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# Philatelica

*English translation*

# Philatelica 2022/1

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**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.)

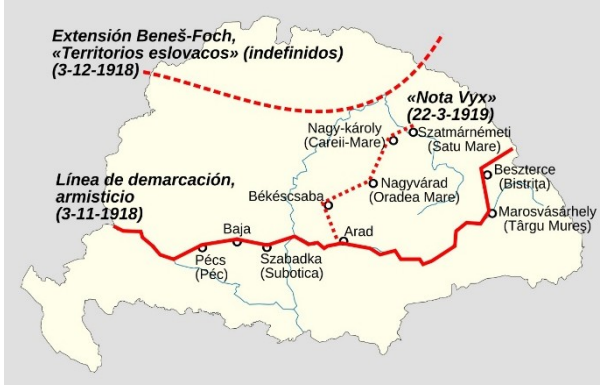



***Figure 2**. Map of Hungary showing the 3 November 1918 demarcation line (solid red line) stipulated by the Armistice of Belgrade, the Beneš-Foch claim to Slovakia made on 3 December 1918 (dashed red line), and the withdrawal in favour of the Romanians stipulated by the Vix Memorandum of 20 March 1919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

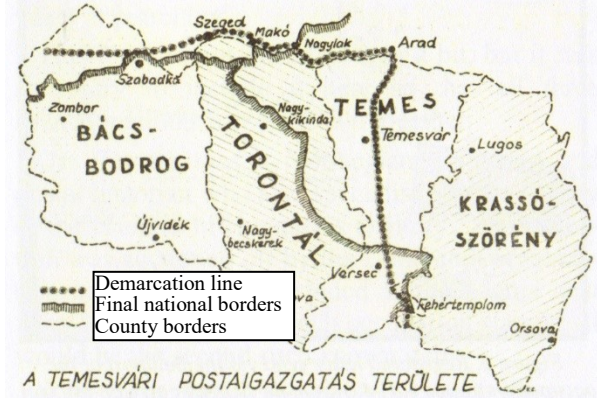



***Figure 3**. Map of the four county area of the Temesvar Postal Directorate showing the demarcation line established by the French between the Serbian and the Romanian armies as well as the final national borders.*

*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):*

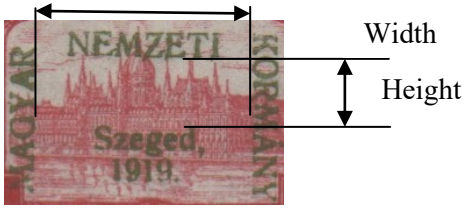
- Surcharged Express/*sürgős* sheets overprinted
- Parliament sheets overprinted
- Parliament sheets overprinted with surcharge
- Postage due sheets overprinted

**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.

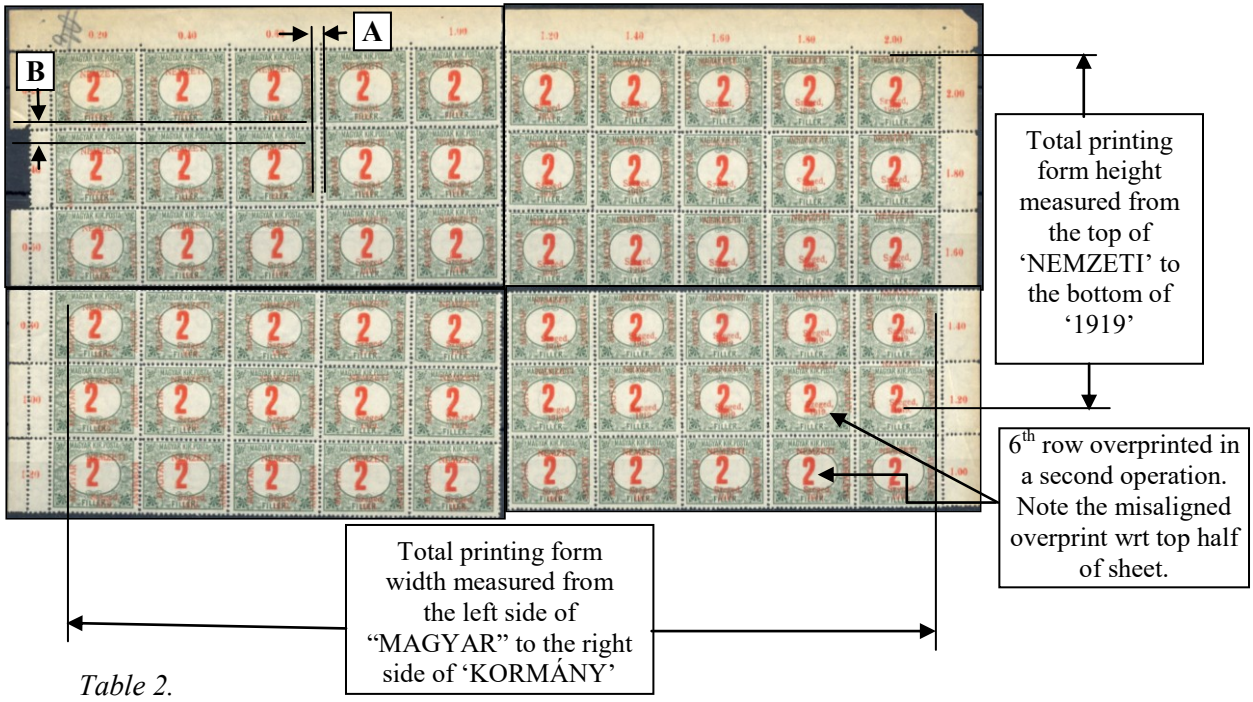



*Table 2.*

| | 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).

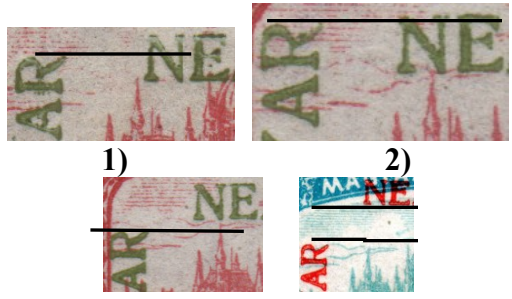


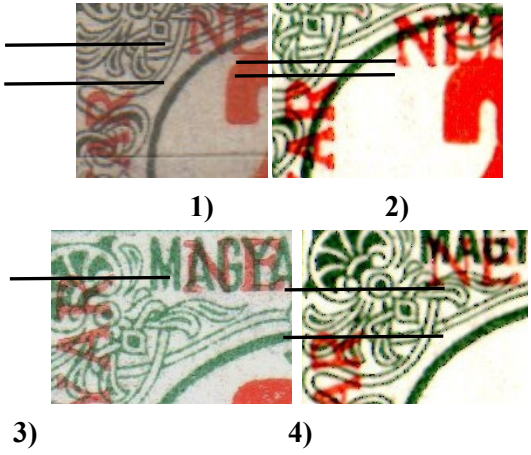

***Figure 17.*** *Alignment of the 'R' in 'MAGYAR' with respect to the 'N' in 'NEMZETI' on the Parliament sheets (from left to right):* ***1)*** *most common spacing,*
***2)*** *2nd most frequent spacing,*
***3)*** *spacing in positions 14/64,*
***4)*** *radically different spacing from positions 38/88.*

*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 |

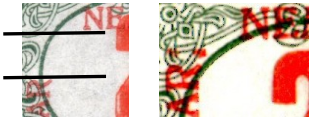
*Table 3* shows the arrangement of the four types of alignments shown in *Figure 17* for the sheet of Parliament stamps. The alignment in position 62 marked with an '*' is not exactly like 1 or 2, but looks like a 'hybrid' that is not significantly different enough to make it another type. In our small 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).*

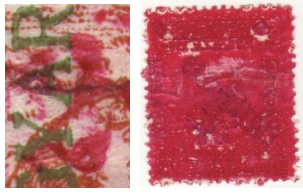


***Figure 20.*** *Freak surcharged stamp fully inked on the reverse side. Note that the green lettering of '(MA)GYAR' overprint is on top of the carmine '2' (best seen when looking at the letter 'Y')*

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.

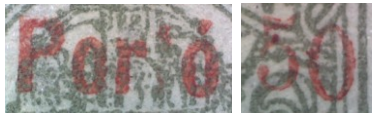


***Figure 25.*** *(left) Almost completely missing 't'*
***Figure 26.*** *(right) The '0' in '50' is shifted down*



***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:

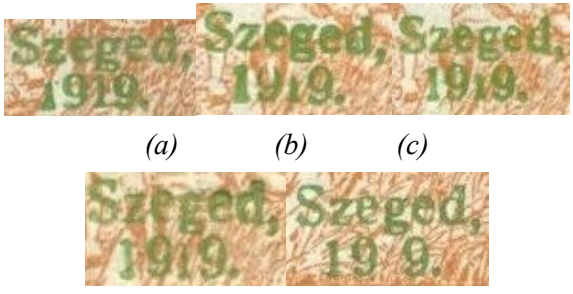
Missing or partially missing letters and numerals affect many stamps in the 5x10 printing form. Most of these errors show up in the word 'Szeged' and the date '1919.' No letters or numerals were missing at the beginning of the overprinting as exhibited in the nearly flawless overprints from the König 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).

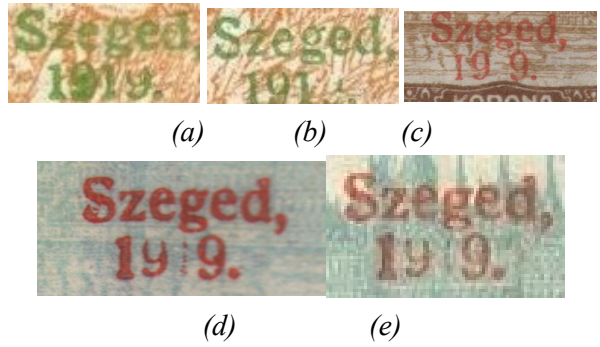


*(a) (b) (c)*

*(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)*

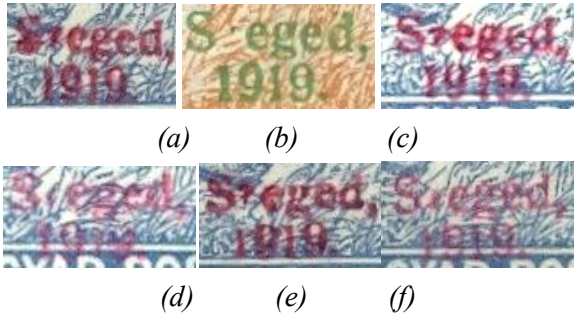
*(d) (e)*

***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).

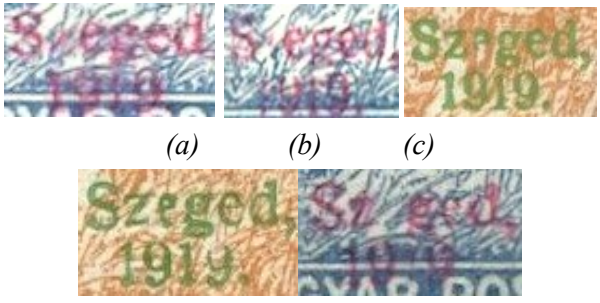


*(a) (b) (c)*

*(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).

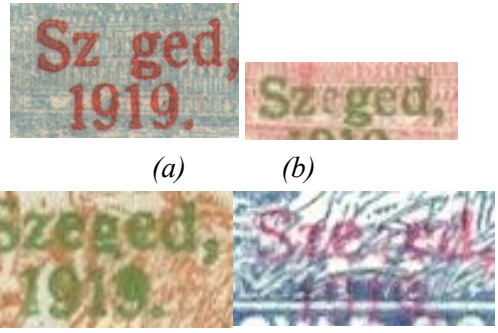



*(a)* *(b)* *(c)*

*(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).

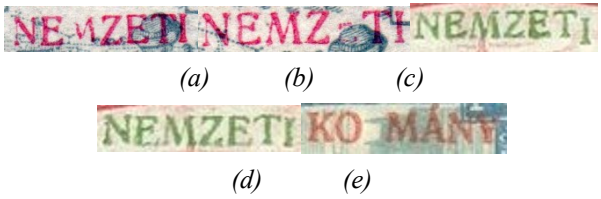



***Figure 35.*** *Missing letters in 'NEMZETI' and 'KORMÁNY'*

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).*

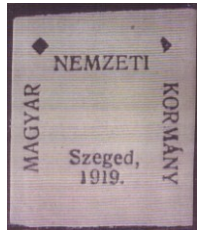


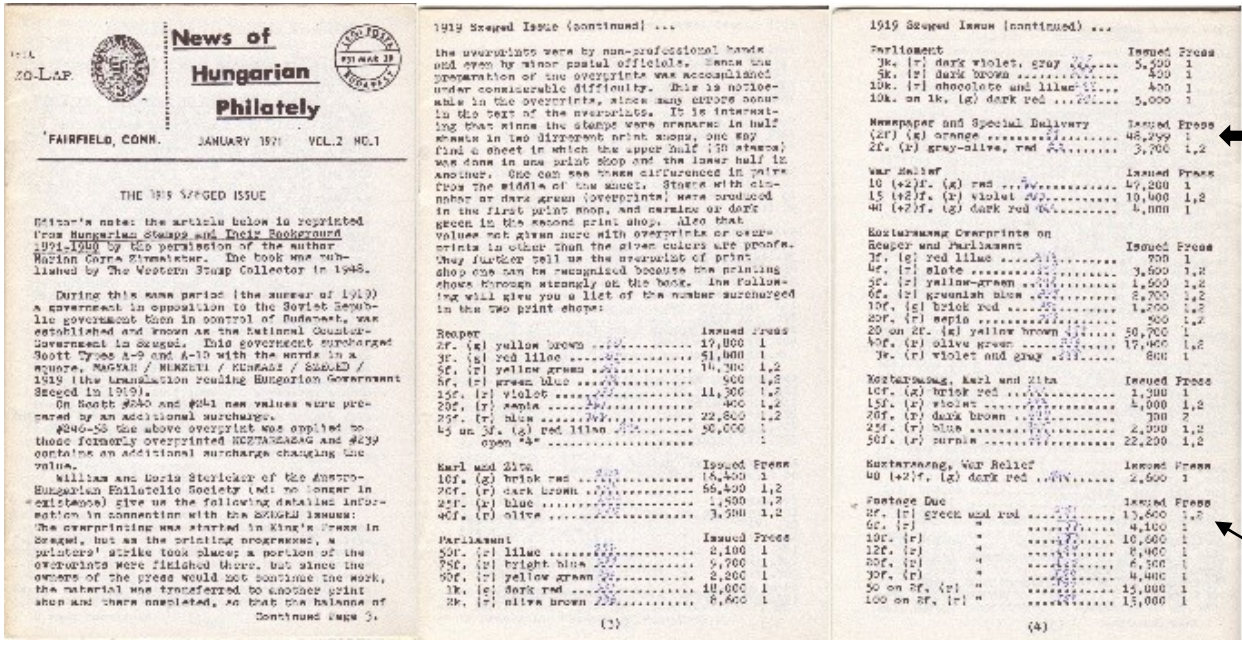

***Figure 38.*** *Trial proof print*

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 1914-1920 by the permission of the author Marion Corra Zimmelman. 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 Doris Sterlacci of the Austro-Hungarian Philatelic Society (at 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:

| | Issued | Press |
|---|---|---|
| Reaper | | |
| 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 | | |
| 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 | | |
| 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) ...

| | Issued | Press |
|---|---|---|
| Parliament | | |
| 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 |
| Kostarsasag 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 |
| 6f. (r) greenish blue | 8,700 | 1,2 |
| 10f. (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 |
| Kostarsasag, 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) sumie | 22,200 | 1,2 |
| Kostarsasag, 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.***

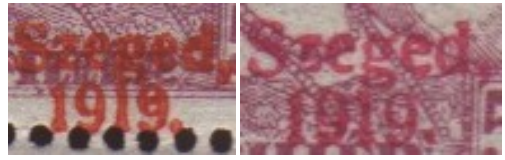



***Figure 41b.*** *Comparison of the red colour (left & top) used at the König shop and carmine colour (right & bottom) used at shop 2 on the 40f & 50f Zita stamps*

**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.

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# 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.

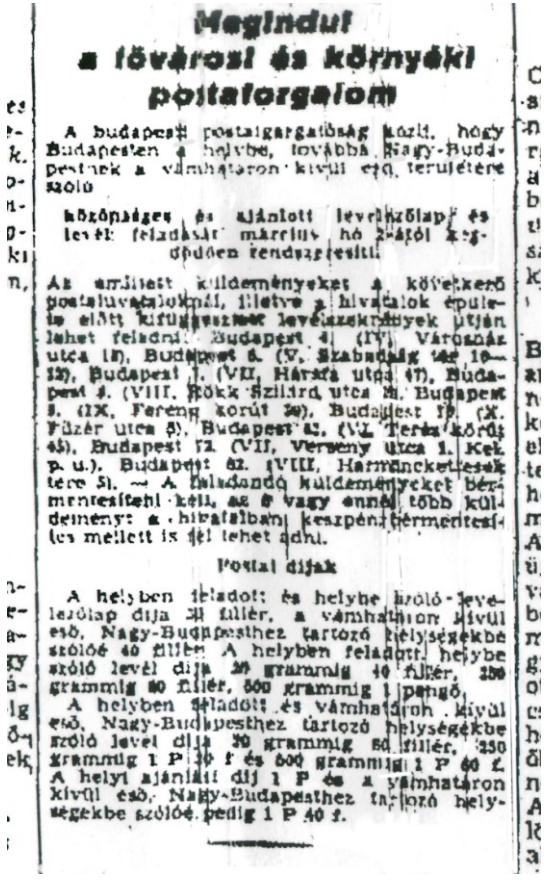
There are only 25 pieces in this collection of 120 mailings that were sent to the Buda side or was mailed from there. I plan to show 12 items here from these 25 pieces. These are a representative cross-section for the start of postal service in Buda.

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.*

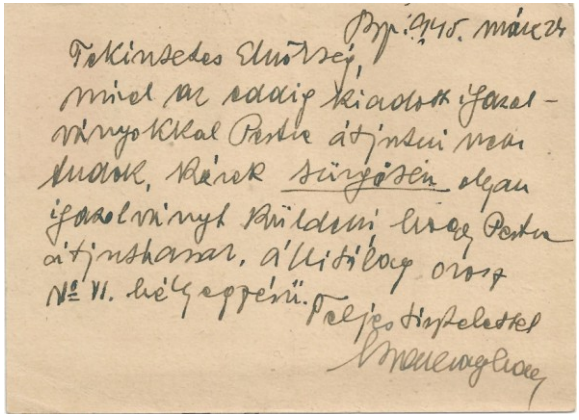


*Figure 4. The reverse side of the postcard*

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.

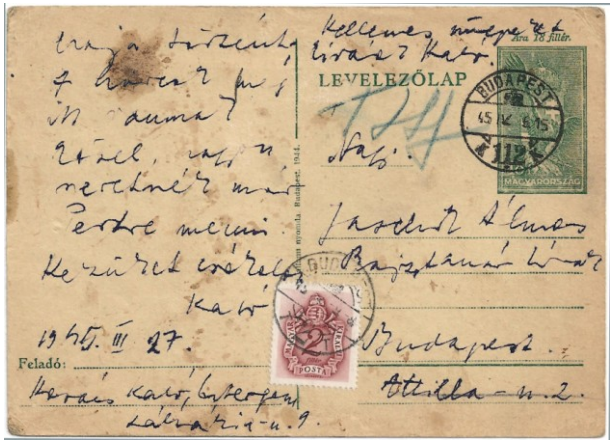



*Figure 7. Postcard written in Esztergom on March 27th, carried by a traveller and posted in Buda on April 6th at the number 114 post office of Fehérvári Street, assessed 2 fillér postage due by mistake at the number 2 office on April 9th.*

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.*

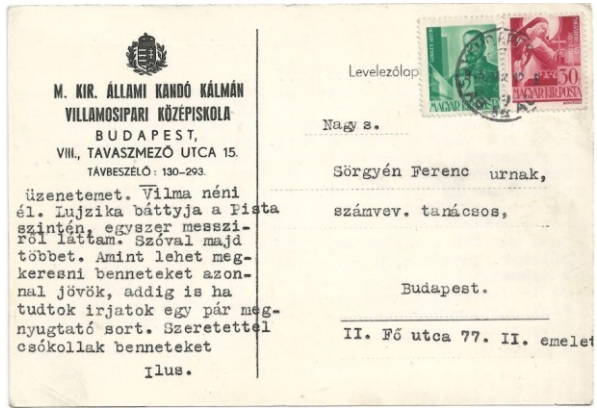


*Figure 10. Preprinted postcard addressed to a Fő Street address franked by mistake with 42 fillér mailed at the number 72 post office on March 12th. This is the earliest known mailing intended for Buda.*

## 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

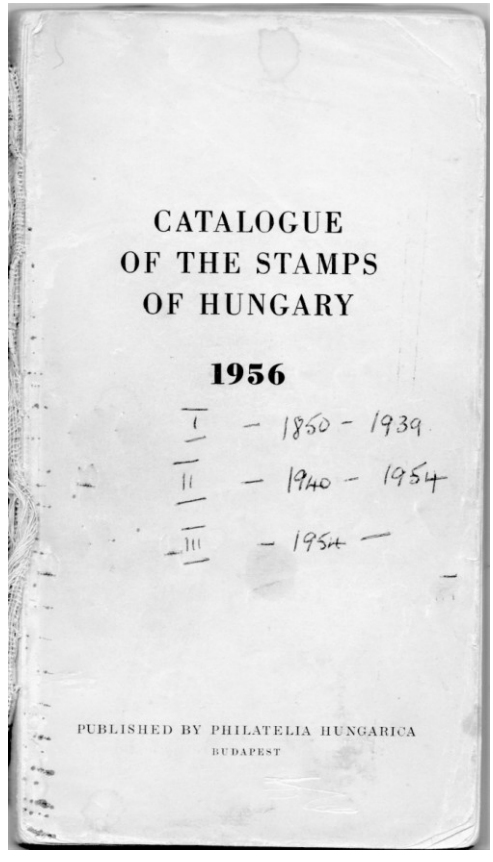


**MERVYN BENFORD (NAGYBRITANNIA)**

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.