

***THE NEWS OF
HUNGARIAN PHILATELY***

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5 pengő coin from 1943 showing the small Hungarian coat-of-arms supported by angels.



SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
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Established 1969

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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.

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This issue closed on 1 May 2004
The next issue will close on 1 August 2004
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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by **H. Alan Hoover**

The year is going by quickly (or slowly, depending on how old you are! My mother always said that time goes by faster the older you get!). My thoughts right now shift to our show schedules. As you recall, our show this year will take place on the West Coast, in the LA area on October 1-3, 2004. This is the first time that I can remember our annual meeting being held there. The venue this year is very close to the LAX airport. For those planning on attending, I want guide you to Delta and United airlines, which are running great sales on tickets right now. I got mine for \$169.00 round trip from Atlanta. Yes, I had to pay for them right away, but it was worth the savings. Check it out for yourself if you are planning on attending. For those who are undecided, how about firming up your plans on participating in our show by exhibiting or at least planning on attending? Make your commitment now – it will be here before you know it.

There is nothing new to report on our INDYPEX participation in 2005; I recall that dates chosen are 8-10 July 2005. There will only be 9 months' elapsed time between the 2004 and 2005 shows then, so our details will continue to appear in each issue to remind you of the timing. WASHINGTON 2006 has been quiet for inputs also, although I am certain that planning committees are keeping Randy Frank busy with the details. Future year plans will need to be addressed this year by the Board at our annual meeting. Perhaps you might suggest a favorite site where we should consider meeting in future years?

Our editor continued to do a great job in the last issue of extracting additional "Back to the Basics" ideas to help you, the basic collector. I have started some dialog with our Webmaster to include these articles on our website. Let the editor know what you would like to see. I for one would love to see more articles on the different types of watermarks and why there were so many varieties for some of the earlier issues.

Our annual renewal of memberships again has some stragglers who have not renewed their dues payments. This is the last issue you will obtain if you do not respond. A reminder will be inserted for those who are delinquent.

The Hungarian philatelic front remains quiet. Our editor continues to need new and stimulating material. */Amen! Ed./* Can you volunteer to submit some of your research or questions that might lead to an article? Drop Csaba a note or an email to become involved. */My postal and e-mail addresses can be found on the inside of the front cover. Ed./*

Guess that's all from here for now. As my friend Ray always said Keep Stampin'!



KUDOS AND WELCOME

Congratulations to the following SHP members for their achievements in exhibiting. At Aripex in Meza, AZ, **Donald E. Green** got the reserve grand and gold medal for *'Patent Medicine' Companies Subject to the Revenue Act of 1862*; **Robert B. Morgan** received a gold for *Hungary: The Hyperinflation 1945-1946*; and **Henry Hahn** won two vermeils with *Pneumatic Mail of Vienna and Prague* and *Czechoslovak Air Mail 1920-1951*. Mr. **Hahn's** second exhibit also received the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society award. At Colopex, **Alfred F. Kugel** got Gold for *The Philatelic History of Montenegro 1874-1922*; and, in the literature section, **Robert B. Morgan** received the grand award and a gold medal for the book **The Hyperinflation of 1945-1946**. At the Ameristamp Expo, **Alfred F. Kugel** received two vermeils and a silver for the single frame exhibits titled *The Italians at Castelrosso 1921-1943*, *The Italians at Saseno 1914-1943*, and *The Italians on Corfu, 1917-1943*, respectively. **Henry Hahn** received a gold at Springpex for the exhibit, *Issues of Austria and Hungary (1850-1918) Used in the Territories of Future Czechoslovakia*. **Alfred F. Kugel** also exhibited at the St. Louis Stamp Expo. He won the reserve grand award, a gold medal, the German Philatelic Society grand, and the Col. W. E. Davis award for *Germans in the Pacific* as well as a vermeil and the GPS silver for the one-frame exhibit *The Communist Revolution in Germany 1918-1922*.

Congratulations to **Csaba L. Kohalmi** for winning the Les Grof Literature Award for the article, *Semantics: 'Occupation' vs. 'Local Issues of 1918-21*, published in the December 2003 issue of the **Stamps of Hungary**, the journal of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. The award is presented annually and is based on a vote by the readers.

Welcome to our newest members: Mr. **Paul Simon Barb** of Paris, France; Mr. **John Fejszes** of Lansing, MI; Mr. **Gregory D. Gessell** of Mukilteo, WA; and Mr. **John W. Rauh** of Mesa, AZ.

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HISTORICAL HUNGARIAN COAT-OF-ARMS

by **Csaba L. Kohalmi**



The souvenir sheet issued in 1990 depicting the restored historical Hungarian national symbol also showed 18 different representations of the Hungarian crest throughout the centuries. In the past, I've had multiple requests for information about these symbols.

The Hungarian national symbol evolved to contain two main elements, the horizontal red and silver stripes of the kingdom's first dynasty, the House of Árpád (889-1301) and the double-barred apostolic cross alluding to the Christianization of Hungary by King St. Stephen (1000-1038). This is shown on the crest in position 6, probably dating from the 15th century. The cross was originally free standing as shown in position 2, but it later acquired the three green hills to support it.

Now going in a clockwise direction around the sheet, starting with the upper left corner, in position 1 we encounter a black bird against red background decorating a battle shield. This is taken from an illustration in the **Pictorial Chronicles** and is a 14th century rendering the mythical *turul* bird of Hungarian lore. Next, the double barred cross used by multiple monarchs and pretenders fol-

lowing the death of the last Árpád king. The crest in position 3 is a reproduction of the seal from the *Golden Bull* (Hungary's *Magna Carta*) issued King András II. The lions on the red stripes denote that he made a crusade to the Holy Land. Position 4 shows the red and silver stripes of the House of Árpád. Position 5 combines this element with the *fleur-de-lis* of the House of Anjou (1308-1386). This particular version belonged to King Louis the Great (1342-1382). Position 6 was discussed above. Position 7 shows the Hungarian symbols superimposed on the Hapsburg eagle and probably dates from the time of Maria Theresia (1740-1780). Position 8 shows the crests of all of the lands ruled by the House of Hapsburg from the days of the Dual Monarchy (1867-1918). Position 9 depicts the 'small' Hungarian coat-of-arms from the War of Independence of 1848-19. Position 10 is the communist crest created by János Kádár for the restored People's Republic (1957-1990) following the defeat of the 1956 uprising. Position 11 is the infamous Rákosi crest (1949-1956) modeled on the arms of the Soviet republics. Position 12 is the so-called Kossuth-crest used in 1849 after the House of Hapsburg was de-throned as well as during the Second Republic in 1946-1949 and briefly in October 1956. Position 13 depicts the 'small' coat-of-arms used between the two World Wars (1920-1946) and again starting in 1990. Position 14 is the 'large' Hungarian arms showing all the lands of the Crown of Stephen used between 1867 and 1918. Position 15 depicts the coat-of-arms of Transylvania. Position 16 is a depiction of the 'small' crest dating from the freedom fight led by Francis Rákóczi (1703-1711). Position 17 shows the arms of King Mathias Corvinus (1458-1490) combining the Hungarian elements with the Lion of Bohemia, the lion heads of Dalmatia and the black raven of the Hunyadis. Finally, position 18 shows the crest used by Sigismund of Luxembourg (1387-1437), who incorporated the eagle of the House of Brandenburg and the Lion of Bohemia.

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HUNGARIAN STAMPS AND HISTORY

by William Solyom-Fekete

/This is the conclusion of a series of three articles on the subject of basic Hungarian philately and was originally published in the January, 1961 issue of the STAMPS newspaper. Readers are advised to consider this in the historical context of the Cold War. The article presents the alleged state of Hungarian philately controlled by a totalitarian government in 1960 at a time when the lack of information and open communication fueled heated, often biased, rhetoric. Ed./



"Hazádnak rendületlenül..." Sopron overprint from 1956.

In October 1956 the anticommunist revolution broke out, and was victorious even against the Soviet forces then stationed in the country, but was crushed by the vast Soviet reinforcements, which appeared so quickly. This revolution, however, was commemorated with an overprint of the regular buildings set. The Revolutionary Committee of the City of Sopron (Western Hungary), which took over the administration, had overprinted the postage stamps found in the post office of the city with the date of the first meeting of revolutionary youth, (October 22, 1956), and with the initial words of the Hungarian national hymn, written by Mihály Vörösmarty: "Hazádnak rendületlenül...". The legality of this overprint was recognized later by the postal administration.



'Repülő Posta' overprint on Hungary's first air-mail stamps from 1918.

The Hungarian stamps offer great variety to topical collectors, with several older and newer issues of very different topics. Religion, sports, animals, flowers, and many other themes are presented. Hungary was the third country to issue regular airpost stamps (Scott # C1-2) in 1918. Three different sets have been issued with design of the Madonna and Child (Scott # 378-387, 415-417, 462-465).

Large 'Patrona Hungariae' Madonna and Child Stamp.



Many others were issued with Hungarian saints, religious leaders of the Catholic and Protestant Churches, famous church buildings, universities, and other religious themes. The sports issues were honored with several international awards as best designs of the year.



This imperforate swimmer stamp designed by József Vertel and issued for the opening of the People's Stadium in 1953 was recognized as the best sport topical design for the year.

After the communist take-over the government of Hungary soon realized the importance of postage stamps as tools of propaganda, and also their value as a means of getting currency, which the communist government needed and still needs very badly. The unrealistically large number of new issues and high denominations is testimony to this fact.

To raise the domestic and international prices, and their own income, the communist postal administration is using several different practices. The best-known tactic is the use of the so-called imperforate issues. The postal use of the imperforate stamps was permitted by government decree only in 1958. The Minister of Transportation and Post admitted in an interview that the so-called imperforates are in fact only essays and proofs, which previously could never be used for prepaying the postal rates. Although at present postal use of these imperforates is permitted, the post offices do not sell them to the public. The government Philatelic Agency sells them at ten times their face value to collectors only, on a one-set-to-a-person basis, and only through the Philatelic Association. The bulk of these are going to the foreign market.

Demonetization is another price raising practice of the government. Regardless of the few regular issues, all commemoratives, semipostals, and airpost stamps are valid for postal use only for a very short time, most of them for one year. But, for instance, the aluminum foil stamp (Scott # C167) was valid for only a single day. (This stamp was an experiment, which proved to be unsuccessful because the aluminum foil, if it was exposed to the air, very soon oxidized, and the design disappeared. Therefore, it is highly recommended that these stamps be kept in protective mounts.) The Philatelic Agency, a commercial enterprise owned by the government, which is authorized to sell any demonetized stamp, and which gets the unsold quantities, or sometimes the entire issue, raises the prices immediately after the date of demonetization.

Philatelic life in Hungary is restricted to the official Central Association of Stamp Collectors, and its branch organizations. All stamp clubs of the country must belong to this association; no independent stamp club may be established. Post offices sell commemoratives very seldom, and usually only incomplete sets. One value of each commemorative set is regularly retained for the Philatelic Agency, which has the monopoly of stamp export. Collectors may obtain the new issues in complete sets only through the Association on a subscription basis, and distribution of the new issues never takes place earlier than three weeks after the release, but usually the individual collector receives his stamps only after several months.

International exchange between Hungarian and foreign collectors is hindered in every way, because it is considered detrimental to the government's export business. Only collectors who are members of the Association are permitted to send stamps abroad, and then only through the Association, where the Hungarian National Bank and the customs agency examine all letters and list the official prices of the stamps included. No further consignment may be sent until the exchange material has been received by the Association, where it too is subject to careful examination and evaluation before delivery. Since the prices are determined by the Association and the Philatelic Agency, the prices of Hungarian stamps are deliberately set very high, regardless of the international market, and the prices set for foreign stamps are below the market price. Therefore, exchange for a foreign collector is possible only at a considerable loss.

To by-pass the Association in sending stamps abroad from Hungary is considered a crime against the economic interests of the state and may be punished by imprisonment for up to ten years. The government recently levied a 60 per cent duty on stamps received by Hungarians which do not come through the Association.

The Hungarian government and its Philatelic Agency have recently complained about the low prices of Hungarian stamps on the international market. The prices are, in fact, much lower than those of the official price list of the state-owned Philatelic agency. But this is so obviously because the official prices are baseless, determined not by the market, but by the government. Moreover, with very few exceptions, the number of copies issued is not disclosed by the Postal Administration, and in cases where the number is officially disclosed, the official statement is very doubtful.

To support this statement, let me quote two reports from **STAMPS**. In the November 22, 1958 issue it was reported, referring to the information of the Hungarian Postal Administration, that 700,000 sets had been issued for air post stamps commemorating the 40th anniversary of the first Hungarian air mail stamp. In the December 27, 1958 issue of **STAMPS** the issuance of two other stamps, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Hungarian Communist Party was reported. The number of copies was said to be 400,000.

I am still in correspondence with a few friends who live in Hungary, and I asked some of them to use new issues on their mail. I asked some of them especially to send me the airmail commemoratives mentioned above, but the answer I got was that these are not available. A few weeks later I received letters from persons who, I am sure, do not even know that I am a collector. These letters carried the Communist Party commemoratives, and I saw a great many letters received by a relief organization in Washington, D. C., with the same stamps. Now, it is obvious that the government's statement that the latter set was issued in 400,000 copies was incorrect, because a set issued only in 400,000 copies cannot be available in every part of the country to anyone across the post office counters, when no copies of the 700,000 issue are available even for those who ask and search for it in the capital of the country.

International exchange and even correspondence with Hungarian collectors is frequently prevented by the government authorities not only for business protection, but also for political and other reasons. Let me quote from the Newsletter of the "People-to-People Program."

"...Some Committees, however, are finding that it is *not* always easy to engage in PTP exchanges with satellite countries. The Hungarian "Peoples Government" for example, will have no part of a special mailing of First Day Covers honoring Lajos Kossuth and bearing a U. S. stamp with an engraving of the Hungarian Champion of Liberty. All 50 First Days Covers, addressed to Hungarian philatelists and containing invitations to participate in a friendly exchange of correspondence from the HOBBIES Committee have been *returned*. All were stamped "Non admis. Retour," alongside the Budapest postmark, implying the present Hungarian Government frowns upon a correspondence between Hungarians and other peoples if the letter carries any symbol of liberty."



This is the rubber stamp added by the American Hungarian Federation to some of the FDCs that the organization serviced.

This is the U.S. Kossuth first day cover that was returned as undeliverable by the Hungarian authorities. The 'non admis. Retour' marking which was on the back side has been photographically superimposed over the address. The name has been marked out in blue pencil and an arrow added pointing to the Washington, D.C. cds.

The spokesman for the government tried to justify this step, and complained in the Hungarian press that the first day covers were cancelled with a postmark including not only the coat of arms of Hungary used during Kossuth's time, but also the Holy Crown, and the borders of pre-war Hungary. The "cancellation" mentioned, as a matter of fact, was only a rubber stamp used at the bottom of a few covers by the American Hungarian Federation, and not the official first day cancellation, which included only the design of the coat of arms without the Crown, as it was used during the time of Kossuth, and in the years 1945-48. The returned covers did not bear the print of the so-called cancellation to which the government objected.

What the government's spokesman forgot to mention was that this design of the coat of arms was used not only by Kossuth, but also by the freedom fighters of October 1956, that one of the aims of the revolution was the replacement of the Soviet-type arms with that used by Kossuth, and that the latter design was actually used under the pressure of the Revolution by the present government from October 1956 to May 1957. Obviously, the present government did not want to let the people of the country be reminded of the few days of freedom.

The People-to-People Program was more fortunate with these covers than were individuals, because the committee, at least, got back the covers, while letters mailed by individuals to Hungary and bearing the Kossuth stamp, were neither delivered nor returned, regardless of whether the cover was stamped with the first day cancellation or any other regular postmark. The government simply confiscated all those letters which were mailed with the Kossuth stamp.

Hungarian collectors, in spite of all the obstacles put up by the government, are trying to maintain their international connections, proving that collecting stamps is a link between them and the free world, through which they may give expression to their strong desire for freedom and independence.

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CLANDESTINE MAIL DURING WWII: P. O. Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal

by Robert B. Morgan

The address *P. O. Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal* has a captivating story. The mystery surrounding mail to the post office box offers more questions than answers. How did it operate? Who used it? When was such mail used? Where was it used? The Hungarian connection is very rare, but let's not jump that far for now.

In January 2004, Lot #2981568480 was listed on eBay auction as: "Hungary: 1942 Cover to PO Box 506, Lisbon." The buyer of the cover was Mr. Zoltán Koleszár of Hungary, a well-known stamp dealer, an avid collector of Hungary's airmails, and a member of SHP. The *P.O.Box 506* address piqued my interest. When I contacted Mr. Koleszár, he told me that he bought the cover for his airmail collection. He was very helpful in supplying the accompanying illustrations of the cover and offered his full cooperation for this study.

Mail through the so-called *Undercover Addresses* has been around since the 1800s; although, most likely, it was used much earlier. Their use in Europe became widespread in World War I. *In essence, it is wartime mail sent in an outside envelope to a different address in a neutral country for re-transmittal to the final addressee.*

During wartime the combatant countries forbade regular mail from going to the enemy side (for the purposes of this article, that meant that during World War II mail service in Europe between the Allied and Axis-occupied countries was suspended). While regular mail service was not allowed, the need for such mail existed. Red Cross service was available for personal communication, but it was very slow and was restricted to 25 words only. These *Undercover Addresses*, most of the times, were known to the opposing parties; but they chose to condone it because they themselves utilized it for clandestine operations. Many such addresses have come to light; but the *P. O. Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal* is the best known and most documented. One does not have to be a postal historian to appreciate the mystery of this operation.

Thomas Cook & Son, Ltd., is known to have operated undercover addresses during the First World War. A similar effort during World War II was established first in The Netherlands in early 1940, using a different address. However, when the Germans invaded The Netherlands, the service was suspended by May 1940. Beginning in July 1940, with the authorization and cooperation of the British Government, Thomas Cook & Son, Ltd, acting as an intermediary, established and operated the P. O. Box 506 Lisbon, Portugal address. A short notice of the British Government authorization was published in the press but the details for use of this service were deferred to the Cook agency.

An instruction leaflet described the restrictions and procedures to follow and listed which enemy countries and enemy-occupied territories were served: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (zone left unoccupied by the enemy in 1940), Germany, Greece (mainland), Greek Islands and Crete, Holland, Hungary, Italy and Italian possessions not occupied by the United Nations, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia.

As I understand, a two-way correspondence had to originate from England because a fee of 2 shillings (postal money order made out to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd.) had to be enclosed in the letter. This fee covered all two-way postage and handling charges except the reply postage from the enemy territory to the Lisbon address.

The use of this service was open to relatives and friends for personal communication only. Only one sheet of paper hand or typewritten on both sides was allowed in one envelope. The service excluded POWs and civilian internees and was not available for business, property or money related matters. What was not mentioned anywhere in the instructions is that, without a doubt, the service was used for spy correspondence on both sides!

The letter had to be placed into an unsealed envelope (now we know that it was easily censored) addressed to the recipient with no sender's address or any other markings. This was then placed into another envelope addressed to the P. O. Box 506 address in Lisbon, Portugal. Upon arrival in Lisbon, the enclosed envelope was taken from the outside cover and the letter was forwarded from neutral Portugal to the addressee in the enemy country. Similarly, the recipients had to reply through the P. O. Box 506 Lisbon address.

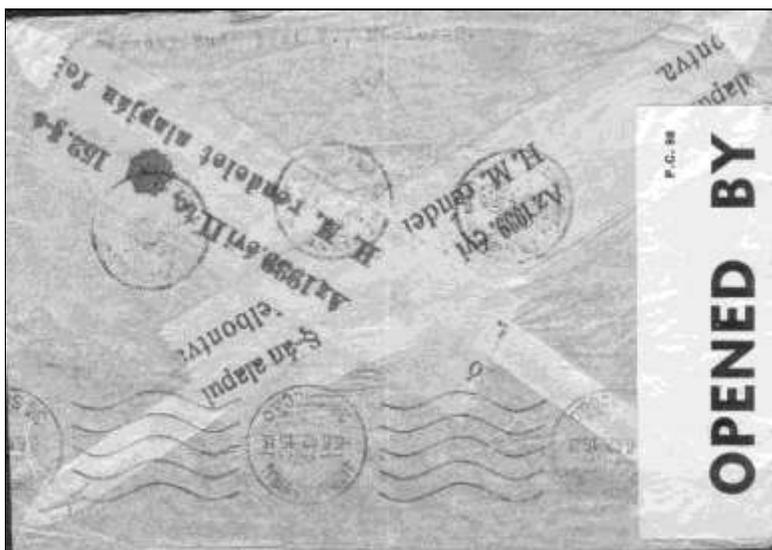
The Germans apparently were aware of the espionage possibilities of this mail service because replies from Czechoslovakia were forbidden and subject to harsh penalties. Users from Northern France were threatened with capital punishment.

Charles R. and Avril Entwistle listed 170 undercover addresses from 25 countries in their book¹. An interesting forwarding address *originating* from Hungary is listed as *Marques Feliciano at Rua do Crucifixo, Lisbon, Portugal*. Messrs. Entwistle indicate that *any* Hungarian mail to the P. O. Box 506 or to the Rua do Crucifixo address has to be considered in the rare category. They state that valuations are highly variable and subjective with each cover. Such appraisals depend on the country of origin, the organization operating service, rarity of recorded mail, censor marks/labels of origin and final destination, cachets and condition.

I also consulted the works of these authors: István Gazda², David Williams³ and Ernst M. Cohn⁴. I am grateful for their pioneering efforts.

I am also wondering if any more such covers are hiding in collections. I have promised myself to look through my holdings. Won't you?

The cover from Mr. Koleszár's collection is illustrated on the left. This is only the third recorded *Undercover Address* cover mailed from Hungary during WWII. It was posted in Budapest on May 27, 1942 and addressed to László Tárnoky, c/o Post Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal. The postage paid was 70 fillér, (50f foreign letter rate and 20f airmail surcharge). It was censored first in Hungary; and then in Great Britain by Examiner 1329, who, assumedly, was the assigned censor for Hungarian mail. (The other two covers also bear the same 'Examiner 1329' censor tape.) Apparently, Thomas Cook & Son, Ltd., submitted the letter to the censor before forwarding it to László Tárnoky's real address.



¹ Charles R. and Avril Entwistle: **Undercover Addresses of World War II**, (44 pages) Chavril Press, GB 1992.

² Istvan Gazda: *Some Special War Routings*, **The American Philatelist**, May 1985.

³ David Williams: *P.O.Box 506 Lisbon*, **Stamps of Hungary**, GB. December 1991.

⁴ Ernst M. Cohn: 'Cover' *Addresses Sent Mail Through Enemy Lines*, **Stamp Collector**, October 24, 1992.



The cover on the right was posted in Budapest, November 14, 1941. It was addressed to E.Y. Forbat, Post Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal. The postage paid was 50 fillér, the correct foreign letter rate. It was censored by 'Examiner 1329' in G.B. Unfortunately, no picture of the reverse side was supplied by Mr. David Williams in his article.



The third known cover, illustrated above, was posted in Budapest on February 11, 1943. It was addressed to Mrs. V. Brill, 36 Moor Road, Millom, Cumb. (Great Britain). The sender paid the foreign letter rate of 50 fillér, registration (50 fillér) and airmail surcharge (20 fillér) for a total of 1,20 pengő. Mr. István Gazda first presented this cover in his May 1985 article published in **The American Philatelist**. The cover has some very interesting features. Mr. Gazda indicated that it was censored in Hungary as well as in England by 'Examiner 1329.' The Hungarian registration and airmail labels were crossed out with a red pencil (my guess is that although these services were paid for, the Hungarian postal authorities did not allow registered airmail service to this address). It is very interesting that the present address is on a label that was glued to the covers over the original 'P.O.Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal' address. Apparently Thomas Cook & Son also used this method for forwarding such mail. There is a faint oval 'Thomas Cook & Son' rubber stamp marking on the address label. The Lisbon arrival marking is on the reverse side.

/The Editor would like to add that on the third cover, the Hungarian words 'Portugália' and 'Ajánlva,' which were written on the envelope by the sender, were also crossed out with the red pencil. Because of this, the Editor surmises that the registry and airmail labels were invalidated by the Thomas Cook agent in Lisbon prior to forwarding the letter to England. Consequently, the cover probably received registered airmail service from Hungary to Portugal, but was sent non-registered via ordinary surface mail from Portugal to England./

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RECENT UNITED NATIONS HUNGARICA ISSUE



On March 4th, the United Nations Postal Administration issued three miniature sheets, one for each of its postal agencies in New York, Geneva and Vienna, depicting indigenous art. One of the six stamps contained in the sheet for Vienna included the depiction of the 'God with the Sickle,' an artifact of a sitting male idol with a triangular mask over the upturned face that was discovered at Szegvár-Tüzköves in Hungary. Szegvár is located along the east bank of the Tisza River between Szentés and Hódmezővásárhely. The Neolithic carving, dating from 6500-3000 B.C., is an example of the indigenous art of the Tisza-culture period. */Ed./*

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ADDENDUM TO THE AIRMAIL RATES TO SOUTH AMERICA IN THE 1930s

by Csaba L. Kohalmi

The late Dr. Andrew M. Munster researched the previously undocumented airmail surcharge rates from Hungary to the countries of South America in his article published in the January-March 2002 issue of **The News**. The article was accompanied by the following table.

Air Mail Surcharge¹ to South America, 1928-1940

	Date	to Brazil	to Argentina and other
1.	24 April 1928	8.92 pengő	10.60 pengő
2.	7 July 1931	3.71 pengő	4.05 pengő
3.	1 July 1932	2.24 pengő	2.66 pengő
4.	1937, exact date unknown	3.00 pengő	3.50 pengő
5.	1938 to 1940	2.80 pengő	3.30 pengő

¹ All rates are for each 5-gram weight increment.

Through a recent acquisition illustrated here, I could like to amend the table with a new rate to Brazil in 1930. From the handwritten annotation *ST. 5.43* on the front of the cover and the franking on the reverse side, I concluded that the airmail surcharge for this period was 5,43 pengős. The cover was posted on 26 March 1930 at the Budapest 4 main post office. Unfortunately, it was not cancelled en route or at arrival in Brazil to give us an idea as to how long it took to deliver it.



The 'ST. 5.43' endorsement in blue crayon along the top of the envelope indicates the amount of the airmail surcharge.



The reverse side of the cover was franked with 6.33P postage paying the foreign letter rate of 40f, the registration rate of 50f, and the airmail surcharge of 5.43P.

I also own an airmail cover sent to Argentina in December 1936 which is clearly endorsed with the 3.50P surcharge rate. This data places the 4th surcharge rate into 1936. I communicated this information to Dr. Munster, but he did not have a chance to incorporate it into his table. Consequently, I'm proposing the following modifications shown in bold type to Dr. Munster's table:

Air Mail Surcharge¹ to South America, 1928-1940

	Date	to Brazil	to Argentina and other
1.	24 April 1928	8.92 pengö	10.60 pengö
2.	1930, date unknown	5.43 pengö	unknown
3.	7 July 1931	3.71 pengö	4.05 pengö
4.	1 July 1932	2.24 pengö	2.66 pengö
5.	December 1936	3.00 pengö	3.50 pengö
6.	1938 to 1940	2.80 pengö	3.30 pengö

¹ All rates are for each 5-gram weight increment.



Airmail letter from Hungary to Argentina, posted at the Budapest 1 Post Office on 18 December 1936, processed at the Budapest 72 office on the same day. The postage paid for the 4 1/2 gm letter was 4.40P. The breakdown is shown in the upper right corner of the envelope: foreign letter, 40f; registration, 50f; airmail surcharge, 3.50P.

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THE FOURTH HUNGARIAN-AUSTRIAN POSTAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM OF 2003

by István Gazda

The Fourth Hungarian-Austrian Postal History Symposium was held at Bükfürdő on 30-31 August 2003. This symposium is held every two years at alternating sites between the two countries.

The eight lectures that were presented can be grouped into three categories, namely:

- The fakes of pre-adhesive Hungarian letters,
- The 1867 issue of Hungary,
- Various other subjects.

Fakes of the pre-adhesive Hungarian letters

Mr. **Dénes Czirók** conducted extensive research in order to find the fakes of pre-adhesive letters of Hungary. He found no fewer than 744 faked letters which he enumerated in his report to the symposium. In his lecture he pointed out five the characteristics which can be utilized to identify fakes:

1. The postal notations used on the pre-adhesive letters (*e.g.*, non-existent or wrongly applied markings, weight annotations or such markings not used at that time),
2. The general appearance of the letters (*e.g.*, missing or damaged wax seals),
3. Erroneous rate markings,
4. The deviations cancellations on the letters compared to original ones,
5. Letters addressed to certain addresses and the handwriting on such, *per se*.

Mr. Czirók found that some of the fakes were produced in present-day Slovakia and Rumania but he noted that most of them were produced in the Trans-Danubian town of Pápa. The paper of the Pápa fakes is original; but, in most cases, the cancels and the script are faked.

German specialist **Dr. Robert Neunteufel** held a lecture on the same subject. Dr. Neunteufel uses electron-spectroscopic methods for his investigations, which works without damaging the material of the cancellations. His method showed that if there are barium or titan lines in the spectrum, the material of the cancellation is fake since it could not have originated from authentic materials used prior to 1850.

The 1867 issue of Hungary

Three lectures were held on this subject, the most interesting was given by **Dr. Géza Homonnay**. He offered a criticism of the existing point evaluation system for the cancellations (attributed to Müller, Ryan, and Zlatev). Furthermore, he presented new findings since the publication of the Ryan catalogue. He found that about 230 cancellations in the Ryan catalogue, in part, were incorrect or did not exist. The report of the symposium included his illustrations (typographically similar to the Ryan catalogue) with point valuations for 1867 to 1871. This information is a 'must' for the collectors of this area.

The lecture by **Mr. Wolfgang König** presented a survey of the 1867 issue of Hungary handling various subjects such as large multiples, early usages, printing and perforation peculiarities. Mr. König also dealt with the imprinted postal stationery covers and postal cards of that time. He showed the Szigetvár provisional, interesting cancellations, mixed frankings with older issues, the 1871 lithographed issue as well as combination frankings with stamps of Turkey.

Lastly, **Dr. Ferenc Nagy** spoke about the high (25kr and 50kr) values of the 1867 issue. He showed a first day cover of the 50kr value and presented an extensive analysis of the use of the 25kr and 50kr stamps indicating where they were used and what cancels may be found. He also spoke about the Hungarian mail in the Levant, an area in which he specializes.

Various other subjects

Dr. Karl Wodrazka gave an overall picture of the DDSG postal service from 1834 to 1880. His report included maps of the service area, an overview of the postal service, the stamps of the DDSG and the cancellations utilized. In addition, he gave a deep analysis of the available literature on the subject. His report is a 'must read' not just for all of those interested in this field but also to all postal historians.

Mr. István Gazda gave a lecture about the post-World War I censorship in Hungary in 1919-1922. In general, mail was censored during the Soviet Republic; and there were about 39 censoring offices during the early years of the Horthy-era. Mail from abroad was censored until 1924. Mr. Gazda presented a lot of interesting examples of censor markings. In 1919-1920 as well as the early part of 1921, the censorship was called 'military censorship.' This nomenclature changed to 'controlled' later in 1921-1922. The censorship of the mail took place in accordance with the laws promulgated during World War I, but it was also governed by special secret orders. Censoring labels were widely utilized, and several examples of these were shown. The lecture did not deal with the censorship in the occupied territories up to the time of the peace treaty. This subject will be revisited at the next symposium.

The last lecture was presented by **Dr. Joachim Gatterer** on the subject of the field post during World War I. He gave an overall survey of the field post with many examples of early and special cancellations, postage dues, money orders, telegrams, and even mail to and from abroad. Again, this was a very interesting lecture for all attendees.

All of the lectures presented at the symposium have been re-published in a booklet that is available from Mr. **Czirók Dénes, H-8900 Zalaegerszeg, Pacsírta utca 9/1, Hungary.**

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Spotlight on SESCAL 2004
October 1 – 3, 2004, Los Angeles, CA.
Radisson Hotel at LAX, 6225 W. Century Blvd., L.A. CA 90045

Save this weekend (Fri-Sat-Sun) on your calendar for the
SHP ANNUAL MEETING!

Share your treasures and your knowledge with us. Plan to display your specialty either in the One-Frame or Multi-Frame exhibit format. Don't be shy – try your hand at exhibiting: it's fun! In case you need assistance, don't hesitate to contact us. We want to show the philatelic community the joy and diversity of Hungarian philately. Entry applications are available on the Web at www.SESCAL.org. Do it now!

We are planning to have our annual meeting where members can meet each other and share their experiences. We can swap ideas and swap material. These annual meetings are the highlights of our Society's gatherings.

Socially, we'll get together for a special Hungarian dinner at a fine Hungarian restaurant. Detailed schedule will be announced in the next issue of **The News**.

Stop by our Society table to say hello.

For the latest hotel information and rates check the SESCAL website listed above.

Plan to attend and bring a friend!

Randy Frank
RFRANK@SOSSI.ORG
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Bob Morgan
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323-272-7282

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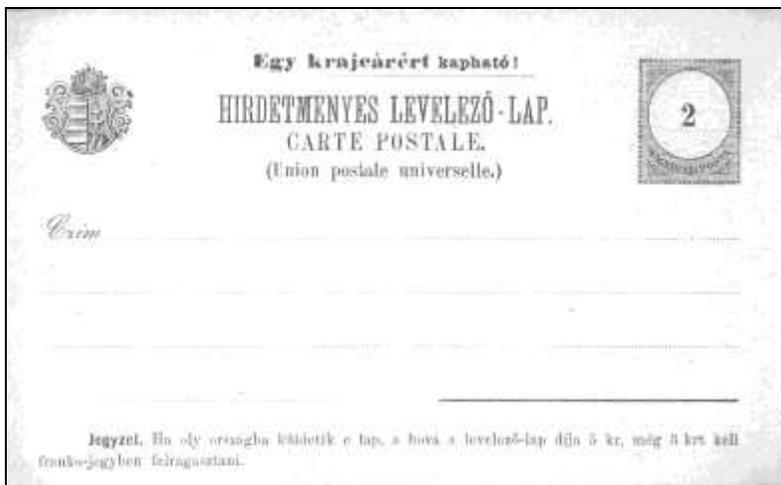
HUNGARIAN POSTAL CARDS

by Robert B. Jensen

The Advertising Postal Cards of 1892

In 1892 a new postal card that had no precedent was born. It was printed on light blue unwatermarked paper with the additional text *Egy krajcárért kapható!* and *HIRDETMÉNYES LEVELEZŐ-LAP* between the upper coat-of-arms and the imprinted stamp. (The translation of the text is *May be*

purchased for 1 krajcár and Advertising Postal Card.) A note was also added along the bottom of the card: *Jegyzet. Ha oly országokba küldetik e lap, a hová a levelező-lap díja 5kr, még 3krt kell franco-jegyben felragasztani. / Notice. If this card is sent to a country where the post card rate is 5kr, an additional 3kr postage stamp must be attached.*



Note that this card cost 1kr and the notice stated that only 3kr must be added to make up the required postal rate. This amounted to 4kr only. Where did the additional cost come from? The answer was on the reverse or message side of the postal card which was framed by six advertisements still leaving a space for a message at the center. The agency *Nemzetközi Posta-hirdetési Iroda / International Postal Advertising Agency* was established to handle the advertising space to be sold on these and similar postal cards.

Béla Simády's 1982 catalog, *A magyar díjegyves posta nyomtatványok katalógusa / Catalog of Hungarian Imprinted Postal Stationery*, lists five different advertising cards (a) through (e) according to the position of an advertisement in the upper left-hand corner looking at the message side. There were thirty different advertisements and with six ads per card meant that some of the ads were repeated. The Simády (a) card had a *Szt. Lukácsfürdő* ad in the upper left corner of the card. Card (b) had *Roessemann és Kühnemann*; card (c), *Kertész Tódor*; card (d), *Rosenthal*; and card (e), *Nemzetközi postahirdetési iroda*, the postal agency.

After examining many cards, I came to the conclusion that actually there were six different cards. The sixth version still had the *Szt. Lukácsfürdő* ad in the upper left corner, but the other ads are arranged differently. Of the six card types, three show the ads around the edge in an upright position. On these, the space in the middle for the message is lightly crosshatched. On the other three types of cards, the ads along the bottom are inverted and the space in the center for the message is clear.

This issue of postal cards is very difficult to collect, especially postally used ones showing the 5kr rate to foreign countries.



Simády Card #17a.

The arrangement of the ads in clockwise position starting in the upper left corner: *Szt. Lukácsfürdő, Budapest; Rozanek József; Krondorfi Savanyukút; Weiner és Grünbaum; Brömer-Elmerhausen és Reich; Fischer J.*



Simády Card #17a Variety.

The arrangement of the ads in clockwise position starting in the upper left corner: *Szt. Lukácsfürdő, Budapest; Rozanek József; Horváth J. László; Buchwald Elek; New York; Fischer J.*



Simády Card #17b.

The arrangement of the ads in clockwise position starting in the upper left corner: Roessmann és Kühnemann; Buchwald Elek; Hirsch Jakab; Sternberg Ármin és Testvére; Császárfürdő, Budapest; Türkel és Schlésinger.



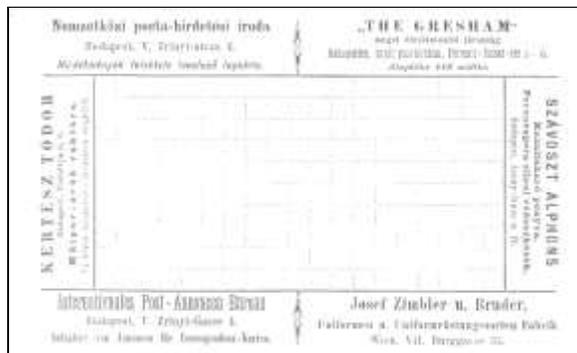
Simády Card #17c.

The arrangement of the ads in clockwise position starting in the upper left corner: Kertész Tódor; A Magyar Asphalt r. társaság; Nemzetközi posta-hirdetési iroda; Éder Antal Gyula; Tiller Mór és Társa; Hirsch Testvérek.



Simády Card #17d.

The arrangement of the ads in clockwise position starting in the upper left corner: Rosenthal H.; Mauthner Ödön; Patent-Bureau Tischler; Müller J. L.; Weiner Máttyás; Münster György.



Simády Card #17e.

The arrangement of the ads in clockwise position starting in the upper left corner: Nemzetközi posta-hirdetési iroda; "The Gresham"; Szávost Alphonse; Josef Zimmler u. Bruder; Internationales Post-Annoncen Bureau; Kertész Tódor.

The 1896 Postal Card Reprint



The reprint was a very popular item, which sold for the original face value of 2kr at the exposition, but it was not valid for postal use. It took me a long time to find a copy and the cost made it the single most expensive item in my exhibit.

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THE LETTER 'B' VARIETIES ON THE BARANYA FIRST ISSUE,
OVERPRINT TYPES III, V.a AND V.b

by Dezső Flasch



The three Baranya I overprint types shown on the left are known to exist with two different types of the letter 'B' in 'Baranya.' The first variety is called the 'small upper loop B' while the second variety is known as the 'large upper loop B' or 'same size loops B.'

1. The 2003 edition of the Hungarian stamp catalog on page 321 makes the following statement about the letter 'B': "... the upper loop of the letter 'B' in the word 'Baranya' is identical with the lower loop (stamp from sheet position 28)."
2. The 1986 handbook, on page 517, describes this as follows: "... in sheet position 28 of the stamps overprinted with new values, the upper loop of the letter 'B' is smaller than the lower loop.
3. The following was published in 1979 on page 29 in Surányi's book about the Baranya issues: "... the upper loop of the letter 'B' in the word 'Baranya' is smaller ..." this variety can be found in each quarter sheet in positions "1, 3, 6, 11, 17, 22 and 25. ... This means that the variety occurs 28 times in a sheet of 100 stamps."
4. Surányi made the same statement in an article that appeared in the Number 7-8 issue of the *Filatélia Szemle* in 1979.

None of the statements above is correct.

- Re: 1. The stamp in position 28 does not have a letter 'B' with equal loops. Also, instead of single variety per sheet (mistakenly identified in position 28), actually 28 stamps with equal loop 'B's exist in each sheet of 100.
- Re: 2. The stamp in position 28 does have a small upper loop 'B' but so do 71 other stamps in a sheet of 100.
- Re: 3 and 4. The upper loop of the letter 'B' identified by positions is not smaller; on the contrary, is actually larger. Consequently, the so-called smaller upper loop 'B' variety occurs not 28 times in the sheet but 72 times.



Figure 1. Equal loop 'B' (left),
small top loop 'B' (right).

The article published in 1995 by J. Stankovič identified the factual errors printed in the handbook. He backed up his corrections by referencing the Croatian handbook published in Zagreb. The accurate information that 28 equal loop 'B's and 72 small upper loop 'B's exist in each sheet of 100 is explained on page 194 of this book in Croatian and the data is repeated in French on page 206.

Fig. 1 shows a horizontal pair of stamps, one each with the two different types of the letter 'B' in the word 'Baranya.'

As far as I know, Weinert's catalog, which appeared in 1925, was the first to mention the equal loop letter 'B': "... the upper and lower loop of the letter 'B' is equal in width". (It did not identify the sheet positions. This was followed by Jenő Antal Szabó's dissertation from 1938 in which he illustrated the two different 'B's using a quarter sheet to identify the seven positions: 1, 3, 6, 11, 17, 22, and 25 (see Fig. 2). He converted this to 28 positions in a sheet of 100: 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 16, 21, 26, 32, 37, 42, 45, 47, 50, 51, 53, 56, 58, 61, 66, 71, 76, 82, 87, 92, 95, 97, and 100.

J. Otta in 1941 was the next person after Szabó to publish new findings on this subject. He demonstrated that the letter 'B' in the word 'Baranya' with equal loops could be found also on the

postage due stamp overprints (Type V.a. and V.b.). Although the identical letter and numeral type-stock was used to prepare the plate, the position in the quarter sheet (and, consequently, in the full sheet) where the equal loops can be found is different. J. Otta showed that the seven positions in the quarter sheet are 1, 2, 5, 11, 16, 22, and 23 (see Fig. 3.). This translated into 28 positions in the full sheet: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 21, 26, 31, 36, 42, 43, 47, 48, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 60, 71, 76, 81, 86, 92, 93, 97, and 98.

1	B	2		3	B	4		5	
6	B	7		8		9		10	
11	B	12		13		14		15	
16		17		18		19		20	
21		22	B	23		24		25	B

Figure 2. Quarter-sheet stereotype of the Type III overprint showing the positioning of the equal (large upper loop) letter 'B' in the word 'Baranya.'

1	B	2	B	3		4		5	B
6		7		8		9		10	
11	B	12		13		14		15	
16	B	17		18		19		20	
21		22	B	23	B	24		25	

Figure 3. Quarter-sheet stereotype of the Type V.a. and V.b. overprint showing the positioning of the equal (large upper loop) letter 'B' in the word 'Baranva.'

Regrettably, neither the domestically published philatelic literature nor the publications from abroad dealing with the Baranya issues are aware of Otta's findings. Székely's catalog did not even make a passing reference to the two types of the letter 'B.' The 1979 Gibbon's catalog listed the two types of 'B' in the Type III overprint by position in the quarter sheet. Chris Brainard's catalog from 1993 mentions the varieties on page 5. The Baranya monograph, published in English by Chris Brainard and Anthony Müller in 2001, was adapted from Szabó's 1939 book 1939 and was expanded with new findings. This latest publication illustrated a quarter sheet of the 20f postage due overprint. While identifying the equal loop 'B's in the word 'Baranya' on page 23, the authors failed to make the conclusion that the positions on the postage due stamps are different from those that appear on the harvesters stamps with the Type III overprint.

The 45f/15f overprint on the King Károly stamp also belongs with the group of Type III overprinted stamps with the identical positions for the two sizes of loops in the letter 'B.'

Having reached the conclusions above and knowing that the three printing plates were prepared using the same stock of numeral and letter types, there remain two questions to answer. What is the cause for the repositioning of the equal loop 'B's in the Type V.a and V.b overprints? And, what is the reason for using the two different printing types for the letter 'B' in the first place?

Surányi's explanation offered on page 28 of his book regarding the 'inadvertent mixing of the type for the same letters' seems sufficient to answer the second question. It is most likely that because of carelessness or error, the large loop 'B' type was mixed in with the small loop 'B' type in the same letter compartment at the printer.

After the conclusion of the overprinting using the Type III plate, the double '45-45' numerals were removed from the 25-subject stereotype. The stereotype was then re-assembled by hand for use in making the Type V.a printing. The new stereotype utilized the same letter and numeral type for the word 'Baranya' and the date '1919' which was re-positioned below 'Baranya.' The repositioning of the type involved the time-consuming effort of removing the individual letters and numerals and replacing the same in a vertical format. I made an attempt at trying to understand the typesetter's logic and illustrated the individual steps of his work in Fig. 4.

The steps in disassembling Column A and re-assembling the type as Column F most likely involved five steps: first, the equal loop 'B' 'Baranya' was moved from position A/1 to position F/1;

in the second step, the small loop 'B' 'Baranya' was placed from A/5 to F/2; in the third step, A/2 was moved to F/3; in the fourth step, A/3 was placed into F/4; and finally, in the fifth step, A/4 was placed in position F/5.

The steps to re-create the second column (Column B to Column G) were as follows: step one, B/5 was moved to position G/5; second step, B/4 to G/1; third to fifth steps, B/1, 2, 3 to G/2, 3, 4.

The steps for the third column (C to H): first, C/1 moved to H/5; C/2, 3, 4, and 5 were placed in H/1, 2, 3, and 4.

In the fourth column (D to I), the letter type in 'Baranya' is all small upper loop 'B's, so the order of replacement does not matter.

The steps for the fifth column (E to J): first, E/5 was moved to J/1; the order of the others again does not matter because the letter type of 'Baranya' is all the same.

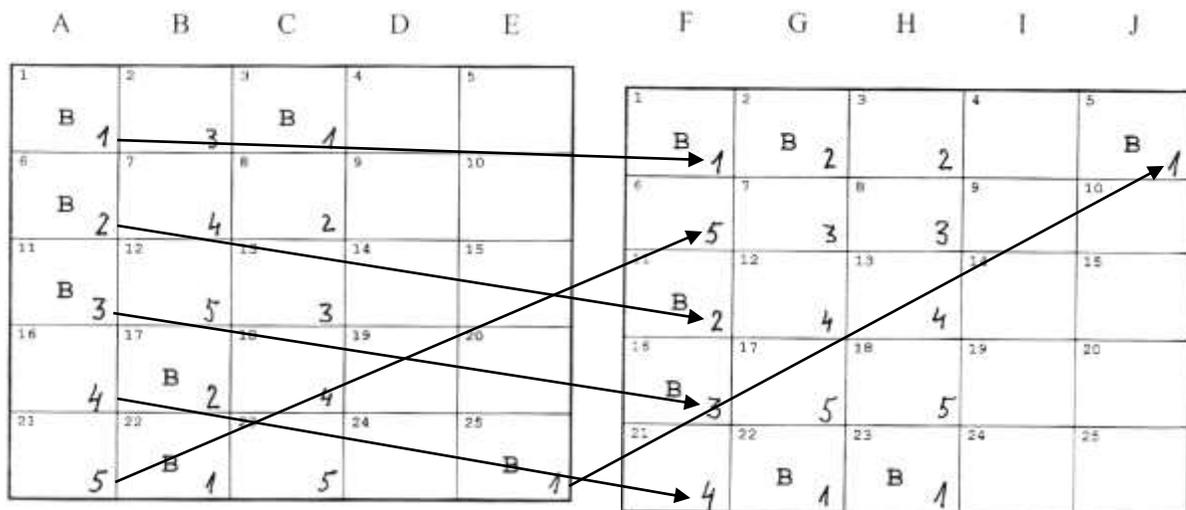


Figure 4. Schematic representation of the repositioning of the printing type from the 25-subject stereotype prepared for the Type III plate on the left into the 25-subject stereotype for the Type V.a and V.b plates. The large numbers in the lower right corner of each subject indicate the corresponding steps involved in moving the printing type from one to the other. (Follow the arrows for columns A and E.)

My assumptions can be underscored by the simple mathematical test: the number of 'B's with equal loops in the rows of the two stereotypes is not the same. However, the numbers are the same if they are added up by column.

In addition to the 2, 10 and 20f postage due stamps, a sheet of the 40f Zita/Köztársaság stamps was overprinted with the Type V.a plate. While the size of this stamp corresponds to the vertical format Harvesters stamps, it's also roughly identical with the postage due stamps. Because it is vertical in format, it was placed into the press rotated 90 degrees to correspond to the horizontal format of the postage due stamps. As a result, the overprint appears vertically when viewing these stamps in the normal, upright position.

The Type V.b overprint is represented by a single example, the 40f/2f postage due stamp. On this stamp, the two-line overprint was expanded to 3 lines by the addition of the new values: '40-40.'

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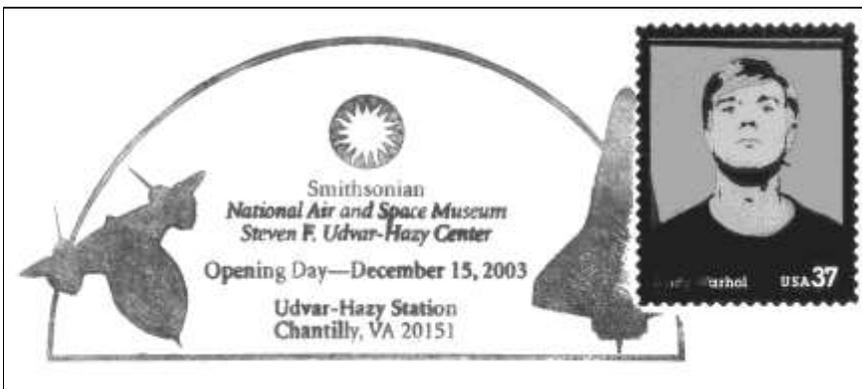
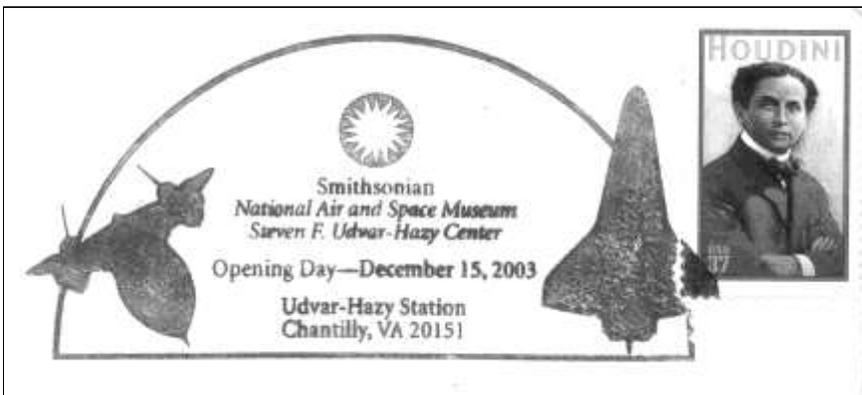
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HUNGARICA STAMPS AND CANCELS FROM THE UNITED STATES

by Alan Soble



The National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center inauguration day cancel was used with the Houdini and the Andy Warhol commemoratives to make these interesting *Hungarica* covers. Houdini was born in Budapest and emigrated to the US with his parents as an infant. Andy Warhol's ancestral roots are in Subcarpathia, which was part of Hungary until 1918 and again between 1939-1944. Steven Udvar-Házy came to the US as a young boy following the defeat of the 1956 freedom fight.

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THE EDITOR'S NOTES

by Csaba L. Kohalmi

Bob Morgan's book, **The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946, The Postage Rates and Postal History of History's Most Impressive Inflation**, received a detailed review in the April 2004 issue of the **American Philatelist**. The book is highly recommended reading and is available from the Collectors Club of Chicago (Attn: Duane Larson, 270 Cunningham Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466 USA). The cost is \$50 postpaid within the US, \$55 by surface mail overseas.

Hungary officially rejoined Europe on May 1st, the date on which ten new countries became full-fledged members of the European Union. Historically, Hungarians have always considered themselves as 'Western' Europeans underscored by the fact that the plains and frontier fortresses of Hungary were the battleground between 'Christian' Western Europe and the Ottoman Empire for several hundred years. Only in the 20th century, with the Soviet occupation of Hungary, was the nation's mentality changed to 'Eastern' Europe. The Rákosi-Kádár era succeeded in shackling Hungary onto the Soviet sphere of influence, basically pushing the country into Asia. Reversal came with the reform movement of the late 1980s which resulted in the pullout of Soviet troops in 1991 and Hunga-

ry's admission to NATO in 1999. While integration with the European Union eventually will mean an improvement in the standard of living in Hungary, the economic catch-up game will take decades to reach current Western European levels.

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**Update on WASHINGTON 2006
World Philatelic Exhibition, Washington DC
May 27 – June 3, 2006**



It's not too early to mark your calendar for the once-a-decade philatelic extravaganza occurring in the USA. This "Greatest Show on Earth" for stamp collectors will happen less than two years from now.

Your Society is planning to impress the philatelic world with the scope and depth of Hungarian philately. SHP will have a Society booth where we will introduce ourselves to the world's collectors and invite them to join us. Please help us by volunteering some time to staff in our booth. Please let us know by email or phone. Thank you!

We are planning to organize several meetings during the show. We urge our Society members to participate. Prepare your Hungarian related exhibit material for this event – time flies! Details by the show organizers will be announced soon and we will report it to you.

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2004 NEW ISSUES

Issued 4 February 2004

Famous Hungarians

Face value: HUF 40, 44, 80. Size: 35 x 40.3mm.

Designer: János Kass. The three stamps picture poet Bálint Balassi, mathematician János Segner, and poet and publicists József Bajza.

Technical details: Printed using offset in sheets of 50 by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 200,000 sets.

Nostalgia Narrow Gauge Railways

Face value: HUF 120, 150. Size: 45 x 29.2mm.

Designer: László Dudás. The designs depict forest animals and narrow gauge trains from the Kémence Forest Railway and the Gemenc Forest Railway.

Technical details: Printed using offset in sheets of 50 by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 200,000 sets.

Issued 16 February 2004

Festivals and Carnivals

Face value: HUF 240 (small sheet of four se-tenant HUF 60stamps). Size: 160 x 45mm (sheet), 35 x 26.7mm (stamps).

Designers: Szilvia Lázár and Tibor Raszler. The strip of four stamps depicts various traditions such as the *búsójárás*, May Day, and grape harvest festival.

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

The News of Hungarian Philately

Pro Juventute - Hungarian Dog Breeds

Face value: HUF 400 + HUF 50 surcharge (small sheet of four HUF 100 stamps). Size: 140 x 70mm (sheet), 28.3 x 40mm (stamps).

Designers: Judit Prihoda and Attila Elekes. The four stamps depict Hungarian-breed dogs: the puli, the Hungarian greyhound, the mudi and the Hungarian vizsla.

Technical details: Printed using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 150,000 sheets.

Issued 26 February 2004

E-Europe, European Ministerial Conference on Information Society

Face value: HUF 160 (four stamps of HUF 40). Size: 45 x 27.6mm.

Designers: Imre Benedek. The four stamps show a symbolic design with the 'e' transformed into a '@' sign. Each stamp has a different colored background.

Technical details: Printed using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 400,000 sets.

Issued 5 March 2004

10th World Indoor Track and Field Championships, Budapest

Face value: HUF 120. Size: 30.7 x 45mm.

Designers: Imre Benedek. The design depicts runners on a track.

Technical details: Printed using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 200,000 stamps.

On the Way to the European Union, Part 3

Face value: HUF 100. Size: 26 x 33mm.

Designers: Gyula Molnár. The design depicts gold stars forming a clock face with red and green clock hands.

Technical details: Definitive stamp printed in quantity required for postal demand using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd.

Issued 18 March 2004

World Heritage Sites in Hungary, Part 2

Face value: HUF 150, 170. Size: 45 x 33.3mm.

Designers: Pál Varga. The designs show the Gothic interior of the Abbey of Pannonhalma (HUF 150); and a herd of horses, white-winged black tern, a Hungarian gray cattle and the characteristic sweep-pole well of the Hortobágy National Park (HUF 170)

Technical details: Printed in sheets of 50 using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 200,000 pairs of stamps.

Tourism: Spa Hotels, Part 2.

Face value: HUF 120, 150. Size: 50 x 30mm.

Designers: László Dudás. The designs depict the Thermal and Sports Hotel Bük of Bükfürdő (HUF 120); and the Aqua-Sol Hotel of Hajduszoboszló along with the *Foot Wiper* statue of Pál Patzay (HUF 150).

Technical details: Printed in sheets of 50 using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 200,000 sets of stamps.

Easter

Face value: HUF 48. Size: 29.3 x 30mm.

Designers: Erzsébet Szekeres. The design depicts a rabbit running with a willow twig and a red egg. Technical details: Printed using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in quantities required by postal demand.

*

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What a pretty stamp this would have been!
Artist's proof of a 1 forint stamp design
from the mid-1890s showing the 'large'
Hungarian coat-of-arms supported
by angels.

(Illustration taken from Gábor Visnyovszki's
Bélyegkönyv / Stamps / Briefmarken)