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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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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 club 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

Membership fees

Please note that membership fees for 2023 are now due.

I'm happy to report that I'm able to minimise the impact of rises, and potential rises, in printing and postage costs in our fee structure for 2023.

For members who receive paper copies of our journal there is **no increase** in subscription fees for members in the UK and only a **small increase** of £2 per year for overseas members.

For members who chose to receive their copies of our journal electronically, there's even better news! I'm very happy to report that the cost of this form of membership **is being reduced for 2023!** Electronic membership used to be £10 annually, but for 2023 is being **reduced** to just £8.

I hope that you will want to continue to be a member of the Yugoslavia Study Group. Your prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

Details for making payment are shown on the inside front cover of this edition of the journal.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dave Foster (Treasurer and Membership Secretary.)

From the Editor

Once again, my apologies for the late delivery of Jugopošta but that is due to the medical treatment I have been receiving. This may be an issue for the March edition as well.

I am grateful to those of you that provided articles for this edition. As a consequence, I have 2 short articles I have had to hold over to the March edition so I am only just ahead of the game so it goes without saying that I need the articles to keep flowing.

Don't forget the YSG Zoom meeting on Tuesday 17 January at 18:00 UK time (see advertisement).

Which stamps are valid where and when in the SHS, 1918 – 1921: Part 3

by Henk Buitenkamp AEP NAF

3 Bosnia-Herzegovina

The K.und K. stamps of Bosnia-Herzegovina could be used until 15 December 1918; until 30-12-1918 it was possible to change these old stamps for the new overprinted stamps.

There was one exception:

The old postal stationery stayed valid, for there were not enough new overprinted cards. To make the new rate (10 Helera until 1-7-1919) the old K.und K. 2 Heller was used. These cards were accepted (mostly) until February 1919 (later dates are known) (**See:** Naredba od 26 novembra 1918 broj 256.942/IV-3; Sarajevo).

The Bosnian stamps were used until 15-4-1921 and could be bought only in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Bosnian stamps were accepted in Croatia too (see Figure 14 in JP143).

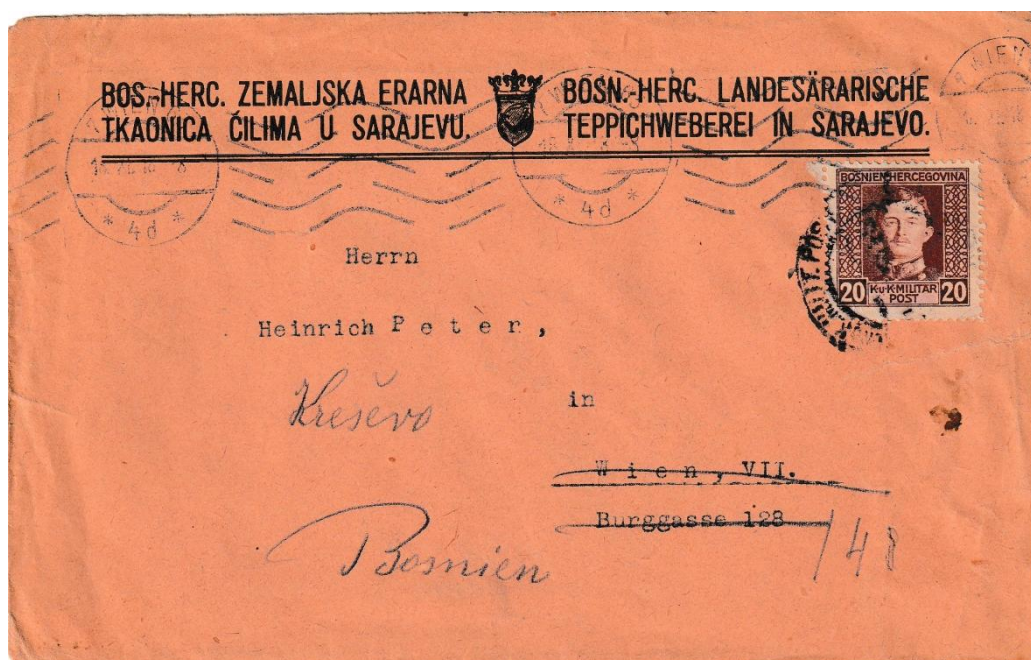


Figure 17: letter (November 1918) with an old K.und K. stamp. Correctly franked with 20 Hel. for mail to Austria. The letter has been re-addressed and sent to Kreševo. Letters with stamps of this issue are very rare.

Serbian stamps were accepted for franking in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but were officially not valid in this part of the SHS. They could not be bought in Croatia. The parity: in December 1918 the parity already was 1 Para = 3 Vinar (introduced to the post 1-7-1919). (**See:** Ministarsko Financija br.44060 dd. 5-7-1919). On 31-12-1919 the parity changed: 1 Para = 4 Vinar/Helera/Filira, but this was not introduced into the post earlier than 16-5-1920.



Figure 18: postcard sent from Mostar (22-12-1919) to Stari Vrbas. The card is franked with a 5 Para stamp of Serbia; officially not valid outside Serbia, but accepted. 1 Para = 3 Helera – the card is correctly franked with 15 Helera. Only a few cards are known.

Note: in the same Naredba of 26 November 1918 it is written that there **shall be issued new Bosnian stamps**. Is the date in the Michel catalogue – 11 November 1918 – correct?? In some Yugoslavian catalogues the date of issue is written as November/December.

4 Serbia

In the mainland of Serbia (also without Banat and Bačka) and in Montenegro (affiliated to Serbia from 26-11-1918) only Serbian stamps were valid without (in principle) any exception. This is affirmed by order of the Postal Ministry of Serbia Nr. 3578 dd. 1-2-1921.

The use of Serbian stamps in Serbian occupied/annexed areas was forbidden.

Postal pieces franked with Serbian stamps are known in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Slovenia (see Figure 18). The Serbian stamps could only be bought in Serbia and Montenegro.

The tariffs are the Serbian ones and they are not always exactly the same as in the SHS.

4.1 Banat

From 13-11-1918, Serbia occupied a large part of the Banat. Official to Serbia 25-11-1918. On 27-7-1919 an agreement was made between Serbia and Romania for the dividing of the Banat. The eastern part went to Romania – including the town of Temesvár – and the western part stayed as part of Serbia. From 4-6-1920 that was an official part of the SHS. I don't know of post with Slovenian stamps in the eastern part of the Banat but it is possible. In the western part of the Banat, Hungarian stamps were valid until 15-3-1920. Slovenian stamps were used in this area too and could be bought at post offices. Serbian stamps were forbidden.

The Hungarian tariffs were in use until (1?)-7-1919; this area then had its own tariffs until 16-5-1920 and after that date the SHS tariffs had to be used.

The Temesvár postal direction (for the whole Banat) issued two (overprinted) local issues: 15-5-1919 and 1-7-1919; partly for the new Banat tariffs. These stamps were in use from 15-5-1919 but were not obtainable at all post offices in the Banat and, if obtainable, only in small quantities. The Temesvár stamps were withdrawn on 15-3-1920.



Figure 19: commercial letter from a firm to the consulate of Switzerland in Beograd. From Fehertemplon (= Bela Crkva) 17-12-1919 via Pancsova 18-12-1919 to Beograd 19-12-1919. A “Banat issue” of 20 is used here next to the Hungarian and Slovenian stamp. Letter up to 20 grams 50 + registration 100 (period July 1919/16-5-1920). The only recorded letter with this combination up until now.

4.2 Northern Bács-Bodrog

This area was occupied by Serbia from 15-11-1918 to 18-8-1921. The Hungarian stamps stayed valid but, in the course of time, Slovenian stamps (first issue) were introduced. These stamps were from the occupier and were seen as coming from the enemy. Only when one asked for these stamps were they used. If the Hungarian stamps were used, the Hungarian tariffs were valid and if the SHS stamps were used, the SHS tariffs had to be applied.

We know that the Slovenian stamps could be bought at the post office of Baja. I know of letters/cards with Slovenian stamps from three towns: Mélykút, Baja and Bácsalmás.



Figure 20: card from Mélykút 23-8-1920 to Mohács. Card 15 + registration 20 = 35 Para = 140 Vinar. The only recorded card of Mélykút with Slovenian stamps.

4.3 Bačka

According to the Belgrade Agreement of 13-11-1918 Serbia occupied this area. On 25-11-1918 this area was annexed by Serbia. In the first instance, Hungarian stamps were used; after using up these stamps Slovenian stamps came into use. Until 1-7-1919 Hungarian tariffs were used, after that date, the SHS tariffs. From 15-3-1920 Hungarian stamps and stationery were no longer valid. Only Slovenian stamps could be used until 15-4-1921. Serbian stamps were forbidden. Slovenian stamps could be bought at the post offices in this area.



Figure 21: card from Uj-Videk (= Novi Sad) 27-8-1920 to Zagreb. Franked 60 Vin = 15 Para.

4.4 Srem (Syrmia)

This area was part of Croatia but on 24-11-1918 the Assembly of Syrmia proclaimed the union of the Serb-populated parts with Serbia. At first, Hungarian stamps were used up (Croatian rates until 1-7-1919); after the exhaustion of these stamps Slovenian stamps came into use. These stamps were sold at the post offices of Srem. Serbian stamps were forbidden.



Figure 22: cash-on-delivery money order of Calma to Bischofshofen. Sending money to foreign countries was not allowed at that time. The card was sent back to Calma and paid out/back to the sender. Paid: money 80 + pay-out costs 10 (10 Vin. On the back).

4.5 Romanian Banat Zsombolya

Until the Treaty of Beograd 24-11-1923 the area of Zsombolya was occupied by Serbia. The Serbs were withdrawn not earlier than 1924. Here were used Slovenian and SHS stamps (they could be bought in this town) until 15-4-1921. The tariffs were the same as for the Serbian Banat.



Figure 23(reduced): parcel card from Zsombolya (= Jimbolia now) 6-1-1921 to Sid. Weight 200 + cash-on-delivery 140 + portorage 60 = 400 Para. By using 2 stamps of 15 Vinar this overpaid by 2½ Para (5 Para stamp on the back).

Additional services and other special marks on SHS parcel cards, 1919 – 22: Part 2c – value letters – Montenegro, Slovenia and Vojvodina

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 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.

Montenegro

W 1109 5000 Kotor—Cattaro 1

ZU POSTALE ACCOMPAGNATORIO

Gattung—Vrst—Oggetto: *Robe* Inhalt—Sadržina—Contenuto: *Rubije* Wert—Vrijednost—Valore: *750 K.*

An—Ansp. *Posta* in *Koprivnica*

Straße, Hausnummer *Koprijska ulica*
Ulica, kućni broj
Via, numero di casa

Letzte Post (Land) *Kroatien*
Zadnja pošta (pokr. lna)
Ultima posta (Provincia)

Die stark umrahmten Teile sind vom Absender auszufüllen.
Gewicht *2.8* kg Postleitvermerk *02*

Abgabennummer *1770* Abgabestempel *KOPRIVNICA* Bestellvermerk *C*

Numero di distribuzione Bollo di distribuzione Nota di recapito

Vorne bezeichnete Sendung erhalten
Sprijeda označenu pošiljku primio
Spedizione indicata sul davanti ricevuta

Ort *Koprivnica* Mesto *Koprivnica* Name *Posta*

Figure 30 (reduced): a multilingual Austrian parcel card with mixed franking from Kotor (Montenegro) to Koprivnica (Croatia), weight: 2.8 kg, value: 750 Kronen, content: laundry. Mixed franking with the Croatian issues was not common in Montenegro.

Slovenia

POSTBEGLEIT ADRESSE Marburg a. d. Drau 2 258

Gattung *Wäsche* Inhalt *Wäsche* Wert *1300 K.*

An *Gospod Josip Moravici* in *Zagreb*

Straße, Hausnummer *Lovačka ulica*
Ulica, kućni broj
Via, numero di casa

Letzte Post (Land) *Kroatien*
Zadnja pošta (pokr. lna)
Ultima posta (Provincia)

Die stark umrahmten Teile sind vom Absender auszufüllen.
Gewicht *3* kg Postleitvermerk *02*

Abgabennummer *258* Abgabestempel *ZAGREB* Bestellvermerk *258*

Vorne bezeichnete Sendung erhalten

Ort *Zagreb* den *31/5* 1913 Name *Josip Moravici*

Figure 31 (reduced): an Austrian parcel card from Maribor (Slovenia) to Zagreb (Croatia), weight: 3 kg, value: 1300 Kronen, content: laundry.



Figure 32 (reduced): a Slovenian reimbursement parcel card from Tržič (Slovenia) to Koprivnica (Croatia), weight: 9 kg, value: 1000 Kronen, content: shoes.



Figure 33 (reduced): a Slovenian reimbursement parcel card from Brežice (Slovenia) to Doboj (Bosnia), weight: 1 kg, value: 700 Kronen, content: medicines. The addressee paid a high lodging price of 9.2 Kronen.

Vojvodina



Figure 34 (reduced): a bilingual Hungarian parcel card with mixed franking from Ruma (Vojvodina) to Zagreb (Croatia), weight: 7.5 kg, value: 2000 Kronen, content: laundry, fur.



Figure 35 (reduced): a Slovenian parcel card with mixed franking from Kanjiža (Vojvodina) to Karlovac (Croatia), weight: 15 kg, value: 4800 Kronas, content: feathers. Handwritten “V”.

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.ziberna@gmail.com.

Sources

Collection Vid Žiberna (all images).

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

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

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

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

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

The first issue of the new postage due stamps of the Independent State of Croatia

by Hans-Dieter Engel, Forch near Zurich

In September 1941 the new postage due stamps came to the post counters (Michel No. P 6-10). The series was designed by Prof. Oto Antonini and published by Tipografija d. d. and printed in Zagreb.



Figure 1: the complete series was printed in the colour carmine-lilac

Although the postage due stamps were actually only issued for tax notices and the receipt of parcels, they were occasionally used as a substitute for postage when there were shortages.



Figure 2: letter with correct postage to Germany censored in Vienna by the Wehrmacht High Command cancel: CRIKVENICA – 1. III 43

Most Croatian stamp collectors will know that this postage due series is also available as an imperfect edition from the Ministerial Album.

A separate Ministerial Album was not created for this issue, however these stamps are found in the earliest of the Landscape issue Ministerial Albums.



Figure 3: imperforate set

Horizontally and vertically imperforate specimens are often found as well as printer's waste.



Figure 4: partially imperforate



Figure 5: printer's waste

But very few collectors will know that this series was also made with mirror printing on the same paper with gum.



Figure 6: imperforate mirror print in non-issued colour: carmine-brown



Figure 7 (reduced): these imperforate mirror prints have been printed in the form of a sheetlet in size 8 x 10.3 cm

The postal history of Baja in southern Hungary, 1918 – 1921

by Robert Lauer

Baja, along with the rest of the Bačka, was occupied by the advancing Serbian military forces in late November 1918 in the wake of the November 13, 1918 Belgrade Military Convention, which ended hostilities between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Allies on the southern front. Under the terms of this armistice, Hungarian civil, and therefore postal, administration was to remain in place pending the settlement of the borders in this area through final peace treaties. As a result, Hungarian stamps and postal stationery remained valid. However, by the fall of 1919, stocks of Hungarian stamps were running extremely low and in November/December 1919, the SHS Kingdom postal authorities started to supply post offices in the Serbian occupied Bánát and the Bačka with postage stamps from the Chainbreaker series that was originally issued for Slovenia.¹

The commercial letter illustrated in Figure 1 was sent from Baja, in the northern Bačka, to Ljubljana in Slovenia and cancelled with a Hungarian canceller for Baja on May 26, 1920. The date line in the cancel was still in the Hungarian format of year/month/day, as opposed to the SHS convention of day/month/year. The letter was franked with 1K80 in Slovenian Chainbreaker stamps to comply with the new SHS Kingdom Inland Letter rate that came into effect on May 15, 1920. These new postal rates were denominated in Serbian Dinar/para and were converted into the currencies of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire at an exchange rate of 1 Dinar = 4 Korona. Figure 2 sets out the main SHS Kingdom Inland Postal Rates from October 29, 1918 to April 15, 1921.



Figure 1: the front and the franked portion of the back of a commercial letter sent from Baja to Ljubljana in Slovenia on May 26, 1920. Note that the Hungarian word 'Ajánlott' on the R label is blotted out.

	fillér = vinar		
	29 October 1918 – 30 June 1919	1 July 1919 – 15 May 1920	16 May 1920 – 15 April 1921
Postcards	10f	15f	60f
Letters/Lettercards	20f	30f	1K
+ per 20grm	5f	30f	60f
Printed Matter	5f	10f	20f
Registration	25f	60f	80f
Express	60f	1K	2K40

Figure 2: SHS Kingdom Inland Postal Rates: 29 October 1918 to 15 April 1921 in the currencies of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire

Under the Treaty of Trianon, which was signed on June 4, 1920, between Hungary and the Entente countries, which included the SHS Kingdom, the northernmost 1/6th of Bács-Bodrog county (the area around Baja) was to be returned to Hungary. The date for the implementation of the treaty was set for July 26, 1921. However, the Serbian military dragged its heels on withdrawing its forces from those parts of Baranya and the Bačka which were to be returned to Hungary under the treaty. When they finally withdrew on August 14, 1921, they supported the local Serbian community in the proclamation of the Serbian-Hungarian Republic of Baranya-Baja, which was a last ditch effort to maintain control of the area despite the terms of the Treaty of Trianon. This local regime, which was recognized by no other country, collapsed on August 20, 1921 and Hungary reasserted its control over the area (see Figure 3).



Figure 3: Southern Hungary: 1920 – 21 (Source: Wikipedia Commons)

Baja is unique among the towns in Southern Hungary that were occupied by the Serbian army and returned to Hungary under the Treaty of Trianon, in the sense that it was the only one for which the SHS postal authorities manufactured new SHS Kingdom cancellers, which had the

town name in both Cyrillic and Latin lettering. A strike from one of these cancellers (#7) on two Slovenian newspaper stamps from June 2, 1921 is illustrated in Figure 4. The earliest example of the use of one of these cancellers, that I am aware of, is illustrated in Tønnes Ore's YSG Monograph #4 on the Bánát and Bačka. He illustrates two strikes on the back of a postal card from cancellers #6 on April 3, 1921 and #10 on April 9, 1921. This means that the SHS postal authorities manufactured at least 10 of these new cancellers for Baja.



Figure 4: a strike from one of the new biliteral Cyrillic/Latin SHS Kingdom cancellers for Baja (eBay lot offered by krk966)

Given that the cover in Figure 1 was cancelled by an old Hungarian canceller on May 26, 1920, less than two weeks before the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, I think it is reasonable to assume that the new SHS cancellers for Baja were introduced after the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, when the SHS postal authorities knew that the area was supposed to be returned to Hungary under the treaty. The earliest uses of these new biliteral SHS cancellers in other towns of the Bánát and Bačka, that I am aware of, are in Subotica (Szabadka) on March 2, 1921 (a parcel card in my collection) and Vršac (Versecz) on April 10, 1921 (a partial strike on a loose SHS postage due stamp). Tønnes Ore also illustrates a postage due cover cancelled in Veliki Bečkerek (Nagy Becskerek) in early April 1921 in his Monograph. All of these strikes would seem to indicate that these new biliteral SHS cancellers were introduced into the Bánát and Bačka in the spring of 1921 – three quarters of a year after the signing of the Treaty of Trianon. It is not very difficult to see this as early evidence that the SHS Kingdom somehow intended to stick around in Baja in spite of the terms of the Treaty of Trianon.

After Hungarian sovereignty was reasserted in August 1921, these biliteral SHS Kingdom cancellers continued to be used, initially with just the date line rearranged from the standard SHS format of day/month/year to the Hungarian format of year/month/day. Figure 5 illustrates a card sent from Baja to Pécs on September 22, 1921. The sender's dating of the card on the back confirms that the date line in the canceller has been rearranged to Hungarian format. (The addressee is Gyula Miertl, the renowned expert on the occupation issues of Baranya.)



Figure 5: an uprated Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Baja to Pécs on September 22, 1921 cancelled with a biliteral SHS canceller for the town. The 60f postage paid the then current Hungarian domestic postcard rate (from the collection of Csaba Kohalmi).



Figure 6: a strike from an SHS canceller for Baja with the Cyrillic lettering removed and the date line changed to the Hungarian format (from the collection of Csaba Kohalmi).

Eventually, the Hungarian post office workers gouged-out the Cyrillic letters from the top of at least some of these SHS cancellers. Figure 6 illustrates a strike from canceller #7 on January 10, 1922, with the Cyrillic lettering removed and the date line rearranged to the Hungarian format. Tønnes Ore also illustrates a number of strikes from canceller #4 on December 19, 1921 with both the Cyrillic lettering removed and the date line rearranged to the Hungarian format.

Note: Zdene Skok, in his exhibit on Exponet “Slovenian Issues from 1919 to 1929 in Mixed Frankings”, illustrates a number of early usages of SHS Kingdom Chainbreaker stamps in the Bánát and Báčka in late

1919: November 3 (Bácsföldvár), November 23 (Karlova), December 18 (Hódság), December 19 (Zombor), December 26 (Újvidék) December 27 (Bajmok) and December 31 (Mélykút).

References:

Csaba L. Kohalmi, "Legacy of the ... Serbian-Hungarian Republic of Baranya-Baja", *The News of Hungarian Philately*, July-September 2011 (Vol.42, #3)

Tønnes Ore, "Bánát and Bácska", *Jugopošta*, #77 (March 2006), Yugoslavia Study Group Monograph #4

Zdene Skok, "Slovenian Issues from 1919 to 1929 in Mixed Frankings", *Exponet*

"Treaty of Trianon", *Wikipedia*

Yugoslavia Study Group

are holding a Zoom meeting on

Tuesday 17 January 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 ten minutes

The first issue of the stamps of Bosnia and Herzegovina

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

According to the decision of the Berlin Congress of July 13, 1878, Austria-Hungary occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had been under Turkish rule since 1463, when it was occupied by Sultan Muhammad II, until the end of August of the same year.

Shortly after the occupation of the country, which formally belonged to Turkey until the annexation in 1908, preparations began to issue its own stamps. The first stamps with an eagle motif in the frame and with a value in an oval diagonally on the left and right sides above were issued in 1879 (for 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15- these exist in two types - and 25 kreuzer (in further text: kr) in the lithography. They were printed in this technique until 1893, when the value for 20 kr was issued as the last one, and 1894, when the value for ½ kr was issued. Later, stamps with the same motif were issued in the typography, after the currency reform in the whole of Austria-Hungary (January 1, 1900), when gulden and kreuzers were replaced by crowns and hellers and stamps, also with the same motif, issued in this new currency.



Figure 1 (above) shows a complete mint set of first stamps; all stamps are perforated 10 ½. The stamps are from the author's collection, which also applies to all other displayed philatelic material.



Figure 2 (previous page) shows both types of stamps for 15 kr. They differ in the thickness of the number 15, especially the 1, in that it is thicker in the first type and with a shorter tail than in type 2, where it is thinner and the tail is also at a sharper angle.

For the first issue we have a nice range of colours, perforations and varieties on most values. Most of these "philatelic" variables will be shown below.

Differences of individual issues

Stamps were printed in three issues or plates: one in lithography and two in typography. All values were printed in the first (lithography) and second plate (typography), and in the third, also in typography, only the value for 5 kr.

Literature mentions several differences between the plates.

In general, lithographic stamps are more beautifully made and the details are more visible than on typography stamps. Of course, this observation does not only apply to the issue in question; for example, the same values of "Chainbreakers" are printed in both printing techniques as a good proof for the previous conclusion.

From my own experience, the easiest way to distinguish plates is as follows:

- The first plate has three white slanting eagles in the coat of arms on the right, in which there are no lines.
- The second plate has in the bottom (and sometimes also partially in the second eagle) an oblique line in the colour of the stamp.
- The third plate, however, has the eagles like the first one, but the tail of the eagle does not touch the lower thinner oval line as in the first two.

The above applies to all values, except for the ½ kr and 3 kr in the - rare - "flaschengruen" (literally bottle green) colour, where the differences are in the position of the dots (free or joined) in the notch of the left in the first case and the right frame of the coat of arms in the second, stamp (not the stamps themselves).

The stamps of the second plate were only perforated 10 ½, 11 ½ (these are the rarest) and 12 ½, there are also considerably fewer stamps with mixed perforations and these are generally even rarer than in the first plate. Likewise, with the stamps of the second plate, there are significantly fewer colours or their shades for individual values than with the stamps of the first plate, or they are almost non-existent.



All three plates, which follow from left to right, are shown in Figure 3, and all stamps are perforated 10½.

Distinguishing marks in the currency of crowns and heller is much simpler: for the former, the values are at the top, and for the latter, at the bottom.

Essays, proofs, reprints

There is only one essay, namely a stamp for 5 kr in black on white paper.

There are trial prints of all denominations, except for ½ kr and 20 kr (these two values, as mentioned, were issued later) in colours similar to the originals on thin white paper.

All the mentioned examples are considered to be very rare.

Reprints of the first edition do not exist (but they do exist for the second).

Colours



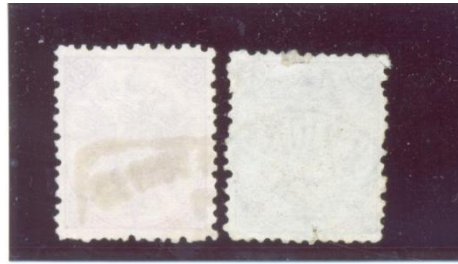
Figure 4 (above) shows some nice examples of various colours and shades, including all three for 20 kr (the rarest mint value) and most of the known ones for 25 kr.

Perforation

This issue is very rich in perforations and their varieties, with all values except the ½ kr (there are no colour shades there) existing in most or colours and shades in almost all perforations.

In the literature and special catalogues, 11 different perforations (all line) are known, which we list (together with the years when each perforation first appeared in use):

12 (irregular, 1879), 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ (1879), 12 (1879) 12-12 $\frac{3}{4}$ (winding or zig - zag, 1880), 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ (1883), 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1884), 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1885), 11 (1869), 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ (1890), 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1890) and 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1890).



Of the above-mentioned perforations, irregular and wavy are particularly interesting; the latter is the result of using a broken perforation machine. Examples of both perforations are shown in Figure 5 (above), for better visibility from the back.

The stamp for $\frac{1}{2}$ kr only exists in three perforations, and the one for 20 kr only in the (last) two.



Only two denominations are perforated 9 $\frac{1}{4}$, namely for 5 kr and 10 kr. Figure 6 (above) shows both values, with the uncanceled 5 kr in this perforation being the rarest value of the issue in question (cancelled being more common). The 10 kr stamp, which is also quite rare, is only known cancelled, as the otherwise small print run of these stamps was completely used up.

In addition to the above-mentioned perforation, others are also known, whereby the differences are sometimes only a quarter of a tooth.

As many as 37 mixed perforations are known for this release, not all values in all of them. The value for 20 kr in mixed perforations is not known, from which it can be concluded that at the end of the issue of the stamps in question, the stamps were not perforated in this way. Almost all mixed perforation stamps are known only cancelled (the only exception is the $\frac{1}{2}$ kr stamp, which exists uncanceled in two mixed perforations, which are also not very common), some are very rare, others more common. As a rule, those stamps where the difference in perforation is greater are rarer, but even this rule has some exceptions. It is very rare that a mint one ever appears, and even then, only as a single and not in multiples.



Some of the rarer stamps in mixed perforations, both mint and used, are shown in Figure 7 (above), with the last stamp in the bottom row not mentioned in the literature.

In addition to the mentioned mixed perforations, there are also others which, according to the literature, are said to be most usually forged; the author of this paper is not aware of forgeries.

Watermark

Once in a printing sheet of 200 stamps, which represents two sales sheets, a horizontal watermark appears, until 1883 in the form of the letters BRIEF-MARKEN, then ZEITUNGS-MARKEN. Considering that there are only a few stamps in the sheet with the entire letter of the watermark or only a part of it, these stamps are much rarer than those without it.



Figure 8 (above) shows stamps with a whole letter of the watermark, which is more visible on some specimens, less so on others.

Varieties

Ferchenbauer's manual shows 63 typographical errors, most of them in the values for 5 and 10 kr. At the value of 20 kr, only two are known; the same applies to the value for 25 kr. There are no typical errors on the ½ kr stamp. Some of these errors are rarer, others more common.

In addition to the above, there are others, as well as their corrections or retouches.



Figure 9 (above) shows two varieties, namely the colour line in the flag of the right number 5 and one of the two typical errors on the 20 kr stamp, where the middle eagle in the coat of arms is barely visible.

Other special features

Double prints, pairs of stamps without perforation in between as well as paper folds are known. All of these features are rare or very rare.

Unissued value

The value for 1kr was also printed in lilac grey. Several perforations are known, as well as smaller shades. According to the information in the literature, due to the possibility of replacing it with a stamp for 25 kr (given that it is, after all, a quite different colour, it is not clear why this fear), they did not go on sale and were marked with blue crayon. A few stamps escaped this mark and are rare.



Figure 10 (above) shows both mentioned varieties; on the left, for comparison, there is also a stamp issued in gray (there are also several shades here).

Letters

Collecting letters with stamps of this issue is quite popular. This applies especially to foreign countries, where letters are generally collected much more than here. Letters tell much more than just stamps - about destinations, postal tariffs, stamps, postal routes, etc.

It is true, however, that letters, especially those with higher frankings and those with multi-colours, are quite rare and consequently expensive. The most common are letters franked with a 5 kr stamp, which was the internal tariff throughout the period of use of the first issue of Bosnian-Herzegovinian stamps (from November 1st 1886 for intercity traffic it was reduced to 3 kr).

Some interesting letters are shown further on. All the letters displayed, except the last one, are franked according to the applicable tariff and have arrival cancellations, again with the exception of the letter in Figure 12.



Figure 11 (above) shows a registered letter from Gračanica to Sarajevo, sent on August 2nd 1892, franked with a 15 kr stamp (5 kr postage + 10 registered mail).



Figure 12 (previous page) shows a registered letter from Sarajevo to Hersbruck in Bavaria, sent on April 29th 1895, also franked with a stamp for 15 kr (5 kr postage + 10 registered fee). Since January 1st 1892, the same tariffs as domestic have been applied in traffic with Germany (German Reich, Bavaria and Württemberg). The stamp is on the back and is shown in Figure 12a.



Figure 13 (above) shows a registered letter of the 2nd weight class from Mostar to Sarajevo, franked with a stamp for 20 kr (10 kr postage + 10 kr registered fee).



Figure 14 (above) shows a letter with imprinted stamp (postal stationery) with added stamps, sent on November 15th 1890 from Dolnja Tuzla to Bremen. The postage is 9 kr (instead of 10 kr,

which means 1 kr too little). At that time, the international tariff still applied to letters to Germany, but despite this, the letter was not taxed upon arrival.

Conclusion

In this article, we have presented the main points of interest of the first Bosnian-Herzegovinian issue. To everyone who would like to know more about it, I highly recommend Ferchenbauer's handbook (also listed in the bibliography at the end of this article, i.e. its fourth part). The complete manual (individual parts cannot be purchased) does cost something, but for those who intend to devote themselves more seriously to the issue in question, as well as to the other areas it covers, its purchase can quickly pay for itself.

The special value of this manual lies in the fact that, in addition to a wealth of information and prices, it also contains a complete set, sufficiently realistically displayed, of the colours of all the stamps of the first (as well as other) issues of BiH, photographs of stamps with practically all varieties, as well as rare and even unique examples of larger blocks or parts of bisected stamps and travelled letters with rare frankings and destinations.

And who do we recommend to start collecting these stamps? Definitely for anyone who would like to do more than just put "pictures" in a stock book, but is ready not only to collect stamps, but also to study them. On the other hand, the issue in question is again not as complicated as, for example, the first Slovenian stamp, "Chainbreakers", where a lot of knowledge and experience is needed for a successful "fight" with them.

I definitely recommend starting with the used stamps of this issue, which are easier to get than mint ones, and they are also much cheaper, not to mention the letters. So it is possible to collect a solid basic, as well as partially specialised, collection for an amount that will not excessively burden the pockets of most philatelists.

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3. Austria Netto catalog, " Austria ", Wien 1998 (and newer),
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