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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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There will be no monograph published in 2015.

Additional copies of Jugopošta are available as shown on the back cover and a priced list of YSG publications is also located on the back cover.

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From the President

It is with great regret that I have to announce that Michael Hampson is standing down as Secretary of the YSG due to ill health. Michael has served the Group conscientiously and well for over ten years, and deserves a sincere vote of thanks for all his hard work. We wish him well for the future as a member and hope that his health improves quickly.

Dave Treby our Librarian feels it is time to "hang up his boots", so many thanks Dave for your sterling service, and a warm welcome to Derek Brinkley who has nobly volunteered to take his place.

I will stand in as Acting Secretary for the time being, but will welcome a volunteer to take the job over. We are also still looking for a replacement Auction manager; any volunteer would be given help and advice by the current incumbent.

It is important that these committee positions are filled, because the responsibility is being put upon a smaller number of willing volunteers and it is important that the workload is shared. If you want your Society to continue in existence please consider taking part in its organisation.

A further reminder for Europhilex 2015 to be held at the Business Design Centre at the Angel, Islington from 13th to 16th May. This is an international exhibition with many foreign dealers, a plethora of world class exhibits to view, and free seminars on philatelic subjects; certainly not to be missed. I will be there each day and would be happy to meet any of our members.

A J Bosworth FRPSL

From the Editor

I would like to add my thanks too to Michael and Dave for their help and support during my time as Editor. I welcome Derek Brinkley as Dave's replacement and you will see that Derek has been busy already in setting out his plans as Librarian.

In this edition of Jugopošta, we have two main articles – one by Roger Morrell (making a guest appearance here but better known as the Editor of the Stamps of Hungary!) on parcel cards during the SHS period of 1918 to 1923. Roger poses a number of questions and hopefully this may initiate some correspondence.

The second article is by John Courtis, making a first appearance I think as a contributor to Jugopošta. His article concerns the postal stationery wrappers of Montenegro.

Keith Brandon has drawn our attention on page 31 to Fiume material which belonged to the late Tønnes Ore and which will be sold in forthcoming Austrian Philatelic Society auctions.

As always, I am looking for more contributions. I have 1 or 2 longer articles in hand but also need some shorter articles of up to say 5 or 6 pages (or even shorter) to balance things out as I try to keep to a regular 32 pages.

The complexities of parcel postal history – Part 1: 1918-1923

by Roger Morrell

INTRODUCTION

Shuffling my unwritten-up chattels one evening, it dawned on me that scattered through various books, files and photo albums I had accumulated quite a number of Yugoslav parcel cards. They looked quite attractive with their multi-coloured, multi-sided frankings, and so I mused about writing them up, but of course this meant trying to work out how the postage charges came about. The only source of information I was aware of was deep inside Geoff Barling's compilation of postal rates on CD. After delving around for half an hour I found the right pages, only to be rather surprised by the complexity of charging, how short the periods for the various rates were, and how uncertain the dates were. In fact, there are quite a lot of question marks. But there's nothing like a challenge, so I tried to make a start. Your Editor caught up with me when I put some examples up at the Bradford Joint Societies meeting in August 2014, and chased me again a few months later to write something for the journal.

I have split this article into two parts: 1918-1923, where the system was developing, and 1923-1940 where it had settled down to a unified system. However, I am not an expert in this subject, and I am not in a position to fill in many of Geoff's 'gaps'. I will probably leave more questions behind than I answer but, as will be revealed, there are things that simply do not tie up. Either data in the tables are not correct, or the fee complexity led to errors on the part of the postal employees, unless I am missing something. Those of you who gamely try to plough through this article may be able to correct some things, or provide better explanations. If you can help straighten out my thinking, please do, by writing to the Editor.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The study of parcel cards has to be set against the political position of the time. In late October 1918 when Austria-Hungary capitulated and sued for peace, the lands that would come together to form initially the SHS and subsequently Yugoslavia were under different states of occupation and disarray. In much of Slovenia, Dalmatia and Croatia, the domestic infrastructures of the Austrian and Hungarian administrations were basically intact, and had not seen much in the way of military action. The Austrian system had also been in place in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1878, and was probably not greatly disturbed by the Serb/French occupation in October 1918. However, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia had been under military occupation by the Axis Powers since late 1915, particularly Austria and Bulgaria, and very little 'domestic' mail was permitted. Thus when peace was declared there was a mix of systems, or none at all, across the new state, and as trade re-commenced and the unhindered movement of goods was required, parcel post picked up. Of course, it takes time to unify the administration of a new country formed from various bits and pieces taken from others, but the post cannot wait, and continued as best it could until a unified system could be brought in. Thus we have postal documentation and the oddities of the process methods from all the prior parts which are in use until a unified methodology comes in. There are also four currencies to deal with: the Austrian 'heller/krone' and the value-equivalent Hungarian 'fillér/korona' (or 'filir/krune' in Croatian), which came together as the SHS 'vinár/krona', which was of different value to the Serbian 'para/dinar'. Notes and coins for the whole

country in para/dinar using the term 'SHS' came into use only in 1920. Up till that point, the equivalence was maintained at 4 krone = 1 dinar.

PARCEL RATES

The following table condenses Geoff Barling's tables for internal parcel rates into a single one for the first five years of the SHS. He gives no data from the declaration of the SHS to 30.06.1919, but it is probable that 'rump' wartime rates from the respective lands were in use. There is clearly an increase in the weight charges from 01.07.1919. No para/dinar rates are given before 15.09.1919, which means either that there are no data, or the parcel service in Serbia/Macedonia had not re-started before this. At this point some unification of rates began, but it appears that the cash-on-delivery (COD) service was not available in the para/dinar zone until 16.05.1920. The unified currency came in June 1920 according to the Michel catalogue, and the rates were then in para/dinar only after February 1921. It can also be seen how the basic rates escalated quite rapidly in line with central European inflation, but not by as large a factor as elsewhere. Question marks are where no data were available. Italics are Geoff's, and are taken to be 'assumed' values. Blanks in the table ought to be fillable, but documented evidence may not be available.

Charge	**Band**	**29.10.1918 to 30.6.1919**	**01.07.1919 to 14.09.1919**	**15.09.1919 to 15.05.1920**		**16.05.1920 to Feb 1921**		**Feb 1921 to Sep 1921**	**Sep 1921 to April 1922**	**April 1922 to Sep 1922**	**Sep 1922 To 14 Oct 1923**
Period		**1**	**2**	**3**		**4**		**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
	Currency (1)	**h/K**	**h/K**	**h/K**	**p/D**	**h/K**	**p/D**	**p/D**	**p/D**	**p/D**	**p/D**
Card charge	Ordinary	(0.14?)	(0.14?)	0.50	0.15	0.60	?	?	?	?	
	COD	(0.16?)	(0.16?)	1.00	?	1.20	?	?	?	?	
Weight fees	Up to 5 kg		1.50 (2)					5.00	6.00	8.00	8.00
	Each add'l kg		0.60 (2)	1.50	0.50						
	Up to 3 kg			3.00	1.00	6.00	1.50				
	3 kg to 5 kg			4.50	1.50	8.00	2.00				
	5 kg to 10 kg			9.00	3.00	16.00	4.00	10.00	12.00	20.00	20.00
	10 kg to 15 kg			13.50	4.50	24.00	6.00	12.00	18.00	30.00	30.00
	15 kg to 20 kg			18.00	6.00	32.00	8.00	20.00	24.00	40.00	40.00
Declared value (insurance) fees	Up to 300 K Up to 100D			0.75	0.25	1.20 K per 1200 K	0.30 D per 300 D				
	300-1500 K 100-500 D			1.50	0.50						
	1500-3000 K 500-1000 D			3.00	1.00						
	Per 3000 K or 1000 D extra			1.50	0.50						
COD fees	Flat fee			0.20							
No payment at residence	Up to 800 K Up to 200 D					3.20	0.80			1.00	*1.00*
	Up to 4000 K Up to 1000 D					5.60	1.40			1.80	*1.80*
With payment at residence	Up to 800 K Up to 200 D					4.00	1.00			*1.20*	*1.20*
	Up to 4000 K Up to 1000 D					6.40	1.60			*2.00*	*2.00*
Express fee				2.50	-	4.00	1.00				
Delivery fees (3)	Up to 5 kg		0.75	1.80 (4)	-	2.40	0.60	?	1.00	?	*1.00*
	Per add'l 5 kg		0.30								
Notification of arrival fee	Up to 1000 K	0.05	0.10	0.15	?	0.40	0.10	0.30	0.30	0.30	*0.30*
	Per add'l 1000 K		0.10								
Storage fee	Per day			?	?	0.30	0.10	0.10	0.10	*0.10*	*0.10*

(1) h/K = heller/krone, vinár/krone, fillér/korona, filir/krune; p/D = para/dinar
(2) With notification of delivery, 2.25 K (up to 5 kg), 0.90 K (each additional kg)

(3) It is assumed that GB mislabelled his table column headings, having weights under the notification of arrival charges, and values under the delivery charge (!).
(4) Flat fee irrespective of weight from now on.
Values in italics are GB's guesses.

In terms of what we know about internal Austrian rates at the end of WWI, Martin Brumby has kindly supplied the following data for the period from 01.09.1918 to 14.01.1920:

	Up to 5 kg	**5 – 10 kg**	**10 – 15 kg**	**15 – 20 kg**
Basic charge	1.00 K	2.20 K	3.20 K	4.20 K
COD collection fee	0.10 K, paid by sender			
Value declared fee	0.10 K per 300 K value			
'Aviso' fee	0.05 K (0.10 K from 02.12.1919), paid by recipient			
	In locations with >50000 inhabitants	**In locations with >10,000 inhabitants**	**From offices at other locations**	**Additional charge per extra 1000 K value**
Delivery fee (up to 1000 K value)	0.50 K	0.30 K	0.20 K	0.20 K

In terms of what we know about Hungarian rates, from 01.10.1916, these were as follows:

	Up to 5 kg	**5 – 10 kg**	**10 – 15 kg**	**15 – 20 kg**
Basic charge	0.70 K	1.50 K	2.50 K	3.50 K
COD collection fee	0.10 K, paid by sender			
Value declared fee	0.10 K per 300 K value			
	In Budapest	**At other offices with delivery service**	**At offices with no delivery service – notification of arrival fee**	
Pre-paid delivery fee	0.25 K	0.20 K	0.05 K, paid by sender	

From 15.06.1918, the above rates remained the same, but 0.20 K war tax for each parcel was to be added and, according to John Whiteside (in notes from his collection), the Budapest delivery fee was raised to 0.50 K.

Of course, the war tax element (subsumed into the Austrian charges above) was intended as a separate temporary charge, and probably did not get removed immediately the war ceased. The chances are it simply became more generally subsumed into the SHS rate structure and never got formally withdrawn as a separate charge, but was lost in the post war inflation.

TESTING THE TABLES

The periods for the basic rates have been numbered 1 to 8 for convenience, and we will now examine the evidence on travelled cards to see how it matches with the Tables.

Period 1: 29 October 1918 to 30 June 1919

Figure 1: Austrian German/Slovenian language card for a 5 kg parcel from Marburg an der Drau (Maribor) to Muta (Občina Muta), formerly Hohenmauth, on 12.03.1919. Value declared 80 K. Fees: 5 kg = 1.00 K, Value declared = 0.10 K, total 1.10 K = value of mixed Austrian/Slovenian stamps. Manuscript '5' at lower right of front = notification (aviso) fee of 0.05 K, paid on collection with a 5 h postage due stamp. This was normal Austrian post office practice. Sorry about the chunk missing – detracts, but does not prevent analysis.

Figure 2: Similar card for a 5 kg parcel from Gonobitz to Maribor on 23.03.1919. Value declared 120 K. Same fees as above, paid for with mixed franking. No manuscript marking on the front, but notification (aviso) fee of 0.05 K paid with a provisional postage due stamp created by handstamping a chainbreaker (a non-philatelic use).

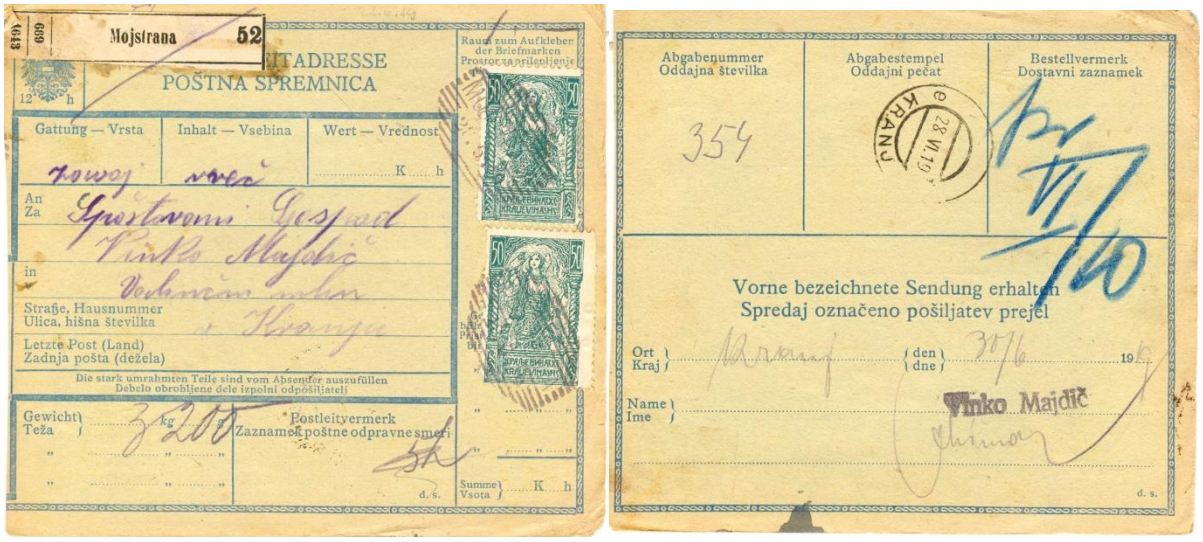

Figure 3: Similar card for a 3.2 kg parcel from Mojstrana to Kranj on 28 June 1919. No value declared. Basic weight fee of 1 K paid with a pair of 50 v stamps. The 'aviso' fee of 5 h is marked at the lower right, but crossed out and no charge levied. The reverse of the card has no postage due stamp. Either the 'aviso' issue has been dropped, or more likely the addressee does not need notification.

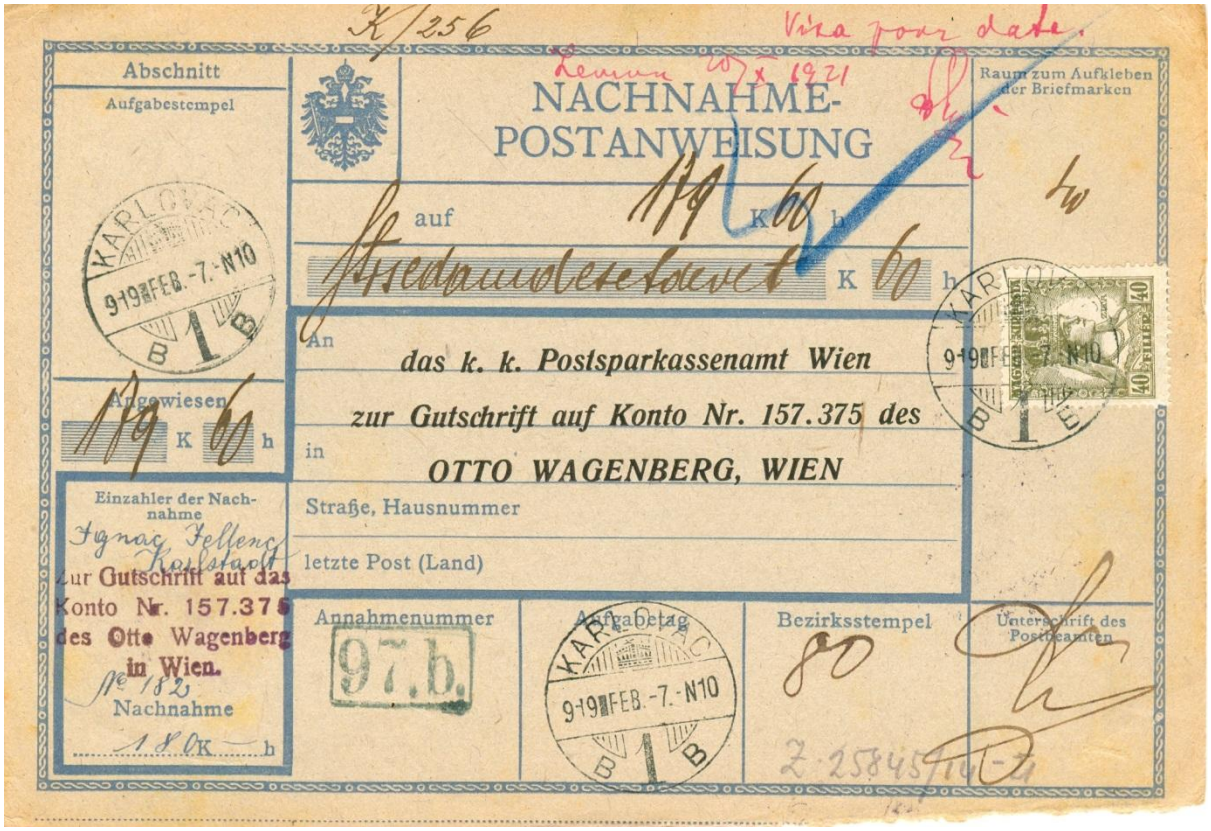

Figure 4: The money order card half of a COD parcel card from Vienna to Karlstadt/Karlovac, Croatia, made out for 179.60 K (plus 0.40 K for the fee) and returned to Vienna on 07.02.1919. Addressed directly to an account at the Postal Savings Bank in Vienna. This proves that the COD service was still operating across new borders!

Figure 5: Bilingual Hungarian/Croatian large-sized COD card for a 9 kg parcel of cosmetics with COD charge of 264.62 K, sent from Koprivnica to Križevci on 28 January 1919 and franked with a total of 1.85 K of mixed Hungarian and SHS overprinted stamps. Charged at Hungarian rates: weight: 1.50 K, COD: 0.10 K, war tax: 0.20 K, notification of arrival: 0.05 K, total: 1.85 K. Paid for and collected on 31 January.

Figure 6: Hungarian/Croatian bilingual small size card used from Zagreb to Našice on 17.05.1919 for a 5 kg parcel of value 600 K. Fees: Basic: 5 kg = 0.70 K, war tax: 0.20 K, value declared: 0.20 K (Hungarian rate, 10 f per 300 K), notification of arrival, 0.05 K, total 1.15 K. Paid for by 5 x 20 f + 10 f + 5 f = 1.15 K in Croatian stamps.

Period 2: 1 July 1919 to 14 September 1920

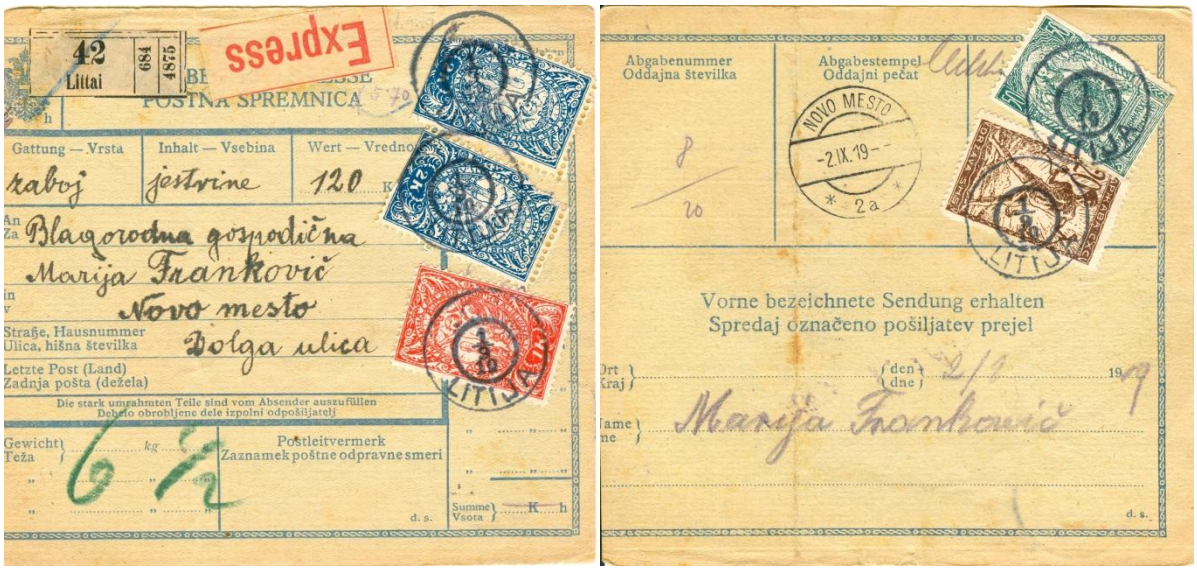

Figure 7: Austrian bilingual German/Slovenian card used on 27.08.1919 for a 6.5 kg express parcel of value declared 120 K from Littai/Litija to Novo Mesto. Fees: weight: 6.5 kg = 1.50 K + 2 x 0.60 K = 2.70 K, value declared: 0.10 K (Austrian rates), Express: 2.50 K?, notification of arrival: 0.10 K?, total = 5.40 K. Fees charged to sender: 5.70 K, indicated by manuscript to the left of the uppermost stamp on the front. The additional 0.30 K is a mystery. Is it an up-front delivery charge (but according to GB that should have been 1.05 K), or had the value declared rates been put up from Period 1?

Figure 8: Austrian bilingual German/Slovenian card used from St Margareten in Krain/Sv Marjeta Kranjsko to Trbovlje on 27.08.1919 for a 14 kg parcel of value 100 K. Fees: weight: = 1.50 K + 9 x 0.60 K = 6.90 K, value declared: 0.10 K (Austrian rate), total: 7.00 K. Fees paid 7.15 K explainable by an additional up-front notification of arrival fee of 0.15 K.

Period 3: 15 September 1919 to 15 May 1920

Figure 9: Slovenian SHS card charged at 16 vinár used for a 13 kg parcel from Laibach/Ljubljana to Brčko/Bosnia on 26.01.1920. Value declared 700 K. Fees: weight: 13.50 K, value declared: 1.50 K, notification of arrival: 0.15 K, total: 15.15 K, paid for in 3 x 5 K + 0.15 K stamps. This one seems to check out according to GB's tables. However there are various summations on front and rear that at first glance do not make a deal of sense. At the lower front, there is a sum which includes a delivery charge of 1.80 K, rather than 0.15 K notification of arrival. If delivery was requested by the recipient, the sum on the back might correspond with the extra charges for four parcels arriving concurrently.

Figure 10: Similar card used for a 16 kg parcel send from Zagreb to Mostar/Bosnia on 15.05.1920 (last day of the period!). Value declared is 5000 K (V-sticker). Fees: weight: 18.00 K, value declared: 4.50 K, total = 22.50 K. Charged 24.30 K, paid for with this value in stamps. Difference: 1.80 K, accountable by 1.80 K flat rate delivery charge?

Figure 11: Bilingual Hungarian/Croatian large-size COD card used on 12.03.1920 for a 7.5 kg parcel from Orahovica to Ljubljana, declared value 500 K, COD value 268.55 K. Fees: weight: 9.00 K, value declared: 1.50 K, total: 10.50 K. Fees paid: 12.50 K. The additional charges could be delivery = 1.80 K, COD charge 0.20 K. This would balance the charges. There seems to be a very faint pencil summation at the centre left (circled), but it makes no sense.

Period 4: 16 May 1920 to ~ February 1921

Figure 12: Bosnian COD card overprinted for the kingdom and revalued to 14 h, used on 19.05.1920 for a 2.5 kg parcel from Tuzla to Zenica, COD value 260 K, no declared value. Fees: weight: 6.00 K, COD charge: 3.20 K (at post office) or 4.00 K (at residence), notification of arrival: 0.40 K, total: 9.60 K or 10.40 K. Total paid 8.60 K. Is this underpaid, or am I missing something?

Figure 13: Slovenian SHS card used on 20.12.1920 for a 3.5 kg parcel sent from Sarajevo to Sikirevci, value declared 4000 K (V-sticker). Fees: weight: 8.00 K, value declared: 4.80 K, notification of arrival: 0.40 K, total = 13.20 K. Paid for with a very mixed franking of 2 x 5 K (postage dues!) + 2 K + 2 x 15 para (= 1.20 K) = 13.20 K.

Figure 14: Bilingual small-sized Hungarian/Croatian card used for an 8 kg parcel sent from Jablanac to Karlovac, value declared 2500 K (V-sticker). Fees: weight: 16.00 K, value declared: 3.60 K (1.20 K per 1200 K), notification of delivery: 0.40 K, total: 20 K. This correlates with the sum ringed at the right. Fees paid: 18 K. The shortfall has been noted – see '-2K' at the lower left, and was presumably charged to the recipient. Mind you, there wouldn't have been room for another 2 K stamp on the card!

Figure 15: Slovenian COD card for a 4.7 kg parcel sent from Zagreb to Bjelina/Bosnia on 09.11.1920, COD value 260 K. Fees: weight: 2.00 D, COD fee: 1.00 D, notification of arrival: 0.10 D, total: 3.10 D. Fees paid: 3 x 1D + 0.40 K (= 0.10 D) in mixed currency stamps. The reverse has the cachet in German: '*Ausgefolgt Lagerzins K h*', which I take to mean the storage 'fee', but this has not been filled in with a value. Did the post office clerk stamp it ready in anticipation that the recipient might incur storage charges? The parcel was collected the day after arrival.

Figure 16: Slovenian COD card used on 14.02.1921 for a 6 kg COD parcel from Strnišč pri Ptuju to Mostar, with a charge of 258 K, value declared of 260 K. Note the anonymous parcel number label, using a postmark to give the origin. Fee charged = 5.90 D in stamps, made up from: weight: 4 D (= 16 K), COD charge: 1.60 D (= 6.40 K) for payment at residence (at least this makes the sum balance the stamps), value declared: 0.30 D (= 1.20 K), total: 5.90 D (= 23.60 K). There is a manuscript mark (ringed) reading '23,60' at the top right. In GB's table, the start date for period 5 is 'by February 1921', but this card gives evidence that it was still period 4 at the middle of the month. The basic weight charge for period 5 would be 10 D, much more than the total shown on this card.

Period 5: ~February 1921 to ~September 1921

Figure 17: A Serbian post-war bilingual Serb/French international card with a 10 para double-head postage stamp imprint used on 16.07.1921 for a 3.1 kg parcel sent from Kochane to Štip. At this time the weight fee was 5.00 D, but no postal charges have been paid. It is suspected that this is an official parcel. The single 10 para stamp at the top appears to be an upgrade of the card charge from 10 para (as shown by the imprint) to 20 para.

Figure 18: An example from eBay of a Slovenian COD card used for 3000 K consignment with value declared, weighing 17 kg, sent from Zagreb to Skopje on or about 24 July 1921. The total postage paid was 25.70 D. In this period, the charges according to GB's table were: weight: 20 D, value declared (3000 K = 750 D): 0.90 D, COD charge: 1.40 D (or 1.60 D for payment at residence), delivery charge: not known, say 1.00 D. Total 23.30 D (or 23.50 D). No manuscript check sum. Something's not right. Note that the arrival date stamp of Skopje is still the Bulgarian WWI occupation version!

Period 6: ~ September 1921 to ~ April 1922

Figure 19: Unified Kingdom internal COD card used on 02.12.1921 for a 7 kg parcel of COD charge 218.50 D, value declared 600 D, sent from Belgrade to Krusevac. The fee paid was 13.70 D, with a five-colour franking. The fees in this period were: weight: 12.00 D, value declared: 0.60 D, COD charge: 1.40 D (or 1.60 D with home payment), total: 14.00 D (or 14.20 D). The pencilled summation (ringed) gives 10.00 + 2.50 + 1.20 = 13.70. None of these numbers make any sense!

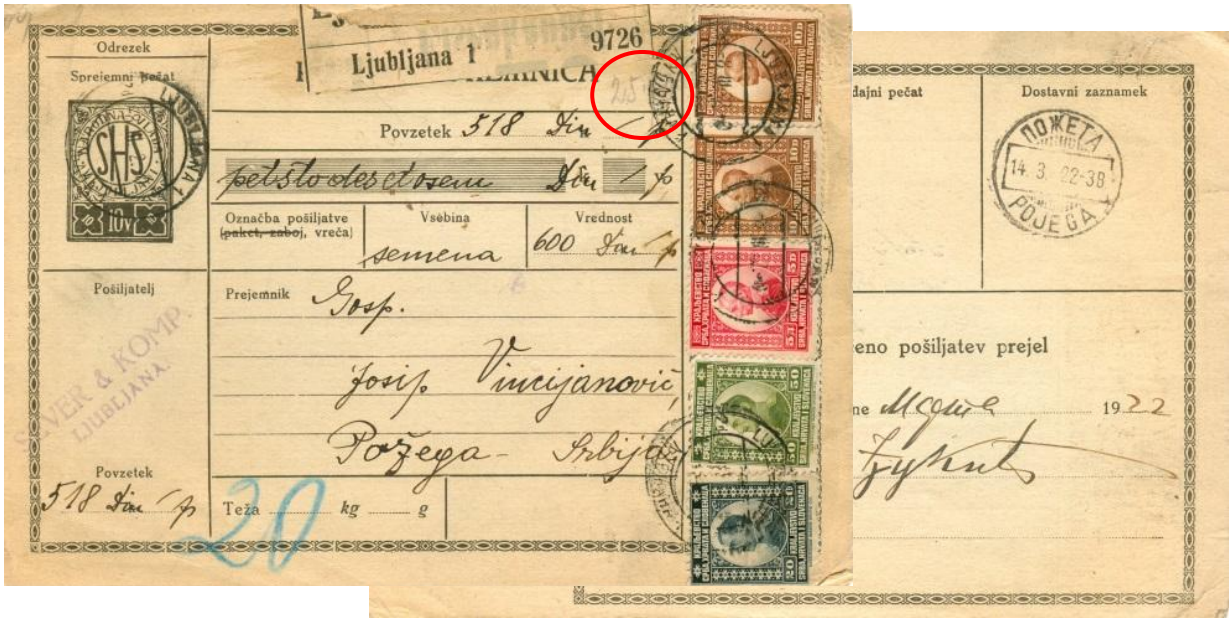

Figure 20: Slovenian SHS type card with a 10 vinár imprint on the coupon at the left used as a COD card for a 20 kg parcel sent from Ljubljana to Požega on 08.03.1922. The COD charge was 518 D and the value declared was 600 D. The total paid was 25.70 D in stamps, confirmed by the partly obscured manuscript number ringed at the top right. The fees in this period were: weight: 24.00 D, value declared: 0.60 D; COD charge: 1.40 D or 1.60 D (payment at home), totalling: 26.00 D or 26.20 D. An underpayment error?

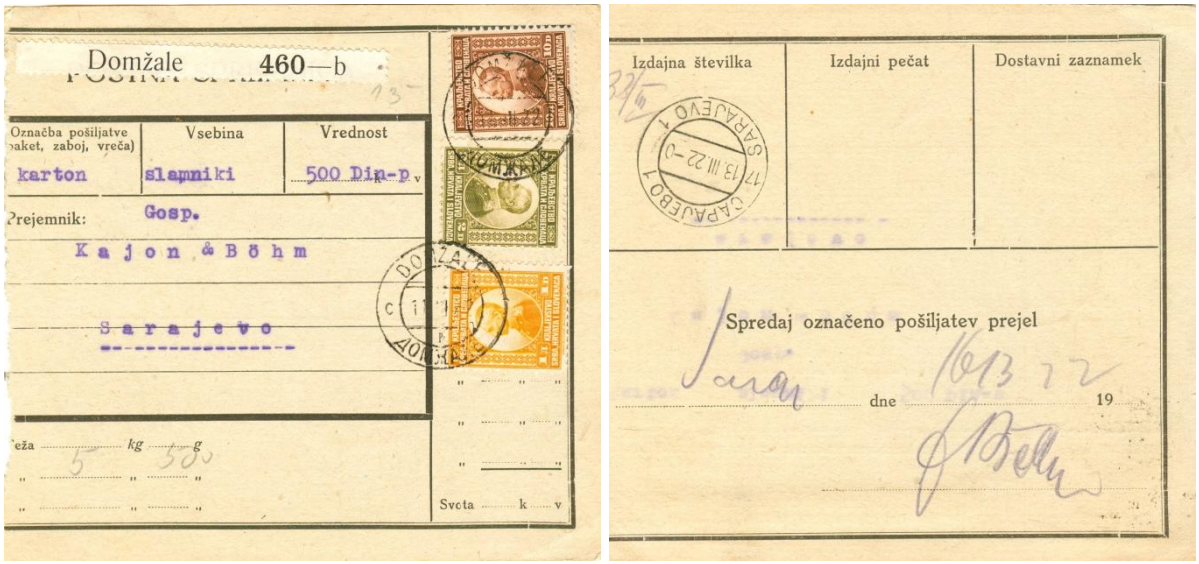

Figure 21: A Slovenian card without charge mark at top left used on 11.03.1922 from Domžale to Sarajevo for a 5.5 kg parcel of value declared 500 D. The card is marked '13-' in manuscript at the top right, and the fee paid was 13.00 D. The fees in this period were: weight: 12.00 D, value declared: 0.60 D, notification of arrival: 0.30 D, total: 12.90 D. Was the charge just rounded up, or is there an error somewhere?

Period 7: ~April 1922 to 24 September 1922

Figure 22: Unified Kingdom internal COD card used on 17 May 1922 for a 4.7 kg COD parcel from Kreka to Sinj. The COD charge was 64 D. The parcel was charged 9.80 D. In this period the fees were: weight: 8.00 D, COD charge: 1.00 D (or *1.20*? D for home payment), total: 9.00 D (or 9.20 D). We are 0.60 D or 0.80 D short. Delivery was said to be 1.00 D. Notification of arrival was 0.30 D. No combination makes sense.

Period 8: 25 September 1922 to 15 October 1923

Figure 23: Croatian small sized card with a small sized 10 para imprint used on 02.02.1923 for an 11.2 kg parcel of value declared 500 D from Zagreb to Palanka, Serbia. The fee charged was 32.30 D, paid for with 32.00 D stamps on the front and 0.30 D on the back. Fees in this period were: weight: 30.00 D, value declared: 0.60 D, notification of arrival: 0.30 D, total: 30.90 D. Was the extra 1.40 D a home delivery charge? GB's table suggests '*1.00*' in italics. There's no manuscript sum to help us out here.

Figure 24: Small-sized Croatian card with a large sized 10 para imprint used on 02.03.1923 for a 13 kg parcel from Zagreb to Karlovac. No value declared or COD charge. The charge made was 30.30 D (circled), paid for in a mix of stamps front (8.00 D) and rear (22.30 D). The fees in this period were: weight: 30.00 D, notification of arrival: 0.30, total: 30.30 D. All checks out.

DISCUSSION

Card types:

The sharp eyed amongst you will have noticed quite a variety of parcel card types. The list below covers what I have seen personally, and has to be viewed as an incomplete minimum, and there may well be others in contemporary service:

Austrian	German	Normal & COD
	German/Slovenian	Normal & COD
	German/Italian	Normal & COD
	German/Illyrian	Normal & COD
Hungarian	Hungarian/Croatian (small-sized)	Normal & COD (blue stock)
	Hungarian/Croatian (small-sized)	Normal & COD (blue stock)
	Hungarian/Croatian (large-sized)	Normal & COD (blue stock)
	Hungarian/Croatian (large-sized)	Normal & COD (blue stock)
	Hungarian/French (large)	Normal
Bosnian	German/BuH (overprinted)	Normal & COD
Serbian	Serb/French	Normal
'Slovenian'	Slovenian or Croatian (?)	Normal & COD
'Croatian'	Croatian (small size, small imprint)	Normal
	Croatian (small size, large imprint)	Normal
Kingdom	Serbian/Croatian	Normal/COD
	Serbian/Croatian/French	Normal/COD

The even sharper-eyed amongst you will have noticed that the 'Slovenian' design, which presumably originated from Ljubljana, is a crib of the Austrian design, removing the German language and changing the imprint on the coupon at the left, and the small-sized 'Croatian' types which presumably originated from Zagreb, are a crib of the small-sized Hungarian type, removing the Hungarian language, also changing the imprint. The latter were clearly produced without planning for the number of large sized stamps that would have to be stuck on them.

It seems also that most post offices used the pre-cursor Empire cards until they ran out, and then used the Slovenian, Croatian and Serbian types until those ran out. I have seen these latter still in use as late as 1926, long after the unified Kingdom ones entered the scene in 1921.

Card charges

In this geographical neck of the woods, the amount charged to the sender for the piece of paper representing the parcel card was a combination of a fiscal tax and a printing/paper charge. While the total fee charged plays no role in determining postage charges, life can get confusing when officialdom dictates that an increase in the tax is paid for by a postage stamp. It terms of the data in his tables, Geoff Barling was unclear about the fees charged for cards. Austrian, Hungarian and Bosnian cards had a fiscal imprint representing a tax of 10 heller/fillér, and probably a 2 h/f fee for the paper on which it was printed (4 h/f for a two-part COD card). This principle seems to have been copied on the Slovenian SHS cards with an imprint of 10 vinár and 14 v or 16 v as the card charge. The Serbian card (Figure 17) has a 10 para postage stamp imprint, following pre-war practice, so may well have been charged

this amount or a little more initially, but has been made up to 20 para by 1921. The Croatian SHS cards have a 10 para imprint, which suggests that they came into force after the currency was unified in 1921, and may have been charged similarly. The Kingdom cards have no fiscal imprint, but are marked with 20 para for the ordinary card and 40 para for a COD card (see Figure 22), although this is usually hidden by the stamps.

Parcel charges

It is really mystifying that the complex process for charging was not made easier for the postal clerk and more transparent for the paying customer by having a layout which provided an area on the cards with space for a clear listing of all the charges that could be pre-paid. Instead the clerk had to find a little area somewhere on the front or back for doing his pencil sums. Of course that can be helpful when trying to analyse what has happened, although often the clerk seems to have covered them over with the stamps. In the periods described above, particularly 1920-1921, the chances of this sum matching Geoff's tables seems less than 50%. The problem is – is Geoff right and the clerk wrong, or vice versa? And think of the poor receiving post office. Someone there would have to try to work out what had been paid for up front so he/she could decide how to treat the parcel. Had a 'notification of arrival' fee been pre-paid? Had the COD charge been paid for payment at the home address, or not? Had delivery been pre-paid? Not only that, but the rates were changing every few months. It all seems far too easy to make a mistake.

The analyses of the cards shown above suggest that it is likely that Geoff's assessment of the weight fees is broadly correct, but the ancillary charges may not be correct, and are compounded by suspect mixing up of column headings in his tables. It needs further research to understand how they can be corrected.

One interesting feature of the Austro-Hungarian rates which I have not been able to show is for 'bulky' parcels, i.e. those outside certain size restrictions, for which a 50% surcharge on the basic weight fee is charged. It is suspected that this practice would have been continued into the SHS.

Another aspect is rates for external parcels. Geoff says nothing about these, and I have none to show. Again, if readers have examples to show how the rates applied, please write to the Editor.

CONCLUDING COMMENT

When I started to look at my own small holding of these cards, I had no idea how complicated things would turn out to be. The carryover and slow unification of previous Empire practices in the different parts of the new SHS, coupled with two currency bases has provided us with challenges of interpretation. Seldom, it seems, do the charges made make much sense and a lot more work on a lot more cards is needed to clarify exactly what was going on. Perhaps your own holdings, dear Reader, will help solve some of the issues.

There is no shortage of parcel card material conveniently released from post office archives for philatelists to study, and a skim through eBay shows that about 10% of Yugoslav postal history being offered is parcel cards, sometimes at remarkably (ridiculously!) high prices. It is the primary source of high-value mixed frankings, and of genuinely used high-value stamps. But it seems that so much of it doesn't really make sense up to 1923. After this

period, things seem to settle down, and it gets easier to interpret what is going on, but there is still variety in what one finds, and I've saved that for Part 2.

Acknowledgements

This article would not have been feasible without Geoff Barling's tables of rates, so I'm grateful for the hard work he must have put in to filling most of the boxes. I am also grateful to Martin Brumby for reviewing and commenting on the first draft of this article, for providing a possible solution to the card shown in Figure 9, and for pointing out even more areas of uncertainty which deserve mention.

The Society Library

Derek Brinkley

Introduction

On January 10th, with the agreement of your Committee, Dave Treby handed the Society Library over to my tender mercies.

I would therefore like to begin, on behalf of all members, by thanking Dave for his many years of service to the Society, and for all the help he gave over that period to many, certainly including myself.

Just as background, having previously collected Indian States and Switzerland, I began collecting Yugoslavia about 5 years ago, and joined the Society shortly afterwards. My particular interests include Postal Stationery, Postal Markings & Etiquettes, and Postage Dues & other stampless covers.

All requests can be sent to
Snailm Gloucester Road North, Bristol,
Email:
Text: 0
Phone: Also 07869119730 but please try to avoid working hours.

Borrowing

When I worked as a Teacher-Librarian close on 40 years ago the task of a Librarian was essentially lending out books. Changes in technology since then have opened up other possibilities; so I would like to specify your options.

1) *Borrowing books.* All members in the UK are entitled to borrow books by post, and should they need full access to a volume of substantial size, that will be the only option. This will be expensive, since they will need to reimburse full postage in both directions when they return the book. Additionally it carries a risk of volumes being lost or damaged in transit. Hence I would encourage members to consider the following options:-

2) *Scans.* Where the volume is a reasonably slim one, or where only a part is required, and members have access to digital communication, I will scan all the relevant pages and send them electronically as JPGs (other formats by request). I am the sole judge of what is reasonable, and the judgement will be based both on the amount of work involved and by at least a vague adherence to copyright and fair

dealing. For example in the case of those issues of Jugopošta of which the Society still has copies for sale, or books that are still in print, I am unlikely to be sympathetic to scanning whole volumes. All scans will of course be free.

3) *'Photocopies'*. I put the word in quotations since in most cases (and always in the case of colour being required) they will actually be printed scans. For those members who do not have computer access and have requests that fall within the range of the paragraph above I am happy to send printouts by post. Moderate numbers of pages will be free and post-free. For more substantial requests I will charge postage at cost plus a small sum towards my use of ink.

4) *Research.* If you require a particular piece of information, but are not sure where/whether it exists in the library, you are very welcome to let me know what you require and I will endeavour to find and send you either the answer or at least a copy of what looks like a fertile field for searching. A number of the resources here are in German or Serbo-Croat; my German is weak, but a couple of years at school doing Russian means I can cope with Serbo-Croat in Cyrillic text. In both cases I have dictionaries available, and of course can always consult my friend Professor Googletranslate.

Listings

Dave produced an excellent index to the Jugopoštas, which I shall update after each new volume. His final act as Librarian was to give me the latest copy which goes up to Dec. 2014. By the time you read this, the list should be 'up' on the Society website. If any member needs a printed paper copy of the latest version please let me know.

The actual Library listing of books, cuttings and miscellaneous magazines, excluding Jugopošta, needs reforming, partly because a good deal of the seldom used material was sold off a couple of years ago, and partly because the titles of volumes do not always convey the full range of content to those who have never seen the actual books.

What I intend to attempt is a more 'topic-based' listing e.g. 'Postal Stationery', 'Military and Censorship', 'Cinderella', 'Forgeries', which would indicate which parts of which volume would be useful for that topic. I therefore intend to produce such a listing for the next issue based on 'Postmarks'. If members judge it useful then I will do likewise for the other topics.

I find that I personally own a few volumes which are not in the Library. Whilst not intending to donate them (at least until my final demise!) I am willing to offer electronic or 'photocopy' scans of parts of these to members who would find them useful:

Barefoot – Yugoslav Revenues
Higgins/Gage – Section on Trieste
Michel – Ganzsachen Katalog Deutschland 1982 (Postal Stationery – German Occupations)
Etzold – Verzeichnis 1931 (List of Yugoslav post offices)
Ascher – Grosser Ganzsachen Katalog 1929 (Postal Stationery)
Milenkovic – Katalog Postanskih Maraka 1944-82
Milanovic - Katalog Doplanih Maraka 1933-2007 (Postal Tax stamps and charity issues)

I also have an extensive but by no means complete run of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugoslawien1975-2010 and various non-philatelic books. I will list these as appendices when I prepare the relevant topic lists.

Montenegro Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers

Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL, acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

During the time that post office postal stationery wrappers of Montenegro were issued, the country was ruled by the House of Petrović-Njegoš. It was not until 1918 that Montenegro united with Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Dalmatia and Slovenia to form the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes which became Yugoslavia in 1929. Although stamps were first issued in 1874, it was not until 20 years later in 1893 when wrappers were first issued. The design of the stamps had a bust of Prince Nicholas within a wreath and this same design was used on wrappers for the first four years.

Post Office Issues

The first post office postal stationery wrappers of Montenegro were issued in 1893 bearing the bust of Prince Nicholas facing right. The horizontal format size was 52x340mm on light blue laid paper. Kosniowski, from whose forthcoming catalogue (2015) the indicia images were copied with his kind permission, illustrates four different dies used in the production of the early issues - the main differences being the shading on the forehead and the thickness of the letters which can be best identified at the base. These four dies are shown in Illustration 1. The first issue 2 novčić yellow on blue was issued in Die 1 and Die 2 (E1 using the Higgins & Gage "E" catalogue numbers). The 3n yellow green on blue was issued in Dies 1, 2 and 3 (E2). Higgins & Gage do not differentiate the issue type by dies. In 1894 a 2n red was issued in Dies 1 and 2 (E3) and a 3n black in Dies 1, 2 and 3 (E4). In 1895 the last of this design was issued being a 3n yellow-green in Dies 1, 2 and 3 and a 3n blue-green in Die 4 (E5). H&G do not assign catalogue numbers to the colour differences.

On 13 January 1897 a two set Royal Jubilee issue of the Monastery near Cetinje was issued in horizontal format 88x432mm buff. The two multi-colours were 2n green and blue (E6) and 3n red and blue (E7). In 1902 there was a new design of Prince Nicholas in a vertical format wrapper 150x300mm head and shoulders full face Prince Nicholas in 5 helera green (E8) and 10h rose (E9). This issue was replaced five years later in 1907 with a 5 para green (E10) and 10p rose (E11) redesigned Prince Nicholas facing right. The last two issues occurred in 1913 four years before Montenegro was absorbed into the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which a decade later became Yugoslavia – 5p yellow green (E12) and 10p rose (E13) now King Nicholas within circle and facing right.

Illustration 1: Indicia used on Post Office Wrappers of Montenegro

Supply of Wrappers

The author has hand-collected daily images of used post office wrappers of the world as listed on the Internet site eBay from September 2003 to the present. The database, arranged by H&G "E" catalogue numbers for each country has 36,000 images of which 203 are of Montenegro. This is a large sample upon which to analyze the incidence of appearance of

each of the thirteen types. There are other Internet sites that sell wrappers as well as traditional philatelic auction houses, dealers and stamp bourses. However, eBay is used as a proxy of what is available on the international market. It is a large, growing, transparent and popular market. While it does not reflect all philatelic activity it should not be dismissed as trivial. A recent generic search of "stamps" on eBay received 3½ million hits. Nevertheless, this is an eBay-based study and it is acknowledged that other markets would likely have listed and sold the wrappers of Montenegro during this 11 year data-gathering period.

The results of a count of each type in the database are summarized in Table 1. Although each type is represented, three types (E1, E2 and E5) account for almost two-thirds of the wrappers that have been listed in over a decade. Conversely, E3 and E13 have appeared only once each during this time period and the Jubilee issues of 1897 have appeared with frequencies of four and five for the 2n and 3n respectively. The 1902 10p red issue has appeared only twice, which is an average listing rate of one per five years or so. Six of the 13 issues have appeared with frequencies of five and less which suggests that half of the issues of Montenegro are elusive. Even those types issued with frequencies of 10 or 12 represents an average listing rate of about one per year.

It is difficult to differentiate Dies 1-4 from Internet images. The number listed of E1-E5 could be reported in finer detail according to die type from inspection of the actual copies. Moreover, the E5 type could be categorized into blue-green and yellow-green shades from a study of the actual wrappers. For this study different dies or colour shades have not been included.

Addresses written completely in Cyrillic were attributed to domestic destinations. There were 56 or 27% of wrappers with domestic addresses while 73% or 147 wrappers were addressed to non-domestic locations. There were 21 non-Montenegro destinations identified of which Germany and Turkey dominated with 22 and 20 cases respectively. The other countries noted in descending order are: Bosnia (14), Hungary and France (11 each), Herzegovina (10), Dalmatia (9), Austria, Switzerland and Italy (8 each), GB, Belgium and USA (4 each), Serbia, Holland and Denmark (2 each), and five countries each with a single instance: Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania, Egypt and Russia.

To some extent the wrappers of Montenegro are unremarkable. There are no wrappers in the database with postage due markings, no named ships, no censor or auxiliary markings, no merchant handstamps, virtually no upratings, and no specimens or wrappers bearing private printing. There were two instances of registered wrappers. Three wrappers, while bearing indicia of Montenegro, were purchased by a GB stamp dealer and used (with GB adhesives) to mail philatelic price lists. This type of (mis)use of wrappers is not unknown; the same GB stamp dealer bought a stock of China Shanghai wrappers that were then used on GB outgoing philatelic mail as a gimmick. These extant wrappers are more of the nature of a curious artefact.

Table 1: Frequency of Appearance on eBay of PO Wrappers of Montenegro

H& G #	Brief Identifier	Number listed	Up-rated	Domestic Destination	Non-domestic
1	1893 2n yellow on blue, Prince Nicholas	34	0	12	22
2	1893 3n yellow-green on blue, Prince Nicholas	39	0	13	26
3	1894 2n red on buff, Prince Nicholas	1	0	1	0
4	1894 3n black on buff, Prince Nicholas	5	0	2	3
5	1895 3n blue-green or yellow-green on cream, Prince Nicholas	55	0	16	39
6	1897 2n green & blue, Monastery near Cetinje	4	1	1	3
7	1897 3n carmine & blue, Monastery near Cetinje	5	0	3	2
8	1902 5h green, Prince Nicholas	10	2	2	8
9	1902 10p red, Prince Nicholas	2	0	0	2
10	1907 5p green, Prince Nicholas	19	0	1	18
11	1907 10p rose, Prince Nicholas	16	0	1	15*
12	1913 5p yellow green, King Nicholas	12	1	4	8
13	1913 10p rose, King Nicholas	1	0	0	1
		203	**4**	**56**	**147**

*Three wrappers had been used in GB with GB adhesives overlaid on the Montenegro indicium (see Illustration 2). There are cases of China Shanghai wrappers being used in GB with GB adhesives to mail a stamp dealer's price list.

Wrappers with Postal History Interest

The author admits to having no reading skills regarding Cyrillic postmarks. It may be that some of the postmarks are quite scarce and warrant discussion. In lieu, however, three wrappers have been selected for brief discussion: the first is an example of a Montenegro wrapper used in the UK, the second is an example of registered usage and the third is the sole example of E13 appearing in the listings over the past 11 years.

Albert H. Harris, a London based stamp dealer, travelled to China and during this trip purchased a stock of inexpensive China Shanghai ½c post office wrappers which he then used in England with GB adhesives usually affixed over the indicium to mail philatelic matter to his list of customers (Courtis 2013). His travels may have taken him (or someone else) to Montenegro where a stock of the 1897 10p rose Prince Nicholas (E11) was purchased. These were then used in England (note the London postmark) to addresses in Illinois and Pennsylvania, USA and Bombay, India. The date of the wrapper in Illustration 2 is unreadable, but the dates of the other two wrappers so used by Harris are 10 March 1934 and 18 June 1935. These Montenegro wrappers must have been put aside for 25 years or thereabouts before being used.

The second wrapper shows a pink serrated registration etiquette 777 and the 30p fee paid with adhesives. The wrapper is addressed to Geneva, Switzerland. Its serial number is 212 in manuscript and it does not bear the traditional crossed blue crayon markings. The third

wrapper is the sole example of a used copy of E13 listed on eBay in 11 years. It is dated 7 VII 14 and bears a clear Cyrillic postmark.

Illustration 2: Wrappers with Special Postal History Interest

Demand for Wrappers

Another main database developed by the author is a hand-collected record of eBay daily sales of post office used wrappers collected from the Internet since March 2006. Over the past almost nine years, there have been 101 sales of the wrappers of Montenegro and a summary of these appears as Table 2. The number of bidders per sale is shown in parentheses. It should be noted that number of bidders and number of bids are not the same. The number of bidders refers to the number of market participants and is likely to be lower than the number of bids which reflects market activity, and in many cases bidder naivety and inexperience in bidding behaviour. From more than 50 country-specific studies undertaken by the author a rule-of-thumb has been established that a bidder score of 2.5 is the tipping point. A score above 2.5 reflects a strong bidder interest in the wrapper type while a score below 2.5 reflects a lower strength of interest.

It can be seen that the overall weighted average bidder score for all 101 transactions is 2.8, which prima facie reflects a stronger interest by bidders in the wrappers of this country. Nine of the 13 post office Types show a score above 2.5. These scores indicate that the wrappers of Montenegro are sought after by collectors. The bidder profile is one transaction of seven bidders, three transactions of six bidders, 12 transactions of five bidders, and 15 transactions of four, 20 of three, 25 of two and 25 single bidder transactions. The bulk of sales were below $20 (73%).

There were no transactions of especial significance in that the author made no annotations of particular sales. This is most likely because there were no wrappers with private printing or

auxiliary handstamps. The overall average realized price of a wrapper was $16. The highest price realized was $63.60 with two bidders for a copy of E1. The lowest price of $0.99 was for a front only of E1. There were sales of all 13 E types.

Table 2: eBay Sales of Wrappers of Montenegro: March 2006 – December 2014

H&G	Sales Details (Ranked Low to High in USD) & Number of Bidders per Sale	# of Sales	Mean Sale Price	Mean # of Bidders
1	0.99 (1); 5.76 (2); 6.10 (2); 7.60 (5); 7.75 (1); 8.20 (3); 9.99 (1); 11.50 (3); 12.45 (5); 12.58 (3); 13.10 (3); 16.29 (2); 17.50 (2); 19.00 (1); 19.10 (4); 19.16 (2); 19.47 (5); 19.99 (1); 28.00 (5); 33.00 (2); 37.00 (2); 37.60 (2); 63.60 (2)	23	18.46	2.56
2	4.89 (1); 6.50 (5); 7.99 (1); 8.00 (1); 9.99 (1); 9.99 (1); 9.99 (1); 10.40 (4); 11.27 (2); 11.50 (3); 11.50 (5); 12.99 (1); 13.59 (4); 13.60 (2); 16.40 (4); 19.99 (1); 21.50 (3); 27.88 (5); 33.00 (2); 35.90 (4); 37.00 (3)	21	16.29	2.65
3	16.27 (4)	1	16.27	4.00
4	13.27 (2); 16.10 (2); 18.50 (5); 19.99 (1); 48.55 (3)	5	20.73	2.33
5	1.31 (2); 9.10 (4); 9.99 (1); 9.99 (1); 9.99 (1); 9.99 (1); 11.09 (6); 12.06 (4); 16.50 (5); 18.10 (3); 18.50 (4); 19.10 (6); 19.99 (1); 21.50 (2); 22.10 (2); 22.10 (2); 28.60 (5); 29.75 (1)	18	16.09	2.60
6	7.77 (3); 29.60 (7)	2	18.68	5.00
7	13.27 (2)	1	13.27	2.00
8	4.99 (1); 9.38 (4); 10.80 (3); 11.50 (2); 11.50 (2); 49.99 (1)	6	16.36	2.16
9	11.59 (5)	1	11.59	5.00
10	2.95 (2); 4.28 (2); 6.10 (3); 6.28 (3); 7.00 (1); 7.50 (4); 9.99 (1); 11.50 (3); 12.50 (3); 12.66 (2)	10	8.76	2.40
11	11.05 (3); 11.59 (4); 15.50 (3); 15.59 (4); 17.45 (4); 21.59 (5); 25.49 (2)	7	16.89	3.57
12	10.31 (3); 14.99 (1); 18.00 (3); 21.50 (5); 23.00 (3)	5	17.56	3.00
13	26.15 (5)	1	26.15	5.00
	Total	101	16.38	2.80

Conclusion

The author's database of used post office postal stationery wrapper images have been hand-collected daily from the eBay Internet site since September 2003 and has reached a total of 36,000. Of these, 203 are of the 13 types of wrappers issued by Montenegro. Six of these types have been listed for sale with a frequency of one every two years or longer and are therefore likely to be elusive. Three types (E1, E2 and E5) account for almost two-thirds of the wrappers that have been listed in over a decade.

With the possible exception of early Cyrillic postmarks from towns and villages, the wrappers of Montenegro are unremarkable. There are no examples of postage due markings, no censor or auxiliary markings, no merchant handstamps, and no cases where private

printing has been identified on these wrappers. There were two instances of registered wrappers.

Since March 2006 there have been 101 used Montenegro wrappers sold on eBay. All 13 types have been sold and on the basis of a bidder metric to determine strength of collector interest nine of these types indicate strong collector participation. The overall average selling price was $16 and 73% of sales were for modest sums of less than $20.

References

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Higgins and Gage (1964), *Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, California.

Kosniowski Jan (2015 forthcoming), *Newspaper Wrappers: Catalogue of Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers of the Whole World*, StampDomain.

Acknowledgement

I extend my sincere thanks to Allan Gory for his reading and commenting on an earlier draft.

Cover Story

The imprinted stamp from a postal stationery wrapper of Montenegro. This example is the 3n black, showing Prince Nicholas facing right, issued in 1894. See the article on page 24.

Tønnes Ore Fiume auction material

Keith Brandon (President and Auctioneer of the Austrian Philatelic Society) has sent the following note:

"Members may be interested to know that a large part of our late member Tønnes Ore's Fiume collection is coming up in the Austrian Philatelic Society Auction later this year. Several items illustrated in his YSG monograph are included. The relevant Auctions are 120 (opens early May, closes 26 June), 121 (mid-July - 4 Sept) and 122 (mid November-8 Jan 2016). The catalogue and scans will be found on the website www.austrianphilately.com "

YSG Publications:

- **Back numbers of regular editions of Jugopošta (JP)**

  Numbers 1 to 70 are available as photocopies only. Please enquire for cost.
  Numbers 71 onwards are available printed or on CD. Costs are:
  Printed : UK £5, Europe £7 (or 10 euros), Rest of world £8 (or 13 US$)
  CD: UK £4, Europe £6 (or 10 euros), Rest of world £7 (or 11 US$)

- **Monographs**

  These are available printed or on CD unless stated otherwise. See below for list. Costs are:
  Printed: UK £16, Europe £17 (or 20 euros), Rest of world £18 (or 30 US$)
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  1. *Montenegro Postal History* (JP57A) (no longer available, replaced by Monograph 11)
  2. *Catalogue of the Perfins of Yugoslavia* (JP75)
  3. *The Postal Rates of the Yugoslav Territories (2nd Ed)* (JP70A) (CD only)
  4. *Banat and Bačka* (JP77)
  5. *Srem Postal History to late 1944* (JP81)
  6. *The Postal Rates of the Independent State of Croatia 1941 – 1945* (JP85)
  7. *The Postal Rates of Bosnia and Herzegovina* (JP90)
  8. *Indeficienter (The Story of Fiume to 1918)* (JP94) (CD only)
  9. *Croatia/SHS: Independence Issue of 29 October 1918* (JP98)
  10. *The History and Feldpost of the Croat Legions in the German Army in WWII* (JP103)
  11. *Montenegro Postal History (2nd edition)* (JP108)

- **Other publications**

  The Postal History of Sremska Mitrovica (printed only). Cost is
  Printed: UK £10, Europe £15 (or 20 euros), Rest of world £17 (or 30 US$)

- **To order**

  Please note the following:

  - Send your order to the Treasurer (see inside front cover for details).
  - Payment may be made by sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank (made payable to Yugoslavia Study Group), or cash (GB pounds, euros or US$) or by PayPal.
  - Payment made by PayPal must be in GB pounds only and £1 extra must be remitted to cover PayPal's commission.
  - All prices above include postage and packing. Prices in brackets apply only to payments in cash.