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The Yugoslavia Study Group

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Additional copies of Jugopošta are available through the Treasurer and a priced list of YSG publications is located on the back cover.

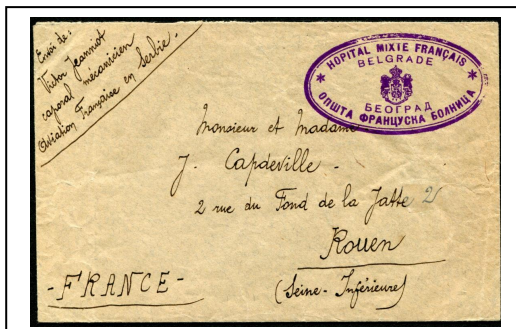
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Jugopošta



Contents	Page
From the President	4
Cover Story	4
From the Editor	4
Congratulations	4
New Members	5
Dr Jovan Veličković – an appreciation by Geoff Barling	5
13 th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition – a medal for Jugopošta	5
A Tale of Two Uncles – an update	6
Joint Societies Meeting	6
Filatelistički glasnik – a new journal	6
Auction News	6
New Book and CD	7
Official/unofficial local (postage due) stamp issues 1918-1919 by Henk Buitenkamp	8
Additional Markings of the French Medical Mission in Serbia by Richard M Stevens	21
The Obliterated Cyrillic Alphabet on Croatian Stamps 1941 by Dave Foster	24
Letter from Frank Delzer	29
YSG Publications	31



From the President

URGENT APPEAL: Yet again I am making an urgent appeal for a member to volunteer for the position of **Auction Manager**. After two appeals I have yet to receive even an inquiry. I cannot emphasise how important this post is to the Society, because it gives members an opportunity to circulate their surplus material which allows them to improve their collections at a reasonable price. The person taking over would inherit a smooth-running system and the current manager is willing to give help and advice to start the new incumbent off.

So please give this appeal your consideration. You do not necessarily need experience and you would be doing a great service to the Society. If you have any queries about the job please contact Steve Woolnough our current Manager.

The Committee is planning a Group meeting possibly early in the new year, so if anybody has any ideas about this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Contributions for Jugopošta will be accepted by the Editor. It is important that we share our knowledge with each other to enhance the enjoyment of our hobby.

A J Bosworth FRPSL

Cover Story

At the end of 1918 there was a power vacuum in the Prekmurje prior to occupation by Croatian troops. During this time, Hungarian stamps were overprinted with the letter “H” (of Hrvatska = Croatia) in lilac. These stamps were used but their use was forbidden by the Hungarian authorities a few days later. This cover was sent from Pártosfalva (Prosenjakovci) to Vienna (1-1-1919). Only one cover and one postcard are known to date (see following article by Henk Buitenkamp).

From the Editor

In this edition of Jugopošta I have included an article by Henk Buitenkamp describing official and unofficial local stamp issues of 1918-19 in Medjimurje and Prekmurje. Richard Stevens has provided additional information on the French Medical Mission in Serbia to complement the article by Milan Radovanović in the last Jugopošta and Dave Foster writes about an aspect of the stamps of the Independent State of Croatia prompted by Tony Bosworth’s article, also in the last Jugopošta.

Sadly, I have to report the passing of Dr Jovan Veličković. An appreciation by Geoff Barling appears below.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our member and contributor Henk Buitenkamp, who was awarded a gold medal with special prize at the recent Samolux exhibition in Germany for his entry of Slovenian chainbreakers.

If any other members achieve awards and would like it to be recorded in Jugopošta, please email the Editor.

New Members

The YSG would like to welcome the following new members who have joined us in 2013:

Mr H A Bartlett, Staines, Middlesex
Mr S Boškov, Bavanište, Serbia
Mr D C Linsell, Eastbourne, East Sussex
Mr A J Matthews. Fareham, Hampshire

Dr Jovan Veličković – An Appreciation

Geoff Barling

I am sad to inform members that Dr Jovan Veličković passed away in December. Jovan was one of the leading lights of Serbian philately/postal history. He was a staunch member of the YSG and contributed a number of articles to our magazine as well as participating in our auctions.

I visited him a number of times in his flat in Belgrade where we discussed the latest developments in our collections. He was a good friend to me providing information for my written work and often material for my collection, the latter including a delightful letter from Venice to Sremski Karlovci of October 1942.

In the last six months I have lost my two best philatelic friends – namely, Jovan and Tonnes Øre. Both will be badly missed by the YSG and by me personally.

13th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition – a medal for Jugopošta

Jugopošta was entered into this Exhibition held by the Manuwatu Philatelic Society under the patronage of the New Zealand Philatelic Society in Palmerston North on 16 March 2013. Ours was one of thirteen periodicals entered. There was also a section for monographs. Jugopošta was given 73 points by the judges and hence awarded a Large Silver. Among the comments made by the judges were:

Contents (29 out of 40 points): good reasonable style for most articles, although with some variance as is to be expected with a journal relying upon submitted articles.

Originality, significance, depth of research (28 out of 40 points): understandably, the range of topics covered is limited in the geographical sense. Good in-depth articles are included although each issue is relatively brief.

Technical matters (12 out of 15 points): no running headings at top of pages.

Presentation (4 out of 5 points): use of full colour for illustrations is highly commended.

A Tale of Two Uncles – an update

The Editor

Following on from my short article with the above title in JP105 (my first attempt at philatelic writing), I received emails from Geoff Barling and Henk Buitenkamp. It was pointed out that the cover in Figure 1 could not have been cancelled in 1910 because the stamp was not issued until 1918 – the date of the cancellation must thus be 14 April 1919. As both Geoff and Henk have pointed out, the cost of a registered letter to France at that time would have been 50 Para (0.5 Dinar) and the cover is thus correctly stamped. A useful reference for this information is Geoff Barling's CD "The Postal Rates of the Yugoslav Territories" (JP70A).

Joint Societies Meeting

This annual event will be held at the Latvian Club, 5 Clifton Villas, Bradford, BD8 7BY on 17 August and is being organised as always by Yvonne Wheatley. It is a meeting of 5 specialist societies covering Yugoslav, Czechoslovak, Polish, Hungarian and Austrian philately and participants are invited to bring displays of 1, 2 and 3 frames (10 sheets per frame) and to speak for not more than 5 minutes. Yvonne would appreciate advance notice of what you wish to display and those doing so will be given preference. The cost of the day (10 am to 4.30 pm) is £10 including refreshments. The last time I attended 2 years ago there was an excellent buffet lunch. The joining form and directions can be obtained from the Editor or from Yvonne Wheatley (Tel: 0113 260 1978 or email whyareuu@talktalk.net).

Filatelistički glasnik – a new journal

Vladimir Milić has written from Belgrade to say that he and others have co-operated to produce a new journal, Filatelistički glasnik, to be published in March, June, September and December each year. In 2013, five issues will be published as the first number was published in January, so Issues 1 and 2 are now available (Issue 1 only electronically). The journal's scope is the philately of Serbia (1866 – 1918 and from 2006), Montenegro (1874 – 1918 and from 2006) and Yugoslavia (1918(1921) – 2006). The Republic of Srpska Krajina and the Republic of Srpska (BIH) are also included. The journal is published in the Serbian language and from Issue 2 all main articles have a summary in English. It is published in colour in the B5 format with high quality paper and has 56 pages. The price of each issue is 5 Euros + postage. Issue 2 includes a list of articles published in Jugopošta in 2013.

Enquiries to filatelisticki.glasnik@gmail.com

Auction News

Auction No 40 resulted in the sale of 132 out of 422 (31%) lots, with 20 bidders. This is another area where we will miss contributions from Jovan Veličković, who was a regular supplier of material to the auction. As Tony Bosworth has said elsewhere, we are still looking for a replacement auctioneer.

**New release of a book with CD
(by Werner Briner, Winterthur, Schweiz)**

**MANUAL and CATALOGUE
TRAVELLING MAIL SERVICES & TMS-
POSTMARKS
in the KINGDOM SHS & YUGOSLAVIA 1919-1941**

**RAILWAY MAIL POSTMARKS
MARITIME MAIL POSTMARKS
PRATNIK MAIL POSTMARKS**



Under the title of „Travelling Mail on the Territory of Yugoslavia 1857-1970“, Dr. Vojin Višacki's extensive work was published in the series „PTT-ARCHIV 25“ / Belgrade 1988.

As a complement and extension to the topic, a new comprehensive work covering the Railway Mail, the Maritime Mail and the Pratnik Mail (Auxiliary Travelling Mail) has been prepared for collectors of TPO postmarks.

The documentation contains a revised classification of postmark-types, which is standardized and valid uniformly for all parts of the travelling mail services for the relevant area and period (applicable too for 1857-1918 and 1941-1970), TPO and postal-route schedules sorted according to various criteria and a catalogue with a new non-confusing numbering system and illustrations of the postmarks.

Up to now nearly 1100 different postmarks are recorded, not considering the route direction shown in the postmark-text or the different letter or digit indices (or counter marks).

Roughly 66% of the recorded postmarks are illustrated in the catalogue, the postmark-type is known for a further 24% (but illustrations cannot yet be provided) and for the remaining 10% the type used is still unknown.

The Manual and the CD contain, apart from the type-classification, the detailed route-number files with data regarding the railway geography, the official route schedules, the catalogue and illustrations of postmarks as well as further general information, totalling more than 800 A4-pages.

The Manual of approximately 85 pages makes possible the quick and accurate classification of TPO-strikes by type and, together with the data on the CD, an exact identification and attribution to the particular Travelling Post Office.

Thanks to generous support and sponsoring, the price for the book and CD is only 18.- Euros (excluding mailing) for advance orders up to 31 October (25-Euros after that). They will be published around the end of 2013.

Advance order and reservation through: Filatelistična zveza Slovenije, PP 1584, SI -1001 Ljubljana, Slowenien or tajnik@fzs.si and ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn, Hr. Karl Reiter-Haas, A-8410 Wildon, Neudorf-Auweg 3 (Tel: 0316 7067 5812 / Fax 0316 7067 5809 or karl.reiter@bbgraz.at).

Official/unofficial local (postage due) stamp issues 1918-1919

Drs. Henk Buitenkamp AEP

This article was first published in "Oost Europa Philatelie" (the journal of Filatelische Contactgroep Oost Europa) in September 2011 and is reproduced by kind permission. It has been translated into English by the author.

The difference is made here between

- I. Overprinted stamps used as regular stamps
- II. Overprinted regular stamps used as postage due stamps (not the stamps on a cover which are then over stamped with the stamp "porto", "P", "Pto" etc.)

Thus the core is that the stamps are overprinted at the post office on a (complete) sheet. In this article, the term "overprinted stamps" is used but that is not quite correct, for the stamps are not overprinted but over stamped with mainly rubber handstamps. To avoid mistakes with the cancellation of stamps, the term "overprint" is used here.

Medjimurje, as used in this article, means the area between the Rivers Drava and Mura; the Prekmurje is the area at the other side of the River Mura. These areas fell under the postal directorate of Budapest and, of course, Hungarian stamps were used. From 24 December 1918, Croatian troops came into the Medjimurje and the military took over the administration of the post.

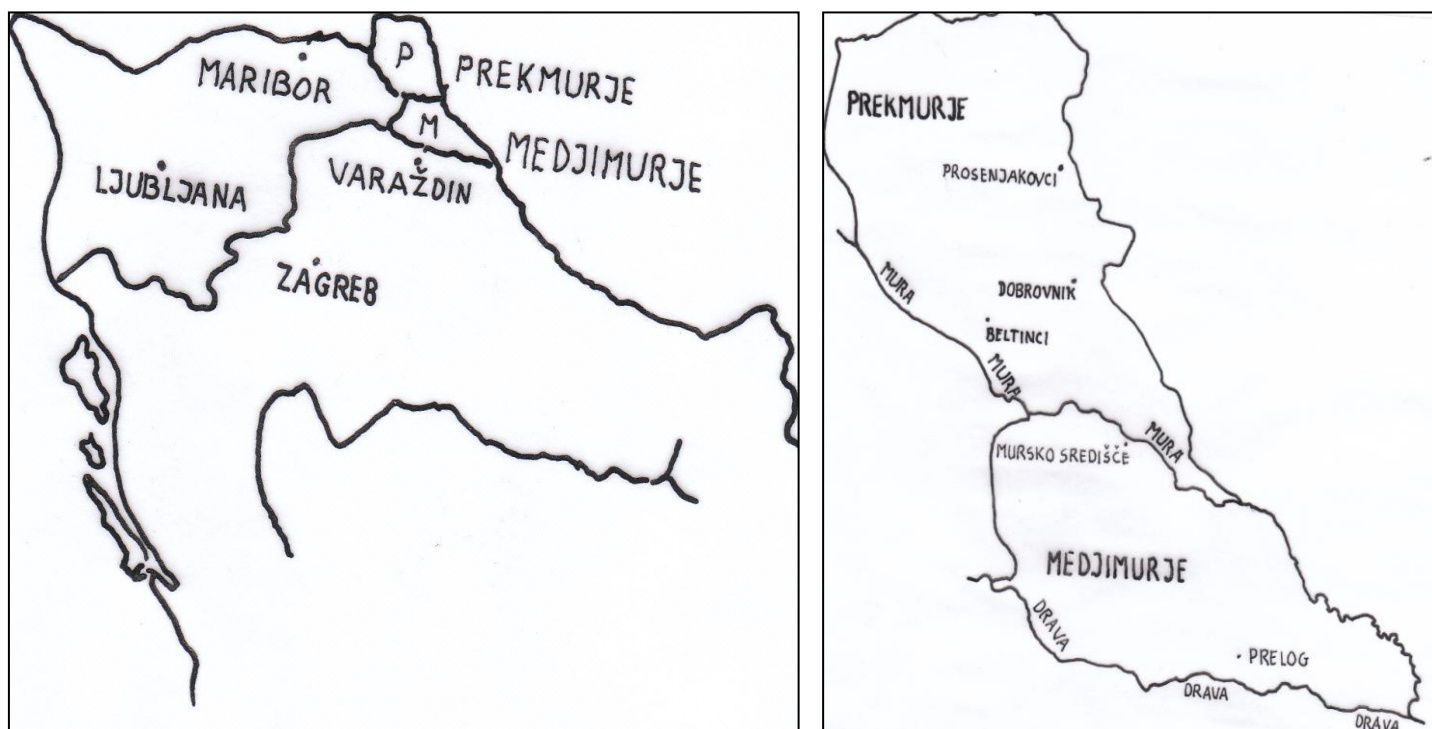


Figure 1: Maps with the towns in which the overprinted stamps in this article are produced/used

The civil commissioner, Dr Novak, took up his position on 15 January 1918. Thus between 24 December 1918 and 15 January 1919, the military organised the whole postal service. Between 10 and 13 February 1919, the postal service came to the civil authority.

I. Overprinted stamps used as regular stamps

The following towns are described:

- Slovenia – Prekmurje – 1 Prosenjakovci (= Pártosfalva)
2 Dobrovník (= Landvavásárhely)
3 Beltinci (= Belatincz)
Croatia – Medjimurje – 4 Prelog (= Perlak)
5 Mursko Sređisce (= Muraszerdahely)

I.1 Prosenjakovci

At the end of 1918 there was a power vacuum in the Prekmurje. The Croatian troops had hardly any influence (the occupation of this area had not started at that moment), but the Hungarian authority was afraid and through that very reserved. In this power vacuum, Count Matzenau overprinted Hungarian stamps with the letter “H” (of Hvratska = Croatia) with probably the aim to offer these stamps to the Croatian troops at the moment that they occupied the Prekmurje. The overprint is in lilac. These stamps were used for franking although they were fully private and speculative! The Hungarian directorate forbade the use of these stamps on 5 January 1919. Used originals are only possible between 27 December 1918 and 5 January 1919.

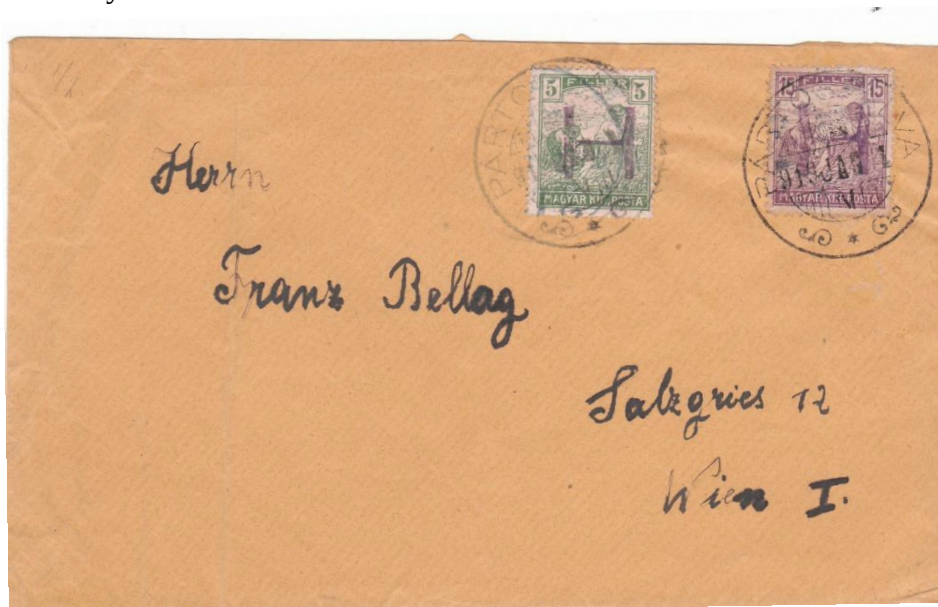


Figure 2: Letter sent from Pártosfalva 1-1-19 to Vienna. Correct franking: letter to 20 grams, 20 Filira. Up to now only one letter and one postcard are recorded. This letter is authenticated by Flash (with certificate).

Further, I only know stamps with a cancellation date of 5 February 1919. These used stamps are worthless and that is also the case for the unused stamps. We can conclude that these stamps are tolerated but not permitted!

I.2 Dobrovník

The overprint is in three rows: **Preko**
murje
SHS

The SHS troops occupied the Prekmurje on 12 August 1919. Commandant Drago V. Perko ordered the overprinting of the Hungarian stamps with O.nr.5.

“Da die Postämter in dem vom Murbesatzungskommando besetzten Übermurgebiet nur ungarischen Marken haben, befehle ich dass in erster Reihe alle Postmarken aller Arten und Werte wie folgt überdruckt werden: Preko – murje SHS.

.....
Nach dem überdrucken werden diese Marken im Verkehr gesetzt, aber nur für den Postverkehr auf das von der Murabteilung besetzten Teiles vom Übermurgebiet” (see Prirucnik page 109).

From 21/22 August the stamps (29 different values in total) were sold at the post office. The total issue is noted in Prirucnik pages 120 – 122. The Zagreb postal directorate took over the postal management of the Prekmurje on 22 August and forbade immediately the use of the overprinted stamps (communiqué Nr. 45040/919 of 9 September 1919). Then the large postal offices first used the new Slovenian stamps. Beltinci was one of the smaller postal offices and used through that the local overprinted stamps. Until 8 September, the Beltinci overprints were used (see I.3). After that date the Dobrovnik overprints were used. That was possible because Beltinci was part of the eastern occupation of the Prekmurje. What is remarkable is the selling of unused overprinted stamps in 1922 by Slovenian direction.





Figure 3: Letter Beltinci 29-9-19 via Alsolandova 30-9-1919 to Zagreb. Correctly franked: letter up to 20 grams, 30 + registration 60 = 90 Filira. The number of higher values that were printed was very low so the lower values had to be used. Addressee Vilim Gregoric formed part of the military occupation of the Prekmurje. Only three correctly franked letters are recorded until now (certificate FES = Slovenian Board)

I.3 Beltinci

A quotation from Prirucnik page 111:

“In August 1919 besetzten SHS-Truppen das Übermurgebiet befehl der Savedivision wurde der ganze Bestand an Marken in Beltinci mit dem Aufdruck **SHS** versehen. Am 16.August wurde die Post von SHS-Funktionäre übernommen.

In Beltinci wurden in ganzen Marken im Werte von 4114 Kronen überdruckt. Die selben waren vom 16.August 1919 bis 8.September im Gebrauch und waren damals die einziger frankaturberechtigten Marken.

Beltinci 8.September 1919

R Albina Postmeister”

The overprinted stamps were put in use 19 October 1919 according to the letter Nr.901/19 of the civil commissioner for the Prekmurje Dr Lajucic. Moreover, they were used up. The overprinted stamps “Prekmurje SHS” were called for franking in the same letter. The direction from Ljubljana of 15 March 1921 in the decision Nr.2012/IX 1921 confirmed the local issues of Beltinci and Dobrovnik. For the overprinted values and the total issue of each value see Prirucnik pages 125/127.

The handstamp used in Beltinci was made of cork by Lieutenant Svetec. The overprinting was with a blue oily ink. There are a lot of forgeries, especially the stamps/letters with cancellation Pártosfalva 5 of 10 September 1919 in violet.



Figure 4: Letter from Beltinci 7-9-1919 to Zagreb. These stamps were used in Beltinci until 8-9-1919. Tariff correct: letter 30 + registration 60 = 90 Filira. Until now four correctly franked and authentic run letters have been recorded. (Letter examined by V. F. = Vladimir Fleck; certificate FES = Slovenian Association)

I.4 Prelog

Hungarian stamps with a total value of 3800 Kronen were overprinted on 26/27 December 1918 by Captain Gasparic. Civil commissioner Dr. Novak wrote in his letter Nr.2406/1919 of 12 June 1919 that these so-called Prelog overprints were illegal. In a document (collection Mladen Vilfan) signed by postmaster Szöke Mozes the black overprint with SHS on 20 different values (see Mladen Vilfan pages 48/52) is affirmed. The stamps were used at the post offices of Prelog and Mala Subotica. These stamps stayed in use after the takeover of postal offices by the civil authorities. The stamps were not formal but accepted.

Besides the overprints in black there are known overprints in violet red. Moreover, three values are known (sower 15 F., Charles 25 F. and war help 10+2F.) which were not mentioned in the document of Mozes. These three overprints are rare and the violet red overprints are very rare.

A lot of the known overprints are sent by or sent to Mr. Ivanec. He was a postal officer in the Prelog area. The handstamp SHS was given to the Croatian Association in February 1919. The overprint is (very) bad and through that a lot of forgeries are known.



Figure 5: Kiszabadka (= Mala Subotica) 14-2-1919 to Zagreb on the first day after the transfer from the military to the civil authorities. Correctly franked letter: 20 = registration 25 + express 60 = 105 Filira. Overprinted in violet red. According to Mladen Vilfan 10 – 12 letters sent from Kiszabadka are known (Certificate Flash with the remark “very rare”)



Figure 6: Kiszabadka 17-2-1919 to Zagreb. Correctly franked. Overprint in violet red. The 15 F. is one of the stamps not mentioned in the document of Mozes. Mladen Vilfan does not list the 15 F. in violet red. There probably exists only three 15 F. stamps in violet red of which one or two are on a cover. (Certificate Flash with the remark “extremely rare”)(see also next page)

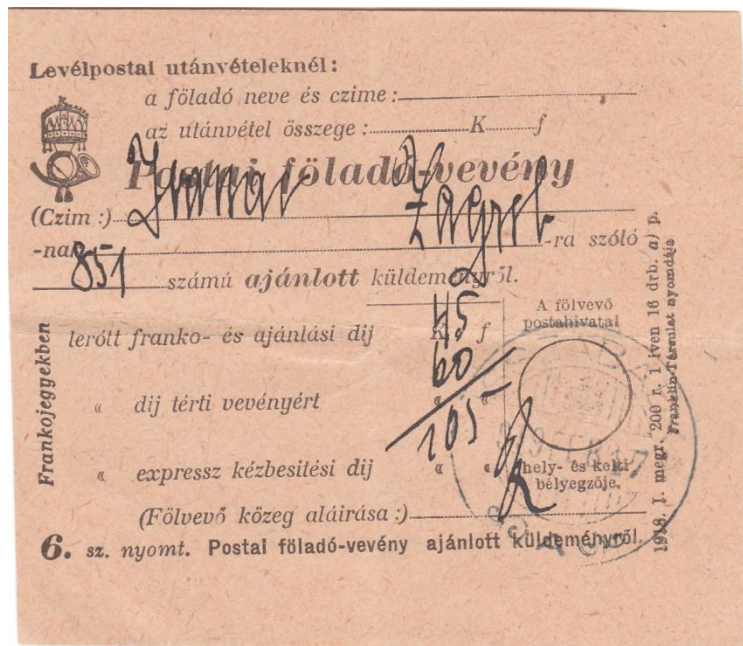


Figure 6 (continued)

I.5 Mursko Sredisce

“Abteilung Hauptmann Jurisic

No. 9

Mursko Sredisce, 25-XII-1918

Organization der Postämter

Im befreiten Teile der Murinsel, der zu unserer Abteilung gehört, bestehen drei Postämter: Sredisce, Sv. Martin und Strigova.

.....

Die Beamter (*that are Hungarians*) bleiben auf weiteres auf ihren Posten.

.....

Um ein sichtbares merkmäl der Staatsobrigheit zu geben, sind alle Postmarken mit den Zeichen **SHS** zu versehen.”

(Quotation Prirucnik pages 105/106)

The handstamp was made of cork by standard-bearer Gopcevic. At Sedisce stamps were overprinted to the value of 130 Kronen, at Strigova 354.04 Kronen and at Sv. Martin 145.58 Kronen. In total, 22 values were overprinted (see Prirucnik pages 114/115). The stamps were used as from 26 December 1918.

Gopcevic mentioned that not all the stamps were overprinted, but a stock to the value of 5310 Kronen was brought to Also-Landava for overprinting with SHS-Hrvatska (information of 27 December 1918 at Mursko Sredisce). Probably these stamps were overprinted in Zagreb instead of in Also-Landava. Of course there are forgeries of these stamps too.



Figure 7: The overprint

I cannot show these stamps on a postal piece for, in thirty years of collecting, I have never been able to buy a correctly franked letter or postcard!! Indeed, letters with these stamps are offered, but these are “paintings” and are hardly worth collecting. I know that there are a few correct postal pieces with these stamps.

II Overprinted regular stamps used as postage due stamps

The object in this article is the stamp that is overprinted on the (complete) sheet.

A lot of post offices used regular stamps with overprint, but these offices hinged the regular stamp at the letter and overprinted then with “porto”, “PORTO”, “P” etc. This article does not cover these stamps.

The following towns with sheet overprinting are known to the author:

- *Slovenia – 1. Maribor
- 2. Ljubljana
- *Croatia - 3. Zagreb
- 4. Varazdin

There may be sheets that were overprinted in Petrovaradin with “P-“ but I have no further information about that.

II.1 Maribor 1

The values overprinted with “PORTO” – 5, 10, 20 and 25 Vinar – were already mentioned in a philatelic magazine in 1919. The bisected 10 Vinar stamp with “PORTO” was mentioned too. On 2 April 1919, the use of these overprinted stamps was officially affirmed by Ot. Susnick.

Sometimes it has been said that these overprinted stamps were speculative/philatelic, but a lot of these stamps are known on parcel cards, money orders etc.; especially the 5, 10 and bisected 10 Vinar were used officially. The reason that these stamps were necessary is the fact that the old Austrian postage due stamps were used up and the new Slovenian postage

due stamps were issued first on 18 March 1919 (**not 18 April 1919 as is mostly written wrongly in the literature**).

There are some tariffs which asked for special postage due stamps; for example, 5 V. for the message of arrival of a parcel or Austrian postcards with 8 Heller instead of 10 V. (2V. short gives an extra tax of $2 \times 2 = 4$ V., rounded to 5 V.).



Figure 8: Normally, the bisected 10 V. regular stamps were overprinted twice with “PORTO”. Only the lithographic printing was overprinted!! Overprinted typographic stamps are forgeries. The four values 5, 10, 20 and 25 Vinar were overprinted with “PORTO”. The overprint “pOrtO” was only used for the 5 and 10 Vinar lithographic printing.

There was a complete hype of these overprints and a lot of forgeries were made. Not only was the handstamp falsified but also other values than the four official ones were overprinted. On 18 March, new postage due stamps became available. Stamps with an overprinted date after 25 March are suspect. The cancellation Marburg an der Drau 1 – 3d and 3f is notorious. The cancellation Marburg an der Drau 1 – 4b was used correctly and also used for forgeries.



Figure 9: Some examples of forgeries. “Porto” on 10 V. in black instead of in violet. A lot of stamps with the cancellation Marburg an der Drau 1 – 3d 23-2-1919. “pOrtO” on 40 V. in black with cancellation Gonobitz 2-5-1919. “Porto” in violet on 3 V. (cancellation Marburg an der Drau 4e 19-6-19. “PORTO” on 5 and 10 V. This type is not good.

Authentic overprints:

*PORTO – (violet) black – 4.7 x 16 (16.5) mm

*Porto – violet – 6 x 16 mm. Correct use on postal piece scarce

*pOrtO – violet – 6 x 16.5 mm. Rare on postal piece.

II.2 Overprint of Ljubljana 1

Ivan Junz (“Höherer Postbeamter”) wrote in his letter 8 April 1919:

“

Unser provisorischer Porto-Stempel “P” wurde von mir zur Zeit als die Bestände der österreichischen Marken zur Neige gingen, unsere neuen Postmarken noch nicht verausgabt waren, eingeführt. Das war von Mitte Februar bis 30. März 1919. In den regulären Einsatz kamen die neuen Marken nach den 1. April 1919. Somit war auch der Einsatz unseres “Portoprovisoriums” beendet. Nur die “10 Vinar Portoprovisoriummarke” wurde noch bis 6. April 1919 gebraucht.

Nach meiner Aufstellung betrug die Auflagehöhe: 3 V. – 500; 5V. – 700; 10 V. – 3000; 20 V. – 2000; 25 V. – 600; 40 V. – 4000 Stück.

Stempel: Ljubljana 1 – 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e (*later 3a was found – author*)

Andere Stempel kamen nicht in amtlichen Einsatz. Somit sind alle Portoprovisorien welche mit andere Stempeln gestempelt sind, als Gefälligkeitsstempel zu betrachten.”

(Quotation Thomas Artel – Balkanländer 2001).

The numbers of overprinted stamps were unlikely high and a lot of these stamps are unused and were put on the market. Moreover, a lot of stamps are known with a cancellation on request. This aspect of the issue is of course philatelic. Correctly used on postal piece is very rare.



Figure 10: Overprint “P” of Ljubljana

II.3 Overprint of Zagreb 2

Post office Zagreb 2 is part of the main railway station. On 2 and 3 March were overprinted

*2 and 3 F. Croatian issue with "PORTO"

*10 and 15 F. Hungarian issue with "HVRATSKA/SHS/PORTO"

The total issue was never published by the authorities, so all the numbers written in the literature are speculative. On 9 March 1919 this issue was renounced by direction from Zagreb. The overprinted stamps were only used for three days: 2, 3 and 5 March 1919 (4 March has not been mentioned until now). Authentic use of these stamps on postal piece is very rare. Philatelic letters, of which nearly all are franked incorrectly, are hardly interesting.



Figure 11: A non-philatelic letter handed in at Zagreb 4-3-1919 is filled by twice the missing postage (local postage $15 \times 2 = 30$ F.) in postage due stamps. Not only is this franking very rare, even local letters are very scarce (only a few items are known). (Letter with certificate Zrinjscak)

II.4 Overprinting of Varazdin

The Royal Post- and Telegraph Office of Varazdin wrote in letter Nr. 1631/1919 of 3 August 1919:

“In reply to your inquiry of 31 July current, this office used the following postage due stamps: 2, 3, 10 and 20 filler Croatian issue; 3, 5, 10 and 25 Vinar of the Slovenian Ljubljanian issue and 40+2 filler stamps of the Hungarian Charity issue.

.....

We have been forced to act in this way due to the introduction of new postal charges which had exhausted our stock of Hungarian postage due stamps ...”

In this letter, the total issue of all the values was listed (see Vilfan). First day of use was 4 July 1919. Nearly all these stamps were used philatelically and cancelled on request. Only a few correctly used items on letter are known.



Figure 12: The overprint “T” of Varazdin

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- *”Znamke prekmurskih in medmurskih izdaj lita 1919”. Murska Sobota 2002
- *”Izdanja za zaposjednuto Medjumurje I Prekmurje”. Priručnik
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- *Helmut Kobelbauer “Nebengedanken zu den “P” Aufdrucken in Ljubljana”. Arge Balkanländer No. 155, 2001
- *Mladen Vilfan “Die Marken der Murinsel (Medjimurje)”. Südost Philatelie No. 104/105, 2008
- *Thomas Artel “Ljubljauer Portoprovisorien aus dem Jahre 1919”. Arge Balkanländer No. 154, 2001
- *Drs. Henk Buitenkamp “Poststempels SHS toonbeeld van nationalisme”. Notities Nederlandse Academie Filatelie deel I, 2006; deel II, 2008; deel III, 2010
- *György Barabás “SHS Aufdruckmarken in der Kroatischen Literatur”. Mitteilungsblatt Arge Ungarn No. 70, 2005
- *N. Janic “Varazdiski porto”. Varazdin 2005
- *Jsaiah Bouman Ph.D “The New World, Problems in Political Geography”. London
- *”Posta na slovenskih tleh”. Posta Slovenija Maribor 1997
- *”Jugoslavia”. Volume II “History, Peoples and Administration”. B. R. 493A (Restricted), Geographical Handbook Series for official use only. Naval Intelligence Division, October 1944

Additional Markings of the French Medical Mission in Serbia

Richard M. Stevens

In his article “French Medical Mission in Serbia in 1915” in the March 2013 issue of *Jugopošta* Milan Radovanović reported the use of four administrative marks. I can add five more.

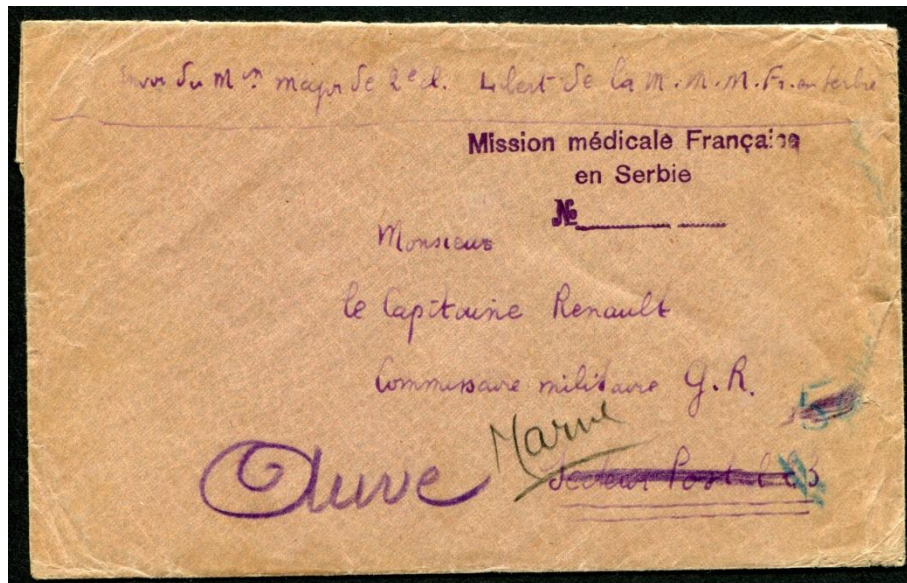


Figure 1: Cover from French Medical Mission to France

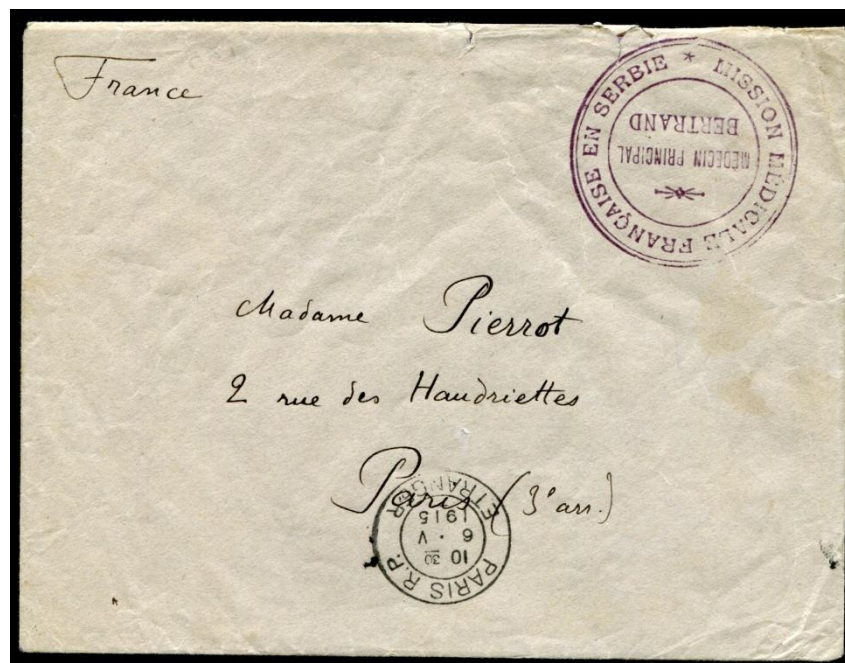


Figure 2: Cover from Dr. Bertrand to Paris, France

The first (Figure 1) resembles his two-line marks, with a third line added, providing space for a manuscript number. The handstamp is 58 mm wide and 17½ mm high. It is struck in black on my cover, which has a military address, and appears to have been forwarded twice, first to

a different secteur postale, and then to a town in France. There are no other postal or censor marks, and no date.

The next two are double-circle marks, which were obviously prepared by the same workshop, probably at or near the same time. They are slightly smaller than the Figure 5 mark of Radovanović, and use different fonts. Both are inscribed “MISSION MEDICALE FRANÇAISE EN SERBIE” between the two circles. In the inner circle both have the same ornament over two lines of text; the first line has the doctor’s title and the second his last name. The first (Figure 2) is for “MÉDECIN PRINCIPAL BERTRAND” and is struck in black, perhaps with a trace of violet, on a cover backstamped on receipt in Paris on 6 May 1915. The second (Figure 3) is for “MÉDECIN-MAJOR COLOMBANI”. It is struck in violet on the widely-used Serbian patriotic fieldpostcard, written in French at Beograd, and sent through the Serbian postal system to Azanja. The Doctor’s signature at lower left was probably intended to indicate self-censorship. It has also received a typical Serbian two-line censor marking in red. One may note that the message is dated “6 Aout 1915” using the Gregorian calendar, but the Beograd postmark is 25.7.15 by the Julian calendar.



Figure 3: Pictorial Fieldpostcard from Dr. Colombani to Azanja, Serbia

The fourth marking I consider the most spectacular of all. It is a bi-lingual oval, a full 70mm in width (Figure 4). At the top is the two-line text in French: “HOPITAL MIXTE FRANÇAIS BELGRADE”. At the bottom is the two-line text in Serbian “БЕОГРАД ОПШТА ФРАНЦУСКА БОЛНИЦА”. It is struck in violet on an envelope sent by a member of the French Aviation Mission in Serbia to Rouen, France, where it was backstamped on 17-9 15. I do not know the meaning of a “mixed” hospital. Perhaps its staff included both French and Serbs; perhaps its patients were both military and civilian.

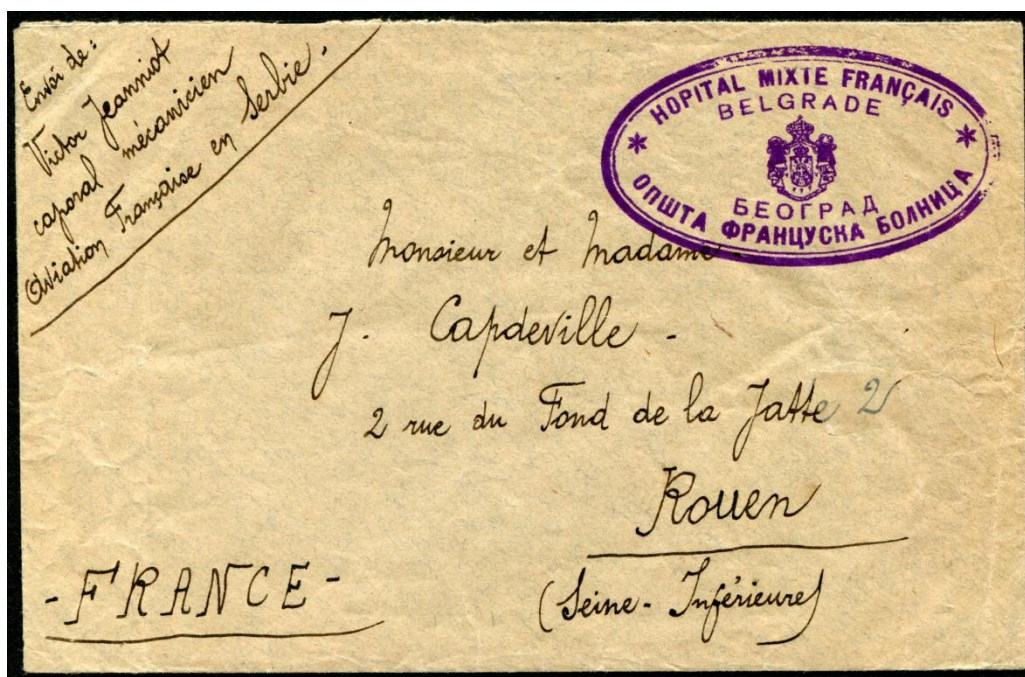


Figure 4: Cover from the French Hospital at Beograd to Rouen, France

The last marking I can only report. My example is lightly struck on a grey envelope, and does not provide a satisfactory illustration. It is a rather large five-line marking in French and Serbian reading:

MISSION MÉDICALE FRANÇAISE
DIRECTION
ШТАБ
ВРХОВНЕ КОМАНДЕ
БР

with a small Serbian coat-of-arms at the left end of the third line, above the first three letters of the fourth line. The lines are 60mm, 20mm, 11mm, 38mm, & 39mm in length. All the letters are the same somewhat unusual sans-serif font, and nearly 7mm high. The French diacritical marks and the dots on the “I”s lie above and below the rest of the letters. The cover was sent by Dr. Pierrot of the French Medical Mission to Madame Pierrot in Paris. There are no other markings or date.

This makes a total of nine marks of the French Medical Mission. Probably more exist.

I would also like to add a comment regarding the charity postcard pictured by Milan Radovanović. They do not appear to be common; this is only the second example I have seen; however, I am not a postcard collector. Regardless, they apparently had a wide distribution, as my copy has a message in Italian, and was mailed from East Hampton, Long Island, N.Y. to a Mrs. Edgar in New York City, then forwarded to Montrose, Pa.

The Obliterated Cyrillic Alphabet on Croatian Stamps 1941

Dave Foster

I enjoyed reading Jugopošta 105 and in particular Tony Bosworth's article on the Independent State of Croatia 1941-45.

In the article Tony stated that *"Cyrillic script was banned in NDH (The Independent State of Croatia) from the beginning, this applied to postage stamps, registration and express labels and any other philatelic items."* Behind that single sentence lies a collection just waiting to be put together!

Before the Second World War, Yugoslavian stamps were inscribed in two alphabets – Roman and Cyrillic. This was because the Roman alphabet was used in the north, i.e. Slovenia and Croatia, whilst the Cyrillic was the alphabet used in the south, for example in Bosnia and Serbia. It wasn't only stamps that were in dual alphabets – postal stationery cards, registration labels and even town cancels all used both scripts.

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show a stamp, a registration label and a postal stationery card, all with lettering using both alphabets.



Figure 1: Post WW11 stamp.



Figure 2: Dual alphabet registration label.



Figure 3: Dual alphabet postal stationery card

Following the birth of the Independent State of Croatia on 10th April 1941 one of the first edicts of the government was that the Cyrillic should be obliterated from all communications, including stamps and other postal paraphernalia. The obliteration of the Cyrillic alphabet was due to the desire of the new order to wipe out the Serbian influence in the country. Old Yugoslavian stamps and postal stationery cards, which had carried both alphabets, were overprinted with the name of the new state. These were quickly produced and new registration labels bearing the town name in Roman letters only began to appear. Figures 4, 5 and 6 show a stamp, a registration label and a postal stationery card, all with lettering that used only the Roman alphabet.



Figure 4: Overprinted stamp



Figure 5: Single (Roman) alphabet registration label

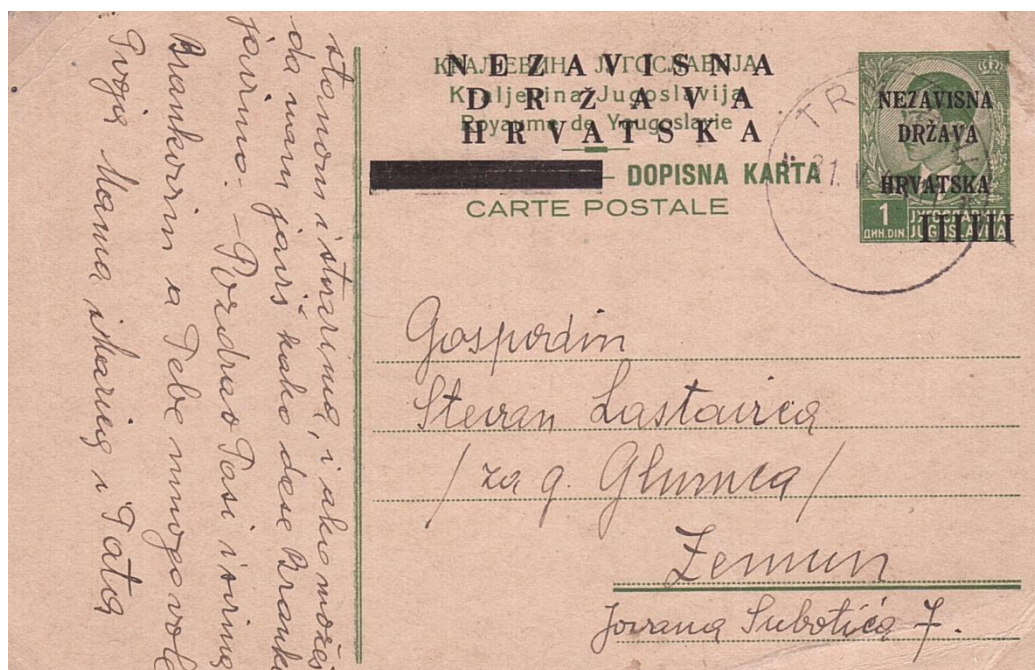


Figure 6: Overprinted card obliterating the Cyrillic alphabet

The law stated that items without the Cyrillic obliterated would be invalid after 1st June 1941. This was, of course, easier said than done, which is where the story begins!

In Figure 7, a Croatian postal stationery card has had an old un-overprinted Yugoslavian stamp added to make up the required rate. Cancelled 1st September 1941, this stamp had supposedly been invalid for three months!



Figure 7: Croatian postal stationery card with added Yugoslavian stamp

In Figure 8, the reverse is the case. Here an old un-overprinted Yugoslavian postal stationery card has overprinted Croatian stamps added to make up the rate required. Again, this was after the date by which no items of post should show the Cyrillic lettering.



Figure 8: Old Yugoslavian postal stationery card with added Croatian stamp

Cancellations also had to be changed as the post-1941 cancellers had town names in both Roman and Cyrillic, as shown in Figure 9 for Ivankov.



Figure 9: Ivankov cancel in dual alphabets

The change was achieved by the postmasters simply scraping off the Cyrillic and leaving the Roman lettering, the result of which can be seen in Figure 10 for Zagreb.



Figure 10: Zagreb cancel using only the Roman alphabet

It is perhaps worth mentioning that the alphabet that was used in the town or village determined which alphabet was placed at the top of that town's cancel. So Zagreb, in Croatia where the Roman alphabet was used, had the Roman lettering of the town name at the top of the cancel, whilst Cetinge (as seen in Figure 11, later) had the Roman lettering at the bottom of the cancel as the alphabet used in this Bosnian town was Cyrillic.

There are, of course, unusual items to be found here too. Figure 11 shows an item of mail posted in Sarajevo, where the Sarajevo roller has had the Cyrillic removed. However, the Cetinge receiving mark still shows both alphabets, as the postmaster of Cetinge has not yet removed the Cyrillic part of the cancel.

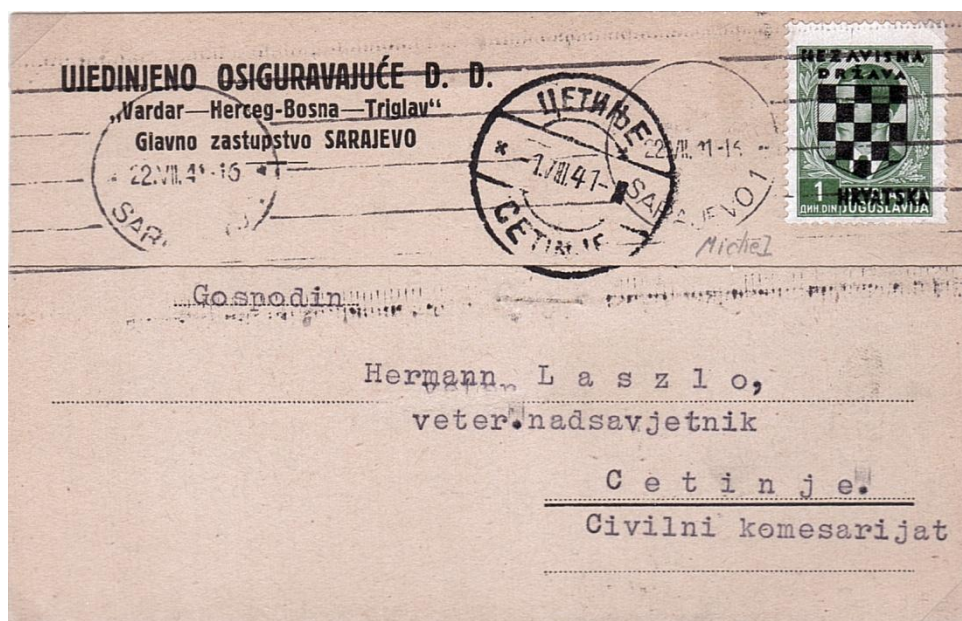


Figure 11: Sarajevo single alphabet and Cetinge dual alphabet

Sometimes, a town postmaster only got things half right! This example Figure 12 shows a cover in which the town cancel correctly shows the name of the town using only Roman lettering, yet the registration tag still shows both alphabets, the Cyrillic having not been crossed out.



Figure 12: Unaltered registration tag.

There are many other examples of errors in applying the law, but I'll leave it to you to have a look at your collection to see what you can find!

Letter from Frank Delzer

This was received from our member Frank Delzer on 13 March 2013 by email and is reproduced here with a little editing.

Wife picked up the mail at the PO yesterday afternoon, and I just now finished reading (and will not be the only time) the contents of the March issue.

Excellent choice of articles. Don't know if Mr. Veličković's article on the King Alexander mourning stamps added anything new to what is discussed in Prirucnik, but the concise, clarity of the article is worth this modern repetition or updating of what was done and how to identify what can't exist, with regard to the missing border varieties.

One question or comment: the text at the bottom of page 10 says overprinting Method III only was used on three values, yet on the Table at the top of page 11, I find but two, the 0.50 and 0.75 D values. Going to drive me back to Prirucnik or Neues Handbuch to see what, if anything, they might say to clarify.

The illustrations are excellent!

The French Medical Mission to Serbia article was very educational. Will have to go back and see what I have, but more importantly where I have holes in that part of Serbian postal history.

And finally Mr. Bosworth's casting of bait onto quiet waters. Very good in how far it went but I want more! P J Hughes started of course with his masterful tome on the plating of the first overprinted issues. Followed by the Croatian catalogue wherein a great number of varieties and engravers' initials were located. But neither of these shed much light on where I had been back in the late 1990s and even deeper some 4 to 5 years ago.

I spent substantial portions of a two year stay in Costa Rica working my way through sorting and mounting a small horde of NDH parcel cards. Started first with the cancellations, which is how I grouped the cards (alphabetically by post office names and sequentially by the branch offices) and then started looking for stamp printing varieties such as specks, dots, scratches, you name it, the family of glitches that creep into voluminous printings of things as small as postage stamps.

First thing I knew I thought that I was seeing a repetition of spots and dots in the Croatian Blue Dues and realized that I would need to spend more time with these to see if there were types to be identified. And, lo and behold, once back in the USA, during one of the doldrum periods of the mining industry in the Western Hemisphere I managed to spend large portions of 2008-2009 going through the remainder stock of these stamps sold to me by Bob Tomlinson together with multiples that I had accumulated over some 40 years or more of collecting Yugoslav Area and related stamps and covers.

What I found was that YES, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. . . and I think that I can demonstrate or show that these stamps in their two versions (with the size variation being the easiest differentiating feature) were all printed with ten basic types for each value in each of the two printings and these types are arranged in vertical columns on the pane of 100 stamps, that I assume were sold in post offices.

This work is not yet complete, lamentably, and I am now indulging myself in attempting to plate the multiple printings of the Slovenian newspaper stamps with their reincarnations as revalued from Vinara to Para and Dinara with the final metamorphosis into the Carinthian Plebiscite issue. Not easy going with the overprinted material as plate position characteristics are many times obscured, but at age 77 still counting on another 20 years to indulge myself in these two areas - The Croatian Blue Dues and the Chainbreaker Newspaper stamps.

Keep up your good work, and some day, I promise an article or two? Has anyone done plate position identification on the WW II German issues for Zara; or the plating on the overprinted revalued Istria stamps? Have dabbled there as well - all lamentably (this being Lent, so I can lament) not yet complete but in hopes of another day to get something out for constructive criticism.

Thanks for allowing me to "speak to sympathetic ears".

Frank Delzer 13 March 2013

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