

The Sub-Carpathian Messenger

Newsletter of the Study Circle
for the Postal History of the Carpatho-Ukraine

Number 27 - September 2013



Market in Serednoe (September 2011)

About us and the Newsletter

The Study Circle is a loose group of persons who are interested in the postal (and general) history of the area known as Kárpátalja in Hungarian, as Podkarpatská Rus during the First Czechoslovak Republic, which had a short day of independence as Carpatho Ukraine, and later was integrated into the Ukrainian SSR in the Soviet Union as the 'Zakarpatskaja Oblast'. Since 1991 it is *ЗАКАРПАТТЯ*, the westernmost administrative district in the now independent Ukraine.

The Newsletter came out of a meeting of a few collectors during the PRAHA 2008, its first number appeared in November 2008. In the last four years we have always produced five issues per year but cannot keep this high level and cannot promise regular publication intervals as they depend on the contributions we are receiving. As we can see from the numbers at the public web site, this Newsletter is read by more than hundred people.

We send our warm welcome to our new member Bernd REICHWEIN from Germany.

Distribution method

All issues of the »*Sub-Carpathian Messenger*« can be browsed at and downloaded from the Internet address

<http://www.slideshare.net/subcarpathian>

As of July 7th, 2013, 06:30 CEST, the following access counts were shown at this web site:

#001	290	#004	233	#007	223	#010	281	#013	259	#016	164	#019	213	#022	264	#025	110
#002	305	#005	212	#008	516	#011	324	#014	372	#017	211	#020	443	#023	250	#026	24
#003	255	#006	236	#009	365	#012	273	#015	181	#018	272	#021	295	#024	201		

For those who have no Internet access and/or no e-mail, the distribution method is still the same: you will receive a colour print-out by air/surface mail as you did in the past.

Everybody can freely access the uploaded numbers of the Newsletter but the notification service for new numbers (including an easy download web datalink) will be limited to the members of the Study Circle. So joining us still has some advantage.

Rules and Regulations

All articles in the Newsletter carrying the name of an author are the sole responsibility of this author and should not be taken to represent the common opinion of the Study Circle. Such articles are, if not marked otherwise, copyrighted by the respective author. Free use within the Study Circle is granted. We thank our authors for their much appreciated work and contribution. For this issue we have - without expecting it - received a satisfactory number of contributions from our members.

Participation in the Study Circle is not bound to a formal membership and does not include the duty to pay a membership fee. There is a **moral obligation** to support the Newsletter from time to time by sending some article, some interesting piece of information, some question, some answer or whatever.

We will "print" everything even only loosely connected with our subject of interest so any contribution is certainly welcome. Please send it (as Word 2003 or 2007 document, graphical elements in JPEG, 300 dpi) to our editor's e-mail address (kb@aatc.at). His postal address, if you would need it, is:

Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer, Untergrossau 81, A-8261 Sinabelkirchen, Austria / Europe

Dénes Czirók

Forgery Alert - The Strange Story of the Hand-Stamp “K. K. BILKER QRNT AMT”

Towards the end of the eighteenth century the risk of cholera and plague led the well-organized Austro-Hungarian Empire, along with other European countries, to establish quarantine stations on their sea and land borders where incoming goods and persons could be subjected to thorough checks. Special attention was paid to inbound traffic on routes from Russia and Turkey. The largest quarantine station for marine traffic was in Trieste and for land traffic in Semlin. In addition there were smaller quarantine stations on the border or in the vicinity such as at Bilke about 20-25 kilometres to the north of Nagyszölös in Carpatho-Ukraine.

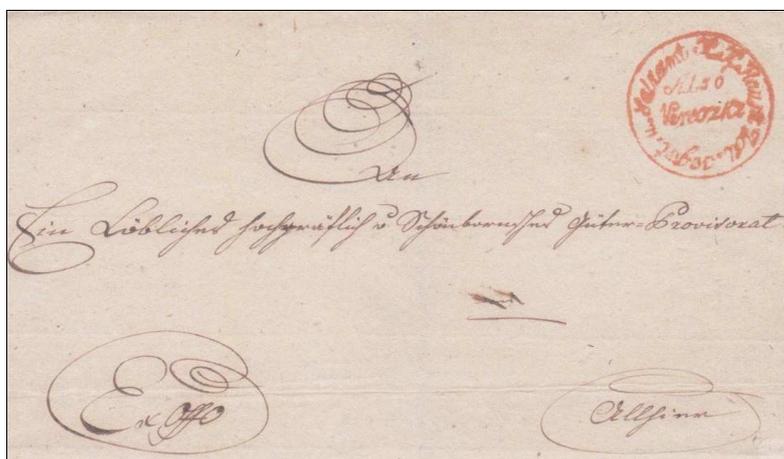
To disinfect them, letters were opened, disinfected inside and outside and then closed again. They were then usually marked on the rear to show that the sheets had been disinfected and closed again with the quarantine station's wax seal. The first such marking was used in 1787 at Semlin.



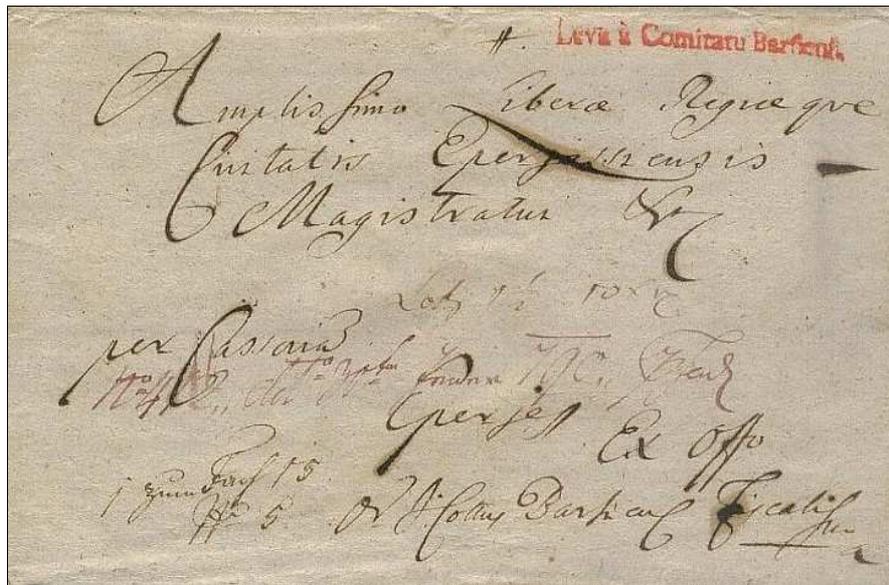
7 April 1787. The first known disinfection marking from Semlin (collection Dr. H. K.).
The discoloration on front is a result of disinfection.

These sanitation marks do not belong strictly to the postal markings group as the sanitation stations were part of the health organization rather than the postal administration. Because they are related to the handling of the mail, however, many of them have been lovingly collected. As yet, however, no letter has been found with a sanitation mark of the Bilke quarantine station.

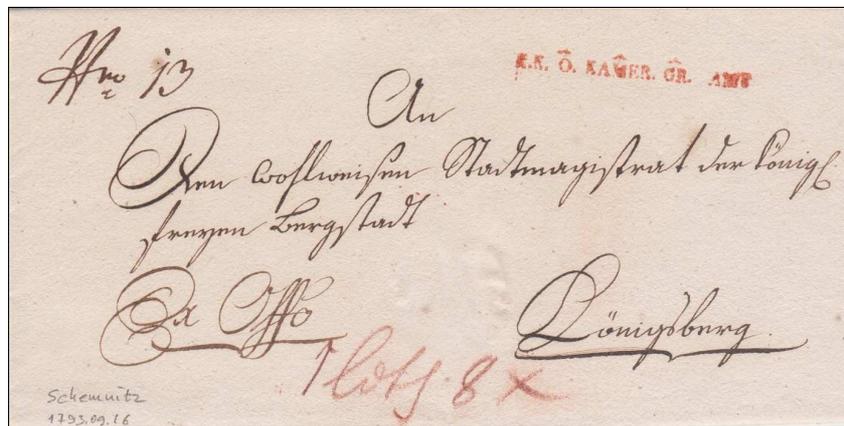
The sanitation stations also belonged to the system of official bureaucracy that covered the entire Austro-Hungarian monarchy. As such they had official names, statutes and seals used on mail which were rounded or straight. Some of the seals are easy to read, and others are less readable. Countless such markings are known, of which these are just a few examples:



The red official stamp from the Alsó Vereczke Salzamt in 1819 (collection J. V.).

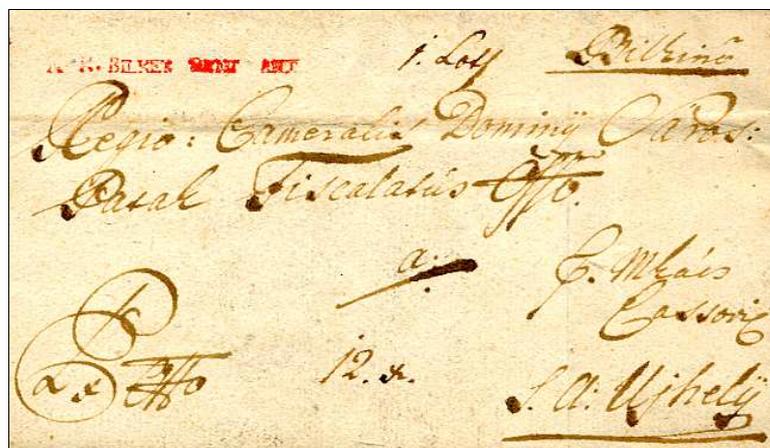


The city stamp from Léva in 1790.



The official marking used in the city of Schemnitz in 1793.

These official markings have not been categorised or listed individually since they were not applied by the postal service. However, an official marking was used in 1798 at the quarantine station at Bilke that is very similar in style to the example shown above from Schemnitz. This is illustrated below:



The office hand-stamp of the quarantine station at Bilke in 1798 (collection Stamp Museum in Budapest). It clearly has a structural similarity to the Schemnitz marking shown above.

It is evident that this letter originated from the authorities in charge of the station and has not been disinfected - thus, the marking is an official stamp rather than a disinfection mark. However, it was not a postal marking, as there was no post office in Bilke at the time the letter was sent to Munkacs to go into the mail.

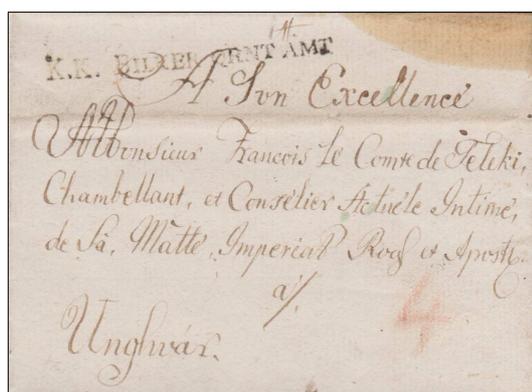
This letter has rested peacefully in the Terfi collection at the Stamp Museum in Budapest for more than 70 years. When Terfi wrote his seminal volume on pre-philatelic postal markings in 1943, however, he deliberately excluded this hand-stamp as he knew that it was a non-postal marking. Nor was it included in the book published by Edwin Müller in 1960.

In 1983 a four-man team of authors prepared a new 'Handbook of the Hungarian Pre-stamp Mail' for publication and decided to include the Bilke marking even though it was not a postal marking. In doing so they made three important mistakes:

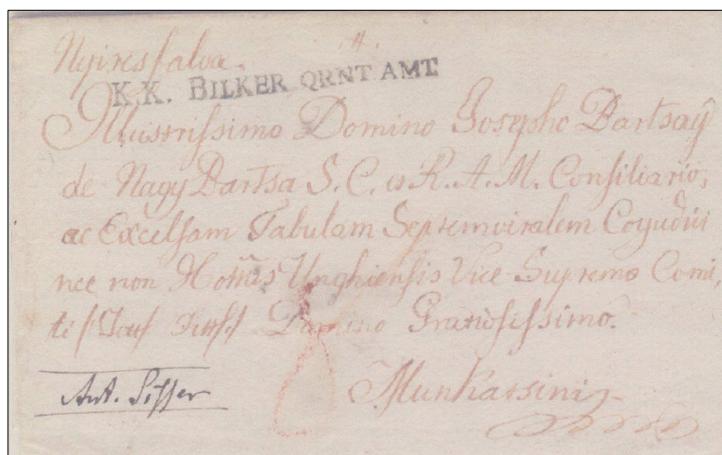
1. The colour of the ink used on the stamp was stated in the Handbook to be black whereas in fact it was red.
2. The length of the stamp was reported in the Handbook as 58.5 mm whereas the actual length is 3 mm shorter (55.5 mm).
3. Finally, they awarded this marking a very high score of 2000 points. This was practically the highest score of any awarded in the Handbook for the entire Hungarian pre-philately. To set it in context, the next highest score is 1750 points for a very rare negative ACSA (2 known), and 1500 points for the negative Bartfeld (less than 15 known) and 1200 points for the very rare negative CARLSTATT (2 known).

Readers will not be surprised to learn that the story has a sad ending. This high score has attracted the interest of the forgers because a straight-line marking is the easiest to forge. Three fake copies are now known, all of them in black ink, 58-59 mm in length and with the features of the forger's writing. Each is complete fake; even the writing on the letters is not original. They are so well-executed that one was sold some years ago by a well-known German auction house for 210 €.

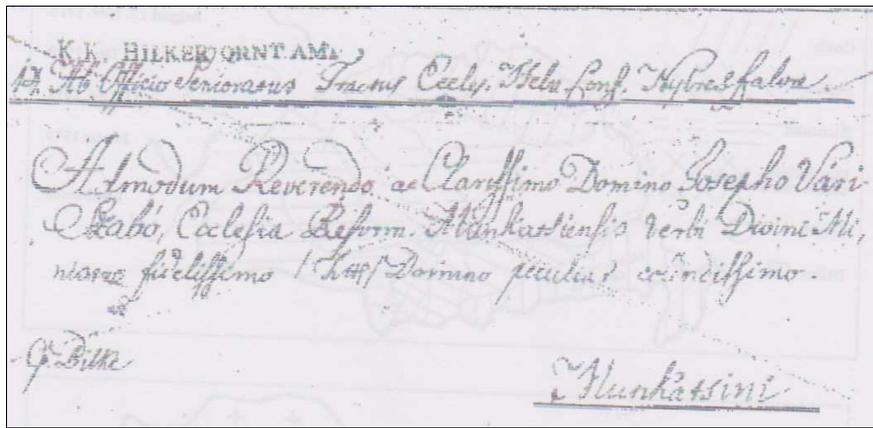
The fake Bilke covers are illustrated below:



FALSCH/FORGERY



FALSCH/FORGERY

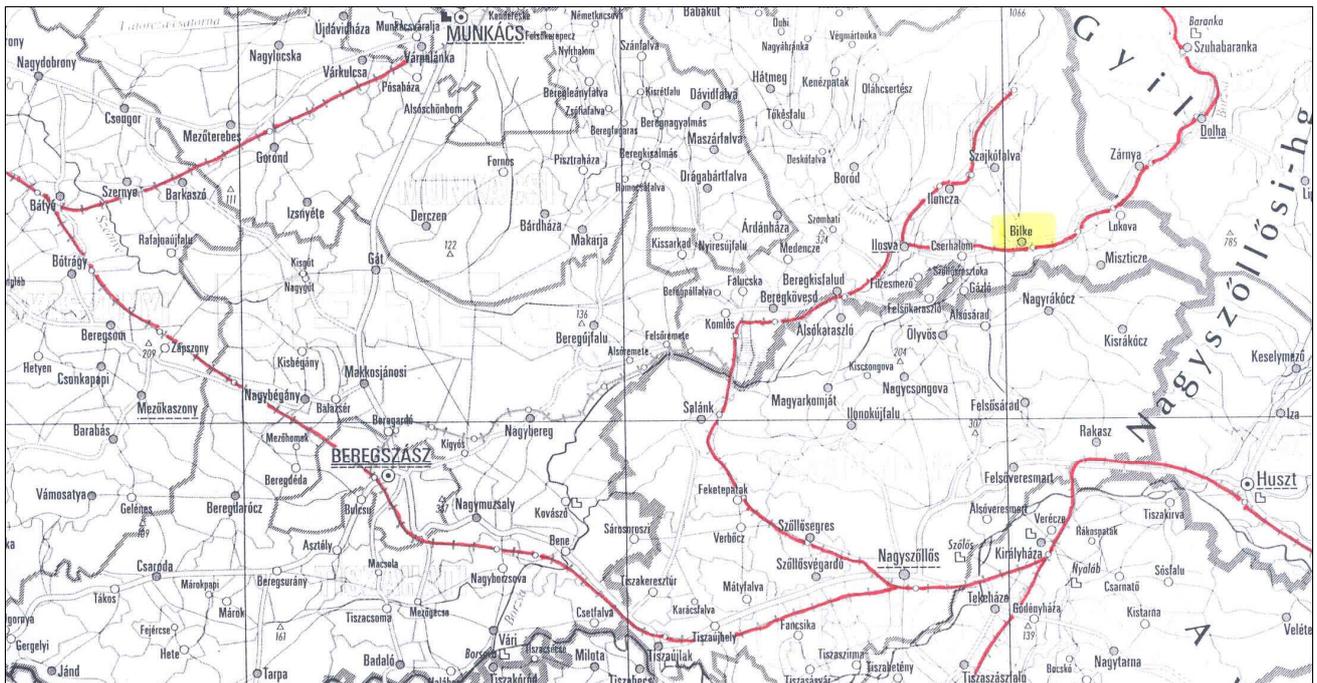


FALSCH/FORGERY

What is the moral of the story? We recommend that you ask for an opinion from a qualified expert before purchasing pre-philatelic letters so you do not throw your money down the drain by buying what you think are valuable postal historical items but are in fact forgeries with no value at all.

(I thank the cooperation in the translation to English to Mr Bill Hedley.)

Dénes Czirók
VÖB Expert



Extract from map showing Bilke (marked in yellow). The red lines are railways (as of 1918).

In Korabinsky's gazetteer of Hungary (1789, page 57) we find the following entry for Bilke:

„**Bilke, Bilak**, ein rußnackisch Dorf im Bereger Kom[it]at] r[rechts] an der Borschwa 4 M[eilen] von Salank N.No. [=Nord-Nordost] an den Marmaruscher und Ugotscher Gränzen. 1638 mußten die Gränzstreitigkeiten zwischen Bilke und Dolha auf dem Landtage durch eine dazu ernannte Kommission beygelegt werden. Griechisch nicht unirte Kirche. Lipeschey, Gorzo u. a. sind hier Grundherren.“

It mentions neither a quarantine station at Bilke nor its location near an important border. We would have expected at least a so-called “30tel Amt”, i. e., customs control. Another riddle ...

Jan Rompes

Double Circle Postmarks in the Pre-Stamp Period

In the middle of the year 1846 the General Postal Administration in Vienna introduced a centrally manufactured double circle postmark with the town name at top and a branch-like or palm leaf like ornament at bottom and the date in figures in the center.

This was the first centrally provided postmark and the era of the postmaster's postmarks came to an end. In our area the first post office which used this postmark was Szerednye in 1846 and gradually the other post offices procured this new type apart from Tetso and used them until the introduction of the stamps on June 1, 1850 and continued to use them well into the stamp period.

Only a limited number of post offices in Hungary started to use this type of canceller as early as 1846 and - as mentioned before - Szerednye was one of them.

In the period 1846 till June 1, 1850, quite a few changes took place in the postal rates. Particularly the revolutionary period 1848 - 1849 is of high interest in this respect.

Below I will summarize the three periods covering the usage of the double circle postmarks in this time frame.

Period 1 August 1, 1842 till May 31, 1848

Distance	Weight (loth)							
	1/2	3/4	1	1,5	2	2,5	3	3,5
Zone 1 (up to 10 miles)	6	9	12	18	24	30	36	42
Zone 2 (over 10 miles)	12	18	24	36	48	60	1,12	1,24

After March 1, 1843:

Zone 1: up to 20 miles; zone 2: over 20 miles.

Period 2 July 1, 1848 till May 30, 1849

During the War of Independence in those parts of Hungary where the Hungarian Government was in charge. This included and covered the area of the Carpathian-Ukraine.

Weight	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
	up to 10 miles	10 to 20 miles	over 20 miles
up to ½ loth	2	6	10
½ to ¾ loth	3	9	15
¾ to 1 loth	4	12	20
1 - 1,5 loth	6	18	30
1,5 - 2 loth	8	24	40
2 - 3 loth	10	30	50

For those letters mailed from our area to other parts of Austria a newly introduced tariff system applied, starting from June 1, 1848.

Period 3 June 1, 1848 till May 31, 1850

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Weight	up to 10 miles	10 to 20 miles	over 20 miles
up to ½ loth	3	6	12
1 loth	6	12	24
1,5 loth	9	18	36
2 loth	12	24	48
2,5 loth	15	30	60
3 loth	18	36	1,12
3,5 loth	21	42	1,24

Starting from April 1, 1849 the middle tariff - Zone 2 - was extended from 20 to 30 miles.

After the suppression of the War of Independence starting from May 31, 1849 this tariff system became also valid in the whole of Hungary.

When the double circle postmarks were introduced in our area there was little private correspondence. Most letters we will find are of an official nature, mainly from the Popovich archive. During the revolutionary period correspondence dropped considerably and private letters were even more scarce.

Below I will present an overview of the known and documented private letters originating from the period between the middle of 1846 until June 1, 1850, the end of the pre-stamp period. Moreover the oldest recorded dates of usage are mentioned as well. It gives the readers a good insight about the rarity of these postmarks on private letters.

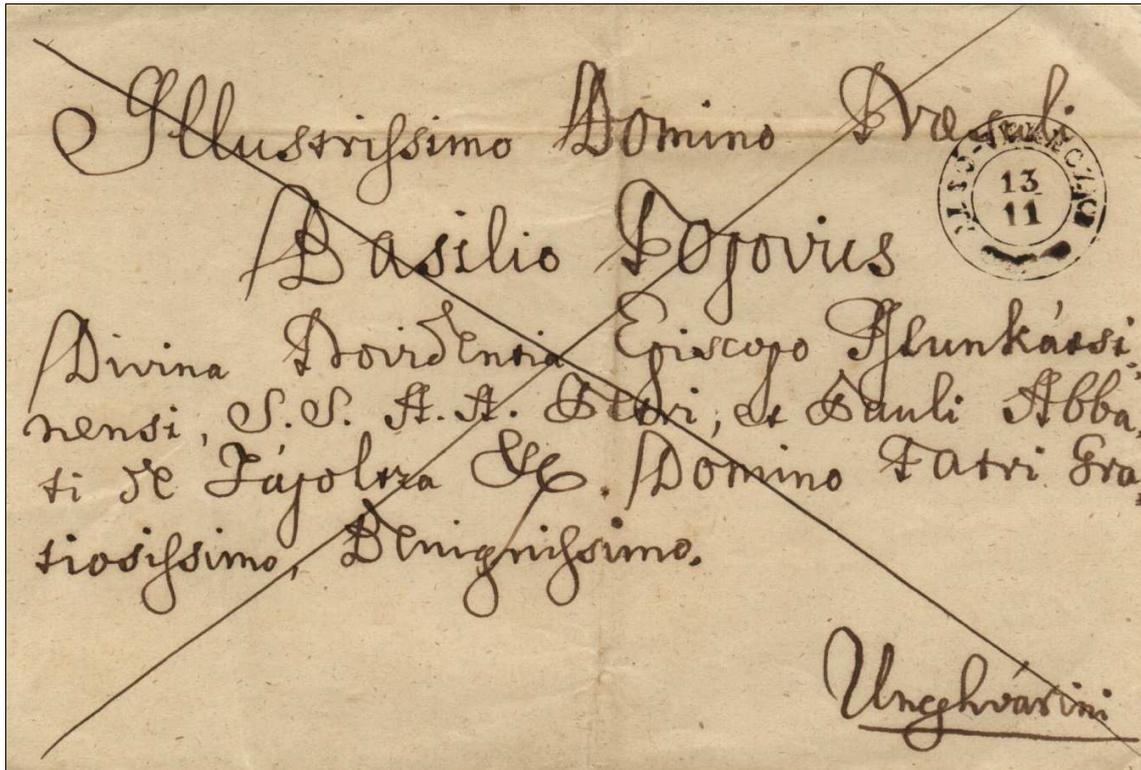
I would appreciate if you could stroll through your collection and if you come across other copies, please send me a scan with date and year of usage. It would be great if examples from Nagy Szöllös or Polena come to the surface.

This overview has been prepared with the help of Dénes Czirók for which I would like to thank him.

Post office	Date	oldest recorded	number private
Alsó Vereczke	1847 - 1850	16.1.1848	1
Beregszász	1847 - 1850	6.5.1848	1
Huszt	1847 - 1850	21.12.1847	1
Munkács	1848 - 1850	4.1.1848	2
Nagy Szöllös	1848 - 1850	1.1.1848	-
Polena	1847 - 1850	17.9.1847	-
Szerednye	1846 - 1850	16.2.1847	1
Tisza Ujlak	1848 - 1850	?	1
Ungvár	1847 - 1850	14.9.1847	6
Tetső	no double circle postmark		

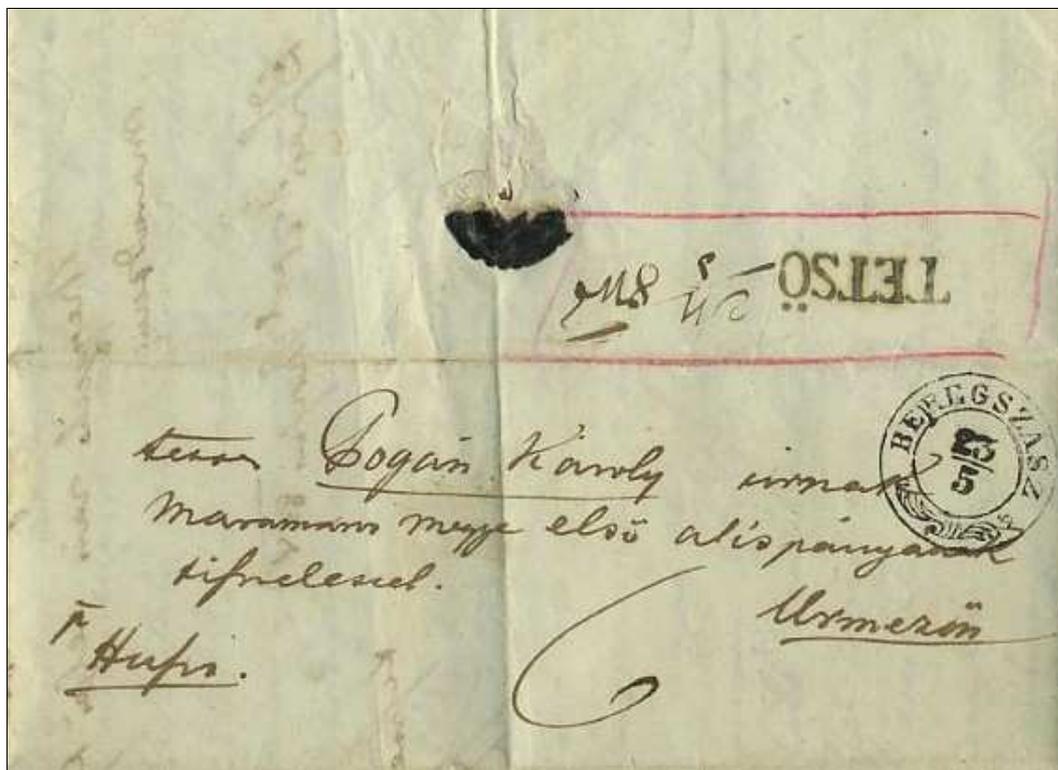
As we all love pictures, please find below scans from important private letters:

Alsó Vereczke



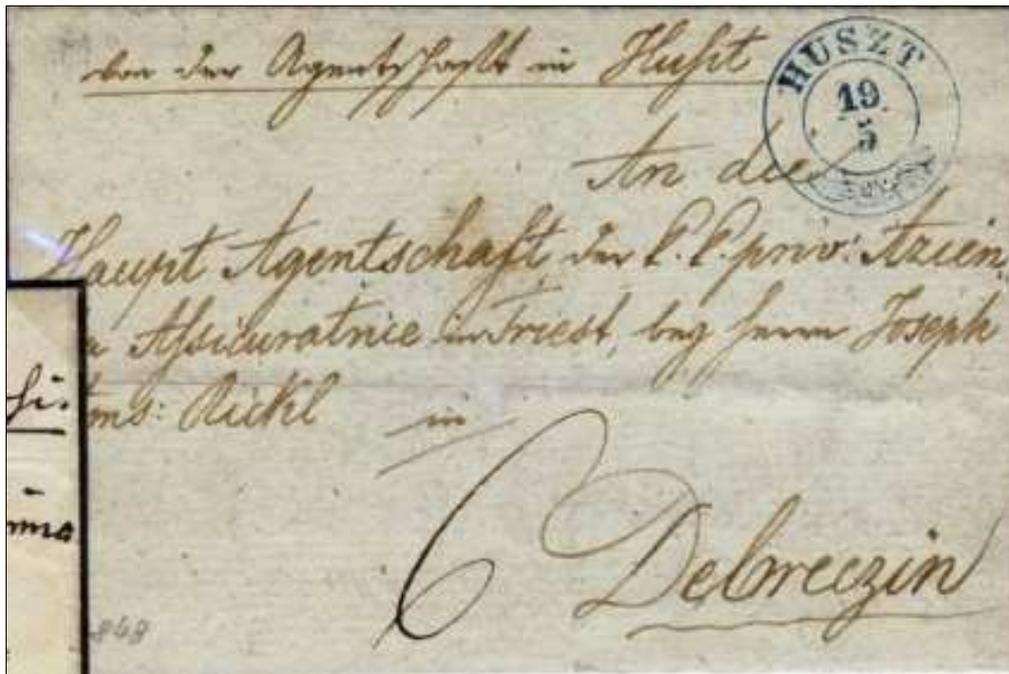
Double paid letter from Alsó Vereczke to Ungvár sent on November 13, 1848. On the reverse tax paid 4 kr. Zone 1. Weight $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 Loth. Special tariff during the revolutionary period. [coll. Jan Rompes]

Beregszász



Unpaid letter from Beregszász with route indication Huszt sent to Urmezö on May 23, 1848. Arrival postmark of Tetsö on the reverse - nearby post office. Tax 6 kr. Zone 1. Weight $\frac{1}{2}$ loth. [private coll. in Hungary]

Huszt



Paid letter from Huszt sent to Debreczin on May 19, 1848.
Tax 6 kr. Zone 1. Weight ½ loth. Blue double circle postmark! [ex-coll. Miroslav Blaha]

Munkács



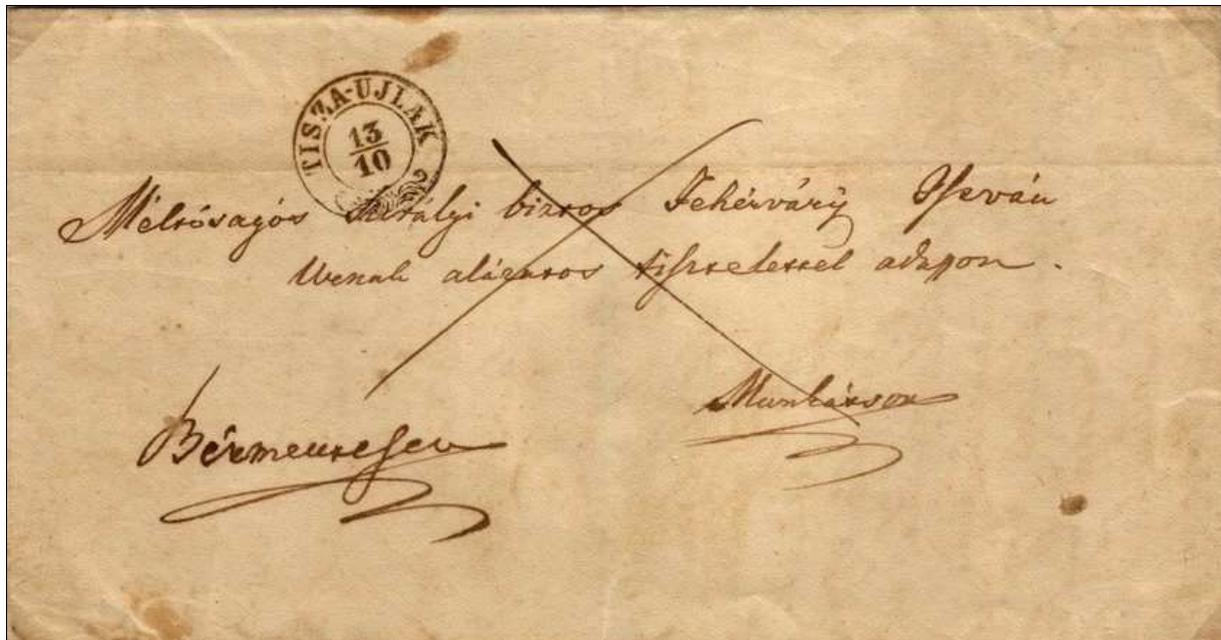
Unpaid letter from Munkács sent to Kis-Szeben on November 25, 1848.
Arrival postmark of Eperies on the reverse - nearby post office.
Tax 9 kr. Zone 2. Weight ½ - ¾ loth. Special tariff during the revolutionary period. [ex-coll. Jan Verleg]

Szerednye

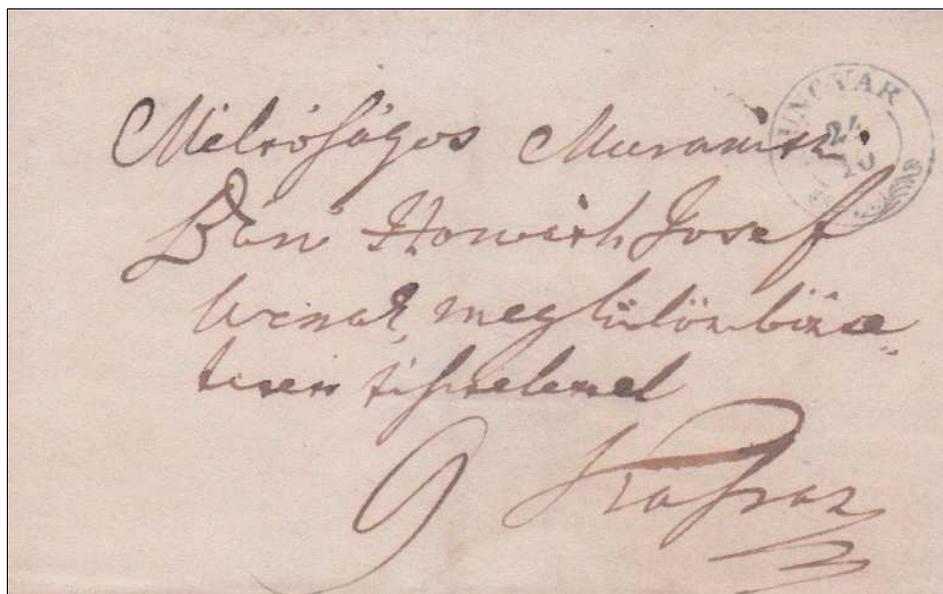


Double unpaid letter from Szerednye sent to Kassa on May 7, 1849.
Tax 20 kr. Zone 3. Weight $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 loth. Special tariff
during the revolutionary period. [ex-coll. Tønnes Ore]

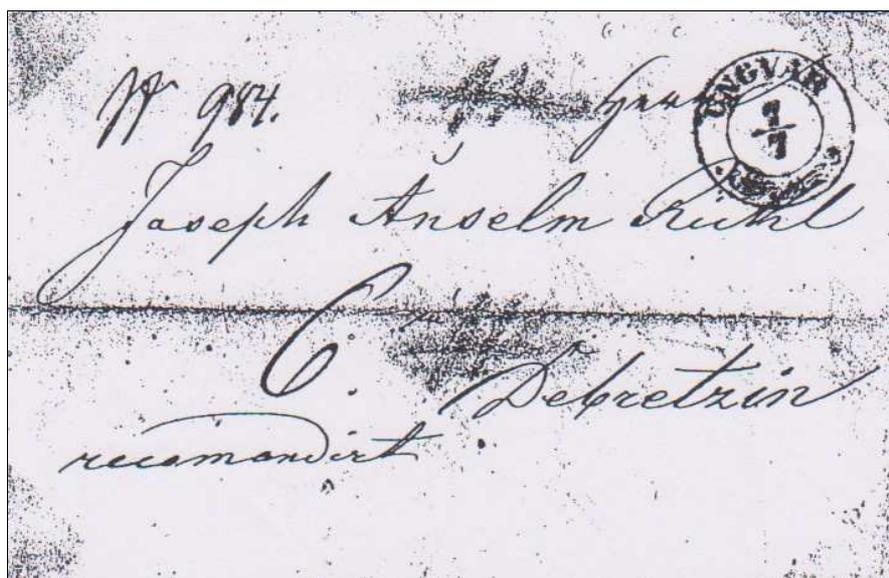
Tisza Ujlak



Paid letter from Tisza Ujlak sent to Munkács on October 13, 1849.
On the reverse tax paid 3 kr. Zone 1. Weight $\frac{1}{2}$ loth. [ex-coll. Jan Verleg]



Unpaid letter from Ungvár sent to Kassa on October 24, 1848.
Tax 9 kr. Zone 2. Weight $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ loth. Special tariff during
the revolutionary period. Blue-green
double circle postmark! [ex-coll. Cronin - Jan Verleg]



Unpaid registered letter from Ungvár sent to Debreczin on July 7, ??.
Tax 6 kr. Zone 1. Weight $\frac{1}{2}$ loth. On the reverse 6 kr. registration fee
paid by the sender. The only registered letter!!
[ex-Paul Jensen, now stamp museum in Banska Bistrica - Slovakia]

Summarizing 13 private letters of which one registered. Apart from Ungvár they are all very rare!

Remarkably as you can notice from the overview, only one letter is recorded from the last tariff period, the paid Tisza Ujlak cover.

From the revolutionary period there are 4 covers of which the letter from Szerednye - a double weight one - is absolutely the topper!

Hopefully further research will reveal more examples though the chances are small.

All in all a very interesting period from a postal history point of view and completely underestimated and undervalued.

janrompes@gmail.com

Helmut Kobelbauer

Another Rare Military Cachet from the Great War

As our friend and member Gábor Nagy has described in SCM issues #005 and #009, from winter 1914 till spring of 1915 bloody battles were fought between the Austro-Hungarian and German forces on one side and numerous Russian armies on the other side along the Carpathian crest.

These terrible events left a number of postal history traces in the form of interesting (and sometimes rare) military cachets. We can show another one, this time from the command of the railway station in Bányu:



Field post card, F. P. O. 116/c (in red), May 7th, 1915, to Vienna.
With cachet "KUK. BAHNHOF KMDO | BATYU" (in violet).



Picture postcard of railway station in Bányu during the Great War.

Helmut Kobelbauer Overview Map of Military Commands in the Habsburg Monarchy

Beilage zum Militär-Jahrbuch „Austria.“

Übersichts-Karte

der
Militär- und Landwehr-Territorial-Commanden,
samt der
Ergänzungs-Bezirke des k. u. k. Heeres,
der k. u. k. Kriegsmarine sowie der k. k. und
k. ung. Landwehr und der Landsturm-Bataillon-
Bezirks-Commanden.

Entworfen vom k. k. Hauptmann Zeschko.

Schrift- und Zeichen-Erklärung.

- Militär- bzw. Landwehr-Territorial-Commando.
(Die Nummern der Corps sind in arabischen, die Nummern der k. k. Landwehr- bzw. Landwehr-Ergänzungs-Commanden und der k. ung. Landwehr-Bezirks-Commanden in römischen Ziffern, beide in schwarzer Farbe, gedruckt.)
- Heeres-Ergänzungsbezirks-Commando (Regiment-No. roth.)
- Landwehr-Ergänzungs-Bezirks-Commando und Regiments-
Stabs-Station (Regiment-No. blau.)
- Hauptort des Landwehr-Bataillons-Bezirks, und Landsturm-
Baons-Bezirks-Commando. (Die blaue obere Buchstabe ist die Bataill.-
Nr., die blaue untere Buchstabe die Landsturm-Bezirks-Nr.)
- Amtssitz | des Obergespanns
Die Militär-Territorial-Bezirke sind durch verschiedenen Tondruck
ersichtlich gemacht.

Mafsstab 1:3000000 d. Natur



Übersicht der Heeres- und Kriegsmarine-Ergänzungsbezirke.

Nr.	Standort	Im Bereiche des Ml.-Ver.-Co.	Nr.	Standort	Im Bereiche des Ml.-Ver.-Co.
1	Troppau	Herrmannst.	66	Wadowice	Krakau
2	Kronstadt (Brassó)	Herrmannst.	67	Bardejov	Krakau
3	Kronstadt	Herrmannst.	68	Stanislau	Lemberg
4	Wien	Wien	69	Salzburg	Innsbruck
5	Sasmitz-Nemetz	Kaschau	70	Eger	Kaschau
6	Neuzett (Ujvidek)	Budapest	71	Temesvár	Temesvár
7	Klagenfurt	Graz	72	Maros Vasvárhely	Herrmannst.
8	Brünn	Wien	73	Blatitz (Blasterec)	Herrmannst.
9	Stryk	Przemysl	74	Brosz (Broszwarva)	Herrmannst.
10	Przemysl	Prag	75	Munkacs	Kaschau
11	Pisk	Krakau	76	Ungvár	Kaschau
12	Komorn (Komorn)	Pressburg	77	Eperjes (Eperjes)	Budapest
13	Krakau	Krakau	78	Sokolok	Budapest
14	Lina	Innsbruck	79	Schwebschenburg (Szekesfehervar)	Budapest
15	Temopol	Lemberg	80	Pestwardinn	Prag
16	Belovár	Agram	81	Trenschin (Trenschin)	Pressburg
17	Lathach	Graz	82	Pressburg (Pozsony)	Pressburg
18	Kölngrätz	Josephstadt	83	Esze	Prag
19	Raab (Győr)	Krakau	84	Ján	Josephstadt
20	Neu Soden	Josephstadt	85	Neubaus	Prag
21	Onstau	Zara	86	Gomburg (Sopron)	Pressburg
22	Soplotz	Zara	87	Sasibor	Przemysl
23	Zombor	Budapest	88	Keszeg	Agram
24	Botonacs	Lemberg	89	Olokoz	Agram
25	Losoncz	Kaschau	90	Zlenczow	Lemberg
26	Graz (Bastertrom)	Pressburg	91	Jepas	Wien
27	Graz	Graz	92	Sokolok-Udvarhely	Herrmannst.
28	Prag	Prag	93	Wastischen (Fakirtemplom)	Temesvár
29	Görs (Nagy) Beckerek	Temesvár	94	Wiener Neustadt	Wien
30	Lemberg	Lemberg	95	Maramoros-Siget	Kaschau
31	Herrmannst. (Nagy-Szeben)	Herrmannst.	96	Theresiopel (Szabadka)	Budapest
32	Budapest	Budapest	97	Gill	Graz
33	Arad	Temesvár	98	Berann	Prag
34	Lathach (Kassa)	Kaschau	99	Gill	Przemysl
35	Pilsen	Prag	100	Jaroslau	Przemysl
36	Josephstadt	Josephstadt	101	Konotau	Prag
37	Jungbunzlau	Josephstadt	102	St. Pölten	Krakau
38	Grosswardinn (Nagyvárad)	Przemysl	103	Turnau	Josephstadt
39	Kesekmet	Temesvár	104	Ungvár	Josephstadt
40	Debreczin (Debreczen)	Budapest	105	Ungvár	Josephstadt
41	Resauów	Lemberg	106	Kaschau	Agram
42	Csanak	Lemberg	107	Przemysl	Przemysl
43	Theresienstadt	Josephstadt	108	Triest	Josephstadt
44	Karanzsebes	Temesvár	109	Hohenmuth	Josephstadt
45	Kaposvár	Budapest	110	Zmulin	Wien
46	Sankt	Przemysl	111	Tschaban	Krakau
47	Esseg (Szeged)	Temesvár	112	Békés-Csaba	Temesvár
48	Marburg	Graz	113	Benechán	Prag
49	Gross-Nagy) Kanizsa	Pressburg	114	Hr. Jäg. Regt. Innsbruck, Brixen	Innsbruck
50	St. Pölten	Wien	115	(Triest)	Graz
51	Karlburg (Gyula Fehérvár)	Herrmannst.	116	Krps.-Mar. Flotte	Agram
52	Kassanburg (Kolozvár)	Herrmannst.	117	Zara	Zara
53	Fünfkirchen (Pécs)	Budapest	118	Hr. de hon. (Banja, Banjaluka,	Banjaluka
54	Agram (Zagreb)	Agram	119	hese. Trupp. Dolnja Tuzla, Mostar	Sarajevo
55	Brzeany	Krakau			

Verlag von Rainer Hosch, Neutitschein und Wien.

Vervielfältigung vorbehalten.



Übersicht

der k. k. Landwehr-Ergänzungsbezirks-Commanden												der kgl. ung. Landwehr-Ergänzungs-Commanden											
Des Landw. Ergänzungs-Bezirks-Comds.		Vom zugehörigen Regimente die Baone.		Des Landw. Ergänzungs-Bezirks-Comds.		Vom zugehörigen Regimente die Baone.		Ldw. (Landwehr) Ergänzungs-Bezirks-Comds.		Vom zugehörigen Regimente die Baone.		Des Landw. Ergänzungs-Comds.		Vom zugehörigen Regimente die Baone.		Des Landw. Ergänzungs-Comds.		Vom zugehörigen Regimente die Baone.					
Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort	Nr.	Standort				
1	Wien	1	Wien	10	Jungbunzlau	1	Jungbunzlau	10	Lemberg	1	Lemberg	1	Budapest	1	Budapest	10	Miskolcz	1	Gr. Kanizsa				
2	Linz	2	Znaim	11	Linz	2	Znaim	11	Zloczów	2	Zloczów	2	Budapest	2	Felgyháza	11	Sátorajai Ujhely	2	Kormend				
3	Graz	3	Szalburg	12	Graz	3	Jičin	12	Stanislau	3	Stanislau	3	Gyula	3	Gyula	12	Ménfőcsanak	3	Klausen- burg				
4	Klagenfurt	4	Leoben	13	Leoben	4	Marburg	13	Kolomea	4	Kolomea	4	Jászberény	4	Jászberény	13	Stratinszék	4	Nagy-Bihely				
5	Triest	5	Triest	14	Triest	5	Triest	14	St. Pölten	5	St. Pölten	5	Debreczin	5	Debreczin	14	Stratinszék	5	Maros-Vásárhely				
6	Eger	6	Bischofsstall	15	Eger	6	Bischofsstall	15	Cserowitz	6	Cserowitz	6	Großwardlein	6	Großwardlein	15	Pressburg	6	Hermannstadt				
7	Pilsen	7	Pilsen	16	Pilsen	7	Pilsen	16	Czernowitz	7	Czernowitz	7	Großwardlein	7	Großwardlein	16	Pressburg	7	Hermannstadt				
8	Prag	8	Prag	17	Prag	8	Prag	17	Bozen	8	Bozen	8	Lugos	8	Lugos	17	Ödenburg	8	Esseg				
9	Leitmeritz	9	Leitmeritz	18	Leitmeritz	9	Leitmeritz	18	Przemysl	9	Przemysl	9	Kaschau	9	Kaschau	18	Fünfkirchen	9	Semin				

Fortsetzung vorbehalten.

Lithographie und Druck der L. V. Enders'schen Kunst-Anstalt Hosch & Schleif, Neutitschein.

Miroslav Bachratý

Special Cancellers of the Postal Directorate in Užhorod

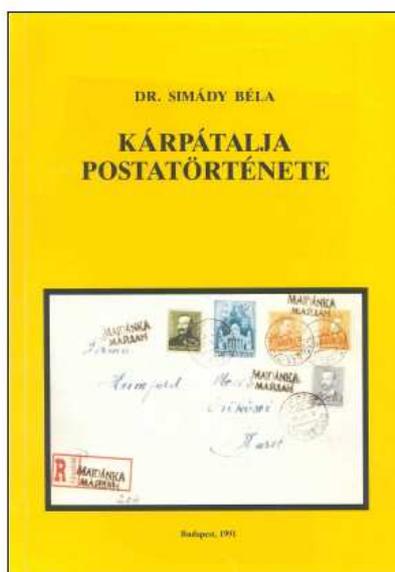
According to Jozef Tekel' the Postal Directorate in Užhorod was activated on November 27th, 1919, and worked until December 31st, 1921. (Walter Rauch gives as working period 1920 till April 1st, 1921.) Later it was a branch office (in German: Expositur) of the Postal Directorate in Košice.

The Postal Directorate in Užhorod had - amongst others - a department for economical affairs (in German: Postwirtschaftsamt) and an office for storage of stamps, postal stationery, and similar goods (in German: Postlageramt). These two sub-offices had cancellers of their own:



The strikes of these cancellers have only been found on (small) pieces of paper, never on postal items. Nevertheless, these are delicacies for the advanced collector of Carpatho-Ukrainian postal history.

Old Literature



In Hungary, Dr. Simády Béla is still remembered as the "Grand Old Man" of Carpatho-Ukrainian Philately. His »Kárpátalja Postatörténete« [Sub-Carpathian Postal History] of 1991 was a full-blown monograph on its own and in some respects was the baseline of Jan Verleg's reference book.

Our Hungarian member Czirók Dénes still has a few original copies and can provide them for EUR 60,00 a piece (plus shipping). If you are interested, his e-mail address is: czirok.d@t-online.hu

Helmut Kobelbauer

Unlisted Czech T.P.O. Cancellation from 1930

In Jan Verleg's monograph »Carpatho Ukraine. Postal History and Stamps 1786 - 2000« (2nd edition, February 2008) on pages 98 to 100 we can find a lot of information on T. P. O. lines and cancellations during the Czech period (1918 - 1939).

Amongst these is line 1008, Berehovo (Beregsas) - Ardiv - Iršava - Dovhé (Dovhoje) - Kušnica, and working from 1921 to at least 1938. Jan Verleg lists a canceller with distinguishing sign "a" from 1930 - 1938. We have detected a canceller with distinguishing sign "b" from 1930:



Motif card (Huculs), written June 28th, 1930, to Basel (Switzerland). With T.P.O. cancellation "KUŠNICE - BEREHOVO * КУЩНИЦЯ - БЕРЕГОВО * 1008 b" from June 30th, 1930.



Juan E. Page
Open Questions

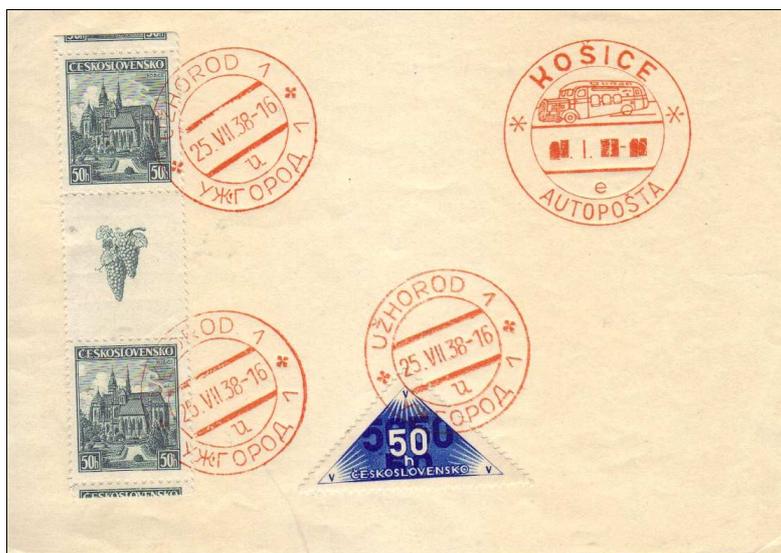
After a lot of years collecting KU many questions remain without answers for me. I want to present some of these questions in successive issues of the "Messenger" in order to ask all our friends for additional information that can clarify my doubts. Here is the first one.

THE ORANGE UŽHOROD

Previous data

Everybody knows that the postal bus service (Autopošta) used special postmarks with orange ink. An excellent study was made by Mr. Jiří Horák and issued in 1995 [1]. In this booklet there is no mention to the presence of the postal bus in KU, but for my purpose it is interesting to point out that, according to Mr. Horák, the postal bus was in Košice during the Exhibition of East Czechoslovak Republic (Výstava východu ČSR) in 1938 (16.VII-31.VIII) and used several postmarks with dates from July 16 to July 26. More details: the postal bus was in Košice in July 24 and used the postmark with identification letter e and was not in Košice in July 25. And finally I will mention that, according to Mr. Horák, identification letter h does not exist in the Autopošta postmark of Košice.

But the existence of date postmarks (not Autopošta postmarks!) of Užhorod in orange ink on pieces of paper is known since many years. I reproduce here one of these pieces showing the orange postmark type Votoček 74/4 dated 25.VII.38-16 and with identification letter u. With the postmark of Užhorod there appears one of Košice type "Autopošta" and letter e, the one used on July 24, but with the date substituted by printing blocks.



It is curious that none of the excellent books dedicated to KU, since the publication of R. Richet of 1965, mentions this fact. Only Alex Popovich shows one of these postmarks on page 24 of his booklet »Užhorod on postmarks 1813 - 2010« but without any reference to the color or use. More interesting is it to discover that none of the most important collections of KU seem to include one of these postmarks. I studied many exhibition sheets and never found one.

Letters with the orange Užhorod

The first mentioning of the orange Užhorod I could find in the literature was a short paper of F. Beneš in Filatelie [2]. One letter is reproduced there with the orange postmark of Užhorod type Votoček 74/4 and identification letter s. The date is 25.VII.38-14 and the letter is correctly paid with 1 Kčs. Once more the Autopošta of Košice was printed on the cover with the date changed to printing blocks but the identification letter is now h (!).

During a long time I tried to find additional material without success. And then the collection of our friend Tønnes Ore appeared for sale and I discovered there a little gem: An airmail postcard with the orange Užhorod!

Again the postmark is Votoček 74/4, the date 25.VII.38-14 and the letter u. The postcard arrived at the airport of Prague next day and received the postmark "Praha 7 Letecká pošta 26.VII.38-10". It was forwarded to Český Brod maybe the same day (impossible to identify) but at 13 pm. One Fugner stamp of 50h and a pair of airmails of 50h was used to pay the transport. The postcard tariff for postcard was then 50h but I have some doubts about the airmail fee because there is an error in the table 47 of the book of P. Horka [3]. But according to a paper of J. Neumann [4] after May 2, 1934, and till December 31, 1938, the airmail fee for a postcard was 1 Kčs in addition, so it seems that the payment is correct.



Conclusions and questions

With the previous data we can conclude a hypothesis. The postal bus based in Košice visited Užhorod during one day, July 25, 1938; mail was accepted there and date-postmarks (identification letters u and s) with orange ink were used.

But many questions remain open. Is that hypothesis true? Are there other identification letters? And other circulated pieces? Can somebody answer all these questions?

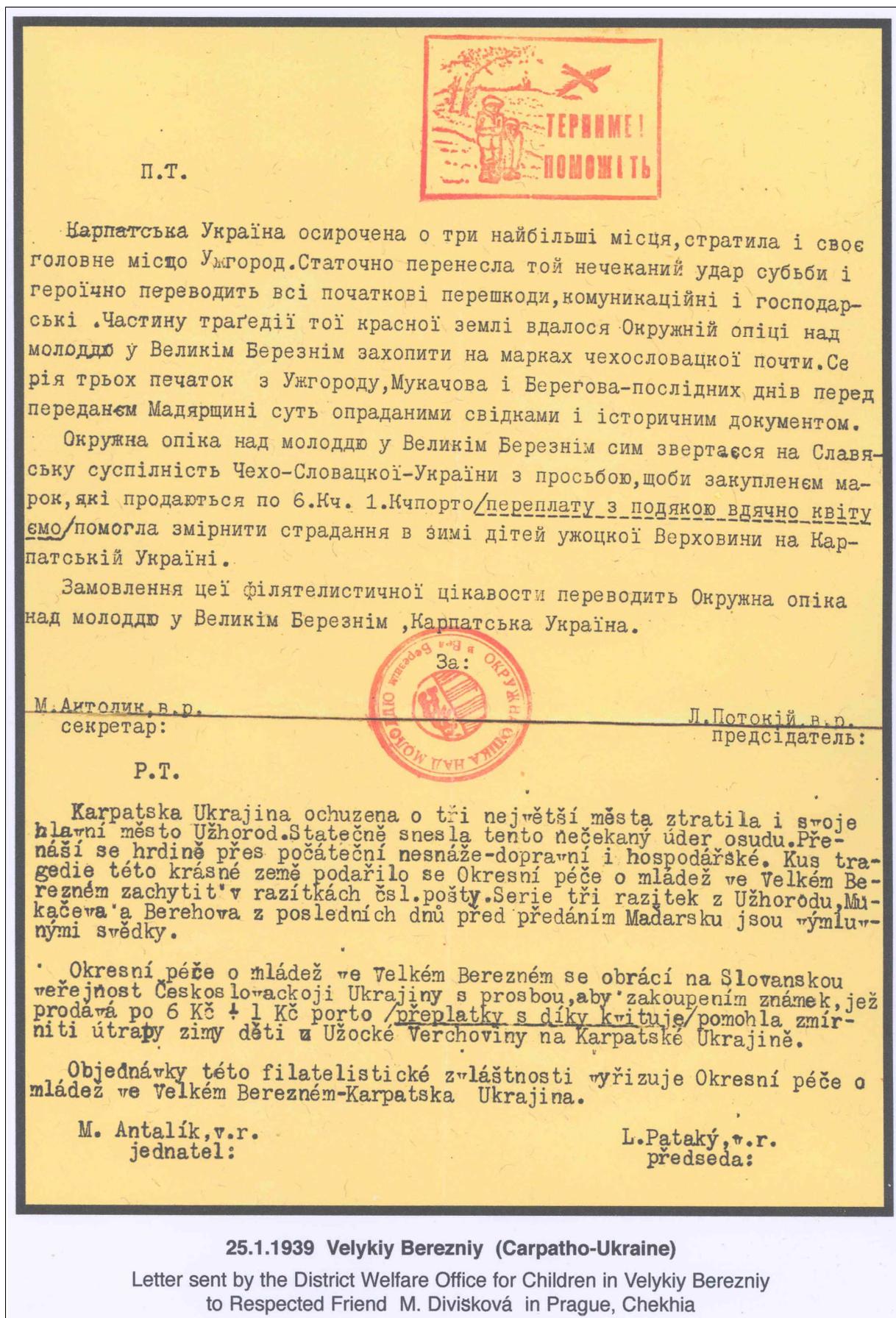
[The readership of the "Sub-Carpathian Messenger" is notoriously unresponsive to such questions - the few exceptions excluded. But I wish Juan good luck.

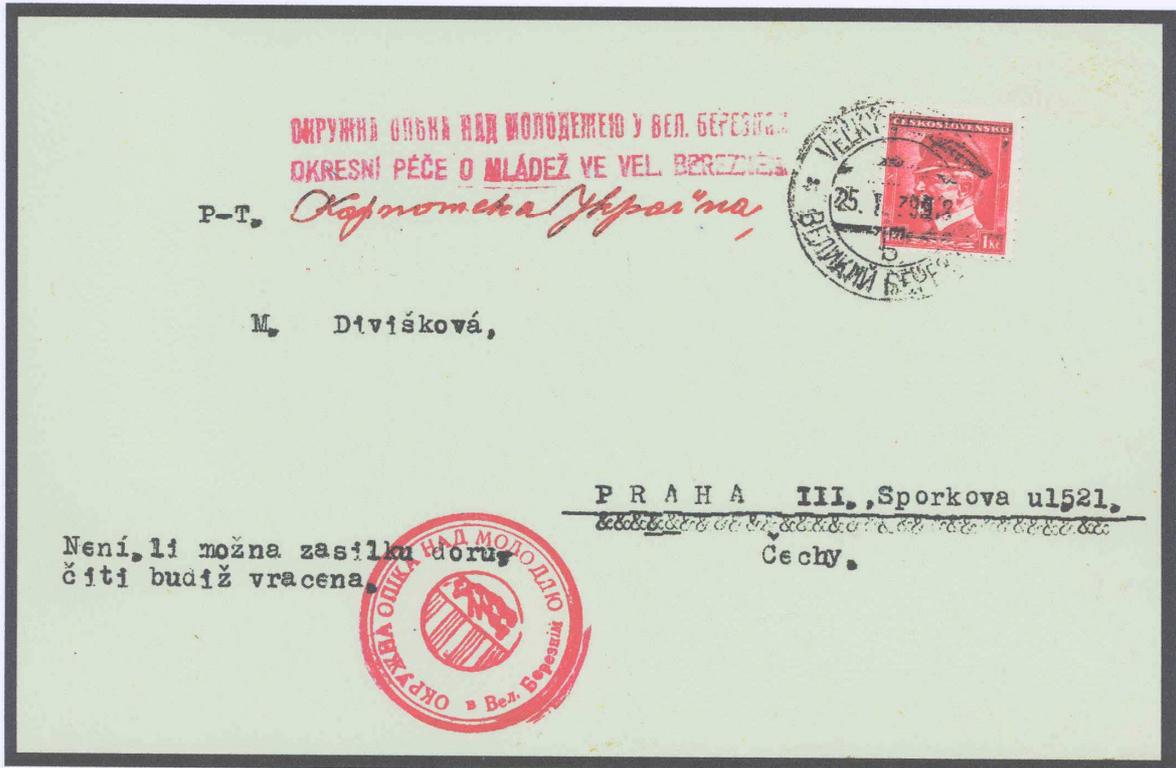
The editor]

References:

- [1] J. Horák "Autopošta v letech 1937-1944" Praha 1995.
- [2] F. Beneš "Zajímavost čs. autopošty" Filatelie 2/97, p. 18.
- [3] P. Horka "Československá letecká pošta 1918-1939" Trojan, Praha 1997.
- [4] J. Neumann "Letecká trať Bratislava-Užhorod" Filatelie 24/89, p. 751.

Juan E. Page
Alcorcón (España)





25.1.1939 Velykiy Bereznii (Carpatho-Ukraine)

Cover sent by the District Welfare Office for Children in Velykiy Bereznii
to Respected Friend M. Divisková in Prague, Chekhia



We are suffering
Please help us

Translation of the letter:

„Respected Friend

Carpatho-Ukraine has become an orphan as three of its largest towns, including its main town Uzhorod, have been lost. Carpatho-Ukraine is now recovering from this tragic loss and is once again bravely rebuilding its communications and its way of life. The District Welfare Office for Children in Velykiy Berezniy has managed to save some witness of this tragedy through Czecho-Slovak postal stamps. The set of three covers is date stamped Uzhorod, Mukachiv and Berehove, in the last days before the Hungarians arrived and is a witness and historical document of this tragedy.

The District Welfare Office for Children in Velykiy Berezniy appeals to all Slavs of Czecho-Slovak Ukraine, to buy the stamps for 6 Czecho-Slovak crowns plus 1 crown for postage. We will duly acknowledge our thanks for all such purchases. This has helped us to assist the children of the Uzhok highlands this winter in Carpatho-Ukraine.

The sale of these most interesting philatelic items is organised by the District Welfare Office for Children in Velykiy Berezniy, Carpatho-Ukraine.

M. Antolik (Secretary)

L. Potokiy (Chairman)“

Background to the letter:

In 1919 Czechoslovakia promised Carpatho-Ukraine autonomy. Sadly they did not keep their promise. They ceded the Western half of Carpatho-Ukraine (Priashivshchyna) to Slovakia and gave limited autonomy to the Eastern half of Carpatho-Ukraine.

Under the limited autonomy granted to the Eastern half of Carpatho-Ukraine life was bearable for Ukrainians who lived there, as the Ukrainian language though not promoted was allowed to be used. We see this in the dual languages used on postal date stamps - Czech and Ukrainian for the postal town names.

On the 2nd November 1938, Hungary, Germany and Italy in talks at Vienna, Austria [sorry - not anymore - Deutsches Reich. The editor], agreed that Czechoslovakia should cede Priashivshchyna (Western Carpatho-Ukraine) as far as Koshytsi (S5) and Eastern Carpatho-Ukraine as far as Uzhorod (U5), to Hungary. The Ukrainians of Carpatho-Ukraine were not invited to the talks in Vienna. To the horror of the Ukrainians of Carpatho-Ukraine they heard that the Hungarians would start their invasion on the 7th November 1938.

Here we see that the District Welfare Office for Children in Velykiy Berezniy (U5) acted quickly and before the Hungarians invaded they managed to have envelopes with Czech stamps date stamped with the dual language date stamps of Uzhorod (U5), Mukachiv (V6) and Berehove (V6).

They did this both to document this tragedy and to raise money for their welfare work.

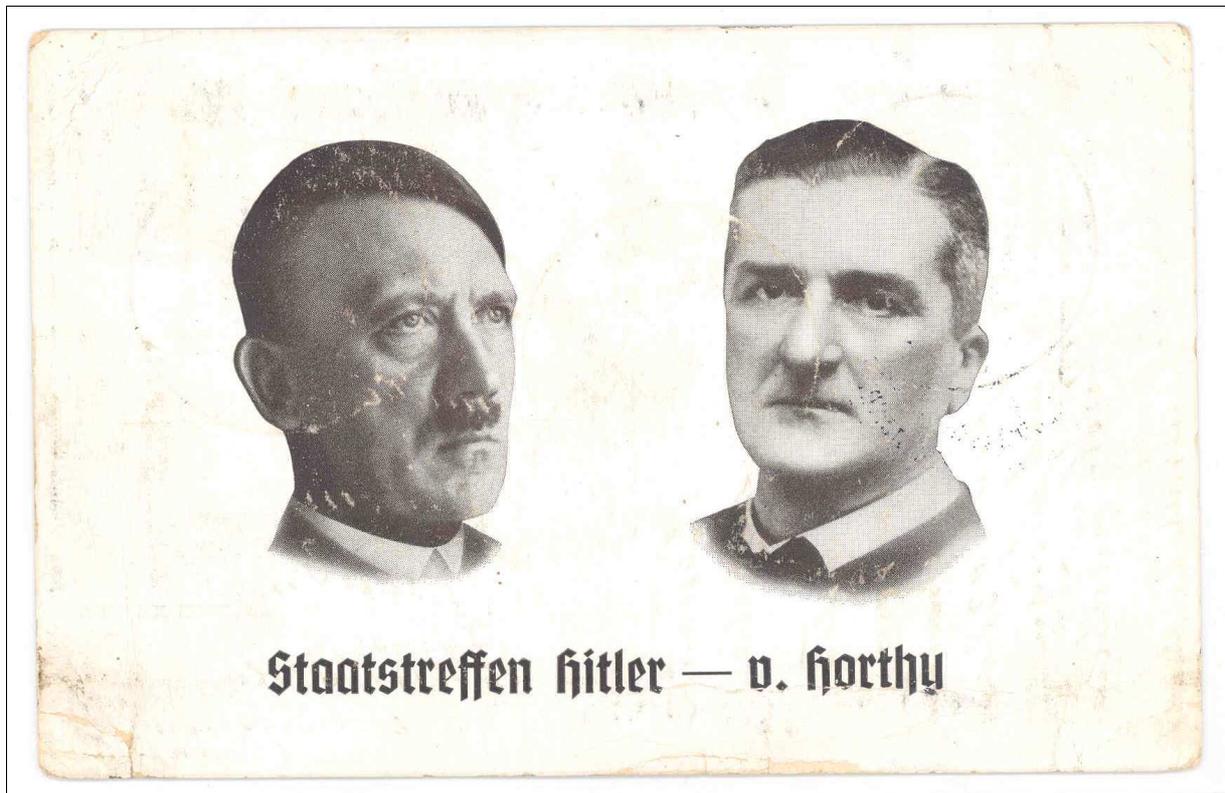
The Hungarians duly invaded and the Ukrainian language was banned from use as we see from the one language Hungarian date stamps that the Hungarians introduced.



Helmut Kobelbauer
Hitler and Horthy

Each nation - including the Hungarian nation under the rule of Viktor Orbán - has the right to transfigure its past. It is up to us whether we believe such historical misrepresentations or not. As a person quite interested in the past and present state of Hungary and the well-being of my Hungarian friends, I hereby exercise my right to put a few things into perspective.

The editor



Meeting of the heads of states between Hitler and Horthy - August 22nd, 1938.

„Horthy ließ nämlich nach der Besetzung Ungarns durch die Deutschen ohne Protest die Deportation von fast einer halben Million Ungarn jüdischer Abstammung in die deutschen Konzentrationslager zu. Darunter Menschen, die ihn glücklich empfangen hatten, als er ins das restituierte Siebenbürgen, und nach der Rückgliederung von Oberungarn (Teil der heutigen Slowakei) in Kaschau, der Geburtsstadt meines Vaters, einmarschierte. Diese glücklichen ungarischen Staatsbürger hat die ungarische Verwaltung durch ungarische Gendarmen zur vollen Zufriedenheit eines kleinen SS-Kommandos im Rekordtempo einfangen lassen und nach Auschwitz abtransportiert.

Heute wissen wir, dass Horthy über das, was mit diesen 450.000 Menschen in den Todeslagern geschehen würde, völlig im Bilde war.“

Paul Lendvai, »*Leben eines Grenzgängers. Erinnerungen*«, Vienna (2013), page 130.

Among the 450.000 murdered Hungarians of Jewish descent there were at least 90.000 from the Kárpátalja.

Would you consider it proper to now celebrate Mr. Horthy as the Great Father of Hungary - he who let take away nearly half a million Hungarian citizens and had them sent to their cruel death?