

**SEE YOU AT WASHINGTON 2006!**

***THE NEWS OF  
HUNGARIAN PHILATELY***

**Volume: 37 / Number: 1**

**January – March 2006**

**CONTENTS:**

**Page**

- 1 The President's Corner** *by H. Alan Hoover*  
**1 Final Update for Washington 2006** *by Robert B. Morgan*  
**2 Kudos and Welcome**  
**2 Society for Hungarian Philately Treasurer's Report for 2005** *by Ted Johnson*  
**3 Review of the Book on Wartime Airmail Routes** *by Judy Kennett*  
**3 The Old and the New Elisabeth Bridge** *by Paul Richter, M.D.*  
**5 What I Saw on Ebay** *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*  
**6 Question and Answer**  
**6 Letter to the Editor** *by Jan-Jap de Weerd*  
**7 In Memoriam – Anthony Müller (1954-2005)**  
**7 The Counterfeit Atlanta Olympics Stamp** *by Gábor Voloncs*  
**9 A Wake-up Call to Our Members** *by Bob Morgan*  
**10 The Emperor Goes to Bosnia** *by Alfred F. Kugel*  
**13 Letter to the Editor** *by Lyman R. Caswell*  
**14 The Story of My Best Friend 'Ray'** *by H. Alan Hoover*  
**14 Question & Answer** *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*  
**15 The Editor's Notes** *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*  
**17 2004-2005 Auction Sales of Hungarian Rarities in Budapest** *by Richard Stark*  
**18 A Quick Primer on the Magyar Nemzeti Kormány  
Overprints of Szeged** *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*  
**18 More Letters to the Editor** *by Wes Learned and David Tripple*  
**21 The Disappearance** *by Dick Stark*  
**Back Cover: Views of the Old Elisabeth Bridge in Budapest**



**SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY**  
**2201 Roscomare Road, Los Angeles, CA 90077 USA**  
**Published Quarterly / Copyright 2006**

**SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY**

2201 Roscomare Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90077 USA

Established 1969

~~~~~  
APS Affiliate 34  
~~~~~

President: H. Alan Hoover, *e-mail*: **[h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org](mailto:h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org)**

Vice-President: Randy Frank, **[rfrank@sossi.org](mailto:rfrank@sossi.org)**

Treasurer: Ted Johnson, **[TedBar1005@aol.com](mailto:TedBar1005@aol.com)**  
**1005 Franklin St., Santa Monica, CA 90403-2321 USA**

Secretary: Robert B. Morgan, **[robertmorgan@adelphia.net](mailto:robertmorgan@adelphia.net)**  
**2201 Roscomare Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90077-2222 USA**

Directors-at-large: Stephan I. Frater, M.D., **[sifmd@aol.com](mailto:sifmd@aol.com)**  
Thomas Phillips, **[phillthms@aol.com](mailto:phillthms@aol.com)**

Sales Circuit Manager: H. Alan Hoover, **[h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org](mailto:h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org)**  
**6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092**

Newsletter Editor: Csaba L. Kohalmi, **[editor@hungarianphilately.org](mailto:editor@hungarianphilately.org)**  
**910 Claridge Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46260-2991 USA**

Newsletter Publisher: Chris Brainard, **[cebrainard@comcast.net](mailto:cebrainard@comcast.net)**

Auction Chairperson: Emmerich Vamos, **[EmmeVamos@aol.com](mailto:EmmeVamos@aol.com)**  
**8722 Belladonna Road, Riverside, CA 92508 USA**

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

~~~~~  
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).

~~~~~  
Annual membership dues are **\$15** (**\$16** if paid via Paypal) for members whose addresses are in the United States and Canada and **\$20** (**\$21** if paid via Paypal) 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. Paypal payment may be made to **[TedBar1005@aol.com](mailto:TedBar1005@aol.com)**.

\*

This issue closed on 1 February 2006

The next issue will close sometime next year when the Editor has enough material to fill 20 pages!

\*

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by **H. Alan Hoover**

Are you ready? I am. Washington 2006 (<http://www.washington-2006.org>) is here starting May 27th. We encourage you to make every effort to come and be a part of the show, if even just for a day. The weather will be great; tourist season should be average since not all schools will be out yet, so plan now to attend. Check out the website for hotel recommendations and scheduled activities so you can plan. Stop by the society table; we need lots of volunteers to man it; and see Bob Morgan's article below for all the other details we have at this time.

We are saddened by the tragic loss of author and vibrant SHP member Anthony Muller. Our deepest condolences go to his family. *Nyugodjál békében, my philatelic friend!*

The electronic project called Virtual International Philatelic Exhibition – EXPONET (<http://www.japhila.cz/hof>) that I mentioned last issue has many exhibits included. Our member Henry Hahn has numerous on there also. Give it a try and I am sure you will find it invaluable.

I would like to recognize donations made by society members. Since the last reporting, Mr. Sandor, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Rauh have all made financial donations to the society treasury to support our efforts. Thank you gentlemen for your support!

A slight mix-up occurred in the last issue with our dues notice and mailing envelope. We apologize for the confusion and hope this will be a reminder to all that if you have not yet renewed for 2006, kindly do so now before you forget. Membership fees are unchanged, \$15.00 USD for USA / Canadian members and \$20.00 USD for all other countries. Kindly forward your dues to the Treasurer's address noted in the front inside cover of this issue or via PAYPAL.

Because you are reading this issue, your Editor did not exercise the "nuclear option" and thanks to your inputs was able to compile this issue on time. Some members provided new material, new ideas, and potential articles for future issues. Most of all, our Editor wants this newsletter to be member driven. He needs help; he doesn't want each issue to contain his ideas solely. He welcomes help in you translating articles and cheers if you send in something in English.

As I mentioned last issue, the society needs two additional new officers – the secretary and the treasurer are resigning their positions after many years of faithful service. Our Vice President has also filled his position temporarily because no one was available. So far, no one stepped forward and offered to help. I contacted six members and all declined. I am out of ideas. PLEASE HELP!

The Treasurer's report shows that we continue to be healthy and that we have funds to continue to assist Hungarian philately in the future from our treasury. The details are coming together regarding a book on the envelope-design stamps written by one of our members. I reviewed a draft copy over the Christmas break and found the details interesting; I never knew there were so many aspects to write about on the one reasonably priced classical issues. I also want to take this opportunity to thank our auction chairman, **Emmerich Vamos** for his tireless work in running the society quarterly auctions and producing the wonderful returns as reported on the financial statement for the society. Your efforts to support our members and our Treasury are sincerely appreciated.

For now .... Ray, as always we will .... 'Keep Stampin'!

✱

### FINAL UPDATE FOR WASHINGTON 2006

*May 22 – June 3, 2006*

by **Robert B. Morgan**

As this will be the last published issue of **The News** before Washington 2006 occurs, I will note all information available today. This is written in the last week of January but the list of exhibitors was not announced yet.

The best advice to heed is to plan out what you definitely want to attend and see. The show will offer so much that without a prepared list of 'musts' one easily can get distracted. If you come with a pre-prepared list, after you check in and pick up a show catalog, you can work out the details. The variety of lectures and activities to choose from will dazzle you.



**SHP was assigned booth number 2443.** We will be in the prime area of the Society Booths' section. Our corner-booth is located near the Literature Exhibit and Reading area. Make your Society's booth your meeting point of friends where you can leave/pick up messages. Volunteer members to help out at the booth will be assigned day/times. Please volunteer and contact either Bob Morgan or Alan Hoover. Mr. István Glatz, Hungary's Commissioner to Washington '06 graciously offered to give his expert opinion on any philatelic material our members might want to show him. Please sign in at the Society booth for this privilege and Mr. Glatz will tell you the time slot for you to meet him. Mr. Glatz is an accredited FIP judge and an accredited Expert of Hungarian philatelic material. He is an avid collector himself who loves to trade, buy or sell.

SHP has been assigned one frame to show Hungarian philately. Mr. Csaba Kohalmi volunteered to prepare the exhibit but frame number was not given yet. At the SHP booth we will be able to direct you to the frame. Do not miss seeing it! Plans are made to have SHP/Washington '06 souvenir covers available at the booth.

**The show opens Saturday, May 27, 2006.** SHP Board members meeting is at 4-6 PM. The meeting room number has not been assigned yet. Don't miss the show's opening ceremonies!

**Sunday, May 28, 2006.** Our General Annual Meeting will be held 3-5 o'clock: open to all. Room number has not been assigned yet. Only members and newly signed up members will be eligible in the (free) drawing for valuable door prizes. Don't miss this seldom-possible opportunity to meet your fellow SHP members in person, plan to attend! Bring a friend!

**Wednesday, May 31, 2006.** 2-4 o'clock a lecture by Mr. István Glatz promises to be the highlight for Hungarian collectors attending this show. The subjects covered will be Hungary's 'Postage Dues' and the little understood 'Hivatalos' mail of 1921-1924. The following question and answer period should be very interesting to attend. See you there!

\*

#### KUDOS AND WELCOME

Congratulations to our members who received the following awards for their exhibits. **Alfred F. Kugel** received a vermeil medal for *The Postal History of Bosnia-Hercegovina from 1842 to 1918* at the Minnesota Stamp Expo.

Congratulations to **Alfred Kugel** on the occasion of his election as President of the Military Postal History Society for the 2006-07 term.

Welcome to our newest members: Mr. **Martin Brumby** of York, UK; Mr. **Brian Freeman** of Elk Grove, CA; Mr. **Joseph Gyapjas** of Ormond Beach, FL; and Mr. **Art Wale** of St. Albert, AB.

\*

#### SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2005

Beginning Balance 1-1-2005	<b>\$17,561.47</b>		
Income:		Expenses:	
Auction	\$1,668.80 <sup>1</sup>	Dues –	
Donations	123.95	American Hungarian Federation	50.00
Dues	1,200.00	Frame fees for Hungarian Exhibits	
Dues-Paypal	15.08	at Washington 2006	880.00
Newsletter Ads	50.00	Newsletter costs - 4 issues	\$3,205.20
Postage reimbursement	9.92	Plaques and Medals for Plaques	323.14
Sale of bound editions &		Postage, printing	404.46
Monograph #9	483.00	State of Connecticut filing fee	<u>25.00</u>
Sales Circuit Commission	<u>395.68</u>		
Total Income	\$ 3,946.43	Total Expenses:	\$ 4,887.80
Beginning Balance plus Income	<b>\$21,507.90</b>	Ending Balance 12-31-2005	<b>\$16,620.10</b>

<sup>1</sup> There is an additional \$1,000.00 balance in the auction account.

**Ted Johnson, Treasurer**

\*

## **REVIEW OF THE BOOK ON WARTIME AIRMAIL ROUTES**

*by* **Judy Kennett**

**Bridging the Continents in Wartime – Important Airmail Routes 1939-1945**, by Hans E Autink and Egbert Hovenkamp. Published 2005 by de Stichting Luchtpostgeschiedenis Tweede Wereldoorlog, Enschede, The Netherlands. Soft cover, A4 format 227 pages, tables, color illustrations. My copy is the English edition.

The book is available for US\$33, plus US\$9 postage within Europe, and US\$13 to the rest of the world (air mail is extra) from Leo H Jelsma, Postbus 17, NL-9300 AA RODEN, The Netherlands. Payment can be made by PayPal to [leohjelsma@home.nl](mailto:leohjelsma@home.nl) or by US\$ or Euros cash. Checks cannot be accepted, because of the high bank charges for processing checks.

The book consists of 18 chapters, each one dealing with a route flown by a specific airline. Each chapter starts with a short history of the service then gives a description of difficulties encountered by the airline during the time the route existed. At the conclusion of each chapter are detailed tables giving flight numbers, timings at various stopping places, and dates of arrival of flights. A bibliography and a route map are included for each chapter.

The period 1939-1945 has been selected because the onset of World War 2 on 1 September 1939 caused so many changes to the prewar airmail system both within and out of Europe. Much of the information used was not available during the period, because of censorship. However, using the services of ‘experts’ from a number of countries, the authors have gathered an astounding amount of detailed information.

In keeping with the title ‘Bridging the continents in wartime’, the authors have selected routes including KLM to the Far East, IA / BOAC/ QEA to India and Australia, KNILM to Australia between 1938 and 1942, IA / BOAC to East and South Africa, various PAN American services, and Air France (to 1940) and LATI (Italy) services to South America.

Using the tables in this book, it should be possible to trace the path taken by an airmail cover posted in Europe during the years 1939-1941. On the routes to the Far East and to Australia, the services of IA and KLM shared many common stopping places, and it may be difficult to decide which airline did carry the item. At first glance, it may seem that the book has little of relevance to Hungarian airmails of the period, but we know that letters from Hungary continued to move outside Europe until at least the end of 1941.

I take much pleasure in reading and using this book. The illustrations of contemporary airmail covers, which are in full color and each accompanied by a brief analysis, are of very good quality, and the setting out of the tables is exemplary.



## **THE OLD AND THE NEW ELISABETH BRIDGE IN BUDAPEST**

*by* **Paul Richter, M.D.**

It was slightly over sixty years ago that the Germans blew up the beautiful Danube bridges connecting Buda and Pest. I’m sure that sad sight is well remembered by those of us who were there.

Two years ago when I visited Budapest, I talked with several young Hungarians and mentioned to them that the new Elisabeth Bridge did not resemble the one in my memory. I was told that my recollection was incorrect. For many years, I have been looking for a good picture of the original Elisabeth Bridge, but no luck. Recently, I even tried Google, but the bridge shown as the Elisabeth Bridge was actually the Chain Bridge. Finally, while in Toronto, I visited a stamp shop downtown; and there, amongst a pile of Hungarian post cards, was the original Elisabeth Bridge as I remembered it! I’m illustrating it along with the souvenir sheet issued in 1964 for the reconstructed bridge.

The Elisabeth Bridge was named for the beloved wife of King Ferenc József. She married him in 1854 at the age of 16. He was 23 at the time. Elisabeth was a frequent visitor to Hungary and spent a significant time in Gödöllő near Budapest. She was assassinated by an Italian anarchist, Luigi Lucheni, who plunged a knife into her while walking along a quay in Geneva. She died on 10 September 1898 at the age of 61.



**Left:** The original view of the Elisabeth Bridge.  
**Above:** Souvenir sheet (Scott No. C250) commemorating the reconstruction of the bridge in 1964.  
**Below:** Cameo portrait of Elisabeth.

*/The Elisabeth Bridge was the last of the Budapest Danube Bridges to be rebuilt after World War II. Its reconstruction coincided with the demolition of the Kossuth Bridge (shown on Scott No. C52) that spanned the Danube just south of the Parliament Building across to Buda's Batthány Square. The Kossuth Bridge was the first permanent bridge built after 1945 but was designed for temporary use only because its pillars were resting on the river bottom and not embedded in bedrock. My philatelic mentor, who was serving as a parish priest in the Tabán at the time, sent me a photographic record of the construction. The Tabán church is at the Buda side of the entrance to the bridge. Ed./*



*First roadbed element loaded onto the suspension cables from two barges on the Danube on 14 April 1964.*



*View of the bridge nearing completion on 21 June 1964.*



*Second day of the load testing on 16 September 1964. A similar picture of the bridge fully loaded with trams and buses made the wire services and was carried in newspapers across the United States a few days later.*

\*

## WHAT I SAW ON EBAY

by Csaba L. Kohalmi



The fake 1871 3kr lithographed stamps continue to be a reminder that *caveat emptor / let the buyer beware* is a good rule of thumb in dealing with listings of unusual philatelic material. Once again, a seller from Germany offered a clean, nicely centered and cancelled copy of the scarcest regular Hungarian stamp for a couple of hundred dollars. What the seller did not notice that the 'stamp' was a private reproduction created for the 50th anniversary of the 1871 issue. The dates '1871' and 1921' replaced the '3' and the 'kr' in the circles to either side of the Hungarian coat-of-arms. The 'BUDAPEST' cancellation should have raised a red warning flag, also. As we know from the 1973 Budapest centennial stamp issue (Scott Nos. 2179-2184), the

Hungarian capital was formed by uniting the towns of Buda, Pest, and O-buda in 1873, long after the use of the lithographed stamps ran their normal course of postal use.



Another frequently seen forgery is the 1918 airmail issue on cover. This particular listing from Rumania was a no-brainer despite the fact that the seller showed the Flugpost Wien arrival cancellation as a part of the item description. While the seller tried to create an air of uncertainty concerning this item in the description by stating that he was not an expert, he was still asking about a \$30 starting price. The cover bore no supplemental stamps to pay the postage, the registration, express and handling fees and was 'franked' with both values of the first Hungarian airmail set. The Budapest 4 canceling device control letters were L.T.n. in lieu of L.l.z.



This used copy of the 500K Large Madonna stamp from 1923 was advertised as being a center-omitted error with a starting price of \$9.99. Unfortunately, it's only a stamp damaged by exposure to sunlight. The center color of several values of the Large Madonna series is susceptible to fading when exposed to light as happened to this stamp. There are no genuine 'center-omitted' errors of this series according to Hungarian philatelic literature. The stamp presented here is at best a freak that resulted from mishandling and improper storage. Should it have been a true error, the owner would have been asking thousands of dollars for it and not \$9.99.

Ebay is not the only place where forged, counterfeit, and altered stamps are offered for sale. Such material often appears in the catalogs of reputable auction houses. Readily available home computer technology offers opportunities unheard of before to 'create' desirable philatelic material. While in the old days, forgers needed a printing shop to manufacture their wares, today's scam artists have computer scanners, photographic-quality printers, and color copiers to do the work. **Gábor Visnyovszki** discussed the proliferation of this type of counterfeit material in the September 2005 issue of **Bélyegvilág**. Among other things, he illustrated items photocopied in color from the book **Bélyegkönyv** as well as 'overprints' created by scanning genuine stamps and 'printing' the final product using an ink jet printer.

✱

### QUESTION & ANSWER



**Question:** I am enclosing a photocopy of a first day cover that I was quite surprised to find at a local stamp show. I would very much appreciate an opinion regarding the possibility that the Budapest 4 Post Office canceller could be off by 10 years or whether there are people out there fabricating silly fakes to have a good laugh at the collectors' expense. /Paul Richter, M.D./ (The enlarged view of the CDS is shown at the left.)

**Answer:** The Editor has a (nearly) identical cover with the same 'error' in the date. Dr. Richter's cover is a legitimate, genuine, postally used FDC. Evidently, the window clerk at the 'airmail' window of the Budapest 4 Post

Office mistakenly loaded a '3' into the 'year' slot of the 'A' canceling device, creating the wrong date variety. It would be interesting to find out how long it took to discover the mistake. The registry etiquettes on the two covers are numbered R423f and R430f; so, conceivably, there could be six other covers with the same error if we assume that the clerk used the registry etiquettes sequentially.



1947 Freedom Heroes FDC cancelled at the Budapest 4 Post Office 'Airmail' window with the wrong year date: 1937, in lieu of 1947. This cover was sent to K. Fatoullah, a stamp dealer in New York. Both covers analyzed for this 'answer' arrived in New York on 20 March 1947. This cover was sent by 'Halász & Ringwald' while the second cover originated from 'Jenő Nagy (?)'. The first day of issue for this set was 15 March 1947.

\*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Csaba,

I have several remarks in response to the July-September issue of **The News of Hungarian Philately**. As to the article by Emmerich Vamos on advertising postal stationery, some years ago I saw a postal card with the Turul imprint from the 1930s with a printed advertisement. It was offered for sale by one of the major Hungarian auction houses and was sold for a fairly high price. Unfortunately, I can't find the catalogue. Maybe one of the members could help.

In your article on *What I Saw on eBay* you wonder if anyone has ever compiled a listing of the 'emergency' postage due stamps. Frank Semmler, the editor of the German Hungarian study group Arge Ungarn, collects these stamps and I believe he made such a listing some years ago. /Mike Rigsby has been in contact with David Williams, the editor of the **Stamps of Hungary**, our sister society in Great Britain. David made available a photocopy of Frank Semmler's listing and offered to write an article on this subject. Ed./

As my contribution to the discussion on philately on the Internet, I'd like to share my experience in compiling what you could call 'imagery.' For a couple of years now, every time I see the scan of an item that is connected with my interests, I try to store a copy of it on my computer. I created several folders on the different subjects that touch my collection of postal history in the 1930s and

1940s: Airmail, Postal Stationary, censor markings, etc. The possibilities of how to arrange the scans are endless: in the Airmail folder I created several subfolders, i.e., 1918, South America, Zeppelin, etc. Items that fit into more than one subject, for instance a postal stationery card with censor markings, can be included in both folders.

When I include an image in a folder, I always give it a name that starts with the date of the cancellation. A letter postmarked on March 20, 1936 will have its title starting with 360320. This way, inside each folder I can arrange the scans automatically by the date. I try to store the scans as JPG images, that way I can add comments under the properties: by using a left click on the image, the 'properties' window pops up, then 'summary,' and 'comments.' I can paste in the description of an auction lot or the price realized at an eBay auction. Be careful though, the number of characters you can store this way is limited!

Over the years I have accumulated a tremendous reference tool that I can consult directly every time I think "didn't I see something similar before?" or whenever I'm doing research on a particular subject. One last hint: if it appeals to you to collect your own imagery, don't be too greedy! This is a time consuming activity and it's better to limit it to a few well-defined subjects that you're sure to be able to handle in the long run.

Best regards,

**Jan Jaap de Weerd**

✱

### **IN MEMORIAM - ANTHONY MÜLLER (1954-2005)**



The album of life closed way too early for Anthony, who died on December 1st from complications of leukemia. He was the small child shown in the wire services photograph being carried by his parents escaping across a canal from Hungary in late 1956. He earned bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Arizona and, as a Fulbright-Hayes scholar, a doctorate in engineering from the University of Paris. His fluency in several languages helped him build a career as an international consultant. At the time of his death, he was the senior advisor with McKinsey & Co. at the company's Berlin office. He traveled extensively in Europe and Central Asia as part of his job. In the last ten years of his life, Anthony worked with Boy Scouts, sharing with them his enthusiasm of geology and philately.

Your editor remembers Anthony as a specialist in the occupation-era of Hungarian philately. He hosted the Trianon Stamp Retreat in 2001 to bring together the experts to share their knowledge on this complex subject. He doggedly pursued the Baranya overprints, cleared the air on the subject of the two different presses used for the overprinting, and reprinted Jenő Szabó-Antal's book, **The Stamps of Baranya**, with color illustrations. Anthony's writings appeared many times on the pages of this newsletter. At times, he even provided color inserts at his own expense. Anthony was also the first member of SHP to sign up via our website in 2000.

He leaves behind his wife Isabelle and sons Antoine (15) and Alexandre (13) as well as his brother Kálmán in Papua New Guinea. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family. The world became a poorer place without him. Rest in peace, my fellow countryman and philatelic friend; and, as you always used to say, *Isten áldd meg a magyart!* /Ed./

✱

### **THE COUNTERFEIT ATLANTA OLYMPICS STAMP**

*by* **Gábor Voloncs**

The following entry appears on page 281 of the 2005 edition of the Hungarian Postage and Revenue Stamp catalog following the entry for the Atlanta Olympics issue:

**H** *Counterfeit 50Ft stamps were sold on the northern shores of the Balaton with the intent to defraud the post office. The identifying characteristic of the*

*counterfeit stamps, despite their good appearance, is the coarse line perforation 9.  
(Copies used in 1996 on cover valued at 10,000Ft.)*

This entry is historical in the sense that since the introduction of the new Pengö series stamps in 1926, this is the first time that postage stamps were widely counterfeited for postal use. (As we know, in 1926 the 8 and the 16 fillér values were counterfeited using lithography.) For the first time in 70 years, perpetrators undertook the counterfeiting of stamps for ill-gotten gains while defrauding the post office. What do we know about these counterfeiters?



**Right:** Genuine 50Ft Atlanta Olympics stamp.  
**Left:** Counterfeit stamp with coarse perforations.

We really do not have many facts. After the counterfeiting ring was exposed, a few articles appeared in the daily press; after which without follow-up reporting, we do not know if the parties involved were convicted of a crime. The penalty for a counterfeiting conviction in Hungary is fairly light (6 months to 2 years incarceration), so while it does not motivate people, it also does not provide much of a deterrent. After perusing the contemporary newspapers in the Balaton region, I found an article in the 23 July 1996 issue of the **Napló** newspaper published in Veszprém. The headline of the *Krónika/Chronicle* column read:

#### *Counterfeit Stamps at the Shores of the Lake.*

*During the past week, counterfeit stamps have turned up along the shores of the Balaton. According to information released by the post office, the economic fraud prevention unit of the country police department has neutralized the criminal web.*

*The counterfeit stamps were identified by personnel in the Sopron Postal Directorate. The perpetrators distributed their supply of the 50Ft Atlanta Olympics stamps to sellers at private kiosks where postcards and other postal items were sold all along the shores of the Balaton.*

*An organized syndicate was at work. Since the middle of last week, several arrests have been made. István Sz. (37) is the owner of the printing shop where the good quality counterfeits were produced. He transferred the stamps to József V. (25), (a resident of the capital, who is also under arrest) who then sold the stamps to eight distributors for 25Ft apiece. The distributors then peddled the counterfeits to the kiosk owners, asking 40 to 43Ft for each. (Normally, the post office give a 6 percent discount, so that a reseller makes a 3 forint profit on a 50Ft stamp.) Obviously, those that bought into this activity should have known that something was amiss, especially if they compared the privately produced stamps with the post office originals. Approximately 100,000 copies of the Atlanta '96 stamps were produced, of which almost a quarter was unusable. The police confiscated 37,900 copies, the rest, about 30-35,000 stamps, were sold and were postally used.*

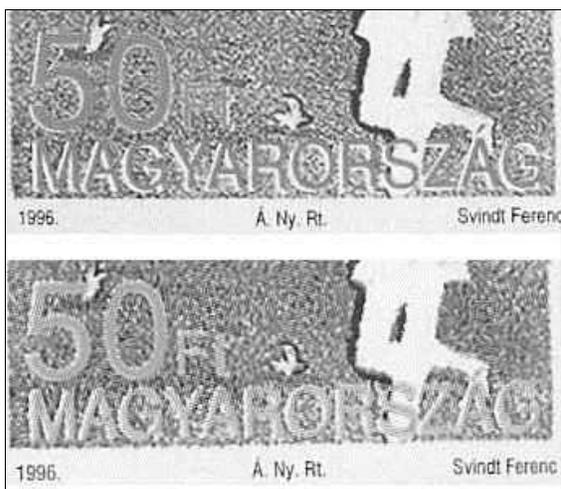
*The timing of the investigation by the economic fraud unit was impeccable because 110,600 fake copies of the stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the Hungarian Newspaper Writers Federation was awaiting distribution. These were produced using offset, but time ran out for the perpetrators before the sheets could be perforated.*

*According the manager of the Sopron Postal Directorate, the counterfeits were nearly perfect copies with the exception of the poorer quality of paper and adhesive. The government-produced stamps are printed on imported paper. For the past two-three years, postal inspectors have been making regular inspections of the Balaton-region sellers to prevent such a occurrence. (Last year, counterfeit documentary revenue stamps produced abroad were seized in Győr-Moson-Sopron county.)*

*The police prevented a 10 million forint loss. The two residents of the capital and the eight distributors have been charged with stamp counterfeiting.*

*- máttélki -*

There are no major distinguishing characteristics in the design of the counterfeit Atlanta stamp. The fakes, which were produced using offset just like the originals, are identical-looking. The paper, however, is much different. It is a looser, poorer quality that shows threads when separating along the perforations. Under UV light, the paper of the counterfeit has a cloudy appearance while the original is uniformly clear. This is most noticeable when viewing the backside. The blue printing is slightly greenish-blue in lieu of the ultramarine. This is because a yellow raster was applied to the entire picture surface of the counterfeit, which is not the case with the original. The '50' numeral of value and part of the text is yellowish-red instead of orange-red as on the original. This happened because the red raster dots were less dense on the counterfeit than on the original. The '1996' date in the lower right corner is 2.0mm long and 0.8mm high on the originals. The dimensions of the counterfeit are 2.2mm long and 0.9mm high. The imprints 'Á.Ny.Rt.' and 'Svindt Ferenc' also show small incremental differences. The most obvious difference can be seen with the naked eye: the comb perforation of the original measures 11½:12, while the counterfeits have irregular line perforation gauging 9:9. The gum on the originals is shiny, while the counterfeits have matt gum.



**Top:** enlargement of the genuine stamp.

**Bottom:** counterfeit.

Note the slightly large date on the counterfeit and the lighter shade of '50Ft.' The orange-red on the genuine appears darker than the yellow-red fake.

At the time, the 50Ft stamps paid the postage for postcards sent to Western Europe. It is likely that the members of the counterfeiting ring figured that foreign tourists on holiday at the Balaton would be less likely to notice that the stamps were not genuine and that most of the mail would be deposited in postal collection boxes reducing the chances for detection. The conspiracy was discovered by a mail routing employee of the Sopron Postal Directorate. He happened to be a stamp collector. Most likely, thousands of counterfeit stamps were sent out of the country on postcards.

In Hungary, very few postally used examples of this counterfeit stamp have turned up. The lack of publicity about this probably kept many from being discovered. As a result, it is hard to estimate their scarcity.

*/This article also appeared in the December 2005 issue of the Szabolcsi Bélyegújság./*

✱

## **A WAKE-UP CALL TO OUR MEMBERS**

*from your secretary* **Bob Morgan**

Our Editor's plea for articles prompted me to write these words. The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a not-for-profit organization relying on volunteer members to follow the society's goal to enrich Hungarian philately. On that note, let's have some plain talk.

Our Editor relies on not-paid authors to contribute articles. For long years he was able to publish a quarterly journal that earned worldwide high praises and awards. Csaba himself is a not-paid volunteer and his dedication for our cause does not deserve to give him aggravation but needs our support. When we say to ourselves, "...I'm not qualified to write an article", "...I don't know how to write an article", "...what should I write about?" or "...although I enjoy reading articles of various philatelic subjects, I don't have time to do one...let somebody else do it", these are all weak excuses for doing nothing.

SHP's membership includes every level of collector. Our members are located on all five continents. We have members who have many questions because they want to learn from experiences of others. We have many advanced collector members as well as those who have reached the highest level in philately. I say to members who have questions: Ask! Write to the Editor and let the member-collectors give you the answers, that way we will all learn something. My call to the experi-

enced collector: Let us share your knowledge, your experiences, tell us what to look out for so we don't make the same mistake you've learned to avoid. Tell us tricks you've learned about buying and selling. Share with us your actual experiences, exhibiting, insurance, how to ship valuable philatelic material, etc. Tell us the pitfalls to watch out for: in short, share your invaluable knowledge. Share with us the story of an interesting find/buy you've made. You haven't seen any article in **The News** about your favorite specialty? How about if *you* write a few words and let us in on the secret? Are you still saying, you have nothing to write about? Your Editor is waiting...

While I'm on the subject of member participation, I want to use this opportunity to mention a related subject. Come May 2006, your Treasurer Ted Johnson and the Secretary (me) are going to retire. Volunteers needed to replace us. If you can spare an average of one hour a week to fulfill these positions, please send a email to our president Alan Hoover at the address indicated below. Your qualifications are perfect! (We didn't know anything either when we took over). Ted and I will be available for a smooth transition. The payback is the highest in the industry: *you'll have the satisfaction that you've given something to Hungarian philately for all the joy experienced over the years.* Side benefit: you will be in contact with the nicest people on earth!

To clarify some points: all officers of SHP are volunteers without pay. Officers are not paid for their travel or lodging expenses. Out-of-pocket expenses for SHP uses such as stationery, printing, postage, etc., are fully reimbursed to them.

SHP's financial status is in the finest position since the Society's inception. SHP is in the enviable position amongst philatelic societies that we are *growing* our membership numbers. SHP's attrition rate (non-renewing members) must be one of the lowest anywhere. Your membership fee barely covers the printing and postage costs of the quarterly journal; hopefully the yearly dues will not have to be raised thanks to the great efforts and success of our Auction Chairman Emmerich Vamos. Your Society's active participation in the advancement of Hungarian philately is something that we all can be very proud of. Take an active part in this fine organization and volunteer to participate. Get in touch with either Alan ([h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org](mailto:h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org)) or me ([robertmorgan@adelphia.net](mailto:robertmorgan@adelphia.net)) and if you wish, we can talk on the phone, too. Thanks!

\*

## THE EMPEROR GOES TO BOSNIA

*by Alfred F. Kugel*

### Historical Perspective

Following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, the European Great Powers gathered at the Congress of Vienna to sort out the geopolitical situation. One of their decisions was to confirm that Turkish sovereignty would continue over Bosnia-Herzegovina, while Austria would control neighboring Dalmatia along the Adriatic Coast and Slavonia north of the River Sava. However, this situation was unsatisfactory in the eyes of many of the Christian inhabitants of the provinces, so there were frequent uprisings in the ensuing years. One such event that occurred in 1875 was suppressed with unusual severity by the Ottomans, leading Serbia to declare war on Turkey to protect its Slavic neighbors. Its efforts were unsuccessful, but eventually Russia came to the rescue, which resulted in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78, in which the Ottomans were decisively defeated.

At that point, the European Powers again stepped in to try to settle the Balkan question, convening the Congress of Berlin in 1878. Among the decisions made there were to remove Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bulgaria from Turkish rule as well as to enlarge the territory of Serbia and Montenegro. Austria-Hungary was designated to occupy and administer Bosnia and Herzegovina, which they did for the next 40 years.

Following the authorization of the Congress of Berlin, Austro-Hungarian troops crossed the border into Bosnia-Herzegovina on 29 July 1878. Although the occupation had been agreed to by the Ottoman authorities in Constantinople, there was considerable resistance by the Muslim inhabitants and even some of the Turkish troops, who may not have been appropriately informed by the capital. However, Sarajevo was occupied on 19 August, and resistance came to an end about six weeks later.



*Picture postcard showing the storming of Sarajevo by Austro-Hungarian troops on 19 August 1878.*

### **The Austro-Hungarian Annexation**

Serbia was highly displeased by the new arrangement, since the presence of the Austro-Hungarians meant that its opportunity to unite with the ethnic Serbs living in Bosnia had been prevented. Thus, over the years there was considerable agitation against Austria emanating from Belgrade and from a number of pro-Slavic societies. In response, after 30 years of administration, Austria-Hungary decided to formally annex the two provinces to the Dual Monarchy on 5 October 1908 despite the protests from a number of other governments.

Indeed, many Austrians and Hungarians were concerned about the addition of a substantial number of Slavic subjects to the ethnic mix of the country. Under the circumstances, the authorities were anxious to publicize this first addition of new territory to the Empire in nearly a century, and in due course a decision was made that Emperor-King Franz Josef would make a goodwill visit to the two provinces in 1910.

### **Special Postal Markings**

Bosnia-Herzegovina was governed by a military administration during the Austro-Hungarian period from 1878 to 1918, and the postmarks used there were inscribed “K. und K. Milit. Post” (which translates to Imperial and Royal Military Post) to reflect the fact that in the Dual Monarchy, the Emperor of Austria was also the King of Hungary.

No new stamps were issued in conjunction with the Imperial tour, but other philatelic memorabilia were created. At the end of May and in early June, postmarks were applied in red at Sarajevo and Mostar, the provincial capitals, as well as a number of other towns, including Bosnisch Brod, Ilidze, Konjica and Zavidovici. The earliest date I’ve seen for a red cds is 30 May 1910 from Zenica, which may have been an overnight stop on the train taking the Emperor from Zagreb to Sarajevo.



*Postal card with earliest known red cancel (Zenica) used on 30 May 1910.*

The earliest date reported for the red cancel used in Sarajevo is 31 May 1910. An example used on 1 June on a card sent to Ilidze, where a red postmark was applied on arrival two days later, is shown below.



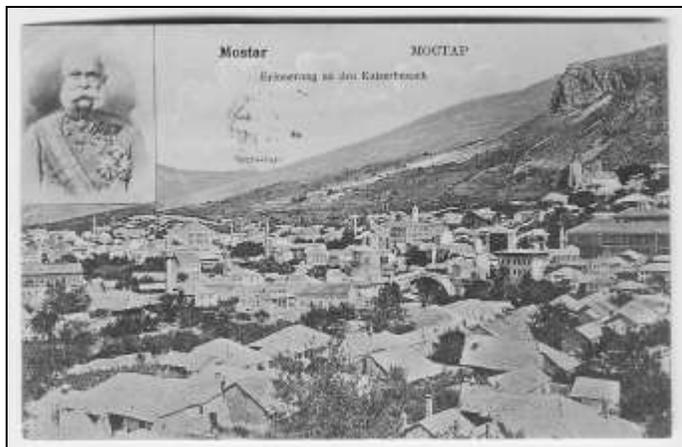
*Picture postcard showing the arrival of the Emperor/King from the Imperial train with the red commemorative cancel of Sarajevo on 1 June 1910.*

There was a special commemorative postcard provided in connection with the visit; as it has no imprint of a private printing works; it may be an official card issued by the Austro-Hungarian authorities.



*Special commemorative postcard showing scenes and important persons related to the visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina.*

A number of privately printed postcards were quickly prepared so that they could be sent as souvenirs. The following example was published by Pacher & Kisic in Mostar.



*Privately printed postcard honoring the Emperor's visit to Mostar.*

It is unclear whether the Emperor actually visited (or even passed through?) some of the small towns that provided commemorative postmarks. In the case of Zavidovici, which is about 40 miles northwest of Sarajevo, the most likely possibility is that it was a stop for the train going north from the capital at the end of the visit.



*Postcard with latest known red cancel (Zavidovici) used on 4 June 1910.*

### Epilogue

The visit of Franz Josef to Sarajevo and other cities was deemed an internal public relations success, solidifying the expansion of the country. However, the Serbs were not mollified, so that Bosnia was not always a good place for a state visit. Indeed, when the Emperor's nephew and heir, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, went on his own visit to Bosnia, he and his wife were assassinated by a Serbian terrorist in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. Although there were a number of underlying causes of the conflict, this act is generally considered to be the triggering event for the outbreak of World War I – the most costly episode of warfare in terms of lives and property damage that the world had seen up to that time.

### References

- Clement, Alfred, **Handbuch des Feld- und Militärpost in Österreich, Vol. I**, self-published in Graz, 1964.  
Gordon, T. M., **Checklist of Town Cancellations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1878-1918)**, self published in December 1973.  
Kugel, Alfred F., *The Postal History of Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1842-1918*, published in **The Collectors Club Philatelist**, May-June 2005.  
Kugel, Alfred F., *Turmoil in the Balkans 1875-1925*, published in **The Congress Book 2000** by the American Philatelic Congress.  
Majetic, Victor, **Spezial-Katalog der Feld- und Etappen Poststempel von Österreich-Ungarn 1914-1918**, self-published in 1965.

*/A version of this article appeared in the October 2, 2005 issue of the **Postal History Journal**/*

✱

### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Csaba,

the article, *When Counterfeit Stamps Cry Out 'Bogus!* in the October-December 2005 issue of **The News of Hungarian Philately** brought back a memory.

In 1960, I had bought a large general collection that had been made up in Hungary before World War II. It had many of the 1918-1920 overprints on Hungarian stamps, including the occupations. My next-door neighbor, a member of the music faculty of a nearby college, had been a member of an opera troupe in Hungary before the war. He told me that when his troupe went on tour to other countries, he acted as a courier to take consignments of stamps from a Hungarian stamp dealer to dealers in the other countries, using a suitcase with a false bottom.

He said that he once saw many complete sheets of occupation overprints in the back room of the dealer for whom he carried stamps. When he started to pick up one of the sheets, the dealer said, "Be careful. The ink's still wet."

I asked him about the overprints in my collection. My neighbor said of my overprints, "They're all counterfeit!"

I do not collect the 1918-1920 overprinted stamps today, unless they are accompanied by written guarantees of genuineness.

**Lyman R. Caswell**

✱

### **THE STORY OF MY BEST FRIEND 'RAY'**

*by* **H. Alan Hoover**

A few months ago one of the SHP Officers asked "In **The News** you close *The President's Corner* with 'Ray, as always we will Keep Stampin.' Can you tell me what 'Ray' means? I've asked a few of my friends but nobody has the foggiest idea."

Ray was a very dear friend of mine. We met philatelically in about 1980. I telephoned him after I had bought an auction lot and found that the pages had his APS number stamped on every page. I called him to see if the collection might have been stolen. As it turned out, he was selling it; and since I bought it, it started a wonderful philatelic relationship. He always told me no one ever did that to him, to double check that a lot wasn't stolen and he thought highly of me. After years of talking with him every single weekend and sharing stamp stories and stamp activities, I also started visiting him in Pennsylvania when I traveled there.

Ray was much older than I was. He was a person that really kept to himself. He wasn't one to go out and do much of anything. He never went to stamp shows. Never exhibited, but somehow he and I got along because of many reasons. He became my closest friend. We shared everything. Later, he even told me I was like his son because we had grown so close. Anytime I would end the weekly phone conversation, he would say to me "Hey! Just remember! Keep stampin!"

As a result of many years of smoking while in the Navy, Ray developed lung cancer, which spread quickly and he died within 9 months of first symptoms in 1990. Ray kept me active, Ray kept me involved, Ray guided me, Ray was the closest of friends in stamps and in life. He helped me through a very tough divorce in the first few years when we got close. He had morals, he had values, he knew when to call right from wrong. He helped me out in more ways than I could ever describe and ever since his funeral where I gave the eulogy, I haven't had a closer friend and miss him dearly.

So I remember my dear philatelic friend by saying as he said to me – "Keep stampin' " to everyone who reads my column. I do it because he seemed to say it to cheer me, to encourage me, and to calm me from all of life's other heartaches. So I remember my friend each column I write and hope my column might mean a difference in someone's day or life.

So that's who Ray is.

✱

### **QUESTION & ANSWER**

*by* **Csaba L. Kohalmi**

**Question:** What were the smallest and the largest stamps issued by the Hungarian Post?

**Answer:** The smallest stamps, measured by surface area perforation-to-perforation, were the 30f and 40f stamps of the 1961 Health Awareness set, MBÁ 1806-7, Scott No. 1366-7. The design area of these stamps measured 18 x 18 mm. The entire stamps were 23 x 23mm for a total surface area of 529mm<sup>2</sup>. This measurement was slightly smaller than that of the 1970s Towns series small format stamps, which were 25 x 22mm or 550mm<sup>2</sup>. The largest stamps were issued in 1993 showing scenes of Budapest and were supposed to publicize the aborted Budapest Expo of 1996 (MBÁ 4222-4, Scott No. 3414-6). These stamps, measuring 82 x 61mm, were as large as many small souvenir sheets. Their surface area was 5,002mm<sup>2</sup>, almost 10 times that of the smallest stamps.



*Hungarian stamp curiosities:  
the smallest and the largest  
stamps issued by  
the Hungarian Post.*



**Question:** What is the breakdown of the 5K postage paid for this money letter from 1919?

**Looking for an answer:** Chris Brainard sent me the scan for the above envelope from 1919. It was endorsed in blue crayon as weighing 85gm with a required tariff of 480f (4,80K). The content was listed as 8,200K's worth of securities. Neither Chris nor I could come up with a requirement of more than 3,55K postage, which we broke down as follows: 5th weight class distance letter at 20f + 4 x 5f; registration at 25f; fee for the declared value at 2,80K (calculated at 10f per 300K value,  $8,200K \div 300K = 28 \times 10f$ ) plus an extra 10f for war tax applicable at the time. Can anyone help with this?

\*

### THE EDITOR'S NOTES

by Csaba L. Kohalmi

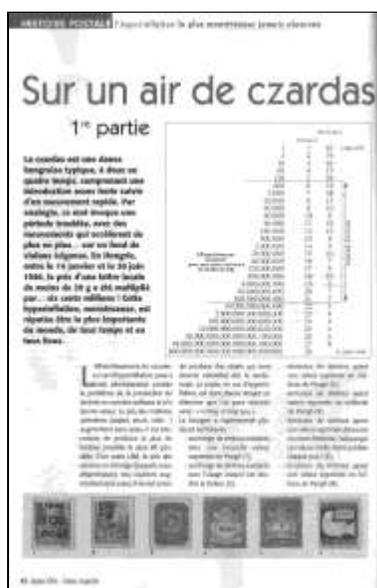
The German hobby-publication **Michel-Rundschau** tabulated the new stamp issues for 2003 from all of the world's postal administrations. The Caribbean island of St. Vincent headed the list with 251 stamps followed by Liberia, The Gambia, Grenada, and St. Vincent & Grenadines. Surprisingly, South Korea and Japan were next on the list with 163 and 161 stamps, respectively. The United States was in the top 20 of the most prolific countries with 123 stamps. The Hungarian Post issued a more conservative 53 stamps and placed 78th on the list. While the total number of worldwide new issues dropped slightly from the previous year, the face value was the highest ever. Altogether, 11,911 new stamps and souvenir sheets were made available to collectors for a total face value of \$8,906. /The information was gleaned from the October 31st issue of **Linn's Stamp News**./

It is with regret that we note the passing of another prominent Hungarian philatelist, **Péter Kallós**. Péter battled cancer for several years. I had the pleasure of meeting him at the annual MAFITT conference in 2002. He was a prolific author whose articles appeared in the **Bélyegvilág**.

The fine collection of Hungarian material from the estate of our late member **János Gabriel** is in the process of being auctioned. Profila featured about a third of the material in the November 2005 auction while another third was consigned to the Darabanth auction house. One of our members reported that he was able to acquire a fine mint copy of the 1871 15kr engraved stamp (Scott No. 11a) in the rare copper red shade for HUF 600,000 (approx. US\$3,000) plus commission from the Profila auction. The winning bid was six times the auction reserve of HUF 100,000. The prices realized from the Darabanth auction were even more startling. A mint (!) copy of the 1881 10kr envelope-design stamp with 11:13 compound perforations (Scott No.21a) sold for HUF 280,000 plus commission (approx. US\$1,600). There is no price indicated in the Hungarian catalogs for this stamp in unused condition. An imperforate sheet of 4 (Scott No. 841a) of the 1948 Trade Union stamp with extra wide margins sold for HUF 368,000 (~US\$1,850). Finally, a mint block of 4 of the 400,000aP value from the 1946 Railroad Centennial with missing denomination (Scott No. 788b) went for US\$6,900.

The Congress of the United States unanimously passed a resolution sponsored by Representative Tom Lantos (Democrat, California) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution on October 23, 2006.

**Emmerich Vamos** sent photocopies of this commemorative post card issued for the 50th anniversary celebration of the 1871 stamp issue. The card was published by the organization *A levél bélyeg gyűjtők első hazai egyesülete* (L.E.H.E.) in an edition of 3,000 numbered copies. The picture side of the card showed the new home of the organization as well as the Budapest Main Post Office.



**Jan-Jaap de Weerd** authored a series of articles on the 1945-46 Hungarian hyperinflations for publication in the **Timbres Magazine**, a general stamp periodical in France. The first article, titled *Sur un air de czardas*, appeared in the January 2006 issue. The first page of the article is shown on the left.

The readers' response to my *The Editor's Nuclear Option* article had been refreshingly positive! Letters, comments, articles, bits and pieces have been coming in a steady flow. I was able to close this issue pretty much on schedule with the original target date of February 1st. Also, I have at least one article left over to start the next issue. In case you sent in something in late January, please be patient. It will be published. Normally, I spread the editorial work out over three months' time, so anything that arrives close to the deadline is likely to miss that issue. Thanks for your patience. However, my fellow members, PLEASE don't pat yourselves on the back, yet! We need to repeat the streams of inputs to YOUR newsletter regularly, every three months! Nonetheless, I APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

✱

2004-2005 AUCTION SALES OF HUNGARIAN RARIETIES IN BUDAPEST

compiled by Richard Stark

MBÁ Number	Scott Number	Date of Issue & Description	Start Bid: \$ <sup>1</sup>	Hammer Price: \$ <sup>2</sup>	Date & Auctioneer
12c	11a	© 1871 15kr copper-red, well-centered	500	3,000 (!)	11/05 (P) <sup>3</sup>
24	21a var	* 1881 10kr perf 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> :13	750	1,400	12/05 (D) <sup>4</sup>
45B	38a	* 1898 5kr perf 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	100	450 (!)	11/05 (P)
48B	41a	* 1898 12kr perf 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	175	375	2/04 (P)
60B	40a	** 1899 10kr perf 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	400	750	2/04 (P)
102B	82ac	* 1904 2K perf 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	800	1,500	12/05 (D)
P15 var	J16bd	© 1905 20f center inverted	2,000	3,050	11/05 (P)
P23 var	J16a	© 1908 20f center inverted, 3 repaired perfs	2,000	3,050	11/05 (P)
P60 var	J46a	**/* 1919 3f w/o overprint	600	1,050	11/05 (P)
P65 var	J6a	** 1920 2f center inverted	1,100	1,200	12/05 (D)
365 var	348 var	**/* 1920 5K block of 9, value shifted in all or parts of the corners	1,500	3,600 (!)	6/04 (P)
Off. 2 var	O 2a	© 1920 20f inverted text HIVATALOS	5,000	10,000 (!)	3/05 (P)
405 var	386a	* 1923 inverted 5000K Madonna	10,000	14,000 (!)	11/05 (P)
549a var	486 var	** 1934 Liszt sheet in uncut pair	2,000	2,000	11/05 (P)
625a	536a	** 1938 'Nagymánya' missing color	7,500	10,000	5/05 (D)
625a	536a	** 1938 'Nagymánya' missing color	10,000	13,000 (!)	11/05 (P)
943a	738a	** 1946 1 million missing '1'	375	450	12/05 (D)
943a var	738a var	** 1946 1 million missing '1' margin pair	900	900	12/04 (P)
943a var	738a var	** 1946 1 million missing '1' block of 4	1,200	1,500	11/05 (P)
982a	788a	** 1946 Railroad missing '40000' block of 4	5,000	6,000	12/05 (D)
1041a	826a	** 1947 missing '60f'	750	1,150	11/05 (P)
1041a	826a	** 1947 missing '60f' margin block of 4	2,400	4,000	12/05 (D)
1054 var	835a	© 1948 60f Centennial printed both sides	550	800	11/05 (P)
1082 var	841a var	** 1948 imperf miniature sheet of 4	900	1,600	12/05 (D)
1160a var	899a var	** 1950 UTANPÓTLÁSUNK block of 4	1,800	1,900	12/05 (D)
1502 var	1133 var	© 1955 4Ft Workers printed both sides	600	1,100	12/04 (P)
1-21	unlisted	** 1956 Sopron set of 21	1,350	1,350	12/05 (D)
22-25	unlisted	** 1956 Sopron 4 values w/red overprint	1,800	2,000	12/05 (D)
1550a	B212 var	** 1957 30f Red Cross w/inverted overprint	400	400	9/04 (P)
1613var	1207 var	© 1958 1Ft block of 4 printed both sides	2,250	3,500	6/04 (P)
1690a	1262a	** 1959 missing red inscription, w/small gum crease	1,250	2,300 (!)	11/05 (P)
1963a	1488 var	** 1963 1,40Ft Skater missing blue 'E'	400	550	9/04 (P)
2081 var	1603 var	** 1964 1,40Ft w/o Olympic rings	300	700	12/05 (D)
2082 var	1604 var	** 1964 1,70Ft w/o Olympic rings	350	475	12/04 (P)
2084 var	1606 var	** 1964 2,50Ft w/o Olympic rings	350	1,900 (!)	12/04 (P)
2097a	B242a var	** 1964 Stamp Day strip/4, one stamp w/o silver	600	650	9/04 (P)
2482 var	1924 var	** 1968 Mexico Olympics sheet w/o gold color	2,250	3,000 (!)	9/04 (P)
2537a	1968 var	** 1969 80f Butterfly w/o black color	500	800	9/04 (P)

<sup>1</sup> Prices were converted from Hungarian forints at the rate of HUF 200 = US\$1.

<sup>2</sup> The hammer price, by definition, does NOT include the additional sales commission charged to the buyers.

<sup>3</sup> P = Profila Auctions

<sup>4</sup> D = Darabanth Auctions

\*

## A QUICK PRIMER ON THE *MAGYAR NEMZETI KORMÁNY* OVERPRINTS OF SZEGED

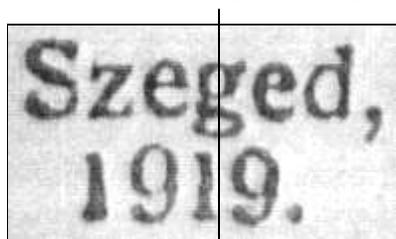


Plate proof of the Szeged 'Magyar Nemzeti Kormány' overprint.

by Csaba L. Kohalmi

As with other occupation-era stamps, the Szeged National Government overprints of 1919 were heavily counterfeited. While some of the counterfeits are easily detected because of their crude nature, many were created using the same letter type that was used for the original overprint. These counterfeits provide quite a bit of challenge to our fellow collectors. While I do not want to give a detailed study of this issue, several members have asked and others have contributed information on a first, quick check in detecting bogus overprints. My thanks go out to **Dr. Paul Szilagyi**, who provided the photocopy of the proof overprint, to **Chris Brainard**, who pointed out the features of the genuine copies, and to **Bill Maddox**, and **Dave Tripple**, who initiated this discussion.

The Szeged issue was noted for its rather turbulent creation. Due to labor disputes, two different printers were used for the production that resulted in partial sheets being overprinted by two different shops using different shades of color (e.g., carmine vs. red). The counterfeiters preyed on this confusion when they stole the same press letters and used them to create the bogus stamps. Fortunately, they did not get all of the details correct. The positioning of the letter 'g' in 'Szeged' with respect to the second '1' in the date '1919' shown below gives today's collectors a good clue as to the origins of the stamp. On the genuine Szeged overprints, the '1' is lined up vertically to the left of the center of the letter 'g.' On bogus stamps, it is under the right half of the 'g.'



Enlargement from the proof print showing the second '1' in the date under the left half of the letter 'g.'



A pair of counterfeit overprints made with original type letters showing the '1' in the date under the right half of the letter 'g.'

Furthermore, the counterfeiters could not duplicate the correct overprint color. All of the genuine Parliament stamps were overprinted in the first printing shop in a brick red color. If the Parliament stamp in question has a carmine red overprint with genuine looking letters, it is a fake!

\*

### MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Csaba:

I read your plea for contributions to the quarterly newsletter. I have been thinking about the Society in general and possibilities to generate interest and involvement. Each bold title indicates a subject area.

#### **Membership: SHP - Who are we?**

- Who comprises our membership? Total membership (?) Male ?%, Female ?%. Age of members - Over 60 - ?%, 40-60 - ?%, 20-40 - ?%, Youth - Under 20 - ?%.
- A geographic look: Membership outside the U.S., Members living east of the Mississippi. Membership by state (Wyoming -1?).
- A breakdown by member occupation: Office; clerical, Professional, Philatelic dealers, blue collar, students, retired, domestic god/goddess etc.

Membership is a very important topic for most any group or organization. A declining membership signals trouble ahead. Ideas and input diminish. Required tasks are completed by a smaller and smaller number of people. Burn out becomes a problem. Redundancy in information provided begins to occur. Membership continues to stagnate.

I am only guessing as far as membership goes, but in observing other organizations I either belong to or assist, membership is on a decline, the members are the older population, and the youth and young adults are missing. What are some ideas for maintaining/increasing membership?

- When was the last time the Application for membership in SHP was published in **The News**? Perhaps along with a request to the membership to sponsor a friend, associate, dealer etc. a group of new members would be announced.
- Could the internet and eBay, and other auction sites be a source of new members? There obviously are many more people buying/selling worldwide stamps (including Hungary) on auction sites than there are members in SHP. Perhaps along with a request to the membership to sponsor a friend, associate, dealer etc. a group of new members could be announced.
- Is an on-going page dedicated to membership, "Membership Forum" where activities, ideas, and suggestions pertaining to maintaining/increasing our membership a possibility?

### **History and Stamp Collecting.**

I have always felt that stamps provided a window to a country's history. Stamps will show what the citizens take pride in: architecture, events, culture, exceptional people, art, geographical features, transportation, agriculture, principal products. Stamps showcase what is good about a country.

In the fifties I used an Ambassador "World-wide" album for collecting. It had an introductory paragraph for each country covering population, location, major products, and history. A lot of the information I learned from using that album remains with me today. I did not set out to gain knowledge in geography or history of the world, it just happened through stamp collecting.

The SHP quarterly provides a description of certain stamps, its history and related events in great detail. The overprints, occupation stamps, cancellations, destinations, rarities, errors, and counterfeits are discussed and explained thoroughly.

Is there room for a more general description and history behind the issue of individual Hungarian stamps and/or sets that would prove interesting to the membership without being overwhelming? For example: Scott #870 was issued in March, 1950 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian Stamp Museum. How many of these stamps were printed? How many per sheet? Face Value? Current catalog value(s)? Who was the designer? Then, a follow-up narrative: Does the museum still exist? In the same building? Notable items on display? Address? How to contact the curator? May it be done in English? Entrance fee today? To me there is a story behind most every stamp issued. Some may be of more interest than others, but the stamp wouldn't have been issued if the PO didn't feel there was some importance to it at the time.

By the way, the SHP website [www.hungarianphilately.org/](http://www.hungarianphilately.org/) has a wonderful section on "Hungarian Stamps and their Background 1871-1940 by Marian Carne Zinsmeister, S.P.A. Copyright 1948 and reprinted with permission, 2002.

I don't know what was published in the years prior to my membership. Maybe the things I am suggesting as possibilities have been done, over and over, to the point of redundancy. If that's the case, then I offer my apologies.

Your current issues "filler" in the October-December newsletter was interesting. What about spotlighting a "Stamp Year" per issue. Such a page could be inserted each issue for the next 35 years. The Zinsmeister work covers only up to 1940. If each issue examined a post-1940 year, that would provide a page of information per issue for the next 6+ years

Perhaps many, but not all, SHP members have catalogs giving stamp by stamp descriptions. Maybe such an article, covering each of the stamps issued, plus a bit of history as to what was going on during that year in Hungary and the world would encourage interest in the specific stamps discussed along with educating us a little in history.

### **Topical Hungary.**

Most everyone has their own version of "Topicals" when collecting, whether its trains, struc-

tures, famous people, cancellations, overprints, destinations, animation, airmails, etc. If you think about it, I'm sure you even have a particular area of great interest within your Hungarian collection.

I would think a page per issue could be devoted to our member's "Atypical Topicals," or "Untypical Topicals" or just plain Hungarian Topicals. Any topical collection is special. I believe you could have to quiz and challenge the membership in the newsletter as to their particular topic: How they got interested in it? How do they locate issues and related material? How many items are in this collection? How do they display their topicals? Are they still missing particular items?

#### **Authentication services.**

There have been a number of articles relating to counterfeit, bogus, or fake stamps and their cancels etc. It is apparent that even some of the better auction houses have been duped over the years in the process. How does one go about having a stamp or set of stamps authenticated? Where do you have to send them? What is the procedure? Is it different for foreign stamps versus United States issues? What forms do you use? How are the stamps to be submitted? What is the price? How long does it take? I have never submitted a stamp to any authentication service, but am becoming increasingly concerned over some of my high catalog value issues. I would like to have an answer to these questions, and think the questions and answers would be a worthwhile topic for a page in an upcoming newsletter.

#### **Kids Korner**

The current publication offers some very detailed in-depth studies of some areas of Hungarian Philately. Would it be possible to dedicate a page of each issue to the youth that show an interest in philatelic material. With some encouragement from SHP members, some of these young collectors could become the adult experts in years to come.

Would it be possible as part of our website offerings to have a "free stamp request" section? Most "avid" collectors end up with a multitude of inexpensive duplicates. I would be willing to donate a portion of mine to make packets of 60-75 stamps per packet to give away.

In surfing the internet seeking kid friendly stamp sites I located several of note. (1) *Stamp Collecting for Kids* [www.geocities.com/heartland/Meadows/8406](http://www.geocities.com/heartland/Meadows/8406) is maintained by the family of the late W. J. "Bill" Finch, a collector of some 80 years. The site offers tips on stamp collecting, i.e. "How to Soak Stamps off Envelopes", "Stuff for stamp Collecting", and "Cool links"; which directs you to a number of other informative stamp sites for youth. This site also provides free stamps (one time only) to youth ages 5-12 that write in requesting them. The suggestion is made that a young person corresponding with others should never put down his/her home address but rather use their grandparents, pastor or rabbi, school or other safe location.

(2) *Stamps 4 Kids* [www.bumperland.com/stamps.html](http://www.bumperland.com/stamps.html) this informative site gives kids down to earth directions for (A) Getting Started, (B) Things I'll Need, and (C) answers the question, "Can I Make my own Stamp Album?". It also furnishes links to other helpful sites; including stamp dealers and collectors.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wes Learned**

Dear Csaba:

I had another thought on **The News**. I know it is written mostly by and for very knowledgeable collectors, so to tell you the truth some of the topics are a little esoteric (although interesting) for my collecting. But, the articles on forgeries, and maybe articles on the rarities and errors, are extremely useful and interesting. These are the kinds of things that really help those of us get beyond just getting one of each stamp, but not yet into the truly rare, or the stamp-related areas, or the kind of collecting that requires a knowledge of rates and postmarks. I really need help in knowing how to distinguish the forgeries, of which there are apparently an endless number, to distinguish between the common and rare varieties. If you could collect old or new articles on forgeries and on the rarities, and on the valuation of errors, running them either serially or in one issue it would be great. And, if you could find a way to get it to other midlevel collectors like myself it would certainly help promote the Society and Hungarian philately.

Well, that's my free advice for the New Year, and worth every penny.

**David Tripple**

✱

## **THE DISAPPEARANCE**

*a short story by Dick Stark*

When my father, Ferenc Feher, came to this country from Hungary as a youth in 1923, one of the first things he did was Anglicize his name: becoming "Fred White." After my brother and I were born some twenty years later, in keeping with this determination to be totally American, he made a conscious decision not to speak Hungarian in front of his children. However, I remember that an occasional "vigyázz!" (watch out!) would slip from his lips from time to time.

He introduced me to stamp collecting when I was about 8, but I didn't take it up seriously until I was an adult, many years after he'd passed away. Without much difficulty, I put together a fine collection of the Scott listed regular items of Hungary, but it was hard to find rarities and errors offered in the United States.

You can understand how excited I was when the Budafila catalog arrived for the first time. I'd heard from fellow collectors that this Budapest auction house offered a great number of rarities and varieties. And more importantly, that they were one hundred percent reliable in executing your bids. As a bonus, there were at least two people on the staff who spoke good English.

Studying the cover of the Budafila catalog I'd just received, I realized that the date of the auction was only eight days off. Too late for the mails – I'd have to fax in my bid sheet.

In the center of the cover was a photograph of a great rarity I'd heard about, but never seen before. In 1871, the State Printing Office produced the first true stamp of Hungary, a 2-krajcar chrome-yellow portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph. When the first sheets were received at the General Post Office in Budapest, officials were horrified to see that there were ugly splotches on the emperor's face. They ordered all 8 million sheets destroyed and a revised plate produced. This was done and the new 2-kr stamp became the official first issue of Hungary proper (in shades varying from orange to yellow).

Unfortunately, a few copies of the botched first printing were sold before the recall and had passed through the mails. One of these copies, heavily cancelled but clearly showing the disfigured face, was now being offered at auction. I decided to make a strong try for this rarity and if I were the winning bidder, place it (in a black mount naturally) above the set of six lithographed stamps that comprise the first page in my album.

Thumbing through the Budafila catalog, I could see many other lots to bid on; less valuable items, but interesting varieties nevertheless.

Many questions raced through my mind: how much to bid, how to pay for the lots I'd win, the safety of the mails from Hungary.

Who could I ask for advice on these matters? I considered fellow members of the Hungarian Stamp Society, but which one should I call? Then it became clear to me. Go straight to the top.

The foremost Hungarian philatelist in America is Janos Beke. A distinguished, greatly respected man of 75 who besides being the president of our Society, had exhibited all over the world and won many gold medals for his classic issues. In addition, his learned published articles on Hungarian philately were important sources of information for serious collectors of that area.

Without further hesitation, I checked my HSS membership directory and placed a call from my home in Lynbrook, Long Island to Wilmington, Delaware.

Luckily, he answered the phone and I identified myself.

"May I call you Janos?" I asked, pronouncing it "Janosh."

"Of course. But it's simply John, here in America. Please, how can I help you, Daniel?"

Now I hesitated. We had met a few times at HSS meetings in New York over the years but we certainly were not friends. Nor could I consider him a colleague as my collection of Hungary (two volumes) was minor league compared to his vast holdings - forty volumes plus dozens of packed stockbooks, or so I'd heard.

I cleared my throat and plunged ahead. "John, I'm bidding for the first time in the Budafila auction a week from Saturday. I need your advice on how to pay for lots I win and the best way for the auction house to mail the stamps to me from Budapest."

"Daniel, you're in luck! I'm visiting relatives in Hungary, first in Debrecen, then in Budapest. I'll arrive there the Tuesday after the auction. I will be happy to pick up your lots, pay for them on the spot and bring them back with me. Just write 'Hold for pickup' on your bid sheet. Mention my name. I know the owner well."

I was astonished by this coincidence and also by the generosity of his offer. "How would you pay my bill? I certainly can't expect you to lay out—"

"We can deal with that. I assume you'll send them a fax soon?"

"Yes. I was planning to do it early next week, after spending a few days studying the catalog."

"Fine. You make a rough estimate of how much you think you'll be spending and send me a money order on Monday by express mail, here to my home. I'm planning to leave on Thursday. I'll take it with me, change it into forints at a Budapest bank, pay your bill and pick up the lots."

I could not believe that this kind man was willing to go to such a lot of bother for someone he barely knew. Without taking time to consider possible problems with his plan, I immediately accepted his offer.

"I'm very grateful, John. You know, I'm going after that famous stamp pictured on the cover of the catalog," I told him, feeling a bit daring.

"The first printing of the litho issue?"

"That's right."

"It's a great rarity of Hungary. You know there are only a dozen or so copies that exist, all used. I don't even have one in my own collection."

Worried, I asked, "Perhaps you intend to bid on it yourself?" He chuckled. "No, no. I'm through expanding my collection. Exhibiting my classic period stamps is enough for me now and besides, I have personal concerns that I must attend to."

I waited a moment to give him a chance to explain further, but he said no more on the subject. I certainly wasn't going to prod him so I simply asked, "How high do you think I'll need to bid in order to win that stamp?"

"Well over three thousand dollars, I'd say. But Budafila has an excellent reputation and you can count on them to knock down your top bid and use only what's necessary."

"I've heard that too. They don't max your bids as many U.S. auction houses do."

"True. I suggest you bid as high as you're willing to go. To secure this copy, one of the finest that exist, would be a great coup and make your collection something quite special."

His words encouraged me and I was determined to do just what he'd suggested.

Over the weekend, I spent several hours pouring over the catalog. Finally, I had my bid sheet ready and was amazed that I would be bidding on 20 lots for well over one million forints. Of course, translating that into dollars, the total came to \$6000 - still a significant amount. As I was confident that many of the lots could be won at a lower figure, I estimated that I'd be spending, including the 10% commission, about \$5000.

As John had asked, I visited my bank on Monday, secured a money order in that amount and mailed it off. He was kind enough to phone me Tuesday evening to tell me he'd received the check.

I remember his final words clearly: "I will phone you from Budapest the Tuesday after the auction to give you the results and to assure you that I have your stamps safely in hand."

I work as a financial advisor out of my home, mostly via the Internet, but found that the waiting during that weekend and into Monday was greatly distracting. Regretfully, during those few days, I neglected my clients. I promised myself that come Wednesday, I'd take care of business with total dedication.

Tuesday afternoon, I practically sat by the phone waiting for John's call. I expected it by four in the afternoon at the latest, which was ten in the evening in Budapest. Perhaps he had gone to dinner with relatives and planned to call me from his hotel when he returned from the restaurant.

As the hours dragged by, I grew more and more concerned. My wife Liz kept reassuring me, pointing out all manner of normal reasons for the delay.

But when she called me to dinner at six o'clock (midnight in Budapest), it was clear that there would be no call on Tuesday. Surely, John would phone early on Wednesday with a perfectly reasonable explanation.

"He stayed a day longer with his relatives in Debrecen, isn't that obvious?" Liz said to me more than once that evening.

However, when Wednesday and then Thursday passed without a call from Hungary, I knew in my gut that something was terribly wrong. Even Liz, that eternal optimist, had no answers.

In addition to my concern, I began to berate myself for accepting John's offer in the first place. When I mentioned those thoughts to my wife, Liz snapped, "Too late for recriminations. We need to discuss our options."

Gladly, I turned my mind away from feeling sorry for myself and considered what steps were available to locate John. "We can make some calls," I suggested while nursing my cup of decaf and sampling Liz's excellent homemade brownies.

"Now we're getting somewhere. Do you know the name of his hotel in Budapest?"

I shook my head slowly. "John never mentioned it and I didn't think to ask."

"Okay, what about calling that auction place? Maybe they know something."

"Good idea," I said. "But we'll have to wait until morning. It's 3:00 A.M. in Budapest now."

"Then I suggest we get a good night's sleep, be up at seven sharp and place the call. That would be one in the afternoon Hungarian time, right?"

I agreed and we went to bed early that evening. I envied Liz when I noticed her roll over and drop off to sleep within minutes. As for myself, I lay on my back for what seemed half the night as possible scenarios, mostly dire, raced through my mind.

The next thing I knew, Liz was shaking my shoulder. "Wake up, sleepy head. It's past seven. Time to make that call to Budapest."

I waited a few minutes until I'd shaken off the cobwebs, then grabbed the BUDAFILA catalog and dialed their office number. The girl who answered said, "One moment," and a man speaking excellent English was soon on the line.

After telling him about my problem, I asked the key question. "Did John... Janos Beke from America come in last Tuesday?"

Imagine my relief when the staffer answered, "Yes, Mr. White. I helped him myself. He paid your bill and left with a manila envelope containing the dozen lots you'd won on Saturday."

"That's great! Do you happen to know where he went next?" "I have no idea, sir."

Dead end. What I had thought was good news didn't solve the mystery at all. Then a final question came to mind. "Do you know where he's staying in Budapest? The name of the hotel?"

"He never mentioned it, Mr. White. Is there anything else?" "No, no," I mumbled. "Thanks." I hung up and glanced at Liz who sat next to me on the bed, listening to every word. "Not much help."

Her eyes glinted. "We're not finished. Call his home. Maybe a member of his family is there who knows something."

I smiled. "Good thinking." I grabbed the phone again and dialed the number in Wilmington, Delaware.

A young man answered, telling me he was a neighbor who was house sitting for the Bekes. "John went to Hungary with his wife Magda, who always travels with him."

Asking the key question, I found I was tense and holding my breath: "Do you know the name of the hotel where they're staying?"

"It's the Gellért. A famous old-world hotel with a wonderful spa that the Bekes enjoy."

I let out a deep breath of relief. "I don't suppose you have the phone number."

"Sure do," he answered, rattling it off as I scribbled the numbers down, naturally including the country code: 01136.

Hanging up, I grinned at Liz. "We're in business!" I dialed the long number carefully and asked the lady who answered, "Do you speak good English?"

"Of course," she said, sounding offended. "How may I help?"

"Would you connect me to Janos Beke's room?" "Certainly."

I heard a series of clicks, then a phone ringing, and ringing, and ringing. The lady came back

on the line. "No one is picking up."

"I'll call back later." And I did, repeatedly, over the next couple of hours. Each time, no one answered the phone in the Bekes' room. During the last call, I spoke with a different person at the front desk, a man who seemed friendlier. "I've been trying to reach the Bekes all morning," I told him, exasperated.

"I know them from previous visits, sir. And I must say, there is something a bit strange." "What's that?" I asked.

"They checked in three days ago, on Tuesday, and turned in their key early that afternoon when they left the hotel." "Yes, go on please," I encouraged.

"Well, neither one has slept here since. Mrs. Beke came by Wednesday about this time, went up to the room for a short while and then left. I didn't see her leave, but the room key was back in its slot." "Maybe she was checking out?"

"No. Our records show they're still registered. The room is being held for them. I don't know what to make of it."

I hung up and related the conversation to Liz. She thought about it for a moment, then said, "It reminds me of that movie with Harrison Ford." When I looked puzzled, she explained. "We saw it a couple of years ago. Where he's a doctor at a convention in Paris and comes back to his hotel room to find his wife is missing. Then he goes berserk."

I nodded. "She'd been kidnapped and he's running all over..." Suddenly, a crazy idea came to me. "I'm going online to check something out."

"What is it?" Liz asked.

"Wait here, I'll be back in a few minutes. Could you make lunch, please? I'm starving."

I hurried into my office where our computer was. I checked a Website and gathered the information I needed. Making a quick decision, I typed in my credit card number. Done!

When I returned to the kitchen, Liz set on the table a plate with a chicken sandwich and some potato salad. She looked up expectantly.

"Now don't fly off the handle," I warned. "But there is something I must do."

A look of alarm came into her eyes, reminding me of the time I had announced I was going on a white water rafting trip with some buddies. "I'm listening," she muttered through clenched teeth.

"I intend to fly to Budapest and find out what happened to the Bekes."

"You're insane!"

"Delta has a flight leaving this afternoon at 5:45 from JFK, direct to Budapest. If you'll drive me to the airport, I can leave in an hour and make that flight. It's only twenty minutes from here."

"I suppose you intend to go alone?"

"Yes. There's only a single seat available." A slight twist of the truth as I didn't ask for two seats when I booked online. Nor did I mention to Liz that the plane and crew were actually from the Hungarian airline Malév, flying under the Delta name. "This isn't a sight-seeing tour," I explained. "I just intend to track down John and his wife; find out what happened to my stamps he picked up at the auction house." I paused and watched her reaction. "Liz, tell me the truth. Do you really want to go?"

She frowned. "No, not under those circumstances. And I really don't think you should, either. Call the police in Budapest, or ask that man at the Gellért Hotel to do it. That's as far as your involvement should be."

I couldn't argue because what she'd suggested made perfect sense. But I felt a strong compulsion to go myself, and yet, I wouldn't without at least her grudging approval.

"Liz, I need to go," I said quietly. "Please tell me that it's okay with you."

She was shaking her head. "You...!" She rubbed her forehead and took a deep breath. "Where will you stay tonight?"

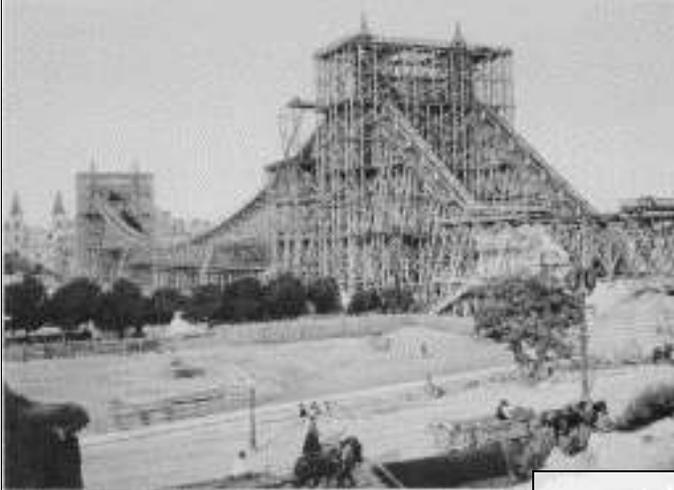
I grinned, pleased with her tacit acceptance. "It's a red-eye flight, I'll sleep on the plane. We arrive at nine in the morning, Hungarian time. I'll have the whole day to search for John and book something for that night. Thanks, Liz." I leaned over the table and gave her a peck on the cheek.

Finishing my lunch hurriedly, I rushed inside to pack my carry-on bag. I expected to be in Budapest for one night, maybe two at the most, so I didn't need to bring much with me: a change of clothing and toiletries. Luckily, I had a valid passport that we'd needed for our vacation to Bermuda the previous year.

Less than an hour later, we were driving on the Belt Parkway on our way to JFK.

*/To be continued.../*

✱



*Left: The old Elisabeth Bridge under construction. It was completed in 1903.*



*Right: View of the destroyed Elisabeth Bridge following the siege of Budapest in 1945.*

**WANTED:** I am looking to replace some of my philatelic references lost in the post-Katrina Hurricane flooding. I would like to purchase a copy of the **Christie's auction catalogs for each of the Gary Ryan Collection sales, June 1994 and April 1995** and the Hungarian place names book, **Határokön túli magyar helységnevszótár**. Contact Alan Soble, e-mail: [Asoble@aol.com](mailto:Asoble@aol.com).

**FOR SALE: BOUND VOLUMES OF *THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY***

Each book individually is priced at \$30.00 or purchase the entire set of 11 for \$320.00. Freight fees will be added to all orders. Order from:

**H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092; tel: (770) 840-8766,  
e-mail: [h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org](mailto:h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org)**

**FOR SALE:** 2006 edition of the ***MAGYAR POSTA ÉS ILLETÉKBÉLYEG KATALÓGUS / HUNGARIAN POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMP CATALOG***, including the catalog on CD-ROM plus a copy of the 1956 Revolution Anniversary gift sheet. Price: \$48 + \$2 postage for US addresses. Canadian and overseas buyers: please inquire about shipping cost. If paying via Paypal, please add \$1.75 service charge.

**Emmerich Vamos, 8722 Belladonna Rd. Riverside, CA 92508 USA  
email: [emmevamos@aol.com](mailto:emmevamos@aol.com)**

VIEWS OF THE OLD ELISABETH BRIDGE IN BUDAPEST

