



ISSN 0966 – 7059

Jugopošta

Journal of
The Yugoslavia Study Group

www.yugosg.org



Number 112

December 2014

The 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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Subscriptions to the Yugoslavia Study Group are as follows:

Membership	Annual subscription from 1.1.15
UK	£12
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Jugopošta

ЕНГЛЕЗ ЦЕФ БАРЛИНГ КОЛЕКЦИОНАР ПИСАМА ИЗ СРЕМА

Љубав према Српкињи
крива за све

Седмдесетогодишњи
Сетел из преградња
Полска ЦЕФ Барлинг
има 36 година уколико је и
заиста Митровићу. До
Београда Барлинг је и
босанског сусрета у Београ-
ду, а онда је и своје пост-
војне делатности и од тада
живи у енглеској Падбури
Рошестер.

Замењујући љубав пре-
ма својој отаџбини, ЦЕФ се
заклепао на писма из
Срема, па његова колекција
сваке године броји 220 пис-
та и писана из периода од
1788. до 1902. године. Сва
ова писма издати су је-
дином на српском језику,
а онда је на путу до своје
отачине пролазило кроз
своје поштанске уредње.

1901. године сам се за-
интересовао за српску и пре
своје српске писма и Бо-
ма је много занимљива да
својим писма, него по-
штанске марке, јер свако



ЦЕФ Барлинг



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From the President

From the President

We have reached the end of another year, and we are all looking forward to a good new year.

On 13th - 16th May 2015 an International philatelic exhibition "Europhilex" will be held at the Business Design Centre in Islington, with many international dealers and displays of top quality exhibits from collectors from all over the world. I am on the committee for this event and will be there every day so if any of you attend please try to find me and introduce yourself.

The good news is that your Society is able to announce that there will be no increase in subscriptions this year; this is largely thanks to sterling work by your committee in keeping expenditure down.

Once again I am making an appeal for a replacement for our Auction Manager. There is an auction with this JP (online or hard copy) but the current Manager is coming to the end of the material he holds in stock, and when that happens he will retire. So please give this your utmost consideration, a new volunteer would be stepping into a well-organised system, and advice or help would be on hand. Without the auction the Society would lose a valuable members' benefit.

The committee wish all members a Happy Christmas and a good, prosperous and healthy New Year, and of course a philatelically successful one.

A J Bosworth FRPSL

From the Editor

One thing that struck me as I was preparing this edition of Jugopošta was that this is the twelfth edition since I took over the editorship from Geoff Barling, yet it seems like no time at all has elapsed. Sadly, Geoff passed away in July 2013 but, in JP104, he wrote:

“Some members of the society will know that my prime collection concerns the Postal History of Srem, an English county-sized region of Serbia that was part of Croatia until after World War 2. While on holiday this summer, I spent a few days in Srem. During this period, I was interviewed by the Srem-wide newspaper and about a week later an article was published in the newspaper based on the interview. The article covered a page and a half and included text, a photograph of me and reproductions of two postal history type of covers.

I regard this as a great honour, better indeed than an award at a philatelic exhibition, since it must be rare for a postal historian's work and expertise to be recognised right across the area covered by the collection.

This could well be the pinnacle of my collecting life.”

Michael Chant, our Treasurer, has kindly translated this newspaper article and it appears in this edition of Jugopošta.

In this edition there is also an article by Milan Radovanović on Serbian telegraphic mail during the Great War and a short article by myself.

Once again, I would like to ask all members to try and contribute to Jugopošta. Ideally, I would like a good mix of longer and shorter articles which enables me to balance out the 32 pages that I normally use. I rely at present on a relatively small number of contributors and it would be good to hear from those that have never contributed or have perhaps contributed in the past. Over the 111 editions of Jugopošta to date we must have covered all aspects of Yugoslav philately, of which there are many, but there are some which have been conspicuous by their absence for some time. I am happy to help put articles together if you are not confident doing this but have something to say, so please give it some thought.

In 2015, at the moment, I have no plans to publish a monograph, so members will not be asked to pay the surcharge which would arise for receiving the monograph on paper.

Cover story

An example of a telegram receipt form of 1911 used in 1914, with a Belgrade postmark dated 9 May 1914. Additional franking is due to an increase in charge from 10 to 20 para. See the article on page 8.

Extract from the newspaper ‘M NOVINE’ (published in Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia), 11 July 2012

Translated from the Serbian by Michael Chant

LOVE FOR A SERBIAN WOMAN RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALL

Seventy year old Geoff Barling, an Englishman from the London suburbs, met and fell in love thirty-six years ago with Dobrila Vojnović from Mitrovica. As a result of a chance meeting in Belgrade through their work, Geoff and Dobrila got married in 1976 and since then have lived in the English city of Rochester.

Thanks to his love for his wife Geoff became interested in letters from Srem and his collection now comprises more than 220 covers and letters from the period 1749 to 1900. What all those items have in common is that on the way to their destinations they passed through the Srem postal administration.

“In 1981 I became interested in the Serbian and, above all, the Srem post and it was much more interesting for me to collect letters than postage stamps, because each letter has a story of its own. They speak to us of communication conducted between the senders and recipients of mail, who were mainly educated Austrians and Hungarians, as there were few literate people in the Serbian part of Srem. My collection includes letters with and without postage stamps, as well as plain postcards, packet cards and picture postcards. Mostly it is civilian mail, though I do have examples of secret military letters”, says Geoff.

This English collector acquires letters in various ways. Often he gets them through exchanges with his philatelic colleagues from all over the world but the largest number have been bought by him in internet auctions.

“My passion for collecting letters has lasted more than thirty years. Although the period is long, I have at the moment 220 deciphered letters up to the year 1900 and I have even begun translating letters from Srem from the period 1900 to 1921 and that collection is larger, as it is much easier to acquire the later letters than the eighteenth century ones. The collection (which I hope will soon be exhibited in Belgrade) consists of scanned photographs – images of covers and the contents of letters with accompanying explanations that indicate all the places through which an item passed in order to reach its final destination“, states this collector from England.

In collecting letters that passed through Srem, Geoff has been elucidating by what means they reached their recipients. He says that most frequently they were carried on foot, while soldiers carried military post on foot or in a carriage and even priests were often engaged to deliver certain letters. Geoff jokingly suggests that fortunately in that period there were not many letters, as civilians were mostly illiterate, so the couriers were not overworked. After investigating how many days letters travelled Geoff has concluded that nothing essential has changed, even though we have a modernised postal system. Thus, for example, in 1867 a letter from Sremska Mitrovica to Trieste took four days and its route was Sremska Mitrovica – Petrovaradin – Vienna – Trieste.

In translating the letters Geoff obtained information as to when the individual post offices in Srem were opened. Thus the oldest post office was the one in Čerević. Opened in late 1773 and some years later in 1787 an office was also opened in Golubinci, which, however, was closed in 1856, only to be reopened in 1884. Post offices were opened in Nova Pazova in 1883, in Erdevik in 1865 and in Stari Banovci in 1870. Post offices have existed in Martinci since 1888, in Sremska Kamenica since 1877 and in Irig since 1856.

As he is a polyglot and speaks English, Serbian, French and Spanish and also knows Latin, it was generally not difficult for Geoff to decipher the contents of the letters. He did even come across correspondence in Latin between priests in Karlovac and Temešvar [Timișoara].

The oldest letter possessed by this collector is from 1745 and, when asked which letter cost him the most and which the least, Geoff answers: “A letter signed by the Emperor of Austria which he sent in 1783 from Zemun to Kovin is the most expensive letter that I have and I paid £300 for it but postcards that I can even buy in auctions for 10 euros each are generally the cheapest.

When it comes to old letters from the eighteenth century, each one requires special treatment. They must not be stored one on top of another. At home I have a special cupboard with four drawers in which I arrange covers with letters and each letter is put in a separate plastic sleeve. When I buy a letter I immediately scan it and then afterwards I use copies and preserve the originals”, explains our interviewee.

We people from Srem are not too much interested in our history but instead of us an Englishman is occupying himself with collecting letters that have passed through Srem and from which one can learn a lot about the military and political situation in Srem in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as well as becoming acquainted with the broader social context.

Biljana Selaković

[The box with shaded background below Geoff’s picture]

Geoff Barling has been a member of the Vračar Philatelic Society in Belgrade for three years and in England he regularly visits philatelic societies, where he exchanges experiences with other collectors and shows his own collections. Otherwise, Geoff graduated in mathematics at Manchester University and spent almost all his working life in the aircraft industry, where he worked as an aeronautical engineer.

LETTERS WERE DISINFECTED WITH SMOKE AND VINEGAR

All letters sent following the great cholera epidemic of 1833 were disinfected with smoke and vinegar because people feared that this disease would be transmitted to them through letters. Consequently many letters of that period have no surviving contents, as the smoke and vinegar did their work. At that time it was not known that cholera could not be contracted through letters. Fear took hold and overwhelmed everybody.

[The two columns with shaded background on the right hand side of the second page are nothing to do with the article about Geoff]

The two pages of the article from 'M NOVINE' dated 11.7.12

Serbian telegraphic mail during the Great War

Prof.dr.Milan Radovanovic

In the postal sector, especially in wartime, there can be found in postal use very different materials. This includes postal stationery, forms of different types and kinds of improvisation, and the like. During the processing of a large number of used postal items from the viewpoint of postal history, ie. the subject of the postal treatment from the sender to the receiver, with or without postmarks or cancels military postmarks, with or without censor marks, it was observed that there is a category of material that has not been subject to sufficient philatelic description. Specifically, this category relates to telegrams which, under the conditions of the Great War or war in general, were an extremely rapid means of communication and confidentiality, often coded with or without the marks of the military post office, and with or without censor marks.

It appears that this area of postal history deserves more attention, because the speed of delivery of certain information by telegram was far beyond the usual speed of delivery of mail. In this paper, an attempt is made to bring this neglected part of postal history to light particularly as most of the telegrams were within the official communication of the state authorities, especially in Corfu and the Thessaloniki front. Of course, their number and their presence in official philatelic exhibits, as well as in auctions or for buying over the Internet is very small, so it is fully justified to conclude that the telegrams are rare. One of the reasons is the fact that they were regarded as official documents, often of a confidential nature, and are an integral part of the historical record and so out of the reach of research, consideration and treatment from the perspective of postal history.

It is characteristic that Vuković, also known as a detailed, comprehensive and respected researcher of postal history, has dealt with Serbian telegram forms up to 1895 (?), but not thereafter. Telegraph receipts are also described in his book up to 1914.

Hereinafter, the telegrams are to be discussed using the criterion of time, with respect to the order of performance of certain military activities in the Balkan theatre of war. From the standpoint of the telegraph post office in Serbia in the Great War, it will be discussed as follows:

- 1 Telegram-mail from the period 1914-1915 years,
- 2 Telegram-mail from the period 1916-1918 years



1 Telegram- mail from the period 1914 to 1915 years

The description of these forms, upon receipt of delivery to the recipient, will not be given here in detail, because this can be ascertained from the examples shown. The only thing to be listed here is the dimensions of these forms in mm from the three cables which are: 245x207, 248x211 and 240x203. These forms are perforated on the right hand side, indicating that they were delivered to the post office in book form, where they were separated by tearing out. On the examples shown the telegram height has been reduced, in areas where there was no text on them.

Before further consideration of this part of the the postal history of Serbia, it is necessary to specify several key concepts related to the organization and operation of censorship, relevant for this area. By the order of the Minister of Buildings to all telegraph and telephone officials and to persons whose job it was to censor the telegrams in their jurisdictions, guidance on the method of censorship and dispatch of both private and official correspondence was delivered. This order was published in Serbian Newspapers, No. 179 of 14.08.1914 (on pp 1025). Art.6 says: ‘Do not censor the documents, letters and dispatches addressed personally to individual ministers’. Furthermore, the Minister of Defence, Colonel Radivoje Bojović, in Serbian newspapers br.157 of 06.09.1915 (on p. 391) in Art. 3 says ‘what is not subject to censorship - correspondence and conversations of the court, ministers, generals, foreign delegates who have power, etc.’.



Figure 1: Telegram sent from Paris to the President of the Serbian Assembly in Niš, dated 25.11.14

Figure 1 shows a telegram sent from Paris with a reception postmark of Niche (25.XI.1914), which was submitted to the President of the Serbian Assembly, Nikolić, in Niš. The telegram text refers to a statement of condolence in French: 'Deeply sympathize regarding the death of our hero Dusko, Giga.'

Like all the other mail and telegrams it has been censored. In this telegram there is a two-row censor mark with the text 'HEAD / Main Military Censorship' in purple colour (Figure 2) with the initials of the Head (?) in blue.

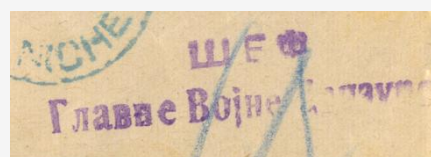


Figure 2: Expanded view of censorship marks on the telegram shown in Figure 1

Should this telegram have been censored, with regard to the above?

Figure 3 shows the telegram sent by gen.Bojovića with a request for approval of the Minister of Buildings of the following content: 'I determined for delegate of post and telegraph at the headquarters of this command ... Mr.Stošić as commissioner of the post and telegram office for Serbian new areas (Kosovo and Macedonia). Distribution of staff during evacuation will be in agreement with this command in agreement with the Head of Department of telegraph and telephone located in Kraljevo. I wish to approve this action. Commander general Bojovic'. (Courtesy of Mrs. Lj.Đorđević).

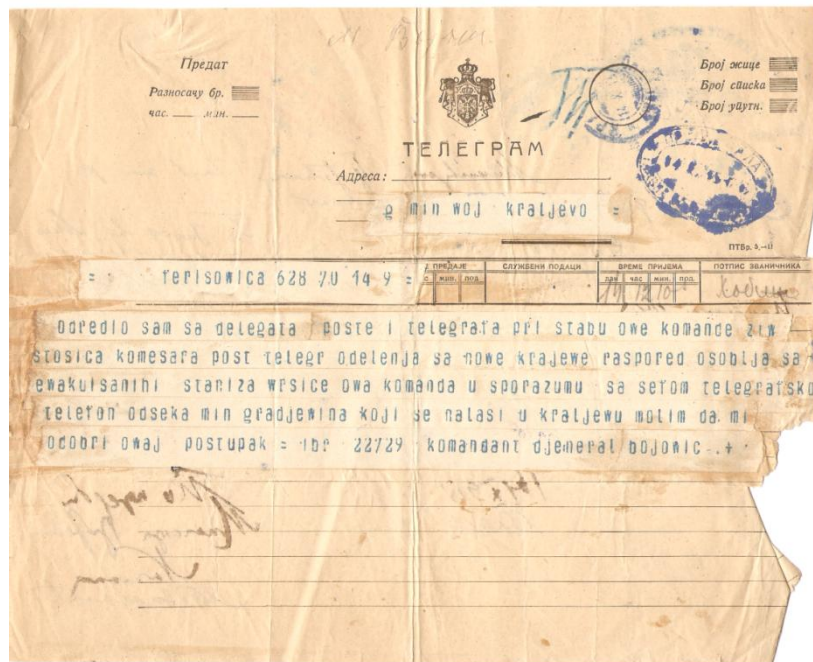


Figure 3: Telegram sent by General Bojović (reduced)

In Figure 3 the oval censor mark reads: 'CHECKED by / GENERAL MILITARY CENSORSHIP' in black colour.

The same question relating to censorship, as in the previous case, is valid for this telegram too.

The text in the two telegrams shown in Figures 4 and 5 is private and can not be quoted. Both of the telegrams are of the same geometric features of characters, as already shown in Figure 1. The only difference is the censor mark that is different from the foregoing.

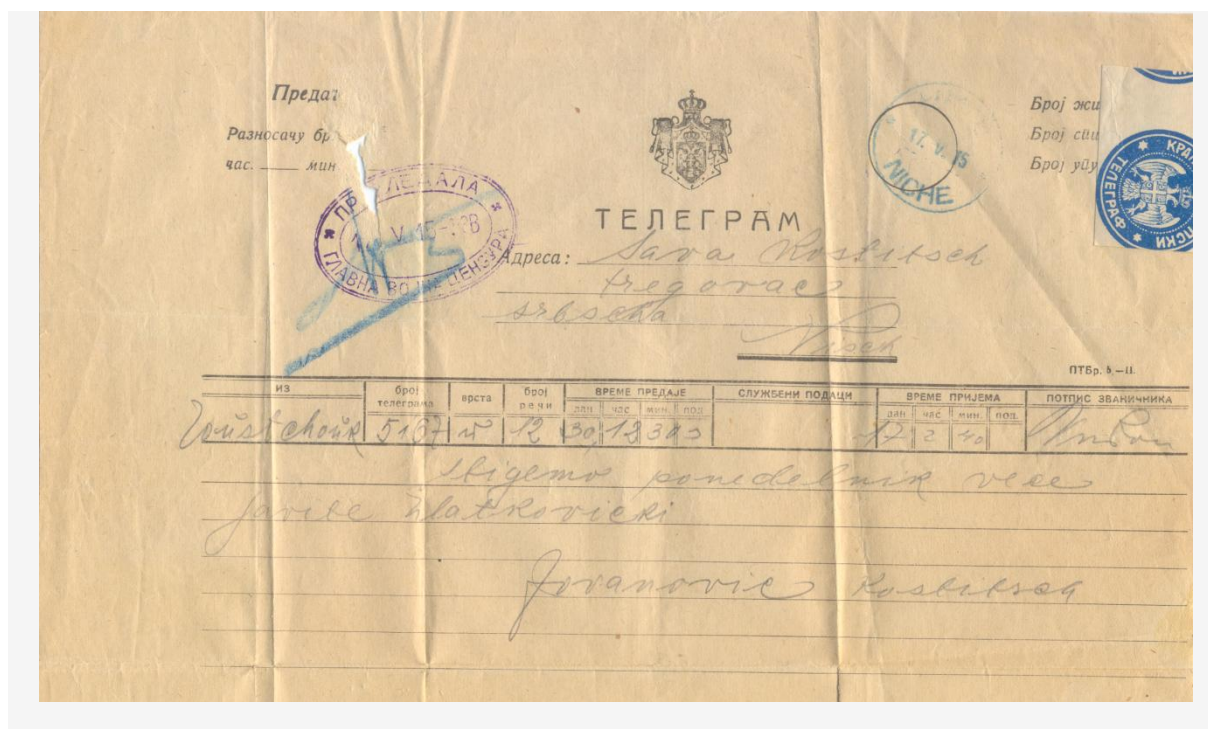


Figure 4

Censor marks on the telegrams shown in Figures 4 and 5 are oval in shape with a date in the middle of the text: 'CHECKED / GENERAL MILITARY CENSORSHIP' and are shown in Figure 6 because of the difference in colour. However, common to all four telegrams is that they were checked by the major military censorship.



Figure 5



Figure 6: Detail of censor marks shown on the telegrams in Figures 4 and 5

Both of these telegrams were properly censored.

Three of these telegrams shown so far were marked during delivery by a blue vignette with the text 'ROYAL-SERBIAN / TELEGRAPH' (see Figure 7).



Figure 7: Blue vignette from the telegrams in Figures 1, 4 and 5

To complete this area, to the above forms should be added the appropriate telegraph receipts. These telegraph receipts are described in the catalogue of postal stationeries of Yugoslav countries – M.R.Vuković (see Reference). One example is shown in Figure 8.

Гл. Управа Пошта и Телеграфа
Телеграфски саобраћај

ПРИЗНАНИЦА

Телеграфска станица примила је данас у *12* час. ми-
нута телеграм Бр. *15-138*, да га достави г. *Вукотић*

Наплаћено:	дани пр.	речи
За телеграм	<i>3</i>	<i>25</i>
" одговор		
" признаницу	<i>20</i>	
Свега	<i>3</i>	<i>25</i>

10 СРПСКА КРАЉ. ГОДИНА
БЕЛГРАД
9. МАЈ 1914

20 ПАРАСИ

Figure 8: Telegraph receipt from 1911, used 1914 (postmark Belgrade from May 9, 1914) with additional franking due to an increase in charge (from 10 to 20 paras).

2 . Telegraph-mail from the period 1916-1918

This part of the telegrams from the specified time period is divided into two sections: the Greek and the Russian theatres of war.

2.1 Greek theatre of war

For telegraphic correspondence, the Serbian government opted at the time for the very well known Eastern Telegraph Company. The company was founded in 1860 and had a very strong and large network. One of the nodes to send and receive these messages was Malta. This is one of the reasons why a lot of the telegrams, which will be shown, went through the Serbian consulate in Malta. This company had a rich history and an extensive network within Greece and abroad. Some examples of these networks (header from the received form), used by the Serbian military forces, are shown in Figure 9 showing the text contained in the headers of the telegrams.





Figure 9: Stations of the Eastern Telegraph Company (in the order from top to bottom): Athens Station, Zante Station, Corfu Station, Thessaloniki Station, Malta Station (two types) and Marseille (Bureau de Marseille).

As shown in Figure 9 it can be concluded that multiple headers of these patterns exist, but they are not analysed further. It should be noted too that these telegrams were bilingual: English and the language of the country in whose territory a telegraph station existed (examples of Greek and French telegrams) or only in English (Malta, for example).

In addition to this part there will be considered the following items from the point of view of this special mail and its contents. First shown is a telegram sent from Corfu by the Serbian prime minister N. Pašić to the Serbian consulate in Malta (Figure 10).

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.
MALTA STATION.

No. 133

REMARKS. The following TELEGRAM Received at 11.57 pm

From Corfu

Foreign No. 130 No. of Words 30 Dated 18 Time 7.57 m.

To Consulat Serbe Malte

Priere informer si existe
notre materiel sanitaire
quelconque Malta stop en
cas positif expedier
docteur Poljanski colonel
Salonique pour magasins
ministereee guerre

Doubtful Words should be OFFICIALLY repeated. See this Book
No inquiry respecting this Telegram can be attended to without the production of this Copy.
Karlson & Sons Limited, 17, Old Broad Street, London.

no 158

Pachitch

Ministre Etrangeres

Figure 10: The first page of the telegram and the next (continued plus) with a 'signature' N.PAŠIĆ (Greek received form)

On the telegram is the text which reads: 'Please let us know if there is something from our medical supplies in Malta. If yes, please send it to Colonel Poljanjski, Thessaloniki, for the War Department Store No.158. Pasic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.'

On the receive form of the telegram is the oval stamp of the Eastern Telegraph Company with the text 'The Eastern Telegraph Company / Limited' within an oval ring, and in the middle 'Branch Office' date 'OCT '18. 1916' and below the date 'MALTA'.

(Message Form 6/20)

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

MALTA STATION.

CLERK'S NAME. No. 82

REMARKS. The following TELEGRAM Received at 9 207

From Corfu via "Eastern."

Foreign No. No. of Words 61/60 Dated 4 Time 11 a m.

To Consulat Serbe malte

Priere informer telegraphiquement si quelque materiel expedie de Londres par delegue du ministre guerre colonel Joksimitch a l'adresse du gouvernement Serbe se trouve encore a malte et qui est parti de Liverpool a malte le 23 septembre 1915 par bateau merue stop ce materiel etant destine pour Salonique est reste male no 588

Packitch ministre etrangere

Doubtful Words should be OFFICIALLY repeated. See Rule Book.
No inquiry respecting this Telegram can be attended to without the production of this Copy.
Watkinson & Sons Limited, Printers, London Wall, London.

Figure 11: Malta received form. Telegram dated 4.1.17

On the next telegram (Figure 11) there is the same oval stamp Eastern Telegraph Company with the same text dated '4 – Jan. 1917'.

The text, signed by Prime Minister N. PAŠIĆ reads: 'Please contact us by telegraph about some of the material sent from London by the delegate of the Ministry of War, Colonel Joksimović to the Serbian government. Please, look again. It is the material that was sent from Liverpool to Malta on 23 September 1915 by boat 'Merrie' (?). This material, which has not arrived in Thessaloniki, is under the number 588. Pasic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs'.

Common to both telegrams in Figures 10 and 11 is that they lack censor marks. These telegrams are without censorship, probably as a consequence of the already adopted earlier regulations or that the author of this telegram was Prime Minister N. Pašić.

As is well known in wartime, and in Serbia and in Greece, all mail was censored. Rarely did this not happen, either accidentally or deliberately. On two telegrams, which are shown below, there is an apparently unique mark in French - 'Not censored' ('NON CENSURE').



Figure 13: Handwritten response to the telegram shown in Figure 12

Another telegram (Figure 14) was sent on 25 November 1918 from Salonika (after the breakthrough of the Salonika front) for the Serbian State printing house in Corfu with the following text: 'Srebrenac and staff depart for Skopje on November 15. Equipment remains in Thessaloniki. No. of the representative of Delegates 8040, Boskovic.'

Figure 14: Greek received form. Telegram sent from Salonika dated 25.11.18.

Separately the 'NON CENSURE' mark (two types used in previous telegrams) is shown in Figure 15.

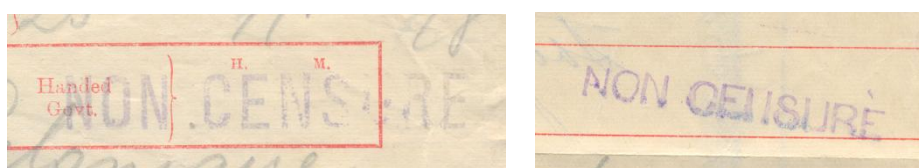


Figure 15: 'NON CENSURE' marks shown on previous telegrams

The text itself indicates a lack of prompt delivery of Serbian newspapers, but the background of telegrams with three answers and suggestions of what to do in this situation gives nice details of how the Serbian newspapers were sent and sold in Thessaloniki. In the latest proposal, with the official seal of the Serbian State printing House, it reads: 'A separate act to Mr..Minister asking for permission to continue to print the Serbian Newspapers in 1,000 copies less, instead of 6200 - 5200 copies.' There follows the signature of the representative of the Administrator, Gvozden Klajic.

(Message Form 5/21.)

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH CO., LTD. MALTA.

No. 82 f. 35 P

The following TELEGRAM Received at Salonica Via Eastern

From Salonica

Foreign No. 38 No. of Words 38 Dated 28 Time 12.07 m.

To Consulat Serbe Malte

Spot

Priere informer si
six balles cuir
marquées m R C no 61
62 71 72 73 et 74
arrivées par bateau
Athinaï en 1915 se trouvent
actuellement Malte et
dans quel depot no 3685.
Vintrovitch

Figure 17: Malta received form. Telegram sent from Salonica dated 28.7.17

The text reads: 'Request for information if the bale of leather marked with RC numbers 61, 62, 71, 72, 73, 74 arrived by ship 'Athena' in 1915 to Malta and whether the depot br.368.' Signed, Vintrović.

After this text, one may ask whether this is really about the bales of leather or a coded telegram. This is due to the fact that the codebook for diplomatic mail was made by a Serbian famous in this time, mathematician Mihailo Mika Petrović, paid 600 Swiss francs by N.Pašić.

The telegram shown in Figure 18 was sent from Geneva to the Consulate of the Kingdom of Serbia in Thessaloniki via Athens with a short note that says, 'The letter received on 16. The 'signature' Tomic, Serbian consulate.

(Message Form 5/21.)

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED. ATHENS STATION.
 ΘΑΕΤΤΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ.

(Greek Received Form.)

Date } 22-8-17
 Ημερα }

3155 Local No. }
 1105
 35
 661
 By }
 Clerk }
 Handled Govt. }

TELEGRAM From } Geneve
 ΘΑΕΤΤΑΦΕΙΟΝ 'Εκ }

No. }
 Αριθ. }

Words } 21
 Λέξεις }

Time } 10
 Ώρα }

REMARKS }
 Παρατηρήσεις }

To }
 Προς }

Consulat Serbe
 General Topola
 Salonica
 Reçu lettre 16
 Tomitch
 Consulat Serbe

CENSOR TELEGRAPHIQUE
 27 8 17
 ARMEES ALLIEES

ΘΕΤΤΑΦΕΙΟΝ
 27/8/17

Figure 18: Greek received form. Telegram sent from Geneva dated 22.8.17

What distinguishes the telegram in Figure 18 from others is the presence of the Greek postmark Thessaloniki (27 August 1917), and the very rare censorship of the Eastern Army intended for telegraph mail. This mark is shown in Figure 19.



Figure 19: Censor mark of the Allied Armies used in the telegraph-mail with the text 'CENSURE TELEGRAPHIQUE / 27.08.17 / Armees ALLIEES'

It seems that sometimes the telegraph network was used for private purposes. So the telegram shown in Figure 20, addressed to Corfu from Marseille, Serbian consulate, in February 1916 has the following text: 'Ms. Ljubica Jelenka Mihailovic came to Corfu in good health. Jelenko.'

288 (Message Form 5/21.)

CONTINENT. THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

Reçu le 16.06.92 de 232 Me

BUREAU de MARSEILLE

Indications spéciales.

COPIE POUR DESTINATAIRE.

Corfu 16 9 11

Am Consulat Serbe
Marseille

Madame Lioubiza Ielenska
Michailovitscha suis a
Corfu bonne sante
attends adresse

Gm? Ielenko

Anney

Impression de Waterson & Sons Limited, London W.1

prof.

Figure 20 French received form. Telegram sent from Marseille

On this telegram, sent via Malta ('V (ia) of Malta') is the incoming postmark of Marseille (February 9, 1916), and a French framed censor mark 'Contrôle'.

Figure 21 shows a telegram sent from Corfu to the Serbian Embassy in Rome. This has an incoming postmark for Rome (in red) (11 January 1918), as well as the text in French: 'Please inform Dr. Djoka Nikolic that Valdimir is coming soon here.' Signed by Colonel Borisavljevic.

N.° 129 di recapito - Rimesso al fattorino - ad ore 19.20

Indicazioni di urgenza

LEGATION ROYAL SERBE RCME

Il Governo non assume alcuna responsabilità di servizio
Le tasse riscosse in meno per errore od in seguito a rifiuto o irreperibilità
Il destinatario è invitato a firmare la ricevuta presentata dal fattorino ed a
ritorno a reclamare in caso di rifiuto della consegna.

Ricevuto il 11.10.1914 da Doni

Per circuito N.° 191

QUALIFICA	DESTINAZIONE	PROVENIRE

S CORFOU 250-18-11-16/30-

PRYE INFORMEZ DR DYOKA NYKOLITCH BV
LA - COLONEL BORISSAVLEVITCH

Figure 21: Italian received form. Telegram sent from Corfu

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH CO., LTD. : MALTA.

No. 249 1-2-19

The following TELEGRAM Received at 2.00am

From London A.O. Via Eastern

Foreign No. 14 No. of Words 31 Dated 31 Time 6.40pm

REMARKS: foot

To Agios Serbian
Consul Malta

Count Tolstoj should apply
Russian minister belgrade
Gavrilovic No 249

Figure 22: Malta received form. Telegram sent from London, date illegible

The Eastern Telegraph Company sent a telegram from London (unfortunately illegible date) shown in Figure 22 for the Serbian consulate in Malta with the following text: 'Count Tolstoj should apply Russian minister belgrade'. Signed, Gavrilovic No 249.

The form shown in Figure 23 represents the most unusual form of the Eastern Telegraph Company, which served to correct errors in the received telegram. In addition to the places (Valletta) and the date (June 30th ??) is the text 'Correction' for the Serbian consulate in Malta. In short, the Serbian consulate in Malta notifies that the telegram from London sent on 29th ??? should be signed by 'Todorovic' (whose name probably was unclear or incorrect in the received telegram).

(Station Form 6.154.)

Reference

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

Valletta STATION,

30.6.20 19...

Correction.

Serb. Consulate

In your telegram

129 from *London P.O.* dated *29th*

7 o'clock, please read *signature*

"Todorovitch"

J. F. Fiorin
Superintendent.

Figure 23: Form used to correct errors in a received telegram

To everything presented until now should be added the so-called 'Receipt'. Figure 24 shows the French receipt form Nr. 516 with double seal 'Tresor et Postes / 510' addressed from the Salonika front to Ajaccio, France where there are extremely unusual labels: 'MILITARY TELEGRAPH' (in Serbian language and Cyrillic script). 'Tresor et Postes 510' belonged to the Supreme Headquarters of the French armed forces in the East ('Quartier General de l'Armee Francaise d'Orient').

N° 516. POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES.
 Août 1916. — Carré 616. RÉCÉPISSÉ D'UN OBJET CHARGÉ OU RECOMMANDÉ
 À REMETTRE AU DÉPOSANT. 11 07. 134-
Kavaj Kanan
 Nature de l'objet
 Valeur déclarée
 Remboursement
 Poids
 Nom et adresse du destinataire M. *Sanera Paul*
Giaccio
 Signature de l'Agent préposé à la réception.
 (1) Si l'objet ne porte pas de déclaration de valeur et n'est pas grevé d'un remboursement, biffer par deux forts traits de plume les emplacements réservés pour l'inscription de la valeur déclarée ou du montant du remboursement.

Figure 24: French receipt form



Figure 25: 'MILITARY TELEGRAPH' ('VOJNI TELEGRAF') as used on the receipt form on the telegram shown in Figure 24

To that mentioned so far can be added the cover for the delivery of telegrams issued by the Greek Post (Figure 26). On the cover one can see a French military postmark 'Trésor et Postes / 502', (August 24 1916) referring to the French-mail at the Command of the Allied Armies in Thessaloniki ('Commandement des Armées alliées'). This cover with a telegram was sent to Colonel Nedeljkovic in the Provisional Hospital No.6 ('Hopital temporaire no.6') and is crossed and readdressed after several attempts (21 August, 25 August and 15 September) for the Danube division. On the back is a common Serbian military mark of the military post of the Supreme Command - VP 999 dated 15.VIII.1916.



Figure 26: Telegram delivery cover

2.2 Russian theatre of war

Not wanting to fight for the interests of the Habsburg Monarchy against their Slavic brothers and Orthodox Russia, many Serbs and other Slavs surrendered to the Russian army, demanding to be involved as volunteers in the Serbian army. Accepting the request of the Serbian government, volunteer units in Russia were formed. In accordance with the Emperor Nicholas II, the Russian High Command allowed these Serbs and other Yugoslavs who were in prisoner of war camps in Russia, to form units led by Serbian army officers. As an integral part of this, the gathering centre became Odessa. In the organised gathering of volunteers a most important role was played by Serbian consul Mark Cemovic and the representative of the Serbian Government Milan Sajinovic. In Odessa in November 1915 there was formed a Serbian volunteer unit, which by the beginning of 1916, had about a thousand soldiers and officers.

The number of volunteers in Odessa grew to the size of a battalion and then to a regiment. The Serbian Government had sent 130 military personnel from Corfu to Odessa where they were commanders of lower and higher military units, administrative staff, as well as part of a medical mission. The first Serbian Volunteer Division was formed on April 16, 1916 in Odessa. Its composition was close to 10,000 volunteers, and Colonel Stevan Hadžić was appointed as the commander. Soldiers of the First Serbian Volunteer Division were sworn to Serbian King Peter Karađorđević. This was a signal to the world that the Russian government officially formed volunteer military units from other nationalities.

Without going over the historical data that are described several times in Serbian historical and philatelic literature, it should be noted that the postal items of these volunteer forces are very rare, if not the rarest in the postal history of Serbia during the Great War. Telegrams, of course, are not an exception, but only confirm this position. Here are displayed only two telegrams from this period and the battlefield.

12 два - Телеграфъ Въ ОДЕССА		СРОЧНАЯ Телеграмма. СРОЧНО.- Д.-р.Шейновичъ.- Сербское Консульство. О д е с с а.-										
Изъ Мологи 327 ср.24 22/II IO IO ночи.- М												
Принята 22/II 1916 г. отъ Москв.- № 78 Прислала Вережникова.- 15/9I пр.-		<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Годъ</th> <th>Служб. слов.</th> <th>Подана</th> </tr> <tr> <td>м.</td> <td>с.</td> <td>ч.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1916</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </table>		Годъ	Служб. слов.	Подана	м.	с.	ч.	1916	10	10
Годъ	Служб. слов.	Подана										
м.	с.	ч.										
1916	10	10										
Безъ Горуба агитовать трудно разрѣшить его со мной хочу привозить Войниковъ собой телеграфируйте Мологи Ярославской сербскій капитанъ.- Новотны.-												

Figure 27: Russian received form. Telegram sent from Molog dated 22.11.16

The telegram (Russian received form) shown in Figure 27, was sent from Molog, via Moscow, on November 22 1916, to the Serbian consulate in Odessa, M.Sajinovic. The text reads: 'Without Gorub is difficult to agitate. Connect it to me. I am planning to bring people to you. Telegraph please to Mologa Yaroslavl. Serbian captain Novotny'. On the telegram is written 'Urgent'. On the basis of the text it is obvious that the content of the telegram is related to the initial period of operation of Serbian forces in gathering volunteers.

Another telegram shown in Figure 28 represents the Russian received form too, and was sent from Corfu via the Eastern Telegraph Company to the Serbian embassy in Arkhangelsk (27 January 1918) and refers to the period of transport of Serbian Volunteer Corps from Russia to Thessaloniki. Text: 'Please find out what happened with Nikola Pavlovic Knezevic, cadet of the third year of the Cadet Corps Oreljski who six months ago with his colonel left Orelj to Nizhny Novgorod.' Signed, Minister of Foreign Affairs Protic.



Figure 28: Russian received form. Telegram sent from Corfu dated 27.1.18 (reduced)

On the telegram shown in Figure 28 one can see the rare censor mark 'C (ensure) I(nternational) A(ppliance) / Censure Militaire / 2 Arkhangelsk 2/2' in red-purple color (shown separately).

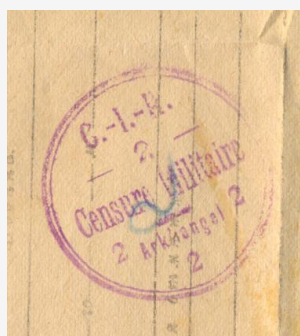


Figure 29: Rare censor mark from the telegram shown in Figure 28

Conclusions

It is hoped with this initial work to open up the area of the use and forms of the telegram as a subject of interest and study of the postal history of Serbia in the Great War (and not only of Serbia). Of course, for any classification, for serious analysis and conclusions to be reached, new items, with time and data, are needed.

Reference

1. Vukovic R.M. 'Catalogue of postal stationeries of the Yugoslav countries – Serbia 1873-1921'.

Postal stationery cards used during the German occupation of Serbia during World War II

Nick Coverdale

I recently acquired some postal history material covering this period. I was interested to note the four types of postal stationery card that were amongst this material and that are described in Michel's "Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland". I do not have access to all the early editions of Jugopošta but, as far as I can tell from David Treby's excellent Jugopošta index, this has not been covered here before.

Following the German occupation of Serbia in April 1941, at various times following this, existing postal stationery cards of Yugoslavia were overprinted for use in occupied Serbia. The basic cards were headed with "Kingdom of Yugoslavia" in Serbian (both Cyrillic and Latin alphabets) and French, and also with "Postal Card" in the same languages and alphabets. Each card also had an imprinted stamp of the King Petar issue. The printing and the stamp were in green.

The four types of overprinted card are illustrated and described below.

Type 1



Lettering obliterated by green design. Stamp not overprinted. Card sent from Kragujevac, 23 August 1941, to Belgrade. Boxed censor cachet (117).

Type 2



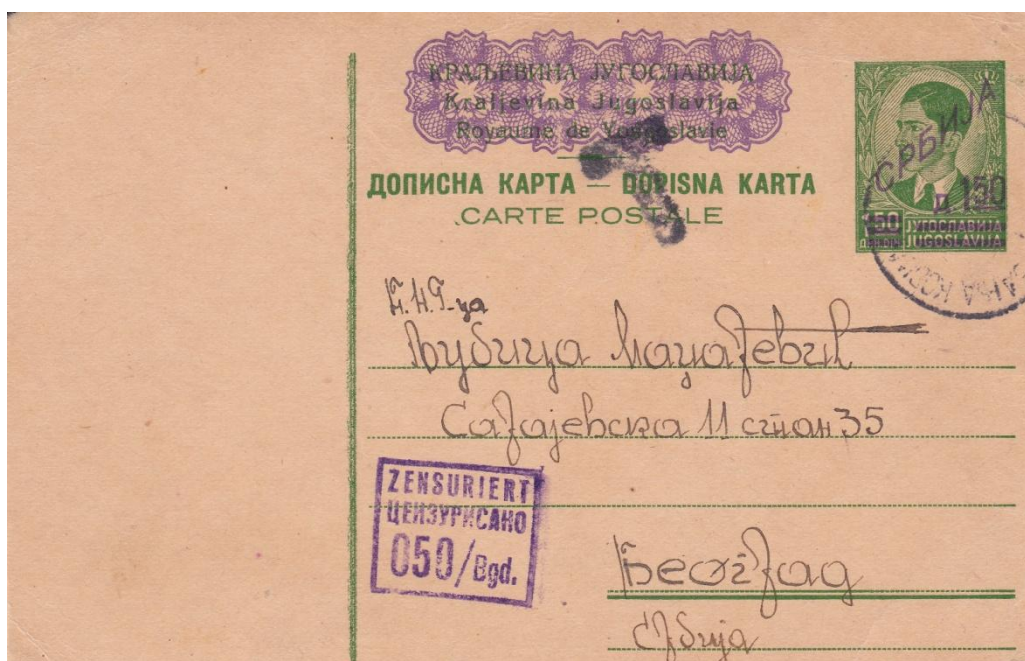
Lettering obliterated by red design and stamp overprinted 'SERBIEN' in red, diagonally from top left to bottom right. Card sent from Bela Crkva, 4 August 1941, to Belgrade. Boxed censor cachet (92).

Type 3



Upper lettering obliterated in purple and stamp overprinted 'СРБИЈА' diagonally from bottom left to top right. 1 dinar value and country name obliterated by horizontal bars and new value of 1.5 dinar overprinted. Card sent from Kraljevo, 4 February 1943, to Sopot Astrological Institute. Small boxed censor cachet (135/k).

Type 4



Identical to Type 3 except that the original imprinted green stamp has a value of 1.5 dinar. Card sent from Banja Kovidaló, 2 February 1943, to Belgrade. Small boxed censor cachet (050/Bgd).

Congratulations

to our member and contributor Milan Radovanović. JP111 carried an article about Milan's book "Serbia and the allies in World War I (1914 – 1915). Silent witnesses". This book was entered in 2014 in ROSSICA – 2014 International Biennial of Russian Philately and won a gold medal. Among the objectives of ROSSICA is to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Russian charity postage stamps issued because of the beginning of World War I. It is organised under the patronage of the European Academy of Philately (AEP) and the International Association of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP). In all, 135 medals were awarded, of which 33 were gold and 21 were large gold (one of which was awarded to The London Philatelist).



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4. *Banat and Bačka* (JP77)
5. *Srem Postal History to late 1944* (JP81)
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