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ROUNDING AND MINIMUM OF POSTAGE DUE ON THE INLAND MAILS DURING THE HYPERINFLATION



BY FLORENT TRICOT, FRANCE

I- INTRODUCTION

The postage stamps issued by the Hungarian Post Office during hyperinflation all had a fixed facial value. With pengo inflation, and therefore postal rates, these facial values all quickly became too small for franking in the post-issuance periods. Massive postage followed, not always covering the rate. In addition, misery growing and out of spite, people tended to use their remaining postage stamps for their mail, even if their total only partially covers the rate.

Like postage stamps, postage due stamps have obviously suffered the same problems, which poses a logistical concern for the supply of post offices. This led the Hungarian Post Office to stop using postage due stamps and favour handwritten markings, and sometimes the use of postage stamps for postage due purposes.

To avoid carrying out postage due calculations involving too small values, the Hungarian Post Office implemented two methods: the postage due rounding and the minimum of postage due, their amounts depending on the periods. I will confine myself here to Hungary's inland mails (covers and postcards) excluding parcels cards; for the difficult subject of foreign mails, this will be the subject of a future article.

II- ROUNDING DURING THE HYPERINFLATION

1. Rounding compared to the postal regulations

Regarding rounding, they were ordered by the scale of the rates and above all the reasonable minimum face values available in post offices during each period.

Postal texts approach the subject of rounding in a very disparate way, and this only for the rounding of the postage due in adopengo (aP) to be converted into pengo on the parcel cards. The adopengo currency was put in place on January 1, 1946 and it was withdrawn on the last day of hyperinflation (July 31, 1946), its exchange was made daily and as the postage due amounts were fixed in aP there was a need to round the amounts in pengo to hope to frank them. The Hungarian Post Office decided to issue its rates and postage stamp's facial values in aP only between July 12 and July 31, 1946. It may be thought that these rounding's were the same as those made on postage due items, but the only documents as far as I know who's the postage due was rounded up during the aP period came largely from January and February 1946, therefore we cannot definitely conclude.

What is certain is that at the height of hyperinflation until July 11, 1946, the aP/P conversion rate advanced at an insane pace during the same period when the postal rates were themselves

fixed, therefore the rounding on parcel cards and on postage due mails should not correspond. In addition, the revenue due to be paid on the parcel cards were 100 aP until April 30, 1946 and 500 aP after, these sums converted into pengo did not have the same importance according to the days, and according to the periods, it ranged from small amounts almost negligible up to sums comparable to the postal rate used.

For the first periods of hyperinflation, the only reference in the postal texts indicates that from October 24, 1945, the filler is no longer used in the calculations, and the postage stamps expressed in this sub-currency (1Pengo = 100filler) are then removed. We can then think that on this date, the rounding was then done to the nearest 1 P.

Thus, here too, only a statistical study can give a glimpse of what was done at the time when a postal employee was required to round up the amount to be collected from the recipient. I tried to conduct this study and I am therefore reporting my findings to you now.

Legal rounding from period1 to period7 (May1, 1945 –February18, 1946):

First, rounding can be done by excess (use of a value greater than the number considered) or by default (lower value), it is always done according to an imposed precision. For example, the number 1.5 rounded up to the nearest unit gives 2, this gives 1 by default. To give an example in currency, the value 1.75P rounded to the nearest 10f by excess gives 1.80P, while by default, this gives 1.70P. Almost all of the postage due rounding cases I have seen showing that these rounding was done by excess, very little by default.

They were made on the result of the postage due calculation, both of the deficiency. In rare cases, the deficiency was rounded off before being doubled, an exception that proves the rule.

Over a period, if the majority of rounded postage due cases are carried out in the same way, it can be said that they are made according to an established regulation known at the time. From period1 to period7, I made this comparison and I can say that the rounding calculations over a period were the same in terms of precision. It remains just to find the postal texts that speak of it. I call these rounding, the “legal rounding”.

Apart from these legal rounding, there are the rounding of convenience, to see in II-4 of my article.

There is a trigger for legal rounding only if the amount due is not given in the legal precision: for example, if the precision of a rounding is 1P, the amount to be collected must be rounded if it does not is not a multiple of 1P, such as 4.80P for example.

Rounding in the postage due calculation was made either by an employee in the shipping post office, or by one in the distribution office if the former had forgotten to do it. The unrounded amount owed from the first was then simply crossed out and readjusted by the second.

Here is the list of legal rounding:

period 1 and period 2 (May 1 to September 15, 1945): rounded to the nearest 10f period 3: (September 16 to October 31, 1945): rounded to the nearest 1P period 4 and period 5 (November 1, 1945 to January 13, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10P period 6 and period 7 (January 14 to February 28, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100P.

Illustrating documents (01 to 06):



1. 18f stationery postcard sent from Csomor on June 27, 1945 (period 1) to Szekesfehervar. The rate for a domestic postcard is 60f. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (60-18) = 84f.

The Csomor post office employee wrote “84” on the postcard (partially covered by the postage due stamps) with a T postage due marking. In Szekesfehervar, the amount of the postage due has been changed; it has been rounded off 10f by excess to 90f, handwritten "90 filler" in pencil. Then, 30f and 60f brown postage due stamps were affixed on June 29.



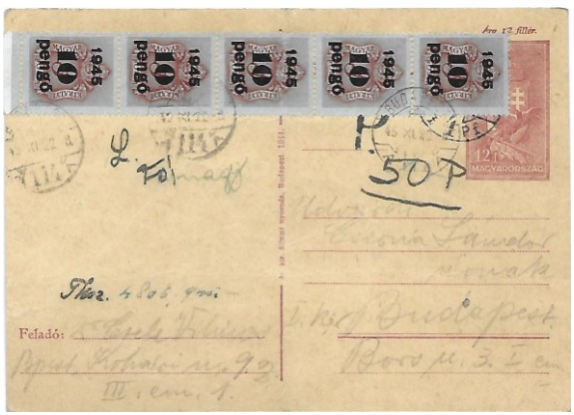
2. Postcard sent stamped at 2.03P with two 18f postage stamps demonetized on August 15, from Szekszard on Sept.r 4, 1945 (period2) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200-(203-36)) = 66f rounded to the nearest 10f by excess to 70f. In Szekszard the post office employee circled the 18f postage stamps and handwrote "70 fil"; in Budapest the overprinted postage due stamps 10f /*8 f*, 20f /*4f* and 40f /*18f* have been affixed.



3. Local 18f stationery postcard, insufficiently stamped with 18f (postcard facial)+50f+1P = 1.68P, sent from Budapest on September 30, 1945 (period3).

The rate (PRT127.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 4P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (4-1.68) = 4.64P rounded to the nearest 1P by excess to 5P. In Budapest2, the post office employee affixed the overprinted postage due stamps on October 9: one at 1P /*10f* and two at 2P /*60f* (offset printing variety).



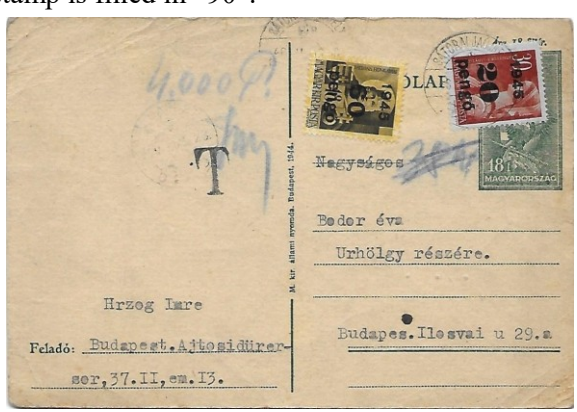
4. Local postcard (12f worthless at this date) sent unpaid from Budapest4 on November 12, 1945 (period4). The rate (PRT134.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 24P.

The calculation of the amount due is 2x24 = 48P rounded to the nearest 10P by excess to 50P. The Budapest4 post office employee wrote 50P on the postcard with a P postage due marking. In Budapest114, the post office employee affixed 5 overprinted postage due stamps 10P/*3f* on November 22 (period5).



5. Local postcard (18f worthless) insufficiently stamped with 5P + 3x30f = 5.90P, sent from Budapest on December 4, 1945 (period5).

The rate (PRT138.000/A.4) for a local postcard is 50P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (50-5.9) = 88.2P rounded to the nearest 10P by excess to 90P, "90P" was handwritten in blue pencil. On December 5, a red postage due rubberstamp is filled in “90”.



6. Postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 20P+60P=80P from Satoraljaujhely on February 17, 1946 (period7) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT204.800/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2,000P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (2.000-80) = 3.840P, a T postage due marking is struck and "3840" has been written on the card in Satoraljaujhely. In Budapest on February 22, “3840” is cancelled and replaced by “4.000P” accompanied by the signature of the post office employee, the rounding here was done **on the deficiency**: 2.000-80 = 1920P rounded to the nearest 100P by excess at 2,000P, and 2x2,000 = 4,000P.

2. Legal rounding from the period8 (March1 to July31, 1946)

For this part, the examples of rounding the postage due are obviously extremely few. From the documents I know, I can just say that:

period 13 (April 23 to 30, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000P;

period 25 (July 12 to 17, 1946): rounded to 5,000 aP (adopengo).

For the other periods, we can try to take into account what had been done elsewhere and the amounts of the postal rates for each, this would give:

periods 8 to 12 (March 1 to April 22, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000P;

period 14 (May 1 to 9, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000P;

period s15 to 17 (May 10 to 31, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000P (1 million);

period 18 (June 1 to 10, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000,000P (10 million);

period 19 (June 11 to 16, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000 P (100 million);

period 20 (June 17 to 23, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000 P (1 billion);

period 21 (June 24-30, 1946): rounded to the nearest 10,000,000,000P (10 billion);

period 22 (July 1 to 3, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000,000P (1 trillion);

period 23 (July 4 to 7, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000,000,000,000P (100 trillion);

period 24 (July 8 to 11, 1946): rounded to the nearest 1,000,000,000,000,000P (1 quadrillion);

period 26 (July 12 to 23, 1946): rounded up to 5,000AP or 10,000 aP? near;

period 27 (July 24 to 31, 1946): rounded to the nearest 100,000 aP.

These numbers are just speculation, perhaps (or surely) that some readers will be able to provide examples that will confirm or refute them.

Illustrating document (07) :



7. 07- Insufficiently stamped local postcard with 50eP +15eP = 65eP (= 65,000P) covering an unaccounted postage (2x TI.2. + Tlp.2. = 8,000P) from Budapest on April 23, 1946 (first day period 13).

The rate (PRT220.600 / 4.) for a local postcard is 200,000P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200,000-65,000) = 270,000P, however the amount to be collected is handwritten on April 24 "280,000" accompanied by the T handwritten and

a signature. Note that the amount had to be written in 2 times, first "80,000", then the "2".

Rounding here has been done **on the deficiency**: 200,000-65,000 = 135,000P rounded to the nearest 10,000P by excess in 140,000P, then 2x140,000 = 280,000.

3. Convenience rounding

A convenience rounding is a rounding done despite the calculation rule used, it is obviously applied to use the stamps available in a post office. These cases are apparently few in number and should not be considered as miscalculations depreciating the mails, they testify to a specific constraint such as for example the shortage of stamps in a post office.

Illustrating documents (08 and 09) :



8. Postcard insufficiently franked at 18f (facial) sent from Cegled on September 11, 1945 (period 2) to Irsa.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x(2-0.18)=3.64P. A postage due stamp overprinted 1P/10f, a 2P/60f and a bisected 80f/30f to make 40f are affixed in Alberti-Irsa post office on September 12.

The total of these postage due stamps is 3.40P. The legal rounding in period 2 of 3.64P should have been 3.6P or 3.7P, these postage due stamps were affixed for convenience and the amount to be collected was determined by this convenience.

We are here faced with a shortage of postage due stamps with filler denomination, certainly up to 60f, in the Irsa post office around mid-September 1945. This shortage also exists in other post offices: at least one other cover is known with the use of a bisected 80f in the Hajduboszormeny post office on September 13 (Dan Janos collection). We are probably just before the arrival of the postage due stamps with overprints from the State Printing Workshops (which followed the overprints made in the Athenaeum Printing Workshops since June 1, 1945): while waiting for their arrival, it was necessary to compensate for the lack of facial values with, for example, the use of stamp cuttings for part of their value.



9. Postcard (18f stationery worthless at this date) insufficiently stamped with 4f + 18f + 8x20f = 1.82P, sent from Balatonszemes to Budapest on October 20,

The rate of period 3 (PRT127.000/A.4) is 6P for a domestic postcard. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (6-1.82) = 8.36P. "8P", the default rounding to 1P near 8.36P, was handwritten

in Balatonszemes near the 18f postage stamp. In Budapest, the handwritten postage due is covered on October 24 with a "10" and an overprinted 10P /*3f* postage stamp is affixed. The legal rounding is to within 1P during the period 3; the number 10 does not therefore result from a rounding of 8.36P to the nearest 1P. The explanation is that only the minimum face value of 10P for a postage due stamp should be available at this post office, so it was used for convenience.

III- MINIMUM OF POSTAGE DUE DURING HYPERINFLATION

The principle of the "minimum of postage due" is that the sum due by the recipient must not be less than a regulatory sum. So, the Post will therefore charge no less. During hyperinflation, the amount of this minimum depended on the periods the postal regulations approach it regularly.

4. Minimum amounts for inland mails in relation to regulations, period 2 / period 27

As the postal texts (PRT = Postai Rendeletek Tara = The Gazette of Postal Regulations) were not known until June 9, 1945, it does not indicate what applied to period 1 (May 1 to July 1, 1945), but I will discuss them in part III-4.

For the other period s, the amounts are known. You just have to indicate that for some periods (9 to 13), there was no any regulation relating to the minimum of postage due. See the table below:

period	amount	period	amount	period	amount
		10	No regulation	19	800 millionP
2	40f	11	No regulation	20	4 billionP
3	1P	12	No regulation	21	80 billionP
4	10P	13	No regulation	22	8 trillionP
5	20P	14	400,000P	23	400 trillionP
6	100P	15	2,000,000P	24	20,000 trillionP
7	500P	16	8 millionP	25	5,000 AP (Adópengő)
8	3,000P	17	24 millionP	26	25,000AP
9	No regulation	18	80 millionP	27	100,000AP

From the Period 14, the minimum of postage due legally corresponds to half the rate for a local postcard, this also equals to the rate for a first level (up to 20g) printed matter.

Forced to note that there are very few mails on which a minimum of postage due has been applied. The majority of them do carry an amount due to the minimum of collection, but because the calculation of the amount due does exactly this minimum. The interest is increased when the calculation of the sum due gives a sum below the minimum of postage due, then we can see the real effect of this minimum.

5. Postage due mails with exactly the amount of the minimum of postage due

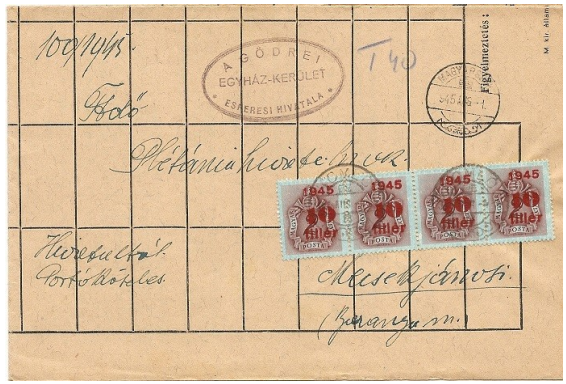
Here are first some mails whose calculation of the amount due does exactly the minimum of postage due:

Illustrating documents (10 to 13) :



10. Postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 80f+1P = 1.80P, from Gyongyos on July 3, 1945 (period 2) to Budapest.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 2P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (200-180) = 40f. In Gyongyos is handwritten "P 40 f ", in Budapest a 40f /*12f* overprinted postage due stamp is affixed. 40f is the minimum of postage due for the period 2.



11. Official folded form (correspondence between religious offices) with the rate payable by the addressee (Hivatalbol portokoteles) from Magyarszek on August 1, 1945 (period 2) to Mecsekjanosi.

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a printed matter is 40f at the first class. In Magyarszek is handwritten "T 40", in Komlo (post office near Mecsekjanosi) are affixed 4 overprinted 10f /*2f* postage due stamps on August 4.



12. Postcard insufficiently franked at 200mP (200,000,000P), sent from Budapest on June 10, 1946 (period 18) to Karcag.

The rate (PRT231.500/4) for a domestic postcard is 240 mP. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (240-200) = 80 mP. In Budapest is handwritten "T.80mil. ", The postage due was followed up to Karcag without further addition. 80 mP is the minimum of postage due for the period 18.



13. Local letter in printed matter rate ('Nyomtatvany' mention handwritten under the research coupon and not unsealed envelope), sent from Budapest on July 1, 1946 (first day period 22), insufficiently stamped 20,000mP + 30,000mP =50mrdP instead of 8bP (=8,000 mrdP) for 20g (PRT237.500/4).

The postage is neglectible and since the cover is not closed, the postman changed it with the single deficiency 8bP-50bP (= 0) = 8bP. The amount to be paid is handwritten "8 billio" in a red postage due rubberstamp. The minimum of postage due for the period 22 is 8bP (= 8,000,000,000,000P).

6. Mails whose the postage due is raised to the minimum of postage due

The function of the minimum of postage due is for the postal employee not to use too small sums for the application of a postage due. So if the calculated postage due amount is less than the minimum, the minimum was applied:

Illustrating documents (14 and 15) :



14. Local postcard sent insufficiently stamped to 4x30f+10f+20f=1.50P from Budapest on August 11, 1945 (period 2).

The rate (PRT105.037/A.4) for a local postcard is 1.60P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (160-150) = 20f, 20f is less than the 40f minimum of postage due for the period 2, so 40f is applied. "40" is handwritten and an overprinted 40f /*18f* postage stamp is affixed on August 12.



15. Postcard (12f worthless) franked with 18f+2x20f+30f+2x60f+2x1P+2P=6.08P with a 18f postage stamp demonetized on August 15, sent from Budapest on October 5, 1945 (period 3) to Szeged.

The rate (PRT127.000/A.4) for a domestic postcard is 6P. The calculation of the amount due is 2x (6- (6.08-0.18)) = 0.2P. 20f is less than the minimum collection of 1P for the period 3, so 1P is charged. "1 P" is entered in green pencil, amount followed in Szeged without further addition.

7. The period 1

Without a written reference in the postal regulations, only the search for a maximum of mails whose situation is similar to an application of a minimum of postage due can show us its reality. After seeing several of these documents, I take it upon myself to affirm that there was indeed a minimum of postage due in period 1, and that it was 20f.

The 2 mails below carry a 20f postage due while the calculation of their amount due gives lower sums:

Illustrating documents (16 and 17) :



*16. Local printed matter postcard sent insufficiently stamped with 5f+4f(red meter stamp)=9f from Budapest4 on May 1, 1945 (**first day of period 1**).*

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



17. Cover sent insufficiently stamped with 2x18f+2x30f=96f from Budapest on June 9, 1945 (period 1) to Debrecen.

The rate for a domestic letter is 1P at the first weight level. The calculation of the amount due is

2x (100-96) = 8f. However, the amount charged is 20f, handwritten in blue next to a P postage due marking. The postage due is followed at Debrecen without further addition.

The fact that the 20f postage due amount is handwritten prove that it was not applied for convenience, such as for example to orient the amount due to use an available postage due stamp. It results from a postal regulation. It remains to find the postal regulation that addressed it.

IV- CONCLUSION

It's remaining a case to be found: an official item payable by the addressee, in printed matter first class rate, sent in period 1. This rate is 10f for 20g, but the minimum of postage due would be 20f : who won so?

It can be seen that determining a sum due during hyperinflation sometimes required juggling with rounding calculations and changing regulations over time. Calculations to be made and sometimes decision-making according to the constraints of the moment, post office workers at the time had to curse this kind of correspondence. This is ultimately one aspect of postage due area during Hungarian hyperinflation which highlights the richness and above all the complexity of its study.

USED LITERATURE

- «The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946» by Robert Morgan in 2003, pages15 to 18, pages91 to 93, page 146

- PRT 1945 and 1946

- Sharing information and scans with other collectors

- Own studies and postal items from my collection.

TARIF OF PEST –2 MARCH – 30 APRIL 1945



BY JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST

Researching and collecting the raised tariffs of the restarted postal service following the military operations that included the siege of Budapest had been an important and favourite collecting area of mine.

I've been composing his article for at least 15 years because I wanted to write a study about this topic that used source material containing actual facts and not just suppositions and hypotheses.

For the most part, the lack of information impeded my work. This has changed little; but, with time, the increasing number of source that have come to light provided the needed stimulus for this work. I have composed several versions of this article about the topic, but none of these have been published yet. As I became aware of a steady stream of new sources, I continued to re-write my article several times in order for it to be current. Perhaps now, my writing contains much new, and hitherto unknown information entitling me with an opportunity to share this data with fellow collectors. I am striving to be accurate and to correct some of the misconceptions and conclusions that have cropped up in the meantime. Many of these incorrect bits of information came about because of the lack accurate sources.

SOURCES

Information needed to be gathered little bits at a time because many times we're lucky to find a single sentence dealing with the postal service buried in 4-500 pages of available literature. As part of my research in order to get the best, most accurate picture, I looked over every daily newspaper that appeared in Budapest during this time looking for relevant announcements about the postal service. These were the Nepszava (People's Word), the Szabad Szo (Free Speech) and the Szabadsag (Liberty) newspapers, on the pages of which I succeeded in finding a few interesting, previously unpublished acts.

The greatest breakthrough for me came in finding a manuscript in the library of the Postal Museum a few years ago. I attribute the finding of this manuscript to a lucky accident. While reading an article that had nothing to do with postal history, I noticed a footnote in which the author referenced a manuscript. Its location was not noted except for the name of title and the author. I proceeded to look for this manuscript and was able to find it in the library of the Postal Museum. I would like to emphasize that this was a manuscript that existed as a single copy that was never duplicated or published as a book. Up to that time, nobody had used the manuscript as a reference work with the exception of the one use in the footnote in the aforementioned work. Thus, the orphaned manuscript collected dust in the library despite the fact that it was an unrivalled source of information for research about the postal history of Budapest following the siege. This previously unknown writing contained authentic facts because the two authors of the manuscript were active participants in the events.

The manuscript was prepared to the 25th anniversary of our liberation in 1970. It contains the

reminiscences of the two authors, who were probably prompted to do so. Despite this, it was not published, the reasons for which is not known. References to criticizing the past postal officials for not rewarding the employees who participated in the rebuilding effort are sprinkled throughout the manuscript. It is possible that this was the reason why it was never published.

The condition of the 253 typewritten pages with actual photographs pasted into it, bound together, is in excellent shape; and, apparently, it has never been read. Perhaps this is the copy that was submitted for approval. There are no other copies in the library and no one is aware of any others. It is possible that the authors retained a similar, bound copy.

The manuscript deals with the first three years of the post office following the liberation. Its title is "Dr. Odon Pazmany & Dr. Albert Tarnai, The History of the Hungarian Post after the Liberation, 1945-1948."

The history of the Pest side was written by Dr. Odon Pazmany (postal director). Pazmany survived the siege while sheltering in the basement of the headquarters of the Federation of Postal Department Associations located on Benczur Street together with many other postal employees from Pest and environs. Today, the building houses the Postal Museum. Before the war, he authored the book "The Organization and Management of the Hungarian Royal Post." After the war, he wrote the publication, "The Postal Handbook." Before and after the war, Pazmany was also responsible for editing the monthly magazine, "Magyar Post."

Dr. Albert Tarnai (vice-secretary and later the head director of the Post) wrote about the happenings on the Buda side. Unfortunately, I could not find any additional information about him.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE POST ON THE PEST SIDE? JANUARY-MAY, 1945

On **January 15th**, the first Russian soldier appeared in the yard of the headquarters building on Benczur Street. The postal employees in the basement shelter were free to go about their business as of that day. They survived the siege well-provisioned because a large quantity of foodstuffs were stored in the building assuring them of three meals a day, providing them with pseudo-royal treatment.

On **January 22nd**, the personnel were able to venture from Benczur Street to the directorate located on Dob Street. They found other postal employees in the shelter there. Together they established the impromptu Hungarian Postal Employees Workers' Council. They requisitioned a more or less intact office in the building for their use.



1. The building of the Postal Directorate on Dob Street from 1939 Source: internet

On January 23rd, they reported to the Russian commander of the city headquartered in the Fire fighters' Barracks on Kun Street. They advised Major General Chernyshov that they intended to restart the operation of the Hungarian Post in Pest. This pleased the commandant and he gave his permission for the postal activity, but he asked to be given a battery operated radio. Of course, this did not mean that actual work was about to start. Preliminary tasks involved notifying the workers, assessing the damage to the postal buildings, repairing the offices, collecting the postal equipment, acquiring replacements as well as inventorying and re-allocating the surviving gear.

On January 24th, the postal workers who were returning to work received their assignments. Those who worked at the directorate were told to stay in place. Those who worked at specific post offices were told to report their individual post offices and await further instructions. The removal of the debris from the Dob Street building also got under way. The Workers' Council drafted decrees number 1 and 2.

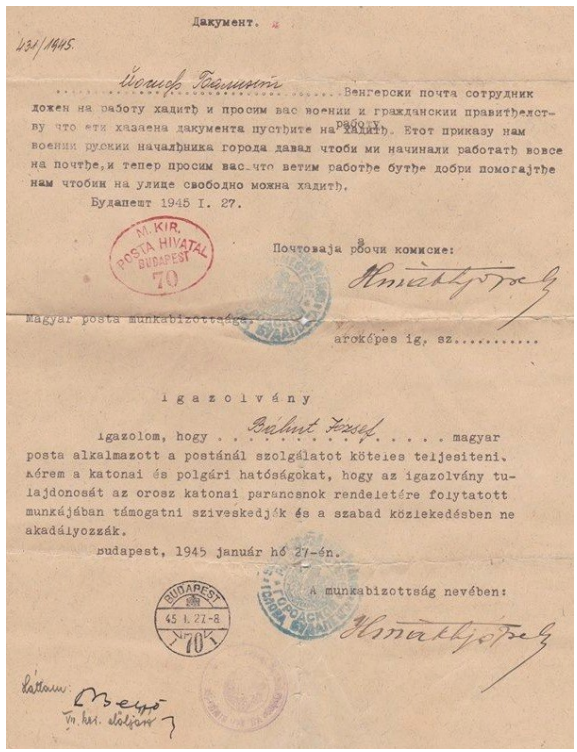
The opening line of decree no. 1 stated: "According to the No. 1 order from the military commander of Budapest: 1. Every official is required to continue performing their duty."

Point 3/f of the decree no. 2 was: "in order to restart the postal traffic as soon as possible, preparations need to be made to identify letter collection boxes; to repair equipment and installations necessary for the collection and delivery of letters, etc."

Point 4: Service working hours will be 9 to 13 hours long because of the current conditions.

On January 25th, the Workers' Council issued decrees no. 3, 4, and 5. Decree no. P/5/Mb/1945 identified the need to secure all mailings located in the post offices. It stipulated that the items of value and cash on hand at postal installations must be examined and sequestered.

Workers were provided with a bi-lingual identification document to ensure their free movement.


Дакумент.

Венгерски почта сотрудник дожен на работу ходить и просим вас военни и гражданскии правительству что эти указана дакумента пустите на работу. Етот приказу нам военни русскии начальника города давал чтоби ми начинали работать вовсе на почтье,и тепер просим вас что ветим работье бутье добри помогайтье нам чтобин на улице свободно можна ходить.

Будапешт 1945 I. 27.

M. KIR. POSTA HIVATAL BUDAPEST 70

Почтоваја рбочи комиске:

Magyar posta munkabizottsága

arcképes ig. sz.....

igazolvány

Igazolom, hogy . . . . . magyar posta alkalmazott a postánál szolgálatot köteles teljesiteni. Kérem a katonai és polgári hatóságokat, hogy az igazolvány tulajdonosát az orosz katonai parancsnok rendeletére folytatott munkájában támogatni szíveskedjék és a szabad közlekedésben ne akadályozzák.

Budapest, 1945 január hó 27-én.

A munkabizottság nevében:

BUDAPEST 45 I. 27-8 70

2. An identification certificate written in two languages provided to an employee at the Budapest 70 post office by the Hungarian Postal Worker's Council dated January 27, 1945 (from the collection of Laszlo Littvay)

The Workers' Council received an assessment of the condition of the individual post office buildings.

Budapest No. 4 Main Post Office: For the most part, it is in total ruin, completely unusable. The money order section is usable to satisfy civilian traffic. The main cashier's office is intact.

Budapest No. 62 Post Office: Generally, it's not a total loss. The furnishing bears the mark of extensive looting. The printed matter storage in the basement is burnt.

Budapest No. 70 Post Office (parcel post processing office, District VII. Verseny Street 3.) Completely looted. Parcels held in storage were all taken. The building is occupied by Romanian troops.

Budapest No. 72 Post Office: There are no windows, but for the most part it did not suffer great damage. The lecture room will support low volume traffic.

Budapest No. 741 Post Office (letter delivery office, District VII. Verseny Street 3.) Did not suffer extensive damage, but there are no windows. The room with the post office boxes will support low volume traffic.

Securities Warehouse (District VI, Vaci Street 17.) Can be restored in a few days. Its well-secured securities supply did not suffer much damage.

It is possible that the entire supply of postal securities that was stored in the warehouse survived. Consequently, we cannot speak of a shortage of stamps for the postal traffic in Pest.

In order to pay for the restoration work and other expenses, the Workers' Council directed the officials of the Budapest postal directorate as well as the leaders of the telegraph and telephone office to set up a cashier responsible for appropriations. For each of these purposes, 1 million pengos were set aside.

January 27. The officials of District VII will provide, starting on that day, daily 100 meals to the postal officials in the Dob Street building. (Let's not forget, there was starvation in the city.)



3. The public room for accepting money orders at the Budapest 4 Main Post Office. In the beginning, it was here that letters could be mailed after the siege. The other rooms in the main post office building were not usable for business transactions. (Postal Museum)

January 29. The Dob Street building receives Soviet soldiers to guard the entrance. This is a result of a request made using a typewriter with Cyril characters. The typewriter was purchased by the directorate after the occupation of Carpatho Ukraine. On the next day, the Soviet commander of the district appeared on the pretext of inspecting the guards. He inquired about the typewriter with the Cyril characters. When it was shown to him, he stroked it gently and placed it in his briefcase. He said a polite goodbye and assured everyone that he would gladly come back to help out in the future, also.

January 31. The other post offices and agencies also receive military guards.

January 31. The Russian commander wants to the introduce Moscow time in Pest. The announcement was made, but luckily it was not implemented.

February 2. Telephone connection is established between the Fire fighters' Barracks on Kun

Street (headquarters of the Soviet military command) and the mayor's office.

February 4. The first passenger train leaves Budapest Western railway station for Szolnok. The train consists of 25 carriages, with 1123 seats. 1825 passengers travelled on the train.

February 5. The first train to Vac leaves the Western railway station.

February 6. The Pestszentlorinc no. 1 post office forwards a bag of mail to Debrecen.

The first movie theatre opens in Pest.

February 7. Advertisement from the Szabadsag newspaper: "I am travelling to Romania tomorrow. I am undertaking carrying mail (even domestic), acquiring documents, and other tasks." Many travellers took letters with them in their pockets since postal traffic was very primitive.

February 8. The 27 member Budapest Postal Directorate is formed. Fighting in Buda is still continuing.

On this day, three postal delivery employees walked to the Pestszentlorinc post office because it had already received mail from east of the Tisza River. Their return trip was on a Soviet military Jeep, and they brought back the first bag of mail to central Pest. The letters that arrived were delivered within days as best as the situation permitted. The first delivered letter arrived from Szeged to Pest.

The first tram to resume operation was the service on line 55 along the Ujpest-Angyalfold, Forgacs Street route.

February 10. According to an article in the Nepszabadsag, the Pestszenterzsebet no. 1 post office received the first mail delivery from Soroksar. After this, postal service became regular. The arrived mail is sent out for delivery immediately. Mail accepted at the post offices is sent by designated courier to the nearby towns and to the Budapest 62 post office. The no. 62 post office located next to the Western railway station is receiving mail shipments regularly.

February 11. Courier arrived from Miskolc and gave a report on the situation in Miskolc and the progress of the reconstruction. The primary mission of the courier was to establish contact with the Union of Postal Employees and to receive documents and directives about work. He did not bring or take back a mailbag with him since his trip was not about establishing postal service.

February 12. During the siege, the letter collection boxes were not emptied. The decision was made to remedy this situation. The directive contains the following contents: the mailings have to be secured and cancelled. *Missing or incorrect franking have to be disregarded.* Letter delivery teams need to be organized so that the postings left over in the offices and collected from the letter boxes can be delivered. Postings from Pest that cannot be forwarded need to be returned to the sender, if possible.



4. Erzsebet Boulevard in 1945. A letter collection box that survived the siege is visible in the background on the right at the edge of the sidewalk. Source: Fortepan / 32045

February 13. Postal business started in some post offices in Pest. A few offices started independent activity prior to the official start of business on March 2nd. These offices accepted postings, collected and delivered letters from letter boxes, accepted and transmitted bags of mail.

The Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, The Smallholders' Party, the National Peasant Party, the State Police Depart, and the Office of the Mayor all identified with which organizations they intended to conduct correspondence. This limited correspondence system was immediately organized.

February 14. Mail courier service was started from Budapest to Debrecen and in the return direction using the Budapest-Szolnok railway line transported by train no. 628 that connected to another train from Szolnok to Debrecen. The 628 train ran on even number days and transported the courier mail on February 14, 16, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28. There was no train service on February 18th. The courier's report acknowledges that the courier mail service was full of incidents. The train departed the Western railway station after midnight on February 14th. It arrived in Debrecen on February 17th at 6:30PM. There was a curfew starting at 7:00PM in Debrecen, so the courier could not report to the appropriate government office until the next day, the 18th. The train was able to leave Debrecen only on the 19th at 9:40PM and arrived back in Budapest at 9:00AM on the 22nd. The courier service carried the official correspondence to and from the Hungarian national government for free, without charging a fee. A messenger at the Budapest 62 post office collected and delivered such correspondence daily. The messenger usually sent an average of 10-15 letters and a single bundle of newspapers collected by the Soviet military command to Debrecen. Under these circumstances, there was no other postal service at the time. The courier service functioned this way until the end of March. In early April, the government moved to Budapest.

February 16. In the early morning hours, the first telegram sent and received normally arrived in Budapest. The telegram was sent by the mayor of Kisujszallas to the mayor of Budapest. He advised that 14 wagonloads of foodstuffs were dispatched from Kisujszallas for the starving population of Budapest.

The Ujpest no. 1 post office accepted and dispatched mailings as of this day.



5. Postcard mailed from Ujpest on February 16, 1945. Most likely, it was delivered after March 2nd.

February 17. The Budapest 62 post office dispatches mail bag to Pilis. It arrived around the 20th and then it was forwarded to the post office of Albert-Irsa on the 22nd.

This advertisement appeared in the Szabadsag newspaper: while reporting for postal duty on January 21st, Kalman Kovacs, Jr. disappeared. His worried wife and children seek information.

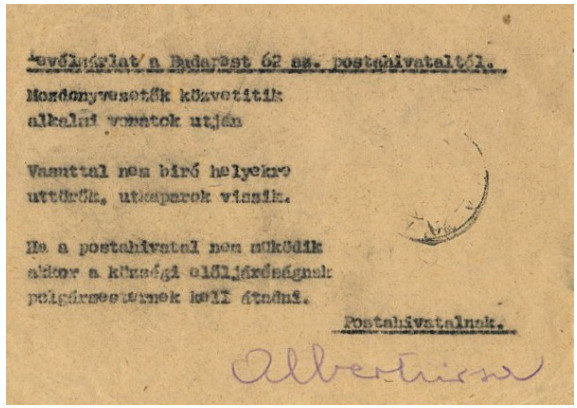
The unfortunate postal employee was probably detained and already held captive in a sealed rail-

way wagon awaiting transportation to a prisoner-of-war camp in Hungary and eventually to the Soviet Union. The occupying army was hunting down civilians on the street in order to meet its quota of prisoners-of-war. They were partial to gathering anybody who was wearing a uniform. The uniform was important to the Russians, but they could not tell the difference between an army uniform and a postal service uniform. In such instances, even a bi-lingual identification card was of not much help. Consequently, a lot of postmen ended up as captives in the transports. Later, the lack of trained workers forced the ministry and party functionaries to try to get them released. These efforts met with limited success. Similarly, policemen, conductors (BESzKRt.), firemen, other wearers of uniforms and even street sweepers did not escape this fate.

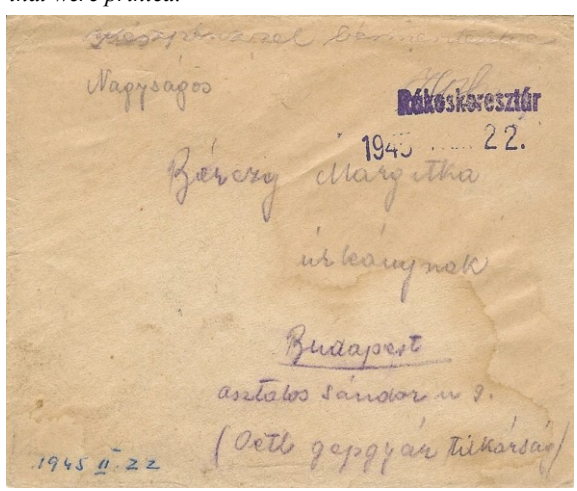
On this day, the first passenger train left the Eastern railway station bound for Godollo.

February 20. The first bus line starts operating on the Pest side.

February 22. The post offices of Kispest and Rakoskeresztur are functioning.


Levélküldemény a Budapest 62 sz. postahivataltól.
Mozdonyvesetők közvetítik
alkalmi vonatok utján
Vasuttal nem biró helyekre
utitárgyak, utiokmányok visznik.
Ha a postahivatal nem működik
akkor a katonai elöljáróságnak
polgármesternek kell átadni.
Postahivatalnak.
Albertiirsa

6. Mail bag closure from the Budapest 62 post office to Albertiirsa. Unfortunately, the cancellation is illegible but it's presumable from a dispatch sent in February because this closure slip was typewritten. Later dispatches used slips that were printed.


Nagyságos
Rákoskeresztúr
1945 ..... 22.
Bárczy Margitka
urleánynak
Budapest
asztalos Sándor u. 9.
1945 II. 22

7. Letter mailed from Rakoskeresztur to Budapest on February 22, 1945. The Rakoskeresztur cancellation made with a provisional rubber stamp.

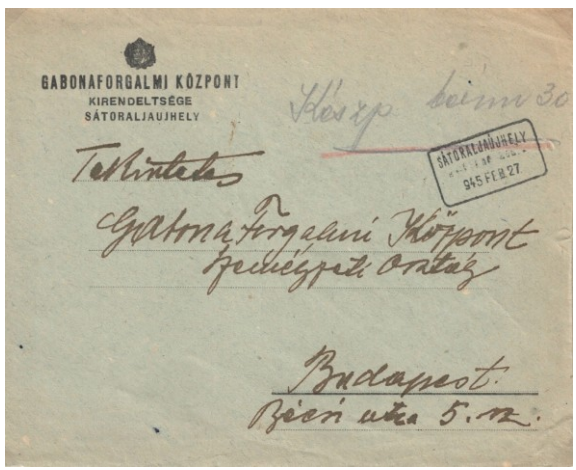
February 26. The Director of Post advises the Budapest postal officials that "the permission granted by the capital's Russian military command...allows for the delivery of letters received

in mail dispatches sent to Budapest henceforth." (Bp. 1. archives Bp. PI Nr. 149./1945.)

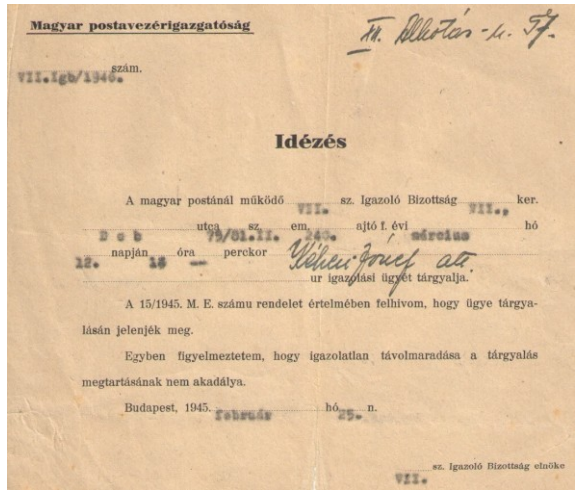


Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 210526

8. A letter collection box from 1945 that survived the siege at the corner of Jozsef Boulevard and Baross Street.



9. A letter mailed from Satoraljaujhely to Budapest on February 27, 1945. No postage due was assessed despite the lack of franking.



Magyar postavezérigazgatóság

VII.Igb/1946. szám.

Idézés

A magyar postánál működő VII. sz. Igazoló Bizottság VII. ker.

utca sz. em. ajtó I. évi március hó

napján 12. óra 15 perckor Vékei József ak.

ur igazolási ügyét tárgyalja.

A 15/1945. M. E. számu rendelet értelmében felhivom, hogy ügye tárgyalásán jelenjék meg.

Egyben figyelmeztetem, hogy igazolatlan távolmaradása a tárgyalás megtartásának nem akadálya.

Budapest, 1945. február hó 25. n.

VII. sz. Igazoló Bizottság elnöke

10. The verification committees in the post began functioning quickly. Here is a citation with a date from February 25, 1945.

February 27. On this day, ordinary letters addressed to Budapest are accepted for forwarding from Pecs.

On this date, the first train is dispatched from Budapest to Miskolc arriving at the Tisza railway yard on the following day.

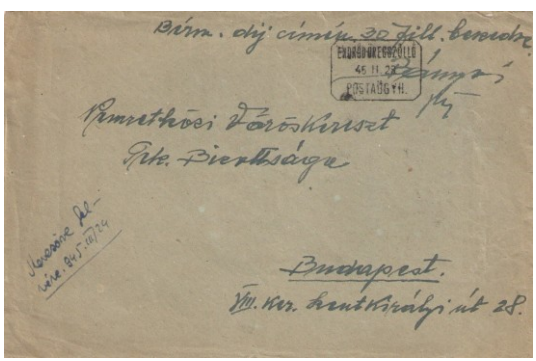
February 28. The Budapest Chamber of Commerce proposes to the Ministry of Commerce that a postal service clearing system be established. Years ago one was in effect and worked very well and effectively. The main point of the proposal was so manufacturing and trading companies that had a large volume of correspondence, could take this to a central post office where it would be presorted according to the addresses. At the same time, they could retrieve the mail addressed to them right away. Thus, the post office would be relieved of some transportation issues. Because of the lack of additional information, it is not known if such a letter clearing system was ever implemented.

On this day, the Csepel 1 post office starts to operate.

At the end of February, a new commandant was appointed for Budapest. Major General Zamercev took command and served in this capacity until 1948.



11. A postcard sent from the Csepel 1 post office to Salgotarjan on February 28, 1945. /from the collection of Antal Pukler/



12. A letter addressed to the Red Cross in Budapest sent from the postal agency in Endrod-Oregszollo on February 28, 1945. For part of the distance, the letter was carried by the courier service of the Gyula highway guards. It arrived intact in Budapest on March 24th as confirmed by the Red Cross posting of the person named in the inquiry on its list of searches. Despite the lack of franking, the mailing was not assessed postage due.

In **March**, the letter censors begin their work in the Budapest 72 and 62 post offices.

March 1. The Budapest 62 post office dispatches a 'jegyzekelo menet' (a postal or railroad employee authorized to accept and deliver mail and officially record each transaction) along the Budapest - Cegled - Abony - Szolnok railroad line.

March 2. This is the day of the official start of the mail service in Pest.

The Postal Directorate authorized the post offices to accept unsealed letters mailed at the post offices or placed into a letter collection boxes. Unsealed envelopes were necessary because of the required censorship. This directive was withdrawn by the post only in September of 1945 although in practice it ceased to be a requirement for letters placed in collection boxes much earlier.

The day's editions of the Nepszava, Szabad Szo and Szabadsag newspapers advised which nine post offices were officially opened on that day to accept ordinary and registered postcard sand letters. One thing is certain, several of the nine post offices had already began to accept postings much sooner which were then forwarded in sealed mail bags.

All nine post offices can be found on the Pest side:

Bp. 4 Main Post Office, IV. Varoshaz Street 18.

Bp. 5. V. Szabadsag Square 10-12.

Bp. 7. VII. Harsfa Street 47.

Bp. 8. VIII. Rok Szilard Street 2. (Corvin Department Store)

Bp. 9. IX. Ferenc Boulevard 39. (corner of Tuzolto Street & Ferenc Boulevard)

Bp. 10. X. Fuzer Street 5 (the building has been demolished since)

Bp. 62. VI. Terez Boulevard 45. Western Railway Station

Bp. 72. VII. Verseny Street 1, Eastern Railway Station

Bp. 82. VIII. Baross Street 59.

The post introduced a new tariff structure on this day that was in effect for the Pest side only.

The first later mention of the Pest tariffs that was promulgated in the daily papers of that day occurred in the year 1963. It was on page 706 of Agnes Rozsnyoi's essay, The Weekdays of Budapest Following the Liberation. The work was contained in one of the volumes of the Studies of the Budapest's Past, 1945. The first philatelic acknowledgement was published in the 1968/5 issue of Filatelia Szemle in an article titled "May 1st, 23 Years" written by Dr. Gyula Kadocsa.

	Budapesti	szükségtarifa	táblázat
Levlap		Súly	Díj
	Helyi		30 fillér
	Nagy-Budapest		40 fillér
Levél	Helyi	20 grammig	40 fillér
		250 grammig	80 fillér
		500 grammig	1 pengő
	Vámhatáron kívül eső helységek	20 grammig	60 fillér
		250 grammig	1 P 20 fillér
		500 grammig	1 P 60 fillér
Ajánlási díj	Helyi		1 Pengő
	Nagy-Budapest		1 P 40 fillér

13. Table of arbitrary Pest tariffs that was in effect between March 2nd and April 30th 1945 in Pest and certain localities in Greater Budapest

The same article in the Nepszava also publicized the request from the post that anyone possessing furnishings or equipment representing the property of the post to turn such items into the nearest post office. Those who fail to do this will have legal proceeding initiated against them. Inasmuch as there was a scarcity of everything, the post attempted to collect every possible item in order to perform its function better and more effectively.

March 10. The post offices functioning in Szeged and Csongrad County started to accept letters destined for Budapest.

March 17. A temporary pile bridge was constructed alongside the destroyed Margit Bridge. This was called the Manci Pile Bridge. This was also the first connection between Pest and Buda. In January 1946, the bridge was swept away by ice floes. Subsequently, it was reconstructed as the Manci Pontoon Bridge in March.



14. The part of the Manci Pile Bridge between Buda and Margit Island Fortepan / Dr. Istvan Kramer / 52105



15. A letter mailed at the main post office on March 20, 1945 correctly franked in accordance with the Pest tariffs

March 19. The first Hansom cab carriage starts operation.

March 21. The temporary pontoon bridge build on wreck of the Ferenc Jozsef (now called Liberty) Bridge opens to traffic.

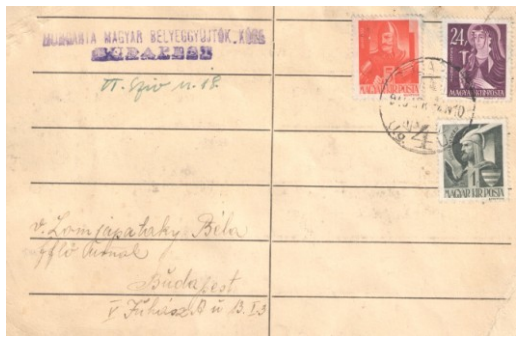


16. The temporary pontoon bridge structure using the wrecked Ferenc Jozsef (Liberty) Bridge.

Fortepan / Marton Kurucz / 24687



17. It was easier to move the mail from Buda to Pest using the bridges as opposed to boats. Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 175139



18. Local postcard mailed at the main post office on April 7, 1945 with multicolor, correct franking according to the Pest tariffs.

April 11. An additional 14 post offices start to function, still only on the Pest side. This was discovered on the pages of the Szabad Szo newspaper published on the following day.

Bp. 55. V. Kossuth L. Square 11.

In the building of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Bp. 67. XIV. Erzsebet kiralyne Street 98.

Bp. 71. VII. Vilmos kiralyne Street 1. (City Park Grove)

Bp. 76. VII. Arena Street 68.

Bp. 79. XIV. Gizellla Street 45.

Bp. 80. VIII. Szentkiralyi Street 28/A.

Bp. 89. X. Ciprus Street 2.

Bp. 91. IX. Lonyai Street 77.

Bp. 94. IX. Ken Street 5.

Bp. 98. IX. Erno Street 24.

Bp. 100. XIV. Sarkantyu Street 3.

Bp. 500. V. Tatra Street 5/D (now Sallai Imre Strt)

Bp. 702. VII. Peterdy Street 10.

Bp. 703. XIV. Hungaria Boulevard 52.

April 13. New Hungarian municipal commander, Colonel Kalman Gal.

April 18. Today's edition of the Szabad Szo newspaper reports that large quantities of letters and postcards from the provinces arrive regularly to Pest. Letter carriers pay visits to the residences more frequently. Mailings even from Romania are arriving in the capital city.



19. Local registered mailed on April 19, 1945 with franking corresponding to the Pest tariffs. Local registered letters are scarce.

April 21. Starting with this date, a jegyzekelo menet operated on every even numbered day between Budapest and Miskolc and Miskolc - Budapest. (BAZmL. MPL. Nr. 4527/1945.)

April 23. An additional 8 post offices opened, again on the Pest side. This information was found in the Szabadsag newspaper.

Bp. 44. V. Pozsonyi Street 44-46.

Bp. 49. XIV. Mogyorodi Street 124/B.

Bp. 65. Szent Laszlo Street 51.

Bp. 75. XIV. Nagy Lajos kiraly Street 131.

Bp. 87. VIII. Prater Street 46.

Bp. 102. X. Orczy Street 45.

Bp. 103. X. Cserkesz Street 66/C.

Bp. 507. V. Jozsef Nador Square 2. Hungarian General Credit Bank

April 24. According to an article in Nepszava, 15 million pengos were found hidden at the Budapest no. 72 post office.

April 25. Starting on May 1st, general postal traffic will start in the entire country with the exception of Transdanubia. Local telegrams and express letters can be posted in Budapest. This was information gleaned from the Szabad Nep published on that date.



20. Overfranked postcard mailed from the Budapest no. 82 post office sent to Pestszenterzsebet on April 23, 1945. The addressee had moved away and the card was returned to the sender.

April 26. According to the Szabad Szo, as of the previous day, the letter collection boxes on the Pest side are being emptied corresponding to the time of day shown on the boxes.

May 1. The stamps with Felszabadulas=Liberation overprint are placed into circulation.

From the directive 1945 72. VI. K.K.M. of the Ministry of Commerce and Transportation:

Stamps in complete sets only can be acquired from the following post offices starting on May 1, 1945:

Budapest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9. 10, 53, 62, 72, 112, 114, Budafok 1, Csepel 1, Kispest 1, Pestszentlorinc 1, Pestszenterzsebet 1, Ujpest 1, Debrecen 1, Miskolc 1, Pecs 1, Sopron 1, Szeged 1.

Signed: Bp. 1945. IV. 27. Gabor Jozsef s.k. Ker. es Kozl. Min.

The directive reveals that still another post office started functioning on the Pest side as of May 1st: Bp. 53. V. Bajcsy Zsilinszki Street 16.

May 17. The Budapest 70 post office auctioned off the items contained in parcels that could not be delivered.

June 1. The office for marketing stamps reopened inside the Budapest 4 post office.



21. The post office's first truck to resume work on May 1, 1945 shows how the frequent problems with either the engine or the tires caused delays. Here we see the work of changing a flat tire. (Postal Museum, illustration from the manuscript)



22. The dedication of the repaired Budapest 72 post office (Eastern railway station) (Postal Museum, illustration from the manuscript)

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE POST IN BUDA? FEBRUARY - MAY 1945

The history of the Buda side is substantially shorter since the buildings there were not as lucky as their companions on the Pest side. Here, the destruction was much greater, not only in the structures but also in the postal furnishings. Consequently, the restoration work required more time. As a result, actual postal service could start only in May.

Buda was liberated on February 13th.

On February 15th, the postal employees started to organize and to clear the ruins. They used one of the relatively intact rooms of the Postal Palace for their central office. Work tasks were issued from here daily to the employees who reported for work. Groups were organized according to clearing or accruing activities. The clearing group was tasked to make the building usable as much as possible. The accruing group tried to collect items that were deemed usable. They even acquired a horse that could barely stand on its legs because of hunger. The animal received all of the dried bread found in the building. The Budapest 114 post office's burnt out lobby became its stable.

On February 17th, the postal workers secured a dish of food each for the staff of 50 from the district authorities. This service became a staple for them on a daily basis.

Delegations were sent to every nearby, accessible office in order to conduct an inventory and to collect the cash that was found there and deliver it to the directorate.

An insight into the fiscal situation revealed that banknotes worth 7 million pengos had disappeared from the Budapest 114 post office. Similarly, 150 million pengos' worth of banknotes disappeared from the Castle Hill branch of the Hungarian National Bank. Approximately another 200 million pengos were missing from the other post offices.

On the last business day before the siege (December 23, 1944) Lajos Szalay, the chief superintendent, locked 13,600 pengos' worth of coins in the Wertheim safe at the Budapest 114 post office. This was found in full after the siege.

On February 20th, Dr. Albert Tarnai decided to personally establish contact with postal workers on the Pest side. He went on foot to Obuda where he found post office no. 3 nearly undamaged. There was no serious damage on the inside to the furnishings. Tarnai discussed the need to maintain daily contact with the office manager. To do so, it was agreed that an employee would travel on foot to the building of the directorate to receive instructions. After this, Tarnai walked to the Hajogyar Island where he got in at the end of a long line awaiting crossing by boat. His armband that identified him as a postal worker together with his bi-lingual identification papers helped him get to the head of the queue and get into a boat. Almost instantly 20 people crowded into the boat that had a normal capacity of six passengers. The edge of the boat was barely above the water. After about a twenty minute trip, he exited the boat at the Dagaly Baths. There, the Soviet soldiers doing identity checks allowed him to pass only after a long argument despite his bi-lingual identity papers. After this, he walked for an hour and a half to reach Dob Street where the postal directorate organized in Pest had its headquarters. He held discussions about the agenda. Tarnai received all of the Workers' Council's recently issued directives. Together, they established the Budapest office of the Postal Directorate. After some minor hardships, he managed to get back to Buda before dark.



23. The ruined Postal Palace with fire and shelling damage. During the siege, the building was the scene of intense floor-by-floor fighting. (Postal Museum CC BY-NC-SA 676782)

On **March 10th**, a Soviet motor vehicle pulled up in front of the Postal Palace. Three officers stepped out, including Colonel Kondratov, the Soviet commander of Buda. He wanted to inspect the telephone switching exchange. When he was shown the totally burned out room that was set on fire by the Germans, he became very agitated. By that time, 5 smaller capacity switching exchanges had been placed into service. He was shown these, also. He became even more agitated and ordered Tarnai that he wanted to see a 50 switchgear telephone exchange by the next day; otherwise, he will make Tarnai disappear.

Everyone was quite frightened by this. The technicians tried to create some calm by stating that they were aware of a useable 50 switchgear system at the Janos hospital. They managed to bring the equipment over and spent the night installing it by candlelight. Finally, this seemingly impossible task was completed. When the Soviet officer arrived on the next day, he was satisfied to see a working switching system and promised that he would help out in future in any way he could.

Between the end of March and the middle of April, the surviving letter collection boxes were found and emptied. The letters collected were sorted into four groups by destination: foreign, provinces, Pest, and Buda. The items in the first three groups were transferred by boat to the Pest side. The items destined for Buda were secured in warehouses and retained until actual postal service could start.



24. Abandoned horse drawn postal wagons used to deliver parcels litter Hajnocy Street following the siege (box carts). Fortepan / Voros Hadsereg / 217768

These horse drawn delivery wagons were used by the post in Budapest until the end of the 1950s. It is most likely that these delivery wagons were taken from the yard of the Budapest 114 delivery handling office located in the Postal Palace and placed along this street that runs parallel to Krisztina Boulevard. These and similar post office possessions were collected by the postal workers in the interest of restarting postal services as quickly as possible.



25 - 26 Bi-lingual identity certificate issued by the Hungarian State Postal Directorate



27 - 28 Enlarged picture of the two rubber stamps. The word 'kir' had already been excised from the stamp of the Postal Directorate. The other, bi-lingual stamp from the certificate belongs to the Buda agency of postal management.

As far as Buda was concerned, the restart of postal service was planned for May 2nd.

Only on **May 2nd** does the delivery of mail start at four distribution offices (Budapest 2, 3, 112, and 114). On that same day, mailings are also accepted for delivery at these post offices on the Buda side. Consequently, this date can be considered as the actual start of postal service on the Buda side. The manuscript emphasizes this. The "Felszabadulas=Liberation" stamps arrive at the post offices on this day and this generates receipts for the offices. In the previously mentioned directive we learned exactly which five post offices started to function on this day on the Buda side. Of the five, four were the Buda distribution offices:

Budapest 1. I. Disz Square 16.

Budapest 2. II. Fo Street 6.

Budapest 3. III. Kiscelli Street 9.

Budapest 112. XI. Vasarhelyi P. Street 4-6.

Budapest 114. XII. Krisztina Boulevard 12.

Technical workers started to remove or repair the destroyed or damaged letter collection boxes during the month of May. The reattachment of repaired boxes was not an easy task because of the structural damage to the buildings.

The mailings sent to other offices were transported on foot. This was a burdensome task because the distance between post offices no. 112 and no. 3 was 8 km. as the crow flies. The problem was solved by having one office send a courier on one day and another office send one on the

next day. All of the couriers stopped at the Budapest 114 office every day.



29. Mailing cancelled at the Budapest 114 (XII. Krisztina Boulevard 12.) post office on April 12, 1945. This arrived in the post office by way of a letter collection box as confirmed by the 40 filler franking that was the rate for a postcard according the Greater Budapest tariffs. If the card had been mailed at the no. 114 post office, then 30 filler franking would have been sufficient and it's most certain that the clerk would not have erred there to the detriment of the sender.

BUDAPEST OR PEST TARIFFS?

The fact that between February and April the postal service functioned only on the Pest side can be ascertained from the discovered manuscript. It's not only the manuscript that maintains this, there is no mention in the daily newspapers during this period of any news that any post office on the Buda side had been opened for use by the public. Quite on the contrary, the opening of post offices on the Pest side was regularly featured in the newspapers. On the Pest side, there was regular dispatch and receipt of mail bags, mail was collected from letter boxes, and the post offices functioned. Customers could go into a post office and use the windows to post letters. On the Buda side, only the letter collection boxes were emptied and the mail not addressed to Buda was forwarded to Pest. So, the mail was dispatched but incoming mail was not accepted. Mail with Buda destinations was placed into storage, and only after the start of delivery on May 2nd was the accumulated mail handed over to the respective addressees.

Postal service on the Buda side restarted as the 1st inflationary postal rate went into effect. Only then was it possible to establish the necessary conditions for this. This means that the arbitrarily increased tariffs could not have been in effect on the Buda side because there were no post offices serving the public that would utilize it. This also applies to other localities of Greater Budapest that were on the Buda side.

Naturally, there are mailings with cancellations from post office on the Buda side before May 2nd. These were collected from letter boxes and found their way into one of the four dispatch offices (Budapest 2, 3, 112, 114) where they were cancelled. Cancellations from any other Buda post office up to April 30th are not known.

As a result, we can establish that the so-called Budapest tariffs that arbitrarily raised postage rates between March 2nd and April 30th were in effect only in Pest and a few localities of Greater Budapest on the Pest side. As we have seen, only post offices on the Pest side were open during this time. From this, we can logically conclude that the name is not accurate and is misleading. Calling it correctly as the Pest tariff is accurate since it was implemented only in the area of Pest and not in the entire capital city or in the area of Greater Budapest. I suggest that in the future the new and more accurate naming be used.

To date, these facts have not been published by any philatelic researcher. Based on existing mailings, the assumption had been that postal service

had resumed on the Buda side during the period of the Pest tariffs. Naturally, the source of this misconception is the lack of source material. The lesson in this is that it is not possible all of the time to completely and accurate reconstruct the events. Full knowledge of source materials is essential.

THE GAZETTE OF POSTAL REGULATIONS DURING THE TIME OF THE PEST TARIFFS

The post operates under postal rules, regulations, and directives. This had always been and it was also unchanged during those trying times. A postmen could act only in accordance with what they were authorized to do or what the directives required of them. They had no opportunity for personal solutions or improvisations and such was the case during this time.

It was not known until now that general directives were published during the time of the Pest tariffs. As early as January 24th, the Workers' Council drew up directives 1 and 2. Later, four additional directives were issued. The entire text of directives 1, 2, and 3 can be found in the manuscript as well as a summary of directives 5 and 6. The manuscript makes no mention of directive 4. Only the manuscript mentions the existence of these directives. They did not survive outside of the manuscript. Thus, the manuscript is a unique document.

ARBITRARY RATE INCREASE - THE PEST TARIFFS

Unfortunately, the manuscript does not shed light on the real reason for the rate increase. It fails to even acknowledge that the rates were actually increased and that the official rates in had effect since 1943 were not being utilized.

According to another author who dwelled into this time period, the rate increase was needed to insure the post's ability to pay the workers' salaries. He even labelled the tariffs as "necessity tariffs."

The manuscript contradicts this completely. Completely untouched stashes of cash were recovered from the ruins in many places. The manuscript also gives lots of evidence that the postal directorate was in good shape financially.

On January 25th, 2 million pengos were allocated for the restoration of buildings.

On January 29th, Dr. Gyula Ortutay (academic, vice-president of MABÉOSZ in the 1970s) paid a visit to the post. Since he was the director of the Hungarian Radio, he asked that the post to pay him the radio fees that had already been collected in November and December 1944 but had not been paid to the radio. Ortutay was tasked by the government to restore radio broadcasts. The postal officials investigated whether the fees for the two months had actually been turned over and could not find evidence that they had been. They agreed that the 2 million pengos collected for radio fees would be paid out and on the 31st post office no. 7 paid the sum to Ortutay, who, along with two colleagues, took the money stuffed in their briefcases. The Hungarian Radio resumed its broadcasts after the siege using the 2 million pengos.



30. Szentharomsag Street looking towards the Matyas Church. There are piles of rubble everywhere although the street has been nicely swept. (family photo)

Another similar occurrence from the manuscript happened on February 7th. On that day, visitors arrived from the government in Debrecen. Jozsef Gabor, the minister of commerce and transportation, visited the directorate at the Dob Street headquarters. He arrived by automobile accompanied by his secretary and a Russian major. Immediately, the minister questioned the director in charge as to what authority they had to organize the postal service in Budapest. Pazmany's reply was short: "By my independent action because I love my occupation." Furthermore, they reported to the minister that they had the support and encouragement of the Soviet municipal commander and the Budapest National Council. After this short theatrical exchange, the minister presented the real purpose of his visit. The Provisional Government in Debrecen had exhausted all of the funds they collected in the liberated areas. They were advised that there is postal management in Budapest and thought that they might have some cash on hand. There was a large sum of cash at the Budapest no. 7 post office. The minister and the government in Debrecen were offered 7 million pengos. The minister was very happy with this offer and with the aid of his secretary and the Soviet officer immediately grabbed up the wads of banknotes and threw them on the floor and on the seats of their automobile since they did not have attache cases with them. Surrounded by banknotes, the Soviet major and the minister departed satisfied. The money and the passengers arrived safely in Debrecen, and the Provisional National Government had funds thanks to the generosity of the postal workers of Pest.

So, the postal people of Pest were able to pay out 11 million pengos in cash easily. Let's not forget that inflation has not kicked into gear yet, and this was an enormous sum. At that time, the postal system still did not have an income stream from the users of the postal service.

Naturally, the postal workers did not turn over all of their ready cash. They were able to easily cover expenses and payroll. After the liberation of the Buda side, they became aware that no cash could be found there, so they covered the pay of the postal workers of Buda as well. Again, there was no income for the postal system at this time, only expenses. The manuscript emphasizes this fact many times.

All postal workers reporting for duty regularly received their pay starting on February 1st.

Based on these facts, we can ascertain that the postal system was not in need of immediate income because they could afford to pay expenses out of available cash.

Therefore, we can continue to guess at the reason why there was a need for the arbitrary raising of the tariffs. In my opinion, the key to solving this is has to be an economic reason. The existing tariffs did not cover the operating costs at the time, especially the cost of transportation. The existing tariffs were based on normal operations, for example transportation using a truck as opposed to on foot now. In April, the post in Budapest had two horses and eight bicycles. They did not have any motor vehicles; their first one went into service on May 1st. As a result, after the siege, the post could not complete is operation as effectively as before the siege. Greater energy input was required to operate than before. Also, the price of the materials needed to function was beginning to increase and the old tariffs did not meet management needs. The post was a commercial entity that could not operate with a loss, so it required proper management. It had reserves, but these would be expended in a short time. In addition, the Pest side needed to support the Buda side because post offices did not function there, yet, and did not have income. They couldn't think of anything else to do but raise the rates in order to finance operations.

Therefore, the tariffs were increased to cover the increased cost of operation.

The expansive manuscript further discusses the restart of the post in our capital city through 1948 on subsequent pages. For us, however, the history of the first months are the most exciting and interesting because the history of this period had not been published anywhere else.

Starting on June 1, 1945, the Gazette of Postal Directives begins publication and the directives can be tracked easily.

After June 20, 1945, postal service is expanded to take in the entire country. This is, therefore, the date that postal service is fully restored following the war.

I'd like to thank the Postal Museum for the help in allowing me to do research in the library and for the use of the illustrations.

I'd also like to thank my fellow collector Laszlo Littvay for letting me illustrate the Budapest no. 70 identity certificate from his collection.

Also, I'd like to thank my fellow collector Antal Pukler for allowing me to show the postcard mailed from the Csepel no. 1 post office from his collection.

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MODERN POSTAL HISTORY – THE 1994 'NEPMUVESZET' ISSUES

BY MERVYN BENFORD, GREAT BRITAIN

In 1994 the first seven values of what was to be a longer definitive series under the heading Magyar Culture were issued: 11, 12, 19, 32, 35, 40 and 50Ft. It was a time of gathering, fairly fast inflation. A year later, almost as an after-thought a 1Ft. version appeared. Once a significant denomination, this was clearly something now to do with making-up unusual rates and its use on cover is interesting. The same year, though, saw a further six, including low values 2 and 3Ft., as well as 9, 14, 22 and 38Ft. Subtle rate changes? 1996 arrives and in July six more: 13, 16, 17, 24, 75, 80Ft. This reflects a growing, still slow rise in living costs. By September though, 300 and 500Ft. values appear. Then in March 1997 comes a 27Ft. single issue followed in July by a 60Ft. version but not a new design- a 60Ft. overprint on the existing 24 Ft. Both must reflect rate changes but I have just one cover single-franked as the rate. Otherwise, my examples are in stamp combinations. 24Ft. had presumably lapsed as a working rate? In 1998, we have a very modest 5Ft. and another single issue, 200Ft.

In 1999 came a re-designed 24Ft with a 65 and 90Ft. The 11th. issue still in 1999 brought two more- a most curious 79Ft. denomination with a more conventional 100Ft. Readers may enjoy the challenge and an intriguing pursuit of Hungary's 3rd. Inflation by connecting stamp issues with actual real and rapidly changing rates. The inflationary impact can also be seen in postal stationery from the humble postcard through to airmail.

It is interesting that it took eleven separate issues before a stamp of 100 Forint was needed! The series is distinctive in having some intriguing denominations as well as the overprint.

In all, to mid-1999- it embraces 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14,16, 22, 17, 19, 24 (+ re-designed version,) 27, 32, 35, 38, 40, 60 (overprint,) 65, 75, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300 and 500Ft. stamps.

Those years were a time of moderate economic inflation and all rates were open to changes. This may explain why stamps with unusual denominations such as 32Ft. and 79Ft. were produced and found used singly on covers. This may not reflect an actual rate: with rates changing and unusual face values, a 32Ft stamp may be a 30Ft. item but a little overpaid- as can happen with inflation effects. The same applies to total cost of an item: for example, 102Ft. could pay for a 100Ft. item. But two at 102Ft., one at 104Ft. and another at 107Ft. suggest exact rate calculation. I have several with 1Ft. which were surely part of a precise total calculation. Some unusual total fees appear in my tables, not least with low values such as 1Ft. and 2Ft., 3Ft. and 4Ft., which seem used to make those rates.

The unusual denominations make some interesting franking and intriguing postal history. The tables below do show total costs of items- often

the same total for a well-used service. For example, 65Ft. was a rate for a time for letters to Europe. Many of my covers are from a society member who was collecting the 3rd. inflation but had to stop. Rates to Europe are the majority and explain why I have more, but also reflect rate changes and weight steps. A full study of these years is not yet available so some rates perhaps did not all change every time and some changes came more quickly than others.

Dealers and auctioneers when sending items often use stamps from many series to please a collector! My one example has just the 1Ft. but that stamp was a necessary part of the total cost.

Stamps from this series shown in italics: Additional stamps from other series are given after the *italicised* Nepmuveszet series stamps and introduced by **code &***

Valuation

1 is lowest and 5 highest. My valuations are arbitrary. It is my best estimate using my interest in the series and my philatelic experience. I find lower rates less often. Some denominations reflect economic inflation. Would one ever have imagined stamps 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 even 19Ft. stamps? And what of 27, 32, 38 and 79Ft.? And two different 24Ft. stamps? I have not seen the second one used. The first one has the 60Ft. overprinted higher rate but not too common in its original form used.

Some of these are not very much found in my 144 covers- but do tell the story of the item! In times of rapid price rises stamps used singly for the rate can be few. In my 144 items there are just five. Pairs and strips likewise appeal and multiples used from the series are good to have. Use of the low values to make up rates is very interesting. Unusual postage items or rates add value. Used on stationery earns a premium.

My 114 covers reflect only the classes of mail I have. I argue their worth as modern postal history- some just as rare! Even in these 144 covers the 50Ft. is much used and the 40Ft., 60Ft. and 80Ft. often- easy to calculate perhaps- and surprisingly the unusual 22Ft. stamp, in strips- easy to count! Two 110Ft. items used five single 22Ft. stamps- more variety! Yet the 100Ft. is less used than the 1987 Castle version. For such an obvious face value, that stamp arrived rather late. Use of the separately issued 5Ft, 200Ft., and 27Ft. add to the story.

That 1987 definitive series is often used in total franking and often combined with random commemoratives make attractive covers. I indicate these with a large black '**C**'. Some go back 1972 and even a 60f stamp. I value covers using combinations of only the **NÉPMÜVÉSZET** series. (***Illustration 1)*** is probably philatelically unique- airmail registered to Canada, five denominations including a pair and a strip- total cost 244Ft. Find me another!



Illustration 1

These valuations are personal but reflect normal postal history aspects. Stamps used also with postage meter payments or for registration and express, printed matter, airmail or using postal stationery, or with delivery problems, or interesting destinations all add value. I have many at Europe letter rate but that helps track the rate period changes. Rates change during inflation- some shorter than others. I am open to other opinions and new information, about rate and date changes. I do not study this modern inflation. I believe it deserves research attention as much as 1920-26 and 1945-46.

In my 144 examples the majority were given me by a UK society member with Hungarian family and friends who, briefly, was interested in the inflation story. I do not know if weight steps but larger envelopes suggest it where envelopes were not marked "Nyomtatvany". This is not an inflation study as such but total item costs help track rate periods. More study is needed. I hope it raises interest.

My valuations are limited estimates. Readers know how often these stamps were used for other classes of mail- especially local and national rates. Perhaps we can start a debate about individual issues, rates or combinations seen less often. I clearly value cases covering the less common postal history items, including single franking and multiples.

The other stamps used raise further interest and which at times lend further value to the story (note Elvis! (***Illustration 2***.)



Illustration 2

95Ft. was a well-used rate but how many have that combination? The single issue 1Ft. and 5Ft. and later the 27Ft. and the re-designed 24Ft. and low denominations seem to justify a premium used as they surely reflect aspects of rates of the

day. The 79Ft. is so novel and being used adds to the impact! The 1999 Batthyany 27Ft. and the 2000 Duna-Drava National Park 34Ft. with the 79Ft. stamp makes a most unusual rate combination for 1.40Ft. letter rate to UK (***Illustration 3***.)



Illustration 3



Illustration 4

Illustration 4 is a postcard of Budapest sent airmail to New Zealand from Holloko also at 95Ft. using a particularly impressive canceller (Illustration 4.) The 95Ft. rate paying the Elvis cover was a rate to Europe and my tables record four other examples each made up in different ways! The modern periods have much postal history interest.

My 2000 Hungarian catalogue values used at around a third of Mint or in the single issues a half. But the later issues, 200Ft., re-designed 24Ft., 65 Ft. 90Ft., 79Ft. and 100Ft. have used and mint equal- perhaps thinking less use by then likely, as for the other two issues that year- 1999. Is awareness dawning that used examples may be fewer? And on cover probably relatively scarce! The 11 issues over time played with perforations but the last issue returned to the first.



Illustration 5 (see explanation later on page 38)

I list below my 144 covers and an estimate of possible scarcity.

#	Description	Total	
1	Large letter Europe : 1998: strip 4 x 1Ft.: grossly under-franked noted: no PD	4 Ft	5
2	Large letter/packet Europe: 21.12.98: strip 3 x 3Ft.	9 Ft	5
3	Local Postcard Budapest: 24.6.95: 1Ft. &* 11Ft. stationery postcard	12 Ft	5
4	Letter Europe7.4.97: pair 9Ft.	18 Ft	5
5	Letter Europe 7.4.99: single 22Ft.	22 Ft	5
6	Letter Europe: 9.4.99: 3Ft. &* 20f	23 Ft	5
7	Letter within Hungary: Nov. 1998 : 2Ft. &* Stationery 22Ft. envelope:	24 Ft	5
8	Letter Europe: 1.7.96: 2Ft. &* Stationery 22Ft. envelope:	24 Ft	5
9	Postcard within Hungary: no date: pair 1Ft. &* 17Ft. stationery postcard + 5Ft.	24 Ft	5
10	Letter Europe 1997: pair 9Ft. &* 10Ft.	28 Ft	5
11	Letter Local Budapest: 8.2.98: pair 12Ft. &* 6Ft.	30 Ft	5
12	Letter within Hungary: 16.12.98: 3Ft. &* Stationery 27Ft. envelope:	30 Ft	5
13	Letter Europe: 14.12.02: single 32f	32 Ft	5
14	Letter Europe: 10.2.98: 16f &* 20f	36 Ft	4
15	Letter Europe: 1997: 14Ft. + 22Ft	36 Ft	5
16	Letter Europe: 11.7.95: pair 11Ft. &* 10Ft. + 4Ft.	36 Ft	5
17	Local printed Matter: date unclear: strip 3 x14Ft. &*invalid 1.50Ft.C + 60f C	4 410 Ft	5
18	Letter Europe: Dec. 1997: Overprinted 60Ft. used singly	60 Ft	5
19	Letter Europe: date unclear: 3Ft. &*22Ft.C &* 35Ft.C	60 Ft	5
20	Postcard Europe: July/Aug 1996: 50Ft. &* 10Ft. stationery postcard	60 Ft	5
21	Strip from large packet to Europe: 15.12.95: 2 x 11Ft. &* 5 x 4Ft. + 4 x 5Ft.	62 Ft	4
22	Postcard Europe: 4.2.98: 50Ft. &* 3Ft. stationery postcard + 4Ft. + 8Ft.	65 Ft	5
23	Postcard Europe: 5.7.98: Overprinted 60Ft &*5Ft.	65 Ft	4
24	Letter Europe: 15.12.99: Overprinted 60Ft. &*5Ft.	65 Ft	4
25	Letter Europe: 15.12.99: Overprinted 60Ft. + 5Ft.	65 Ft	4
26	Letter Europe: 15.11.95: strip 3 x 22Ft.	66 Ft	3
27	Large letter Europe: ? year: 50Ft. + 22Ft. much used stamps but my one 72Ft.	72 Ft	3
28	Letter Europe: 10.12.01: pair 38Ft.	76 Ft	4
29	Postcard Europe: 1.9.98: Overprinted 60Ft. &* 20Ft.	80 Ft	4
30	Postcard Europe: 31.7.2000: 80Ft.	80 Ft	4
31	Letter Europe: 9.12.96: pair 40Ft (5Ft. overpaid)	80 Ft	3
32	Letter Europe: 15.12.00 single 80Ft.	80 Ft	4
33	Letter Europe: Dec. 1996: 50Ft. &* 30Ft.	80 Ft	2
34	Letter Europe: 27.10.96: pair 40Ft. &* 5Ft.	85 Ft	3
35	Letter reg: within Hungary 26.6.96: pair 40Ft. &* 5Ft.	85 Ft	4
36	Letter Europe: 12.2.96: 50Ft.+ 2 x 2Ft. &*20Ft. &*10Ft. +*1Ft.	85 Ft	4
37	Letter Europe: 8.12.97: 80Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
38	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: pair 40Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
39	Letter Europe: 11.2.99: pair 40Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	2
40	Letter Europe: 1998(?): 22Ft. + 19Ft. + 2 x 12 Ft. + 14Ft. +11Ft.	90 Ft	5*
41	Letter Europe: 15.12.97: Overprinted 60Ft. &*10Ft. &* 20Ft.	90 Ft	3
42	Letter Europe: 5.12.97: 80Ft. &* 10Ft.	90 Ft	3
43	Letter Europe: 22.12.97: 50Ft. &* pair 20Ft.	90 Ft	2
44	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: 40Ft. + 50Ft.	90 Ft	4
45	Brochure Europe printed paper 9.9.92: single 2Ft &* 90Ft.	92 Ft	4
46	Newspaper Europe: printed paper date unclear: single 2Ft &* 90Ft.	92 Ft	4
47	Postcard New Zealand 4.10.99: 80Ft. + 11Ft. &* 4Ft.	95 Ft	5
48	Letter Europe: 8.1.96: strip 3 x 22Ft.+ 9Ft. &*20Ft.	95 Ft	4
49	Letter Europe: 21. 10.96: strip 4 x 22Ft. &*4Ft.&*3Ft.	95 Ft	2
50	Letter Europe: 22Ft. &* 4Ft. + 12Ft. + strip 3 x 19Ft. US soccer 1994(Elvis!)	95 Ft	5
51	Letter Europe: 19.9.96: strip of 4 x 22Ft. &* 7Ft.	95 Ft	2
52	Letter Europe: 18.1. 95: 50Ft. &* 10Ft. + 15Ft. + 20Ft.	95 Ft	2
53	Letter Europe: 1996: 75Ft. &* 20Ft.	95 Ft	5
54	Letter Europe: 18.10.96: pair 22Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft. + 1Ft.	95 Ft	3
55	Letter Europe: 1998: 40Ft. + 50Ft. &* 5Ft.	95 Ft	3
56	Letter Europe: 7.02.96: 50Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft.	100 Ft	2
57	Magyar Posta letter Europe: 27.4.99: pair 50Ft.	100 Ft	1
58	Magyar Posta letter Europe: 27.4.99: 2 x 50Ft:	100 Ft	1

#	Description	Total	
59	Letter Europe: 30.4.97: pair 50Ft.	100 Ft	1
60	Postcard Europe: 1.9.99: single 100Ft.	100 Ft	3
61	Postcard Europe: 1999: single 100Ft.	100 Ft	3
62	Letter Europe: 18.12.97: pair 50Ft. + 2Ft.	102 Ft	3
63	Letter Europe: 10.12.92 or 97: 2Ft. &* 100Ft.	102 Ft	4
64	Letter Europe: 10.12.02: pair 38Ft. &* 28Ft. red meter	104 Ft	5
65	Postcard Europe: 27.11.01: 100Ft. &* 7Ft.	107 Ft	4
66	Letter Europe: 22.5.96: 5 x 22Ft. all single stamps!	110 Ft	2
67	Letter Europe: 18.3. 96: 5 x 22Ft. all single stamps!	110 Ft	2
68	Letter Europe: date unclear: 2Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft.	112 Ft	4
69	Letter Europe: 22.1.97: 14Ft. + pair 50Ft.	114 Ft	4
70	Letter Europe: 23.3.99: 5Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft.	115 Ft	4
71	Letter Europe: date unclear: 1Ft., &* 100Ft.C + 12Ft.C + 7Ft.	120 Ft	5
72	Letter Europe: 13.10.97: 2Ft. + 35Ft. +75Ft. &* 16Ft.C	128 Ft	5
73	Letter Europe: date unclear: 50Ft. + 80Ft.	130 Ft	3
74	Letter Europe: 16.2.99: 80Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft + 10Ft.	130 Ft	2
75	Letter Europe: 16.2.99: 80Ft. &* 2 x 20Ft. + 10Ft.	130 Ft	2
76	Letter Europe: 25.1.99: pair 5Ft. &* pair 60Ft.C was forwarded	130 Ft	5
77	Letter Europe: 31.3.2001: 100Ft. &* 40Ft.C	140 Ft	3
78	Letter Europe: 29.10.01: 79Ft. &* 27Ft.C + 34Ft.C	140 Ft	5
79	Letter Europe: 19.10.98: Overprinted 60Ft. + 80Ft.	140 Ft	4
80	Letter Europe: 14.10.02: 40Ft &* 28Ft.C + 2Ft.C (from 1981) + 70Ft.	140 Ft	3
81	Letter Europe: 5.12.99: strip 3 x 50Ft.	150 Ft	2
82	Letter Europe: 16.4.02: 50Ft. + 100Ft.	150 Ft	4
83	Letter Europe 11.11.02: Overprinted 60Ft. &* 90Ft.C	150 Ft	3
84	Letter Europe: 2.5.17: 38Ft. &*red meter 112Ft.	150 Ft	5
85	Letter Europe: 4.4.06: 100Ft. & *1Ft.C (from 1979) + 49Ft. Postal label	150 Ft	5
86	Letter Europe: date unclear: 50Ft. &* 5Ft. + 100Ft.: maybe weight step	155 Ft	4
87	Letter Europe: 13.1.01: pair 80Ft. + 1Ft. &* pair 3Ft.C (1Ft.needed!)	167 Ft	5
88	Printed Matter Europe: 20.12.99: 5Ft. &* pair 50Ft.C + 70Ft.C	175 Ft	5
89	Letter Europe: date unclear: pair 40Ft. &* 100Ft. large env.	180 Ft	3
90	Letter Europe: 13.6.97 same sender: maybe printed matter: 80Ft. &* 100Ft.	180 Ft	3
91	Letter Europe: re-addressed: 13.9.97: 2 x 40Ft. &* 100Ft.	180 Ft	3
92	Booklet Europe: printed paper: 2Ft. &* pair 90Ft.	182 Ft	5
93	Letter Europe: 17.3.98: 40Ft. + 50Ft. &* 100Ft. maybe printed matter	190 Ft	4
94	Letter Europe: 18.12.05: 100Ft. &*50Ft.C + 48Ft.C	198 Ft	4
95	Letter Europe: 2001: postmark with SB: single 200Ft.	200 Ft	5
96	Large Letter: Europe: re-addressed: pair 5Ft. &* pair 100Ft.	210 Ft	5
97	Large letter: Europe: 50Ft. &* 2 x 30Ft. + 100Ft.	210 Ft	4
98	Large Letter: Europe: 18.12.98: strip 4 x 50Ft. &* 20Ft.	220 Ft	3
99	Letter Europe: 13.6.97: 3Ft. &* 16Ft. stationery envelope + 4Ft., + 15Ft.+ 1Ft.C + 2Ft.C + pair 90Ft.C	221 Ft	5
100	Letter Europe: 16.10.98: 2Ft. &* pair 100Ft. + 30Ft.	232 Ft	4
101	Letter Europe: 19.2.96: strip 4 x 50Ft. + single 50Ft.	250 Ft	2
102	Letter Europe: 22.12.98: pair 100Ft. &* 50Ft.	250 Ft	4
103	Letter reg. air Canada: 20.2.97: strip 3 x 50Ft +50Ft.&* 2x 12Ft.+19Ft.+1Ft.	244 Ft	5*
104	Large letter Europe: 10.12.97: 50Ft. + 14Ft. &* pair 100Ft.	264 Ft	4
105	Express letter UK: 17.12.98: 200Ft. + 80Ft. + 5Ft. &* 4Ft	289 Ft	5
106	Very Large Env. Europe: 10.4.98: strip 4 x 50Ft + strip 3 x 50Ft.? printed paper	350 Ft	5
107	Very Large letter Europe: 4.3.96: strip 5 x 50Ft +pair 2 x 50Ft.? printed paper	350 Ft	5
108	Reg. letter UK: 17.5.98: 200Ft. &* 10Ft. + 100Ft. + pair 30Ft.	377 Ft	5
109	Printed paper large: 3.6.99: pair 200Ft. &*50Ft.	450 Ft	5
110	Large letter: Europe: 1997: 1Ft. + 75Ft. &* strip 5 x 100Ft. ? pr. matter	576 Ft	5
111	Large letter reg. UK: 24.4.98: pair 300Ft. + 50Ft.	650 Ft	5
112	Registered letter Europe: pair 500Ft. &* 300Ft.C	1 300 Ft	5
113	Registered large letter Europe: 18.12.15: pair 300Ft. + pair 500Ft.	1 600 Ft	5*
114	Very large letter Special Delivery Europe: 1Ft. &* 5Ft. + 2 x 27Ft.C +14 x 200Ft.C+ 7 x 1000Ft.C with POSTAI LEZÁROS postmarks. It needed the 1Ft. to make Total 9860Ft.	9 860 Ft	5*

The artist, Dudas Laszlo, was born in 1935 and died in 2014, age 79. 227 stamps bear his name.

From Wikipedia we learn that he became friends with computer design early on. He considered computer knowledge to be so important in graphic work that he also organized a solo thematic exhibition on it in 1996. He presented the results of his own experiences to visitors, for example in making the symmetry of the Folk Art line. This definitive series has pattern at its heart.

He believed stamps were objects of everyday use and it did not matter what they looked like. They disseminated knowledge in particular, almost subconsciously- giving a lot of interesting information without intentionally wanting to learn from it. In 1990 he received the Munkacsy Prize. The most beautiful stamp of the year was awarded the King Matthias Mass Book Block in 1993. He received the Hungarian Post's Art Prize in 1992 and 2004 as well.

He began as an industrial designer by designing hydrofoils on the Danube. He later worked on advertising graphics, thanks in part to the Volan logo and image, and made his mark. After it turned out that he had the indispensable special vision needed for this miniature creation, stamp design became a significant part of his work from the 1970s.

I hope this study reflects my belief that the future of philately is secure- postal history, stamps, why issued, rates and their journeys. Of the 144 examples, 71 had been sent to the one person- who kept them! 9 were to me- also kept! Just 31 went elsewhere. There will be others maybe using stamps issued after my 2000 catalogue- but how many? They will change my valuations. I give some more illustrations which I think important as postal history ***(Illustrations 5-7***). How many similar exist? How many at the rates in my table still exist? What new information can readers give me?

Many of the additional stamps from other series were from other basic definitive series. Their use is worth similar study. Can we interest collectors today in these later stamps? In 100 years' time, when 1867 and 1871 lithograph and their like and postal history of the spring of 1945 will need good bank accounts to collect, these now modern issues may be the last stamps ever issued as technology takes over world communication.



Illustration 6-7

NEWS

During the second half of the year, several members of Mafitt participated in two international exhibitions. Their highest award as a large vermeil LV) medal, for which we congratulate three of them.



FEPA and FIP medals of the period

LIBEREC 2022 FEPA EXHIBITION 13-16 OCTOBER

Class	Exhibition results of *Mafitt members*	Awards
	Peter Csicsay	
PH	The Postal History of Kingdom of Hungary 1900-1918	**LV**
	Ute & Elmar Dorr	
PH	The Orient Express 1883-1914	**LV**
	Elmar Dorr	
PH	Historical Forays through the Postal History of the Town of Neustadt an der Haardt	**V**
	Ladislav Fekete	
PH	The Austrian imperial and Royal Navy in the World War I.	**V**
	Gyorgy Lovei	
1FR	Interim Use of the Czechoslovakian Air Mail Stamps during the Interim period of the Czechoslovakian Currency Reform (01.06.1953-18.06.1953)	**85p**
	Gyorgy Toth	
PH	Forint-filler	**V**
	Karoly Szucs	
TR	On the Rough Road of Independence – Beginning of the domestic stamp production in Hungary	**V**

POLAR SALON

	Zsolt Bodnar	
PH	Philately of Franz Josef Land	**LS**

CAPE TOWN 2022 FIP EXHIBIT 8-12 NOVEMBER

Class	Exhibition results of *Mafitt members*	Awards
	Artur Banas	
1FR	A miracle of a great discovery, the Victoria falls	**82p**
	Gyorgy Lovei	
AE	Postal documents of the international air mail service to and from Hungary till 31.12.1933	**V**
1FR	Interim use of Czechoslovakian stamps during the monetary reform period (01.06-18.06.1953)	**78p**
	Karoly Szucs	
REV	Spreading the stamping of documents in the Habsburg Empire by Hungarian eyes	**LV**
LIT	100 years of MABEOSZ/MABÉOSZ 1922-2022	**V**



The award ceremony for exhibitors who won large golds at the Cape Town 2022 exhibition

Free for members of Mafitt

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