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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

Membership

From 1 January 2025, YSG will no longer have formal membership and no subscriptions will be paid. Nick Coverdale will continue to produce Jugopošta on a quarterly basis as an electronic journal and this will be sent free of charge to anyone who requests it and provides their name and email address to the Editor. Therefore, should you wish to be added to the list to receive Jugopošta, please get in touch (editor@yugosg.org). Of course, as always, Jugopošta will continue to function only if readers and others are prepared to submit articles.

Eventually (timescale not specified at the moment), all editions of Jugopošta will be freely available in a public archive. In the meantime, some editions of Jugopošta from 101 onwards will be made freely available on the **yugosg.org** website and sales of 1 – 100 and monographs will continue to be on offer, with any money received going to a philatelic charity.

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No 155 **September 2025**

Jugopošta





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From the Editor

In the past when Jugopošta was printed I kept, over many years, to a standard 32-page edition. One reason for doing that was to keep the printing costs predictable. Of course, with a purely digital journal, that is no longer necessary but I am still aiming to produce 32 pages as a minimum. This edition is a little larger and I am using all the material that I have had available as of a couple of weeks ago. That is another way of saying that I need some material for the December edition please! I have just received one short article but I need plenty more.

In this edition you will find articles on the postal stationery of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Boštjan Petauer, postal rates during the Yugoslav inflation period (1989 – 1994) by Vladimir Milić (previously published in the London Philatelist), Slovenia during the WW2 period of occupation by Veselko Guštin and some questions relating to Serbian pre-stamp official mail by Roger Morrell. You will see that I had some minor formatting issues when I inserted the LP article which I wasn't able to change.

Recently ArGe Südöst circulated their membership with:

'In June 2025, Nick Coverdale, our British cooperation partner, succeeded in publishing his 154th newsletter, despite the dissolution of the Yugoslavia Study Group (YSG), which we are pleased to make available electronically to our members. The YSG is dead, but its editor-in-chief continues, firstly, free of charge and secondly, in absolute numerical competition with our SOPhia, which is also now appearing with issue 154!'

Many of you will be aware of the recent sad loss of former member of YSG from the USA, Alfonso Zulueta, and also a recent subscriber to Jugopošta and well-known auctioneer, Aleksandar Krstić.

Nick Coverdale

NDH Concentration Camp Mail

Phil Hughes recently provided the following information:

'I have updated the book on NDH Concentration Camp Mail that I wrote with the late Dr. Dietz' help in 2002. Some more items have been discovered along with some additional information on which sender card goes with which receiver card, allowing for updates in both of those areas. I have created both an electronic version, with internal links, and a print version (A4 size for ease of printing), without links. The updates are in full color, unlike the original which was in black & white. However, the new version is only in English, while the original, thanks to Dr. Dietz, was in both English and German. I offer the download free to anyone who wants it, so perhaps the former members of the YSG might be interested. Here is a link to what I have put together.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rX8vDzvmZbnvQqkPJFgAbZsW9HMMSQuo/view?usp=sharing '

The download is a large zip file. Phil invites anyone with downloading problems to contact him at pj_in_sb@yahoo.com

New NDH book

I also received the following information (note that the book is written in Croatian and English):

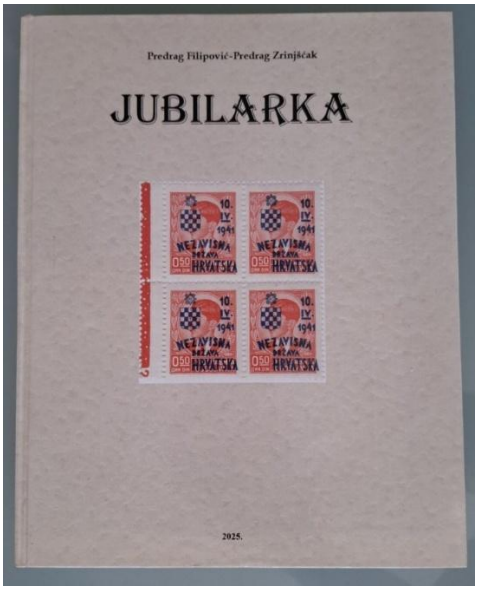
We are pleased to inform you that the new philatelic handbook titled *"Jubilarka"* has just been released from print. (Jubilee issue; Michel # 24-38)

This richly illustrated hardcover edition spans 288 pages and offers a detailed description of the overprint plate, highlighting the specific characteristics of each individual overprint field. It also includes atypical features related to certain fields, along with an overview of numerous forgeries currently circulating on the market.

A dedicated chapter explores the repairs made to the printing plate, while approximately fifty pages are devoted to the errors found on basic stamps of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which were used for various provisional issues. This makes the handbook particularly attractive to collectors interested in German and Italian occupation issues as well.

For further information or to order a copy, feel free to contact us at:

✉ **predrag68ri@yahoo.com**
✉ **predrag46@gmx.de**
Predrag Filipović & Predrag Zrinjšćak



Joint one-day meeting of the Central European Philatelic Societies, 2 August 2025 at the Brown Cow, Whitkirk, Leeds.

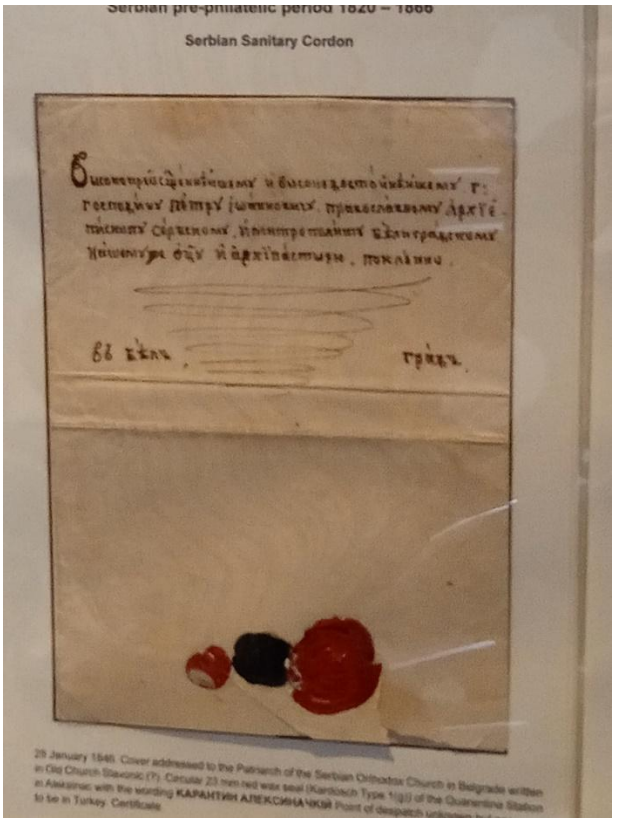
by Roger Morrell

Another very successful annual get together of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian and erstwhile Polish and Yugoslav Societies took place this year, with more participants than before at this venue. Twenty-one two- and three-frame exhibits were given by the participants over six rounds, with plenty of time for viewing and discussion, summarised as follows:

Alan Berrisford	Provisional postmarks of Poland 1944-1948 starting with precursor stationery and continuing with the first pictorial issue of stamps.
Nick Coverdale	Serbian pre-stamp mail 1820s-1840s as the postal service was set up, showing straight-line postmarks and some disinfection cachets of Semlin.
Richard Jagielski	Czech forces mail, including forgeries of some of the stamps.
Garth Taylor	WW1 censorship in the Bohemian and Moravian provinces, mainly on postcards and postal stationery.
Joyce Boyer	The Zillertal narrow-gauge railway in Austria connecting Mayrhofen with Jenbach on the Innsbruck-Salzburg line, with TPO postmarks through the ages.
Martin Weise	Hungarian passports and consular stamps from the 1930s, including the very rare 100 *pengő* stamp.
Keith Brandon	Pre-stamp mail to Pécs in Hungary using its former name meaning ‘five churches’ in the five official languages of the time, including Latin.
Andy Taylor	The institution of newspaper tax in the Austro-Hungarian Empire from the late 1780s.
Roger Morrell	Parcel card tax in Hungary during the 1945-6 record hyperinflation, picking up John Whiteside’s legacy.
Peter Williams	Early Polish meter mail with links to its inventor and to a famous recipient in the USA.
Lubomir Špaček	The postal stationery for pneumatic mail in Prague, starting in 1887.
Alan Berrisford	Use of Austrian stamps in Austrian Galicia (Southern Poland) from 1850, with many fine covers.
Martin Brumby	Austrian parcel cards from 1945-54 under zonal occupation.

Peter Williams	Polish balloon mail and labels from the Poznan Fair.
Ian Bergel	Charity stamps of Austria from 1922-1938.
Richard Jagielski	Polish field-post in France and the UK, 1939-45.
Andy Taylor	2025 Austrian stamp issues for the bicentenary of the birth of Johan Strauss the younger, accompanied by music.
Garth Taylor	Czech postal inflation 1918-1922 illustrated via the uprating of postal stationery.
Richard Jagielski	Pre-WWI East Prussian TPO cancellations on German letters and cards.
Richard Wheatley	Czech 1945 War Hero stamps used on mail to the various occupied zones in Germany and Austria, with censorship marks.

With refreshments on tap, an excellent buffet lunch and tea and cake to finish off it made for a mind-broadening, thought-provoking day with like-minded colleagues. As Keith Brandon said in closing the meeting, many thanks to Yvonne and Richard Wheatley for organising the day, hoping to see everyone and more in August next year.



An 1846 Serbian cover written in an early form of Serbian script from Nick Coverdale's display



Participants viewing the first round of presentations



The meeting room



Martin Weise's passport display studied by Richard Wheatley

Dismembered Slovenia 1941 – 1945

by Dr. Veselko Guštin

Introduction: The purpose of the article is to describe the correspondence between Slovenes who lived in three countries but maintained family and work ties. Most of the time, only the official language of the new “masters” was used.

Due to long-term censorship in Italy (Bologna, Rome) or Germany (Vienna, Munich), most of the correspondence is on postal stationery or postcards. Due to the reliability of transmission, letters were sent by registered or express mail.

Special attention is paid to rare materials such as auxiliary issues (overprinted stamps) or partisan correspondence. Some items are unique, others are just rare, mainly due to a short period of use, usually a few months or weeks, or a limited number of circulations. The contents follow one another in time and territory, from west to east.

From 4 November 1918, the Slovenian Littoral and part of Istria were part of the **Kingdom of Italy**. The Treaty of Rapallo was ratified in Italy on 27 November 1920 and in Yugoslavia on 2 February 1921. The Slovenian minority in Italy was subjected to strong Italianization (1920-1943) and had no international or national protection.

The monetary unit was the lira of the Kingdom of Italy: 1L. = 100 Centesimi and the Italian postal rates applied. The stamps of the Kingdom of Italy of the regular series "Imperiale" were in use, issued in 1929 and containing stamps from 5 cents to 50 L. They were valid until 1945. Although a common rate for the letter was 1 L., there was no stamp with this face value. It was issued only on 14.8.1942! The material from these locations is not available for less than 20 Euros.

	inland, from 16.8.1927	abroad, from 1.7.1930
letter 15g	near 0.25 L., far 0.50 / .,00	1.25 L. / 2.00 / 2.75 *1.00 / 1.60 / 2.20
card	near 0.15 L. / far 0.30	0.75 L. *0.50
registered	1.25 L. / open 0.60	1.50 L.
express	1.25 L.	2.50 L.
print	0.10 L.	0.25 L.

*special tariffs from 1.1.1942 for Germany, tolerated for NDH (Independent State of Croatia), with 1.4.1943 also for occupied Pol., Moravia., Bulg., Rom., Fin., Nor., Holland, Slovakia, and Hungary, convention in Vienna on 24.10.1942, for Jug. from 1.2.1929. With “/” are indicated letters second/third/fourth port. (dis. = district; int. = internal, outside the district; corr. = correspondence)



Figure 1. Registered letter from Podnanos: PREVALLO 11.7.41 to Ljubljana (Laibach) via Trieste (11.7.41), diverted to Jesenice (Assling), Germany, Italian censorship tape "Verified for censorship", stamp "Office of censorship of foreign post II - Bologna", (12), German censorship stamp (A/d) - Munich, C; arrived in Jesenice [Assling (Wurzener Sawe)], 16.8.41, sent at the reduced price of 50 cents for a letter, 1.25 L. for a registered letter to the Province of Ljubljana.

The armistice of the Kingdom of Italy happened on 8 September 1943. On 10 September 1943 the territory of Venezia Giulia (i.e. Slovenian Littoral and Istria) together with that of Ljubljana came under German control. The *Operationszone Adriatisches Küstenland* (Operations Zone of Adriatic Julian Venetia, OZAK) was established. De jure, the area was under the newly formed **Italian Social Republic** (RSI), but "de facto" it was under German military administration.

During the RSI, only 5 stamps of the set "Imperiale" (with the image of King Vittorio Emanuele III) were overprinted, which we will see mostly on envelopes from our parts. The Italian Lira was also valid. Values of these letters are 20-30 Eur or more!

	inland, from 1.7.1940	inland, from 1.10.44 to 30.6.1945	abroad, from 31.3.1935
letter 20g	near 0.25 L., far 0.50 / 1.00	near 0.50, far 1.00 / 2.00	1.25 / 2.00 / 2.75 *1.00 / 1.60 / 2.20
card	near 0.15 L., far 0.30	near 0.25, far 0.50	0.75 *0.50
registered	1.25 L. / open 0.60	1.50 / open 0.75	1.50 (10 L. from 1.4.1945)
express	1.25 L.	2.50	2.50 (10 L. from 1.4.1945)
print	0.10 L.	0.20	0.25

*special rates, ibid



Figure 2. Postal stationery for 30 Cent. from Koper: CAPODISTRIA 17.02.44 to Ljubljana, postmark of the Postal Guard of Slovenian "Domobranci" [P.S./ S.D.], (1), postage: for the postcard 0.30 L, 0.60 L. for registered open, 1.25 L. for express, total 2.15 L.

Yugoslavia, Slovenia (i.e. Dravska banovina): When Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania joined the Triple Pact in 1940, the pressure on Yugoslavia to join and protect its southern flank increased significantly. Yugoslavia no longer seemed trustworthy to the Reich, and so the Axis powers invaded the Kingdom on 6 April 1941, without an official declaration of war. The resistance of the Royal Yugoslav Army was only symbolic, because due to the slow mobilization only half of the conscripts managed to gather. In 1941 the dinar (1 dinar = 100 para) of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was in use and the Yugoslavian postal rates were applied. Letters with the date "6 or 7 April 1941" are rare and expensive!

	inland, up to 1.4. 1941	abroad
letter 20g	near 1.00 din, far 1.50 / 2.00 / 3.50	4.00 / 6.00 / 8.00; 4.00 (for Bg., Gr., Tr., Ro., Hun, It.)
card	1.00	2.00; 1.50 (for Bg., Gr., Tr., Ro., Hun, It.)
registred	near 4.00, far 5.00	6.00; 4.00 (for Bg., Gr., Tr., Ro., Hun, It.)
express	4.00	8.00; 6.00 (for Bg., Gr., Tr., Ro., Hun, It.)
print 50g	0.25	0.50

*After April 6, only internal tariffs were used

Province of Ljubljana (Provincia di Lubiana): The Italian army did not begin the attack until April 11 and reached Ljubljana. Initially, the Italians pursued a moderate policy in the occupied territories. On May 3, 1941, the province was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy by royal decree, contrary to international law. The state border established in Rapallo ceased to exist "de iure", but in fact the occupying power maintained it as a police and customs border. Thus, for 29 months, 700,000 Slovenians remained under Italy, or almost half of the entire Slovenian nation. However, the Slovenians of the Julian region were still in all respects separated from the Slovenians of the Ljubljana region.

The Yugoslav dinar was used in the occupied territories until July 17, 1941, when it was replaced by the Italian lira. The exchange of dinars to lira took place from June 19, 1941 to June 26, 1941, with 100 dinars worth 38 L. In addition, during the first months of the occupation, the Yugoslav postal rates were used. The occupying power overprinted 62 Yugoslav stamps with the inscription "Co.Ci." (Commissariato Civile) and "R[egio] Commissariato Civile Territori Occupati Sloveni LJUBLJANA" and they were valid until June 26, 1941. In total, 93 regular Yugoslav stamps were overprinted, 10 for airmail, 19 for postage and 9 for stationery. All these auxiliary issues were valid until the supplies were sent, but at the latest until 17.7.1941, when the Yugoslav dinar ceased to be valid. Are there any examples of mixed postage: dinar and lira? The aswer is NO. Material from this period is rare, especially that with overprints and you will hardly find it for less than 100 Euro. All letters with postmarks with the name of the place in Slovenian and the name of the province [LUBIANA] are rare and have a good price!

	inland from 1.7.1940	abroad 1.3.1939
letter 15g	near 0.25, far 0.50 / 1.00 / 1.50	1.25 / 2.00 /2.75 *1.00/1.60/2.20
card	near 0.15 (0.60 from 1.10.44), far 0.30	0.75 *0.50
registered	1.25, open 0.60	1.50
express	1.25	2.50
print	0.10	0.25

* special Italian tariffs for Germany, tolerated for the NDH, established with Circular No. 31 of 7th April 1942.



Figure 3. Letter from Ljubljana LJUBLJANA – LUBIANA 1 -6.VI.41 to the city, postage 1.50 dinars for letter, 5 dinars registered, postage paid with Yugoslavian stamps (with machine overprint and two hand-printed) Co.Ci. first set and R. Commissariato... of the third auxiliary set.

Five Slovenian settlements were under the authority of the NDH (Independent State of Croatia, (Nezavisna Država Hrvatska): Slovenska vas, Nova vas, Jesenice na Dolenjskem, Obrežje and Čedem. The territory covered about 20 square kilometres and at that time about 800 inhabitants lived there.

After the armistice of Italy on 9 September 1943, the territory of the Province of Ljubljana, together with Venezia Giulia, passed under the operational zone of the Adriatic coast, in fact under the German military administration. The Province of Ljubljana was then called **Provinz Laibach - Ljubljanska pokrajina**.

	inland, from 1941	inland, from 1.10.44	abroad, from 1941
letter 15g	near 0.25, far 0.50 / 1.00	near 0.50, far 1.00 /2.00	1.25 / 2.00 / 2.75, *1.00 / 1.60 / 2.20
card	near 0.15, far 0.30	near 0.25, far 0.50	0.75 *0.50
registered	1.25	1.50	1.50 (10 L. from 1.4.1945)
express	1.25	2.50	2.50 (10 L. from 1.4.1945)
print	0.10	0.10	0.25

* special tariffs of the Province Laibach applied for Italy, tolerated for NDH.



Figure 4. Registered letter from Ljubljana: LAIBACH - LJUBLJANA 5.VIII.44 to Kostanjevica na Krki "Predano pri okencu" (delivered at the counter) postage 0.50 L. for a letter up to 15 gr., 1.25 L. fee for registered mail.

In the Provinz Laibach, Italian stamps were used (set "Imperiale") with an overprint - the coat of arms and the bilingual inscription "PROVINZ LAIBACH - LJUBLJANSKA POKRAJINA", alternately once upside-down and once left-right. The first auxiliary series of 19 stamps was issued on 5 January, 1944. This was followed by 46 more overprinted stamps, 7 airmail stamps, 1 urgent stamp, 9 postal stamps, 4 stationery stamps and 2 figurines. In the first half of 1945, an occasional set of 16 stamps of Slovenian locations was also issued. If the post office did not have stamps, they used the stamps "Barfranko / Verzeichnis" or "Franko" or “Plačano” with the corresponding text. The Italian lira was valid, later the Rupnik lira.

Envelopes with overprinted stamps are highly valued because they were used for a short time and in limited editions! Period material from the Province of Laibach is sought after and expensive. You can't find it for less than 80 EUR.

Northern Carniola (Gorenjska), Lower Styria (Spodnja Štajerska) and Lower Carinthia (Spodnja Štajerska) were conquered by Germany as early as 6 April 1941. The German form of occupation was the harshest. All Slovenian newspapers were immediately banned, German

was introduced as the language of instruction in schools and adults were forcibly enrolled in the Patriotic Union of Styria and the Carinthian People's Union or their armed sections. German became the official language.

The German mark was in use (1 RM, Reichsmark = 100 Rpf, pfennig), exclusively German stamps were used. On envelopes, stamps from the regular series with the image of Hitler from 1941-1944 are most often found. Only German stamps were in use, exclusively with the names of places in German! They adopted the names of places from the Austro-Hungarian period, but they also renamed some places with their own names. Letters from this period from Slovenia you can find around 20 Euro.

	inland, from 15.5.1938	Abroad ibid
letter 20g	near 8 / 16 /20, far 12* /25 /36 Rpf	25 / 40 / 55 Rpf
card	near 5, far 6* Rpf	15 Rpf
registered	30 Rpf	30 Rpf
express	40 Rpf	80 Rpf
print	3, 4 Rpf for > 20g	5 Rpf

*special tariffs from 1.1.1942 for Italy, tolerated by the NDH



Figure 5. Registered letter from Brežice RANN (STEIERM) 13.1.44. to Vienna (Wien), Austria, rate 12 Rpf for the letter and 30 Rpf for recommendation. Although the combination 12+30=42 Rpf is very common, the 42 Rpf stamp was issued only in 1944.

Prekmurje was first occupied by the Germans after the capitulation of the Yugoslavian army. On 16 April 1941, during a ceremony in Murska Sobota, it was handed over to the Hungarians, who considered the acquired territory part of the lost southern regions (Délvidék). During the Hungarian occupation, only Hungarian stamps were valid and the Hungarian currency 1 Pengö (P) = 100 filler (fil) was in use. Only Hungarian postmarks with the place name in Hungarian were in use! Material from this region is very rare and can be bought for no less than 50 Euros a piece.

	inland, from 15.9.1941 – 30.6.1943	abroad
letter 20g	near 12/16/20, far 20/28/36/50 fil. near 12/-/20/, far 20/-/26 (from 1.3.1943)	50 (20 Germany)

		40 /70 / 100 (Ital., Cro. from, 15.9.1941.)
card	near 8, far 12 fil.	30 (12 Ger., 24 Ital., Cro.)
registered	near 30, far 60 fil.	50
express	near 30, far 60 fil.	1,00 P.
print	3, 4 fil. for > 20g	5



Figure 6. Hungarian 10-fil. postal stationery from Murska Sobota (MURASZOMBAT) 25.XI 41 to Ljubljana, Italy, "Ufficio Censura Posta Estera II" in Bologna, postage 24 fil for a postcard to Italy, 50 fil for a registered letter.

The way to freedom. We have already written about the "Local partisan post in Slovenia" in LOCAL PARTISAN MAIL IN SLOVENIA, 1941-1945, Fepa news, No. 39, July 2021. We present here only a sample of a letter.

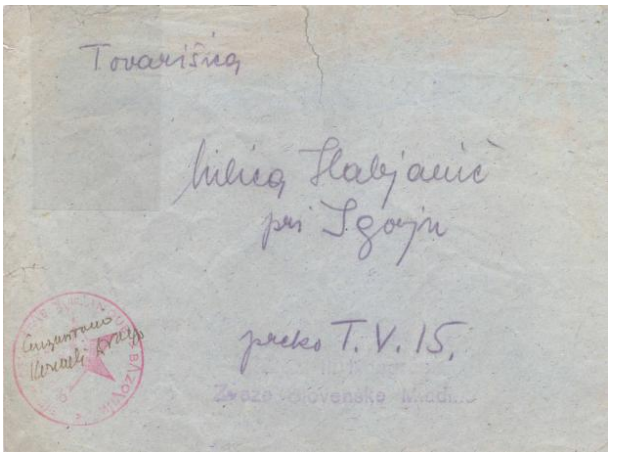


Figure 7. Letter from the "SNOUB Bazoviška Command" dated January 30, 1945, addressed to "Pri IGORJU via TV-15", "censored" handwriting, signature, stamp "3. Congress of the Union of Slovenian Youth Associations", on the back handwritten: 1.2. signature, 1/2, signature, 2/2, signature, 2/II, signature2/II, signature2/II, signature, postmark RS 15 3 II 1945 (same as TV15), Kočevski Rog, Italian territory.

Julian Venetia, also called (in Slovenian) Julijska Krajina (in German: Julisch Venetien, in Italian Venezia Giulia), is an area divided between Slovenia, Croatia and Italy. On 12 June 1945,

the Julian territory was divided by the Morgan Line, which lasted until 15 September 1947. The Western Allies adopted the term "Venezia Giulia", while in Yugoslavia the term Julijska Krajina was used. In Slovenia, we are only interested in the northern part, which is the “Primorska” or “Slovenian Littoral and part of Istria”. It was a disputed territory between the Italian Republic and the Democratic Federated Yugoslavia between 1945 and 1947. The Morgan Line divided the region into two occupied military zones: Trieste, Gorizia and Pola with their surroundings, the Upper Posočje valley, Goriška Brda and most of the Karst plateau were under joint British-American administration (AMG), designated Zone A. The remaining eastern part constituted Zone B and was under the military administration of the Yugoslav Army (VUJA). During this period many Italians, as well as Slovenes, left the territory occupied by Yugoslavia. There was also a transition in the opposite direction, but to a lesser extent.

Italian postmarks were also used in the Z**one A** of the Slovenian Littoral and part of Istria , as was the “Pagato” stamp or manuscript. It was only from 22.9.1945 to 16.10.1945 that the first 7 overprinted stamps of the “Imperial” set of the Kingdom of Italy and 3 stamps of the Lieutenancy (of Southern Italy) with “A.M.G.- V.G.” were issued. The currency on the auxiliary stamps was the (AMG)lira.

Zone A

	inland, 5.45 - 9.8.1945	abroad , ibid	inland , 10.8.1945- 46	abroad , ibid
letter 20g	near 0.50, far 1.00 (It., Zone B)	1.25 (Yu.)	near 1.00, far 2.00 (It., Zone B)	5.00 (Yu.)
card	0.50	0.75	1.20	3.00
registered	1.50 L	1.50	5.00	10.00
express	2.50 L.	2.50	5.00	10.00
print	0.20 L.	-	0.40	0.80



Figure 8. Postcard from Volče: VOLZANA 12.7.45 to Gorizia/Gorica, rate 1.20 L paid with two stamps (of the Lieutenancy) overprinted A.M.G.-V.G. for 60 cents.

In the **Zone B** of Primorska the stamps or manuscripts "Plačano" or the oval stamp "Pagato" were used. It was strictly forbidden to use Italini or RSI stamps! The Yugoslav administration overprinted 11 stamps with "1.V.1945 / TRIESTE / TRST" in Trieste. In Pula/Pola 15 stamps with the overprint "ISTRA" (used only in Pula) and 11 stamps with the overprint "3.5.1945

FIUME-RIJEKA" in Rijeka/Fiume. Another 4 stamps from the Pola series were overprinted in Fiume/Rijeka with new face values. All these provisional sets were valid in principle only until the end of 1945! On 15 August 1945, the first regular series of 10 stamps with motifs of places and products of Primorska and Istria was issued. It was prepared by Miroslav Oražem at the request of the Directorate of Ljubljana. The currency on the stamps was the (Yugo)Lira. Letters with these stamps for less than 150 Euro are not available.

Zone B

	inland, up to 8.45	up to 15.8.-30.9.45	1.10.1945 - 1946	abroad, 1.10.1945
letter 20g	near 0.50 / far .,00 L.	4.00 L., (Yug., It., Zone A)	4.00 L., ibid	6.00 L. (Yug.)
card	0.50 L.	2.00 L.	2.00 L.	4.00 L.
registered	1.50 L.	6.00 L.	8.00 L.	10.00 L.
express	2.50 L.	6.00 L.	8.00 L.	15.00 L.



Figure 9. Registered mail from Koper: CAPODISTRIA 21.12.45, cancelled POLA (Pula), name of the Italian province, to Trieste, postage 4 L. for letter, 8 L. for registered mail. All three provisionals and one stamp from the first regular series of 5 Lire are used.

Slovenia (east of Julian Venetia): In August 1945, Federal Democratic Yugoslavia was founded, of which Slovenia was a part. Ljubljana was liberated on 9 May 1945. Only on 15 May 1945 did the last German troops leave Slovenian Carinthia.



Figure 10. Registered letter from Ljubljana LJUBLJANA (cancelled LAIBACH) 15.VI.45 to Zagreb, Croatian censor mark, unknown addressee, returned to sender, postage 2 L. for remote location for more than 15 g, 1.50 L. for registered fee, paid with Slovenian provisional issue with the overprint "Jugoslavija SLOVENIJA Jugoslavija 9.5.1945" on old stamps of the Province Laibach.

Until 30 June 1945, postal rates and "local" money were used throughout Slovenia. However, it was strictly forbidden to use occupation stamps. The exception was the Province of Ljubljana, because the institutions were able to use the stock of (occupation) stamps from the set of Slovenian localities of the "Provinz Laibach - Ljubljanska pokrajina" from 1945. Already on 7.6.1945 we received 16 auxiliary stamps with the overprint "Jugoslavija SLOVENIJA Jugoslavija 9.5.1945 ". In the former German-occupied territory, on 15.6.1945 the same overprint was used on 18 regular German stamps and on 12 regular Hungarian stamps issued in Prekmurje on 22 June 1945. All these overprints were valid only until 30.6.1945.

From 1 July 1945 only regular Yugoslav stamps (with the image of Tito) were in use, only the Yugoslav dinar and postal rates were used! The exchange rate was as follows: 100 Lire = 30 Din, 100 RM = 60 Din and 100 Peng = 100 Din. Letters with these provisionals are very rare and cannot be found for less than 100 Eur!

	inland, from 1st July 1945	abroad, from 1st July 1945
letter 20g	near 1.50 din, far 2.00/3.00/4.00	4.00 / 6.00 / 8.00
card	1.00	2.00
registered	4.00	5.00
express	4.00	8.00
print, 50 gr	0.50	1.00



Figure 11. Registered mail from Gorenja vas: GORENJA VAS 29.X.45 to Belgrade, letter postage 2 din, registered fee 4 din, paid with Yugoslavian stamp, hand-drawn "label 'R.'"

First of all, let's say that the tariff tables were very difficult to obtain. We contacted the Italians a lot, because each catalogue reported slightly different values or dates. These are verified both with documents and with various literature, especially with special catalogues (Spezial Michel, Catalogo di Storia Postale, Catalogo Enciclopedico Italiano, InterItalia). The easiest thing was with the stamps, these can be found in various catalogues, but the problem was to find the period of validity of use.

Postal Stationery of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1900-1918

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

In our previous issue we presented the first part of the stationery issued by the Austrian occupation authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1879 and 1896 in the kreuzer currency. Today, it is the turn for the second part of the stationery issued for Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were issued between 1900 and 1918. All the issues of this period are in the heller currency. Namely, on January 1, 1900, a new currency, the krona, was introduced, consisting of one hundred hellers (in the area of today's Slovenia we called them vinarji). One kreuzer was worth 2 hellers, and 1 goldinar was worth 2 krona. The face values of at least the first issues in the 20th century are, according to the calculation, practically the same as in the 19th century (the exception are postcards, which were 1 heller more expensive), which indicates the fact that the then Austro-Hungarian Monarchy had a very stable currency for a long time, practically without inflation.

While all the Bosnian stationery issued in the 19th century was at first glance quite monotonous, as they were all made in the same style, this finding in the 20th century only applies to the first issue of the stationery in 1900; the stationery issued later is, as will be evident from this article, much more picturesque.

On the other hand, we cannot ignore the fact that the 19th century stationery is more philatelically interesting than later ones due to the considerable number of variations, especially in postcards and letter cards; these are much fewer in later issues.

The language on all the stationery is bilingual for domestic traffic, namely German and Serbo-Croatian, while the languages for foreign traffic are mostly bilingual – French and German. Exceptions to the latter are listed below.

When discussing the stationery, we will use the same systematic approach as in the previous article. We will first deal with postcards, then envelopes, letter cards, and other forms.

It should also be added that for some languages there are essays and trial prints, but they are quite rare.

Postcards

As already mentioned, the first postcards in the new currency are similar to the previous issues; they all have the 1900 issue stamp in the same colour as the regular stamps (green - 5 hellers for postcards for domestic traffic and red - 10 hellers for postcards for international traffic). The only difference with the previous issues is that the value is written in the lower two corners; on the previous ones in the kreuzer currency it was in the upper two. The size of the postcards for both domestic and foreign traffic is 140 x 90 mm.

Domestic postcards come in two colour variations. In the 1900 issue, the colour of the embossed stamp is blue-green, while in the 1901 issue, it is yellow-green. Both postcards are printed on

light yellow cardboard. The same applies to the so-called double postcards, that is, postcards with a paid reply, which, like in previous issues, consist of two parts, the first of which is intended for sending and the second for replying.

Postcards for external traffic have a 10 heller stamp imprinted on them. Here too, there are two variations: one has the B. u. H. mark in the lower right corner, the other does not. Postcards with a paid reply are also known in both variations.



Figure 1. Postcards for domestic traffic (top) and international traffic (bottom)

In 1906, postcards were first issued, on which a vertical stamp with a landscape motif was embossed, following the example of the regular series issued in the same year. However, unlike all previous issues, the motif is not the same: the postcard for domestic traffic is embossed with a stamp with the motif of the Karadjoz Mosque in Mostar (the regular issue shows the Neretva River Valley on the same value, i.e. for 5 Heller), while the one for foreign traffic shows the Pliva River Waterfall in Jajce (the corresponding value of 10 Heller in the regular shows a motif from the Vrbas River Valley). These postcards are also, like the previous ones, printed in a 140 x 90 mm format on light yellow cardboard paper.

Even in this issue, we distinguish two variations of postcards for domestic traffic: one type of postcard (from 1906) has a 4.7 cm long slanted line in the colour of the stamp at an angle of 45° in the upper left corner, while the other type (from 1907) does not have it. In both variations,

there are also postcards with a paid reply, with the first part having a Roman I embossed in the middle at the top, and the second part, i.e. the one for the reply, having a Roman II.



Figure 2. Both variations (upper one with a slanted line, lower one without a line) of postcards for 5 hellers with the motif of the Karadjoz Mosque

When the postage for postcards in domestic traffic increased from 5 to 8 hellers on 1 October 1916, post offices briefly affixed stamps from the 1912 issue (the image of Emperor Franz Joseph) to the postcards in question and sold these postcards for 8 hellers.

There are also two variations of postcards for international traffic: the one from 1906 has the inscription "Carte Postale Postkarte" and two curved lines at the top left, the other from 1907 has only the inscription "Carte Postale" at the top in the middle without the German text and curved lines. There is only one type of postcard with a paid reply: on the first part of the postcard, the text Carte postale avec" at the top left response “payé" in the first row and "Postcarde mit bezahlter Antwort" in the second, and on the second part "Carte postale réponse" in the first and "Antwortpostkarte " and two curved lines in the second.



Figure 3. Both variations of postcards for foreign traffic

Between 1916 and 1918, postcards with an embossed stamp featuring the motif of an ancient warrior were issued for both domestic and international traffic.

A postcard with an embossed stamp for 8 hellers in green (there are shades) was issued for domestic traffic as a reflection of the aforementioned increase in postage from 5 to 8 hellers. The postcard is printed on light yellow paper and is slightly larger than the previous ones, measuring 140 x 85 mm. The postcard with a paid reply is also printed in the same format (this is on slightly whiter paper). On the first page, it has an embossed Roman I in the upper center, and on the page intended for the reply, Roman II.

From 1 September 1918, the postage for postcards was increased again, from 8 to 10 hellers. Due to the large number of available postcards for 8 hellers on the one hand and the simultaneous lack of valid stamps for 2 hellers on the other (only express stamps for 2 hellers were available, and the then valid issue of regular stamps with a portrait of Emperor Charles did not contain this value, but only one for 3 hellers), on 2 September 1918, overprinted stamps for 2 hellers were issued with the year 1918, namely the 1910 (jubilee) and 1912 (portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph) issues. As can be seen from the pictures, in addition to these, the aforementioned express stamps for 2 hellers were used for additional franking, as well as a regular stamp with a portrait of Emperor Charles for 3 hellers.



Figure 4. Three out of four possible additional postage charges for the postage for 8 hellers with an increase in postage

Due to the aforementioned increase in postage, a postcard for domestic traffic was issued in 1918 with an embossed carmine-coloured stamp for 10 hellers on light yellow paper, as well as a corresponding postcard with a paid reply.

At the same time, a postcard for international traffic was also issued, also with an embossed 10 heller stamp, as the postage for foreign countries did not increase and for a short time (only until the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy) both postage rates were equal. The postcard is printed on slightly lighter paper than the one for domestic traffic and has the inscription "Carte postale" in the middle at the top. Here too, there is a postcard with a paid reply.



Figure 5. Postcards with the motif of an ancient soldier for domestic traffic (top) and international traffic (bottom). Interestingly, the (censored) postcard for domestic traffic was used for international traffic without additional postage, but no postage due was applied in the USA.

Envelopes

There are only two envelopes measuring 132 x 108 mm with the 10 heller stamp embossed in red. One was issued in 1900 on paper with a watermark and white paper inside, the other a year later on paper without a watermark and with white paper inside.

In the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy itself, they stopped selling envelopes with embossed stamps on December 31, 1904 (they remained valid), which is probably the reason why such envelopes were not issued in Bosnia and Herzegovina after 1902.



Figure 6. Envelope sent from Bosanski Brod to Ljubljana (return stamp on the back).

Letter cards

Similar to 19th-century issues, 20th-century issues only have card letters for local and domestic traffic. Card letters for international traffic do not exist, unlike postcards.

The dimensions of card letters are the same in all cases: 140 x 84 to 85 mm, which also includes serrated edges; the open letter measures 140 x 170 mm.

The first local postal cards have a 6 heller stamp, which is the same as the regular stamp issued in 1900. There are several variations. The letters issued in 1900 are printed on blue-green cardboard (the inside is white), and the stamp is brown. The 1901 issue is known in two variations: in both cases it is printed on light yellow cardboard with a brown stamp, while the inside is whitish-brown in one case and blue-green in the other. The perforation is line 10½, in the 1900 issue. In 1901 there is also an imperforate form, which is rare.



Figure 7. Both card letters for 6 hellers for local traffic

The first card letters for intercity traffic have an impressed stamp for 10 hellers in red. Both the 1900 and 1905 editions are printed on grey cardboard, and the inside is white and brownish. The only difference between the two issues is that the 1905 issue has an oblique inscription in the upper left corner "Adresse des Absenders" and below it "Address of the sender", followed by a straight continuous line, all at an angle of 45°. The perforation is linear 10½ in both cases, and in the 1905 edition also ridged 11. Here too, an imperforate variant exists, but such a letter card is very rare.

In 1906, a letter card was issued with the same embossed stamp as the international postal card, for 10 hellers with a motif of the Pliva River waterfalls near Jajce. It was printed on light yellow cardboard and with a line perforation of 10½. The stamp was designed by Koloman Moser (who also designed the regular series of stamps from the same year) based on a photograph by Curzon. The dimensions of this letter card are 140 x 90 mm (opened 140 x 180 mm); therefore, it is slightly longer than the previous one. A similar letter card of the same dimensions on the same paper and with the same stamp was also issued the following year, 1907. The only difference is that the letter card from 1906 has a slanted line in the upper left corner, while the 1907 issue has the coat of arms, and below it the price of 11 hellers, at which this letter card was sold. In addition, in this case, in addition to the perforated one, there is also an imperforate variation, which is rare.



Figure 8. Both variations of the 10 heller card letters. Below is the rare imperforate one.

Due to the increase in postage for letters from 1 October 1916, the last card in Bosnia and Herzegovina was issued this year with the motif of an ancient soldier and a face value of 15 hellers, which is the last letter card of Bosnia and Herzegovina under Austrian administration.



Figure 8a. Letter card for 15 hellers

Additional franking on postal stationery

All envelopes could also be used with additional services such as registered mail, express delivery (or both). Envelopes for domestic or local traffic also had to be appropriately franked if they were used, for example, for international traffic.



Figure 9. Examples of an uprated card letter and a postcard. In both cases, it is a registered letter. The postcard sent on 28 February 1917 is a late use of the 1912 stamp; after this time, two more regular series were issued, one (1916) with a portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph, the other (1917) with a portrait of Emperor Karl.

Other forms

From other forms we should also mention, as examples, telegram receipts, postal order cards, postal savings cards, as well as international reply coupons, which we will not discuss separately, as they are less interesting from a philatelic point of view.



Figure 10. The first page of a postal order card. This order was used as a reminder to the debtor to pay the debt, requiring the completion of a money order, which was an integral part of the document.

“Portofrei” reprints

During World War I, the firm B. Buchwald & Co. from Sarajevo searched for several different, then invalid, postal stationery (postcards, envelopes and letter cards), all issued between 1900 and 1905, with various overprints of "Portofrei" (postage-free) or "Feldpost" (military post), and thus "converted" them into military postcards (which were exempt from postage) and sold them cheaply to soldiers. There was no special postal stationery with an imprinted stamp for military post.

These stamps were not issued by the BiH postal administration and could also be used outside its territory; they are listed here only for the sake of completeness.



Figure 11. Examples of overprints on all three types of stationery considered

Conclusion

The majority of the material discussed in this article is still easily accessible to most collectors, but this is not the case for all of them. As a rule, unused copies are more accessible, while used ones are almost always more expensive. This finding is particularly true for issues shortly before the end of World War I (unused ones are almost impossible to obtain there, while used ones reach high prices), and within the framework of the above, those that were properly used in postal traffic abroad.

Among the copies where additional frankings are found, the most common (and not very common) are those for registered mail, while other cases are much rarer and sometimes require digging deep into your pocket.

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Yugoslavia 1989-1994: Inflation and Postal Rates

Vladimir Milić

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Since the end of the Second World War, the abolition of the monarch and the establishment of the communist order in Yugoslavia, inflation has generated a generally chronic character. A series of political and economic events that followed the period from the end of the 1980s certainly provided the initial conditions for what was to follow, but the total devastation of the national currency, the dinar, began with the economic crisis, disintegration and civil war in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

All this affected the value of the dinar, which from 1989 to 1994 underwent a total of five revaluations. To illustrate the level of inflation, the change in the postal rate for a 20g international letter from the beginning to the end of the observed period (with the value expressed without the five revaluations and currency changes that took place) clearly shows the devastating effects of this economic turmoil. The rate increased from: 2,200 (i.e. 2.2×10^3) dinars on 31 January 1989 to an almost unintelligible 1,690,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (i.e. 1.69 octillion or 1.69×10^{27}) dinars on 31 January 1994. In terms of intensity, the Yugoslav inflation ranks second in the world during the twentieth century, after the Hungarian inflation of 1945-1946, according to the Hanke-Krus World Hyperinflation Table (Hanke and Saade). This fact gives it a high degree of importance not only in Yugoslavian, but also in world postal history, even though it belongs to a relatively modern period.

Currency revaluations

Postal rate changes in the inflationary period are impossible to analyse if they are not viewed through the lens of the six different currencies, i.e. national currency revaluations, which came into being. Inflation caused five revaluations (the reduction in the number of zeros) from 1989 to 1994 – in total there were six distinct dinars. After each revaluation, the currency retained the name dinar, with the indispensable use of the adjectives 'new' and 'old', in order to make it easier to distinguish when using it. However, in the international framework, they are given different names and separate ISO 4217 codes (Table 1).

Table 1. ISO 4217 codes for Yugoslav Dinar Currencies 1989-1994

No.	Code	Period	Revaluation
1.	YUD	To 31 December 1989	n/a
2.	YUN	1 January 1990 to 30 Jun 1992	1:10,000
3.	YUR	1 July 1992 to 29 September 1993	1:10
4.	YUO	30 September 1993 to 31 December 1993	1:1,000,000
5.	YUG	1 January 1994 to 23 January 1994	1:1,000,000,000
6.	YUM	24 January 1994	1:12,000,000

Here, it is important to emphasise that the face values on postage stamps during this period did not have any additional description to indicate that it was a revalued currency - only numerals were used. However, in the hyperinflationary period, postage stamps with a face value expressed in the previous currency were so devalued (often by a million or billion revaluation), that their use was practically superfluous.

Revaluations in Yugoslavia were an unsuccessful attempt to stop inflation, and they also had a negative psychological effect on the people, considering that numerous zeros caused considerable frustration. Tables 2 and 3 illustrate dramatically how domestic postal rates for standard letters for the period 1989-1994 would have looked if there had been no revaluations.

Table 2. 1989-1994 rates (inflation and hyperinflation period): standard domestic letter rate in YUD dinars compared to revaluation in new currencies (Barling; Sharp and Velickovic).					
Rate	**Introduction**	**Duration (days)**	**Standard domestic letter rate without revaluations**	**Standard domestic letter rate in revalued currency**	**Inflation rate**
			YUD Dinar		
YUD 1	3 March 1989	63	300	300	-
YUD 2	5 May 1989	76	500	500	67%
YUD 3	20 July 1989	42	800	800	60%
YUD 4	31 August 1989	31	1,200	1,200	50%
YUD 5	1 October 1989	30	1,600	1,600	33%
YUD 6	31 October 1989	36	2,100	2,100	31%
YUD 7	6 December 1989	14	3,500	3,500	67%
YUD 8	20 December 1989	12	5,200	5,200	49%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUN Dinar 1=10,000 YUD**	
YUN 1	1 January 1990	193	4,000	0.40	-23%
YUN 2	13 July 1990	34	10,000	1	150%
YUN 3	16 August 1990	30	15,000	1.50	50%
YUN 4	15 September 1990	112	20,000	2	33%
YUN 5	5 January 1991	79	25,000	2.50	25%
YUN 6	25 March 1991	36	35,000	3.50	40%
YUN 7	30 April 1991	22	40,000	4	14%
YUN 8	22 May 1991	202	40,000	4	0%
YUN 9	10 December 1991	52	50,000	5	25%
YUN 10	31 January 1992	57	60,000	6	20%
YUN 11	28 March 1992	26	100,000	10	67%
YUN 12	23 April 1992	42	180,000	18	80%
YUN 13	4 June 1992	27	320,000	32	78%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUR Dinar 1=10 YUN**	
YUR 1	1 July 1992	64	500,000	5	56%
YUR 2	3 September 1992	19	900,000	9	80%
YUR 3	22 September 1992	44	1,700,000	17	89%
YUR 4	5 November 1992	51	2,700,000	27	59%
YUR 5	26 December 1992	27	4,500,000	45	67%
YUR 6	22 January 1993	48	8,500,000	85	89%
YUR 7	11 March 1993	21	15,000,000	150	76%
YUR 8	1 April 1993	30	30,000,000	300	100%
YUR 9	1 May 1993	33	70,000,000	700	133%
YUR 10	3 June 1993	36	300,000,000	3,000	329%
YUR 11	9 July 1993	12	1,050,000,000	10,500	250%
YUR 12	21 July 1993	17	3,300,000,000	33,000	214%
YUR 13 - I	7 August 1993	12	15,000,000,000	150,000	355%
YUR 14	19 August 1993	6	91,900,000,000	919,000	513%
YUR 13 - II	25 August 1993	17	15,000,000,000	150,000	-84%
YUR 15	11 September 1993	10	100,000,000,000	1,000,000	567%
YUR 16	21 September 1993	9	400,000,000,000	4,000,000	300%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUO Dinar 1=1,000,000 YUR**	
YUO 1	30 September 1993	21	1,700,000,000,000	17	325%
YUO 2	21 October 1993	21	23,000,000,000,000	230	1,253%
YUO 3	11 November 1993	15	640,000,000,000,000	6,400	2,683%
YUO 4	26 November 1993	17	10,000,000,000,000,000	100,000	1,463%
YUO 5	13 December 1993	8	100,000,000,000,000,000	1,000,000	900%
YUO 6	21 December 1993	4	2,000,000,000,000,000,000	20,000,000	1,900%
YUO 7	25 December 1993	4	50,000,000,000,000,000,000	500,000,000	2,400%
YUO 8	29 December 1993	3	2,500,000,000,000,000,000,000	25,000,000,000	4,900%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUG Dinar 1=1,000,000,000 YUO**	
YUG 1	1 January 1994	6	2,500,000,000,000,000,000,000	25	0%
YUG 2	7 January 1994	6	60,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	600	2,300%
YUG 3	13 January 1994	9	2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	20,000	3,233%
YUG 4	22 January 1994	2	300,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	3,000,000	14,900%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUM Dinar 1=12(13),000,000 YUG**	
YUM 1	24 January 1994	53	299,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	0.23	0%
YUM 2	18 March 1994	93	182,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	0.14	-39%
YUM 3	16 June 1994	-	156,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	0.12	-14%

Table 3. 1989-1994 rates (inflation and hyperinflation period): standard international letter rate in YUD dinars compared to revaluation in new currencies (Barling; Sharp and Velickovic).

Rate	Introduction	Duration (days)	Standard international letter rate without revaluations	Standard international letter rate in revalued currency	Inflation rate
	YUD Dinar				
YUD 1	10 March 1989	20	3,000	3,000	-
YUD 2	30 March 1989	62	4,000	4,000	33%
YUD 3	31 May 1989	40	6,000	6,000	50%
YUD 4	10 July 1989	36	8,000	8,000	33%
YUD 5	15 August 1989	38	12,000	12,000	50%
YUD 6	22 September 1989	25	15,000	15,000	25%
YUD 7	17 October 1989	38	21,000	21,000	40%
YUD 8	24 November 1989	21	32,000	32,000	52%
YUD 9	15 December 1989	10	50,000	50,000	56%
YUD 10	25 December 1989	7	65,000	65,000	30%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUN Dinar 1=10,000 YUD**	
YUN 1	1 January 1990	365	65,000	6,50	0%
YUN 2	1 January 1991	119	75,000	7,50	15%
YUN 3	30 April 1991	231	100,000	10	33%
YUN 4	17 December 1991	38	170,000	17	70%
YUN 5	24 January 1992	17	230,000	23	35%
YUN 6	10 February 1992	39	400,000	40	74%
YUN 7	20 March 1992	31	700,000	70	75%
YUN 8	20 April 1992	56	1,600,000	160	129%
YUN 9	15 June 1992	16	3,100,000	310	94%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUR Dinar 1=10 YUN**	
YUR 1	1 July 1992	19	3,100,000	31	0%
YUR 2	20 July 1992	52	5,500,000	55	77%
YUR 3	10 September 1992	76	10,000,000	100	82%
YUR 4	25 November 1992	100	37,000,000	370	270%
YUR 5	5 March 1993	27	350,000,000	3,500	846%
YUR 6	1 April 1993	15	1,300,000,000	13,000	271%
YUR 7	16 April 1993	22	2,500,000,000	25,000	92%
YUR 8	8 May 1993	35	3,300,000,000	33,000	32%
YUR 9	12 June 1993	27	22,000,000,000	220,000	567%
YUR 10	9 July 1993	12	77,000,000,000	770,000	250%
YUR 11	21 July 1993	17	237,900,000,000	2,379,000	209%
YUR 12 - I	7 August 1993	12	1,070,000,000,000	10,700,000	350%
YUR 13	19 August 1993	6	5,885,000,000,000	58,850,000	450%
YUR 12 - II	25 August 1993	17	1,070,000,000,000	10,700,000	-82%
YUR 14	11 September 1993	10	8,000,000,000,000	80,000,000	648%
YUR 15	21 September 1993	9	31,000,000,000,000	310,000,000	288%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUO Dinar 1=1,000,000 YUR**	
YUO 1	30 September 1993	16	128,500,000,000,000	1,285	315%
YUO 2	16 October 1993	14	1,285,000,000,000,000	12,850	900%
YUO 3	30 October 1993	7	7,500,000,000,000,000	75,000	484%
YUO 4	6 November 1993	5	24,100,000,000,000,000	241,000	221%
YUO 5	11 November 1993	15	37,500,000,000,000,000	375,000	56%
YUO 6	26 November 1993	8	562,000,000,000,000,000	5,620,000	1,399%
YUO 7	4. Dec. 1993	9	4,400,000,000,000,000,000	44,000,000	683%
YUO 8	13 Dec. 1993	5	15,200,000,000,000,000,000	152,000,000	245%
YUO 9	18 Dec. 1993	7	500,000,000,000,000,000,000	5,000,000,000	3,189%
YUO 10	25 Dec. 1993	4	6,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	60,000,000,000	1,100%
YUO 11	29 Dec. 1993	3	56,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	560,000,000,000	833%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUG Dinar 1=1,000,000,000 YUO**	
YUG 1	1 January 1994	6	56,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	560	0%
YUG 2	7 January 1994	6	851,200,000,000,000,000,000,000	8,512	1,420%
YUG 3	13 January 1994	9	17,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	170,000	1,897%
YUG 4	22 January 1994	2	1,700,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	17,000,000	9,900%
			YUD Dinar equivalent	**YUM Dinar 1=12(13),000,000 YUG**	
YUM 1	24 January 1994	18	1,690,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	1.30	-1%
YUM 2	11 February 1994	35	1,222,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	0.94	-28%
YUM 3	18 March 1994	95	780,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	0.60	-36%
YUM 4	21 June 1994	-	650,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	0.50	-17%

The YUD Currency Period

The YUD or 'new' dinar period was marked by chronic inflation, which had been constant and significant for more than 20 years and is ranked the third most persistent in length in the world after Brazil and Zaire (Hanke and Saade). However, it escalated at the beginning of 1989 and the whole year was marked by a sudden devaluation of the YUD dinar and consequent frequent postal rate changes (Table 4).

Table 4. Postal rate review at the beginning and the end of the observed YUD period				
Standard letter (20g)	1 January 1989	31 December 1989	Increase	Rate changes
Domestic rate	220 YUD	5,200 YUD	2,364%	7
International rate	3,000 YUD	65,000 YUD	2,167%	9

The levels of increase were just a hint of the crash to come.

In the last year of YUD dinars, characteristic forms of franking can be separated into four different groups:

- Stamps with face values in the current YUD currency. Here, multiple frankings were dominant, especially in the last quarter of 1989 on overseas letters, when the face value of stamps could not adequately replicate postal rate changes;
- Printed postage labels, in the absence of postage stamps;
- Payment in cash, also in the absence of postage stamps. This form of prepayment is often combined with postage stamps;
- Meter franking, which, due to the limited number of digits (four or five), mostly required multiple impressions (Figure 1).

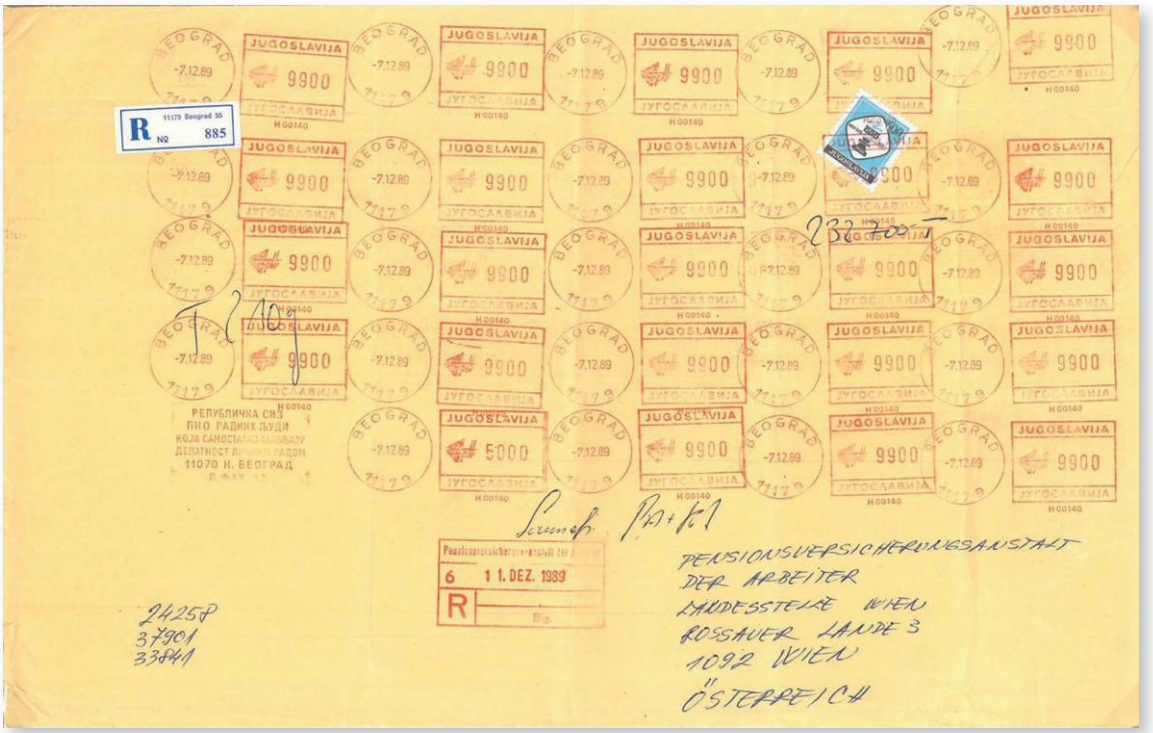


Figure 1. 7 December 1989. Registered letter to Vienna, Austria, at the fourth weight band, 115,000 YUD plus a registration fee of 117,700 YUD. Total 232,700 YUD: Rate made up by 24 meter impressions: 23 x 9,900 and 1 x 5,000. Note the obligatory use of the 600 YUD Chess Olympiad charity stamp during the period 1 November-31 December 1989.

2. The YUN Currency Period (931 Days)

1st Revaluation: 1 YUN = 10,000 YUD

The period of the YUN or 'convertible' dinar began on 1 January 1990, when the first of five revaluations took place, at a ratio of 10,000 to 1. The international and domestic postal rate changes and the overall increases are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Postal rate review at the beginning and the end of the observed YUN period

Standard letter (20g)	1 January 1990	30 June 1992	Increase	Rate changes
Domestic rate	0.40 YUN	32 YUN	8,000%	13
International rate	6.50 YUN	310 YUN	4,769%	9

It is possible to define several franking methods for letters and stationery during the YUN currency period, as follows:

- Stamps with face values in the previous YUD currency. In the first half of 1990, before postage stamps in the new YUN dinar were issued, there was massive use of stamps from the previous period. Their face value was always divided by 10,000. Figure 2 shows the use of 20,000 YUD stamps, each with an effective value of only 2 YUN dinars (20,000/10,000);
- Combination franking using stamps with face values in the previous YUD currency and in the current YUN currency. It was characteristic of Yugoslav stamps that they bore no defining currency symbol with the numerical value displayed, so distinguishing stamps of different currencies was only possible by the number of zeros expressed in the face value.
- franking with YUN currency stamps. This method only began to dominate in the second half of the 1990s, when stocks of YUD-denominated stamps had been exhausted;
- Printed postage value labels. This method was not widely used at the time, and it is only seen in cases where there was a lack of stamps of appropriate values.



Figure 2. 29 January 1989. Registered letter to Vienna, Austria, first weight band 6.50 YUN, andregistrationfeeof21.50YUN,totalling28YUN.Rateassembled'Shingle'style(overlappingstamps) with 14 x 20,000 YUD stamps, a total of 280,000 YUD

3. The YUR Currency Period (456 Days)
2nd Revaluation: 1 YUR = 10 YUN

The period of the YUR or 'reformed' dinar began on 1 July 1992, when the second of five revaluations took place, at a ratio of 10 to 1 (Table 6).

Table 6. Postal rate review at the beginning and the end of the observed YUR period				
Standard letter (20g)	1 July 1992	29 September 1993	Increase	Rate changes
Domestic rate	5 YUR	4,000,000 YUR	80,000,000%	16
International rate	31 YUR	310,000,000 YUR	100,000,000%	14

July 1993 is considered by economists as the moment when the Yugoslav dinar completely collapsed as a currency and the period of galloping hyperinflation began. The impact of this situation resulted in almost half of the postal rate changes between 1989-1994 taking place in a period of just seven months - from July 1993 to January 1994.

The YUR currency period is characterised by the following franking methods:

- Stamps with face values in the previous YUN currency. This was the standard method up to the end of 1992. The stamps' face value was always divided by 10;
- Combination frankings with YUN and YUR denominated stamps. Huge stocks of low face YUN issues were overprinted with two and three-digit YUR denominations. This difference meant that the two different currencies could be clearly distinguished on letters.
- Stamps with the current YUR face values. This began in the first quarter of 1993 and multiple usage on covers dominated franking methods because of the rapid rate changes (Figure 3);
- Printed postage value labels, in the absence of postage stamps;
- Payment in cash, also in the absence of postage stamps.



Figure 3. 7 April 1993. Registered domestic letter to Belgrade. First weight band of 700 YUR plus a registration fee of 1,500 YUR: a total of 2,200 YUR, paid with 224x100 YUR stamps!

.

'A' and 'R' stamps

In response to the frequent changes in postal tariffs, in the second quarter of 1993 the Post Office was forced to introduce no value indicated 'A' and 'R' stamps. In April 1993, the 'A' stamp was put into circulation. Its franking value was that of the standard domestic letter rate (Figure 4).



Figure 4. 14 July 1993. Registered domestic cover to Senta: first weight band of 17,500 YUR and registration fee of 38,500 YUR, totalling 56,000 YUR. Rate assembled by multiple use of 'A' stamps: 5 x 'A' (i.e. 5 x 10,500 YUR) + 3.500 YUR (meter impression), paid 56.000 YUR. Note the obligatory usage of the 1,500 YUR 'Cancer is Curable' charity stamp during the period 15 June – 15 July 1993.

Two months later, in June 1993, the 'R' stamp, with a value equivalent to the domestic registration fee, was issued. Although in April 1993, *PTT Vesnik*, the official gazette of the Yugoslav post office, noted that the use of stamps without value indications was foreseen for domestic correspondence (Figure 4), post offices were allowed to accept their use on international letters if they were supplemented with value indicated stamps (Figure 5).



Figure 5. 30 July 1993. International cover to Bratislava, Slovakia. First weight band of 2,886,000 YUR assembled with multiple usage of 'R' stamps: 24 x 'R' + 50,000 YUR paying 2,906,000 YUR. (on 30 July 1993 the value of the 'R' stamp was 119,000 YUR.

4 YUO Currency Period (93 Days): 3rd Revaluation: 1 YUO = 1,000,000 YUR

The period of the YUO or 'October' dinar began on 30 September 1993, when the third of five revaluations took place, at a ratio of 1,000,000 to 1. (Table 7.)

This YUO currency period is unequivocally a period of devastating galloping inflation, which the

Table 7. Postal rate review at the beginning and the end of the observed YUO period				
Standard letter (20g)	30 September 1993	31 December 1993	Increase	Rate changes
Domestic rate	17 YUO	25,000,000,000 YUO	147,058,823,529%	8
International rate	1,285 YUO	560,000,000,000 YUO	43,579,766,537%	11

postal administration could not adequately monitor by issuing the appropriate nominal values. Accordingly, it is possible to group the following franking methods:

- With stamps with YUO currency face values, which was infrequent. At the beginning of this period, October to mid-November 1993, when the postal rates were had four or five digits, it was possible, but later when the postal rates were measured in hundreds of thousands, millions or billions, this method of franking was not possible.
- Labels dominate this YUO currency period. Restricted only by the technical limits to print large numbers of digits, the post office applied the so-called 'technical revaluation' (Figure 6)
- Payment in cash, also due to the impossibility of using postage stamps.

It is important to note here that franking with stamps denominated in the previous YUR currency was not possible for practical reasons. With the introduction of the new currency denomination on 30 September, all postage stamps in YUR dinars had a million times less value, and these new values were unusable for new postal rates, which at the very beginning amounted to several tens of YUO dinars.

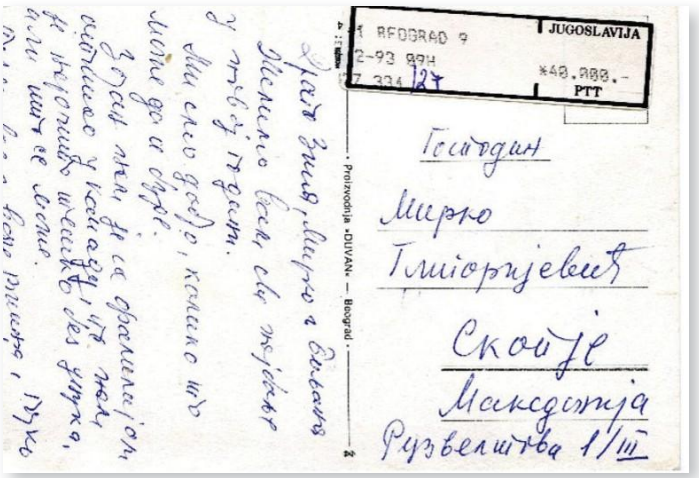


Figure 6. 25 December 1993. International postcard sent to Skopje, FYR Macedonia: postal rate 40,000,000,000 YOU, paid by a 40,000 label which represented 40 billion YOU dinars.

5. The YUG Currency Period (23 Days)

4th Revaluation: 1 YUG = 1,000,000,000 YUO

The period of YUG dinars began on 1 January 1994, when the fourth of five revaluations took place, at a ratio of 1,000,000,000 to 1 (Table 8).

Table 8. Postal rate review at the beginning and end of the observed YUG period

Standard letter (20g)	1 January 1994	23 January 1994	Increase	Rate changes
Domestic rate	25 YUG	3,000,000 YUG	12,000,000%	4
International rate	560 YUG	17,000,000 YUG	3,035,714%	4

The YUG currency period is the shortest currency period ever recorded and lasted for effectively three weeks. This is also the only currency period where the postal administration changed both domestic and international postal rates at the same time. This had never happened in the previous 4 currency periods.

It is possible to group the following franking methods:

a. Labels were definitely the favourite and easiest way to frank mail in this YUG currency period (Figure 7);
b. Payment in cash, also due to the impossibility of using postage stamps;
c. Use of 'A' and 'R' stamps only.

Stamps with YUG currency face values were not available, so they could not be used on letters or postcards. Additionally, franking with YUO denominated stamps was impossible as the revaluation of 1 January devalued all postage stamps in YUO dinars by a factor of one billion.

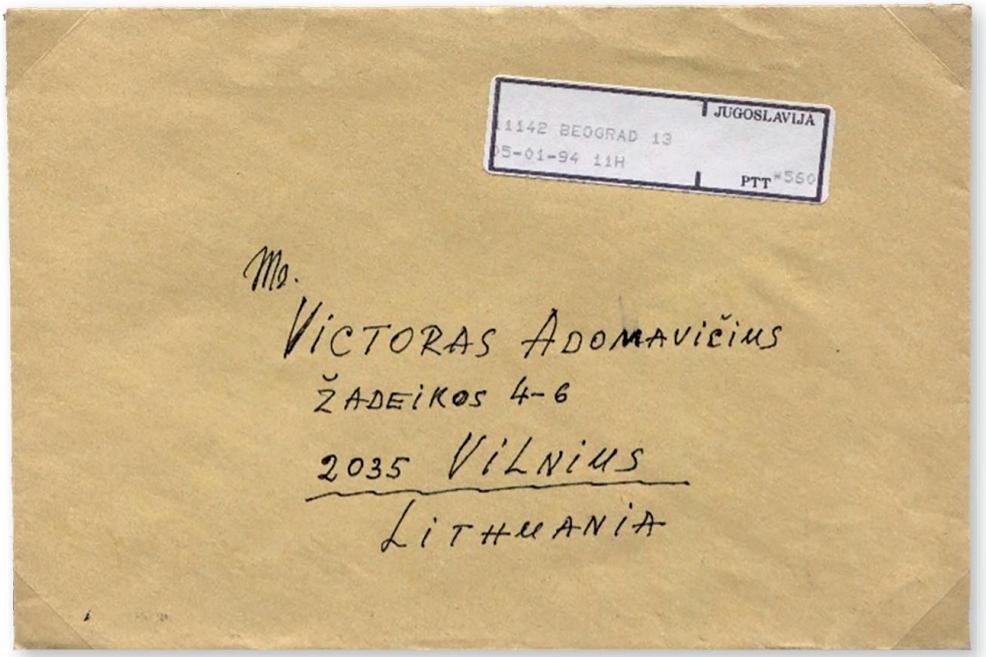


Figure 7. 5 January 1994. International letter to Vilnius, Lithuania, first weight band 560 YUG. Rate paid with a 560 YUG label.

6. YUM Currency Period

5th Revaluation: 1 YUM = 12,000,000 YUG (1 YUM = 13,000,000 YUG on 24/25 January 1994)

The period of YUM dinars, colloquially referred to as Avram´s dinar, (after Dragoslav Avramovic, an economist who halted the Yugoslav inflation), began on 24 January 1994, when the last of five revaluations took place, at a ratio of 13,000,000 to 1. However, this ratio was only valid for 2 days (24-25 January 1994), so that from 26 January 1994, the ratio of 1:12,000,000 came into force.

With this revaluation, the hyperinflation that had completely destroyed the national economy was ended. Characteristically, deflation followed in this period: domestic rates which were changed three times) dropped by 52% by the end of the year and the international rate decreased by 38% (total of four rate changes), (Table 9).

Table 9. Postal rate review at the beginning and end of the observed YUM period (in 1994)

Standard letter (20g)	24 January 1994	31 December 1994	Decrease	Rate changes
Domestic rate	0.23 YUM	0.12 YUM	-52%	3
International rate	1.30 YUM	0.50 YUM	-38%	4

Viewed from the aspect of postal history, the franking of covers and stationery was primarily by the label, with payment by cash (Figure 8) or the use of 'A' and 'R' stamps being employed only for a few months. The first YUM dinar definitives were released in the second quarter of 1994, while at the same time the stamps from the previous YUG or YUO periods were rendered valueless by the revaluations.



Figure 8. 24 January 1994. 'A' stamp First Day Cover. International registered letter rate to Vienna, Austria: weight band 1.30 YUM and registration fee 4.23 YUM, paid in cash with manuscript 'Port Payé' confirmation.

Conclusion

This article deals with the chronic inflation in Yugoslavia, which had been present since the end of World War II, but this phenomenon reached extreme levels in the late 1980s and early 1990s. After Josip Broz Tito's death in 1980, the ensuing political and economic events, including economic crises, the breakup of the country and civil war, led to the complete devaluation of the national currency - the dinar. The national currency was devalued five times between 1989 and 1994. Over a period of 49 months, there were over 50 different domestic and international postal rate changes. Half of these new rates took place during the period of seven months between July 1993 and January 1994, when hyperinflation took hold.

The Yugoslav postal system followed the inflationary pace and mirrored the devastation reflected in the changes to the national currency. In various ways, the postal system just about coped with the upheavals, attempting to mitigate, as far as was possible, the impact of inflation. Perhaps even more importantly (at least from a postal history viewpoint) it left visible marks of the turbulence behind in the form of an amazing variety of covers and postal stationery.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank Robert B. Morgan (USA), the eminent collector of Hungarian hyperinflation, for his initiative, support and suggestions provided during the writing of this article.

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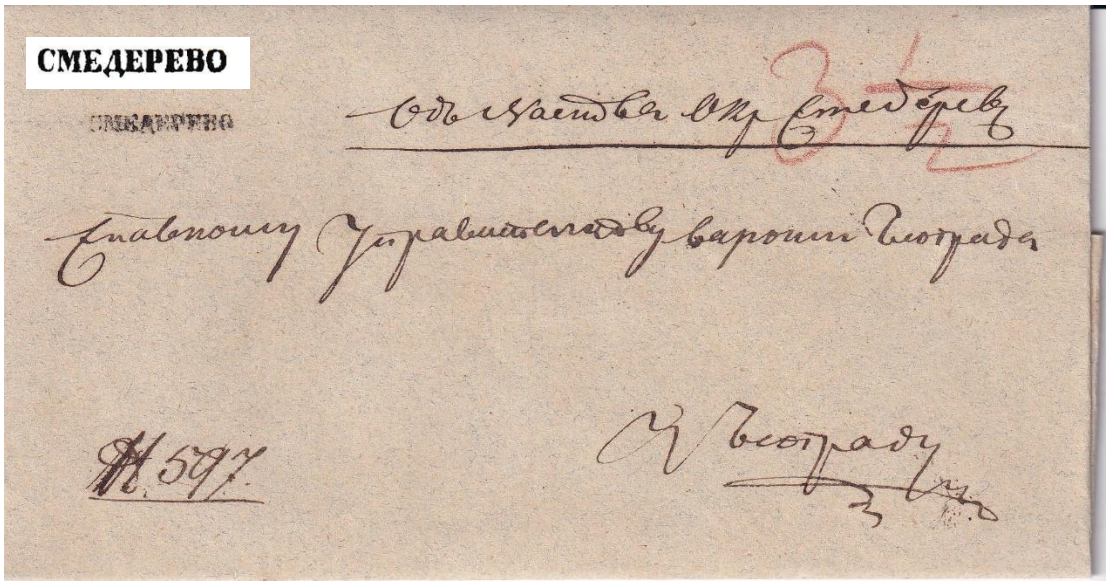
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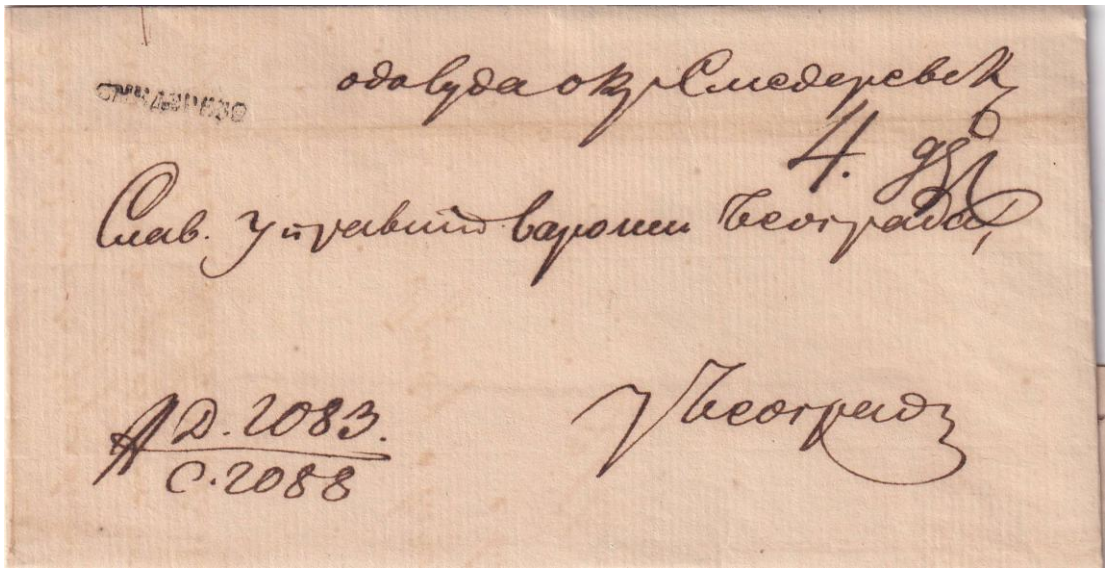
SERBIAN PRE-STAMP OFFICIAL MAIL
– AM I ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

by Roger Morrell

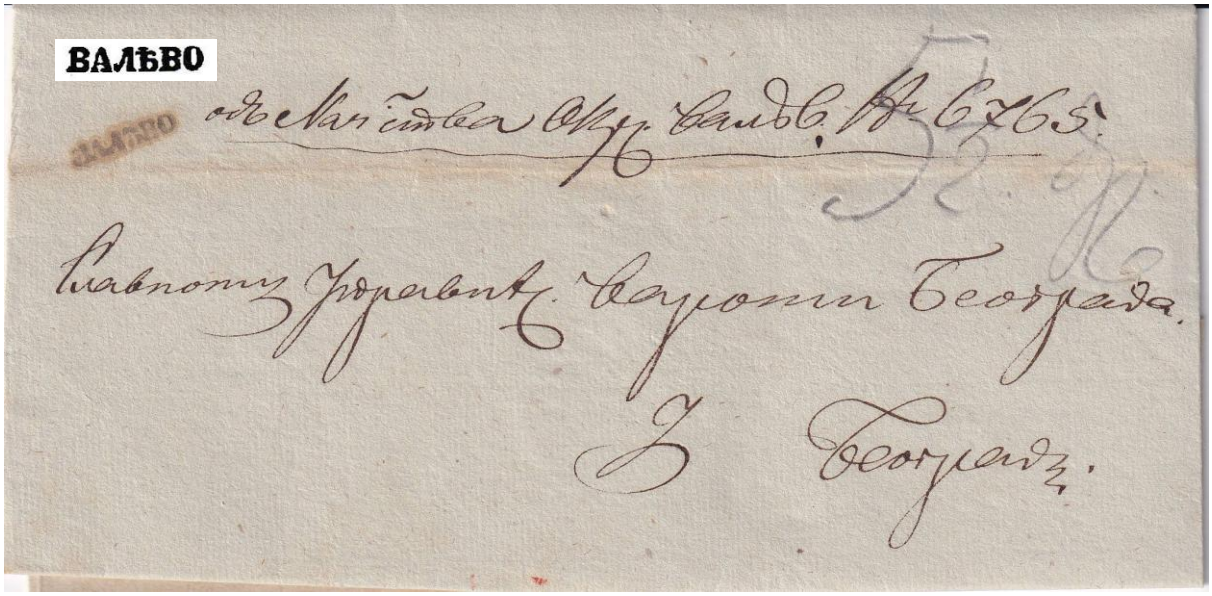
At a recent Stamp Fair in the UK, while rummaging through a mixed box of 'foreign' postal history, I picked up a batch of seven very clean pre-stamp covers and a single matching entire letter for a very modest sum (see figures below). The dealer didn't have a clue about them, and I'm a complete greenstick with respect to this area of postal history, but from the apparent style of numbering on the front and the contemporary notes written on the outer folds they appeared to me to be official letters from the 1850-1857 period. All have been addressed to same office in Belgrade, but I've failed to decipher the Cyrillic scrawl. They may have come from the district councils of outlying towns.



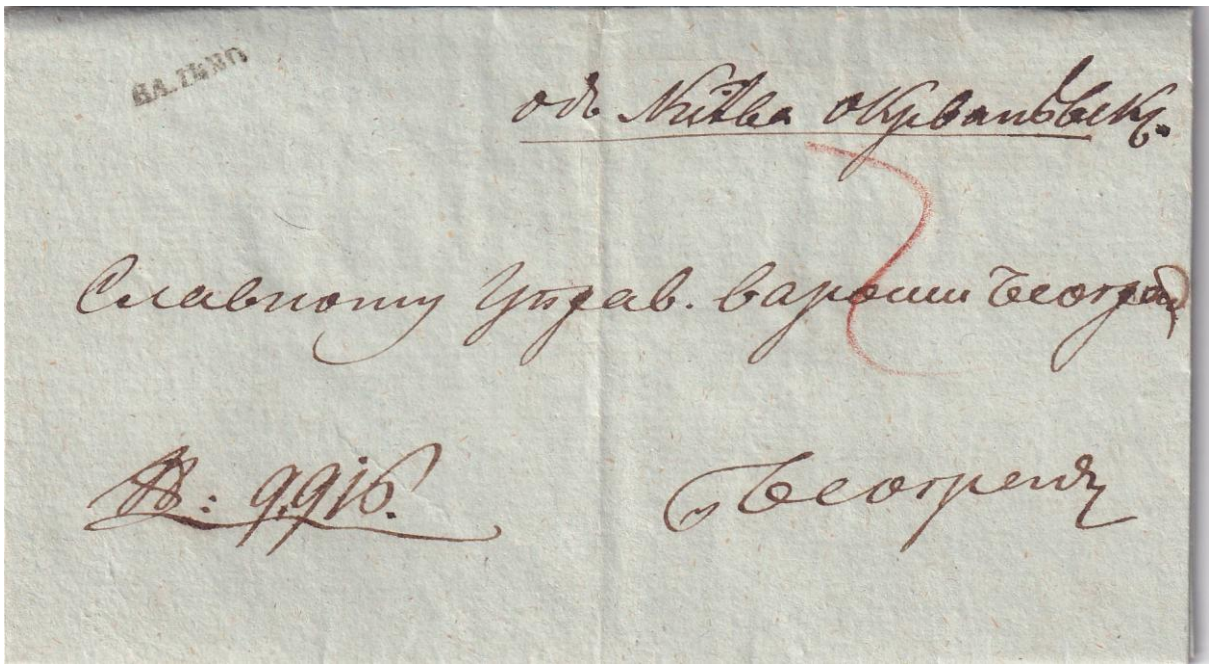
Cover 1: Smederevo to Belgrade, numbered 597, receipt date 15.02.1857 noted inside, marked 3½ in red crayon at upper right. Inset at upper left is Kardosch's representation of the town mark.



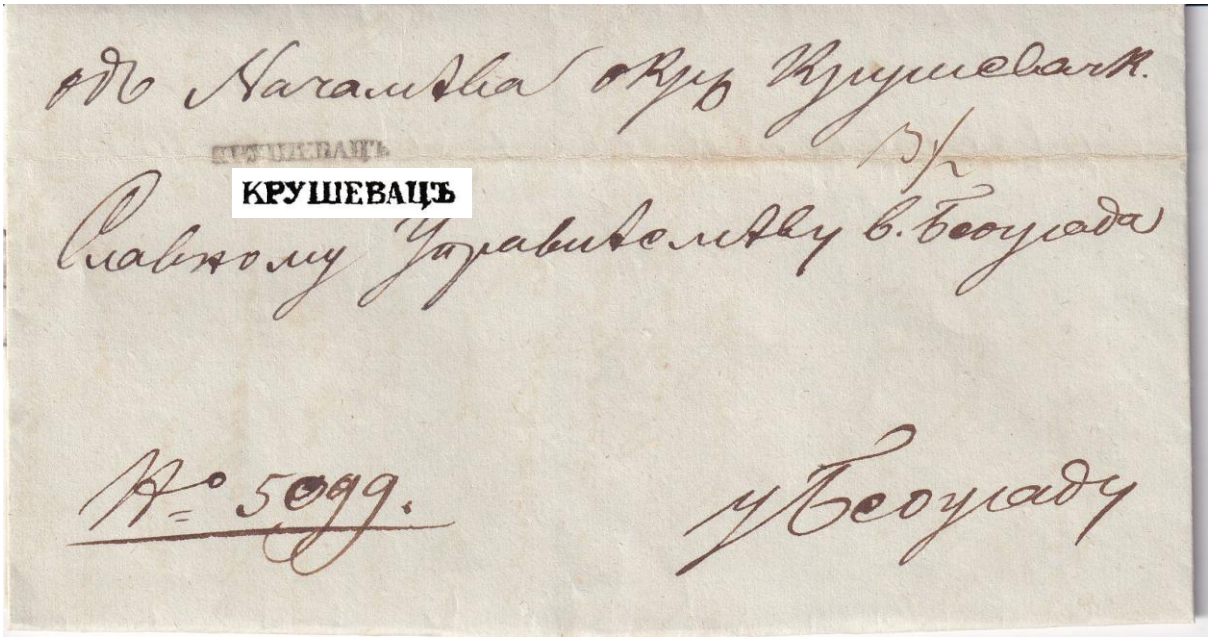
Cover 2: Smederevo to Belgrade, numbered 2083/2088, receipt date 19.05.1850 inside, marked '4 g??' in ink at upper right.



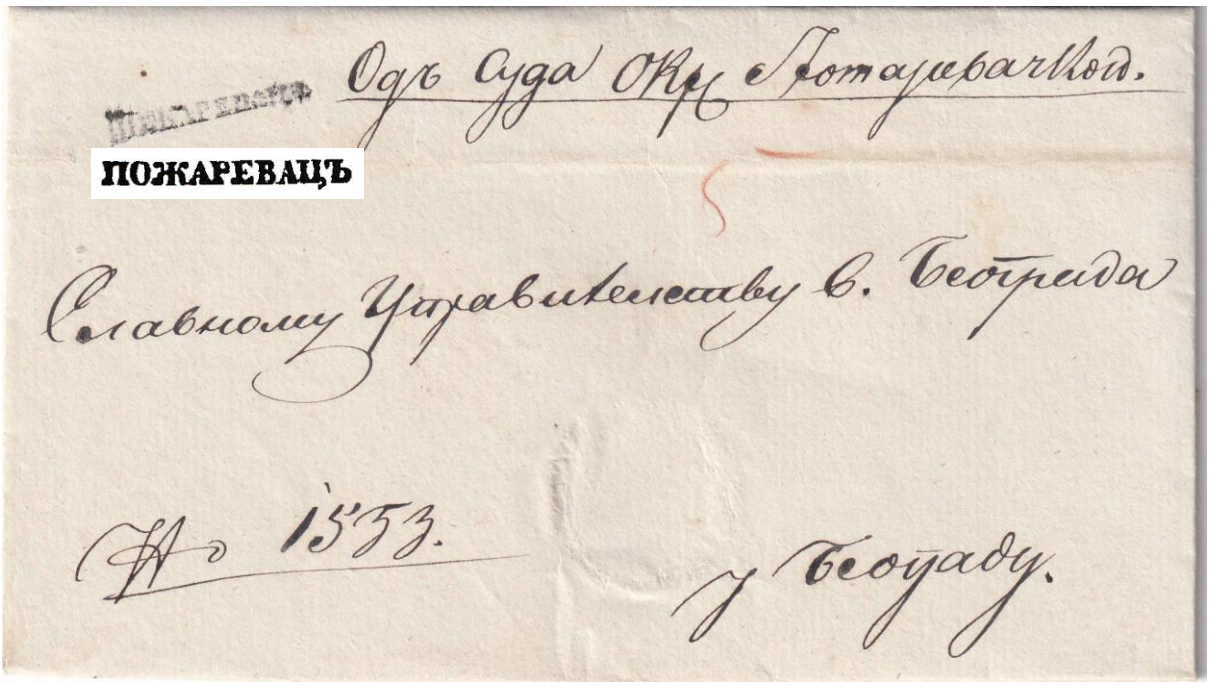
Cover 3: Valjevo to Belgrade, number 6765, receipt date 07.8bpa (October?).850 inside, marked '5½ g?? at upper right in violet pencil. Inset at upper left is Kardosch's representation of the town mark.



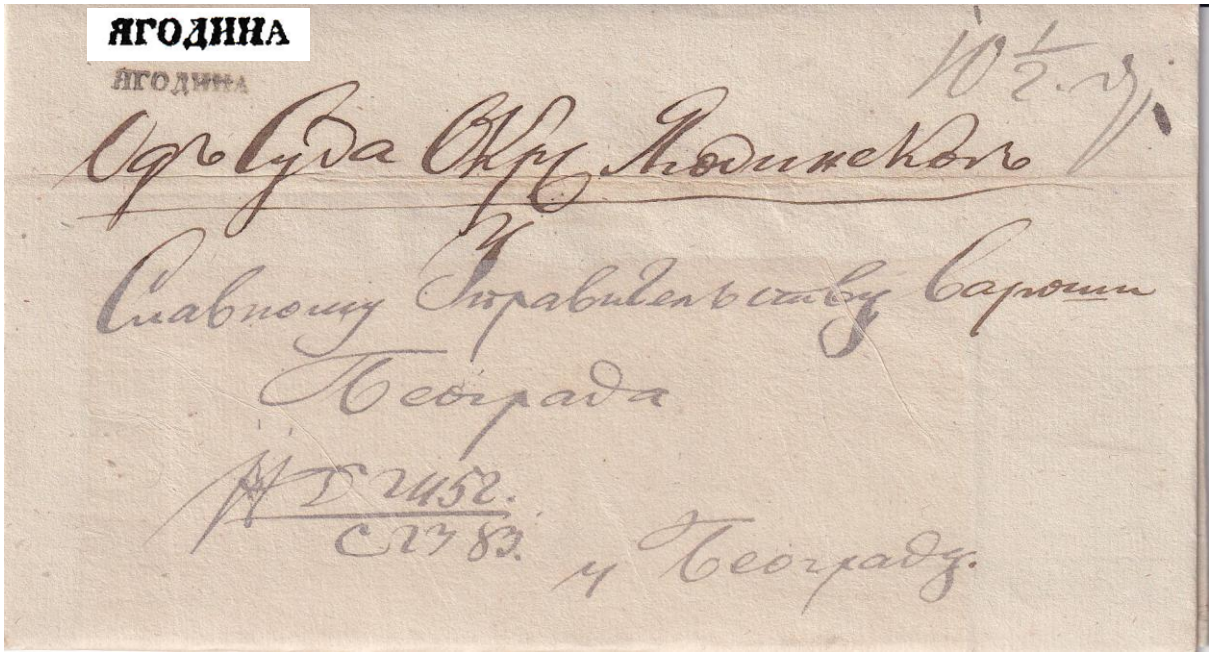
Entire 4: Valjevo to Belgrade, number 9916, letter dated 07.Nobpa (November?).857 inside, marked '2' at upper right in red crayon.



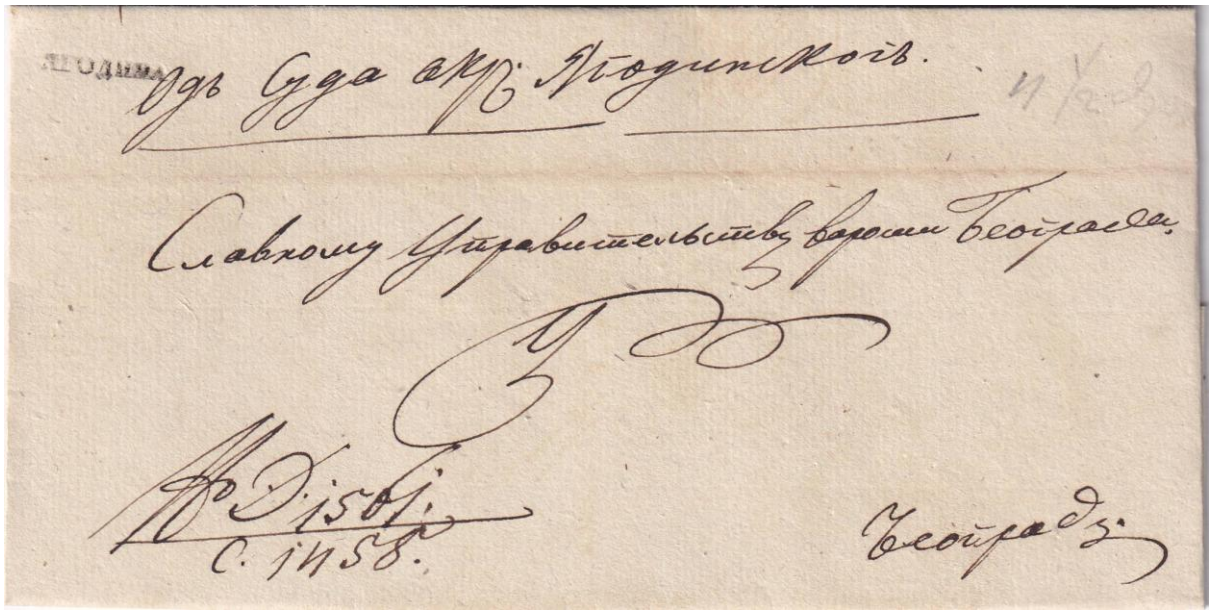
Cover 5: Kruševac to Belgrade, numbered 5099, receipt date inside 01.12.1857, marked '3½' at upper right in black ink. Inset at upper left is Kardosch's representation of the town mark.



Cover 6: Požarevac to Belgrade, numbered 1553, receipt dated 30 Aprila 1857 inside, marked '5' in red crayon at upper centre. Inset at upper left is Kardosch's representation of the town mark.



Cover 7: Jagodina to Belgrade, numbered 2452/2382, receipt dated 08.03.1850 inside, marked '10½ g' at upper right in brown ink. Inset at upper left is Kardosch's representation of the town mark.



Cover 8: Jagodina to Belgrade, numbered 1561/1458, receipt dated 09.03.1850 inside, marked '4½ g' at upper right in pale grey pencil.

Back at home, I managed eventually to decipher the straight-line originating town cachets and, with the help of our Editor, these were cross-checked against Kardosch's catalogue of pre-stamp postmarks [1]. I have inset Kardosch's images next to the town cachets on the covers. So far so good…..

All the items have a figure written on the front towards the upper right, sometimes with half a unit attached, sometimes in ink, sometimes in crayon or pencil. Presuming these were postal markings

I wondered what they were all about. Our Editor pointed out that Kardosch reports that early letters may have been sequentially numbered near the town cachet by the accepting post offices for their own records. However, in the present cases, the numbers are remote from cachet and some contained halves, so I concluded they must have something to do with postal charges. With recourse to Geoff Barling's compilation of Yugoslav postal rates, I identified the following table for internal letters in the relevant time period:

Table 8.28.5 Internal Postal Rates, Serbia, 27 October 1847 to 30 April 1866 (Letters)

From	Rates are in Grosh								
	Letters								
	Zone 1 (To 12 HOD)				Zone 2 (Above 12 HOD)				Official Letters
	To 3 Drams	3-4.5 Drams	4.5-6 Drams	Each extra 2 Drams	To 3 Drams	3-4.5 Drams	4.5-6 Drams	Each extra 2 Drams	
27 October 1847 to 30 April 1866	0.50	1.00	1.50	0.50	1.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	1.00

which clearly requires further explanation. For those readers unfamiliar with the curious units of distance and weight current at that time, I managed to establish that 'HOD' means 'hours of distance', in other words the distance a man on a horse could be expected to travel in one hour. It turns out that this is something of a variable depending on how mountainous the roads were between collection and delivery points, but on flat or flat-ish ground a HOD was about 6.4 km (~4 miles) and in mountainous regions might be not more than 4.8 km (~3 miles). Furthermore, I established from Geoff's compilation that a 'dram' is not a 'wee measure of whisky', but a weight of approximately 3.2 grams [1]. Unfortunately, unlike many other cases in his *Magnum Opus*, Geoff provided no images of covers giving examples as to how these rates and distances worked.

Geoff's table indicates two distance zones, below and above 12 HODs, with the possibility of 'half-*grosh*' costs being generated for the shorter zone. Looking at the approximate distances between the outlying towns and Belgrade, there was no correlation between the number on the cover and the half-*grosh* costs. This led me to believe that the numbers on the covers were in fact weights, not transport costs, which correlates with last column on the far right of the table where official mail appears to be priced at 1 *grosh* independent of distance. On some of the covers the character '*g*' or '*gp*' follows the number. Could this be the Cyrillic abbreviation for 'dram'? I checked the weight of the one entire letter (no. 4 above) marked '2' and this turned out to weigh about 6 g on a small-scale kitchen scale, which rounded up would be 2 drams, which checks out. Unfortunately, the same measurement cannot be made for the empty covers. In turn, this leads to the question as to why the post bothered to put the weight on an official letter? Was this to act as a check that it weighed the same on delivery, *i.e.* that it had not been tampered with and some of the contents removed?

Can any reader confirm my conclusions about these covers? Am I on the right track?

[1] = The Serbian *dram* does not appear to be the same as a Western avoirdupois dram (= 1.772 grams) nor an apothecaries' dram (= 3.888 grams). The origin is possibly different, with links to the Turkish *dirhem* which in turn was based on the Roman *drachm* (= 3.41 g). See Wikipedia article on the 'dram'. Unfortunately, Geoff gives no traceability to his grams per dram figure of 3.2.

Can any reader decipher to which office in Belgrade these letters were being sent?

Can any reader confirm my conclusions as to how this official mail was handled and why it was marked with its weight?

Correspondence to the Editor, please!

Reference:

[1] Kardosch, V.M., *The Principality of Serbia - Postal History and Postage Stamps 1830 to 1882*, self-publ. 1996.

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