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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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Statement from the Committee

This is the 151st edition of Jugopošta, but it may be the penultimate one ever. We've made it known that we must have a replacement Treasurer for the YSG to continue to function and we have asked for someone to come forward but, to date, no one has. Those of us already fulfilling a role in YSG are not in a position to take on another role (even though the amount of work involved is relatively small). Sadly, we must therefore conclude that, if no one comes forward before the end of the year, the YSG will be closed down on 31 December. This seems a rather sad end after 40 years for the only English-speaking society dedicated to Yugoslavian philately, but we are left with no choice. Members – it is up to you.

From the President

I have very little to say this time; except to repeat the message about the replacement for the job of Treasurer. If we cannot find a replacement for this vital job, we will have to close the Society down. This would be a great pity; so it is up to you.

At this point I would like to pay a tribute to Dave Foster our Treasurer; he has done a magnificent job for the YSG, but for health reasons has to give the job up. Thank you Dave!

From the Editor

This edition includes an article on the postal stationery of occupied Baranya (1919 – 21) by Roger Morrell. It also includes three articles by Boštjan Petauer on Bosnia and Herzegovina issues. Roger Morrell has also provided a report on the ever-successful Joint Societies Meeting held in August in Leeds. Four YSG members were present including your Editor.

On page 20 there is an advertisement for a meeting at Europhilex in Birmingham on the afternoon of Friday 9th May 2025. All YSG members are welcome to attend and to present if they so wish. There will be no charge for the meeting as the room cost is being covered by the Austrian Philatelic Society.

The Postal Stationery Issues of Occupied Baranya, 1919-1921

Roger Morrell

Historical background

The Hungarian county of Baranya was conquered by the Ottoman Empire in the early sixteenth century, along with most of the former Kingdom of Hungary, but after their removal by the Habsburg forces in the late seventeenth century, all former Hungarian provinces were taken into the Habsburg Empire. Baranya itself was split between into two parts, the northern part being within the Hungarian administrative region, and the southern part within the Croatian administrative region. After the State Compromise of 1867 when Hungary achieved the right to govern itself within the Empire, the internal administration of Croatia passed to Hungary. This position lasted until the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in October 1918, after which advancing Serbian forces occupied Croatian counties and several areas of southern Hungary and Austria, occupying the city of Pécs on 14 November 1918 and proclaiming the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. However, the continued Serbian occupation of the Hungarian part of Baranya was not in accordance with the negotiated terms of the Treaty of Trianon of 1920, which came into force on 26 July 1921, requiring all Serbian forces to withdraw. This eventually occurred under pressure from the Hungarian army on 22 August 1921.

Occupation postal matters

According to the requirements of the Paris Peace Conference, the Hungarian postal administration was supposed to continue to function under the occupation, with supplies of postal materials from Budapest, but it is said that the occupying Serbs wanted to mark their claim to the territory by placing an overprint on Hungarian stamps. The Hungarian postal administration approved the use of '*Dunántúli megszállás 1919*' ('Trans-Danubian occupation 1919'), but Serbs insisted on 'Baranya 1919' only. This latter overprint was prepared on postage stamps locally in the city of Pécs, which were issued on 5 May 1919.

Rather than the overprinting being to make a political point, some have argued that the overprinting was designed to stop the smuggling of stamps back into Hungary proper, driven by profiteering because of differential inflation rates between Baranya and Hungary caused by the Hungarian Bolshevik government's printing of excessive quantities of banknotes. Yet others have argued that it was a revenue-raising method to help support post office employees through these trying times, milking the stamp collecting frenzy that took place after the war. All three pressures may be true in practice, but we shall probably never know which was the principal driving force.

A second overprinted stamp issue with 'Baranya' in an arc and a new value was issued on 18 December 1919 in order to accommodate a rise in postal rates to account for post-war inflation. About this time certain Hungarian postal stationery items available in Baranya were also overprinted with a larger version of this design. It is not recorded precisely when they were available at post offices, but Hodobay [1] considers some to have been available at the same time as the new overprinted stamps.

Postal rates

The postal rates during the occupation are not all clearly defined. There appears to be no official documentation that is available to provide irrefutable evidence as to when rate changes took place, except for the changes that took place on 01.04.1920 (Figure 1). The following Table 1 covering all the rate changes [2] was prepared based on earlier deductions by Dr Paul Szilagyi [3] following a study of all forms of mail from the occupied area. It has since been cited in the Hodobay postal stationery handbook [1], but other sources vary somewhat. Bodor's publication [4] does not list

the small changes that took place on 05.05.1919 and 01.05.1920, but agrees with the 10% increase on 01.07.1921.

Postai díjszabás 1920. április 1-től.						
Folyó szám	A küldemény	belföldi		külföldi		Megjegyzés
		díjszabás				
		kor.	fill.	kor.	fill.	
1	Levél, zártlevelezőlap 20 gr.-ig minden további 20 gr. még	—	60	1	—	sulyhatár korlátlan
2	Levelező lap (egyszerű nyílt)	—	40	—	40	
3	Nyomtatvány 50 gr.-ként	—	15	—	20	
4	Áruminta 100 gr.-ig minden további 50 gr. még	—	40	—	40	sulyhatár } belföldre 500 gr. külföldre 350 gr.
5	Üzleti papír 250 gr.-ig minden további 50 gr. még	1	—	1	—	
6	Egybecsomagolva { nyomtatvány 50 gr.-ként áruminta üzleti papír	—	20	—	20	sulyhatár és díjminimum mint a 3, 4 és 5 tételeknél
7	Ajánlási díj	1	—	1	—	
8	Hírlap, folyóirat 250 gr.-ig 500 gr.-ig	—	10	—	—	Jugoszláviába és Ausztriába is küldhető
9	Hírlapkötegek 100 gr.-ig 250 " " 500 " " 1000 " " minden további 1000 gr. még	—	10 20 40 80	—	—	Sulyhatár 5 kg.
10	Postautalvány (4000 K.-ig) 100 kor.-ként	—	40	—	—	
11	Értéklevél a) sulydíj b) értékdíj 1000 K.-ként legkisebb össz. díj: 1000 K.-ig (100 gr.-ig) 2000 " (540 " ") 3000 " (880 " ") 3000 K. felül	mint ajánlott levélnél				Suly és érték korlátlan Házhoz kézbesítési, v értesítési díj nincs
12	Csomag a) sulydíj ételmiszer vagy annak tartálya 5 kg.-ig 10 " " 15 " " 20 " " egyéb csomag: 5 kg.-ig 10 " " 15 " " 20 " " b) értékdíj 1000 K.-ként	3 6 9 12 5 10 15 20	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — —	
13	Előmutatási díj utárvét. levélnél, érték- levélnél és csomagnál, postai megbízásnál	—	40	—	—	Az utalvány úrlap arát levonni nem kell. Utárvetelezhető ösz- szeg 4000 K. Postai megbízás okmányonként 4000 K.-ig.
14	Postai megbízási lap ára	—	80	—	—	Okmány nélkül 20 K.-ig terjedő kdv. beszedésére
15	Csekk fizetési utalványok közvetítési díja 50 K.-ig 1000 K.-ként kifizetési díja házhoz kézbesítéskor 50 K.-ig 1000 " " 4000 " "	— — — — — — 1	10 50 — 25 50 — —	— — — — — — 1	— — — — — — —	Ha nincs leróva, a kifizet- éskor lerovandó A postatakarékpénztári közvetítő szolgálat egyelőre be van szüntetve.

A forgalom egyelőre Baranya, Somogy és Tolna vármegye megszállott területeire terjed ki.

Figure 1: Baranya postal rates from 1 April 1920, believed to have come from the publication 'A Magyar Posta új díjszabása – kiadta a pécsi Posta és Táviráda Igazgatóság', 1920, referred to by Dr Szilyagi.

If the dates that increases in rates took place are correct, then many of them took effect a few months before the equivalent rate rise took place in Hungary itself, reflecting the role that the Serbian occupation had compared with the supposed postal control from Budapest.

Table 1: Simplified postal rates for Baranya

Date	Local letter	Distance letter, 20g	Postcard	Foreign letter, 20 g	Foreign postcard	Registration	Express	
							Baranya	Outside
15.6.1918	10+5	15+5 (5)	10	25 (15)	15	25	60	
5.5.1919	10+5	15+5 (5)	10	25 (15)	15	45	105	
1.10.1919	-	50 (20)	30	50 (20)	30	100	200	1000
1.4.1920	60 (20)	60 (60)	40	100 (60)	40	100	120	
1.5.1920	-	100 (?)	60	100 (60)	60?	100	120	
1.2.1921*	-	100 (?)	60	250 (?)	100	250	250	
1.7.1921	Rates from 1.2.1921 all raised by 10% ¹							
20.8.1921	100 (20)	100 (20)**	60**	250 (150)	100	250	300	

+ = war tax, subsumed into the rate after the war; () rate per extra 20 g; * inland rates applied preferentially to SHS, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria; ** including convention countries.

As will be shown, the surcharge rates found on the overprinted postal stationery reflect the rates from 1.10.1919 shown in this Table.

Overprinted and surcharged stationery

The catalogue listings are given in Table 2. Note that there are errors in some Michel descriptions. Apart from the 10 *fillér* postcard and 20 *f* letter card, the remainder were obsolete in Hungary before the end of the war. The 150 *f* surcharge on envelopes was intended for a foreign registered letter.

There are two positions of the overprint: Type I where it is on the original indicium (on both halves of the reply-paid postcard), and Type II, where it is to the left of the original indicium. Type II cards were additionally given an oval Pécs Postal Directorate handstamp on the original indicium, presumably to ‘cancel’ it to prevent it being considered as having a value. Versions marked with a ‘?’ in the Table may exist according to Hodobay, but are not marked as such by the Michel postal stationery catalogue. One could speculate that Type II overprints were made first, followed by Type I later when it was realised that Type II might cause confusion, coupled with the extra work of hand-stamping each one.

¹ This short-period rise was unattributed to any original source by Dr Silagyi’s original article, in which it was illustrated by one example of mail which appeared to have an increased rate. Because the large proportion of existing mail was philatelic, it is unclear if this is correct. No other evidence for the raised rate has since been highlighted.

Table 2: Overprinted stationery

Hungarian type	Simady/ Hodobay	Michel	I: Overprint on original indicium	II: Overprint to the left of the original indicum	No. issued (Michel)
150 <i>f</i> envelope	1	U1	150 <i>fillér</i>	-	1200
16 <i>f</i> local registered envelope	2	U2	150 <i>fillér</i>	-	6169
35 <i>f</i> distance registered envelope	3	U3	150 <i>fillér</i>	-	3581
6 <i>f</i> + 2 <i>f</i> war charity letter card with 1914- 1915 dates	4	K1	50 <i>fillér</i>	50 <i>fillér</i>	K1+K2: 9150 K3+K4: 24,320
10 <i>f</i> + 2 <i>f</i> war charity letter card with 1914- 1915 dates	5	K3	50 <i>fillér</i>	?	
6 <i>f</i> + 2 <i>f</i> war charity letter card with 1914- 1916 dates	6	K2	?	50 <i>fillér</i>	
10 <i>f</i> + 2 <i>f</i> war charity letter card with 1914- 1916 dates	7	K4	50 <i>fillér</i>	50 <i>fillér</i>	
20 <i>f</i> letter card	8	K5	50 <i>fillér</i>	-	5250
5 <i>f</i> + 2 <i>f</i> war charity postcard with 1914- 15 dates, pale green	9	P1	30 <i>fillér</i>	30 <i>fillér</i>	P1+P2+P3: 14,000
5 <i>f</i> + 2 <i>f</i> war charity postcard with 1914- 15 dates, dark green	10	P2	30 <i>fillér</i>	30 <i>fillér</i>	
5 <i>f</i> + 2 <i>f</i> war charity postcard with 1914- 16 dates, dark green	11	P3*	30 <i>fillér</i>	30 <i>fillér</i>	
5 <i>f</i> + 2 <i>f</i> war charity reply-paid postcard with 1914-1915 dates, pale green	13	P5*	?	30 <i>fillér</i>	15,340
10 <i>f</i> postcard	12	P4	30 <i>fillér</i>	-	46,665

* Description in catalogue is misleading; ? May exist.

Examples of the stationery

Figures 2 to 13 give examples of most of the versions of the official stationery overprints, together with some used examples to attempt to fit them to the postal rates.



Figure 2: Postal stationery envelope, 150 on 15 f. Example used philatelically, registered express from Pécs to Üszsők in Baranya on 09.02.1920 with additional 210 f in mixed stamp issues. Letter rate 50 f + registration 100 f + express 200 f = 350 f. 10 f overfranked.

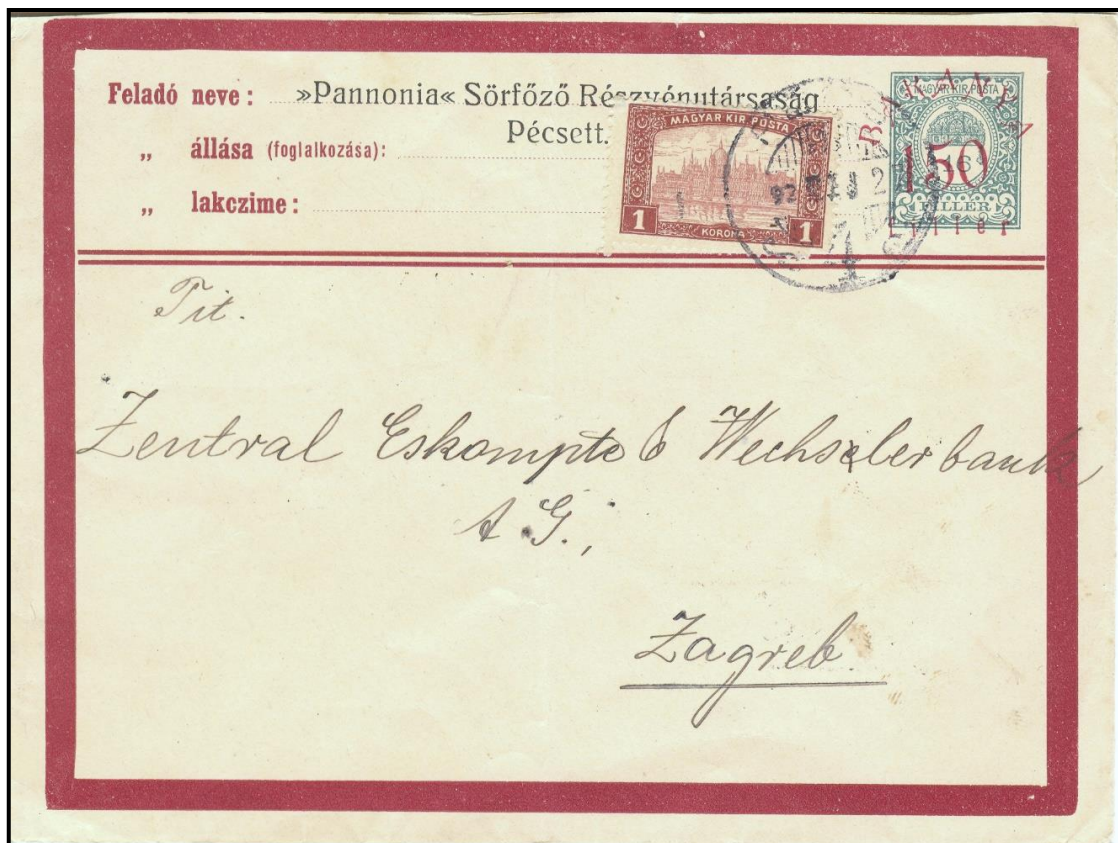


Figure 3: 150 f on 16 f registered envelope commercially used to a bank in Zagreb on 27.04.1921 at the then correct foreign rate of 250 f. Note that the 1 k Parliament stamp is not overprinted, and the sending is not registered.



Figure 4: 150 f on 35 f registered letter envelope with a used example sent registered from Pécs to Zürich on 25.08.1920 with total franking (front and back) of 501 f. Foreign letter rate at this date: 100 f; registration 100 f. Vastly overfranked according to Table 1, but the correct rate from 01.02.1921! The addressee, Eduard Locher, posted many letters and cards like this to himself.



Figure 5: 50 f on 6 f war charity postal stationery cards with type II overprint to the left of the indicium, upper card (Sim 4) dated 1914-1915 at upper left, lower card (Sim 6) dated 1914-1916. Both with the Pécs Postal Directorate handstamp.



Figure 6: 50 f on 10 f war charity letter card dated 1914-1915 with Type I overprint and added 200 f franking – cancelled to order in June 1921 but suitable for the foreign letter rate at that time.



Figure 7: 50 f on 10 f war charity letter card with 1914-1916 dates at upper left, (top) Type I overprint, (centre) Type II overprint with Pécs Postal Directorate cancel, (bottom) Type II card franked with an additional 450 f in stamps, sent locally in Mohács on 01.02.1922. Vastly overfranked. The 1922 date is after the invalidity of Baranya stamps and stationery, so is the year in the datestamp incorrect?



Figure 8 (reduced): 50 f on 20 f lettercard with Type I overprint. The stationery stock for this issue comes in a variety of qualities.



Figure 9: 30 f on 5 f war charity postcard, pale green, dated 1914-1915 at upper left, with Type 1 overprint.



Figure 10: 30 f on 5 f reply-paid war charity double card with Type II overprint, (top) outward part, (centre) reply part without war charity overprint, (bottom) outward half used in October 1920 to Zagreb with additional 10 f franking – the correct rate for an inland postcard from 01.04.1920 to 30.04.1920 according to Table 1, thus underpaid, but no postage due on arrival.



Figure 11: 30 f on dark green war charity postcard dated 1914-1916 at upper left, Types I and II overprints.

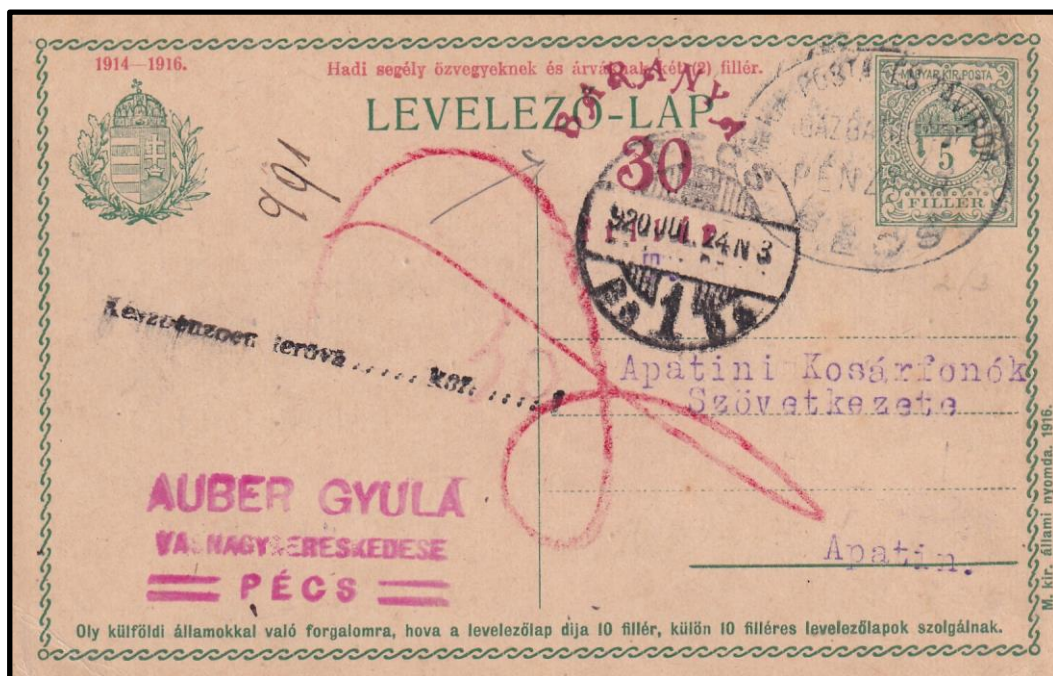


Figure 12: 30 f on dark green war charity postcard dated 1914-1916 at upper left, Type II, used commercially and sent from Pécs to Apatin in the SHS on 03.07.1920. Should have been 60 f. The black single-line cachet indicates that the extra 30 f may have been paid in cash.



Figure 13: 30 f on 10 f postcard from a stamp dealer with printed listings of available Baranya stamps, sent from Pécs to Eisleben in Germany on 27.01.1920. Correct rate at the time. Boxed Serbian censor mark with a second unclear mark underneath?

Use of Serbian stationery

According to several sources, Serbian postal stationery was tolerated by the occupying authorities, but it is unclear whether the indicium counted towards the value. The vast majority of such usage appears to be philatelic, probably to test the limits of official tolerance. A couple of examples are given in Figures 14 and 15.



Figure 14: A prewar Serbian money order form ‘decorated’ with a variety of stamp issues to total 500 f and sent registered from Pécs to a well-known stamp dealer in London on 12.07.1920. Over-franked for a registered letter of this date according to Table 1.



Figure 15: Hungarian fieldpost card overprinted for use in the SHS, sent registered from Pécs to Zürich to Eduard Locher, franked with 500 f in overprinted stamps. Sent on 09.06.1920. Zürich arrival datestamp on the back. Over-franked for any period!

The Villány Postmaster's 'provisional'

A curiosity is shown in Figure 16. An obsolete Hungarian 10 f large-size postal stationery envelope has a single-line rubber handstamp reading 'negyven fill' (forty fill(ér)) placed across the indicium. All known examples emanate from the Baranya town of Villány, and all appear to be sent by one of three, possibly more, post office staff (Johann Litter, Franz Boldacz, István Jüng, perhaps others) whose names appear on the back of the envelopes. Recent review research by Csaba Kohalmi of the Society for Hungarian Philately in the USA [5] has demonstrated fairly conclusively that this was a complete philatelic machination by that post office as a way of selling something unusual to stamp dealers for a hefty mark-up. The surcharge made does not represent any postal rate for a letter or for printed matter during the occupation period and could not possibly have been made as a necessity. Their stamp-selling 'operation' ended abruptly when the Treaty of Trianon came into force and the area was re-occupied by Hungary on 22 August 1921. All overprinted Baranya material immediately became invalid for postal use.



Figure 16: 10 f Hungarian postal stationery envelope revalued to 40 f using a rubber handstamp, sent to a stamp dealer in Halmstad in Sweden on 08.01.1921. It is franked with two 5 f unoverprinted postage stamps, and is unsealed. This franking appears to correctly represent the foreign printed matter rate within Hungary at that date. Sent by the post official Johann Litter and censored with a boxed Pécs censor cachet.

Conclusions

The 1918-1921 period was a turbulent time in central Europe as all the changes of borders bedded in. The need to keep postal services going, combined with the raw emotions about borders and nationalities of the future, led to all manner of 'provisional' stamp issues with something of a pecuniary opportunity to feed the frenzied hobby of philately, but of those issues, the issues of Baranya served a real purpose with commercial usages.

There is no doubt that much of Baranya's postal stationery overprint was used for philatelic purposes, but what was striking in preparing this article was the consistent timewise mismatch of frankings with the published postal rates. Why were some foreign registered letters made up to 500 *f* well before the foreign letter rate rose to 250 *f* and the registration fee also to 250 *f*? Apart from the official rates for 01.04.1920, are the other dates guesswork? Nothing is completely straightforward.

References

- [1] Hodobay, A., *A Magyar díjegyves postai nyomtatványok katalógusa*, Budapest, 2021, ISBN 978-615-00-8914-6.
- [2] Williams, D., Morrell, R., On the 1919 overprint trail, Part 11 - Baranya postal stationery, *Stamps of Hungary* No. 195, December 2013.
- [3] Szilagy, P., The Baranya letters 1918-1922, *Stamps of Hungary* No. 126, September 1996.
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- [5] Kohalmi, Cs., The Villány provisional overprint from 1920, a philatelic spoof?, *The News of Hungarian Philately*, 52 (3), July-September 2021, pp.18-27 plus addenda in vol 52 (4), October-December 2021, pp.9-11 and vol.53 (3), July-September 2022, pp. 9-11,

Joint Central European Societies' Meeting, Leeds, 10 August 2024

by Roger Morrell

Once again members of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Yugoslav and the former Polish Societies met at the Brown Cow in Whitkirk, Leeds for a day's show and tell on things central European, organised by Yvonne and Richard Wheatley. Once again there was an eclectic mix of material in a total of 22 short displays by 11 of the participants over seven rounds, four before a buffet lunch and three afterwards, closing with tea and cake. As always, a wide range of subjects were presented, as follows:

Cliff Jermyn-Francis Polish army in France, 1939.

Nick Coverdale Parcel cards of NDH Croatia – working out the rates.

Roger Morrell Telegram sending receipts from Austria and Hungary.

Yvonne Wheatley Czechoslovak printed matter and newspaper stamps, including provisional labels during early stamp shortages.

Joyce Boyer Kinderballoon mail of Austria.

Roger Morrell Sending cash through the Austro-Hungarian post, trying to interpret the Empress Maria Theresia's rule of 1776.

Martin Brumby	Austrian bills-of-exchange with examples of design and tax rates from 1818 onwards, each with Austrian revenue stamps or imprints.
Alan Berrisford	Czechoslovak TPOs from the 1920s and 1930s.
Richard Jagielski	Stamp issues of twenty years of independent Poland, 1919-1939, including his great grandfather's <i>Krzyż Walecznych</i> (Cross of Valour) for his role in the Polish-Soviet war of 1918-1920.
Reg Hounsell	Czech and Slovak POW mail from camps in Russia.
Andy Taylor	Curiosities of the Austrian post – playing card stamps and other recent money-raising ploys.
Nick Coverdale	Definitive stamp issues of unified Yugoslavia from 1921 to 1939.
Keith Brandon	Pre-stamp postmarks of Prague – a wide variety of styles from their introduction in the 1780s to the start of postage stamp use.
Richard Jagielski	Polish regional issues 1918-1920 with German and Austrian overprinted stamps.
Andy Taylor	Austrian mixed frankings due to currency changes – mixed stamp issues on covers up to odd sticky labels for the current era.
Alan Berrisford	Austrian Court Delivery Stamps used on courier delivered court documents in Galicia and Bukovina provinces to speed delivery of court summons <i>etc.</i>
Joyce Boyer	The 1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics – covers and cards from the development of the facilities as a short-notice replacement for Denver's backing out.
Roger Morrell	Revolutionary overprints of Czechslovakia 1918 following declaration of independence.
Marrtin Brumby	Hungarian bills-of-exchange with examples of design and tax rates from 1818 onwards, with Hungarian revenues.
Reg Hounsell	Slovak military mail 1934-45, including its involvement with the German army in Carpatho-ukraine.
Andy Taylor	David Bravery's Empire break-up display with cards and maps.
Alan Berrisford	The 1923 Copernicus issue of Poland with variations in sheet printing size and perforation type.

In all it was a philatelic mind-broadening experience, as usual, and long may this series continue. Many thanks to Yvonne and Richard for organising the meeting which all went very smoothly. Looking forward to next year!

The Empire Strikes Back

The Europhilex International Exhibition is to be held in Birmingham from 7 to 11 May 2025. A 40-seat room has been reserved for the afternoon of **Friday 9 May, 1pm to 5pm**. There will be a meet'n'greet session from 1pm, with displays being shown from 1:30pm onwards. Anybody and everybody is welcome!

The room will have two tables, electric power, and 4 double-sided 16-A4-sheet display frames. These are standard 4x4 International frames; a row will take two A3 sheets sideways so presumably takes three "square A4". The meeting is free; I do not know if the Exhibition will charge for admission.

The meeting is intended for collectors of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its successor states. Preference in the displaying-queue will be given to visitors from outside the UK. Displays of top-quality copies of your actual sheets will be equally welcome, and might avoid Irritating Difficulties with His Majesty King Charles III's Revenue and Customs. Book your slot with Andy Taylor andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk.

Bosnia and Herzegovina 1917 Definitive Issue

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

On July 1, 1917, the only set of regular stamps with the portrait of Emperor Karl I (1887-1922) was issued in BiH, and entered circulation. The second set, prepared for release at the end of 1918, was not issued because, before its intended issue, the First World War had already ended.

Stamps issued

The set consists of 18 stamps, of which 14 are heller stamps and 4 crown stamps. The stamps feature the portrait of the emperor "en face". Similar to the issue of the last regular stamps with the portrait of Emperor Franz Josef, which were issued in 1916, the stamps of this square shape are also smaller in heller values and larger in crown values. Similar to the aforementioned previous issue the stamps in question are also printed using the copperplate technique on paper without a watermark; this paper is white for heller values, and slightly coloured for crown values. The perforation was 12 ½.

The printing sheet consisted of 100 pieces for the heller values, and 50 for the crown values. The paper and gum are also completely the same as in the 1916 issue.

The stamps were in circulation until the dissolution of the monarchy; however, they were also used without overprints for some time within the framework of the newly formed SHS State, even in combination with already overprinted stamps.

In addition to the perforate one, there is also an imperforate set.



Figure 1: last 3 heller (top) and krone (bottom) values. Perforate on the left, imperforate on the right.

Essays and Trial Prints

There are quite a few of these. There are several types of essays in various colours and shapes. Trial prints exist in black and original colours, portrait and frame separately or together, phase prints, etc. The set is also printed in experimental colours that deviate from the colours of the issued stamps. Details can be found in literature.

Peculiarities of perforation

In addition to the already mentioned regular 12 1/2-line perforation, there are values for 3, 10 and 60 hellers perforated 11 1/2 and values for 3 and 10 hellers also in mixed 11 1/2 x 12 1/2 line perforation. None of these are common; line perforations on stamps for 3 and 10 hellers, as well as the latter mixed ones are quite rare.



Figure 2: stamps in line (above) and mixed (below) perforation

According to the information in the "Handbook", there are other peculiarities of perforation for some values: imperforate top edge of sheet and double perforation below (6 and 80 hellers), vertically imperforate value for 5 hellers, horizontal imperforate value for 6 hellers and finally double perforated value for 10 crowns on top, which is by far the rarest of all listed.



Figure 3: a 10-crown stamp with double perforation above

Forgeries

There are forgeries of the more expensive specialties.

Letters

Letters are not particularly rare, but high franking is. Some are shown in the pictures.



Figure 4: correctly rated (15H postage + 25H registration fee) letter from Sarajevo to Prague. Address on front.



Figure 5: correctly rated letter (postage 20H + express fee 60H - both were valid from 1.9.1918 - + registered letter 20H), sent from Sarajevo to Vienna the day before the dissolution of the monarchy (T. Artel Collection).



Figure 6: correctly rated letter (20H postage + 25H registered fee), sent already after the collapse of the monarchy from Bihac to Graz, where it travelled for more than a month due to political and military reasons (Collection T. Artel).

Conclusion

Some of the values of this set were overprinted in the new country SHS. They were not in regular use and are quite rare, but the treatment of these stamps goes beyond the scope of our article.

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Bosnia & Herzegovina 1917 – Part 2

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

In this pre last year of the First World War, in addition to the definitive set, this time for the first time with the motif of Emperor Karl, who acceded the throne after the death and 68 years of the reign of Emperor Franz Joseph, the Bosnian post office issued two charity sets of stamps, which are the subject of this article.

Released to benefit Widows and Orphans Week

First, on May 9, 1917, during Widows and Orphans Week, which took place from May 9 to 15 of that year, a set of two stamps was issued. For the issue, stamps for 10 and 15 heller definitive issues of the previous year, i.e. 1916, were used with the overprint "Witwen und Waisenwoche 1917" (widows' and orphans' week). Both stamps were sold with a markup of 2 hellers, although this is not evident from the stamps themselves. Like the basic one, the overprinted 10 heller stamp also comes in two colours: olive yellow and olive brown; the latter is rarer. The stamps retained their franking validity until the fall of the monarchy.



Figure 1: both issued stamps (10 hellers in both shades)

Special features

This edition is not known for a large number of special features. There are double and inverted overprints, an imperforate vertical pair (known only on the 15 heller value), an impression on the reverse side, and imperforate stamps. Specialists further distinguish between three types of overprinting, namely according to the distance between the letter T and the W in the word "Witwen". This is from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm.



Figure 2: middle stamp with a 9 which looks like a 0 in the overprint; it is probably a random error, which is also not catalogued anywhere

Letters

As is the case with most charity editions, there are not very many properly rated letters, although we cannot speak of any rarities here either.



Figure 3: correctly rated (15 heller postage + 25 heller registered fee), sent to Belgrade

Commemorative edition

On June 28 of the same year, a set of three stamps was issued in memory of the heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia, who were murdered exactly three years earlier in Sarajevo; this event triggered the First World War. The first stamp (for 10 hellers) shows a draft of the memorial church in Sarajevo, the second (for 15 hellers) the heir to the throne and the third (for 40 hellers) the heir to the throne couple. All stamps have the date of death (July 28, 1914), and they were also sold with an additional payment of 2 hellers, although this is not evident from the stamps themselves. The additional payment was intended for the fund for the construction of the memorial church and Sofia's home in Sarajevo. The stamps were only valid on the day of issue (!), and could only be used on shipments destined for the monarchy and occupied territories.

The stamps were printed in typography on white paper, without a watermark, the printing sheet consisted of 100 stamps, with smooth and shiny gum. All three values were line perforated 11½ and 12 ½; the latter is rarer.

Essays and Trial Prints

There are stamp essays for the 40 heller, as well as for all three issued stamps on various papers.

A similar conclusion applies to trial prints in original or other colours in the form of blocks of various sizes and combinations.

Furthermore, there are 12 colour trial prints (4 for each issued stamp) in colours similar to those of the issued stamps.



Figure 4: all 12 trial colour prints

Stamps issued



Figure 5: imperforate stamps above, perforated 12 ½ in centre and 11 ½ below

Upon request, it was possible to cancel the stamps of this issue with a red cancel at Sarajevo post offices, for which a special fee in the amount of one crown had to be paid (that is, more than the stamps themselves!). The rest of the stamps, both not cancelled and cancelled in red, were handed over by the Ministry of War to the Committee for the Construction of a Memorial Church, which sold them only in complete sets and at multiple face values until they were completely used up. This probably explains the fact that stamps cancelled in red are by no means rare.



Figure 6: stamps in red and a cross in the stamp

However, there are rare pairs of vertically imperforated stamps for 15 hellers, but with these you need to pay attention to forgeries (from pairs of imperforated stamps).

Stamps with double printing are also known from waste paper; these are quite often found.



Figure 7: complete set in double printing

Letters

Given the fact that the stamps were only valid on the day of issue, one would expect the letters to be rare, but this is not the case. However, it is true that most of them are philatelic, but much less correctly rated.

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The third and fourth war editions of Bosnia and Herzegovina

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

Introduction

Throughout the years of the First World War, Bosnia and Herzegovina issued supplementary sets of stamps for the benefit of war orphans and widows. Usually, one set was issued per year, only in 1915 two

The reason for presenting them together is that both issues were based on the same stamps. Both show a portrait of Emperor Franz Joseph (1830-1916). They were issued in 1912; the face value of the first, green, is 5 Hellers – Mi 67, and the second, red, is 10 Hellers – Mi 69.

Third issue

The third issue saw daylight on December 1, 1915, in the form of a two-line overprint. In the upper row there are 2 rosettes and the year 1915, and in the lower one the new values: 7H on 5H stamp and 12H on 10H. The franking value was unchanged in both cases, i.e. 5 and 10 H respectively. The circulation of the first was 350,000, and the second 150,000 copies.

We know 4 types of overprint, which differ from each other in length, which applies to both the upper and lower lines of the overprint.

These types are as follows:

- I. Year 18 mm, value 14 mm
- II. Year 16 mm, value 14 mm
- III. Year 18 mm, value 16 mm
- IV. Year 16 mm, value 16 mm

The stamp for 7/5H is known only in the first two types, and the stamp for 12/10H in all four.

For the first stamp, the number of stamps in the sheet is almost the same for both types, while for the second value, the first and fourth types are the rarest.

All types of overprints at both values are shown in Figure 1; as with all the others, material from the author's collection is shown here.

With each of the mentioned stamps, there is one typical error in each sheet of 100 pieces. On position 49 of the stamp for 7H, the year 1915 is repeated in the bottom line instead of the value, and on the 16th stamp in the sheet for 12H, the value 7 Heller is written instead of 12 Heller. How these errors occurred is difficult to determine today, but the fact is that they were sold at post offices and appear on postal items

Stamps with the mentioned errors are not so rare in themselves, if we take into account the relatively high circulation of both stamps. They are much rarer in the form of blocks of 9, where

the middle stamp has an error. An example of such a pair of both values is shown in Figure 2. However, these errors are very rare in travelled documents (two such are shown in Figure 3).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

The mentioned stamps also exist with inverted and double overprints. These stamps are known only in mint condition. Both stamps with errors are also known in these forms. This represents one of the greatest rarities of the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as only one of each variant is known so far, only two stamps with a double overprint (and the already mentioned error) are known so far.

Fourth issue

It was issued on February 1, 1916 with the same nominal values as the previous one. The circulation of the sets of two stamps was 150,000 sets. This issue is much "poorer" in terms of philately than the previous one, since each of the stamps exists in only two types.

The stamp for 7 H exists with and without a dot after the word Heller. For the 12 H stamp, there are two overprint lengths, namely 14- and 16-mm. Figure 4 shows all the mentioned types.



Figure 4

All reverse and double overprint stamps (mint only) exist in this issue as well, and as such are much more common than those of the previous issue. There is also a stamp for 12 H with a double overprint, one of which is reversed; this is one of the greater rarities of the field.

There are no other special features of this release.

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