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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



Contents	Page
From the President	4
From the Editor	4
Postage due stamps used in time of turmoil and building a nation, SHS, 1918 – 21, Part1 by Henk Buitenkamp	5
1919 an' all that a centenary of philatelic fun by Roger Morrell	9
Report of YSG meeting held at Stampex on 14 September 2019 by Nick Coverdale	28
Advert for Joint Society Meetings	29
Bisected Serbian stamp on cover by Nick Coverdale	30
Publications	32



From the President

Your Society needs an Auction Manager; the auction would form an important service to members, enabling them to circulate their surplus material and fill spaces in their collections.

Your editor would like to know if you have achieved any award for a philatelic display, for your contribution to philately or any other achievement; so that you can share the good news with members.

This quarter we have two new members: Pete Barnett, from Bilston (rejoin) and Joseph Plut from Canada.

I wish you all on behalf of the Committee a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous, Healthy and good collecting New Year.

A J Bosworth FRPSL

From the Editor

This edition of Jugopošta includes the first part of Henk Buitenkamp's series of articles on the use of postage due stamps in the SHS for the period 1918 – 1921, as previewed in JP131. There is also an article by Roger Morrell on some of the more interesting and speculative issues of stamps and postal history in the early days of the SHS in 1919 in this, its centenary year.

I have also included a report of the YSG meeting at Stampex back in September. We had one of our smaller attendances but as always we had some high quality and interesting material on show.

In JP131, I informed you that there will be two Joint Societies' Meetings in 2020 – the dates are Saturday 18 April and Saturday 8 August. Both meetings will be held on a trial basis at a new venue – The Brown Cow, Selby Road, Whitkirk, Leeds LS15 7AY. There is a Premier Inn next door. As always, full details can be obtained from Yvonne Wheatley whyareuu@outlook.com. Catering will be provided by the venue and advance booking through Yvonne will be necessary.

Please keep the articles coming in. With what I already have and am anticipating, I can fill about 50% of the next edition of JP in March as things stand so more articles are urgently needed.

Postage due stamps used in time of turmoil and building a nation,

SHS 1918-21

by Henk Buitenkamp, AEP

PART 1. For what purposes postage due stamps must be used.

1.1.Official mail - franked afterwards

If an organisation had freedom of prepayment and the addressee did not, the addressee had to pay the required fee. In nearly all cases it was printed matter with a statutory background or it was letters with the same background.

For afterwards franked official mail did not have to pay extra postage only the normal postage had to be paid. Also the registration for inland post did not have to be paid. For mail from Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia - in the period that the inland rates were valid - the registration fee had to be paid too.

This way of franking was possible for printed matter, letters and registered letters.

List 1. The rates for printed matter, letters and registration

	Slovenia		Bosnia-			
	Dalmatia	Croatia	Herzegovina	all regions	all regions	all regions
period	28-10-1918//1-7-1919			1-7-1919//16-5-1920	16-5-1920//1-5-1921	1-5-1921//1-10-1922
printed matter						
up to 50 gr.	3	5	5	10	5	10
50-100 gr.	6	11	11	15	10	20
+ per 50 gr.	3	3	3	5	5	10
letter to 20 gr.	20	20	20	30	25	50
+ per 20 gr.	5	5	5	30	15	25
registration	25	25	25	60	20	100

Inland rates are valid to Hungary and Austria until 31-1-1921.

Inland rates are valid to Czechoslovakia until 31-5-1920.

Until 16-5-1920 the rates are: Slovenia in Vinar; Croatia in Filir; Bosnia-Herzegovina in Heler. After that date for all regions in Para.

From 16-5-1920: 1 Para = 4 Filir/Vinar/Heler for the postal rates.

1.1.1.Inland mail

A lot of official organisations had freedom of prepayment. Only the weight fee had to be paid by the addressee.

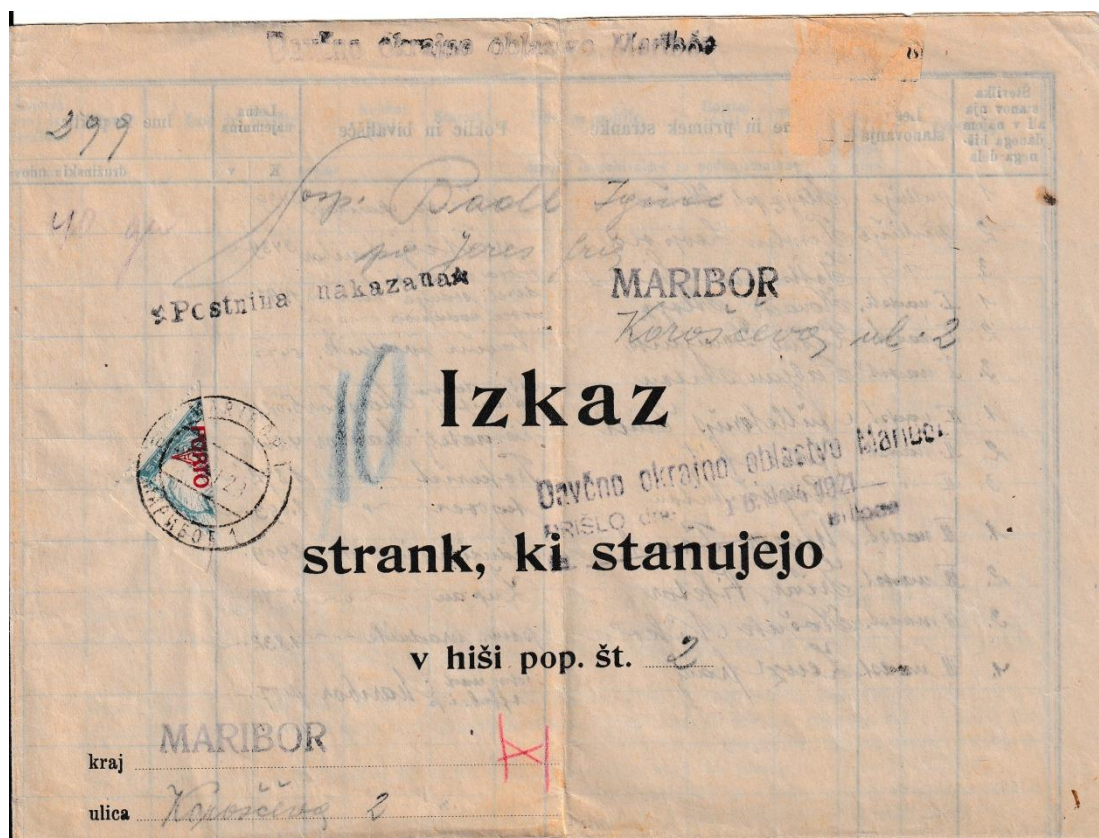


Figure 1: Maribor 15-11-1921 (Slovenia). Period 1-5-1921//1-10-1922. Printed matter to 50g = 10 Para. Franked with a bisected 20 Para postage due stamp – second issue of Slovenia.



Figure 2: Maribor 3-10-1921 (Slovenia). Period 1-5-1921//1-10-1922. Letter of 70g (up to 20g 50 Para + 25 Para for each additional 20g ($3 \times 25 = 75$), total 125 Para. Franked with a combination of the second Slovenian postage due issue + bisected 10 Para national issue.



Figure 3: Oskorušna 28-4-1921 (Dalmatia). Period 1-5-1921//1-10-1922. Letter up to 20g = 25 Para. Registration did not have to be paid. Franked with a bisected 50 Para postage due stamp of the second Slovenian issue (only 3 bisected 50 Para stamps of Slovenia recorded up to now).



Figure 4(reduced): Petrovaradin 14-9-1919 (Syrmia). Period 1-7-1919//16-5-1920. Letter up to 20g = 30 Vinar + 30 Vinar for additional 20g, total 60 Vinar (= Filir). Franked with the 10 Vinar + bisected 1 Kona postage due stamp of the first Slovenian issue (until now the only recorded bisected 1 Kr. Official used on a complete letter.)
The envelope is made of an old piece of paper.

1.1.2. Mail from abroad

Not only the weight fee had to be paid but also the registration.



Figure 5: Maribor 24-3-1919 (Slovenia). Period 28-10-1918//1-7-1919. Letter from abroad. Both the regular fee and the registration fee had to be paid. Letter up to 20g = 20 Vinar, registration fee of 25 Vinar, total 45 Vinar. Franked with a combination of an old Austrian postage due stamp issue from 1916 and emergency postage due stamps of Slovenia. Double PORTO on these stamps as they were normally used bisected on parcel cards for the notification of the arrival of the parcel.

1.2. Private freedom of prepayment

A few private organisations also had the right to send mail without prepayment. In nearly all situations the addressee had to pay the fee.



Figure 6 (reduced): Vukovar 19-7-1919 (Croatia). Period 1-7-1919//16-5-1920. Commercial printed matter of the Collective Banks Ltd. of Karlovac. This bank could send mail free of prepayment but the addressee then had to pay the normal fee. Commercial printed matter up to 50g = 10 Filir. Franked with an emergency postage due stamp of Vukovar (business use of these emergency postage due stamps is very rare.)

1919 an' all that..... A centenary of philatelic fun!

by Roger Morrell

1. Introduction

This year is the centenary of a big shake up in Europe with the break-up of Empires following World War I, and the formation of new countries, Yugoslavia in particular, at the expense of old borders. Along with such upsets comes special interest for the philatelist and postal historian as a host of provisional or new issues comes on the scene. Back in the day this caused a feeding frenzy for contemporary philatelists, at least those that still had money to spare after the deprivations of war. Additionally, not everything that appeared was pukka PO-issued, and some was downright speculative, or authorised by a local militia and never saw a post office. Because often small numbers of provisional issues were prepared, this period became a forger's paradise, and because of that the collecting area lost favour in the 1920s and 1930s, but now over the past decades it has become highly sought after. Irrespective of issue 'status', this period clearly reflects the politics of the time as the world was re-ordered. This article attempts to summarise what we know about the philatelic whys and wherefores of 1919 as affected by the formation of the SHS and its unification with Serbia at the expense of Austria-Hungary.

2. Historical perspective

It all began with the Macedonian Front in 1918. There had been effective stalemate between the Allied Powers and the Axis Powers across this front in the southern Macedonia mountains, which provided a difficult barrier for the Allied armies to surmount against well dug-in Axis troops, but during the middle of 1918, German and Austro-Hungarian troops had been partly withdrawn to support big actions on the Western and Italian Fronts. This weakened the defensive position enough to leave the Bulgarian army virtually unsupported. At the Battle of Dobro Pole of 15-18 September 1918 the Bulgarians were defeated by a joint Serbian and French attack, but a few days later on a different part of the front they were victorious over the British and Greek armies at the Battle of Doiran. However, the French and Serbian forces soon made a breakthrough in the area around Monastir/Bitola. The Bulgarians fell back in disarray, and unsupported they fled back towards Bulgaria, which capitulated on 29 September. With morale in the Austro-Hungarian army rock-bottom, the way was open for the French and Serbian troops led by the French General Franchet d'Esperey (known to British squaddies as 'Desperate Frankie') to move northwards, opposed only by sporadic defensive actions by rump German forces. By mid-October 1919 they had re-occupied Belgrade.

The concept of a unified 'South Slav' state had been discussed for more than 150 years, but the declaration of war on Serbia provided a much stronger driving force than hitherto. The Yugoslav Committee was conceived in Florence on 22 November, 1914, during a meeting between Croatian and Bosnian-Serb political emigrants [1], and was then set up in London and Paris the following year and continued to promote the Yugoslav concept. On 1 December 1914, the Serbian Parliament passed a motion to make this a war aim. On 20 July 1917, the Corfu Declaration was passed expressing the wish of the exile representatives of the Slavic populations of Croatia, Dalmatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to establish a federation with Montenegro and Serbia, effectively a constitutional, democratic and parliamentary monarchy headed by the Serbian Karadjordjević dynasty. By October 1918, political moves were afoot in Zagreb to create a Croatia independent of Hungary when the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed, combined initially with Krain (Slovenia) and subsequently in a Serb-Croat-Slovene Coalition. On 5 and 6 October, a provisional assembly was convened and the formation of executive committees begun. Seats were apportioned to members of all political parties. Mass

rallies in support of the new coalition were held throughout October. Finally, on 28 October, Gyula Andrásy the Younger, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister (in office only from 24 October to 2 November) sent a peace note to the American government, and the Ban of Croatia, Antun Mihalović, reported to Emperor Karl and was dismissed with the instruction “Do as you please”. In addition, the Austro-Hungarian Ministry of War had also decided to allow the local military commands in the disintegrating Empire to approach the peoples’ councils in order to help maintain law and order. The State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs was thus a clearly attainable goal. It was proclaimed officially on 29 October 1918 (Figure 1). Its first president was a Slovene, Anton Korošec. The two vice presidents were a Serb, Svetozar Pribićević, and a Croat, Ante Pavelić (not the same person as became the head of the NDH during WWII).

On 31 October, the short-lived Bánát Republic was established in Temesvár and recognised by the Hungarian Government. On the same day the Zagreb National Council informed the UK, France, Italy and USA governments that the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs was constituted in the South-Slavic areas that had been part of Austria-Hungary, and that the new state intended to form a common state with Serbia and Montenegro. The same note was sent to the government of the Kingdom of Serbia and the Yugoslav Committee in London. Serbia’s prime minister Nikola Pašić responded to this on 8 November, recognising the National Council in Zagreb as the ‘legal government of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes living in the territory of the Austria-Hungary’, and asked the Allied Powers to do the same.

The new state aspired to include all those territories of the former Austria-Hungary that were inhabited by Slavic-language speakers, including Slovenes, Croats and Serbs. However, those representing the Serbs in Vojvodina, including those in Banat, Bačka and Baranya – objected and formed their own administration under the supreme authority of the Serbian National Board in Újvidék/Novi Sad.

On 10 November, General d’Esperey’s army crossed the Danube and was poised to enter Hungary proper. At his request, Count Mihály Károlyi, then leading the Hungarian government, came to Belgrade and signed another armistice to minimise the risk of any further fighting.



Figure 1: Proclamation of the new S.H.S. state in Congress Square, Ljubljana on 29 October 1919. (Image from Wikimedia Commons.)

On 24 November 1918, the region of Syrmia (Srem and South Bačka between the Danube and Sava rivers), which had initially become part of the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, joined with the Kingdom of Serbia, followed on 25 November 1918 by Vojvodina (ending the Bánát Republic). However, on 26 November, the National Council declared 'unification of the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs formed on the entire, contiguous South-Slavic area of the former Austria-Hungary with the Kingdom of Serbia and Montenegro into a unified State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs'. The region known as Međimurje which lies between the Mura and Drava rivers remained under the control of Hungarian forces, but after a Croatian military victory, this region voted on 13 January 1919 to join the SHS.

On 1 December, the Serbian Regent Alexander proclaimed unification of 'Serbia with lands of the independent State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs into a unified Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes'. As the Zagreb National Council ceased to operate, it never formally ratified this proclamation, nor did the Parliament of Serbia, which simply noted the declaration on 29 December 1918.

With their aim to link up with all the Slavic-speaking peoples within Hungary, during late 1918 and early 1919 Serbian forces took up occupation of essentially a strip across former Hungary from west to east, including parts of the Hungarian counties of Temes, Torontál, Bács-Bodrog, Baranya, and Somogy which lie to the north of the Danube and Mur rivers. The first three were also known as the Bánát to Hungarian speakers and Vojvodina to Serbian-speakers. Baranya county contained coal reserves, and was also claimed by Serbia.

On 16 July 1919 the SHS requested the Supreme Council of the Paris conference for permission to occupy the Slovenian speaking Muravidék/Prekmurje area north of the Mura river (parts of Zala and Vas counties in south-west Hungary) and annex it. This was formally accepted on 1 August, and on 13 August Serb forces moved in, expelling remnants of the Hungarian Red Army.

The Temes region was also claimed by Romania, and the two sides were kept apart by the French peacekeeping forces. However, on 26 July 1919 after agreement was reached to partition the Bánát between Romania and Serbia, roughly along ethnic lines, Serbian troops left Temesvár, and a Romanian administration was set up two days later. The final border was not settled until 1924.

While the Treaty of St Germain signed by Austria at the Paris Peace conference on 10 September 1919, to come into force on 16 July 1920, essentially formalised the existence of the SHS, the border with Hungary remained unclear. It was not until 1 December 1919, after the collapse of the communist government of Bela Kun, the occupation of Budapest by Romanian forces, and stabilisation of the political situation with the right-wing government of Admiral Horthy, that the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference felt that negotiations with Hungary could commence. The Treaty of Trianon was finally signed on 4 June 1920, coming into force on 31 July 1921. Under the Treaty, the border was settled more-or-less as it is today, with part of former Temes county, most of former Torontál and Bács-Bodrog counties, and the southernmost part of Baranya annexed to Yugoslavia, while Romania retained most of former Temes county.

3. Philatelic Fun

3.1. Overprints for Croatia

The first philatelic change was the decision of the Postal Committee in Zagreb in November 1918 to overprint Hungarian stamps with HRVATSKA SHS as a political statement before new stamps could be issued. The story and listing of overprint types and stamps has been well elucidated by Ken Palmer [2] and John Pitts [3] and will not be repeated here. Starting off with existing post office stocks, it seems that the situation quickly deteriorated with the public

offering their own stamps in ones and twos, and even smuggling stamps in from Hungary for overprinting. The issue remained valid until 1921.

Meanwhile, Hungarian stamps in the hands of the public continued validly to be used unoverprinted, sometimes mixed with overprinted ones. Some members of the public decided to make their political own mark by doing their own thing, such as in Figure 3.

Figure 2: An example of the SHS overprint on Hungarian stamps that started to appear in Croatian post offices from about 18 November 1918.



Figure 3: Picture postcard franked with a 10 f Hungarian stamps which has a typewritten 'SHS Hrvatska' overprint. The postmark is unclear, but the date looks like mid October 1918, and was sent to Zagreb. There is no censor mark. The text looks as though it is celebrating 'Jugoslavia'!

3.2. Overprints for Slovenia

Stocks of old Austrian stamps in Ljubljana were not officially overprinted. The authorities went straight to a new design, the 'Chainbreaker', which first appeared on 1 December 1918. However, an unofficial issue (the so-called Cilli/Celje issue) appeared. The overprint reads 'SHS / Slovenija / 29/X/1918', angled within a rectangular frame with rounded corners. According to [4], in May 1919 a group of private investors had the idea of overprinting Austrian stamps to commemorate the



Figure 4: The 'Cilli/Celje' issue of overprinted Austrian stamps and the signature of Repernik.

creation of the SHS. A consortium was established for this undertaking. Original stamps were obtained either from post offices in Slovenia, or seized stamps from Carinthia, or by buying remaining stocks in Vienna. Complete sheets were no longer available so it was decided to overstamp small blocks and individual stamps by hand, using black, blue or red ink. A total of 37 different stamps including four surcharged, were produced. It is unclear at which stage the Postal Directorate in Ljubljana got involved but it is known that handstamping took place in its premises. Because it did not have authority to formally issue the stamps, approval was sought from the appropriate ministry in Belgrade. The initiative was rejected, so the existing stock was counted and archived.

It is not known for sure how stamps came on the market. Some sources state that the consortium of investors sued the state as they claimed compensation for their investment, backed by the Postal Directorate in Ljubljana. These sources also mention that stamps were handed over to the consortium after it won a court case. Other sources state that after 2 November 1921, when stamp issues of Slovenia lost validity, the whole remaining stock of stamps was sold at an auction. A part of this issue came into the hands of a prominent stamp dealer who stamped his signature APENIK on the back of the stamps. The dealer, Mr Repernik, was from the city of Cilli/Celje – hence the naming of this issue.

These stamps were never in postal circulation. Used stamps are either forgeries or (according to some testimonies) essays, and some values were available only in low quantities.

3.3 Local overprints for Međimurje

3.3.1 Muraszerdahely/Mursko Sredisce was occupied in November 1918, and in December that year the Hungarian stamps in the town were collected up (face value 629.61 k) in total and were handstamp overprinted 'SHS' in black with a device made from cork [5,6,7]. Some overprints in violet are also supposed to exist. This was done at the behest of the controlling army force. They were issued on 3 January 1919, and were mostly used up by the army. Letters are known with datestamps also from the towns of Muraszentmarton/Sveti Martin nad Muri, Sztridovár/Strigova and Csaktornya/Cakovec.



Figure 5: The Muraszerdahely overprint (23 different stamps).

3.3.2 The similar overprint of **Perlak/Prelog** was rather later, but different dates are given in various sources. Organised by one Captain Gasparic, stamps to the value of 3800 k were collected up and given a black 'SHS' mark with a handstamp made of rubber. Miles [6] gives the date of issue of 22 December 1919 but the *Piručnik* [5] gives 15 August 1919. It is thought that most of the stamps were sold mint, or cancelled to order with the Perlak or Kisszabadka (Mala Subotica) datestamps. Only 200 copies of the 1 f postage due stamp exist.



Figure 6: The Perlak/Prelog overprint (20 different

3.3.3 In contrast, issues described as being from **Csaktornya/Cakovec** are effectively bogus. The story [5,7] is that in February 1919 a Zagreb stamp dealer called Reszo Valić overprinted

about 700 Hungarian stamps with 'S.H.S.' in four different types, or with 'S.H.S./Medimurje', fixed them to large brown envelopes, and got them cancelled with the Csaktornya canceller at 10 am (N10) on 24 February 1919. It is suggested [5] that Valić prepared these as 'proof of concept' in order to seek permission for their formal issue as official overprints. This was refused. Valić gave some of these to friends and used the rest for philatelic exchange. None went through the post. Reference [7] suggests that they cannot even be considered as proofs because they were produced before permission had been refused by the civil commissioner and the handstamps confiscated.



Figure 7: (Left) one of the Valić overprints certified by Petric, but note that the cancellation is of Murakirály, not Csaktornya, and the date is 9 February 1919, (centre) a large font version, and (right) an alternative overprint which may be much later and even more bogus!

3.4 Local overprints for Prekmurje

3.4.1 Belatinc/Beltinci was occupied in August 1919, and shortly after a small army group overprinted the stamps available there with a horizontal blue-green crude 'SHS' handstamp. It is said that the stamps were sold with a surcharge, but not at post offices [6]. However, they were accepted by the post without surcharge.



Figure 8: The Belatinc/Beltinci overprint (23 different stamps).

3.4.2 Lendavasarahely/Dobrovnik A little after the Belatinc issue, the same army group collected up stamps to the value of 4100 k in the town of Lendavasarahely/Dobrovnik and applied the 'Preko-/murje/SHS' overprint in black or violet. They were sold as mint stamps, and saw actual postal use between 22 August and 27 August, with known postmarks of Lendavasarahely, Belatinc and Alsolendva/Lendava [6].

Figure 9: The Lendarvasarahely overprint (28 different stamps)



Partosfalva/Prosenjakovci

Whereas the above four issues are considered to have been 'officially inspired' by the occupying Serb/Croat forces, those of Partosfalva were not. When the troops first entered Prekmurje in January 1919 they were repelled by Hungarian troops sent from Szombathely. The landowner of Partosfalva village, Count von Matzenau, appeared to support the SHS rather than Hungary and was reputed to have ordered the overprinting of a quantity of stamps with the large letter 'H', presumably signifying his preferred allegiance to 'Hrvatska'. These were clearly postally used because covers to his son Carl, an attaché in Berlin, are occasionally found (Figure 10). Reference [7] reports that the Hungarian Postal Directorate forbade the use of the overprints on 5 January 1919, but this cover was postmarked on 7 February 1919. Mr von Matzenau was clearly a persistent offender.



Figure 10: A von Matzenau cover to Berlin with 'H' overprinted stamps cancelled at Partosfalva on 7 February 1919, backstamped Berlin on 15 February 1919.

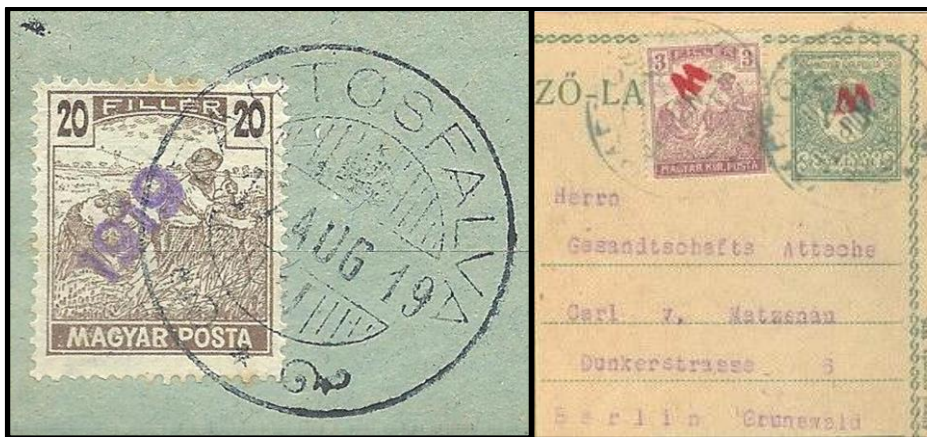


Figure 11: Other von Matzenau overprints from Partosfalva, (left) the '1919L' handstamp overprint, used on 17 August 1919, and (right) the 'W' handstamp used on 30 November 1919.

In addition, stamps exist with handstamp overprints 'W' (or 'M'?) and '1919 L' exist, but these are significantly scarcer, and appeared later (Figure 11) after Prekmurje was occupied by the Serbs.

Von Matzenau was clearly a stamp collector who was not averse to playing games with the post in these uncertain times. The amusing example I have employs the bogus stamps of the 'Principality of Trinidad' [8] produced by a Frenchman called James Harden-Hickey who declared himself Prince James of Trinidad after he took shelter on an uninhabited rocky island 700 miles off the Brazilian coast. He later prepared a set of seven stamps in French currency, and the design is clearly copied from the 1894 18 c stamp of North Borneo. Von Matzenau cut the island name off the stamps, overprinted them 'Prekmurje / S.H.S.' using a typewriter, and posted a letter bearing them at Partosfalva post office. Other crazy examples can be found by web surfing.



Figure 12: A von Matzenau machination based on the 'stamps' of the 'Principality of Trinidad' 'used' on 17 August 1919.

3.5 The Bácsszenttamás/Srbobran issue

This town was formerly in Hungarian Bácska county a little north of Novi Sad, and under the Serbian occupation became the chief town in the province of the same name. In order to celebrate the visit of Prince Alexander on 25 July 1919, the head of the local armed forces, Lieutenant Petar Dimić, authorised the overprinting of some Hungarian stamps found in the local post office [6]. In fact, a total of 32 different stamps are known with a Cyrillic script text reading *Naslednik Prestola Aleksandar, Srbobran* and the above date. It is not known how many stamps of each value were overprinted, but they went into circulation without objection. They are among the scarcest of the local issues, being seldom offered.



Figure 13: The Bácsszenttamás / Srbobran overprint issue celebrating the 25 July visit of Prince Alexander of the SHS to the town.

3.6 The Zombor/Sombor (or Palanački provisional) issue

This town lies about 100 km northwest of Novi Sad on the north side of the Danube. According to [6], in February 1919 a local inhabitant, Mr Palanački, overprinted Hungarian stamps with the Serbian coat of arms, using various colours, blue, green, red, red-brown and violet in a series of 500 ([6], although it is not clear what exactly this means). A total of 39 different stamps are known overprinted. The military commander of Zombor authorised the post offices to issue these as normal stamps. Letters are known sent without penalty locally and to a number of different cities including Temesvár, Pancsova/Pančevo, Újvidék/Novi Sad and Zimony/Zemun, and are usually censored.



Figure 14: The Zombor/Sombor overprint issue in black and red.



Figure 15: Letter posted in Zombor/Sombor on 25 November 1919 (late use!) franked with an assortment of dull violet handstamped overprints. It has been censored in Zombor, and also has a red datestamp of Obrenovatz (SW of Belgrade) of 9.XII front and back.

3.7 The Ada issue

Ada is a small town about 100 km NNE of Novi Sad. In mid-February 1919, one of the town's inhabitants, Rajko Slijepčević, overprinted about 300 sets of values in black with the Serbian coat of arms in a rather better rendering than that of Zombor [6]. A total of 21 different stamps are known. These are known used from Ada, but also from Pancsova/Pančevo, which is on the opposite bank of the Danube from Belgrade.



Figure 16: The so-called Ada overprint cancelled to order in Pancsova on 23 February 1919.

3.8 The Pancsova/Pančevo issue

This issue first appeared in Pancsova/Pančevo on 5 August 1919, but it remains unclear whether it was produced in this town or in Novi Sad. Information in extant literature is unclear. Reference [6] says that the overprint is in black, while reference [7] suggests that the red overprint (Figure 17) is from Eszék/Osijek. The present author has only seen the red version. In either case it

depicts the new coat of arms of the SHS state and a change in value to *helera* and *kuna*, the Croatian currency, not the Serbian currency. The transliterated Cyrillic text around the coat of arms reads *KRALJEVSTVA SRBA, HRVATA I SLOVENACA*. A total of 10 stamps are known.



Figure 17: The top value of the Pancsova/Pančevo overprint issue.

3.9. Temes issues

3.9.1 Temesvár under Serbian occupation

Serbian and French forces held this important city of the Hungarian plains from early 1919 until the Serbs were forced to withdraw under the Peace Conference demands in August 1919. The city also held the Hungarian Postal Directorate of the Hungarian counties of Temes, Torontál, Krassó-Szörény and Bács-Bodrog, so it was a key source of postal material for occupied southern Hungary. From 15 May 1919, surcharged Hungarian stamps were issued, reflecting increases in postal rates. A total of five postage and three postage due values were prepared in quite large quantities and are not uncommon. They were in widespread use. Figure 18 shows an example on registered cover sent from Temesvár to Arad, which has been censored by the Serbs and the French.



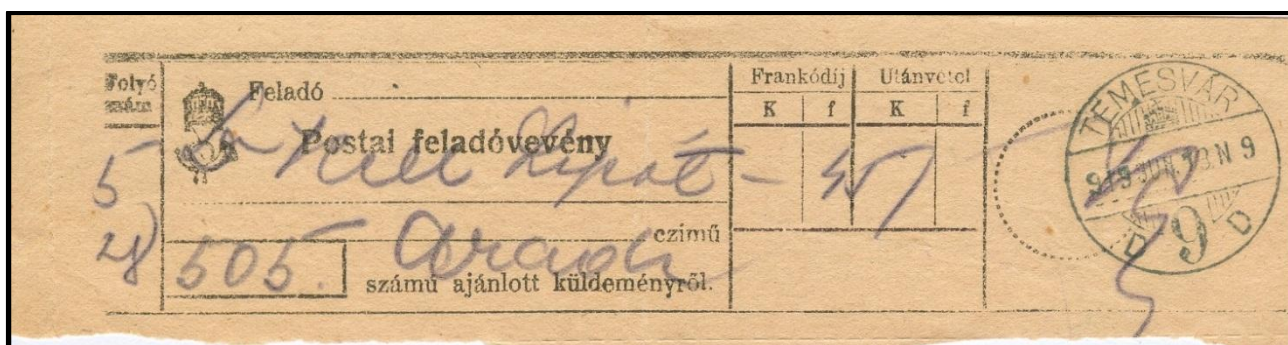


Figure 18: Single franking by a surcharged War Charity 10 f + 2 f stamp on registered cover (registration label missing) from Temesvár to Arad with the issued registration receipt.

Once the Serbs evacuated the city, and before the Romanians occupied it, the Postal Directorate prepared the 'Bánát Bácska 1919' overprint series mainly for sale to collectors. In addition to basic Hungarian stamps, some of the above Serbian occupation surcharges were thus overprinted.

3.9.2 Homokbálványos/Bavanište

The Romanian occupation of Temesvár essentially cut off stamp supplies to a number of small towns in the Serbian part of south Bánát, including Fehertemplom/Bela Crvka, Homokos/Mramorak and Homokbálványos/Bavanište. Technically they should still have been supplied from Temesvár, but this was no longer possible. The postmaster in Homokbálványos quickly ran out of postage due stamps, and finally got permission to overprint and surcharge postage stamps locally for that purpose. Much detail of this has been researched, and the reader is referred to [9,10,11] for the full story. Figure 19 shows a straightforward example of an underfranked printed matter card from Versecz, with 10 f postage due paid by a Temesvár occupation stamp with a *PORTO* overprint. These overprints were in use in the last quarter of 1919, and are also known used at nearby villages such as Székelykeve/Skorenovac and Homokos/Mramorak.



Figure 19: Underfranked censored printed matter card from Versecz in September 1919 to Homokbálványos, where it received a provisional 10 f postage stamp on 16 September. (Courtesy: Larry Peer)

More mysterious is the parallel existence of *FRANKO* overprints on postage due stamps (Figure 20), traditionally thought to have originated in Fehertemplom/Bela Crvka. Research shown in reference [11] now suggests that this is incorrect, and that they were produced by the Homokbálványos postmaster using the same character set as for the *PORTO* stamps, being used in the same period. Some fun and games behind this, one suspects.....



Figure 20: The 'Fehertemplom' issue on postage due stamps, now known not to originate in that town, but in Homokbálványos (from [11]).
Courtesy: Larry Peer.

3.10 Baranya province

The Serbian occupation of Baranya county was at best hopeful, because few Serbs lived there before the war, but was tolerated by the Allies until the settling of the border under the Trianon Treaty, at which point the occupying forces had to evacuate most of the province in 1921, retaining only a small region in the south. During 1919-1920, the Postal Directorate in Pécs continued to receive intermittent supplies from Budapest. However, by mid-1919 the Communist Government in Hungary was allowing inflation to take hold, but this was not so severe in the occupied counties. The Serbian authorities decided to overprint the banknotes in Baranya to preserve their value, and thereafter only the overprinted currency could be used, including for the purchase of stamps. This led to the smuggling of stamps bought more cheaply in Hungary, so the Postal Directorate's income fell, which caused real problems in paying staff.



Figure 21: A quarter sheet of one of the surcharged first issues of Baranya showing two types of 'B', various shapes of 'a', and some other constant errors (ringed).

With the difficult supply situation from Budapest, the Pécs Postal Directorate decided to 'reactivate' older issues that had been withdrawn from circulation and invalidated, and to surcharge some little used values (e.g. Figure 21) [6]. They proposed that the overprint should clearly indicate that the territory was occupied. The application to do this was submitted at the end of March 1919. Permission was granted in a letter of 30 March where it states that the overprint should read: *Dunantuli megszállás 1919* (Occupation in Transdanubia 1919). However, it did not explicitly state that all the available stamps could be thus overprinted.

Immediately, a few 2 f stamps were overprinted with this text as a trial, and were submitted to the Serbian occupying authorities for approval. The Serbs did not approve its use, but suggested using simply 'Baranya 1919'. They also set up a committee to approve the design and to oversee the overprinting, and this committee soon decided to overprint all available stamps. The

overprinting was done between mid-April and mid-May, and the plates were destroyed on 17 May. A total of 40 different stamps, including the Turul design, Harvester and Parliament designs with and without the Republic overprint, Charles and Zita designs with and without the Republic overprint, Harvester and Parliament stamps inscribed 'Magyar Posta', express letter, and postage due stamps, were overprinted, which with the surcharged versions as well produced 49 different official values. This constitutes the 'first Baranya issue'.

The overprints were set in 5 x 5 blocks, repeated four times for a sheet of 100 stamps. Two stamps in each block without the surcharge show '1919' in a smaller font with serifs. There are other consistent errors for the collector to pore over, such as a small break in the middle horizontal of the letter 'B'. In addition, two printing houses were used [6,12], sometimes both for the same stamp value:

Gyorssajto (or 'quick') overprint: sharp overprint in pitch black, usually not visible on the reverse

Tegelysajto (or 'pedal') overprint: characters less well defined, grey black, ink 'squeeze' (spreading) leading to darker edge, occasionally to merging of characters and filling of the interior; usually readily visible on the reverse.

Some values were overprinted in red, and two shades can be determined, carmine and vermilion.

The stamp collecting world caused havoc when these stamps were first issued, leading to speculation, and the sale of quantities of the stamps was stopped after a few days. Thereafter stamps could only be purchased one by one and immediately fixed to an item of mail, but the fever diminished, and by the end of the month they could be purchased normally once more.

After the fall of the Communist Government in Hungary and the emergence of Horthy's Nationalist Government, communication with Budapest could be resumed, but Baranya continued to be occupied by SHS troops, and postal staff still had to be paid locally. The decision was made to raise postal rates quite sharply and this required a fresh tranche of overprinting. New plates were prepared, this time with 'Baranya' appearing as an arc in black Japanese-style lettering, and with the new value separately applied in red. A total of seventeen values were thus prepared, and were issued on 18 December 1919. Postal stationery was similarly treated (Figure 22). This is known as the 'second Baranya issue' and was in use until the Serbian army pulled back following the coming into force of the Trianon Treaty on 31 July 1921.

In late 1920, the postmaster at Villány had a stock of 10 *f* Hungarian postal stationery envelopes, but insufficient stamps to uprate them to the new local postage rate of 40 *f*. He applied a single line '*negyven fill.*' handstamp. Word eventually reached the philatelic sphere, and he clearly serviced philatelic enquiries. Figure 23 shows an example genuinely mailed to Sweden in January 1921 with censorship in Pécs.



Figure 22: Hungarian 10 f postal stationery card with the 'Japanese' overprint, uprated with three stamps of the second Baranya issue.



Figure 23: The Villány postmaster's provisional 40 f handstamp surcharge on a Hungarian 10 f postal stationery envelope. Late use in January 1921.

Then there is a curiosity concerning the validity or not of Slovenian stamps in Baranya. Apparently [13], a Mr Solti, the postmaster in Pécs, advised a Mr Péntek, the city's railroad engineer that when mailing letters in Bátaszék in nearby Tolna county which at that time was within the Serbian demarcation line, it was acceptable to use a mixed franking of Slovenian and overprinted Baranya stamps. Mr Péntek set about mailing about 100 registered letters to himself and others, mostly to Pécs but a few to other towns. They all bear a red ink endorsement which translates as 'discussed at the postal directorate in Pécs under no. 775/1920' (see Figure 24). The postmaster at Bátaszék appeared to accept them, but it seems likely that those addressed to Mr Péntek himself were confiscated and an investigation conducted. Exactly how they came onto the philatelic market is not known. Mr Péntek must have been somewhat annoyed....



Figure 24: A Péntek letter posted in Bátaszék on 2 January 1920.

Finally, it should be mentioned that a 'third Baranya issue' issue exists, although it is listed only in [6]. This comprises a handstamped Roman 'VI' in a square box, which first appeared in October 1919. This handstamp is reported to have no particular meaning, being used in the accounting department of the Postal Directorate in Pécs, and stamps bearing it were used to serve as postage dues. However, most of the overprinting seems to have been done as a speculation on the part of the Philatelic Club of Pécs, who orchestrated their use on deliberately underpaid local mail, mostly on Club envelopes (Figure 25). Reference [6] lists 68 different known overprinted values. Yet another bit of philatelic fun.....



Figure 25: A machination of the Philatelic Club of Pécs with the boxed Roman 'VI' postage due handstamp. Dated 14 and 15 October 1919.

3.11 Bosnia-Herzegovina

The stamps of this territory issued under the Austrian annexation were overprinted and issued very quickly, in fact the pictorial set appeared on 11 November 1918, followed by surcharged newspaper stamps, charity stamps, postage due stamps [14], and finally various resurrected Franz-Josef issues from 1912. The text of the overprint was prepared in both Latin and Cyrillic typefaces and reads:

Latin: 'Država S.H.S' (Slovenaca, Hrvata i Srba) and 'Bosna i Hercegovina';

Cyrillic: 'Држава С.Х.С.' (Словенаца, Хрвата и Хрба), and 'Босна и Херцеговина'

which means ‘States of the Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs’, and ‘Bosnia and Herzegovina’.

Many errors, including doubled and inverted overprints, exist on most of the provisional Bosnia and Herzegovina stamps. Handstamped ‘Franco’ overprints on overprinted postage due stamps also exist [15].

The details of this issue have been well covered in catalogues, so I won't go into further discussion here. However, there is one cover on which I would like some further information from readers. It has been in my possession for about 25 years, acquired from a local dealer as a 'funny'. It is illustrated in Figure 26. The Bosnian stamps have a Croatian-style coat-of-arms handstamp overprint, which from a place in the north-east of the territory seems rather odd. The

franking of 71 h is also odd, so it is presumably philatelic, but it looks to have genuinely passed through the postal and censor system. Does anyone have any explanations?



Figure 26: A local handstamp showing the Croatian coat of arms on Bosnian stamps on a cover from Derventa to Bulgaria, postmarked with a crude canceller on 2.1.1919, and opened and resealed by a Bulgarian censor office.

4. Concluding remarks

I hope I have shown that this is a fun, if increasingly expensive, collecting area, and there are still new things to be found, even 100 years later. The combination of political upset, military occupation, post-war shortages and the contemporary hunger of philatelists have all come together to create a fabulous variety of material. However, a word of caution – there's a lot of fakery around, and it's getting more and more sophisticated. Small quantities of original issues provide a big driving force for the criminal. One only has to look at eBay [16] to find some weird, wonderful and sometimes convincing stuff that shouldn't be touched with a bargepole. There's an increasing amount of literature to learn from. I hope in some way that this article will help you avoid big mistakes and avoid paying too much.

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Report of YSG meeting held at Stampex on 14 September 2019

by Nick Coverdale

There were 6 members present with some apologies having been made. It may not have been our biggest attendance but, as usual, the quality of the material displayed was high.

First up was Damir Novaković with 2 frames of the 1945 Yugoslav provisional issues of overprints on the stamps and stationery of the Independent State of Croatia (NDH) (1941 – 45). He covered 4 issues of material from Split, Mostar, Zagreb and Sarajevo with stamps and postal stationery, together with overprint errors and varieties and also varieties of papers. Some of the material shown was rare indeed.

Dave Foster showed 2 frames of the 1919 – 20 Slovenian Chainbreaker stamps. He explained that this was a subject that he had recently taken an interest in and the material was newly mounted, though he had had most of it for some time.

Tony Bosworth showed 2 frames of NDH material covering two different subjects. The first frame was a series of propaganda covers produced privately by a gentleman named Vidar and sourced by Tony over a long period. The second frame showed covers from the 1921/22 diaspora of White Russians, some of whom ended up in Croatia. This latter material was certainly new to me and, I suspect, to the rest of those present.

I put up 2 frames of Serbian stamps, starting with the Prince Milan issues of 1869 – 80. This issue has a huge range of printings and perforations and I illustrated it with what Gibbons refers to as Printing Group A. This included a rare bisected 40 para value on cover. The second frame showed a range of Alexander and Peter issues.

Rex Dixon displayed a range of material from the World War 2 occupation of Yugoslavia with particular emphasis on the areas of Macedonia and Southern Thrace. Again, much of this material was new to the rest of us.

Last to go was Mike Whittaker who showed a collection of French military post cards used by Serbia in World War 1. This seems to be an increasingly popular area amongst collectors of the Yugoslav area and more especially Serbian collectors.

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Bisected Serbian stamp on cover

by Nick Coverdale



Over the past few years, I have been trying to expand my collection of the Prince Milan issue, 1869 -80 for both stamps and postal history. I purchased this cover at auction last year.

This is the front of a cover dated 1870 addressed to a court at Užice from Požega. It is franked by a vertically bisected 40 para mauve perforated 12 x 9½ (SG 35da) to cover the basic 20 para letter rate and tied by a boxed “NAPLACENO” (paid) in Cyrillic letters. There is a despatching ornamented cancel “POŽEGA / 2 / 3” in Cyrillic letters. The cover has a certificate from the late Dr V Kardosch.

These bisects, according to Kardosch (in his book “The Principality of Serbia: Postal History and Postage Stamps, 1830 – 1882”), were not used by order of the Postal Directorate but were tolerated by them. Bisects are known from 22 post offices though for 6 of these offices only one example is known in each case. They were used in the period 1869 – 1871. Also, bisects are variously known vertically, horizontally and diagonally, The stamp most frequently used in Serbia at the time was the 20 para, the postage for an ordinary basic weight letter. In some cases, where the supply of 20 para stamps had been used up, they were replaced by a single bisected 40 para stamp, as here.

For 40 para stamps of this printing group, the perforation 9½ x 12 is the more common, with 9½ and 12 x 9½ bisects, as here, somewhat rarer. According to Kardosch, 40 para perforation 12 bisected stamps of this group have not, so far, been seen.

If any YSG members or other readers of this journal have other examples of these bisects on cover and are prepared to send scans to me together with any relevant information, I would like to put together a larger article on this topic. Also, if you are aware of any other articles on this topic in the literature, including in the Serbian language, I would be grateful for the references.

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