HUNGARY
ERROR PRINTS
VARIATIONS
1900-1944

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HUNGARY ERROR PRINTS VARIATIONS
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In the December 1970 issue of our Newsletter, a report was reprinted from the Filateliai Szemle - the Journal of the National Federation of Hungarian Philatelists - reporting that a collector in Hungary found a paid of the 500 K harvester stamp (Scott 392) where, on one of the stamps, the left-hand numeral was 530 instead of 500. This news demonstrates that to look for printing errors is sometimes a fruitful occupation.

Although one should not expect that such major findings are commonplace, one may have the reward when looking through the stamps collected or purchased, by finding some printing errors or other deviations from the standard issues. This is even more possible because the major stamp catalogs list only a few such variations and thus, it is quite likely that even the dealers have overlooked that the stamp in question is a special one.

Since the variations from the period 1900-1945 are not fully documented in any available publication, I tried to summarize them here. I start with the 1900 Tural issues. There are a number of variations known for the 1874-1899 envelope type stamps; however, these are well documented in the third volume of the Magyar Belyegek Momografiaja. Similarly, the variations and errors related to the stamps issued since 1945 are discussed in detail in the fifth volume of this series. Thus, for the pre-1900 and post 1945 period, I refer to this publication.

In the discussion, "printing error" and "variation" generally mean difference in the printed text, design, color or paper of the stamps. Watermark and perforation variations are not considered here; also the lack of perforation is considered only if it means an error or oversight during printing. It should be emphasized that from the pre-W.W. II stamps, imperforate sets exist; these are, however, proofs.

Besides the errors mentioned here, there are a number of freaks which are due to carelessness in the printing process (e.g., wrinkled paper, print on the back, incorrect adjustment during perforation, etc), and not to plate errors or omission of certain steps in printing. Although such stamps are of interest to the specialized collector, they are not considered here.

The stamps and watermarks are identified to the Scott catalog; the Scott number of the basic stamps is always given in parenthesis.
This discussion is based on the information included in the Scott, Michel, and Zumstein catalogs, the *Magyar Belyegek Arjegyzeke* (Price list of Hungarian Stamps), the 11th edition of Hungary's Postage Stamp Catalog published in 1948 by the stamp dealer Sandor Szekely in Budapest, further a number of articles, news, and reports published in various Hungarian philatelic journals, as well as my own collection.

The discussion will be divided into three parts. The first part will deal with the postage stamps (regular, semi-postal and air mail), the second part with the postage due stamps and finally the third part with the official stamps. June 1, 1971.

I. POSTAGE STAMPS

1900-1916 Turul Series

In the first Turul series (1900, Wmk 135 in circle), some rows in a few sheets remained without perforation. Pairs without perforation between the two stamps are rarities. Also, some stamps of this series are known to exist without numeral, these are: the 1 f gray (47), 6 f claret (52), 10 f carmine (55), and 35 f red violet (60) stamps. Most of these stamps have been found at post offices or stamp selling places and recovered, but a few were already used up in the mail. There are also two color variations which are fairly common; the 1 f gray stamp (47) also exists in dull lilac (47a), and the 6 f claret stamp (52) in violet brown (52a).

There is one color variation known in the second Turul series (1904, Wmk. 136a, Perf. 12 x 11 1/2): the 50 f stamp exists both in lake (79a) and magenta (79c). Stamps of this series - except the 12 f (73a) and the magenta 50 f (79c) - are known on two types of paper: a brittle yellow, and a soft white. The 12f stamp exists only on the former, and the magenta 50 f stamp on the latter paper.

In the third series (1906 Wmk 135a, Perf. 15), an interesting plate error occurred; on the 98th stamp of each plate, the denomination is given as "filler" instead of "filler"; this is known to exist at least on the following stamps: 2 f (68b), 3 f (69b), 5 f (70b), 6 f (71b), 10 f (72b), 25 f (76b), 30 f (77b), 50 f (79b), and 60 f (80b).

The most famous error among the Turul stamps occurred in the sixth series (1913, Wmk. 137 vertical, Perf. 15). In a few sheets of the 50 f stamp (lake on blue paper; Scott 96) the cliche of the numeral "50" was replaced by mistake by "35"; this occurs at the 13th place (3rd stamp of the second horizontal line) of these sheets. The color of the genuine 35 f stamp is red violet on white paper and thus the error is easily observable. This stamp was also forged, by painting the paper of the original 35f stamp blue; therefore, individual stamps are always suspicious.
Other variations in this series include color changes of the 3 and 5 f stamps: the color of the 3 f stamp (86) is orange but stamps in yellow also exist; similarly, one can find 5 f stamps in olive as compared to the regular color of emerald (87).

Another error occurred on the 60 f stamp with horizontal watermark (98) issued in 1914 from which some stamps are know without the numeral "60". A similar error was found on the 70 f stamp with vertical watermark issue of 1916 (99): on a few sheets sent to the post office in Fiume, the numeral was missing. About 8-10 such stamps are known to exist. There is one more very rare error known in connection with this stamp which is printed in brown on a green background: a few are known where the green background color is completely missing on the front page, but can be found on the back of the stamp. Evidently at least one sheet was placed in error in reverse on the printing machine in the first step of the two-stage printing process. Since the Turul stamps should have been printed in sheets of 400, at least 400 such stamps should exist; however, less than a dozen are only known. All known stamps with this error are cancelled in Arad, around December 10-15, 1917.

The stamps of the sixth set have been in use during the War years and were printed in large quantities. During these years, there was sometimes a problem to secure the proper paper and thus, all stamps exist with a wide variety of paper of different quality and thickness. Except the 1 f (84), 16 f (91), and 60 f (green on salmon paper: 98) stamps, the stamps were also printed on a lined paper in somewhat lighter colors.

It should also be mentioned that one stamp of the sixth series was forged; since the 60 f stamp on white paper (97) has a higher value than the stamp on salmon paper (98), the latter was bleached to obtain a white paper.

**War Relief Series**

During the First World War, three war relief series have been issued. Stamps belonging to the first two series are known with a number of errors and variations.

Three printing errors are known in the **First War Relief Series**. Two of these are fairly common and all filler stamps except the 5+2 f (B21) and 10 + 2 (B23) stamps exist with these errors: the word "hadi" ("Hadi segely" - War Relief) is misprinted either as "Aadi" or as "Vadi". Besides these, the 1 K + 2 f (B32), 2 K + 2 F (B33), and 5 K + 2 f (B34) stamps also exist with the surtax printed as "fille" instead of "filler". 

-3-
In the first printing of the second War Relief series, the 60 + 2 f stamp was overprinted with smaller letters than the other stamps (B52); this was later corrected in subsequent printings (B48). In this series a number of errors are also known: the 1+2 f stamp is known with only the "Hadi segely" overprint in the middle, and the 1+2 f through 50+2 f stamps (B35-B56) exist with the second accent missing in the word "a'rva'knak" ("arvaknak").

Since the World War II war relief series represents the overprinting of the sixth Turul series, the stamps printed on poor quality or lined paper can also be found with the present overprint. Besides these, a few sheets of the 50 f stamp with the plate error of having the numeral 35 printed instead of 50 at the 13th place were also overprinted with the War Relief text: such a stamp and particularly a pair with the 50 f stamp represents a great rarity. According to a report in the 1938 issue of A Belyeggyüite (The Stamp Collector, the journal of the LEHE, Budapest), only four full sheets existed at that time with this error. From these, one was at the Budapest Philatelic Museum; one in the hand of a Hungarian collector and two in the United States; who knows what happened with these full sheets?

Harvester-Parliament Series of 1916

The stamps of this series (Wmk 137; 108-126) also exist on very thick paper.

Harvester-Parliament Series with MAGYAR POSTA Imprint

In January 1919, stamps with the same design but now, with the text MAGYAR POSTA were issued (174-197). From these, the 5 f (177) and 50 f (187) stamps also exist on thick paper. The 95 f (parliament) stamp (189) exists in two color variations: cobalt blue/blue and dark blue/light blue. The 2 K (parliament) stamp (194) is known in copies where the printing of the center is displaced toward the top; thus, there is a white field before the Danube and "pin" on the top of the cupola touching the frame. The 3 K stamp (parliament) is also known with the numeral in the horizontal position.

First Air Mail Series

The first air mail stamps were issued on July 4, 1918 by overprinting the 75 f and 2 K parliament stamps with the respective denominations of 1 K 50 f and 4 K 50 f (C1 and C2). The color of the overprint is carmine on the first and dark blue on the second stamp: the first stamp also exists with brick-red overprint. The first stamp is also known with inverted overprints.

This set was forged extensively, not only the overprint, but also the markings and cancellations on letters, with the arrival marking of Vienna.
Stamps with KOZTARSASAG Overprint

In November 1918, all the existing stamps were overprinted with the text KOZTARSASAG. The harvester (153-162), Charles-Zita (168-173), the III, War relief (B58-B60), and the special delivery stamp (22) all exist with inverted overprint.

Issues of the Hungarian Soviet Republic

On July 21, 1919, the harvester-parliament stamps with the text MAGYAR POSTA have been overprinted with the text MAGYAR TANACS-KOZTARSASAG (Hungarian Soviet Republic). The overprint exists in two colors: carmine on those stamps which were overprinted in Budapest, and brick-red on those which were overprinted in Sepron.

Stamps with carmine overprint: 2 f (203), 3 f (204), 4 f (205), 3 f (206), 6 f (207), 10 f (208), 15 f (209), 20 f (210), 25 f (211), 40 f (212), 45 f (213), 95 f (215), 1 K (216), 1.20 K (217), 1.40 K (218), 2 K (219), 3 K (220), 5 K (221), 10 K (222).

Stamps with brick-red overprint: 10 f (208), 20 f (210), 50 f (214), 95 f (215), 1.20 K (217), 1.40 K (218), 3 K (220).

The 20 f stamp (210) with double overprint is a special rarity.

National Army Overprint

The entry of the National Army of Horthy into Budapest on November 16, 1919 was commemorated by a five-stamp set (306-310) consisting of the overprint A NEMZETI HADSEREG BEVONULASA 1919. XI. 16 (Entry of the National Army). These stamps were sold at the post offices only between November 23 and 25: after this period, the rest were given over to the Szocializ Nisszic Tarsulat (Social Mission Society) which sold them for charity purposes. The stamps sold by them are marked with an oval marking on the back of the stamp guaranteeing the genuineness of the stamp. However, stamps without this overprint are not automatically forgeries; they might belong to those which were actually sold at the post offices.

Sheaf of Wheat Overprints

In 1920, the MAGYAR TANACSKOZTARSASAG overprinted harvester-parliament set with the text MAGYAR POSTA was overprinted with a sheaf of wheat and the date 1919 on a ribbon band, in black. This overprint exists on both the carmine and brick-red overprinted series. The 10 f (317) and 45 f (321) stamps also exist with the new overprint inverted.

-5-
Harvester-Parliament Series of 1920-1924

In and after 1920, the following seven stamps of the first harvester-parliament series have been reprinted for general postage use: 20 f (115), 40 f (118), 1 K (122), 2 K (123), 3 K (124), 5 K (125), and 10 K (126). The color of the reprint is somewhat lighter than the color of the original printing.

Between 1920 and 1924, a number of new stamps were issued, now again with the inscription MAGYAR POSTA, in order to fulfill the need created by the inflation. The first series was printed on a paper with the old watermark (Wmk 137). There are two color variations known: the 50 f blue violet stamp (119) also exists in stale blue, and the 1 1/2 K brown violet stamp (342) also exists in flesh brown. A printing error is also known to exist in the 5 K (348) stamp: in some sheets, the 11. and 12. stamp had no numeral. The 800 K (363) stamp is also known without the numeral.

In 1924, nine additional harvester-parliament stamps were issued with the new watermark (Wmk 133). Here, a well-known printing error exists: the 12. stamp (second row, second stamp) in the sheets of the 600 K stamp (393) had the denomination "800" on the left side until the error was found and corrected. The 500 K stamp (393) with the numeral "530" on the left-hand side described in the December 1970 Filateliai Szemle and mentioned in the introduction of this booklet also belongs to this set.

Madonna Stamps of 1921-1925

These stamps were used in the general mail. Probably the most famous Hungarian stamp with a printing error belongs to this series: it is the 5000 K stamp (386) with inverted center. When this error was recognized a search was immediately initiated for stamps with this error and it was found that 200 such stamps have already been shipped to a post office where about 100 were sold before the rest could be withdrawn.

Charity Issues of 1924

In 1924, a set of three stamps (B77-B79) were issued for charity purposes. From these, the 300 K and 500 K stamps are also known in pairs without perforation between them. The 1000 K stamps also exists on greenish paper.

Regular Pengo - Filler Stamps of 1926-1928

In 1926, the new currency (100 filler = 1 pengo) was introduced and correspondingly, a new general postage set issued with Wmk. 133. In 1928, a similar set was issued with some of the stamps slightly redesigned and now with Wmk 210.