

THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
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SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

2201 Roscomare Road
Los Angeles, CA 90077 USA

Established 1969

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APS Affiliate 34  
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President: H. Alan Hoover, *e-mail*: h.alan.hoover@lycosmail.com

Vice-President: Andrew M. Munster, M.D., AAndyplp@aol.com

Treasurer: Ted Johnson, TedBar1005@aol.com

Secretary: Robert B. Morgan, rbmorgan@iname.com

Directors-at-large: Stephan I. Frater, M.D., sifmd@aol.com
Thomas Phillips, u16493@snet.net

Sales Circuit Manager: H. Alan Hoover, h.alan.hoover@lycosmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Csaba L. Kohalmi, kohalmi@juno.com

Newsletter Publisher: Chris Brainard, chris.brainard@erols.com

Auction Chairperson: Emmerich Vamos, EmmeVamos@aol.com

SHP Web-site: <http://www.hungarianphilately.org>.

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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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η This issue closed on 12 May 2001. η  
ηη The next issue will close on 1 August 2001. ηη

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The time is almost here for BALPEX and our annual meeting. The exhibit forum will be held from August 31 through September 2 at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley MD. For reservations, call 410-785-7000. A block of rooms is available at the special rate of \$91.00 for BALPEX attendees. For show details, check the website at [www.BALPEX.org](http://www.BALPEX.org). Our Society's Executive Board will hold the annual meeting on Thursday, the day prior to the show's opening. During our final preparations prior to the show, we will try to arrange some activities for society member participation, both philatelic and social events. Please check the society table at the show, which we will be sharing it with the Cinderella Stamp Club, and ask about the details of our sponsored events.

Unfortunately, by the time you read this, the applications for exhibiting will already be closed. We hope we had generated interest via our previous articles and that you have sent in your application or have contacted Andrew Munster, our BALPEX Chairman, about your participation in the exhibit. We are also hoping for a great showing of material from our members. Hopefully, I can arrange to have a private time when our society members can explain the fine details of their exhibits to everyone who wishes to participate. Again, check the society table for the time and location.

I would like to encourage you to attend BALPEX, even if it is only for one day. I have participated in this show many times in the past and I like the facility, the location, and the time of year of this show. It is Labor Day weekend, so it's usually the last hurrah before all the kids are back in school and the thoughts of cooler weather begin. The location makes not only a lovely time to visit both Washington, DC and the Baltimore area, but presents an opportunity to share time with your philatelic friends and learn about the fascinating details of other members' collecting interests. Many members live in the geographical area. The SHP Executive Board hopes we can meet many of you and share some quality time with you.

Our society has a new Internet domain name! The SHP Board approved the establishment of our new electronic presence. Please note the new Internet address of our website, which is now [www.hungarianphilately.org](http://www.hungarianphilately.org). Check it out, and watch for upcoming new listings in the next few months. On the subject of another project, we have begun our "binding project" by collecting old issues of the Society newsletters since its inception. We will be selling hardbound copies to our members that wish a library-style bound version. Watch for details in an upcoming issue of **The News**.

Elsewhere in this issue, you should find a separate notice about Monograph 9, a reprinted, updated, and translated copy of Szabo-Antal's 1932 work on the Baranya overprints. The Society and the authors kindly agreed to put this work under its Monograph series. In addition, the Society is underwriting part of the expense to members that wish to purchase this work. I have reviewed it; it is an excellent quality presentation and a 'must have' for anyone collecting occupation issues. Also, watch for additional literature to be pub-

lished by Dr. Paul Szilagyi, who is diligently working on some updated information on this fascinating area.

We also want to take the opportunity to thank the APS for highlighting our society in their Affiliate Report in the June issue **of the American Philatelist**. It's a short article, but the exposure for our Society and the information of our BALPEX participation is sincerely appreciated.

I wish you the best in your philatelic activities and I will see you at BALPEX!

**H. Alan Hoover**

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## **KUDOS & WELCOME**

Congratulations to our exhibitor members who came away with awards recently. **Alfred F. Kugel** won a gold medal at Midaphil 2000 with *The New Order in the Baltic, 1918-23*; also, a gold at Sescal with *Postal History of the American Forces in China, 1900-1941*; and a vermeil at Aripex with *Kingdom of Serbia Postal History 1882-1921*; and **Dr. Paul J. Szilagyi** received a vermeil at Sescal with *Development of Hungary's Airmail 1896-1945*;

**Alfred F. Kugel** published a short overview of the postmarks and postal history of the US Marine Corps' intervention in Nicaragua in 1927-33 in the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, issue No. 4.

Dr. **Andrew Munster's** fine, scholarly article, *Serving Two Masters, Parcel Posts of Hungary's 1945-46 Inflation*, appeared in the May 2001 issue of the **American Philatelist**.

Welcome to the following new members: Mr. **Frank Fodor** of Akron, OH, Mr. **Pierre Vattepain** of Paris, France, and Mr. **William A. Witschard** of Buffalo, NY.

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## **SOCIETY ADDRESS CHANGE REMINDER**

Please note that the old Fairfield post office box address is no longer valid. The post office box has been closed! Please address all Society correspondence in care of our Secretary, **Robert B. Morgan, 2201 Roscomare Road, Los Angeles, CA 90077-2222 USA**.

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## **THE TRAGEDY OF TRIANON**

The 20th century was certainly not kind to Hungary, with the Treaty of Trianon standing out as its worst disaster. Before going any further, let us determine where Trianon is. It is the name given to the châteaux: *Trianon le Grand* (built by King Louis XIV of France in 1687-1688) and *Trianon le Petit*, set up by King Louis XV. Both are in the English Park at Versailles, 12 miles/19km WSW of Paris.

The Treaty between Hungary and the Allies, /which, by now, included the Successor States of Czecho-Slovakia, the Kingdom the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes and the Greater Kingdom of Roumania /Ed./, was signed at Trianon

le Grand on 4 June 1920, went into effect on 26 July and was ratified by the Hungarian Parliament after very bitter debates on 13 November. The result was that Hungary lost two-thirds of its national territory and roughly one-third of its ethnic Magyar population, with 3,219,579 Hungarians finding themselves as a minority in a neighboring country. The rest, as they say, is history.

This writer tried to find out the complete composition of the Hungarian Delegation, which was apparently top-heavy with 'gróffok,' i.e. counts, and has been able to determine that it was headed by *gróf* Albert Apponyi. At least two other members were 'counts' also, *gróf* Imre Csáky and *gróf* Pál Teleki. (Count Teleki, who was the Hungarian Prime Minister in 1941, committed suicide as protest against the Hungarian co-operation with the planned German invasion of Jugoslavia.) /For a more-detailed list of the names of the Hungarian peace delegates, see the following article. Ed./

During their stay in Paris, the Hungarian delegates sent home correspondence to which a special circular, bilingual cachet was applied. The size of the cancel was 32mm in diameter and text at the top read MAGYAR KÜLDÖTTSÉG/Hungarian Delegation and DELEGATION DE HONGRIE/Delegation of Hungary at the bottom. The Royal Hungarian Arms were in the center.

A picture card showing this cachet canceling a French 10-centime "Sower" stamp was lot #1985 on the Hungarofila auction of 6 December 1998. Part of this card is illustrated in *Fig. 1*. Despite showing only a partial view, it tells us a lot. It was addressed to Gallia (Hallia?) Brankó at the Külügyminisztérium (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in Budapest. Judging from his name, the addressee was probably originally from Croatia or Slavonia. There is also a circular French cachet on the card reading GROUPE DE LIAISON / MISSION HENRY, so we can assume that the card went through the French postal system on its way to Hungary. It is surprising the French postage was cancelled with a Hungarian cachet!

A second picture post card is in possession of this writer, and it, too, has the same Hungarian cachet in the top left corner (see *Fig. 2*). It shows no signs of wear and, although addresses to Miss Lilike Schvárc in Budapest, it may have been enclosed in an envelope before being sent through the French mails. The Hungarian message reads "Paris 1920, in commemoration of the peace negotiations. Misi." It would be nice to know who "Misi" was. /Since none of the delegates had a given name of 'Mihály' from which the diminutive 'Misi' would originate, I would have to assume that this person was not an 'official delegate' but was one of the many personal servants accompanying the many counts. Ed./

These two items raise some questions when compared to the mail facilities provided the German Peace Delegation at Versailles the year before in 1919. *Fig. 3* shows a card sent by a German delegate on 30 May 1919 through the special "German Peace Delegation" post office indicated by the postmark. The sender even endorsed the card at top center in German "Gebührenfrei/post free. Therefore, it seems that such mail was forwarded to Germany by diplo-

matic pouch, and one wonders why the Hungarian delegates were not granted the same privileges at Trianon in 1920.

In summing up, we need to see more examples of correspondence from the Hungarian delegation before coming to any final conclusions about the mail arrangements at Trianon. Information on the details of any other usages would be most welcome.

**Andrew Cronin**

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**HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE HUNGARIAN PEACE DELEGATION,  
1920**

On 2 December 1919 Prime Minister Huszár received the invitation from the Peace Conference to dispatch a Hungarian delegation. This delegation left Budapest on 5 January 1920 after an official send-off by the Prime Minister. The members arrived in Paris on January 7th and were billeted in the Château de Madrid in Neuilly, a suburb of Paris, under strict police supervision. The 74-year old Count Apponyi was the only member of the delegation who was allowed to leave the grounds for taking walks for health reasons. Otherwise, the delegates were sequestered in the hotel and were not allowed to communicate with any of the other peace delegates.

Count Albert Apponyi presided over the delegation in the capacity of chairman. The principal delegates were Count Pál Teleki, chief cartographer; Count István Bethlen; Vilmos Lers, state councilor; Béla Zoltán, former Minister of Justice; and Count László Somssich.

Other advisors and their supporting roles were as follows: Tibor Kállay, state councilor and financial expert; Baron Boldizsár Lung, lieutenant colonel and military advisor; Konek, merchant marine captain and navigation expert. Also, Iván Praznovszky, ministerial councilor and head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs political section; Count Imre Csáky and János Wettstein, diplomatic advisors; Elemére Jármay and Ernő Szeitovszky, ministerial councilors; Emil Walter, general advisor; Ernő Hauer, member of the diplomatic corps; Sándor Ezry and Count Gusztáv Csáky, secretaries.

The delegation presented its credentials and the position papers of the Hungarian government to the Peace Conference on 14 January 1920. On the next day, they, in turn, received the draft of the proposed treaty. Count Apponyi requested an opportunity to respond, and he was granted one hour for this purpose of 16 January 1920. The delegation then returned to Budapest on 20 January 1920. The grave terms of the proposed treaty were received with mass, countrywide demonstrations. The elapsed time for these events was two weeks.

The delegates returned to Paris on 9 February 1920, arriving on the 12th, with the Hungarian government's response to the peace terms. (There is no readily available data to support how many of the same persons as before made this trip.) The government's basic premise was the maintenance of the homogeneous integrity of the ethnic Hungarian nation, namely, the retention of large Hungarian-speaking populations in cities within almost shouting distance

of the new, proposed borders, such as Pozsony, Kassa, Komárom, Nagyvárád, Szatmár, Arad, Kolozsvár, and Szabadka. The response also included proposed plebiscites based on President's Wilson's 14 points of self-determination for ethnic groups.

The Hungarian National Assembly met for the first time since the dissolution of the Dual Monarchy on 16 February 1920. The assembly nullified the republic and restored the monarchy. The perplexing problem of the Habsburg restoration was sidestepped by re-instituting the Regency to head the kingless monarchy. (János Hunyadi and Lajos Kossuth were the country's previous two regents in the 15th and the 19th century, respectively.) Admiral Horthy was elected Regent. Count Apponyi was also nominated, but withdrew his name because of his advanced age and his role as chairman of the Peace Delegation. With this housekeeping task accomplished, the Huszár-government resigned.

The final wording of the Entente's peace treaty was not given to the Hungarians until 6 May 1920. Again, I could not ascertain whether some members of the delegation remained in Paris during this four-month hiatus. From Raffay's book I determined that Iván Praznovszky, acting as the delegation's secretary, was present in Paris to receive the text along with a letter from French President Millerande. These documents were conveyed to the Hungarians by French Colonel Henry, who may have had the role of intermediary. (See the reference to the previous article to the *Groupe De Liaison / Mission Henry* cancellation.) What followed was the exchange of notes and the discussion of the status of Ruthenia. Since he was unable to move the Peace Conference to lessen the punitive impact of the treaty on Hungary, Count Apponyi resigned in the name of the entire delegation on 16 May 1920. The responsibility of accepting the treaty was transferred back to the Hungarian Government of Prime Minister Simonyi-Semadam. The Prime Minister responded to President Millerande's letter in kind reiterating the protest about the injustice committed against Hungary but assuring the French President that the Hungarian government was going to act in a responsible manner and send delegates to sign the treaty. This letter was also signed by Count Pál Teleki, who then was the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A new Hungarian delegation (again, I don't have exact data on the names of its members) made the fourth trip to Paris for the actual signing which took place at 4:30PM on 20 June 1920 in the Napoleon Hallway between the Grand and the Petite Trianon Palaces. The thankless task of signing on behalf of the Government of Hungary fell to Ágoston Bénérd, Minister of Public Welfare, and Alfred Lázár Drasche. They did not volunteer; their names were drawn by lot from the list of Cabinet members.

A single, original copy of the treaty was deposited in the archives of the French Republic. In Hungary, the day was declared 'Black Friday,' and church bells were ordered rung in distress (half-clanged) while factory sirens screamed in protest at the grim moment. 12,000 wagon-dwellers, refugees displaced from the lost territories who were housed in cattle cars along railway sidings in the Budapest, held a silent demonstration in Heroes' Square. They

represented the more than 350,000 refugees displaced from their ancestral homes and jobs.

The Hungarian Parliament accepted the treaty on 11 November 1920, under protest. It was formulated into public law on 26 June 1921. The United States Senate never ratified the treaty but made a separate peace with Hungary on 29 August 1921. Throughout all of this time, the Hungarian government held onto the false hope of revision of the treaty, in accordance with the provisions written into it.

The test of the treaty provisions came with the restoration attempts by King Károly on 26 March to 5 April 1921 and 20-24 October 1921. The first attempt was remote in the western border area (Szombathely). Government ministers met with the King to persuade him to leave the country, which he did only after the hoped for military support did not materialize. The second attempt brought to former king to the outskirts of Budapest supported by an armed force and triggered an ultimatum and partial mobilization from the Czechoslovak Republic. After Károly was exiled to the island of Madeira (where he contracted the flu and died on 1 April 1922), the Hungarian National Assembly formally dethroned the Habsburg Dynasty on 6 November 1921. (This was the 3rd 'dethronement' for the resilient dynasty. The Diet of Ónod tried under Prince Rákoczy in 1706, followed by the Debrecen National Assembly inspired by Kossuth in 1849.)

The Rumanians maintained control of Debrecen and its surroundings until 20 March 1920; and, despite the treaty being in effect, the Serbs continued to occupy Pécs and parts of Baranya County in southern Hungary (in order to maximize their take from the coal mines in the region) until 15 August 1921. The situation in the west along the frontier with Austria did not get resolved until after the liquidation of the Lajtabánság insurgency (mid-November 1921) and the Sopron-area plebiscite (14-16 December 1921). The insurgents' final armed intrusion into Burgenland occurred in July 1922 and resulted in minor border adjustments.

RE: the previous article. The chronological listing of events shows that the Hungarian Peace Delegation made (possibly) four separate trips to Paris. In all likelihood, there were some personnel changes in the makeup of delegations, for sure in the makeup of the last delegation that actually signed the treaty. Accumulating correspondence from each phase of the peace process would be a daunting challenge for a philatelist. It's most likely that Mr. Cronin's post cards are from the first trip, that being the longest in duration, but it's hard to confirm this because of the lack of postmarks.

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Budapest, 1989.

Csaba L. Kohalmi

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**THE AUT. PERFORATED 10-FILLÉR STAMP OF 1906**

by **Gábor Voloncs**

*/The following article is reprinted from the material presented at the 2nd Hungarian Stamps and Postal History World Conference, Budapest, 19 August 2000./*

In 1906, on a trial basis, the Hungarian Royal Post installed a pair of automatons for processing registered letters. The **Magyar Királyi Posta és Távirada Rendeletek Tára**/*The Directory of Regulations of the Hungarian Royal Post and Telegraph* promulgated the announcement about the automatic registered letter processing machine in the 17th edition for 1906, Directive # 13.041 dated April 12th:

*As of May 1st 1906, two post offices of Budapest placed into service, on an experimental basis, a single self-servicing letter box (automaton) for the purpose of accepting registered letters. These locations are the Budapest No. 4 (central) and the Budapest No. 6 post offices, the latter located at Gyár u. 19 (today in the VI<sup>th</sup> district, Jókay utca 1.).*

- **The letter box automaton**

Mechanical engineers Antal Fodor and Aurél Büky and clerical worker Emil Szabó applied for a patent license in 1901 for their invention, the automatic, registered mail processing, machine-operated letter box. The Hungarian Royal Patent Office granted license no. 33097 on 5 June 1905 for the item titled: *An automaton capable of accepting registered mail and providing a receipt of mailing.*

- **Instructions for posting mail**

A postal employee was available at each machine to provide assistance in mailing articles.

The automatic letter box was available for posting registered mail to domestic destinations as well as to Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina (with the exception of the Sandjak of Novibazar, which was regarded as a foreign country outside the German-Austrian postal convention) and Germany. The following items could be posted: letters, normal and closed (sealed) postal cards, printed matter placed inside an outer envelope as well as printed matter tied in a bundle with an address label as long as the dimensions of the bundle did not exceed 18 x 15 cm and the thickness of 3 1/2 cm.

The automaton could not be used to post express, certified delivery, collect on delivery, official, and postage-free mail, in other words, mail which required special handling. Also excluded were registered mail items that deviated from the standard format, such as mailing tubes and boxes, since the machine was unable to stamp the registry serial number on such unusual shapes. Inasmuch as these items were dropped into the letter box, they were processed as ordinary mail and handled accordingly.

Items which were placed into the automaton with insufficient postage were likewise handled as ordinary mail. In such instances, the 10-fillér, AUT. stamp was still applied to the piece of correspondence; however, the registry number applied by the machine was crossed out by a diagonal line in red ink and thusly nullified.

- **Franking**

The sender was required to frank each item with the proper amount of postage stamps less 10 fillér. (For example, the cost of mailing a local letter would have been 6f; a first weight class letter = 25f, a second weight class = 35f, plus the 10f registry fee.) Special care had to be exercised so as not to place any stamps in the lower left corner of the address side of the envelope.

The missing 10 fillér registry fee was paid for by the coin inserted into the machine in order to activate it.

- **The registry serial number**

The machine applied a printed registry label and serial number to the item being mailed after the user inserted a 10f coin and rotated the arm at the side of the unit.

The imprint was applied in lilac-red color. The size of the frame was 17.5mm high and 30.0mm wide. The vertical separator line boxing in the letter 'R' was 9.2mm from the left side. The antiqua-style letter was 11mm high. On the right side of the divider, the word and post office designator 'BUDAPEST 4.' or 'BUDAPEST 6.' was printed using 3.5mm high grotesque lettering. Underneath it was a 5mm high Roman numeral designating the machine number. This was followed by a dash and then the registry number, which, in actuality, was also the serial number of the item posted in the automaton. The numbering scheme started with '1' and went to '1000' before rolling over to '1' again.

If the imprinted registry label was partial or otherwise illegible, the postal employee was required to put the finishing touches on it in red ink.

- **The proof of mailing receipt**

The postal customer received a preprinted form, 6.3 x 9.5mm in size, indicating the post office name as a proof of mailing receipt for each article deposited in the letter box machine. The machine printed the year, month and day, as well as the machine and the registry serial numbers in lilac-red color on each form. The sender was advised to enter the name and address of the intended recipient on the back of the form. The sender was also permitted to do the same at a postal clerk's window of the same post office within two months of the actual mailing. In such instance, the clerk entered the information based on the postal log on the front of the form in the appropriate boxes and validated it with his initials and circular date cancel.

- **The AUT. perforated stamp**

The coin deposited in the machine paid for a 10 fillér stamp, which was applied to the mailed article by the postal employee whose job was to re-

move the mail from the letter box. For the purposes of maintaining separate accounting, the stamp was perforated with the letters *AUT.* to distinguish it from other, regular postage stamps.

The post office organization utilized the regular 1906 issue, 10f Turul stamp, which was perforated with the initials *AUT.* in-house.

According to currently available information, the device used to apply the perfin to the stamp was a single-use gadget. This determination was made based on repeatable characteristics of the perforations.

The dimensions of the punched holes are as follows:

- pin diameter is 0.9mm /0.87 rounded-up/
- number of pins is 33, which are distributed as follows:
- A = 11 holes, U = 12, T = 8, and a single hole for the period
- the height of the letters is 7mm /6.68mm actual/
- the length of the *AUT.* is 14.8mm.

The positioning of the perfin on the stamp exists in three different formats.

- 19 stamps are known with normal, upright perfin,
- 2 stamps are known with inverted perforation, both were used at the Bp. 4 office in the first two weeks of June 1906.
- 1 stamp exists with the perfin rotated 90 degrees (*Bp. 4, Lfk. 1 May 1907*)

Normally, the vertical-format stamps were intended to be perforated in a horizontal fashion. The existing inverted or rotated perfins have to be considered as anomalies. Their existence can be attributed to carelessness.

The collecting community was unaware of the existence of unused stamps until recently. One example each was offered in the Hungarofila 1998 and the Profila 2000 auctions.

Seventeen copies are known in used condition, of which 8 are on cover or piece of cover. Only two examples survive from the Budapest 6 post office, one on cover, one soaked off.

The next table lists the date and cancellation of the off-cover stamps:

| Year / date <sup>1</sup> | Cancelled by | Year / date <sup>1</sup> | Cancelled by |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1906 / 7 June            | Bp. 4. LFl   | 1906 /29 Aug.            | Bp. 4. LTe   |
| 1906 / 1? June           | Bp. 4. LFl   | 1906 12 Sep. E 8         | Bp. 4. Lfk   |
| 1906 / 14 June           | Bp. 4. Lfk   | 1907 1 May, E 9          | Bp. 4. Lfk   |
| 1906 / 15 Jun, E<br>8    | Bp. 4. LFl   | 1907 6 May, E 9          | Bp. 4. LFl   |
| 1906 / 16 Aug, N<br>4    | Bp. 4. LTe   |                          |              |

• **The postal use of the *AUT.* perforated stamp**

According to the postal directive, the two experimental machines were placed into service on 1 May 1906. To date, there are no known stamps with a May cancellation. Based on contemporary reports and news articles, it is well known that the general public was reluctant to use the automaton. The

complicated franking structure and the unfamiliar receipt contributed to the lack of enthusiasm.

The earliest known used stamp is dated 7 June 1906 with the Budapest 4. LFl. cancellation. Interestingly enough, this stamp has an inverted perfin. Currently, the latest known used stamp is dated 6 May 1907. This one is cancelled Budapest 4 LFl at 9:00 PM in the evening.

• **Letters franked with AUT. stamps**

Seven entire covers, one envelope front, and one receipt of mailing are the known surviving examples posted at the two Budapest post offices:

| <b>Year:</b> | <b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <sup>1</sup> | <b>Cancelled by:</b> | <b>Registry Number:</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1906         | 15 June / N 11                       | Bp. 4. LFl.          | I-799                   |
| 1906         | 6 July / E                           | Bp. 4. LFl.          | I-909                   |
| 1906         | 7 August / N 1                       | Bp. 4. Lfk.          | I-311                   |
| 1906         | 17 August                            | Bp. 4.               | I-674 (Receipt)         |
| 1906         | 10 September / E 9                   | Bp. 4. Lfk           | I-174                   |
| 1906         | 10 December / N 1                    | Bp. 4. Lfk           | I-025 (cover front)     |
| 1907         | 5 February / N 11                    | Bp. 4. LLk           | I-378                   |
| 1907         | 20 February / E 7                    | Bp. 4. Lfk           | I-544                   |
| 1906         | 8 August / N 1                       | Bp. 6. S             | I-517                   |

<sup>1</sup> Time of day is indicated by ‘N’ = Nappal, i.e., during the day; E = Éjjel, i.e., at night, plus the hour indicated by the last numeral.

Interesting conclusions can be derived from the data provided by the postings at the Budapest 4 post office. Based on the spread of dates and registry serial numbers, we can try to estimate the possible number of items that were posted in the machine.

During the 21 elapsed days between 15 June and 6 July 1906, the serial numbers account for 110 items. During the 32 days between 6 July and 7 August, 312 items were posted. Finally, in the 15-day interval between 5 February and 20 February 1907, the machine counter advanced 166.

These numbers indicate that the machine accounted for small, maybe negligible portion of the registered mail traffic at the main post office of Budapest. Extrapolating the above data, one might say that between 5,000 to 6,000 pieces of mail were posted at the automaton during its slightly more than one year’s worth of operation.

Because of the lack of sufficient supporting data, no such estimate can be made for the machine located at the Budapest 6 post office.

As noted earlier, fewer than 10 pieces of mail remain in existence in addition to the fewer than 15 used examples. The reason that so few examples survived may be explained by the fact that perfined stamps, for many decades, were considered as damaged, throw-away examples by the collecting community. This greatly increased the percentage of AUT. stamps, of which only a few were used to begin with, that were destroyed.

The domestic stamp catalog started listing the AUT. stamp a few years ago. Today's **Hungarian Postage and Revenue Stamp Catalog** assigns a value to it, which, in my opinion, does not reflect its true value based on its relative scarcity. If we take into consideration the information provided in the **Magyar bélyegek kézikönyve** (which was the first to catalog the stamp in 1986), it shows that in the past 14 years, only a couple of new examples of this stamp have turned up.

In conclusion, it's fair to state that the 1906 AUT. perforated 10 fillér Turul stamp, which was officially issued by the Hungarian Royal Post and performed postal service as intended, is one of the scarcest Hungarian stamps.

/I would like to express my appreciation to my philatelic friends who gave permission for me to use and reproduce the material in their possession./

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## HUNGARIAN FIRST INFLATION COVER SENT TO JAPAN

The illustrated cover continues the recent series on Hungarian mail addressed 'east of Suez.' The registered letter was sent from the Budapest 502 post office on 2? January 1924. (The second digit of the day of the month is weak and undecipherable in all four strikes.) Postage paid was 4,900 korona, which included 3,500K for a letter weighing up to 80gm abroad (1,400K for the first 20gm and 700K for each additional 20gm increment), and 1,400K for registration. The sender was S. Kelen, a dealer in postage stamps whose covers and advertising cards abound. One can only assume that the envelope contained a shipment of postage stamps. /I was able to locate one in my collection from 1926. Although Kelen's address is different, the similarity in handwriting, especially in the way the lower case letter 'k' was written, is noticeable. Ed./

I consider this a fortunate purchase which I made in Tokyo. Hungarian mail from the first inflation period to Japan is exceedingly scarce. Unfortunately, there is no arrival postmark on the cover. It is interesting, though, that the name of the recipient, Dr. Komao Avaki, and his address were transcribed in Japanese characters. The pencilled-in manuscript can be deciphered by turning the envelope 90 degrees clockwise. The address and name can then be read vertically.

**Kiyoshi Kashiwagi**

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## WARNING! FORGERS AT WORK!

In March 2001 four Hyperinflation era covers were offered on the Internet in an online auction. A stamp dealer located in Hungary listed the covers for sale. I would like to believe that the dealer did not know that the covers were fakes, after all, a stamp dealer's reputation is his most valuable asset. But, I have to assume that if **he knows the source** (where he acquired it) a report to the police would be in order.

I am a collector specialist in Hungary's Hyperinflation of 1945-46. I am advocating to my fellow specialist collectors that anytime they become

aware of any forged covers, let all of us know and let's publicize the violators. This blatant forgery is a prime example. Let us warn the forgers: the Hyperinflation collectors are 'AWARE' and are 'ON GUARD.'

Each and every one of these four covers has analytical flaws tipping off the knowledgeable collector of their fraudulent nature. Please note that all four covers have the same 'Németboly' and 'Versend' canceler used, only the dates in them were changed. The cover with the adópengő stamps is the easiest to explain. *Note the so-called mailing date: July 14, 1946.* Unless the forger wants to re-write postal history, we are relying on the data released by the Hungarian Postal Department. According to the **Postai Rendeletek Tára**, the 5 and 10 ezer AP stamps were issued on *July 16, 1946*; the 20 and 50 ezer AP stamps on *July 17th*; the 80 and 100 ezer AP on *July 19th* and the 200 ezer AP on *July 20th*! Most stamps attached to the cover were not even printed on the day of the forger's 'mailing date' !

Apparently the original 'Németboly' and 'Versend' canceling devices fell (stolen?) into shady hands – be on your guard anytime a cover with those town names offered to you! We have to be vigilant and make ourselves known that we will not tolerate the spreading of FAKE Inflation covers in the marketplace. Unfortunately, the picture of the illustrated fake cover printed from the internet lacks sufficient resolution to be useful for comparison purposes. Sill, it is a FORGERY.

**Robert B. Morgan**

## THE LEGACY OF OTTÓ GÁBOR SCHÄFFLING

In a recent auction, Emmerich Vamos acquired two airmail items that were sent from Germany to Hungary in the 1930s. The covers illustrate truly exceptional service in the early days of postal aviation. Both were back-stamped at their destination on the next day after they were posted.

A far more interesting facet of the covers is that they were sent by Ottó Schäffling to his brother in Szolgaegyháza, Hungary. Ottó was a student in Germany at the time while his brother served as a manager on a large poultry farm in Fejér County. Already, he was an avid philatelist and requested his brother to note the exact date of arrival of the air mail items.

Later, Ottó became a world-renowned philatelist specializing in classical Hungarian issues, especially the 'kr' 'and large crown' watermark varieties. As an example of his collecting prowess, he provided illustrations of unique items from his collection for the **Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája**. He was an advisor to the Scott Publishing Company for pricing Hungarian stamps. And, he even found time and energy to spend on collecting Venezuelan airmails. Ottó joined the Society for Hungarian Philately early in its existence and served as its president. He was also the first person who was voted the honor of Life Member until his death in 1995.

I'm glad that Emmerich brought these covers to my attention so that I was able to refresh my philatelic memories of *Ottó Bátyám*.

**Csaba L. Kohalmi**

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**KIKÖTÖBEN MARKING ON A GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA  
COLONIAL COVER**

Paul Orban sent in a photocopy of an article that appeared in the September 2000 issue of **Vorläufer**, the journal of the German Colonies Collectors' Group. It was written by A. Lavar Taylor and John Kevin Doyle and discussed the illustrated cover with Hungarian ship markings.

The cover was posted in the German South West African port of Karibib on 3 July 1909 and bears 'Paquebot. / S.S. Petöfi / Kikötöben' markings and was franked with 2 x 5pf GSWA stamps. The article used references published by Dick Frost and Dr. Paul J. Szilagyí in the **Stamps of Hungary**, the journal of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

The *S.S. Petöfi* was built in Newcastle for the Adria Hungarian Shipping Company, which was merged into the Hungarian-Croatian Steamship Company around 1906. According to Dr. Szilagyí, the *Petöfi* served on the Fiume to Brazil route in 1899, and Dick Frost mentioned that Hungarian ships made calls in the ports of South West Africa.

The cover was addressed to a German soldier on colonial service in Africa. Because of this fact as well as because the infamous Captain Peterdi's activities were restricted to pre-1900 *paquebot* covers, the authors conclude that it was not philatelically inspired.

**Csaba L. Kohalmi**

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**BOOK REVIEW: THE STAMPS OF BARANYA**

by **Jenő Szabó-Antal**

(Reprint edited and annotated by Christopher Brainard and Anthony Müller.  
Translated from Hungarian by Anthony Müller)

The Society for Hungarian Philately is pleased to announce the English translation of this important reference source for the overprinted stamps of Baranya issued during the Serbian occupation, 1918-1921. Dr. Müller has graciously underwritten the initial publication costs and requested that this book be included in the SHP Monograph Series. The SHP Board of Directors voted to subsidize the purchase price of the book for its members. Information of how to order the book as well as the cost follows this review.

Szabó-Antal's original work was published in the **Bélyegyűjtő** in 1939. In the elapsed 60 years, this work was quoted, transcribed, and translated by countless authors in the philatelic press. New insights as to the nature, the origin, and the variety of these overprints have also emerged during this time. Most importantly, the editors wanted to overcome the inherent limitations of the Hungarian language posed by the original reference work. What emerged from their efforts was a quality document written in a major language of the Western World (English), clarified and updated with annotations to remove previously entrenched, confusing terminology, and illustrated with high resolution, color reproductions of stamps, covers, and postal stationery.

A major accomplishment was to correct the terminology for the two presses used for the overprinting of the First Baranya series. Findings on this subject were first published in previous issue of **The News**.

The editors carefully reproduced all of the original illustrations. Whenever new material was incorporated, it is distinguishable by a red border to indicate that it was not an original part of Szabó-Antal's work. The 'old' and the 'new' information complement each other superbly. Congratulations are in order to Mr. Brainard and Dr. Müller for this scholarly publication! For ordering details, please continue reading:

- SHP Monograph #9, **The Stamps of Baranya** by Jenő Szabó-Antal is now available.
- Members in good standing, i.e., membership dues paid through 2001, have a one-time opportunity to obtain one copy each at a price below production cost.
- Your Society is providing an additional \$20.00 subsidy toward the purchase price. In other words, **your** cost is only **\$20.00 (plus shipping)** for this important piece of philatelic literature.
- The cost of first class postage in US cost and handling is an additional \$2.50, for a total cost of **\$22.50**.
- Copies can be ordered by members in good standing from  
**A. B. Muller**  
**6541 Orland Street**  
**Falls Church, VA 22043**
- Payment should be made by personal check or money order.
- Foreign members should inquire at the address above or via e-mail at [mullera@bellatlantic.net](mailto:mullera@bellatlantic.net) for actual postage costs to their destination.
- The offer is limited to members in good standing (paid up), one copy per member, and is valid for orders received by 30 September 2001.
- After that date, copies can be purchased from the above address or from **B & S Stamp Bourse, P.O. Box 49, Marlton, NJ 08053 USA** for **\$62.50** (domestic shipping included).

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**BOOK REVIEW: UNGARN-HALBIERUNGEN -  
Markenteilungen der ersten Ausgabe von Österreich**

**HUNGARIAN BISECTS - Stamp Portions of Austria's First Issue**

**by Rolf Rohlf's**

© 2000, 158pp, 8x9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" hardbound, 400 numbered copies, available for \$80 postpaid from the author, Sürstedt 6, D-27243 Beckeln, Germany (fax: 011 49 4244 2246)

Though primarily an illustrated census, in color where available, of the known bi- and trisected stamps of the first Austrian stamp issue used in Hungary, this beautifully produced book presents a great deal more. It is of interest not only to collectors of that era and area but also to anyone interested in the postal history of used stamp portions. For that, the author has searched and quotes the pertinent postal records.

Thus, part of the 1850 order for prepayment of postage stamps is quoted to prove that a prohibition of using stamp *portions* was quite unnecessary, because paragraph 15 speaks only of 'one or several stamps' to be used, but not of fractions of stamps. Nevertheless, of the 112 stamp portions on piece or on cover of the first Austria issue, 105 originated in Hungary.

That point is considered in some detail by the author, whose findings include the fact that Hungarian officials were encouraged by some of the official post-office rule to bi- and trisect stamps for paying postal fees. That was particularly true for the very small post offices with little traffic, which were encouraged to carry only limited supplies of stamps.

To comply, some cut down inventory by cutting up stamps, of which the leftovers also had to be used, of course. Not surprisingly, some other post offices refused to accept such partial stamps as payment and crossed them out with wax pencil, even though they had already been postmarked at the points of origin.

These conditions caused a truly confusing situation as well as making it almost impossible to differentiate between official postal action and purely philatelic play, as the author explains. Quite possibly, the special political conditions prevailing at that time in Hungary were largely to be blamed for the high rate of stamp dissection. A specially drawn map shows the places from which one or more dissected stamps are known with later issues included. Whereas none is known from Buda, several are known from Pest, the two towns on either side of the Danube that now form Budapest.

It would be interesting to search the philatelic literature from the point of view of determining - if possible - whether Hungarian stamp dissection of the first issue of Austria paved the way for dissecting in general, with and without surcharging the resulting fractions, an abuse eagerly welcomed and furthered by ill-advised stamp collectors and money-hungry dealers.

The book ends with short sections on fakes; cut stamps of the first Austrian issue from outside Hungary; cut stamps of the second Austrian issue from November/December 1858; pseudo-bisections (cause by the use of return receipts); and the Sárvár provisional.

The book is highly recommended, not just to collectors and students of this Austro-Hungarian specialty, but also to those generally interested in dissected stamps and in the postal history of such items. The specialist will benefit from the map and the illustrations alone. The generalist should have the ability to read German fluently - or perhaps the author would agree to a translation of most of the textual material.

Ernst M. Cohn

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### **LITMUS TEST FOR OCCUPATIONS ISSUES**

The following quote is from the 1921 edition of WEKA listing of post-World War I 'local' issues and was missing from my letter to the editor published in the Jan-Mar 2001 issue of **The News**. The WEKA list was pub-

lished by a stamp dealer in Zürich, Switzerland. The statement reflects, in my opinion, the best way to judge the so-called 'occupation issues.

*Pour être classés permis les émissions régulières il suffit q'elle ait été émise postalement par une autorité local compétente ou une autre qui s'est emparée de la puissance d'une manière legale ou par force.*

*For the decision to classify an issue as regular it is enough that the stamps were issued for postal use by a competent local authority or by one who came to power by either legal means or force.*

**Dr. Leslie S. Ettore**

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## **HUNGARIAN NEW ISSUES AT FACE VALUE**

Hungarian new issues for 1999 and 2000 as well as a subscription for the issues of 2001 at face value are available from the Hungarian Post. Charge cards can be used to pay for the purchases. For information and a pricelist, please contact **MP Rt. Bélyegüzletkőr, 1540 Budapest, Hungary**. The e-mail address is [belyeg@posta.hu](mailto:belyeg@posta.hu), telephone: **36 1 487 1356**, fax: **36 1 487 1267**. Air mail shipping and handling for orders under \$30 is \$5. Orders over \$30 are sent post-free.

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## **LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Thank you and the Society for Hungarian Philately for favoring me with an honorary life membership in the Society. The receipt of your letter and the certificate was a pleasant surprise.

My interest in philately goes back at least 70 years, and my decision to specialize in Hungary stems from the small role I had in the sponsorship and resettling in Virginia of refugees from the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

I appreciate every issue of The News of Hungarian Philately and rejoice in its development as a high-quality publication, and in the growth and strengthening of the Society itself.

Sincerely yours,

**Raymond Wrenn**

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## **SHP LIBRARY NEWS**

A copy of the **Reference Book of Overprints on Hungarian Stamps** compiled by David Miles and published by the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain in 1993 has been added to the SHP library recently. The book is a very comprehensive listing of **all** overprinted Hungarian stamps, with the vast majority of the work on 'Trianon' issues as well as post-World War II 'local' issues. The focus is on listings, not on identifying forgeries, though there is some discussion of forgeries in the text. The book relies heavily on information published in the 1970s in the **News of Hungarian Philately** authored by Dr. Leslie Ettore.

Members' inquiries for information from this book about specific issues or areas should be directed to: Csaba L. Kohalmi, 910 Claridge Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46260. /Ed./

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**DOCUMENTARY REVENUE NEW ISSUES**

A series of seven new documentary revenue stamps were introduced into circulation last summer. The face values of the revenue stamps were adjusted to meet the requirements of usage. The values were HUF 100, 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, and 10,000 for a total value of HUF 18,800 (~ US \$ 65.00). The low-value revenue stamps from the old series (HUF 5, 10, 20, 50) were valid until 31 December 2000, while the higher face value items from the same series remained usable until 31 March 2001. These higher values will continue to be exchanged for the new designs until 31 March 2002 at all post offices.

The production of the latest series of revenue stamps incorporated the design using a combination of offset and engraving with security printing techniques such as microprinting and UV overprinting on paper stock embedded with fluorescent fibers. The security measures were designed to thwart counterfeiting using computer scanners and color photocopiers.

The collecting of modern documentary revenue stamps remains challenging because of the high face value of mint specimens and the lack of 'cancelled' items. This is due to the fact that documents bearing these stamps need to be retained either centrally (in government files) or by individuals required to use the stamps to pay the taxman.

The above information was gleaned from the pages of the 2000/3 issue of the **Okmánybélyeg** publication of the Revenue Stamp Section of Mabéosz. The section's web page can be found on the internet at [www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Shores/9362](http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Shores/9362). Thanks to Editor **László Gyulyás** for regularly forwarding an informational copy to me.

**Csaba L. Kohalmi**

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**HUNGARIAN POSTAL RATES FOR 2001**

The rate of inflation for 2000 dropped below 10%, to 9.8%, in Hungary. This year's rate is predicted to be in the 6 to 8% range. Despite the relative low rate (compared to 25% yearly not many years ago), postal rates continue to escalate. While the increases in basic domestic service were modest, the cost of international service, especially in the packages category, escalated dramatically.

(US \$1 = ~ HUF 300-)

*/Information in the table was compiled from the February 2001 issue of **Bélyegvilág**  
 by Csaba L. Kohalmi/*

| New Hungarian Postal Rates           | 1 Jan 2001 |          |                     |                    |                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                      | Local      | Distance | Abroad <sup>1</sup> | Europe             | Other Destinations |
| Standard letter <sup>2</sup> to 30gm | 31,-       | 36,-     | 36,- <sup>3</sup>   | 140.- <sup>3</sup> | 150.- <sup>3</sup> |

|                                   |                                                    |                    |                 |                          |         |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Letter up to 100gm                | 54.-                                               | 58.-               | 240.-           | 250.-                    | 270.-   |
| Letter up to 250gm                | -                                                  | -                  | 550.-           | 550.-                    | 600.-   |
| Letter up to 350gm                | 74.-                                               | 78.-               | -               | -                        | -       |
| Letter up to 500gm                | 87.-                                               | 90.-               | 1.050.-         | 1.000.-                  | 1.150.- |
| Letter up to 1000gm               | -                                                  | -                  | 2.050.-         | 2.100.-                  | 2.250.- |
| Letter up to 2000gm               | 121.-                                              | 121.-              | 3.130.-         | 3.200.-                  | 3.600.- |
| Post Card                         | 26.-                                               | 28.-               | 28.-            | 90.-                     | 100.-   |
| Printed matter up to 20gm         | 28.-                                               | 32.-               | 90.-            | 100.-                    | 120.-   |
| Printed matter up to 50gm         | 34.-                                               | 39.-               | -               | -                        | -       |
| Printed matter up to 100gm        | 46.-                                               | 53.-               | 170.-           | 220.-                    | 250.-   |
| Printed matter up to 150gm        | -                                                  | -                  | 250.-           | 300.-                    | 330.-   |
| Printed matter up to 250gm        | -                                                  | -                  | 370.-           | 450.-                    | 480.-   |
| Printed matter up to 350gm        | 59.-                                               | 64.-               | -               | -                        | -       |
| Printed matter up to 500gm        | 86.-                                               | 89.-               | 690.-           | 870.-                    | 950.-   |
| Printed matter up to 1,000gm      | -                                                  | -                  | 1.320.-         | 1.680.-                  | 1.800.- |
| Printed matter up to 2,000gm      | 229.- <sup>4</sup>                                 | 229.- <sup>4</sup> | 2.640.-         | 3.000.-                  | 3.500.- |
| Books & Periodicals up to 20gm    | 26.-                                               | 30.-               | 90.-            | 100.-                    | 120.-   |
| Books & Periodicals up to 50gm    | -                                                  | -                  | -               | -                        | -       |
| Books & Periodicals up to 100gm   | -                                                  | -                  | 170.-           | 220.-                    | 250.-   |
| Books & Periodicals up to 150gm   | -                                                  | -                  | 250.-           | 300.-                    | 330.-   |
| Books & Periodicals up to 250gm   | -                                                  | -                  | 370.-           | 450.-                    | 480.-   |
| Books & Periodicals up to 350gm   | -                                                  | -                  | -               | -                        | -       |
| Books & Periodicals up to 500gm   | -                                                  | -                  | 690.-           | 870.-                    | 950.-   |
| Books & Periodicals up to 1,000gm | -                                                  | -                  | 1.320.-         | 1.680.-                  | 1.800.- |
| Books & Periodicals up to 2,000gm | -                                                  | -                  | 2.640.-         | 3.000.-                  | 3.500.- |
| Books & Periodicals up to 3,000gm | -                                                  | -                  | 3.960.-         | 4.500.-                  | 5.200.- |
| Books & Periodicals up to 4,000gm | -                                                  | -                  | 5.280.-         | 5.900.-                  | 6.850.- |
| Books & Periodicals up to 5,000gm | -                                                  | -                  | 6.600.-         | 7.800.-                  | 8.600.- |
| Small parcel to 250gm             | Domestic:                                          |                    | 500.-           | 500.-                    | 600.-   |
| Small parcel to 500gm             | 280.-                                              |                    | 800.-           | 800.-                    | 900.-   |
| Small parcel to 1000gm            | 280.-                                              |                    | 1.400.-         | 1.600.-                  | 1.900.- |
| Small parcel to 2000gm            | 280.-                                              |                    | 2.700.-         | 3.000.-                  | 3.500.- |
|                                   | Delivered                                          |                    | Customer Pickup | Add'l Oversize           |         |
| Domestic parcel up to 2kg         | 360.-                                              |                    | 360.-           | 180.-/180.- <sup>5</sup> |         |
| Domestic parcel up to 5 kg        | 400.-                                              |                    | 400.-           | 200.-/200.- <sup>5</sup> |         |
| Domestic parcel up to 10 kg       | 440.-                                              |                    | 400.-           | 220.-/200.- <sup>5</sup> |         |
| Domestic parcel up to 15 kg       | 480.-                                              |                    | 440.-           | 240.-/220.- <sup>5</sup> |         |
| Domestic parcel up to 20 kg       | 540.-                                              |                    | 480.-           | 270.-/240.- <sup>5</sup> |         |
| Domestic parcel up to 25 kg       | 580.-                                              |                    | 540.-           | 280.-/270.- <sup>5</sup> |         |
| Domestic parcel up to 30 kg       | 640.-                                              |                    | 580.-           | 320.-/290.- <sup>5</sup> |         |
|                                   | Domestic                                           |                    | Abroad          | Domestic Insurance       |         |
| Registration                      | 88.-                                               |                    | 350.-           | 135.-                    |         |
| Express                           | 170.-                                              |                    | 230.-           | -                        |         |
| Certified/Tértivevény             | 27.-                                               |                    | 130.-           | -                        |         |
| Air Mail surcharge <sup>6</sup>   | for all types of mail:17.- for each 20gm increment |                    |                 |                          |         |

*Footnotes:*

<sup>1</sup> The “Abroad” category refers to the countries bordering on Hungary: Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Rumania, Jugoslavia, and Slovenia.

<sup>2</sup> The “Standard Envelope” dimensions are 114 x 162 mm (minimum) and 110 x 220 mm (maximum).

<sup>3</sup> The tariffs listed apply for the standard letter abroad, to the rest of Europe or overseas addresses to up a weight of 20gm.

<sup>4</sup> This rate applies to printed matter delivered to household addresses.

<sup>5</sup> The fees for parcels in this column are in addition to the fees listed in the previous two columns. These charges are for oversize parcels. The first value is for delivered packages; the second value, for customer pickup of packages at a post office.

<sup>6</sup> The air mail surcharge is in addition to all other applicable postal fees.

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## ATTILA HÉJJA, ARTIST, ILLUSTRATOR, AND STAMP DESIGNER

Attila Héjja was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1955 and emigrated to the United States with his family following the defeat of the 1956 Revolution. During his late teen years, he became an apprentice to Harold Stevenson, an artist who was a protégé of Norman Rockwell. From this start, the talented Mr. Héjja became a nationally recognized artist specializing in dramatic historical and futuristic illustrations. Millions of people have been exposed to his work in magazines, book covers, ad campaign, television commercials, and postage stamps.

Mr. Héjja is a member of the New York Society of Illustrators and is a recipient of the Hamilton King Award, which is the highest honor for illustrators bestowed in America.

Philatelists who collect the *Hungarica* topic have had the pleasure of adding stamps from the United Nations (New York, Scott #609-610, 761-763, 763a; Geneva #220-221, 340-342; Vienna #133-134, 257-259) and the United States (Scott #3238-3242) to their collections. Most recently, the UN overprinted the New York issue Unispace III souvenir sheet for its participation at the World Stamp Expo in Anaheim, CA. Mr. Héjja was invited to participate in the festivities, where our member, Bob Morgan, contacted him. Later, he graciously granted us a brief telephone interview.

### Q: Mr. Héjja,

- *Have you ever collected stamps?* No, prior to my designing my first UN stamps in 1992, I was not aware of the popularity of stamp collecting. The whole philatelic industry was a new revelation for me.
- *Do you realize that you are one of many Hungarian-descent artists who have designed stamps for the United Nations? Namely, Henry Bencsáth, George Hátori, Gyula Vásárhelyi, and József Vertel.* Yes, I’m familiar with some of the names of these individuals. I don’t find this unusual, however, because Hungarians have a tendency to group together and excel in certain fields like atomic physics. So, why shouldn’t we have a lot of Hungarian stamp designers?
- *Have you ever met Stevan Dohanos, who was a first generation American born of Hungarian parents, and, like yourself, achieved fame through il-*

illustrations? Mr. Dohanos designed several stamps for the US and served on the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dohanos. I cannot find enough superlatives to describe him. He was a perfect gentleman. He had the presence of an 'old world' demeanor. He was a man of stature and someone I admired.

- *As an artist, how did you come to specialize in the futuristic 'space exploration' theme?* Quite by accident. I wanted to be a professional airplane pilot and was taking a heavy scientific load of college courses. I wandered into an art class by mistake and noticed that the distribution of coeds was much better in that class than in my calculus class. So, I started taking art courses and my style evolved around my fascination with the exploration of outer space. I didn't lose my yearning for flying, and I do have a pilot's license.
- *How were your designs selected for the specific UN and US stamps?* My selection to design the UN and US stamps was through exposure because of the artwork I did for NASA. There was no real 'selection process' involved. I received the 'commission' via a phonecall.
- *Both the US and the UN have a policy of not identifying the stamp designers in the margins of stamps unlike what other countries do. The UN has made exceptions in this area for some prominent artists like Victor Vasarely and Friedrichreich Hundertwasser. How do you feel about this?* It's a pity. Even though the postal administrations own the copyright to the artwork, it would be nice to get that kind of acknowledgment. The provisions of the contract stipulate a total 'buyout' of all preliminary sketches, models, as well as the final artwork that I created for each stamp design.
- *Are you currently working on any other stamp designs?* No. However, I am designing some special event cachets for the US Postal Service.
- *Would you like to comment on any 'open' topics of your choice?* As a '56 Hungarian refugee, It's always a pleasure for me to meet other Hungarians. I have a strong affinity to anything 'Hungarian' and derive great amount of satisfaction from camaraderie with other Hungarians.

Thank you, Attila, and congratulations on your artistic accomplishments and wish you continued successes in these endeavors. Also, thanks for your time and consideration that you had provided for us.

Csaba L. Kohalmi

## OVERPRINT VARIETIES OF THE LAJTABÁNSÁG THIRD ISSUE

Leslie Etre's monograph titled **The Issues of Western Hungary**<sup>1</sup> turned 30 years old last year. While the publication represents a baseline reference for Hungarian philatelists, new discoveries continue to surface which need to be publicized to supplement the existing reference works.

My intent is to start such a process, which, in the long run, may result in the Society's ability to reprint the 'ancient' monograph by bringing it up-to-date. That is the reason behind this article about the overprints of Felsőör, a relatively common issue of Lajtabánság.

The basic text consists of the words Lajtabánság-posta in two different typesetting styles used to overprint the Harvesters and the Parliament design stamps. On the Harvesters issue, there is an additional line of triangles; while on the Parliament stamps, symbols in circles to either side of the wording. Charles Kamiss described the overprints as follows:

*This was printed in Felsoor at Reisz printing shop by hand set typography. Because of the lack of sufficient printing type, the overprint was applied to a quarter sheet at a time. In the beginning a full sheet was placed in the press four times, changing the position of the printed area. This operation caused the many shifted and otherwise faulty overprints. Later, the printing was completed on selvage-free quarter sheets. On the Parliament values, the overprint consists of the word "LAJTABÁNSÁG" decorated with a circle design with three straight and one curved line within the circle at both ends of the word. But, on the third stamps of the 2nd row of each quarter sheet, these circles appear to be globes due to a series of lines and dots filling about 3/4 of the circles. These globes are on the 13th, 18th, 63rd and 68th stamp of a full sheet, therefore could not be on stamps with the three-hole punching. Additionally, the 1st stamps of each quarter sheet has a period after LAJTABÁNSÁG.*<sup>2</sup>

The triangles illustrated in the Michel catalog are alternating flat side up/pointy corner up while in reality, the two triangles in the middle of the row are pointy side down. Obviously, the catalog did not use an authentic stamp to lift the overprint used in the illustration.

The missing triangle design (second from the left), represents a known variety written up by Dr. Etre.

Several values of the Harvesters stamp exist with inverted overprint.

The 2.50K overprint on 2f Harvester exists without the block of red dots obliterating the old face value of the stamp.

The new variety recently discovered on a Harvester stamp is the upside-down letter 'n' resulting in the word "Lajtabánság."

The Parliament stamps exist with a period after the word *posta* in the overprint.

A second new variety observed on a Parliament stamp is the deformed letter 'g' followed by a vertical bar resulting in the text "Lajtabánság|".

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Etre, Leslie S., **Issues of Western Hungary (Lajtabánság) in 1921**, Society for Hungarian Philately Monograph Series Number 3, 1971.

<sup>2</sup> Kamiss, Charles B., *Update on Western Hungary, News of Hungarian Philately*, April, 1974.

**Csaba L. Kohalmi**

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

A sincere *Thank you* to the Executive Board for the Honorary Life Membership bestowed upon me.

The **Michel-Rundschau** published the statistics for worldwide new stamp issues in 1999. A record total of 16,107 stamps and souvenir sheets were tabulated from roughly 300 different postal entities. Hungary's contribution was a modest 50 items ranking way behind the pace-setting Tanzania (581 issues) and looking good compared to the United States (257 stamps) and Canada (170 stamps). /From *Linn's Stamp News*, 5 February 2001/

Developments concerning the Hungarian minorities in the Successor States have been in the news recently. József Kozma, the mayor of Szabadka/Subotica, has been named vice-minister of minority relations in the government of Serbian prime minister Zoran Djindjic. The lifting of economic sanctions against Yugoslavia was suspended by President Bush in order to pressure the new government to comply with the warrants issued by the Hague International Tribunal prosecuting human rights violations in the former Yugoslav republics during the Milosevic era.

The use of minority languages law passed in the Rumanian legislature in a session boycotted by the Party of Greater Rumania, a radical nationalist group. The law stipulates that languages other than Rumanian may be used conducting government business in communities where minorities are 20% or more of the population. Town and street names must also be bilingual in such areas. Béla Markó, the president of the Rumanian Democratic Alliance of Hungarians, called the law unprecedented and the crowning achievement of 10 years' struggle for minority rights. Georghe Funar, the mayor of Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, stated un-emphatically that he will not allow Hungarian to be used since Kolozsvár's population of Hungarians is 10% despite the official 1992 census figure of 22.7%.

The Slovak government adopted the minority languages charter, which was one of the prominent demands set forth by the Hungarian Coalition Party. The charter establishes the benchmark for human rights guarantees set by the Council of Europe. The fulfillment of these elements is a qualification requirement for admission to the European Union, one of the goals of the Slovak Republic.

Several notables from the 1956-era passed away recently. Imre Sinkivits died in January of this year at the age of 72. He was a multi-talented actor who appeared in the famous news photograph from 1956 as he recited Sándor Petöfi's revolutionary poem, *The National Song*, from the base of the poet's statue in Budapest on the sunny afternoon of October 23rd. The call "On your feet, Hungarian," together with the refrain, "We shall not be slaves any more," fanned the crowd's fervor in demanding the broadcast of the list of democratic reforms over the radio. Then, the secret police fired into the assembly and the 1956 national uprising became a war for Hungarian independence. Sándor Kopácsi was the Police Chief of Budapest and the Vice-Commander of the Hungarian National Guard in 1956. He died in March. He

received a life sentence in 1958 but was amnestied in 1963. He then emigrated to Canada in 1975 but returned to Hungary following the restoration of a democratic government. He received rehabilitation for his truncated police career and served with the Historical Justice Restoration Committee that righted the wrongs of the Kadar regime.

**Csaba L. Kohalmi**

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## **OCCUPATIONS ISSUES *TRUTH TABLE TEST***

From a scientific perspective, I ‘tested’ the occupation overprints with four variables (authority, language, currency, territorial sovereignty after 1920) and was able to draw some interesting conclusions. In the matrix, H = Hungarian, F = Foreign.

| <b>Authority</b> | <b>Language</b> | <b>Currency</b> | <b>Sovereignty</b> | <b>Result</b> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| H                | H               | H               | H                  | Local         |
| H                | H               | H               | F                  | Local         |
| H                | H               | F               | F                  | N/A           |
| H                | F               | F               | F                  | N/A           |
| H                | F               | G               | F                  | N/A           |
| H                | F               | F               | H                  | N/A           |
| H                | H               | F               | H                  | N/A           |
| F                | F               | F               | F                  | Foreign       |
| F                | F               | F               | H                  | Occupation    |
| F                | F               | H               | H                  | Occupation    |
| F                | H               | H               | H                  | Occupation    |
| F                | H               | F               | H                  | N/A           |
| F                | H               | H               | H                  | Occupation    |
| F                | F               | H               | F                  | Occupation    |

From the above ‘results,’ the following observations can be made:

- The Hungarian Stamp Catalog listing of ‘local issues’ is correct for the basic category.
- The main deciding factor is the overprinted ‘currency,’ and if that is ‘foreign,’ then the stamps belong to another country, as is the case with the Fiume, SHS, Kolozsvár, Nagyvárád, and Posta Ceskoslovenska issues.
- If the ‘currency’ did not change, but the ‘authority’ and ‘language’ did, then the issues are ‘occupation’ stamps, as is the case with the Arad, Debrecen, Baranya, Temesvár, Bánát-Bácska, Homokbálványos, and Szeged issues.
- Lajtabánság/Nyugatmagyarország stamps are ‘local issues.’

On the subject of forgery/fabrication, in my opinion, the fact that a stamp was used for postage does not necessarily mean that it is legitimate. For example, I have several used Harvesters with Bánát-Bácska overprints which are forgeries (the angle of the overprint is not 35° but closer to 30°, the comma is farther than 0.5mm at the of the word, Bánát, etc.) At the Stamp Expo in Anaheim last year I saw a cover with both genuine and forged stamps side by side. I have several used, forged copies with other occupations overprints, too.

**Reference:** Surányi, László, *A temesvári helyi kiadások 1919*, **Philatelica**, 83/1

**Miklos L. Tecsy**

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### **NEW ISSUES FOR 2001**

Issue Date: 15 January 2001

*European Year of Languages, 2001*

Face value: HUF 100. Size: 40 x 30mm.

Designer: Kálmán Molnár. The design symbolizes the multicolored nature of European languages.

Production details: Printed using offset method by the State Printing Office, Ltd. Total number of stamps prepared: 250,000.

*Pro Juventute / For Youth, 2001*

Face value: HUF 60 + HUF 30 surcharge. Size: 30 x 30.8mm..

Designers: Erzsébet Szekeres (layout) and Péter Nagy (lettering). The stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of the publication of Géza Gárdonyi's historical novel, **The Stars of Eger**. The novel celebrates the successful defense of the Fortress of Eger against the Turkish siege of 1585. The design shows a contemporary view of the citadel.

Production details: Printed using offset method by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 150,000 copies.

Issue Date: 9 February 2001

*Antique Furniture Definitives*

Face value: HUF 1, 7, 8, 40, 60, 200. Size: 26 x 33mm (vertical format) or 33 x 26mm (horizontal format).

Designers: György Kara and Péter Nagy based on the work of photographer Imre Eck. The designs depict various chair from 1810 through 1910.

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

*Greetings Stamps*

Face value: Five different HUF 36 each. Size: 26 x 33mm. Printed se-tenant in sheetlet format, overall size of which is 150 x 53mm.

Designer: Dóra Keresztes. Stamps were designed to be used for holiday greetings or family celebrations.

Production details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd., in quantities required to meet postal needs.

*Speed Skating World Championships, Budapest*

Face value: HUF 140. Size: 41.9 x 35mm.

Designer: Ferenc Svindt. Design shows a speed skater in action.

Production details: Printed using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd., in an edition of 300,000 copies.

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**FOR SALE:** A large, general collection of Hungarian stamps. I have decided to concentrate on a specific area of the classical period, so my general collection must go. The price is US\$ 3,200, postpaid to a USA address. The collection is mounted in six Lighthouse slip-cased albums. It includes pre-stamp, Austria cancelled in Hungary, sheetlets, booklets, strips, and souvenir sheets. The condition of the stamps is used for Scott #1 through 35, mint for Scott #35A thru 3558. The 1960 through 1996 issues are MNH as well as many earlier sets. The collection is missing only a few rarities and a few early sets such as Scott #13a-17a, 18c-22b, 47-66, and 67a-93a. It contains a few examples of imperforates. A complete listing is available to interested, potential buyers. I am a long-time member of APS, SHP, and HPS (GB). Please contact **S.J. Basham, 734 Whithorn Court, Westerville, OH 43081**. Phone: (614) 523-2939, e-mail: [sjbasham@cs.com](mailto:sjbasham@cs.com).

**WANTED:** Any and all material dealing with the Hungarian Gendarmerie (*Csendőrség*) such as mailing labels, picture post cards, postal cards, covers, cancellation, documents, photos, anything and everything addressed by or sent to Gendarmerie detachments. Call, write or e-mail. **Zoltan Korossy, 11227 Woodson Ave., Kensington, MD 20895**. Tel: (301) 946-2414. E-mail: [zoltan@korossy.org](mailto:zoltan@korossy.org).

**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.

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**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:

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**PHILATELIC SOUVENIR SHEET ISSUED  
BY THE DOCUMENTARY AND REVENUE  
STAMP COLLECTORS' SECTION OF  
MABÉOSZ COMMEMORATING ITS TENTH  
ANNIVERSARY**



The sheet lists all of the members, past and present, of the section. Several individuals\* are or were also members of the Society for Hungarian Philately.

\* Voloncs, Visnyovszki, Surányi, Morgan, Orbán, Köhalmi