

NUMBER 217

JUNE 2019

STAMPS OF HUNGARY



THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF
THE HUNGARIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN

LIST OF OFFICERS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Patron | Géza Homonnay | |
| President: | Martin Brumby 2 Darfield Close Strensall York, YO32 5PH | 01904 491066 email : martin@mhkbrumby.uk |
| Vice-President: | Vacant | |
| Technical Editor: | Roger Morrell 39 Claremont Road Teddington Middlesex TW11 8DH | 020 8287 0828 email: roger.morrell@blueyonder.co.uk |
| Secretary: | Martin Weise 70a Princess Road Kilburn London, NW6 5QX | 0207 372 1303 email: mweise@talktalk.net |
| Treasurer: | Larry Peer 65 Stubbington Lane Stubbington Hants PO14 2PG | 01329 665996 email: l.peer@ntlworld.com |
| Membership and Subscription Secretary | David Williams 46 Collum End Rise Cheltenham Glos GL53 0PB | 01242 241018 email: david.collumend@btinternet.com |
| Publicity Officer: | Mervyn Benford Cloudhill Cottage High Street, Shutford, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 6HE | 01295 780225 email: mervyn@mervynbenford.com |
| Auction list compiler and postal bid agent: | Chris. C. Thornburn 49 Allman Road, Birmingham B24 9DZ | 0121 350 5174 ChrisThornburn1@BTInternet.com (note spelling!) |
| Exchange Packet Secretary: | Ken Dyke 38 Bristol Road Ipswich IP4 4LP | 01473 711019 email: somerset55@gmail.com NOTE: New email address! |
| Librarian: | Vacant | |

Website: www.hpsgb.com

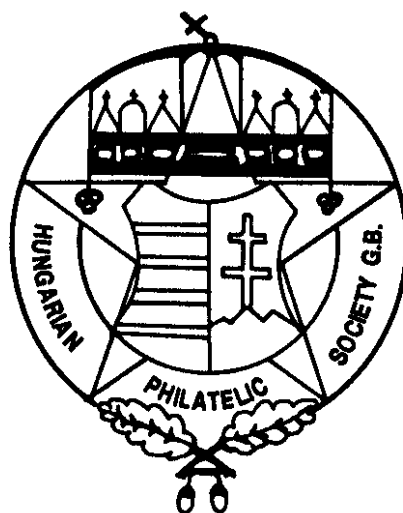
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (Due 1 January each year)

All members, worldwide - £17 or currency equivalent (Euro, US\$) from January 2015
except OAPs and Juniors - £15

Deduct £2 if paid before 31 January of the subscription year.

New: PayPal account (add 4% transaction charge) to david.collumend@btinternet.com

**Note: UK banks impose a charge for foreign cheques. Please add £5 or equivalent to your cheque,
or send sterling cheque, international money order or sterling notes.**



STAMPS OF HUNGARY

Journal of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

ISSN 0307-4323

| CONTENTS | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Editor's corner, Membership news, Auction news, Meeting News, Member's Wants | 2 |
| Reports on past meetings | 4 |
| Seen in print | 5 |
| Book review: P Clark Souers, 'Forgeries of Common Stamps after WWI' | 6 |
| AGM Minutes and Accounts | 7 |
| The Time-Line to Trianon – April 1919 to June 1919, by Roger Morrell | 10 |
| More about official stamps, by Mervyn Benford | 18 |
| More on transnational newspaper cancellations, by Robert Lauer | 24 |
| Postal Savings Bank stamps, translated and modified by the Editor | 26 |
| Questions, Answers and Comments | 29 |
| On the Harvester and Parliament issues, David Williams | 29 |
| On the 1919 Szeged overprint issue, David Williams | 29 |
| And what about this 'overprint'?, David Williams | 30 |
| New issues | 31 |

Front cover:

'Occupation française' overprints of Arad used before the date of official announcement

Back cover:

Cover from the Allied Mission to Hungary sent back to France through the French field post

At a glance – dates for your diary:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 3 August 2019 | Joint Societies meeting, Latvian Club, Bradford |
| 11-14 September 2019 | Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington |
| 19 October 2019 (Sat) | HPSGB Open meeting and auction, Banbury Mill Arts Centre |
| 15 March 2020 | HPSGB AGM nnd Auction, Thame Town Hall |
| 2-9 May 2020 | 'London 2020', Business Design Centre, Islington, with Society Open Meeting on Wednesday 6 May |

EDITOR'S CORNER

Hardly a corner to fit anything in this time except to say that there is quite a mixed bag for you, so please 'Enjoy!'.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

from David Williams

DEARLY DEPARTED

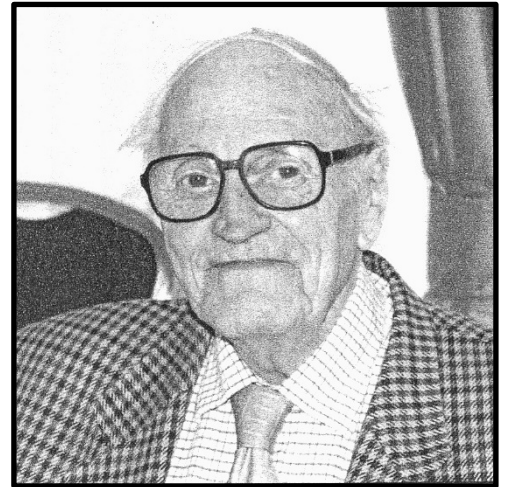
We are sad to report the passing of two long-standing members:

T T Sebestyen

P J Fellows

IN MEMORIUM – John F Gilbert

John Frederick Gilbert died peacefully at home on 1 February 2019 aged 93. He was an avid collector of stamps and postal history throughout his long life. He had been a member for many years, although not an active participant in the Society's meetings. He was an acknowledged expert on the postal history of Fiume, not least during its time as an enclave of Hungary, and he researched and published several seminal works, often on the basis of his own extensive collection. His best-known work was 'The Postmarks of Fiume 1809-1945', published as Handbook No. 4 by the Italy and Colonies Study Circle in 2007, but he also published three more titles for that Society, as well as a monograph on Fiume for the Yugoslav Study Group.



He was also an artist of some repute, working as an exhibition designer professionally, and had exhibited at the Royal Academy. As a result, he brought his great skills in presentation to his stamp collection which was always beautifully written up and illustrated. He was a true gentleman, always ready to answer question about Fiume, and the philatelic world will miss him.

LITERATURE TROPHY

As noted in the AGM report, there was a record number of voting forms this year for the László Gróf Literature Trophy 2018 with a close-run result. The winner was 'The Use of the Porto Provisionals of 1918 - Part 2' in the March issue, by the late Frank Semmler and David Williams, with 42 points. A very close second with 41 points was Roger Morrell's article on 'The Franklin D Roosevelt Issue of 1947' in the September issue. Just in third place was Mervyn Benford's article on 'The Humble Stationery Postcard' in the December issue with 35 points.

MEMBER'S REQUEST

For an upcoming international exhibition (probably London 2020) on 'Non-denominated Franking during Hungary's Hyperinflation in 1946' (the *Tl. 1 ... Ajanlas ... Cs 5-1 ... etc.*), I am looking for interesting documents that will bring me closer to Bob Morgan's high standard (knowing that it will be extremely difficult to reach it!).

Make an offer to Alain VAILLY, 90 rue de la croix Saint-André, 49260 VAUDELNAY, FRANCE.
Email: alain@vailly.fr

SOCIETY AUCTION

Total sales from the March 2019 auction were £1,802 (*cf.* October 2018 £1,357) with just over one-half of the 350 lots sold on behalf of 8 vendors (including literature from the Society library). 16 members were successful bidders in the room, and there were 11 successful postal bidders. Covers remained popular including second inflation covers, but there was less interest in earlier covers including pre-stamp. The popular areas do vary from auction to auction.

Items for the October 2019 auction should be with Chris Thornburn (details inside front cover) by the end of July at the very latest so he can build the catalogue in time for it to be printed along with the next magazine. Don't forget to describe each lot for him and provide a reserve price. Each lot should be in an appropriate protector or transparent envelope for safe handling.

SOCIETY PACKET

Our Packet Secretary Ken Dyke reports that his cupboard is now completely bare, and he would welcome more material to keep the supply of packets going, both stamps and postal history. Please contact Ken if you can help (see new details inside front cover).

SOCIETY PROJECT

As announced in the previous issue, we are trying to identify early members in the Society photo archive. In the image below, we are struggling to name the two individuals on the right. The occasion was an annual competition held in London, and this photo shows the two judges from the Czech Society in the centre, Colin Spong and Kay Goodman, with László Gróf on the left. But do you recognise the two on the right? If so, please let the Editor know.



UPCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

Joint Societies Meeting, Bradford, Saturday 3 August 2019

Then now regular event at the Latvian Club in Bradford organised by Yvonne Wheatley takes place again this year complete with buffet lunch. This joint meeting of the Austrian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslav societies provides an entire day of short displays on a huge range of topics, the majority with overlap between countries, and it is really worthwhile making the effort to attend. Please book in advance with Yvonne on 0113 2601978 or email to whyareuu@outlook.com

Open Society Meeting, Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, Saturday 19 October 2019

We have arranged for Martin Weise to show his Consular Revenue stamps and documents as the main display, and of course there will be the October auction. Ring that date in your diaries now!

Society Open Meeting, London 2020, Business Design Centre Islington, 6 May 2020

The Society has booked a room from 12.00 till 13.50 for Society members' displays. Please mark this date in your diary – it's an excellent chance to meet with our overseas colleagues.

REPORTS ON PAST MEETINGS

Society AGM, 17 March 2019

As usual the AGM minutes and Society Accounts are included in this edition of *SoH*, together with some photographs.

Austria-Hungary Joint Symposium, Heiligenbrunn, Austria, 26-28 April 2019

The 11th Hungarian-Austrian Philatelic Symposium was held at the Hotel Krutzler in Heiligenbrunn, deep in the Burgenland countryside east of Graz. There was an interesting range of presentations to keep the audience alert and stimulated. Karoly Szücs spoke on Habsburg revenue stamps between 1686 and 1858; Werner Kessmayer on the postal history of Burgenland before 1850; Miklos Barabassy on expertising of Occupation overprints; Ute Dorr on the postal history of the Orient Express (for which Budapest was a hub); Géza Hommonay on the newly-discovered letters from Laszló Magyar in Angola to Hungary in the 1840s-50s; Dénes Czirok on the 1869 Correspondence Card and Herbert Kotal on Hungarian postmarks on the 1850 issue in the collection of the late Wilhelm Demuth. Everyone found something here to appeal to their particular interests and to extend their knowledge. As ever it was also a great occasion to renew old friendships and make new ones and the party took full advantage of the opportunity to explore the wine cellars for which, purely coincidentally, Heiligenbrunn is well known.



Karoly Szücs and his meeting presentation on early Hungarian revenue stamps

Thanks are due to Dr Hadmar Fresacher of Klagenfurt who was the principal organiser on this occasion, and to Géza Hommonay who is now President of both MABEOSZ and MAFITT for bringing this event about and giving it their full support. From the point of view of your correspondent it was a joy to escape from the daily din of certain unmentionable questions to what looked and felt like a land of peace and serenity. Long may it continue.

Bill Hedley FRPSL

SEEN IN PRINT

'Austria', magazine of the Austrian Philatelic Society of GB, **No. 206, Spring 2019.**

Taylor, A., *et al.*, 'Official *Rückschein* letters of the inflation era, pp 20-27. (Postage due charges on official court letters and similar where a return receipt was typically part of the envelope.)

Taylor, A., 'Vienna's Opera House', pp 30-35. (On the occasion of its 150th birthday, philatelic commemorations of the Opera House and the people who have played a major role in its design, construction and use.)

Brandon, K., 'Legacy of the Austro-Hungarian registered post in the future Yugoslavia', pp 36-41.

'Czechout', magazine of the Czechoslovak PS of GB, **Vol.37/1, No.174, March 2019.**

Lauer, R., Sevenhuijsen, J, 'Hradčany postal stationery cards', pp. 10-25.

'Jugopošta', journal of the Yugoslav Study Group, no. 129, March 2019.

Morrell, R., 'Adriatic shore stations of the k.u.k. *Kriegsmarine* during WWI, part 2', pp.4-17.

Engel, H.-D., 'Censor sealing tapes on mail of the NDH, 1941-45', pp.18-25.

Brandon, K., 'Legacy of the Austro-Hungarian registered post in the future Yugoslavia', pp.26-31.

'News of Hungarian Philately', magazine of the Society for Hungarian Philately, USA, Volume 49, no. 4, October-December 2018.

Lauer, R., 'The establishment of the first Hungarian Republic', pp.8-12.

Kennett, J., 'Some postmarks of the airports of Budapest', pp.13-17. (Examples on with 1930s airmails.)

Rhein, M., 'Mail communications with Australia, 1878-1900', pp.18-22 (Early postal tariffs for outward Hungarian mail to the Australian States.)

Kohalmi, C.L., 'What I have learned from Júlia Kisfaludi's articles in the *Bélyegvilág* about the construction of Hungarian postal cancellers', pp. 23-28. (Pictures of canceller types and construction of date systems.)

'Rundbrief', magazine of the ARGE *Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn*, **No. 135, March 2019** (in German)

Matthijssen, G., '*Frühe Daten der Feldpoststempel*', pp.17-37. (The author records early dates of fieldpost cancels during WWI, including German and Hungarian types.)

Sifferlinger, N.A., '*Marinefeldpost des Telegraphisten Walter Hödl des Torpedofahrzeuges LIKA*', pp.39-46. (Items from a marine telegraph officer on the torpedo boat 'Lika', who lost his life when the ship was sunk by a mine off Durazzo, Albania, on 29 December 1915.)

Bliersbach, A., '*Die Beförderung von Kriegsgefangenenpost durch die Feldpost der alliierten Interventionstruppen im ostsibirischen Raum 1918-1920*', pp 47-57. (The forwarding of POW mail through the fieldpost of the allied intervention troops in eastern Siberia. Includes censorship and route information.)

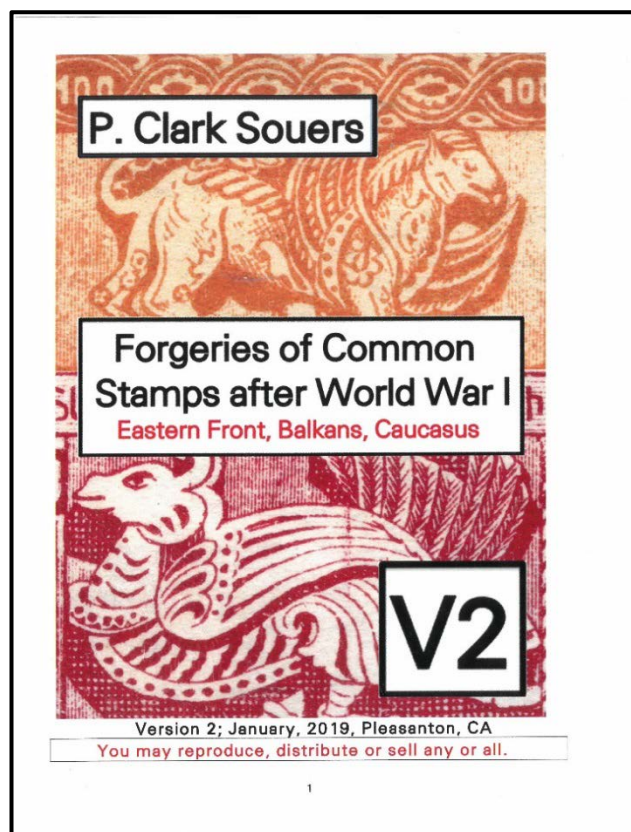
Bliersbach, A., '*Die Zivilpost-Zensurstelle in New York*', pp 58-66. (The civilian post censor office in New York dealing with POW mail travelling mostly through the USA to Europe.)

Ehfrank, R., '*Die k.u.k. Kontroll-, Invalidenaustauschstelle und Übernahmekommando in Sassnitz auf Rügen*', pp 67-78. (Exploring the process of invalid exchange between enemies during WWI, and in particular the role of the Austro-Hungarian office in Sassnitz auf Rügen, a small town on an island off the Baltic coast of Germany.)

BOOK REVIEW

'Forgeries of Common Stamps after World War I: Eastern Front, Balkans, Caucasus' by P. Clark Souers, Version 2, self-published, Pleasanton, CA, USA, 8.5 x 11 in, softbound, full colour, 89 pp. Available, e.g. from HH Sales, £20.

The period after WW1 has always been of a certain fascination to many collectors with all the provisional issues arising from the formation of a new world order. However, probably to satisfy contemporary collector demand, and because some material is quite scarce, forgeries abound, and



this book sets about trying to gather together disparate sources of information on what constitutes a 'good-un' and how to recognise a 'bad-un'. He illustrates the differences in full colour with a detailed explanation of the features to look for. This book should help readers to avoid throwing their good money away. It should also help cut down the sales potential of modern laser-printed replicas and bogus material that plague the web. Exceptionally, the author is happy for it to be copied and more widely distributed!

The author positions himself as a scourer of eBay, and one of his tricks is to download images of material for sale into a PowerPoint file, size them correctly, and then superimpose on them the outline of what is considered to be a genuine overprint, say, to look at the match, or mismatch. He takes his information from a variety of well-recognised sources referenced at the end of the book

The book covers a multitude of countries and issues, including Hungary, with the Russian area being the strongest. This reviewer found a few mistakes – like considering the 'private perforations' of Austrian imperforate newspaper stamps as forgeries, when the world outside the Scott catalogue knows that it was common practice amongst businesses using these stamps to perforate them for easy of application to bulk mail, a practice that also continued in Czechoslovakia until at least 1939. There are a few notable omissions, e.g. the Western Ukraine overprints on Austrian and Austro-Hungarian Military post stamps, and the local issue of Zarki in Poland depicting a church, but perhaps the author is saving those for version 3? Nevertheless, for those interested in this neck of the woods it is very handy reference source. An example of the author's approach is shown below.

Roger Morrell



MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, March 2019

Thame Town Hall, Sunday 17 March 2019 at 11.00 am

President Larry Peer to the chair and welcomed all:

Members present: Messrs. Peer; Williams; Morrell; Gróf; Dacombe; Bruhn; Dixon; Griffiths; Hedley; Dyke; Thornburn; Brumby; Benford; Pratt; Moodie; Mrs. C Standing;

Apologies: Keith Brandon, Stuart Ullathorne, Martin Weise.

In the absence of Secretary Martin Weise, Mervyn Benford agreed to take the Minutes.

1. 2018 AGM Minutes:

Agreed and signed.

2. Matters arising:

None.

3. Reports:

President: a quiet but good year:

For Secretary Martin Weise: Mervyn Benford spoke similarly. It was noted that a table and a meeting room had been booked during the course of London 2020.

Treasurer's report: Larry Peer reported a steady year but for the first time for several years subscription did not cover magazine cost. Expenditure was slightly less, income more so, so the total balances are almost the same as last year. Packet and auction results were comfortably higher than the previous year. There was serious discussion of the pros and cons of raising subscription rates: ours is still low compared with many other specialist societies, but membership is still steadily reducing. The magazine was seen as excellent but the question was raised whether, as in similar bodies, members should be asked if they would prefer electronic versions and so reduce the quantity printed as hard copies. The decisions were referred for future Committee determination. Treasurer's report accepted (Mervyn Benford proposer, Martin Brumby seconding).

Exchange Packet: Ken Dyke explained he had 15 members, and packets circulated (3-4 books per packet). He always needed more material for circulation (in individual books each item described and priced).

Auctioneer: Chris Thornburn was pleased with the lots sent for today's auction and the October auction had also been well supported and successful.

Library: Minimal library service and much of the former stock was being disposed of.

Editor: Roger Morrell reported a very successful year, but new articles or similar always needed. In response to a question about costs of postage he commented that the current arrangements with the printer undertaking bulk mailing on our behalf the Society makes a considerable saving, especially with overseas postage rates.

Membership Secretary: David Williams reported that as at the 31 December 2018 we had 120 members, mostly from the UK, but also with USA 14, Hungary 3, France 6, Germany 2, Canada 2, Romania 2, and 1 each from Australia, Austria, Netherlands, Denmark, Russia and Cyprus. All new members who have joined this year as reported in the magazine, have done so through the website. In response to a question about attendance at meetings, he had studied members' locations, ages, circumstances, and felt that a maximum of 35 might be able to attend our meetings, a relatively small fraction of the UK membership.

There had been a record response to the vote for the best article. The Gróf Trophy was won by Frank Semmler and himself for 'Use of postage due handstamps'. A very close second with 41 points was Roger Morrell's article on 'The Franklin D Roosevelt Issue of 1947' in the September issue. Third was Mervyn Benford's article on 'The Humble Stationery Postcard' in the December issue with 35 points, and he just

beat Judith Kennett's article on 'The Aftermath of Peace Settlements after World War 1' on 34 points. Member tastes seem wide.

4. Next President:

The Chair then installed Martin Brumby as the in-coming President and Chair for the coming two years. He spoke of his long and enjoyable years as a member and former officer of long-standing and looked forward to the next two years as positive development.



Larry Peer hands the President's medal to Martin Brumby at the AGM.

5. Elections:

There were no nominations for the just-vacated Vice-Presidency and no volunteers. It was left with the Committee as to who becomes our leader in 2021. Other serving officers agreed to re-election in the absence of other nominations and they were so duly and unanimously elected (proposed Bill Hedley, seconded Charlotte Standing).

6. Insurance for the Packet and the Auction:

The earlier loss of a packet exposed the 2017 decision to buy no insurance and have the society take the risks. It was agreed that the Society would reimburse the value of lost material minus usual sale commission. Mervyn Benford explained a Society's Policy his insurers used, and it seemed very possible for a more modest cost than hitherto in our history. He proposed reference to Committee for further investigation and decision. Agreed unanimously.

7. Any Other Business:

Bill Hedley raised our links with Hungarian philately, and gave philatelic news from Hungary, including the efforts to maintain MAFITT and MABEOS websites in reasonable English. Vol. 1 of the *Monográfiája* now existed in English. He also cited a cheap method for making overseas payments called 'TransferWise' (<https://transferwise.com/>) which members might find of use.

8. Displays:

Goodwill displays of fine material by Bill Hedley (WWII censorship) and Roger Morrell (aspects of 1919).

9. Next AGM:

The 2020 AGM would be on 15 March at Thame.

The meeting closed at 12.20, to be followed by the auction at 13.00.

THE HUNGARIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2018

INCOME

| 2017 | 2018 | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1793 | 1670 | Membership |
| 251 | 534 | Auctions (Nett) |
| 169 | 231 | Packet Scheme (Nett) |
| 88 | 55 | Interest & Donations |
| 545 | 0 | Excess Expenditure |
| 2846 | 2490 | Totals |

EXPENDITURE

| 2017 | 2018 | |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1798 | 1769 | Magazine Costs |
| 107 | 70 | Secretarial Expenses/Postage |
| 21 | 0 | Library Purchases |
| 375 | 298 | A.G.M. & Banbury Rents |
| 400 | 0 | Publicity (Stampex) |
| 111 | 110 | ABPS |
| 34 | 34 | Website |
| 0 | 209 | Excess Income |
| 2846 | 2490 | Totals |

Balance Sheet

| 2017 | 2018 | |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 313 | 28 | Bank Current A/c |
| 0 | 231 | Packet Scheme |
| 6173 | 6218 | Deposit A/c |
| 6486 | 6477 | Total |



J Lawrence Peer, MBE
Treasurer



I.D. Bromley *BSc. FCMA*
Independent Examiner

1 February, 2019



Mervyn Benford, Martin Brumby and David Williams

The membership

THE TIME-LINE TO TRIANON – April 1919 to June 1919

by Roger Morrell

The time-line:

Continuing the detailed history of Hungary leading to the Trianon ‘settlement’, the situation at the beginning of April was one of a Communist Government led by Belá Kun recently having taken over from the Karolyi Nationalists and, within a week of taking office, having declared war on the new Czechoslovak state concerning the Slovak border.

1 April 1919: The Hungarian Soviet Republic begins the organisation of the Hungarian Red Army, asking de-commissioned army officers to return to active duty. A personal and telephone request of the Hungarian Soviet Government to Lenin for military aid produces no tangible results, since the Bolsheviks’ hold on power in Russia was still tenuous at this time.



Self-explanatory communist propaganda

3 April 1919: Austria expels all members of the Habsburg family.

4 April 1919: South African General Jan Smuts arrives in Hungary as an envoy of the Allied Council. He carries the proposition from the Allied Council that the Hungarian communist government under Kun abides by the conditions previously presented to Károlyi in the Vix note. Smuts’ mission is taken by Hungary as official recognition of the Belá Kun communist government by the Allied Council. In exchange for Hungary's agreement to the conditions set out in the Vix note, the Allied powers promise to lift the blockade of Hungary and take a benevolent attitude towards Hungary’s loss of territory to Romania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Kun refuses the terms, demanding that Romanian forces return to the line of the Maros River. Smuts’ negotiations then cease, and Kun continues to build up his army.

7 April 1919: The Bavarian Socialist Republic (*Volksstaat*) is founded, following the Hungarian model.

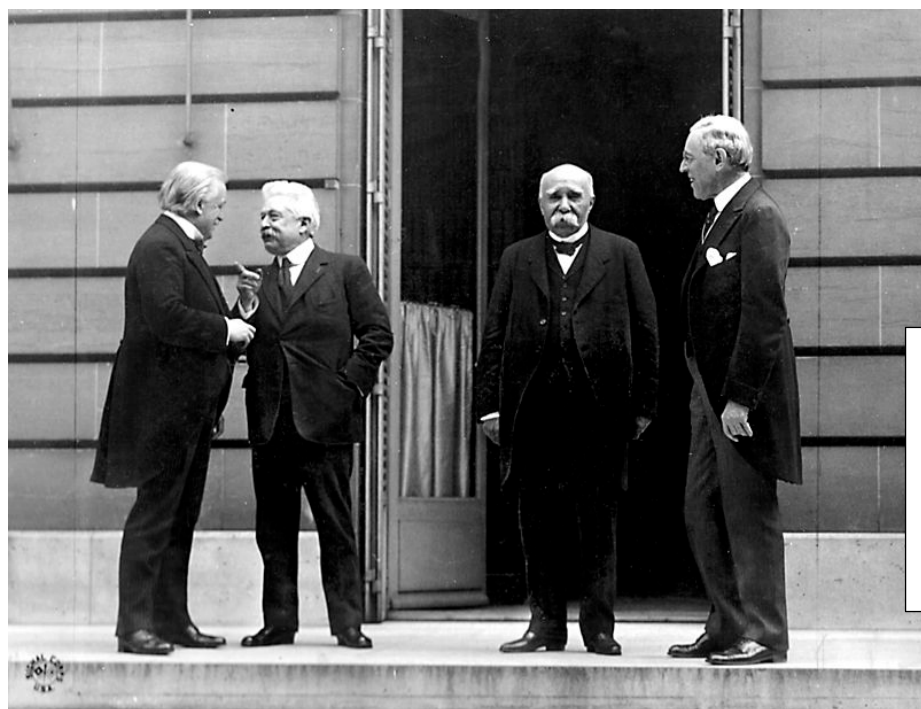
16 April 1919: Romania plans to take offensive action against Hungary. The north battalion is to take Nagyvárad and Nagyvárad. This would separate the elite Hungarian Székely division from the rest of the Hungarian army. The north battalion would then outflank the Hungarian Army. Simultaneously, the south battalion would advance to Máriaradna and Belényes. (See maps, p.13.) On the night of 15–16 April, the Hungarians launch a pre-emptive attack. The Romanian lines hold. On 16 April, the Romanian Army commences its offensive. After heavy fighting, the Romanians take the mountain passes. At the front of the 2nd Vânători division a battalion of Hungarian cadets offers strong resistance. However, they are defeated by the 9th Regiment. By 18 April, the first elements of the Romanian offensive are complete and the Hungarian front is broken. On 19 April, Romanian forces take Nagyvárad / Carei, and on 20 April they take Nagyvárad / Oradea and Nagyszalonta / Salonta. Rather than following the instructions of the Vix note, the Romanian army presses on for the Tisza River, an easily defended natural military obstacle.

15 April 1919: Swabian (German-speaking) elements in Serb-occupied Temesvár formally endorse union with Romania.

16 April 1919: The bad impression made by SHS claims submitted to the Supreme Council for acquisition of Slovene territory against opposing Italian claims is only partially removed by a speech by SHS Foreign Minister Trumbić, proposing to leave the settlement of frontiers with Austria to a plebiscite (Carinthian plebiscite).

23 April 1919: Debrecen is occupied by Romanian forces.

23 April 1919: US President Wilson announces a public manifesto to the Italian nation, in which he repudiates the wartime Pact of London and appeals for the application of the same principles to the Adriatic as those enforced against Germany. Fiume, he declares, must be the outlet, not of Italy, but “of Hungary, Bohemia, Rumania and Yugoslavia”. This document meets with a hostile reception in Italy, being interpreted as an attempt to undermine the position of her spokesmen and so mete out to her a different measure from that prescribed by France and Britain. The proposal thus entirely failed in its effect, and as Italy, Yugoslavia and America each adhered to its own standpoint, a fresh deadlock ensued.



The 'Big Four' at the Paris Peace Conference: left to right: David Lloyd George (UK), Vittorio Emanuele Orlando (Italy), Georges Clemenceau (France) and Woodrow Wilson (USA).

24 April 1919: The London ‘Times’ newspaper publishes the text of an alliance between the Soviets of Hungary, Russia and Ukraine.

25–26 April 1919: After some heavy fighting, Békéscsaba falls to Romanian forces. The Hungarians retreat to Szolnok and from there across the Tisza River. They establish two concentric defence lines extending from the Tisza River around Szolnok.

30 April 1919: French Foreign Minister Stéphen Pichon summons Ion Brătianu, the Romanian representative, to the Paris Peace Conference. Romania is told to cease its advance at the Tisza River and retreat to the first demarcation line imposed by the Allied council. Brătianu promises that Romanian troops would not cross the Tisza River.

2 May 1919: Hungary sues Romania for peace via a request delivered by its representative, Lieutenant Colonel Henrik Werth. Kun is prepared to recognise all of Romania's territorial demands, requests the cessation of hostilities, and asks for ongoing control of Hungarian internal affairs. The Romanians offer only an armistice after pressure from the Entente.

9 May 1919: The Hungarian counterattack against Czechoslovak incursion is launched in the area of Hatvan.

20 May 1919: Under Colonel Aurél Stromfeld the Red Army attacks in force and routs Czechoslovak troops from Miskolc. The Romanian Army attacks the Hungarian flank with troops from the 16th Infantry Division and the Second Vânători Division, aiming to maintain contact with the Czech army. Hungarian troops prevail and the Romanian army retreats to its bridgehead at Tokaj. The Hungarians go on to recapture Kassa / Košice and Eperjes / Prešov, successfully separating the Czechoslovak and Romanian armies from each other. Through this action, Hungary controls territory up to its old northern borders.



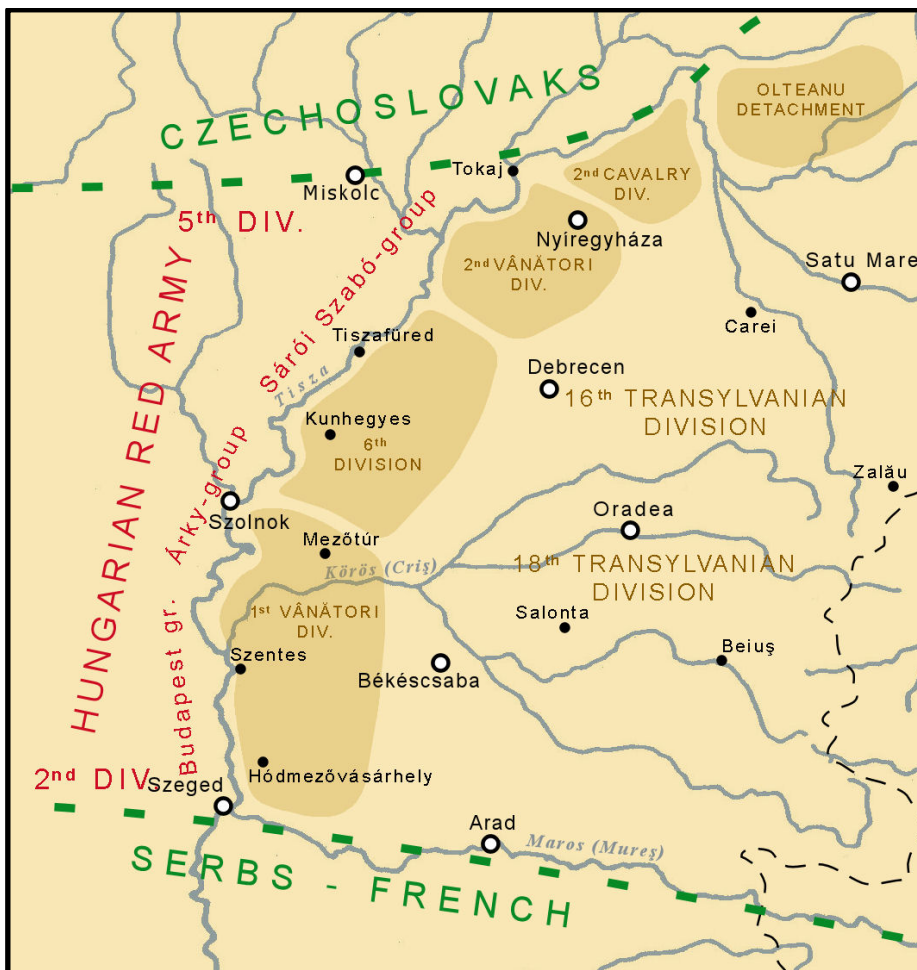
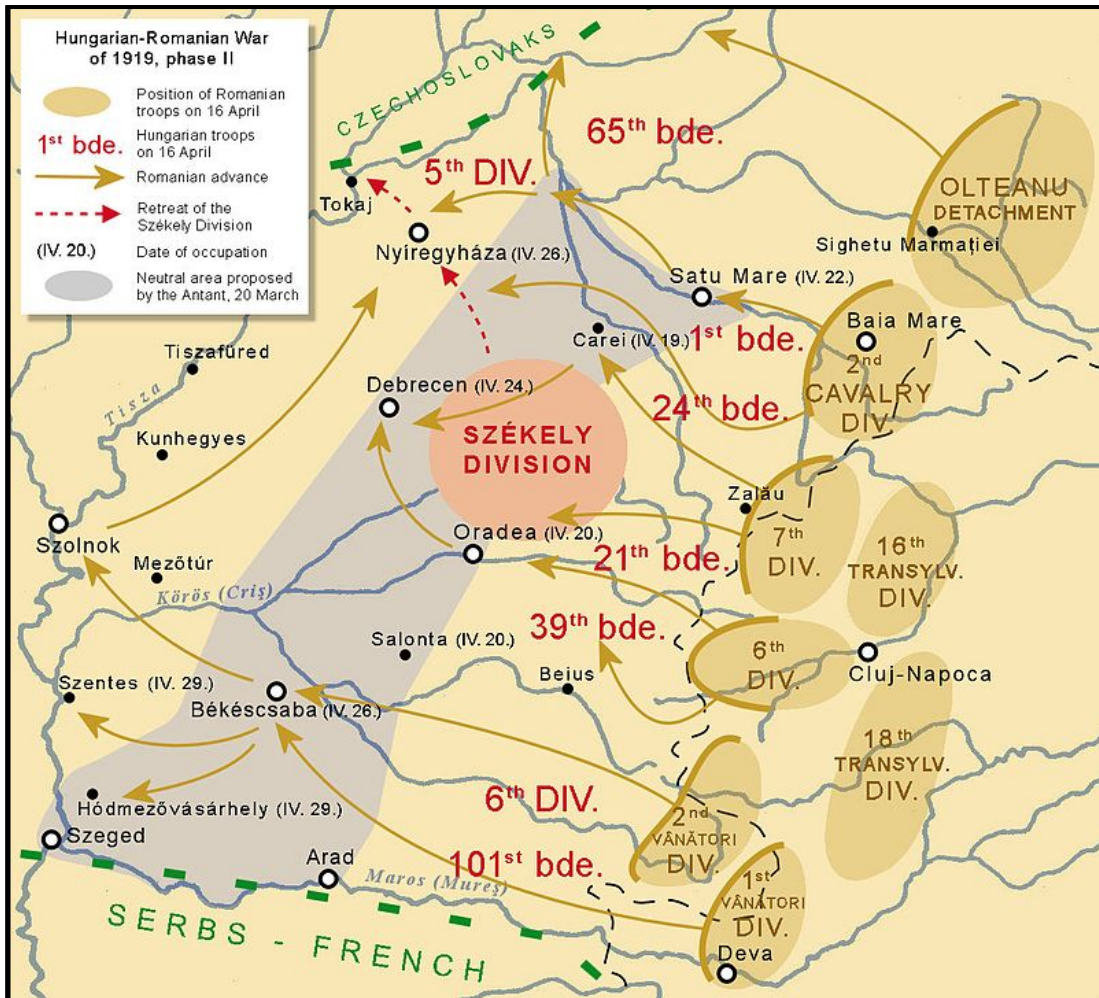
Ion Brătianu of Romania



Colonel Aurél Stromfeld



The Kremnitz/ Körmöcbánya / Kremnica local provisional surcharge on a Hungarian postal stationery card to reflect the lack of new Czechoslovak stamps and the increase in the Czech postcard rate in May 1919.



Schematic maps of the Hungarian-Romanian war: (above) the position on 16 April 1919 and the advance of Romanian troops thereafter, and (left) the position on 5 May 1919 with Romanian troops on the east bank of the Tisza river. Both maps by Renard; see Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian%E2%80%93Romanian_War.

Late May: The Allied Council military representative demands more territorial concessions from Hungary, while Kun attempts to fulfil his promise to adhere to Hungary's historical borders.

Late May: The Allied Council French delegate M. Tardieu suggests a compromise by which the port and district of Fiume with most of eastern Istria and a total population of over 200,000 (mainly Yugoslavs) would form a small buffer state between Italy and Yugoslavia, under the guarantee of the League of Nations. Wilson prefers to give Fiume a status analogous to that of Poland at Danzig, and adds the impossible condition of a plebiscite after three years.

Late May: Units of Romanian forces move into the Temesvár region from Transylvania, and are garrisoned alongside the French in Lugos / Lugoj. They are allowed to fly the Romanian tricolor.

3 June 1919: Further north, Romania is forced into a further retreat but extends its line of defence along the Tisza River and reinforces its position with the 8th Division, which had been moving forward from Bukovina since 22 May. Hungary then controls the territory to its old borders, and regains control of industrial areas around Miskolc, Salgótarján and Selmecebánya / Banská Štiavnica.



The postal authorities in Serb-occupied Baranya county started to overprint Hungarian currency in April 1919 because of the collapse of the currency in the communist rest of Hungary. Only overprinted money (see above) could be used in order to halt speculation. However, a black market in smuggling cheaply bought stamps into the province grew, and the local post office lost its income, so stamps were also overprinted and issued on 5 May 1919.

7 June 1919: The French General at Pozsony /Bratislava telegraphs Paris for reinforcements against Hungarian Red Army attacks. The Supreme Council in Paris issues an ultimatum to Kun to withdraw Red troops from Slovakia, but this is countered by intrigues of Hungarian counterrevolutionaries.

10 June 1919: The Czech 2nd Infantry Brigade launches a surprise demonstration attack on Hungarian occupied Zólyom / Zvolen and also regain Selmecebánya / Banská Štiavnica.

12 June 1919: The Allied Council discusses Hungary's proposed new borders with Romania, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia.



Proponent of Communism Friedrich Engels commemorated in a pictorial set issued on 14 June 1919.

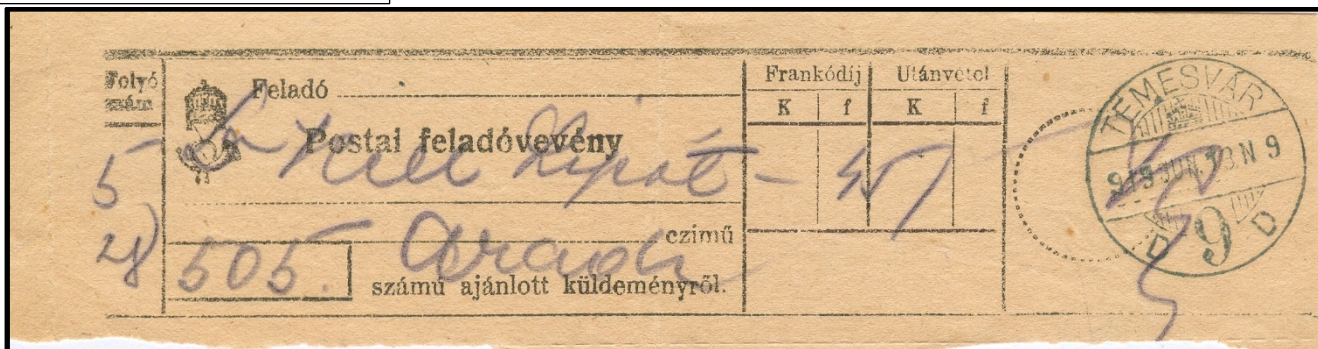
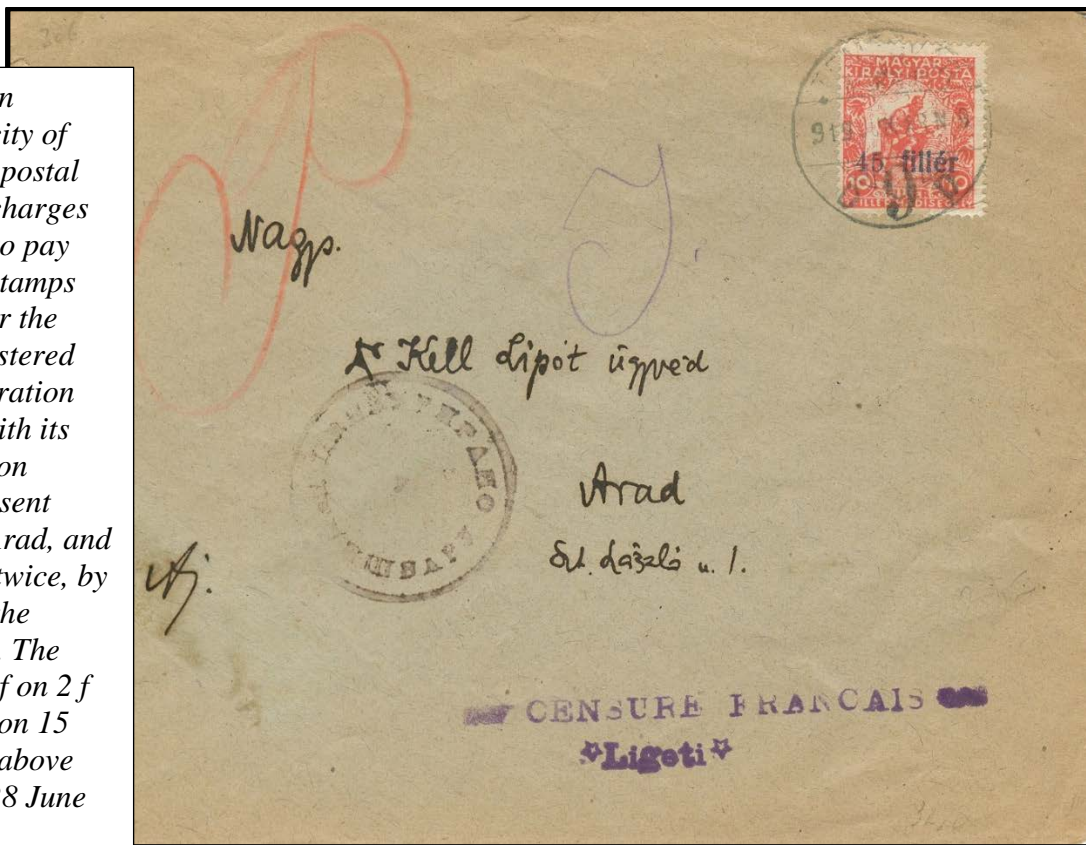


The 'Occupation Française' overprint produced in Arad by the Hungarian Postal Directorate for reasons that are not entirely clear, but may have been political. The French were not 'occupying' as such, but were a 'peace-keeping' force limiting the activities of the acquisitive Serbian and Romanian armies until such time that the Peace Treaties were concluded and ratified. This issue was formally announced by the Arad Postal Directorate on 5 May 1919 but, as in the philatelic cover above postmarked on 4 May, the issue seemed to be available in some quarters a little before the announcement.



Registered postcard Vienna to Mezőhegyes (a little north of Temesvár) and deemed undeliverable – because of the Romanian occupation, May 1919.

While under Serbian occupation, in the city of Temesvár the local postal directorate raised charges twice during 1919 to pay staff. A number of stamps were surcharged for the new rates. The registered cover above (registration label missing but with its matching registration receipt below) was sent from Temesvár to Arad, and has been censored twice, by the French and by the Serbian authorities. The 45 f on 10 f and 10 f on 2 f values were issued on 15 May 1919, and the above cover was sent on 28 June 1919.



16 June 1919: Despite their promises to restore the former borders of Hungary, the Communists declare the establishment of a Slovak Soviet Republic in Eperjes / Prešov. This quickly leads Hungarian nationalists and patriots to realise that the new Communist government has no intentions of recapturing the lost territories, only of spreading communist ideology and establishing other communist states in Europe, thus sacrificing Hungarian national interests. This leads to a loss of purpose amongst those that had joined the Red Army. Even the Chief of Staff Aurél Stromfeld resigns after the Communists accept Clemenceau's proposition of the new Hungarian borders.

18 June 1919: A second Ultimatum issued from Paris orders Red troops to stop attacking Pozsony / Bratislava. French forces prevent Hungarian Nationalist troops from leaving the Szeged barracks.

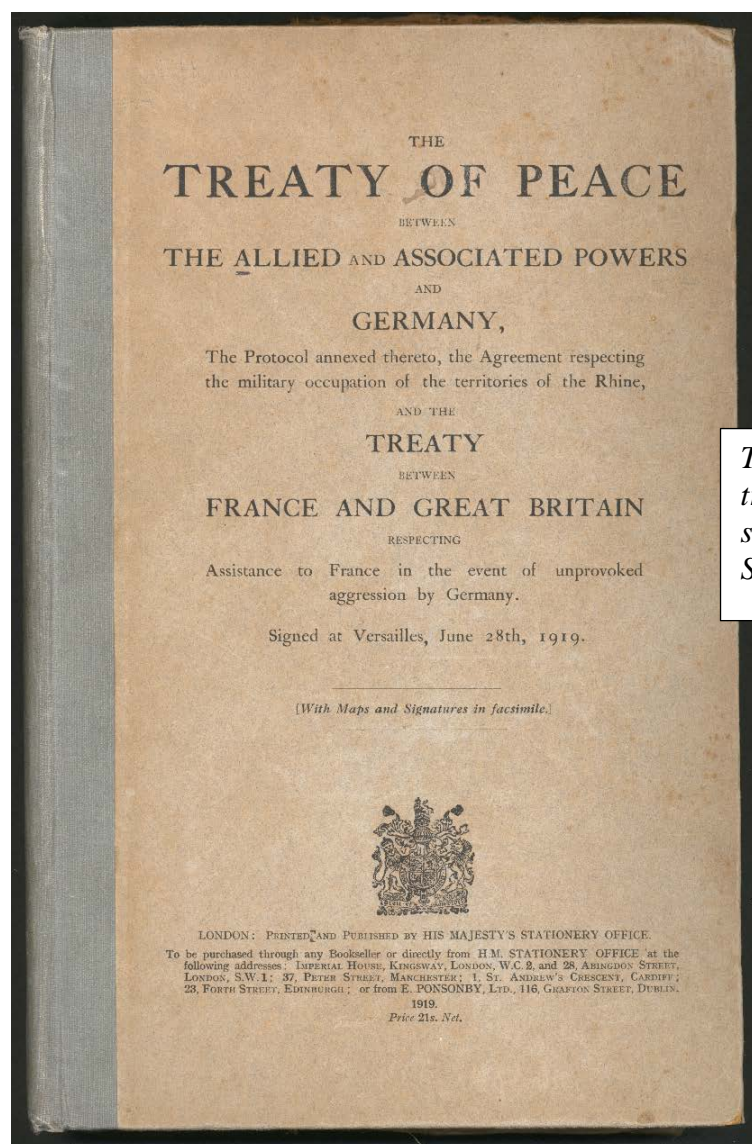
18 June 1919: The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes is internationally recognised under the Versailles Treaty.

23 June 1919: Hungary signs an armistice with Czechoslovakia and begins a retreat to 15 km south of the Allies' demarcation line.

25 June 1919: Declaration of the 'Dictatorship of the Proletariat' in Hungary.



The Szeged Nationalist Government overprint, issued 28 June 1919.



28 June 1919: Treaty of Versailles signed by Germany (under threat of Rhineland military occupation) ending hostilities, effective from 10 January 1920.

The English language version of the peace treaty with Germany, complete with maps and signatures, published by His Majesty's Stationery Office and sold for 21/-.

29 June 1919: The first armed conflict takes place in the streets of Fiume between Italian and French soldiers over the fate of the city, resulting in several deaths. A commission of inquiry is then at last appointed by the Allies, which orders elections under inter-Allied control and the dissolution of the terrorist 'League of Volunteers'.

(To be continued)

This magazine has previously discussed aspects of the period of the 1920 Inflation Officials such as whether they all had to be registered or not – that is registered post, not the automatic listing in official records as official items benefiting from the concessionary rates at a time of serious economic inflation. My collection has a considerable number of items posted at registration rates and more recent discussion has elucidated via PTRT records that when the department sent an item that they wanted to be registered they had to pay the cost, as opposed to the earlier conventional system whereby recipients paid only the basic postage costs with postage due stamps, without penalty of course. The system was available for inland mail only.

The highly respected researcher, the late Ferenc Orbán, interpreted the relevant PTRT regulations to claim that all items had to be ‘registered’, and he did not mean simply logging in a book at the Post Office, where all official mail had to be dispatched. He used the Hungarian word *ajánlott* meaning ‘registration fee’. However, this was not always the practice, hence the more recent assumption that it was up to the sending department to decide whether an item needed to be registered. Orbán also believed that if an item WAS mailed in a post-box it should have double the fee paid because of not using a postal counter. Advice of Delivery was always sent registered, although not always with a label. The fee reflected only the registration cost as the basic service itself was officially free – often a required return form or other document.

The decision to issue special postage stamps for official mail saw them available from 1 July 1921 with letter rate of 1 *K*, the equivalent of the then national letter rate, but with a special higher first weight step limit of 100 g compared to the normal 20 g. Local letters had no weight limit. This greatly helped where bulky documents might be involved, but users soon found that lighter documents such as forms, some printed matter, and certainly postcards remained cheaper at the normal everyday rates. On 1.7.21 the postcard rate was 60 *f* and printed matter was 50 *f*. By 1922, as for normal letters, official rates had different local and national levels, but a higher 100 g first weight step. By 1 July 1923 separate official rates were applied to printed matter under the same weight limit benefits but with an additional 200 g weight step rate.

So official department staff had options, and many examples can be found of the use of these lower rates rather than the single official letter rate. Each change of main system postage rate was accompanied by increases in the equivalent official rate until 30 June 1924, when the system was ended and replaced by a lump sum charge on the official bodies. According to PTRT 1924-44 use of official stamps ceased after that date. Figure 1, however, is a cover sent from a railway station administrative office of the State Railway Company, with a block of 4 x 3000 *K* inflation stamps postmarked October 1924. It would be interesting to find other examples of late use of the system, or was this simply an aberration that was tolerated by the Post Office as a one-off?

It is also interesting that the State Railway Company would have been regarded as of equal official status to the usual places such as tax, custom offices, agricultural returns and law courts. The numbered cover was addressed to some sort of official Hungarian lamp factory. It was not wartime, of course, but nevertheless this shows that a State Works was allowed to send and receive mail at official rates? I have another example - a letter from the State Railway Directorate to a client. Certainly citizens could contact an official department post free but had to write on the cover ‘*HIVATALOS FELSISLILASVA*’ (at officialrequest) or ‘*AZ.....ÉVI....T.C ALAPJÁN*’.

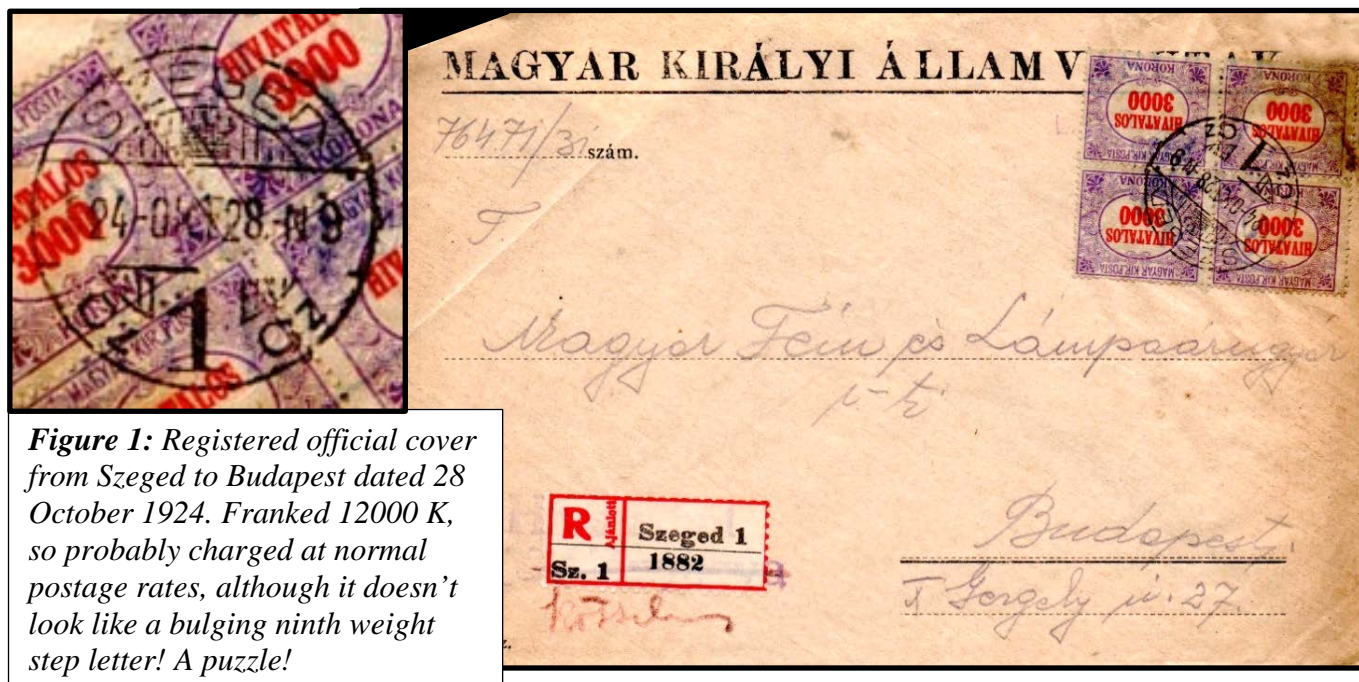


Figure 1: Registered official cover from Szeged to Budapest dated 28 October 1924. Franked 12000 K, so probably charged at normal postage rates, although it doesn't look like a bulging ninth weight step letter! A puzzle!

Much as with standard definitives, rates rose sometimes too fast for designers and printers to catch up and official issues became overprinted with higher face values. Blocks, mixed frankings-including relatively rare mixing with standard definitives and the like add to the intrigue and colour of any such collection, and for the collector there is the added advantage that any entire study is effectively contained within 37 months total existence. Some of the shorter periods, mere weeks, are more difficult to find and worth a premium. Only 31 different stamps were issued. As with definitives, stamps can be found with the triangular perforation used as a security device on two adjacent central rows of stamps per sheet. Departments could obtain them at face value plus 10%, a surcharge designed to sustain a special investment fund. As with the definitives, rapidly changing rates brought miscalculations, usually over-franking. The system began during Inflation Period 2, but then followed the normal postal changes pattern until its abolition 12 periods later, which adds to the collecting fascination.

Another source of fascination is the use of official stamps on the back of parcel forms seemingly unrelated to the actual postal charge for the goods being sent (Figures 2 and 3). Our sadly deceased expert on postage rates internationally, John Whiteside, finally decided that they must have represented the inflational additional charge in the basic revenue printed stamps on parcel forms that were nothing to do with postal costs but within official use of the service regulations – the service fee in effect. The imprinted stamps rose from the initial 10 f to 100 f via 50 f and usually the additional stamps on the back amounted to an additional 30 f or 70 f. John knew of other nearby European practice that was similar and known to be part of a way whereby a national Post Office might be able to monitor just how much official mail was being generated and its related costs. A tight 3-year life for the system may reflect just such an exercise in Hungary.

Official parcels paid postage as usual, but I am not aware if any concessionary rates applied. John Whiteside had a large collection of parcel forms and his own 'official' collection had many examples for which he clearly knew the rates, including distance factors. Often quite heavy consignments of bulk documents were sent between official departments and agencies. Senders are often identified by official cachets, either separate from the stamps, or sometimes cancelling the stamps. Official stamps were also used for money orders.

I welcome any corrections before I finish writing up my present collection. Here I report only what has come my way by way of information. I add for interest a few more examples of what can be found (Figures 4 to 9).



Figure 2: Small-sized parcel card with the card fee increased by 30 f in official stamps, sent from Budapest to Osiek in Yugoslavia in March 1923. Additional Yugoslav postage stamps probably represent payment of a storage fee in addition to the revenue stamp as a charge on the arriving parcel.



Figure 3: Small-sized Cash-on-Delivery parcel card with the card fee increased by 70 f in official stamps cancelled in December 1922 (!), sent from Budapest to Bonyhád in May 1923.



Figure 4: (Left) Envelope containing a return receipt sent registered within Budapest on 24 January 1923, franked 125 K = 50 K registration + 5 × 15 K for a 400–500 g letter.

Figure 5: (Below) Normal 100 g letter from Szob to Budapest on 10 November 1922, correctly franked 25 K, using 25 × 100 f stamps, a sign of rapid inflation.





Figure 6: (Left) Folded return receipt sent registered from Nagycsömöte to Szombathely on 14 February 1923, franked 50 K, corresponding to the registration fee only.

Figure 7: (Below) Registered letter from Jászberény to Budapest on 3 February 1923, franked 75 K = 50 K registration + 25 K distance official letter rate.





Figure 8: Registered local letter in Budapest sent in April 1923 franked 65 K = 50 K registration + 15 K local official letter rate.



Figure 9: Money letter charged 19.50 K for 45 g weight and 6183 K value declared, sent from Szeged to Mosonszolnok, 2 June 1922. It is believed that the charges are based on the ordinary mail rates, so this is a third weight step letter costing 3.50 K, plus the declared value charge of 10 K for up to 40,000 K, plus 6 K for a return receipt.

Footnote from the Editor:

Following the request in earlier editions, we still have not heard from anyone who has an official postage due cover from the official stamp period where the recipient had to pay the postage, i.e. marked *Portoköteles*. We know this eventuality was included in the post office document (PRTT) introducing the official stamp scheme, but it seems they are very scarce indeed.

MORE ON TRANSNATIONAL NEWSPAPER CANCELLATIONS

by Robert Lauer

In his article in March 2019 issue of *SoH*, 'Transnational Newspaper Cancellations', Alan Soble ponders a number of reasons as to why one finds Hungarian newspaper stamps with Austrian cancels and Austrian newspaper stamps with Hungarian cancels, and in the end, is "attracted to the opinion that the cancellations... are arriving strikes". The section on the 1867 newspaper stamps in Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer's *Österreich 1850-1918, Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Vol. II - Österreich 1867-1918* (Wien, 2008) confirms that Alan is indeed 'attracted' to the correct answer to his question. Newspaper stamps issued by the various Austro-Hungarian postal authorities were only valid in the various territories of the Empire (p.101) and were generally cancelled by the post office that delivered the newspaper to the subscriber (p.103). Hence cancellations on newspaper stamps are indeed receiving strikes from the subscriber's post office.



At the left is another interesting example of this, a block of 9 of the 1867 design newspaper stamps, cancelled at Budapest Vár on January 15, 1897. Newspaper stamps of this design were part of the first issue of stamps by the newly independent Hungarian postal administration on June 1, 1867. These newspaper stamps initially had a franking value of 1.05 *kr*, which was reduced to 1 *kr* effective from January 1, 1868.¹ While most catalogues of Austrian stamps list the issue date of these stamps in the Austrian portion of the Empire as June 1, 1867, they were, in practice, only introduced into the Austrian section of the Empire as the existing stocks of the 1863 issue of newspaper stamps were exhausted. The first use of any stamps from the 1867 issue in the Austrian part of the Empire is some two months later.² These stamps remained valid for mailing newspapers in Hungary until July 31, 1871 and for mailing

newspapers in the Austrian portion of the Empire until September 30, 1900. This block then would have been used to ship newspapers from somewhere in the Austrian portion of the Empire to Budapest.

All of the above is fine as long as the stamp has a clear dated cancel on it; if it does not, one has to turn to the attributes of the stamp itself to figure out whether it could have been used for mailing newspapers in both parts of the Empire or just the Austrian portion. There are three types of these 1867 design newspaper stamps: a Type I that was printed between 1867 and 1874; a Type II that was issued between 1874 and 1878; and a Type III that appeared at the end of 1876 and ran until the issue was no longer valid in September 1900.

The three types are illustrated below. In the Type I stamps, the back of the helmet and neck are not distinct and blur into the background, and the shadow of the helmet on the forehead is not distinguishable from the hair. In Type II the back of the helmet and neck is clearly defined and the shadow of the helmet on the forehead is clearly distinguishable from the hair. In both Types I and II, the outer white circle around the head is closed at the top. In Type III, the Greek design in the border labels of the stamp is larger, filling up more of the space between the frame lines, and the

outer white circle is open at the top, merging with the white frame line above it.³ Given the production dates of the three types, if a stamp is either Type II or Type III, it was valid for mailing newspapers only in the Austrian portion of the Empire; only Type I stamps would have been valid for mailing newspapers in both parts of the Empire. The block of 9 above is composed of Type III stamps.



Type I

Type II

Type III

However, the 1867-74 production run for the Type I stamps includes both the period during which these stamps were valid for mailing newspapers throughout the Empire (1867-71) and a period when they were only valid in the Austrian part of the Empire (1871-74). Again, one must look at the attributes of the stamp itself to determine which of these two periods it falls into. There are eight sub-types to the Type I stamp and only the first three, Types Ia, Ib and Ic, were issued in the period where these stamps were valid for mailing newspapers in both the Kingdom of Hungary and the Austrian part of the Empire.⁴ These three sub-types are illustrated below.



Type Ia

Type Ib

Type Ic

In Type Ia, the first pattern of the Greek design on the bottom right is open at the left side and rounded underneath, and there is a break in the inner frame line on the lower left edge just above the corner decoration, which is not very visible on the example above because of the lighter brown ink used, but it's the best I can do. In Type Ib, there are two coloured spots in the white frame around the coloured triangular area in the upper right. In Type Ic, there is a coloured spot between

the inner and outer frame lines in the bottom right corner just opposite to the lower legs of the “X” in the corner decoration. If a Type I stamp exhibits any of these characteristics, it was valid for mailing newspapers in both parts of the Empire; if not, it was only valid in the Austrian portion.

For newspaper stamps issued by the Kingdom of Hungary, the Austrian portion of the Empire and Bosnia & Herzegovina between 1867 and 1918, the cancellation only tells you where the newspaper was delivered; the design of the stamp tells you where it was valid for mailing newspapers.

Notes:

1. U. Ferchenbauer, Volume II (Wien, 2008), p. 83.
2. G.S. Ryan, ‘The First Stamps of Hungary, 1867’, *Stamp Collecting*, November 29, 1979.
3. There are two sub-types of Type III, both of which have the larger Greek design in the border labels: Type IIIa, where the outer white circle is closed at the top; and Type IIIz, where the outer white circle is closed at the top but the bottoms of the Greek design in the lower label are straight across, rather than slightly bowed as in Type III.
4. There is a detailed description of all of the sub-types of each of the three types of the 1867 design newspaper stamps in Volume II of Ferchenbauer and also in the Austria Netto Katalog: Briefmarken (Wien, 2008). If one is interested in an English language explanation of these various sub-types, you can take a look at my article in the Austrian Philatelic Society Journal [Vol. XIV, No. 4 – October 2014], ‘The 1867 Series Newspaper Stamps: A Collector’s Guide’.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANK STAMPS translated and modified by the Editor

An article in *Filatéliai Szemle*, April 1980 [1] caught David Williams’ attention. It refers to the use of the 1916 Postal Savings Bank stamps, which were intended for use only on savings cards, on postal items. The article explains why.

In 1886, the Hungarian Post office decided to introduce the concept of a savings card. This allowed savers to save small amounts much less than the minimum amount they could deposit directly over a post office counter. The card had ten squares arranged in two rows of five, and the upper left square was filled with an imprint of the 5 *kr* envelope stamp. The saver would add 5 *kr* stamps until it was full, and would then hand the completed card over the post office counter and be credited with 50 *kr*. When the currency changed in 1900, the imprint was changed to one of 10 *fillér*, as used on the postal stationery envelopes, initially with a ‘tall 10’, and from 1912, with a ‘short 10’. When this was filled with stamps it was worth 1 *korona*.

In 1916, it was decided that there was too much fraud occurring. Dishonest savers were adding weakly or unpostmarked used stamps which were going unnoticed by busy counter staff. On 27 May 1916, the Ministry of Commerce announced in document 7800 (and published in PTRT 73 of 31 May) that from 1 July 1916, the card imprint would be changed to a different design and a different colour. Savers would have to buy new cards with a new design of 10 *f* imprint, and special stamps of the same design to stick on the cards. The instruction was worded as follows:

‘Marketing sale of postal savings stamps and new savings cards.

7800 v.

‘From the July 1, 1916, the remaining 90 *fillér* locations on postal savings cards to save money for the 1 *korona* deposit minimum can only be filled with the violet 10 *fillér* savings stamps for this purpose.

‘New cards will also feature a purple 10 *fillér* stamp imprint, but until further notice, the violet new 10 *fillér* stamps can also be attached to the currently available 10 *fillér* red imprint cards.

‘New postal savings stamps must also be ordered, handled and accounted for as other postal services. Offices should take care to purchase supplies that are needed for local demand.

‘Blank cards submitted beyond the stated deadline, in which the total amount of 90 *fillér* wholly or partially include 10 *fillér* postage stamps, should not be accepted as a deposit.

‘Such cards - if they are not otherwise excluded – can be exchanged up to the end of September of 1916 at 10% deduction for postal savings stamps or postal franking according to the party's wishes, but such cards must be rejected if abuse is suspected.’

The new stamp was designed by Vilmos Brandmeyer, who also designed the new Parliament high-value postage stamps, and included a traditional beehive as a symbol of saving. It was printed in a dull violet colour. Hungarian and bilingual Hungarian-Croatian collecting cards were prepared.



On 29 September 1916, PTRT no. 131, instruction 16,834 warned against the use of the postal savings stamps on ordinary mail:

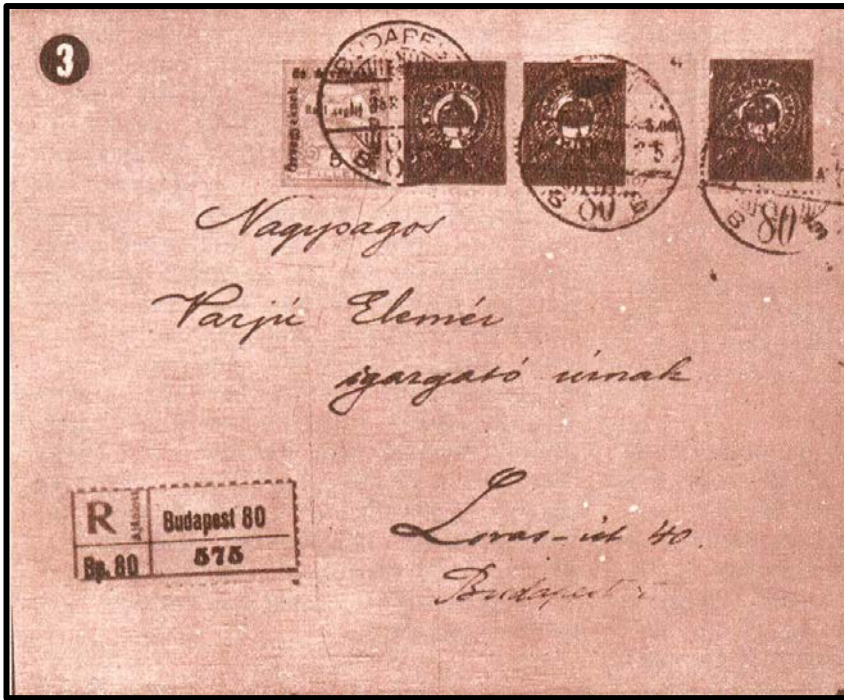
‘Referring to instruction No. 7800 in PTRT no. 73, I warn the offices that the violet-coloured 10 *fillér* postal savings stamps should not be used for the transmission of any postal items, and that these stamps are only used on postal savings cards to make up 90 *fillér* of postal savings.

‘Post offices will make this known to customers.

‘Postal savings stamps affixed to postal items should not be postmarked by the offices, but they should handle such items as non-pre-paid shipments.’

The *Filatéliai Szemle* article goes on to show evidence of postal use from 1917, and to explain that as WW1 took its toll on life in Hungary, deliveries of postage stamps did not always materialise, and postal officials ‘made do’ with unused postal savings stamps on items such as registered letters, parcels and money orders. In these cases, the post office took responsibility, and no postage due was charged. This practice seemed to continue occasionally through to the onset of the first inflation period after WW1. Once inflation started, of course, the 10 *f* stamp had effectively no value, and its misuse ended.

The stamp was also overprinted in the occupied territories, including Bánát Bácska (surcharged 30 *fillér*), Baranya (both styles of overprint), Debrecen, Fiume, Kolozsvár, Nagyvárad, and the SHS. It is also known with local overprints of Bácsszenttamás, Nagyszeben, and the Srobar issue in Slovakia. David Miles’ book [2] has an illustration of a cover, probably philatelic, from Karansebes with a Kolozsvár overprinted savings stamp on it. What is not known is whether these overprinted stamps continued to be used on postal savings cards in the occupied territories, or whether they were simply treated as postal provisionals.



Registered cover sent from Budapest 80 in January 1917, franked with three postal savings stamps and a war charity stamp to make the 35 fillér rate. (The original printing was very poor, but you'll get the gist!)

Readers are invited to comment on this subject, and to send scans of any covers with these stamps on to the Editor. Here's a couple of examples to spark your interest:



Left: Registered letter from the Sarkadi Czukorgyár (sugar factory) to Győr on 20 June 1920. Right: A parcel card used with mixed franking from Zemun in the SHS to Vinkovci in the SHS in March 1919.

References

- [1] Solt, H., 'Postatakarék-bélyeg', *Filatéliai Szemle*, April 1980, pp.15-6. (In Hungarian, available on-linen at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K0iP7eOtHgFBGqqr-nmw86kkYHqrkAEc/view>)
- [2] Miles, D., Reference book of overprints on Hungarian stamps, self-published, 1992.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, COMMENTS

On the Harvester and Parliament issue: David Williams writes that as Membership Secretary questions by non-members are directed to him by our website. The most recent question was: “Why, in the midst of WW1, did Hungary issue the Harvester and Parliament definitives?”

Luckily the relevant part of the *Monográfiaja* is now online and this is an edited (and improved on the Google translation!) description of this issue.

In 1909 the Ministry of Commerce invited applications for postage stamp design with prize money. The winner would get 2000 *Koruna*, the second and third 1500 *K* and 1000 *K*. As a result, 1240 designs were submitted from 119 Hungarian artists. However, when the result was announced on 23 March 1910, there was no first prize. Instead, Edmund Tull for his ‘Harvesting Wheat’ and Ferenc Helbing for his ‘King Ladislaus 1 of the House of Arpad’, shared the second prize. But the design chosen for the higher values was produced by the State Printing Works, which was judged fourth.

The reason for a change of design was criticism of the lack of variety and bad quality in previous issues, as there were only two types of images.

Edmund Tull sent his design to the Directors of the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition held in Nyiregyháza between 3 and 11 September 1910, and they used it on publicity labels.

Probably the outbreak of WW1 caused a delay in producing new stamps, and consequently they did not start to be issued until September 1916.

Although the *Monográfiaja* goes on at length about the printing process used (they went for the cheapest in view of the War), it is very vague about why these designs were selected six years after the competition.



There might be other reasons, but it is highly possible that putting these two designs together would spell out, subconsciously, that the public should concentrate on growing food for themselves and the war effort. Perhaps it was the equivalent to the British WW2 slogan ‘Dig for Victory’?

On the 1919 Szeged overprint issue: David Williams writes that in the previous issue of *SoH* he wrote a short piece as a follow-up to Roger Morrell’s original article in *SoH* No. 191 (Dec 2012). Both have done a bit more research (in the absence of any contributions from other members) to try and answer the questions David raised.

Firstly, on a minor point, Gibbons and Brainard state that they were issued on 28 June, but the MBA, the ‘Black Book’ and Michel say it was the 26 June. Which is correct? Possibly neither. As recorded by David Miles the order for the overprinting was signed on 26 June, and was published on 3 July. It must have taken some time to organise the different settings of the overprint, which involved strikes amongst experienced printers, the use of inexperienced type-setters leading to uneven lettering positions, and then the involvement of two printing works. How quickly could

they have delivered stamps to post offices? Mmmmm – maybe the 28 June is the earliest possible date they could have been put on sale, but it could well be later.

Secondly, David apologises for querying the authenticity of stamps where the second ‘1’ of 1919 is lined up to the left of the ‘g’ of Szeged, rather than directly underneath it or to the right. Chris Brainard called these latter ‘forgeries’. The images in the ‘Black Book’ all have the alignment to the left. The remaining question is whether this alignment exists in forgeries. More viewing of suspect material is needed.

As recorded by Miles and Brainard, two print shops were involved in the overprinting process. The first started the job of printing half a sheet at a time. For the red overprinting it used a vermilion-coloured ink and a heavy impression on most of the stamps. Part way through this process, the overprinting was transferred to a second print shop, who used a carmine-coloured ink and less pressure, completing half-finished sheets from the first shop as well as overprinting both halves of the remaining stock of stamps. Although it is not specifically mentioned by either author, presumably the same overprinting plate was used by both printers. Only in Brainard and the ‘Black Book’ are the two printings identified. The second printing was limited to: *Sürgös*, 15 *f* War Charity, 5 *f*, 6 *f*, 15 *f* Harvesters, 20 *f*, 25 *f* Karl and 40 *f* Zita, 4 *f*, 5 *f*, 6 *f*, 10 *f*, 20 *f* and 40 *f* overprinted Harvesters, 10 *f*, 20 *f* and 25 *f* overprinted Karl, 50 *f* overprinted Zita, 20 *f* and 25 *f* Magyar Posta definitives, and lastly the 2 *f* *Porto*. So, it would be entirely possible to collect these as a separate set or issue, but there is no indication of how many were printed by the second shop (just the total is given). It could well be a lot less than the other printing, which would suggest they would be harder to find. Even tougher would be to collect a set of vertical pairs of stamps from rows 5 and 6 showing the two different printings!

On the question of different types of forgery, no reader has yet come forward with additional examples to those shown in the article. It is likely there are more, and it is also likely that forgeries were produced in ‘complete sets’ to satisfy later demand once the originals sold out. Therefore, it should be possible to collect all the values.

As far as usage is concerned, the almost total absence of postally transmitted covers (two commercial and one philatelic as shown last time) would strongly support David Miles’ contention that the issue was made as Nationalist propaganda and for collectors in order to support the operation of the post office. It was presumably never intended for wide commercial use. So just like modern GB issues, huh?

And what about this ‘overprint’? asks **David Williams** (shown at the left and centre below). It does not seem to correspond with any listed overprint. He comments that it is similar in style to the *Ersékujvár / Nové Zámky* provisional postage due overprint (at right below) listed in Novotný’s Czech handbook and in Brainard on p. 35. It does not look hand-drawn. Could be an unknown provisional stamp, or could it be part of a cachet, or a postman’s delivery code mark?



NEW ISSUES

25 YEARS OF THE HUNGARIAN OLYMPIC AND SPORT PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



Issued 7 March 2019, 5,000 stamps (35 stamps with label per sheet)

Magyar Posta is marking the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Hungarian Olympic and Sport Philatelic Association (MOSFIT) by issuing a thematic personalised undenominated stamp with a label designed by the graphic artist István Weisenburger.

MOSFIT was formed in 1994 with the support of the National Federation of

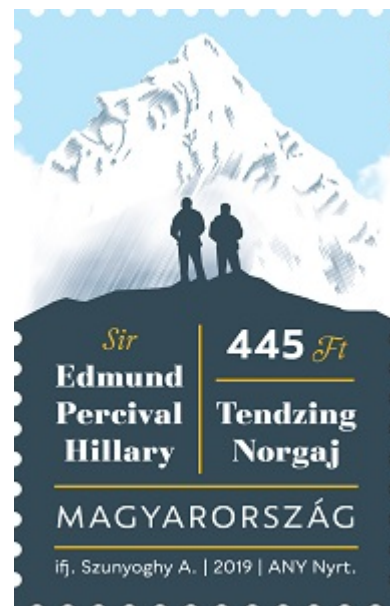
Hungarian Philatelists and the Hungarian Olympic Committee. As its name indicates, the Association brings together the collectors of Olympic and sport-related stamps, and philatelic and paraphilatelic releases with interests in thematic, traditional and postal historical maximum cards, postcards, souvenir sheets and cinderella stamps as well as people who, apart from philatelic issues, also collect memorabilia connected with sports and the Olympics including signatures, flags, coins, awards, certificates, sport photographs and newspapers. MOSFIT maintains a close relationship with the Hungarian Olympic Committee and the Hungarian Olympic Academy, and takes part in the organisation of the International Collectors Meeting every year. The label joined to the stamp shows the gymnastics and fencing stamps from the 1952 Helsinki Olympics stamp series.

CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF SIR EDMUND PERCIVAL HILLARY

Issued 11 March 2019, 150,000 stamps (50 stamps + 5 barcodes/sheet)

This commemorative stamp in honour of the centenary of the birth of Sir Edmund Percival Hillary is designed by the graphic artist András Szunyoghy Jr. and produced by the ANY Security Printing Company.

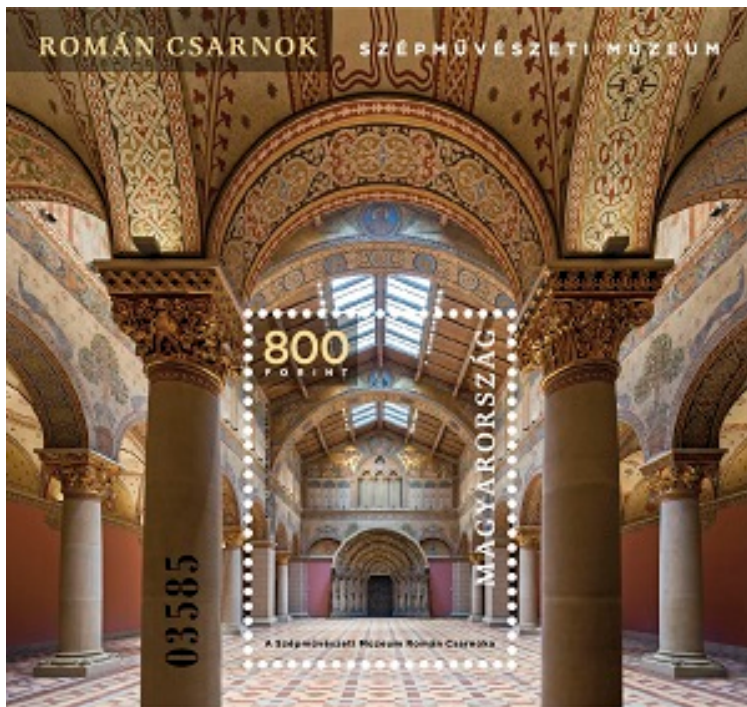
Sir Edmund Percival Hillary, the legendary mountain climber, explorer and diplomat, and the Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first people to reach the top of the highest mountain in the world. Apart from Mount Everest, Hillary was also the first person to conquer the North and South Poles. During his life he established several schools, hospitals, airports and bridges, and contributed to building a number of monasteries. He raised and devoted large sums of money to helping the Nepalese people. His many honours include the Order of New Zealand, which he was the first to receive, and being knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. The stamp depicts him and Sherpa Tenzing during the climb. On the first day cover, in addition to Hillary's portrait, there is a stylised map of the globe with the New Zealand mountaineer's signature pointing to the most important geographical locations of his life. The special postmark shows the summit of a mountain.



THE RENOVATED ROMANESQUE HALL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Issued 11 March 2019, 70,000 black-numbered perforated souvenir sheet and 4,000 red-numbered imperforated souvenir sheet.

A special souvenir sheet designed by the graphic artist György Kara and produced by ANY Security Printing Company marks the opening of the renovated Romanesque Hall of the Museum of Fine Arts. It was damaged in 1944 and has been used as a storage space for 70 years. Although the hall had previously undergone superficial renovations, it is now at last open to visitors in its former glory after the recent complex reconstruction. Apart from restoring the historical frescoes combining Christian and historic



elements, the statues and architectural details inspired by medieval art, the plaster copy of the Golden Gate of Freiberg Cathedral, and the room's entire heating and lighting systems were also fully renovated.

The souvenir sheet provides an overview of the hall with a floor plan of about 900 square metres. The first day cover depicts some of the hall's iconic features such as the statue of the prophet Aaron, the golden apple tree, a peacock, a gilded capital and in a separate image the miraculous stag. Of the signs of the zodiac depicted on the ceiling, Leo has been chosen for the special postmark.

FAMOUS HUNGARIAN PERFORMERS: CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF FERENC BESSENYEI, JUCI KOMLÓS AND MIKLÓS GÁBOR

Issued 11 March 2019, 100,000 stamps per type (50 stamps + 5 barcodes per sheet)

A special stamp series to commemorate the centenary of the birth of these performing artists was designed by the graphic artist Péter Nagy and produced by ANY Security Printing Company.

Ferenc Bessenyei (1919 - 2004), twice winner of the Kossuth Prize, Artist of Merit and Artist of Excellence, Actor of the Nation.



Juci Komlós (1919-2011), winner of the Jászai Mari Prize, Artist of Merit, Actress of the Nation.

Miklós Gábor (1919-1998), winner of the Kossuth Prize, Artist of Merit and Artist of Excellence.

All three performing artists are members of the 'Company of Immortals', having played in the National Theatre for varying periods of time and all are favourites with the public. Each stamp of the series has a portrait of one of the actors, while the theatrical masks and the film strip represent the unforgettable stage roles, feature films and television dramas that are associated with their names. A stylised drawing of the theatrical masks is repeated in the postmark.

FOR YOUTH 2019 JULES VERNE'S CAPTAIN NEMO

Issued 5 April 2019, 20,000 miniature sheets

The theme of the miniature sheet with a surcharge, a total of HUF 150, to support youth stamp collecting issued by Magyar Posta in 2019 is the novel by Jules Verne, Captain Nemo. Designed by the graphic artist Zsolt Vidák and produced by ANY Security Printing Company.

Jules Verne, one of the creators of the genre of science fiction, started publishing his novel Captain Nemo in parts in 1869, 150 years ago. The novel presents an imaginary underwater world through the adventures of the submarine Nautilus. The author's belief in technological advance, his geographical and biological knowledge, and his intention to reveal human problems concealed behind historical events all contributed to an immortal work of literature coming into being. The miniature sheet depicts the characters of the novel's fantasy world under and near the water including a sailing ship ready to set out on a journey of discovery and the submarine. The first day cover shows a portrait of Jules Verne and the postmark has a stylised drawing of the Nautilus.



FAMOUS HUNGARIANS: ROLAND EÖTVÖS

Issued 8 April 2019, 150,000 stamps (50 stamps + 5 barcodes/sheet)

As part of the stamp series Famous Hungarians, Magyar Posta is issuing a special stamp to commemorate the work of the physicist and geophysicist Roland Eötvös, who renewed higher education. Designed by the graphic artist Barnabás Baticz were produced by ANY Security Printing Company.



Baron Roland Eötvös de Vásárosnamény (1848-1919) was a Hungarian physicist, politician, academician, university professor, mountaineer, president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1889-1905), Hungary's minister of religion and education (1894-95), as well as founding president of the Society of Mathematics and Physics. Three documents related to two outstanding achievements of the life's work of Roland Eötvös have been inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, and in 2019 Hungary is remembering the centenary of the physicist's death jointly with the world organisation. The stamp shows a portrait of Roland Eötvös together with the torsion balance and the instrument for demonstrating the Eötvös effect. The

background shows the peak named after him. The first day cover shows a snapshot from the place he conducted measurements on Titel Hill (today in Serbia), supplemented by an extract from his speech at the Academy of Sciences in 1901. The special postmark features the eminent scientist's signature.

All New Issues can be purchased on-line by visiting Magyar Posta's website: www.posta.hu/ .

Postage rates have changed from 1 February 2019; the new rates chart can also be found on this site.

The Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Display and Auction: THAME

Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, OX16 5QE

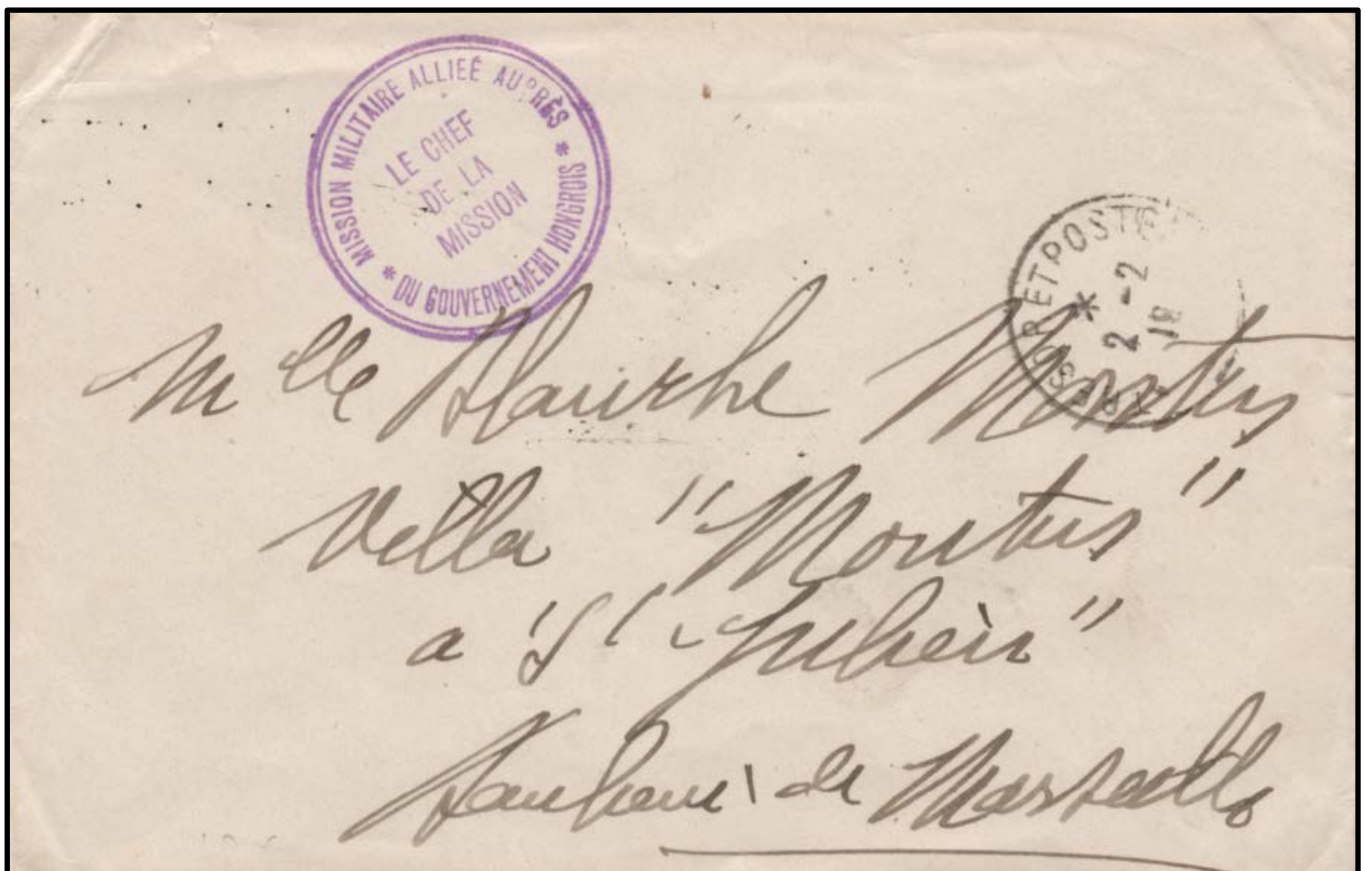
Saturday, 19 October 2019

Display followed by the Auction

Schedule:

- | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| 10.00 | Auction material viewing |
| 11.00 | Martin Weise – ‘Consular revenues’ |
| 12.15 | Lunch break |
| 13.00 | Auction starts |
| 15.30 | Close |

We look forward to seeing you there – do try to come!



Cover from the Head of the Allied Military Mission to the Hungarian Government sent to Marseilles through the French field post, 2 February 1919. (Courtesy Bill Hedley)