

Jugopošta

Journal of

The Yugoslavia Study Group

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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

Membership

From 1 January 2025, YSG will no longer have formal membership and no subscriptions will be paid. Nick Coverdale will continue to produce Jugopošta on a quarterly basis as an electronic journal and this will be sent free of charge to anyone who requests it and provides their name and email address to the Editor. Therefore, should you wish to be added to the list to receive Jugopošta, please get in touch (editor@yugosg.org). Of course, as always, Jugopošta will continue to function only if readers and others are prepared to submit articles.

Eventually (timescale not specified at the moment), all editions of Jugopošta will be freely available in a public archive. In the meantime, some editions of Jugopošta from 101 onwards will be made freely available on the **yugosg.org** website and sales of 1 – 100 and monographs will continue to be on offer, with any money received going to a philatelic charity.

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Jugopošta



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From the Editor

This is the second edition of Jugopošta since we have no longer required subscriptions to YSG. Around 50 people have subscribed so far. Fellow societies have published the YSG changes in their journals – SüdOst Philatelie and Philatelista that I know of.

I'm grateful to those of you that have contributed articles to date, but I could always do with some more.

This edition includes the second and final part on the use of Hungarian parcel cards in the early days of the SHS by Tamas Megyaszi, as well as an article by Boštjan Petauer on Feldpost in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1914 – 1918.

I've come across two publications recently that can be downloaded free of charge and may be of interest to readers.

Balkanfila Yearbook 2025: <https://fepanews.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/BALKANFILA-YEARBOOK-2025-optimized.pdf>

The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Serbia by Mirko Rasić:

Go to philaserbia.org/en/literatura and then click on the download link.

During Europhilex at Birmingham on 9 May, the Austrian Philatelic Society organised a meeting for anyone interested in the philately of all areas covering the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. There were several Jugopošta subscribers in attendance, including myself. The picture below shows Roger Morrell doing his presentation.



On the next page, you will see information for the Joint Societies Meeting in Leeds on 2 August to which YSG subscribers are invited. It is organised by Yvonne Wheatley as always and I can thoroughly recommend it. If you need a booking form, please email me and I will send you one.

JOINT MEETING 2025 in LEEDS
Joint Meeting on Saturday, 2 August 2025.
Brown Cow, Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 7AY

There is ample parking at the venue and the adjoining Premier Inn.

If you wish to travel by train the main line stations are Leeds or York. There is a line between York and Cross Gates Station which is half a mile from the venue. Cross Gates Station is 9 minutes from Leeds Station and 25 minutes from York.

Please Note Cross Gates Station is on the Transpennine upgrade and at the time of the meeting the station may be closed with a bus link so it will be preferable to catch the regular bus service at Leeds Station to the Brown Cow. If you are intending to use Cross Gates Station please let me know and I will tell you whether the station is open.

There are two bus routes from Leeds Station, 19 and 19A. Both stop very close to the Brown Cow.

I will send a map for those travelling by road or public transport, on request, when you book.

The format of the meeting will be exactly the same as before with displays from the core area, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia.

The Brown Cow is only able to provide a hot and cold buffet on a Saturday but there is a good variety of food.

I am having to increase the cost by £2.00 to £22 to include tea, coffee and a chocolate chip cookie. Cakes for tea will be available. Lunch time drinks are not included in the price.

The display frames are one sided and take 12 sheets in four rows of three sheets. The cover of the December 2021 *Czechout* has a photo of the frames.

You are kindly asked to bring displays of 1, 2 or 3 frames and to speak for not more than 5 minutes. You are welcome to bring more than one display but I cannot guarantee we will have time to view a second display.

We will have two adjoining rooms so you are welcome to bring books etc. for sale.

I look forward to seeing you on 2 August 2025.

If you would like overnight accommodation, there is a large Premier Inn, (www.premier.com.gb tel: 08715 278586) Selby Road, Whitkirk, LS15 7AY, next door to the Brown Cow

Any questions, just ask.

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Field post in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1914 -1918

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

Armies and their leaders have always relied on a well-functioning system of field post (English Field post (FP), German Feldpost), sometimes also called military or war post. This observation applies even more to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when they thoroughly realised the importance of communication, which was provided by a well-developed FP for the needs of the army. Such mail was particularly necessary to ensure the high combat morale of the soldiers.

The beginnings of FP go back to the Middle Ages, but we have more data for the 16th century. The development of this type of communication continued, and in the 19th century the Field postal system was already very developed.

During the war in Italy in 1859, mail from the front was exempt from postage. During the military occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the years 1878/9, the FP also operated, which after the end of the fighting developed into an effective military post (German: KuK Militärpost), and operated until the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy at the end of 1918.

Towards the end of the 19th century, on the basis of experience from military manoeuvres where, in addition to purely military matters, they also tested the operation of the post office (especially in 1893 during the so-called imperial military exercises, during which the FP was first set up in an organised manner), they adopted a series of regulations for its operation. In 1913, the regulation for the operation of FP E 47 was adopted, which became the basis for its operation during the First World War, that is, between 1914 and 1918.

The Austro-Hungarian army was the first to use a system of numbered postmarks linked to individual military units in 1913, in contrast to Italy and Germany, which only introduced such a system in 1917 based on their previous poor experiences with other systems.

Considering this, at the outbreak of war, it was relatively easy to establish the FP, for which the chief director of this post, Josef von Posch, is particularly to be credited. For its smooth operation, 8 postal directorates were established. Their number grew to 12 by the end of the war, each belonging to one army.

As part of the discussed postal system, relatively few employees (in 1914 there were 620, but at the end of the war already 2,800), often in very difficult conditions on the battlefields for millions of soldiers did a huge amount of work. In 50 months, 1.5 billion ordinary shipments were transferred, which is an average of 30 million per month. In addition, 227 million money orders, 520,000 money (value) letters, 36 million registered items and 17 million parcels had to be processed. Considering the difficult work, it is not surprising that there were many casualties among the employees. The greatest reward for their work was the joy of relieving the soldiers at the front, to whom they brought messages from their loved ones, and to whom they sent the soldiers' mail - sometimes their last.

Classification of Field post cancels in the Austro-Hungarian Empire

Austro-Hungarian FP cancels can be roughly divided into several types, namely:

- numbered round (mostly) and rectangular (rarely) cancels,
- round and square so-called "secret" cancels (German: Tarnstempel),
- rectangular unnumbered cancels,
- other cancels

Since a more detailed description of the mentioned, otherwise very interesting, types (and subtypes) of cancels would go far beyond the scope of this paper, in the rest of this chapter we will discuss in a little more detail only round cancels, of which there are by far the most in existence. In the next chapter, we will focus only on those used in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Austro-Hungarian FP round cancels

Here we distinguish three main types of cancels, namely Austrian (for units that came under the Austrian post office), Hungarian (for units that came under the Hungarian post office) and Bosnian-Herzegovinian (or abbreviated: Bosnian) for units that came under the Bosnian-Herzegovina post office.

In the case of Austrian and Hungarian cancels, there are several subtypes that differ slightly from each other graphically and in terms of individual elements (added cancel letters or certain decorations in the cancel itself), and for some Bosnian cancels we know two versions, which differ only graphically. All the mentioned cancels have in common that they show the FP number.

At the end of the war, there existed (including variations) 1,632 FP cancels numbered from 2 to 650, 86 numbered cancels with a number over 1,000 and a few others totalling 2,388 cancels. FP numbers from 651 to 1050 were assigned to the German Post Office, which, as we have already said, took over the Austro-Hungarian FP numbering system in 1917.

Within the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, FP numbers were not assigned in blocks to individual units according to the administrations under which they belonged, i.e. Austrian, Hungarian or Bosnian, but the number assigned to a unit under the Bosnian administration could be followed by the number assigned to the Austrian or Hungarian unit. In terms of the number of units, the most numbers were assigned to the Austrian administration, followed by the Hungarian administration, and (by far) the least number to the Bosnian administration. For example, number 69 was assigned to a Bosnian unit, number 70 to a Hungarian unit, numbers 71 to 75 to an Austrian unit, and number 76 to a Bosnian unit.

Cancels of the Field post office in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In this chapter, we will focus on cancels that were used by units in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, or were used in connection with these units.

Numbered round cancels

On the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina there were units that belonged to the Bosnian postal administration, as well as some units that belonged to the Austrian or Hungarian postal administration. Units under Bosnian administration used the Bosnian type of cancel, while other units used the Austrian or Hungarian type, but only one version of each. The Bosnian cancel is similar to the one used there during military exercises in 1912, only that it says FELDPOSTAMT instead of "GEBIRGSPOSTAMT" (mountain post office). The rest is the same, except of course the number.



Bosnian-Herzegovinian type



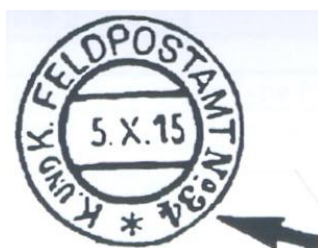
Austrian type



Hungarian type

Figure 1: types of round cancels used by units stationed in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Units that had the following FP numbers belonged to the Bosnian postal administration (cancels with 2 versions are marked with an asterisk *): 16*, 34*, 45*, 46*, 55*, 61*, 69*, 76*, 78*, 85*, 88*, 95, 106* and 113*. For each of these numbers, it is known which unit (it is the mountain brigades, from the first to the thirteenth) it belongs to and the period of use of the cancel; all this is described in detail in the professional literature listed below.



Type 1



Type 2

Figure 2: versions of some Bosnian FP cancels



Figure 3: stationery with both versions of cancels no. 46

There is also number 118, but according to the literature, the impression of this cancel is unknown. A similar cancel was also in use in the main post office in Sarajevo (Hauptfeldpostamt Sarajevo)

Austrian units that went to war operations from Bosnia and Herzegovina (mainly to Serbia and Montenegro) used (together with the regional headquarters) 39 different cancels, while

Hungarian units used 12; details about them are again evident from the professional literature, some of which is listed at the end of this paper.



Figure 4: stationery with a copy of the Austrian cancel no. 310 used in Bosnia

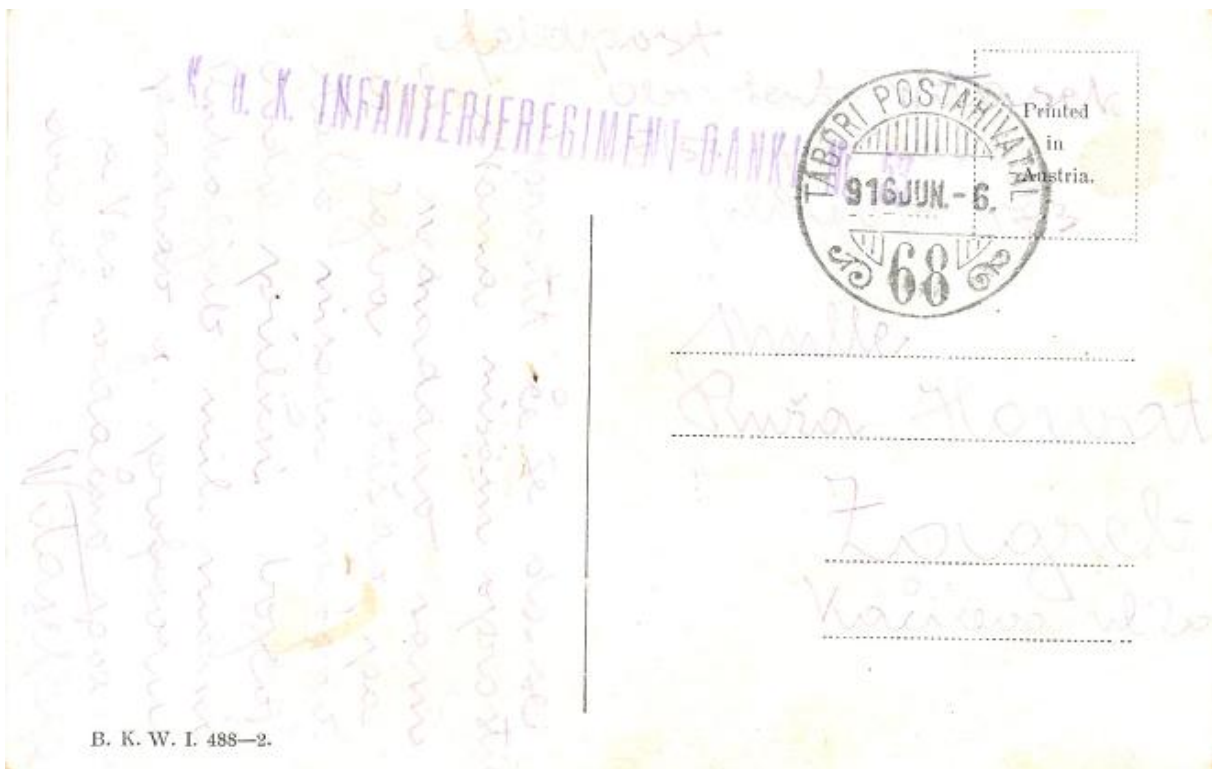


Figure 5: stationery with a copy of the Hungarian cancel no. 68 used in Bosnia

The mentioned cancels are most often found on postcards, postcards and letters that were exempt from postage, but much less often on shipments where postage had to be paid according to the applicable tariff, which was the case, for example, for monetary letters or parcels. Therefore, cancels are most often found on the first-mentioned shipments, and much less often on the latter, that is, those franked with cancels. Even rarer are the cancels on documents where both Bosnian and Austrian cancels were used at the same time (such combinations date from 1914 and beginning of 1915, that is, until the publication of regular Austrian cancels for the war - Feldpost). Also, outgoing cancels are more common than incoming cancels.



Figure 6: Bosnian cancels no. 46 and 55 and Austrian cancel no. 315 on Bosnia and Herzegovina stamps



Figure 7: cancel no. 85 on the reverse side of a money letter sent from Bosanski Petrovac

Secret cancels

In the Austro-Hungarian postal traffic, special control cancels were introduced for money orders, which were square or round in shape and in which there was no indication of the place, but only Roman and/or Arabic numerals. Even before the war, it was thought that these cancels would be used during the war, as this would preserve the secrecy of the place from which the mail was sent; hence the name "secret" cancel.

Such cancels were also used in Bosnia, otherwise they were round, where only the Arabic number in the circle indicated the place of departure of the shipment. There were ten of these numbers in use (4, 18, 54, 56, 82, 98, 99, 113, 134, 146) and they are so rare that to this day it has not been possible to determine in which place each number was used. It is also worth noting that in Bosnia instead of the aforementioned cancels, "Franco" cancels were often used, which also ensured the secrecy of the place of departure.



Figure 8: example of Bosnian secret cancels

Similar cancels were also used in Munich to transfer letters, but they were smaller (only 16.5 mm in diameter compared to 18 mm in Bosnia).

Other cancels

The main post office in Sarajevo (Hauptfeldposamt) used a round cancel (very rare) but the collecting post office (KuK Feldpostsammelstelle) in Sarajevo, Bosanski Brod and Mostar used square cancels.



Figure 9: cancel of the Sarajevo collection post

Hints for collectors

The discussed field of philately is not collected much. If it is true for the entire Austro-Hungarian Feldpost that it is an extensive and demanding area that can occupy the collector considerably in terms of time and money and also represents the "main" or one of the main collections, this observation certainly does not apply to the relevant area of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Considering the fact that there are relatively few cancels, the Bosnian-Herzegovina FP collection can be a nice "side" collection. Even the fact that some cancels are rare does not change this conclusion. Most round cancel units can be had for relatively little money, you just have to put in a little effort. The cancels of the main and collecting post offices and secret cancels are quite rare and difficult to obtain.

And, of course, here too, just like in other areas of philately, it is important to first "arm" yourself with available professional literature. Usually, its purchase pays off with a few (sometimes even one) favourably obtained examples for your own collection.

Literature

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2. Nagel H. Katalog der k.u.k Feldpostämter und deren Einsatzgebiete mit Truppen und Kriegereignissen, Philatelie-Club Montfort, 2007
3. Sekelj, B., Poštanska history of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Manual and catalog, self-published, Zagreb 2005

The use of Hungarian parcel cards in the early SHS period (1918–1921)

by Tamas Megyaszi

Part II

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This is the second part of the study on Hungarian parcel cards used during the early SHS era, the first part being published in *Jugopošta* 153, March 2025. This part contains information related to postmarks, stamps used and gives some general recommendations for the evaluation of the forms. To treat the whole study as one entity, section and figure numbering continue from the first part.

5. Postmarks

The delivery notes can also be of great interest to collectors of postmarks and cancellations. Especially – in terms of Hungarian collections – the surviving Hungarian postmarks are of primary interest. Few studies have yet been published on the postmarks used in the southern region during the period under discussion. What we can generally conclude here is that the use of Hungarian postmarks was gradually supplanted by the newer, usually dual-script (Latin + Cyrillic) Yugoslav ones, and the use of the latter had become quite common by the beginning of 1921, especially in Vojvodina occupied by Serbian troops. According to the news published in the 26 June 1920 issue of the Novi Sad daily newspaper *Zastava*, the Novi Sad postmaster himself (the aforementioned Pavel Silić) issued a call for the replacement of the postmarks, and at the same time asked for the application of all those engravers and stamp manufacturers who could help in the implementation of the task. Serbian citizens with nationalist sentiments objected to the fact that Hungarian postmarks were still used in post offices. The replacement of postmarks was supposed to take place by the start of the unified

dinar-based SHS postal administration (May 1, 1921), and with scattered exceptions, this was the case.

The Slavic “conformity” of the postmarks in many places, especially in the Croatian territories, was achieved simply by carving out the Hungarian crown from the mark, or by changing the Hungarian date format (YYYY-MMM-DD) to Serbo-Croatian (DD-MMM-YYYY), should the latter not have been included already in the postmark. The carved place of the crown was either left empty, or in the case of double-circle wheel-type postmarks, the empty space was filled in with the general vertical bars. The date when this happened in a given post office, especially in the smaller ones, depended largely on the zeal of the newly appointed Serbo-Croatian postmaster. A very nice example of this can be seen in one of my collection pieces, where the package addressed to Novigrad was delivered on December 4, 1918 with a Hungarian date format postmark on the delivery note, but the next day the date of delivery was already indicated with a Serbo-Croatian date format stamping (*Figure 25*).



Figure 25. Two date-format type postmarks (arrival and delivery) next to each other on the same parcel card.

Regardless of this, in many offices, especially where Hungarian postmasters could remain in their posts, the previously valid Hungarian postmarks with the crown were still widely used in 1919, but we can still find cancellations from 1920 and even 1921, although by 1921 these were already considered rare.

Without claiming to be exhaustive, I will mention some of the more interesting examples of the use of the postmarks below.

a) Rare postmarks, post office agency cancellations

Smaller post offices and post office agency cancellations can be quite rare on delivery notes, considering that parcel delivery was not among the priorities of the postal traffic that started after the war.

As I mentioned earlier, for a while, parcels were not accepted at all offices and it was not possible to send parcels everywhere, even within the territory of the SHS kingdom. Generally, traffic was first restored between the larger settlements within the operational area of each post office, then between the post offices of the kingdom, and after this, or in parallel

with this, it became possible to send parcels to and receive parcels from essentially any domestic post office by mid-1919. Within the period under discussion, this means an even narrower interval, less than two years in total, which is why we only encounter certain cancellations on delivery notes very rarely. My collection contains several rarer cancellations, such as postmarks from the Gornja Čemernica and Mučna Rieka postal agencies, as well as cancels from the smaller Bácska villages of Szilberek, Gerebencz, Boldogasszonyfalva, and others.

b) Late uses of Hungarian postmarks

As I have detailed above, the previously valid Hungarian postmarks were still in general use for a long time and were gradually replaced, temporarily by the modification of Hungarian ones, and later by the introduction of dual-spelling Serbo-Croatian postmark types. Regardless of this, especially in areas inhabited by Hungarians, where Hungarian postal officials remained in place, the old postmarks were still used for a while. For example, in Novi Sad, Hungarian type postmarks were still used at the beginning of January 1921 (*Figure 26A*), but by the end of January 1921 the new Novi Sad / Нови Сад postmarks were started to be used. Such very late surviving cancellation can be found in my collection on a delivery note (Slovenian type I COD parcel card) from Újverbász, dated April 25, 1921 (*Figure 26B*).



Figure 26. *A – Hungarian type Novi Sad cancel from January 4, 1921. B – Surviving Hungarian type cancel from Újverbász, dated April 25, 1921.*

c) Other interesting items, errors

As with many other postmarks used in the period, we can also find several errors here, sometimes as a consequence of the carelessness of the postmaster. In January 1919, rarely they forgot to change the year in several cases, so we can also find January 1918 cancellations on SHS overprinted stamps (which were only in circulation since November 18, 1918) (*Figure 27*). In other cases, the month indicator was inserted upside down (*Figure 28*).



Figure 27. At Zagreb Post Office No. 1, the year of the stamp was not changed, so SHS overprinted stamps show the date of posting as January 9, 1918, instead of 1919. It nevertheless reached the addressee the next day (January 10, 1919). The applied rate was 95 f (=90 f weight fee + 5 f arrival notification).



Figure 28. The month marker (JAN) was placed upside down in the postmark, found on the delivery note of a package sent from Gradište on January 18, 1919. (Date is enhanced artificially for better visibility on the right-hand image)

6. Stamps used for postage and other information

From a philatelic point of view, of course, the stamps used for postage on forms are one of the main collecting goals and a basic evaluation factor too. I already indicated in the introduction that delivery notes constitute one of the most diverse groups of documents in postal history in terms of postage and thus the diversity of stamps used. Many high-value stamps are most often found on delivery notes, and various mixed or multiple postages further increase the diversity.

I emphasize again that the stamp postages used are not philatelic in nature, so the various rarer postages and massive frankings are basically the consequences of postal emergency situations.

The above is especially true for the period and area under discussion. In the post-war emergency situation, during the efforts of the newly formed states / postal administrations to become independent, very diverse postal frankings arose.

The grouping of forms based on this aspect can be done along the following main directions – the indicated figures serve as examples:

1. Issues of the stamps used
 - 1.1. earlier Hungarian stamp issues, such as Arató-Parliament, red- (*Fig. 29*) and black-numbered postage due stamps, Turul (*Fig. 30*), Hadisegély II and III, Sürgős, Postatakarékpénzár (*Fig. 31*), Köztársaság, etc.
 - 1.2. SHS overprinted stamps (*Fig. 32*)
 - 1.3. the first Croatian stamp issue (morinari) (*Fig. 33*)
 - 1.4. the first Slovenian stamp issue (verigarji) in kron/vinar and dinar/para values, and the first Slovenian postage stamps in kron/vinar values (*Fig. 43*)
 - 1.5. earlier Serbian issues (“hatted” Peter I, Peter – Alexander) (*Fig. 40*)
 - 1.6. occupation and local issues (Temesvár, Baranya, Muraköz, etc.) (**Part I**, *Fig. 19*)
 - 1.7. the first joint SHS issue (Peter – Alexander) (**Part I**, *Fig. 7*)
2. Mixed frankings*
 - 2.1. several issues of one state on one form (*Fig. 25*)
 - 2.2. issues of several states on one form (*Figs. 37, 38*)
 - 2.3. mixed postage in korona/fillér (vinar) and dinar/para currencies (*Fig. 53*)
 - 2.4. own stamps of places of arrival, e.g. for the purpose of a supplemental fee (*Fig. 36*)[‡]
3. Single or multiple postage (*Figs. 44., 45., 46., 47.*)

* Of course, it is possible to argue whether, for example, mixed frankings made with technically invalid Hungarian stamps are true ones or so-called pseudo-mixed frankings. Since the postal administrations of the successor states did not prohibit the use of Hungarian stamps, they recognized the postage made with them as complete (they were not postage-paid), and these frankings were completely general (not just the eccentricity of one or two post offices), so I consider them true mixed frankings.

‡ It is currently unknown to me when (if ever) the different practices of handling supplemental fees at the arrival place (e.g. by using stamps or having cash payment, etc.) were unified.



Figure 29. Delivery note for a package sent from Novo Čiče to Škrlevo, May 6, 1919, with a total of 15 20f red number postage due stamps prepaid. Extremely rare. Postage fee: 2.70 K weight fee + 30 f declaration of value + 5 f arrival notification.



Figure 30. Complete delivery note of a package sent from Gospić to Slatina on January 18, 1919. The use of the 3f Turul - although this denomination was still used for internal processing on some forms after 1917 - is an absolute rarity and was certainly a result of necessity. Postage fee: 2K 5f = 1.70 K weight fee + 30 f declaration of value + 5 f arrival notification.



Figure 31. The postmaster of Novo Čiče did not have any high-value stamps at his disposal. He prepaid the delivery note of the package sent to Gospić on May 17, 1919, with 13 postal savings bank stamps (+5f Croatian stamp). Emergency uses of postal savings bank stamps are not rare, but so many stamps on a single delivery note are unique.



Figure 32. Delivery note of a parcel sent from Slunj to Ūrög (Irig) in Srem, posted on January 15, 1919. VV marking due to the value of 800 korona, which the postmaster drew with coloured pencil in the absence of a label. The typical overprinting errors can also be observed in the 80-filler SHS overprint. Postage fee: 4K 5f = 3K 70f weight fee + 30f declaration of value + 5f arrival notification.



Figure 35. Delivery note for a high-value deposit package sent from Osijek to Vinkovci on January 29, 1919. Mixed postage with Hungarian + SHS overprint + first Croatian regular issue stamp, a nice example of consecutive issues.



Figure 36. A parcel sent from Karlovac to Slovenska Bistra (German name Windisch Feistritz) on February 11, 1919, the 5f arrival notice paid with a 5 heller (bisected Austrian 10 heller) postage stamp at the destination. Postage fee: 2K 20 f weight fee + 10 f cash on delivery.



Figure 37. Stamps of 3 countries on a single delivery note of a package sent from Novi to Ravnagora (June 26, 1919). 3K parliament + 4x20f Croatian sailor + 5f Slovenian Chainbreaker. Postage: 3.70 K weight fee + 10f cash on delivery + 5f arrival notification.



Figure 38. Again, stamps of 3 countries on one delivery note. Parcel card of a package sent from Karlovac to Križevci, posted on July 14, 1919. Hungarian war aid + Croatian regular issue + Slovenian Chainbreaker (Peter I). Postage: 9.90 K weight fee + 20f cash on delivery fee + 10f delivery notification.

The fact that so many different combinations of stamp issues occur within a period of about two and a half years shows what an interesting period we are talking about from a philatelic and postal history perspective.

There are of course several reasons for this, but the most important one is the constant shortage of stamps. Many post offices only had a few types of stamps of a certain denomination in stock, so it is no wonder that there are so many types of massive, multi-stamp frankings. In addition, the new issues that appeared at close intervals and were distributed simultaneously by different postal administrations in the kingdom increased the diversity.

Let us mention a few important facts:

There was still a franking obligation for parcels, this was also included in a separate instruction by the Zagreb postal administration. As such, the post office only accepted parcels if the full price was paid at the time of posting. Any postage due stamps were therefore used on the forms **not** for postage due purposes.

For the sake of accuracy, it is necessary to add to the above that if the arrival post office charged any fee for handling the parcel (e.g. storage fee, handling of items arriving to P.O. boxes, customs inspection, etc.), this was also indicated by a stamp on the delivery note, mostly on its back. And in such cases, postage stamps were often used (but not here for the classic purpose of postage, i.e. not as a “penalty” for insufficient postage). Such fee deductions can be easily recognized by the fact that only the stamp of the arrival post office appears on the stamps. A special type of this is the so-called Maribor porto provisionals, when the Maribor post office stamped the inscription “PORTO” on 5, 10, 20, 25, 30 and 40 vinar stamps individually, after the stamps were affixed, indicating that the fee had been deduced at the arrival office. The above temporary solution was only used for a few months (technically between February and April 1919). In this regard, see Artel’s recent study [1].

If for some reason the employee of the sending post office miscalculated and incorrectly applied a lower amount of fee, then the shortfall in fees had to be paid, but not in the same way as for other ordinary postal items (letters, postcards), i.e. not by making the recipient pay twice the difference. Only the difference itself had to be paid, and then this was reported to the sending post office from the arrival office on a Return Report (Odjava) form (mentioned previously). The sending post office usually franked the amount indicated as the difference on this form. In addition, the recipient naturally had the option of refusing to accept the package and it was then returned.

Although the Slovenian (Chainbreaker) postage stamps probably arrived in the occupied southern regions with the Serbian army [12], according to my data they were already there in the middle/end of 1919, regardless of the local Temesvár issue. In Srem and Slavonian regions as early as July 1919, in Bácska on parcel cards with a posting date of December 1919 (my collection contains a copy posted in Novi Sad on December 31, 1919, but see Nagy’s 2018 work on the cut-out of a delivery note posted in Pančevo on December 16, 1919 ([17], p. 32)), and on postal orders even earlier (see cutouts from my collection in *Figure 49*). The use of Slovenian postage stamps by the Serbs was more or less a necessity, as there was no other suitable stamp issue in the Kingdom of SHS. A completely common SHS issue did not yet exist. The Croatian issues could not be used (the previous Hungarian postage stamp with SHS overprint was no longer in stock, but their use was out of the question anyway because of the Hungarian base stamp), since the inscription Hrvatska on them clearly referred to the state and the Serbs could not allow this for political reasons. The then valid Serbian stamps had Cyrillic inscriptions (with the inscription Srbija), so the only possible solution was to circulate stamps with Latin inscriptions, clearly referring to the Kingdom of SHS and the Chainbreaker series fitted for this.

One consequence of the internal conflicts and tensions between the postal administrations was that the Zagreb postal administration, which sought greater independence and better represented the Croatian national identity within the Kingdom of SHS, was pushed into the background, and the items it issued (stamps, postal forms) could basically only be used within the territory of its administration. The centralizing interests of the Ministry of Post and Telegraph based in Belgrade were better served by the Slovenian items (Latin inscription, the name of the state was not on the stamps, unlike the Croatian issues, where the inscription "Hrvatska" was present, as mentioned above, etc.), so it allowed their use in the entire Kingdom of SHS, including the territories occupied by Serbian troops. Thus, I agree with Perneczky’s comment ([20], 2020, p. 36) that it was simply more practical to distribute Slovenian stamps in the territories occupied by the Serbs. However, Decree No. 3578/1921 (II.1.) PTM stipulated that Slovenian stamps could not be used in Serbian and Montenegrin territory.

The stamp issue used in the largest quantity is therefore the Slovenian Chainbreaker (Slovene: verigarji), as it was available in relatively large quantities at all post offices, already from the

beginning of 1919. And since several editions were made (a very detailed manual of the stamp issue was published for the 100th anniversary of the issue, see [10]), it remained widely used until the end of the period under discussion. Regarding the issue, I also recommend to study Perneckzy's short summaries ([19, 20]).

It is well known that the majority of the denominations of the issue with SHS overprints made in Zagreb were made for purely philatelic and/or speculative purposes, and excluding all kinds of proofs, fantasies, and fabrications, only 17 out of 45-48 denominations were intended for actual postal use and were actually issued [6, 8, 9]. Further details on this can be found in Huzanic's important exhibition material, which is also available online [13]. It can be clearly seen on the delivery notes that indeed these stamps were used in various post offices. The use of SHS overprint stamps on delivery notes also follows the appearance and runout of the stamps over time. The stamps appear after November 18, 1918 and are dominant until about mid-January 1919. The overprinted quantity provided to the post offices in the first round had run out by this time. Later, the post offices received another supply, which we will see until mid-May, and in the meantime, the Zagreb postal administration also helped the Split administration with a smaller quantity, as they had completely run out of former Austrian stamps which were used there temporarily. Thus, the overprinted stamps were also used in Dalmatian post offices – although only for a very short time (*Figure 39*).

After mid-1919, parcel cards franked with SHS overprinted Hungarian stamps were increasingly rare, and by the end of 1919 they were only occasionally found. The stamps were sold out in the offices, and their place was taken by Croatian and Slovenian issues. Since this stamp issue was valid until April 15, 1921, letters and postcards stamped with SHS overprinted stamps are naturally known even as late as 1921. However, these are all philatelic in nature, or at least they do not come from the postal stock, but the sender himself used them on the items.



Fig. 39. Trilingual parcel card from Gruž in Dalmatia (Gravosa in Italian) to Sarajevo on March 29, 1919. Franked with 3x1 K SHS + 2x15 heller Austrian stamps. Postage fee: 2.20K weight fee + 10f value declaration + 1K express fee.

Regardless of the above, many post offices still had some Hungarian postage stamps left (mostly from the Arató-Parliament series, as well as red and black numeral postage dues, and smaller quantities from other issues in circulation), despite the fact that in November 1918 the

Zagreb General Post Office obliged all post offices to send their entire stock to the Zagreb Central Postal Valuables Warehouse for the SHS overprinting. The use of Hungarian postage stamps thus remained a practice for quite a long time. This was also contributed to by the fact that many offices only received a few denominations of Slovenian circulation stamps, meaning that they had difficulty solving the various fee calculations with them alone. In such cases, any other stamps in stock at the office were also used to solve the applicable postage.

The last supply of valuables arriving in the area of the former Temesvár (Timișoara) postal administration at the beginning of 1919 also contained items that other administrations had not received. So far, I know of delivery notes franked with “Köztársaság” (Republic) overprinted stamps from the Bácska/Bánát areas only. It is interesting to note that in the July 15, 1919 issue of the Novi Sad daily newspaper *Zastava*, a nationalist journalist complained in a short article that the post offices in the area were still using Hungarian stamps, especially those with the “Köztársaság” overprint.

The use of Serbian stamps in the affected areas is extremely rare. The Zagreb Post Directorate did not receive any of the former Serbian stamps, and in the areas occupied by the Serbs, Slovenian stamps were widespread for the reasons mentioned above. The authorities did not prohibit the use of Hungarian stamps either. Thus, the use of Serbian stamps was at most limited if the post office had a few copies of these stamps for some reason and the applicable fee could be deduced in this way. Just to remember, the areas in question were using Korona/filler (vinar) denomination stamps in practice. Another possibility is that certain companies provided Serbian stamps to their partners for business correspondence. This is suspected in the case of some business letters sent in Ljubljana, all of which were addressed to the Southern Railway Company (Južna Železnica) [23] based on the text of the envelopes, but such use on a parcel card was not really possible due to internal handling by the post.

In my collection, there is only one parcel card with a Serbian stamp also prepaid. Probably a unique piece (*Figure 40*).



Figure 40. Delivery note of a package sent from Kostajnica to Sunja (about 30 km away), on September 22, 1919. Probably due to a lack of stamps, it was also stamped with a 10p Serbian stamp, making it a great rarity. Postage deduction: 6.30K weight fee + 50f declaration of value + 20f cash on delivery + 10f arrival notification. Together, 7K 10f, the 10p Serbian stamp represents a value of 30f with a 1:3 exchange rate, so it is a tariff-correct item.

In the given post office, the clerk tried to put together the combination of denominations required for the postage fee using the stamps currently in stock. Since it was completely

fortuitous, exactly what stamps were in stock, this is also the reason for the diversity that we can observe.

It is characteristic that each post office received a supply of stamps of few types and rather small denominations. The latter reason is probably that most of the mail was of course ordinary letters and postcards and these did not require high-denomination postage. This is also why low-denomination stamps were issued in very large quantities. However, in the case of delivery notes, the postage was much higher, especially since it was possible to send packages up to 20 kg again, even with cash on delivery. Only a very large number of stamps with low denominations could solve this problem. There were few high-denomination stamps, especially in smaller post offices, so delivery notes stamped with these are rare or very rare. To my knowledge, the following high-denomination stamps are particularly rare:

- the 5K denomination from the first Croatian regular stamp issue (the 3K is also rare, but somewhat more common – *Figure 43*),
- Chainbreaker 15K and 20K denominations (both are very rare on any delivery note),
- the high-denomination members of the Slovenian postage due stamp series (5K, 10K), here it is emphasized again that they were not used as postage due stamps, but as normal postage stamps (*Figure 41*),
- the high-denomination Hungarian (Parliament 3K, 5K, 10K) stamps are also uncommon (*Figure 42*),
- in addition, from the lower denomination stamps, the 20 para denomination of the Chainbreaker dinar/para stamps is particularly rare.

Regardless, any massive franking can be unique too, good examples from my collection are the cards shown in *figures 44, 45, 46 and 47*.



Figure 41. Delivery note of a package sent from Krapina to Varaždin on May 31, 1920, including 3x5K Slovenian postage due stamps, making it a rarity. Fee: 16K weight fee + 40f arrival notification.



Figure 42. Delivery note for a parcel sent from Zengg (Senj) to Osijek on July 3, 1919. The post office had neither a dispatch town label nor a V value label, both were written by hand. The 3x3K Parliament postage is really rare.



Figure 43. Parcel card for books sent from Crikvenica to Zagreb, posted on May 3, 1919. In addition to the high-value (3K) Croatian postage stamp, it is also stamped with 3 Slovenian postage due stamps of 50 vinar face value.



Figure 44. Parcel card for a money package (330,000 Koruna!) sent from Petrovaradin to the Croatian Central Bank in Sarajevo on September 18, 1919, an absolute rarity, the highest postage (104.6 K) I know of from the period. The 5K stamps on the reverse are in a block of 14 + 6 (5K sheet locations: 71 - 76, 81-87, 91-97).



Figure 45. A similar rarity to the previous one, a COD parcel card for a package sent from Bjelovar to Zagreb on November 5, 1919, franked with 40 pieces of the 50-vinar stamp. Fee: 18 K weight fee + 20f cash on delivery + 1.80 K home delivery.



Figure 46. Delivery note for a package sent from Gunja to Slavonski Brod on February 26, 1920. The post office may have run out of stamps with a higher face value, so a total of 24 stamps with 1K Chainbreaker postage paid. Postage fee: 24K weight fee + 20f cash on delivery + 2.40K home delivery.



Figure 47. Delivery note of a parcel sent from Brod, Slavonia, to Osijek on October 9, 1919. There were probably no other stamps at the post office, except for the 20f Croatian regular issue. The postmaster attached a part of an unused telegram to the delivery note so that he could affix a total of 30 stamps. The total fee was 5.90K (5.10K weight fee + 50f declaration of value + 20f cash on delivery + 10f arrival notification), so the shipment was overpaid by 10f.

a) Bisects

What was possible as a last resort, is that in the event of a shortage of small-denomination stamps, the postal clerk solved the postage by halving the corresponding larger denomination in stock. Bisects occur, although not often, especially among the Slovenian Chainbreaker vinar values (see Part I, Figure 7). The recent special catalogue [10] mentions almost all values (between 5v and 5K) for which halving is known, most often for 20 and 60 vinar ones. Of course, the catalogue summarizes all known uses (thus not only affecting delivery notes, but also occurring anywhere else) ([10], p. 160). Bisects were also used several times as a last resort at the destination (e.g. in Bosnia, Slovenia) too, e.g. to pay storage fee, etc. (Figure 48).



Figure 48. Parcel card of a pack sent from Vinkovce to Mitrovica on February 21, 1920. With Hungarian shipping and arrival cancels but franked with Chainbreaker stamps on a Slovenian COD form. The parcel possibly arrived on February 23 but was delivered on March 6 only. After the first 3 days of free storage, a fee for a total of 9 days was charged (2K 70f), this was paid with stamps on the back, with Mitrovica postmark only. The storage fee was also written with blue pencil on the back (U 2K 70f ležarine). A 10f face value stamp was substituted with a halved 20v one.

I am aware of bisects of Hungarian stamps as well as bisects of the Croatian definitives, but these are much rarer than the Slovenian Chainbreaker values.

b) Perfins

I have only seen the use of perfins on parcel cards in the period under discussion very rarely. In my collection, there are only a few delivery notes with HFS (Hinka Francka Sinovi = Franck Henrik and Sons, see Lente's catalog [14], cat. no. **H26**) perfin stamps (e.g. 40 vinar Chainbreaker). The perfin itself belongs to a Zagreb coffee roasting and distribution company, and according to the delivery note, chicory seeds were sent from Ruma to Zagreb for this company (Figure 34 as well as Part I, Figure 6 for an undelivered package).

c) Occupation issues and local overprints

Baranya

As I have detailed earlier, I know of only a very few delivery notes from Baranya. Most of them have Hungarian stamps without overprints. This is not surprising, as stamps without overprints were mostly used in everyday circulation [2, 22]. However, the example in my collection is a card franked with the stamps of the 1st Baranya stamp issue. (Part I, *Figure 19*)

Temesvár

From the Temesvár issues, members of both Serbian occupation issues occur, but mostly the 10-filler (occasionally the 45-filler) from the 1st issue and the 50-filler from the 2nd issue [2, 5]. At least on the delivery notes I have seen so far, which unfortunately are almost without exception cut-outs, Nagy [17] also provides images of cut-outs only in his work. The known cut-outs are all from the end of 1919 – the beginning of 1920. See also the postal order cut-outs shown in *Figure 49*.

Homokbálványos (+ Homokos, Fehértemplom), Muraköz, Muravidék

As these overprints were also used on ordinary postal documents, it is possible that one of the stamps may also appear on a delivery note.

The more recent literature dealing with the Homokbálványos issues [16, 18] does not mention a known delivery note, or even a cut-out. Here, the use of “FRANKO” overprint stamps would be reasonable anyway (there was no need for a postage due “PORTO” on a parcel card due to the franking requirement), but their use on other postal documents is extremely rare (see the registered letter presented by Nagy [18]), so their occurrence on a delivery note is unlikely, but cannot be excluded.

In his recently published work [21], Rogina presents a cut-out of a document he refers to as a “parcel card”, with Muraköz SHS overprint stamps on it. Studying the photo of the small piece, it looks more like a piece of a postal money order to me than a parcel card itself, but they could have sent a cash on delivery parcel based on these, and might have used the locally overprinted stamps as postage (which, by the way, were declared invalid by the Belgrade Central Post Directorate of the Kingdom of SHS).

Anyhow, parcel cards franked with such really local issues would be exceptional rarities if occurring at all.



Figure 49. Early uses of Chainbreaker stamps in Bácska, dated December 16 and December 20, 1919, on postal order cutouts. The small one was sent from Bácsalmás, the large one from Bácsfeketehegy, both were also stamped with the 2/10 fillér value of the first issue of Temesvár.

Other unofficial overprints

In some post offices, especially during the early period, some other unofficial overprints were temporarily used. A good example is the town Újverbász (Novi Vrbas), where an otherwise unapproved 'SHS' hand stamped overprint was used in early 1919 (January-February), both for stamps and for the postal forms, the latter to annul the original texts, like 'Magyar' ('Hungarian'). A few postal items are known with this overprint, like international money order forms, which were forwarded to their destinations without any additional charge, i.e. the post accepted the overprinted stamps and forms. Although unlikely, a parcel card with similar overprint from the above sender post office might exist. See the study regarding this matter by Flasch [7].

d) Parcel cards without stamps

I have detailed the various stamped postage and their special features above, but I should also briefly mention parcel cards in which the postage fee was not deduced with stamps. There were two main ways of doing this, namely free delivery and cash payment.

The former is very rare, only certain special items and only in certain sender-addressee relationships could be sent free of charge. Official government documents, certain internal postal items and similar ones fell into this category, and the circle of entitled legal persons was already established by law in 1865. Free delivery was either recorded on an official postal delivery note or made clear on a normal delivery note with some additional stampings (e.g. "Službeno, poštine prosto" = Official, free of charge). Of course, other information about the item (sender, addressee, content of the item) also helps in identification.

Cash payment was possible if there was no postage stamp of the appropriate value available or no space on the form to affix stamps. In this case, it was possible for the sender to pay the postage for the parcel in cash. Such forms are extremely rare, due to the obligation of ranking with

stamps. As we have seen above, the postmaster would rather use all sorts of creative solutions or technically paste stamps all over the entire delivery note than resort to cash payment. Regardless, it is very rare to come across a form that was prepaid in this way. In this case, the postmaster would either use a “Franco” stamp or indicate by hand the fact of cash payment, along with the amount to be paid, of course.

e) Marking labels on the forms

Finally, it is worth mentioning briefly the various official labels used on forms. Of course, these do not directly belong to philately in the narrower sense, but they often reveal a lot about a given package at first glance, and even among these we can find common or rare ones that can contribute to the value of a given form.

For the interpretation of the numbers on the shipping location label, see Hodobay's work [11]. In addition to the location label, certain special properties of the package were indicated at the time of dispatch (e.g. based on value declaration limits), which had to be taken into account when handling the package. In addition, certain standard labels were also used upon arrival, e.g. information related to the delivery of the package (a good example of this is if the package was not accepted by the recipient, this was indicated with the label “*Refusé*”).

Of course, instead of a label, handwritten markings could also be used, especially if the given label was not available. We have seen several examples of this above already.

From a collector's point of view, the various versions of some standard labels (see *Figure 50*), as well as some rarer marking labels (e.g. T and U), may be of interest.

The four standard letter labels are as follows:

- V – (valeur) valuable package. For declarations of value over 300 K, a V label had to be affixed to the form. For declarations over 1000 K, two V labels (VV) had to be affixed, since the “W” label was not in use in the territories of the former Hungarian postal administration. The label is a red-letter V on white/yellowish paper.
- B – (betét) deposit package. A small package, not individually shipped, but in a postal collective packaging (e.g. a bag or sack). Black letter B on a white background.
- U – (utánküldve) forwarding. If the recipient’s address changed (i.e. they were no longer available at the original address) and the new address was known, the package could be sent after the addressee. In this case, the fact was indicated on the delivery note with a U label and the changed address was also indicated. Black letter U on a green or greenish-gray background.
- T – return. It was affixed to the delivery note of returned packages. Black letter T on a green/grayish background.



Figure 50. The different letter labels. Very rarely, when the incorrect label was applied and the correct one was not in stock, the label was overwritten with the correct letter by hand (bottom image).

A detailed description of the many other labels is beyond the scope of this work, but it is worth mentioning how many different types of labels the offices used. A good example of this is the variety of the cash on delivery labels shown in *Figure 51*. The shape (rectangle – triangle), the colour, and even the language of the text (bilingual Hungarian-French, Hungarian-Croatian, Croatian-French, trilingual) occur in very diverse forms.



Figure 51. Examples of the diversity of the cash on delivery labels.

7. Evaluation of the forms

As it can be seen from all information above, how many factors can go into evaluating a parcel card. We can only formulate certain guidelines based on which the rarity or frequency of a given form can be more easily determined, and thus its collector's value.

Based on these:

- As in general, complete forms with the coupon uncut are much rarer in this case, and their value is higher.
- Parcel cards together with their COD form are very rare.
- Of the 10f Hungarian forms, the Hungarian-French ones are rarer in the area and period under study than the Hungarian-Croatian forms. The small-format 10f Hungarian-French cash-on-delivery form is particularly rare (I only know of uses in Bács and Baranya).
- After the middle of 1920, the use of Hungarian forms became increasingly rare, and Hungarian forms used in 1921 or later are hardly found.
- Delivery notes for packages sent from small settlements, rarer cancellations (e.g. cancellations of postal agencies), and late surviving Hungarian cancellations are all sought after.
- Certain tariff periods (e.g. 2nd period, which lasted only 4 months) are not common, and forms using local tariffs of occupied territories are very rare. Likewise, cards franked with occupation stamps (Temesvár, Baranya) are very rare.
- High fee deductions, massive frankings, mixed frankings (multiple issues of one country, stamp issues of several countries, mixed korona/dinar frankings, etc.) can all add to the value of a given form. As can rarer stamps used out of necessity (e.g. Hungarian Turul, Árvíz (Flood Relief), earlier Serbian stamp issues), perfins, bisects.
- Rare destinations (usually abroad), returned, censored or specially treated packages (express mail is rare) are also very valuable.

It is important to emphasize that, as I mentioned in the introduction, this is still a marginal collecting area, so in my opinion, parcel cards that have appeared at auctions in recent years have sold at low prices compared to their rarity and actual value.

Perhaps similar future studies can contribute to treating these postal history documents in their true place and value.

Other documents (stationeries and imprinted revenue documents) used in the discussed area and period, such as postal orders, money orders, waybills, horse and cattle passports also contain the same interesting facts and values (see some example studies in [3, 4, 15, 24]).



Figure 52. Delivery note for a parcel (sundries) sent from Zemun to Koprivnica on July 30, 1919.

Due to the increasing rates, more and more stamps were needed, there was barely room on the back to receive the parcel. Postage fee: 8.70 K weight fee + 1.20 K declaration of value (9.90 K in total). The +10f is a daily storage fee (only Koprivnica cancellations are on these stamps).



Figure 53. Delivery note of a package sent from Varaždin to Tuzla in Bosnia on July 5, 1920, with mixed dinar/korona postage. Fee: 24K weight fee + 1.20K declaration of value + 2.40K home delivery. The dinar-value stamps were converted to korona at a 1:4 exchange rate. In Tuzla, supplemented with 2x10 vinar postage due stamps (storage fee, which was charged from the first day in the case of home delivery).

Abbreviations

COD	Cash on delivery
MBK	Catalogue of the Hungarian stamps
MBM	Monograph of the Hungarian stamps
PTM	Ministry of Post and Telegraph Services
PTRT	Repository of the Decrees of the Hungarian Royal Post and Telegraph Services
PTV	Postansko-Telegrafski Vesnik

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- Slovenec (Ljubljana), 1918-1919
- Slovenski Narod (Ljubljana), 1919
- Volja Naroda (Varasd / Varaždin), 1918
- Zastava (Újvidék / Novi Sad), 1919-1921

Certain newspapers and other journals can be found in the following online databases:

- Arcanum (<https://adt.arcanum.com>)
- SiStory (<https://www.sistory.si>)
- Pretraživa Digitalna Biblioteka (<https://pretraziva.rs>)
- Stare Hrvatske Novine (<https://dnc.nsk.hr>)

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