Society for
Hungarian Philately

From a Historical Perspective

Alan Bauer
5/1/2017

Table of Contents

Introduction 2
Predecessors of the Society for Hungarian Philately 3
Formation of the Society for Hungarian Philately: 1969 5
  First Issue of the Newsletter 6
  First Meeting of the Society for Hungarian Philately 7
Early Years: 1970 – 1979 8
  First Year in Existence 8
  First Exhibit: Fairfield, 1970 10
  Retrospective on the First Year 12
  Goals for 1971 12
  Keys to Future Growth 12
  Second Annual SHP Exhibit: 1971 – Fairfield 13
  Annual Meetings 14
  SHP Members Win Awards at Budapest ’71 International 14
International Growth: 1980 – 2000 15
  Evolution of SHP News 15
  International Exhibitions 18
  Europhilex ’92 18
  Pacific ’97 in San Francisco 20
  1998: New York 22
The Millennium and Beyond 23
  2001: Balpex 23
  2006: Washington 24
  2013: The Philatelic Show, Boxborough, Massachusetts 26
  2016: New York, World Stamp Show 27
Opportunities for Growth in the Future 30
References and Credits 31
  Appendix A: Monographs 32
  Appendix B: Presidents of the Society 33

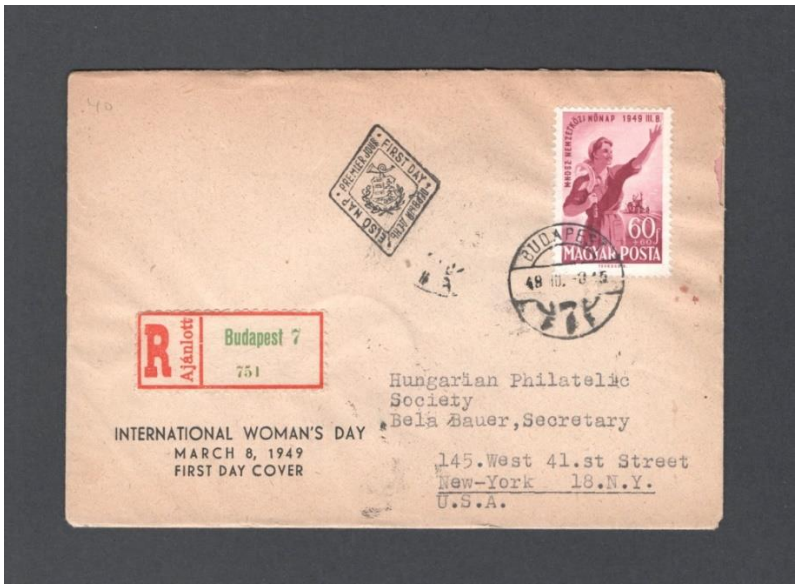
Introduction

The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is an international organization devoted to the study and enjoyment of all aspects of Hungarian philately. SHP has members in the United States of America (USA), Canada, Europe, Australia, Japan, and in many other countries throughout the world. The Society for Hungarian Philately is incorporated as a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut, USA. Some members have Hungarian ethnic roots, while others do not, but all share a common bond in the enjoyment, study and discussion of Hungarian philately.

This paper is devoted to the documentation of the history of Society for Hungarian Philately since their founding in 1969 to the present and their plans for the future. The paper is meant to be a living document and will be periodically updated. Editorial and content contributions are welcomed; please submit them to the SHP Secretary for inclusion.

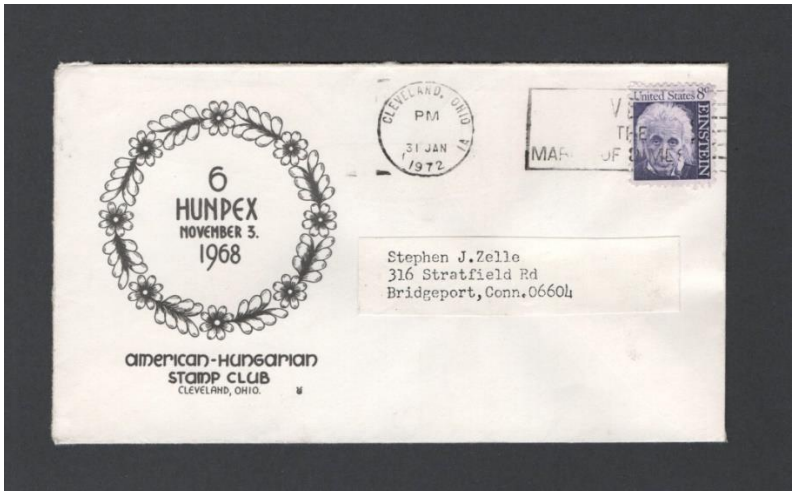
Predecessors of the Society for Hungarian Philately

The **Austro-Hungarian Philatelic Society of New York** was an organization of collectors that was founded in the 1940's and was in operation until the 1950's. The author's father, Béla "William" Bauer, was the Secretary of this club.



Correspondence from Hungary to the Austro-Hungarian Society Secretary

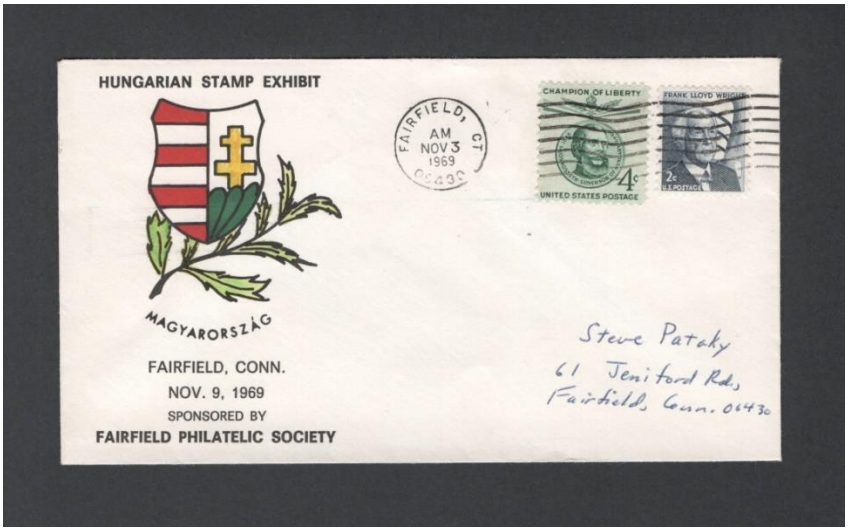
The **Hungarian-American Stamp Club** was founded in Cleveland, Ohio, USA in 1962 and became a sister society to SHP. This club ran an annual show called Hunpex where some of the society members exhibited. Vic Berecz, one of SHP's founders, was a member of the Cleveland Society and participated in some of their exhibitions. The club was dissolved in the 1970's.



Official show cover from Hunpex 6; Stephen Zelle became a member of SHP

Official show cover from Hunpex X

The **Fairfield Philatelic Society (FPS)** was an organization of general collectors in Southwestern Connecticut. The original founders of SHP were all members of the FPS and they believed that this was the time to create an organization that was devoted to Hungarian philately.



This is the official show cover from FPS show which was to launch SHP

Formation of the Society for Hungarian Philately: 1969

The founders of SHP were the six individuals pictured below. They were sitting around the dining room table in Vic Berecz's house in Fairfield, Connecticut in the Fall of 1969 and decided to explore the possibility of a society devoted to Hungarian stamp collecting. Aloysius Bauer and Géza Bodnár immigrated to the United States from Hungary in 1956. Bill Domonkos and Vic Berecz were American born of Hungarian descent. Jeannette Erhard and Dennis Rich also had Hungarian ancestry. Each was an enthusiastic collector of Hungarian stamps. Their goal was to establish a Hungarian Stamp Club in Fairfield, an area which they thought had a satisfactory collector base. Ten percent of the Hungarian immigrants who came to the U.S. in 1956 settled in southwestern Connecticut, as had untold thousands of immigrants from historical Hungary. In the Bridgeport, Connecticut area alone, there resided over 30,000 Hungarians during the 1930's and 1940's.

SHP Board 1970 (Left to Right): Aloysius Bauer (President), Vic Berecz, Géza Bodnár, Dennis Rich. (Front): Bill Domonkos and Jeannette Erhard

On November 9, 1969, the Fairfield Philatelic Society had a regular meeting and exhibit, which was to be the kickoff for the founding fathers to establish SHP. It was a huge success with one hundred and thirty members and guests of FPS in attendance. There were thirty-three frames of Hungarian material at the exhibit. This provided ample evidence that there was sufficient interest in the formation of a Society devoted to Hungarian philately.

Following that meeting, the six founders dedicated themselves to the formation of the Society for Hungarian Philately. SHP made two key decisions during the formative period between November 9, 1969 and the first meeting of the Society on February 17, 1970. They were:

1) Hungarian philatelists outside the Southwestern Connecticut area will be encouraged to join the Society
2) The Society will incorporate as a non-profit corporation in the State of Connecticut

During this period, the founding group created by-laws and prepared them for a vote at the organization's initial meeting. In February 1970, they held this initial meeting, selected a slate of officers and they contacted a group of prospective members. The purpose of the society was stated in the by-laws as:

> "The purpose of the Society is to bring together those persons with an interest in the postage stamps and other philatelic material of Hungary and to generally encourage participation in Hungarian philately."

First Issue of the Newsletter

Volume Number 1, Issue Number 1 was published on February 9, 1970 as the first issue of SHP's "News of Hungarian Philately." The organizational meeting that was to be scheduled eight days hence was publicized in this Newsletter.

The Newsletter included an *Open Letter to Prospective Members* and a call to them to join this newly created society. There was a statement of purpose, goals and a copy of the proposed by-laws. The Newsletter included an invitation to the first meeting and encouraged all prospective members to attend.

Sixty-six copies of the first Newsletter were mailed, with half of the recipients living outside of the state of Connecticut.

First Meeting of the Society for Hungarian Philately

The first official meeting of SHP was in Fairfield, Connecticut on February 17, 1970. There were ten prospective members along with the original six founders in attendance. The primary order of business was to approve the by-laws and elect the first Board of Directors. Mr. Otto Gábor Schaffling spoke for a set of by-laws more enhanced than those originally proposed and those were approved. Some of the additions to the original set included more financial controls, a broadening of the membership requirements, the establishment of certain committees and a more detailed specification of the Board.

The new by-laws were approved and the new members of the Board were unanimously elected. The Board consisted of the following members:

President – Aloysius Bauer
Vice-President – Vic Berecz
Secretary – Bill Domonkos
Treasurer – Géza Bodnar
Members-at-Large – Dennis Rich and Jeanette Erhard

The original members who joined the Society during the first year were instrumental in establishing the success of the Society. Some of them included Otto Gábor Schaffling, László (Les) Ettre, Earl Blinn, James Franz, Daniel Szabados, László Garay, Béla “William” Bauer (the father of this author), Kálmán (Kal) Illyefalvi, Ray Wrenn and John Stansfield.

The goal set by the Officers was to achieve a membership of fifty by the end of the Charter Membership period of June 30, 1970. The membership count reached sixty-six by that date, which substantially exceeded the original goal.

Early Years: 1970 – 1979

First Year in Existence

On March 24, 1970, the American Philatelic Society (APS) accepted SHP as a member society, which was a significant milestone in the early history of SHP. Mr. James DeVoss, the APS Executive Secretary, wrote in a letter to SHP: "The Society for Hungarian Philately will be unit No. 34 and we welcome you to the ever growing family of major specialty organizations affiliated with the A.P.S.". Recognition by the APS was a major step forward in the recognition of the Society.

In Issue Number 3 of the News, Vic Berecz commented on some of the favorable things he had heard from members and prospective members. Judge Joseph Genser of California stated: "The prospect of an American Hungarian philatelic society with nationwide membership is exciting." James Daggett of Los Angeles, California wrote: "Please let me know what I need to do to apply for membership. Perhaps I can even supply some Newsletter material."

Also in Issue Number 3, Vic introduced the background of the founders and asked each of the members to tell the Board about themselves. Aloysius Bauer was an Electrical Engineer. Vic worked at Sikorsky Aircraft as a computer programming supervisor and was working on a Ph.D. at the time. Bill Domonkos was a chief draftsman, Géza Bodnar was an automobile dealer and amateur movie photographer, Jeannette Erhard was a homemaker and Dennis Rich was an inventory analyst.

Issue Number 4 in May of 1970 contained another milestone. It was the first Newsletter that accepted paid advertising. There were four paid advertisements in that Newsletter, one of which was from the Hungaria Stamp Exchange, submitted by Béla "William" Bauer, the author's father.

NEW ISSUES — SETS

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

Hungary

Want list filling. No Approvals.

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

WANTED - HUNGARY
Postal History Material
Cards, Covers, Air Mail
ERRORS - VARIETIES
Philatelic Literature
Write to
William Domonkos
c/o this publication

PATRONIZE OUR
ADVERTISERS
AND MENTION THE NEWS
OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
IN YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRIA & modern HUNGARY Eastern Europe & Special countries. New Issue Service. Art on stamps & other topicals. Ask for FREE price list and expect the lowest prices.
E.E.P.A.
P.O.Box 216 Station B
Montreal 110, Que.
Canada

WANTED
FOR MY COLLECTION.

AIRMAIL COVERS
THRU 1947.

Send on approval, or send description and price to:
Victor G. Berecz
739 Mountain Laurel Road
Fairfield, Conn. 06430

HUNGARY
Complete Sets, souvenir Sheets & Imperfs. Price list $1.00 refunded on first order. Submit want lists for single items and specialties. Member ASDA. 35 Yrs. in business.
ALEXANDER MOLNAR
1729 West 12th Street
Lorain, Ohio 44052

HUNGARIAN SPECIALTIES

From Stampless
to 1949

Earl F. Blinn
P.O. Box 730
Woodbury, N. J.
08096

WANTED TO BUY

HUNGARIAN ZEPPELIN
COVERS
Send descriptions
and prices to:
PANNONIA STAMP
P.O. Box 1154
Fairfield, Conn.
06430

WORLD-WIDE NEW ISSUE SERVICE.
Any country or topic.
We specialize in stamps of Hungary. Want lists filled, also US and UN.
No deposit required.
Write for details.
J & S STAMP SERVICE.
546 Black Rock Tpke.
Fairfield, Conn. 06430

(10)

TRY US-WANT LIST SERVICE
We carry a world wide stock of mint and used singles and sets; we offer a most complete stock of HUNGARY. Send your lists to:
George P. Holtz
4924 Lacombe Avenue
Montreal 248,
P.Q. Canada

The regular monthly meeting of SHF will be held on Tuesday evening, October 20 at 7:30PM. Please note the change in time. It will be held as usual in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 160 Hill Farm Rd. in Fairfield. A map is below. Following the brief business meeting, Al Bauer and Bill Domonkos will lead a discussion of the postal history of the inflationary period immediately following World War II. All members planning to attend are asked to bring their covers of this period to add to the discussion. An auction of Hungarian philatelic material will also be held. We're hoping for a large attendance bolstered by many guests who became aware of SHF through our recent exhibit. Everyone is welcome.

PLEASE COME
and
BRING A FRIEND.

(11)

The first page of advertising in the May 1970 issue of the News

First Exhibit: Fairfield, 1970

The first exhibit of SHP after its incorporation was a resounding success. The total attendance at the Exhibit and meeting numbered one hundred and sixty-four. The competitive exhibit consisted of thirty-six frames, with the top awards going to Judge Joseph Genser and Vic Berecz. Judge Genser's exhibit was titled: *The County Postmarks on the First and Second Issues of Hungary*. It was a twenty-four page exhibit, which included a series of 19th Century maps of Hungary with county subdivisions. Mounted on each map was an example of the stamps of the two 1871 issues. The single-circle cancellations included the town name at the top and the county name at the bottom.

Vic Berecz exhibited twenty-four extra large pages of his important work, *The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail*. SHP based its first Monograph on his collection and exhibit. This was the start of the Monograph series, a list of which is included in Appendix A. The Monographs are one of the key differentiators that separates SHP from its predecessor organizations.

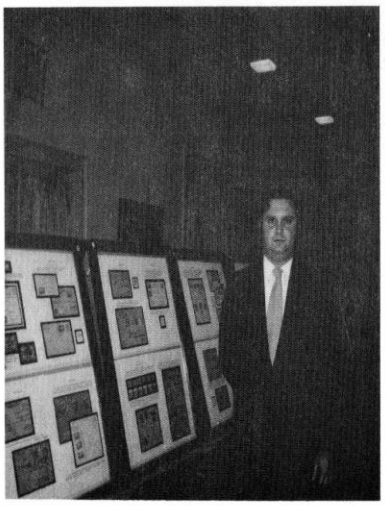
In addition to the two gold medals mentioned above, Otto G. Schaffling was presented a silver award for his twenty-four page exhibit entitled, *A Part of a 20th Century Collection of Hungary*. This included the one item that generated the most viewer interest. It was a souvenir sheet autographed by Horthy Miklós.

There were also eight bronze medals awarded. Those that did not receive an award were acknowledged by a certificate of participation.

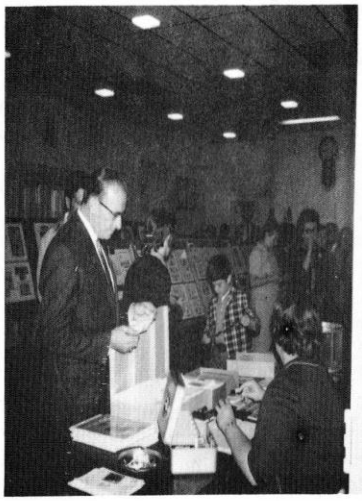
Vic significantly expanded the first Monograph by creating the book, *The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail,* published by the American Air Mail Society (AAMS) in 1996, [ISBN 0-939429-16-0 Library of Congress Catalog # 96-85087]. This book documents his research and his significant Hungarian Airmail collection, which won several gold medals at APS National shows and two FIP International shows in the 1980's.

Vic Berecz summed up the event saying, "The day has been a success in every way, starting with the weather and going through each of the scheduled events. A debt of thanks is owed to all who worked so hard for this success."

Children and adults gathered for the door prize drawings (above). Below Bill Domonkos looks over some cacheted covers at the SHP sales table. The main exhibit room is in the background.



Above is Vic Berecz in front of a part of his gold award winning airmail exhibit. The US postoffice's exhibition station (below) did a thriving business most of the afternoon.



(6)

(7)

Pictures of the exhibits and fun activities for children and members

Retrospective on the First Year

The first year in the history of SHP was a resounding success. The highlights were: 1) the November 1969 exhibit at the Fairfield Philatelic Society that gave SHP its first spark of life, 2) incorporation as a non-profit organization, 3) the acceptance as Unit #34 of the American Philatelic Society, 4) the October 1970 Exhibit. These were the high points, but there were other significant achievements. The Society grew to sixty-six members in its first year, Newsletters were published monthly, the first of a series of monographs was published and importantly, the Society remained solvent.

Goals for 1971

After the big successes of the first year, the Board set some lofty goals for year number two. Vic published the organization's goals for 1971 in the December 1970 edition of the News. They were:

1) Increase membership to one hundred
2) Publish a Newsletter of at least twelve pages each month of the year
3) Publish at least two additions to the monograph series
4) Sponsor an exhibit of at least sixty frames with half the participation from outside of Southern Connecticut
5) Establish a plan through which SHP can be more meaningful to its members outside of Southern Connecticut

Keys to Future Growth

Although for a few years SHP had regular monthly meetings locally in Fairfield (which brought out around fifteen members), one of the key early success factors in SHP growth was to break the "local-club" image. At Otto's suggestion, members were sought nationally and even internationally. Incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation and affiliated with APS, SHP leaders recognized that the key to success as a global organization was a quality periodically issued publication. The success and longevity of SHP are due in large part to the hard work of the editors of The News -- especially Vic Berecz, Bill Domonkos, who succeeded Vic as Editor, Csaba Kohalmi who served ably for twenty years and Robert Lauer, who recently took over from Csaba. During that period, Chris Brainard served for over twenty years as the Newsletter Publisher.

Second Annual SHP Exhibit: 1971 – Fairfield

There were sixty-three frames of Hungarian stamps exhibited competitively. In 1971 the judges noted that the quality of exhibits had improved substantially from the first year. Other aspects of the day were equally successful. Business was brisk at the USPS substation and the dealer booths. Door prizes were popular and children were given special prizes. Every child won at least one prize. Total attendance at this exhibit exceeded three hundred, a 70% increase over the first year. In every way, this exhibit was a resounding success.

These are some pictures of the events at the 1971 Exhibit

Annual Meetings

SHP started conducting Annual Meetings in the mid-1970. These meetings were usually held in conjunction with an APS national exhibit and show. On two occasions in the 1980's, the Annual Meetings were held at FIP sponsored international shows, AMERIPEX '86 in Chicago and CAPEX '87 in Toronto. SHP typically held these meetings in different parts of the United States or Canada to let members from different geographic areas attend the meetings. This practice has continued to this day with our most recent meeting, which was held at the World Stamp Show 2016 in New York. In 2017, our annual meeting will be at SeaPex in Seattle, Washington.

SHP Members Win Awards at Budapest '71 International

The Budapest '71 International exhibit celebrated the hundred year anniversary of Hungary's first postage stamps. The scope of the exhibit was vast with hundreds of frames of classical Hungarian material.

It was a great honor to have SHP represented by three of its members at the Budapest '71 International exhibition. The three members not only represented SHP at this prestigious event, but all three of them won awards. Otto G. Schaffling won a gold award for his exhibit of classical stamps and covers. He also won a silver award for his air mail collection and was presented with a beautiful silver bowl.

Silver and bronze awards were won by Victor Berecz for his presentation of philatelic material covering the *Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail* and by John L. Briggs, Jr. for his excellent exhibit of Hungarian stamps on covers from 1874 to 1900.

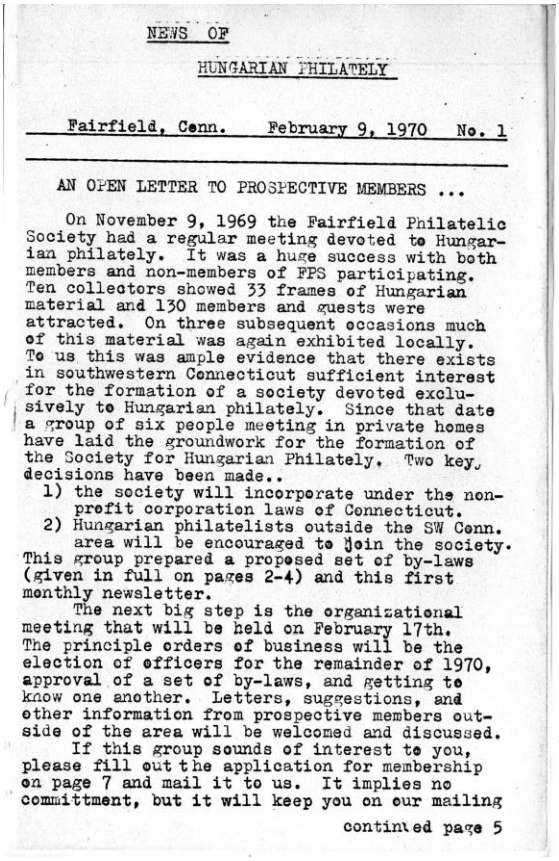
International Growth: 1980 – 2000

Evolution of SHP News

The information publication of SHP is called “The News of Hungarian Philately”. This may be a misnomer since it is actually a journal, with each issue rich in research material relating to all aspects of Hungarian Philately. The content of the News, along with the Monographs that SHP makes available to its members, make the Society truly unique and is one of the significant reasons that SHP is about to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The newsletter appeared monthly until April 1974. The April 1974 issue came in a booklet format. After that, the booklet appeared every other month through 1986. Beginning in 1987, the newsletter appeared quarterly. In 2001, the format changed from the booklet to the large 8.5” x 11” magazine that is the current format. The Spring 2017 issue is the first all-color issue, comprised of 32 pages of quality articles.

Following are examples of the three formats of “The News”



NEWS OF

HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

Fairfield, Conn. February 9, 1970 No. 1

AN OPEN LETTER TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS ...

On November 9, 1969 the Fairfield Philatelic Society had a regular meeting devoted to Hungarian philately. It was a huge success with both members and non-members of FPS participating. Ten collectors showed 33 frames of Hungarian material and 130 members and guests were attracted. On three subsequent occasions much of this material was again exhibited locally. To us this was ample evidence that there exists in southwestern Connecticut sufficient interest for the formation of a society devoted exclusively to Hungarian philately. Since that date a group of six people meeting in private homes have laid the groundwork for the formation of the Society for Hungarian Philately. Two key decisions have been made..

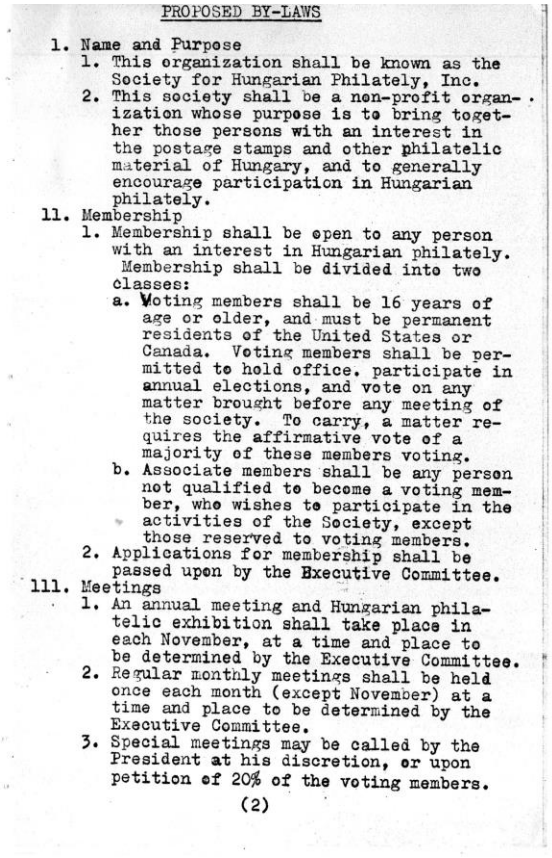
1) the society will incorporate under the non-profit corporation laws of Connecticut.
2) Hungarian philatelists outside the SW Conn. area will be encouraged to join the society.

This group prepared a proposed set of by-laws (given in full on pages 2-4) and this first monthly newsletter.

The next big step is the organizational meeting that will be held on February 17th. The principle orders of business will be the election of officers for the remainder of 1970, approval of a set of by-laws, and getting to know one another. Letters, suggestions, and other information from prospective members outside of the area will be welcomed and discussed.

If this group sounds of interest to you, please fill out the application for membership on page 7 and mail it to us. It implies no committment, but it will keep you on our mailing

continued page 5



PROPOSED BY-LAWS

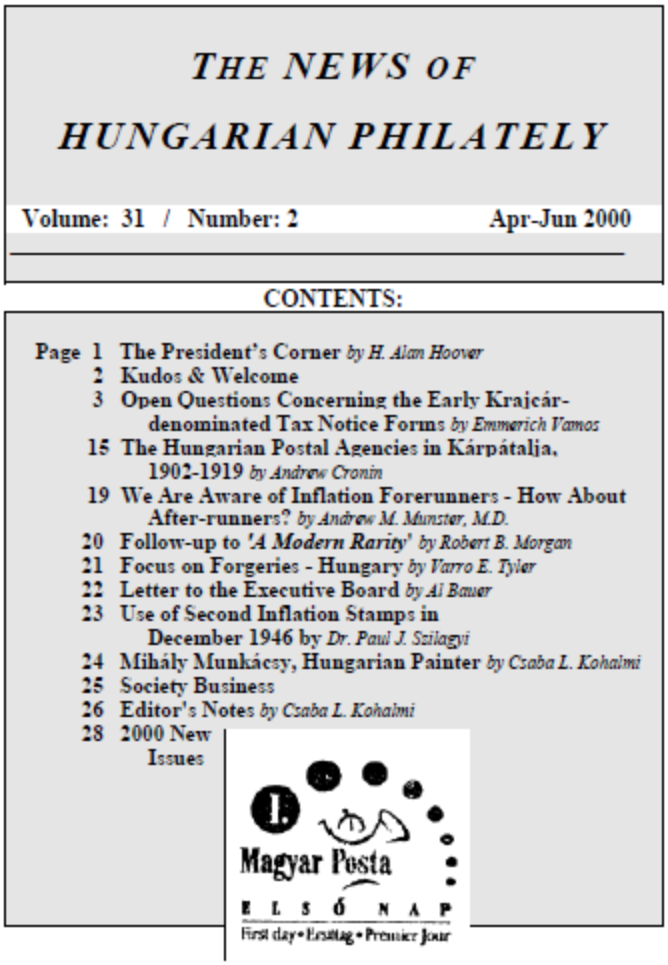
I. Name and Purpose
1. This organization shall be known as the Society for Hungarian Philately, Inc.
2. This society shall be a non-profit organization whose purpose is to bring together those persons with an interest in the postage stamps and other philatelic material of Hungary, and to generally encourage participation in Hungarian philately.

II. Membership
1. Membership shall be open to any person with an interest in Hungarian philately. Membership shall be divided into two classes:
a. Voting members shall be 16 years of age or older, and must be permanent residents of the United States or Canada. Voting members shall be permitted to hold office, participate in annual elections, and vote on any matter brought before any meeting of the society. To carry, a matter requires the affirmative vote of a majority of these members voting.
b. Associate members shall be any person not qualified to become a voting member, who wishes to participate in the activities of the Society, except those reserved to voting members.
2. Applications for membership shall be passed upon by the Executive Committee.

III. Meetings
1. An annual meeting and Hungarian philatelic exhibition shall take place in each November, at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee.
2. Regular monthly meetings shall be held once each month (except November) at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee.
3. Special meetings may be called by the President at his discretion, or upon petition of 20% of the voting members.

(2)

The original version: from 1970 to 1973, this is Issue Number 1



THE NEWS OF
HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

Volume: 31 / Number: 2 Apr-Jun 2000

CONTENTS:

Page 1 The President's Corner *by H. Alan Hoover*
2 Kudos & Welcome
3 Open Questions Concerning the Early Krajcár-denominated Tax Notice Forms *by Emmerich Vamos*
15 The Hungarian Postal Agencies in Kárpátalja, 1902-1919 *by Andrew Cronin*
19 We Are Aware of Inflation Forerunners - How About After-runners? *by Andrew M. Munster, M.D.*
20 Follow-up to *'A Modern Rarity'* *by Robert B. Morgan*
21 Focus on Forgeries - Hungary *by Varro E. Tyler*
22 Letter to the Executive Board *by Al Bauer*
23 Use of Second Inflation Stamps in December 1946 by *Dr. Paul J. Szilagyi*
24 Mihály Munkácsy, Hungarian Painter *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*
25 Society Business
26 Editor's Notes *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*
28 2000 New Issues

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
2201 Roscomare Road, Los Angeles, CA 90077 USA
Published Quarterly / *Copyright 2000*

The 5” x 8” format: from 1974 to 2001

THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

Volume: 48 / Number: 1 January – March 2017

CONTENTS:

Page

1 The President's Corner *by Alan Bauer*
2 Welcome & Kudos
2 The Secretary's Report: Board Elections *by Greg Gessell*
3 The Treasurer's Report *by Wes Learned*
4 The Webmaster's Report *by Wally Green*
5 The Ruminations of Your Editor *by Robert Lauer*
7 Letters to the Editor *by Tom Cossaboom, Alan Soble, Judy Kennett and Anna Trischan*
12 Hungarian Postal Rates for 2017 *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*
13 Introduction to Hungary's Promotional FDCs With Imperforate Stamps *by Robert B. Morgan*
20 Partially Modified Canceling Device from Dabronc *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*
22 More From S. Kelen *by Judy Kennett*
25 2017 New Issue
26 Post-World War II Philatelic History: Prekmurje & Transylvania *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*

Twenty-five years ago, on March 27, 1992, this this stamp was issued to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Cardinal József Mindszenty, Archbishop of Esztergom and a leader of Hungarian resistance to communism.

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
505 S. 35th Street, Tacoma, WA 98418 USA
Published Quarterly / Copyright 2017

The bound large 8 1/2" x 11" format: from 2001 to present day

International Exhibitions

The 1980's and 1990's was the era of Dr. Stephen Fráter, Gary Ryan and Otto G. Schaffling. Dr. Fráter and Gary Ryan were going head to head on the International exhibition circuit with their classical Hungary collections. During this time SHP was very involved with its Hungarian contacts. Dr. Fráter was in constant communication with Dr. László Suranyi, esteemed leader of Mafitt.

Europhilex '92

These pictures are from 1992 EUROFILEX International held in Budapest:

Sitting on the left is Dr. Steven Fráter, on the right with his back to the camera is Paul Jensen (Norway) who was the President of FIP's Postal History Division, Bob Morgan is standing

Bob Morgan is receiving a special award from the Pres. of MABEOSZ. The man on the right is István Gazda

There are many Hungarian philatelic dignitaries in the audience

.

The picture below is Ferenc Nagy, Senior, who was an icon of Hungarian philately

Pacific ’97 in San Francisco

SHP had its annual meeting at this show, which included a distinguished representation from Hungary. This was the largest group of Hungarian exhibitors to take part in any International show occurring in the United States prior to 1997. SHP members and Hungarian exhibitions showed great achievements at Pacific ’97. Dr. Stephen Fráter exhibited his *Classics of Hungary, Issue of 1871* in the FIP Championship Class. In the Traditional Class, exhibitors were Edward Wittenberg, Henry Hahn, Dr. Paul Szilágyi and István Vas. In the Postal History class, exhibitors were Al Kugel, William Sólyom-Fekete, Bob Morgan, Gábor Visnyovszki and András Lovász. Other exhibitors were Donald Green, Sándor Kispál, Vic Berecz, Árpád Marfai and Endre Szép.

Shown in this picture are - István Gazda, Dr. Fráter and Dr. Pál Lippai.
Mr.Gazda was one of the most knowledgeable Hungarian philatelists of his time was also an accredited FIP Judge. Dr. Lippai was a Judge at the show and became an SHP member at Pacific ‘97

Dr. Steven Fráter, Tom Phillips, Alan Hoover, Csaba Kohalmi, Bob Morgan

Member William Sólyom Fekete and wife Elvira

Four members: sitting David Geary and wife Dee, standing John Stansfield, Dr. Paul Szilágyi, Bob Morgan

1998: New York

SHP participation at the New York Mega Show had a very pleasant addition. We had two guests from Hungary and many of our members were present. Mr. Gábor Visnyovszki, the Hungarian expert and co-author of *The Handbook of Hungarian Philately, the "Black Book",* along with many other literary contributions was there, as well as Mr. László Lacza, Jr. Following the show, Gary S. Ryan was awarded the 1998 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award by the Collectors Club of New York. This Collectors Club award was a significant honor for Hungarian philately and our SHP member.

Included in this picture are Gábor Visnyovszki, Chris Brainard, Bob Morgan and Mrs. and Dr. Fráter

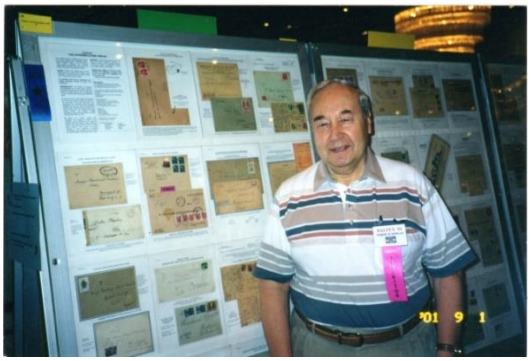
The Millennium and Beyond

Starting with the new millennium, an exciting new era began for SHP. There was a new President and Executive Officers: President H. Alan Hoover, Vice President Andrew M. Munster M.D., Secretary Robert B. Morgan, Treasurer Ted Johnson, Directors-at- large Stephan I. Fráter M.D. and Thomas Phillips, Newsletter Editor Csaba L. Kohalmi, Newsletter Publisher Chris Brainard and Auction Chairperson Emmerich Vamos. Many significant accomplishments occurred during this time. Alan Hoover created and supported the new SHP website. The new executive team was asked to re-write the outdated SHP By-Laws which turned out to be a herculean project. The successful auction site by Emmerich Vamos lifted the treasury from minus to comfortable levels. The *News* by Csaba Kohalmi got better with each edition, plus he changed the publication to the large 8 ½" by 11" format. Bob Morgan re-created and updated the membership list and later stepped into the V.P. position. At the end of 2009 Alan Hoover concluded ten very successful years as SHP President.

At the same time, SHP renewed the establishment of Life Memberships. In honor of the 30th anniversary of our Society, it was fitting that this honor is bestowed on four of the members who were responsible for the founding of our Society in 1969. They are: Vic Berecz (Member #101) was the original editor of the newsletter and continued in that capacity for most of the first ten years of the Society's existence. At the founding of the Society, his title was Vice-President. Later, he also held the office of President. Bill Domonkos (Member #105) was the Society's first secretary and did a remarkable job in expanding the membership base from the original core of a dozen or so Connecticut residents to encompass the entire United States and Canada. Later, he served as editor of SHP News for eight years. Aloysius Bauer (Member #102) was the first President and Géza Bodnar (Member #106) was the first Treasurer. Both served as officers of the Society in various additional capacities.

2001: Balpex

Balpex 2001 was, according to Alan Hoover, the most successful national show in SHP history up to that date. SHP members won 9 awards at the show. Five multi-frame exhibits won Gold and Vermeil awards. Dr. Paul Szilagyi, Bob Morgan, Dr. Andrew Munster won Gold and Dr. Szilagyi and Robert Jensen won Vermeil. Steven Arato, Henry Hahn and Alfred Kugel also won awards.



Pictures of Dr. Paul Szilagyi and Bob Morgan in front of their exhibit

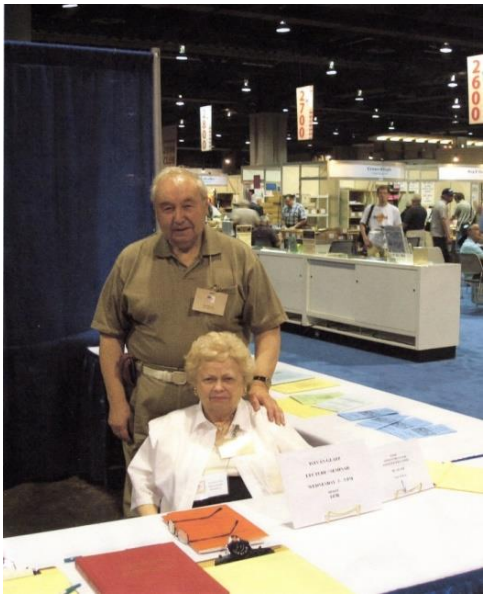
2006: Washington

At the Washington International Show in 2006, SHP attendance included a large group of over 20 members, guests and visitors. After welcoming comments at the Annual meeting, President Alan Hoover reported the results of the previous day's Board meeting and introduced the new officers, Ted Johnson, Bob Morgan and Csaba Kohalmi. István Glatz, the commissioner from Hungary and a SHP member, was the guest of honor.

There is an interesting story about an interaction between Mr. Glatz and one of SHP's life members, Endré Krajcsovics**.** Mr. Krajcsovics mentioned in passing that he has a couple of off-beat items that he wanted to see if Mr. Glatz could tell him something about. Well, when he flipped the pages open and Mr. Glatz glimpsed at it, "István's eyes got really big!" It turned out that he was staring at three world-class rarities. These were the original essays with the designer's signatures of Hungary's 1920-era air mail stamps that were never produced. Glatz stated that Hungarian experts heard about the existence of such designs but had never seen them before – and here before him were three different variations presented, with one pictured below!

Essay with the designer's signature of Hungary's 1920-era air mail stamp

Here are some pictures from the World Stamp Show in Washington 2006:

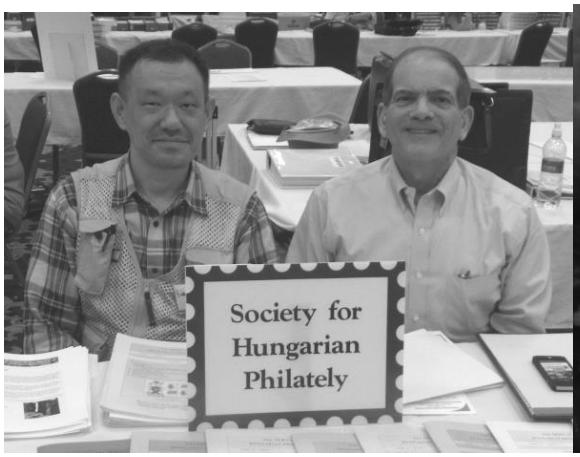


Bob and Edith Morgan at the Society table

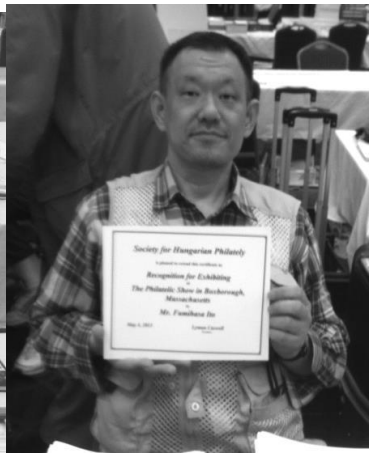
István Glatz presenting the Mabeosz gold pins to Bob Morgan and Csaba Kohalmi

2013: The Philatelic Show, Boxborough, Massachusetts

The Philatelic Show was the first one where the author, as Vice-President, presided over the proceedings. Hungary was well represented with exhibits from three SHP members and the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, which exhibited 17 frames of beautiful and valuable Hungarian material. The three SHP exhibitors were Bob Morgan, Lyman Caswell and Fumihasa Ito, each of whom earned Gold medal awards for their exhibits. SHP had a total of 23 frames in the exhibit with Hungarian exhibits making up 40 of the 220 frames in the show, which comprised 20% of the exhibits. The highlights of the weekend were meeting our Japanese member, Mr. Fumihasa Ito and dining at a local Hungarian restaurant, which served an enjoyable traditional Hungarian dinner.



Mr. Fumihasa Ito and Alan Bauer



Mr. Ito and his exhibit certificate

The dinner was attended by 10, including Alan Davis, his wife and son, Anna and Keith Trischan, Alan and Diane Bauer, Kálmán Illyefalvi, Tom McDonough and Kálmán's friend

2016: New York, World Stamp Show

One of the highlights of this eight-day international show was the eighteen Hungarian related exhibits. Four of them were from SHP members, Bob Morgan, Csaba Kohalmi, the *SHP Society frame* and new members Károly Szucs and Bill Hedley. Gold medals winners were Bob for his exhibit *Hungary: The Hyperinflation 1945-1946,* Bill for *Postal Services in the Hapsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1890* and Károly for *Hungary's First Documentary Revenues During the Forint-Krajcar Currency Period 1868-1898.* On Monday, SHP had its general meeting with twenty-six attendees in attendance. There were lively discussions on a variety of topics and a presentation by Bob Morgan and Lyman Caswell on exhibiting tips. In the evening, the members and their guests enjoyed a traditional Hungarian dinner at the Café Budapest in Manhattan. The dinner was excellent and everyone had very positive comments about the food and in particular, the camaraderie. SHP members and guests filled the Café with twenty-four people. During the show, we signed up 11 new members, some of whom joined us at the dinner and received an immediate "Hungarian" indoctrination into the Society.

Following are some pictures from the show:

New members Bill Hedley and Károly Szucs (right) with Gold Medals for their exhibits at New York 2016

Alan Bauer and Bob Morgan at SHP Booth

Károly proudly points at his Gold Medal ribbon

Lyman Caswell and Bob Morgan presenting on exhibiting at SHP Annual General Meeting in New York

SHP Annual Hungarian Dinner at the Café Budapest on Monday night after the Annual Meeting

Opportunities for Growth in the Future

As we are now in the age of the "Connected Society", we must adapt the ways that the Society connects with its members and attempts to attract new members. Many of these connections revolve around the SHP website and the use of Social Media.

At the beginning of 2016, the Society for Hungarian Philately commissioned a new website (www.hungarianphilately.org) and is now working on several initiatives to modernize the Society. The content on the website is being significantly enhanced by adding electronic copies of the Newsletters, starting with Volume Number 1, Issue Number 1. The Monographs are being uploaded and are available on-line to members. The member site is becoming interactive with the creation *Question and Answer* section, allowing members to post questions or pictures and begin a conversation with other members of the Society. In the first three months of 2017, the website had over 100 online interactions which is an amazing start. Also, the capability of conducting online auctions and adding a members trading board is in the planning process.

SHP is planning to utilize social media to publicize the society and to attract new members. Plans include the creation of a Society Facebook page, along with the use of Twitter and Pinterest to let people know about SHP. Twitter will be utilized to send out news of upcoming events and other items of note to engage followers. Pinterest will provide a medium to post pictures relating to SHP and to drive people to the website where they can see the benefits of membership.

The future brings change and challenges and if we do not adapt to the changes in society, we will find ourselves following the route of our predecessor organizations. The opportunity is here to respond to the challenges, continue to modernize the Society and to attract new members who share the interests of the original founders in Hungarian philately.

References and Credits

1) Formation of the Society for Hungarian Philately: 1969: SHP News: Volume 1, Issues 1-2
2) Early Years: 1970 – 1979: SHP News - Volume 1, Issues 3-9
3) International Growth: 1980 – 2000: SHP News – Volumes 24 through 29
4) The Millennium and Beyond: SHP News: Volumes 31 through 46
5) Photos of Europhilex ’92, Pacific ’97, New York ‘ 98, Balpex 2001, 2006 Washington, courtesy of Bob Morgan
6) Photos of 2013 Philatelic Show, WSS 2016 - New York, courtesy of Diane and Alan Bauer and Károly Szucs

The author would like to express his sincere appreciation to the contributions of several members of the Society who reviewed the paper and added significant content to its sections. Among them are Vic Berecz, Robert Morgan, Csaba Kohalmi and Robert Lauer.

Appendix A: Monographs

Monograph Series Number 1
The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Air Mail
by Victor G. Berecz, Jr.

Monograph Series Number 2
Hungary – Error Prints & Variations, 1900-1944
by Leslie Ettre

Monograph Series Number 3
Issues of Western Hungary in 1921
by Leslie Ettre

Monograph Series Number 4
Hungarian Precancels
by Otto & Wilhelm Schaffling

Monograph Series Number 6
Reengraving Repairs of the Fifth Column of the 1874-81 3 k

Krajcar Type I Stamp
by Stephen Arato

Monograph Series Number 7
Catalog Numbers for the Postage Stamps of Hungary
Compiled by William Domonkos

Monograph Series Number 8
Part I – A Synopticon of Carpatho-Ukraine Postage Stamps
Compiled by Peter Bylen

Part II – The Concordance of Catalog Numbers for local issues and occupation overprints on Hungarian and Austro-Hungarian Military Stamps (1918-1920 / 1944-45)
Compiled by Miklos Tecsy

Monograph Series Number 9
The Stamps of Baranya
by Jenö Szabó-Antal
Reprint edited and annotated by
Christopher Brainard and Anthony Müller

Monograph Series Number 10
The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946
the Postage Rates and Postal History of
History's Most Impressive Inflation
by Robert B. Morgan

Appendix B: Presidents of the Society

1970 – 1971	Aloysius Bauer
1971 - 1973	Vic Berecz
1973 - 1975	Bill Domonkos
1976 - 1978	Leslie Ettre
1979 - 1981	Aloysius Bauer
1981 - 1984	Otto Schaffling
1988 - 2000	Stephan I. Fráter, M.D
2001 - 2009	H. Alan Hoover
2010 - 2011	Bill Wilson
2011 – 2014	Lyman Caswell
2014 – Present	Alan Bauer