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# Jugopošta

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# **Yugoslavia Study Group**

Founded in 1984 to promote the study of the stamps and postal history of Yugoslavia, its predecessor and successor states

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## **Availability of Jugopošta**

- Jugopošta is published by the Yugoslavia Study Group quarterly in March, June, September and December and is distributed free to members.
- Three issues cover a variety of subjects and are produced on paper while one issue is generally in the form of a single subject monograph and produced on CD (paper copies available on request).
- Current subscriptions are £12 per annum (UK) and £13 (Europe and overseas).
- Jugopošta will be sent by surface mail to overseas members unless additional funds are received for airmail postage (minimum £6).
- Additional copies of Jugopošta are available through the Treasurer and a priced list of YSG publications is located on the back cover.
- Payment of annual subscriptions and for publications may be made by cheque drawn on a UK bank (made payable to Yugoslavia Study Group), in cash (Sterling, Euros or US\$) or by PayPal.
- Payment by PayPal must be in Sterling and £1 extra must be remitted to cover our costs.

## From the President

This is the second magazine produced by our new Editor; the first was well received and attracted a great deal of positive comment. Well done Nick, keep up the good work.

It has been our policy to produce a monograph in June each year, but this year the monograph on *"The History and Feldpost of the Croat Legions in the German Heer"* has been rescheduled for September. It will be a publication well worth waiting for.

As a result of the drastic increase in postal costs on 30th April this year, and other costs rising with inflation we have no alternative but to increase subscriptions as from 1st January 2013. This will enable us to continue to produce quality publications and services which we have been enjoying. Later in the year I will let you know details of the increases.

Please share your knowledge with all of us by sending articles to our Editor; and let our Auctioneer have your surplus material so that it circulates to other members, because our superb auction is a cheap and reliable way to enhance your collection.

**A J Bosworth FRPSL**

## From the Editor

I thank readers for encouraging remarks made following Jugopošta 101, which was the first edition which I published.

The Committee has decided that the next monograph, due to its size and the increasing costs referred to above, will be issued on CD. Those members wishing to receive a printed version instead may still do so but must inform Tony Bosworth of that decision no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July (email and postal addresses opposite) otherwise a CD will be sent.

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## Cover Story

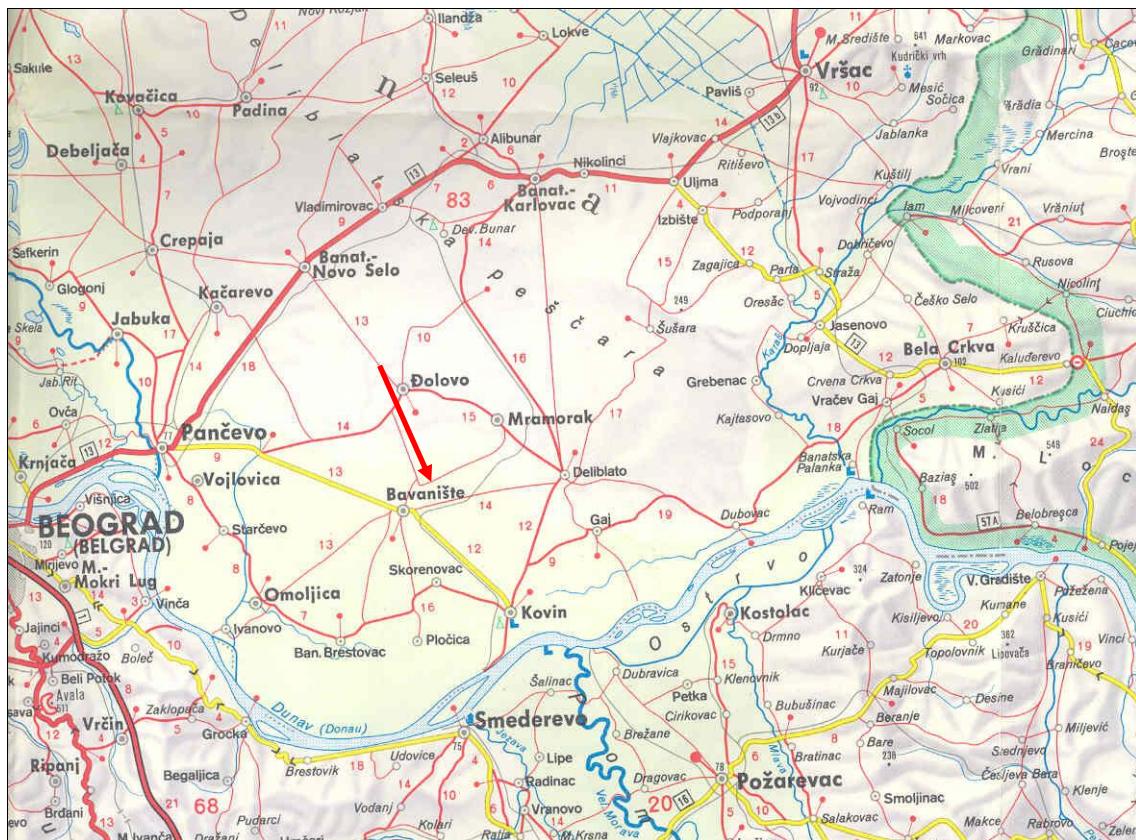
This is a Hungarian fieldpost card sent from Cetinje to Bavanište and handled there on 2nd November 1919. The postmaster applied two stamps of 30 vinar from the Slovenian issue, both overprinted with “PORTO”. For an explanation, see the article commencing on Page 4.

# A Few Remarks to BAVANIŠTE / HOMOKBÁLVÁNYOS

Helmut Kobelbauer

*(This article was first published in Stamps Of Hungary and is reproduced here with kind permission. The author has made slight changes to the original article.)*

The village Bavanište in the very south of the Temes county had a clear majority of Serbian inhabitants but was renamed to Homokbálványos in 1911 as a consequence of the “Magyarization” of geographical and personal names that had started in the 1880s.



Cut-out from a Yugoslavia map (about 1980) with Bavanište near the centre (see arrow).

After the Belgrade Armistice of November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1918, between the victorious Entente forces and the defeated Hungarians, it was – like most of the surrounding Banat – occupied by Serbian forces. As far as its postal facilities were concerned, it was administered by the postal directorate of Temesvár (Temišvar in Serbian, Timișoara in Romanian). At the postal office of Homokbálványos they continued to use Hungarian stamps as long as such were available. The supply of stamps and postal forms and stationery for the Banat still came from Budapest until in March 1919 the “Soviet Republic of Hungary” was declared and the Serbian forces closed down the border.

In the region around Homokbálványos there were a few Serbian censorship offices (at least in the first months of 1919): the most important was in Pancova (Pančevo in Serbian), with smaller ones in Fehértemplom (Bela Crkva in Serbian) and in Kevevára (Kovin in Serbian). Even Pančevo was closed down as a censorship office, when censorship of the domestic mail was stopped in November 1919. At the end of 1918, the basic exchange rate between the

Serbian currency (1 Dinar = 100 Paras) and the Austro-Hungarian currency (1 Krone = 100 Heller or, in Hungary, 1 Korona = 100 Fillér) was 1:2, i. e., 1 Dinar was equal to 2 Kronen/Korona. In all areas attached to the Kingdom S. H. S. or occupied by its military forces, the tariff system for the postal services stayed unchanged. Especially, all the regional peculiarities of the postal system were not touched until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919, so that, e. g., the special parcel rates for Bosnia and the Hercegovina were valid until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1919. In real life, the banknotes that had been issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank quickly lost (part of) their buying value, and some inflationary pressure made itself felt.

Beginning with July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919, the postal rates in the Kingdom S. H. S. were unified and – on that occasion – raised, i. e., adapted to inflation, in the non-Serbian parts. The exchange rate between the Serbian and the Austro-Hungarian currencies was officially changed to 1:3.

The postal rates in the area administered by Temesvár (Temešvar) were raised, too, but to different values (probably to compensate for the inflationary devaluation of the Hungarian currency):

	Postcard	Domestic letter	Registration	Express delivery
Hungary (1)	10 fillér	20 fillér	25 fillér	60 fillér
Kingdom S. H. S. (except Serbia)	15 filir/vinar	30 filir/vinar	60 filir/vinar	100 filir/vinar
Serbia	5 para	10 para	20 para	30 para
Temesvár area (2)	30 fillér	50 fillér	100 fillér	200 (300 ?) filler

**Basic postal fees for domestic mail from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919, until May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1920.**

(1) The Hungarian fees were valid only until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1919, and were then changed.

(2) These rates were also valid in the Serb-occupied Baranya according to Karl Endrödi.

In reaction to this change of postal rates, the postmaster of Bavanište asked for a delivery of appropriate regular and postage due stamps. But part of the Western Banat, including Temesvár, was ceded by the Serbian government to the Romanians at the end of July 1919, so obviously such a delivery (at least of postage due stamps) did not take place.



The southern part of the Temes county – map taken from [Lelkes].

After the cession of the Western Banat which was taken over by the Romanian administration in the first days of August 1919, Bavanište became subordinate to the postal directorate of Veliki Bečkerek (Nagybecskerek in Hungarian). But – and this is really curious – the “special” rates that had been established for the Temesvár postal administration seem to have been kept valid also under the new circumstances (see later).



The southern part of the Torontál county – map taken from [Lelkes].

According to Leslie Ette, the postal administration (i. e., of Veliki Bečkerek) permitted the postmaster of Bavanište/Homokbálványos on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1919, to overprint available regular stamps with “PORTO” for use as postage due stamps. (Others cite September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1919.)

The postmaster must have been waiting eagerly for this acknowledgement. The following stampless letter from Vinkovci, sent on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1919, with the (rather scarce) censorship marks of the public prosecutors office in Novi Sad, was handled in Bavanište to receive four 25 fillér stamps of the Charles issue with “PORTO” overprint and was cancelled “HOMOKBÁLVÁNYOS” on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1919, so very shortly after the official permission.

One tends to think that the postmaster had already prepared Hungarian stamps with the overprint and was just waiting to use them.



Very early use of the “PORTO” overprint in Bavište/Homokbálványos:  
September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1919. The (indelible) red arrow points to the (scarce)  
censorship marks applied in Novi Sad.

The postage due applied amounts to 100 fillér, so the regular rate for this letter must have been considered to be 50 fillér – in accordance with the “special” rates of the Temesvár area.



Postcard from Cetinje, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1919, to Bavanište.

The next depicted item (see previous page) is a Hungarian field post card, sent from Cetinje to Bavanište and handled there on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1919. The postmaster applied two stamps of 30 vinar from the Slovenian issue, both overprinted with “PORTO”, so again following the special rates established for the Temesvár area. The card also carries the violet censorship mark from Pančevo. At that time, both Montenegro and Serbia had switched over to the Gregorian calendar, so the long duration of delivery cannot be explained by the famous 13 days between the Julian and Gregorian calendars.



Card from Brčko (Bosnia), December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1919, to Bavanište.

The last item is from an Austrian collection (different from the author's) and possibly indicates that some time in November or December 1919 the postmaster of Bavanište switched to the “usual” postal rates of the (non-Serbian parts of the) Kingdom S. H. S. and abandoned the “special” tariff of the Temesvár area. (Other pieces from 1920 still have the “special” rates applied.)

The postcard carries a 10 vinar stamp of the Slovenian issue, but the nominal fee was 15 (vinar or filir or whatever). So 5 (vinar) were missing, double that makes 10 (vinar) – as applied in Bavanište with a “10 PORTO 10” overprint on a (2 fillér) Hungarian newspaper stamp, cancelled with the “HOMOKBÁLVÁNYOS” c.d.s. on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1919.

This article, the author hopes, is explaining a few of the involved rates (and therefore postage due amounts that can be found on items handled in Bavanište) during the period of interest by referring to the political and economical circumstances of the time. But these answers give cause to a few more questions:

- When (and why) did the postmaster of Bavanište / Homokbálványos abandon the “special” rates of the Temesvár area? And did he consistently so or just occasionally?
- Are there other postal items from the Western Banat where these “special” rates have been used, and for what period of time?

Answers (to the author or to the editor of this magazine) would be most welcome.

References: L. S. Ette: “HOMOKBÁLVÁNYOS – A Special Overprint Nobody Knows”. Stamps of Hungary, vol. 3, no. 2-3 (March 1978), pages 8 – 19.

György Lelkes: “Magyar Helységnév-Azonosító Szótár” [Lexicon of Hungarian Place Names]. Talma Könyvkiadó, Baja, 1998.

# The Island of Pag - An Update

Geoff Barling

## 1 Introduction

Jugopošta Number 44 (March 1996) contains my first attempt to describe the postal history of the Island of Pag to 1995. This article is an attempt to update the previous article my having acquired more material, but material is very scarce since the permanent population in 1992 was only 5,000 - thousands more people in the tourist season of course!

## 2 Where is the Island of Pag?

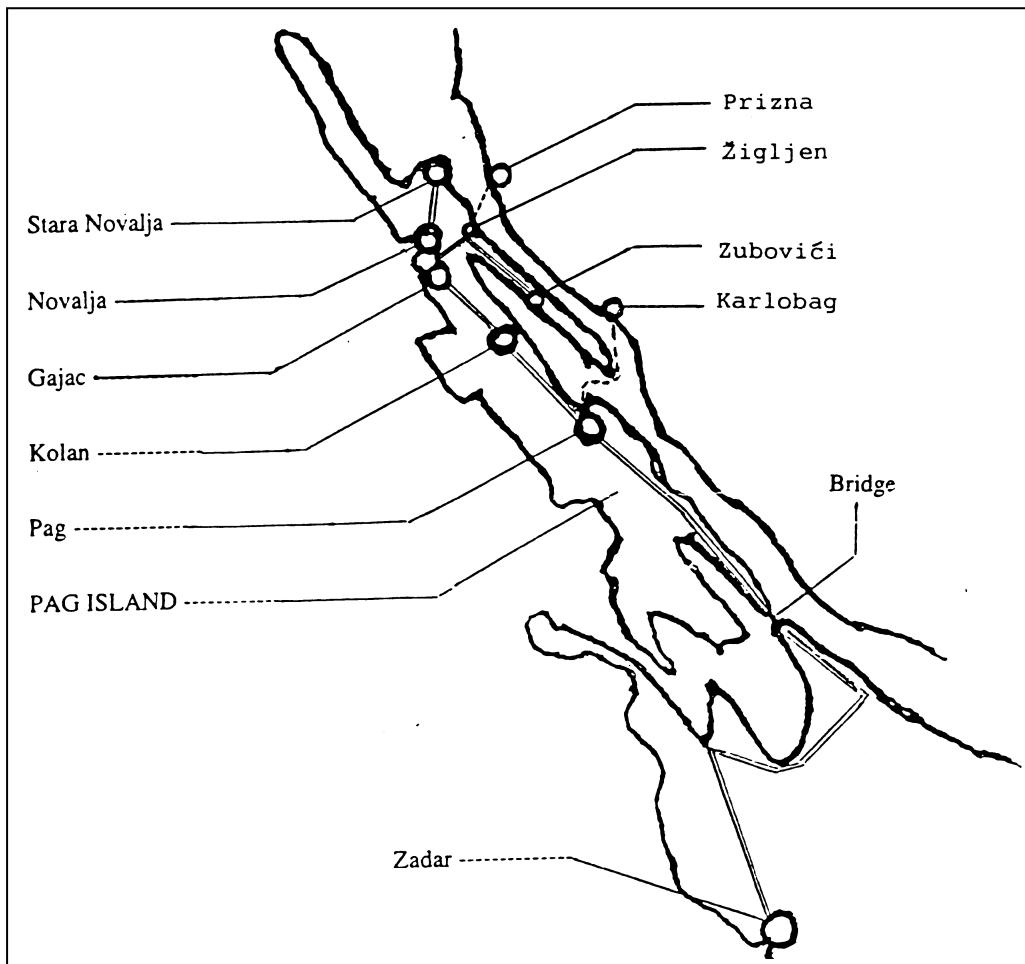
The Island of Pag, famous for its excellent but expensive sheep's cheese, is located off the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, north of the town of Zadar (See map below).

The overall length of the island is about 60 km.

A short bridge connects the island to the mainland north of Zadar and in addition there are two car ferries

- Pag (Town) to Karlobag
- Žigljen (near Novalja) to Prizna.

In times of storm force winds ("Bura"), the latter ferry uses Stara Novalja instead of Žigljen



### **3 Postal Administrations**

#### **3.1 Late 1814 - 28 October 1918**

Austria

With the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte looming, in late 1814 Austria took over the previously French territory in Croatia and the whole of the Dalmatian coast of Croatia was under Austria during the above dates except that Hungary took over Fiume (Rijeka) on 1 April 1868.

#### **3.2 28 October 1918 - 31 November 1918**

State of the Slovenes, Croats and Serbs (SSHS)

This was a proclaimed union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia after the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

#### **3.3 1 December 1918 - April 1941**

Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS), from 1929 Yugoslavia

SHS was a union of the SSHS with Serbia (including Macedonia) and Montenegro

The SHS changed its name to Yugoslavia in 1929.

#### **3.4 April 1941 - 1945**

Nezavisna Država Hrvatska (NDH) [Independent State of Croatia]

#### **3.5 1945 - 14 January 1992**

Second Yugoslavia Period

#### **3.6 15 January 1992 - 1995**

Republic of Croatia (ROC)

The European Union recognised Croatia as independent on 15 January 1992. ROC introduced her own postal rates immediately on declaring independence on 25 June 1991.

### **4 Currencies**

#### **4.1 Austrian Period**

The Austrian currency used for postal purposes was initially

- To 31 October 1858

1 Gulden = 60 Kreuzer

[Interestingly, in 1811 Austria was close to bankruptcy and the paper money in use at the time was devalued by no less than 80% !]

In 1857, Austria joined the German Customs Union and as a result the currency was again devalued.

At the same time it was decided to introduce the decimal system – so, the Austrian postal currency became

- From 1 November 1858 to 31 December 1899

1 Gulden = 100 Kreuzer

There was a further change later such that the Austrian postal currency became

- From 1 January 1900 to 1918

1 Krone = 100 Heller

The change of postal currency on 1 January 1900 was such that 1 Gulden = 2 Krone.

#### **4.2 SSHS/SHS/Yugoslavia Periods**

The currency of the SSHS/SHS/First Yugoslavia was 1 Dinar (D1) = 100 Para

and was first introduced in the Kingdom of Serbia.

This was the pre-WW1 currency of Serbia.

In the republics that previously were in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Austro-Hungarian currencies continued to be used in parallel with the D1 until 1 April 1921 being then demonetised.

The Austro-Hungarian currency in Croatia was renamed as 1 Kruna = 100 Filir

It would appear that the Dinar (D1) was legal tender in Croatia during the transition period - indeed, banknotes issued on 26 February 1920 were denominated in both Dinars (D1) and Kruna - but the Kruna was not legal tender in Serbia (including Macedonia) and Montenegro.

In 1921 the double-named currency was abolished and the old banknotes were exchanged for banknotes denominated in Dinars (D1) only.

Postage stamps in Dinars (D1) only were issued from 9 June 1920 but meanwhile Austrian and Hungarian stamps/postal stationery, usually overprinted, continued to be used in the territories that were previously in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

During the period of parallel currencies, the following applied

- 1 D1 = 3 Kruna (December 1918)
- 1 D1 = 4 Kruna (31 December 1919 following a fall in the value of the Kruna)

Internationally the following currency equivalents had applied

- £1 = 24.62 D1 (1875 to 1914)
- \$1 = 5.13 D1 (1875 to 1914)

#### **4.3 NDH Period**

The SHS/Yugoslav Dinar (D1) continued to be used until 6 July 1941.

A new currency of 1 Kuna = 100 Banica was introduced on 7 July 1941.

The Yugoslav Dinar (D1) was converted to the Kuna at par.

Internationally, the currency equivalent 1 (German) Reichsmark = 20 Kuna applied

#### **4.4 Second Yugoslavia Period**

Following the gradual liberation of Croatia the wartime occupation currency of the NDH Kuna continued to be used.

The first common currency for the whole of the second Yugoslavia was the Serbian wartime currency, known as “Occupation” Dinars (D1), which was introduced in October 1944

In Dalmatia, the Kuna was in use concurrently with the Dinar (D1) until August 1945.

In April 1945, a replacement common currency of 1 Dinar (D2) = 100 Para was adopted.

“Occupation” Dinars were converted at a rate of 1 D2 = 2E1 x D1.

The NDH Kuna was converted at a rate of 1 D2 = 40 Kuna.

Following a period of high inflation, the currency was revalued on 1 January 1966 such that

- 1 D3 = 1E2 x D2

Following another period of high inflation, there was another revaluation on 3 January 1990 such that

- 1 D4 = 1E4 x D3

Further currency revaluations due to the ravages of inflation occurred as follows

- 1 D5 = 1E1 x D4 (1 July 1992)
- 1 D6 = 1E6 x D5 (30 September 1993)
- 1 D7 = 1E9 x D6 (7 January 1994)
- 1 D8 = 1.3E7 x D7 (24 January 1994)

[In the above listings, E, the Exponent is the power of 10 - for example, 1.3 E7 is 13,000,000 or 13 million]

#### **4.5 Republic of Croatia Period**

Initially, ROC continued to use the Yugoslav Dinar (D4) listed above.

Then ROC introduced its own currency, the Croatian Dinar (HRD), subdivided as follows

- 1 HRD = 100 Para (24 December 1991)

The HRD was initially at par with the Yugoslav Dinar (D4) and the latter could be changed readily into HRD.

The two currencies were used in parallel until the Yugoslav Dinar (D4) was demonetised for use in Croatia at 14.00 hours on 28 December 1991.

After a period of high inflation, the HRD was itself replaced on 30 May 1994 by the Kuna at an equivalence of 1 Kuna = 1,000 HRD.

The Kuna was subdivided as 1 Kuna = 100 Lipa

#### **5 Postal Rates**

The postal rates applicable to the various postal administrations are too lengthy to be listed in this article but are given in full in Jugopošta Number 70A (Monograph Number 3) of November 2008.

The referenced publication is readily available, but only on CD - see back cover of this Jugopošta.

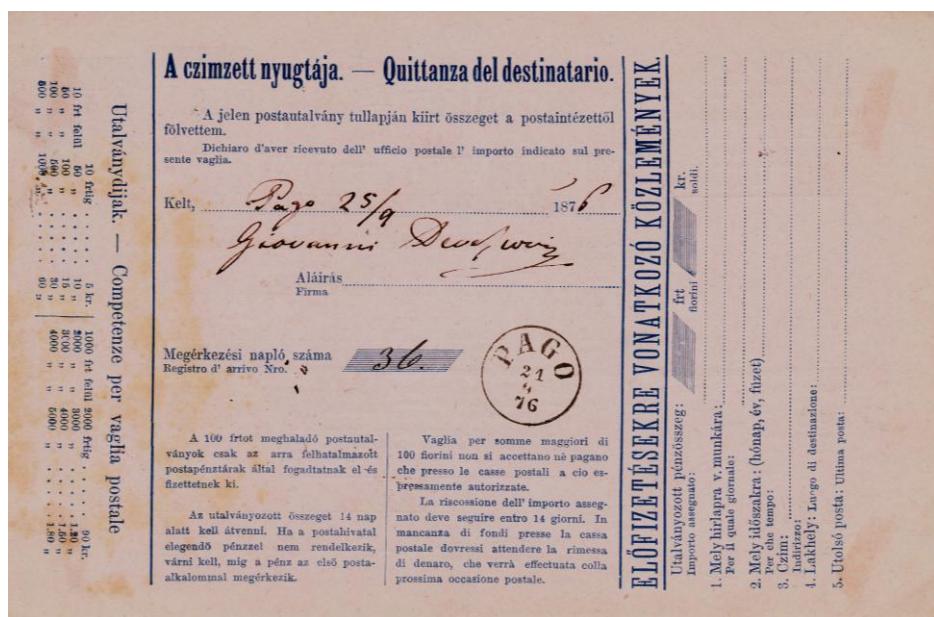
## 6 Covers

### 6.1 Austrian Period (Late 1814 - 28 October 1918)

#### Money Order for 100 (Hungarian) Forint - Fiume (Rijeka), then under Hungary, to Pago (Pag)



Money Order charge - 15 (Hungarian) Krajczar



From the above illustration, it can be seen that the order was cashed on 25 September and the left side of the Money Order lists the then Hungarian Money Order charges.

The Money Order charges are listed in Hungarian currency of 1 Forint = 100 Krajczar  
 - The Hungarian currency was at par with that of Austria.

The charges were:

Money Order Value	Charge	Money Order Value	Charge
To 10 Forint	5 Krajczar	1,000 - 2,000 Forint	50 Krajczar
10 - 50 Forint	10 Krajczar	2,000 - 3,000 Forint	120 Krajczar
50 - 100 Forint	15 Krajczar	3,000 - 4,000 Forint	150 Krajczar
100 - 500 Forint	30 Krajczar	4,000 - 5,000 Forint	180 Krajczar
500 - 1,000 Forint	40 Krajczar		

Notice that the text of the Pag handstamp gives the town name in the Italian form of *Pago* - Common for Dalmatian towns which had been under Venetian occupation or influence.

Pag Post Office opened in 1830.

100 Forint then was £8.10.0 (£8.50), a not inconsiderable sum in those days.

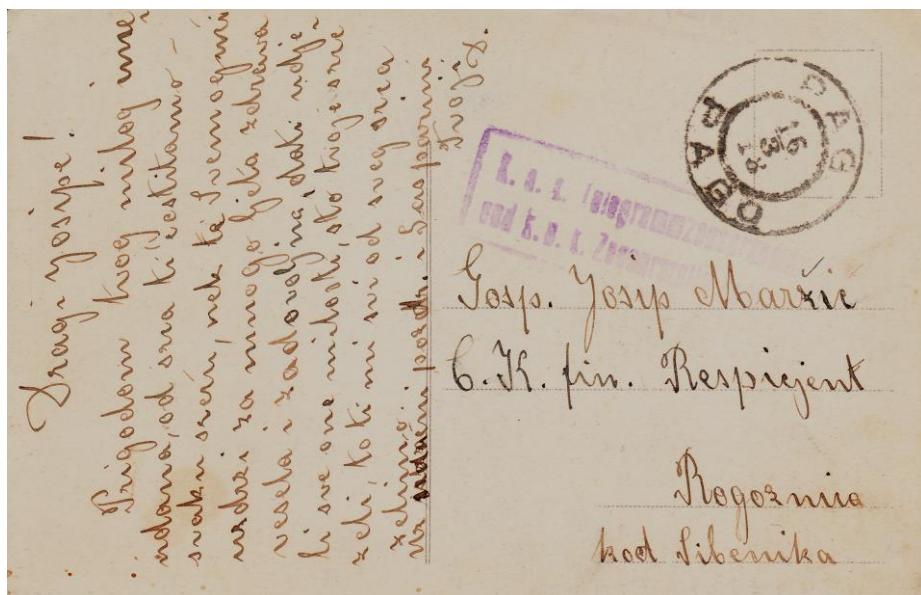
Novalja to Prague, 10 September 1917



From the Military Police - Post free

Purple circular censor mark

Pag to Rogoznica, near Šibenik in Dalmatia, 16 March 1918



Censored Greetings Card addressed to a Serviceman - Post free.

Purple, rectangular censor mark.

## 6.2 SSHS Period (28 October 1918 - 31 November 1918)

To date, no covers from this period have been found by the author.

## 6.3 SHS /First Yugoslavia Period (1 December 1918 - April 1941)

Registered - Pag to Beograd (Belgrade), 1 March 1939



SHS/Yugoslavia tariff of 1 October 1938:	
Postage (Internal Letter to 20 grammes)	1.50 Dinars (D1)
Registration Fee	3.00 Dinars (D1)

Total Charge	4.50 Dinars (D1)
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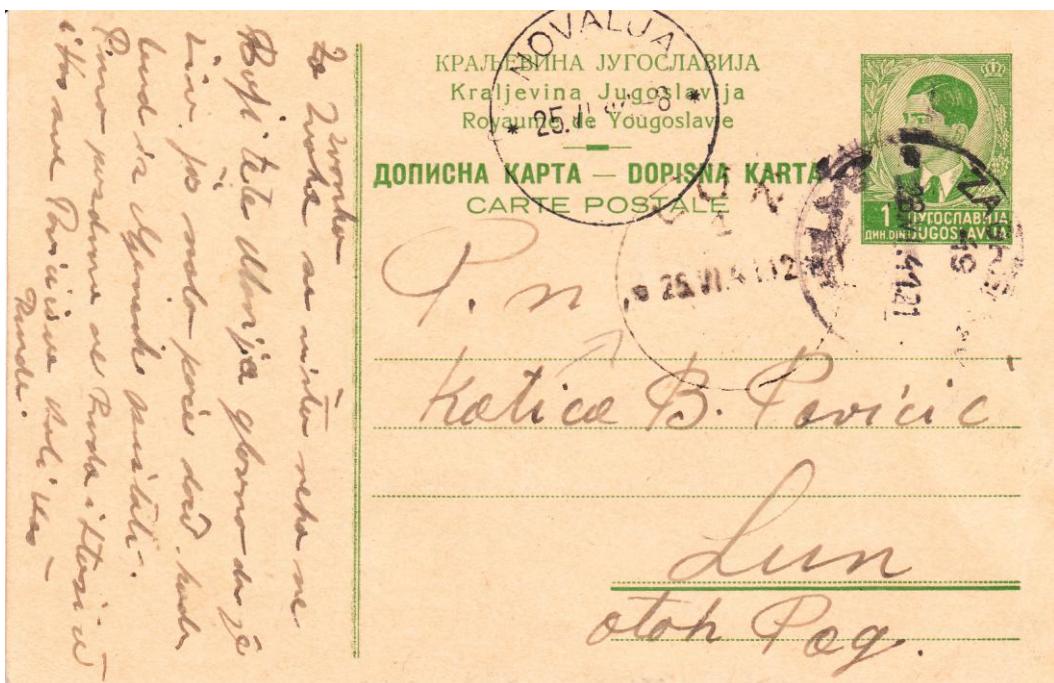
#### 6.4 NDH Period (April 1941 - 1945)

Initially, SHS/Yugoslavia stamps and postal stationery remained valid. From 12 April 1941, they were overprinted and issued with the name of the new state.

Use of non-overprinted items was permitted until 26 June 1941.

Postal Stationery of the new state was first issued in July/August 1941 while postage stamps of the new state were first issued on 15 August 1941.

##### Zagreb to Lun, Island of Pag, 23 June 1941



SHS/Yugoslavia tariff of 1 July 1937:	
Postage (Internal Postcard)	1 Dinar (D1)

SHS/Yugoslavia postal rates continued to be used until the first set of NDH rates came into force on 16 November 1941.

Starting from 27 June 1941, SHS/Yugoslavia postal stationery could still be used but had to be overprinted with the name of the new state  
- This one avoided that by the slim margin of two days!

Lun is a small village located at the northern tip of the island about 16 kms from Novalja.

The card was written by an ethnic Serb to his aunt who, presumably, was also a Serb.

The card bears a transit mark of Novalja of 25 June 1941 and a Lun arrival mark also of 25 June 1941.

**This is the only Lun postmark known to the writer who did not even know that Lun ever had a Post Office!**

**Pag to the Union Chocolate and Sweet Factory, Zagreb, 27 July 1941**



SHS/Yugoslavia tariff of 1 July 1937:  
Postage (Internal Postcard) 1 Dinar (D1)

The SHS/Yugoslavia postal rates remained in force until the first set of NDH rates were introduced on 16 November 1941.

As stated previously, use of non-overprinted stationery was permitted until 30 June 1941 and this item seemingly slipped through the net.

Registered - Pag to Stenjevec, near Zagreb, 17 May 1943



NDH tariff of 1 January 1943:  
Postage (Internal Letter to 20 grammes) 3.50 Kuna  
Registration Fee 9.00 Kuna

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Total Charge 12.50 Kuna

(Cover from the Tony Bosworth collection)

Registered - Pag to Flensburg, Germany, 26 May 1943



Flensburg arrival 5 July 1943 - A lengthy journey of 41 days!

Opened and resealed by German censors.

NDH preferential tariff of 16 November 1941:

Postage (Letter to 20 grammes to Germany)	4.00 Kuna
Registration Fee	9.00 Kuna

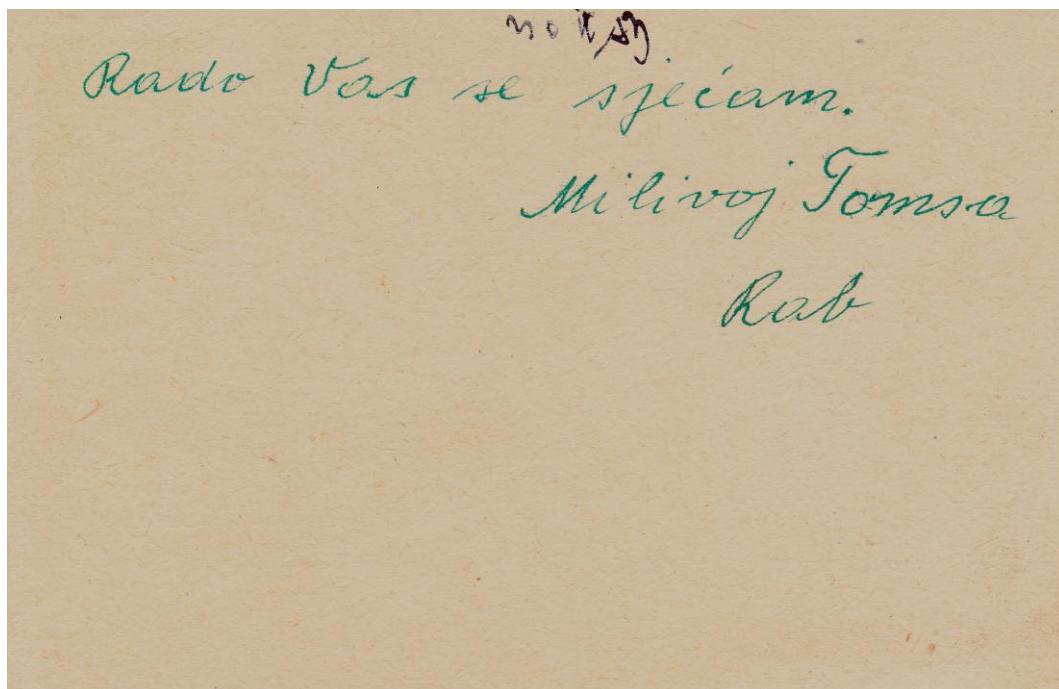
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Total Charge	13.00 Kuna
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Amusingly, in the address, *Germany* is written as *Dojčland* which is the Croatian language phonetic equivalent of *Deutschland*.

## 6.5 Second Yugoslavia Period (1945 - 14 January 1992)

### The Rijeka - Pag/Pag - Rijeka Sea Post



Postcard from an inhabitant of the Island of Rab to Rijeka carried by the Pag - Rijeka Sea Post, Number 354, 30 September 1953.  
(Presumably the boat called at Rab on the way to/from Pag)

Yugoslavia tariff of 1 April 1952:  
Postage (Internal Postcard) 10.00 Dinars (D2)

Novalja to Sremska Mitrovica, 7 November 1991



Despite ROC declaring independence on 25 June 1991, Yugoslav stamps were still accepted for use and Yugoslavia was still treated postally as an internal destination.

The cover features a ROC charity stamp uncancelled, for *The Croatian Working Man* of value 2.20 Dinars (D4).

ROC tariff of 25 June 1991:

Postage (Internal Non - Standard Letter to 20 grammes)	4.50 Dinars (D4)
Charity Tax	2.20 Dinars (D4)

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Total Charge	6.70 Dinars (D4)
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## 6.6 Republic of Croatia Period (15 January 1992 - 1995)

### 6.6.1 Structure of the Post Office of the Republic of Croatia

In late 1993, I managed to find a leaflet which detailed the structure of the *Hrvatska Pošta i Telekomunikacija* (HPT), in English *Croatia Post and Telecommunications*.

Under the head office in Zagreb were 13 postal centres as follows:

Bjelovar	Dubrovnik	Gospic	Karlovac	Osijek	Pula
Rijeka	Šibenik	Split	Varaždin	Zadar	Zagreb

## Slavonski Brod

Each postal centre controls its own group of post offices.

Under the Rijeka postal centre were the post offices on the Island of Pag which were:

51290 Pag	51291 Novalja	51292 Kolan
51295 Gajac	51296 Zubovići	

The above gives the allocated postcodes.

Gajac and Zubovići were actually not listed in the 1993 leaflet so they must have opened after the leaflet was printed.

### 6.6.2 Postage Stamps

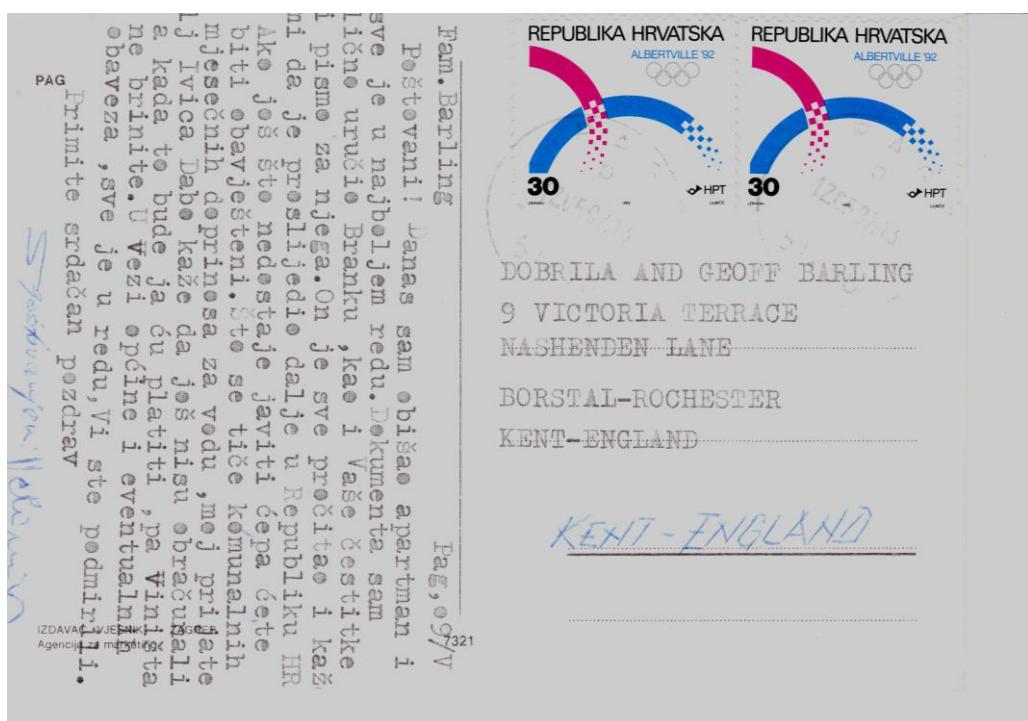
The first stamp inscribed with the name of the Republic of Croatia was issued on 2 April 1991 - that is, before independence. This was an obligatory charity tax stamp on behalf of *The Croatian Working Man*.

Initially after independence, DFJ/FNRJ/SFRJ stamps continued to be used and remained valid for postal use in ROC until 16 January 1992.

The first ROC postage stamp was issued on 9 September 1991.

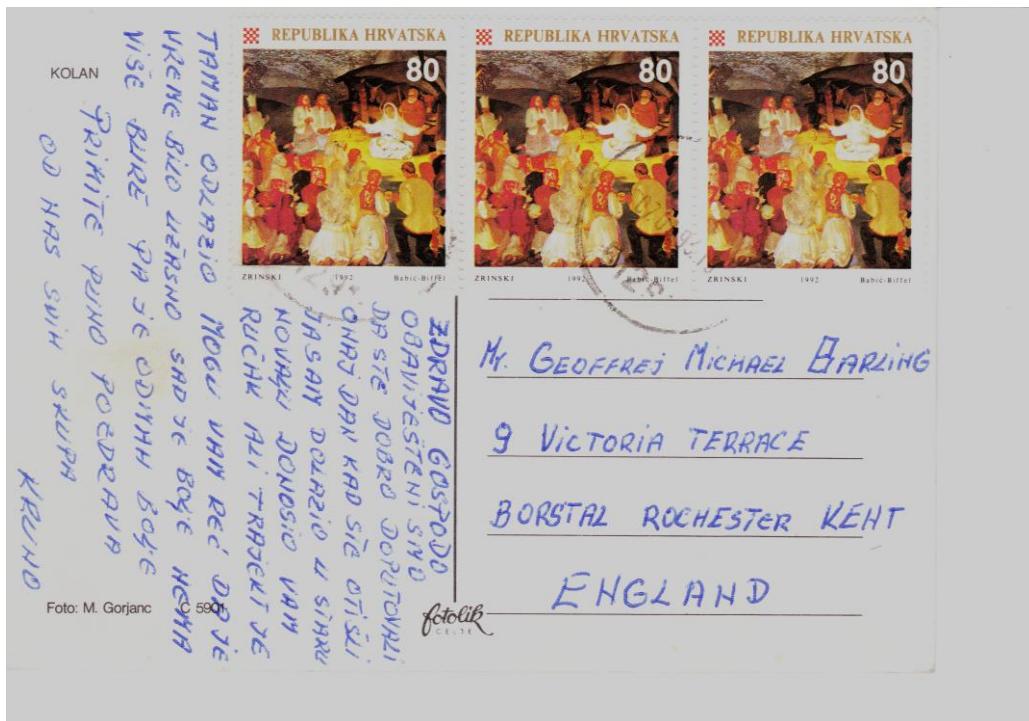
The first stamps denominated in Kuna were issued on 1 June 1994.

#### Pag to UK, 9 May 1992



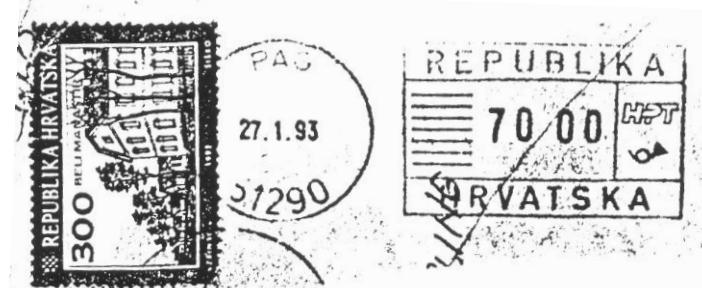
ROC tariff of 21 April 1992:  
Postage (External Non-Standard Postcard) 60 Croatian Dinars

Kolan to UK, 2 January 1993



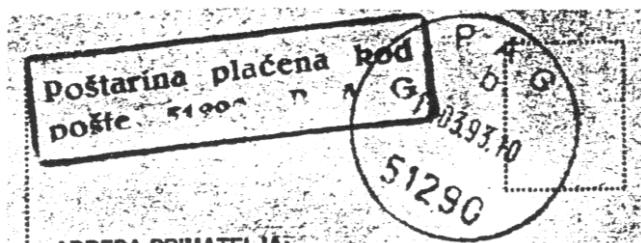
ROC tariff of 11 December 1992:  
 Postage (External Non-Standard Postcard) 250 Croatian Dinars  
 (Underpaid by 10 Croatian Dinars)

**Post Office Based Meter Mark**

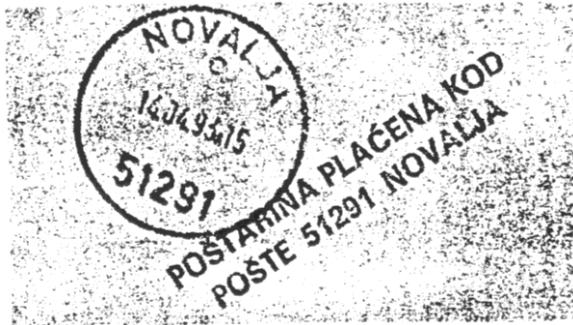


51290 Pag, 27 January 1993

**Post Paid Marks**



51290 Pag, March 1993



51291 Novalja April 1993

I found the above on local government correspondence.

The text translates as *Postage Paid at 51290 Pag (or 51291 Novalja) Post Office.*

## 6.7 Gajac Post Office

### 6.7.1 Introduction

My interest in the Island of Pag began in 1988 when my wife and I bought a holiday home in Gajac which is a tourist settlement. Thus, there are few permanent residents, and out of season, the post office is open for one hour daily only.

### 6.7.2 Opening Date

Gajac PO opened in 1993, initially only between 08.30 and 09.30 for the handing over of *Poste Restante* mail to Gajac residents.

From 28 June 1995 it opened for longer hours in the tourist season for normal PO business.

Gajac PO closed on 31 August 2010 and so far (September 2011) has not reopened - this is a cut due to the economic situation.

### 6.7.3 Telephones

Three telephones were inside the PO for which the charge was metered and paid at the PO counter.

Four telephones were outside the PO - phone cards only - no cash - dearer than the inside telephones.

### 6.7.4 Working Hours

#### In the Tourist Season

Monday - Friday	08.00 - 12.00 and 18.00 - 21.00
Saturdays	0.800 - 12.00
Sundays	Closed

## Out of the Tourist Season

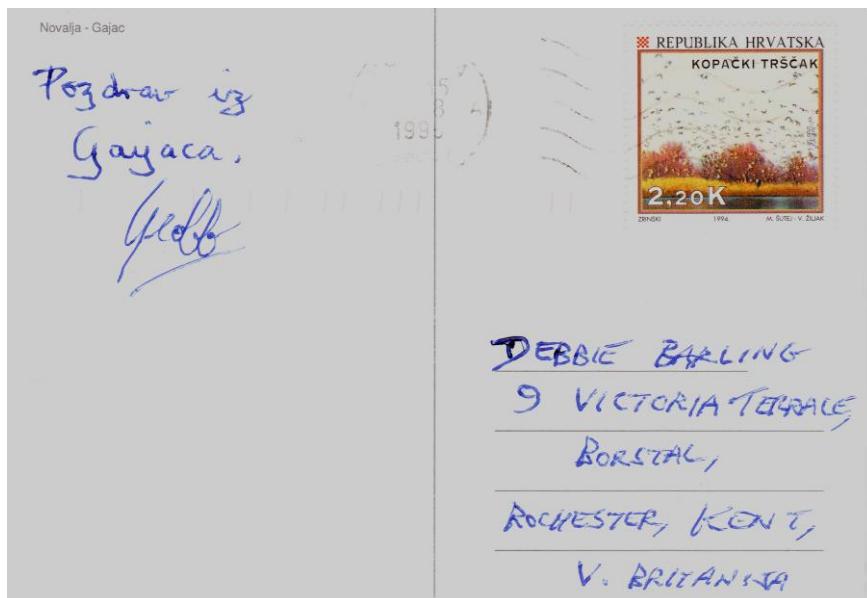
Monday - Saturday	08.30 - 09.30
Sundays and Public Holidays	Closed

### 6.7.5 Change of Postal Centre and Postcodes

In mid-1995, Gajac, Novalja and Zubovići were placed under the Gospic postal centre instead of Rijeka while Kolan and Pag were placed under the Zadar postal centre.

The Gajac postcode changed to 53295.

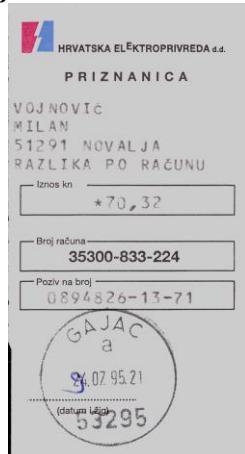
#### Gajac to UK, 15 August 1995



Mail posted in the postbox, the only one in Gajac, on the outside the PO is cancelled at Novalja which is about three miles away.

ROC tariff of 1 July 1995:  
Postage (External Postcard) 2.20 Kuna

#### Bills paid at Gajac PO receive a Gajac handstamp



**Gajac Post Office (Photo August 1995)**



## **7      Spare a Cover, Guv!**

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about my favourite island.

If you have any spare Pag material, I will pay a fair price for it.

**Don't forget, the September monograph will be issued on CD. You may, if you wish, receive it on paper instead of CD, but you must inform Tony Bosworth of that by post or email before 31st July, otherwise a CD will be sent. Tony's details are on page 2.**

## The Postal Use of the Word *Retour*

David Fever

Acquisition of some new items for my collection convinced me that an article about the Austro-Hungarian and Montenegrin postal use of the German word *Retour* would be of interest to members.

I shall describe four items where the word *Retour* is used for postal purposes.

The first is a Return Receipt (*Retour Recepisse* in German) for a registered letter shown below in Figure 1.

It was used from the Austrian Post Office in Belgrade, Serbia, to Semlin (Zemun) in Srem on 7 May 1859 as proof that a registered letter sent from Semlin (Zemun) to Belgrade on 5 May 1859 had been delivered.

The Return Receipt had to be signed by the addressee when the registered letter was delivered to him and was then sent back to the sender as proof that the letter was in the hands of the addressee.

The charge was according to the Austrian tariff of 1 November 1858:

Internal Inter-Town Return Receipt      10 Kreuzer

The Austrian Post Office first introduced Return Receipts on 1 February 1814 and early examples are scarce items, particularly those which have crossed international borders.

The Return Receipt was a forerunner of today's Advice of Receipt (AR) system.



Figure 1 - The Return Receipt of May 1859

The word, and also a short form of it (*Ret*), was also used on returned mail and I have two such items in my collection and I am illustrating another returned item not from my collection but previously published in Jugopošta.

The first example, shown below in Figure 2, is an official entire, post free, from Semlin (Zemun) of 1 September 1868 when the Military Frontier part of Croatia was still postally under Austria.



Figure 2 - The returned letter of 1 September 1868 (Obverse)

The Post Office would seem to have searched for the addressee in much of the Austro-Hungarian Empire because the letter was redirected no less than six times before being returned to Semlin as per the manuscript endorsement **Retour Semlin** on the obverse.

The reverse of that letter, shown in Figure 3, is a postmark study in its own right!

The third item, shown in Figure 4, is a registered letter and was mailed from Krušedol to Jakovo, near Surčin, on 21 December 1917 when Croatia, apart from Dalmatia, was *in toto* postally under Hungary

It was returned to Krušedol in accordance with the manuscript mark in blue pencil **Ret Krusedol.**

A second blue pencil endorsement explains why the letter was returned - It reads in Serbian **nije bio živ** which in English means **he was not alive** (which seems a curious way of saying that the addressee was deceased!).



Figure 3 - The returned letter of 1 September 1868 (Reverse)



Figure 4 - The registered letter of 1917

The last returned postal item shown herein (Figure 5) is a registered Serbian fieldpost card used during the Serbs journey into exile in the winter of 1915/1916. It was sent from Scutari (Skadar) to Podgorica and returned from Podgorica to Scutari.



Figure 5 - The Serbian registered fieldpost card used in Montenegro in December 1915

The card, sent from Scutari on 11 December 1915, is franked with two Montenegrin stamps with a total value of 30 para - this was the correct rate for an inland registered card.

The initial destination "Podgorica" is crossed out in ink and with the same ink has been written the new destination "Skadar" in Cyrillic, as well as *Retour*

The Montenegrin postal use of the word *Retour* was presumably due to the strong connection between the Montenegrin and Austrian Post Offices in that Austria very much helped to set up the Montenegrin Post Office

Curiously, *Retour* has the same meaning in the French language as in German

The items shown in this article prove that the word *Retour* was used postally within the Austro-Hungarian Empire for at least 103 years and also in Montenegro. Did use of it continue into the SHS/Yugoslavia period?

Do you have any *Retour* or *Ret* items in your collection? - If so, why not let Jugopošta know the details?

**It has come to our notice that  
Yugoslavia Study Group  
member Atsushi Hitomi won a  
vermeil medal at Philanippon  
2011 for "Slovenia in Postal  
History 1812 – 1928.  
Congratulations!**

## A response to “One that Got Away?” (David Brinkley)

David Foster

I was interested to read the piece by David Brinkley "*One that Got Away?*" in the March 2012 issue of Jugopošta. In the article, David was reflecting on Tony Bosworth's excellent monograph on the postal rates of wartime Croatia in which Tony had commented that "The sender attempted to use revenue stamps for postage, which was of course not accepted." Perhaps I could confuse things even more by offering this example. It's a picture postcard from Zagreb to Varazdin, cancelled 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1943 bearing a 2K fiscal stamp. At this time, 2K was the correct rate for domestic postcards. The card is clearly non-philatelic and has gone through the mail in the normal way.

The date is 1943, a year that was noted for stamp shortages. During this year it seems that almost anything was allowed. I have normal stamps, postage dues and official stamps (and various combinations of these) all used for postage. I even have a stampless envelope bearing a handwritten note from the postmaster stating that payment had been received.

All part of the delights of the postal history of NDH!



## YSG Publications

Publication	UK	Europe	Elsewhere
Regular <i>Jugopošta</i> [Numbers 1 through 70 - Printed only]	Please enquire		
Regular <i>Jugopošta</i> [From Number 71 onwards - Printed or on CD]	£4	£6 (or 10 Euros)	£7 (or 11 Dollars)
Special Offer! <i>The Postal History of Sremska Mitrovica</i> - Last copy	£6	£6 (or 10 Euros)	£6 (or 10 Dollars)
<i>Monographs</i> [Printed or on CD but Number 1 is available printed only and Number 3 is available on CD only]	£16	£17 (or 20 Euros)	£17 (or 27 Dollars)
1 <i>Montenegro Postal History</i> (Jugopošta Number 57A)			
2 <i>Catalogue of the Perfins of Yugoslavia</i> (Jugopošta Number 75)			
3 <i>The Postal Rates of the Yugoslav Territories</i> [Second Edition] (Jugopošta Number 70A)			
4 <i>Banat and Bačka</i> (Jugopošta Number 77)			
5 <i>Srem Postal History To Late 1944</i> (Jugopošta Number 81)			
6 <i>The Postal Rates of The Independent State of Croatia 1941 – 1945</i> (Jugopošta Number 85)			
7 <i>The Postal Rates of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1878 - 1918</i> (Jugopošta Number 90)			
8 <i>Indeficienter (The Story of Fiume to 1918)</i> (Jugopošta Number 94)			
9 <i>Croatia/SHS: Independence Issue of 29 October 1918</i> (Jugopošta Number 98)			

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