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## **Yugoslavia Study Group**

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### **Office Holders**

President	Tony Bosworth	18 Raymer Road, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2JQ	atonybos@btinternet.com
Editor	Nick Coverdale	38 Hillcrest Avenue, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 6ST	nick@rhubarb1.demon.co.uk
General Secretary	Michael Hampson	36 Jay Close, Eastbourne, BN23 7RW	michael_hampson@hotmail.co.uk
Membership Secretary / Treasurer	Michael Chant	8 Ullswater Road, London, SW13 9PJ	meac@familychant .freeserve.co.uk
Librarian	David Treby	The Vicarage, School Hill, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6QX	d.treby123@btinternet.com
Auctioneer	Steve Woolnough	Moon Cottage, Mendlesham Green, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 5RN	woolnough.mooncottage @btinternet.com
Exchange Packet Secretary	Vacant		
Webmaster	David Studholme	25 Oakfields Road, Norwich NR4 6XF	webmaster@yugosg.org

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- Jugopošta will be sent by surface mail to overseas members unless additional funds are received for airmail postage (minimum £6)
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## From the Editor

As I write, our President is away on holiday and so is taking a break from his regular contribution to Jugopošta. That allows me to introduce myself as the new Editor of Jugopošta. It also allows me to add to Tony's tribute in the last edition to Geoff Barling as retiring Editor. As a reader, I have appreciated Geoff's work for some years. As new Editor, I am realising even more the quality of the work over the 71 issues that Geoff edited. I hope that I shall be able to maintain the very high standards that he has set.

A brief introduction to my own interests. I have been collecting for around 15 years. I started with a rather broad interest in Germany and Eastern Europe. I am particularly interested in the way that stamps and covers reveal the history of these countries. While retaining an interest in Germany, my major interests now are Serbia up to 1918 and the Independent Republic of Croatia (NDH).

In this 101st edition of Jugopošta, you will find 5 articles covering a range of topics together with the latest auction report. Please read this carefully, as there are some changes being made to the way that the auction is being administered.

Finally, please continue to contribute articles to Jugopošta and thank you to those of you that have already contributed since I took over or who have given permission to reproduce articles published elsewhere.

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## Cover Story

The Editor

Just an ordinary registered cover but one that appeals to me. Sent from a bank in Belgrade to the firm of Werthmann and Mühlhoff in Werdohl in Germany. This company was a "Metallwaren-Fabrik" and made, among other things, miners' lamps. The cover is franked with two 25 para stamps of the "King Petar with a hat" issue (SG152) and a Belgrade cancellation (16 November 1913), with a Werdohl arrival cancellation (1 December 1913) on the reverse. The 50 para appears to be the correct rate according to Table 8.28.35 of "The Postal rates of the Yugoslav Territories" by Geoff Barling (Jugopošta 70A) (25 para for an external letter under 20g and 25 para registration fee).

## More on the Military Post Office of the Serbian Supreme Command VP 999

Prof.dr.Milan Radovanović

The reason for this article was the picture postcard (Fig.1) issued in Italy and sent as field postcard from Roma to the Supreme Command of the Kingdom of Serbia in Thessaloniki. The card itself and the postmarks on it seem not to be of particular importance from the viewpoint of postal history if disregarded that it was four times censored: firstly with rectangular censor mark "BOLOGNA POSTA ESTERA / VERIFICATO PER CENSURA (33)" in Italy and three times in Greece: with circle censor mark "ARMEE D'ORIENT / CENSURE MILITAIRE", with triangle British censor mark "NO" (on the backside of PPC – Fig.2) and finally with Serbian rectangular censor mark "22 PREGLEDALA / VOJNA CENZURA". Card bears weak military postmark of Supreme Command VP 999, dated April 24, 1918.

What attracted the attention was the address part, where, besides the French name for Thessaloniki (Salonique), there was the number of military mail: SP No. 999/5 (Sector Postale) – Fig.3.



Fig. 1



Fig.2

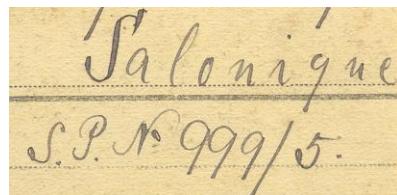


Fig.3

Further attention was drawn to the addresses of sender and recipient, regarding the number of postal items at that time, a new postcard was discovered edited by Information Bureau of the Serbian Red Cross Society of Thessaloniki (Fig. 4), in which the address of the recipient read "P (ost). No. 999/102", which even more aroused curiosity to clarify what was the additional term expressed in the numerals of the military post of Supreme Command VP 999.

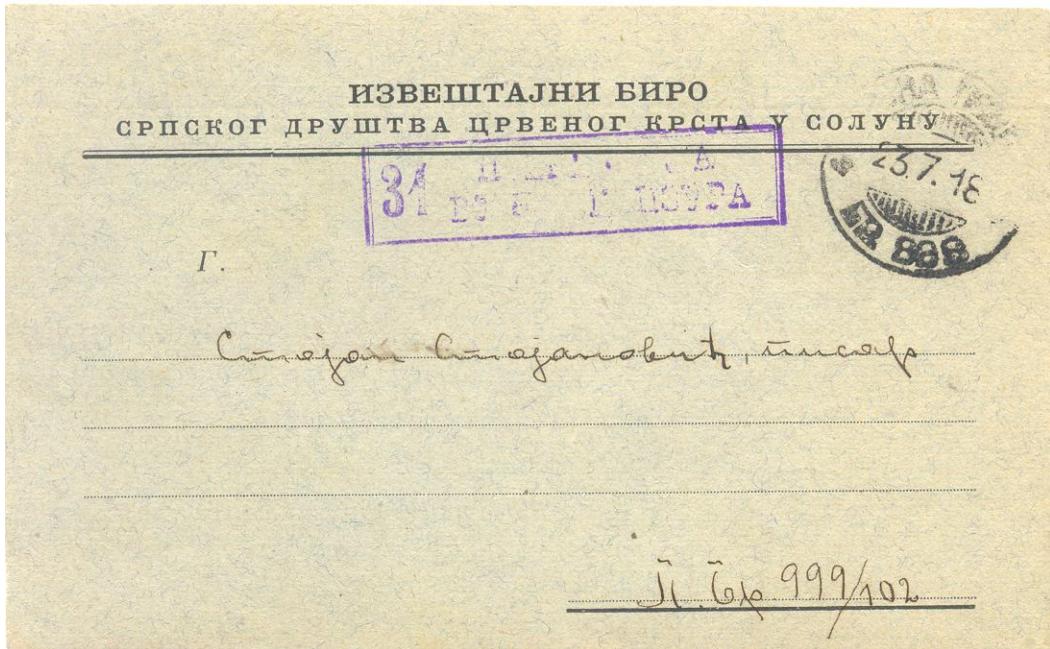


Fig.4

The answer to this additional marking of the postal items to and from the Supreme Command was found in Order No.2053 of September 8, 1917. In fact, even though it was repeated many times, the Supreme Command issued orders how Serbian troops had to communicate (Command No.1537 signed by Head of Staff of the Supreme Command of Thessaloniki from June 4, 1916, and Command No.382 signed by the Minister of War from September 5, 1916), not only with neutral and allied countries, but with the conquered Serbia. On September 8, 1917 Head of Staff of the Supreme Command, General P. Bojovic was forced to give precise instructions and orders which had to be respected – Order No.2053 from September 8, 1917 (Fig.5).

Г.) ЗА ШТАБ ВРХОВНЕ КОМАНДЕ: Чин,име и презиме и број поште у виду разломка, где бројите означавају број поште (999) а имените одељење. Одељења да се означавају:

Оперативно са	1.
Ађутантурно са	2.
Артиљериско са	3.
Инжињерско са	4.
Саобраћајно са	5.
Санитетско са	6.
Гл. Интендантура са	7.
Судско са	8.
Топографско са	9.
Пешт.-Телеграфско са	10.
Команд. Стана са	11.

На пр.: пуковник Н.Н.бр.поште 999/8.

д.) ЈЕДИНИЦЕ И УСТАНОВЕ НЕПОСРЕДНО ПОД ВРХОВНОМ КОМАНДОМ, које не улазе у састав Штаба Врховне Команде, ставити: чин,име и презиме, назив јединице и број поште. На пр.: Редов Н.Н. одељење бежична телеграфија бр.поште 999.

е.) ЗА МИНИСТАРСТВО ВОЈНО:

исто као и за Врховну Команду, с тим, да се означава:

Опште. војно одељење са	101.
Економно са	102.
Артиљер. Техничко са	103.
Инжињер.-Техничко са	104.
Санитетско са	105.
Судско са	106.
Команд. Стана са	107.

На пр.: Мајор Н.Н. војна пошта бр. 999/105.

е.) ЗА ЈЕДИНИЦЕ И УСТАНОВЕ ПОД МИНИСТАРСТВОМ ВОЈНИМ: чин,име и презиме, јединица и број поште.

На пр.: Овластник чинов. реда Н.Н. инжињерски арсенал, бр. поште 999.

Fig.5

Further below an extract from the above mentioned Command will be given, as follows:

COMMAND No.2053  
Head of the Supreme Command  
8 September 1917

It could be noticed that the correspondence between officers, clerks and soldiers and their families in Serbia was not carried out according to the existing rules and often with lots of errors, causing many cards and money not to reach their addressees. Therefore enemy censorship used this situation thus not allowing the transfer of mail and destroying the correspondence when appropriate regulations were not respected. It follows, therefore, that many were not familiar with commands and instructions concerning writing cards and sending money to Serbia.

In order to define the correct procedure regarding sending cards and money, and in order to familiarise everyone with the proper procedure, a regulation was issued:

## ORDER

### I. CORRESPONDENCE WITH SERBIA

5. The text in a card must be concise and limited to family matters.

6. On the address side of the card, and at the space for the senders, the addresses have to be put as follows: ....

a) For units in Division:

rank, name and sender's name, company, battalion (or regiment or division and battery for artillery units and the cavalry squadron) and military post code. For example: ....

b) For small units, parts of Division and part of the Army: In addition to the rank and name, place the name of the unit and the number of the divisional and army post. For example: ....

v) For Army and Divisional staff: rank, name and military post number. For example: ...  
.....

g) For the Supreme Command Staff: rank, name and postal code in the form of fraction where the numerator is the number of military post of the of The Supreme Command (VP 999) and denominator is number of the Department.

Denominators for appropriate Departments are determined as follows:

- Operational Department 1,
- Adjutants Department 2,
- Artillery Department 3,
- Engineering Department 4,
- Traffic Department 5,
- Medical Department 6,
- Intendant department 7,
- Judicial Department 8,
- Topographic Department 9,
- Postal Department 10,
- Technical Maintenance Department 11.

For example: Colonel Petar Petrovic, VP 999 / 5

d) Units and institutions directly under the Supreme Command, which are not included in the structure of the Supreme Command, need to put rank, name, and unit name and post code. For example. ....

dj) Ministry of War:

the same principle as for the Supreme Command, however, denominator are with three numerals which indicate:

General Military Department	101
Economy Department	102
Artillery Department	103
Engineering Department	104
Medical Department	105

Judicial Department	106
Technical Maintenance Department	107

For example: Major Jovan Jovanovic, VP 999 / 105

e) For units and Establishments under the Ministry of War: rank, name, unit number and number of the military post. For example. ....

z) For the Division: rank, name, name of the division and military post code. For example:

7. The written cards sent through the military post offices of regiment, where there was no censorship, should have been priory submitted to the superiors, who were supposed to read the mail, in accordance with Art. Regulation 23 on military censorship, and having checked that they had been written accordingly, send the cards to the post office of Supreme Command in Thessaloniki, through their regimental mail, specifying that the cards were reviewed and stating the overall number of sent cards. The card should bear no indication of being censored or reviewed.

.....

This Command replaces until now issued orders and instructions related to the correspondence and money transfer to Serbia...

By order of the Supreme Commander Chief  
 Head of the Staff  
 General  
 Pet. Bojovic, mp

Without going into the entire area covered by the order, so far unknown data appear in the item 6, subparagraphs g), and dj). In addition to the introduced order in correspondence of Serbian soldiers on the Thessaloniki front with Serbia, these subparagraphs are related to the improvement and acceleration of the postal service, too, especially of the Supreme Command and the Ministry of War, giving the departments the subheadings, as stated above.

It follows that the postal items sent from and submitted to the Supreme Command Headquarters or Ministry of War had to have the denominator on the cards or letters together with the number of military code for Supreme Command (VP 999), either the sender, or recipient in the ranges from the VP 999/1 to VP 999/11, or from VP 999/101 up to VP 999/107.

Based on the foregoing it follows that the PPC shown in Figure 1 is addressed to Traffic Department of the Supreme Command (VP 999/5), and a postcard presented on Figure 4 is addressed to Economy Department of the Ministry of War (VP 999 / 102).

A review of a number of postal objects revealed the existence of this marking for the individual departments of the Supreme Command and the Ministry of War, although few.

In addition, only two other objects (Fig. 6 and Fig.7) with the new marking will be described.



Fig.6

French patriotic letter card with French flag (Fig.6) sent from St. Denis Laval on June 15, 1918 to Thessaloniki, Greece, was censored with Serbian rectangular cachet "25 PREGLEDALA / VOJNA CENZURA" ("examined by military censorship") in purple colour. Card bears incoming address "S (ector).P (ostal). No. 999/2", which means that it is addressed to a Serbian soldier by Adjutants Department of the Supreme Command.

The following example (Fig.7) is a French patriotic card with flags of Allies sent from Ajaccio, Corse, France (postmark October 17, 1918) to SP 999/107 or to the Ministry of War - Technical Maintenance Department Thessaloniki. Card bears military postmark of the Supreme Command VP 999 dated October 26,



Fig.7

1918 and Serbian rectangular censor mark "PREGLEDALA / VOJNA CENZURA (62)" (examined by military censorship).

By this, the presence of denominators in the military postcode of the Supreme Command – VP 999 has been clarified.

# Postal Forms in the Croat Language

by Dénes Czirók

(This article was prepared in association with the Alp-Adria Exhibition in Opatija, Croatia, in April 2011, and was published in Stamps of Hungary. It is reproduced here with kind permission.)

In the 18th and early 19th centuries the regions that today make up Croatia were part of the territory ruled by the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and, as was the case throughout the monarchy, the postal administration was conducted in the German language. Thus, postal forms at that time were also produced in German. The oldest receipts of posting that we know of from the territory of modern Croatia are from Agram (now Zagreb) in 1797, from Warasdin in 1802 and from Fiume in 1814. I am sure that with further research more early postal receipts from the territory of Croatia will come to light.

The first bilingual German/Croat receipts for registered letters appeared in 1857 with German on one side of the form and Croat on the other side. Not surprisingly postmasters who were used to writing in German carried on using the German side of the receipt forms for many years afterwards. (Figures 1-2).

Bilingual receipt forms were also introduced in the coach mail organization in 1857 but here also the postmasters continued to use the German language side of the form for a long time (Figures 3 and 4). The first coach mail receipt known to have been completed in Croat dates from 1875 (Figure 5). Later, bilingual receipts were printed with both languages on one side of the form (Figure 6).

Separate receipts for the dispatch of money orders were produced as they became more widely used. These receipts were bilingual (German/Croat) using both sides of the form (Figures 7 and 8). As time went by it became standard practice to complete the Croat side of the receipt forms and leave the Hungarian side blank (Figures 9-10).



Figure 1: Receipt for dispatch of registered letter, completed in German in 1857.

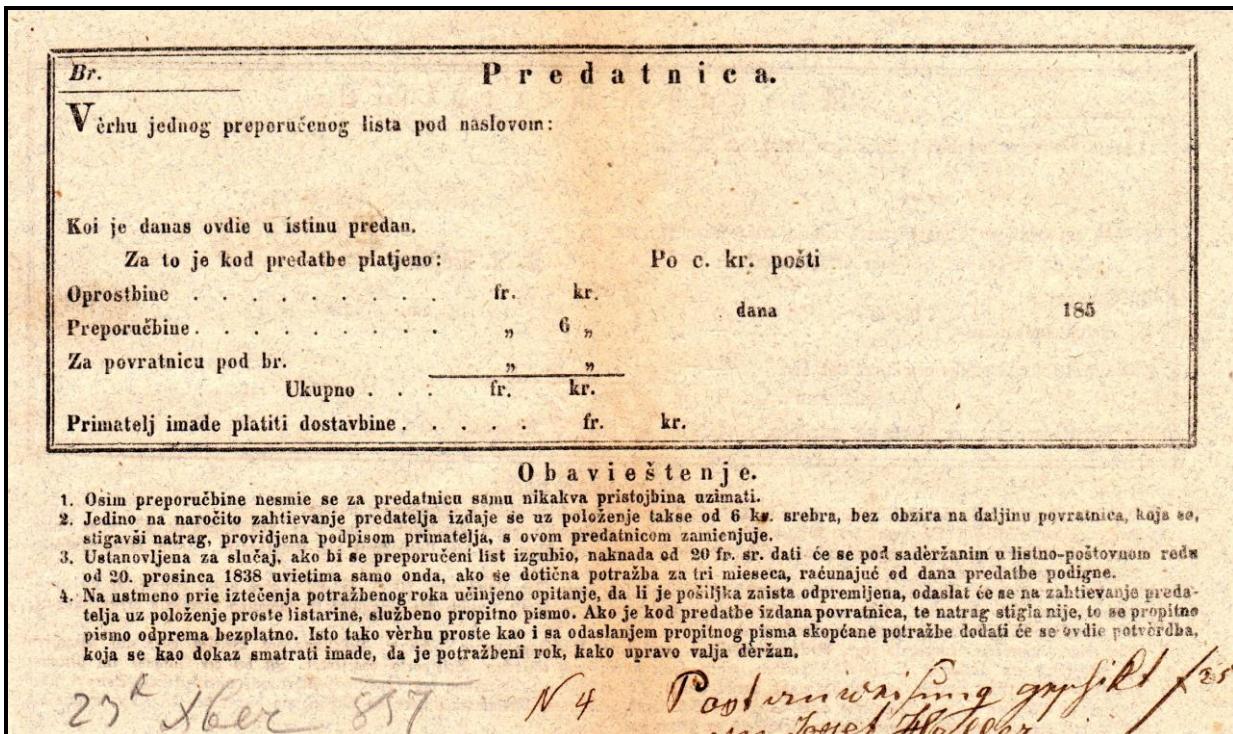


Figure 2: The other side of the form in Croat.

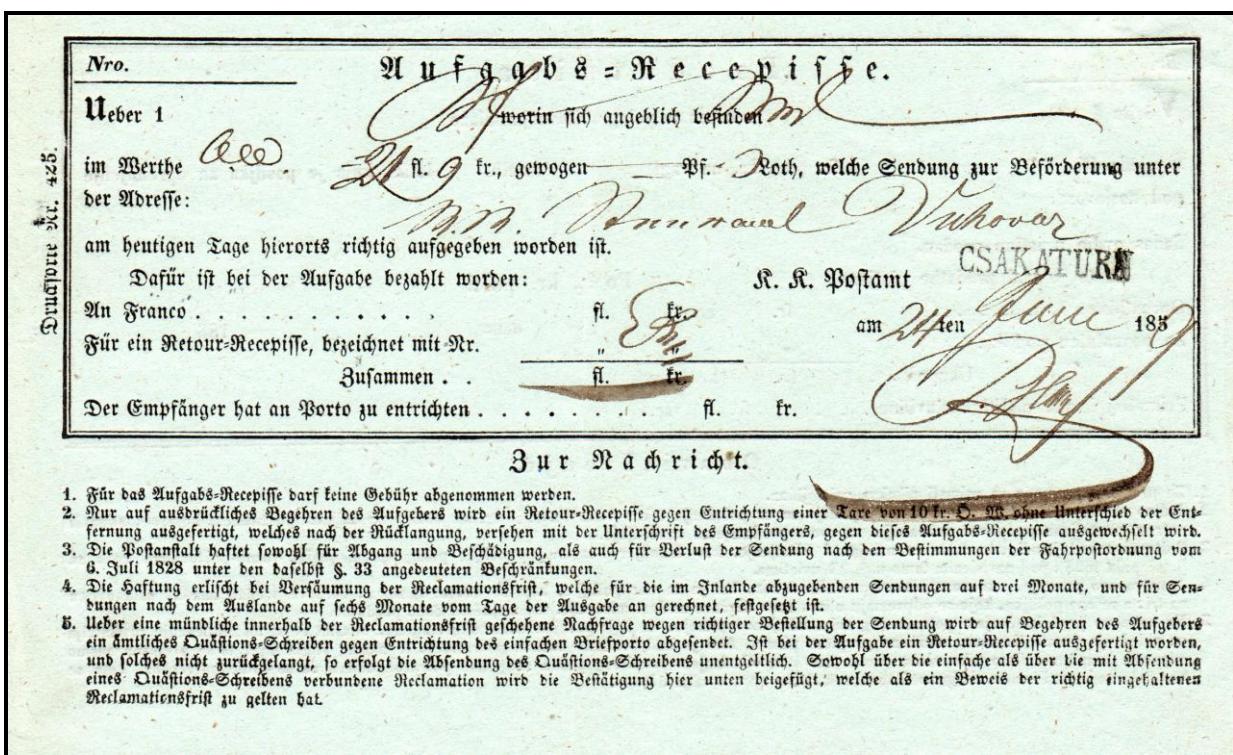


Figure 3: Coach mail receipt for dispatch of a money letter, completed in German in 1859.

P r e d a t n i c a .					
Vérhu 1	u komu se polag očitovanja nalaze				
u vrednosti	fr.	kr. na vagi	funtih	lotih, koja je pošiljka za opremljenje	
pod naslovom:					
danasm ovdje u istinu predan.					
Za to je kod predatbe platjeno:	Po c. kr. pošti				
Oprosthine . . . . .	fr.	kr.	dana 185		
Za povratnicu pod br.	"	"			
Ukupno . . . . .	fr.	kr.			
Primatelj imade platiti dostavbine . . . . .	fr.	kr.			
O b a v i e š t e n j e .					
1. Za predatnicu nesmie se uzimati nikakva pristojbina. 2. Jedino na naročito zahtevanje predatelia izdaje se uz položenje takse od 10 kr.vr. austr.bez obzira na daljinu, povratnica, koja se, stigavši natrag, providjena podpisom primatelja, sa ovom predatnicom zamjenjuje. 3. Poštovni zavod jamči isto tako za manjak i oštećenje, kao takodjer i izginutje pošiljke polag opredijeljenjah vozno-poštovnoga reda od 6. srpnja 1838 i pod navedenim tamo u §. 33 uvjetima. 4. Jamstvo ovo prestaje, ako se zanemari potražbeni rok, koji je za one pošiljke, koje se unutar granica dježave predati imaju, ustanovljen na tri, a za one pošiljke, koje se odpremaju u inostrane dježave na šest mjeseci, računajući od dana predatbe. 5. Na ustmeno pred iztečenjem potražbenog roka učinjeno opitanje, da li je pošiljka zaista odpremljena, odaslat će se na zahtevanje predatelia uz položenje proste listarice, službeno propitno pismo. Ako je kod predatbe izdana povratnica, te natrag stigla nije, to se propitno pismo odprema bezplatno. Isto tako vérhu proste kao i sa odaslanjem propitnog pisma skopčane potražbe dodati će se ovdje potvrdba, koja se kao dokaz smatrati imade, da je potražbeni rok, kako upravo valja dježava.					

Figure 4: The other side of the form in Croat.

P r e d a t n i c a .					
Vrhu 1	u komu se polag očitovanja nalaze				
u vrednosti	stot.	nov. na vagi	funtih	lotih, koja pošiljka je za opremljene pod	
naslovom:	<i>Baranjska</i>				
danasm ovdje zaista predana.					
Za tu jo kod predatbe plaćeno.					
Oprosthine . . . . .	stot.	nov.			
Za povratnicu pod br.	"	"			
Ukupno . . . . .	stot.	nov.			
Primatelj imade platiti poštarine	stot.	nov.			
Pouzeće . . . . .	"	"			
Potraženo dne <i>29.6.1850.</i> O b a v i e š t e n j e					
1. Za predatnicu nesmije se nikakova pristojbina uzimati. 2. Samo na naročito zahtevanje predatelia prilaže se pošiljki povratnica uz predplatu pristojbine od 10 novčića povratnica, prispivši natrag providjena podpisom primatelja, zamjenjuje se ovom predatnicom. 3. Poštovni zavod jamči toli za manjak i oštećetu poštarskih pošiljaka, kao i izginutje takove po glasnu vozno-poštovnoga reda od 6. srpnja 1838. uz u §. 33. navedeno ograničenje, za zatvoreno pakto predate učinjene poštice polag u §. 7. od bivšeg popečiteljstva za trgovinu od 27. srpnja 1850. izrečene naznake; a konačno i za pošiljke iz i u države ujemacko-austrijskoga poštovnoga saveza polag pravilah članka 75. poštovnoga ugovora od 18. kolovoza 1860. Za neupravno dignuto pouzeće naknada samo onda sledi, kada to naredba pod uvjeti 10. članka Visokoga popečiteljstva za trgovinu od 6. svibnja 1860. zahtjevala bude. 4. Jamstvo ovo prestaje, ako se zanemari rok za potražbu, koji je na 6 mjeseci ustanovljen, računajući od dana predatbe. 5. Na ustmeno upitanje radi u istinu učinjene izračbe pošiljke, odpravit će se uz zahtevanje predateli poštarica službenim putem. Bezplatno biti će ista odpravljena, kada se predatelj s višeću od primatelja izkaž, kojom izračuna lična nije, ali kada kod predatbe biješe s pošiljkom odpravljena povratnica, koja u primjernom vremenu natrag prispijela nije. U svim inim slučajima plaća se jedino samo poštarna. Prijavljena potražba zabilježiti će se svigdar gore na ovoj predatnici i bude dokaznicom priznjanoga roka za istu u slučaju, ako poštarica nebijše odpravljena.					

Figure 5: Bilingual receipt completed using the Croat side of the form in 1875.



Figure 6: Bilingual receipt form for a coach mail dispatch dating from 1896. Plitvica to Budapest.

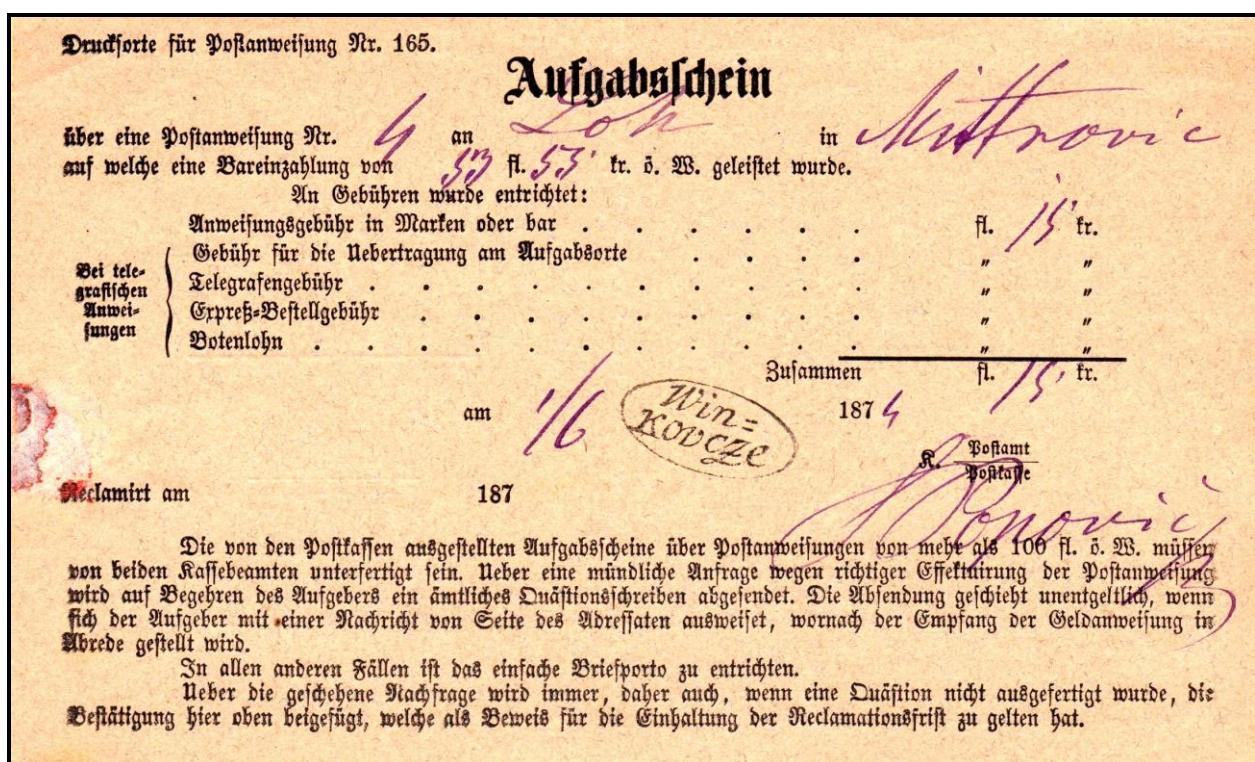


Figure 7: The German side of a money order dispatch receipt dated 1874.

Tiskanice broj 165.

## Predatnica

vrhu doznačnice broj pod naslovom  
na koju bijaše svota od for. nvč. uplaćena.

Za ovu bijaše plaćeno:

Kod doznačnicah brzojavnim putem	pristojba za doznačnicu u biljegah ili gotovom novcu . . .	for.	nvč.	
				Ukupno
	pristojba za prenošenje k brzojavnomu uredu . . .	"	"	
	brzojavna pristojba . . . . .	"	"	
	naročita dostavbina . . . . .	"	"	
	pristojba za glasnika . . . . .	"	"	

dne 187

Kralj. poštarski ured  
poštarska blagajna

Potražena dne 187

Predatnice izdane od poštarskih blagajnsih vrhu doznačnicah prieko 100 fr. imadu biti podpisane od obiuh blagajuičkih činovnikah. Na ustmeno potraživanje radi izvršene izručbe doznačene svote, odpraviti će se na zahtevanje predatelja potražnica službenim putem, koja će biti bezplatno odpravljena, ako se predatelj viesču od strane naslovnika izkaže, da doznačenu svotu primio nije.

U svih inih slučajih plaća se jednostavna poštarina.

Prijavljena potražba zabilježiti će se uvek, ako i potražnica odaslanata nebje, na ovoj predatnici, i biti će dokazom držanog roka za potražbu.

Figure 8: The other side in Croat.



Figure 9: Receipt for dispatch of a money order completed in Croat in 1892.

The start of large scale industrialization in the 1870s called for an easy system for transferring money widely, so the first Croat money orders (Figure 11) appeared in 1871 and were bilingual with German. Soon afterwards they were also printed in the Hungarian and Croat languages (Figure 12). In the mid-1870s a bilingual money order was issued in Croatia-Slavonia imprinted with the Envelope stamp design (Figure 13) in place of the earlier portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph.

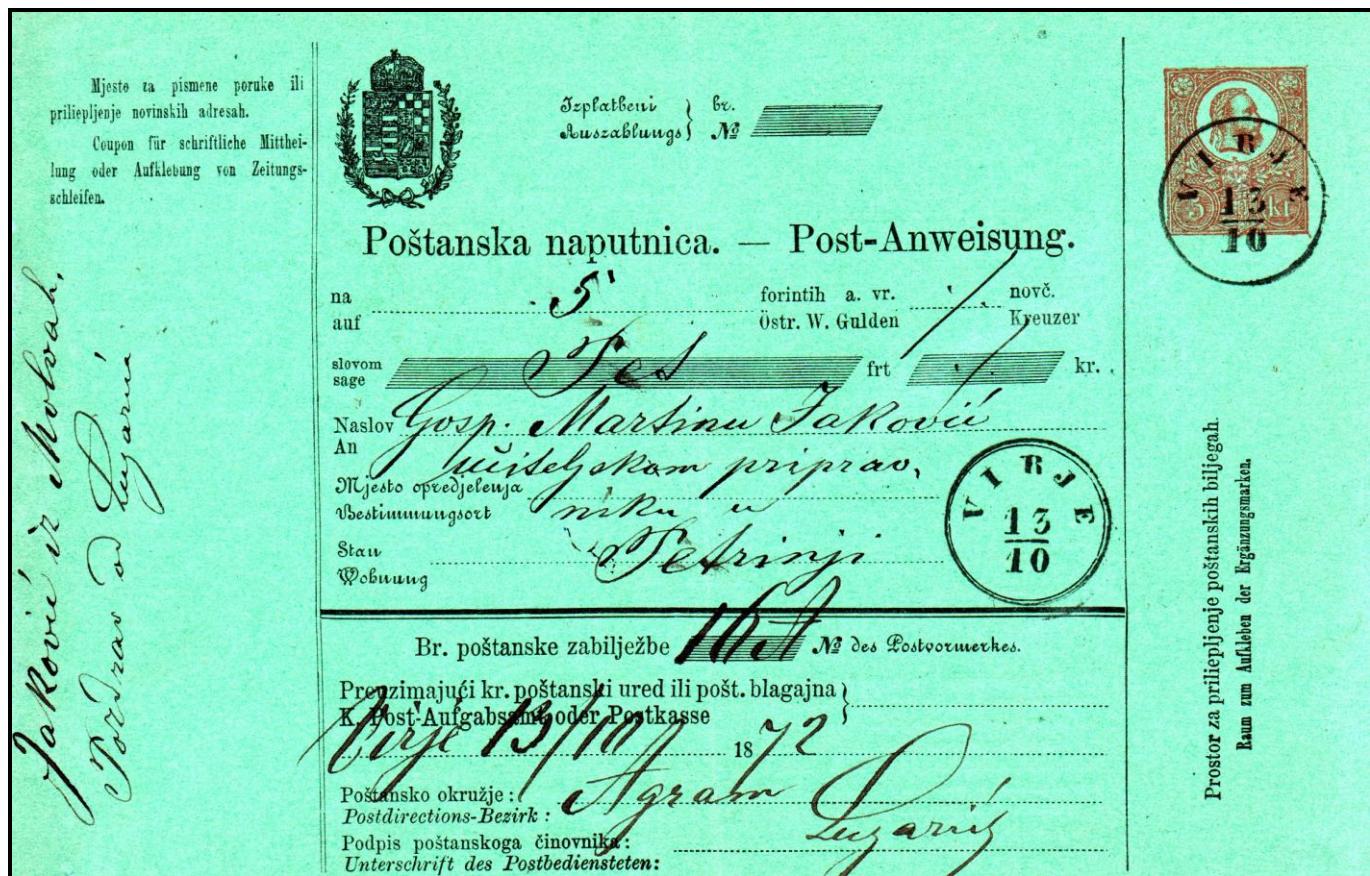
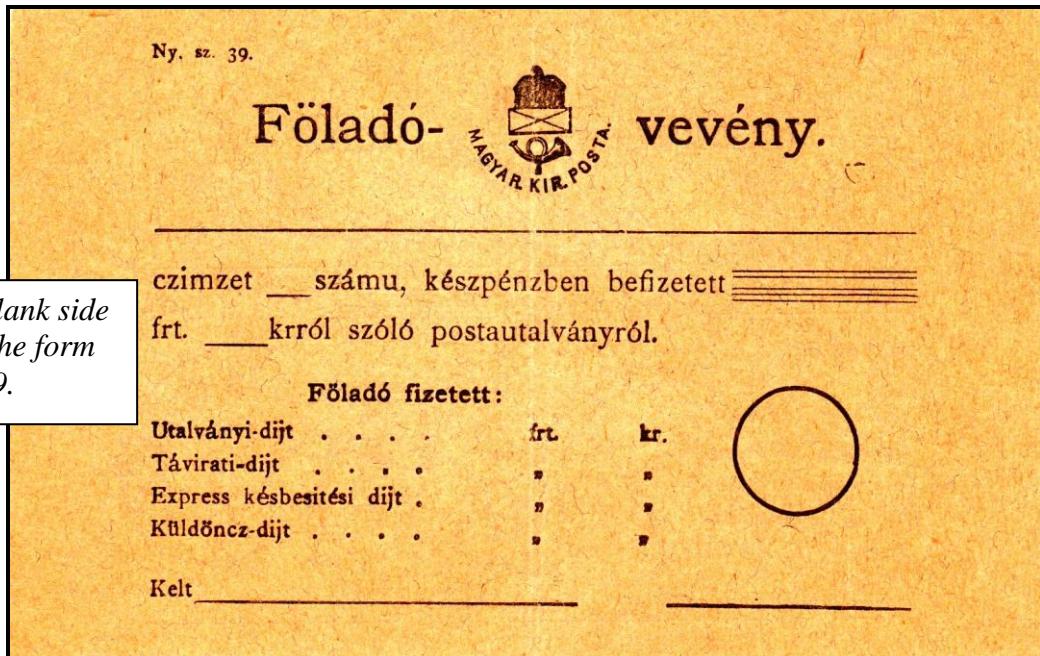


Figure 10: The blank side in Hungarian of the form shown in Figure 9.

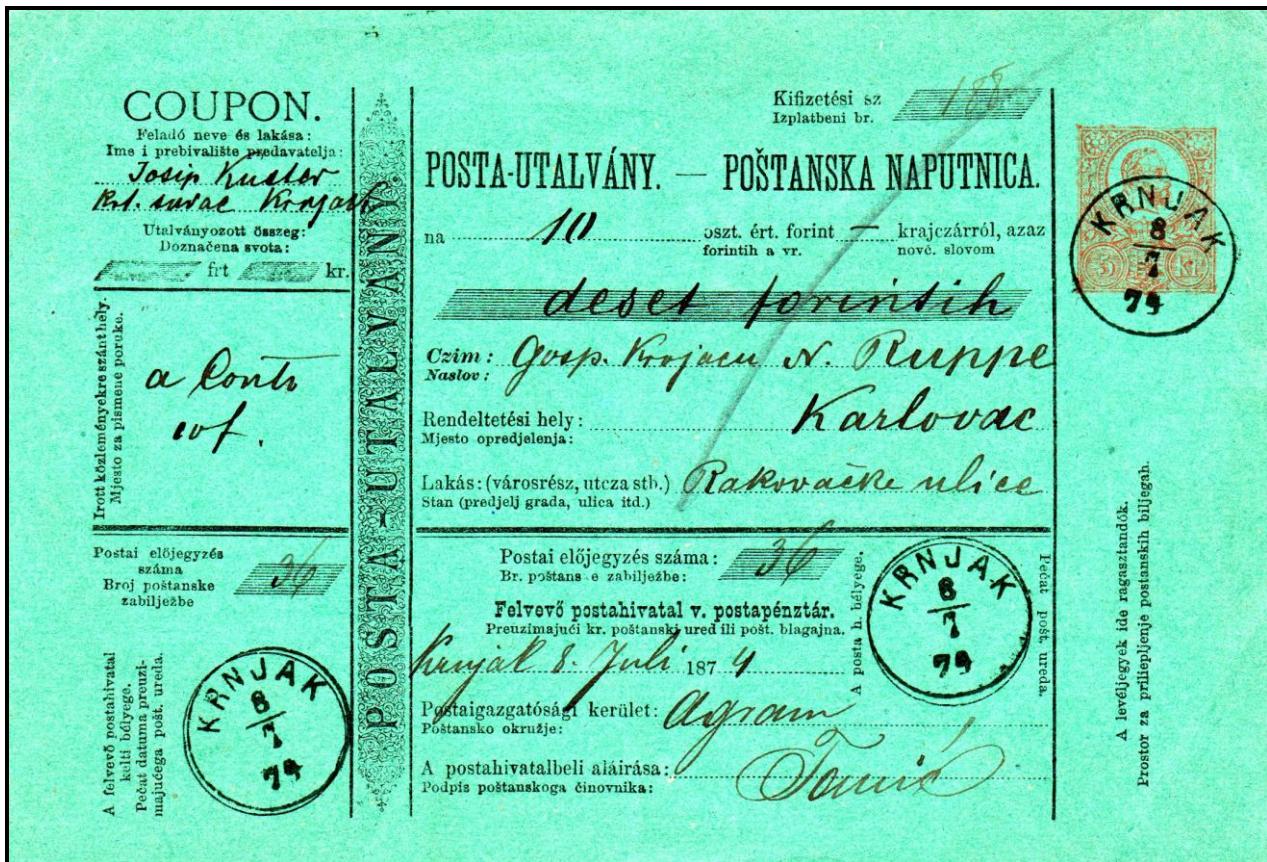


Figure 12: Hungarian-Croat postal order of 1874.



Figure 13: Bilingual postal order of 1875 using the Envelope design.

In addition to money orders, cash on delivery forms were also produced in Croat and German (Figure 14).

Another very rare form was the telegraphic money order which was printed in Hungarian and Croat, and even showed the Croatian coat of arms (Figure 15). This form also shows a rare printing error, using '*Putem b*' instead of '*Putem brzojava*' (Figure 16). A few years later these telegraphic money orders were issued with a different coat of arms and the colours slightly fainter (Figure 17).

For parcels quite a large bilingual bill of delivery was used at first (Figure 18). This was later reduced in size (Figure 19).

The development of telegraph services in the early 1870s also produced a requirement for bilingual telegram forms. These were large pieces of paper, so only the headings are shown (Figure 20).

Initially the telegram form was sent in a separate envelope, but later a double-sided form appeared on which the message was written on one side (Figure 21). The other side of the folded sheet of paper served as an envelope (Figure 22). A bilingual form was also used to send the telegram (Figure 23).



**Figure 14: Bilingual cash on delivery form of 1877.**

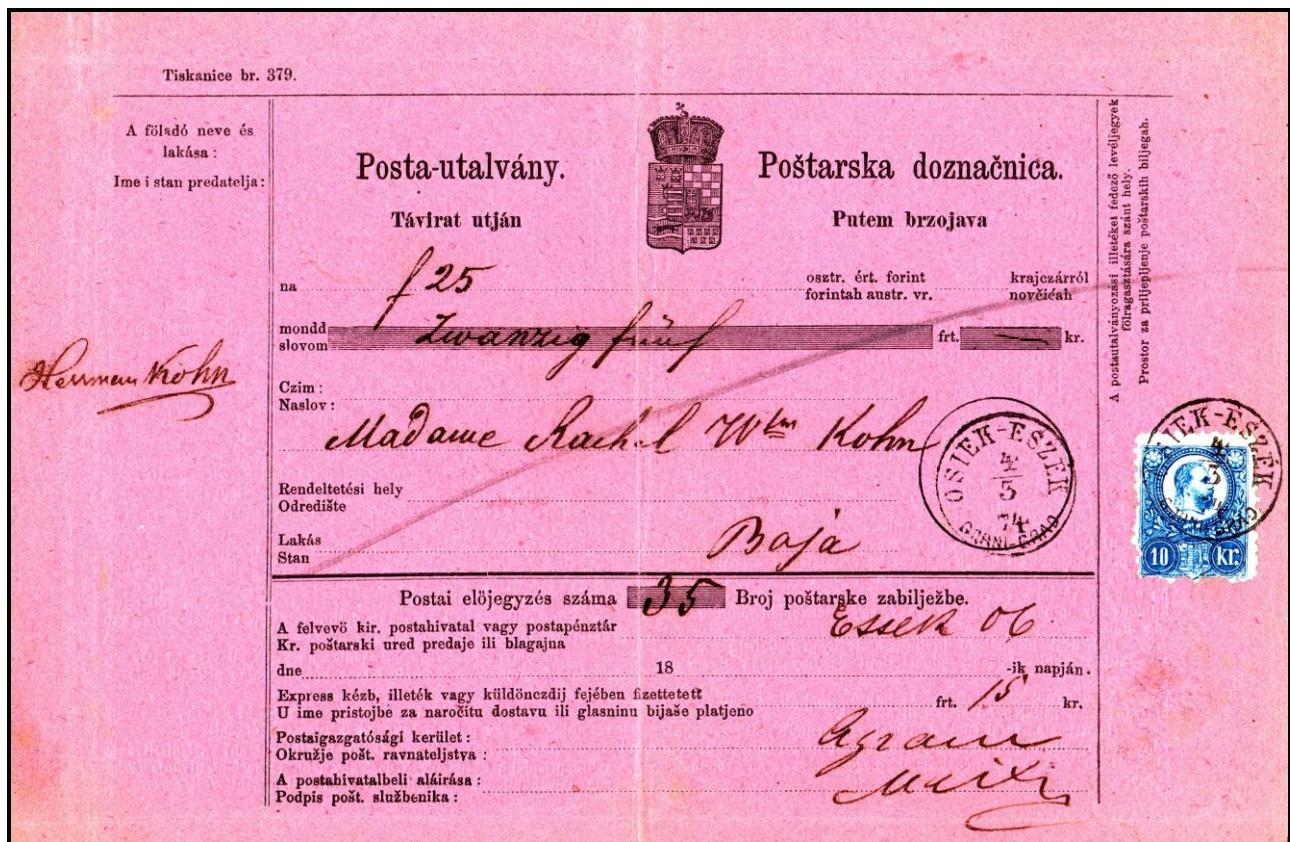


Figure 15: Bilingual telegraphic postal order of 1874 with the Croatian coat of arms.



Figure 16.: Bilingual telegraphic postal order of 1874 with the printing error 'Putem b', circled.



**Figure 17:** Bilingual telegraphic postal order of 1878 showing the Hungarian coat of arms.



**Figure 18: Bilingual bill of delivery of 1877.**



A beérkezési lajstrom száma Broj izkaza prispjetaka			TÁVIRAT. BRZOJAVKA.								A vonal száma Broj žicovoda		
Távirat Brzozavka	Á l l o m á s Postaja	Szám Broj	Osztály Razred	Szószám Broj rieči	Év, hó és nap Godina, mjesec i dan	óra sat	percz čas	napszaka doba dana	Észrevételek Službene primjetbe				
feladatott predana	<i>Praha</i>			(szó rieči jegy znak (dijsszó (taks.r.)	187	8/10/12	20-0						
megérkezett prispjela		6617	h 40		17/10	2	45 m						
<i>Leith Dr. Ignaz Naschauer Empfunden Accep</i>													

Broj	szám.	Jegyzet: Opazka		
Távirat — Brzozavka				
T. <i>Kohler fia Lajos</i>				
<i>Rajevska</i>				
A távirdaállomástól kézbesítés végett kiadatott: Brzozavni ured izda ná izručbu:				
187	hó és nap God., mjes. i dan	óra sat	percz čas	napszaka doba dana

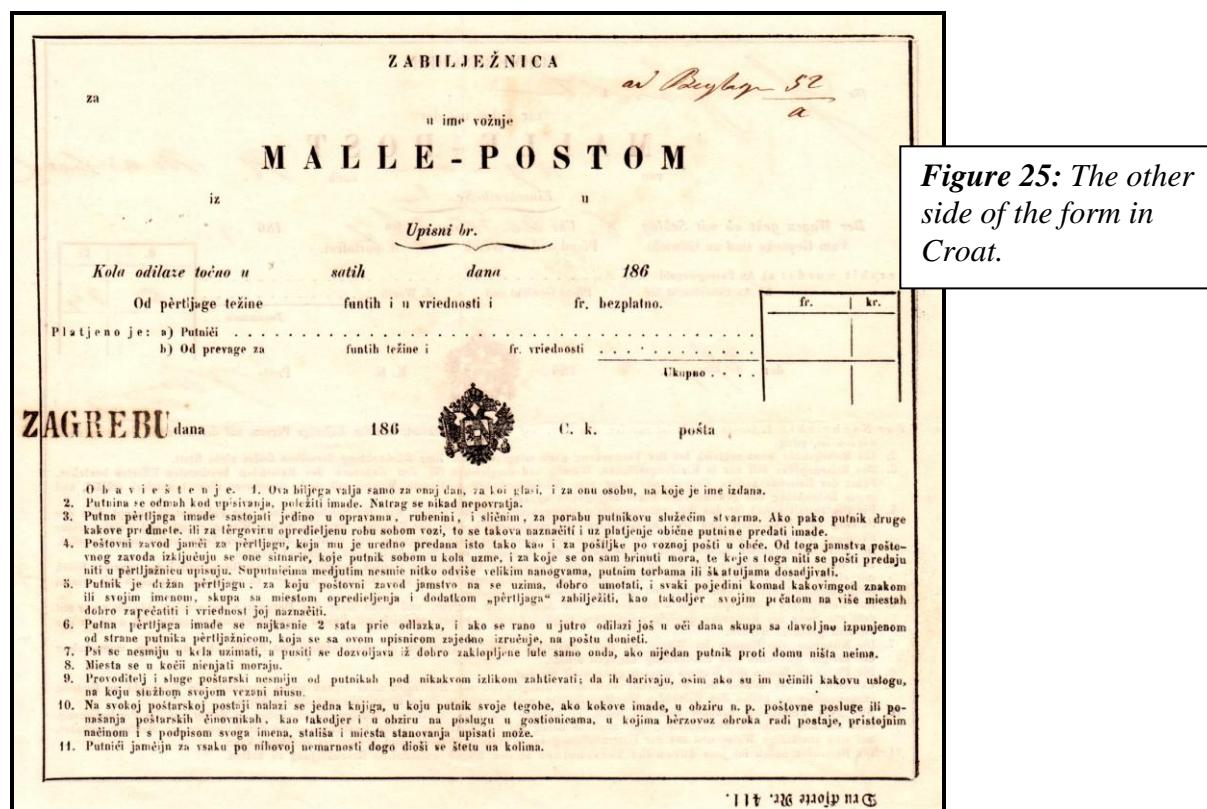
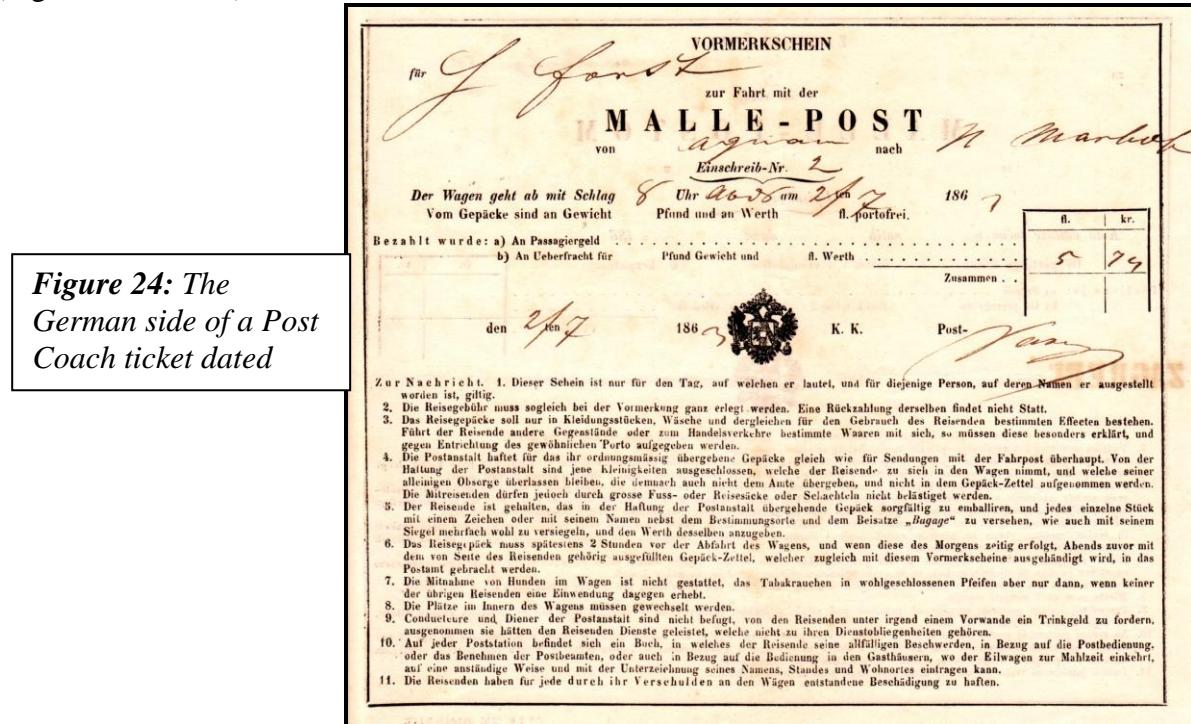
Figure 21: Bilingual telegram form of 1878.

Figure 22: The telegram folded for delivery.

Feladóvevény az alábbiért sürgönyről.		Predatnica vrhu dolje napisane brzozavke.						
								
Rendeltetési hely Mjesto opredjeljenja	Feladási hely Mjesto predaje	Szám Broj	A feladás ideje Vrieme predaje					
			nap dan	óra sat	percz čas	napszaka doba dana	frt fr.	kr novč
Az elfogadó hivatalnok aláírása: Podpispreuzimajućega činovnika:								

Figure 23: Bilingual telegram form

A very rare type of postal form was used when passengers were carried by the coach mail organisation. This was the so called “Malle-Post Vormerkschein” or Post Coach ticket (Figures 20 and 21).



This is not a comprehensive list and there are a number of other 19th century forms in Croatian language that also form part of the Hungarian-Croatian joint postal history. However, I hope it serves as a reminder of the extent to which we have a common past and that it will encourage others to look into it further so that we can research it thoroughly.

## One that got away?

Derek Brinkley

Tony Bosworth in his excellent monograph on postal rates in wartime Croatia (*Jugoposta* 85) illustrates on page 96 a letter from Zepce to Sarajevo dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 1943 carrying postage due stamps, with two revenue stamps affixed and picked out with the postmaster's blue pencil. Tony's comment is "The sender attempted to use revenue stamps as postage, which was of course not accepted."

My immediate reaction to his words 'of course' were no doubt the same as most people's – total endorsement. OF COURSE one would expect revenue stamps not to be accepted! But then in a short period I came across two (*Fig 1*, *Fig 2*) further examples (from interwar SHS/Yugoslavia rather than wartime Croatia). Same blue pencil, same result.



Fig 1 Neither date nor outgoing office is readable. The revenue is the '1927' type.



Fig 2 Dated Zagreb 2 IX 37

And so my mind set began to change from 'of course' to 'why on earth would anyone *expect* to have revenue stamps accepted?' Were they stupid? Or were revenues sometimes accepted?

Finally this (*Fig 3*) appeared.

4106 - Ciney Arkın

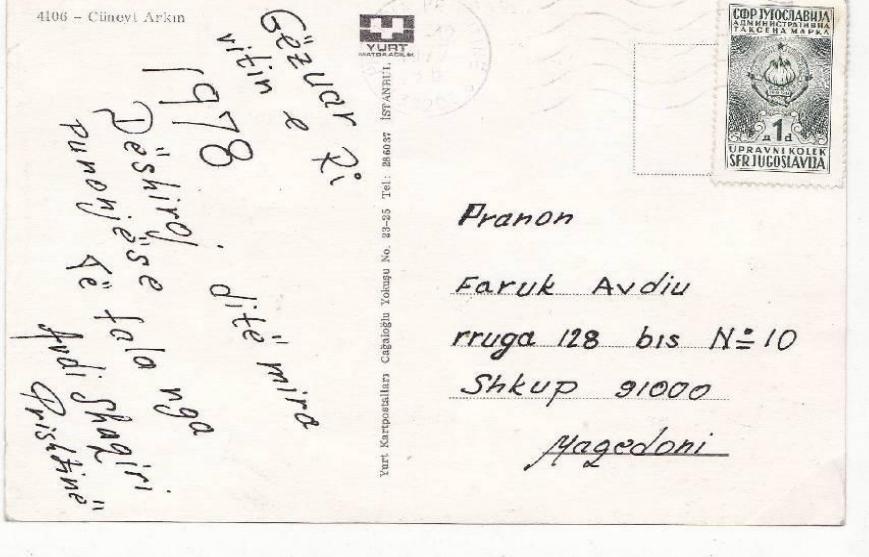


Fig 3 Dec. 1977 From Prishtina, Kosovo to Skopje, Macedonia. Note that the 1 dinar rate is correct for a postcard sent internally at this date. (c.f. Bernard Sharp 'Postal Tariffs of Yugoslavia' Jugoposta 40.)

Obviously it is fully 35 years more recent than Tony's example and more recent still than mine, but it is what it is – a postcard stamped with an administrative revenue stamp, and apparently postally used without challenge at either end. Moreover it has gone through a franking machine as normal postage. Were it individually handstamped I might assume that there was a sudden shortage of the correct stamps and the Postmaster had improvised and authorised inside the post office, making use of a revenue, in the same way that was often done on parcel receipts etc. (Fig 4)



Fig 4 Two revenues and a postage due used at Susak 25 VI 37 on the reverse of a German Paketkarte Bulletin d'Expedition, probably to pay storage (see David L. Herendeen's article 'The Evolution of Postage Due in Proto-Yugoslavia' in Jugoposta 97 pp 13-4)

So, belatedly, to my query. Was this simply one that got away? Or were there situations in which the Postal Authorities accepted franking with revenues? And if so, what were the conditions?

## SHS Postage Dues – the Naughty Bits

Derek Brinkley

David L. Herendeen's article 'The Evolution of Postage Due in Proto-Yugoslavia' in *Jugoposta* 97 pp 4-18 is an excellent review of the situation, and, as far as the Gibbons Listed issues are concerned, very comprehensive. However, he fails to make any mention at all of the temporary handstamped issues.

At this point I shall pause for a moment whilst all my Purist readers throw their copies of the magazine at the wall, muttering 'And he was quite right not to mention them – local rubbish purely aimed at milking philatelists (and that's just the ones that aren't modern Ebay fakes)!'

So let us confront the issue head on with the aid of Figure 1.



Figure 1

Before the end of World War 1 an Austrian Government Office in Marburg an der Drau (soon to become Maribor in Slovenia) distributes Portofreie envelopes to carry replies to their correspondence. Shortly after the end of the war one of the recipients of this largesse attempts to use it. (The date is unreadable, but before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1919 when the postal rate rose from 20v to 30v – c.f. Bernard Sharp 'Postal Tariffs of Yugoslavia' *Jugoposta* 40.) He initials it lightly in the bottom left corner and posts it. However, the newly independent SHS Post Office sees no reason why they should be deprived of income through documents issued by the erstwhile enemy, and slap 20v+20v worth of provisional handstamped Postage Dues on it.

This is speculation, but seems to me entirely plausible. I am the first to admit that often these provisionals were indeed used for philatelic purposes, (see Figures 6 & 11 below for examples) but so are most modern first day covers, and that does not destroy their validity. I have seen enough postal uses of these provisionals to make me think it is worthwhile to consider them. What follows is in no way a complete catalogue, but simply an attempt to 'out' them, and stimulate study and discussion.

Firstly let us consider why Post Masters in SHS seemed to be so often short of Postage Dues that they had to improvise them. The answer is not that Proto-Yugoslavs were especially

prone to understamp correspondence, nor that Postage Dues were produced only in small numbers. The problem was, as Mr Herendeen points out (op. cit. pp13-14), that so many of them were used for payment of a variety of other Post Office fees. He mentions parcel storage and Value Declared fees. It is quite possible they were already being used for other purposes such as poundage (dinarage?) on Postal Orders, and on postal receipts. I have seen these in the Yugoslav, but not the SHS, period.

The most commonly used form of provisional was a handstamped PORTO in different sizes (Figures 2 & 3) or Porto (figure 4).



Figure 2 PORTO small handstamp  
Top row 16 cm x 5.5 cm  
Bottom row 15.5 cm x 4.5 cm



Figure 3 PORTO large handstamp  
20 cm x 5.5 cm



Figure 4 Porto  
16 cm x 5.5 cm (height of P)

The unused strip of three in Figure 2 suggests that whole sheets were prepared in advance, rather than simply stamping individual postals as required. Also single 10v stamps can be found handstamped twice (Figure 5). This is in no way an error, but preparation to use bisects as 5v values (Figure 6).



Figure 5



Figure 6  
Unaddressed, this is  
presumably philatelic.  
I have seen, but do not  
possess, examples of the  
bisects which seem to be  
postally used.

All these examples are on the Slovene issued Verigari stamps. Figure 7 shows a PORTO overprint on the Croat Angel issue, and an additional handstamp of BOSNA on a Verigari 20v. I illustrate these for record and comment, but have no great confidence in the genuineness of either.



Figure 7

Much scarcer than Porto in full is a single P handstamp.



Figure 8

Outside of Yugoslavia the creation of Postage Dues by the use of postals handstamped with the T, kept in most Post Offices to mark deficiencies in payment on covers, is quite widespread. For instance Switzerland in the 1960s made very extensive use of them. It may be that the squared T overprint that can sometimes be found on early issues of Montenegro served this purpose (Figure 9). In SHS occasional examples of this can be found, extending into the post 1921 period (Figures 10 and 11).



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11  
Philatelic

Finally, the reverse of this situation was that occasionally, and in a similarly unlisted way, proper Postage Dues were stamped FRANCO (Figures 12 and 13). This appears to have happened only on the Bosnian stamps, although I have a single example of FRANCA handstamped on a Slovenian issue – but on a postal not a Postage Due! (Figure 14) Any explanation for this would be welcome: otherwise I will write it off as a particularly ignorant bit of fakery.



Figure 12 FRANCO  
Serif capitals



Figure 13 FRANCO  
Sans serif capitals



Figure 14 FRANCA

## Postal Agencies in Srem

Tønnes Ore

I have had the pleasure of digging up some information for a fellow member, and this information might be worthy of a page in Jugopošta. The question was about Postal Agencies – what exactly were they, and how many were there in Srem?

A Postal Agency (PA) was a very small post office which provided limited postal services for a small community. It was normally run on a part-time basis by a person who had some additional occupation, and could be located in a private home. The concept was introduced in 1902. In some cases the mail traffic grew so much that a regular Post Office (PO) was opened to replace the PA. But there were also instances of reduced traffic, so that a village had its PO replaced by a PA. Some places also experienced periods with no PO or PA whatsoever.

The Hungarian postal agencies used lozenge shaped postmarks with the text ‘**posta ügyn**’ in the lower line. The postal agencies to 1918 in Srem were the following:

Adaševci: PO 1870-73, no service 1873-1916, PA 1916-

## *Belegiš*: PA from 1914

*Boljevci: PA 1909-13, PO from 1913*

### Čortanovci: PA from 1909

Dec: PA from 1913

Grgurevci: PA 1907-13, PO from 1913

Jarak: PO 1875-1909, PA from 1909

### *Jazak: PA from 1910*

### Krčedin: PA from 1907

### Ledinci: PA from 1913

### *Mala Vašica*: PA from 1913

Novi Banovci: PA from 1914

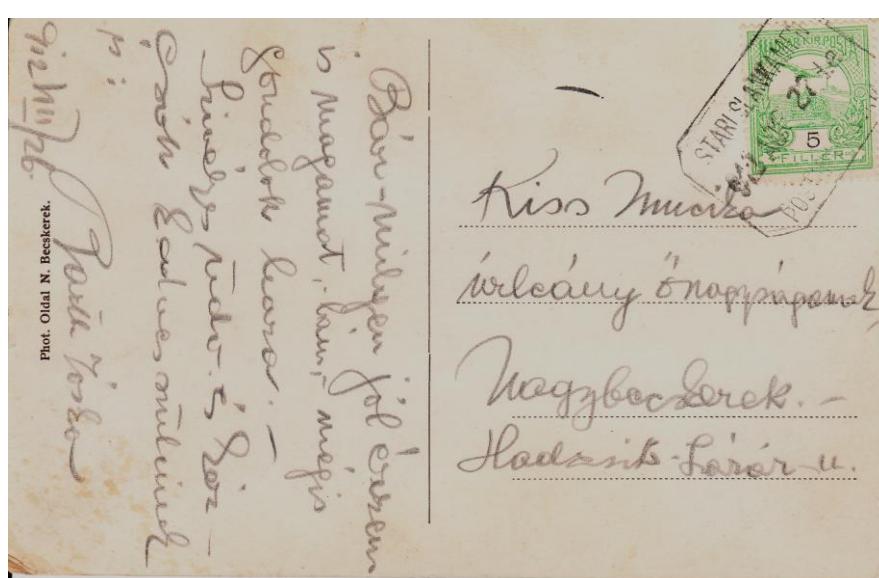
### Novi Banovci: PA from 1909

Salvador. FA Home  
Set. PA from 1913

Stari Slankamen: PA from 1908

Susek: PQ 1773-1893 no service 1893-1907 PA from 1907

Voika: PA 1904-11. PQ from 1911.



Postcard mailed from the  
Stari Slankamen Postal  
Agency, 26 March 1912

## Auctioneer's report: Auction #38

Steve Woolnough

In terms of lots, this was by far the largest auction I had attempted during my tenure as YSG Auctioneer. I had been fortunate enough to have a considerable quantity of material for inclusion. Of the 360 lots, 97 sold which equates to a sale rate of 27%. A total of 157 bids were placed by 16 members and six vendors submitted material for sale. The Hansell lots attracted much interest and attracted many bids. As usual, the NDH Croatia postal history items were keenly fought over. In contrast, WWI feldpost had very few bidders and appears to be an under-collected subject area for our members.

If any members wish to contact me after the auction has closed to see if any items remain available, please do so. Any unsold lots can be bought at the reserve price whilst they remain in my possession – which is usually up to two months after the auction closes.

Some points to note, please:

- If you would like scans of items, please ask for them as soon as possible to give me time to provide. Requesting scans during the week before the auction closes will be risky as I may not be available to attend to the task.
- To be fair to all members, the closing date of the auction is final and cannot be changed. I cannot keep the auction open for individual members who have requested scans at the last minute and are waiting for me to send them before they decide whether to bid or not. To clarify, for email bids, I will be working from the date/time the email is sent, not when I open it.
- Please do not chase emails until a week after sending them. My self-imposed Service Level Agreement is to reply within one week. I regularly have to work away from home so am often not available to provide an immediate answer. I will always reply confirming email bids and will acknowledge requests for scans even if I may not immediately be in a position to send the scans themselves.
- I work full-time (and some!), and whilst I do my best to post out the lots to winning bidders as soon as possible, please appreciate that after the auction closes, I need to check the results, write up the invoices, package the items and visit the post-office – all of which takes time. So I would be grateful if members did not chase demanding to know where their lots are only a matter of days after the auction has closed. I try to get the lots posted within two weeks of the auction closing but occasionally, life outside of philately has intervened which has extended this for some postings to three weeks.
- In any single auction, I will be pleased to provide scans of up to 20 lots (and more by exception for regular bidders). I don't like having to fix a maximum but unfortunately, some members appear to collect scans rather than philatelic material and I am no longer prepared to provide an extensive free copying service for non-bidders.
- A reminder that under the Auction Rules, auction invoices should be paid within 14 days of the invoice date. Previously, there has never been a problem with late/non-payment but over the last two auctions I have had to chase. The timeframe for payment is considerably more generous than any other society auction that I am personally aware of,

and it would assist in making my job easier if members could ensure that payments are made on time.

- If paying by cheque, the cheque must be drawn on a UK bank account and be denominated in GB£. **The payee is to be 'YSG Postal Auctions'.** This is the name of the bank account used for the auction transactions and receiving cheques in any other name causes delay and takes time to resolve, either by having to contact the buyer for a replacement cheque or by passing money between accounts. I state this payee issue on every occasion that I write an Auctioneer's Report and the payee details are stated clearly in bold on the invoice, yet if anything, the position is getting worse. For Auction #38, I had payees including 'YSG Study Group' (a bit of an amalgam of the names of both accounts used by the YSG), 'Steve Woolnough' (very nice, but it is not my money and it necessitates a visit to a branch to pay it in), and somewhat strangely 'Yugoslavia' (a possible contribution to alleviating the sovereign debt of a non-existent country?). I am at a loss as to how to effectively get the message over, so if anyone out there has any ideas, please let me know!

And now an explanation of the change to the way the Auction List is made available to members.

You will have seen on the 2012 Subscription Form that paper copies of the Auction will now only be available to those members who specifically request this. In future, I will be sending out the listing to members via email should they provide either myself or Michael Chant with their email addresses. Those members who are regular email bidders, meaning that I already have their details, do not need to advise me separately. In addition to being advised by email, the auction listing is also available on the YSG web-site:

<http://yugosg.org/>

In addition to making the auction administration quicker and easier by removing the process of getting the listing printed (and the environmental issue of using less paper), there are also considerable financial implications. The current cost of producing the printed version of the list for distribution is £120 per auction (!!). Set against this, is the fact that for the auctions held in 2011, only three members' bids were received via 'snail-mail' using paper bid forms, and one of these members requested scans and was asking questions using email. Clearly, then, the vast majority of auction participants are familiar with IT and using email. Also, reducing our costs by £240 p.a. at a time when all other prices appear to be rising has enabled the society to continue hold the membership fees at the pre-existing level for 2012.

It is important to note that paper copies of the Auction List **WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE** and if required will continue to be sent out with Jugoposta as has been the case up to now. All that is needed is for any member who wishes to receive a paper copy to advise me or Michael Chant accordingly. **IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS OR REQUEST A PAPER COPY, IT WILL BE ASSUMED THAT YOU DO NOT REQUIRE THE AUCTION LISTING.**

Finally, I would like to thank members for their Christmas greetings and kind and supportive words. It isn't easy to run the auction and I very much value your positive comments.

Here's wishing you all happy, healthy and successful collecting in 2012,

## YSG Publications

Publication	UK	Europe	Elsewhere
Regular <i>Jugopošta</i> [Numbers 1 through 70 - Printed only]	Please enquire		
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Special Offer! <i>The Postal History of Sremska Mitrovica</i> - Last copy	£6	£6 (or 10 Euros)	£6 (or 10 Dollars)
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- Orders should be sent to the Treasurer
- Payment may be made by sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank (made payable to Yugoslavia Study Group), in cash (Sterling, Euros or US\$) or by PayPal
- Payment using PayPal must be in Sterling and £1 extra must be remitted to cover our costs
- All prices include postage & packing – prices in brackets apply to payments in cash