Figure 4

these stamps is usually brown but proofs with black overprint on the back also exist. Proofs (essays) are indicated by Roman numeral in the catalogue part of this monograph.

Error Prints.

A number of error prints exist, due both to hasty work and to deliberate production of "unusual items". The stamps exist with double as well as inverted overprints; sometimes the second overprint is inverted or diagonal. There are also stamps with diagonal or even vertical "Lajtabánság Posta" overprint. In some cases, the overprint is misplaced. There are also stamps on which the surcharge text is printed not on the back but on the front of the stamp, and I have also seen stamps with a double-printed surcharge text on the front. It is impossible to list all these variations; therefore in the catalogue section, only the basic error prints are indicated.

Proofs with error prints (eg., inverted or misplaced overprint or having the surcharge text printed on the front) also exist but, since enough data are not available, these are not indicated in the catalogue section.
A few special errors are known in connection with the 2.50 K on 5 f stamp. In the first case (#26a) the black "Lajtabánság Posta" overprint is missing and only the new denomination exist. In the second case (#26b) the text indicating the 50% surcharge was mistakenly printed on the back of the stamp. On some stamps, the violet small coat-of-arms usually used together with the surcharge text was stamped on the back of the stamp but now, without the surcharge text. There are also stamps where the brown overprint is misplaced relative to the black "Lajtabánság Posta" overprint.

Finally, a special error should be mentioned: the new 2.50 K surcharge was also printed on some sheets of the 2 f harvester stamp.

IV. THE FOURTH SERIES

This set was issued in the Northern part of Western Hungary, by a group headed by Gyula Gömböös (*) who was associated with Prónay (but rival to him). The text of the black overprint is "NYUGATMAGYARORSZÁG / NEPE / NEM NEM SOHA!" (people of Western Hungary, No, No, Never!)(**). It is in five lines on the harvester and in three lines on the parliament stamps.

These stamps have been actually sold in the Northern part of Lajtabánság and stamps of this series exist with genuine Hungarian, and even Austrian, cancellations the latter from the period between November 18 and December 3, 1921 (***)

Error Prints.

The stamps of this series also exist with double as well as inverted overprints.

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* Gömböös was one of the most prominent figures of the Hungarian right in the period following the first World War. He became premier of Hungary in 1932.

** Nem, nem, soha! (No, no, never!) was the official slogan of the Hungarian Revisionist (Irredentist) League existing between 1920 and 1944.

*** the Michel catalogue errors when it states that these stamps have not been sold at the post offices.
V. THE FIFTH SERIES

This series was overprinted in Magyaróvár, at the printing plant of Dr. A. Liptay, on October 10, 1921, by the Héjjas commando troops (*). The black overprint consists of the text "Felkelő Magyarok Északi Hadserege 1921" (Northern Army of the Insurgent Hungarians) and is in five lines on the harvester, postage due, and Madonna, and in three lines on the parliament stamps. On the Madonna stamps, the date 1921 is in the first line separated from the rest of the overprint and is printed in two digits on the left and right side respectively; also the first two words of the overprint ("FELKELŐ MAGYAROK") is printed in capital letters on the Madonna stamps. The overprinted postage due stamps served as regular stamps.

The number of stamps issued is known. The rarest are the overprinted 5 and 10 K parliament and 50 and 100 K Madonna stamps from which only 1-1 sheet was overprinted. Other stamps of this series with only a limited number issued are the 2 f postage due stamp (2 sheets), the 10, 15, 20 f har- vester and 2 K parliament stamps (3 sheets each), the 5 f harvester stamp (4 sheets), and the 200 f postage due stamp (5 sheets). For detailed listing, see the catalogue section.

The stamps issued were certified by First Lieutenant György Winter-Laczay, the head-of-staff of the commando troops who first wrote his initials (W.G.) with pencil on the back side of the stamps and later used a rubber stamp for the same purpose.

These stamps have been used in the actual mail although genuinely cancelled stamps and particularly envelopes bearing these stamps which have actually been forwarded by the mail service are rare. Two such envelopes are shown here (Figures 5 and 6); both have been mailed from Zurány (Zurndorf) to Magyaróvár. The envelope shown in Figure 5 was cancelled on October 20, 1921 and back-cancelled in Magyaróvár on October

* Iván Héjjas was another prominent member of the Hungarian right in the period following the first World War.
21, while the respective dates on the envelope shown in Figure 5 are October 22 and October 23. The first envelope bears the #49p tête-bêche pair while the second envelope bears the two Madonna stamps. As indicated on the second envelope, it contained 48 bills of 10,000 K each totalling a value of 480,000 K; as seen, the inflation had already started in Hungary ...

**Error Prints.**

A number of printing errors exist. Some of them, however, such as eg. the inverted overprints, cannot be termed as "errors" because they are the result of deliberate manipulation: some clichés in the printing plate for one sheet
(100 stamps) were deliberately inserted in inverted position. For this reason, tête-bêche pairs also exist. According to the Michel catalogue, the 50 K Madonna stamp should also exist with inverted overprint. However, this must be an error because the same set-up was used for the overprinting of both the 50 and 100 K Madonna stamps and thus, if one exists with inverted overprint so must be the other. On the other hand, the 100 K Madonna stamp has never been reported with inverted overprint.

The 1 K stamp also exists with double overprint, and the 2.50 K stamp exists with two errors: in the first case, due to shifting of the overprint, the year 1921 is on the top of the stamp while in the second case, some stamps in a sheet exist without overprint thus creating pairs in which one stamp is not overprinted.

VI. THE SIXTH SERIES

This overprint was prepared in Budapest on the initiatives of István Friedrich, a former Hungarian (short-lived) premier and issued on October 12, 1921. According to some reports, the last two stamps (#67 and 68) have been issued only on November 11, 1921. The overprint consists of the bilingual text in black "Nyugat / Magyarország / Orszvé / -X- / Westungarn / Orgland" (Western Hungary, Orszvé; Orszvé is the abbreviation of Országos Védelem, National Defense, and Orgland is the abbreviation of the corresponding German expression, Organisierte Landschutz, Organized Defense of the Country). Each stamp has a new denomination in black at the place marked by -X-; if it is in Korona, it is also repeated by a 10-mm large carmine numeral.

The information on the number of stamps actually prepared is somewhat contradictory. The values listed in the catalogue section are from Billig who, without any doubt, took it from some Hungarian source. On the other hand, other Hungarian references indicate the issue of only about 10,000 series.

A few of the stamps have been used in actual mail particularly in the city of Kismarton (Eisenstadt).

Error Prints.

Besides two inverted overprints (#64i and 68i) four other error prints exist; these are explained in detail in the listing of the catalogue section.
VII. THE SEVENTH SERIES

According to the executive order G.Ü.10/1921 (see Document No.4), first lieutenant Károly Verő was charged with the design of a new stamp series for Lajtabánság; actually, however, the stamps have been designed by three artists:

Károly Verő - portrait of Prónay, stamps showing the castles of Németujvár and Szalónak, and the postage due stamps;

Győző Martiny - coat-of-arms stamps, and the stamp showing the castle of Fraknó;

János Szekeres - the frame of the 100 K stamp.

The stamps were printed by Paulussen & Co., in Vienna, by a combined engraving and offset process. The postage due stamps were printed in a two-step process: the green frame was printed first, followed by printing the black numeral by lithography. According to Billig, the stamps of this series were printed in sheets of 100 (10x10); however, probably some were also printed in half sheets of 10x5 (see the discussion of the tête-à-tête pairs, below). The series consists of eleven regular and six postage due stamps with the following design (see the figures before the catalogue section):

aq = coat-of-arms of Lajtabánság (10 f and 2.50 K)
ar = portrait of Pál Prónay (20 f and 10 K)
as = castle of Fraknő (Forchtenstein), numeral in lower left corner (40 f)
at = castle of Fraknő (Forchtenstein), numeral in upper right corner (60 f)
au = castle of Németujvár (Güssing) (50 f and 5 K)
av = castle of Szalónak (Sclhaining), 32.8 x 19 mm (1 K)
aw = castle of Szalónak (Sclhaining), 38 x 23.2 mm (50 K)
ax = coat-of-arms of Lajtabánság, in stylized frame (large) (100 K)
ay = postage due stamps, black numeral (5, 100, 200, 500, 1000 f)
az = red "50" overprint on the 200-f postage due stamp

The stamps were printed on a paper without watermark and have perforation 12½ x 12½ (*); in some cases the perforation is

* Pántek states the perforation as 11x11. This is an obvious error and anybody who has stamps belonging to this series can check it.
fairly poor. All regular stamps except the 5 K and 100 K stamps also exist imperforated. In two cases (#77a and 78a) the printing started by using an orange color but, due to an unfavorable effect of this color on the plates, it was soon switched to brown violet. The gray-black 10 f stamp listed in the catalogue section is not documented in any publication known to me but I have an imperforated copy of it. From the 1 K stamp, twelve sheets were printed in blue.

The gum on the stamps prepared at the beginning is light brown, uneven, and of poor quality. Later it successively improved, becoming more and more white and perfect.

Weinert states that the 200-f postage due stamp was printed in a quantity about twice of the 50-f stamp; thus, a number of the 200-f stamps were overprinted by a large red "50" numeral; this is #85.

The printing plant of Paulussen & Co. received the order for printing these stamps on November 4, 1921 signed by György Hír, governor of the economy, and László Szendey, postmaster general of Lajtabánság. The stamps were issued on November 9 or 11, 1921, and used immediately in the actual mail; they were also submitted to the Universal Postal Union, in Berne, Switzerland, and letters with these stamps have been mailed to various countries eg. Italy. Letters bearing these stamps are known with the cancellations of the towns in the Southern part of Lajtabánság. According to Billig, the 10 f and 20 f imperforated stamps were issued on November 11 at the post office of Nagyszentmihály (Grosspetersdorf) and on November 12 at the post office of Felsőör (Oberwart). The Michel catalogue states that only stamps #69, 70, 72, and 75 exist with actual postal cancellation; the other used stamps supposed to be cancelled-to-order.

On November 17, 1921, the Austrian authorities confiscated the rest of the stamps still at the printer in Vienna, and started a legal suit charging the printer and József Kondor, the commissioner of Lajtabánság in Vienna, with fraud and high treason, based on the assumption that at the time of the order to the printing shop, Western Hungary legally already belonged to Austria. Since Kondor could prove that he was officially authorized to order the stamps, the charges of fraud were dropped soon, and after some debate, the Austrian State Prosecutor dropped also the charges of treason because at the time of printing of the stamps, Austria did not have a de facto sovereignty over these territories.
It is difficult to establish the number of stamps actually issued because the data published by various sources are highly contradictory. The first value listed in the catalogue section for each stamp is based on Billig's data while the numbers in parentheses are from Jászai's Bélveválág. On the other hand, according to Péntek, about 45,000 series have been printed by November 9. Since we know that a large number of stamps have been delivered to Budapest for sale on January 31, 1922, after the dismissal of the Austrian legal suit, it is possible that the high numbers (given in parentheses) represent the total number of stamps printed while the first, smaller numbers represent the number of stamps delivered to the post offices of Lajtabánság.

The number of postage due stamps issued is given according to the Bélveválág.

Concerning the perforated stamps, the only data available is that 19 sheets (ie. 1900 stamps) of the perforated 20 f. stamp (#70n) have been prepared.

Tête-Bêche Pairs.

In five cases, certain stamps in a sheet were printed inverted thus creating horizontal and vertical tête-bêche pairs. According to Weinert, the following stamps (perforated and imperforated) are known to have been printed inverted, at the positions listed:

60 f. stamps no. 80 and 87.

5 K it was printed in two adjacent and connected half sheets which were inverted relative to each other resulting in five tête-bêche pairs in the middle of the sheet; besides these, stamps nos. 5, 14, 25 and 30 were also printed inverted relative to the adjacent stamps (see note below).

10 K stamps no. 6, 15 and 27.

50 K stamp no. 40 (see note below).

100 K stamps no. 27 and 38.

There are some discrepancies in the data given by Weinert, notably concerning the 5 K and 50 K stamps.
5 K Stamp. As given above, Weinert states that these stamps were prepared in two adjacent and connected half sheets which were printed inverted relative to each other, "resulting in five tête-bêche pairs in the middle of the sheet".

As was already mentioned, Billig stated that the Lajtabánság stamps were printed in sheets of 10x10 stamps. In this case, however, there would be ten and not five tête-bêche pairs! On the other hand, if we assume sheets of 50 stamps, then the position of the inverted stamps can be explained according to Figure 7.

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1 ↑  2 ↑  3 ↑  4 ↑  5 ↓
6 ↑  7 ↑  8 ↑  9 ↑ 10 ↑
11 ↑ 12 ↑ 13 ↑ 14 ↓ 15 ↑
16 ↑ 17 ↑ 18 ↑ 19 ↑ 20 ↑
21 ↑ 22 ↑ 23 ↑ 24 ↑ 25 ↓
26 ↓ 27 ↓ 28 ↓ 29 ↓ 30 ↑
31 ↓ 32 ↓ 33 ↓ 34 ↓ 35 ↓
36 ↓ 37 ↓ 38 ↓ 39 ↓ 40 ↓
41 ↓ 42 ↓ 43 ↓ 44 ↓ 45 ↓
46 ↓ 47 ↓ 48 ↓ 49 ↓ 50 ↓
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Figure 7

The problem with this explanation is that there was no reason to have stamps no. 25 and 30 in inverted position because even if they would be in a position similar to the adjacent stamps in the same horizontal row, they would have created a tête-bêche pair.

The problem of the 5 K tête-bêche pairs can be solved only by investigating a whole or a partial sheet of the stamp. Unfortunately, I could until now find none where this problem could be checked.

50 K Stamp. Assuming sheets of 10x10 stamps, the 40. stamp in the sheet would be the last stamp in the fourth horizontal row; assuming half sheets of 5x10 stamps (similar to Figure 7), then the 40. stamp would be the last stamp in the eighth horizontal row. In either case, a block-of-four containing this tête-bêche stamp must look like either Figure 8a or Figure 8b.

On the other hand, I have a block of four of the 50 K stamp containing one tête-bêche stamp looking like Figure 8c and this does not correspond to either Figure 8a or 8b. The photo of the block is shown in Figure 10. This means that either
there must have been another stamp in inverted position in the sheet not located in the rightmost vertical column, or that the number of stamps in a horizontal row is neither 5 or 10.

It should be mentioned that I have a block of four of the 60 f stamp with an inverted stamp, having a margin piece on the right-hand side (Figure 11). This clearly indicates that the inverted stamp must be in position #80, what one would expect according to Weinert (see Figure 9).

Error Print.

One error print is known in connection with the seventh series: in the 23rd stamp of each sheet of the 5 K stamp, the letters A and N are missing in the word LAJTÁBÁNSÁG.

VIII. EIGHTH SERIES

This series consists of harvester - parliament stamps with the overprint "Soproni / népszavazás / 1921 / dec.14." (Plebiscite of Sopron, December 14, 1921).

There is almost no information available on this series. According to Weinert, the overprinting was supposed to be ordered by György Hîr, governing councillor for economy, and László Szendey, postmaster general of Lajtabánság, but the issue of the stamps at the post offices was forbidden by the entente powers. I know of an envelope having seven stamps of the series (#86-91 and 96) and cancelled on November 22, 1921 in Nagyszentmihály (Grosspetersdorf) but I do not believe that this is a genuine cancellation; after all the area of Western Hungary - except the Sopron area - was evacuated by the insurgents by November 13 and Nagyszentmihály is located in the Southern half of the area to which the plebiscite did