Governing Council of Lajtabánság, 1921
No.: G.u.5./921

Executive Order

The Constitutional Congress of October 4, 1921, in its Declaration of Independence, declared the territory of the Western Hungarian zones "A" and "B" as the territory of the State of Lajtabánság.

I hereby entrust Second Lieutenant László Szendey with the temporary handling of all the postal matters of Lajtabánság. I order to organize an independent office for the issuing of stamps and for philately in Felsőr and to overprint all the stamps found at the post offices of zones "A" and "B", except the 100 Kostamp, with the text "LAJTABÁNSÁG POSTA". In order to cover the costs, the overprinted stamps should be given to the post offices with a 50% surcharge.

I direct Mr. László Szendey to report to me within 3 days the execution of this order and I also request him to report how long the present stamp inventories are enough to fulfill the need of the postal service.

Felsőr, October 4, 1921

Circular seal:
see Document No.1.

György Hír
governing councillor
for economy

Finally, it should be mentioned that some of the Western Hungarian overprints have also been forged.

Stamps With Three-Hole Punching

It is known that between the beginning of 1921 and 1924, the Hungarian Postal Directorate punched three holes in triangular position through the two vertical middle columns of the stamp sheets printed in this period (*).

Since the overprinting of the issues of Western Hungary was carried out in the second part of 1921, they were mostly overprinted on full sheets of which the two vertical middle columns

* For details, see L.S. Ettr "Officially Punched Stamps of Hungary", News of Hungarian Philately (Society for Hungarian Philately), Vol.2, Nos.2 and 3 (Feb-March 1971).
Supreme Headquarters of the Insurgents of Western Hungary

Felsőőr, October 5, 1921

To the Directorate of the Universal Postal Union

B e r n

According to the decision of the Constitutional Congress of October 4, 1921, Western Hungary declared its independence, and, as the independent state of Lajtabánság, she will issue her own stamps. Until the new stamps are ready, the Hungarian postal stamps have been issued with the overprint "Lajtabánság-posta" furthermore the 5 fillér harvester stamp has been issued with the new denomination of 2.50 korona.

This Supreme Headquarters which, according to the Declaration of Independence, is empowered with the government and administration, submits its official report on the issue of these stamps with the attachment of 37 stamps of each type.

We request acknowledgement of the receipt of our report.

Prónay
Commander-in-Chief

Governing Council of Lajtabánság 1921
No.: G.u.10./921

Executive Order

According to the report No.P.1.73/1921 dated October 7, 1921 of the General Postal Directorate, the stamp supply available at the post offices will be able to satisfy the need of the mail service for only a short period. For this reason I order the issue of new stamps for Lajtabánság. I entrust First Lieutenant Károly Verő with the design of the new stamps which he should present to me within 3 days.

Felsőőr, October 8, 1921

György Hír
governing councillor for economy
have already been punched with the three holes. The only exceptions are those stamps which have been originally printed prior to the introduction of the three-hole punching such as the 15 and 25 f harvester stamps and the 2 f postage due stamp. Naturally the stamps with original design do not exist with the three holes (seventh and ninth series).

In case of the Jennersdorf issue (discussed in the Fourth Part of this monograph) and some special stamps there is nowhere any mentioning whether some of these exist with the three-hole punching and I personally have not seen any. Therefore, in the listing of such stamps, those stamps which theoretically may also exist with the punching are marked in the proper column with a question mark.

I. THE FIRST SERIES

Almost all sources state that this series was prepared in Szombathely, in August 1921 and issued officially on September 2, 1921. On the other hand, Document No. 4 (see previous page) which ordered the preparation of this series is dated September 4; thus, there is some discrepancy in the data.

These stamps were sold in a number of post offices around the town of Felsőor (Oberwart) and have been used in the mail. Forgeries of the stamps also exist.

The series consists of Hungarian stamps overprinted in black with the text "Felsőor Magyarok által megváltott Nyugatmagyarország 1921. aug. szept." (Western Hungary occupied by insurgent Hungarians, Aug. Sept. 1921).

The original series consists of ten stamps. Billig also lists three additional overprinted stamps calling two of them as bogus. According to Weinert, these three overprints have been prepared only in 2-3 sheets and distributed among a few privileged persons; they were not sold at the post offices. (*)

* The fact that one of these stamps represents overprint on a harvester stamp with MAGYAR POSTA text also indicates that these were unofficial issues; these stamps have been valid only until June 30, 1921 and the rest of the inventory should have been returned to Budapest.
Besides these three stamps some others also exist which are not part of the original series. An envelope was sold at an auction in May 1971 which - among others - also had the overprinted 5-f harvester stamp. The envelope was cancelled on September 4, 1921, in Felsőör (Oberwart) and a second envelope (sold at the same auction) was cancelled in Pörögölény (Pilgersdorf) on the same day. Both were addressed to First Lieutenant Pál Breznay in Szombathely and according to a note on the back of the envelopes they used to belong to the director of the Savings Bank in Szombathely. This fact seems to corroborate the authenticity of the envelopes and stamps although, naturally, it does not change the situation that stamps outside the original series were prepared only in a limited number and not for general use.

In the catalogue section of this monograph, these stamps are indicated by Roman numeral.

As mentioned, this series was issued at the beginning of September 1921. Later, toward the end of the insurgency, the stamps sold (probably representing the rest which still existed at the post offices) were accompanied by a printed certificate written in four languages - Hungarian, German, French and English - attesting the genuineness of the stamps; furthermore a small violet-blue seal with the coat-of-arms of Lajtabánság was stamped on the back of the stamps. The certificate is dated November 3, 1921 in Felsőör (Oberwart) and signed by L. Szende, the postmaster general of Lajtabánság (for his appointment, see Document No.2). A copy of this certificate is shown on the next page (Document No.5). The circular seal on the left side of the certificate has the text "Supreme Headquarters of the Western Hungarian Insurgents" and the Hungarian coat-of-arms.

Error Prints.

At least four of the stamps (20 and 40 f harvester, 1 and 3 K parliament) also exist with inverted overprint.

II. THE SECOND SERIES

This series was issued in Sopron, on September 8, 1921, to commemorate the battle at Ágfalva. The overprinting was carried out by the Ostenburg commando troup and consists of the text in black:
Nyugatmagyarországi felkelők Főparancsnoksága,
Igazolvány

annak hiteléül, hogy a mellékel 10 bélyegeből álló „Felkelő-magyarok által megszállt Nyugatmagyarország 1921. aug. szept.” felülnyomással ellátott bélyegsorozatot a fenti parancsnokságladta ki és Lajtabánság ezen címével hitelésítette.
Felsőőr, 1921. november 3.

BESTÄTIGUNG
Felsőőr, am 3. Nov. 1921.
L. Szendey m. p.
Postdirektor des Leitha-Banates

Jedem kompletten Sats wird eine Bestätigung beigefügt.

CERTIFICAT
Je soussigné, Directeur des Postes du Banat de Leitha, certifie par la présente que la série de timbres-poste ci-jointe, consistant en 10 pièces et munies de la surcharge: „Felkelő magyarok által megszállt Nyugatmagyarország 1921. aug. szept.” (Hongrie Accidentale occupée par les insurgés hongrois, Aout-septembre 1921.) a été émise par la Commandement ci-haut. En foi de quoi elle y a fait apposer l’écusson dudit Banat de Leitha.
Felsőőr, le 3. Nov. 1921.
L. Szendey m. p.
Directeur des Postes du Banat de Leitha
Ce, certificat est délivré à chaque série complète de ces timbres-poste.

CERTIFICATE
L. hereby, certify that enclosed set of postage-stamps, consisting of 10 pieces and bearing the overprint: „Felkelő magyarok által megszállt Nyugatmagyarország 1921 aug. szept.” (Western Hungary occupied by Hungarian Insurgents, August-September 1921.) has been issued by above Head-Quarters, in witness where of the same are endorsed with this escutcheon of the Banate of Leitha.
Felsőőr, 3rd of Nov. 1921.
L. Szendey m. p.
Postmaster of the Banate of Leitha

Every complete set is accompanied by this certificate.
Nyugatmagyarországi / felkelők / 19 -X- 21 / szept. / "A" ZÓNA
(Western Hungarian Insurgents, "A" Zone); a skull and two
crossbones are handstamped in violet or red at the place
marked with -X-.

The total height of the overprint is 18.5 mm on the harvester,
and 16 mm on the parliament stamps. The width of the lines is:
first 1.75 mm, second 1.75 mm, third (19-21) 1.75 mm, fourth
(szept.) 1.5 mm, and fifth 2 mm.

As mentioned, the skull and crossbones were handstamped. The
first 4000 stamps were overprinted with help of a rubber stamp,
the next 3000 with a wooden stamp, and the rest with a steel
stamp. These can be distinguished by the following character-
ristics:

In the overprinting with the rubber stamp, there is a blurred
line on the left side and sometimes also at the bottom; about
½ mm right of the right eye there is a half circle.

In the overprinting with the wooden stamp, both the outside and
inside of the border-line is uneven, and on the left side, it
has a small break at the height of the eye. There is a dent on
the middle of the top of the skull. The colors are bright, the
violet is more bluish.

The overprinting with the final steel stamp is similar to the
one obtained with the rubber stamp except that the lines are
thinner but sharper.

The printing of the text was carried out by the printing shop
of the newspaper Soproni Hírlap (Sopron News), at Sopron.

The color of the skull and crossbones is very sensitive, par-
ticularly to water.

The stamps of the second issue have been sold at the post offi-
ces in the area West of Sopron and used in the mail. Figure 1
shows a registered letter mailed to Braunschweig, Germany; the
letter was cancelled on September 22, 1921, in Vulkapordány
(Wulka-Prodersdorf) and also bears the cancellation of Braun-
schweig registering the arrival of the letter on September 26,
1921. Genuine mail with these stamps exists with much later
dates also.
Error Prints.

The 50-f stamp exists with inverted and the 2-K stamp with double overprint. Five stamps (5, 10, 15, 50 and 60 f) also exist with the name of the month misspelled as "szevt" instead of "szept".

III. THE THIRD SERIES

Immediately after the declaration of the independence of Lajtabánság, the preparation of new stamps with original design was initiated. For the period until these stamps are available, the overprinting of the existing Hungarian stamps with the text "Lajtabánság Posta" in black was ordered (see Document No. 2) and the Universal Postal Union was also notified on the existence of these stamps (see Document No. 3). The overprinted stamps were issued on October 5, 1921, in Felsőör (Oberwart). On the harvester stamps, a heavy line consisting of black triangles is under the text with the intention to cover the original MACYAR KIR.POSTA imprint while on the parliament stamps, the text itself supposed to cover the original imprint. However, particularly among the harvester stamps, correctly positioned overprint is relatively rare.

On the parliament stamps, a small sphere is before and after the overprint. One stamp was also issued with a new denomination: 2.50 K on the 5 f harvester stamp where the two tables with the old denomination as well as the FILLER imprint are covered by small squares looking as dots at the first sight. On this stamp, the color of the new denomination and the small squares is brown-red. It should be mentioned that the overprint is only giving the new denomination (2,50) but does not indicate that it is in Korona and not in fillér.

Soon after the issue of these stamps it was decided to sell them — except the one with new denomination — with a 50% surcharge for the benefit of the insurgency. This was indicated by a two-line black overprint on the back of the stamps with the text "50 % felår / Fővezérság" (50% surcharge, Supreme Command) and usually also having the coat-of-arms of Lajtabánság in violet. This overprint is vertical on the harvester and horizontal on the parliament stamps (type ah) and in the former case, it exists both going upward and downward. It is fairly poorly centered and stamps with partial overprint are usual. There was no additional surcharge for the stamp with the new denomination and thus, the overprint on the back is missing.
On used stamps which have been soaked off from envelopes, the overprint on the back is naturally missing. As mentioned, it is also missing from the earlier printings and thus, its absence from mint stamps does not necessarily indicate forgery.

Stamps of this series have been widely used by practically all post offices of Western Hungary under the insurgents' command and even for some time after the Austrian annexation. Three examples are shown here.

Figure 2 is the photo of a postcard from Nagymarton (Mattersdorf) addressed to Budapest with a cancellation mark of October 21, 1921, bearing the 20 f and 1 K stamps. Figure 3 shows a registered letter addressed to a philatelic society in Vienna (according to the text, the content of the envelope was stamps) cancelled in Szentelek (Stegersbach) on October 23, 1921 with the whole series on the envelope. As indicated on the envelope, the letter needed — according to the postal rate — stamps in the total value of 25 K while the nominal value of the Lajtabánság Posta series was 25.45 K; thus, the envelope is not a "showpiece". Finally, Figure 4 shows an Austrian postal card with Hungarian, Lajtabánság, and Austrian stamps mailed after the final annexation by Austria from Rothenthurm a.d. Pinka (Vasvörösvár) to Vienna and cancelled on December 4, 1921. Here, the new Austrian cancellation mark is already used (*) but the Lajtabánság and Hungarian stamps have still validity. According to the message written on the card (not shown; it is on the other side), the Lajtabánság Posta stamps were permitted to be used until December 15.

Proofs.

Billig and Székely list a number of proofs (essays) with the same overprint which have not been sold at post offices but given to selected people and I know of additional proofs not listed by these two sources. The overprint on the back of

* It is interesting to note that while in other parts of Hungary annexed by the successor states (Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia) the Hungarian cancellation marks — showing also the Hungarian crown! — have been in use for up to two years after the annexation, here, in Western Hungary, the Austrian Republic introduced the new cancellation marks shortly after the take over.