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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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Jugopošta is published by the Yugoslavia Study Group quarterly in March, June, September and December. Each issue is produced on paper covering a variety of subjects and is distributed free to members. However, in some years, we will produce a single subject monograph to replace one of those issues where suitable material is available. In that event, the monograph will be published on CD (at no extra cost to members) or on paper (at an extra cost – currently £5). Members will be informed before annual subscriptions become due of the intention to publish a monograph in the forthcoming year.

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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No 114 **June 2015**

Jugopošta

Contents **Page**

Temporary cessation of club auction	4
From the President	4
From the Editor	4
Library List No 1	5
Tariffs for parcels in the SHS period 1918 – 1927 (Part 1) by Henk Buitenkamp	7
Advertisement for Joint Societies Meeting	15
The postal history of Fiume: 17 November 1918 to 15 April 1919 by John Pitts	16
YSG publications	32

Notice

Temporary cessation of the Club Auction

We have unfortunately to temporarily (I hope) cease to provide a Club Auction. This has come about because the Auction Manager gave notice that he was resigning from the post some two years ago, but has continued for the benefit of the Society up till now; but the time has come for him to step down.

Over this past two years I have appealed in every magazine for a volunteer replacement, but have as yet received no response. The auction is a very important function within the Society, I would therefore once again appeal for a volunteer; initial help would be available, and the volunteer would be taking over a smooth running system.

Once again I thank Steve Woolnough on behalf of the YSG for a top class auction, and all the hard work he has put in during his years of office.

From the President

During May I was heavily involved in the organisation of "Europhilex 2015" International Exhibition. During the week that I was there I met up with and saw quite a few Yugoslavia Study Group members, and share with them the wonder of the incredible exhibits that you could view, some of which were Yugoslav entries. Two of our members Rex Dixon and Damir Novaković won awards. I was particularly impressed with Damir's well constructed exhibit comparing Zone B and Yugoslav postal rates.

There were many dealers available for one to spend your hard earned money on, as well as seminars on a variety of philatelic subjects. All in all the Exhibition was well run and a credit to British philately.

Please bear in mind my appeal for a new Auction Manager; and let the Editor have the benefit of your knowledge in article or even monographs (help will be given if required).

A J Bosworth FRPSL

From the Editor

I would like to echo Tony's thanks to Steve for running the auction for the last few years. I have been a regular bidder and will certainly miss it. Well done Steve for all the hard work and time that you have put into it!

In this edition of Jugopošta we have two main articles. The first is by regular contributor, Henk Buitenkamp, and is a response to Roger Morrell's article on parcel cards in JP113. The second part of Henk's article will be published in JP115. The second article is by John Pitts and concerns the postal history of Fiume.

I received an email the other day from Yvonne Wheatley. The 2015 Joint Societies' Meeting will be held as usual in Bradford (Latvian Club building) on 15th August. Members are

invited to display their material (1, 2 or 3 frames of 10 sheets per frame) and to speak for not more than 5 minutes. As always, the core areas are Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia. Cost is £10 per person for the day including lunch etc. You can get forms and more detailed information by emailing Yvonne on whyareuu@outlook.com (this is a new email address, note) or from me (email address inside front cover). I have been a couple of times and it is a very good day (see also page 15).

Library List No 1

In JP113, Librarian Derek Brinkley noted his intention to produce a more focussed topic-based listing of the YSG library. This is his first such list. Any feedback would be most welcome.

Postmarks inc. censor marks etc

Please note:
Works preceded with + are in German
*Works preceded with * are in Serbo-Croat (Latin script)*
*Works preceded with * *are in Serbo-Croat (Cyrillic script)*
Works preceded with = are in French

Bosnia
***HFS** Privucnik 1 – Austrian occupation pp118-156
***HFS** Privucnik 11 – Austrian occupation 80pp
Gordon Checklist of Town Cancellations of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1878-1918 54pp
+**Passer** Die Postwertzeichen von Bosnien und der Herzegovina 12pp
Coles & Walker Postal Cancellations of the Ottoman Empire pp11-17

Croatia
+**Rommerskirchen** Kroatien – NDH special cancellations pp64-8
+**Rukavina** Hrvatska Prirucnik Zigova – Prestamp markings (includes a few Bosnia and Slovenia) 80pp
+**Hughes & Dietz** Kroatien Konzentrationslager-Karten 9pp
+**Rommerskirchen** Erganzungen Kroatien 1941-1945 7pp
Hughes Croatia 1941-5 Registry Labels and Markings pp12-19
Rommerskirchen Manual of Independent State of Croatia pp70-84 (Zara)
+**Visacki** Die Zensur des Postverkehrs in Kroatien 1941-5 18pp
Dehn Stamps and Postal History of Fiume 1600-1924 pp22-30
Dehn Fiume Postal History 1600-1918 7pp
Gilbert Postmarks of Fiume 1809-1945 162pp
Gilbert Postmarks of the Province of Fiume 1924-43 132pp

Macedonia
Coles & Walker Postal Cancellations of the Ottoman Empire pp18-32

Montenegro
+**Fleck** Die Briefmarken von Montenegro pp48-52
Mueller Montenegro (Collectors/ Club Philatelist 29,5) 6pp

Serbia
+**Fleck** Die Briefmarken von Serbien – To 1918 pp26-31
+**Zydec** Poststempel im Bersetzen Serbien 1941-4 54pp
Teall Handstruck Stamps of the Serbian Post Office 1840-66 6pp
Kardosch Serbia - the Cordon Sanitaire Against the Ottoman Empire (Seals) 12pp
Parsons Serbian Field Post Offices at Salonica
Parsons Serbian Field Post Offices at Salonica (Philatelic Magazine1972) 2pp
Harris Serbian Posts in Corfu (Philatelic Magazine 1972) 7pp
Vukovic More About Serbian Field Post Offices at Salonica (PhilatelicMagazine 1974) 3pp

Barling Postal History of Sremska Mitrovica pp112-125

Slovenia
Gerini Ljubljana Postal History 1941-6 (Filitalia 8) pp10

Yugoslavia
*__HFS__ Privucnik 5 – On Chainbreakers issue pp336-394
*__HFS__ Privucnik 9 – PreWW2 special cancels pp283-345
+**Suchanek** Die Sonderstempel Jugoslawiens 1945-1966 168pp
+**Rudolf** Die Sonderstempel Jugoslawiens 1966-1970 53pp
**__Visacki__ Vojne Zensure 1876-1945 (Filatelista 219) 26pp
**__Visacki__ Vojne Zensure 1876-1945 (Filatelista 223) 18pp
**__Visacki__ Vojne Zensure 1876-1945 (Filatelista 223) 24pp
+**Artel** Sonderstempel im Staate und Konigreich SHS 1919-20 (Arge der Balkanlander 136) 4pp
*__Ivanovic__ PTT Archiv 20 pp5-191 (First flights etc)
Najlepsa Tema 85pp (Commemorative postmarks relating to Tito)
Benford Visszatert Period in Hungarian Philately 1938-45 154pp (Hungarian Occupations)
Cihangir Collection of Postal Cancellations and Seals of the Ottoman Empire pp3-15
+**Reinhardt** Departments Conquis 1792-1815 19pp (Carinthia, Slovenia and Dalmatia)
Coles & Teall Departments Conquis 7pp (Carinthia, Slovenia and Dalmatia)
*__Yumos__ Olimpijade I Sport 8pp (Sport commemorative cancels 1989)
Anon Bilingual Cancels 1pp
=**Gulan** La Yougoslavie Introduit les Numeros Postaux (Union Postale 1970) 3pp

Miscellaneous
White Slogan-type Cancellations of Austria 1938-45 20pp
Ercegovic Pomorski i Brodski Zigovi 12pp (Adriatic maritime marks)
Gordon Checklist of Italian and Jugoslavian Town Cancels on the Stamps of the Austrian Empire 1850-83 117pp
Davis & Davis A Post-Habsburg Index 150pp
Page Carpatho-Ukraine Postal Markings of the Years 1938-45 38pp (not Yugoslav related)
=**Anon** Le Courrier des Casques Bleus (L'Echo de la Timbrologie 1993) 4pp UN Forces
Pilkington Transadriatic Naval Air Post Service 2pp

Post Office Lists
Covacci Post Offices in the Free Territory of Trieste 1947-54 (Filitalia 4) 5pp
Rasic Bulgarian Occupation of Serbia During WW1 (American Philatelist 78) 5pp
+**Visacki** Verweilstatten der Deutschen Feldposten am Balkan 1941-5 pp19-49
+**Oberkrain** Sudkarnten Untersteiermark pp24 (Carinthia)
[+**Etzold** Verzeichnis der Post und Telegraphenanstalten in Jugoslawien This is not part of the Library, but I have a copy which members are welcome to consult]

In addition I can provide copies of the following relevant articles from issues of Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugoslawien in my personal library (all are in German):

Early post-war commemorative cancels – Die sonderstempel Jugoslawien 1945-65 Vol 17 *(also illustrations of various commemorative cancels from the 70s and early 80s are available)*
United Nations Emergency Force cancels -Militatpost der Jugoslawischen einheit bei den friedenstruppen der Vereinten Nationen auf Sinai Vol 17
Sarajevo Olympics – Die sonderstempel der Olympische Winterspiele Sarajevo Vol 24
Football – Sonderstempel der konig fussball das wort Vol 3
Serbia WW2 – Zensur und propagandastempel und zettel in Serbien 1941-5 Vol 8
NDH Censor marks – Kroatische Zensurstempel Vol 16
Transitional postmarks in SHS Slovenia – Obergangstempel Slovenien 1918-20 Vol 16/19
Censor marks in WW2 Serbia – Eigen in vertransensmanner zensur in besetzten Serbien Vol 30/31
Montenegro WW1 POW camps – Die posten inernienten Montenegrin Vol 31
WW1 Serbian military – Die militarpoststempel der Serbischen Drina Division 1916-18 Vol 39
Ship markings - Die international schiffsverbande in der Adria Vol 47
SHS Slovenia cancels – Postamter und ortsstempel in Slovenien 1919-21 Vol 59
WW2 Railway (listing not illustrations) Eisenbahnverkehr auf den Balkan 1941-4 Vol 62

Tariffs for parcels in the SHS period 1918-1927 (Part 1)

Drs. Henk Buitenkamp, Ned.Academy Philately, AEP

As a collector of the stamps and postal history elements of the SHS I was very interested in the article of Mr. Roger Morrell (JP113) about the rates on parcel cards in the early period of the SHS. He writes that the parcel postal history is complex. That is right. It has cost me many years before I had reliable lists of the tariffs used for parcels. It does not surprise me that he has problems with the rates on his parcel cards; moreover sometimes the post offices made faults. I will give here only the basic tariffs of the parcel post. That means that special rates cannot be found in these lists. Special rates can be found in the following two articles written by me:

*"Enkele bijzondere tarieven bij de pakketpost in de SHS 1918-1928" (pag.69-90)
*"Not all parcel tariffs are simple" (pag.4-28)
(See bibliography)

Another problem is the parity between the monetary unit of the Austrian-Hungarian parts of the SHS and the Serbian part (including Montenegro - that country was a part of Serbia from 13-11-1918).
On 1-12-1918 1 Para = 2 Vinar/Filer/Heler for the inland rates.
Already in December 1918 the parity changed: 1 Para = 3 Vinar/Filir/Heler.
On 31-12-1919 the Vinar/Filer/Heler was devalued again and now 1 Para = 4 Vinar/Filir/Heler.
On 26-2-1920 the state issued new currency notes on which the values were indicated in Dinar/Krone (parity 1: 4). In January 1921 there were again new currency notes, but now only with the indication Dinar!
On 1-4-1920 1 Dinar = 1 Goldfranc; 6 weeks later a devaluation of 50%! From 1-4-1920 the Dinar/Para was the official currency for the whole SHS, but the old currency was accepted until January 1921.

The notice of 20-6-1920 ordered that the stamps in the old currency were no longer valid from 30-9-1920. But there were at that very moment not enough stamps available in the new currency (the Ljubljana issue in Dinar/Para). The result was that the regional stamps in the old currency stayed in use until 15-4-1921. It is not clear but maybe the old Austrian and Hungarian stamps could also be used after 30 September 1920. From 9-6-1920 only stamps in the new currency were issued in Slovenia; these stamps were valid in the whole SHS with the exception of Serbia/Montenegro. The new national stamp issue was on 16-1-1921 and was now valid in the whole SHS - including Serbia/Montenegro. In that part of the SHS only the Serbian stamps in Dinar/Para were valid till 16-1-1921.

From 15-4-1921 all the old (regional) stamps in Krone/Vinar, Filir, Heler and Dinar/Para could not be used any more; they lost their validity on that date. However there was an exception: the postage due stamps in Para/Dinar stayed valid until 2-11-1921.

More about the currency can be found in my article:
"Von regionale bis zum nationale Währung" (pag.170-178)
(See bibliography)

I give only the tariffs up to 1927 for my study ends with that year. My special collection Parcel Post embraced the period 1918-1928. I have showed these collections at various times

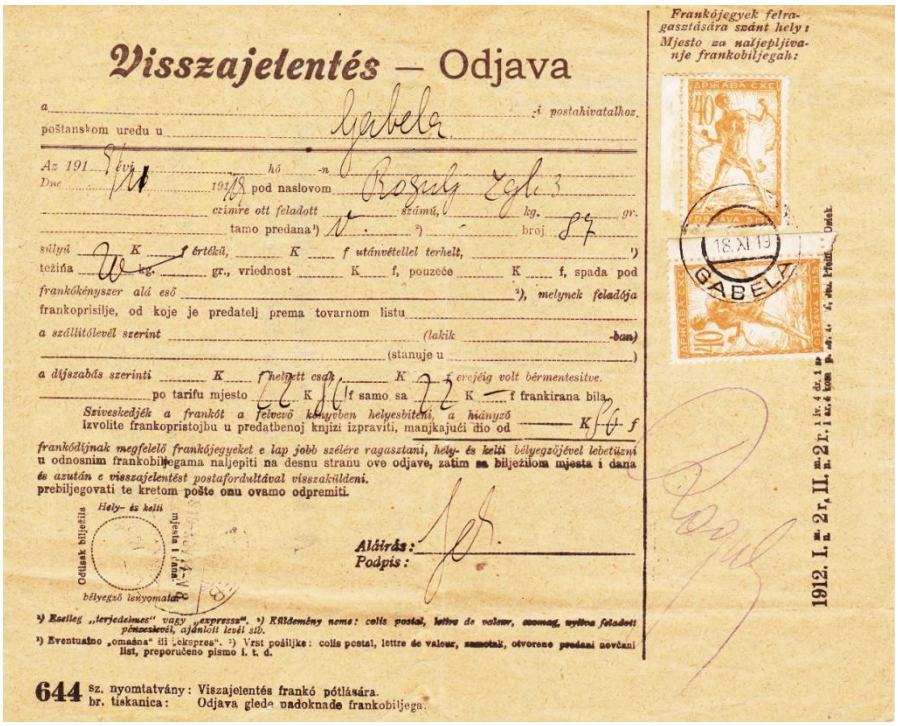
in FIP and FEPA exhibitions (awards up to large vermeil - 88 points). Not all items are in my collection at this very moment for I have now limited my collection to the period up to 15-4-1921; so I have used some pictures (of my former collection) from an auction catalogue.

If we look at the lists presented here we can conclude that frankings on the parcel cards shown in the article of Roger Morrell are mostly correct: Figures 1, 2, 3 (stamp rear removed!), 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

In Figures 5 and 6 he writes of a war tax. Indeed, the rates are increased with 20 Fil. as an extra tax in consequence of the war. Now this tax is included in the tariff lists. The frankings of Figures 10, 12 and 22 are wrong. The post officers have made the faults. Why??

In Figure 15 no storage was paid, for the first 3 days of storage were free of charge if a message of arrival was sent to the addressee. If a parcel was delivered directly to the addressee and he was not at home then the storage had to be paid from the first day - no free days.

In Figure 14 there is a shortage of 2 Kr. The post office of arrival found that fault. In such cases the post office of arrival sent a form to the post office of sending in which it was asked to pay the deficit. The post office of sending had to try to find the sender for that payment. If this person was not found the post officer who had made the fault had to pay. See Figure 1 below.


Visszajelentés – Odjava

644 sz. nyomtatvány: Viszajelentés frankó pótlására.
br. tiskanica: Odjava gledo nadoknade frankobiljega.

Figure 1(reduced). A form in which is asked to pay 80 Fil. for the card was franked with 22 Krone instead of 22.80 Kr. No extra tax therefore a regular postage stamp has been used.

Figure 17. This is an official parcel. But that does not mean that the parcel did not have to be paid for. Afterwards the organisation paid cash to the postal organisation. Freedom for direct franking with stamps can be seen by the number 860. The Serbian fiscal stamp was not

valid; so a national stamp of 10 Para had to be attached. This was a fiscal use of a regular postage stamp.
Figure 4. It was not possible to remit money abroad. The card should have been sent from Karlovac, but that was not allowed. In red is written "Viza pour date. Zemun ..X.1921". Payment to abroad was not possible earlier than in 1921.

Period 29-10-1918/1-5-1921: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina

List 1. The tariffs from 29-10-1918 to 1-5-1921

.Parcels inland

	Period 1					Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
	29-10-1918/1-7-1919					1-7-1919/ 1-11-1919	1-11-1919/ 16-5-1920	16-5-1920/ 1-5-1921
	Slovenia/ Dalmatia	Croatia 4) interior	to Slov./ Bosn.H.	Bosnia-Hercegovina interior	to Slov./ Croatia	Slov.Croatia Bosn.Herc.	Slov.Croatia Bosn.Herc.	Slov.Croatia Bosn.Herc.
Parcels till 3 kg.	100	90	100	80	100	until 5 kg. 150	300	150
3-5 kg.	100	90	100	80	100	+per kg. 60	450	200
5-10 kg.	220	170	220	170	220		900	400
10-15 kg.	320	270	320	270	320		1350	600
15-20 kg.	420	370	420	370	420		1800	800
registration fee	25	25		25		60	60	20
express fee	100	100		100		250	250	100
ackowledgement	25	25		25		100	150	20
porterage	20/50 5)	20/25 1)		25/30 7)		100	180	60
message of arrival	5 3)	5 2)	5 12)	5 3)	5 10)	10	15	10
storage per day	10	10		5/10 11)		10 8)	20 6)8)	10 8)
declared value	10 per 300	10 per 300		5 per 300 10 minimum 10	15	until 100 K. 25 100-500 50 50-1000 100 +per 1000 20	until 300 K.75 300-1500 150 1500-3000 300 +per 1500 150	30 per 300 D.
porterage declared parcel extra fee	above 1000 +20 per 1000	above 1000 K. +10 per 1000		above 1000 K. +20 per 1000		from 1000 K. +10 per 1000		
cash on delivery	10	10		10		20	20	till 200 D. 80 200-1000 140
pay out for cash on delivery	-	-		-		-	-	20 9)
oversized parcels	1-5 kg.+40 5-10 +100 10-15 +150 15-20 +200	+50% weight rate		+50% weight rate		+50% weight rate	+50% weight rate	+50% weight rate
	Vinar/Filir/Heler							Para

1)dependant of the town.See list in "Sammlung 124".
2)to be paid by presenting a parcel
3.to be paid by addressee
4)Dalmatia was Austrian and is now Croatian:**Austrian rates**
5)town above 50000 inhabitants 50
10000-50000 inhabitants 30
smaller than 10000 inhabitants 20
6)after 14 days: in Croatia 30
after 30 days: in Slovenia 30
7)town over 10000 inhabitants 30 Sarajevo 40
other towns 25
8)first 3 days free for parcels for which a message of arrival is sent
9)by payment with a post office order no pay out costs for cash on delivery
10)to Croatia: sender pays
to Slovenia: addressee pays

For the sending of a parcel pre-payment was compulsory. But there were exceptions! At first it was possible to send a parcel unpaid internally in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the first period (29-10-1918/1-7-1919). Secondly some official organisations could send directly without franking the parcel card with stamps; afterwards it had to be paid though. But, the extras - value, express, porterage, cash-on-delivery – had to be franked directly on the parcel card.

Figure 2 (reduced): Unpaid parcel sent from Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) 15-5-1919 to Brčko. Tariff: weight 12.2 kg = 270 H, value 1000 Kr = 4x5 = 20 H, extra tax for not pre-paid parcel = 20 H, total = 310 H. For a parcel arrival message the fee was 5 H. Here a 6 H stamp has been used as the post office of Brčko was using up old postage due stamps. The addressee had to pay a total of 315 H.

Figure 3 (reduced): Official parcel sent from Bos. Petrovac (Bosnia-Herzegovina) 14-4-1921 to Sarajevo. Free for the simple pre-payment (weight rate and message of arrival). To pay: value 1400 Kr = 350 Dinar = 2x30 = 60 Para, express = 100 Para, total = 160 Para.

In Figure 14 of Roger Morrell the parcel is not franked completely. The post office of receiving the parcel had to ask the office of sending to pay the deficit (no extra charge). But there is another solution for a deficit in the pre-payment. The post-office of receiving the parcel could ask the addressee to pay the deficit. In such cases the deficit had to be paid by a regular postage stamp, for there was no extra tax. For a cash-on-delivery parcel there were two possibilities:

- if the sender wished a pay-out at home there had to be paid an extra 20 Para (period 16-5-1920/1-5-1921)
- if the sender wished to receive the money by post office order there was no extra payment of 20 Para.

Figure 4 (reduced): Parcel from Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) 15-12-1920 to Bijeljina. Tariff: weight 5 kg = 400 Para, value 5000 Kr (1250 Dinar) = 5x30 = 150 Para, cash-on-delivery 5000 Kr (1250 Dinar) = 140 Para, pay out costs cash-on-delivery = 20 Para, porterage = 60 para, total 770 Para. On the parcel 760 Para (635 + 500/4). Deficit 10 Para. On the rear a postage stamp of 10 Para cancelled in Bijeljina.

Not only if a parcel was franked insufficiently did the post office of sending receive a form for the deficit, but that was also possible for other postal acts. I show here a parcel in Figure 5 that was repacked by the office of receiving; cost 30 Filira. It was of course paid by regular postage stamps, for there was no extra tax. The sender had to pay in such cases.

Figure 5 (reduced): Parcel from Grubišno Polje (Croatia) 3-1-1919 to Zagreb. This is an internal parcel, therefore the special rates for Croatia applied: weight 4.5 kg = 90 Fil, value 100 Kr = 10 Fil, porterage = 20 Fil, total = 120 Fil. Repacking at Zagreb = 30 Fil. At the front in blue, the deficit 30 Fil. The code 6/I gives the indication that the post office of sending had to ask the sender to pay the 30 Fil.

The internal rates in Croatia (with the exception of Dalmatia which had the same rates as Slovenia) and Bosnia-Herzegovina differed from the tariffs to the other parts of the SHS. There were a lot of problems with the payment of the message of arrival. For an internal parcel in Croatia the sender had to pay, but for a parcel to the other parts of the SHS the addressee had to pay. A lot of faults were made with this part of the rate in the period

29-10-1918/1-7-1919. In Figure 6 I show a correct franked card from Croatia to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Figure 7 I show an unexpected mistake.

Figure 6 (reduced): Card for a parcel from Donja Stubica (Croatia) to Bosn. Gradiska (Bosnia-Herzegovina). Tariff: weight 1 kg = 100 Fil, value 45 Kr = 10 Fil, cash-on-delivery = 10 Fil, total = 120 Fil. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, a parcel arrival message was sent to the addressee and therefore a postage due stamp had to be used. The rates applied here are correct.

Figure 7 (reduced): Card from Ljubljana (Slovenia) 24-2-1919 to Radkerburg (SHS occupied area of Steiermark). Tariff: weight 4 kg = 100 Vin, value 1000 Kr = 4x10 = 40 Vin, cash-on-delivery = 10 Vin, porterage for a town 10000 to 50000 inhabitants = 30 Vin, total = 180 Vin. But, in the area of Steiermark occupied by the SHS (Slovenia) the message of arrival or porterage had to be paid in the area itself. A message of arrival was sent and a 5 Vin postage due stamp used (postage due stamps were obligatory for the payment of a message of arrival).

There was one situation in which no porterage or message of arrival had to be paid: if the parcel was sent by express.

Figure 8 (reduced): Parcel sent express from Ljubljana 31-7-1919 to Dobrna pri Celju. Tariff: weight 0.9 kg = 150 Vin, express = 250 Vin, total = 400 Vin (4 Kr).

In Figure 15 of his article Roger Morrell asks about the "Lagerzins" (= storage) of a parcel. If a parcel was collected within 3 days no storage had to be paid (the exception being if a parcel had to be delivered at home, then storage had to be paid from the first day of warehousing). If a parcel had to be stored for a long time the costs of storage were raised (see list 1). Sometimes if the sum was high the amount was paid cash.

Figure 9 (reduced): Parcel sent from Ljubljana 29-1-1920 via Brod 4-2-1920 to Kotor Varoš. Tariff: weight 3 kg = 450 Vin, value 700 Krone = 150 Vin, cash-on-delivery = 20 Vin, message of arrival = 15 Vin, total = 635 Vin. The parcel was stored partly in Brod and afterwards at Kotor Varoš for a total of 46 days (note February has 29 days in the leap year). Three days free and 43 days charged (30 days at 20 Fil = 600 and 13 days at 30 Fil = 390, total = 990 Fil). The addressee had to pay a total of 672.50 + 9.90 = 682.40 Krone. He paid with a postal order – see the slip: 671.20 Kr (50 – 100 Kr = 60, 6 x 10 = 60, pay out costs 10, total 130 Fil). The cost of the storage had to be paid in cash at the post office.

Not always were the postage due stamps at the rear of the card for storage or message of arrival of a parcel. Sometimes the addressee had a post-office box at the post office for parcels. In Ljubljana such a box was indicated with the "M". For each parcel there had to be paid 10 Vinar in the period 1-7-1919/1-11-1919.

Figure 10 (reduced): Parcel from Banja Luka 15-7-1919 to Ljubljana. Tariff: weight 13.2 kg = 690 H, cash-on-delivery = 20 H, porterage = 100 H, total = 810 H. Parcel in post-office box 10 Vinar.

List 1 mentions the special rates for oversized parcels. These rates were not only for oversized parcels but also for parcels of irregular shape, with glass or with liquids. I will show an example of a card of such a parcel.

Figure 11 (reduced): Parcel from Ljubljana 18-10-1920 to Sarajevo. This parcel contained a jug with varnish. Tariff: weight 20 kg = 800 Para, extra tax 50% = 400 Para, value 1200 Kr (300 Dinar) = 30 Para, porterage = 60 Para, total = 1290 Para.

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*Uredba PTT No.14418 dd. 18-6-1919; 9101 dd. 5-4-1921; 60283 dd.18-9-1923 26758 dd. 11-5-1925. SHS
*PTT Bulletin 19 dd. 15-10-1926. Belgrade

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The Postal History of Fiume: 17 November 1918 to 15 April 1919

by John Pitts

This article reproduces an exhibit by John Pitts forming part of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain's 50th anniversary exhibition at the Royal Philatelic Society in May 2014. It is based on material put together by the late Roy Dehn (author of "The Stamps and Postal History of Fiume, 1600 – 1924") and the write up of some of the items owes much to him. The sheets have been scanned hence the slightly irregular appearance.

The Postal History of Fiume, 17 November 1918 - 15 April 1919.

Introduction.

On 17 November 1918 Croatian troops occupying Fiume were replaced by Italian troops who established the inter-allied headquarters. Responsibility for postal services was placed in the hands of the local National Council, a member of which was appointed Minister for the Posts. Oliva (*Razionale Catalogazione dei Francobolli di Fiume)* says that during the brief Croatian occupation some 'Yugoslav' stamps were brought to Fiume and favour cancelled with existing hand-stamps. No post was operating at this time. Munk (*KOHL Briefmarken Handbuch Vol II)* states that Hungarian reaper values (2, 3, 5 and 6 filler and Karl 10 and 20 filler) with the SHS overprint reached the Head Post Office, Fiume 1, on 16 November. He expressly adds *'The Yugoslav stamps …were in fact sold at the Head Post Office from midday 16 November to midday 17 November and used postally'.* The stamps in question, however, were not issued in Croatia until 18 November. It is possible that for political propaganda some stamps were sent in advance to Fiume. A few covers are recorded, one of which is shown below.

The 'FIUME / D 1 D' hand-stamps appear to be original, but could have been back-dated.
A similarly franked cover (unaddressed) is in the Gilbert collection.

The mail of this period, handled by five Fiume post offices, carried Hungarian stamps overprinted 'FIUME'. Supplies reached the post offices by 3 December 1918. **This display** presents covers franked with the '1918 overprints' from each of the post offices, examines their postmarks and postal rates and looks at the interaction between postal clerks and their clients. Carriage by the post office did not necessarily establish the authenticity of the stamps.

But for the philatelically inspired mail of the Kronik brothers, Leopold and Karl, and one or two others such as Baumgartener and Steiner, there would be little, if any, mail of this period to collect and study. The handwriting of these correspondents supports the authenticity of their mail, since it is now established that they did not use forged material which, regrettably, was available in abundance. Leopold Kronik served with the Austrian military forces during the war and was an enthusiastic philatelist. Much of the information available on postal markings and procedures is credited to him. He spent several months in the city at this time and most of the items displayed here were sent by him.

Post Offices and Tariffs.

Fiume 1 in the Corso was the head post office. Fiume 2 was at the railway station 3 km north of the city centre. It only handled letters, both ordinary and registered. Fiume 3 also only handled letters and was located in Cantrida (Viale Italia), 1.5 km north-west of the city. Fiume 5 was at Belvedere, north of the city. Fiume 6, Drenova, closed between 3 January and 4 April 1919 so little is seen from here. Fiume 4, Garden, did not operate in the post-war period. The tariff was that of the Hungarian post office dated 1 January 1916: postcards 10/20f local/foreign; letters 15/20f; registration 25f, express 60f and printed matter 2f.

FIUME 1. Head Post Office.

Local letter, ordinary rate, 15f. FIUME X 1 X (919-FEB-10-N9) to FIUME 5 (919FEB12), Belvedere.
Numeral '12' in double circle is the check mark of the Italian military censor.

At Fiume 1, Kronik reports the use of X 1 X, Y 1 Y, and U 1 U marks for ordinary mail up to 3 March 1919. The date is in the Hungarian style with a crown in the top lunette beneath FIUME. The X 1 X mark along with L 1 L for registered mail were always in bad condition and gave a poor impression (Dehn).

FIUME 1. Head Post Office.

Letter (20f) registered (25f) total 45f correct rate to Wien. FIUME L 1 L (919-FEB -7-N12).

From 4 March to 15 April (the withdrawal date of the issue) three marks with Italian date-styles (no crown) were used with registered letters. They were A 1 A, B 1 B and G 1 G. An example is shown right.

Hungarian stamps without overprint were valid for postage throughout the period. This may have been one of the reasons why the authorities tolerated stamps with unofficial (forged) overprints on them. Because of the short supply of some values, over-franking by 1 or 2f sometimes occurred.

FIUME A 1 A (10D 11-MAR 919).
Mixed franking, local (15f) regd.(25f) total 40f correct rate, rate used 41f.

FIUME 1. Head Post Office.

FIUME A 1 A (8D 10-MAR 919). Mixed franking, foreign rate (20f) to Sušak just across the border in Croatia, registered (25f), total 45f correct rate, over-franked 1f.

Printed matter from Anton Kronik in Vienna. The printed matter express rate was 5h, not 2h. Twice the deficiency gives dues payable of 6 filler (blue manuscript 'T6'). The arrival mark FIUME A.F. 1 A.F. (919-JAN-3-N10) was one of three for registered mail listed by Kronik in the period up to 4 March 1919.

FIUME 2. Railway Station.

At FIUME 2 all types of letter were stamped with a mark having a crown at the top and the date line in Hungarian style. Only A 2 A and B 2 B were used. Right: Letter to Wien (20f) plus registration (25f), 45f correct rate.
Below: Registered (25f) express (60f) letter (20f) to Wien, at the correct rate of 105f. Note that this is a mixed franking, the use of stamps without the FIUME overprint being permitted. Registration labels were not available at Fiume 2 so those for Fiume 1 were altered in ink.

N.B. The letter 'N' in the date / time line of the cancel (the hour mark) stands for the Hungarian 'nappa' or 'day'. The day duty clerk would use N7 to N12 in the morning and N1 to N5 in the afternoon.

FIUME 2. Railway Station.

A 2 A postmark on registered and registered-express envelopes to Vienna, each correctly franked at 45f and 105f respectively. This postmark was the subject of a Fournier facsimile, shown below enlarged by 42%.

Fournier facsimile postmark.

Note that in originals of the postmark the numeral '1's have serifs and the second '9' of '919' is thinner than the first. The counters of the original '9's are more tightly oval. 'FIUME' in the facsimile is too short. The top of the 'F' to the top of the 'E' measures 16½ mm instead of just over 17 mm.

At FIUME 3 there were no reference letters alongside the number of the office; the date line was in Hungarian style and there was a crown in the lunette. Right: Registered to Wien franked 46f instead of 45f. Below: registered express to Wien correctly franked at 105f (20f + 25f + 60f).

FIUME 5. Belvedere.

At FIUME 5 also there were no reference letters alongside the office number. Here the mark was larger than elsewhere and the date line did not contain an hour reference and was in a different order e.g. 919 JAN 13. There was a crown in the lunette. Registration labels were not available at all so a manuscript indication had to be applied.

Left: registered to Wien with the correct franking.
Below: Registered express to Wien with the correct franking of 105f. In both cases the registration number is applied in manuscript.

Postage dues and bisects.

Early in 1919 the post offices ran short of some values of postage due labels. The bisecting of labels was authorised from 6 January. This was done at Fiume 1 until 10 January and at Fiume 5 until 23 January. Afterwards the tax due was indicated in ink e.g. 'P40' or 'T40' for an un-franked letter.

The value halved was the 20f which with a whole 20f made up 30f. This was enough for a local letter at a 15f rate doubled, but not enough for a 20f letter say from Austria. This did not seem to have worried the clerks, who appeared satisfied if two postage due labels had been used, even if the total face value was not enough. Dues without overprint, if available, could also be used (left).

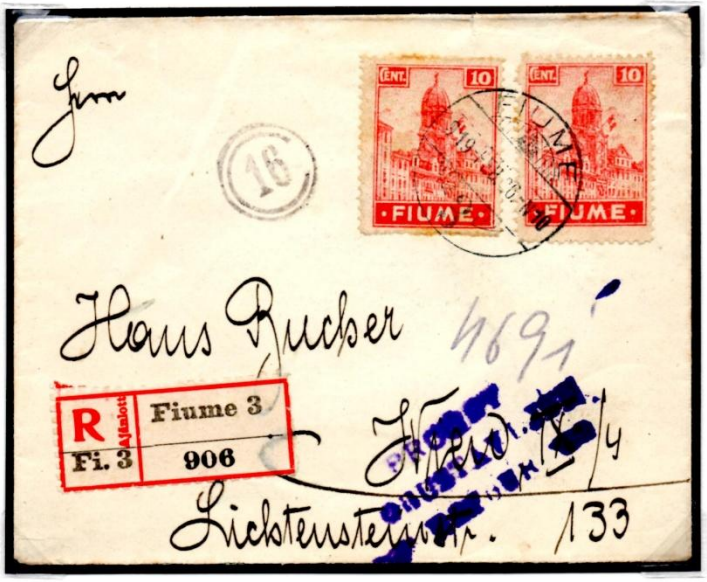
Unfranked local letter (Fiume 5) marked with manuscript 'T' in red and hand-stamped '40'. In fact twice the deficiency for a local letter was 2 x 15f = 30f which was met by using a bisected 20f. The reason for the 2f newspaper stamp is unclear.

Mail from Sušak. The postal clerk has assumed both were unstamped therefore attracting dues of 40f less the actual franking in Hungarian stamps, giving T37 and T34 respectively. Two dues to the value of 30f (20f + 10f) were applied on each, ignoring the (incorrect) demands, to the apparent satisfaction of the clerk.

Local un-franked letters; 30f due (manuscript crayon 'T30'). Vertical bisect is unusual. The reason for the defacing of the 20f stamp by a cross in crayon on the lower cover (9 January hence Fiume 1) is not clear.

Mail undeliverable.

Registered cover to Wien correctly franked (45f) for registered delivery, and despatched 22 January. It is hand-stamped in violet with the words 'Einfuhrverbot' (import prohibition) and 'UNZULÄSSIG' (inadmissible). On return to Fiume it was back-stamped FIUME 5, 10 March. Gilbert reports a similar cover from FIUME 3 (date unreadable).



The **same message** but in Serbo-Croat appears from about the same period (so shown here) on a cover ex-Dehn dated 26 February and carrying stamps from the first pictorial Fiume issue of late January (30th) 1919: 'PROMET / OBUSTAVLJEN / RETOUR'.

A later correspondence from Karl Kronik in Vienna refers to a postal 'Sperre' in Vienna at around this time, a stoppage which prevented communication with his brother in Fiume. It is suggested that the cause may have been a strike of postal staff.

The final episode.

The final episode in the history of the 1918 series concerns the postage due labels which were overprinted a second time, on this occasion with a bar obliterating the reference to the Hungarian post at the top of the label and 'FRANCO / 45' to make them valid for posting a registered letter (20f + 25f). The overprint was applied to the 6f and 20f postage due labels. At the same time the post office savings stamp was similarly overprinted 'FRANCO / 15' plus a hand stamp 'FIUME'. This would cover the tariff for local letters.

Official Fiume 1 head post office envelope sent registered post (correctly franked) to Hungary, Jan 25 1919.

N.B. Forgeries exist of both overprinted postage due labels (see later) but they are relatively easy to identify. They were overprinted 'FIUME' with the second, slightly blurred type of machine overprint. Any 'FRANCO / 45' stamp which has another type of machine overprint is likely to be a forgery.

Correctly franked registered covers from Fiume 1, (A.F. 1 A.F.),
Jan 21 1919, to Budapest, overprinted '45 / 20' and Jan 25 to Sušak, overprinted '45 / 6'.

FIUME. The final episode.

Registered to Sušak - why a 105f franking but receipt for payment of only 45f?

The registered letter is addressed to a Sign. Ball in Sušak. It was posted at FIUME 3 on 15 February 1919 and is back-stamped for receipt at Sušak on 16 February. The sender's name appears on the back and the envelope has a receipt for postage which confirms a payment of 45f. The letter is franked with not one stamp but three. They are the 6f postage due and the 20f, both overprinted FRANCO / 45, and the savings stamp overprinted FRANCO / 15. All three are postmarked with an identical date-stamp. Why the discrepancy between the receipt and the franking? Both the 20f and savings stamp have forged overprints. The postal clerk followed the regulation and applied the 6f overprinted FRANCO / 45. Because of a shortage of stamps this issue was not to be handed over, but applied to mail by the clerk. The client must then have produced the other two stamps with forged overprints and asked the clerk to postmark them at the same time. Since the post office suffered no financial loss thereby, the clerk probably agreed. Thus carriage by the post office need not establish the authenticity of the stamps. A similar cover exists (ex Dehn collection), also to Sušak but to a different person, two days later.

FIUME 6.

Dehn in his book on the postal history of Fiume states that he had never seen the FIUME 6 mark on stamps overprinted 'FIUME', but reports it on free-franked official mail from the Hungarian Red Cross Hospital in Fiume, as well as on the later pictorial series. Kronik illustrates the mark which has the crown, the date line in Hungarian style and the reference 'B 6 B'. This is confirmed in the example below. As Fiume 6 was closed from 3 January to 4 April, just before the stamps were invalidated, scarcity of material is understandable.

Registered printed matter to Sušak, 5 days before the stamps ceased to be valid. Philatelic.

Postscript.

This display contains a high proportion of registered and express letters, probably because so much of the mail leaving Fiume was philatelic, so higher franked letters may be more common than usual. The franking of the items displayed generally conforms to the tariffs in place at the time, although there is some evidence that the postal clerks never quite understood the postage-due system. However, there is much philatelic (over-franked) mail in existence, especially evident being 'set' letters of the charity and Karl and Zita issues. Other important over-franked items do exist, for example authenticated FIUME hand-stamps on the high value parliament issues. These are described elsewhere. It is a regrettable fact that much of the Fiume material offered at auction nowadays contains a high proportion of forged material. Even 'authenticated' material must be questioned, because many of the so-called 'expert' signatures are themselves questionable. The Kronik covers are an exception since it is now established that they did not use forged material which, regrettably, was available in abundance.

On 30 January 1919 the new allegorical series of stamps began to trickle through to the post offices, and on 15 April 1919 the overprinted stamps ceased to be valid for postage. The first act of the philatelic drama that embroiled Fiume from the end of 1918 to 1924 was over; other acts were to follow. On 12 November 1920 the Treaty of Rapallo, approved by the Italian parliament, made Fiume a Free State.

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