23
2

Philatelica

English translation

Philatelica 2023/2

Content:

Tamas Gudlin	Early postmarking machines in Hungary	1
Janos Dan	Mail Traffic During the Period of Military Operations 1944-1945	15
Florent Tricot	Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946: the single deficiency calculation	26
Adriano Bergamini, FRPSL – Denes Czirok RDP, FRPSL	A Hungarian stamp dealer in His Majesty's service	37
In Memoriam Gabor Visnyovszki		41

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

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

Consultants:

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

Dr. Gyorgy Lovei, president of the Mafitt

EARLY POSTMARKING MACHINES IN HUNGARY

BY TAMAS GUDLIN, GERMANY



INTRODUCTION

Automatic mail processing is an area in which the Hungarian Post, for once, was not a pioneer. In 1907, when they approved the first postmarking machine for permanent use, most of the major postal administrations in the world had already been using various machines for several decades. This paper attempts to provide an overview of:

- the postmarking machines tested or permanently used before the introduction of franking machines (1928),
- the post offices where the first machines were used and
- the first mechanical cancellations produced with the various machines.

The editing of the topic is mainly based on postal items which are known today. Only very few meaningful postal documents could be found on this.

Before going into the use of postmarking machines, it is necessary to clarify how they are systematized. Fig. 1 shows an overview of the main types of design options for the mechanization of postmarking.

Hand stamping devices are simple lever-joint mechanisms with the help of which the stamping die performs an up and down movement, similar to conventional hand stamping. Both the insertion and removal of the letters as well as the operation is done by hand. The first devices were realized in this form as early as 1857 (Pearson Hill, England).

With the "right" postmarking machines, the stamping die performs a rotary movement. This is the basis for the fact that these machines offer significantly higher performance (number of strikes per minute) than the hand stamping machines.

There are two fundamentally different types of postmarking machines: the single-impression machines and the continuous-impression machines.

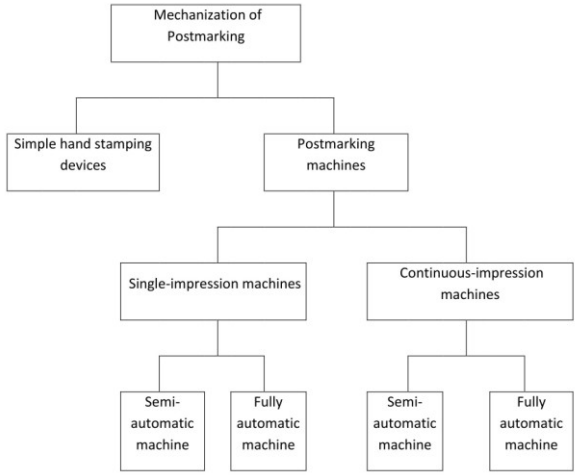


Fig. 1: Main design options for the mechanization of postmarking

The imprint of a single-impression machine only covers a limited corner of the letter, whereas the continuous-impression machine produces an imprint that runs across the entire width of the letter. Both can be semi or fully automatic. In the case of semi automatic machines, constant opera-

tion by at least one postal clerk (e.g. to "feed" the machine) is necessary. The letters are inserted into the fully automatic machines in stacks and can also be removed in stacks. The machine does everything else completely automatically.

THE HUNGARIAN POST'S FIRST TESTS WITH POSTMARKING MACHINE

The first stamping machine that aroused the interest of the Royal Hungarian Post was a semi automatic single-impression machines of HALLER type.

The use of single-impression machines for outgoing mail (i.e. also as a canceller for the stamps) is subject to the following two conditions:

a./ the postage stamps must always be in the upper right corner of the letter

b./ the stamped area must always be at a constant distance from the upper right corner of the letter.

Since condition a./ was often not given in the early days of stamp machine development and condition b./ required a complex technical solution, the first single-impression machines were used - apart from a few exceptions, such as those exclusively for postal stationery postcards used Leavitt machine deployed in USA - **only for incoming mail, that means for arrival postmarking**. The Haller stamp machine was one such machine used for arrival postmarking. It was patented by Wilhelm Loffelhardt from Hamburg in 1880. Together with Georg Haller, he founded a company called "Haller & Co." to manufacture stamp machines (hence the name Haller stamp machine). The structure and function of the machine can be seen in Fig. 2.

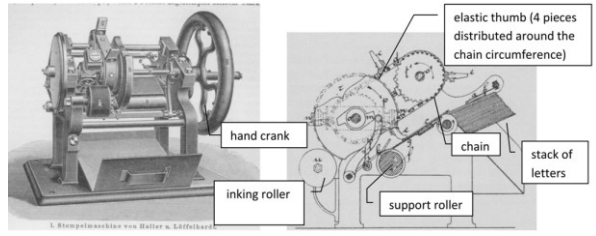


Fig. 2: General view of the Haller stamp machine and a technical drawing from the patent application

The most important component of the machine is a chain drive, consisting of two sprockets and a chain. On the outer circumference of the chain are four evenly spaced elastic thumbs. These have the task of separating the top letter from the stack of letters fed in from below and transporting it between the stamp die and support roller. The two stamp dies, which are offset by 180° from one another, and the transport disk, rotate with the first sprocket wheel, which is driven with the help of a hand crank. Ideally, three employees were needed to operate the machine: one employee each to operate the hand crank, to feed the stack of letters and to collect the stamped letters. There were also machines with an electric drive, where only 2 operators were required. With the electric Haller machine, a maximum of around 400 letters per minute could be stamped. It was used primarily in Germany, between 1881 and 1909, in a total of 15 different larger towns.

From the Hungarian point of view, it is important that the Haller stamping machine was permanently used within the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in Vienna and Prague for a long time to stamp incoming mail. It was introduced in Vienna (Vienna 1 post office) in 1886 and in Prague (Prague 1 post office) in 1900. The use of the Haller machine is proven by both Vienna and Prague until 1909. Fig. 3 shows three examples: two different ones from the Vienna 1 post office: the early dou-

ble-circle postmark "Vienna / Central-Abgabe" in black from 1888 and the later single-circle postmark "Wien ... / Ordered" in blue from 1891, as well as a blue arrival postmark of the Post Office Prague 1 from 1903 on the back of a letter.



Fig. 3: Two different Haller arrival postmarks from the post office in Vienna 1 (above) and one Haller arrival postmark from Prague (below)

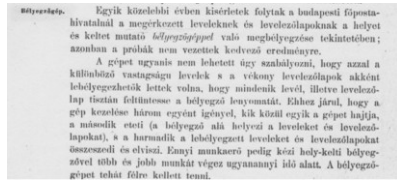
The following features are typical of the Haller postmarks:

- Straight (no twisted) alignment of the strikes
- Uniform, "light" strikes, often not quite complete
- Often slightly deformed, oval shape of the postmark
- Often use of blue ink

It is particularly important for Hungarian collectors to keep this in mind, since neither the time when the Haller machine was used in Hungary nor the type of postmark used in it is exactly known. The only clear evidence of the use of the Haller stamp machine in Hungary comes from the book by János Botár published in 1899 (see [3]), from which the relevant passage is reproduced in the original in Fig. 4. There is the following explanation under the keyword "Bélyegzőgép" = "stamp machine":

"Not so far away, trials were carried out in the Budapest Central Post Office to use stamp machine to postmark incoming letters and postcards, but the trials did not lead to good results.

The machine could not be adjusted in such a way that all letters of different thicknesses and all thin postcards received a clean impression. In addition, the operation of the machine requires three people. The first keeps the machine running, the second feeds the machine (inserts the letters and postcards) and the third collects and removes the postmarked letters and postcards. So many workers are doing more and better work by hand stamping in the same amount of time. So the stamp machine had to be put aside."



Bélyegzőgép. Egyik közelebbi évben kísérletek folytak a budapesti főposta-hivatalnál a megérkezett leveleknek és levelezőlapoknak a helyet és keltet mutató *bélyegzőgéppel* való megbélyegzése tekintetében; azonban a próbák nem vezettek kedvező eredményre.

A gépet ugyanis nem lehetett úgy szabályozni, hogy azzal a különböző vastagságu levelek s a vékony levelezőlapok akként lebélyegezhetők lettek volna, hogy mindenik levél, illetve levelezőlap tisztán feltüntesse a bélyegző lenyomatát. Ehhez járul, hogy a gép kezelése három egyént igényel, kik közül egyik a gépet hajtja, a második eteti (a bélyegző alá helyezi a leveleket és levelezőlapokat), s a harmadik a lebélyegzett leveleket és levelezőlapokat összeszedi és elviszi. Ennyi munkaerő pedig kézi hely-kelti bélyegzővel több és jobb munkát végez ugyanannyi idő alatt. A bélyegzőgépet tehát félre kellett tenni.

Fig. 4: Original text from [3], regarding the testing of a stamp machine in Budapest

So this is all we officially know about the use of a stamp machine in Hungary before 1900. The author has no doubt that it was a Haller machine.

After years of studying the arrival postmarks of the main post office in Budapest from the period 1890 to 1900, the author can only present one item with a "very probable" Haller test postmark with a clear conscience. This is shown in Fig. 5. The straight alignment of the postmark, the light,

even and not quite complete impression and the blue colour speak for the Haller machine. However, the year 1893 raises questions, since the literature source published in 1899 [3] spoke of a "year not far away".

So the author has no choice but to ask you, dear collector friends, for help and support. If you find "suspicious" arrival postmarks from FŐPOSTA (Main Post Office) BUDAPEST from the period between 1890 and 1900, please report them to the author. The most important task in the first step would be to narrow down the period of use of the Haller machine in Hungary more precisely.



Fig. 5: A "very probable" Haller test in the main post office in Budapest on June 16, 1893

THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN POST'S FIRST PERMANENTLY USED STAMP MACHINE

The first stamp machine that was permanently used at the Royal Hungarian Post Office was a fully automatic continuous-impression machine of the KRAG-HANSEN type (Krag machine for short).

The continuous-stamping with the cancellation running across the entire width of the document eliminates all the disadvantages of the single-impression machines: even "unorthodox" affixed stamps can be cancelled and there is no need to synchronize the position of the document relative to the position of the stamping dies. Why were single-impression machines developed at all when it's so much easier with continuous-impression machines? The answer must be sought in the extremely strict ethics of the pre-1900 postal service. The written message was then "sacred". In addition to postal secrecy, this also included the requirement to transmit messages completely and unaltered.

Since continuous stamping can cover part of the text on postcards and the address and/or advertisement of the sender on letters and make it illegible, such stamping attempts before 1900 were repeatedly rejected by postal administrations. At the beginning of the 20th century, the volume of letters in the industrialized countries grew to such an extent that they could only be managed economically with much faster stamp machines. These at first could be realized most easily the continuous stamping.

Norwegian designer and inventor Gustav Adolf Hansen had the right idea at the right time. Together with the mechanical engineering manufacturer Nils Aall Krag, he patented a revolutionary stamping machine in 1904, which eclipsed all previously known machines in terms of price/performance ratio, user-friendliness and reliability. Another Krag-patent is known from 1910, which only contained optimizations of details, so that this article only deals with the structure and function of the machine of the first generation.

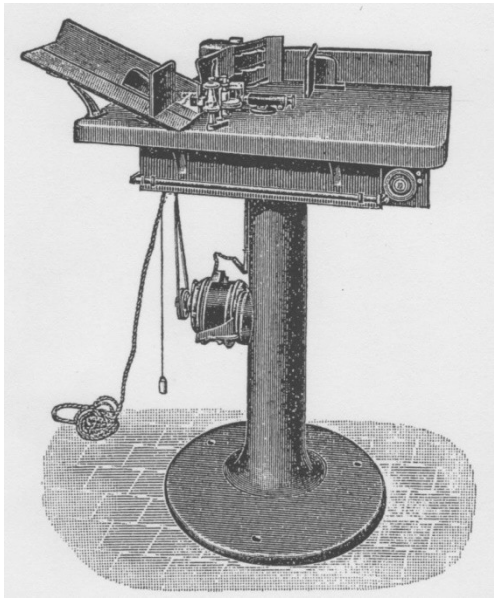


Fig. 6: General view of the Krag machine

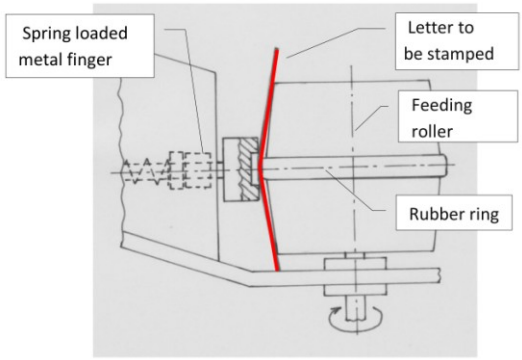


Fig. 7: Functional principle of the conveyor system of the Krag stamp machine

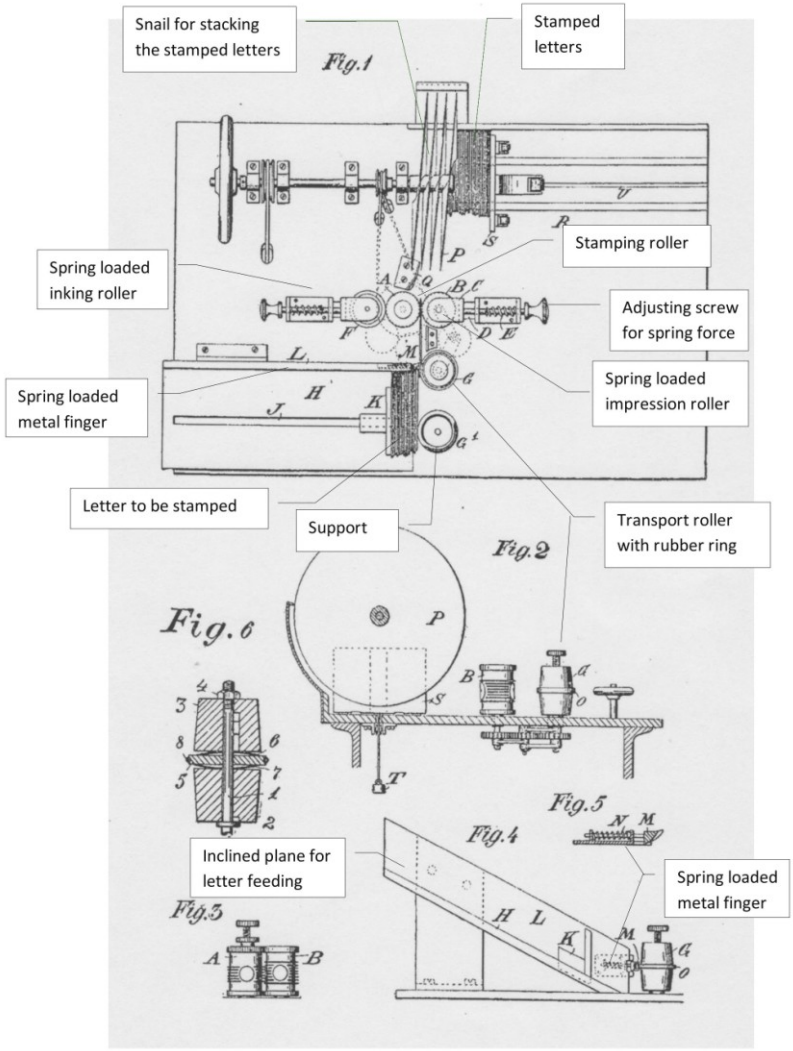


Fig.8: Technical drawings from the patent application of the Krag machine

The main functional characteristics of the machine can be explained using Fig. 7 and 8. The upper drawing in Fig. 7 (“Fig. 1”) is a plan view. The actual stamping roller is in the middle of this drawing, and is in contact with two spring-loaded rollers: the inking roller on the left, the impression roller on the right. The document to be stamped is pushed between the stamp roller and the impression roller by a sophisticated conveyor system. After being aligned in an identical position, the letters are placed in stacks on an inclined feed rail (see "Fig. 4") and are held by a support roller (see "Fig. 2"). The most interesting components of the machine are a feeding roller and a spring-loaded metal finger. These two parts have the task of separating the document to be stamped individually from the stack and transporting it to the stamp roller at high speed.

The design and arrangement of these parts are shown in "Fig. 5" and in the enlarged representation of Fig. 8. The feeding roller has a narrow rubber ring in the middle and is slightly conical in both directions. The spring-loaded metal finger grips the rubber ring of the feeding roller at a small distance so that the letters are slightly bent during transport and are therefore held and guided securely (see red line in Fig. 8). The cylindrical stamping roller and impression roller naturally eliminates this bending of the documents; they run straight through during stamping.

The optimized version of the Krag machine (i.e. from 1910) was able to stamp approx. 600 to 800 documents per minute with manual drive and approx. 1000 to 1200 documents per minute with electric drive and had the additional advantage that mixed mail (Letters and postcards with different thicknesses) could be processed reliably. In addition, the machine was very inexpensive, easy to operate and reliable due to its simple structure.

The first machines were used in 1904 in Christiania (now Oslo). They then conquered the postal administrations of the world in an extremely short time: according to a company brochure from Nils A. Krag Maschinenfabrik from the beginning of 1912, 455 machines were already running on all continents of the world in 28 countries! In some countries (including e.g. England) Krag machines were used continuously until the end of the 20th century. This makes these machines the most successful stamping machines of all time.

The use of Krag stamp machines in Hungary was released in [5] with Decree No. 67.864 of September 11, 1907 for the Budapest Post Office 72 (office at the Keleti railway station). This approval was preceded by several tests with different machines, about which unfortunately there are no longer any official documents. Today we can only prove some of these tests on the basis of known items. Two examples of this are shown in Fig. 9.



Fig. 9: Two covers from the first trials with continuous-impression stamping machines in Hungary

The tests were carried out in the post offices Budapest 4 (main post office) and Budapest 72 (post office at Keleti station) in the summer of 1907. From this test phase, only large-format illustrated printed matter envelopes addressed to the USA from the sender Dr. D. Bayer are known (see Fig. 9)! To the best of the author's knowledge, the upper item in Fig. 9 bears the earliest known cancellation of the Krag machine from Hungary. It is from the Budapest 4 post office of July 27, 1907 with eight straight cancellation lines between the daters. The distance between the centres of the daters is approx. 79 mm, which corresponds to half the circumference of the Krag stamping roller.

The lower document was postmarked five days later, on Aug. 1, 1907, at post office 72. This machine had a stamping roller with a smaller diameter, since the distance between the daters there is only approx. 66 mm. This cancellation probably even comes from a competing machine (Sylbe machine from Germany), which was also tested in parallel with the Krag machine. This is also supported by the larger diameter of the daters, their arrangement rotated by 90° and the different design of the cancellation lines. The machine obviously did not run optimally, since the upper half of the cancellation is practically non-existent. The code letter "B" suggest that there must have been a second machine too (with code letter "A"), but there is no proof of this.

According to Postal Regulation No. 67,864, release of the Krag machine applied only to Post Office 72, and wavy cancellation lines were mandated for the stamping roller. This was also implemented in post office 72, as can be seen from the example in Fig. 10 below. The card in Fig. 10 was posted on the last day of 1907 and bears a Krag cancellation with the identification letter "a" and seven closely spaced wavy cancellation lines. In the post office at Budapest 72, only one Krag machine with this stamping roller was used until around 1910.

Curiously, the test machine in post office 4 continued to operate with the straight line canceller. Following illustration 10 shows an envelope posted Nov. 10, 1907 as a printed matter with the same cancellation as on the top cover of Fig. 9 from the test phase. There is evidence that this machine continued to be used until the end of 1909. The author is not aware of any further Krag cancellations from the main post office (post office 4) from the time after that!



Fig. 10: Cancellation of the first Krag stamp machine permanently used in post office 72 from December 31, 1907



Fig. 11: Use of the Krag machine in the Budapest Main Post Office with straight cancellation lines of 10 Nov 1907

After 1909, stamp machines were only operated in the post office 72 for a few years. In 1910, new

canceller with expanded wavy lines was introduced there, and a second machine with the code letter "b" was added. Around 1917, new daters with code letters "A" and "B" were introduced while retaining the wavy cancellation lines. See Figures 12 to 14 to confirm these statements.

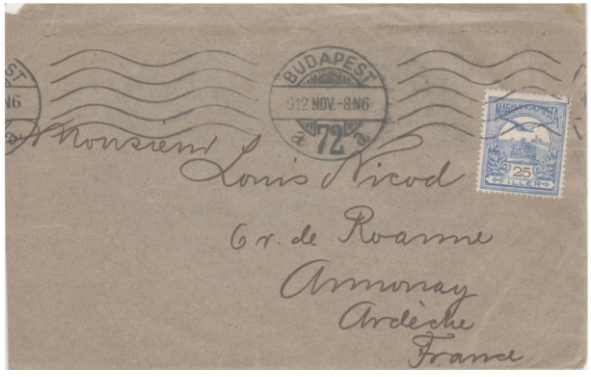


Fig. 12: Cancellation of the newly introduced stamping roller in the Budapest Post Office 72 with five expanded wavy cancellation lines and code letter "a"



Fig. 13: Cancellation of the new Krag machine installed in post office 72 in 1912 with code letter "b" and with vertical separation lines between the daters and the cancellers.



Fig. 14: Cancellation of the new stampingroller introduced in 1917 in post office 72 with code letter "B" from September 17, 1917

Around the middle of 1913, the Budapest 62 post office (post office next to Nyugati station) also received a Krag stamp machine. The design of the cancellation lines was identical to that of post office 72. The code letters "Hh" were used in the dater. Fig. 15 shows a letter card dated September 28, 1912 with such a cancellation. From this point in time, three Krag machines were in use at the Hungarian Postal Administration in the period relevant to this article: two in the Budapest Post Office 72 and one in the Budapest Post Office 62. Fig. 16 shows a cancellation of the already much worn stamping roller of the machine of post office Budapest 62, Nov. 4, 1917.



Fig. 15: Cancellation of the in post office Budapest 62 newly installed Krag machine from September 28, 1913 with code letters "Hh" and five wavy cancellation lines



Fig. 16: In November 1917, the stamping roller of the machine newly introduced in 1913 (see fig. above) shows clear signs of wear

The coronation of Karl and Zita on December 30, 1916 also presented the Hungarian Post with special challenges. In order to cope with the rush for special cancellations that were only valid on this day, Krag stamp machines with new dies were used in post offices 62 and 72. Examples of this are shown in Fig. 17 and 18. It is an interesting observation that machine postmarks of the coronation are much rarer than hand postmarks.



Fig. 17: Special cancellation of the Krag machine of the Budapest Post Office 62 on the day of the coronation of Karl and Zita on December 30, 1916



Fig. 18: Identical special cancellation as above, here from the Budapest 72 post office. The daters were accidentally inserted upside down in the stamping roller. Due to partial double feed the cancellation is not complete.

At the end of 1917, the Krag stamp machine of the Budapest Post Office 62 was equipped with a new stamping roller, which had straight cancellation lines. First five cancellation lines were tried, the number of which was then increased to six towards the end of 1918. The latter version was then used until around 1922. The dater has remained unchanged throughout. Fig. 19 shows an example for both variants.



Fig. 19a Cancellation with the new stamping rollers of the Krag machine of the Budapest 62 post office: in rare blue colour and with five cancellation lines from June 1918

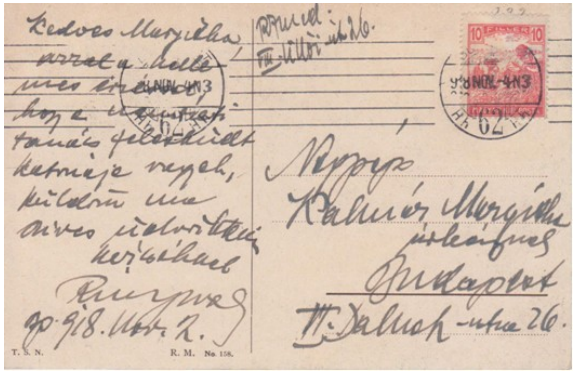


Fig. 19: Cancellation with the Krag machine final version with six cancellation lines from Nov. 1918

From the early 1920s, the cancellation lines of the Krag stamping rollers were sporadically supplemented with text containing either advertising or postal information. Two examples of this are shown in Fig. 20 and 21.

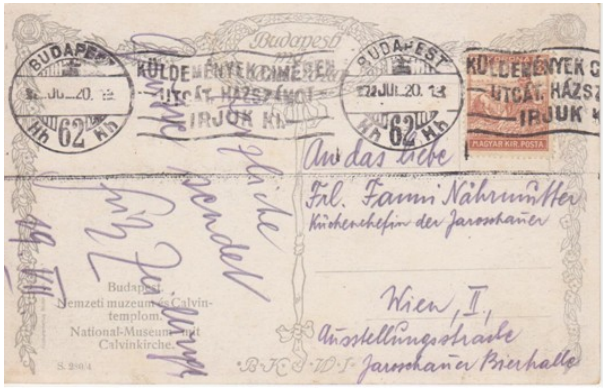


Fig. 20: Krag cancellation of the Budapest 62 post office of July 20, 1922 with the request: "Küldemények címében/utcát, házszámot/irjuk ki" = Indicate street and house number in the address"

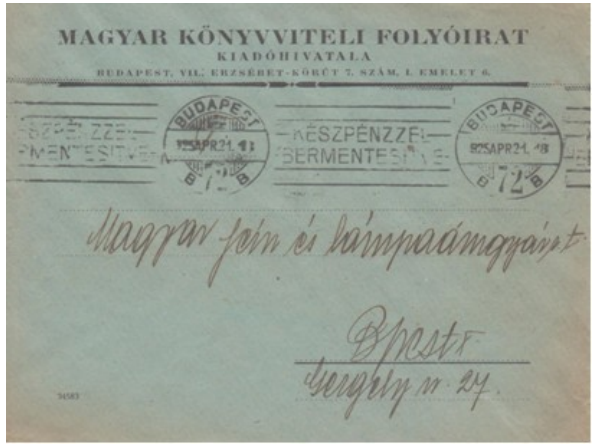


Fig. 21: From 1920 onwards, post offices 62 and 72 in Budapest used stamping rollers with the postal notice "Készpénzzel / bérmentesítve" = "fee paid in cash". This letter was postmarked on April 21, 1925 in post office 72 with machine "B".

3. THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN POST'S SECOND PERMANENTLY USED STAMP MACHINE

Even during the triumph of the Krag continuous-impression machine, a single impression stamp machine appeared on the world market, which had a comparable price-performance ratio to the Krag machine and had the advantage that the letters were not "defaced" by the stamping. It was the fully automatic stamp machine from the manufacturer UNIVERSAL Stamping Machine Company from the USA. The Hungarian Post used universal stamping machines on a permanent basis only from 1930 (with the very characteristic stylized tulip motif between the cancellation lines), but there were at least two short-term uses before that, which are discussed below. First, however, the function of the universal machines should be briefly described.

The greatest challenge in the technical realization of a single-impression stamp machine is the "synchronization" of the position of the document to be stamped and the position of the stamping roller. As already mentioned in Chapter 2, the need for synchronization arises on the one hand from the condition that the stamp mark must always have the same distance from the right-hand edge of the document, and on the other hand from the fact that the documents to be stamped have different dimensions in the direction of flow. In order to realize synchronization, the stamping roller must not rotate continuously. Its rotation must be initiated from the right edge of the document and, after stamping has been completed, the stamping roller must always return to the same rest position.

Fig. 22 shows a page of inventor Frederick E. Poor's January 1917 patent, filed by Universal Stamping Machine Co. for the synchronization solution. Other details of the machine are not dealt with in this patent.

The whole mechanism consists of a synchro lever, two spring-loaded rocker arms, a connecting rod and a cam which is firmly connected to the stamping roller. In the patent application, the synchronous mechanism is shown in three different positions (see "Fig. 1. 2. and 3." in Fig. 22).

In "Fig.1.", the synchronous mechanism is in the stop position while a document to be stamped (shown in red) is being conveyed through a first pair of feeding cylinders (not shown) to the second pair of feeding cylinders (shown). The two rocker arms are in the stop position as a result of the force of their tension springs, as a result of which the synchro- lever is held in a position in which it blocks the path of the document. The stamping roller is prevented from rotating by its cam from the roller of the rocker arm 1, while the clutch (not shown) between the drive motor and the stamping roller slips.

When the synchro-lever is touched by the incoming document, it rotates counter-clockwise around its bearing point on rocker arm 2 (see “Fig.2.”). The same rotation is transferred to rocker arm 1 through the coupling rod (see green arrows). At this moment, the rotation of the stamping roller is released and stamping can take place.

While the stamping roller is completing its rotation, rocker arm 1 is turned back to the stop position by the force of its tension spring, whereupon the connecting rod turns the synchronization lever clockwise (see green arrows in "Fig. 3."). However, the synchro-lever cannot yet assume its stop position because it is being pushed down by the document running past. This is made possible by turning the rocker arm 2 clockwise. When the stamped document has left the tip of the synchro-lever, the tension spring pulls rocker arm 2 back into its stop position, allowing the synchro-lever to jump back into its stop position shown in "Fig.1".

A maximum of approx. 800 mixed documents per minute could be stamped with this machine. When you consider that the processes described above have to take place 13 times per second (!) at maximum output, you can really imagine how sensitively the coordination of the forces and movements of the mechanism had to be for a process-reliable function.

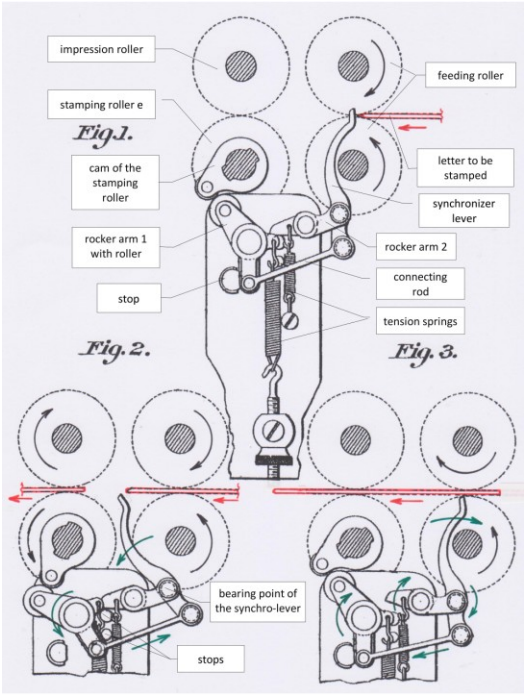


Fig. 22: Structure and function of the synchronization of the position of the stamping roller and the document in the fully automatic UNIVERSAL single-impression stamp machine according to the patent application



Fig. 23: The first tests were carried out with the Universal single-impression stamp machine in the Budapest 72 post office in the spring of 1915

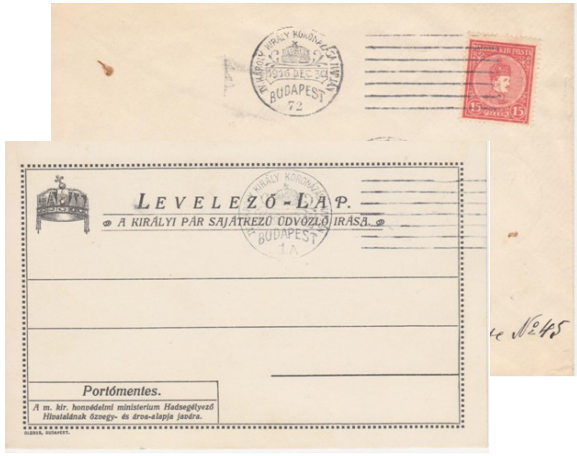


Fig. 24: Use of the Universal single-impression stamp machine on the occasion of the coronation of Karl and Zita on December 30, 1916 in the post offices Budapest 1 and 72

The author is aware of two short-term uses from before the permanent use of the Universal machine in Hungary from 1930 onwards. Fig. 23 shows a postcard stamped on April 3, 1915 in the Budapest 72 post office with a Universal machine. The appearance of the cancellation corresponds 100% to the cancellations known from Germany for the Universal machines used there. It can be assumed with high probability that the first tests of the Universal machines in Hungary took place in this period. It is not known whether other post offices were also involved, since official postal documents on this could unfortunately not be found.

Fig. 24 shows two documents with mechanical special postmarks on the occasion of the coronation of Karl and Zita on December 30, 1916. These show the same cancellation lines as in the previous case and come from two different post offices: Budapest 1 and Budapest 72. According to [6], three machines with slightly different dies for the special cancella-

tion were used in post office 1 and a fourth machine was used in post office 62. (However, in [6] the Universal cancellations were incorrectly assigned to the Krag machine).

4. USE OF A SIMPLE HAND OPERATED STAMP DEVICE IN HUNGARY

The simple stamp devices are operated by hand (or more rarely by foot). As already mentioned in the introduction, the die is moved up and down almost vertically. The advantage of these machines is that due to the leverage ratio that is always present, the required manual strength is lower (the wrist joints are protected!) and that a crooked strike of the die is impossible. The possible number of letters per minute is not significantly higher than with conventional hand stamping. Such devices were already in use from 1857 (inventor: Pearson Hill, England). Apart from England, the Netherlands, Italy, France and Australia used their own designs that differed slightly from each other even before 1900. For us Hungarian collectors, the French hand stamp machine patented by Eugene Daguin in 1881 is of interest, which was also in permanent use in Romania and Bulgaria from 1890 onwards.

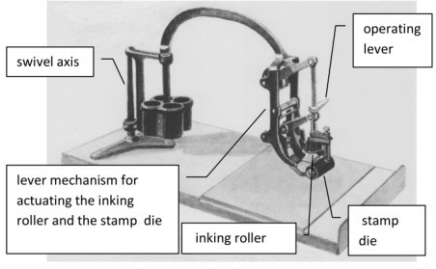


Fig. 25: The Daguin hand operated stamp machine

Its structure can be seen in Fig. 25. A bracket that can be pivoted about a vertical axis carries at its front end an articulated lever mechanism that is equipped with the die and the inking roller. If this mechanism is pressed down from the resting position, the inking roller first pivots backwards and moistens the die in the process. With further actuation, the die is moved downwards and strikes exactly over the entire surface of the stamp table.

Last year, collector friend Istvan Szekeres succeeded in finding a document in the Hungarian Stamp Museum, which can be considered as proof of the use of the Daguin machine in Hungary. According to [1], this took place in the years 1924-26. At this time the time of hand stamping devices was actually over, hand stamping machines were only used occasionally in England and France up to the 1950s. Figures 26 to 28 show a compilation of Hungarian cancellations assigned to the Daguin machine. They were duplex cancellations consisting of a dater and an advertising canceller. Their shape and arrangement was identical to the French Daguin postmarks in use at the same time. The advertising cancellations for the trade fairs in Budapest from 1924 to 1926 from the post offices at Budapest 4, 62 and 72 are most common (see Fig. 26). On the occasion of the publication of the first set of sports motifs in 1925, advertising postmarks with the inscription "Use sports - stamps" were introduced in several cities (Budapest, Szeged, Miskolc) (see Fig. 27). Finally, Fig. 28 shows a rare strike, which was used on the occasion of a sports history exhibition of the National Museum in the Budapest 80 post office. Furthermore, Daguin postmarks on the occasion of the Jokai exhibition of the National Museum in 1925 and the international scout meeting in 1926 are known. These were also only used for a few weeks and are therefore rare.



Fig. 26: Daguin advertising cancellations of the Budapest Post Office 62 on the occasion of the Budapest Sample Fair 1924 (below), and the Post Office 72 on the occasion of the Budapest International Fair 1925 (above)



Fig. 27: Daguin advertising cancellations "Use sports stamps" from the Budapest 62 post office on the back of an express letter to Vienna from 1925



Fig. 28: Daguin advertising postmark "Sports History Exhibition in the Hungarian National Museum, May 1926" of the Budapest Post Office 80.

LITERATURE USED:

[1] Geslin, Rene: Un homme…une machine, DAGUIN. Paris 2010

[2] Kohlhaas, W. und Riese, I.: Die Briefstempelmaschinen von Haller und Co., Soest 1995

[3] Botár, J.: Beschreibung der Räumlichkeiten, der Einrichtungen, der Verbrauchsmaterialien und der postdienstlichen Geräte der Post und Telegraphie. Budapest 1899

[4] Kohlhaas, W. / Riese, I.: Die Bandstempelmaschinen von KRAG und SYLBE. Soest 2007.

[5] A Magyar Királyi Posta Szabályrendeleteinek Gyűjteménye (Sammlung der Verordnungen der Königlich Ungarischen Post) Band VI. Budapest 1910

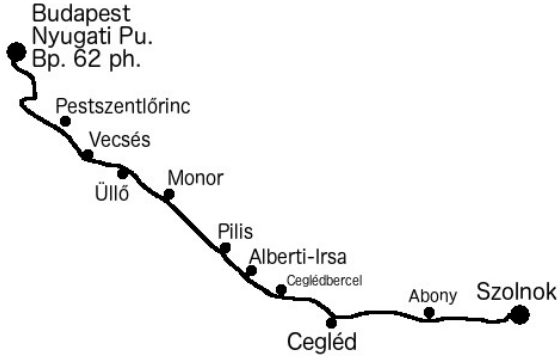
[6] Mihályfi, Ernő: A magyar alkalmi bélyegzések katalógusa (Katalog der Sonderstempel von Ungarn) MABÉOSZ Budapest, 1988

[7] Autorenkollektiv: Monografie der Ungarischen Briefmarken, Band I., Budapest 1965

MAIL TRAFFIC DURING THE PERIOD OF MILITARY OPERATIONS – 1944-1945



BY JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST



1. Stations along the Budapest-Szolnok railway line

One of the prerequisites for restarting postal traffic was to create, under the existing circumstances, the speedy and functioning connection between larger towns separated by distance.A good example of this was the Budapest-Szolnok railway line or, as the railway workers called it, line number 628.Inasmuch as this was the first line to be restored to service, it was the earliest one to establish railroad service from Budapest as a result.This line connected with the trains running between Szolnok and Debrecen, so it was quite possible to send mail closures from Budapest even as far as Debrecen relatively early.Mail closures could even be forwarded from Debrecen beyond the border (to Transylvania).In other parts of the country, mail closures were restarted in a similar fashion using the railways.Postal workers took advantage of the situation as soon as it became possible to find suitable transportation.

I am using this example for mail closures because this is the railway line along which most of the mailbag closure documents were saved by enthusiastic collectors.Hence, it's best possible example to use for reconstructing history.

MAIL CLOSURES

We refer to the so-called officially tabulated direct shipments addressed between post offices as mail closures.Such mail bags contained all the postal material handled according to the appropriate directives that was intended to be transported in a specific direction.The tabulated contents mail closures included letters, fiscal or combined transactions.Ordinarily, the closures were sealed in a bag but sometimes wrapping paper was used.The postal bags containing letters were simply tied with a string and sealed with an official label (vignette).Fiscal and combined bags were locked with a clip-together lock specially designed for bags (American lock).This lock could be opened only after tearing the officially stamped and signed piece of paper attached to it.

Postal bags were unavailable right away, and the quantity of letters also did not justify their use.Oftentimes, all of the mail could be fitted into a large envelope, and these closures could then be given to the operators of the steam locomotives

who would transmit them.Unfortunately, there is no additional postal data available to me.

Early letter closures were written by hand and included the names of the sending post office as well as the receiving one along with the date of the sending.The date would have been added by hand until the time when the post office acquired and started using a stamping device or postal canceller.There exist letter closures that were reused several times with the name of the receiving post office crossed out and a new name written over it.This points to a severe shortage of everything.

Eventually, the wording on letter closures was standardized by the central authorities.This text was typewritten on the cover sheets, but later printed versions appeared.The typewritten ones that turned up after this indicate that the printed copies were probably depleted.

The approved text is as follows:

'Letter closure from ..... post office.
Transported by locomotive engineers operating occasional trains.
Transportation to places not located along railroad lines by road guards and road repair personnel.
If the post office is not functioning, then it needs to be handed over to town authorities or the town mayor.
To the honourable Post Office .....'

Both the printed and the typewritten version contain many spelling errors.The most common mistake is writing *útőrök* (road guards) as *uttörők (*pioneers).Naturally, versions that differ from the official text also exist.

Now, let's examine the start of postal traffic in the towns along the railway line and the sending of the first letter closures.

SZOLNOK

Due to the bombings, most buildings in Szolnok were destroyed or heavily damaged.All three bridges were blown up.The city's infrastructure was destroyed: road, water supply lines and sewer systems.The municipal administration was evacuated on October 8, 1944.

Szolnok was captured by the Red Army on November 4, 1944.Out of the city's population of forty thousand, only four thousand remained to greet the arrival of the Soviets.The rest had fled.

After Budapest, Szolnok was the country's second most important railway junction point.Capturing it was important to the Soviet military planners in order to secure the lines of transportation for supplies.Without capturing the city, the Soviet army's supply lines could be secured only in by time-consuming detours.

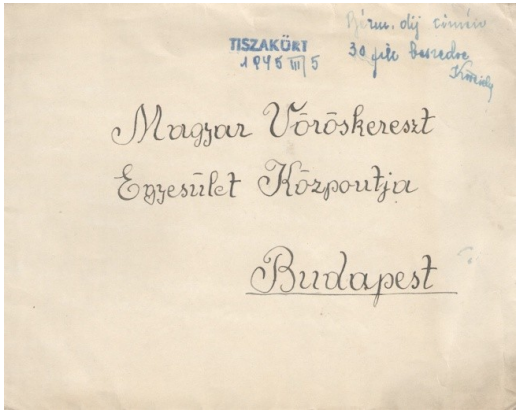
The Soviets transformed the town into a hospital-city.Every useable building was made into a hospital to provide care for the wounded.The two large halls of the Tisza Hotel became operating rooms.Furniture and material from municipal archives was burned and used to provide heating.

Most likely, the postal cancellers and much of the other postal supplies were evacuated. The lack of these is indicated by the use of rubber cancellers on early letters.

The post office started to function on December 31st.The no. 2 post office operated inside the Szolnok railway station.Its employees gave the letter closures to the locomotive operators for transmittal and accepted the same from them.



2. Registered local letter stamped with a provisional rubber canceller, posted on January 3, 1945 at the Szolnok no. 1 post office.This was handled a few days after the post office reopened.



3. Letter sent from Tiszakürt to Budapest of March 15, 1945 cancelled with the Tiszakürt post office's provisional rubber canceller.The letter was transported on the Szolnok-Budapest railway line.

Abony

The manager of the Abony post office collected all of the postal securities and cancelling devices according to the evacuation orders before the fighting along the front line advanced to the town.He then fled westward, but in passing through Budapest, he turned over the accumulation to the authorities.Thus, after the fighting subsided, the Abony post office was left without supplies and staff.

Abony was captured by the Red Army on November 4, 1944.It is certain that the post office was functioning on January 16, 1945.Conceivably, it could have opened earlier, but there is no actual data available to confirm this.The primary reason for the delayed opening could have been the lack of a trained postal employee.The local National Council assigned a lawyer to head the postal service, but he was removed after receiving many complaints including ones from the Russian military command about the operation of the office.To replace him, a local tavern owner was entrusted with the task on March 17th. This person was a member of the Hungarian Communist Party, but he was ill-suited to run a post office.Despite this handicap, he was effective in this task.

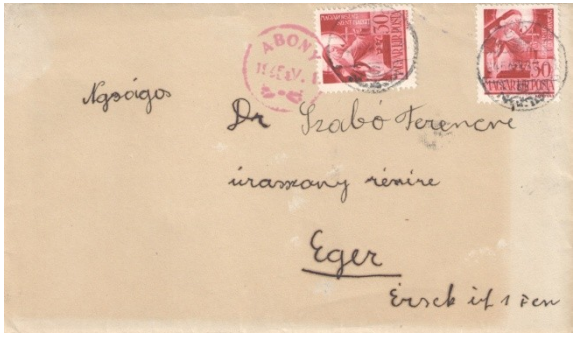
The "ABONY C" control letter canceller remained in the post office.

To ease the shortage of stamps in Abony, the new office manager created emergency postage stamps.

The Abony post office sent its first mail closures in the direction of the railway post offices of Szolnok 2 and Cegléd 2.We know for sure that on February 6th, mail closures were sent in both directions.The dispatched closures consisted of ordinary letters posted at Abony and surrounding settlements.The post office bundled the letters in wrapping paper and passed them on to the station master.The staff at the station master's office then handed over the closures to locomotive engineers for forwarding.

On April 25th, the Soviet military commandant of Abony called a meeting for leaders of all of the district's offices in order to discuss how to celebrate the May 1st holiday in a dignified manner.Naturally, the acting postmaster also participated in the meeting.He recommended that the post office use a special occasion canceller with red ink to commemorate the eminent day.The Soviet military commander liked the idea very much.

The office manager created a home-made special canceller using a pipe to fasten the letters of the town name as well as the date plus a leafy ornament.The diameter of the special canceller was 22mm. Today, it can be seen in the Stamp Museum.



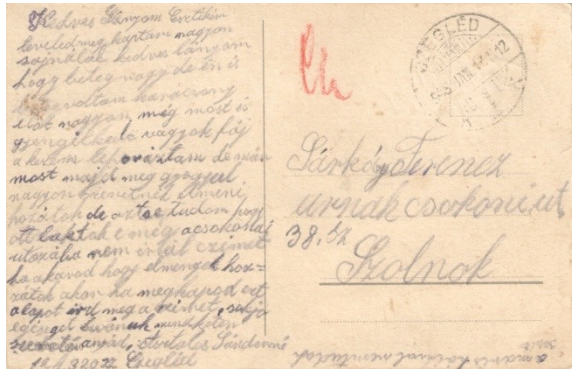
4. Letter sent from Abony to Eger on April 30, 1945.The "ABONY C" control letter cancellation and the commemorative May 1st cancellation can be seen on it.

Cegled

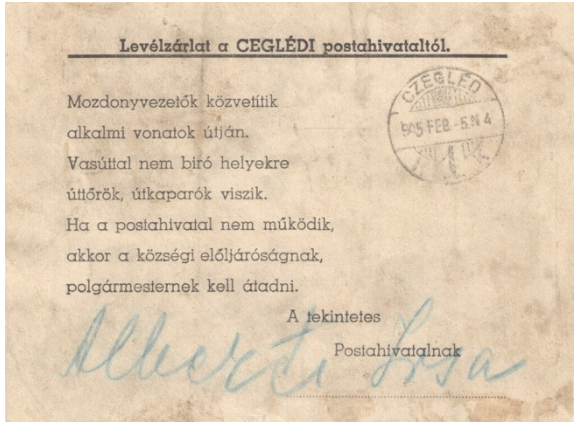
The Red Army occupied Cegléd on November 4, 1944.The town was an important base for the military operations directed at Budapest.For a long time, it served as the headquarters for Marshall Malinovsky.The Soviet military also used the place to recuperate and to replenish its lost or destroyed equipment.

The Cegléd no. 1 post office opened to the general public on November 29th.Its lone remaining canceller was the "Cegléd 1K" cancelling device.

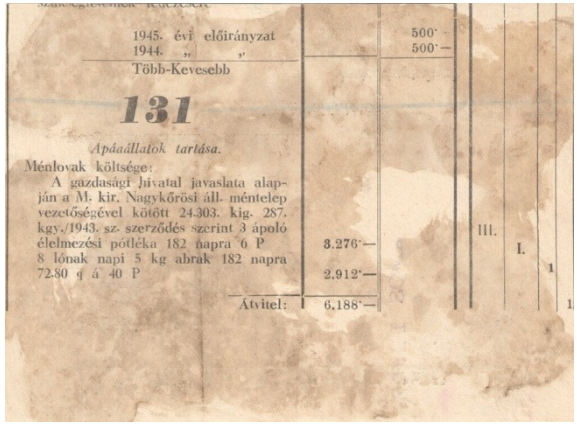
The track of the railroad between Szolnok and Cegléd was repaired by the end of November.This line became one of the most important supply routes for the Red Army as it was staging its forces to commence the siege of Budapest as soon as possible.Initially, this line was used strictly for military transportation, but the operators of the equipment gladly accepted mail closures from conveyance between the two stations or even beyond.Even though it was slow in the beginning, postal traffic began to function between the localities connected by the railway line.The Cegléd no. 2 post offices operated in the railroad station of Cegléd.It did not have a surviving canceller and resorted to using a temporary rubber stamp.



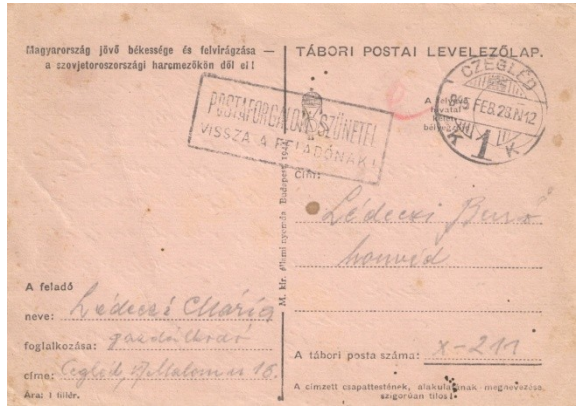
5. A picture postcard sent from Cegléd to Szolnok on January 17, 1945.The stamp was affixed to the picture side.



6. Editor remark: see continued in the following page

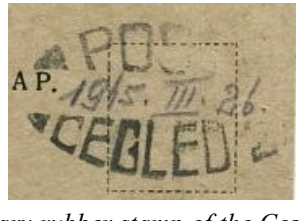


7. Printed mail closure cover sheet sent on February 5, 1945 from Cegléd to Alberti-Irsa.The back side of the cover sheet shows that it was printed on an old document form and there is evidence of the sheet being glued to the closure.



8. Domestic type fieldpost card sent from Cegléd on February 28, 1945 addressed to a fieldpost number.

The above card was transported by rail to Budapest where it was stamped with the text “POSTAL SERVICE INTERRUPTED/RETURN TO SENDER!” because it could not be delivered. It was returned to the sender.The use of this stamp in areas already captured by the Red Army is scarcer than in other areas under the control of the Hungarian Royal Post.



9.The temporary rubber stamp of the Cegléd no. 2 post office.



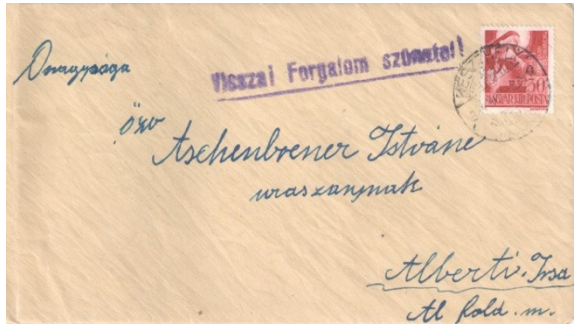
10. Street scene from Cegléd in 1945.The names and direction of towns can be seen on the street sign: Abony, Kecskemét, Szolnok, Budapest, Alberti, Cegléd-bercel. (Fortepan / Vörös Hadsereg / 175248)

Alberti-Irsa

We learned the Alberti-Irsa stories from the personal recollections provided by Emil Kutas.

Train service stopped on November 2, 1945.A train departed to Pest in the morning, but on the return leg it only got as far as the station in Pilis. As a result, the postal service had completely stopped then.The post office was evacuated and the staff took all of the cancellers with them.Some stamps remained in the office.

The Red Army captured the settlement on November 7th.The secretary of the local communist party and another high-ranking local official contacted the remaining postal workers who were still in the village on November 17th.They asked them to take possession of the post office and restart its operation, which they did immediately.The first mail closure to arrive from the direction of Cegléd was around November 18-20.In the beginning, since there was no postal device to cancel these closures, the date was handwritten.Since all of the cancellers from the Alberti-Irsa post office were taken away, the staff used a rubber stamp and hand wrote the date into it.

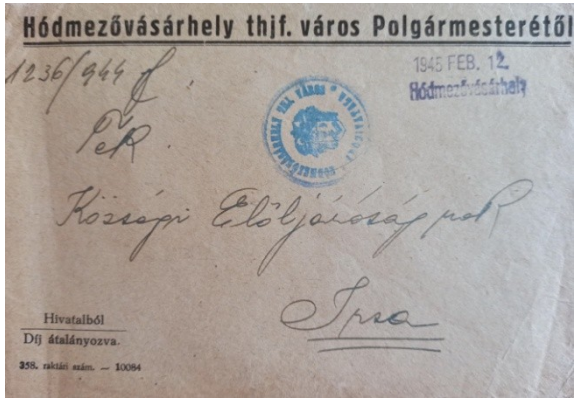


11. Letter sent from Keszthely to Alberti-Irsa on November 6, 1944.

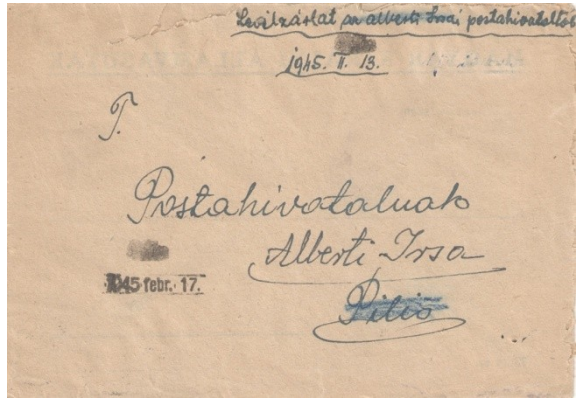
The letter was returned to the sender because the postal service was suspended.Alberti-Irsa was captured by the Red Army on November 7th.



12. Postcard sent from Alberti-Irsa to Kispest on January 24, 1945 cancelled with the Irsa rubber stamp.



13. Official correspondence sent from Hódmezővásárhely to Irsa on February 12, 1945 cancelled with the temporary rubber stamp of Hódmezővásárhely.

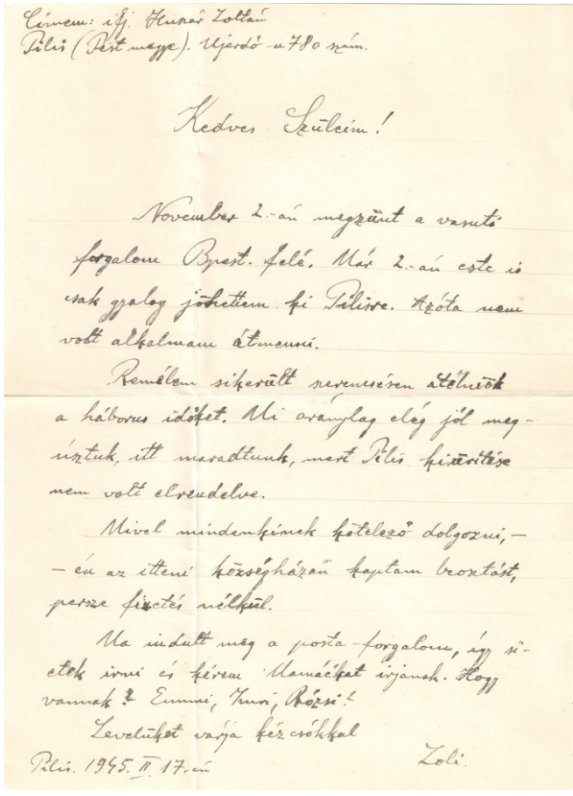


14. A mail closure cover written on an envelope sent from Alberti-Irsa to Pilis on February 13, 1945.The Pilis post office returned its own mail closure to Alberti-Irsa on February 17th using the same envelope.The "Pilis" inscription rubber stamp is visible right above the dates.

By February, mail closures from places farther away arrived in Alberti-Irsa.

Pilis

Train connection with Budapest ceased on November 2, 1945.Pilis was captured by the Red Army on November 10th.Because the post office was evacuated, cancelling devices were not available.A rubber stamp with the text "Pilis" was used starting in December 1944.The single-line device became illegible very quickly, possible because of the use of unsuitable ink.The postal traffic in the direction of Budapest restarted on February 17, 1945; however, the post office was open earlier because the proof is on the attached cover sheet of a mail closure showing that they received a closure from Alberti-Irsa on February 13th.


Címem: ifj. Hunyai Zoltán
Pilis (Pest megye). Ujsor u 780 szám.

Kedves Szüleim!

November 2-án megszünt a vasuti forgalom Budapest felé. Más 2-án este is csak gyalog jöhettem fel Pilisre. Azóta nem volt alkalmam átmenni.

Remélem sikerült szerencsésen átélnötök a háborus időket. Mi ugyanúgy elég jól megúsztuk, itt maradtunk, mert Pilis kiürítése nem volt elrendelve.

Mivel mindenkinek kötelező dolgozni, — — én az itteni községházán kaptam irnoktást, persze fizetés nélkül.

Ma indult meg a posta-forgalom, úgy siettek irni és kérem Mamácskát irjanak. Hogy vannak? Emmi, Kuni, Rózsi?

Levelüket várja forró csókkal

Pilis, 1945. II. 17-én

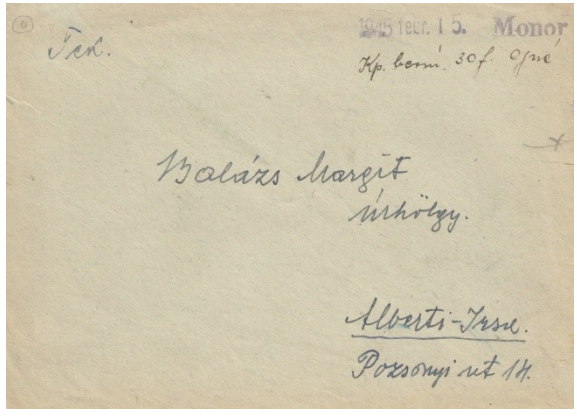
Zoli

15. Letter containing important information sent from Pilis to Budapest on February 17, 1945.

The writer of the letter relates that the train service with Budapest stopped on November 2, 1944.He also mentions that he is in a hurry to write because postal service became available today.Oftentimes, such personal correspondence reveals important facts for researchers that allows them to confirm the information found elsewhere.

Monor

Monort 1944. november 12-én foglalta el a Vörös Hadsereg. Szovjet kórház és ellátó részleg működött a községben. Itt sem maradt postai keletbélyegző a postán, így „Monor” feliratú gumibélyegzőt használtak. A teljes bélyegkészlet szintén nyugatra vándorolt, ezért készpénzes bérmentesítést alkalmaztak, amit kézzel a borítékra írva igazoltak. Márciusban már volt keletbélyegzője a hivatalnak „Monor F” jelű.


Pest.

1945 febr. 15. Monor

Kp. bérm. 30 f. Opw

Balázs Margit

úrhölgy.

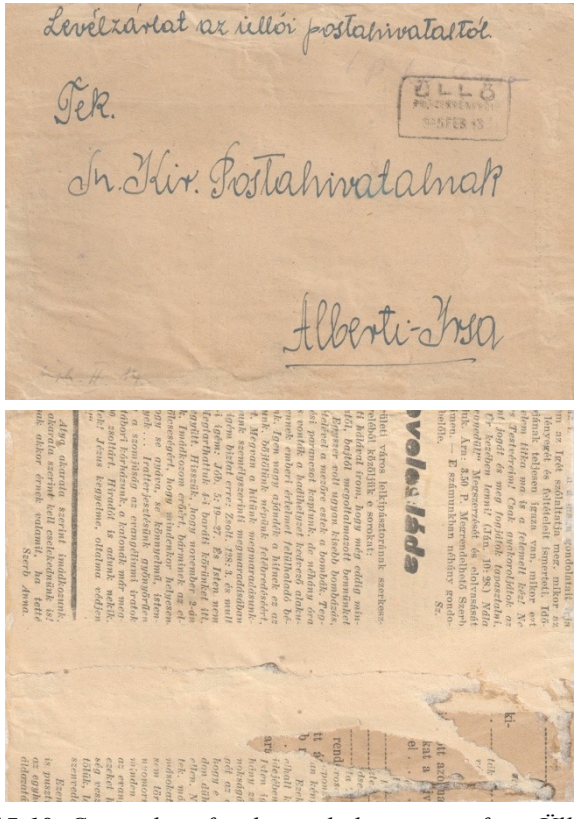
Alberti-Irsa.

Pozsonyi út 14.

16. Envelope sent from Monor to Alberti-Irsa on February 13, 1945 with the paid in cash endorsement and the Monor rubber stamp.This letter was forwarded via the Monor-Albeti-Irsa mail closure.

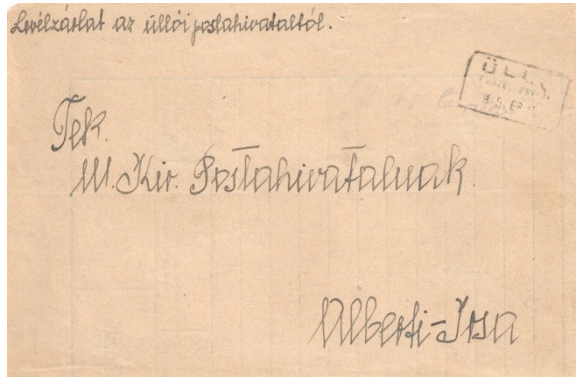
Ullo

The Soviet military evacuated the residents of Üllő to Ócsa on November 9th.From there, they started to return only around December 24-26.Only the railway station letter box canceller remained in the town; this was then put into use.



17-18. Cover sheet for the mail closure sent from Üllő to Alberti-Irsa on February 13, 1945.It arrived on February 14th.

The cover sheet was written on the back of a postal form.The mail closure was wrapped in a newspaper and the cover sheet was glued to the wrapping.



19. Cover sheet for a mail closure sent from Üllő to Alberti-Irsa on February 15, 1945.The cover sheet was also written on the back of a postal form.

Pestszentlőrinc

In November of 1944, a third of its residents were resettled to Kispest because of the impending siege.

Letters addressed to the evacuated part of the town were returned to the senders after being endorsed with “DISTRICT OF THE TOWN EVACUATED” stamp.

The Red Army captured Pestszentlőrinc on January 5, 1945.

By February 6th, the no. 1 post office of Pestszentlőrinc sent mail closures to the larger towns in the eastern part of the country including Debrecen that served as the seat of the government.The bundles sent there contained letters intended for delivery in the town as well as its environs.The mail closures were covered with wrapping paper and were entrusted to locomotive engineers for delivery to the designated towns.

On February 8th, three postal employees arrived on foot to retrieve the mail from east of the Tisza that was addressed to Budapest.

By March, letters could be sent from here to the USA thanks to the railroad connections.(I write more about this in the next instalment.)

VAROSRESZ KIÜRITVE

20. "VÁROSRÉSZ KIÜRÍTVE=DISTRICT OF THE TOWN EVACUATED" stamp applied to letters addressed to the part of Pestszentlőrinc that was evacuated.These letters were returned to the senders.

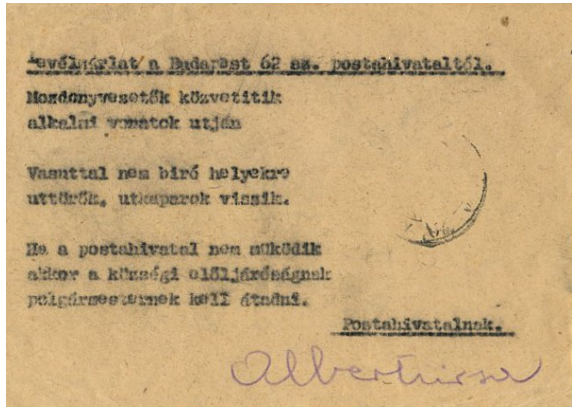
BUDAPEST NO. 62 POST OFFICE

The post office officially opened for the general public on March 2, 1945 along with nine other offices in Pest.It is an acknowledged fact, however, that it was operating much earlier, even for customers.By the end of January, the postal staff started to survey the damage and start the repairs to the office buildings.The first passenger train departed the Western Railway Station to Szolnok on February 4th.Most likely, it transported mail closures.Contemporary sources indicate that the post office was receiving mail closures by February 10th.

February 14th is the start date for regular train service along the MÁV line between Budapest and Szolnok.Trains ran on even numbered days, i.e., they departed on the 14th, 16th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th of the month, and these trains carried mail closures.The train did not run on the 18th.

By March 1st, a permanent "jegyzékelő menet" (a postal or railroad employee authorized to accept or deliver mail and officially record each transaction) was dispatched from the Budapest no. 62 post office to Szolnok making contact with each larger settlement along the way.

This post office was the starting and receiving point for all mail closures carried on all leaving and arriving trains from the Western Railway Station.This was facilitated by the fact that the building of the post office was next door to the railway station.


Levélzárlat a Budapest 62 sz. postahivatalból.
Rendonyvesetők közvetitik:
alkalmi vonatok utján

Vasuttal nem biró helyekre
uttörők, utlaparok visnik.

Ha a postahivatal nem működik
akkor a kirendelt elöljáróságnak
polgármesternek kell átadni.

Postahivatalnak.

Albertirsa

21. Mail closure from the Budapest no. 62 post office sent to Albertirsa.

Unfortunately, the cancellation is illegible.Presumably, the typewritten cover sheet is from a mail closure sent in February.It contains a general typographical error (uttörők).

Date	From	To
1944.11.15	Szentes	Nagyvarad 2.
	Bekescsaba 1	Mezobereny
1944.11.20	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1944.11.26	Szentes	Csongrad
1944.12.14	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1944.12.18	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.02	Nagykoros	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.05	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.06	Pestszentlorinc 1	Debrecen

1945.02.06	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.07	Cegled	AlbertI.Irsa
	Bp. 62	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.13	Ullo	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.13	AlbertI.Irsa	Pilis
1945.02.17	Pilis	AlbertI.irsa
1945.02.15	Ullo	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.17	Bp. 62	Pilis
1945.02.21	Ullo	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.22	Pilis	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.02.26	Kispest 1	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.03.10	Monor	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.03.27	Pestszentlorinc 1	AlbertI.Irsa
1945.03.28	Pestszentlorinc 1	AlbertI.Irsa

22. Mail closures of which I am aware.

The above table contains data about 23 mail closures.I compiled this data from mail closures listed in philatelic literature and contained in collections.The Gerőcs collection contains at least 143 mail closure cover sheets.Gyula Gerőcs annotated each cover sheet in his collection with a serial number and the text "GERŐCS" helping to identify them.I can state confidently that these internally used documents are a part of a very scarce category of documents from the military operations era.These are truly unique items.

To be continued!

I would like to express my appreciation to Gábor Voloncs† (illustration no. 7) and Mrs. Marianna Csatlós (illustration no. 10) for allowing me to use their items in my article.

LISTING OF USED LITERATURE

Pallas nagylexikon

Ikvai Nándor szerk.: Cegléd története

Pataki Ferenc: 8. A város a második világháború alatt, felszabadulás

Studia Comitatensia 11. Szentendre 1982

Pákozdi László: Inflációs bérmentesítések 1945 – 1946-ban

A magyar bélyegek monográfiája V. III. fejezet KÖZDOK 1967

Pákozdi László: Ideiglenes postaszolgálat Magyarországon 1944 – 45-ben

Philatelica 1972/2

Robert B. Morgan: The transitory war period of 1944 – 1945 – Hungary's postal history of the last months of WWII until April 30, 1945

Stamps of Hungary No.: 207 2016/12

Dr. Bernáth Gábor: Levélzárlatok 1944. november – 1945. március

MABÉOSZ pályázatra beadott kézirat

Kutas Emil: Postaszolgálat 1944 – 45-ben

Filatéliai Szemle 1969/11

Sugár István: A felszabadulás utáni két félhivatalos szükségbélyegkiadás története

Bélyegmúzeumi Szemle II. évf. 1. sz. 1970.

Dr. Rablóczky Árpád ny. postaigazgató a szentesi postahivatal korabeli megbízott vezetőjének visszaemlékezése

Gerőcs Gyula vegyészmérnök gyűjteménye

Szabó József: Kézbesítik az első levelet

Magyar Nemzet 1965. 02. 09.

HUNGARIAN HYPERINFLATION OF 1945-1946 : THE SINGLE DEFICIENCY CALCULATION



BY FLORENT TRICOT, FRANCE

I. INTRODUCTION

Following the destructions caused by the fightings at the end of the Second World War, the Hungarian Post had to start all over again, both in its organization and in its infrastructure. Much remains to be discovered about the restarting of the Post Office in Hungary, the Pest Tariffs (PET, Pest Emergency Tariffs) of the period 1945 March 2/April 30 and their new description in the article by János Dán from Philatelica 22-2 show that we can still find something to deepen our knowledge.

By my side, I was interested in the period of Hyperinflation of 1945-1946 and what I could bring about what we did not know, or little, previously.

There is one area that still remains mysterious, due to the absence of official postal documentation until June 1945, and especially the loss of specific documentation: the postage due area on unstamped or insufficiently stamped mail.

With the initial aim of being able to exhibit the topic of postage due in competitions, I have accumulated existing documentation and especially many mails.

The regulations for charged mail in “usual” situations have been fixed for a long time (1908, UPU), the penalty being double the deficiency (so, both of result of the shortage between the rate and the postage).

But, beyond the mail on which this calculation was actually applied, I have so far found myself faced with 23 other postage due situations, including what is called the single deficiency calculation.

The single deficiency is in fact the result of the calculation "rate less postage", to be claimed from the recipient of the mail. It presupposes that the mail is partially franked by the sender.

The postal texts mention this special calculation during certain grace periods during Hyperinflation, to see in this article. Nevertheless, recent years of personal study have lifted the veil on other situations where this calculation was apparently applied.

In the absence of official texts where the regulations would be clearly stated, only a comparative statistical study can be carried out to date: this is what I have endeavoured to do, pending confirmation, or possible invalidation in the future.

To have reasonable certainty during a statistical study, it is necessary to have a sufficient number of mail in front of you. Forced to note that the Hyperinflation postage due mail is a rare material. We can nevertheless have some certainty if we find, in a presumed situation, letters from several rate periods, from several dispatching and delivering post offices, in different rate levels (local, domestic, etc.), at least 2 of each category seems reasonable.

In this article, some situations are described using a sufficient number of mails found, others following the description of a very limited number, or even just one. We must therefore see this

article as an opening towards future additions, on my part as well as other collectors.

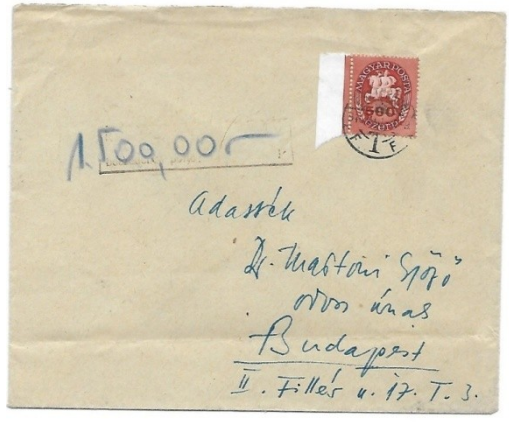
II.SINGLE DEFICIENCY GRACE (KNOWN REGULATIONS):

The postal texts provided for the possibility of managing in a special way by the dispatching Post Office the mail deposited in a mailbox, correctly franked, but whose collection is made during the first days of the following rate period. From the 27 rate periods, 15 authorized non-penalization of this type of mail, 2 required penalization by double the deficiency and finally 10 (periods 12 to 21, from April 11 to June 30, 1946) recommended, for their 3 first days (grace period), the single deficiency calculation to be collected from the recipient. See the table below:

period	Grace period	Calculation	period	Grace period	Calculation	période	Grace period	Calculation
1	No grace period	?	10	No G. period	Double deficiency	**19**	**June11/13**	**Single Deficiency**
2	**1945** July2/15	No penalty	11	No G. period	Double deficiency	**20**	**June17/19**	**Single Deficiency**
3	September16/30	No penalty	**12**	**April11/13**	**Single Deficiency**	**21**	**June24/26**	**Single Deficiency**
4	November1/15	No penalty	**13**	**April23/25**	**Single Deficiency**	22	July1	No penalty
5	November16/30	No penalty	**14**	**May1/3**	**Single Deficiency**	23	July4	No penalty
6	**1946** January14/21	No penalty	**15**	**May10/12**	**Single Deficiency**	24	July8	No penalty
7	February2/8	No penalty	**16**	**May20/22**	**Single Deficiency**	25	July12	No penalty
8	March1/9	No penalty	**17**	**May27/29**	**Single Deficiency**	26	July18	No penalty
9	March16/23	No penalty	**18**	**June1/3**	**Single Deficiency**	27	July24	No penalty

Thus, we see that the single deficiency was only effective for 30 days from 81 days, between April 11 and June 26, 1946. At present, about ten such letters are listed (Illustrating documents 01-03).

The period 14 rate for a domestic cover is 2 millióP for 20g (*PRT 223.000/4.*). The postage due on this cover is 1,500,000P , so from the single deficiency calculation (2 millió-500,000). The amount was handwritten in Esztergom and a rectangle postage due rubber stamp is affixed directly on the amount in Budapest before the request to recipient. Ex- Visnyovszki G



01 Correctly franked (500,000P for period 13) cover deposited inside a mailbox in Esztergom to Budapest, managed on 1946 May 1, first day and grace period of the period 14.



Fig. 02- Correctly franked (4x100eP+2x800eP=2 millióP for period 15) local printed invitation postcard deposited inside a mailbox in Budapest office4, managed on 1946 May20, first day of the period 16 grace period.

The period 16 rate for such printed matter is 8 millióP for 20g (*PRT 228.200/4.*). A first postage due amount is charged in the office4 inside the rectangle PORTO postage due marking: « 6mil » for 6 millióP , so from the single deficiency calculation (8 millió–2 millió). The sum due is requested from office10 on Mai21.

A « Nem Fogadta El. Refusé » sticker is affixed on the postcard because the recipient refused to pay the postage due. Back to the postoffice, « 8 » is handwritten near the sticker, it is for 8 millióP : this time, the penalty to request from the sender, so the rate who should be initialy stamped on period 16 on this postcard. A last red rectangle postage due rubber stamp is affixed and filled in « 8m » in the office 62 on May 25, before the request from the sender.



03- Correctly franked (2x20=40 millióP for period 16) cover deposited inside a mailbox in Kisszentmárton to Budapest, managed on 1946 May 27, first day of the period 17 grace period.

The period 17 rate for a domestic cover is 120 millióP for 20g (*PRT 230.000/4.*). The postage due on this cover is handwritten « 80m » for 80 millióP, so from the single deficiency calculation (120 millió-40 millió). A triangle type « T » postage due marking is also affixed in Kisszentmárton postoffice, the postage due request is confirmed in Budapest office 741 in using a May29 datestamp and cercling the amount due.

III. SINGLE DEFICIENCY CALCULATION ON UNCLOSED COVERS :

For the moment, no regulation has been found on a special calculation that can be applied to unclosed covers. My few discussions with experts nevertheless alerted me to a suspicion of existence, but this kind of material is really scarce.

A cover sent unclosed is a possibility given to the sender if its content does not present any particular value, it is nevertheless necessary to have a real confidence in the routing of the mail. Such mail is recognizable by the presence of all of the gum on the reverse side of the cover's flap: the flap was simply inserted inside the cover.

Following the liberation of Hungary then its supervision by the Soviet Army, a decree required that the mail be entrusted unclosed so that the censorship could be done more easily, but it was not applied for the mail deposited in mailbox , and the decree was withdrawn in September 1945.

Printed matter to be sent inside a cover had to be in an unclosed cover so that the sender could justify a reduced rate (for printed matter), the mention of the "Nyomtatvány" Hungarian word being compulsory.

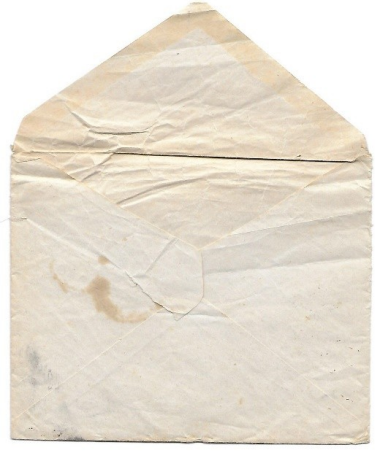
Printed postcards had no special treatment for postage due, double the deficiency being applied.

On the other hand, when a mail, containing a printed matter or not, was sent through an unclosed cover, then the single deficiency was obviously calculated for the sum due requested from the recipient. It took such 8 hyperinflation covers found, over different periods (presently from period 1 to period 22), different rates and different post offices where it was applied, to get to this evidence. A study over a longer time period than Hyperinflation may be able to establish the dates of the real application.

Was this mode of calculation during Hyperinflation not penalizing for the recipient a "reward" motivated by Soviet censorship if the sender facilitated the viewing of his mail? This remains to be clarified. (*Illustrating documents*(04-08):



Document 04 departs from the topic of this article since it is not stamped, but it opens the way for a study towards the pre-inflationary period:



04- Unfranked unclosed « ugly » cover sent to Hódmezővásárhely (arrival datestamp on 1945 May3).

.

60 fillér is a 1945 March2/April30 rate (PET, Pest Emergency Tariffs) for a 20g domestic cover (Pest / Grand-Budapest) and this amount could not be the result of a calculation with an period 1 Hyperinflation rate.

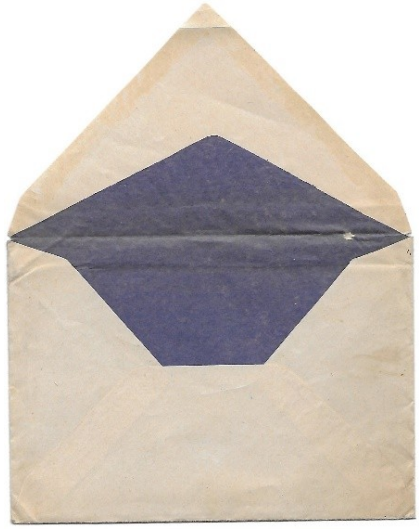
As « hivatalból portóköteles » words are not affixed on this cover , it is not an official cover payable by the addressee , then we can't say the single rate was requested with this cover from the recipient

So, 60f is the result of the single deficiency calculation 60-0=60. And it is meaning that this cover was sent during the PET) from another postoffice than Hódmezővásárhely, probably from Budapest (see header typed words)

To notice that the first Hódmezővásárhely affixed datestamp indicates « 945 MAJ-3 É8 », É= éjjel = night. It is a postoffice worker mistake, rectified on the brown postage due stamps by a « 945 MAJ-3 N8 », N = nappal=day, datestamp. 1945 May3 is presumed the first date from Hyperinflation known on postage due stamps affixed on mail (for instant, no May1 and May2 are listed).



05a Unsufficiently stamped at 30 f unclosed cover sent on 1945 May14 (period 1) from Nagykanizsa to Budapest.



05b The opened envelope.

The period 1 rate for a domestic cover is 1P for 20g. This cover was only charged at the arrival, the circle PORTO postage due marking was surely affixed in Budapest postoffice but the amount due is not charged at the same time.

When the cover was forwarded to Békescsaba, the calculation is then done, « T 70fill » is handwritten, so the single deficiency is requested (1P-30f=70f). No postage due stamps were affixed after, surely the Békescsaba postoffice had neither to be used at the arrival's date.



06- Unsufficiently stamped at 50 f unclosed cover sent from Csepel on 1945 August18 (period 2) to Budapest.

The period 2 rate for a domestic cover is 3P for 20g (*PRT 105.037/A4*).

This cover was charged 2P50f in Csepel with the single deficiency calculation (3P-50f=2P50f), « T2P50 » is handwritten dehind the postage due stamps.

Two forwardings happened in Budapest and each time, the 2P50f amount was confirmed. The last one was with hyperinflation overprinted postage due stamps (2P/*20f* + 40f/*12f* +10f/*2f*) in office 3 on August27.

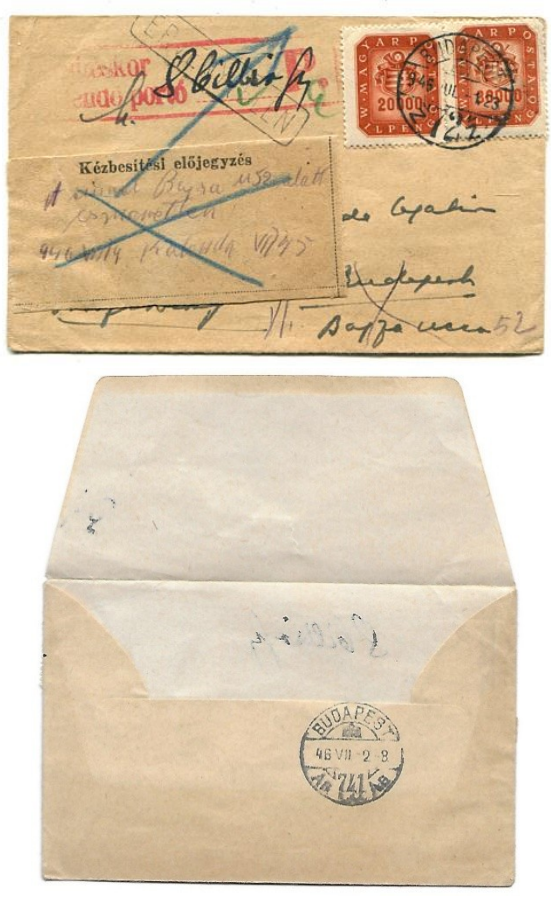
As the amount from the special single deficiency calculation was never modified on the cover in several postoffices, it confirms that this calculation was really a regulatory calculation at this time.



07- Unsufficiently stamped at 120 milliárdP unclosed local cover sent from Budapest on 1946 June26 (period 21).

The period 21 rate for a local cover is 240 milliárdP for 20g (*PRT 235.700/4*).

This cover was charged 120 milliárdP thanks to the single deficiency calculation (240-120 =120 milliárdP), amount handwritten inside a red rectangle postage due rubber stamp..



08- Unsufficiently stamped at 50 milliárdP unclosed local cover (containing printed matters, « Nyomtatvány » handwritten behind the coupon) sent from Budapest on 1946 July1 (period 22).

The period 22 rate for a printed matter is 8 billióP (=8.000 milliárdP) for 20g (*PRT PRT 237.500/4*).

The franking is largely neglectible in front of the new rate, so the single deficiency calculation gave the same amount than the rate (8,000 – 50 ≃ 8,000). 8billióP is charged inside a red rectangle postage due rubber stamp but the recipient is not found the address on the front. Then a research of the new address is done, without result. So, the request from a recipient is annulated, the amount due is invalidated by using of the « ÉRVÉNYTELEN » inside rectangle marking. A blue arrow is drawn because the cover had to be sent back to the sender. A green marking and sign are made inside the rubber stamp, it is surely to confirm the request of the 8billióP amount, this time from the sender.

IV. OFFICIAL MAIL, PAYABLE BY THE ADDRESSEE, BUT PARTIALLY STAMPED:

In Hungary, a certain number of Administrations had the possibility to send their mail for which the addressee had to pay postage. On such mail, the mention “hivatalból portóköteles” (ie. Administration, port at destination) was obligatory, except on summonses to a magistrate’s court.

These printed postcards to be filled in were sent stamped or not, and if they were not stamped, simple postage was required from the recipient, even in the absence of the appropriate mention.

If such documents were nevertheless partially franked, which a priori should not have been commonplace, then the single deficiency calculation seems to be applied. So far, only the card below has been listed in this situation (*Illustrating document* 09)



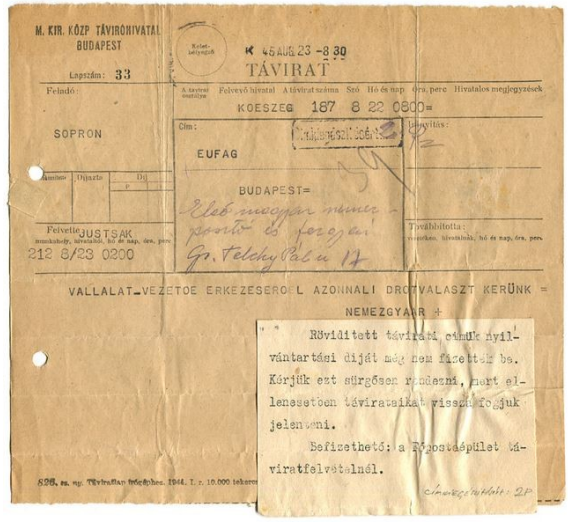
09- Local printed notice of Budapest District Court (Budapesti Törvényszék) sent from office 82 on 1945 October1 (period 3).

The sender attempted to postage the card at 40f (printed matter rate for 20g in period 2, instead of 2P in period 3, *PRT 127,000/A4*) with a postage stamp at 10f and one at 30f, the latter being demonetized since 1945 August 15 and therefore refused. The postcard was charged with the single deficiency calculation: 2P-10f=1.9P rounded to the nearest 1P (legal rounding in period 3) to 2P, amount handwritten in pencil with sign. A 2P/*60f* overprinted postage due stamp was affixed in the delivering post office to claim the 2P from the recipient (ügyvédek, lawyers).

V. TELEGRAM (TÁVIRAT) FOR WHICH THE SENDER DID NOT PAY WHOLLY THE DUES:

The telegram service is one of the state monopolies run by the Hungarian Post Department. Normally, the only relation to a postal using with a telegram is if the destination did not possess a telegraph office, then the telegram had to be sent inside a cover with the appropriate postal rate (costs claimed from the sender) from the nearest telegraph office: only one case has been listed like this (R. Morgan collection).

There is also another case, for instant the presumed only one listed for hyperinflation, for the following telegram *(Illustrating document 10)*



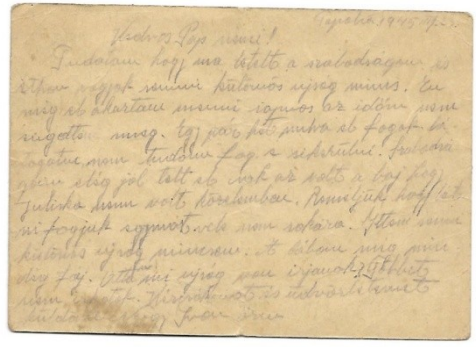


10- Telegram for 8 words from Sopron sent on 1945 August 23 (period 2) to Budapest.

The rate requested from the sender was then 1P per word, with a minimum of 10P to be collected (*PRT105.037/A.4, advice of 1945 June 15*).

It turns out that the sender did not want to pay this minimum, he only paid 8P. An coupon expaining the situation was typed for its management in the delivery postoffice, then pasted to the telegram, which demanded from the recipient the remaining 2P, that is, the single deficiency amount (10 – 8 = 2P) . A 2P/*60f* overprinted postage due stamp is affixed on August23 in Budapest, telegraph office, before collection of the sum from the recipient.

VI. CHARGING THAT IS INTENDED TO BE "NOT TOO PENALIZING"



Sometimes, a changing situation may require that the postage due amount be revised.

If faulty mail management has been to the disadvantage of the recipient, it may be decided to change the calculation in favor of the recipient, as with the following item *Illustrating document (11)* :



11- Insufficiently paid stationery postcard (only the 18f from the facial) sent on 1945 March25 from Lesencetomaj to Szentkirályszabadja.

At first, as the shipment is made during the PET period, the 40f rate for a domestic postcard (Pest/ Grand- Budapest rate) is applied, the amount due

is then 2x (40 – 18) =44f, “T 44 f” is then handwritten on the front.

It turns out that the postcard was not delivered to the addressee, it certainly remained in the dispatching postoffice. 7 weeks later, the postcard is processed again, this time during period 1.

The rate for a domestic postcard then rose to 60f. Noting the too long delay for the dispatch of this postcard, the postage due was “a bit” reviewed, this time for an amount of 42f, that is to say 60f - 18f, the single deficiency. “42” is then handwritten on “44”. This new amount is claimed on 1945 May 14, previously franked in the delivering postoffice with a 6f and three 12f brown postage due stamps.

VII. MISTAKES AND CONFUSIONS WITH THE SINGLE DEFICIENCY:

The different postage due calculations existing during the Hungarian hyperinflation sometimes created confusion situations, and therefore postage due amount errors. The supervisor of the post office clerk who decided an amount to be collected could review the amount due, so some postage due mail have corrections. When a postal situation is not provided for, it is subject to interpretation and therefore to a decision. Here are some situations related to the single deficiency: *Illustrating documents* (12-13):



12- Unsufficiently franked postcard (4x5+4=24 millióP) sent on 1946 May27 (first day period 17) from Bősárkány to Budapest.

The rate for a domestic postcard was 72 millióP in period 17 *(PRT230.000/4)*.

Initially, the postage due calculation was 2x (72-24) = 96 millióP, “T96 mill.” is handwritten in blue in the Bősárkány postoffice

Subsequently, in this postoffice, the amount due was corrected by the single deficiency (72-24=48): the postman must have told the postoffice worker that the postcard was found in a mailbox: it is correctly franked (24 millióP) with regard to the previous period 16 rate and it is managed during the period 17 grace period (May 27), the single deficiency should be applied.

In the delivering postoffice, a red rectangle postage due rubber stamp is filled in 48m with a sign before the request of this sum from the recipient.

On the following parcel delivery card he sender did not pay the rate for the weight at the postoffice, only the revenue part (500Adópengő) is paid with the two 1,000 milP postage stamps, so for 1.8 milliárdP rounded to 2 milliárdP. (*Illustration 18*)



13- Parcel card for a 16 kg weight parcel sent on 1946 June14 (period 19) from Máriapócs to Budapest. Ex Morgan

Then the postoffice worker had to write the sum due by the recipient (32 milliárdP for the weight+1.6 milliárdP for penalty =33.6 milliárdP) on the right low part of the card's front, but it was forgotten.

On June16, the parcel arrived in Budapest. On June17 (first day of period 20), the postoffice worker of the delivering postoffice realised that these is a missing in the rate to be paid on this card and, seeing the postage stamps affixed, he thought that these are for an insufficiently franking for the weight rate. He had to decide on the postage due to claim from the recipient but, as I could know, no regulation is planned for this case.

Then the single deficiency calculation was specialy made here :

160 milliárdP (period 20 rate for the weight) - 2 milliárdP (supposed franking) = 158 milliárdP , handwritten « 158.000 » on the card's correct part , it is an amount in MilP (millióP). A rectangle PORTO postage due marking is affixed at the same time.

No other such item has been listed for instant. We could think that an most regulatory calculation for the sum due would be 160 milliárdP for the weight+ 8 milliárdP (period 20 penalty) = 168 milliárdP to be requested. At the end, the recipient had to pay 158 milliárdP instead of 33.6 milliárdP, because of a postoffice mistake.

VIII. CONCLUSION:

Despite philatelic studies which have been intended to be more and more exhaustive in recent years on the subject of the Hungarian hyperinflation of 1945-1946, this period remains partially unknown, conducive to discoveries, in particular in the field of single deficiency calculation of postage due . The subject of postage due is fascinating, it still remains to be deepened, to define its continuity, or discontinuity, in relation to the periods surrounding hyperinflation.

It is by pooling knowledges, such as sharing informations, that we can then highlight one of the saddest pages historically speaking, but also the richest in terms of philately. If this article has an ultimate aim, then it is to arouse the interest of future researchers.

REFERENCES

« The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946 » by Robert Morgan, edited in 2003

« A MAGYAR BÉLYEGEK MONOGRÁFIÁJA V. (1945-1961) » by Pákozdi László, edited in 1967

Various articles from SHP, HPSGB and Mafitt (philatelica) magazines

János Dán (Philatelica 22/2 : Pest Tariffs, 2022)

PRT 1945 and 1946

Personal statistical study and items from my own collection.

A HUNGARIAN STAMP DEALER IN HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE





ADRIANO BERGAMINI, FRPSL – DENES CZIROK RDP, FRPSL

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the passing of stamp dealer Julian G. Clive. He was born in Hungary in 1909 as György Gyula Klein (Julius Georg Klein) in a wealthy bourgeois family. Already at the age of 8, he got to know stamps through exchanges with schoolmates. At the age of 19, he and his brother already opened a small shop where they sold sporting goods. Unfortunately, a fire destroyed everything a few years later, and then, in 1936, he decided to leave Hungary. He settled in Italy, where he was already engaged in stamp trading. Two years later, we find him in Paris, where he worked with the later famous Hungarian playwright István Örkény. In 1939, Örkény had to return to Hungary, from where he could no longer return to Paris. So Klein stayed on in Paris, where he contacted the "Garibaldi Legion" and went to Portugal for their mission; on the way back he stopped in Tangier. At that time, Paris was already occupied by German troops, so he had no way back there and stayed in Morocco.

In Tangier, he met Edward Wharton Tiger (1913-1995), an officer of the British secret service (Special Operations Executive - SOE), embassy adviser, with whom he participated in a series of joint operations. At that time, he was already involved in stamp trading, e.g. he bought a large quantity of Soviet stamps, which he then sold to the Spanish traders who came over from Spain at the weekend. Through business activities like this, he acquired a large amount of foreign currency, which he later used for Tiger to pay British Secret Service agents in enemy territory in various currencies. It would not have been good for the Bank of England if the British agents had been paid directly in British pounds or Swiss francs, on the one hand for safety of the agents and on the other as outflow of large amounts of money could have caused fluctuations in the value of the British pound. Because of this, Klein received a large quantity of British stamps from London, which he then exchanged through stamp dealers in different countries for various currencies, which could be used to pay the agents working abroad. The magnitude of the barter business is well illustrated by the fact that he sold nearly £1 million worth of stamps in 2 years. That was a huge amount of money at the time.

The stamp also played an important role in another war action. Klein and Tiger came up with the idea of counterfeiting the most common stamp of the German post, the 6 Pfenning value, which featured Hitler's likeness, in such a way that Heinrich Himmler's likeness was put on the stamp instead of Hitler's. The idea was that this would cause confusion and give the appearance that Himmler wanted to seize power. The stamps were produced in London, in excellent quality. Now the only task was to spread the stamps, which was solved by sending fake orders to the Swiss merchants who were looking for the stamps in Germany. At the same time, the stamps were delivered from London to the German territory, with a perfect fake Stuttgart postmark. In the end, the action was not very successful, but around 30 employees were dismissed from the post office in Stuttgart.

In June 1943, Klein and Tiger went to London, where he soon received British citizenship for his services to the country and changed his name to Julian Clive. In the beginning, he worked with the

stamp dealer L. Aarons, where he received 3 large bags of cigarette cards after one of his successful deals. He knew even then that his Moroccan friend (Edward Wharton Tiger) would be very happy with these seemingly insignificant pieces of paper, because he collects them. With this, he established the largest such collection in the world, which today amounts to 2 million cards and is located in the British Museum.

Later, he founded an independent company in London called "Southern Stamp Service Ltd" and basically dealt with the distribution of new stamps all over the world. He had huge stocks, 800 million stamps in his wholesale warehouse. Naturally, many watched this with envy, and in 1968 they even broke into his office in Hanfield House, where they took £15,000 worth of stamps. The thieves knew which stamps were valuable and did not take the bulk goods, only the better values. At that time, Clive was already dealing with the classic stamps of several countries, and the company's stock was severely depleted. It was probably because of this burglary that he subsequently moved his residence to Monte Carlo and his work office to Lugano, as he found these places safer. Of course, he did not break-off contact with England, and he continued to have close ties with the prominent collectors and dealers there.

His friendships were very diverse. From Lugano he maintained particularly strong relationships with Italian colleagues, such as Mondolfo, Diena, Bolaffi, Orlandini and Provera, but also traveled a lot to exotic countries. He found contact with everyone, also with Philippine President Marcos, with whom he signed a multilateral stamp trade agreement. He spoke eight languages, but he never forgot his Hungarian background. During the socialist era, he maintained a lasting relationship with the Hungarian state stamp trading company (Philatelia Hungarica) and the Hungarian Post. He enriched one of the world's oldest stamp museums in Budapest with significant donations, and later, in 1992, he established the "Julian Clive Collection Development Foundation", which still operates today and through which donations amounting to hundreds of thousands of Euros have come to the museum in recent years. His photograph can still be found on the "Wall of Donors" in the forecourt of the Stamp Museum in Budapest.



Picture 1

The current president of the Julian Clive Foundation is dr. Geza Homonnay, who summarized their activities: *„About ten years ago, the Stamp Museum asked me for the position of president of the Julian Clive Foundation, which I gladly accepted. In the 30 years since its foundation, the Stamp Museum has grown with the following collections through the activities of Foundation: Arundel inflation-, Visnyovszki air mail-, Suranyi newspapaer tax-, Peterfy Hungarian postal history-, Debreceni stamp exhibitions-, Bér pre-stamp- and Papal State-, Cornides dealers-. Lovasz krajcar-, Szijjarto-Gadacsi lithography-, Soaky Czechoslovakia-, Bergamini-Czirok newspaper tax stamp-, Kostyal Nyiregyhaza and Legradi-Jug Szekeres CM-collections. The Foundation operates on a completely non-profit basis, everyone in the board of trustees works in social work."*

Michael Chipperfield, the legendary doyen of London stamp dealers, remembers Julian Clive like this:

„When *I think about Julian Clive who was one of the most renowned Stamp Dealers I ever knew, I tend not to dwell on the business of Philately, but*

on his generosity of spirit of friendship. This can be best illustrated by a family story.

During a holiday in Switzerland with my wife and sons Julian picked us up on the Swiss side of Lake Lugano. This photograph was taken on his treasured speed boat. Julian is the suave gentleman on the left; I am the "once bearded" one on the right!



Picure 2 (Lugano 1982)

As a frequent visitor to Lugano, Julian often offered to meet me at the railway station. I would never know whether it would be Fortuno, his driver, with Julian`s majestic Rolls Royce Silver Cloud, or Julian himself in his mini!

Julian was a respected dealer of the "Old School" the likes of which are missing today. Furthermore Julian Clive was a gentleman."

He always declared himself to be a stamp wholesaler, but in many cases real rarities made his heart beat faster. This also happened at David Feldman's rarities auction in 1992, where an extraordinary Hungarian letter was auctioned. The letter was written in Sarajevo, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire, then it was handed over at the border station of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Brood and went to Moscow. Since the letter sent many unpaid invoices to a debt collection company in Moscow, it reached the 6th weight stage. Accordingly, 130 Kreuzer in stamps had to be affixed to it, which consisted of a strip of four of the 25 Kr lithographed stamp and 2 pairs of 15 Kr copper-plate stamps. Even the occurrence of a single lithographed 25 Kr stamp on a letter is a great rarity, but a strip of four is quite another matter! After the starting price of CHF 30,000, the letter finally sold for a price of CHF 70,000. Julian Clive bought it and was proud of this letter for the rest of his life.



Picture 3

In the last decades of his life, his eyesight deteriorated greatly, and even the careful help of a specialist clinic in Barcelona could not significantly improve his condition. So he hired a young Hungarian assistant for his office in Lugano, who managed his affairs until the end of his life. Éva Szabó, who is still alive today, remembers these years like this:

"*Mr. Clive was a real gentleman, he maintained a good relationship with everyone, he often visited his friends at large international exhibitions and other events. He was always well-groomed, he went to the barber every week, his shoes were always shiny, he loved life and good food. He called me "the apple of his eye" because I accompanied him everywhere and helped him manage*

the good and bad things. We always started the morning in a coffee house, then went to the bank to deal with financial affairs, then came answering letters and other tasks. He had an extremely good sense of humor and was well liked by his friends. I was very sorry when he left us and I almost considered him my father."

Dr. Pal Lippai, the "large gold medalist" exhibitor of the FIP exhibitions of the 1980s and 90s remembers Clive that way:

„I only made it to the 1981 WIPA exhibition as a spectator, and after admiring the Austro-Hungarian classics that I was primarily interested in, I browsed the dealer stands. At a "Southern Stamp" inscription, I was stopped by a picture of a Tokay serrated envelope and other Hungarian specialties, where the well-cut, tall, elegant gentleman standing behind the counter talked to the constantly changing number of interested people in a wide variety of languages.

When he finally freed himself for a minute, I tried to speak English, and he replied in Hungarian: "You're Hungarian, aren't you? Let's see, they say that two years ago in Pest, a nice Austrian postal administration in Hungary. There's something here that might interest you." Needless to say, the state fell, even when I got hold of the 9 kr + 6 kr Pesth 1/6 stamped registered first-day letter held for DM 27,500. Even though I didn't buy it, we had a good conversation and the following year I greeted him as an acquaintance in Paris, and I even bragged about my exhibition material, which was awarded a "small gold medal" there. He praised it, but questioned why I don't deal with the lithographs. He also revealed that he had already heard about me from Gary Ryan before our first meeting, although he did not mention any other Hungarian connection.

We met in Rome in 1985, where I could admire his Rolls-Royce car with its Hungarian driver (ed. note: the assistant was Éva Szabó's husband). He explained that he had bad eyesight, which could be true, but I experienced it myself that if anyone mentioned a prominent stamp or envelope to him, he wouldn't even let him finish the story, he continued the description as the piece were in front of him.

I remember that we met for the last time in London in 1990, after several other exhibitions. He immediately congratulated me on my big gold medal and told me in detail how the previous year he had bought and shipped home the last stamp stock of the East German Post Office (DDR) with 6 railway wagon. I asked in disbelief what he was going to do with it, to which he answered with a smile and confidence: "My little Pal, don't be naive, there is nothing better than the stamps of a country that only existed for a while. Believe me, I made the biggest deal of my life with him." I looked at the large gold lucky cube that this extraordinary man always wore around his neck on a thick chain and I felt he must be right."

He died in Lugano on July 3, 1993, from an incurable disease, but his memory lives on among us today.

REFERENCES

- Philatelic Exporter July 1968.
- Il Collecionista 9/1993 (Luciano Buzzetti)
- BBZ (Berner Briefmarken Zeitung) 11/1993
- Budapest Stamp Museum providing data on the foundation

IN MEMORIAM GABOR VISNYOVSZKI

/1945.01.10 - 2022.12.18/

He started collecting stamps in his childhood and became fascinated by the beauty of classical stamps early in his youth. By the late 1970s, he became aware of the fact that very few collectors bothered with collecting modern postal history. He then turned his interest towards mailings franked with ordinary definitive issues and the postal history of the post-war inflationary period. The great Hungarian collectors who were alive at the time (*Gyula Madarasz, dr. Ferenc Rend, dr. Laszlo Makkai, Laszlo Pakozdi*) influenced him greatly and he learned a lot from them. In 1979, Laszlo Suranyi invited him to join the editors' board of the Philatelica periodical which was a great recognition and honor for a young man in his thirties. Between 1982 and 1986 under the direction of *Laszlo Suranyi*, he compiled the work of 17 associate authors and edited the book, "**A magyar bélyegek kézikönyve**". Starting in 1986, he was a member of the MABEOSZ presidency; and, following the resignation of president *Tamas Kocsis* on January 29, 1991, he reluctantly assumed the post of acting president until the scheduled elections in the following June.



Gabor Visnyovszki among the stamp collectors of MABÉOSZ around 2002 (photo: Karoly Szucs)

In 1988, he won an FIP gold medal in Helsinki with his exhibit of postage due material. In that same year, he became a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. In 1989, encouraged by *dr. Laszlo Makkai. dr. Ferenc Nagy*, and *Professor dr. Istvan Lang*, who was the general secretary of the MTA, he worked with *Andor Bér* and *Laszlo Suranyi* to establish the Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research. In the beginning he served as its vice-president, then secretary, and again as vice-president of the organization. Finally, between 2002 and 2011, he served as its president. From 1990 on, he was certified as a stamp expert; and from 1991 he became a member of AIEP (the International Association of Philatelic Experts).

In the beginning of the 1990s, he was one of the partners who founded the Hungarofila Kft. Later, he focused his attention on organizing Mafitt activities and writing expert philatelic articles for various publications. He took an active part in preparing the *Ryan-collection*, one of the largest accumulations of Hungarian philatelic material ever assembled, for auction in London. In 1996, the State Printing Office entrusted him with the preparation of the "Stamp Book" that assembled the history of the classical Hungarian stamp issues. The book became an enjoyable, easy to read, multilingual publication that was prepared with thorough expertise and contained splendid illustrations. To date, the book is a superb achievement for furthering the popularity of Hungarian philately! He published countless philatelic articles. On his advice in 1998, a consortium of investors purchased the greatest Hungarian rarity, the 1867 3kr red error printing, at an auction for 41.8 million forints. The stamp was placed in the Stamp Museum on consignment. In 2000, he was accepted for membership by the AEP, the European Philatelic Academy; and, in 2004, received the "Mérite Philatelique Européen" award for his work. He resigned as Mafitt president in 2011 and was subsequently elected as Mafitt's *fourth honorary president*.

Free for members of Mafitt

The Philatelica is published twice a year, first in the period from 1971 to 1991
and after a twenty year break from 2011 on.

The full contents of our newspaper and digital disc attachment can be downloaded from Mafitt's website

www.mafitt.hu





Volume XXXIV

2014 **2015**

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

Hungarian Society for Philatelic Research

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

Printing regularly supported by the Mihaly Gervay Hungarian Postal History Foundation.