

***THE NEWS OF
HUNGARIAN PHILATELY***

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April - June 2002

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SOCIETY FOR 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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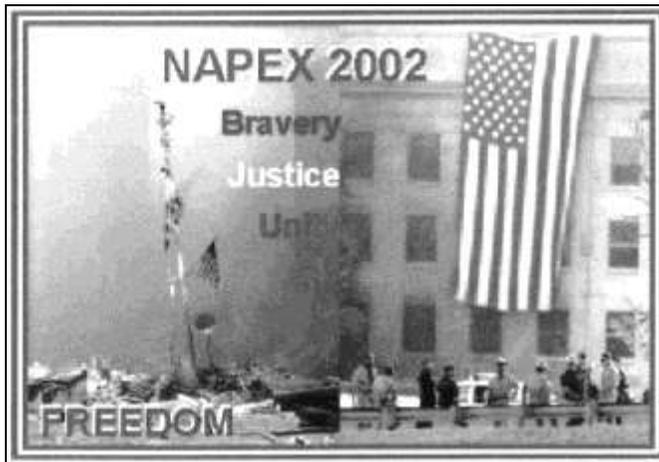
The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society's address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the content 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. Send dues payments to: The Treasurer, 1005 Franklin St., Santa Monica, CA 90403-2321 USA.

This issue closed on 1 March 2002
The next issue will close on 1 June 2002

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to a new format! As you hold this issue in your hands, you will see many changes, noticeably the size of this issue! We hope you will all agree that the increased format allows for larger and clearer illustrations, enables those of us who struggle with weaker eyes to see the material much more sharply and permits a multitude of improvement opportunities. Congratulations to our editor and to the Executive Board for approving this change. We hope this improvement will be to your liking. Kindly drop the editor a note to let him know what you think - he loves to get mail!



We have made a special attempt to get this issue out prior to our next annual show, NAPEX, May 31 - June 2, 2002 in Arlington VA, which is almost upon us. I know of at least three society exhibits that have been accepted for the show. We hope to see you there! Remember to check the society table for details on any social events and to bring by any prospective members. The ladies won't let them get away without signing up!

Unfortunately we must report that with this issue, we are dropping all members that have not renewed their membership for 2002. Thank you to all members that renewed and continue to support our society.

Please see a note within this issue from one of the recipients of our recent awards, acknowledging thanks to all of our membership. Also we continue our tradition of extending life memberships to 5 members that faithfully joined us in 1971. Award certificates and a congratulatory letter from the Executive Board will be sent to these 5 members. Please join me in congratulating them. A separate article by the editor further addresses this.

Our binding project of our past issues is continuing. At NAPEX I hope to have copies available for sale of the first 10 years of our publication and some of the newer editions also. We will be publishing the availability and the pricing of these editions in the future.

A special society auction of a member's award winning Second Inflation collection is in progress. For details, please contact the society auction person, **Emmerich Vamos, 8722 Belladonna Rd., Riverside, CA 92508, tel: (909) 656-1257**, if you collect this area and are interested in any of the fabulous material.

I have been asked, and gratefully accepted the position of the US Commissioner for the SLOVENSKO 2002 show in Bratislava, Slovakia in July. The show is the first major show in Slovakia and I hope to have a small report in a future issue with some photos.

Until next issue, I wish you the best in your philatelic activities and keep stampin'!
See you at NAPEX!

H. Alan Hoover



KUDOS AND WELCOME

Congratulations to our prolific exhibitor-member **Alfred F. Kugel** for his continued successes. In the one-frame exhibits at Stampshow 2001, Mr. Kugel won the grand award and a platinum medal with *The AEF Booklet Pane Stamps of 1917*; platinum with *US Postal Agency in Shanghai Registered Mail 1899-1922*; and a gold with *United States Postal Agencies in the Far East 1867-1900*. Mr. Kugel won the reserve grand award and a gold medal at Airpex 2001 for the exhibit titled *The Expansion of Serbia 1876-1921*. At the Peach Tree Stamp Show 2001, Mr. Kugel won a gold medal with *The Expansion of Greece 1897-1922*. In the Philadelphia Nation Show held last October, Mr.

Kugel won a gold medal, the ONEPS second award, and the APS 1900-40 medal with *20th-Century Ottoman Empire Postmarks of the Lost Territories*; a platinum with the one-frame *French Consular Postal Service in Jerusalem 1948-49*, and two golds with *Kionga and the Portuguese Campaign in East Africa* and *Portuguese Expeditionary Forces in World War I*. At Vapex 2001, Mr. Kugel won a gold and the APS 1940-80 medal with *Postal Markings of the American Base Forces 1941-1948*. At the Sarasota National last February Mr. Kugel won another gold, the Raul Grandara award and the APS pre-1900-1940 medal with *The New Order in the Baltic 1918-1923*.

Congratulations are also in order to **Henry Hahn** for his Philadelphia National gold medal winning exhibit, *Prestamp Mail on Future Czechoslovak Territory (1584-1859)* and to Dr. **Paul J. Szilagyi**, who won a silver medal at the Sarasota National with *Debrecen Occupied 1918-1921*.

Welcome to the following new members, who joined SHP recently: Mr. **Julius Bagi** of San Diego, CA; Mr. **Joseph C. Jonak** of Carlsbad, CA; Mr. **David Michael Pearce** of London, England; and Mr. **Maurilio Rota** of Joliet, IL.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY INSTALLED LIFE MEMBERS

Continuing the practice began two years ago, the SHP Executive Board is pleased to extend honorary life memberships to the following philatelists who joined the Society thirty years ago:

Mr. **Steven Arato**, Mr. **Douglas Calladine**, Mr. **James Dunn**, Mr. **Franklin Miller**, and Mr. **William Solyom-Fekete**.

Congratulations to these fellow collectors, who have been productive members, officers, exhibitors, and published authors of this Society. It is through their efforts that SHP grew, prospered and was able to spread the good name of Hungarian philately.



IN MEMORIAM – JULIUS REVESZ

Mr. Revesz had been a member of the Society since 1973. We regret his passing and express our condolences to his family.



LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I feel very honored by the decision of the Executive Board of the Society in extending an honorary life membership to me in recognition of my contribution to SHP and to Hungarian philately. Many thanks to you, Mr. President, and to all of the members of the Society.

My best wishes in our philatelic endeavors, yours sincerely,

Gábor Voloncs

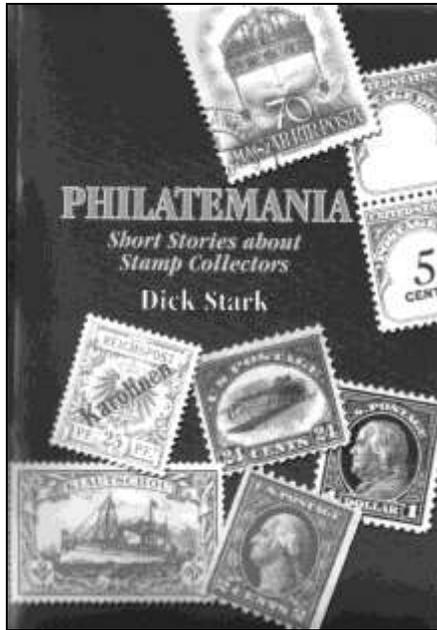


LAJOS KOSSUTH, THE FATHER OF HUNGARIAN DEMOCRACY

This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Lajos Kossuth, who is often called the “Father of Hungarian Democracy.” Kossuth traveled throughout the United States in 1851-51 trying to recruit support to help assist the Hungarians in their fight for independence.

Communities in the United States commemorate March 15th remembering this fight for freedom and recalling the speeches of this great statesman. Many communities erected statues to Kossuth even throughout the United States. One is located in University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio. It is a 7 ft bronze statue created by sculptor András Tóth in Debrecen in 1901 and it was poured in Budapest in 1902. The inscription reads: *Kossuth 1802-1894. His life was devoted to the cause of liberty. Erected by the Magyar-American citizens Sept. 18, 1902 in commemoration of his visit to the United States 1851-1852.* The monument was restored in 1995 by sculptor Csaba Kur.

In conjunction with the anniversary of Kossuth’s visit to the States, the American Hungarian Foundation in New Brunswick, NJ will have an exhibit on Kossuth in America beginning through September 2002. /from the *Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society’s REVIEW*, February 2002. Ed./



THE CHANGELING

© 1991 by Dick Stark

*The following is a sample short story from the book **Philatemia**. Copies of the 304-page book are available from the author for \$15 plus \$3 postage and handling: **Dick Stark, 18 College Drive, Stony Brook, NY 11790 USA***

“Are you sure?” George yelled from across the net. Stephen was annoyed at being questioned. “Absolutely. If I had any doubt, I wouldn’t have called your ball out.”

“Okay. Let’s finish the set.”

The two friends battled on, fiercely contesting every point. When their hour and a half was up, they had split two sets of tennis. Sweating profusely in spite of the cool October day, they headed for the clubhouse to pay their tab. They enjoyed playing on the Fairfield Tennis Club’s red clay courts, but the downside was that sneakers and sweat socks became covered with red dust.

As George was the host, he paid for both. Turning to Stephen, he smiled. “You almost took two from me.”

“Next time I will.” The brief argument about the line call still disturbed Stephen, but he was confident that the underlying strength of their friendship would overcome minor arguments.

“When we get home,” George said as they approached his new Lexus ES 300 in the parking lot, “Margaret will have a nice lunch ready.” A few moments later, they drove off.

Every October for the past sixteen years, Stephen Ezer took the early morning Port Jefferson Ferry to Bridgeport, Connecticut where George Sekely was waiting in his car. They would drive to George’s home in nearby Fairfield and spend a pleasant day playing tennis, and afterward, sit around the dining table discussing their favorite hobby.

In April, George would return the Favor when he came to Long Island by ferry where Stephen picked him up and drove his Setauket home (in his new Infinity I 30).

Although both men enjoyed any number of pursuits, philately was their main love. Particularly collecting stamps of Hungary, the country where both their fathers had been born. As young Army officers, these men had supplied arms to the student rebels who fought the communist government in the 1956 revolt. When Soviet tanks brutally crushed the freedom fighters, Zoltan Sekely and Istvan Ezer were killed. Their wives, each with a baby boy, had fled the country along with thousands of others through the corridor that opened briefly to Austria.

As a result, George and Stephen felt a devotion to Hungary and a love for all things Hungarian.

Twice a year, the two men met to trade, discuss, and show off new stamp acquisitions with friendliness and mutual admiration. The occasional contention that touched their tennis matches or rare political arguments was absent when their beloved hobby was involved.

Stephen and George, both in their middle forties, were lucky to have loving wives who tolerated their all-consuming passion for stamps. Also, the men shared a proud Hungarian ancestry and of course, their interest in tennis.

Otherwise, they were as different as two human beings could be. Stephen was tall, thin, sharp-featured and laconic in manner, with a thick shock of black hair.

On the other hand, George was short, stocky, full of nervous energy with a totally bald head that shone like a polished bowling ball.

Still hot and sweaty from their contentious tennis match, the two friends reached the Sekely’s small, trim Cape Cod house just outside Fairfield. The quarter acre property was maintained like a golf course and the interior of the house was comfortable although simply furnished.

Margaret Sekely, also of Hungarian descent (her parents having immigrated to the States in 1923), served a wonderful lunch of homemade bread, chicken *paprikás* and *diós rétes* (walnut strudel). Then she cleared the table and discreetly retired to the living room, leaving the men to their hobby. Soon the dining room table was covered with albums and accessories: stock-books, a watermark detector tray and fluid, tongs and several catalogs.

George was lovingly turning the pages of his album which featured the exotic issues of Western Hungary, including the strange set of harvester stamps overprinted with a skull and crossbones. Stephen, as usual, murmured admiring comments or pleased exclamations from time to time.

Suddenly, for no apparent reason, the visitor felt an urge to blurt out something critical. Nothing serious - just a tiny jab, a mildly negative observation. Although perhaps, without considering it consciously, the tennis incident still rankled.

"Hold it there, George. Go back a page."

The host looked quizzically at his friend. "What is it?"

"I thought I saw something. A mistake."

"I don't make mistakes," George muttered as his left eyelid twitched. Nevertheless, he flipped back a page in his album. "Well, what's the problem?"

"That fourth row - I don't think it's symmetrical. Do you have a ruler handy?" Stephen asked.

Frowning, George rummaged through the cigar box filled with tools of the trade and came up with a white, 6-inch plastic ruler which he handed over. Stephen measured carefully, then announced with a smile, "Yes. The space on the left is a quarter of an inch less than the space on the right. That row is not perfectly centered."

"Let me check," George said. He measured it twice. "Dammit, you're right. I'll have to redo the whole page. What a nuisance!"

Stephen felt a certain satisfaction at George's discomfort and wondered why that was so. But the incident was soon forgotten and the rest of the day was spent without further controversy. At five o'clock, George drove Stephen to the ferry for the return trip to Long Island.

In April, George visited Setauket. When they returned from their tennis match (splitting the two sets again), Stephen's wife Karen prepared a wholesome lunch of chicken wild rice salad, fresh baked muffins and rainbow sherbet. Afterwards, she excused herself to work in her backyard garden.

Stephen was proudly showing off his new page of the 1888 stereotype first printing, with their telltale pointy perforations, when George spoke up suddenly. "Something surprises me here."

"What's the matter?"

George grinned and pointed to the 50 krajczár value. "That you would mount a copy with a pulled perf."

Stephen peered at the offending tiny piece of paper, then grabbed a magnifier to make doubly sure. "Yes, I see it. One damn perforation is missing on the right side. Must've overlooked it."

"Not like you, my friend, to be so careless. I think I have a copy in my duplicate stockbook to replace your faulty one," George offered magnanimously.

Resentment grew in Stephen's belly, but he made an effort to restrain his feelings. "Thanks," he muttered, touching his tongue to a prefolded Dennison hinge and carefully applying it to the stamp George handed him. Squaring the newcomer into his album, Stephen asked what the cost would be.

"Let you have it cheap - fifty bucks only. A bargain."

Stephen simmered inside, thinking the price inflated. But he said nothing; just reached for a pencil to mark down the amount on a ledger page. They would settle up at the end of the visit.

The rest of the afternoon was spent amicably; more stamps were traded back and forth. The final accounting showed a balance in Stephen's favor due to the three 1881 colored numeral shade varieties he'd sold to George. Karen entered the house just as the men were leaving and insisted on coming along for the ride.

They drove George to Port Jefferson and waved goodbye as the ferry pulled from the slip.

On the way back to Setauket, Karen observed, "You're awfully quiet, Steve. Anything the matter between you and George?"

"No, not at all. We had a fine visit. Why do you ask?"

“Well, you two have been taking your tennis matches awfully seriously. Maybe you should lighten-up.”

“Karen, please! We both enjoy the competition and know enough to leave it on the court. Believe me, there’s no problem.”

However, Stephen knew that he was not being completely truthful: there *was* a competition growing between the two men, well beyond tennis. He looked forward to his next visit to Fairfield and the surprise he was planning for George.

The months passed slowly, but finally it was October.

Although it was a blustery, rainy day - which meant that there would be no tennis - Stephen didn’t even consider postponing his trip. He was eager to view an album he’d looked at before in order to point out something that was sure to disturb his host.

“George, I’d like to look through your occupation collection, the World War One area,” Stephen said casually after they’d cleared the table following Margaret’s delightful lunch.

George looked at his friend in surprise. “You just saw it last year. I’ve got some new things to show you.”

“Please. There’s something I’d like to check out.”

“Well, okay.” George left the dining room table and headed to his den where he kept his albums. Waiting, Stephen felt his heart beat more rapidly as he anticipated what was to come.

Every knowledgeable collector of Hungary knows that 99% of stamps overprinted in 1919 are bound to be counterfeit. Both George and Stephen prided themselves that in *their* albums, only genuine copies were to be found. They had carefully studied fake versus genuine and were fully confident that they could tell the difference.

Thus, when Stephen, after looking through the album for a few minutes, declared that several key stamps in the Debrecen section were fakes, George was dumbfounded. His round face turned red and his jaw worked furiously. The Debrecen issue was his favorite as his father had been born in that small eastern Hungarian town.

“You must be kidding! Those stamps cost me several thousand dollars. I’m positive they’re good.”

Stephen shook his head slowly, sadly. “Sorry to have to tell you, but this one... this... and these two,” he said, pointing to the offending stamps in question, “are clearly fakes.”

George glared at his guest. “How can you be so sure?”

“I’m a high school history teacher; I know how to research. I’ve checked books and articles on the subject, made a list of characteristics of the genuine. These stamps of yours just don’t meet the standards.”

Stephen enjoyed the uncertainty he was provoking. He explained the various points in contention, pointing to the tiny letters and numbers on the oval overprint. The truth was he really didn’t know for sure if the stamps were fakes, but he succeeded in his objective - to sow doubt and confusion in his friend’s mind. He knew George would spend hours checking and double-checking *all* his occupation material.

A thoroughly engaging practical joke.

Leaving later that afternoon, driving to Bridgeport, Stephen said breezily to his crestfallen host, “Don’t be too upset. It happens to the best of us, being fooled that way into buying fakes. You have to really become knowledgeable on the subject.”

“Like you are. Right, Stephen?” said George quietly.

“Yes, I don’t mind saying. I’m very careful in such things.

“So it couldn’t happen to you?”

“Well,” Stephen said modestly, “everyone makes mistakes, but when it really counts ...”

They reached the dock and George parked near the ferry which was loading for the trip back to Port Jefferson. He smiled at Stephen. “I’m looking forward to my visit next April. I have a hunch it will be especially interesting.”

Stephen nodded and exited the auto. He was mildly surprised when, contrary to previous practice of waiting until the visitor had boarded the ferry, George gunned his car and sped off.

It was becoming an interesting game of one-upmanship, Stephen thought as he walked up the

gangplank. He wondered what surprise George would unleash on him in six months. Whatever it was, he knew he could handle it. Stephen could hardly wait until April and the resumption of their philatelic "game."

Finally, the day arrived.

"You're in an unusually good mood today," Stephen observed as they drove toward Setauket from Port Jefferson.

George smiled. "Why not? It's a beautiful spring day and I'm anticipating a wonderful visit." He seemed to be unusually content.

Stephen felt a flutter of nervousness, but fought it down. He forced himself to smile in return and continue the light banter as they drove straight to the Setauket Tennis Academy.

When George won both sets, a rare occurrence, Stephen was sure this presaged a troubling afternoon.

The next bad omen came when they reached the Ezer's sprawling ranch house and found, instead of a wife preparing a sumptuous meal, only an empty house and a note: "*Had to leave suddenly to visit Cousin Barbara. Lunch in fridge. Love, Karen.*"

Stephen was becoming seriously annoyed with the whole day, but had to make the best of it. He served the cold-cut platter Karen left for them, apologizing to George all the while.

Finally, the modest lunch was finished, the dishes cleared, and the important business of the afternoon could begin.

No sooner had they settled themselves at the dining room table when George asked to see Stephen's major error album, the prize of his Hungarian collection.

"But you looked through it last time," Stephen protested.

"If you don't mind."

"All right, then." Stephen went to get the album, wondering what nonsense George was up to. *Whatever fault he finds, I'll pretend to get upset just to be good sport*, Stephen told himself. "Here you go." He placed his precious error album in front of George and sat down across the table.

Ever so slowly, George turned the pages, studying each error stamp intently: The black numeral stamps with the double print, the Turul issue with the "70" denomination missing, the quarter sheet of twenty-five showing "35" (at position 13) instead of the normal "50" - and many others.

"A beauty, this one." George murmured, pointing to the green Madonna stamp with inverted center.

"Yes, a prize. As is the one on the next page," Stephen said with special pride. The Madonna and the 1938 so-called "Nagymánya" error (named for the town where the only sheet was found) were two of his most valuable stamps.

"Uh-oh!" George exclaimed, grabbing his magnifier. He peered at the large brown stamp, shaking his head in dismay.

Stephen wasn't worried. In fact, he was amused at George's overdone act of bewilderment. The 70 fillér stamp depicting the crown of Hungary couldn't be faked, Stephen knew. ("Fillér" being the Hungarian equivalent of "cents"). The error was produced when the red overprint was missing. To remove the deeply imprinted overprint from the normal brown stamp was virtually impossible without leaving a trace of red ink.

Stephen laughed. "Okay, let's hear it. I suppose you're going to tell me that my Nagymánya is a fake."

George stared at his host, his body calm except for a single twitch of his left eyelid. "That's exactly what I'm saying. This stamp is not genuine."

"How is that possible? Are you telling me the overprint has been removed without a trace?"

"No, it's something else, quite unusual. I wouldn't have spotted it, except that I'm an industrial chemist, as you know."

"Okay, I'll bite." Stephen smiled indulgently. "What does being a chemist have to do with this stamp?"

George reached for an album he'd brought and flipped it open to a set issued earlier in 1938. "See this other 70 fillér stamp?"

"Of course. That's the same print as the ordinary brown version that led to my error, only it's

in green and a very common stamp. I have one in my regular issue album. What's your point?"

The visitor stared at Stephen, a deadly serious expression on his owlish face. "That common green stamp, without overprint, is exactly the same as the Nagymánya error, right?"

"Yes, the only difference being the color. But I don't see -"

"It can be altered chemically, quite easily I must say, turning a green stamp into a brown one."

"A changeling?" For the first time, Stephen felt a hint of apprehension.

"Yes. I'll show you." George opened a small stockbook he'd brought and with his tongs, lifted out a brown 70 fillér stamp.

Stephen's eyes widened. "That's a Nagymánya! I didn't know you had one."

"I don't. This is the common green predecessor. I altered it with chemicals myself."

"Oh, God! It looks the same as my error I paid seven thousand dollars for." Stephen looked narrowly at his friend. "We've been playing games with each other... are you serious this time?" George grinned. "You'll have to decide that, my friend."

With that, the debate - and the visit - concluded.

To Be Continued...



BUDAPEST 1961 EXHIBITION POST CARD QUESTIONS



I would like some information about this Hungarian post card. First, a description of it:

- (1) In the lower left corner, the sender dated the card 1961.IX.27; the card was cancelled on IX.27 (the "61" is so faintly visible as to mock the eye).
- (2) The special postmark reads "Budapest Nemzetközi Bélyegkiállítás," which (minus the "1961") is what is printed on the registration label, and the postmark seems to include a depiction of the Szépművészeti Múzeum. (A nice photograph of the Operaház is on the picture side of the card.)
- (3) The post card is franked with one copy of MBA 1846 (1779), a 2+1 forint semi-postal released on 1961.IX.24 (the stamp shows a Danube scene from the Castle Hill side, and was designed by the profligate workhorse József Vertel).
- (4) The postcard was mailed in Budapest to a Budapest address in the IXth district (from a Leo to a Mária).

Here is what I would like to know:

- (1) Was 2 forint the proper fee for a registered post card sent within the city in September 1961? Was the post card actually sent registered, or was the registration label perhaps added later?
- (2) Where was the 1961 National Stamp Exhibition held - in what building?

- (3) Is there a printing mistake on the registration label? (The first line opens with a double quote mark, but ends with a single quote mark.)
- (4) What is the meaning or significance of the number "2888" written, in blue crayon, at the top center of the post card? (It is not the Scott catalogue number of the stamp, put there by a dealer or a previous owner; the Scott number of the stamp is B221.)

If anyone can answer these questions for me, please send your information to the editor of this journal (and to me by email, if possible: asoble@uno.edu).

Alan Soble



**BUDAPEST 1961 EXHIBITION POST CARD ANSWERS
(AND, ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A COMMEMORATIVE REGISTRY ETIQUETTE)**

First of all, I'd like to point out that the "Budapest 1961" *Nemzetközi Bélyegkiállítás* registry etiquette on this card is another, new example of commemorative 'R' labels which our newsletter publicized during the past year or so.

Second, here are some answers to Professor Soble's questions.

- (1) In 1961, the local post card rate was 20f, the local registration was 1,40Ft, so the 2Ft stamp overpaid the postage required by 40f. (At that time, 2Ft = US 10¢, approximately.)
- (2) The 1961 stamp exhibition was an international show held to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the first Hungarian stamp. (The consensus in those days was that the 1871 lithographed series comprised the first Hungarian stamp issue. That is outdated information now since the 1867 coarse-whiskers Ferenc József stamps, issued jointly with Austria, have been elevated to the status of the first stamps of the independent Hungarian Post.) The exhibition was held in the Mücsarnok (Exhibition Hall) located on Heroes Square opposite the Museum of Fine Arts. Both buildings have similar façades. The façade of the Mücsarnok is depicted on the postmark as well as on the stamps issued for the occasion (Scott #1392-99, MBÁ #1823-26, 1841-44).
- (3) Weak printing of the green color on the registry label probably accounts for the missing quotation mark.
- (4) I can't venture a guess about the '2888' entry on the card.

Finally, I'd like to note that 'the profligate workhorse József Vertel' was a distant relative of mine. I had a wonderful visit with him and his wife Fernanda about twenty years ago. He asked me to smuggle some souvenir sheets out of the country for him. In those days of communist control over people's lives, exporting postage stamps required a permit. I was glad to oblige (and to symbolically rub some irritant under the noses of the comrades in the central planning bureau.) I sold the material in the States (if I recall correctly, our publisher was involved) and sent the proceeds to his friend in Austria. Thus he had a little more western currency to spend whenever he vacationed in Austria.

Csaba L. Kohalmi



**SHP GATHERING AT THE APS AMERISTAMP EXPO 2002
IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA**

On February 9th, Saturday, at 11 AM, we conducted an informal Society meeting at the APS Ameristamp Expo 2002, which was held in the Riverside Convention Center, California. We (Emmerich Vamos, Ted Johnson and I) really didn't have high expectations, but we did send out 28 postcards to West Coast members. Needless to say, we were pleasantly surprised when 10 members and several wives (**John W. Larson, Miklos Tecszy, R.S. Frank, Gabrielle Ivany, Bill Tatham, Ed Carr, Gabor Beszedes, Emmerich Vamos, Ted and Barbara Johnson, Robert Morgan**) along two visitors (good membership prospects) showed up. We even had to find some extra chairs! Our members came from as far away as Seattle, San Jose, San Diego, and one even from Michigan. We had a very lively meeting, unfortunately we had the room only for an hour. After the meeting, Emmerich invited everyone to his house for champagne. Thanks to Emmerich's invitation, some of our group enjoyed an even more lively gathering!

Robert B. Morgan



HUNGARIAN POSTAL RATES FOR 2002

The rate of inflation for 2001 dropped below 10%, to about 7%, in Hungary. This year's rate is predicted to be even smaller. Despite the relative low rate (compared to 25% yearly not many years ago), postal rates continue to escalate. While some of the increases in basic domestic service were modest, the cost of international service, especially in the packages category, escalated very dramatically. The format of this table is what I have used in the past years; however, there are many changes by category. The cost of services in the parcel post and express mail area have become so complex that they have exceeded the scope of this table. The tariffs for books, periodicals, and printed matter have been combined into one category.

(US \$1 = ~ HUF 278,-)

/Information in the table was compiled from the webpage of the Hungarian Post by Csaba L. Kohalmi/

New Hungarian Postal Rates	1 Feb 2002				
	Local	Distance	Abroad ¹	Europe	Other Destinations
Standard letter ² to 30gm	33.-	38.-	38.- ³	150.- ³	160.- ³
Letter up to 20gm, non-standard	-	-	140.-	150.-	160.-
Letter up to 50gm	-	-	230.-	240.-	260.-
Letter up to 100gm	57.-	62.-	260.-	270.-	290.-
Letter up to 250gm	-	-	580.-	600.-	630.-
Letter up to 350gm	78.-	82.-	790.-	810.-	870.-
Letter up to 500gm	95.-	100.-	1.100.-	1.160.-	1.210.-
Letter up to 1000gm	-	-	2.160.-	2.210.-	2.370.-
Letter up to 2000gm	250.-	250.-	3.290.-	3.360.-	3.780.-
Post Card	30.-	30.-	30.-	100.-	110.-
Books/Printed matter up to 20gm	28.-	33.-	140.-	150.-	160.-
Books/Printed matter up to 50gm	33.-	38.-	230.-	240.-	260.-
Books/Printed matter up to 100gm	52.-	57.-	260.-	270.-	290.-
Books/Printed matter up to 250gm	-	-	580.-	600.-	630.-
Books/Printed matter up to 350gm	72.-	77.-	790.-	810.-	870.-
Books/Printed matter up to 500gm	90.-	95.-	1.110.-	1.160.-	1.210.-
Books/Printed matter up to 1,000gm	-	-	2.160.-	2.210.-	2.370.-
Books/Printed matter up to 1,500gm	-	-	2.720.-	2.790.-	3.080.-
Books/Printed matter up to 2,000gm	250.- ⁴	250.- ⁴	3.290.-	3.360.-	3.780.-
Postal Bag for printed matter, up to 5kg	-	-	2.700.-	4.250.-	6.000.-
Postal Bag for printed matter, over 5kg	-	-	+450.- per kg	+650.- per kg	+1080.- per kg
Express Mail EMS up to 1kg	2.190-	+69.- /km	rates vary	by weight	and country
Express Mail EMS up to 2kg	2.650-	+69.- /km	“	“	“
Express Mail EMS up to 5kg	3.100-	+69.- /km	“	“	“
Express Mail EMS up to 10kg	3.350-	+69.- /km	“	“	“
Express Mail EMS up to 15kg	3.650-	+69.- /km	“	“	“
Express Mail EMS up to 20kg	4.000-	+69.- /km	“	“	“
Express Mail EMS up to 31.5kg	5.350-	+69.- /km	“	“	“
Small parcel to 250gm	Domestic: 200.-		530.-	580.-	630.-
Small parcel to 500gm	320.-		840.-	870.-	1.000.-
Small parcel to 1000gm	320.-		1.470.-	1.700.-	2.000.-
Small parcel to 2000gm	320.-		2.840.-	3.150.-	3.680.-

	Home Delivery	Add'l Oversize Fee	International
Domestic parcel up to 2kg	360.-	special rate structure ⁶	special rate structure
Domestic parcel up to 5 kg	400.-	“	“
Domestic parcel up to 10 kg	480.-	“	“
Domestic parcel up to 15 kg	520.-	“	“
Domestic parcel up to 20 kg	580.-	“	“
	Domestic	Abroad	Domestic Insurance
Registration	R=96.- K=90.-	370.-	160.-
Express	200.-	240.-	-
Certified/Tértivevény	30.-	135.-	-
Official Correspondence	228.-	⁷	-
Air Mail surcharge ⁸	for all types of mail:20.- for each 20gm increment		

Footnotes:

- ¹ The “Abroad” category refers to the countries bordering on Hungary: Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Rumania, Jugoslavia, and Slovenia.
- ² The “Standard Envelope” dimensions are 114 x 162 mm (minimum) and 110 x 220 mm (maximum).
- ³ The tariffs listed apply for the standard letter abroad, to the rest of Europe or overseas addresses to up a weight of 20gm.
- ⁴ This rate applies to printed matter delivered to household addresses.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ Typically, for fragile or oversize parcels the surcharge is 50% of the basic rate; for spoilable items, HUF 200.- surcharge.
- ⁷ Rate equal to cost of the letter by weight plus registration and certified tariffs.
- ⁸ The airmail surcharge is in addition to all other applicable postal fees.

*

WHY EXHIBIT?

This is the first of a series of short articles intended to encourage our members to exhibit their material. Of our entire membership, only a small handful are or have ever been regular exhibitors. Since the rules of exhibiting have changed greatly over the past few years to accommodate the needs of philatelic enthusiasts everywhere, this series, hopefully, will boost the interest of our group to exhibit. So... why exhibit?

First, because exhibiting is the best way to share our love of and pride for our collection. If one enjoys sitting down and showing an album, that pleasure is multiplied a hundredfold when the pages gleam in exhibit frames for the whole world to look at.

Second, it is a wonderful learning experience. Not only can we learn facts that we may not have known from experts (even judges!), but comments and questions all help to show us how others see our material and work.

Third, the preparation of an exhibit forces us to increase our depth of knowledge and understanding of our own material. This, in turn, improves us as hobbyist and makes us better buyers and sellers of philatelic material.

Fourth, it can actually bring us recognition. We are no longer some old misanthrope who ruins his eyesight over pieces of paper, but the possessor of a gleaming trophy on the mantelpiece.

Fifth, exhibiting makes you new friends and brings you together with old ones. I even know of an odd romance or two that began in front of an exhibit stand, although I am not guaranteeing anything.

Sixth, it has been said that, although I don't know whether this is strictly true, that when you come to sell your collection, a high exhibit award brings more inquiries than just a couple of albums by themselves would.

Exhibiting is not difficult – far from being as difficult as most collectors imagine – nor need it be expensive. There is a famous international large gold exhibit (topical) in which I don't think there is a stamp worth over \$10. In the next few newsletters, I will explore some of the issues of *what categories of exhibiting exist, how to conceptualize an exhibit, how to begin, how to outline, and how to build*. The Society will offer an expert critique service free to individuals who wish to exhibit Hungarian material, and the names of members who have volunteered for this effort will be published in a subsequent edition of **The News of Hungarian Philately**.

Andrew M. Munster, M.D.



A COVER TO HUNGARY IN 1914

I looked for something a little out of the ordinary to send to the Editor for his empty final page, and chose a registered cover, sent from the Austro-Hungarian Consulate-General in Sydney, Australia to Budapest. It was caught up during transit by the outbreak of WW1, and almost certainly did not reach the intended recipient (see *Fig. 1.*).



Figure 1. Cover Sent from the Austro-Hungarian Consulate in Sydney to Budapest at the Outbreak of World War I, July 1914.

The single circle CDS on the stamp is quite weak, and the date of posting is indistinct, but it appears to be either 7 or 17 July 1914. Another, slightly better impression on the back (see *Fig. 2.*) tells us that the full CDS is 'REGISTERED / SYDNEY NSW,' and confirms that the date of posting was either 7 or 17 July. From the sailing dates for 1914 given in the Post Office Guide, ships carrying mails to London were due to depart on 8, 15 and 22 July 1914. As the journey by sea took at least 30 days at that time, the mails carried on these departure dates would have arrived in London in August after the outbreak of the war. Great Britain (and Australia) declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary on 3 August 1914.

It is not known whether it was customary for any articles intended for Central and Eastern European countries to be taken off the mail steamers at intermediate ports such as Alexandria, Brindisi or Marseilles. In the absence of this knowledge, we can only assume that the letter arrived in London; and, because of the declaration of war, may have been held there for a time before being passed

to the London Dead Letter Office. Because it was a registered article, it is unusual that there was no marking applied recording its arrival in London. The Return Letter Office there would have eventually sent the cover back to the point of origin – Sydney, Australia - by one route or other, and it may not have been a particularly speedy one.

On its return to Sydney, the cover was passed to the Second Military District (II. M. D.), which was the authority responsible for censorship in New South Wales during WWI. Following inspection, the cover was marked on the front with the boxed stamp 'UNDELIVERABLE / MAR 20 1915 / II. M. D.' in pale blue. It may have been in the same office that the hand stamp 'RETURN TO SENDER' in violet was applied. The cover was then returned to the Post Office, and delivery to the Austro-Hungarian Consulate-General's office may have been attempted.

It is very likely that shortly after the outbreak of hostilities on 3 August, the Consulate-General's Office was closed, so there was no one to accept this returned article. The cover would then have been sent to the Dead Letter Office. On the back (see *Fig. 2.*), among penciled annotations and initials, is the red double circle cds for 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE / SYDNEY NSW / May 13 1915'. This marked the end of the cover's journeys.

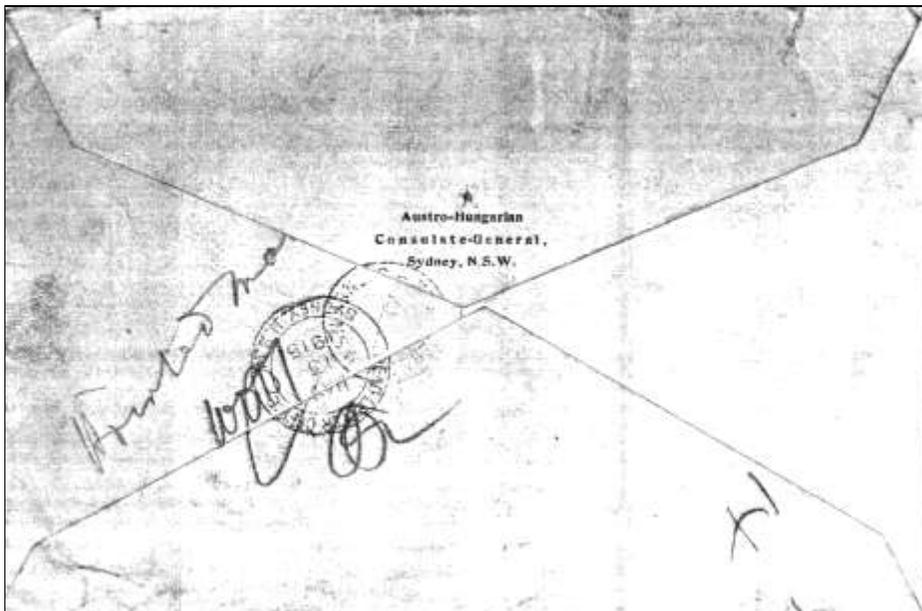


Figure 2. Reverse Side of the Cover Showing Posting and Return Postmarks

There is also a possibility that the article might never have left Australia. In view of the worsening of conditions in Europe, postal authorities might have held the cover in Sydney to await an improvement in the situation in Europe. Finally, they gave up waiting, and sent the cover to II. M. D. for examination before it was consigned to the Dead Letter Office.

My thanks to David Collyer, Philatelic Research Officer, for his advice of the possible paths this cover might have taken, and for the information on the dates of ship sailings for July 1914.

Judy Kennett

/Judy Kennett's e-mail address, reported in the last issue of the newsletter, was listed wrong due to my mistake. Her correct e-mail is jkennett@tpg.com.au. If anyone has information about airmail rates to Australia in the 1930s, please let her know. Thanks! Ed./



PAQUEBOT AND AIRMAIL SUBJECTS, REVISITED

Interesting covers keep turning up on the internet E-Bay auction site complementing the articles published in our newsletter, almost making me wish that the illustrations could have been available when the original material went to press.

The first item is a Paquebot cover bearing a stamp from Malta with an Adria Ungherese circular cancel (the anchor in the middle) from 1904. The cover, interestingly enough, was addressed to the State Department in Washington, DC. A typical business receiving mark, dated May 18, 1904, was applied to the front of the cover. Unfortunately, the backside of the items was not illustrated. It was offered for a starting bid of \$75 and did not find a buyer at that price. This would have been a good addition to Dr. Szilagyi's *Letter to the Editor* column, which showed several Paquebot covers, from the Oct-Dec 2001 issue of **The News**.



1904 Adria Ungherese Paquebot Cover from Malta

The second item is another example of airmail transit marking applied in Budapest to mail from the East Indies to a European destination (this time, Switzerland). This cover complements Judy Kennett's article, *A Cover from the East to Europe*, which also appeared in the Oct-Dec 2001 issue of **The News**. This cover was posted in Padang, Sumatra, Netherlands East Indies on 6 May 1933 and passed through Budapest on 17 May 1933 on its way to Solothurn, Switzerland. Austria and Czechoslovakia were the other destinations that were illustrated in the original article.



Budapest Air Mail Transit Marking on Cover from the Netherlands East Indies to Switzerland

Csaba L. Kohalmi



EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue introduces a new format to **The News**. For the first time since its inception in late 1969, the newsletter is not printed in booklet format. It's still on the same American standard 8½ x 11 inch paper, but in full sheet, portrait format. This format allows the text to be in larger type, better illustrations, more expedient duplicating, and, hopefully, much better overall quality. On my end, it simplifies editing and allows for a quick contraction or expansion of each issue depending on the availability of material. The conversion entails some extra costs in paper and postage, but it was done with the approval of our Executive Board in the hopes of improving quality. With the falling prices for color copying, I hope to reach the milestone of illustrations in color in the conceivable future.

Thank you, Mr. **John Stubits**, for highlighting the correct historical facts that were disputed in Dr. George Arghir's letter to the editor concerning Mr. Clive Foss' article, *Hungary 1919, Stamps of a Nation in Turmoil*. Mr. Stubits' letter, published in the February 2002 issue of the **American Philatelist**, separated fact from fiction on the 'hot-button' topic of Hungarian-Rumanian relations in the immediate post-World War I years.

Lean financial times have hit the Hungarian society, *Mabéosz*. The Hungarian Post suspended its HUF 3.6 million (~US\$12,900) annual paid advertising support of the organization. The resulting budget shortfall caused immediate, visible cutbacks. The **Bélyegvilág** publication no longer sports a color cover or color inserts. The membership fees for collectors outside of Hungary were doubled to \$40 per annum. Although members still receive an airmail copy of **Bélyegvilág**, they no longer get the new issue first day cover service. While all of this is unfortunate, some of it is understandable just by looking at the table of postal rate increases that went into effect on February 1st. My last issue of **Bélyegvilág** cost HUF 370 (~US\$1.33) to mail, so the annual cost of the magazine plus postage, roughly HUF 6,000, eats up more than half of the membership dues. By the way, if anyone is interesting in joining, you can reach the organization by e-mail at *mabeosz.dpg.hu* or via snail mail, **Mabéosz, H-1387 Budapest, Pf. 4, Hungary**.



This issue closed a few weeks earlier than originally planned in order to accommodate my travel plans as well as to get it to our members in time for the SHP gathering at NAPEX. I'd like to express my appreciation to our President, our Publisher, and our Auction Chairperson for helping out with this accelerated schedule.

In conclusion, I'd like to add a few words of remembrance about Toby, my marked yellow tabby, who was a significant member of the editorial staff of this bulletin. Toby passed away in February but he faithfully sat in my lap to the end doing proofreading of the text on the computer monitor, keeping an eye on the movements of the mouse and helping to re-arrange whatever papers got in the way of his tail. I dearly miss his colorful feline personality.

Assistant Editor Toby (1990-2002) at Work.

Csaba L. Kohalmi



KÖZTEHERJEGY, A NEW CATEGORY OF REVENUE TAX STAMPS

The Government of Hungary has extended special status to ethnic Hungarians living in the areas of neighboring countries that were originally a part of the historical Kingdom of Hungary. The special status identification books issued to such individuals allow them, among other things, to accept work in Hungary, to receive medical care, education benefits and free transportation for a period of three months. I think that this legislation prompted the issuance of the 'part-time worker' revenue tax stamps illustrated below. Employers are to paste these 'közteherjegy' stamps into the part-time or seasonal employees' workbooks. These tax stamps, as well as the regular documentary revenue

stamps, are sold at post offices. I am not aware of the tax rate that determines which value of stamps is to be used. The Hungarian Post website showed four values: HUF 100, 200, 500, 1.000.



Csaba L. Kohalmi



ADDENDUM TO HUNGARICA Part X: Dr. GYULA HERMANN OBERTH

Dr. Paul J. Szilagyí's *Hungarica, Part X* article, which was published in the Jan-Mar 2002 issue of **The News**, listed several stamp issues and cancellations honoring Dr. Gyula Oberth, the Hungarian-born rocket scientist. I've recently run across another item, a souvenir sheet from the Central African Republic that pictured Dr. Oberth (on the right), German missile expert Wernher von Braun, and another famous Hungarian mathematician and rocketry pioneer, Theodore von Kármán (on the left). I've cropped out the stamp from the sheet in the illustration below.



Csaba L. Kohalmi



NEW ISSUES FOR 2001

Issue date: 11 October 2001

Reconstruction of the Mária Valéria Danube Bridge (joint issue with Slovakia)

Face value: HUF 36. Size: 45 x 26.7mm.

Designer: Péter Nagy. The design shows the rebuilt bridge spanning the Danube with the Basilica of Esztergom in the background.

Production details: Printed in miniature sheets of 12 using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 600,000 stamps.

Issue date: 16 October 2001

Christmas 2001

Face value: HUF 36. Size: 35 x 33.6mm.

Designer: Imre Benedek. The design depicts stylized Christmas ornaments and an angel blowing a trumpet.

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

Anniversary of the State Printing Office

Face value: HUF 150. Size: 30 x 40mm.

Designer: János Kass. The design shows the 2kr Ferenc József first Hungarian stamp printed domestically and the anniversary dates for the Printing Office.

Production details: Printed in offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. 200,000 stamps in sheets of 15 were produced.

Postal Stationery

- The Hungarian Post issued an HUF 81 face value postal card with a pocket to hold a HUF 200 medallion on 1 August 2001. The cards were designed by Zsolt Tóth Yoka. The medallions are legal tender issues by the Hungarian Nation Bank. Four different designs were created by László Szlávics, Jr. depicting Hungarian literary masterpieces: Sándor Petöfi's *Brave János*, Ferenc Molnár's *The Boys of Paul-street*, János Arany's *Toldi Trilogy*, and Mihály Fazekas's *Matyi the Gooseherder*.
- Three HUF 28 postal cards were issued on 15 August 2001 reproducing illustrations from Pál Vágó's award winning (grand prize at the 1900 Exposition in Paris) book, **A huszárság története/History of the Hussars**. The 10,000 sets of cards were printed joined together, separated by serrations. The set sold for HUF 129.

Non-postal Souvenir Sheets

- Mabéosz issued a sheet depicting Mihály Munkácsy's Trilogy of the Death of Christ in order to support the effort to purchase the *Golgotha* painting from abroad. The sheet sold for HUF 600.
- Philatelia Hungarica, Ltd. issued several versions of a sheet honoring the 70th anniversary of the *Justice for Hungary* flight. The perforated sheet sold for HUF 300.
- Philatelia Hungarica also issued a sheet in honor of the 100th anniversary of the National Kórányi Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Institute. The perforated sheet sold for HUF 300.
- The recently deceased rock musician, former Beatle guitarist George Harrison was commemorated on a non-postal souvenir issued by Philatelia Hungarica. The sheet sold for HUF 300 and appeared in 2,300 perforated copies. 200 imperforate varieties were also issued, selling for HUF 2.000.



HUNGARICA FROM THE UNITED STATES

Later this year, the US Postal Service will issue 20 different stamps in a small sheet format honoring American Photography. One of the photos selected was taken by André Kertész, who came to the United States from Hungary and lived in New York. He was best known for his images of New York City, such as the one to be illustrated on a stamp. My picture below is of rather poor quality because it was taken from a half-tone reproduction from **Linn's Stamp News**.



Another example of Mr. Kertész's work was reproduced recently on a UNICEF fund-raising card. The photographer converted an ordinary New York scene, a man walking his dog, into an artistic masterpiece of footprints and tire-tracks in the snow. The photo is ©Estate of André Kertész.

Csaba K. Kohalmi



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SPECIAL AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Society for Hungarian Philately is offering for sale in public auction the second part of an outstanding, gold-medal winner collection of covers of the 1945/46 hyperinflation. The closing date for this auction (2000E) will be 1 October 2002. This auction is separate from the regular quarterly auctions and catalogs will be sent only upon request. Members who received a catalog for the first part of the auction will automatically receive the catalog for the second part. Other members who are interested in obtaining a catalog of the auction should contact the auction chairperson:

Emmerich Vamos, 8722 Belladonna Road, Riverside, CA 92508

The Auction Chairperson is also processing a collection of postal stationery consisting of postal cards from 1867-1892 to be included in an auction in early 2003. Members are encouraged to publicize this upcoming event.

EXCHANGE PARTNER WANTED: I am a collector from Hungary seeking to exchange stamps with collectors from the United States. I collect astronomical and space exploration topical stamps worldwide and can offer ANY Hungarian stamp issues in exchange.

