

5.6 BOOKS – INLAND AND FOREIGN RATES

5.6.1 Introduction

Small quantities of books would generally be considered as printed matter if they met the required conditions, *i.e.* packages can be opened for inspection, accompanied by no written matter, subject to weight limits of typically 1 kg (up to 1916) then 2 kg, and later 3 kg. Greater weights would require sending by parcel post.

The London UPU Congress of 1929 agreed in Article 33, paragraph 3 the following:

Each Administration has the right, in its relations with those Administrations which have so agreed, to allow a reduction of 50% of the ordinary rate for printed papers and to newspapers and periodicals posted directly by the publishers or their agents; but commercial printed papers such as catalogues, prospectuses, price lists, *etc.*, however regularly they are issued, are excluded from this reduction.

Administrations may, in relation to the same Administrations, allow a similar reduction to books including pamphlets or sheets of music, no matter who is the sender, provided they contain no publicity matter or advertisements other than that appearing on the cover or the fly leaves.

In **PTRT 27, 17.06.1930**, the consequent permitted changes in Hungary, to be implemented on 01.07.1930, were given as follows:

Printed matter

4. §. In relations with the countries listed in the postal rates, **anyone can now send books, pamphlets (excluding advertising publications) and musical works by post at a 50% discount on the regular printed matter rates.**

This discount does not apply to books, pamphlets and musical works that contain any kind of advertisement, excluding advertisements on the envelopes and protective (covering) pages of the works. For example, if there is an advertisement in the text, even if it is not printed on a separate page but on the text pages, the discount cannot be used.

The previous discount for scientific and literary publications has now become irrelevant.

The 50% discount allowed for newspapers and magazines will now be enjoyed not only by newspapers that are sent by publishers, but also by those that are sent by publishers' agents. (printers, bookbinders) are sent by post.

§ 5. Impressions of stamps consisting of solid or collapsible letters may not be sent as printed matter.

§ 6. From now on, the following notes are also permitted on printed matter:

- a) in general, for all printed matter: only the serial or index number relating to the consignment;
- b) on order forms and signatures relating to book publishing works, books, newspapers, engravings, musical works: the payment methods (cash on delivery, in instalments, *etc.*), the name of the author and publisher, the edition number, the serial number of the price list and the words: “*füzve*”, “*kartonba*” or “*kötve*” and whether in Hungarian or a foreign language.”

According to Morgan, for inland purposes, books fell into the category of printed matter during the Hyperinflation period. The public received no 50% discount, but postal permit holder publishers of books or newspapers received of some sort of discount.

5.6.2 Rate tables

Table 1: Books - foreign discount rate - 1930-1941

Using the 50% rule on printed matter until it explicitly appears as a separate category in the PTRTs:

Start date	Foreign printed matter rate, per 50 g	Half-rate for books, per 50 g	PTRT
01.07.1930 Austria, Germany Other foreign	4 <i>f</i> 6 <i>f</i>	2 <i>f</i> 3 <i>f</i>	PTRT 27, 17.06.1930 (rates from 1927)
16.11.1930 Austria, Germany Czechoslovakia, Poland, Italy and Cols, Romania, Vatican State Other foreign	4 <i>f</i> 6 <i>f</i> 6 <i>f</i>	2 <i>f</i> 3 <i>f</i> 3 <i>f</i>	PTRT 52, 15.11.1930
01.07.1940 [1]			PTRT 27, 28.06.1940
16.09.1941 Germany, Bohemia & Moravia, Croatia, Gen. Gov. Poland Other foreign	6 <i>f</i> 8 <i>f</i>	3 <i>f</i> 4 <i>f</i>	PTRT 44, 09.09.1941

[1] **PTRT 27, 28.06.1940:** Following the Buenos Aires UPU Congress, from 01.07.1940 the printed matter rate reduced to 50% that was established for books and printed booklets, as well as for musical works, now also applies to maps.

Table 2: Books - foreign discount rate - 1942-1944

Start date	Printed matter weight steps, g.								PTRT
	20 g	50 g	100 g	250 g	500 g	1000 g	2000 g	3000 g	
01.07.1942 [2] (50% of PP rate)	2 <i>f</i>	3 <i>f</i>	6 <i>f</i>	10 <i>f</i>	20 <i>f</i>	30 <i>f</i>	-	-	PTRT 29, 26.06.1942
01.09.1942 [3] (50% of PP rate)	-	4 <i>f</i>	8 <i>f</i>	15 <i>f</i>	30 <i>f</i>	-	-	-	PTRT 39, 22.08.1942
01.12.1942 [4] (50% of PP rate)	2 <i>f</i>	4 <i>f</i>	8 <i>f</i>	12 <i>f</i>	24 <i>f</i>	40 <i>f</i>	-	-	PTRT 53, 20.11.1942
01.07.1943 [5] Inland Foreign	- 2 <i>f</i>	- 4 <i>f</i>	6 <i>f</i> 8 <i>f</i>	10 <i>f</i> 12 <i>f</i>	16 <i>f</i> 24 <i>f</i>	24 <i>f</i> 40 <i>f</i>	40 <i>f</i> -	60 <i>f</i> -	PTRT 32, 26.06.1943

[2] New German-Hungary postal accord covering Germany, Bohemia-Moravia and Occupied Poland. 'Newspapers and periodicals published in the two contracting countries, as well as books, printed booklets, musical works and maps, which do not contain any advertising or publicity other than that printed on the envelope and the cover, shall be subject to the moderate rates laid down in the Universal Postal Convention, provided that they are less than the rates indicated above.'

[3] New Slovakia-Hungary postal accord. 'Newspapers and periodicals published in the two contracting countries, as well as books, printed booklets, musical works and maps, which do not contain any advertising or publicity other than the printing on the envelope and the cover, shall be subject to the moderate rates laid down in the Universal Postal Convention, provided that they are less than the rates indicated above.'

[4] New Finland-Hungary postal accord. 'Newspapers and periodicals published in the two contracting countries, as well as their books, printed booklets, musical works and maps, which do not contain any advertising or publicity other than that printed on the envelope and the cover, shall be subject to the moderate rates laid down in the Universal Postal Convention, provided that they are less than the rates indicated in paragraph 1.' There is also an additional step at 1050 g costing 168 *f* with each additional 50 g, 8 *f*, both of which can probably be halved for books.

[5] General rate rises. For **inland rates a specific book rate appears**. For foreign printed matter rates, these are to Finland, Germany, Bohemia Moravia Protectorate an occupied Poland. There is also an additional step at 1050 g costing 168 *f* with each additional 50 g, 8 *f*, both of which can probably be halved for books.

Table 3: Books - Inland rates from 1946

Start date	Student textbooks, (tankönyv) per 200 g,	Other books, per 100 g	Maximum weight, g	Source
1945-1946	?	?	?	Morgan [1]
01.08.1946	10 <i>f</i>	10 <i>f</i>	3000 g	[2]
15.11.1968	?	?	?	

[1] Morgan: 'Individuals mailing newspapers, magazines, books or musical scores to domestic destinations paid each rate period's printed matter rate.' and 'Permit holders of Publishers and Wholesalers of newspapers, magazines, books or musical scores could mail at a reduced rate. The rate schedule is not known at the present time.'

[2] *Postatarifák Adók Illetékek Közlekedési Menetrendek*, Vol.41, no.2, 05.06.1948. Above 2000 g only single books can be sent. 'Textbooks' appear with a reduced rate compared with the normal book rate.

Table 4: Books - foreign rates, 1946 onwards

Single rate structure for books, booklets, music, maps, newspapers, magazines.

Start date	Weight steps				Source
	100 g	200 g	300 g	Per additional 100 g	
01.08.1946	30 <i>f</i>	40 <i>f</i>	60 <i>f</i>	20 <i>f</i>	[1], [2]
15.11.1968	?				
?					

[1] *Posta Tarifák Adók Illetékek Közlekedési Menetrendek*, No. 42/2, 18.05.1949.

[2] *Posta Tarifák Adók Illetékek Közlekedési Menetrendek*, 25.06.1951 states maximum weight 5 kg.

Note: no data are available between 1968 and 1985.

Table 5: Books – Foreign rates – 1987 - 2002

Note: Weights up to 2 kg are sent as printed papers.

Date	Up to 3 kg		Up to 4 kg		Up to 5 kg	
	Eur	RoW	Eur	RoW	Eur	RoW
21.01.1985	79 Ft		105 Ft		132 Ft	
1986?	?		?		?	
15.06.1987 [1]	130 Ft		180 Ft		230 Ft	
01.02.1989 [1]	160 Ft		220 Ft		280 Ft	
08.01.1990 [2]	200 Ft		270 Ft		340 Ft	
14.01.1991 [2]	320 Ft		420 Ft		520 Ft	
01.02.1992 [3]	550 Ft		750 Ft		1000 Ft	
01.01.1993 [3]	700 Ft		1000 Ft		1300 Ft	
01.01.1994 [3]	800 Ft		1200 Ft		1500 Ft	
01.01.1995 [3]	960 Ft		1500 Ft		1800 Ft	
01.01.1996 [4]	1,200 Ft	1,250 Ft	1,875 Ft	1,950 Ft	2,250 Ft	2,340 Ft
01.01.1997 [4]	1,440 Ft	1,800 Ft	2,250 Ft	2,360 Ft	2,700 Ft	2,810 Ft
01.01.1998 [4]	1,800 Ft	1,880 Ft	2,810 Ft	2,920 Ft	3,370 Ft	3,500 Ft
01.01.1999 [5]	*3,300 Ft 3,600 Ft	4,200 Ft	*4,400 Ft 4,800 Ft	5,500 Ft	*5,500 Ft 5,900 Ft	6,900 Ft
01.01.2000 [5]	*3,600 Ft 3,930 Ft	4,620 Ft	*4,800 Ft 5,240 Ft	6,160 Ft	*6,000 Ft 6,490 Ft	7,660 Ft
01.01.2001 [5]	*3,960 Ft 4,500 Ft	5,200 Ft	*5,280 Ft 5,900 Ft	6,850 Ft	*6,600 Ft 7,000 Ft	8,600 Ft
01.02.2002	Books now the same as printed matter - no special rates.					

[1] Domestic printed matter rate for all books up to 2 kg to Czechoslovakia. Foreign printed matter rates for books up to 2 kg to other foreign countries.

[2] Domestic printed matter, newspaper and book rate applies to books up to 2 kg to Czechoslovakia. Foreign printed matter rates for books up to 2 kg to other foreign countries.

[3] Uniform rate for all foreign countries

[4] Lower rate for all European destinations, higher rate for all other foreign countries. The rates for shipments to 200 g are the same as for newspapers and periodicals.

[5] Reduced book rate (*) to neighbouring countries of Austria, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and the Ukraine. Weights up to 2 kg are sent as printed papers.

No information about later dates is available.

5.6.3 Textbooks

In **PTRT 61, 18.12.1926**, from 01.01.1927 authorised textbooks in domestic circulation, if the title page of the consignment bears the conspicuous indication ‘Textbook’, shall be exempted from (full) postage according to the following rates:

up to 100 g.....	4 <i>f</i>
up to 250 g	8 <i>f</i>
up to 500 g	12 <i>f</i>
up to 1000 g	16 <i>f</i>
up to 2000 g	32 <i>f</i>
up to 3000 g	48 <i>f</i>

This rate shall apply even if the consignment is sent registered, or as an express mail in Budapest, or as an express mail in other domestic routes. Weight limit 2 kg, or, if the consignment consists of one volume of a book, 3 kg.

In Budapest, urgent letters, postcards, printed matter, product samples, business papers and **textbooks** may be sent as express in local circulation (with delivery within 4 hours at the latest); the rate for these is three times the rate established for local circulation, but at least 16 *f*.

PTRT 9, 07.03.1928: Attachments that can be attached to printed matter items containing textbooks.

For information purposes, I would like to inform you that prefaces prepared separately and in accordance with the general conditions of printed matter, or brief descriptions strictly related to the books, as well as the attachments listed in point 4 of Section 35 of the P. Ü. Sz., may be attached to printed matter items containing ‘Textbooks’ and subject to a reduced shipping fee as set out in the second paragraph of Section 1 of the P. Ü. Sz., without the item losing its entitlement to the reduced shipping fee.

However, in the event of simultaneous mailing with other printed matter, the discount established for textbooks shall cease. In such a case, the rates prescribed for ordinary printed matter shall apply.

PTRT 10, 21.03.1935: Change in the postal delivery of items that can be sent as ‘Textbooks’.

The first sentence of Section 33. 1. of the Postal Business Regulations on ‘Items that can be sent as Textbooks’ is repealed and the following is ordered:

Textbooks and reference books (language dictionaries, historical, geographical and natural history atlases, *etc.*) used in schools, as well as prayer books, prayer booklets, psalms and hymn books issued for students may be sent in domestic circulation, if the title label (cover) of the item contains the designation ‘Textbook’, at a moderate printing fee, under the following conditions:

1. books issued for schools under the direct management and control of the state must bear the number of the permit issued by the Minister of Religion and Public Education;
2. for books published for denominational schools and for religious textbooks used in any school, it must be stated on the outer or inner cover that they are used as textbooks (auxiliary books) in a school;
3. for prayer books, prayer booklets, psalms and hymn books, it is sufficient to indicate: Prayer book, Prayer booklet, Psalter or Hymn book ‘for school children or young people studying’.

For books falling under points 2 and 3, the receiving post office may, in case of doubt, require proof that the book is used in a school. A document from the school principal or superior authority must be presented for the purpose of proof.

PTRT 17, 21.05.1937: Extension of the textbook and price list rates.

1. As of June 1, 1937, I extend the preferential rate for textbooks in Section 10 of the Letter Post Rates in domestic circulation to books of a book trade nature that can be sent by anyone, bound or bound, and at the same time I repeal the special conditions prescribed for textbooks in Section 1, points 3 of the aforementioned Section.

The textbook rate does not extend to paper goods in book form that cannot be considered books of a book trade nature, such as appointment books, cash books, school notebooks, *etc.*

2. Also as of the date indicated above, the Letter Post Rates in domestic circulation 10/a. §, I have extended the rates established for price lists — with the conditions prescribed for them — to book lists (book reviews) with the addition that book list items may be marked ‘Book List’ or ‘Price and Book List’ and that, in addition to the publishing company issuing the book list, the bookseller distributing the book list may also indicate their own name and address in any way (printed, with a stamp, handwritten, *etc.*).

Post offices should register this change in §§ 10 and 10/a of the Letter Post Rates. I will take action to correct the Letter Post Rates and the relevant text of the Regulations by means of the next published Changes.

There are no further mentions of a reduced rate for textbooks in currently available PTRTs.