

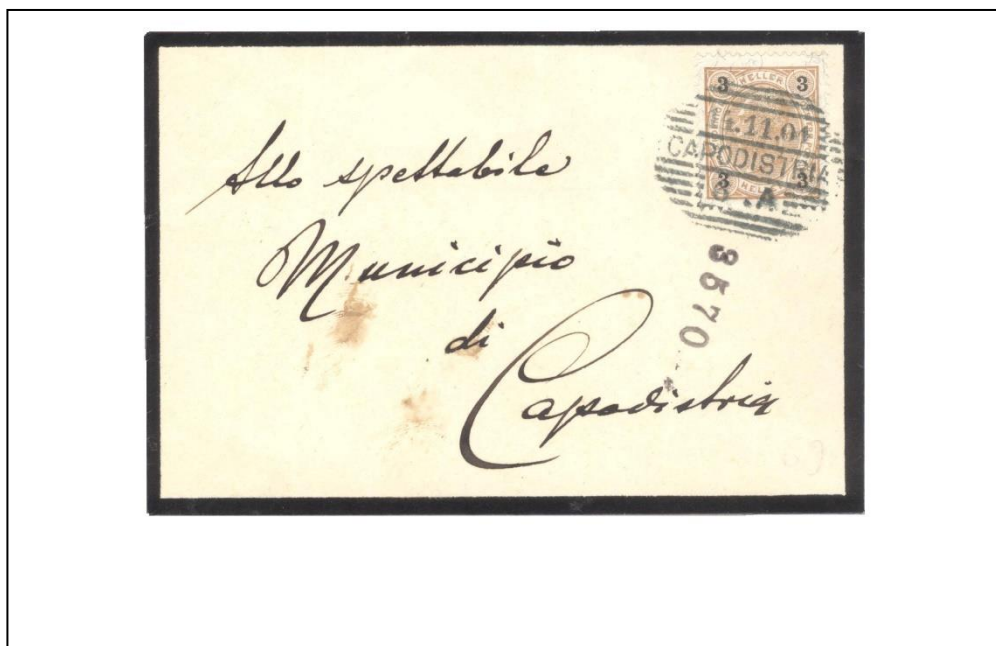


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The Yugoslavia Study Group

Founded in 1984 to promote the study of the stamps and postal history of Yugoslavia, its predecessor and successor states

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Jugopošta



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From the President

We have now moved into a new era, with our journal "*Jugoposta*" being available only online. I am sure that the membership understands the necessity of this decision in this age of spiralling costs; and that you will continue to support the Society.

Whilst we have a well-produced journal, it would be a real benefit to members if we could find a volunteer to take on a postal auction. If anyone is interested, please contact a member of the committee.

If you meet any collector interested in Yugoslav philately, who is not a member, please tell them about the YSG.

A J Bosworth FRPSL

Subscription Reminder

Could I please remind everyone that membership fees for the year are now overdue? The cost is just £5 per year for electronic membership. For this small amount you will receive four Journals annually, plus access to our occasional zoom meetings and to our website. Where else can you have so much fun for just £5 a year? Please take a moment to check that you have paid your subscription, and, if not, you know what to do. Details of ways to pay are shown on the inside cover of the Journal. Payments by PayPal are preferred, but not essential.

Many thanks

David Foster (Treasurer and Membership Secretary.)

From the Editor

This, our 149th edition, is the first entirely electronic issue. Other than that, the format of the journal remains unchanged at 32 pages of A4.

It was good to see 10 members at our Zoom meeting on 28 February. You will find a short report on page 27. I will circulate the date for another Zoom meeting to be held in early June in the near future. If you have any thoughts about the time of day that you prefer these meetings to take place, please let me know. Bear in mind that around 50% of our membership lives outside the UK, especially in Europe and the USA/Canada.

There are 4 main articles in this edition, from Boštjan Petauer (2), Veselko Guštin and myself. At present, I feel as if I am 'living on the edge' a bit and only just getting enough articles. Given that we have around 50 members, it would be good to see more members contributing, so please think about it.

First war issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1914

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

1. Introduction

Similar to some other countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) issued postage stamps with a surcharge for charitable purposes during the First World War (1914-1918). The first such issue was issued on November 1, 1914, and one (two in 1915) issue followed each year until 1918.

The issue consists of two stamps. The first is a green stamp for 5 Hellers (hereinafter H) from the ongoing regular regional series depicting the Neretva and Prenj valleys. This stamp was overprinted in two lines, namely at the top 4 squares and the year 1914 with a dot at the end, and in the second the new value 7 Heller. The overprint is in red. The franking value of the stamp was 5H, and 2H went to the fund to support war widows and war orphans.

The second is a 10H stamp, also from the ongoing regular set, depicting the Vrbas Valley in red. This stamp was also overprinted in two lines, namely in the top 4 squares and the year 1914 with a dot at the end, and in the second the stamping of the new value 12 Heller. The overprint is in red. The franking value of the stamp was still 10H, 2H belonged to the fund already mentioned.

The subject of this article is therefore the following two stamps:



Both values, discussed in this article

The basic stamps were printed in sheets of 50 (5x10). Before overprinting, which was done by manually feeding the sheet into the press, the edges of the sheet were removed. The fact that the overprints on all sheets are not always in the same place (some are shifted up, down, left, right and diagonally) can also be attributed to this fact. But there are also differences within the individual sheets.

This can be clearly seen on the 10H sheet, while the 5H sheet is correctly overprinted.

The printing for 7H was 100,000 pieces or 2000 sheets, and the printing for 12H was 250,000 pieces or 5000 sheets. The stamps themselves are by no means rare, letters are rarer, especially those with special features. These are discussed in more detail later in this article. These stamps

are much less common on other postal documents such as payment orders or internal postal invoice documents.



Sample of complete sheet of the 7H value

All stamps were not overprinted at once, but in several print runs. The literature states that 7H stamps were overprinted twice and 12H stamps at least 4 (some mention six) times. There are no more precise data in the literature.

From this it can be concluded that the 5H sheet was overprinted first and only then that for 10H. This is thought to be due to the fact that there are fewer irregularities in the overprint on the former stamp (as far as number 1 types are concerned, as shown below) than on the latter, but there are no definitive proofs for this statement. At the very beginning of studying this issue, there was no living printer who was involved in the overprinting and could confirm how the overprinting

actually went. However, the same printing symbols were used for both values, which can be seen from the fact that some errors in both values occur in the same place.



Sample sheet of 12H value

2. Features of the 1914 Issue

From a philatelic point of view, the issue in question is certainly the most interesting issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Austro-Hungarian period (and probably also the most interesting of the war surcharge issues during the First World War or the Great War, as it was after its end named). Due to its many points, colour nuances and some typical errors, it can only be compared to a limited extent with the first Bosnian issue displaying coat of arms in lithography. With a little

exaggeration, we can call the 1914 issue the “small Bosnian-Herzegovinian Chainbreaker,” although the author of these lines, himself a collector and connoisseur of Chainbreakers, is aware that the emphasis is on the word “small.”

Special features can be divided into two parts in the first phase:

- Special features for basic stamps and
- Specialty in Overprinting

Peculiarities of overprinting can be divided into several types:

- General Characteristics,
- Types of numbers 1 and 4
- Misprints

We will consider each of the listed types of distinctive features separately.

2.1. Special Features of Basic Stamps

The basic stamps were of very high quality, so there are few special features and those that exist are rare. In addition to the colour nuances, they are known to have double perforation and a pair without perforation in the middle, which is a particular rarity and is shown in the image below.



2.2. Special Features of Overprinting

2.2.1 General Characteristics

Common features that cannot be assigned to a single position within a sheet include double overprints, inverted overprints, offset overprints and double overprints, which we show in the images below:



Varieties on both values

2.2.2. Types 1 and 4

There are three types of number 1 as well as three types of number 4 as follows:

First, let's look at the number 1 types

1

1

1

Type a (Michel Type VII) Type b (Michel Type VIII) Type c (Michel Type IX)

Various combinations of types are possible on individual overprinted stamps, which can be seen from the scheme of overprint types on both values.

The number of individual types in the sheet is not always the same, but the largest number is always Type a.

According to the information received, in some places in the word Heller one of the two ls is replaced by a letter 1 (I assume that it is type c). I don't have one myself, but it's true that it's often difficult to distinguish between a worn 1 and some types of letters (there are several types here too!) because they look quite similar.

Types of numbers 4

4

4

4

Narrow 4 (42 times in the sheet), Wide 4 (7 times in the sheet) Open 4 (once in the sheet)



A block of four with all three types of numbers 1

Number types 4 are less interesting for the study because they are always in the same places in the sheet, what applies to both values.

2.2.3. Overprint errors

There are a number of typical errors on a given stamp in a given position some of which only appear in part of the issue. On the stamp for 7H there are 22 of them (9 of which are only in partial printing), on the stamp for 10H there are 21 (of which 12 are only in partial printing). While it is possible to determine the number of errors that occur in the entire run, due to the lack of an entire sheet, it is not possible to determine the number of errors that occur in only part of the run. Some of them are very rare, so their number is probably quite low. These errors were sold together with “normal” stamps at post offices, as they are also known on travelled letters.

This means that almost every other stamp in the sheet has a special feature in the overprint. The features are mostly visible to the naked eye; however, this statement does not fully apply to the stamp for 12H, where the colours of the basic stamp and the overprint are almost identical.

The errors mentioned are best described, illustrated and shown their position in Sekelj's book *"Postal History of Bosnia and Herzegovina"*, while they are treated in less detail in other publications that I mention as literature and sources.

3. Differences in types 1 at the same locations on different sheets

In the previous chapter we learned about all three types of 1. It is interesting that the types of this number in the same places in different sheets can differ. Comparing these differences is also the main purpose of this article.

The stamps of this issue have been studied by several collectors in the past and some of them have also published their results. From the literature available to me, are the studies of the collectors Passer, Coleman, Waste and Calvin. These researchers had in their collections either entire original sheets or larger pieces of sheets from which entire sheets were assembled. The position of the larger pieces in the sheets can usually be determined based on the characteristics of the individual

stamps (types 1 and 4 as well as overprinting errors). This is not always possible with individual stamps

The first one who researched these stamps was Adolf Passer, who issued his findings in Prague in 1930 in the book “The Postage Stamps of Bosnia and Herzegovina”, the others followed later.

How could these differences come about?

We have already mentioned that not all sheets were overprinted at once, but in several (re)print issues. Because the same printing types were used on all 350,000 overprinted stamps and three 1s (1914 and 12) had to be used to overprint the second 10H value, these were slowly worn out and had to be replaced. This wear is particularly evident in types a and c, where there are a number of subtypes that can be attributed to the wear. The worn type a became more and more similar to type c, so sometimes it is difficult to distinguish them from each other, or the stamp appears as type c even though it was originally type a. Therefore, it cannot be said with certainty in every case whether it is a replaced number or just a worn one. Regardless, in the tables that display the number types, they appear as is, regardless of the reason they are there.

But the reverse is not possible: type c never led to type a, which even a cursory glance at both types confirms. Also, type b is always b - it can't be either type a or c because of the horizontal line at the bottom of the number

When the individual specimen became sufficiently worn in one place, it was replaced by another, although not always of the same type. The most commonly used singles were types a and c (b is the rarest and also the most different from the other two)

Some of the differences in the literature can also be attributed to the fact that one of the researchers (Passer) swapped types b and c in his reviews.

The research results of the above authors are presented in two tables, for 7H stamps (Table 1) and for 12H stamps (Table 2). At the end of each field two more columns are added, representing the structure of two halves of each value (one mint and one used) that I have in my collection and which have also been the subject of research.

The abbreviations at the top of the tables mean the following:

W – Waste

Ca - Calvin

P – Passer

Co- Coleman

V – Compiled sheet

N – Petauer (mint sheet)

F – Petauer (used sheet)

A compiled sheet consists of several larger parts of different sheets and is therefore less important for study; regardless, we list it in the table for the sake of completeness.

Comparing different studies, we will take into account the error that occurred in Passer, namely by prioritizing content over form, that is, we will replace the letters b and c in the analysis of sheets, even though the letters in the scheme are incorrect.

Fields where the type of 1 differs between authors are stamped with a grey background, and those where one of my fields differs from the others are stamped with a yellow background.

3.1. Sheet analysis of 7 Heller

The difference in the 7H sheets is relatively small, in fact only one, which confirms the assumption that the 5 Heller sheets were overprinted first.

Differences arise in the 31st field, where one of my sheets also takes part.

This is where Passer's statements differ from the others. However, at this point, one of my sheets (stamped) is identical to Passer's, while the other (unstamped) is identical to the other researched sheet.

If we now summarize the results of the analysis, we get the following number of units of individual types

<i>Researcher Type</i>	<i>Waste</i>	<i>Calvin</i>	<i>Passer</i>	<i>Composite material (V)</i>	<i>Petauer (N)</i>	<i>Petauer (F)</i>
<i>a</i>	80	80	79	80	80	79
<i>b</i>	4	4	4	4	4	4
<i>c</i>	16	16	17	16	16	17

The sum of all types is of course 100 (2 times 50).

As an interesting point, I should also mention that my two stocks are certainly not from the same printing run as they are different from each other. On the unstamped sheet there are typical errors in the 10th and 36th positions (dirt next to 4 on the first and Heller inscription cut below on the second) that are not present on the stamped sheet. There are other, smaller differences between the sheets. From this I conclude that the mint sheet was later overprinted because it has more overprinting errors than the stamped one.

3.2. Sheet analysis of 12 Heller

The situation at this sheet is much more varied, which is undoubtedly due to the two facts already mentioned. First, the printing of these values is 2.5 times that of the stamps for 7H (250,000 versus 100,000). Additionally, this value was overprinted when the previous overprint was already

completed and certain print characters (particularly 1) were already somewhat worn. In addition, for comparison, there is one more sheet available than with 7H.

There are differences in 10 positions, with at least one of mine being different from the others in six cases.

The first four cases are fields where the types of singles in individual field positions of my sheets do not differ from the reference fields of other researchers, but the structure of these fields is not the same. These are fields 3, 6, 18 and 21. Sekelj also mentions the same possible differences in his book mentioned earlier.

In the other six cases, at least one of my sheets differs from all other reference sheets. These are fields 11, 16, 36, 42, 43 and 47. In his book, Sekelj mentions the possibility of combinations that occur in my field positions for fields 36, 43 and 47, but not for fields 11, 16 and 42. Fewer combinations than Sekelj finds in his study: “The *Bosnia Study Group*”

The number of individual types of 1 in 1914 at the value of 12 H for individual researchers is shown in the following table:

<i>Layout/ Type</i>	<i>Waste</i>	<i>Calvin</i>	<i>Passer</i>	<i>Coleman</i>	<i>Composi te material (V)</i>	<i>Petauer (N)</i>	<i>Petauer (F)</i>
<i>a</i>	82	81	79	81	79		81
<i>b</i>	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
<i>c</i>	14	15	17	15	17	15	15

In number 12 the following:

<i>Researc- her/Type</i>	<i>Waste</i>	<i>Calvin</i>	<i>Passer</i>	<i>Coleman</i>	<i>Compos ite materia l (V)</i>	<i>Petauer (N)</i>	<i>Petauer (F)</i>
<i>a</i>	43	45	42	43	40	44	44
<i>b</i>	7	5	8th	7	10	6	6

Michel describes fields 8 and 16 incorrectly.

However, the research is not yet complete. There are also combinations of types that do not appear in any sheet under consideration. In my collection I have 2 stamps with a combination of single characters ccc, which was probably caused by wear and tear of the aca type number. The picture below shows one of them.



4. Conclusion

A number of important collections have been formed of this issue. I have one 5 frame exhibit, consisting of almost only this issue (a few last pages display 1915 and 1916 charity issues also overprints on basic definitive stamps).

Despite many years of research on this topic, there are still many ambiguities that apply not only to this topic, but to the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina (and of course to many other countries as well). I therefore ask anyone who has information about the issue in question, especially information that differs from that provided in this article, to forward it to me. This applies in particular to the distribution of types 1 within the sheets. Thanks in advance.

Literature and sources:

1. Sekelj, Berislav: Handbook and catalogue of postal history (trilingual), Bosnia and Herzegovina, self-issued, Zagreb 2005,
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina 1914 overprints, typescript by an unknown author, written on May 10, 1967,
3. Michel Austria Special 2003, Schwanneberger Verlag, Munich 2002,
4. Ferchenbauer, Ulrich Austria 1850-1918 manual and special catalogue, self-issued, Vienna, 2000,
5. Handbook of Stamps of Croatian Countries, Book 1, Volume 1, Croatian Philatelic Association, no year (but before World War II),
6. Varieties of the 1914 First War Charity Issue, Bosnia Study Group, 2003,
7. Own research

Table 1. Position of the 1 at values for 7 Heller

WCaPCoVNF	WCaPCoVNF	WCaPCoVNF	WCaPCoVNF	WCaPCoVNF
aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa b cbbbb	c bcccc aaaaa
c bcccc aaaaa	a baaaa c ccccc	aaaaa c ccccc	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa
aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa cbcccc	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	cbcccc aaaaa
aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa b cbbbb	aaaaa c bcccc	c bcccc b cbbbb	aaaaa aaaaa
b cbbbb c bcccc	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa
aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	c bcccc aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa
aaaaa abaaac	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa
aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	c bcccc aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa
aaaaa c bcccc	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	c bcccc aaaaa
aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa aaaaa	aaaaa c bcccc	aaaaa aaaaa	c bcccc c bcccc

Table 2: position of Type 1 in the sheet for 12 Hellers

WCaCoVNF	WCaPCoVNF	WCaPCoVNF	WCaPCoVNF	WCaPCoVNF
aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaacccc	aaaaaaa b bcbbbb aaaaaaa	c cbcccc aaaaaaa aaaaaaa
c cbcccc aaaaaaa c aacaca	aaaaaaa c cbcccc aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa c cbcccc aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa
aaaaaaa aaaaaaa c cbccaa	aaaaaaa c cbcccc c cbcccc	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa c cbcccc	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaa	c cbcccc aaaaaaa aaaacaa
aaaaaaa aaaaaaa c cbccaa	aaaaaaa b bcbbbb aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa a cbaccc aaaaaaa	c cbcccc b bcbbbb aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa
b bb cbbbb c ac bcacc c ca bccaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa c abccaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa
aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	c cbcccc aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa
aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa
aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaacc	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	c cbcccc aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa
aaaaaaa c cbcccc aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa c cbccaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaacc	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	c cbcccc aaaaaaa aaaaaaa
aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaacc aaaaaac	aaaaaaa c cbcccc aaaaaaa	aaaaaaa aaaaaaa aaaaaaa	c cbcccc c cbcccc aaaaaaa

Selected postage stamps for the illustrated history of Koper

**An overview of the historical events of Koper, Istria and the Slovene Littoral (Primorska),
which have always been strongly reflected in philately.**

by dr. Veselko Guštin

The Venetians ruled Istria (slov., croat. Istra) more or less from 1267, until the collapse of the republic in 1797 (Peace of Campoformido). During this time, Istrian cities lived in the shadow of the Venetians. Trade with the hinterland developed, with Koper (old name It. Justinopolis and Capo d'Istria, later Capodistria) gaining the most here. Wars, plague and malaria ravaged Istria as well in the 16th and 17th centuries. For example, in the years 1630/31, the number of inhabitants in Koper fell from 8,000 to only 1,800. The Venetian authorities replaced the losses with immigrants from the Apennine peninsula and with Croatian defectors fleeing from the Turks. In Istria, it was especially in the 18th century that many Greeks who were retreating from the Turks also fled. Since Roman times, Istria has mainly exported wood, salt, oil and stone. The Venetian-speaking Italians, who lived mainly in coastal cities, were in charge of banking, the judiciary and trade, while the Slovenes and Croats were mainly farmers and inhabited the interior of Istria.

As early as 1635, the Venetians established regular postal connections with various parts of their republic and with Venice. At first, shipments were carried out by "Corrieri Veneti" (Venetian couriers). Thus, in the years from 1747 to 1758, 32 post offices operated with their horsemen. Among them was the post office in Koper (Capo d'Istria), which also got its own postal connection and one courier from Palma (Palmanova) to Koper. Once a week, postal shipments from Palma were transferred to Venice. In addition to individual letters, couriers also carried envelopes with several letters and small packages. The messenger was obliged to take a package of official letters weighing up to ½ pound (1 pound = 453.6 g). The letters inside the small package did not bear any postmark. In 1761, the post office in Koper got its first postmark. Koper was a kind of "logistics" centre for postal traffic to and from Istria. In winter, postal routes ran overland, via Palma. That's why many shipments from Koper only have the handmark "da Capo d' Istria" and the Palma stamp. In the summer, shipping was used most often. It can be said that there was no ship that did not take a letter for Venice. The postage for one letter was 5 soldi.



Figure 1. The Venetian postmarks of Koper: the first (small) from 1761, and the second (large) from 1784. *THC* originality of the first is questionable?!

The second stamp was followed by the third Venetian stamps of Koper: CAPOD / ISTR / IA from 1795. All described stamps are listed in the Müller stamp book [1]. The years do not mean that there were no stamped letters before that, but manual markings were used, and mail was carried by private or designated postmen.

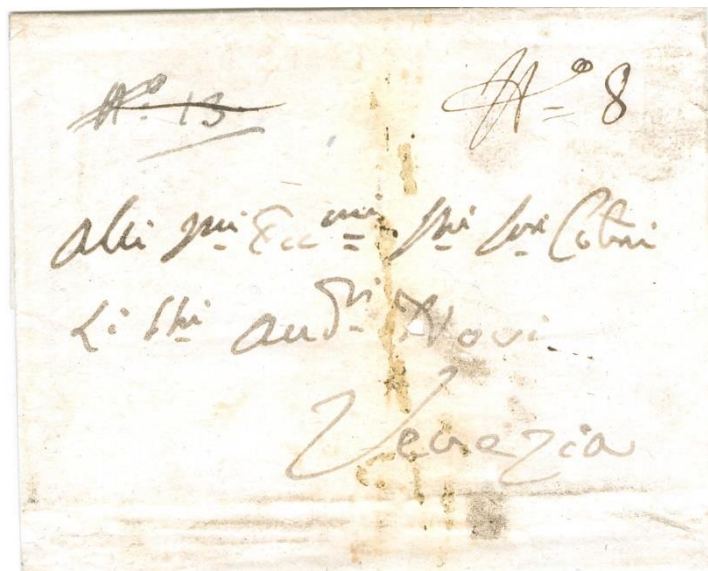


Figure 2a. Front page of a letter from Buzet/Pinguente via Poreč/Parenzo ("da Parenzo") to Koper/Capodistria. Here, a stamp was printed on the back (see Vollmeier's signature), and the letter was registered: first under no. 13 ("No. 13"), then corrected to 8 ("No. 8").



Figure 2b. The back side of a business letter from Poreč ("da Parenzo"), which was free of charge and continued its journey to Venice. Attention, on the original stamp, the head of the lion is always round, but on the fake it has a "cap". Then there are two letters in the word CAPO D'ISTR/IA we have to take care of it: in the original stamp it is always I under the S. Stamp was used from 1792-97.

The French fought with the Habsburgs, the Republic of Venice and other Italian states. The result of the wars that ended in 1801 was the creation of many Italian states under French control and above all the end of the Republic of Venice (1797), whose territory France shared with the Habsburgs. Koper came under Austrian rule for the first time in the period 1797-1805.

The pinnacle of Napoleon's exploits was certainly the battle in which the French convincingly defeated the more numerous and stronger army of the Austrian Empire in December 1805. Austria had to cede some territories. After the peace concluded in Bratislava (1805), Napoleon annexed Venetian Istria to his Kingdom of Italy. From 1805, the French had Venetian Istria and Dalmatia with the Bay of Kotor and the territory of the former Dubrovnik Republic in their hands.

In 1809, the French established the Illyrian provinces from the former Austrian territories. They were not formally part of the French Empire, but were completely subordinate to it. The capital was Ljubljana. Marshal Marmont was the first to be appointed to the position of Governor-General on October 8, 1809, the last (third) Governor held his office for only one month.



Figure 3. Pre-philatelic letter from Buzet /Pinguente/ to Koper (CAPODISTRIE) dated July 26, 1813. Postage is paid 3 decimes, 2 decimes for distances up to 100 km, 1 decime for a weight of 6 to 8 gr.

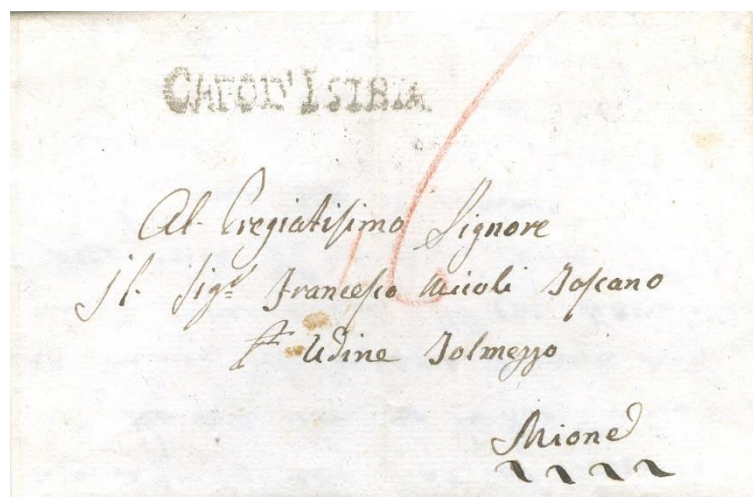


Figure 4. Pre-philatelic letter with the Austrian stamp Koper /CAPO D' ISTRIA/ for Mione, postage 16 kreutzer (kr), the stamp was also used during the first Austrian occupation, later from 1820 to 1825.

In August 1813, Austria declared war on France, which led to the occupation of the Illyrian provinces. From 1815, Koper, Istria and the Slovenian Littoral (Primorska) belonged to Austria. The territory was called the Austrian-Illyrian littoral. At that time, Austria reached deep into the territory of today's Italy (Lombardy).

The faster development of places in Istria and Primorska began only after 1848. In the revolutionary year, these two regions did not experience a national revival like the others, although according to the census in 1846, 166,440 Croats and Slovenes and only 60,040 Italians lived in Istria. According to the census data in 1910, there were 122 Germans, 18,744 Italians, 23,824 Slovenes and 159 Croats in Koper and the surrounding area.

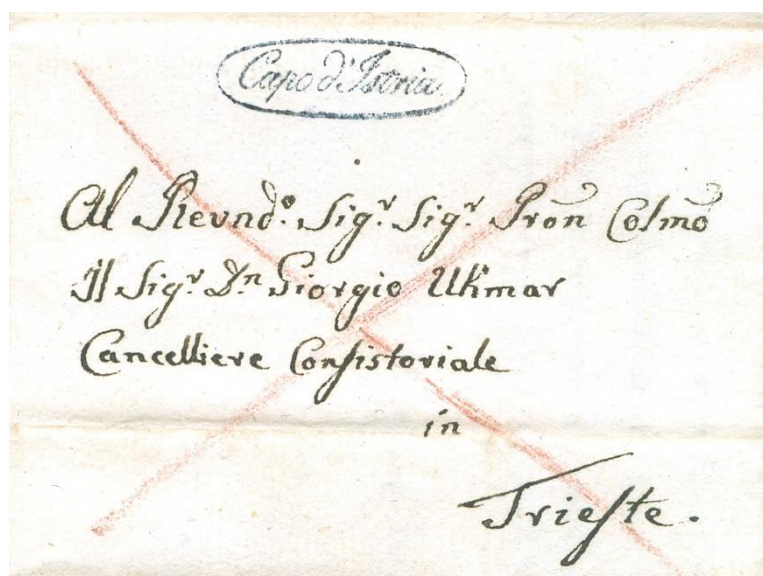


Figure 5. Pre-philatelic letter with the Austrian stamp Koper / CAPO D'JSTRIA, in an oval, dated 9 Aug. 1827, which was used between 1826-31.

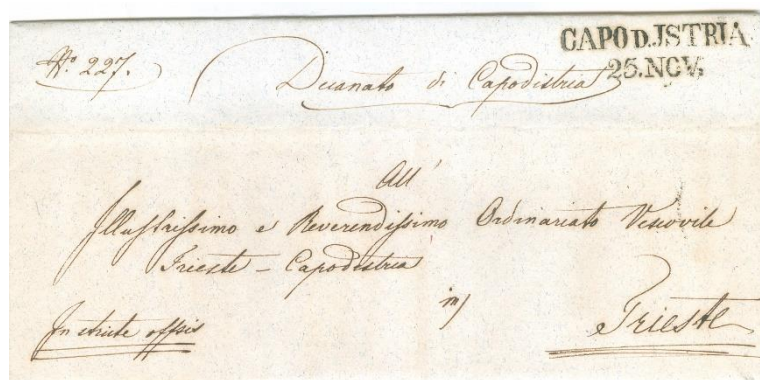


Figure 6. Pre-philatelic letter with THC Austrian two-line stamp of Koper: CAPO D' JSTRIA Nov. 25. (1844) to Trieste, which was used in 1842-62

At the beginning of the World War I, the border between the two members of the "Triple Alliance" Austria-Hungary and the united Kingdom of Italy in 1861 was the river Soča. Austria's arbitrary attack on Serbia allowed Italy to continue to cooperate with the alliance or to leave it and join the Entente.



Figure 7. Letter from Koper to Trieste: CAPO D' JSTRIA stamp 7. JUL (1850?) on the 3 kr stamp was in use in the period 1842-62. Austria first stamp issued in 1850.



Figure 8. Official letter with Austrian single round postmark (day/month) Koper: CAPO D' JSTRIA 27/6 (1865) used in the period 1862-74.



Figure 9. 3 kr postal stationery with the Austrian one-round (day/month/year) stamp Koper: CAPODISTRIA 18/9/02, which was used in the period 1875-1905.



Figure 10. Letter with Austrian octagonal three-line stripe stamp Koper: CAPODISTRIA 14.11.(19)01 for city, which was used in the period 1898-1903, postage paid with a 3 kr postage stamp.

On May 24, 1915, Italy declared war on its former ally Austria-Hungary. The initial war operations brought some success to the Italians and the border moved a few kilometres to the east. Eleven more offensives followed, but the border did not change significantly. In the combined Austro-Hungarian-German 12th Offensive that followed, the army, with a lightning breakthrough from Tolmin to Kobarid ("the miracle of Kobarid"), advanced irresistibly through the Italian border line and in five days (October 1917) drove the Italians to the Piave River. This situation remained until the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. In an offensive on October 27, 1918, the Italians attacked all along the river Piave, which brought them a "historic victory".

November 4, 1918 is the day the armistice between Italy and Austro-Hungary came into effect. The Italian general Petitti di Roreto was appointed as the military governor of the occupied

territory of Julian Venetia (Italian: Venezia Giulia, Slovene Julijska krajina). In a statement to the people, he promised the population of Slovene nationality their own language, citizenship and other rights as the Italians would have. The Italian occupation lasted two years. The signing of the Treaty of Rapallo in November 1920 definitively confirmed that the Italians would receive the Slovenian Littoral and Istria and some islands. Later, they also appropriated Reka/Rijeka/Fiume

The new border, which assigned the territory with 570,000 Slovenes and Croats and only 345,000 Italians to the Kingdom of Italy, led to the great emigration - the first exodus - of some 100,000 people from Primorska and Istria, Slovenes and Croats to the hinterland of the Kingdom of SHS (later Yugoslavia) and the Overseas Territories.



Figure 11. Double-circle Austro-Hungarian stamp with long bridge of Koper: CAPODISTRIA 16.12.(19)18 – 11 on letter to Trieste with Austrian postage stamp for 20 Hell. overprinted “Regno d’ Italia / Venezia Giulia / 3.XI.18” (Kingdom of Italy / Julian Veneto), was in use from 1916-26.

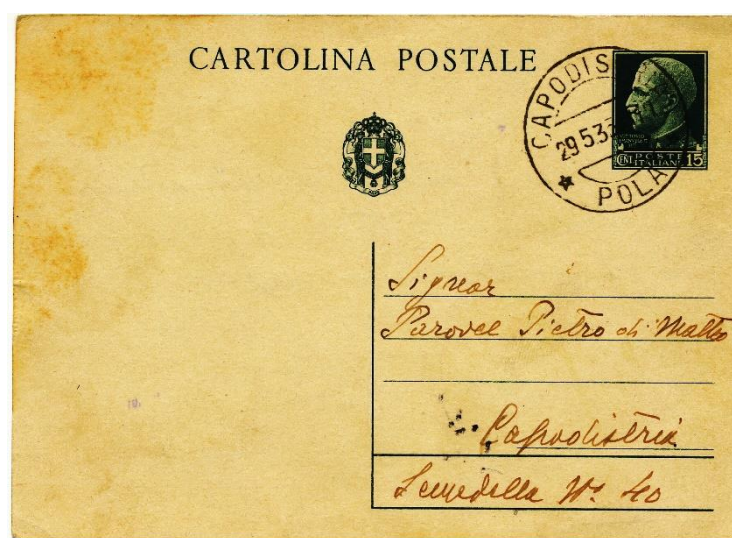


Figure 12. The first Italian one-round stamp with the segments of Koper CAPODISTRIA / POLA (24/05/1943) on a 30 Cent. postcard sent to Padua was in use between 1939 and 1946.

Fascism ruled Italy from 1923 to 1943. Slovenes and Croats were subjected to strong Italianisation during the two wars. New Italians immigrated, mainly from the south of the Apennine peninsula. The fascist authorities thoroughly set about the task of making Istria "Italian again". The Italians first abolished Slovenian and Croatian schools, associations and newspapers, banned the use of Slovenian and Croatian in public places, etc. It can be said that the development of Istria and the Slovenian Littoral greatly stalled or regressed during this period.

After the capitulation of Italy, the Germans occupied the northern part of Italy. Following Hitler's persuasion, Mussolini, who had been freed from prison in Gran Sasso by the Germans, proclaimed the Italian Social Republic (Repubblica sociale italiana, RSI) on September 23, 1943. On September 10, 1943, the Germans established the so-called Operation Zone of the Adriatic Coast (Operationszone Adriatisches Küstenland, OZAK) from the regions of Friuli, Gorica, Trieste, Istria, Reka/Fiume, Kvarner and Ljubljana. The high commissariat of the administrative unit was in Trieste.



Figure 13. Postcard sent with RSI stamps from Koper with one-round postmark with segments: CAPODISTRIA POLA 30.5.44 to Ankarano (Koper), postage paid with Italian stamp overprinted with "Fascio" for 30 Cent., in use in the period 1937-45.

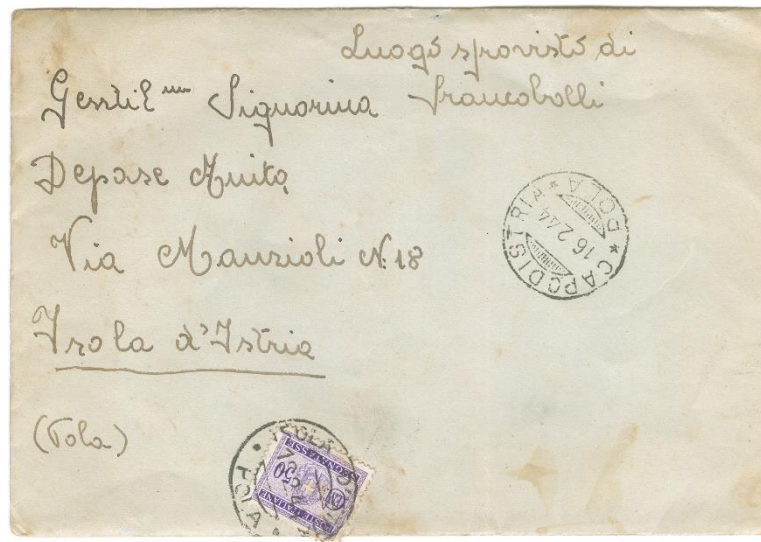


Figure 14. A letter with a Koper single-circle stamp with striped segments: CAPODISTRIA 16.2.44 to Izola. Although the sender wrote "Luogo sprovvisto di francobolli / There are no postage stamps in the place" he was taxed with a postage stamp for 50 (= 2 x 25) cents in the receipt.



Figure 15. Registered letter with the Italian one-round stamp of Koper with striped segments: CAPODISTRIA / deleted POLA/ 28.12.45 for Trieste, in use from 1935-46, with RSI stamps overprinted with TRIESTE - TRST, FIUME-RIJEKA, ISTRRA available at the Koper post office and the regular issue of stamps for Istria and the Slovenian coast for 5 Lira, a total of 12 Lira, used in 1945.

The Yugoslav army liberated Trieste on May 1, 1945, the Slovenian Littoral and Istria a few days later. On June 12, 1945, according to the agreement with the Anglo-American allies, they had to withdraw east of the agreed Morgan demarcation line. According to the Devin Agreement, the territory of the Julian Venetia, i.e. the Slovenian Littoral and Istria, was divided into two occupation zones, the west under the allied (Anglo-Americans) and the east under the Yugoslav military administration.

According to the peace treaty, from 1947, almost all of the Slovenian Littoral (zone B and part of zone A of Julian Venetia) passed under Yugoslavia. The newly created Free Territory of Trieste (FTT) "lived" until 1954, when almost the entire zone A came under Italian administration, and zone B and the smaller southern part of zone A came under Yugoslav administration. During the FTT (slovene STO, serbo-croatian STT), either special stamps STT-VUJA /or VUJNA/ (Free Territory of Trieste - Military Administration of the Yugoslav / National / Army) or Yugoslav ones with the overprint STT-VUJ/N/A were used.

After the Second World War, many Italians "voluntarily" emigrated from Istria, as well as Primorska, Rijeka and Zadar to promising Italy. It is not exactly known how many people went to Italy. It is estimated that in the second exodus, somewhere up to 200,000 Italians (among them also many Slovenes and Croats) emigrated from the entire territory that Yugoslavia received from Italy after World War II. Also, several thousand people left Zone A FTT, especially the workers of the shipyard in Tržič (Monfalcone).



Figure 16: The first bilingual Slovenian-Italian one-round stamp on the official R letter from Koper (STO): KOPER-CAPODISTRIA 28.V.54 for Potok no. 9, p. Dekani, postage stamps of Yugoslavia with STT-VUJA overprint and special stamp STT-VUJA for 5 din were used.

Slovenian Littoral and Istria experienced a resurgence after 1954, especially in tourism, from Piran to Bovec. Slovenia got its own piece of the sea with Koper, Izola and Piran. As a socialist republic inside Yugoslavia and then in 1991 as an independent country: Republic of Slovenia.

Literature:

- 1 Edwin Mueller's Handbook of the Pre-stamp Postmarks of Austria, Collectors Club, New York, 1960;
- 2 Paolo Vollmeier, Repubblica di Venezia, Catalogo documentato, Vol. 1 and 2, 1995;
3. Darko Darovec, A Brief History of Istra, Archivio del Litorale Adriatico, 1998.
4. Veselko Guštin, Bojan Krajnc, own collections, Bruno Visintin,

Report of a Zoom meeting held at 16:00 on 28 February 2024

by Nick Coverdale

The meeting was attended by the following members and four presentations were made as shown:

Roger Morrell Baranja postal stationery

David Foster Stamps of Hungary overprinted for use in Croatia

Richard Stevens Serbia revenue stamped paper

Nick Coverdale Austrian consular post office in Belgrade

Vid Žiberna

Velisa Vesović

Veselko Guštin

Lennart Emborg

Jérôme Bourguignat

Tony Bosworth

Advance notice of a meeting to be held in Birmingham on Friday 9 May 2025

Andy Taylor, President of the Austrian Philatelic Society, has booked a room at the Europhilex Exhibition which runs from 7 to 11 May 2025 in Birmingham. The booking is for Friday 9 May 2025 (please don't turn up in 2024!) from 1 pm to 5 pm. All members of the Austrian, Yugoslav, Czechoslovakian and Hungarian Societies are welcome to attend and display. There will be no charge. Please note this in your diary. Hopefully, some of our overseas members will be attending.

The story behind a cover

by Nick Coverdale

In JP 133, I wrote an article entitled ‘The Serbian Postal Convention of 2 December 1868 with Austria and Hungary’. I illustrated it with 3 covers. One cover that I didn’t use in this article tells an interesting story. Figure 1 shows the front of the folded letter.



Figure 1

It was sent from Požarevac to Pest, in Hungary. It is franked with a 25 para Prince Milan stamp (probably 1st printing, perf 9½ x 12) which was the correct rate for a basic rate letter under the Convention. It is cancelled by a Požarevac double circle (Kardosch type 6b) dated 8 / XII. There is an unclear cancellation on the reverse (possibly 11 / XII) and a Pest arrival cancel (unclear but possibly 21 / 12) (see Figure 2). The contents date it as 1871.



Figure 2 (reduced)

The letter is addressed to Lazar Koits, Trommel Gasse Nr. 20, Pest. Research on the internet produced some interesting information from a website prinbanat.ro/en (the ‘Recollections of Némét: the Mučalov family members’).

Milutin Mučalov was born on 8 May 1909 in Nagy-Becskerek, Banat – now Zrenjanin in Serbia. From 1944 to 1949, he and his wife lived at the Mučalov family mansion in Némét (now in Romania). In 1949, all the Mučalov family belongings were nationalised and they had to leave the country. After 1990, the properties in Némét were returned to Sima Mučalov, the eldest son of Milutin. Shortly before he died in Canada in 1999, Milutin dictated his memoirs.

Milutin’s maternal great grandfather was Panajot Demetriades, born 1817 in Athens. He bought a house at 25 Trommel Gasse in Pest. His daughter Eugenie married Stojan Lilić and moved into No. 25. Panajot’s other daughter Helenie married Lazar Koits and they lived in the same house. This letter is addressed to Lazar Koits at No.20 in 1871. This seems to be a case of 2 near neighbours falling in love and getting married!

In the last year or two I have seen several other covers at auctions and online sales addressed to Lazar Koits, some of which appear to be in the same handwriting as the above.

You will see from Figure 2 that someone has pencilled ‘ex Sir John Wilson 1962’ on the cover. Sir John Wilson was the 2nd Baronet and lived from 1898 to 1975. He served in the Coldstream Guards in WWI and apparently became interested in stamps when hospitalised in Stirling. After the war, he qualified as a barrister but retired from this in the early 1930s to manage his estate and philatelic collection. He was President of the RPSL from 1934 and then succeeded Edward Bacon as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection in 1938. He was President of the RPSL again in 1949 and Chairman of the Expert Committee for many years.

It is stories like this gleaned from just one cover that add considerably to my interest in philately.

Awards to members

In JP148, I listed some awards made to members. I have now been informed of some additions:

26th ALPE-ADRIA, Tarvisio, Italy (21 – 24 Sept 2023). In addition to a Large Vermeil, Boštjan Petauer was also awarded a Gold for ‘From Postal Stationery to early picture postcards’.

THAILAND WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIPS (27 Nov – 2 Dec 2023). Boštjan Petauer was awarded 85 points for ‘First Issues of Spanish and French Andorra’.

MULTILATERALE KOPER (7 – 10 Sept 2023). Boštjan Petauer was awarded a Large Gold (his first) for ‘From Postal Stationery to early picture postcards’.

Bosnia & Herzegovina 1913

by Boštjan Petauer

In that year, the first and only issue was issued in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was entirely intended for franking newspapers, for which a special, reduced rate was applicable. This was used only in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria-Hungary.

The stamps were issued on October 15, 1913 and retained franking validity until the collapse of the monarchy in 1918, although the unoverprinted ones were used for a short time after the end of the war already in the new country. The mentioned stamps were only available at the post offices of those places where the newspapers were published. Only newspaper publishers had the right to use them; all other senders continued to use normal regular stamps.

The square-shaped stamps show a bust of a girl in Bosnian national costume.

Before these stamps were issued, regular series stamps for 1 krajcar, or 2 hellers after 1900, were used to send newspapers. At the beginning, the use of the mentioned stamps on letters was prohibited and the post office only issued them to newspaper companies; use on letter mail was allowed only later.

Proofs and test prints

Proof is known as an oval head plan in original size in black and blue.

There are quite a few test prints, but it is very difficult to avoid the impression that at least some of them are of a more speculative nature. They are available on 10 heller chalk paper imperforate in blue and on normal paper also imperforate in red, orange and teal. The "Handbook" lists a few more of them. They are mostly in the form of a block, but some were subsequently perforated.

In addition, there are perforated colour trial prints for 10 heller in ultramarine, dark blue, green, orange and red.

All trial prints are rare.

Issued stamps

The entire set includes four stamps, namely for 2 hellers (light blue and blue), for 6 hellers (red purple), 10 hellers (carmine pink) and 20 hellers (green). They are printed on chalk paper without a watermark and are imperforate. They are also known to be (partially) privately perforated; these are especially sought after on newspaper banners. The glue is colourless or pale yellow and lacks lustre.

The first print run was printed with poor inks that dissolved in water and could be wiped off the paper with fingers. Therefore, practically the entire edition is destroyed.

The paper is medium thick, except for the last editions of the values for 6 and 10 hellers, where it is thicker; these stamps are also slightly rarer than the others.



Figure 1: Issued stamps (2 Hellers in both colours)

There are also counterfeits of the issued stamps in the original colours on gray chalk paper, both perforate and imperforate. They were made in Paris and Belgium.

Use of stamps

The stamps, as already mentioned, were only used for sending newspapers and especially the higher values are rare. However, there are also known cases when publishers used these stamps to send printed materials.



Figure 2: Printed matter sent from Sarajevo to Zagreb for one heller, franked (normal rate for printed matter up to 50g was 5 heller)

Conclusion

The issue in question was used for a short time after the end of the war (like some other stamps from Bosnia and Herzegovina) without an overprint. It was later reprinted twice in the new country (Mi 21-22 and 27-29)), and the rest were issued in perforate form (Mi 23-26). The description of these, otherwise very interesting, stamps already exceed the scope of this article.

Literature and sources

1. Ferchenbauer U: Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Band IV, Ungarn 1867, Österreichische Post im Ausland, Wien 2008, Selbstverlag,
2. Passer A., Die Postwertzeichen von Bosnien und Herzegowina, Prague 1930,
3. Michel Österreich Spezialkatalog, Schwanneberger Verlag GmbH, Munich 2013,
4. Handbook of stamps of Croatian countries, book 1, volume 1, Croatian Philatelic Association, no year (but before 2. world war),
5. Private collection

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