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English translation

2024/1 *(no 2nd issue was published this year)*

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EDITORIAL PREFACE TO THE LATE ISSUE OF 2024/1 DELAYED TO 2025



KAROLY SZUCS BUDAPEST

Unfortunately, last year, something that happened with the second issue of 2022 due to similar editorial difficulties has been repeated: the printing of this issue will be postponed to the following year. Despite the fact that the Hungarian version of this year's first issue was already available on our website in the first half of the year, it was still not possible to print it, initially simply due to the lack of English translation.

At our May general meeting in 2024, I asked for the help of our members to prepare the translations. Our authors, who have good English skills, readily agreed to prepare them, and I received one of the translations by September. However, the author of another article found it necessary to expand it, which required further research, and with which he practically withdrew his article from the magazine.

The gap thus created in the issue was filled in the last days of the year with a study published recently in the London Philatelist, the publication of which in Hungarian can also be considered a first publication, in accordance with the basic idea of our magazine.

After editing 14 volumes, I consider it appropriate to review this long period on this occasion. The quality of the second series of Philatelica, renewed in 2011, is universally acknowledged to be worthy of our predecessors. Thanks are due to the authors, translators and reviewers, most of whom are members, who have created fresh literature equivalent to two volumes of Monographs during this time.

We have made all issues of the journal freely available on our website, along with a continuously updated repertoire of published articles. The second series can now be found there in its entirety – with some exaggeration – in a language understandable to the whole world. This is a revolutionary innovation compared to the past, although it is based on it, since it makes Hungarian philately accessible and visible everywhere in the world with machine translation.

The previous presidency was able to continuously ensure the bilingual publication of the second series twice a year. This seems to be stalling now, as after 2022 we only managed to put together one issue in 2024.

It depends on our membership how the continuation will be. We must continue to be able to put together five or six larger articles per year, 70-80 pages long including images. For publication, we will not only need this much high-quality philatelic writing, but also members who will work in translation and proofreading.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to support our presidency in organizing this in the future, and that I will continue to have as much to edit as before.

THE STORY OF THE POST OFFICE IN NEW BUDA, USA



ADRIANO BERGAMINI FRPSL SWISS & CZIROK DENES RDP, FRPSL ZALAEGERSZEG

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On 12th January 1848 an uprising broke out in Palermo, Sicily against the absolutist regime then in power. The revolution in Paris on 24th February was followed within weeks by movements in other European capitals and centres. The people of Munich, Vienna, Pest-Buda, Berlin, Milan, Poznan, and Prague all made it clear to the previous holders of power that they were dissatisfied with their government system.

Following news of the Vienna revolution on 13th March 1848, revolution also broke out in Pest on 15th March (at that time, Buda and Pest were still independent cities on opposite banks of the Danube). In the face of the European revolutions the Austrians were forced to make concessions to the Hungarians. As a result, an independent Hungarian government was established, parliamentary elections were called and on 5th July a Hungarian parliament was established under the leadership of Lajos Kossuth. After the suppression of the revolutions the Austrian emperor launched a campaign against Hungary. First, Jellačić sent Croatian-Ban troops to Hungary but they were defeated by the newly-formed Hungarian army on 29th September 1848. After that, a bloody struggle for freedom continued for almost a year, mainly with Hungarian successes. On 1st May 1849, however, the Austrian emperor Franz Josef requested armed help from Tsar Nicholas I who sent a Russian army of 200,000 against Hungary in mid-June. With the assistance of these Russian forces the Hungarian army was finally defeated and the Hungarians laid down their arms on 13th August 1849.

Despite this defeat one of the strongest Hungarian fortress, Komarom, resisted the Austrian forces for 53 days under the leadership of General Gyorgy Klapka. After long negotiations the fortress was handed over to the Austrians on 4th October and in exchange the defenders of the fortress and the civilian population of Komarom were permitted to leave freely. Laszlo Ujhazi, the central figure in our story, was the civil government commissioner of Komarom.

2. THE LIFE OF LASZLO UJHAZI

He was born on 20th January 1795 into a well-known aristocratic family in Eastern Hungary. After graduating in law he worked as a politician and in the 1840s became the leader of Saros county. At the outbreak of the War of Independence he organised troops at his own expense and fought for months in the northern campaign.

This publication is a Hungarian translation of the article with the written permission of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

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Fig. 1. Portrait of Ujhazi Laszlo in 1840's

He later became the government commissioner in Komarom where he issued emergency funds in order to stabilize the economic situation.



Fig. 2: 10 Kreuzer emergency credit note from Komarom with the signature of Laszlo Ujhazi

After the fortress had been surrendered he set off for America on 12th October 1849 with his wife and five of his children (three adult children remained in Hungary). He was accompanied by several soldiers and officers who had helped to guard the fortress.

Since the German and English political circles of the time knew Ujhazi's name well, he spent several days in both Hamburg and London where the time was given over mostly to celebrations, negotiations and receptions.

After 49 days the party finally left Southampton on 20th November 1849 aboard the steamer Hermann and arrived in New York on 16th December (75 days after departure).

In America there was much sympathy for the Hungarian cause and they were received with great celebration. They were invited to receptions and gave festive speeches about the Hungarian freedom struggle before continuing their journey through Philadelphia to Washington.



Fig. 3: Laszlo Ujhazi's reception in Philadelphia in December 1849

In the meantime he corresponded at length with other Hungarian revolutionary leaders and with American leaders in order to be able to negotiate with the American president as soon as possible. He was successful and a meeting with President Zachary Taylor was held on 14th January 1850 at which, in addition to discussing his own situation, he asked for American help to secure the release of Lajos Kossuth from internment in Turkey. Kossuth was the leader of the Hungarian freedom struggle in exile and Ujhazi's aim was to bring him to the United States. In this he was successful and Kossuth arrived in America a few weeks later..

The President offered his personal support for the Hungarian refugees to settle on American soil and a Congressional resolution requested that land be granted to them free of all charges. After the Presidential reception they waited several weeks for Congress to designate an area where the emigrant company of 20-30 people could settle. The decision did not come, but in the meantime they learned that there were still large areas of free land in the southern part of Iowa, a state that had only recently been admitted to the Union and was free of slavery. Consequently, on 5th April 1850 they set off for the west in adverse weather conditions with oxen and heavy wagons on roadless tracks. They covered the 2,000 km journey from New York in 150 days.

A typical story about the difficulties they encountered is that the oxen they had purchased did not obey Hungarian commands so Indian boys had to be assigned to drive them.

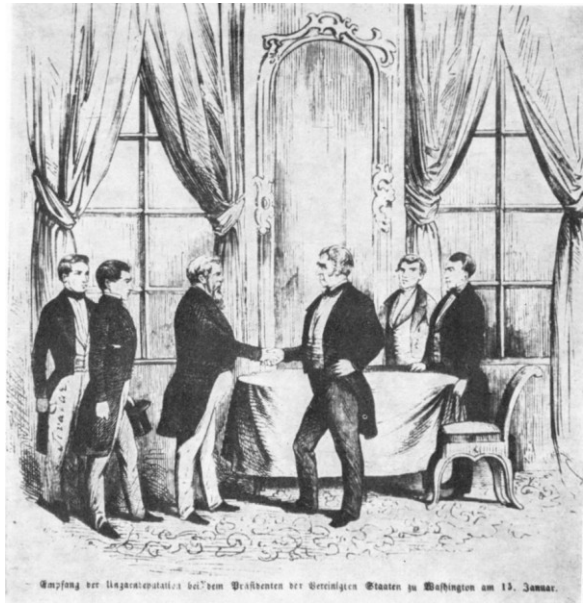


Fig. 4: Laszlo Ujhazi with his two sons meeting US President Zachary Taylor

Finally, on 2nd September 1850, 336 days after their departure from Komarom, they reached the selected area in Decatur County, Iowa and set up camp. And the place was named NEW BUDA.



Fig. 5: New Buda in the state of Iowa, about 2000 km west of New York

During the autumn eight wooden houses were built, of which one was the Post Office building. On 8th September Ujhazi informed Millard Fillmore (who became President on Zachary Taylor's death in July 1850) that he was setting up a Post Office at New Buda. With help from Senator George Jones of Iowa, New Buda was officially recognised as a US Post Office and Ujhazi was appointed postmaster with an annual salary of $200. In the early years the mail ran once a week on the line between Garden Grove and Lott's Grove.

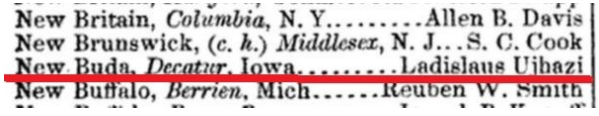

New Britain, *Columbia*, N. Y.....Allen B. Davis
New Brunswick, (*c. h.*) *Middlesex*, N. J...S. C. Cook
New Buda, *Decatur*, Iowa.....Ladislaus Ujhazi
New Buffalo, *Berrien*, Mich.....Reuben W. Smith

Fig. 6: Postmaster Laszlo Ujhazi's name in the postal directory of the time

Laszlo Ujhazi handed over the postmastership to his son-in-law in 1852, as he moved from New Buda to San Antonio, Texas in 1853 after his wife's death. In 1854 the Post Office in New Buda handled 950 letters and 7,000 newspapers, an impressive volume of mail, but the settlement had virtually disappeared by the early 1870s and the Post Office closed on 13th April 1880. From this postal operation lasting nearly 30 years 14 letters are currently known to collectors. Of these, six were sent by Ujhazi to his family in Hungary, three of which are presented below. One of the other three letters has similar franking and two are only known as black-and-white copies made 35 and 75 years ago respectively. Unfortunately, the content of none of the letters has survived, so we cannot present the everyday concerns and feelings of the settlers.

3. NEW BUDA LETTERS SENT BY LASZLO UJHAZI

In the 1850s there were three main routes for mail between the USA and Hungary which from 1850 formed part of the German-Austrian Postal Union (GAPU). These routes were via France, via England, Belgium and Prussia, and via Bremen or Hamburg. The French route was much more expensive than the others so it was rarely used unless expressly requested by the sender. The North German route via Bremen or Hamburg was the cheapest but at that time it had the disadvantage that it only ran every two weeks and delays could occur in the winter months due to the ports being frozen. Thus, most letters travelled on the so-called "Prussian route".

Between 1850 and 1852 the rate on this route changed four times, so even postmasters often did not know the correct postal rate precisely. In addition, there were two types of tariff on this route: the so-called "Prussian Open Mail" and the "Prussian Closed Mail". "Open Mail" meant that letters handled in New York or Boston were also handled in London before being forwarded to Aachen and then to Hungary. Consequently, this tariff was more expensive. From 1st October 1852 letters in the "Closed Mail" system were placed in a package in New York or Boston that was not opened until it reached Aachen, and vice versa. This service between the GAPU countries and the USA cost 38 Austrian Kreuzer for a letter of the first weight step in both directions. As a postmaster Ujhazi was exempt from postal fees in the USA so the domestic letter fee was not charged on his letters.

Let's see the letters after that!



Fig. 7: Postage Due letter sent by Ujhazi from New Buda to Hungary in October 1852, for which the addressee paid a fee of 38 Kreuzer.

The letter was posted on 28th October 1852 by Postmaster Ujhazi to his son-in-law Charles Nagy in the small Hungarian settlement of Hazsina. In the upper right corner of the letter, the postmaster's fee exemption (FREE) was indicated. He also marked the route: New York, Liverpool, Vienna, Pesth, N. Mihaly and Homonna. On 23rd November the letter arrived in New York where it was charged with 23 Cents The letter arrived on 7th December in Aachen by the "Closed Mail" where a charge of 38 Austrian Kreuzer was added, to be paid by the addressee.



Fig. 8: Postage Due letter sent by Ujhazi from New Buda to his sister in November 1852, for which the addressee paid a fee of 40 Kreuzer.

The next letter was sent from New Buda on 18th November 1852 by Postmaster Ujhazi to Clementine Draskoczy in the small Hungarian settlement of Harkacs. Clementine was his sister and at this time she was ill (she died early in 1853). He added the Postmaster's fee exemption (FREE) in the upper right corner of the letter and marked the route: New York, Liverpool, Vienna, Pesth, Tornallya. The letter reached London as "Open Mail" on 4th January and by the late evening of the next day it had arrived in Aachen. There a charge of 40 Austrian Kreuzer was added, to be paid by the addressee.



Fig. 9: Postage Due letter sent by Ujhazi from New Buda to his daughter in December 1852 for which the addressee paid a fee of 41 Kreuzer.

On 1st December 1852 Postmaster Ujhazi wrote from New Buda to his daughter Paulina Nagy in the Hungarian village of Hazsina. The postmaster's fee exemption (FREE) was indicated in the upper right corner of the letter. He also marked the route: New York, Liverpool, Vienna, Pesth, N. Mihaly and Homonna. The letter arrived in New York on 4th January 1853 and was charged 23 Cents. Since it was carried in the "Open Mail" system it was charged in Aachen with a foreign fee of 32 Kreuzer, to which the Union rate of 9 Kreuzer was added, making a total charge to the recipient of 41 Kreuzer instead of the 40 stipulated in the regulations.

4. LETTERS SENT BY IGNAC HAINER

Ignac Hainer was born in 1818, obtained a law degree, and was the private secretary of Kazmer Batthany, Minister of Industry and Trade, during the war of independence. Because of this he did not get a job in Hungary after the war so he emigrated to New Buda, USA in 1854. He spoke several languages and later became a professor at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. In 1880 he closed the Post Office in depopulated New Buda and moved it to Davis City, Iowa. His son was elected to Congress in 1892. When he reached New Buda Hainer corresponded with his sister Laura in Hungary. We currently know of 11 such letters, eight from New Buda, one from nearby Burlington and two from Columbia.



Fig. 10: Postage Due letter sent by Ignac Hainer from New Buda in October 1856 to his sister's husband, for which the addressee paid a fee of 38 Kreuzer.

The letter was sent to Michael Nagy in Bonyhad on 9th October 1856. In the upper right corner of the letter, a circular mark shows that 30 Cents postage were due. Hainer also indicated the method of delivery as "Prussian Closed Mail". The letter arrived in New York on 25th October where a circular handstamp was added showing that 23 Cents were payable to the US Postal Service. It left on 29th October on the Cunard Line ship PERSIA and arrived in Liverpool on 7th November. It was then forwarded to Aachen where it arrived on 11th November. A total charge of 38 Austrian Kreuzer was added there to be paid by the addressee when he received the letter on 15th November.



Fig. 11: Pre-Paid registered letter sent by Ignac Hainer from New Buda to his sister on 10th July 1856, for which he paid a fee of 30 Cents.

The letter was sent from New Buda by Hainer to his sister Laura in Bonyhad on 10th July 1856. In the upper right corner of the letter, he indicated that he had paid 30 Cents. He also indicated the method of delivery as "Prussian Closed Mail". The letter arrived in New York on 23rd July where a circular handstamp was added showing that, as it was pre-paid, the USA owed GAPU 7 Cents. It left on 23rd July on the Cunard Line ship AFRICA, arriving in Liverpool on 3rd August, and reached Aachen on 5th August where the red FRANCO and Recomandirt (*Registered*) postmarks were added. It arrived in Pest on 7th August and Bonyhad probably the next day. This is the only registered letter from the New Buda correspondence recorded to date.



Fig. 12: Postage Due letter sent from New Buda by Hainer to his sister in Bonyhad on 28th November 1860, for which the addressee paid a fee of 65 Kreuzer.

On 1st November 1858 a new monetary unit, the "New Kreuzer", was introduced in the territory of the Austrian Empire (including Hungary). Previously 1 Forint was equal to 60 Kreuzer but from November 1858 this equivalence was increased to 100 Kreuzer, i.e. the Kreuzer was devalued by 67%.

Thus, the fee for a basic domestic letter in the third internal distance zone of 9 Kr increased to 15 Kr. In the USA-GAPU relationship the 38 Kreuzer fee was increased to 65 Kreuzer. US internal rates were unchanged at 30 Cents and 23 Cents.

Hainer noted at the top of the letter that 30 Cents were due and indicated the method of delivery as "Prussian Closed Mail".

The letter arrived in New York via Chicago and on 5th December it left New York on the Cunard ship AFRICA, arriving in Liverpool on 16th December. It reached Aachen on 20th December, Pesth on 22nd December, and Bonyhad the following day, where the 65 (New) Kreuzer fee was paid.

By the early 1860s the shipping companies in Bremen and Hamburg were able to offer their services at significantly cheaper rates than their British competitors.

Consequently, the charge for the "Prussian Closed Mail" service was reduced from 65 to 33 Kreuzer, and letters were delivered twice a week. Thanks to this reduction more people chose this route, as in the case of the letter above.



Fig. 13: Postage Due letter sent by Ignac Hainer from New Buda to his sister in February 1865, for which the addressee paid a fee of 33 Kr.

The letter was sent by Hainer to his sister Laura in Bonyhad on 2nd February 1865. He marked it "Per Bremen Steamer" as the method of delivery. The letter arrived in Bremen on 27th February via New York and continued to Pesth, arriving in Bonyhad on 2nd March where the 33 (New) Kreuzer fee was paid. The abbreviation "A.P." on the letter ("Avis à payer") indicated that payment of the fee should be taken in Bonyhad.

5. OUTGOING LETTERS FROM HUNGARY TO NEW BUDA

So far, we have presented seven of the 17 New Buda letters known (three of which were posted in a neighbouring city), from which the reader can

gain an insight into this extraordinary emigrant settlement. Of course, the question also arises as to whether there are letters going in the opposite direction (i.e. from Hungary to New Buda). Surely yes! The research on these letters is more difficult because collectors of these letters have paid less attention to the address. However, three such letters have been discovered, of which we now present two:

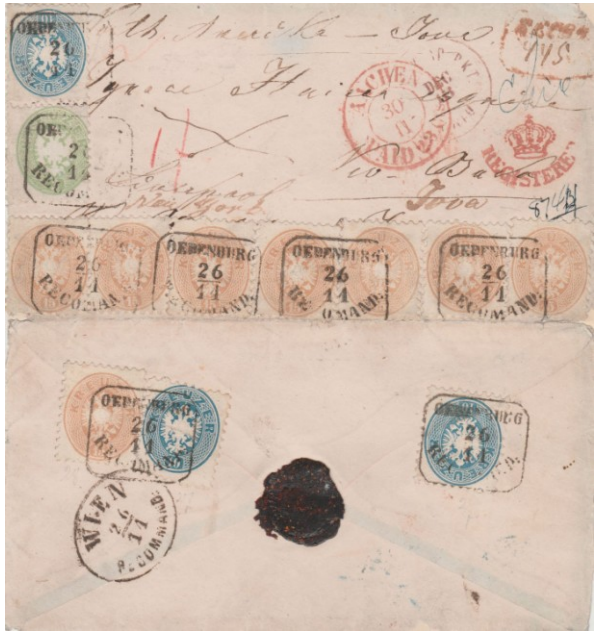


Fig. 14: Registered letter of the second weight step sent from Oedenburg (Sopron) to Ignac Hainer in New Buda with a total franking of 153 Kreuzer.

This letter was posted on 26th November between 1864 and 1866 (the year is not stated in the postmark) and it was marked "via Liverpool, New York", meaning that it should be carried in the "Prussian Closed Mail". The sender paid the full fee of 2 x 59 Kreuzer per Loth + a 35 Kreuzer registration fee, making a total of 153 Kreuzer. The red British crown registration postmark was added in Aachen.



Fig. 15: Pre-paid letter sent on 27th November 1872 from Bonyhad to Ignac Hainer in New Buda via Hamburg.

This letter was marked "per Hamburg Steamer", for which the rate was 13 Kreuzer (5 for the GAPU, and 8 for carriage beyond the GAPU). The latter charge was indicated by the faint mark "wf 8" in the lower left corner which means 8 Kreuzer for ‘weiterfranko’ (Forwarding). However, the sender paid a fee of 25 Kreuzer, made up an imprinted 5 Kreuzer stamp supplemented with two engraved 10 Kreuzer stamps, perhaps because the postal clerk in Bonyhad did not know the correct rate.

6. EPILOGUE

The settlement did not fulfil Ujhazi's early aspirations. Kossuth did not come to take charge of it and keep the revolutionary flame alive as he had hoped, and the promise of free land did not materialise. The farmsteads were scattered over a wide area and there were disputes among the Hungarians and with settlers from other nations. The fact that many of the refugees were soldiers, intellectuals and aristocrats rather than farmers made the task of settling virgin land all the more difficult.

After Ujhazi left New Buda in 1853, other Hungarian families slowly moved away – some to the bigger cities, some back to Hungary after the settlement of 1867, some to other countries (for example, Ujhazi's daughter moved to Germany with her German husband). Some became soldiers and took part in the American Civil War. By the 1900s, Hungarian settlers no longer lived in New Buda. The name remained, but today only a sign preserves the place of the former settlement with the inscription "Utopian Experiments in Southern Iowa".



Fig. 16: 'Utopian Experiments in Southern Iowa'

We assume that there are still more letters related to this topic in the world. If you know of one, please send a picture to czirok.d@t-online.hu. We would appreciate it.

Many fellow collectors helped in processing the topic, whom we sincerely thank for their cooperation: Dr. Zsolt Bodnar, Kalman Boross, Gerhard Zinner, Tamas Gudlin, Csaba Kohalmi, Kurt Kimmel RDP, FRPSL, Martin Rhein and Dr. Ferenc Nagy.

Many thanks to Bill Hedley FRPSL for helping to produce an understandable English rendition.

We thank Gerhard Zinner (Figure 13) and Kurt Kimmel (Figure 14) for presenting copies of their letters. The other letters are owned by the authors.

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POSTAL TRAFFIC DURING THE PERIOD OF MILITARY OPERATIONS – PART II



JANOS DAN, BUDAPEST

1. POSTAL TRAFFIC DURING THE PERIOD OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

This is the second part of the series published with the above title and this is requiring a little explanation. I have been collecting dispatches from the WW2 military operational period and related source works for over thirty years. The original plan was to publish a book that wanted to process and to present this undeservedly forgotten and under-published period with the aim to have a source where all the currently known information and data can be found in one place. This would be helpful for the collectors of the period to only have to take this book off the shelf with no need to look through half a library for a piece of information. After all this time, I must admit that my jack-knife really got into this big task. The reason is very simple, there are certain areas of our country where data and information cannot be found from. Therefore, I had to realize that I cannot write a book that covers all areas. Many chapters of the planned book have been prepared, and I did not want to keep the information for myself. I decided to publish the truncated parts in a series, so that at least this knowledge could become available for anyone. The completed chapters of the book will be available for reading here in the future.

The operational period can be divided into two parts, two areas. The first one is the territory still served by the Hungarian Royal Post. This area continuously became smaller and smaller as the war progressed. The second one is the area served by the freshly born new Hungarian Post ("Magyar Posta"), which territory became bigger and bigger after the battles ended. I will present the restart of the postal traffic of this constantly growing area in this series.

On 26th September 1944 the 2nd Ukrainian Front's 53rd Army crossed the national border marking the beginning of the Soviet occupation of Hungary.

The first occupied cities were Battonya and Mako. By the end of October, a significant part of the territories on the east from the Tisza River ("Tiszantul") was already in Soviet hands. The Provisional Hungarian National Government was established in Debrecen by the end of December, thus starting the restoration of the public administration. The safe operation of the postal administration was fundamental for the operation of the public administration. There were several obstacles for the start of postal traffic, the lack of staff, rail and road transport and the lack of postal equipment.

The evacuations due to war events also affected post offices and directorates. After the front marched through the given settlement, not only the damage and shortage caused by the war had to be fixed and replaced, but the postal valuables and stamps that had been transported due to the evacuation also had to be replaced. This

was extremely challenging due to wartime situation.

Due to the relocation of the Postal Directorates, there was no organization nearby to professionally organize and manage the postal service, so the organization of the temporary postal service was left to the public administration bodies, which coped with the task with more or less success.

It is typical of the early days that the postal connection between the settlements was solved by courier mail. The best example of this is the road sentry courier post in Bekes county, which operated as the first organized courier post in the country.

The Ministry of Trade and Transportation based on consultation with the deputy chiefs of the counties appealed to the post offices operating in the Soviet occupied part of the country on 4th January 1945, to organize the road sentry courier post service as soon as possible. As a result of the courier service settlements with no other options of connection became available by the postal route. The circulation of official and private letters could be temporarily organized through messengers. Unfortunately, according to the reports received from the postal administrations this initiative was not effective enough at the beginning, reason why the ministry repeated the decree on 6th March as a strict executive order.

As a result of this strict decree, courier services have already been launched in several counties. These courier posts worked in the early days, then as traffic began to recover, they slowly lost their importance by the end of May.

The recovery of postal traffic is closely related to the restoration and start of the railway. They moved in parallel, where a new railway line was opened, the delivery of postal parcels also began immediately. The severe damage of the railway tracks was not enough; the severe shortage of coal as well hampered the railway transport.

The luckiest cities were those located along a railway line that was quickly restored; because their postal traffic could start relatively early, thus well ahead of the more disadvantaged settlements. In the early days, it was not even necessary to have a separated post-carriage or trained postman to travel. The small number of letters were wrapped in newspaper or wrapping paper and handed over to the train drivers and heaters. The railway staff was in charge for the collection and forward of the mailbags at the stations, and then for the delivery of the mailbags to the authorized postman or station master at the recorded destination.

As a result of the evacuation of the post offices in the occupied part of the country there were very few postal valuables available, reason why “paid by cash” method was introduced in many places. Even then, because of the military operations, many valuables came into the hands of the public without authorization. To prevent the usage of these valuables, it was only possible to send the parcels from those post offices where the valuables were purchased, the post offices did not accept parcels that had been exempted in advance. In many settlements, even the drop-in opening of the mailboxes was taped over so that mail could only be left in the offices.

Most of the hand stamps also disappeared during to the evacuation of the post offices, so they tried to remedy the shortage with the remaining hand stamps, control number stamps, local administrative stamps with the name of the locality, and home-made hand stamps with the name

of the premises. Sometimes, due to the lack of a stamp, the name of the receiving settlement was written on the covers by hand. In July, the postal administrations tried to solve the lack of stamps with a uniform rubber stamp. The date had to be entered into these stamps by handwriting or with a separated date stamp.

The Ministry of Trade and Transportation ordered post offices on 4th January 1945 to only allow the circulation of ordinary letters and postcards, the acceptance of registered letters was not allowed. Nevertheless, at many post offices, registered letters were accepted at the sender's responsibility.

There were observer officers in the post offices, often they were Hungarian speaking Soviet soldiers. The post offices were kept under military control.

Despite the difficult and less than ideal conditions, 200 million letters and 2 million parcels were handled by the post in 1945.

2. POSTAL TRAFFIC BETWEEN HUNGARY AND ROMANIA IN THE LAST MONTHS OF 1944 AND THE FIRST MONTHS OF 1945

Let's clarify an important fact here at the very beginning**.** Even though because of the Second Vienna Decision Transylvania returned to Hungary it became part of Romania again form August 1944 in line with the Allied Powers' decision, this territory neither belong to Hungary, nor to Romania during the period discussed in this chapter. It was under Soviet military administration, but it did not belong to the Soviet Union either. At that time, this area was considered an "unorganized area", it could be named as foreign but could be called domestic too. I will treat it as Romania in this publication for the sake of the simpler definition, even though at that time it was even more Hungarian territory, as Hungarian administration operated here.

In the literature of the postal history of the early post-war postal administration there is almost no mention of the restart efforts related to the postal traffic in this area. This is completely understandable, since such correspondences are very rare items. In the early post-war period, the postal traffic re-established not only with the local and surrounding settlements, but also with the countries bordering Hungary. The situation remained ideal only for a short period of time, because after that the postal delivery was completely stopped for a long time until official postal relations were resumed.

I do not want to discuss the different issues of the stamp shortage resulted overprinted Hungarian stamps of this area, other fellow collectors have already done that in detail.

In the Archive of Postal Regulations, it can be read that the official postal relationship with Romania ceased at the beginning of the military operations in Hungary and was only restarted on 17th November 1945 (PRT. 137.964/A. 4.). Logically, the delivery of the mail through the front line was impossible, so at that point the entire postal traffic between the two countries completely stopped. With the withdrawal of the front, ruins and destruction were left behind, so the postal connection between the two countries could not function due to the lack of roads and transport vehicles. The new Hungarian postal administration did not have any agreements or conventions with the new postal administration of the other country. Despite all these difficulties, the postal administration remained func-

tional between Hungary and Romania for a short period of time. Based on the research of the survived items this period roughly was between January and April 1945, but there are earlier evidences of the restarting of the postal connections and the exchange of mailbags.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any official source about this early period so far, especially not about the reason, method and duration of the start of the postal connection between the two countries. The only thing that can be known for sure is that it worked, then stopped and only started again after official relations were established.

During this period, the officiality of the postal connection is confirmed by the fact that post office place-of-origin stamps were placed on the consignments both at dispatch and at arrival, so we cannot speak of smuggled consignments. Of course, we can also encounter smuggled items in the postal traffic of the two countries.

The territory of the Nagyvarad Postal Directorate was occupied by the Romanian and Soviet troops on 25th October 1944. The Romanian Maniu-gardists invaded Northern Transylvania in October and committed bloody pogroms against the Hungarian population in the following villages: Szarazajta, Szentdomonkos, Bihar and Egeres near Cluj. Because of the atrocities, the Allied Control Committee almost completely removed the Romanian administration from Northern Transylvania on 13th November, and they were only allowed to return at the end of March 1945.

However, the Romanian public administration remained in a few counties: Maramaros, Beszterce-Naszod and Szilagy county.

Under the supervision of the Allied Control Committee, a temporary Soviet military administration was introduced in Northern Transylvania and Szekelyfold. The tasks of the Soviet military administration included road and railway maintenance, restoration of the post office and telegraph operation. There was immediate need for these due to the escalation of the war and need for supply.

During this transitional period, the Hungarian pengo/filler remained the official currency.

The Hungarian post-officers remained employed to re-establish the postal administration. The Romanians did not come to power, so they could not replace the Hungarian public administration. This public administration still had relations with Hungary, reason why they were able to carry out postal traffic with neighbouring Hungary for a while. It was also a big advantage that the borders remained open at that time.



Figure 1 *The Main Post Office Palace in Nagyvarad, on a contemporary postcard.*

There was no post office in charge at the beginning of the operation of the Nagyvarad deputy chief's office, on 6th November. Postal traffic was provided by the village councils using a hand-to-hand chain system of delivery. This

special courier system had a connection with the road sentry courier service operating in Bekes county, so the consignments crossed the border in both directions already at that time.



Figure 2 Postal stationary card sent from Nagykaroly to Noszvaj on 6th February 1945. The card bears a "Paid in cash" and a very rare, trilingual (Russian, Hungarian, Romanian) censorship handstamp.

The Russian inscription on the handstamp is erroneous. The place of usage of the censorship handstamp is not yet clear, it was probably used in Nagyvarad, where the Cluj (CLUJ X) Romanian postmark was placed on used by Soviet censorship.

It was mentioned by several sources that postal parcels were carried by Soviet soldiers too by their trucks between the two countries, but the staff of trains carrying supplies (train drivers, heaters) also forwarded mailbags.

The boom in postal traffic was best helped by the start of the regular train service between Debrecen and Nagyvarad around 20th December 1944. As a result of the regular train service, they could exchange mailbags not only with the domestic settlements located along the railway line, but also between the two countries.

It is known from Gabor Voloncs's research, that out of the 200 post offices just those located along the railway line were operated in the territory of the Nagyvarad Postal Directorate. These offices were: the three offices of Nagyvarad, Elesd, Ermihalyfalva, Ersemjen, Fugyvasarhely, Margitta, Mezotelegd, Nagybanya, Nagykaroly, Nagyszalonta, Szatmarnemeti and Szekelyhid.

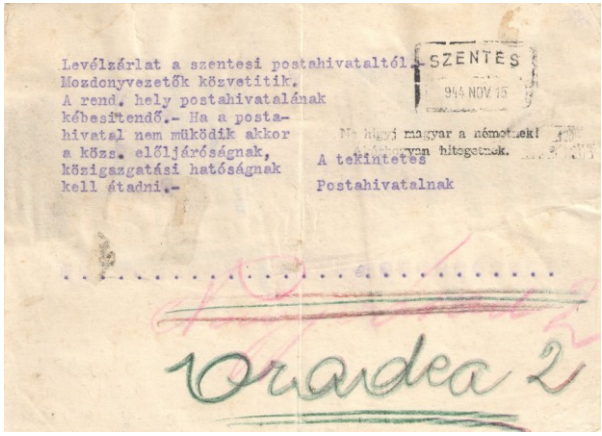


Figure 3 Registered postal stationary card sent from Debrecen to Szatmarnemeti on 16th February 1945. It was transported on the Debrecen-Nagyvarad railway line and then reached the addressee via Kolozsvar (Cluj). The card bears Debrecen's censorship handstamp and CLUJ X (Kolozsvar X) postmark used by Soviet censorship.

Almost without exception, mail sent between January and April 1945 has a post office place-of-origin handstamp with the inscription CLUJ X (Kolozsvar X). This stamp was not used by the post office, but by the Soviet postal censorship operating in Cluj. This proved that the shipment was censored by the Soviets.



Figure 4 Cluj (CLUJ X) Soviet postal censorship stamp.



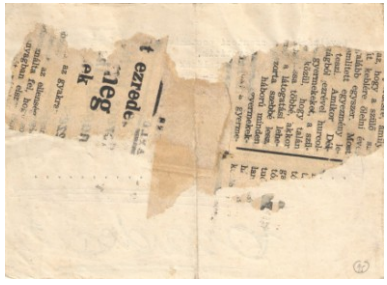


Figure 5-6 This is not only the earliest document from the beginning of the post-war postal relationship period between the two countries, but also the currently known earliest mailbag closing.

It is easy to observe on the cover page that the mailbag was sent from Szentes to Oradea 2 (Nagyvarad 2) post office on 15th November 1944. It can be seen on the back that newspaper was used to wrap the mailbag. The Oradea 2 post office probably operated at the railway station. The rare special handstamp with a text produced by the postmaster in Szentes can be seen on the mailbag closing.



Figure 7 Registered postal stationary card sent from Sfantu-Georghe (Sepsiszentgyorgy) to Oroshaza on 28th March 1945, with incompletely paid foreign tariff of the Romanian Post.

Only stamps worth 22 lei were placed on instead of the recommended 25 lei (lei=Romanian currency). The letter travelled to Oroshaza via Cluj (Cluj, 3rd April 1945, Soviet censorship stamp). It was delivered probably by the road sentry courier post of Gyula. The card was sent by a prisoner of war who informed the addressee that he is going to be transported to the Soviet Union..



Figure 8 Picture postcard sent from Sepsiszentgyorgy to Budapest in April 1945. Postage due was paid in Budapest on 10th May 1945.

At that time, the foreign tariff was not established yet. The post office did not apply a penalty, only the amount missing for the rural tariff (60 filler), 18 filler + 43 filler = 61 filler was collected instead of the double value of the missing fee. It is very likely that there were no 2 filler value postage stamps at the post office.

Theoretically, the entire world became accessible from the Soviet occupied part of Hungary through Nagyvarad, as the post office in Nagyvarad was able to handover mail to the Romanian post. At that time, the Romanian post already had connections with several countries, so mail could even reach overseas countries. Letters sent to Sweden and New Zealand by Ferenc Konrad from Nagyvarad are known from this period. We can also find shipment sent from Szatmarnemeti to New York, but a shipment from Pestszentlorinc also reached the United States. So, with this postal connection, not only the neighbouring country was accessible, but almost the entire world.



Figure 9-10 Registered letter sent from Pestszentlorinc to Cincinnati (Ohio, USA) on 2nd March 1945.



10. Reverse

The provisional registry label's number was a pencil written 201. Kolozsvar (CLUJ X) Soviet censorship stamp was applied on 27th March 1945 under the censorship closing strip. The letter reached Bucharest via Torda (censorship handstamp of Torda). On the reverse side, the Romanian (CENZURAT 7) and the Soviet (6/P) censorship stamps of Bucharest, as well as the New York arrival stamp for registered mail dated on 18th June 1945 can be seen. This is also proving that the letter was registered. This is a unique piece confirming that it was possible to correspond with America from Great-Budapest in this early period, even though the Pest tariff did not have foreign rate yet. The franking was 1.40 pengo, which does not correspond to any of the rates valid at the time, with no reasonable explication yet. The correct franking would have been 1.20 pengo (50 filler + 70 filler) according to the 1943 tariff. The addressee was a well-known Israelite professor, whose biographical details can be found on the Internet. He was born in Budapest and died in 1994 in Cincinnati (Ohio, USA).



Figure 11-12 Registered letter sent from Szatmarnemeti to New York on 15th March 1945.

This letter also reached the American continent via Kolozsvar (CLUJ X). The CLUJ X handstamp was placed by the Soviet postal censorship too. The envelope bears three 1P/1f postage stamps overprinted in Nagyvarad. A pencil written note from the Bucharest censorship can be seen on the front page (Cenz Bucuresti). Contemporary press and postal reports also support the early postal traffic between the two countries.

The Szeged Postal Directorate was informed on 6th January 1945 that letters from Transylvania arrive to Maramarossziget in a short time.

It was reported to the directorate by Eger's No. 1 post office on 21st January 1945 that mail traffic with Southern Transylvania had started.

It became possible to send ordinary letters to Bulgaria, to Vojvodina part of Yugoslavia, to Romania and to Transylvania too from the post offices reopened on the territory of the Pecs Postal Directorate form 17th March 1945.

It was reported by the "Szabad Szo" ("Free Word") on 18th April 1945 that shipments from Romania were regularly arriving to the capital.

The postmaster of the Abony post office also reported that shipments have also arrived from Yugoslavia, Romania and Carpathian-Ukraine.

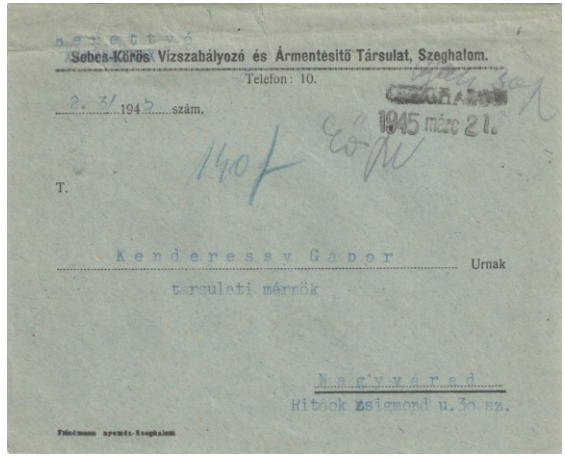


Figure 13 Letter sent from Szeghalom to Nagyvarad on 21st March 1945. The franking was paid by cash. The envelope bears Szeghalom's provisional rubber stamp.



Figure 14-15 Official letter sent from Szombathely to Sepsiszentgyorgy on 16th June 1945 bearing the 2.1. type bilingual censorship handstamp of Szombathely.

The letter arrived to Sepsiszentgyorgy on 27th January 1946 where the "addressee unknown" label was applied, and the letter was returned to the sender. After Bucharest detour, the letter reached Szombathely on 16th February 1946 according to the arrival stamp on the back of the envelope.

The Nagyvarad Postal Directorate was taken over by the Romanian Post on 9th April 1945, but even after that, mails continued arriving from across the border. The items sent from Hungary in June 1945 did not arrive in Romania until January 1946, even though official postal traffic had already started in November. It is possible that the agreement was signed, but the conditions for the exchange of mail were not ready until January 1946.



Figure 16-17 Registered picture postcard sent from Kunhegyes to Kolozsvar (Cluj) on 10th June 1945. The franking was paid in cash and a hand-drawn provisional registry label was applied.

According to the arrival stamp on the picture side the postcard arrived in Cluj on 19th January 1946. That time the official letter exchange between the two countries had already begun. The CLUJ stamp on the picture side is no longer a Soviet censorship stamp.



Figure 18 A stationary postcard sent from Budapest to Szilagysomlyo on 8th June 1945.

The card arrived in Bucharest on 21st January 1946, then reached Kolozsvar (Cluj) on 24th January and finally Simleu Silvaniei (Szilagysomlyo) on 28th January.

I should also mention that the exchange of mailbags also worked for a while with Yugoslavia, Transcarpathia and Czechoslovakia, long before the establishment of the official postal relations, and Hungarian stamps were overprinted in these countries too.

It was not only the official mail that crossed the border, but travellers also took smuggled letters with them in both directions, which were then posted in the respective country. The reason for this was the suspension or lack of postal traffic between the two countries. Let me show two examples for this too!



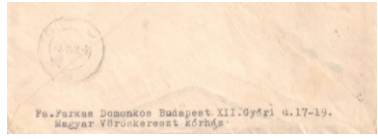


Figure 19-20 Letter smuggled from Budapest to Kolozsvar (Cluj) and posted from there on 19th June 1945.

The letter made its way to the final destination via Bucharest after a big detour (the distance between Kolozsvar and Des is only 50 km). The letter was delivered on 6th July 1945. The CLUJ handstamp on the reverse is a Soviet censorship stamping.



Figure 21 Stationary postcard smuggled from Romania and sent via post-box from Budapest on 7th July 1945.

The card was written by a prisoner of war lieutenant who asked one of the returning guards to drop it on in the capital. The card was written on 22nd May 1945, and it is easy to figure out from the text that it was handed over to the guard in the city of Ramnicu Sarat. The city is located at 40 km from Foksany. One of the largest POW distribution camps in Romania operated in Foksany. Postage due was applied due to the missing franking, but the rate was not calculated correctly. The fee of the local postcard would have been 40 filler. Due to the 18 filler stationary fee only the double amount of the missing 22 filler (44 filler) should have been paid, but two postage due stamps worth 50 filler were applied.

Based on the above mentioned, it can be concluded that the postal traffic started relatively soon between the two countries after the front had passed (mid-November 1944), then this initially sporadic mail traffic became constant and stable in the period between January 1945 and the end of April - beginning of May. It was possible to send letters from Budapest to overseas too. The Romanian administration took over the former Hungarian parts in May, and the postal traffic between the two countries ceased. The exchange of official postal items began on the 17th November 1945, but despite that, the first items in circulation between the two countries did not appear until January 1946. So, between the end of May and December 1945, there was no postal traffic between the two countries, even though the post offices picked up mails. Due to the suspension of postal traffic we may encounter smuggled letters during this period. I think everyone agrees with me that this is a very exciting period of the postal history of the two countries.

To be continued!

I would like to thank Gercu Dan-Simion (picture 2), Csaba Kohalmi (pictures 9 and 10) and Robert Bob Morgan (pictures 11 and 12) for allowing me to present the images of their items in the article.

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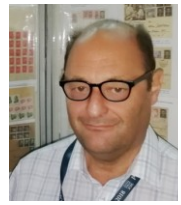
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COMMENT ON THE RELAUNCH OF THE BUDAPEST POSTAL SERVICE IN 1945



DR. GYORGY LOVEI, BUDAPEST

Budapest was founded in 1873 by the unification of three cities (Pest, Buda and Obuda). Budapest was divided into 10 prefectures and their areas were determined. The heads of the prefectures were elected by the Legislative Authority Committee of the capital. From then on, the first two city names became geographical terms, while Obuda became the III. district of the capital, thus remaining an administrative unit. Greater Budapest was established in 1950 and at that time the elected district councils replaced the former district prefectures.

As is known, the Pest side was liberated on January 18, 1945, while the Buda side and thus the capital of Budapest were liberated on February 13, 1945. The Danube bridges connecting the two parts of the city were blown up by the retreating German troops, on the temporary pontoon bridge (the Manci bridge), so initially the river could only be crossed by boat.

The Provisional National Government was based in Debrecen, while in Budapest, a previously unknown body, the Budapest National Committee, exercised supreme power.

The body consisting of the representatives of the 4 parties of the Hungarian Independence Front (MKP, SZDP, FKGP, Peasant Party and trade union organizations, which was later joined by the Hungarian Civic Party) exercised supreme power in the territory of Budapest instead of the Provisional National Government based in Debrecen. This fact was immediately declared by the newly formed organization.

The Metropolitan Archives published the contemporary minutes in a printout in 1970, along with footnotes and commentaries.

The Budapest National Committee began its operations on January 21, 1945, first on the liberated Pest side, and then, after the liberation of Buda, on the Buda side as well. This statement is also true for the constantly expanding postal traffic.

On January 21, 1945, Szabadsag was published, later Nepszava and Szabadnep, in which the newspapers "replaced" the official newspapers.

The Budapest National Committee announces that until the government arrives in Budapest, the supreme power will be exercised by the Budapest National Committee. The secretary general of the committee was Dr. Gyorgy Gulacsy, a small-scale farmer politician (later ambassador to Ankara), who held this position until May 1945.

[1] Katalin Rozsnyai: Everyday Life in Budapest after 1945, page 706, Studies from the Past of Budapest. Budapest 1963.

[2] The Budapest Gazette was replaced by the Magyar Kozlony, the first 15 issues of which were published in Debrecen.

With its second decision, the Budapest National Committee appointed the mayor of the capital, Janos Csorba, and with its third decision, Lieutenant Laszlo Solyom, a resident of Budapest, as police captain. On January 31, 1945, they decide that in the event of the liberation of Buda, a separate Buda administrative branch will be established, headed by one of the deputy mayors. This is the only reference to Buda in the decisions.

Its decisions covered all areas of life, including the establishment of the postal service.

On February 5, 1945, with its resolution VI/5, the so-called Committee No. 5 (this organization exercised supreme authority between two plenary sessions) called on the post office to report to the Budapest National Committee, and Laszlo Papai was entrusted with the management of the postal reorganization work.

On February 9, 1945, it was decided that Istvan Kossa would be entrusted with the political supervision of the reorganization of the post office. (Resolution VIII/9-1945). According to the footnote to the resolution, Laszlo Papai reported on February 10, 1945, that Committee 5 had also been formed at the Post Office in order to start postal work. As a result, the courier service between Budapest and Debrecen started on February 14, 1945, and on March 2, 1945, private postal traffic also started, first on the Pest side, and later on the Buda side.

Dr. Ferenc Nagy, in the 6th issue of Belyegvilag 2004, and then in the 2nd issue of Philatelica 2016, places the Budapest tariff into effect on March 2, 1945, and confirms this with the announcement published in Nepszava on that day. Three other newspapers also published that postal traffic was opened on the Pest side for private individuals on March 2, 1945.

Other historical works have come to the same conclusion. The May 1968 issue of Belyegvilag published an article about the milestones of the start of postal traffic in Budapest. The first one states that postal traffic started on March 2, 1945.

The footnote attached to the decisions of the National Committee in Budapest reveals that the courier service between Budapest and Debrecen started on February 14, 1945 (probably at that time the courier service between post offices also started), and Katalin Rozsnyai's study reveals that the first regularly sent telegram arrived in Budapest from Kisujszallas on February 16, 1945. The telegram was sent on February 11, and it says that Kisujszallas is sending food to the capital.

Let's summarize the dates:

• February 14, 1945 – the Budapest-Debrecen courier service starts

• February 16, 1945. The first telegram officially sent from Kisujszallas on February 11, 1945 arrives in Budapest

• March 2, 1945. Normal and registered mail traffic for private individuals starts at the post office on the 9th Pest side, the new postal tariff for shipments to the Budapest-Pest and areas outside the customs border (Greater Budapest-Pest?) comes into effect

Another date, the first issue of the Postal and Telegraph Regulations is published in June 1945, in the 6th issue the second inflation tariff is pub-

[3] Istvan Kossa has been Minister of Transport and Postal Services since 1957, and one of the MABEOSZ's travelling awards previously bore his name..

[4] Stamp World, issue 5, 1968, article by Dr. Gyula Kadocsa (reported by Janos Dan)

lished on July 6, 1945, the method of publishing the first tariff of May 1, 1945 is not yet known to me.

Since from January 1945 only the term Budapest was used by the press of the time, it is natural that with the approval of the political agent Istvan Kossa, appointed by the Budapest National Committee exercising national authority, the post office was free to decide on the implementation of a new postal tariff. And the fact that this was published in the Nepszava, among others, is almost natural, because publishing it in the official newspaper was not possible due to the lack of an official newspaper.

Although the whole of Budapest was liberated on March 2, 1945, it is natural that the postal tariff was also treated uniformly, but Janos Dan correctly states that on the Buda side it was only possible to send letters to private individuals much later, precisely from May 1, 1945. It took until then for the restoration, the handling and delivery of the accumulated postal items.

At the same time, the term Pest tariff contradicts the intention of the legislator. However, it is a fact that the new uniform, national tariff was already applied to the private (non-governmental) postal traffic that started on the Buda side on May 1, 1945.

I do not wish to be the arbiter in the debate that erupted over the name of the tariff, but I can only accept the name Budapest and its surroundings (using the terminology of the time: the Great Budapest Tariff), not the Pest Tariff.

At the same time, Janos Dan correctly points out that the start of postal traffic in Budapest was a longer process, which lasted from the liberation of the Pest side on January 18, 1945 until May 1, 1945, and even then only 4 post offices began operating on the Buda side of the capital.

Thanks are due to Dr. And to Ferenc Nagy, because in 2004 he spotted an overpaid philatelist envelope and thus put the questions surrounding the start of Budapest postal traffic into a new dimension, publishing the letter he called the Budapest tariff.

I would also like to thank Janos Dan for his research work, for the study published in Philatelica, in which he describes the start of postal traffic in Budapest based on a previously unknown manuscript, and also for drawing my attention to several sources. For this, I can only publish two pieces of information based on the study of the Budapest National Committee minutes and the source mentioned by Janos Dan.

Special thanks also go to Dr. Gabor Bernath, who immediately reacted to Dr. Ferenc Nagy's article, his epoch-making discovery and presented the letters he knew about from Budapest and received in Budapest during that period. At the same time, he was the first to use the term "necessary tariff", which I think is not the right term, because in the Budapest tariff, since in an extraordinary situation the post office was operating again on the Pest side, and in the early days of the postal service being restored on the Buda side, the post office had the right to modify the tariff introduced in 1943 and to introduce a new tariff.

The entry into force of the national tariff replacing the tariff coincided with the reopening of postal traffic on the Buda side for private individuals, which is why the application of the Budapest tariff on the Buda side became, or could have become, obsolete.

Additions to the History of Hungarian Philately

Dr. Zsolt Bodnar, Attila Marton, Karoly Szucs

1. 1. Editorial Preface (by Karoly Szucs)

In Philatelica, we often publish tributes to our members who have made significant contributions to our knowledge of Hungarian philately. From these recollections – mostly published without the author's name – an overall picture is slowly forming, on the basis of which the century and a half of history of Hungarian philately can also become personal.

I encourage our members to share with us their memories, if they can, as well as the philatelic correspondence they have in their possession, because these can also be stimulating for future generations.

Most recently, it was Bob Morgan, who was honoured here, who made it possible for us to glimpse into their instructive life journey through his correspondence with Istvan Liptak (see here, below!)

2. The Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society Is 35 Years Old (by dr. Zsolt Bodnar, Ireland)

If we turn to the 1989/2. issue of Philatelica, at the bottom of page 4 we find a short, 15-line article entitled "The Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society (Mafitt) was founded." According to the announcement, Mafitt was founded on September 14, 1989 with 31 members. The official announcement did indeed take place then, and the requirements for operating an officially registered company that complies with all legal regulations were created by then, but the idea of founding Mafitt was born much earlier.

Since many controversial articles have been published in recent decades about the circumstances of the founding of Mafitt, in this article I have reconstructed the authentic history of the foundation based on the memoirs and recollections of the founding members.

Let's turn the wheel of time back to the 1970s!

In 1979, the Slovak Philatelic Association based in Bratislava organized a symposium to which several renowned Hungarian philatelists were invited. Among the invited guests was Dr. Ferenc Nagy, a fellow collector from Vienna, who was honoured on the occasion of his achievements in the use of the 25 and 50 krajczar of the 1867 edition in Hungary, but another eminent Hungarian collector, the then 70-year-old Andor Ber, was also present. After the symposium, which lasted until late in the evening, Andor Ber and Ferenc Nagy stumbled along the cobblestones of the already darkened Petofi Square, looking for something to eat, while Ferenc Nagy presented his plan to establish a scientific society associated with the Academy. Andor Ber considered the idea, which had been maturing for almost ten years, to be a very good idea, but unfortunately he saw no possibility of implementing it at that time.

Nearly ten years passed until 1988, when Professor Laszlo Makkai visited Vienna to give a lecture on the history of Transylvania. Professor

Makkai was a polyhistrian, and postal history and Hungarian stamps were not left out of his wide-ranging interests. Since Professor Makkai had been a full member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) since 1987, Ferenc Nagy thought he was ideal for creating the connecting link that can still be read in the Philatelica Pantheon chapter of his short philatelic biography; he was the "connecting link between philatelists and the MTA".

The “war plan” was woven at the dinner following Professor Makkai’s lecture in Vienna, at the Hotel Regina, and Professor Makkai promised to contact his old friend Professor Istvan Lang the very next day, who was none other than the president of the MTA at the time. Barely a few days had passed when Dr. Nagy's phone rang and Professor Makkai, in an almost euphoric mood, informed him that Professor Lang was waiting for them in his office on the morning of September 15, 1988. On Wednesday, September 15, at 10 a.m., Prof. Istvan Lang, Prof. Laszlo Makkai and Dr. Ferenc Nagy met in the office of the General Secretary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Nagy once again presented - now in the presence of the President of the Academy - his idea, which had been maturing since the seventies, of a philatelic scientific society working under the wings of the Academy. Professor Lang stood up and, shaking hands with Dr. Nagy, said only: "Great idea! As a dedicated stamp collector, I will be the number one registered member". At that moment, Mafitt was born, which would have celebrated its 35th anniversary on September 15, 2023.

Of course, one or two more consultation meetings were needed at the Academy, the statutes were developed with the participation of several renowned philatelists, the first recruitment of members took place, the management was appointed and on September 14, 1989, exactly one year after the meeting in Professor Lang's office, the Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society was launched, but the foundation took place on September 15, 1988, in the office of the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Let this short announcement pay tribute to the 35th anniversary and the three founders: Prof. Istvan Lang (1931-2016) agro-chemist, academician, Prof. Laszlo Makkai (1914-1989) theologian, historian and Dr. Ferenc Nagy, chief medical advisor, and chamber councillor currently living in Vienna.



Prof. Laszlo Makkai



Dr. Ferenc Nagy



Prof. Istvan Lang

3. In Memoriam dr. Titsch Endre 1928-2019 (by Attila Marton, Budapest)

My dear friend "Bandi" and philately teacher, for whom philately was his favourite hobby. His favourite area was old letters and mail, he passionately loved to research and analyze them. Since 1991, he has been a member of Mafitt "Living History Among Us (Gyorgy Kun, OPM collection), thus being included in the Mafitt's permanent list1 and was also congratulated on his 90th birthday at the 36th general meeting of Mafitt2. In 1990, he wrote an article in Philatelica 90/1 entitled "Szigethvar provisional and lithographic connections at a foreign auction"[3]. In this regard, he once jokingly told me that the Szigethvar provisionals could have been created when coffee was spilled on the postage stamps and, so that they would not go to waste, the postmaster took them out and used them.



Figure 1. Szigethvar Provisional (Darabanth Auction House, from an internet source)

He was born in Budapest in 1928 and grew up here. He studied at the Piarist gymnasium and graduated in law, later he was a legal advisor at various state offices. He retained his intelligence and interests throughout his life; he spoke excellent German and French, and a little Latin.

His parents were downtown merchants and officials, his father served in World War I, where he was a distinguished first lieutenant, among other things he received the Silver Crown Cross of Merit (I saw this, but unfortunately I do not know what happened to it). I would like to illustrate these memories with figures 2 and 3 below.



Figure 2

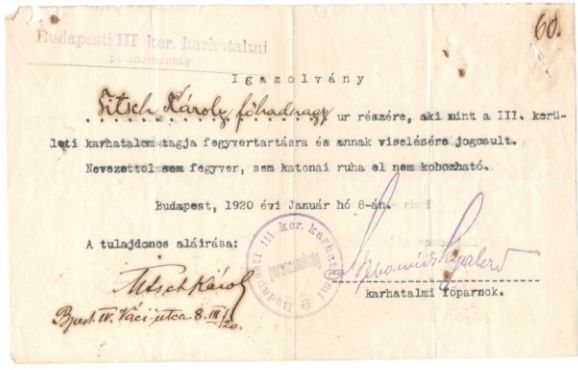


Figure 3

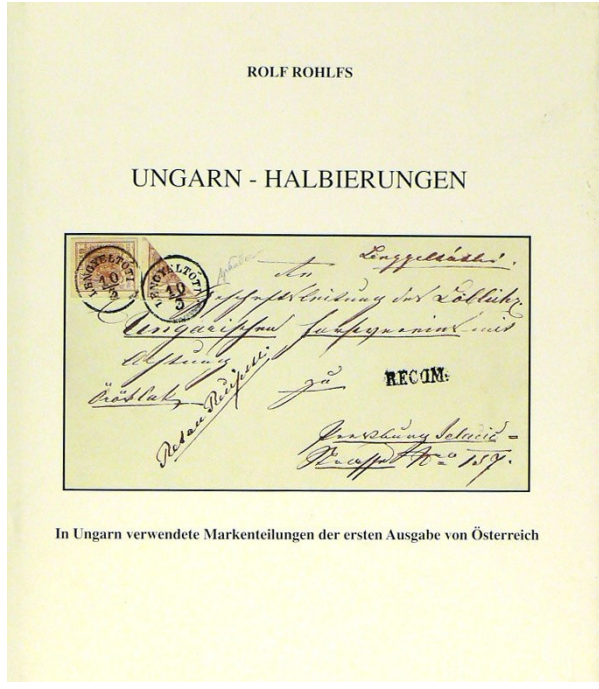
One of his cousins, Mihaly Varjasi, also became a renowned philatelist, and has been the 165th hereditary member of Mafitt since 2007. He has been researching and collecting telegrams since the beginning and gave a two-part lecture on this subject, which he documented with his own material and research and presented in chronological order.[4-5]

I met Bandi in 2004 and for 15 years we talked about stamps almost every week. He told me about the great philatelists of the last century, like Uncle Gyuri Kun, who had a very rich collection and many great rarities, like his halved stamp sheet from 1850, a red Merkur newspaper on a ribbon, a red 3kr misprint from 1867 on a Kobanya sheet, etc.6 Uncle Gyuri had hundreds of serious classic sheets and decades of experience, so he once asked him for a certificate for a Nagymanya cutout.[7]



Figure 4 Certificate for a cut-out of Nagymanya

In 2000, he wrote a review for Rolf Rohlfs' book "Ungarn – Halbierungen", including a brief description of Uncle Gyuri's work.


ROLF ROHLFS

UNGARN - HALBIERUNGEN

In Ungarn verwendete Markenteilungen der ersten Ausgabe von Österreich

Figure 5

He was on very good terms with “Lacza”. He held him in high esteem and was a close friend, they traded a lot together, Laszlo Lacza had a stamp shop on Vaci Street, and if I remember correctly, after his death, at the request of his widow, Bandi helped run the shop.



Figure 6

He loved to play with stamps, and although his eyesight deteriorated significantly in his last years, his attention and interest in stamps remained! He could always see the stamp and discover it, spot the special features and interesting pieces. If he found something, he was very excited and tried to decipher it with his diligence and knowledge, and as I wrote above, he had great success and talent in this. He had a real lexical mind, an excellent memory and thus was able to remember a lot of things.

In his last year, he said that he would like to live to be 90, so that he could receive the 90,000 HUF pension premium, but he did not want to live any longer because he was living life in front of other people. Soon he went through a severe mental decline, which I think was due to taking sleeping pills, among other things, so he was not fully conscious in his last months and passed away shortly before his 91st birthday. As fate would have it, I was the one who saw him for the last time in the hospital and said goodbye to my spiritual friend.

USED SOURCES

http://www.mafitt.hu/fooldal/index.html and come from the books and printed materials indicated here. (What is not specifically indicated is my own source.)

NUMBERED NOTES

1 In 1991, it expanded its membership this year with five foreign and one Hungarian member, including Elaine C. Arundel (England), Pierre Vattepain (France), Peter Girlich (Germany), Tomas Morovics (Czech and Slovak Republics), Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer (Austria) and Dr. Endre Titsch.

2Before discussing the agenda, the secretary greeted our jubilant members who were celebrating a full year this year: Drs. Paul De Leeuw Van Weenen is 70 years old this year, Tibor Kiraly, Pierre Vattepain, Laszlo Perneczky and Lajos Horvath are 80 years old; Dr. Endre Titsch is 90 years old.

3 Philatelica 1990/1: Dr. Endre Tisch: Szigetvar provisional lithographic connections at foreign auctions.

4 Philatelica 2013/2. Telegrams in Hungary between 1867 and 1888/the first 20 years/

5 Philatelica 2015/2: Mihaly Varjasi: The closed telegram sheets with premium stamps between 1888-1919.

6 Rolf Rolhls 2000: Ungarn-Halbierungen pp. 18-20

7 Sept. 3, 1970. Photographic certificate of Gyorgy Kun Bp. for a Nagymanya cut-out

ROBERT B. MORGAN
FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE VISNYOVSZKI GABOR LIFETIME AWARD

Authors in the order of their writings: Karoly Szucs, Csaba Kohalmi and dr. Pal Lippai

Last year, the Mafitt board established a lifetime achievement award in honour of the recently deceased Gabor Visnyovszki. The award itself is a portrait engraved on a metal cube bearing the same name. The board awarded it to Bob Morgan for the first time. As the brainchild and also the editor of Philatelica, it was an unforgettable and eternal honour for me to be able to present it to him personally at a family celebration on his 100th birthday in Los Angeles in March of this year.

The foundation document of the award



Visnyovszki Gábor életműdíj
alapító okirat

A DÍJ ELNEVEZÉSE: Visnyovszki Gábor életműdíj

A DÍJ ALAPÍTÓJA: a Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság nevében a Mafitt +elnöksége.

A DÍJ CÉLJA: olyan személyek filatelista pályafutásának elismerése, akik hosszabb időn keresztül jelentős mértékben járultak hozzá a magyar filatélia ismertségéhez és megbecsüléséhez.

A DÍJ LEIRASA: kb. 10 cm átmérőjű bronz érem a névadó arcképével, hátoldalán a díjazott bevésett nevével és a díj elnyerésének évszámával.

A DÍJ ODAÍTÉLÉSE: a díj kiadásáról Mafitt elnöksége dönt.

A DÍJ ADOMÁNYOZHATÓ: legfeljebb három évente.

A DÍJ ELNYERÉSÉNEK FELTÉTELE: a díjat egy személy legfeljebb egy alkalommal nyerheti el.

A DÍJ ÁTADÁSA: ünnepélyes körülmények közt, a Mafitt elnöke adja át az elnyerését igazoló, sorszámozott oklevéllel együtt.

A kitüntetésről szóló hír a méltatással együtt teendő közzé a Mafitt internetes felületén, szaklapjában és a magyar filatéliai szaksajtóban.

Az alapítók köszönetet mondanak a díja alapításának költségeihez hozzájáruló IBK és Pátria Filatéliai Egyesületeknek.

Budapest, 2023. március 15.

Dr. Lövei György
a Mafitt elnöke

MAGYAR FILATÉLIAI TUDOMÁNYOS TÁRSASÁG ALAPÍTVA: 1989

15.03.2023





A Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság

OKLEVELE

A Mafitt Elnöksége az első alkalommal kiadott
Visnyovszki Gábor életműdíjat

Robert Morgan

tagtársunknak ítélte,

a magyar filatélia nemzetközi hírnevének öregbítésében angol nyelvű szakirodalomban való folyamatos dpolásában és nemzetközi kiállításokon hosszú időn át kifejtett, eredményes munkásságáért;

továbbá a Magyar Filatéliai Tudományos Társaság céljainak megvalósításában tanúsított áldozatos közreműködéséért; nemzetközi kapcsolatainak építésében vállalt támogató szerepéért; és egyben minden olyan, itt teljes körűen fel nem sorolható érdeméért, amellyel egy egész világra kiterjedő, nagy filatéliai közösség céljait és érdekeit szolgálta.

Budapest, 2023. október 30.

Dr. Lövei György
a Mafitt elnöke

MAGYAR FILATÉLIAI TUDOMÁNYOS TÁRSASÁG ALAPÍTVA: 1989

Presentation of the first diploma of the award 30.10.2023





10.03.2024

On this occasion, Bob Morgan gave us his philatelic correspondence with Istvan Liptak in the mid-1990s for publication, which I deposited in the MABEOSZ library. This material, which contains around 50 pieces, ultimately turned into a very instructive, 100-page entertaining and educational read. We can only recommend it to all our friends who, following this example, would like to follow in the footsteps of our greatest philatelists! Here it is: www.mabeosz.hu/filatelia-online

MEMORIES OF CSABA KOHALMI

He was born into a family struggling with modest circumstances in Pestszenterzsebet a century ago. He was a young man when the Second World War swept through his homeland. Because of his origin, he was drafted into labour service, but his courage encouraged him to escape, and thus he survived.

He wanted a better future and therefore emigrated. He first ended up in New York, and later in California, where he found a living for himself and his family. In the meantime, he caught the passion of stamp collecting. At first, he collected imperforate Hungarian stamps because, in his opinion, only reliable data was available on the number of stamps issued. In his opinion, the official number of copies of perforated stamps was usually unreliable.

Since he had personal experience of the inflation of 1945-46, he was also interested in the postal history of this era. It may have happened as early as the 1980s that he tried such a material at an exhibition, when a jury member made a comment to him: "Hungary's inflation is no big deal. Every country had its inflation."

In the following decades, he managed to refute this. He worked tenaciously and persistently on his exhibition material. His work was crowned with increasing success at international exhibitions.

He has been a member of the American Society for Hungarian Philately since 1974. He wrote numerous articles in the circle's newspaper. He also wrote a book about inflation, The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946. This was published by the Collectors Club of Chicago in 2003.

In 1992, he held a lecture for Mafitt on an interesting inflation research entitled "The Fewest Stamp Exemptions in 1945/46".

Gold medals from the "Hungary–The Hyperinflation 1945–1946" collection at FIP exhibitions:

WASHINGTON 2006; ISRAEL 2008; EFIRO 2008; LONDON 2010; NEW YORK 2016; THAILAND 2018.

After 7 international gold medals including the Finlandia 2017 FEPA exhibition, as a reward for his diligence and perseverance, it achieved at **London 2022 FIP** WSE the highest level, the Large Gold medal too!

MEMORIES OF DR. PAL LIPPAI

It wasn't him, but his wife Edith, who I first met! It so happened that after judging many domestic and bilateral exhibitions, I was finally invited to the FIP exhibition in 1997, and not just anywhere, to the San Francisco World's Fair, to the group judging European postal history material. When I had time off from work, I looked around the stands and my eyes were caught by a "Society for Hungarian Philately" sign. I went there right away and struck up a conversation with the lady behind the table. When her husband arrived shortly after, I already knew a lot about the Society, some of whose members I had previously had the good fortune to know personally.

It was then that I first met Bob Morgan, and many more followed. There, at the exhibition, we fought seriously with jury member John Hotchner for Bob's first gold medal, but the final word was finally given by the highly respected Bob Oedenweller. In addition to Bob, several serious collectors of Hungarian origin also attended the evening dinner, such as Pali Szilagyi, Pista Frater, Gabriel and others. I sat next to Bob, who said that in his opinion it would be important to expand the membership with as many members as possible – no longer of Hungarian origin. And lo and behold, by the end of the exhibition, Edith had organized three "real" Americans as members.

Later, fate brought it about that I participated in a lawsuit that lasted for several years in Riverside, and when I travelled to Uncle Imre Vamos, who lived there (the name is familiar, right: the owner of the Society's auctions and a former expert on Chilean stamps), I always spent a few days at Bob's place. Of course, this gave me the opportunity to stamp a lot. We admired his cut and even more so his inflation collection. I am still proud to this day that I was able to contribute to his 128 sheets containing almost all the rarities with a telegram delivered at a nice inflation time.

I also met Bob, the "non-stamp collector". Every morning, still in his dressing gown, he would sit at his computer in the guest room and look through the letters that had arrived during the night. Most of these were jokes in Hungarian and (secondarily) English, and he would laugh a lot, which also set the tone for his mood during the day. So Edith's wife had to tell us several times to sit down at the breakfast table.

After breakfast, Bob would review the stock market movements, which he would take detailed notes about. These helped him to manage his investments effectively. Through Bob, I got to know the sights of Los Angeles, so when I went out with my wife, I was already showing her Sunset Boulevard and its surroundings with ease.

But I enjoyed listening to Bob talk about the old days the most: how he twice escaped from labour service, how he was sentenced to execution, and how he managed to escape with incredible luck and ingenuity. Even after several decades, it still lives in me as vividly as if I had been there: Bob and his fellow prisoners are marching in line towards the place of execution, when suddenly a similar line of torn clothes comes across them, accompanied by Arrow Cross guards. And Bob – driven by a sudden realization – just steps into the oncoming line, since complete uncertainty is still better than certain death.

This realization ensured his survival, then the possibility of emigration, his meeting with Edit, also an emigrant, the birth of their children, the building of a successful career importing Far Eastern goods, and of course his in-depth study of stamps, including the international recognition of the philatelic period of Hungarian hyperinflation.

In the hustle and bustle of the exhibitions, there was only time for superficial conversations, but I am grateful to fate that I was lucky enough to meet Bob many times and get to know him not only as a talented man, but also as a sincere friend.

NEWS

1. MAGYAR BELYEGVIZSGALO SZAKCSOPORT (MBSZ)

The 'Magyar Belyegvizsgalo Szakcsoport' (Hungarian Stamp Examination Group) is operating under a new chairman and is continuously growing with the addition of international experts. It is likely that it will soon reach the ten-member membership required to become an association.



www.mafitt.hu/mbsz

It is worth checking out the page showing counterfeits, which is constantly updated in order to prevent the spread of counterfeits. Our members can also support this useful activity of the professional group by describing the counterfeits they have in their possession and sending pictures to their secretary.

The examination regulations, the sample forms used, their examination fees, the marking system they use, their news and contact information can also be found on their website.

2. EFIRO 2024 FIP SPECIALIZED STAMP EXHIBITION BUCHAREST (16-19 APR 2024)

Nine of our members participated in the exhibition with 11 collections in the competition class, with particularly good results: they won 2 large gold, 7 gold and 2 vermeil medals. Adriano Bergamini's collection was awarded a special prize by the jury and nominated for the international grand prize (GPIC), which ultimately went to the Israeli exhibitor Joseph D. Hackmey with only one more vote.

In the Revenue Class, Karoly Szucs – for the second time after New York – won the jury's felicity, which was also accompanied by the special prize of the Chinese Taipei Philatelic Association.

Class		Award & points	
	Banas Artur	-	
TH	A Miracle of a Great Discovery - The Victoria Falls	88p	
	Adriano Bergamini (Swiss)	**2xLG**	
PH	The Austrian Post in Hungary 1850 -1867	96p	**GPIC/SP**
PH	The Independent Hungarian Postal Administration to U.P.U. (1867-1875)	95p	
	Bodnar Zsolt	**G**	
PH	Chapters from the Captains' Registry of Adria: The Peterdi Letters Story	90	
	Borda Lorinc	**LV**	
PH	Foreign Parcel Service of the Hungarian Royal Post	85P	
	Buday Adam	**LV**	
	Newspaper Stamps in Hungary 1851 -1922	85P	
	Csicsay Peter (Slovakia)	**G**	
PH	The Postal History of Kingdom of Hungary 1900-1918	92p	
	Jakab Andras	**LG**	
	Hungarian Postal History 1867 -1876	95p	
	Szucs Karoly	**V; LG**	
TR	Hungarian Perfin - Punching as a Security Feature of Stamps 1877-1964	83p	
REV	Hungary's First Adhesive Revenues During the Forint-Krajczar Currency Period 1868-1898	95p	**FEL/SP**
	Toth Gyorgy	**LS**	
PH	Postal History of the Forint-Filler Era (1946-1968)	88p	







Award ceremony, the exhibition medal and the special prize awarded by the Chinese Taipei Philatelic Association, the "Year of the Dragon"



The elegant venue for Palmares Night, 'Le Château'

This only one issue of 2024 was able to issue only with a big delay in the first half of 2025. We ask for the understanding and kind apologies of our members:

editor of the philatelica:

Free for members of Mafitt

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

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

www.mafitt.hu





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