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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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The Future of the Yugoslavia Study Group

This article is an important read for all members. As a member, do you want YSG to have a long-term future as the only English-speaking society covering Yugoslav philately or do you want it to slowly (or even quickly) sink without trace? Let's look at some of the facts:

- At the time of writing, only 25 members have renewed their subscription for 2023 (57 did in 2022)
- We currently have around £900 in the bank
- We produce a 32-page A4 printed journal four times per year, which some members choose to take electronically
- We have published 14 monographs on aspects of Yugoslav philately, which produce a small but steady income
- Our printer has announced that the cost of the printing the journal is doubling with immediate effect
- The only officers of the society are the President, Treasurer/Membership Secretary, Editor and Webmaster. The first three on that list are (well) over 70 and in various states of health.

The President, Treasurer and Editor had a Zoom meeting recently and considered the following:

1. We can carry on as we are, heavily reliant on the three of us, but recognising that sooner or later one or more of us will quit due to old-age, ill-health or a lack of enthusiasm leading to the end of YSG.
2. We will absorb the additional printing costs for the time being. To save costs we could stop printing Jugopošta and only publish electronically, however we feel we don't need to take this direction at present. This year we will however circulate the electronic edition to all members, regardless of whether they get a printed copy as well, so that all members can see what a future with only electronic publishing might be like.
3. Building a long-term future with an expansion of the committee to include one or two members 'without portfolio' and to include an auctioneer and secretary.

Therefore, we have resolved to maintain the status quo for 2023 with a review towards the end of the year but:

What do you, the members, think we should do and what do you want from YSG?

Are you prepared to just sit there and hope for the best, accepting that YSG will die sooner or later, as it surely will?

Or, are you prepared to do something about it? Views to the Editor please.

Also, please see the 'Note from the Editor' on page 17.

Bosnia and Herzegovina 1906

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

In that year, on the basis of the order of the Austrian Ministry of War (the military post office in B&H fell directly under it) no. Z. 1045 of September 17, 1906, issued a series of 16 regular stamps called provincial issues. Croats call it "landscapes", although there are only 12 stamps in it with motifs of the Bosnian and Herzegovina regions, three depicting postal means of transport, and the highest value - for 5 crowns - is reigned by Emperor Franc Jozef (1830 - 1916) as befits his majesty. This issue is also the first on which the name Bosnia (and) Herzegovina is mentioned.

13 Heller values are rectangular, and 3 crown values are square. They were printed in the (copper) line engraved technique on paper without a watermark and with different perforations (see the chapter on perforations).

The printing (and also sales) sheet consisted of 50 stamps, namely 5x10 stamps for rectangular - Heller - values and 10x5 for square - crown - values. The gumming is white or slightly yellowish.

Prof. Koloman Moser (1868 – 1918), was a versatile Austrian artist, one of the main actors of the Viennese Art Nouveau movement. In addition to the aforementioned and a series of later Austrian stamps, he also left his mark on many other artistic products - from book design to porcelain, stained glass, silver, jewellery, furniture and much more.



Figure 1: Kol(oman) Moser has already been honoured twice by the Austrian post office with the issue of stamps; the first time in 1968 (right) and the second time 40 years later (2008, left)

The stamps were line engraved in copper by Ferdinand Schirnböck.

Due to its beauty (it is undeniably the most beautiful series of Bosnia and Herzegovina stamps) as well as due to the huge number of perforations, the issue in question became immediately popular among collectors and has remained so until today; there are quite a few specialized collections of this issue in the world.

The motifs on the stamps represent:

- 1 H Dobož
- 2 H Bridge in Mostar

- 3 H Swims in Jajce
- 5 H Neretva Valley with a view of Prenj
- 6 H Rama Valley
- 10 H Vrbas Valley
- 20 H Old Bridge in Mostar
- 25 H Sarajevo
- 30 H Postman
- 35 H Lake with tourist pavilion
- 40 H Horse-drawn military mail cart
- 45 H Bazaar in Sarajevo
- 50 H Military mail car
- 1 K Part of the bazaar in Sarajevo
- 2 K Lukas Tower in Jajce
- 5 K Emperor Franz Joseph



Figure 2: complete sets of stamps in very rare 6½ perforation (see section on perforations)

The stamps were issued on November 1, 1906, and were valid until December 3, 1912.

Trial prints

There are a lot of trial prints, and the question is rightly raised whether they really all arose from operational needs in connection with printing, or whether the real reasons must be sought elsewhere. Thus, there are separate prints of pictures and frames, trial prints on papers of various types (cardboard, plain, thin), sizes (also in block form) in various colours, etc. Details are described in specialized literature.

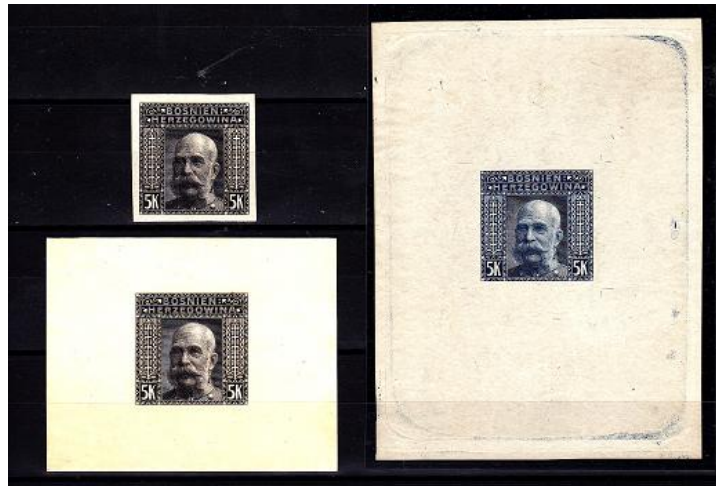


Figure 3: some examples of trial printings of the 5 kroner stamp

In order to determine the most suitable colour for an individual value, there are colour trial prints (so-called "Bogenprobe"), which differ more or less from the issued stamps. Most of them are at the value of 2 hellers.



Figure 4: "Bogenproben" at the value of 2 heller - top left is the issued stamp

Some of these proofs of values above 10 hellers are very rare, especially those where the colours deviate considerably from the issued stamps; but this does not apply to the 5-crown value of which more exist.



Figure 5: examples of rarer colour proofs at values for 20, 30 and 40 hellers (issued stamps on the left)

All 16 stamps were overprinted with the inscription "K. und K. Militärpost" above the name of the country (Bosnien : Herzegovina) in several colours (black, gold, red, orange, blue, purple and green - but not all values in all colours), and with two types of letters (Grotesque and Antique). They were never in use, nor are the exact reasons for the overprint known; there are only assumptions related to the annexation of the territory to Austria in 1908, which happened during the period of validity of these stamps. The overprint was intended to explicitly emphasize that it was sent by imperial and royal military mail, although it was already the case until then.

Peculiarities of perforations

This issue, apart from the first issue with a coat of arms motif from 1879 (which we have already written about in our magazine), is the richest in various perforations, and the first thing that comes to mind in this regard is that many of the perforations are of a speculative nature.

But this time it wasn't like that. According to Passer (the only source), the first shipment of normally perforated stamps ($12\frac{1}{2}$), sent from Vienna to Sarajevo, was lying for unknown reasons in Brod on Sava (today Slavonski Brod). Meanwhile, the day of issuing the stamps was approaching (as we already mentioned, it was November 1), so something had to be done quickly. They sent the next shipment from Vienna, in which (and only then, no more in subsequent deliveries) stamps were also differently perforated, as well as non-perforated.

But why were there so many different stamps in this shipment? In order to find out which perforation is most appropriate for the issue in question in order to make the stamps as easy to separate as possible, the printer was instructed to have the stamps perforation $12\frac{1}{2}$ or $9\frac{1}{4}$, or mixed with one of these perforations above and below, and with the other on the side and vice versa. However, in the perforation department, the term "mixed perforation" was misunderstood, namely that they should also use the $6\frac{1}{2}$ perforation modelled after the special perforation of the 1900 issue. So, there was a mixed perforation of all three perforations, and this without any plan, but by chance, according to the system, where the perforation "fell", there it was. In the literature, I found information that with a random arrangement of three perforations on four

sides, 144 combinations are possible for each value (with 16 values, a total of 2304 different stamps). With two different perforations on the stamp, there are slightly fewer of them. In this case, precisely because of the already mentioned random perforation of the individual sides of the stamps, it is not known whether there are all possible combinations for all values or not. It is an indisputable fact that such perforated stamps were used in postal traffic; the same applies to imperforate stamps, which is different from the imperforate stamps of other issues of this area, which are known only as mint.

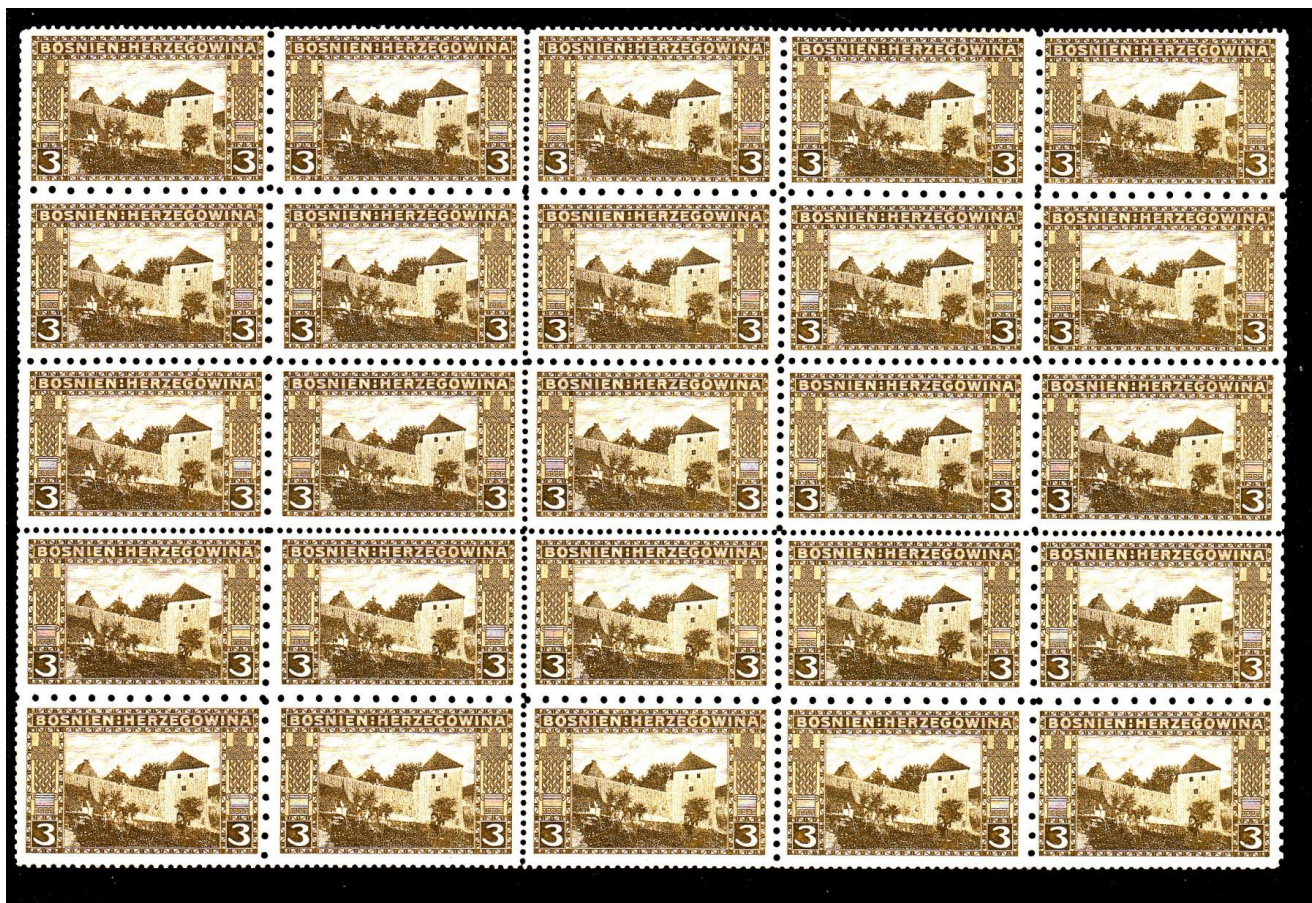


Figure 5a: example of mixed perforation 6½, 9¼ and 12½. The picture clearly shows the completely non-planned arrangement of teeth.

From my own experience, I can say that some stamps in mixed perforations appear (almost) exclusively mint, while others are just as (almost) exclusively used.

In addition, there is a perforation of 10½ alone or in combination with 9¼, 12½ and 6½. Later (when the validity of these stamps had already ceased) 5¼ perforation also appeared, but it is not known for all values.

Types of perforation

If we now try to systematize the above a bit, we can identify the following types of perforations:

1. Perforations 12½ (most common) and 9¼ (a little less common); both are considered normal issue. Furthermore, there are stamps perforated 6½ (the series of these stamps is

very rare), $10\frac{1}{2}$ (the series of these stamps that appeared from 1910 is even rarer than the previously mentioned). The rarity of such perforated series can be explained by the already mentioned fact of perforation without a plan, which means that in these perforations it very rarely happened that all 4 sides of one stamp were equally perforated (finding a complete series of these stamps is, of course, even more difficult). Stamps of 6 and 20 heller also exist in comb perforation (the others are line) perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$ (the latter is rarer).



Figure 6: examples of all stamps with uniform perforations

2. Imperforate stamps of all values are known.



Figure 7: examples of imperforate stamps from the left edge of the sheet. (Postal and transport means are represented on all three).

3. Sets with two different perforations, e.g., $12\frac{1}{2}$ and $9\frac{1}{4}$ or one of these perforations in combination with a $6\frac{1}{2}$ perforation; the latter combinations are quite rare. If it is a set of stamps of any of the mentioned combinations, where, for example, the upper and lower sides are perforated with one perforation, and the sides with another, we are talking about overlapping (German "*deckungsgleich*") perforation. It probably goes without saying that the entire sets of such stamps are not very easy to find.



Figure 8: examples of stamps with two perforations

4. Stamps with three different perforations. The same applies as above.

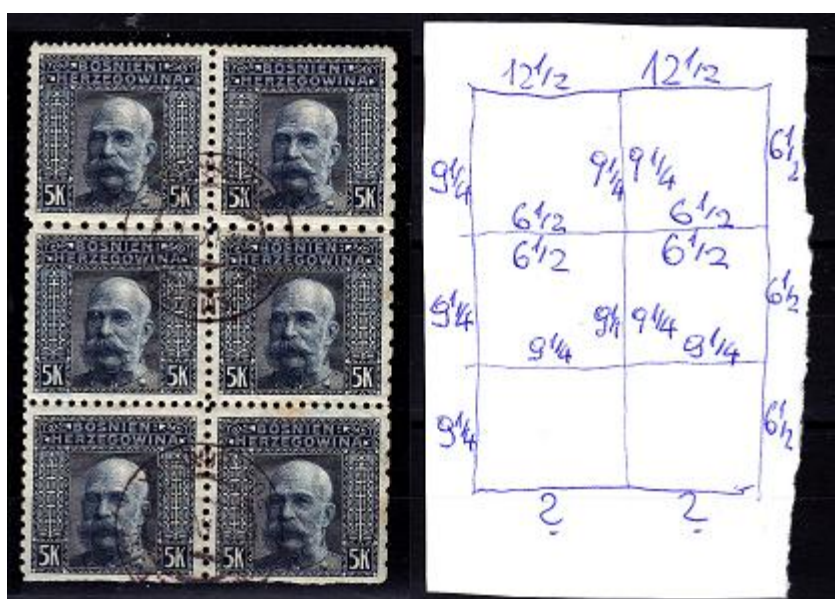


Figure 9: a nice example of a top value six stamps with 3 different perforations. The perforations in the bottom row cannot be determined.

5. Line perforation $5\frac{1}{4}$ (mixed perforation with one of the above, appeared, similar to $10\frac{1}{2}$ perforation in 1910) is extremely rare.

These perforations were studied for decades by Edwin C. Coleman (1902-1975) and he tried to collect all possible variants of perforations at all values (the Coleman tables) and set up a now generally accepted notation system for them. He designated $6\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$, $12\frac{1}{2}$, $10\frac{1}{2}$, and $5\frac{1}{4}$

perforations (in that order) with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and the absence of perforation with O. Four of these numbers therefore denote each stamp, starting at the top, then right, bottom and finally left.

But that's not all. I myself have other perforation combinations in my collection, not listed above. It is possible that these are fakes (see the section on fakes), although from a comparison with the other stamps of this issue, I cannot conclude that this is necessarily the case.



Figure 10: two examples in the literature of unrecorded perforations

Other special features

If any reader may have gotten a little tired while reading the above information about perforations, I must ask him for a little more patience. In addition to the peculiarities of perforation discussed so far, others are known.

There are a couple of stamps in the centre horizontally or vertically imperforate. Those with 12½ perforations are rarer than those with other perforations.



Figure 11: horizontally and vertically in the middle unperforated pairs; the pair for 2 crowns is the rarest of the pairs without perforation in the middle.

Some values are known with double perforations.



Figure 12: a pair of 30 heller stamps with double perforations on the left side

There are partially imperforate stamps, but these are very rare.



Figure 13: six of 1 kr stamps, perforated only on the left and upper edges.

A special case is the so-called (private) Banja Luka perforation. The Trappist monastery Maria Stern (Mary's Star), built in 1868, and located about 5 km from Banja Luka, sold its famous cheese (Trappist) by mail, largely using 45 heller stamps for the franking of parcels. The packages had a standard weight of 4,800 gr, for which the postage was 80 hellers, namely this tariff applied to packages up to 5,000 gr. The parcels were sent by cash on delivery, the costs of it amounted to 12 hellers, i.e., 92 hellers in total. The easiest combination to achieve this amount was two stamps of 45 hellers and one for 2 hellers. The stamps were affixed to the envelopes by the monks themselves, who knew the postal rates well. By agreement or contracts with the post office on the provision of certain postal services they were even cancelled with the Banja Luka cancels themselves.

In 1910 there was once at the post office available only imperforate stamps, they were perforated in the monastery by perforation 11½ with their own perforator. The period of use of such perforated stamps is known only in the period May-October of this year. Most of the stamps remain on one or two sides still imperforate, and the philatelic influence is not detectable in the

entire issue. All in all, only a few such franked package envelopes and detached stamps are known, and no mint stamps at all.



Figure 14: parcel letter sent from Banja Luka to Orsovo on 7/21/1910. Correctly franked with two "Banja Luka" stamps for 45 hellers and one stamp for 2 hellers - see text (Sekelj Collection)

Devalued stamps

All the values of the issue in question are punched (the size of the hole is approximately 4.5 mm in diameter, and they are 7.5 or 14.5 mm apart) horizontally or vertically, some of them are also crossed out with a blue or orange pencil, depending on the colours of the stamps. They were punched in sheets and not individually. Cancelled specimens of such devalued stamps are not known, nor are travelled envelopes.

There are several theories, or rather about the causes of their formation, but the most likely one seems to be the one of The Bosnia Study Group from the USA.

At the end of 1912, the Austrian printing house decided to get rid of the remains of the 1906 issue. So, they sent all the remains to Sarajevo. Stamps for 5 and 10 hellers were used to overprint charity stamps from 1914 and 1915.

In view of the rather lively philatelic market at the time, a decision was made in Sarajevo to sell (or in certain cases even donate) the remaining stamps to dealers, collectors and some privileged individuals. In order to avoid turmoil in the philatelic market, which would be caused by an excessive number of stamps sold well below face value, the decision was made to devalue the stamps by punching all the sheets. Stamps pierced in this way were sold in large quantities and not individually.

Stamps exist both perforated (with different perforations) and imperforate.



Figure 15: some examples of punched (demonetized) stamps.

Forgeries

There is a forgery of the 5 kroner stamp, the work of the famous forger Fournier. It is easy to recognize, as it is made in the typography (the original is in copperplate engraving).

There are also some known fakes of mixed perforations, where perforations of 14 and more appear, which are not known in original stamps. It is true, however, that some hitherto unknown original perforation may appear; in the philately, no matter has been definitively investigated and cannot be considered final.

Letters

Similar to letters franked with other issues of Bosnia and Herzegovina, philatelists also like to include letters with this issue in their collections. We show some interesting ones in pictures.



Figure 16: an attractive, correctly franked (20 heller postage for the second weight class, 25 heller registered fee) letter sent from Prjedor (today Prijedor) to Resiezo in Hungary (address on the first page)



Figure 17: correctly franked letter sent from Praca to Brunn (today Brno). The stamps are imperforate, which is proof that they were used in postal traffic. (Address on first page)



Figure 18: newspaper banner sent from Sarajevo to Kufstein.

Conclusion

Values for 20 and 40 hellers as well as for 1 and 2 kronen were overprinted after the war, as provincial issues for Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are a number of interesting varieties and errors in overprint, but they fall beyond the scope of this article.

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8. Private collections

Note from the Editor

I have hinted at health problems in recent months, which have led to delays in the publication of Jugopošta. In April, I am expecting to spend some time in hospital having a stem cell transplant and this will take some time to recover from. I am telling readers this for two reasons:

1. This might mean that the June edition is delayed
2. So that you know why I am not going to organise any more YSG Zoom meetings until later in the year

Also, for the first time in a while, I have no articles in the 'bank' at all and therefore in order to publish the June edition I need some articles! Over to you, the readers. If you email me something, you may not get a response initially depending on how things are with me.

Croatian Legion Relief Fund

by Dave Foster

A set of four stamps was issued on 1 July 1943, along with a miniature sheet containing the same designs of stamps, but in different colours. The stamps carried a surcharge, stated to be for supporting Croatian Forces who at that time were involved in fighting on the Eastern Front.

The stamps were designed by Rudolf Valić and printed in offset Litho by Tipografija Inc., a company based in Zagreb. The printing process was in two parts, background printing and foreground printing and were released in sheets of 100 (10 x 10). The stamps were line perforated, 11½.



Figure 1: the issued stamps

Two miniature sheets were released on the same day. They contained the same designs but in different colours. The sheets were in both perforated and imperforate form.



Figure 2: the miniature sheet (imperforate)

The table below shows the quantities of stamps printed and sold. Unsold stamps were destroyed.

Value	Number Produced	Number issued
1Kn+0.50Kn	2,130,000	1,756,209
2Kn+1Kn	3,580,000	1,200,971
3.5Kn+1.50Kn	6,950,000	2,002,380
9Kn+4.5Kn	1,760,000	76,000

Table 1: quantities produced and sold

Turning now to the miniature sheets, or souvenir sheets as they are often called, an initial run of 70,000 sheets of each version, perforated and imperforate, quickly sold out so an additional run of 130,000, giving a total of 200,000, was produced. These almost sold out completely, with sales of 199,030 of each.

Unsold stamps and miniature sheets were officially destroyed.

From a collector's point of view, this issue, and others from the period, offer a scope to enhance one's collection with proof material. This proof material can be relatively inexpensive and is readily available. This is because a total of fifteen albums of proofs were produced. Albums were kept for the archives and museum, with the rest being presented to high-ranking officials. For this reason, they became known as Ministerial Albums. Over time, many of these albums have been broken up and sold on to the philatelic trade, some of which I am showing here.

Various colour trials were produced before the final choices of colour were made. In Figure 3 I'm showing a range of trial colours for the 2Kn + 1Kn stamp.



Figure 3 (reduced): colour proofs of the 2Kn + 1Kn stamp

As mentioned previously, the stamps were produced in two phases, background and foreground. Figure 4 shows examples of the background printings.

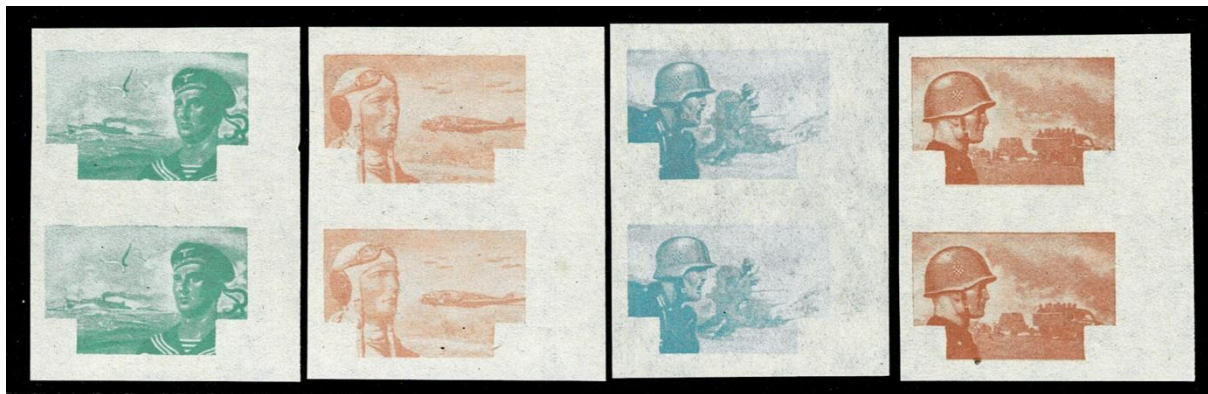


Figure 4: background printings

There are a number of errors that can occur when stamps are being manufactured, particularly when there is more than one phase to the printing process. Staying with the 2Kn + 1Kn value, I show examples in Figure 5 that shows misprints that can occur when foreground and background printing phases are not aligned.



Figure 5: block of 2Kn + 1Kn with offset background

It should be noted that these stamps are not in the issued colours, which means that this item should really be regarded as printer's waste, but I still like it for all that.

The second example (Figure 6) is perhaps a more honest example in that the stamps are in the issued colours and have been perforated ready for distribution. The offsetting is clearly less severe than the example in Figure 5.



Figure 6: pair of the 2Kn + 1Kn with offset background

Turning our attention now to the miniature sheets, again there are various proofs available. The first example shown in Figure 7 is not from one of the Ministerial Albums. It is a printer's proof showing the four designs in position, printed on thin white card. There are various printer's markings in the margins.

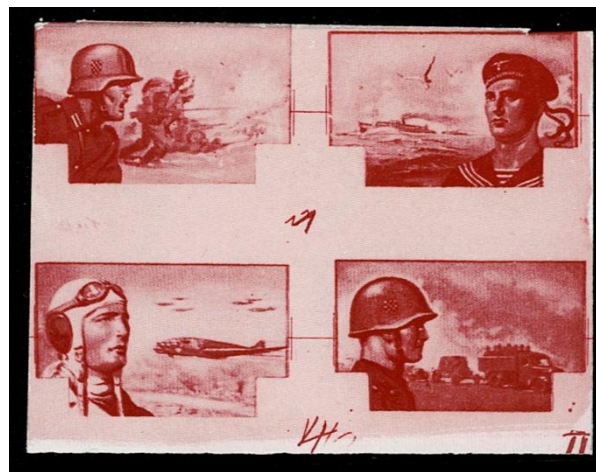


Figure 7: printer's proof of the miniature sheet

The miniature sheets were produced both perforated and imperforate. In Figure 8 I show a perforated example of the miniature sheet.



Figure 8 (reduced): a perforated miniature sheet

The Ministerial Albums included quite a number of examples of progressive proofs of these miniature sheets. These included examples of the background colours, then ones with the added foreground, plus examples showing missing colours. The example in Figure 9 shows a miniature sheet with all colours except the slate-blue colour printed.



Figure 9: proof of the miniature sheet, missing the slate-blue colour

Finally, we need to turn to the use of these stamps. As with many of the issues with a surcharge, which are referred to as semi-postal issues in some countries, there was a requirement that they be used on all internal mail for a certain period of time. In this case, the use of these stamps was obligatory on all domestic mail sent during the months of July and August 1943.

In the example in Figure 10, the stamp has been used to pay the postage and surcharge on an item of mail sent at the Printed Paper rate of 1Kn. It is worth mentioning at this stage that the values of these postage stamps mirrored the postal rates for the inland mail at the time:

1Kn was the Printed Paper rate

2Kn was the Postcard rate

3.50Kn was the Letter Rate, weight up to 50g

9Kn was the Registration Fee



Figure 10: use of the 1Kn + 0.50Kn stamp 3 August 1943

Principal References

The main reference source for the stamps of this period is the excellent '*Manual of Croatian Issues 1941 – 1945*'. Originally produced by Dr. Helmut Rommerskirchen it was turned into a superb piece of work with many illustrations by Phillip J Hughes. This updated manual stretches to over 300 pages. Issued in 2004.

Postal rates are from one of our own monographs. The excellent '*The Postal Rates of the Independent State of Croatia 1941 – 1945*' (Monograph No. 6, JP85) by our President, Tony Bosworth. This monograph is available for purchase – see the outside back cover of this issue of Jugopošta for details.

Serbia – Prince Michael issue, 1866 – 69: Part 2 – the postage stamps of 10, 20 and 40 para

by Nick Coverdale

In JP109, I described the issue of the Coat of Arms newspaper stamps and in JP110 I described the 1 and 2 para newspaper stamps of the Prince Michael issue. Now (eight years later!) this article will describe the 10, 20 and 40 para stamps of the Prince Michael issue. Given that Part 1 was written in 2014, I will repeat some of the background to this issue. A much more in depth treatment can be found in Reference 1. All the illustrations in this article are from my own collection.

Background

In the 1860s, Serbia was a somewhat backward state with a degree of autonomy but still a subject state of the Ottoman Empire. It was considered by the Serbian Government that the issue of its own postage stamps would be one factor in encouraging the expansion of trade and would also have other benefits. The possibility of the State Printers in Belgrade producing postage stamps was considered. The Postal Act of 25 January 1866 facilitated the introduction of postage stamps.

In February 1866, the Minister of Finance was requested to order stamps of 1, 2, 10, 20 and 40 para. A committee was set up in March 1866 to make proposals for the use of stamps and to agree the numbers of stamps of each denomination to be ordered. It was intended that the stamps would be available for use from 1 May 1866.

The Minister of Finance reported that the State Printers in Belgrade would find it difficult to produce the stamps and therefore suggested that the State Printers in Vienna should be used. The aim was to have the dies engraved in Vienna, have the printing blocks prepared and have enough stamps printed to cover the first year of use. After that, the intention was to have further quantities of stamps printed in Belgrade using the materials produced in Vienna. According to Reference 1, the following initial quantities of stamps were recommended:

1 para 4000

2 para 6000

10 para 12000

20 para 200,000

40 para 20000

Reference 1 states that the Austrians realised that the issue of Serbian stamps was contrary to Austrian interests i.e. not in the interests of the Austrian consular office in Belgrade which, at that time, handled foreign mail to and from Serbia. Accordingly, the Austrians found excuses to delay the printing of the Serbian stamps. Printing finally commenced on 2 June 1866. Note that my understanding is that the Michael stamps were only used for mail within Serbia.

This, of course, meant that the Serbian proposed stamp issue date of 1 May was missed. The Serbian Government was determined to issue something and this led to the production and printing of the 1 and 2 para Coat of Arms newspaper stamps at the State Printers in Belgrade. These stamps were placed on sale on 22 May 1866. A more detailed account of these stamps can be found in an article by me in JP107 (September 2013).

The Vienna printing

The Serbian representative in Vienna (according to Reference 1) reported on 8 June that he had the following numbers of stamps produced in Vienna

10 para 12000

20 para 200,000

40 para 20000

and had the printing blocks etc to enable the future printing of these 3 values and the 1 and 2 para Prince Michael newspaper stamps in Belgrade. The stamps were placed on sale from 1 July 1866. Reference 1 states that, at this time, there were 43 post offices in Serbia. The quantities of stamps issued initially to these post offices varied enormously – Belgrade received a total of 7000 stamps of the three values and the smallest offices received only a total of 40 stamps.

A summary of the Vienna printing is given in Table 1.

Table 1: summary of the stamps of the Vienna printing

Printing method	Typography
Sheet size	100 (10 x 10)
Date of printing	4 June 1866
Date of release	1 July 1866
Numbers printed	10 p 12000 stamps 20p 200,000 40p 20000
Perforation	Line 12
Margins	3.0 mm in all directions
Paper	Medium thickness 0.05 to 0.06 mm
Shades	10p yellow-orange to orange 20p rose to carmine-rose 40p blue to dark blue
Gum	Colourless and regularly applied
Printing quality	Well centred stamps rare. Plate errors generally associated with value boxes
Multiples	Only individuals or small multiples (eg only 20 pairs of 10p known)

Examples of the three stamps of the Vienna printing are shown below.





The first Belgrade printing

By early October 1866, it became apparent that the 10 and 40 para values would shortly run out. An order was therefore placed with the State Printers in Belgrade to print all three values. Details of the stamps of this printing are summarised in Table 2. Key differences from the Vienna printing are the perforation (9.5 as opposed to 12) and the paper thickness (pelure 0.02 – 0.025 mm as opposed to 0.05 – 0.06 mm).

A summary of the first Belgrade printing is given in Table 2.



Table 2: summary of the stamps of the first Belgrade printing

Printing method	Typography. Plates recomposed from the Vienna printing.
Sheet size	100 (10 x 10)
Date of printing	29 October 1866
Date of release	40 para 6 November 1866, 10 para few days later, 20 para mid-December to January 1867
Numbers printed	10 para 53900 stamps, 20 para 309,900, 40 para 107,900
Perforation	Line 9.5
Margins	10 para 1.75 – 2.00 mm, 20 para 3.00 – 3.25 mm, 40 para 2.00 mm
Paper	White very thin pelure (0.02 – 0.025 mm)
Shades	10p yellow-orange to orange, 20p rose to deep rose, 40p ultramarine to deep ultramarine
Gum	Colourless with a hint of yellowish tone, sometimes looks oily
Printing quality	Reasonable but not as good as Vienna print. Plate errors found on the lower value oblong and on the letters and digits. Well-centred stamps relatively rare.
Multiples	Multiples more common than for Vienna printing but are still not common.
Comments	10 para is more common used but vice versa for the other 2 values.

The second Belgrade printing

The State Printers in Belgrade reported in October 1868 that their spare stock of stamps had all been used up. Further printing therefore took place in November 1868. They printed

20 para 200,800

40 para 41800

The printing also included 1 and 2 para newspaper stamps; however, it would appear that stocks of the 10 para were adequate. According to Reference 1, records are a little unclear as to whether all the printing took place in the November or some was also done in the ensuing period up to February 1869. Reference 1 quotes that the earliest cover known for the 20 para is dated 12 November and for the 40 para is dated 25 January 1869.

Although the blocks used in the first Belgrade printing continued to be used, plates were recomposed. The paper used (0.04 to 0.045 mm) was thicker than that used for the first Belgrade printing but a little thinner than used in Vienna. The perforation was line 9.5 as for the first Belgrade printing.



A summary of the second Belgrade printing is given in Table 3.

Table 3: a summary of the stamps of the second Belgrade printing

Printing method	Typography. The printing plates were recomposed.
Sheet size	100 (10 x 10)
Date of printing	4 to 14 November 1868, possibly later
Date of release	14 November 1868 to 1 February 1869
Numbers printed	20 para 200,800 stamps 40 para 41800
Perforation	Line 9.5
Margins	20 para 2.25 – 2.50 mm 40 para 1.75 – 2.00 mm
Paper	0.04 – 0.045 mm
Shades	20 para rose to deep rose, 20 para ultramarine to deep ultramarine
Gum	2 types – colourless with typical bubbles or yellowish, looks rather oily, so that design shows lightly through on the reverse
Printing quality	Generally good but a significant number of 20 para specimens are blurred due to over-inking
Multiples	Relatively common, including a complete sheet of the 20 para (the only one amongst any of the Michael issues)

Cancellations of the Prince Michael stamps

The postal regulations of 1866 required that postage stamps should be cancelled with ‘НАПЛАЋЕН(О)’ meaning ‘paid’. Most of the handstamps used for this were already in use on pre-stamp letters. There were three basic types – straight line, boxed and oval. In practice, the dimensions of these varied from post office to post office. Over the period 1866 – 69, this regulation was increasingly ignored and stamps were increasingly cancelled with a round dated place-name handstamp. This means that stamps of the Vienna printing are rarely found with a circular cancel, but it became more frequent for the first Belgrade printing and was the norm for the second Belgrade printing. Stamps are also found cancelled with ‘ПРЕПОРУЧЕН(О)’ meaning ‘registered’. Some examples of these are illustrated below.



Cover showing use of Prince Michael stamp

Covers bearing Prince Michael stamps range from expensive to extremely expensive! I am showing only one example here.



Folded letter written in Jagodina on 16 June 1869 franked with a 20 para stamp, probably of the second Belgrade printing, cancelled with a circular datestamp, possibly LOZNICA (in Cyrillic script) with a BEOGRAD (in Cyrillic) arrival datestamp of 19/6 on the reverse. Veličković certificate.

Footnote

Prince Michael Obrenović was assassinated on 16 June 1869 (coincidentally the same date as on the cover above).

Reference

1. Kardosch, V. M., The Principality of Serbia – Postal History and Postage Stamps 1830 – 1882, 1996.

An interesting postcard – paid in cash

by Roger Morrell

I recently acquired this postcard (Figure 1) which took a bit of decoding. Manuscript dated 3 November 1919 by the writer, and postmarked using a Hungarian style canceller with the date reversed to read day/month/year, it has been sent from Kraljevica in the SHS to Vystkov in the new Czechoslovakia. It has been stamped with the cachet PLACENO U GOTOVOM, which means ‘paid in cash’, and this is endorsed by the postal official in pen with ‘15 fill’, the date

‘27/11/19’, and a name (which looks like ‘Herrn’). There is a two-line censor mark in pale violet in Cyrillic lettering.



Figure 1
(reduced)

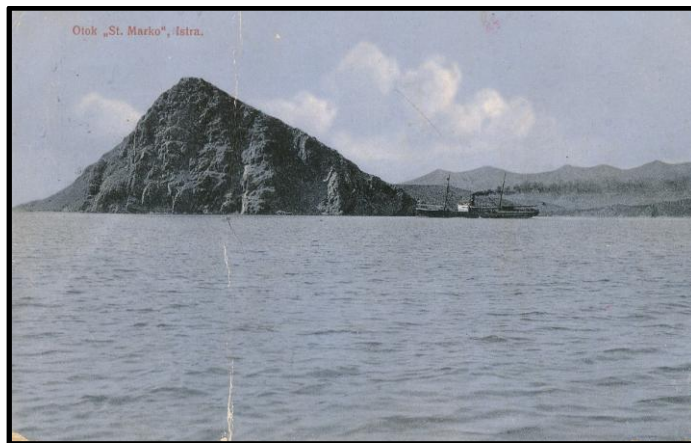


Figure 2
(reduced)

So the question is, why did it take more than three weeks for the postal official to endorse the card? Did it get held up by the censor? The censor mark is anonymous – where would it have been censored? Somewhere in Bosnia, because it’s in Cyrillic? Did it get sent back to Kraljevica after censoring for the ‘paid in cash’ endorsement?

The picture side (Figure 2) shows a coastal view of a large triangular-shaped headland with a passing steamship, which is said to be ‘Otok St Marko, Istria’, which is rather confusing. Hunting around in Google maps, I could find Kraljevica. This is just south-east of Rijeka (Figure 3), and thus in former Hungary administered Croatia which had previously extended down the coast to just beyond Crikvenica, hence the modified postmark. I then searched the Istrian coastline for any sign of Otok St Marko in vain. Finally, I noticed ‘Otočac Sv. Marko’ as a small island just to the south of Kraljevica (Figure 4), which nowadays carries a road connection across to the island of Krk. I then tried to ‘Streetview’ it to check that it did have the headland shape seen in the postcard image, but could not get a decent view. However, fortunately ‘Streetview’ also offers a motorboat trip, and following this I finally found what I was looking

for – on the southern side of the island. The imposing headland in the postcard is now scarred by the road I had followed (Figure 5), which is why initially I couldn't see it – I was on it!

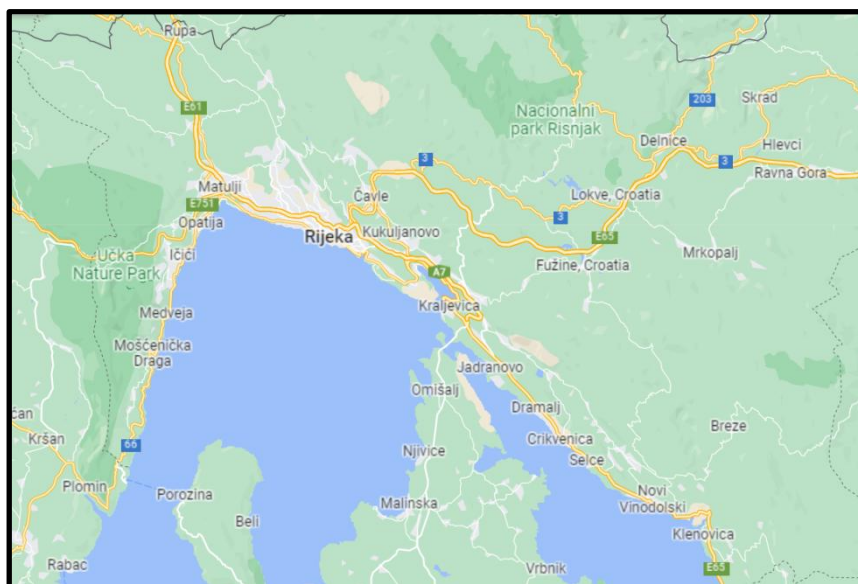


Figure 3
(reduced)

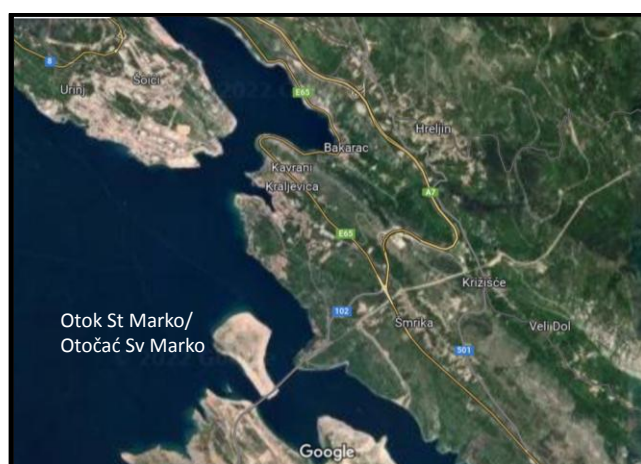


Figure 4 (reduced)

Finally, I tried to find the place from where the writer actually wrote the postcard – ‘Portore’. No sign of that anywhere, in any index. Finally, in Kraljevica itself a pizza restaurant popped up (as they do when you don't want them) called ‘Porto Re’. It faces the little inlet in Kraljevica where again a ‘Streetview’ motorboat cruise shows it has boatyards and moorings, so it is likely that this inlet carries its name.

The internet, annoying at times, really does have its uses then!



Figure 5
(reduced)

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