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English translation

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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.

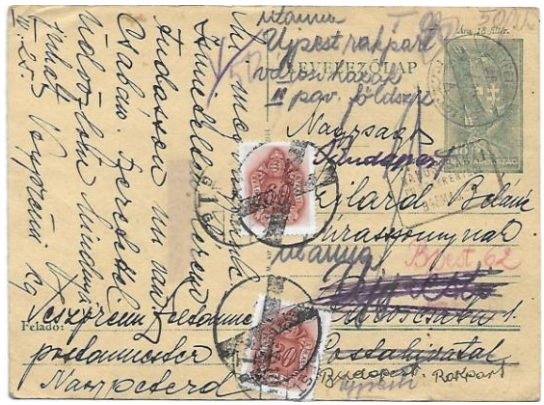


Fig. 2- Domestic postcard insufficiently franked at 18f (nominal value printed on the postcard) from Nagypeterd, sent by its Post Office Director on 1945 April 25 for a staff member from the post office in Rakoscsaba (eastern suburb of Budapest).

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).*

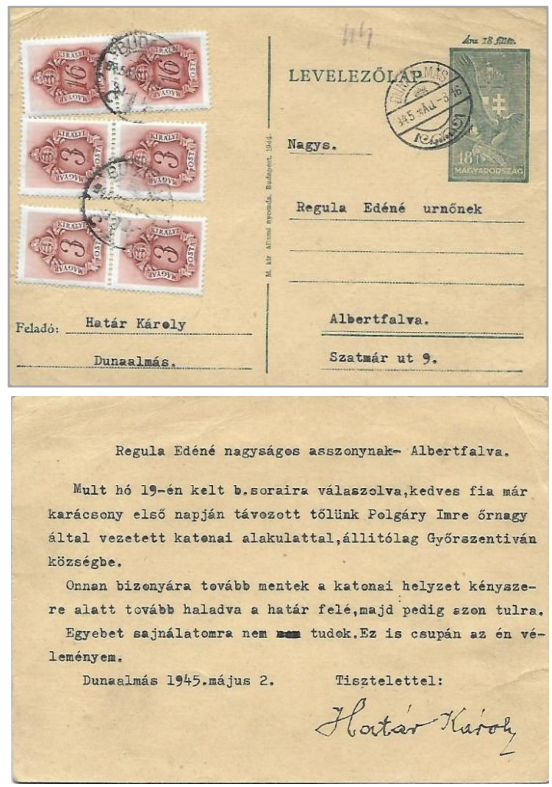


Fig.9- Domestic postcard sent insufficiently franked at 18f (nominal value printed on the postcard) from Dunaalmás on 1945 May 3 for Albertfalva. The rate for a domestic postcard in period 1 is 60f.

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.

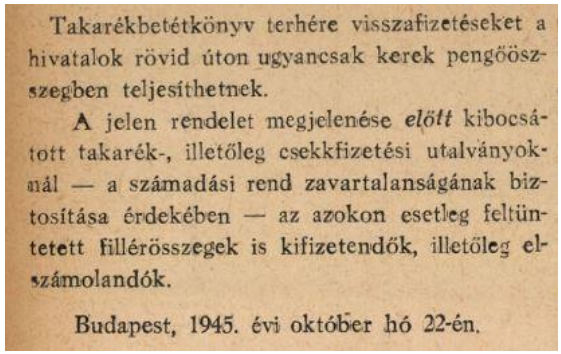
Fillérösszegek számításának elhagyása a postatakarékpénztári közvetítő szolgálatban.

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.



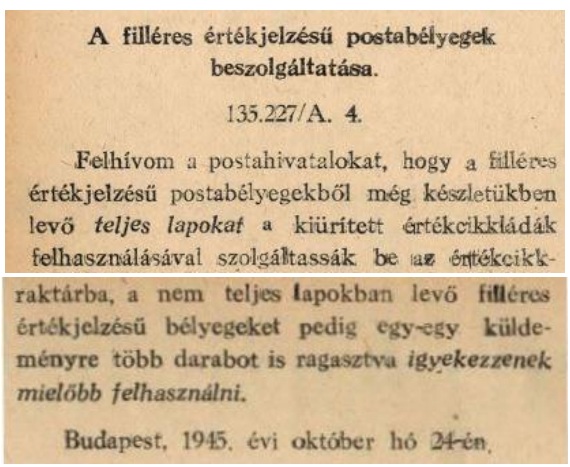
Takarékbetétkönyv terhére visszafizetéseket a hivatalok rövid úton ugyancsak kerek pengőösszegben teljesíthetnek.

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

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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

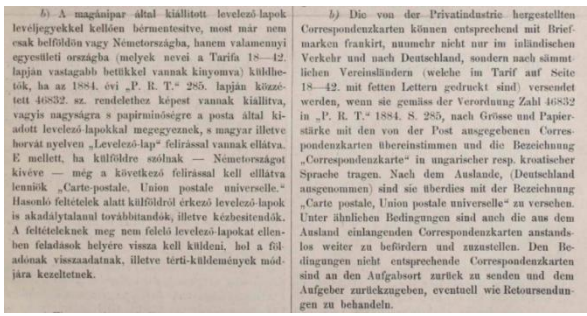
RENDELETEK TÁRA.

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.

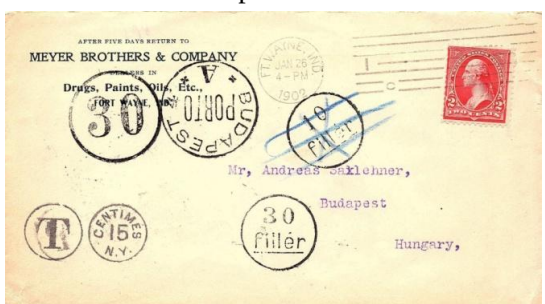


Fig. 5a: Letter of 26 January 1902 from Fort Wayne in Indiana to Budapest. (Elmar Dorr Collection)

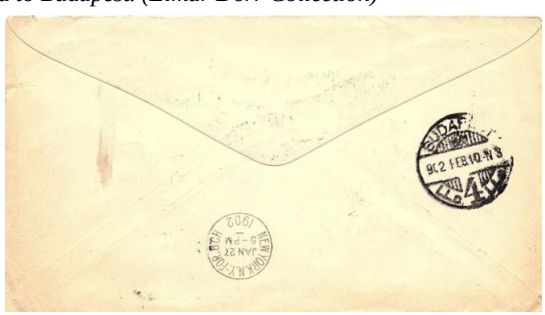


Fig. 5b: The reverse side documents the arrival at the Main Post Office (number 4) in Budapest.

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.

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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.

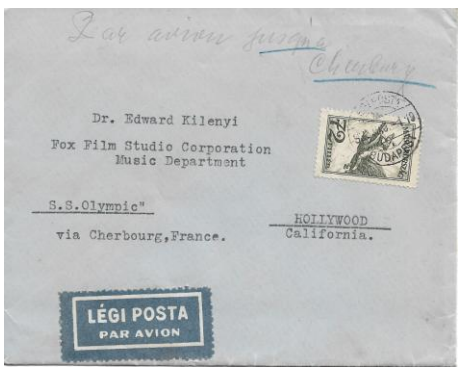


Figure 11. Sent by air to Cherbourg - ships equipped with the German catapult system sailed from this French port (40 f foreign letter tariff + 32 f airmail surcharge)



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.

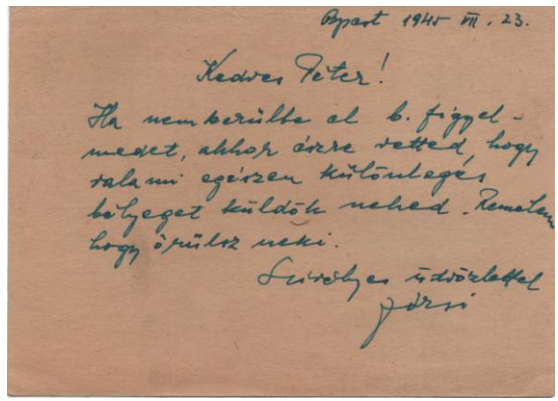


Figure 2. The text on the postcard with the salutation that is different than the given name of the addressee

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

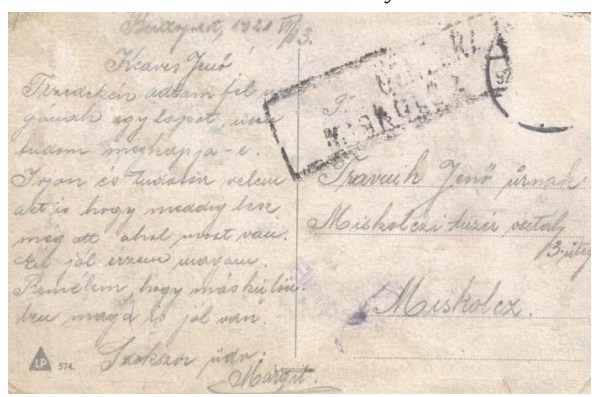


Figure 10. The use of the mutilated canceller originally introduced in March on a picture postcard from June 1921

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).

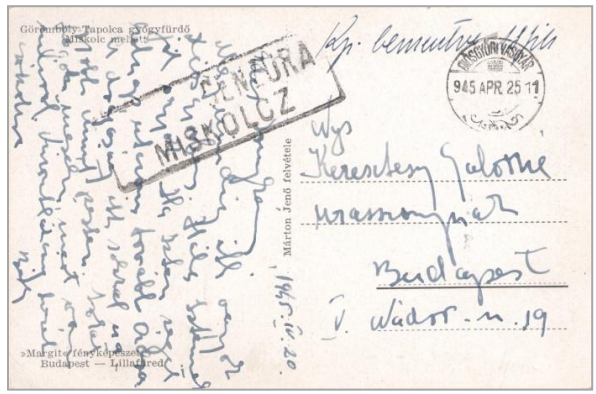


Figure 11. Censored mailing from Miskolc in April 1945.

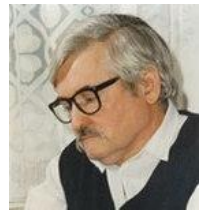
The canceller was again withdrawn from use in November of 1945 since the communists succeeded in instituting secret censorship in Miskolc. With this, it disappeared from view completely.

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

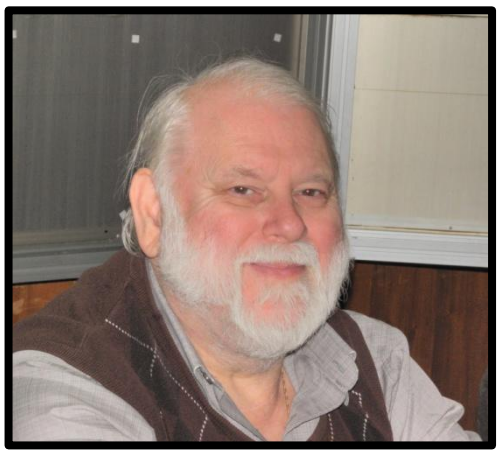
1. Bélyeglexikon,
Budapest 1988 (609, 618-619)

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

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FIP exhibition award in 2014

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FIP exhibition award in 2015

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