

# The Sub-Carpathian Messenger

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

Number 1 - November 2008



Statue of Fekete Ferenc, postal messenger of Turja Remete in 1838, in Perechin

## About us

The Study Circle is a loose group of persons which are interested in the postal (and general) history of the area known as Kárpátalja in Hungarian, as Podkarpatská Rus during the First Czechoslovakian 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 the westernmost administrative district in the Ukraine.

Since these persons are spread over a number of countries being separated by large geographical distances, this Newsletter serves as a convenient base of communication and exchange. It is normally distributed by electronic means; only for those members that have no e-mail access, it is printed out and delivered by snail mail.

As of this number, the Study Circle is composed of the contributing members

Rex Dixon (Maidenhead, United Kingdom)  
Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer (Sinabelkirchen, Austria)  
Tønnes Ore (Oslo, Norway)  
Ing. Jan Verleg (Rijswijk, The Netherlands)

and has the pleasure to include as a honorary member

Otto Hornung (London, United Kingdom)

We are inviting anybody with a substantial interest in this subject to join us. There is no formal membership (with a fee), only the **moral** obligation to contribute to our common aim through supporting the Newsletter.

## About the Newsletter

The Newsletter will be appearing irregularly - whenever we have sufficient material for an issue, our working editor Helmut Kobelbauer will prepare one and will send it out per e-mail as PDF file. We aim for four numbers per year.

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 will "print" everything even only loosely connected with our subject of interest so any contribution is certainly welcome. Please send it (as a Word 2000 document, graphical elements in JPEG, 300 dpi) to the editor's e-mail address ([kb@aatc.at](mailto:kb@aatc.at)). This is also the first point of contact if You want to join the Study Circle. You are always welcome.

If You need the postal address of the editor, here it is:

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

## Meeting in Prague - the Founders

At the initiative of Ing. Jan Verleg, author of the basic reference book "Carpatho Ukraine - Postal History and Stamps 1786 - 2000", several well-known collectors of this area met on 13 September 2008 in Prague, and discussed possible ways of co-operation and furthering their shared interest. This Newsletter is one of the immediate outcomes of this meeting.



From left to right: Rex Dixon, Tønnes Ore, Otto Hornung, Helmut Kobelbauer, and Jan Verleg

Other collectors which had been invited (Jay Carrigan from the USA and Juan Page from Spain) could not come - we are hoping they will be joining the Study Circle at their earliest convenience.

Additional contacts have been made during the World Exhibition in Prague where Tønnes Ore and Jan Verleg showed their respective exhibits. (Results are given on a later page.)

Collecting postal items from the Carpatho-Ukraine is not always easy because one at least touches Austrian, Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, Romanian, Soviet and then Ukrainian history with all the (sometimes difficult) languages involved.

This very supranational character of our subject is nicely mirrored in the composition of the Study Circle whose members come from a multitude of countries. We will also strive to involve some persons of more local background.

(kb)

## Auction News

### Auction by Jiří Majer, 13 September 2008, Prague

Amongst other items there was offered (in lot 1049) a large exhibition-collection from Podkarpatská Rus with a calling price of CZK 195.000 which was finally sold (to a written bid) for CZK 280.000 (about EUR 11.200, plus auction fees).

The auction catalogue can still be downloaded from the URL [www.czechstamp.com](http://www.czechstamp.com) (as PDF) - select the second file option and see on pages 39 (the text) and 43 to 45 (the pictures). The complete content of lot 1049 can be seen at [www.exponet.info](http://www.exponet.info) by going to the Czech contributions (by clicking the Czech flag) and then selecting CARPATHO-UKRAINE / (EX-BLAHA) MAJER Jiri.

### Auction by David Feldman, 3 October 2008, Geneva

A quite remarkable R-letter with a three colours franking of the first Austrian issue, sent from Szerednye to Munkács, was offered for 3.000 EUR and finally sold for 9.000 EUR (plus auction fees).



Until now it was completely unknown that such a letter existed - as Otto Hornung in his monograph "The Early Postal History of Carpatho Ukraine" rightfully remarks, items with the first Austrian issue from this area are rare anyway - the more so when they carry stamps with three different colours.

The SZEREDNYE double circle stamp is recorded from 1847 to 1874; the postal rate consists of 3 kr. for the letter (up to 1 loth, up to 10 miles) and 6 kr. for the registration. It is not clear whether this R-letter can be dated (beyond being from the 28 or 29 February). The stamps for the registration are placed on the back of the letter in accordance with the regulations (the letter is partly folded out in the picture).

## Obituary

+VLADIMIR MARKUS

Liebe Sammlerfreunde, ich muss Euch die traurige Nachricht vom Ableben unseres langjährigen Mitgliedes Vladimir Markus aus Wien überbringen. Er starb nach längerer Krankheit im Alter von 88 Jahren bereits am Sonntag, den 28. September; die Beisetzung war heute. Vladimir Markus gehörte der ArGe seit den 70er Jahren an und fühlte sich bis zuletzt zu unserer Gemeinschaft hingezogen wie nur wenige Andere. Besondere philatelistische Interessen und Kenntnisse hatte er an den Gebieten "Karpatho-Ukraine" und "Revolutionsüberdrucke 1945". Unser Mitgefühl gilt der Familie und insbesondere seiner Ehefrau, die regelmäßig an unseren Jahrestreffen teilgenommen hat.

Hartmut Liebermann 8.10.2008

(President of the German „ArGe Tschechoslowakei“ – the editor)

Helmut Kobelbauer  
Memories of Vladimir Markus

The first time I saw Vladimir Markus was about twelve years ago in a meeting of the Austrian section of the "ArGe Tschechoslowakei" in Vienna. He was a silent person and very reluctant to reveal any private details. Little by little I found out that he spoke a surprising multitude of languages - Czech, English, German, Hungarian and Russian - and that he had been born in Chust in 1920.

When we talked about his birthland he always got quite angry when it was called Carpatho-Ukraine - he definitely did not consider himself a Ukrainian. He preferred the German term "Karpatenland". And his quiet and unforgiving hate for the Soviet oppressors never died down.

He has been a very strong collector of the 1944/1945 period, but only known to a few insiders. In a private talk he once told me that most of the (very nice) letters shown in Georg von Steiden's catalogue had been from his collection.

For years he fought hard to have the Chust overprints of 1944 recognized as the first official issue of the Second Czechoslovakian Republic but I feel some doubt whether he was completely successful.

At one of our last meetings I gave him my collection of picturecards from Chust to look through, and for once in so many years he became really excited and recalled lively memories from his childhood there.

It is a pity that he had to go - but go he did, as quietly and unobtrusively as he had always been. May he rest in peace.

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## From Exhibitions

- ✓ Gold for the monograph by Jan Verleg at the APS stampshow in Hartford
- ✓ Gold (90 points) for Jan Verleg (Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine 1786 - 1945) at the Praga 2008
- ✓ Large Vermeil (88 points) for Tønnes Ore (Postal History Carpatho-Ukraine) at the Praga 2008
- ✓ Large Gold (95 points) for Otto Hornung (The Postal History of the Carpatho-Ukraine) at the WIPA 2008

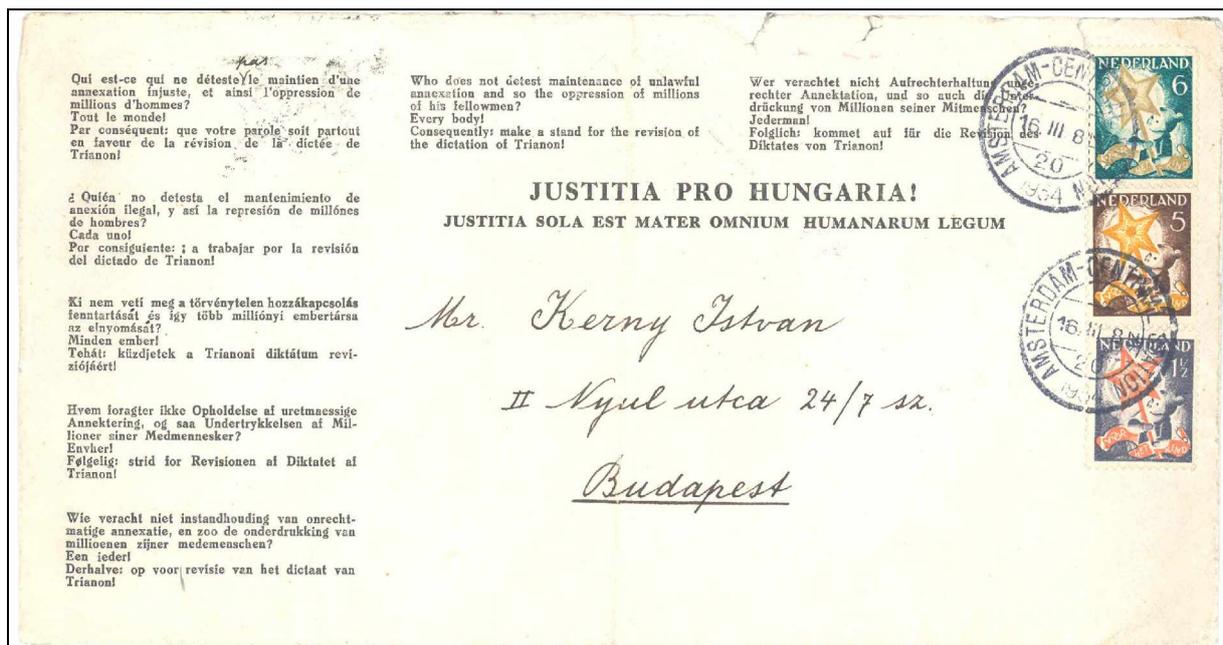
Helmut Kobelbauer

## The meeting of Hungarian and Polish forces in mid March 1939

The treaty of Trianon had left the Hungarians in a desperate state, both politically and emotionally. For hundreds of years their rulers, be they from the much-hated Habsburg dynasty or of Magyar origin, had sworn (and mostly succeeded) to keep the Holy Lands of St. Stephen intact. Even in the last-minute and anyway ill-fated attempt of Charles I. to save the Dual Monarchy and the Crown by allowing his Slav subjects to form their own political entities, bound together in a loose federation only, he had exempted the Lands of the Hungarian Crown from this gleam of political freedom.

The ruling class in Hungary was not willing to accept that they had been (amongst others) responsible for the outbreak of the Great War. Being really the first to break their connections to the Habsburg dynasty, they jumped on the democratic bandwagon and believed that this turn-coat action would be sufficient to wipe out the memory of their old wrong-doings. This was a major miscalculation. Hungary was much reduced in size and population and had to live with the fact that large Hungarian minorities were now living in neighbouring states, ruled by former subordinates.

In the years after the First World War the Danube basin therefore became a political void, where the Hungarians had been much reduced in influence. Nominally still a monarchy, they were ruled - in absence of their King - by the Imperial Administrator ("Reichsverweser") Admiral Horthy. The victorious powers had built a "Cordon Sanitaire" around Hungary, but still they feared the forces of restoration which were very strong in Budapest. With much heaving and pushing France eventually convinced Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Jugoslavia to create a "Little Entente" to once more freeze the borders as laid down in the 1919 and 1920 treaties.



Pre-printed cover from Amsterdam to Budapest, 1934, with text (in seven languages) complaining about the injustice done to Hungaria in the Trianon treaty

Who does not detest maintenance of unlawful  
annexation and so the oppression of millions  
of his fellowmen?  
Every body!  
Consequently: make a stand for the revision of  
the dictation of Trianon!

Cut-out from this letter (with text of complaint in English)

The Hungarian policy of the 1930s was guided by the principle to break this circle of hostile neighbours. With much interest they watched the rise in power of the German Empire under its demonic and unpredictable chancellor Hitler. From 1936 on they felt that this new power was slowly eclipsing France and Italy in their domain. Spring 1938 brought then the forced union of the weak Austrian republic with Germany and made Hitler their immediate neighbour in the west. They certainly celebrated with him when in autumn 1938 he tricked the Western Powers into accepting his Munich agreements and took large chunks out of the defenseless Czechoslovakian republic. The Hungarians followed suit and gathered parts of Slovakia and the Sub-Carpathians for themselves.

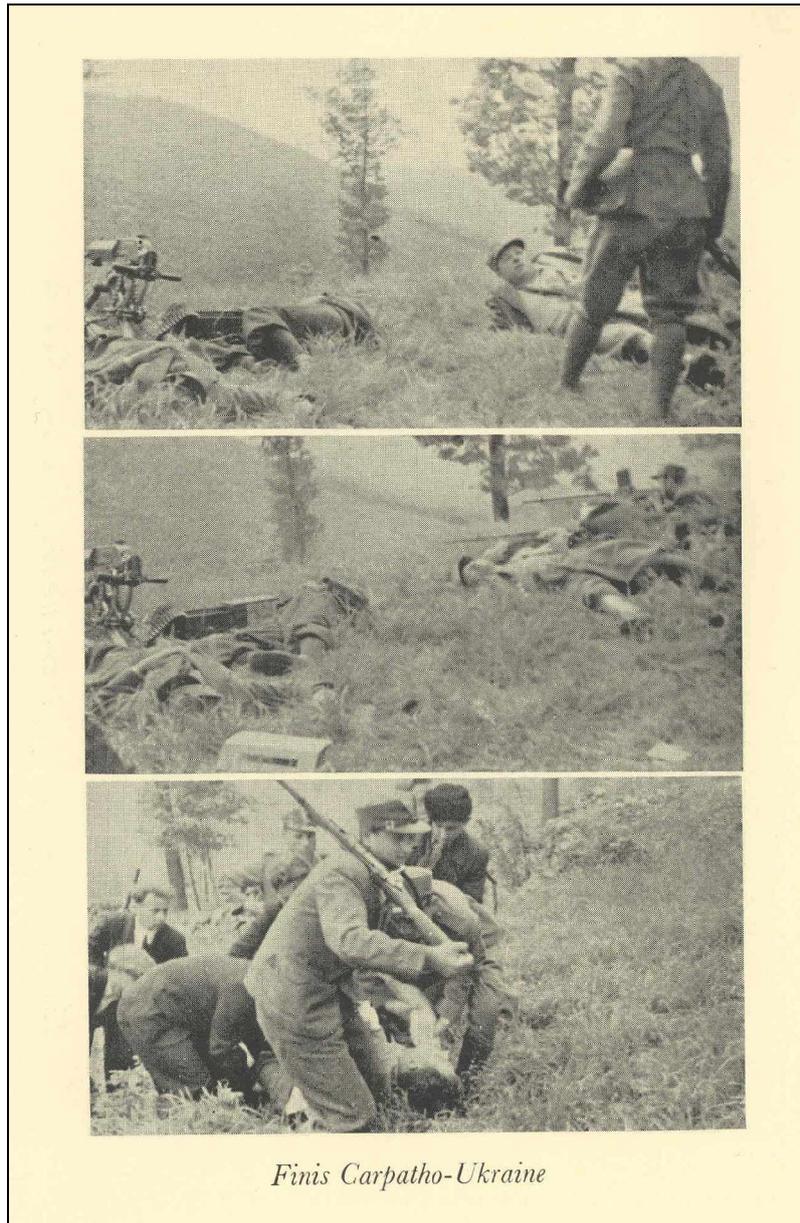
The most eastern part of the Czechoslovakian republic, now separated from the main body of the state, was still a thorn in their hide. In the north another enemy of the Czechs, the Poles, had come under growing pressure from Germany, and were on the look-out for new political friends to sustain their fight for life. Historically there has never been an extended phase of enmity between Hungary and Poland; on the contrary, for a long time they had had similar political and social structures, and both despised the Czechs and the Ukrainians.

When in the evening of 14 March 1939 the Republic of the Carpatho-Ukraine declared itself independent, Hungary was determined to kill this unwanted offspring in its childbed. One day later, in the afternoon of 15 March 1939, its well-armed troops had swept away the brave but weak resistance of the local Sitch forces and had occupied Chust. The "Republic for a Day" was over.

The British watched all this with much suspicion. Already during the "Red Revolution" in Hungary, i. e. the short-lived existence of the Hungarian Soviet Republic under the leadership of Béla Kun, they had feared that this was just a pre-text for the Russian bear to step over the Carpathians and establish itself both politically and in its military capacity in the eastern part of Central Europe. Also the erratic development of German policies kept them on the watch.

So in the beginning of the year 1939 they sent one Michael Winch to this area who worked as a journalist for some British newspapers. This, of course, was just a cover job because his real employer was MI6, the part of the Secret Service responsible for the non-British countries. He was accompanied on this trip by a young Polish photographer. Both stayed in the area and were eyewitnesses of all the events unfolding until the Hungarians marched in and they had to quickly leave the country.

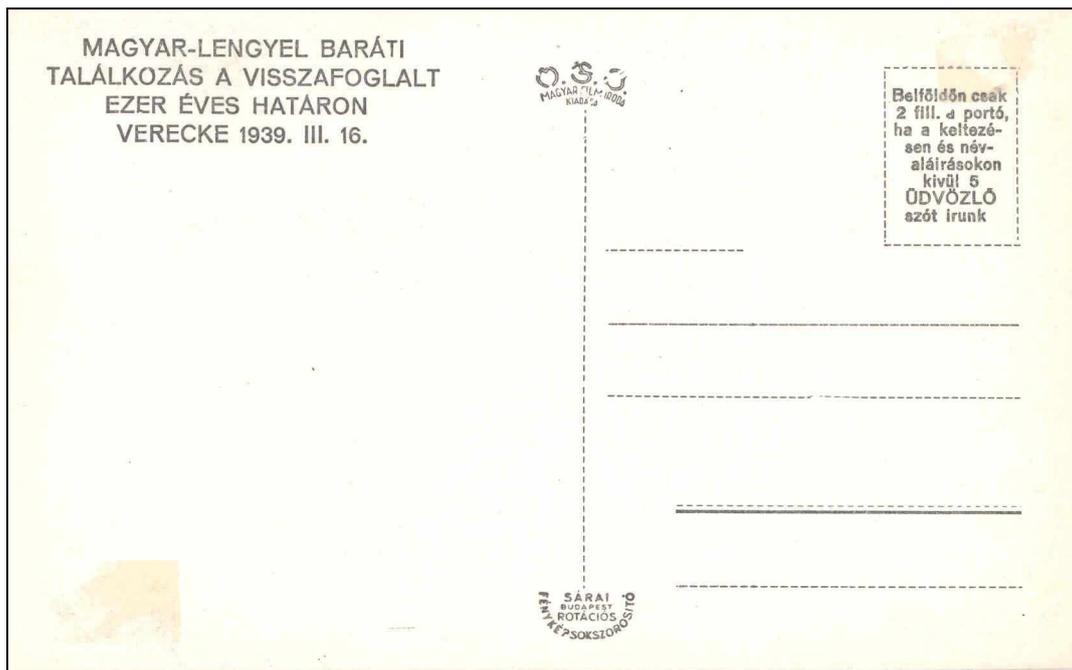
Michael Winch wrote a book about all this - "Republic for a Day" being its title. The book is hard to find and even harder to get (I bought it in the USA for a definitely hair-raising price).



Picture from the book by Michael Winch, left of page 241, showing Hungarian soldiers killing and then dragging away an opponent

During the following days the Hungarian army moved up north to also occupy the rest of the country. Snow was falling, the roads were bad anyway, and so it took them until 16 and 18 March to reach the Verecke resp. Uzsok passes. There they met with Polish forces who had (probably with approval) watched the slaughter of the Ukrainian opponents.

This meeting of the Hungarian and Polish forces at the Carpathian borderpoints was celebrated in a series of picture postcards, printed in Budapest. (Of course, it was just short-lived joy because some six months later Poland was attacked by German forces itself and was wiped out.) As far as one can say from empirical evidence, about five different cards were produced - possibly a few more, but certainly less than ten. From time to time they appear on the market (e.g. in the Profila picture-card auctions). Used and unused ones are equally seldom although unused ones make for somewhat higher prices (about 10 to 20 Euro used, above 30 Euro unused).



Text side of the Verecke card



Text side of the Uzsok card - used 13 April 1939 in Nagyberezna

Both cards carry as the main text

MAGYAR-LENGYEL BARÁTI  
TALÁLKOZÁS A VISSZAFOGLALT  
EZER ÉVES HATÁRON

and then location and date of the meeting (VERECKE 1939. III. 16. or UZSOK 1939. III. 18.). This text I would translate as: "Hungarian-Polish friendly meeting at the re-occupied border of a thousand years". (The thousand years, of course, evoke the memory of the mythical foundation of the Hungarian homeland in 895/896.)

In my collection I have four of them, two of the Verecke variety and two of the Uzsok type. A fifth one I have seen (soldiers on bicycles in deep snow, with rifles on their back) but have no information what its textual side looked like.



Picture side of the Verecke card (#1)



Picture side of the Verecke card (#2)

The flag on the first card is certainly the Hungarian one - I could not identify the Hungarian officer who is obviously in charge of the whole operation.

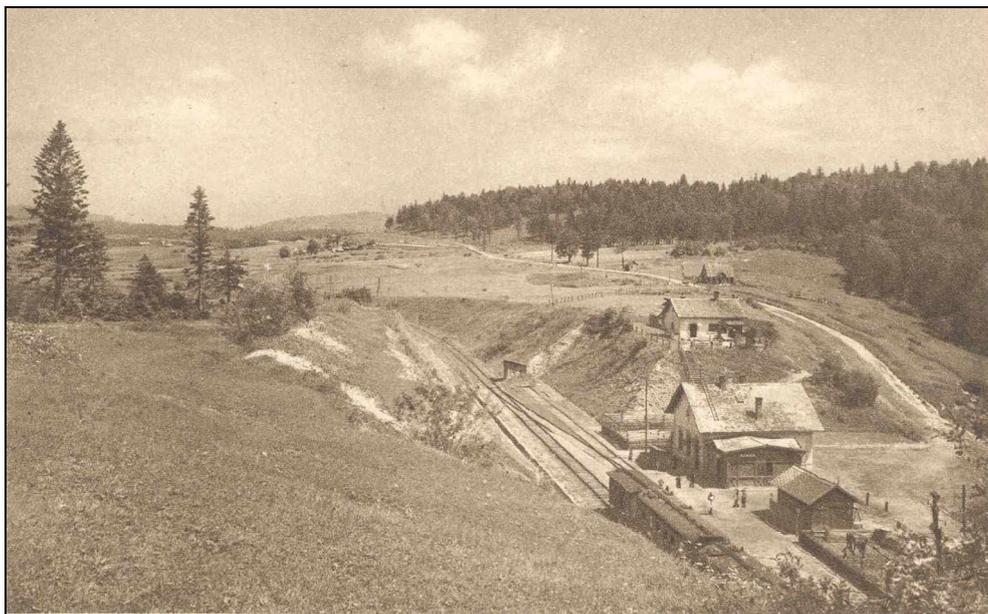


Picture side of the Uzsok card (#1)



Picture side of the Uzsok card (#2)

The Uzsok pass seems to have been an extra effort - the soldiers are in winter camouflage and on skiing gear. Must have been a real nice trip ...



The Uzsok railway station near the Polish border (in summer)



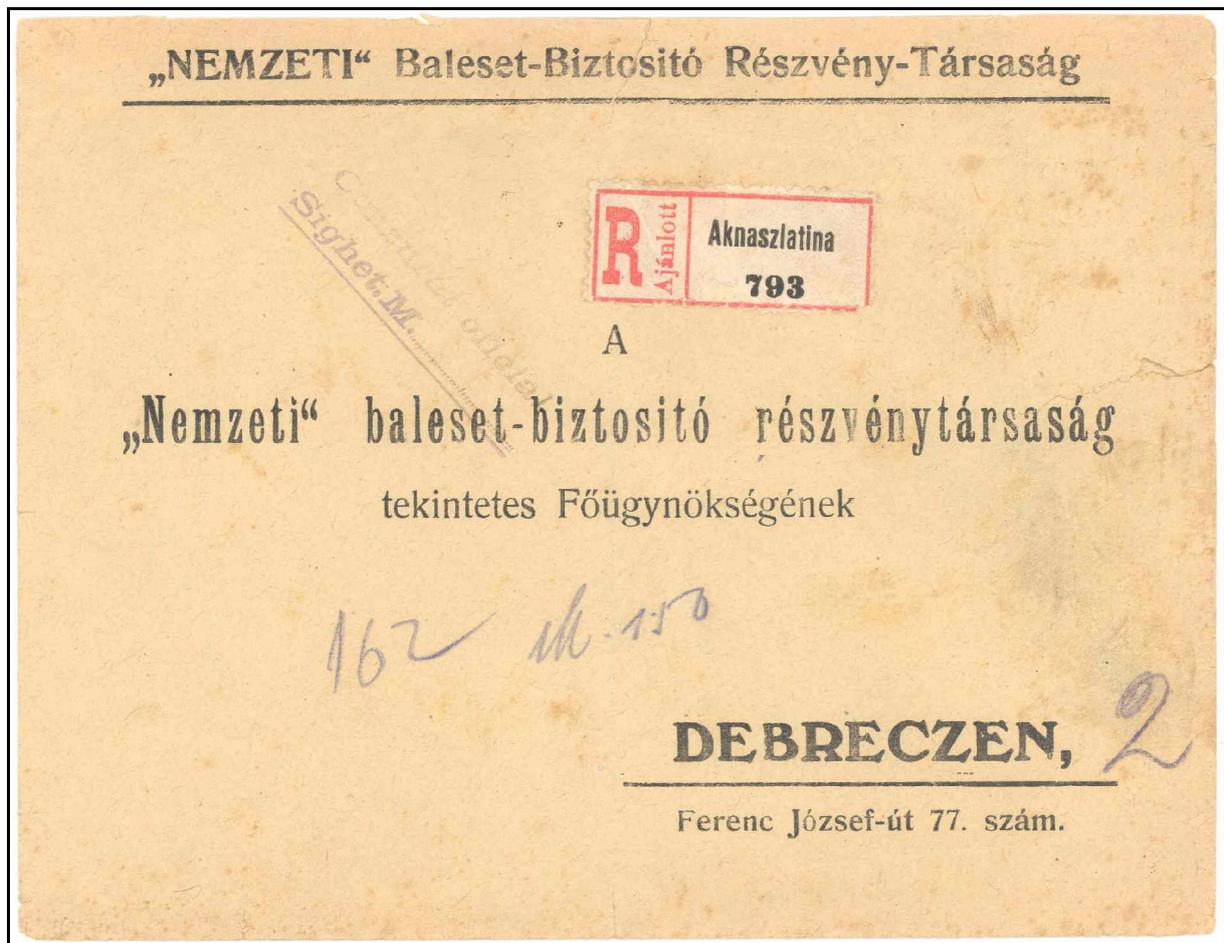
Some time later: The Hungarian-Polish border at Uzsok

Helmut Kobelbauer

## Another letter from the Romanian occupation

Until recently one could count the number of well-documented letters (and cards) from the so-called Romanian occupation (see Jan Verleg's monograph, pages 61 to 61b) on the five fingers of one hand. A sixth one, described by Horváth Lajos, has disappeared.

It is therefore with a certain pride that I can show the following registered letter, sent from Aknaszlatina to Debrecen on 26 December 1919:



Front side of the described letter

It is apparently a business letter, sent from the local bureau of the “Nemzeti” (i. e. national) accident insurance joint-stock company to the central bureau of the same company in Debrecen.

In violet it carries the two-lines “Cenzurat oficial | Sighet M.” censorship mark of Máramarossziget, now Sighetu Marmăției in Romania.

In true Hungarian style the stamps to pay for the postal tariff are on the back of the letter (see next page):



Back side of the described letter

There is a horizontal strip of four pieces of the 10 fillér (harvesters' issue 1919 with the text MAGYAR POSTA), overprinted in Nagyvárad (Großwardein, Oradea in Romania) and now representing a face value of 10 bani. These stamps have been defaced by a (rather weak) impression of the canceller of AKNASZLATINA showing the date "919. DEC. 26."

Additionally the cover carries an imprint of the "DEBRECEN | o 1 o" canceller from "919 - DEC. 30. N9", obviously from the receiving post office. So it took the letter four days to be transported over this distance, including some time in the hands of the Romanian censors.

The fee for registration in this period is generally described as 25 bani so that we must assume 15 bani for the letter itself.

The famous registered letter from Técső to the United States of America (in the Otto Hornung collection) is from 31 December 1919 and carries (one stamp of) 40 bani face value, too. It is a bit speculative, of course, to extract tariffs from such a small sample of items. We still are waiting for a Romanian colleague to write up the postal tariffs of this period for us (hopefully in a language that we can understand).

So for the official record: six pieces from the Romanian occupation, and a seventh one that has gone astray.

# DIE POSTMARKE.

L.H.

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## UNABHÄNGIGE ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR BRIEFMARKENKUNDE.

Gegründet vom O. T. V. (Offiziers-Briefmarken-Tauschverein) mit dem Sitze in Wien.

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Herausgeber: Mjr. d. R. Kl. Klenert im Namen eines Konsortiums. Verbandsorgan nachstehender Vereine: Oesterreichischer Philatelisten-Klub Vindobona, O. T. V. (Offiziers-Briefmarken-Tauschverein) mit dem Sitze in Wien. Verein Wiener Briefmarkensammler. Briefmarkensammler-Verein Ried i. Innkreis. Philatelisten-Verein Mödling. Verein für Briefmarkenkunde in Innsbruck. Rundsendungsverkehr „Cef“ Frankenburg, O.-Oe. Internationaler Tauschzirkel für Postwertzeichen in Wien. Vertreter für Deutschland: Karl Gustav Schmid, Gießen. Vertreter für Ungarn: Koloman Molnar, Budapest VII., Kertész-utca 31, Vertreter für die Schweiz: Briefmarken-Agentur Heinrich Külling, Hablützel Pfanzschulstraße 9, Winterthur. Preise für Anzeigen: 1/4 Seite K 1200.—, 1/2 Seite K 200.—, 1/4 Seite K 380.—, 1/8 Seite K 200.—, 1/16 Seite K 120.—, 1/32 Seite K 90.—; 4mal gespaltene Textzeile unter „Kleine Anzeigen“ K 10.—. Bei dreimaliger Einschaltung 10% bei sechsmaliger 15%, bei ganzjähriger 20% Nachlaß. Mitglieder der Vereine, deren Organ die Postmarke ist, genießen überdies weitere 5% Nachlaß. — Jährliche Bezugspreise für Oesterreich K 60.—; für Ö. S. R., Deutschland, Polen, S. H. S. Ungarn K 80.—; für das übrige Ausland K 100.—. — Einzelne Nummern K 8.— (M. P.—). — Oesterreichisches Postsparkassen-Konto Nr. 183.765. — Allen Geldsendungen mit Postanweisung ist Bestellgebühr zuzuschlagen.

Schriftleitung: Wien, III., Erdbergstraße 67. Verwaltung: Wien, III., Erdbergstraße 9.  
 Alle Einsendungen für den redaktionellen Teil u. Literatur f. Besprechungen. | Anzeigenübernahme, Rechtsschutzstelle und Uebernahme von Geldsendungen.

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Nr. 25.	Jahrgang 1921, Nr. 4.	April
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### Die k. u. k. Feldpost im Weltkriege.

Von General-Feldpostdirektor a. D. Josef Posch in Wien.

Nachdruck nicht gestattet.

Ich möchte gleich hier über unseren dienstlichen Verkehr mit den Feldposten der mit uns verbündeten Staaten in Kürze gedenken. Gleich bei Kriegsbeginn war der gegenseitige dienstliche Verkehr zwischen unserer und der deutschen Feldpost ein inniger und festigte sich während der langen Kriegsdauer immer mehr. Dies galt sowohl für die leitenden Dienststellen als auch für die Feldpostämter an der Front. Als besonders notwendig erwies sich die gegenseitige Unterstützung im Beförderungswesen. Hilfreiche Bekanntgabe der Instradierungsmöglichkeiten, Bereitstellung unserer Fahrbetriebsmittel (Bahnpostwagen, Autokurse usw.) erleichterten den Feldpostbehörden den Posttransport auf unserem Gebiete; gleiche Hilfe leisteten uns die deutschen Poststellen im umgekehrten Falle.

Schon bei Beginn des Krieges begann dieses zweckfördernde Verhältnis, als die Feldpost für die an der Westfront kämpfenden k. u. k. Mörserbatterien zu befördern war. Es setzte sich fort, als dann ein deutsches Reservekorps unserer 1. Armee angegliedert wurde. Immer enger wurden die Berührungspunkte, als unsere 2. Armee über Preußisch-Schlesien nach Polen vorrückte und als deutsche Armeen nach Galizien und Ungarn verlegt waren. Monatlang rollten damals unsere Bahnfeldpostwagen zusammen mit den deutschen Schaffnerwagen in den Schnellzügen der Strecke Oderberg—Kaschau—Kiralyhaza bei gegenseitiger Unterstützung und Aushilfe.

Das intensive Zusammenarbeiten setzte sich fort während des Vormarsches in Galizien, nach dem Durchbruch bei Gorlice, bei der Besetzung von Polen und während der ganzen Zeit des sich daran anschließenden Stellungskrieges an der Ostfront.

Die Post für die zeitweise in Tirol und am

Isonzo gelegenen deutschen Heeresteile fand unsere Unterstützung gerade so, wie auch am serbischen Kriegsschauplatze beide Feldpostanstalten Hand in Hand zusammenarbeiteten.

Endlich durften wir uns für die Zufuhr unserer Feldpost zur rumänischen Front der kräftigen Mithilfe der dortigen deutschen Armeepostdirektion erfreuen.

Im Laufe des Krieges bildete sich ein Gegenseitigkeitsstandpunkt in dem Sinne aus, daß im allgemeinen alle Feldposteinrichtungen des einen Gebietes auch für den Verkehr nach dem anderen Gültigkeit hatten und dabei die Vorschriften über Portofreiheit, Gewichtsgrenzen u. dgl. gegenseitig als gültig anerkannt wurden. Es galt als Grundsatz: „Der Zweck ist im Auge zu behalten und dieser allein ist unter voller Wahrung der Sicherheit und Verantwortung anzustreben; alle kleinteiligen Nebenumstände und Formalitäten sind beiseite zu lassen.“

Aber nicht nur der dienstliche, auch der persönliche Verkehr des beiderseitigen Feldpostpersonales war stets der denkbar beste und dankbarst gedenke ich an dieses jederzeit zweckfördernde günstige Zusammenarbeiten.

Als im Juli 1916 das 15. ottomanische Korps der deutschen Südarmerie in den Karpathen zugeteilt wurde, mußte diesen Truppen sofort ein eigenes k. u. k. Feldpostamt zugeteilt werden. Schon auf dem Durchmarsche der türkischen Truppen und während ihrer Quarantäne in Belgrad erfolgte die Zuweisung des Feldpostamtes 205 mit türkisch sprechenden Feldpostbeamten (von den seinerzeit bestandenen k. k. Levantepostämtern). Kurze Zeit später ergab sich die Notwendigkeit, auch im Standorte des 10. türkischen Ersatzregimentes ein eigenes k. u. k. Feldpostamt (Nr. 171) aufzustellen. Die Türken hatten wohl auch so etwas ähnliches wie Feldpostämter im Standorte ihres Korpskommandos (Czesniki) und bei ihren Divisionen etabliert. Die Zuleitung der Heimatpost für diese

From "Die Postmarke", famous Austrian philatelic journal edited by Ing. Edwin Müller, April 1921.

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Truppen sowie den Abtransport der aufgegebenen Sendungen in die Türkei besorgte die k. u. k. Feldpost und die türkischen Feldpostämter hatten nur die Annahme und Ausgabe der Briefpost für ihre eigenen Truppen zu besorgen. Ihre Hauptaufgabe dürfte aber darin bestanden haben, die von ihren Truppen benützten österreichischen und ungarischen Feldpostkarten — eigene Feldpostkarten hatten sie fast ein Jahr lang nicht — mit einem türkischen Poststempel zu bedrucken. Im September 1917 verließen die ottomanischen Truppen ihre bisherigen Standorte und kehrten in die Türkei zurück, wodurch auch unsere beiden genannten Feldpostämter bald eingezogen werden konnten.

Der Verkehr mit der bulgarischen Feldpost war während des ganzen Krieges nur ein verhältnismäßig geringer, aber ein völlig anstandsloser.

Hier sei auch der Aufstellung von k. u. k. Feldpostämtern für unsere in der Türkei, in Syrien und Palästina befindlichen militärischen Formationen Erwähnung getan. Anfänglich war die Abneigung der Osmanen gegen die Aufstellung fremder Feldpostanstalten in ihrem Gebiete so groß, daß davon Umgang genommen werden mußte. Erst als die Klagen über den mangelhaften Postverkehr immer ärger wurden und die Türken selbst einsehen, daß sie nicht in der Lage sind, den Postbedürfnissen unserer Truppen zu entsprechen, gelang es nach Ueberwindung zahlreicher Schwierigkeiten, Bedenken und nach verschiedenen Zugeständnissen im Juni 1917, in Konstantinopel das k. u. k. Feldpostamt Nr. 452 und in Aleppo Nr. 452 zu aktivieren. Letzteres hat übrigens seinen Standort wiederholt gewechselt.

Es ist wohl selbstverständlich, daß sich die Feldpost während der langen Kriegsdauer auch oftmals um Sachen annehmen und diese durchführen mußte, die, streng genommen, außer ihrem eigentlichen Wirkungskreis lagen; der Krieg brachte oft Verhältnisse mit sich, die auch außerordentliche Maßnahmen mit rascher Durchführung notwendig machten, um einen Erfolg zu erzielen. Unter den zahlreichen derartigen Fällen will ich hier nur einen erwähnen, der nicht ohne Interesse sein dürfte und dessen glückliche Durchführung uns große Befriedigung gewährt hat. Es handelte sich im Frühling 1916 darum, eine Postverbindung mit Griechenland einzurichten, wo bereits Truppen der Entente gelandet waren. Da der Postverkehr der Zentralstaaten mit Griechenland schon gänzlich unterbunden war, wurde von unserer Feldpost im Einvernehmen mit der deutschen Postverwaltung versuchsweise die Briefpost aus Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn nach diesem Lande vom 20. April 1916 angefangen über Belgrad, Nisch, Gradsko, Monastir, Westufer des Prespases, Korica abgeleitet; der Transport bis Gradsko geschah mit der Eisenbahn, von dort durch Vermittlung der Feldpost mit Landesfuhrern, zumeist aber durch Packtiere und Träger. Diese zumeist in der allernächsten Nähe der feindlichen Truppen und zum größten Teile durch unwegsames Gebirge eingerichtete Postverbindung hat — soweit bekannt ist — bis 26. Mai anstandslos funktioniert. Erst von diesem Tage an war die Beförderung nicht mehr ratsam; die Briefsäcke

langten von der griechischen Grenze mit der Meldung zurück, daß ein Weitertransport unmöglich geworden sei.

Vom 26. Juni ab wurde dann neuerlich wiederholt versucht, die österreichisch-ungarische und deutsche Briefpost für Griechenland über Skutari — Janina zu dirigieren; es gelang auch tatsächlich wiederholt, ebenso in umgekehrter Richtung, eine große Zahl von Briefsäcken auf diesem Wege zu befördern. Ob aber alle auf diese Weise zur Abfertigung gekommenen Briefposten ungehindert durch die französisch-englischen Streifkommanden ihren Bestimmungsort erreichten, konnte nicht festgestellt werden.

The former highest official of the Austro-Hungarian field-post during WWI reports on the cooperation with the Germans and mentions that the mail was brought to and from the Carpathians by a certain railway ending in Királyhaza and that the Turkish troops in the Carpathians had two special field-post offices attached.