

OUR 32nd YEAR OF PUBLICATION

THE NEWS OF
HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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Established 1969

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APS Affiliate 34  
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The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society's address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the contents is not to be construed as official policy of this Society or any of its officers. All publication rights reserved for SHP. Articles from this journal may be reprinted with the written permission of the Editor and the authors only. Back issues of the newsletter may be purchased for \$3.00, postpaid, (when available).

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Annual membership dues are **\$15** for members whose addresses are in the United States and Canada and **\$20** for all other, overseas members. Dues are payable in January in advance for the calendar year. Payment of dues entitles members to receive the newsletter, to participate in the sales circuit and the quarterly auctions, and to exercise voting rights.

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This issue closed on 1 February 2001.

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The next issue will close on 1 May 2001.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brrrr! As I compose this note in very cold Atlanta weather, and reflect how high my natural gas price is this year, I only hope I have enough funds left in my checkbook to pay for my stamps! What a year so far! I also hope that the membership in California is able to read this by electric light rather than candlelight with all the power outages they have endured!

As we mentioned last issue, the SHP is participating at BALPEX, to be held in Baltimore on Labor Day weekend, 2001. **Dr. Andrew Munster**, our show chairperson, is organizing our active participation in the exhibit at the show. Please consider your participation and send Andrew an e-mail now if you intend to exhibit. (His e-mail address can be found on the inside cover of this newsletter.) He needs to know this information by the Spring for planning purposes of the show's exhibition committee. Remember, we will be presenting a "best of show" Society award for Hungarian-related material as well as a special award for new exhibitors.

Our Society's Executive Board has been mulling over the possibility of producing bound copies of previous editions of **The News of Hungarian Philately**. The current thoughts are to bind about 3 years' worth of issues per volume, naturally, depending on the number of pages issued per year. The goal is to produce a library-type edition for those wishing a display-quality like product as well as to supply as references to philatelic libraries, member libraries, etc. Over the next few months we will start to produce these volumes, and we will offer them for sale to the membership once they become available, probably mid-year. Rather than recopying all the issues, we would like to collect any old editions from members that wish to donate them to this effort. If you are cleaning house as a part of your new year's resolution, please send them to me at the address inside the back cover. Any complete year sets or individual issues that you can part with would be gratefully appreciated.

Some exciting news: a couple of new monographs are in the final stages of preparation, and the Executive Board is planning to distribute them to all active, paid-up members. And, one of these is going to be on the occupation-era overprints! So, please pay close attention to whether you have renewed your 2001 membership with SHP or not. In the last issue we mentioned that we regretfully dropped some members for non-payment of dues. We don't want you to miss a single issue, so check that your mailing label to make sure it indicates '2001.'

Finally, take a look at the numerous awards by society members in the **Kudos & Welcome** article herein. Some well-deserved praise goes out for some nice work in Hungarian philately again.

I'd like to wish a speedy recovery and a quick return to his philatelic activities to long-time SHP member **Dr. Paul J. Szilagy**.

I hope this issue finds everyone ready for the spring and summer philatelic activities and hope that you will contact us with your thoughts of how we can better serve you, our members. Keep stampin!

H. Alan Hoover

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KUDOS & WELCOME

Congratulations to our exhibitor member **Kalman V. Illyefalvi** who won a gold medal in the BPS members' competition at Balpex with *Postal Cards of the Union of South Africa - The Inter-Provincial Era*.

Congratulations to **H. Alan Hoover** for submitting the SHP website for review in the 2000 FIP website judging and receiving a 2-Star award. The website is authorized to display the 2-Star logo of FIP 2000 in green color. The FIP website can be viewed at www.f-i-p.ch. **Mr. Hoover** also received a silver award at the Midaphil 2000 National Philatelic Website competition.

Welcome to the following new members: Mr. **Peter Kr. H. Bech** of Copenhagen, Denmark and **Dr. Gábor Bernáth** of Szeged, Hungary.

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A CORRECTION (WITH APOLOGIES TO MR. ARATO)

Last issue's article by Dénes Czirók omitted Mr. **Steven Arato** from the list of distinguished SHP members who have been admitted to the MAFITT organization. Mr. Arato has been a member of SHP since 1971 and has published several monographs both in Hungary and in the US. He was accepted as a MAFITT member in 1996. We would like to extend our sincere apologies to Mr. Arato for this unintended oversight.

Dénes Czirók, Robert B. Morgan & Csaba L Kohalmi

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THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance 1-1-2000		\$ 11,007.36
Income		
Auction proceeds	\$ 1,756.21	
Circuit Sales	1,025.00	
Dues	2,425.00	
Donations	125.00	
Newsletter ads and sales	54.00	
Total Income		<u>\$ 5,385.21</u>
Beginning Balance plus Total Income		\$ 16,392.57
Expenses		
Postage	\$ 122.16	
(4) Newsletter publication	1,465.12	
State of Connecticut filing fee	25.00	
APS Entry fees	75.00	
Total Expenses		<u>\$ 1,687.28</u>
Bank Balance 12-31.2000		\$ 14,705.29

(signed) **Ted Johnson, Treasurer**

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THE PRINTING PRESSES OF BARANYA

by A.B. Muller, Csaba Kohalmi and Chris Brainard

Through the years since the Baranya overprinted stamps appeared, several notable Hungarian philatelists (among others, József Joszt, Jenő Szabó-Antal, László Surányi, Leslie Ettore, and Paul Szilagyi to name a few) have addressed the subject of the two presses which were used to prepare the issue. With the passage of time and changes through translation, some confusion had arisen, particularly in the English-speaking community. This article is our attempt to clear up this confusion.

It is known from several early sources that the first series of overprints from Baranya were applied by two types of presses at the *Pécsi Irodalmi és Könyvnyomdai Részvénytársaság*/Literature and Book Press Stock Company of Pécs. In the Hungarian literature, these presses are referred to as the *gyorssajtó* and the *tégelysajtó*. The printing shop owned two presses of each type. Szabó-Antal illustrated these in his 1939 book with the two photographs, one of which is reproduced below; the other, on the next page.

Surányi reproduced the print shop's registry log in the appendix of his 1979 book. The committee overseeing the overprinting operation provided detailed transcripts in which the *tégelysajtó* was generally referred to as the American pedal press (*amerikai taposó gép*) because each impression had to be initiated by depressing a foot pedal¹. On the other hand, the *gyorssajtó* was said to be automatic and was also referred to as American².

Both Szabó-Antal and Surányi attributed the characteristic impressions created by the presses in the following way. The *gyorssajtó* prints look like sharp impressions with clean edges, evenly distributed ink, soot-black in color and with very little or no relief visible on the back. The *tégelysajtó* prints are appreciably broader and with less distinct impression, somewhat translucent grayish black in color, appreciably pressed into the paper resulting in a relief visible from the back, and the outline of letters darker than their body. Both the relief and the darker outline of the letters is due to the "squeeze," which resulted from the forcing of ink to the edges of the letters by the printing pressure during impression. A similar comparison can be made for the stamps with the red impression.

In numerous English publications, *gyorssajtó* and *tégelysajtó* have been translated as *flatbed press* and *rotary press*, respectively. We believe that these translations came about, at least in part, from the Szabó-Antal illustrations which show the *tégelysajtó* press to have circular or cylindrical features, while the *gyorssajtó* press appears to have a flat bed. One of us (Kohalmi, 1996) previously had proposed that both presses used flat plates, and that this terminology of referring to them as "flatbed press" and "rotary press" is simply incorrect.

Bob Steffens (a third generation printer, collector of antique printing equipment, and owner of the Cronite Company that had manufactured presses since 1886) graciously examined the illustrations shown above. He confirmed that both presses have a flat bed; the first one is mounted horizontally in the *gyorssajtó* illustration; the other, mounted vertically in the *tégelysajtó* picture. Neither press is a rotary press. (A very coherent description of these printing

methods is given by Williams (1990, p.540).) Curved-plate relief printing technology was fairly unusual at that time, particularly in Eastern Europe in a provincial print shop whose equipment predated World War I. Furthermore, Mr. Steffens confirmed that the device on the upper left side of the photograph labeled *tégelysajtó* is a sheet feeder. The cylindrical component of the press is part of the drive mechanism that delivered the paper to the printing plate.

This information compelled us to re-examine carefully the photographs. We noted that the *gyorssajtó* bore the name STURMVOGEL on the frame. This is German word for “stormbird.” Mr. Steffens is unaware of any American-made press by that name. We then surmised that photograph published by Szabó-Antal may be generic example of the type of press used in Pécs, not a photograph of the actual press itself. Fortunately, our research led us to the **Pallas Nagy Lexikon** (Gerő, 1893-1897), which is available on the Internet³, in which a near-contemporaneous description of the construction and operation of the *gyorssajtó* is given. This confirmed that the *gyorssajtó* was a flat-bed cylinder press and that the term “American” most likely referred to the origin of its design rather than to its place of manufacture.

Bolstered with these new insights, we are proposing to use the term *pedal-initiated press* or simply *pedal press* (not *rotary press*) for the *tégelysajtó* and *automatic quick press* or simply *quick press* (not *flat bed press*) for *gyorssajtó*. The next edition of the Brainard’s **Catalog of Hungarian Occupation Issues** will use this terminology.

At this point the only mystery remaining was why the expression *tégely* (meaning *jar* or *crucible*) was used in the name *tégelysajtó*. This was resolved by the ever-reliable resource of Hungarian philatelists, the **Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája**. In this book (Kostyán, *et al.*, 1965, Vol. I, p.303, line 3) it is clearly stated that *tégely* is another name for the pressure plate which descends from above onto the printing form in a flat-bed or letter press.

We hope that our research efforts contributed to reducing the confusion associated this wonderful issue.

Footnotes:

¹ e.g., Registry logbook entry of 22 April 1919 at 9:56 AM.

² e.g., Registry logbook entry of 19 April 1919 at 9:38 AM.

³ at <http://www.mek.iif.hu/porta/szint/egyeb/lexikon/pallas/html/>

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MÁRTON, THE HUNGARIAN SCOUT POSTCARD ARTIST

by T.P. McDermott ©2000

Lajos Márton (Louis Márton) was a Hungarian scout artist who is known for his artwork on scout postcards of the 1920s and 30s. His postcards came to worldwide attention during the Fourth World Jamboree, which was held in Gödöllő, Hungary in 1933. It has been estimated that he produced over 200 different designs for scout postcards. However, almost no other information is known about him.

Artists were a prominent and important factor in communications for the scout movement. The founder, Lord Baden-Powell as an enterprising young British military officer, illustrated with sketches the books he wrote for soldiers. In his second profession, as the organizer of the Scout movement, he used sketches of both camp and morality scenes to reinforce the written words in his books. Many collectors prized as mementos Baden-Powell's correspondence which usually contained little sketches illustrating what he was writing about. The Baden-Powells' Christmas cards always featured a sketch relevant to their current life activities. Americans have had a love affair with their Norman Rockwell who produced large size paintings which were annually reproduced on calendars.

Most national scout organizations used artists to illustrate their handbooks. And, of course, the Hungarians had "Mártonka" ("Little Márton") who sketched colorful camp scenes for the back of his postcards. However, none of the many other scout picture cards come close to the spirit of scouting that Márton captured on his cards. They are truly a thing of beauty. Many say that the faces of his scouts are angelic.

The first mention of Márton in a 'scouts on stamp' publication was in a series of articles about the Fourth World Jamboree which appeared in the April 1967 issue of the *Journal* of the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI). Little has been documented in our philatelic publications about Márton except for an occasional photo or two of his cards. Sheldon S. Levy, Kenneth A. Shuker, Barry Mann, and Doctor (Samuel) Gershenfeld were great collectors of Márton cards in the 1970s and 1980s. I can remember viewing their stock books full with Márton cards. In later years, I have been able to enjoy viewing parts of John P. Ineson's collection. Another current collector of Márton cards is Wilhelm-Otto Neuback.

American SOSSI members assumed that Márton did not survive the Second World War and its after effects. For most collectors, their last Márton postcards were dated in 1938. While the war broke out in Europe after the summer of 1939, Hungary was able to retain its traditional government until March 1944 when the Germans, Hungary's war time allies, occupied the country. The Nazis immediately started the massive deportation and extermination of both Jews and eastern European refugees. Surely some of these people were

friends of Márton. It took the Russian army eight months to overcome the German and Hungarian forces and to occupy the country. Budapest, the capital, headquarters of the Hungarian Boy Scout Association and the home of many Hungarian artists underwent a devastating 51-day siege.

The first post-war jamboree, the Sixth World Jamboree, was held in France in 1947. Márton would have been 56 years old when two hundred Hungarian scouts attended, but no artwork of Márton is known from this Jamboree. By 1948, Hungary had a communist government; scouting was banned, and some of its leaders were imprisoned. Scouting would not reappear in Hungary until 1989.

Márton was born on October 18, 1891, in Transylvania, then a part of the old Austrian-Hungarian Empire, now part of Rumania as result of the 1920 Treaty of Trianon which settled the First World War. Márton told an interviewer that he first started to draw at age four on the furniture and walls of his home. Jokingly, he said that he received his first rewards for his art from his father who expressed his appreciation with a stick. He studied at the College of Applied Arts (Iparművészeti Iskola). At the age of 16, in 1907, his artwork first appeared in print in the magazine **Zászlónc** (Our Flag). His first public exhibit was at Christmas-time in 1916. A period of illness caused him to leave Budapest for the countryside from which he recovered in 1920. Even at that age, Márton had patrons who furnished him a villa to recuperate.

He attended the Second World Jamboree in Denmark in 1924 as part of a small, 48-member team led by Pál Teleki, the Chief Scout of Hungary and later the country's Prime Minister. The Hungarian delegation felt that they were at first scorned by the other scouts. Hungary was still unpopular for being on the losing side of The Great War. The Hungarian scouts lacked funds and were therefore ill equipped. The team won several competitions, however, and finished third among the thirty-three competing national teams. Beside the scout-craft of the Hungarian youth, I am sure Márton and his instant artwork played an important part in winning the respect of the worldwide scout movement. Márton said that the jamboree was one of his most memorable experiences.

He mostly drew for two magazines, **Zászlónc**, which was produced for teenagers by both the Scouts and the Roman Catholic Church, and the **Magyar Cserkész** (Hungarian Scout). The February 15, 1927 issue of **Zászlónc** has a one-page article titled "Master Márton's Jubilee." It was part of the twentieth anniversary celebration of his drawings' first appearance in the magazine. *Cincogó*, a mouse-like human, was one of the earliest characters that he drew. A self-portrait of Márton and *Cincogó* can be found in that issue. He also illustrated Tihamér Tóth's youth books.

The Hungarian Boy Scout Association in 1929 issued an album of the most characteristic pencil-sketches made by Márton during several earlier international scout gatherings. The foreword of the album states that "the painter Lajos Márton was one of the pioneers of Scouting in Hungary and a member of the Executive Committee, Hungarian Boy Scout Association."

Márton also attended the Third World Jamboree in England in 1929 as one of the 800 Hungarian participants. After the jamboree, the contingent toured England and had a great time. In **Zászlóknk**, Márton related his thrill of meeting the 13-year-old Archduke Felix and the 5 or 6-year old Archduchess Erzsébet (Elizabeth) of the Hapsburg royal family. Márton is credited with designing the symbol and badges for the Fourth World Jamboree and with furnishing the artwork for its commemorative album.

A two-page interview was printed in a 1936 or 1937 issue of **Zászlóknk** on his thirtieth anniversary with the magazine. It included pictures of Márton surrounded by large size paintings. A huge painting, measuring three and a half meter high, hangs on his wall. It was titled *Krisztus Király* (Christ the King). The interviewer asked about his many drawings of animals, dogs and birds. Márton responded that he did not keep animals for models but drew from memory. He said that most of his works were illustrations for magazines and books. "A lot of work but a lot of little profit," he stated. The interviewer credited Márton with putting everything about scouting on paper through his drawings. Over his 30-year career, he had created 6000 drawings which included 270 covers, 3000 illustrations (among them 600 to 700 scout sketches), and 1800 to 2000 drawings for books for young people. His special works included paintings titled *Gyermekek Királya* (Children's King) and *Szegény Kis Magyarom* (My Poor Little Hungarian). The later was owned by Lord Rothermere, the newspaper tycoon from Britain who championed the revision of the Trianon borders in favor of Hungary. Márton reported that he had much success with his art in Denmark, where an album had sold 15,000 copies. (Was this the 1924 jamboree album?)

Although Márton was small in stature, he had a large smile and was the best known Hungarian Scout in the world at the time. In a self-portrait sketch, Márton pictured himself standing on the knees of a sitting man while carrying on a conversation. In another sketch, he showed himself with his arms folded and resting on the knees of a sitting interviewer who is bent over, looking down upon him. In the photographs published with the interview, Márton was dwarf-like when compared to the paintings in the photos. In other physical appearances, one can detect a small pot belly, a large nose, receding hairline, and a cowlick in his hair.

According to Michel's Eastern European Catalog, Lajos Márton was the designer of the set of stamps and a souvenir sheet for the Eucharistic Congress held in Budapest in 1938. Later that year, he and his young work colleague, László Kékesi, were responsible for decorating the "Aranyvonat" (Golden Train). This train carried the mummified right hand relic of King Saint István (Stephen) on a tour of the country during the celebration of the 900th anniversary of the saint's death.

Márton died in Budapest on January 26, 1953. In 1991, following the fall of communism and on the centennial of his birth, his remains were re-interred in a consecrated crypt in the Budapest Franciscan Monastery. The obituary stated that Márton was an artist/painter, restorer, stamp designer, who

created frescoes for nine Hungarian churches as well as paintings for the Vatican in Rome.

Márton, as a contributor to the Hungarian Boy Scout movement, helped to establish it as the nation's guiding torch of traditional values and patriotism. His work truly reflected the scout motto "A more humane man, a more magyar Magyar."

László Kékési (1919-1993), Márton's working colleague, was also a graphic artist, a designer of stamps, an artist/painter, a church painter and a designer of stained glass windows. He is credited with the design of 250 Hungarian stamps and nearly 500 stamps for other countries. In Michel's catalogue, Kékési is listed as the designer of many postage stamps with portraits of Hungarian patriots. He was acquainted with scouting before the war and designed some postcards for the scouts after the fall of communism. He died on April 18, 1993, and was interred in the same crypt with Márton.

Márton signed his cards *MÁRTON L.* or *MÁRTON* with a year date. He marked his small illustrations with just a simple *M* and the large sketches with an unreadable signature (see his albums for an example). There are several other Hungarians artist who created scout post cards, among them Csincsurá, Matis, Aranka Györi, L. Köves, Béla Velösy, and Sándor Légrády.

- *How Do We Collect Mártons?*

You could try to collect all of his cards; however most collectors need to be selective when making purchases for their collection. Many collectors pick a collecting category such as unused, used, used with scout stamps or even used with the postage stamp removed (what a shame!). I collect Mártons with a religious element. Perhaps you might collect Mártons that have certain animals in the scene. Or, maybe you will only be able to get one or two cards. If you do, you will surely cherish your cards.

Serious collectors use the word "Mártons" to describe his cards because they are both so popular as well as being "signed." For example, one would say, "I collect Mártons!"

- *Different Styles Of Art On Márton Scout Postcards:*

- Simple facial sketches (from the 1924 Copenhagen period),
- Sketches on clear background with simple, colorful subjects (extended period both before & after the 4th World Jamboree),
- Dark colored, heavier subjects with light background scenes (1937),
- Hungarian scouts with hats similar to the soft hats of European soldiers (1940)

- *Márton's Scout Sketch Albums*

- 1924 **Jamboree Book**, 2nd World Jamboree
- 1929 **Márton - Cserkészalbum**, Sketches from the Scout Life
- 1933 **Jamboree Souvenir Album**, 4th World Jamboree
- 1936 **Márton Jubilee Album**, 30th anniversary in **Zászlónk**
- 1993 **Gödöllő 1933 Jamboree**, reprint of the 1933 souvenir album

- *Other Márton Collectibles*

- Postcards showing religious scenes such as churches. (At least 22 are known).

- Envelopes containing scouts scenes of the 1933 World Jamboree, numbered I, II, III.
- Stamp set and souvenir sheet issued by Hungary in 1933 for the Eucharistic Congress.
- Children's books of Tihamér Tóth

Bibliography & Notes

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Zászlókn, February 15, 1927 issue, page 170.

Zászlókn, (date?), 1936 issue, page 7 & 8.

SOSSI Journal issues: April 1967, B. Mann's pages in December 1979 and October 1980 issues

The Spirit of Hungary by Stephen Sisa, Second Edition, 1990. ISBN 0-919545-02-5

Scouting In Hungary by Gabor Bodnar, 1986, Cleveland, Ohio USA. Although not used by this author, as it was found after the article was completed, it does contain very interesting background on the period of Márton's life.

Acknowledgement:

There have been a lot of people who helped me on my research for this article. I want to thank them all, especially Dr. János Lukács and József Bokody of the Hungarian Scout Association, also Csaba Téglás and John Ineson.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Csaba,

Thank you for the last Issue of the News. The articles look good.

I also liked your article in Linn's. Gratulation. Enclosed a copy of the gold diploma from Budapest. I am proud, that in an international FEPA Exhibit, the 'Baranya' managed to get a gold (!). An 'occupation' material in Hungary, where people also recognize fakes, know these issues etc., gets finally a gold. In addition, a special prize was awarded for the strength of the material. Detto, I got a vermeil at SESCOAL 2000 for the airmail material.

Re-reading your article again, the following observations. While you have a disclaimer on the last page "that you are not intended to evaluate the complex postal history" only to identify and categorize the 'occupation' issues, this can not be. The significance and purpose to collect (exhibit) these issues, is exactly to clarify postal historical and historical events of the period, which are still questionable or unknown and/or due to various interpretations.

Minor details: October 31, 1918 was not the day, when the republic was declared. This happened on November 16th. (Figure 1.). The National Committee was in charge on October 31st and put Karolyi as the 'de facto' head of the government. The Nemzeti Tanacs formed on October 23 during the night, and was that time the leading Hungarian democratic civic (polgari, bourgoa) organization. Also, the Trianon Treaty had to be ratified (Nov 13, 1920!?) by the Parliament in order to be adapted. The question remains, what form of government and country was left in historical Hungary after the dissolution of the Monarchy? When did it happen? Where were the borders? And what was the status of the country's sovereignty. How long the 'Republic' and 'Communist Republic' lasted? What happened after August 2, 1919?

In Hungary, the particular MABEOSz Committee dealing with local/occupational issues based its determination, what belongs to where, from the study of the Filyo Article and the one by László Surányi. Stamps produced and used by only in a part of Hungary, and issued by a local or regional office, were characterized as local. Such were the issues of the Hotel posts, Nyiregyhaza, Abony, Sopron 1956, currier posts, certain ship mail and the 'occupation stamps' among others. All other stamps, which were issued by the central postal directorate were considered part of the Hungarian Country collection, including all paper and perforation variations, tear variations, errors and phase prints. Both of these experts were talking about only stamps within the Hungarian Country collection. Surányi's opinion on occupation stamps was, that the deciding factor was, where the revenues went to from the sale of the overprinted stamps. Your article had touched on many of these - still unresolved questions of these issues.

I agree, that one may divide the WWI Occupation issues, as you did; a/ genuine occupation issues, postally used e.g. Baranya, Debrecen, Temesvar etc. b/ overprints of the sucesor states, and used or not, but the overprint is done by someone other, than the Hungarian postal system, such as SHS, Fiume etc. c/ speculative local issues, (what ever we wish to call them) generally not used - only philatelically and the overprinting was not approved usually by any central postal directorate. Most were made for propanda or profit purposes and were used postally only sparingly.

The same time, if the purpose of your article was to enumerate all of these issues for the new collectors is fine, if we are drawing conclusions for hitherto unresolved questions, than the article is too broad, as many of the overprints were done under very different circumstances and with different political meaning. To study the correspondence, which indeed was carried through the postal services and the way the frankings were applied is very important, and one should arrive to some conclusion. This is then also a different philatelic issue and not necessary in line with the intended use of the overprinted stamps.

I also take exceptions to your statement on page 8, in paranthesis, you state, that the population of Fiume was split between Italians and Croations). I will take exceptions, as out of the 46.679 people, it is true that the number of Croats and Italians were about equal number, - if you counted, the suburbs beyond the Fiumara river. That is Susak was inhabited mostly Croations, while Fiume, Tersatto etc was inhabited with old time Fiumeans (of Italian heritage). This statement ignores the 6856 Hungarians (Croatian numbers), many born in Fiume. One of these people was my father, also the communist premier Kadar, the pioneer pilot, Prodam Guido or Horvath Ödön, the engineer for whom the Austrians issued a stamp. Many of these Hungarians were transplanted after 1867, when the Hungarian Government decided to buid up the Harbor of Fiume, and the Hungarian maritime industry. At the time, my grandfather, (b. in Sepsiszentgyörgy) was second in charge of the Custom Office in Fiume. Your article also ignors overprints in Szepes/Arva Counties, that is the SO op, the use of Rumanian and Serbian stamps, such as the Bátaszék provizo-

riums, the chainbreakers in Bácska, the field post of the Czechoslovak and French armies, all used during 1918-20 in Hungary (Figures 2 & 3). There is also the basic question, when was the Monarchy abandoned, and what was Hungary's international legal stand? Who was in charge? Constitutionally, what was Hungary's form of government and where were Hungary's 'de juris' borders?

You may consider, the above, as my first reaction to your article and its questions. On the other hand the article is very interesting, especially it should be so for collectors, not really knowledgeable in the minute details of postal history of these (1918-22) trying times.

Yours truly,

Szilágyi J. Paul

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Dear Csaba:

In the October/December 2000 issue you published some comments to the question of 'occupation' vs. 'local' issues, in other words, how should one categorize the various overprinted stamp issues from the 1918-1921 period. Permit me to add my thoughts to this question.

I believe that this distinction or making any further distinction among the dozens of issues of this period is totally meaningless. When I was active in studying and collecting the philately of this period (and probably I was the first in the U.S. doing this) I simply considered all these issues under the category of "the dissolution of the Kingdom of Hungary", irrelevant whether these stamps were issued in Budapest, Pécs, Debrecen, Borosjenő or Prague; and in fact, I received a gold award at BALPEX for such an exhibit. Let us not forget that every 'occupation' issue is also a 'local' issue, except maybe the SHS overprinted Croatian stamps which definitely served as the issues of a new country.

To go one step further, practically all these issues were speculative: these stamps were prepared for speculative purposes: some by governments or government agencies (local post offices) while others by individuals in a town, army commanders or stamp dealers. Don't tell me that in 1919, when there was practically no mail service between towns and the different parts of the country they needed over 100 different overprinted stamps in Debrecen plus a series with entirely new designs consisting of 47 stamps! Even the famous Baranya issues which were supposed to be authorized by the Hungarian Central Postal Directorate were of speculative nature: don't tell me that they needed 49 stamps with different denominations! Even the central postal authorities of the successor states issued such speculative issues: see e.g. the Posta Československa overprints issued by the Postal Directorate of the new Czechoslovak state which could be obtained only at the philatelic counter in Prague. In fact, the local issue by Šrobar (a local politician, instrumental in the transfer of Northern Hungary to the new state) in Pozsony (Bratislava) is more genuine than the official overprinted stamps issued in Prague, because some of the locally overprinted stamps were also used in the mail (in fact, I had a few such covers). At the same time, the Šrobar issue is officially considered as "Mache"

while the Prague issues have a high value. I consider this distinction ridiculous.

Let us not forget that most of the 'local' issues were indeed used on covers or postal cards, and these were handled by the post offices. It is true that the post offices supposed to handle only mail franked with 'official' stamps: but how would the local clerk know in this period of turmoil what is 'official'? And how would the postal clerk of the town of destination know whether in that part of the former Monarchy, these stamps were 'official' or not?

I want to use one example to illustrate this situation: the issues of Pártosfalva (Prosenjakovči). This little village -- with a population less than 500 - - was occupied by Croatian troops at the beginning of 1919 and then, after a few months, it became officially part of the new SHS State; it is today in Slovenia. After the entry of the Croatian troops, the local squire, count Matzenau, prepared some stamps with primitive overprints (three types). Michel or Zumstein would certainly call these stamps as "Mache" or "Schwindelezeugnisse." However, the fact is that these stamps were actually also used in the mail. I had two postal cards addresses by count Matzenau to his son, a diplomat associated with the Hungarian Embassy in Berlin, Germany: one was mailed registered and the other as a regular postal card. Both were franked with these overprinted issues and actually had the correct franking* (10 fillér for a card to a foreign country and 25 fillér registration fee); these cards were cancelled at the post office of Pártosfalva and the registered card also had the postal cancellation of the post office in Berlin. Imagine that you are the postal clerk at Pártosfalva post office and the local squire comes to you, saying that these are the new stamps issued by agreement with the occupation forces: would you deny to cancel the cards and forward them to the address? And imagine that you are the postal clerk in Berlin in the spring of 1919: how the hell would you know whether these are genuine or not?

I don't want to be misunderstood. I am not saying that the "occupation issues" are not genuine philatelic material. In fact, they are more: witness to a major political change. to a turmoil: they are documents of history. Thus, their study and collection is completely legitimate.

Some purist may say: I basically accept your argument. However, these actually mailed covers with the 'occupation' stamps are still not kosher: they are all "philatelic," mailed only to make the issue legitimate. Of course, this is true. However, if we would accept this point of view, then one must stop to collect first-day covers or mail a letter with some fancy stamps to a friend in another country; or then none of the covers cancelled with a commemorative canceller could be considered as legitimate, because all these are "philatelic." Obviously this attitude would be ridiculous.

When I started my series on the occupation issues in our magazine around 1970, in one of the first articles I quoted from a German stamp catalog issued in the 1920s. I don't have anymore copies of my articles (and I don't have anymore this catalogue), but you may have the early issues, and can check it. This catalogue actually addressed this problem, the question of 'local' is-

sues and had a statement that it is irrelevant who issued the stamps and for what purpose: the relevant question is whether they had postal validity and whether they were handled by the post office or used in the mail. Our 'occupation' stamps fulfill these criteria.

Speaking about 'speculative' issues, I question: why are the overprinted stamps of Borosjenő, or Pártosfalva, or Lendvavásárhely more 'speculative' than for example the two 2000 Ft stamps issued by the present Hungarian Postal Directorate? There had been no need for these stamps, there is no franking where one would need a 2000 Ft stamp. It was obvious that these stamps were not issued for actual use: these were issued to sell them to the naïve stamp collectors in Western Europe and thus, increase the income of the Hungarian Postal Directorate. I believe that the local Croatian army commander in Lendvavásárhely, count Matzenau in Pártosfalva, or the Romanian stamp dealer in Borosjenő were more honest than the Budapest Postal Directorate.

Wishing you a prosperous New Year, with best regards,

Leslie Ettre

* The regular postal card was slightly over-franked: a card with imprinted 8 fillér stamp was used and a 3 fillér overprinted stamp was added (apparently he did not prepare overprinted 2 fillér stamps). For the registered card a regular 10-fillér imprinted card was used to which overprinted stamps in the value of 10+10+5 fillér were affixed.

*/These letters were reprinted verbatim, the first one from an electronic file supplied by Dr. Szilagyi, the second one, retyped from a printed copy sent by Dr. Ettre. Only changes made were the Times New Roman text font @10pt size, 11pt spacing, and paragraph indentations to conform to the standard format of this journal. I stand corrected on the date of the declaration of the Second Hungarian Republic, 16 November 1918. Also would like to thank Dr. Szilagyi for pointing out the need to include the S.O. overprints (listed under Eastern Silesia in the Scott catalog) on Czechoslovak stamps as being legitimate 'occupation-era' stamps used in the plebiscite regions of Árva and Szepes Counties, which were partitioned between Poland and Czechoslovakia. I stand by my 'disclaimer' that the purpose of my tabulation of all occupation-related issues was to provide a categorization of the same based on their historical origins, period. In the past, Dr. Szilagyi has so expertly published material based on the postal history of these issues and provided covers to illustrate that emissions from various postal and political entities were used side-by-side during this roughly 24-month period. Still, such an analysis from a postal historical perspective was outside the scope of my efforts. Dr. Ettre has taken an interesting, yet unorthodox approach to the subject of trying to categorize 'occupation' issues as being 'local.' So are the stamps of San Marino or the United States. It's a matter of how one defines 'local.' Unfortunately, I was not able to find the quote from the German catalog. In his original 'Hungarica' series, Dr. Ettre did maintain a distinction between 'officially-issued' and 'local' occupation stamps from the post-World War I era. (E.g., April 1971 issue of the **News of Hungarian Philately** listed the Šrobar issue under 'local overprints.' The August 1971 issue of the same journal described the three 'local/private' issues known from Transylvania.) The most interesting*

facet of collecting this era in Hungarian philately is analyzing how the various stamp issues were combined and used postally. In the political turmoil of the times, a lot of different 'stamps' saw postal use for the exact reasons that Dr. Ettore explained. I might add one more: there were no repercussions. The lines of authority were severed and individual post offices or even postal districts empowered themselves to perform their duties as best they could. In my opinion, the legitimacy test of finding examples 'used on cover' unfortunately is not foolproof. Even today, Christmas seals, Publisher's Clearing House stickers and vignettes of all kind can and do pass though the mails unnoticed. Of course, such 'postage avoidance' is illegal, but that doesn't make the seals and vignettes into 'provisional' postage stamps. Finally, on different subject not related to 'occupation' issues, I, too, have editorialized against the exploitative, high face value Hungarian new issues several times in the past. Ed./

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HUNGARIAN MAIL TO CEYLON AND BEYOND

For quite some time, I've been actively seeking out Hungarian covers, preferably pre-WW2, which traveled to remote destinations. These may be places that are away from regular sea routes and are difficult to reach or removed from the routes of early airmail services. I also seek mail to countries where it's difficult to imagine that there might have been any cultural or trade links with Hungary that would cause the exchange of correspondence. At first glance, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) appears to belong to this category.

Just as a bit of background, Colombo, the largest city in Ceylon, was a very important port of call for steamers traveling from Europe to Australia and New Zealand in the more leisurely, pre-WW2 world. It was a coaling station and a major point for unloading and taking on the mails.

I have two covers in my collection which were sent from Hungary to Ceylon. The first cover was posted at Budapest 8 on 10 June 1939 and was cancelled at Budapest Repülőtér later on the same day. It was franked on the reverse side with 1P 80f, which was the current rate for an airmail article 5 grams or under to a foreign destination. The stamps used for the franking were the 1P value from the Horthy issue of 1938, the 40f from the famous Hungarians issue of 1932, and the 40f from the issue of 1938 for the 400th anniversary of Debrecen University. There is no date for the cover's arrival in Ceylon. The cover is in nice condition, with just a few tone spots, and was quite neatly opened. Regrettably, I no longer have any information about the source from which I obtained it.

As the address indicates, George Gonda was a passenger on a Lloyd Triestino steamer traveling to Australia and New Zealand. I'll have more to say about him later.

The second cover came from a mixed batch of Hungarian mail purchased in the UK. It was posted at Budapest 62 on 27 January 1941. Currently, it is franked with 1P from the Horthy issue of 1938. However, a thinning of the paper to the right and a very faint, unreadable CDS beside this patch, indicate that, originally, there was another adhesive on the envelope, probably to

the value of 80f. This would make up the correct the airmail rate of that time of 1P 80f to 'other destinations.'

There is a boxed black ink stamp impression through the airmail etiquette. It is possible, by gently lifting the corner of the censor label, to read the word *CANCELLED*, but not possible to decipher the shorter words above and below it. This is a pity – it might have given the location where the stamping was applied. However, it does demonstrate that the postal authorities were not able to forward the letter all the way to Ceylon by airmail.

The censor label is tied to the cover at the front with a triangular purple censor cachet. According to the reference published by Brig. Virk, this type of cachet was used at censor stations in various Indian cities during the period 1939-1945. In May 1941, each station was allotted a single code letter that was indicated in the censor stamps instead of the place name. The letter 'C' was allocated to Bombay.

The censor label is of the type most commonly used and seen in the post in India during 1939-1945. It had the inscription 'Opened by censor' below the Government of India insignia (the Royal Coat of Arms), both in red color. Brig. Virk's book illustrates examples of labels used at various censor stations (they were not supplied from a central point), and the vertical measurement of the Coat of Arms on this cover matches that on an example in the book, which is also identified with a double-digit number followed by 'C.'

From Bombay, this cover most likely would have traveled to Colombo by sea. Unfortunately, there is no receiving mark to tell us when (or if) it arrived in Ceylon. That date would have confirmed if the cover had traveled entirely by sea or by a combination of surface and airmail.

It is interesting to speculate where the 'Cancelled' stamp was applied to invalidate the airmail etiquette. I feel fairly certain that it was done in Egypt, which seems to have been a gathering point for mails from Eastern European countries that was going to either Asia or Australia. It's also possible that this was the case with mails going in the opposite direction. I have in my possession poor quality photocopies of a surface mail cover from Bombay (posted November 1939, date not readable) to a stamp dealer in Zagreb, Croatia, that was censored in Egypt; and, in addition, bears a Cairo slogan cancel dated 5 December 1939.

I have seen further evidence of an Egyptian clearing house for mail coming out of Hungary, at least in early 1941. I have in my possession two airmail covers posted at Budapest 62, one on 31 March 1941, the other on 15 Apr 1941, which were definitely censored in Egypt on their way to Australia. In addition, I have seen photocopies of covers from the UK, posted at about the same time, which were sent to Egypt for forwarding to Hungary. When they could not be forwarded, they received markings like 'Service not available' and 'Return to sender' and were, no doubt, sent back to the UK.

Now it would be most interesting to find how mail from Hungary left the country in the early days of WW2, as the available service routes became fewer and fewer because of the wartime conditions.

The cover was quite neatly slit open at the top, but insects have nibbled at the cut edges, and there is a rusty staple mark along the right hand side. Despite its shabby and fragile condition, this cover is a useful indicator of the interruptions to airmail services that WW2 was causing at that time.

*My guess is that the second cover went by air to a European destination (eastward through Bucharest? Istanbul? or, westward through Lisbon?) and then by surface to Egypt, where the air mail etiquette was 'invalidated' and the letter was routed to Ceylon via India. I'm not disputing the author's research in identifying Bombay as the source of the censor tape; however, I found an illustration of a letter that passed through Cyprus, where it received a 'C-16' censor marking. As far as the franking is concerned, assuming that the letter weighed between 15 and 20gm, the postage to would have been 40f for the first 15gm and an additional 20f for the next weight class. The air mail surcharge to a European destination would have been 40f (2 x 20f per 10gm). Hence, I could argue that the IP stamp paid the postage in full and that there was no stamp affixed where the faint CDS shows on the envelope. Because of the war time conditions, such a mix of air mail and surface routings would have been known at the time of posting the letter. Detailed information about actual air mail surcharge rates to countries outside of Europe in the late 1930s and early 1940s is hard to come by from the standard references such as the *Kézikönyv* and the *Monográfia*. The surcharge to the United States in those times was 80f per 5gm. If, in the case of the first cover, 1,80P paid the air mail postage to Ceylon in 1939, then, after subtracting the foreign letter rate of 40f, I would have to guess that the air mail surcharge could have been 70f per 5gm to as much as 1,40P per 5gm. Not knowing the actual weight of the letter makes this a risky guessing game. Ed./*

I have two additional Hungarian covers addressed to George Gonda. I acquired these from a source in Australia before I got the airmail cover to Ceylon. All three are from the same sender (a family member?), but the later covers are addressed to him in New Zealand. I wonder if he was on his way to take up a position there in 1939? Or, did the spread of hostilities in Europe and the outbreak of war in the Pacific cause him to become stranded there, unable to return home?

The first cover to NZ is very badly damaged because of having some stamps removed. It's a registered 20th rate period cover, posted at Budapest 4, probably on 21 June 1946. The remaining adhesives are from the posthorn and arms issue 24 May – 18 June 1946. Bob Morgan had seen a photocopy of this cover, and advised me that the foreign letter rate at that time was 80,000 milpengő, the cost of registration was 160,000 milpengő, for a total of 240,000 milpengő. Only 35,000 milpengő's worth of postage remains, so the cover is missing 205,000 milpengő. Bob deduced that there must have been a single 5000 milpengő adhesive along with four 50,000 milpengő stamps.

The back of the cover bears a cancellation from the Postmen's Branch, Upper Symonds St, NZ dated 7 August 1946, which I presume to be the date of receipt. I believe that the blue crayon crosses at both the back and the front would had been applied at this office. On the front there is a pen-

cilled note *N.K. 8/8/46* which may denote *Not known*. This cover is a sad sight indeed; however, it's the only example of postwar inflation mail to Australia or New Zealand that I have been able to find until now.

The second cover to NZ was sent by airmail from Budapest 4 on 15 November 1947. There's a manuscript note barely visible on the front indicating *8 gr 8,20f*, and the cover is franked with a 3 and a 5 forint adhesives from the currency reform issue of 1-14 August 1946, and a 20f adhesive from the Liberty issue of 15 March 1947. The stamps paid the foreign letter rate of 1 forint for a single weight letter (up to 20gm) and the air mail surcharge of 7,20 forints (2 x 3,60 forints per 5gm). Unfortunately, the cover had been defaced with pencil drawings on the front along with calculations on the back!

Thanks to Ian Faber for pointing out Brig. Virk's book to me. Also, my sincere thanks to Bob Morgan for his advice about the unfortunate inflation cover and for his encouragement which led me to start looking at these covers to destinations far removed from Hungary. Finally, a 'thank you' goes to Editor Csaba Kohalmi for his comments and for selecting the illustrations.

Reference:

Virk, Brig. D. S., **Postal Censorship in India 1939-1945**, Philatelic Congress of India, 1983.

Judith Kennett

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HUNGARIAN COVERS TO THE ORIENT

A follow-up to the 1937 cover from Hungary to Hong Kong pictured in the Oct-Dec 2000 issue of **The News**: the cover went by land route via the Shanghai post office where it received multiple cancels with the date '26' on them. It seems that the Chinese calendar was reset from the year of the fall of the monarchy (1911). Thus, 1937 was the 26th year of the Chinese Republic. */This was also confirmed by an e-mail message I received from Mr. Wayne Standley, who stated that "During the period of the Republic of China, and in some places in the early years of the People's Republic, the year in the CDS was calculated from the overthrow of the Qing dynasty and the founding of the Republic in 1911. So, you have to add 11 to the year given in the CDS to get the conventional equivalent; in this case 26 + 11 = 1937."* Ed./

Judith Kennett

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: There are a lot of covers floating around dealers' boxes imprinted with the name *KULTURA*. Sometimes these covers bear meter-imprinted postage using the same advertising logo.

A: The Kultura (Culture) Trading Company was the state-owned enterprise that marketed collectibles outside of Hungary. While Philatelia Hungarica held the monopoly on marketing stamps, Kultura was involved in exporting numismatic items, antiquarian books, artwork, and the like. In the 1960s and 1970s it relied heavily on regular mailings of price lists; hence, the volume of covers stuffed into dealers' boxes is significant today.

Q: Dealers' boxes offer a wide variety of Hungarian first day covers from the late 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s bearing MABÉOSz registry etiquettes addressed to all parts of the world. What's the story behind these?

A: As a result of the defeat of the 1956 Revolution, close to 200,000 Hungarians left their homeland and re-settled throughout the world. There was tremendous increase in the volume of mail to and from Hungary as a result of correspondence between these refugees and their families and friends left behind. Stamp collecting was also very popular at that time in Hungary. Sending first day covers became an easy way to provide presents to former acquaintances and loved ones. MABÉOSz offered this on a subscription basis. A member could sign up and make an annual or semi-annual deposit. The stamps were sold at face value plus a forint or two for the cost of the envelope. The FDCs were sent abroad as registered surface mail. In case the face value of the new stamps was insufficient to pay the postage, additional stamps were affixed to the reverse side of the cover(s).

η REPORT FROM OLYMPHILEX 2000

Olympihlex 2000 was a specialised Sport Philately Exhibition under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It was held at two venues - Centre Point Tower, Sydney and the Royal Australian Mint (Canberra). The dates of the exhibition were respectively 15-28 September in Sydney and 13 September – 5 October in Canberra.

A distinguished international Jury was assembled for the exhibition, under the Chairmanship of Knud Mohr (Denmark, and president of the FIP), and having representatives from Switzerland, France, Argentina, Singapore, Greece, and Italy as well as from Australia.

At the Sydney venue the Court of Honour, invited exhibits, 554 frames of FIP Competition exhibits and 27 Literature exhibits were housed on three levels, together with 46 trade stands, chiefly postal administrations. At the Canberra venue 349 frames of Promotion class material (judged at National level) were on display in a spacious, well-lit gallery.

I was part of the team of Canberra philatelists that coordinated and mounted the exhibits at the RAM. I had the pleasure of being part of the group that mounted one of the Hungarian exhibits that was brought to Canberra. This was 'Olympic Airmail 1932-1972', which was written-up in Hungarian, but had the title page in German, to assist the judges with their assessment. Two other Hungarian exhibits were in Sydney, and I did not have the opportunity to seek out and inspect the three other exhibits that were in Canberra.

The results gained by the Hungarian exhibitors were:

- **FIP Competition**

KURDICS, Sandor – The History of Winter Olympic Games over 50 Years 75 points Large Silver

MESTER, Janos – Olympic Airmails 1932-1972 66 points Silver-Bronze

SZEKERES, Sandor – Hungarian Sport in Philately 1910-1960 65 points Silver-Bronze

• Promotion Competition

KRECSIK, Kalman – The History of Olympic Games – Summer Olympiads 61 points Silver-Bronze

IMSB (pseudonym) – From Herakles to Paavo Nurmi no point score Certificate of participation

KALOCSAI, Ferenc – Olympic Issues of Greece 1896-1900-1906 no point score Certificate of Participation

There were no point scores recorded in the *Palmares* booklet for a number of exhibitors, including the IMSB and Kalocsai.

There was Hungarian material in many of the other Olympic and sports exhibits displayed in Canberra. I noticed specially the famous Sports set of 1925, which featured on cover in a number of exhibits. Some of these were first day of issue, others had special cancels that were used at sporting events in Budapest, including the rowing regatta cancel that was shown in a recent issue of 'Stamps of Hungary', the journal of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Judith Kennett

η EDITOR'S NOTES

The December 2000 issue of **Magyar News**, published in Bridgeport, CT and sent in by **Tom Phillips**, contained the article *Magyarország - A Thousand Years of Statehood* written by SHP Life Member **Vic Berecz** reflecting on the Hungarian Statehood Millennium through philately.

The October 2000 issue of **Bélyegvilág** carried Dr. Dezső Soóky's review of our Apr-Jun 2000 bulletin. In his synopsis, Dr. Soóky mentioned Alan Hoover's plans for participating in Stampshow 2000; Emmerich Vamos's "open questions" regarding the first issue of the tax notice forms; Andrew Cronin's study of the postal agencies of Carpatho-Ukraine (which, by the way, was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Béla Simády); Dr. Paul Szilagyi's post-inflationary curiosity, the Szolnok stamp club 'overprint' on the Reconstruction stamp; and this editor's philatelic remembrance of painter Mihály Munkácsy and other comments about stamp issues for the millennium of Hungarian Statehood and the new Hungarian stamp catalog.

31 December 2000 signaled the end of the tradition Hungarian registry etiquette, the general format of which depicting the large letter 'R' has been in use for almost 111 years. In order to conform with the Integrated Postal Network of the European Union, the Hungarian Post introduced a bar-coded version of the registry label last June 19th (first day of use) at the Budapest 25 and 63 post offices as well as at Pomáz and Gyömrő. The etiquette used at Hunphilex was the next to last old variety type. The Registry Label Collectors' Section of Mabéosz planned to issue one last old variety with the dates '1890-2000' to commemorate the long history of the 'R' label. For domestic usage, the new bar coded versions carry four large letters to denote the type of handling requested by the sender. The letter 'R' specifies that identification of the recipient is required upon delivery; 'K' denotes less secure handling (*könnyí-*

tett); 'B' denotes insured contents (*biztosított*); and 'E' denotes letter of value containing securities or currency (*értéklevél*). The labels to be used on registered letters leaving the country carry no letter designator.

The non-scheduled flight of Malév Hungarian Airlines which carried the Hungarian Olympic team to Sydney was the first time Malév landed in Australia. Equipment flown by Malév will carry the special color scheme honoring the 1000th anniversary of Hungarian Statehood throughout all of 2001. The stamp issued last May to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Budapest-Ferihegy airport was printed with a new, bar-coded numbering system. The left-hand margin of the sheet was wider than normal to accommodate a bar-coded number at the beginning of each row of ten stamps. Since then, each sheet of stamps issued had such a code for each strip of ten stamp; however, the wider margin was not always on the left side. The system is designed to facilitate sales and accounting, similarly to what's in use in the United States. The Hungarian Post has come a long way since the printing of accounting information numbers in the selvage of sheets in the 1900-1920 era. Unfortunately, due to cumbersome nature of the wide margin, postally used copies of stamps with bar codes attached will be scarce.

Another sign of the continuing Third Inflation in Hungary is the introduction of the HUF 20,000 banknote. While the average, after taxes, monthly salary of HUF 54,000 (US\$180) is low by American standards, the new banknote (worth about US\$66) is needed by the banking sector for commercial transactions of European proportions. It wasn't that long ago (1991) that the HUF 5,000 banknote made its debut. On the currency markets, the Hungarian forint has staged a comeback, falling below the 300 level with respect to the US dollar. The latest exchange rate is US\$1 = HUF 280.

I've received a copy of the critique of our newsletter from Mr. Ken Martin of APS, who handled the literature competition matters at Stampshow 2000. I was pleased to see that the judges scored the contents of our publication well, citing examples of original research, good depth and scope, good contents in the published tables, and excellent variety of the contents. Our weaknesses that were pointed out are the small, crowded format, and the poor quality of illustrations. The frames around the pages were considered 'terrible;' unfortunately I'm stuck using them because I have no other way to print the master copy in booklet format using my MSWord software.

I'm surprised that I didn't receive any feedback for calling the 1943 Hungarian Christmas issue the world's first Christmas stamps. British Empire collectors like to think that Canada's 1898 Imperial Penny Post stamp has that honor. While the Canadian stamp did carry in inscription 'Xmas 1898,' the purpose behind its appearance was to commemorate the introduction of the penny postage rate in the countries of the British Empire (which are depicted in red on the world map projection of the stamp). The Hungarian stamps were the first special issues showing Christmas designs.

One of our members commented that he would like to see articles offering pointers and advice to aspiring exhibitors. I'd like to ask one or more of our experienced exhibitors to put together a 'primer' which would outline the

general steps to take in preparing an exhibit, how to avoid common pitfalls, and the like. There are many members out there who could write from experience. Please help. */Material for publication may be sent to the Secretary's address listed on the front cover or to the Editor's home address listed in the Membership Directory or, via e-mail, to any officer's e-mail address listed on the inside of the front cover./*

Csaba L. Kohalmi

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NEW ISSUES FOR 2000

Issue Date: 19 September 2000

Religious History: Places of Worship (joint issue with Israel)

Face value: HUF 120. Size: 30 x 40mm.

Designer: Dániel Kertész. The design depicts the largest active synagogue in Europe, the Synagogue of Dohány Street, Budapest.

Production details: Printed in sheets of 50 stamps using offset method by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. Total number of stamps prepared: 200,000.

Issue Date: 9 October 2000

Antique Furniture Definitives

Face value: HUF 4, 5, 6, 80, 90. Size: 26 x 33mm.

Designers: György Kara and Péter Nagy based on the work of photographer Imre Eck. The designs depict various chair from 1840 through 1928.

Production details: Produced in sheets of 100 using two color offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. Quantity issued: as required by postal needs.

Issue Date: 16 October 2000

Christmas

Face value: HUF 26, 28, 29, 34. Size: 33 x 26mm (HUF 26), 30 x 30.8mm (HUF 28, 29), 33.3 x 36.7mm (HUF 34). The HUF 28 and 29 values are considered as a regular, definitive issue.

Designers: Krisztina Rényi (HUF 26), Júlia Gyüre (HUF 28, 29), Imre Benedek (HUF 34). The commemorative stamps (HUF 26, 34) depict biblical scenes from the birth of Christ while the definitives show stylized views associated with Christmas.

Production details: HUF 26 was printed in sheets of 100 by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 2.5 million copies. The HUF 34 was printed by the same organization in sheets of 50 in an edition of 6.7 million copies. The HUF 28 and 29 values were printed by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in quantities needed for postal demand. Both stamps appeared in sheets of 50 as well as booklets containing 10 stamps.

Issue Date: 3 November 2000

50th Anniversary of the European Declaration of Human Rights

Face value: HUF 50. Size: 47 x 33.8mm.

Designer: György Pálfi. The design depicts the Coliseum of Rome and the Cathedral of Strasbourg symbolizing the place of origin of the treaty and the site of the European Human Rights Court.

Production details: Printed in sheets of 25 by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 200,000 stamps.

Non-postal Souvenir Sheets issued by Philatelia Hungarica

- Two sheets were issued in honor of the Hungarian medal winners in the Sydney Olympic Games. One sheet listed the gold medal winners; the second, the silver and bronze. Hungarian athletes won 8 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze medals. The selling price for the pair of sheets was HUF 600. Imperforate variety sheets and sheets printed on thick paper with serial number were also issued.
- An overprinted sheetlet was issued for the summit meeting between the leaders of North Korea and South Korea.
- Two sheets were issued titled *Our Favorites* depicting kittens and puppies. The two perforated sheets sold for HUF 600. Imperforate and special format versions were also issued (at a higher selling price).

Non-postal Souvenir Sheets issued by Mabéosz

10,000 pairs of sheets, depicting the gold and silver coinage of King St. Stephen were issued for Hunphilix 2000 and the millennium of Hungarian Statehood. The sheets sold for HUF 700 for the pair.

Other Privately-issued, Non-postal Souvenir Sheets

- The Basilica of Esztergom, dedicated by János Cardinal Scitovszky in 1856, was featured on the sheet issued by Vértesszékely in honor of the Hungarian Millennium. 2000 copies selling for HUF 300 were prepared. Thick paper, black print, and gift inscription varieties were also issued.
- The Jókai City Library of the town of Pápa issued a sheetlet depicting the Holy Crown, the Coronation Robe, and the scene of Abbot Asztrik presenting the crown sent by Pope Sylvester I to Stephen. 500 perforated and imperforate copies were prepared and sold for HUF 600 for the pair.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AWARDED TO 30-YEAR MEMBERS

The SHP Executive Board, in recognition of their dedication to SHP since 1970, approved the following members for Honorary Life Membership, effective immediately. Life membership benefits include free membership dues for the balance of their life and continued receipt of **The News** and any other accompanying publications sent to the membership. Congratulations to these 30-year members:

Mrs. Christine Blinn, Dr. Leslie S. Ettore, Mr. James M. Franz, Mr. Kalman V. Illyefalvi, Mr. Csaba L. Kohalmi, Mr. Arthur P. Stalla, Mr. John W. Stansfield, and Rev. Raymond Wrenn.

An award certificate will be mailed to each of them within the next few weeks recognizing this accomplishment.

H. Alan Hoover, SHP President

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CORRECTION TO THE CONCORDANCE OF CATALOG NUMBERS

- Page 11: Bosnia-Yugoslavia, 1918, the last entry listed as Michel 50, Scott 1L42, the overprint column should read **SHS black** not **CXC black**.
- Same entry, the perforation should be **12 1/2**, not **11 1/2**.

With apologies,

Miklos L. Tecsy

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In Memoriam - LÁSZLÓ HRABÁL (1927-2000)

Mr. Hrabál was an icon of Hungarian Philately. In his professional life, he was an electrical engineer.

The news of the death this well-respected Hungarian philatelist reached me before Christmas. There was nothing to forewarn me of this unexpected happening when I saw him for the last time six months ago in Budapest. Then and always, he was enthusiastic about his two children, the radio, and philately. He had collected stamps since his childhood; he fell in love with the radio not much later.

It would be hard to find an any other person who could so open and ready to help everybody who needed any help. He was happiest when he had an opportunity to show his collection of the Hungarian aerogrammes or his collection of the tax notice cards; but, best of all, he was always willing to share his philatelic knowledge with others.

It was László Hrabál who opened all the philatelic doors for me in Hungary. He presented me to the President and the Secretary of the MAFITT; he introduced me to the Director and the Librarian of the Stamp Museum, and to several philatelic big names in Budapest. I cannot repeat it often enough: he was always willing to help.

His unexpected death is not only a great loss for his friends but also for Hungarian philately. Although he is gone, his name will be remembered forever through his philatelic contributions and publications.

Emmerich Vamos

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BALPEX, 1-3 September 2001

The preliminary BALPEX is available from me. Please address inquiries to **AAndyplp@aol.com**. We will be conducting a Society meeting, time and place will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter. Our Society table is a very good one but to be shared with Cinderella. Please note that we are competing with the German Philatelic Society and the American Air Mails for room and exhibit space.... They usually take up 150 of the 250 available frames and have a heavy presence. The closing date for entries will be 30 June. The Judges have been selected: Roger Schnell (chair) (airmails), Darrell Ertzberger (no info), Gerhard Korn, GPS, Edward Nyberg (who lists Hungary as a field), Dickson Preston (GPS and Air), and apprentice Dieter Leder, a young German. Please plan ahead and see many of you there.

Andrew Munster

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ENGLISH-HUNGARIAN DICTIONARY ON THE WEB

The url **<http://dict.sztaki.hu/english-hungarian>** offers dictionary services English to Hungarian and vice versa and it may be of great benefit to

our non-Hungarian speaking members. While on the Internet, please check out the Mabéosz homepage, which is linked through our SHP website. There is a reverse link from the Mabéosz page to our own SHP page. Pictures of the coins and the banknotes currently circulating in Hungary can be found at **http://www.fsz.bme.hu/hungary/forint_e.html**.

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WANTED: Copies of old issues of **The News**. If you'd like to clean out your drawers or closets and to donate your old issues, please contact Alan Hoover at the address given below.

SALES CIRCUIT MATERIAL WANTED: The *Society for Hungarian Philately* operates a sales circuit of Hungarian philatelic material for its members residing in the United States. SHP members can participate in the sales circuit at no additional charges as a buyer, seller, or both. The circuit is actively looking for all kinds of Hungarian stamps, covers, and postal stationery to offer to prospective buyers. **Enhance your collection - Sell your surplus items!** For information on how to submit material as a seller or how to become a buyer, contact:

H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092, tel: (770) 840-8766, e-mail: h.alan.hoover@lycosmail.com

**XXXIV. International Eucharistic Congress, Budapest
Souvenir Sheet Designed by Lajos Márton,
Scout Postcard Artist**



This souvenir sheet, picturing the saints of the Hungarian Árpád Dynasty, was Lajos Márton's single attempt at designing postage stamps. Starting at the top, left, the stamps picture Sts. Stephen, Emmerich, Ladislav, Elisabeth, Blessed Maurice, and Blessed Margaret, who was canonized in 1944 after the stamp was issued. The 16+16f and the 20+20f values were issued as single stamps as well.