

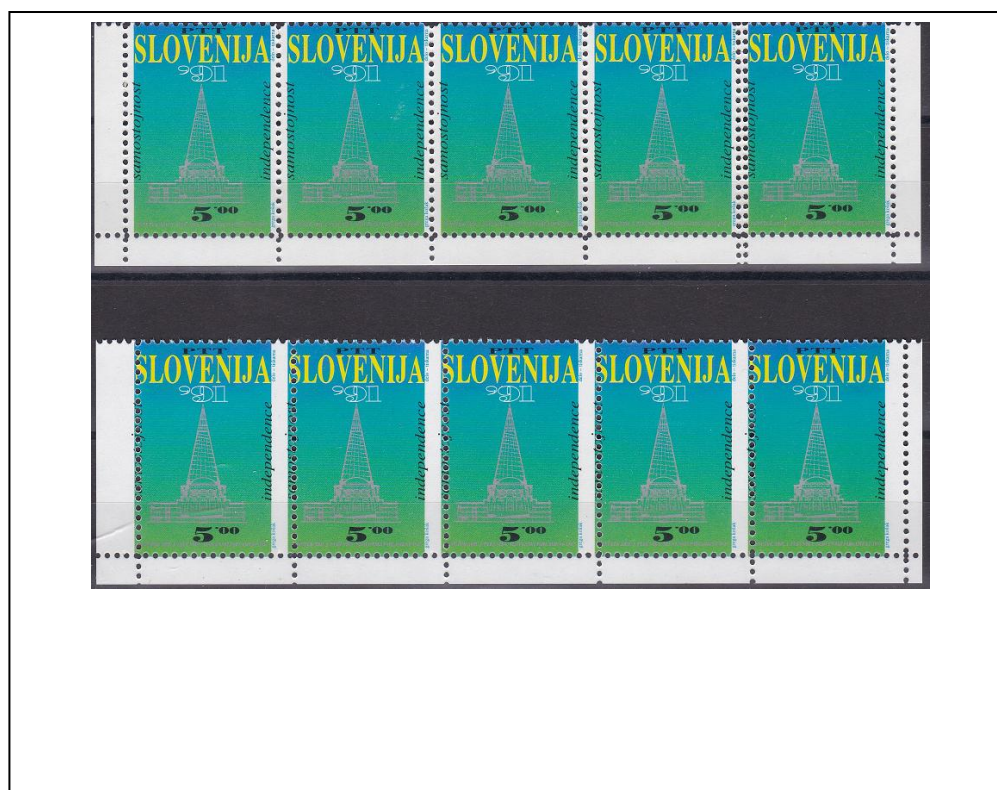


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Jugopošta

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The Yugoslavia Study Group

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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



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From the President

I visited "London 2022" last week and was surprised to note how few people attended. Was it due to the pandemic or is our hobby in decline? One problem is that there are very few young people coming into the hobby. So it is incumbent on us to try to encourage youngsters to join the ranks of philately.

Our Society is still in need of an Auction Manager; if you feel that you could fill this post please let me know, it is a vital job, and will benefit members greatly.

Three of our members won Gold Medals at London 2022 - Damir Novaković for his exhibit of "Yugoslav Airmails" and Keith Brandon and Roger Morrell for their book "The Story of the Austrian Post up to 1850" (along with co-author Andy Taylor). Well done all of you!!!

A J Bosworth FRPSL

From the Editor

In this edition of Jugopošta you will find the second and concluding part of Roger Morrell's article on the Bulgarian occupation of Serbia from 1915 to 1918. Also, articles on the first stamp of the Republic of Slovenia after independence by Boštjan Petauer and further information adding to the discussion started in JP140 on the use of chainbreaker stamps from Vid Žiberna.

We held another successful online meeting on 2 March and the next meeting will be held on 21 June. Yvonne Wheatley tells me she is planning another Joint Societies' Meeting in Leeds on 13 August and information should be available in the next JP.

From the Librarian

About 3 years ago I undertook to compile a monograph listing and annotating all post-1946 flammes. It was my hope that this work would be ready for publication now. Although most of the basic work is completed, the last 9 months have left me with virtually no time to prepare the work for publication. This interruption has been in the form of:

Two serious illnesses

Moving house

and more happily - my getting engaged!

In addition, the same factors have made it difficult for me to answer questions in my usual detail.

I hope very soon to be able to take up the work again, but I would like to apologise to all members, but especially Nick, for having patience.

Derek Brinkley

The Bulgarian Occupation of Serbia, 1915-18 – A Review – Part 2

by Roger Morrell

Continuing the postal history aspects from Part 1, this part covers examples of mail items to POWs and the Red Cross, of mail to Germany and to other countries. Finally, a few items of Bulgarian fieldpost mail and some 'oddities' are shown.

7. Examples of mail to POWs and the Red Cross



Figure 25 (reduced): Bulgarian postal stationery card sent from 'Paratchin' to a POW camp in Münster/Westfalen, Germany. Not obviously censored at source, but at Minden, Germany.



Figure 26: Inland rate postal stationery card written from Paraćin to the Internationales feministisches Auskunftsbüro für vermisste Civilpersonen in Lausanne, Switzerland. The additional 20 stot. stamp for foreign mail (possibly unnecessary for such mail) has been removed by the censor and the area overwritten with comments. No postmark, but a double ring lion cachet at the top left, possibly of Paraćin. Red censor mark of Feldkirch, Austria, where mail to Switzerland crossed the border.

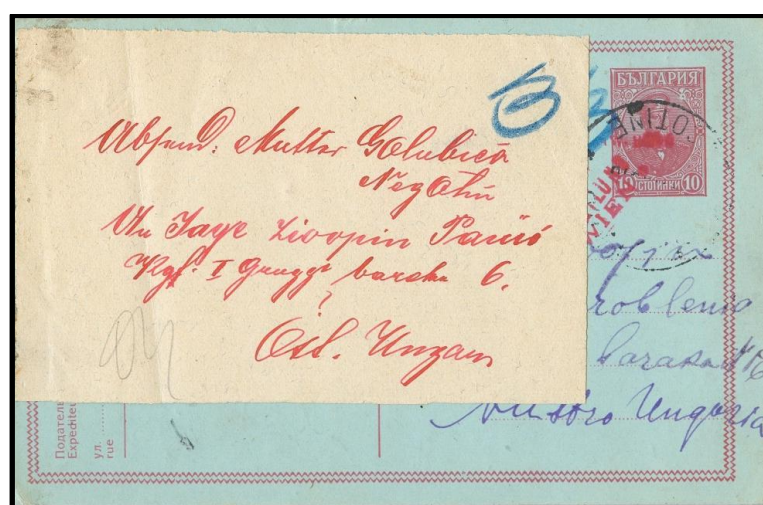


Figure 29: Bulgarian UPU postal stationery card sent from Negotine to a POW in Hungary, censored in Negotine (red initials) and again in Vienna (blue initials). However, the addressing is unclear, and the Viennese censor has tried to interpret it on a glued-on label, but with a question mark. We do not know if it arrived.



Figure 30: Bulgarian postal stationery card on thick grey stock sent from 'Ašah' (Aschach, Austria), Leskovetz-Morava transit datestamp of 24.VI.1916 and censor cachet. Censored again in Vienna.



Figure 31: Bulgarian Red Cross formular card over-franked with a 10 stot. stamp, and sent from Vranja in August 1918 to Arad in Hungary. Large Red Cross cachet in French, weak Vranja dated censor cachet, Vienna roller censor cachet.

8. Examples of mail to Germany

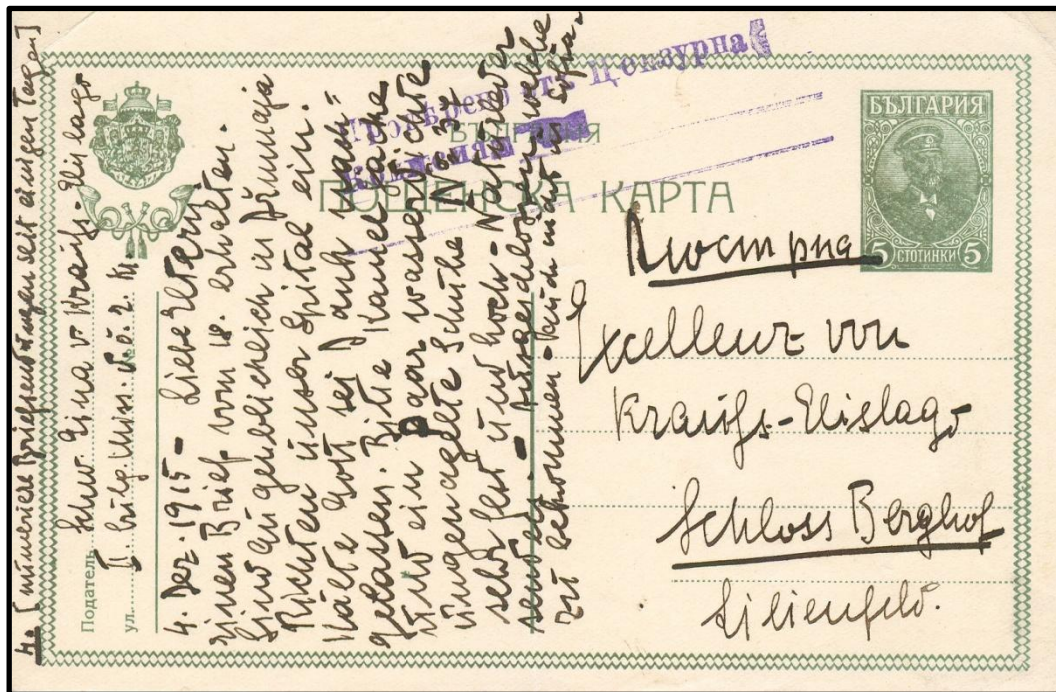


Figure 32: German officer with a Bulgarian unit writing to his father at Schloss Berghof, Lilienfeld, Germany on 4 December 1915. Two-line Bulgarian censor cachet reading 'Провърено отъ Цензурна Комисия' (checked by the censor commission) not listed in [2], and no postmark (too early?).

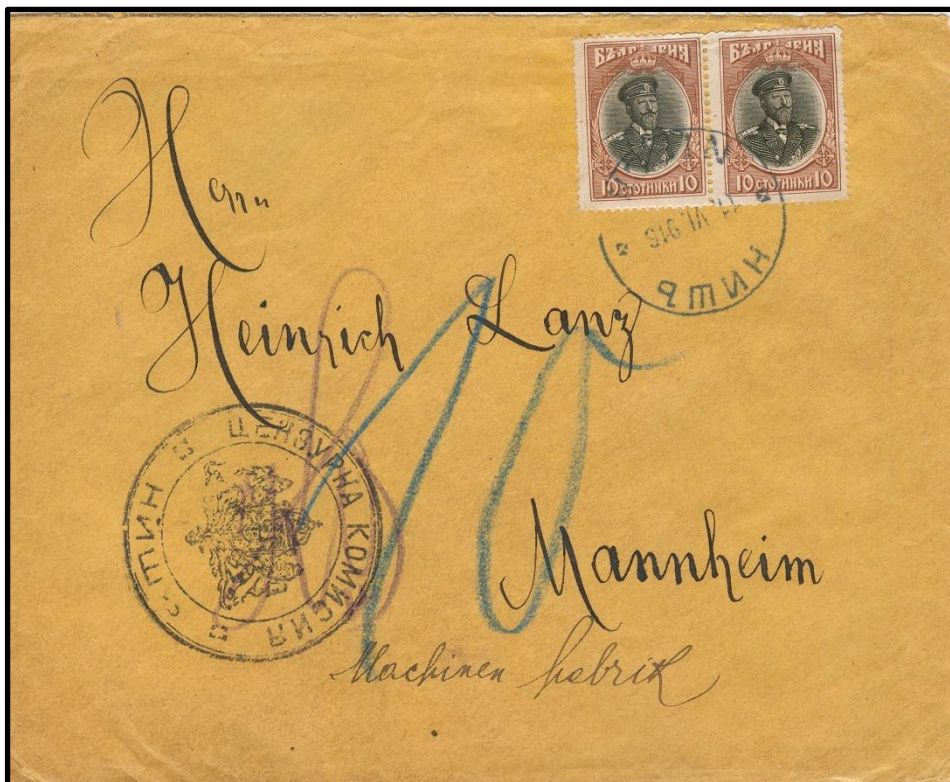


Figure 33: Letter franked 20 stot. from Niš to Mannheim, Germany, 17.VI.1916, censored in Niš, deemed underpaid by the German post office (should have been 25 stot. total), backstamped 'Nachtaxe' (right), and '10' in blue crayon on the front.

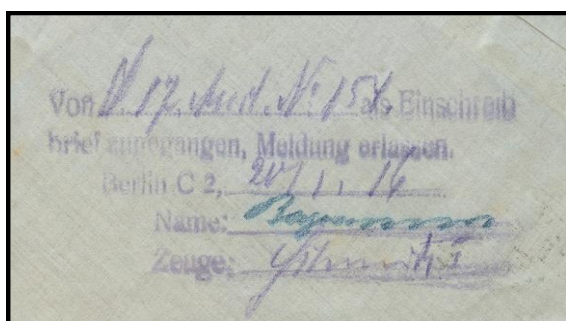


Figure 34 (reduced): Registered letter (boxed cachet lower left, number upper right) from Leskovac to Berlin-Wilmersdorf, franked with 1.80 leva cancelled with the double ring lion Telegraphs and Posts cachet for Leskovac, best matched as a 75-90 g letter (25 stot. per 15 g + 25 stot. registration). It appears to have been censored (red signature), but no cachet. Backstamped Berlin-Wilmersdorf 10.I.16, with a Berlin censor cachet for examination of registered mail.

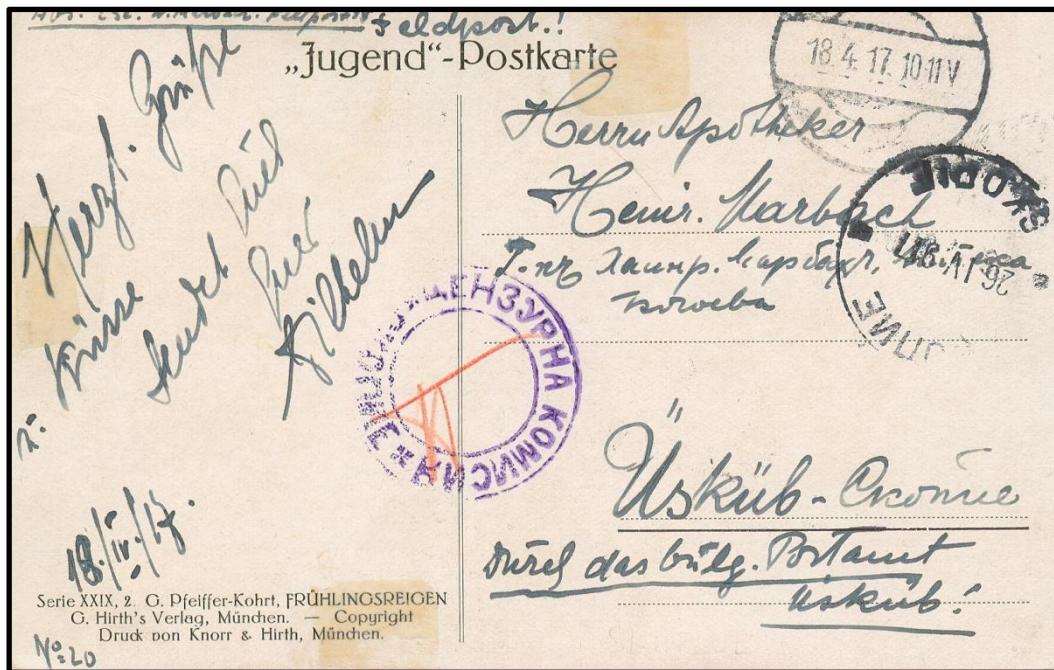


Figure 35: Incoming picture postcard from Germany to the German apothecary with a Bulgarian unit, addressed to 'Üsküb-Сконие' (Skopje), and arrival postmarked 26.IV.917. Censored on arrival with the double-ring dateless Skopje cachet.

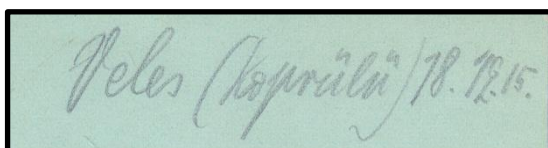


Figure 36: Uprated Bulgarian inland postal stationery card written from Veles/Koprülü on 18.12.15 and sent to Braunschweig, Germany. The indicium is cancelled with a double ring II Army Posts and Telegraphs cachet, and censorship is indicated by the blue double ring arms cachet reading: ЦЕНЗУРНА СЕКЦИЯ III. 2ª A.



Figure 37: Bulgarian formular card overfranked with a mix of stamps and sent to Braubach am Rhein, Germany. The sender is with the Bavarian Alpenkorps, and the small violet oval cachet is of the Division doctor. The right-hand stamp is cancelled with an Alpenkorps datestamp of 15.2.16, while the others are cancelled with a Wranja datestamp of 2.II.916 (different calendars still in force!).



Figure 38: Similar overfranked card from the Bavarian Alpenkorps on 4.1.16, addressed to Munich, but with the stamps cancelled additionally by the Telegraph and Posts lion cachet of Leskovac. Censorship indicated by the red writing at the right.



Figure 39: Registered photographic postcard of the market in Skopje, sent from Skopje to Metz, Lothringen (Lorraine), Germany. The stamps are cancelled with a Skopje datestamp of 3.VI.916. The card was censored on arrival in Metz (blue cachet) and datestamped 15.6.16. The Bulgarian registration receipt must have been married up with the card post-war, as the manuscript text on the back demonstrates.

Формат № 81.

Разписка № 607

за подаденъ препоръченъ предметъ.

Присъхъ отъ *Logan*

единъ препоръченъ предметъ, адресиранъ за *Metz*

и съ наложенъ платежъ *2* лева *50* ст.

Заплатени такси:

За предмета *3* грам *2* лева *50* ст.

Препоръка *2* грам *2* лева *50* ст.

наложенъ платежъ *2* лева *50* ст.

обратна разписка *2* лева *50* ст.

Всичко *2* лева *50* ст.

Подписъ на чановника: *Logan*

Степ.ср. — 1175—1918

Адресиранъ на Ускуб,
мажъ на Лопъжъ дъвъ
Лоранъ, бнъ на бнъ.
Копированъ дъвъ на
дъвъ на дъвъ на
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9.

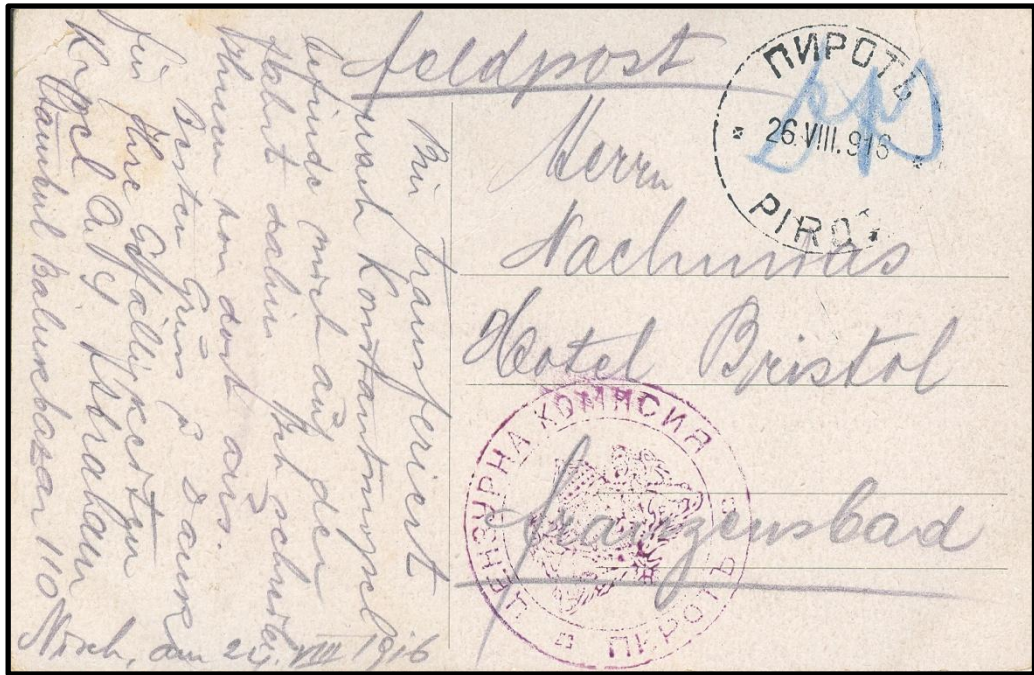


Figure 40: Picture postcard marked ‘Feldpost’, written at ‘Nisch’ on 24.VIII.16 and addressed to Franzensbad, Bohemia (now Františkovy Lázně, Czech Republic), but postmarked Pirot on 26.VIII.916. Censored in Pirot with the Pirot arms cachet applied.

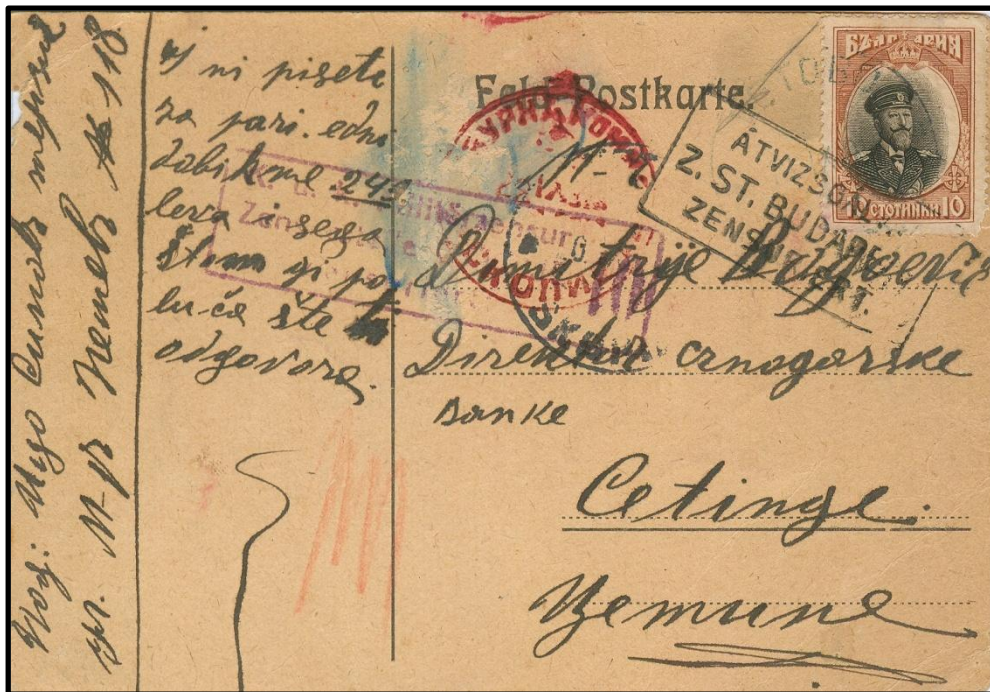


Figure 41: German field-post card written in Cyrillic from Tetovo and addressed to Cetinje (Austrian-occupied Montenegro), correctly franked with a 10 stot. stamp. It has been postmarked in Tetovo and censored in Skopje (red dated censor mark), then censored in Budapest (black boxed mark) and again in Cetinje (violet boxed mark).



Figure 42: Mourning envelope sent registered with the correct foreign rate to Saltsjö-Duvnäs, Sweden, redirected to Kristiana (now Oslo), Norway. Bitolja (Monastir) cancellation of 17.V.916, censored there with the double ring arms cachet of Bitolja front and rear, transit marks of Sofia (31.V.916) and Saltsjö-Duvnäs (10.6.1916), Kristiana arrival (13.VI.16).

10. Bulgarian fieldpost mail

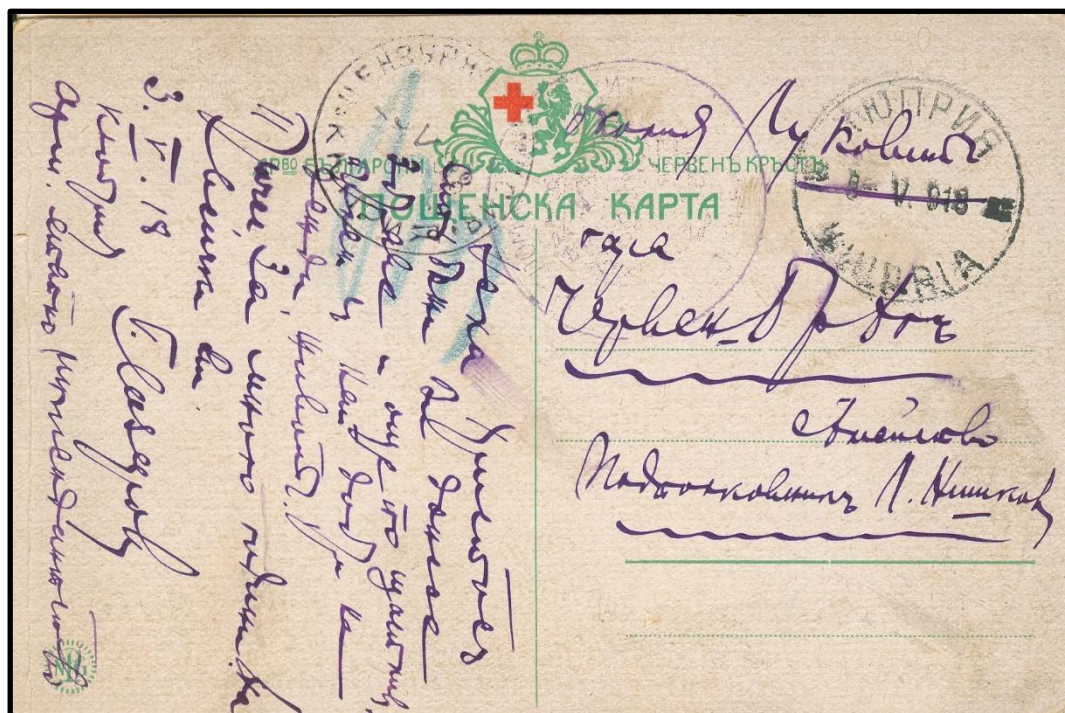


Figure 43: Bulgarian Red Cross postcard sent from Kiupria on 8 May 1918. An indistinct violet military unit cachet is in the centre, and a Kiupria single-ring dated censor mark is to the left. Sent to Tetovo(?).

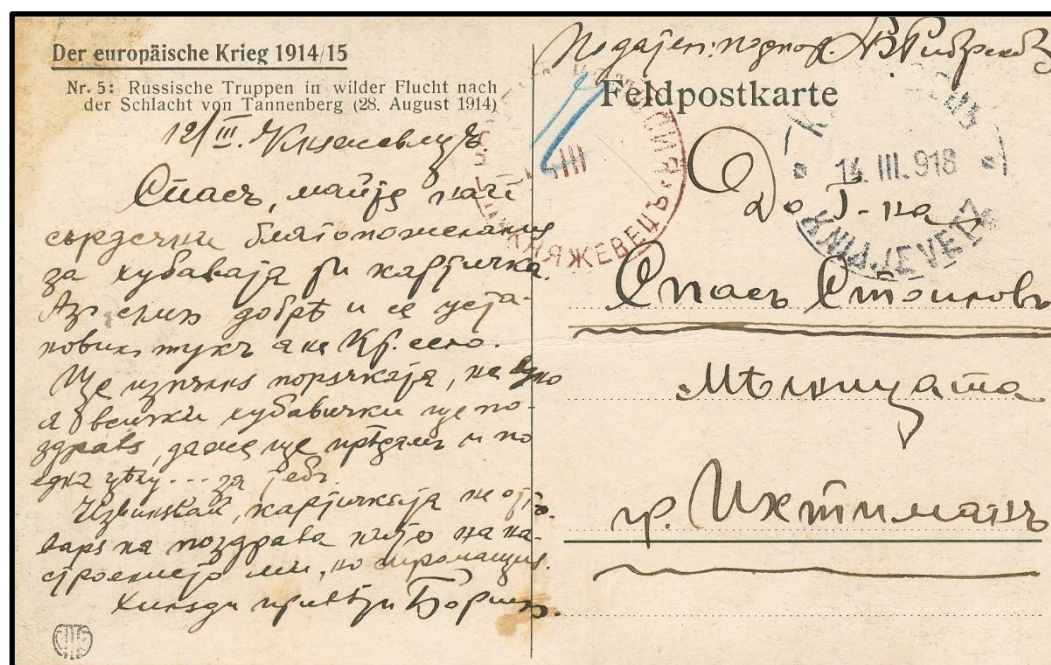


Figure 44: German picture postcard sent as a field-post card from Kniajevetz to zp. Ихтиман (Ihtiman district), Bulgaria on 14.III.918, censored with a single-ring dated censor mark of Kniajevetz.



Figure 45: Bulgarian fieldpost card sent between military units 'in the field', from the 12th Division – blue cachet - to the 5th Division, with the violet military censor cachet reading ЦЕНЗУРНА СЕКЦИЯ Ш. 3^А А.

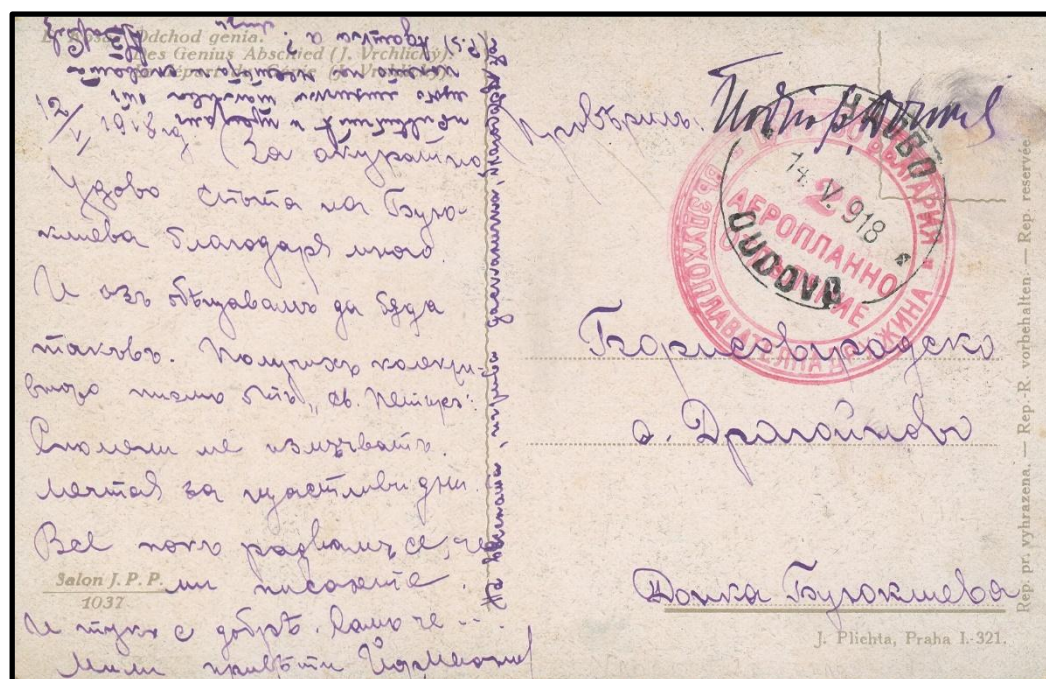


Figure 46: Picture postcard sent from Oudovo (not listed in Table 1 shown in Part 1) on 14 May 1918 to Donja Bu....teva(?). Red circular cachet of the ЦАСТВО БЪЛГАРИЯ ВЪЗДУХОПЛАВАТЕЛНА ДРУЖИНА 2° АЕРОПЛАННО ОТДЪЛЕНИЕ (Kingdom of Bulgaria Air Force, 2nd airplane section). See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgarian_Air_Force for an article on Bulgarian WW1 activities.

11. Oddities

This article would not be complete without mentioning two peculiarities of the occupation period. Firstly, the organisation in Berlin entitled the *Kolonialkriegerdank eV*, a wartime charity rewarding soldiers, offered the German military staff in the Balkans pre-franked picture postcards in packs of 12 for the price of 5 *Reichsmark*. Six of these were franked with Bulgarian stamps for use in Bulgarian territory, and six with Turkish stamps for use in Turkey. The Bulgarian ones included a specially surcharged 1 *stot.* remaindered stamp from the previous century, the new value being 3 *stot.* The charity received 1.25 RM for each dozen sold [8]. As noted in Refs. [4, 8], one of these cards depicted Skopje on the picture side (Figure 47) and Professor Michailoff (leader of the Macedonian National Committee who was assassinated in 1932 [10]) on the address side, and was intended for use by personnel in that area.

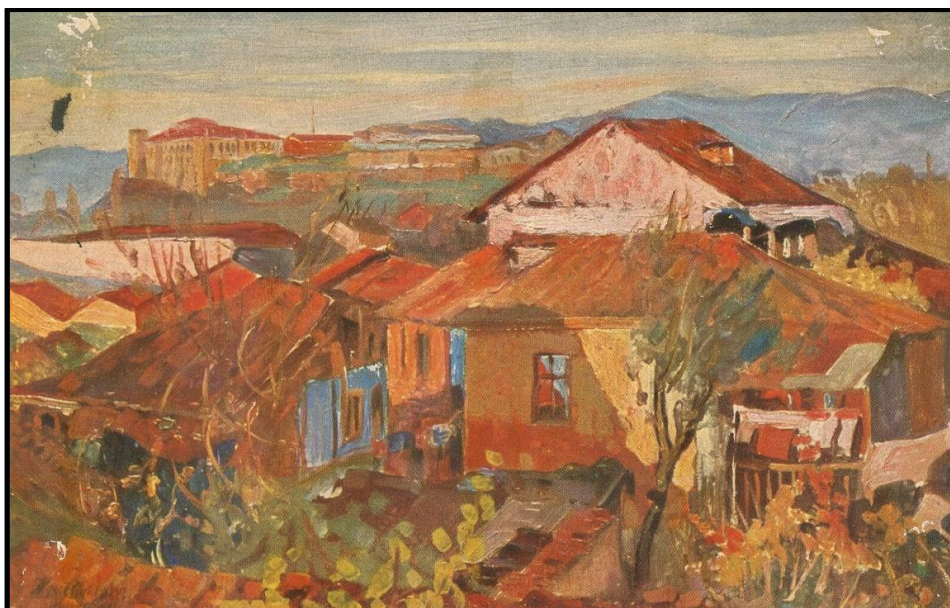


Figure 47: Special card for German personnel depicting Skopje, sent to Chemnitz, postmarked 26.XII.916.

Reference [4] also alludes to the fact that there is evidence that a second fund-raising campaign was conducted the following year in which other Bulgarian cards were in use in different places. Figure 48 shows an example of a second card, this one depicting Bulgarian General Schekoff (and a picture of Rila Monastery on the picture side) used in Skopje in October 1917.



Figure 48: A second type of charity card used in Skopje, postmarked 23.X.917 used to Nordhausen. This one bears the single ring dated Sofia censor cachet of 2.XI.917.

The second curiosity is the so-called provisional postage dues of Kiupria. Whether this occurred initially for genuine reasons is not known, but when stamp collectors found out about it, the Kiupria post office seems to have been deluged with unpaid mail from Bulgaria which was then decorated with ranges of Bulgarian definitives with a 'T-in-a-circle' handstamp to pay the 'deficiency', often with impossible total values. The neat appearance of the covers shows a high degree of connivance in this operation (e.g. Figure 49). As ref. [4] says, the postmarks (and the censor marks) appear to be genuine, so undoubtedly they did go through the post, and so are not bogus, but are among the most commonly found covers from the occupation.

The Bulgarian practice of applying T-in-a-circle or similar handstamps for postage due use when there was a shortage of the proper postage due stamps is longstanding, at least since the 1880s, and continuing right up to WWII. The most famous occurrence that made it to catalogues is from Russe/Roustchouk in 1901. It is perhaps therefore not surprising that they may well exist postmarked in towns in occupied Serbia other than Kiupria, as a couple of stamps in the author's possession appear to indicate (Figure 50). One suspects that genuine covers from elsewhere are like hen's teeth.



Figure 49: A Kiupria 'by favour' postage due cover from July 1918, apparently censored in Sofia and marked with a small T in a circle. Stamps to the value of 1.40 leva have been applied, also handstamped with a different T-in-a-circle handstamp, which value is something of a nonsense for an ordinary letter.



Figure 50: T-in-a-circle handstamps on two Bulgarian stamps apparently postmarked in Paraćin.

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<https://www.nytimes.com/1932/05/17/archives/d-michailoff-slain-by-sofia-assassins-killing-of-protogueroffist.html>

Report of a YSG Zoom meeting held on 2 March

by Nick Coverdale

Thirteen members and one guest were present. As usual, there was a good mix of countries represented with 6 from the UK, 3 from the USA, 2 from Slovenia, and 1 each from Switzerland, Argentina and France. Six presentations were delivered as follows:

1. Roy Gelder: Essay of Bosnia-Herzegovina Jubilee Issue
2. Hans-Dieter Engel: Overprinted envelopes and letter cards in the time of the SHS Kingdom
3. David Foster: Issues for Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Richard Stevens: Montenegro revenue stamps – issues for 1901 – 12
5. Veselko Gustin: Is the xray fluorescence method suitable for detecting fake postmarks?
6. Nick Coverdale: Serbian postal history 1870 – 79

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 June at 18:00 UK time (a slightly later start time than previous, as requested).

The first stamp of the Republic of Slovenia after independence

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

Towards the end of the eighties of the last century, the economic situation in the former Yugoslavia deteriorated. The standard of living of the population was declining and the inflation rate was rising sharply. Tensions between nations escalated and even went so far as to boycott goods from other parts in some parts of the country, while at the same time there were attempts to politically destabilise individual parts of the country.

Slovenia wanted to get out of this mess and that is why a referendum on the independence of the Republic was called for 23 December 1990. Ninety percent of the population opted for independence, which was declared by Parliament on 25 June 1991. The next day, the Yugoslav army, mainly from its bases in Slovenian territory, attacked Slovenia and the ten-day war for independence began. This ended with the Brioni Agreement, concluded with the help of the European Union. This agreement ended the hostilities and, at the same time, Slovenia had to stop for 3 months all independence activities. This also applied to the sale of the stamp, which is the subject of my article. At midnight on 25 October 1991, the last soldier of the Yugoslav Army left Slovenia, leaving no more foreign troops on its territory.

On 26 June 1991, the first post-independence Slovenian stamp was issued with a motif of Plečnik's Parliament, which is one of the unrealised designs of this world-famous Slovenian architect (1872 – 1957). Two million copies of this stamp were printed i.e. one for every Slovenian. Given such a large quantity and the short time available for its production (which also took place in secret) it is not surprising that there were errors in both printing and perforation.

In my short article the more interesting perforations of this issue are displayed, such as shifted and double perforations (at various positions), partly perforate, and the combinations of these varieties, together with missing colours (the rarest variety of them all).



Figure 1 (left): all colours except grey missing. Figure 2 (right): double perforation at the last stamp (above) and shifted perforation (below)



Figure 3: double perforation above and missing horizontal perforation (full sheet)

Joint Societies' Meeting

Yvonne Wheatley has confirmed that the next meeting will be on

Saturday 13th August

at

The Brown Cow, Whitkirk, Leeds, LS15 7AY

More details should be available in the June edition of Jugopošta or you can contact Yvonne on whyareuu@outlook.com

Chainbreakers used in Baranya, Temesvár (Timișoara) and Fiume (Rijeka): comments on a question from Jean Lafortune and the responses to it (JP140)

by Vid Žiberna

Chainbreakers were also used in Baranya, in southern Hungary, but the postal validity of the use of these stamps is questionable. I have seen only a few items (see Figures 1 and 2) and all of them were sent from Bátaszék to the same address in Pécs (Mr. Péntek). The chainbreaker stamps in Figures 1 and 2 have a pencil line round them, which usually indicates nullification, and a note in Hungarian and also in red pencil “discussed at the postal directorate in Pécs, under number 775/1920”, all of which means that these stamps were postally invalid in this area. However, the letters did actually make it to their destination – the post office in Pécs – where the letters were confiscated and later most likely stolen and sold to philatelists. The whole affair was investigated (read more in the source listed below), but these are still interesting items for any collector of chainbreakers or Baranya postal history.



Figures 1 and 2: two mixed franking registered letters sent from Bátaszék to Pécs (both today in Hungary)

Temesvár

Chainbreakers were also used in the Temesvár area and here the postal validity of these stamps is unquestionable. Parcel cards, postal money orders, letters and postcards franked with the chainbreaker issues solo from the Banat area are very common. My question here is – has anybody seen or does anybody own any complete parcel cards or postal money orders from Banat franked with the Temesvár issue stamps? I have seen lots of cuttings and I own one complete money order, but I haven't seen any others.



Figure 4: a Hungarian parcel card (front and reverse) with triple mixed franking sent from Pancsova (today Serbia Панчево – Pančevo) to Opava



Figure 5: two postal order cuttings (front and reverse) with mixed franking sent from Pancsova (today Serbia Панчево – Pančevo), one from January 1920 and the other one from February 1920

Fiume



Figure 6: a letter card sent from Fiume to Sušak (both are today part of the city of Rijeka in Croatia). An interesting usage of a 20 vinar porto stamp from a 1 x 10 sheet.

If you have any related questions and comments (in English, German, Croatian, Serbian, Cyrillic, Slovenian) please send them to me at vid.zibera@gmail.com

Note

I always find it useful for collectors to indicate the actual market value of the items (including all fees) which they use in articles: *Figures 1 and 2 – about 150 €, Figure 3 – 40 €, Figure 4 – 180 € (surprisingly only 180 €, the reason being not many collectors, otherwise in my opinion hard to get), Figure 5 – 20-30 €, Figure 6 – 70 € (the 20 vinar stamp from a 1 x 10 sheet makes the object far more interesting and valuable).*

Sources

Collection V. Žiberna (all images)

Coverdale, N. Jugopošta (JP), 2021, no. 140, pp 27 – 29.

Email communication Coverdale N., Morrell R., V. Žiberna.

Szilagy, P. (1996) The Baranya letters II – The Báticasék Provisorium, Stamps of Hungary, no. 127, pp 21 – 26.

Yugoslavia Study Group

are holding a Zoom meeting

on

Tuesday 21st June at 18:00 hours, UK time

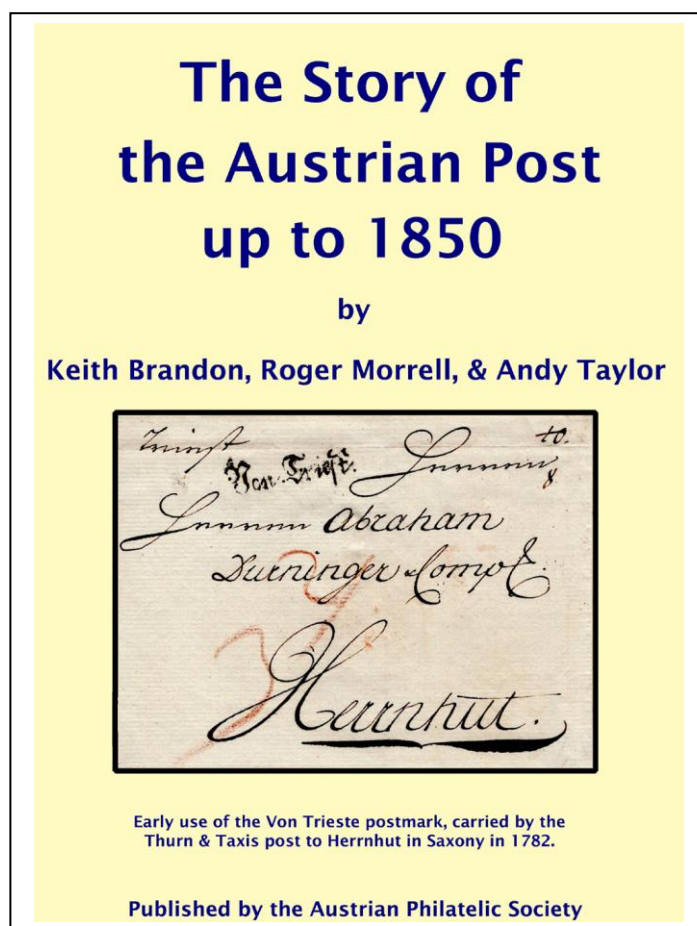
**Please register your interest with Nick Coverdale on
nick@rhubarb1.ndonet.com and joining details will be sent nearer the time**

**Please offer to do presentations which should be planned to take no more
than about 10 minutes to deliver**

A MAJOR NEW BOOK ON THE PRE-STAMP HISTORY OF THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE

Two of the three authors of this book (Keith Brandon and Roger Morrell) are members of YSG and the three authors were awarded a gold medal at London 2022.

This important new work describes the development of the post in the Austrian Empire up to the introduction of postage stamps in 1850. It is the most comprehensive book on the subject to date and includes, for the first time, many of the original postal decrees translated into English. Much of central, eastern and southern Europe was under Habsburg control during this period and collectors of this territory will find it an indispensable reference.



- 380 pages in full colour,
- hard cover,
- in the English language,
- published by the Austrian Philatelic Society (UK),
- by Andy Taylor, President of the Austrian Philatelic Society, Roger Morrell, past Chairman of the Hungarian Society and Keith Brandon, past President of the Austrian Philatelic Society.

The book describes the development of the post from the beginning and of each of the different postal services (letter-mail, coach-mail, registered post, ship-mail, etc). A chapter on each province outlines the history and postal history peculiar to that territory.

The book costs £39.00 (€43) plus postage & packaging. P&p to U.K. addresses is £4.00. To place an order, to enquire about postage costs to your country, please contact Andy Taylor (email: andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk).

Two disinfected covers from 1860

by Nick Coverdale

The subject of disinfection of covers has only come up twice in Jugopošta. The first, in JP54, was 'The disinfection of the sea mail coming from the Levant' by Luciano de Zanche. This covers a much earlier period than 1860. The second was in JP89 'Disinfection of mail at Semlin (Zemun)' by Geoff Barling.

I recently acquired two disinfected covers from 1860.

The first cover is an entire from Belgrade to Vienna. There is a 2 line BELGRAD / 9. APR. despatch cancellation (the contents confirm it as 1860). On the reverse is a red single circle cancellation 9 – 11 Fr. / WIEN / 15 – IV and a disinfection cachet in transit SIGILLUM / SANITATIS Pancsova (seal of the sanitation office of Pancsova). Information with this entire noted that at Pancsova (Pančevo) no use of wax seals or rastel punching has been recorded.

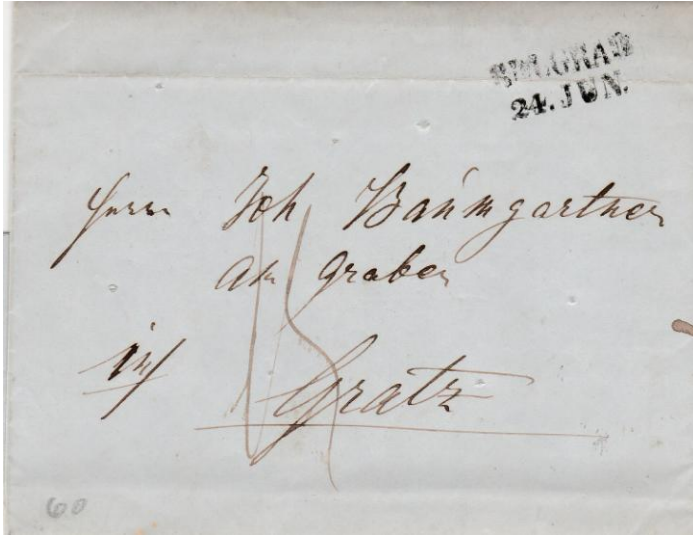


1860 entire from Belgrade to Vienna, disinfected at Pancsova. The entire (front) has been reduced in size whereas the cancellation and cachet are actual size.

The book 'Disinfected Mail' by K P Meyer (1962) is quoted as the definitive work on disinfected mail. I don't have access to that at present (a copy is available from a well-known bookseller at £140 + £30 p&p!) **so can any reader confirm the above information in relation to disinfected mail at Pancsova please?**

The second is an entire from Belgrade to Gratz (Graz). There is again a 2-line BELGRAD / 24. JUN. despatch cancellation (the contents confirm it as 1860). The reverse carries a single circle SEMLIN / 26 / 6 transit cancellation and a flattened circle 27 / 6 / GRATZ arrival cancellation.

There is also an oval-framed cachet 'NETTO DI FUORA E IL DENTRO' in Italian, meaning that it has been cleaned inside and outside. The information with the entire indicates the cachet to be Meyer type H, recorded 1857 – 60. There are a number of rastel punch holes in evidence.



1860 entire from Belgrade to Gratz, disinfected at Semlin. The entire (front) has been reduced in size whereas the cancellations and cachet are actual size

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