

***THE NEWS OF  
HUNGARIAN PHILATELY***

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1874 - 2004  
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*The Colored Numeral  
Envelope Design Stamps  
130 Years Old*

**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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This issue closed on 1 February 2004  
The next issue will close on 1 May 2004

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by **H. Alan Hoover**

BAAH – HUMBUG!! Cleaning out a refrigerator after a 4-day ice storm! Not the best thing one can do, but when the electricity is off for that long, one hesitates to try to reclaim any of the materials left in there. Such are the joys of winter in the south! Guess it is better than some of the bitter cold and deep snow that other areas of the country are experiencing. Wish I were back in Hawaii where I visited for 20 days in December. Well, on to more pleasant things like stamps!

Thoughts right now shift to our future show schedules. I am happy to report that Csaba Kóhalmi, the Show Chairman for INDYPEX participation in 2005, reports that dates chosen are 8-10 July 2005. Well! Csaba, you didn't have to go to all that trouble just for my birthday! I will expect a cake with 54 Hungarian used stamps on it from my wife while we are at the show! Icing doesn't go very well with mint copies, but... I look forward to returning to the hospitality of the Hoosier state, a place where I spent five years of my life. How about planning to participate in our Midwest show by exhibiting or at least attending? Make you plans now – it will be here before you know it.

As I mentioned in the last issue, our society show chairman for our participation in WASHINGTON 2006 was an additional position that required filling. With Andrew Munster's passing, we needed an activist to participate. Our trusty Secretary Bob Morgan did a wonderful job at salesmanship and convinced Randy Frank that he was the perfect match for this challenge! Randy resided in the area in previously and felt comfortable in assuming this responsibility. Thank you, Randy, for this effort! By the way, Randy is also the coordinator of our upcoming annual show in Los Angeles in October; and we are looking forward to his organizational talents this year and also in 2006.

Our editor did a great job in the last issue in starting to extract some of the "Back to the Basics" ideas to help you, the basic collector. I really enjoyed the article telling about how to distinguish the differences between the Franz Josef stamps that are lithographed compared to the engraved issues. I hope you found this of interest, since that is one of the most popular requests asked by philatelists. Perhaps our Webmaster can include this text on our website, and we might even be able to add some images in color to demonstrate the details described in the article. As I mentioned many times before, let the editor know what you would like to see.

Things seem to be a bit quiet on the Hungarian philatelic front from the message traffic that I see. Perhaps you might know or have participated in a recent local stamp show? Why not send some information on to our editor about this or any other activity you hear about that may be of interest to our members. Our editor continues to need new and stimulating material.

There's been major breaking news about forgeries of supposedly authenticated materials in the Czechoslovak area. What a terrible story about deceiving collectors, who rely on experts to certify their materials and then someone falsifies the review. I am certain that this affects every area of philatelic interest, and it is not just a current problem. We hope that reputations of reliable philatelists are not jeopardized and that the individuals named in the current investigations are exonerated.

Guess that's all from here for now my friend Ray: Keep Stampin'!

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## KUDOS AND WELCOME

Congratulations to the following SHP members for their achievements in exhibiting. **Alfred F. Kugel** received a vermeil award at the Minnesota Stamp Expo for *Italian World War II Military and Civil Occupation Mail* as well as a vermeil and a silver for the one-frame exhibits titled *Postal History of Fezzan-Ghadames 1900-1952* and *Postal History of Kosovo 1900-2000*, respectively. Mr. **Kugel** also received a gold medal at the Omaha Stamp Show for *The Philatelic History of Bosnia-Herzegovina*. In addition, Mr. **Kugel** received two gold medals at the Omaha Stamp show with the exhibits titled *The New Order in the Baltic 1918-23* and *The Philatelic History of Bosnia-Herzegovina*. Mr. **Kugel** also exhibited at Milcopex and won a gold medal, the China Stamp Society best exhibit of China award and the American Philatelic Congress award with *Allied Intervention in the Boxer Uprising* as well as a vermeil and a silver with the single frame exhibits *Austria-Hungary's*

*Danube River Flotilla in World War I* and *Special Service Uses of Postal Cards 1888-1952*, respectively. Mr. **Kugel** received an honorary gold medal at the Peach State Stamp Show for *The Allied Intervention in Russia*. Finally, Mr. **Kugel** won a Pipex gold medal and the American Philatelic Congress award with *Philatelic History of Montenegro 1874-1922*.

**Henry Hahn** won a gold and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately medal at Balpex with *Prestamp Mail of Future Czechoslovakia (1564-1850)*. **Lyman Caswell** received a gold medal and the Thunderbird Award of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs in Kent, Washington, for *The 1953 Commemorative Postage Due Stamps of Hungary*.

Welcome to our newest members: Dr. **Eric Alton** of London, UK; Mr. **Larry Fancsalszki** of Mr. Prospect, IL; and Mr. **Gordon McIntyre** of Seattle, WA.

\*

### ***In Memoriam* – WILLIAM SOLYOM-FEKETE**



Mr. Solyom-Fekete passed away last November. He was a life member of the Society, having joined back in 1971. As demonstrated by the articles he authored back in 1960, he was not just a philatelist but an avid historian dedicated to promulgating Hungarian philately.

His collecting interests focused on the Austrian Post in Hungary and classical Hungarian stamp issues.

The picture on the left was taken in San Francisco in 1997 during our Society's participation in Pacific '97.

Our condolences go out to his wife Elvira and all of the other members of his family. We will miss him. /Ed./

\*

### **THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2003**

*by Ted Johnson*

Beginning Balance, 1-1-03		\$ 17,761.34
Income:		
	Auction proceeds	\$ 1,948.40
	Dues	2,450.00
	Donations	96.00
	Newsletter ad & sales	17.00
	Postage reimbursement	27.99
	Sale of bound editions & Monograph #9	950.00
	Paypal verification	0.89
Total Income		\$ 5,490.28
Expenses:		
	Advertising in Linn's	\$ 291.20
	APS entry fee	25.00
	Miscellaneous	51.40
	Newsletter binding	1,224.50
	Newsletter costs for 4 issues	3,111.76
	Postage, printing	71.84
	State of Connecticut filing fee	25.00
	Subsidy for Bob Morgan's book	2,000.00
Total Expenses		(\$ 6,800.70)
Ending Balance, 12-31-03		\$ 16,450.92

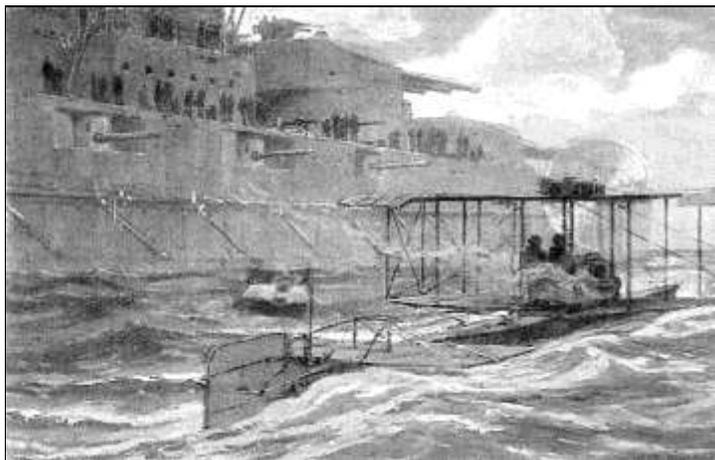
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## AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN NAVAL AVIATION ON THE ADRIATIC

by Alfred F. Kugel

*/This article was originally published in the Winter 2003 issue of the **Military Postal History Society Journal**. It is reprinted here with the kind permission of Mr. Dave Kent, the Editor./*

One of the more “off the beaten track” stories of the Austro-Hungarian military in World War I relates to the activities of a small collection of seaplanes along the Adriatic Coast. These aircraft operated from bases that were under the control of the Dual Monarchy from near Trieste in the north to Durazzo in occupied Albania in the south. At the beginning of the war, seaplanes were fairly rudimentary machines, and often bombs were simply dropped overboard by the pilot and/or observer. (*Figure 1* depicts an early seaplane.) Later, the aircraft became increasingly sophisticated with actual bombsights for aiming.



*Figure 1. Picture card of an early seaplane in the water alongside a battleship.*

In addition, attacks were made from the air on Italian troops threatening Trieste as well as bombing raids on Venice and Allied surface ships and submarines. *Figure 2* shows a picture of the downing of the Italian airship *Citta di Ferrara* near Lussin on 8 July 1915, and *Figure 3* shows an Austrian seaplane rescuing 29 sailors from the doomed French submarine *Forcault*, which was sunk in September 1916. (The pilot landed the seaplane in the water so the seamen could cling to its pontoons until picked up by a ship.)



*Figure 2. Picture card of an Austrian seaplane shooting down*



Prior to the outbreak of the war, there were only three seaplane stations: at the headquarters in Pola, at the training center at nearby Cosada, and at the operating base at Kumbor in the Bay of Cattaro; but more than a dozen additional sites opened during the hostilities. At maximum, there were 300 naval planes in operation, mostly as scouts for the Austro-Hungarian warships, but some engaged in direct action. The first war mission was flown from Kumbor on 12 August 1914 to bomb Montenegrin troops on Mount Lovćen. The first attack at sea was on French warships in October 1914.

As to the philatelic aspects, the most logical way to collect this material is to seek as many as possible of the different official markings - generally unit cachets or censor marks - which are recorded from twelve of the bases, although they should theoretically exist from others. Some of these are relatively common, some are scarce but can be acquired with some effort and patience, and a few are very difficult to find. (*Figure 4* shows an official registered cover from the Headquarters of the Naval Aviation Corps in Pola.)

The bulk of the seaplanes were assigned to four locations: Pola

(Puntisella), Kumbor, Trieste (Grado), and the flight school at Cosada. Most of the other bases had six or fewer aircraft, which accounts for the scarcity of their markings. Some official mail and a modest amount of normal Fieldpost is believed to have been flown between bases on the seaplanes - mostly to or from Fiume - but it received no special markings and is quite scarce.

The northernmost of the bases was at Grado near Trieste. The unit stationed there apparently did not have a cachet showing the location, but is believed to have used a straight-line marking inscribed "Fliegerstation No. 6."

The heaviest naval aviation activity occurred at headquarters in Pola, where several different markings were used, mostly with some variation of the wording "I. & R. Naval Flight Station/Pola." See Figure 5. (Note that nearly every Austro-Hungarian military marking contained the letters "K. u. K.," the initials for "Imperial and Royal" in German. This wording stems from the fact that in the Dual Monarchy, the Emperor of Austria was also the King of Hungary, and the reference to both titles was obligatory.)

Figure 3. Picture card of Austrian seaplane rescuing sailors from the French submarine Forcault.

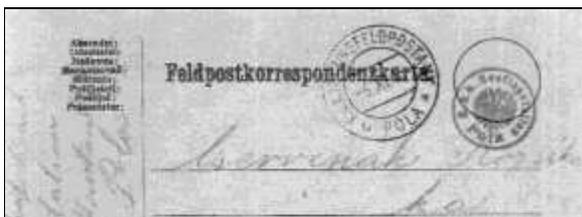


Figure 4. Official registered cover sent from the Headquarters of the Naval Aviation Corps in Pola to Vienna in November 1917.

The heaviest naval aviation activity occurred at headquarters in Pola, where several different markings were used, mostly with some variation of the wording "I. & R. Naval Flight Station/Pola." See Figure 5. (Note that nearly every Austro-Hungarian military marking contained the letters "K. u. K.," the initials for "Imperial and Royal" in German. This wording stems from the fact that in the Dual Monarchy, the Emperor of Austria was also the King of Hungary, and the reference to both titles was obligatory.)

The base at Puntisella used two different cachets, as did the nearby training center for naval pilots at Cosada. These stations did not have their own postal markings but forwarded the mail to Pola for processing and onward transmission.

Farther down the Adriatic Coast a seaplane base was established at Sebenico (Sibenik). It used two unit cachets and its mail was processed at the civil post office there. (See Figure 6 for a postcard with cachet of the Coastal Air Station at Sebenico.) A small base was also opened on the island of Curzola (Korcula) off the middle Dalmatian coast, which used both circular and straight-line cachets.



**Figure 5.** Fieldpost card sent in 1915 from Pola to Hungary with small circular cachet of the Naval Flight Station at Pola.

**Figure 6.** Fieldpost card sent in 1918 from Sebenico to Hungary with straight-line cachet of the "I. & R. Coastal Air Station at Sebenico."

The next base to the south was at Kumbor in the Bay of Cattaro (Boka Kotorska). It was one of the largest facilities operated by the naval air service and used three different circular unit cachets as well as one straight-line type. (See Figure 7 with cover showing cachet of the Fleet Air Unit at Kumbor.)



**Figure 7.** Registered cover from Kumbor to Vienna with circular cachet of the "I. & R. Fleet Air Unit at Kumbor." There was no post office in Kumbor itself, so it was taken to nearby Zelenica for processing. Although fieldpost was normally free of postage, special services were not, so it was necessary to frank this cover to obtain registration.

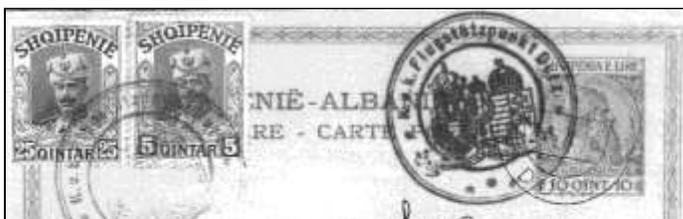
Following the Austro-Hungarian occupation of northern and central Albania in 1916, a new base was established at the port of Durazzo (Durz). It, too, used circular and straight-line cachets, with the latter inscribed "I. & R. Naval Air Base Durz." (See Figure 8 on the next page for postal card with two different cachets for the base at Durazzo.)

Although the naval aviation service operated from the beginning of the war until the end, its role was not significant in the overall scope of activity. However, it provided training and experience for military aviators that could be put to use later during the Second World War.

**References:**

**Austro-Hungarian A.P.Os. - 1914-1918** by Keith Tranmer, self-published at Hornchurch, England in 1973, pp. 84-86.

**Imperial & Royal Austro-Hungarian Navy** by Anthony E. Sokol, published by the United States Naval Institute, Annapolis MD in 1968, pp.111-113.



**Figure 8.** Postal card mailed from Durazzo to Vienna with cachet of the "I. & R. Naval Air Base Durz." Postage was free so the Albanian stamps had no franking power but were added as a souvenir.

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## HUNGARIAN STAMPS AND HISTORY

by William Solyom-Fekete

*/This is the second in a series of three articles on the subject of basic Hungarian philately and was originally published in the December 31, 1960 issue of the **Stamps** newspaper./*



One of the great princes of Transylvania was Gábor Bethlen (Scott Nos. B106, 108, 109), who took up arms against Emperor Ferdinand in defense of the liberties and constitution of the extra-Transylvanian parts of Hungary. In the peace negotiations after a victorious war, Bethlen secured freedom for the Protestant religion throughout the entire country.

At the same time, Péter Cardinal Pázmány, primate of Hungary, (Scott Nos. 492, 494, 495) led a movement to bring Hungarians back to Catholicism through education. The fruit of his efforts was the foundation of the first Hungarian University at Nagyszombat (now Trnava in Slovakia) in 1635 (Scott Nos. 493, 496, 497).



*From top left, Gábor Bethlen, Péter Pázmány, Recapture of Buda Castle from the Turks, Ferenc Rákóczi II.*

At the end of the 17th century, the joint Austrian, Hungarian, and Polish armies drove out the Turks, and the Capital of Hungary, the Fortress of Buda, was liberated in 1686 (Scott Nos. 498-502). The Austrian aid in freeing the country proved costly because it was followed by oppression from Vienna, which disregarded the nation's constitutional rights. The Hungarians resisted, as they had every oppression, and in 1703 the War of Independence broke out (Scott Nos. 1043-1047) but was unsuccessful and its leader, Ferenc Rákóczi II, (Scott Nos. 487-491, 607) was forced into exile.

The nation's struggle for observance of constitutional rights continued through peaceful means and resistance. The main battlefields were the assemblies of the autonomous counties, where the most important debates took place, and where the leaders of the nation, Count István Széchenyi (Scott Nos. 472, 573), Ferenc Deák (Scott No. 473), and Lajos Kossuth (Scott Nos. 475, 624, 1016, 1018) asserted the demands of the people.



*Lajos Kossuth*

The growth of modern nationalism and liberalism in western Europe during the first half of the 19th century was welcomed eagerly among the Hungarians, and after a successful revolution on March 15th, 1848 (Scott Nos. 829-839), the new laws established a government responsible to the Parliament and swept away the remainders of medieval institutions. The liberal and nationalist movement was opposed by the Austrian imperial court, which sent troops to crush the insurrection. The Hungarian nation, under the leadership of Lajos Kossuth, fought the Freedom War (Scott Nos. 914-916, 990-995) heroically, and defeated the Austrian troops, but could not defend herself against the Russian Army sent by Czar Nicholas to help Austria, which outnumbered the Hungarian forces by far.

The defeat of 1849 was followed by nineteen years of absolutism, after which in 1867 the nation and the sovereign concluded a compromise which restored the Hungarian constitution, and Francis Joseph was crowned King of Hungary.

The country was drawn into World War I on the side of Germany and Austria. The consequence was the loss of 70 percent of its territory (75,000 out of 110,000 square miles) by the Peace Treaty of Trianon, which the United States never ratified.

Between the two world wars Hungary was governed by Regent Miklós Horthy (Scott Nos. 437-41, 525-527, 556, 570-573, 597-599), and parliamentary government was restored. The Treaty of Trianon roused great opposition in Hungary, mostly because large groups of Hungarians came under foreign jurisdiction without being granted a plebiscite as promised by President Woodrow Wilson. Hitler's Germany and the Fascist Italy drew Hungary into their alliance during World War II by promising the restoration of the former boundaries, which promise was partly kept by the two Vienna decisions (Scott Nos. 535-536, 558).



*1938 Hazatérés / Return Home Stamp, Scott #536.*

The first Vienna decision is memorable from the philatelic point of view, because a major error was found among the stamps commemorating the return of the northern part of the territories severed at the end of World War I. In 1938 a set of fourteen stamps had been issued to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the death of Saint Stephen, first king of Hungary (Scott Nos. 511-524). On December 1 of the same year two values of the above set, the 20 and 70 fillérs, were issued in changed colors and with an overprint *Hazatérés 1938*, which means *Homecoming 1938* (Scott Nos. 535-536). The original color of the 70 fillér value was olive green on bluish paper; the color of No. 536 was brown on white paper. In a small village postal station called Nagymánya, two sheets of 100 of the 70 fillér value in brown color were found without the overprint. After the discovery of the error, the remainders of the sheets were immediately withdrawn, and reportedly destroyed by the government, but about 40-60 copies had already been sold, any of which now commands a price of about \$500.00. /*Current Scott value is \$9,000 mint, \$7,500 used. Ed./*

On the demand of Germany and Italy, and only after the Soviet Union was involved, Hungary entered World War II, but Hungarian troops were never engaged in military activities against western armies. At the end of World War II, the worst inflation in world history took place in Hungary. To illustrate the degree of inflation, it is sufficient to point out, that after twenty months, on August 1, 1946, when the new currency, the Forint, was introduced, one forint was made equal to 400,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (four hundred octillion) pengős. During such an inflation, the issuance of stamps could hardly keep pace with the ever-increasing postal rates. There were 158 regular postage stamps issued during this period, not including the commemoratives issued during the same time. The denominations were changed several times; the postal administration tried to avoid new issues by using overprints indicating the type of mail (local, domestic letter, postcard, parcel, etc.) for which the stamps were valid (Scott Nos. 801-815), but this did not work in practice, and finally the *adópengő* (Tax pengő) was invented, the rate of which in relation to the original currency was published daily (Scott Nos. 775-788).

At the end of World War II Hungary was occupied by Soviet troops and, step by step, the Communist Party, backed by the occupying forces, took over the entire government, and robbed the people of their hard-won freedom of conscience, speech, press, and religion.

The communist government realized the immense propaganda value of postage stamps, and used this medium of mass communication to a very great extent. Russian personalities, events, and communist features appeared more and more frequently in the designs, and the Hungarian motifs were pushed into the background, especially from 1949 to 1953.

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## COUNTERFEIT 1871 'LITHOGRAPHED' STAMPS MADE FROM STAMPED ENVELOPES

by **Judy Kennett, Emmerich Vamos & Csaba L. Kohalmi**

While discussing the differences between the 1871 lithographed and engraved stamps in the previous issue of **The News**, I alluded to typographed examples cut and perforated from postal stationery envelopes masquerading as lithographed stamps. As we know, the design of the indicia printed on the 1871 series of postal stationery envelopes was the same design as that used for the 1871 lithographed stamps. (Without going into great detail, the envelopes were trial printed using lithography in limited quantities. These are great rarities. The envelopes actually sold in the post offices were produced using the less expensive, typographic printing method.)

One of the favorite and easiest methods of producing the high-priced, genuine-looking 'lithographed' stamps was to cut off and perforate the indicia from the postal stationery items that had the same design as the postage stamp. Due to the scarcity of Hungary's lithographed issue (Scott Nos 1-6), forgers were attracted to using the relatively inexpensive postal cards and stamped envelopes and transforming the indicia into more valuable 'lithographed' stamps.

The colors of the 2kr (yellow) postal card (Simády No. 4/5) and the 3kr (green) and 10kr (blue) envelopes (Simády Nos. 15 and 17) are similar (but not identical) to the colors the stamps with the same denomination. Forgers exploited this resemblance by 'perforating' the indicia from the cards and the envelopes and passing off the products as 'lithographed' stamps. In the case of 2kr postal card, the paper stock was thicker than that of the issued stamps, so the paper had to be thinned before the 'stamp' was ready to fool the inexperienced collector. It was much easier to fake the 3kr and 10kr 'lithographed' stamps. Unused 3kr and 10kr envelopes were easy to obtain (they are plentiful even today); and the paper thickness was about the same as what was used to print the real stamps. All that was needed was to have a smart tool to add the perforations along the sides.

The higher the catalog value of a stamp is, the more appealing it becomes to forgers. Since the green 2kr litho is the most expensive regularly issued (non-error) Hungarian stamp, it represented a great opportunity for Messrs Fournier, Sperati, Thuin, and others. The 3kr lithographed stamp (Scott No. 2), the 3kr engraved (Scott No. 8) and the 3kr stamped envelopes were printed in three different shades of green, each shade being a characteristic of the printing process. (This also applies to the 10kr values, Scott Nos. 4 and 10.) The differences in the green colors of No. 2 and No. 8 are easy to distinguish IF both stamps are side by side. But, because of the high cost of acquiring a genuine No. 2, it is missing from most collections while a copy of No. 8 is usually present. On the other hand, it is important to note that if a green 3kr stamps exhibits a different shade than a No. 8, this is not a guarantee that it is a genuine No. 2. Caveat emptor: expertising is highly recommended.

(Of course, the counterfeit 'lithos' do not have the characteristic flaws in the printing stone that identify types and sheets positions on genuine copies; but most collectors wanting to fill a single space in their albums would not be searching for these distinguishing marks.)

With a bit of electronic cooperation between Judy Kennett and Emmerich Vamos, we can now present pictorial evidence on how these forgeries were made from the envelopes.



While the blurry quality of the illustrations leaves a lot to be desired, the pictures do show how the forgers perpetrated their deeds using a perforating ‘punch.’ We’re assuming the perforations on the left side of each envelope were done for practice. The 3kr envelope on the left received an off-center punch, while the perforations of the 10kr envelope on the right were on target. Since most original copies of the first issue were crudely perforated and are off-center, the forger wisely attempted to produce a similar off-center copy. The gauge definitely does not resemble the 1 mm large hole, 9 1/4 x 9 1/2 harrow perforations found on the original lithographed stamps, but it’s probably good enough to fool a novice collector.

According to Judy Kennett, the two envelopes were pasted to a page with French headings and could not be removed without damage. (The text reads *Hongrie. Enveloppes originales ayant servi à produire le 3 et 10 kreutzer lithographiés. / Hungary. Envelopes used to produce the /fake/ 3 and 10 kreutzer lithographed stamps.*) The above illustrations were electronically cropped from the scan of the entire album page. Her source suggested that the page probably came from a folio made from the material found in Fournier’s studio in Geneva after his death. It is thought that a group of philatelists by the name of the Gentlemen of the Philatelic Association of Geneva, used this material to create folios of Fournier’s forgeries and fakes in order to demonstrate his work to collectors, no doubt to serve as a warning of his skills. The folios were arranged in country order; and pages devoted to a single country occasionally turn up in auctions.



## HUNGARIAN COAT-OF-ARMS ON STAMPS

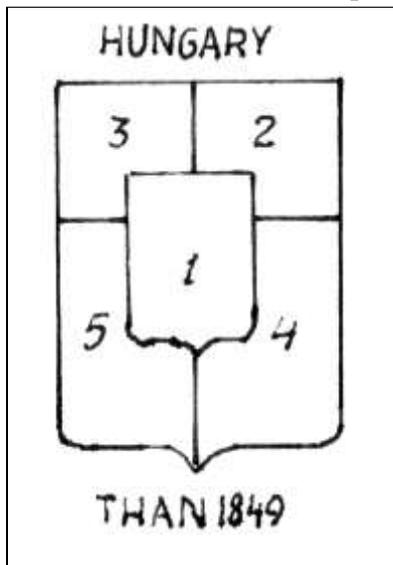
*by* Dr. Leslie S. Ettore

The newest issue (Vol. 34, No. 4) of **The News of Hungarian Philately** republished the article of Dr. Sólyom-Fekete on *Hungarian Stamps and History*. The two figures of this article showed the stamp design of Mór Than from 1849 and that of the 1871 lithographed issue. Both included the greater coat-of-arms of Hungary. In Than’s design, it was the main subject while on the 1871 issue, it was used together with the portrait of Francis Joseph, King of Hungary. I do not know whether anybody has investigated closely the two coat-of-arms on each stamp; if so, one would have realized that the two are different. The coat-of-arms of Transylvania are different also within the designs. It is worthwhile to investigate the differences.

Let us start with the symbol of the **Kingdom of Hungary**. Since the early Middle Ages, the greater coat-of-arms of Hungary showed the symbol of Hungary proper (the eight red-and-white stripes and the double cross standing on three green hills), along the symbols of associated countries and, sometimes, also the symbol of the royal family. The way they were displayed was different in various periods. Usually, there was a center shield surrounded by smaller shields with the Holy Crown over the main shield. For example, in the design shown on the great seal that King Matthias I (1458-1490) used in the later part of his reign, the main shield had two fields: the eight stripes referring to Hungary proper and the lion of Bohemia (because Matthias was by then also King of Bohemia); a small shield in the middle of the main shield depicted the symbol of the Hunyadi family, a black raven holding a ring. The main shield was then surrounded by smaller shields showing the symbols of the associated countries. In later designs, the symbols of the associated countries were combined into one single shield with multiple fields; and the coat-of-arms of Hungary proper was a center shield. The number of “associated countries” varied, sometimes the list also including areas

which were under the Hungarian king only centuries ago. For example, the coat-of-arms shown on the title page of a famous edict by Queen Maria Theresia (1740-1780) dated 1777 has nine fields containing the symbols of Croatia, Dalmatia, Slavonia, Galicia, Lodomeria, Bosnia, Rama, Cumania and Bulgaria. Cumania and Bulgaria, obviously, were not associated countries at the time.

Transylvania had been a separate principality since 1541; and thus, its symbol was not included in Hungary's greater coat-of-arms. However, the laws of 1848 declared the union of Hungary proper and Transylvania; and, therefore, the symbols were incorporated into a unified coat-of-arms for the Kingdom of Hungary. Than also accomplished this in his design, but he decided to be realistic and included only the associated countries that were still part of the Kingdom of Hungary. Thus, his design (see the illustration below) showed the symbols of Hungary proper (#1), Croatia (#2: red and white checkerboard), Transylvania (#3), Dalmatia (#4: three lion's heads) and Slavonia (#5: a stone marten between two white stripes - symbolizing the rivers Drava and Sava - and a golden star).

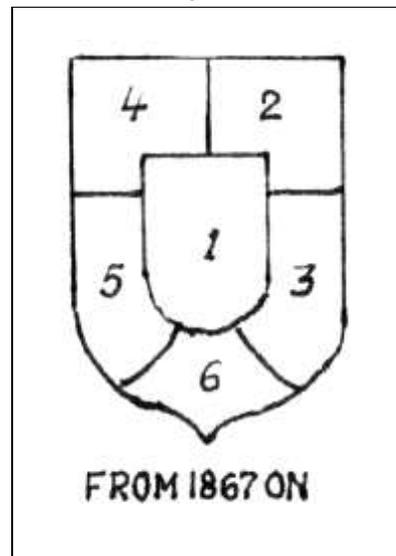


**Left:** Coat-of-Arms of Hungary  
Design by Than from 1849.

**Right:** Different Arrangement of  
the Symbols of the Associated  
States in the Coat-of-Arms of  
Hungary following the Com-  
promise of 1867.

**Key:**

- 1 = Hungary Proper
- 2 = Croatia
- 3 = Transylvania
- 4 = Dalmatia
- 5 = Slavonia
- 6 = Fiume



After the Compromise of 1867, essentially the same layout was accepted, except that the sequence of the associated countries differed. From then on, the symbols of Croatia and Dalmatia occupied the top row and those of Transylvania and Slavonia the lower two fields. This arrangement can be seen in the design of the greater coat-of-arms on the 1871 stamp. Later, the symbol of the city of Fiume on the Adriatic Coast (today: Rijeka in Croatia) was added as a separate field at the bottom of the main shield. This combined coat of-arms can be seen on the newspaper stamps of 1900-1913 (MBK 87/Scott P6), and it is indicated in the illustration above. Finally, just a couple of years before the First World War when Bosnia-Herzegovina was annexed by the Monarchy (up to then it was only occupied), the crest of Bosnia (an arm growing out of clouds, and holding a sword) was added. This was done by halving the field of Fiume. The right-side field now contained the symbol of Fiume (the double-headed eagle standing on rocks and holding a vessel in its claws from which water is flowing. "Fiume" in Italian means "river" and refers to a small river in the city), while the left half of the field included the symbol for Bosnia. This enlarged coat-of-arms, however, was used very rarely and has no philatelic connections.

In Than's design Hungary's coat-of-arms is surrounded on both sides by sheaves of wheat. In the final design used after 1867, the arms are flanked by a branch of an oak tree on one side and by a branch of an olive tree on the other. In a different representation, sometimes two floating angels are holding the coat-of-arms on either side.

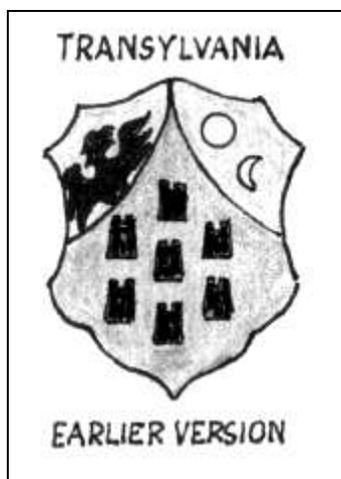
During the 1948-49 Freedom Fight, there was no time to consider the design of the official coat-of-arms. After the dethronement of the Habsburg dynasty in April 1849, the so-called Kossuth-crest was used, which showed the coat-of-arms of Hungary proper without a crown. After 1867, this was replaced by the final design of the greater coat-of-arms discussed above.

I would also like to discuss the coat-of-arms of **Transylvania** briefly. The country was inhabited by three "nations": the Hungarians, the *Székelys*, and the Germans (Saxons) who settled there in the

12th-13th century. (The Latin word *natio* is usually translated as “nation” although its meaning is different; “natio” denotes only those people who are politically and legally free. Each of the three “natio” of Transylvania had its own privileges and its own organizations. The Romanians living in Transylvania were not considered as a “natio”: they were serfs.)

Each nation had its own symbol. That of the Hungarians was a black eagle with extended wings. The Saxons’ symbol showed seven castle towers (hence the German name of Transylvania: *Siebenbürgen*). The original symbol of the *Székelys* was an armored arm holding a sword on which a bear’s head and a heart were strung. This was changed in the 15th century to the sun and the moon by the Hungarian King Sigismund. The combination of the three symbols as a single coat-of-arms appeared on coins of the princes of Transylvania in the late 16th–17th century, usually in the form shown in the illustration below. In 1765 Queen Maria Theresia elevated Transylvania to a Grand Principality, and designated a new form of the country’s coat-of-arms in her diploma (also illustrated below). The latter version was also used in 1867 as a part of the greater coat-of-arms of Hungary. However, it is interesting that Than used the old form in his 1849 design.

This is the “story behind the stamps” of the Hungarian greater coat-of-arms as shown on Hungarian stamps until the First World War. After 1918 and the loss of 2/3-rds of the territory of the



Kingdom of Hungary, the smaller coat-of-arms became the official symbol of the country (see MBK 608/Scott 528 and 611-7/Scott B97 and revenue stamp 31), although the greater coat-of-arms was also used frequently. This was then replaced in 1946 by the Kossuth-shield (the smaller coat-of-arms without the crown) (MBK 1081/Scott CB2), and then in 1949 by a Soviet-style, heraldically absurd, design (MBK 1106-8/Scott 856-8). In 1956 the Kossuth-shield was reinstated for a brief period but then replaced again in 1957 by a non-descriptive crest, only slightly better than the 1949 design (MBK 1565-6/Scott 1171-2). Finally, in 1990 the original coat-of-arms, with the Holy Crown over it, was reinstated (MBK 4051/Scott 3254).

#### Coat-of-Arms of Transylvania.

Both versions show the symbols of the Hungarian, the *Székely*, and the Saxon ‘Nations’ of Transylvania. The arrangement on the left was used by Mór Than in the 1849 stamp design. The arrangement on the right became the accepted symbol for the greater Hungarian coat-of-arms in 1867.

**Note:** The stamps are identified by MBK numbers from the *Magyar Posta és Illetékbélyeg Katalógus / Catalogue of Hungarian Postal and Revenue Stamps* published annually by Philatelia Hungarica.

\*

## THE KRAJCÁR TAX NOTICE FORMS

by Paul de Leeuw van Weenen

In the April-June 2000 Issue of **The News of Hungarian Philately**, Emmerich Vamos publicized an attempt to review all the available information about the *Intés* and *Adóintés* cards from the 19th century<sup>1</sup>. As far as we know this was the first such attempt in English in the last century.

The **Stamps of Hungary** (Number 145 from June 2001) published a slightly different version of the same article<sup>2</sup>. In the September issue of **Stamps of Hungary**, Mervyn Benford<sup>3</sup> commented on the article by Emmerich Vamos. As far as I know, this was the only reaction until today.

<sup>1</sup> Emmerich Vamos, *Open Questions Concerning the Early Krajcár-denominated Tax Notice Forms*, **The News of Hungarian Philately** Vol. 31 / 2, Apr-Jun 2000, pages 3-14.

Emmerich Vamos' intention was to spark interest amongst collectors in the tax notice forms. He posed some questions and asked to his fellow collectors of postal stationery to scrutinize, critique and expand to his discussion. I will follow the format of his questions and try to answer them.

#### Year of Issue:

The **Monográfiája**<sup>4</sup> states on page 634 that the Directive Number 2662 introduced the tax notice forms per January 1, 1884. However, on page 657 in Figure 564 is a picture of a tax notice form with a handwritten 1881. So, on page 656, the author gives the issue date of 1881 for this card. In my opinion, this is incorrect. As Mr. Vamos suggested, the '1' in the year '81' of the cancel is actually a worn-out '4.' The handwritten '1881' reflects the year of the non-paid tax. I have an example (Intés D.minta) dated April 17, 1884 with a handwritten year '1879.'

In one of the handbooks by Kropf<sup>5</sup> we can read some of the text of Directive 2662 / 1884: "In places with postmen confirmed by oath, municipalities, municipal and royal tax offices will deliver tax and duty summons by postmen in the future..... The delivery of the summons is to be written in a special book after the delivery..... When the addressee has moved out, the tax or duty notice form is not to send on, but to returned to the tax office. Budapest, January 30, 1884." (This is my translation of part of the German text.) In my collection, no tax forms are addressed or cancelled before 1884.

My conclusion is that the tax notice forms are issued at the end of January 1884.

#### Paper and Watermark:

I have not seen a watermarked example of the Simády 1h<sup>6</sup>, but I do have Simády 1c (Adóintés) with watermark VII in all four positions (all unused). As a matter of fact, I have Simády 1c (Adóintés) with watermark only and none without. The watermark is hard to see and you need a bright light to see it. Are there any copies of 1c (Adóintés) without watermark?

The H card with watermark that Mervyn Benford described in his article misses the lower part with the letter H. As he describes the card, it is in fact the C card with Adóintés. At the end of this article I will illustrate one of my C cards with watermark. It is the same card text as illustrated in the Benford article. You can see on the message side there is no 'C minta.' Maybe this is what Simády refers to in his footnote about no printing?

#### The Imprint and Text Variations on the Front Side of the Forms:

First, we have to discuss what the front side is. Is it the side with the notice about the level of the tax or duty, or is it the side with the address and the stamp imprint on the middle part of the triple card? In my opinion as a postal stationery collector, the front side is the side with the stamp imprint; in the case of triple cards, the stamp imprint is on the middle part of the card.

A few years ago I was able to buy a large amount of all kinds of Hungarian postal stationery from the USA (thank you, Bob!) and from Germany. Therefore, I have quite a lot of the tax notice forms. Together with the illustrations of the cards as publicized in the aforementioned three articles and with help from a fellow collector in Austria, I managed to compile a new list with all the differences that I could find.

First, we have to distinguish between 'tax' and 'duty' cards. I suggest translating 'Intés' as 'Duty notice' and 'Adóintés' as 'Tax notice.' 'Intés' is for illeték = duty, revenue (German: Gebühren, Dutch: leges) and adó = tax (German: Steuer, Dutch: belasting). Since there is an 'Intés' and an 'Adóintés' card with the letter C, we have to list them separately from each other.

#### ADÓINTÉS & INTÉS 1884-1899

Letter	stamp imprints	stamp imprints on same side
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<sup>2</sup> Emmerich Vamos, *The First Krajcár Tax Notice Forms, Stamps of Hungary*, 145, June 2001, pages 18-25.

<sup>3</sup> Mervyn Benford, *Hungarian Postal Stationery Tax Cards, Stamps of Hungary*, 146, September 2001, pages 14-25.

<sup>4</sup> *A Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája*, Vol. III, Budapest 1968, pages 634 + 656-658.

<sup>5</sup> H.Kropf, *Die Postwertzeichen der Oesterr.-ungar. Monarchie*, Verlag des Deutschen Vereines für Briefmarkenkunde in Prag, 1902, page 406.

<sup>6</sup> Dr.Simády Béla, *A Magyar Díjjegyes Postai Nyomatványok Katalógusa 1867-1982*, Budapest 1983, page 138.

or text left under on front side	on opposite sides							
	Heading Grotesque 188.. letter on frontside grotesque 1884	Heading Ornate 188.. letter on frontside antiqua 1884	Heading Antiqua 188.. letter on frontside antiqua 1884?	Heading Ornate 188.. letter on frontside grotesque 1884?	Heading Grotesque 188.. letter on frontside grotesque 1886	Heading Ornate 18.. letter on frontside grotesque 1890?	Heading Antiqua 18.. letter on frontside antiqua 1890?	Heading Grotesque 18.. letter on frontside grotesque 1890?
<b>ADÓINTÉS:</b>								
A.		*S1a1		*S1a2		*S1a4		
A.minta.				*S1a3				
B.		*S1b1				S1b2?		
C.minta.	*S1c1 WM							
F.minta.	S1f1				*S1f2			
F.					S1f3?			
G.minta.	*S1g1							
G.					*S1g2			
H.minta.	*S1h1				*S1h2			*S1h3
H.minta.	S1h1 WM							
J.minta.	*S1i1				*S1i2			*S1i3
K.minta.	*S1j1				*S1j2			S1j3?
Italian: Adóintés-Foglio d'ammonizione								
A.			S2a1				S2a2?	
Croatian: Porezna opomena								
A.			*S3a1				S3a2?	
<b>INTÉS:</b>								
C.		*S1c2		*S1c3		*S1c4		
D.		*S1d1		*S1d2		S1d3?		
E.		*S1e1				S1e2?		
Italian: Intés-Foglio d'ammonizione								
C.			*S2b1				S2b2?	
Croatian: Opomena								
C.		*S3b1				S3b2?		

S1c1 always with watermark and no letter in the lower left corner on the message side

\* before the number indicates the item has been seen by me or my correspondents

In the diagram on page 13, I identified the cards by the catalog numbers given by Simády followed by a lower case letter and number to distinguish the different cards. When we have a complete oversight we can renumber the cards in a more logical or chronological order.

In the lower left corner on the front side of the cards, there is a capital letter or capital letter followed by the word 'minta'. These letters are printed using two different typesetting: antiqua (with serifs) and grotesque (without serifs). The diagram shows what is on the card.

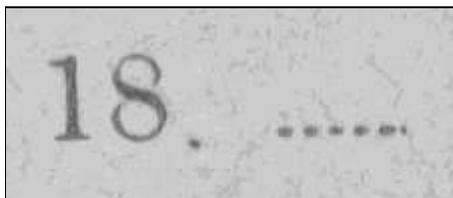


Figure 1. Removed Second '8' from the Date '188...'

In the early years, the preprinted date '188..' was used, but after 1889, the second '8' in '188..' was scratched out from the plates. We can ascertain that because there is a space between the remaining '8' in '18,' and the dots that used to be behind the disappeared second 8 (see Figure 1). So, the cards with preprinted '18\_...' are from 1890 or later. From the table on page 637 of the **Monográfiája Vol. III**, we see that in 1890 and 1891 12,006 and 22,608 sheets each, respectively, for the 12 cards were produced. Also, in later years many more thousands of these forms were printed.

From the Kropf handbook and from the catalogues by Moens<sup>7</sup>, Ascher<sup>8</sup> and Senf<sup>9</sup> I took the information about cards that should exist. I marked them with a question mark since I do not know yet what type of character is on the front side.

In my diagram, I also indicated the existence of the cards (when I saw them myself) with an asterisk before the catalogue number. Therefore, I like to hear from fellow collectors about the cards with question marks or to see a photocopy of both sides of cards without an asterisk. (My address is Paul de Leeuw van Weenen, Julianalaan 39, 3761 DB Soest, NL Netherlands, E-Mail: paul@soestdijk.nl.com).

To make the use of the diagram easier, I will illustrate below what I call *Antiqua*, *Grotesque* and *Ornate* headings (see Figures 2).



Figure 2. Antiqua, Grotesque, and Ornate Typesettings fro the Heading 'Adóintés/Tax Notice.'

I made a guess about the year of issue for the cards in the top line of the diagram using the cards in my possession (some are complete used and returned triple cards and some are lower parts retained as receipts):

**Adóintés:**

- S1a1 1884 November 23 + 1886 June 9
- S1a2 1887 June 26 + 1887 September 19 + 1887 November 17 + 1887 November 19 + 1887 December 5 + 1888 July 9
- S1a3 1884 December 15
- S1f2 1889 March 11 + 1892 June 12
- S1g1 1884 December 4
- S1g2 1886 June 23
- S1h1 1885 February 6 + 1885 February 17
- S1i2 1889 October 28
- S1j1 1887 September 28
- S3a1 1901 April 27

**Intés:**

- S1c2 1885 June 23
- S1c3 1889 September 21
- S1c4 1897 December 12

7 J.-B. Moens, *Catalogue Prix-Courant de Timbres-Poste, Télégraphes, Enveloppes et Bandes, Cartes, Mandats,*

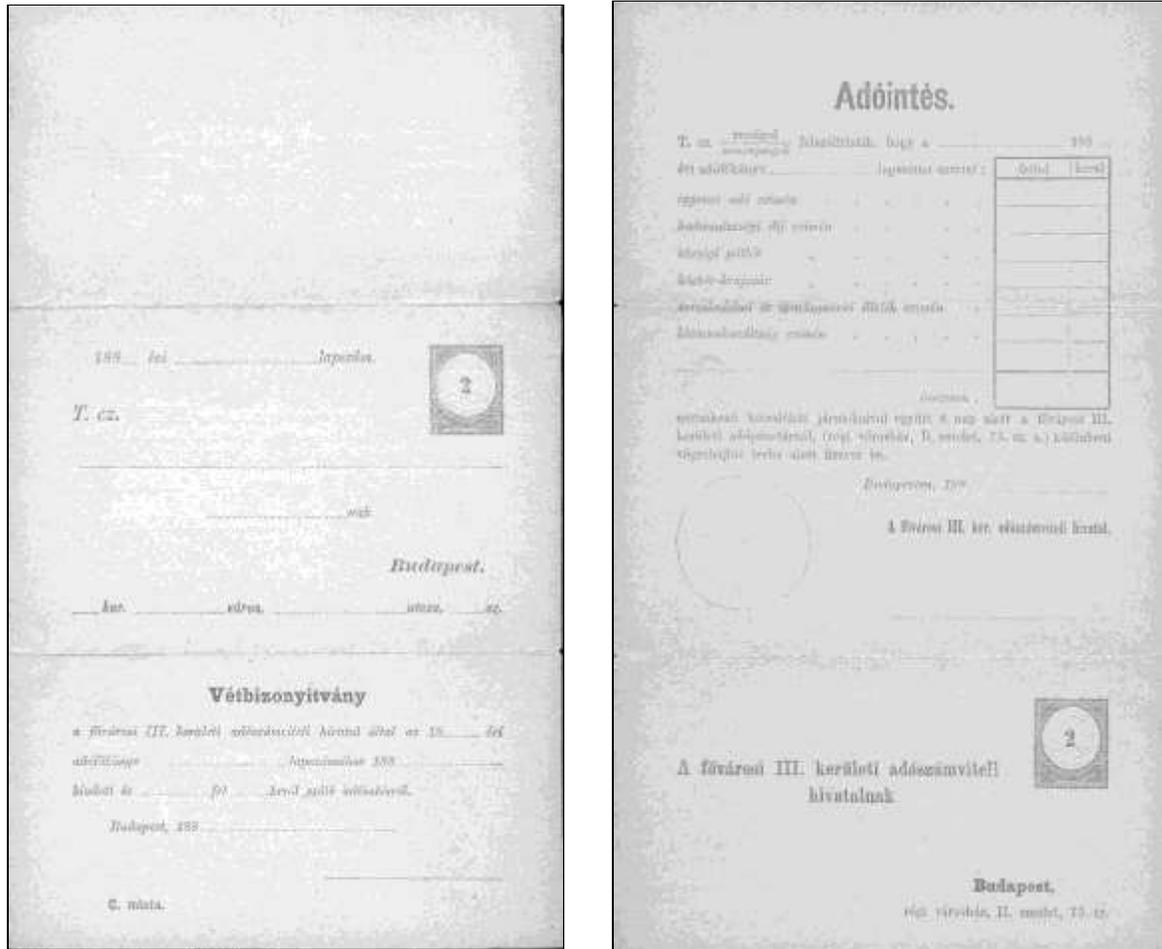
*Timbres Fiscaux Mobiles*, etc., 2e Partie, Bruxelles 1893, page 257.

8 *Grosser Ganzsachen-Katalog 1928*, Teil IX, Borna 1928, pages 1209-1210.

9 *Gebrüder Senf's illustrierter Postwertzeichen-Katalog 1907*, II. Teil Ganzsachen, Leipzig 1907, page 439

S1d1 1884 May 10 + 1884 May 28 + 1884 April 17 + 1884 August 22 + 1884 October 1 + 1884 October 3 + 1884 November 12 + 1885 April 23.  
 S1d2 1885 May 5 + 1885 May 15 + 1885 May 16 + 1885 May 20 + 1885 December 18  
 S3b2 1901 May 11

You can see that S1g1, the form with the stamp imprints on opposite sides is used in 1884, so the year of issue 1886 stated in Michel<sup>10</sup> for the card DPB 8 is not correct, but should be 1884.



The tax notice illustrated on the left shows the front side of the form. The illustration on the right shows the message side. In this case, the stamp imprint for tax notice (the middle third of the front side) and the receipt portion (the lower third) are on opposite sides.

**Conclusion:**

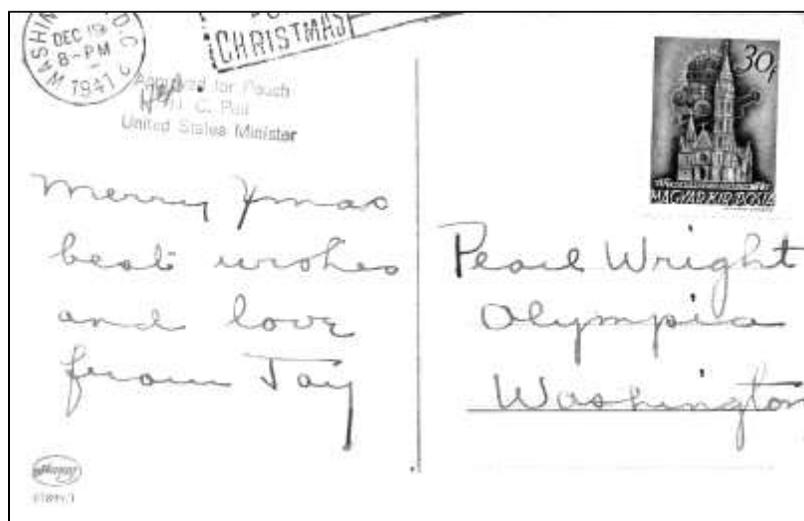
I hope that this article will get reactions on the diagram. Do you have items not included or do you have items from the question mark category? Please let me know and in a future magazine I hope to show an improved table.

\*

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BUDAPEST, DECEMBER 1941**

by Csaba L. Kohalmi

<sup>10</sup> Michel Ganssachen-Katalog Europa Ost 2001/02, München 2001, page 842.



The postcard illustrated on the left was sent by diplomatic pouch from Budapest in December 1941. The card had an initialed (HPC), rubberstamped authorization *Approved for Pouch / H. C. Pell / United States Minister*. It received a machine cancel on arrival at Washington, D.C., December 19, 1941. The cancel almost missed the card. Luckily, the date portion remained clearly visible.

The 30f Kassa Cathedral stamp was the correct franking for a foreign postcard. The brief greetings

for Pearl Wright in Olympia, Washington, stated, 'Merry Xmas best wishes and love from Jay.' Perhaps it was from an embassy staff member or a scarce American visitor to wartime Budapest.

The significance of the date is that Hungary, under pressure from Nazi Germany, declared war on the United States (and Great Britain) on December 12, 1941. Assuming that diplomatic pouches received priority handling and most likely were sent by air transportation back to Washington, D.C., this card may have left Budapest at the same time the American Embassy was being shut down because of the declaration of war.

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## THE EDITOR'S NOTES

by Csaba L. Kohalmi



The new mammoth complex of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum opened on December 15, 2003 located near the Dulles International Airport in Virginia. The facility is housed in the single largest aviation hangar ever built and bears the name The Steven F. Udvar-Házy Center. Steven Udvar-Házy came to the United States as a 12-year in 1958, his family having fled from Hungary following the crushing of the 1956 Hungarian

Freedom Fight. He is an American success story who made a fortune from the International Lease Finance Corporation, the world's leading lessor of commercial aircraft. Mr. Udvar-Házy gave back to America a portion of his wealth that he earned from the aviation business by donating \$65 million to display the aircraft and spacecraft that are too big and too numerous for the already overcrowded Air and Space Museum on the Mall in Washington, D.C. The special postal cancellation depicting the silhouettes of the SR-71 spy airplane and the space shuttle illustrated here was used at the Udvar-Házy Station, Chantilly, VA on the opening day.

Dr. Dezső Soóky wrote a full-page review of the July-September 2003 issue of our newsletter in the December 2003 issue of **Bélyegvilág**. The reviewer summarized three of the articles written by authors

Lapsz(e)mle

**Magyar szerzők tollából**  
The News of Hungarian Philately  
2003. III. negyedév

Az Egyesült Államok-beli Magyar Filatéliai Társaság folyóiratának e számából 3 hazai és 1 amerikai szerzőt idézünk.

from Hungary (Gábor Voloncs, Dezső Flasch, and László Filep) as well as the article written by David Miles about the non-crashed nature of the mail from the 1931 *Justice for Hungary* flight.

The same issue of **Bélyegvilág** also highlighted the collecting resume of István Lipták, the paramount postal historian of Békés county. In the interview, Mr. Lipták proudly listed **The News of Hungarian Philately** as one of the publications that published a series of articles on his research material about the development of the postal system in Békés country and in southeastern Hungary.

The 2003/2-3 edition of **Okmánybélyeg**, the publication of the revenue stamp collectors unit of Mabéosz, re-published a report from another Hungarian newspaper detailing the recent use of counterfeit revenue stamps in Hungary. Evidently, the current Hungarian revenues in the face value range of HUF 200 to 5,000, were counterfeited using offset printing on authentic security paper stock that was reported stolen in 1995. (The originals are recess engraved printed.) The source of the fakes was traced by police to a lawyer's office in Budapest, from where the counterfeits were distributed. The fakes were produced in Serbia. The stamps were used mostly in Transdanubia, starting as early as 2000. The reported loss to the Hungarian state treasury was placed in the many tens of millions of forints range (US\$100,000-200,000).

An XF mint, hinged copy of the famous inverted Madonna stamp, discovered in January of 1925, was sold by H. R. Harmer last November. The stamp, from the Sellinger Collection of Inverted Centers of the World, is priced at \$11,000 by Scott's and sold for \$7,000 plus commission.

King Károly II, the last King of Hungary (and Emperor of Austria), is on the road to beatification and sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. According to a report published in the Hungarian Catholic monthly, **Új Ember**, a cloistered Brazilian nun, who prayed for the king's intercession, was miraculously cured of a deadly disease. George Hapsburg, the king's grandson, and other relatives attended a session with Pope John Paul II during which the documentation of this miracle was provided to the Vatican.

The Hungarian Post announced two rate increases for 2004. The first one will take effect in March and will be approximately 9% across the board for all postage tariffs. The second increase of 8% will occur in October. This represents an annualized increase of 10.5%, roughly twice the country's current inflation rate. Hungary's joining of the European Union and bringing the postal rates in line with EU rates was given as the rationale for the radical increases. The Hungarian Post will also phase out its presence from settlements fewer than 2,000 inhabitants. The postal services for such villages will be privatized or turned over to the local governing councils, similar to 'contract' post offices operating in the United States. As a result about 4,000 postal employees will lose their jobs on top of the 3,900 part time employees who are to be downsized this year. Last year, the Post closed 250 post offices in settlements numbering under 600 souls.

The Hungarian forint currency is valued at HUF 212 to the US dollar. The forint happens to be the weakest currency in the countries seeking EU membership, but it is holding its value because of the weakness of the US dollar. The dollar's lack of strength is reflected in its loss of value with respect to the euro. At the time of its introduction a few years ago, the euro was worth 89 US cents; now it's trading at \$1.25, an increase of over 40%.

The Hungarian Democratic Party of Romania submitted a plan for autonomy for the Székely/Magyar region of Transylvania. The prospect of success appeared good for achieving self-government for the long-suppressed minority ethnic group because of Romania's aspirations to join the European Union in this decade. Many EU countries have autonomous regions (Aland in Finland, for example) as a means of safeguarding the identities for their ethnic minorities. However, entrenched Romanian opposition needs to be overcome first.

The US Air Force has ceased operations from the NATO base in Taszár, Hungary. The former secret Soviet airfield became a forward base of operations for the American involvement in Bosnia in the mid-1990s. Later, it supported surveillance missions during the Kosovo campaign.

**Last but not least, the readers will notice that this issue is a wee bit thinner than the ones in the past. I was able to scrape together material for only 20 pages. PLEASE HELP!**

**Send in your manuscripts, photocopies, questions, anything and everything related to Hungarian philately. My special editorial THANK YOU to all who help make this journal possible, especially the anonymous contributors who regularly send me letters, articles, and clippings and who shall not be anonymous any more: thanks, Tom Phillips and Bob Jensen!**

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## **MAGYAR POSTA MANHOLE COVERS ON VÁCI UTCA**

*by Paul Richter*



I have just returned from a visit to Budapest after a 31-year hiatus and have a few comments and questions. I found that to look at stamps, you do not go to the Postal Museum, which, by the way, is a very interesting visit, but go to the Stamp Museum. At the latter, I finally had some answers to old questions and was made to feel at home. I asked to see pictures of busts of all the wonderful artists whose stamp designs so many others and I have admired over the years – but, no luck. I wonder if some suggestion to commemorate them might be in order.

While ambling along Váci utca, I was much impressed by the very ornate manhole

covers stating *Magyar Posta*. What is the explanation of this ‘mystery’?

*//I am assuming that the manhole covers conceal the access holes for underground cables owned and serviced by the Hungarian Post. When telegraph service was introduced in Pest in the 1850s, the lines were already placed under ground. As we know, the Hungarian Post assumed operation of the Magyar Távirada telegraph service in 1883; and, with the advent of the telephone, also operated this utility well into the 1990s. With the fall of communism, phone service has been privatized; but, I think, the telegraph is still operated by the post. So, it is fitting that the manholes on downtown Budapest’s most fashionable pedestrian mall be covered with such nicely decorated utilitarian plates. After all, Rome’s manhole covers bear the historical inscription, SPQR = Senatus Populusque Romani. Ed./*

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### **2003 NEW ISSUES**

Issued 16 September 2003

*Road to the European Union*

Face value: Stamps HUF 115. Size: 26 x 33mm.

Designer: Gyula Molnár. The design depicts a stylized clock made up of stars symbolizing Hungary’s progress toward becoming a full member of the European Union.

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd.

### *Healthy Nutrition*

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

Designer: Zsolt Tóth Zsóka. The design endorses fruits and vegetables as a significant part of the daily diet promoted by the Healthy Nation campaign.

*The News of Hungarian Philately*

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd.

*European Car-free Day*

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

Designer: Ágnes Rozmann. The graphical composition of the stamp promotes walking and bicycle riding as alternatives to travel by automobile.

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd.

Issued 23 September 2003

*100th Anniversary of the Birth of Rezső Soó*

Face value: HUF 44. Size: 40 x 30mm.

Designer: Kálmán Székely. Woodland flowers grace the design of this stamp issued in honor of the Hungarian botanist, who was awarded the Kossuth prize twice.

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd.

Issued 30 September 2003

*The Ten Bamboo Studio Art of Books Festival (joint issue with the People's Republic of China)*

Face value: two stamps @ HUF 44. Size:

Designers: Lu Jingren, András Andor, Szilvia Lázár, and Tibor Raszler. The designs depict pages from the **Illuminated Chronicle** (Hungarian) and the **Zhou Rites** (Chinese).

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. A total of 500,000 set were printed in sheets of 30.

Issued 18 October 2003

*Road to the European Union, Part II*

Face value: Stamps HUF 130. Size: 26 x 33mm.

Designer: Gyula Molnár. The design depicts a stylized clock made up of stars symbolizing Hungary's progress toward becoming a full member of the European Union.

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd.

*200th Anniversary of the Birth of Ferenc Deák*

Face value: HUF 500. Souvenir sheet size: 99 x 68mm, stamp is sheet: 35 x 50mm.

Designer: Károly Vagyóczky. The stamp depicts a portrait of the Hungarian statesman. The sheet margins show contemporary buildings from Budapest and the banner of the *Pest Diary* newspaper.

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 100,000 numbered sheets..

Issued 31 October 2003

*Christmas 2003*

Face value: HUF 35, 44. Size: 26 x 33mm.

Designer: Dóra Keresztes. The designs depict deer with bells on the antlers, house, trees, star (HUF 35) and angels with candles, trees and houses (HUF 44).

Technical details: Printed in offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in quantities required by seasonal postal demand.

Issued 7 November 2003

*Informatika*

Face value: HUF 500. Size: (data not available)

Designer: András Andor. The design depicts hands typing on a computer keyboard along with the World Science Forum emblem on a computer monitor, web addresses, detail from a computer motherboard and other symbols of the computer age.

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 100,000 copies.

Commemorative Postal Cards

*European Year of the Handicapped*

Issued 15 October 2003  
Designer: Attila Elekes.

Face value: HUF 32. Sold for HUF 70.  
10,000 copies were printed by the Banknote Printers, Ltd.

*World Federation of Old Boy Scouts*

Issued 22 October 2003.  
Designer: Zsolt Tóth Yoka.

Face value: HUF 32. Sold for HUF 70.  
10,000 copies were printed by the Banknote Printers, Ltd.

\*

**INVITATION: Mark your calendars for October 1-3, 2004.**

**SHP 2004 Annual Meeting at SESCAL 2004 – Los Angeles, California**

Make sure you will be at our important Annual Meeting on the West Coast! Collectors who are planning to exhibit or need assistance with putting their exhibits together please get in touch with Randy Frank or Bob Morgan. Remember the dates: October 1-3, 2004. See you there!

\*

**SECOND INFLATION ‘MYSTERY’ COVER**

*by Csaba L. Kohalmi*

On page 236 of the **The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946** book, author Bob Morgan presented a cover with a ‘mystery’ marking and franking. The Budapest local registered cover was franked with 884 million pengös’ worth of postage. Bob analysis of the postage rates showed that the cover was overfranked by 4 million P. While such overfranking was not an unusual occurrence during the ever-changing postal rates of the second inflation, the hand-written marking on the cover referring to the extra ‘4 million’ franking created a mystery.

Bob surmised that the script indicated ‘bev’ meaning ‘bevéve’ = accepted, taken, collected, which referred to the extra 4 millions followed by the postal clerk’s signature or initials. Bob was baffled by the extra stamp since it did not seem to pay for any known postal service.

I offered a different interpretation and theory to Bob, who then discussed this with other experts, both in the US and in Hungary. So far no other theories have surfaced. So, here goes...

In my opinion, the inscription is not ‘bev’ but ‘lev’ which is short for ‘levonva’ = subtracted, reduced. I am assuming that the postal clerk realized that the cover was overfranked. This could have been because the face value 4 million P ‘Ajánlás’ (Scott #F3) stamp was already affixed to the envelope by the sender at the time it was presented to the postal clerk at the Budapest 5 post office. The sender was the National Organization of Distributors of Denatured Alcohol, an organization that would be expected to send our mail regularly. It is conceivable that the organization’s office would have pre-stamped a quantity of envelopes or was intent on using up its supply of 4 million P stamps. For some unexplained reason, however, the clerk did not take this stamp into consideration or, for the sake of convenience in making up the required postage, simply ignored it.

It is also conceivable that the sender pointed out this discrepancy to the clerk, who then marked the cover to acknowledge the overfranking. Was the sender refunded the amount that the stamp was worth? If the sender was posting a number of such covers, then the amount of the refund could have been significant enough to warrant a refund. In the case of a single cover, it could have been the case, maybe not. There were 1 million pengő denomination banknotes in circulation, so 'change' could have been made. At any rate, the clerk felt that he/she made the proper accounting for the overfranking by writing the described annotation on the cover.



The illustration of the cover on the left is taken from page 236 of the aforementioned book published by the Collectors Club of Chicago in 2003. The basic rate for printed matter up to 20gm was 80 milp, registration was 800 milp. The postage was paid with single examples of the 100, 200, and 500 milpengő stamps plus four copies of the 20 million pengő issue for a total of 880 million pengős. The handwritten annotation 'lev - 4 mill ...' appears in the lower half of the envelope and is somewhat faint in the illustration. The initials of the postal clerk are undecipherable.

\*

**FOR SALE: NAGYSZEBEN** private local issue. I'm offering 20 mint LH values, exactly half of a complete set, to be sold as one lot. Four of the stamps have small faults.

Itemized listing: newspaper stamp; war relief: 10, 15, 40f; harvesters: 2, 4, 5, 6, 15, 25f; parliament: 75, 80f; Karl & Zita: 10, 20, 25, 40, 50f; postage due: 6, 10, 15f. All are genuine and expertised by Flasch and others.



My asking price is pro-rata of what I paid for a complete set at a recent Profila auction (HUF 140,000 + 15% comm.). I adjusted my asking price by a 15% reduction to reflect the premium I paid for completeness. In calculating the average cost per stamp, I also subtracted the premium for the 'sideways' overprint, which I am keeping. Thus, the average price per stamp comes to \$13.55 and the price of the lot is \$13.55 x 20 for a total of \$271. I will pay the cost of mailing the lot via certified mail to you.



The first check for \$271 gets the lot.

This is my best and firm price. Late checks will be promptly returned. If you are interested, I suggest a quick response. Send check to:

**Richard Stark, 18 College Drive, Stony Brook, NY 11790.**

**WANTED: Any and all Hungarian aerogrammes**, 1950 through 1984, mint or used, formula types (no imprinted indicium), official and private types. Please write or send priced to:

**Robert Jensen, 8 Heather Lane, Reading, PA 19601-1012.**

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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 looking for all kinds of Hungarian stamps, covers, and postal stationery to offer to prospective buyers. **Enhance your collection - Sell your surplus items!** For information on how to submit material as a seller or how to become a buyer, contact:

**H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092, tel: (770) 840-8766,  
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### FOR SALE: BOUND VOLUMES OF *THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY*

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6	16-18	1985-1987
7	19-21	1988-1990
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