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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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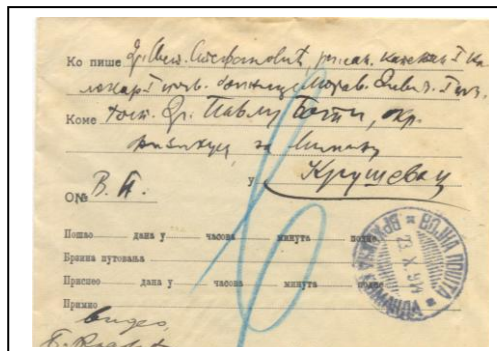
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Jugopošta



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From the President

It is a pity that we have not been able to arrange meetings at Stampex during the pandemic; but our worthy Editor has stepped in to arrange "Zoom" meetings; so taking advantage of modern technology. Many clubs and specialist societies are using this method of bringing their membership together, the advantage being that overseas members can join in, without travelling or leaving their home. I believe that these meetings will be used much more in the future.

Once again I appeal for a volunteer to take on the job of Auction Manager. If you are willing to take the job on, just let me know. It is a vital job and will benefit members greatly.

A J Bosworth FRPSL

From the Editor

I would like to thank again all the contributors to this journal, without whom it would never be published. I'm always conscious of the fact that there remain areas of Yugoslav philately which are rarely or never covered. If you think that there is something that you would like to see covered, let me know and I will see what can be done. In the end though I can only publish what people are prepared to provide. Please keep the articles coming. If you send me an article and it is not published for a while, please bear with me – I need to fit everything into 32 pages each time and that can take some doing to balance it up.

In this edition, we have a further article, by Henk Buitenkamp, on the use and validity of stamps in the SHS during the 1918 – 21 period. Other articles are on the first stamps of independent Slovenia (Boštjan Petauer), courier mail between Serbian military units during WW1 (Milan Radovanović) and a further part of an article on SHS parcel cards 1919 – 22 (Vid Žiberna).

After the issue of the last edition of JP, I had an email from our member Alfonso Zulueta. He pointed out to me that, in addition to our members listed in the editorial who won gold medals at London 2022, he also won a gold medal for his 'Afghanistan: Amanullah Period Definitives, 1920 – 1929.' Congratulations for achieving that (and also for gold medals in previous years at Bangkok, Korea and Singapore)!

There is a YSG Zoom meeting on Tuesday 21st June and a reminder has been emailed to members. By the time you read this, the meeting may have happened or be imminent.

Once again, I would draw your attention to the Joint Societies Meeting on 13th August in Leeds. For how to get further details, see the advert on page 22 of this journal. Finally, there will be another YSG Zoom meeting on Tuesday 4th October, see the advert on page 22 for details.

Which stamps are valid where and when in the SHS, 1918 – 1921

by Henk Buitenkamp AEP NAF

In Jugopošta 140, there was an article regarding the questions from Jean Lafortune. I have had in the past more questions about the use of stamps in the SHS. I thought that it would be useful to do an article which takes all the information (known to me to date) regarding the question about which stamps were used/valid in the SHS in the period 1918 – 1921.

At first, all the Hungarian, Austrian and Kron/Vinar stamps were technically not valid after 1 October 1920 but remained in practice until the end of the validity of all regional Hungarian and Austrian stamps on 15-4-1921. The old Bosnian stamps could be used until 15 December 1918, after which they were no longer valid.

There are three exceptions to the date 15-4-1921:

- The postage due stamps in Dinar/Para stayed valid until 2-11-1921 (Circ. 6321 dd. 22-1—1921)
- The newspaper stamps were valid until 15-6-1921 (after 15-4-1921 only the Dinar/Para values)
- The postal stationery in Para stayed valid until they were all used up



Figure 1: Maribor 15-11-1921. Using postage due stamps (Dinar/Para) was not uncommon. The postage due stamps were no longer valid but the post office used them up without problems from the management. Most of the bisected postage due stamps used in Maribor are dated from 2-1-1921 to 17-11-1921. The officially used postage due stamps are scarce.



Figure 2: Osijek 22-6-1921. The postal stationery stayed valid after 15-4-1921. To make up the correct tariff, the new stamps had to be used.

1 Slovenia

The Kron/Vinar regular stamps of Slovenia (1919/1920) were issued from 3-1-1919. The Dinar/Para stamps were issued from 9-6-1920 (Decree nr. 11.319 Ljubljana 22-4-1920).

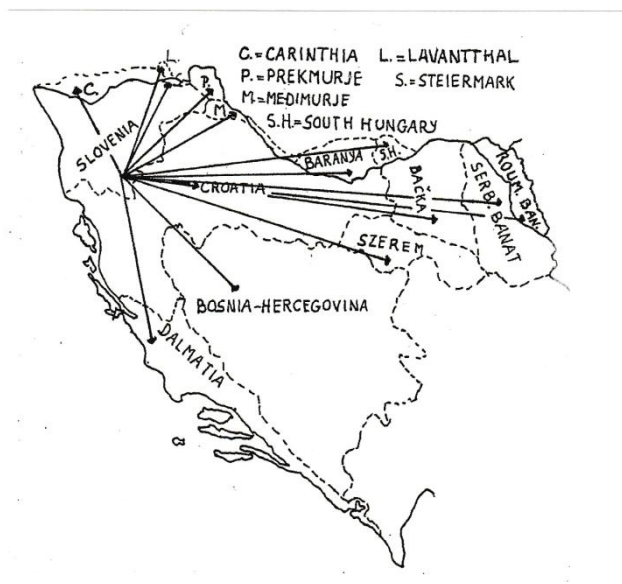


Figure 3 showing where the Slovenian issues were used

The Verigarji stamps were issued – in principle – for Slovenia, but the other parts of the SHS did not have enough stamps and so they had to use Slovenian stamps too. The exception was the mainland of Serbia and Montenegro. So this issue became nearly a national issue. Moreover, it

was the basis as far as possible for all the temporary and definitive occupied/annexed areas. The “national” issue can only be safely recognised by the cancellations.

The handstamps are nationalised in many cases. In Slovenia, by removing the Austrian name; in Croatia by removing the crown and/or by turning the date ciphers; in Bosnia-Herzegovina by removing the Militärpost indication. Moreover, new regional and national handstamps were used. The nationalising of the hand stamps was ordered by Circ. 394 of Ljubljana 8-1-1919.

The postage due stamps were probably issued from 15 (or 18?) March 1919. The exact date of issue of the newspaper stamps is not known to me. The parity between the Kron and Dinar issue at 4:1 started for the post from 16-5-1920.



Figure 4: if there were not enough regular stamps available or of the correct value, postage due stamps with or without the indication ‘Franco’ were used. Ljubljana 16-3-1920. Very late use of an old Austrian postcard. Here a newspaper stamp of 2 Vinar has been used as that was the only way the correct tariff could be made.

Slovenia had temporarily occupied various areas and some areas were annexed after occupation.

1.1 Prekmurje

The Prekmurje was occupied by the SHS 12-8-1919. It was defined as part of the SHS (Slovenia) 4-6-1920 (Treaty of Trianon) after the appointment of the border with Hungary. The border with Austria had already been appointed by the Treaty of St. Germain on 10-9-1919. In most towns the Hungarian stamps stayed in use until they were substituted by the Slovenian stamps and that was done very quickly. However, use of the Hungarian stamps was not forbidden.

The Beltinci (= Belatinz) issue

On 15-8-1919 Lieutenant Svetec ordered the overprinting of Hungarian stamps with ‘SHS’. Beltinci was under the Postal Direction of Ljubljana and they accepted these stamps (see too Dr. Lajušić – civil commissioner of the Prekmurje – Nr. 901/18 dd. 19-10-1919). The stamps were

used from 1-8-1919 to 8-9-1919 and in this period were the only valid stamps. After 8-9-1919, Slovenian stamps were used.



Figure 5: Belatinz (= Beltinci) 7-9-1919 to Zagreb

The Dobrovnik issue

On 19-8-1919 the overprinting of Hungarian stamps with 'Preko/murje/SHS' was ordered by Perko in O.Nr.5/Donja Lendava. The stamps were used in Dobrovnik from 22-8-1919 until 28-8-1919. Dobrovnik was under the Postal Direction of Zagreb and they forbade the use of these stamps on 28-8-1919. Hungarian stamps had to be used until 1-9-1919.

On 1-9-1919 the Postal Direction of Ljubljana took over Dobrovnik. The Slovenian stamps were introduced. The overprinted stamps could then be used until 8-9-1919. Then the overprinted stamps of Dobrovnik were transported to Beltinci and used there from 8-9-1919 to 1-10-1919. They were the normally used stamps during that period. After 1-10-1919, the Slovenian stamps were used (see too Dr. Lajušić).

On 15-3-1921 the overprinted stamps of Beltinci and Dobrovnik were affirmed as official.



Figure 6: Beltinci 29-9-1919. The Preko/murje/SHS stamps are now being used.

The Pártosfalva (= Proszenjakov) issue

On 27-12-1918 Capt. Juršić crossed the River Mura and occupied Murska Sobota and Lendava and then on 3-1-1919 the Hungarians recovered this area. Count Matzenauer overprinted Hungarian stamps with “H” (= Hrvatska) and these stamps were accepted at the office of Pártosfalva. The Hungarians forbade the use of these stamps. Use of these stamps was only possible between 27-12-1918 and 3-1-1919. To date, the earliest known use on a postal piece is 1-1-1919. Thus in principle only 3 days use was possible. Letters dated after 3-1-1919 are creations.

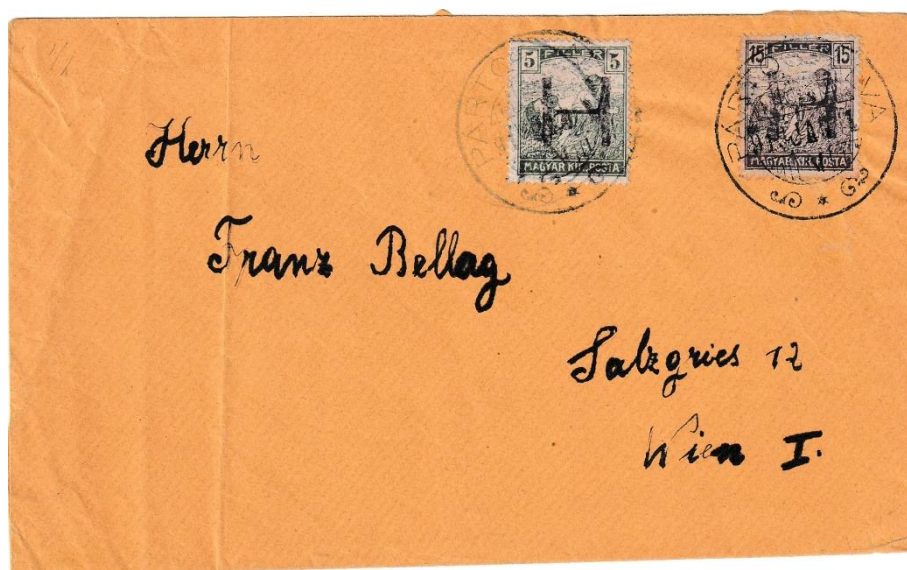


Figure 7: Pártosfalva 1-1-1919. Letter franked in the correct period. First day of use.

Additional services and other special marks on SHS parcel cards, 1919 – 22: Part 2a – value letters, Bosnia

by Vid Žiberna

Introduction

The SHS parcel cards from the period 1919 – 22 covered in this article are widely accessible on the market. However, given the absence in the literature of a typological classification of the stickers, handmade stamps and other special marks that appear on them, the average collector tends to focus on the chronological (date-based) collection of postmarks on parcel cards and any rare frankings (e.g. ordinary postage stamps used as postage due provisional stamps, bisects, mass frankings, rare postage due stamps such as the so-called turquoise stamps.) The story is the same as with stamps; what is not catalogued does not interest collectors as they do not have a basis for systematic classification.

In fact, however, these additional stickers/marks and handmade stamps on parcel cards, like W, V, B, E, M, SP, A, Dringend, T, U, Sperrgut, Express, prevoz dovoljen, AUSGEFOLGT LAGERZINS, utánvétél pouzeče and Ret, offer significant aspects for collection. In this article, I am going to deal with the stickers with the letter “W”, “V” or double “WW” vertically one over the other. I will deal with other services denoted with these additional stickers/marks and handmade stamps in future articles.

The Sticker “B” – supplement to Part 1 of this series of articles (JP 139)

Right after finishing my first article, I was lucky to receive two very interesting items dealing with the “B” service (‘Beutelstück’ in German / ‘vrečnik’ in archaic Slovenian.). See Figures 1 and 2.

Scarcity of the cards shown in Figures 1 and 2

In terms of scarcity, I use a scale of 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum). A handwritten letter B + vrečnik would be ranked 5 (I haven’t seen another one) and the early date is also very scarce – could be another 5.

The Stickers “W”, “V” and “WW”

The sticker “V” means (French valeur déclarée) and the sticker “W” (with a bigger or smaller part of the ornament) or “WW” with one W over another vertically (Wert in German). Stickers with the letters V and W were obligatorily applied on all value packets, meaning packets with the declared value over 600 Kronen (later 150 dinar) and packets including cash, valuables, gold and silver items, which were not declared with the letter B.

Laibach 1 4520

POST BEGLEITADRESSE
POSTNA SPREMNICA

Vrsta: *Knjige* Inhalt: *Knjige* Vsebina: *Knjige* Wert: *50* K. h.

An: *Gospodična Minka Sodja*
Za: *Cesnjica 44*
in: *Srednja vas*
v: *Bohinju*

Straße, Hausnummer
Ulica, hišna številka
Letzte Post (Land)
Zadnja pošta (dežela)

Die stark unruhigten Teile sind vom Absender auszufüllen
Debelo obrobjene dele izpolni odposiljatelj

Gewicht: *700* kg Postleitvermerk
Teža: *700* kg Poštomerk poštne odpravne smeri

Summe: *20* K. h.

Abgabenummer: *175* Oddajna številka

Abgabestempel: *9 19* Oddajni pečat

Bestellvermerk: *175* Dostavni zažnamek

Vorne bezeichnete Sendung erhalten
Spređaj označeno pošiljatev prejel

Ort: *Cesnjica* (den) *9.1* 19*19*
Kraj: *Cesnjica* (dne) *9.1* 19*19*

Name: *Minka Sodja*
Ime: *Minka Sodja*

38 CA

Označenje po (paket, zaboj, vreča): *perilo* Vrednost: *perilo*

Prejemnik: *Francis Pinter*
I. četa. II. rantonir
golo bati
Brčka
Borna

Teža: *800* kg *1 knjiga a 1 din*
4 knjiga a 15 par
4 knjiga

Svota: *4 knjiga*

brez dostavnine (vračilo)

Izdajna številka: *6.18.20* Izdajni pečat: *6.18.20* Dostavni zažnamek: *6.18.20*

Spređaj označeno pošiljatev prejel

Brčka dne *7.1.1919*
Francis Pinter
Brčka

Figure 1: a bilingual mixed franking Austrian parcel card from Laibach (Slovenia) to Srednja vas v Bohinju (Slovenia), weight 0.4 kg, value: 50 Kronas. Content: books, very early date: 8 January 1919.

Figure 2: a Slovenian parcel card from Slivnica pri Mariboru (Slovenia) to a soldier in Brčko (Bosnia), weight: 0.8 kg, value: not declared, content: laundry, handwritten B + vrečnik + handwritten remark: vrečnik, brez dostavnine (Beutelstück, free from delivery fee). In the absence of a printed sticker, the postal employee used a postal cancel on the self-adhesive sticker.

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Figure 3: a bilingual Austrian parcel card from Sarajevo (Bosnia) to Travnik (Bosnia), weight: 8,5 kg, value: 5000 kr, content: stockings. Paid in cash. More about AUSGEFOLGT LAGERZINS in a future article.



Figure 4: a bilingual Austrian parcel card from Sarajevo (Bosnia) to Beograd (Serbia), weight: 16 kg, value: 4000 kr, content: handmade material.



Figure 5: a bilingual Austrian parcel card from Gabela (Bosnia) to Zagreb (Croatia), weight: 2.9 kg, value: 2000 Krones, content: not described, handwritten B + W due to the high value. The card was sent with poste restante service and should not have been delivered as Beutelstück as it was over 1 kg.



Figure 6: a bilingual Austrian parcel card with mixed franking from Doboj (Bosnia) to Zagreb (Croatia), weight: 10.5 kg, value: 800 Krones, content: bag of walnuts.



Figure 7: a bilingual Austrian mixed franking parcel card from Han Compagnie - Vitez (Bosnia) to Osijek (Croatia), weight: 3.03 kg, value: 40.000 Kronen, content: paper money. Porto stamps used as franko stamps.



Figure 8: a bilingual Austrian parcel card from Livno (Bosnia) to Visoko (Bosnia), weight: 0.7 kg, value: only 160 Kronen, content: sinews, stickers B + W due to the high value. The card was sent to Mr. Kokoruz without postal address (street).



Figure 11: a bilingual Austrian mixed franking parcel card from Sarajevo (Bosnia) to Brčko (Bosnia), weight: 19.2 kg, value: only 2500 Krones, content: cotton. A huge package.



Figure 12: a bilingual Austrian reimbursement parcel card with mixed franking from Mostar (Herzegovina) to Zagreb (Croatia), weight: 0.5 kg, value: 660 Krones, content: not described, additional sticker B due to the small package.



Figure 13: a bilingual Austrian reimbursement parcel card with mixed franking from Sarajevo (Bosnia) to Višegrad (Bosnia), weight: 3.8 kg, value: 800 Krones, content: cigarette paper. Paid in cash.



Figure 14: a bilingual Austrian reimbursement parcel card with mixed franking from Varcar Vakuf (Bosnia) to Kupres (Bosnia), weight: 3.5 kg, value: 1300 Krones, content: dough. Handwritten W.

Scarcity

Mixed franking on SHS parcel cards is very common, of course there are some exceptions. The same goes for porto stamps used as franco in Sarajevo (Bosnia).

“In terms of Scarcity, I use a scale of 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum). The average parcel card with the letter V or W would be ranked 1; the cards with additional letter B would be ranked 3; the cards with additional letter T would be ranked 4. A hand written letter V or W would be ranked 3.”

Conclusion

Basically, the stickers with the letter W or WW were used in Bosnia, Carinthia, Dalmatia, Montenegro and Slovenia and the stickers with letter V in Bosnia, Croatia and Vojvodina, other examples are not familiar to me. If anybody knows of any other combinations, please let me know as I am very interested.

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.

Sources:

Collection Vid Žibera (all images).

Uradni listi poštne in brzojavne ravnateljstva za slovensko ozemlje (1919).

Uradni listi poštne in brzojavne ravnateljstva za slovensko ozemlje (1920).

Uradni listi poštne in brzojavne ravnateljstva za slovensko ozemlje (1921).

Wolf, Anton (1928) – Pravilniki in navodila za izvrševanje poštne službe v Kraljevini Srbov, Hrvatov in Slovencev, Ljubljana.

Žibera, Vid (2021): Additional services and other special marks on SHS parcel cards, 1919-22 – part 1. Jugopošta, no. 139, pp 5 – 19.

Part 2b of this article will follow.

Joint Societies Meeting

Saturday 13th August 2022

at

**The Brown Cow, Whitkirk, Leeds,
LS15 7AY**

details from

**Yvonne Wheatley
whyareuu@outlook.com**

Yugoslavia Study Group

are holding a Zoom meeting on

**Tuesday 4th October at 18:00 hours,
UK time**

**Please register your interest with
Nick Coverdale on
nick@rhubarb1.ndonet.com**

**Offers of presentations please
which should be planned to last for
no more than around 10 minutes**

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the first set of stamps in independent Slovenia

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

On December 26, 1991, the first set of stamps was issued in independent Slovenia. Of course, these were not the first Slovenian stamps: the championship goes to "Verigars", where after the end of the First World War on January 3, 1919, the values of 10 and 20 vinar were first issued. Furthermore, we must not forget the stamps that were issued for Slovenia and were used for a short time immediately after the end of the Second World War, namely the overprinted German and Hungarian stamps and also reprinted stamps of the former Ljubljana region (*Provinz Laibach*). Especially the last three are often forgotten when the word is used to mention Slovenian issues.

On that day in 1991, 4 stamps with the image of the coat of arms on a hatched background were issued, namely for 1 Slt (tolar, the abbreviation Sit for tolar was introduced only in mid-1992), 4 Slt (for postcards and postcards in domestic traffic), 5 Slt (for first weight letters in domestic traffic) and 11 Slt (for first weight letters in international traffic). The printing was 4 million stamps for 1 Slt, 5.5 million for 4 and 5 Slt and 2 million for 11 Slt.

The stamps were printed by the Delo printing house in Ljubljana, and the line perforation is 14.

These stamps are classified as definitives, although they should actually be classified as commemoratives. Namely, they were published on the anniversary of the announcement of the results of the plebiscite, at which almost all Slovenes and other residents of Slovenia decided to follow an independent path into the future.

We were especially happy about the Slovenian philatelists, as well as others. I remember standing in lines in front of the post office on Cigaletova street in Ljubljana on the day of the issue, which was also a holiday, to get these stamps on letters and then the letters travelled not only in Slovenia but all over the world. Shortly after the issue of these stamps, one of my correspondents from the UK (now sadly already 20 years deceased) wrote to me that I was certainly proud to be able to frank the letters with the stamps of the new country. Yes, I was.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) with plate numbers and "mice" above them; collecting plate numbers quickly became very popular. Plate numbers located in the fourth or fifth (last) row at the edges (some on the left, others on the right) are the following for individual values:

Face value (Slt)	Left	Right
1	2.4	1.3
4	2,3,4,5	1.6
5	2.4	1,3,5,6
11	-	1.2

When these stamps were issued, the post office issued a prospectus and a first day cover, and Maximum cards were also made privately, which are displayed in the pictures below.



Figure 1: Prospectus with stamps and first day cancellation



Figure 2: First day cover with commemorative stamps



Figure 3: Set of Maximum cards

There are 2 types of stamps: I and II, which differ in hatching to the left of the coat of arms, above the first letter T in the PTT. Type II, which was "discovered" only many years after the issuing of these stamps, is much rarer than Type I. It appears only in Pos. 19 in sheets with the right "mouse" and plate number.



Figure 4: Type I (right) and II (left)

Varieties of printing and perforation

There are quite a few varieties known in this issue, both in printing and perforation. Details can be seen from the "Slovenika" catalogue, and we will show some of the most important and / or rarest ones below. We will mention only those that were sold at the post office and were also in

regular (albeit sometimes philatelically-inspired) postal traffic, but we will not mention those that came into the hands of collectors from the printing house on other, perhaps not the most legitimate, routes.

Printing varieties

There are a number of various minor flaws - dots, dashes, background colour shades of the coat of arms and the like, and some more important ones, including a missing colour - known only for the 1 Slt stamp - and two of which I show below.



Figure 5: White stars in the coat of arms, instead of yellow, left mark



Gent. Signora
 Ceruti Graziella
 c/o INTERPHILA S.A.,
 Via Emilio Bossi 29
 CH-6830 CHIASSO
 Svizzera

Figure 6: Stamp of 1 Slt without red (border of the coat of arms) and yellow (white stars), together with other values of this set on a travelled letter to Switzerland. The incoming Chiasso postmark on the back. The rarest variety of the set.



Figure 7: Open "O" in the word DELO (11th stamp in the sheet, part of printing), both times on the left stamp



Figure 8: White line to the right of the coat of arms (19th stamp in the sheet, part of the printing), next to the left stamp

Varieties of perforation

These include fully or partially imperforated stamps, double or multiple and so-called "mouse" perforation.



Figure 9: Horizontally imperforated stamps for 1 Slt from the top and bottom edge of the sheet

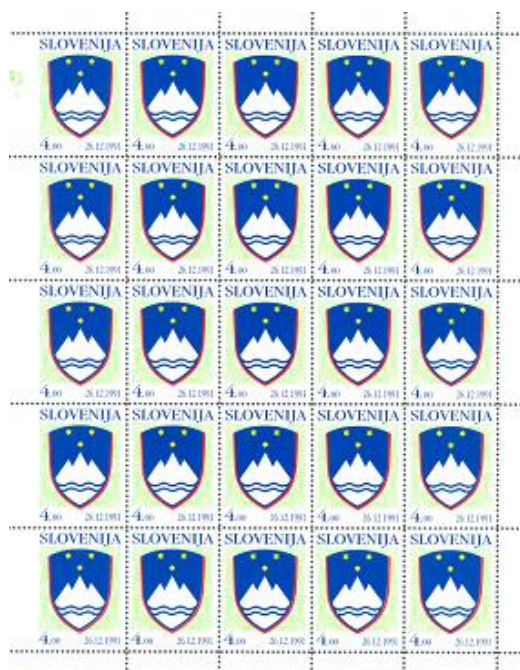


Figure 10: Sheet 4 Slt with edge number 5 and imperforate left edge

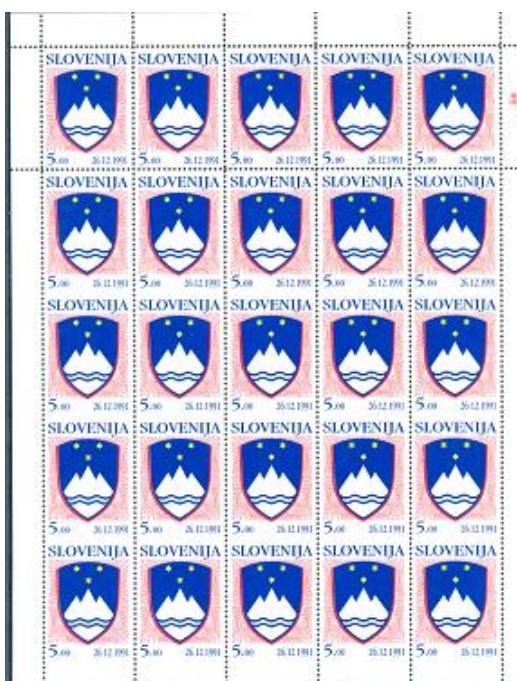


Figure 11: Plate number 3 for 5 Slt, mostly horizontally imperforate

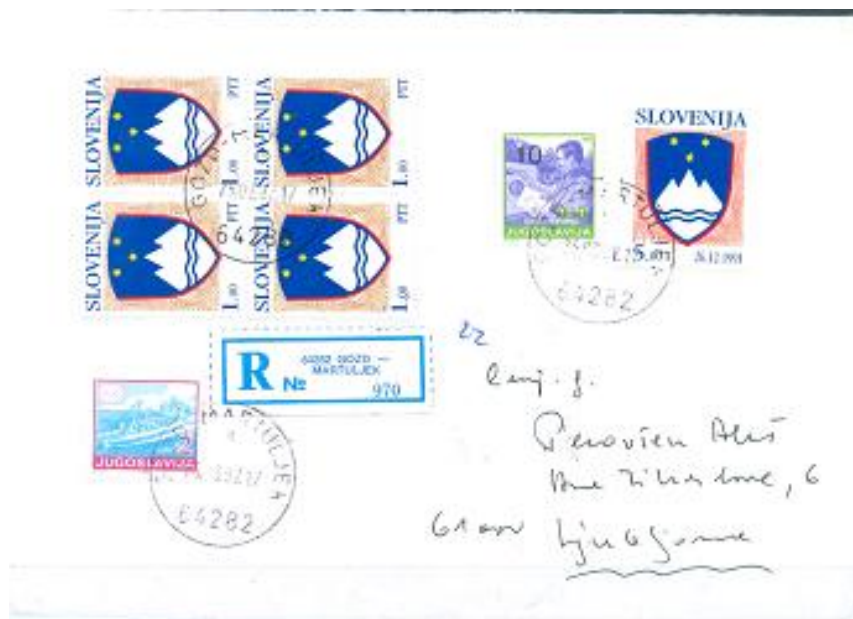


Figure 12: Registered letter from Gozd-Martuljek to Ljubljana, correct mixed franking with Yugoslav stamps (use of Yugoslav stamps was possible until 25 April 1992), Ljubljana arrival cancellation. Stamp of 5 Slt vertically imperforate, left also torn off.



Figure 13: Ten 5 Slt stamps from the bottom edge of the sheet, bottom row double, top “mouse” perforation.



Figure 14: Partially imperforated stamps for 11 Slt. Single stamp from the right edge of the sheet, vertically imperforate, the first pair of stamps from the lower edge of the sheet in the middle imperforate, other stamps normally perforated.

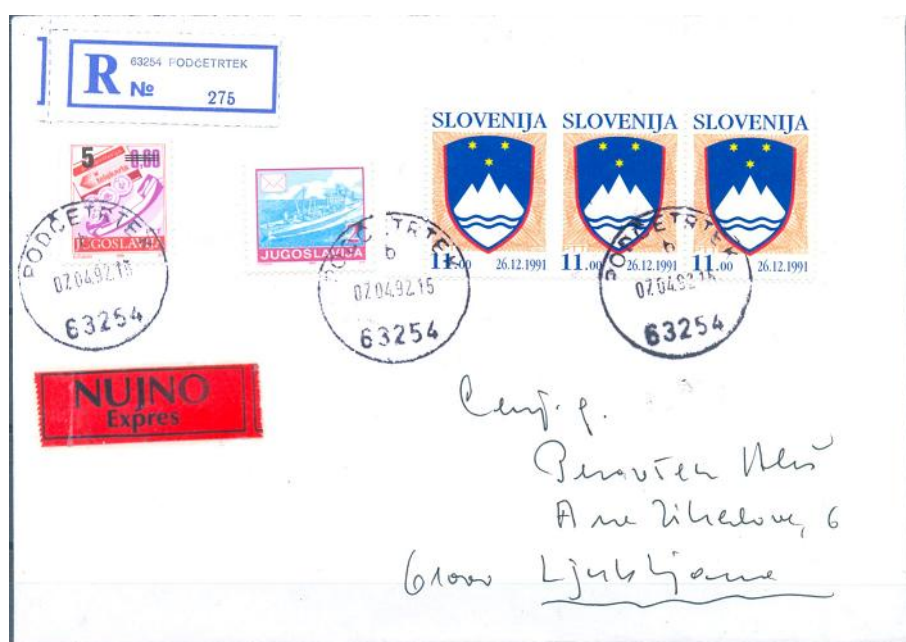


Figure 15: Express registered letter from Podčetrtek to Ljubljana, correct mixed franking with Yugoslav stamps, Ljubljana arrival cancellation. A pair of 11 Slt stamps in the middle imperforate.

Conclusion

The issue of stamps with the motif of the coat of arms, but this time without a date, continued in 1992, when several stamps were issued with a face value of 1 to 100 Slt or Sit. There are many varieties of both printing and perforation in this issue as well, but their treatment goes beyond the scope of this article.

References

1. Velikanje, catalogue "Slovenika", Ljubljana 2011
2. Own collection

Kurirska pošta (Courier's post)

by Milan Radovanović

During the first two years of the Great War, the exchange of messages between Serbian military units on the battlefield took place using the so-called “courier mail”. This correspondence was made using specially printed covers and, given the nature of the message and the need for it to be delivered quickly, it was not in normal postal traffic.

The official forms for courier mail consisted of two parts: the cover and the sheet provided for the message.

This post is very rare, especially if it is considered as a pair – a cover and a sheet. The question remains as to whether these messages were destroyed or not. There are no censorship stamps used for this post, which is understandable. Based on a modest collection, as well as copies obtained courtesy of Mr. V. Micevski, it can be noticed that there are at least five types based on analysis of the form covers, which differ in the types of letters (fonts) used and partly in the text.

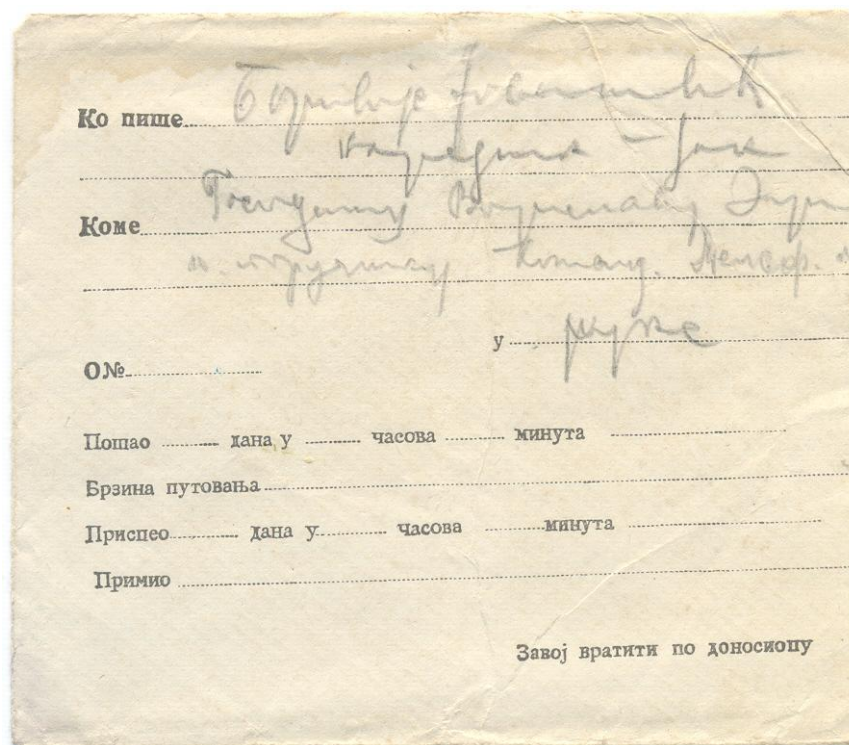


Figure 1: cover without written information over time

On the type I forms (Figure 1) – cover, there is the following printed text:

Who writes ...

To whom ... in ...

Ono

Went ... days at hours ... minutes

Travel speed

Arrived days at hours minutes

Received

Return the cover by the courier

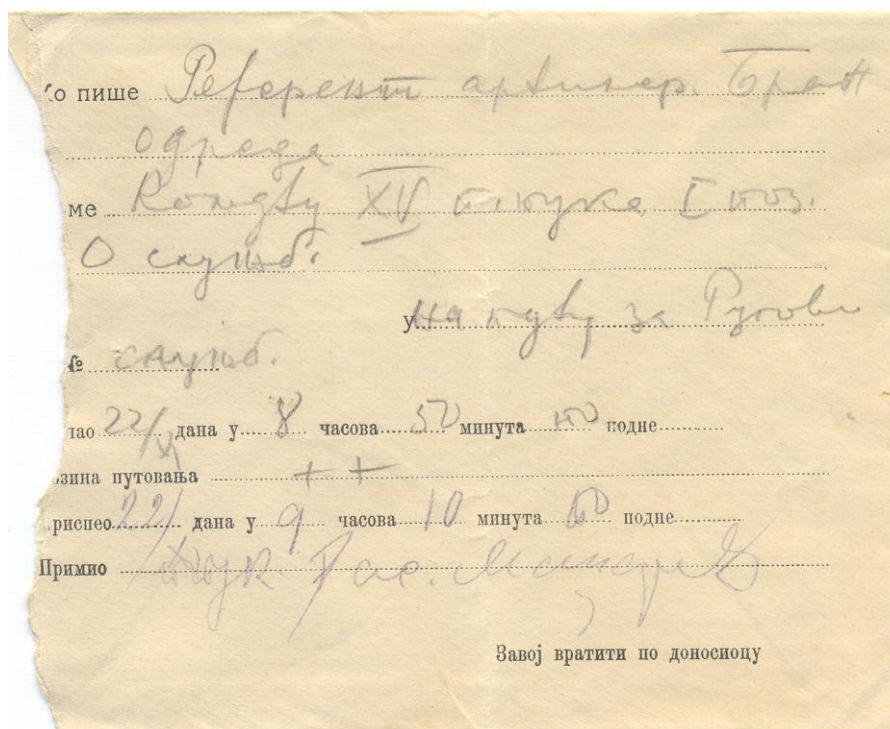


Figure 2: Cover with written information over time

All observed types of courier mail forms are shown in Figure 3 (next page) using the sections on the left side of the courier covers. In types II, IV and V, in addition to the text mentioned in Type I, there is an additional one where, after the word “minute”, there is also “noon” (in the fourth and sixth lines on the cover.) Also, in type III, instead of “Ono” it says “OBr” (the same meaning as “Ono” but in the Serbian language. The dimensions of these covers are as follows – 112 x 97 (type I), 112 x 95.5 (type II), 118 x 93 (type III), 120 x 97 (type IV) and 120 x 97 (type V) – all dimensions given in mm.

Most of the considered covers have no content i.e. sheet provided for the message. The sheet provided for the message contains the text with the following content (Figure 4):

Who writes ...

From where

To whom ...

Where

Number ... | day | hour | minute | noon

An example of courier mail, in compliance with the regulations, is given in Figure 5.

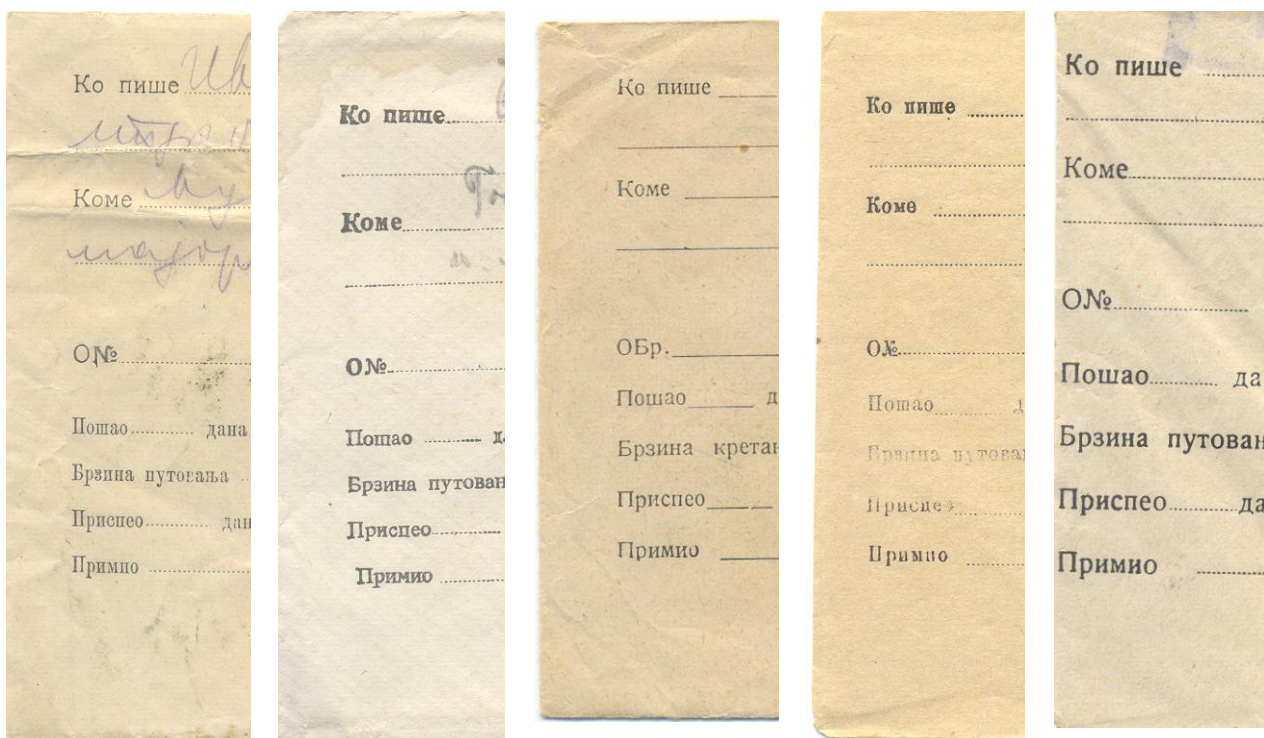


Figure 3: sections of the left sides of the courier covers used in the period 1914 – 1915

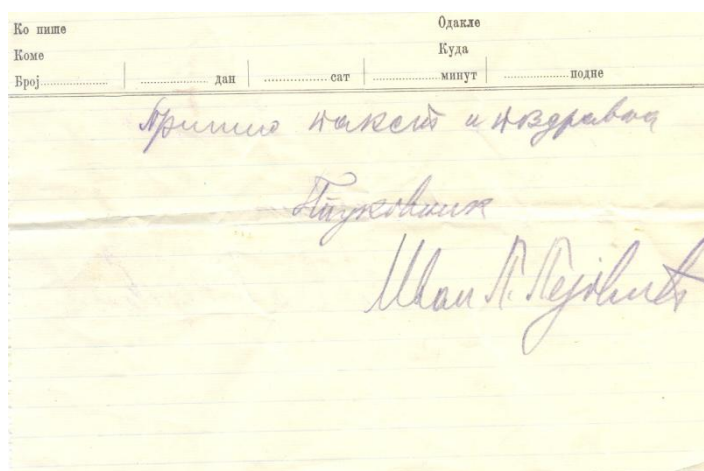


Figure 4: sheet provided for the message

Instead of the standard (and described) sheet provided for the message, a simple piece of paper is often used, but which fully reflects the function of this mail, so only one example listed integrally is given here, as follows:

Front side of sheet:

22. XI

Mr. Colonel,

The situation in front of Peja is such that it is necessary to get out of the straits as soon as possible. Therefore, the Commander ordered that the military column should move immediately and as soon as possible. ... Please use all your energy to move the column as soon as possible.

Colonel V J Belic

Reverse side of this sheet:

22. 11. 1915, 8.40 h. (Afternoon)

At the Patriarchate

To the commander of the 15th regiment of the 1st call

Please read the following statement of the Chief of Staff Branichevo. As you have nothing to do with your commander, who is to blame for this congestion, I ask you to receive the following order from me, as the oldest here:

Immediately appoint an officer (preferably a senior one) who will use all means to establish a regular possible passage in the strait, so you enter immediately with your regiment and I will follow you. As soon as you enter the strait, let me know. I will also come there to visit the work of that officer.

Art. Colonel

V. Ž. Milojevich

It is obvious that according to the date (22 November 1915) and the content of this message in this courier post, it is about the withdrawal of the Serbian army from Serbia towards Albania and Montenegro. The times on the cover also show that this is really realised mail.

Departed 22.XI at 8 hours 50 minutes in the afternoon and arrived on 22 November at 9:10 pm.

A special curiosity is the fact that the envelopes provided for the courier mail were used for private correspondence. The following figures (5 and 6) give examples of this method of use. In such cases, which were apparently tolerated, the mail was stamped with military postage stamps (Figure 5) or stamped with normal postage stamps (Figure 6). As such, it was subject to military censorship.

As can be seen in Figure 5, the envelope intended for courier mail was used as a cover of an ordinary (MILITARY) letter, stamped with a stamp from the Balkan wars "MILITARY POST: SUPREME COMMAND" (23.X.1914) and manuscript censored with V(ideo – seen in Serbian) in blue. Additionally, in the lower left corner is "video, B. Krstić, pharmacist". Figure 6 shows an envelope intended for courier mail, which can also be seen from the inscription "Military Letter". This envelope is stamped at departure with the Vrnjci postage stamp (3.11.14) and at arrival with the Belgrade stamp (8.11.14) on the back of the envelope. Weak but visible initials of the censor in black pencil are present. The part of the text in the content of the letter is also nice and reads: "please buy me a fashionable cap with a cockade N. 54, because part of my cap

was taken away by a piece of grenade, so now I'm wearing a simple nail clipper." The letter was sent by the cavalry captain M. Stojanović, the Headquarters of the Šumadija Division, II call, Užice.

Ко пише *Гр. Меш. Гаспаровић, писар. каже да је I ка*
мичар I прв. доносица Морав. Див. I. Див.
 Ко ме *Гр. Павлу Бајић, окр.*
Белушцу, за писару,
 Оне *В. А.* у *Крушевцу*

Пошао..... дана у..... часова..... минута..... подне.....
 Брзина путовања.....
 Приспео..... дана у..... часова..... минута..... подне.....
 Примео.....
Б. Ресет
аполика

Завој вратити по доносиоцу

Figure 5

Ко пише *Косовица Вајсман М. А. Гр. Меш.*
 Ко ме *Томислав Грам. М. А. Гр. Меш.*
Баба М. А. Гр. Меш.
 Оне..... у.....
 Пошао..... дана у..... часова..... минута..... подне.....
 Брзина путовања.....
 Приспео..... дана у..... часова..... минута..... подне.....
 Примео.....
Б. Ресет
аполика

Завој вратити по доносиоцу

Figure 6

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