NEWS of HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

DEDICATED TO THE COLLECTING AND STUDY OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY IN ALL OF ITS FORMS

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HUNGARIAN AIRMAIL OF THE 1930's

by Vic Berecz

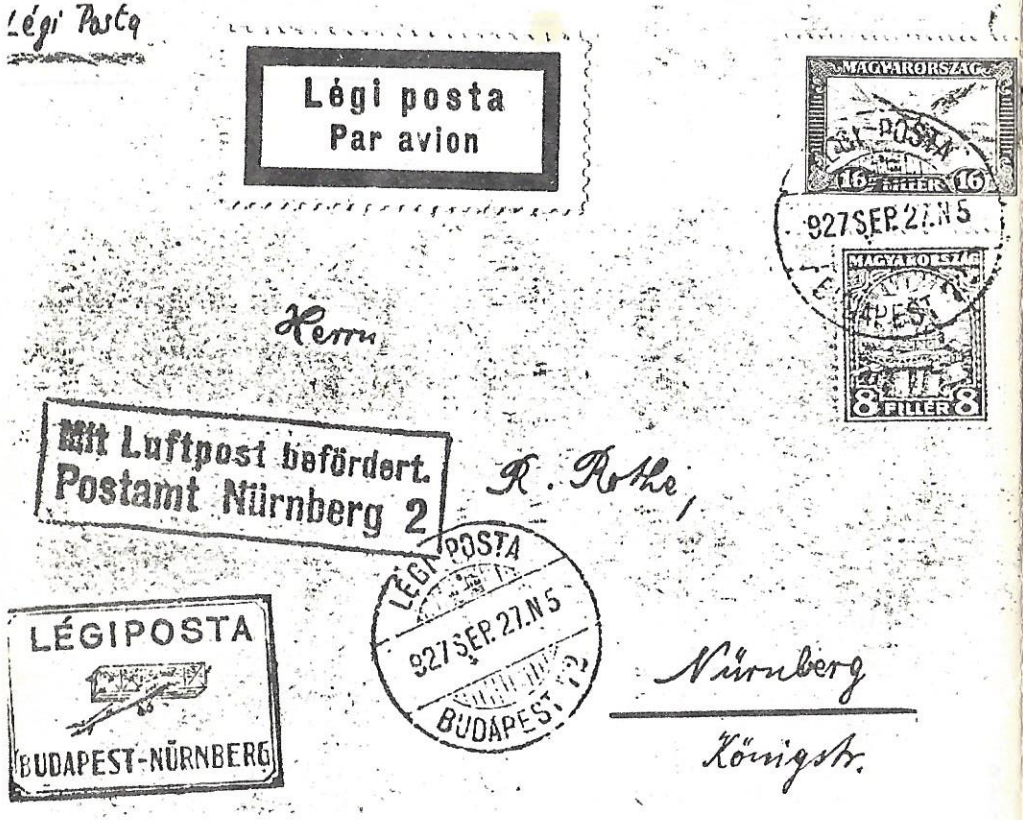
Part VII - International Airmail in Hungary

The great volume of information, and its very specialized nature, that could be included in this part forces me to condense it greatly. Therefore I've taken the approach of giving basic information on the airlines that served Hungary during the period in question, and then listing only a few of the many special flights.

MALERT (Magyar Legiforgalmi Rt.) is the Hungarian airline which began operation in 1923 between Budapest and Vienna. It was subsidized by the government from the beginning. Its policies were extremely conservative, and its growth very slow. It began flying to Belgrade in 1927, and in the late 1930's its routes were extended to Munich, Prague, Warsaw, and Bucharest. In 1939 it was the 19th largest passenger carrier in Europe, with about 6,000 passengers. Its use of the extremely fast Savoia-Marchetti s.73 airplanes late in the 1930's would have increased MALERT's prominence as a European airline if the beginning of the war had not interfered. Because the cities mentioned above were previously served from Budapest by other airlines, MALERT's international operations of the 1930's are not of great philatelic significance. The only date worth mentioning is May 2, 1938, the first day of service to Bucharest. (This route was serviced jointly with the Roumanian airline LARES, not mentioned elsewhere in this article).

LUFTHANSA, the German airline was formed by merger of Junkers and Deutche Aero Lloyd in 1926. Many foreign Junkers controlled companies were included in the merger, including the Magyar company Aeroexpress Rt. Aeroexpress, with OLAG and the Swiss company Ad Astra jointly operated a Geneva-Budapest seaplane route via Vienna, Munich, etc. beginning in 1923. After 1926 this service was integrated into the Lufthansa route system. From Budapest connections to Germany were via Munich. In 1927 Lufthansa began operating a Berlin-Vienna route, which was then the main connection from Hungary to Germany and northern Europe. Since Lufthansa's route to Asia went directly from Vienna to Athens, routes beyond Hungary were not initiated

until late in the 1930's. At that time services from Budapest to Belgrade, Sofia, and Bucharest were initiated. These continued in operation until the German Eastern Front collapsed in 1943. Lufthansa's philatelic significance is primarily limited to covers of September and October 1927 with boxed biplane cachets. These were used to dozens of European cities with the new Hungarian stamps. Most of these were German cities which had direct airmail connections to Hungary for the first time due to Lufthansa. An example is shown below.



AIR FRANCE was formed by merger in 1933. Included was CIDNA which as the Franco-Roumaine Air Navigation Co. began service to Budapest in 1922 on its Paris-Bucharest route. Route extensions from Budapest include Athens on April 26, 1930 and Bucharest via Arad on May 2, 1938. These, with a special roundtrip Budapest-Paris-Budapest flight of August 11, 1933 represent the Air France philatelic contribution.

OLAG (Osterreiche Luftverkehrs AG) was an Austrian Junkers-controlled company, that remained nominally independent from the time of the Lufthansa merger until Austria's annexation. It was a part of the jointly operated Geneva-Budapest seaplane service. In 1926 it began a Graz-Budapest route for the purpose of providing quick connections to Venice. (It flew a Vienna-Graz-Klagenfurt-Venice route.) No Hungarian mail was flown until 1927. The only philatellically significant item of

the 1930's was the initiation of direct service to Klagenfurt from Budapest on July 16, 1932. Only 34 pieces of mail are recorded as having been carried on that first flight.

KLM (Royal Dutch Airline) began service to Hungary on September 12, 1929. This was part of KLM's service from Amsterdam to Batavia, Dutch East Indies, and was therefore not considered a part of normal European air service. The route in Europe was Amsterdam, Nurnberg, Budapest, Sofia, and Istanbul. The service was only biweekly in the early years, so the volume of mail carried from Budapest was probably small. KLM extended its European service to Vienna and Budapest on April 20, 1936.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS was the British airline authorized to make overseas flights. Its primary interest was service to the British possessions in Asia and Africa, and so its European service (except on the prestigous London-Paris route) was minimal. Imperial came to Budapest in 1929 as a part of its service to Alexandria. From Alexandria the route extended east to India and from February 1931 south to Capetown. Budapest was on the Imperial route only two weeks beginning November 2, 1929 and then again for thirteen months beginning April 12, 1930. The route through Europe included London, Brussels, Cologne, Nuremburg, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Skoplje, Salonika, and Athens. As with KLM, these were not considered European services, and the volume of mail must have been small. Imperial returned to Budapest on April 2, 1935 with the only extension of its European services in the 1930's. The special first flight cancellation is shown below.

ALA LITTORIA was formed by a merger of most of the Italian airlines in August 1934. They began service from Venice to Budapest (via Vienna) on April 1, 1935. The special first flight cancellation is shown below.

In addition to those mentioned above, LARES, the Polish line LOT, the Russian AEROFLOT, and SWISSAIR stopped at Budapest in the very late 1930's and carried some mail from there. I know of no special philatelic significance for any of them.

Part VII - Airmail of the 1930's ... continued

A special circuit flight of the Mediterranean left Budapest on February 19, 1933 in the aircraft Gerle. The flyers were Bisits and Banhidy. The mail was marked with a red diamond shaped cachet. According to Baldwin writing in Aero Field only about 600 items were carried from Budapest, to Oran, Tripoli, Gaza, Athens, and Rome. Also stated was that mail for Budapest was put aboard at Oran, Tripoli and Rome. I have seen mail from Budapest to both Jerusalem and Istanbul, and from Athens to Budapest. Therefore it appears Baldwin's list of cities and count of items is incorrect. The map on a small blue and black vignette found on some of the Gerle pieces indicates 33 stops enroute. I would be interested in any information that could be added about other cities to which mail was carried. Part of a pictorial postcard flown on the Gerle to Rome is shown below.

A special flight was made to Vienna on June 24, 1933 in conjunction with the international philatelic exhibition WIPA. 3590 specially-printed cards were carried. They were franked either with short sets or complete sets of the recently issued 1933 airmails. Some of the cards had a special green cachet applied, all bear a special WIPA WIEN receiving mark. There was a special return flight the same day. An example of the Budapest-Vienna flight is shown below.

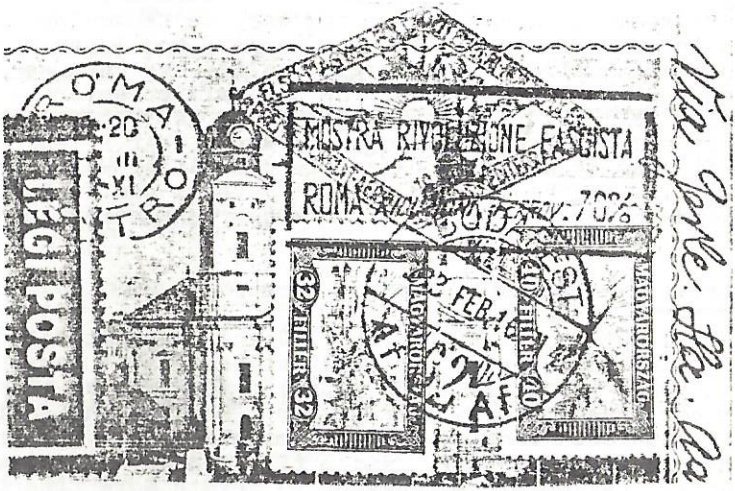
Feladó: MAGYAR AERO-SZÖVETSÉG, BUDAPEST, IX., LÓNYAY-UTCA 17.

Frl. ELISABETH BOR

WIEN-Wipa

Künstlerhaus, Stand No.

On May 15, 1935 a special flight was made to Tekirdag (formerly known as Rodosto), Turkey. This was in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of Ferenc Rakoczi II. He lived in exile and died in Rodosto. The covers bear various labels of the FILPROK V exhibit, as well as Istanbul and Tekirdag receiving marks.



GENSER COLLECTION FOR SALE

Earl Blinn, an SHP member and well-known Hungarian stamp dealer has announced that he owns and is offering for sale the Hungarian collection of the late Judge Joseph Genser of Martinez, California. Judge Genser was a charter member of SHP, a member of our Executive Board, a contributor of much information to our society's publications. He was most interested in Hungarian philatelic material of the period up to the end of World War I. The collection includes thirty album volumes and stockbooks. Included are Austria used in Hungary, covers of the 1871 lithographed issue, a particularly strong collection of covers and cancellations of the 1871 engraved issue, the Envelope issues and Turul issues, wartime issues and first airmails, postage dues and revenues, postal stationery, "occupation" issues, succession states, general issues 1919-41, precancels, newspaper stamps, and telegraphs. Mr. Blinn is offering the Genser collection either in complete albums or individual items. Requests should be addressed to Earl Blinn at P.O. Box 730, Woodbury, NJ 08096.

609-555-1212
845-1022

CORRECTION:

In Part III of HUNGARIAN AIRMAILS OF THE 1930's there was an error in the pilot's name who flew the mail at the Gödöllö Boy Scout Jamboree. Thanks to SHP member Dr. George Vareska for the following information: "The plane carrying airmail was piloted by v. Frederick HEPTY. He was one of the most decorated Aces of the WWI. Austro-Hungarian Airforce. After the war, he became one of the most active instructors in aviation in Hungary and later when the new Royal Hungarian Air Force became a reality, we have seen him again in the ranks of the actives. He has written several books on his experiences as a WWI pilot and later as an instructor, as a promoter of sport and military aviation. He was a dear friend of mine and his children are among my best friends. After WWII, he emigrated to the U.S. and he died in Detroit 7 years ago." Our thanks to Dr. Vareska for this interesting background material.

HELP! HELP! HELP!!! An Editorial by Vic Berecz

When I started out as SHP Editor in 1970-1 it was natural that there would be a lack of material for publication. As it happened during those two years Les Ettre and I supplied the bulk of the material. This continued through 1972-3 when I was not the society editor, but with some occasional but much appreciated new writers. Now I've returned to the editorship, and I find myself without any backlog of material, Les and myself having to devote more time to business, and so I present to you a short edition. An important question must be "What do we have to do to get back on the track?"

First, I do not think that our monthly newsletter would be a success even if Les and I could fill 12 sixteen page issues a year with our articles. Our interests, areas of specialty, and areas of technical competence are too limited. AIRMAILS and HUNGARICA are of interest to only a small percentage of our members. We need to appeal to a larger segment of our membership. The beginning collector wants to know about watermark identification and perforation varieties. Many are interested in recent issues and their backgrounds for topical writeups. Others are interested in pre-stamp cancels, Austria used in Hungary, revenues, postage dues, WWI and WWII fieldpost cancels, exhibition labels, commemorative cancellations, etc., etc. There are many of you throughout our society who can provide such information. You don't have to be a good writer. You don't need a typewriter. Your grammar and English usage need not be good. All you need is information that might be of use to members, and write it down as accurately as possible. I'll edit it, correct grammar and spelling (as best I can - mine is not all that good), and type it. If it is needed I'll even translate German or Hungarian material to English for publication. Of course, if you can write well or type it makes life easier for me. I hope that many of you will consider this appeal seriously, and get articles to me for publication soon.

It has been suggested that the NEWS be published only quarterly and that it be larger and printed in higher quality. This proposal is under consideration, and any comments are welcome.

NEW ISSUES — SETS

Singles - Mint
Used - Specialties
Occupations
F.D.C.'s

Hungary

Want Lists Filled. No Approvals.

HUNGARIA STAMP EXCHANGE
P.O. Box 75 Utica, N.Y. 13503
APS - SPA - NPS

HUNGARIAN SPECIALTIES
From stampless to 1949
EARL F. BLINN
P.O. BOX 730
Woodbury, N.J.
08096

Wish to buy AUSTRIA USED IN HUNGARY. Complete cancellations and postal history. E. Ivanyos 32-30 93 St. #D6, Jackson Heights, NY 11369.

Exchange WW I MILITARY COVERS, also want literature of this period, even if on loan. Write A. Bauer c/o SHP.

HUNGARIAN AIRMAIL COVERS available for exchange. Vic Berecz 739 Mountain Laurel Rd. Fairfield, CT 06430.

Wanted ERRORS, printing errors, inverts, and varieties of Hungarian stamps. Write W. Domonkos c/o this publication.

Wanted - RAILWAY CANCELLATIONS of Hungary and the U.S. Also all related material. Write Dennis Rich, c/o this newsletter.

Wanted - CLASSIC HUNGARIAN COVERS, large strips, blocks, everything to fit into a large collection. S. Schaffling c/o NEWS.

BUY, SELL, TRADE - there is space for your ad here among the "mini-ads". Write the SHP editor or see the Sept. NEWS for info.

DUPLICATES TRADED for mint Stamps of Hungary. I need early and late issues. Write G. Baham 150 Harbor Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06605.

ZEPPELIN COVERS - I want to buy Hungary Flight and Hungarian connecting flight covers. Geza Bodnar 325 Shetland Rd. Fairfield, CT 06430.

FREE STAMPS FOR THE ASKING - this ad is not serious, but only meant to draw your attention to the mini-ads. See something good?

Wanted - mint set of 8 MIN. ROOSEVELT SHEETS (B198A-D,CB1-C) imperf, tete-beche, or reg. D. Calladine, 6692 Laburnum, Vancouver 14, BC.

SHP has for sale both Hungarian and US covers from most of its past exhibits, also past monographs and album pages.

SHP PRICELIST - EFFECTIVE ONLY FOR ORDERS RECEIVED BY 12 JAN 1974

Monographs:	#1 Pioneer Airmails	$1.25	#2 Western Hungary	$2.00
	#3 Errors	$1.00	#4 Precancels	$1.00

HUNPHILIA Covers:		Hungary	USA
1969		none	not available
1970	St. Stephen	75¢	35¢
1971	Centenary	3 at 50¢ each	35¢
1972	Székesfehervar	3 at 35¢ each	35¢ Pulitzer
1973	Budapest	3 at 75¢ each	35¢

1971, 72, and 73 Hungarian covers are available in sets of three different at $1.50, $1.00, and $2.00 respectively. All available US covers can be combined at 3 for $1.00.

LOCAL NEWS

Fairfield: The regular meeting of SHP members from the Southern Connecticut and New York City area will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, January 15 in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Road in Fairfield. The program for the evening will consist of:

"Recent discoveries concerning Hungarian-International airmail of the 1930's" by Vic Berecz.