Hivatalbol portokoteles) from Magyarszek on August 1, 1945 (period 2) to Mecsekjanosi.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a printed matter is 40f at the first class. In Magyarszek is handwritten "T 40", in Komlo (post office near Mecsekjanosi) are affixed 4 overprinted 10f /*2f* postage due stamps on August 4.



12. Postcard insufficiently franked at 200mP (200,000,000P), sent from Budapest on June 10, 1946 (period 18) to Karcag.

The rate (PRT231.500/4) for a domestic postcard is 240 mP. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (240-200) = 80 mP. In Budapest is handwritten "T.80mil. ", The postage due was followed up to Karcag without further addition. 80 mP is the minimum of postage due for the period 18.



13. Local letter in printed matter rate ('Nyomtatvany' mention handwritten under the research coupon and not unsealed envelope), sent from Budapest on July 1, 1946 (first day period 22), insufficiently stamped 20,000mP + 30,000mP =50mrdP instead of 8bP (=8,000 mrdP) for 20g (PRT237.500/4).

The postage is neglectible and since the cover is not closed, the postman changed it with the single deficiency 8bP-50bP (= 0) = 8bP. The amount to be paid is handwritten "8 billio" in a red postage due rubberstamp. The minimum of postage due for the period 22 is 8bP (= 8,000,000,000,000P).

6. Mails whose the postage due is raised to the minimum of postage due

The function of the minimum of postage due is for the postal employee not to use too small sums for the application of a postage due. So if the calculated postage due amount is less than the minimum, the minimum was applied:

Illustrating documents (14 and 15) :



14. Local postcard sent insufficiently stamped to 4x30f+10f+20f=1.50P from Budapest on August 11, 1945 (period 2).

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a local postcard is 1.60P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (160-150) = 20f, 20f is less than the 40f minimum of postage due for the period 2, so 40f is applied. "40" is handwritten and an overprinted 40f /*18f* postage stamp is affixed on August 12.



15. Postcard (12f worthless) franked with 18f+2x20f+30f+2x60f+2x1P+2P=6.08P with a 18f postage stamp demonetized on August 15, sent from Budapest on October 5, 1945 (period 3) to Szeged.

The rate (PRT127.000/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 6P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (6- (6.08-0.18)) = 0.2P. 20f is less than the minimum collection of 1P for the period 3, so 1P is charged. "1 P" is entered in green pencil, amount followed in Szeged without further addition.

7. The period 1

Without a written reference in the postal regulations, only the search for a maximum of mails whose situation is similar to an application of a minimum of postage due can show us its reality. After seeing several of these documents, I take it upon myself to affirm that there was indeed a minimum of postage due in period 1, and that it was 20f.

The 2 mails below carry a 20f postage due while the calculation of their amount due gives lower sums:

Illustrating documents (16 and 17) :



*16. Local printed matter postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 5f+4f(red meter stamp)=9f from Budapest4 on May 1, 1945 (**first day of period 1**).*

The rate for a first level printed matter is 10f. The calculation of the sum due is 2x (10-9) = 2f. On May 4, at office 741b, a 20f brown postage due stamp is pasted but the recipient is unknown at the address indicated (Ismeretlen / INCONNU.=Unknown sticker). Back in this post office, the new address is researched and then found (written in green, the sticker is then crossed out) and a new 20f postage due (handwritten under the sticker) is charged on July 7 at office 741co.



17. Cover sent insufficiently stamped with 2x18f+2x30f=96f from Budapest on June 9, 1945 (period 1) to Debrecen.

The rate for a domestic letter is 1P at the first weight level. The calculation of the amount due is

2x (100-96) = 8f. However, the amount charged is 20f, handwritten in blue next to a P postage due marking. The postage due is followed at Debrecen without further addition.

The fact that the 20f postage due amount is handwritten prove that it was not applied for convenience, such as for example to orient the amount due to use an available postage due stamp. It results from a postal regulation. It remains to find the postal regulation that addressed it.

IV- CONCLUSION

It's remaining a case to be found: an official item payable by the addressee, in printed matter first class rate, sent in period 1. This rate is 10f for 20g, but the minimum of postage due would be 20f : who won so?

It can be seen that determining a sum due during hyperinflation sometimes required juggling with rounding calculations and changing regulations over time. Calculations to be made and sometimes decision-making according to the constraints of the moment, post office workers at the time had to curse this kind of correspondence. This is ultimately one aspect of postage due area during Hungarian hyperinflation which highlights the richness and above all the complexity of its study.

USED LITERATURE

- «The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946» by Robert Morgan in 2003, pages15 to 18, pages91 to 93, page 146

- PRT 1945 and 1946

- Sharing information and scans with other collectors

- Own studies and postal items from my collection.

TARIF OF PEST –2 MARCH – 30 APRIL 1945



BY JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST

Researching and collecting the raised tariffs of the restarted postal service following the military operations that included the siege of Budapest had been an important and favourite collecting area of mine.

I've been composing his article for at least 15 years because I wanted to write a study about this topic that used source material containing actual facts and not just suppositions and hypotheses.

For the most part, the lack of information impeded my work. This has changed little; but, with time, the increasing number of source that have come to light provided the needed stimulus for this work. I have composed several versions of this article about the topic, but none of these have been published yet. As I became aware of a steady stream of new sources, I continued to re-write my article several times in order for it to be current. Perhaps now, my writing contains much new, and hitherto unknown information entitling me with an opportunity to share this data with fellow collectors. I am striving to be accurate and to correct some of the misconceptions and conclusions that have cropped up in the meantime. Many of these incorrect bits of information came about because of the lack accurate sources.

SOURCES

Information needed to be gathered little bits at a time because many times we're lucky to find a single sentence dealing with the postal service buried in 4-500 pages of available literature. As part of my research in order to get the best, most accurate picture, I looked over every daily newspaper that appeared in Budapest during this time looking for relevant announcements about the postal service. These were the Nepszava (People's Word), the Szabad Szo (Free Speech) and the Szabadsag (Liberty) newspapers, on the pages of which I succeeded in finding a few interesting, previously unpublished acts.

The greatest breakthrough for me came in finding a manuscript in the library of the Postal Museum a few years ago. I attribute the finding of this manuscript to a lucky accident. While reading an article that had nothing to do with postal history, I noticed a footnote in which the author referenced a manuscript. Its location was not noted except for the name of title and the author. I proceeded to look for this manuscript and was able to find it in the library of the Postal Museum. I would like to emphasize that this was a manuscript that existed as a single copy that was never duplicated or published as a book. Up to that time, nobody had used the manuscript as a reference work with the exception of the one use in the footnote in the aforementioned work. Thus, the orphaned manuscript collected dust in the library despite the fact that it was an unrivalled source of information for research about the postal history of Budapest following the siege. This previously unknown writing contained authentic facts because the two authors of the manuscript were active participants in the events.

The manuscript was prepared to the 25th anniversary of our liberation in 1970. It contains the

reminiscences of the two authors, who were probably prompted to do so. Despite this, it was not published, the reasons for which is not known. References to criticizing the past postal officials for not rewarding the employees who participated in the rebuilding effort are sprinkled throughout the manuscript. It is possible that this was the reason why it was never published.

The condition of the 253 typewritten pages with actual photographs pasted into it, bound together, is in excellent shape; and, apparently, it has never been read. Perhaps this is the copy that was submitted for approval. There are no other copies in the library and no one is aware of any others. It is possible that the authors retained a similar, bound copy.

The manuscript deals with the first three years of the post office following the liberation. Its title is "Dr. Odon Pazmany & Dr. Albert Tarnai, The History of the Hungarian Post after the Liberation, 1945-1948."

The history of the Pest side was written by Dr. Odon Pazmany (postal director). Pazmany survived the siege while sheltering in the basement of the headquarters of the Federation of Postal Department Associations located on Benczur Street together with many other postal employees from Pest and environs. Today, the building houses the Postal Museum. Before the war, he authored the book "The Organization and Management of the Hungarian Royal Post." After the war, he wrote the publication, "The Postal Handbook." Before and after the war, Pazmany was also responsible for editing the monthly magazine, "Magyar Post."

Dr. Albert Tarnai (vice-secretary and later the head director of the Post) wrote about the happenings on the Buda side. Unfortunately, I could not find any additional information about him.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE POST ON THE PEST SIDE? JANUARY-MAY, 1945

On **January 15th**, the first Russian soldier appeared in the yard of the headquarters building on Benczur Street. The postal employees in the basement shelter were free to go about their business as of that day. They survived the siege well-provisioned because a large quantity of foodstuffs were stored in the building assuring them of three meals a day, providing them with pseudo-royal treatment.

On **January 22nd**, the personnel were able to venture from Benczur Street to the directorate located on Dob Street. They found other postal employees in the shelter there. Together they established the impromptu Hungarian Postal Employees Workers' Council. They requisitioned a more or less intact office in the building for their use.



1. The building of the Postal Directorate on Dob Street from 1939 Source: internet

On January 23rd, they reported to the Russian commander of the city headquartered in the Fire fighters' Barracks on Kun Street. They advised Major General Chernyshov that they intended to restart the operation of the Hungarian Post in Pest. This pleased the commandant and he gave his permission for the postal activity, but he asked to be given a battery operated radio. Of course, this did not mean that actual work was about to start. Preliminary tasks involved notifying the workers, assessing the damage to the postal buildings, repairing the offices, collecting the postal equipment, acquiring replacements as well as inventorying and re-allocating the surviving gear.

On January 24th, the postal workers who were returning to work received their assignments. Those who worked at the directorate were told to stay in place. Those who worked at specific post offices were told to report their individual post offices and await further instructions. The removal of the debris from the Dob Street building also got under way. The Workers' Council drafted decrees number 1 and 2.

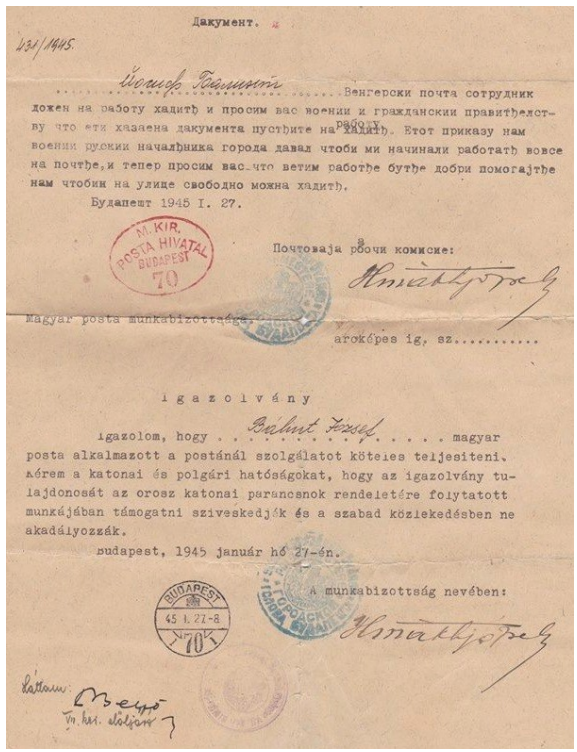
The opening line of decree no. 1 stated: "According to the No. 1 order from the military commander of Budapest: 1. Every official is required to continue performing their duty."

Point 3/f of the decree no. 2 was: "in order to restart the postal traffic as soon as possible, preparations need to be made to identify letter collection boxes; to repair equipment and installations necessary for the collection and delivery of letters, etc."

Point 4: Service working hours will be 9 to 13 hours long because of the current conditions.

On January 25th, the Workers' Council issued decrees no. 3, 4, and 5. Decree no. P/5/Mb/1945 identified the need to secure all mailings located in the post offices. It stipulated that the items of value and cash on hand at postal installations must be examined and sequestered.

Workers were provided with a bi-lingual identification document to ensure their free movement.


Дакумент.

Венгерски почта сотрудник дожен на работу хадить и просим вас военни и гражданскии правительству что эти указана дакумента пустите на работу. Етот приказу нам военни русскии начальника города давал чтоби ми начинали работать вовсе на почтье,и тепер просим вас что ветим работье бутье добри помогайтье нам чтобин на улице свободно можна хадить.

Будапешт 1945 I. 27.

M. KIR. POSTA HIVATAL BUDAPEST 70

Почтоваја рбочи комиске:

Magyar posta munkabizottsága

arcképes ig. sz.....

igazolvány

Igazolom, hogy . . . . . magyar posta alkalmazott a postánál szolgálatot köteles teljesiteni. Kérem a katonai és polgári hatóságokat, hogy az igazolvány tulajdonosát az orosz katonai parancsnok rendeletére folytatott munkájában támogatni szíveskedjék és a szabad közlekedésben ne akadályozzák.

Budapest, 1945 január hó 27-én.

A munkabizottság nevében:

BUDAPEST 45 I. 27-8 70

2. An identification certificate written in two languages provided to an employee at the Budapest 70 post office by the Hungarian Postal Worker's Council dated January 27, 1945 (from the collection of Laszlo Littvay)

The Workers' Council received an assessment of the condition of the individual post office buildings.

Budapest No. 4 Main Post Office: For the most part, it is in total ruin, completely unusable. The money order section is usable to satisfy civilian traffic. The main cashier's office is intact.

Budapest No. 62 Post Office: Generally, it's not a total loss. The furnishing bears the mark of extensive looting. The printed matter storage in the basement is burnt.

Budapest No. 70 Post Office (parcel post processing office, District VII. Verseny Street 3.) Completely looted. Parcels held in storage were all taken. The building is occupied by Romanian troops.

Budapest No. 72 Post Office: There are no windows, but for the most part it did not suffer great damage. The lecture room will support low volume traffic.

Budapest No. 741 Post Office (letter delivery office, District VII. Verseny Street 3.) Did not suffer extensive damage, but there are no windows. The room with the post office boxes will support low volume traffic.

Securities Warehouse (District VI, Vaci Street 17.) Can be restored in a few days. Its well-secured securities supply did not suffer much damage.

It is possible that the entire supply of postal securities that was stored in the warehouse survived. Consequently, we cannot speak of a shortage of stamps for the postal traffic in Pest.

In order to pay for the restoration work and other expenses, the Workers' Council directed the officials of the Budapest postal directorate as well as the leaders of the telegraph and telephone office to set up a cashier responsible for appropriations. For each of these purposes, 1 million pengos were set aside.

January 27. The officials of District VII will provide, starting on that day, daily 100 meals to the postal officials in the Dob Street building. (Let's not forget, there was starvation in the city.)



3. The public room for accepting money orders at the Budapest 4 Main Post Office. In the beginning, it was here that letters could be mailed after the siege. The other rooms in the main post office building were not usable for business transactions. (Postal Museum)

January 29. The Dob Street building receives Soviet soldiers to guard the entrance. This is a result of a request made using a typewriter with Cyril characters. The typewriter was purchased by the directorate after the occupation of Carpatho Ukraine. On the next day, the Soviet commander of the district appeared on the pretext of inspecting the guards. He inquired about the typewriter with the Cyril characters. When it was shown to him, he stroked it gently and placed it in his briefcase. He said a polite goodbye and assured everyone that he would gladly come back to help out in the future, also.

January 31. The other post offices and agencies also receive military guards.

January 31. The Russian commander wants to the introduce Moscow time in Pest. The announcement was made, but luckily it was not implemented.

February 2. Telephone connection is established between the Fire fighters' Barracks on Kun

Street (headquarters of the Soviet military command) and the mayor's office.

February 4. The first passenger train leaves Budapest Western railway station for Szolnok. The train consists of 25 carriages, with 1123 seats. 1825 passengers travelled on the train.

February 5. The first train to Vac leaves the Western railway station.

February 6. The Pestszentlorinc no. 1 post office forwards a bag of mail to Debrecen.

The first movie theatre opens in Pest.

February 7. Advertisement from the Szabadsag newspaper: "I am travelling to Romania tomorrow. I am undertaking carrying mail (even domestic), acquiring documents, and other tasks." Many travellers took letters with them in their pockets since postal traffic was very primitive.

February 8. The 27 member Budapest Postal Directorate is formed. Fighting in Buda is still continuing.

On this day, three postal delivery employees walked to the Pestszentlorinc post office because it had already received mail from east of the Tisza River. Their return trip was on a Soviet military Jeep, and they brought back the first bag of mail to central Pest. The letters that arrived were delivered within days as best as the situation permitted. The first delivered letter arrived from Szeged to Pest.

The first tram to resume operation was the service on line 55 along the Ujpest-Angyalfold, Forgacs Street route.

February 10. According to an article in the Nepszabadsag, the Pestszenterzsebet no. 1 post office received the first mail delivery from Soroksar. After this, postal service became regular. The arrived mail is sent out for delivery immediately. Mail accepted at the post offices is sent by designated courier to the nearby towns and to the Budapest 62 post office. The no. 62 post office located next to the Western railway station is receiving mail shipments regularly.

February 11. Courier arrived from Miskolc and gave a report on the situation in Miskolc and the progress of the reconstruction. The primary mission of the courier was to establish contact with the Union of Postal Employees and to receive documents and directives about work. He did not bring or take back a mailbag with him since his trip was not about establishing postal service.

February 12. During the siege, the letter collection boxes were not emptied. The decision was made to remedy this situation. The directive contains the following contents: the mailings have to be secured and cancelled. *Missing or incorrect franking have to be disregarded.* Letter delivery teams need to be organized so that the postings left over in the offices and collected from the letter boxes can be delivered. Postings from Pest that cannot be forwarded need to be returned to the sender, if possible.



4. Erzsebet Boulevard in 1945. A letter collection box that survived the siege is visible in the background on the right at the edge of the sidewalk. Source: Fortepan / 32045

February 13. Postal business started in some post offices in Pest. A few offices started independent activity prior to the official start of business on March 2nd. These offices accepted postings, collected and delivered letters from letter boxes, accepted and transmitted bags of mail.

The Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, The Smallholders' Party, the National Peasant Party, the State Police Depart, and the Office of the Mayor all identified with which organizations they intended to conduct correspondence. This limited correspondence system was immediately organized.

February 14. Mail courier service was started from Budapest to Debrecen and in the return direction using the Budapest-Szolnok railway line transported by train no. 628 that connected to another train from Szolnok to Debrecen. The 628 train ran on even number days and transported the courier mail on February 14, 16, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28. There was no train service on February 18th. The courier's report acknowledges that the courier mail service was full of incidents. The train departed the Western railway station after midnight on February 14th. It arrived in Debrecen on February 17th at 6:30PM. There was a curfew starting at 7:00PM in Debrecen, so the courier could not report to the appropriate government office until the next day, the 18th. The train was able to leave Debrecen only on the 19th at 9:40PM and arrived back in Budapest at 9:00AM on the 22nd. The courier service carried the official correspondence to and from the Hungarian national government for free, without charging a fee. A messenger at the Budapest 62 post office collected and delivered such correspondence daily. The messenger usually sent an average of 10-15 letters and a single bundle of newspapers collected by the Soviet military command to Debrecen. Under these circumstances, there was no other postal service at the time. The courier service functioned this way until the end of March. In early April, the government moved to Budapest.

February 16. In the early morning hours, the first telegram sent and received normally arrived in Budapest. The telegram was sent by the mayor of Kisujszallas to the mayor of Budapest. He advised that 14 wagonloads of foodstuffs were dispatched from Kisujszallas for the starving population of Budapest.

The Ujpest no. 1 post office accepted and dispatched mailings as of this day.



5. Postcard mailed from Ujpest on February 16, 1945. Most likely, it was delivered after March 2nd.

February 17. The Budapest 62 post office dispatches mail bag to Pilis. It arrived around the 20th and then it was forwarded to the post office of Albert-Irsa on the 22nd.

This advertisement appeared in the Szabadsag newspaper: while reporting for postal duty on January 21st, Kalman Kovacs, Jr. disappeared. His worried wife and children seek information.

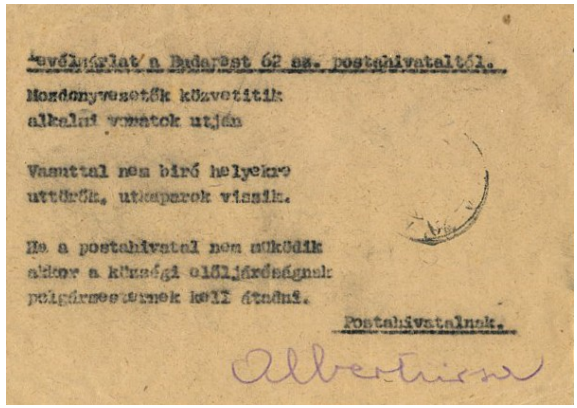
The unfortunate postal employee was probably detained and already held captive in a sealed rail-

way wagon awaiting transportation to a prisoner-of-war camp in Hungary and eventually to the Soviet Union. The occupying army was hunting down civilians on the street in order to meet its quota of prisoners-of-war. They were partial to gathering anybody who was wearing a uniform. The uniform was important to the Russians, but they could not tell the difference between an army uniform and a postal service uniform. In such instances, even a bi-lingual identification card was of not much help. Consequently, a lot of postmen ended up as captives in the transports. Later, the lack of trained workers forced the ministry and party functionaries to try to get them released. These efforts met with limited success. Similarly, policemen, conductors (BESzKRt.), firemen, other wearers of uniforms and even street sweepers did not escape this fate.

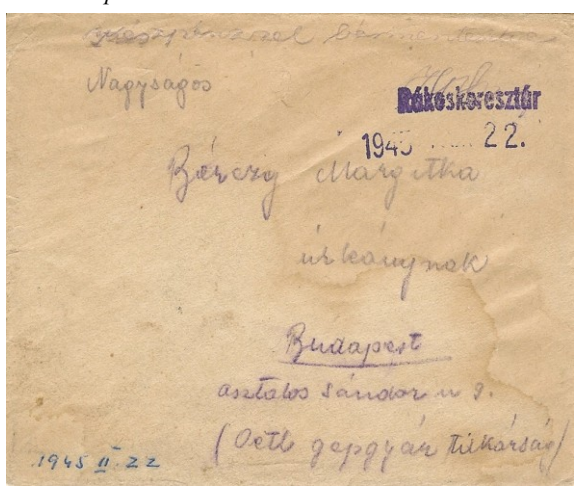
On this day, the first passenger train left the Eastern railway station bound for Godollo.

February 20. The first bus line starts operating on the Pest side.

February 22. The post offices of Kispest and Rakoskeresztur are functioning.


Levélzárólat a Budapest 62 sz. postahivataltól.
Rendszeresített közvetítik
alkalmi vonatok útján
Vasúttal nem bíró helyekre
utitárgyak, utleparok visznik.
Ha a postahivatal nem működik
akkor a katonai elöljáróságnak
polgármesterének kell átadni.
Postahivatalnak.
Albertiirsa

6. Mail bag closure from the Budapest 62 post office to Albertiirsa. Unfortunately, the cancellation is illegible but it's presumable from a dispatch sent in February because this closure slip was typewritten. Later dispatches used slips that were printed.


Nagyságos
Rákoskeresztúr
1945 ..... 22.
Budapest
1945 II. 22

7. Letter mailed from Rakoskeresztur to Budapest on February 22, 1945. The Rakoskeresztur cancellation made with a provisional rubber stamp.

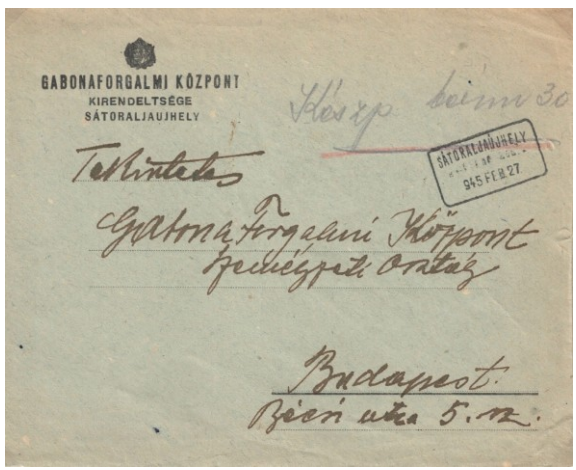
February 26. The Director of Post advises the Budapest postal officials that "the permission granted by the capital's Russian military command...allows for the delivery of letters received

in mail dispatches sent to Budapest henceforth." (Bp. 1. archives Bp. PI Nr. 149./1945.)

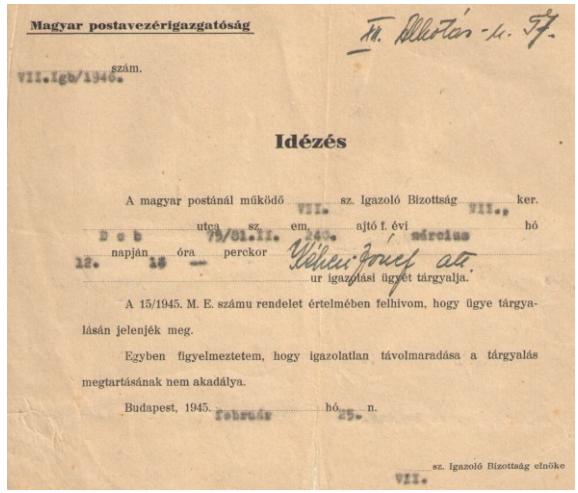


Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 210526

8. A letter collection box from 1945 that survived the siege at the corner of Jozsef Boulevard and Baross Street.



9. A letter mailed from Satoraljaujhely to Budapest on February 27, 1945. No postage due was assessed despite the lack of franking.


Magyar postavezérigazgatóság

VII.Igb/1946. szám.

Idézés

A magyar postánál működő VII. sz. Igazoló Bizottság VII. ker.

utca sz. em. ajtó I. évi március hó

napján 12. óra 15 perckor

ur igazolási ügyét tárgyalja.

A 15/1945. M. E. számu rendelet értelmében felhivom, hogy ügye tárgyalásán jelenjék meg.

Egyben figyelmeztetem, hogy igazolatlan távolmaradása a tárgyalás megtartásának nem akadálya.

Budapest, 1945. február hó 25. n.

VII. sz. Igazoló Bizottság elnöke

10. The verification committees in the post began functioning quickly. Here is a citation with a date from February 25, 1945.

February 27. On this day, ordinary letters addressed to Budapest are accepted for forwarding from Pecs.

On this date, the first train is dispatched from Budapest to Miskolc arriving at the Tisza railway yard on the following day.

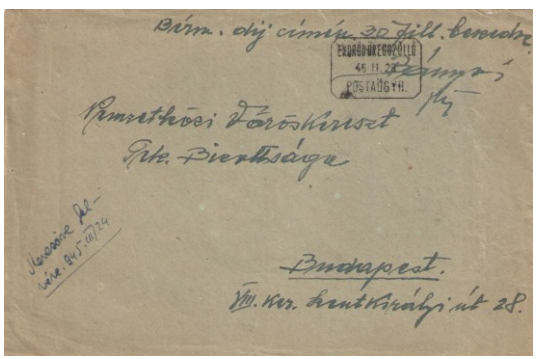
February 28. The Budapest Chamber of Commerce proposes to the Ministry of Commerce that a postal service clearing system be established. Years ago one was in effect and worked very well and effectively. The main point of the proposal was so manufacturing and trading companies that had a large volume of correspondence, could take this to a central post office where it would be presorted according to the addresses. At the same time, they could retrieve the mail addressed to them right away. Thus, the post office would be relieved of some transportation issues. Because of the lack of additional information, it is not known if such a letter clearing system was ever implemented.

On this day, the Csepel 1 post office starts to operate.

At the end of February, a new commandant was appointed for Budapest. Major General Zamercev took command and served in this capacity until 1948.



11. A postcard sent from the Csepel 1 post office to Salgotarjan on February 28, 1945. /from the collection of Antal Pukler/



12. A letter addressed to the Red Cross in Budapest sent from the postal agency in Endrod-Oregszollo on February 28, 1945. For part of the distance, the letter was carried by the courier service of the Gyula highway guards. It arrived intact in Budapest on March 24th as confirmed by the Red Cross posting of the person named in the inquiry on its list of searches. Despite the lack of franking, the mailing was not assessed postage due.

In **March**, the letter censors begin their work in the Budapest 72 and 62 post offices.

March 1. The Budapest 62 post office dispatches a 'jegyzekelo menet' (a postal or railroad employee authorized to accept and deliver mail and officially record each transaction) along the Budapest - Cegled - Abony - Szolnok railroad line.

March 2. This is the day of the official start of the mail service in Pest.

The Postal Directorate authorized the post offices to accept unsealed letters mailed at the post offices or placed into a letter collection boxes. Unsealed envelopes were necessary because of the required censorship. This directive was withdrawn by the post only in September of 1945 although in practice it ceased to be a requirement for letters placed in collection boxes much earlier.

The day's editions of the Nepszava, Szabad Szo and Szabadsag newspapers advised which nine post offices were officially opened on that day to accept ordinary and registered postcard sand letters. One thing is certain, several of the nine post offices had already began to accept postings much sooner which were then forwarded in sealed mail bags.

All nine post offices can be found on the Pest side:

Bp. 4 Main Post Office, IV. Varoshaz Street 18.

Bp. 5. V. Szabadsag Square 10-12.

Bp. 7. VII. Harsfa Street 47.

Bp. 8. VIII. Rok Szilard Street 2. (Corvin Department Store)

Bp. 9. IX. Ferenc Boulevard 39. (corner of Tuzolto Street & Ferenc Boulevard)

Bp. 10. X. Fuzer Street 5 (the building has been demolished since)

Bp. 62. VI. Terez Boulevard 45. Western Railway Station

Bp. 72. VII. Verseny Street 1, Eastern Railway Station

Bp. 82. VIII. Baross Street 59.

The post introduced a new tariff structure on this day that was in effect for the Pest side only.

The first later mention of the Pest tariffs that was promulgated in the daily papers of that day occurred in the year 1963. It was on page 706 of Agnes Rozsnyoi's essay, The Weekdays of Budapest Following the Liberation. The work was contained in one of the volumes of the Studies of the Budapest's Past, 1945. The first philatelic acknowledgement was published in the 1968/5 issue of Filatelia Szemle in an article titled "May 1st, 23 Years" written by Dr. Gyula Kadocsa.

	Budapesti	szükségtarifa	táblázat
		Súly	Díj
Levlap	Helyi		30 fillér
	Nagy-Budapest		40 fillér
Levél	Helyi	20 grammig	40 fillér
		250 grammig	80 fillér
		500 grammig	1 pengő
	Vámhatáron kívül eső helységek	20 grammig	60 fillér
		250 grammig	1 P 20 fillér
		500 grammig	1 P 60 fillér
Ajánlási díj	Helyi		1 Pengő
	Nagy-Budapest		1 P 40 fillér

13. Table of arbitrary Pest tariffs that was in effect between March 2nd and April 30th 1945 in Pest and certain localities in Greater Budapest

The same article in the Nepszava also publicized the request from the post that anyone possessing furnishings or equipment representing the property of the post to turn such items into the nearest post office. Those who fail to do this will have legal proceeding initiated against them. Inasmuch as there was a scarcity of everything, the post attempted to collect every possible item in order to perform its function better and more effectively.

March 10. The post offices functioning in Szeged and Csongrad County started to accept letters destined for Budapest.

March 17. A temporary pile bridge was constructed alongside the destroyed Margit Bridge. This was called the Manci Pile Bridge. This was also the first connection between Pest and Buda. In January 1946, the bridge was swept away by ice floes. Subsequently, it was reconstructed as the Manci Pontoon Bridge in March.



14. The part of the Manci Pile Bridge between Buda and Margit Island Fortepan / Dr. Istvan Kramer / 52105



15. A letter mailed at the main post office on March 20, 1945 correctly franked in accordance with the Pest tariffs

March 19. The first Hansom cab carriage starts operation.

March 21. The temporary pontoon bridge build on wreck of the Ferenc Jozsef (now called Liberty) Bridge opens to traffic.

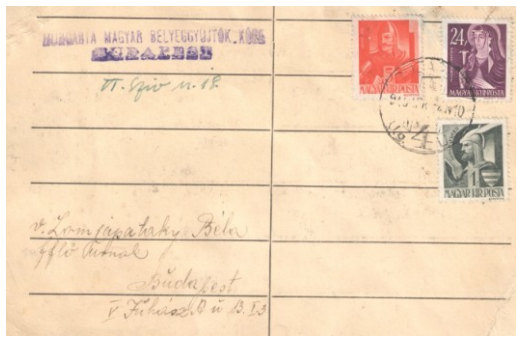


16. The temporary pontoon bridge structure using the wrecked Ferenc Jozsef (Liberty) Bridge.

Fortepan / Marton Kurucz / 24687



17. It was easier to move the mail from Buda to Pest using the bridges as opposed to boats. Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 175139



18. Local postcard mailed at the main post office on April 7, 1945 with multicolor, correct franking according to the Pest tariffs.

April 11. An additional 14 post offices start to function, still only on the Pest side. This was discovered on the pages of the Szabad Szo newspaper published on the following day.

Bp. 55. V. Kossuth L. Square 11.

In the building of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Bp. 67. XIV. Erzsebet kiralyne Street 98.

Bp. 71. VII. Vilmos kiralyne Street 1. (City Park Grove)

Bp. 76. VII. Arena Street 68.

Bp. 79. XIV. Gizellla Street 45.

Bp. 80. VIII. Szentkiralyi Street 28/A.

Bp. 89. X. Ciprus Street 2.

Bp. 91. IX. Lonyai Street 77.

Bp. 94. IX. Ken Street 5.

Bp. 98. IX. Erno Street 24.

Bp. 100. XIV. Sarkantyu Street 3.

Bp. 500. V. Tatra Street 5/D (now Sallai Imre Strt)

Bp. 702. VII. Peterdy Street 10.

Bp. 703. XIV. Hungaria Boulevard 52.

April 13. New Hungarian municipal commander, Colonel Kalman Gal.

April 18. Today's edition of the Szabad Szo newspaper reports that large quantities of letters and postcards from the provinces arrive regularly to Pest. Letter carriers pay visits to the residences more frequently. Mailings even from Romania are arriving in the capital city.



19. Local registered mailed on April 19, 1945 with franking corresponding to the Pest tariffs. Local registered letters are scarce.

April 21. Starting with this date, a jegyzekelo menet operated on every even numbered day between Budapest and Miskolc and Miskolc - Budapest. (BAZmL. MPL. Nr. 4527/1945.)

April 23. An additional 8 post offices opened, again on the Pest side. This information was found in the Szabadsag newspaper.

Bp. 44. V. Pozsonyi Street 44-46.

Bp. 49. XIV. Mogyorodi Street 124/B.

Bp. 65. Szent Laszlo Street 51.

Bp. 75. XIV. Nagy Lajos kiraly Street 131.

Bp. 87. VIII. Prater Street 46.

Bp. 102. X. Orczy Street 45.

Bp. 103. X. Cserkesz Street 66/C.

Bp. 507. V. Jozsef Nador Square 2. Hungarian General Credit Bank

April 24. According to an article in Nepszava, 15 million pengos were found hidden at the Budapest no. 72 post office.

April 25. Starting on May 1st, general postal traffic will start in the entire country with the exception of Transdanubia. Local telegrams and express letters can be posted in Budapest. This was information gleaned from the Szabad Nep published on that date.



20. Overfranked postcard mailed from the Budapest no. 82 post office sent to Pestszenterzsebet on April 23, 1945. The addressee had moved away and the card was returned to the sender.

April 26. According to the Szabad Szo, as of the previous day, the letter collection boxes on the Pest side are being emptied corresponding to the time of day shown on the boxes.

May 1. The stamps with Felszabadulas=Liberation overprint are placed into circulation.

From the directive 1945 72. VI. K.K.M. of the Ministry of Commerce and Transportation:

Stamps in complete sets only can be acquired from the following post offices starting on May 1, 1945:

Budapest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9. 10, 53, 62, 72, 112, 114, Budafok 1, Csepel 1, Kispest 1, Pestszentlorinc 1, Pestszenterzsebet 1, Ujpest 1, Debrecen 1, Miskolc 1, Pecs 1, Sopron 1, Szeged 1.

Signed: Bp. 1945. IV. 27. Gabor Jozsef s.k. Ker. es Kozl. Min.

The directive reveals that still another post office started functioning on the Pest side as of May 1st: Bp. 53. V. Bajcsy Zsilinszki Street 16.

May 17. The Budapest 70 post office auctioned off the items contained in parcels that could not be delivered.

June 1. The office for marketing stamps reopened inside the Budapest 4 post office.



21. The post office's first truck to resume work on May 1, 1945 shows how the frequent problems with either the engine or the tires caused delays. Here we see the work of changing a flat tire. (Postal Museum, illustration from the manuscript)



22. The dedication of the repaired Budapest 72 post office (Eastern railway station) (Postal Museum, illustration from the manuscript)

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE POST IN BUDA? FEBRUARY - MAY 1945

The history of the Buda side is substantially shorter since the buildings there were not as lucky as their companions on the Pest side. Here, the destruction was much greater, not only in the structures but also in the postal furnishings. Consequently, the restoration work required more time. As a result, actual postal service could start only in May.

Buda was liberated on February 13th.

On February 15th, the postal employees started to organize and to clear the ruins. They used one of the relatively intact rooms of the Postal Palace for their central office. Work tasks were issued from here daily to the employees who reported for work. Groups were organized according to clearing or accruing activities. The clearing group was tasked to make the building usable as much as possible. The accruing group tried to collect items that were deemed usable. They even acquired a horse that could barely stand on its legs because of hunger. The animal received all of the dried bread found in the building. The Budapest 114 post office's burnt out lobby became its stable.

On February 17th, the postal workers secured a dish of food each for the staff of 50 from the district authorities. This service became a staple for them on a daily basis.

Delegations were sent to every nearby, accessible office in order to conduct an inventory and to collect the cash that was found there and deliver it to the directorate.

An insight into the fiscal situation revealed that banknotes worth 7 million pengos had disappeared from the Budapest 114 post office. Similarly, 150 million pengos' worth of banknotes disappeared from the Castle Hill branch of the Hungarian National Bank. Approximately another 200 million pengos were missing from the other post offices.

On the last business day before the siege (December 23, 1944) Lajos Szalay, the chief superintendent, locked 13,600 pengos' worth of coins in the Wertheim safe at the Budapest 114 post office. This was found in full after the siege.

On February 20th, Dr. Albert Tarnai decided to personally establish contact with postal workers on the Pest side. He went on foot to Obuda where he found post office no. 3 nearly undamaged. There was no serious damage on the inside to the furnishings. Tarnai discussed the need to maintain daily contact with the office manager. To do so, it was agreed that an employee would travel on foot to the building of the directorate to receive instructions. After this, Tarnai walked to the Hajogyar Island where he got in at the end of a long line awaiting crossing by boat. His armband that identified him as a postal worker together with his bi-lingual identification papers helped him get to the head of the queue and get into a boat. Almost instantly 20 people crowded into the boat that had a normal capacity of six passengers. The edge of the boat was barely above the water. After about a twenty minute trip, he exited the boat at the Dagaly Baths. There, the Soviet soldiers doing identity checks allowed him to pass only after a long argument despite his bi-lingual identity papers. After this, he walked for an hour and a half to reach Dob Street where the postal directorate organized in Pest had its headquarters. He held discussions about the agenda. Tarnai received all of the Workers' Council's recently issued directives. Together, they established the Budapest office of the Postal Directorate. After some minor hardships, he managed to get back to Buda before dark.



23. The ruined Postal Palace with fire and shelling damage. During the siege, the building was the scene of intense floor-by-floor fighting. (Postal Museum CC BY-NC-SA 676782)

On **March 10th**, a Soviet motor vehicle pulled up in front of the Postal Palace. Three officers stepped out, including Colonel Kondratov, the Soviet commander of Buda. He wanted to inspect the telephone switching exchange. When he was shown the totally burned out room that was set on fire by the Germans, he became very agitated. By that time, 5 smaller capacity switching exchanges had been placed into service. He was shown these, also. He became even more agitated and ordered Tarnai that he wanted to see a 50 switchgear telephone exchange by the next day; otherwise, he will make Tarnai disappear.

Everyone was quite frightened by this. The technicians tried to create some calm by stating that they were aware of a useable 50 switchgear system at the Janos hospital. They managed to bring the equipment over and spent the night installing it by candlelight. Finally, this seemingly impossible task was completed. When the Soviet officer arrived on the next day, he was satisfied to see a working switching system and promised that he would help out in future in any way he could.

Between the end of March and the middle of April, the surviving letter collection boxes were found and emptied. The letters collected were sorted into four groups by destination: foreign, provinces, Pest, and Buda. The items in the first three groups were transferred by boat to the Pest side. The items destined for Buda were secured in warehouses and retained until actual postal service could start.



24. Abandoned horse drawn postal wagons used to deliver parcels litter Hajnocy Street following the siege (box carts). Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 217768

These horse drawn delivery wagons were used by the post in Budapest until the end of the 1950s. It is most likely that these delivery wagons were taken from the yard of the Budapest 114 delivery handling office located in the Postal Palace and placed along this street that runs parallel to Krisztina Boulevard. These and similar post office possessions were collected by the postal workers in the interest of restarting postal services as quickly as possible.



25 - 26 Bi-lingual identity certificate issued by the Hungarian State Postal Directorate



27 - 28 Enlarged picture of the two rubber stamps. The word 'kir' had already been excised from the stamp of the Postal Directorate. The other, bi-lingual stamp from the certificate belongs to the Buda agency of postal management.

As far as Buda was concerned, the restart of postal service was planned for May 2nd.

Only on **May 2nd** does the delivery of mail start at four distribution offices (Budapest 2, 3, 112, and 114). On that same day, mailings are also accepted for delivery at these post offices on the Buda side. Consequently, this date can be considered as the actual start of postal service on the Buda side. The manuscript emphasizes this. The "Felszabadulas=Liberation" stamps arrive at the post offices on this day and this generates receipts for the offices. In the previously mentioned directive we learned exactly which five post offices started to function on this day on the Buda side. Of the five, four were the Buda distribution offices:

Budapest 1. I. Disz Square 16.

Budapest 2. II. Fo Street 6.

Budapest 3. III. Kiscelli Street 9.

Budapest 112. XI. Vasarhelyi P. Street 4-6.

Budapest 114. XII. Krisztina Boulevard 12.

Technical workers started to remove or repair the destroyed or damaged letter collection boxes during the month of May. The reattachment of repaired boxes was not an easy task because of the structural damage to the buildings.

The mailings sent to other offices were transported on foot. This was a burdensome task because the distance between post offices no. 112 and no. 3 was 8 km. as the crow flies. The problem was solved by having one office send a courier on one day and another office send one on the

next day. All of the couriers stopped at the Budapest 114 office every day.



29. Mailing cancelled at the Budapest 114 (XII. Krisztina Boulevard 12.) post office on April 12, 1945. This arrived in the post office by way of a letter collection box as confirmed by the 40 filler franking that was the rate for a postcard according the Greater Budapest tariffs. If the card had been mailed at the no. 114 post office, then 30 filler franking would have been sufficient and it's most certain that the clerk would not have erred there to the detriment of the sender.

BUDAPEST OR PEST TARIFFS?

The fact that between February and April the postal service functioned only on the Pest side can be ascertained from the discovered manuscript. It's not only the manuscript that maintains this, there is no mention in the daily newspapers during this period of any news that any post office on the Buda side had been opened for use by the public. Quite on the contrary, the opening of post offices on the Pest side was regularly featured in the newspapers. On the Pest side, there was regular dispatch and receipt of mail bags, mail was collected from letter boxes, and the post offices functioned. Customers could go into a post office and use the windows to post letters. On the Buda side, only the letter collection boxes were emptied and the mail not addressed to Buda was forwarded to Pest. So, the mail was dispatched but incoming mail was not accepted. Mail with Buda destinations was placed into storage, and only after the start of delivery on May 2nd was the accumulated mail handed over to the respective addressees.

Postal service on the Buda side restarted as the 1st inflationary postal rate went into effect. Only then was it possible to establish the necessary conditions for this. This means that the arbitrarily increased tariffs could not have been in effect on the Buda side because there were no post offices serving the public that would utilize it. This also applies to other localities of Greater Budapest that were on the Buda side.

Naturally, there are mailings with cancellations from post office on the Buda side before May 2nd. These were collected from letter boxes and found their way into one of the four dispatch offices (Budapest 2, 3, 112, 114) where they were cancelled. Cancellations from any other Buda post office up to April 30th are not known.

As a result, we can establish that the so-called Budapest tariffs that arbitrarily raised postage rates between March 2nd and April 30th were in effect only in Pest and a few localities of Greater Budapest on the Pest side. As we have seen, only post offices on the Pest side were open during this time. From this, we can logically conclude that the name is not accurate and is misleading. Calling it correctly as the Pest tariff is accurate since it was implemented only in the area of Pest and not in the entire capital city or in the area of Greater Budapest. I suggest that in the future the new and more accurate naming be used.

To date, these facts have not been published by any philatelic researcher. Based on existing mailings, the assumption had been that postal service

had resumed on the Buda side during the period of the Pest tariffs. Naturally, the source of this misconception is the lack of source material. The lesson in this is that it is not possible all of the time to completely and accurate reconstruct the events. Full knowledge of source materials is essential.

THE GAZETTE OF POSTAL REGULATIONS DURING THE TIME OF THE PEST TARIFFS

The post operates under postal rules, regulations, and directives. This had always been and it was also unchanged during those trying times. A postmen could act only in accordance with what they were authorized to do or what the directives required of them. They had no opportunity for personal solutions or improvisations and such was the case during this time.

It was not known until now that general directives were published during the time of the Pest tariffs. As early as January 24th, the Workers' Council drew up directives 1 and 2. Later, four additional directives were issued. The entire text of directives 1, 2, and 3 can be found in the manuscript as well as a summary of directives 5 and 6. The manuscript makes no mention of directive 4. Only the manuscript mentions the existence of these directives. They did not survive outside of the manuscript. Thus, the manuscript is a unique document.

ARBITRARY RATE INCREASE - THE PEST TARIFFS

Unfortunately, the manuscript does not shed light on the real reason for the rate increase. It fails to even acknowledge that the rates were actually increased and that the official rates in had effect since 1943 were not being utilized.

According to another author who dwelled into this time period, the rate increase was needed to insure the post's ability to pay the workers' salaries. He even labelled the tariffs as "necessity tariffs."

The manuscript contradicts this completely. Completely untouched stashes of cash were recovered from the ruins in many places. The manuscript also gives lots of evidence that the postal directorate was in good shape financially.

On January 25th, 2 million pengos were allocated for the restoration of buildings.

On January 29th, Dr. Gyula Ortutay (academic, vice-president of MABÉOSZ in the 1970s) paid a visit to the post. Since he was the director of the Hungarian Radio, he asked that the post to pay him the radio fees that had already been collected in November and December 1944 but had not been paid to the radio. Ortutay was tasked by the government to restore radio broadcasts. The postal officials investigated whether the fees for the two months had actually been turned over and could not find evidence that they had been. They agreed that the 2 million pengos collected for radio fees would be paid out and on the 31st post office no. 7 paid the sum to Ortutay, who, along with two colleagues, took the money stuffed in their briefcases. The Hungarian Radio resumed its broadcasts after the siege using the 2 million pengos.



30. Szentharomsag Street looking towards the Matyas Church. There are piles of rubble everywhere although the street has been nicely swept. (family photo)

Another similar occurrence from the manuscript happened on February 7th. On that day, visitors arrived from the government in Debrecen. Jozsef Gabor, the minister of commerce and transportation, visited the directorate at the Dob Street headquarters. He arrived by automobile accompanied by his secretary and a Russian major. Immediately, the minister questioned the director in charge as to what authority they had to organize the postal service in Budapest. Pazmany's reply was short: "By my independent action because I love my occupation." Furthermore, they reported to the minister that they had the support and encouragement of the Soviet municipal commander and the Budapest National Council. After this short theatrical exchange, the minister presented the real purpose of his visit. The Provisional Government in Debrecen had exhausted all of the funds they collected in the liberated areas. They were advised that there is postal management in Budapest and thought that they might have some cash on hand. There was a large sum of cash at the Budapest no. 7 post office. The minister and the government in Debrecen were offered 7 million pengos. The minister was very happy with this offer and with the aid of his secretary and the Soviet officer immediately grabbed up the wads of banknotes and threw them on the floor and on the seats of their automobile since they did not have attache cases with them. Surrounded by banknotes, the Soviet major and the minister departed satisfied. The money and the passengers arrived safely in Debrecen, and the Provisional National Government had funds thanks to the generosity of the postal workers of Pest.

So, the postal people of Pest were able to pay out 11 million pengos in cash easily. Let's not forget that inflation has not kicked into gear yet, and this was an enormous sum. At that time, the postal system still did not have an income stream from the users of the postal service.

Naturally, the postal workers did not turn over all of their ready cash. They were able to easily cover expenses and payroll. After the liberation of the Buda side, they became aware that no cash could be found there, so they covered the pay of the postal workers of Buda as well. Again, there was no income for the postal system at this time, only expenses. The manuscript emphasizes this fact many times.

All postal workers reporting for duty regularly received their pay starting on February 1st.

Based on these facts, we can ascertain that the postal system was not in need of immediate income because they could afford to pay expenses out of available cash.

Therefore, we can continue to guess at the reason why there was a need for the arbitrary raising of the tariffs. In my opinion, the key to solving this is has to be an economic reason. The existing tariffs did not cover the operating costs at the time, especially the cost of transportation. The existing tariffs were based on normal operations, for example transportation using a truck as opposed to on foot now. In April, the post in Budapest had two horses and eight bicycles. They did not have any motor vehicles; their first one went into service on May 1st. As a result, after the siege, the post could not complete is operation as effectively as before the siege. Greater energy input was required to operate than before. Also, the price of the materials needed to function was beginning to increase and the old tariffs did not meet management needs. The post was a commercial entity that could not operate with a loss, so it required proper management. It had reserves, but these would be expended in a short time. In addition, the Pest side needed to support the Buda side because post offices did not function there, yet, and did not have income. They couldn't think of anything else to do but raise the rates in order to finance operations.

Therefore, the tariffs were increased to cover the increased cost of operation.

The expansive manuscript further discusses the restart of the post in our capital city through 1948 on subsequent pages. For us, however, the history of the first months are the most exciting and interesting because the history of this period had not been published anywhere else.

Starting on June 1, 1945, the Gazette of Postal Directives begins publication and the directives can be tracked easily.

After June 20, 1945, postal service is expanded to take in the entire country. This is, therefore, the date that postal service is fully restored following the war.

I'd like to thank the Postal Museum for the help in allowing me to do research in the library and for the use of the illustrations.

I'd also like to thank my fellow collector Laszlo Littvay for letting me illustrate the Budapest no. 70 identity certificate from his collection.

Also, I'd like to thank my fellow collector Antal Pukler for allowing me to show the postcard mailed from the Csepel no. 1 post office from his collection.

LITERATURE AND SOURCE REFERENCES

Dr. Bernath Gabor: Az 1945. evi tavaszi "Budapesti tarifa" es a korabeli onkenyes dijszabasok. I. es II. resz Belyegvilag 2004/7 – 8. es 2004/9.

Dr. Bernath Gabor: Levelzarlatok 1944. november – 1945. marcius. MABÉOSZ palyazatra beadott palyamu

Dan Janos: Budapesti es Nagy-Budapesti helyi dijszabasemeles 1945. marcius 2 – aprilis 30.

Gaspar Ferenc: Forrasok Budapest tortenetehez 1945 – 1950. Kossuth ny. 1973.

Horvath Attila: A magyar kozlekedesi rendszert ert haborus karok es a helyreallitas tapasztalatai 1944-1948

Kamondy Miklos: Észak-Magyarorszag hirkozlesenek tortenete. Hermann Otto Muzeum Miskolc, 1985

Nepszava, Szabad Szo es Szabadsag ujsagok relevans szamai 1945.

Dr. Pazmany Odon es Dr. Tarnai Albert: A magyar posta tortenete a felszabadulas utan 1945 – 1948 kezirat

Peterffy Gergely: Szarazfoldi Odusszeia – A II. vilaghaboru utani vasuti utazas – a forrastipusok tukreben / publikacio.uni.eszterhazy.hu

Rozsnyoi Agnes: Budapest hetkoznapjai a felszabadulas utan. Tanulmanyok Budapest multjabol 15/1963.

Szabo Jozsef: Kezbesitik az elso levelet. Magyar Nemzet 1965. 02. 09.

Sugar Istvan: Adatok Hajdu-Bihar megye felszabadulas utani postatortenetehez. Debrecen, Dery Muzeum Évkonyve 48. sz. 1965.

Ungvary Krisztian: Budapest ostroma. Corvina 2013.

Mafitt supports the appearance of the Hungarian Stamp Inspection Group on the Internet:



www.mafitt.hu/mbsz



MODERN POSTAL HISTORY – THE 1994 'NEPMUVESZET' ISSUES

BY MERVYN BENFORD, GREAT BRITAIN

In 1994 the first seven values of what was to be a longer definitive series under the heading Magyar Culture were issued: 11, 12, 19, 32, 35, 40 and 50Ft. It was a time of gathering, fairly fast inflation. A year later, almost as an after-thought a 1Ft. version appeared. Once a significant denomination, this was clearly something now to do with making-up unusual rates and its use on cover is interesting. The same year, though, saw a further six, including low values 2 and 3Ft., as well as 9, 14, 22 and 38Ft. Subtle rate changes? 1996 arrives and in July six more: 13, 16, 17, 24, 75, 80Ft. This reflects a growing, still slow rise in living costs. By September though, 300 and 500Ft. values appear. Then in March 1997 comes a 27Ft. single issue followed in July by a 60Ft. version but not a new design- a 60Ft. overprint on the existing 24 Ft. Both must reflect rate changes but I have just one cover single-franked as the rate. Otherwise, my examples are in stamp combinations. 24Ft. had presumably lapsed as a working rate? In 1998, we have a very modest 5Ft. and another single issue, 200Ft.

In 1999 came a re-designed 24Ft with a 65 and 90Ft. The 11th. issue still in 1999 brought two more- a most curious 79Ft. denomination with a more conventional 100Ft. Readers may enjoy the challenge and an intriguing pursuit of Hungary's 3rd. Inflation by connecting stamp issues with actual real and rapidly changing rates. The inflationary impact can also be seen in postal stationery from the humble postcard through to airmail.

It is interesting that it took eleven separate issues before a stamp of 100 Forint was needed! The series is distinctive in having some intriguing denominations as well as the overprint.

In all, to mid-1999- it embraces 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14,16, 22, 17, 19, 24 (+ re-designed version,) 27, 32, 35, 38, 40, 60 (overprint,) 65, 75, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300 and 500Ft. stamps.

Those years were a time of moderate economic inflation and all rates were open to changes. This may explain why stamps with unusual denominations such as 32Ft. and 79Ft. were produced and found used singly on covers. This may not reflect an actual rate: with rates changing and unusual face values, a 32Ft stamp may be a 30Ft. item but a little overpaid- as can happen with inflation effects. The same applies to total cost of an item: for example, 102Ft. could pay for a 100Ft. item. But two at 102Ft., one at 104Ft. and another at 107Ft. suggest exact rate calculation. I have several with 1Ft. which were surely part of a precise total calculation. Some unusual total fees appear in my tables, not least with low values such as 1Ft. and 2Ft., 3Ft. and 4Ft., which seem used to make those rates.

The unusual denominations make some interesting franking and intriguing postal history. The tables below do show total costs of items- often

the same total for a well-used service. For example, 65Ft. was a rate for a time for letters to Europe. Many of my covers are from a society member who was collecting the 3rd. inflation but had to stop. Rates to Europe are the majority and explain why I have more, but also reflect rate changes and weight steps. A full study of these years is not yet available so some rates perhaps did not all change every time and some changes came more quickly than others.

Dealers and auctioneers when sending items often use stamps from many series to please a collector! My one example has just the 1Ft. but that stamp was a necessary part of the total cost.

Stamps from this series shown in italics: Additional stamps from other series are given after the *italicised* Nepmuveszet series stamps and introduced by **code &***

Valuation

1 is lowest and 5 highest. My valuations are arbitrary. It is my best estimate using my interest in the series and my philatelic experience. I find lower rates less often. Some denominations reflect economic inflation. Would one ever have imagined stamps 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 even 19Ft. stamps? And what of 27, 32, 38 and 79Ft.? And two different 24Ft. stamps? I have not seen the second one used. The first one has the 60Ft. overprinted higher rate but not too common in its original form used.

Some of these are not very much found in my 144 covers- but do tell the story of the item! In times of rapid price rises stamps used singly for the rate can be few. In my 144 items there are just five. Pairs and strips likewise appeal and multiples used from the series are good to have. Use of the low values to make up rates is very interesting. Unusual postage items or rates add value. Used on stationery earns a premium.

My 114 covers reflect only the classes of mail I have. I argue their worth as modern postal history- some just as rare! Even in these 144 covers the 50Ft. is much used and the 40Ft., 60Ft. and 80Ft. often- easy to calculate perhaps- and surprisingly the unusual 22Ft. stamp, in strips- easy to count! Two 110Ft. items used five single 22Ft. stamps- more variety! Yet the 100Ft. is less used than the 1987 Castle version. For such an obvious face value, that stamp arrived rather late. Use of the separately issued 5Ft, 200Ft., and 27Ft. add to the story.

That 1987 definitive series is often used in total franking and often combined with random commemoratives make attractive covers. I indicate these with a large black '**C**'. Some go back 1972 and even a 60f stamp. I value covers using combinations of only the **NÉPMÜVÉSZET** series. (***Illustration 1)*** is probably philatelically unique- airmail registered to Canada, five denominations including a pair and a strip- total cost 244Ft. Find me another!



Illustration 1

These valuations are personal but reflect normal postal history aspects. Stamps used also with postage meter payments or for registration and express, printed matter, airmail or using postal stationery, or with delivery problems, or interesting destinations all add value. I have many at Europe letter rate but that helps track the rate period changes. Rates change during inflation- some shorter than others. I am open to other opinions and new information, about rate and date changes. I do not study this modern inflation. I believe it deserves research attention as much as 1920-26 and 1945-46.

In my 144 examples the majority were given me by a UK society member with Hungarian family and friends who, briefly, was interested in the inflation story. I do not know if weight steps but larger envelopes suggest it where envelopes were not marked "Nyomtatvany". This is not an inflation study as such but total item costs help track rate periods. More study is needed. I hope it raises interest.

My valuations are limited estimates. Readers know how often these stamps were used for other classes of mail- especially local and national rates. Perhaps we can start a debate about individual issues, rates or combinations seen less often. I clearly value cases covering the less common postal history items, including single franking and multiples.

The other stamps used raise further interest and which at times lend further value to the story (note Elvis! (***Illustration 2***.)



Illustration 2

95Ft. was a well-used rate but how many have that combination? The single issue 1Ft. and 5Ft. and later the 27Ft. and the re-designed 24Ft. and low denominations seem to justify a premium used as they surely reflect aspects of rates of the

day. The 79Ft. is so novel and being used adds to the impact! The 1999 Batthyany 27Ft. and the 2000 Duna-Drava National Park 34Ft. with the 79Ft. stamp makes a most unusual rate combination for 1.40Ft. letter rate to UK (***Illustration 3***.)



Illustration 3



Illustration 4

Illustration 4 is a postcard of Budapest sent airmail to New Zealand from Holloko also at 95Ft. using a particularly impressive canceller (Illustration 4.) The 95Ft. rate paying the Elvis cover was a rate to Europe and my tables record four other examples each made up in different ways! The modern periods have much postal history interest.

My 2000 Hungarian catalogue values used at around a third of Mint or in the single issues a half. But the later issues, 200Ft., re-designed 24Ft., 65 Ft. 90Ft., 79Ft. and 100Ft. have used and mint equal- perhaps thinking less use by then likely, as for the other two issues that year- 1999. Is awareness dawning that used examples may be fewer? And on cover probably relatively scarce! The 11 issues over time played with perforations but the last issue returned to the first.



Illustration 5 (see explanation later on page 38)

I list below my 144 covers and an estimate of possible scarcity.

#	Description	Total	
1	Large letter Europe : 1998: strip 4 x 1Ft.: grossly under-franked noted: no PD	4 Ft	5
2	Large letter/packet Europe: 21.12.98: strip 3 x 3Ft.	9 Ft	5
3	Local Postcard Budapest: 24.6.95: 1Ft. &* 11Ft. stationery postcard	12 Ft	5
4	Letter Europe7.4.97: pair 9Ft.	18 Ft	5
5	Letter Europe 7.4.99: single 22Ft.	22 Ft	5
6	Letter Europe: 9.4.99: 3Ft. &* 20f	23 Ft	5
7	Letter within Hungary: Nov. 1998 : 2Ft. &* Stationery 22Ft. envelope:	24 Ft	5
8	Letter Europe: 1.7.96: 2Ft. &* Stationery 22Ft. envelope:	24 Ft	5
9	Postcard within Hungary: no date: pair 1Ft. &* 17Ft. stationery postcard + 5Ft.	24 Ft	5
10	Letter Europe 1997: pair 9Ft. &* 10Ft.	28 Ft	5
11	Letter Local Budapest: 8.2.98: pair 12Ft. &* 6Ft.	30 Ft	5
12	Letter within Hungary: 16.12.98: 3Ft. &* Stationery 27Ft. envelope:	30 Ft	5
13	Letter Europe: 14.12.02: single 32f	32 Ft	5
14	Letter Europe: 10.2.98: 16f &* 20f	36 Ft	4
15	Letter Europe: 1997: 14Ft. + 22Ft	36 Ft	5
16	Letter Europe: 11.7.95: pair 11Ft. &* 10Ft. + 4Ft.	36 Ft	5
17	Local printed Matter: date unclear: strip 3 x14Ft. &*invalid 1.50Ft.C + 60f C	4 410 Ft	5
18	Letter Europe: Dec. 1997: Overprinted 60Ft. used singly	60 Ft	5
19	Letter Europe: date unclear: 3Ft. &*22Ft.C &* 35Ft.C	60 Ft	5
20	Postcard Europe: July/Aug 1996: 50Ft. &* 10Ft. stationery postcard	60 Ft	5
21	Strip from large packet to Europe: 15.12.95: 2 x 11Ft. &* 5 x 4Ft. + 4 x 5Ft.	62 Ft	4
22	Postcard Europe: 4.2.98: 50Ft. &* 3Ft. stationery postcard + 4Ft. + 8Ft.	65 Ft	5
23	Postcard Europe: 5.7.98: Overprinted 60Ft &*5Ft.	65 Ft	4
24	Letter Europe: 15.12.99: Overprinted 60Ft. &*5Ft.	65 Ft	4
25	Letter Europe: 15.12.99: Overprinted 60Ft. + 5Ft.	65 Ft	4
26	Letter Europe: 15.11.95: strip 3 x 22Ft.	66 Ft	3
27	Large letter Europe: ? year: 50Ft. + 22Ft. much used stamps but my one 72Ft.	72 Ft	3
28	Letter Europe: 10.12.01: pair 38Ft.	76 Ft	4
29	Postcard Europe: 1.9.98: Overprinted 60Ft. &* 20Ft.	80 Ft	4
30	Postcard Europe: 31.7.2000: 80Ft.	80 Ft	4
31	Letter Europe: 9.12.96: pair 40Ft (5Ft. overpaid)	80 Ft	3
32	Letter Europe: 15.12.00 single 80Ft.	80 Ft	4
33	Letter Europe: Dec. 1996: 50Ft. &* 30Ft.	80 Ft	2
34	Letter Europe: 27.10.96: pair 40Ft. &* 5Ft.	85 Ft	3
35	Letter reg: within Hungary 26.6.96: pair 40Ft. &* 5Ft.	85 Ft	4
36	Letter Europe: 12.2.96: 50Ft.+ 2 x 2Ft. &*20Ft. &*10Ft. +*1Ft.	85 Ft	4
37	Letter Europe: 8.12.97: 80Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
38	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: pair 40Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
39	Letter Europe: 11.2.99: pair 40Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
40	Letter Europe: 1998(?): 22Ft. + 19Ft. + 2 x 12 Ft. + 14Ft. +11Ft.	90 Ft	5*
41	Letter Europe: 15.12.97: Overprinted 60Ft. &*10Ft. &* 20Ft.	90 Ft	3
42	Letter Europe: 5.12.97: 80Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	3
43	Letter Europe: 22.12.97: 50Ft. &* pair 20Ft.	90 Ft	2
44	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: 40Ft. + 50Ft.	90 Ft	4
45	Brochure Europe printed paper 9.9.92: single 2Ft &* 90Ft.	92 Ft	4
46	Newspaper Europe: printed paper date unclear: single 2Ft &* 90Ft.	92 Ft	4
47	Postcard New Zealand 4.10.99: 80Ft. + 11Ft. &* 4Ft.	95 Ft	5
48	Letter Europe: 8.1.96: strip 3 x 22Ft.+ 9Ft. &*20Ft.	95 Ft	4
49	Letter Europe: 21. 10.96: strip 4 x 22Ft. &*4Ft.&*3Ft.	95 Ft	2
50	Letter Europe: 22Ft. &* 4Ft. + 12Ft. + strip 3 x 19Ft. US soccer 1994(Elvis!)	95 Ft	5
51	Letter Europe: 19.9.96: strip of 4 x 22Ft. &* 7Ft.	95 Ft	2
52	Letter Europe: 18.1. 95: 50Ft. &* 10Ft. + 15Ft. + 20Ft.	95 Ft	2
53	Letter Europe: 1996: 75Ft. &* 20Ft.	95 Ft	5
54	Letter Europe: 18.10.96: pair 22Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft. + 1Ft.	95 Ft	3
55	Letter Europe: 1998: 40Ft. + 50Ft. &* 5Ft.	95 Ft	3
56	Letter Europe: 7.02.96: 50Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft.	100 Ft	2
57	Magyar Posta letter Europe: 27.4.99: pair 50Ft.	100 Ft	1
58	Magyar Posta letter Europe: 27.4.99: 2 x 50Ft:	100 Ft	1

#	Description	Total	
59	Letter Europe: 30.4.97: pair 50Ft.	100 Ft	1
60	Postcard Europe: 1.9.99: single 100Ft.	100 Ft	3
61	Postcard Europe: 1999: single 100Ft.	100 Ft	3
62	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: pair 50Ft. + 2Ft.	102 Ft	3
63	Letter Europe: 10.12.92 or 97: 2Ft. &* 100Ft.	102 Ft	4
64	Letter Europe: 10.12.02: pair 38Ft. &* 28Ft. red meter	104 Ft	5
65	Postcard Europe: 27.11.01: 100Ft. &* 7Ft.	107 Ft	4
66	Letter Europe: 22.5.96: 5 x 22Ft. all single stamps!	110 Ft	2
67	Letter Europe: 18.3. 96: 5 x 22Ft. all single stamps!	110 Ft	2
68	Letter Europe: date unclear: 2Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft.	112 Ft	4
69	Letter Europe: 22.1.97: 14Ft. + pair 50Ft.	114 Ft	4
70	Letter Europe: 23.3.99: 5Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft.	115 Ft	4
71	Letter Europe: date unclear: 1Ft., &* 100Ft.C + 12Ft.C + 7Ft.	120 Ft	5
72	Letter Europe: 13.10.97: 2Ft. + 35Ft. +75Ft. &* 16Ft.C	128 Ft	5
73	Letter Europe: date unclear: 50Ft. + 80Ft.	130 Ft	3
74	Letter Europe: 16.2.99: 80Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft + 10Ft.	130 Ft	2
75	Letter Europe: 16.2.99: 80Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft.	130 Ft	2
76	Letter Europe: 25.1.99: pair 5Ft. &* pair 60Ft.C was forwarded	130 Ft	5
77	Letter Europe: 31.3.2001: 100Ft. &* 40Ft.C	140 Ft	3
78	Letter Europe: 29.10.01: 79Ft. &* 27Ft.C + 34Ft.C	140 Ft	5
79	Letter Europe: 19.10.98: Overprinted 60Ft. + 80Ft.	140 Ft	4
80	Letter Europe: 14.10.02: 40Ft &* 28Ft.C + 2Ft.C (from 1981) + 70Ft.	140 Ft	3
81	Letter Europe: 5.12.99: strip 3 x 50Ft.	150 Ft	2
82	Letter Europe: 16.4.02: 50Ft. + 100Ft.	150 Ft	4
83	Letter Europe 11.11.02: Overprinted 60Ft. &* 90Ft.C	150 Ft	3
84	Letter Europe: 2.5.17: 38Ft. &*red meter 112Ft.	150 Ft	5
85	Letter Europe: 4.4.06: 100Ft. & *1Ft.C (from 1979) + 49Ft. Postal label	150 Ft	5
86	Letter Europe: date unclear: 50Ft. &* 5Ft. + 100Ft.: maybe weight step	155 Ft	4
87	Letter Europe: 13.1.01: pair 80Ft. + 1Ft. &* pair 3Ft.C (1Ft.needed!)	167 Ft	5
88	Printed Matter Europe: 20.12.99: 5Ft. &* pair 50Ft.C + 70Ft.C	175 Ft	5
89	Letter Europe: date unclear: pair 40Ft. &* 100Ft. large env.	180 Ft	3
90	Letter Europe: 13.6.97 same sender: maybe printed matter: 80Ft. &* 100Ft.	180 Ft	3
91	Letter Europe: re-addressed: 13.9.97: 2 x 40Ft. &* 100Ft.	180 Ft	3
92	Booklet Europe: printed paper: 2Ft. &* pair 90Ft.	182 Ft	5
93	Letter Europe: 17.3.98: 40Ft. + 50Ft. &* 100Ft. maybe printed matter	190 Ft	4
94	Letter Europe: 18.12.05: 100Ft. &*50Ft.C + 48Ft.C	198 Ft	4
95	Letter Europe: 2001: postmark with SB: single 200Ft.	200 Ft	5
96	Large Letter: Europe: re-addressed: pair 5Ft. &* pair 100Ft.	210 Ft	5
97	Large letter: Europe: 50Ft. &* 2 x 30Ft. + 100Ft.	210 Ft	4
98	Large Letter: Europe: 18.12.98: strip 4 x 50Ft. &* 20Ft.	220 Ft	3
99	Letter Europe: 13.6.97: 3Ft. &* 16Ft. stationery envelope + 4Ft., + 15Ft.+ 1Ft.C + 2Ft.C + pair 90Ft.C	221 Ft	5
100	Letter Europe: 16.10.98: 2Ft. &* pair 100Ft. + 30Ft.	232 Ft	4
101	Letter Europe: 19.2.96: strip 4 x 50Ft. + single 50Ft.	250 Ft	2
102	Letter Europe: 22.12.98: pair 100Ft. &* 50Ft.	250 Ft	4
103	Letter reg. air Canada: 20.2.97: strip 3 x 50Ft +50Ft.&* 2x 12Ft.+19Ft.+1Ft.	244 Ft	5*
104	Large letter Europe: 10.12.97: 50Ft. + 14Ft. &* pair 100Ft.	264 Ft	4
105	Express letter UK: 17.12.98: 200Ft. + 80Ft. + 5Ft. &* 4Ft	289 Ft	5
106	Very Large Env. Europe: 10.4.98: strip 4 x 50Ft + strip 3 x 50Ft.? printed paper	350 Ft	5
107	Very Large letter Europe: 4.3.96: strip 5 x 50Ft +pair 2 x 50Ft.? printed paper	350 Ft	5
108	Reg. letter UK: 17.5.98: 200Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft. + pair 30Ft.	377 Ft	5
109	Printed paper large: 3.6.99: pair 200Ft. &*50Ft.	450 Ft	5
110	Large letter: Europe: 1997: 1Ft. + 75Ft. &* strip 5 x 100Ft. ? pr. matter	576 Ft	5
111	Large letter reg. UK: 24.4.98: pair 300Ft. + 50Ft.	650 Ft	5
112	Registered letter Europe: pair 500Ft. &* 300Ft.C	1 300 Ft	5
113	Registered large letter Europe: 18.12.15: pair 300Ft. + pair 500Ft.	1 600 Ft	5*
114	Very large letter Special Delivery Europe: 1Ft. &* 5Ft. + 2 x 27Ft.C +14 x 200Ft.C+ 7 x 1000Ft.C with POSTAI LEZÁROS postmarks. It needed the 1Ft. to make Total 9860Ft.	9 860 Ft	5*

The artist, Dudas Laszlo, was born in 1935 and died in 2014, age 79. 227 stamps bear his name.

From Wikipedia we learn that he became friends with computer design early on. He considered computer knowledge to be so important in graphic work that he also organized a solo thematic exhibition on it in 1996. He presented the results of his own experiences to visitors, for example in making the symmetry of the Folk Art line. This definitive series has pattern at its heart.

He believed stamps were objects of everyday use and it did not matter what they looked like. They disseminated knowledge in particular, almost subconsciously- giving a lot of interesting information without intentionally wanting to learn from it. In 1990 he received the Munkacsy Prize. The most beautiful stamp of the year was awarded the King Matthias Mass Book Block in 1993. He received the Hungarian Post's Art Prize in 1992 and 2004 as well.

He began as an industrial designer by designing hydrofoils on the Danube. He later worked on advertising graphics, thanks in part to the Volan logo and image, and made his mark. After it turned out that he had the indispensable special vision needed for this miniature creation, stamp design became a significant part of his work from the 1970s.

I hope this study reflects my belief that the future of philately is secure- postal history, stamps, why issued, rates and their journeys. Of the 144 examples, 71 had been sent to the one person- who kept them! 9 were to me- also kept! Just 31 went elsewhere. There will be others maybe using stamps issued after my 2000 catalogue- but how many? They will change my valuations. I give some more illustrations which I think important as postal history ***(Illustrations 5-7***). How many similar exist? How many at the rates in my table still exist? What new information can readers give me?

Many of the additional stamps from other series were from other basic definitive series. Their use is worth similar study. Can we interest collectors today in these later stamps? In 100 years' time, when 1867 and 1871 lithograph and their like and postal history of the spring of 1945 will need good bank accounts to collect, these now modern issues may be the last stamps ever issued as technology takes over world communication.



Illustration 6-7

NEWS

During the second half of the year, several members of Mafitt participated in two international exhibitions. Their highest award as a large vermeil LV) medal, for which we congratulate three of them.



FEPA and FIP medals of the period

LIBEREC 2022 FEPA EXHIBITION 13-16 OCTOBER

Class	Exhibition results of *Mafitt members*	**Awards**
	Peter Csicsay	
PH	The Postal History of Kingdom of Hungary 1900-1918	**LV**
	Ute & Elmar Dorr	
PH	The Orient Express 1883-1914	**LV**
	Elmar Dorr	
PH	Historical Forays through the Postal History of the Town of Neustadt an der Haardt	**V**
	Ladislav Fekete	
PH	The Austrian imperial and Royal Navy in the World War I.	**V**
	Gyorgy Lovei	
1FR	Interim Use of the Czechoslovakian Air Mail Stamps during the Interim period of the Czechoslovakian Currency Reform (01.06.1953-18.06.1953)	**85p**
	Gyorgy Toth	
PH	Forint-filler	**V**
	Karoly Szucs	
TR	On the Rough Road of Independence – Beginning of the domestic stamp production in Hungary	**V**

POLAR SALON

	Zsolt Bodnar	
PH	Philately of Franz Josef Land	**LS**

CAPE TOWN 2022 FIP EXHIBIT 8-12 NOVEMBER

Class	Exhibition results of *Mafitt members*	Awards
	Artur Banas	
1FR	A miracle of a great discovery, the Victoria falls	**82p**
	Gyorgy Lovei	
AE	Postal documents of the international air mail service to and from Hungary till 31.12.1933	**V**
1FR	Interim use of Czechoslovakian stamps during the monetary reform period (01.06-18.06.1953)	**78p**
	Karoly Szucs	
REV	Spreading the stamping of documents in the Habsburg Empire by Hungarian eyes	**LV**
LIT	100 years of MABEOSZ/MABÉOSZ 1922-2022	**V**



The award ceremony for exhibitors who won large golds at the Cape Town 2022 exhibition

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



Volume XXXIV



2014 **2015**

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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research

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

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation.

23
2

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2023/2

Content:

Tamas Gudlin	Early postmarking machines in Hungary	1
Janos Dan	Mail Traffic During the Period of Military Operations – Part I	15
Florent Tricot	Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946: the single deficiency calculation	26
Adriano Bergamini, FRPSL – Denes Czirok RDP, FRPSL	A Hungarian stamp dealer in His Majesty's service	37
In Memoriam Gabor Visnyovszki		41

Editor: Karoly Szucs, member of Mafitt and curator of the Gervay Foundation
Translator: Csaba Kohalmi member of Mafitt-presidency and Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) and Karoly Szucs

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

EARLY POSTMARKING MACHINES IN HUNGARY

BY TAMAS GUDLIN, GERMANY



INTRODUCTION

Automatic mail processing is an area in which the Hungarian Post, for once, was not a pioneer. In 1907, when they approved the first postmarking machine for permanent use, most of the major postal administrations in the world had already been using various machines for several decades. This paper attempts to provide an overview of:

- the postmarking machines tested or permanently used before the introduction of franking machines (1928),
- the post offices where the first machines were used and
- the first mechanical cancellations produced with the various machines.

The editing of the topic is mainly based on postal items which are known today. Only very few meaningful postal documents could be found on this.

Before going into the use of postmarking machines, it is necessary to clarify how they are systematized. Fig. 1 shows an overview of the main types of design options for the mechanization of postmarking.

Hand stamping devices are simple lever-joint mechanisms with the help of which the stamping die performs an up and down movement, similar to conventional hand stamping. Both the insertion and removal of the letters as well as the operation is done by hand. The first devices were realized in this form as early as 1857 (Pearson Hill, England).

With the "right" postmarking machines, the stamping die performs a rotary movement. This is the basis for the fact that these machines offer significantly higher performance (number of strikes per minute) than the hand stamping machines.

There are two fundamentally different types of postmarking machines: the single-impression machines and the continuous-impression machines.

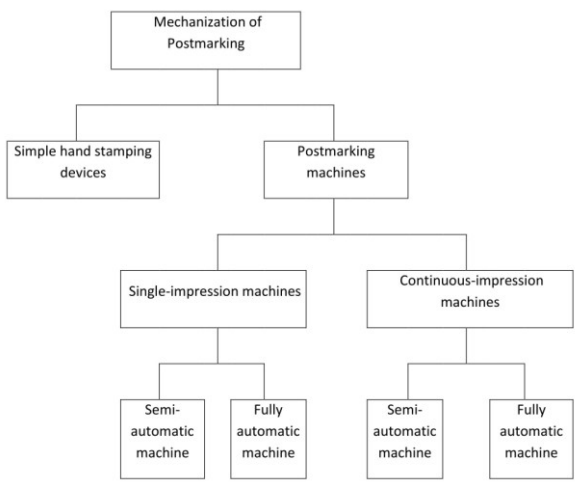


Fig. 1: Main design options for the mechanization of postmarking

The imprint of a single-impression machine only covers a limited corner of the letter, whereas the continuous-impression machine produces an imprint that runs across the entire width of the letter. Both can be semi or fully automatic. In the case of semi automatic machines, constant opera-

tion by at least one postal clerk (e.g. to "feed" the machine) is necessary. The letters are inserted into the fully automatic machines in stacks and can also be removed in stacks. The machine does everything else completely automatically.

THE HUNGARIAN POST'S FIRST TESTS WITH POSTMARKING MACHINE

The first stamping machine that aroused the interest of the Royal Hungarian Post was a semi automatic single-impression machines of HALLER type.

The use of single-impression machines for outgoing mail (i.e. also as a canceller for the stamps) is subject to the following two conditions:

a./ the postage stamps must always be in the upper right corner of the letter

b./ the stamped area must always be at a constant distance from the upper right corner of the letter.

Since condition a./ was often not given in the early days of stamp machine development and condition b./ required a complex technical solution, the first single-impression machines were used - apart from a few exceptions, such as those exclusively for postal stationery postcards used Leavitt machine deployed in USA - **only for incoming mail, that means for arrival postmarking**. The Haller stamp machine was one such machine used for arrival postmarking. It was patented by Wilhelm Loffelhardt from Hamburg in 1880. Together with Georg Haller, he founded a company called "Haller & Co." to manufacture stamp machines (hence the name Haller stamp machine). The structure and function of the machine can be seen in Fig. 2.

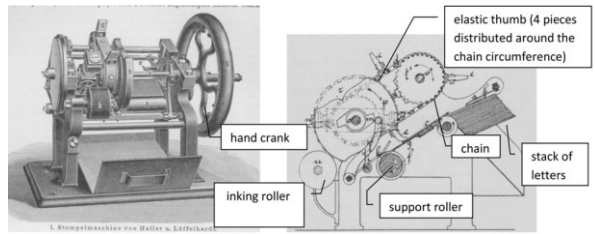


Fig. 2: General view of the Haller stamp machine and a technical drawing from the patent application

The most important component of the machine is a chain drive, consisting of two sprockets and a chain. On the outer circumference of the chain are four evenly spaced elastic thumbs. These have the task of separating the top letter from the stack of letters fed in from below and transporting it between the stamp die and support roller. The two stamp dies, which are offset by 180° from one another, and the transport disk, rotate with the first sprocket wheel, which is driven with the help of a hand crank. Ideally, three employees were needed to operate the machine: one employee each to operate the hand crank, to feed the stack of letters and to collect the stamped letters. There were also machines with an electric drive, where only 2 operators were required. With the electric Haller machine, a maximum of around 400 letters per minute could be stamped. It was used primarily in Germany, between 1881 and 1909, in a total of 15 different larger towns.

From the Hungarian point of view, it is important that the Haller stamping machine was permanently used within the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in Vienna and Prague for a long time to stamp incoming mail. It was introduced in Vienna (Vienna 1 post office) in 1886 and in Prague (Prague 1 post office) in 1900. The use of the Haller machine is proven by both Vienna and Prague until 1909. Fig. 3 shows three examples: two different ones from the Vienna 1 post office: the early dou-

ble-circle postmark "Vienna / Central-Abgabe" in black from 1888 and the later single-circle postmark "Wien ... / Ordered" in blue from 1891, as well as a blue arrival postmark of the Post Office Prague 1 from 1903 on the back of a letter.



Fig. 3: Two different Haller arrival postmarks from the post office in Vienna 1 (above) and one Haller arrival postmark from Prague (below)

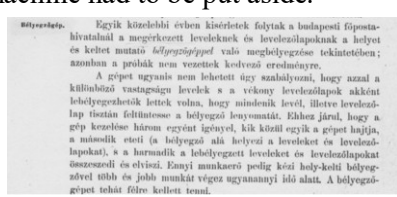
The following features are typical of the Haller postmarks:

- Straight (no twisted) alignment of the strikes
- Uniform, "light" strikes, often not quite complete
- Often slightly deformed, oval shape of the postmark
- Often use of blue ink

It is particularly important for Hungarian collectors to keep this in mind, since neither the time when the Haller machine was used in Hungary nor the type of postmark used in it is exactly known. The only clear evidence of the use of the Haller stamp machine in Hungary comes from the book by János Botár published in 1899 (see [3]), from which the relevant passage is reproduced in the original in Fig. 4. There is the following explanation under the keyword "Bélyegzőgép" = "stamp machine":

"Not so far away, trials were carried out in the Budapest Central Post Office to use stamp machine to postmark incoming letters and postcards, but the trials did not lead to good results.

The machine could not be adjusted in such a way that all letters of different thicknesses and all thin postcards received a clean impression. In addition, the operation of the machine requires three people. The first keeps the machine running, the second feeds the machine (inserts the letters and postcards) and the third collects and removes the postmarked letters and postcards. So many workers are doing more and better work by hand stamping in the same amount of time. So the stamp machine had to be put aside."



Bélyegzőgép. Egyik közelebbi évben kisérletek folytak a budapesti főpostahivatalnál a megérkezett leveleknek és levelezőlapoknak a helyet és keltet mutató *bélyegzőgéppel* való megbélyegzése tekintetében; azonban a próbák nem vezettek kedvező eredményre.

A gépet ugyanis nem lehetett úgy szabályozni, hogy azzal a különböző vastagságu levelek s a vékony levelezőlapok akként lebélyegezhetők lettek volna, hogy mindenik levél, illetve levelezőlap tisztán feltüntesse a bélyegző lenyomatát. Ehhez járul, hogy a gép kezelése három egyént igényel, kik közül egyik a gépet hajtja, a második eteti (a bélyegző alá helyezi a leveleket és levelezőlapokat), s a harmadik a lebélyegzett leveleket és levelezőlapokat összeszedi és elviszi. Ennyi munkaerő pedig kézi hely-kelti bélyegzővel több és jobb munkát végez ugyanannyi idő alatt. A bélyegzőgépet tehát félre kellett tenni.

Fig. 4: Original text from [3], regarding the testing of a stamp machine in Budapest

So this is all we officially know about the use of a stamp machine in Hungary before 1900. The author has no doubt that it was a Haller machine.

After years of studying the arrival postmarks of the main post office in Budapest from the period 1890 to 1900, the author can only present one item with a "very probable" Haller test postmark with a clear conscience. This is shown in Fig. 5. The straight alignment of the postmark, the light,

even and not quite complete impression and the blue colour speak for the Haller machine. However, the year 1893 raises questions, since the literature source published in 1899 [3] spoke of a "year not far away".

So the author has no choice but to ask you, dear collector friends, for help and support. If you find "suspicious" arrival postmarks from FŐPOSTA (Main Post Office) BUDAPEST from the period between 1890 and 1900, please report them to the author. The most important task in the first step would be to narrow down the period of use of the Haller machine in Hungary more precisely.



Fig. 5: A "very probable" Haller test in the main post office in Budapest on June 16, 1893

THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN POST'S FIRST PERMANENTLY USED STAMP MACHINE

The first stamp machine that was permanently used at the Royal Hungarian Post Office was a fully automatic continuous-impression machine of the KRAG-HANSEN type (Krag machine for short).

The continuous-stamping with the cancellation running across the entire width of the document eliminates all the disadvantages of the single-impression machines: even "unorthodox" affixed stamps can be cancelled and there is no need to synchronize the position of the document relative to the position of the stamping dies. Why were single-impression machines developed at all when it's so much easier with continuous-impression machines? The answer must be sought in the extremely strict ethics of the pre-1900 postal service. The written message was then "sacred". In addition to postal secrecy, this also included the requirement to transmit messages completely and unaltered.

Since continuous stamping can cover part of the text on postcards and the address and/or advertisement of the sender on letters and make it illegible, such stamping attempts before 1900 were repeatedly rejected by postal administrations. At the beginning of the 20th century, the volume of letters in the industrialized countries grew to such an extent that they could only be managed economically with much faster stamp machines. These at first could be realized most easily the continuous stamping.

Norwegian designer and inventor Gustav Adolf Hansen had the right idea at the right time. Together with the mechanical engineering manufacturer Nils Aall Krag, he patented a revolutionary stamping machine in 1904, which eclipsed all previously known machines in terms of price/performance ratio, user-friendliness and reliability. Another Krag-patent is known from 1910, which only contained optimizations of details, so that this article only deals with the structure and function of the machine of the first generation.

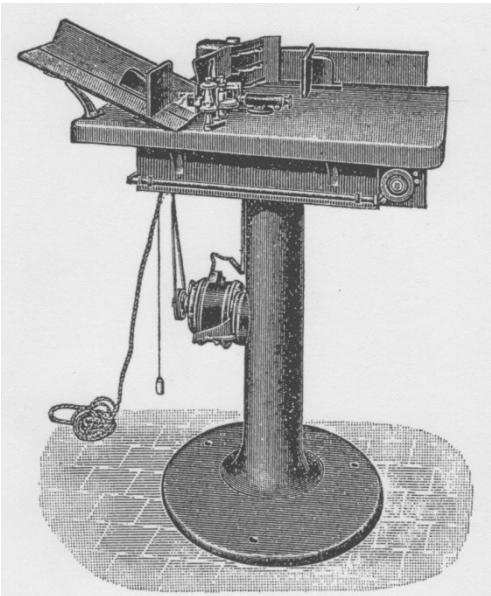


Fig. 6: General view of the Krag machine

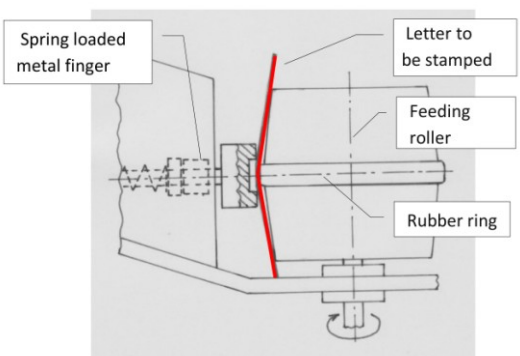


Fig. 7: Functional principle of the conveyor system of the Krag stamp machine

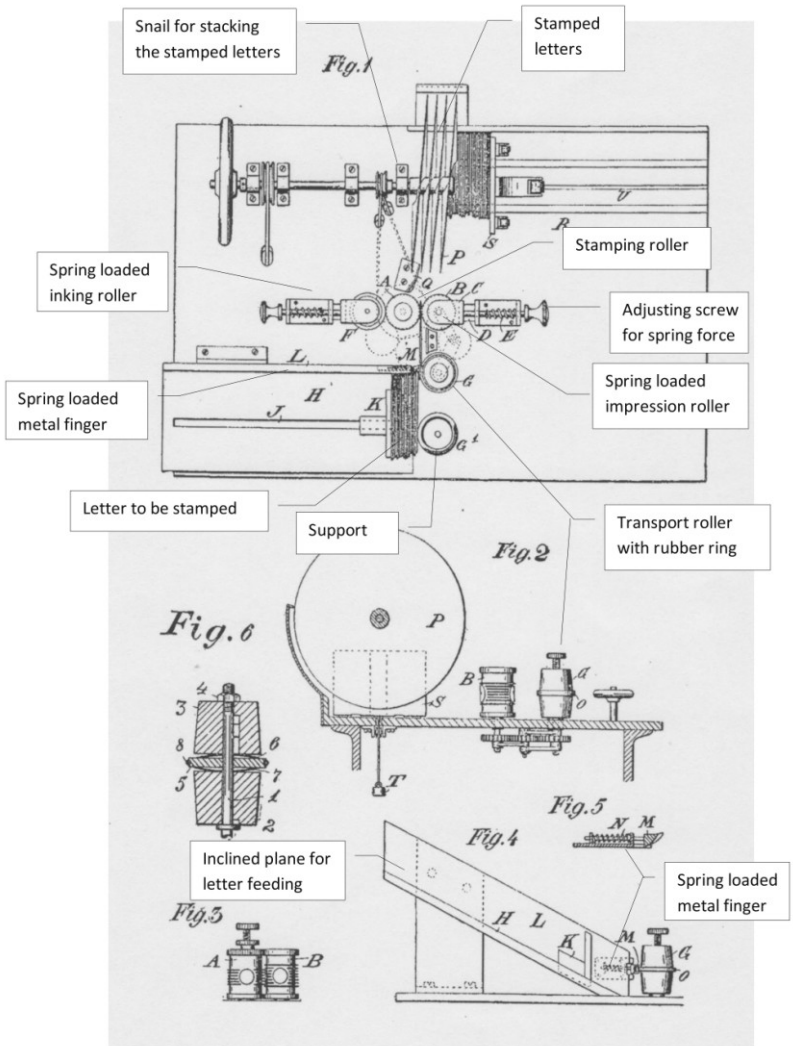


Fig.8: Technical drawings from the patent application of the Krag machine

The main functional characteristics of the machine can be explained using Fig. 7 and 8. The upper drawing in Fig. 7 (“Fig. 1”) is a plan view. The actual stamping roller is in the middle of this drawing, and is in contact with two spring-loaded rollers: the inking roller on the left, the impression roller on the right. The document to be stamped is pushed between the stamp roller and the impression roller by a sophisticated conveyor system. After being aligned in an identical position, the letters are placed in stacks on an inclined feed rail (see "Fig. 4") and are held by a support roller (see "Fig. 2"). The most interesting components of the machine are a feeding roller and a spring-loaded metal finger. These two parts have the task of separating the document to be stamped individually from the stack and transporting it to the stamp roller at high speed.

The design and arrangement of these parts are shown in "Fig. 5" and in the enlarged representation of Fig. 8. The feeding roller has a narrow rubber ring in the middle and is slightly conical in both directions. The spring-loaded metal finger grips the rubber ring of the feeding roller at a small distance so that the letters are slightly bent during transport and are therefore held and guided securely (see red line in Fig. 8). The cylindrical stamping roller and impression roller naturally eliminates this bending of the documents; they run straight through during stamping.

The optimized version of the Krag machine (i.e. from 1910) was able to stamp approx. 600 to 800 documents per minute with manual drive and approx. 1000 to 1200 documents per minute with electric drive and had the additional advantage that mixed mail (Letters and postcards with different thicknesses) could be processed reliably. In addition, the machine was very inexpensive, easy to operate and reliable due to its simple structure.

The first machines were used in 1904 in Christiania (now Oslo). They then conquered the postal administrations of the world in an extremely short time: according to a company brochure from Nils A. Krag Maschinenfabrik from the beginning of 1912, 455 machines were already running on all continents of the world in 28 countries! In some countries (including e.g. England) Krag machines were used continuously until the end of the 20th century. This makes these machines the most successful stamping machines of all time.

The use of Krag stamp machines in Hungary was released in [5] with Decree No. 67.864 of September 11, 1907 for the Budapest Post Office 72 (office at the Keleti railway station). This approval was preceded by several tests with different machines, about which unfortunately there are no longer any official documents. Today we can only prove some of these tests on the basis of known items. Two examples of this are shown in Fig. 9.



Fig. 9: Two covers from the first trials with continuous-impression stamping machines in Hungary

The tests were carried out in the post offices Budapest 4 (main post office) and Budapest 72 (post office at Keleti station) in the summer of 1907. From this test phase, only large-format illustrated printed matter envelopes addressed to the USA from the sender Dr. D. Bayer are known (see Fig. 9)! To the best of the author's knowledge, the upper item in Fig. 9 bears the earliest known cancellation of the Krag machine from Hungary. It is from the Budapest 4 post office of July 27, 1907 with eight straight cancellation lines between the daters. The distance between the centres of the daters is approx. 79 mm, which corresponds to half the circumference of the Krag stamping roller.

The lower document was postmarked five days later, on Aug. 1, 1907, at post office 72. This machine had a stamping roller with a smaller diameter, since the distance between the daters there is only approx. 66 mm. This cancellation probably even comes from a competing machine (Sylbe machine from Germany), which was also tested in parallel with the Krag machine. This is also supported by the larger diameter of the daters, their arrangement rotated by 90° and the different design of the cancellation lines. The machine obviously did not run optimally, since the upper half of the cancellation is practically non-existent. The code letter "B" suggest that there must have been a second machine too (with code letter "A"), but there is no proof of this.

According to Postal Regulation No. 67,864, release of the Krag machine applied only to Post Office 72, and wavy cancellation lines were mandated for the stamping roller. This was also implemented in post office 72, as can be seen from the example in Fig. 10 below. The card in Fig. 10 was posted on the last day of 1907 and bears a Krag cancellation with the identification letter "a" and seven closely spaced wavy cancellation lines. In the post office at Budapest 72, only one Krag machine with this stamping roller was used until around 1910.

Curiously, the test machine in post office 4 continued to operate with the straight line canceller. Following illustration 10 shows an envelope posted Nov. 10, 1907 as a printed matter with the same cancellation as on the top cover of Fig. 9 from the test phase. There is evidence that this machine continued to be used until the end of 1909. The author is not aware of any further Krag cancellations from the main post office (post office 4) from the time after that!



Fig. 10: Cancellation of the first Krag stamp machine permanently used in post office 72 from December 31, 1907



Fig. 11: Use of the Krag machine in the Budapest Main Post Office with straight cancellation lines of 10 Nov 1907

After 1909, stamp machines were only operated in the post office 72 for a few years. In 1910, new

canceller with expanded wavy lines was introduced there, and a second machine with the code letter "b" was added. Around 1917, new daters with code letters "A" and "B" were introduced while retaining the wavy cancellation lines. See Figures 12 to 14 to confirm these statements.

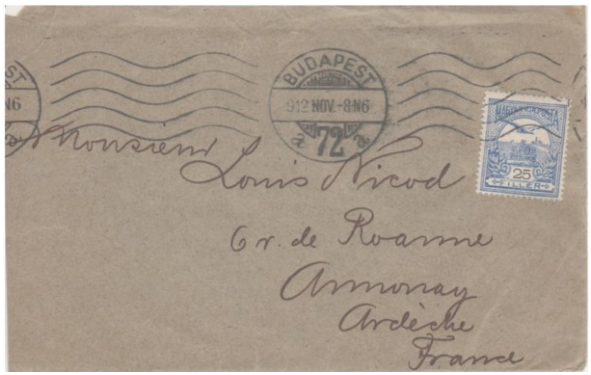


Fig. 12: Cancellation of the newly introduced stamping roller in the Budapest Post Office 72 with five expanded wavy cancellation lines and code letter "a"



Fig. 13: Cancellation of the new Krag machine installed in post office 72 in 1912 with code letter "b" and with vertical separation lines between the daters and the cancellers.



Fig. 14: Cancellation of the new stampingroller introduced in 1917 in post office 72 with code letter "B" from September 17, 1917

Around the middle of 1913, the Budapest 62 post office (post office next to Nyugati station) also received a Krag stamp machine. The design of the cancellation lines was identical to that of post office 72. The code letters "Hh" were used in the dater. Fig. 15 shows a letter card dated September 28, 1912 with such a cancellation. From this point in time, three Krag machines were in use at the Hungarian Postal Administration in the period relevant to this article: two in the Budapest Post Office 72 and one in the Budapest Post Office 62. Fig. 16 shows a cancellation of the already much worn stamping roller of the machine of post office Budapest 62, Nov. 4, 1917.



Fig. 15: Cancellation of the in post office Budapest 62 newly installed Krag machine from September 28, 1913 with code letters "Hh" and five wavy cancellation lines



Fig. 16: In November 1917, the stamping roller of the machine newly introduced in 1913 (see fig. above) shows clear signs of wear

The coronation of Karl and Zita on December 30, 1916 also presented the Hungarian Post with special challenges. In order to cope with the rush for special cancellations that were only valid on this day, Krag stamp machines with new dies were used in post offices 62 and 72. Examples of this are shown in Fig. 17 and 18. It is an interesting observation that machine postmarks of the coronation are much rarer than hand postmarks.



Fig. 17: Special cancellation of the Krag machine of the Budapest Post Office 62 on the day of the coronation of Karl and Zita on December 30, 1916



Fig. 18: Identical special cancellation as above, here from the Budapest 72 post office. The daters were accidentally inserted upside down in the stamping roller. Due to partial double feed the cancellation is not complete.

At the end of 1917, the Krag stamp machine of the Budapest Post Office 62 was equipped with a new stamping roller, which had straight cancellation lines. First five cancellation lines were tried, the number of which was then increased to six towards the end of 1918. The latter version was then used until around 1922. The dater has remained unchanged throughout. Fig. 19 shows an example for both variants.



Fig. 19a Cancellation with the new stamping rollers of the Krag machine of the Budapest 62 post office: in rare blue colour and with five cancellation lines from June 1918

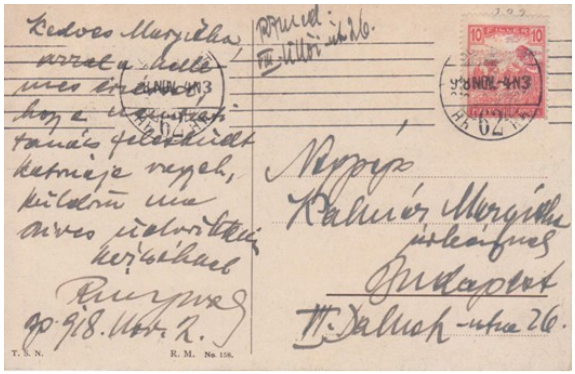


Fig. 19: Cancellation with the Krag machine final version with six cancellation lines from Nov. 1918

From the early 1920s, the cancellation lines of the Krag stamping rollers were sporadically supplemented with text containing either advertising or postal information. Two examples of this are shown in Fig. 20 and 21.



Fig. 20: Krag cancellation of the Budapest 62 post office of July 20, 1922 with the request: "Küldemények címében/utcát, házszámot/irjuk ki" = Indicate street and house number in the address"

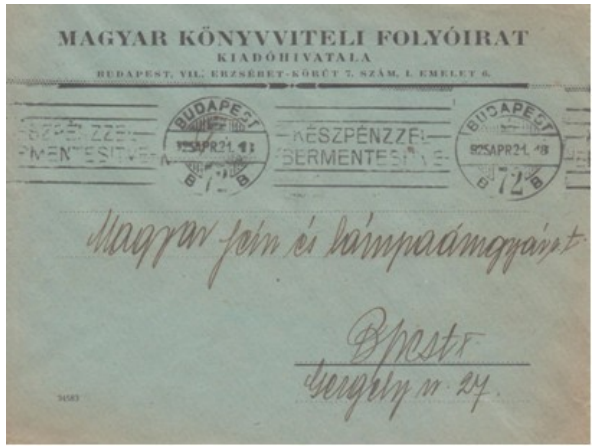


Fig. 21: From 1920 onwards, post offices 62 and 72 in Budapest used stamping rollers with the postal notice "Készpénzzel / bérmentesítve" = "fee paid in cash". This letter was postmarked on April 21, 1925 in post office 72 with machine "B".

3. THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN POST'S SECOND PERMANENTLY USED STAMP MACHINE

Even during the triumph of the Krag continuous-impression machine, a single impression stamp machine appeared on the world market, which had a comparable price-performance ratio to the Krag machine and had the advantage that the letters were not "defaced" by the stamping. It was the fully automatic stamp machine from the manufacturer UNIVERSAL Stamping Machine Company from the USA. The Hungarian Post used universal stamping machines on a permanent basis only from 1930 (with the very characteristic stylized tulip motif between the cancellation lines), but there were at least two short-term uses before that, which are discussed below. First, however, the function of the universal machines should be briefly described.

The greatest challenge in the technical realization of a single-impression stamp machine is the "synchronization" of the position of the document to be stamped and the position of the stamping roller. As already mentioned in Chapter 2, the need for synchronization arises on the one hand from the condition that the stamp mark must always have the same distance from the right-hand edge of the document, and on the other hand from the fact that the documents to be stamped have different dimensions in the direction of flow. In order to realize synchronization, the stamping roller must not rotate continuously. Its rotation must be initiated from the right edge of the document and, after stamping has been completed, the stamping roller must always return to the same rest position.

Fig. 22 shows a page of inventor Frederick E. Poor's January 1917 patent, filed by Universal Stamping Machine Co. for the synchronization solution. Other details of the machine are not dealt with in this patent.

The whole mechanism consists of a synchro lever, two spring-loaded rocker arms, a connecting rod and a cam which is firmly connected to the stamping roller. In the patent application, the synchronous mechanism is shown in three different positions (see "Fig. 1. 2. and 3." in Fig. 22).

In "Fig.1.", the synchronous mechanism is in the stop position while a document to be stamped (shown in red) is being conveyed through a first pair of feeding cylinders (not shown) to the second pair of feeding cylinders (shown). The two rocker arms are in the stop position as a result of the force of their tension springs, as a result of which the synchro- lever is held in a position in which it blocks the path of the document. The stamping roller is prevented from rotating by its cam from the roller of the rocker arm 1, while the clutch (not shown) between the drive motor and the stamping roller slips.

When the synchro-lever is touched by the incoming document, it rotates counter-clockwise around its bearing point on rocker arm 2 (see “Fig.2.”). The same rotation is transferred to rocker arm 1 through the coupling rod (see green arrows). At this moment, the rotation of the stamping roller is released and stamping can take place.

While the stamping roller is completing its rotation, rocker arm 1 is turned back to the stop position by the force of its tension spring, whereupon the connecting rod turns the synchronization lever clockwise (see green arrows in "Fig. 3."). However, the synchro-lever cannot yet assume its stop position because it is being pushed down by the document running past. This is made possible by turning the rocker arm 2 clockwise. When the stamped document has left the tip of the synchro-lever, the tension spring pulls rocker arm 2 back into its stop position, allowing the synchro-lever to jump back into its stop position shown in "Fig.1".

A maximum of approx. 800 mixed documents per minute could be stamped with this machine. When you consider that the processes described above have to take place 13 times per second (!) at maximum output, you can really imagine how sensitively the coordination of the forces and movements of the mechanism had to be for a process-reliable function.

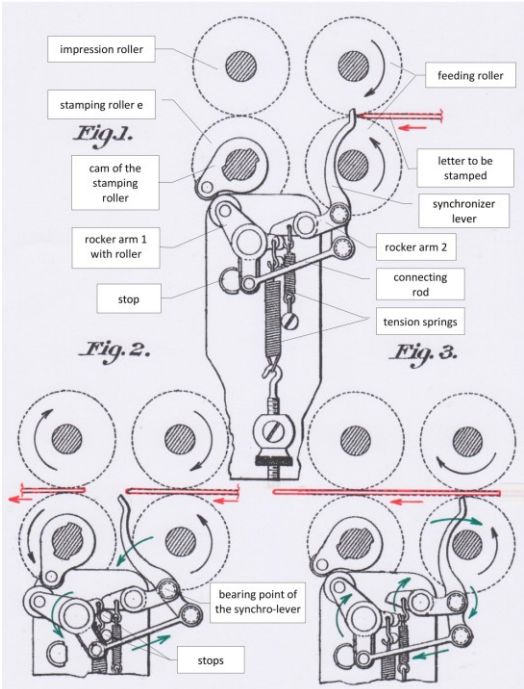


Fig. 22: Structure and function of the synchronization of the position of the stamping roller and the document in the fully automatic UNIVERSAL single-impression stamp machine according to the patent application

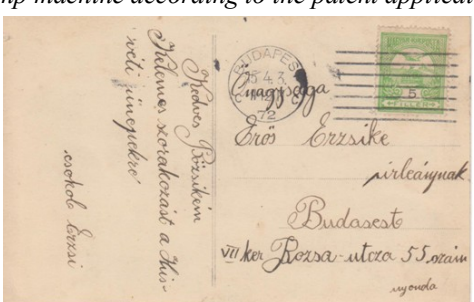


Fig. 23: The first tests were carried out with the Universal single-impression stamp machine in the Budapest 72 post office in the spring of 1915

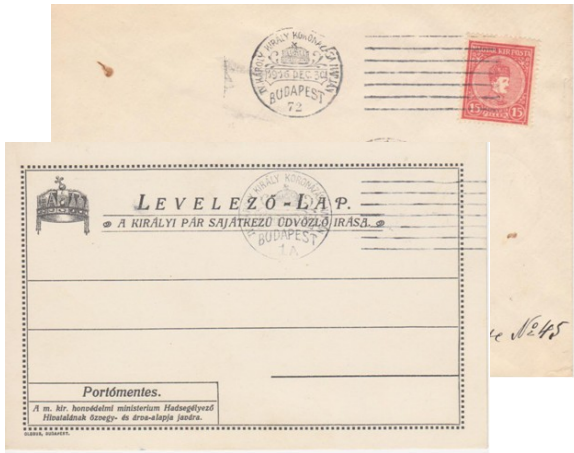


Fig. 24: Use of the Universal single-impression stamp machine on the occasion of the coronation of Karl and Zita on December 30, 1916 in the post offices Budapest 1 and 72

The author is aware of two short-term uses from before the permanent use of the Universal machine in Hungary from 1930 onwards. Fig. 23 shows a postcard stamped on April 3, 1915 in the Budapest 72 post office with a Universal machine. The appearance of the cancellation corresponds 100% to the cancellations known from Germany for the Universal machines used there. It can be assumed with high probability that the first tests of the Universal machines in Hungary took place in this period. It is not known whether other post offices were also involved, since official postal documents on this could unfortunately not be found.

Fig. 24 shows two documents with mechanical special postmarks on the occasion of the coronation of Karl and Zita on December 30, 1916. These show the same cancellation lines as in the previous case and come from two different post offices: Budapest 1 and Budapest 72. According to [6], three machines with slightly different dies for the special cancella-

tion were used in post office 1 and a fourth machine was used in post office 62. (However, in [6] the Universal cancellations were incorrectly assigned to the Krag machine).

4. USE OF A SIMPLE HAND OPERATED STAMP DEVICE IN HUNGARY

The simple stamp devices are operated by hand (or more rarely by foot). As already mentioned in the introduction, the die is moved up and down almost vertically. The advantage of these machines is that due to the leverage ratio that is always present, the required manual strength is lower (the wrist joints are protected!) and that a crooked strike of the die is impossible. The possible number of letters per minute is not significantly higher than with conventional hand stamping. Such devices were already in use from 1857 (inventor: Pearson Hill, England). Apart from England, the Netherlands, Italy, France and Australia used their own designs that differed slightly from each other even before 1900. For us Hungarian collectors, the French hand stamp machine patented by Eugene Daguin in 1881 is of interest, which was also in permanent use in Romania and Bulgaria from 1890 onwards.

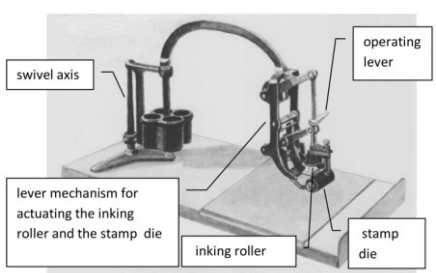


Fig. 25: The Daguin hand operated stamp machine

Its structure can be seen in Fig. 25. A bracket that can be pivoted about a vertical axis carries at its front end an articulated lever mechanism that is equipped with the die and the inking roller. If this mechanism is pressed down from the resting position, the inking roller first pivots backwards and moistens the die in the process. With further actuation, the die is moved downwards and strikes exactly over the entire surface of the stamp table.

Last year, collector friend Istvan Szekeres succeeded in finding a document in the Hungarian Stamp Museum, which can be considered as proof of the use of the Daguin machine in Hungary. According to [1], this took place in the years 1924-26. At this time the time of hand stamping devices was actually over, hand stamping machines were only used occasionally in England and France up to the 1950s. Figures 26 to 28 show a compilation of Hungarian cancellations assigned to the Daguin machine. They were duplex cancellations consisting of a dater and an advertising canceller. Their shape and arrangement was identical to the French Daguin postmarks in use at the same time. The advertising cancellations for the trade fairs in Budapest from 1924 to 1926 from the post offices at Budapest 4, 62 and 72 are most common (see Fig. 26). On the occasion of the publication of the first set of sports motifs in 1925, advertising postmarks with the inscription "Use sports - stamps" were introduced in several cities (Budapest, Szeged, Miskolc) (see Fig. 27). Finally, Fig. 28 shows a rare strike, which was used on the occasion of a sports history exhibition of the National Museum in the Budapest 80 post office. Furthermore, Daguin postmarks on the occasion of the Jokai exhibition of the National Museum in 1925 and the international scout meeting in 1926 are known. These were also only used for a few weeks and are therefore rare.



Fig. 26: Daguin advertising cancellations of the Budapest Post Office 62 on the occasion of the Budapest Sample Fair 1924 (below), and the Post Office 72 on the occasion of the Budapest International Fair 1925 (above)



Fig. 27: Daguin advertising cancellations "Use sports stamps" from the Budapest 62 post office on the back of an express letter to Vienna from 1925



Fig. 28: Daguin advertising postmark "Sports History Exhibition in the Hungarian National Museum, May 1926" of the Budapest Post Office 80.

LITERATURE USED:

[1] Geslin, Rene: Un homme…une machine, DAGUIN. Paris 2010

[2] Kohlhaas, W. und Riese, I.: Die Briefstempelmaschinen von Haller und Co., Soest 1995

[3] Botár, J.: Beschreibung der Räumlichkeiten, der Einrichtungen, der Verbrauchsmaterialien und der postdienstlichen Geräte der Post und Telegraphie. Budapest 1899

[4] Kohlhaas, W. / Riese, I.: Die Bandstempelmaschinen von KRAG und SYLBE. Soest 2007.

[5] A Magyar Királyi Posta Szabályrendeleteinek Gyűjteménye (Sammlung der Verordnungen der Königlich Ungarischen Post) Band VI. Budapest 1910

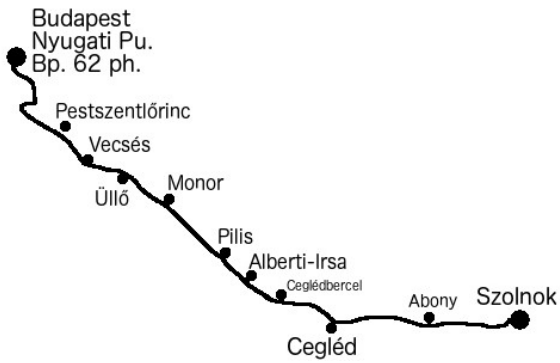
[6] Mihályfi, Ernő: A magyar alkalmi bélyegzések katalógusa (Katalog der Sonderstempel von Ungarn) MABÉOSZ Budapest, 1988

[7] Autorenkollektiv: Monografie der Ungarischen Briefmarken, Band I., Budapest 1965

MAIL TRAFFIC DURING THE PERIOD OF MILITARY OPERATIONS – 1944-1945



BY JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST



1. Stations along the Budapest-Szolnok railway line

One of the prerequisites for restarting postal traffic was to create, under the existing circumstances, the speedy and functioning connection between larger towns separated by distance.A good example of this was the Budapest-Szolnok railway line or, as the railway workers called it, line number 628.Inasmuch as this was the first line to be restored to service, it was the earliest one to establish railroad service from Budapest as a result.This line connected with the trains running between Szolnok and Debrecen, so it was quite possible to send mail closures from Budapest even as far as Debrecen relatively early.Mail closures could even be forwarded from Debrecen beyond the border (to Transylvania).In other parts of the country, mail closures were restarted in a similar fashion using the railways.Postal workers took advantage of the situation as soon as it became possible to find suitable transportation.

I am using this example for mail closures because this is the railway line along which most of the mailbag closure documents were saved by enthusiastic collectors.Hence, it's best possible example to use for reconstructing history.

MAIL CLOSURES

We refer to the so-called officially tabulated direct shipments addressed between post offices as mail closures.Such mail bags contained all the postal material handled according to the appropriate directives that was intended to be transported in a specific direction.The tabulated contents mail closures included letters, fiscal or combined transactions.Ordinarily, the closures were sealed in a bag but sometimes wrapping paper was used.The postal bags containing letters were simply tied with a string and sealed with an official label (vignette).Fiscal and combined bags were locked with a clip-together lock specially designed for bags (American lock).This lock could be opened only after tearing the officially stamped and signed piece of paper attached to it.

Postal bags were unavailable right away, and the quantity of letters also did not justify their use.Oftentimes, all of the mail could be fitted into a large envelope, and these closures could then be given to the operators of the steam locomotives

who would transmit them.Unfortunately, there is no additional postal data available to me.

Early letter closures were written by hand and included the names of the sending post office as well as the receiving one along with the date of the sending.The date would have been added by hand until the time when the post office acquired and started using a stamping device or postal canceller.There exist letter closures that were reused several times with the name of the receiving post office crossed out and a new name written over it.This points to a severe shortage of everything.

Eventually, the wording on letter closures was standardized by the central authorities.This text was typewritten on the cover sheets, but later printed versions appeared.The typewritten ones that turned up after this indicate that the printed copies were probably depleted.

The approved text is as follows:

'Letter closure from ..... post office.
Transported by locomotive engineers operating occasional trains.
Transportation to places not located along railroad lines by road guards and road repair personnel.
If the post office is not functioning, then it needs to be handed over to town authorities or the town mayor.
To the honourable Post Office .....'

Both the printed and the typewritten version contain many spelling errors.The most common mistake is writing *útőrök* (road guards) as *uttörők (*pioneers).Naturally, versions that differ from the official text also exist.

Now, let's examine the start of postal traffic in the towns along the railway line and the sending of the first letter closures.

SZOLNOK

Due to the bombings, most buildings in Szolnok were destroyed or heavily damaged.All three bridges were blown up.The city's infrastructure was destroyed: road, water supply lines and sewer systems.The municipal administration was evacuated on October 8, 1944.

Szolnok was captured by the Red Army on November 4, 1944.Out of the city's population of forty thousand, only four thousand remained to greet the arrival of the Soviets.The rest had fled.

After Budapest, Szolnok was the country's second most important railway junction point.Capturing it was important to the Soviet military planners in order to secure the lines of transportation for supplies.Without capturing the city, the Soviet army's supply lines could be secured only in by time-consuming detours.

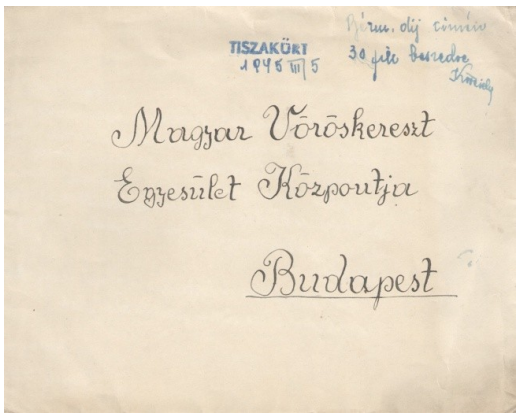
The Soviets transformed the town into a hospital-city.Every useable building was made into a hospital to provide care for the wounded.The two large halls of the Tisza Hotel became operating rooms.Furniture and material from municipal archives was burned and used to provide heating.

Most likely, the postal cancellers and much of the other postal supplies were evacuated. The lack of these is indicated by the use of rubber cancellers on early letters.

The post office started to function on December 31st.The no. 2 post office operated inside the Szolnok railway station.Its employees gave the letter closures to the locomotive operators for transmittal and accepted the same from them.



2. Registered local letter stamped with a provisional rubber canceller, posted on January 3, 1945 at the Szolnok no. 1 post office.This was handled a few days after the post office reopened.



3. Letter sent from Tiszakürt to Budapest of March 15, 1945 cancelled with the Tiszakürt post office's provisional rubber canceller.The letter was transported on the Szolnok-Budapest railway line.

Abony

The manager of the Abony post office collected all of the postal securities and cancelling devices according to the evacuation orders before the fighting along the front line advanced to the town.He then fled westward, but in passing through Budapest, he turned over the accumulation to the authorities.Thus, after the fighting subsided, the Abony post office was left without supplies and staff.

Abony was captured by the Red Army on November 4, 1944.It is certain that the post office was functioning on January 16, 1945.Conceivably, it could have opened earlier, but there is no actual data available to confirm this.The primary reason for the delayed opening could have been the lack of a trained postal employee.The local National Council assigned a lawyer to head the postal service, but he was removed after receiving many complaints including ones from the Russian military command about the operation of the office.To replace him, a local tavern owner was entrusted with the task on March 17th. This person was a member of the Hungarian Communist Party, but he was ill-suited to run a post office.Despite this handicap, he was effective in this task.

The "ABONY C" control letter canceller remained in the post office.

To ease the shortage of stamps in Abony, the new office manager created emergency postage stamps.

The Abony post office sent its first mail closures in the direction of the railway post offices of Szolnok 2 and Cegléd 2.We know for sure that on February 6th, mail closures were sent in both directions.The dispatched closures consisted of ordinary letters posted at Abony and surrounding settlements.The post office bundled the letters in wrapping paper and passed them on to the station master.The staff at the station master's office then handed over the closures to locomotive engineers for forwarding.

On April 25th, the Soviet military commandant of Abony called a meeting for leaders of all of the district's offices in order to discuss how to celebrate the May 1st holiday in a dignified manner.Naturally, the acting postmaster also participated in the meeting.He recommended that the post office use a special occasion canceller with red ink to commemorate the eminent day.The Soviet military commander liked the idea very much.

The office manager created a home-made special canceller using a pipe to fasten the letters of the town name as well as the date plus a leafy ornament.The diameter of the special canceller was 22mm. Today, it can be seen in the Stamp Museum.



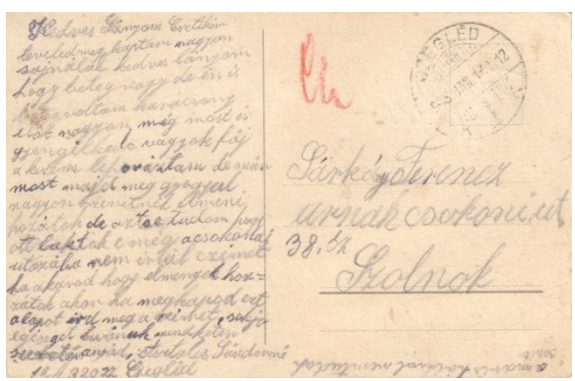
4. Letter sent from Abony to Eger on April 30, 1945.The "ABONY C" control letter cancellation and the commemorative May 1st cancellation can be seen on it.

Cegled

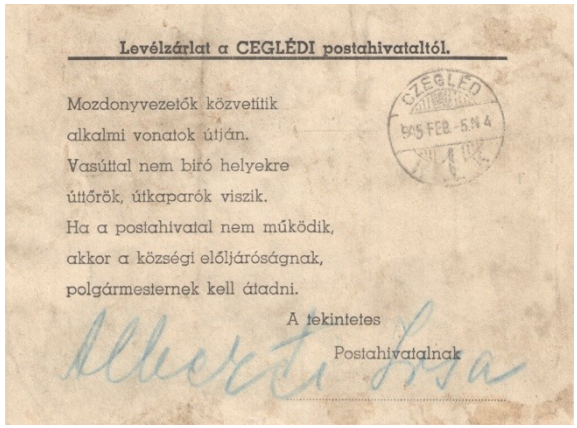
The Red Army occupied Cegléd on November 4, 1944.The town was an important base for the military operations directed at Budapest.For a long time, it served as the headquarters for Marshall Malinovsky.The Soviet military also used the place to recuperate and to replenish its lost or destroyed equipment.

The Cegléd no. 1 post office opened to the general public on November 29th.Its lone remaining canceller was the "Cegléd 1K" cancelling device.

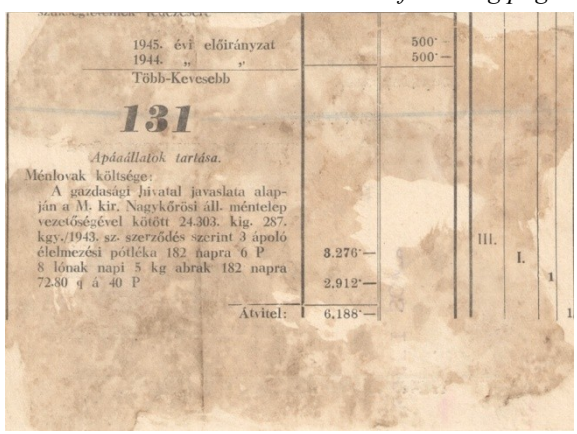
The track of the railroad between Szolnok and Cegléd was repaired by the end of November.This line became one of the most important supply routes for the Red Army as it was staging its forces to commence the siege of Budapest as soon as possible.Initially, this line was used strictly for military transportation, but the operators of the equipment gladly accepted mail closures from conveyance between the two stations or even beyond.Even though it was slow in the beginning, postal traffic began to function between the localities connected by the railway line.The Cegléd no. 2 post offices operated in the railroad station of Cegléd.It did not have a surviving canceller and resorted to using a temporary rubber stamp.



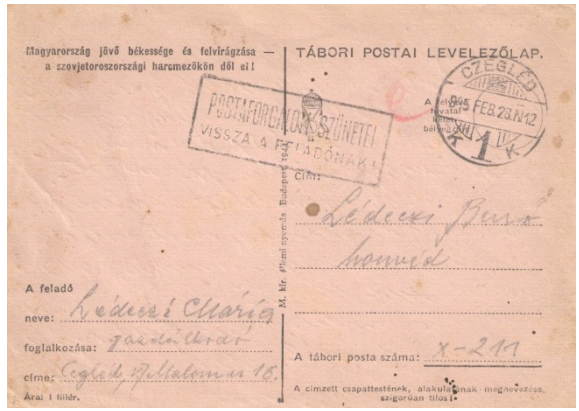
5. A picture postcard sent from Cegléd to Szolnok on January 17, 1945.The stamp was affixed to the picture side.



6. Editor remark: see continued in the following page

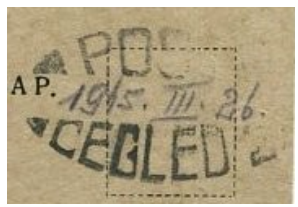


7. Printed mail closure cover sheet sent on February 5, 1945 from Cegléd to Alberti-Irsa.The back side of the cover sheet shows that it was printed on an old document form and there is evidence of the sheet being glued to the closure.



8. Domestic type fieldpost card sent from Cegléd on February 28, 1945 addressed to a fieldpost number.

The above card was transported by rail to Budapest where it was stamped with the text “POSTAL SERVICE INTERRUPTED/RETURN TO SENDER!” because it could not be delivered. It was returned to the sender.The use of this stamp in areas already captured by the Red Army is scarcer than in other areas under the control of the Hungarian Royal Post.



9.The temporary rubber stamp of the Cegléd no. 2 post office.



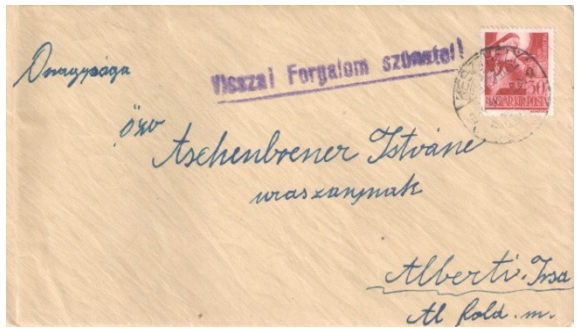
10. Street scene from Cegléd in 1945.The names and direction of towns can be seen on the street sign: Abony, Kecskemét, Szolnok, Budapest, Alberti, Cegléd-bercel. (Fortepan / Vörös Hadsereg / 175248)

Alberti-Irsa

We learned the Alberti-Irsa stories from the personal recollections provided by Emil Kutas.

Train service stopped on November 2, 1945.A train departed to Pest in the morning, but on the return leg it only got as far as the station in Pilis. As a result, the postal service had completely stopped then.The post office was evacuated and the staff took all of the cancellers with them.Some stamps remained in the office.

The Red Army captured the settlement on November 7th.The secretary of the local communist party and another high-ranking local official contacted the remaining postal workers who were still in the village on November 17th.They asked them to take possession of the post office and restart its operation, which they did immediately.The first mail closure to arrive from the direction of Cegléd was around November 18-20.In the beginning, since there was no postal device to cancel these closures, the date was handwritten.Since all of the cancellers from the Alberti-Irsa post office were taken away, the staff used a rubber stamp and hand wrote the date into it.

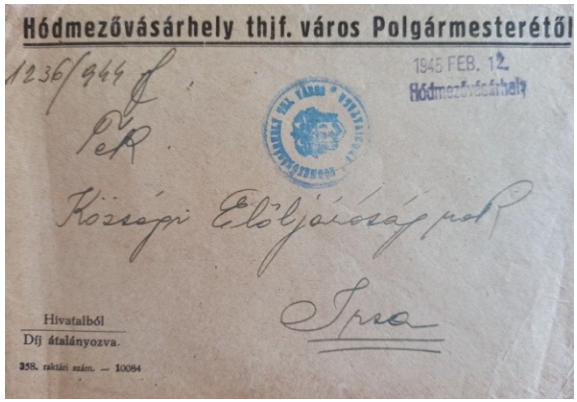


11. Letter sent from Keszthely to Alberti-Irsa on November 6, 1944.

The letter was returned to the sender because the postal service was suspended.Alberti-Irsa was captured by the Red Army on November 7th.

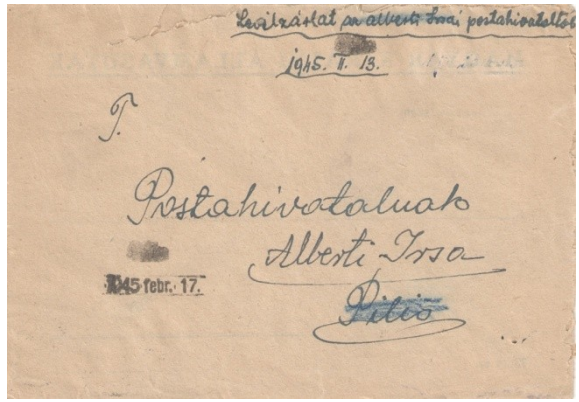


12. Postcard sent from Alberti-Irsa to Kispest on January 24, 1945 cancelled with the Irsa rubber stamp.



13. Official correspondence sent from Hódmezővásárhely to Irsa on February 12, 1945 cancelled with the temporary rubber stamp of Hódmezővásárhely.

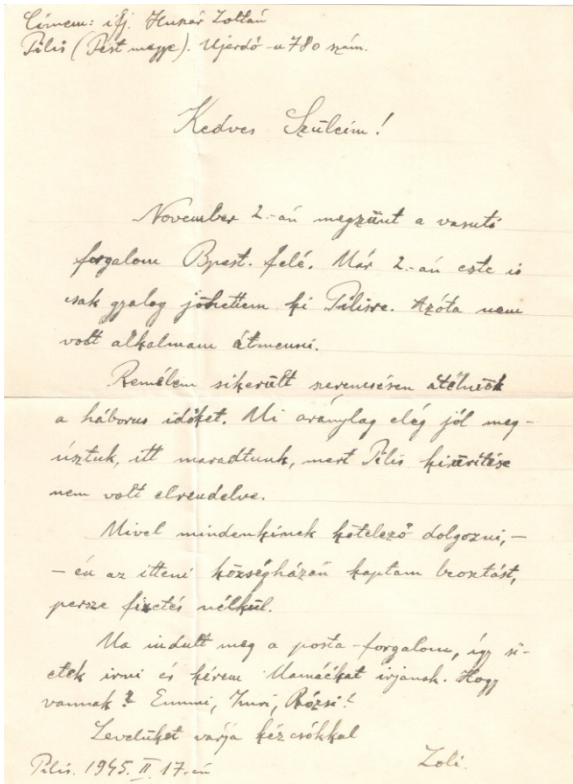
By February, mail closures from places farther away arrived in Alberti-Irsa.



14. A mail closure cover written on an envelope sent from Alberti-Irsa to Pilis on February 13, 1945.The Pilis post office returned its own mail closure to Alberti-Irsa on February 17th using the same envelope.The "Pilis" inscription rubber stamp is visible right above the dates.

Pilis

Train connection with Budapest ceased on November 2, 1945.Pilis was captured by the Red Army on November 10th.Because the post office was evacuated, cancelling devices were not available.A rubber stamp with the text "Pilis" was used starting in December 1944.The single-line device became illegible very quickly, possible because of the use of unsuitable ink.The postal traffic in the direction of Budapest restarted on February 17, 1945; however, the post office was open earlier because the proof is on the attached cover sheet of a mail closure showing that they received a closure from Alberti-Irsa on February 13th.


Címem: ifj. Hunyai Zoltán
Pilis (Pest megye). Ujvidék u. 780 szám.

Kedves Szüleim!

November 2-án megszünt a vasuti forgalom Budapest felé. Más 2-án este is csak gyalog jöhettem fel Pilisre. Azóta nem volt alkalmam átmenni.

Remélem sikerült szerencsésen átélnetek a háborus időket. Mi ugyanúgy elég jól megúsztuk, itt maradtunk, mert Pilis kiürítése nem volt elrendelve.

Mivel mindenkinek kötelező dolgozni, — — én az itteni községházán kaptam irnoki állást, pensze fizetés nélkül.

Ma indult meg a posta-forgalom, így sietek irni és kérem Mamácskát irjanak. Hogy vannak? Emmi, Juci, Rózsi?

Levelüket várja sok csókkal

Pilis. 1945. II. 17-én

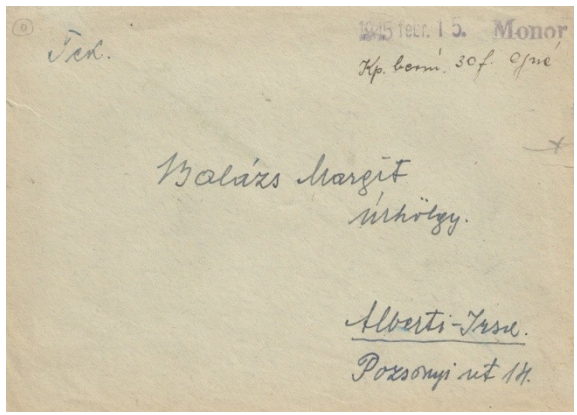
Zoli

15. Letter containing important information sent from Pilis to Budapest on February 17, 1945.

The writer of the letter relates that the train service with Budapest stopped on November 2, 1944.He also mentions that he is in a hurry to write because postal service became available today.Oftentimes, such personal correspondence reveals important facts for researchers that allows them to confirm the information found elsewhere.

Monor

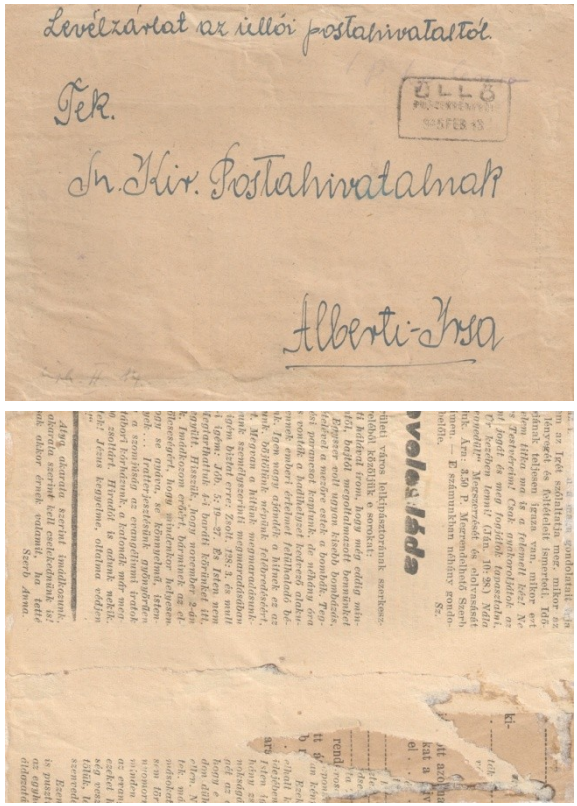
Monort 1944. november 12-én foglalta el a Vörös Hadsereg. Szovjet kórház és ellátó részleg működött a községben. Itt sem maradt postai keletbélyegző a postán, így „Monor" feliratú gumibélyegzőt használtak. A teljes bélyegkészlet szintén nyugatra vándorolt, ezért készpénzes bérmentesítést alkalmaztak, amit kézzel a borítékra írva igazoltak. Márciusban már volt keletbélyegzője a hivatalnak „Monor F" jelű.


Pest.
1945 febr. 15. Monor
Kp. bérm. 30 f. Opre
Balázs Margit
úrhölgy.
Alberti-Irsa.
Pozsonyi út 14.

16. Envelope sent from Monor to Alberti-Irsa on February 13, 1945 with the paid in cash endorsement and the Monor rubber stamp.This letter was forwarded via the Monor-Albeti-Irsa mail closure.

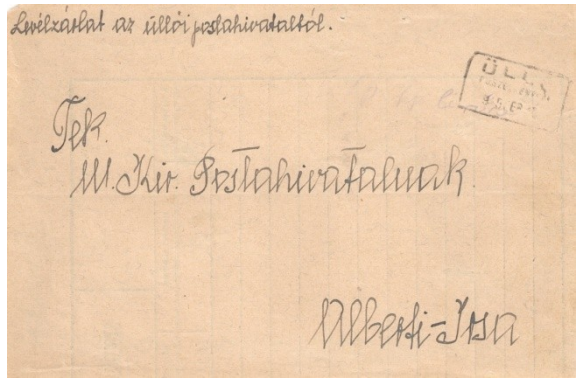
Ullo

The Soviet military evacuated the residents of Üllő to Ócsa on November 9th.From there, they started to return only around December 24-26.Only the railway station letter box canceller remained in the town; this was then put into use.



17-18. Cover sheet for the mail closure sent from Üllő to Alberti-Irsa on February 13, 1945.It arrived on February 14th.

The cover sheet was written on the back of a postal form.The mail closure was wrapped in a newspaper and the cover sheet was glued to the wrapping.



19. Cover sheet for a mail closure sent from Üllő to Alberti-Irsa on February 15, 1945.The cover sheet was also written on the back of a postal form.

Pestszentlőrinc

In November of 1944, a third of its residents were resettled to Kispest because of the impending siege.

Letters addressed to the evacuated part of the town were returned to the senders after being endorsed with “DISTRICT OF THE TOWN EVACUATED” stamp.

The Red Army captured Pestszentlőrinc on January 5, 1945.

By February 6th, the no. 1 post office of Pestszentlőrinc sent mail closures to the larger towns in the eastern part of the country including Debrecen that served as the seat of the government.The bundles sent there contained letters intended for delivery in the town as well as its environs.The mail closures were covered with wrapping paper and were entrusted to locomotive engineers for delivery to the designated towns.

On February 8th, three postal employees arrived on foot to retrieve the mail from east of the Tisza that was addressed to Budapest.

By March, letters could be sent from here to the USA thanks to the railroad connections.(I write more about this in the next instalment.)

VÁROSRÉSZ KIÜRITVE

20. "VÁROSRÉSZ KIÜRÍTVE=DISTRICT OF THE TOWN EVACUATED" stamp applied to letters addressed to the part of Pestszentlőrinc that was evacuated.These letters were returned to the senders.

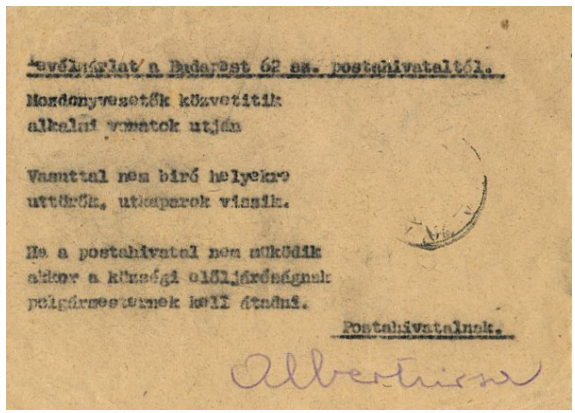
BUDAPEST NO. 62 POST OFFICE

The post office officially opened for the general public on March 2, 1945 along with nine other offices in Pest.It is an acknowledged fact, however, that it was operating much earlier, even for customers.By the end of January, the postal staff started to survey the damage and start the repairs to the office buildings.The first passenger train departed the Western Railway Station to Szolnok on February 4th.Most likely, it transported mail closures.Contemporary sources indicate that the post office was receiving mail closures by February 10th.

February 14th is the start date for regular train service along the MÁV line between Budapest and Szolnok.Trains ran on even numbered days, i.e., they departed on the 14th, 16th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th of the month, and these trains carried mail closures.The train did not run on the 18th.

By March 1st, a permanent "jegyzékelő menet" (a postal or railroad employee authorized to accept or deliver mail and officially record each transaction) was dispatched from the Budapest no. 62 post office to Szolnok making contact with each larger settlement along the way.

This post office was the starting and receiving point for all mail closures carried on all leaving and arriving trains from the Western Railway Station.This was facilitated by the fact that the building of the post office was next door to the railway station.


Levélzárlat a Budapest 62 sz. postahivatalból.
Hordományosotók közvetitik
alkalmi vonatok utján

Vasuttal nem biró helyekre
uttörők, utlaparok visnik.

Ha a postahivatal nem működik
akkor a kiküldi elöljáróságnak
polgármesternek kell átadni.

Postahivatalnak.

Albertirsa

21. Mail closure from the Budapest no. 62 post office sent to Albertirsa.

Unfortunately, the cancellation is illegible.Presumably, the typewritten cover sheet is from a mail closure sent in February.It contains a general typographical error (uttörők).

Date	From	To
1944.11.15	Szentes	Nagyvarad 2.
	Bekescsaba 1	Mezobereny
1944.11.20	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1944.11.26	Szentes	Csongrad
1944.12.14	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1944.12.18	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.02	Nagykoros	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.05	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.06	Pestszentlorinc 1	Debrecen

1945.02.06	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.07	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
	Bp. 62	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.13	Ullo	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.13	AlbertI.Irsa	Pilis
1945.02.17	Pilis	AlbertI.irsa
1945.02.15	Ullo	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.17	Bp. 62	Pilis
1945.02.21	Ullo	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.22	Pilis	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.26	Kispest 1	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.03.10	Monor	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.03.27	Pestszentlorinc 1	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.03.28	Pestszentlorinc 1	AlbertI.Irsa

22. Mail closures of which I am aware.

The above table contains data about 23 mail closures.I compiled this data from mail closures listed in philatelic literature and contained in collections.The Gerőcs collection contains at least 143 mail closure cover sheets.Gyula Gerőcs annotated each cover sheet in his collection with a serial number and the text "GERŐCS" helping to identify them.I can state confidently that these internally used documents are a part of a very scarce category of documents from the military operations era.These are truly unique items.

To be continued!

I would like to express my appreciation to Gábor Voloncs† (illustration no. 7) and Mrs. Marianna Csatlós (illustration no. 10) for allowing me to use their items in my article.

LISTING OF USED LITERATURE

Pallas nagylexikon

Ikvai Nándor szerk.: Cegléd története

Pataki Ferenc: 8. A város a második világháború alatt, felszabadulás

Studia Comitatensia 11. Szentendre 1982

Pákozdi László: Inflációs bérmentesítések 1945 – 1946-ban

A magyar bélyegek monográfiája V. III. fejezet KÖZDOK 1967

Pákozdi László: Ideiglenes postaszolgálat Magyarországon 1944 – 45-ben

Philatelica 1972/2

Robert B. Morgan: The transitory war period of 1944 – 1945 – Hungary's postal history of the last months of WWII until April 30, 1945

Stamps of Hungary No.: 207 2016/12

Dr. Bernáth Gábor: Levélzárlatok 1944. november – 1945. március

MABÉOSZ pályázatra beadott kézirat

Kutas Emil: Postaszolgálat 1944 – 45-ben

Filatéliai Szemle 1969/11

Sugár István: A felszabadulás utáni két félhivatalos szükségbélyegkiadás története

Bélyegmúzeumi Szemle II. évf. 1. sz. 1970.

Dr. Rablóczky Árpád ny. postaigazgató a szentesi postahivatal korabeli megbízott vezetőjének visszaemlékezése

Gerőcs Gyula vegyészmérnök gyűjteménye

Szabó József: Kézbesítik az első levelet

Magyar Nemzet 1965. 02. 09.

HUNGARIAN HYPERINFLATION OF 1945-1946 : THE SINGLE DEFICIENCY CALCULATION



BY FLORENT TRICOT, FRANCE

I. INTRODUCTION

Following the destructions caused by the fightings at the end of the Second World War, the Hungarian Post had to start all over again, both in its organization and in its infrastructure. Much remains to be discovered about the restarting of the Post Office in Hungary, the Pest Tariffs (PET, Pest Emergency Tariffs) of the period 1945 March 2/April 30 and their new description in the article by János Dán from Philatelica 22-2 show that we can still find something to deepen our knowledge.

By my side, I was interested in the period of Hyperinflation of 1945-1946 and what I could bring about what we did not know, or little, previously.

There is one area that still remains mysterious, due to the absence of official postal documentation until June 1945, and especially the loss of specific documentation: the postage due area on unstamped or insufficiently stamped mail.

With the initial aim of being able to exhibit the topic of postage due in competitions, I have accumulated existing documentation and especially many mails.

The regulations for charged mail in “usual” situations have been fixed for a long time (1908, UPU), the penalty being double the deficiency (so, both of result of the shortage between the rate and the postage).

But, beyond the mail on which this calculation was actually applied, I have so far found myself faced with 23 other postage due situations, including what is called the single deficiency calculation.

The single deficiency is in fact the result of the calculation "rate less postage", to be claimed from the recipient of the mail. It presupposes that the mail is partially franked by the sender.

The postal texts mention this special calculation during certain grace periods during Hyperinflation, to see in this article. Nevertheless, recent years of personal study have lifted the veil on other situations where this calculation was apparently applied.

In the absence of official texts where the regulations would be clearly stated, only a comparative statistical study can be carried out to date: this is what I have endeavoured to do, pending confirmation, or possible invalidation in the future.

To have reasonable certainty during a statistical study, it is necessary to have a sufficient number of mail in front of you. Forced to note that the Hyperinflation postage due mail is a rare material. We can nevertheless have some certainty if we find, in a presumed situation, letters from several rate periods, from several dispatching and delivering post offices, in different rate levels (local, domestic, etc.), at least 2 of each category seems reasonable.

In this article, some situations are described using a sufficient number of mails found, others following the description of a very limited number, or even just one. We must therefore see this

article as an opening towards future additions, on my part as well as other collectors.

II.SINGLE DEFICIENCY GRACE (KNOWN REGULATIONS):

The postal texts provided for the possibility of managing in a special way by the dispatching Post Office the mail deposited in a mailbox, correctly franked, but whose collection is made during the first days of the following rate period. From the 27 rate periods, 15 authorized non-penalization of this type of mail, 2 required penalization by double the deficiency and finally 10 (periods 12 to 21, from April 11 to June 30, 1946) recommended, for their 3 first days (grace period), the single deficiency calculation to be collected from the recipient. See the table below:

period	Grace period	Calculation	period	Grace period	Calculation	période	Grace period	Calculation
1	No grace period	?	10	No G. period	Double deficiency	**19**	**June11/13**	**Single Deficiency**
2	**1945** July2/15	No penalty	11	No G. period	Double deficiency	**20**	**June17/19**	**Single Deficiency**
3	September16/30	No penalty	**12**	**April11/13**	**Single Deficiency**	**21**	**June24/26**	**Single Deficiency**
4	November1/15	No penalty	**13**	**April23/25**	**Single Deficiency**	22	July1	No penalty
5	November16/30	No penalty	**14**	**May1/3**	**Single Deficiency**	23	July4	No penalty
6	**1946** January14/21	No penalty	**15**	**May10/12**	**Single Deficiency**	24	July8	No penalty
7	February2/8	No penalty	**16**	**May20/22**	**Single Deficiency**	25	July12	No penalty
8	March1/9	No penalty	**17**	**May27/29**	**Single Deficiency**	26	July18	No penalty
9	March16/23	No penalty	**18**	**June1/3**	**Single Deficiency**	27	July24	No penalty

Thus, we see that the single deficiency was only effective for 30 days from 81 days, between April 11 and June 26, 1946. At present, about ten such letters are listed (Illustrating documents 01-03).

The period 14 rate for a domestic cover is 2 millióP for 20g (*PRT 223.000/4.*). The postage due on this cover is 1,500,000P , so from the single deficiency calculation (2 millió-500,000). The amount was handwritten in Esztergom and a rectangle postage due rubber stamp is affixed directly on the amount in Budapest before the request to recipient. Ex- Visnyovszki G



01 Correctly franked (500,000P for period 13) cover deposited inside a mailbox in Esztergom to Budapest, managed on 1946 May 1, first day and grace period of the period 14.



Fig. 02- Correctly franked (4x100eP+2x800eP=2 millióP for period 15) local printed invitation postcard deposited inside a mailbox in Budapest office4, managed on 1946 May20, first day of the period 16 grace period.

The period 16 rate for such printed matter is 8 millióP for 20g (*PRT 228.200/4.*). A first postage due amount is charged in the office4 inside the rectangle PORTO postage due marking: « 6mil » for 6 millióP , so from the single deficiency calculation (8 millió–2 millió). The sum due is requested from office10 on Mai21.

A « Nem Fogadta El. Refusé » sticker is affixed on the postcard because the recipient refused to pay the postage due. Back to the postoffice, « 8 » is handwritten near the sticker, it is for 8 millióP : this time, the penalty to request from the sender, so the rate who should be initialy stamped on period 16 on this postcard. A last red rectangle postage due rubber stamp is affixed and filled in « 8m » in the office 62 on May 25, before the request from the sender.



03- Correctly franked (2x20=40 millióP for period 16) cover deposited inside a mailbox in Kisszentmárton to Budapest, managed on 1946 May 27, first day of the period 17 grace period.

The period 17 rate for a domestic cover is 120 millióP for 20g (*PRT 230.000/4.*). The postage due on this cover is handwritten « 80m » for 80 millióP, so from the single deficiency calculation (120 millió-40 millió). A triangle type « T » postage due marking is also affixed in Kisszentmárton postoffice, the postage due request is confirmed in Budapest office 741 in using a May29 datestamp and cercling the amount due.

III. SINGLE DEFICIENCY CALCULATION ON UNCLOSED COVERS :

For the moment, no regulation has been found on a special calculation that can be applied to unclosed covers. My few discussions with experts nevertheless alerted me to a suspicion of existence, but this kind of material is really scarce.

A cover sent unclosed is a possibility given to the sender if its content does not present any particular value, it is nevertheless necessary to have a real confidence in the routing of the mail. Such mail is recognizable by the presence of all of the gum on the reverse side of the cover's flap: the flap was simply inserted inside the cover.

Following the liberation of Hungary then its supervision by the Soviet Army, a decree required that the mail be entrusted unclosed so that the censorship could be done more easily, but it was not applied for the mail deposited in mailbox , and the decree was withdrawn in September 1945.

Printed matter to be sent inside a cover had to be in an unclosed cover so that the sender could justify a reduced rate (for printed matter), the mention of the "Nyomtatvány" Hungarian word being compulsory.

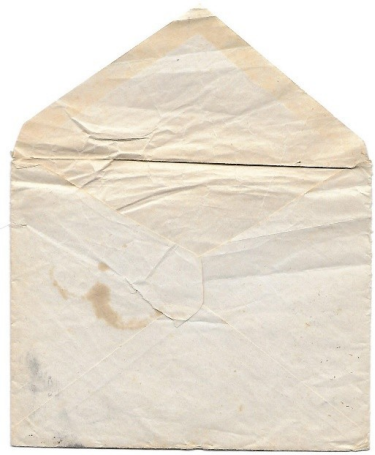
Printed postcards had no special treatment for postage due, double the deficiency being applied.

On the other hand, when a mail, containing a printed matter or not, was sent through an unclosed cover, then the single deficiency was obviously calculated for the sum due requested from the recipient. It took such 8 hyperinflation covers found, over different periods (presently from period 1 to period 22), different rates and different post offices where it was applied, to get to this evidence. A study over a longer time period than Hyperinflation may be able to establish the dates of the real application.

Was this mode of calculation during Hyperinflation not penalizing for the recipient a "reward" motivated by Soviet censorship if the sender facilitated the viewing of his mail? This remains to be clarified. (*Illustrating documents*(04-08):



Document 04 departs from the topic of this article since it is not stamped, but it opens the way for a study towards the pre-inflationary period:



04- Unfranked unclosed « ugly » cover sent to Hódmezővásárhely (arrival datestamp on 1945 May3).

.

60 fillér is a 1945 March2/April30 rate (PET, Pest Emergency Tariffs) for a 20g domestic cover (Pest / Grand-Budapest) and this amount could not be the result of a calculation with an period 1 Hyperinflation rate.

As « hivatalból portóköteles » words are not affixed on this cover , it is not an official cover payable by the addressee , then we can't say the single rate was requested with this cover from the recipient

So, 60f is the result of the single deficiency calculation 60-0=60. And it is meaning that this cover was sent during the PET) from another postoffice than Hódmezővásárhely, probably from Budapest (see header typed words)

To notice that the first Hódmezővásárhely affixed datestamp indicates « 945 MAJ-3 É8 », É= éjjel = night. It is a postoffice worker mistake, rectified on the brown postage due stamps by a « 945 MAJ-3 N8 », N = nappal=day, datestamp. 1945 May3 is presumed the first date from Hyperinflation known on postage due stamps affixed on mail (for instant, no May1 and May2 are listed).



05a Unsufficiently stamped at 30 f unclosed cover sent on 1945 May14 (period 1) from Nagykanizsa to Budapest.



05b The opened envelope.

The period 1 rate for a domestic cover is 1P for 20g. This cover was only charged at the arrival, the circle PORTO postage due marking was surely affixed in Budapest postoffice but the amount due is not charged at the same time.

When the cover was forwarded to Békescsaba, the calculation is then done, « T 70fill » is handwritten, so the single deficiency is requested (1P-30f=70f). No postage due stamps were affixed after, surely the Békescsaba postoffice had neither to be used at the arrival's date.



06- Unsufficiently stamped at 50 f unclosed cover sent from Csepel on 1945 August18 (period 2) to Budapest.

The period 2 rate for a domestic cover is 3P for 20g (*PRT 105.037/A4*).

This cover was charged 2P50f in Csepel with the single deficiency calculation (3P-50f=2P50f), « T2P50 » is handwritten dehind the postage due stamps.

Two forwardings happened in Budapest and each time, the 2P50f amount was confirmed. The last one was with hyperinflation overprinted postage due stamps (2P/*20f* + 40f/*12f* +10f/*2f*) in office 3 on August27.

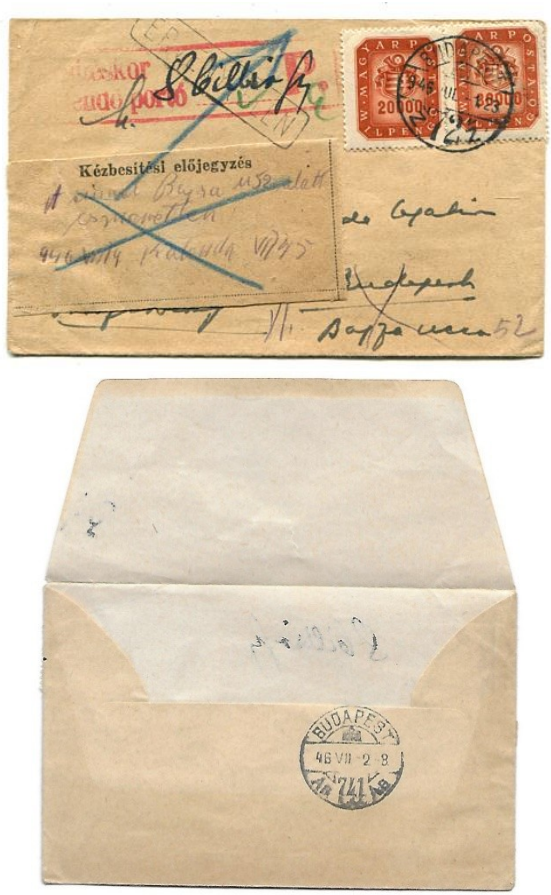
As the amount from the special single deficiency calculation was never modified on the cover in several postoffices, it confirms that this calculation was really a regulatory calculation at this time.



07- Unsufficiently stamped at 120 milliárdP unclosed local cover sent from Budapest on 1946 June26 (period 21).

The period 21 rate for a local cover is 240 milliárdP for 20g (*PRT 235.700/4*).

This cover was charged 120 milliárdP thanks to the single deficiency calculation (240-120 =120 milliárdP), amount handwritten inside a red rectangle postage due rubber stamp..



08- Unsufficiently stamped at 50 milliárdP unclosed local cover (containing printed matters, « Nyomtatvány » handwritten behind the coupon) sent from Budapest on 1946 July1 (period 22).

The period 22 rate for a printed matter is 8 billióP (=8.000 milliárdP) for 20g (*PRT PRT 237.500/4*).

The franking is largely neglectible in front of the new rate, so the single deficiency calculation gave the same amount than the rate (8,000 – 50 ≃ 8,000). 8billióP is charged inside a red rectangle postage due rubber stamp but the recipient is not found the address on the front. Then a research of the new address is done, without result. So, the request from a recipient is annulated, the amount due is invalidated by using of the « ÉRVÉNYTELEN » inside rectangle marking. A blue arrow is drawn because the cover had to be sent back to the sender. A green marking and sign are made inside the rubber stamp, it is surely to confirm the request of the 8billióP amount, this time from the sender.

IV. OFFICIAL MAIL, PAYABLE BY THE ADDRESSEE, BUT PARTIALLY STAMPED:

In Hungary, a certain number of Administrations had the possibility to send their mail for which the addressee had to pay postage. On such mail, the mention “hivatalból portóköteles” (ie. Administration, port at destination) was obligatory, except on summonses to a magistrate’s court.

These printed postcards to be filled in were sent stamped or not, and if they were not stamped, simple postage was required from the recipient, even in the absence of the appropriate mention.

If such documents were nevertheless partially franked, which a priori should not have been commonplace, then the single deficiency calculation seems to be applied. So far, only the card below has been listed in this situation (*Illustrating document* 09)



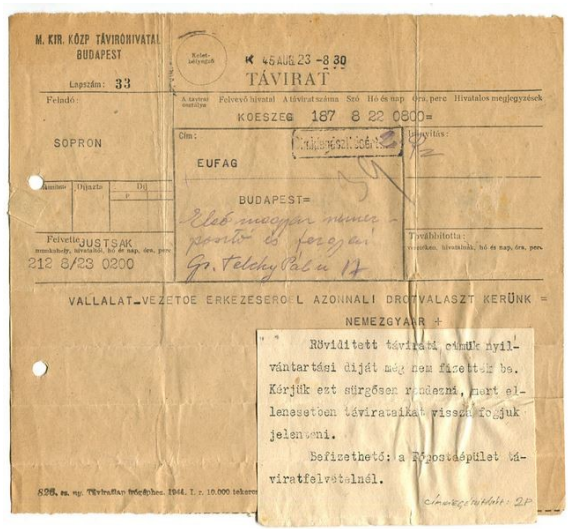
09- Local printed notice of Budapest District Court (Budapesti Törvényszék) sent from office 82 on 1945 October1 (period 3).

The sender attempted to postage the card at 40f (printed matter rate for 20g in period 2, instead of 2P in period 3, *PRT 127,000/A4*) with a postage stamp at 10f and one at 30f, the latter being demonetized since 1945 August 15 and therefore refused. The postcard was charged with the single deficiency calculation: 2P-10f=1.9P rounded to the nearest 1P (legal rounding in period 3) to 2P, amount handwritten in pencil with sign. A 2P/*60f* overprinted postage due stamp was affixed in the delivering post office to claim the 2P from the recipient (ügyvédek, lawyers).

V. TELEGRAM (TÁVIRAT) FOR WHICH THE SENDER DID NOT PAY WHOLLY THE DUES:

The telegram service is one of the state monopolies run by the Hungarian Post Department. Normally, the only relation to a postal using with a telegram is if the destination did not possess a telegraph office, then the telegram had to be sent inside a cover with the appropriate postal rate (costs claimed from the sender) from the nearest telegraph office: only one case has been listed like this (R. Morgan collection).

There is also another case, for instant the presumed only one listed for hyperinflation, for the following telegram *(Illustrating document 10)*



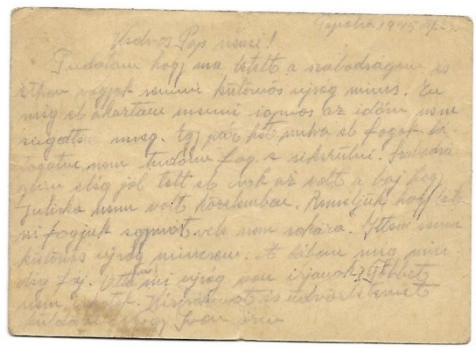


10- Telegram for 8 words from Sopron sent on 1945 August 23 (period 2) to Budapest.

The rate requested from the sender was then 1P per word, with a minimum of 10P to be collected (*PRT105.037/A.4, advice of 1945 June 15*).

It turns out that the sender did not want to pay this minimum, he only paid 8P. An coupon expaining the situation was typed for its management in the delivery postoffice, then pasted to the telegram, which demanded from the recipient the remaining 2P, that is, the single deficiency amount (10 – 8 = 2P) . A 2P/*60f* overprinted postage due stamp is affixed on August23 in Budapest, telegraph office, before collection of the sum from the recipient.

VI. CHARGING THAT IS INTENDED TO BE "NOT TOO PENALIZING"



Sometimes, a changing situation may require that the postage due amount be revised.

If faulty mail management has been to the disadvantage of the recipient, it may be decided to change the calculation in favor of the recipient, as with the following item *Illustrating document (11)* :



11- Insufficiently paid stationery postcard (only the 18f from the facial) sent on 1945 March25 from Lesencetomaj to Szentkirályszabadja.

At first, as the shipment is made during the PET period, the 40f rate for a domestic postcard (Pest/ Grand- Budapest rate) is applied, the amount due

is then 2x (40 – 18) =44f, “T 44 f” is then handwritten on the front.

It turns out that the postcard was not delivered to the addressee, it certainly remained in the dispatching postoffice. 7 weeks later, the postcard is processed again, this time during period 1.

The rate for a domestic postcard then rose to 60f. Noting the too long delay for the dispatch of this postcard, the postage due was “a bit” reviewed, this time for an amount of 42f, that is to say 60f - 18f, the single deficiency. “42” is then handwritten on “44”. This new amount is claimed on 1945 May 14, previously franked in the delivering postoffice with a 6f and three 12f brown postage due stamps.

VII. MISTAKES AND CONFUSIONS WITH THE SINGLE DEFICIENCY:

The different postage due calculations existing during the Hungarian hyperinflation sometimes created confusion situations, and therefore postage due amount errors. The supervisor of the post office clerk who decided an amount to be collected could review the amount due, so some postage due mail have corrections. When a postal situation is not provided for, it is subject to interpretation and therefore to a decision. Here are some situations related to the single deficiency: *Illustrating documents* (12-13):



12- Unsufficiently franked postcard (4x5+4=24 millióP) sent on 1946 May27 (first day period 17) from Bősárkány to Budapest.

The rate for a domestic postcard was 72 millióP in period 17 *(PRT230.000/4)*.

Initially, the postage due calculation was 2x (72-24) = 96 millióP, “T96 mill.” is handwritten in blue in the Bősárkány postoffice

Subsequently, in this postoffice, the amount due was corrected by the single deficiency (72-24=48): the postman must have told the postoffice worker that the postcard was found in a mailbox: it is correctly franked (24 millióP) with regard to the previous period 16 rate and it is managed during the period 17 grace period (May 27), the single deficiency should be applied.

In the delivering postoffice, a red rectangle postage due rubber stamp is filled in 48m with a sign before the request of this sum from the recipient.

On the following parcel delivery card he sender did not pay the rate for the weight at the postoffice, only the revenue part (500Adópengő) is paid with the two 1,000 milP postage stamps, so for 1.8 milliárdP rounded to 2 milliárdP. (*Illustration 18*)



13- Parcel card for a 16 kg weight parcel sent on 1946 June14 (period 19) from Máriapócs to Budapest. Ex Morgan

Then the postoffice worker had to write the sum due by the recipient (32 milliárdP for the weight+1.6 milliárdP for penalty =33.6 milliárdP) on the right low part of the card's front, but it was forgotten.

On June16, the parcel arrived in Budapest. On June17 (first day of period 20), the postoffice worker of the delivering postoffice realised that these is a missing in the rate to be paid on this card and, seeing the postage stamps affixed, he thought that these are for an insufficiently franking for the weight rate. He had to decide on the postage due to claim from the recipient but, as I could know, no regulation is planned for this case.

Then the single deficiency calculation was specialy made here :

160 milliárdP (period 20 rate for the weight) - 2 milliárdP (supposed franking) = 158 milliárdP , handwritten « 158.000 » on the card's correct part , it is an amount in MilP (millióP). A rectangle PORTO postage due marking is affixed at the same time.

No other such item has been listed for instant. We could think that an most regulatory calculation for the sum due would be 160 milliárdP for the weight+ 8 milliárdP (period 20 penalty) = 168 milliárdP to be requested. At the end, the recipient had to pay 158 milliárdP instead of 33.6 milliárdP, because of a postoffice mistake.

VIII. CONCLUSION:

Despite philatelic studies which have been intended to be more and more exhaustive in recent years on the subject of the Hungarian hyperinflation of 1945-1946, this period remains partially unknown, conducive to discoveries, in particular in the field of single deficiency calculation of postage due . The subject of postage due is fascinating, it still remains to be deepened, to define its continuity, or discontinuity, in relation to the periods surrounding hyperinflation.

It is by pooling knowledges, such as sharing informations, that we can then highlight one of the saddest pages historically speaking, but also the richest in terms of philately. If this article has an ultimate aim, then it is to arouse the interest of future researchers.

REFERENCES

« The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946 » by Robert Morgan, edited in 2003

« A MAGYAR BÉLYEGEK MONOGRÁFIÁJA V. (1945-1961) » by Pákozdi László, edited in 1967

Various articles from SHP, HPSGB and Mafitt (philatelica) magazines

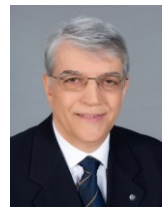
János Dán (Philatelica 22/2 : Pest Tariffs, 2022)

PRT 1945 and 1946

Personal statistical study and items from my own collection.

A HUNGARIAN STAMP DEALER IN HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE





ADRIANO BERGAMINI, FRPSL – DENES CZIROK RDP, FRPSL

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the passing of stamp dealer Julian G. Clive. He was born in Hungary in 1909 as György Gyula Klein (Julius Georg Klein) in a wealthy bourgeois family. Already at the age of 8, he got to know stamps through exchanges with schoolmates. At the age of 19, he and his brother already opened a small shop where they sold sporting goods. Unfortunately, a fire destroyed everything a few years later, and then, in 1936, he decided to leave Hungary. He settled in Italy, where he was already engaged in stamp trading. Two years later, we find him in Paris, where he worked with the later famous Hungarian playwright István Örkény. In 1939, Örkény had to return to Hungary, from where he could no longer return to Paris. So Klein stayed on in Paris, where he contacted the "Garibaldi Legion" and went to Portugal for their mission; on the way back he stopped in Tangier. At that time, Paris was already occupied by German troops, so he had no way back there and stayed in Morocco.

In Tangier, he met Edward Wharton Tiger (1913-1995), an officer of the British secret service (Special Operations Executive - SOE), embassy adviser, with whom he participated in a series of joint operations. At that time, he was already involved in stamp trading, e.g. he bought a large quantity of Soviet stamps, which he then sold to the Spanish traders who came over from Spain at the weekend. Through business activities like this, he acquired a large amount of foreign currency, which he later used for Tiger to pay British Secret Service agents in enemy territory in various currencies. It would not have been good for the Bank of England if the British agents had been paid directly in British pounds or Swiss francs, on the one hand for safety of the agents and on the other as outflow of large amounts of money could have caused fluctuations in the value of the British pound. Because of this, Klein received a large quantity of British stamps from London, which he then exchanged through stamp dealers in different countries for various currencies, which could be used to pay the agents working abroad. The magnitude of the barter business is well illustrated by the fact that he sold nearly £1 million worth of stamps in 2 years. That was a huge amount of money at the time.

The stamp also played an important role in another war action. Klein and Tiger came up with the idea of counterfeiting the most common stamp of the German post, the 6 Pfenning value, which featured Hitler's likeness, in such a way that Heinrich Himmler's likeness was put on the stamp instead of Hitler's. The idea was that this would cause confusion and give the appearance that Himmler wanted to seize power. The stamps were produced in London, in excellent quality. Now the only task was to spread the stamps, which was solved by sending fake orders to the Swiss merchants who were looking for the stamps in Germany. At the same time, the stamps were delivered from London to the German territory, with a perfect fake Stuttgart postmark. In the end, the action was not very successful, but around 30 employees were dismissed from the post office in Stuttgart.

In June 1943, Klein and Tiger went to London, where he soon received British citizenship for his services to the country and changed his name to Julian Clive. In the beginning, he worked with the

stamp dealer L. Aarons, where he received 3 large bags of cigarette cards after one of his successful deals. He knew even then that his Moroccan friend (Edward Wharton Tiger) would be very happy with these seemingly insignificant pieces of paper, because he collects them. With this, he established the largest such collection in the world, which today amounts to 2 million cards and is located in the British Museum.

Later, he founded an independent company in London called "Southern Stamp Service Ltd" and basically dealt with the distribution of new stamps all over the world. He had huge stocks, 800 million stamps in his wholesale warehouse. Naturally, many watched this with envy, and in 1968 they even broke into his office in Hanfield House, where they took £15,000 worth of stamps. The thieves knew which stamps were valuable and did not take the bulk goods, only the better values. At that time, Clive was already dealing with the classic stamps of several countries, and the company's stock was severely depleted. It was probably because of this burglary that he subsequently moved his residence to Monte Carlo and his work office to Lugano, as he found these places safer. Of course, he did not break-off contact with England, and he continued to have close ties with the prominent collectors and dealers there.

His friendships were very diverse. From Lugano he maintained particularly strong relationships with Italian colleagues, such as Mondolfo, Diena, Bolaffi, Orlandini and Provera, but also traveled a lot to exotic countries. He found contact with everyone, also with Philippine President Marcos, with whom he signed a multilateral stamp trade agreement. He spoke eight languages, but he never forgot his Hungarian background. During the socialist era, he maintained a lasting relationship with the Hungarian state stamp trading company (Philatelia Hungarica) and the Hungarian Post. He enriched one of the world's oldest stamp museums in Budapest with significant donations, and later, in 1992, he established the "Julian Clive Collection Development Foundation", which still operates today and through which donations amounting to hundreds of thousands of Euros have come to the museum in recent years. His photograph can still be found on the "Wall of Donors" in the forecourt of the Stamp Museum in Budapest.



Picture 1

The current president of the Julian Clive Foundation is dr. Geza Homonnay, who summarized their activities: *„About ten years ago, the Stamp Museum asked me for the position of president of the Julian Clive Foundation, which I gladly accepted. In the 30 years since its foundation, the Stamp Museum has grown with the following collections through the activities of Foundation: Arundel inflation-, Visnyovszki air mail-, Suranyi newspapaer tax-, Peterfy Hungarian postal history-, Debreceni stamp exhibitions-, Bér pre-stamp- and Papal State-, Cornides dealers-. Lovasz krajcar-, Szijjarto-Gadacsi lithography-, Soaky Czechoslovakia-, Bergamini-Czirok newspaper tax stamp-, Kostyal Nyiregyhaza and Legradi-Jug Szekeres CM-collections. The Foundation operates on a completely non-profit basis, everyone in the board of trustees works in social work."*

Michael Chipperfield, the legendary doyen of London stamp dealers, remembers Julian Clive like this:

„When *I think about Julian Clive who was one of the most renowned Stamp Dealers I ever knew, I tend not to dwell on the business of Philately, but*

on his generosity of spirit of friendship. This can be best illustrated by a family story.

During a holiday in Switzerland with my wife and sons Julian picked us up on the Swiss side of Lake Lugano. This photograph was taken on his treasured speed boat. Julian is the suave gentleman on the left; I am the "once bearded" one on the right!



Picure 2 (Lugano 1982)

As a frequent visitor to Lugano, Julian often offered to meet me at the railway station. I would never know whether it would be Fortuno, his driver, with Julian`s majestic Rolls Royce Silver Cloud, or Julian himself in his mini!

Julian was a respected dealer of the "Old School" the likes of which are missing today. Furthermore Julian Clive was a gentleman."

He always declared himself to be a stamp wholesaler, but in many cases real rarities made his heart beat faster. This also happened at David Feldman's rarities auction in 1992, where an extraordinary Hungarian letter was auctioned. The letter was written in Sarajevo, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire, then it was handed over at the border station of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Brood and went to Moscow. Since the letter sent many unpaid invoices to a debt collection company in Moscow, it reached the 6th weight stage. Accordingly, 130 Kreuzer in stamps had to be affixed to it, which consisted of a strip of four of the 25 Kr lithographed stamp and 2 pairs of 15 Kr copper-plate stamps. Even the occurrence of a single lithographed 25 Kr stamp on a letter is a great rarity, but a strip of four is quite another matter! After the starting price of CHF 30,000, the letter finally sold for a price of CHF 70,000. Julian Clive bought it and was proud of this letter for the rest of his life.



Picture 3

In the last decades of his life, his eyesight deteriorated greatly, and even the careful help of a specialist clinic in Barcelona could not significantly improve his condition. So he hired a young Hungarian assistant for his office in Lugano, who managed his affairs until the end of his life. Éva Szabó, who is still alive today, remembers these years like this:

"*Mr. Clive was a real gentleman, he maintained a good relationship with everyone, he often visited his friends at large international exhibitions and other events. He was always well-groomed, he went to the barber every week, his shoes were always shiny, he loved life and good food. He called me "the apple of his eye" because I accompanied him everywhere and helped him manage*

the good and bad things. We always started the morning in a coffee house, then went to the bank to deal with financial affairs, then came answering letters and other tasks. He had an extremely good sense of humor and was well liked by his friends. I was very sorry when he left us and I almost considered him my father."

Dr. Pal Lippai, the "large gold medalist" exhibitor of the FIP exhibitions of the 1980s and 90s remembers Clive that way:

„I only made it to the 1981 WIPA exhibition as a spectator, and after admiring the Austro-Hungarian classics that I was primarily interested in, I browsed the dealer stands. At a "Southern Stamp" inscription, I was stopped by a picture of a Tokay serrated envelope and other Hungarian specialties, where the well-cut, tall, elegant gentleman standing behind the counter talked to the constantly changing number of interested people in a wide variety of languages.

When he finally freed himself for a minute, I tried to speak English, and he replied in Hungarian: "You're Hungarian, aren't you? Let's see, they say that two years ago in Pest, a nice Austrian postal administration in Hungary. There's something here that might interest you." Needless to say, the state fell, even when I got hold of the 9 kr + 6 kr Pesth 1/6 stamped registered first-day letter held for DM 27,500. Even though I didn't buy it, we had a good conversation and the following year I greeted him as an acquaintance in Paris, and I even bragged about my exhibition material, which was awarded a "small gold medal" there. He praised it, but questioned why I don't deal with the lithographs. He also revealed that he had already heard about me from Gary Ryan before our first meeting, although he did not mention any other Hungarian connection.

We met in Rome in 1985, where I could admire his Rolls-Royce car with its Hungarian driver (ed. note: the assistant was Éva Szabó's husband). He explained that he had bad eyesight, which could be true, but I experienced it myself that if anyone mentioned a prominent stamp or envelope to him, he wouldn't even let him finish the story, he continued the description as the piece were in front of him.

I remember that we met for the last time in London in 1990, after several other exhibitions. He immediately congratulated me on my big gold medal and told me in detail how the previous year he had bought and shipped home the last stamp stock of the East German Post Office (DDR) with 6 railway wagon. I asked in disbelief what he was going to do with it, to which he answered with a smile and confidence: "My little Pal, don't be naive, there is nothing better than the stamps of a country that only existed for a while. Believe me, I made the biggest deal of my life with him." I looked at the large gold lucky cube that this extraordinary man always wore around his neck on a thick chain and I felt he must be right."

He died in Lugano on July 3, 1993, from an incurable disease, but his memory lives on among us today.

REFERENCES

- Philatelic Exporter July 1968.
- Il Collecionista 9/1993 (Luciano Buzzetti)
- BBZ (Berner Briefmarken Zeitung) 11/1993
- Budapest Stamp Museum providing data on the foundation

IN MEMORIAM GABOR VISNYOVSZKI

/1945.01.10 - 2022.12.18/

He started collecting stamps in his childhood and became fascinated by the beauty of classical stamps early in his youth. By the late 1970s, he became aware of the fact that very few collectors bothered with collecting modern postal history. He then turned his interest towards mailings franked with ordinary definitive issues and the postal history of the post-war inflationary period. The great Hungarian collectors who were alive at the time (*Gyula Madarasz, dr. Ferenc Rend, dr. Laszlo Makkai, Laszlo Pakozdi*) influenced him greatly and he learned a lot from them. In 1979, Laszlo Suranyi invited him to join the editors' board of the Philatelica periodical which was a great recognition and honor for a young man in his thirties. Between 1982 and 1986 under the direction of *Laszlo Suranyi*, he compiled the work of 17 associate authors and edited the book, "**A magyar bélyegek kézikönyve**". Starting in 1986, he was a member of the MABEOSZ presidency; and, following the resignation of president *Tamas Kocsis* on January 29, 1991, he reluctantly assumed the post of acting president until the scheduled elections in the following June.



Gabor Visnyovszki among the stamp collectors of MABÉOSZ around 2002 (photo: Karoly Szucs)

In 1988, he won an FIP gold medal in Helsinki with his exhibit of postage due material. In that same year, he became a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. In 1989, encouraged by *dr. Laszlo Makkai. dr. Ferenc Nagy*, and *Professor dr. Istvan Lang*, who was the general secretary of the MTA, he worked with *Andor Bér* and *Laszlo Suranyi* to establish the Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research. In the beginning he served as its vice-president, then secretary, and again as vice-president of the organization. Finally, between 2002 and 2011, he served as its president. From 1990 on, he was certified as a stamp expert; and from 1991 he became a member of AIEP (the International Association of Philatelic Experts).

In the beginning of the 1990s, he was one of the partners who founded the Hungarofila Kft. Later, he focused his attention on organizing Mafitt activities and writing expert philatelic articles for various publications. He took an active part in preparing the *Ryan-collection*, one of the largest accumulations of Hungarian philatelic material ever assembled, for auction in London. In 1996, the State Printing Office entrusted him with the preparation of the "Stamp Book" that assembled the history of the classical Hungarian stamp issues. The book became an enjoyable, easy to read, multilingual publication that was prepared with thorough expertise and contained splendid illustrations. To date, the book is a superb achievement for furthering the popularity of Hungarian philately! He published countless philatelic articles. On his advice in 1998, a consortium of investors purchased the greatest Hungarian rarity, the 1867 3kr red error printing, at an auction for 41.8 million forints. The stamp was placed in the Stamp Museum on consignment. In 2000, he was accepted for membership by the AEP, the European Philatelic Academy; and, in 2004, received the "Mérite Philatelique Européen" award for his work. He resigned as Mafitt president in 2011 and was subsequently elected as Mafitt's *fourth honorary president*.

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 XXXIV





2015

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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research

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

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation.

24
1

Philatelica

English translation

EDITORIAL PREFACE TO THE LATE ISSUE OF 2024/1 DELAYED TO 2025



KAROLY SZUCS BUDAPEST

Unfortunately, last year, something that happened with the second issue of 2022 due to similar editorial difficulties has been repeated: the printing of this issue will be postponed to the following year. Despite the fact that the Hungarian version of this year's first issue was already available on our website in the first half of the year, it was still not possible to print it, initially simply due to the lack of English translation.

At our May general meeting in 2024, I asked for the help of our members to prepare the translations. Our authors, who have good English skills, readily agreed to prepare them, and I received one of the translations by September. However, the author of another article found it necessary to expand it, which required further research, and with which he practically withdrew his article from the magazine.

The gap thus created in the issue was filled in the last days of the year with a study published recently in the London Philatelist, the publication of which in Hungarian can also be considered a first publication, in accordance with the basic idea of our magazine.

After editing 14 volumes, I consider it appropriate to review this long period on this occasion. The quality of the second series of Philatelica, renewed in 2011, is universally acknowledged to be worthy of our predecessors. Thanks are due to the authors, translators and reviewers, most of whom are members, who have created fresh literature equivalent to two volumes of Monographs during this time.

We have made all issues of the journal freely available on our website, along with a continuously updated repertoire of published articles. The second series can now be found there in its entirety – with some exaggeration – in a language understandable to the whole world. This is a revolutionary innovation compared to the past, although it is based on it, since it makes Hungarian philately accessible and visible everywhere in the world with machine translation.

The previous presidency was able to continuously ensure the bilingual publication of the second series twice a year. This seems to be stalling now, as after 2022 we only managed to put together one issue in 2024.

It depends on our membership how the continuation will be. We must continue to be able to put together five or six larger articles per year, 70-80 pages long including images. For publication, we will not only need this much high-quality philatelic writing, but also members who will work in translation and proofreading.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to support our presidency in organizing this in the future, and that I will continue to have as much to edit as before.

THE STORY OF THE POST OFFICE IN NEW BUDA, USA



ADRIANO BERGAMINI FRPSL SWISS & CZIROK DENES RDP, FRPSL ZALAEGERSZEG

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On 12th January 1848 an uprising broke out in Palermo, Sicily against the absolutist regime then in power. The revolution in Paris on 24th February was followed within weeks by movements in other European capitals and centres. The people of Munich, Vienna, Pest-Buda, Berlin, Milan, Poznan, and Prague all made it clear to the previous holders of power that they were dissatisfied with their government system.

Following news of the Vienna revolution on 13th March 1848, revolution also broke out in Pest on 15th March (at that time, Buda and Pest were still independent cities on opposite banks of the Danube). In the face of the European revolutions the Austrians were forced to make concessions to the Hungarians. As a result, an independent Hungarian government was established, parliamentary elections were called and on 5th July a Hungarian parliament was established under the leadership of Lajos Kossuth. After the suppression of the revolutions the Austrian emperor launched a campaign against Hungary. First, Jellačić sent Croatian-Ban troops to Hungary but they were defeated by the newly-formed Hungarian army on 29th September 1848. After that, a bloody struggle for freedom continued for almost a year, mainly with Hungarian successes. On 1st May 1849, however, the Austrian emperor Franz Josef requested armed help from Tsar Nicholas I who sent a Russian army of 200,000 against Hungary in mid-June. With the assistance of these Russian forces the Hungarian army was finally defeated and the Hungarians laid down their arms on 13th August 1849.

Despite this defeat one of the strongest Hungarian fortress, Komarom, resisted the Austrian forces for 53 days under the leadership of General Gyorgy Klapka. After long negotiations the fortress was handed over to the Austrians on 4th October and in exchange the defenders of the fortress and the civilian population of Komarom were permitted to leave freely. Laszlo Ujhazi, the central figure in our story, was the civil government commissioner of Komarom.

2. THE LIFE OF LASZLO UJHAZI

He was born on 20th January 1795 into a well-known aristocratic family in Eastern Hungary. After graduating in law he worked as a politician and in the 1840s became the leader of Saros county. At the outbreak of the War of Independence he organised troops at his own expense and fought for months in the northern campaign.

This publication is a Hungarian translation of the article with the written permission of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Original publication in English in The London Philatelist, Vol. 133, No.1521, pages 133-621 to 133-629 in Issue December 2024.



Fig. 1. Portrait of Ujhazi Laszlo in 1840's

He later became the government commissioner in Komarom where he issued emergency funds in order to stabilize the economic situation.



Fig. 2: 10 Kreuzer emergency credit note from Komarom with the signature of Laszlo Ujhazi

After the fortress had been surrendered he set off for America on 12th October 1849 with his wife and five of his children (three adult children remained in Hungary). He was accompanied by several soldiers and officers who had helped to guard the fortress.

Since the German and English political circles of the time knew Ujhazi's name well, he spent several days in both Hamburg and London where the time was given over mostly to celebrations, negotiations and receptions.

After 49 days the party finally left Southampton on 20th November 1849 aboard the steamer Hermann and arrived in New York on 16th December (75 days after departure).

In America there was much sympathy for the Hungarian cause and they were received with great celebration. They were invited to receptions and gave festive speeches about the Hungarian freedom struggle before continuing their journey through Philadelphia to Washington.



Fig. 3: Laszlo Ujhazi's reception in Philadelphia in December 1849

In the meantime he corresponded at length with other Hungarian revolutionary leaders and with American leaders in order to be able to negotiate with the American president as soon as possible. He was successful and a meeting with President Zachary Taylor was held on 14th January 1850 at which, in addition to discussing his own situation, he asked for American help to secure the release of Lajos Kossuth from internment in Turkey. Kossuth was the leader of the Hungarian freedom struggle in exile and Ujhazi's aim was to bring him to the United States. In this he was successful and Kossuth arrived in America a few weeks later..

The President offered his personal support for the Hungarian refugees to settle on American soil and a Congressional resolution requested that land be granted to them free of all charges. After the Presidential reception they waited several weeks for Congress to designate an area where the emigrant company of 20-30 people could settle. The decision did not come, but in the meantime they learned that there were still large areas of free land in the southern part of Iowa, a state that had only recently been admitted to the Union and was free of slavery. Consequently, on 5th April 1850 they set off for the west in adverse weather conditions with oxen and heavy wagons on roadless tracks. They covered the 2,000 km journey from New York in 150 days.

A typical story about the difficulties they encountered is that the oxen they had purchased did not obey Hungarian commands so Indian boys had to be assigned to drive them.

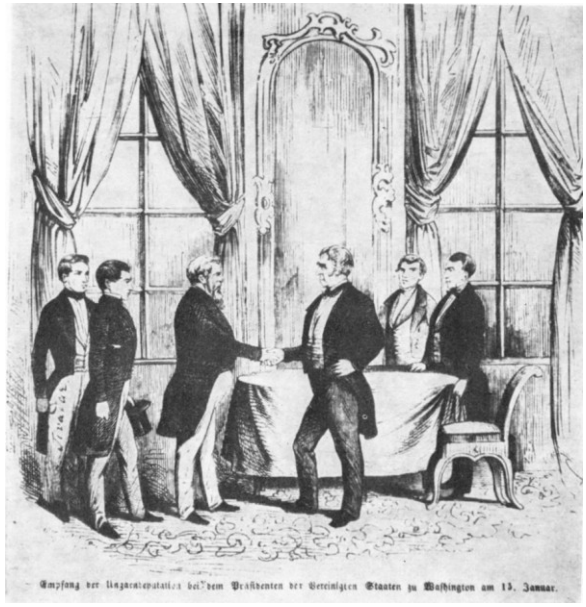


Fig. 4: Laszlo Ujhazi with his two sons meeting US President Zachary Taylor

Finally, on 2nd September 1850, 336 days after their departure from Komarom, they reached the selected area in Decatur County, Iowa and set up camp. And the place was named NEW BUDA.



Fig. 5: New Buda in the state of Iowa, about 2000 km west of New York

During the autumn eight wooden houses were built, of which one was the Post Office building. On 8th September Ujhazi informed Millard Fillmore (who became President on Zachary Taylor's death in July 1850) that he was setting up a Post Office at New Buda. With help from Senator George Jones of Iowa, New Buda was officially recognised as a US Post Office and Ujhazi was appointed postmaster with an annual salary of $200. In the early years the mail ran once a week on the line between Garden Grove and Lott's Grove.

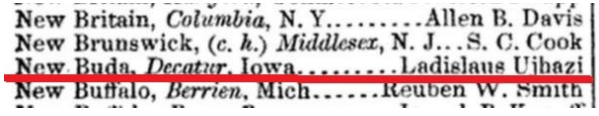

New Britain, *Columbia*, N. Y.....Allen B. Davis
New Brunswick, (*c. h.*) *Middlesex*, N. J...S. C. Cook
New Buda, *Decatur*, Iowa.....Ladislaus Ujhazi
New Buffalo, *Berrien*, Mich.....Reuben W. Smith

Fig. 6: Postmaster Laszlo Ujhazi's name in the postal directory of the time

Laszlo Ujhazi handed over the postmastership to his son-in-law in 1852, as he moved from New Buda to San Antonio, Texas in 1853 after his wife's death. In 1854 the Post Office in New Buda handled 950 letters and 7,000 newspapers, an impressive volume of mail, but the settlement had virtually disappeared by the early 1870s and the Post Office closed on 13th April 1880. From this postal operation lasting nearly 30 years 14 letters are currently known to collectors. Of these, six were sent by Ujhazi to his family in Hungary, three of which are presented below. One of the other three letters has similar franking and two are only known as black-and-white copies made 35 and 75 years ago respectively. Unfortunately, the content of none of the letters has survived, so we cannot present the everyday concerns and feelings of the settlers.

3. NEW BUDA LETTERS SENT BY LASZLO UJHAZI

In the 1850s there were three main routes for mail between the USA and Hungary which from 1850 formed part of the German-Austrian Postal Union (GAPU). These routes were via France, via England, Belgium and Prussia, and via Bremen or Hamburg. The French route was much more expensive than the others so it was rarely used unless expressly requested by the sender. The North German route via Bremen or Hamburg was the cheapest but at that time it had the disadvantage that it only ran every two weeks and delays could occur in the winter months due to the ports being frozen. Thus, most letters travelled on the so-called "Prussian route".

Between 1850 and 1852 the rate on this route changed four times, so even postmasters often did not know the correct postal rate precisely. In addition, there were two types of tariff on this route: the so-called "Prussian Open Mail" and the "Prussian Closed Mail". "Open Mail" meant that letters handled in New York or Boston were also handled in London before being forwarded to Aachen and then to Hungary. Consequently, this tariff was more expensive. From 1st October 1852 letters in the "Closed Mail" system were placed in a package in New York or Boston that was not opened until it reached Aachen, and vice versa. This service between the GAPU countries and the USA cost 38 Austrian Kreuzer for a letter of the first weight step in both directions. As a postmaster Ujhazi was exempt from postal fees in the USA so the domestic letter fee was not charged on his letters.

Let's see the letters after that!



Fig. 7: Postage Due letter sent by Ujhazi from New Buda to Hungary in October 1852, for which the addressee paid a fee of 38 Kreuzer.

The letter was posted on 28th October 1852 by Postmaster Ujhazi to his son-in-law Charles Nagy in the small Hungarian settlement of Hazsina. In the upper right corner of the letter, the postmaster's fee exemption (FREE) was indicated. He also marked the route: New York, Liverpool, Vienna, Pesth, N. Mihaly and Homonna. On 23rd November the letter arrived in New York where it was charged with 23 Cents The letter arrived on 7th December in Aachen by the "Closed Mail" where a charge of 38 Austrian Kreuzer was added, to be paid by the addressee.



Fig. 8: Postage Due letter sent by Ujhazi from New Buda to his sister in November 1852, for which the addressee paid a fee of 40 Kreuzer.

The next letter was sent from New Buda on 18th November 1852 by Postmaster Ujhazi to Clementine Draskoczy in the small Hungarian settlement of Harkacs. Clementine was his sister and at this time she was ill (she died early in 1853). He added the Postmaster's fee exemption (FREE) in the upper right corner of the letter and marked the route: New York, Liverpool, Vienna, Pesth, Tornallya. The letter reached London as "Open Mail" on 4th January and by the late evening of the next day it had arrived in Aachen. There a charge of 40 Austrian Kreuzer was added, to be paid by the addressee.



Fig. 9: Postage Due letter sent by Ujhazi from New Buda to his daughter in December 1852 for which the addressee paid a fee of 41 Kreuzer.

On 1st December 1852 Postmaster Ujhazi wrote from New Buda to his daughter Paulina Nagy in the Hungarian village of Hazsina. The postmaster's fee exemption (FREE) was indicated in the upper right corner of the letter. He also marked the route: New York, Liverpool, Vienna, Pesth, N. Mihaly and Homonna. The letter arrived in New York on 4th January 1853 and was charged 23 Cents. Since it was carried in the "Open Mail" system it was charged in Aachen with a foreign fee of 32 Kreuzer, to which the Union rate of 9 Kreuzer was added, making a total charge to the recipient of 41 Kreuzer instead of the 40 stipulated in the regulations.

4. LETTERS SENT BY IGNAC HAINER

Ignac Hainer was born in 1818, obtained a law degree, and was the private secretary of Kazmer Batthany, Minister of Industry and Trade, during the war of independence. Because of this he did not get a job in Hungary after the war so he emigrated to New Buda, USA in 1854. He spoke several languages and later became a professor at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. In 1880 he closed the Post Office in depopulated New Buda and moved it to Davis City, Iowa. His son was elected to Congress in 1892. When he reached New Buda Hainer corresponded with his sister Laura in Hungary. We currently know of 11 such letters, eight from New Buda, one from nearby Burlington and two from Columbia.



Fig. 10: Postage Due letter sent by Ignac Hainer from New Buda in October 1856 to his sister's husband, for which the addressee paid a fee of 38 Kreuzer.

The letter was sent to Michael Nagy in Bonyhad on 9th October 1856. In the upper right corner of the letter, a circular mark shows that 30 Cents postage were due. Hainer also indicated the method of delivery as "Prussian Closed Mail". The letter arrived in New York on 25th October where a circular handstamp was added showing that 23 Cents were payable to the US Postal Service. It left on 29th October on the Cunard Line ship PERSIA and arrived in Liverpool on 7th November. It was then forwarded to Aachen where it arrived on 11th November. A total charge of 38 Austrian Kreuzer was added there to be paid by the addressee when he received the letter on 15th November.



Fig. 11: Pre-Paid registered letter sent by Ignac Hainer from New Buda to his sister on 10th July 1856, for which he paid a fee of 30 Cents.

The letter was sent from New Buda by Hainer to his sister Laura in Bonyhad on 10th July 1856. In the upper right corner of the letter, he indicated that he had paid 30 Cents. He also indicated the method of delivery as "Prussian Closed Mail". The letter arrived in New York on 23rd July where a circular handstamp was added showing that, as it was pre-paid, the USA owed GAPU 7 Cents. It left on 23rd July on the Cunard Line ship AFRICA, arriving in Liverpool on 3rd August, and reached Aachen on 5th August where the red FRANCO and Recomandirt (*Registered*) postmarks were added. It arrived in Pest on 7th August and Bonyhad probably the next day. This is the only registered letter from the New Buda correspondence recorded to date.



Fig. 12: Postage Due letter sent from New Buda by Hainer to his sister in Bonyhad on 28th November 1860, for which the addressee paid a fee of 65 Kreuzer.

On 1st November 1858 a new monetary unit, the "New Kreuzer", was introduced in the territory of the Austrian Empire (including Hungary). Previously 1 Forint was equal to 60 Kreuzer but from November 1858 this equivalence was increased to 100 Kreuzer, i.e. the Kreuzer was devalued by 67%.

Thus, the fee for a basic domestic letter in the third internal distance zone of 9 Kr increased to 15 Kr. In the USA-GAPU relationship the 38 Kreuzer fee was increased to 65 Kreuzer. US internal rates were unchanged at 30 Cents and 23 Cents.

Hainer noted at the top of the letter that 30 Cents were due and indicated the method of delivery as "Prussian Closed Mail".

The letter arrived in New York via Chicago and on 5th December it left New York on the Cunard ship AFRICA, arriving in Liverpool on 16th December. It reached Aachen on 20th December, Pesth on 22nd December, and Bonyhad the following day, where the 65 (New) Kreuzer fee was paid.

By the early 1860s the shipping companies in Bremen and Hamburg were able to offer their services at significantly cheaper rates than their British competitors.

Consequently, the charge for the "Prussian Closed Mail" service was reduced from 65 to 33 Kreuzer, and letters were delivered twice a week. Thanks to this reduction more people chose this route, as in the case of the letter above.



Fig. 13: Postage Due letter sent by Ignac Hainer from New Buda to his sister in February 1865, for which the addressee paid a fee of 33 Kr.

The letter was sent by Hainer to his sister Laura in Bonyhad on 2nd February 1865. He marked it "Per Bremen Steamer" as the method of delivery. The letter arrived in Bremen on 27th February via New York and continued to Pesth, arriving in Bonyhad on 2nd March where the 33 (New) Kreuzer fee was paid. The abbreviation "A.P." on the letter ("Avis à payer") indicated that payment of the fee should be taken in Bonyhad.

5. OUTGOING LETTERS FROM HUNGARY TO NEW BUDA

So far, we have presented seven of the 17 New Buda letters known (three of which were posted in a neighbouring city), from which the reader can

gain an insight into this extraordinary emigrant settlement. Of course, the question also arises as to whether there are letters going in the opposite direction (i.e. from Hungary to New Buda). Surely yes! The research on these letters is more difficult because collectors of these letters have paid less attention to the address. However, three such letters have been discovered, of which we now present two:

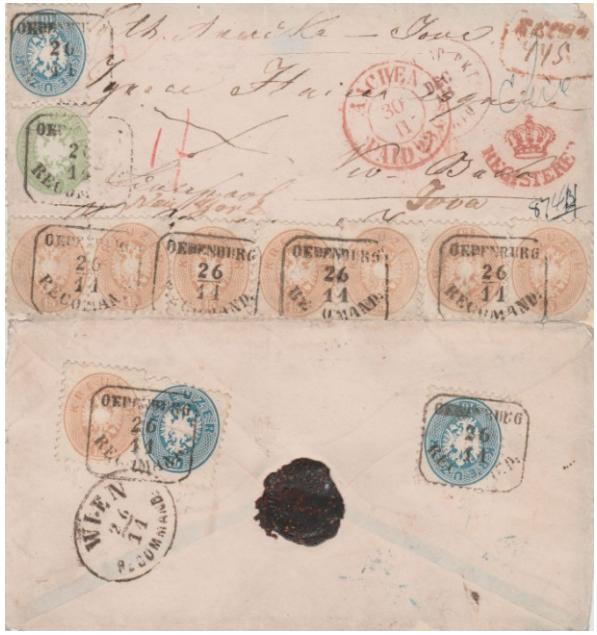


Fig. 14: Registered letter of the second weight step sent from Oedenburg (Sopron) to Ignac Hainer in New Buda with a total franking of 153 Kreuzer.

This letter was posted on 26th November between 1864 and 1866 (the year is not stated in the postmark) and it was marked "via Liverpool, New York", meaning that it should be carried in the "Prussian Closed Mail". The sender paid the full fee of 2 x 59 Kreuzer per Loth + a 35 Kreuzer registration fee, making a total of 153 Kreuzer. The red British crown registration postmark was added in Aachen.



Fig. 15: Pre-paid letter sent on 27th November 1872 from Bonyhad to Ignac Hainer in New Buda via Hamburg.

This letter was marked "per Hamburg Steamer", for which the rate was 13 Kreuzer (5 for the GAPU, and 8 for carriage beyond the GAPU). The latter charge was indicated by the faint mark "wf 8" in the lower left corner which means 8 Kreuzer for 'weiterfranko' (Forwarding). However, the sender paid a fee of 25 Kreuzer, made up an imprinted 5 Kreuzer stamp supplemented with two engraved 10 Kreuzer stamps, perhaps because the postal clerk in Bonyhad did not know the correct rate.

6. EPILOGUE

The settlement did not fulfil Ujhazi's early aspirations. Kossuth did not come to take charge of it and keep the revolutionary flame alive as he had hoped, and the promise of free land did not materialise. The farmsteads were scattered over a wide area and there were disputes among the Hungarians and with settlers from other nations. The fact that many of the refugees were soldiers, intellectuals and aristocrats rather than farmers made the task of settling virgin land all the more difficult.

After Ujhazi left New Buda in 1853, other Hungarian families slowly moved away – some to the bigger cities, some back to Hungary after the settlement of 1867, some to other countries (for example, Ujhazi's daughter moved to Germany with her German husband). Some became soldiers and took part in the American Civil War. By the 1900s, Hungarian settlers no longer lived in New Buda. The name remained, but today only a sign preserves the place of the former settlement with the inscription "Utopian Experiments in Southern Iowa".

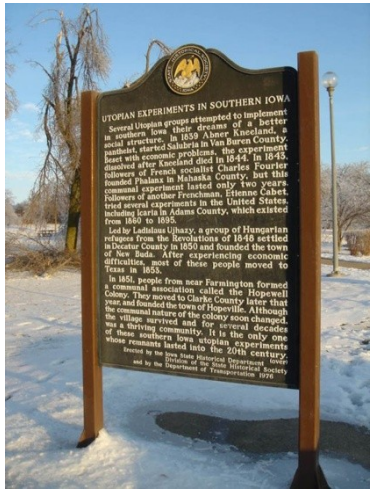


Fig. 16: 'Utopian Experiments in Southern Iowa'

We assume that there are still more letters related to this topic in the world. If you know of one, please send a picture to czirok.d@t-online.hu. We would appreciate it.

Many fellow collectors helped in processing the topic, whom we sincerely thank for their cooperation: Dr. Zsolt Bodnar, Kalman Boross, Gerhard Zinner, Tamas Gudlin, Csaba Kohalmi, Kurt Kimmel RDP, FRPSL, Martin Rhein and Dr. Ferenc Nagy.

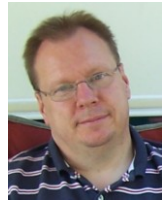
Many thanks to Bill Hedley FRPSL for helping to produce an understandable English rendition.

We thank Gerhard Zinner (Figure 13) and Kurt Kimmel (Figure 14) for presenting copies of their letters. The other letters are owned by the authors.

7. REFERENCES:

1. *Tivadar Acs: 1941, New Buda, Hungarian language, issued: Karcag (Hungary)*
2. *Zoltan Sztaray: 1965, New Buda, az első amerikai magyar település (The first Hungarian settlement in America), San Bernardino, California (USA)*
3. *Eva L. Gal: 1971, Ujhazi Laszlo a szabadságharc utolsó kormánybiztosa (Laszlo Ujhazi is the last government commissioner of the war of independence), Budapest (Hungary)*
4. *Albert Wass: 1975 Our Hungarian Heritage, issued by Danubian Press Inc. (Hungary)*
5. *Andrew J. Kennedy: 1985, A history of the NEW-BUDA post office in the state of IOWA (The News of Hungarian Philately, May-June 1985), Tacoma (USA)*
6. *Laszlo Vardy: 2001, Ujhazi Laszlo es Új-Buda megalapítása (Laszlo Ujhazi and the founding of New-Buda), issued by Amerikai Magyar Nepszava, Cleveland (USA)*
7. *Bela Vassady: 1991, New Buda: A Colony of Hungarian Forty-eighters in Iowa, issued by Annals of Iowa (USA)*
8. *Jozsef Glosz: 2014, A rendiség alkonya (The twilight of order), Szekszard (Hungary)*
9. *Martin Rhein: 2018, Der Neuanfang - New Buda in Iowa (The new beginning – New Buda in Iowa) (Mitteilungsblatt der ArGe Ungarn, Dezember 2018)*

POSTAL TRAFFIC DURING THE PERIOD OF MILITARY OPERATIONS – PART II



JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST

1. POSTAL TRAFFIC DURING THE PERIOD OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

This is the second part of the series published with the above title and this is requiring a little explanation. I have been collecting dispatches from the WW2 military operational period and related source works for over thirty years. The original plan was to publish a book that wanted to process and to present this undeservedly forgotten and under-published period with the aim to have a source where all the currently known information and data can be found in one place. This would be helpful for the collectors of the period to only have to take this book off the shelf with no need to look through half a library for a piece of information. After all this time, I must admit that my jack-knife really got into this big task. The reason is very simple, there are certain areas of our country where data and information cannot be found from. Therefore, I had to realize that I cannot write a book that covers all areas. Many chapters of the planned book have been prepared, and I did not want to keep the information for myself. I decided to publish the truncated parts in a series, so that at least this knowledge could become available for anyone. The completed chapters of the book will be available for reading here in the future.

The operational period can be divided into two parts, two areas. The first one is the territory still served by the Hungarian Royal Post. This area continuously became smaller and smaller as the war progressed. The second one is the area served by the freshly born new Hungarian Post ("Magyar Posta"), which territory became bigger and bigger after the battles ended. I will present the restart of the postal traffic of this constantly growing area in this series.

On 26th September 1944 the 2nd Ukrainian Front's 53rd Army crossed the national border marking the beginning of the Soviet occupation of Hungary.

The first occupied cities were Battonya and Mako. By the end of October, a significant part of the territories on the east from the Tisza River ("Tiszantul") was already in Soviet hands. The Provisional Hungarian National Government was established in Debrecen by the end of December, thus starting the restoration of the public administration. The safe operation of the postal administration was fundamental for the operation of the public administration. There were several obstacles for the start of postal traffic, the lack of staff, rail and road transport and the lack of postal equipment.

The evacuations due to war events also affected post offices and directorates. After the front marched through the given settlement, not only the damage and shortage caused by the war had to be fixed and replaced, but the postal valuables and stamps that had been transported due to the evacuation also had to be replaced. This

was extremely challenging due to wartime situation.

Due to the relocation of the Postal Directorates, there was no organization nearby to professionally organize and manage the postal service, so the organization of the temporary postal service was left to the public administration bodies, which coped with the task with more or less success.

It is typical of the early days that the postal connection between the settlements was solved by courier mail. The best example of this is the road sentry courier post in Bekes county, which operated as the first organized courier post in the country.

The Ministry of Trade and Transportation based on consultation with the deputy chiefs of the counties appealed to the post offices operating in the Soviet occupied part of the country on 4th January 1945, to organize the road sentry courier post service as soon as possible. As a result of the courier service settlements with no other options of connection became available by the postal route. The circulation of official and private letters could be temporarily organized through messengers. Unfortunately, according to the reports received from the postal administrations this initiative was not effective enough at the beginning, reason why the ministry repeated the decree on 6th March as a strict executive order.

As a result of this strict decree, courier services have already been launched in several counties. These courier posts worked in the early days, then as traffic began to recover, they slowly lost their importance by the end of May.

The recovery of postal traffic is closely related to the restoration and start of the railway. They moved in parallel, where a new railway line was opened, the delivery of postal parcels also began immediately. The severe damage of the railway tracks was not enough; the severe shortage of coal as well hampered the railway transport.

The luckiest cities were those located along a railway line that was quickly restored; because their postal traffic could start relatively early, thus well ahead of the more disadvantaged settlements. In the early days, it was not even necessary to have a separated post-carriage or trained postman to travel. The small number of letters were wrapped in newspaper or wrapping paper and handed over to the train drivers and heaters. The railway staff was in charge for the collection and forward of the mailbags at the stations, and then for the delivery of the mailbags to the authorized postman or station master at the recorded destination.

As a result of the evacuation of the post offices in the occupied part of the country there were very few postal valuables available, reason why “paid by cash” method was introduced in many places. Even then, because of the military operations, many valuables came into the hands of the public without authorization. To prevent the usage of these valuables, it was only possible to send the parcels from those post offices where the valuables were purchased, the post offices did not accept parcels that had been exempted in advance. In many settlements, even the drop-in opening of the mailboxes was taped over so that mail could only be left in the offices.

Most of the hand stamps also disappeared during to the evacuation of the post offices, so they tried to remedy the shortage with the remaining hand stamps, control number stamps, local administrative stamps with the name of the locality, and home-made hand stamps with the name

of the premises. Sometimes, due to the lack of a stamp, the name of the receiving settlement was written on the covers by hand. In July, the postal administrations tried to solve the lack of stamps with a uniform rubber stamp. The date had to be entered into these stamps by handwriting or with a separated date stamp.

The Ministry of Trade and Transportation ordered post offices on 4th January 1945 to only allow the circulation of ordinary letters and postcards, the acceptance of registered letters was not allowed. Nevertheless, at many post offices, registered letters were accepted at the sender's responsibility.

There were observer officers in the post offices, often they were Hungarian speaking Soviet soldiers. The post offices were kept under military control.

Despite the difficult and less than ideal conditions, 200 million letters and 2 million parcels were handled by the post in 1945.

2. POSTAL TRAFFIC BETWEEN HUNGARY AND ROMANIA IN THE LAST MONTHS OF 1944 AND THE FIRST MONTHS OF 1945

Let's clarify an important fact here at the very beginning**.** Even though because of the Second Vienna Decision Transylvania returned to Hungary it became part of Romania again form August 1944 in line with the Allied Powers' decision, this territory neither belong to Hungary, nor to Romania during the period discussed in this chapter. It was under Soviet military administration, but it did not belong to the Soviet Union either. At that time, this area was considered an "unorganized area", it could be named as foreign but could be called domestic too. I will treat it as Romania in this publication for the sake of the simpler definition, even though at that time it was even more Hungarian territory, as Hungarian administration operated here.

In the literature of the postal history of the early post-war postal administration there is almost no mention of the restart efforts related to the postal traffic in this area. This is completely understandable, since such correspondences are very rare items. In the early post-war period, the postal traffic re-established not only with the local and surrounding settlements, but also with the countries bordering Hungary. The situation remained ideal only for a short period of time, because after that the postal delivery was completely stopped for a long time until official postal relations were resumed.

I do not want to discuss the different issues of the stamp shortage resulted overprinted Hungarian stamps of this area, other fellow collectors have already done that in detail.

In the Archive of Postal Regulations, it can be read that the official postal relationship with Romania ceased at the beginning of the military operations in Hungary and was only restarted on 17th November 1945 (PRT. 137.964/A. 4.). Logically, the delivery of the mail through the front line was impossible, so at that point the entire postal traffic between the two countries completely stopped. With the withdrawal of the front, ruins and destruction were left behind, so the postal connection between the two countries could not function due to the lack of roads and transport vehicles. The new Hungarian postal administration did not have any agreements or conventions with the new postal administration of the other country. Despite all these difficulties, the postal administration remained func-

tional between Hungary and Romania for a short period of time. Based on the research of the survived items this period roughly was between January and April 1945, but there are earlier evidences of the restarting of the postal connections and the exchange of mailbags.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any official source about this early period so far, especially not about the reason, method and duration of the start of the postal connection between the two countries. The only thing that can be known for sure is that it worked, then stopped and only started again after official relations were established.

During this period, the officiality of the postal connection is confirmed by the fact that post office place-of-origin stamps were placed on the consignments both at dispatch and at arrival, so we cannot speak of smuggled consignments. Of course, we can also encounter smuggled items in the postal traffic of the two countries.

The territory of the Nagyvarad Postal Directorate was occupied by the Romanian and Soviet troops on 25th October 1944. The Romanian Maniu-gardists invaded Northern Transylvania in October and committed bloody pogroms against the Hungarian population in the following villages: Szarazajta, Szentdomonkos, Bihar and Egeres near Cluj. Because of the atrocities, the Allied Control Committee almost completely removed the Romanian administration from Northern Transylvania on 13th November, and they were only allowed to return at the end of March 1945.

However, the Romanian public administration remained in a few counties: Maramaros, Beszterce-Naszod and Szilagy county.

Under the supervision of the Allied Control Committee, a temporary Soviet military administration was introduced in Northern Transylvania and Szekelyfold. The tasks of the Soviet military administration included road and railway maintenance, restoration of the post office and telegraph operation. There was immediate need for these due to the escalation of the war and need for supply.

During this transitional period, the Hungarian pengo/filler remained the official currency.

The Hungarian post-officers remained employed to re-establish the postal administration. The Romanians did not come to power, so they could not replace the Hungarian public administration. This public administration still had relations with Hungary, reason why they were able to carry out postal traffic with neighbouring Hungary for a while. It was also a big advantage that the borders remained open at that time.



Figure 1 *The Main Post Office Palace in Nagyvarad, on a contemporary postcard.*

There was no post office in charge at the beginning of the operation of the Nagyvarad deputy chief's office, on 6th November. Postal traffic was provided by the village councils using a hand-to-hand chain system of delivery. This

special courier system had a connection with the road sentry courier service operating in Bekes county, so the consignments crossed the border in both directions already at that time.



Figure 2 Postal stationary card sent from Nagykaroly to Noszvaj on 6th February 1945. The card bears a "Paid in cash" and a very rare, trilingual (Russian, Hungarian, Romanian) censorship handstamp.

The Russian inscription on the handstamp is erroneous. The place of usage of the censorship handstamp is not yet clear, it was probably used in Nagyvarad, where the Cluj (CLUJ X) Romanian postmark was placed on used by Soviet censorship.

It was mentioned by several sources that postal parcels were carried by Soviet soldiers too by their trucks between the two countries, but the staff of trains carrying supplies (train drivers, heaters) also forwarded mailbags.

The boom in postal traffic was best helped by the start of the regular train service between Debrecen and Nagyvarad around 20th December 1944. As a result of the regular train service, they could exchange mailbags not only with the domestic settlements located along the railway line, but also between the two countries.

It is known from Gabor Voloncs's research, that out of the 200 post offices just those located along the railway line were operated in the territory of the Nagyvarad Postal Directorate. These offices were: the three offices of Nagyvarad, Elesd, Ermihalyfalva, Ersemjen, Fugyvasarhely, Margitta, Mezotelegd, Nagybanya, Nagykaroly, Nagyszalonta, Szatmarnemeti and Szekelyhid.



Figure 3 Registered postal stationary card sent from Debrecen to Szatmarnemeti on 16th February 1945. It was transported on the Debrecen-Nagyvarad railway line and then reached the addressee via Kolozsvar (Cluj). The card bears Debrecen's censorship handstamp and CLUJ X (Kolozsvar X) postmark used by Soviet censorship.

Almost without exception, mail sent between January and April 1945 has a post office place-of-origin handstamp with the inscription CLUJ X (Kolozsvar X). This stamp was not used by the post office, but by the Soviet postal censorship operating in Cluj. This proved that the shipment was censored by the Soviets.

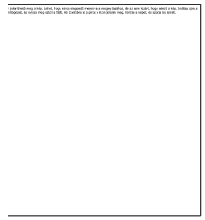
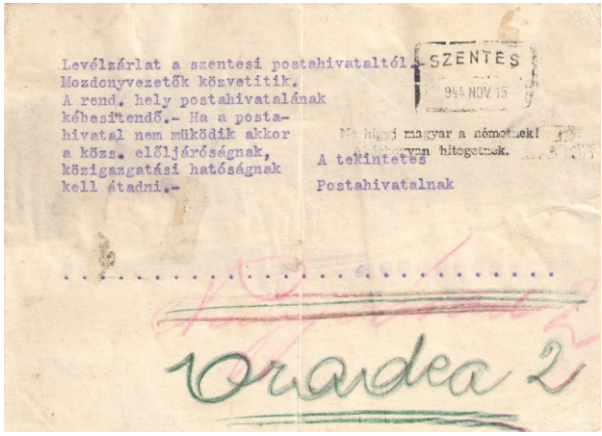


Figure 4 Cluj (CLUJ X) Soviet postal censorship stamp.



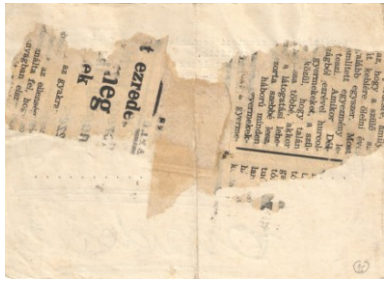


Figure 5-6 This is not only the earliest document from the beginning of the post-war postal relationship period between the two countries, but also the currently known earliest mailbag closing.

It is easy to observe on the cover page that the mailbag was sent from Szentes to Oradea 2 (Nagyvarad 2) post office on 15th November 1944. It can be seen on the back that newspaper was used to wrap the mailbag. The Oradea 2 post office probably operated at the railway station. The rare special handstamp with a text produced by the postmaster in Szentes can be seen on the mailbag closing.



Figure 7 Registered postal stationary card sent from Sfantu-Georghe (Sepsiszentgyorgy) to Oroshaza on 28th March 1945, with incompletely paid foreign tariff of the Romanian Post.

Only stamps worth 22 lei were placed on instead of the recommended 25 lei (lei=Romanian currency). The letter travelled to Oroshaza via Cluj (Cluj, 3rd April 1945, Soviet censorship stamp). It was delivered probably by the road sentry courier post of Gyula. The card was sent by a prisoner of war who informed the addressee that he is going to be transported to the Soviet Union..



Figure 8 Picture postcard sent from Sepsiszentgyorgy to Budapest in April 1945. Postage due was paid in Budapest on 10th May 1945.

At that time, the foreign tariff was not established yet. The post office did not apply a penalty, only the amount missing for the rural tariff (60 filler), 18 filler + 43 filler = 61 filler was collected instead of the double value of the missing fee. It is very likely that there were no 2 filler value postage stamps at the post office.

Theoretically, the entire world became accessible from the Soviet occupied part of Hungary through Nagyvarad, as the post office in Nagyvarad was able to handover mail to the Romanian post. At that time, the Romanian post already had connections with several countries, so mail could even reach overseas countries. Letters sent to Sweden and New Zealand by Ferenc Konrad from Nagyvarad are known from this period. We can also find shipment sent from Szatmarnemeti to New York, but a shipment from Pestszentlorinc also reached the United States. So, with this postal connection, not only the neighbouring country was accessible, but almost the entire world.



Figure 9-10 Registered letter sent from Pestszentlorinc to Cincinnati (Ohio, USA) on 2nd March 1945.



10. Reverse

The provisional registry label's number was a pencil written 201. Kolozsvar (CLUJ X) Soviet censorship stamp was applied on 27th March 1945 under the censorship closing strip. The letter reached Bucharest via Torda (censorship handstamp of Torda). On the reverse side, the Romanian (CENZURAT 7) and the Soviet (6/P) censorship stamps of Bucharest, as well as the New York arrival stamp for registered mail dated on 18th June 1945 can be seen. This is also proving that the letter was registered. This is a unique piece confirming that it was possible to correspond with America from Great-Budapest in this early period, even though the Pest tariff did not have foreign rate yet. The franking was 1.40 pengo, which does not correspond to any of the rates valid at the time, with no reasonable explication yet. The correct franking would have been 1.20 pengo (50 filler + 70 filler) according to the 1943 tariff. The addressee was a well-known Israelite professor, whose biographical details can be found on the Internet. He was born in Budapest and died in 1994 in Cincinnati (Ohio, USA).



Figure 11-12 Registered letter sent from Szatmarnemeti to New York on 15th March 1945.

This letter also reached the American continent via Kolozsvar (CLUJ X). The CLUJ X handstamp was placed by the Soviet postal censorship too. The envelope bears three 1P/1f postage stamps overprinted in Nagyvarad. A pencil written note from the Bucharest censorship can be seen on the front page (Cenz Bucuresti). Contemporary press and postal reports also support the early postal traffic between the two countries.

The Szeged Postal Directorate was informed on 6th January 1945 that letters from Transylvania arrive to Maramarossziget in a short time.

It was reported to the directorate by Eger's No. 1 post office on 21st January 1945 that mail traffic with Southern Transylvania had started.

It became possible to send ordinary letters to Bulgaria, to Vojvodina part of Yugoslavia, to Romania and to Transylvania too from the post offices reopened on the territory of the Pecs Postal Directorate form 17th March 1945.

It was reported by the "Szabad Szo" ("Free Word") on 18th April 1945 that shipments from Romania were regularly arriving to the capital.

The postmaster of the Abony post office also reported that shipments have also arrived from Yugoslavia, Romania and Carpathian-Ukraine.

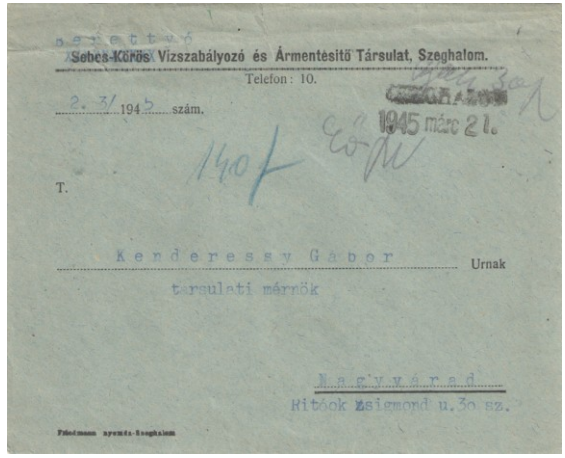


Figure 13 Letter sent from Szeghalom to Nagyvarad on 21st March 1945. The franking was paid by cash. The envelope bears Szeghalom's provisional rubber stamp.



Figure 14-15 Official letter sent from Szombathely to Sepsiszentgyorgy on 16th June 1945 bearing the 2.1. type bilingual censorship handstamp of Szombathely.

The letter arrived to Sepsiszentgyorgy on 27th January 1946 where the "addressee unknown" label was applied, and the letter was returned to the sender. After Bucharest detour, the letter reached Szombathely on 16th February 1946 according to the arrival stamp on the back of the envelope.

The Nagyvarad Postal Directorate was taken over by the Romanian Post on 9th April 1945, but even after that, mails continued arriving from across the border. The items sent from Hungary in June 1945 did not arrive in Romania until January 1946, even though official postal traffic had already started in November. It is possible that the agreement was signed, but the conditions for the exchange of mail were not ready until January 1946.



Figure 16-17 Registered picture postcard sent from Kunhegyes to Kolozsvar (Cluj) on 10th June 1945. The franking was paid in cash and a hand-drawn provisional registry label was applied.

According to the arrival stamp on the picture side the postcard arrived in Cluj on 19th January 1946. That time the official letter exchange between the two countries had already begun. The CLUJ stamp on the picture side is no longer a Soviet censorship stamp.



Figure 18 A stationary postcard sent from Budapest to Szilagysomlyo on 8th June 1945.

The card arrived in Bucharest on 21st January 1946, then reached Kolozsvar (Cluj) on 24th January and finally Simleu Silvaniei (Szilagysomlyo) on 28th January.

I should also mention that the exchange of mailbags also worked for a while with Yugoslavia, Transcarpathia and Czechoslovakia, long before the establishment of the official postal relations, and Hungarian stamps were overprinted in these countries too.

It was not only the official mail that crossed the border, but travellers also took smuggled letters with them in both directions, which were then posted in the respective country. The reason for this was the suspension or lack of postal traffic between the two countries. Let me show two examples for this too!



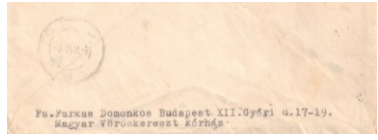


Figure 19-20 Letter smuggled from Budapest to Kolozsvar (Cluj) and posted from there on 19th June 1945.

The letter made its way to the final destination via Bucharest after a big detour (the distance between Kolozsvar and Des is only 50 km). The letter was delivered on 6th July 1945. The CLUJ handstamp on the reverse is a Soviet censorship stamping.



Figure 21 Stationary postcard smuggled from Romania and sent via post-box from Budapest on 7th July 1945.

The card was written by a prisoner of war lieutenant who asked one of the returning guards to drop it on in the capital. The card was written on 22nd May 1945, and it is easy to figure out from the text that it was handed over to the guard in the city of Ramnicu Sarat. The city is located at 40 km from Foksany. One of the largest POW distribution camps in Romania operated in Foksany. Postage due was applied due to the missing franking, but the rate was not calculated correctly. The fee of the local postcard would have been 40 filler. Due to the 18 filler stationary fee only the double amount of the missing 22 filler (44 filler) should have been paid, but two postage due stamps worth 50 filler were applied.

Based on the above mentioned, it can be concluded that the postal traffic started relatively soon between the two countries after the front had passed (mid-November 1944), then this initially sporadic mail traffic became constant and stable in the period between January 1945 and the end of April - beginning of May. It was possible to send letters from Budapest to overseas too. The Romanian administration took over the former Hungarian parts in May, and the postal traffic between the two countries ceased. The exchange of official postal items began on the 17th November 1945, but despite that, the first items in circulation between the two countries did not appear until January 1946. So, between the end of May and December 1945, there was no postal traffic between the two countries, even though the post offices picked up mails. Due to the suspension of postal traffic we may encounter smuggled letters during this period. I think everyone agrees with me that this is a very exciting period of the postal history of the two countries.

To be continued!

I would like to thank Gercu Dan-Simion (picture 2), Csaba Kohalmi (pictures 9 and 10) and Robert Bob Morgan (pictures 11 and 12) for allowing me to present the images of their items in the article.

Bibliography

Imre Sebestyen: A special postal historical memory from the past of Bekes county, or the history of the road sentry courier post of Gyula processed on exhibition pages Private publication 2021.

Gyorgy Komoroczy: The first months of economic life in the liberated county of Bihar. Yearbook of the Debrecen Deri Museum 1965. Debrecen 1966.

Gabor Voloncs: The 1945 Nagyvarad overprinted stamps. Philatelic 1988/2

Gabor Voloncs: Postal use of the stamps issued locally in Nagyvarad in 1945. Szabolcsi Stamp Gazette 2010/3-4.

Gabor Voloncs: Registered letter sent from Szatmarnemeti to the USA in 1945. Szabolcsi Stamp Gazette 2011/1-2.

Peter Kallos: Our overprinted stamps made history. Stamp World 2005/4.

Lajos Horvath: Was Szilagynagyfalu foreign on February 12, 1945? Stamp World 2005/4.

.

COMMENT ON THE RELAUNCH OF THE BUDAPEST POSTAL SERVICE IN 1945

DR. GYORGY LOVEI, BUDAPEST



Budapest was founded in 1873 by the unification of three cities (Pest, Buda and Obuda). Budapest was divided into 10 prefectures and their areas were determined. The heads of the prefectures were elected by the Legislative Authority Committee of the capital. From then on, the first two city names became geographical terms, while Obuda became the III. district of the capital, thus remaining an administrative unit. Greater Budapest was established in 1950 and at that time the elected district councils replaced the former district prefectures.

As is known, the Pest side was liberated on January 18, 1945, while the Buda side and thus the capital of Budapest were liberated on February 13, 1945. The Danube bridges connecting the two parts of the city were blown up by the retreating German troops, on the temporary pontoon bridge (the Manci bridge), so initially the river could only be crossed by boat.

The Provisional National Government was based in Debrecen, while in Budapest, a previously unknown body, the Budapest National Committee, exercised supreme power.

The body consisting of the representatives of the 4 parties of the Hungarian Independence Front (MKP, SZDP, FKGP, Peasant Party and trade union organizations, which was later joined by the Hungarian Civic Party) exercised supreme power in the territory of Budapest instead of the Provisional National Government based in Debrecen. This fact was immediately declared by the newly formed organization.

The Metropolitan Archives published the contemporary minutes in a printout in 1970, along with footnotes and commentaries.

The Budapest National Committee began its operations on January 21, 1945, first on the liberated Pest side, and then, after the liberation of Buda, on the Buda side as well. This statement is also true for the constantly expanding postal traffic.

On January 21, 1945, Szabadsag was published, later Nepszava and Szabadnep, in which the newspapers "replaced" the official newspapers.

The Budapest National Committee announces that until the government arrives in Budapest, the supreme power will be exercised by the Budapest National Committee. The secretary general of the committee was Dr. Gyorgy Gulacsy, a small-scale farmer politician (later ambassador to Ankara), who held this position until May 1945.

[1] Katalin Rozsnyai: Everyday Life in Budapest after 1945, page 706, Studies from the Past of Budapest. Budapest 1963.

[2] The Budapest Gazette was replaced by the Magyar Kozlony, the first 15 issues of which were published in Debrecen.

With its second decision, the Budapest National Committee appointed the mayor of the capital, Janos Csorba, and with its third decision, Lieutenant Laszlo Solyom, a resident of Budapest, as police captain. On January 31, 1945, they decide that in the event of the liberation of Buda, a separate Buda administrative branch will be established, headed by one of the deputy mayors. This is the only reference to Buda in the decisions.

Its decisions covered all areas of life, including the establishment of the postal service.

On February 5, 1945, with its resolution VI/5, the so-called Committee No. 5 (this organization exercised supreme authority between two plenary sessions) called on the post office to report to the Budapest National Committee, and Laszlo Papai was entrusted with the management of the postal reorganization work.

On February 9, 1945, it was decided that Istvan Kossa would be entrusted with the political supervision of the reorganization of the post office. (Resolution VIII/9-1945). According to the footnote to the resolution, Laszlo Papai reported on February 10, 1945, that Committee 5 had also been formed at the Post Office in order to start postal work. As a result, the courier service between Budapest and Debrecen started on February 14, 1945, and on March 2, 1945, private postal traffic also started, first on the Pest side, and later on the Buda side.

Dr. Ferenc Nagy, in the 6th issue of Belyegvilag 2004, and then in the 2nd issue of Philatelica 2016, places the Budapest tariff into effect on March 2, 1945, and confirms this with the announcement published in Nepszava on that day. Three other newspapers also published that postal traffic was opened on the Pest side for private individuals on March 2, 1945.

Other historical works have come to the same conclusion. The May 1968 issue of Belyegvilag published an article about the milestones of the start of postal traffic in Budapest. The first one states that postal traffic started on March 2, 1945.

The footnote attached to the decisions of the National Committee in Budapest reveals that the courier service between Budapest and Debrecen started on February 14, 1945 (probably at that time the courier service between post offices also started), and Katalin Rozsnyai's study reveals that the first regularly sent telegram arrived in Budapest from Kisujszallas on February 16, 1945. The telegram was sent on February 11, and it says that Kisujszallas is sending food to the capital.

Let's summarize the dates:

• February 14, 1945 – the Budapest-Debrecen courier service starts

• February 16, 1945. The first telegram officially sent from Kisujszallas on February 11, 1945 arrives in Budapest

• March 2, 1945. Normal and registered mail traffic for private individuals starts at the post office on the 9th Pest side, the new postal tariff for shipments to the Budapest-Pest and areas outside the customs border (Greater Budapest-Pest?) comes into effect

Another date, the first issue of the Postal and Telegraph Regulations is published in June 1945, in the 6th issue the second inflation tariff is pub-

[3] Istvan Kossa has been Minister of Transport and Postal Services since 1957, and one of the MABEOSZ's travelling awards previously bore his name..

[4] Stamp World, issue 5, 1968, article by Dr. Gyula Kadocsa (reported by Janos Dan)

lished on July 6, 1945, the method of publishing the first tariff of May 1, 1945 is not yet known to me.

Since from January 1945 only the term Budapest was used by the press of the time, it is natural that with the approval of the political agent Istvan Kossa, appointed by the Budapest National Committee exercising national authority, the post office was free to decide on the implementation of a new postal tariff. And the fact that this was published in the Nepszava, among others, is almost natural, because publishing it in the official newspaper was not possible due to the lack of an official newspaper.

Although the whole of Budapest was liberated on March 2, 1945, it is natural that the postal tariff was also treated uniformly, but Janos Dan correctly states that on the Buda side it was only possible to send letters to private individuals much later, precisely from May 1, 1945. It took until then for the restoration, the handling and delivery of the accumulated postal items.

At the same time, the term Pest tariff contradicts the intention of the legislator. However, it is a fact that the new uniform, national tariff was already applied to the private (non-governmental) postal traffic that started on the Buda side on May 1, 1945.

I do not wish to be the arbiter in the debate that erupted over the name of the tariff, but I can only accept the name Budapest and its surroundings (using the terminology of the time: the Great Budapest Tariff), not the Pest Tariff.

At the same time, Janos Dan correctly points out that the start of postal traffic in Budapest was a longer process, which lasted from the liberation of the Pest side on January 18, 1945 until May 1, 1945, and even then only 4 post offices began operating on the Buda side of the capital.

Thanks are due to Dr. And to Ferenc Nagy, because in 2004 he spotted an overpaid philatelist envelope and thus put the questions surrounding the start of Budapest postal traffic into a new dimension, publishing the letter he called the Budapest tariff.

I would also like to thank Janos Dan for his research work, for the study published in Philatelica, in which he describes the start of postal traffic in Budapest based on a previously unknown manuscript, and also for drawing my attention to several sources. For this, I can only publish two pieces of information based on the study of the Budapest National Committee minutes and the source mentioned by Janos Dan.

Special thanks also go to Dr. Gabor Bernath, who immediately reacted to Dr. Ferenc Nagy's article, his epoch-making discovery and presented the letters he knew about from Budapest and received in Budapest during that period. At the same time, he was the first to use the term "necessary tariff", which I think is not the right term, because in the Budapest tariff, since in an extraordinary situation the post office was operating again on the Pest side, and in the early days of the postal service being restored on the Buda side, the post office had the right to modify the tariff introduced in 1943 and to introduce a new tariff.

The entry into force of the national tariff replacing the tariff coincided with the reopening of postal traffic on the Buda side for private individuals, which is why the application of the Budapest tariff on the Buda side became, or could have become, obsolete.

Additions to the History of Hungarian Philately

Dr. Zsolt Bodnar, Attila Marton, Karoly Szucs

1. 1. Editorial Preface (by Karoly Szucs)

In Philatelica, we often publish tributes to our members who have made significant contributions to our knowledge of Hungarian philately. From these recollections – mostly published without the author's name – an overall picture is slowly forming, on the basis of which the century and a half of history of Hungarian philately can also become personal.

I encourage our members to share with us their memories, if they can, as well as the philatelic correspondence they have in their possession, because these can also be stimulating for future generations.

Most recently, it was Bob Morgan, who was honoured here, who made it possible for us to glimpse into their instructive life journey through his correspondence with Istvan Liptak (see here, below!)

2. The Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society Is 35 Years Old (by dr. Zsolt Bodnar, Ireland)

If we turn to the 1989/2. issue of Philatelica, at the bottom of page 4 we find a short, 15-line article entitled "The Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society (Mafitt) was founded." According to the announcement, Mafitt was founded on September 14, 1989 with 31 members. The official announcement did indeed take place then, and the requirements for operating an officially registered company that complies with all legal regulations were created by then, but the idea of founding Mafitt was born much earlier.

Since many controversial articles have been published in recent decades about the circumstances of the founding of Mafitt, in this article I have reconstructed the authentic history of the foundation based on the memoirs and recollections of the founding members.

Let's turn the wheel of time back to the 1970s!

In 1979, the Slovak Philatelic Association based in Bratislava organized a symposium to which several renowned Hungarian philatelists were invited. Among the invited guests was Dr. Ferenc Nagy, a fellow collector from Vienna, who was honoured on the occasion of his achievements in the use of the 25 and 50 krajczar of the 1867 edition in Hungary, but another eminent Hungarian collector, the then 70-year-old Andor Ber, was also present. After the symposium, which lasted until late in the evening, Andor Ber and Ferenc Nagy stumbled along the cobblestones of the already darkened Petofi Square, looking for something to eat, while Ferenc Nagy presented his plan to establish a scientific society associated with the Academy. Andor Ber considered the idea, which had been maturing for almost ten years, to be a very good idea, but unfortunately he saw no possibility of implementing it at that time.

Nearly ten years passed until 1988, when Professor Laszlo Makkai visited Vienna to give a lecture on the history of Transylvania. Professor

Makkai was a polyhistrian, and postal history and Hungarian stamps were not left out of his wide-ranging interests. Since Professor Makkai had been a full member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) since 1987, Ferenc Nagy thought he was ideal for creating the connecting link that can still be read in the Philatelica Pantheon chapter of his short philatelic biography; he was the "connecting link between philatelists and the MTA".

The “war plan” was woven at the dinner following Professor Makkai’s lecture in Vienna, at the Hotel Regina, and Professor Makkai promised to contact his old friend Professor Istvan Lang the very next day, who was none other than the president of the MTA at the time. Barely a few days had passed when Dr. Nagy's phone rang and Professor Makkai, in an almost euphoric mood, informed him that Professor Lang was waiting for them in his office on the morning of September 15, 1988. On Wednesday, September 15, at 10 a.m., Prof. Istvan Lang, Prof. Laszlo Makkai and Dr. Ferenc Nagy met in the office of the General Secretary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Nagy once again presented - now in the presence of the President of the Academy - his idea, which had been maturing since the seventies, of a philatelic scientific society working under the wings of the Academy. Professor Lang stood up and, shaking hands with Dr. Nagy, said only: "Great idea! As a dedicated stamp collector, I will be the number one registered member". At that moment, Mafitt was born, which would have celebrated its 35th anniversary on September 15, 2023.

Of course, one or two more consultation meetings were needed at the Academy, the statutes were developed with the participation of several renowned philatelists, the first recruitment of members took place, the management was appointed and on September 14, 1989, exactly one year after the meeting in Professor Lang's office, the Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society was launched, but the foundation took place on September 15, 1988, in the office of the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Let this short announcement pay tribute to the 35th anniversary and the three founders: Prof. Istvan Lang (1931-2016) agro-chemist, academician, Prof. Laszlo Makkai (1914-1989) theologian, historian and Dr. Ferenc Nagy, chief medical advisor, and chamber councillor currently living in Vienna.



Prof. Laszlo Makkai



Dr. Ferenc Nagy



Prof. Istvan Lang

3. In Memoriam dr. Titsch Endre 1928-2019 (by Attila Marton, Budapest)

My dear friend "Bandi" and philately teacher, for whom philately was his favourite hobby. His favourite area was old letters and mail, he passionately loved to research and analyze them. Since 1991, he has been a member of Mafitt "Living History Among Us (Gyorgy Kun, OPM collection), thus being included in the Mafitt's permanent list1 and was also congratulated on his 90th birthday at the 36th general meeting of Mafitt2. In 1990, he wrote an article in Philatelica 90/1 entitled "Szigethvar provisional and lithographic connections at a foreign auction"[3]. In this regard, he once jokingly told me that the Szigethvar provisionals could have been created when coffee was spilled on the postage stamps and, so that they would not go to waste, the postmaster took them out and used them.



Figure 1. Szigethvar Provisional (Darabanth Auction House, from an internet source)

He was born in Budapest in 1928 and grew up here. He studied at the Piarist gymnasium and graduated in law, later he was a legal advisor at various state offices. He retained his intelligence and interests throughout his life; he spoke excellent German and French, and a little Latin.

His parents were downtown merchants and officials, his father served in World War I, where he was a distinguished first lieutenant, among other things he received the Silver Crown Cross of Merit (I saw this, but unfortunately I do not know what happened to it). I would like to illustrate these memories with figures 2 and 3 below.



Figure 2

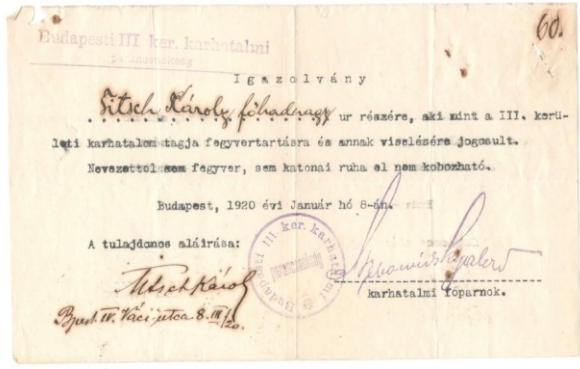


Figure 3

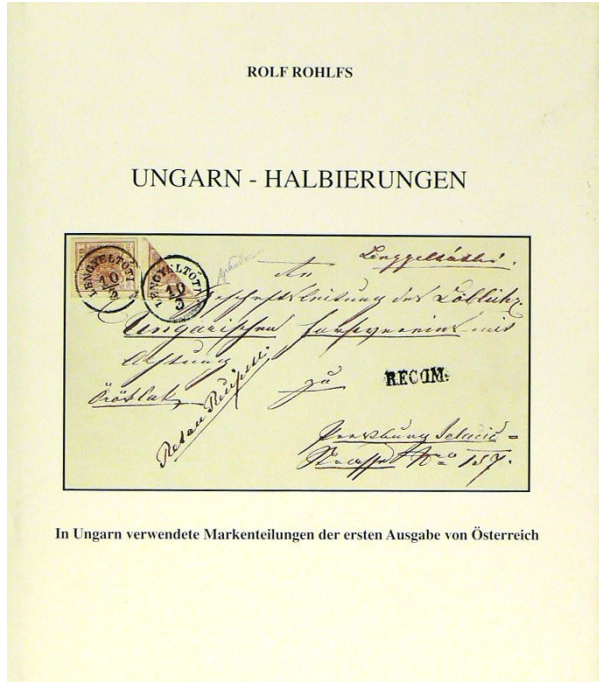
One of his cousins, Mihaly Varjasi, also became a renowned philatelist, and has been the 165th hereditary member of Mafitt since 2007. He has been researching and collecting telegrams since the beginning and gave a two-part lecture on this subject, which he documented with his own material and research and presented in chronological order.[4-5]

I met Bandi in 2004 and for 15 years we talked about stamps almost every week. He told me about the great philatelists of the last century, like Uncle Gyuri Kun, who had a very rich collection and many great rarities, like his halved stamp sheet from 1850, a red Merkur newspaper on a ribbon, a red 3kr misprint from 1867 on a Kobanya sheet, etc.6 Uncle Gyuri had hundreds of serious classic sheets and decades of experience, so he once asked him for a certificate for a Nagymanya cutout.[7]



Figure 4 Certificate for a cut-out of Nagymanya

In 2000, he wrote a review for Rolf Rohlfs' book "Ungarn – Halbierungen", including a brief description of Uncle Gyuri's work.


ROLF ROHLFS

UNGARN - HALBIERUNGEN

In Ungarn verwendete Markenteilungen der ersten Ausgabe von Österreich

Figure 5

He was on very good terms with “Lacza”. He held him in high esteem and was a close friend, they traded a lot together, Laszlo Lacza had a stamp shop on Vaci Street, and if I remember correctly, after his death, at the request of his widow, Bandi helped run the shop.



Figure 6

He loved to play with stamps, and although his eyesight deteriorated significantly in his last years, his attention and interest in stamps remained! He could always see the stamp and discover it, spot the special features and interesting pieces. If he found something, he was very excited and tried to decipher it with his diligence and knowledge, and as I wrote above, he had great success and talent in this. He had a real lexical mind, an excellent memory and thus was able to remember a lot of things.

In his last year, he said that he would like to live to be 90, so that he could receive the 90,000 HUF pension premium, but he did not want to live any longer because he was living life in front of other people. Soon he went through a severe mental decline, which I think was due to taking sleeping pills, among other things, so he was not fully conscious in his last months and passed away shortly before his 91st birthday. As fate would have it, I was the one who saw him for the last time in the hospital and said goodbye to my spiritual friend.

USED SOURCES

http://www.mafitt.hu/fooldal/index.html and come from the books and printed materials indicated here. (What is not specifically indicated is my own source.)

NUMBERED NOTES

1 In 1991, it expanded its membership this year with five foreign and one Hungarian member, including Elaine C. Arundel (England), Pierre Vattepain (France), Peter Girlich (Germany), Tomas Morovics (Czech and Slovak Republics), Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer (Austria) and Dr. Endre Titsch.

2Before discussing the agenda, the secretary greeted our jubilant members who were celebrating a full year this year: Drs. Paul De Leeuw Van Weenen is 70 years old this year, Tibor Kiraly, Pierre Vattepain, Laszlo Perneczky and Lajos Horvath are 80 years old; Dr. Endre Titsch is 90 years old.

3 Philatelica 1990/1: Dr. Endre Tisch: Szigetvar provisional lithographic connections at foreign auctions.

4 Philatelica 2013/2. Telegrams in Hungary between 1867 and 1888/the first 20 years/

5 Philatelica 2015/2: Mihaly Varjasi: The closed telegram sheets with premium stamps between 1888-1919.

6 Rolf Rolhls 2000: Ungarn-Halbierungen pp. 18-20

7 Sept. 3, 1970. Photographic certificate of Gyorgy Kun Bp. for a Nagymanya cut-out

ROBERT B. MORGAN
FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE VISNYOVSZKI GABOR LIFETIME AWARD

Authors in the order of their writings: Karoly Szucs, Csaba Kohalmi and dr. Pal Lippai

Last year, the Mafitt board established a lifetime achievement award in honour of the recently deceased Gabor Visnyovszki. The award itself is a portrait engraved on a metal cube bearing the same name. The board awarded it to Bob Morgan for the first time. As the brainchild and also the editor of Philatelica, it was an unforgettable and eternal honour for me to be able to present it to him personally at a family celebration on his 100th birthday in Los Angeles in March of this year.

The foundation document of the award



Visnyovszki Gábor életműdíj
alapító okirat

A DÍJ ELNEVEZÉSE: Visnyovszki Gábor életműdíj

A DÍJ ALAPÍTÓJA: a Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság nevében a Mafitt +elnöksége.

A DÍJ CÉLJA: olyan személyek filatelista pályafutásának elismerése, akik hosszabb időn keresztül jelentős mértékben járultak hozzá a magyar filatélia ismertségéhez és megbecsüléséhez.

A DÍJ LEIRASA: kb. 10 cm átmérőjű bronz érem a névadó arcképével, hátoldalán a díjazott bevésett nevével és a díj elnyerésének évszámával.

A DÍJ ODAÍTÉLÉSE: a díj kiadásáról Mafitt elnöksége dönt.

A DÍJ ADOMÁNYOZHATÓ: legfeljebb három évente.

A DÍJ ELNYERÉSÉNEK FELTÉTELE: a díjat egy személy legfeljebb egy alkalommal nyerheti el.

A DÍJ ÁTADÁSA: ünnepélyes körülmények közt, a Mafitt elnöke adja át az elnyerését igazoló, sorszámozott oklevéllel együtt.

A kitüntetésről szóló hír a méltatással együtt teendő közzé a Mafitt internetes felületén, szaklapjában és a magyar filatéliai szaksajtóban.

Az alapítók köszönetet mondanak a díja alapításának költségeihez hozzájáruló IBK és Pátria Filatéliai Egyesületeknek.

Budapest, 2023. március 15.

Dr. Lövei György
a Mafitt elnöke

MAGYAR FILATÉLIAI TUDOMÁNYOS TÁRSASÁG ALAPÍTVA: 1989

15.03.2023





A Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság

OKLEVELE

A Mafitt Elnöksége az első alkalommal kiadott
Visnyovszki Gábor életműdíjat

Robert Morgan

tagtársunknak ítélte,

a magyar filatélia nemzetközi hírnevének öregbítésében
angol nyelvű szakirodalomban való folyamatos dpolásában
és nemzetközi kiállításokon hosszú időn át kifejtett, eredményes munkásságáért;

továbbá a Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság céljainak
megvalósításában tanúsított áldozatos közreműködéséért;
nemzetközi kapcsolatainak építésében vállalt támogató szerepéért;
és egyben minden olyan, itt teljes körűen fel nem sorolható érdeméért,
amellyel egy egész világra kiterjedő,
nagy filatéliai közösség céljait és érdekeit szolgálta.

Budapest, 2023. október 30.

Dr. Lövei György
a Mafitt elnöke

MAGYAR FILATÉLIAI TUDOMÁNYOS TÁRSASÁG ALAPÍTVA: 1989

Presentation
of the first diploma
of the award
30.10.2023





10.03.2024

On this occasion, Bob Morgan gave us his philatelic correspondence with Istvan Liptak in the mid-1990s for publication, which I deposited in the MABEOSZ library. This material, which contains around 50 pieces, ultimately turned into a very instructive, 100-page entertaining and educational read. We can only recommend it to all our friends who, following this example, would like to follow in the footsteps of our greatest philatelists! Here it is: www.mabeosz.hu/filatelia-online

MEMORIES OF CSABA KOHALMI

He was born into a family struggling with modest circumstances in Pestszenterzsebet a century ago. He was a young man when the Second World War swept through his homeland. Because of his origin, he was drafted into labour service, but his courage encouraged him to escape, and thus he survived.

He wanted a better future and therefore emigrated. He first ended up in New York, and later in California, where he found a living for himself and his family. In the meantime, he caught the passion of stamp collecting. At first, he collected imperforate Hungarian stamps because, in his opinion, only reliable data was available on the number of stamps issued. In his opinion, the official number of copies of perforated stamps was usually unreliable.

Since he had personal experience of the inflation of 1945-46, he was also interested in the postal history of this era. It may have happened as early as the 1980s that he tried such a material at an exhibition, when a jury member made a comment to him: "Hungary's inflation is no big deal. Every country had its inflation."

In the following decades, he managed to refute this. He worked tenaciously and persistently on his exhibition material. His work was crowned with increasing success at international exhibitions.

He has been a member of the American Society for Hungarian Philately since 1974. He wrote numerous articles in the circle's newspaper. He also wrote a book about inflation, The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946. This was published by the Collectors Club of Chicago in 2003.

In 1992, he held a lecture for Mafitt on an interesting inflation research entitled "The Fewest Stamp Exemptions in 1945/46".

Gold medals from the "Hungary–The Hyperinflation 1945–1946" collection at FIP exhibitions:

WASHINGTON 2006; ISRAEL 2008; EFIRO 2008; LONDON 2010; NEW YORK 2016; THAILAND 2018.

After 7 international gold medals including the Finlandia 2017 FEPA exhibition, as a reward for his diligence and perseverance, it achieved at **London 2022 FIP** WSE the highest level, the Large Gold medal too!

MEMORIES OF DR. PAL LIPPAI

It wasn't him, but his wife Edith, who I first met! It so happened that after judging many domestic and bilateral exhibitions, I was finally invited to the FIP exhibition in 1997, and not just anywhere, to the San Francisco World's Fair, to the group judging European postal history material. When I had time off from work, I looked around the stands and my eyes were caught by a "Society for Hungarian Philately" sign. I went there right away and struck up a conversation with the lady behind the table. When her husband arrived shortly after, I already knew a lot about the Society, some of whose members I had previously had the good fortune to know personally.

It was then that I first met Bob Morgan, and many more followed. There, at the exhibition, we fought seriously with jury member John Hotchner for Bob's first gold medal, but the final word was finally given by the highly respected Bob Oedenweller. In addition to Bob, several serious collectors of Hungarian origin also attended the evening dinner, such as Pali Szilagyi, Pista Frater, Gabriel and others. I sat next to Bob, who said that in his opinion it would be important to expand the membership with as many members as possible – no longer of Hungarian origin. And lo and behold, by the end of the exhibition, Edith had organized three "real" Americans as members.

Later, fate brought it about that I participated in a lawsuit that lasted for several years in Riverside, and when I travelled to Uncle Imre Vamos, who lived there (the name is familiar, right: the owner of the Society's auctions and a former expert on Chilean stamps), I always spent a few days at Bob's place. Of course, this gave me the opportunity to stamp a lot. We admired his cut and even more so his inflation collection. I am still proud to this day that I was able to contribute to his 128 sheets containing almost all the rarities with a telegram delivered at a nice inflation time.

I also met Bob, the "non-stamp collector". Every morning, still in his dressing gown, he would sit at his computer in the guest room and look through the letters that had arrived during the night. Most of these were jokes in Hungarian and (secondarily) English, and he would laugh a lot, which also set the tone for his mood during the day. So Edith's wife had to tell us several times to sit down at the breakfast table.

After breakfast, Bob would review the stock market movements, which he would take detailed notes about. These helped him to manage his investments effectively. Through Bob, I got to know the sights of Los Angeles, so when I went out with my wife, I was already showing her Sunset Boulevard and its surroundings with ease.

But I enjoyed listening to Bob talk about the old days the most: how he twice escaped from labour service, how he was sentenced to execution, and how he managed to escape with incredible luck and ingenuity. Even after several decades, it still lives in me as vividly as if I had been there: Bob and his fellow prisoners are marching in line towards the place of execution, when suddenly a similar line of torn clothes comes across them, accompanied by Arrow Cross guards. And Bob – driven by a sudden realization – just steps into the oncoming line, since complete uncertainty is still better than certain death.

This realization ensured his survival, then the possibility of emigration, his meeting with Edit, also an emigrant, the birth of their children, the building of a successful career importing Far Eastern goods, and of course his in-depth study of stamps, including the international recognition of the philatelic period of Hungarian hyperinflation.

In the hustle and bustle of the exhibitions, there was only time for superficial conversations, but I am grateful to fate that I was lucky enough to meet Bob many times and get to know him not only as a talented man, but also as a sincere friend.

NEWS

1. MAGYAR BELYEGVIZSGALO SZAKCSOPORT (MBSZ)

The Hungarian Stamp Inspection Group, which was finally formally separated from Mafitt in 2025, will continue to operate as a registered civil society organization and with a renewed website. Its membership is growing every year with the addition of additional international experts. Since Mafitt and MABÉOSZ share the same goal of combating stamp counterfeiting, it would be desirable for all three organizations to conclude a mutually beneficial cooperation agreement in this area in the future..



www.mafitt.hu/mbsz

It is worth checking out the page showing counterfeits, which is constantly updated in order to prevent the spread of counterfeits. Mafitt members can also support this activity that is useful for all of us by describing the counterfeits they have in their possession and sending pictures to their secretary.

The inspection regulations, the sample forms used, their inspection fees, the marking system they use, their news and contact information can also be found in the menu items of their website, which can be seen in the image above.

2. EFIRO 2024 FIP SPECIALIZED STAMP EXHIBITION BUCHAREST (16-19 APR 2024)

Nine of our members participated in the exhibition with 11 collections in the competition class, with particularly good results: they won 2 large gold, 7 gold and 2 vermeil medals. Adriano Bergamini's collection was awarded a special prize by the jury and nominated for the international grand prize (GPIC), which ultimately went to the Israeli exhibitor Joseph D. Hackmey with only one more vote.

In the Revenue Class, Karoly Szucs – for the second time after New York – won the jury's felicity, which was also accompanied by the special prize of the Chinese Taipei Philatelic Association.

Class		Award & points	
	Banas Artur	-	
TH	A Miracle of a Great Discovery - The Victoria Falls	88p	
	Adriano Bergamini (Swiss)	**2xLG**	
PH	The Austrian Post in Hungary 1850 -1867	96p	**GPIC/SP**
PH	The Independent Hungarian Postal Administration to U.P.U. (1867-1875)	95p	
	Bodnar Zsolt	**G**	
PH	Chapters from the Captains' Registry of Adria: The Peterdi Letters Story	90	
	Borda Lorinc	**LV**	
PH	Foreign Parcel Service of the Hungarian Royal Post	85P	
	Buday Adam	**LV**	
	Newspaper Stamps in Hungary 1851 -1922	85P	
	Csicsay Peter (Slovakia)	**G**	
PH	The Postal History of Kingdom of Hungary 1900-1918	92p	
	Jakab Andras	**LG**	
	Hungarian Postal History 1867 -1876	95p	
	Szucs Karoly	**V; LG**	
TR	Hungarian Perfin - Punching as a Security Feature of Stamps 1877-1964	83p	
REV	Hungary's First Adhesive Revenues During the Forint-Krajczar Currency Period 1868-1898	95p	**FEL/SP**
	Toth Gyorgy	**LS**	
PH	Postal History of the Forint-Filler Era (1946-1968)	88p	







Award ceremony, the exhibition medal and the special prize awarded by the Chinese Taipei Philatelic Association, the "Year of the Dragon"



The elegant venue for Palmares Night, 'Le Château'

2024/1 *(no 2nd issue was published this year)*

Content:

Karoly Szucs:	Editorial Preface to the Late Issue of 2024/1	1
Adriano Bergamini, FRPSL & Czirok Denes RDP, FRPSL:	The Story of the Post Office in New Buda, USA	2
Janos Dan:	Postal traffic during the period of military operations – Part II	12
Dr Gyorgy Lovei:	Comment on the relaunch of the Budapest postal service in 1945	23
Dr. Zsolt Bodnar, Attila Marton:	Additions to the History of Hungarian Philately	26
Karoly Szucs, Csaba Kohalmi, dr. Pal Lippai:	Robert B. Morgan First Recipient of the Visnyovszki Gábor Lifetime Award	31
News		34

Editor: Karoly Szucs, member of Mafitt and curator of the Gervay Foundation
Translators: Zsolt Bodnar and Karoly Szucs

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

This only one issue of 2024 was able to issue only with a big delay in the second half of 2025. We ask for the understanding and kind apologies of our members:

editor of philatelica

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 XXXV





2015

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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research
H-1074 Budapest, Harsfa u. 47 Belyegmuzeum, Mafitt
e-mail: **info@mafitt.hu**

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation