

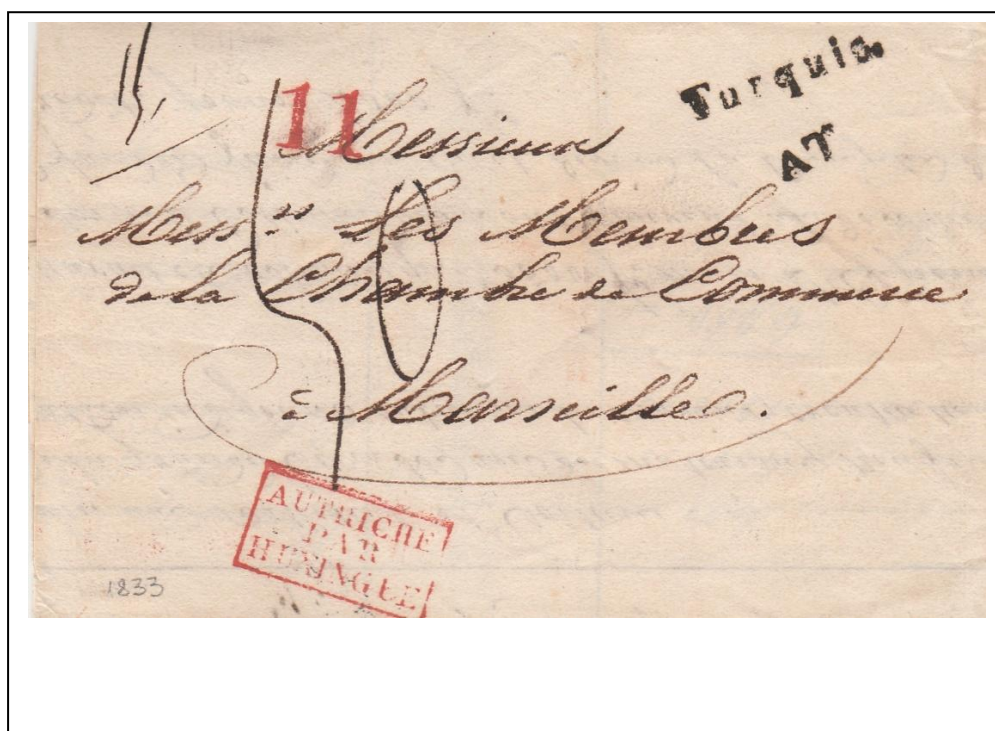


- ISSN 0966 – 7059

Jugopošta

Journal of
The Yugoslavia Study Group

www.yugosg.org



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.

Editor: Nick Coverdale editor@yugosg.org

Webmaster: David Studholme webmaster@yugosg.org

Jugopošta



Contents	Page
From the Editor	4
A recent acquisition by Nick Coverdale	4
International mail from the Banat and Bačka in early 1920 by Robert Lauer	5
Post office in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the first half of the 19 th century by Bošjan Petauer	10
Serbian postal history: pre-stamp period 1820s to 1847 by Nick Coverdale	18
Publications	34

From the Editor

I would like to wish all the readers of Jugopošta a Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2026.

This edition of Jugopošta is very much slanted towards postal history except for a very short article by myself relating to a recent acquisition. The article by Boštjan Petauer relates to early organised postal services in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the 19th century. An article by myself describes pre-stamp mail in Serbia from the 1820s to 1847 and, finally, Robert Lauer builds on his article in Jugopošta of December 2024 on international mail from the Banat and Bačka in 1920.

Once again, I ask those of you reading this journal to please consider providing articles. This is the only journal covering Yugoslavian philately published in English. Although original articles are my first choice, I am always happy to publish relevant articles that have appeared in other journals particularly if they have had a limited circulation or have not previously been published in English. Of course, I would always seek to have the permission of the author and/or the journal editor as appropriate before publishing.

A recent acquisition

by Nick Coverdale

Some time ago I wrote a short article on the Prince Michael issue of 1866. I was recently able to add to my collection of this issue a vertically imperforate pair of the 40 paras of the first Belgrade issue (pelure paper), which I don't think has been covered in Jugopošta before.



This is illustrated in Kardosch's book and, indeed, was part of his collection until about 20 years ago when it was sold by David Feldman. I remember looking at it then but decided against bidding. It was originally in the Ferrari collection and is one of only 3 known.

International Mail from the Banat and Bačka in early 1920

by Robert Lauer

One thing I did not deal with in any detail in my article *“The use of Hungarian stamps, postal stationery and postal rates in the Banat and Bačka, 1919-1921”* in the December 2024 issue of Jugopošta were international postage tariffs. This is because the basic rates for postcards, letters to 20g, printed matter and registration were the same in both the Temesvár and the SHS Kingdom foreign postal tariffs. As a result, most international mail would provide no information as to which of these two sets of postal tariffs was in effect at the time. Table 1 sets out the principle international postal rates in both the Temesvár and the SHS Kingdom foreign rate schedules.

Table 1: Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Foreign Postal Rates

	Temesvár Postal Rates	SHS Kingdom Postal Rates	
	Filler	fillér = vinar	
	1 July 1919 –	30 August 1919 – 31 May 1920	1 June 1920 – 1 April 1921
Postcards	30f	30f	20p (80f)
Letters/Lettercards	75f	75f	50p (2K)
+ per 20grm	[25f]*	45f	40p (1K20)
Printed Matter	15f	15f	10p (40f)
Registration	75f	75f	50p (2K)
Express	1K		60p (2K40)

* Inferred from an actual mailing.

Mail was handled at domestic Inland rates until January 31, 1921 to Austria and Hungary and until June 1, 1920 to Czechoslovakia, so the only real piece of international mail referred to in the December 2024 article was a registered letter sent from Zombor in Bács-Bodrog county to New York on March 14, 1920 illustrated in Figure 12 of that article. For ease of reference, this letter is shown again here as Figure 1. As a registered letter, the sender would have had to take this into a post office to mail, so the postage should be correct. This letter is franked with 1K75 in Slovenian Chainbreakers. Under either tariff schedule, 1K50 of this was for the basic foreign letter rate and registration. The most obvious explanation for the additional 25v is that the letter weighed more than 20g. None of the references that I have found to the Temesvár postal rate contain a value for addition weight steps for foreign letters, but if the letter was franked according to the SHS Kingdom postal tariffs, it would have had to have been franked with 1K95, as the amount for an additional weight step was 45v. Hence my conclusion that the second weight step for a foreign letter in the Temesvár postal tariffs was 25f. This also seems reasonable given that the second weight step for Inland letters in the Temesvár postal tariffs was 20f.



Figure 1: a registered letter sent from Zombor in Bács-Bodrog to New York on March 14, 1920 franked with 1K75 in Slovenian stamps to pay the Temesvár 2nd weight step foreign registered letter rate of 1K75.

It is probably fair to say that international mail from the Banat and Bačka in early 1920 is not particularly common, but I have managed to find four pieces that do fall into this time period. These items are listed in Table 2 and illustrated in Figures 2 through 5.

Table 2: International Mailings Compatible with Both Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Rates

Cancellation	Details
920 JAN 12	Monostorszeg (Bács-Bodrog) to Geneva, Switzerland, letter franked with a 75f Hungarian Parliament, a 10f Károly and a 3f Harvester (88f) vs the Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Foreign Letter rates of 75f.
920 JAN 31	Törökbecse (Torontál) to Zurich, Switzerland, a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 5f Hungarian Harvester and a 20v Slovenian Chainbreaker vs the Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Foreign Postcard rates of 30f.
920 FEB 17	Szeghegy (Bács-Bodrog) to Cleveland, USA, letter franked with 8f in Hungarian Harvesters and 80v in Slovenian Chainbreakers vs the Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Foreign Letter rates of 75f.
920 MAR 18	Órszállás (Bács-Bodrog) to Detroit, USA, letter franked with 10f in Hungarian Harvesters and an 80f Hungarian Parliament vs the Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Foreign Letter rates of 75f.



Figure 2: a letter sent from Monostorszeg in Bács-Bodrog to Geneva, Switzerland on January 12, 1920 franked with 88f in Hungarian stamps.



Figure 3: a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Törökbecse in Torontal to Zurich, Switzerland on January 31, 1920 uprated with a 20v Slovenian stamp and a 5f Hungarian stamp.



Figure 4: a letter sent from Szeghegy in Bács-Bodrog to Cleveland, Ohio on February 17, 1920 franked with 80v in Slovenian and 8f in Hungarian stamps.



Figure 5: a letter sent from Órszallás in Bács-Bodrog to Detroit, Michigan on March 18, 1920 franked with 90f in Hungarian stamps.

The interesting thing is that all four of these pieces of mail are over-franked with respect to both the Temesvár and SHS Kingdom foreign postal tariffs. In each case, this over-franking is composed of individual stamps that are wholly unnecessary to meet the rate in either tariff schedule. In Figure 2, there are two stamps totalling 13f in addition to the 75f stamp that was necessary to pay the foreign letter rate of 75f. In Figure 3, the 5f Hungarian Harvester stamp is completely unnecessary to pay the 30f foreign postcard rate. In Figure 4, the 80v in Slovenian stamps is sufficient to pay the foreign letter rate of 75v, the 8f in Hungarian Harvester stamps is entirely superfluous. In Figure 5, the 80f Hungarian Parliament stamp is sufficient to pay the 75f foreign letter rate and again the 10f in Hungarian Harvester stamps is unnecessary. None of these is a case of over-franking out of convenience – i.e. not having at hand stamps to pay the exact rate and therefore having to use a stamp with a higher denomination than necessary.

Two of these letters (Figure 2 and Figure 4) are over-franked by 13f; the letter in Figure 5 is over-franked by 15f. All three were mailed in different towns. Was the letter in Figure 5 over-franked by 15f, rather than 13f, because the sender only had 5f stamps at hand? An over-franking of 13f looks suspiciously like half of the 25f cost for an additional 20g weight step. Was there some policy where international letters that were less than 10g over the basic rate were only charged half of the next weight increment? Other than this, I am at a loss for an explanation. If any readers have any more examples of international mail from the Banat or the Bačka, from late 1919 or early 1920, please send me a scan at robertlauer59@gmail.com.

Post office in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the first half of the 19th century

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

Although Sultan Mohammed II occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina as early as 1463 and there are some letters originating from these places in the following centuries, the first organized postal service in this territory was not Turkish. The Turkish post office in Bosnia and Herzegovina was established only in 1840, and it did not start operating until 1849; so, the Turks were not in a great hurry to start this type of business. We will tell you more about the interesting period of the Turkish post office, which operated until the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1878, in a future issue of our magazine. Today, we will learn about the postal services that operated in Bosnia and Herzegovina before the Turkish post office began operating; some of them continued their operations parallel with the Turkish postal organization.

We will discuss the operation of the following post offices:

1. Napoleon's post office in Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. Rajković's post office,
3. Austrian consular and private courier post offices (*German*: Botenpost)
4. Danube Steamship Company (*German* Donau-Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft – DDSG)

Napoleon's post office in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Its postal organization is particularly interesting to us, as it is also connected to our area.

In 1809, Napoleon established the Illyrian Provinces with headquarters in Ljubljana, which covered a fairly large area (for example, Dubrovnik was also included). On this occasion, many post offices were established, including in Sarajevo and Kostajnica (this post office was no longer on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but was already part of the Illyrian Provinces, through which mail to and from Sarajevo also travelled), although it is known that Napoleon never occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina. The French postal route ran from Constantinople via Pristina and Sarajevo to Kostajnica, and from there to Ljubljana and on to Paris.

Both Sarajevo (Bosna Serai) and Kostajnica (Kostanica Illyrie) used 2 different postmarks each. So far, 5 letters with the Sarajevo postmark are known; all of them are from 1813 and all are addressed to the firm Lasausse & Julien in Lyon. There is also only one sender, namely a Mr. Fraisinnet, who is said to be the owner or employee of the post office in Sarajevo.



Figure 1 (reduced): letter from Sarajevo via Kostajnica to Lyon on May 15, 1813. Napoleonic postmark Bosna Serai. Postage marked in ink (14 decimes), Traces of disinfection in Kostajnica (Weber, p. 129)



Figure 2: letter dated May 24, 1812 to Sarajevo. The only known letter out of 30 that travelled west-east to Sarajevo via Kostajnica; all other known letters traveled east-west. (Weber, p. 130)

Rajković Courier Post

This mail service was organized by coffee wholesaler Spiridion Rajković from January 1847 (according to some sources, already from 1846) to 1848; the journey in both directions took 14 days, but when the Turkish mail began operating in 1849, the authorities forbade him from providing such services. He used the Saraglio cancellation with the date, but without the year, to cancel his shipments. A total of 6 letters with this cancellation are known today.



Figure 3: letter from Slavonski Brod dated 18 January to Sarajevo, where it arrived, as can be seen from the postmark on the first page, on 4 February. The earliest known letter from Rajković's courier service. The postage was 24 kr for the transmission and another 24 kr for Rajković, (Weber, p. 131)

Austrian Consular Post

In 1808, the first Austrian Consulate General was opened in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Travnik, where the seat of the Ottoman Governor General was then located. When the latter moved to Sarajevo, the Austrian Consulate General followed him there on 18 September.

This Consulate General planned to establish a courier service between Sarajevo and Slavonski Brod. No special postmark was planned. The service was to be introduced on 1 March 1851, once a week, on Thursdays from Sarajevo, and the journey in both directions would take nine days for riders. The structure of the planned tariffs was also determined. However, this postal line never took off due to the constant internal unrest in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Austrian vice-consulate in Mostar was different. On 1 September 1851, it organized a twice-weekly postal line between Mostar and Metković (on the Adriatic coast), as there were apparently no disturbances on this route, which was also much shorter than the one between Sarajevo and Slavonski Brod. This line operated until March 1852, and a round postmark with the inscription Mostar and the date (without the year) was also used. In total, 3 letters that traveled this route have survived to this day.



Figure 4: ex-offo (official) letter, sent on 19.12.1851 from Mostar to Lyon, sender is the Episcopal Ordinariate in Mostar, blue is the cancellation of the Mostar consular post in Mostar, incoming French cancellations 5. 1. 52 and 7.1. 52. The letter is addressed to "Sua His Excellency Il Sgr A Barone de Sesse, Presidente del Consiglio of the Pious Work of the Congregation work Fede" (His Excellency, Mr. A Baron de Sesse, President of the Council of Devotional Work of the Congregation for the Faith). The letter was carried by courier to the Austrian post office in Metković (Dalmatia), where a fee of 12 decimos (marked on the letter) was collected, which corresponded to 29 kr. (Weber, p. 134.)

In addition to Sarajevo and Mostar, there were also consular connections from other cities (Bihać, Banja Luka, Brčko, Travnik, Tuzla, Livno and Trebinje) at various times, some for only a few years, others until the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, either to Brod or only within Bosnia. In addition, there were also private mail carriers. Since they did not use any cancellations, with the exception of the aforementioned Mostar, it is impossible today to determine who carried the specific letter, that is, whether it was the consular post or private messengers, also known as Tatars (which has nothing to do with the national community of the same name).

In addition to unfranked letters, there are also those that are franked with Austrian stamps, which were affixed at the first post office in Austria, namely the first six Austrian issues from 1850 to 1863. The most common addressee of these letters is Aleksander Kovačević from Trieste.

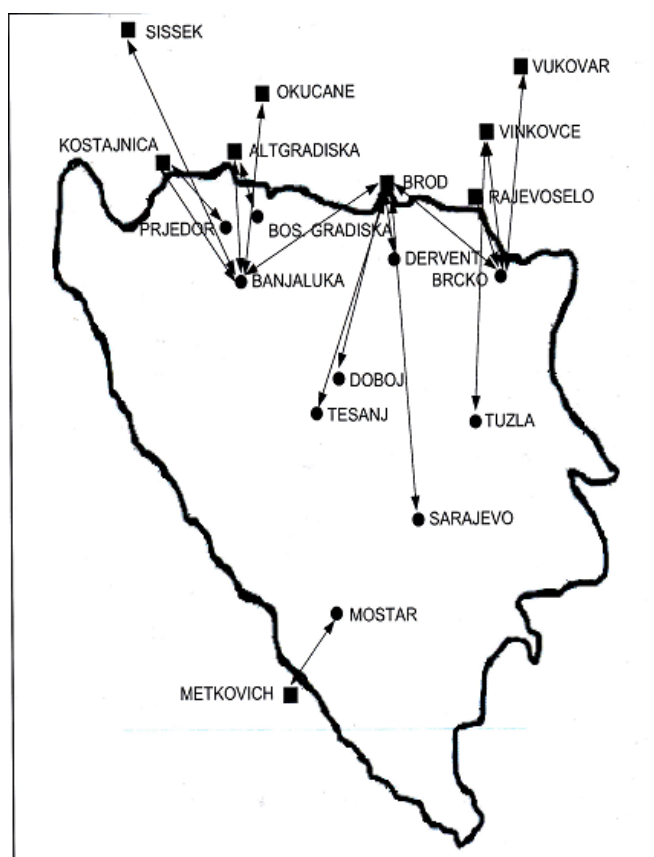


Figure 5: schematic representation of the most important courier postal connections between Bosnia and Austria, (Weber, p. 138))

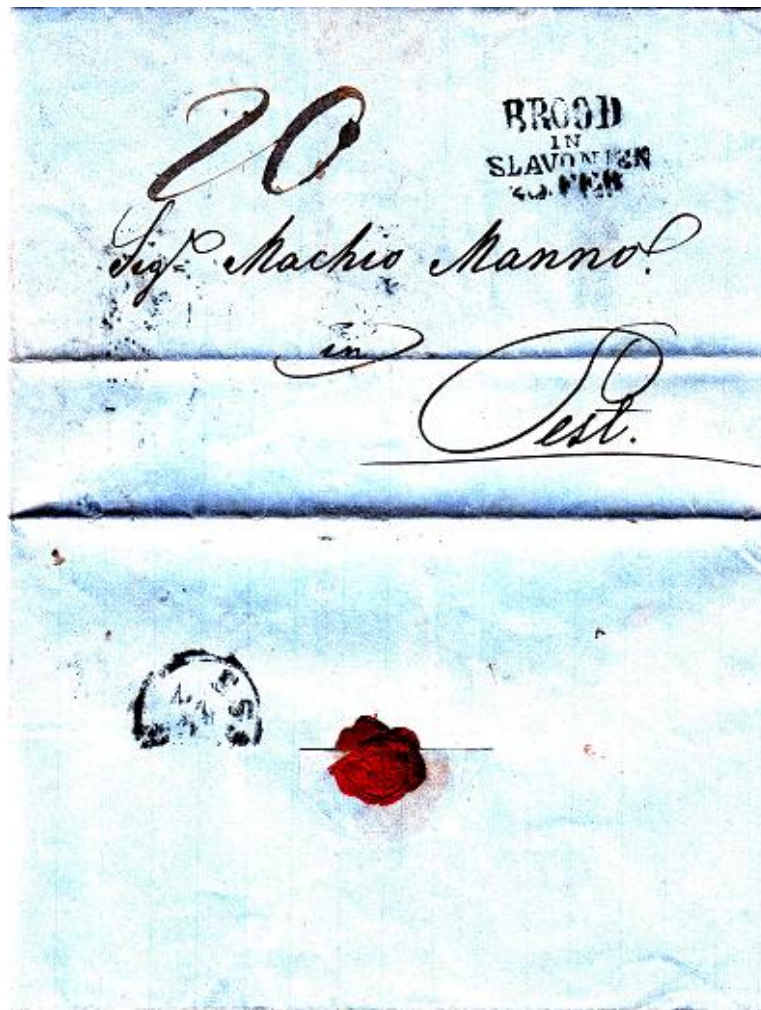


Figure 6: letter from 1863, sent from Sarajevo to Pest via Slavonski Brod. Transit postmark of Esseg (Osijek) and incoming postmark of Pest on the reverse (pictured below).



Figure 7: letter from 1856 from Sarajevo via Vinkovci to Pest – franked with an Austrian 9 kreutzer stamp and the Vinkovci postmark. Transit postmark of Ess (Osijek) and Pest on the back (pictured below)



Figure 8: letter from Mostar 1874 to Trieste via Metković. Transit cancellation of Zara (Zadar) and incoming cancellation of Trieste on the reverse (pictured above)

Some of the older letters were subjected to fumigation (disinfection) to prevent the spread of disease, especially cholera, and were appropriately marked (with special cancellations or hand-marked) in several places (there were 13, including Rajevo Selo, Slavonski Brod, Gradiška, Zavalje, Sinj and Metković) through which mail from Bosnia and Herzegovina passed.



Figure 9: letter from 1838, sent from Modriča via Semlin (Zemun) to Pest, disinfected in Slavonski Brod (the only place that used the cancellation located to the right of the red seal and reading: Netto di dentro e di fuori Cont Amt Brod - disinfected inside and outside (Brod disinfection office))

Danube Steamship Company (Donau-Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft – DDSG)

In 1861, the steamer Belgrad, owned by the DDSG, also began to collect mail once a week. On the right (Bosnian or Turkish) side of the river, the aforementioned company had agencies in Brčko and Bosanski Šamec, and perhaps also in Bosanski Brod and Bosanska Gradiška, although letters delivered in the latter two places are unknown (but a letter collected in Stara Gradiška on the Austrian side is known). DDSG cancellations associated with Bosnia are considered very rare. The collection of mail ended in 1878, with the Austrian occupation of Bosnia.



Figure 10: example of a postcard, received at the Stara Gradiška agency, sent from Sarajevo to Brod, where it travelled on the steamer Belgrad. DDS agency cancellation at the bottom left in blue, Brod's incoming cancellation at the bottom centre (Weber, p. 178)

In this article, we have only been able to present the main characteristics of the period of postal history of Bosnia and Herzegovina under discussion. Anyone interested in more should consult the professional literature, a significant part of which is presented at the end of this article.

Literature and sources

1. Weber G. Bosnia - Herzegovina 1812-1920, Stempel Compendium , Band I, ARGE Feldpost Österreich – Ungarn, Wien 2010, 1st Edition
2. Pongratz-Lippit, O. Handbook Bosnia and Herzegovina, Selbstverlag, Pernegg on the Mur, spring 2000
3. Ferchenbauer U: Manual and Spezialkatalog, Band IV, Ungarn 1867, Österreichische Post im Ausland, Wien 2008, Selbstverlag
4. Rukavina N. Historiat development post office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Nova printing house" Vrčak and dr., Sarajevo (without years, but before World War II)
5. Private collection (except where otherwise stated)

Serbian Postal History: pre-stamp period 1820s to 1847

by Nick Coverdale

Introduction

In Jugopošta 155 (September 2025), Roger Morrell wrote a short article asking questions concerning 7 Serbian pre-stamp covers that he had purchased. I'm not sure if this is an unknown subject area to most readers of Jugopošta, though it has certainly received little coverage in previous editions, but there has been only one response. This is an area of Serbian philately that I have only recently become interested in and this article is my attempt to cover the period from the 1820s up to 1847. Most of my background information has come from Kardosch (reference 1) and the other listed references. The information in these references is not always consistent and the 'Early history' in the next section is my best summary. All the items illustrated are from my own collection. For those of you reading this who are able to add any information regarding the interpretation of the illustrated items, I would be most grateful to receive that.

Early history

As early as the end of the 15th century, couriers carried post from Turkey and into Serbia (part of the Ottoman Empire). The couriers were known as 'Tatars'. This did not mean that they were of the Tatar peoples but is thought to refer to their ability to navigate and to their horsemanship, as required by their work. Kardosch refers to the most important postal route as the 'Imperial Highway' running from Constantinople through Edirne, Sofia and Belgrade to Hungary and Austria.

The authorities set up 'menzulanec' (relay stations) where the Tatars could obtain accommodation, refreshment and a change of horse. The name 'menzulane' which, according to Google, translates as 'range house'. There were various breaks in usage of the menzulanec, particularly due to insurrections in Serbia in the early years of the 19th century.

After 1821, the menzulanec were taken over and operated by the Serbs. Jovanović (reference 2) notes that after 1821, the Serbian-run menzulanec were obliged to provide services to Turkish Tatars carrying Austrian mail. Kardosch notes that, in 1828, Austrian posts again began to be carried regularly through Serbia by Austrian Tatars.

In 1830, greater autonomy was given to Serbia by the Ottoman Empire. Jovanović (reference 2) says that Serbia regulated postal relations with Austria and abolished the provision of free services to Turkish Tatars. The number and locations of menzulanec in Serbia at that time does not seem to be known with any degree of certainty but it is thought that about 30 existed.

Prince Miloš of Serbia, due to the cost of operating the menzulanec, attempted to auction them off into private hands, requiring them to be entrusted only to citizens of good repute. Finding such interested people turned out to be difficult and most of the menzulanec remained in state hands.

Four examples of letters from the period 1823 to 1833 are shown in Figures 1 to 4.

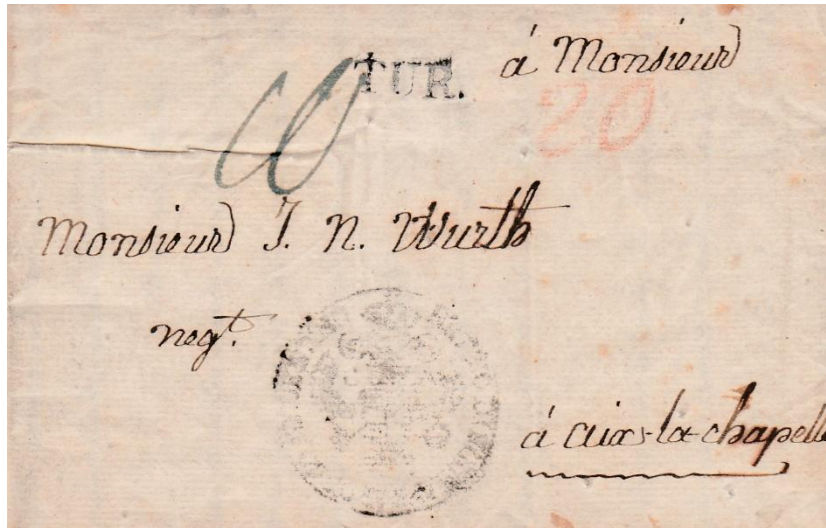


Figure 1: 26 March 1823. Entire letter (showing front above and part of reverse below) from Constantinople via Belgrade and Semlin to Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen) with Austrian straight-line handstamp **TUR** in black and round disinfection handstamp **NETTO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO** ('clean outside and inside') from Semlin. On the reverse a Turkish negative postmark (which I am not able to identify), the date of despatch and the name of the sender Louis Castagne. Manuscript receipt date of 25 April and what I assume to be a reply date of 3 June.

Jean Louis Martin Castagne (1785 – 1868) was a French botanist and mycologist. He was born to a merchant family in Marseille and moved to Constantinople in 1814 on behalf of the family business and, in 1820, became deputy of Commerce in Constantinople. He returned to France in 1833.

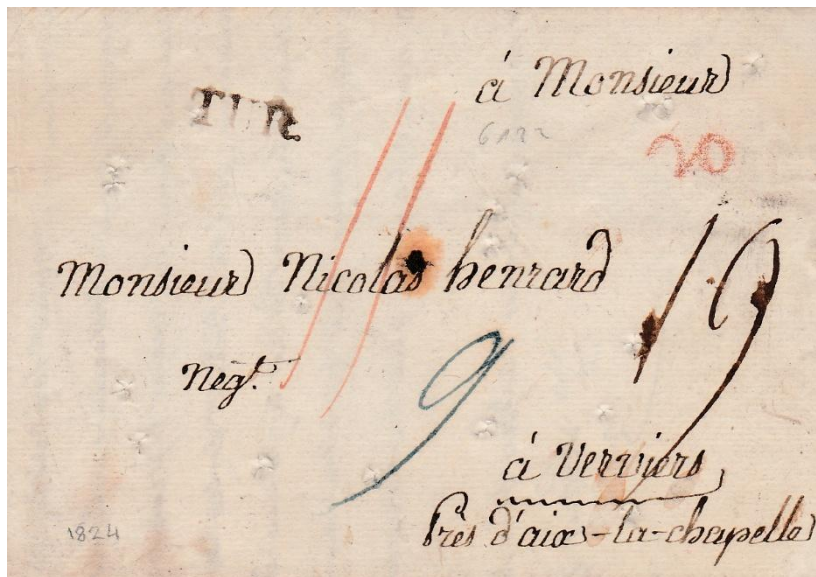


Figure 2: 10 February 1824. Entire letter (showing front above and part of reverse below) from Constantinople via Belgrade and Semlin to Verviers near to Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen). Austrian straight-line handstamp **TUR** and round disinfection cachet from Semlin **NETTO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO**. Turkish negative mark and various manuscript charges which I haven't identified yet. Arrival manuscript annotation 11 March 1824.

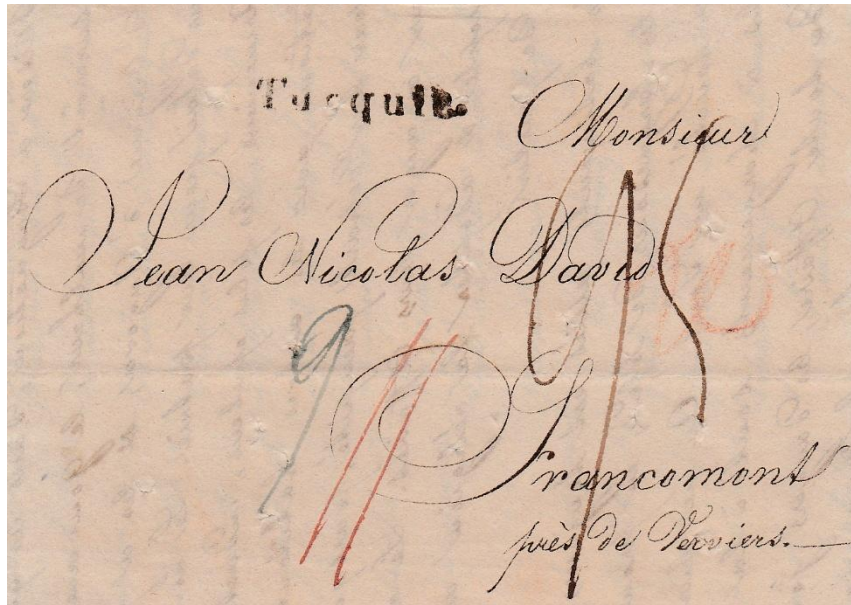


Figure 3: 26 January 1828. Entire private letter (showing front above and part of reverse below) carried by couriers from Constantinople via Belgrade and Semlin to Francomont, near Verviers (present-day Belgium). Austrian straight-line handstamp **Turquie** in black. On the reverse, Semlin disinfection cachet **NETTO DI FUORA ET DI DENTRO** (Meyer Type A5). Various manuscript charge marks and manuscript arrival date 29 February 1828.

The sender in Constantinople was Jean Héno. The addressee is the Jean-Nicolas David textile company in Francomont near Verviers. There is an index on the internet to the company archives and Héno is listed as a correspondent between the years 1826 and 1832.

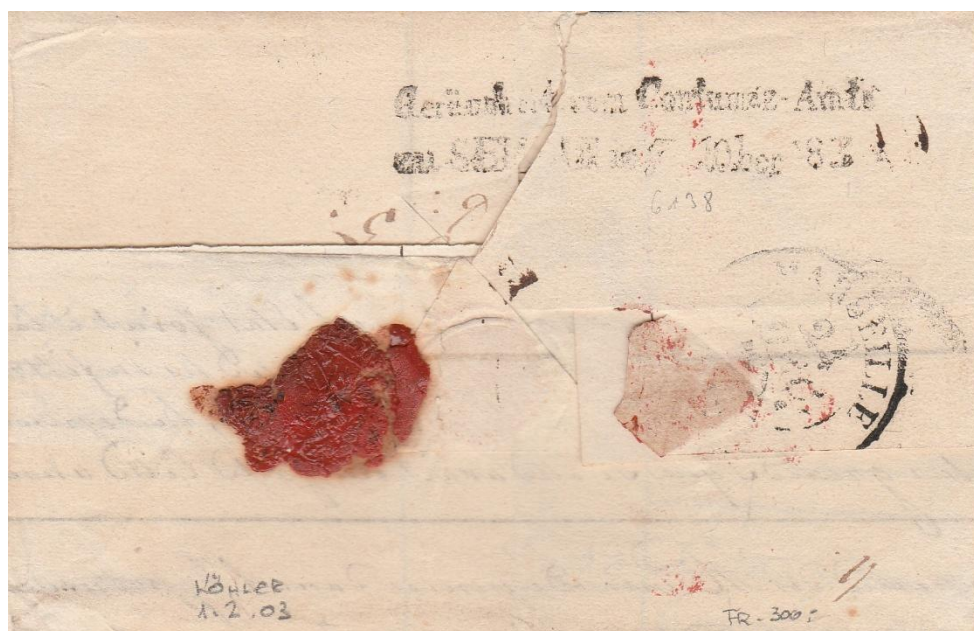
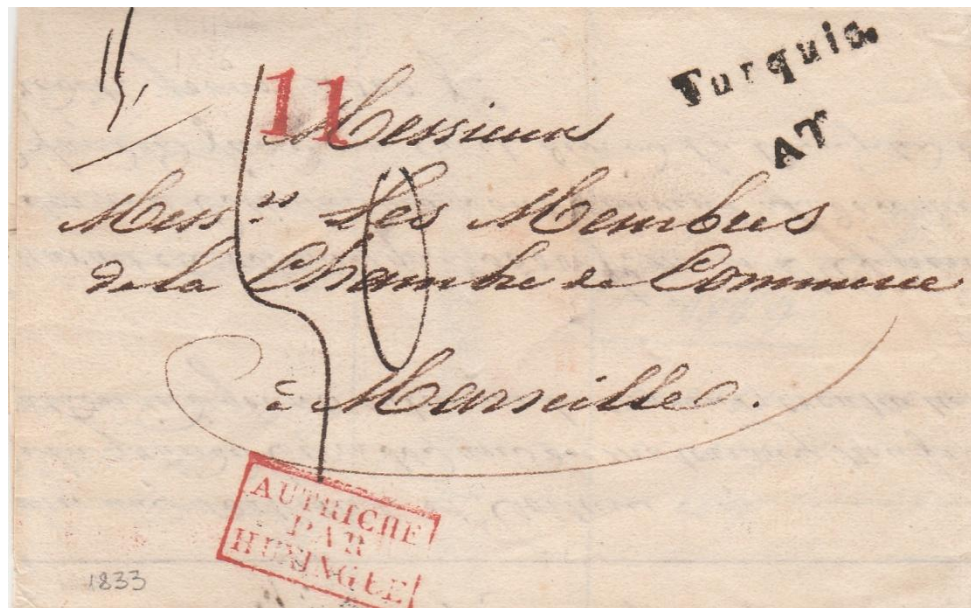


Figure 4: 1833. Private letter (showing front above and reverse below) with part of contents, but place and date of despatch unknown, carried through Serbia and Semlin to Marseille. Disinfection cachet on reverse **Geräuchert von Contumaz-Amte zu SEMLIN ... 1833**. Circular arrival handstamp **MARSEILLE / 24 / DEC / 1833**. Handstamps **Turquie** and **AT**: the former thought to have been applied at Semlin and the latter when the letter left Austria (**AT** meaning **Autriche Transit**). Also a boxed **AUTRICHE / PAR / HUNINGUE** in red, applied at the Swiss/French border post office at Huningue in Switzerland. The red **11** is thought to show the amount to be paid in décimes up to the French border before transit across France to Marseille. The partial contents appear to be an order or invoice for building work.

The period before the first Serbian Posts Act (1840 – 1843)

Letters carried at this time were mainly of an official nature (the Serbian state and Prince and institutions such as the Church). There were no specific arrangements for private mail (nor a prohibition on carrying it) which was therefore carried free of charge (mainly merchants' correspondence).

Serbia's first post office opened in Belgrade on 25 May 1840 and the second opened in Kragujevac on 4 June. Belgrade was, of course, Serbia's leading city and Kragujevac was for a time the seat of government. No scale of charges was provided for private mail which continued to be carried free of charge until the end of September 1840. At this time, charges were introduced for private mail (official mail continued to be carried free of charge) as follows:

- smaller letters (smaller than 1 letter sheet) 20 paras ($\frac{1}{2}$ grosh)
- larger letters (larger than 1 letter sheet) 40 paras (1 grosh)

I assume that a 'letter sheet' has a defined size, otherwise 'smaller than 1 letter sheet' does not make sense.

These charges applied regardless of the distance travelled and remained in force until the first Serbian Posts Act of 15 October 1843.

At the same time that the charges were introduced, it was required that all letters carried by the office of posting should be entered on a register of official and private letters carried in Serbia. The register was to include the serial number of the letter, addressee information and charges levied for private letters. The office of posting was to enter the name of the post office on the front of the letter (either a handstamp or manuscript) and the register number had to appear on the left of the name of the post office and the posting date on the right.

Kardosch notes that the newly-opened post offices were in each case accommodated in the same set of buildings as the menzulanes. He does not specifically give a date for the establishment of 4 other early post offices except to indicate that it was in 1841. These 6 early post offices – Belgrade, Kragujevac, Loznica, Požarevac, Šabac and Valjevo – used a straight-line handstamp and in its very early days Belgrade used a boxed handstamp (according to a display available on the philaserbia.org website by Ranko Talović only 10 covers bearing the boxed handstamp are known). Except for Belgrade and Požarevac, the other 4 handstamps had a letter 'N' before the town name. The straight-line handstamp of Požarevac had a large curved line beneath it.

Covers from the period 1841 – 1843 are found bearing one or more of these handstamps and also town names in manuscript (according to Kardosch, covers with up to manuscript annotations 6 are known).

Examples of letters from this period are shown in Figures 5 to 9.

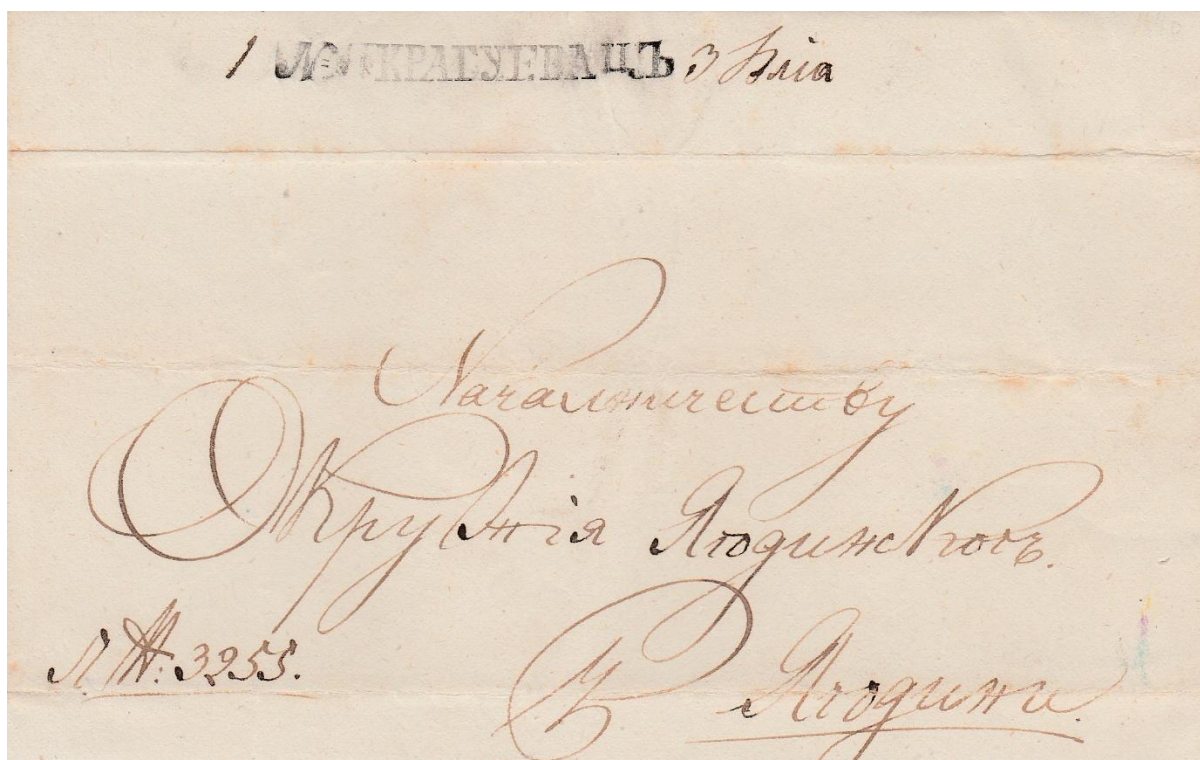


Figure 5: 3 July 1840. Cover from Kragujevac to Jagodina (showing front above and part of reverse below). Straight-line handstamp N КРАГУЕВАЦЪ 55 x 5 mm (in use from 1840 – 1844) and manuscript date of 3 July. Manuscript arrival mark of Jagodina (which had no handstamp at that time) of 4 July 1840 (inside the folded sheet so not seen here). An early use of the Kragujevac handstamp. On the reverse an embossed seal, probably of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (from 1818 to 1841 Kragujevac was the seat of Serbian government.). There is also an unidentified handstamp on the reverse.

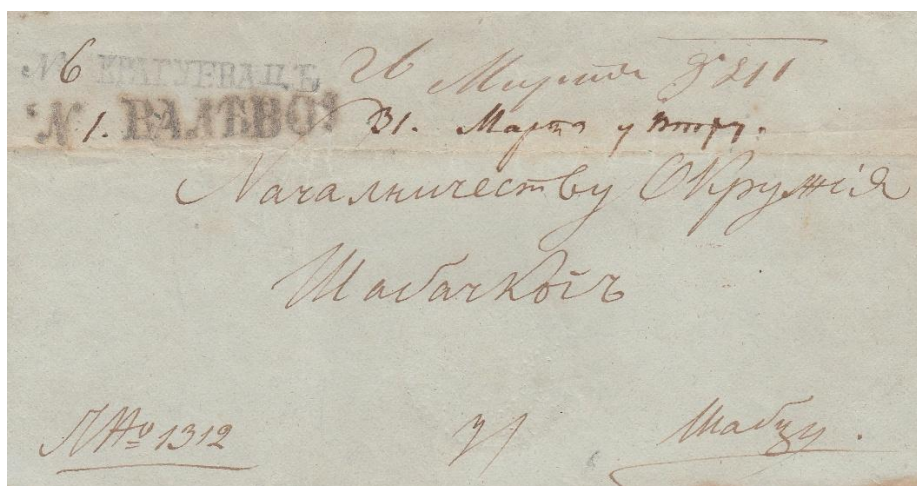


Figure 6 (reduced): 26 August 1841. Cover from Kragujevac to Šabac. Straight-line handstamp of Kragujevac N **КРАГУЈЕВАЦЪ** 55 x 5 mm (in use 1840 – 1844). Transit handstamp of Valjevo in its usual smudged appearance, manuscript date of 31 August. Manuscript arrival mark for Šabac of 2 September inside cover. The Šabac handstamp is known to have been in use from 1841 but perhaps had not been brought into use at this time?

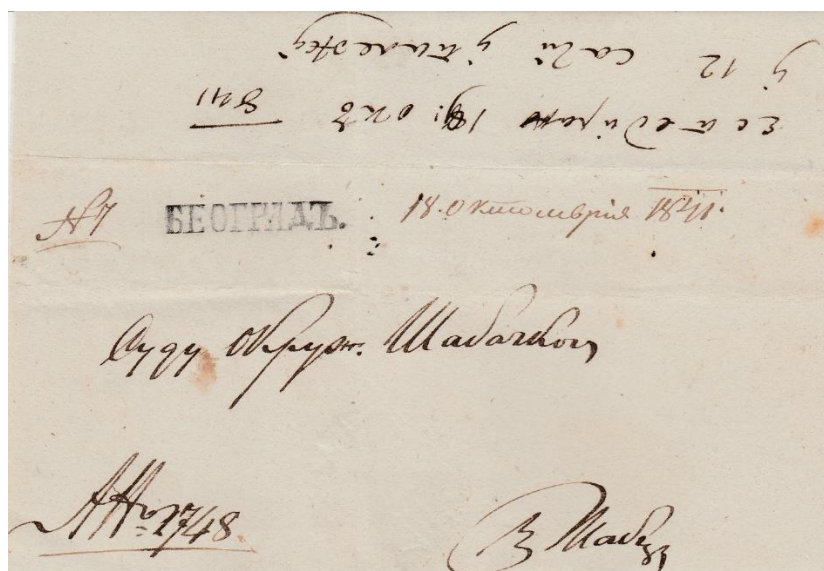


Figure 7 (reduced): 18 October 1841. Folded letter from Belgrade to Šabac (showing front above and part of reverse below). **БЕОГРАДЪ** straight-line hand-stamp 35 x 5.5 mm in use from 1840 – 1844. Manuscript despatch date next to handstamp. Transit manuscript dates for Palež (later re-named Obrenovac) 19 October at the top of the front of the letter and manuscript arrival date 20 October for Šabac inside the letter. Embossed seal on the reverse.



Figure 8: 5 December 1841. Cover from Brusnica to Valjevo (showing front above and part of reverse below). Brusnica did not have a handstamp at this time so there is a manuscript marking of Brusnica and the date of despatch on the inverted part of the cover. There are transit marks and dates. The Valjevo handstamp (a poor impression) is at the top of the inverted part of the cover with a date of 8 December and the Šabac handstamp is on the lower part of the cover above the address, with a date of 12 December. On the reverse a register number and Loznica in manuscript appear; and the Loznica manuscript arrival (18 December) is inside the fold (not shown here). Loznica had a handstamp from 1841 onwards and there appears to be a very poor impression of a handstamp on the reverse above the manuscript Loznica. This may be the Loznica handstamp. According to information from the previous owner of this material, this is the earliest known cover from Brusnica, but I am unable to verify that. Certificate.

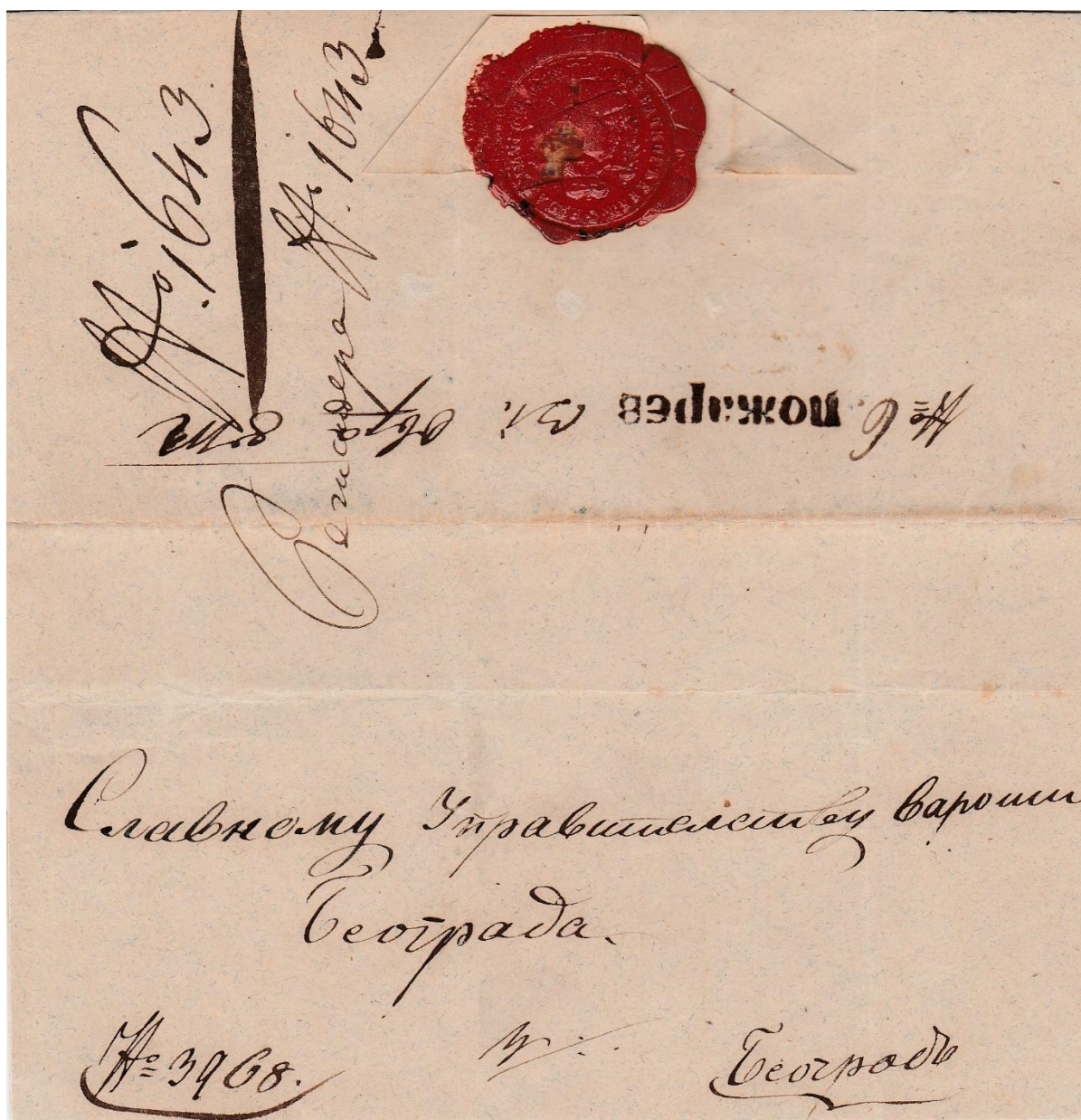


Figure 9: 31 October 1842. Folded letter from Požarevac to Belgrade. **ПОЖАРЕВ** straight-line handstamp (there is also a version followed by a '.' and with a 'flourish' underneath). The latter version measures 34 x 8 mm. The handstamp was in use from 1841 – 1843. There is a red wax seal of the Požarevac post office. Manuscript arrival mark for Šabac of 2 November. There are 2 different register numbers.

The first Serbian Postal Act of 15 October 1843

The Austrian Consulate was opened in Belgrade in 1836 following an agreement between the governments of Austria and Turkey. A consular post office was opened on 1 August 1841 under the direction of the postal directorate in Vienna. This was not welcomed by the Serbian government. I do not intend to discuss this further in this article.

The Serbian Postal Authority was formed at the end of 1842 and proposals were prepared. This led to the enactment of two statutes on 15 October 1843:

1. The act introducing the postal system

2. The regulations for the payment of postal charges

Post offices were to be opened in all the more important places in addition to those already in use but not all began operating at the same time. The Postal Authority was answerable to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Four main post routes and nine connecting routes were projected. According to Kardosch, the financing of the post offices on route 2 was directly by the Ministry due to their importance to international traffic. The others obtained their funding from local taxation. The State had a postal monopoly.

The four main post routes were as follows (see Figure 10):

1. Belgrade – Grocka – Požarevac – Kruševica (later Kučevo) – Donji Milanovac – Brza Palanka – Negotin – Radujevac
2. Belgrade – Grocka – Kolari – Palanka – Batočina – Jagodina – Čuprija – Paraćin – Šupeljak (later Jovanovac) – Aleksinac
3. Belgrade – Grocka – Kolari – Palanka – Batočina – Kragujevac – Brusnica – Čačak – Požega – Užice – Mokra Gora
4. Belgrade – Palež (later Obrenovac) – Šabac – Loznica

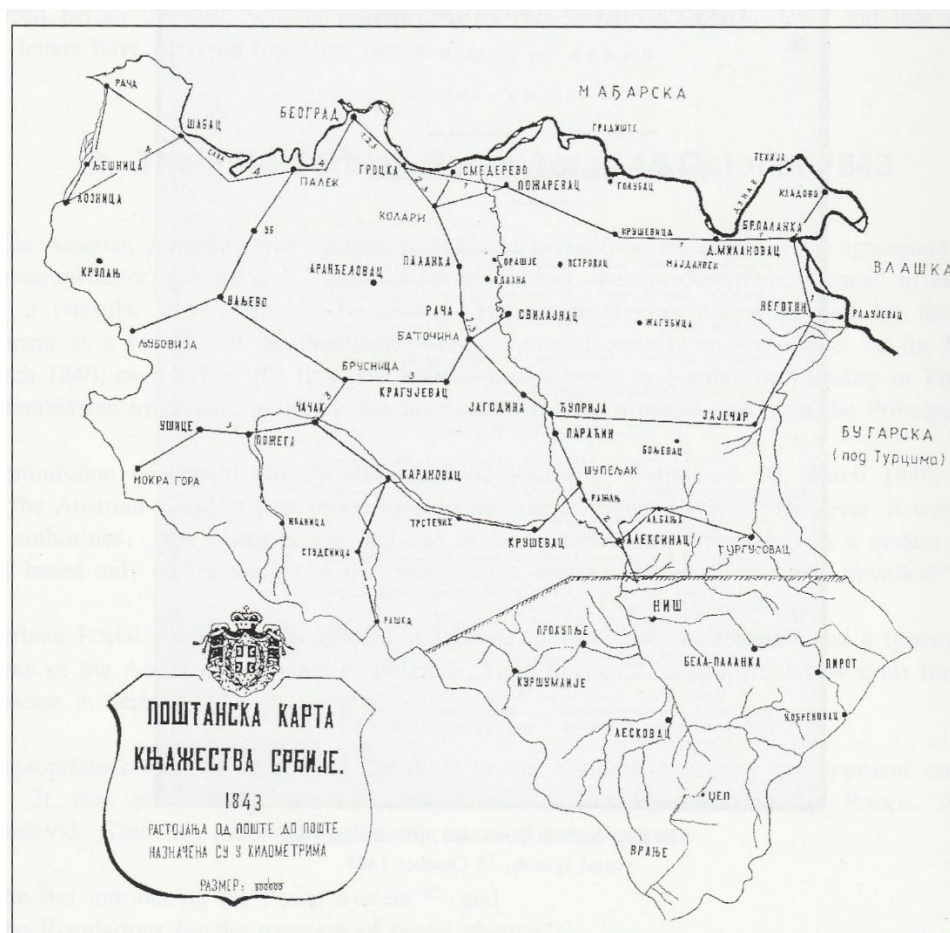


Figure 10: map of Serbian postal routes of 1843 (reproduced from reference 1, where it is described as being found in the Postal Museum)

Regulations concerning payment of postal charges

A summary of postal charges is shown in the table below. These charges relate to private letters and official mail remained exempt from charges but such mail had to bear an official register number and be closed with an official seal. These charges refer to internal mail.

	1 st weight tier (up to 3 drams)	2 nd weight tier (3 to 4.5 drams)	3 rd weight tier (4.5 to 6 drams)
Letter post	40 paras	60 paras	80 paras
Printed matter	One third of letter rate subject to a minimum of 40 paras		
Registered letters	Additional payment of 40 paras regardless of weight		
Advice of delivery	Additional payment of 40 paras regardless of weight		
All postal charges irrespective of distance			

Other requirements to note:

1. Every consignment was to be weighed and the charge determined.
2. If the sender paid the charge immediately, the amount was entered alongside the handstamp. If not, the charge was entered on the reverse.
3. Paid letters were marked with two crossed lines in ink and the post-paid handstamp was to be struck.
4. Registered consignments were to be entered up on special forms.

At this time it was likely that there was much more official than private mail. According to Kardosch, the evidence from surviving material shows that a number of the above provisions were observed rarely in practice, if at all.

Examples of letters from this period are shown in Figures 11 – 14.

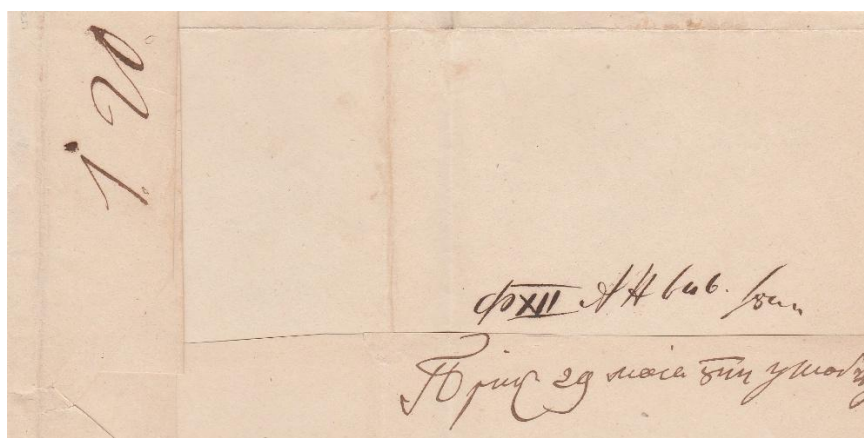
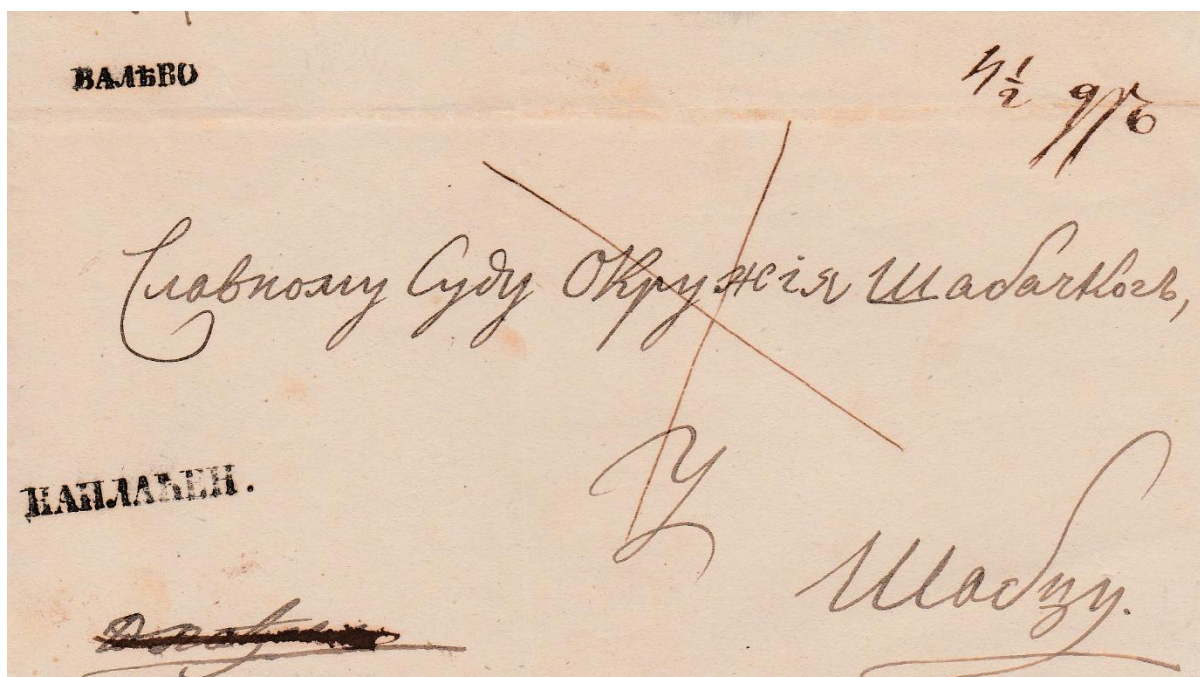


Figure 11: 29 May 1844. Letter from Valjevo to Šabac (showing front above and part of the inside below (reduced)) with straight-line handstamp of Valjevo (16.5 x 2.5 mm) in black, in use from 1844 to 1861. Text inside the letter dated 29 May 1844 – despatch or arrival? Straight-line **НАПЛАЋЕН.** meaning ‘paid’. Weight 4½ drams – does this make it 2nd weight tier or 3rd tier? Postal route Valjevo – Ub – Palež – Šabac. Other markings I have not yet interpreted:

XII inside

1 20 inside

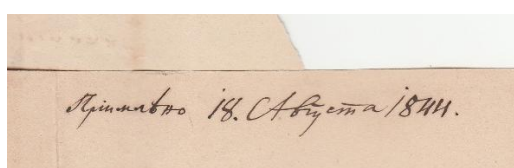
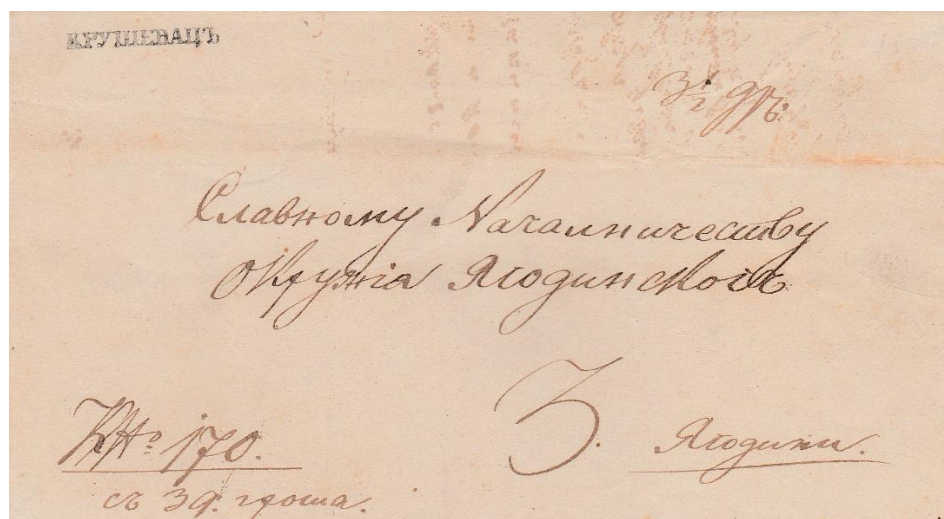


Figure 12 (reduced): 18 August 1844. Folded letter from Kruševac to Jagodina (showing front above and part of inside below) with straight-line handstamp of Kruševac (26.5 x 2.5 mm) in black, in use from 1844 to 1864. The post office opened in December 1843 or January 1844. Appears to be an official letter, therefore not charged. Handwritten date inside the letter, but not clear to me whether this is the despatch or arrival date. Weight 3½ drams. Also apparent No '39' bottom left under the register number. Route taken would be Kruševac – Jovanovac (known as Šupeljak before 1859) – Paraćin – Čuprija – Jagodina.

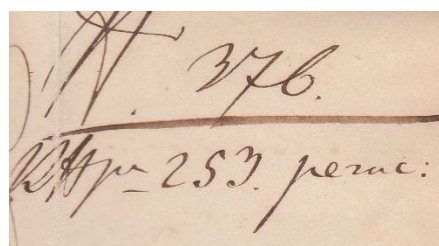
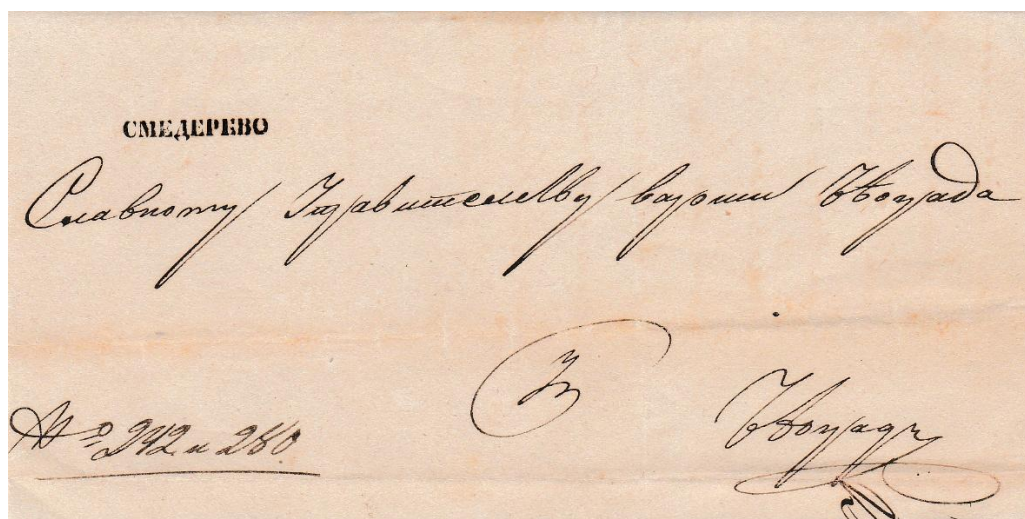


Figure 13 (reduced): 5 February 1845. Letter from Smederevo to Belgrade (showing front above and part of the reverse, to the left) with straight-line handstamp of Smederevo in black (23.5 x 2.5 mm), in use from 1844 to 1861. Text inside the letter dated 5 February 1845 – despatch or arrival? Other markings of interest on the reverse which I can't interpret. Route Smederevo – Kolari – Grocka – Belgrade.

КУПЦОВАНЬЕ

Отъ Цыга Отъ Гургусоваръ № 403.

Частному Парамиреца Отъ Гургусоваръ

са б: Египетъ и 1/2 чван: уан 134 го: чван: Гургусоваръ



Отъ I

С 172

К 2

Получено 21. Февраля 1846 г.

Figure 14 (reduced): 21 February 1846. Letter from Gurgusovac to Jagodina, (showing front of letter, top, seals on the reverse, middle, and part of the inside, bottom) with straight line handstamp of Gurgusovac (30 x 2.5 mm), in use from 1844 to 1859. Post office opened between Dec 1843 and Feb 1844. Renamed Knjaževac in 1859. Official letter so not charged. 2nd main post route and 5th connecting route: Gurgusovac – Banja – Aleksinac – Šupeljak – Paraćin – Čuprija – Jagodina. Regarding the date shown inside the letter, it is not clear to me whether this is the despatch date or the arrival in Jagodina.

References

1. The Principality of Serbia Postal History and Postage Stamps 1830 – 1882. Kardosch, V. M., 1996 (in English).
2. Austrian Couriers and Consular Post in Belgrade 1792 – 1869. Jovanović, D., Filatelista No. 284, September 2024 (in Serbian).
3. Linear Date Handstamps in Serbian Prephilately. Jovanović, V. M., Filatelista No. 286, October 2025 (in Serbian and English).
4. The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Serbia. Rasić, M. R., The Collectors Club 1979 (in English).
5. The Pre-Philately in the Principality of Serbia until 1866. Talović, R., 2020, Internet Exhibition – SOFIZ I (in English). philaserbia.org/en/sofiz-i/ranko-talovic-the-pre-philately-in-the-principality-of-serbia-until-1866

Publications:

- **Back numbers of regular editions of Jugopošta (JP) sent by file transfer**

JP 1 – 70 complete as pdf files excluding monographs	£20
JP 71 – 100 complete as pdf files excluding monographs	£20

- **Monographs**

Monographs can be sent by file transfer at just £7 each. *Montenegro Postal History* (JP57A) (no longer available, replaced by Monograph 11)

1. *Catalogue of the Perfins of Yugoslavia* (JP75)
2. *The Postal Rates of the Yugoslav Territories (2nd Ed)* (JP70A)
3. *Banat and Bačka* (JP77)
4. *Srem Postal History to late 1944* (JP81)
5. *The Postal Rates of the Independent State of Croatia 1941 – 1945* (JP85)
6. *The Postal Rates of Bosnia and Herzegovina* (JP90)
7. *Indeficenter (The Story of Fiume to 1918)* (JP94)
8. *Croatia/SHS: Independence Issue of 29 October 1918* (JP98)
9. *The History and Feldpost of the Croat Legions in the German Army in WWII* (JP103)
10. *Montenegro Postal History (2nd edition)* (JP108)
11. *A Short Guide to the Slovenian Regular Stamps of 1919 and 1920* (JP119)
12. *The Postal History of the Serbian Nation in Exile 1915 – 1919* (JP124)
13. *Slovene Stamps 1919 – 20, mixed frankings* (JP128)

- **To order**

- Send your order to the Editor at editor@yugosg.org stating your email address. He will then provide details for making a PayPal payment.
- If you are unable to pay by PayPal, you can pay by bank transfer. Details on request.